

Heaton Mersey Methodist Church

March 2022 Newsletter

Sunday 6th 10:00 – Family Church @10

Sunday 6th 11:00 – Rev R Patta Communion

Sunday 13th 10:45 – Mrs S Shillito

Friday 18th 2pm – Rev R Patta Communion

Sunday 20th 10:45 – Rev R Patta Communion

Sunday 27th 10:45 – Rev L Kemp



Children's Corner

Sunday 13th March 10am

Toddler Praise. Aimed at children up to 10 years old, but open to anyone who loves music and singing.

Sunday 13th March 10.45am Prayer Trail and Creative Space, themed around prayer.

Saturday 26th March 11am

Story Trail. We will be celebrating Mother's Day by looking at some of the famous Mums in the Bible.

Saturday 16th April 11am

Easter Egg Hunt

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

Minister

Rev Raj Patta

Minister@hmmc.org.uk

Phone 0161 432 2925

Day off Monday

Church & Community Worker

Sarah Rose

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Day off Thurs/Fri

Office Administrator

Christine Hufton

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Mon & Wed – Fri: 10am – 4pm



Family Church@10 on Sunday 6th March at 10am will look at the parable of the Lost sheep & other bible shepherds.

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.
- Still socially distanced seating.
- Tea/Coffee available after the service.

Tuesday afternoons Fellowship

A time of bible study and discussion meeting at 1.45pm for 2 - 3pm on Tuesday afternoon.

On 8th March this group will start a lent study for the rest of the month.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to Chris, Anne or Joy.

HCP Prayer meeting Sat 19th

March 2022 8-9am (drinks from 7.45am) will be held at Heaton Moor United Church. All are welcome to come along, for more info speak with Sue, Chris or Anne.

MAKE LOVE NOT WAR

O GOD, LET YOUR PEACE AND JUSTICE ROLL DOWN
LIKE RIVERS INTO OUR WORLD TODAY,
WE SPECIALLY REMEMBER IN PRAYER,
PEOPLE IN UKRAINE AND IN RUSSIA,
LET LOVE, FRIENDSHIP, CO-OPERATION, DIALOGUE,
AND SUPPORT, THRIVE BETWEEN THE NATIONS,
LET THOSE IN POWER(S) ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS
TO DE-ESCALATE THE HEIGHTENED TENSIONS AND
◆ DE-MILITARISE THE CONFLICT,
LET THE MEDIATION OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY
FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE BE FRUITFUL,
★ MAY THE PEACE WHICH PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING
GUARD AND GUIDE EACH OF OUR HEARTS ★
IN OUR QUEST AND EFFORTS FOR PEACE AND
RECONCILIATION. IN CHRIST'S NAME. AMEN.

@rajpatta, 16.02.2022

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

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

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

Dear Heaton Mersey Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

The season of Lent begins from 2nd of March this year, and for the next forty days we are invited to reflect on the passion of Jesus Christ and his journey to the Cross. I remember as a child, we attended Lenten cottage prayers for forty days at different houses of our congregation members, reflecting on the story of the events of the Cross. It has an indelible impact on my life, and every year as Lent approaches I am nostalgic of those times, and prepare meditations on the Cross. I would encourage all our church community to spend some time in prayer and reflection during this season of Lent, understanding the meaning and relevance of Jesus death on the Cross, and on the gift of salvation that Jesus offers to each of us. Jesus says in Luke 9:23, "If anyone want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." These words of Jesus are poignant to each of us, for the first condition of Christian discipleship is to 'deny oneself', which is to deny 'self', for it was said, "love is selflessness and self is lovelessness." In other words, the condition to follow Jesus is to give love a chance in our lives, which is about denying our 'self.' Next Jesus says, 'take up their cross daily', which is about carrying each of our cross experiences along with us, not just 'once for all' but daily. Thirdly, it is about 'following Jesus Christ,' for the world today offers many things to follow, but following Jesus Christ is the most important calling, and especially during this season of Lent, let us ponder on our Christian discipleship in light of this verse and let us remain faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As a church we thank God for all those people who support the mission and ministry of our church in various ways. We are grateful for their time, for their gifts and for all their efforts. In our moving forward as a church, we do need more people to share the roles and responsibilities. We as church council and as leadership team have been thinking about it, and can I please request people in our church to take on some responsibilities so that we can share and support one another. Volunteering is a call of God, and if any of you think you are able to offer some support, please do speak to one of our leadership team.

