

Part of East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders Missional Partnership (United Reformed Church)



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

THE LINK

**December/
January 2026**



**"The East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders is a
Christian Church, living out the love of God by
reaching into the heart of each community and
responding to its needs"**

Dear Friends,



It is hard to believe that we are close to the end of another year, and as we reflect, we give thanks for all that has been shared among our churches — the worship, fellowship, service, and witness that continue to shine God's light in each of our communities, throughout some challenging times. Advent and Christmas remind us that God chooses to come among us — not in grandeur or power, but in the quiet places of ordinary life. We see that same presence in the care shown within our congregations, in the hospitality offered to neighbours, and in the partnerships that reach beyond our churches. Each small act of love and faith is part of God's ongoing life among us.

As we move from Advent waiting to Christmas celebration, and onward into a new year, may we continue to look for where God is already at work — in our villages, towns, and streets — and join in with renewed hope and imagination. The challenges around us are real, yet so too are the signs of grace: new friendships formed, projects shared across churches, and lives touched by compassion. Let us enter 2026 with that same spirit of unity and faith that has carried us through the past year. May our pastorate continue to be a network of care, prayer, and shared service — a living sign of God with us.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5

May we experience Christ's peace this Christmas and throughout the year ahead.

*Blessings,
Margaret*



Finding God in Scripture



ONLY JESUS CAN SATISFY YOUR SOUL

They have dug cisterns that can hold no water Jeremiah 2 v13 NLT
We are desirous by nature. We keep desiring things just like we keep taking our next breath. The trouble is, when we get the things we crave, they don't bring us the happiness we yearn for. So, we keep looking for more and more things. Online shops are in the business of "**creating need**". Things we had assigned to our want category are switched to our need category. But according to a theologian, here is the problem: "We cannot get enough of what we do not need. No matter how much we have, we remain not-enough people. For not-enough people, there exists no lasting soul satisfaction. I saw an ad that featured the tagline yesterday I didn't know it existed; today I can't live without it. It's called the myth of MORE, the myth that one day MORE will be enough. If we believe this myth, we spend our lives looking for the next thing. It might be a car, or a promotion, or the love of a beautiful woman or handsome man. It might be, depending on your age, an iPod, or a Lamborghini, or a Tickle Me Elmo doll. We keep hoping that the next thing will be it – the source of true satisfaction for our souls. For a few minutes, or perhaps days, we experience true soul satisfaction. Then it wears off. It always wears off."

Understand this: only Jesus can satisfy; everything else disappoints. God said: My people have done two evil things: they have abandoned me - the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all! If you are tired of living an empty life, come to Jesus. He will not disappoint you. *Taken from the UCB Word For Today, written by Bob and Debby Gass. Free copies are available in the UK from United Christian Broadcasters, UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF or at ucb.co.uk. Used with permission.*



Coffee and Cake, Conversation, Games and Jigsaws - every Wednesday during school term time, 10am-12noon at St. Martin's Church Hall, Brabyns Brow, Marple Bridge.

At the Ridge Methodist Church on Sunday 7th December there will be a Christmas Celebration at 3-4 p.m. where we will have fun making Christingles and other Christmas activities, followed by a Carol Service at 4.00 p.m. All welcome to one or both events

From Chris Taylor (M)

Annual Wellspring Walk 2025

It was a fine day when members of Churches Together started their sponsored walk and fortunately the weather stayed fine for the whole of the day. A group of about 25 walkers (and 2 dogs) gathered outside Holy Spirit Church here in Marple on Saturday 11th October and, following a short prayer, set off at 10.00am. The walk took the usual route the objective being to visit 10 churches beginning and ending in Marple and spread over an area reaching from Mellor to Compstall. The overall distance walked is around 10 miles and involves some very hilly countryside providing spectacular views particularly from Marple Ridge and St Thomas' Church, Mellor. Fortunately, some respite is provided on the more gentle, leafy towpaths of the Peak Forest canal. This is, however, short lived as the path soon

leaves the canal to eventually begin the long ascent to St Thomas' Church, the highest part of the walk, where walkers are welcomed with a hot drink and have time to recover before descending to Marple Bridge and then the long walk by road to St Paul's at Compstall. The final leg of the journey (for those who hadn't 'fallen by the wayside') took walkers through Brabyn's Park and, following a final short climb, a visit to St Martins where the walk ended.

