

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Thank you to Sharon for producing the weekly notices in my absence. I've been back in Stockport for a week and think I need a holiday from my holiday! We managed to pack so much into our holiday to Suffolk and it's been a busy week back at work.

It was lovely to see some of you at the coffee and chat on Wednesday - it's so nice to have people in the building whilst we are working in the office. If you haven't met me in person yet, why not pop along to next week's coffee and chat?

September is already starting to look busy with our groups returning, the YCCN relay event, climate change fun day and McMillan coffee morning. So I have lots of prep work to keep busy over the coming weeks.

I was fortunate enough to see some wonderful pieces of artwork whilst I was away pieces by Constable, Banksy, The Connor Brothers, Pure Evil and Maggi Hambling to name a few, and this has influenced this week's notices as it has a bit of an art theme!

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

JoAnne

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

07340 269 354

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

 Heaton Moor United Church



Heaton Moor United Church

 heaton_moor_united_church

Office Opening The office opening times for next week will be:

Monday Closed

Tuesday 10 - 2

Wednesday 10 - 2

Thursday Closed

Friday 10-2



Enid Collinson funeral recording – Sharon sent an email on Wednesday 18th August with a link to the recording. This link is valid for 3 weeks. If you did not receive the email please contact Sharon directly.

St John's Church, Stockport Road Cheadle Heath will be open on

Saturday **August 28th 10.30-12.30**

for people to come and look around and see if there is anything they can would like at their church or in their home.

Please rind Barry & Sue Shillito to advise they are coming or to request another time that day. 0161 718 0294



Have you visited Mount Recyclemore which is currently on display outside One Stockport Exchange? This innovative sculpture is made from 20,000 items of redundant tech, raising awareness of the international e-waste problem and was created for display at the G7 summit in June. The sculpture is "guest starring" in Stockport for a limited period only, so down for a look while you can!

Pastoral support

Are you a supernumerary minister, local preacher, worship leader, pastoral visitor or just someone who cares?

Could you offer pastoral support to the safeguarding sessions?

This would be via telephone, so all you would need to do is be available for the 3 or 4 hours of the session to respond to any initial concerns a participant may have.

The District are looking for more volunteers to help with the safeguarding sessions. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Helen Bolton (District Safeguarding Officer) on mands@dso.methodist.org.uk or 07498 800427

 ST ANDREW SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP 
meet The Heatons United Church
Stanley Road Heaton Moor SK4 4HL

on Thursday evening 8 -10pm. 9 September - 16 December 2021
6 January - 28 April 2022

Come and join a small friendly class who enjoy Scottish dancing, no partner needed so come on your own or bring a friend. Tuition given and soft shoes advisable. A good work out for body and mind.

Interested contact Brenda Medcalfe 0161 478 7535 [teacher]
Sue Duncan 0161 439 1544 [secretary]

Cost £2 weekly



Let's Dance!

"Would you bear with us again?" - Haiti Earthquake

"Haiti, oh Haiti! you did not choose your geographical place on the planet, but that does not spare you from hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, cholera, covid-19 and much miseries.

Dear friends once again Haiti is back and when I say Haiti is back you all got a sense of what I mean. Would you bear with us again? For how long you might ask? God alone knows. You ought to be tired. We fill it for you. Let me tell you, we ourselves we are tired. We are tired of being in the news only for our bad lucks. We are tired of putting our calabash before you for our entire lives.

If you talk about Haiti' fatigue you're right. Yes, you ought to be tired. Are we a cross for you to carry for your entire existence? We hope not."



