

Newsletter

MARCH 2026

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A Letter from the Superintendent ...

I have finally found time to get the information from the Circuit Consultation into a readable format. Please look out for printed booklets in your churches or they may be sent to you on email through your church contact. If you have any questions or further suggestions please let me know. The Circuit Leadership Team will be using the responses as background information as we discuss the forward travel of the circuit.

Lent is a good time to plan for the future. It is a period of preparation when we remember Jesus' time in the wilderness. In his baptism Jesus heard a voice confirming he was God's Son. He takes himself away to work out what this means, how this will impact on his ministry going forward. The temptations offer him possible solutions which he determines to be the wrong way. The right way is to focus solely on God, to walk in God's way and do God's will.

So as we look at the future for the United Stockport Circuit we must focus on God. What is God's will for us in this place? We designated 2026 a year of prayer for the circuit. After Easter there will be a circuit event every month to help us as we work together.

As we journey as a circuit we will face obstacles and lean times. We may take wrong turnings and wish we were back where we started. We may not all agree on the direction of travel but it is important that we all travel together, that we support each other and work through our problems together.

We really need two (if not four) more circuit stewards. People who see building up the circuit as a priority, people who will represent the local church but see it as part of a larger entity. If you think this might be something for you, have a word with me or one of the current circuit stewards.

As I write this the sun has just come out. Take a look outside: trees are budding and the flowers are bringing their colour to gardens and hedgerows. This reminds us that once again Spring is on its way. There is sunshine after the rain, light in the darkness and God is with us in all things.

Jan

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Edgeley Community Church

On Saturday 14th February, Edgeley Community Church held their Celebratory Service to

celebrate all that has happened over the years at this church. We had an act of worship followed by refreshments in the hall where people shared their

memories of the church. We were entertained by the Rainy City Barbershop Choir and lots of photographs to peruse. Over 80 people attended the celebration!

It was lovely to see friends from United Stockport Circuit, East Cheshire Circuit, Derbyshire Borders Missional Partnership and past members of the church.

In 1971, Castle Street and Edgeley Road Methodist Churches joined together; and in 1974 Edgeley Park Methodist Church joined to become Edgeley Methodist Church. Then in 2008, Edgeley Road URC joined to become an LEP as Edgeley Community Church.



Unfortunately, due to falling numbers and trying to find people to take on leadership roles, it was decided at the 2025 AGM to close. The community groups have been able to meet until it goes on the market and some have found other places to meet.

A sad time but the Celebratory Service was a great way to finish!

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 March - Mei Yuk Wong

18th April - Anthony Clowes

16th May - Janet Amey

Windlehurst Methodist Church

Margaret is very grateful for the generous donation of a sewing machine and would like to say Thank you! 🙏 She would also like to thank everyone for donating wool. She does not need any more for the time being!

We are continuing our collection of children's clothes and books for children aged up to 16 for **Wood Street Mission**.

They can be left at Church on Thursday 12th and 19th March between 9.00-3.00

Woodley Methodist Church

Funday Monday - Bags of Care

The third Monday of each month at Woodley Methodist Church is Funday Monday. After school, we gather to share crafts, activities, games, snacks, chat, song and prayer, all around a biblical theme.

We have been having Funday Mondays for just over 3 years and it has become a wonderful community, and seeing the children grow up is an amazing privilege.

In February at Funday Monday we thought about the parable of The Good Samaritan and thought about how we can show care to others and how we can appreciate those who care for us.

The children decorated these bags and filled them with treats and useful bits and pieces so they can be given out at Tiviot Dale to people who need a pick me up in our town.

They also made some absolutely amazing cards to say thank you to people who care for them - it's awesome to see how creative they are.

It was a very fun Monday!



Davenport Methodist Church

Our Thursday Drop-in Chat continues to run well, still getting visitors from the community, even with their dogs. When British Summertime comes, March 29th, we will meet 2-4pm.

The congregation gave our annual collection to All We Can. We raised £245.00 and have ordered bikes, piglets, a Water Bundle (two toilets and two taps), bees, chicks and spuds.