Simon Taylor took part in the walk as usual representing our Marple Church and with the usual generous sponsorship raised the amazing sum of £347.04 for this very worthwhile local charity.



Thanks to all those who took part.

Articles from Members of the Missional Partnership.....

NB: last date for February articles is Sunday January 18th

Some memories from Remembrance Sunday. Marple and Marple Bridge URC joined Marple Methodist Church. The Poppy Tree was made from 1500 knitted poppies, and all around the church there were knitted members of the Armed Forces.



At Hatherlow Church the church was beautifully decorated with poppies.



**‘They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old:
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning.
We will remember them’**

Request from Jill Kenna (M)

Marple URC are looking for a wheelchair to keep on the premises. If anyone has one they are willing to donate, please contact Jill Kenna or any of the Marple elders.

From Pauline Harrison (M)

Shoeboxes being forwarded to Ukraine

International Aid picked up 65 shoeboxes at the end of October - a "Huge Thank You" to everyone who has donated items and money - especially you wonderful knitters! It was amazing that at a Wednesday morning at Marple URC we managed to pack so many!



From Ruth Miller (Hatherlow & George Lane)
A Christmas poem by Jeffrey Archer

THE SON OF GOD

He was born in a barn, His father a carpenter and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education. And yet, as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers.

He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven and living off bread and water and the occasional fish, while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen.

He became the manager of a football team known as The Disciples, not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition.

The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God.

They strung him up with a couple of criminals and when he finally gave up the ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they'd hear of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain claimed on more than one occasion that he'd never been a member of His team.

When He died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career; no radio programmes to discuss his legacy and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, He'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting His brand, or spin doctors to sharpen his image, and he didn't require

social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So, how can one explain that over two thousand years later, Jesus Christ is still the best-known celebrity on earth?
Could it just be that He was the Son of God?

From Margaret Bailey (MB)

On Sunday 7th December at Marple Bridge URC at 6:00pm, there will be a concert entitled .. '**Marple Bridge-mas!** - featuring beautiful festive music, old and new, for acoustic instruments and voices featuring the RNCM's Juna Quartet'. The concert will last for about an hour (no interval). Entry is by donation with proceeds to The Wellspring . Tickets are available (phone 0161 427 1715) or on the door (subject to availability). Mulled wine, non-alcoholic drinks and mince pies will be served after the concert.

The recorder group

The next two meetings will be on 11th December and 29th January 2026, at 2p.m. at my house. Thereafter we will meet on the 4th Thursday in each month.

From Ian Kenna (M)

WILLOW

Mother of Pearl sky
Quiet but for pigeon coos
Rippling through hopeful stillness.

I can see a Willow
From my bedroom window.
It is waiting for something.
Its branches are like lanky ghosts,
The wind tries to set them loose
But the tree, politely stubborn
Clings on, knowing that the year
Has turned, knowing that soon,
Soon, they'll come back to life.

Gideon Heugh

Used with kind permission of the author and Tearfund.



From Ruth Miller (Hatherlow & George Lane)

COMPASSION

We sponsor a girl, Princess, under this scheme and we have received a letter thanking us for our continued support. Our monthly sponsorship provides her with medical check-ups, meals, education and spiritual guidance.

Often the sponsored children do not come from Christian homes so we have been asked to pray for Princess and her parents, family and caregivers that they may come to know and receive the love of Christ.

From Rev Alison Termie – PART TWO OF MY TRAVELS

Continuing from the November edition of the Link

So it was that on 30th September, 17 individuals from around the UK landed in Palermo on the north coast of Sicily and met up in the Albergo Athenaeum hotel where we were to stay for 4 nights....

.... On the western outskirts of the city outside the main historic and tourist centre it was surrounded on all sides by the tall apartment blocks of the city's families and bordered on all sides by the main roads which were always busy and so loud as everybody drives with one hand on the horn.

The next day we walked down into the historic centre of the city and visited the cathedral, the Capella Palatinate and the Palazzo dei Normanni among others all very ornate and beautiful surrounded by parks and gardens. One of our group, who has lived some years in Rome, showed us how to cross the roads. There are no light operated pedestrian crossings but plenty of Zebra crossings. The trick is ... don't dither! Quick prayer, then stride out into the multi-lane traffic and don't stop. The cars will not hit you, some of them might even stop for you!

