

# EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

## April Magazine 2025

Minister: Rev. Paul Welch



### Preachers/Lectionary Readings

6th April Passion Sunday	11:00am	Mrs Mercy Drewett Mr Benjamin Allotey	Isaiah Ch 43 v 16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians Ch 3 v 4b-14 John Ch 12 v 1-8
13th April Palm Sunday	11:00am	Mr John Worthington	Luke Ch 19 v 28-40 Psalm 118 v 1-2, 19-29 Philippians Ch 2 v 5-11
20th April Easter Day	11:00am	Rev. Ade Kila (HC)	Acts Ch 10 v 34 - 43 Psalm 118 v 1-2, 14 -24 1 Corinthians Ch 15 v 19-26 John Ch 20 v 1 -18
27th April	11:00am	Rev. Paul Welch (HC)	Acts Ch 5 v 27-32 Psalm 118 v 14-29 Revelation Ch 1 v 4-8 John Ch 20 v 19 -31
4th May United Service at Droylsden Vocations Sunday	10:45am	Mr Stan Royle	Acts Ch 9 v 1-6 Psalm 30 Revelation Ch 5 v 11-14 John Ch 21 v 1-19

Dear Friends

During this Month, we will be thinking about Easter and what that means for us. For those younger and I suspect not so young, thoughts will be of Chocolate eggs. Perhaps we might think of Spring and the lighter and hopefully warmer days. With Easter comes Hope and as I write this, we need a lot of hope in our lives.

We live in a world of instability with the changes being made in the UK. There are the ongoing conflicts in the Ukraine and the Middle East. There is also a lot of uncertainty with the USA and the effects that has on Europe and the wider world. There is a lot of insecurity around especially with poverty and fuel poverty. There is an increase in prices for things we would be able to buy a lot cheaper 12 months ago and this all adds to an uncertain future. Still, Easter brings with it Hope! Hope of a better future, a better way of doing things, a better way of living.

As Christians our hope is in Jesus. Easter shows that even the impossible becomes possible. Through Jesus life, death and resurrection (which is why we celebrate Easter) new things are possible and the past is gone. There is nothing that we can do that we can change what happened yesterday, last week, last month, last year or longer. The past is gone and while it is good to remember things from the past that have shaped us and helped us, tomorrow is a new day that has never been before. It brings with it new possibilities and opportunities to move on, grow, change and develop.

The one thing I know from the past is that God has been with me on my journey through life. He is with me today and I know that He will be with me tomorrow. Through Jesus dying on the cross, our past is forgiven, our slate is wiped clean, we have a new start.

The symbols we see around Easter like chicks, lambs or small bunnies, or daffodils and other flowers all are a reminder about New Life, new starts and new beginnings. This is the hope we have in God, forgiving us, walking with us and guiding us if we choose to allow God to do so.

On Easter Sunday if we receive Easter eggs, we have a choice. We can choose to eat them or leave them and never touch them. If we leave them, we will not experience that sweet taste of chocolate that melts in our mouth and gives us an experience of eating chocolate especially if it is something we have given up for Lent. If we choose to eat the egg, in the same way we can choose to accept the forgiveness that God offers us through Jesus and experience that sense of forgiveness, and a new start in life.

At the moment, life is tough on many different levels. Just because we might choose to follow Jesus doesn't make the problems go away. Knowing that God is there, helps and enables us to have Hope and see the possibilities and gives a brighter and better future. That is Easter! Death and resurrection. The past is forgiven, and the future looks better and is full of hope.

So, as you choose to eat your chocolate or not, perhaps you might like to think about choosing to follow Jesus and being directed by the Holy Spirit. After all, Jesus gave his life so we can be free and have Hope for tomorrow and live today with him.

We can also choose or not to serve God in being more active in the life of the church and community. Perhaps over Easter you might consider what you can do to serve God and how by offering to do something you are bringing hope to the lives of others. We are called as people of God to serve and show God's love in the community and in the church. What will be your gift of life that you bring?

Happy Easter.

Every Blessing,

Rev Paul

## CHURCH NOTICES

Spring is surely upon us in this month of April, when all nature wakes up and shows its full glory. As we continue in our Lenten journey towards Easter and beyond, we praise the Lord and thank him for what has been and trust him for all that is to come.

