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# **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

21 <sup>st</sup> November	Rev Dr Raj Patta	Communion
		The Church Meeting will follow the service at 12:00
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Rev Paul Brewerton	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Rev Dr Graham Adams	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Service	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent – Activities from 10:00am
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Rev Dr Raj Patta	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent with Communion

# **Additional Services**

28 <sup>th</sup> November at 18:00	Service Loving Remembrance	Heaton Moor United Church
30 <sup>th</sup> November at 14:00	Dementia Friendly Service	Heaton Moor United Church
12 <sup>th</sup> December Zoom	Missional Partnership Service	Meeting ID: 821 8150 8988 Passcode: 716978
12 <sup>th</sup> December at 16:00	Christingle Service	Heaton Moor United Church with Laurel Lane Choir
19 <sup>th</sup> December at 16:00	Dickens Inspired Carol Service	Heaton Moor United Church followed by light supper

## **Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church**

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> November at 18:00	The Big Quiz in Aid of Tearfund (see notices for details)
Sunday 21st November at 12.00	Church Meeting (Bring your lunch)
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> November at 10:00	Advent Fair (see notices for details)
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November at 19:45	Men's Fellowship
(takes place every other Monday)	

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Hope you are all doing well and have had a good week.

This Sunday we will all join for our service on Sunday with Holy Communion, followed by our church meeting. We seek your prayers for our church meeting and for all the decisions we will make asking God's spirit to lead and guide us.

This week we had a meeting at Manchester Central Hall exploring ways how churches can contribute towards a Road to Recovery, where Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham and Mayor of Stockport Cllr. Adrian Nottingham and peace activist Erinma Bell spoke on the occasion, which were very encouraging.

This week has been Inter Faith Week and we were at our Friends of Stockport Interfaith meeting at Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints at Brahmall Lane, and it was very interesting to learn about their faith engagements in the community.

It was also a good occasion on Wednesday to be at Stockport Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the Ball Room in the Town hall, connecting and praying along with several people of faith from the borough.

We had our Heaton Churches Partnership meeting on Thursday at our church, and it was good to welcome Fr. Bijoy from the Coptic Orthodox church, and Lt. Col. Naziya Yousef who has recently joined the Salvation Army church at Heaton Norris. Our churches partnership in the Heatons look very multi-cultural and we celebrate it.

I have just returned from the Circuit Mission Forum at the Marple Methodist Church, where we had different tables offering space for conversations on various mission engagements that we as a circuit have been on. It has been very exciting to be part of all the circuit mission endeavours in the borough of Stockport.

On Saturday, we have Heatons Prayer Breakfast at Coach House on the A6, and also the Heatons Artisan Market at St. John's Church on Heaton Mersey. At our church we have the Tearfund Quiz evening on Saturday and please come along to support the cause and the event.

Starting next Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of Nov, we begin our Circuit Advent study course, which will be offered on Zoom on all the Thursdays till the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December on the theme "Silent Night? In search of a spirituality of silence." You are all invited to join us for this study course and the resources are available on the circuit website.

We continue to remember those who are unwell and sick among our church friends. May you all have a blessed week.

Regards, Raj 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Here we are again folks - another Friday another notices!

It's been another busy week - starting with littler church on Saturday. We were one extra this week but little man still managed to bag the most rubbish!



In 1954 The National Federation of Women's Institutes pass a resolution to "Keep Britain Tidy", and since then the litter man has been reminding us in various ways, along with a host of celebrities to do just that. We know the damaging effects litter has on our communities and wildlife which is one of the reasons we began litter church - but it is also opportunity for us to reflect together on the gospel.

This week I have been thinking of the litter we all have that clogs up our minds and thoughts. We are responsible for our own thoughts but how often do our minds wander and dwell on what has happened, or worry about what might happen in the future? It is important for us to try and live

in the present and enjoy life in the moment. If we can live as far as possible with a litter free mind, then we can listen and be aware of the voice of our own spirit which in addition to bringing us much needed peace and calm can make it easier to reach out to God, not only to refresh and strengthen us, but to be able to hear him.

So, if you fancy doing something good for the community, have opportunity for reflection or simply want something to do to help clear your mind do join us at our next litter church on the 11th December.

This week I've also been to quite a few meetings - I joined Friends of Stockport Interfaith on Tuesday as part of their Interfaith Week Meeting. We met at The Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints and heard a short talk about their religion and had a tour of their building. It was an early start on Wednesday having to be at the town hall at 7:30am for the Mayor of Stockport Prayer Breakfast. The early start was well worth it though as we heard inspiring speeches from Right Reverend Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport and Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester. Thursday it was a meeting about a mental health initiative we are hoping to start in the New Year and then a meeting of the Heatons Churches Partnership.