The following day we went to visit the first Waldensian project called 'La Noce' which works with some of the poorest families in Palermo, providing a kindergarten, some sheltered housing, medical, social, and psychological help and an enrichment project for young people raising their self esteem and giving hope. This is all within an environment which has for generations been under the thumb of the Mafia.

On the Friday we went inland by minibus to Riesi, a small town in the agricultural heart of Sicily where we were warmly welcomed at Servizio Cristiano the Waldensian guest house and project. Here

over five days we were introduced to the work that they have been doing here since the 1960s. Here they have a kindergarten and primary school, a diagnostic and treatment centre for children with SEND needs, a project working with young people with complex needs, building independence and potential supported employment opportunities for individuals that might otherwise be confined to the home out of shame. They also run a project for women and their children fleeing abusive homes and an agricultural project to encourage entrepreneurship (especially among women) within a social system that is almost entirely built around the traditional family unit.

We were blown away by the scope of their projects and their faith that changing individual lives can transform a society.

At the same time we spent time each day sightseeing in the valley of temples and the Roman villa full of wonderful mosaics at Armerina, as well as worshipping with the local church on Sunday. Leaving Riesi we travelled to Ragusa, a city in two parts separated in the 1800s by an earthquake. We had time to explore this lovely city before heading by local bus to Sicily where we were welcomed by 'Mediterranean Hope' an ecumenical project that works with Refugees coming in through two Humanitarian corridors for resettlement in Sicily. The next day we headed to Siracusa where members of the group began to prepare for home. However, six of us had other plans. We stayed in Siracusa for three more days, sightseeing and then got on the train Siracusa to Milan, 2 nights in Milan then by train Milan to Paris, Eurostar and home.

I had a wonderful time, thank you very much for making it possible and encouraging me to think big. But you know 2027 for the next Waldensian trip, perhaps to northern Italy, is not so far away and the age range was early 60s to mid 90s -so keep reading the synod newsletter and maybe I'll see you there. *Alison*

From Barbara Northover (MB)

I
wrote
a poem
in the shape
of a Christmas tree
but then forgot
to water it, and only a few
days
later

there
were *words*

all *over the* *carpet*

From Chris Lomax (MB)

WINTER WONDERLAND



On Saturday 6th December in Town Street, Marple Bridge.

Marple Bridge Church will be open for tea/coffee/mince pies from 12 noon-4pm and there will be a collection for Wood Street Mission.

There will be activities for children, card sale. We will also be showing previous Nativity concerts of MB Rainbows.



From Ian Kenna (M)

A Prayer for December and January

SHAKE, MOVE AND DISPLACE US, O GOD

Oh God
Too often we have spoken
When we should have been silent
And we have been silent
When we should have spoken.

Shake us from our apathy
Move us from our misunderstanding
Displace us from our discrimination.

So, we can pray and act for justice
In our churches
In our communities
In our world
In Jesus name,

Amen

Nicola Robinson, URC Prayer Handbook



From Clare Ridgway (MB)

Christmas concert, 20th December @ 7.30pm

Werneth Concert Band, based at Chadkirk, welcomes you to a Christmas Concert on Saturday, 20th December, 7.30pm, at St Paul's Church, Compstall, SK6 5HU.

Tickets cost £12 and can be bought on the door or from the website www.wernethconcertband.org.uk. The band recently won a gold standard at the National Concert Band Festival in Oldham, and will play a selection from that music and other light Christmas music.

The band are also playing carols at Romiley Precinct 10.30-12 noon on December 13th, the Spread Eagle, Hatherlow, 8pm, on December 18th, and at Morrisons, Bredbury, 10.30-12 noon, on December 24th, raising money for the charity Maggie's in Oldham, which supports families with cancer.

From Margaret M-Jones (Short Street)

I was a Reception teacher for many years and, consequently, helped to arrange dozens of Nativity plays. The following poem reminds me a lot of our Nativity plays in the 1960s and 1970s. They are probably a lot more sophisticated now!

NATIVITY PLAY by Clare Bevan

Here is an inn with a stable, equipped with some straw and a chair.
Here is an angel in bed sheets, with tinsel to tie back her hair.
Here is a servant in bath towels, who sweeps round the stage with a broom. Here is a chorus of faces, all eager to cry out 'NO ROOM!'

