



# e-MESSENGER

**65th Issue: December 2025**

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

## **A message from the Superintendent**

Dear Friends,

One very foggy night, not so long ago, I had to venture out on an errand. As visibility was extremely poor, I thought it wise not to drive. So, I set out on foot, keeping to the edge of the road for guidance and safety. There was a hush about the neighbourhood. Sensible people were staying indoors.

Suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, two bright beams of light were bearing down upon me at an alarming speed. My immediate world seemed bathed in a pure white light, and I couldn't see anything clearly. As I staggered around and finally fell on to the grass verge, two sleek cyclists powered their way through, narrowly missing my frozen self. For a moment I was held in the dazzling combination of the lights on the front of their bicycles and those attached to their head gear. Then, they were past, veering to the centre of the road, muttering to one another about what had just happened, and querying who was the foolhardy person to be out and about at this time of night, on the road, in such misty weather.

Recalling this incident, I am reminded of numerous occasions since arriving in September when I've been caught in the glare of the headlights, uncertain of the next step, feeling my way forward when the path and direction of travel were new and uncharted, cloaked in a certain mystery. The move to a new post always presents fresh risks with challenges to negotiate and understand. I'm grateful to those who have kept me on my feet over these early weeks or picked me up when I have slipped on to the grass verge. Down but not out ... trust, hope and faith in the light of God's love will sustain and strengthen all of us to keep going. I've been aware during this past year that often only a small shaft of light is needed to reveal how to take the next step forward. That is enough.

At this darkest time of the year, the warming glow of the Christ light is coming for everyone to illuminate and overcome the darkness and to shine through the wonder and humility of those characters caught up in the Nativity story. As we receive the latest edition of the E-messenger, with seasonal dates, notices and articles, the patient and expectant journey of Advent is gathering pace. In our various localities, with friends and fellow seekers, we may have already shared in times of reflection on the great themes of this hopeful season, taken the opportunity to sing carols, to eat good food in fellowship, with laughter and crackers, and to reach out to others, extending Christ's love in practical action and generous giving.

However, across our churches and communities there are still plenty of services and activities to come, including those run by Methodist Families Together, inviting us to join with others in Christmas celebration and poignant reflection. Lovely cards of invitation have been produced and sent out. Is there is someone you know who would value a personal invitation to one of the festive gatherings? May we find our own moment to hear again of the promise and the gift of God's love at Christmas.

I would like to offer sincere appreciation and thanks to all who have worked so hard throughout 2025. This has been a significant year in the life of the Circuit. You have done wonderfully well to work together and maintain a loving and faithful witness.

Arise, shine, your light has come, Jesus the Light of the world has come.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year

**from Rev Deborah Lucas**





## Methodist Families Together



As we reflect on the past few months, Methodist Families Together (MFT) has enjoyed a vibrant and heartening season of fellowship and activity across our circuit. Our gatherings have offered plenty of opportunities for families to connect, for children to learn about faith in creative ways, and for everyone to experience the welcoming spirit of our churches.

In **September**, we were delighted to welcome our new ministers. We started the new connectional year with two Breakfast Churches at Macclesfield and Poynton Methodist Church with a focus on creation, marking the season of creation in a meaningful way. The MFT volunteers showed great leadership by running a successful Messy Church – Harvest, in my absence while I was on holiday. Reports from the day speak of a wonderful atmosphere, full of joy and community spirit.

**October** brought fresh energy as we hosted our first Chippy Church of the new connectional year at Broken Cross. After a quieter spell last year, we were thrilled to see new families joining us and attendance doubling compared to our previous event. The positive response was a testament to the power of prayer and the welcoming nature of our church family. In addition, our annual Light Party offered families a joyful alternative to Halloween. The children enjoyed craft activities centred on the theme of light and Jesus as the Light of the World, decorating pumpkins with crosses and being encouraged to carve out the cross near the end of October.



During the October half-term, we organised two Stay and Play sessions—one at Macclesfield and one at Broken Cross Methodist Church. These sessions were well attended and appreciated by families with under-fives, providing a safe and playful space during the school break. On 31st October, we bravely revived our Light Parade at Prestbury Methodist Church, celebrating light in our world despite the half-term timing. Fifteen children joined in, creating lanterns, “Jesus is the Light of the World” wheels, and small parcels of light to distribute in the community. After sharing a meal, we paraded our handmade lanterns, spreading hope as we handed out our gifts.

Our Breakfast Church events continued with a Harvest theme, where children at Poynton played an active role in the service, helping to collect food donations during the Harvest celebration.

In **November**, Macclesfield’s Breakfast Church explored the theme of the saints, discussing how different faith traditions honour saints on All Saints’ Day. It was especially meaningful, as King Charles III had recently prayed with the Pope in the Vatican—a timely reminder of unity and shared faith.

We were also pleased to welcome Year 2 pupils from Whirley Primary School to Broken Cross Methodist Church as part of their RE curriculum. The children, learning about places of worship and parables, enjoyed a warm welcome with drinks and biscuits. We introduced them to the church's regular activities and special services, and held mock baptism and wedding ceremonies. The story of the Lost Sheep was brought to life through our "story in the box" and craft sessions, with the sheep decorations finding a new home on the class Christmas tree.

