

**Stockport and High Peak Missional Partnership  
(United Reformed Church)**



**Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972**

# **THE LINK**

**JULY**



**2026**

**"The Stockport and High Peak Missional Partnership 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,*

As summer unfolds around us and the days stretch long with light, we are reminded of the quiet ways God restores us. Like the river that moves steadily through our countryside, grace flows through our lives — sometimes softly, almost unnoticed, yet always carrying us forward. Whether this season brings rest, recovery, or simply a change of pace, may we find moments to pause, breathe, and let God's peace settle gently within us.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus offers a gracious invitation: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Rest is not simply about stopping; it is about being renewed in the presence of God. In a world that often seems busy and demanding, the summer can be a valuable opportunity to slow down and remember that our worth is not measured by how much we do, but by the love of the One who calls us His own.

At the same time, summer is not an ending but a season of preparation. As we enjoy these weeks of rest, we can also look forward with hope to all that lies ahead. September often brings a fresh beginning in the life of our churches: new activities, renewed ministries, and fresh opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ in our communities.

The words of Isaiah encourage us: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" God is always at work, often in ways we do not immediately see. Even during quieter seasons, He is preparing hearts, opening doors, and leading His people forward.

As we rest this summer, may we do so with gratitude. As we look ahead to the autumn, may we do so with expectation. Let us pray that God will renew our strength, deepen our faith, and equip us afresh for the mission He has entrusted to us. May you know God's peace, refreshment, and blessing throughout these summer months. With every good wish and God's blessing,  
*Margaret Dexter-Brown*

## **Finding God in Scripture**



### **HAVE YOU BEEN WRONGED? FORGIVE!**

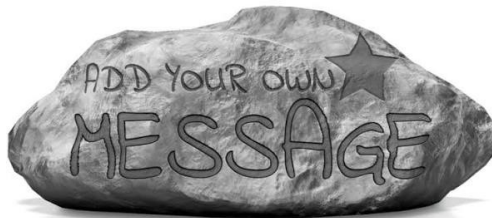
*Bearing with one another and forgiving one another.  
Colossians 3 v13 NKJB*

When you study the lives of those who were greatly used by God in the Bible, you see that they were not spared from hurt, disappointment, or even betrayal. The truth is, if you live long enough, you will be wronged by someone. The question is, how will you react? The apostle Paul tells us how we should act:  
*Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you so you also must do.*

The story is told of two friends who were walking through the desert when they got into an argument. One friend slapped the other in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, he wrote in the sand, “Today my best friend slapped me in the face.” They kept walking until they found an oasis. Since they were thirsty, they stopped for water. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire, fell in, and started to drown. His friend then reached out and saved him. That night the friend who had just been saved etched this in a stone: “Today my best friend saved my life.”

The friend who had first slapped him and then saved him asked, “After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand. And now you write on a stone. Why?” He replied, “When someone hurts us we should write it in sand, where the winds of forgiveness can blow and erase it. But when someone does something good for us, we should engrave it in stone where it will be long remembered.”

Mercy forgets wrongs and remembers rights!



*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](http://ucb.co.uk). Used with permission.*



### *Message from Tony Baron*

Marple and District Churches Together Christian Aid contributions for 2026 ...

Churches and Community:	£2787
Plant and Cake Sale:	£1075
On-line:	£1403
Gift Aid:	£655
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£5920</b>

A HUGE 'THANK YOU' to all who supported and donated in any way.

### *Message from the Ridge Methodist Church*

The next Movement and Mindfulness at The Ridge Methodist will be on Tuesday July 14th at 11 am.

*Articles from Members of the Missional Partnership.....*  
*NB: last date for August is 19<sup>th</sup> July. Would people mind sending articles for the Link before this date if possible, as I struggle getting it finished for printing. Thanks, Barbara x*

*From Margaret Bailey (MB)*

### **The recorder group**

**The next meetings will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 2p.m. at my house. Please note there will be no meeting in August.**



*From Ian Kenna (M)*

### **GOOD NEWS**

Significant progress has been made on access to water sanitation and hygiene this century. Since 2000, 2.1 billion people gained access to safe drinking water, 2.5 billion now have safely managed sanitation, and the number of people using unimproved facilities such as bucket latrines has been halved from 1.1 billion to 545 million, a World Health Organisation report has announced.