Reverend Pierre Claudel Zephyr, Superintendent Minister of Jeremie and the Leon Circuits in Western Haiti, writes to partners and asks us to '*bear with them*' a little while longer. There has been no rest for Haitians from the social, political and economic insecurity that characterises the conditions that Haitians have lived with for decades. In 2021, the nation has had to contend with the COVID pandemic and the ever-deepening food insecurity that it has caused. The nation has had to mourn the assassination of their President, Jovenel Moises, killed in July. The nation is now getting to grips with the devastation, loss of life and injury to life that Saturday's

earthquake has caused, as well as with the pressing humanitarian need of thousands of Haitians who find themselves without food, potable water, medical supplies and attention and adequate shelter. **(Above - the church gathers for worship on the morning after the earthquake, not able to worship indoors due to the structural damage and danger of aftershocks causing collapse)**

Yet the Haitian people persevere. Yet many continue confessing the goodness of God in the midst of this valley of the shadow of death through which they walk. God is their hope and their salvation. If our Haitian brothers and sisters continue in hope regardless of their travails, how can we, as their family in Christ, not continue in hope, prayer and supplication on their behalf?

What can we do in the midst of such great need and devastation? We can ensure that we heed the words of Revd Pierre Claudel Zephyr- that we do not become and tired and weary in our love for our Haitian brothers and sisters.

That we do not cease praying. Please join Reverend Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Church in Britain, as she leads us in offering [prayer and supplication](#) to God for Haiti.

In the words of Revd Pierre Claudel Zephyr, our prayers and support will mean much to our family in Haiti: *"We pray, one day all that we will say to you is thank you. We will say thank you, to you who never let us down when we were hungry, naked, homeless, sick and troubled. We will say thank you to you who even when our choices or the choices that our leaders have made suffer and choke the progress and the development of our own people that never let us catch a breath over many centuries, but you were always there for us."*

Sandra Lopez, Partnership Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean

NOT LOVE PERHAPS by A.S. J. Tessimond



This is not Love perhaps – Love that lays down
Its life, that many waters cannot quench,
nor the floods drown –
But something written in lighter ink, said in a lower tone:
Something perhaps especially our own:
A need at times to be together and talk –
And then the finding we can walk
More firmly through dark narrow places
And meet more easily nightmare faces:
A need to reach out sometimes hand to hand –
And then find Earth less like an alien land:
A need for alliance to defeat
The whisperers at the corner of the street:
A need for inns on roads, islands in seas,
halts for discoveries to be shared,
Maps checked and notes compared:
A need at times of each for each
Direct as the need of throat and tongue for speech.



Prayers from the office

A Prayer for Afghanistan



Let us pray All-loving God, Your hands have fashioned every lovely corner of this treasured planet, and the beautiful land of Afghanistan is as precious as every other place Your children call 'home'. By its rivers and mountains, its fields and gardens, its busy towns and ancient villages, it is the heart's desire of its people and the place where their lives and loves are nurtured.

We grieve today with those who grieve over Afghanistan, the people who call it home indeed, the people exiled or suddenly having to leave, and the men and women from other countries who have made sacrifices in recent years in the cause of that country's future.

We remember with renewed sadness the loss of lives of military personnel during the years of this country's involvement in Afghanistan, conscious of the questions that must today be troubling the minds of those in our community who were bereaved, those who were wounded on operations, and those who were forever changed by experiences suffered there.

We pray for peace, dignity, freedom and confidence for the men, women and children of Afghanistan; for courage, vision and generosity within the international community responding to such need; and for tranquillity of mind amongst our own Service community and its wider family.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the peace-giver, we pray, AMEN

A prayer from Rev Dr Marjory Maclean, convener of the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces

Praying With Art (excerpt from article by Elizabeth Gray King at www.orc.org.uk)

To pray with art is to pray with expectation that what we see will give us new insight, a new experience, and a deeper relationship with God.

Seeing Art as Prayer – once you have found a piece of artwork you want to pray with, start by looking carefully. No matter what the artist might suggest you see, you will see what *you* see. This is one of the the wonderful things about art; it has almost endless meaning depending on who is looking. Breathe. Take time. Allow your eyes to move where they want to move and try not to make them see. Give yourself permission to roam slowly where your eyes seem to want to move. If there is a section which catches you often, rest with it. What does the colour, or lack of colour make you feel or think? What about the shapes caught your attention? Is there a strong light? Or dark? Focus a moment and consider: what of God can you see as you pay attention? Breathe. Let the revelation arrive and speak what it has to say.

