



e-MESSENGER

54th Issue: March 2023

Please feel free to distribute 'e-Messenger' to others who may find it of interest.

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

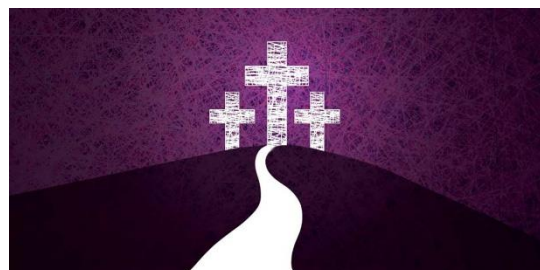
At the start of this year, I was in Bristol to visit my brother and his family. I was taken into the study and there Simon showed me his new toy. It was a blue box with a lid that opened up to reveal a round spinning thing onto which an equally round piece of plastic was placed. When this remarkable device was turned on – music filled the room! Now you may have come across one of these things, I think I saw one in the 1980's but I have never owned one! I looked at this device and examined it, and yet I still have no idea how it works! I understand the mechanics of it, a needle runs in the groove on the disc and somehow vibrations are turned into music – but I don't understand it! This isn't the only thing though – in some meetings I've been to recently I've noticed some people are knitting! I watch



fascinated as there is some clicking and some clacking with the needles and cloth appears! I don't understand how it works, but I like the result!

As I write this we are nearing the start of Lent, when we will remind ourselves again of the great stories of our faith – stories of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness, Jesus speaking to Nicodemus about being born again, Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman, a blind man receiving his sight, and Lazarus being restored to life, all of course leading us to Jesus entering Jerusalem and travelling through Holy week to a cross, a tomb, and a risen Saviour. In all of this we will catch a glimpse of the grace of God, the life of the kingdom, the depth of God's love, and salvation in Christ. It is powerful and life giving to journey through Lent towards Easter as we see again all that God offers to us – but here's the thing I have no idea how it works, but I love the result! Somehow God with infinite grace offers life, and hope, and love – to all people, to those who faithfully worship and serve day by day *and* to those who ignore God and even work against him. Deitrich Bonhoeffer writes:

“ God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but



human beings as they are; not an ideal world, but the real world. What we find repulsive in their opposition to God, what we shrink back from with pain and hostility, namely, real human beings, the real world, this is for God the ground of unfathomable love.”

God’s love is incredible, it transforms all things, it tells us we are precious as we are, it tells us that we are loved, it allows us to know life in all its fullness, it warms our hearts (to use Wesley’s phrase!) but I have no idea how it works! How does God offer us his riches, how does God transform our lives? How does God hold us in the good and bad of life? How does God offer us life in this world and the next? I don’t know! How does salvation work? How does God forgive and restore us? How does God help us through life? I don’t know!

But God does.

For centuries theologians have struggled to explain how salvation works – what



happens through Jesus’ life and on the Cross - but none of the explanations has been completely satisfactory. The work of God is a mystery, the Cross of Christ is a mystery, and we have to acknowledge that we don’t know how it works - all we know is that it does work. In some glorious way God offers such love that is beyond our imagination.

So as we travel through Lent and Easter, marvel again at all God does – don’t worry too much about how it works – be still and receive from God.

*Be still, my soul: begin the song of praise
On earth, believing, to Thy Lord on high;
Acknowledge Him in all thy words and ways,
So shall He view thee with a well pleased eye.
Be still, my soul: the Sun of life divine
Through passing clouds shall but more brightly shine.*

With every blessing
Graham

We are always pleased to receive articles for mini messenger and these are the words and views/ comments of the authors themselves. They may or may not represent the views of the Macclesfield Circuit of the Methodist Church.

Children & Families

Happy New Year from all the Children and Family's Team. We had another busy Christmas period and engaged with numerous families with all the events we had on offer.

Chippy Church Nativity was a success and everyone who attended really enjoyed themselves. The children and adults made a character hat from the Nativity, and they played that part in our short scratch Nativity play which was then followed by chips!!! It was lovely to see a few members of the circuit come and just watch the scratch Nativity, as the weather was not nice at all. Thanks to the Chippy Church volunteers and the extra volunteers from the circuit who came to help and make the event such a success. Chippy Church continues to run the second Saturday of the month 4-5:30pm at Broken Cross Methodist Church and is a circuit event so all are welcome.



Future dates: -

11th March 8th April 13th May



Thanks to all the volunteers who attended the holiday club and all the volunteers behind the scenes, the setting up and packing away teams.

Christmas Holiday Club was well attended. It was a wonderful day celebrating what Christmas is really about and not just presents!!!! The children made different crafts, played games, enjoyed lunch together then put on an amazing performance signing the song 'Come and Join the Celebration' which Ruth had taught them during the afternoon session. Again, the feedback we have had was very positive.



Christingle services were held at every church throughout December, so hopefully our families managed to attend one of them. All the services were well attended. 'Chris Tingle' was very tired after attending a service on Friday and then three services on Christmas Eve, making his debut in Langley. Thank you to all the volunteers who help prepare the oranges and the Christingle packs.



