



e-MESSENGER

57th Issue: December 2023

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

A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Blue Peter used to show us how to make one every year, with coat hangers, tinsel, and candles – I think I made one in school, but it was probably a fire risk! Every church I've been minister of has had one and over the years three of them have caught fire. One happened quietly and was only noticed when a steward ran down the aisle with a watering can in hand! Another began to erupt during a hymn and was calmly swatted with the notice sheet until all was well. The final and most dramatic somehow managed to burn to a pile of ashes and



take most of the Communion table with, I don't think any of us know how that happened to this day! What am I talking about? Well Advent Crowns of course! It's the season for them, and we have them in all our churches as a way of centring ourselves as we come to worship each week in Advent and through the Christmas season.

Each week we light a candle on the Advent crown as we prepare for Christmas and the celebration of Jesus the Messiah, and the light. We watch how that light is revealed over time – through prophets and messengers, through Mary and Joseph and others and then finally we light the Christ candle on the centre which completes the symbolic image of God's complete, sufficient and perfect light. There are lots of variations, and lots of liturgies, but at its heart the advent crown is about God's light which transforms the world and shines even in the darkness.

This year, as some of you will have been aware it was suggested we might choose not to light the second candle, which often represents peace, as we stand in solidarity with those affected by the war and violence of the world, in the Holy Land, and especially Bethlehem itself. I have struggled with this suggestion in the days since I became aware of it.

Let me begin by saying I believe in peace, long for peace, and pray for peace – it is God's will for all people.

The Hebrew word translated as peace is *shalom*, it is rich in its meaning - completeness, soundness, and welfare. The root word it comes from is *shalam* which means making amends or making whole or complete. There can be no doubt that the peace, the *shalom*, we long for is a distant memory, an unfulfilled dream, a desperate desire in parts of the world, and we who live in relative comfort and peace have a responsibility before God, and all humanity to work for peace, and play our part in bringing peace – in whatever ways we can, large or small. As we come to worship we don't meet in a vacuum, we have to allow the reality of the world to confront us and challenge us, and the lack of peace in God's world should drive us to prayer and to action – that is the nature of meeting as a community of faith to worship God, we listen to the world we listen to God and we seek our place as the body of Christ in the world. However, we don't pray for peace by denying light, or by snuffing light out, we pray for peace by turning to the one who is light and asking for more – more light, more hope, more justice, and more vision for us as Gods people in the world.



In his *Summa Theologica* Thomas Aquinas, the thirteenth Century Theologian, notes that in the creation narratives of the Bible, “the Creator brought forth light as its first



form”. Light is the first and most remarkable creation, and in that light everything else finds its place. The light of God has been with us since the beginning of all things, illuminating, inspiring and helping God's people find their way. In Jesus that light becomes one of us, walks this

earth among us and shows us what it is to know the fullness of the life God offers us. The light of Jesus shows us Gods heart, and Gods love – it shows us how to live as disciples of Gods, as friends of God in this world, a world of brokenness and messiness. The light of Jesus is at the very heart for all it is to be a Christian, and all it is to be God's church, if we turn away from it, we are in danger of losing the very heart of who God calls us to be.

Advent for us, is not the same as it was for those who waited for the light of Messiah for generations, we knew the light came in Jesus, and still comes to our world through the Spirit, and so that gives us a slightly different task. We are called to celebrate the incarnation, the where, as Wesley puts it “God comes down, he bows the sky, and shows himself our friend!”, and in celebrating, “We earth's children now rejoice, the

Prince of peace proclaim, with heaven's host lift up our voice, and shout Emmanuel's name". We are called to hold out the light of Christ, knowing that no darkness can overcome it, knowing that even in the deepest darkness the light of Christ still shines, knowing that God has not left us, given up, and gone home. We are called to hold out the light of faith. In his encyclical *Lumen Fidei* Pope Francis writes:

The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence. A light this powerful cannot come from ourselves but from a more primordial source: in a word, it must come from God. Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfilment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us.

So where does all this leave us? We hold on to the light. What we need is more light not less, more hope, not less, more justice, not less – and so I don't want to leave the second advent candle unlit – not because I don't care about the horror of God's world, but *because* I care and I know that the only thing that can begin a new work in this world is the light of God in Jesus Christ. I want to light more – real candles and metaphorical candles of peace this Advent, and this Christmas, so that I might realise the power of light, the power of God, and again commit myself to God – and to peace.



You are of course free to disagree with me! but whatever do you this Advent season, however you prepare to celebrate the coming of *The Light* – open the doors, throw back the curtains, open the windows wide, and with all your strength hold out the light of Christ – let it shine, that peace might reign, that justice might bloom, that hope might be renewed, why? Because as someone more eloquent than I once wrote:

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it
John 1: 5

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.



Methodist Families Together



MFT have been busy so far this year, with lots going on for our families. Poynton held a very successful Breakfast Church in November, where different parts of the church came together during their own arrangement service. This is what they got up to.

On the first Sunday in November, we had an own arrangements service at Poynton. Richard Baker had offered to lead worship and being the first Sunday it coincided with our Breakfast Church, which usually starts at 9.

Together we thought it would be a great opportunity to introduce Breakfast Church to the wider congregation and to combine our two services. Breakfast was later than usual, and more people joined us, we just managed to keep up with extra sausages and toast.

As is our usual Breakfast Church practice, worship with our children was at the front of the church sitting on cushions. Our story was Matthew 5 14-16. We tried to hide in the darkness, blanket, and chairs plus battery tea lights not so successful, children nothing if not direct. Then we talked about how we might share our light, simple smiles, and cheery greetings. Everyone was invited to join the children, in another room or in the garden, or to stay in church and continue worship there.

Outside we built a hedgehog hotel, inside we designed a sign to welcome all, especially bugs, and hedgehogs of course, to our wild garden, the sign will be on the gate very soon.