It was a joy to see familiar faces from our Kingdom Builders Holiday Club and regular MFT events among the visiting children. The sense of continuity and community is truly special in our circuit.



Chippy Church has continued to flourish, welcoming more new families. The children were treated to a puppet performance, a story about remembrance, and a lesson on how remembrance is all about love. Craft activities included decorating plant pots and sowing poppy seeds to take home—a lovely way to nurture both growth and memory.

Our Messy Church turned its focus to Advent, guiding the children through making their own Advent wreaths and lanterns featuring Nativity scenes. Each family received a booklet for weekly reflections and were encouraged to light or colour a candle at home each week. We discussed the theme of waiting—what we wait for, and how easy or hard it can be—and explored ways to remain mindful of the true meaning of Christmas amidst all the excitement.



**December** began with a wonderful Christingle evening at 1st Gawsworth Girls' Brigade. Rev Deborah and I joined the girls and their families to create Christingles, share the Christmas story, and sing carols by candlelight in the chapel. Over 40 Christingles were made, lighting up the evening with warmth and joy. We are grateful to 1st Gawsworth GB for inviting us to participate in such a meaningful service.

MFT will visit Prestbury Primary School for a story box and craft session with nursery and reception classes, exploring Advent's deeper significance beyond counting down to Christmas. The team looks forward to engaging with children and staff.

Macclesfield Sunday School will also host its annual Christmas Party, inviting families from other circuit churches to join the celebration. As we embark on this bustling season, filled with an array of activities for our families, let us remember the importance of setting aside moments for ourselves. It's essential to pause, prepare our hearts, and reflect as we anticipate the wonder and mystery that Christmas brings.

This time of year is always hectic, and I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to every volunteer who has supported our events in the lead-up to Christmas. Whether you have contributed by cutting out crafts, knitting Christingles, baking treats, or simply being present at our gatherings, your efforts have been invaluable. Time is one of our most precious gifts, and I want to sincerely THANK YOU for choosing to share yours with the MFT team.

**Angela and the MFT Team**

## Christmas Events



**Breakfast Church** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 9-10am at Macclesfield and Poynton Methodist Church.

**Christingle Service** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 10:30am at Poynton Methodist Church.

**Kids Christmas Holiday Club** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10am – 3pm at Broken Cross Methodist Church. Booking is essential

please see flyer below.

### **Christmas Eve Christingles**

3:30pm Macclesfield Methodist Church

5pm Langley Methodist Church

6pm Broken Cross Methodist Church

**Kids Christmas  
Holiday Club**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10am - 3pm**  
**@ Broken Cross Methodist Church**

**£10 per child**  
**Bring your own packed lunch**

@2pm parents/carers join us for a mince pie, cuppa & a short performance

**Suitable for 5-11 years**

To book email: [maccmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:maccmethodistchurch@gmail.com) by the 15th December

**f @BrokenCrossChildren** \*concessions are available

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Breakfast Church 9-10am** @Macclesfield Methodist Church & @Poynton  
Methodist Church  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

**Chippy Church 4-5:30pm** @Broken Cross Methodist Church  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Messy Church 2-4pm**  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February @ Macclesfield Methodist Church



**Prayer Cycle – this time we think of the village community of Langley. We thank Alan Chapman for contributing this prayer for us.**

We praise you Heavenly Father for the immense and incredible universe you have created around us.

When we look up, we see the wonders of the sky the Sun giving warmth and light and at night the Moon together with stars we can see and myriad objects invisible to our eyes. All proclaiming your power and glory.

Our planet is wonderfully formed with deserts, mountains, prairies, rivers and seas. When we look around, we find we are surrounded by plants, and animals and the seas teem with wonderful creatures all with their part to play in creation. All things were made by You and loved by You. We pray that our hearts and minds are filled with awe and wonder and a desire to protect the wonders of our earthly home. We thank you for the season of Advent when we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son Jesus. Amid all the hustle and bustle help us to understand the depth of love that His coming to earth represents. The love that encompasses all things and all people regardless of race, colour or creed.

Open our hearts Lord to your love that we may hear the cries of the poor, hear the sound of the bombs and guns and smell the burning forests, the effluent and pollution from toxic wastes.

We pray for the people of Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan and all areas where there is armed conflict. Strengthen and support the peacemakers we pray and give them courage and perseverance in the face of opposition.

We bring before you in prayer those in our local community who are suffering from poverty and financial stress. We thank you for all the good work done by the food banks and the people who support them with donations, may they know the strength of your love supporting them in this vital community outreach.

We pray for our ministers as they settle in to their new homes and responsibilities and Circuit staff and administrators who faithfully keep the work running smoothly. We ask that we are mindful of the work they do and support them with our prayers and practical help.

**Amen**



### **Members' voice....**

Thank you to Christine Ding, Senior Steward at Poynton for sharing details of her recent trip.....

### **Summer Holiday**

For our holiday this year we thought we would try something different. Generally speaking, we try to minimise our carbon footprint but our eldest son and his family live in Melbourne so our visits to them ensure that our efforts are not very effective.

We decided to reduce our flying as much as we could by travelling by train.

