

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025

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A Letter from the Superintendent ...

It's great to be settling in to our new home and I'm particularly happy to be back Up North. We've spent the last few weeks emptying boxes and learning a little about our new surroundings. This week we did a backstage tour at Stockport Plaza (we recommend it). Still on our list are football at Edgeley Park and the Hat Museum.

I write this at the end of August but on Monday things will really start. I like that this year 1st September falls on a Monday!

I'll have a lot to catch up with as I learn about the circuit. I know there is an emphasis on a strategy for the future and look forward to being part of that. Developing a strategy leads us to questions about how we build the Kingdom of God here in Stockport. All our churches must be asking these questions but we must also have a Circuit vision that is larger than the sum of its parts.

We will look together at what we want our future to be - or more precisely what God wants our future to be. What do you want to see happen in the next five years? Ten years?

We will make some time as a whole circuit to look at our present circumstances and to dream dreams for the future. Then determine how to make those dreams a reality.

I am looking forward to the exciting times we have ahead.

Jan

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Windlehurst Methodist Church

Thank you to everyone who donated uniform for **Wood Street Mission's** 'SmartStart' appeal! 🙏

We are currently looking for donations of NEW bedding and NEW (or extremely good quality) Towels. These can be dropped off at Church for donating.

For more details please see Wood Street Mission's website: [HOME - Wood Street Mission](#)



Romiley Methodist Church

On Friday, 5th September at 7 p.m. there will be a special Circuit Welcome Service for our new Superintendent Minister (and Minister for the Hazel



Grove and Romiley Churches), the Rev. Jan Tate, and her wife Alison. All are welcome, and refreshments (including cakes!) will be served afterwards. Please be aware that car parking space is limited at the Church, but there are car parks further down Stockport Road (in the Bredbury direction), at the railway station nearby, and behind the Forum building in the village centre.

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Our Church charity for the year Sept 2025 to Aug 2026, decided on at our Church AGM earlier in the year, is War Child. If you want to do your own research online, the link is <https://www.warchild.org.uk>. We felt it offers sparks of hope for children in our war torn and violent world. Look out for some fundraising events over the coming year, which we will publicise to the circuit

Allan Ahlberg, Methodism and intelligence

You may know of Allan Ahlberg, who has recently died. Along with his wife - the late Janet Ahlberg - he was an author of much loved children's books, such as 'Each Peach Pear Plum' and 'The jolly Postman'.

You might know the style; here are two verses from a poem about Methodism:

"Now every week, without much fuss, they talk of Christ who walks with us.
Of faith made real by love and deed - not just in words, but meeting need.

They speak of works — not earning grace, but showing Christ in every place.

A loaf of bread, a protest sign, a visit made, a thoughtful line."

Perhaps you like it - but Ahlberg himself did not write it, nor did I and not anyone we know. It was generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI). *AI is technology that enables machines to mimic human intelligence, learning, reasoning, and problem-solving to perform tasks autonomously. Generative AI is artificial intelligence that creates new content—text, images, audio, or video—by learning from patterns in data.* All the text in italics was written by AI.

I have written a longer article, where you can read the full "Ahlberg" poem and see why I think AI offers many advantages - and threats. Please just [click this link](#) - or ask me for a copy.

Andy Stoker

Windlehurst Methodist Church

Congratulations to those at Windlehurst Methodist Church who have worked hard to achieve the Bronze Eco-Church Award.



Hong Kong Fellowship

In May, I attended two conferences in London on behalf of the Hong Kong Fellowship.

The first one was Global Communities Conference at High Leigh Conference Centre. I used to attend the Lay Worker's Conference there. Unfortunately, the conference no longer happens, possibly due to budget cuts.

The conference venue was a lovely centre. I liked the garden, I even recognised some of the familiar beautiful trees which stood firmly in the grounds. Instantly, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit who guided me throughout my ministry, ups and downs, joy and sorrow.

It was the first time I attended the Global Communities Conference which is an annual event. I was invited to be a representative from the Hong Kong/Chinese churches/fellowships. It was great to be inspired by some keynote speeches, and meet fellow leaders from diverse backgrounds and different areas.

At first, I noticed that most of the attendees were men with African heritage, I was in a minority. Yet, I engaged with the discussions and shared about how the Hong Kong Fellowship was established, and the current challenges and development. It was encouraging that my voice was being heard during the conference. I hope we can have some exchange visits among different Global Communities, learning and supporting one another.