Here is a Joseph, who stammers and tries to remember his lines.
Here is a teacher in anguish, who, frantically, beckons and signs.
Here is 'Away in a Manger', a tune most recorders can play.
Here is the moment of wonder as Jesus appears in the hay.

Here is a Mary, with freckles, whose baby is plastic and hard.
Here is a donkey in trousers with ears made from pieces of card.
Here is a shepherd in curtains, who carries a crook made of wire.
Here is a boy sucking cough sweets, who growls from the back of the choir.

Here is a king, bearing bath salts, who points at a star hung on strings, and here is a dove, who has stage fright and quivers her crepe paper wings.
Here is a page boy in trainers, who stumbles his way up the stairs.
Here is a long line of angels, who march round the manger in pairs.

Here is a camel who fidgets, with plasters stuck over his knee.
Here are some sheep who just giggle and think no-one out there can see! Here is a Herod in glasses, who whispers, so nobody hears.
Here is a mum with hankies to cover her pride and her tears.

Here is our final production and though it is still held up with pins, the parents will love every minute - for THIS IS WHERE CHRISTMAS BEGINS.

BITS AND PIECES

What does one say that's new and profound for the Christmas /New year newsletter? Nothing, it's all been said a thousand times, I then had a dose of nostalgia - remembering the times, in my case a long time ago when it was bedtime and story time for children of a certain age. You invited them to pick a book and you



are surprised it's the same one and the same story required again. No you are not surprised it's the one they liked the best (probably

the longest). So you read and eyes begin to close so keep the voice low and skip a couple of papers, eyes are open and you are informed you have missed some out - would you please go back; yes we can.

We Christians have a story to tell and it's worth telling again and again.

There is a painting by Raphael which you have seen many times and it has been copied hundreds of times. It's 15th century Florence - Botticelli, Michael Angelo and Leonardo to name just three of many great Renaissance artists operating at the same time. It is said he is the perfect Renaissance artist, the embodiment of the Renaissance ideal, a gracious and charming man, a painter of great skill. I have read that he went into great detail in preparing for the final painting producing dozens of sketches of hands, heads, the drapery and much more. He did paint many pictures of the Madonna. They are characterized by their grace, sweetness and modesty This painting is of the Madonna and Child. No background no fancy clothes,

nothing to take your eye from the beautiful young woman with her precious child (who looks about six months old!!) and looks like all those other babies you have read to and played with over the years. It was sad that Raphael died of a fever on his birthday 6th April 1520 - he was 37 years old.

Show me that picture again please of Jesus and his Mum!
Happy Christmas to all, Keith

(Thanks to Barbara for editing our Link Keith)

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From Chris Lomax (MB) – taken from an article in the Guardian.

Norman Greenbaum, singer, guitarist, songwriter said “My label said a four-minute single with lyrics about Jesus would never get played on radio, but in 1969 the song sold two million copies. It has now been number 1 in three different decades.

Spirit in the Sky started as an old blues riff I had been playing since my college days in Boston. I had come across a greeting card with a picture of some Native Americans praying to the ‘Spirit in the Sky’. This gave me the idea to write religious lyrics. Although I came from a semi-religious Jewish family I wasn’t religious, but found myself writing Christian lyrics, such as “When I die and they lay me to rest, I’m going to the place that’s the best “and “Gotta have a friend in Jesus”.

The rest is history

From Phil Taylor (Hatherlow & George Lane)

The Story of The Christmas Guest
by Helen Steiner Rice

It happened one day at the year's white end,
Two neighbours called on an old-time friend
And they found his shop so meager and mean,
Made merry with a thousand boughs of green,
And Conrad was sitting with face a-shine
When he suddenly stopped as he stitched a twine
And said, "Old friends, at dawn today,
When the cock was crowing the night away,
The Lord appeared in a dream to me
And said, 'I am coming your guest to be.'
So I've been busy with feet astir,
Strewing my shop with branches of fir,
The table is spread and the kettle is shined
And over the rafters the holly is twined,
And now I will wait for my Lord to appear
And listen closely so I will hear
His step as He nears my humble place,
And I open the door and look in His face."
So his friends went home and left Conrad alone,
For this was the happiest day he had known,
For, long since, his family had passed away
And Conrad has spent a sad Christmas Day.
But he knew with the Lord as his Christmas guest

This Christmas would be the dearest and best,
And he listened with only joy in his heart.
And with every sound he would rise with a start
And look for the Lord to be standing there
In answer to his earnest prayer
So he ran to the window after hearing a sound,
But all that he saw on the snow-covered ground



