



# 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*

|                           |                  |  |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| 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            |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December | Carol Jack       | Christmas Day Service at 10:00am                           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> January   | Carol Jack       |  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> January   | Rev Dr Raj Patta | Communion Service  |

## Additional Services

|                                    |                                |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> December Zoom     | Missional Partnership Service  | Meeting ID: 821 8150 8988<br>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 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> January at 16:00   | Circuit Service                | Heaton Moor United Church led by David Hardman     |

## Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December at 19:30<br>(takes place every other Monday) | Men's Fellowship<br>Christmas Anthology open to all |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December at 14:00                                    | Ladies Fellowship                                   |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December at 10:00                                  | Moor Than a Good Book                               |

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

Hope you are doing well and trust you all had a good week. Following the announcement of the Prime Minister this week about Plan B measures in the light of growing Omicron variant, we are all called to be cautious, wearing masks in all indoor spaces. Both the Methodist church and the URC have given the guidance that we wear masks at all times in the church buildings, we will continue to do it at our services and other events at church building.

Thanks to Graham Adams and his team for leading the nativity service on this Sunday at Church. We also have our joint Christingle service with St. Paul's this Sunday at 4pm at our church and you are warmly invited to join in. We also have our litter church on Saturday from 10-11am, where we pick litter in our neighbourhood. Last week Circuit 'carols and curry' event went well and was well attended, thanks to our church friends who have joined at this event.

We had our Stockport Interfaith meeting this week and it was interesting to discuss on the theme of justice and consultation. This week we had the ashes of Julia Collinge scattered at our church at a simple service where her family members participated in it. We also had our staff meeting on Wednesday to take stock of the Christmas plans and activities of our church. I also had meetings this week with Head of Services of Stockport Council to discuss about our plans in the community. The Mayor of Stockport organised a carol service at St. Mary's church in the centre of Stockport, and it was a good occasion to sing carols and meet other civic and church friends. I was also at Cliff College committee meeting this week. It was also good to meet our church friends this week listening to their testimonies and stories of life.

Our Circuit Advent study course is going well, and we have two more sessions to go on the coming Thursdays on zoom, and if you are interested, please do join. On Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of December we have our carols in the Car event, and please do book and join along to sing carols in the car.

May you all have a good week. Please stay safe and stay warm.  
May the healing of God be with you all.

Thanking you,

Warm regards,

Raj

9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Here we are at Friday again!



I had a lovely quiet weekend last weekend with lots of R&R so I thought I was ready for this week, boy was I wrong! Trying to get the toddlers to all do the same thing at the same time for our nativity video was much harder than I thought it would be! I'm sure Sheryl is going to work her magic though and the final product is going to be wonderful - the full video will be having its premier on Sunday at the nativity service.

As seems to be the norm these days I will once again be "dressed up" on Friday - I'm not sure who enjoys my outfits more, the toddlers our dementia friends or me!

There were a large number of people who for some reason did not get the notices delivered to their inboxes last week - whilst we are trying to resolve the problem do check your spam/junk folder if the notices have not been delivered to your inbox by 10:00am. Alternatively they are available to view each week on the website. If you do not receive the notices by 10:00am please email [community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](mailto:community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk).


I'm off now to prepare our Christingle bags ready for Sunday,

As always if I can be of any help please do not hesitate to contact me,

*JoAnne*

[community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](mailto:community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)

07340 269 354


 @hmuccommunity

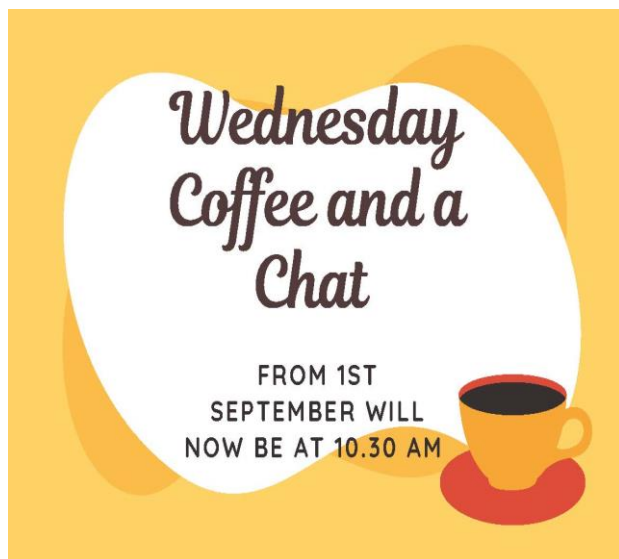
[www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)