### News Of Friends

It is with much sadness that our member and friend Joan Booth, passed away suddenly last month. Joan was such an active member of Edge Lane and then Edge Lane and Clayton Methodist Church. Her roles included treasurer, steward, pastoral visitor, running the coffee afternoon and also an art group at church. She also assisted in the charity shop. Joan will be sorely missed; she was a true Christian lady who lived out her faith with deeds and compassion. Our sympathy goes out to Harry, the family and all who were privileged to call Joan their friend.

We continue to pray for everyone we know who are not well in body, mind or spirit, and for those awaiting appointments, treatments and operations. We name Linda, David, Joan P, Harry B, Ann H, Jean W, Peter, Jean H together with those who are in our thoughts who we are concerned about. May the Lord surround you with his loving arms and support you at this time.

### Pancake Sunday in March

We thank all those involved in our event to raise money for the Young People's summer outing in the summer. The pancakes and fillings were delicious and the service by the young people was excellent. More than £120 has been raised and it is not too late to contribute further in the money box at church. Well done to all!

### Young People's Service in March

What an uplifting Service we had with the theme of Creation. More than twenty members of the Young People's church contributed with songs, sketches, visual aids, poems and prayers. Some of the latter you will read in this magazine. We look forward to the next service, as it is such a joy and blessing to have so many young people and their leaders serve our Lord and our church so well.

### Stewards Meeting Wed 9th April 7:30pm

If you wish to raise any matter, please speak to a steward or Rev. Paul Welch prior to this meeting. Thankyou.

### Flower Rota

We are considering having flowers on the communion table on a Sunday. If you would like to bring flowers for a particular date, please fill in the Rota available in church. The flowers will then be given out to members and friends. Thank you.

## **The Continuing Journey through Lent to Easter**

A reminder of the Lent group meeting for the rest of Lent.

- 7th April at Edge Lane and Clayton 7:30pm - Use of water
- 10th April at Droylsden 10:30am - Shopping thoughtfully
- 14th April at Edge Lane and Clayton 7:30pm Shopping thoughtfully
- 11th April online Bible study 10:00 – 11:30am led by Rev. Caroline Wickens
- 17th April Maundy Thursday – Service at St Mary's Church, Droylsden at 7pm
- 18th April Good Friday Service at Droylsden 2pm led by Rev. Paul Welch
- 20th April Easter Day Service at 11am led by Rev Ade Kila (HC)

During the service we will dress our Easter Cross with fresh flowers and then take it out into the grounds for all to see. Please bring your own flowers on the day. There are thoughts about holding an Easter breakfast at church between 9am -10am.

### **Easter Offerings**

Envelopes will be available before Easter. Please return them by 27th April. The money raised goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Great Britain for work in our partner churches around the world.

In 2023, the appeal raised £190,000 for the worthy cause. This year it is focussing on every person's right to education; 'Education for All, Hope for All'.

The tradition of the offering dates back to 1883, when women in Manchester collected £32 for missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas day. In 1884, Easter envelopes were distributed and this has continued to this day. Please give as generously as you can to this yearly appeal. Thankyou.

### **Reflective Walk 13th April 2pm**

All are invited to join Rev. Paul Welch on the second Sunday of each month. Please contact Paul or Linda for joining details.

### **Lent**

During this period, we have been focussing on Eco-Lent in our bible studies and meetings. Here is a re-imagining of the Beatitudes. (Matthew Ch 5 v 3-10)

#### **The Be-Attitudes**

- Blessed are those who use low-energy light bulbs, for theirs is the light of God's wisdom.
- Blessed are those who travel by train, for their lives are on God's track.
- Blessed are those who choose a car with low fuel consumption, for they are in God's fast lane.
- Blessed are those who insulate their homes, for theirs is the warmth of God's love
- Blessed are you who put yourself out to use energy from renewable sources, for you have kindled the flame of the future.

John Polhill from Eggs and Ashes

## **Safeguarding Training**

Please could anyone who would like to train to deliver the safeguarding modules please see below information. Dates for the training are currently being arranged.

1. Foundation sessions - these are a circuit responsibility and should be delivered twice a year. People just need an interest and a willingness to support this vital circuit activity.

It is in our own circuit interest to have a number of trainers available to meet our local need.

2. Advanced sessions - these are a district responsibility and people would join a supportive and established team. It is preferable that they have experience of delivering Foundation sessions, or similar training experience. There are currently a team of 10 trainers but some people have been doing it for quite a while so new members would be most welcome. At present, the district offers annually, around 5 full day face to face sessions and 5 2 hour gathered sessions via zoom, and people deliver according to availability and preference.

No commitment is required to attend either Train the Trainer session, and if anyone decides after this that the training is not for them, that's absolutely fine.

If anyone has any further queries, please contact Helen who is the District Safeguarding Officer - [boltonh.dso@nwedmethodists.org.uk](mailto:boltonh.dso@nwedmethodists.org.uk) and she will be happy to answer any queries you have.

## **Birthdays**

Wishing everyone born in April a very Happy Birthday. Wishing you a day filled with laughter, sunshine and all the joy this beautiful season brings.

## **Next Magazine**

The May 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 30th of April 2025. Thank you.

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## **Easter Time**

This is a time for giving and receiving of eggs-usually of the chocolate variety, to be eaten on Easter Sunday. Sometimes (particularly in the past) fresh eggs are boiled and then the shells decorated to eat for Easter breakfast. So here is a piece:

### **In Praise of the humble egg**

We love eggs, on average we eat at least two of them each week, which makes eggs one of Britain's most popular foods. They are exceptionally good for you – high in protein, containing all the essential amino acids, rich in vitamins A, B and D. They are filling because of the protein value (7.5g) but less than 80 calories per egg. There are few other foods that can match them for so much protein per gram. Furthermore, they are inexpensive and easy and quick to cook in several different ways. A real super-fast food! How many do you eat a week and what's your favourite meal containing eggs?

## **A Collect for Easter Day**

Most glorious God, who on this day delivered us by the mighty resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, and made your whole creation new: Grant that we who celebrate with joy His rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

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What are your favourite Easter Day hymns?

Ones that come to mind are 'Christ the Lord is Risen today' written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). 'The day of resurrection' written by St John of Damascus who lived from 675-750. 'Thine be the glory' written by Edmond Budry (1854 – 1932)

Or how about more 'modern' hymns

'See what a morning, gloriously bright' written by Stuart Townend (born 1963) and Keith Getty (born 1974). 'All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord' by Noel Richards (born 1955) and Tricia Richards (born 1960)

Here is a verse from an Easter hymn written by our friend Rev. John Forster

Lord and Christ, our risen Saviour,  
Fill us all with joy today;  
Sin and death, the great accuser.  
From our lives is driven away.  
Through the Cross, our God at Easter,  
Tragedy to triumph turned.

(Sung to the tune called Grafton based on a French melody. We sing 'For the healing of the nations' to this beautiful tune.

A short poem *by Iris Hesselden*

We thank you for this Easter, Lord,  
As once more hope revives,  
And for the beauty and the joy  
You bring into our lives.  
This season has a healing touch.  
It eases heart and mind,  
And we go forward hopefully,  
The winter left behind

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## **Befrienders Mondays & Wednesdays 2-4pm**

At Befrienders at Methodist Centrall Hall, there are several friends who meet regularly and share fellowship and hospitality in many different ways.

One gentleman, Roy, enjoys writing prayers to share with others, particularly when times are difficult. He has shared prayers with us some time back, and here is one he asked to be included in our magazine this month

Pray everyone

When I run, I run with the wind.

When I walk, I walk with the stride.

When I sing, I sing with the voice.

When I dance, I dance with the feet.

When feeling low, and hurt and in pain,

I read with the Bible,

And talk to someone or go to a quiet room, or go to church

God bless, good friend. Roy

Thankyou, Roy, for your contributions and we pray for you and all around you.

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Here is a poem and some of the prayers by the children from their service on March 9th

### The Beauty of Creation

God made the sky, so blue and wide,  
The trees that reach, the mountains high.  
The birds that sing, the flowers bloom,  
The stars that twinkle in the room.

He made the earth, the sea, the land,  
With gentle care, by His own hand.  
All around, His love we see,  
In every leaf and buzzing bee.