Was a shabby beggar whose shoes were torn
And all of his clothes were ragged and worn.
So Conrad was touched and went to the door
And he said, "Your feet must be frozen and sore,
And I have some shoes in my shop for you
And a coat that will keep you warmer, too."
So with grateful heart the man went away,
But as Conrad noticed the time of day

He wondered what made the dear Lord so late
And how much longer he'd have to wait,
When he heard a knock and ran to the door,
But it was only a stranger once more,



A bent, old crone with a shawl of black,
A bundle of kindling piled on her back.
She asked for only a place to rest,
But that was reserved for Conrad's Great Guest.
But her voice seemed to plead, "Don't send me
away

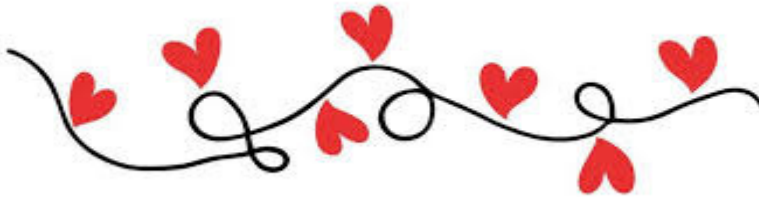
Let me rest awhile on Christmas day."
So Conrad brewed her a steaming cup

And told her to sit at the table and sip.
But after she left he was filled with dismay
For he saw that the hours were passing away
And the Lord had not come as He said He
would,
And Conrad felt sure he had misunderstood.
When out of the stillness he heard a cry,
"Please help me and tell me where am I."
So again he opened his friendly door
And stood disappointed as twice before,
It was only a child who had wandered away
And was lost from her family on Christmas Day.
Again Conrad's heart was heavy and sad,
But he knew he should make this little child glad,
So he called her in and wiped her tears
And quieted her childish fears.
Then he led her back to her home once more
But as he entered his own darkened door,
He knew that the Lord was not coming today
For the hours of Christmas had passed away.
So he went to his room and knelt down to pray
And he said, "Dear Lord, why did you delay?
What kept You from coming to call on me,
For I wanted so much Your face to see."
When soft in the silence a voice he heard,
"Lift up your head, for I kept My word -



Three times My shadow crossed your floor -

Three times I came to your lonely door -
For I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet,
I was the woman you gave to eat,
And I was the child on the homeless street.
Three times I knocked and three times I came in,
And each time I found the warmth of a friend.
Of all the gifts, love is the best,
And I was honoured to be your Christmas Guest."



From Ruth Miller (Hatherlow and George Lane)

CRAFT-A-NOON 1.30 - 4 p.m. and then each first and third Tuesday in the month. All welcome.

TUESDAY CLUB each fourth Tuesday in the month.
Everyone welcome.

COFFEE MORNING is ongoing from 10 - 12 each Wednesday.
Tea. Coffee, Toast and Toasted Tea Cakes (at very reasonable prices!) and a smile and a chat!

MARPLE NEWS & NOTICES



wishes in December go to:

Heather Spreckley (3rd), Margie Jenkins (4th),
Gladys Berry (10th), Chris Taylor (26th),
Ian Wakefield (26th)

and in January ...

Jenny Austen (14th), Pauline Harrison (26th),
George Kynaston (29th)

Services in December

Please note Services start at 10:30am

7th Jan Tate (Communion) at Marple URC
14th Kathryn Price at Marple Methodist Church
21st Rev. Jonnie Hill at Marple Bridge URC
25th Christmas Day Service – Rev Jenny Austen
28th Rev David Jenkins after Christmas Carols

And in January

4th Rev. David Jenkins at Marple URC
11th Katie Smith (Communion) at Marple Methodist Ch
18th Frank Dean at Marple Bridge
25th Worship Group



We collected £81.00 in November, and I will take this together with the donations we collect in December for their Christmas Meal.

Ian Kenna (M)

From Sue Ardern

Marple URC Handbells team are seeking NEW members to join the group. Practise evenings are: Tuesdays from 7pm-9p.m at Marple URC in Hibbert Lane.



