

Newsletter

MAY 2025

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Easter Sunday Around the Circuit

We hope you all had a joyful Easter celebrating the resurrection of Christ our Saviour. Here are a few photographs of beautiful Easter crosses from around the circuit.



Windlehurst Methodist Church



The Ridge Methodist Church



Woodley Methodist Church



At Dialstone Lane Methodist Church, during Lent, pieces of rubbish were left at the foot of the cross. These were then transformed by members of the asylum seekers' welcome group to decorate the cross with flowers.

Hong Kong Fellowship

Bianca, one of the members of the Hong Kong Fellowship, recently completed a theology course at Cliff College. She has written a reflection on the course which she would like to share:

As I finish up a course on *'Integrating Theology and Practice'*, I wanted to share some key reflections with you. This course has been a reminder that theological reflection is not just about learning more about God, but about allowing what we believe to shape how we live our lives, every day. It's about ensuring that our thoughts, words, and actions align with the God we encounter through Jesus.

So, how can we make this a part of our lives?

1. **Draw from Many Sources:** Our faith is shaped by many things—scripture, tradition, personal experiences, and the wisdom of others. By taking all of this into account, we can better understand God's will for us.
2. **Set Aside Time for Reflection:** In the busy pace of life, it's easy to forget to pause and reflect on God's grace. Taking the time to think about how God is working in our lives helps us connect more deeply with Him.
3. **Talk to One Another:** Reflection is not something we do alone. Engaging in conversations with others helps us grow in understanding and opens our hearts to new insights about our faith.
4. **Practice Regularly:** The more we reflect on our faith, the better we become at it. Journaling, prayer, and reading the Bible are great ways to practice and grow in this.
5. **Be Open to Change:** The goal of reflecting on our faith is to allow God to transform us. Let's stay open to God shaping our hearts and minds in ways we may not expect.

Though we didn't all take part in this course together, I hope these reflections can help us all continue growing in our faith. As we seek to live out what we believe, let's remember that every part of our lives can be an opportunity to reflect God's love and grace.

Thank you for being part of this journey with me. Let's continue to walk together, trusting that God will guide and transform us as we seek to live out our faith.

With love and blessings,

Bianca

Windlehurst Methodist Church

Active at Windlehurst Coffee Morning

On April 3rd Active hosted a very successful coffee morning in aid of church funds. Members and volunteers helped on the stalls, the tombola, raffle and they also acted as waiters along with our Minister Rev Mike Aspinall. A quiz was held about our members, helping to introduce them to the large number of guests from the local community.



It was a busy and happy morning, much enjoyed by all who helped or attended.

Active will be seventeen years old on May 1st, seventeen years of outreach from Windlehurst M.C., seventeen years of love and friendship.

Windlehurst Methodist Church's latest appeal for **Wood Street Mission**. Items can be handed in at Windlehurst any Sunday or Thursday 8th and 15th May. We are looking for:

- > New and great quality second hand clothes and shoes for children aged 2-16.
- > New children's underwear and socks for ages 2-16.
- > New Stationery, School bags/rucksacks, Lunch bags/boxes.
- > New and great quality second hand children's books.
- > New soft toys.
- > Clean and fully working Safety Gates, High Chairs, Prams and Buggies
- > Cots, Cot Beds and Toddler Beds, Moses Baskets, Moses Basket Stands.
- > New Moses basket mattresses.
- > New or great quality Second hand School uniform.
- > New Nappies (unopened), New Toiletries (unopened).
- > New Bedding.
- > New and great quality second hand towels.

Baby equipment must be from a pet free and smoke free home.

Marple Methodist Church

Judith Laycock's ordination will take place on 29th June as part of this year's Methodist Conference. The service will take place at 4pm at St Andrew's Church, Shifnal.

Please see the link below for details of the church and how to book tickets for the service.

Tickets must be booked to attend the ordination service.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2025/ordination-services/>

The service will also be livestreamed, details of this will be released nearer the time.

