

# Newsletter

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JUNE 2026

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## A Letter from the Superintendent

When did you last write a letter?

When I was at university I wrote regularly to my friends. Now (apart from church newsletters) the only letter I write is the round-robin at Christmas. For most people these days it's all emails, WhatsApp and Facebook. Letters from soldiers on the frontline often go up for auction but even they might be electronic now, though it's probably still the only way to communicate with someone in prison.

During June, in church, we're focusing on Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul wrote a lot of letters though some of the ones that carry his name may not have actually been written by Paul. (That's a discussion for another occasion.) The letter to the Philippians is generally thought to have been written by Paul himself though it may be two letters as he seems to sign-off twice. The letter was written from prison. Paul was in prison several times so it's not entirely clear which prison he is writing from.

Although it is written from prison it is not a miserable, self-indulgent letter. Paul may be facing martyrdom but he writes positively of being a prisoner for Christ, comfortable in facing death but still with important work to do among the churches that depend on him. Note Paul's use of the word "rejoice" several times.

The church at Philippi was the first that Paul founded in Europe and he obviously holds them close to his heart and they supported him in his later travels and sufferings with gifts of money.

Because it's a letter we only have one side of the conversation but it's clear the Philippians are facing some opposition. The overall message is that the church should stand firm even when facing outside interference or internal discord. That they should copy the attitude of Jesus, so beautifully described in the "Christ hymn" in chapter two.

We should take this message to heart. Things don't always go right with us. It's not always easy being the church where we are. Sometimes there is discontent and even division in our congregations. We should stand firm as a united fellowship and work together to rise above our differences, look to Christ and walk in his way.

*Jan*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Pentecost Prayer Event

Our circuit Pentecost Prayer event took place at Abney Scout Centre on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May. It was a lovely event with lots of opportunity for creativity and prayer and some yummy cakes!



### 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 a 30 day reading guide available on the Methodist website with daily reflections, questions and a prayer prompt.

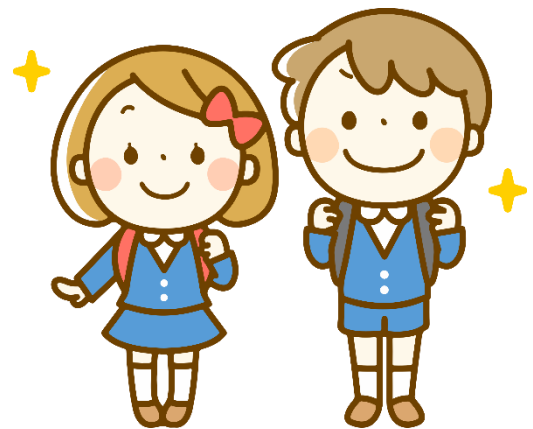
## Windlehurst Methodist Church

During our Sunday Service on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am, 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. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. There will be a retiring collection for the mission after the service.

**Wood Street Mission Appeal!** Wearing the right uniform can make a huge difference to a child's confidence and sense of belonging. Smart Start provides families with high-quality school items so children can walk into school feeling prepared, included, and ready to reach their full potential.

Donations must be suitable for ages 4-16, non-branded and either new or very good second-hand condition.

- Shirts, blouses and polo tops - white, sky blue
- Sweatshirts and jumpers - navy, grey, black
- Trousers, skirts and pinafores - grey, black
- Summer dresses - blue and green
- New footwear, socks, tights and underwear
- PE and sports kit
- Winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves
- New stationery and pencil cases
- New drinks bottles and lunch boxes
- School bags/ Rucksacks



Please bring any donations to Windlehurst Church between 9.00- 3.00. on Thursday: 18th and 25th of June or Thursday 2nd. July. Collection will be on Thursday: 9th July.

Thank You! 🙏

**Charity Appeal:** If anyone has any bras or spectacles that are no longer of use, could you please give them to Margaret Rawles either at Hazel Grove or Windlehurst!

## Woodley Methodist Church

**Save the date!**

Woodley Methodist Thrift Shop

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

Further information when tickets go on sale!

## Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Thank you to all who contributed to our Plant Stall on May 9<sup>th</sup>, raising funds for Christian Aid. We are pleased to report that, the plants raised £1,115.06, including £112 from the refreshment sales. In addition, we had some plants left over which we were able to offer to the Peace Garden at Englesea Brook Museum of Primitive Methodism and a local care home improving their garden, through the power of Facebook.



We are pleased to be working with the Boaz Trust at the Welcome Group. It has long been a concern for us that at the moment of receiving their Right to Remain in the UK, people are also told they have 42 days to open a bank account, find a job or sort their benefits and find somewhere to live. It becomes a real emotional rollercoaster as people realise how difficult it is to find affordable housing.

Through additional funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Boaz have been able to widen their remit from helping those who are in effect stateless due to being refused asylum in the UK but also refused entry by their country of origin, to offering support to those seeking accommodation once asylum has been granted and are in danger of homelessness:

<https://www.boaztrust.org.uk/pages/gm-refugee-homelessness-prevention-project>



Their workers are using our premises to meet with people during the Welcome Group, and this is helping us to learn more about the housing situation in general. Boaz hope to offer training more widely on this. One area we could do well to explore is the offering of short-term accommodation in our homes through various support organisations, such as the Greater Together Manchester Lodgings Scheme -

<https://www.greatertogethermanchester.org/lodgings-scheme>

## Davenport Methodist Church

The Saturday afternoon Chinese Ensemble at Davenport, May 23rd, was very, very good. Enjoyed by all who attended.

The Robins entertained us well, with well-known music, with Chinese instruments, which made an interesting sound to the original setting. Plus, some Chinese tunes. To have the instruments explained to us was very interesting.

With refreshments included, and a chance to chat to the band. It was an afternoon well spent. Thank you Eric and the Robins.



## Romiley Methodist Church

**OUR CHRISTIAN AID STRAWBERRY AFTERNOON TEA, on sunny Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May,** was our main fundraising event for Christian Aid Week - scones with jam and cream, fresh strawberries, tea and coffee, and was very well attended, raising (with additional donations from those who couldn't be there on the Saturday) well over £500 at the time of writing. Many thanks to all who arranged, attended, and donated!

## A Thank you message ...

Thank you so much for my leaving gift. I am planning to buy some lovely things for our garden now I have time to bring it back under control!

I've really enjoyed working for the Circuit. It was a real joy getting Tiviot Dale back up and running after Covid, sorting out the property side and also seeing people in community groups start to use the premises. Opening our doors to Warm Spaces, which turned into Community Cafe with all the wonderful guests we welcome each week is still a very powerful place to be.

It's been great getting to know some of you as I've worked alongside you at various churches, as we tackled property issues together.

I am sad to be leaving but know it is time for me to retire and concentrate on family. I wish you all well.

Maggie Thompson



# 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 Hazel Grove Methodist Church, these are their prayer requests:

We pray for guidance in our future, both for ourselves and for our shared worship with our local URC. We pray that our purpose and vision may be outward looking, community involving, realistic in our abilities and open to new ideas.

We pray also to be accepting and understanding that changing direction, giving up things that aren't working well, are not failures but new opportunities. In all our ventures we seek the support of the circuit and the everlasting trust in God.

Amen

## Up and coming Prayer events

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.

# Circuit

## **CIRCUIT PRAYER WALK**

**in STOCKPORT TOWN CENTRE**

*It will be a circular walk ~ there will be eight different prayer stops*

The walk and prayers will be led by Rev Jan Tate

**SATURDAY 20 JUNE | 10.30AM**

Join us at TIVIOT DALE for tea & coffee  
The walk will start promptly at 11am

Another opportunity as a circuit during our 'Year of Prayer' to be together, reflect and pray in a visible sign of our shared calling within our locality.

If you are unable to join us but would like to receive a booklet containing the route and prayers, please email [super@stockportcircuit.org.uk](mailto:super@stockportcircuit.org.uk) after the event.

We look forward to seeing you!



## Davenport Methodist Church

### 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 by Donation  
**£5** Suggested Amount  
Includes Refreshments and Access to All Games (Extra for Raffles 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!

@DavenportMethodists



### Share & Learn Craft Club

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Craft Exhibition

at Davenport Methodist Church



July 4<sup>th</sup> 2026  
2 till 4pm  
Free Entry



Refreshments Available  
Raffle & Craft Stall

Donations for Church Funds  
gratefully received



## Woodley Methodist Church

We are holding an Organ Concert on Friday 3rd July 2026 @ 7.30pm, when Michael Holmes of Stockport Plaza Theatre will be performing. This is following the Passing of Nigel Ogden of Radio 2 'The Organist Entertains' Programme, who over the years put on a number of concerts at Woodley to raise funds for the rebuilding of the Church and for Charity. So as a Thank you we felt we would like to arrange a concert in his memory and for the proceeds to go to Parkinson's UK & The British Heart Foundation, charities close to Nigel.

If you cannot attend but would still like to support the charities then donations can be sent through by clicking on the following

links [https://www.justgiving.com/page/philip-taylor-](https://www.justgiving.com/page/philip-taylor-11)

[11](https://www.justgiving.com/page/philip-taylor-10) or <https://www.justgiving.com/page/philip-taylor-10> Please telephone Phil on 0161 989 9993 for tickets or more information.

## Hazel Grove Methodist Church

Hazel Grove are arranging a trip to Southport Flower Show on Friday 21 August. The cost is £40 for the coach & a ticket to the Flower Show or £18 if you would like to take the coach & spend the day in Southport.

If you are interested or would like further details, please contact Barbara Murphy on 0161 456 5275

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](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

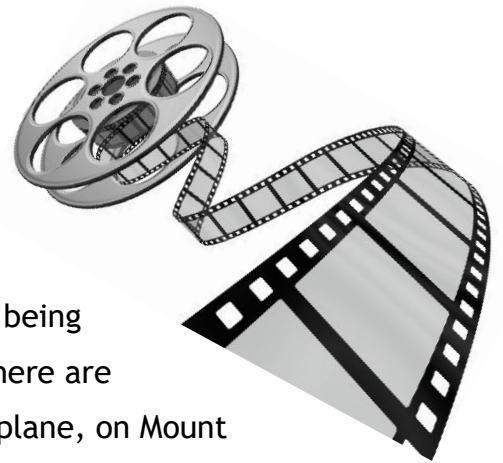
Friday - 1.30pm to 5pm

Teas, coffees, toast, tea cakes, soup.

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

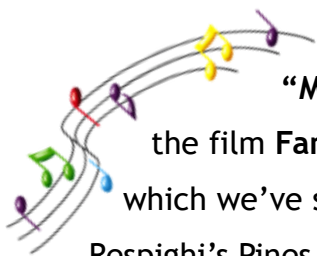
## Romiley Methodist Church

Our next **SATURDAY FILMSHOW (6<sup>th</sup> 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



**OUR JULY FILMSHOW on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July** will be the 2024 comedy drama starring Steve Coogan, **“The Penguin Lessons.”** Based on true events, it’s adapted from the real-life memoirs of Tom Michell, a British schoolteacher who travelled to South America in the 1970s, and one day rescued an oil-soaked penguin from a beach while visiting Uruguay. Tom cleaned it up, after which it refused to leave his side, so he took it back with him to the boys’ boarding school in Buenos Aires where he was working. The story is set against the troubled political background of Argentina being in the hands of the junta, following a military coup in 1976, after which many opponents simply disappeared. The presence of the penguin, named Juan Salvador by Tom, has some surprisingly positive effects on the life of the school - plus, he’s a very cute and funny (and real, not computer-generated) little bird. It’s a very enjoyable film for a Saturday afternoon, with tea and cakes in the interval.

**“Shetland”** is the title of a talk to be given by **Eddie Goodall** and illustrated by numerous photographs, on Monday, 15<sup>h</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. in the Church - all welcome!



**“Music for Pleasure” on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June** is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when the film **Fantasia 2000** will be shown. This is the sequel to the 1940 Disney masterpiece, which we’ve shown here previously. The music includes Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, Respighi’s Pines of Rome, Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals, a reprise of Dukas’ The Sorcerer’s Apprentice, and much more. 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 10th June 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 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



## 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 14 June at 6.30pm, with Revd Alan Bradley preaching.

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.

**NORTH WEST ENGLAND  
METHODIST DISTRICT**

## District Online Worship

**Sunday 14th June at 6.30pm**

With Revd Alan Bradley,  
Mission Area Lead for  
Greater Manchester Plus  
& Deputy 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](mailto:prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk) or direct message us on Facebook

**THRIVING UNDER 5S  
SPIRITUAL AND FAITH  
FORMATION**

Grow your skills and practice in ministry with under 5s

Monday 15th June  
9.45am-12.15pm

Scan me!

Free online event. Scan for booking and more details

the well

Daniel's Den  
Toddler groups

QUAKERS

The United Reformed Church

**Roots**  
RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

### Thriving Under 5s Ministry

Monday 15 June, 9.45am - 12.15pm on Zoom.

Discover how children aged 0-5 can encounter God through play, ritual, and the gentle rhythms of early faith formation.

[Find out more here](#)