The second conference was UK-Hong Kong Symposium. It was the third time that I attended. There were many civil Hong Kongers societies from the whole of the UK, around 80 people attended as individuals or represented their groups. Keynote speakers included a MP, human rights activists, Tibetan and Uyghur communities, and leaders of Hong Kongers civil societies from EU and Japan. We had a lot of discussions how to respond to the current situation both in Hong Kong and the UK. The conclusion of the conference was to recruit the next symposium committee members, and a working group to develop a UK-HK Alliance, like the one in Europe.

I observed that some of the groups were more equipped to deal with political issues, while others aim to provide social and cultural support for the Hong Kong communities in different parts of the UK.

It reminded me about the identity and mission of our Hong Kong Fellowship. When we were first established in 2023, there were not a single Hongkongese/Cantonese congregation in Stockport. Now, there are at least a couple and they provide weekly services. We have secured an annual budget of £10,000 from the Circuit and Caleb until August 2028. Currently, we are providing a monthly service & a social event, and a weekly English class.

In our next stage of development, I think, we do not need a conventional approach to nurturing our group. There is a gap for a more open and liberal Hong Kong congregation, to care about not just their own faith development, or a narrow evangelical concept, but social justice in the wider community and the world.

Please hold us in your prayers.

Mei Yuk

Hong Kong Fellowship Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Circuit



September's circuit service will be our welcoming service for Rev Jan Tate. The service will take place at Romiley Methodist Church.

This will be a great opportunity to meet our new Superintendent and we look forward to welcoming her to our circuit!

Windlehurst Methodist Church

Active at Windlehurst will be holding a **coffee morning** on Thursday 25th September 10.30am - 12pm. Everyone welcome!

'Heartbeat Choir' are holding a concert on Friday 10th October in the evening. The money raised will help the choir and Windlehurst Church. Full details will be available asap!

Romiley Methodist Church

OUR ANNUAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION will be held on Saturday, 13th September, from 10.30 till 4.30; entry by donation, with all proceeds going to the Action for Children charity. There will be numerous layouts to view, some with hands-on experience, refreshments on sale, special extra exhibitions and some railway and landscape paintings for sale in aid of the charity. All welcome, especially children - this annual exhibition is renowned for its child-friendly approach.



September's Special Events @ Woodley Methodist Church

This autumn is Woodley's "Season of Invitation" with a series of events and services designed to be easy to invite friends, neighbours and family to come to and find out about our faith and our fellowship.
Here's what we have on in September.



Friday 12th September - Thrift Shop Fashion Show

Our first ever fashion show - watch our catwalk show and grab a bargain.
Tickets £5, which includes a glass of (non-alcoholic fizz)
Doors 6:30pm for a 7pm start

Friday 26th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning

Come and enjoy a drink, sample our fabulous bakes (and take some home) and help raise money for a wonderful cause.
10am to Middy in the church hall



Saturday 27th September - Hot Pot Supper and Quiz

Delicious food, great company and a chance to test your wits against our quiz.
Tickets £5, contact Rev Katie Smith (revkatiesmith@gmail.com or 0161 430 2964). Bring your own soft drinks. Supper at 7pm.



Sunday 28th September - Harvest Festival Family Service

Service at 10:15am - an all age celebration of God's abundant provision and a chance to care for those less fortunate.
Food donations will be collected for The Wellspring, scan the QR code to find their current wish list.



Thrift Shop Fashion Show

(a 1st time ever event for us)

At Woodley Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Woodley, SK6 1NF

On Friday 12th September 2025 at 7 pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

Lots of Pre-loved and New Designer and good brands of
Ladies & Gents Clothes, Shoes, Handbags &

Tickets only £5 – includes a glass of Fizz!

Get your tickets from the Thrift Shop, open
Wednesdays & Saturdays 9.30am to 12 noon

