

Withington Methodist News

October 2022



SUNDAY WORSHIP

2nd October: Harvest service, with Cameron Hume from All We Can.

Bring a picnic lunch so we can eat together after the service!

Donations for the Withington food bank welcome, and/or monetary donations to All We Can.

More details later in the magazine.

9th October: Rev. Peter Went

16th October: Rev. Dr. Caroline Wickens, HC

23rd October: Nick Palfreyman, All Age worship, joined by Levenshulme.

30th October: Rev. Ken Stokes

DEAR FRIENDS,

It is a surprise to me and to the church that I have just become your minister! You may know that other plans had been in place, but the position has changed and I am very happy to be your minister at Withington, alongside ministry at Whalley Range Methodist Church and more widely across the Manchester circuit as the superintendent.

We shall get to know each other better as the years go by, and I'll be answering a few questions in the magazine next month. Or if you want to meet me in person, I'm preaching at Withington once a month (usually the third Sunday with Holy Communion) and I'm in church regularly on Wednesday mornings for prayers (10:30) and an invitation to drop in for a chat and a cuppa (from 11am. or so). It would be lovely to see you.

On the night before Jesus died, he said to his disciples 'I call you my friends'. He had shared his life with his disciples for three years, and had come to know them through and through. He no longer wanted to use the language of master and disciple, but chose instead to walk at their side and talk with them as his friends.

This friendship is one of the wonderful gifts God gives to us through Jesus. As we share our journeys together, we learn more about each other and grow in our appreciation of one other. This isn't to say we always find each other easy, but we also become more understanding of any rough edges, and

able to trust each other enough to begin risking change for the sake of our Christ-centred friendship. And the greatest gift comes when we look into each other's eyes and see something of Christ's love sparkling back at us.

Can we grow in Christ-centred friendship across our church? We took a brave step in the right direction when we started sharing coffee again after worship on Sunday mornings. Where else can we find opportunities to grow, or re-grow, warm relationships, welcoming first-time visitors and long-time members alike? Let's continue to explore that during the weeks and months ahead, trusting in Jesus as he says to us too 'I call you my friends'.

Every Blessing,

Caroline

0161 862 9740

superintendent@manchestermethodists.org.uk



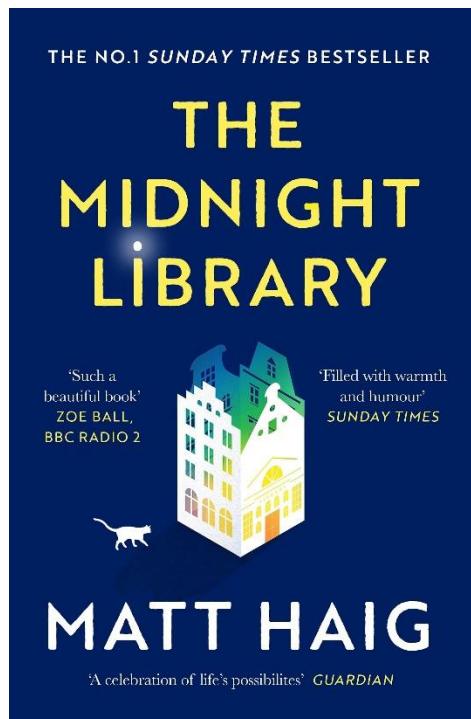
PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

Laurel Court care home and their chaplain - Alma,
Thandiwe,
Hanna,
Donna and Kevin,
Muriel,
Sarah,
John, Marguerite,
Ora and Stasi,
Henry



WITHINGTON BOOK CLUB



At the next meeting of the Book Club, we will be discussing “The Midnight Library” by Matt Haig. The date is still to be confirmed so to keep updated, please contact Helen Fielding or Heather Steward.

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Morning In Person Worship

Our Sunday Morning services are held at 10:45 in the downstairs hall. Please enter the church via the back car park entrance. We have refreshments after the service and if you would like to help facilitate this, please let us know.

Reflections and written worship resources:

If you are not on email and would like to receive a printed copy of our weekly reflections or written worship resources for Sunday, please contact Caroline Wickens.

