

# EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

## March Magazine 2024

Minister: Revd. Joy Rulton



### Preachers/Lectionary Readings

3rd March 3rd Sunday in Lent	11:00am	Mrs Pamela Sewart	Exodus Ch 20 v 1 - 17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians Ch 1 v 18- 25 John Ch 2 v 13 - 22
10th March Mothering Sunday	11:00am	Mr Benjamin Allotey	Exodus Ch 2 v 1- 10 Psalm 34 v 11 – 20 2 Corinthians Ch 1 v 3 - 7 Luke Ch 2 v 33- 35
17th March Passion Sunday	11:00am	Deacon Jenny Jones	Jeremiah Ch 31 v 31 - 34 Psalm 51 v 1 -12 Hebrews Ch 5 v 5 - 10 John Ch 12 v 20-33
24th March Palm Sunday	11:00am	Junior Church	Isaiah Ch 50 v 4 – 9a Psalm 31 v 9 -16 Philippians Ch 2 v 5 - 11 Mark Ch 15 v 1 -39
31st March Easter Sunday	11:00am	Rev. Joy Rulton (HC)	Acts Ch 10 v 34 – 43 Psalm 118 v 1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians Ch 15 v 1 – 11 John Ch 20 V 1-18

Dear friends,

When I was little, my parents took me to a Baptist Church. Lent was a big part of the church year, and I was aware very early on that it was a special time, but I also remember longing for it to end and get the easter eggs. Now, I really appreciate the opportunity Lent gives us to think, to reflect on our faith.

Those of us who are observing Lent will be around halfway through now. I wonder how it's going. Are you feeling the benefits of giving something up, or perhaps taking on something new. Or do the stresses and distractions of life keep getting in the way. Maybe, some days, it's a real struggle to keep going; the commitment seems too much. It's easy, then, to start feeling disheartened and give up altogether.

It may be helpful then to remember that we don't go through Lent alone. We go with each other and with Jesus, who spent those 40 days in the wilderness alone. On those days when Lent almost seems like a challenge too far, we can know deep inside ourselves that we can depend on God's provision and we can learn to face our trials by depending on God's strength, not our own. These forty days give us time to seek God, to learn to trust in him more, to walk in his way.

He can give us the strength we need. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote," All the temptations which accompany the working day will be conquered on the basis of the morning breakthrough to God." That's the time we spend offering the day ahead to him and asking him to help us through it.

Words in the letter to the Hebrews are words to hold on to:

*"Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*  
Amen.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'J' and a simple 'ay'.

# CHURCH NOTICES

As we continue our journey through lent towards Easter and we also enter the season of Spring, we continue to thank our Lord for all He does for us in our darkest hour to our happiest day. May we feel a new spirit as we move into the brighter warmer months.

## **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 and those recovering from operations. We are pleased that the Rev. Joy is back with us and we name especially Linda, Harry, David, Joan B, Peter, Jean W, Jean H, Val, Betty, Joan P, Jean W. We add our own names to these, trusting in our Lord that He will give you the comfort and strength and reassure you that you are not alone but surrounded by His love and care and are remembered by all your friends in our church and beyond.

## **Pancake Party**

Many thanks go to everyone who supported this event which was led by our young people and their leaders. The sum of £130 was raised towards the outing for the Junior church. It was lovely to see the young people waiting on and serving in such a professional way and the pancakes made by their leaders were delicious with all the sumptuous fillings provided. It was unanimous that we would do this again!

## **Table Top Sale Sat April 6th 10am – 2pm**

We are having a fund-raising event for our church. The cost per table is £10 and there will be a café. Please publicize this to anyone who you think would like to sell their goods. We hope this will be a real community day when we welcome all into our church. For more details, see the posters, social media, or Linda and Janet. Please come along to support us. Thankyou.

## **Easter Card Sale**

David will be selling his hand-made cards after the services from March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. The money raised will go to church funds and to the pantry (a food bank) in Openshaw. Thankyou, David for your effort.

## **Church Council Meeting - Thurs March 7th at 7pm at Church**

All members of the Council should please try to be present when we have much to discuss about our church and up and coming events etc. If you are not a member of the church council and you wish to raise a matter, please get in touch with Rev. Joy or Linda prior to the meeting.

## **Circuit Meeting - Tues March 12th 7:30pm on Zoom**

A reminder to those members on the circuit meeting that this will be held on zoom again. If you want to raise any matter, or wish to know what goes on, please contact, Rev Joy, Linda, Sam, Robert or Elva, your representation at the meeting.

## **Easter Offerings 2024**

This is a yearly event when as a Methodist church, we are invited to donate to this charity appeal, organised by Methodist Women in Britain. The theme this year is, 'Let Justice Roll', taken from the bible verse from Amos Ch 5 v 24. *'But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!'* All money raised goes to the Methodist charity 'World Mission Fund'. This enables the Methodist church in Britain, in collaboration with the Methodist church in Ireland, to support the work of our 107 partner churches and organisations around the world. Easter offering envelopes and book marks with information on will be available from March 17th. Please return your envelope to church by April 7th. There is a circuit service to officially recognise the work done and money raised later in the Spring. (Sun 26th May at 6:30pm). Thankyou.

