

HEATON MERSEY METHODIST CHURCH

Cavendish Road, Heaton Mersey, SK4 3DP



Rev Raj Patta, Minister
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Church Development Worker
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Please do not leave anything valuable in your coats if they are left in the lounge, as we cannot be held responsible.

Thankyou.

Web-site:

www.hmmc.org.uk



www.StockportCircuit.org.uk

In case of an evacuation please assemble in the car park.
Thank you.

We welcome everyone joining us in worship today



Coffee is served after every Sunday Service,
Please stay and enjoy a drink and a chat!
Our church is committed to using Fair Trade products.
Please try to buy Fair Trade goods wherever possible



December Diary

Merry Christmas to everyone

Sunday 1ST December

10.45 Service led by Mr. Jonathan Stubbs
10.45 Sunday Club
16.00 Christmas Music and Food led by
Rev. Clare Stainsby

Sunday 8th December

09:45 Prayer Time
10.00 Family Church@10
11.00 Service led by Mrs. Bev Wheeler

Sunday 15th December

10.45 Service led by Dr. Jill Barber
14.00 Church Family Christmas Party

Sunday 22ND December

10.45 Service led by Rev. Raj Patta
Holy Communion.

Christmas Day 25th December

10.30 Joint Christmas Day Celebrations with
the Congregational Church Service led by
Rev.Raj Patta

Sunday 29TH December

No Morning Service
16.00 Informal Service led by Rev. Raj Patta
followed by Festive Refreshments

Sunday 5th January 2020

10:00 Family Church @10:00
11:00 Mr Chris Cowlshaw

December Rota

	1 Dec	8 Dec	15 Dec	22 Dec	29 Dec
Door	Glenys	David	Pat	Heather	Glenys
Church	Julie	Jonathan	Hazel	Beverly	Julie
Vestry	Phil	Nora	David	Jean	Nora
Laptop Operator	Preacher	Preacher	Hazel	Preacher	Julie
Slides Prep	Preacher	Preacher	Sharon	Preacher	Preacher
Flowers	Dorothy Young	Janet Berry	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers	Vacancy

Communion Stewards for 22nd December 10.45
Chris & Anita

If you are unable to fulfil your rota please arrange
for someone else to cover you.



Playtime@Church is supporting this appeal. If you would like to donate please either drop off a present at Playtime@Church on Tuesday 10th Dec or let Tracy have it. Many thanks.

For your Diary

See page 4 for all our Christmas events.

Tuesday December. 3rd at St Johns Methodist Church Cheadle Heath Circuit Ladies Advent Service, 7pm for a cuppa and 7.30pm for the service.

Communion

There are now several people within our congregation who need a gluten free diet. So following a discussion and tasting of gluten free bread at the November leaders meeting, it was agreed that from now on we will use gluten free bread for communion.

The bread rolls for communion will be bought by Cathy and stored in the freezer.

District News - Two possibilities for people to think about serving the Church in our District.

Would you be interested in developing the Methodist Church's work with refugees? After a recent visit to Italy, including Lampedusa and Sicily, two ministers in the District are proposing that we set up a partnership programme with the Methodist Church in Italy, and specifically to support their front-line work with refugees making the hazardous Mediterranean crossing. We would like several people to join a small group to develop the proposals. For more information please contact admin@mandsmethodists.org.uk.

Would you be interested in joining our District treasury team? The post of District treasurer is now open as a job share post, with one person who has already agreed to work in the role. This will involve helping the District in financial planning and management (the day to day book-keeping being provided in other ways). For more information please contact admin@mandsmethodists.org.uk.

Revd Dr Andrew J. Lunn | District Chair
The Methodist Church | Manchester and Stockport District
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Follow me on twitter @Andrew_Lunn

Please Note

Information for the January 2020 newsletter should reach Steve Wright by 21st December
Email: wright_s15@sky.com



Regular Meetings



TUESDAYS 9.15 am Playtime@Church
(weekly during term time)

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Within our Circuit there are midweek Worship sessions.

10.00am last Wednesday in the month at Heaton Moor.

2pm on 3rd Tuesday WICCETT at Trinity.

THURSDAYS 7.45pm for 8pm Lite Church
Informal Bible Study. Current series on Pauls' pastoral letters at the Manse. Last session 5th December, restarts 9th January 2020 – topic to be confirmed in January newsletter.

1st SATURDAYS (monthly)
10am -12noon **Who Let the Dads Out?** Activities for men and pre-school children. Contact Trac



y on 07598 572904

SUNDAY AFTER 1ST SATURDAY 10.00am
– 10.30am (Monthly)
Family Church @10
Church family support welcome.