Chat and Bible Study on Zoom:

We have a weekly virtual half hour catch up followed by a half hour Bible Study every Wednesday from 2:00 pm. All are welcome to join the chat, bible study or both!

Joining details for both meetings are the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141198605>

Meeting ID: 841 4119 8605

Manchester Circuit Sunday Evening Service

A warm welcome as ever to our worship tomorrow evening.

The Zoom platform will be open from 6pm for those who wish to catch up with others from their church, and as usual worship will begin at 6:30.

The joining details follow-

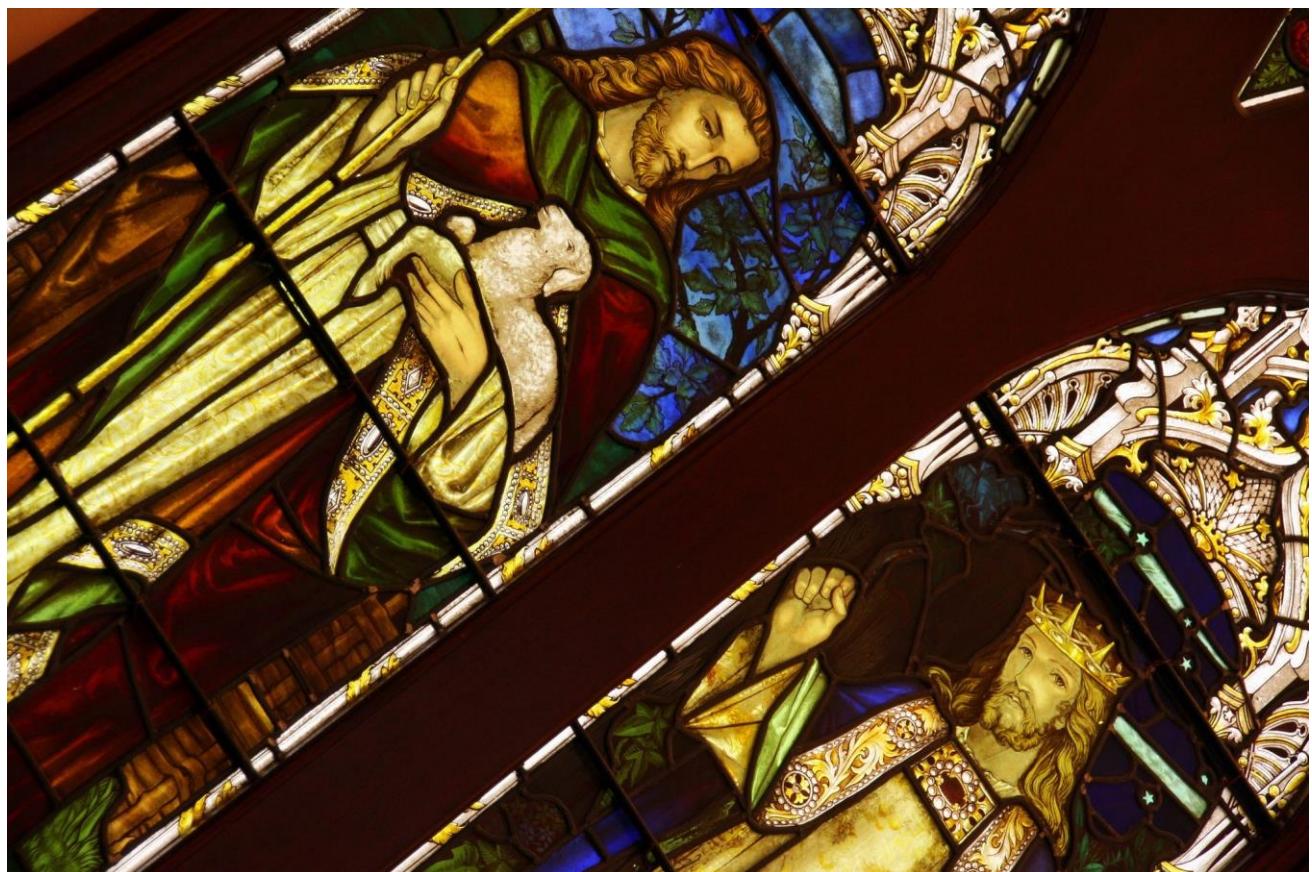
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92204599032?pwd=Tzg0SU9xcVZEZFNQK0FnYnNKWjlUQT09>

Meeting ID: 922 0459 9032

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile + 12532158782, 92204599032 #, 1901#



NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

05 SEPTEMBER 2022

Methodist safeguarding resources produced in partnership with survivors of abuse

Former A safeguarding study guide has been sent to churches across East Anglia which has been produced in partnership with local survivors of abuse.