We made bird feeders which were later gifted, taken home, or hung from our church trees. The children said the birds would be happy and we would be happy too, watching the birds.

Back in church together again we shared our thoughts from the morning and the difference every one of any age can make by sharing our light in the simplest way. We sang, danced, and played joyfully, light for all.

Christmas celebrations for MFT have started early this year. We were invited to provide crafts for Broken Cross and Upton Ward's Christmas Fair, where the community came together in Jasmine Park to decorate the community tree. Residents were asked to bring a decoration each to put on the tree. When it started to go dark, the lights on the tree were switched on by the deputy mayor. I would like to thank Alison and Ruth for helping at the event, without them I don't know what I would have done, especially as they were both at Messy Gifts the day before!!!!!! The children enjoyed making Christmas trees and a nativity scene. It was such a success we were asked if we could do the same at their Easter event!!!!!!



We have also completed our first of many Christingles. Rev Graham and I had the pleasure of joining 1st Gawsworth Girls' Brigade and taking over their company evening to share in a Christingle. The girls and their families came and made their own Christingles with the help of 'Chris Tingle'. We then all went into the Chapel where Rev Graham spoke about what Christmas is all about, we read a Bible passage and then lit all our Christingles (over 50 were made) and sung carols by the candlelight.



It was a lovely evening and thank you 1st Gawsworth GB for inviting us to share in a Christingle service with you.



MFT will be going into Broken Cross Primary School to deliver our story box and craft session for, reception, YR1, YR2 and YR3. We will be sharing the true meaning of Advent, not just a countdown to Christmas day.



JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS

Saturday 16th December 12-4pm
@ Macclesfield Methodist Church SK10 1BX

Journey through part of the Bible with our knitted figure displays. Starting at Creation, journey all the way through to the first Christmas.

This is a drop in and out session. Stay as long as you like. Once you have completed the journey to Christmas, there will be free crafts and light lunches to purchase.
Parents/carers to stay with children, Suitable for ages 0+

 @MaccMethodistKids
 Free event - donations are welcomed

Messy Christmas
Saturday 16th December
12-4pm drop-in session,
will run alongside
Macclesfield Methodist
Church Knitted Bible
figure display 'Journey
to Christmas'. As the
family's journey from
creation to the FIRST
Christmas, they will
complete clues,
questions, and activities,
then there will be craft
stations in the hall.

Sunday 17th All Age Worship at Macclesfield Methodist Church 10:30am MFT will be joining in a scratch Nativity service. All are welcome to come and take part in the Nativity.

As we enter a busy period with lots of activities going on for our families, we must make time for ourselves, so we can prepare, reflect, and wait for the mystery of Christmas.



Breakfast Church 9-10am @Macclesfield Methodist Church & @Poynton Methodist Church please see Poynton's website for time.

Sunday 7th January

Sunday 4th February

Chippy Church 4-5:30pm @Broken Cross Methodist Church

Saturday 13th January

Saturday 10th February

Messy Church 2-4pm

Saturday 24th February @Broken Cross Methodist Church

Prayer Cycle – We have added our family church - Methodist Families Together 'MFT' onto the Circuit Prayer Cycle. We remember all who are involved and thank Rev Sheila for contributing this prayer.

Let us pray for all those families who regularly come to the events arranged by Methodist Families Together.

We pray for God's guidance and wisdom for Angela who organises the themes and crafts, and for all the volunteer helpers, that through our love and concern for each family, they may make God's love real and we can share our Christmas joy that God is here with us.

Amen



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 @MaccMethodistKids

Free event - donations are welcomed 



Christingle

A short family friendly service



24th December

3:30pm @ Macclesfield
Methodist Church SK10 1BX

5pm @ Langley
Methodist Church SK11 0BU

6pm @ Broken Cross
Methodist Church SK10 3JR

Members' voice....

In our June quarter edition, we included a note from Janet Dean about her charity trek plans. Here's Janet's note letting us know how it went.....

Camino de Santiago Trek October 2023 - In aid of the East Cheshire Hospice

As part of a team of 18 'recruited' by the East Cheshire Hospice, I recently walked the last part of the (French Way) Camino de Santiago Pilgrims' Trail in Northern Spain. The route was just over 115km and was completed over 5 days.



We started on the Sunday 15 October in a small town called Sarria and

headed towards the ultimate goal of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela on 19 October.



To receive official recognition at the Cathedral, 'pilgrims' must have walked at least 100Km of a recognised trail. We had to provide evidence of this via a personal Camino Passport, which must have been officially stamped twice each day. The stamps are available

along the trek at cafes, hotels and churches. Each venue has its' own personalised stamp.



walk, but the one thing in common was to raise vital funds for the East Cheshire Hospice. Collectively, we now have a final total of £76,010. I took part in memory of my husband Peter Dean, who passed away at the Hospice in April 2019.

We all had personal reasons for doing the



The weather was generally quite wet, with the final day providing much flooding across the region. Northern Spain was affected before Storm Babet and Storm Ciaran hit the UK. Several of our Team also suffered from foot blisters, and/or toe nails damage. However, providing camaraderie to each other we talked, laughed, and occasionally

cried, as we walked. A shared experience of a lifetime, never to be forgotten.

Janet Dean, Gawsworth

The Hope Centre

Tucked away on Park Green directly opposite Wetherspoons is a café where you can expect to be given a warm welcome by the manager, Hazel, or one of our volunteers. We are there to serve you and your companions if you are looking for somewhere to chat, or to provide a listening ear if you are feeling a little lonely or in need of some advice.



We offer a wide variety of hot or cold light lunches/ breakfasts, a choice of toasts and cakes and of course hot and cold drinks to suit all tastes. We are open to serve food on Tuesdays to Fridays from 10am to 3pm, Saturdays 10 to 1pm. In the New Year we will be offering afternoon teas for up to 8 persons, but we ask that you book in advance for such a special treat.