*Sunday Times Magazine*



*From Liz Delafield , Mission and Discipleship Mentor  
Northwestern Synod (South Area)*

## **What's in a name?**

The name of our Missional Partnership is now Stockport and High Peak Missional Partnership.

Thank you to all those who sent in suggested names. There were several good ideas.

This name was chosen as it reflects where we are, and will help us as we make connections with both ecumenical and Civic Partners.

## **Discerning a call**

Over the next few months, the process for calling new ministers to our partnership will begin.

An updated partnership profile has been written outlining information about our partnership.

Please pray for candidates who are discerning a move and for the moderators who meet regularly to reflect on current vacancies.

Also pray for your steering group reps as they discern the way forward for the partnership.

We are reflecting on how we might better work together and support one another, recognising our different but connected contexts. If you have any thoughts or reflections about this, please contact me or your steering group rep.

We are in a time of transition at the moment, and heartfelt thanks go to our Ministers, Margaret and Mike, our church elders, worship leaders and all those who are working hard for the Mission of God in our churches and the communities we serve.

## **A prayer**



Loving God, be with the churches in our partnership at this time of change. Bless our ministers, elders and congregations as we share in the tasks of ministry. Help us to see your hand at work within the communities of Stockport and High Peak. Thank you for all those who serve with us.

Grant wisdom and openness to all those ministers listening for a new call, and for all those charged with the processes of discerning a call. In the name of God the Trinity of love. Amen.

*From Ian Kenna (M)*

**Prayer for the Summer .....**

## **AS ONE UNKNOWN**

If I had been there, Jesus,  
When you walked upon the earth,  
I would have longed to touch you,  
To shake your hand or kiss your face,  
And feel your skin on mine.

But you are not here like that now,  
Not even a recording of your voice  
A photo or a film clip to watch,  
No post on Instagram nor podcast,  
Nothing tangible, not a thing to see.

Yet never quite an ineffable mystery,  
You come to me in broken bread,  
In fragments of parable and passion,  
By the lives and songs of saints  
And in the gathering of your people.

So, I will look where two or three  
Gather in your name to pray  
And I will shake their hands in peace  
And offer my eager love  
That I may see there the image  
of your face.

**Susan Durber**

*URC Prayer Handbook*



*From Barbara Northover (MB)*

*Hope Fathers everywhere enjoyed their special day in June.*

## **Fathers are Wonderful People**

Too little understood, and we do not sing their praises,  
As often as we should ....

For, somehow, Father seems to be the man who pays the bills,  
while Mother binds up little hurts and nurses all our ills....

And Father struggles daily to live up to 'HIS IMAGE'  
as protector and provider and hero of the scrimmage .....

And perhaps that is the reason we sometimes get the notion, that  
Fathers are not subject to the thing we call emotion.

But if you look inside Dad's heart, where no-one else can see,  
you'll find he's sentimental, and as soft as he can be ...

But he's so busy every day in the gruelling race of life,  
he leaves the sentimental stuff to his partner and his wife ..

But Fathers are just WONDERFUL in a million different ways,  
and they merit loving compliments and accolades of praise.

For the only reason Dad aspires to fortune and success  
is to make the family proud of him and to bring them happiness ...

And like OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, he's a guardian and a guide,  
Someone that we can count on to be ALWAYS ON OUR SIDE.



*From Keith Whiting (T&G)*

## **Bits and Pieces**

### **Footnote to Mary and Jane**

Transportation of convicts to Australia ceased in 1868. During that 80 year period it is estimated that 165,000 were transported from the UK and Ireland as well as 1321 from other parts of the Empire (accurate figures available!!). The last ship with 279 convicts was sent to Western Australia, as labour was needed for the mining industry. Very few convicts returned home. Most served 7 years, the most common sentence for their crime -they were then free to leave or stay, find paid work or return home - but how?

The British government at the time passed the Transportation Act in the belief that it was cheaper than building more prisons. It's hard to imagine the suffering that the system caused to families. Once on the ship it was unlikely you would ever see your loved ones again. I like to think that Mary and Jane had better lives being convicts than living in 18th century London.