The resources, including a 4-part study guide, came out of conversations within the Methodist Survivors' Advisory Group and the experiences shared in the study guide are powerful real-life accounts from survivors. They will be sent to every district in the Methodist Church to share with their churches with the aim of inviting careful and prayerful consideration of how churches can become safer spaces for all.

It's the first time the Methodist Church has produced joint resources such as these and it's hoped they will also be of interest to other church denominations seeking to learn from what survivors have to teach about their experience.

The study guide Reflect and Respond could form an Advent study course or a stand-alone programme for groups and are based on and around the four themes of the Methodist Church's 'Our Calling'. Each church will also receive leaflets offering advice and support to survivors of abuse.

Vivien Almond, a member of the Methodist Survivors Advisory Group & East Anglia District Safeguarding Group said: "As a survivor of childhood abuse and a life-long Christian I have often struggled with organised religion and many of the presumptions and ideals, for instance: forgiving and moving on, 'Things like that don't happen here, we're a nice congregation'. The attitude to safeguarding and survivors has made it extremely difficult to feel comfortable in these settings.

"Since transferring to the Methodist Church, and becoming a member in the early 2000s I have searched for a way to try to change attitudes to survivors and safeguarding. When I was asked to become a member of the MSAG it took time to trust that the Church really did want to hear us, so from

tentative beginnings we grew as a group and began to believe that we were going to be heard.

“It has been a privilege to help shape the resources which include a leaflet to give guidance to those who wish to support survivors who have never felt able to share their experience, and to give some pointers regarding what is helpful and, more importantly, what is unhelpful.

“I hope the bible study will enable small groups to learn in a deeper way, from the survivors’ own words, that people who have suffered abuse are not just ‘A problem’ but real people who have different needs and views due to the impact of their childhood.

“I believe the Methodist Church is working hard to understand the complexity of the impact of childhood abuse and trying hard to ensure the Church is as safe a place as they can possibly make it.”



Rev'd Julian Pursehouse, the District Chair for East Anglia said: “I am personally delighted, that the British Methodist Church has listened carefully to the experience of survivors, reflected upon what we can change and sought to reshape its life and practice so that we might become a more welcoming, accessible and safe Church for everyone.”

Secretary of the Conference Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler said: ‘The abuse of children and vulnerable people is a cause of shame to the Church but that the Church is able to learn from the survivors of abuse and that those survivors have been gracious in enabling the Church to learn are signs of hope and healing for the future.’

05 SEPTEMBER 2022

Church at the economic margins

On “My sense is that the time is now for our Church to focus on the millions in our nations who are experiencing poverty.”

-Deacon Eunice Attwood, *Church at the Margins Officer for the Methodist Church*

Methodists are being encouraged to join together and become communities where people experiencing economic hardship are welcomed, affirmed, and valued.

A vision from the Methodist Church for church at the economic margins has been developed within the God for All strategy, agreed by the 2019 Methodist conference, and supported by the Evangelism and Growth team.

In the face of the cost of living crisis such communities are needed more than ever says Deacon Eunice Attwood who leads on the work and who has over twenty years’ experience of ministry amongst marginalised and vulnerable communities:

“Jesus was very clear that to abandon people experiencing poverty, is to abandon the gospel. The cost-of-living crisis will impact everyone, but not everyone will experience poverty.

“Having spent the last few months travelling the country, what I am hearing is a growing concern about fuel costs where people are having to make choices between heating or cooking, soaring numbers of people with mental ill health, fears of what the future may bring, and a plea for the Church to see hidden pockets of poverty in its communities.”

