

EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

January Magazine 2025

Minister: Rev. Paul Welch



Preachers/Lectionary Readings

5th Jan Covenant Service Epiphany	11:00am	Rev. Paul Welch (HC)	Jeremiah Ch 31 v 7 -14 Psalm 147 v 12-20 Ephesians Ch 1 v 3-14 John Ch 1 v 10-18
12th Jan	11:00am	Mrs Daphne Maganga	Isaiah Ch 43 v 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts Ch 8 v 14-17 Luke Ch 3 v 15 -17, 21-22
19th Jan Week of Prayer for Christian unity	11:00am	Mr John Worthington	Isaiah Ch 62 v 1-5 Psalm Ch 36 v 5 - 10 1 Corinthians Ch 12 v 1 -11 John Ch 2 v 1-11
26th Jan	11:00am	Mrs Pamela Sewart	Nehemiah Ch 8 v 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians Ch 12 v 12-31a Luke Ch 4 v 14 -21
2nd Feb	11:00am	Rev. Paul Welch (HC)	Jeremiah Ch 11 v 4-10 Psalm 71 v 1-6 1 Corinthians Ch 13 v 1-13 Luke Ch 4 v 21 - 30

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! 2024 saw lots of changes for all of us especially for my family moving here to Manchester. Each year at the start of a new one we may think about the past year and all it held. For some 2024 may have been challenging in many ways and glad to see the back of it. For some it will hold special memories and significance. 2024 has now been and gone and like each new day, 'there has never been a day like this day before and there won't be again' and that is true for each year. While for some people each day is much the same due to circumstances often beyond our control, there is something unique about each day. When the moon rises in the evening and goes across the sky until the new morning dawn breaks it is different. With each new morning as the sun brings its light into our part of the world, it is different. It may steer a similar course each day but as we see the difference in the high sun in the Summer and the low sun in the Winter, we know it is different than the day before or the day yet to come. Each new day is a new opportunity for something new and different to happen, again sometimes things that are out of our control and we are but bystanders watching as things unfold. For those who are not keen on Winter, Spring will soon be on its way and this visually describes what takes place with the unfolding and bringing to birth of a new flower pushing its way through the soil or new buds appearing on established plants and bushes. The established plant and bush is present and it enables new growth by resourcing it with nutrients and life giving potential. The established plant could be seen as things in our local community like the schools, the church, the shops and businesses. These established parts of our community are life giving to the community in which we all live. These things bring life and a new perspective into the very heart of our shared living space and bringing about a new narrative to the area in which we live. I am reminded of an old film based on an old book called Pollyanna. In the film there is a young girl who has had tragedy in her life and yet she is the one who goes and visits people in her village and asks them 'what are you glad about?' She gives the people of her community something to think about to be thankful for, rather than the negativity and monotony of life. This young girl brings about a transformation in the life of those she meets, because she realizes that each day is a brand-new day and each new day brings about something new and brings hope of something better. As a Christian and follower of Jesus I am constantly reminded about death and resurrection, not only of Jesus but of each day too. Yesterday (2024) has gone, Today is a gift, Tomorrow is yet to be and bring with it something new.

Every Blessing,

Rev Paul

CHURCH NOTICES

Well, another year has passed and we have welcomed in 2025. Christmas is over for another year after all the preparations and hustle, bustle and noise. Let us remember at this time, the message of Christmas; "God is with us." Not just for one day but for always, forever. So, we pray today that "Jesus, come and be born again in us, that we may know His presence in our lives, growing daily more into His likeness.

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 particularly name Harry & Joan B., Linda, Joan P., Jean H., David, Jean W., Ann, Peter, Jean W., and we add other names that are on our hearts to these. May the Lord surround you with His tender care, supporting you through these difficult times.

December at Church

What a memorable time we had during Advent, with the wonderful Nativity Play from the young people (and not so young!) acting out for us with such commitment. We proudly thank Janet, Marian, and all the leaders and 'hangers on' for leading worship with such joy and purpose.

This was followed by the Carol Service, Christingle with Holy Communion led by our minister, Rev. Paul. Again, this was such a happy occasion with everyone participating from the age of 2 to 80+. We also enjoyed delicious refreshments and time to chat and catch up with each other. We did, however, remember those members of our church who were unable to join with us during this festive season, and trust they will soon be back amongst us.