Breakfast Church continues to be well attended each month and we are still getting new families attending. The theme for January was Epiphany. The families enjoyed making wooden spoon kings. So much so that one family went home and made an army of kings (as we don't really know how many kings there were!!!!)



Please remember Breakfast Church is a circuit event and is for everyone, not just for families with children. All families are welcome 9-10am on the first Sunday of the month @ Macclesfield Methodist Church (doors open from 8:45am).

There will be no Breakfast Church in March as most of the team are away.

Future dates: -

2nd April Palm Sunday

7th May

4th June

2nd July



Messy Church is still growing, and we are now seeing the same families coming most months if not every month. We have now been running Messy Church each month since September 2021 (only taking a break in January and July due to Holiday Clubs). What a privilege it is to be part of the team running this event. We have been successfully moving around our churches and are so please that our families

move with us. My support group are hoping to plan a Messy Church in Gawsworth and Langley this year, so watch this space. The Messy Church volunteer list could do with more volunteers for both the events and the setting up / packing away. If you would like to join our volunteer list please either let Susan Mellor (from Macclesfield), your children and family contact at your church or myself know. If you are unsure of what volunteering involves, please ask your children and family church contact, our ministers or me. Or just come to one of the events to see what is going on. It is wonderful to see a church full of children and families. Again, a HUGE THANK YOU to all our volunteers but especially to Susan, without her nothing would get organised. She sends out emails asking for helpers, replies to everyone and just lets me know who will be there and ensures all areas are covered. This is a huge piece of work each month, so thank you! **Future Dates:**

25th February Pancake Mania 2-4pm @ Prestbury Methodist Church

25th March Messy Families 2-4pm @ Broken Cross Methodist Church

Schools Before Christmas Alison and I went into Broken Cross Primary Academy School with our class story box and craft. We told the Nativity story to years 1 and 2 and then did a small craft with the children to take home.

In January we took our story box and craft into Parkroyal Community School and told the story of the Kings to reception and year 3. We had a lovely morning as we told the story to four classes. These are examples of the crafts the children made at Parkroyal.

We are currently in contact with local schools and are offering assemblies and our story box and craft sessions. We will be looking at creating a school's team. If you would be interested in joining this team, please speak to our ministers or me.



I know I say it every time, but thank you, thank you, thank you to all our amazing and wonderful volunteers. Without you all none of what we do would be possible!!!! We can now offer something each weekend to our families to help them on their journey with Jesus and this is all because of our wonderful and amazing volunteers.

‘Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these’ Luke 18:16

Angela and the children's & family's team



£2
per child
Suggested donation

Messy Easter

An Easter Experience for Families

Wednesday 5th April
10am – 2pm

@ Macclesfield Methodist Church SK10 1BX

Explore the Easter Story through story telling, playing, crafts, games and songs. Lunch will be provided. Suitable for all the family.
Parent/Carers to stay with children



 **Booking is essential, please book via Facebook**
@MaccMethodistKids



Prayer – in our Circuit Prayer Cycle you will have noticed we now also include Woodlands. We thank their Chaplain, Abby Ogier for contributing this article and prayer.

Update from MHA Woodlands

MHA Woodlands is an 80 bed care home with specialist dementia and nursing provision, located on Middlewood Road in Poynton. We benefit greatly from strong links with Poynton Methodist Church, as well as from our connections with other local churches and the active support of the whole Methodist Church for the work of MHA, an organisation founded by the Methodist Conference 80 years ago this year.

The past few months have been filled with joys as well as some sorrows. We have been able to take further steps back towards normality as we all learn to live with Covid as an endemic disease, and this has meant freer visiting as well as a relaxation around wearing masks, other than at times when anyone in the staff team has recently tested positive. I'm sure you can imagine how hard it has been for residents, especially those who are hard of hearing, to be constantly surrounded by staff whose lower faces they can't see. It has also been interesting to find out what newer members of staff actually look like, as we have never seen them without a mask! We have had lots of interesting activities going on, including a new book club,

sharing and discussing short stories, celebrations for Romania Day including a very interesting talk from one of our Romanian nurses, activities for Chinese New Year and our ongoing choir. We continue to worship together every week, and back in January, The Rev'd Ros Watson joined us to lead our Covenant Service. It was very moving to pray the covenant prayer with such a mix of longstanding Christians, some living with advanced dementia. I later discovered from a relative that the father of one of those that took part was a key person in writing the current covenant service.

One of the sad aspects of ministry in later life is the inevitable process of saying goodbye to residents when their earthly life comes to an end, and among those we have lost recently was Theo Eaves, who I know will be known to many of you. It was a privilege to have a small part in his funeral which took place at Poynton Methodist Church and St George's graveyard, three months after we had all celebrated his 100th birthday together.

Please do continue to pray for the work of MHA in general, and for us at Woodlands in particular. We would especially value prayers that God will call more staff to work with us, and that those that are on our team will know how much they are valued and be fulfilled in their work, as recently we have had to limit admissions because of staff shortages. And if you know anyone locally that might be interested in working in a wonderful nursing home, do direct them to search for vacancies in Poynton on mha.org.uk!

