

Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

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A Letter from the Superintendent ...

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a great Christmas & you are looking forward to 2026. You may have made some New Year's Resolutions. If so, I hope you are still managing to keep them! If not, stop for a moment and think what you would like for 2026. What would you like for yourself? What would you like for the church? What would you like for the world?

When thinking about the church you may automatically think about your own church, but all our churches are linked as the United Stockport Circuit. Standing Order 500 states that: "The Circuit is the primary unit in which Local Churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help..."

To underline this interconnectedness we have designated 2026 as a year of prayer for this circuit. We will focus our prayers on each of our churches individually. In January we will pray for our friends at Edgeley as they approach the end of their time as a society. You will find their specific prayer requests later in this newsletter. We will also pray for our life together: thinking about the direction the circuit is travelling and seeking God's guidance in the changes we will inevitably face. It is important that we root everything we do in prayer and also that we pray together.

By the time you read this you may have attended the Circuit Prayer Day at Heaton Moor. (If you are reading this before Saturday 10 January I look forward to seeing you there.) Each church has offered its prayer suggestions for us all to share. Let's use this as a springboard to pray for each other and with each other throughout 2026 and beyond.

Jan

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Marple Methodist Church

Our annual circuit Curry and Carols event was held at Marple Methodist Church on Sunday 14th December.

We shared a lovely meal together before enjoying a service full of carols!

The event was enjoyed by all who attended.



Windlehurst Methodist Church



Wood Street Mission' were overwhelmed by the generous donations for their annual Christmas Gift appeal! The gifts donated by Church members, 'Active' members and friends and by the local community filled a van! 'Active' members were on hand to help make sure everything was loaded safely in the van!

A Big Thank You to all who made this appeal so successful! 🙏

Wood Street Mission's new appeal in January is 'Family Basics'. We will be collecting new and good quality second-hand clothing, bedding, books and toys and new toiletries.

Windlehurst Church will accept donations on Thursday mornings from 9.00-3.00

For more information please visit WSM website: [HOME - Wood Street Mission](#)

Romiley Methodist Church

OUR ANNUAL SOUP & TURKEY ROLL LUNCH, on Saturday 13th December, was enjoyed by a record number of people, and raised £401, half of which went to Christian Aid. Our thanks to all those who supported and helped at the event!

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

For our annual Charity we are raising funds for **War Child**. One way we do this every year is our Quiz which we set for the Christmas period and running through to the end of January. If you missed the opportunity for Christmas and would like to challenge yourself in the New Year with the Quiz, please contact Andy Stoker (andy.stoker@btinternet.com) for an email copy. This year's theme is "parts of the body". The minimum cost of entry is £2 and there is a Just Giving page set up.



The **Tuesday afternoon Welcome Group at Dialstone Lane** is now over four years old, providing a place of welcome for asylum seekers and some more settled refugees and migrants in the Offerton area. We are privileged to meet with people from many countries of the world from many different backgrounds. We also work closely with a separate charitable group, Third Wave, which includes people with previous lived experience of the asylum system, particularly associated with the Iranian community in Greater Manchester, which has greatly enriched what we are able to offer.

Recently we have had bumper numbers attending, some 70 people each week, which places great demands on our resources for refreshments and craft activities, the second-hand clothing and suitcases we offer when we can - as well as our volunteers offering English conversation, narrative therapy, hand massage and safe play opportunities for pre-school children.

We are therefore renewing our appeal for more suitcases and second-hand clothing, particularly winter weight coats and jackets, trainers, trousers and sweatshirts for men, women and children. We are regularly meeting newly arrived people who have very little clothing with them. For people who have been here longer, the changing seasons and children growing bigger bring their own problems. Gifts of new underwear, socks, gloves and scarves are also very welcome.



We welcome enquiries about joining our supportive group of volunteers from Dialstone Lane, other local churches, the WI and friends and neighbours. We don't expect people to be able to come every week and don't meet during school holidays, recognising our volunteers many other commitments. Volunteering is subject to DBS clearance.

