



Heaton Moor United Church

The United Reformed Church and The Methodist Church
working together in partnership



Sunday Services at Heaton Moor United Church

Services at 10:45 unless otherwise stated

22 nd May	Rev Dr Raj Patta	General Church Meeting will follow the service – lunch will be provided
29 th May	Keith Tonge	
5 th June	Anne Wilde	Celebration Service for the Queens Jubilee. See notices for more info
12 th June	Rev Dr Graham Adams	SUPER SUNDAY 10:00 – 10:40

Additional Services

Sunday 5 th June at 14:00	Circuit Service Heaton Moor United Church	
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Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church

Saturday 21 st May at 13:00	Moor Than Mud – Muddy Church
Tuesday 24 th May at 19:30	Men's Fellowship
Wednesday 25 th May at 10:30 (takes place weekly)	Coffee Morning – All Welcome
Wednesday 1 st June at 10:00	Moor Than A Good Read

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Trust you are doing well and are enjoying the sunshine. This week it was good to visit few of our church friends and to take communions to their homes. We met as Leadership team last Sunday, and discussed about the life and witness of our church. We also had our worship group meeting and it was good to review our services and discuss some of our future plans. I was also at Woodley this week for a follow up meeting on the listening experiences at Yurt, and some interesting thoughts about the way forward was discussed. I was at Queens college in Birmingham this week for an oversight panel meeting of a ministerial training candidate and it was good to spend the day with the staff and students there on a bright sunny day.

Last week thanks to all who came to support the Christian Aid coffee morning, and it was good to see some many of you there. After the coffee morning, I went to be with the Stockport Refugee Network's drop in for people who came as refugees from Syria and Afghanistan at the Friends Quakers house in the centre of Stockport. Thanks to the good work that the Network is doing, and it was a moving experience for me to be with them, talking to them and eating with them. They also remembered and thanked our Heaton Moor church for supporting the Network in the past through coffee mornings. At this drop-in session, it was good to see students from Manchester university teaching English. It will be good for us to continue exploring how best can we support and journey with this network as a church.

This week at our staff meeting we have reflected on what it means for us a church to be a welcoming space, a safe space and a listening space, particularly in the context of the growing pastoral needs of the people in the community.

We have our Church meeting this Sunday after our church serve and can I invite you all if you are able to please join the meeting.

Herewith I am sending you the link of the reflection that I have written for Political theology blog on the lectionary resources for your kind perusal: <https://politicaltheology.com/the-newness-of-the-new-commandment/>

May you all have a good week ahead and May God's peace and love be with you all.

Thanking you,

Regards,
Raj
19th May 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Hello Friends!



It's been another busy week this week. Last Friday at Dementias we had Ellie our Pet Therapy dog come for a visit - think we wore her out with all the cuddles though!

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christian Aid coffee morning along with members of the community - weren't the cream teas delicious! Thank You to Jean for all the hard work she puts in for this very worthy cause.

We also had our Christian Aid themed dementia friendly service this week and as usual we had a good time together - there were only a few raised eyebrows when I poured a bowl of cornflakes and had two volunteers walking on eggshells! These monthly short services are dementia friendly because they are short, each one follows the same order, and we sing hymns we all know and love. We also have volunteers from our dementia friends' group on hand should anyone need any assistance. The services are open to all and it would be great to have some of you join us.



Yesterday I had a 5 mile walk with Sue Jones, in preparation for our Trek 26 walk later in the year. More information about this will be in the next notices but if you see me walking funny today that is the reason!

As always if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me

JoAnne

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

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www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

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 @hmucommunity

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If you no longer wish to receive the notices direct to your inbox you can unsubscribe at any time by contacting office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

Office Hours This Week

Monday 09:00 – 13:00

Tuesday 09:00 – 14:00

Wednesday 09:00 – 14:00

Thursday CLOSED

Friday 11:00 – 13:00



INFORMATION FOR NOTICES

Do you have news to share? We'd love to share members news in the notices.

Perhaps you've been on holiday, celebrating a birth, need a Prayer? We are also happy to share information about community events you are involved in.

If you have any information you would like to go into the weekly notices, please contact **JoAnne directly** either at the office, mobile 07340 269 354 or email community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk



15-21 May 2022

Christian Aid Week

Jean is still pounding the pavement and counting steps towards her target of 300,000 steps walked during May in aid of Christian Aid.

Thank You to all who attended the Christian Aid Coffee Morning over £150 was raised.

Our online e-envelope is still taking donations – so if you haven't donated now is the time!

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/heaton-moor-united-church>

22nd May 2022 Church Meeting @ 12.00

Check your in box, junk, spam , the reports for the church meeting were sent on Thursday 12th May .



If you didn't get a copy please contact community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk DO NOT email me in the office, I am on holiday and won't be reading my emails .

JoAnne and I will be cooking up lunch for you .

See you there **Sharon**



APPEAL FOR KNITTERS

Thank You to all those who have volunteered to knit hearts. The pattern is now available on the table outside the office.



There will be a slightly longer than normal
Interactive service on **SUNDAY, JUNE 5th**.
10.45am to 12.15pm



We will be celebrating Pentecost and the Queens Platinum Jubilee

The service will include “party refreshments”

During the service there will be opportunity for everyone to join one of the following groups:

- Craft
- Discussion
- Drama
- Hymn Singing
- Prayer Activity

Please do not be alarmed!

It will all be totally non-threatening, If somewhat chaotic! EVERYONE is welcome.



SATURDAY 22ND MAY

13:00 – 15:00

An opportunity for us to gather outside and wander and wonder together.

An opportunity for us to connect with the outside and with God.

This event is open to EVERYONE – it would be lovely to see you there

 **Methodist Women
in Britain** 2011-2021
for women, for justice, for Christ

News from Manchester & Stockport District

Exciting News for our Summer Gathering on June 11th

MWiB Garden Party & Afternoon Tea at Epworth Old Rectory. This is being organised to celebrate 10plus years of Methodist Women in Britain.

are planning a coach trip for any ladies in our District to the event. We will be leaving Manchester Piccadilly Gardens at 10.30am on Saturday June 11th, you could also be picked up at Stockport Train Station at 11am if preferred. We would arrive at Epworth about 1.30pm for 2.00pm start. We will leave Epworth at 5.00pm and arrive back between 7pm and 8pm. We should take a packed lunch to eat on the coach and there will be a toilet stop if necessary.

The cost is £13 for the coach. The Garden Party is free but they suggest a donation to go towards the upkeep of the Rectory. Please go on the MWiB website for more information on the event.

If you would like a place on the coach please contact me on chrisg7684@gmail.com or by phone on 07975 503019. I will need your response by Sunday May 29th as Epworth need the numbers attending for catering purposes.

Worship at Home - Sunday 22nd May 2022

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

Psalm 100: 1-3

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture.

Hymn: Praise to the living God! (StF87)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words
<https://youtu.be/s5Gmo1JzbCU>

Praise to the living God!
All praised be his name,
who was, and is, and is to be,
for e'er the same!
The one eternal God
ere aught that now appears:
the First, the Last, beyond all thought
his timeless years!

Formless, all lovely forms
declare his loveliness;
holy, no holiness of earth
can his express.
Lo, he is Lord of all!
Creation speaks his praise,
and everywhere, above, below,
his will obeys.

His Spirit flowing free,
high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spoke of old,
is speaking still.
Established is his law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart,

on sea, on land.

Eternal life has he
implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.
Praise to the living God!
All praised be his name,
who was, and is, and is to be,
for e'er the same.

*Mediaeval Jewish Doxology
translated by Max Landsberg (1845-1928) and Newton
Mann (1836-1926)*

Let us pray together

Eternal One, we gather together across time
and space to worship you; united by the
words we read; united by our love for you.
We celebrate your awesome majesty, your
holiness, and your amazing love. We
acknowledge you as Lord of our lives.
We sing your praise and we bless your name.

Living One, we bring you our lives just as they
are – not varnished or airbrushed – the things
we are proud of and the things we would
rather hide. And we acknowledge them for
what they are. Where we have fallen short of
the mark we ask your forgiveness knowing
that it is your nature both to forgive and to
enable new life.

