



# Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2024

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Edgeley Community Church

Edgeley Community Church have received a grant of £1000 from URC Synod and will be a Warm Space for December, January and February. They will be providing free hot drinks, soup, quiches etc through December, January and February to all who drop in.

### Heaton Moor United Church



New Minister Rev. Phil Dew wowed visitors the church Advent Fair at the end of November with his Winter Wonderland! Everybody had a great morning and raised over £500 for church charities.

## Circuit

As you know Rev Cathy is leaving us at the start of the new year. Rev Jan Tate will be replacing her on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 as Superintendent and minister of Hazel Grove and Romiley churches. The following arrangements will be in place to offer cover during the period of absence.

**Superintendency** Acting Superintendent Rev Katie Smith

**Hazel Grove** Pastoral and strategy Support Revd Ian Coverdale (1 day per week)

**Romiley** Pastoral and ministry support Revd Raj Patta and JoAnne Roy

**Hong Kong Fellowship** Chair and Co-ordination Deacon Janet Amey

**Line Management** of lay workers will be undertaken by various members of the ministry and circuit steward team

**Local Preachers Meetings** Co-ordination and contact Liz Delafield Preacher [preacher@stockportcircuit.org.uk](mailto:preacher@stockportcircuit.org.uk)

**General Point of Contact** Circuit Administrator will receive general requests and forward appropriately as necessary [admin@stockportcircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@stockportcircuit.org.uk)



## **UPCOMING EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT**

### **Davenport Methodist Church**

Christingle on Christmas Eve at 3pm

### **Dialstone Lane Methodist Church**

#### **Christmas 2024 Services and Events at Dialstone Lane Methodist Church**

*Come and join us for any of the services or events below - all welcome!*

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10.45am Advent Service

**Fosbrooks Folk Carol Service - 4.00pm Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>**

We are pleased to be welcoming back the Fosbrooks, based at Banks Lane Junior School, under the leadership of Liza Austen-Strange, to Dialstone Lane, when they will lead their Folk Carol Service. They offer a unique blend of singing, dancing and playing a range of instruments. They were very dear to the heart of our friend Connie Clarke, who taught many of them to play the piano, so this event is their final public celebration of her life. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1.00pm Ecumenical Carol Singing at Aldi, Lisburne Lane, SK2 5RH, followed by a visit to sing at a local care home.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 10.45am All Age Advent Service, hymns chosen by the congregation for our "Own arrangement" service

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10.45am Advent Service

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 4.30pm Family Candlelit Carol Service, followed by mincepies and hot drinks

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm Midnight Christmas Communion service

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10.45am Christmas Day service.

## Hazel Grove Methodist Church

### Christmas Market

7<sup>th</sup> December - 10am - noon

Raffle; Cake Stall; crafts - Knit and Natter; Cards; Christmas Stall - Christmas fripperies - wrapping paper, baubles etc; chocolate; This and That; toiletries. Café serving Bacon Barms, jam and cream scones, cakes etc.

Entry free from rear car park.

### Ladies' Fellowship Carol Service

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm in Church  
led by The Rainbow Band  
Everyone very welcome

### Christingle

Everyone is welcome, from the smallest baby to the oldest grandparents, to share in our Christingle Service at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve. Take time from your busy preparations to consider the real meaning of Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the Season.

### Christmas Day Community Lunch

Not got other plans for Christmas Day?

You are invited to enjoy a traditional home cooked Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings

FREE OF CHARGE at Hazel Grove Methodist Church,  
From 12 noon - 4.00pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
Lunch will be served at 12.30pm

Come on your own or with a neighbour, friend or family member.

Children are welcome, indeed, ALL are welcome.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY ideally by 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Leave your contact details for Marion - Tel: 07731 840466

Or email [bookings@hazelgrovemethodists.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hazelgrovemethodists.co.uk)



You'll be very welcome. On the other hand you might feel able to offer lifts either to or from the party - around 11am- 12noon and/or 3.30-4pm. Please leave a message with Marion if you can help with this. Or maybe you could provide a "free" raffle prize or a financial donation. Thank you.

