

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

A letter from the Superintendent	page	2
News from around the circuit	page	3
Upcoming events	page	7
Regular activities	page	9
External news	page	14

A Letter from the Superintendent ...

During 2026 we will be focusing on the circuit. We began by holding our Circuit Prayer Day and prayer will underpin all that we do during the year.

We all have a part to play in making the circuit work, in making God real, in building the kingdom here in Stockport. When you stood in your Covenant Service and said 'I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things... I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.' What did you mean, and what is God asking?

The next few years may not be easy. We need to look carefully at how we spend our money, the number of ministers we have and the number of churches we have. We need to plan how we will use our resources and what our mission must be as churches and as a circuit. It will be easier if we walk them together, if we are open and honest with each other, if we are realistic in our expectations and, above all, if we show that we care.

During this time we must pull together as a circuit. I am a great believer in the circuit system; a good circuit really is bigger than the sum of its parts. Together, we can share our strengths and compensate for each other's weaknesses. A circuit can do many things that individual churches now find they are unable to do.

We must continue to work together, to worship together, to pray together and to play together. We must learn from each other and share part of ourselves. We must keep our eyes on Christ and trust God in all things.

Jan

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Windlehurst Methodist Church

At Windlehurst Church we have made our meeting room into a lovely space to hold services during the colder months. It means we are conserving energy, helping us to be environmentally and eco aware! We gained our bronze Eco award last year, so hope our efforts will help us gain the Silver award within the next twelve months.



To make the meeting room service ready, we extended the P.A.system and installed a screen. We were also grateful to Maggie Thompson who sourced the cross, you see on the wall, and the Communion table, which had been donated and used in Jubilee Church since 1965. We feel grateful that we have been able to recycle and reuse items previously used by Churches in our circuit, giving them a new lease of life.

Save the date! 'Active' Coffee Morning Thursday 26th March 10.30-12noon.

Our current collection for Wood Street Mission is for 'Family Basics'. We welcome good quality used towels, children's books, baby and children's clothes and shoes up to age 16. (No used socks or underwear.)

Any donations can be handed in at church on Thursday Feb 5th and 12th between 9am-3pm.

One of the ladies at Church is busy sewing drainage bags for ladies who have had a mastectomy. She would dearly like a sewing machine, if anyone has got a machine they could donate (In working order!) please contact Helen Stocks: 07818260446.

Or take to Windlehurst Church on Thursday mornings or Hazel Grove Church.

Davenport Methodist Church

Davenport's film night in went reasonably well for our first offering. We look forward to having another in the not too far distant future. Watch this space.



We had a collection for Christmas Shoe Boxes, the total was 43. We also collected selection boxes for the Together Trust, we collected 85 of these.

Christmas services were well attended, the church was full to bursting for the Christingle and very much enjoyed by children and adults.

The carol singing on the green, at Kennerly Road, took place at 10-11am on the Saturday before Christmas. Though very cold, the singers raised their voices and passers by were given chocolates and wished a Happy Christmas. It was a good hour, with Raj saying a few words about the meaning of Christmas.



Our craft club and church members at Davenport are currently knitting Chicks and providing chocolate cream eggs for Francis House Children's Hospice. Plus, knitting for New-borns, at North Manchester General, Crumpsall, Manchester.



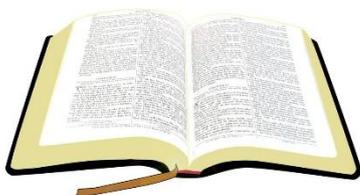
Our weekly groups are now back, up and running:

Craft Group on a Wednesday afternoon.

Drop in and Chat on Thursday afternoon, this group meets 1-3pm at the moment. When the clocks change the hour, the time is 2-4pm for the lighter nights.

There are also Brownies, Guides and a children's dance group on the premises during the week.

There is a Bible Study on Zoom every Monday morning.



Hong Kong Fellowship

From February the Hong Kong Fellowship will meet on Saturdays instead of Sundays to encourage new members who attend other church services. The services and preachers planned for the next few months are:

21st February - Jasmine Devadason

21st March - Mei Yuk Wong

18th April - Anthony Clowes

16th May - Janet Amey

This is the mission statement of the Hong Kong Fellowship:



Who are we?

We are people, or friends of people, who have moved to the area from Hong Kong.

We are exploring our faith and what it means to be part of community in a new place.

What is our aim?

Our aim is to support each other and the journey of faith as Christians, growing together and welcoming others.

Welcoming people

Journeying together

Supporting one another

Exploring our identity

Being in community

What do we do?

Fellowship gathering (3rd Saturday afternoon of the month)

Social event (monthly)

English Workshop (Friday term time)

Tiviot Dale Methodist Church



From 19th February the phone number for the circuit office at Tiviot Dale will be changing. The new phone number will be: 0161 222 8020, there will be an answerphone on this number that will be checked a couple of times a week.

Please use the contact details below for a quicker answer:

Superintendent: super@stockportcircuit.org.uk

Circuit Administrator: admin@stockportcircuit.org.uk or 07485 528979

Property Manager: property@stockportcircuit.org.uk

Article by a Member of Dialstone Lane's Congregation

Faith and Hope Amid Challenges in Iran

Life for Christians in Iran is extremely challenging and dangerous for many of us. Converting from Islam to Christianity is considered apostasy, and believers face arrest, harassment, threats, social exclusion, and constant surveillance. Many are forced to hide their faith and worship in secret house churches, and even sharing their beliefs with close friends can put their lives at risk. For many of us, faith in Christ is not just a religious belief but a refuge for a soul that cannot live under constant fear.

In recent months, we have witnessed widespread protests across Iran that have been met with brutal force. Unarmed people calling for freedom and human dignity have faced shootings, beatings, and violent arrests. Even hospitals have not been spared – security forces have raided medical centres, detained the wounded, and in some cases, killed people inside hospitals. These events are not just statistics; they are human stories of lost lives and the deep suffering of our community.

The prolonged internet shutdown has left the people of Iran in complete silence. For more than three weeks now, access to the outside world has been cut off, depriving millions of even the simplest right – checking on their loved ones. For those of us not in Iran, separated from family members, this isolation has caused unimaginable stress. Every moment, our eyes remain fixed on our phones, hoping for just a few seconds of connection to ask, “Are you safe?” This constant fear, uncertainty, and helplessness leaves a deep mark on our spirit, one that lingers even after connectivity is restored.

Nina Mouloudzadehghalehlari

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Circuit



The World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 6th March, 2pm at Tiviot Dale Methodist Church, SK1 1TA.

This is a service for everyone. The theme, Nigeria 2026, I will give you rest, come.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Circuit Year of Prayer

This year has been designated as a year of prayer for our circuit, its churches and those who attend and are involved within the churches. Each month we will focus our prayers on a church.

This month we pray for Woodley Methodist Church, these are their prayer requests:

- Please pray for spiritual growth within the church family so that we can respond to God's call to show our love for Jesus and for our neighbours in our witness to the community through our outreach groups.
- Pray for new volunteers from within the church community to enable us to continue to witness for the glory of God.

Woodley Methodist Church

Tintwistle Brass Band Concert

The Band will be performing in concert on Friday 17th April 2026 at 8.00pm in Church.

Proceeds from the evening will be in aid of The Church and The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

Tickets will be £10.00 including light refreshments and will be available from Phil Taylor from Sunday 1st March 2026.

Please see Phil after a morning Service or telephone 0161 989 9993. Please book early to avoid disappointment.



If you are unable to attend but would still like to support the event by means of a donation please see Phil in person if the donation is for the Church or donate via the JustGiving Page:

[Just Giving Page for Manchester Foundation Trust Charity](#)

Marple Methodist Church

**Ladies
Pop-up Shop &
Fun Fashion Show!**

**SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS
AT UP TO 70% OFF!**

Colours.
[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS

Thursday 19th March 2026
Marple Methodist Church
Church Lane, Marple, SK6 7AY

Doors open 6.30pm, show starts 7pm
Tickets: £6 each or 3 for £15
Tickets to be purchased in advance

Refreshments available - tea, coffee, biscuits
Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!

For tickets and more information please contact:
Judith - judith.laycock@methodist.org.uk - 0161 4272509

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

Monday Fellowship - fortnightly gatherings of fun and fellowship Monday evenings from 19:45.

See www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk calendar for next date.

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

Last Friday of the month 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.

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.

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.



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

Romiley Methodist Church

OUR NEXT SATURDAY FILM PRESENTATION is on **SATURDAY, 7th FEBRUARY 2026** starting at 2.00 p.m., when we are showing the 2025 film **”DOWNTON ABBEY - THE GRAND FINALE.”**

The ITV television series first started in September 2010, created and co-written by Julian Fellowes, and ran for 52 episodes across six series, including five Christmas specials, covering the period between April 1912 and New Year’s Eve 1925 with the Crawley family in Downton Abbey. The final episode was broadcast on Christmas Day, 2015. It was followed by three cinema films, the last of which, “Downton Abbey - the Grand Finale,” follows the well-to-do Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s with Lady Mary being embroiled in a public scandal over her divorce and the family facing financial troubles and the possibility of having to downsize. The Crawleys and their staff are forced to embrace change and hand over power and responsibility to the next generation, and some of them (such as Lord Grantham) don’t find it easy. It’s a very enjoyable film - all welcome! Entry by donation, with tea and cakes during the interval



Our March Filmshow, on Saturday 7th March is the 1968 musical comedy **“Funny Girl,”** starring Barbra Streisand, Omar Sharif, and Walter Pidgeon. The film is loosely based on the story of the 1930s comedy star Fanny Brice, who started in the slums of New York and rose to become a star of the Ziegfield Follies and along the way had a less than smooth relationship with Nicky Arnstein, an entrepreneur and gambler. The film was nominated for 8 Oscars, with Streisand winning the Best Actress Award. It’s a very entertaining film, full of humour, music, and drama.



“Music for Pleasure” on **Thursday 19th February** is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when Brian Tipler will present a talk illustrated by musical recordings entitled **“In Flight or Grounded,”** followed by refreshments. Entry by donation, and all welcome!

“The Alien Goes to Ellan Vannin” is the title of our next Men’s Evening talk, on **Monday, 16th February, at 7.30 p.m.** in the Church, when Eddie Goodall will talk about the Isle of Man and will illustrate his talk with numerous photographs. All welcome, including ladies!

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!

Funday Mondays - Woodley Methodist Church invites you to our monthly fun times exploring seasonal topics and bible stories. Every third Monday of the month 3.15pm - 5pm.

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.

"Musical Memories"
At Woodley Methodist Church
2.00pm - 4.00pm

"We Welcome those with or without dementia".

DATES 2026

Friday 30th January – **Personal Choices**
Friday 27th February - **Personal Choices**
Friday 27th March - **RAINBOW**
Friday 24th April – **Personal Choices**
Friday 29th May – **Personal Choices**
Friday 26th June – **Personal Choice's**
Friday 31st July – **Personal Choices**
Friday 28th August – **"Summer Holiday"**
Friday 25th September – **Personal Choices**
Friday 30th October – **RAINBOW**
Friday 28th November – **Personal Festive Choices**

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served

Musical Memories



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 2-4pm in the Church Hall and we "Welcome those with or without Dementia"

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>.

Events from across the District

District Online Worship

Sunday 8th February at 6.30pm

With Revd Dr James Tebbutt, District Chair preaching.

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

District Online Worship

Our next Online Worship is taking place on Sunday 8th February at 6.30pm.

Revd Dr James Tebbutt, District Chair, will be preaching.

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

Bible Month Training Day

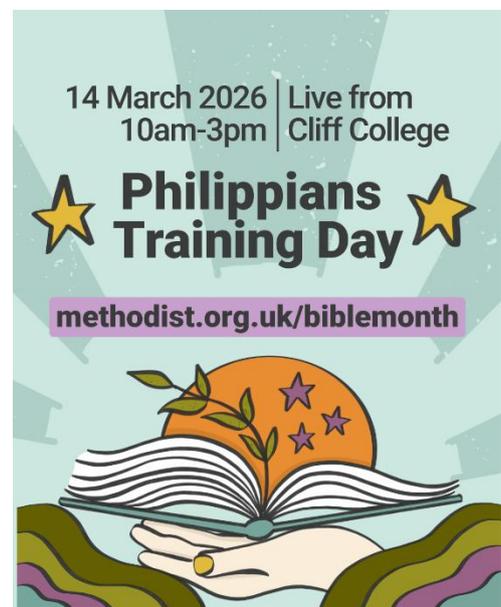
Bible Month Training day is approaching.

This year, Bible Month invites churches and small groups to dive into one of the most joyful and encouraging letters in the New Testament: Philippians.

Written by Paul from prison, this short epistle overflows with warmth, hope, and practical wisdom for living a Christ-shaped life.

To supplement all the resources developed by the Connexional Team and external contributors, we're hosting a live-streamed training day, live from Cliff College, 14th March 10am-3pm.

How to join in? It's very simple. You can watch the live-stream at home, or with others in your church or Circuit by registering [here](#).



Wholehearted Monthly

February
10
Tuesday

7-9^{GMT}
PM
sign up now

whole
hearted
monthly

online and immersive
with special guest
Kate Raworth
live in conversation
across the globe

monthly spiritual series

Hosted by
The Methodist Church
open to all



Kate Raworth will be the guest speaker for Wholehearted on 10 February. Kate is an economist focused on making economics fit for the 21st century's social and ecological realities. She is the author of the best-selling book *Doughnut Economics: seven ways to think like a 21st century economist*, which has been published in over 20 languages. She is also co-founder of Doughnut Economics Action Lab, and Senior Teaching Fellow at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute. Click here to [book](#).

Peake Lecture 2026



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

'From Miriam to the Magdalene: Women Witnesses in the Bible and Beyond'

*Presented by Dr Siobhán Jolley, Lecturer in Christian
Studies and Dr Samuel Hildebrandt, Senior Lecturer in
Biblical Studies*

**Saturday 21st March 9.30am to
4.00pm**

Nazarene Theological College, Dene Rd,
Manchester, M20 2GU

Scan QR code to book!