The vision for church at the economic margins is to nurture new Christian

communities amongst people who are economically marginalised.

“Church at the Margins is not a new initiative, it is at the heart of the gospel, and Christian discipleship. But my sense is that the time is now for our Church to focus on the millions in our nations that are experiencing poverty”, says Deacon Eunice.

Selby Street Mission is located in one of the UK’s most deprived areas and according to Andy who has been attending several times a week for 13 years, “is the heart of our community.” The Mission provides friendship, meals, support for people living with addiction, food and clothes banks as well as worship and bible study classes. The Minister, the Revd Andrew Stead says, “People are drawn to this place because they want to serve church at the margins. We have got to stay in these areas because God loves them.”

Hayley, a member of the Selby Street Mission explains why she keep coming to the Mission, “It’s the people and it’s the prayers and it’s the presence of other people accepting you for who you are.”

How can we create spaces for people to be vulnerable about their circumstances? For Eunice it is about “Acknowledging the gifts of people experiencing poverty, believing that poverty contradicts the will of God and celebrating becoming a community where friendship is nurtured, and the love of God is experienced.”

Freedom Project in Derbyshire was set up in 2008 to support people who are struggling with poverty in Bolsover. Since then the project has grown to cover the North East Midlands and Yorkshire with 14 support centres offering debt counselling, skills for getting back into the work place and the chance to encounter faith. Speaking ahead of a recent family fun day in the town hosted by the Project, Mark North, CEO, said: “These kind of places give people the opportunity to connect but also helps them to build confidence and worth and hopefully is an opportunity for them to reflect on who Jesus is.”

The Church is resourcing Christians to develop this work including courses on how to begin a church at the margins, community organising and a webinar on offering a warm space this winter for people unable to afford heating in their homes. More information can be found on the The Methodist Church UK website.

06 SEPTEMBER 2022

Joint appeal with All We Can launched for Pakistan

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain have launched an urgent appeal to support communities impacted by the devastating flooding in Pakistan.

More than 1300 people have died since the monsoon season began in June, and it is reported that a third of the country is now underwater. Flood waters have not only devastated critical infrastructure, but also destroyed crops and livelihoods for countless people.

Pakistan is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis – already, more than one million homes have been destroyed or damaged, and 33 million people have been affected by the flooding.

Through Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can's joint appeal, urgent support will reach those most impacted by the flooding. By working with trusted church and humanitarian partners, donations will make a critical difference.

The Revd Graham Thompson, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "We invite – even urge – all those who have warm and comfortable homes to give to this appeal. We have so much and our neighbours in Pakistan have so little; let us give as much as we can and do so as both an offering and a prayer for the people of Pakistan."

Visit All We Can's website at <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/pakistan-emergency-appeal/> to donate.

A prayer for Pakistan:

Holy God, we pray for all whose families, homes and livelihoods have been devastated by floods. We especially pray for the people of Pakistan as the nation is overwhelmed. We give thanks for all that is being done to bring aid and relief and ask that you work in the hearts of your people to quickly provide more and more until hope is restored for all. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

08 SEPTEMBER 2022

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have made the following statement in response to the announcement of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

“It was with profound sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty the Queen today. We join the nation in grief and thank God for her long and distinguished reign. The loyalty to, and love expressed, for Queen Elizabeth across the world is a testament to the life that she led, one marked by dedicated service to others. She provided encouragement and reassurance to a world living through uncertain times.



“For people of all ages the Queen has provided constancy, a calm and wise influence at all levels of society. Our nation, the Commonwealth and the world have been greatly blessed by her life and work.

“We give thanks to God that her duty as monarch was grounded in a deep faith in Jesus Christ, which has been an inspiration to countless people throughout her reign. Her dedication, commitment and service to her people will never be forgotten and will sustain all those who mourn in the coming weeks. Our prayers are for her family who have lost a mother, grandmother,

great-grandmother and aunt and we pray that all may be inspired by her service and guided by her example.

“The prayers of the Methodist people are also offered for His Majesty the King in his new role.”