With thanks for all your support,
Abby Ogier
Chaplain
MHA Woodlands

Prayer from Woodlands

Loving God,
we give you thanks for the gifts that the years bring:
for wisdom and patience, experience and knowledge.
We release into your great mercy
those times that these gifts seem far from our grasp,
together with the pains and frustrations that the passing years can bring.
Help those of us in later life to discern our current calling
and to know your love and peace;
help those of us who are younger to see, hear and learn from our elders
and to share our own gifts with them.
Lord, pour out your blessing on all those who care
for people who are experiencing frailty of body, mind or spirit,
and grant that we may all grow
in love and respect for one another,
building a community that nurtures everyone
from the first breath of life until the last.

Amen

Members' voice....

A NEW WAY OF SEEING MYSELF AND THE WORLD

Do you ever struggle with the fact that a hymn you loved to sing is not in Singing the Faith? Although I hasten to add that there are some wonderful new additions which I love to sing.

I grew up with 'The Methodist Hymnbook and one of my favourite hymns is 'loved with everlasting love' number 443 by George Wade Robinson who lived from 1838-1877

The second verse came to mind

'Heaven above is softer blue, Earth around is sweeter green,

Something lives in every hue, Christless eyes have never seen'

I was reminded of this hymn after I had my first cataract removed and a new lens put in. Suddenly the colours of everything around me seemed brighter and more intense and the outline of buildings and objects more well defined, the light more brilliant. I am grateful for this modern miracle of healing and the opportunity to see afresh even in old age.

But rereading the hymn again, I found that it tells me something even more significant which we need to remember at every stage in our lives but especially in old age when we are not as productive and life is sometimes a struggle. It is that we are 'loved with an everlasting love and have been led by grace that love to know.' It reminds us that the Holy Spirit breathes this assurance into us and enables us to see ourselves and life through Christ's eyes. The ending of that verse quoted above goes like this:-

'Birds with gladder songs o'erflow, flowers with deeper beauties shine.

Since I know as I am known- I am Christ's and He is mine.'

Long or short sighted, glasses or contact lenses, perfect vision or failing eyesight we can all know the love of God for each one of us, both here and now and when we see Him 'face to face'. He SEES us as His beloved children and His Holy spirit can enable us to SEE Him more clearly, and therefore be able to love Him more dearly and follow Him more nearly day by day.

Rev Sheila



Langley 22 January 2023

We recently had an 'own arrangement' café service at Langley with a presentation by Dan Blackman, Team Lead Coordinator, Silklife Foodbank, Macclesfield.



Dan shared facts and figures... the foodbank distributed about 48 tonnes of food and essential items in 2021. This is about the amount in 2 large shipping containers! Whilst the overall number of clients referred to the foodbank actually fell by approximately 25% between January and October 2022 from the average 175 referrals per month seen during the Pandemic, the number of families requesting support increased by 29% between April and October. Simply put, families require more food than single people or couples and therefore the amount of food distributed in 2022 has been in similar proportions to the pandemic period.

But Dan also gave insights into how important prayer is to the foodbank and whilst some people think it's wrong that we need foodbanks in this country in the 21st century, the positives are that it brings the community together; teaches us about giving rather than receiving; about volunteering to support others; about providing an opportunity for people to make a difference.

The need for food items is as great as ever and we know our churches do a fantastic job in support of this work, collecting donations in church and supporting Christmas & Harvest appeals.

The foodbank now also has a Justgiving Page for online donations....

<https://www.justgiving.com/silklifechurch>

And an Amazon wishlist, supporting the BabyBank Team, who are now providing Nappy Parcels and Weaning Kits

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2HT49KJHIP25F...>

Here are a couple of readings shared on the day and chosen by Brenda Chapman which also seem appropriate following our recent covenant services.....

Reading A

Being a Christian Affects ...

Being a Christian *affects all my* life.

Being a Christian is more than just going to church.

It is more than just believing in Jesus and stopping there. Jesus said, 'I am the way,' and, 'Come, follow me,' and His demands were total. Being a Christian is accepting Jesus, following Jesus, and totally belonging to Jesus. He wants all of my life.

Totally.

And being a Christian must affect all of my life.

Being a Christian *affects* the way I live.

The things I do, the things I want, the things I say, the things I think.

Being a Christian *affects* the way I treat others.

The way I treat my parents, the way I treat my children, the way I treat my brothers and sisters, the way I treat coloured people, the way I treat strangers.

Being a Christian *affects* the books I read.

The TV programmes I watch, the films I go to, the magazines I buy.

Being a Christian *affects* the company I keep,

How I play games, the things I laugh at, what I do with my money.

Being a Christian *affects* the way I live.

The things I do, the things I want, the things I say, the things I think.

Reading B

Being a Christian Means ...

Being a Christian means ... loving.

Loving my neighbour, The person next door, The people I meet, The people I work beside, The people in need, The hungry, The homeless, The refugees. It means loving my enemies. Those that don't like me. Those that I find it hard to like.

Being a Christian means loving God and all His creation. Being a Christian means being helpful.

It means being considerate to people, It means being patient with others, It means going out of my way to do good, Going the extra mile, Being generous, Putting others first, Seeing the good points in others.

Being a Christian means following, Jesus.

It means being a light to the world, Turning the other cheek, It means not worrying about tomorrow.

Being a Christian means ... praying.

Praying for my neighbour, The person next door, The people I meet, Praying for the people I work beside, The people in need, The hungry, The homeless, The refugees. It means praying for my enemies, Those that don't like me, Those that I find it hard to like.

Jane

Phil Maltby, Local Preacher from Poynton and his wife Bernie are touring the UK in their motorhome. This is the next installment of their adventures.....

**Living in a Van – Part 4
(Bernie’s Big Adventure)**

A belated ‘Happy New Year’ to everyone.

We’re back on the road again after a number of things seemed to conspire to encourage us to hibernate for a while – freezing weather and snow, and repairs to both ourselves and the motorhome. Having said that, we have spent a really lovely Christmas with our eldest daughter and her partner, and been able to visit family, friends and local churches.

Everyone we’ve spent time with has been keen to ask about our journey – the best and the worst things that have happened. Where do we start?

One of the funniest things occurred during a walk around the area of Rosehearty in Scotland. We had visited Pitsligo Castle, Pitsligo Parish Kirkyard and Mounthooly Dooct and were walking back along the road to the Rosehearty Community Boat Club. Suddenly, we had this feeling that we were being watched! Looking out across the fields we noticed a number of deer who, whilst standing quite still, were watching our every step. We couldn’t understand why they were so still. Grabbing Bernie’s binoculars, I decided to get a closer look. Oh! What an embarrassment! They were made of wood and were part of an advertisement for a country park.

Wind and rain are a frequent feature of the west coast of the UK. However, the scariest moment of this trip came with an electric storm passing immediately overhead whilst we were on a pitch just outside Fishguard. With the lightning and thunder crashing around us, we reverted to childhood habits and hid under our blankets until the storm had passed.

We have enjoyed trips to a number of castles during this adventure – Warkworth, Slains, Dunrobin, Dunvegan and Harlech, to name just a few. However, the most memorable historic site was that of Skara Brae on Orkney. This Neolithic settlement consists of ten clustered houses, made of



flagstones, in earthen dams that provided support for the walls. The houses included stone hearths, beds and cupboards, and a primitive sewer system carried effluent from each house into the ocean. It is believed that the site was occupied from roughly 3180 BC to about 2500 BC. (Note that I still prefer to use BC rather than BCE!)



On the same site we explored Skail House. Although the house was built in 1620 by Bishop George Graham, visitors are encouraged to experience a home as it was in the 1950s – how many of us have had first-hand experience of that?

Our coach trip around Orkney was a truly wonderful experience and included, in addition to the above, the Italian Chapel, the Churchill Barriers, the Ring of Brodgar Stone Circle, Stromness and Kirkwall.



So, where are we now? A couple of weeks ago we spent five nights on a site right next door to Delamere Forest. We came to test out the repairs to the motorhome and to walk and ride the forest trails. You may not be aware but, whilst staying in Southport in September, we invested in a couple of electric bikes. We tried them out in woodland near Southport, and on the roads around Amlwch. However, in spite of having purchased padded cycling gear, we couldn't cope with the pain inflicted by the saddles. But, for Christmas, our eldest daughter bought us new gear with increased padding – coupled with us buying padded saddle covers – and cycling around Delamere Forest was a real success.

We're back in Delamere Forest, our start delayed by funerals of friends. Our plan is to return to Pembroke to pick up the adventure at the point of our last visit. We're looking forward to more of the same – beautiful countryside coupled with dramatic sunsets, lovely people, and, no doubt, places of historical interest.

Let me finish with those words of St David: '*Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things.*'

God bless.

With love,

Bernie & Phil Maltby.

Could you write an article?

We love to feature contributions from members of the congregation who would be willing to tell us what they are doing during these strange times – what are you watching/reading/making? Any tips to share with others? It would be lovely to hear from you!

email: macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com

Community & Church News

Gawsworth

Charity Coffee mornings... Coffee mornings start at 10.00am and finish just before midday. All are welcome - large car parking space, friendly welcome, bargains, a raffle and free entry as the John Upton Charity give us a grant to provide this community facility to anyone.

COFFEE MORNING DETAILS....

- March 2nd** - Pancreatic Cancer research
- March 9th** - Research into Brain Tumours
- March 23rd** - Martyn Donaldson Trust
- March 30th** - East Cheshire Hospice
- April 6th** - RSPB
- April 13th** - East Cheshire Hospice
- April 27th** - Fund raiser for Coronation Celebrations in Gawsworth Village
- May 6th** - Macclesfield and District Young Stroke Society
- May 13th** - Macclesfield Lions
- May 25th** - North Rode Women's Institute

There are still some unfilled dates available in in July and August if you would like to raise money for a charity of your choice ring Sheila -01625433239

Friday 3 March 2.00pm - World Day of Prayer Service this year at St James the Great, Gawsworth with refreshments to follow. The service has been written by the women of Taiwan and in it they share some of their struggles and joys. Please come and find out more and be part of this wave of Prayer which encircles the world on that day.