In between these meetings I have been busy preparing for our Celebrate Advent next week which is set to be lots of fun, but I do need some volunteers on the day to help make it a success! If you can help in any way, please speak with me.

It's also not too late to sign up to our Big Quiz happening this Saturday at church in aid of Tearfund.

I think that's everything for this week, as always if I can be of any assistance do not hesitate to contact me

# ToAnne

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

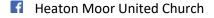
07340 269 354 @hmuccommunity

NouTube GB

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

Heaton Moor United Church





heaton moor united church



# Thank You from Sharon for all the kind wishes she has received whilst in isolation.



# Louise Brewood

The Funeral for Louise's life is taking place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November at Stockport Crematorium at 3pm.

Please light a candle at this time and say a prayer to remember her

God of Mercy,
from whom we come,
by whose Grace we live,
in whose love we are held at last;
surround us with your presence
that in our grief and loss
we may find assurance and hope
in the One who died for us and rose again,
Even your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



## Celebrate Advent

27<sup>th</sup> November 10:00 - 14:00

Children's activities and Advent Fair. Lots of stall holders selling unique gifts.

I am still looking for help in any of the following areas. If you can volunteer on the day even for half an hour it would be a huge help!

- Bring in items for the chocolate tombola / good as new toy stall
- Bake cakes / mince pies
- Help man a stall / serve refreshments
- Help with children's activities
- Share flyer with neighbours and friends
- Come along on the day!

For more information, please speak with JoAnne





# Saturday 20th November 6pm - 8pm £5 per person

Teams maximum of 6 (we can put you in a team)

Ticket includes refreshments and a hot pot supper

(vegetarian option available)

Children welcome at no charge,

To sign up contact JoAnne 07340 269 354

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

# HEATON MOOR UNITED CHURCH

Celebrate Advent - Advent Fair Saturday 27th November 10:00 - 14:00

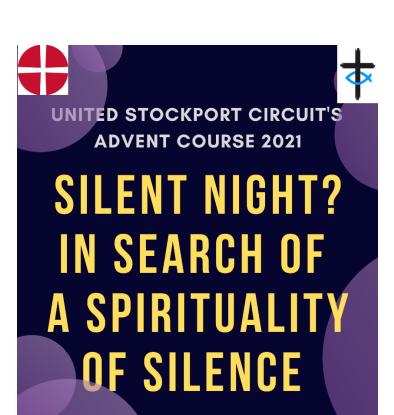
Nativity Service Sunday 12th December at 10:45

Christingle Sunday 12th December 16:00 - 17:00

Dickens Inspired Carol Service, followed by Victorian Light Supper Sunday 19th December 16:00 - 18:00

Christmas Day Service Saturday 25th December at 10:45

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT JO-ANNE
COMMUNITY@HEATONMOORUNITEDCHURCH.ORG.UK
07340 269 354



On Zoom, Every Thursday at 7pm 25th Nov - 23rd Dec 2021

www.stockportcircuit.org.uk

Zoom link is available on the calendar of the website



Hazel Grove Park and Ride

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 4pm and 6pm Tickets: £6 per car

Book online:

www.carolsinthecar.co.uk

**Proceeds to The Wellspring** 





# Come to the next Prayer Meeting

On Saturday November 20th 2021

7.45 for 8.00-9.00am

At The Coach House, 222, Wellington Rd north, Heaton Chapel, SK4 2QN To pray for:-

- > Each other
- > Each other's churches
- Mission in the Heatons
- Mission in Stockport





# Gentle Exercise Class

**Held at Heaton Mersey Congregational Church every Thursday** 

1.00 pm – 1.45 pm

Followed by Refreshments and a Chat

**Term Time only** 

**Great for Physical and Social Wellbeing** 

Combination of Chair Based

And Standing Exercise – go at your own pace! £3.00 per session

Contact: Julie Colton 07814 619217



# Autumn Synod Newsletter 16th October 2021



On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021, we were welcomed to Wilmslow URC where our first 'in person' Synod Meeting took place for two years. Although numbers were understandably reduced, it was good for around 75 representatives from across the Synod to be together for fellowship, worship and discussion— as well as to know that others were watching via livestream.

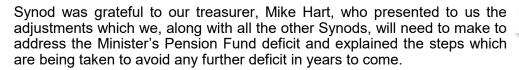
Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe (Minister at Wilmslow) and Rev Elizabeth Gray-King (Synod Pastor) led us in worship, and also closed our meeting with worship – and on both occasions, inspired and uplifted us with music, prayer and reflection.

Once again, we were grateful to Rev Clare Downing, Moderator of the General

Assembly and Moderator of Wessex Synod who chaired our meeting and steered us gently through our Agenda even enabling us to finish slightly earlier than had been expected.