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Many thanks for all the suitcases which have flowed through our hands to the local hotel. They are much appreciated, and our appeal for them is ongoing as people we have donated to move on and newcomers arrive. There is also a need for pushchairs and double buggies, not everyday, but on a regular basis and the health visitors working from the hotel greatly value having some in store.

If you can help with either suitcases or pushchairs, please get in touch with Andy or Catriona Stoker, Tel 0161 487 2010 and we can arrange pick-up from you or delivery to us times

Tiviot Dale Methodist Church

Community Café at Tiviot Dale would like to appeal for donations of the following items:

- shower gel, particularly male,
- roll on deodorants, particularly male,
- baby wipes,
- tinned carrots,
- blackcurrant squash

These items can be dropped off at Tiviot Dale during the café on Thursday afternoons or email admin@stockportcircuit.org.uk to enquire about alternative drop-off times.

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Circuit

Pentecost Picnic

Join us to celebrate Pentecost at this family event!

We are holding a Pentecost Picnic on Sunday 8th June at Abney Scout and Guide centre in Cheadle (Postcode: SK8 2PD).

The event will begin at 12noon and will conclude with a worship at 2pm.

You are invited to bring your own picnic and chairs/rugs to the event. There will be plenty of activities to enjoy including, games, crafts and a fire pit.



Pentecost Picnic



Bring your own picnic and chairs/rugs.

Event concluding with a

Activities include games, crafts and a fire pit.

Worship at 2pm

Please click the following link for details about parking, etc.

[United Stockport Circuit | Pentecost Picnic](#)

We will require a number of volunteers to help us put on this wonderful event. If you would be able to help on the day please contact:

Jenny Thrall (Circuit Administrator) admin@stockportcircuit.org.uk or

JoAnne Roy community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

Please note: This event will be the circuit service for June.

3Generate

We are hoping to take a group of young people to 3Generate this year. This year 3Generate will be held on **3rd-5th 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](#).

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Christian Aid Plant Stall Sat 17th May 10am - 4pm. There has been a successful plant stall to raise for funds for Christian Aid for the last 4 years at Dialstone Lane. This year it will be at the end of Christian Aid Week, there will also be light refreshments available. If you have seeds you might plant or cuttings to take we would be grateful for any spare plants you produce. Expert advice on plants also available at the Church. Please put the date in your diary."

Romiley Methodist Church

AFTERNOON TEA FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: On Saturday, 17th May in our Schoolroom building at Romiley, we are having a special Afternoon Tea (2 p.m. till 4.30) to support Christian Aid. You are welcome to come and enjoy scones with three choices of jam, and clotted cream, (you may choose whether to put the jam on top of the cream, or do it the proper way!), together with a cup (or two) of tea or coffee. In return, we will hope that you will give generously to Christian Aid in the envelopes provided (and gift aid your contribution if you wish). *All welcome!*

Heaton Moor United Church

In collaboration with Mind (Stockport & District) and Camerate Orchestra Heaton Moor United Church are pleased to announce they are beginning a **Dementia Music Café** from May 2025.

The Dementia Music Café will take place weekly on a Tuesday afternoon.

We are seeking 6-8 music champion volunteers to help with this exciting venture.

If you are interested in finding out more about being a music champion (no musical experience required) please speak with JoAnne on 07340 269 354 or at

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

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. Come along and enjoy fellowship and fun and, of course, a cuppa!



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.

Chatty Café

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.

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 2pm - 4pm everyone welcome. **Please note the change in time!**