During the year we collect food for the families whose children attend Adswold Primary school. Each term end we pass on to the school the food we have collected and with donations buy fresh food. Easter being our next donation; we also include chocolates.

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

Volunteer as a Scout Group Trustee!

A local Scout Group (2nd Romiley) is looking for volunteers to join the Trustee Board. No Scouting experience needed—just enthusiasm and a desire to support young people in our the Bredbury, Woodley and Romiley community.

We are looking to appoint a chairperson, treasurer and trustees and the commitment is just a handful of a meetings a year. If you would be interested in hearing more about the roles (or volunteering as a leader with the scouts themselves) please contact Sarah - Sarah.Burns@stockportscouts.org.uk 07740 336303

Methodist Women in Britain in the
Manchester & Stockport Area invite
you to join us for our



Spring Gathering

on Saturday, 21st March

10.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

(Coffee served from 10.00 a.m.)



at **Methodist Central Hall**
Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ

Speaker: Deacon Jude Laycock

'At the Threshold: Midwifery, Women's
Health, and God's Presence'- an experience
of rural Sierra Leone

Please bring your own lunch - drinks provided



All Welcome



(Contact Liz @ lizstuartlp@aol.com for directions)



Holy Week and Easter Events and Services

2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Hazel Grove Methodist Church Maundy Thursday @ 7pm Communion Good Friday @ 10.30am Good Friday Reflection Easter Sunday @ 10.30am Communion | Dialstone Lane Methodist Church Maundy Thursday @ 6.30pm Service Good Friday @ 10am Service Easter Sunday @ 10.45am Communion |
| Windlehurst Methodist Church Easter Sunday @ 10.30am Service | Heaton Moor United Church Maundy Thursday @ 6pm Service and meal Easter Sunday @ 10.45am All Age Worship |
| Marple Methodist Church Maundy Thursday @ 7pm (at Marple URC) Good Friday @ 10.30am (at Marple URC) Easter Sunday @ 10.30am (at Marple URC) | The Ridge Methodist Church Easter Sunday @ 6am Sunrise Service Easter Sunday @ 10.30am Communion |
| Heaton Mersey Methodist Church 28 th March @ 2pm Easter Egg Hunt Good Friday @ 10.15am Heaton's Partnership Walk of Witness (starting at St John's) Easter Sunday @ 10.45am Communion | Romiley Methodist Church Good Friday @ 10.45am Service Easter Sunday @ 10.15am Communion (at Woodley Methodist Church) |
| Davenport Methodist Church Good Friday @ 10am Open Air Service Easter Sunday @ 10.45am Communion | Woodley Methodist Church Maundy Thursday @ 7.30pm Communion Easter Sunday @ 10.15am Communion |



Circuit

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 Davenport Methodist Church, these are their prayer requests:

- Give thanks for the work each Sunday with Team Jesus (Sunday school) We have a number of children ranging from 6yrs - 13yrs. They enjoy the weekly sessions and like to join in or help in AAW services.
- We also give thanks for new families joining us, including those of different nationalities. Pray they will continue to feel part of the family of the church, strengthening their Christian faith.
- We give thanks for the Leadership team and those who volunteer for the jobs needed around the church. We pray for them and the whole of the congregation, keeping in mind those who are ill or have disabilities.
- Pray for the work in our community, Bamford Grange nursing home, a group go in to sing and pray with those who live there and the staff.
- Pray for the groups that use the church building Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, and Rangers. Plus a new children's dancing group. Also the Drop in and chat group and the craft club.
- We give thanks that as a congregation we are able to give to various charities throughout the year. Pray that this continues and that our church finances keep us sustained in our building and mission.

Woodley Methodist Church

WOODLEY METHODIST CHURCH
HYDE ROAD, WOODLEY

Tintwistle Brass Band Concert

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

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](#)

PRESENTS
THE
TINTWISTLE BRASS BAND



Friday 17th April 2026 @ 8.00p.m.

Tickets £10.00 (to include light refreshments)
Contact Phil 0161 989 9993

Proceeds to

Manchester Foundation Trust Charity raising funds for Royal Manchester Children's Hospital & Woodley Methodist Church

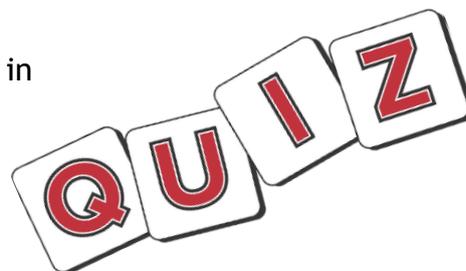


Manchester Foundation
Trust **Charity**

Romiley Methodist Church

“A Glimpse into the Lives of the Founders of Methodism - John & Charles Wesley ” is the title of our next Men’s Evening talk, on **Monday, 16th March at 7.30 p.m.** in the Church, when **Geoffrey Pickford** explores this fascinating subject, with illustrations. Refreshments follow the talk. All welcome, including ladies!

A **Spring Quiz** will be held on **Tuesday, 17th March** at 2 p.m. in the Church Annexe - entry by donation, refreshments, prizes, and all welcome!



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

Windlehurst Methodist Church



Windlehurst Methodist Church
ACTIVE COFFEE MORNING
26th March 2026 between
10:30am - 12pm

Everyone is Welcome!
"No matter how long the
winter, spring is sure to
follow!"

'Active at Windlehurst' are holding a Coffee Morning on Thursday 26th March from 10.30-12.00!

Donations for the Tombola and raffle would be much appreciated. Any cake donations should be brought on the morning.

All are Welcome! ☕ 🍰 🎂

Heaton Moor United Church

Do come along and join us for our Fairtrade coffee morning, we will have stalls from Stockport Fairtrade Group selling items as well as the usual cakes and refreshments.

We're also hoping that this event will be an opportunity for our community to stand up for change together – we want to use this as an opportunity to push for changes to the UK trade system and help Transform Trade's fight for a fashion watchdog. We've invited our local MP and Councillor to the event to share news of the campaign.



BIG BREW
at 40

Fighting for trade justice
since 1986

**Celebrate with us and
enjoy a cuppa, cake & a chat**

Where: Heaton Moor United Church
Stanley Road SK4 4HL

When: Saturday 14th March
10:00 - 12:00

Transform Trade 40 Stockport Fairtrade Group

SING OUT FOR SPRING

The Ridge Methodist Church

Wednesday 25th March

7 pm – 8 pm

*Café Style Event with an hour of
singing modern worship songs as
loudly and as lively as you wish!*

Refreshments included

The Ridge Methodist Church



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Friday 6 March 2025
(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

‘I will give you rest, come!’ (Matthew 11: 28-30)

Our sisters in Nigeria lead us for the Day of Prayer 2026.

With over 200m people, Nigeria is enriched by over 250 ethnic groups, with more than 500 indigenous languages. There is a diverse climate from equatorial to arid.

Your local service is on Friday 6 March, 2pm
Tiviot Dale Methodist church, Tiviot Dale, Stockport, SK1 1TA
and will be followed by refreshments.

A Stockport town centre church, with parking close by.

Everyone will be made very welcome!!! Why not join us this year?

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries.

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

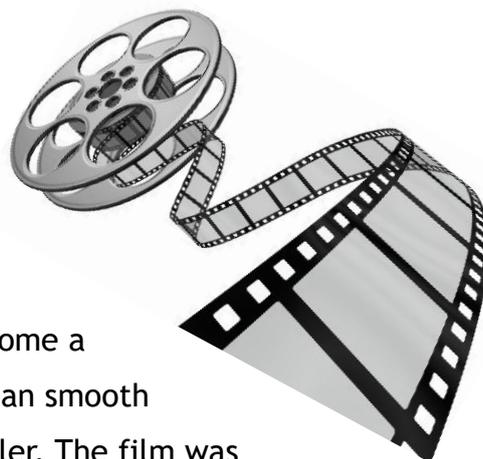
Friday - 1.30pm to 5pm

Teas, coffees, toast, tea cakes, soup.

Lydia's Place - craft group every other Thursday

Romiley Methodist Church

Our March Filmshow, on Saturday 7th March at 2 p.m. 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. Entry by donation, including tea and cakes in the Intermission!



