



Heaton Moor United Church

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



Church Services

Sunday 29th August 10:45 at Heaton Moor United Church

Sunday Service led by Sue Shillito

Sunday 5th September at Heaton Moor United Church

Super Sunday followed by Sunday Service led by Rev. Dr Graham Adams

As restrictions have eased there is no need to pre-book for services

Zoom Services and Meetings

Weekly circuit Zoom Services are now finished for the summer

Wednesday Coffee and Chat 10:30am to 11:30am

Wednesday 1st September- Moor Than a Good Read

10:00am in the coffee lounge at Heaton Moor United Church

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

We are almost at the end of the summer holidays and it's been great this week to hear about all the plans different groups across Heaton Moor, including our own Church groups have for returning in September. I have been busy sorting cupboards, toys and "stuff" in preparation for the groups returning. If you would like to volunteer either regularly or occasionally at any of the groups or fun days please contact me and we can have a chat.

I met on Wednesday with Sarah who is the new development worker at Heaton Mersey and discussed our joint project the School Pantry and as I was already in the "coffee space" I took some time out of my day to join the Wednesday coffee group - it was a great way to spend some time catching up with people. Do feel free to bob along if you are free, from next week it will start at 10L30am.

I have a rare "free" weekend this weekend as my little ones are off with their Uncle to Wales and am looking forward to a visit to the Whitworth Gallery and some uninterrupted scrapbooking. I hope whatever your plans are for the bank holiday weekend you have a lovely time.

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

JoAnne

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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

*Wednesday
Coffee and a
Chat*

FROM 1ST
SEPTEMBER WILL
NOW BE AT 10.30 AM



PRAYING FOR AFGHANISTAN

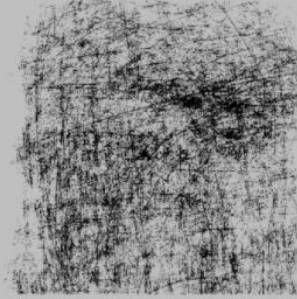
Hosted by Daleen Ten Cate who will introduce Kairos Housing Project.

Prayers led by Lee Battle

Wednesday 25th August at 7pm until 8pm

Zoom Meeting ID - 882 3564 8312

If you need anymore information please email leebattle@hotmail.com



Climate Sunday

The Nations Climate Sunday Service on Sunday 5th September will be live from Glasgow Cathedral. It's an opportunity to celebrate everything that has been done as part of the Climate Sunday movement, and everything churches across Britain and Ireland have committed to for the climate in the lead up to COP26.

You can watch the Nations Climate Sunday Service live online from 3.30pm. Make sure you've booked through Eventbrite to get the link sent straight to you.

Book your free online ticket here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nations-climate-sunday-service-churches-prepare-for-cop-26-tickets-165258230817>

Watch 'Hope & Anchor' - Tuesdays 12:45-1:15 starting 28 September

Watch online and participate on Facebook at @MethodistChurchinBritain

Hope & Anchor is a weekly online chat show that explores spirituality and faith in an inclusive, fun, nonjudgmental way. Imagine a table at your local pub where friends and strangers meet up and talk about anything and everything, from the frivolous to the sublime – this is the energy of *Hope & Anchor*.

The show features guests from Britain and across the world who are taking faith outside of the box, addressing challenging questions and preconceptions with intelligence and loads of laughter, and inviting listeners to explore new spiritual landscapes.

It's a show for everyone – especially those who don't consider themselves religious but are spiritually curious and Christians who creatively challenge the status quo and are passionate about change.

Hope & Anchor is sponsored by the Methodist Church in Britain and welcomes guests of all faiths and no faith.

Co-hosted by:

- Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference
- Thelma Commey, past Methodist Youth President
- Jenny Pathmarajah, Methodist presbyter
- Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth

50 Years of the United Reformed Church

Church House is compiling a book, to be published jointly with the Congregational Federation to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2022.

The planning group is looking for positive reflections and stories of encouragement from any time in the last 50 years with an eye to our future too.

All contributions are welcome: for example, a memory from the time of the denomination being created; how you have worshipped and served in a local URC or CF church; projects that have been done ecumenically; your hopes for the future; photographs from the last 50 years with a caption; a prayer about our past, present and future.