Prayer Time changes. For December only this will be on **Sunday 8th at 9:45** and then from January 2020 it will take it's regular place on the last Sunday of the month Please feel free to come and go during this session.

Contact Phil 432 2130

Advent Raises an Alarm: Wake Up, Lay Aside & Put on Jesus Christ

Romans 13:11-14

As we enter into yet another season of Advent, allow me to share with you what Paul when writing to Roman church in Romans 13:11-15 appeals in urgency to the early Christians to wake up and put on the Lord Jesus Christ, which comes to us with even more urgency with a challenge for our times. We have heard of advent calendars, advent candles, advent wreaths, advent decorations etc., allow me to introduce you to an Advent Alarm, which has begun its ringing, for Advent raises an alarm for us to wake up from sleep, lay aside the works of the empire and to put on Lord Jesus Christ. During this season of advent, a time of waiting, we are called to listen to the alarm of justice and act on it. Let people that have ears will listen to this alarm and respond to the urgency.

1. Advent Raises an Alarm to Recognise the Momentous Time:

Paul in verse 11, calls on the Church ‘to know what time it is’, for the time is ripe and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Advent raises an alarm to recognise this moment in time, as the time appointed by God to act and work. It is interesting to note that the word for ‘time’ used in Greek is *‘kairos’* rather than *‘chronos’*. It is not the ‘chronological time,’ that Paul is talking about here, rather it is the ‘appointed time’, a time where God intervenes into our times at our end, a time for action, a time for introspection, and a time for an audit of truth

2. Advent Raises an Alarm to Reaffirm in the Nearness of Salvation:

In verse 11b, we see Paul further exhorts that “for the salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.” The distance and affinity to salvation becomes closer to people of God in their journey of faith, in relation to their initiation into the faith. Salvation is a journeying gift that comes closer and nearer to those that wake up to stand firm in their faith. Salvation oscillates between believing and discipling, and the call today is that salvation gets closer in our true discipleship to Christ.

3. Advent Raises an Alarm to Reject the Works of Darkness:

In verse 12, Paul further appeals ‘the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.’ Paul urges Christians to lay aside the ‘pyjamas’ of darkness and put on the ‘armour of light’, a vestment for the day, a vestment of the Kingdom of God, which primarily exposes those ungodly deeds, dispels darkness, and liberate people and communities with and towards light.

The relevance of Advent therefore is to swiftly act to the alarm that is ringing. The context of our times are so grim, for there has been a growing intolerance towards the other, increasing hatred against the stranger, increasing rise of consumerism where days like ‘black Friday’ are gaining their popularity forcing many people to invest on spending, increasing unaccountability of leadership in Church & society, an increasing refugee crisis, an increasing changes on our climate and planet, increasing poverty, increasing homelessness etc. and there is a sense of more urgency than ever to wake up to face and address the realities of our times. Paul’s words “The night is far gone and the day is near,” therefore conveys to us that this season of Advent raises an alarm to the church and to each of us as disciples of Christ to wake us up from deep slumber, to know the God’s momentous time, lay aside the works of empire and to put on Lord Jesus Christ onto our lives. Let us stop pretending to sleep and wake up with our eyes and hearts wide open to the ongoing acts of injustice and evil around us to raise an alarm for change, so that we can collectively partake and actively participate in transforming our world. Advent raises a justice alarm, hear O people of God, the alarm is ringing to go and act swiftly!!!

Rev. Rajbharat Patta, Ph.D
Advent 2019



CHRISTMAS AT HEATON MERSEY METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Dec 1st at 4pm

Christmas Music and Food led by Rev Clare Stainsby.

Please bring some food starting with the 1st letter of your first name!

Monday Dec 2nd at 7pm.

Church Family Meal at The Heaton Pub. Please sign up with your £5 deposit.

Tuesday Dec 10th from 9am.

Playtime@Church Party. Help needed with refreshments and tidying up.

Tuesday Dec 10th at 6pm.

Curry and Carols. Please sign up for food.

Sunday 15th Dec 2pm till 4pm.

Christmas Event. Bring your family and friends.

Sunday Dec 22nd at 10.45am.

Holy Communion. Led by Rev Raj Patta.

Tuesday Dec 24th Time to be confirmed.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion at St John's Cheadle.
Led by Rev Raj Patta.

Wednesday 25th Dec at 10.30am at HMMC.

Joint Christmas Day Celebration with the Congregational Church.
Led by Rev Raj Patta.

Sunday Dec 29th No morning service.

Informal service led by Rev Raj Patta at 4pm.
Christmas Refreshments. Please see Sue.

