

# EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

## February Magazine 2024

Minister: Revd. Joy Rulton



### Preachers/Lectionary Readings

4th Feb Communications Sunday	11:00am	Mrs Abi Parr	Isaiah Ch 40 v 21 – 31 Psalm 147 v 1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians Ch 9 v 16- 23 Mark Ch 1 v 29 - 39
11th Feb Racial Justice Sunday	11:00am	Rev. Ade Kila	2 Kings Ch 2 v 1- 12 Psalm 50 v 1 – 6 2 Corinthians Ch 4 v 3 - 6 Mark Ch 9 v 2- 9
18th Feb 1st Sunday in Lent	11:00am	Rev. Joy Rulton (HC)	Genesis Ch 9 v 8 - 17 Psalm 25 v 1 -10 1 Peter Ch 3 v 18 - 22 Mark Ch 1 v 9-15
25th Feb 2nd Sunday in Lent	11:00am	Deacon Jenny Jones	Genesis Ch 17 v 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22 v 23 -31 Romans Ch 4 v 13 - 25 Mark Ch 8 v 31 -38

# CHURCH NOTICES

As we move into February, we move into the season of Lent when we reflect on our journey towards the cross and then the resurrection of our Lord. In these often dark days of winter, it can be difficult to feel positive but if we put our hands in the Lords protection, we are assured that He will bring us through and guide us into the paths He asks us to follow.

## **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, treatments and operations. We name especially Rev Joy, Linda, David, Harry, Joan B, Jean H, Joan P, Peter, Jean W, Val, Betty, Jean W and we add our own names to these. We pray that the Lord will give you the strength and reassurance at this time and that you do not feel alone but surrounded by His love and all your friends in our church.

## **Sunday Worship**

We have had good congregations and uplifting services during January and thank all the ministers and local preachers for their encouragement, commitment and support.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training**

Our Circuit is holding two training sessions in February. One on zoom on 15th Feb at 7pm and one in person at Edge Lane & Clayton church on 24th Feb at 9:30am. Those involved only need to attend one of these sessions. The following people are required to take this training; ministers, local preachers, lay workers, pastoral leaders, children, youth & family workers, pioneer missionaries, worship leaders, circuit stewards, church stewards, safeguarding officers and connexional committee & team members. If you have not already given your details to Linda, please do so as soon as possible. Thankyou.

## **Pancake Party- 11th February**

The Junior church would like to invite you all to their pancake party after church on the 11th of February. There will be pancakes, fruits and drizzles for a donation. This is a fund-raising event to aid the junior church to fund their trip for the next outing.

Please stay behind after the service. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

## **Birthdays**

Wishing everyone born in February a very Happy Birthday. May you be surrounded by love and peace now and always. Have a very special day.

## **Next Magazine**

The March Magazine will be available both on the website and in hardcopy. Everyone is welcome to make contributions by email to **[marian.claytonmethodist@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marian.claytonmethodist@yahoo.co.uk)** or to Elva by the 28th of February 2024. Thank you.

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Dear Members of the Edge Lane and Clayton Methodist Church,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As your Treasurer, I am reaching out to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and support towards our beloved church. Your offerings and the vibrant worship you bring each Sunday are the lifeblood of our community.

In these times, as we strive to uphold our Methodist obligations and support the growth of the global church, we are facing increasing financial challenges. Our commitments include not only our regular assessments but also the vital upkeep of our church and our outreach activities that touch the lives of those in our community and those in need.

Our church assessments are based on a benchmark of £20 per member per week. While we recognise and fully understand that not everyone is in a position to contribute at this level, we kindly ask those who can to consider increasing their contributions. Every additional offering goes a long way in helping us meet these rising costs and continue our mission.

I want to make it clear that every contribution, no matter the size, is deeply valued. Your generosity and commitment have not gone unnoticed, and they resonate through the walls of our church and the hearts of our community. We understand that these are personal decisions, and we respect and appreciate whatever you can contribute.

As we move forward, let us keep our church's finances in our thoughts and prayers, considering what we might each be able to contribute towards our shared mission. Your support and gifts, in all their forms, are a testament to the strength and faith of our congregation.