The style should be non-academic and in everyday language. All submissions should be sent by email or by post with permission obtained from those included in photos if necessary. Along with your contribution, please provide your name, the churches and/or roles where you have served, along with your Area or Synod. The deadline for submissions is 10th September and they can be made by email to andy.jackson@urc.gov.uk or by post to Andy Jackson, The United Reformed Church, Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT. Please get in touch with Andy if you have any questions about this request.



A Play In A Day

Addie and Barbara Redmond at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC are looking for aspiring actors to learn, perform and record a play – in a day!

You must be aged 8 or over. There'll be pizza for lunch – and the whole day won't cost you a penny!

Further details, including how to book your place, are in the poster:

The poster has a dark background with a red curtain and a golden theater mask. The title 'A Play In A Day' is written in white. A list of details is provided in white text.

A Play In A Day

- Calling all young people (aged 8+)
- We're taking a piece of drama from scratch to performance – in a day!
- Want to be involved?
- Tuesday, 31st August, 10:00 – 16:00
- Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, Norden Road, Bamford OL11 5PQ
- Pizza for lunch
- Free of charge
- Contact Barbara or Addie on 07906 599 966 or email addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk

YCCN Relay – St Pauls Church, Heaton Moor

Thursday 9th September 15:30 – 17:00

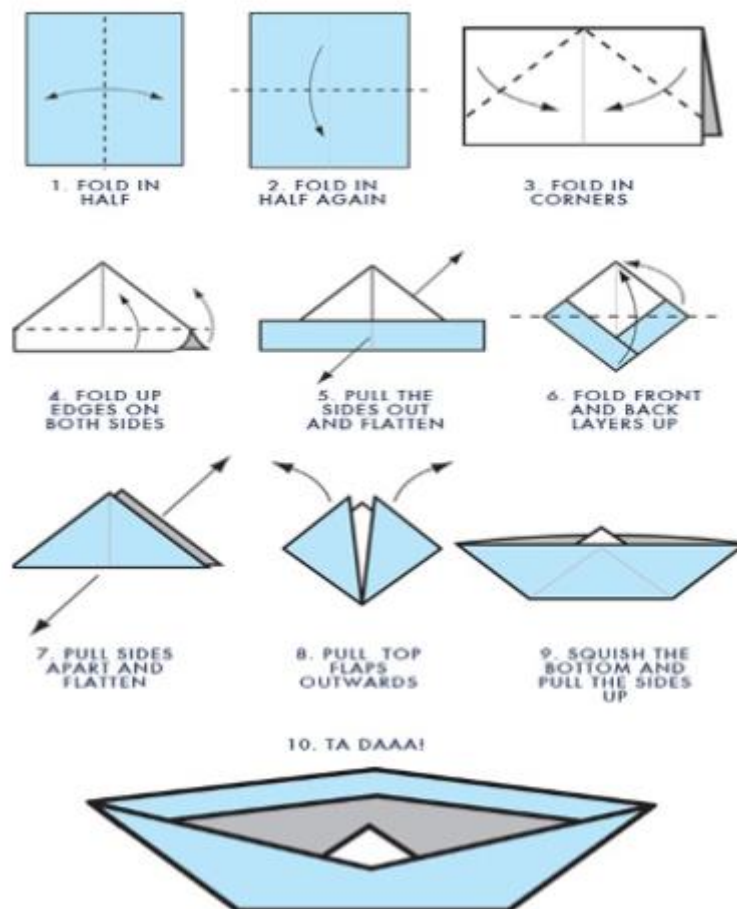
As mentioned in previous notices the Youth Christian Climate Network (YCCN) are completing a relay to COP26 and one of their stops is St Pauls Church. We will be participating in the event along with Sustainable Heaton, The Women's Institute, and Friends of Heaton Park. We will be running some fun activities, open to everyone, on the topic of climate change. The Mayor of Stockport will be in attendance and there will be a short reflective service.

If you are able to help on the day please speak with JoAnne.

If you cannot attend the event but would like to take part why not have a go at making a paper prayer boat? We will be displaying the boats at the event on the 9th September and then sending them onto Christian Aid who will be taking them to COP26.

An instructional YouTube video can be found here <https://youtu.be/vNba3jbBS0w>

Paper boat instructions





Can you stay after a service to serve the thirsty hoards ?

