

# Newsletter

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**July 2026**

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## A Letter from ...

Dear Friends,

Over the last few days (ending on 1<sup>st</sup> July), Jude, Raj and I have been at the Methodist church's annual conference. This is the place where conversations are had about the big issues facing the church and at which decisions that affect us at a national level are made. Each year a new President and Vice President are elected and inducted, and both address the conference introducing their theme.

This year they have chosen the words "joy" and "sorrow" to reflect on. In June, bible month had us look at the joy-filled letter to the Philippians and joy might be something that we are comfortable with thinking about in relation to life as a Christian. But what about sorrow?

The president, Rev'd Mark Slaney, sang to introduce his address. As a minister serving in Scotland it felt appropriate that he used The Proclaimers' song "Sunshine on Leith" which includes talk of having had and perhaps still feeling sorrow, but says "while the chief, sends sunshine on Leith, I'll thank him for his work, and your birth, and my birth."

Vice-president, Caroline Stead reminded us that "the Christian journey is a tapestry woven with threads of both joy and sorrow" and that joy and sorrow often co-exist. We might think of a funeral at which the sorrow of losing someone is combined with the joy that comes from having known them and loved them and having been loved by them. These can and do co-exist, and Caroline reminded us that we can know that God is good - all the time!

The conference held joy for us locally as Raj was received into full connexion with the Methodist Church in Britain - he is officially a Methodist minister now. And there was also sorrow as we heard that our district chair, James Tebbutt's time in the role is going to be cut short due to his ill health.

We reflected on many topics - some hopeful and some deeply moving. We talked of better relationships with our ecumenical partners, and of assisted dying and how we respond to legislation. We learned that, as an organisation that came into being in the era of the trans-Atlantic trade in enslaved people, the Methodist church benefited in various ways from that trade, and we heard moving testimonies from people whose family histories include enslavement. In our small group we talked about how the challenge is not only to apologise and make reparations, but to learn from the past and be aware for the future of how we can seek justice, dignity and solidarity for all.

May you know God's presence in all of life this month.

*Katie*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Windlehurst Methodist Church

#### Active at Windlehurst feature at Stockport Art Gallery

Active at Windlehurst has produced a work of art that will be displayed in an exhibition at Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery between June 21st and August 27th 2026. The exhibition is an invitation for people to bring along their best piece of artwork and Active are very proud of what they have produced.

We took inspiration from silhouette of a giraffe, and each member used watercolours to produce part of the picture on a canvas that have been brought together to show the overall picture. We hope you love the work as much as we do!



Why not pop along and see our work at the art gallery this summer.

The text alongside the picture says:

“Hello there and welcome. Every person in our group is unique. We come from different backgrounds, have different abilities, different strengths and different ways of seeing the world. Some of us communicate with words and some through actions, creativity or simply being present. This piece celebrates individuality, belonging and the beauty that emerges when every person is valued. We hope you enjoy looking at our work as much as we enjoyed creating it. Active. Windlehurst Methodist Church.”



At our recent joint service with The Ridge M.C. it was a great privilege to welcome Des Lynch the C.E.O. of Wood Street Mission. Des spoke passionately about the impact of poverty on the life chances of children, the massive numbers of children needing support and the work of the Mission. He also expressed gratitude for the donations received from our church and the local community. The retiring collection raised sufficient money to equip six children with a basic school kit.

For several years Windlehurst has been a collection hub for Wood Street Mission. Collections are made annually for the Book Appeal, Christmas Gifts Appeal and the SmartStart Appeal along with on-going collections for the Family Basics Appeal.

We are currently collecting for SmartStart which provides school uniforms and essentials so that no child feels different because of their circumstances. Wearing the right uniform makes a huge difference to a child's confidence, sense of belonging and indeed their learning.

Items particularly needed are in sizes 5-16 year olds

White/pale blue shirts/blouses/polo shirts

Grey/navy sweatshirts/skirts

Grey/black trousers

School socks, water bottles, lunch boxes, pencil cases

Should you wish to donate, items will be gratefully received by members of Active at Windlehurst on Thursday 2nd July between 8.30am-3.30pm in readiness for collection on Thursday 9th July.