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

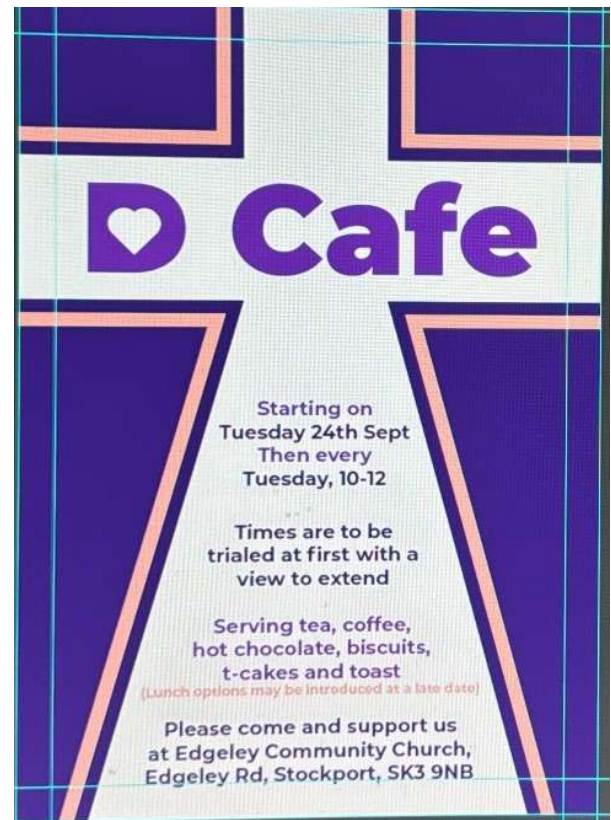
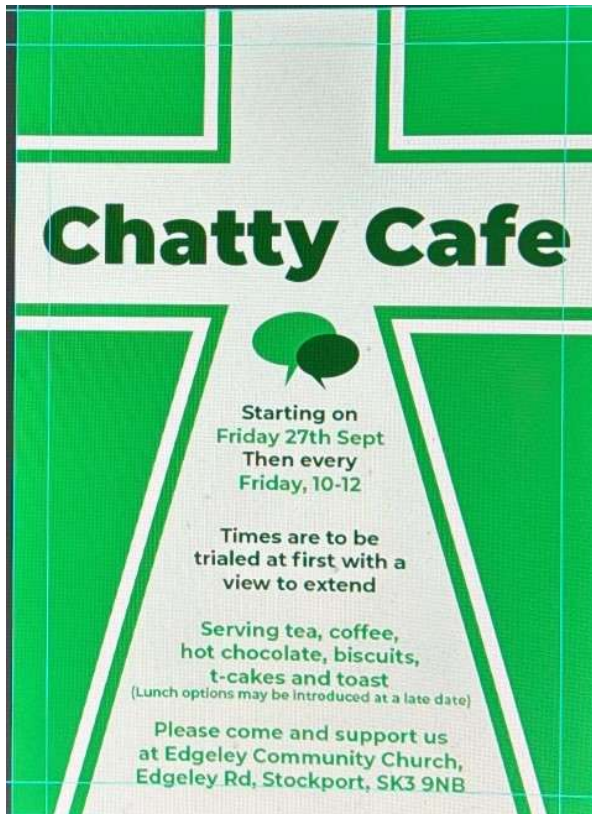
Prayer Meeting

Every first Sunday of the month at 10:00am for 15 minutes. All are welcome to join us.

Edgeley Community Church

Craft group (bring your own)

Monday 1-3pm - £3 drink & biscuits



Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Dialietots takes place on Mondays during termtime from 9.30 -11.30am.

Come along with your baby or toddler for time to play, enjoy a brew and some toast and finish with a singsong to kick the week off. No need to book. Just come round to the back of the church building for access.

3Ms (the Monthly Monday Meeting) is held on the second Monday of the month at 2pm.

A social group which starts with a short quiz, has a speaker or other activity and finishes with refreshments. Open to all.

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

This month's communion will take place on Friday 23rd May at 2pm. This thirty-minute communion service is a lovely opportunity to meet for a short thoughtful service and is 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

Monday Fellowship - fortnightly gatherings of fun and fellowship Monday evenings from 19:45. See www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk calendar for next date.

Romiley Methodist Church

“**Music for Pleasure**” on Thursday 15th May is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when Charles Hamilton will present a programme of music in sound and video with a distinctly Scottish flavour, entitled “**Island Hopping.**” This will be followed with a cuppa and a posh biscuit - all welcome!

