JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

INFORMATION SHEET

Welcome, travellers!

This Advent, we're inviting you to join us on a journey to Bethlehem.

Journey to Bethlehem is a community Advent project bringing people together to explore the Christmas story in a creative, interactive and welcoming way.

Whether you're familiar with the Bible, haven't been to church for years, or are simply curious about the Christmas story, you're welcome to come along.

You don't need to know anything in advance. Just bring your curiosity and be ready to travel!

What's the journey about?

The Christmas story is full of people making journeys, facing the unexpected, discovering hope and finding their place in something much bigger than themselves.

Over four weeks, we'll explore their stories and consider what they might mean for our lives today.

Our four stops along the way:

1. The journey begins – Hope - Isaiah 9:2–7
The people are waiting. The prophets speak of a different future. What are we hoping for today?

2. An unexpected visitor – Mary - Luke 1:26–38
Mary receives some extraordinary news. What does it mean to be brave, to trust and to say yes to something unexpected?

3. Good news for everyone – The shepherds - Luke 2:8–20
The shepherds are among the first to hear about Jesus' birth. What does it mean that this good news is for everyone?

4. Gifts for the journey – The wise men - Matthew 2:1–12
The wise men follow a star and bring gifts to the newborn king. What gifts can we bring, and how might our journeys change us?

How can I take part?

Everyone is welcome to join in, whether you're taking part as an individual, with family or with friends.

Collect your passport: Pick up your very own Journey to Bethlehem passport and get ready to travel.

Explore the weekly stories: Each week we'll share a Bible story, a thought to explore and a simple activity or craft.

If you want to explore the passage and thought of the week more we'll have weekly discussions, in person and over zoom you can join in with.

We'll be holding special Crafternoons at church where you can come along, enjoy a cuppa, meet others and make the crafts together. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Prefer to do things in your own time? You can use the passport and activity ideas to explore the stories at home, with family or friends.

Share the journey: Invite someone else to join you. There's room for everyone!

You can take part as much or as little as you like. There is no test, no right or wrong answer and no need to complete every activity.

Our final destination – Bethlehem!

Join us on Saturday 19 December as we celebrate the end of our Journey to Bethlehem. There are a few ways to join us:

1pm – Carol singing at Moortop Co-op

We'll be joining Heatons Churches Partnership for carol singing outside Moortop Co-op. You're very welcome to come along, but this is completely optional. You don't need to attend the carol singing to join the Bethlehem celebration.

2pm – Journey together to Bethlehem

We'll set off on foot from Moortop Co-op and walk together to Heaton Mersey Methodist Church, Cavendish Road.

2.15pm – Meet us at Bethlehem!

If you'd prefer not to walk with us, simply meet us at Heaton Mersey Methodist Church at 2.15pm.

We'll celebrate together as we arrive at Bethlehem and remember the story at the heart of Christmas. Everyone is welcome, whether you join us for the carols, the walk or just the celebration!

Why are we doing this?

Christmas can sometimes become so busy that we lose sight of the story at its heart.

We wanted to create something that gives people time and space to pause, explore, be creative and connect with one another.

The journey is about more than reaching Bethlehem. It's about the people we meet along the way, the stories we share, the hopes we carry and the things we discover.

And perhaps, along the way, we'll discover something new about the Christmas story, about ourselves and about the God who journeys with us.

A final word from the travel team

You don't need a ticket, you don't need to book and you don't need to travel alone.

Everyone is welcome. Your journey starts here!

Scan the QR code to register for weekly updates about the Journey

Follow us on Facebook @HeatonMoorUnited Church @HeatonMerseyMethodistChurch

For queries contact our Community Worker JoAnne
community@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk 07340 269 354

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EXPLORING THE WEEKLY TEXT

In person each Monday beginning 30th November at 12:45

Over Zoom at 19:00 on:
26th November
2nd December
9th December
16th December

No need to attend all the sessions and no prior knowledge required! Register for weekly updates to receive the zoom details.
https://forms.gle/wgufPeANJmt48N9w9

CRAFTERNOON

Join us to craft the weekly craft with refreshments on the following afternoons from 14:00 – 17:00

3rd December
9th December
15th December

CELEBRATION

19th December 14:15 at Heaton Mersey Methodist Church*

Join the walk at 14:00 from the Moortop Co-op and/or join Heatons Churches Partnership for carol singing from 13:00 until 14:00!