



Heaton Moor United Church

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



Church Services

Sunday 5th September 10:45 at Heaton Moor United Church

Super Sunday at 9:45 followed by Sunday Service led by Rev Dr Graham Adams

Sunday 5th September 16:00 at Heaton Moor United Church

Inaugural Circuit Service

Sunday 12th September 10:45 at Heaton Moor United Church

Sunday Service led by Paul Brewerton

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

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

The peace of Jesus Christ which surpasses all our understanding be with us all.

Trust you are all doing well and had a good summer. We as a family had a refreshing break as we visited Inverness and Tudweiliog. We had some good walks, enjoyed ferry ride on Lochness, and had some good swims in the beaches. We watched lots of films and spent some quality time as a family. I was introduced to the poetry of R.S. Thomas this summer and enjoyed his creative poetic reflections. I also enjoyed reading the book, "Why being yourself is a bad idea and other intercultural notions" by Graham Tomlin. As a family we had a challenge of reading the book of 1 Samuel from the Old Testament during the month, and enjoyed a conversation on it. As a family we were able to do a song called "The Stranger." The only thing we had to miss during this break is that we couldn't visit our family back home in India. We are grateful to friends who have offered us prayers and support during this time of our break.

It was good to see few of our church friends at the Wednesday Coffee morning.

As we being a new Connexional year this September, let us ask God's guidance so that we have a meaningful year so that we can as a church will continue to be engaging creatively in the mission of God. During this September, Christians are called to spend faithfully on "Time for Creation" reflecting on God's creation and making actions on how we can strive for climate justice in a world living in a climate crisis. The Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) are on a walk from Cornwall to Glasgow to the CoP26 international Climate Change conference, and will be in Stockport on the 9th of September. Kindly participate and encourage these our young friends and you will have more details about it in this newsletter.

On Saturday the 4th of September we have our Synod meetings and seek your prayers for the ministries of our District. Please also pray for the URC as it is planning to celebrate 50 years of URC in 2022.

Thanks to Graham Adams who will be leading the Super Sunday service this Sunday at our Church. This Sunday, we also have our monthly Circuit service at our Church at 4pm, and if you are free, please do join in this service in strengthening the fellowship with the wider circuit.

Herewith I am sending you the reflection for this Sunday along with the worship resources. I am thankful to Sharon and JoAnne for their work with the newsletters, especially during August.

May you all have a peaceful week. Stay safe and stay blessed.

Thanking you,

With warm regards,

Raj

2nd September 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Happy New Methodist Year! September is one of my favourite months - with start of not only our Church New Year but the school New Year it always feels like a time for new beginnings. It is also the month I started in my role as Community Worker - I can't believe it has been twelve months since I started.

Starting a new role during COVID has certainly been an experience and there have been many challenges along the way - that said I have had an absolute blast and am looking forward to the next twelve months. I'll be providing some cake for a small celebration at the coffee morning on Wednesday so if you are free to call in and say Hello!

A good portion of my time this week has been taken up with online training to be a Youth Mental First Aider. We all have mental health and just like our physical health it needs looking after - one in four of us will experience a mental health issue in any year. There are endless reports and statistics highlighting the mental health crisis amongst our young people - not least that half of mental ill health starts by age 15 and 10% of children and young people aged 5-16 suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder. These figures are pre-covid so it is now more important than ever that young people get the appropriate support and care they need. The course is aimed at Church Youth and Community Workers so it is really interesting.

This week we have our Youth Christian Climate Network event at St Pauls and if you re able to help - or able to help on our fun day on Saturday please do contact me.

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

JoAnne

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 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





World Alzheimer's Month 1st – 30th September

World Alzheimer's Day takes place on 21st September and this year the Alzheimer's Society are talking about the power of knowledge.

By learning more about dementia and understanding changes in memory and behaviour people can feel empowered to reach out for the help and support they need.

As well as asking people to learn more about dementia we are also:

Asking people to Invite their local MP to the Alzheimer's Society stand at Party Conference

Led by people affected by dementia, they are taking their #CureTheCareSystem campaign to Labour and Conservative Party Conferences.