## Heaton Mersey Methodist Church



Christmas Communion  
Fri. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 2 - 2.30 pm

Tea & Coffee available after the service  
if you wish to stay for a chat.

## Heaton Moor United Church

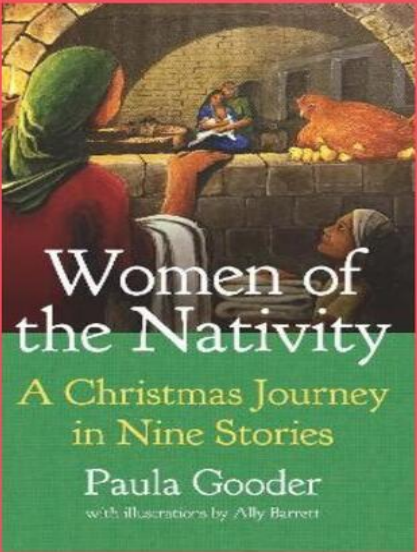
Join Heaton Moor United Church and Heaton's Churches Partnership for Carol Singing at The Moortop Pub on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 14:00 until 15:00

We will be welcoming community partners to join the church for a Community Carol Evening on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 18:00 and all are welcome to join us!

St. Alban's Church & Dialstone Lane Methodist Church

# Advent Course 2024

Theme: **Women of the Nativity**



In this season of waiting, you are warmly welcome to join us as we study the Women of the Nativity

**Mondays 7.30-9pm**  
25th Nov, 2nd, 9th & 16th  
December 2024

**@THE STRAWBERRY GARDENS,  
84 OFFERTON LANE,  
STOCKPORT SK2 5BS**

**More Information :**  
Rev. Marie Flint & Rev. Raj Patta

# They Sang

*The Benedictus, The Magnificat & Gloria*

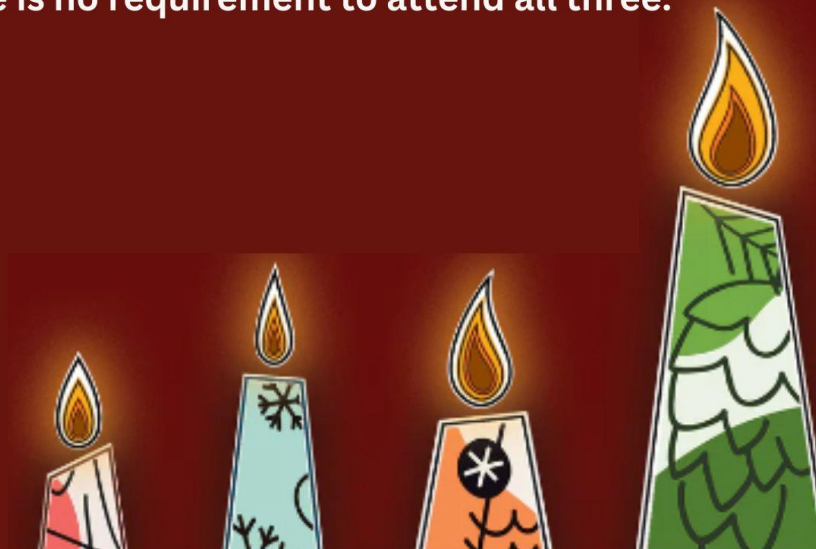
**7th, 14th & 21st December**

**10:00 - 11:00**

All are welcome to join us as we explore songs from the nativity through singing, prayer and discussion.

**No prior knowledge or skills required! Each session is stand alone and there is no requirement to attend all three.**


resource by  
Kevin  
Mayhew




## Romiley Methodist Church

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December a **Christmas Concert** with the very accomplished and entertaining **Offerton Methodist Choir** takes place in the Church at 2 p.m.