We give thanks for all that you have done in
our lives and pray that we will continue to be
open to your work in us in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Reading from Acts: Acts 16: 1-15

Today's Gospel Reading: John 14: 23-29

Time to Reflect

I wonder ... what picture do you have in your mind of Paul? Take a moment to think what words you would use to describe him

Our reading today marks a big turning point in his ministry. Paul and his mentor, Barnabas, have had a disagreement and parted company just as they were setting out on a new missionary journey. At first the going is obvious. Paul revisits the towns from his previous journey and we're told that the churches there were strengthened in the faith by his presence. But then the time comes to move on ...

I wonder if the words you chose for Paul contained ideas like "hesitant" or "undecided" or "uncertain"? He continues to travel west along the trade road through Asia Minor taking Silas and Timothy with him, but he's lost the clarity of purpose that marks his earlier journey. First they travel through Phrygia and Galatia but they're stopped from preaching there. Then they try to go into Bithynia and are stopped. So they continue west until the road literally runs out on them as they reach the sea at Troas ... and we have no stories of preaching in the towns along the way because we're told that they bypass Mysia too. And only now, in Troas, when Paul has no options left does he receive the vision for his journey.

Sometimes we present the Christian journey as one of certainty ... just have faith and all will be simple and straightforward. But over and over again the Bible reminds us that reality isn't like that. Reality is confusing and messy and there are times when we feel lost.

Paul has lost his mentor, his home base, and his travelling companion and it takes time for him to get back on track. For a while there he's adrift and uncertain of the way to go. All he can do is put one foot in front of the other and continue, trusting that the fog will lift and that God will speak ... and so it is ... and it

turns out that God was speaking and guiding him even in the fog.

In our Gospel reading Jesus and the disciples are approaching a time of great loss and uncertainty as they head for Jerusalem, and Jesus is trying to prepare them for this time. He will no longer be with them but they will not be alone. His Spirit will be with them and will guide them and remind them of the things they need to remember.

This was Paul's experience at his time of loss and uncertainty. It has been my experience too. Life is messy and confusing but if we listen and follow one step at a time then when we look back we find that we were not alone even when we thought we were.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving One, as we come to you:
part of your church on earth,
in prayer for our world:
we are so often confused and bewildered by
what we've seen,
overwhelmed by the magnitude of all that we
bring, and lost in the debris ...
the very words we use,
the names we have for you,
tainted and spoiled by the sickness in the world.

Touch us that we might see the world as you see it;
that we might hear the rhythms and know the prayer of your heart.

Guide us that we might truly understand your Word;
that we might hold in our hands the compass by which to steer.

Lead us that we might follow in your Way;
seeking justice for the outcast, freedom for the oppressed
and forgiveness for those who are broken by life.

Heal us that we, in turn, might bring healing to others;
that we might reach out in love to those who have been taught only hate.

Strengthen us that we might have the courage to live as your people in this troubled world and the

grace to live with the consequences of that choice.

And the prayers that we bring for ourselves we now offer for the whole of your church on earth; that together we might truly hold out your peace, your wholeness, to the world in the name of Jesus who brought this gift to us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to "I watch the sunrise" (Stf 469) or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0l0ipG58_o

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,
casting its shadows near.
And on this morning bright though it be,
I feel those shadows near me.
But you are always close to me
following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
following all your ways, Lord.

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,
warming the earth below.
And at the mid-day life seems to say:
'I feel your brightness near me.'
For you are always close to me ...

I watch the sunset fading away,
lighting the clouds with sleep.
And as the evening closes its eyes
I feel your presence near me.
For you are always close to me ...

I watch the moonlight guarding the night,
waiting till morning comes.
The air is silent, earth is at rest --
only your peace is near me.
Yes, you are always close to me ...

John Glynn

A prayer of blessing

Wherever you are today and whatever is happening in your life, as you turn to the Eternal One in worship and prayer may God bless you and keep you; may God look on you

with grace and mercy; may God acknowledge you and give you peace. Amen.

Original Materials by Mary G Elms

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional Team.

For more worship resources see

[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

Acts 16: 1-15

Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and had him circumcised because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went from town to town, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily.

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

John 14: 23-29

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.