Our April Filmshow, on Saturday 4th April (2 p.m.) is the well-respected 1999 animated story of the life of Jesus, “The Miracle Worker,” including the voices of Ralf Fiennes as Jesus, Ken Stott as Simon Peter, and David Thewlis as Judas Iscariot. Based largely on the Gospel of Luke, it’s an accurate version of the life of Christ, lauded by critics as “beautifully made, moving, and funny” (Rebecca Clough), and “ a powerfully engaging film, one that sees the gospels as spiritual autobiography, and Jesus’ skill with parables as an art both fundamental and devastating” (Antonia Quirke in The Independent). “The Miracle Worker” is our film for Easter this year - do come and see it!



“Music for Pleasure” on Thursday 19th March is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when David Gordon will present a talk illustrated by musical recordings entitled “And Now for Something Completely Different,” followed by refreshments. Entry by donation, and all welcome!

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.

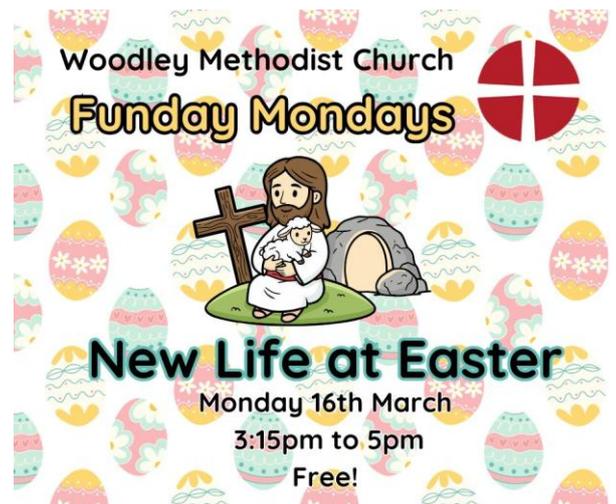
Bargains for all, come and have a browse!

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

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served



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 15th March at 6.30pm

With Revd Richard Andrew, President of the Methodist Conference, preaching

This month, District Online Worship will be held on the **third** Sunday of the month. For the Zoom code (which remains the same), please email prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk or direct message us on Facebook

District Online Worship

Sunday 15th March at 6.30pm

This month's 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](#).

Bible Month Training Day

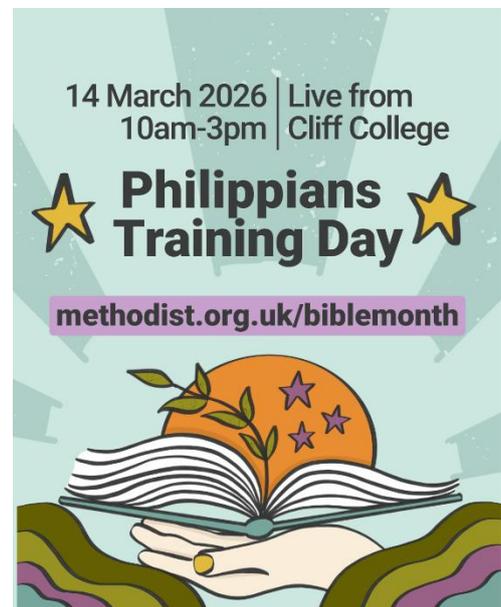
Bible Month Training day is approaching.

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

We are thrilled to welcome Sarah Corbett as the keynote speaker for the 10 March 2026 wholehearted monthly event.

Sarah is an award-winning activist and author, Ashoka Fellow and founder of the global Craftivist Collective. Her unique 'Gentle Protest' approach to activism and craftivism (craft + activism) engaged people in slow, quiet, humble and kind activism and has directly helped change hearts, minds, policies and laws around the world combining campaign strategy, neuroscience, psychology and rooted in her Christian faith. Her most recent book *The Craftivist Collective Handbook* won Best Mixed Media book of 2025 by The Creative Book Awards.



Wholehearted is a free monthly online gathering of Christians learning, playing, praying and working for the transformation of the Church and world God loves.

Hosted by the Methodist Church and free and open for all. 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!

