Christmas 2026 Services – Additional to Normal Service Times

Bethesda	11.00am	20/12/26	Joint Carol Service - @ Southgate No Service Christmas Day 2026
Blackshaw Head	4.00pm	13/12/26	Christingle Service
	7.00pm	18/12/26	Village Carols
	10.00am	25/12/26	Christmas Day All Age Worship – LA
	10.45am	27/12/26	Cluster Coffee Cake and Carols at Hebden Royd
Brighouse Central	2.30pm	13/12/26	Mason Service Carol Service
	10.30am	20/12/26 -	Part of Morning Service Nativity (LA)
	6.00pm	20/12/26	Carol Service - Biggar
	4.00pm	24/12/26	Christingle – Biggar
	11.30pm	24/12/26	Midnight Communion – Biggar
	11.00am	25/12/26	Christmas Day Service – G Smith
Boothtown & Southowram	6.30pm	16/12/26	BB & GB Carol Service – Morling
	10am – 11.30am	19/12/26	Messy Church
Christ Church LEP	6.00pm	27/11/26	Lighting of the Christmas Tree
	10am – 12 pm	05/12/26	Christmas Events – Stalls & Artisan Crafters
	7.00pm	15/12/26	Carol Service – Chikaviro
	4.00pm	24/12/26	Christingle Service – Stead
	5.30pm	24/12/26	Holy Communion – Chikaviro
	10.00am	25/12/26	Christmas Day Service – Stead
Clifton	4.00pm	20/12/26	Carol Service
	10.30am	25/12/26	Christmas Day service – Biggar
Cross Hills	7.00pm	24/12/26	Carols on the Green – Chikaviro
	11:30pm	24/12/26	Holy Communion – Chikaviro
	10:30am	25/12/26	Christmas Day Service – Chikaviro
	7.00pm	13/12/26 – Rose & Crown	Janet Revill
	6.00pm	20/12/26 - The Carol Service	Janet Revill
	9.00am	03/01/27 - EMC	John Saville
	11.00am	24/01/27 - Joint at St Toms	Janet Revill
	5.00pm	24/01/27 - Pizza Panto Praise	Janet Revill
Hebden Royd	6.00pm	24/12/26	Carols in the Square
	10.00am	25/12/26	All Age Worship for Christmas
	10.45am	27/12/26	Cluster Coffee Cake and Carols
Heptonstall	6.30pm	20/12/26	Carols @ St Thomas' – United service
	11.30pm	24/12/26	United service @ St. Thomas'
	10.00am	25/12/26	With St Thomas' Xmas Day service & Communion
	10.45am	27/12/26	Cluster Coffee Cake and Carols at Hebden Royd
Highgate	6.30pm	07/12/26	Christingle – Morling
	10.30am	13/12/26	Coffee & Carols
	10.30am	20/12/26	Community Carol Service

Stones	10.30am	20/12/26	Nativity Service
	6.30pm	20/12/26	Carols by Candlelight – Heathcoat
	4.00pm	24/12/26	GLOW - All Age Service – Heathcoat
	9.30am	25/12/26	Christmas Day Service – Heathcoat
	10.45am	27/12/26	Cluster Coffee Cake and Carols at Hebden Royd
Illingworth Moor	11.00am	25/12/26	Christmas Day Service – Morling
Mount Zion	2.30pm	13/12/26	Carol Service – Morling
Southgate	6.30pm	09/12/26	Christingle with BB/GB - Chikaviro
	6.00pm	24/12/26	Carols for all – Chikaviro & Hales
	11.00am	25/12/26	Christmas Day Service – Chikaviro
St. Andrew's	6.00pm	09/12/26	Christingle Service
	10.00am	25/12/26	Christmas Day Service - Morling
St. Paul's	10.30am	06/12/26	Parade Service
	All Day	12/12/26	Live Nativity Weekend
	6.00pm	13/12/26	Carols by Candlelight - Heathcoat
	10.30am	20/12/26	Café Worship
	11.30pm	24/12/26	Holy Communion - @ Christ Church US
	10.30am	25/12/26	Christmas Day Service – Heathcoat (All Age)
	10.45am	27/12/26	Cluster Coffee Cake and Carols at Hebden Royd
Todmorden	10.30am	20/12/26	Carol Service - Heathcoat
	10.00am	25/12/26	All Age Worship for Christmas
	10.45am	27/12/26	Cluster Coffee Cake and Carols at Hebden Royd

Calderdale Methodist Circuit

It was just an ordinary night on a dark hillside outside Bethlehem, where shepherds were watching their sheep, when the night sky suddenly lit up with the glory of God. The shepherds first reaction was terror. Then an angel spoke the words that echo across the centuries to us: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Those words were not a command to stop feeling afraid. They were a gift. The shepherds’ fear was real and understandable. I suppose an angel’s appearance would frighten anyone. Yet into that fear, the angel spoke a deeper truth: God had come near, not to condemn or overwhelm the world, but to bring joy. The Saviour who was born that night would grow up and touch the untouchable, forgive the unforgivable, and lay down his life for the world. In Jesus, God the creator chose to come among us in self-giving love.

This Christmas, many of us know fear. News headlines speak of conflict and uncertainty. Many people face poverty or the struggle to make ends meet. Whilst others carry the weight of grief, sickness, loneliness, or anxiety about the future. These fears are real, and they do not vanish simply because it is Christmas.

The Methodist Church’s Christmas theme this year invites us to hear the angel’s words afresh: “Don’t be afraid.” Not because the difficulties disappear, but because God is here with us in Jesus.

As we recall the Christmas story, we are reminded that it is full of people who were afraid and yet found courage. Mary heard the angel’s greeting and was troubled, yet she said yes. Joseph faced the scandal of Mary’s pregnancy and nearly walked away, until an angel told him not to be afraid. The shepherds trembled, then hurried to the manger. Each of them discovered that God’s interruptions, however unsettling, resulted in good news.

In Jesus, God does not stay remote, at a safe distance. He enters the mess and the wonder of human life. He comes to us as a vulnerable baby, dependent on others, lying in a manger. He comes to us as the one who will later say to his friends, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” Jesus’ presence does not guarantee an easy path, but he promises that we will never be alone.

This Christmas, I pray that you will notice the glimmers of God’s nearness— unexpected kindness, quiet hope, peace and a community that gathers in love to sing carols and share food. May we hear again the angel’s invitation and respond with trust. The good news of great joy is for all people. God is with us. Don’t be afraid.

Christmas Peace 2026,

Rev Nick