Macclesfield

Good Friday evening, 7th April, at 7.00 pm, our Community Choir will be performing Mozart's Requiem. All are welcome to join us for this special event for Holy Week.

Online Church

In addition to the weekly Sunday morning services, Zoom evening prayers as follows.....

- 12 March – Ros**
- 30 April – Graham**

JOIN ONLINE.... Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88677436411>

Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

Dial by your location

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

LISTEN.....DIAL IN - 0203 051 2874 or 0203 481 5237 & and when asked, input the Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

Poynton

Poynton Methodist Church invites you

Tuesday 21st February

Family FILM CLUB

Followed by freshly made PANCAKES for all!
At approx. 3.40pm

vegan and gluten-free too

With Interval for tea trips

If you know a family in need of some half term fun, let them know about our screening of 'SING' on Grove Tuesday

Half Term Matinee

1.30pm prompt start in Church

SING

All for a minimum **£1** family donation

20th February until 27th April, 10.30am every Monday - Lent Study Group
At church. The group will study the book 'Easter Uncut' by Carl Laferton.

3rd April – 7th April - Holy Week Daily Worship

A short service Monday to Friday of Holy Week at 10.30am. Maundy Thursday will include Holy Communion.

Poynton's Holy Week Daily Worship at 10.30am

Join us to explore the events of this week using our five senses –



the sight of Jesus cleansing the temple



the smell of the anointing perfume

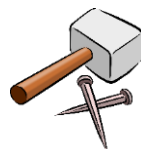


the touch of foot washing



the taste of bread and wine

the sounds



of crucifixion

COMMUNITY

Christian Aid

Spring is on its way!

If you fancy being amongst nature and friends whilst also raising money for Christian Aid, why not join the North Staffordshire Committee's **sponsored walk at Tittesworth Reservoir on Saturday 25th March 2023!**

With a choice of two routes, (one only two miles long) all are welcome to register from 09:15am onwards for a 10am start. Encourage family and friends to support you with our sponsorship form or by setting up a Just Giving Page.

If you do choose the JustGiving option, please declare this at the registration desk and contact the Central Supporter Engagement Team on hello@christian-aid.org if you need guidance and advice on setting this up.

Let's take steps to eradicate poverty!

Turkey/Syria Appeal – if you haven't had chance to donate in your church....

On Monday 6 February, an initial magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit in southern Turkey close to the border with northern Syria. A second 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck 9 hours later, with aftershocks following.

Many thousands of men, women and children have died or are injured in the aftermath of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. It is not too late to save lives. Christian Aid is already working with partners in Northwest Syria to provide winter kits to people seeking shelter. Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to people hit by disaster.

To save lives and give people hope, [please donate what you can today.](#)

Even before this devastating earthquake, there were over four million people in need of aid in Northwest Syria.

Nearly 3 million people have been displaced by the long conflict in Syria, 80% of whom are women and children.

Now extreme weather events and the spiraling costs of food and fuel prices due to ongoing conflicts are making the situation even worse.

People are facing a crisis on crisis.

President's Letter

I know this may reach you a little late but a very Happy New Year to you all and I hope 2023 gives you good health with new opportunities in your Faith Journey. As Jeremiah writes in Chapter 29 verse 11 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'

MWiB District Spring Gathering

As I am writing this, myself and the other MWiB District Officers are planning our next Gathering and looking back on our Autumn Gathering on October 1st 2022. It was well attended and we all felt the new format of the day worked well. So for our Spring Gathering at Hope Methodist Church in Failsworth with the Speaker Rev Dave Warnock on the subject of Christians Against Poverty (all the details are on the poster with this letter) we are going to continue to sit around tables in small groups with a short Business Meeting but much more about the Speaker's chosen subject. This will allow us time to chat and share in our groups and possibly ask questions of Dave.

These Gatherings are a social event where all are welcome. If you haven't been before either just come along and join a table or why not invite a group of friends and sit together to share your views, you may be surprised at what you learn!

We chose Hope Methodist as it is easy to get to by tram, bus or car. If you need more transport information please contact me.

I hope to see many old friends and new in March at Hope. Go on give us a try!

Chris Gregory

Email chrisg7684@gmail.com

Tel 07975 503019

Don't forget....

Macclesfield Circuit MWiB EASTER OFFERING SERVICE
Sunday 23rd April at 6.30 pm at Poynton



MWiB

Manchester & Stockport District
Methodist Women in Britain

SPRING MEETING



Hope Methodist Church

Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 9AN

Saturday 25th March

10.45 a.m. - 3.15 p.m.

Speaker: Rev Dave Warnock

'Christians Against Poverty'

Coffee served from 10.30am

Bring your own lunch

(Drinks provided)

All Welcome!





Did you know that it's estimated that British people drink an incredible 165 million cups of tea every single day? We certainly love a cuppa, but how much have you ever thought about the many people around the world working to get tea from the bush to your cup?

This spring, we're inviting you to bring your community together, have a cup of tea and change lives.

You can hold a Big Tea Party event with your family, friends, colleagues or church and make a lasting difference to people affected by leprosy who are living and working in the tea gardens of Bangladesh.

21 April is National Tea Day and it would be wonderful to see as many people as possible holding their event on this date - but don't worry if that doesn't work for you. Any day is a good day to get together with your community and enjoy tea and some tasty snacks.

We've created a free resource pack for you to help organise your Big Tea Party. Simply click the button below, fill out your details and your resources - including posters, social media graphics, invitations and bunting - will be available to download.

[Hold a Big Tea Party \(leprosymission.org.uk\)](https://leprosymission.org.uk)

THREE LENT DISCUSSION GROUPS

Something for Everyone Mon-Thurs throughout Lent

All are welcome, no need to book, just turn up.

This Lent we are offering two book studies and one film study, hosting at four of our churches across the circuit. You are welcome to come along to as many of each as you wish – mix and match if you prefer! Here are the three titles of the Lenten Studies. Hope you can find your way into one or more of them. Something for everyone this Lent!



| What | Where | When | Dates Course Running |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 'Easter Uncut' | Poynton Methodist | Mon @10.30am | 20 th Feb – 27 th April |
| 'Godforsaken' | Broken Cross Methodist | Tues @ 1.30pm | 7 th March – 4 th April |
| 'A Place For Us' | Macclesfield Methodist | Wed @7pm | 1 st March – 5 th April (NOT on 8 th March) |
| 'Godforsaken' | Prestbury Methodist | Thurs @10.30am | 9 th March – 6 th April |

How to find us:

Poynton Methodist Church, SK12 1RB

Broken Cross Methodist Church, SK10 3JR

Macclesfield Methodist Church, SK10 1BX

Prestbury Methodist Church, SK10 4BW

EASTER SERVICES at a glance – something for everyone across the Circuit!



3 – 7 April 2023

Holy Week Daily reflections 10.30am Poynton

Wednesday 5 April 2023 Easter Experience for families

10.00am – 2.00pm Macclesfield (booking essential)

Maundy Thursday – 6 April 2023

10.30am Poynton with Holy Communion

6.00pm Prestbury with Holy Communion

7.30pm **HOPE in NE Cheshire** - Tenebrae Service at Macclesfield & Bollington URC, Park Green, Macclesfield. All are most welcome to attend.

