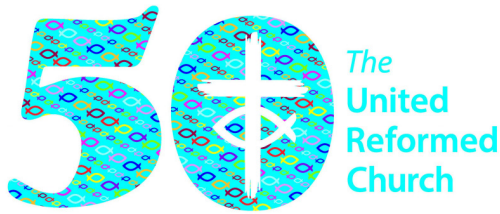


**Part of East Cheshire and Derbyshire  
Borders Missional Partnership  
(United Reformed Church)**



**Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972**

# **THE LINK**

**JUNE**



**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,*

I think I've mentioned before that early morning I take our dog Ruby for a walk, up Edgeley Rd and into Alexander Park, then around the reservoirs. It is quiet and peaceful, before the start of busy working day traffic, often only disturbed by the odd plane coming into Manchester Airport. But we are serenaded by the sound of various birds – even in the winter months.

It makes me wonder how do we recognise God's voice when He is talking to us? Is it in the still, small voice, experienced through quiet prayer, inner promptings or thoughts, reading scripture, or through the sharing with others? I think it's in the myriad of life all around us, in the smile of the stranger we pass on the street, the helping hand reaching out to the busy mum to carry their shopping to the car, the chat with the homeless man sat outside the supermarket....

I've recently acquired an App for my phone that listens to the birdsong and tells me what birds are about and it's amazing the variety from Wrens, Robins, Blackbirds, various Thrushes, Chaffinch, Blue Tits, Long Tailed Tits, Dunnocks, Sparrows, Doves and even Rose-Ringed Parakeets, not to mention the various Ducks, Geese and Coots on the reservoirs.

But we don't need an App on our phone to hear God. We do need to put down our devices and look all around us. Whether it's in the quiet or the busyness of the day, God does speak to us – we just need to be open to hear what He has to say.

Whether you are able to find some quiet, or still in the throes of the everyday challenges, may God travel with us and let us hear Him in all we share.

*God bless, Mike Aspinall.*

# Finding God in Scripture



## PRAYER IS YOUR CONNECTION TO GOD

*Cry to God all day and all night for the fulfilment of His promises.  
Isaiah 62 v6 TLB*

The remora fish has an oval sucking disc on the top of its head that allows it to attach itself to the underside of a shark. Once attached, the remora does not have to worry about food, transportation, or safety. It feeds on the food that falls from the shark's mouth. Of course, it has the option of swimming on its own, but when it decides to attach to the shark, it goes where the shark goes. It does not attempt to go in a direction contrary to the shark. Protection? It's a non-issue for one that's connected to such a powerful creature. The remora is secure, and it knows the shark can take it places it could never go alone. Doesn't this sound like the relationship God desires his children to have with him? He wants us to feed on the words that come from his mouth. He wants us to go with him where he leads and not take off on independent excursions, hoping he will tag along. He wants us to live with the assurance that he will protect not only our lives, but also our relationships and all that pertains to us. Oh, that we would emulate the remora! We would then find ourselves securing our attachment to God on a daily basis through prayer. He is waiting to carry us to places we fear going alone. The prophet Isaiah admonished the Jewish leaders: *Cry to God all day and all night for the fulfilment of His promises*. So the Word for today is this - prayer is your connection to God.

*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.*

*From Tony Baron*

**Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christian Aid Plant and Cake Sale. The total raised so far is £1070. The 'A' Team ...**



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

*NB: last date for July is June 21st. 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 meeting will be on Thursday 4th June at 2p.m. at my house.**



*From Chris Lomax*

On his final day with the pastorate Rev Jonnie held a service in the morning at Marple Bridge URC. It was a joint service with Marple URC and Marple Methodists which was appreciated by all.

In the afternoon his farewell and thanksgiving service was held at Marple URC and over one hundred joined the special occasion which was led by Dr Kate Grey with support from our Moderator Mike Thomason and our Convenor Liz Delafield. It was an excellent occasion at which many were able to thank Rev Jonnie personally for his ministry with us.

I appealed to churches for cakes so we could gather after the service for refreshments and fellowship and was delighted by the response. I want to thank everyone who kindly provided such an amazing array of delicious cakes for everyone to enjoy and to those at Marple who worked so hard to host it for us. A special thanks must go to Jill and Ian for organising the hard work and to the eight bakers from Marple Bridge , especially to a 92 year old whose cakes are legendary . She provided several lots of tray baked including my favourite chocolate brownies and almond tarts. What a star!