STRICTLY COME TOGETHER

Wednesday Mornings at Marple URC 10.30am-12.00

DECEMBER AND JANUARY - All are welcome

December

3rd 'Rhymes and Reasons' (Lesley Walker)

10th 'Gambia' (Jane McLean & Jamie)

17th Celebrating Christmas

24th No SCT

31st No SCT

January

7th Opportunity to chat

14th Quiz

21st Your choice of Music

28th Topic tba (Jenny Austen)

STRICTLY COME CRAFT

For children and their families



Saturday 6th December

Saturday 17th January

4pm -6pm - at Marple United Reformed Church

MARPLE BRIDGE NEWS & NOTICES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishes in December to

Sue Bolderson (21st) Gerda Menzies (27th)

And in January

Barbara Northover (4th) Alison Rudder (5th)

Greg Pass (9th), Revd Alison Termie (13th)

Services in December

Please note Services start at 10:30am

- 7th Jan Tate (Communion) at Marple URC**
- 14th Kathryn Price at Marple Methodist Church**
- 21st Rev. Jonnie Hill at Marple Bridge URC**
- 24th Christmas Eve - midnight communion**
- 25th Christmas Day - Ray Cochrane**
- 28th Rev. Margaret Dexter-Brown**

And in January

- 4th Rev. David Jenkins at Marple URC**
- 11th Katie Smith (Communion) at Marple Methodist Ch**
- 18th Frank Dean at Marple Bridge**
- 25th Chris Whitehead**

Message from Janet Hughes

I would like to thank all those people who sent me Get Well cards, food parcels and messages of support while I have been recovering from my hip replacement operation. I have also appreciated the lifts to and from appointments. I feel truly blessed to be surrounded by the love of our church family and my wider group of friends *With love, Janet*

From Cath and Colin Fox

Update from Lend with Care Donations

With the repayments received from previous loans, we have reinvested £100 to the Sarwar Solar Group. This is a group which comprises of four men living in the district of Kasur, Pakistan. They are all small farmers aged between nineteen and thirty-seven. Collectively, they have twelve children, six of whom are in education. Across their households, they support a total of eighteen dependents. They all farm their land and grow wheat in winter and rice in summer.

The group currently use a tube well powered by diesel and electricity to extract water for irrigation. This has become costly due to rising fuel prices and is not environmentally sustainable. To address this, the group requested a loan to purchase and install a 7.5 kilowatt solar powered tube well with twelve solar panels. They believe that, although the initial investment is significant, it will ultimately reduce fuel costs, minimise noise, and benefit the environment.

Furthermore, it will allow them to irrigate their crops as needed, increasing yields and profitability. The introduction of solar technology offers a long-term advantage and the local environment

We feel this is a wonderful opportunity to support such a good project. We hope you all agree. Many thanks to you all who contribute each Sunday to the Lend with Care box.

From Joyce Timperley

'I have been interested in Art History for many years now and what intrigues me about the Renaissance period in particular, is the relationship to preaching. To understand Renaissance paintings and wall murals we have to try to look at them through the eyes of the 14th and 15th century church goer.

The painter, whether it was Filippo Lippi, Fra Angelico, Leonardo or any others of that era, visualised the Holy Stories and many of the Preachers during that period, used to translate these during their sermons because most of the congregation couldn't read or write and had great difficulty in visualisation.

The Preacher would move over much of the painting, or wall mural explaining the meaning of events and the importance of the various hand and body gestures and significance to the social period at that time. A good example is the wall mural in the church of Campo Santo in Pisa, Italy which depicts Heaven and Hell and would have been a clear message on 'forgiveness.'

Even today, when I visit Italy, I have to remind myself of the Holy Stories I learnt as a child at Hatherlow Sunday School, as well as to draw on the individual language of the painters.

The next Working Party at MB will be on
Saturday 10th January 2026 ... All Welcome



MARPLE METHODIST CHURCH

Services in December

Please note Services start at 10:30am

- 7th Jan Tate (Communion) at Marple URC**
- 14th Kathryn Price at Marple Methodist Church**
- 21st Rev. Jonnie Hill at Marple Bridge URC**

And in January

- 4th Rev. David Jenkins at Marple URC**
- 11th Katie Smith (Communion) at Marple Methodist Ch**
- 18th Frank Dean at Marple Bridge**
- 25th Janet Amey/Sue Wheeldon**

PROVIDENCE NEWS & NOTICES

Services in December/January

December

- 7th Revd David Jenkins (communion)**
- 14th Revd Adam Scott - Carol service 6.30pm**
- 21st Revd Peter Sharp**
- 25th Dr Richard Britton**
- 28th tbc**

January

- 4th Revd Jonnie Hill (communion)**
- 11th Revd Jonnie Hill,**
- 18th Alison Pope**
- 25th Revd Adam Scott.**

ADVENT SUNDAY – NATIVITAS

A Service of poetry and music for Advent and Christmas.
Words by David Broadbridge and music by Philip Moore.