Where to? Our favourite resort in Turkey where the hoteliers we first met nearly 30 years ago are selling their hotel and retiring. This would mean going by train to Istanbul. We definitely did not go on the Orient Express. At £18,000 each it is a little above our budget.

Instead, we followed the example set by two of our sons when they were teenagers and went by Inter rail. We have always been intrepid travellers, preferring to stay in local hotels and Airbnb rentals. The latter allow us to stay where locals live and gain a better insight into their lives rather than staying in luxury hotels. My husband enjoys planning big trips and loves to research all the essentials, places to stay, things to do, where to eat and how to use public transport.

So, with everything in place, we set off at the end of August from Wilmslow station. The first leg of the journey was the one that was causing us most concern. Stockport station only re-opened the week before we were due to travel and there have been so many delays and cancellations of trains to London that we worried we would miss the Eurostar.

We didn't. That evening after changing trains in Brussels we made it to Rotterdam in time for dinner.

Our trip went from Rotterdam, via Amsterdam and Basel to Bern. We had planned things so that we would spend 3 to 4 days in each major city, with a few exceptions where we had to change trains so only spent a day. From Bern we spent a day in Zurich then went on to Munich. A few days sightseeing then on to Salzburg, Vienna, Budapest, Bucharest and eventually Istanbul. The trains were all comfortable and only one was delayed – surprisingly a German one. The stations and local buses are all clearly signposted, usually in English and the stations remarkably well provided with food and drink.

Slow travel is very different from flying. You can see the transition in countryside, culture and lifestyles. To help us understand the history we tried to resurrect long forgotten details about the Reformation, Napoleonic Wars, the Hapsburgs, the Treaty of Versailles, not to mention the Ceausescus and the splitting of the Soviet Union. Fortunately, there are many excellent museums that explain each country's history. We learnt so much about Europe and why it is so important to our history that we are an island.

We saw Durer's beautiful painting of a young hare and the poignant painting by Egon Schiele of the family he hoped for but never transpired as he, his wife and their unborn child died within a few days of each other in the flu pandemic of 1919. We felt the wonderful vibrations as Handel was played on the organ in Salzburg Cathedral where Mozart had once been the organist. In a cable car we soared to the top of the mountain where Julie Andrews sang the opening bars of The Sound of Music and viewed Berchtesgaden in the distance.

We watched incredulously as people took selfies at each and every opportunity, climbing on statues to get a better angle or taking photos in the Blue Mosque or Hagia Sophia (where everyone was asked to refrain for taking photos of worshippers). We realised that the young women in Istanbul who were wearing nose splints had just had plastic surgery and stumbled upon a TikTok hotspot where people vied to take photos. As we left Istanbul we walked through the main square where hundreds of armed police were gathered ready for a match between Liverpool and Galatasaray.

After all this holidaying we needed a rest. A week relaxing in the sun with a book or three was all we needed to ready us for our return home.

Would we do it again? Certainly. What about trains to Scandinavia?

**Christine Ding**

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**As we journey into Advent and think of God's gift in Jesus, Rev Sheila shares this message:-**

**I found this** in a small book of prayers and reflections by David Adam - he has written....

'Blessings are what God bestows on us continually. His whole action towards us is blessing from the blessing of life itself into eternity and the gift of Himself coming in Jesus to be one with us. Blessings are to be discovered, voiced and lived in our day to day lives. I believe it is good to carry blessings around with us. We, even if we cannot say them out loud, we can express them, visualize them and try to live them.'

It is with this in mind that I wrote this prayer:-

LORD MAKE ME A BLESSING to those whom I meet,  
Make me a blessing, as I walk down the street.  
Make me a blessing, this day even this hour.  
Make me a blessing, it lies in Thy power.  
Make me a blessing, at work and at home.  
Make me a blessing wherever I roam.  
Make me a blessing that others may see  
I am a blessing .....for YOU ARE WITH ME!

**Rev Sheila Bishop**



Look at a candy cane,  
What do you see?  
Stripes that are Red,  
Like the blood shed for me!  
White for my saviour,  
Who's sinless and pure!  
"J" is for Jesus,  
My Lord that's for sure!  
Turn it around  
And a staff you will see.  
Jesus, my shepherd,  
Is coming for me!

~Unknown

## Community & Church News

### Broken Cross

**Sunday 7th December 10.30am** – Dementia Friendly service led by John Morrell

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10am** – Christmas Holiday Club

**Sunday 21st December 10.30am** - Carol service led by John Bird

**Wednesday 24th December 6pm** – Christingle

**Christmas Day 9.30am** – Rev Stephen Dallin



### Gawsworth

**Sunday 7th December 2.30pm** – Advent service of remembrance. Candles will be lit for loved ones followed by afternoon tea at 4pm. Numbers for the tea to Sheila on 01625 433239 asap.

NB: No morning service that day.

**Sunday 21st December 10.30am** – Telling the Christmas story through carols and readings.

**Christmas Day 10.30am** – Rev Deborah Lucas, a short service for all the family, please bring a small gift to give away as we reflect on the greatest gift of all **God coming to us in Jesus**.

A new **FRIENDSHIP GROUP** has started on the **FIRST** Tuesday of each month. Meeting at 10.30am for coffee and finishing with a Ploughman's lunch. Cost £5. A different theme each month.

January – New Year resolutions  
February – 'Let me entertain you'

**COFFEE MORNINGS** are held all through the year on Thursdays from 10.00a.m. BUT Jan 15<sup>th</sup> AND **EVERY THIRD THURSDAY is the LIGHT LUNCH CLUB** at midday cost £5. The coffee mornings are held to support various charities usually 20 plus different ones throughout the year. Please get in touch if you would like to hold one in 2026. Spaces on 5 and 26 February and 30 April. Contact Sheila on 01625 433239.

**Wednesday 21 January 2026 6.00pm** – Women from the churches in and around Gawsworth will meet for a 'FEAST' evening – Friends Eating And Sharing Together, to look at 'New Beginnings', focussing on our lives and the Story of Ruth in the Old Testament. We share a meal so numbers are needed – contact Sheila on 01625 433239 by 15th January.

## Langley

**Sunday 7th December 10.30am** – Own Arrangement Carol Service

**Christmas Eve Christingle 5pm** - Christingle Service led by Rev Deborah Lucas

**Sunday 11th January 2026 10.30am** - Covenant Service with Sutton St. James



## Macclesfield

**Sunday 21st December 6.00pm** - Carol Service

**Wednesday 24th December 3.30pm** – Christingle

**Christmas Day 9.45am** – Rev Deborah Lucas



Poynton

*Merry Christmas*



*from*  
*Poynton Methodist Church*

*Find out what's happening this Christmas  
at Poynton Methodist Church*

*December 2025*

Tuesday 2nd - Poynton Christmas Fest  
evening of singing- 6.30pm

Every Wednesday morning Brew and Biscuits- 10.30am

Every Friday Church Coffee & Catch up - 10.30am

Sunday 7th Advent Carol Service - 10.30am  
with Breakfast Club from 9am

Saturday 13th Film Club 'Love Sarah' - 2pm

14th Christmas Service for the Bereaved - 2.30pm

Wednesday 17th - Mid-week Christmas Service  
and lunch - 12 noon

Sunday 21st - 10.30am Christingle Service  
2.30pm - Afternoon Carol Service with refreshments

25th Christmas Day Celebration Service - 9.30am

27th Saturday Film Club 'Babe' - 2pm

*Join us for a warm welcome*



## Prestbury

# *Advent Studies 2025*

A series of Studies during Advent based on the book by John Bell, former leader of the Iona Community and author of many of the new generation of Celtic Hymns.

Sessions will be held at Prestbury Methodist Chapel 10:30-12:00 on Thursdays November 27<sup>th</sup>-December 18<sup>th</sup>, starting with coffee and biscuits.

Sessions will be led as follows:

Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Steve Oliver

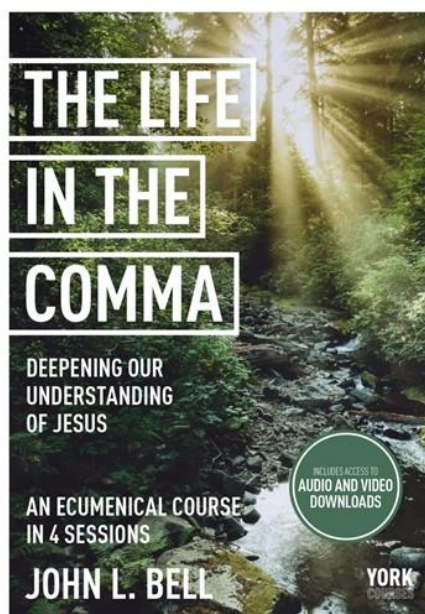
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Roger Bolton

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Rev. Stephen Dallin

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Roger/Steve

All are welcome. Attendance at all four sessions is not essential. For more details or to indicate interest contact Roger Bolton ([rgrbolton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rgrbolton@yahoo.co.uk)). A course book is available £5 but not essential.

"The Apostle's creed moves from the Virgin Mary to Pontius Pilate with only a comma in between. John Bell's contention is that we cannot understand the death of Christ unless we take stock of how his life rattled people - by his refusal to conform to the norms with regard, for example, to his preferred company, his take on etiquette, his understanding of God, and the subjects he favoured for public discussion. In four lively sessions, we ponder how Jesus in his earthly ministry fulfilled the law, the prophets and the psalms, before looking forward - with deeper interest - to the celebration of his birth in the incarnation."



## Services

**21st December 10.30am** – Own Arrangement Carol service

**24th December 11.30pm** - Circuit midnight communion service.

*Treacle Market*  
*Shoppers' Carol Service*



*Readings and Songs*  
*to celebrate the birth of Jesus*

*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025*  
*St Michaels' Church Grounds*  
*1pm & 2pm (20 mins)*

Organised by St Michael's Church / Hope in NE Cheshire  
on behalf of the Christian Churches in Macclesfield

[www.hinec.org.uk](http://www.hinec.org.uk)  
[www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk)



**27 DECEMBER**

**Register from 10am, 11am start**

# + Christmas Fun-Run



**Run or walk with  
family and friends at:**

**Middlewood Way (viaduct next  
to St Gregory's Church),  
Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5JR**

A better world needs all of us — let's run for hope.