Thank you once again for your incredible support. Your generosity is a blessing, and it is what makes our church a beacon of hope and faith in our community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Robert Johnson Treasurer, Edge Lane and Clayton Methodist Church

## **Preliminary Notice**

### **Methodist Women in Britain Spring Meeting - Saturday March 2nd 10:30 – 3:15pm**

Venue - Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street.

Please bring your own lunch, drinks are provided. The speaker and choir are from Women Asylum Seekers Together. All are welcome.

## **Important Dates in February**

- **Feb 11th**, the second Sunday in February is Racial Justice Sunday remembered by all Christians. It is a time to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for the gift and beauty of human diversity and to pray and commit ourselves to end racism and acts of discrimination.
- **Feb 14th** is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of lent this year (Also St Valentine's Day). The Methodist church has adopted the theme of 'Unbounded Love' for its lent campaign for 2024 which holds together our commitments to be a justice-seeking church, and a people who experience and proclaim the good news of God's uncontainable love. You can receive daily emails for the forty days of lent which are reflections which include bible studies, creative activities and challenges to take action. Just visit [methodist.org.uk](http://methodist.org.uk) for all the details and resources. In addition, All We Can's UK Theme for lent is 'What is mine to do? For more information, visit [www.allwecan.org.uk/resources/lent2024/](http://www.allwecan.org.uk/resources/lent2024/)

## **A Collect for the first Sunday in Lent (Feb 18th)**

Almighty God, whose son, Jesus Christ, fasted forty days in the wilderness and was tempted as we are; yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your spirit, and as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## **Notable Anniversaries in 2024**

- The Methodist Ministers' Housing Society (MMHS) is 75 years old. This charity enables hundreds of retired Methodist clergies to have a place to call home. At present, more than 700 presbyters, deacons and their families are being housed across the UK. To commemorate this anniversary, the Christian musician and composer, Paul Field has written a hymn based on the second chapter of Ephesians- Christ is the cornerstone.

Here is the first verse: -

There are no strangers here no barricades no walls,  
In Christ there is no east or west, one saviour for us all  
Let prejudice and pride be gone, let true forgiveness come  
So we may build the house of God, where all may live as one.

For more information about this charity, visit their website at [mmhs.org.uk](http://mmhs.org.uk)

- Big Ben Chimes were first broadcast at midnight on New Year's Eve, 100 years ago.
- Winter Olympics, the first of these games took place in Chamonix in France, 100 years ago (The summer Olympics this year are also held in France, in Paris).
- The beginning of television. John Logie Baird worked on sending a beam of light through a rapidly spinning disc punched with holes, allowing an image to be captured, transmitted, and turned back into the original image – this was in 1924, the beginning of the TV image!
- Paper tissues were first produced 100 years ago.

A diverse range of anniversaries, all of which have been a part of shaping our lives today.

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### **Some thoughts for February**

- We need to seek God for what He is and not just for what He can do for us.
  - When we cannot see God's reason, it is then that we have to trust His heart.
  - Jesus does not talk about problems; He talks about possibilities. For each situation we face, Jesus provides us with possibilities if we choose to look to Him for them.
  - Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.
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During January this year, we had some very cold, icy, frosty days and nights, when the air was so still and clear. At such times, there are beautiful sunrises and sunsets to behold, particularly when there is a full silvery moon. Here is an atmospheric poem by Heather Walker, where we can envisage a cold, river scene.

### **The Silvery Moon**

Slipping from the midnight cloud  
 A silver bowl stretched wedge wood blue  
 Strokes the river, fingers through  
 The wind-blown, ice-cold rivulet

Cloud skirts over, hide from view  
 Her capture in this watery place,  
 A mirror image of her face  
 Before she slides away

Then, once again, a tear appears  
 Across the wall of night-time sky,  
 She's slowly peeping, photo-shy  
 Unconscious of her beauty.

And now another poem by Eileen Hay which 'paints' in words the colours of a Winter dawn.