During the morning session, Rev Dr Lesley Husselbee spoke of the work which the Facilitation Group is doing in gathering and encouraging thoughts and views as widely across the Synod as possible about how we see the future structure and working of Synod being progressed and developed. This work is ongoing, and any comments which you have would be gratefully received by the group. The letter is <a href="mailto:here">here</a> and can be sent to <a href="mailto:facilitation@nwsynod.org.uk">facilitation@nwsynod.org.uk</a>. Please feel free to add your voice – all the responses will be used to help our Spring 2022 Synod Meeting as it looks to the future.

We also heard from Rev Mike Walsh about the work which he and Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe have done in preparing materials and resources for the Renewed Beginnings programme. It is hoped and intended that churches and Missional Partnership Steering Groups can use the materials within church and elders meetings, and with Mission Mentors and Partnership Ministers as they consider their mission. The materials can be found on the Synod website <a href="here">here</a>.





We were also encouraged to think about how we might use financial resources available to the Synod effectively and practically in developing God's mission through our Churches. People were asked to write down how they thought £1,000, £10,000 or £100,000 given to their church might best be spent – and you can see their responses on the document at the end of this newsletter. These ideas will also help the Facilitation Group as they listen to what members of our local churches want from their Synod.



After enjoying the hospitality of Wilmslow URC at lunchtime, Synod watched a presentation about COP26 and a recording from Rev Daleen ten Cate, one of our Green Apostles. Synod meeting was able to formally adopt the NW Synod's Environmental Policy (which you can read <a href="here">here</a>), and committed to working towards divesting of investment in fossil fuels and becoming greener and more eco-friendly. We are, in fact, already a very long way to achieving this but recognize there is still much to do. Rev Kate Gray also addressed the meeting and distributed Prayer Flags for members to take back to their own churches.

There were new members to welcome to Synod (Rev Jonnie Hill and Rev Adam Woodhouse as new ministers, Rev Robert Hoch as our new Training and Learning Mentor, Lawrence Heath-Moore as new Mission Mentor, Christopher Whitehead as new Chair of Trust) and some people to thank as they stood down (Jean Mullineux as Chair of Trust, and Angela Bogg as Mission Committee representative and Executive Committee member).

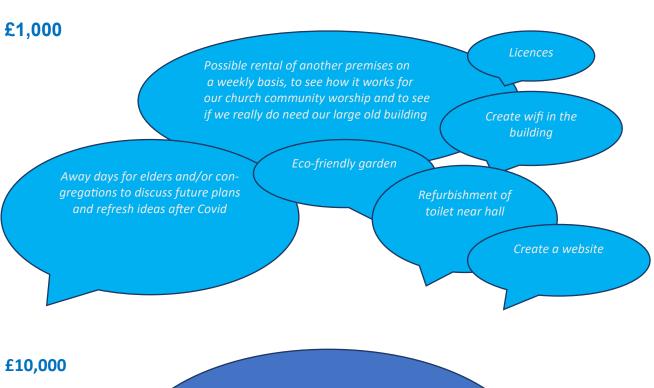
Julie Rafferty, Safeguarding Officer, reminded Synod meeting of the obligations and responsibilities which are upon us all as elders, members and officers of the church.

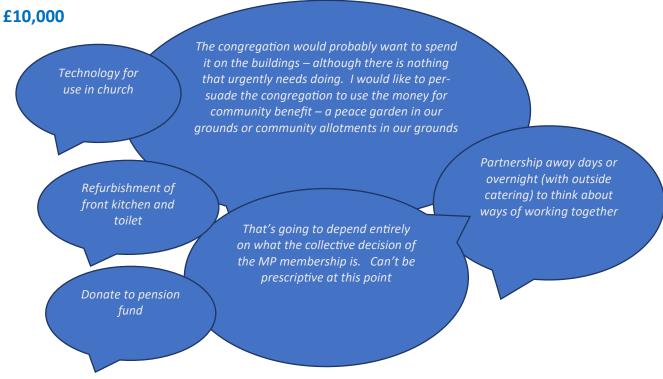
Our meeting closed with worship as music and prayer brought the day to a conclusion. Our Spring Synod meeting will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and there will be more information about the location and details of that meeting in the coming months.

Thanks to all who attended either in person, or via livestream, and for all who held our meeting in prayer. We look forward to seeing more of you in the Spring when we hope the limitations and restrictions of recent years may have abated.



Responses from Autumn 2022 Synod Meeting when asked.... If your church was given £1,000, £10,000 or £100,000, how would you spend it?:





## £100,000





### Worship at Home - Sunday 21 November 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.

You may wish to read Philippians 2:5-11 before praying the opening prayer.

### **Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, we acknowledge you as our Saviour and King, as we worship you this day help us to understand a little more of what that means, so that we may live our lives in fullness of joy and in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen.