Jane Forshaw (Reader) and Gordon Stewart (Organist)
On SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30TH AT 10:30am

PROVIDENCE AT CHRISTMAS – OPEN CHURCH WEEK

December 9th-12th.

Coffee from 10.30am

Christmas Music on the Binns Organ at 11.15am

Homemade soup and bread at 12 noon.

ALL WELCOME.

Chatty Cafe at Providence

All are welcome to drop in to our weekly chatty cafe on
Wednesdays from 2pm-4pm. Good company, and home-made
cakes on offer!

SHORT STREET NEWS



wishes in December/January go to:

Dec. 4th. Pat. Jobson

9th. Christine Barker

13th. Ken Addy

29th. Ronnie Bariek

Jan. 14th. Eunice Williams

22nd. Jake Ijima

29th. Margaret Harrop. (80)

Services in December

- 7th Rev. J. Hill. (c)**
- 14th Service at H.G. Methodist**
- 21st Christmas Celebrations**
- 24th At 6.30pm. Candlelight Service.**
- 25th At 10a.m. Christmas Day Service**
Mr. E Allman
- 28th Worship Group**

And in January

- 4th Rev. M. Aspinall (c)**
- 11th Service at H.G. methodist**
- 18th Worship Group**
- 25th Mrs B. Aspinall -Leprosy Sunday**
(Retiring Collection)

*It will be lovely to see you at our Christmas services on the
21st December 10.30am. Christmas Eve 6.30 pm and
Christmas Day 25th December. 10am.*

Events leading to Christmas.

Posting Christmas cards to members and friends in church -
30th November and 7th December - Distribution: 21st
December. Donations to Rainbow Trust

4th December. Christmas Light switch on at the top of
Commercial Road. Hazel Grove. 4pm to 8pm

13th December. 2pm. (Admission £5 including Afternoon Tea)
Christmas Concert at Short Street URC.

Once again our brilliant pianist Jamie will be playing and it will include a sing-along. Tickets available from any elder.
All Welcome.

CHATTY CAFE is back. Every Wednesday from 15th October
Come along for a chat and have tea or coffee and toast. From
10am to 12 noon - FREE OF CHARGE.

This is a joint venture between Short Street URC and Hazel
Grove Methodist Church.

All Welcome

TINTWISTLE & GLOSSOP NEWS

Services in December

- 7th Alan Willis**
- 14th Vince Ryder**
- 21st Carol Service – Elders**
- 25th Christmas Day (10:00am) – Elders**
- 28th Revd. Mike Aspinall**

And in January

- 4th Revd Jenny Austen (Communion)**
- 11th Vince Ryder**
- 18th Joyce Blundell**
- 25th Revd Mike Aspinall**

HATHERLOW & GEORGE LANE NEWS

Services in December

- 7th Carol Service, led by the Elders**
- 14th Chris Whitehead**
- 21st Bob Clarke**
- 25th TBC**
- 28th Rod Wallace**

And in January

- 4th Rev Paul Frampton**
- 11th Rev Margaret Dexter-Brown**
- 18th Elders**
- 25th Rev Margaret Dexter-Brown**

🤔 Here is photographic evidence that Rudolph was not allowed to play in any reindeer games.



And finally

Merry Christmas to everyone who sends articles for the Link and readers who enjoy reading it throughout the year.



Please could you send all items for the
FEBRUARY 2026 edition of the Link
to Barbara Northover -
(email:northoverfamily@gmail.com)



NO LATER THAN SUNDAY JANUARY 18TH

Please check the Pastorate website for any events, which are happening in all churches:

www.ecdbmp.wordpress.com and scroll down the page. The website is frequently updated!

Part of East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders Missional Partnership

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Marple

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Secretary: Mrs Jill Kenna

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Secretary. Jo Moores

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The Missional Partnership also includes **Whaley Bridge (Uniting Church)**. To find out more about each church and its activities, please see the new website (address inside back cover).