Our Saturday Afternoon Filmshow on 7th June at 2 p.m. will be the 1985 epic romantic drama “**OUT OF AFRICA**” which won 7 Academy Awards, including Best Picture. It tells the story of the aristocratic Karen (played by Meryl Streep) who in 1913 moves from Denmark to Kenya to join and marry Baron Bror Blixen (Klaus Maria Brandauer) and set up a dairy farm; Bror instead spends their money on a coffee plantation, and is unfaithful to Karen - who then is attracted rather passionately to free-spirited, handsome hunter Denys (aptly played by Robert Redford). However, the simplistic lifestyle of Denys and the aristocratic background of Karen don’t make for a straightforward romance. Though “Out of Africa” is in the words of one critic “an old-fashioned, intelligent, thoughtful love-story” (Roger Ebert), it is also a homage to Africa itself, its landscapes and its peoples. This is a chance to see it, on a big screen. Entry by donation, with complimentary tea and cake during the interval. All welcome!

Marple Methodist Church

The Seed Café every Thursday and Friday

Lydia’s Place - craft group every other Thursday

Windlehurst Methodist Church

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 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!

ARE YOU A KNITTER? Why not come and join our **Knit & Natter group**. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month (March to October) at Woodley Methodist Church at 10.00 till 11.30. You would be very welcome.

We are knitting various items for the Teams4U shoeboxes which we organise and send each year in November. Wool, needles and patterns provided.



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 30th May
Friday 27th June
Friday 25th July
Friday 29th August
Friday 26th September

Friday 31st October
Friday 28th November
26th 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**

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 - 19th May from 3.15 to 5pm

For more information contact our minister, Katie Smith.

EXTERNAL NEWS



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.

Events from across the District

District Online Worship - Sunday 11th May at 6.30pm

Our next District Online Worship will take place on Sunday 11th May at 6:30pm - at the start of Christian Aid Week.

This month our speaker is Zoe Abernethy, a Christian Aid Church Engagement Officer in the North West.

The Zoom link can be accessed [here](#).

Meeting ID: 979 2312 5645

Passcode: 543701

The flyer for the "Youth Essentials" Youth Ministry training course. It features the logos of The Methodist Church and the North West England Methodist District. The text describes the course as an exciting opportunity to equip and strengthen those working with young people. It lists the location as St Johns Methodist Church in Bolton and provides dates for sessions 1-3 (Saturday 7th June 2025) and sessions 4-10 (Zoom sessions on Wednesdays from June 11th to July 9th, and a final session on Saturday 12th July). Contact information for reservations is provided at the bottom.

The Methodist Church  

“Youth Essentials”
Youth Ministry training course

An exciting course to equip and strengthen anyone working with/ministering to young people in churches and community projects.

 St Johns Methodist Church
Victoria Road, Horwich, Bolton BL6 5P
Saturday 7th June 2025 10am-4pm (Sessions 1-3)

Followed by 5 weekly sessions on Zoom

- Wednesday 11th June 7pm-9pm (Session 4)
- Wednesday 18th June 7pm-9pm (Session 5)
- Wednesday 25th June 7pm-9pm (Session 6)
- Wednesday 2nd July 7pm-9pm (Session 7)
- Wednesday 9th July 7pm-9pm (Session 8)



& Saturday 12th July 10am-4pm (Sessions 9 and 10)
@Tebay Methodist Church 1 Woodend Cottages,
Tebay, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3XB

For further information and to reserve a place
Please contact:
cyp.boltonmethodistchurches@outlook.com

This Christian Aid Week (May 11-17) people from all over the UK are once again coming together in solidarity and hope to take a stand against poverty and injustice. All kinds of fundraising activities will take place - from coffee mornings and craft stalls, to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge, because supporters know every gift, act and prayer makes a difference.

The focus of the appeal this year is Guatemala. In the indigenous farming communities of the Alta Verapaz region, livelihoods, traditions and people’s survival are threatened by deadly droughts, savage storms and industrial plantations. Guatemala is among 10 countries in the world rated most vulnerable to disasters and climate emergencies and is a hunger hot spot where parents are struggling to feed their children enough nutritious food.