



## December was a roaring success.

Many thanks to our Volunteers, Musicians, Choirs, Cooks, Visitors, Guests, Schools, Congregations, and our Methodist Church Teams who made it all happen.

A special thanks for all our donations, much appreciated.



### Inside this issue

December 2023	1
Heaton Moor & Heaton Mersey	2
Edgeley, Dialstone La. & Davenport	3
Hazel Grove & Windlehurst ....	4
The Ridge & Woodley	5
Romiley & Tiviot Dale	6
Marple	7
News Article	8-9
Church Vacancies	10-11
Join a choir	12
Tiviot dale Concert	13
Posada Photos	14

### Important Dates

- 19/1 Tiviot Dale Concert
- 29/1 Join a choir
- 5/1 Vacancy closing date
- 26/1 Vacancy closing date



## Heaton Moor United Church

In December, Heaton Moor United Church, alongside the Toddler Group had decorated stars to hang from the tree, and they were given out to members of the congregation on Sunday for them to pray for our toddlers, their families and this important ministry. See photo below.

We had a fantastic Christingle service where we had a life size Christingle to share what each part of the Christingle represents – we were joined by the Laurel Lane Singers and their families. See photo below.

On 28th January we will be having a service at Heaton Moor United Church at 16:00 for the week of prayer for Christian Unity around the theme from Luke 10:27 – you shall love the Lord your God.....and your neighbour as yourself.



## Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

January Communion - Friday 26th

A big thank you to all of our helpers throughout 2023, it's very much appreciated.

We wish everyone a very Happy and Blessed New Year





## Edgeley Community Church (Methodist/URC)

To all friends of Edgeley, we wish you a happy and Blessed New Year.

Thanks to everyone for all the events in 2023.

## Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

### Thank you from Dialstone Lane Welcome Group

On behalf of the many people at The Britannia who have benefitted from your generous donations of new underwear, other clothing and suitcases, a big thank you from Dialstone Lane Welcome Group volunteers. We have taken car loads to the hotel, which would have been impossible without your help.

There is an on-going need, particularly for suitcases, so any further donations would be much appreciated. Folk moving on from the hotel need to pack all their belongings up into 2 bags - a hard task if you have been in a place for over a year.

In addition, double buggies are often in demand, particularly if they have rain covers still intact.

Please contact Catriona Stoker - [cat.stoker@btinternet.com](mailto:cat.stoker@btinternet.com) - if you can provide help with these items. Thank you.



## Davenport Methodist Church

### Christingle Service at Davenport

The Christingle service is always a popular service no matter your age but this Christmas Eve it was definitely a "full house" at Davenport.

It was really good to see all the people seated at tables eagerly waiting for the service to start. This service does attract families who may never come any other time, but see this as part of their traditional start to Christmas.

Lindsay had put together a lively interactive service, using songs from Graham Kendrick's "May Way for Christmas" as well as traditional carols.. And although we're still not too good in singing in parts for the 'echo', we do 'make joyful noise to the Lord'. I'm sure He knows we are trying!. As well as making the Christingles, leaving fingers distinctly "sticky" with the juice of course, we all took part in a short drama "Round the Back". Spreading the message of the birth of Jesus in a different and extremely memorable way!

As the night drew in and darkness fell, the service finished in the usual way as everyone got up from their seats, standing round the church in a circle (oval) shape. The candles on the Christingles were lit one by one, the lights were dimmed and everyone sang "Away in a manger". The presence of the Lord was all around.

Thank you Lindsay for making this, your final Christingle Service with us, a truly memorable occasion.

### Schools Carol Service

There were three Schools Adswood , Bridgehall and St Ambrose, who took part in the service.

They each sang three Carols or Christmas songs and one of the schools used deaf signing all the way through their songs.

Lindsay led the Service and read a story. Elaine from St Georges led us all in prayer

There was over Fifty children present, who all seemed to enjoy themselves.

As they left the teachers asked us to please invite them again next year.

It was a lovely afternoon and to see the children all sing with such enthusiasm it felt like the start of Christmas to me.



## Hazel Grove Methodist Church

### Getting to know one another

7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Annual Covenant Service

As we forge a closer relationship with our friends at the Short Street United Reformed Church, we have planned to share our Covenant Service with them. And so, on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January, instead of meeting at Wesley Street, we'll be wending our way to Short Street where the Covenant service will be led by Rev Jonnie Hill and our own minister Rev Cathy Bird.

### Soup and Sweet Lunch

Saturday 3rd February at noon

We are planning our annual Winter Warmer - our ever popular Soup and Sweet Lunch on Saturday 3rd February at 12 noon in the Primary room – all one level from the rear entrance. Everyone welcome. We serve a variety of homemade soups and delicious puddings to suit any taste plus a table quiz to keep the brain cells working. More information and tickets from

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*"Home-made soups, puddings, and a table quiz"*

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## Windlehurst Methodist Church

### "Thanks to everyone"

Windlehurst had a very successful coffee morning on Thursday 23rd November which raised £450 for Church funds.

The talented choir 'Heartbeat' performed for us on 1st December. The church was packed, with many people attending from the local community, as well as from church. The sum raised was an amazing £530!

Thank you to everyone, who made both events such a resounding success.

Windlehurst Church will be continuing their monthly collection for Wood Street Mission, in 2024.

Each month we select different items from the essential family basics scheme and also advertise on High Lane Village FB page.

In January we shall be concentrating on good quality second-hand children's books and clothes.





## The Ridge Methodist Church



Happy New Year to all friends of The Ridge.

Thanks to all for our successes in 2023.

Photograph taken from the Visit Marple site. The Ridge in times gone by.

Visitmarple.co.uk

*" You never know, you might find the very thing you're looking for"*

## Woodley Methodist Church



**We are open  
Wednesday's and  
Saturday's from  
9.30am. til 12 noon**

Thrift Shop and café opening times.

Our Thrift shop is open every Wednesday and Saturday. From 9.30 am to 12 noon.

The café is open at the same time.

All the proceeds from our café go

# Romiley Methodist Church

## Saturday Afternoon Film Show

Our Saturday Afternoon Film Shows continue to be very popular with our community, who enjoy our well-chosen entertainments with tea and cake in an intermission.

Before Christmas we watched Scrooge with Albert Finney and in January will enjoy Mrs. Harris goes to Paris.

Our shows are at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month.



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*" Request for volunteers once a month for the community café, Tiviot Dale. It's such an enjoyable, fun time"*

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# Tiviot Dale Methodist Church

**UNITED STOCKPORT CIRCUIT PRESENTS**

**ACCLAIMED SINGER SONG-WRITERS PAUL FIELD**

**AND MARTIN JOHN NICHOLLS**

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

7.30pm on Friday 19th January 2024

See the poster on page 13



## **CACTUS Project -**

Tiviot Dale Methodist Church  
Can you help?

We need volunteers for Community Café at Tiviot Dale. Community Café is every Thursday from 2 – 6pm.

Could you offer once a month? More volunteers are needed to sit with people who need a listening ear, to be in the dining room, to chat and engage in activities such as jigsaws, puzzles and colouring, and share in a meal together.

Appeal for resources:

- Socks, all sizes but especially men's socks
- Baby wipes
- Plastic takeaway containers.
- Tents (2-3 person)
- Sleeping bags

Please contact Deacon Janet Amey or Maggie Thompson at Tiviot Dale. [property@stockportcircuit.org.uk](mailto:property@stockportcircuit.org.uk)

Alternatively, please drop off any donations at Tiviot Dale Methodist Church.

Thank you. [property@stockportcircuit.org.uk](mailto:property@stockportcircuit.org.uk)

# Marple Methodist Church

## Bereavement reflection course

Mondays during January , 8th, 22nd, 29th.  
Mondays during February , 5th, 12th and 19th.

Places are limited so please contact me to book a place.

It's for people who have experienced loss, specifically those for whom it's been some time, but anyone is welcome.

It will be at Marple Methodist Church, 2-4pm.

judith.laycock@methodist.org.uk



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*" Places are limited, please contact to book a place"*

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## Posada in Marple, Stockport , December 2023

Deacon Judith Laycock arranged a Mary and Joseph Posada Tradition by asking local business' in Marple and Stockport if Mary and Joseph could stay with them on their travels.

'Posada' (Spanish for 'inn') is a Christmas activity when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night.

There are so many photos, we've added them to the back page.





## Journey to a final resting place

Three days after I started my new job as Circuit Property Administrator in Sept 2021, I stood in the car park of Trinity Methodist Church having a meeting with Estate Agents, this was the start of a journey that would take 2 years and 1 month to complete.

The Circuit Leadership Team decided it was very important to continue to care for the ashes which had been placed into our care and were in the Memorial Garden at the church.

After a lot of discussion about the possibility of moving the garden to another church, it was decided this was not going to be possible. With grateful thanks to Stuart Cooper at TCC for all his guidance, I then approached the Public Protection Operation Manager who is the lady in charge of the district cemeteries for some advice.



She suggested the circuit purchased two graves at Mill Lane Cemetery and moved the Memorial Garden there.

With that decision made, I had to trace as many families as possible for the 53 sets of ashes in the garden to gain permission to move the ashes of their family member. Official notices had to be put up in the Memorial Garden and on the gate of the Church. Notices had to go in local publications to say the garden was going to be moved. We had to complete a 4-page Ministry of Justice form for each set of ashes. I managed to trace the families of 41 people, through a lot of research and some chance encounters. The Circuit was then allowed to give permission on the 12 remaining forms.

Once the Ministry of Justice gave permission for the ashes to be moved, I arranged with the PPO Manager to purchase two graves and for the cemetery people to move the garden.

This happened on the first Saturday of January 2023. Lindsay prayed before the process began.

*'O God, our Lord and heavenly Father,  
we give thanks for the life you have breathed into hu-  
manity,  
and we remember before you now the lives of these  
members of and those closely associated with Trinity  
Methodist Church,  
who have gone before us to your nearer presence.*

*As the ash remains of these, our loved ones, friends and  
colleagues are taken to another place of rest, we put our  
trust in you.*

*May those who bear responsibility in this process show  
care and compassion, and be given wisdom and skill, and  
may the journey's end be reached safe in Your presence.'*







*The newly positioned headstone*

The PPO Manager was present on behalf of the Ministry of Justice, and I was present on behalf of the United Stockport Circuit. The garden was moved with great respect by the four men involved. As the final ashes were placed in the grave, Lindsay again prayed.

*'Merciful God, we give thanks for the safe travel and arrival here of the remains of our brothers and sisters from Trinity Methodist Church. We have previously committed them into your safe keeping and we now return their ashes to the earth to rest and remain in safety and peace in your merciful arms. Amen'*

The next step was to place a headstone on the grave. As with everything, it took time to organise, making sure all the names were correctly spelt and the headstone was in line with the cemetery rules.

We made the decision to leave some space in the grave so further ashes of family members associated with those buried can be placed there in future. We have also left space on the headstone for further names to be added.

Our final step was to invite all the families to join us as we dedicated the headstone. This happened on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. About 40 family members met at the cemetery and then some joined us afterwards for refreshments at Cheadle Trinity Church.

There was a lot of reminiscing with laughter and tears, and some reacquaintance of old friends.

I have learnt so much during this process. I have had a lot of lovely phone calls and messages from families telling me about their loved ones. At times it has been a very frustrating and hard going piece of work, but it has been a role that I have felt very privileged to undertake. Maggie Thompson, Circuit Property Administrator





**An exciting job opportunity, working with a dedicated team to provide quality activities and social time for local people with learning disabilities.**

# Assistant Group Co-ordinator Active at Windlehurst

**“Active at Windlehurst” meets one day a week in term time to provide activities for our members who are adults with learning disabilities.**

**We are seeking to appoint a part-time Assistant Group Co-ordinator for this wonderful group.**

For more details about the United Stockport Circuit visit [stockportcircuit.org.uk](http://stockportcircuit.org.uk)

Location :	Windlehurst Methodist Church, High Lane, SK6 8AF and some home working
Hours:	10 hours per week in term time i.e., 40 weeks per annum to cover 8:30am to 3:30pm on Thursdays plus setting up time at Windlehurst and preparation time
Rate of pay :	£11.75 to £14.78 per hour to reflect prior experience.
Next Steps:	For an application pack, including job description and job specification, please email <a href="mailto:USCJobApplications@gmail.com">USCJobApplications@gmail.com</a>
Closing Date	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2024, interviews to take place w/c 22 <sup>nd</sup> January.
Start Date	As soon as possible following appointment





**Hazel Grove Methodist Church, Wesley Street, SK7 4PZ**

**An exciting part time job opportunity, working in a friendly and supportive team.**

## **CHURCH CARETAKER**

We are seeking to appoint a part time Church Caretaker to work alongside the church property stewards, to enable the church to offer a safe, clean and welcoming environment for worshippers, visitors and room users. The caretaker will be a good communicator, who is able to work flexibly and under his/her own initiative.

**Location:** Hazel Grove Methodist Church, Wesley Street, SK7 4PZ

**Hours:** 50 hours *per month* to be worked flexibly between 0800 and 2200 hours, sometimes at weekends

**Rate of Pay:** £12.50 per hour

For an application pack, including job description and job specification,

please email: [anthony.tonge1@btinternet.com](mailto:anthony.tonge1@btinternet.com)

**Closing Date:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Start Date:** As soon as possible following appointment

For more details about Hazel Grove Methodist Church please visit

[www.hazelgrovemethodists.org.uk](http://www.hazelgrovemethodists.org.uk)



# United Christian Singers

Is an ecumenical choir gathered from all around  
Greater Manchester and beyond.  
Ages range from 20+ to 80+.

We welcome all abilities, musical and physical.  
Our repertoire is modern Christian musicals.

Our rehearsals are held centrally just off the M60. Jt. 23  
on Monday evenings at the venue below.

We offer concerts across the region during Advent and Spring.  
We make no charge but ask that concerts are used for  
Christian mission or charity fundraising.



We are holding a Taster Evening

**January 29<sup>th</sup> 2024**

From **7:30 pm to 9:30 pm**, with a short break for tea/coffee/biscuits.

At **Trinity Church Audenshaw Road, MANCHESTER M34 5WP**

If you enjoy singing, do come and give us a 'try-out' there's no charge.

Remember singing is good for you!!

OR Contact *Anne Wilde* [annewilde2002@mail.com](mailto:annewilde2002@mail.com)

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>





Many thanks to -  
 Lentils and Lather, Marple Book Shop, United Stockport Circuit Curry and Advent Carol Service, The Hound dog grooming spa, Tumble Jacks Play Centre, Diaconal Probationers Retreat in Frodsham, Cheshire Marple Stationery Shop, Marple Pet Stop, The Railway Pub, Harmony Décor, Kiki's Cocktail Bar, The Dig Inn , Circuit Leadership Team Meeting, Cancer Research Shop, CC Aesthetics, Nationwide Building Society, Two Suns Coffee Shop, Rita, a member of the community in Marple, Craig Alexander Financial Advisors, SVC Lighting, Toymaster and Baked by Leah



Photographs of POSADA MARPLE DECEMBER 2023