

EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

July/August Magazine 2024

Minister: Revd. Joy Rulton



Preachers/Lectionary Readings

7th July	11:00 am	Mr Stan Royle	2 Samuel Ch 5 v 1 – 5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians Ch 12 v 2-10 Mark Ch 6 v 1 -13
14th July	11:00 am	Rev. Joy Rulton (HC)	2 Samuel Ch 6 v 1- 5, 12b -19 Psalm 24 Ephesians Ch 1 v 3-14 Mark Ch 6 v 14 -29
21st July United Service with Droylsden. Action for Children Sunday	10:45 am	Rev. Caroline Wickens (HC)	2 Samuel Ch 7 v 1 -14a Psalm 89 v 20 - 37 Ephesians Ch 2 v 11 -22 Mark Ch 6 v 30 -34 & 53-56
28th July	11:00 am	Ms Eva Manley	2 Samuel Ch 11 v 1 -15 Psalm 14 Ephesians Ch 3 v 14- 21 John Ch 6 v 1 -21

4th August	11:00 am	Mr Benjamin Allotey	2 Samuel Ch 11 v 26 to Ch 12 v 13a Psalm 51 v 1 -12 Ephesians Ch 4 v 1-16 John Ch 6 v 24 - 35
11th August	11:00 am	Mrs Pamela Sewart	2 Samuel Ch 18 v 5-9, 15 and 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians Ch 4 v 25 to Ch 5 v 2 John Ch 6 v 35; 41-51
18th August	11:00 am	Deacon Jenny Jones	I Kings Ch 2 v 10-12 and Ch 3 v 3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians Ch 5 v 15-20 John Ch 6 v 51-58
25th August	11:00am	Rev. Ade Kila (HC)	I Kings Ch 8 v 22-30, 41 -43 Psalm 84 Ephesians Ch 6 v 10-20 John Ch 6 v 56-69

Why Should I Read the Bible – Billy Graham

Today, many people keep the Bible a closed book. One reason is because we don't realise how much we need it. If I suggested that you stop eating for a few months, you'd ignore me—and rightly so. We need food in order to survive, and without food we'll grow weak and eventually die.

“The Bible is not an option; it is a necessity. You cannot grow spiritually strong without it.”

Yet many Christians are spiritually starved and weak because they ignore the spiritual “food” God has provided in the Bible. The Bible is not an option; it is a necessity. You cannot grow spiritually strong without it.

Job said, “I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread” (Job 23:12). Is the Bible this important to you?

Don't look on the Bible as a bad-tasting medicine—think of it instead as a delightful food that God has given us to strengthen our souls! The Psalmist said, “Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law of the Lord” (Psalm 1:1-2).

You see, God wants you to grow in your faith—and one of the ways that happens is through reading God's Word and letting its truth sink deeply into our hearts and minds. Through the Bible we learn how God wants us to live, and we learn too what He has done to save us.

Dear friends,

As I begin the process of going through my study, I'm beginning to realise how much "stuff" I've accumulated over the last eight years. Where has the time gone? I remember moving in as if it was yesterday. However, everything moves on and changes.

I don't know what I expected when Bryan and I came to Manchester, but none of us here could ever have anticipated the challenges of the pandemic, or the two churches merging. I've learnt how to do Zoom services, but they made me realise again how much I value being with you in person and talking to you.

We have shared in celebrations – baptisms, marriages, birthdays, confirmations – and we have said goodbye to friends who have been part of our lives. We have shared times of laughter, and tears. It has been an incredible privilege, thank you.

Through all the changes of the last few years, God has been with us. With him, we have faced tough times and come out the other side.

Bryan and I thank God for you, for your care and support, for the times you have kept us going; probably without realising you have done so.

And, in a sense, we all move on – you to prepare for Paul's arrival, and Bryan and I to Sheffield. Whatever the future holds for you, I pray that you will continue to move on in faith, and in the knowledge and love of God. Remember, nothing can separate you from his love, in Jesus.

This is the last verse of a hymn that was given to me when I was ordained. It's still just as relevant now, for all of us:

When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;
keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

Words: Joy Dine (1937 – 2001) © Revd Mervyn Dine.