We also sell a selection of Christian cards, gifts, Bibles and books and have a good ordering service if we don't have what you are looking for in stock. On the third Sunday of every month from 6pm to 7pm we have a get-together for Prayer, Praise and testimony which is non-denominational and open to all. Please note this does not take place in December. There are other occasional events, which you will find on our Facebook page. Keep a look-out for our new website, which will be launched in the New Year.



On the first floor is a meeting room, which is bookable. Please contact the manager, if you would like more information or wish to view it. The front of The Hope Centre faces south-west and gives the building a light and airy atmosphere. At the back, is a quiet garden courtyard, a secret gem lovingly cared for and there to enjoy on sunny spring and summer mornings.

We look forward to welcoming you when you are next down in the lower part of town, although you won't be disappointed if you make a special visit to find us.

[The Hope Centre | Macclesfield | Facebook](#)

Rhona Marshall

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

Living in a Van – Part 7
(Bernie’s Big Adventure)

‘Bernie’s Big Adventure’ has come to an end – the ‘circle’ is complete. When we last wrote to you we were in Mablethorpe where I was recalling the days of my youth.



From Mablethorpe we travelled up the coast to Cleethorpes to spend a few days at Thorpe Park - part of the Haven Holiday Group. I wonder how many of you realise the important status of Cleethorpes? Not only is the claim that the world rotates around the town but Grimsby Town Football Club is based there. (As you will see from the photographs, the Greenwich Meridian Line runs through Cleethorpes)



Crossing the Humber Bridge (at one time the longest single-span road suspension bridge in the world), we headed north to Church View Campsite in Atwick (pronounced ‘attic’) near Hornsea. The start of our adventure was at Easington, near Spurn Point, and we decided that our finish should be Hornsea.

Bob and Lil, campsite owners originally from Bury, were exceptional hosts and made sure we were comfortable on a daily basis. In addition, Bob would tell me a humorous story each day.

Using East Yorkshire Buses, flagging the bus down at the Atwick Cross, we spent an enjoyable day exploring Hornsea and Hornsea Mere – used at one time as a base for seaplanes during WWI – however, there was no sign of Hornsea Pottery.

Our adventure had come to an end but what do you do when you have been nomadic for the best part of eighteen months? We decided that we needed to ease ourselves back into ‘normal’ living and that a trip to the Lake District (Bernie’s all-time favourite place) was in order.

Our intention was to head across country to Skipton and then on to the Lakes. However, ten miles from Skipton the road was closed and detours in place. I found the route through the Yorkshire Dales difficult enough going forwards but what would **you** do when faced with HGVs that were unwilling to concede road space? I, somewhat reluctantly, reversed on a least three occasions and, by the time we reached Bowness-on-Windermere, was close to being a nervous wreck.



The site at Bowness-on-Windermere was ideally placed for both an easy walk to the shoreline and for the local bus service. During our four days there we enjoyed trips to Bowness and Windermere, and to Ambleside and Grasmere – with frequent stops at cafes and coffee shops.

Still wishing to remain 'nomadic' we spent two nights at Tebay Services (we had a three-pound voucher to spend in the Westmoreland Services restaurant) and then travelled down to Delamere Forest Campsite.

We had stayed on the Delamere site before and, therefore, simply repeated some of our previous activities: walking through the woods, visiting both the station café and the Forest Centre café. We took another train ride to Chester but, on this occasion spent some time in Chester Cathedral where I found these framed words on a wall:

*When as a child I laughed and wept, Time crept.
When as a youth I waxed more bold, Time strolled.
When I became a full-grown man, Time RAN.
When older still I grew, Time FLEW.
Soon I shall find, in passing on, Time gone.
O Christ! wilt Thou have saved me then?
Amen. ('Time's Paces' by Henry Twells)*



This well-known poem depicts the apparent speeding up of time as we become older. Make what you will of it.

We are now staying with our eldest daughter and partner in Heald Green whilst trying to catch up on family, friends and appointments. We have well over two thousand photographs to catalogue and many experiences to share. We will remember fondly the many lovely people we met; the wonder of God's Creation; and the humorous incidents that occurred whilst we were learning some of the skills of motor homing.

We hope you have enjoyed our brief writings and once again 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

Broken Cross

Sunday 17th December 10.30am - Carol service
Wednesday 20th December 7pm - Blue Christmas
Sunday 24th December 6pm - Christingle
Christmas Day 9.30am - Own Arrangement service



Do you remember this from last quarter's eMessenger???

Calling all knitters!

Festive Period Appeal

*The Chaplaincy staff at Salford Royal are beginning to plan for Christmas and I've suggested we consider giving out knitted angels to staff and patients who will be in over the festive period... only problem is I cannot knit myself! If you are someone who enjoys knitting and might want to dedicate some time to help spread festive cheer to those in hospital over Christmas, could you please email me and I can send over the knitting pattern if you need. We'd love as many as possible please! Thanks so much in advance,
Rev Nat Hackett.*

We were delighted the team of knitters at Broken Cross were able to help and here are the fruits of their labours...



The angels are now with Rev Nat who will attach a greeting and prepare them for their flight at Salford Royal over Christmas!

Gawsworth

Charity Coffee mornings... Coffee mornings start at 10.00am and finish just before midday. Each coffee morning is different and special. Stalls and a raffle and the contributions for hot drinks raises an amazing amount of money for the charity as we have a grant which helps with heating lighting and cleaning and so all monies taken go to the charity. We are grateful to the John Upton charity for the grant which makes this possible.



We invite you to come and enjoy time spent with friendly people and find a bargain at Gawsworth Methodist Community Hall Thursdays each week except the third Thursday.

