

EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

May Magazine 2023

Minister: Revd. Joy Rulton

Preachers/Lectionary Readings

7th May Vocations Sunday	11:00am	Rev. Ade Kila	Acts Ch 7 v 55 – 60 Psalm 31 v 1 – 5, 15 -16 1 Peter Ch 2 v 2 -10 John Ch 14 v 1 – 14
14th May Christian Aid Week	11:00am	Rev. Caroline Wickens (HC)	Acts Ch 17 v 22 -31 Psalm 66 v 8-20 1 Peter Ch 3 v 13-22 John Ch 14 v 15-21
21st May Aldersgate Sunday	11:00am	Rev. Joy Rulton (Baptism)	Acts Ch 1 v 6 - 14 Psalm 68 v 1-8, 32 -35 1 Peter Ch 4 v 12 -14, Ch 5 v 6-11 John Ch 17 v 1-11
28th May Pentecost	10:45am	United Service with Droylsden (at Droylsden Methodist Church)	Acts Ch 2 v 1 - 21 Psalm 104 v 24-34,35b 1 Corinthians Ch 12 v 3b -13 John Ch 20 v 19 -23

I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to work with you over these three months while Rev.Joy is on sabbatical. I've been involved with Edge Lane since I came to Manchester as a member of the Joint Managing Trustees, so I know a bit about the building. But a church is so much more than a building! And I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all better, especially at this time of change, when you're working out what it means to grow into one congregation out of two.

Change is often unsettling. We miss the familiar ways and places. We find ourselves going to the old church on auto-pilot, or surprised by how many more people there are in church. And that can be uncomfortable, with a jolt of shock or regret as we realise that we are no longer in the same place as we were. When that happens to me, I recall Leonard Cohen's words – 'there is a crack, a crack in everything – that's how the light gets in'. A crack is something that is out of place and can make us feel irritated or uncomfortable – a cracked mug is not much use! And yet 'that's how the light gets in'.

Our God is a God of journeys and change. 'Get up and go', God said to Abraham (Genesis 12:1). We sing 'We're a travelling, wandering race – we're the people of God'. Jesus too was constantly on the move, seeking out new people to share his message and recognise the kingdom. People experienced Jesus as disruptive, challenging the existing ways of life and offering new ones. Some only saw the cracks – others saw the light blazing through.

It's my prayer that in the months I'm with you, we can move on a little, sharing the disruption of our earlier ways, but also looking for the light. And when Rev.Joy returns in July, refreshed after her sabbatical, you will continue the journey alongside her. Wherever God takes you as the people of Edge Lane Clayton Methodist Church, it will be a space for change, for surprise, but also for the light of God to shine round you.

God bless you

Caroline

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CHURCH NOTICES

What a busy May it will be this year with three bank holidays, the King's Coronation, Ascension Day and Pentecost and so much more all in 31 days. We thank Rev Caroline Wickens for contributing to our magazine whilst Joy is on Sabbatical, and look forward to her leading worship and getting to know us all better.

News of Friends

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who are not well in body, mind or spirit and for those awaiting appointments and treatments. We particularly think of Doreen, Jean H, Jeff P, Val G, Betty, Harry, Joan P, Peter, Linda, Jean W, John S, Bill, David, Joan B and Rita. May you feel the Lord is travelling along with you and supporting you in these difficult times.

Church Trips

Reddish Vale Farm

On Sunday 2nd April, the Junior Church and a few members of the congregation along with some friends had a fantastic time at Reddish Vale Farm. The sun was shining and the farm was bustling with Easter activities.

We started the day at the farm and petting stations for the children to interact with the animals. There were goats, cows, alpacas, horses and pigs. The kids had the chance to pet the rabbits. The meerkats were also having fun, and the children could watch them play. Each child had carrots to feed the animals, making the experience even more special.

Outside the farm, they had multiple games, including swings, play gyms, zip wire, bouncy fields and a trail ride. The trail ride on a tractor was a big hit, with everyone enjoying the bumpy ride around the farm. One lucky Junior church member managed to get around the trail with the tractor 9 times!

The Reddish Vale Farm had lots of other activities including an Easter egg hunt, Alice in Wonderland Mad Hatter Tea Party, and a Trail puzzle. The kids had a blast hunting for eggs, with free Easter eggs as a reward for those who gathered enough eggs.

The trail puzzle was challenging but fun, and everyone was eager to finish it for a chance to win a giant egg as a prize.

To end the day, there was a tea party which was a delight. Everyone enjoying some fictional tea and cakes, and some non-fictional popcorn while served by Alice in

Wonderland, the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, the King of Hearts and the Cheshire Cat just to name a few.

The farm itself was a perfect setting for the day out. The kids loved seeing the animals, feeding them, and learning about farm life. The adults enjoyed the peaceful surroundings and the opportunity to spend quality time with their families and friends.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Manchester Methodist Circuit for sponsoring us to attend such a wonderful day out. The kids had a fantastic time, and we are grateful for the memories that were made. The generosity of the Manchester Methodist Circuit is greatly appreciated.

Lilly's Bistro

On Saturday 22nd April, we had a trip to Lilly's Bistro in Ashton for afternoon tea, as part of the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Manchester Circuit.

