

United Stockport Circuit (North West England Methodist District.)

**DIALSTONE LANE
METH DIST CHURCH**

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

contacts

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THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The **NOVEMBER** edition will be available on Sunday **1ST NOVEMBER 2026**

**Please email items FOR THIS EDITION to Catriona Stoker @
catstoker@btinternet.com**

The deadline for submitting articles will be Sunday 25th October 2026

Dear Dialstone Lane Methodist Church,

Harvest season's greetings to you all. Every year we faithfully celebrate Harvest Festival, bringing our offerings to church and supporting a chosen charity. These are good things. This year, our four weeks of harvest Bible study at the local pub also helped us think about climate change and ecological imbalances, and commit ourselves to responding. But what is the importance of Harvest Sunday when there is so much hunger in the world? The latest UN estimate tells us that around 645 million people faced hunger worldwide in 2025. Here in the UK, 2.2 million children lived in households experiencing food insecurity in January 2026. What does it mean to give thanks for abundance while so many cannot be sure of their next meal? Are we celebrating harvest simply because we have always done so in October in Britain, or at other times of year in India? What is the message of harvest for my children growing up in an urban setting, where food appears on supermarket shelves, far from the fields and the people who grow it? Perhaps Harvest Sunday invites us to see the connections again: between the earth and our food, between our tables and the labour of others, and between gratitude and justice. If we truly give thanks for the gifts of creation, we must also ask how those gifts can be shared so that everyone has enough to eat.

Amid these questions, I hear a message for us this harvest: "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 23:22 This law reminds the community that the harvest is God's gift, and that those who are poor and those who have come from elsewhere must have a share in it. They are not an afterthought. The command asks those with land to leave food within reach of people who need it. The divisions between the haves and the have-nots are made and widened by human choices and practices. So, alongside our Harvest offerings, we must keep asking: Can we address the structures that leave people hungry? Can we confront the root causes of poverty? For me, this is part of our calling to faith: to give thanks for the harvest by working towards a society in which everyone has enough to eat.

October is also Black History Month in the UK. The 2026 theme, "Honouring Our Communities," invites us to recognise the Black people whose everyday work, care, creativity and leadership sustain our communities, though their contributions too often go unseen. For the church, this is an invitation to affirm that people of every colour, gender, race and ethnicity bear the image of God. As we hear the call in Leviticus to leave part of the harvest for those who might otherwise be excluded, we must also ask whose contributions we have overlooked and whose voices are missing from our decisions. This Harvest and Black History Month, let us honour the gifts of Black people in our churches and wider society, listen to Black members of our communities, confront racism where it shapes access to food and opportunity, and make room for shared leadership. May our thanksgiving become a practice of justice and belonging.

Have a blessed month and may God's love and grace lead you and guide you in all your ways ahead. **Rev. Dr. Raj Patta, 29.09.2026**

ROTA September-November								
Date and type of service	Time	Preacher	Steward	Slide prep	Project	Music	Comm Steward	
Sun 4 th October Comm. / Harvest	10.45 am	Rev. Raj Patta	Peter L	Raj	Raj	Anita & Barry	Carol & Gwyneth	
Sun 11 th October	10.45 am	Bill Adam	Alison	Alison	Peter W	Anita & Barry		
Sun 11 th October	4.30 pm	Anne Wilde	Stewart	Stewart	Stewart			
Sun 18 th October	10.45 am	Joint Service	At Davenport	X	X	X	Mission through Music	Joint Service Davenport
Sun 25 th October	10.45 am	Andy Stoker	Carol	Andy	Peter W	Barry		
Sun 1 st November Communion	10.45 am	Rev. Raj Patta	Peter L	Raj	Raj	Barry	Debbie & Gill	All Saints Day
Sun 8 th November Remembrance Sun.	10.45 am	Rev. Jan Tate	Alison	Alison	Peter W	Anita & Barry		
Sun 8 th November Communion	4.30 pm	Rev. Raj Patta	Andy	Raj	Raj		Gill	
Sun 15 th November Toy and Gift	10.45 am	Barbara Aspinall	Pauline	Andy	Andy	Barry		
Sun 22 nd November	10.45 am	Local arrangement	Peter L	Andy	Peter W	Margaret		Circuit Service later this day –
Sun 29 th November	10.45 am	JoAnne Roy	Carol	JoAnne	Dave	Margaret		Advent Sunday