Lunch club is on each third Thursday of the month. A team of people prepare and cook a two course meal followed by a hot drink. The cost is £6 per person and there are a few spaces so if you would like to come regularly phone Sheila on 01625 433239 by the second Thursday.

FORTHCOMING COFFEE MORNING DETAILS....

January 11th	- to support work with families and children
January 18th	- Lunch club with Quiet space at midday - booking essential
January 25th	- For Macclesfield church Boiler Fund
February 1st	- Macclesfield Lions for brain tumour research
February 8th	- The children's society
February 15th	- Lunch club with Quiet space at midday - booking essential
February 22nd	- Homeless People through Shelter
February 29th	- the work of Girls Brigade in Gawsworth
March 7th	- Martyn Donaldson Trust
March 14th	- Young carers locally
March 21st	- Lunch club with Quiet space at midday - booking essential
March 28th	- East Cheshire Hospice

All are welcome

Our new venture is a warm space on a **Tuesday afternoon from 1.00p.m.** with games crafts, puzzles, colouring or just sit and chat or read. All are welcome hot drinks provided.

Christmas activities...

15 December (Wednesday) from 6.30pm – Carol singing round the village.

17 December 10.30am Carol service - carols accompanied by keyboard and strings, readings and afterwards mince pies!

24 December 10.30am - Christmas Eve communion with Rev Dr Graham Edwards



Langley

Sunday 10 December 10.30am - Own Arrangement Carol service



Wednesday 13 December 10.30am – 11.30am – Our local PCSO will be with us during coffee and chat and available to answer any queries you may have about policing and security matters.

Sunday 17 December 6.30pm - Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols at Sutton St. James followed by mulled wine and mince pies.



Wednesday 20 December 10.30am – 12pm - Coffee & Chat – a very informal time of carols and readings.

Christmas Eve Christingle 5pm - Our traditional Christingle Service led by Rev Graham Edwards and followed by light refreshments.

Sunday 14 January 2024 10.30am - Covenant Service with Sutton St. James joining us.

All welcome

Online Church

Lent Reflections – Lighted Windows

Via Zoom at 7.30pm on 19th November, 6th, 13th, 20th December.
Contact Ros.



Sunday Services

10 December – Graham

24 December – Christmas Eve service with Graham & Ros

14 January – Ros

28 January - Graham

11 February - Ros

25 February - Graham

Macclesfield

Journey to Christmas - Knitted Bible Exhibition at Macclesfield Methodist Church



JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS
Knitted Bible Exhibition @ Macclesfield Methodist Church SK10 1BX

Journey through part of the Bible with 15 unique displays of knitted figures. Starting from the very beginning up to the birth of Jesus.

December Opening Times:
Wednesday 13th 12:30-4:30pm
Thursday 21st 2-5pm,
Friday 22nd 11-2pm,
Saturday *16th & *23rd 12-4pm
Sunday 17th 12-4pm

Refreshments available
*light lunches available to purchase

[f @MacclesfieldMethodistChurch](#) The Methodist Church

To start off the church's 25th Anniversary celebrations, we look forward to welcoming you to this unique display of knitted figures depicting the stories of Jesus's ancestors through the Old Testament from Creation right up to the time of Jesus's birth. The final display will be the Nativity and the focal point of our Christmas events. Part 2, which we hope to stage next Easter, will focus on knitted figure scenes depicting Jesus's life and ministry and culminating in his death and resurrection.

Journey to Christmas will run from 13th to 23rd December on the dates/times listed above. Drinks and cakes/mince pies will be available on each day and on Saturday 16th and Saturday 23rd December light lunches will be available from 12 noon.

Admission is free although donations in aid of our Boiler Fund appeal will be gratefully received.

Poynton

Poynton Methodist Church 

Share our Christmas joy!

Breakfast Church - Sunday 3rd December 9am
1st Advent Service - 3rd December 10.30am

Blue Christmas Service Sunday 10th Dec 2.30pm

Film Club - Saturday 16th December 2pm

Muddy Church and Holy Communion Service
Sunday 17th December - 10.30am

Afternoon Carol Service 17th December 2.30pm

Christmas Eve 24th December 10.30am Carol Service

Christmas Day 25th December 9.30am – Service

New Year's Eve 31st December 10.30am
Circuit Service

office@poyntonmethodist.org



**BUT THE ANGEL
SAID TO THEM
'DO NOT
BE AFRAID.
I BRING
YOU
GOOD NEWS
OF
GREAT JOY'**

LUKE 2:10

Prestbury

During December (**10.30am, 14th, 21st December**) we are joining in Advent Reflections using the book Lighted Windows. Our Thursday house group is joining the Reflections then will return to their normal house meetings in January

Sunday 10 December - We will be having a stall at the Prestbury Winter Fair to let people know about activities at our church.

We are still holding our Women's Wellbeing evenings on the **first Thursday of each month**. We enjoy pampering, fellowship and good food.

Our book club meets monthly and we enjoy lively discussions about the very varied books we select.

On the **last Saturday of each month** we hold a very successful coffee morning which supports a different charity each time - it is a good opportunity for local people to get together.

We are looking forward to starting our new Dementia Cafe in January and hope that this will prove a great outreach.

We send our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all our churches in Macclesfield Circuit.

District Event

Saturday 27 January 2024 10am – 3pm

Details below. If anyone would like to go and will need a lift there please let me know.

Angela Bourne

The **Manchester** and **Stockport**
Methodist District

Refresh

a day for all working with
children & young people

Refresh is a day of
worship, workshops,
resources, ideas &
support for all
volunteers and lay
employees, working with
children, young people
and families in the
Manchester & Stockport
District.