As we go to press, it is our covenant service; a very special service in the year when we are asked to renew our covenant relationship with God. God promises us new life in Christ and for our part, we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

In the words of modern hymn writer, Ian Worsfold and Paul Wood

Beyond these walls of worship
In the stress and joy of life,
can we offer you our bodies
as a living sacrifice?
Will we keep you at the centre?
far beyond the Sunday call?
Will we turn to you,
be transformed by you;
Still declare you God of all?

(Singing the Faith 547)

Thankyou

We say thank you to all the ministers, deacons, local preachers, local preachers in training, stewards and members and friends of our congregation who have contributed so much to the life of our church over the past year in services, meetings, communal events, social occasions, and outreach, the young people's Church, and so much more.

A special thankyou also goes to Elva who is the main contributor of our church magazine. We appreciate your commitment and dedication.

With everyone working together in harmony we have continued to build a church community which we are proud to be associated with – Edge Lane and Clayton Methodist Church.

Church Council Meeting - Wed. Jan 15th 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

All members of the Church Council please try to attend, as we discuss the year ahead.

Thank you.

Birthdays

Wishing all January borns a Happy Birthday. May this year bring you clarity to pursue your dreams, strength to overcome challenges and endless joy to warm your heart.

Next Magazine

The February 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 29th of January 2025. Thank you.

Epiphany

The beginning of January is the time we think especially of the three kings who travelled from afar to worship Jesus and bring Him precious gifts.

What are your favourite Epiphany hymns?

We think of, *'As with gladness men of old', 'Brightest and Best of the sons of the morning,' 'We three kings of Orient Are.'* A hymn not so familiar was written in the fourth century.

Here are two verses from this ancient hymn:

Eastern sages at His cradle
Make oblations rich and rare;
See them give, in deep devotion
Gold and Frankincense and myrrh.

Sacred gifts of mystic meaning;
Incense doth their God disclose
Gold the King of Kings proclaimeth,
Myrrh his sepulchre foreshows

This was written by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius

He was a Roman Christian poet born in Northern Spain, and he died around 413AD.

Towards the end of his life, he retired and lived a frugal life, writing Christian poems which influenced early Christian authors.

Another hymn we still sing written by him is 'Of the Father's Love forgotten'

Here is a collect for Epiphany

Eternal God, by a star you led wisemen to the worship of your Son, Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may see your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

At the beginning of a new year, let us celebrate the lives of people who made and created all manner of 'things' that changed the world.

- Charles Macintosh in 1823 first made Macintosh rain coats.
- Percy Shaw in 1934 invented "Cat's eye".
- Edward Beard Budding in 1830 made the first lawn mower.
- Sir James Dewar in 1892 produced the first thermos flasks (called Dewar flasks in those days).
- John Walker in 1829 created matches.
- Sir Isaac Newton in 1689 made the telescope.
- Christopher Cockerall in 1955 produced the hovercraft.
- John Logie Baird in 1928 made the first colour TV.
- Sir Alexander Fleming in 1928 created antibiotics.
- Francis Crick and James Watson in 1953 discovered the DNA helix.
- Alexander Graham Bell in 1876 made the first telephone.
- Tim Berners-Lee in 1989 created the internet.
- Roberts Edwards, Patrick Steptoe & Jean Purdy in 1978 made IVF possible.

We give thanks for all people in the past and those in the present time who work to give us innovations which enhance our lives for the good.

At this time of year we often think of making resolution and the year that is stretched out before us, a road to be followed.

Here is a poem by Iris Hesselden which is apt for this time.

Road of Life

I see the road go climbing
And winding up the hill.
I've seen it many times before.
And yet it beckons still.
I see the river flowing by,
The house in between,
The trees and bushes beautiful
The meadows so serene.

Is this like life? I ask myself,
Our road still winding on,
To look around and seek the sun,
When darker days have gone.
Sometimes the way is rough and steep.

We have a heavy load.
But make the most of every day
On life's great winding road!

And a 'hymn' of dedication at the start of the year by David Adam

Here are my thoughts, Lord, here is my mind.

Here are my deeds, Lord, help me unwind.

Here is my strength, Lord, here is my will.

Here is my life, Lord, help me be still.

Here is my heart, Lord, here is my hope.

Here is my love, Lord, help me to cope.

Here is my time, Lord, here is my might.

