

Newsletter

October 2026

A letter from ...	2
News from around the circuit	3
Upcoming events	9
Regular activities	11
External news	16

A Letter from ...

As we move into October, there is a definite sense that the seasons are changing. The evenings are drawing in, the mornings are cooler, and the leaves are beginning to turn. I always think autumn has a particular beauty about it, but it is a beauty that comes through change and letting go.

Perhaps that makes it a good time to think about the theme for this Presidential year: Sorrow and Joy.

At first, they might seem like two opposites. We might imagine that we move from one to the other, that sorrow is something we need to get through before we can find joy again. But life is rarely quite as tidy as that. Very often, sorrow and joy sit alongside one another.

We can be thankful for something new while still grieving what has gone. We can laugh with someone we love while carrying a sadness they know nothing about. We can celebrate new beginnings while being unsure about what they will bring. And sometimes, even in the hardest moments, there can be small glimpses of joy: a kind word, a cup of tea with someone, an unexpected message, a familiar hymn, or simply knowing that we are not alone.

That feels important for us as churches too.

Across our Circuit there is much to celebrate. There are faithful people serving their communities, new ideas being explored, relationships growing, prayers being offered and people quietly showing the love of God in countless ways. But we also know that church life can bring uncertainty and sadness. Things change. Familiar ways of doing things come to an end. Some things that once worked no longer do. Sometimes we have to let go of what has been precious in order to make room for what God might be doing next.

Our faith does not ask us to pretend that everything is joyful when it isn't. The Bible certainly doesn't. It gives us lament as well as praise, tears as well as laughter, Good Friday as well as Easter morning.

And perhaps that is where hope is found, not in denying sorrow, but in discovering that God is present within it.

So, this October, perhaps we can make space for both sorrow and joy. To give thanks for the things that bring us life, while being gentle with ourselves and with one another about the things that hurt. To notice those small moments of joy which can so easily pass us by. And to remember that whatever season we find ourselves in, we do not travel through it alone.

May we be people who are willing to share one another's sorrows, celebrate one another's joys, and look for signs of God's presence in both.

Blessings,

Jude

Allocation of Circuit Ministers

Following changes in the circuit the Circuit Leadership Team has agreed the pastoral oversight of the churches for the coming year:

- Davenport - Rev Dr Raj Patta
- Dialstone Lane - Rev Dr Raj Patta and Deacon Janet Amey
- Hazel Grove - Rev Jan Tate
- Heaton Mersey - Rev Jan Tate and Deacon Janet Amey
- Heaton Moor - Rev Mike Aspinall
- Marple - Deacon Jude Laycock and Rev Katie Smith
- Romiley - Rev Katie Smith
- The Ridge - Deacon Jude Laycock and Rev Dr Raj Patta
- Windlehurst - Deacon Jude Laycock and Rev Dr Raj Patta
- Woodley - Rev Katie Smith



These changes came into effect on 1 September 2026.

Deacon Janet will be moving to the South Worcestershire Circuit after Christmas. Please hold her in your prayers as she prepares for this next step in her ministry.

Romiley Methodist Church

ROMILEY METHODIST CHURCH'S ANNUAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION on Saturday, 12th September was again a great success, with lots of layouts (including some hands-on and drive-it yourself layouts, very popular with the numerous children who came along), a small art

exhibition with paintings for sale, and a Café. All the proceeds - a wonderful

£2,000 - are going to Action for Children, the Methodist

charity. Many thanks to all who arranged and

supported the show - it will be on again next year,

on Saturday 11th September 2027



Windlehurst Methodist Church



Windlehurst held an **Active Coffee Morning** recently. We were blessed with a sunny day which encouraged over eighty people to attend. Our huge thanks go to everyone who supported this event. It was good to welcome local residents, Circuit friends and the relatives and carers of members of Active. The cake stall was fabulous, thank you for so many delicious donations. Thanks also for raffle and tombola prizes and especially for the combined energy of the Active team who acted as waiters and stall holders.

We also greatly appreciated the time given by three Ministers who busied themselves as waiters, door monitors, and general factotums. Well done to all for a truly great morning with over £500 added to church funds.

The Church acts as a collection hub for **Wood Street Mission** and is very well supported by local residents. The picture shows over thirty bags awaiting collection on Oct. 1st. The bags contain new and good quality preloved items of clothing for children under 16years old, children's books and new and good quality second hand towels as currently requested by the mission.

These items were all sorted by the Active team who will assist the man in the van with loading. Our long-standing connection with the mission reminds us of the part churches can play in helping to alleviate poverty locally.



From Oct 1st we will respond to the Wood Street Mission Christmas appeal by collecting new toys, books and gifts for boys and girls living in poverty 0-16yrs old. Many of you will support similar appeals elsewhere but anyone wishing to donate is invited to drop items in at Active on Thursdays Oct. 29 and Nov.5 between 9am-3.30pm.

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Dialstone Lane Welcome Group - As you will know we have been running a social support group- plus so much more - for people accommodated at The Britannia Hotel, no distance from our Church, since November 2021. Over this time we have been grateful for the input of many volunteers, but we are getting to a point that we need more people signed up. We don't expect our volunteers to come every week, but we do need a minimum of 12 people to run safely and making full use of our premises. For only the second time we have had to close this last week of September due to a shortage of volunteers. There are a range of activities you might want to get involved in if you did volunteer. Please give it some thought; it's rewarding to see people's pleasure in finding clothes that fit for themselves or their children, seeing progress in English and providing food which people really enjoy.



We have seen the length of time people stay hugely reduced and the places they are sent to live much further away from Stockport - Aberdeen has been the furthest! This change has meant that we are unable to get to know people so well and less likely to maintain contact after people move on. However, the need for suitcases has greatly increased as we are supplying so many more people and we are always happy to receive these either at the church or at our home.



