



# e-MESSENGER

62nd Issue: March 2025

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



## A message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

This year I have spent a lot of time driving as I have split time between Macclesfield and Cliff College in Derbyshire, and most of the time I have been driving across the *Cat and Fiddle*. You will know this road, running between Macclesfield and Buxton, its named after the Cat and Fiddle Inn, and is famous for its challenging bends and steep drops, most of all as you drive across it offers incredible views of the surrounding countryside.

I enjoy the driving across the cat and fiddle, as I can see something of the beauty of God's creation and recognise God's goodness ... well most of the time I can. There have been times when it has been clear and sunny with views for miles in all directions, when I can see where the road is leading, I can see where I have come from, and I can see where I am



going in great detail! Then, there are other times. The times when the snow fell, the times when the rain came, and most often, the times when the mist and fog rolled in! There have been times, most often early in the morning, when I can barely see

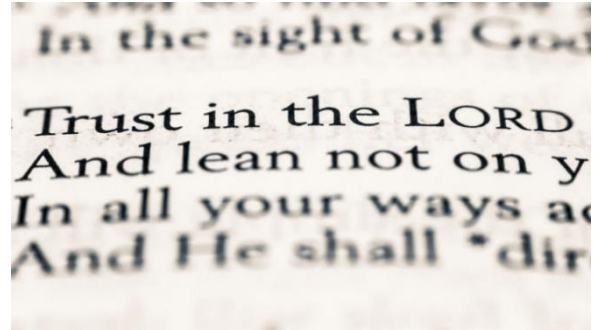


twenty feet ahead of me, when I cannot see where the road is going, and I cannot see what is happening ahead of me. In those times, of course, I travel carefully, I drive slower, and I am more attentive – but I know that the road is still there, and I trust that if I follow the path I will get to the place I need to be! I trust the road and I will follow it.

Sometimes, I think the Christian life is a bit like this. There are moments when everything is clear, when we feel like we can see in every direction and know how everything is connected, when we can see all the twists and turns of the road, and the journey feels easy, comfortable, and enjoyable. Then, of course, there are other times ... times when we cannot see the way ahead, when we are not sure where the road is going,

we are not sure when the next bend will come. These are the times when the journey feels harder, more challenging, and unknown.

When we come to changes in our lives – starting a new job, retiring, facing illness, grieving loved ones - , or changes in the life of our churches, or changes in the life of our circuit, it can sometimes feel a bit like a journey in the mist and fog. We know that this year brings big changes in the Macclesfield circuit as we will welcome two new Presbyters to ministry here (and I will leave to work full time for Cliff College from September 2025!). For some of us, this time might feel like the misty, foggy road – we wonder what it will be like, when the unexpected twists and turns will come, and we ask if we will be ready for them. We might feel like we cannot see the road, but we need to trust that it is there – and more than that, trust that it is God who calls us to follow and will guide us on the journey.



Trust in the path that God has called us to follow - we cannot always see it, we cannot always know every twist and turn, but we can trust in God who invites us to the journey.

Why should we trust in God?

Because God is faithful, and God promises to be with us on the journey. In the good, the bad and everything in between God is faithful. The same God who is faithful throughout the scriptures is faithful to us. The God who knows the plans he has for us, whose love endures forever, whose peace will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, says "do not be afraid, follow me." Whatever this year brings - whatever changes and challenges, whatever joys and delights, God is with us and calls us to journey with him, the road may be unseen by us – but not by God! As we approach Easter, we remember the confusion of so many, the fear, and grief, and doubt of those who travelled that path with Jesus, until the moment came, and their eyes were opened to the glory of a risen saviour! We are called to trust God and walk with him until the moment comes when our eyes are opened to the wonder of his glory for ourselves!

We are called to trust in God, and as C.S. Lewis writes to remember that "relying on God has to begin all over again everyday as if nothing had yet been done." So let us trust ourselves, our church, our circuit to God – every day! We may not always see the path, but we will know faithfulness of God as we travel together!

*"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."  
Hebrews 11:1.*

As God calls us to journey with him, let us be a people of faith!

With every blessing  
Graham

# Methodist Families Together



We have been busy since the last time we spoke.

**Sunday School Christmas Party** Macclesfield Sunday School held their annual Christmas Party. Once again they invited families connected to other churches in the circuit to celebrate and have fun together. We had a fun packed time, and the children really enjoyed themselves and the families from other churches really appreciated the invite. Thank you to Susan and her team who organised the event as there were more mouths to feed again this time!