On Palm Sunday, which is the 10th of April, the circuit is planning to have a joint outdoor service at St. Peter's square in the centre of Stockport, and may I invite all our church friends to kindly participate in it, as it is an opportunity for united public witness in the public sphere. On Good Friday, which is the 15th of April, we have the walk of witness as Heaton Churches, and may I also invite our church friends to partake in it if you are able to as it is yet another opportunity for a united public witness.

In the last two months, we are glad to have had two baptism services in our Church, which is very encouraging. Let us keep praying for these children and their families so that they will be nurtured in Christian faith. Let us keep praying for all our church friends, and let us support one another, and care for each other. My prayer for our church is that we continue to be a worshipping church and witnessing church, living out our faith relevant to the realities of life in our communities. May God's peace and blessing be with you all. Have a blessed season of Lent.

Raj Bharat Patta, 21.02.2022

Lent and Easter Services around our Circuit

Ash Wednesday 2nd March

11am service at Heaton Moor United Church

7pm Circuit Service at Davenport Church (Garners Lane, Davenport, SK3 8QS)

7pm **Thursdays from 10th March to 7th April** Lent series on Zoom “And can it Be?”

Meeting ID: 975 5542 1560

Passcode: 238018

Palm Sunday 10th April

Circuit Service in St. Peter's Square, Stockport Town Centre (St Peters gate, Stockport SK1 1NZ) at noon. More details to follow, including arrangements for transport and parking. *Please note there will be no other services in our circuit.*

Maundy Thursday 14th April

3pm Service at Davenport Church

6pm Service at Heaton Moor United Church (Stanley Road, Heaton Moor, SK4 4HL)

7.30pm Tenebrae 'A Service of Shadows' at Dialstone Lane (161 Dialstone Lane, Offerton, SK2 7LQ)

7.30pm Service at Woodley (Chapel St, Woodley, SK6 1NF)

Good Friday 15th April

10.00am Walk of Witness with the Heaton churches. Starting at St Thomas' (Wellington Rd N, Heaton Chapel, SK4 4QG) and walking to St John's, (8 St Johns' Road, Heaton Mersey, SK4 3BR) for a service.

Circuit services:

10.30am Service at Davenport Church

10.45am Service at Romiley (Hill Street, Romiley, SK6 3AA)

12 noon to 3pm (drop-in at any time) Reflections in word and music on the Last Words from the Cross at Hazel Grove (Wesley Street, Hazel Grove, SK7 4JQ)

7pm Service at Edgeley (Edgeley Road, Edgeley, SK3 9NB)



Saturday 16th April

11am Heaton Mersey Methodist Church an Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Day Sunday 17th April

05.30am Dawn Service at Dialstone Lane followed by breakfast (Covid permitting)

07.00am Sunrise service at Heaton Moor followed by breakfast

10.45am Heaton Mersey Methodist Church



WHO RUNS YOUR CHURCH?

Do you know who runs your Church and what part you can play? Most of the work involved in running our Church is done by volunteers and we always need more help.

Our Church Council are elected at the Annual General Meeting, there are active roles and also representatives from the Church family. They meet 3 times per year plus the AGM and the minutes from these meetings go on the notice board in the lounge. Those named on the Council can vote on decisions but everyone is welcome to attend the meetings and share ideas. Our next AGM is Sunday 8th May at 12 after our morning service.

The Church Council is currently the following people:

Chair, Rev Raj Patta	Secretary, Hazel White
Treasurer, Sue Ainsworth	Pastoral Secretary, Chris Cowlshaw
Fire Officer, Carolyn Canning	Gift Aid Secretary, Sharon Fraser
Health & Safety, Phil Speak	Ecumenical, Phil Speak
All of Leadership Team	<i>Methodist Women in Britain, Helen Ross</i>
World Day of Prayer – vacant	Young People's Representative - vacant
Safeguarding Officers, Phil Speak, <i>Nora Lawton (Vulnerable Adults)</i>	
Representatives from Church family: Sharon Fraser, Jill Barber, Anita Fraser & Anne Cowlshaw	

Our Church Leadership Team are also elected at the Annual General Meeting. They meet monthly and attend the Council meetings and AGM. They deal with most of the day to day running of the Church and planning events, this is a lot of work so this can be considering who best to ask for help. The Leadership team aim to put the minutes of their monthly meetings on the noticeboard each month.

The current Leadership Team are:

Rev Raj Patta, Sarah Rose, Sue Ainsworth, Julie Dickson, Jonathan Stubbs, Cathy Faulkner & Rachel Kendal

Do you have a role within our church? If not, please prayerfully consider your skills and speak to a member of the Leadership team, there are lots of jobs in many different areas, some are on Sunday mornings, but a lot are behind the scenes.

