

St. Paul's Heaton Moor

Part of the Heatons Team

Welcome to our Joint Service of Holy Communion with St John's



Second Sunday of Christmas 1st January 2023

Led by Revd Janet Butterworth at St John's

Well, that was Christmas, done and dusted for another year, the turkey is almost finished! Relatives packed off home, presents put neatly away and 'thankyous' written. The decorations are starting to irritate and we can't wait for 12th night to take them down. Christmas done and dusted for another year... or is it??

As we greet the New Year, it might seem as if carol-singing and 'baby Jesus' are a dim and distant memory of the 'old year'. The shepherds have gone back to their fields to watch their flocks and there is not an angel to be seen! You might also think that the wise men have packed up their camels and ridden off across the desert again, back to the far and distant lands from whence they came. But there you would be wrong too, because the wise men do not strictly belong in the Christmas story at all. Next week we will celebrate Epiphany (meaning 'to reveal what is hidden'). Jesus was no longer a baby, and they were unlikely to still be in the stable. This story is set against the backdrop of a jealous tyrant – Herod – meaning the family had to flee as refugees into another land.

But for now, a mysterious 'awe and wonder' moment; a visit by wise men from far off lands bringing gifts to the infant Jesus becomes the next instalment of the Christmas story; a story which gradually reveals to the world who this baby, Jesus, really is; a story that keeps on giving; a story which will change the world forever.

The wise men bring, for their part in the story, gifts of great value – the best they could bring, and they lay them at the cradle of a child who is God, before returning home in the full knowledge that they have found the King they were looking for.

So in this January season of Epiphany, don't rush to pack away your Nativity – the Holy family and the kings – leave them on the shelf until Candlemas on 2nd February when Epiphany season ends. They will remind you that the story of Christmas doesn't end with the new year. In fact, the story has continued through the centuries, as Jesus, the baby in the manger who grew to die for us on the cross, our God and Saviour, is revealed afresh for each new generation.

So as we look back on the past year, as we consider the ways we have revealed the Kingdom to those around us, let us pray for ways to be persistent in our journey, like the wise men, what gift can we bring to the Christ child? How can we be the star that guides others to Christ?

What can I give him?

Poor as I am

If I were a shepherd

I would give a lamb

If I were a wise man

I would do my part

But what I can I give him

Give him my heart

(from 'In the bleak midwinter' by Christina Rossetti)

May the New Year bring you blessings and treasures beyond measure.

Rev Liz

St. Paul's Heaton Moor

Part of the Heaton's Team

We are praying for...

In memoriam

We pray for those whose anniversaries fall this week
'May they rest in peace, and rise in glory'

In our prayers

We are thinking of all those who are spending the Christmas season without a loved one particularly if this is the first Christmas without them. Christmas is a time when grief is more poignant and we hold you in our prayers.

Raymond [redacted]; Jeremy [redacted]; Jean [redacted]; Rev Canon Marcia [redacted]; Derek [redacted]; Peggy [redacted]; Sandra; Pam [redacted].

Our neighbours

In January we are praying for Acrefield Road, Alan Road, Cliff Grove, Cranbourne Road and Cranbourne Court

Services this week

There are no services of Morning Prayer this week.

Monday 2nd January 1.30-3.30pm St John's
Coffee and Conversation.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 10th January 2023 St John's Morning Prayer
followed by Bible Study and breakfast at St John's

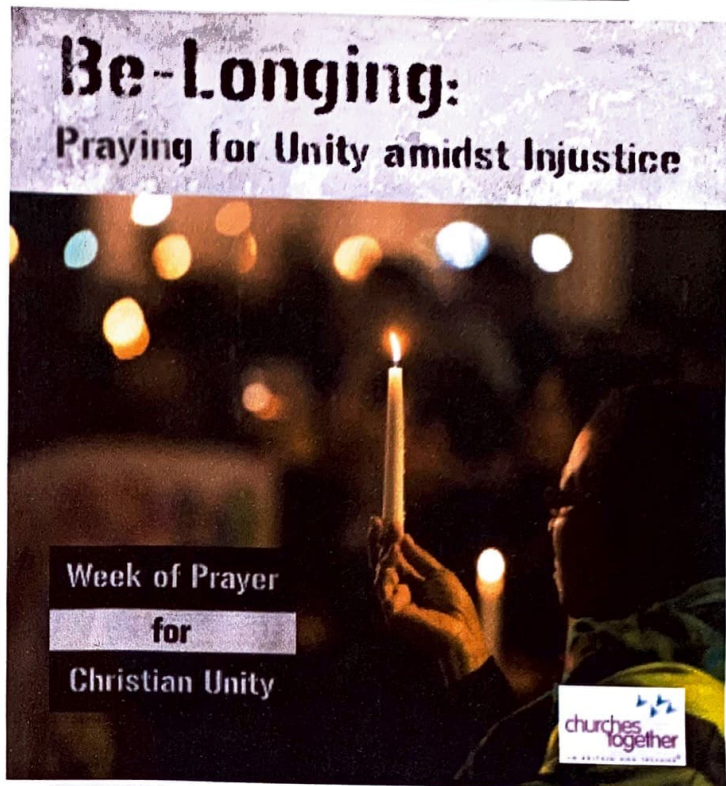
Every Wednesday (starting 11th January 2023) 'Brew in a Pew' 10.30-12.00 Tea, coffee and cake following Holy Communion, with quizzes, piano and singing, or just enjoy a 'Warm Space'.

Every Monday at St John's 1.30-3.30 Coffee and Conversation in a 'Warm Space' Light-hearted conversation and friendly company every Monday.



St Paul's and St John's are winners of the Eco Church Silver Award!

The Eco Church award scheme celebrates the ways that church communities have been engaging with caring for the earth as a key part of our Christian faith.



Local Information
An Invitation to a United Service for the Churches in the Heaton's during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday 22nd January at 16:00
Heaton Moor United Church
Service with light meal included
For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Photo: Heaton's church.org.uk

Contact details:

Team Vicar:

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Churchwardens:

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Please take this sheet home with you for reflection and prayer and another one for someone who may like it.

St John's & St Paul's
Together in Mission and Ministry
www.heatons-team.org.uk