

EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

December Magazine 2025

Minister: Rev. Paul Welch



Preachers/Lectionary Readings

7th Dec 2nd Sunday in Advent	11:00am	Mrs Abigail Parr	Isaiah Ch 11 v 1-10 Psalm 72 v 1-7, 18-19 Romans Ch 15 v 4-13 Matthew Ch 3 v 1-12
14th Dec	11:00am	Junior Church Nativity Play	Isaiah Ch 35 v 1-10 Psalm 146 v 5-10 James Ch 5 v 7-10 Matthew Ch 11 v 2-11
21st Dec	11:00am	Rev. Paul Welch Carol Service	Isaiah Ch 7 v 10-16 Psalm 8 v 1-7, 17-19 Romans Ch 1 v 1-7 Matthew Ch 1 v 18-25
28th Dec	11:00am	Mr Benjamin Allotey	Isaiah Ch 63 v 7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews Ch 2 v 10-18 Matthew Ch 2 v 13 -23
4th Jan 2026 Epiphany Sunday	11:00am	Mr Bernard Treves-Brown	Jeremiah Ch 31 v 17-14 Psalm 147 v 12-20 Ephesians Ch 1 v 3-14 John Ch 1 v 10-18

Dear Friends

As we travel through Advent and enter the season of Christmas, it is always good to remember the reason why we celebrate it. While it may be good to have a good excuse to see friends or family or receive and give gifts, the whole reason for celebrating is remembering the time when Jesus came to earth. We may have very different views about this event in history and all that went on around it. However, the reason why we celebrate Christmas is because of the birth of Jesus. For many, Christmas is a happy time, while for others it may be a sad or indifferent time. We perhaps should be aware of the current climate in which we find ourselves not only in this country but all over the world, where Christmas or 25th December will look very different than last year or preceding years. Whatever Christmas 2025 looks like for us, whether spent with others or not, there are people who will be struggling in many ways. As it is the season of goodwill, then perhaps we might want to do something to help others in some way. Perhaps we might want to bring God's life-light into the lives of others that they can see the goodness of God and the Light that Jesus brings to our world. People seem more generous at Christmas time and the gift of giving is greatly appreciated by those who are blessed by others generosity regardless of how large or small that generosity is. I hope that this Christmas you are reminded of the gift of love offered to all by God through Jesus. May you be blessed and may it be full of peace and love.

Every Blessing,

Rev Paul Welch

CHURCH NOTICES

As we move into this Advent season once again and prepare for the coming of the Lord, may we not forget all the good things He does for us every moment in this busy time of the year. May all our celebrations be to His glory.

News Of Friends

We continue to pray for all those people we know who are not well in body, mind or spirit, and for those awaiting appointments, treatments and operations. We name Sylvia, David S, Linda, Joan P, Jean W, Peter, Jean H, Ann H, Emmanuel.

We wish David best wishes as he settles down into his new flat and trust he will find peace and contentment therein this new phase of his life.

We send our condolences to Vera and her family on the passing of her son in law, Paul. May our Lord be with you at this sad time.

Special 90th birthday wishes go to our friend, Lilian in the new year. May you have a lovely time with family and friends.

Shoe Box Appeal for children overseas

This year, 100 boxes are on their way from our church to give joy to children in other parts of the world. Thankyou to Janet and all your helpers for this wonderful total.

Wood Street Mission Christmas Appeal

Again, many thanks for all your donations to help children in our city and area have a lovely Christmas. Last year, over 3000 children received Christmas presents from the appeal.

Christmas Fayre in November

What a wonderful community day we had with more than 150 people attending and Father Christmas was very busy too! Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make this such a success. The sum of over £1,000 was raised for church funds.

Small Groups – Bible Studies with Rev Paul Welch

The next meetings are on Tuesday 2nd Dec at 7pm at Trinity

Tuesday 9th Dec at church at 10am. The zoom group led by Mercy is on Friday 19th December at 7pm. All are invited to join with the theme 'The Parables'. Get in touch with Paul or Mercy for more details.

Reflective Walk with Rev Paul Welch

There will be no walk in December.

Christmas and New Year at church and beyond

- Dec 14th - we look forward to the Nativity Play performed by our talented young people and their leaders
- Dec 21st is our annual Carol service led by Rev. Paul Welch
- Dec 24th - at 11:30pm is a Christmas eve service at Hope Methodist church, led by Rev. Paul Welch.
- Dec 25th at 10am is a joint Christmas day service at Droylsden Methodist Church led by Rev. Paul Welch
- Jan 4th is Epiphany Sunday led by Mr. Bernard Treves-Brown

Circuit Meeting Tues Dec 9th at 7:30pm on zoom

This is the fourth meeting of the year. Your representatives from our church are Linda, Robert, Sam & Elva. Please speak to them for more details.