SATURDAY
27TH JAN.
10AM-3PM
CHEADLE HULME
METHODIST CHURCH
SK8 7AL

COMMUNITY

Macmillan Cancer Support

Greene King is running 'Tub2Pub', a recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and recycle plastics. From 1 January - 11 February 2024, it's pubs, restaurants, and hotels will accept your clean and empty:

- Confectionery tubs - Biscuit tubs - Cracker tubs

We're all guilty of indulging in chocolate, sweets and crackers over the festive period, and in the UK we are buying tens of millions of these plastic tubs every year! Make sure your tubs don't go to waste and bring your clean, empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs to any Greene King managed site from 1 January - 11 February 2024 to be recycled. Simply leave your tubs with a Greene King staff member at the bar or welcome station within one of their locations.



After 11 February, all tubs will be collected and taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they're shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of virgin plastics. All money raised from the sale of Tub2Pub plastics will be given directly to Macmillan Cancer Support. Find out more at [TUB2PUB](#)
The Rising Sun on Congleton Road & Blacksmiths Arms, Chelford Road are participating.

All We Can



The idea is simple: do all the *something* you can in January 2024, and fundraise for All We Can in the process!

Whether it be running all the miles you can, reading all the books you can, or knitting all the hats you can - it's up to you what challenge you set yourself, because only you know what you need to fulfil your potential.

In the process, you'll have the chance to learn and share inspiring

stories from All We Can's local partners in Liberia. As they fulfil their potential, journey with them as you seek to fulfil yours!

This is a challenge anyone can get involved with:

- Need a little extra motivation for your New Year's resolution? Turn it into a fundraising challenge!
- Don't want to do it alone? Take part as a group from your church or school.
- Can't commit to a month-long challenge? Organise a one-off event which features doing the most of an activity you can.



HARVEST/CHRISTMAS 2023 – THANK YOU FOR HELPING

Silklife Foodbank
C/O Dan Blackman

FAO: All who contributed to Harvest & Christmas Collections 2023

Silklife Church
The Silklife Centre
George Street
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 6HS

Email:
foodbank@silklife.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2023

Silklife Foodbank, would like to say “A BIG THANK YOU” for your help.

It was my delight to personally witness the increased level of generous giving made by the schools and churches of Macclesfield and Bollington and surrounding areas during the season of Harvest and Christmas 2023. Please accept our sincere appreciation and thanks for your kindness and generosity in giving. Thank you also to those who have provided non-food donations for our nappy bank.

This year has been challenging for many. Whilst we saw a significant rise in single people needing foodbank support during the Covid Pandemic, we have seen this year a 29% rise in families needing support. This statistic is very telling about the financial challenges everyday families are now experiencing as a result of the ‘Cost of Living’ crisis. Hunger crisis can fall on almost anyone and often unexpectedly, our team at the Silklife Foodbank, Macclesfield act as a First Responder service to those referred by professional services in the health and social care fields to provide temporary emergency food support. You can find out more by booking an appointment to see the foodbank for yourself or by following our charity on Facebook.

Over the last 12 months our team of 60+ volunteers have collected and distributed an amazing 39 tonnes of food, nappies, toiletries and sanitary products and have responded to more than 2,000 referrals in Macclesfield and Bollington.

Thank you also for those of you who have contributed to the Reverse Advent Calendar Christmas collection. We saw 175 cars delivering food on the main drive-thru collection and we are still booking collections from schools, churches and businesses. We aim to complete 300 hampers and we are confident with your support that we will achieve this.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT OUR WORK: <https://www.facebook.com/SilklifeFoodbank/>

Many thanks for supporting our charity and being fantastic people to work with.

Dan Blackman

Team Lead Coordinator, Silklife Foodbank, Macclesfield

Prayer Diary

December 2023 to February 2024

*Join us in praying for Methodist Women in Britain Trustees & Ambassadors,
World Federation Officers and Methodist Women in Ireland Officers as well as
the work of Methodist Women in Britain across our Districts.*

*Our prayer diary can be used alongside the Methodist Church Prayer
Handbook.*

Day 1	Methodist Women in Britain Co-chair North: Ruth Parrott & Co-chair South: Maggie Woods
Day 2	Helen Kim Scholars Britain & Ireland: Madeleine Reed & Heidi Hogan
Day 3	WFM&UCW World President: Sipiwe Chisvo & WFM&UCW President Emerita: Alison Judd
Day 4	London, Beds, Essex & Herts and South East MWiB Area Trustee: Linda King
Day 5	Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury, Birmingham, Mid Wales MWiB Area Trustee: Diana Bosman
Day 6	Bolton & Rochdale and Lancashire MWiB Area Trustee: Philippa Hill
Day 7	Methodist Women in Ireland All Ireland President: Olive Rowe
Day 8	Bristol and South Wales MWiB Area Trustee: Gillian Pengelly
Day 9	MWiB Area Ambassadors: Sandra Goodwin, Helen Cornick, Cynthia Bonds, Gillian Womersley, Viv Lowe
Day 10	Methodist Women in Ireland Southern District Vice President: Wanda Hogan
Day 11	Liverpool, Chester & Stoke, North Wales, Manchester & Stockport MWiB Area Trustee: Margaret Lindley
Day 12	Methodist Women in Britain Communications Officer: Bronwen Braidell
Day 13	Darlington, Newcastle and Cumbria MWiB Area Trustee: Debs Coggrave
Day 14	World Day of Prayer Representative: Charity Madenyika
Day 15	Methodist Women in Ireland North Eastern District Vice President: Audrey Burrows
Day 16	World Federation Ireland Unit Correspondent: Moira McMurray
Day 17	Lincolnshire and East Anglia MWiB Area Trustee: Rita Rowe
Day 18	North Eastern & North Western District (Ireland) World Federation Reps: Sally Rock & Ruth Wilson
Day 19	Methodist Women in Britain Digital Media Coordinator: Ruth Dawson
Day 20	WFM&UCW Area President & Vice President: Barbara Easton & Wanda Hogan
Day 21	MWiB Area Ambassadors: Mary Sachikonye, Elizabeth Colley, Di Smart, Sue Smith, Jackie Hartrey
Day 22	Methodist Women in Britain Finance Officer: Nina Rawlins
Day 23	Notts & Derby and Northampton MWiB Area Trustee: Mary Gill
Day 24	Cornwall and Plymouth & Exeter MWiB Area Trustee: Elaine Banks
Day 25	MWiB Area Ambassadors: Ann Taylor, Janet Thompson, Pam Gidney, Sue Clarke, Margaret Johnson
Day 26	Southampton and Channel Islands MWiB Area Trustee: Liz Chick
Day 27	MWiB Area Ambassadors: Judith Oldroyd, Claire Middleton, Pamela Stenson, Barbara Rumfitt, Glenda Sidding
Day 28	MWiB Area Ambassadors: Gwenda Humphries, Susan Murrell, Ruth Dawson, Naledi Phaladi, Jo Richards
Day 29	Yorkshire West, Yorkshire North & East and Sheffield MWiB Area Trustee: Janice Clark
Day 30	Scotland and Shetland MWiB Area Trustee: Barbara Harrison
Day 31	Your local officers, activities and projects

