



# Newsletter

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FEBRUARY 2025

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Hazel Grove Methodist Church



#### Christmas Day Party

A few weeks before Christmas a trusty group of festive volunteers met to discuss the Christmas Day party and optimistically agreed that they had all the skills necessary to organise the party and feed the five thousand. In accordance with tradition it was planned for 25th December and invitations went out to the community in Hazel Grove and beyond.

Organising, what is a big undertaking, went like clockwork thanks to the dedication of the carefully selected team, and by Christmas Eve all the tables were set in their festive attire, the traditional menu was in hand (and in cooking dishes and pans) and all was ready for the sixty guests. No snow on “The Day” which was probably a good thing, and all went well with wonderful food, crackers that cracked, presents presented to attendees and an atmosphere that reflected the true spirit of Christmas

Enormous thanks must go to all the helpers who put all the pieces of the jigsaw together; it seemed like one of those one thousand piece jigsaws but with no missing pieces.

There are too many people to mention in dispatches, but perhaps a special call out should go to the cooks who took on the huge responsibility for the magnificent spread. Truly a special event by a special group of people for a special day in our calendar.

**Richard Lewis**

### Offerton Methodist Choir - And St Ann's Hospice

Sadly the choir performed its last concert in December after thirty eight years under the leadership of Lynda Huston. At the beginning of January some members of the choir went to St. Ann's Hospice in order to hand to them the cheque from the final concert, which brought the total donated last year to £5,552 00 topping the amount of £5,100 raised for St Ann's in 2023. Along with another donation made on behalf of the choir, the fundraising for St. Ann's Hospice over the past two years was £10,852-78.



Congratulations to the choir for its magnificent fundraising over so many years and so sad that it has performed its final concert. Its wonderful concerts and its fundraising will be sadly missed.

### Davenport Methodist Church

An early Sunday morning prayer meeting commenced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This meeting will continue every first Sunday of the month at 10:00am for 15 minutes. All are welcome to join us.

As shared in the last newsletter the large television screen has been installed and also a smaller screen for the pulpit. Plans are now afoot for another TV and hopefully a laptop.

## **Romiley Methodist Church**

We had some very good Joint Services with Woodley Methodist Church over the Christmas season, including a Carol Service (with the churches' combined choirs), a Christmas Eve Communion, and a Christmas Morning Service. We were very sorry to say farewell to the Rev Cathy Bird, who had been our Minister for just a few months, but had worked with full commitment to our Church; she made a big impact in a short time. We are very glad now to have the Rev Dr Raj Patta and JoAnne Roy looking after us until September..

## **Dialstone Lane Methodist Church**

Dialstone Lane Church has an insatiable appetite for suitcases to help residents of the Britannia Hotel both when they are required to move on, and to store their clothing and belongings in their rooms. In the past The Britannia provided mainly short stays for guests, so the rooms offer little in the way of wardrobe or cupboard or drawer space. Imagine the difficulties for a family or 2 strangers in one room, living there for months on end.

If you are able to help with any bags or suitcases, please contact Andy or Catriona Stoker on 0161 487 2010 or [cat.stoker@btinternet.com](mailto:cat.stoker@btinternet.com)

Many thanks!

## **Heaton Moor United Church**

Like many churches across the circuit, we are offering a warm space, which we call The Living Lounge, each Monday from 12:00 until 15:00. In partnership with Community Post CIC and the community fridge initiative we have been offering Lunch at The Living Lounge throughout January. The lunch provided is food that would otherwise have gone to waste and so far we have enjoyed M&S sandwiches, sweet treats, quiche and even salmon! From February we will be developing Living Well at The Living Lounge offering the opportunity to take part in events and activities to help us live well. The lunches have been so popular we may continue them too!

If you'd like to know more about the community fridge initiative visit [Community Fridge Network - Hubbub](#)

## **Windlehurst Methodist Church**

We are currently collecting for Woodstreet Mission, towels and bedding, plus for the first time, good quality second-hand baby clothes together with the usual children's clothes to age 16. Your items can be handed in any Thurs 9.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m.at Windlehurst Church before being collected on Tuesday 18th February

## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Circuit



The circuit service in March will be a Taizé service. Rather than one church providing the food for this service we have decided to have a ‘bring and share’. If you are able to, please bring a dish of your choice to share with others before the service.