If anyone would like to share a Prayer with the church family, please call Linda on 07564839380 or E-mail lindawfleming625@gmail.com.



No names required because God Knows.

John 14: 27-31 **A peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you**

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

²⁸ “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰ I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, ³¹ but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me



Reflection on the Graffiti Work (source www.christian.art)

This photo is of a piece of work by street artist Banksy entitled “Flower Thrower”. The wide angle shot helps to imagine how the work fits into its landscape and social context.

The work first appeared in 2003 as a large format stencilled graffiti in Jerusalem shortly after the construction of the West Bank Wall, a wall which Banksy considers to ‘essentially turn Palestine into the world’s largest open prison’.

The imagery Banksy uses here is inspired by the protester images of the 1960's college riots or anti-Vietnam war protests. We see the figure of a young man leaning backward with one arm out, as if he is gathering strength and winding up the arm to throw something aggressively. However, instead of being captured in the act of violence, the artist's subject holds the embodiment of peace: a beautiful

bouquet of flowers. His face is partially hidden by a scarf and baseball cap. Instead of waging war, the figure is waging peace!

Banksy, born in Bristol, Great Britain, is arguably the most influential and controversial street artist in the world at the moment. He has developed an entire subculture of devotees following his art works. His identity remains unknown, even after over 20 years of being active and involved within the graffiti scene. The mystery continues as who or 'they' might be, maybe a single artist or a group of artists? We don't know. He gives us a different take on the topic of peace Christ mentions in our Gospel today.

Meditation

Do you know the peace which passes all understanding (Phil.4:7)? In his farewell discourse Jesus grants *peace* as his gift to his disciples. What kind of peace does he offer? The *peace of Christ* is more than the absence of trouble. It includes everything which makes for our highest good. The world's approach to peace is avoidance of trouble and a refusal to face unpleasant things. Jesus offers the peace which conquers our fears and anxieties. Nothing can take us from the peace and joy of Jesus Christ. No sorrow or grief, no danger, no suffering can make it less. Jesus also speaks of his destination and ultimate triumph over the powers of evil in the world. In the eyes of the world the cross stood for shame, humiliation, and defeat. Jesus went to the cross knowing that it would lead to victory over the powers of sin and of Satan. Jesus also knew that he would return to his Father in glory. The cross brought glory to Jesus and to the Father and it is our way to glory as well. In the Cross of Christ we find true peace and reconciliation with God. Do you live in the peace of Jesus Christ?

"Lord, may your peace be always with me. May no circumstance, trouble, or vexation rob me of the peace which passes all understanding. You, alone, O Lord, are my Peace. May I always reside in that peace by believing your word and by doing your will."

Sunday 22nd August 2021

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer (from Psalm 119 vv. 103, 105, 112)

O Giver of all good gifts,
How delicious your words are,
so good in our mouths, sweeter than honey!
Your word is a lamp to our feet, a light to our
path gladdening our eyes and showing the
way.
Incline our hearts to keep all your commands
to treasure your words forever, to the end.
Amen

Hymn: 161 Speak O Lord

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen
to it here: <https://youtu.be/0zAIHljyPgU>

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
all your purposes, for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

Let us pray together

Ever-speaking God
your strong words called worlds into being
you spoke light out of darkness, life out of
emptiness, beauty out of chaos,
you still speak. We praise and worship you.
Ever-speaking God you are the eternal Word,
Jesus, God's 'Yes' to us. You have the words of
eternal life.
You spoke and lives changed, bodies healed,
hearts quickened, you still speak. We praise
and worship you.

Ever-speaking God you are the Spirit who
brings words to life. You continue to pray for
us when the words run out. You speak in the
world and in our hearts, you call words to
mind and teach us, leading us into truth.
You still speak. We praise and worship you.