## **Birthdays**

Wishing everyone born in March a very Happy Birthday. May the grace and favour of God be yours now and always. Have a very beautiful day.

## **Next Magazine**

The April 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 27th of March 2024. Thank you.

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## **Easter Time**

As we go to press, these are the special services and events for this Easter.

- We look forward to the young people and their leaders taking the service for Palm Sunday, 24th March when we celebrate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- On Maundy Thursday, 28th March, we are invited by St. Andrews to join them at 7pm for a service.
- On Good Friday, 29th March, we are invited to join Droylsden Methodist Church at 2pm for a service led by our minister, Rev Joy Rulton.
- Prior to the Easter Sunday Service on 31st March, we will hold an Easter breakfast from 9:15am-10:15am.

## **The Young People of our Church**

We are so blessed to have such a vibrant young church, who contribute so positively to our church community. Each year, the Methodist church publish the Methodist Prayer Handbook, which includes prayers for every day of the year and much more. This year, the theme is 'Hidden Treasures'. Everyone is invited to submit a prayer and for this next year, our young people have submitted one for the first time. The theme for 2024/2025 is 'Praise and Protest'.

Here is the prayer submitted by Edge Lane and Cayton Junior Church.

Father God, we offer our praise for all the good things you give to us. That we can use our talents to create computers and phones that keep us in touch with the world, our family and friends.

We have so much to praise you for, from the air we breathe to the food we eat. We are your children and we thank you for all creation. Our family who are special to us and even things we don't like, such as spiders and snakes.

We are all different, Lord, but united by our love for you. We will continue to praise you all the days of our lives. Amen.

Let us pray that this special prayer will be part of the Prayer Handbook that is published in late summer. Thank you, young people, for your contribution.

Here is a prayer from Reena, a year 2 pupil published in this years' handbook

Dear God, Thank you for-  
The sight of colourful flowers  
The smell of sweet perfume  
The sound of crashing waves,  
The feel of my mum's hugs  
The taste of chicken and chips.  
Thankyou for these hidden treasures. Amen

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## **The Month of March**

This year so many important days fall in March: - Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

In addition, we celebrate the beginning of Spring, the vernal Equinox, which is on March 20th. It is also World Day of Prayer on March 1st and International Women's Day on March 8th, St Patrick's Day on March 17th. So many special days to reflect on and/or celebrate.

It is said that the coming of spring in nature has come earlier, 3 weeks earlier, than it did decades ago. Have you noticed that snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are seen to bloom at the same time of late, and so the colourful display will be all but over by Easter.

Here is a lovely poem by Michelle Illing

### **A Special Guest**

A special guest is on her way-  
She visits every year.  
She packs her travel bags with smiles,  
Sweet songs of hope and cheer.  
  
She brings the gift of longer days,  
A beautiful bouquet,  
Of tulips as thank-you for  
Inviting her to stay  
  
She's welcomed with the rousing sound  
Of trumpets fanfare when  
The daffodils announce her grand  
Arrival once again  
  
She starts her joyful season with  
The promise of rebirth,  
Sprinkles April showers, breathes  
New life into the earth.  
  
She keeps a crown of daises as  
A souvenir, too,  
Then says goodbye in June before  
The summer sun is due

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Why do we in this country usually refer to the seasons as 'she'? This also applies to countries, ships, churches, the moon. In some cases, it is because the words originate from the Latin where the spellings indicated the gender, (as occurs in other languages too). E.g. La Lune is French for the moon. Interesting!

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### **Here is one of the collects for Good Friday**

Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ endured the cross for our sake.

Remove from us all coldness and cowardice of heart, and give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What are your favourite hymns for this time of the year with all its special days?

Some that come to mind are: -

'Ride on, Ride on in Majesty' Henry Hart Milman (1791 – 1868)

'My song is Love Unknown' Samuel Crossman (1624 – 1683)

'There is a green hill far away' Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

'When I survey the wondrous cross' Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)

'Christ the Lord is risen today' Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

'Thine be the glory' Edmond Budry (1854 – 1932)

'All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord' Noel Richards (born 1955) and Tricia Richards (born 1960)

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Here are two verses for a Palm Sunday hymn written by Rev. John Forster

He came astride a donkey,	We join our glad 'Hosannas!'
The man from Galilee;	To welcome you today;
Down from the Mount of Olives,	Our King, the saviour Jesus,
The crowd were quick to see.	With all we sing and say.
They raised shouts of 'Hosanna!'-	Hosanna to you, Jesus!
The crowds cut palms to wave;	Hosanna to the King!
They turned out in great numbers,	Hosanna to the saviour!
A joyous welcome gave	Hosanna, Lord, we sing!

A tune to sing this to is called crüger based on a melody from 1640. We sing 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed' to this tune.