**Toddler Groups** We have four toddler groups in the circuit and each one meets on a different day of the week. All are going strong and at Christmas they all held a Christmas party and some even held a Nativity. The Nativity's I attended were brilliant.

**Pancake Mania** Prestbury hosted a Pancake Mania event on Shrove Tuesday where families came together to have fun. They made and decorated pancakes, pancake themed crafts, and pancake flipping. We gave everyone who attended a Lent booklet to take home with several fun and alternative activities to do during the season of Lent.



**Messy Church** Prestbury Methodist Church hosted our last on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and our theme was new beginnings. It was a lovely afternoon, and several volunteers have commented on what a lovely atmosphere there was.

**Schools** We have welcomed Parkroyal Primary School Year 3 to Macclesfield Methodist Church in February as part of their RE lesson. We welcome 60 children with drink and biscuit because that's part of the Methodist Way of life – hospitality. Food and fellowship go hand in hand in our churches. Then we answered questions they have been looking at during their RE lessons. Why do Christians use symbols to describe God? How important is it to people that they re-enact the nativity every year? Why do Christians call Jesus saviour at Christmas? Is there a right way to welcome a new baby? What difference does believing in the resurrection make? Why do Christians believe God rescued people? We also held a mock baptism, where the children joined in with the different roles. Then the children made a craft

and answered questions as they explored the church. It was a noisy, hectic morning but wouldn't change that for anything.

As I am writing this, we are in the middle of welcoming 180 children from Prestbury Church of England Primary School to Prestbury Methodist Church, to explore the life of Jesus with a knitted Bible Trail. Look out for pictures in the next issue.

## Easter Events

A promotional poster for a 'Messy Easter' event. The title 'Messy Easter' is written in a bubbly, colorful font (purple and yellow) on a purple splatter background. To the right, the date and time are listed: 'Wednesday 16th April 10am - 1pm'. Below this, the location is given as '@ Macclesfield Methodist Church SK10 1BX'. A circular logo in the top right corner features the letters 'mft' and the text 'Methodist Families Together'. The central text describes the event: 'Explore the Easter Story through story telling, playing, crafts, games and songs. Refreshments will be provided. Suitable for all the family. Parent/Carers to stay with children'. At the bottom, there is a row of seven decorated Easter eggs in various colors (purple, yellow, pink, white with a cross, blue, yellow, and purple). A black banner at the very bottom contains a Facebook icon and the text 'Please book via Facebook @MaccMethodistKids' on the left, and '£2 per child Suggested donation' on the right.

**Messy Easter** **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10am - 1pm**  
@ Macclesfield Methodist Church SK10 1BX

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

Please book via Facebook **@MaccMethodistKids** £2 per child Suggested donation

## Experience Easter

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 11-2:30pm**

**@ St Michael's Church, Macclesfield Marketplace**

After the success of previous years events the churches of Macclesfield and Hope in NE Cheshire will be celebrating Easter along side the Macclesfield Town Council event. We need people to come along and help interact with families. Please let Angela or your children's contact in your church know if you can attend or just turn up at what ever time suits you on the day. If you are in the town centre on that day, please come along and say hi!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Breakfast Church 9-10am** @Macclesfield Methodist Church & Poynton  
Methodist Church  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Chippy Church 4-5:30pm** @Broken Cross Methodist Church  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May

**Holiday Club** @ Macclesfield Methodist Church  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July

**Messy Church 2-4pm** @ Broken Cross Methodist Church  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**Youth Group YR6+ 5-7pm** @ Presbury Methodist Church  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April



**Prayer Cycle – this time we think of Poynton. We thank Mandy Hawkyard for contributing this prayer for us.**

Good Friday - A day that changed history, so let's go in thought to a hill just outside Jerusalem. Let's close our eyes and imagine ourselves standing at the foot of the cross. Let's watch for a while, listen and pray. We see three crosses, but our eyes are drawn to one of them - to a man dying in agony but with such dignity - Jesus our Saviour.

But where Lord are your friends? One has denied you; one betrayed you and most have deserted you. You seem so alone against the taunts and jeers of the crowds. But we too, we who profess to be your followers now are guilty of the same sins, for we too have deserted your cause when the going got rough, we too have denied you by our lack of love and we have betrayed you by our actions. We stand ashamed - ashamed to look up and see your suffering, for it is our sins that have nailed you to that cross. Forgive us.

But we hear you embrace with words one of the criminals crucified with you, the one who trusted you - we hear your words – "Today you will be with me in Paradise." Deal gently with us too Lord. Remember us when you come onto your kingdom.

