

# Newsletter

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AUGUST 2025

News from around the circuit	page	2
Upcoming events	page	6
Regular activities	page	7
External news	page	13

### Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

#### A National Event for Methodists who speak Farsi

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, Andy and Catriona Stoker went to Manchester Methodist Central Hall with a total of ten of the people we've got to know at Dialstone Lane from The Britannia. Some have been moved to dispersed accommodation or indeed received their Right to Remain in the UK and moved onto rented accommodation in Greater Manchester and they made their own way; others travelled with us on the bus. Other people came from Hull, Sheffield and the West Midlands. It was wonderful to see their response to meeting others able to offer fluent interpretation between English and Farsi, so that all could participate.

Afsaneh has written a piece about the day for us:

“Last Saturday (June 21<sup>st</sup>), we, the new Christian converts of the Methodist faith, gathered at the Central Hall in Manchester. Each of us shared how we came to know Christ and the challenges and difficulties—both personal and social—we faced on this journey of faith. We shared these experiences with one another and with the respected members of the Methodist Church, and we spoke about our faith journeys.

This meeting was a wonderful opportunity to connect, exchange new ideas, and support one another in our spiritual lives. We are truly grateful for this chance to learn more about the Methodist Church in the UK and to discover how our faith is shaping our lives in this country. We are also very thankful to the members of the Methodist Church who spoke to us, listened to our stories, answered our questions with patience and kindness, and lovingly guided and supported us on this path. Events like this are truly encouraging, and we hope that more gatherings like this will be held in the future.”

**Fairtrade Fortnight:** A reminder to Churches that Fairtrade Fortnight this year will follow the new pattern set last year by the Fairtrade Foundation of an early autumn event. The dates this year are from September 22nd to October 5th, so look out in the shops and elsewhere for special Fairtrade promotions and events.

The Stockport Fairtrade Group, which I belong to, would be interested in your views about this change from the last week in February and the first week of March as it was previously. I must admit to some misgivings amongst us as we try to work with schools, who are just starting their new school years in September, and also Churches, who often hold Harvest celebrations around this time. Catriona Stoker; [cat.stoker@btinternet.com](mailto:cat.stoker@btinternet.com)



**FAIRTRADE**  
FOUNDATION

**Welcome Group:** Although our only meeting during the school holidays will be for an outdoor session, complete with firepit, we are still keen to accept your donations of clothing and suitcases. The suitcases are useful, not only for people moving on, but also for storage. We need clothing for children of all ages, women and men; ideally waterproof coats, trainers, T-shirts, hoodies, jogging bottoms and jeans and new underwear, but other items are welcome too. We've found that umbrellas are very popular, especially for parents walking their children to and from school in typical north west weather. Something of particular use in our English conversation sessions have been picture dictionaries, which if you or your families happen to be parting with, we would be grateful to receive.



Please contact Andy or Catriona Stoker if you want items picked up - or to deliver them. Andy Stoker - [andy.stoker@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.stoker@btinternet.com),  
Catriona Stoker - [cat.stoker@btinternet.com](mailto:cat.stoker@btinternet.com); 07798881537

## Windlehurst Methodist Church

**Wood Street Mission News:** 'This year, our **Smart Start Campaign** celebrates its **10th anniversary** - a whole decade of helping children across Greater Manchester and Salford start the school year with confidence and dignity.'

We have had a great response to this appeal from church members and the wider, local community Thank you! 🙌

There will be no donations accepted during August, but we shall let you know in September the items WSM require!

For more information see Wood Street Mission's website:

<https://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk/>

## Romiley Methodist Church

On Friday, 18th July, we had a visit from the Stockport Male Voice Choir to present a very entertaining and enjoyable Concert for a Summer Evening (and it was rather warm that day!) - some lovely music, and great solos for voices and on the piano. We're pleased that the Choir will be coming again to give an Afternoon Concert of Christmas Music Thursday, 18th December, at 2 o'clock.



## Electronic Giving at Heaton Moor United Church

I have been asked about the card reader being used at Heaton Moor United Church by several people recently. So, I thought it would be good to share with the whole circuit how we are getting on with it. I have included the links for the sites I use, if you click on the names of the apps, it will take you to the relevant site.

The card reader we use was brought from [CollecTin](#). It is a stand with a card reader and sum up machine encased in it.

It cost £380.00 to purchase, plus a fee of £9.73 a month.

The money is collected via the [Givealittle](#) app. They process the money via [SumUp](#).

[Givealittle](#) is free up to £1000.00 a year of donations, it is £7.50 + vat for donations over this. This fee also gives additional options to create more than 1 campaign and detailed reports. You don't need to have a charity number to register with [Givealittle](#), you can register using the charity exceptions letter for churches provided by the Methodist Church (I have a copy). It is a 1.69% handling fee for each transaction, I did a lot of research before purchasing it and this seems to be the best value for money.