There will be refreshments, and entry is by donation, with proceeds going to the Choir's charity, St Ann's Hospice. **All welcome!**



**A Quiet Christmas**

Romiley Methodist Church 

Romiley, SK6 3AA

Tuesday 17th December at 7pm

A short service of comfort and hope at Christmas, for all who would like a quiet space amongst the bustle or for whom Christmas brings difficult or mixed emotions

Contact: [cathy.bird@methodist.org.uk](mailto:cathy.bird@methodist.org.uk) 0161 483 4952

## The Ridge Methodist Church

8th December at 3.00pm - Light & Soul party, making Christingles

8<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm Carol service led by Deacon Jude Laycock

14th December from 1.00pm to 3.00pm Christmas Afternoon tea, in aid of St Ann's Hospice



## REGULAR ACTIVITIES FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Davenport Methodist Church



#### Craft Club.

1st Wednesday of every month 14.00 - 16.00.

£3.00 per session includes refreshments.

*An opportunity to learn a new skill, or share a skill you already have.*

*Come along to a session to find out more.*

#### Thursday Drop In

Every Thursday 1pm – 3pm everyone welcome.

Come along and share in refreshments and a chat, plus sometimes this includes a quiz.

### Edgeley Community Church

Craft group (bring your own)

Monday 1-3pm - £3 drink & biscuits

**Chatty Cafe**

Starting on  
Friday 27th Sept  
Then every  
Friday, 10-12

Times are to be  
tried at first with a  
view to extend

Serving tea, coffee,  
hot chocolate, biscuits,  
t-cakes and toast  
(Lunch options may be introduced at a later date)

Please come and support us  
at Edgeley Community Church,  
Edgeley Rd, Stockport, SK3 9NB

**Cafe**

Starting on  
Tuesday 24th Sept  
Then every  
Tuesday, 10-12

Times are to be  
tried at first with a  
view to extend

Serving tea, coffee,  
hot chocolate, biscuits,  
t-cakes and toast  
(Lunch options may be introduced at a later date)

Please come and support us  
at Edgeley Community Church,  
Edgeley Rd, Stockport, SK3 9NB

## Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

### Tuesday afternoons Fellowship

We have a small group who meet every Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 3pm for Bible study and discussion, followed by a time of prayer from 3.10pm. The group is open to everyone who would like to take part.

### Chatterbox and Craft

Chatterbox and Craft meets every Monday (except Bank Holidays). Drop in any time between 1 and 3pm to knit, sew, paint, draw, play music or whatever you would normally do at home alone. Or just come along for a good chat.

## Heaton Moor United Church

### **Dementia Friendly Heatons**

Dementia Friendly Heatons takes place every Friday (except August and Christmas!) from 13:30 until 15:30

The group is for those with a dementia diagnosis and their carers. We aim to promote a dementia-friendly community by providing a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment that enables friendly social interaction in a relaxed atmosphere. We are a musical group who enjoy singing and dancing and have a weekly chair exercise class.

If you would like more information on the group please contact JoAnne on 07340 269 354 or [dementiafriendlyheatons@gmail.com](mailto:dementiafriendlyheatons@gmail.com)

Monday Fellowship – fortnightly gatherings of fun and fellowship Monday evenings from 19:45. See [www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk) calendar for next date.

## Romiley Methodist Church

Monthly film club on the first Saturday of the month at 2pm.

**7<sup>th</sup> December** will be the 2018 musical fantasy-drama **“BUTTONS – A CHRISTMAS TALE,”** starring Dick Van Dyke and Angela Lansbury as a couple of Guardian Angels, other well-known faces such as Ioan Gruffudd and Jane Seymour, and with narration by Robert Redford and Kate Winslet. **“Buttons”** is the heartwarming story of two orphan girls, Annabelle (later nicknamed Buttons) and Emily, who both have only one wish – to find a loving home for Christmas. With a little help from their Guardian Angels, they discover that miracles really can happen when you find the power to believe. It’s a super film for the Christmas season. Entry by donation, tea and cakes during the interval – all welcome.

## Tiviot Dale

Reminder there is no circuit service in January 2025.