Heaton Moor United Church

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## OFFICE OPENING TIMES THIS WEEK

Monday 10:00 – 14:00

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 9:30 – 12:30

Thursday CLOSED

Friday CLOSED

(JoAnne is in the building 9:00 – 15:00 at toddlers & dementia friends)

## **NEW GUIDELINES - WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS**

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December to move to Plan B measures to combat the spread of the Omicron variant, a number of restrictions will affect those worshipping within Methodist church property settings.

From **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December** it will be a legal requirement to wear a face covering within the building. There are reasonable exemptions from this, while someone is leading worship or giving a reading for example.

We can continue to use the building without restrictions, and we can continue to sing!

As always, the leadership team will continue to monitor the Government guidance and that provided by The Methodist Church and will provide updates and further details as they become available.



## **LITTER CHURCH**

Our next litter Church will be on

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**Meeting outside Heaton Moor United Church at 10:00am.**



### **Christingle Service**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 16:00 - 17:00**

We are excited once again to welcome the Laurel Lane Singers to our Christingle Service where we will recognise and celebrate Jesus as the “Light of the World”. Refreshments will also be served after the service.

### **Men’s Fellowship 13<sup>th</sup> December**

The meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> December is **open to all** and is the Annual Christmas Anthology. An evening of readings and music.


Refreshments from 7:30pm with the even starting at 8pm

### **19<sup>th</sup> December – Dickens Inspired Carol Service**

There is a sign-up sheet for the Victorian Light Supper (shepherd’s pie) outside the office.

Please add your name if you are attending so we can ensure we have enough food for everybody!

Victorian inspired dress is optional!



UNITED STOCKPORT CIRCUIT'S  
ADVENT COURSE 2021

**SILENT NIGHT?  
IN SEARCH OF  
A SPIRITUALITY  
OF SILENCE**

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

[www.stockportcircuit.org.uk](http://www.stockportcircuit.org.uk)  
Zoom link is available on the calendar of the website

## 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](http://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.*



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.

**ALL  
HUMAN  
ALL  
EQUAL**

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10<sup>th</sup> December. This years Human Rights Day relates to "Equality" and article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The principles of equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of human rights.

For more information visit

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

God of peace, breath on this fractured world and heal the divisions that grow daily wider.  
Breathe on leaders, that they might respect the right of all human beings to live in peace.  
Breathe on those who hate, opening the hand clenched in a fist, that it might embrace.  
Breathe on the influential, that their power might be used for the common good of all.  
Breathe on the individual, and bring freedom from conflict, and a life that's free from fear.

God of peace, breath on this fractured world.

## Worship at Home – Third Sunday in Advent – 12 December 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

Eternal God, source of all blessing, help us to worship you with all our heart and mind and strength; for you alone are God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(MWB p28)

*Many churches light candles in Advent. If you are in a place where it is safe to do so, you may like to light 3 candles or tea lights now.*

### Advent candles tell their story

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words of the first three verses, or listen to it here:

<https://youtu.be/tlC5ybhWcrM>

#### StF165 Advent 1

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.

#### Advent 2

Prophet voices loudly crying,  
making pathways clear,  
glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
calling all to hear.  
Through their message —  
challenged, shaken —  
hearts awoken: God is near!

#### Advent 3

John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady,  
and be ready for the Lord.'

*by ©Mark Earey (b. 1965)*

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Tune: Angel Voices HP484, RS 405, StF165

### Let us pray together:

God of all glory, you brought the universe into existence, and raised up witnesses to your greatness and love. We praise and adore you. Grant that by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit we may worship and serve you, and praise your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (MWB p117)

**Epistle: Galatians chapter 3, verses 26-29.**

**Gospel: Matthew chapter 1, verses 1-17.**

### Time to Reflect:

We don't often read this list of the ancestors of Jesus – *are you surprised?!*

-- but remember Matthew was originally writing 2000 years ago for people with a Jewish background.