Can you come before the service and set the tables up for
coffee after the service?

If you can answer one or both of these questions with a YES ,
let me know

Thank you

Sharon



Prayers from the office

A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.
AMEN

GRACEFORMOMS.COM

Gracious God, as we respond to your call in our lives, nurture within us the wisdom to respect your gift of life and your creation. May the roots of our faith be strengthened so that we reflect your kingdom values of justice, peace, hope and life for all. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Andrew de Ville, Southampton District Chair

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.

Turning the world upside down: 1 Corinthians 1.18–31 (Day 239)

Bible Society's Daily Reflections follow the M'Cheyne Bible reading plan, designed for those who want to read the whole Bible in one year. Each reflection focuses on one of its four daily chapters.



Pray

Lord, open my ears to hear what you have to say to me; open my heart to love your word, and open my mind to understand your truth.



Read

[1 Samuel 19](#) [1 Corinthians 1](#) [Lamentations 4](#) [Psalm 35](#)



Daily reflection: 1 Corinthians 1

Paul's letters to the Corinthians reflect the situation in a church that's strong and growing, but still learning how to be Christian.

In this first chapter he compliments them on their faith, tells them off for quarrelling, and bases everything on God's grace to them. In the second half he speaks of the gospel as 'nonsense' to the world, but wiser than all human wisdom.

The gospel might appear foolish today. It runs against much of what people take for granted in what it says about sin, personal responsibility, human frailty and the need for a saviour. We shouldn't expect an easy ride when we try to make the case for Christ. But for Paul, the gospel is foolish for a particular reason. It was the rich, powerful and strong who were glorified in the Roman world. Crucifixion was the most humiliating death imaginable. No crucified person died with dignity.

But Paul tells the Corinthians that God had chosen people like them – very few of them wise or noble (verse 26) – and lifted them high, just as Christ himself was exalted. God had turned the world upside down, and it was the weak and powerless who were to be honoured.

It's still like that today: if Christians are respected or influential, that's all well and good – but we shouldn't expect that, or mind if we aren't. And we should still look to the least and lowest if we want to understand the heart of the gospel, not to the mighty and proud.



Pray

God, thank you for turning the world upside down and lifting up the poor, the weak and those whom the world neglects. Help me to see you at work in everyone, and to judge no one by the world's standards.

This reflection was written by Mark Woods, Bible Society's Editor

Sunday 29 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.

We prepare ourselves with a time of quiet.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we thank you that you hold us in this time and for all time, that you know our comings and goings, and are intimate with the innermost thoughts of our hearts. Because of this we can come to you in confidence and in trust.

So, entrusting ourselves to you, we pray that you would enable us to worship you, in Spirit and in truth.

AMEN.

Hymn: STF 508 Purify my heart

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKfuZVWr-8I>

Purify my heart,
let me be as gold
and precious silver.
Purify my heart,
let me be as gold,
pure gold.

Refiner's fire,
my heart's one desire
is to be holy,
set apart for you, Lord.
I choose to be holy,
set apart for you my master,
ready to do your will.

Purify my heart,
cleanse me from within
and make me holy.
Purify my heart,

cleanse me from my sin,
deep within.

Brian Doerksen (b. 1965)

Let us pray together

Loving God, we must acknowledge before you that your thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are your ways our ways.

You see in us what we cannot see, in our neighbours what we are blind to, seeing the unrefined gold, the unpolished diamond, the beauty and potential in each of us.

HELP US TO SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES, TO CATCH WHAT IS ON YOUR HEART.

You see the end from the beginning and hold all time in your hands. We are too often impatient looking for instant results, making no time for watching or waiting.

HELP US TO SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES, TO CATCH WHAT IS ON YOUR HEART.

You walked the way of the cross before us, calling us to follow, even when we falter and stumble you call us on.

HELP US TO SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES, TO CATCH WHAT IS ON YOUR HEART.

And so we come, asking that you free us from our worst tendencies, and tasking you to liberate our best selves, praying for your grace and pardon.

HELP US TO SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES, TO CATCH WHAT IS ON YOUR HEART.

Help us to hear your word: You are new creations, you are precious and honoured in my sight.

Help us to receive your affirming and transforming love.

