



Heaton Moor United Church

The United Reformed Church and The Methodist Church
working together in partnership



NOTICES 24th December 2023

Sunday Services at Heaton Moor United Church

Services at 10:45 unless otherwise stated

24 th December	10:45 Rev Dr Graham Adams	
25 th December	10:30 Anne Wilde	
31 st December	10:45 Carol Jack	
7 th January	10:45 Rev Dr Graham Adams	
14 th January	10:45 Rev Michael Aspinall	

Additional Services

Tuesday 16 th January at 14:00	Dementia Friendly Short Service	Short service followed by refreshments open to all
Friday 19 th January at 19:30	Event at Tiviot Dale	See notices for further information
Sunday 28 th January at 16:00	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	

Additional Events at Heaton Moor Church

Monday Fellowship 8 th January at 19:45	Peter Aspinall
Tuesday 9 th January at 14:00	Ladies Fellowship
Wednesday 10 th December at 10:30 (weekly)	Coffee Morning – All Welcome
Thursday 11 th January from 15:15	Messy Church
Saturday 27 th January from 10:00	Table Top

When I reflect on my ministry in Stockport for the last six plus years, I can't but thank God and thank my congregations for all the love and generosity that they have shown to me and my family. When I first started to work in the Heatons seven years ago, I fell from nowhere to work in Stockport. Of all the places in the world, God has placed me in the Heatons along with St. John's and it has been an amazing journey for me and my family. You have been very gracious in accepting my vulnerabilities and generously supported me through out. There were at least three challenges and apprehensions about me when I started my ministry here.

Firstly, how will an Indian Christian minister work in a British upper middle-class society in Stockport? How will this inter-cultural ministry work out?

Secondly, how will an Indian Lutheran minister work in the Methodist and URC churches? I neither have the knowledge of history, tradition and practices of both the denominations? How will this inter-denominational ministry work out?

Thirdly, how will an academic who is just finishing his doctoral work from the university fit into the work in local congregations? How will an inter academy-ministry work out?

Added to these my Indian English accent was difficult for some people to follow in the initial years, my perspectives on ministry and theology were different. Yet times I have to openly show my weaknesses in leadership styles. I have been involved in so many activities in the public sphere in Stockport? Some even commented I am spread too thin in terms of my involvements and activities.

But, despite all my weaknesses and downsides, I am here to thank God for God's consistent accompaniment throughout these years and I want to say thank you to you all, particularly to all at the Heaton Moor United Church, Heaton Mersey Methodist Church, Edgeley Community Church and St. John's Methodist church. Your love for me has been so uplifting and so supportive of my ministry. My first British experience, my first Methodist experience and my first Reformed experience has been such an important milestone in my life and I can't thank you all enough for the way you have walked with me. Particularly, when my re-invitation came up for me to continue to work in Stockport, all my three congregations gave an overwhelming support for me to stay here.

As I reflect on my call and ministry, I recognise that the call of God evolves and God continues to call. So, the CLT has discussed about the redeployment of ministers in the circuit, and with one of our colleagues sitting down in September 2024, they have not gone for stationing to fill that vacancy. Recognising our gifts in ministry within the circuit, a redeployment was proposed. As part of that proposal from 2024 September I will be moved out from my current three congregations to start working with two new congregations in Dialstone lane and Devonport. In light of the ministerial gifts and demands, I am asked to work in those two congregations as the ministry among people seeking asylum in Stockport increasing. I also would like to share that we have started a new Methodist Telugu/ Indian Christian group in Sale circuit, and it has grown over the last one year to about 100 members, mostly with Indian migrant students. So, in the New Year I will also offer pastoral care through Sale circuit to this new developing ministry, where I will be loaned to work one day a week for Sale circuit in this particular ministry.

For Heaton Moor United Church and Edgeley Community Church, a new profile for a vacancy of 0.49 ministry for an active super numerary has been worked out and the plan is to have this new minister to start working from September 2024.

In all of this, all I want to say to all the members of our congregations is a big thank you. I will move on from this appointment with a deep sense of gratitude, for I have been loved immensely by you all and we as a family are always grateful to each of you.

Wishing you all a blessed time at Christmas and wishing you all a happy New Year 2024.

Thanking you, Raj

17th December 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



For those that missed the Christingle you missed a fun service! Sadly, Raj was poorly and so my mum had to step in and help remind those present what all the parts of the Christingle mean (she was delighted as you can see!) It was lovely to have the church full and be joined by the Laurel Lane Singers and their families.

It has been a whirlwind of activities at church over recent weeks all of which have been fantastic. We have our final two services, Christmas Eve with Graham Adams and our Christmas Day Service led by Anne Wilde.

A reminder that our family friendly Christmas Day service is a 10:30 start and not the usual 10:45

I just want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved in putting together our Christmas services and events, the worship group, our amazing musicians and

our refreshment volunteers, we couldn't do it without you.

The office will be closing on Wednesday 20th December and will re-open on the 2nd January 2024, in the meantime should you require any help please do not hesitate to contact me.

To Anne

07340 269 354` community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

A reminder that our notices are now sent fortnightly. Notices are emailed and paper copies are available from outside of the office - if you require the information in larger print please speak with the office.

Please send any information to the notices to **JoAnne only**, by email at community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk or notices can be handwritten and left on the community workers desk!

Office Hours W/C 01/01/24

Monday CLOSED

Tuesday 10:00 – 14:00

Wednesday 10:00 – 15:00

Thursday CLOSED

Friday CLOSED

STAFF WORKING HOURS

Please note our administrator, Sharon's usual working days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Our Community Worker, JoAnne's usual office days are Tuesdays and Thursday mornings and Wednesday are a non-working day

JoAnne is on annual leave the week commencing the 1st January

Notices for Sunday:	Emailed/Printed	Latest submission date
7 th January	5 th January	3 rd January
21 st January	19 th January	17 th January

If you no longer wish to receive the notices direct to your inbox you can unsubscribe at any time by contacting office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

Thank You Bob, Carol and Raj visited with Linda this week and took her leaving gift. Thank you to all who contributed!



Advent Reflections Scratch beneath the surface this Christmas

Thursday is our final Advent Reflection, and all are invited, there is no need to have attended any of the previous sessions.

Zoom with Rev Dr Raj Patta – Thursdays weekly from 30th November until 21st December, starting at 7pm

Zoom ID 858 4741 7069

Passcode 410282

There will also be opportunity to reflect together in person at church with Anne Wilde. In person gatherings will be from Thursdays 30th November at 10:00am in the patio room.

ROTAS – an email has been sent with the New Year rotas, if you have not received please contact Sharon

office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

A reminder that the rotas are also accessible on the website

<https://www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk/worship/rotas.html>



‘Action for Children Lantern Boxes: if your box has not been emptied in the last 6 months please could you bring it in before the end of the year? Please give it to Stephanie Donaldson or Deborah Symmons; or leave it for them in the church office. Many thanks’



We are aware that there have been some issues with the notices in recent weeks and we are trialling a new system, mail chimp. This week you may receive the notices twice, one from the website and one from mail chimp.

**Jo's cervical
cancer trust**



The Wednesday coffee morning have sent another £100 to Jo's cervical cancer trust – Well Done!

A Christmas prayer

O, immortal one who became a child,
weak and vulnerable.

Help us together to remember you value small and faithful ways
in a world obsessed with power and speed.

O, Prince of Peace, announced
by choirs of angels filling the sky with light.
Help us together to be harbingers of peace in
a world filled with danger, death and destruction.

O, King of Kings,
you first appeared to shepherds
who shared their joy.
Unite us as your people to witness to the good news. Amen.



cte.org.uk



YOUR SPACE DIGITAL COMMUNITY

 A safe space for you to explore life questions & faith
 Passionate about well-being & reducing isolation
 A supportive group where all are welcome



 **yourspacecommunity**
 **Your Space Community**

United Stockport Methodist Circuit Presents
acclaimed singer-song writers

Paul Field & Martin John Nicholls

An evening of stories, songs and solidarity
all proceeds to Hope School, Beit Jala, Palestine

7:30pm Friday January 19th

**Tivot Dale Methodist Church
Stockport SK1 1TA**

Tickets £10

For tickets scan
the QR code
below or follow
the link



<https://bit.ly/PFMJN>