There we were offered a wonderful selection of finger sandwiches, a trio of scones with jam and clotted cream, and a selection of mini patisseries, all delivered on cake stands. The food was delicious and a few of our members took what we couldn't eat home to share and finish later!

The atmosphere of fellowship was very evident and everyone appeared to be enjoying the afternoon.

There were quite a few comments about repeating this experience by having future trips out.

I can definitely recommend a visit to Lilly's Bistro not just for their extensive menu but for the warm and welcoming staff, who catered to all our dietary needs.

Easter Offering 2023

Many thanks to all who contributed to this annual appeal. A total of £120 was raised for the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church. The Easter offering Service for the circuit will be held on 14th May on zoom at 6:30pm.

The Easter Season

We enjoyed the Easter Celebration on Easter Sunday with breakfast followed by the Service when the Lenten Cross was decorated with Spring flowers and then taken outside into the garden for all to see as they passed. Thanks to all who helped make the day so memorable.

Sunday 7th May

After the service we plan to celebrate the King's coronation with a bring-and-share lunch and crown competition and much, much more! Please come along for a time of fellowship and fun!

May's Calendar

1st May	May Day and International Dawn Chorus Day
6th May	King Charles III Coronation
7th May	Vocations Sunday and Bring-and-share lunch and Crown competition after the service
8th May	Coronation Bank Holiday
14th-20th	Christian Aid Week
18th May	Ascension Day
21st May	Aldersgate Sunday. Noah's Baptism and Circuit 20th Anniversary Celebration
28th May	Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
29th May	Late May Bank holiday (Whit)

Preliminary Notice for Sat 3rd June 11am – 2pm

We plan to hold a Strawberry Fayre at Church to raise vital funds for our church. Please see Linda if you can help out and with any suggestions to make it a community outreach day.

What a lot is going on!

Birthdays

Wishing everyone born in May a very Happy Birthday. May your days and years ahead be full of love, peace, happiness and good health. May every good and perfect gift be your portion in Jesus' name.

Next Magazine

The June Magazine will be available both on the webiste and hard copies in church. Everyone is welcome to make a contribution by email to **marian.claytonmethodist@yahoo.co.uk** or to Elva by the 24th of May 2023. Thank you.

More information about some of what is happening this month

7th May is Vocations Sunday.

What does this mean? Well, the word vocation comes from the Latin Word Vocare, which means 'to call'. So, on this Sunday we think about the work we are called to do

by God. We all love a vocation, but this does not happen in isolation, it is part of sharing amongst ourselves the work that God is asking us to do. Our vocation is the work of God continuing in Ordinary people (like us). Together we can make a difference.

14th – 20th May is Christian Aid Week

Envelopes for donations will be available at church for this annual charity event. The money raised goes to support people from all parts of the world to help make their life more sustainable.

Here is just one story – called Jen’s story, who is a loving mum in Malawi (in S.E Africa). Jen’s sons have both earned places at college, but she cannot afford to send them both.

Jen and her husband have two acres of land where they grow pigeon peas but they are struggling with the effects of the climate crisis. The rainfall is unreliable and there are more storms, floodings and stronger winds. Jen needs better quality seeds to sow, so she has a good harvest, so she can build a happier future for her children. Christian Aid can help her. Pigeon peas are a hardy pea, a very good source of protein that can be used in many dishes.

21st May Aldersgate Sunday which is a special day in the Methodist Calendar when in 1738 John Wesley went to worship at a Moravian meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. During the service he felt his ‘heart was strangely warmed,’ as he experienced God’s love in a most personal and life-giving way. Until then, he had known God in his mind, but not in his heart.

This day we also celebrate the baptism of little Noah, welcoming him officially into our church, what a day it will be.

28th May Pentecost or ‘Whit Sunday’

This takes place on the 50th day after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the time when the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles and others. It is the birth of Christianity when the followers of Jesus then began to go out into the world to spread the message.

Here is a verse from a hymn for Pentecost written by Rev. John Forster

God of love, the faithful spirit,
Always gracious, always true;
Faithfulness inspire within us-
In our thoughts, in all we do.
Holy Spirit, fount of grace,
Make us faithful, make us true

Many of us have such happy memories of the Whit walk processions, which sadly we no longer hold.

The Young people of our church have written a prayer for the King's Coronation: -

Dear Lord,

We pray to you to thank you for our future King, King Charles III.

We ask you to bless him as he takes on the role and all the work he will have to do.

We ask for health and happiness for him and his family and we pray that he is a good leader here in Great Britain and around the world. We are proud to have such a smart, hardworking and dedicated man as King to his people. Amen

A Poem to ponder *by Maggie Ingall*

The Little Things

'Little things please little minds

I've sometimes heard folk say,

As if the smaller things of life

Weren't worth the time of day

Yet, surely, it's the little things

That make our lives worth while?

A snatch of song, a lovely view,

Or just a friendly smile

For if we treasure all the things

That drive away dull care.

They'll make our lives more truly rich

Than any millionaire!

May Brain Teaser

How many words of 4 letters or more can you make from

PENTECOST