**Adult £10 | Child £5 | Family £20**

**CAFOD** A better world  
needs all of us

[cafod.org.uk/bollington](http://cafod.org.uk/bollington)

**Hosted by**



**Canal &  
River Trust**  
Making the water work better

**Sign up now and  
get sponsored!**

**Scan here** ↓



CAF70.58

CAFOD is a registered charity. All proceeds from this event will go to CAFOD.

## District Online Worship



The poster features a dark square with three lit candles and the text 'Third Week of Advent' and 'Life-Light of Joy'. To the right is the North West England Methodist District logo. The main title 'District Online Worship' is in large blue letters. A red rounded rectangle contains the date and time. A light purple rounded rectangle contains details about the worship service and contact information.

**Third Week of Advent**

**Life-Light of Joy**

**NORTH WEST ENGLAND  
METHODIST DISTRICT**

# District Online Worship

**Sunday 14th December at  
6.30pm**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

with Revd Caroline Ainger, Mission  
Area Lead for Liverpool Plus  
preaching.

District Online Worship is held on  
the second Sunday of every  
month. For the Zoom code (which  
remains the same), please email  
[prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk)  
or direct message us on  
Facebook

The next Online Worship is taking place on **Sunday 14th December at 6.30pm**.  
Revd Caroline Ainger, Mission Area Lead for Liverpool Plus will be preaching.

For the zoom code (which remains the same), please  
email: [prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk)

Dear Friends,

Caleb, or Caleb Communities is the name of the New Places for New People project across the Greater Manchester Plus Mission Area. Our vision is to encourage, support and equip new faith communities and their leaders with financial grants, and coaching support. To date, we've supported new family congregations, arts-based communities, church plants on housing estates and even a ukulele church! It's so good to see how all of these new communities are starting to connect with people who have little or no background in the church.



To celebrate some of these new communities in our region we've produced a Caleb film telling their stories. You can find this film on the North West of England

Methodist website (search via resources - New Places for New People) <https://nwedmethodists.org.uk/new-places-for-new-people/> Or on my personal YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/WykoE4DBB7E?si=ai68NZHqaGCPY9Ky>

If you have an idea for a new community to connect with new people in your area, I'd love to hear from you.

For more information please email me at: [revanthonyclowes@me.com](mailto:revanthonyclowes@me.com)

God bless,  
Anthony



'Are you looking for a gift with meaning this Christmas?

With every Extraordinary Gift, you will receive a card to pass on to your loved one, showing them the difference their gift could make.

All the proceeds from Extraordinary Gifts go to wherever the need is greatest across our work.

You have until Thursday 18th December to secure your Extraordinary Gifts in time for Christmas!

Let's make this Christmas Extraordinary!

Order your Extraordinary Gifts now: [allwecan.org.uk/exgifts/](http://allwecan.org.uk/exgifts/)



## MACCLESFIELD & PRESTBURY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded 1906



*Philately is the study of postage stamps and postal history*

The Society is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary by staging an **EXHIBITION** entitled:

### LETTERS FROM MACCLESFIELD

We will tell the story of the postal history of Macclesfield through displays of old letters, postcards, maps, postmarks, photographs and other ephemera

**LOCATION:** The Silk Museum, Park Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 6TJ

**DATES & TIMES:** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 10.00 to 16.00

**ADMISSION FREE. SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES - BRING YOUR CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN**

#### Highlights - come and see:

- \*\* The earliest known MACCLESFIELD hand stamp \*\***
- \*\* A MACCLESFIELD penny black stamp \*\***
- \*\* Jodrell Bank Observatory display\*\***
- \*\* The story of Tullis Russell, Macclesfield's global stamp paper producer\*\***
- \*\* Macclesfield pubs and breweries on old postcards \*\***
- \*\* Post boxes in Macclesfield \*\***
- \*\* A look at surrounding villages and Cheshire neighbours \*\***
- \*\* The Paul Gaywood lecture on Silk Postcards (2pm afternoon of 7<sup>th</sup>) \*\***
- \*\* A display of pandas on stamps! (it will make sense when you see it) \*\***
- \*\* Brocklehurst family mail \*\*    \*\* Celebration cake cutting\*\***
- \*\* Do our QUIZ, suitable for ALL AGES \*\***

*We will also exhibit short displays from our members on a wide range of topics reflecting the many ways of collecting and studying stamps and postal history. Our members will be present throughout the exhibition to answer your questions and talk to you about our wonderful hobby. The Society meets monthly in the URC meeting rooms on Towney Street, visitors and new members are welcome.*



We are grateful for the support of The Silk Museum in staging this exhibition and to the other organisations for their grant support.