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer

Could I bring you all my hopes and dreams, my moments of despair?

Could you take what I'm thinking and find that it's a prayer?

(Joy Webb Singing The Faith 522)

1 st December	As Advent begins we pray for an 'Out of the Ordinary' Christmas this year, praying that we can scratch below the surface to find the hope and love of God in the hidden treasures all around us; and that we can bring that hope and love to our communities too.
8 th December	<i>Pray that candidates will apply for the position of CoChair; on the 11th the Exec meet.</i> This year we are called to leave the 2 nd candle of Advent (the Peace candle) unlit as a reminder that we stand in solidarity with all who are suffering in the Holy Land. This week pray for peace in all areas of our world, our communities, our churches, our families, our own lives.
15 th December	Our Jewish sisters and brothers are reaching the climax of the celebrations of Hannukah, a festival shaped by the daily re-telling of the story of God saving his people in ancient times. How is God shaping your story? Pray for your own walk with God this week.
22 nd December	Christmas approaches – great anticipation for some, anxiety and dread for others; for many a bit of both. Stop and pray for space and peace in the midst of it all. If you are in 'Martha' mode, be more Mary! And if you are in a bleak space this Christmas, we also pray for you.
29 th December	Between Christmas and New Year is Kwanzaa, a seasonal celebration (invented in the 1960s) of African heritage. We pray for our African sisters and brothers, especially thinking of our friends of African heritage living in Britain; and Methodist Women in the Africa area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.
5 th January	<i>Pray for MWiB meetings: 8th Shortlisting for the next CoChair; 10th Swanwick Task Group.</i> At the start of a New Year and a month that many find long and cold and dark let us pray the old prayer together: 'Lighten our darkness we beseech Thee O Lord and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.'
12 th January	<i>On the 15th Bookings open for Swanwick conference & the Exec meet.</i> The 18 th is apparently world Winnie-the Pooh day! A.A.Milne's stories have many attractions, not least the range of recognisable characters. Are you a Piglet, a Pooh, a Tigger or one of life's Eeyores? This week pray for a person you know who is very like each character. Thank God that we are all different and yet each have something to bring to the church and to the community.
19 th January	<i>Pray on 24th for the work of the Finance Task Group; on the 25th Maggie is at BEH meeting.</i> The 25 th is both Burn's Night & St Dwywen's (Welsh 'St Valentine'); a good day to celebrate our MWiB sisters in Scotland and Wales. Let's pray for our sisters across the British Isles.
26 th January	This is a big year for European Methodist women as we prepare to meet in Porto in June. Pray for all the preparations, for those leading and those joining. Pray for all who hold office in WFM&UCW and for the growing number of Methodist Women across the world church.
2 nd February	It is UK Hedgehog Day – the massive decline in hedgehogs in our lifetime is maybe a sign of the environmental crisis to come. In fact, in which we are living. This seems like a good week to pray for God's world, our home; and to pray that we may be good stewards of creation.
9 th February	<i>On the 12th Exec meet; 15th/16th Trustees meet.</i> Pray for everyone who offers their time to Methodist Women in Britain; those who lead locally and nationally; those who do the jobs that make things happen, sell the merchandise or put out chairs. We thank God for all this work & pray that God will uphold all those with new, and sometimes heavy, responsibilities.
16 th February	<i>Pray on 21st for Ruth in Runcorn, Chester & Stoke District Day.</i> Did you get any Valentines? Tokens of love can be important but they don't all come on Valentine's Day. What do you treasure that reminds you that you are loved by God? We don't always feel that God is close – so special moments and memories can be precious. Thank God for God's love to us, and see if you can give someone a sense of being 'special to God' in the next couple of days.
23 rd February	<i>Pray 23rd to 25th for Maggie at BEH retreat.</i> The 29 th February is such an unusual phenomenon we feel the need to do something special to mark the day. But, put like that, every day is special. Look at Mary Oliver's poem, 'The Summer Day' which ends 'Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?'. Jesus tells us that we are intended for 'abundant living' today and every day. Pray for your own life and for those for whom abundant living is a distant dream.



Are you looking for that last minute Christmas Present?

New gifts just arrived in MWiB resources.

Made in Lincolnshire from UK Oak and unique to MWiB.

Order from Elaine at: resources.mwib@gmail.com

All prices quoted include p&p



Celtic Cross on base with wording Methodist Women in Britain £5



MWiB Cross pin badge £2



MWiB Cross bookmark £2



Oval MWiB keyring £2



Round Butterfly keyring £2

ADVENT REFLECTIONS – COME ALONG!

