

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

28 th November	Rev Paul Brewerton	1 st Sunday in Advent
5 th December	Rev Dr Graham Adams	2 nd Sunday in Advent
12 th December	Nativity Service	3 rd Sunday in Advent – Activities from 10:00am
19 th December	Rev Dr Raj Patta	4 th Sunday in Advent with Communion
25 th December	Carol Jack	Christmas Day Service at 10:00am

Additional Services

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

Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church

Saturday 27 th November at 10:00	Advent Fair (see notices for details)
Monday 29 th November at 19:45	Men's Fellowship
(takes place every other Monday)	
Wednesday 1st December at 10:00	Moor Than a Good Read

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Hope you are all doing well. Thank you to all who joined us at our church meeting on Sunday the 21st Nov, and for all the decisions we have made. The Spirit of God has been with us as a church and has led us to make the decisions to be inclusive and relevant for our society today. Thanks to Graham for leading the session on *A time for everything*, engaging in the reflection of our collective story as a church and for writing a summary of it for this newsletter.

Thanks to Paul Brewerton for leading the service at church on this Sunday and for the baptism service too. We will begin our season of Advent from this Sunday and pray that as we wait in hope for the coming of the Messiah Jesus, we are called to keep serving one another creating a sense of belonging for all. We had our first session of our Circuit Advent study today on zoom on the 'mystery of silence,' and it was quite interesting to join in contemplative prayer in silence opening up ourselves in prayer. It felt very challenging to be in silence, particularly in a world dominated by words. We still have four more sessions to go, and please do join if you are able to.

It was good to visit few of our friends this week sharing Holy communion with them. What was interesting was share the communion for a cluster of people at one home. We also had an elaborate staff meeting this week discussing about our Christmas plans. Thanks to all those friends who have agreed to volunteer to various events and services in the coming months. We appreciate it a lot.

We look forward to seeing you all at our Advent fair on Saturday the 27th Nov at our church, as there are several friends from the community coming along for it. We also have our service of 'loving remembrance' on Sunday the 28th Nov at 6pm, and will appreciate if you can join. We also have a special service for Dementia friends on Tuesday the 30th Nov at 2 pm.

We were also at the licensing service of Rev. Liz Rowles, who has been appointed as the vicar of St. Paul's and St. John's Anglican churches in the teams of Heatons on Wednesday, which was a wonderful service. We welcome her to Heatons and look forward to working with her in the days to come.

To follow the news of 27 people dying in the Channel this week was horrifying, and herewith I am sending you a prayer which was written in this context for you to use during this week.

16 days of activism against gender-based violence which begins from 25th Nov to 10th Dec, is an opportunity for faith communities to reflect on gender-based violence today in our contexts, which has become so prevalent particularly during the lockdown, to acknowledge the amount of shame that the victims of violence are enduring and to seek ways through which hope and love is offered publicly. 29th of November is observed as UN's International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which is again an opportunity for the faith-based communities to show solidarity publicly, to recognise the rights of Palestinians and strive for just peace in Palestine Israel.

Our circuit 'carols and curry' is happening next Sunday on the 5th of Dec at 4pm at Hazel Grove Methodist church, and those of you who are interested in joining please do register your name. The details are on the circuit website.

May we all have a meaningful season of Advent and blessings to you all.

Thanking you, Raj 25.11.2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

It's the last Friday in November - this weekend is the first Sunday in Advent so it's almost officially The Season!

Thank you to all those who took part in our Big Quiz night on Saturday. It was *moor* thana quiz though wasn't it - an opportunity to learn some new things, enjoy some delicious food, laugh with friends old and new and of course raise money for Tearfund!

It was our last week of Autumn activities at toddler group this week and we have had lots of fun making things from leaf shapes and playing with falling leaves.

I only had one external meeting this week - and that was on an Intergenerational Approach to Church and it was very interesting looking at ways in which we can encourage and facilitate intergenerational worship and fellowship within our Church. I think this is something that happens quite well at Heaton Moor United Church but I cam away with a few ideas so watch this space!

Our staff meeting on Wednesday was a lively one as we were back to full strength - and although lots of our discussion were around our Christmas plans, we have also begun to look forward to 2022 and things we would like to do as a team.



It was a huge honour to be invited to the licensing service of Liz Rowles from St Paul's on Wednesday evening and I look forward to working with her as part of the Heatons Churches Partnership.

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

JoAnne`

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2 @hmuccommunity

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

Heaton Moor United Church

► YouTube GB

Heaton Moor United Church

heaton_moor_united_church



Thank You to all those who attended The Big Quiz in aid of Tearfund a fantastic £120 was raised on the night. It was a good evening and so we are hoping to run another quiz in the new year. If you would be interested in being the quiz master please let JoAnne know.



Many thanks to all those who filled boxes for the Manchester Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Deborah took 15 shoeboxes to the hub in Sharston and the volunteers were absolutely delighted to receive them.



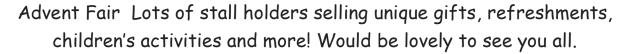
Thank you to all those who continue to collect for Action for Children using the lantern collection boxes. If your box has not been emptied in the last couple of months, please either bring it to church or ring Stephanie Donaldson (0161 286 2752) or Deborah Symmons (0161 432).

6069) and we will come and collect it from you. Please do this before the end of the year. We are also happy to provide collecting boxes for those who would like to start collecting in this way just let us know.

THIS WEEKEND!

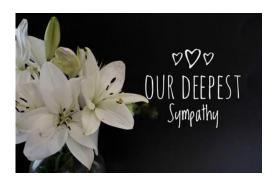
Celebrate Advent

27th November 10:00 - 14:00





Please note change of date for the funeral of Louise Brewood



Louise Brewood

The Funeral for Louise's life is taking place on Thursday 2nd December 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

A Prayer in the context of 27 people dying in the Channel

God in Jesus, our co-traveller in the boat of life,
We grieve with you for the loss of the 27 people who died in the Channel,
Who on fleeing from death and violence in their contexts,
have been tragically drowned at sea.

Let the river of your justice roll down to both shores of the Channel.

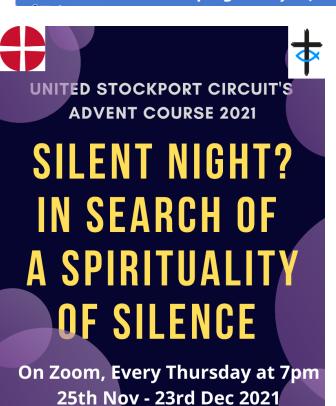
Create in us compassionate hearts to welcome and receive people in need,

Keep disturbing us till no person is displaced due to war, hunger and poverty,

Grant our decision-makers 'hearts of human flesh'

to invest in people-friendly policies,
Embrace each of us with your love and healing,
Empower each of us with your anger for justice,
So that together we can strive to transform our world,
Where the life of all people is valued and respected.
In our weeping with you, challenge us and heal us. Amen.

@rajpatta



www.stockportcircuit.org.uk

Zoom link is available on the calendar of the website

CIRCUIT CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Carols and Curry Service 5th December

A traditional Carol Service with the Offerton Methodist Choir followed by a delicious Curry.

5 December at 4:00 pm

Hazel Grove Methodist Church

Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 4JQ Email events@stockportcircuit.org.uk

RSVP. NOTE: You only need to book if you would like curry.

Carols in the Car 18th December at Hazel Grove Park & Ride 4pm & 6pm

This was such a successful event last year that we have decided to put it on again this year! You won't be disappointed. All proceeds go to Wellspring so you are supporting a good cause as well.

Tickets are £6 each and can be purchased visiting www.carolsinthecar.co.uk

NOTE: You can just arrive without booking online but you might be turned away if the event is sold out.

Last year, some people had issues accessing their online tickets and didn't come. Please come! We have a list of everyone who purchased tickets online and you will be admitted even if you can't find your online ticket.

19th December – Dickens Inspired Carol Service

Please let the office know if you will be staying for the light supper (shepherds pie) which will follow the service. Victorian inspired dress is optional!

GOD IN LOVE UNITES US: SAME SEX MARRIAGE

At the church meeting on 21st November the results for the 3 resolutions which required ratifying to allow same-sex marriages to take place at Heaton Moor United Church, were announced.

49 votes were cast.

Resolution 1 : Conducting same-sex marriages at Heaton Moor United Church

Yes 83.7 % No 16.3%

Resolution 2 : Conducting same-sex blessings at Heaton Moor United Church

Yes 85.4% No 14.6%

Resolution 3: Authorised persons to be Raj Patta and Sharon Heginbotham.

Yes 87.5% No 12.5%

This means that Heaton Moor United Church can now solemnise and bless same-sex marriages.

A Time for Everything

It was a significant Church Meeting last Sunday. Partly, of course, because it was our first one in nearly two years. So we received and affirmed reports about all the things that have been happening during these unprecedented times. But it was also significant because we began to have an important conversation with each other, reflecting on our different experiences of the pandemic.

After all, as I suggested in the newsletter back in June, it is healthy for us to reflect on big experiences. The pandemic certainly has been a big experience, even a trauma, and it has not ended yet. It has affected our lives, our relationships, our faith, our sense of community. We are not the same people that we were, and it is right to reflect on this, to understand who we are now, so that we can move forward together.

So, back in the summer, a pack of resources called *A Time for Everything* was distributed, inviting us to consider some questions – what we have been thankful for, what we have lamented, what we have learned, and what we need to pray for. In the meeting, we discussed some of our responses to these questions. Some groups had met to reflect on them, some thought about them as couples or individuals, and others had not been able to engage with directly. But in our own ways, we have all been thinking about the pandemic, and those four questions can be useful prompts for us.

But what quickly emerged was that people's experiences during the pandemic really were quite varied. If we hope to be a community in which everyone can be 'real' and honest, bringing all that we are, it is important to hear this variety. After all, even though we have been through the same pandemic, our experiences of it are not the same. It can be tempting to say to each other, 'I understand how you feel', but we can never understand exactly how an experience felt for someone else. Of course, there will be some common ground, and it is perfectly normal to see our own experiences in other people's, but the problem is when we assume that we understand someone else's experience. Instead, we can aim to acknowledge and value people's stories, on the basis that they are different from ours — and we can try to make the church a place where everyone is able to bring their story.

So we gave thanks that some people found a new sense of purpose during the pandemic, or new ways of connecting with others emerged; and people had been blessed by the kindness of their friends. But for others, the pandemic was much more disruptive, disorienting and demanding – and the struggle continues. As we know, it also exposed the extent of food poverty and other inequalities in our society – so it was good that the church played a part in helping those in particular need.

Part of our conversation also explored how the pandemic affected people's connection to church, their faith and sense of God. Some have found it hard to know where they belong now. Some recognise that their habits have been disrupted, so they have stepped back from some things but feel stronger about others. Some give thanks for the connections that were sustained over zoom, for example amongst the Super Sunday community, but are asking how best to ensure we build inter-generational community in this 'new normal'. Some have been torn, between moments where God felt close, and moments when God felt distant. Overall, our church relationships have changed – and we need to continue to find ways to 'be church', with a shared story and a shared sense of purpose.

I am grateful that it felt like a time when we could begin to share honestly with each other, and that it prompted some people to share more of their stories afterwards. Of course, some do not find it easy to speak in a big group, so we should create more spaces where everyone can share as they need to. Some of this may not be easy, but it is healthy to talk together about tough experiences. So thank you for your contributions so far. It goes to the heart of being a community that seeks to hold each other in love, and it is good that we agreed to find ways to keep the conversation alive. Watch this space!

Graham Adams

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 10:00

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

Recently retired or no longer in full time employment? Why not join the Heatons & Reddish u3a. We offer a range of interest groups.

learn, laugh, live

A world of new experiences is open to you at u3a – so what's stopping you.

Come along to our Coffee morning, held at Heaton Moor United Church 10.15 for 10.45 start on 3rd Monday of the month or visit:



u3asites.org.uk/heatons-reddish/home or find us on Facebook



Heatons-Reddish u3a





Gentle Exercise Class

Held at Heaton Mersey Congregational Church every Thursday

1.00 pm - 1.45 pm (Term time only)

Followed by Refreshments and a Chat

Great for Physical and Social Wellbeing

Combination of Chair Based & Standing Exercise – go at your own pace!

£3.00 per session

Contact: Julie Colton

07814 619217



Sunday 28 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.

Opening Prayer

Advent 1 – the Advent hope

Jesus said, 'Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The first candle is lit, and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

Advent 1

https://youtu.be/p0cZG6dvWIY

We sing:
Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears, and sadness,
changed for gladness
on that Day.

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Call to worship -Psalm 25:1-2,4-5

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. O my God, in you I trust. Do not let me be put to shame. Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Prayers of confession

For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness. For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us.