Birthdays

Wishing everyone born in December a very Happy Birthday. May your year ahead be filled with growth, grace and glorious moments.

Next Magazine

The January 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 31st of December 2025. Thank you to Rev. Paul and Elva for all your contributions to the magazine each month.

Collect for the third Sunday of Advent – Dec 14th

God of mercy and power, whose son rules over all,
Grant us so to live in obedience to your holy will,
That at his appearing we may be raised to eternal life;
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

Christmas Day Lectionary Readings

These include Psalm 96, which in v 11-13 says 'Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it, let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; they will sing before the Lord, for he comes.

What a wonderful image of all nature rejoicing in the Lord's coming. In Luke Ch 2 v 1-14, is the famous bible reading of the Birth of Jesus and the visitation of the Shepherds which reminds us that our Lord comes to all people, whatever their circumstances.

A poem for this season by Iris Hesselden

Christmas in Your Hearts

Christmas brings us many things
With laughter, love and tears
A wealth of happy memories
All gathered through the years.
A time for reaching out once more
A time to seek and find,
A time for sharing hope and joy,
Goodwill to all mankind

Christmas brings us cards and thoughts
From people far away.
To know we are remembered still
Can cheer a winter day.
The songs and cards fill the air.
The streets are filled with light
Can we recapture once again
The thrill of Christmas night?

Whatever Christmas means to you
May friendship play a part,
As through the days which lie ahead
Keep Christmas in your heart!

A New Prayer from the Prayer Trust

Your Precious Gift

Lord Jesus, you gave us the precious gift of your very self as a new-born babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger! Help us always to appreciate the wonderful love and the tender kindness with which your gift is given. Amen

Interesting facts for this season

- Christmas was officially set as Dec 25th in the 4th century by Pope Julius I, though some historians believe that Jesus may have been born in spring.
- Riga in Latvia was the home of the first decorated Christmas tree in 1510.
- December was originally the tenth month of the year. The Latin word 'decem' means 'ten'. The original Roman calendar had ten months in it, with the year beginning in March. This was changed to a twelve-month calendar in 713BC. However, the names of September (meaning seventh month), October (eight month), November (ninth month) and December (tenth month) were not changed.

- X in Xmas comes from the Greek letter for Christ, Xristos. The Greek letter Chi (X) is the 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet, which has a total of 24 letters.
- Why are the favourite colours of Christmas red, gold and green? Well, red symbolizes the blood of Christ, Gold represents light and green is the symbol for life and rebirth.

Favourite Songs and Carols

There are so many at this season, with often not enough time to sing them all. That's why it is especially important to listen to and watch the services on radio and TV in the run up to Christmas and join in with the uplifting, joyous singing.

Some of the most traditional carols have stood the test of time, being written often hundreds of years ago.

Carols like 'Away in a Manger'. 'Hark, the Herald angels sing'. 'O come all ye faithful, 'Once in royal David's city, 'Silent night'. There are also many newer ones which can challenge us to concentrate our thoughts beyond all the 'glitz' of the season.

For example, Singing the Faith No. 192, written by the Methodist minister, Rev. Clare Stainsby (born 1959)

The first verse says

Beneath the paper wrappings, there's an open stable door,
Beneath the fir trappings, there's a welcome and there's more
Beyond the tinsel fairy is a presence that's divine
There's a child to change the future, turning water into wine

And finally, a verse from an Advent hymn from our friend Rev. John Forster.

In Advent let the church prepare,
To welcome Christ, his Name declare,
To sing with joy through Advent days
And fill his coming with God's praise.

Christmas Puzzles

The following carols or songs have their consonants missing. Can you work out their first lines?

- A--E-- --O- - - E -EA--- O- --o--
- O-E A-- -OI- --E -E-E—A-IO-
- A--A -AU- I- -O-I-- -O -O—
- I-E -E—E--- -A---E-
- U-O-- --E -E- -O-E -EI--EE-
- I- --E -EA- -I—1—E-

How many words of 4 letters or more can you make from
BUON NATALE
(Happy Christmas in Italian)
No proper names or foreign words



**GOD BLESS US ANEW THIS CHRISTMAS.
A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS**