



MACCLESFIELD
METHODIST CIRCUIT
Sharing God's love

***e*-MESSENGER**

66th Issue: March 2026

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



Methodist Families Together



We've had a wonderfully busy and rewarding time since our last update, bringing families together and strengthening our church community through a variety of activities and events.

Sunday School Christmas Party Macclesfield hosted our annual Christmas Party, extending a warm invitation to families from across the circuit. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and joy as children enjoyed festive activities, and families from other churches thanked us for welcoming them. A heartfelt thanks goes to Susan and her team for so ably organising the event, especially as the number of attendees—and mouths to feed—grew once again!

Christmas Holiday Club We ran a one-day holiday club, giving parents and carers a few hours to themselves as their children explored the nativity story through crafts and play. The day was packed with games—including Christmas Carol bingo and even a snowball fight championship.



We ended the festivities with a pop-up nativity for parents and carers, pulled off with only ten minutes of practice! A big thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time during the busy season.



Toddler Groups Our circuit's four toddler groups continue to thrive, each meeting on a different day of the week. Over Christmas, every group hosted a party and several staged a Nativity, all of which were truly delightful to witness.

Breakfast Church offers a fantastic chance to share Jesus' love in a relaxed setting centred around a shared meal. As part of my Lent reflections, I've been watching 'The Chosen'—a series inspired by the gospel stories. It's made me appreciate how, just as the disciples did, we come together to chat, ask questions, and build community over food, mirroring those early days of faith.

Messy Church took place at Macclesfield Methodist on 28th February, focusing on the theme of Jesus' Ministry—'Jesus Helps People'. Families delved into Jesus' miracles, making parable cubes to continue exploring His teachings at home. Each craft reinforced key messages: 'Jesus helps when we share', 'Jesus helps when we're afraid', 'Jesus helps people who are hurting', and 'Jesus brings peace when life feels stormy'.

Pancake Mania this year shifted to Broken Cross Methodist Church, as Shrove Tuesday coincided with half-term. We transformed the building into an intergenerational celebration, with a bustling café serving up loads of pancakes and a variety of toppings. Even the adults enjoyed getting creative with their pancakes! There were activities for all ages, from stay-and-play sessions for the under-fives to games for older children. The event quickly became a hive of activity, and with over 100 people joining in, we estimate around 150 pancakes were served! Huge thanks to our dedicated volunteers—some new to MFT events—who helped make this one of our most successful gatherings yet.



Chippy Church continues to go from strength to strength, with more new families joining us. The children have enjoyed puppet shows, story-in-a-box activities, crafts to take home, and plenty of chip butties! In January, we explored the journey of the kings; in February, the story of Jesus and the Children (aptly coinciding with Valentine’s Day); and in March, we’ll be learning about women of the Bible, tying in with Mother’s Day.

Schools During Advent, we visited Prestbury Primary School, sharing a story-in-a-box and craft session with four classes. We discussed the anticipation of Christmas and the true meaning of Advent, before helping the children create their own candle suncatchers.

Now, as we journey through Lent towards the cross, we’re preparing to share the Easter story with four classes at Prestbury Primary and to connect with Years 5 and 6 for part of their RE curriculum about the Eucharist. That same week, Macclesfield Methodist will welcome two Year 3 classes to explore what Christians believe about the resurrection—tackling big questions like: Why do Christians believe God rescues people? Can people really come back to life? Is there life after death? We’re looking forward to some interesting discussions!

This will amount to connecting with over 200 children in a single week! We hope Rev Deborah and Rev Steve are ready for the madness!!!!

Looking ahead, we’re excited to make even more connections with schools over the coming year.

Youth Group has started meeting regularly, gathering on the last Sunday of each month at Prestbury Methodist Church. Numbers can vary, but if everyone attends, we currently have eight young people involved, with more expected to join soon. At our last session, we discussed the meaning of Lent and its significance for Christians. We're always open to new ideas—and new leaders!

Easter Events

Easter Experience

Wednesday, 1st April | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

@ Macclesfield Methodist Church

We invite you to attend our Easter Experience, which offers activities suitable for all attendees, with or without children. The venue will feature a welcoming café serving toast, hot cross buns, and a variety of beverages. For children under five, a Stay and Play session will be available to encourage imaginative exploration. Primary-aged children are welcome to join in thoughtfully designed activities and games, while all guests may enjoy an interactive journey through Holy Week.

If you are interested in assisting as a volunteer for this event, please contact Angela or your church's designated children's coordinator. We look forward to building on the success of our recent Pancake Mania event.

Experience Easter

Saturday 4th April 11-2:30pm

@ St Michael's Church, Macclesfield Marketplace

Following previous successful events, churches in Macclesfield and Hope (NE Cheshire) will join the Macclesfield Town Council Easter celebration. We invite volunteers to help interact with families—contact Angela or your church's children's representative if you can attend or simply drop by when convenient. If you're in town that day, feel free to come and say hello!



Prayer Cycle – this time we think of Broken Cross. We thank Anne Fielding for contributing this prayer for us.

Heavenly Father, your love is new every morning and we can always depend on you. We thank you for that love, that seeks us out, even when we go astray, that continues to love unconditionally and is shown so fully in the life of our Saviour Jesus.

We pray that we may be rooted and grounded in your love; that our lives will reflect your love in our care for others.

We thank you for the way you supply our needs, Lord – for our homes for shelter and warmth in this cold weather, for basic necessities of life, for food and clothing. And we thank you for friends and family and for the fellowship we enjoy with you and your people.

Father, we pray that we will be sensitive to your Spirit moving among us and that you will speak to us through the word and songs and enable us to move further along on our journey with you and deepen our life in your Spirit.

Our lives are so blessed by your presence, but especially now we are conscious that so many people are suffering because of conflict in your world. We pray for all who have been affected - and have lost loved ones, or homes and live in fear for their lives. We pray that those who are in positions of power may be willing to use their power to give up war- mongering and bring people together and seek peace.

So we ask these prayers in and through the name of Jesus and pray that your grace and peace will be with us all.

Amen



Members' voice....

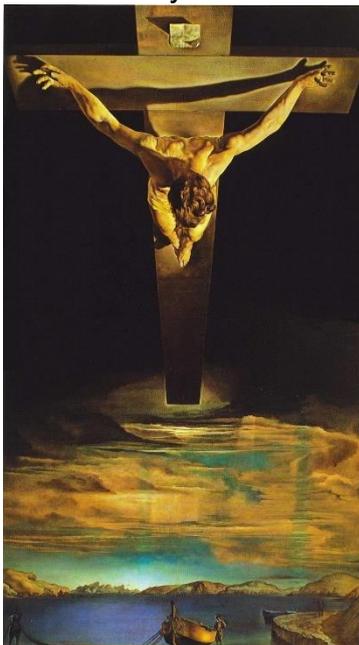
Prestbury Advent Groups

This year we took a book by Rev. John Bell as the basis for our Advent Studies, it is called "The Life in the Comma". A strange title, but John Bell wants us to look at the Jesus who came and lived in the world, and he explores the people and situations that Jesus met in his life between "Born of the Virgin Mary" and "Suffered under Pontius Pilate". In our Apostle's Creed there is only a comma between the two.

Each week there was a video session lasting about 20 minutes which was a discussion between John Bell and two guests: the Bishop of Huddersfield, Smitha Prasadam and a Christian writer & speaker, Lauren Windle. Their discussion was both humorous and deep. We followed this by reading a study guide that asked probing questions of us. Steve Oliver led the first and last sessions, Roger Bolton went 2nd and Rev. Stephen led the third.

We had invited the other churches in the Circuit to join us if they wished, and each week there were about 16 people sharing; 10 from Prestbury and others from Macclesfield, Broken Cross and Poynton. Sadly, the time I had chosen clashed with coffee mornings each week at Gawsorth and Broken Cross, otherwise we would have seen more.

Week one looked at "**Advent: a time for kids**", because it is a popular cliché that "Christmas is a time for the children". We have to conclude that the dominant imagery of mother Mary and gentle Jesus meek and mild hardly does justice to the challenges faced by a young mother in a strange part of the country, the risks of childbirth and infant mortality at that time or the threats from Herod. The Nativity was a tough and risky situation that Mary and Jesus did well to survive. Not the stuff we would expect if Christmas truly was "a time for kids". And then if Jesus really was meek and mild, how is it that he was put to death on a cross. We were asked to consider why the Christian Gospel has been so softened in its presentation.



Week 2 considered "**The life omitted**" and as a hymn writer John Bell observed that whilst there were many hymns in current books under the headings of Advent, The Passion and death and on the Resurrection there are many fewer on the actual life of Jesus. Not until Sydney Carter's "Lord of the Dance" was there a popular song that attempted to celebrate the life of Jesus. It is the same in imagery where Jesus is represented in life usually as a pastoral good shepherd image, rarely as vigorous, determined and passionate. Yet the latter is what gave meaning to his earthly mission, as a force against hypocrisy, greed and injustice. One image that is very powerful is that of Christ of St John of the Cross, by Salvador Dali that hangs in Glasgow. It portrays a strong Jesus towering over the world from his cross. It reminds us that Jesus is a saviour whose fulness cares about the world and everyone in it, not just the religious elements.

If he was present in human form today, wouldn't he be concerned about the big issues of climate change, social injustice, racism and global insecurity both political and in terms of food and water supply?

Week 3 was "**Unspoken in Advent**" and looked at significant figures in God's plan who are hardly mentioned yet were hugely influential. In the genealogy of Joseph's family there are 40 males and only four named female ancestors. None of these were Jewish, although Jewish identity is inherited down the female line, and all had unusual sexual reputations – Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba. These women were vital to securing the link between Abraham and Joseph via King David and all were foreigners. We do well to remember that Jesus held a special place for women and outcasts in his ministry. The male-dominated early church may have marginalised the role of women, but that hardly reflects Jesus' mission. One of the most significant acts of evangelism was enacted through Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well.