Times change. In 1851, gold was discovered in Australia and the government realised that the Transportation punishment was seen by many as a free ticket to the land of opportunity.

We now have a new word "Immigration" but now that causes "consternation" in many parts of the world.

Times change. The British government introduced what became known as the 'Ten Pound Poms' scheme. Australia needed people, and between 1947 and 1982 over one million British people relocated - is that another euphemism? Finally The ship, the Lady Juliana, was launched in 1777 last listed in Lloyd's register in 1829

### *From Clare Ridgway (MB)*

On Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm the Werneth Concert Band are playing a concert at New Mills Town Hall. It will be music from stage and screen, including classics such as James Bond, Morricone (from The Good, the Bad and the Ugly), Star Wars, The Dam Busters and the Avengers. Tickets (£12/£6) can be purchased on the door or from [www.wernethconcertband.org.uk](http://www.wernethconcertband.org.uk).

This year the band are supporting the charity Maggies of Oldham, who support the families and loved ones of those suffering with cancer. I have visited a few of these centres in different parts of the country, and the support they gave my family and I were excellent.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June, a sponsored walk from Maggies in Oldham to Chadkirk Industrial Estate, where the band rehearse, will take place. I am hoping for good weather! *Clare*

*From Ruth Miller (Hatherlow and George Lane)*

Craft-a-noon as usual on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month  
from 2.30 - 4p.m.

Tuesday Club on the 4th Tuesday in the month at 2.30p.m.

## **MARPLE NEWS & NOTICES**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*wishes in July go to:*

David Burridge (19<sup>th</sup>), Ian Kenna (23<sup>rd</sup>)

*Services in July- Please note Services start at 10.30am*

**5<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE URC -**

**Rev Paul Frampton with Holy Communion**

**12<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE METHODIST -**

**Deacon Jude Laycock**

**19<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE BRIDGE URC -**

**Rev Margaret Dexter-Brown**

**26<sup>th</sup> Worship Group at Marple URC**

## STRICTLY COME TOGETHER

Wednesday Mornings at Marple URC 10.30am-12.00

**JULY - All are welcome**

1<sup>st</sup> Armchair exercises (Jill Kenna)

8<sup>th</sup> Quiz

15<sup>th</sup> 'Elisha' (Jenny Austen)

22<sup>nd</sup> 'Call My Bluff'

29<sup>th</sup> Buffet Meal, 11.30 for 12 noon .....Please let Jenny or Anita know in advance if you are planning to come.

**There will be no SCT in August**

3<sup>rd</sup> September Time to chat etc.

## STRICTLY COME CRAFT



There will be no Strictly Come Craft in July or August. The next Strictly Come

Craft will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September



the wellspring - MARPLE .... £127.80 was given to The Wellspring recently, along with sleeping bags, fleeces and some food. Thanks to all who contribute faithfully to this worthy cause.

*Ian Kenna (M)*

# MARPLE BRIDGE NEWS & NOTICES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Wishes in July to ....*

Alison Hunter (10<sup>th</sup>), Lynne Cruickshank (24<sup>th</sup>)

Chris Dexter-Brown (27<sup>th</sup>)

Margaret Dexter-Brown (29<sup>th</sup>)

*Services in July*

*Please note Services start at 10.30am*

**5<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE URC -**

**Rev Paul Frampton with Holy Communion**

**12<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE METHODIST -**

**Deacon Jude Laycock**

**19<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE BRIDGE URC -**

**Rev Margaret Dexter-Brown**

**26<sup>th</sup> Frank Dean at Marple Bridge**



**Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> ... 10-12 noon**

**All Welcome**

# **MARPLE METHODIST CHURCH**

*Services in July - Please note Services start at 10:30am*

**5<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE URC -**

**Rev Paul Frampton with Holy Communion**

**12<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE METHODIST -**

**Deacon Jude Laycock**

**19<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE BRIDGE URC -**

**Rev Margaret Dexter-Brown**

**26<sup>th</sup> Anne Wilde**

## **PROVIDENCE NEWS & NOTICES**

*Services in July ....*

**5<sup>th</sup> Michael Brueck**

**12<sup>th</sup> Revd Peter Sharp**

**19<sup>th</sup> Gordon Stewart**

**26<sup>th</sup> Richard Britton.**

*A message from Judith Tierney*

I want to say a big thank you to everyone for all the lovely flowers, cards, presents and good wishes I received on my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a special day and I had a wonderful time. *With love from Judith.*