Our heads rise and we watch in amazement love that knows no end. With compassion we see you unite your mother and John in a bond that will last their lifetime, for their distress is great. And so we bring to you those people we know who are in need - the sick, the bereaved, the lonely and the anxious. We name them in the silence trusting you will embrace them with your healing power, with your strength and reassuring love.

We are witnessing your reconciling power - the curtain of the temple is torn in two - God and his people no longer apart. We think of those areas of the world where reconciliation between people is so needed, praying in particular for Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia.

We praise you Jesus. No words, no music, no poetry can ever portray or express the depth of your love. We can simply stand with the centurion and declare with him, "You are the Son of God." Help us to live in that knowledge, forever witnessing that the light of your love wasn't and never will be overcome by the powers of darkness. This we see so clearly as dawn breaks on Easter Day. Alleluia



## Members' voice....

Written as I contemplate a new calendar year 2025 and ask what God will require of us. As the gospel readings turn to the start of Jesus ministry. My thoughts turned to how the family of Jesus must have felt when he eventually left home to begin God's work.

One of his brothers speaks...

'We had hoped that he would remain here at home,  
Care for our mother Mary now Joseph has died,  
He is the oldest in the family after all!  
He worked alongside Joseph, learnt from his skill, even from a child,  
And since his death being the breadwinner for many years.  
But he is restless just now that I can see as he works measuring and sawing  
His heart is not in it as it has been, yet he knows his responsibilities.

There has always been something different about my oldest brother  
Not exactly a dreamer, but it is as if he belongs somewhere else  
And is looking for his place - Our mother Mary understands him best,  
They talk a lot together at length. She has told Him  
of his birth in Bethlehem, and of the need to take him to Egypt,  
fleeing from the cruelty of Herod, and only returning when Herod died.

Yet in other ways he is just like us - he is my big brother  
Kind and generous, with a sense of humour and always devout.  
I wonder what is next for Jesus?

Our kinsman John. Elizabeth's son, has come out of the wilderness,  
And is preaching by the river Jordan, encouraging people to change their way of life  
Because, John says, that the coming of God's longed for Messiah is imminent,  
And John has studied our Scriptures, and should know if anyone does!  
One of our merchants called the other day, to take an order, and he says that  
People are flocking to hear this new prophet and many are being baptized.  
Since Jesus heard this he has become more restless - I would not be surprised if  
Jesus went to see John for himself.....and then what.....who knows how our  
mother will feel!

**Rev Sheila Bishop**



## **.THE ROAD LESS TAKEN.**

Our (almost) Caribbean Cruise. One “holiday” we will NEVER forget!



In September we had our monthly cruise magazine come through the door and there it was, our special offer for late availability cruises to the Caribbean sailing from Portsmouth on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November and returning on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

Roger and I looked at each other and both of us had that excited look on our faces -- - dare we spend so much on one memorable cruise? But we knew that was what we could both do with – a chance to get out of the miserable Macclesfield weather. The half – planned extension on the back of our bungalow could surely wait another year

We spent the next few weeks hurriedly doing a mixture of holiday and Christmas shopping. Then, after what seemed like no time at all, the 5<sup>th</sup> of November arrived! We were picked up from home by our driver, Paul, and so began the adventure of a lifetime.

We hit our first problem when, on boarding the ship, we found that our folding wheelchair was not able to go into our cabin, but had to be kept in a secure room near the disembarkation point and could only be used when going ashore. The second problem was that the cabin was right at the Bow of the ship and all the dining rooms and lounges were at the opposite end – a walk of about 350 yards! This meant that by the third evening I had walked a couple of miles using my walking frame and was, quite frankly, absolutely exhausted!!

This third evening the Captain’s welcoming cocktail party was being held, so we splashed out and I had a “red carpet treatment” in the spa. With my hair washed and blow – dried and my make up professionally applied to hide tired eyes I felt very pleased with myself but the words “pride comes before a fall” (or in this case two falls) proved to be very true!

My first fall was when my right knee gave way on the way out from the party and Roger couldn’t stop me from going down! He shouted for assistance and within minutes I was surrounded by first aiders and well trained staff who got me on to a wheelchair and wheeled me back to our cabin where the plan was for us to order dinner and have it served in our room. However, on entering the cabin my knee gave way again, and I found myself lying on my back with my right leg bent double and trapped beneath me! To say I was in agony would be an understatement - - - but the seven or so stewards who had materialized from various cabins we had passed en route somehow managed to get a sliding board and get me on to the bed and call the duty doctor. She came after a few minutes to inspect my leg which was slightly swollen and very bruised above and below the knee. When the doctor left we rang and ordered our dinner then we waited quietly for our delicious food!