Then finally week 4 considered "**A life of Risk**". This was the life of Jesus lived between the cradle and the cross, and it is hardly touched upon in the writings of St. Paul. Paul rarely alludes to the teaching of Jesus about God recorded by Matthew, or the miracles of Jesus in Mark, the parables in Luke and the highly significant stories written in John's gospel. In some ways that makes sense because Paul never met Jesus except through his Damascus road experience, but if as we say Paul gives us a lot of our theology, then we forget a lot of specific elements of the life of Jesus, which was a life of risk. Jesus railed against the scribes and Pharisees, taught love and turning the other cheek; his miracles caused anger and envy among his critics, and his parables were often challenges to the established system. The events of Holy Week were the culmination of a lifetime of risk as Jesus not only spoke the truth of God for the world, but also lived out that truth.

I think everyone found something of help from this course.

Roger Bolton

Ruth Gunning has shared this blessing....

A Blessing

May the babe of Bethlehem
Bring you peace
May the child of Nazareth
Bring you joy
May the Man of Galilee
Bring you courage
May the risen Jesus bring you hope
And the ascended Christ
A foretaste of his glory

Father Potter of Peckham



Twenty years of the Methodist Community Hall

Time flies and this year we celebrate twenty years since the Gawsworth Methodist Community Hall was opened. Since then, hundreds of people have come to regular events, like the weekly coffee mornings on Thursdays, Lunch clubs, Chapel teas on the first Sunday of the month and Girls Brigade every Tuesday in term time.

Recently a newly started Friendship group, celebrations, Children's parties, Quiet days, and Bible studies with times of fellowship and we have been glad to welcome many community groups who have used the hall for meetings of various types. We shall celebrate with a service of thanksgiving on March 22nd when the Rev Dr Keith Davies will be our preacher, as he was at the opening.

Please pray for our Community at Gawsworth Methodist Church as we plan for the next year of using our hall to share God's love and encourage people to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

North Staffs Christian Aid Walk - Saturday 21 March – Registration from 9.15AM

For the past few years Frank and I have supported the North Staffs Christian Aid Walk not by going all around Tittesworth Water, but by completing the short walk of about two miles and being sponsored by family and friends. I know that younger and fitter members of our circuit go around the lake, and I admire them and wish them well.

However, there is no reason, why, along with many other older people, we can't contribute too. Frank feels unable to do the walk this year but I would still like to do the shorter walk and it is good to support this wonderful cause which has been happening for 35 years and raised huge sums of money for Christian Aid.

Are there any others who would enjoy the stroll, the fresh air, views of the lake, and in a small way could contribute through sponsorship? How about joining me on March 21st as we stroll together and then having something to eat at the café afterwards. I have some sponsor forms which I can photocopy for you and would be able to offer you a lift on the day, or perhaps you could come with your car and get some passengers.

Hope that you will think about it and do ring me if you are interested. Sheila Bishop
01625 433239.

WALK STARTS AT 10.00a.m.
(INFO ABOUT BANKING ARRANGEMENTS ON THE SPONSOR FORMS)

Rev Sheila Bishop



We believe in life before death

**NORTH STAFFS CHRISTIAN AID
SPONSORED WALK**

To be held at

TITTESWORTH WATER

(Three miles north of Leek, just off the A63)

SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2026

REGISTRATION FROM 9.15am

WALK STARTS AT 10.00am

The walk will be launched by

The Bishop of Stafford
and the
Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent

Sponsorship forms and more information from your local church or phone John Bamford (01782 516137) or contact Mike Wilmot at wilmotmf@gmail.com

By kind permission of Severn Trent Water

Community & Church News

Gawsworth

COFFEE MORNINGS are held all through the year on Thursdays from 10.00a.m. BUT **EVERY THIRD THURSDAY is the LIGHT LUNCH CLUB** at midday cost £5. Contact Sheila on 01625 433239.

The coffee mornings are held to support various charities usually 20 plus different ones throughout the year.

12 March - Gawsworth WI
26 March - Macclesfield Brass
2 April - East Cheshire Hospice
9 April - Embrace
23 April - North Rode WI
30 April - Live at Home scheme
7 May - Bosley WI
14 May - Motor Neuron Disease
28 May - St James Church Gawsworth

Langley

200th Anniversary Weekend Friday 15 – Sunday 17 May 2026 10am-7pm

FREE ENTRY



Please join us for our weekend of Anniversary celebrations. Display of historical memorabilia, books, paintings by local artists, demonstration of Scottish country dancing, Cre8 band, Knitted Bible Exhibition and activities for children.

Throughout the weekend there will be light refreshments.

Macclesfield

On Good Friday evening **3rd April at 7.30pm** Macclesfield Methodist Church Community Choir will sing J.H Maunder's OLIVET TO CALVARY with soloists Philip Cartwright (tenor) and Terence Ayebare (bass), organist Andrew Burr and conducted by Andrew Donaldson. Everyone is very welcome to come and share in this act of worship on this Holy Day in the Christian year. A retiring collection for two local charities.

Candles for Ukraine Mission

Macclesfield Methodist Church are collecting all candles which can be melted down to make large candles for the soldiers and people of Ukraine.



The candles can be in any form used, new, big, small, wax still in the bottom of the glass. They send them to Ukraine and they are used to make 'Trench' candles, these are empty food tins with corrugated cardboard as wicks and the wax is melted and these candles are used for light, cooking, warmth, drying wet socks etc...