If you are able to help us in any way or just want to know more, please get in touch:

Andy Stoker - andy.stoker@btinternet.com; m 07484 262101

Catriona Stoker - cat.stoker@btinternet.com; m 07798 881537

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 Edgeley Community Church; these are their prayer requests:

- Thanks for all the work and worship that has taken place in the building and serving the Edgeley Community as a Methodist Church and more recently as a Methodist/United Reformed Church.
- God's blessing on all who have led worship and ministered over the very many years of the churches life.
- For the members of Edgeley Community Church as they seek to find a new home as their spiritual base
- For the Leadership Team of Edgeley Community Church as they try to sort the various matters in closing the church, working with the Circuit Team
- That Edgeley Community Church buildings may continue to be available to the Community of Edgeley and be a beacon of light and faith

EDGELEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

invite you to a Celebratory Service on
Saturday 14th February 2026 at 2.00pm

There will be a short service, followed by
refreshments in the hall

As places are limited, please respond to
mike54.ma@gmail.com by

31st January latest

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Circuit

The Ridge | Davenport | Hazel Grove | Marple

PRAY

A close up of a sign

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

United Stockport Circuit
of The Methodist Church

PRAY

Edgeley | Heaton Mersey | Romiley | Woodley

CIRCUIT PRAYER DAY

Saturday 10 January | 10am to 4pm
Heaton Moor United Church

The church will be filled with creative prayer stations, one designed and created by each of our circuit churches. These will offer you space to reflect, pray, and engage with God in different ways.

You are invited to pop in anytime. There will always be people there to welcome you and refreshments are available all day.

We hope this will be a creative, prayerful, and unifying experience for us all, a visible sign of our shared calling to pray with and for one another as a circuit.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev Jan Tate.

Tiviot Dale | Windlehurst | Heaton Moor | Dialstone Lane

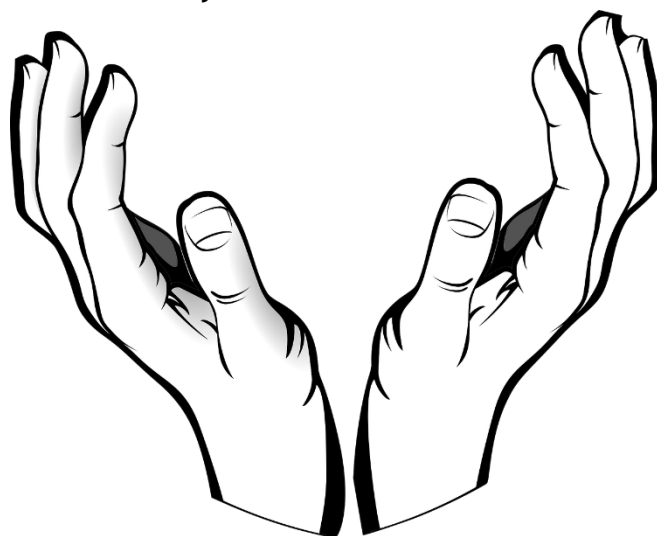
Circuit Prayer Day - Heaton Moor United Church - Saturday 10 January

We are designating 2026 a Circuit Year of Prayer. Throughout 2026, we will be focusing our circuit's prayers month by month on each church in turn, listening to what each congregation most wishes to be prayed for and upholding one another in love and faith.

On Saturday 10 January, we will be gathering at Heaton Moor United Church for a day of prayer from 10am to 4pm. Throughout the day, the church will be filled with creative prayer stations, one designed and created by each of our circuit churches. These prayer stations will offer people space to reflect, pray, and engage with God in different ways.

You are invited to pop in to pray anytime between 10am and 4pm. There will be people there to welcome you and refreshments available.

We hope this opening day will be a creative, prayerful, and unifying experience for us all, a visible sign of our shared calling to pray with and for one another as a circuit.



REGULAR ACTIVITIES FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Hazel Grove Methodist Church

Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies' Fellowship meets on alternate Thursday afternoons in the church building from 2pm - 4pm. Old and new members welcome. Come along and enjoy fellowship and fun and, of course, a cuppa!



Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter meets on alternate Wednesdays at 10.00am in the coffee lounge. Everyone is very welcome - to knit, to natter and enjoy a cuppa. The Group Knits all kinds of things, knee blankets for local care homes, hats for premature babies, vests for newborns abroad, Easter chicks for Francis House - anything for wherever there's a need.

