

# EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

## May Magazine 2025

Minister: Rev. Paul Welch



### Preachers/Lectionary Readings

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
11th May  Christian Aid Week	11:00am	Rev. Paul Welch (HC)	Acts Ch 9 v 36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation Ch 7 v 9-17 John Ch 10 v 22-30
18th May	11:00am	Mr Bernard Treves- Brown	Acts Ch 11 v 1 -18 Psalm 148 Revelation Ch 21 v 1-6 John Ch 13 v 31 -35
25th May  Aldersgate Sunday	11:00am	Mrs Pamela Sewart	Acts Ch 16 v 9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation Ch 21 v 10 and v 22 to Ch 22 v 5 John Ch 14 v 23 -29

Dear Friends

As we enter this month of May we are blessed with a bank holiday right at the beginning. It is always good to have some time off especially if you work long hours or unsociable hours. If you are retired or unable to work, then it may seem like just another day. Taking time out is important to do something different or to spend time with those who we would love to spend time with but don't often have the opportunity. Taking time out from the norm of everyday life is a good thing. There recently seems to be a push on taking time out as being beneficial for our wellbeing. This isn't a new thing though. Often when I read my Bible, I see times where Jesus goes off to 'be' by himself, recharging his batteries and thinking and praying about his life and what lies ahead. We all could do with this refocusing and reorientating time to reset our priorities. Living through Covid has brought to our attention what we value, what we hold onto and what we let go of. Perhaps one question we might ask ourselves is 'what are my priorities in life?' Thinking this through will perhaps help us make choices that give us a clear vision of where we choose to go rather than being dictated to by circumstance. Taking time out allows us the head space and creativity to follow the path that is before us that we have never travelled on before. For those of us who have a faith whatever that may look like, we are guided by the Holy Spirit and taking time out allows us to get an insight of what is possible. Holidays, even if only for a day are a gift and should be embraced as such, to enable us to take a break from the everyday, to relax and do something different.

Every Blessing,

Rev Paul

## CHURCH NOTICES

Well, we are in the 'merry month of May' when Spring has definitely sprung and all nature has awakened to the light and warmth. As we continue our journey with our Lord, let us thank Him for the beauty we see all around us, which gives us hope for the months to come.

### News Of Friends

We continue to pray for all those we know who are not well in body, mind or spirit, and for those awaiting appointments, treatments and operations. We name Joan P, Linda, David, Ann H, Jean W, Peter, Jean H, Emmanuel, Harry and family, adding others to these. May the Lord continue to be there for you, guiding you and uplifting you in these challenging times.

### Congratulations

To Philip and Naicy on the birth of your little girl, Eliyanah. We trust that you are all well and that Noah is enjoying having a little sister. What wonderful news!

Very special birthday wishes to Vera who is 90years young this month! Enjoy your day.

### Church Meetings

We have held a stewards meeting and a church council meeting recently, when many important things were discussed. Some of these matters will be brought forward at our Annual General Meeting to be held during the service on Sunday May 11th led by our minister, Rev. Paul Welch. This is an opportunity for members of the congregation to raise matters, ask questions and be fully involved in our church and what it does.

The small groups will also begin in May for those who have expressed a wish to meet regularly through the week.

### Easter Report

We had a busy Lenten period leading up to Easter and a joyous day on Easter Sunday, beginning with a delicious breakfast (Thanks to Linda), a celebratory Communion Service led by Rev. Ade Kila, followed by the floral dressing of the Easter Cross which was taken out into the grounds for all to see. It looked so colourful and beautiful. Many thanks to all who worked to make this Lent and Easter season memorable.

### Reflective Walk on 11th May at 2pm

All are invited to join Rev. Paul Welch and friends for this monthly walk. Please contact Paul or Linda for joining details.

### Preliminary Notices

During the next four months we are looking forward to three events at church for all to enjoy.

**14th June at 6pm**

The United Christian Singers will give us a concert.

**12th July at 7pm**

A Quiz Night

**27th Sept at 7pm**

A concert with a flautist. More details to follow but put the dates in your dairy and tell all your friends.

### **Some important dates in May 2025**

4th May	Vocational Sunday
8th May	The 80th Anniversary of VE Day
11th-17th May	Christian Aid Week
24th May	Aldersgate Day
25th May	Aldersgate Sunday
29th May	Ascension Day

### **Birthdays**

Wishing everyone born in May a very Happy Birthday. May this special day be the beginning of an extraordinary journey towards your dreams.

### **Next Magazine**

The June 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 28th of May 2025. Thank you.

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### **8th May    The 80th Anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe)**

8th May, 1945 was the day when Germany signed an unconditional surrender to end World War II in Europe. Our Prime minister, Winston Churchill, declared it a public holiday. After six years of bombings, rationing and blackouts, the people of Britain did not wait to celebrate, and went out on to the streets to party, dance and have fun. In Manchester, thousands of joyous people flocked to Albert Square to hear the prime minister address the nation via a radio broadcast. At 3pm, Churchill announced the end of the war in Europe, but added a note of caution. 'We will allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead.' The war was not over, as Japan did not surrender until 2nd Sept of 1945. 80years on, it is right that we remember and celebrate the spirit and the sacrifice of a generation. Of course, only those of us who are over 80years old were alive on this day, not many now with first-hand memories of it all.

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### **11th – 17th May Christian Aid Week**

This is an important week each year, when we think about the remarkable work done all over the world by the charity, Christian Aid. In church, we will have the opportunity to donate via envelopes or you can donate on line, where there are many resources available, including prayers and daily devotions throughout the week.

Visit [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk) for more details. In fact, Christian Aid is also 80 years old this year. The scripture passage for this year is from Romans Ch 15 v 13.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here is a story about Aurelia who Christian Aid has helped.

In Guatemala, gruelling heat waves and extreme weather are destroying Aurelia's farm. She worries deeply about how much harvest the family will have to eat and sell. As her farm is

devasted, the search for solutions become critical. With the support of specialist training from Christian Aid partners, with agricultural training, she gained knowledge to cultivate native seeds better suited to the changing climate. She is now producing her own organic fertilizer, creating nurseries and constructing rain water collection systems together with making nutritious food and medicine for her chickens. Aurelia's resolute hope has also inspired her to develop and lead other activities in her community, including producing chocolate, establishing a farmer's market and fighting for women's rights. This is just one success story among many, which bring hope with the help of our donations through Christian Aid.

### **A Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2025**

Lord, you are faithful to your promises.

Through the spirit, you bless us with abounding hope.

When power seeks to silence justice, give us the courage to raise our voice.

When an end to poverty seems far off, renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth.

When our neighbour reaches out, inspire us to respond with overflowing love. In Jesus name, Amen.

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### **Aldersgate Sunday 25th May**

This is a Sunday each year when we as Methodists remember John Wesley, the founder of our church. On 24th May in 1738, the church of England minister attended a group meeting in Aldersgate, London, where he received an experience of assurance of his new birth. John was heavy-hearted that day but whilst there, there was a reading from Martin Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt his heart was 'strongly warmed'.

He describes it as 'I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given to me that the Lord had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death'

John Wesley later found a new society that would become the Methodist Movement.

May we be inspired by John's experience to follow our Lord as he did so long ago.

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### **A Prayer of Praise** appropriate for Aldersgate Sunday

God of truth and mercy,

Where we break down – you build up;

Where we damage – you repair;

Where we blaspheme – you bless;

Where we isolate – you include;

Where we go wrong – you put us right;

Where we confess – you forgive;

Where we begin again, you are with us.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

## **29th May Ascension Day**

This is forty days after Easter. In Acts Ch 1 v 9, it reads, 'He was taken up before their eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight'. Jesus was not seen again, and 10 days later was the day of Pentecost.

Here is a verse from a hymn written by Rev. John Forster for Ascension Day

Let us praise our Christ ascended

Glorified in earth and heaven;

Let us praise our Christ ascended,

Songs of women and of men.

Man who died,

Son who reigns:

Risen, ascended, glorified. (This can be sung to the tune called 'Michael' with which we sing the hymn 'All my hope on God is founded')

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## **The Month of May**

### **Quotes**

- By Edwin Way Teale

'The World's favourite season is the Spring. All things seem possible in May!'

- By Emily Bronte

'May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope.'

- By John Burroughs

'All the world is glad with May'

- By Jean Hersey

'The month of May is the gateway to Summer'

**Poem** by Rosemary Bennett

### **The Month of May**

The month when Spring has really sprung,

When nature's at her best,

When gardens, woods and countryside,

With lovely flowers are blessed.

When busy birds are feeding young,  
But still find time to sing,  
And brightly coloured butterflies  
Once more are on the wing

When woods are dressed in shades of green,  
Above a bluebell sea,  
And purple foxgloves, standing tall,  
Attract the passing bee

With all these lovely things around,  
In verdant bright array,  
We greet once more with great delight  
The merry month of May.

We cannot fail to be positive in this month of May as all nature 'Praises the Lord'.

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### **Here are two prayers from Junior Church**

Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of electricity that helps us see, learn, and stay comfortable. Please help us to use it wisely and never waste it. Teach us to turn off lights and devices when we don't need them and to be mindful of how we use energy.

Amen.

Lord,

We pray for the world today. May it be filled with peace, understanding, and compassion. Help everyone to care for one another, protect the Earth, and live in harmony. May we all work together to make the world a better place for everyone.

Amen.

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### **May Puzzles**

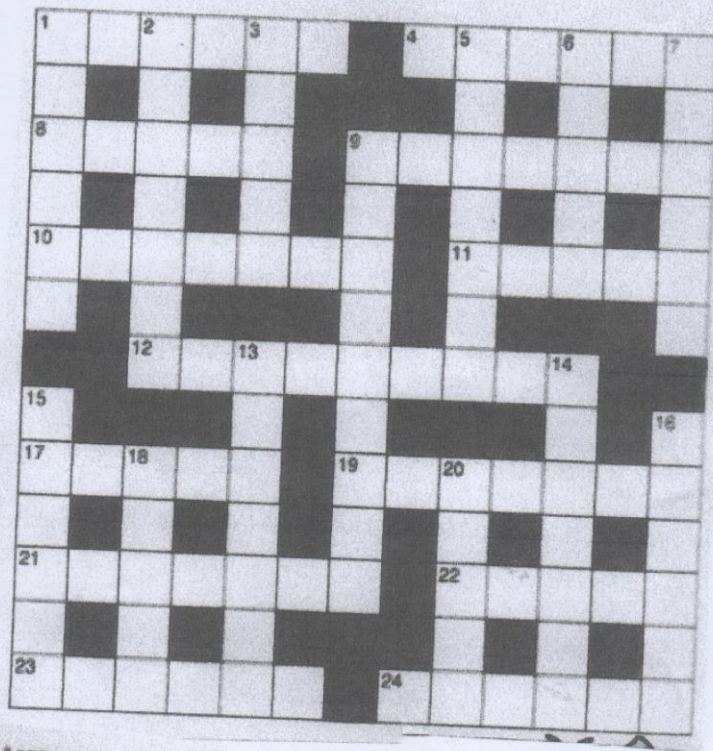
How many words of four letters or more can you make from

ALDERSGATE

(No proper nouns or foreign words)



## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)  
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)  
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)  
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)  
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)  
 11 'Look, here is —. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)  
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)  
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)  
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)  
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)  
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)  
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)  
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

### Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)  
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)  
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)  
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)  
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)  
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)  
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)  
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)  
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)  
 15 The human mind or soul (6)  
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is —' (Graham Kendrick) (6)  
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not —' (Matthew 11:17) (5)  
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

GOD BLESS ALL OUR READERS