Or from

Lynne 07751 838 722 or Liz 07981 681 955

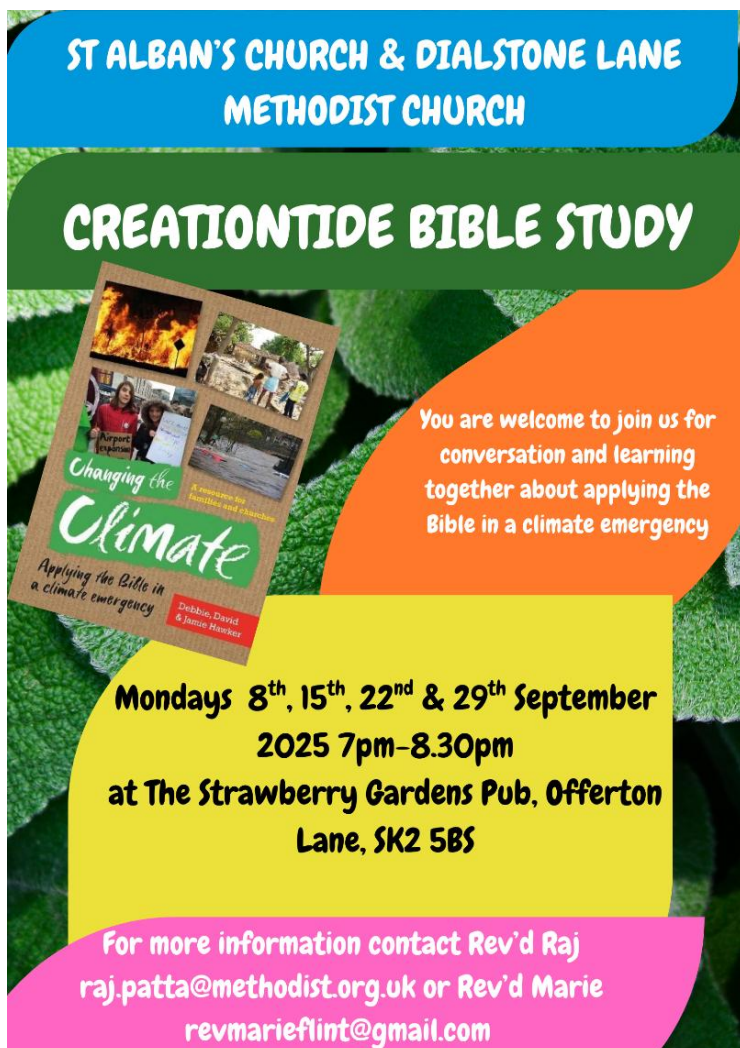


Please bring your own shopping bag if possible- we are trying our best to save the planet

Davenport Methodist Church

On Saturday September 27th we will be holding a Harvest Afternoon Tea from 3pm - 5pm.
More details to follow shortly ...

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

A poster for a Creationtide Bible Study. It features a blue header with the church name, a green section with the title, and a yellow section with the dates and location. A small image of a book titled 'Changing the Climate' is also shown.

**ST ALBAN'S CHURCH & DIALSTONE LANE
METHODIST CHURCH**

CREATIONTIDE BIBLE STUDY

You are welcome to join us for
conversation and learning
together about applying the
Bible in a climate emergency

**Mondays 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th September
2025 7pm-8.30pm
at The Strawberry Gardens Pub, Offerton
Lane, SK2 5BS**

For more information contact Rev'd Raj
raj.patta@methodist.org.uk or Rev'd Marie
revmarieflint@gmail.com

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

At Dialstone Lane Methodist Church
on Saturday 13th September
10.00 am - 12 noon

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EVENT
& MAYBE BRING A FRIEND



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (209910), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (804). Also operating in Northern Ireland, MAC20958, Inverkeithing.

FR Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

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.

Edgeley Community Church

Craft group (bring your own)

Monday 1-3pm - £3 drink & biscuits



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 on 0161 427 6807

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.

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

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.

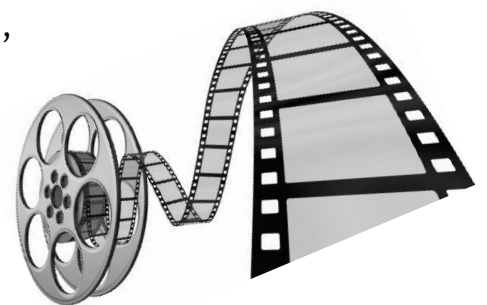
Friday Communion
September 26th 2pm



**Tea & Coffee available after the service
if you wish to stay for a chat.**

Romiley Methodist Church

Our **September Film** (Saturday, 6th September) is the 1956 classic musical “**HIGH SOCIETY**” - starring Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and Louis Armstrong, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter, including “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” “True Love,” “You’re Sensational,” and many more. 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



“**THE BOLLIN VALLEY**” is the title of an illustrated talk to be given at Romiley by Christine Birchall next month (instead of a Saturday Filmshow) - on Saturday 4th October, starting at 2 p.m. With a selection of her own superb photographs (on our cinema-size screen), Christine will take you on a journey with the River Bollin from its source in the moors above Macclesfield Forest along 30 miles to the Manchester Ship Canal. About half way along the journey, there will be an interval, when you will be invited to partake of a cuppa and a cake. Entry by donation, as usual!

