

Newsletter

MAY 2026

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A Letter from ...

Dear friends across the United Stockport Circuit,

As we move into May, there's something about this time of year that invites us to notice what is growing, both around us and within us. The days are longer, the light is gentler, and life seems to stretch itself open again. It feels like a good moment to pause and ask: what is God nurturing among us?

In our churches, in our communities, and in our own lives, growth doesn't always look dramatic. Often it is quiet, almost hidden. It can be found in faithful acts of service, in conversations that build connection, in prayers whispered when no one else hears.

Across the circuit, there have been signs of this kind of growth. Churches continuing to explore and offer ways of being present in their communities. Seeds being sown, as we did in April with sunflowers, sometimes uncertainly, sometimes with great hope. Not everything will flourish straight away, but we can be reassured that part of our calling is to trust and be present.

This month, we also continue our shared journey through the circuit Year of Prayer. There is something deeply powerful about knowing that, together, we are holding one another before God. Prayer connects us across our different places and contexts; it reminds us that we are not working in isolation, but as part of the body of Christ.

You might be taking part through organised activities, a quiet moment at home, a gathered time of worship, or simply by pausing in the middle of a busy day to lift someone or somewhere to God. All of these prayers, offered faithfully, are part of the life and growth we are praying for in our circuit.

This month also invites us to hold together both action and stillness. There is much to do, and yet we are not called to do it all in our own strength. We are people shaped by prayer, sustained by grace, and led by the Spirit. As we continue to journey together as a circuit, may we make space to listen as well as to act, to receive as well as to give.

Wherever you find yourself this May, whether it be full of energy or feeling stretched, hopeful or uncertain, know that you are part of something bigger. We belong to one another, and we belong to God.

With every blessing,

Deacon Jude Laycock

Letter of Solidarity to Jewish Community on behalf of Stockport Multi-Faith Network (29th April 2026)

Dear friends in the Jewish community,

We were deeply saddened to hear of the awful incident in London today and want to share a message of solidarity and support.

At a time when your community is already carrying so much fear and distress, and when it can feel as though these attacks never cease, we want to affirm that hatred and violence must never be allowed to define our society or our shared future.

As a multi-faith network, we believe that an attack on one community is an attack on us all. Such acts strengthen our collective responsibility to stand together, to support one another, and to work in solidarity against hatred in all its forms.

Hate and violence have no place in Stockport, nor anywhere else in the world. We stand alongside you as a network of faiths, united in our commitment to peace, dignity, and mutual respect.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and we hope for the safety, strength, and wellbeing of your whole community.

With solidarity and compassion,
Stockport Multi-Faith Network

Dear friends,

I would like to introduce myself as the new Circuit Safeguarding Officer. It is a privilege to take on this role, and I am very much looking forward to supporting the important work already happening across our churches.

It has been wonderful to have met with some of our Church Safeguarding Officers on a one-to-one basis, and I look forward to meeting with more over the coming weeks. These conversations are an opportunity to listen: to understand what is working well, where challenges may lie, and how I can best support you. Safeguarding is not a task carried by individuals alone, but a shared commitment across the whole Church.

My hope is that we continue to grow not only as safe churches, but as comfortable ones too. Safety is essential, but the gospel calls us beyond minimum standards. When we say “all are welcome,” we are expressing something deeply theological: that every person is made in the image of God, known and loved by Christ, and deserving of dignity, respect, and belonging. This is not always simple. Our congregations are made up of people with diverse experiences, backgrounds, vulnerabilities, and needs. Creating spaces where everyone feels able to participate fully, and safely, requires attentiveness, humility, and grace.

The prophet Micah reminds us what the Lord requires of us: “to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Safeguarding, at its heart, is part of this calling; seeking justice, extending compassion, and recognising the responsibility we hold for one another.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to give a big thank-you to Elaine Cleary of Woodley Methodist Church. Elaine has been a safeguarding trainer for over 20 years and has recently stepped down from this role, although she remains in her post as Church Safeguarding Officer. As a Circuit we are blessed to still have three safeguarding trainers but I know Elaine will be missed.