Holy God, hear our prayer

We seek forgiveness for the sin we have allowed to persist, for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us. We pray for the courage to admit our faults, the strength to amend our actions, and the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ we pray. **Amen**

Hymn: StF 172; Hills of the north, rejoice https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYi6 pkl4i50

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

Hills of the north, rejoice, river and mountain-spring, hark to the advent voice; valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love, he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas, sing to the listening earth; carry on every breeze hope of a world's new birth: in Christ shall all be made anew; his word is sure, his promise true. Lands of the east, arise! He is your brightest morn; greet him with joyous eyes, let praise his path adorn: your seers have longed to know their Lord;

to you he comes, the final Word.

Shores of the utmost west, lands of the setting sun, welcome the heavenly guest in whom the dawn has come: he brings a never-ending light, who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on;
songs be in every mouth!
Lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.
Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-1865) and Editors of English
Praise,

Time to Reflect

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus employs a momentous image that suggests effects on the cosmic order expressing an embodiment of threat to humanity, hence calling for immediate response and action. The climate crisis at present is a huge global justice issue the world faces. God's people are called upon in these opening verses of Luke chapter 21 to stand up and lift their heads up. Their voices need to be heard. There is an urgent need for a collective joint action.

More importantly it's worth noting that a few months ago there were extreme weather conditions resulting in many communities around the world being displaced by water or living in severe drought. In some instances, lives have been lost and homes and farms destroyed. According to the Methodist global relationship news, there are several people who continue to be pushed back into poverty and the 'damage on creation is accelerating'. There are many other parts of the world affected by conflict, war and use of biological chemical weapons that severely affect the environment; threatening food security and the health of those communities.

The gospel of Luke welcomes us to contemplate on these emerging threats but with hope and joyful expectation in preparedness for our redemption in Christ's return. Christ loves creation that is restored and in peace. The prayer is then to live in the words of the hymn, "when you come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

The central message for this advent is to be watchful and in continuous prayer. When times decide to be tough and perilous, we are encouraged to surrender to the will of the almighty. In the words of the hymn, will your Anchor hold....

Advent is a time of hope, mixed with joyful expectation. The invite in Verse 27 demonstrates a momentous period of staring up into the gaze of the messianic coming, for liberation which humanity has been waiting for.! There will be no secret for the return of Christ. His arrival will be witnessed by the world at large. The things that have happened that have brought about several anxieties will be overshadowed by the joy of advent. God's children will be able to hold their heads up high. I guess that is why Jesus introduces the parable of the fig tree in Verses 29-30 which in my opinion is a powerful theological image of a new world in line with Christ's messianic reign in this fragile world of our time. In such a distressful times Jesus draws our attention to offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ. It is in waiting and in prayer, that we can enter God's presence and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son. Ask the father to use this time during Advent to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness; a ray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others. Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

Amen.

Hymn: There is a hope that burns within my heart

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_yv 5yGZnBc

There is a hope that burns within my heart, That gives me strength for every passing day. A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part,

Yet drives all doubt away: I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven. And Christ in me, the hope of heaven! My highest calling and my deepest joy, To make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head, A consolation strong against despair, That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit, I find the Saviour there! Through present sufferings, future's fear, He whispers 'courage' in my ear. For I am safe in everlasting arms,

There is a hope that stands the test of time, That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,

And they will lead me home.

To see the matchless beauty of a day divine When I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,
And every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,
For I am truly home.

Stuart Townend & Mark Edwards Copyright © 2007 Thankyou Music (Adm. by Capitol

Take a time to sit quietly.

A time of prayer

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy but many are struggling with the heaviness of life, Jesus, we need your peace. When wondering about loss of jobs and worried about the forthcoming bills to be paid, give us peace. When wondering

about drug prescription, give us peace. When worried about our children's education and challenges of Covid in schools, give us peace. When worried about the resettlement of the refugees, and the best ways to help, grant us wisdom in our mission engagement. When worried about the future of the work of God and our ministry, Lord give us a new vision and passion. When wondering when conflict and terror will end and we will find a solution to climate change, Lord hear our prayer. As believers, help us to treat our roles in your Kingdom as crucial and not secondary. As the salt of the earth and its component that keeps it being salt, may we too be the salt and your light in sharing the message of your love. Now as you have promised in your holy word to give rest for the weary, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted, we know that peace on earth can only come when our hearts find peace with You. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father

Listen to the worship song: Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me of Glory (by CityAlight:

https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to
mind

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 Francis M'Itiiri

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Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCCLi No here

Readings: -Luke 21:25-36 NIV

25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 "Truly I tell you; this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

34 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."