## 3Generate

We are hoping to take a group of young people to 3Generate this year. This year 3Generate will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October at the NEC Birmingham.

3Generate is an event for children and **young people aged 4-18** and includes various activities, workshops, and worship sessions designed to help young people explore their faith, develop leadership skills, and make a positive impact in their communities.

If you know of any children and young people within your church that may be interested in attending please contact Rev Katie Smith or Deacon Judith Laycock for details.

More information about the weekend can be found at [this link](#).

### Woodley Methodist Church



Starting on Sunday 9th February we will be continuing the conversations that were started during the 321 course. We will ask some big questions like “Is faith reasonable?” and “Isn’t the church full of hypocrites?” as well as exploring what faith means to us today.

You do not need to have been before to enjoy these conversations.

Join us at Woodley Methodist Church

Second Sunday of the month, 7pm to 8:30pm

# Funday Mondays

Woodley Methodist Church invites you to our monthly fun times exploring seasonal topics and bible stories.

These are open for all ages from the very young to the not so very young - all are welcome.

There will be a time to meet people, have a snack and a drink, to play, to chat, and to craft, all with the topic in mind.

There is no charge for these events - we would just love you to come and join us.

Where - Woodley Methodist Church

When - February 17<sup>th</sup> from 3.15 to 5pm

For more information contact our minister, Katie Smith, on revkatiesmith@gmail.com or 0161 430 2964

## Hazel Grove Methodist Church

### Chatty Café

From Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February we are starting a joint venture with the United Reformed Church at the URC's Short Street Site - providing a warm space each Wednesday from 10.00am - noon with tea/coffee and light snacks - toast, teacakes etc for the local community and anyone who would like to call in for a brew and a chat.



**Hazel Grove Methodist Church**  
Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, SK7 4JQ

**Winter Warmer**

**Soup and Sweet Lunch**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
12 noon

All one level from rear door  
Tickets £7

Ring Doreen  
0161 483 2857

## **Heaton Mersey Methodist Church**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February monthly communion, 30-minute service at 14:00 followed by refreshments and time to chat.

## **Marple Methodist Church**

We are looking forward to Judith Laycock's ordination. Prior to the ordination service her Testimony will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May at Marple Methodist Church, time TBC.

The ordination service will take place in Telford on 29<sup>th</sup> June, information regarding tickets and the live stream will be advertised in future newsletters.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Hazel Grove Methodist Church

#### Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship meets on alternate Thursday afternoons in the church building from 2pm - 4pm. Old and new members welcome as we begin a new year. Come along and enjoy fellowship and fun and, of course, a cuppa!

Our next meeting is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00pm in the church building.



#### Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter meets on alternate Wednesdays at 10.00am in the coffee lounge. Everyone is very welcome - to knit, to natter and enjoy a cuppa. The Group Knits all kinds of things, knee blankets for local care homes, hats for premature babies, vests for newborns abroad, Easter chicks for Francis House - anything for wherever there's a need. The next meeting is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, then 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### Davenport Methodist Church



#### Craft Club

1st Wednesday of every month 14.00 - 16.00.

£3.00 per session includes refreshments.

An opportunity to learn a new skill, or share a skill you already have.

Come along to a session to find out more.

#### Thursday Drop In

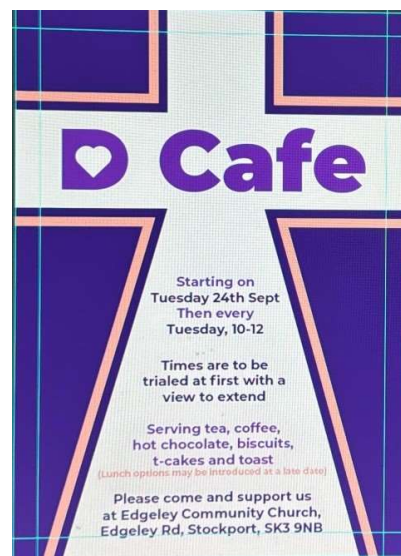
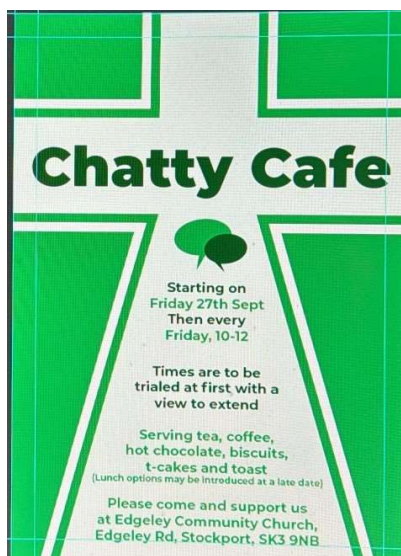
Every Thursday 1pm - 3pm everyone welcome.