Since November 2024, we have taken £1,869.08 on the machine, transaction fees have been £31.58, with an average transaction value of £5.32.

The main campaign has been General Offering, an average of £9.04 has been collected for this campaign. The main day for donations being Sunday. Followed by 'Moor Than Play' (Toddler group) it is used to collect the subs for the group.

We have also used it when we have charity events. The machine is left in a prominent place and I have noticed that we get do get donations, on other days besides Sundays, especially if an event where there is no specific fund raising has been happening . People can make donations with no input from people in the church.

Stewards have been trained on how to switch between campaigns to ensure that the correct one is used at the right time. If you do get one, I have written a training guide with pictures that you can have to help you.

There is the opportunity to claim gift aid, however at the moment we don't do it via givealittle, we do it via the account system we use and claim using the small donations option as long as the donation is under £30.00.

The money collected is paid directly into the bank, I have it set to paid out daily, this can however be changed to weekly or monthly. I find daily is easier to be able to differentiate between the campaigns, to ensure they are allocated to the correct cost centre.

There doesn't seem to be any extra work, as it is balanced out by not having to bank money and the time that takes! Also, people don't always have cash on them but do have cards!!!

If you want any more information please email me at, [office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)

Sharon Heginbotham



# Stepping Hill Hospital Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Volunteer Training

**Are you a good listener?**

**Interested in exploring Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care?**

From 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 we are offering a six-week course (one afternoon per week) which will introduce people to the principles and practice of hospital chaplaincy for volunteers.

If you are interested in attending the course or would like more information,  
contact the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Team on 0161 419 5889  
or email: [chaplaincy.spiritualcareteam@stockport.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy.spiritualcareteam@stockport.nhs.uk)



## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Circuit

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no circuit service in August.



September's circuit service will be our welcoming service for Rev Jan Tate. The service will take place at Romiley Methodist Church.

This will be a great opportunity to meet our new Superintendent and we look forward to welcoming her to our circuit!

The Romiley/Woodley Methodist Church choir are inviting singers to join them to form a **Welcoming Choir** for this service. Three rehearsals will be held at Romiley Methodist Church throughout August. For more details please contact Gillian Stunell [gmstunell@gmail.com](mailto:gmstunell@gmail.com).

### The Ridge Methodist Church

**Come and join us at our Summer Festival!**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 12-3pm

Home-made craft stalls, children's games and activities. Food and refreshments available. Finishing with a lively sing-along.

### Windlehurst Methodist Church

**Active at Windlehurst** will be holding a **coffee morning** on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September. More details will be shared in the September newsletter. Keep the date!

## 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.



### 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.

## 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.

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

This is more for fun than competition, as anyone can shout out the answers.

We are having a few more people dropping in which is lovely and very encouraging.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

### Prayer Meeting

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

## 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.

## Edgeley Community Church

**Craft group** (bring your own)

Monday 1-3pm - £3 drink & biscuits



## 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 Please note: There will be **no Active meeting** until 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### **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.

## 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

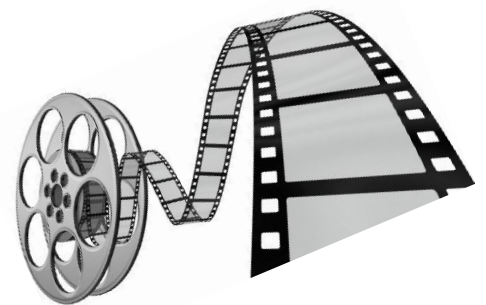
This thirty-minute communion service is a lovely opportunity to meet for a short thoughtful service and is followed by refreshments and time to chat. PLEASE NOTE: There will be **no Friday communion in August**, next service 26<sup>th</sup> September 2pm.

## Romiley Methodist Church

Our **September Film** (Saturday, 6th September) is the 1956 classic musical **“HIGH SOCIETY”** - starring Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and Louis Armstrong, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter, including “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” “True Love,” “You’re Sensational,” and many more.

Come and enjoy it as it was meant to be seen - on a big screen! ....

Entry by donation, with tea and cakes during the interval



**“Music for Pleasure”** on Thursday 21st August is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when **Roger Pearce** will talk about **“Great Concerto Excerpts.”**

## Woodley Methodist Church

**Thrift shop and café OPEN WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS 9.30am to 12.00 Noon**

**95% OF OUR STOCK IS BETWEEN 50p and £3, MOST OF OUR CLOTHES ARE £3 or two for £5**

Come and pay us a visit, we have bargain's galore, probably the cheapest charity shop in the area and we only sell good quality clean goods. AND you can visit our excellent cafe for drinks and snacks for which donations are gratefully accepted. ALL donations from the cafe are donated to local and national charities.

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" This month we are looking forward to being entertained by organist, Roger Pearce.



