

# Newsletter

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APRIL 2026

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## A Letter from the Superintendent ...

Tonight (1 April) we should be able to see the Pink Moon. Early evening, near the horizon, it should be quite large and orange. It is named Pink after the spring flower not the colour.

Later in the evening NASA's Artemis II should be taking off on its mission to orbit the moon. It is the first manned flight to the moon in 54 years. Space has always held a fascination for people. Genesis says that "God made two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars". Judaism has a lunar calendar all the important festivals are scheduled by the moon. In the Christian calendar the date of Easter is determined by the moon.

Space travel and the moon in particular highlight how much the world has changed in a relatively short period of time. In September 1962 when President Kennedy said: "We choose to go to the moon" he said it would be done "in this decade" (ie the 60s). This was a ridiculous claim. The technology just didn't exist. Everything had to be started from scratch. But in July 1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon. (One of my favourite quiz questions is "what was the name of the astronaut who remained on the spacecraft in orbit"? Do you know?) The Apollo 11 mission famously had less computing power than a present-day washing machine. How things have moved on!

When you next get the chance look at the night sky, try counting the stars. Look at the moon and think how truly amazing creation is.

"O burning sun with golden beam,  
and silver moon with softer gleam:

O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

*(Singing the Faith 99)*

*Jan*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Windlehurst Methodist Church

**Supporting Wood St. Mission -** For several years Windlehurst M.C. has been a collection hub for donations to Wood Street Mission. We respond to the three specific appeals during the year, these being for children's books, school uniform/equipment and



Christmas gifts. We also have an ongoing collection for family basics.

Details are regularly advertised on High Lane Village Facebook and at High Lane Village WI.

Donations are handed in to Active for storage and sorting. Chris, the Wood Street man with a van comes frequently and is ably assisted to load the van by members of Active.

### Active's Coffee Morning 26<sup>th</sup> March

Our Spring Coffee Morning was a great success. Members acted as waiters, hostesses and stall holders and enjoyed meeting many people from the local community. We were blessed with a sunny day, in total contrast to the previous stormy, snowy day. The cake stall, tombola, raffle and book stall raised the grand sum of £502 for church funds. Thanks to everyone who came to support us, it was a morning filled with friendship and love.



Some may be asking "What is Active?" On May 1st Active will be eighteen years old so perhaps it's time for a brief update. Active is a group that meets at Windlehurst M.C. every Thursday in term time from approx. 9am-3.30pm. There are twenty-two of us, eleven adults with learning disabilities, ten volunteers and a recently appointed paid assistant co-ordinator. Sessions are full of fun, friendship, numerous planned activities and most importantly LOVE.

Want to know more or plan a visit? Contact us by the church website.

**'Memories'** Windlehurst Church received a lovely email the day before Mother's Day. It was sent by the granddaughter of a lady who was born in 1942, in a house right opposite Windlehurst Church. As a young girl she attended the church every Sunday, with no excuse for being late! She later moved to Hazel Grove, became a nurse at Stepping Hill, fell in love with a patient, married and eventually moved to Canada, where they raised a family. However, she never forgot those early days spent attending Windlehurst Church and even named their house in Canada, 'Windlehurst!' The lady passed away on the Friday, and as requested by the family was remembered in our prayers on Mothering Sunday.

## Davenport Methodist Church

Our Thursday Drop-in Chat continues to run well, still getting visitors from the community. Each week we average 14 among which are three regular non church members and an occasional 2 others, plus one or two passes by that pop in. From April 9<sup>th</sup> we will meet at our new time 2-4pm. There will be no meeting Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Maundy Thursday.

Our Good Friday service is at 10am. Weather permitting this service will be outside, at the front of Church.



## 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:

18<sup>th</sup> April - Anthony Clowes

16<sup>th</sup> May - Janet Amey

## Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

**Welcome Group - Tuesdays in term time 1.30-3.00**

**Appeal for volunteers** - In recent months our sessions have been very busy, with between 50 and 70 folk from the local hotel, as well as a few more settled refugees, attending each week. We have a very stable group of volunteers from Dialstone Lane, other local churches, WI members, friends and neighbours, but there are now occasions when we feel stretched to cover the group in the way we'd like to, offering individual listening and support as well as the many activities, whilst allowing for the inevitable absences due to sickness and holidays.