**ABPS**

The Association of British Philatelic Societies





**Methodist Women  
in Britain**

**for women, for justice, for Christ** The  
British Unit of the World Federation of  
Methodist & Uniting Church Women



## **Prayer Diary**

**December 2025 to February 2026**

*Join us in praying for Methodist Women in Britain Officers, Trustees & Ambassadors,  
Methodist Women in Ireland and 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.*

<b>Day 1</b>	Methodist Women in Britain Cochairs: Leonora Wassell & Olive Ruzvidzo
<b>Day 2</b>	Helen Kim Scholars Britain & Ireland: Madeleine Reed & Heidi Hogan
<b>Day 3</b>	WFM&UCW World President: Sipwe Chisvo & WFM&UCW President Emerita: Alison Judd
<b>Day 4</b>	London, Beds, Essex & Herts and South East MWiB Area Trustee: Annah Mwadiwa
<b>Day 5</b>	Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury, Birmingham, Mid Wales MWiB Area Trustee: Jenny Parnell
<b>Day 6</b>	Bolton & Rochdale and Lancashire MWiB Area Trustee: Philippa Hill
<b>Day 7</b>	Methodist Women in Ireland All Ireland President: Alexa Brown
<b>Day 8</b>	Bristol and South Wales MWiB Area Trustee: Gillian Pengelly
<b>Day 9</b>	MWiB Ambassadors: Helen Cornick, Cynthia Bonds, Ruth Dawson, Margaret Dunn, Priscilla Samasuwo
<b>Day 10</b>	World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women
<b>Day 11</b>	Liverpool, Chester & Stoke, North Wales, Manchester & Stockport MWiB Area Trustee: Chris Thompson
<b>Day 12</b>	Methodist Women in Britain Communications Officer: Bronwen Braidell
<b>Day 13</b>	Darlington, Newcastle and Cumbria MWiB Area Trustee: Debs Coggrave
<b>Day 14</b>	World Day of Prayer Representative: Charity Madenyika & MWiB Empowerment Gifts Sylvia White
<b>Day 15</b>	Methodist Women in Britain Resources Officer: Caroline Fillery
<b>Day 16</b>	Methodist Women in Ireland and Manx Methodist Women
<b>Day 17</b>	Lincolnshire and East Anglia MWiB Area Trustee: Rita Rowe
<b>Day 18</b>	Cornwall and Plymouth & Exeter MWiB Area Trustee:
<b>Day 19</b>	Methodist Women in Britain Digital Media Coordinator: Ruth Dawson
<b>Day 20</b>	WFM&UCW Area President & Vice President: Barbara Easton & Wanda Hogan
<b>Day 21</b>	MWiB Ambassadors: Elizabeth Colley, Jacky Woor, Hazel Jackson, Susan Eldridge, Gillian Womersley, Sue Smith
<b>Day 22</b>	Methodist Women in Britain Finance Officer: Sheila Hall
<b>Day 23</b>	Notts & Derby and Northampton MWiB Area Trustee: Menesia Chikazi
<b>Day 24</b>	MWiB Ambassadors: Diana Bosman, Linda King, Maggie Woods, Nina Rawlins, Alison Richardson, Pam Gidney
<b>Day 25</b>	MWiB Ambassadors: Ann Taylor, Janet Thompson, Sue Clarke, Margaret Johnson, Brenda Stuart-White, Di Smart
<b>Day 26</b>	Southampton and Channel Islands MWiB Area Trustee: Liz Chick
<b>Day 27</b>	MWiB Ambassadors: Judith Oldroyd, Delphine Gratrix, Pamela Stenson, Barbara Rumfitt, Becca Wakelin
<b>Day 28</b>	MWiB Ambassadors: Gwenda Humphries, Susan Murrell, Naledi Phaladi, Viv Lowe, Sue Nickson, Alison Judd
<b>Day 29</b>	Yorkshire West, Yorkshire North & East and Sheffield MWiB Area Trustee: Janice Clark
<b>Day 30</b>	Scotland and Shetland MWiB Area Trustee: Barbara Harrison
<b>Day 31</b>	Your local officers, activities & projects & our Trustees who have stepped down this year

***What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer***

<b>7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Exec meeting</b> On this day in 1732, the Royal Opera House opened in Covent Garden. Let's praise God for the beautiful creativity He grants to humanity, and pray for everyone across the world who are called to glorify God through their creative endeavours.
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	On this day in 1918, the first general election with women voters was held in the UK. Let's praise God for the huge work done by our foremothers to gain equal rights for women, and let's pray for the countries around the world where women's voices are still smothered in political and professional settings.
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> On this day in 1844, the Cooperative Movement began in Rochdale. Let's give thanks for the people who have fought for the rights and welfare of the poorest in our communities. Let's continue to pray for all those across the world who don't have their basic needs met, especially in places with no government assistance.
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	On this day in 1918, the first woman was elected MP – Constance Markievicz. Let's pray for those places around the world that still have skewed representation in their governments. We look forward to a future where everyone is represented and every voice is heard.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Finance Task Group</b> On this day in 1853, memoir-writer Solomon Northup regained his freedom after being kidnapped and spending 12 years as a slave in the American south. Let's pray today for the downfall of modern-day slavery and human trafficking. Let's pray in earnest for everyone who is currently caught in the mechanisms of slavery, remembering that we serve a God of deliverance, who delights to break every chain.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Exec meeting</b> On this day in 1569, England's first recorded lottery was held. Let's pray for everyone who is suffering from gambling addiction, and for their families. Let's also pray for those people who are vulnerable to gambling, that they will be protected from any addiction forming in their lives.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Webinar Mental Health 7.30pm</b> On this day in 1896, the first X-ray generating machine was exhibited. Let's give thanks to God for all the medical advances that have been made, and continue to pray for revelation for those things which as of yet have no relief or cure.
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	On this day in 1890, Nellie Bly completed her record-breaking round-the-world journey in just 72 days. Nellie also put herself in harms way to expose the abuse of women in Victorian mental institutions. Let's give thanks today for people who are willing to risk themselves for the benefit of others, and pray protection and strength on those who are doing so right now.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Lancashire Retreat Leonora; 5-6<sup>th</sup> Trustees meeting; 6-7<sup>th</sup> Exec meeting</b> On this day in 1884, the first volume of the Oxford English Dictionary was published. Let's give thanks for widespread literacy, and for the advances in quality of education. Let's pray for those people for whom education is still inaccessible, and let's also pray for educational reform where necessary.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	On this day in 1968, Black students were attacked at South Carolina State University while they protested racial segregation. Let's give thanks today for the people who fought and died for civil rights, and let's continue to pray for those people who still receive hate, discrimination, or injustice due to their ethnicity, skin colour, gender, or other protected characteristic.
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> On this day in 1949, excavation of the caves at Qumran began, which led to the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Let's give praise to God for the gift of Scripture and the extraordinary way in which the Bible came together.
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Olive at Knutsford Methodist Church; 26<sup>th</sup> Webinar Domestic Abuse 7.30pm</b> On this day in 1943, three members of the non-violent White Rose resistance were executed for high treason in Nazi Germany. Let's pray today for all non-violent protesters and resistance groups who are working towards a world free from fascism, cruelty, and corrupt government.