We had finished our dinner and were sitting on the edge of the bed when Roger came round to my side, looked down and saw that the lower side of my right leg had swollen to about the size of a large balloon and it suddenly burst open and was bleeding heavily. He quickly grabbed some towels from the bathroom and wrapped



them round my leg to pressurize and stem the bleeding, using his other hand to phone down to the medical staff on the emergency number. Soon the room was full of medics and stewards as once again I was carried out into the corridor and taken at breakneck speed down to the ship's hospital in a wheelchair, with Roger dashing along with them!

The next 36 hours passed in a blur. I can only remember being hooked to different drips and monitored by various machines. We were taken off the ship when we reached Funchal in Madeira and were rushed by emergency ambulance to the Hospital Particular de Madeira where we were given a double room and we stayed until I was deemed "Fit to fly" to get home. This turned out to be four blood transfusions and four different lots of antibiotics later, all given by lovely Portuguese - speaking doctors and nurses trying their best to save my leg and keep me as comfortable as possible. We both made some attempt to learn to speak Portuguese, which caused great amusement both for us and for them! Roger's birthday was on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, and he was serenaded by three very attractive nurses singing "Happy Birthday to You" in broken English!

At last, the day came when I was considered fit to fly home. I get very nervous about flying and the admin staff had managed to find us an English Church with a Welsh vicar who could bring us communion to the hospital. I did not want to take to the skies without being prayed for and blessed with The Sacrament! The special accompanying Doctor turned up early on the morning of departure with a male nurse and two ambulance men. He came into our room and politely introduced himself then I was wheeled out of the hospital into the first fresh air I had been in for over four weeks. We were then separated as the ambulance was not big enough for Roger as well, so he had a car waiting alongside to take him to the airport.

The flight home was quite an experience. We had a small private jet / air ambulance that just had room for a narrow bed and 3 seats then the pilot and co-pilot in the cockpit. For 3 hours I had to lie very still with oxygen being given constantly and my blood pressure being monitored. We left Funchal in lovely warm sunshine and landed in Manchester in driving rain and biting cold winds! We had a bed in a separate room waiting for us at Macclesfield Hospital - - - Where Roger and I had to part company, with me being put straight to bed and Roger coming home. The date of our return was December 5<sup>th</sup>, the same day that our ship arrived home in Portsmouth! 3 weeks in MDGH then transfer to Congleton War Memorial Hospital for re-hab meant I was almost home and I eventually was discharged on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, three months after leaving home with so much hope and expectation in my heart.

We met some truly wonderful people on our "Holiday that never was", some of whom I will be staying in touch with, and I learnt some valuable lessons about humility and placing everything in God's hands. To gather everything together in words that many of you will know:

Father I place into your hands the things I cannot do.

Father I place into your hands the times that I've been through.

Father I place into your hands the way that I should go,

For I know, I always can trust You.

God bless you all.

**Hazel (Morrow)xx**

# Community & Church News

## Broken Cross

18 April 2025 9.00am - Easter Breakfast followed by Good Friday service at 9.30am led by Anne Fielding and John Morrell

## Gawsworth

**Coffee mornings** - Thursdays starting at 10.00am and finishing just before midday.

### April

3rd Maclesfield W.I.

10th Bosley W.I.

17th Lunch club – see below

24th Girls Brigade - raising money to help our GB captain and her daughter who is a GB officer to go to the Cook Islands for the International Girls Brigade conference.

### May

1st North Rode WI.

8th For our friends at St James church Gawsworth

15th Lunch club - see below

22nd Macclesfield and District Young Stroke Club

29th TBA

## Lunch Club

On the third Thursday of the month, (17th April and 15th May), coffee served from 11.00am then 'Quiet Space' a time of worship at midday and then lunch of soup and sandwiches at 12.30pm. All are welcome to come and enjoy company and to stay for a time of games, jigsaws, crafts or just sit and chat until 3.00pm. Cost minimum £3. We would welcome you of course.

## Fellowship Meetings

We have a fellowship and study group on 1st and third TUESDAYS of each month at 1.00pm until 2.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us over a hot drink and time spent learning together.