Chatty Café

A joint venture with the United Reformed Church at the URC's Short Street Site - providing a warm space each Wednesday from 10.00am - noon with tea/coffee and light snacks - toast, teacakes etc for the local community and anyone who would like to call in for a brew and a chat.



Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

Dialietots takes place on Mondays **during termtime** from 9.30 -11.30am.

Come along with your baby or toddler for time to play, enjoy a brew and some toast and finish with a singsong to kick the week off. No need to book. Just come round to the back of the church building for access.

3Ms (the Monthly Monday Meeting) is held on the second Monday of the month at 2pm.

A social group which starts with a short quiz, has a speaker or other activity and finishes with refreshments. Open to all.

Davenport Methodist Church

Craft Club



1st Wednesday of every month 14.00 - 16.00.

£3.00 per session includes refreshments.

An opportunity to learn a new skill or share a skill you already have.

Come along to a session to find out more.

Thursday Drop In

Every Thursday 2pm - 4pm.

Come along and share in refreshments and a chat, plus sometimes this includes a quiz.

This is more for fun than competition, as anyone can shout out the answers.

We are having a few more people dropping in which is lovely and very encouraging.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Prayer Meeting

Every first Sunday of the month at 10:00am for 15 minutes. All are welcome to join us.

Heaton Moor United Church

Dementia Friendly

Heatons

Dementia Friendly Heatons takes place every Friday

(except August and Christmas!) from 13:30 until 15:30

The group is for those with a dementia diagnosis and their carers. We aim to promote a dementia-friendly community by providing a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment that enables friendly social interaction in a relaxed atmosphere. We are a musical group who enjoy singing and dancing and have a weekly chair exercise class.

If you would like more information on the group please contact JoAnne on 07340 269 354 or dementiafriendlyheatons@gmail.com

Monday Fellowship - fortnightly gatherings of fun and fellowship Monday evenings from 19:45.

See www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk calendar for next date.

Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

Tuesday afternoon Fellowship

We have a small group who meet every Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 3pm for Bible study and discussion, followed by a time of prayer from 3.10pm. The group is open to everyone who would like to take part.



Chatterbox and Craft

Chatterbox and Craft meets every Monday (except Bank Holidays). Drop in any time between 1 and 3pm to knit, sew, paint, draw, play music or whatever you would normally do at home alone. Or just come along for a good chat.

Monthly Communion

Last Friday of the month at 2pm. This thirty-minute communion service is a lovely opportunity to meet for a short thoughtful service and is followed by refreshments and time to chat.

Windlehurst Methodist Church

Active at Windlehurst, a dedicated group for people with learning disabilities. Local history, drama, healthy eating and exercise.

Meet during term time every Thursday from 9:00 - 15:00, for more information contact Val Rowlands.

CAMEOS (Come And Meet Each Other & Sing)

Friendship, refreshments and a jolly good sing! All are welcome. We meet the first Wednesday of every month from 13:45 for a prompt start at 14:00.



Marple Methodist Church

The Seed Community Cafe is open every Thursday morning and Friday afternoon.

Opening times are-

Thursday - 10am to 1pm

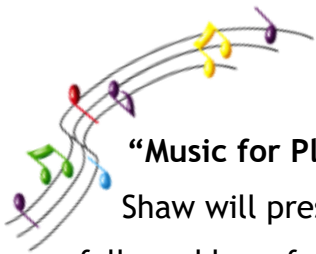
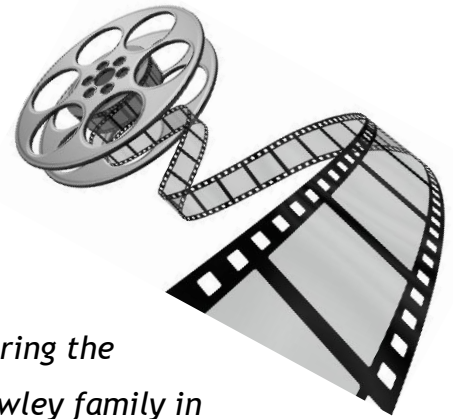
Friday - 1.30pm to 5pm

Teas, coffees, toast, tea cakes, soup.