An Advent Study

THE HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES

BASED ON "HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS"

@GAWSWORTH

METHODIST CHURCH

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 1PM,

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 1PM

TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 1PM

TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 1PM



Lighted Windows

An Advent calendar
for a world in waiting



MARGARET SILF

UPDATED & REVISED
EIGHTH EDITION

Broken Cross at 2.30pm on 28th Nov, 5th, 12th, 19th Dec

Poynton at 10.30am on 27th Nov, 4th, 11th, 18th Dec

Prestbury at 10.30am on 30th Nov, 7th, 14th, 21st Dec.

and via Zoom at 7.30pm on 19th Nov, 6th, 13th, 20th Dec

Come and Sing Carols

Carol Services in Macclesfield Town Centre

Good News Community Church	Sunday 10th December 10:30 am
St Albans (with All Hallows) in the Market Place around the crib	Saturday 16th December 1:00 pm
United Reformed Church	Sunday 17th December 10:45 am
Treacle Market Outside St Michael & All Angels	Sunday 17 th December at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm
St Peter's	Sunday 17th December 4:00 pm
The Salvation Army	Sunday 17 th December 5:00 pm
Macclesfield Methodists	Sunday 17th December 6:30 pm
St Michael & All Angels	Sunday 17th December 6:30 pm
St Paul's	Sunday 17th December 6:30 pm
Holy Trinity Hurdsfield	Sunday 17th December 7:00 pm
Town Carol Service at St Michael & All Angels	Tuesday 19th December 7:00 pm
St Paul's Churchyard with brass band, mulled wine & mince pies	Friday 22nd December 7:00 pm
Silklife	Sunday 24th December 10:30 am



Everyone welcome!



CHRISTMAS SERVICES – something for everyone across the Circuit!

Blue Christmas

Sunday 10 December 2.30pm at Poynton
Wednesday 20 December 7pm at Broken Cross

Christmas Eve online 10.30am

Christmas Eve Christingle

3.30pm at Macclesfield
5.00pm at Langley
6.00pm at Broken Cross



Circuit Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

11.15pm at Prestbury

Christmas Day



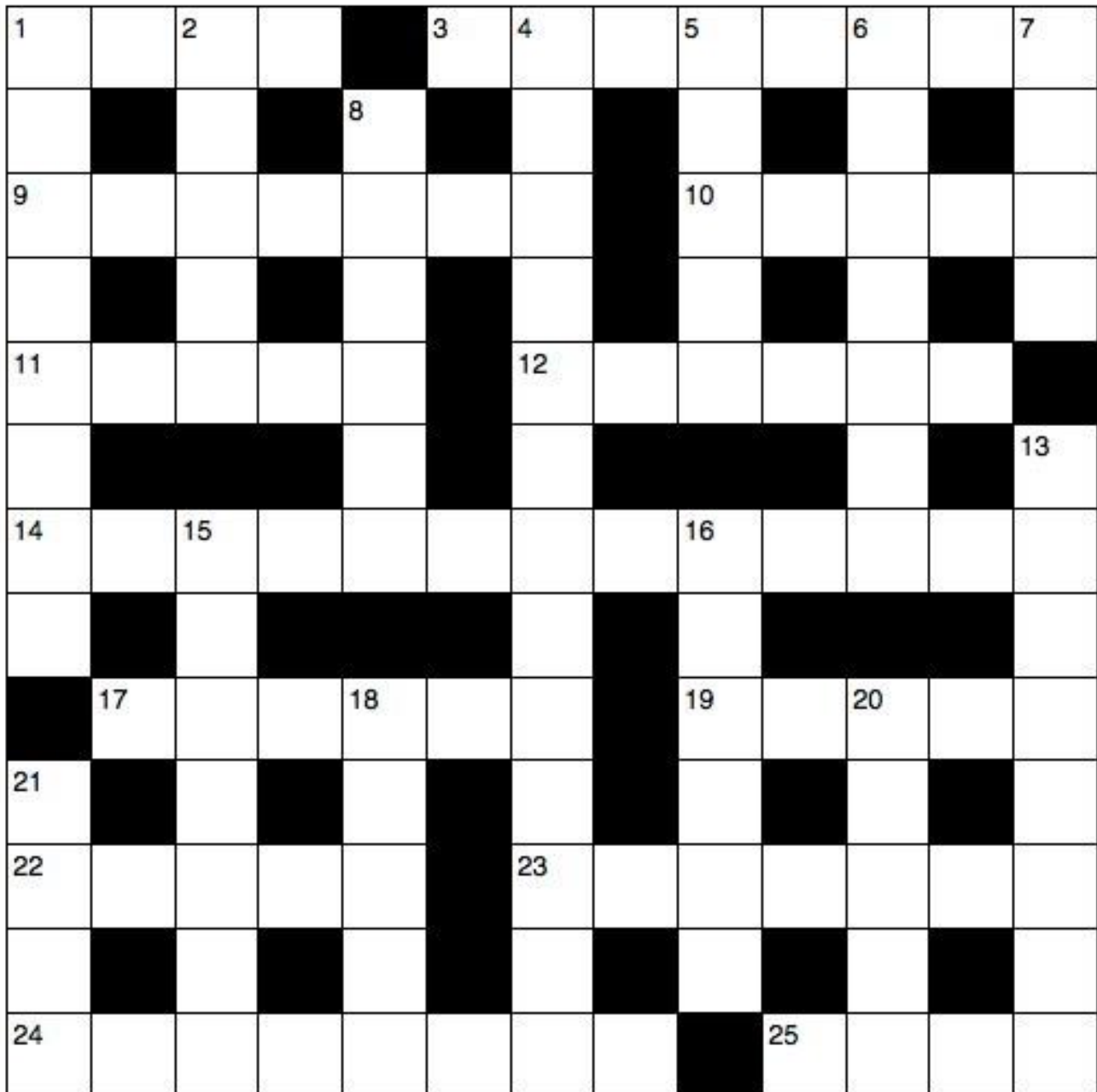
9.30am at Macclesfield – Rev Graham Edwards
9.30am at Broken Cross – Own Arrangement
9.30am at Poynton – Rev Ros Watson
10.30a.m at Gawsworth - Rev Graham Edwards
10.30a.m at Prestbury – Rev Ros Watson
11.00a.m at Woodlands – Abigail Ogier