“Music for Pleasure” on Thursday 18th September is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when John Owens will talk about **“Humour in Music,”** with examples ranging from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to Les Dawson and beyond - 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!

ARE YOU A KNITTER? Why not come and join our **Knit & Natter group**. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month (March to October) at Woodley Methodist Church at 10.00 till 11.30. You would be very welcome. We are knitting various items for the Teams4U shoeboxes which we organise and send each year in November. Wool, needles and patterns provided.

Funday Mondays

Woodley Methodist Church invites you to our monthly fun times exploring seasonal topics and bible stories.

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.

Where - Woodley Methodist Church

When - Next meeting 15th September from 3.15 to 5pm

For more information contact our minister, Katie Smith.



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”



Dates for 2025 are:

Friday 26th September - Personal choice

Friday 31st October - Rainbow

Friday 28th November

26th December - **NO MEETING - HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

If you would like to join us or know more about the group please go to the Woodley Methodist Church Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/WoodleyMethodists> or telephone Phil on **0161 430 8518**

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



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

Wholehearted monthly mission series: We'll be joined by Jaz Ampaw-Farr (9th September) and Steve Chalke (14th October) - both passionate advocates for children and young people.

What is *Wholehearted monthly*? Think community organising rally meets immersive spiritual laboratory.

It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" - and a desire for both to flourish. Each month, testimony from local innovators, input from a renowned guestspeaker, and wisdom-sharing in networks around Gospel justice, inclusion, evangelism, and growth. Click [here](#) to register.



An invitation from MWiB, Greater Manchester + Mission Area: Never heard of Methodist Women in Britain? Well, here's your chance to learn more about us on a fully catered weekend away in the beautiful setting of the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick.

Thanks to the generosity of the North West England District we can offer 3 free places, (preferably to younger women!), to the MWiB Conference in April 2026. The only qualification needed is for you to be a woman, a Methodist, and that you haven't been before. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Liz Stuart by 15th November at lizstuartlp@aol.com or by phone 07821 190322.

Resource! Refresh! Remember!

3Rs for Local Preachers & Worship Leaders

SPEAKERS:
John Cooper (Fellowship of Reconciliation)
Elizabeth Morris

Spend a day exploring the Primitive Methodist story that has its roots in our District.

- Be **resourced**
- Be **refreshed**
- And be ready for **Remembrance** as we look at fresh ways to mark Armistice and promote peace.

Wednesday 24th September
10am to 3pm
Lunch included
£15 per person (bursaries available)

Book early to avoid disappointment as places limited.
Email Ruth: director@engleesabrook.org.uk
Tel: 01270 820836
Please let us know any dietary requirements and access needs.

Englesea Brook, Crewe, CW2 5QW

Christian Aid

80th Anniversary Webinar - Christian Aid is marking its 80th Anniversary. Throughout Christian Aid's 80 years there have been some truly remarkable members of staff, supporters, activities, partners and achievements that have shaped our identity. During our 80th year, we've looked back and found many stories that are essential for an understanding of who we are and who we must continue to be.

So, you are warmly invited to join us for this Online Session to hear some of the stories from over the years. We'll be joined by volunteers and former staff members Sue Richardson and Martin Gage who'll be sharing some of their own personal experiences, as well as hearing from Pete Moorey, Head of Community & Church Fundraising and Engagement.

When: **Wednesday 24th September at 7.30pm - 9pm**

You can sign up here: [80th Anniversary Webinar - Christian Aid](#)

Join us as we host **Powered by Hope** - a day to fuel your faith, fill your cup with hope and inspire action.

Date: Saturday 4 October 2025 10:00 - 16:30

Location: Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, Manchester, M2 5NS

Whether you're curious about putting faith into action, a seasoned action taker or just want to pray with your legs, then this event is for you.

What to expect on the day

- Hear from inspiring speakers
- Take part in practical workshops
- Spend time in worship and wonder



Register now: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/powered-by-hope>

Lunch will be provided, please let us know about any dietary requirements in the registration form.