**Hymn:** At the name of Jesus (Singing the Faith 317)

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

At the name of Jesus (StF 317i) (methodist.org.uk)

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name from the lips of sinners unto whom he came, faithfully he bore it spotless to the last, brought it back victorious when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant with its human light, through all ranks of creatures to the central height, to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast; filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true; crown him as your captain in temptation's hour: let his will enfold you in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory, with his angel train; all the wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of Glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 317

#### Let us pray together:

Jesus, while we acknowledge you as King, we know that you are a king unlike any earthly king. A king unlike any that we could imagine, for when we think of kings we think of power and privilege, trumpets and fanfare, palaces, and riches.

And yet you left heaven to meet us your creation on earth. Choose a stable over a palace. And a cross in death.

You are a king who invites all to come as they are whether rich or poor; busy and hassled; lonely and bored; happy and joyful. You are always happy to see us even in our reluctance, always anxious to speak to us to remind us of your great love for us.

And knowing that you love us we bring our confessions to you,

For the times we have placed ourselves above others and above you,

For the times we have abused our positions and bent the rules to suit ourselves,
For the times we have looked down on others,
We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Even during difficult times, God is with us, loving and forgiving us. Let us receive that love and forgiveness now. Amen.

Today's Readings from the Old and New Testament 2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Revelation 1:4-8

Today's Gospel Reading: John 18:33-37

### **Time to Reflect**

We come to the Sunday, which is the last in our lectionary year, the day we might know as "Christ the King Sunday". Next week, the 1st of Advent, we begin a brand-new lectionary year, as we make our preparations for Christmas and the coming of Jesus whom we call the King of Kings.

What comes to mind when you think of a king? What do you picture? What things do kings have and how do they act?

Did you picture a man dressed in fine clothes, a robe around his shoulders, seated on a throne, a crown on his head, and servants in attendance? A castle and riches? Did you picture someone in charge giving orders and instructions, perhaps a little bossy?

Today we are remembering Jesus as King but Jesus' life on this earth was very unlike that of what we imagine when we think of a king. It's very different from what our children play when they play kings and queens or dress up as them.

My children are all now young adults but when they were little, they loved the series of touchy-feely board books that all start "That's not my..." And finish with the sentence "That's my... it's ... is so...", you have probably seen them.

I wonder if we wrote one about Jesus being our King how it would go?

Perhaps something like this...
That's not my king his robe is too glittery
That's not my king his crown is too hard
That's not my king his sceptre is too short
That's not my king his throne is too smooth
That's not my king his treasure is too rough
That's my King his smile is so loving...

Maybe have a go at writing your own thoughts.

Today, as the people of Jesus, surely part of our responsibility is to support the vision of the one, we call King. To live it out in reflection of our king's values.

Jesus consistently reached out to serve the underserved, the neglected, the oppressed and the hurting. He is the king who fed the hungry and healed the broken. As members of his kingdom, we are surely called to do the same.

To think further on: What kind of King is Jesus and how are we to help bring his Kingdom to this earth?

Take a time to sit quietly

### A time of prayer

Father God,

As we have thought about kings, we think of those who rule and have power and influence. We pray for our Queen and government, for politicians and those in big business. May they make wise and just decisions and remember that they are responsible to others and to you.

We pray for those who are rich and famous that they may keep in touch with reality and use their fame and wealth both for others as themselves.

We pray for those people who are our role models, whom we look up to and admire, we thank you for those people who have helped us make wise decisions. May they know your love and support.

We pray for all who feel that they are nobody – maybe because of lack of wealth, status, or due to an illness or disability. Let them know your healing and love, through our words and actions, for everyone is of worth to you.

We pray for ourselves, for we too will be special to others, stars in their eyes, we pray that we may live up to the best that we are able with your help, depending on your grace and strength day by day.

Amen.

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father .....

*Hymn: Listen to StF286* What kind of love is this

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTsfZn OIReo

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

What kind of love is this that gave itself for me?
I am the guilty one, yet I go free.
What kind of love is this, a love I've never known;
I didn't even know his name -- what kind of love is this?

What kind of man is this, that died in agony?
He who had done no wrong was crucified for me.
What kind of man is this, who laid aside his throne that I may know the love of God -- what kind of man is this?

By grace I have been saved; it is the gift of God.
He destined me to be his own such is his love.
No eye has ever seen, no ear has ever heard, nor has the human heart conceived what kind of love is this?

Bryn Haworth and Sally Haworth

#### A prayer of blessing

As we go into this next week may we know God's love, strength, and guidance. Amen.

Original Materials by Yvette Edwards, Local Preacher in the Newport and Lower Wye circuit.

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)

Singing the Faith Plus (methodist.org.uk)

#### Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### 2 Samuel 23:1-7

#### The Last Words of David

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?

For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,

ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;

for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar

or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

#### Revelation 1:4-8

#### John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

#### John 18: 33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'