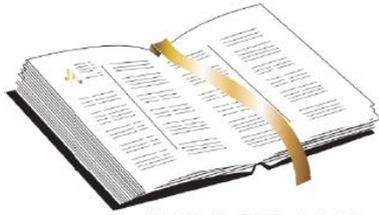


Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of this beautiful world and the precious water You provide. Help us to remember how important it is to care for our Earth and not waste the water that sustains all life. Teach us to use it wisely, with gratitude and respect, so that all living things may thrive. Bless us with hearts full of love and respect for the Earth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dear God,

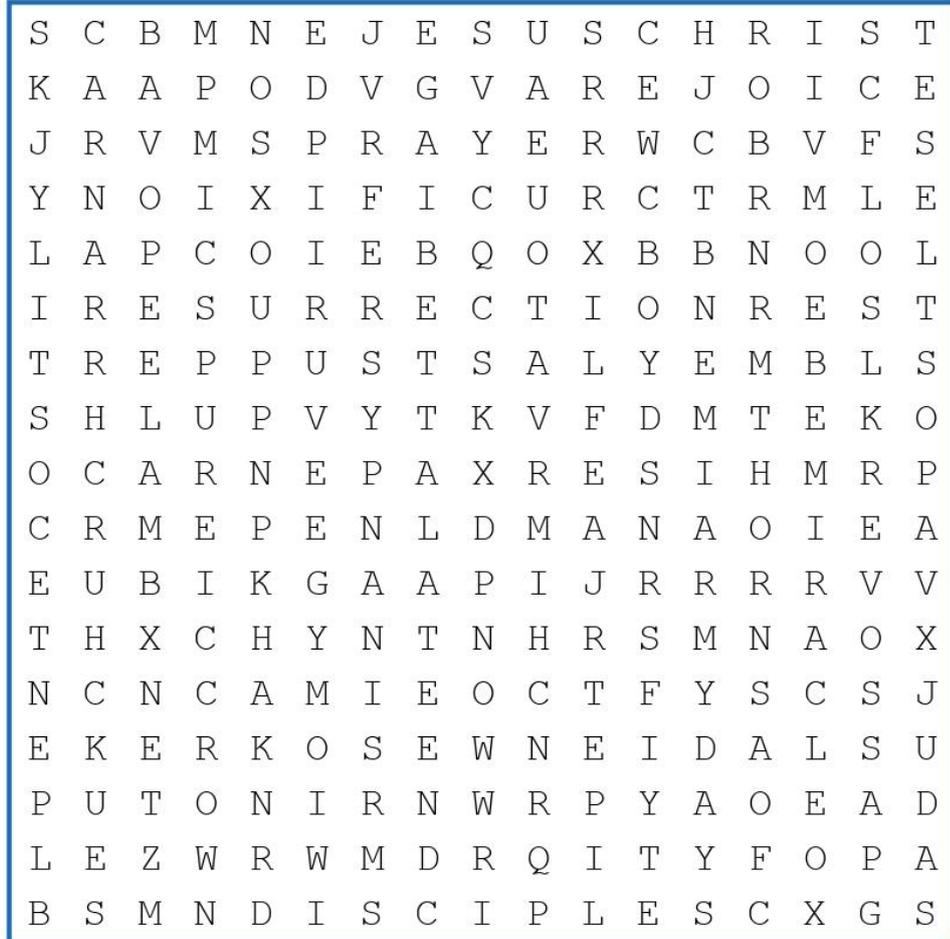
Thank You for our schools and our teachers. Please bless them with wisdom, patience, and love as they help us learn. May our schools be safe and filled with kindness. Please help us to keep our schools clean. Teach us to respect our surroundings and care for the earth. Help everyone to do their part in keeping the school neat and tidy. Amen.



# Easter Story

## WORD SEARCH

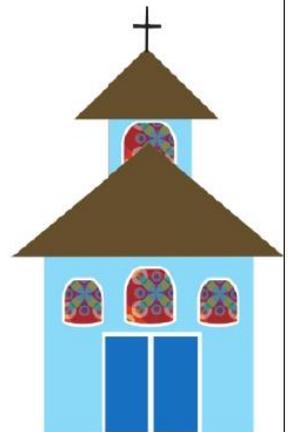
**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



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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**Jesus is Risen, Alleluia!**  
**A Happy Easter to All our Readers**