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## **FEBRUARY CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

**ACROSS:** 1, Godlessness. 9, Egotism. 10, After. 11, Eat. 13, Sort. 16, Plan. 17, Escape. 18, Odds. 20, Idem. 21, No fear. 22, Idle. 23, Abet. 25, Ail. 28, Eaves. 29, Achieve. 30, Grasshopper.

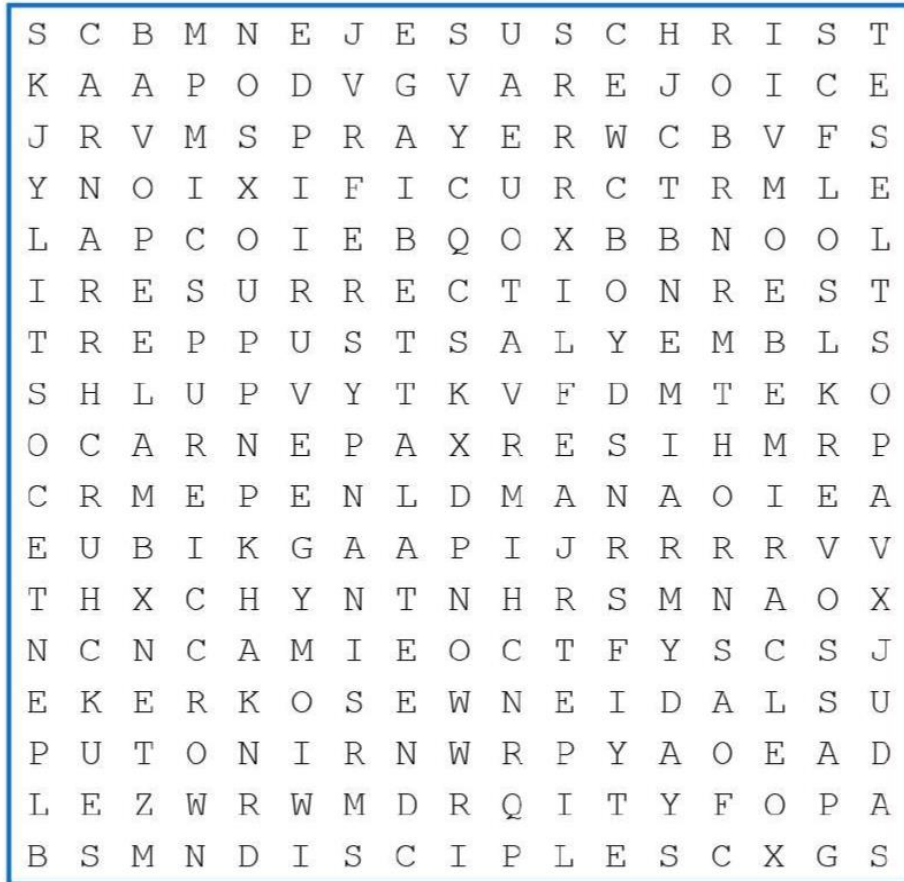
**DOWN:** 2, Odour. 3, Lair. 4, Same. 5., Neat. 6, Settled. 7, Gershonites. 8, Grandmother. 12, Apples. 14, TES. 15, Octopi. 19, Deliver. 20, Ira. 24, Breve. 25, As is. 26, Lash. 27, Whip.



# Easter Story

## WORD SEARCH

**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



APOSTLES  
BETRAYAL  
CAVE  
CHURCH  
CROSS  
CROWN  
CRUCIFIXION  
DISCIPLES  
FAITH  
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST  
JUDAS  
LAMB  
LAST SUPPER  
LENT  
MARY  
MIRACLE  
PASSOVER  
PENANCE  
PENTECOST

PRAYER  
REDEMPTION  
REJOICE  
RESURRECTION  
RISEN  
SAVIOR  
SON  
THORNS  
TOMB



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Finally, a prayer from the Prayer Trusts new prayer card 'For You at Easter'

### **How You Love Us Lord!**

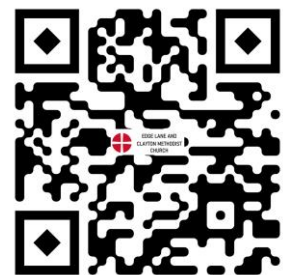
You love us, Lord,  
Beyond all our minds can imagine,  
Beyond all our hearts can feel,  
A love so previous  
That whatever sufferings  
We may endure in this life,  
Whatever hardships we may face,  
You never forget us,  
In life or in death,  
For you love us,  
With an everlasting love,  
A love that wishes to share with us  
The abundance of your blessing for ever. Amen.  
May we feel this love every day!

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Dear Church Family,

Exciting news! Our church website is live and ready for exploration. Visit [www.edgelaneclaytonmethodistchurch.org](http://www.edgelaneclaytonmethodistchurch.org) to discover upcoming events, explore ministries, and find valuable resources to enrich your spiritual journey. Plus, don't forget to scan the QR code to access all digital versions of our church magazines. Stay connected, informed, and inspired with just a click.

Let's journey together in faith!



**Wishing all our readers a Happy & Blessed Easter**