



## Circuit Re-grouping Update

# The Methodist Church 19/23 Ashton-under-Lyne Circuit

[www.ashtonunderlynemethodist.org.uk](http://www.ashtonunderlynemethodist.org.uk)

## Plan of Services March - May 2020

### Dear Friends,

As we start this new quarter we will also have just started Lent, that time when we, as Christians, are called upon to set aside space to reflect on some of the main parts of Jesus' spiritual journey while, in parallel, reflecting on how that impinges on our own spiritual journeys. So it's a time for turning aside from the ordinary routines of our life for this reflection: to analyse what went on with Jesus, and what is going on with us.

The weather has been strange this winter, but I think it's still reasonable to expect that we will still have a coldish spell at the start of Lent when trees and bushes are still bare and unadorned, reflecting in some of us the practice of abstinence (chocolate, sugar or something else we enjoy), a symbolic stripping down to the basics of our lives and our faith.

That time could be seen as one which makes us cold and exposed like the trees, a spiritual 'no hiding place'. But I would rather see it as a most precious empty space where we see through the bare branches of our ordinary busy lives, (which by necessity must continue), to the wider vision of God's creation and what he did for us through Jesus.

R. S. Thomas, in his poem "The Bright Field", which many of you will be familiar with, (if not, find it and read it), speaks of turning aside to see a bright image that can suddenly mean much to us. I feel that if we enter into Lent properly it gives us a chance to do that, to perceive 'the eternity that awaits you', - not a receding, inaccessible future, but a profound reality that calmly waits to embrace our pre-occupied, harassed lives, if only we will stop properly and look.

But, of course, the quarter doesn't stop there. We make space for Lent, but then move on with the rebirth of new life in springtime, paralleling our celebration of the new life, and indeed eternal life, that we see in the resurrected Christ at Easter. Then by the end of the quarter we will be commemorating the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and asking that that be renewed in us too.

This could certainly be a quarter in which our faith and spiritual life can be greatly enriched.

Every Blessing

**Stephen**

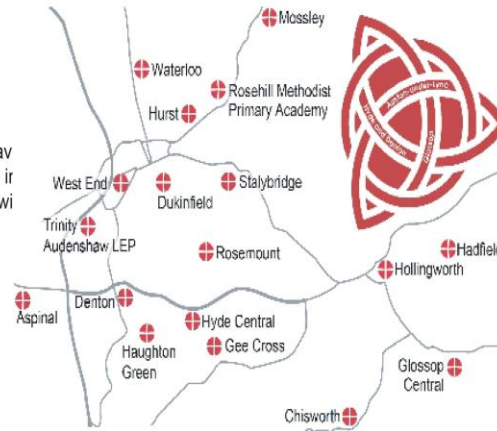
*Rev'd Stephen Heath*

The regrouping process continues to make progress and the Circuit Leadership Team from each circuit are meeting together regularly.

From these joint meetings various sub groups have been formed looking at all that needs to be done in order to be ready for September 2020 when we will become **The Glossop and Tameside Circuit**.

This is a considerable task and areas being covered include:

- governance and compliance issues;
- the structure of the circuit;
- administration;
- communication;
- finance and the budget;
- the plan and local preachers HR.



We are aiming to produce a bi-monthly newsletter in which we will explain the processes and introduce,

and say a little bit about all the churches that will join together as **The Glossop and Tameside Circuit**. The first edition will be in churches in mid-February.

To underpin everything we need constant prayer, goodwill and grace, building up of relationships, support and an openness to the process.

We are reminded of our wider mission and what our purpose and focus is about. Change is not always easy to cope with but it comes to us in many different ways during our life. As Christians we know that through everything we are held by God, new doors can be opened and God can work through the middle of our lives...and bring hope and new life.

We are all invited to pray for one another through these coming months so that we are better equipped to work together for the work that God is calling us to do.