In this time may we drink in your Word, feast
on your Word, hold on to your Word. **Amen**

Faithful God your words give life, forgive us
when our words damage and discourage.
Your words bring peace, forgive us when our
words stir up anger and discord.
Your words reveal truth, forgive us when our
words flatter and falsify.
Your words bring healing, forgive us when our
words harm and hurt.

Jesus who spoke out against oppression and
hypocrisy, forgive our complicit silence.
Jesus who stood in holy silence before power
and violence, forgive the wild words we
should not have spoken.

In the quiet of our hearts, may we hear the
word of grace. Jesus Christ speaks: '*Your sins
are forgiven*'. Thanks be to God. **Amen**

Today's Gospel Reading: John 6 vv. 56-69

Time to Reflect *Finding the right words...*

You pause, chewing the end of your pen or with your hand hovering above the screen or keyboard trying to 'find the right words'. There is something very important to share, something sensitive to disclose and perhaps these simple words have to bear the weight of strong emotion. Sometimes recently bereaved people find they are avoided or ignored by others who 'can't find the right words' and are embarrassed and feel awkward. We've come up with the idea of 'mis-speaking' to refer to times when words come out wrong or unintentionally convey an unfortunate or unacceptable meaning. Those of us who have had to write or record words during the pandemic, particularly those who have tried to speak of God in this context, have felt the pressure of finding the 'right words'. At times when we could not touch, could not pass on a gift or share food together and our words have been weightier and more precious. Jesus's words here were and are difficult and disquieting. And people can't take it, they back off, they walk. And Jesus asks, so poignantly and directly, if the disciples want to leave too. This is where Peter makes a great confession of faith, faith which knows that it has nowhere else to turn. In the Gospels we often hear of Peter putting his foot in his mouth, foul-mouthed Peter denying his Master. But here Peter speaks so clearly, speaks for all the disciples and all of us, 'where else can we go, you have the words of eternal life'. Jesus's words are here not bland and reassuring. Jesus does not tell the disciples or us 'what we want to hear'. These words are strong and they stick in the heart and mind, they take root in us. They are compelling, they draw us in. Even when things don't make sense, and we don't quite 'get' what these words mean, the words of Jesus hold us, Jesus holds us. In these days Jesus holds us, and holds onto us still, through the words we read in the Bible, the words we sing to ourselves in

our homes, the words of worship we share with each other.

There are times when we can't find the words, and times when words run out, when words cannot be enough. There are times when we can't put into words what we feel as individuals or together. There are times when we can't adequately explain how our experiences connect with what we believe, but like Peter, we grasp the words and Word which draw and hold us. This is what we've got, what we stick with, this is enough, enough for life and faith: 'where else can we go?'

Take a time to sit quietly. A time of prayer

Holy God, you want us to know and believe that you alone are God. Give to your Church such confidence in you that we may do and dare much in your name. We remember those congregations we are connected with and those fellowships we are part of and commend them to your grace.

Jesus Christ, we know and believe that you are truly the Saviour of the World. Grant to the peoples of the world justice and peace. Give wisdom to those with power and freedom to those who are oppressed. We remember those nations and situations which are on our hearts at this time and we ask for your restoration and grace.

Tender-hearted God, we know and believe the love that you have for us and all people. Grant us to draw close and find grace to help us in our time of need. Touch those who we know are struggling with your compassion and comfort, your healing and strength. We remember those who are sick, sorrowful, bereaved or troubled and place them in your loving hands.

Merciful God, who knows our needs and our fears, steady us for all that lies ahead, strengthen our hearts, lead us into your truth, until we see you face to face. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father

Listen to the worship song: *You are the King of Glory* <https://youtu.be/2fhxKGaLI4>
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

A prayer of blessing

May the words we have heard and prayed and shared echo in our minds, stay in our hearts and re-shape our lives. May we know the Living Word of God with us now and always.

Amen

Original Materials by Miriam Stevenson

(Local Preacher in the Leicester Trinity Circuit)

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCCLi No here

John 6: 56-69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

The Words of Eternal Life

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go?