

# Window on the Moor



**Heaton Moor United Church**

**October/November/December 2019**

# Welcome

I hope you have all had a nice summer. Whilst not a lot was going on over August, September has been busy with church meetings, Cafe Church and Harvest. I mustn't forget the first Christian Aid lunch, the soup was yummy and the crumble was a great food parcel to take home! It was great to see all these events supported so well, thank you.

So now the nights are drawing in before you know it, Christmas will be here. Bearing that in mind we have included Decembers events in this magazine so you can plan ahead. Alongside the usual Christmas Services, there is going to be an Advent Study Group and a Carols and Curry night at Edgeley to look forward to.

The next magazine will come out in January, so enjoy this bumper addition and see you in the New Year !

The Editorial team, Garry and Sharon

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October is 'Black History Month'

To Paul: A Letter from Onesimus

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*In Response to Philemon 1*

Dear father Paul,

Onesimus, a liberated person in Christ Jesus, a freed slave from Philemon.

Grace and peace to you from God our liberator and the Lord Jesus Christ, who has freed us from all bondages.

Especially want to thank you for taking my debt on you and proved how important a Christian value it is to cancel debts on poor people as an important Christian discipleship marker. By taking my debt on you, you have shown me in practice the love of Christ who took my debts on him on the Cross, for I could experience it in my life. Thank you also for writing to Philemon to receive me as he would receive you, once again emphasising the importance of welcome and reception to anyone and everyone by the love of Christ. In that reception as exhorted by you my brother Philemon has received me as a brother, as a member of his family. I knew what it was to be a

slave in his household once, and I also have experienced his love as a family member, which was because of the love of Christ. Ever since then Philemon has treated me as a partner in the mission of God, for we continued to work together for the realisation of God's Kingdom here on earth. Many wondered what a beautiful sight it was to see the master and his previous slave work together as brothers and partners, which was just because of the love of and for Christ.

On a final note, dear father Paul allow me to appeal to you to call any practice of any form of slavery as sinful and unchristian, for in Christ we are all one. Any form of racism, casteism, discrimination, exclusion, oppression, patriarchy, trafficking, child labour and such other practices, which are modern forms of slavery does not fit with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and therefore we as a Church should resist such forms and stand in solidarity with those on margins and strive for justice in every given context. Christ has come to set people like me free and I will work to liberate all people who are chained in any form of bondage as a gospel calling for me.

*Your fellow worker in Christ,  
Onesimus*

Relevance:

1. Encouraging to listen and read stories from the margins of our contexts as

our faith imperative.  
*Mission as storytelling,  
where stories are from  
margins.*

2. Establishing a *koinonia* of  
God's people transcending all  
kinds of barriers of race,  
ethnicity,gender,ideologies,  
perspectives and theologies.

*Mission as building inclusive  
partnerships*

3. Ensuring to celebrate  
difference with a sense of  
humility and openness  
towards other's perspectives  
and positioning.

*Mission as celebrating  
diversity.*

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**15/12/19  
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**Heaton Moor  
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# Cluster Groups

What's a Cluster Group ? It is a group of churches from the Circuit that are working together to support each other in Fellowship and Mission.

Our cluster is Us, St Johns, Edgeley and Christ Church. The leadership teams from all 4 Churches have met twice now in an informal way to discuss how we can support each other. With the Christmas season approaching the Cluster would like to do some things together with all the members from the churches. One such thing is a Curry and Carols night to take place at Edgeley. Another thing that will be happening is an Advent Study group which will take place across the Cluster at different times, to give you the chance of attending a group to fit you. The final thing will be the Christmas Eve Service which will be at St John's with an invite to the all the Cluster Group Churches to attend.





*Congratulations to Sue  
and Bob on their 50th  
Wedding Anniversary.*

*Thanks to all who celebrated it with  
them.*

*Advent Study Group*

*Heaton Moor United Church*

*10.30 to 11.30 : Study and Coffee*

*Saturday 30th November*

*Saturday 14th December*

*Saturday 21st December*







HOLIDAY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

# Christmas Fair

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER  
10.00 - 14.00

Heaton  
Moor  
United  
Church

For more info visit [www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)

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## *A Brief Biography*

I was born in Cheltenham in 1975, where my family was very involved with Highbury Congregational Church. I went to Exeter University and studied Law where I met Sheryl who was studying History. We attended MethSoc – the Methodist Society. I felt called to consider ministry, rather than going into Law professionally. After a year's voluntary work in an Anglican church in Dartford, I came to Manchester to train as a Congregational minister.

I trained at Northern College within the ecumenical partnership, 'Luther King House' (LKH). There (where I now work) 'theology' isn't just theory, but is 'contextual' – it interacts with real-life contexts and issues – and placements are woven throughout the course. After the BA degree, I was ordained into part-time ministry with Lees Street Congregational Church, in Openshaw, Manchester, and also began my PhD (with the University of Leeds). That same year, 2002, Sheryl and I were married. She was working for the civil service, first in London, then Manchester, but re-trained as a teacher and has been at Flowery

Field Primary School, in Hyde, since.

Ministry was hard work – but varied and enjoyable! It was a small church, but willing to experiment, and during my time there, we helped to supervise others who went on into ministry. In 2003 I also began to teach on the part-time degree of the Congregational Federation (CF), which I continue to do. Our daughter Bethan was born in 2011, and a year later I moved into full-time teaching, as Tutor in Mission Studies, World Christianity and Religious Diversity, at Northern College/ LKH. I'm also now the programme leader for the MA degree. It is a great place to be – with very diverse students from varied church and cultural backgrounds and aiming towards different goals or ministries. As well as teaching, I'm involved with student placements, church events and conferences, other denominational and ecumenical work, and supervising PhD students – the variety is stimulating!

Since 1992, I've also been involved with the Council for World Mission – the mission partnership to which the CF and URC belong. I've participated in conferences in southern Africa, Brazil, and east Asia, leading to

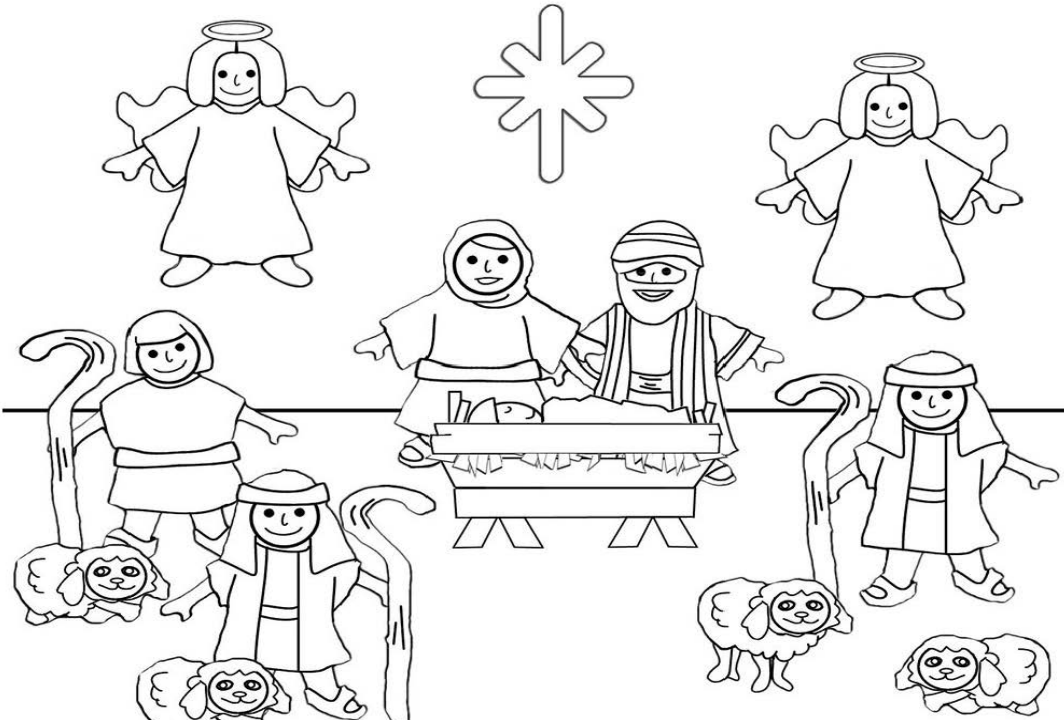


some published writing. In 2010, I revised my PhD dissertation for publication – *Christ and the Other* reflects on what we may learn from Jesus’ relationships with all sorts of ‘other’ people. And this year, I’ve published a book which explores Christians’ different views about other religions.

I’m particularly interested in how we may be ‘good news’. I believe churches should strive to be communities of diversity – where people of all ages and backgrounds, each of us uniquely

unique, are not expected to ‘fit in’, but are accepted as we are; and communities of discovery – where we may all ask our questions, play and grow through mutual learning; but also communities of dreaming – where we recognise God’s good news extends beyond the church, as we play our part in reshaping God’s world.

Rev Graham Adams



**22nd December**  
**Nativity Service @ 10.45**  
**Join in the Christmas Story with**  
**young and old .....full dressing box**  
**available !**

*A prayer of petition for those affected by war*

God of justice and peace,  
we pray for those who have been injured  
or disabled through war.  
For those who have lost homes  
and security through conflict;  
for those who have lost loved relatives in wars;  
for those who face danger and take risks for peace;  
for all those, especially children, caught up in current conflicts;  
for refugees and all those in need of aid and other help.  
God of encouragement  
and Saviour of the despairing  
comfort those who remember past sacrifices  
and guide us in building  
a just and peaceful community for all.  
Amen.



# Charity News

The Fundraising group have chosen the two new charities to be supported by the church for the next year. The home charity is the Samaritans and the abroad charity is Shelter Trust.

## SAMARITANS

The local Samaritans call centre is based in Heaton Moor. The Samaritans website states they want to help people who are 'Having a difficult time', or, 'Have signs they are struggling to cope', are 'Maybe worried about someone else' or 'Might want help getting someone they are worried about to open up about their feelings'.

The Samaritans, wherever they can, especially want to help prevent Suicide or self harm situations.

The Samaritans 'Situation right now' is as follows:

*Each day 16 people take their life in the UK and Ireland. In the next hour, The Samaritans will receive phone calls from 600 people asking for help.*

*'6213 people died of suicide across the UK and Ireland in 2017'*

*'5 million calls for help are received by Samaritans a year'*

*'10 – 15 % increase in running costs is what we need to answer every call'*





# Shelter...

## *Hope for every one*

This particular charity was one offered as a choice by our own Rev. Dr. Raj Patta at Heaton Moor United Church

Shelter (through the Shelter Trust) extends its services to the poor, needy and the general public irrespective of caste, sex and religion in India.

Every year nearly 22,837 new born children are infected and about 11,434 die due to HIV/Aids. The mission of Shelter is to give Love because they deserve it, Laughter it is the nature of a child, Life because they have the right to live, to these most neglected and stigmatized HIV + children.

Shelter Home has acquired all the required licenses to run a Home from the Government of Tamil Nadu. We now have 43 positive orphan children and 7 positive adults who are also care givers in our home.

Education is given importance. Birthdays of all the children are celebrated with much enthusiasm. New clothes, birthday cake, decorations and special food, which are liked by the celebrating child, are prepared.

Shelter provides Home Care Support to 50 HIV positive children providing them Nutritional supplement at their homes.

'Most of these children are deprived of

having at least one meal a day due to poverty or their parents are critically ill and not in a position to work on a regular basis to earn a living'. 'Poor positive widows with children are given preference. We also provide health education and deal with issues like low cost nutrition personal care and hygiene and environmental hygiene. This program is carried out depending on the contributions received from various individuals and service organizations. Counselling takes place and also an Awareness and Preventive Education programme'.

### .Francis House



### *Annual Retiring Collection*

The total raised this year for Francis House is

£500

(including £83 Gift aid).

-----A Big Thank-you

On behalf of the Children and Staff at Francis House

*Noreen Baillie*

The next Open Day at Francis House is *Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November* between 10am and 4pm.

The Hospice team will guide you behind the scenes where you will see the *upgraded facilities* and *new technologies*. Refreshments will be available .It is a worthwhile visit

## A Light Lunch



Timeschange...

*...Hopefully something we can enjoy together.*

Dear Friends

There are changes afoot....We may not be involved in the House to House Collection for Christian Aid in 2020.

There are a handful of collectors and although for some of us the response is very positive I think perhaps it's time to rethink.....

Well here it is !

There's going to be a Light Lunch the last Sunday of each month in

September, October and November.

There's not a set charge but you are asked to donate and the money raised will go to Christian Aid, in lieu of us not doing the House to House collection.

By the time you read this, September's Light Lunch will have passed. Homemade Soup and Fruit Crumble was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. A total of £221.50 was raised. We now look forward to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October and a Light Lunch with a menu of Shepherds Pie and Red Cabbage followed by Home made Scones, Tea and coffee.

*Please see the Notice board and put your name down if you can attend.*

Some of our younger folk have agreed to serve and wash up which is fantastic.

*If there's anything you feel you could help with, just have a word.* However, the important thing is that we enjoy each others' friendship over a meal.

*You have been wonderful in the generous way you support all the charities and in particular Christian Aid.*

Love Jean (James)

## Leprosy Coffee Morning

Join us on **Saturday 26th October at 10:30am** to support this great charity and a morning of fun!



The Leprosy  
Mission  
England and Wales

**Support our annual coffee morning by donating a bottle for the tombola and raffle prizes. Please give them to Betty Allport or the office.**



**Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease associated with poverty. It is easily cured. Leprosy starts by damaging the small nerves on the skin's surface resulting in a loss of sensation. Without the gift of pain, everyday activities are fraught with danger. Unnoticed burns and ulcers can lead to permanent disability.**

**Due to the inability to detect grit in the eye, blindness is a common consequence of leprosy.**

## So What's the Story?

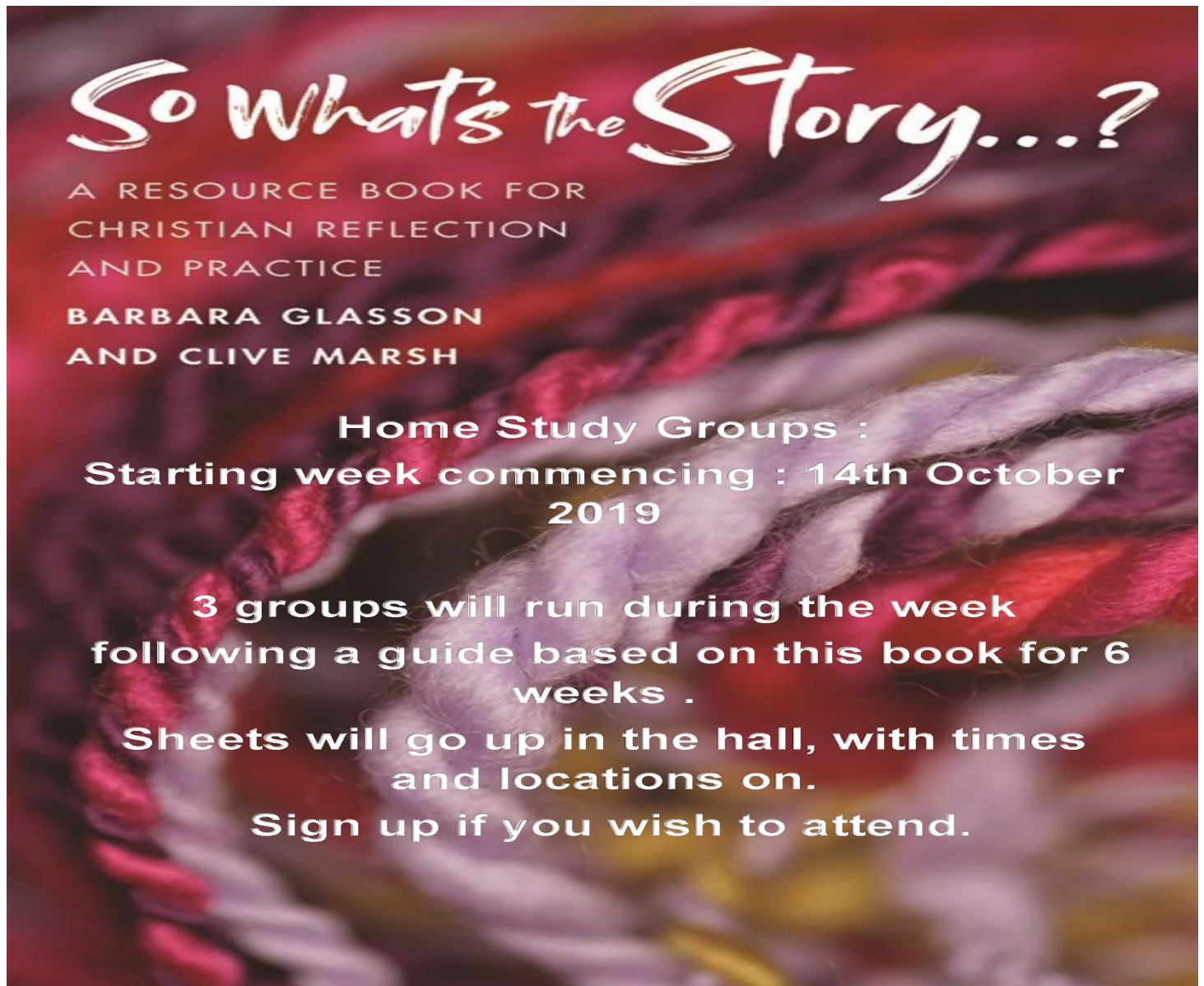
Home study groups will be starting in October for 6 weeks. It will be centred around the resource book for Christian Reflection and Practice by The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson and Professor Clive Marsh, respectively President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020.

Life is an intricate tapestry of stories.

Stories help us better to understand the world around us, our relationships

with other people, and even ourselves. We use them in our daily life and work; churches and other communities use them to build from within and to reach out to others; and stories enrich our knowledge of God and help us grow in faith.

What can we learn from other people's stories? How can we better express our own story, and hold it alongside the stories of God? How can a deep engagement with all these stories be helpful to our life and witness, and on what occasions can they be unhelpful?



**So What's the Story...?**  
A RESOURCE BOOK FOR  
CHRISTIAN REFLECTION  
AND PRACTICE  
**BARBARA GLASSON  
AND CLIVE MARSH**

**Home Study Groups :**  
**Starting week commencing : 14th October  
2019**

**3 groups will run during the week  
following a guide based on this book for 6  
weeks .**

**Sheets will go up in the hall, with times  
and locations on.**

**Sign up if you wish to attend.**



The URC is introducing Missional Partnerships, this where a group of churches work together with the support of a Minister. This day will help explain it further if you are interested in going please contact the office.



## Support for Missional Partnerships

*Come along to our three in one Area Day*

*Three events for all the churches in the South*

*all on the same day !!!*

*Come along to the ones you are interested in or stay for the whole Day.*

**The 26<sup>th</sup> October at Christ Church Burnage**

**MANCHESTER M20 6EE**

**Mission and partnerships 10-12.30 am**

An exploration of the why and the how for Mission focussed Partnerships.

Speakers, worship and small group discussions

**Mission Partnership Steering Groups 12.30 -2.00**

A bring and share lunch with a panel discussion/question and answer session.

**Mission and Pastoral Care 2.00pm -4.00pm**

An interactive session led by the Rev Adam Scott

# *Christmas at Heaton Moor United Church 2019*

*30th November*

*10.30am Advent Study Group*

*1st December*

*10.00 am Super Sunday*

*6.30 pm Service of loving Remembrance*

*7th December*

*10.00 am Christmas Fair*

*8th December*

*10.45am Gift Service*

*11th December*

*7.30pm Curry and Carols (Edgeley)*

*14th December*

*10.30am Advent Study Group*

*15th December*

*10.45am Communion*

*4.00pm Christingle*

*21st December*

*10.30am Advent Study Group*

*22nd December*

*10.45am Nativity*

*4.00pm Carol Service*

*24th December*

*TBC Christmas Eve Service at St Johns Methodist Church*

*25th December*

*10.30am Christmas Day Service*