The Revd Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

A prayer on the death of Her Majesty the Queen

Creator God,

We give thanks for the life of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. We honour her life of service built on a firm foundation of faith and an exemplary commitment to duty.

Comfort those who mourn and bring peace to those in distress.

We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

21 SEPTEMBER 2022

Presidency joins call for more support for people on the lowest incomes

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have joined a coalition of over 50 faith and charity leaders calling on the Prime Minister to prioritise support for the poorest in their cost of living announcements, ahead of Friday's fiscal statement.

Leaders from faith communities, charities, front-line support organisations and trade unions have signed an open letter to Prime Minister Liz Truss, urging her to “ensure that people on the lowest incomes have enough to live in the months ahead”.

The letter reads:

“As faith groups, charities, trade unions and front-line organisations we have seen the cost of living emergency escalating not only in the statistics but in the lives of people we meet day to day, in foodbanks, debt centres and in our places of worship. The least well off in our communities are facing the sharpest end

of this crisis, and without substantial support will be dragged into destitution.

It is the urgent, moral responsibility of the Prime Minister to ensure that people on the lowest incomes have enough to live in the months ahead. Spiralling costs are affecting everyone, but for those who were already fighting to keep their heads above water, this winter's challenges will be a matter of life and death."



The release of the letter coincides with new analysis from Prof Donald Hirsch, which calculates that despite the Energy Price Guarantee announcement made by the government on 8 September, a family of four receiving Universal Credit will still require an additional £1,391 over the next six months to stay warm and fed. It comes ahead of the government's planned fiscal statement, where they are due to announce further measures targeted at combatting the rising cost of living. So far, the government have not announced any plans to increase direct support to households.

The letter is signed by 52 charity, faith and community leaders, including representatives from The Methodist Church, The Muslim Council of Britain, The Hindu Council UK and Jewish leaders from across the UK, as well as charities and organisations such as The Food Foundation, the Child Poverty Action Group, Action for Children, The Big Issue and The Trussell Trust. Many charities and faith groups who provide direct support to the poorest households in communities across the UK through foodbanks, debt centres and warm banks, are also facing challenges in keeping up with increased demand amidst rising costs.

The letter calls for targeted financial support which takes into account family size and need, is distributed quickly and in amounts large enough to enable families to live decently this winter and beyond. The signatories argue that "increases in poverty and destitution because of this crisis are not inevitable, if government, business and civil society recognise that this is an emergency and act now", and call on the government to use the tools at their disposal to urgently deliver support.

In addition to the Presidency, the letter is signed by the Revd Ian Rutherford,

Chair, Greater Manchester Food Security Action Network and City Centre Minister at Methodist Central Hall Manchester and from the wider Methodist family, by Imran Hussain, Director of Policy and Campaigns, for Action for Children.

Full text of the letter:

As faith groups, charities, trade unions and front-line organisations we have seen the cost of living emergency escalating not only in the statistics but in the lives of people we meet day to day, in foodbanks, debt centres and in our places of worship. The least well off in our communities are facing the sharpest end of this crisis, and without substantial support will be dragged into destitution.

It is the urgent, moral responsibility of the Prime Minister to ensure that people on the lowest incomes have enough to live in the months ahead. Spiralling costs are affecting everyone, but for those who were already fighting to keep their heads above water this winter's challenges will be a matter of life and death.

The Energy Price Guarantee announced on 8th September, whilst welcome, hasn't gone far enough. Analysis published today by Prof Donald Hirsch indicates that the average family of four receiving Universal Credit will still need an additional £1,391 over the next six months to stay warm and fed. Low income households need targeted financial support which takes into account family size and need, is distributed quickly and in amounts large enough to enable families to live decently this winter and beyond.

Increases in poverty and destitution because of this crisis are not inevitable, if government, business and civil society recognise that this is an emergency and act now. We believe that concerted action can turn the tide on poverty, see us through this winter and put us on the path to a poverty free Britain. The government has the tools to deliver this at their disposal, and they must use them now.

22 SEPTEMBER 2022

Presidency joins call for free school meals for all children in primary school

The Revd Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have joined over 100 leaders from civil

society to call on the Government to extend free school meals to every child in primary school in England.

