

Window on the Moor



Heaton Moor United Church

March/April 2020

Welcome

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If you have any short stories to share please let the editorial team know , thank you.

Enjoy! The Editorial team, Garry and Sharon

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Dear Heaton Moor United Church family,

As we enter Lent 2020, we are all called to reflect on Jesus' journey to the Cross. Jesus came down to establish the Kingdom of God in contrast to the kingdoms of the empire, and in that pursuit stood his ground in contesting all forms of oppressive structures both religious and otherwise. As a result of which, Jesus was hanged publicly on a cross along with other criminals. God did not allow death to have the final word, but broke its sting and Jesus was risen from the death. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a sign of warning to all the oppressive structures in history, for God in Jesus Christ has come to give life and celebrate new life to all people of God. As a Church we are therefore called to proclaim that gospel of new life in Christ and strive to bring out the relevance of Jesus' death and resurrection for our times today, as there are many crucified communities around us struggling in their own situations.

During this season of Lent, let us draw nearer to the Cross of Jesus Christ, for Jesus said, "if you want to follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me." Let us prayerfully introspect the things we want to let go in denying ourselves, which have taken over our lives. Perhaps it's time to let go of our pride and learn to inculcate humility in receiving people as they are and in listening to other perspectives to which we have been closed to. Letting go of our pride often involves recognizing the many times we, too, have rejected the Saviour. We have all turned away from the redeemed hand of Jesus, assuming we could handle things on our own. Despite our pride, Jesus still longs to draw us in. This Lent, let us reflect on 'exchanging our pride for his passion,' and strive to overcome pride and follow Jesus Christ faithfully.

Wishing you all a meaningful season of Lent and a blessed Easter.

With prayers,

Rev. Dr. Raj Bharat Patta
March 2020

JOIN US IN OUR SLOW LENT CHALLENGE

SLOW DOWN SAVE THE PLANET

God's creation is groaning under our stewardship and modern life is lived at breakneck speed.

Each day in Lent you will find an activity to encourage you to take stock of your response to the Climate Emergency we find ourselves in

Find out more and download the challenge at
www.slowdownsavetheplanet.co.uk



facebook.com/slowdownsavetheplanet



[@slowlent](https://twitter.com/slowlent)



[@slowdownsavetheplanet](https://instagram.com/slowdownsavetheplanet)

Charity News



February 16th Paul Moores from the Leprosy Mission led worship and gave an insight into the work that the Leprosy Mission does. There was an envelope collection at the service and a grand total of £285.00 was raised, £190 of

which can be boosted through Gift Aid. That's 11 people that can be cured of Leprosy as it costs £24 to treat one person.

Thank you Betty and Val



Dear Friends, you may recall the discussion we had last year about the House to House collection for Christian Aid Week 2020.

>> It was agreed that we would try to match (at least) the amount of money raised in 2019 doing "other

things".

> With the help and wonderful support of friends at church and the support given by the church family who have loyally and faithfully come to events we have raised (excluding the harvest collection) £1143.50 which is more than the house to house which raised £664.08 plus £350.71 GA (total of £1014.79). We will be boosting the money collected this year by claiming Gift Aid for each event.

> One or two people have expressed a wish to collect their "usual road" during Christian Aid Week (13...18 May) if you wish to do so can you let me know so that I can order envelopes. I shall be ordering envelopes for use at church at the end of CA week, but if I don't hear, there will no envelopes for house to house collection.

One LAST thing...there is a coffee morning, tombola, cakes and toasted fruit bread on Saturday 7th March for Fair Trade fortnight and Christian Aid....we'd love to see you.

>> And.....hot cross buns and coffee after the ecumenical service (finishing at HMUC) on Good Friday, donations to CA

>>

>> With love and thanks Jean.