Lydia's Place - craft group every other Thursday

Romiley Methodist Church

OUR NEXT SATURDAY FILM PRESENTATION is on **SATURDAY, 7th FEBRUARY 2026** starting at 2.00 p.m., when we are showing the 2025 film **"DOWNTON ABBEY - THE GRAND FINALE."** The ITV television series first started in September 2010, created and co-written by Julian Fellowes, and ran for 52 episodes across six series, including five Christmas specials, covering the period between April 1912 and New Year's Eve 1925 with the Crawley family in Downton Abbey. The final episode was broadcast on Christmas Day, 2015. It was followed by three cinema films, the last of which, "Downton Abbey - the Grand Finale," follows the well-to-do Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s with Lady Mary being embroiled in a public scandal over her divorce and the family facing financial troubles and the possibility of having to downsize. The Crawleys and their staff are forced to embrace change and hand over power and responsibility to the next generation, and some of them (such as Lord Grantham) don't find it easy. It's a very enjoyable film - all welcome! Entry by donation, with tea and cakes during the interval



"Music for Pleasure" on Thursday 15th January is at 2 p.m. in the Church, when Eunice Shaw will present a talk illustrated by musical recordings entitled **"The List Toppers"**, followed by refreshments. Entry by donation, and all welcome!

"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WESLEY" is the title of our next Men's Evening talk, on **Monday, 19th January, at 7.30 p.m.** in the Church, when David Gordon will talk about a recent trip to America, visiting some of the places where John Wesley worked and preached when he spent part of his life there, including the lovely city of Savannah. David will illustrate his talk with numerous photographs. All welcome, including ladies!

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!

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.

"Musical Memories"
At Woodley Methodist Church
2.00pm – 4.00pm

"We Welcome those with or without dementia".

DATES 2026

Friday 30th January – **Personal Choices**
Friday 27th February – **Personal Choices**
Friday 27th March – **RAINBOW**
Friday 24th April – **Personal Choices**
Friday 29th May – **Personal Choices**
Friday 26th June – **Personal Choice's**
Friday 31st July – **Personal Choices**
Friday 28th August – **"Summer Holiday"**
Friday 25th September – **Personal Choices**
Friday 30th October – **RAINBOW**
Friday 28th 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"



**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

Our next Online Worship is taking place on Sunday 11th January at 6.30pm.

Our Online Worship in January will be a 'District Covenant Service' with Holy Communion. Revd Phil Gough, District Secretary for Ministry and Vocations will be preaching.

The Methodist Church is currently in a period of discernment regarding online celebrations of Holy Communion, and we will be following their guidance during this service.

For the zoom code (which remains the same), please email: prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk

The poster features a maroon and white color scheme. On the left, a quote reads: "I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things. Covenant Prayer". In the center is an image of a loaf of bread and a chalice. On the right, the North West England Methodist District logo is shown above the text "District Online Worship". Below this, it says "District Covenant Service (with Communion)" and "with Revd Phil Gough, District Secretary for Ministry and Vocations preaching." A red banner on the right states "Sunday 11th January at 6.30pm". At the bottom right, a note says: "District Online Worship is held on the second Sunday of every month. For the Zoom code (which remains the same), please email prayer@nwedmethodists.org.uk or direct message us on Facebook".

The poster has a dark blue background with yellow sun-like patterns. It features a photo of Cole Arthur Riley, a young man with glasses. Text includes: "January 13 Tuesday", "7-9 GMT PM sign up now", "wholehearted monthly", "online and immersive", "monthly spiritual series", "with special guest", "Cole Arthur Riley", "live in conversation across the globe", and "Hosted by The Methodist Church open to all".

Cole Arthur Riley will be the guest speaker for Wholehearted on 13 January. Cole is a young poet, writer, and story-teller. At the beginning of the new year, Cole will be speaking about prayer, contemplation, and spiritual practice that is embodied, open to wonder and lament, and integrated with justice.

Wholehearted is a free monthly online gathering of Christians learning, playing, praying and working for the transformation of the Church and world God loves.