Please do feel free to reach out to me at any time. I am here to support you, to learn alongside you, and to help strengthen our shared safeguarding practice across the circuit.

With every blessing,

JoAnne Roy

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

safeguarding@unitedstockportcircuit.org.uk

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Windlehurst Methodist Church

We had a lovely service on a beautiful Easter Sunday. The Lentern cross was decorated by the congregation with lots of colourful garden blooms.

During our Sunday Service on June 7th, we shall be welcoming Des Lynch the the CEO from Wood Street Mission, who will give an address about the work of the Mission in the Manchester area.

Our next pick up by Wood Street Mission is booked for Thursday 14th May when members of Active will load the van. WSM constantly updates the list of items that are urgently needed and deletes those that are in good supply, so we pass this information on to you. Items urgently needed this time are:

Children's new or good quality clothes and shoes from birth to 16 yrs.

Children's new or good quality books for the Books Forever Appeal.

Towels.

Items can be dropped off at Active at Windlehurst on Thursdays 30th April & 7th May between 9am -3pm. Thank you for all your support in the past.



Woodley Methodist Church

Woodley Methodist Thrift Shop now completely restocked for Spring & Summer.

Save the date!

Woodley Methodist Thrift Shop

2nd Fashion Show is on Friday 11th September 2026.

Further information when tickets go on sale!



Joint Services at Romiley and Woodley Methodist Churches

Our fairly regular Joint Services with Woodley Methodist Church continue to work well, and did so especially over the Easter Weekend, with the Maundy Thursday and Easter Day Services at Woodley, and the Good Friday Service at Romiley, all led by the Rev Katie Smith.

The Good Friday Service at Romiley Methodist Church was based around Stephen Cottrell's book about the Passion of Christ, "The Nail." It asks each member of the congregation to imagine that he or she holds one of the nails used to crucify Jesus, and poses the question "Do you accept responsibility for your part in his death, or do you blame another?" Then, interspersed with hymns, readings, and prayers, various witnesses explain their view of what happened - a Roman centurion, Pontius Pilate, Caiaphus, Judas Iscariot, and Mary Magdalene (with each character dressed appropriately for this occasion). The Service concluded with an extract from "Jesus Christ Superstar," whose title relates to John 19:41 (our Joint Bible Study group had recently been looking at Bible-related extracts from the musical). It all made for a very moving, thoughtful, and inspiring approach to a Good Friday Service - thank you, Katie.

Our joint service at Woodley Methodist Church on Easter Sunday led by Rev'd Katie Smith was a joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

The voices of the combined congregations and choir rose in praise of the Risen Lord and during the first hymn people came forward with flowers to decorate the cross.

After communion, at the end of the service, the cross was lowered, taken outside and lifted onto the front of church while we sang "Thine be the Glory, risen, conquering Lord". Tea, coffee and hot cross buns were served in the hall afterwards.

The cross remained in place for a few days, a witness to the community of our faith.



Hong Kong Fellowship

The Hong Kong Fellowship currently meets on the third Saturday of the month at Edgeley Community Church. The services and preachers planned for the next few months are:

16th May - Janet Amey

20th June - Judith Laycock

Reflections on the Methodist Women in Britain Conference 2026

During the Easter period, I was very fortunate to join almost 200 women at the Methodist Women in Britain Conference at The Hayes, Alfreton. I went hoping for renewal, connection, and space to listen to God – and I found all three. The programme was full and enriching: informative sessions, inspiring speakers, market stalls with ethical products and books, and the beautiful countryside that offered quiet moments with the Holy Spirit.

Please [click this link](#) to read Mei Yuk's full reflection of the conference.

Please [click this link](#) to read thoughts on the conference by members of Hazel Grove Methodist Church.