In an open letter, organised by the National Education Union's No Child Left Behind campaign a diverse coalition of groups which include the Mayors of London and Manchester, trade union leaders and medical professionals, say:

"We are living through the greatest cost of living crisis in a generation, and too many families with young children are being pulled into poverty. Free school meals for every child will put money back in parents' pockets. That's money they can use to pay for other essentials for their children, from heating and food at home to hobbies and afterschool clubs.



"Teachers and support staff see the difference a healthy school dinner makes. When children are hungry, they can't learn. It's hard for them to concentrate and harder for them to reach their potential. Free School Meals for all would mean every child can learn and succeed."

Last year around 2.6 million children in the UK lived in households that went short of food. In England, for the first three years of school, every child gets a free school meal and no child wants for food while they are at school. This stops after Year 2. In 2020, Scotland pledged to extend free school meals to every child in primary. In 2021, Wales promised families they will do the same.

The letter calls for this action:

"Providing a Free School Meal for every child in primary school will ensure all children can flourish and no child is left behind. Prime Minister, will you commit to extending Free School Meals to every child in primary school?"

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

Join us at Withington on Sunday 2nd October

We will have a speaker from All We Can - which used to be known as MRDF, the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

We would like to have some lunch together after the service so please bring a bit of a picnic.

We are collecting for the Withington foodbank. Some of the most welcome items are...

- Breakfast cereal
- Long-life milk,
- Long-life fruit juice
- Soup
- Pasta or rice
- Pasta sauce or tinned tomatoes
- Tinned beans
- Tinned meat, fish or pulses
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Rice pudding or custard
- Tea or coffee

Withington Methodist Church
Harvest festival service
with a speaker from All We Can

Sunday 2 October 2022, 10.45am
(followed by Bring and Share lunch)



Please bring
foodbank
donations



WE STAND TOGETHER – DIFFICULT DIALOGUE



in partnership with



IN COLLABORATION WITH



DIFFICULT DIALOGUE

Modern Day Slavery in the UK

Thursday 13 October 2022

6pm to 7.30pm (refreshments from 5.45pm)

at

**BROUGHTON HUB, 50 Rigby St, M7 4BQ
and online (hybrid)**

Register via: www.WeStandTogether.org.uk/events

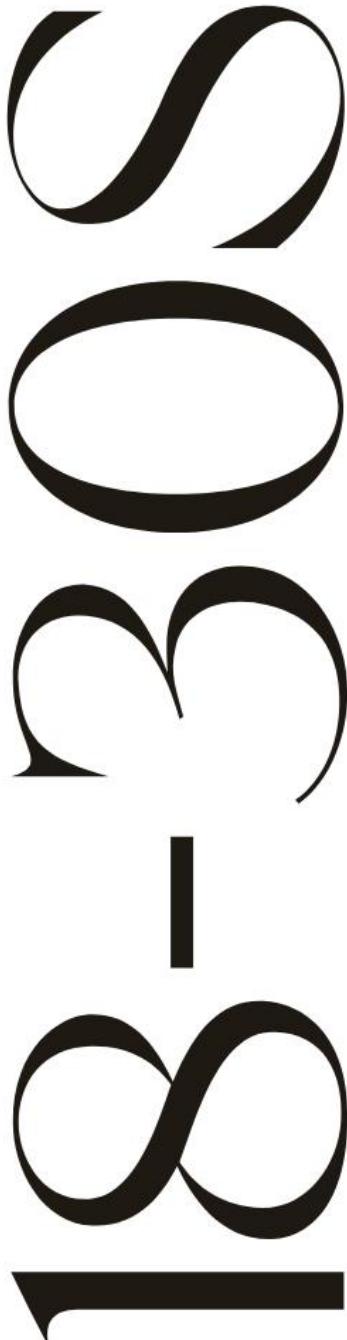
Topic introduced by Liam Durkan, Partnership Development Manager
Hope for Justice

- How does Modern Slavery exist in 2022 in the UK?
- Who is addressing the issue and are they doing enough?
- What can we do to break the cycle?

18- 30s MEET UP

The below event will take place from 3-5pm on Sunday 13th November and will be kept informal as an opportunity for young Methodists to meet up. There is no need to RSVP, people are free to just arrive on the day.