If you have any spare candles, please arrange to leave them at Macclesfield or contact Julia Tibbles for collection - Tel 01625 616007.

If you can't leave them at Macclesfield or with Julia, they can be left at : Sutton Mill, Byron's Lane entrance, Macclesfield, SK11 7JW. They are volunteering all day Wednesday, packing and sorting, but have a couple of metal cages under a canopy where aid can be dropped outside of the packing day. The contact name is Ann – 07866 589680.

Michelle Wilson

Poynton



Changemakers Conference Watch Party
Saturday 14th March, 10:30am-1:00pm

Over recent years Christian Aid have been hosting an annual "Changemakers" conference in London to inspire people with stories about their work and enthuse them to participate in Christian Aid Week (10th-16th May). The event is also live-streamed and all over the country supporters will be getting together at "watch parties" to join in. We will be hosting one of these at Poynton. Come along and hear about their work in Kenya, the focus for this year. Refreshments will be served. All our welcome. If you intend to join us, could you let us know through [Facebook](#) or by phone or text to Richard (07985 151321) so we have some idea of numbers.





Calling a wounded earth home

Five 60-minute sessions exploring what kind of people we might need to be to face the challenges of climate change:

Love – expressing our love for our world (Psalm 148)

Truth – recognising the truth when others don't (Jeremiah 6:8-20)

Wisdom – choosing wisely for a better life (James 3:13-18)

Justice – making amends for what we have done (Luke 9:1-10)

Hope – remaining positive on a wounded earth (Romans 5:1-11)

Based on material produced by



Mondays at 10am (from 23rd February) and Wednesdays at 7:30pm (from 25th February) in Room 3, Poynton Methodist Church, Civic Car Park, Park Lane, Poynton, SK12 1RB. All are welcome but if you wouldn't normally come to a Lent group here please phone or text Richard (07985 151321) so that we have some idea of numbers.

Prestbury

Prestbury Methodist Church continues to hold a monthly Faith Lunch on the first Monday of the month at 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome to bring and share at this lovely get together.

Our monthly coffee mornings on the last Saturday of the month from 10-12 noon support a different charity each month. Come and enjoy coffee and biscuits and a range of stalls.

Our church members have been gathering for social occasions at members' houses every couple of months and enjoying food and fellowship. Our last event was a Scottish evening at the end of January where Eddie in his full Scottish regalia addressed the haggis then 28 of us enjoyed the haggis, tatties and neaps. Our next meeting is at the end of March when we are looking forward to sharing a Chinese takeaway meal.

Tenebrae Service - Maundy Thursday

You are warmly invited to join us at Prestbury Methodist Church for a Tenebrae Service (service of light and dark), with communion on Maundy Thursday, 2nd April at **7pm** (not 6.30pm). So, come and join us, as we recall the events of the Last Supper and the night in which Jesus was arrested.

Concert in aid of East Cheshire Hospice – Sat 14 March 7.30pm at Prestbury Methodist Church £12 incl Refreshments

Join The Laurence Singers in a celebration of Choral Music, including a wide range of musical styles - sacred, secular, modern, jazz. The Laurence Singers are a renowned Cheshire mixed voice choir who have performed before in Prestbury Methodist church on a few occasions in the past. Last December they were given the prestigious award of 'Mixed Voice Choir of the North West 2025'.

As well as enjoying a top-quality evening of choral music, you will also be helping to raise funds for the East Cheshire Hospice, who provide such valuable care in our community.

Tickets available from Valerie Jones 07976974432 valeriefrommacc@gmail.com

Circuit Lent Studies

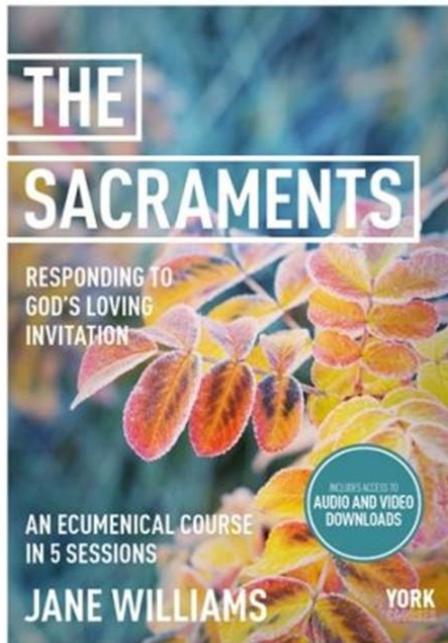
Prestbury invites anyone in the Circuit to join them in this year's Lent Course to be held at Prestbury Chapel on Thursday mornings 10:30-12:00 26th February until 26th March. There will be coffee & tea to welcome you. The course is entitled "The Sacraments – Responding to God's Loving Invitation".

All sessions will be introduced by excellent video resources and there is an accompanying booklet price £5 very helpful, but not essential.

For those unable to attend on Thursday mornings, the first, third and final sessions will also be run at **Gawsworth Chapel on Tuesdays 24th February, 10th March and 24th March 2:30pm-4:00pm.**

Please see the poster for further details or contact Roger Bolton (0165 420127)

Prestbury Methodist Church Lent Studies 2026



As part of our Lent preparations, we shall run a series of 5 sessions based on the book

"The Sacraments"

By Jane Williams

All are welcome.

All churches in the Circuit are invited.

**Meetings will be on Thursdays
26th February - 26th March
10:30-12:00 at Prestbury.**

**Sessions 1,3,5 will also be run at
Gawsworth Methodists on
24th Feb, 10th March, 24th March
2:30-4:00**

Sessions will be led by Rev. Stephen Dallin, Steve Oliver and Roger Bolton

Weekly sessions, with video input from the author and other experts will look at the Sacraments, including Baptism and Holy Communion the author promises to reveal them to be a glorious expression of God's love for the world in all its beauty and brokenness.

A course book will be available at the first meeting price £5, helpful but not essential.

For further information contact Roger Bolton (01625 420127)

District

The President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Richard Andrew, and Vice President Matt Forsyth, are visiting the District from **Saturday 14th to Tuesday 17th March 2026**.

As part of this visit, the following events are open to all to attend.

Bible Encounter: Saturday 14th March

Taking place at The Triangle Community Methodist Church, Bolton, BL1 5QP. Revd Richard Andrew is leading on the Presidential theme of 'Our Story Our Song'. Arrive from 10am for refreshments, with the Bible Encounter taking place from 10.30am-12pm.

[Book your place through Eventbrite here](#)

Inspire 26: Saturday 14th March

Taking place at St. Mark's Church, Haydock, WA11 0AX from 9am - 1pm with the Vice President in attendance.

[Book your place through Eventbrite here](#)

Sunday 15th March: in the morning the President is preaching at Cornerstone Community Chapel (Sedbergh Methodist Church) in the Cumbria Circuit at 10.30am The Vice President is preaching at Thrum Hall Methodist Church (Breakfast Church) in the Rochdale and Littleborough Circuit at 10.30am and The Vice President is then preaching at the Blackpool and South Fylde Circuit Celebration at The Drive Methodist Church, St. Anne's at 4.00pm

Monday is a day of visits to various projects, so no open invitations.

Tuesday the President will be with us at the Presbyteral Synod at Fulwood Methodist Church.

Please pray for all these events and sign up through the links above if you wish to attend.

Online Worship

Sunday 15th March at 6.30pm

The March Online Worship is taking place on the third Sunday of the month, not the usual second Sunday. Revd Richard Andrew will be preaching.

For the Zoom code, which remains the same, please email prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk or direct message us on [Facebook](#).

COMMUNITY



Hope in NEC Annual Civic Prayer Breakfast -
Friday March 13th 8am to 9:30 am

Anybody wanting to receive an invitation to the Breakfast, hosted by Hope in North East Cheshire at St Michael's Church in Macclesfield Market Place should contact Steve Oliver on steve.oliver3@ntlworld.com or 07801 715572.

This year's speakers are from:

- East Cheshire Hospice
- Street Angels
- Macclesfield Police
- Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY)
- Friends of Park Lane Special School

It's always a wonderfully uplifting celebration of the caring community work that takes place in and around Macclesfield. All are welcome - advanced bookings only.

Supporters are asked to make a donation of £10 which includes a light breakfast.

The Hope Centre, Park Green, Macclesfield

Some information about new community groups running at The Hope Centre.

Everyone is welcome!

Why not pop in and see what's going on?

**THE HOPE CENTRE
WHAT'S ON:**

TUES	Dementia Music Café 14:00 PM - 15:30 PM
WEDS	Adult Colouring & Craft 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
THURS	Knitting 4 Charity 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
FRI	Chatty Café 14:00 PM - 15:30 PM

Coming soon... Digital Life Skills
For more details and updates, please visit our website or follow us on social media.
The Hope Centre, 16-18 Park Green, SK11 7NA
www.hopecentremacclesfield.co.uk
The Hope Centre
[thehopecentre_macclesfield](https://www.instagram.com/thehopecentre_macclesfield)



Recommended by
CLASSIC fm



Free Music Café for people living with dementia

Come and join the fun!

Every Tuesday
2pm - 3.30pm
During term times

Full schedule on
MusicInMind.org

 **The Hope Centre,**
Macclesfield, SK11 7NA



"A little piece of heaven in our week"

"We enjoy seeing mum enjoying herself... we never stop smiling"

"The sessions are full of playfulness, laughter, tears.. they are so inclusive and so much fun!"

- **Free to attend**
- **Make new friends**
- **Improve wellbeing and mood**
- **Help people with dementia to communicate and express themselves**

To attend and for more information on parking and accessibility, contact:
managerhopecentremacclesfield@gmail.com or 07553566070

The Hope Centre Community Hub
**ADULT COLOURING &
CRAFTS**

Every Wednesday

10:30am - 12pm

Free to attend when
purchasing from
The Well Café



The Hope Centre, 16-18 Park Green, Macclesfield | 01625 404384

Join us for...

Knitting 4 Charity!

...all abilities welcome!