Come along and share in refreshments and a chat, plus sometimes this includes a quiz.

### Edgeley Community Church

Craft group (bring your own)

Monday 1-3pm - £3 drink & biscuits





## Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

### Tuesday afternoon Fellowship

We have a small group who meet every Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 3pm for Bible study and discussion, followed by a time of prayer from 3.10pm. The group is open to everyone who would like to take part.

### Chatterbox and Craft

Chatterbox and Craft meets every Monday (except Bank Holidays). Drop in any time between 1 and 3pm to knit, sew, paint, draw, play music or whatever you would normally do at home alone. Or just come along for a good chat.

### Monthly Communion

The 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month at 14:00. Thirty-minute communion service followed by refreshments and time to chat.

## Heaton Moor United Church

### Dementia Friendly Heatons

**Dementia Friendly Heatons** takes place every Friday (except August and Christmas!) from 13:30 until 15:30

The group is for those with a dementia diagnosis and their carers. We aim to promote a dementia-friendly community by providing a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment that enables friendly social interaction in a relaxed atmosphere. We are a musical group who enjoy singing and dancing and have a weekly chair exercise class.

If you would like more information on the group please contact JoAnne on 07340 269 354 or [dementiafriendlyheatons@gmail.com](mailto:dementiafriendlyheatons@gmail.com)

**Monday Fellowship** - fortnightly gatherings of fun and fellowship Monday evenings from 19:45. See [www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk) calendar for next date.

## Marple Methodist Church

**The Seed Café** every Thursday and Friday

**Lydia's Place** - craft group every other Thursday

## Romiley Methodist Church

**“Music for Pleasure”** on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when Brian Tipler will talk about music from “Across the Pond.” This will be followed with a cuppa and a posh biscuit - all welcome!



**Our Saturday Afternoon Filmshow on 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2 p.m.** will be the 2019 Christian-genre true-life drama “**BREAKTHROUGH,**” which tells the story of John Smith, a 14-year-old lad from Guatemala, being raised by his adoptive parents, Brian and Joyce, in Lake St Louis, Missouri. They are loving, Christian folk, but John is rebellious at home and at school, and on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015, he and his two teenage friends ignore warnings not to go onto a frozen lake, and fall through when the ice breaks. His companions swim to the surface and are rescued, but the first responders who dive in fail to find John. But firefighter Tommy Shine hears a voice telling him to go back, tries again, finds John, and brings him out (15 minutes after he fell in). In hospital, not breathing, and with no pulse, an emergency team tries to revive him, but after 45 minutes in total, there is no sign of life. His Mum is brought in to say goodbye to him, and holds him in her arms, praying and pleading with God to not let him die. And at that point, something extraordinary happens...

***It's a film about faith, hope, love, family relationships, pride getting in the way of progress, and not giving up.***

***Entry by donation, with complimentary tea and cake during the interval. All welcome!***

## **Windlehurst**

**Active at Windlehurst**, a dedicated group for people with learning disabilities. Local history, drama, healthy eating and exercise.

Meet during term time every Thursday from 9:00 - 15:00, for more information contact Val Rowlands on 0161 427 6807

## **CAMEOS (Come And Meet Each Other & Sing)**

Friendship, refreshments and a jolly good sing! All are welcome. We meet the first Wednesday of every month - there will be no meeting in January but will resume again on 5<sup>th</sup> February, from 13:45 for a prompt start at 14:00.

## **Woodley Methodist Church**

**Thrift Shop and Café** open every Wednesday and Saturday 9.30am to 12noon

Bargains for all, come and have a browse!



**Musical Memories** are a group who have always loved playing music and singing together. We started Musical Memories in order to create social singing sessions to help bring people of all ages together for the simple pleasure of singing, talking, remembering and enjoying each others company - not to mention the cuppa and biscuits!