It was a wonderful afternoon and a fitting tribute to someone who has taught and inspired us with his words and supported and encouraged us with his loving care. He will be missed but we send our love and prayers for him and for Adam as they move to start another chapter of their lives in Ireland. God bless you.

*Pictures picked from a variety sent to me by Colin Hughes, Linda Conneely, and Clare Ridgway. Thanks to all.*



*From Ian Kenna (M)*

PRAYER FOR JUNE

### **SMALL ENOUGH TO BE TALL**

Just for tonight, dear friend,  
let me be small:  
Allow me to leave duties and demands  
to one side, and in their place  
May I simply feel and know that  
I am held and loved without the need to show and tell.

Just for tonight, dear friend,  
may I receive  
without the need to give  
or lay out for others to inspect  
my credentials, my plausibility,  
or demonstrate success or, otherwise,  
my brave attempts.

Just for tonight, dear friend,  
may I find enough determination  
and strength from battles won  
to know that in the morning when I rise  
I shall be as brave and tall  
as you have made me  
and fulfil your purpose for my life.

*Ian Fosten*  
*URC Prayer Handbook*

*From Pauline Harrison (M)*

## Friendship

Of all things which wisdom provides to make life entirely  
happy, much the greatest is the possession of friendship.  
Good food is delightful, good wine is a pleasure,  
But the company of friends is truly a treasure. Words can  
build bridges, enrich someone's day  
Because words provide pleasure no gift can display.

**And following on from Pauline's poem ....**

*From Margaret M Jones (Short Street)*

My auntie, who lived to be 92, left me a lot  
of her books, including notebooks with  
comments and, sometimes, little poems  
which she liked. Here is one of them:

“Can you spare a moment throughout a  
busy day  
to chat to someone lonely you meet along  
your way?”

So many folk are lonely, and need a little care,  
a word or two of comfort you could so  
kindly spare.

And by your understanding, the little  
things you've done,  
you'll make the world much brighter  
and a far less lonely one!”



*From Ian Kenna (M)*

## GOOD NEWS

Child mortality rates are dropping sharply. In the space of a single generation the number of children dying under the age of five has fallen by 59% globally. Four low-income countries - Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi and Uganda - and 15 lower-middle-income countries, including Mongolia and Uzbekistan, have reduced child mortality by more than 75% since 1990, say the latest figures from UNICEF.

*Sunday Times Magazine*

*From Jill Kenna (M)*



Have you seen the new wall art in Marple opposite Neal's Greengrocer's?

If so, I hope you have spotted a familiar building amongst it, painted by our very own Wendy Atkinson. Well done Wendy.



## *From Linda Lamon-Conneely (MB)*

*The crew from BBC Songs of Praise were at a recording and rehearsal studio in Stockport to film Linda Lamon-Conneely and her musician friend Niall Brett for a series that will be broadcast on June 28th entitled 'Generations'. Linda and Niall, who have an age gap of fifty years between them, were interviewed by presenter Claire McCollum about their intergenerational faith and their shared love of music, before they were filmed performing Linda's songs.*

" I was given a brand-new song to write only two weeks before, based on 'generations' and it was very fresh. I wasn't expecting to be performing it on the day, but I was put on the spot by the director who wanted to make the piece look organic and thankfully I remembered the tune!" said Linda.



Linda took inspiration for the song lyrics from Old and New Testament Bible verses mentioning generations, so each line includes words representing chosen verses.

*For a preview of the songs Linda will be singing for Songs of Praise, she will be one of the performers also giving a talk at Albion URC in Ashton for the Music With A Mission workshop from 10am to 2pm on Saturday June 20th.*

*From Margaret M Jones (née Morris) (Short Street)*

It always amazes me that when we gradually get to know people – our family, our friends, our neighbours – we realise that everyone has a talent – a special gift of their own – which gradually develops as they get older.

As I think about my friends, I realise that some are very musical, some are very practical, others love gardening, cooking, sports, dealing with mechanical problems or simply being a very good listener.

I am not a practical person at all. At school I struggled with maths, science and cookery. My netball and tennis skills were unremarkable but one day at a choir practice, just before an important school concert, I realised what my little talent was.

At the end of the rehearsal, the teacher said, “Well done everyone. You have all done really well, the concert will be great and thank you, Margaret Morris, for singing with enthusiasm, and a lovely smile on your face!” It really cheered me up!



*From Ian Kenna*

## **VOICES**

There are voices like earwigs wriggling in my head,  
laying their sharp little eggs.  
They hatch, and breed until my mind is a writhing mess.