WEEKLY, THURSDAYS 10:30AM - 12PM

**DIFFERENT PROJECTS EACH WEEK - ASK FOR DETAILS
SOME SUPPLIES PROVIDED, BUT PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN!**

£3 PER SESSION, INCLUDES A MUG OF TEA/COFFEE!



THE HOPE CENTRE, 16-18 PARK GREEN, SK11 7NA

01625 404384

BAME COMMUNITY MEETING

STRONGER TOGETHER

A Celebration of Diversity

Come and join us for a friendly, discussion about life in our community - celebrating our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) voices and working together for a stronger, safer and more connected Neighbourhood.

This is a great chance to meet people from all parts of the world, alongside local residents, community leaders and special guests.



**Date: Sunday 22nd March
3.30pm - 5.00pm**



**Tytherington School, Manchester Road,
Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2EE. Please register
attendance by email:
tim.roca.mp@parliament.uk**

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS



Tim Roca MP
*Member of Parliament for
Macclesfield*



Dan Price
*Police and Crime Commissioner
for Cheshire and Warrington*

*"Everyone is
welcome - bring your
friends, neighbours
and family to this
open and respectful
community
conversation."*

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- A warm welcome
- Updates on local issues, safety and opportunities
- A chance to share your ideas and experiences and meet people from our diverse community



Christian Aid

10-16 May 2026

Christian Aid Week

7 days to make a difference. This Christian Aid Week, what will you do?

Find out more at [Christian Aid Week 2026 | Christian Aid](#)



Methodist Women in Britain

MWIB Macclesfield circuit warmly invite you to join us on a coach going to Cliff Fest on **Monday 25th May**.

This coach will be free of charge and all are welcome young or old as there is something for everyone. Refreshments will be available there at own cost or you can take your own. There will be 2 pickup points Macclesfield Methodist and Poynton will be at a time to be advised.

IF you would like to join us ... then let us know preferably by text or email - contact ruth2013@btinternet.com / 07918176139

MWIB pudding party - Friday 29th May, 6pm

At Gawsorth Methodist church. All are welcome.

Ruth Gunning





Methodist Women in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women

The British Unit of the World



Prayer Diary

March to May 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.

Day 1	Methodist Women in Britain Cochairs: Leonora Wassell & Olive Ruzvidzo
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: Jenny Parnell
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 Ambassadors: Helen Cornick, Cynthia Bonds, Ruth Dawson, Margaret Dunn, Priscilla Samasuwo
Day 10	World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women
Day 11	Liverpool, Chester & Stoke, North Wales, Manchester & Stockport MWiB Area Trustee: Chris Thompson
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 and Manx Methodist Women
Day 17	Lincolnshire and East Anglia MWiB Area Trustee: Rita Rowe
Day 18	Cornwall and Plymouth & Exeter MWiB Area
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 Ambassadors: Elizabeth Colley, Jacky Woor, Hazel Jackson, Susan Eldridge, Gillian Womersley, Sue Smith
Day 22	Methodist Women in Britain Finance Officer: Sheila Hall
Day 23	Notts & Derby and Northampton MWiB Area Trustee: Menesia Chikazi
Day 24	MWiB Ambassadors: Diana Bosman, Linda King, Maggie Woods, Nina Rawlins, Alison Richardson, Pam Gidney
Day 25	MWiB Ambassadors: Ann Taylor, Janet Thompson, Margaret Johnson, Brenda Stuart-White, Di Smart
Day 26	Southampton and Channel Islands MWiB Area Trustee: Liz Chick
Day 27	MWiB Ambassadors: Judith Oldroyd, Delphine Gratrix, Pamela Stenson, Becca Wakelin
Day 28	MWiB Ambassadors: Gwenda Humphries, Susan Murrell, Naledi Phaladi, Viv Lowe, Sue Nickson, Alison Judd
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 & projects; Our incoming Trustees Izzy Salmon & Helen Cunningham

