

January Services

3rd Pat Winsor
10th TBC
17th Carol Jack
24th Covenant Service
led by Rev Raj Patta
31st Rev Raj Patta

For up to date information check out the following websites:

www.hmmc.org.uk

www.StockportCircuit.org.uk

Also follow us on Facebook.

Minister

Rev Raj Patta,

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Tel. 0161 432 2925

Day off Monday

Church Development Worker

Mrs Tracy Brennan

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Day off Friday

Office Administrator

Christine Hufton

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(Mon, Wed - Fri 10am - 4pm)

We wished Sharon Fraser a very happy 40th birthday in December.

Standing at the portal
Of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us,
Hushing every fear;
Spoken through the silence
By our Father's voice,
Tender, strong and faithful,
Making us rejoice.

Refrain:

Onward then, and fear not,
Children of the day;
For His Word shall never,
Never pass away.

For the year before us,
O what rich supplies!
For the poor and needy
Living streams shall rise;
For the sad and sinful
Shall His grace abound;
For the faint and feeble
Perfect strength be found. (Refrain)

He will never fail us,
He will not forsake;
His eternal cov'nant
He will never break.
Resting on His promise,
What have we to fear?
God is all-sufficient
For the coming year. (Refrain)

Food Pantry

As you will know we have been supporting Mersey Vale School every half term. We had a great response for our Christmas Food Pantry. We had enough food from our Harvest collection that we didn't need to collect again, however, we intend to do it again in February. We need:

Pasta Sauce

Tinned food: carrots, peas, tomatoes, kidney beans, chickpea, rice pudding, and fruit.

Jam and peanut butter

Cereal bars and biscuits.

We will do a carpark collection in February but if you want to start leaving some things at church please use the large plastic box.

Just in case you were wondering about the Food Bank, we are still supporting this. At Christmas we gave a donation of tins as well as some selection boxes. Any food we have left over from the Food Pantry is distributed to a number of places: Stockport Food Bank, Wellspring and Stockport Together in Heaton Norris.

We also would really appreciate any Bags for Life as some plastic bags are a bit thin for tins.

Many thanks for all your support.

Rev Raj Patta, Tracy Brennan and JoAnne Roy (community worker at Heaton Moor United Church.)

Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

Environmental Working Group

Before lockdown, Raj gave a café church focussing on trees, and there was a proposal to try to improve the environmental impact of the Church. The Church Council would like to find out the views of Church members to see if we can make a positive contribution to the environment by planting some trees on the Church premises. We propose to form an Environmental Working Group to focus on trees, and other groups could be formed later to focus on other projects. It is obviously very important to ensure that any changes we make to the grounds are easy to maintain, and we would want to seek professional advice at the outset.

At this stage, could Church members please answer three questions:

- Are you in favour of planting some trees on the Church grounds (for example on the grass behind the Church)? If not, could you please explain your objections so that we can see whether or not they are insurmountable?
- If you are in favour, what are your priorities? For example, carbon capture, biodiversity and fruit production have all been mentioned.
- Would you like to join the environmental working group on trees, or to get involved with another group working on a different environmental project?

Please send your thoughts to Jill Barber at jillbarber82@gmail.com.

Finance report

I have been asked by the Church Council to prepare a Finance Report to update the Church Family on the finances.

This year has been difficult for all of us and definitely with regards the finances of the church. Thank you to everyone who have either continued with contributions to church funds via standing order or sent me cheques during lockdown or caught up with their collection when church reopened. Even with all that at the end of the financial year we were almost £4400 down on collections alone.

Our income from lettings is also down as groups have been unable to meet for the period of the first lockdown. The impact of this is a loss of income in the region of £3700.

Whilst our income reduced, we still had to pay our assessment to the Circuit - £14000 and pay the salaries to our Church Development Worker and cleaner - £17620 and also Insurance and Utilities - £5264 plus other sundries.

In the financial year ending August 2020 we spent almost £10500 more than the income we received. I was able to pay all the bills by transferring money from our deposit account. It has meant however that the funds available in the deposit account have been reduced by £9000 and we now only have just under £7000 available to use in the future. We do have some other funds but to get access to these we have to make an application giving the reason for wanting to spend these.