We are very grateful to those people who regularly trawl the charity shops for suitcases for us. We do provide cheap plastic laundry bags to supplement the provision of suitcases. We are also happy to receive clothing as there are people arriving with virtually nothing. New underwear is particularly useful, and at this changing time of the year warm tights and trousers and waterproof coats. Again, we can accept items at the Church or our home.

Please contact Catriona Stoker - 07798 881537 - if you are interested in volunteering (this work requires a DBS which I can assist in applying for) or have suitcases or clothing you could let us have. Many thanks.

Sunflowers

Two churches have forwarded photos of their sunflowers.

As you know ours were eaten soon after they had appeared. How did yours do?



Windlehurst

This is the sunflower grown by Olwen Delleman, unfortunately it is just past its best!

She has collected the seeds and is hoping to plant them next Spring!

Davenport



Zoe, Eri and Osmond Heung

Our one is 33 inches tall, and the flower is 4 inches wide in the central part (is turning to be sunflower seeds now 😊). A new small flower bloomed these last few days, but it's a lot smaller than the big one. (as at 12th Aug 2026)

Janet Partington

My Sunflower is 97cm tall but not very wide, the diameter is only 10cm. Not going to win the prize but I have watered it with waste washing up water every day However it is beginning to wilt now. (as at 13th Aug)



Postcards

If any churches have created a display of holiday postcards please could you send a photo for next month's circuit newsletter.

Hong Kong Fellowship

Mei Yuk has stepped down from her role of Hong Kong Fellowship Co-ordinator. We would like to thank Mei Yuk for all the hard work she has put into establishing the Fellowship.

The Hong Kong Fellowship was formed in 2023 at Edgeley Community Church. Since then it has supported the Hong Kong community through gathering monthly for lunch and worship, meeting for social events - meals and visits and providing English lessons helping members prepare for the B1 English test for settlement.

Mei Yuk says: “Reflecting on Jesus’ life, I’m struck by how often He was out there - preaching in synagogues was only part of His ministry. The church’s role isn’t limited to what happens within its walls. Social and cultural activities are powerful tools for outreach. They allow us to build gentle, trusting relationships with those outside our usual circles. And when the time is right, those relationships can open doors to share our faith naturally.”

The Circuit Leadership Team are looking at how we can support the Fellowship in the future. Mei Yuk has received many plaudits from within the community and we would like to add our thanks and appreciation for all she has done. We wish her well as she looks to focus more on her artistic career.

HKF Gatherings:

17 Oct - Raymond Cochrane

21 Nov - Paul Walsh

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 Romiley Methodist Church, these are their prayer requests:

Please pray for our Ministry for the Elderly Project, including the new Soup Lunches following our Morning Service on the first Sunday of the month in November, December, January, and February.

Please remember in your prayers our outreach to the community as a whole, with our Saturday Filmshows, musical events, fellowship meetings, Pre-School, wayside pulpits, and many more.

Please pray that volunteers will continue to come forward so that we are able to continue putting all these things on, to the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Circuit



Romiley Methodist Church

COFFEE AND CAKES - we are having another Coffee Morning on Saturday, 17th October, from 10 till 12 in the Annexe, with coffee, tea, and some delicious home-made cakes and scones. Entry by donation for an enjoyable morning

“GREYHOUND” is the title of a 2020 film to be shown on Monday, 19th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Church as part of our Men’s Evening programme. Starring Tom Hanks as the Captain (and a Christian) of a destroyer and based on C S Forester’s 1955 novel “The Good Shepherd,” it focuses on the perils of escorting convoys during the Battle of the Atlantic in World War II. Entry by donation, including refreshments, and all, including ladies, are welcome.

Woodley Methodist Church

Woodley Methodist Church are delighted to welcome our former minister Rev'd Will Hunter to lead morning worship on Sunday October 11th at 10.15am.

This will be followed by coffee in the hall and a bring and share lunch at 12.00.

All welcome

Sunday November 1st is our shoebox dedication service at 10.15 led by Rev'd Katie Smith. We pack 100 shoeboxes with items made by our knit and natter group and with stationary, toys, soap etc that have been generously donated. The boxes will be taken by Teams 4U to children who otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas present.

You are very welcome to join us.



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



“Music for Pleasure” on Thursday 15th October is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when Geoffrey Pickford will present a programme entitled “The Romance of the Musicals - from Broadway to the West End.”

Geoffrey has an amazing knowledge of musicals, having taken part in many of them with the Romiley Operatic Society, and his talk will be illustrated with lots of examples. 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 14th October 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 25th September - **Personal Choices**
Friday 30th October – **RAINBOW**
Friday 27th November – **Personal Festive Choices**
No Meeting in December!

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served



We meet on the last Friday of the month 2-4pm
in the Church Hall and we "Welcome those with
or without Dementia"

**This month worship band RAINBOW will be
entertaining 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.



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 District Online Worship will take place on Sunday 11th October.

We will be marking Prisons Week - including reflections from Prison Chaplains and others.

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



Weekly Tuesday Morning District Prayer

We are launching a new NWE District online prayer half-hour on Tuesday mornings from 8.00 - 8.30am, via Zoom. Feel free to join us weekly or whenever you can. Phil Gough, Sharon Read and Jenny Jones are the initial host team but are keen to build a strong team to enable this weekly prayer time to develop and grow. Please message our [Facebook page](#), or email admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk for the zoom link.

Creationtide: Pause, Reflect, Restore

8 October 2026, 19.30-20.30, Online

Feeling the need to slow down, breathe and reconnect? Join the Your Space Team for a gentle 60-minute online wellbeing session exploring the connection between faith, wellbeing and God's creation.