Love and God bless,



CHURCH NOTICES

For the first time, we have decided to have one magazine for July and August, to give the writers and editor a welcome break. For much of June, it did not feel very 'summery' so we hope for warmer, sunnier days for the rest of the summer months. As ever, we continue to thank our Lord for all he does for us and we trust in Him to guide us as we enter a new 'church' year in September.

News Of Friends

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who are not well in body, mind or spirit and for our friends' awaiting appointments, treatments and operations, as well as those resting and recuperating. We particularly name Harry, Linda, Joan P, David, Paul, Peter, Jean W, Jean H, Jean W and we add our names to these. We ask our Lord to continue to protect and surround all whatever their need.

We trust that Dorothy enjoyed her 101th birthday recently with her family. In our church our ages span 100years!

Rev Joy's retirement

We extend our best wishes to Joy as she prepares to retire this summer. We trust that she and Bryan will soon be able to settle down in their new home and we thank Joy for all she has done for us as our minister over the past eight years. In the last four years it has not been easy with the pandemic, problems at Clayton and recent health problems, but we pray that you can reflect on some good and rewarding times serving our Lord and his people and that your retirement will be long and all you wish for.

On Sunday July 14th at 11:00am, Joy will hold her last service with us and we will follow this with refreshments.

Also, on the same day at 6:30pm at Hope Methodist Church, there will be a special service of celebrating milestones in ministry.

- We say goodbye to Joy
- We celebrate the ordination of Rev Catherine Hughes
- We congratulate Rev Sharon Read who is appointed to share her ministry between Manchester and Lancashire as Mission Area Lead in the new N.W District

Launch of the new N.W District

This will be on Sat Aug 31st in Bolton at Victoria Hall at 2:30pm. This event will be live streamed. We are asked to book a place to be there in person.

United Service at Droylsden July 21st at Droylsden Methodist Church at 10:45am

This is led by our superintendent minister, the Rev. Caroline Wickens and will include holy communion. All are welcome.

Confirmation and Baptism on June 9th

What a joyous service we had – a double celebration! We welcomed Steven into our membership when he was confirmed and was presented with a bible. We pray that he will continue to make such a positive contribution to our church family in the years to come. The baptism of little Mufaro also took place and we welcomed Loice and all her family and friends for this special day. May God be with you all.

Updates on services

We continue to enjoy our weekly services with a good congregation and thank the ministers and local preachers for their commitment to us. For the first time, we welcomed Rev. Anthony Clowes who is the Manchester and Stockport district's part time church planting officer. He inspired us to 'run the race' whatever stage in life that we are and be open to new possibilities and challenges in our church and personal life.

Examination Results in August

We hope that all our readers who have taken examination and tests over the summer receive the results they have strived for and can celebrate very soon.

Circuit Meeting held in June

Much was discussed about the future in our circuit. A report was given to the church council meeting. If you wish to know more details, please see Elva or Sam.

Church Council Meetings in June

We had a positive fruitful meeting when we discussed all aspects of our church life together. We are looking for a secretary to the church council. This involves taking the minutes, writing them up and producing them for the three church council meetings we hold each year. If you feel you could contribute to our church community in this way, please speak to Anne N or a steward for further information.

We thank Anne N for the many years she has done this important job for us. At present we have 52 members on our pastoral list and several names on our community list. What good news that there are 25 young people on our register for Junior church, who make such a positive contribution to our church.

Advance Notice

The Junior Church are organising a summer day out on a coach to Blackpool on Sat August 17th. There may be the opportunity for the 'not so young' to join them. More details will be provided very soon.

Birthdays

Wishing all July and August borns' a very Happy Birthday. With faith, courage, and dedication, no dream is too big. Keep reaching for the stars. Happy birthday!

Next Magazine

The September 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 or to Elva by the 28th of August 2024. Thank you.

At this time of the year, it is a time of moving on to pastures new for some of us. Here is a thoughtful prayer for **Your Journey** by *Iris Hesselden*

May God go with you on your way
To keep you safe and well,
And may you find new strength and hope,
And every doubt dispel

May God be always close to you
Whatever you may find,
And give you courage, faith and joy
And healing peace of mind

May every path that you will take
Be smoother than before,
And lead you on to sunlit times
Till you come home once more.

