



# The Methodist Church

## 19/23 Ashton-under-Lyne Circuit

www.ashtonunderlynemethodist.org.uk

### Plan of Services

#### December 2019 - February 2020

Dear Friends,  
So we come to the best and worst time of year once more.

The best because it is the season in which our Saviour, the greatest gift, came and lived among us. Also the best season as, inspired by God's example and sacrificial life of Jesus, we share love, hospitality and generosity at this time. Eating Together, especially for families and those cultivating the Holy Habit mentioned in Acts 2, builds and strengthens relationships. All the Habits can so readily be part of our Christian life and practice throughout this season, Prayer, Bible Teaching, Fellowship, Gladness and Generosity, along with Breaking Bread, Sharing Resources, Serving and perhaps especially Worship, as they all contribute to Making More Disciples.

The worst of times for some is the length of the days - much, even most, spent in dim darkness. Weather is the other worst, with reports suggesting this will be the coldest winter in years, perhaps more severe than the 'beast from the east', but be assured.

**".....I will never, under any circumstances, desert you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless, nor will I forsake or let you down or relax my hold on you - assuredly not!"**  
(Hebrews 13:5b, Amplified Bible)

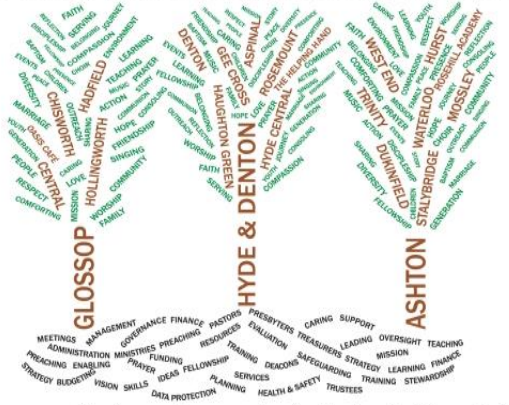
There are passages in different translations or paraphrases where simply hearing, (or reading), the text shines a new light on to our limited understanding of God's love for us. So with the assurance above and the instruction, request, guidance below, (from earlier the same verse), may we consider how we may best serve our Risen Lord. It is through him that everything was created and his life gives light to everyone, through this season, through the winter and throughout the New Year.

**"Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions, and be satisfied with your present circumstances and with what you have for He, God has said I will never...."** (continued above Hebrews 13:5a).

Yours in Christ's service  
**Graham**  
Rev Graham Tarn

### Circuits Regrouping Update

Nearly all the Church Councils and the Circuit Meeting have now had the opportunity to vote on the resolution to merge with the Hyde & Denton and Glossop Circuits from September 2020, to become the Glossop and Tameside Circuit. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the resolution and when all the votes are collated, we can then begin to work out the next step.



The image above was inspired by the giant Sequoia, the tallest tree on earth whose roots intertwine to support each other

There will be a joint Circuit Leadership Team meeting for all three circuits on November 4th to begin to look at the practical steps. Alongside this we can begin to think about the priorities of the Circuits, the important things we want to hold onto, the gifts and skills we bring and the things we may want to let go of. Change can often seem daunting and unsettling, but it can also be energising and inspiring. God walks with us, prompts us and leads us, helps us let go and look forward with faith and confidence.

Please see me for more details or about any concerns you may have about this.  
*Hazel Cook*

### Marriage and family relationships

The conversations and presentation about Marriage and Family Relationships continue around the Circuit and by the February Circuit meeting a response will be formulated reflecting some of the conversations from within the churches

and Circuit. Further dates and venues for more conversations within Circuit are shown in the right hand column. The Spring Synod will then vote on the proposals and a final decision will be made at the Methodist Conference in the summer of 2020.