Bible Month

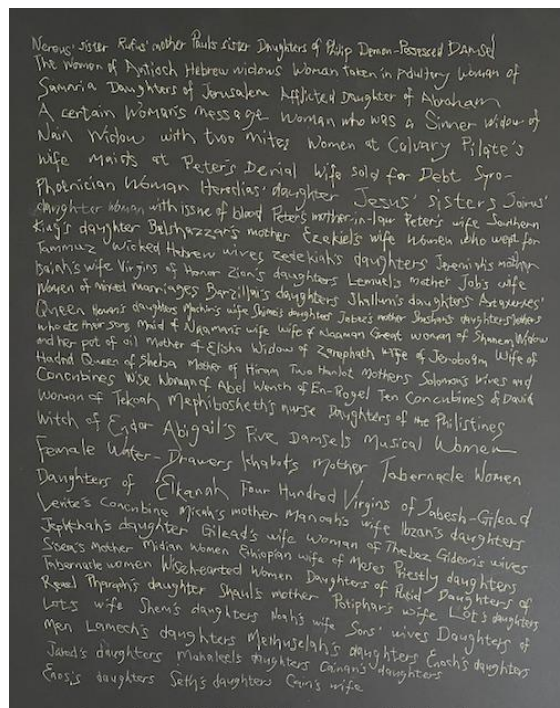
As in previous years The Methodist Church has dedicated a month to look at a particular book in the Bible. In 2026 we will be looking at the letter to the Philippians.

We will be following Bible Month in June.

The Sunday morning services throughout the circuit will (hopefully) be based on Philippians.

There is also a 30 day reading guide available

on the Methodist website with daily reflections, questions and a prayer prompt.



UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE 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 Tiviot Dale Methodist Church, these are their prayer requests:

Proverbs 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Isaiah 25:4 For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall.

Gracious God,
We hold up to you those on the margins of our community, those within the community yet hidden, in particular those in and around Stockport Town Centre. *We pray for those that feel outside... outside of community, outside of church, outside of life. For the vulnerable, for the lost, for the broken and for those hurt.*

We hold up to you,
- the homeless, the street homeless, the sofa surfers, and those tiptoeing in abusive relationships to stay as they see no other place.
- those living with addiction.
- the lost and broken, the weak, the hungry and the weary.
- those building new lives in unfamiliarity.
- those struggling in poverty.
- those with quiet voices and those with no voices.

We especially pray for those who are known to Tiviot Dale, through Cactus cafe, Food bank, Addiction Groups, Fellowship, Worship and Refugee group.

For humanity and for church, for diversity and the fragility of humanity, we pray for the strength of unity in you.

Gracious God hear our prayers,
Amen

Circuit



ASCENSION DAY
CIRCUIT SERVICE

Thursday 14 May | 7pm
Hazel Grove Methodist Church
led by our Superintendent, Rev Jan Tate



United Stockport Circuit
of The Methodist Church

PENTECOST
PRAYERS IN THE PARK
COME HOLY SPIRIT

Sunday 24th May
2pm - 4pm
Abney Scout Centre
Newlands Road, Cheadle, SK8 2BP

ALL ARE WELCOME, family and friends to join us as we gather in celebration of Pentecost for a time of creative prayer, fellowship, and shared worship in God's creation.

Bring a chair or blanket if you wish, refreshments and toilet facilities are available.
Limited car parking available at the scout centre but local car parks nearby

Please [click this link](#) for more information about 'Prayers in the Park'.

Up and coming Prayer events

Thursday 14 May Ascension Day service at Hazel Grove

Sunday 24 May Pentecost Prayers in the Park

Saturday 20 June Town Centre Prayer Walk starting at Tiviot Dale

Saturday 11 July Towpath Prayers around Marple

Saturday 8 August Prayer Safari, Davenport, Dialstone Lane and Windlehurst

Please look out for further details.

Funeral Notice

The Funeral for Margaret Hawley will take place on Monday 18th May at 10.45am at Stockport Crematorium. This will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at The Ridge at 12 noon.

Davenport Methodist Church

Davenport Methodist Church

invites you to our

Chinese Music Concert

performed by *The Robins*

Date: Saturday 23rd 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
Garners 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
Garners Lane, Stockport
SK3 8QS

Entry Fee
£5
Including Refreshments and
Access to All Games
(Extra for Toilet
and Lady Sign)

- 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!