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer

15 th March	15th – Mothering Sunday; 16th – Lincolnshire District – Olive On this day in 2019, 51 people were killed in the Christchurch Mosque Shootings, leading to the United Nations naming it the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. Let's pray today for Muslims across the world who are unjustly targeted, & all who suffer under extremist regimes.
22 nd March	24th – Swanwick Task Group; 26th Webinar – Social Justice; 27th – Yorkshire NE District – Olive On this day in 1873, slavery was abolished in Puerto Rico. Let's pray for the people around the world who are enslaved, and we pray also for all those with power to help.
29 th March	On this Palm Sunday & Holy Week, let's pray for people who proclaim Christ with their mouths but don't believe in their hearts. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will work in them to bring them into a fresh love of Him, especially those people who have known Him but fallen away.
5 th April	Easter Sunday; 10th-12th – Swanwick Conference – Keynote speaker Carolyn Godfrey He is risen! Let's pray this Easter Sunday for people who face or live with death – soldiers, medics, carers, and people living in places of conflict. Let's pray that they will become deeply aware of the resurrection and the life, who is Christ, and have hope of new life.
12 th April	14th – Epworth Old Rectory Trustees meeting On this day in 1955, the polio vaccine was declared safe and effective. Let's give thanks for all the medical advancements that have come over the years, and for all the people who are working for better quality of life for people around the world. Let's also pray specifically for people who are suffering from preventable ailments, that relief will come to them.
19 th April	20th Exec Meeting; 25th – SW Peninsular District Day On this day in 2021, the <i>Ingenuity</i> became the first helicopter to achieve flight on another planet. Let's give thanks for scientists & innovators around the world, & pray especially for those minds that are motivated by compassion or justice.
26 th April	On this day in 1994, South Africa began its first multiracial election, which was later won by Nelson Mandela. Let's praise God for the amazing progress made over the last few hundred years to a world of equality, equity, and justice, and let's pray for all those people around the world who are subjected to racial inequality and bigotry.
3 rd May	On this day, the Great Fire of 1901 broke out in Jacksonville, Florida. Let's pray for all those people worldwide who are impacted by natural disasters, whether by poverty, crop failure, displacement, or injury. Let's also pray for the relief efforts, and for government assistance.
10 th May	11th Exec meeting with Trustees & Ambassadors; 12th -13th – Cornwall District Days Today in 1824, the National Gallery opened in London. Let's pray for artists around the world & give thanks for artistic expression. Let's pray that Christian artists can share the gospel through their art.
17 th May	On this day in 1994, Malawi held its first multi-party elections. Let's pray today for people living under dictatorships or oppressive regimes. Let's also pray for governments across the world to be enabled to serve and benefit their people, especially those on the margins.
24 th May	Pentecost Sunday; 28th Webinar – Immigration Today is both Pentecost & Aldersgate Day. Let's give thanks for the coming of the Spirit, both to the disciples in the upper room, & to John Wesley in 1738. Let's praise God that He dwells within us & enables us to live full, enriched, Christ-centred lives. Let's pray for all those people who don't have the Holy Spirit, that they will experience the resurrection life of Jesus.
31 st May	On this day in 1911, the <i>RMS Titanic</i> was launched in Belfast, only to sink a year later on its maiden voyage. Let's pray today for people who are traveling long distances to an uncertain destination, especially for refugees & other displaced or homeless people who don't know if they will survive the journey, or be received if they arrive.

