

EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

March Magazine 2025

Minister: Rev. Paul Welch



Preachers/Lectionary Readings

2nd March	11:00am	Mr Benjamin Allotey	Exodus Ch 34 v 29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians Ch 3 v 12 to Ch 4 v 2 Luke Ch 9 v 28 -36
9th March 1 st Sun in Lent	11:00am	Local Arrangement Young People	Deuteronomy Ch 26 v 1- 11 Psalm 92 v 1-2, 9-16 Romans Ch 10 v 8b-13 Luke Ch 4 v 1 -13
16th March	11:00am	Rev. Chris Cheeseman	Genesis Ch 15 v 1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians Ch 3 v 17 to Ch 4 v 1 Luke Ch 13 v 31 -35
23rd March Joint with Droylsden	11:00am	Mr Keith Paver	Isaiah Ch 55 v 1-19 Psalm 63 v 1-8 1 Corinthians Ch 10 v 1 -13 Luke Ch 13 v 1 -9
30th March Mothering Sunday	11:00am	Rev. Paul Welch (HC)	Exodus Ch 2 v 1-10 Psalm 34 v 11-20 2 Corinthians Ch 1 v 3-7 Luke Ch 2 v 33 - 35
6th April Passion Sunday	11:00am	Mr Paul Johnson	Isaiah Ch 43 v 16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians Ch 3 v 4b-14 John Ch 12 v 1-8

Dear Friends,

As we are now entering Lent we proceed towards Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Throughout Lent as a Circuit, we are looking at ways of being more Environmentally Friendly. Each week throughout Lent starting with Ash Wednesday there are a series of themes for each week which we will be looking at in Lent Groups both here and also at Droylsden. Please do try to come along.

Dates	Where	Time	Theme
13 th March	Droylsden	10:30am	Reducing waste and pollution
17 th March	ELC	7:30pm	Reducing waste and pollution
20 th March	Droylsden	10:30am	Use of Energy
24 th March	ELC	7:30pm	Use of Energy
27 th March	Droylsden	10:30am	Biodiversity
31 st March	ELC	7:30pm	Biodiversity
3 rd April	Droylsden	10:30am	Use of water
7 th April	ELC	7:30pm	Use of water
10 th April	Droylsden	10:30am	Shopping Thoughtfully
14 th April	ELC	7:30pm	Shopping Thoughtfully
18 th April	Droylsden	2pm	Good Friday Service

Part of our responsibilities as Christians is to look after the earth and all within it. This Lent is an opportunity for us to play our small part in making a big difference in helping to live, using the resources we have wisely. It is also an opportunity to get back to nature and think about our part in creation and to enhance our well-being. On many occasions, Jesus went off to spend time in nature whether it be on a hill side, walking by a beach or sitting in a boat. He realised the need to just go and 'be present' in creation. If you are unable to come along to any of the Lent Groups you can download the studies off the Circuit website and just take some time to read through and ponder the small challenges that there are within it.

Every Blessing,

Rev Paul

CHURCH NOTICES

As we move into March, and the beginning of Spring, and the season of Lent, we look forward to new life and new growth all around us, particularly after the cold often dark early February this year. We continue to thank our Lord for all that He does for us and trust in Him for the days ahead, whatever situation we are in.

News Of Friends

It is with sadness that we heard that Rev. Jack McKelvey passed earlier this year, but we give thanks for his life lived in Christ and for his services as a United Reformed minister within our churches. Several of our ministers attended a thanksgiving service for his long life. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all his family and friends as we remember him so fondly.

We pray for all the people we know who are not well in body, mind or spirit, and for those awaiting appointments, treatments and operations. We name Joan and Harry B, David, Linda Joan P, Peter, Jean H, Ann H, Jean W and Elizabeth together with those in our thoughts that we are concerned about. Come to me, says the Lord, all who are anxious and low in spirit 'For I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls' (Matthew Ch 11 v 29)

Pancake Sunday 2nd March 12noon -1pm

As we go to press, we are holding our Pancake Sunday organised by the young people of our church and trust that it is a success and raises funds for their church outing in the summer. Many thanks for your enthusiasm.

Sunday Worship- 9th March 11am The first Sunday in Lent

We look forward to the young people and their leaders taking the service on this day, it is always a delight when they share worship with us all.

Online Bible Study for Lent

Rev. Caroline Wickens invites us to an online bible study on Friday mornings from 10am to 11:30am starting on Friday 14th March until Friday 11th April. It will be focused on the Eco Lent theme. For joining details, please email communities@manchestermethodies.org.uk.

Church Council Meeting Wed 26th March 7:30pm

A reminder to all members of the meeting. We are also still praying that a secretary for the meeting will come forward. Please speak to Rev. Paul or Linda if you need more details.

Reflective Walk 9th March 2pm

All are invited to join Rev. Paul Welch on this second Sunday each month. Please see Paul or Linda for details.

'Wholehearted Monthly'

The Methodist church is launching a free, online mission series starting in March, on the second Tuesday each month between 7pm and 9pm.

It is for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between 'Church' and 'World'. Speakers for the first three meetings are:

March 11th – Nadia Bolz-Weber- a best-selling author, public theologian, pastor and founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints.

April 8th – Rowan Williams – a theologian, poet, author and former Archbishop of Canterbury

May 13th – Chine McDonald – a writer, broadcaster and author and director of Theos, the religion and society thinktank.

To book your place online, go to manchestermethodists.org.uk and look for the posts 'wholehearted monthly' mission services. Don't forget this website is a rich source of information from the circuit and further afield, up-dated daily – well worth a regular visit!

Birthdays

Wishing everyone born in March a very Happy Birthday. May this year be filled with new adventures, growth and endless joy.

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 2nd of April 2025. Thank you.

Lent

This begins on Ash Wednesday 5th March and ends on Maundy Thursday 17th April 2025.

Here is a collect for the second Sunday

Christ, son of the living God, who for a season laid aside the divine glory and learned obedience through suffering: teach us in all our affliction to raise our eyes to the place of your mercy and to find in you our peace and deliverance. We make our prayer in your name. Amen

During Lent, there will be daily reflections from the Methodist Church with the theme 'Soul Food'. Where every day of the 40days of Lent there will be reflections based on 'In the Wilderness, Jesus reminded us that people do not live by bread alone'.

The weekly themes are 1/ Soul food 2/ Soul shelter 3/ Soul rest 4/ Soul repair 5/ Soul mates 6/ Soul songs. To find out more, go to the methodist church website.

There will also be reflections from the Manchester Methodist website.

The gospel lectionary reading for the first Sunday in Lent is Luke Ch 4 v 1-13, where we read of Jesus being tempted for 40 days. Here are verses from a hymn written by Rev. John Forster on this theme, and related to our temptations

Jesus, we are tempted as we live each day;
and we lack your courage, walking on life's way.
Help us, Lord Jesus, in the things we do,
help us shun temptations as we follow you.

Jesus, may the spirit bring us strength, we pray;
to resist the tempter as we live each day.
Teach us your way, Lord, help us battle through;
with your light to live by, may we journey too.

(The tune is called 'Noel Nouvelet', a French melody, that we sing to 'Now the green blade rises from the buried grain')

As we journey through lent may we reflect on what the Lord has done and is doing for us each day.

World Day of Prayer **Fri 7th March**

This is a yearly event when we pray with everyone around the globe. This year the service is written by the people of the Cook Islands (in the South Pacific Ocean, N.E of New Zealand)

The theme for the day is 'I made you wonderful' Let us all join together in prayer on this day.

As Spring will hopefully soon arrive, here is a prayer for all creation from the children of year 2 at Aspull Church Primary School, from the Methodist Payer Handbook.

Dear God,
Thankyou for nature and the fruit on the trees,
Thankyou for the bright, warm sun and wavy blue seas
We want to be the ones to show respect
We will always care for your creation and protect it
Thankyou for life
You worked hard to create the world, our wonderful world
You are so special to us
Thankyou for your love, in you we trust. Amen.

Aspull in a village near Wigan and the school is a joint Anglican/Methodist School. Their 'motto' is from Matthew Ch 19 v 26. 'We shine like stars to achieve and make a difference in the world, knowing that with God, all things are possible'

Inspiring words indeed – for all of us, whether young or not so young!

A Poem by Eileen Hay entitled

March

At times March is a tug-of-war
With winter versus spring-
Where winter tries to hold its ground
By trying hard to bring
Cold icy winds and even snow,
But we can feel the sun.
And though we may not feel our toes
We hope that Spring has won!

The snow drop is the first to peep
It's head above the ground;
Then daffodils and crocuses
Soon spring up all around.
The trees then show a haze of green
And how the birds now sing!
And when the first new lamb appears
We know-yes! This is spring!

John Newton 1725 -1807

In the February magazine it was stated that the hymn writer, John Newton was born 300years ago so let us celebrate his life and works this month.