>>



Coffee Morning @ Heaton Moor
United Church

Fair Trade Stall
Cake Stall



Tombola

Saturday 7th March 2020

10.30—12.00

Walk of Witness



10th April 2020


Starting at St John's , Didsbury Road 10.00am

Finishing at Heaton Moor United Church 11.00am

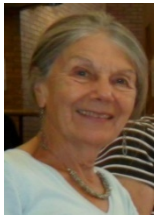
Service at Heaton Moor United Church 11.00am

Being There

Dorothy Mason

A silhouette of two people climbing a rocky peak at sunset. One person is standing on the peak, and the other is reaching up to help them. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The background shows a dark, silhouetted landscape.

If you can be there in another's trouble
But never mention worries of your own.
If you can stand to give strength to another
And let them know they are not alone.
If you can lend a hand to someone striving
To overcome barriers on their road.
If you can share another's burden
And so make it lighter of their load.
If you can weep with someone who is grieving
And stay to help them through the pain.
If you can stop to aid someone who's fallen
And gently help them to their feet again.
If you can give your smile to someone
Who sadly - cannot find one of their own.
If you can reach out , with love , to comfort
Someone sick and feeling so alone.
If you can help one sad and lonely person
To know the sun will shine again.
If you can do one daily act of kindness
And be a 'sheltering 'friend through heavy rain.
If you can give freely of your treasures
Without a single thought as their loss.
If you can forgive the one who's hurt you
And send them love – instead of feeling cross
If you can take the hand of one who's weary
And lead them to a welcome place of rest.....
If you can do these things with love and kindness
Before you sleep you'll know you've done your best.



Our Journey

(From Pits, Pots and Mission Bands)

Jean and George James

Final Part

We became members of Eccleshall Methodist Church and Jean became a Local Preacher. The Stafford Circuit was wide spread and we often travelled thirty mile round trips. By now Stephanie was born in July '64 and Helen March '67. Jean pointed out to the Superintendent, when requesting less morning services, that she was aware that John Wesley rose at 5am, but he did not have two young children to get ready!!

George became a Steward and ran the Inters' Club – a group of 10-13 year olds who particularly enjoyed piling into our old van {H&S eat your heart out} to play with Stephanie and Helen and eat Jean's flapjacks. Since 1961 George worked for English Electric Research Laboratories, but had become disenchanted with this and began applying for Child Care openings. Amazingly in 1967 he gained a place on a 2 year Child Care Officers Course at Keele University, followed a few weeks later by a secondment by Manchester Children's Department, provided he worked at least two years for them.

In 1970 we moved from a tiny hamlet, where Jean was dependent on a twice weekly bus service to Stafford and one a week to Market Drayton, to Chorlton cum Hardy and in due course her career took off! She obtained the O levels required and completed her Teacher's Certificate and the rest is history as they say! Within two years she was deputy head of a school in Gorton and two years later head of a school in Wythenshawe. In 1990 she was seconded to work with the Primary Inspectors, working particularly with newly appointed Headteachers and those aspiring to headship. Her final post was at her beloved Cravenwood Primary, where she would have worked for nothing! She continued to work part-time on the Graduate Teachers programme (partnered with MMU) where she monitored and assessed those training to become teachers. While also looking after George and the girls', she still found time to study part time for a B.Ed. Jean retired in 2000, and George in 1997, when he was Area Manager {Adult Social Services} for Heaton's Reddish.

In Chorlton we attended Wesley Methodist Church in Hulme which had a mixed congregation of young families, students and elderly people. Amongst the activities we inflicted upon Stephanie and Helen were cooking lunches at Church on Christmas Day and the regular Saturday night socials. By now our views were much more radical and political. We attended, along with the girls, a number of CND rallies- Greenham Common, Barrow, London; and at the time of Apartheid were moved on by the Police when picketing a Manchester branch of Barclays. Jean also

stormed out of a Circuit Meeting when the Superintendent refused to close bank accounts with Barclays. Jean was Chair of the Manchester Amnesty Group (working for Prisoners' of Conscience) during the 80s and remained involved in the Urgent Action appeals until recently. It was around this time that Jean had become uneasy about "preaching to people" and sadly in my opinion came off "The Plan".

We moved to Heaton Moor in 1981 and have attended our church ever since. After Wesley, Hulme, we found the old building rather grand, austere and certainly cold. We owe a great deal to the team led by the late Rev Neil Dixon, which produced such a wonderful building. At Heaton Moor we have served on a number of committees – Jean chaired the Ministry Group for 12 years and at the same time George was secretary of the Mission Group – now the Fund Raising Group.

We have a long association with the Lebone Project in Bloemfontein, South Africa; and in 2009 along with Linda Fleming and Janice Barber had the privilege of volunteering there for two weeks.

Jean is currently involved in a number of ways – Young Peoples Church, Messy Church, Bouncing Babies, Pastoral visiting and Christian Aid. We are both volunteers at the Dementia Friends Drop In and feel that in order to flourish our church should continue to seek ways to serve local communities and groups. Our extended family has grown during this time and we have five granddaughters (from 13 to 25). Four of whom are "Canadians" as Stephanie moved to Ottawa in 2003.

We were thrilled and proud when Stephanie recently messaged her daughters' with pictures of Jean at a Women's Rally (Unveiling of



Emmeline Pankhurst's statue) in Manchester; pointing out what an amazing childhood she had experienced and referring to the rallies she attended and people from the "March for Jobs" (in the 80s) staying at our house. Helen likewise has remained true to her roots and throughout her teaching career has taught mainly at "Inner City Schools".

The journey goes on!.



Sheila and her sister Margaret were born in Rochdale. She went to the Girls' High School and kept in touch with many of her friends. She was highly intelligent, though never boasted or even spoke about it much; she was a member of MENSA and trained as a teacher at Homerton College, Cambridge. She was very involved in the Cambridge University "music scene", college choral accompanist and sang in Kings College Chapel. She became a teacher beginning in Oldham, then Southport and Leek. She loved music, teaching the piano at home. I persuaded her, occasionally to play and we would sing (sort of!) hymns together and she also took music into Strangeways.

Sheila has lived and travelled around various places, including Europe and the USA. She was married twice, to ministers, first to Bert in 1958 and after she had been widowed for about 7 years she married Ed, but he also sadly died, after only a few years.

Sheila had two nieces, Janet and Claire, both of whom she loved dearly. They have many memories of life with "Auntie Sheila and Uncle Bert" and recall her renting rooms to students from the university and RNCM. They were sometimes the "waitresses" to them, carrying wonderfully cooked food into the dining room, often in awe of these tall young men.

She never lost the art of letter writing and kept in touch with her wide circle of friends, including "the boys" as she called them, and a number have kept in good contact with her and have written letters of condolence to Margaret and family on her death.

She had a wide circle of friends and neighbours for whom she had great affection and many from church. You may have read the letter Margaret and Brian wrote to the church family, here are a few words "Thank you for being a great part of Sheila's life for so many years. You shared so much together and earlier with Bert and Ed also. Thank you for visiting her in Langford Road and Abney Court".

Claire and Janet felt there is one word to "sum up" Auntie Sheila, it would be KIND. There would be other words too- generous, gentle, thoughtful, possibly demanding, definitely stubborn – but overwhelmingly KIND" I would like to add another word used at the Service for Christian Unity a few weeks ago. "unusually kind", I immediately thought of Sheila. Not only did she collect a magnificent amount of money for Marie Curie, but bought coffee for people who donated, who looked cold or wet. She gave sandals to someone who called at her door when the sole of their shoe was flapping and they could have tripped; gave her car to a friend of a friend who was struggling financially and so on.

She will be remembered with love and affection for her honesty, support and love she gave to so many of the church family, remembering the sick, lonely, anxious and developments in church life in her prayers.

She was a wonderful friend to me, listening and encouraging me in my day to day life, but always with faith and love, asking "What do you think Jesus would want?"

We extend our sympathy and love to Margaret, Brian, Claire, Janet and Ian who gave love and wonderful care to Sheila.