If you compare this list with that in the books of Chronicles, Matthew has left a few out to make the numbers add up to 14 x 3!

The list includes some women:

Tamar's child was fathered by her father-in-law and Rahab was a prostitute – *do these sound like your usual 'pillars of the chapel'?* – Ruth was a foreigner; Bathsheba was "the wife of Uriah" whom David had killed so he could take her as his wife; and Mary, Jesus's mother. But in those days...

Jewish thought did not allow women to prove a pedigree – it was the father that counted. Nor did they allow foreigners. You had to be 'pure' Jewish blood.

So Matthew is saying, in this new religion of Christianity: women matter, foreigners matter, people on the fringes of society matter. And there's room for saint and sinner in the new life of Jesus. Paul agrees. Re-read our epistle.

So this rather boring list of names at the start of Matthew's gospel is telling those who first read it, and is telling us too, that the coming of Jesus brings changes in thinking; it brings changes in our ways of living; and is still bringing change, as he leads us on.

### Take a time to sit quietly

#### Intercessions

Let us pray for God's family throughout the world; for all who bear responsibility among his people; for all church leaders (particularly those feeling under exceptional pressure); and for all who are sharing in this act of worship, wherever they may be.

Let us pray for the peace of the world; for the rulers of all the nations; for government in accordance with God's holy will; and for a just and proper use of the natural resources of the world.

Let us pray for the concerns and activities of the churches nearby, and for the people around us, and for ourselves, our families, friends and neighbours.

Let us pray for all in sorrow, need, anxiety or sickness; for the neglected, the persecuted and the lonely, and for those in any need or trouble.

Let us praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honoured, and pray that we also, inspired by their example, may have grace to glorify Christ.

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not ask, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(MSB pB28 alt.)

**The Lord's Prayer** *Our Father...*

### Hymn: Into the darkness of this world StF173 (Also SoF821)

<https://youtu.be/qXKOxub5obc>

Into the darkness of this world,  
into the shadows of the night;  
into this loveless place you came,  
lightened our burdens, eased our pain,  
and made these hearts your home.  
Into the darkness once again --  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love  
to make us whole,  
come with your light to lead us on,  
driving the darkness far from our souls:  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Into the longing of our souls,  
into these heavy hearts of stone,  
shine on us now your piercing light,  
order our lives and souls aright,  
by grace and love unknown,  
until in you our hearts unite --  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come with your love  
to make us whole,  
come with your light to lead us on,  
driving the darkness far from our souls:  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

O Holy Child, Emmanuel,  
hope of the ages, God with us,  
visit again this broken place,  
till all the earth declares your praise  
and your great mercies own.  
Now let your love be born in us,  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in your glory,  
take your place,  
Jesus, the Name above all names,  
we long to see you face to face,  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Maggi Dawn (b. 1959)*

or if you prefer a traditional Advent hymn  
**StF172** (also HP237) **Hills of the north rejoice**  
<https://youtu.be/0FMQLlibPh4>

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.*

### **A prayer of blessing**

Go out into the world and prepare a way for  
the Lord. Speak and act in loving ways to show  
he is with us. God bless you and guide you in  
the way of all truth and justice.  
And go in peace.

*If you lit candles, blow them out now!*

*Original Materials by Rev Keith Burchell, supernumerary, Derby.*

All Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191. Local Churches please insert CCCLi No  
[here](#) and report the hymns/songs used on your periodic returns.

MSB = Methodist Service Book, MPH 1975.  
MWB = Methodist Worship Book, MPH 1999.  
The blessing is from Companion to the Lectionary volume 6  
p141 Epworth Press 1996.

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.

### **Galatians 3:26-29**

...for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God  
through faith. As many of you as were baptized  
into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.  
There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer  
slave or free, there is no longer male and female;  
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you  
belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,  
heirs according to the promise.

### **Matthew 1:1-17**

#### **The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah**

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah,  
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the  
father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and  
his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and  
Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron,  
and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the  
father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of  
Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and  
Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the  
father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of  
Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife  
of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam,  
and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the  
father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of  
Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,  
and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the  
father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the  
father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of  
Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah



the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

*Both readings are from:*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition,*

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