Good Friday – 7 April 2023

9.30am Broken Cross - Byrne

10.30am Ecumenical @ St Michaels - Byrne

10.30am Gawsworth - Bishop

10.30am Poynton - Watson

7.00pm Macclesfield with Macclesfield Methodist Community Choir

Easter Sunday – 9 April 2023

6:10am At Teggs Nose – Edwards/Byrne

From 7.00am Online - Watson

10.30am Broken Cross – S Bishop with Holy Communion

10.30am Gawsworth – F Bishop with Holy Communion

10.30am Langley – Baker

10.30am Macclesfield – Byrne with Holy Communion

10.30am Poynton – Watson with Holy Communion

10.30am Prestbury – M Jones with Holy Communion

2.30pm Woodlands – Ogier

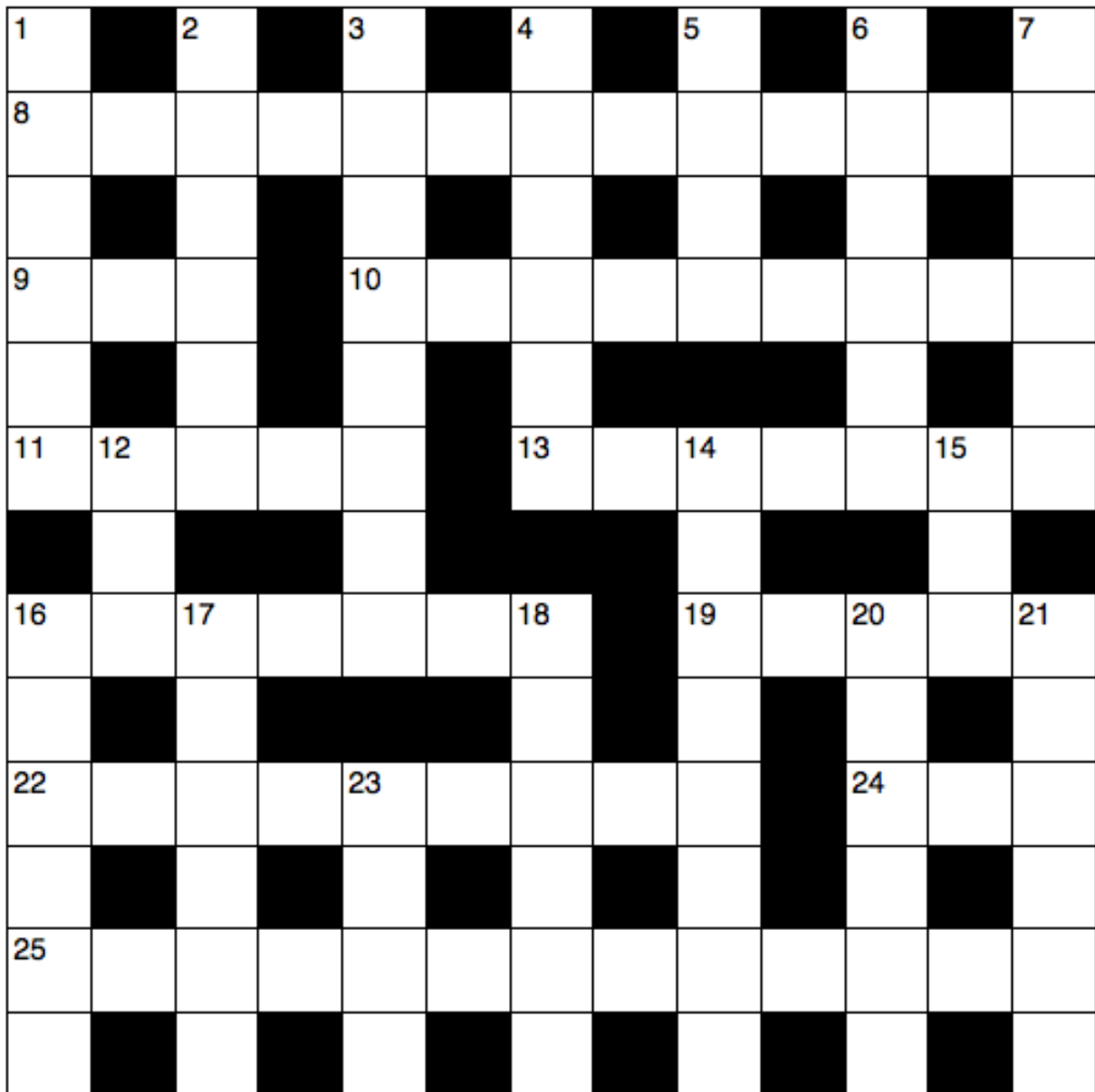
Sunday Evening: Come and try something new...

2 April 6.30pm Special 'Palm Sunday' Wellbeing Church at Prestbury.

16 April 6.30pm Special 'Emmaus' service with Holy Communion at Prestbury. Come and experience the 'road to Emmaus' – a big service!

21 May 6.30pm Special 'Iona' service at Prestbury *All welcome!*

Just for fun
Crossword



Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).

Parish Pump

Did you know?....

Snowdrops are one of the earliest plants to flower and so are a vital food source for insects at the end of winter.



**Snowdrops at the
Lovell Quinta
Arboretum,
Swettenham
(6th Feb)**

Advert – note other funeral directors are also available

ASfs | **ANDREW SMITH**
FUNERAL SERVICES

Your Local Independent Funeral Director

24hr Personal Care & Attention

Bespoke & Tailored Funerals

Simple Funerals

Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

*Recommended by the Good Funeral
Guide and Natural Death Centre*

 **Golden Charter**
Smart Planning for Later Life

01625 433 853
asfs-macclesfield.co.uk

Park Green House, 82 Sunderland Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6HN

