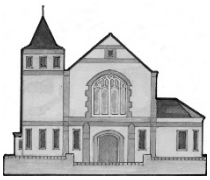
Stockton Heath and Antrobus Methodist Church
Newsletter November 2026



This news sheet replaces the regular magazine which Julia has been producing for many years. We thank Julia for all her hard work. This is not going to match the magazine but just aims to help improve communication - any suggestions/contributions welcome. E-mail; Newsletter@shmc.org.uk

Minister's Letter

"Smile, open your eyes, love and go on."

This time of year gives us plenty of opportunities to remember and reflect upon the past, and the people who shaped us in becoming the people we are today and the lives we lead.

At the beginning of November, we celebrate the feast days of All Saints and All Souls; we are invited to "remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot;" we commemorate all those who have fallen in wars on Remembrance Sunday; and on November 15th, we will be holding our annual service of remembering for those whose lives enriched ours.

All these events give us that opportunity to pause and to reflect upon the lives of all those who have played an important part in shaping our lives, in some cases many years after they lived and died. We celebrate their bravery, their love, their foresight and vision all of which make our lives what they are today.

To quote John Bell's hymn, *"For all the saints who showed your love in how they lived and where they moved ,for mindful women, caring men ,accept our gratitude again."* *StF 746*

In his 1981 poem, "(S)He Is Gone", often read at funeral, David Harkins writes: *"You can cry and close your mind, be empty and*

turn your back, or you can do what she/he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on."

On Remembrance Sunday, the Kohima Epitaph is recited, ending with the line, *"…for your tomorrow we gave our today."*

Both readings invite and encourage us to live our lives to their fullest. They invite us to live in the present and they give us hope for life in the future. And best of all, we do all this with God present, with us.

In the coming seasons of Advent and then Christmas (2 separate seasons remember, with one following the other!), we prepare for God's coming as we celebrate that He became one of us. Human life became/ becomes hallowed by God's presence, and God shows a faith in us that far outweighs our faith in God.

We were created to play our part in God's mission, to see where God is already active and join in. It is right to celebrate the past and the people from whom we learn, but let us also draw confidence from the past, as we seek to love and go on.

"We'll praise him for all that is past,
And trust him for all that's to come." *StF 67*

God bless, Jeremy

News

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Barbara Maddock after her long battle with cancer. She was such a lively talented person and we will miss her.

The death of Audrey Worrall at the age of 100 has also been announced.

We are pleased that we recently welcomed Carol Williams, Barbara McNamara and Voilet Eccles to our church community.

Past events;

In September we had a service at Stockton Heath by Tim Baker who is back working for All We Can and he talked about sowing seeds of hope – we have asked him to return again next year to take another service. The special collection raised over £420 for All We Can.

Denise & Lesley were inspired by this service and used the theme of Seeds of Hope for their beautiful displays in church. We are grateful for all their hard work and that of others who helped and the donations of flowers and produce. The food donations went to the Warrington Foodbank.









The Harvest social on the preceding Saturday was a lovely evening of quiz questions, scarecrow making and some wonderful Mediterranean mezze food. Thanks to the stewards for organising this.

Antrobus had their traditional Harvest service at the end of September including the traditional Manx Fisherman's hymn. The church was beautifully decorated with local produce including some huge onions.





In the café area in the hall there is now a library of Christian books for anyone to borrow along with a selection of prayer cards that cover a wide variety of topics for people to take for themselves or for someone else. There is also a selection in church.



The Loving Hands and Hearts have continued to be busy making their amazing knitted goods. They meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Hall at 1.30pm to knit and chat- anyone is welcome to join them. A recent sale raised £504 and they will be selling more items at the Christmas Fair and a stall in Stockton Heath Forge. They give their profits to a variety of charities.

This summer has seen an upgrade in the audio and technical side in church and more will be finished off soon. A new children's area is being planned too. There are still jobs to do – any offers of help to Chris A or John S.

Adam Hough has been helping with the techy side of services but he has now gone to Birmingham University to study Sound Engineering - we wish him well.

Present



The usual Remembrance Sunday service will be a service of holy communion at Stockton Heath on 8th Nov led by Rev Roger Bradley. Then we will be having our annual Memorial service at 3pm on Sunday 15th November led by Rev Jeremy Tresise. Don't forget to bring a white flower that will be made

into a special wreath. It is designed to give space to pause and remember a person or life event at this time of year. It will be a time of quiet reflection, prayer and gentle thanksgiving.

Whether it is to remember and give thanks for a loved one who has died or simply to help address something in your own mind- you and family members and friends are warmly invited to attend. There will be the opportunity to light a candle, make a simple floral tribute and receive prayer. All are warmly welcomed.

That morning Stockton Heath will welcome the new probationer minister Rev Sue Ann Mak to lead the morning service. She is taking the evening service that Sunday at Antrobus at 6.30pm.



On Saturday 24th September Jon Hughes married Lucy at the Liver Building in Liverpool. They are having a Wedding blessing as part of the morning service on 22nd November. We wish them both well for their future together.

The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 28th November from 11am with a visit from Father Christmas and live Christmas music. For the past many years Barbara Maddock has organised this and this year it is being organised by Viv Johnson and any offers of help, gifts, chocolate and goods most welcome. It is the main fund raiser for our Church charity fund with money being divided up for the following charities:

Broomfields Youth Project,

Active Hope,

All We Can,

Churches Action on Poverty (Salford)

The Next play being staged by the Dramatic Society is Improbable Fiction by Alan Ayckbourn on Tues 17th, Thurs 19th,

Fri 20th with matinee on Sat 21st. This promises to be a good evening/afternoon's entertainment.



Advent starts on Sunday 29th November with a family service at Stockton Heath led by Hazel Bradley at 10.30am and at 6.30pm at Antrobus with Deacon Emily Hoe-Crook

November sees another group of children coming to us from Stockton Heath Primary School on West Avenue to meet the Shepherds, the Wise Men and even Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in an interactive Nativity- but no live donkey (yet!). We are grateful for the help of dramatic society with this. Jeremy has been going into this school regularly to do assemblies.

Future

At Stockton Heath the services in Advent will be following the Methodist church Advent material entitled "Don't Be Afraid". There will also be a Tuesday evening Advent study group using this material at Stockton Heath on 1st, 8th and 15th December with a Christmas Eve communion at 5pm.

Antrobus has a Christmas Supper Club in the Village Hall and a School Christmas Fair, to fit into December!

The Tree Lighting in Antrobus village centre on 6th December is preceded by a Carol Service led by the children involved in the Rose Queen Fete at St Marks at 4 pm and afterwards at the Village Hall for Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

There is a Children's Christmas Craft Afternoon on Sunday 13th December from 2pm-5pm. Do invite any youngsters you know to register for this afternoon of crafts, fun and food.

The Stockton Heath Village Carol service will take place on Friday 18th December at 12 noon in St Thomas Parish Church.

Sunday 20th December sees carol services at both churches- a traditional service of Carols and Lessons at 10.30am at Stockton Heath followed by Carols by Candlelight at 6pm- this service marks 50 years since John Stott first played the organ for a service. Antrobus will be having their own traditional Carol service at 6.30pm.

There will be an opportunity to choose your favourite carol, modern or traditional, at Carols around the Tree in Stockton Heath church from 7.30pm followed by refreshments- all are welcome.

The Antrobus traditional Carol Singing around the village still takes centre stage though they no longer visit every house in the village. However, they sing around the central estate and then pick a few other spots to sing in and offer their services if anyone would like a house visit or is having a party! They have a few regular invitations! They raise money, usually for a couple of Charities, depending on what's been affecting them locally over the year, often this includes North West Air Ambulance which is very important in their rural community.



On Christmas morning there will be a family service at Stockton Heath to celebrate Christ's birth at 10.30am – there will be an opportunity for anyone of any age to show everyone a favourite present- all are welcome.

Antrobus join up for an All-Age Service at St Marks in the morning.

There will be a short church walk followed by a short service on the Sunday after Christmas – if the weather is bad or you can't

walk far, there will be an opportunity for fellowship instead, then the service.

Antrobus has an Annual Pantomime – ‘ oh yes it does’ at the end of January each year. They are already busy in rehearsals, planning costumes and props, learning lines, songs and dance. It’s not for the faint hearted. This year they are performing Jack and The Beanstalk.

Positions Vacant

Do you fancy making refreshments after the Sunday morning service? See Viv Palmer

Helping with the cleaning of the church premises on some Tuesday mornings along with a drink AND cake? See Gill Rigby

Helping with services? See Geoff



Doing jobs around the buildings? See Chris Ardern

Contact Details

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