As many people know the proposals include a statement on cohabitation and the decision whether to allow same sex marriages within the Methodist Church. All the discussions have taken place within the understanding that people will vary on their viewpoint and understanding, and it is good that there has been that sense of listening and being there for others. The report, 'GOD IN LOVE UNITES US' is on the Methodist website along with other study guides and information, ([methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/](http://methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/)). If you would like further information or a conversation about these issues then please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Hazel Cook*

2nd Quarter 2019/20	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 25	Dec 29	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23
<b>LECTIONARY READINGS</b>	Advent 1 Is 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Rom 13:11-14 Mat 24:36-44	Advent 2 Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-7, 18-19 Rom 15:4-13 Mat 3:1-12	Advent 3 Is 35:1-10 Ps 146:5-10 Jam 5:7-10 Mat 11:2-11	Advent 4 Is 7:10-16 Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 Rom 1:1-7 Mat 1:18-25	Christmas Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)									
<b>CHURCH</b>														
<b>TIME</b>														
<b>DUKINFIELD</b> Wellington Parade Dukinfield	10.45 6.00	J Heath T S Heath S	Pollitt	J Heath Ca	10am S Heath	US @ Stalybridge	Wynne	J Heath	Davies	S Heath Co S	J Heath	Creighton	Buck	Stretton
<b>HURST</b> Curzon Road Ashton-u-Lyne	10.00 6.00	Davies S	Dale	Reid	Hilsden Ca S	9:30am Hilsden US	Williams	Buck	US @ Waterloo	OA	Hilsden B	Vale	Stretton/Hilsden S	James US B Muir
<b>MOSSLEY</b> Market Place Mossley	10.00 11.00 6.30			Hilsden S						Hilsden S				Hughes S
<b>STALYBRIDGE</b> High Street Stalybridge	9.30 10.45 6.30	Cook S							Cook S				Cook S	
<b>TRINITY</b> Audenshaw Road Audenshaw	10.45 6.00	Lunn T	Tarn S	OA Na	James	11am Tarn	Tarn	Collins	Tarn	S Heath Co S	Greer	Cook	Tarn	Davies S Neal
<b>WATERLOO</b> Vale Street Ashton-u-Lyne	10.30 3.00 6.00	Creighton	Hilsden S	Buck	OA Ca	9:30 @ Hurst Hilsden US	B Muir	Sheppard	Hilsden US Co S	J Heath	Williams	Davies	Vale	US @ Hurst Hilsden S
<b>WEST END</b> Stockport Road Ashton-u-Lyne	10.45 6.00	S Heath S	J Heath	Neal	Collins	J Heath	OA	James	S Heath Co S	Hilsden	J Heath	B Muir	Taylor S	Sheppard Kettley



@ Hurst Methodist Church  
3 - 5pm Saturday 14th December

@ Mossley Methodist Church  
3:30 - 5:30pm Monday 23rd December

### Special Events and Services

#### GOD IN LOVE UNITES US:

Further opportunities, led by Rev Hazel Cook, to hear about and reflect on the Task Group Report

**Monday 11th November**  
7:30pm at Stalybridge Methodist Church

**Monday 19th November**  
7:30pm at Trinity Church, Audenshaw

**Tuesday 3rd December**  
7:30pm at Mossley Methodist Church

#### Advent Reflections, 'Advent for Everyone'

Monday 2nd, 9th & 16th December  
1:30 - 2:45pm at Stalybridge Methodist Church

**Christingle Family Time** Tuesday 17th December  
3:30 - 5:00pm at Stalybridge Methodist Church

**Christmas Eve Come and Go Communion**  
5:00 - 6:00pm at Stalybridge Methodist Church

**Circuit Commissioning Service of Local Lay Pastors and Rededication of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders** 3:00pm Sunday 16th February at Trinity Church Audenshaw

### Meetings

**LWLP Meeting** at Mossley Methodist Church  
Wednesday 27th November, 7.45pm

**Circuit Meeting** at Mossley Methodist Church  
Tuesday 25th February, 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
- Ca Carol Service
- Co Covenant Service
- CS Circuit Service
- CW Contemporary Worship
- JJC Joseph Jennings Court
- MS Men's Sunday
- Na Nativity
- OA Own Arrangement
- S Holy Communion
- T Toy Service
- US United Service

### Prayer Twinning

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

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