## Woodley Methodist Church

THRIFT SHOP AND CAFE OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY  
9.30am to 12 noon



### Who We Are...

We are a group who have always loved playing music and singing together and started Musical Memories in order to create social singing sessions to help bring people of all ages together for the simple pleasure of singing, talking, remembering and enjoying each others company – not to mention the cuppa and biscuits!

Studies into singing sessions for older people have shown that singing together can boost levels of immunity, reduce stress, and improve mood and memory leading to a positive impact on overall health and well-being

We meet on the last Friday of the month in the Church Hall and we "Welcome those with or without Dementia"

### So the Dates for 2025 are:

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January –**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February -**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March -**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Cancelled – Holy Week**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

**26<sup>th</sup> December – NO MEETING – HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS**

!

If you would like to join us or know more about the group please go to the Woodley Methodist Church Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/WoodleyMethodists> or telephone Phil on **0161 430 8518**

## EXTERNAL NEWS



**NORTH WEST ENGLAND  
METHODIST DISTRICT**

The District has a weekly newsletter which you can sign up via the District website. The District website is now live and can be accessed at <https://nwedmethodists.org.uk>.

Please contact the District with your feedback - they

would love to know your thoughts! Send feedback to [admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@nwedmethodists.org.uk).

### Events from across the District

#### Online Quiet Space

**There is going to be a 'Hush the Noise' daily quiet space, led by Deacon Ellie, that will be hosted on the Wirral Churches Facebook page 12:30-12:45 from 1st December to 6th January. There will be space to be still and to focus on Jesus using words from carols.**

[www.facebook.com/WirralMethodistChurches](https://www.facebook.com/WirralMethodistChurches)

#### Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales have set up an e-campaign so that people can easily send a (pre-written) letter to their local MPs re the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which is up for renewal in March 2025. If not renewed, it will not be

possible to reclaim the VAT on works to listed church buildings, which will have a massive negative financial impact. The resources can be found here. If you choose to use this text to send in a personalised letter, please consider copying in Jo Warren, the advisor at the Bishop's conference, so she knows that you have sent it. Her email is [josephine.warren@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:josephine.warren@cbcew.org.uk).

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#### URC Missional Partnership & United Stockport Circuit Advent Devotional Booklet

Our Advent devotions follow the Methodist Church's themes for Advent in 2024 – 'Hush the noise, hear the angels sing'.

Each day you are invited to spend a short time with a Bible reading (keep your Bible handy so you can look them up), and read a short reflection followed by a prayer. We have also included suggestions for what you can do each day to take what you've thought about or prayed for into your day. These include either a 'mindful moment', a 'random act of kindness' or a 'join the song' that picks up themes from the reading and reflection. We pray that these devotions will be nourishing and enriching for your faith during this season of Advent.

If you would like a PDF copy of the booklet please email [admin@stockportcircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@stockportcircuit.org.uk)

“Refugees”

A reverse poem by Brian Bilston

REFUGEES

THEY HAVE NO NEED OF OUR HELP

SO DO NOT TELL ME

THESE HAGGARD FACES COULD BELONG TO YOU OR ME

SHOULD LIFE HAVE DEALT A DIFFERENT HAND

WE NEED TO SEE THEM FOR WHO THEY REALLY ARE

CHANCERS AND SCROUNGERS

LAYABOUTS AND LOUNGERS

WITH BOMBS UP THEIR SLEEVES

CUT-THROATS AND THIEVES

THEY ARE NOT

WELCOME HERE

WE SHOULD MAKE THEM

GO BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM

THEY CANNOT

SHARE OUR FOOD

SHARE OUR HOMES

SHARE OUR COUNTRIES

INSEAD LET US

BUILD A WALL TO KEEP THEM OUT

IT IS NOT OKAY TO SAY

THESE ARE PEOPLE JUST LIKE US

A PLACE SHOULD ONLY BELONG TO THOSE WHO ARE BORN THERE

DO NOT BE SO STUPID TO THINK THAT

THE WORLD CAN BE LOOKED AT ANOTHER WAY

*(NOW PLEASE READ IN REVERSE)*