### Dates for 2025 are:

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August - Roger Pearce (Organist)

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**

# 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 - NO MEETING IN AUGUST, next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> September from 3.15 to 5pm

For more information contact our minister, Katie Smith.

## Marple Methodist Church

**The Seed Community Cafe** is open every Thursday morning and Friday afternoon.

Opening times are-

Thursday - 10am to 1pm

Friday - 1.30pm to 5pm

Teas, coffees, toast, tea cakes, soup.

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



**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>.

### Events from across the District

#### District Online Worship

Becca Ainsworth will be preaching at our next Online Worship, taking place on Sunday 10th August at 6.30pm.

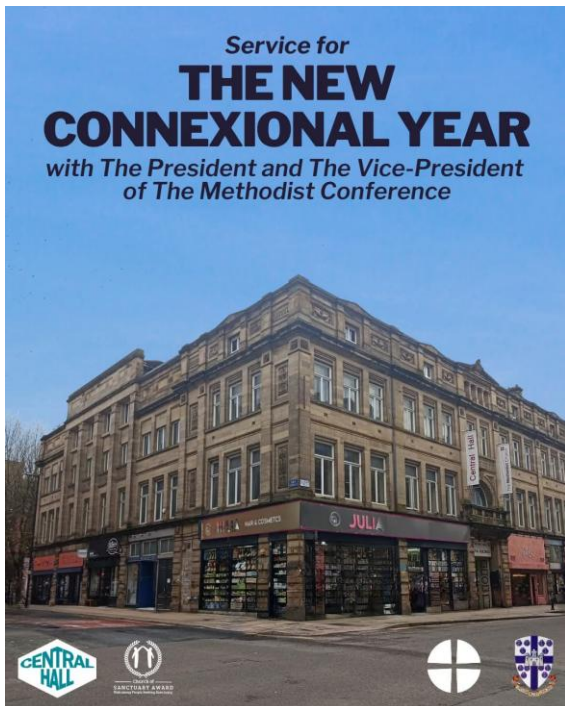
For the zoom code (which remains the same), please email [prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk) or direct message us on Facebook.

**District Online Worship**

With preacher, Becca Ainsworth, a Local Preacher in the Preston Ribble Circuit

**Sunday 10th August at 6.30pm**

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



#### This year's service for the New Methodist

Connexional Year takes place at Central Hall

Manchester on Tuesday 2nd September 2025. The

service will begin at 11am, and will be followed by lunch.

We will welcome the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference to Manchester, alongside Civic, Ecumenical, and Interfaith guests. As part of this year's service we will also be celebrating the recognition of Central Hall MCR as a Church of Sanctuary. So Central Hall can cater accordingly, please register: [New Connexional Year Service Tickets, Tue,](#)

[Sep 2, 2025 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

A short film introducing our new President and Vice-President 2025-26, Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth, has been produced.

They introduce themselves, and talk about their theme for the presidential year - 'Our Story, Our Song': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXQkHdg-rKY>

## Christian Aid

Join us as we host **Powered by Hope** - a day to fuel your faith, fill your cup with hope and inspire action.

**Date:** Saturday 4 October 2025 10:00 - 16:30

**Location:** Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, Manchester, M2 5NS

When Jesus stood up in the synagogue, he proclaimed good news for people living in poverty and marginalised by injustice. For 80 years we've been compelled by that hopeful vision to stand up for justice. We've challenged unfair rules. We've demanded change from those in power. We have stood in hope with people living in poverty.

But hope can be hard fought and fragile. What happens when it's in short supply?

Join us at **Powered by Hope** as we wonder at the deep love of God for the world around us and explore the limitless ways that we can work towards a world free from poverty.


Whether you're curious about putting faith into action, a seasoned action taker or just want to pray with your legs, then this event is for you.

### What to expect on the day

- Hear from inspiring speakers
- Take part in practical workshops
- Spend time in worship and wonder

Register now: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/powered-by-hope>

*Lunch will be provided, please let us know about any dietary requirements in the registration form.*

A vibrant red poster for the 'Powered by Hope' event. At the top, the title 'Powered by Hope' is written in large white letters, with 'Saturday 4 October 2025' in yellow below it. The central image shows three people—a man in a white jacket and cap, a young man, and a woman—smiling and holding a small white flag with the Christian Aid logo. Behind them is a large, stylized rainbow. In the bottom left corner, there is a 'christian aid 80 years' logo. A white text box in the bottom right corner contains event details: 'Join us for a day to fuel your faith, fill your cup with hope and inspire action. Whether you're curious about putting faith into action, a seasoned action taker or just want to pray with your legs, then this event is for you.', 'Location: Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street Manchester M2 5NS', 'Time: 10am-4:30pm', and 'caid.org.uk/poweredbyhope'. At the very bottom, in small white text, is the legal disclaimer: 'Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance, Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid 8/7/2025 - 16:05:59.'