The Celtic Blessing was said at the Crematorium -following the Celebration of Sheila's life at HMUC

You shared your life with us, God give eternal life to you.
You gave your love to us, God give deep love to you.
You gave your time to us, God give his eternity to you.
You gave your light to us, God give everlasting light to you.
Go upon your journey, dear soul, to love, light and eternal life.

Jean James

Heaton Moor United Church

Lent Study Group

Join us to discuss:

Say Yes To Life by Ruth Valeria

After the service on Sundays in Lent. Soup and a roll will be provided for lunch .

1st March

8th March

15th March

29th march

5th April



**Sign up on the sheet
in the hall or call**

0161 431 0262 or

Email Sharon at :

office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org

Circuit News



Hazel Grove



Dialstone Lane



Windlehurst

In September 2019, three Churches (Hazel Grove, Dialstone Lane and Windlehurst) were moved from the Hazel Grove and Poynton Circuit to join our newly named '*United Stockport Circuit*'.

Our Circuit now numbers eleven Churches in total, including our original eight, Heaton Moor United Church, Heaton Mersey, Christ Church, Davenport, Edgeley, St Johns, Trinity and Tiviot Dale.

Rev`d Cathy Bird is the new Superintendent of the Circuit and is based at Hazel Grove, Dialstone Lane and Windlehurst Churches.

Rev`d Raj Patta has pastoral care of Heaton Moor United, Heaton Mersey and St Johns.

Rev`d Lindsay Kemp has pastoral care of Trinity, Davenport, Edgeley and Christ Church.

Tiviot Dale Church, previously 'Connect', who recently left, is awaiting change and hopefully a bright future, being situated in the centre of Stockport.

From September 2020 Romiley Circuit will be joining up with us at the '*United Stockport Circuit*'. They presently consist of four Methodist Churches and a class church (this is a church that is looked after by another church for all leadership and management matters. Romiley, Woodley, Marple, and The Ridge are the churches with Jubilee being the class church.



The Ridge Methodist Church, known as '*The friendly Chapel on the hill*', has stood overlooking Hawk Green, Marple for one hundred and seventy years.

Our Circuit will then be made up of sixteen Churches with one additional Minister as a probationary plus one Deacon.

Heaton Moor United Church and our Cluster



Three Cluster groups have been formed within our United Stockport Circuit to help support and share Mission and Fellowship. The idea is that '*We can do things together rather than individually*'.

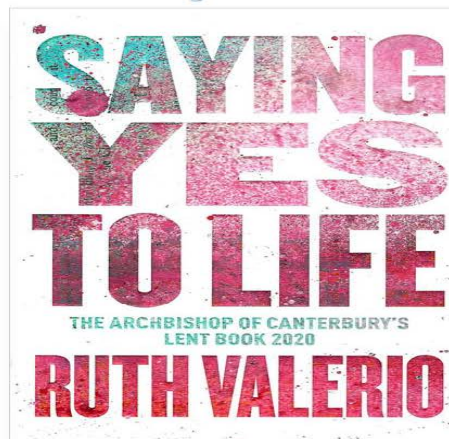
Our Cluster consists of , Heaton Moor United Church, Christ Church, St Johns and Edgeley. Three are LEPs made up of URC and Methodist Churches, plus St Johns who already has a relationship with Edgeley Church.

The Leadership of each Church have recently got together for 'Getting to know you' lunches and forming ideas. Also, a joint Christmas Eve Communion service and a very successful 'Curry and Carols' evening at Edgeley Church has taken place recently.

During Lent we will share Bible study and Lent groups and support events at each Church *rather than competing*. Ongoing talks are aimed at trying to make life easier for the Ministers.

As the Circuit grows we await possible further changes to benefit all. For instance, it may be beneficial in the future for the larger Churches to assist the smaller ones and share resources.

Lent Study : One Book



Two Locations

**Heaton Moor United Church after
the service during Lent**

(except Mothers Day)

Edgeley Community Church @

7.30pm starting 5th March until

2nd April

Heaton Moor United Church
Film Showing
Saturday 11th April 2020
Starts at 2.00pm

life is too big to walk it alone.