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

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES – something for everyone across the Circuit!

## Bereavement Service

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

2:30pm Poynton

## Carol Services

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December

10:30am Langley

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December

10:30am Broken Cross

10:30am Gawsworth

6:00pm Macclesfield

2:30pm Poynton

10.30am Prestbury



## Christingle - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December

10:30am Poynton

## Christingle - Christmas Eve

3:30pm at Macclesfield

5:00pm at Langley

6:00pm at Broken Cross



## Circuit Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

11:30pm at Prestbury

## Christmas Day



9:30am at Poynton – Rev Stephen Dallin

9:45am at Macclesfield – Rev Deborah Lucas

10:30am at Gawsworth - Rev Deborah Lucas

10:30am at Broken Cross – Rev Stephen Dallin

10:30am at Prestbury – Own Arrangement

11:00a.m at Woodlands – Gloria Udoh

## December Circuit Services

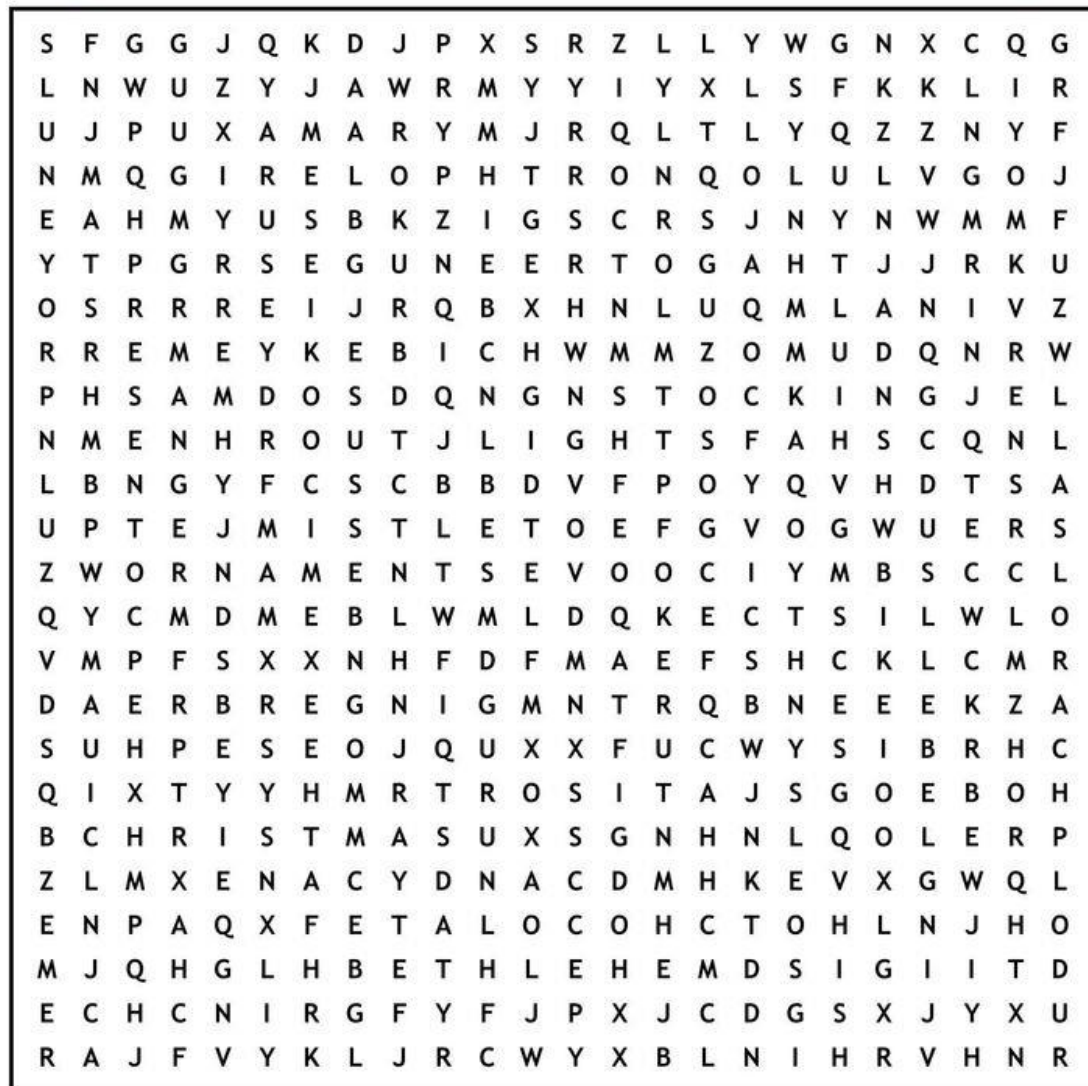
14 December 10:30am at Macclesfield – Rev Phil Gough