They need help to guarantee as many MPs as possible visit their stand so they can make an even stronger case for the Government to #CureTheCareSystem now.

The more campaigners they receive invites from the more likely they'll visit the stand

<https://action.alzheimers.org.uk/page/89340/action/1?ea.tracking.id=Campaigners&ea.url.id=5479098>

Can you crochet/knit/cross stitch/felt etc. a Forget Me Not Flower?

If you are able to produce a handcrafted Forget Me Not please pass



onto JoAnne by the 20th September for her to share with the community on World Alzheimer's Day.

There will be a memorial service for Ruth Morgan on 14th September at 2.00pm

The family have requested that black is not worn .



Please say a Prayer for our volunteers, parents and toddlers as we re-open our toddler groups from Monday.

Symptoms of dementia

Each person is unique and will experience dementia in their own way. This page explains some of the symptoms someone affected by dementia might experience.

What are the most common symptoms of dementia?

The different [types of dementia](#) tends to affect people differently, especially in the early stages. Other factors that will affect how well someone can live with dementia include how other people respond to them and the environment around them.

A person with dementia will have cognitive symptoms (to do with thinking or memory). They will often have problems with some of the following:

- [day-to-day memory](#) – for example, difficulty recalling events that happened recently,
- **concentrating, planning or organising** – for example, difficulties making decisions, solving problems or carrying out a sequence of tasks (such as cooking a meal),
- [language](#) – for example, difficulties following a conversation or finding the right word for something,
- **visuospatial skills** – for example, problems judging distances (such as on stairs) and seeing objects in three dimensions,
- **orientation** – for example, losing track of the day or date, or becoming confused about where they are.

A person with dementia will also often have [changes in their mood](#). For example, they may become frustrated or irritable, apathetic or withdrawn, anxious, easily upset or unusually sad.

With some types of dementia, the person may see things that are not really there ([visual hallucinations](#)) or strongly believe things that are not true ([delusions](#)).

Dementia is progressive, which means the symptoms gradually get worse over time. How quickly this happens varies greatly from person to person.

As dementia progresses, the person may develop behaviours that seem unusual or out of character. These behaviours may include asking the same question over and over, pacing, [restlessness or agitation](#). They can be distressing or challenging for the person and those close to them.

A person with dementia, especially in the later stages, may have physical symptoms such as muscle weakness or weight loss. Changes in sleep pattern and appetite are also common.



YCCN

Young Christian Climate Network



The Young Christian Climate Network are carrying this boat, by relay, from the G7 Summit in Cornwall to the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow 1st-12th November to raise awareness of the impact of the climate crisis on God's creation and people.

FREE!

Thursday 9th September
3.30pm – 5.00pm

FUN!

YCCN Event at St Paul's Church

- See the boat 'Rise to the Moment'
- Learn about its mission and message
- ECO activities for all the family
- Build a bug hotel
- Sustainability
- Community

Refreshments

For all the Family!

In conjunction with
Heaton Moor United Church * Sustainable Living in the Heaton
Kick the Plastic * Women's Institute * Friends of Heaton Moor Park



Prayers from the office

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters...” Psalm 24 (NIV)



Father of Creation we thank you for all that you have made;
For the joy and glimpses of you we find in nature's beauty,
For the variety of all you have provided through its resources.
Help us to tread lightly and use wisely,
Valuing the needs of others, and of creation, above our own desires.
Challenge us where we need to change our lifestyles,
Convict us when we need to speak out on behalf of a voiceless people, or world
And soften us where we have stood in judgement of others.
Father in your mercy, change us and use us
For the restoration of your world, and the protection of all your children.
Amen

Prayer found at thesanctuarycentre.org

A Prayer for Refugees from Tearfund

God of love,
You are the God who takes the side of the oppressed.
You are the God who is close to the brokenhearted.
You are the God who raises high the humble.

We pray for refugees around the world.
May they be welcomed with open arms.
May their needs for food, shelter, clothing and love be met.
May their wounds – emotional and physical – be healed.

We pray that the world will hear their plight. We pray that
the world will have compassion.
We pray that the world will take action on their behalf.
In Jesus' name, amen.

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.