HELP US TO SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES, TO CATCH WHAT IS ON YOUR HEART. Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading:

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Time to Reflect

Over the last 19 months (plus) we have been instructed again and again to observe the ritual of washing our hands, in bathrooms everywhere, in restaurants, and cafes, and even in our churches signs appeared telling us not only how to wash our hands but also how long for, there have been some creative suggestions, from singing Happy Birthday to reciting the Lords Prayer as we carry out what for many of us has now become a frequent ritual, and something we do not just before we eat a meal.

Yesterday I visited my daughter, and was shown by my almost 2 year old grandson how clever he was pulling his stool up to the sink and carefully washing his hands without help before we ate lunch. Interestingly neither mum nor grandma did this!

As I reflect upon that I can almost feel the shock of the Pharisees and scribes who noticed with horror that Jesus disciples were eating without taking part in the ritual of handwashing, thus rendering them defiled. This handwashing along with the washing of pots and cups and more were an integral part of life, showing an outward devotion to God, to the wider community and in some senses to themselves.

Jesus however is not concerned by his disciples actions (or should I say inactions). He points to ritual for rituals sake as being wholly inadequate. To honour God with outward signs whilst having hearts and minds set upon

other things was not enough, the ritual, like our sacraments should have been what we often refer to as an outward sign of an inner grace, a reminder, as our baptism service records, that God has indeed accomplished "All this for you".

Jesus wants something deeper than outward signs, he wants people to live lives focused upon the goodness and grace of God, people who are living lives centred upon love, to become visible signs of the grace of God at work. He wants us to be clean, to reflect holiness both inwardly and outwardly.

Now I am not suggesting that you should stop washing your hands in these pandemic times, (I make a note for myself there), but perhaps you might use this ritual as a chance to pray, to turn your attention to God, to allow those moments to become an opportunity to examine your heart, or simply to allow the love of God to wash over you as the water washes over your hands. Just as Brother Lawrence found the opportunity to worship God in what he saw originally as menial kitchen work, peeling potatoes and washing pots, thus redeeming it, maybe we can find opportunities every day to find, worship and celebrate God in all things.

Take some time to reflect

A time of prayer

Loving God, in Christ you came and walked this world with engagement and humility. We reflect upon the stories he told, using illustrations from everyday objects and from nature, revealing your presence in even the smallest flower or the lowliest bird.

Help us to live as your holy people. Help us to trust you in all things.

MAY YOUR LOVED BE REVEALED.

We pray for the world, we notice the struggles, not only of the way the pandemic has swept across it, but also the needs of those afflicted by war, famine and other

diseases, those fighting for the reality of climate change to be constantly on the political and global agendas.

Help us to live as your holy people. Help us to trust you in all things.

MAY YOUR LOVE BE REVEALED.

We pray for the church in these ever-changing days, for wisdom and for integrity, for a deep sense of your peace, purpose and mission to be our reason for reaching out. For the courage to let go and to move on when that journey is needed.

Help us to live as your holy people. Help us to trust you in all things.

MAY YOUR LOVE BE REVEALED.

We pray for those we care for and care about, those who might be struggling, those awaiting a birth or a death of some other event that will transform their lives (you may wish to remember some specific people or needs at this point).

Help us to live as your holy people. Help us to trust you in all things.

MAY YOUR LOVE BE REVEALED.

Finally we pray for ourselves. You know us through and through, our concerns, our hopes and our desires. Help us to be signs of your kingdom, through the love and grace you have shown us, and will continue to show us.

Help us to live as your holy people. Help us to trust you in all things.

MAY YOUR LOVE BE REVEALED.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father

Hymn: Listen to *STF 345 And can it be*

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlwDCmTkRhM>

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above --
so free, so infinite his grace --
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray --
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

A prayer of blessing

Closing words:

From where we are to where you need us

LOVING GOD LEAD ON

From the security of what we know, to the
wonders you will reveal

LOVING GOD LEAD ON

May we be signs of your grace, revealing your mercy.

**LOVING GOD LEAD ON. BLESS AND KEEP US
WE PRAY.**

Original Materials by [Sally Coleman](#)

All

Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCCLi 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. We aim to continue to provide these resources until the end of August 2021.

Mark 7: 1-8,14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'