*Hazel Cook*

3rd Quarter 2019/20	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29	April 5	April 10	April 12	April 19	April 26	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31	
LECTONARY READINGS	Lent 1 Gen 22:15-17, 31-7 Psalm 32 Rom 5:12-19 Matt 4:1-11	Lent 2 Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Rom 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	Lent 3 Ex 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Rom 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	Lent 4 1 Sam 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	Lent 5 Ez 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Rom 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Palm Sunday Is 50:4-9a Phil 2:5-11 Matt 21:1-11	Good Friday Is 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Heb 10:16-25 Jn 18:1-19:42	Easter Day Acts 10:34-43 Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 Colos 3:1-4 Matt 28:1-10								Pentecost Acts 2:1-21 Acts 1:6-14 Ps 104:24-35b 1 Cor 13:11-13 Matt 28:16-20
	CHURCH	TIME														
DUKINFIELD Wellington Parade Dukinfield	10.45 6.00	Davies S J Heath	OA J Heath	Williams Cook	Cook 10:30 US at St Mark's	10am S & J Heath	J Heath S Heath S				Sheppard Collins	J Heath S Heath S	Whit Walks			
HURST Curzon Road Ashton-u-Lyne	10.00 6.00	Ronson Hilsden S	Davies James	Hilsden A OA		US at Waterloo J Heath CW	Hilsden S Mellor	Buck Hilsden S								
MOSSLEY Market Place Mossley	10.00 11.00 6.30	Hilsden S James	10:30 Messy Church Loewenthal	Hughes Hilsden		Hilsden S A Davies	M Muir Collins	A Taylor S Hilsden A	OA Hughes							
STALYBRIDGE High Street Stalybridge	9.30 10.45 6.30	Cook S Buck	Creighton Cook S	OA Hilsden	Tuesday Group Williams	Cook S James	Dale Pollitt	Cook S Hilsden	Loewenthal							
TRINITY Audenshaw Road Audenshaw	10.45 6.00	S Heath AS Tarn	Wollaston OA	Tarn Davies A		Tarn S Nuttall	Buck Creighton A	Ireland S S Heath B	J Heath Stretton							
WATERLOO Vale Street Ashton-u-Lyne	10.30 3.00 6.00	D Taylor Cook JJC	Reid JJC	Hilsden S OA	Grimsley	9:30am Hilsden S Hilsden JJC	A Taylor Collins	S Heath US at Hurst	Buck James	Hilsden S						
WEST END Stockport Road Ashton-u-Lyne	10.45 6.00	J Heath S Heath S	Grimsley OA	Stretton Pollitt		S Heath S J Heath	Loewenthal J Heath	Davies S Williams	Kettlely Creighton							



@ Hurst Methodist Church  
3 - 5pm, 3rd Saturday each month  
@ Mossley Methodist Church  
10:30am Sunday 15th March

## Special Events and Services

### Lent Prayers and Conversations

each Monday in March  
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th  
1:30 - 2:45pm at Stalybridge Methodist Church

### Maudy Thursday Service

6pm at Stalybridge Methodist Church



## Meetings

**Circuit Meeting** at Mossley Methodist Church  
Tuesday 25th February, 7.45pm

**LWLP Meeting** at Dukinfield Methodist Church  
Monday 7th March, 7.45pm

## Plan abbreviations

NB: Letters before preachers names indicate their initials. Letters after preachers names indicate the type of service, see key below.

- A All Age Worship
- B Baptism
- CS Circuit Service
- CW Contemporary Worship
- JJC Joseph Jennings Court
- MS Men's Sunday
- OA Own Arrangement
- S Holy Communion
- US United Service

## Prayer Twinning

Dukinfield - Trinity  
Hurst - Waterloo  
Mossley - West End  
Rosehill - Stalybridge

This Plan is also available on the Circuit website @ [www.ashtonunderlynemethodist.org.uk/plan.htm](http://www.ashtonunderlynemethodist.org.uk/plan.htm)