[@](#) [f](#) @DavenportMethodists

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Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Saturday 9th 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.

DIALSTONE LANE METHODIST CHURCH

PLANT STALL



on Saturday 9th May
10.00am - 2.00pm
refreshments available

IN AID OF

Christian Aid

Romiley Methodist Church

CHRISTIAN AID STRAWBERRY AFTERNOON TEA, Saturday, 23rd May, 2 till 3.30: This is our main fundraising event for Christian Aid Week - scones with jam and cream, fresh strawberries, tea and coffee, all for a donation to Christian Aid as you come through the door! (Envelopes will be available if you wish to Gift Aid your donation). All welcome!

“My Eighty Years in Scouting” is the title of a talk to be given by **Charles Hamilton** on Monday, 18th May, at 7.30 p.m. in the Church - all welcome!

Sunflowers!

I hope you're looking after your sunflowers. We'll be looking for the tallest & the biggest flower. There will be more details in due course... *Jan*



WOODLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Hyde Road, Woodley

AN EVENING OF

ORGAN MUSIC

In memory of

NIGEL OGDEN

BBC Radio 2 - "The Organist Entertains"

with

MICHAEL HOLMES



A beautiful evening of music, reflection and community

Friday 3rd July 2026 at 7.30pm

Tickets £10.00 (to include light refreshments)

Contact Phil 0161 989 9993

In Aid of



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

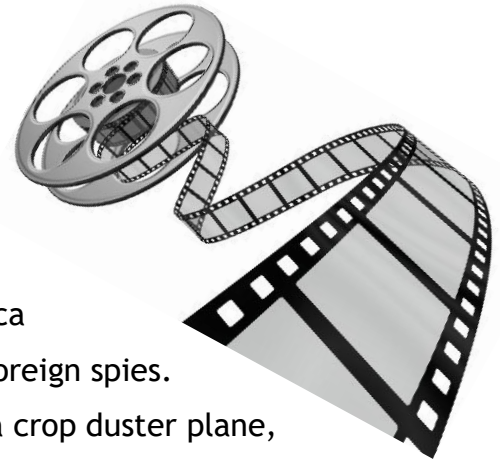
Friday - 1.30pm to 5pm

Teas, coffees, toast, tea cakes, soup.

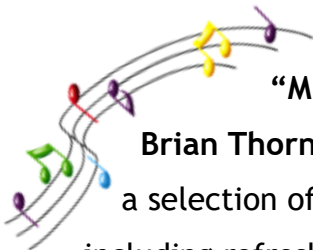
Lydia's Place - craft group every other Thursday

Romiley Methodist Church

Our next **SATURDAY FILMSHOW** (6th June) is the classic Alfred Hitchcock suspense thriller **“NORTH BY NORTHWEST”** - starring Cary Grant, Eve Marie Saint, and James Mason. Cary Grant plays Roger Thornhill, a New York advertising executive who goes on the run across America after being mistaken for a government agent by a group of foreign spies. There are stunning, gripping set pieces (on the prairie with a crop duster plane, on Mount Rushmore), sparkling photography, lots of humour, great performances, and a wonderful music score by Bernard Herrmann. Widely regarded as one of the greatest films ever made, we are showing it in a restored Blu-ray version. 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 May is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when **Brian Thornley (our Organist)** will talk about and play (on our lovely Schimmel piano) a selection of 20th century music chosen by the audience. Admission by donation, including refreshments, 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!

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

This month we will be meeting on Wednesday 13th May 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 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”

**“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



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

Taking place on Sunday 10 May at 6.30pm, with the theme of Christian Aid. Christian Aid week is the 10-16 May.

For the Zoom code (which remains the same), please email prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk or direct message us on Facebook.

A promotional poster for District Online Worship. The top left features the text 'Launch of Christian Aid Week' in white on a dark red background. A large red arrow pointing right contains the words 'christian aid' in white. The top right shows the North West England Methodist District logo and the text 'District Online Worship' in bold black. Below this, a red rounded rectangle contains the text 'Sunday 10th May at 6.30pm'. At the bottom, a red rounded rectangle contains the text: '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.'