Circuit New Years Eve Service

10.30am at Poynton

**We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy
New Year!**

Just for fun



Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)

- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

Parish Pump



Blue Christmas
 Service of Remembrance and Hope

Poynton Methodist Sunday December 10th at 2.30pm

Broken Cross Methodist Wednesday December 20th at 7pm

For some people Christmas may be difficult, particularly if you have lost a loved one either recently or around Christmastime. We offer this time to both remember them and give thanks for them. It's a time to quietly reflect and light candles.

Please invite anyone who may like to come, all are welcome. No need to book in.

Followed by refreshments.

This quarter's services

2023-2024	DECEMBER					JANUARY				FEBRUARY			
	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25
	ADVENT 1	ADVENT 2	ADVENT 3	ADVENT 4							LENT 1	LENT 2	
READINGS:	Is 64:1-9, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:24-37	Is 40:1-11, 2 Pet 3:8-15a, Mk 1:1-8	Ia 61:1-4, 8- 11, 1 Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28	2 Sam 7:1- 11, 16, Rom 16:25- 27, Lk 1:26- 38	Is 61:10- 62:3, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:22-40	Gen 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7, Mk 1:4-11	1 Sam 3:1- 20,1 Cor 6:12-20, Jn 1:43-51	Jon 3:1-5, 10, 1 Cor 7:29-31, Mk 1:14-20	Deut 18:15-20, 1 Cor 8:1- 13, Mk 1:21-28	Is 40:21- 31, 1 Cor 9:16-23, Mk 1:29- 39	2 Kgs 2:1- 12, 2 Cor 4:3-6, Mk 9:2-9	Gen 9:8- 17, 1 Pet 3:18-22, Mk 1:9-15	Gen 17:1-7, 15-16, Rom 4:13-25, Mk 8:31-38
BROKEN CROSS 10.30 18.00	Watson Cf	Bradley	Oliver C	Watson HC Watson CT	CCT	Morrell Cf	Watson CS	OA	Fielding	Watson Cf	Rashleigh	OA	Watson HC Pv
GAWSWORTH 10.30 14.00	Ward T	No service AdventHope	S&F Bishop C	Edwards HC	CCT	Fielding T	OA	S Bishop P	Edwards CS	Bradley	S Bishop HC	Halstead T	OA
LANGLEY 10.30 17.00	Edwards HC	OA C	Rashleigh	Edwards CT	CCT	Halstead T	Edwards CS	OA	Ward T	Wakelin	Baker	Oliver	Edwards HC
MACCLESFIELD 9.00 10.30 15.30 18.30	OA Bf Baker	Edwards HC	Edwards N Edwards C	OA Edwards CT	CCT	OA Bf Hawkyard	F Bishop	Edwards CS	Byass AwC	OA Bf S Bishop HC	Broadhurs t	Edwards AAW B	OA
POYNTON 9.30 10.30 14.30	OA Bf F Bishop St John Ambulance C	S Bishop Cf Watson/ Hawkyard Blue	Watson HC Watson C	Oliver C	Watson	OA Bf Watson CS	Ward Cf T	OA Watson	Halstead T	OA Bf F Bishop HC	Watson Cf	OA Edwards HC	Rashleigh
PRESTBURY 10.30 16.00 23.15	Hawkyard CB	Watson HC	OA	OA Wats/Edw	CCT	Bradley	Rashleigh	Watson CS	Oliver Watson CS	Hawkyard	OA	Watson HC	S Edwards Edw/Watson CON
WOODLANDS MHA 14.30									Rashleigh				Rashleigh
ZOOM 18.30													
VIDEO		Edwards		Edwards/ Watson			Watson		Edwards		Watson		Edwards
PRAYER CYCLE:	MFT	Langley	Poynton	Woodlands	Macclesf'd	Prestbury	Broken Cross	Gawsworth	MFT	Langley	Poynton	Woodl'ds	Macclesfield

AAW All Age Worship; **Afc** Action for Children Sunday; **AwC** All we Can; **B** Baptism; **Bf** Breakfast; **Blue** Blue Christmas; **C** Carols; **CA** Church Anniversary; **CB** Christmas Box; **CCT** Circuit; **Cf** Cafe; **Cn** Compassion; **CON** Contemporary Worship; **CONF** Methodist Conference; **CS** Covenant; **CT** Christingle; **Blue** Blue Christmas; **E** Emmaus; **EO** Easter Offering; **F** Family Service; **G** Gift; **GCM** General Church Meeting; **H** Healing; **HC** Holy Communion; **HF** Harvest Festival; **HM** Home Missions; **IO** Iona; **L** Faith Lunch; **LP** Local Preacher Recognition; **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 10 December 2023 – Advent 2

AM – Morning worship led by Graham

WATCH ONLINE : <http://tiny.cc/advent2-23>

The reading is: Mark 1: 1 – 8

The hymns are: StF 182 / 173

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

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

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)

Includes a selection of options for the Festive Season, reflections and carols along with the usual materials such as prayers and weekly services.



Are you in need of some daily hope?
The **Church of England** have a new
FREE telephone line for you to ring to
hear comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.

Other important links

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod. **DOWN:** 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.