28 December 10:30am at Poynton – Mandy Hawkyard

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

Just for fun

# Christmas Word Search



gingerbread	grinch	hotchocolate	cookies	carols
candycane	jinglebells	northpole	mistletoe	present
gift	manger	elf	bethlehem	ornaments
lights	tree	stocking	merry	jolly
jesus	joeseph	mary	christmas	rudolph

## This quarter's services

2025/2026	DECEMBER				JANUARY				FEBRUARY			
	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22
READINGS:	Is 11:1-10, Rom 15:4-13, Mt 11:2-11	Is 35:1-10, Jas 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11	Is 7:10-16, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-25	Is 63:7-9, Heb 2:10-18, Mt 2:13-23	Jer 31:7-14, Eph 1:3-14, Jn 1:1-18	Is 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Mt 3:13-17	Is 49:1-7, 1 Cor 1:1-9, Jn 1:29-42	Is 9:1-4, 1 Cor 1:10-18, Mt 4:12-23	Mic 6:1-8, 1 Cor 1:18-31, Mt 5:1-12	Is 58:1-12, 1 Cor 2:1-16, Mt 5:13-20	Ex 24:12-18, 2 Pet 1:16-21, Mt 17:1-9	Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Rom 5:12-19, Mt 4:1-11
BROKEN CROSS 10.30	Morrell Df	CCT	OA C	CCT	Dallin CS	Maltby	Dallin	Oliver	Dallin	CCT	Dallin HC	Lucas
GAWSWORTH 10.30	No Service	CCT	S Bishop C	CCT	Gunning	Baker	S Bishop P	Lucas CS	G Dallin	CCT	OA	Oliver
14:30	Lucas Advnt C											
LANGLEY 10.30	OA C	CCT	Lucas HC	CCT	Bradley	Lucas CS LU	Gunning	Dallin	F Bishop HC T	CCT	Lucas	Beesley
MACCLESFIELD 9.00	OA Bf				OA Bf				OA Bf			
10.30	Lucas HC	Gough CCT	Oliver AAW	CCT	Lucas CS	F Bishop	Lucas AAW B	Hawkyard	OA	Lucas/Dallin HC CCT	S Bishop AAW	Baker
18:00			C									
POYNTON 9.30	OA Bf				OA Bf				OA Bf			
10.30	Baker Advent C	CCT	Dallin MFT CT	Hawkyard CCT	Oliver	Rashleigh	Dallin CS	Wakelin	S Bishop HC	CCT	Maltby	F Bishop
14.30		Hawkyard BS	Dallin C				Lucas				Dallin HC	
PRESTBURY 10.30	Dallin HC	CCT	OA C	CCT	F Bishop	Dallin CS	Morrell T	Baker	Gunning	CCT	Rashleigh	Dallin HC
WOODLANDS MHA 14.30		Rashleigh C						Rashleigh				Rashleigh
ZOOM 18.30		District				District				District		
PRAYER CYCLE:	Poynton	Woodlands	Macclesfield	Prestbury	Broken Cross	Gawsw'th	MFT	Langley	Poynton	Woodlands	Macclesfield	Prestbury

**AAW** All Age Worship; **AfC** Action for Children Sunday; **AwC** All we Can; **B** Baptism; **Bf** Breakfast; **Blue** Blue Christmas; **BS** Bereavement Service; **C** Carols; **CA** Church Anniversary; **CB** Christmas Box; **CCT** Circuit; **Cf** Cafe; **Cn** Compassion; **CON** Contemporary Worship; **CONF** Methodist Conference; **CR** Creationtide; **CS** Covenant; **CT** Christingle; **Df** Dementia Friendly café; **E** Emmaus; **EO** Easter Offering; **F** Family Service; **FS** Farewell Service; **G** Gift; **GCM** General Church Meeting; **H** Healing; **HC** Holy Communion; **HF** Harvest Festival; **HM** Home Missions; **IF** Interfaith Sunday; **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; **R** Remembrance **SOP** Songs of Praise; **T** Please Provide Transport; **Th** Thanksgiving; **Trad** Traditional; **TS** Toy Service; **TR** Time to Remember; **Tz** Taize; **WBC**

## 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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