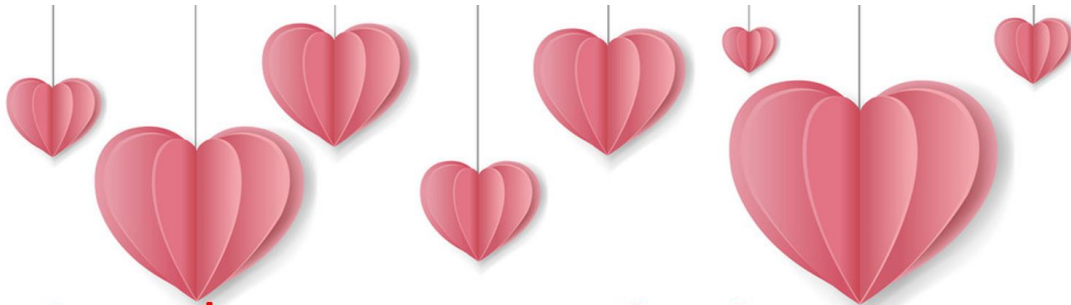


Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

February 2022 Newsletter



Sunday 6th 10:00 – Family Church @10

Sunday 6th 11:00 – Rev Raj Patta Communion

Sunday 13th 10:45 – Rev Raj Patta Baptism

Sunday 20th 10:45 – Dr Khobnya

Fri 25th 2pm – Rev Raj Patta Communion

Sunday 27th 10:45 – Dr J Barber

Our next circuit service is at 4pm on Sunday 6th February at Woodley Methodist Church, Chapel St, Woodley, Stockport, SK6 1NF and will be led by Reverend Adam Stevenson.

Prayer meetings are held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, to get the log-on details please email: whitejepson@gmail.com

Easing of restrictions

As a reminder the Leadership Team have put the following in place:

- Face masks are still to be worn whilst in the building and moving around it.
- Singing can take place in services, sitting or standing, whilst wearing a mask please.
- Still socially distance seating.
- Coffee after the service now available.

Minister
Rev Raj Patta
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Day off Monday

Church & Community Worker
Sarah Rose
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Christine Hufton
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Family Church@10 is on Sunday 6th
February at 10am

Are you free on Tuesday afternoons?

We have started a time of bible study and discussion on Tuesday afternoons from 2 - 3pm which is open to anyone who would like to come along. If you would like to find out more please speak to Chris, Anne or Joy.



HCP Prayer meeting Sat 19th Feb 2022 8-9am (drinks from 7.45am) will be held at Emmanuel Community Church, 55 Green Lane, Heaton Moor. All are welcome to come along, for more info see last page or speak with Sue, Chris or Anne.

For up-to-date information check out these websites:

www.hmmc.org.uk

www.StockportCircuit.org.uk

And follow us on Facebook

Spot an error on the website? Email admin@hmmc.org.uk

Do you have any news to share with our Church family or would you like to write an article on a topic? If so, please get in touch!

Email events@stockportcircuit.org.uk to receive the monthly newsletter from the Circuit.

If you would like to put something into the March newsletter, please email whitejepson@gmail.com by 21st February.

"There are different kinds of gifts. But it is the same Holy Spirit Who gives them... There are different ways of doing His work. But it is the same God who uses all these ways in all people. The Holy Spirit works in each person in one way or another for the good of all."



This passage may be familiar to you. It comes from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, and appears just before he lists some of the gifts that can come from the Holy Spirit. I am sure you can name some of them. What about wisdom? Or faith? Or public speaking? We all know people who are blessed with some of the gifts that Paul lists. I would like to briefly reflect on how different gifts have helped me so far, and will continue to be important, in the role of Church and Community Worker. There are two gifts that are particularly important: passion and inspiration.

Many years ago, I had a poster on the wall above my desk that said 'Nothing in the world was ever accomplished without passion'. Passion and enthusiasm are at the heart of any enterprise, and without them, little can be achieved. The large number of people who enthusiastically turned up to help at the first Family Church I ran in September is a perfect demonstration. That passion covered the welcomers, those organising refreshments and those who enthusiastically joined in the storytelling. As we sailed "boats" around the Long Room, or hunted for the hidden five loaves and two fishes, there was a lot of laughter. Many of the children didn't want to leave! As Family Church continues over the coming months, I hope that sense of joy will continue. The same enthusiasm can be witnessed every Tuesday at Playtime@Church, where all the volunteers help to make the group such a warm and welcoming place.

Of course, where there is great passion, inspiration often follows. I am sure that we all have people who have inspired us, both in our journey of faith, and in life in general. For me, as I have been working out my new role, seeing the passion that different people have for different things has provided me with a lot of inspiration. One of the first things I encountered was the passion for creativity, and there was a considerable amount of skill to back it up. That skill provided some wonderful ideas for the Advent Creative Space that was held at the end of November. On that Sunday morning, we made our own (non-flammable) candles and wreathes, and explored the significance of these Advent symbols. In February, there will be another Creative Space, this time close to Valentine's Day, and exploring the theme of 'God Loves Me'.



Part of that creativity has been a passion for music and performance, and so over the coming months I will be starting to develop Toddler Praise, an opportunity for the youngest members of the church to make music and worship. I also hope for another visit by Manuel the cockerel, and some of his friends. Manuel assures me that he enjoyed his first visit to café church, and hopes to be invited back again.

Another gift that I encountered early on was a passion for the environment and taking care of our world. As we emerge in to spring, with the promise of new life and new beginnings all around us, I will be running some sessions of Muddy Church, for children and their families. This is a movement that focuses on learning about God by celebrating and protecting His creation. I hope that we will be able to make full use of the outdoor space available at Heaton Mersey.

Looking forwards, 2022 feels to me like a year full of hope, with new opportunities and challenges to take up. I very much look forwards to sharing that hope with you all, and embracing your own unique gifts and talents, which lie at the heart of the journey.

Sarah xx

You are invited to the Heatons Churches Partnership prayer meeting.



Heatons Churches
Partnership

The Heatons Churches Partnership prayer meeting is held every two months usually on the third Saturday in the month in the morning. It is a great encouragement to those who attend to be led in prayer by members of the different congregations within the Heatons

The meeting starts at 7.45am with tea, coffee and biscuits. We regularly have between 25-30 people joining us.

The prayer itself begins at 8.00am with a very brief introduction, helping us to focus on the Lord God to whom we are praying. We aim to end at 9.00am.

The intention of the meeting is to pray for:

- The Heatons - the community issues, concerns and facilities.
- The churches in the Heatons - the on-going work, outreach, initiatives and concerns.
- The HCP itself and any joint initiatives
- The Christians in Schools Trust work in the Heatons
- Other initiatives such as street pastors that those attending the prayer meeting are engaged in which relate to the Heatons or Stockport more widely
- Each other

It is usually helpful to gather updates and specific items for prayer from members of the different churches present.

If it is relevant there may well be a focus on wider Stockport concerns. It may sometimes be appropriate to bring national or international situations to the attention of the group but **the aim is to devote prayer on the Heatons**