Someone once told me that I was a failure,  
that nothing I ever did was good enough.  
A girl once left me,  
she told me that the love I had wouldn't be enough.

Voices are wriggling, writhing, nibbling.  
But there is another voice, like the roar of a storm  
In the whisper of the dawn that says -

*“You are shining and exquisite.  
you are more than enough and you are exactly  
what the world needs”*

**Which voice I listen to  
is up to me.**



*Gideon Heugh*

*Used with kind permission of the author and Tearfund*

## *From Keith Whiting (T&G)*

### **Bits and Pieces (Part 3)**

*Jane was buried at Saint Davids Cemetery, Hobart on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1826. I have researched Mary Wade who had 21 children....*

Mary Wade with Jane Whiting were transferred to the colony on Norfolk Island in August 1790. Mary had three children whilst on the Island. At some point she returned to Sydney living with Teaque Harrigan who was a First Fleet convict. She had two children with Teaque. In 1803 the six of them were living in a tent on the banks of the Tank Stream in Sydney. Teaque left to go on a whaling expedition in 1806, and he never returned to Sydney. From 1809 Mary lived with Jonathan Brooker, also a First Fleet convict, near the Hawkesbury River. There she raised a family of 21 children (researchers now question this as the number is more likely to be eleven). However, seven children did live to have children of their own. Jonathan received a certificate of Freedom in 1811 and was granted 60 acres of land at Tarrawann in NSW. Mary received her Freedom in 1812. Jonathan and Mary married on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1817 at St. Lukes Church, Liverpool, NSW. Jonathan died on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1833 and was buried at St Peters Church Campbelltown. Mary died at Wollongong NSW on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1859 aged about 84. The funeral service was the first to be held in St. Paul's Church of England at Fairy Meadow her son having donated the land the church was built on.

At the time of her death Mary had 300 living descendants from three relationship, She is considered one of the founding mothers of the early European settlement of Australia - her descendants now number tens of thousands, including Kevin Rudd former Prime Minister of Australia. There is a considerable amount of information on-line and she is a well-respected celebrity in the history of Australia

The little girl sentenced to death in London survived and became part of the foundation of a great country.

*From Phil Taylor (Hatherlow & GL)*

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 Woodley Methodist Church will be hosting an Organ Concert in memory of Radio 2 Organist Nigel Ogden from The Organist Entertains programme where he was Presenter and Organist for 38 years. Sadly, in January of this Year Nigel passed away aged 71 and he also suffered from Parkinson's Disease and so due to this he had to stop putting on Concerts and reduce his work to playing at his local Church in Lytham St Annes.

So as a "Thank You" for all the concerts and hours his music has given people pleasure to, we have arranged for **Stockport Plaza Theatre Organist Michael Holmes to put on a concert at 7.30pm** Tickets are £10 including refreshments and proceeds are going to Parkinsons UK and The British Heart Foundation. If you would like tickets or to donate to one of the above charities please contact Phil on 0161 989 9993 or click on the following links:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/philip-taylor-11> or

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/philip-taylor-10>

*Part of a poem (by Francis Duggan) for June sent by Phil*

"God gave us June and all her lovely flowers  
Bright sunny days and pleasant evening hours  
Shady green glens and serene sunlit dells  
And leafy bowers adorned with blue bluebells.

But god June's maker has the final say  
And what he give he also take away  
And God's own larks will trumpet in the sky  
To celebrate the birthday of July"

*From Ruth Miller (Hatherlow and George Lane)*

Our fund raising for Christian Aid made the grand sum of **£665**. This was made up from book and jigsaw sales during the year and Coffee Mornings when we had additional stalls selling plants and items made by our Craft-a-noon group, plus a raffle.

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.

*From Jill Kenna (M)*

## THE PLASTIC PROBLEM.

In March, Ian and I took part in the 'Big Plastic Count'. For one week we had to list all the single use plastic we threw away or recycled. Over 68,000 people took part and together we counted over 1.5 million pieces of plastic. It is estimated that UK households collectively throw away 82 billion pieces of plastic every year. 82% of household plastic waste comes from food and drink products, the most common being fruit and vegetable packaging. Only 16% of our plastic waste is actually recycled. The majority is burned in the UK and the rest is sent overseas or to landfill. The organisation who arranged the count are calling on the UK government to remove plastic packaging from uncut fruit and vegetables by 2030, stop the construction of new waste incinerators and introduce a phased ban on UK plastic waste exports.