## **Davenport Methodist Church**

Thursday drop in is continuing to grow and will continue throughout August whatever the weather! It even became a welcome cool space during the recent heatwave with cold drinks served as well as usual hot drinks.



## Marple and The Ridge Methodist Churches



**Christian Aid Week 2026** - The efforts of Christian Aid supporters from Churches Together in Marple, which comprises 11 churches across several denominations, has resulted in donations to Christian Aid of £5,920, (including Gift Aid).

To start off CA Week, the annual plant and cake sale was held on 9 May, at Marple Methodist Church. This event has been held for around 40 years in various forms, with plants and cakes donated by folk from various churches and members of the community. This years was a very busy morning, with many folks buying plants, cakes and coffee and great fun for those involved. The event raised £1,075.



In addition to fund raising, CA Week provides an opportunity to bear Witness to our faith and to engage with the community in Marple through a range of actions.

Over 50 volunteers from Churches Together delivered 5,700 envelopes to homes in the area, for donations to be dropped off at one of 5 local collection points, including homes and shops. This activity, together with church service collections raised £2,787.

We are keen to increase community engagement and donations on-line. Through promotion on the Marple Community web site, personal social media contacts and the inclusion of a QR code on the delivery envelopes, the CA Marple Area web site received donations of £1,700, (incl. Gift Aid).

Christian Aid Week, and the planning which goes into it, is also a great opportunity to meet and enjoy fellowship with other CA supporters

## 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

First of all, many thanks for the many suitcases that have come our way at Dialstone Lane from around the Circuit. If we haven't thanked you individually it's because we have come home and found cases in our front porch, but with no names on as to who has delivered them. As you know we offer them to people who are moving on from the Britannia Hotel where they have been accommodated by the Home Office, sometimes for more than two years. It gives a little dignity to the move, rather than black bin bags.

We are now finding that people are moving on more quickly, so the demand is greater than ever. Whilst we can supplement donated suitcases with purchases from charity shops (though the summer time means there are fewer available as they are quickly snapped up), we are now also offering large zip-up laundry bags as a fall back. But we would very much welcome any spare suitcases, you still happen to have. Please get in touch with Andy (07484 262101) or Catriona Stoker (07798 881537), if you want to find out about delivering one (or more) or need one picking up.

With our thanks from the Welcome Group at Dialstone Lane

# 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 Marple Methodist Church, these are their prayer requests:

A Prayer for Community, Mission, and Shared Calling:

Gracious God,

We thank You for the gift of community— for neighbours, friendships, and the shared spaces where Your love quietly takes root and grows.

We lift before You the work of the Seed Café, a place where welcome is offered, stories are shared, and Your mission is lived out in cups of tea, warm meals, and the gentle dignity of being seen and valued. Bless all who serve there and all who find comfort within its walls. May it continue to be a seedbed of faith, hope, and fellowship.

We thank You for the opportunities You place before us— moments to deepen faith, to build relationships, to discover You in one another. Help us to recognise these opportunities and to step into them with courage and joy.

We pray for Marple Methodist, Marple URC and Marple Bridge URC, As our three churches walk together, seeking to strengthen shared links and explore the possibility of forming an LEP, grant us wisdom to discern Your will and guidance to follow Your leading. Where there are differences, sow understanding. Where there is uncertainty, plant peace. Where there is potential, nurture unity.

Shape us into a partnership that reflects Your Kingdom— collaborative, generous, outward-looking, and rooted in the love of Christ.

May all we do together be for the flourishing of our community, the strengthening of Your Church, and the glory of Your name.

Amen

## YEAR OF PRAYER EVENTS

Following the Town Centre Prayer Walk, I have emailed the booklet to each church. If you would like a copy just ask for it to be forwarded to you.

On Saturday 11 July there will be a Towpath Prayer Walk between Marple and The Ridge. Look out for information about more events in the coming months.

Where are you going on holiday? As part of the Year of Prayer we'd like you to buy a postcard while you're on holiday and bring it back to church. From September we'll be asking each church to make a display of postcards. We will include photos of all the displays in the Circuit Newsletter. It'll be interesting to see how much of the world we cover between us.

Unfortunately both our sunflowers have been eaten. I hope you're having better luck. We'll be working out how to measure them and when is the best time to do so to see who has been most successful so keep looking after them.

*Jan*



Join us for Towpath Prayers, as part of our circuit year of prayer.

We will leave Marple Methodist Church at 10am and walk along the canal stopping at prayer stations on the way.

We will end the walk at The Ridge Methodist Church, where there will be tea and cake!

We would love to see you there!

## Hong Kong Fellowship

Upcoming events at the Hong Kong Fellowship:

13 June Sat - day trip to Shrewsbury

20 June Sat - Hong Kong Prayer Gathering at Edgeley Community Church, led by Jude Laycock & Mei Yuk

4 July Sat - day trip to Sheffield

17 July Fri - English Workshop party

18 July Sat - Fellowship Gathering at Edgeley Community Church, led by JoAnne Roy & Mei Yuk

1 Aug Sat - day trip to Blackpool

15 Aug Sat - BBQ at Edgeley Community Church

## Heaton Moor United Church

Join our Community Worker JoAnne at Heaton Moor United Church for Tea and Truth, exploring scripture through the wisdom and wit of Jane Austen.

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that character matters."

Jane Austen's novels are filled with flawed people learning humility, wisdom, love, and hope. Scripture tells the same story: God meets imperfect people with grace and invites them into lives of deeper faith and transformed hearts.

Join us as we explore this further with tea and cake! We will begin on the 8th July with Pride and Prejudice, Humility and Transformation.

These will be relaxed sessions and you do not need to have knowledge of Jane Austen's works or the bible! You do not need to attend each session!



## Davenport Methodist Church

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**



## Romiley Methodist Church

The **STOCKPORT MALE VOICE CHOIR** will present a **Summer Concert** on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7 p.m. in the Church - they always provide a very entertaining evening of a wide variety of lovely music, so do come along! Tickets on the door at only £9, including refreshments.

“**Bad, Mad, or Sad**” is the intriguing title of a sure to be entertaining and informative talk to be given by Keith Tonge on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 p.m. in the Church - all welcome, with a cuppa and a chocolate biscuit afterwards

## 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

## 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



Heaton Moor

**Dementia Friendly Heaton Moor** 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

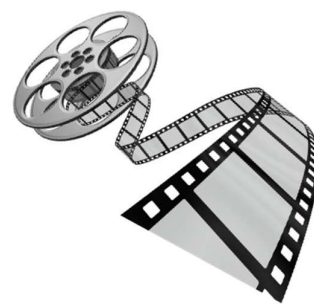
Friday - 1.30pm to 5pm

Teas, coffees, toast, tea cakes, soup.

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

## Romiley Methodist Church

**OUR JULY FILMSHOW** this Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July is the 2024 comedy drama starring Steve Coogan, **“The Penguin Lessons.”** Inspired by true events, it’s adapted from the 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.



**“Music for Pleasure”** on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when Charles Hamilton will present a Scottish-themed programme entitled **“Island Hopping Revisited”** 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 8th July 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"

**Please Note: There will be no meeting in August!**

## EXTERNAL NEWS



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

Our next Online Worship will take place on Sunday 12 July at 6.30pm, with the theme of Disability Pride Month. We are delighted that we will have Kai Bland, Student Deacon, sharing a message with us. 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.



Please note that Online Worship is taking a break in August, and will resume on the second Sunday of each month from Sunday 13 September.

### BBC Young Chorister of the Year 2026 - Songs of Praise Special

Songs of Praise and BBC Radio 2 would love to invite you to a very special recording of BBC Young Chorister of the Year 2026 from the iconic Hallé St Peter's in Manchester.

#### WHEN:

Wednesday 8th July 2026 - Junior Semi-Final (doors open 10:30am)

Wednesday 8th July 2026 - Senior Semi-Final (doors open 4:00pm)

#### WHERE:

Hallé St Peter's, Audience Entrance on Hood Street, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 6BF

Book your free tickets here: [Lost in TV - SONGS OF PRAISE - BBC YOUNG CHORISTER OF THE YEAR 2026](#)