Heaton Moor United Church

24TH NOVEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hi all

Welcome to a bumper issue of the newsletter !

Good job I have returned fully rested from my holiday . There is a lot due to happen over the Advent period . There was a lot that happened in the week I was off , so much so, JoAnne has taken a few days off to recover . I caught up by reading the Community Worker News.

We will be entering Advent this Sunday , the theme for our Advent Journey this year is : Journey to Bethlehem , being run by the Bethlehem Travel Bureau . Hopefully I will see you on the road . Detials about the Journey , can be found at the back of this newsletter .

Sharon

WIDER CHURCH CONNECTIONS

Heaton Moor United Church is connected to many churches across the Stockport area. We are part of the United Stockport Circuit , this is from our Methodist connections. From our URC connection, we are part of the Stockport and High Peak Missional Partnership .

Missional Partnership News

LINK DEC-JAN 27.pdf

The Missional Partnership has a newsletter called The Link . It is issued every month . If you wish to receive it please get in touch with me . I have attached October's so you can have a look .

Circuit News

The Circuit Newsletter can be accessed through this link:
https://www.stockportcircuit.org.uk/lib/file-1056418.pdf

District News and Synod News

Both the District and Synod issue newsletters , The district one is weekly and the Synod one is fortnightly.
Here is the link to the latest District newsletter https://nwedmethodists.org.uk/

The Synod link is here:
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/68de3095e464465ae52e123c/t/6acced5ee7fd215d855a9598/1791815007943/9+October+2026.pdf

GENERAL INFORMATION

Leadership Team

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Team Information

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Office Hours
Monday 10-2
Tuesday 10-2
Wednesday 10-2

MONDAY FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Anthology – Monday 14th December

This meeting will be the last ever Monday Fellowship. The meetings began as the Men's Fellowship over 70 years ago, but time has caught up with us and with some sadness, we have decided to close. The Christmas Anthology has for many years been a highlight of our calendar. A reflective evening of words and music that is an excellent way to start the Christmas period and a fitting way to close our Fellowship.

All will be very welcome.

FUTURE SERVICES AT HEATON MOOR UNITED CHURCH



There is a Toy Service on the 6th December at 10.45 . We will be collecting for Woodstreet Mission.
There is a wishlist , on the next page , if you don't feel like shopping you can buy from Give Today , here is the link or you can choose from the list of items .

0-2 years

Rattles, soft books, teething toys, musical and light up toys, pramtoys, play mats, stacking toys, shape sorters, building bricks, push along toys, wooden block set, toy phone, shakers, ball pit and soft balls.

3-5 years

Role play sets, Play-Doh, kinetic sand, vehicles, musical instruments, racing track, action figures, dinosaur or animal tubs, dolls, prams, Duplo, Lego, garages, craft kits, scooters, paints.

6-8 years

Activity books, annuals, transforming toys, superhero toys, action figures, dolls, Lego, craft kits, science kits, construction sets, remote control cars, board games.

9-11 years

Lego, footballs, remote control cars, board games, colouringand painting sets, nail art, glitter tattoos, craft kits, magic tricks, robots, gadgets.

12-14 years

Lego,footballs, watches, jewellery, rucksacks, toiletries ormakeupgift sets, remote control vehicles, science experiments, gadgets, craft sets, headphones, sports gifts, hot chocolate mug set, stationerysets.

For all

Slippers/slipper socks, hat glove and scarf sets, board games, pyjamas, sensory toys and books

Children & Family Treats

Selection boxes, tins of chocolates and biscuits.

Extras

Wrapping paper –flat sheets and rolls, gift tags, sellotape.



Or why not make a financial donation or create a fundraising pageto raise funds – this helps us to purchase toys and gifts that are in short supply.

You can also buy via our Give Today shop.

