



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

25 th December	Carol Jack	Christmas Day Service at 10:00am
2 nd January	Carol Jack	
9 th January	Rev Dr Raj Patta	Communion Service
16 th January	Local Arrangement	Thank You Service
23 rd January	Rev Dr Graham Adams	
30 th January	Rev Dr Raj Patta	

Additional Services

9 th January at 16:00	Circuit Service	Heaton Moor United Church led by David Hardman
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Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church

Monday 10 th January at 19:30 (takes place every other Monday)	Men's Fellowship
Tuesday 11 th January at 14:00	Ladies Fellowship
Wednesday 19 th January at 10:00	Moor Than a Good Book

Dear Heaton Moor United Church,

The Christmas Day is finally here, and let me wish you all a merry Christmas. May the love, peace and joy of Christ be with you this Christmas and in the New Year 2022. I am sure you are all set with your Christmas day plans with family and friends, and hope you will have a great time spending with your dear ones. The rates of the infection of this Omicron variant looks alarming and kindly stay safe and take care of yourselves.

Thanks to Carol Jack for leading the Christmas day service at our church this year. A special welcome to all the friends and families of our members who will be worshipping at our church this Christmas day.

Last week we had a great Dickens Carol service, and thank you all for participating at this service. Thanks to all those that came along to the carols in the car last Saturday. We had a weekend filled with lots of activities and events.

Since this is the last newsletter letter for 2021, let me say what an incredible year it has been particularly in terms of mission and ministry. With the pandemic, with lockdowns, with restrictions, though the rhythm of church life has affected, I specially thank God for God's constant companionship with us as a church and for helping us to churn out new beats and rhythms of faith amidst all of this and helping us to cope, lament, and support one another during this time. Thanks to all the members of our congregation, to the leadership team members, to the stewards, to the worship group members, to the property group members, to the finance team members, to all who volunteer at church and to all those that have supported us in the community. I specially need to commend the hard work of our wonderful staff team members who rose up to the occasion and contributed with all creativity during this year. Thank you, Sharon, Linda and JoAnne, for being a blessing to us as a church and for all your tireless and invaluable efforts and offerings.

As we look into the New Year 2022, let us wait on God and seek God's help in our moving forward as a church in hope. May God's goodness and mercy follow each of us in our journeys and help us to bring out the best from each of us.

Stay safe, stay warm and stay blessed. See you all in the New Year. Wishing you all a meaningful and hope-filled New year 2022.

Thanking you,

With warm regards,

Raj

22nd December 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Welcome to our last notice sheet for 2021 - what a year!

It's been a fantastically festive fun filled week - as it should be at this time of year!

The week began with a wonderful Dementia Friends session where we were joined by the choir, Sounding Out. An hour of hearing some amazing songs, singing along and of course dancing was a perfect way to end our last Dementia Friends meeting of the year.

I joined with others on Saturday at the Circuit Carols in the Car event, and it was another fantastic event put on by the Circuit and the Circuit Band.

Sunday was my last work event of the year the Dickens inspired carol service and it was the perfect end to the working year. Thanks to everyone who took part and helped I have received lots of positive comments - especially "do it again next year"! At the service I shared this video <https://youtu.be/ELjgFKACcdQ> of The Piano Guys, Peter Hollens and David Archuleta performing Angels of the Realms of Glory. This is one of my favourite Christmas songs - I also love this version <https://youtu.be/UArceTs1-G8> which is David Archuleta performing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

On Monday me and Sharon went shopping as we were preparing 20 curry bags for St Thomas CE Primary School. The curry bags contained everything a family needed to make a traditional vegetable Indian recipe - thanks to Shiny for the recipe. We delivered the bags on Tuesday and to quote the school "we have been blown away by your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity. The food parcels were so beautiful. We are indebted to you all" We were able to provide the curry bags through our school pantry initiative and hope they meet a need that a traditional food parcel does not. Thank you to everybody who has contributed by either donations or money to our School Pantry project this year.


At our last team meeting of the year we briefly discussed projects we have in the plans for 2022 - I'm so excited! As always if there is anything you think we should be working on as a team then please do not hesitate to let us know.

I am off now until the 10th January - wishing you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas

JoAnne

community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

07340 269 354

 @hmuccommunity

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

 Heaton Moor United Church

 YouTube^{GB}

Heaton Moor United Church

 heaton_moor_united_church



Coffee and Chat will be on next week
22nd December at 10:30am

There will be no coffee and chat on
the 29th December but will resume as
normal on the **12th January 2022**

The office will be closed until the
4th January at 10:00

The team would like to wish everyone



Christmas services – United Reform Church

Join Rev Jonnie and Rev Marion on Zoom for hybrid Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services live from two partnership churches and a pre-recorded service for Sunday 26 December.

There will be limited capacity at the churches for the 'live' element of the service, however both Christmas services will be available via the Christmas Zoom link.

Christmas Eve 24 December at 8pm (from Sale URC)

Christmas Day 25 December 9am (from Cheadle Hulme URC)

Sunday 26 December (a pre-recorded service will be available on YouTube)



LITTER CHURCH

Our next litter Church will be on

Saturday 8th January

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

Picture taken at our last litter pick – look how happy we look! Why not come and join us?

Circuit Service

The monthly circuit service will take place Heaton Moor United Church on the 9th January 2022 at 16:00. The service will be led by David Hartman followed by soup and refreshments.

This Christmas can we stop food wastage please...

1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted around the world each year

6.6 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK per-annum

2 million Turkeys and 74 million minced pies are wasted in the UK each December

One third of a survey said they wasted more food at Christmas compared to other times in a year

Plan for Christmas responsibly and realistically.

Share food, feed the hungry, care our neighbours and save the planet

**Be Food Sensitive
Be Responsible
Be Eco-friendly**



@rajpatta



CHRISTINGLE MARMALADE

For those who attended the Christingle Service you will have heard me announce that I was going to make marmalade with any left-over oranges we had. Remember me saying "How hard can it be?"

Well, it was hard! I'm not sure what I did but it's a bit runny. If you like sweet tangy marmalade, it tastes nice. In light of the earlier post about food waste I've still popped it into mini jars and it will be available on Christmas Day for anybody who wants to try it. I should perhaps rename it Christingle Syrup. Here's hoping for a better turn out in 2022!



Hopefully all our members will have received their hyacinth bulbs from their pastoral visitors. If not please contact Sharon on office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk. When they in full bloom it would be great if you could pin your pictures to our social media pages or send them to the office!

Thank you to Michael for this photo taken of his bulbs when they were in bloom last year.

THANK YOU to everyone who currently recycles with us. I'll admit we have been blown away by the sheer amount of recycling we generate and hopefully in the new year we will have a system in place to manage it better. Please, please do not put pringle/stackers/other crisp tubes in the crisp recycling. These can be recycled at home in your cardboard bin (take the ends of first) or please give to JoAnne in the office.



Christmas Giving

The
Children's
Society



We raised £147 at our Christingle service and £80 at our Carol Service. Monies raised will go to the church charities account, the Children's Society and Christian Aid.

The URC website, www.unc.org.uk, had a transformation. The old website will be available at www.unc.org.uk/archive for older content that you need to access. Some pages on the new website are a work in progress and these will be finished in the next few weeks.

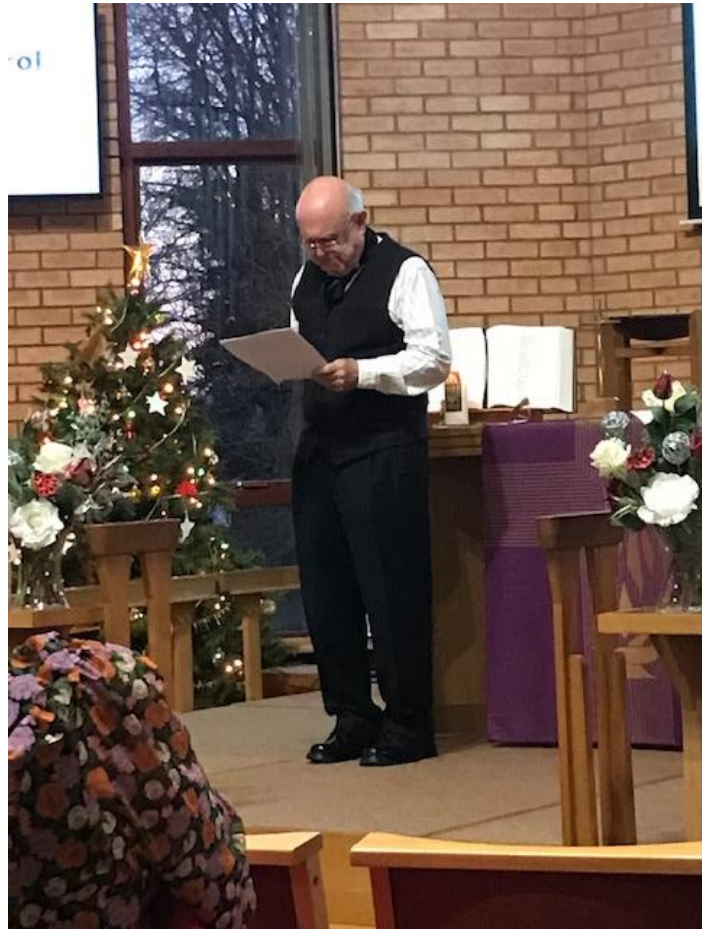
Please remember that websites always evolve and are never finished. This new website puts visitors first, not the church structures, and some sections have changed or been reordered, in collaboration with the teams responsible for that content. Many pages that weren't being looked at have not come across.