Although the major impact has to come from governments, we can do a few things to help such as: Buy loose fruit and vegetables where possible. Use paper or card containers where available. Avoid bunches of bananas wrapped in plastic. Take your own containers and fill at places such as Lentils and Lather and some supermarkets where food and cleaning products can be put straight into them. Try your own plastic count for a week, then multiply the amount collected by 52 and it will give you an idea of how much you are using each year. Don't feel guilty – this is something manufacturers and governments need to sort out before any real progress can be made.

# MARPLE NEWS & NOTICES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*wishes in June go to:*

Janet Burrige (8<sup>th</sup>), Molly Fowler (11<sup>th</sup>),  
Thelma Cole (17<sup>th</sup>), June Gould (23<sup>rd</sup>)

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

**7<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE URC –  
Deacon Jude Laycock.**

**14<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE METHODIST  
CHURCH – Rev Ian Coverdale (Communion)**

**21<sup>st</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE BRIDGE URC –  
Rev Paul Frampton**

**28<sup>th</sup> Rev Peter Sharp**

## **STRICTLY COME TOGETHER**

Wednesday Mornings at Marple URC 10.30am-12.00

**JUNE - All are welcome**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Rhymes and Reasons' (Lesley Walker)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Scones, jam and cream
- 18<sup>th</sup> 'Controversial Mozart' (Keith Whiting)
- 25<sup>th</sup> 'Words' (Chris Bowman)

## **STRICTLY COME CRAFT**

For children and their families on  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June : 4pm -6pm -  
at Marple United Reformed  
Church



*From Sue Ardern*

*The Litter Picking group.*

"A group of Churches Together volunteers collected the litter from Marple streets on Saturday April 25th.

Luckily it was a fine day for it and we were glad to be supported by Stockport Council with collection of the bags afterwards. Grateful thanks to Phil LeSueur and Sue Palmer of Marple Methodist Church for co-ordinating the volunteers." 🌞



*Photo credit to Phil LeSueur of Marple Methodist Church*

# MARPLE BRIDGE NEWS & NOTICES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Wishes in June to ....*

Amanda Bellamy (7<sup>th</sup>), Tessa Pass (14<sup>th</sup>)  
Linda Lamon-Conneely (25<sup>th</sup>), Ken Wood (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Elizabeth Paxton (28<sup>th</sup>), Linda Frost (30<sup>th</sup>)

*Services in June*

*Please note Services start at 10.30am*

**7<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE URC –  
Deacon Jude Laycock.**

**14<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE METHODIST  
CHURCH – Rev Ian Coverdale (Communion)**

**21<sup>st</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE BRIDGE URC –  
Rev Paul Frampton**

**28<sup>th</sup> Revd Margaret Dexter-Brown  
(followed by Church Meeting)**

## *From Colin and Cath Fox*

*Update from Lend with Care*

In May we have sent £75 towards a loan requested by a farming group in Lahore, Pakistan and £30 donation to the running of Care International from the donation given and the money from repayments.

The Azmat group requesting the loan consists of 6 smallholder farmers from Kasur region. They are all married and have 40 dependents including 32 children. Twenty-two of the children are receiving formal education, whilst others are either searching for jobs or acquiring foundational skills.

A key difficulty for the farmers is the challenge of accessing rental tractors at critical times. The group plan to use the interest free loan to buy a tractor of their own. This will give them the ability to cultivate their land according to their preferred schedules rather than having to depend on the availability of rented machinery. They would also save money by not renting and the tractor would facilitate more efficient transportation of their produce to market.

*Thank you for your continued support and donations., Cath and Colin*

The next Working Party at MB will be on

**Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> ... All Welcome**



# MARPLE METHODIST CHURCH

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

**7<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE URC –  
Deacon Jude Laycock.**

**14<sup>th</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE METHODIST  
CHURCH – Rev Ian Coverdale (Communion)**

**21<sup>st</sup> JOINT SERVICE AT MARPLE BRIDGE URC –  
Rev Paul Frampton**

**28<sup>th</sup> tba**

# PROVIDENCE NEWS & NOTICES

*Services in June*

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

**14<sup>th</sup> Revd Rob Hoch**

**21<sup>st</sup> Alison Pope**

**28<sup>th</sup> Richard Britton**

## **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!

*From Gill Collins*

## Jane Forshaw - A Life in the Theatre

There was an excellent gathering to hear Gordon talk to Jane about her life working in the theatre. His opening words were:

### **‘Jane Forshaw the Revelation’**

Most of us had no idea about the wonderful career Jane had working as a Stage Manager and then as a Production Buyer in theatres all over the country. Anyone watching a play will marvel at the movements of the props in every scene and Jane’s job was to ensure that the requisite prop was in the right place and even researching to find the exact prop needed – there was no Google in those days!