This quarter's services

| 2023 | MARCH | | | | APRIL | | | | | MAY | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | 5 LENT 2 | 12 LENT 3 | 19 LENT 4 MOTHER'G SUNDAY | 26 LENT 5 | 2 LENT 6 - PALM SUNDAY | 9 EASTER DAY | 16 | 23 | 30 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 PENTECOST |
| READINGS: | Gen 2:15-17;3:1-7, Rom 4:1-5, 13-17, Jn 3:1-17 | Ex 17:1-7, Rom 5:1-11, Jn 4:5-42 | 1 Sam 16:1-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41 | Ezek 37:1-14, Rom 8:6-11, Jn 11:1-45 | Is 50:4-9a, Phil 2:5-11, Mt 26:14-27:66 | Acts 10:34-43, Col 3:1-4, Jn 20:1-18 | Acts 2:14a, 22-32, 1 Pet 1:3-9, Jn 20:19-31 | Acts 2:14a, 36-41, 1 Pet 1:17-23, Lk 24:13-35 | Acts 2:42-47, 1 Pet 2:19-25, Jn 10:1-10 | Acts 7:55-60, 1 Pet 2:2-10, Jn 14:1-14 | Acts 17:22-31, 1 Pet 3:13-22, Jn 14:15-21 | Acts 1:6-14, 1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11, Jn 17:1-11 | Acts 2:1-21, 1 Cor 12:3b-13, Jn 20:19-23 |
| BROKEN CROSS 10.30 | Bird | Byrne HC | Halstead T | Nicholls | Byrne | S Bishop HC | Rashleigh | Watson | OA | Baker | Byrne CAid | F Bishop HC | CCT |
| GAWSWORTH 10.30 | Bradley | Heap HC | Watson P | Oliver | Wakelin | F Bishop HC | Watson HC | Halstead P T | OA | Fielding T | F Bishop HC | S Bishop P | CCT |
| LANGLEY 10.30 | S Bishop HC | Fielding T | Oliver | S Bishop | Watson | Baker | S Edwards HC | Edwards | Watson | Edwards HC | Wakelin CAid | Whiteley | CCT |
| MACCLESFIELD 9.00 10.30 | Watson | Edwards HC | Byrne AAW | Gunning OA | OA Bf Edwards | Byrne HC | S Bishop AAW | Nicholls | Hawkyard | OA Bf Byrne HC | Gunning OA | Oliver AAW | CCT |
| POYNTON 9.30 10.30 14.30 18.30 | OA Bf Nicholls | Watson Cf | OA Watson | Watson HC Pv CTIP | OA Bf F Bishop | Watson HC | Bradley Watson HC | OA EO | Rashleigh | OA Bf Watson HC | Hawkyard CAid Cf | Fielding T Edwards | Edwards CCT |
| PRESTBURY 10.30 18.30 | @ BX Byrne WBC | Hawkyard | OA AAW Edwards | Byrne HC | Ward Byrne WBC | M Jones HC | Bird Byrne Emmaus HC | Byrne LU | Whiteley | Bradley Byrne WBC | Halstead T | Byrne CAid HC Byrne Iona | CCT |
| WOODLANDS MHA 14.30 | | | | Rashleigh | | Ogier | | Rashleigh | | | | | Rashleigh |
| ZOOM 18.30 | | Watson | | | | | | | Edwards | | | | |
| VIDEO | Byrne | Edwards | Byrne | Edwards | Byrne | Watson | Edwards | Byrne | Watson | Edwards | Byrne | Edwards | Watson |
| PRAYER CYCLE: | Macclesfield | Prestbury | Broken Cross | Gawsworth | Langley | Poynton | Woodlands | Macclesfield | Prestbury | Broken Cross | Gawsworth | Langley | Poynton |

AAW All Age Worship; **AfC** Action for Children Sunday; **B** Baptism; **Bf** Breakfast; **C** Carols; **CA** Church Anniversary; **CCT** Circuit; **Cf** Cafe; **Cn** Compassion; **CON** Contemporary Worship; **CONF** Methodist Conference; **CS** Covenant; **CT** Christingle; **E** Emmaus; **EO** Easter Offering; **F** Family Service; **G** Gift; **H** Healing; **HC** Holy Communion; **HF** Harvest Festival; **HM** Home Missions; **IO** Iona; **L** Faith Lunch; **LS** Ladies' Sunday; **LU** Local United; **M** Memorial; **M&M** Music & Meditation; **MHA** Methodist Homes for the Aged; **N** Nativity; **OA** Own Arrangement; **OM** Overseas Missions; **P** Parade; **Pr** Proclaim; **Ps** Pulpit Swap; **Pv** Pastoral Visitors Dedication; **SOP** Songs of Praise; **T** Please Provide Transport; **Th** Thanksgiving; **Trad** Traditional; **TS** Toy Service; **TR** Time to Remember; **Tz** Taize; **WBC** Wellbeing Church.

SERVICE LINKS & CONTACTS

Sunday 19 February 2023

AM – Morning worship led by Ros

WATCH ONLINE : <http://tiny.cc/19feb23>

The reading is: Matthew 17: 1-9

The hymns are: StF 15 / 706 / 568

FACEBOOK..... : <https://www.facebook.com/MacclefieldCircuit/>

YOUTUBE..... <https://www.youtube.com/c/macclesfieldmethodistcircuit>

PM – Live Evening Prayer Service at 6.30pm

JOIN ONLINE..... Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88677436411>

Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

Dial by your location

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

LISTEN.....DIAL IN - 0203 051 2874 or 0203 481 5237 & and when asked, input the Meeting ID: 886 7743 6411

Circuit Facebook page

For the latest information on what is happening within the circuit, follow....

<https://www.facebook.com/MacclefieldCircuit/>

Circuit Website

We also now have the Circuit website and the service link is on this, see

<https://www.macclesfieldmethodistcircuit.com/>

the page with the links etc on is

<https://www.macclesfieldmethodistcircuit.com/about-3>


You can use these pages every week to see the latest service.

Daily Hope (see below)

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as [Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer](#) updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England [weekly national online service](#).

An option entitled 'Chair Exercises on the Phone', provides recorded over-the-phone tuition to keep listeners fit and healthy from the safety of a chair during time at home.

Other important links

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers</p> | <p>Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown? The Church of England have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.</p> |
|--|--|

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
<https://www.methodistchurch.org.uk/MWoL>

Contact Details

For Children & Families

Angela Bourne

Tel: 07901 777506

Email: methodistfamilies@gmail.com

Ministers

Rev Graham Edwards

Tel: 01625 426051

Email: graham.edwards@methodist.org.uk

Rev Helen Byrne

Tel: 01625 572259

Email: helenmethodist@gmail.com

Rev Ros Watson

Tel: 01625 872060

Email: ros.watson@methodist.org.uk

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.