Looking forward, I have had to suggest we cut back on all but essential repairs and maintenance and sundry expenditure to ensure we can meet all our commitments. The position could change if the current situation improves soon but as it stands, we will have to use the remainder of funds held in the deposit account to meet expected expenditure in the coming year.

Please may I ask that you prayerfully review your giving and I appreciate that some will not be able to increase what they give but with your help we can continue with the work that God has planned for us.

Sue Ainsworth

December 2020

Heaton Mersey Mission Open Evening:

In the context of the pandemic year 2020, one of the themes that has been widely discussed over the year has been, "Reimagining Church," where we as a church are called to reimagine our vision and mission of being a church relevant for today. In 2020, we as a church have coped with online services, demonstrated love in action on our streets and neighbourhood, reached out to local school in tackling holiday hunger, sent out worship material to people who could not access online material, gathered after lockdowns in the church with social distance measures and offering prayers and phone calls to church members. As we step into the new year 2021, we are called as a church to reimagine our call, our mission and the relevance of our being as a church today. Besides this, our Church Development worker Tracy has also informed the Church council that she will move out from her role in summer 2021. The Church council have agreed to continue employing a lay worker for our church. In light of these changes, the Church council asked to call for a Mission evening, which is open to all the church family to come and join in a discussion on our way forward as a church. If you aren't able to join the meeting and you wish to have some input, please speak to anyone from Leadership. This mission open evening will take place on Wednesday, the 27th January 2021 at 7.45pm on Zoom. May I take this opportunity to invite you all to join in this evening prayerfully, asking God to lead us in our discussions for our way forward as a church.

Seeking your prayers and support,

Rev Raj Patta

As you will see from the article Raj has written above you will know that I will be leaving my post as Development Worker in the Summer. I will be moving to Airedale with my friend Rev Clare Stainsby. I have had the privilege to share Clare's house for the past 8 years. It's good to have someone to support me and share in God's work together.

I have always known that God has a plan for my life and part of that plan was to work within the church. But I also knew that I would need to move and not stay in one place. I feel very blessed to have spent time in Salford and Stockport and am looking forward to the next challenge God has in store for me.

I hope that we can return to some normality before I leave and hopefully be able to get back to running groups, FamilyChurch@10 and all the other things that I've enjoyed doing as my role as Development Worker.

Finally, I like to share one of my favourite passages from the bible that reassures me that God know what he is doing!

Jeremiah 29 verse 11. ***For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.***

Tracy Brennan

Development Worker



Christians in Schools Trust

Serving schools in Stockport

AUTUMN TERM REPORT

Hannah Moore

Dec 2020

Firstly, I would like to say a big 'thank you' for your prayers and support. For many, this year has been strange and challenging. Despite this I have been encouraged by the links made with schools and churches in the Heatons, and the work that has been delivered. This report will aim to give an overview of the work done.

CHURCHES

As some may know, I have attempted to meet with church leaders, workers and members of the Heatons partnership. This has been a great way to meet and discuss how we can link and support each other. Already we have worked on projects and events together, including FRESH. As restrictions begin to lift, I would be eager to meet more people. Hopefully we will soon be able to deliver our projects in schools, and we would be glad for your support as we do this.

SCHOOLS

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we have been unable to physically go in to many schools. This has depended on the individual school's risk assessment. We have not physically attended any Heatons schools, but we have been sending the majority of them our virtual assemblies. I had encouraging feedback from one child who said the children were always excited when our assemblies are played. These schools include many that we have not had access to for a number of years, so we are excited to see what new doors open up to us through this.

PRAYER POINTS

- 1** For the schools who have accessed the virtual assemblies to continue wanting to use CiST resources.
- 2** Innovative ways to connect with Secondary schools while we can not deliver lessons and lunchtime clubs.
- 3** Wisdom on how to support the mental health and emotional well being of children as a result of Covid.

GOING FORWARD

We will continue to create and deliver virtual assemblies and projects to the schools. Heading in to the new year, we are going to begin writing our storytelling project. This is one of our biggest projects, and we will be rewriting it so it can be delivered virtually.

As restrictions lift we will be contacting schools, to see if their policies have changed, asking whether they would like us to deliver things in person.

Please do get in touch if you would like to meet to discuss anything further. Even if it is via Zoom for now!