EASTER SERVICES ACROSS THE CIRCUIT

Maundy Thursday

2.00pm at Poynton with Communion

7.00pm at Prestbury Tenabrae with Communion

Good Friday Services

9.30am at Langley

9.30am at Broken Cross

10.30am at Gawsworth

11.00am at Poynton

7.30pm Olivet to Calvary at Macclesfield



Easter Day

6.00am at Tegg's Nose - **Sunrise Service**

10.30am at Broken Cross – Rev F Bishop Communion Service

10.30am at Gawsworth – Rev S Bishop Communion Service

10.30am at Langley – Mrs R Gunning

10.30am at Macclesfield– Rev D Lucas Communion Service

10.30am at Poynton – Rev S Dallin Communion Service

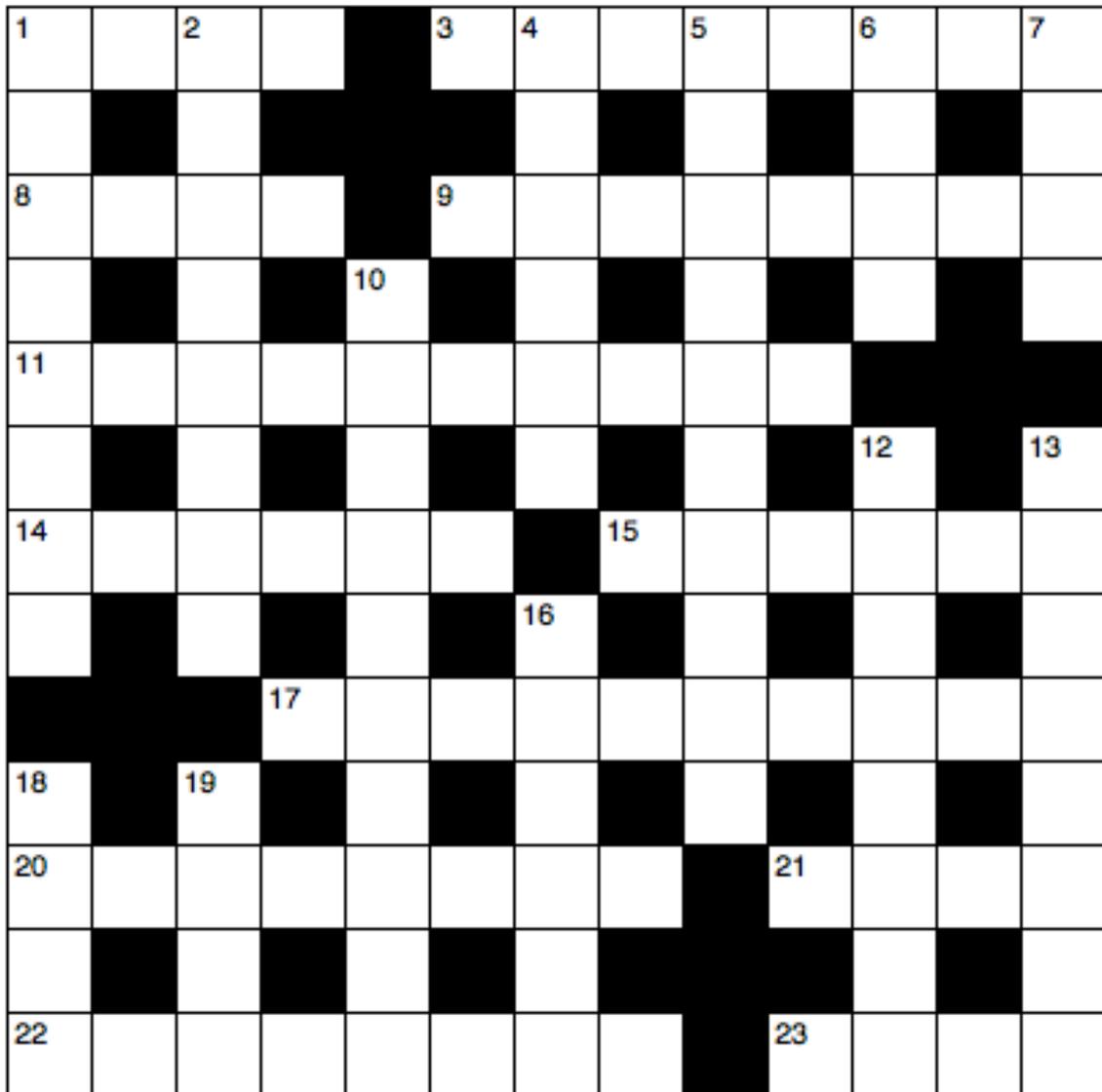
10.30am at Prestbury – Mrs M Hawkyard

26 April (Sun)

3.00pm MWiB Easter Offering Service at Gawsworth
followed by light refreshments



Just for fun



Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)

- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
23 Eye sore (4)

Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

Answers on the last page!

This quarter's services

2026	MARCH					APRIL				MAY				
	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
	LENT 2	LENT 3	LENT 4	LENT 5	PALM SUNDAY	EASTER DAY								TRINITY SUNDAY
READINGS:	Gen 12:1-4a, Rom 4:1-5, 13-17, Jn 3:1-17	Ex 17:1-7, Rom 5:1-11, Jn 4:5-42	1 Sam 16:1-13, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41	Ezek 37:1-14, Rom 8:6-11, Jn 11:1-45	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29, Mt 21:1-11	Acts 10:34-43, Col 3:1-4, Jn 20:1-18	Acts 2:14a, 22-32, 1 Pet 1:3-9, Jn 20:19-31	Acts 2:14a, 36-41, 1 Pet 1:17-23, Lk 24:13-35	Acts 2:42-47, 1 Pet 2:19-25, Jn 10:1-10	Acts 7:55-60, 1 Pet 2:2-10, Jn 14:1-14	Acts 17:22-31, 1 Pet 3:12-22, Jn 14:15-21	Acts 1:6-14, 1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11, Jn 17:1-11	Acts 2:1-21, 1 Cor 12:3b-13, Jn 20:19-23	Gen 1:1-2:4a, 2 Cor 13:11-13, Mt 28:16-20
BROKEN CROSS 10.30	Bradley	CCT	S Bishop	Dallin HC	Baker	F Bishop HC	CCT	Lucas	Dallin HC	G Dallin	CCT	Morrell	OA	Dallin HC
GAWSWORTH 10.30 15.00	Lucas P	CCT	Ward T	Davies	F Bishop	S Bishop HC	CCT	Heap		Lucas HC CA	CCT	Oliver P	Cohen	S Bishop
LANGLEY 10.30	Morrell T	CCT	OA	Baker	Lucas HC	Gunning	CCT	Oliver	Lucas HC	Davies	CCT	Foster CA	Lucas HC	Wakelin
MACCLESFIELD 9.00 10.30 18:00	OA Bf Rashleigh	CCT	Lucas AAW	Gunning	Oliver	Lucas HC	Lucas	Beesley AAW	Morrell T	F Bishop HC T	CCT	Lucas AAW B	OA	Lucas
POYNTON 9.30 10.30 14.30	OA Bf Dallin HC CA	Dallin/Lucas	Hawkyard Tonge	Rashleigh	G Dallin	Dallin HC	CCT	Bradley Dallin HC	OA	OA Bf Dallin HC	Dallin/Lucas MFT	Gunning Ward T	S Bishop	Hawkyard
PRESTBURY 10.30	G Dallin	CCT	Dallin	Lucas	Dallin HC	Hawkyard	CCT	Rashleigh	Wakelin	S Bishop	CCT	Dallin HC	OA	F Bishop
WOODLANDS MHA 14.00					St Georges	Rashleigh			Rashleigh					Rashleigh
ZOOM 18.30		District					District				District			
PRAYER CYCLE:	Broken Cross	Gawsw'th	MFT	Langley	Poynton	Woodlands	Macclesf'd	Prestbury	Broken Cross	Gawsw'th	MFT	Langley	Poynton	Woodl'ds

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; **MFT** Methodist Families Together; **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

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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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Sty. DOWN: 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.