Thoughts from the lectionary readings for August

On Aug 4th in John Ch 6 v 24-35, Jesus speaks about him being the bread of life. Here is one of the collects for the day.

Lord, and giver of life,

You alone nourish and sustain your people, through Christ, the bread of life. Feed our hunger and quench our thirst, that we may no longer work for what fails to satisfy, but do what you require, in obedience and faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Aug 25th in Psalm 84 which begins 'How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! In verses 3-4, it says, 'Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young-a place near your altar, O Lord Almighty, my king and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

Beautiful, poetic words that remind us that all creatures are equal in the sight of God and all are welcome in the house of God.

Summertime

During the summer months, let us all sit back and relax on a beautiful day, to meditate and think back to all the memorable times and good things we have had and still do have. May we stop for a moment in time, thanking our Lord for his wonderful creation and rejoice in its splendour.

A Moment in Time *by Emma Canning*

One summer moment,
One new summer rose;
Heed its soft colours
Then let your eyes close.
Breathe deeply, slowly,
Serene and content,
Draw in its purity,
Sweetness and scent
Hold just one thought
As this moment endures-
Revel in the present
This moment is yours
To notice the stillness
And savour repose,
With the warmth of the sun
And the smell of a rose

What beautiful words for a summer's day. The rose is our 'favourite' flower.

Points to Ponder

- Instructions for living by the poet Mary Oliver.

'Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it!

- Do you know there are 8 steps to overcoming a problem

1 'I won't do it'

5. 'I'll try to do it'

2. 'I can't do it'

6. 'I can do it'

3. 'I want to do it'

7. 'I will do it'

4. 'How do I do it?'

8. 'Hooray, I did it!'

- Faith is not about everything turning out ok, faith is about being ok no matter how things turn out.
- You may not be able to go back and make a brand-new start, but you can start today and make a brand-new end.
- Gandhi once said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world' There is no better place to begin than with yourself. In Psalm 51 v 10, it says, 'create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me'
- Everything that is done in the world is done by hope -Martin Luther King

Puzzle

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

SUMMER TIME

No proper names or foreign words, and summer and time do not count!

It makes you smile

He Brews

Early one morning, the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said, "You have to make the coffee. It's in the Bible!"

The husband was shocked. "Is not! Show me!"

Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, "It says right here — HEBREWS!"

The Little Boy

For the first time, a little boy in church watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "Don't pay for me, Daddy; I'm under five."

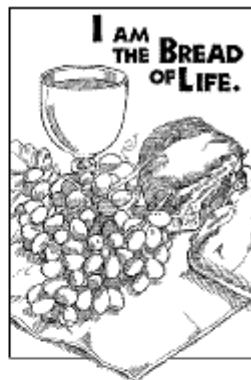
Awkward Wedding Colours

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "Because white is the colour of happiness, and it's the happiest day of her life today." After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But then why is the groom wearing black?"

Looking for a Sign

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35 (NIV)

Based on John 6:24-35 (NIV)



H B B U Y R Z H L G L I F E H
P C E L K K A F L W U A G C E
H B L M G J S B Q B L V E B A
B I I R T Q Q N B W T R U E V
F S E Y H R I K N I O R G L E
L F V D U V U P A M O S E S N
F F E H N H Y T P Z D C O G A
D A S I G N S N H J Q M J Y L
F E T X R L O A V E S I T A C
L L S H Y L F L W X B S N X V
O S A E E F O Y M H R R N H Z
L K R K R R O I P I E U Z I D
S I W Z E T D N H T A Z F T A
E Q F V Z A E T E D D I E E T
U F L E M A N N A K Z Q O G B

LIFE	HEAVEN	LOAVES	TRUTH	FATHER
ETERNAL	TRUE	MANNA	DESERT	MOSES
SIGNS	FILL	THIRSTY	LAKE	BREAD
RABBI	BELIEVE	LIFE	HUNGRY	FOOD