COFFEE ROTA

October 4th	Susan
October 11th	Joan
October 18th	No Morning service at DL
October 25th	John
November 1st	Susan

DOOR ROTA

Joan and Sue J
Sandra N and Sheila 4.30pm Sandra Pomfrit
No Morning service at DL
Pauline D and Gwyneth
Bonny and Elizabeth N

On Sunday 27th September the 3M's Group led our morning worship, the theme being 'BELONGING'. This poem was part of the introduction to the service.

BELONGING

Belonging is more than a state of mind, it's a way of being
Belonging is equality, realising the similar as a way of rejoicing in the difference
Belonging believes and feels the love
Belonging protects and secures the love
Belonging brings laughter throughout difficulties
Belonging brings the stories through the centuries
Belonging is "us" and "we" and "our"
Belonging is "with" and "and" and "all"
Belonging is the communion of people with God
Belonging is being
Belonging IS.

Thank you to the 3M's for preparing and leading this worship. The hymns and readings chosen, the testimonies that were shared by Bonnie and Sheila, and the video clips that were included encompass what our church is all about. Thank you too to Carol and Marcia for leading the service. What hidden talent we have at Dialstone Lane!!

Pauline M

CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN – latest

An area of our garden is nearly ready to be planted with roses in memory of our loved ones. Paul Nowell is contacting a rose grower with a view to them supplying roses which are in their catalogue. Once chosen by buyers at church Paul will order and plant the floribunda roses in your chosen colour and name.

Payment will be made to Jenny who will pass it onto Paul. It is hoped to fill this area of our garden with a 'carpet of colour'. Jenny

Quiz

& CORNED BEEF HASH SUPPER

OCTOBER 17th in the Church Hall – Quiz 4.00pm and Supper 5.30pm

This will be our first event for our Charity BLOOD BIKES this year.

Andrew will be doing one of his very interesting Quizzes for us and this will be followed by Corned Beef Hash (or vegetarian option) and Apple Pie or Crumble. Please come and join in the fun and food.

Tickets will be £7.50 for Adults and £3.00 for Children available from 4th October.

Our Church Charity this year is Blood Bikes

The Blood Bikes urgently transport Blood, Plasma, Platelets, Samples, Vaccines, Donor Breast Milk and any other urgently required medical items to hospitals and healthcare sites at night, daytime, weekends and Bank Holidays, so that is 24 hours each day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

The service is completely free and supplied by Volunteers.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS INAUGURAL EVENT

FOUR SEASONS

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 5th November

Sue and Bonny are organising this meeting, we have been asked to bring an accessory item (jewellery, scarf etc) that is special to us, to chat briefly about. On December 3rd we will be making Christmas cards with Susan and Joan.

PASTORAL VISITORS

The next pastoral visitors meeting will be on Tuesday 6th October at 10.00am, please note the change of date as this has been brought forward one week.

WOODSMOOR ARTISTS ART EXHIBITION

This will be held at our church on Saturday 31 October 10.00am-4.00pm and Sunday 1st November 12 noon-4.00pm. Admission is free and there will be crafts and original artwork for sale as well as coffee and cake. We will be supporting our church charity, Blood Bikes as well as the Moya Cole Hospice (previously St Ann's Hospice) and really value our church's support of this regular event.

JOINT MEETING AT DAVENPORT

Please may I remind you that our next meeting with the Davenport folk - which is open to all - will be held at Dialstone Lane on Monday 5th October at 7.00pm. Andy

3M's

The next three M's meeting will be on Monday 12th October at 2pm, we are asking that you think of three things about yourself, two of them will be true and one will be a lie, then the group will try to decide which is which, it should be a lot of fun and laughs.

Our November meeting is on Monday 9th and December meeting is Monday 14th. Come and join us we are a friendly bunch.

Gill, Marcia and Carol

STOCKPORT FOODBANK

Thanks again for all donations. The foodbank is very grateful.