John had an eventful life so much that his life story has been immortalized in several films, plays and books.

At a young age, he worked on slave ships and at the age of 20 became a slave himself in what is now known as Sierra Leone. He was rescued, but then became Captain of slave ships. Later, in 1748, he experienced a conversion to Christianity whilst on board a ship in stormy, dangerous conditions and renounced the slave trade and became ordained as a church of England minister. John lived to see the British Empire's Abolition of the African slave trade in 1807, just months before he died. He wrote more than 280 hymns, the most famous on being 'Amazing Grace' written in 1772. The words are based on his experience of receiving God's grace and mercy, despite the terrible things he had done in his earlier life.

In the first verse he writes: -

'I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see!'

In the third verse he writes about how his life would now be. 'The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures'

Other hymns we still sing today include;

'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds' , 'Begone, unbelief', 'Glorious things of thee are spoken'

In 'How sweet' he praises the Lord for his changed life

'Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,

My prophet, priest and King.

My Lord, my life, my way, my end,

Accept the praise I bring'

Poetic words so relevant to our life in Christ today. John Newton was born when John Wesley was 22 years and he was acquainted with, and influenced by John Welsey and George Whitefield.

Thoughts for the month of March

- Times are undoubtedly tough, but people are undoubtedly wonderful
 - You can find a million reasons to be unhappy with life, or you can find a million reasons to delight in it. But you only have one life, so choose wisely!
 - Go often to the house of a friend, for weeds soon choke up the unused path – A Scandinavian Proverb
 - Friends are like buttons, they hold everything together
 - Attend to what love requires of you- from the Quaker Book of Faith and Practice
 - It's through the brokenness and the cracks in our lives, that God shines in and through.
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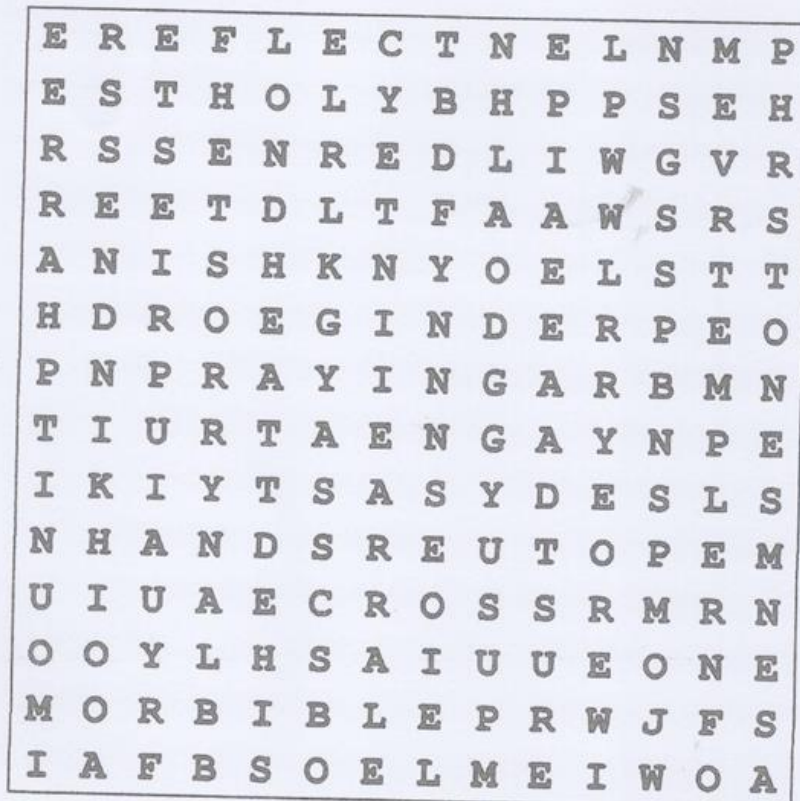
March Puzzles

How many words of four letter or more can you get from

SPRINGTIME

No proper nouns or foreign words

Word Search - Lent



ANGELS
 ASH
 BIBLE
 BREAD
 CROSS
 FORTY DAYS
 FORTY NIGHTS
 HANDS
 HOLY
 JESUS
 KINDNESS
 KINGDOM
 LENT

LISTEN
 MOUNTAIN
 PRAYERS
 PRAYING
 PRIEST
 PURPLE
 REFLECT
 SORRY
 STONES
 TEMPLE
 WEDNESDAY
 WILDERNESS