Church Re-forming as an “Ephphatha community”

Reflecting on Mark 7:31-37

*In the gospel according to St. Mark 7:31-37, we find Jesus healing a person who is differently-abled, suffering from hearing and speaking impediments. The interesting part of this healing for me is the role of a community or a group of people who played a very important part in the healing of this person. If we carefully read through this healing, we see that the healing is taken place in an **unknown place** (no clear place is mentioned), the healing happens to an **unknown person** (no name or identity of the person is mentioned), the people who bring the sick person to Jesus was an **unknown community** (it is only mentioned as ‘they, no other clue of who they are), and Jesus uses an **unusual way of healing** (taking aside the person to a private place, putting his fingers in his ears, touching his tongue with his saliva, looking up to heaven, sighing and saying ‘Ephphatha’), and transforms the person to a known one as his own one.*

*The emphasis I make in this episode is on the role of the **unknown community**, which played a vital role in the whole healing process. Here is where I strongly feel the relevance of this community for the church today. This **unknown community**, I would like to call them as “**Ephphatha Community**”, and this community was primarily instrumental in making the unknown place to be a known one, for it would remain as a historic place for healing. This community transformed the person, his life and his future. I wonder, whether Jesus would have been marvelled by the faith of this community of people and healed the person. The community’s faith would have been the news headlines in their days, and if the writer of Hebrews would have known about this community, there will be no surprise to see if he/she would have added this community in the heroes and the sheroes of faith mentioned in the 11th Chapter in the book of Hebrews. This community was a group of unsung heroes and sheroes, who did not crave for their name of banner, but rather concentrated on their neighbour and his healing. Kudos ‘Ephphatha Community’, you really are an exemplary one for all generations!*

Therefore, today I pray that our church will be inspired to be like the ‘Ephphatha Community’, concerned deeply for their neighbours and be an exemplary one in its journey of mission and witness. To summarise the characters of the ‘Ephphatha Community’,

- It was an unknown community – for no identity is mentioned.*
- It was a voicing community – for it voiced for this voiceless person.*
- It was a faith community – but for their faith, the person was healed.*
- It was an open community – no barriers for it, even the sick & weak were members*
- It was a proclaiming community – zealously proclaimed the healer & the healing*
- It was a loving community – its concern for the neighbour*

I cannot but find a greater one than this ‘Ephphatha Community’ to be a role model for our church today. How are we as a church becoming ‘Ephphatha Community’ of our times, addressing the needs of our neighbours? The potential in our congregations needs to be harnessed and used creatively, missionally and contextually to make our church vibrant.

As we begin the 'Time for Creation' during this month of September, and as the international community gears up towards the CoP26 Climate change summit in Glasgow, it is time that we as churches express our solidarity with our creation and strive for climate justice today. For me, creation is our immediate neighbour, who is badly wounded and is on the grave margins, and to her needs we are called to attend to. It is time that we reflect climate justice as a faith issue. With climate crisis so real today, we are called to address climate justice as a matter of urgency, striving like the 'Ephphatha community' for the renewal of our neighbour, the creation today.

*'Ephphatha community' had to make immense sacrifices when they have brought their neighbour to Jesus Christ, they did not bring their own needs to Jesus rather cared for their neighbour and voiced for his need to Jesus. In the context of climate change, we are called to sacrifice our pleasures and are called to care for the resources around us carefully and faithfully. Solidarity with Jesus, solidarity with the creation, solidarity with the victims of climate crisis, solidarity with climate activists is the need of the hour today. To respond to the call of solidarity is to affirm life and to learn to live in true solidarity. Daisy L. Machado says, "Solidarity allows us to see the **imago dei** in the faces of those not like us, and it gives us the strength to reach out to those we consider foreign, to "the other", and to attempt to build community. And it is solidarity that condemns the radical individualism that pervades the lifestyle we find today throughout those nations that enjoy wealth and power, where the value of a person is measured in how much she or he can buy."¹ Therefore the grace of God calls us to praxis and is calling us to be in solidarity with all those striving for liberation and justice today. If a transformed world in God's grace is to be possible, firstly transformation needs to take place within us. If a transformed ME is possible, then a transformed world in God's grace is possible. If a transformed world is to be possible, a transformed and re-formed church has to happen. It is time that we green our minds, green our faith, green our churches, green our pulpits, green our hermeneutics, green our theologies and green our actions so that we as a church can participate in making a difference to our world today.*