Studies into singing sessions for older people have shown that singing together can boost levels of immunity, reduce stress, and improve mood and memory leading to a positive impact on overall health and well-being

We meet on the last Friday of the month in the Church Hall and we “Welcome those with or without Dementia”

**Dates for 2025 are:**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February -

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March -

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Cancelled - Holy Week

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November

26<sup>th</sup> December - **NO MEETING - HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

If you would like to join us or know more about the group please go to the Woodley Methodist Church Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/WoodleyMethodists> or telephone Phil on **0161 430 8518**

## EXTERNAL NEWS



**NORTH WEST ENGLAND**  
METHODIST DISTRICT

The District has a weekly newsletter which you can sign up to via the District website. The District website is now live and can be accessed at <https://nwedmethodists.org.uk>. Please contact the

District with your feedback - they would love to know your thoughts!

Send feedback to [admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk).

## Events from across the District

**Threads through the Bible** is a breath-taking culmination of ten years' dedication and passion, showcasing three extraordinary exhibitions: Threads through Creation, Threads through the Cross, and Threads through Revelation. Across a stunning display of 38 silk panels, stretching 80 meters and featuring over 25 million intricate stitches, this exhibit is a visual storytelling masterpiece.

The exhibition is at **Liverpool Cathedral** from **16th January to 3rd March**. Admission is **free** and it is open daily from **10am - 6pm**.

**Helping Churches to be Accessible, with Dignity - an event for all churches and circuits in the District.** Join us for an insightful online event on making churches more accessible for disabled people and their families. Dr Gregory Burke, Founder of AccessAble, will share why detailed access guides matter and how they can help break barriers. Don't miss this opportunity to promote inclusion in your church— [register now by clicking here!](#) 25th February 7-8pm on Zoom. For any questions, please contact Stephanie [rouxs@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:rouxs@nwedmethodists.org.uk)

## Update from Christian Aid:

Hello, my name is Zoë Abernethy and I am Christian Aid's Church Engagement Fundraising Officer for Gr. Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. For 80 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice. We believe poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together, with supporters and partners, we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

My role is to inspire churches and individuals across the North West to be agents of change with Christian Aid, to overcome poverty. If you have a passion to expose poverty throughout the world, to help in practical ways to end it, and to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalized, then I would love to hear from you to talk about ways in which you can be involved. Your contribution makes a difference no matter how small. You can discover ways in which you can be involved here or give me an email directly on [zabernethy@christian-aid.org](mailto:zabernethy@christian-aid.org) - I would love to hear from you!

Thu 20th Feb  
10am - 12pm



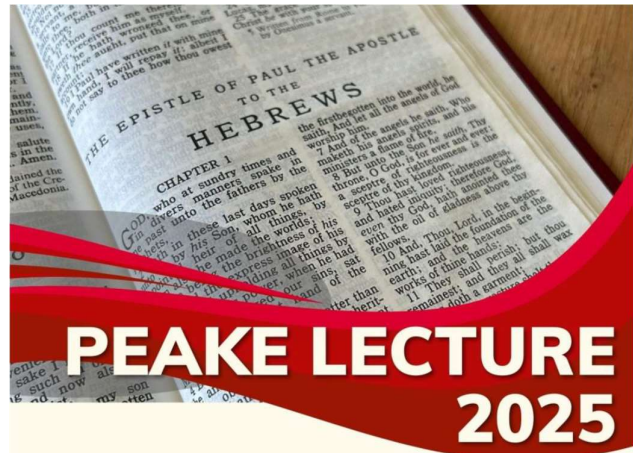
# Sashiko

## Drop-in stitching workshop

Join us for some mindful stitching as we take part in a collaborative artwork for GM Mental Health

All collaborative materials provided - if you would like to stitch any additional personal items please make a small donation

Chapel in the Fields - Sinderland Lane - Dunham Massey - WA14 5SS



# PEAKE LECTURE 2025

All are welcome to attend this year's  
Peake Lecture:

## “Sacrifice and Salvation: Reading Hebrews Today”

Saturday 22nd March, 9.30 am - 4.00 pm

The Nazarene Theological College,  
Didsbury, Manchester M20 2GU

Presented by Professors Loveday Alexander and Philip Alexander

Sign up using the booking link below:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1226397190009?aff=oddtcreator>