We don't expect people to be able to commit to coming every week, and that is still the case; at present it would be good to have regular volunteers who can offer once or twice a month. We do need to carry out DBS checks for volunteers, but I suggest that people come and try the sessions out a couple of times before committing in that way. If you'd like to know more, please contact Catriona Stoker (tel 07798881537 or email [cat.stoker@btinternet.com](mailto:cat.stoker@btinternet.com)). We have a written role description and seek to include people with many different skills as our volunteers. There is a weekly email to keep you informed about forthcoming activities at the group and we hold regular volunteer meetings where we review our practice and plan future activities.



**Celebrations!** On March 24<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, welcoming spring; Eid-el-Fitr marking the end of Ramadan for Moslems and marked the approach of Easter for Christians, with a celebratory meal, followed by dancing. It was a wonderful multi-cultural event with folk from UK, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Nigeria, Somalia, China and Ethiopia. Besides lovely food, flowers and music, we

had a Haft-Sin table set up, which is traditional in Iran.



**Clothing and Suitcases** - As summer approaches, we are collecting clothes suitable for the season, so donations are still welcome, but there is less need for heavy coats and jackets. Waterproofs are still needed! We are also grateful for donations of large suitcases. Please contact Catriona Stoker (see above for details) or Andy Stoker (0784 262101 or email [andy.stoker@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.stoker@btinternet.com)) if you can help with these items.

Many thanks for your continuing prayers and support, Catriona and Andy Stoker



# Holy Week and Easter Events and Services

## 2026

<b>Hazel Grove Methodist Church</b> Maundy Thursday @ 7pm Communion Good Friday @ 10.30am Good Friday Reflection Easter Sunday @ 10.30am Communion	<b>Dialstone Lane Methodist Church</b> Maundy Thursday @ 6.30pm Service Good Friday @ 10am Service Easter Sunday @ 10.45am Communion
<b>Windlehurst Methodist Church</b> Easter Sunday @ 10.30am Service	<b>Heaton Moor United Church</b> Maundy Thursday @ 6pm Service and meal Easter Sunday @ 10.45am All Age Worship
<b>Marple Methodist Church</b> Maundy Thursday @ 7pm (at Marple URC) Good Friday @ 10.30am (at Marple URC) Easter Sunday @ 10.30am (at Marple URC)	<b>The Ridge Methodist Church</b> Easter Sunday @ 6am Sunrise Service Easter Sunday @ 10.30am Communion
<b>Heaton Mersey Methodist Church</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> 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	<b>Romiley Methodist Church</b> Good Friday @ 10.45am Service Easter Sunday @ 10.15am Communion (at Woodley Methodist Church)
<b>Davenport Methodist Church</b> Good Friday @ 10am Open Air Service Easter Sunday @ 10.45am Communion	<b>Woodley Methodist Church</b> 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 Heaton Mersey Methodist Church, these are their prayer requests:

- We give thanks for the variety of services held each month. Please pray for our Cafe Church, Family Church and other services as we endeavour to make them more accessible to those on the fringe of Church life.
- Give thanks for our Ecumenical links through Holiday at Home, our monthly midweek Communion Service and the Heaton Churches Partnership.
- Please pray for the continuing links with Christians in Schools with practical support through our Church worker and other members of the congregation and through our financial giving.
- We give thanks for the ongoing connection with the local community. Involving outside prayer stations, seasonal community events, weekly Chatterbox & Craft, weekly hot drinks served to school children after church, Playtime at Church. We pray that new opportunities will come along as we continue to engage with the community, and to spread God's message.
- We pray for the Developing of our Faith - The different themes and format of services, weekly Bible study, prayer support and that Jesus be the centre of all that we do within the church.

## Woodley Methodist Church

### Tintwistle Brass Band Concert

Tickets are now SOLD OUT for this concert.

If you are unable to attend but would still like to support the event by means of a donation you can donate to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital via the JustGiving Page:

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

## WOODLEY METHODIST CHURCH HYDE ROAD, WOODLEY

### PRESENTS THE TINTWISTLE BRASS BAND



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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

## Davenport Methodist Church

### Davenport Methodist Church

invites you to our

## Chinese Music Concert

performed by *The Robins*

Date: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

Time: 1:30pm (conducted in English)

3:30pm (conducted in Cantonese, co-organised  
with the Hong Kong Fellowship of the  
United Stockport Circuit)

Venue: Davenport Methodist Church  
Garner's Lane, Stockport, SK3 8QS



Entry by donation  
(suggested amount £5)  
Refreshments included

[f](#) [@](#) davenportmethodists | [@](#) THE.ROBINS

Davenport Methodist Church

# GAMES AFTER-NOON

Roll the dice and welcome the Summer. Kick off your sunny season with fun and laughter! With games and great cakes, and memories to make. This Games Afternoon is all that it takes!

**SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 1 PM**

Davenport Methodist Church  
Garner's Lane, Stockport  
SK3 8QS

Entry Fee **£5**  
Includes Refreshments and Access to All Games (Dice for Snakes and Ladders and Lucky Dips)

- Mouse Trap
- Magnetic Chase
- Hula Hupa
- Bean Bag Throwing Skittle
- Snakes and Ladders
- PIT (an authentic card game!)
- Quiz, Raffles, Lucky Dips and more!!

Don't miss the chance. Let's have fun!

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## Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 10am - 2pm Dialstone Lane Methodist Church will be holding a **Plant Sale** with proceeds being donated to **Christian Aid**. There will be a range of plants available including, bedding plants, perennials, houseplants, tomatoes and vegetables. Tea/coffee and cakes will be served, card payments and parking will be available.

## The Ridge Methodist Church

**THE RIDGE METHODIST  
CHURCH  
MARPLE**

INVITES YOU TO  
**AFTERNOON TEA**

**1:00pm – 3:00pm**



**Saturday 11th April**  
in support of



Registered Charity No. 1213824

The Ridge Methodist Church are hosting an Afternoon Tea on Saturday, April 11th 2026, from 1pm to 3pm.

The proceeds from the event are to be donated to Oliver's Dragons, a local Marple children's charity.

## 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.

## 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 Easter 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! Entry by donation, including tea and cake in the interval.



Our May Filmshow on Saturday, 2nd May at 2 p.m., is the 2024 biographical drama “**The Salt Path**” - inspired by mostly true events (the original book has attracted some controversy), it tells the moving story of wife and husband Raynor and Moth Winn’s 630-mile trek along the beautiful but rugged South West Coast Path after they lose their home and Moth is diagnosed with CBD. It stars Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs, superb in their roles; the scenery of Devon and Cornwall is wonderful; and a lot of the film centres around the kindness of strangers. Entry by donation, including tea and cake in the interval.



“**Music for Pleasure**” on Thursday 16th April is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when Geoffrey Pickford will present a talk illustrated by musical recordings (including videos) entitled “**The Romance of the Musicals - from Broadway to the West End.**” Geoffrey has a wealth of knowledge about musicals, and this will be a very informative and entertaining afternoon - followed by refreshments, of course. Entry by donation, and all welcome!

“**Behind my Lens**” is the title of our next **Men’s Evening talk**, on **Monday, 20th April at 7.30p.m.** in the Church, when Christine Birchall will be talking about her approach to photography - if you’ve been to her annual October presentations at Romiley, you’ll know what superb photographs she has in her collection, particularly of landscapes, flora and fauna. Come and see how she does it! Refreshments follow the talk. 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!

**Knit and Natter** group at Woodley Methodist Church on the second Wednesday of each month.

This month we will be meeting on Wednesday 8th April at 10.00 in the church foyer.

We are a small friendly group of knitters who come together to knit items for our Christmas shoebox appeal while enjoying a natter, tea, coffee and biscuit.

We have patterns, needles and wool to share and you are warmly welcome to join us.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> January - **Personal Choices**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February - **Personal Choices**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - **RAINBOW**  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April – **Personal Choices**  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May – **Personal Choices**  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June – **Personal Choices**  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July – **Personal Choices**  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August – **"Summer Holiday"**  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September - **Personal Choices**  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October – **RAINBOW**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm

With Revd Chris Duffett, Baptist Minister (former President of the Baptist Union), who is an evangelist, artist and teacher.

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.

A promotional graphic for District Online Worship. It features a circular photo of Revd Chris Duffett, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a blue plaid shirt and headphones. To the right of the photo is the North West England Methodist District logo and the text 'District Online Worship'. Below the photo is a red circle containing text about Revd Chris Duffett. To the right of the circle is a red rounded rectangle with the date and time 'Sunday 12th April at 6.30pm'. At the bottom right is a light pink rounded rectangle with text about the event's schedule and contact information.

**NORTH WEST ENGLAND  
METHODIST DISTRICT**

## District Online Worship

**Sunday 12th April at 6.30pm**

With Revd Chris Duffett, Baptist Minister (former President of the Baptist Union), who is an evangelist, artist and teacher

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

### Wholehearted monthly

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm

Wholehearted continues in April with guest speaker the Revd Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia. She is the youngest person and the first of Pacifica heritage to hold this esteemed position. She'll speak about her Presidential theme:

**Threads of Love: Weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries**

Wholehearted is a free monthly online gathering of Christians hosted by the Methodist Church and open to all.

Book your free ticket: [Wholehearted Monthly Tickets, Multiple dates | Eventbrite](#)