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### A Letter from Rev'd Liz Rowles

#### Gorgeous Green.

One of the joys of summer is the explosion of green everywhere, even in cities. Dark green pine trees, soft green grass for picnics, tender green leaves that get darker through the summer. Our flower arrangers, the two Ann's, harvest lots of greenery from our garden—have you explored our garden? Come and have a look, enjoy the space and spend a moment sitting on the bench. Summer is a wonderful time for planting too. What about coming helping at our Ground Force Days? All are welcome, including children (check St Paul's website for details). Come and have a look how our sunflowers are doing, the ones we were given by Sustainable Living in the Heaton's. Even in the middle of cities, a British summer is full of flowers. We love to see them bloom, bringing spectacular colour and sometimes fragrance into the summer months. It's a lovely time to appreciate the beauty of God's world and think about how God cares for us as part of creation. Look out for news of our eco event that will be happening in mid-September in conjunction with Heaton's Churches Together, Sustainable Living in the Heaton's and the Youth Christian Climate Network.

It has been lovely to see the children from the nursery using our garden as a place to play

and explore. We are opening our garden up on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month over the summer for "Tea on the lawn" to coincide with the Heaton's Makers Market, encouraging the community to think about our church as their church, a place for all in the community. If you are able to help, please see the church wardens, and do encourage people to pay us a visit.

The church will feature a lot of green fabric over the summer. During this time, Christians just get on with growing in our life with God, like the plants are doing. And like the plants, to grow, we need feeding spiritually. This period in the church calendar is known as 'ordinary time'. A time when there are no major feasts or festivals, where we just get on with life. A time when we need to take time to rest and to pray. Praying is a great way to feed our growing faith. Long summer days and nights can be a good time for prayers. Start with something as simple as saying thank you to God for something you're really grateful for or asking for God's peace at bedtime each night.

While we rest and rejuvenate over the summer months, we are also looking to the future. We are hoping to appoint a new Church Halls administrator very soon, we are planning for our Harvest Festival on 26<sup>th</sup> September, and we are hoping to reopen Little Fishes- if you are able to volunteer on a Thursday morning at this parent and toddler group then please see Liz or the church wardens. We are also always looking for people who would like to lead services, lead intercessions and do the bible readings, if this could be you then please let us know. Our mission action plan is to reach out to the people in our community. Street prayers will start in July—can you think of other ways that we can engage with our neighbours and raise the profile of our church?

During this time of change, we pray also for a time of growth. I wish you all a restful and a peaceful summer. **Liz**

#### A prayer for summer

Long warm days... The pace of life slows... A time for picnics and rest in the shade... Lord, help me to rest awhile in the cooling shade of your presence. Slow down my restless heart and fill me with gentle compassion for all your people. Amen.



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*The next PCC meeting is on 14th July at 7:45 in church, preceded by Holy Communion. If you are not on the PCC but would like to come for Holy Communion you would be very welcome.*

## Current Services at St Paul's

**Sunday: 9.00 am** Sunday Worship on Zoom

**10.45am** Parish Eucharist in church—please remember to wear a mask.

**Wednesday: 9am** Morning prayer on Zoom

**First Friday of the month: 8.30pm** Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom. A peaceful reflective service.

**Choral Evensong: 6.30pm** Sunday July 25th

For further details please contact Revd. Liz 07763 188149

## From the Register:

**Wedding:** June 26th

Lauren Doyle & John Wilson

Please keep them in your prayers as they start their married life together.



### Forthcoming weddings:

August 28th Rebecca Snape & Joshua Holden

### Forthcoming baptisms:

25th July Thea Young 22nd Aug Hugo Woodruff

Early Essentials Stockport, a charity which supports vulnerable new mums has asked us if we will be a collection point for donations, and we are more than happy to do this!

'We work alongside health, social care professionals and charities to give beautiful first essential hampers of baby items to the most vulnerable new mums

We are a group of Romiley women who coordinate and create beautiful Moses baskets full of essentials items for the period immediately after birth to the most vulnerable women in Stockport. We have close links with health and social care professionals and care passionately about providing every mother in Stockport who has nothing with what they need. We rely wholly on public donations and incredible generosity of our amazing donors.' <https://www.facebook.com/earlyessentialsstockport/>

**We will take donations on Sunday morning 12.00-12.30 (after church), and on 4<sup>th</sup> July 12.30 – 2.30 (during 'Tea on the Lawn'), and on subsequent 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays**



**Over the next twelve months, starting from July, our church community will be praying for our wider community, month by month. We have decided to do this by praying for groups of streets in our parish, so we will begin in July by praying for Singleton Road, Park Grove, Derby Range, St Andrew's Road and St Andrew's Close. We believe this is one of many ways we can engage with our community here in Heaton Moor. We know that when we pray God is listening. Never underestimate the power of prayer!**



Heaton Moor United Church are collecting certain items which are not recyclable in our household bins but can be made into things like blankets for the homeless, and other useful items.

'Terracycle UK are now collecting medicine blister packs for recycling. If you have any packs these can be brought to Church (Heaton Moor United Church) and we will send them for recycling. Other items we collect for recycling are: · Plastic milk bottle tops · Bread bags · Crisp packets · Cheese wrapper · Contact lens packs'

One thing that we've probably missed over the past year is parties. Well, this month should enable us to party again! Lots of Jesus's parables focus on parties, as they are a picture of the joy, hope and life of the kingdom of God. **The parable of the Great Banquet** (Luke 14: 15-24) challenges us not to miss out on this.

In Jesus's day, when people accepted an *invitation* to a banquet, they were only told the actual time on the day: '*Come, for everything is now ready*' (17). Jesus invites each one of us to share in the life of His kingdom. However, the guests made *excuses* for not coming. At the time, this would have been extremely insulting to the host. They said: '*I have just bought a field; I must try out my new team of oxen; I have just got married*' (18-20). These are all good things in themselves, however they reveal their priorities were elsewhere.

We too can be pre-occupied with our own routines of work, family, retirement, holidays, friends, home, social media, so that we forget God's priorities for our lives. Jesus calls for total commitment from His disciples. *What priority in my life is holding me back from accepting His invitation?*

How did the host *respond*? He ordered His servants to '*Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.*' (21). He invited the unexpected and unacceptable people to His banquet. Jesus makes the point that *God's kingdom is open to all!* Thinking about our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours, even if they're not like us or show little interest in God: *Are we willing to offer them God's invitation to share His love and life?* Parish Pump