*Our mother earth bleeds because of our greed,
Justice is when we protect her seeds and care for her needs,
She is our neighbour to whom we proceed,
'To love is to save' we live it through our deeds*

*Raj Bharat Patta,
2rd September 2021*

¹ Daisy L. Machado, "James 1-5" in *By Grace You Have Been Saved* (WCC: Geneva, 2005) Pp. 83-84.

Worship at Home - Sunday 5 September 2021

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.

Opening Prayer

Father God,

We unite ourselves with all who worship today, both in churches and people's homes. Nothing can separate us from your love and we rejoice that we can celebrate together, giving thanks for all your mercies. Bless our worship today and may we be strengthened and uplifted. Amen.

Hymn: StF56 King of Glory, King of Peace
Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://youtu.be/tSESknkhPd0>

King of Glory, King of Peace,
I will love thee;
and that love may never cease
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short

to extol thee.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Let us pray together

Lord God, we praise your holy name and come before you with awe and wonder. You bless us in many different ways and for that, we give you thanks and praise. We have not always appreciated your gifts and have often abused them. In your mercy, forgive us Lord. We pray that you will help us to keep to your paths and to resist those things that would lead us astray, for you are the rock of our salvation. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 7:24-37

Time to Reflect

If you have time, look at the other lectionary readings for today ie Psalm 25 and James 2:1-10. There is a common theme in all of these and it is that God cares for everyone and has a particular heart for the needy and oppressed. God's compassion is not just for those who love Him but reaches out into the wider world. People can be in desperate situations, through no fault of their own, and they need help and support. Yet, there are often barriers that restrict this.

The story in Mark 7 reminds us of prejudices that existed between Jew and Gentile. A Gentile woman; who was also a Canaanite-approached Jesus seeking healing for her daughter as she believed that He was the Messiah. (Note: Canaanites were particularly shunned by Jews). In the story, the word dogs is mentioned, which was a common term for

Gentiles. Jesus referred to dogs so was He highlighting this prejudice? The woman responded by saying that even she deserved mercy and Jesus responds by healing her daughter. Despite the barriers before her, the woman persevered and asked for basic care and compassion.

We live in a world of many prejudices based on such things as religion, status, race and gender. Governments may legislate against such things eg The UK Equality Act of 2010, but it is often the hearts of people that need to change.

Jesus came to save the world; even those we may feel are undesirable. He is the way to a new life and who are we to put barriers in the way of this? Rather; we should be showing God's love and helping people to see the nature of God, and encourage them to find salvation through Jesus.

And to those of us who have accepted Christ as Saviour, how has this changed our perception of the world and those around us? Covid-19 has thrown up many challenges; one being our concern for those less fortunate than ourselves. Let us take a few moments to reflect on what our response has been, and whether barriers – from ourselves and governments - are preventing some people from receiving basic care and compassion.

Amen

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

God of compassion and mercy, we come before you in our prayers as we bring to you the needs of the world and ourselves. We often feel overwhelmed by the needs around us but you are a great God and we put our trust in you. Show us what we can do to make this world a better place.

Where there is poverty, may we share our riches.
Where there is war, may we bring peace.
Where there is division, may we bring unity.
Where there is despair, may we bring hope.
Where there is apathy, may we challenge and

stimulate people to action.

Where there is hatred, may we show love.

We bring before you those known to us personally who have suffered loss and hardship. Visit them and give them all that they need to comfort and sustain them in their time of need. Strengthen and guide us as we seek to do your will and make this world a better place in which to live for all people everywhere. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to Beauty for Brokenness on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxfBh9ay8gE>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

Bless our worship today and may that which we have received enrich and bless our lives in the coming days. To that end, may the peace and blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.
Amen.

Original Materials by **John Roughley**

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.

For more worship resources see

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

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

Mark 7:24-30

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter

had an unclean spirit, immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs'. But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter. So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.