## Macclesfield

### 18th April 7.30pm - Good Friday

Macclesfield Methodist Church Community Choir will sing THE ST JOHN PASSION by Bob Chilcott. The music vividly captures the unfolding drama of the events of Holy Week as related in St John's Gospel. The story is narrated by a tenor Evangelist while the role of Jesus is sung by a bass soloist. The choir acts as the crowd within the narrative commenting from time to time with short outbursts. Equally important are the reflective meditations the choir sing punctuating various points in the drama. The congregation is invited to join in the well known Passiontide hymns interspersed throughout the story. There will be a retiring collection for charity.

Evangelist	Philip Cartwright
Jesus	Terence Ayebare
Solo cello	Jo Beesley
Solo viola	Anna Hazel
Organ	Andrew Burr
Conductor	Andrew Donaldson

## Poynton

### April

3<sup>rd</sup> (Thurs) Ladies Fellowship - 2pm

6<sup>th</sup> (Sun) Breakfast church - 9am

12<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Film Club (The impossible) – 2pm

NO Muddy Church

Good Friday service 10.30

Easter Sunday service Communion at 10.30am and 2.30pm service with tea & cake

23<sup>rd</sup> (Wed) Lunch service - 12noon

26<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Film Club (Film TBC)

### May

1<sup>st</sup> (Thurs) Ladies Fellowship - 2pm

17<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Film Club (Film TBC) – 2pm

18<sup>th</sup> (Sun) Muddy Church 10.30am & 2.30pm Afternoon service with tea & cake

28<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Lunch service – 12noon



## Prestbury

### LENTEN REFLECTIONS 2025

A series of Lenten Reflections will be held at Prestbury on Mondays 10<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2:30-4:00. As with the Advent Group which met last December, we invite friends from the rest of the Circuit and others in the village to join with us.

The studies we have chosen are from “The Nail” by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, subtitled “Being part of the Passion”. The individual reflections embrace how each of the main players in the Crucifixion might have viewed the nails driven into the body of Jesus on the Cross; Peter, The Roman Centurion, Pontius Pilate, Caiaphas, Judas and Mary Magdalen.

Each session will present the scriptural passage concerning each of the players, followed by a dramatized reading of how the individual might have thought they took the blame. After a prayer, we shall then ask:

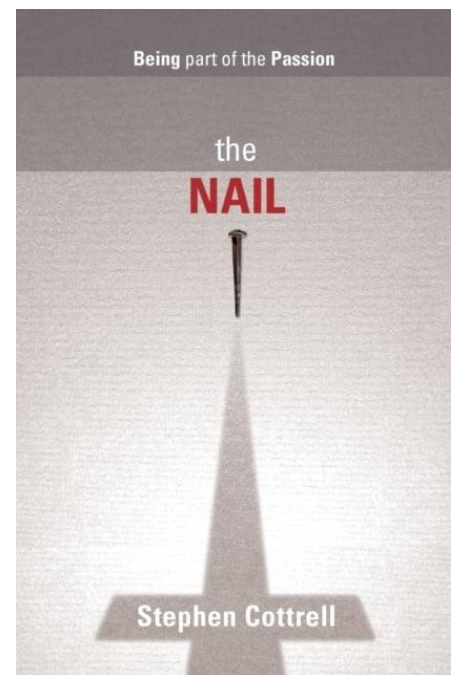
“What would you have done if you were Peter, or the Centurion, or Pilate or one of the others?”

“If you were that person, what would you want to say to Jesus now, in the light of his resurrection?”

We shall have some more prayer, including silent reflection.

If you feel that you would like to add something to your Lent as well as giving something up, then do please make a note in your diaries. For any queries or follow-up please contact me.

Roger Bolton (01625 420127 or email: rgrbolton@yahoo.co.uk)



## NWED District

### Sunday 13th April at 6.30pm - District Online Worship

Following a successful launch in March, our next District Online Worship will take place on Sunday 13th April at 6:30pm. This month our speaker is the Rev Phil Gough, District Secretary for Ministry and Vocations. The Zoom link is as follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/97923125645?pwd=L656LDUauCGtv46fg2PoKXxwI24E8a.1>

Meeting ID: 979 2312 5645

Passcode: 543701

## COMMUNITY

From Mow Cop Methodist Church...



**MOW FIRE**  
*Camp meeting*

**Celebrating 218th  
revival Anniversary**

*Can we cover the hill  
and bring glory to God  
again, brothers and  
sisters in Christ?*



 **Sunday, 1 June 2025**  
3pm - 5pm

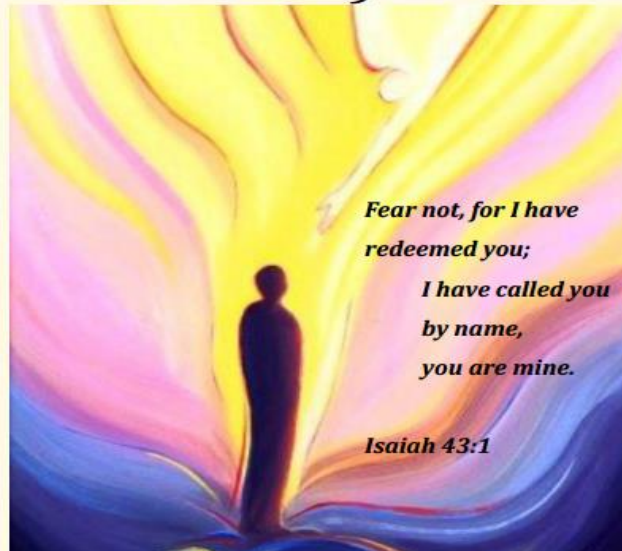
 **At Mow Cop Castle**

Email: [mowfire@outlook.com](mailto:mowfire@outlook.com)

*Find out more* >>> **#Mowfire**  

From St Michaels and All Angels Church, Market Place, Macclesfield.....

**Services of Prayer for  
Healing and Wholeness  
2025**



*Fear not, for I have  
redeemed you;  
I have called you  
by name,  
you are mine.*

*Isaiah 43:1*

**Friday, 21st March, 11am**

**Friday, 27th June, 11am**

**Friday, 12th September, 11am**

**Friday, 28th November, 11am**

**Savage Chapel**

**St Michael and All Angels Church, Macclesfield**

*The service will last approx. 30min*

Illustration by Elizabeth Wang, T-01941-OL-V2, 'The Holy Spirit' copyright © Radiant Light 2006, www.radiantlight.org.uk

**A Good Thing**



**A G O O D T H I N G**

Do you have a business or has your church got stuff you need to get rid of? Or Do you need any equipment for your events? Have you heard of ....A Good Thing Send less to landfill and more to a good cause <https://www.agoodthing.org.uk/>  
The idea is simple.....A business has something to spare...Anything from a used laptop or some office furniture to surplus products.

A local charity has a need...They have the ideas and dedication, but need the resources to make it happen. A Good Thing make the match!

## HOPE in NE Cheshire

Organised by the  
churches of Macclesfield



# Experience Easter

## Free Easter activities

St Michael's Church,  
Macclesfield Market Place

complementing activities in the town centre



**Saturday 19th April**  
**11am til 2.30pm**

Activities

Space for  
contemplation

Crafts

Engage with the  
origins of Easter

Fun!



## Churches in transition

Are we open to radical change in our understanding of  
"Church"? Read the article...

[The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Churches in transition](#)



# EASTER SERVICES ACROSS THE CIRCUIT

## Maundy Thursday

7.00pm at Prestbury

## Good Friday

9.30am at Broken Cross

9.30am at Langley

10.30am at Poynton

11.00am at Gawsworth

7.30pm at Macclesfield

## Easter Sunday

Sunrise service at Teggs Nose time TBC

10.30am ALL churches

2.30pm at Poynton



## MWiB Easter Offering Service

4.30pm at Macclesfield – Light refreshments served from 4pm

## **SAVE THE DATE – Graham's leaving service** **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

### ***Could you write an article for the next e-Messenger?***

*We love to feature contributions from members of the congregation who would be willing to tell us what they are doing, tips to share with others etc. It would be lovely to hear from you!*

**email: [macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:macclesfieldcircuit@gmail.com)**

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**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 Women in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

The British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women



## Prayer Diary

March to May 2025

*Join us in praying for Methodist Women in Britain Officers, Trustees & Ambassadors, Methodist Women in Ireland & the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women as well as the work of Methodist Women in Britain across our Areas & Districts. Our prayer diary can be used alongside the Methodist Church Prayer Handbook.*

Day 1	Methodist Women in Britain Cochairs: Maggie Woods & Leonora Wassell
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: Annah Mwadiwa
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: Alexa Brown
Day 8	Bristol and South Wales MWiB Area Trustee: Gillian Pengelly
Day 9	MWiB Area Ambassadors: Helen Cornick, Cynthia Bonds, Ruth Dawson, Margaret Dunn, Chris Thompson
Day 10	World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women
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 & MWiB Empowerment Gifts Sylvia White
Day 15	Methodist Women in Britain Resources Officer: Caroline Fillery
Day 16	Methodist Women in Ireland
Day 17	Lincolnshire and East Anglia MWiB Area Trustee: Rita Rowe
Day 18	Manx Methodist Women
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: Elizabeth Colley, Jacky Woor, Hazel Jackson, Gillian Womersley, Sue Smith
Day 22	Methodist Women in Britain Finance Officer: Sheila Hall
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, Delphine Gratrix, Pamela Stenson, Barbara Rumfitt, Glenda Sidding
Day 28	MWiB Area Ambassadors: Gwenda Humphries, Susan Murrell, Naledi Phaladi, Viv Lowe
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)***

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Daffodil Day MCH Leonora &amp; Maggie; 2<sup>nd</sup> Maggie Brightlingsea United Church; 3<sup>rd</sup> Leonora National Council of Women; 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Task Group; 7<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer</b> On this day in 1903, the Martha Washington Hotel, the first women-only hotel, opened in New York City. Let's pray for safe spaces and communities around the world that seek to protect vulnerable people. Let's also thank God for the places where women and other minoritised people have found rest, healing, connection, and dignity.
9 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>8<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Leonora in New York for Commission on the status of women at the UN ; 11<sup>th</sup> Maggie Wholehearted Monthly; 12<sup>th</sup> Maggie Women of Faith network</b> On this day in 1959, the Barbie doll made its debut. Let's thank God for the increase in positive female representation for young girls, but also pray about body image, that girls will feel comfortable and confident in their bodies knowing that, no matter their size or shape, they're made in the image of God.
16 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Exec meeting; 22<sup>nd</sup> Leonora Birmingham District Day</b> On this day in 1966, Gemini 8 was launched with astronauts Neil Armstrong and David Scott. Let's praise God today for scientific advancement and for the mathematical brilliance of the universe He created.
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>27<sup>th</sup> Leonora Civil Society Women's Association</b> On this day in 1933, Adolph Hitler officially became dictator of Germany. Let's pray for countries trapped under fascist leaders or emboldened leaders with their rhetoric of hate, & for world leaders, that God's Kingdom will come on Earth. Let's also pray for people who have fallen victim to the lies of fascist or hate filled ideologies.
30 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Mothering Sunday; 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Swanwick Conference with Rev Sonia Hicks</b> On Mothering Sunday, let's give thanks for our home churches where we have been nurtured in the faith. Let's also remember the wonderful Christians who have been spiritual parents to us over the years, teaching, loving, and coming alongside us on our journeys.
6 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Maggie at Epworth for President of Conference visit; 10<sup>th</sup> Wholehearted monthly zoom; 12<sup>th</sup> Leonora Manchester&amp;Stockport District Day</b> On this day in 1947, the first Tony Awards were presented. Let's give thanks for the arts and for artists worldwide; and pray for new artists, especially those hiding work due to controversy or low confidence.
13 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Exec meeting</b> On this day in 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first African American to win a Best Actor award at the Academy Awards. Let's thank God for the progress made toward a world of equal rights and opportunities, and pray that more minoritised and marginalised people will be given the freedom to pursue their dreams and develop their skills and gifts.
20 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Easter Sunday; 24<sup>th</sup> Leonora Civil Society Women's Association</b> This Easter, let's turn away from the events of our world and fix our eyes on Jesus Christ who died for us and rose again in victory over sin and death.
27 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>27<sup>th</sup> Maggie EO service Tendring</b> On this day in 1986, the Ukrainian city of Pripyat was evacuated as a result of the Chernobyl disaster. Let's pray today for places damaged and people displaced by manmade or preventable disasters, and for the people and organisations who work to bring aid to those affected.
4 <sup>th</sup> May	On this day in 1926, the nine-day United Kingdom general strike began, attempting to force the government to stop reducing the wages of 1.2 million locked-out coalminers. Let's pray today for people in Britain and abroad who are facing financial desperation without aid, and for the charities and organisations which seek to help. Let's also pray for governments and world leaders that they will seek the coming of the Kingdom and listen for the will of God.
11 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Exec meeting with Trustees &amp; Ambassadors; 13<sup>th</sup> Wholehearted monthly zoom</b> On this day in 1981, reggae musician Bob Marley passed away. Let's praise God for Christian artists who aren't afraid to bring their faith into their work, and let's pray that their legacies will glorify God.
18 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Maggie EO service Hastings</b> On this day, the Disruption of 1843 took place, in which the Free Church of Scotland split from the Church of Scotland. Let's pray today for Christian unity, good relations between denominations, and God's blessing as different churches work together compassionately to serve their communities.
25 <sup>th</sup> May	On this day in 2020, George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in America, kick-starting a series of protests across the country. Let's pray today for our siblings across the world who face racism and discrimination. Let's also pray that the worldwide church will continue to root out systemic discrimination and work towards a future in which all are welcomed with respect and compassion.

(Prayer focus this quarter prepared by Madeleine Reed, Helen Kim Memorial Scholar)

**Just for fun - The Poor Man's Earl**

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It is in fact a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian Member of Parliament who spent his life fighting to help ease the miserable conditions in lunatic asylums, to stop the practise of forcing young children to be chimney sweeps, to stop children working in factories below the age of 10, to stop women and children going in the mines at all, to stop opium addiction, and to provide Ragged Schools for children without any means of education. On the day of his funeral at Westminster Abbey, tens of thousands of poor Londoners thronged the streets to see his coffin go by. He was much loved as The Poor Man's Earl.



Piccadilly  
Circus  
Statue  
Angel  
Memorial

Victorian  
Philanthropist  
Politician  
Social  
Reformer

Lunatics  
Chimney  
Sweeps  
Shaftesbury  
Earl

Poor  
Man  
Factories  
Ragged  
Schools

Coffin  
London  
Streets  
loved

## This quarter's services

2025	MARCH					APRIL				MAY			
	2 TRANSFIGURATION	9 LENT 1	16 LENT 2	23 LENT 3	30 MOTHERING SUN	6 LENT 5	13 LENT 6	20 EASTER DAY	27	4	11	18	25
READINGS:	Ex 34:29-35, 2 Cor 3:12-4:2, Lk 9:28-	Deut 26:1-11, Rom 10:8b-13, Lk 4:1-13	Gen 15:1-12, 17-18, Phil 3:17-4:1, Lk 13:31-35	Is 55:1-9, 1 Cor 10:1-13, Lk 13:1-9	Josh 5:9-12, 2 Cor 5:16-21, Lk 15:1-3, 11b-32	Is 43:16-21, Phil 3:4b-14, Jn 12:1-8	Is 50:4-9a, Phil 2:5-11, Lk 22:14-23:56	Acts 10:34-43, 1 Cor 15:19-26, Jn 20:1-18	Acts 5:27-32, Rev 1:4-8, Jn 20:19-31	Acts 9:1-20, Rev 5:11-14, Jn 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43, Rev 7:9-17, Jn 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18, Rev 21:1-6, Jn 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15, Rev 21:10, 22-22:5, Jn 14:23-29
BROKEN CROSS 10.30	Morrell T	CCT	Rashleigh	OA	Edwards HC	F Bishop T	CCT	Oliver	S Bishop HC	Maltby	CCT	OA	Bradley
GAWSWORTH 10.30	F Bishop HC	CCT	OA	Gunning	Baker P	Edwards	CCT	S Bishop HC	Cohen	OA	CCT	Edwards P	Heap
LANGLEY 10.30	Ward T	CCT	Edwards HC	OA	Maltby	Oliver	CCT	Maltby	F Bishop HC T	Rashleigh	CCT	Gunning CA	OA
MACCLESFIELD 9.00 10.30 16.30	OA Bf Edwards HC	CCT	Baker AAW	Beesley	OA	OA Bf Rashleigh	Edwards	Edwards HC	Bradley	S Bishop	CCT EO	S Edwards AAW	OA
POYNTON 9.30 10.30 14.30	OA Bf Bradley	S Bishop CCT	OA Tonge	Hughes CA HC	Oliver	OA Bf S Bishop	CCT	Hawkyard/ Ingyon HC Edwards HC	Baker	OA Bf Hawkyard	Edwards HC	F Bishop Oliver	OA
PRESTBURY 10.30	S Edwards HC	CCT	OA	Edwards HC	Dascombe	Ward T	CCT	F Bishop HC	Morrell T	Baker	CCT	Hawkyard	OA
WOODLANDS MHA 14.30					Rashleigh				Rashleigh				Rashleigh
ZOOM 18.30													
VIDEO													
PRAYER CYCLE:	Poynton	Woodl'ds	Macclesfield	Prestbury	Broken Cross	Gawsw'th	MFT	Langley	Poynton	Woodl'ds	Macclesfield	Prestbury	Broken Cross

**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.

## CONTACTS & INFORMATION

**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 there are lots of past services on this, see

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

the page with the links etc on is

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

### **Daily Hope (see below)**

This service includes messages, prayers, hymns and church 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.methodistchurch.org.uk/MWoL>

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### **Contact Details**

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