As a teenager, she began her career in Southport in weekly rep and then three weekly reps in Glasgow, Colchester and even Nairobi. She was Production Buyer at the National Theatre and at the Royal Exchange just after it reopened. She worked with so many famous actors and writers. She remembers seeing Celia Imrie as a young actor and recognising her talent. Among the many wonderful items on display was a birthday card from Judi (Dench), certainly one to treasure. Listening to Jane sharing her memories, one can imagine the support she gave to all the many actors, writers, producers and support staff.

Following her theatre work, she worked for Granada as Production Buyer to ‘Coronation Street’. Jane had a map displayed of the Street showing each house with lists of the props required for each dwelling. What a task! When a photo of a baby was required to be displayed on ‘Ken and Deirdre’s’ sideboard, it was a photo of Jane’s daughter Helen which was shown there for many years. One hour was really not enough time to hear Jane reminiscing about her life in the theatre and hopefully ‘part two’ will follow! Thank you Gordon for persuading Jane to share her memories with us. *What a wonderful night, Gill.*

## Music for a Spring Afternoon

Gordon was certainly dressed for the occasion of the concert at Providence, sporting a striped blazer, white trousers and a yellow tie. He opened the concert with the lively Marche aux Flambeaux by Scotson Clark. This was the first piece of a programme of music not played before at Providence. We were so pleased to welcome Karen Moore, flautist. Helen is the daughter of David and Margie Jenkins and we were delighted to meet many members of her family who came along to enjoy her performance. She first played Handel's Sonata in F, which is in four movements. The acoustics in the church are really excellent and the beautiful sounds of the flute filled the whole building.

Next Gordon played Fugue in D minor (the fiddle) which was the only Bach included in the programme. Karen then played Sicilienne, a gentle melodic piece by Faure. Gordon followed this playing Pavane in A by Bernard Johnson. Charles Callahan's prelude on *Shall we gather at the river* was beautifully poignant with the soaring flute together with flute stops on the organ. Karen's last piece was Chopin's Variations on a theme of Rossini. She certainly saved the best until last as this was uplifting with delightful runs. Gordon closed the concert with Grand Choeur in G Minor by Alfred Hollins, a Scottish organist who was blind from birth.

Thank you to Gordon for arranging such a varied programme of music and to Helen for playing so delightfully. The flute and organ were perfect together and surely we must deserve a repeat performance.

*The church was almost filled to capacity and over £500 was raised for church funds, Gill*

# SHORT STREET NEWS



*wishes in June go to:*

Carole Reeder. (18<sup>th</sup>)

## *Services in June*

7<sup>th</sup> Mr. E. Allman

14<sup>th</sup> At Hazel Grove Methodist Church

21<sup>st</sup> Rev. M. Aspinall. (C)

28<sup>th</sup> Mr. K. Tonge

# TINTWISTLE & GLOSSOP NEWS

## *Services in June*

7<sup>th</sup> Rev Jenny Austen (Communion)

14<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Service – Alan Kendrick

21<sup>st</sup> John McNeill

28<sup>th</sup> Martyn Cooling

# HATHERLOW & GEORGE LANE NEWS

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

7<sup>th</sup> Rev Margaret Dexter-Brown

14<sup>th</sup> Chris Whitehead

21<sup>st</sup> Rev Margaret Dexter-Brown

28<sup>th</sup> Rev Mike Aspinall

And finally .....

Frustration is trying to  
find your glasses,  
without your glasses!



Please could you send all items for the JULY 2026  
edition of the Link to Barbara Northover -  
(email:northoverfamily@gmail.com) .. Thank you .  
**NO LATER THAN SUNDAY JUNE 21st**  
**(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**

**Part of East Cheshire and Derbyshire  
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**NSM Minister: Rev'd Margaret Dexter-Brown  
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**Moderator: Moderator Mike Thomason  
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07929628723.

**Marple**

Hibbert Lane, Marple, Stockport. SK6 7NN

Secretary: Mrs Jill Kenna

01663 810088

**Marple Bridge**

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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**

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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).