They have been very busy over the school holidays and this, combined with the sudden, earlier closure of the Tiviot Dale collection point, means all our donations are even more welcome.

They particularly need the following:

- Gluten free non-perishable produce like pasta, biscuits and breakfast cereal
- Size 4 & 6 nappies – always a real need !
- Tinned meats – ham, corned beef etc.
- Tinned HALAL meat products
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned coconut milk
- Kids' treats
-

Thanks in anticipation.

Margaret

MacMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Big thank you to all who helped or contributed in any way. We made a fantastic total of £655 - Linda

CHRISTMAS FAIR– Saturday November 21st 10.00 - 12.00

We've now had a very helpful planning meeting for the Christmas fair which helped make decisions on what we're going to be offering this year and who has volunteered to help. We can always use more volunteers!

On the last Sunday in October, we'll be putting out boxes at the back of Church, for your kind gifts for the Toiletries and Candles stall, Christmas hamper raffle, and Chocolate tombola. The boxes will be clearly marked, as we don't want perfumed items in with food items.

Your offers of cakes for the cake stall and refreshments room will be gratefully received by Sandra Noble, Jenny Nowell, Pauline Maddock and Debbie Wells nearer the date of the Fair.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for this Fundraiser for the church
Catriona Stoker

FAIR TRADE MATTERS

- There will be a stall on Sunday, October 11th after the morning service with a good range of Christmas cards available, as well as the usual food.
- The Stockport Fairtrade Group's annual Fairtrade and Eco Christmas Fair will be held at the Guildhall, Stockport on Saturday November 14th from 10.00-3.00. There will be a good range of stalls as well as musical offerings from the Manchester Community Choir

WELCOME GROUP

For only the second time we have had to cancel the group for a week at the end of September, due to the unavailability of volunteers. It's that time of year when grandparents who have been tied up over the summer holidays with caring responsibilities take an autumn break! We feel we need at least 12 volunteers present as we use the whole building, offer a wide range of activities and like to be able to provide a listening ear to anyone who needs it. If you are interested in volunteering yourself (it isn't a weekly commitment, but does need a DBS check, which we can help with) or know someone who might have time on their hands on a Tuesday afternoon, please contact Catriona or Andy Stoker.

We are also happy to receive any donations of warm clothing, new underwear (any sex, size or age) or old suitcases. People are being moved on from the hotel very speedily at present, which means that they often need a bag to carry their belongings; some of their destinations are far afield, Aberdeen being the furthest we have heard of, but also Dundee, Huntingdon, Carlisle, Workington, Birmingham and Stoke. It does mean that some of our relationships with folk are very fleeting, but others we have got to know well. Please place any donations in the marked tub in

the foyer – we are trying to make Room 1 a more useable rather than a storage space! If you have larger donations eg of suitcases, please let us know, and if necessary, we can pick them up.

Thank you

Andy – andy.stoker@btinternet.com 0161 487 2010

Catriona – cat.stoker@btinternet.com 0161 487 2010

NEWS FROM DAVENPORT

Fund Raising Event. Please keep the 14th November free if you can. We are planning a big fund raising event. Plans are in the very early stages but we hope to have a Soup and Sweet afternoon with a few stalls etc. we are also going to ask the various groups who use the premises to come and either help or take part. We are going to need lots of help. More information flyers etc will be available nearer the time.

Harvest Festival. On Sunday 4th October we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival- God's goodness to us. The Local Arrangement Service will be led by Judith & Janet. Any harvest gifts you can bring will be very much appreciated and will go to Chelwood Food Bank. They are in particular need of sugar, cereals, and if possible small pasta sauces, but any tinned or packet goods will be welcome. On Sunday 4th it will also be our prayer meeting at 10.00am which will be led by David & Linda Clarke.

Shoebox Appeal. I can't believe it's that time of year again. I have sent for the leaflets and some boxes which I hope to have before the weekend. The boxes are 50p each, but if anyone has any shoeboxes they don't want we would be glad of them. The collection date will be Wednesday 11th November so the boxes will need to be in church by Sunday 8th November please. Many thanks Janet

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