Please get in touch if there is an *urgent* page missing, broken link or item not working.

And, unlike the old website, this one has a search engine that works!

Please direct any comments to: **Andy Jackson, Head of Communications, The United Reformed Church**
020 7691 9865 | andy.jackson@unc.org.uk | www.unc.org.uk

Photos from the carol service



Worship at Home - Sunday 26th 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.

An opening word

The long wait is over, and our days of preparation are at an end. Night has given way to day, and darkness has been overcome by light. "For unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given." We are a blessed people, for who would have thought that love itself could take up our flesh?

A prayer of adoration

As shepherds drew near with wonder and adoration,
As wise men bowed low with gifts and hope,
so, we bow before you now
with prayers of thanksgiving and gladness of heart. Amen

Hymn: [Good Christian Men Rejoice/God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen with Lyrics - YouTube](#)

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

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this;
He hath oped the heavenly door,
and all are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice

with heart, and soul, and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save,
Calls you one and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Scripture lesson John 1:14-18

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and ^[a] is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

A meditation

Communication is a sensitive business. It's easy to get it wrong. So, with a view to the Sunday morning sermon, we preachers struggle to get it right. Every week, after a process of preparation that can include fussing, fretting, fuming, and hair-pulling, we stand at the pulpit and try to speak the word of God. We quote scripture, tell stories, and use poetry. We gesticulate with our hands, stand on our tiptoes, and ask the Holy Spirit for help all in an effort to communicate the mystery and magnificence of the gospel.

Talking though may not always be the best way to communicate. Sometimes, the touch of a hand, or a certain action will communicate a given message far better than a lot of words. Sometimes the best way to communicate a message is to wrap it up in a person, or for us ourselves, to be the message that we are trying to communicate. Showing up at the bedside of a hospitalized friend or spending valued time with my children may speak louder than words.

At Christmas time we remember that love once communicated itself in a special way, not with words but through the birth of a baby. Who would have guessed it? Not with signs of power or in the clothing of royalty but in a baby, born in poverty, did the love God make such a bold and striking impression. Love itself, as it were, showed up in a very odd, very vulnerable, very wonderful form. Could it be that vulnerability and “showing up” are at the heart of what love is, and that all the words in the world are a poor substitute? It is one thing to talk about it or to tell others how they should do it, but it is quite another to make oneself vulnerable and to show up with love in places of need. Could it be that this was the idea that God had in mind when He showed up on that first Christmas morning?

In any case, there is a great need for this love, and wherever it is truly experienced, it is inclined to make quite an impression. Angels sing about it, shepherds rush to see it, and wise-men travel long distances to offer up their gifts of allegiance to it.

As for me, and other preachers like me, come Sunday morning, I will still be using words, standing on my tip toes, gesticulating with my hands, and asking the Holy Spirit for help, because of course, it is also good to talk about it.

[Hymn StF 222 Who would think that what was needed with lyrics for congregations - YouTube](#)

Who would think that what was needed,
to transform and save the earth,
might not be a plan or army,
proud in purpose proved in worth?
Who would think despite derision,
that a child might lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven
coming here on Christmas day.

Shepherd watch and wise men wonder,
monarchs scorn and angels sing,
such a place as none would reckon,
hosts a holy helpless thing.
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers, watch
a baby laid in hay:
God surprises earth with heaven
coming here on Christmas day.

Centuries of skill and science,
span the past from which we move,
yet experience questions whether,
with such progress we improve.
While the human lot we ponder,
lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven
coming here on Christmas day.

A prayer of blessing

We thank you, Lord, for the joys of this season:
for the giving and receiving;
for the reunion with family and friends;
and most especially for the truth that your love communicates itself not just with words but in the flesh of your presence and the deeds of your love.

We thank you too for the challenge of Christmas; for your coming in poverty which challenges the affluence we take for granted; for your self-giving which puts in perspective all our charity.

We pray for those who in this season are made more aware of their own loneliness: for those who received no presents, or very few; for those who have no families, or whose families are far away.

We pray for those who are bereaved and missing people who are no longer with them. Christ be with them and grant them consolation.

We pray for world leaders as they continue to make hard decisions in the face of the enormous challenges of Covid 19, the climate crisis, and the economic divide between the rich and the poor. Give them wisdom, we pray, and courage them to do the right thing. Finally, we pray for ourselves that we might share your love more boldly and do your deeds more joyfully in the flesh. For ask all of this in Jesus' name, Amen

The Blessing

May the God who came to be fully present in Christ help us to be fully present ourselves. And may He bless us with a powerful faith that is eager to show itself in actions. Amen

Original Materials by [Blair Kirkby](#)

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://methodist.org.uk)

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