### **Fire and Frost**

A winter dawn with blazing sky  
Alights like celestial fire  
And in the leafless trees, the birds  
Tune up their morning choir  
The frosted shrubs and frozen grass  
Reflect the colours from on high,  
So they, too, glowing a sparkling red,  
Competing with the glorious sky.  
It looks surreal, this fiery scene,  
A shining moment caught in time;  
Such icy beauty feeds the soul –  
Yes, nature's palette is sublime!

So very true this has been this year. Look out for more remarkable sunrises (and sunsets) through the rest of winter.

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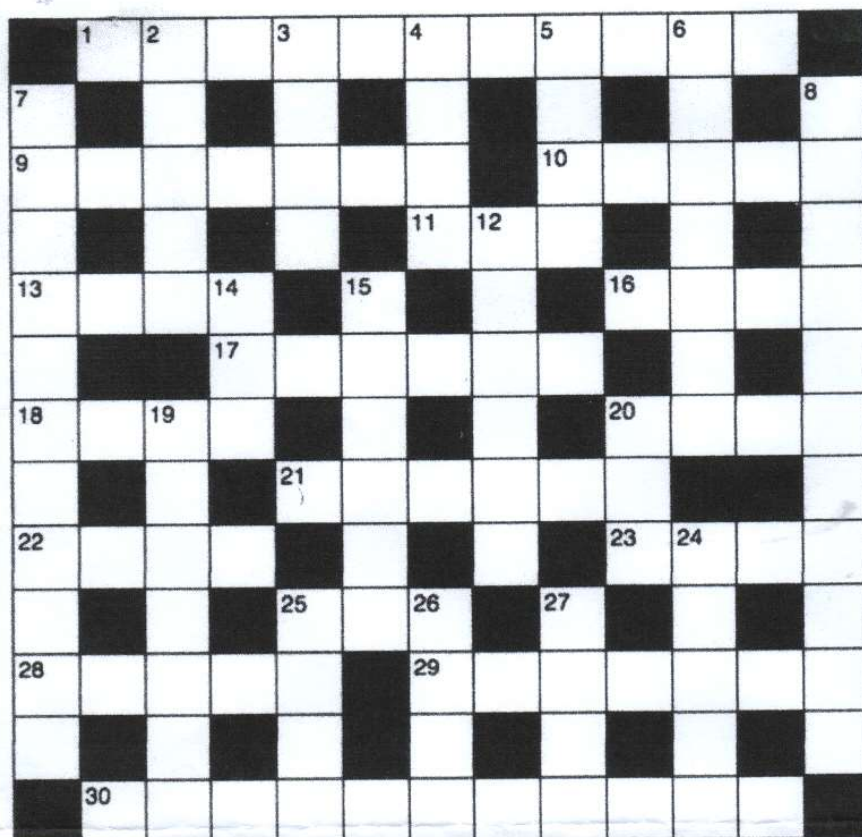
### **Befrienders At Methodist Central Hall.**

As you will be aware, this community outreach project takes place every Monday and Wednesday between 2pm & 4pm. It is open to anyone who can come for a hot drink, soup, biscuits and a chat with friends – old and new. One of the people who comes regularly is Roy, who has contributed to this magazine previously. He also attends the church, prays and lights candles in the chapel and finds friendship and support there. Here is a piece he wanted to share with us at this time.

*Fun, laughter and joy run through your mind like angels at your side. Happiness is joyful, not depressing.*

*God bless! Your good friend, Roy.*

Thank you, Roy, for your contribution and interest. May you find peace in the Lord.  
Amen.



## CROSSWORD CLUES

### ACROSS

1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)

9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10

'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)

11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)

16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)

17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)

18 Opposite of evens (4)

20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)

21 'There is surely — of God in this place, and

they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)

22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)

23 Beat (anag.) (4)

25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)

28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)

29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)

30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

### DOWN

2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)

3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)

4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)

5 Tidy (4)

6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)

7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25-26) (11)

8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)

12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)

14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)

15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)

19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)

20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)

24 Rarely used musical note (5)

25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)

26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a —, as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)

27 See 26 Down

# GOD BLESS ALL OUR READERS