### **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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*wishes in July go to:*

3<sup>rd</sup> Linda Alderman,

7<sup>th</sup> Ellen Ijima, 12<sup>th</sup> Jane Ijima,

On the 16<sup>th</sup> Tracy Mullin will be 60

24<sup>th</sup> Christine Johnson

*Services in July at 10.30am*

**5<sup>th</sup> Mr Eddie Allman**

**12<sup>th</sup> Service at Hazel Grove Methodist Church**

**19<sup>th</sup> Worship Group**

**26<sup>th</sup> Rev. Mike Aspinall (C)**

# TINTWISTLE & GLOSSOP NEWS

*Services in July*

**5<sup>th</sup> Mike Aspinall (Communion)**

**12<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Service – Alan Kendrick**

**19<sup>th</sup> Alistair Cole**

**26<sup>th</sup> Henry Drabble**

# HATHERLOW & GEORGE LANE NEWS

*Services in July- 10.45a.m. start*

**5<sup>th</sup> Frank Dean**

**12<sup>th</sup> To be confirmed**

**19<sup>th</sup> Elders**

**26<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Gregory**

*And finally ....*

I got fired from my new job at the ice cream factory. I refused to work on Sundaes. That was in '99!



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

**NO LATER THAN SUNDAY JULY 19th  
(earlier if possible, thank you)**



**Please check the Pastorate website for any events, which are happening in all churches:  
[www.ecdbmp.wordpress.com](http://www.ecdbmp.wordpress.com) and scroll down the page. The website is frequently updated**

**Stockport and High Peak Missional Partnership**  
**Web: [www.ecdbmp.wordpress.com](http://www.ecdbmp.wordpress.com)**

**Please note from September the new website will be:**  
**Web: [www.shpurc.wordpress.com](http://www.shpurc.wordpress.com)**

**NSM Minister. Rev'd Mike Aspinall 07929 525909**  
**Email [mike54.ma@gmail.com](mailto:mike54.ma@gmail.com)**

**NSM Minister: Rev'd Margaret Dexter-Brown**  
**07974 651754**  
**Email: [margaretdexterbrown@icloud.com](mailto:margaretdexterbrown@icloud.com)**

**Mission Mentor: Liz Delafield 07740 112628**  
**Email [liz.Delafield@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:liz.Delafield@nwsynod.org.uk)**

**Moderator: Moderator Mike Thomason**  
**Email [moderator@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:moderator@nwsynod.org.uk)**  
**Phone: 08000 903 903**



## **Stockport and High Peak Missional Partnership**

### **Hatherlow and George Lane**

Otterspool Road, Romiley, Stockport. SK6 3DR

Secretary: Christine Corris:

07929628723.

### **Marple**

Hibbert Lane, Marple, Stockport. SK6 7NN

Secretary: Mrs Jill Kenna

01663 810088

### **Marple Bridge**

Hollins Lane, Marple Bridge, Stockport. SK6 5BB

Secretary: Mrs Alison Hunter

0161 427 7462

### **Providence, New Mills**

Mellor Road, New Mills, High Peak. SK22 4DP

Secretary: Penny Noon

Email: providenceurc@nwsynod.org.uk

### **Tintwistle and Glossop**

Old Road, Tintwistle, Glossop. SK13 1JY

Secretary: Mr Keith Brierley

01457 862032

### **Short Street**

Short Street, Hazel Grove SK7 4AD

Secretary. Jo Moores

0161 285 5229

### **Heaton Moor United Church**

0161 431 0262

Stanley Road, Stockport, SK4 4HL

Admin: Sharon Heginbotham, Office Open: Mon, Wed, Fri.

### **Edgeley Community Church,**

Edgeley Rd, Edgeley **SK3 9NB**

Contact: barbara.aspinall@hotmail.com

**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)