The **Manchester and Stockport**
Methodist District



A photograph of a large, multi-story stone building with many windows, identified as the Central Hall. The building has a prominent corner section and is located on a street corner. People are walking on the sidewalk in front of it. A red location pin is overlaid on the image, pointing to the building.

**CENTRAL HALL, OLDHAM
STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 1JQ**

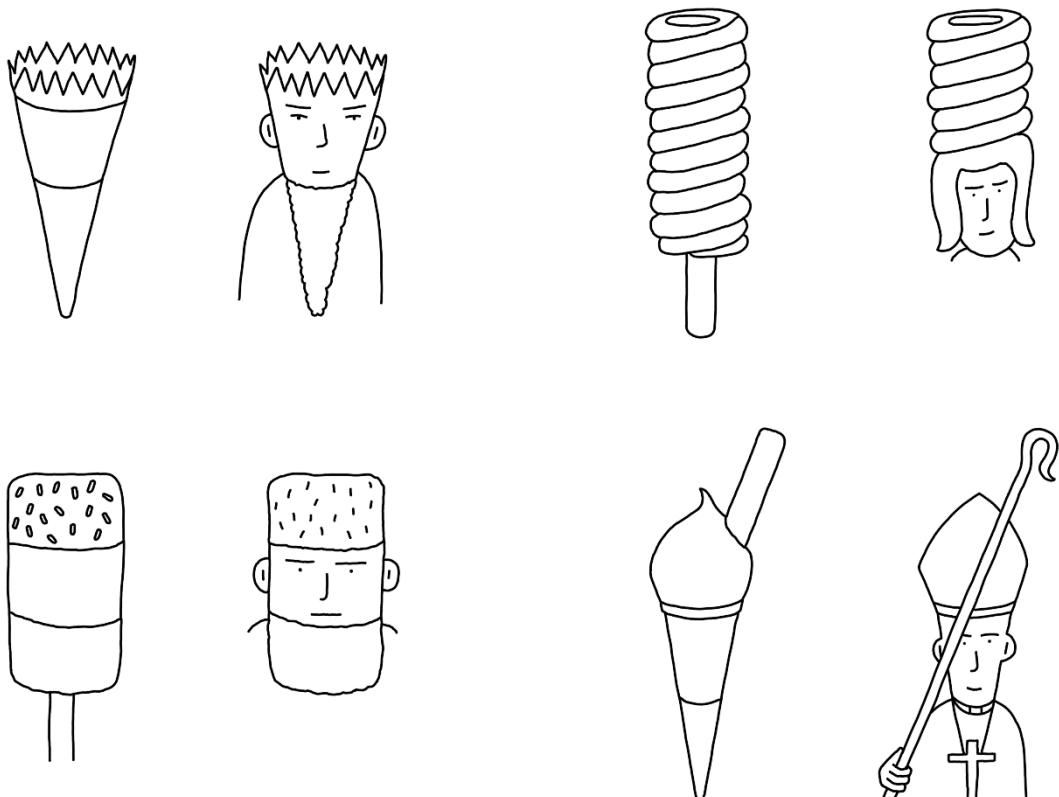
**SUNDAY 13TH
NOVEMBER
3-5PM**

**JOIN US FOR
AN
AFTERNOON
OF GAMES,
CAKES AND
COFFEE**

THANK YOU FOR READING!

ICE CREAMS

HOW CHURCHGOERS LOOK SIMILAR TO THEIR FAVOURITES



CartoonChurch.com

The next magazine will be out on the 30th October on the Withington Methodist Church Facebook Group and via email.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's magazine please pass it on to Caroline Fielding - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the magazine please email - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

Withington Methodist Church

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Sunday Services

Morning Worship : 10:45 am taking place in the ground floor hall. Holy Communion once a month.

Regular Activities

Monday Monkeys (Mondays 10:00 - 11:30am)

Kundalini Yoga (7:00 - 8:30pm)

Brownies (Wednesdays from Oct. 6:45 - 8:15pm)

Snooker Group (Fridays 1:00 - 3:00pm)