Thank you so much for your support!

www.woodstreetmission.org.uk/christmas

0161 834 3140

info@woodstreetmission.org.uk

26 Wood Street, Manchester, M3 3EF

Community Worker News

JoAnne Roy 

Looking Back: Community Highlights

It's been a busy few weeks, with lots happening across our church and wider community. From fundraising and seasonal celebrations to new friendships, creativity and conversations about the future, here's a look at some ofthe highlights since my last update.

Station of Light

Our Station of Light was a lovely opportunity to spread a little kindness in the community. More than 40 gift bags were handed out to local children. A huge thank you to everyone who helped prepare and distribute them, and to all ourvolunteers who gave their time.



Upcoming Events

- Journey toBethlehem Zoom Discussions
- Journey to Bethlehem Crafternoons
- Craftivism 2nd Dec at 19:00
- Carol Singing 19th Dec 13:00

Don't forget to follow us on social media for all the latest news and events!

@heatonmoorunitedchurch

The Big Quiz!

Our Big Quiz was a great success, with 61 people taking part and plenty of fun along the way! Our first Pudding Club was also a huge hit. We raised more than £600, which will be shared between Tearfund and church funds. Thank you to everyone who came along, contributed and helped make the evening such a success.

Winter Fair

Our Winter Fair took place over the weekend, and what a fantastic morning it was! The worship space was buzzing with shoppers, festive excitement and, of course, plenty of interest in the WI chocolate tombola!

It was also a wonderful opportunity to connect with the wider community. More than 20 families joined us as we launched our Journey to Bethlehem Advent Adventure, setting off on a shared journey through the Christmas story.

The fair also raised a fantastic £260. Thank you to everyone who came along, ran a stall, donated items or helped behind the scenes.

Chritmas Shoeboxes

A big thankyou to everyonewho donated a shoebox or contributed items to our Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Thanks to your generosity, eight boxes were delivered to bring a little joy to someone this Christmas.

People, Planet and Community

It’s been great to welcome two popular events organised by friends from our wider community.

Sustainable Living Heatons hosted their People's Emergency Briefing, bringing people together to explore some of the challenges facing our communities and the planet, and what we can do about them.

This connects closely with the Church's commitment to caring for God's creation, tackling injustice and building a fairer, more sustainable world. We believe that caring for our neighbours also means caring for the world we share, so it's great to see our church providing space for these important conversations.

Celebrating Creativity and Inclusion

We were thrilled to host the launch of a new children's book on Saturday, illustrated by one of our very own toddler group mums!

Never Judge a Croc by Its Snap welcomed more than 100 people through our doors for a wonderful celebration of creativity and imagination. It's a fabulous book with an important message about inclusion, acceptance and looking beyond appearances. After all, we should never judge anyone by how they look – not even a crocodile!

It's lovely to see the talents and creativity within our community being celebrated here.

Journey To Bethlehem

Our Journey to Bethlehem Advent Adventure is now underway, and we'd love you to join us! Launched at our Winter Fair, this is a chance for individuals and families to travel through the Christmas story together over the coming weeks.

Each week we'll explore a different part of the story, from the hopes and promises of the prophets to the arrival of the wise men.

You don't need to be a regular churchgoer, know the Bible or even have taken part from the beginning. Everyone is welcome, and you can join in at any point along the journey.

Look out for our weekly activities, crafts, reflections and opportunities to get involved.

The full information sheet can be found on the church website www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk under the News tab!

You can follow the journey at home, take part in activities with others, or simply dip in and out as you wish.

The journey has begun – where will it take you?

Nativity In The Windows

Discover a series ofdifferent nativity scenes displayedin shop windows across the Heatons. Each one offers its own take on the much-loved Christmas story

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Displays provided by Heaton's Churches Partnership, an informal partnership of churches from the Heatons that seeks to work together to strengthen the Christian presence in our local community.



***JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR CAROL SINGING ON 19TH DECEMBER

OUTSIDE THE MOORTOP COOP AT 13:00***

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

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

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!