Here I am yours, Lord, bless me tonight.

Quotes for this time of year

- They who sing through the summer must dance in the winter – An Italian Proverb
- The fire is Winter's fruit- An Arabian Proverb
- People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they are happy – Anton Chekhov
- Winter is a season of recovery and preparation – Paul Theroux
- Wisdom comes with winters – Oscar Wilde
- Winter reminds us to slow down and appreciate the stillness of the world – Unknown

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th Jan – 25th Jan 2025

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical council held in Nicaea, near Constantinople (Istanbul) in 325 AD.

The theme this year is based on a text from John's gospel Ch.11 v 28. 'Do you believe this?'

Here is a prayer for the week

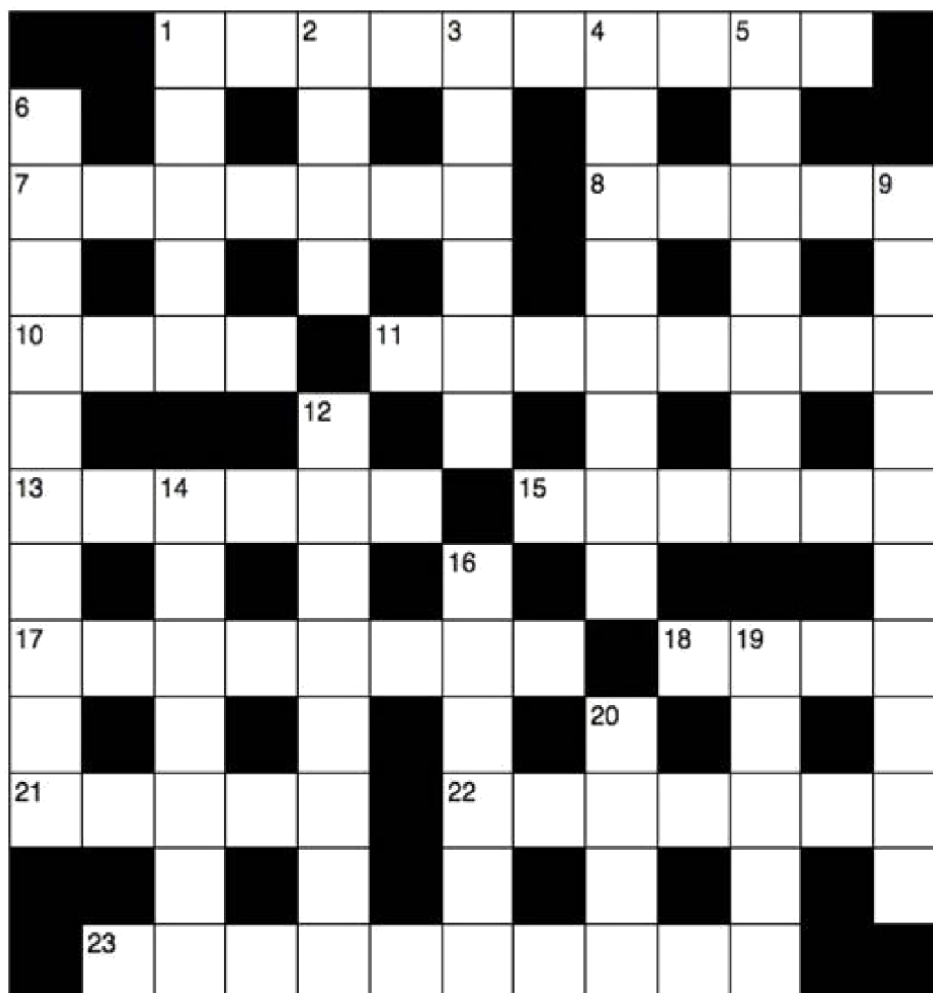
God our Father, accept our praise and thanksgiving for what already unites Christians in confession of the witness to Jesus the Lord. Hasten the hour when all churches will recognise each other in the one communion you willed and for which your son prayed to you. In the power of the Holy Spirit, hear us. You who live and reign now and forever. Amen.

January Puzzles

1. How many words of four letters or more can you make from

NEW YEAR

No proper names or foreign words



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
 10 Girl's name (4)
 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1-6) (6)
 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1-11) (10)
 12 Abusive outburst (8)
 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
 16 Printing errors (6)
 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS