

# EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

## December Magazine 2023

Minister: Revd. Joy Rulton

### Preachers/Lectionary Readings

3rd Dec Advent Sunday	11:00am	Mrs Liz Stuart	Isaiah Ch 64 v 1 – 9 Psalm 80 v 1-7, 17 – 19 1 Corinthians Ch 1 v 3- 9 Mark Ch 13 v 24 - 37
10th Dec	11:00am	Mrs Pamela Sewart	Isaiah Ch 40 v 1 – 11 Psalm 85 v 1-2, 8 - 13 2 Peter Ch 3 v 8-15a Mark Ch 1 v 1- 8
17th Dec	11:00am	Nativity Play	Isaiah Ch 61 v 1-4, 8 - 11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians Ch 5 v 16 - 24 John Ch 1 v 6 – 8, 19 -28
24th Dec	11:00am	Christingle	2 Samuel Ch 7 v 1 -11, 16 Psalm 89 v 1-4, 19 -26 Romans Ch 16 v 25 -27 Luke Ch 1 v 26 -38
25th Dec	9:30am	Rev. Sharon Read At Droylsden Methodist Church	Isaiah Ch 9 v 2 – 7 Psalm 96 Titus Ch 2 v 11- 14 Luke Ch 2 v 1 - 14
31st Dec	11:00am	To be Arranged	Isaiah Ch 61 v 10 to Ch 62 v 3 Psalm 148 Galatians Ch 4 v 4-7 Luke Ch 2 v 22-40

# CHURCH NOTICES

As we move into December, into Advent and the time of waiting for the birth of our Lord, we marvel at the stark beauty of winter and the coloured lights and decorations which brighten the dark days. In these difficult times in our world, with the continuing conflicts, wars and hardship we hold all in our prayers as we move towards celebrating this special time in our Christian year.

## **News Of Friends**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who are not well in body, mind or spirit and for those awaiting treatments and appointments. We name especially David, Linda, Harry, Jean H, Jean W, Val, Betty, Joan P, Peter, Jean W, Janet and Ian and add our own names to these. We ask the Lord to give you strength and fortitude at this time and the assurance that He is with you, upholding you in these difficult times.

## **Rev Joy Rulton**

We hold Joy, Bryan and all their family in our thoughts and prayers at this time as Joy takes time out to recover and recuperate. We trust she will be back amongst us in the new year and thank those preachers and ministers for stepping in to lead worship.

**Thank you** from the family of John Stewart. The family thank so many of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, messages, calls etc. after the passing of John in October. His legacy will live on in all of us.

## **The Shoe Box Appeal**

We thank Janet and all her helpers (both young and old!) for all the work put in over the year to fill 72 boxes for the Christmas appeal. What a fantastic number! At St Mary's church, the school children loaded our boxes together with 100 boxes from St Mary's into a van. This van went to Coventry and then on to be shipped. We understand that young people in Ukraine, East Africa and Africa will receive their gift boxes from us. Well done!

## **Christmas Fair**

What a successful fair we had in November, when more than £1200 was raised for the church building fund. We thank all those involved in making it such a happy community day, welcoming everyone in to share in our love for Jesus and our neighbour.

## **Wood Street Mission Gift Day**

Again, we thank everyone who contributed gifts for the Christmas Appeal to help families in Manchester and Salford to have a memorable Christmas time. What a wonderful effort from us and from all those at the Mission for making it happen.

## **Advent Bible Study at Droylsden Methodist Church**

This continues on Thursday Dec 14th at 2:30pm. All are invited to join with Liz Stuart.

## **Advent Posada 2023**

It is still not too late to add your name to the journey rota for December to host Mary and Joseph in your home. The figures will be returned to church on Christmas Eve, ready to welcome the Christ Child once again.

## **Nativity Play** – December 17th 11am

We look forward to the telling of Jesus's birth at our service, with the young people of our church leading the worship of celebration. Please put the date in your diary and come along.

## **Christingle Service-** December 24th 11am

We continue our celebrations with the special Christingle Service, where everyone present can make their own Christingle in preparation for Christmas day. Why not make it the centre piece at your Christmas dinner table?

## **Circuit Meeting** Dec 6th at 7:30pm on zoom

If you wish to bring anything up for the circuit meeting, please speak to one of your representatives, Linda, Sam, Elva or Robert. Thank you

## **Birthdays**

Wishing everyone born in December a very Happy Birthday. May you have a joy-filled day with love, hope and peace. May your years ahead be full of cherished moments, and countless blessings.

## **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](mailto:marian.claytonmethodist@yahoo.co.uk)** or to Elva by the 27th of December 2023. Thank you.

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## **Prayers from our Young People**

In our November magazine we mentioned that we would include more prayers from our young people in forthcoming editions. Here are two more: -

Thankyou for giving me a happy life and my family and friends.

Thankyou for forgiving me when I am in the wrong. Please teach me to be hopeful and care for others. Thank you for my daily food. Thank you for my church, and for school and for my home.

I pray that you will keep me safe, and I hope I am going to follow in your footsteps. Amen . By Paris

Thank you, Lord for food, games and a house to live in. Thank you for friends and family, Lord. I am thankful for being able to go to church and pray every Sunday. I am thankful for doctors and nurses. I am thankful for teachers and schools. Amen.

And now a prayer from the Prayer Trust for the coming season

May this christmas bring you grace and peace and abundant blessings from the Lord, so you may know patience in adversity, confidence in challenges, joy in your heart, hope in the Lord, knowing that the Lord is always there for you to turn to and rely on in your every need. Amen.

Here is one of the collects for Christmas Day

God of light and hope,  
Of stars and surprises;  
Open our eyes to your glory  
And our hearts to your presence,  
That we may respond with joy to the angel song:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who is alive and reigns with you,  
In the unity of the Holy spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. Amen.

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A poem by Laura Tapper, which reminds us how important Lights are at this time.

### **Festive Display**

Resplendent in the window,  
Decked out in twinkling lights,  
To share the hope of Christmas,  
These dark December nights,  
With any who are weary  
Or weighted down with care,  
Bless you, dearest neighbour,  
For placing your tree there.

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### **Advent hymns and Christmas Carol**

As we move into December and the start of Advent, the time of waiting expectantly and preparing for the coming again of Jesus into our world as a vulnerable baby, we enter the season when we sing hymns and carols written especially for this time of year.

What is your favourite Advent hymn?

Well one of our oldest is still much sung. 'O come, O come Immanuel, with its beautiful haunting tune. Many of the more recent ones written emphasise the importance of light, when we light the Advent candles on our wreath each Sunday in December. Hymns like 'Light a candle in a darkened place,' or 'Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness'.

Moving towards the middle of December, we look forward to singing and listening to carols. The first known Christmas hymn may be traced back to the 4th century in Rome, when the songs were austere and plaintive. It was in 1426 when carols in English appeared. They were originally community songs sung during celebrations like harvest as well as at Christmas. Only later were they sung in church carols such as 'The Holly and the Ivy' and 'Good King Wenceslas' and can be traced back to the Middle Ages.

In 'Good King Wenceslas', the story is based on a legend about saint Wenceslaus, Duke of Bohemia (907 – 935), who goes on a journey, braving harsh winter weather to give alms to the poor on the Feast of Stephen – which is Dec 26th, the second day of Christmas (our Boxing Day). This is a day of charitable giving. During the journey, his page is about to give up the struggle in the cold, but is helped along by following in his masters' footprints, step by step, through the deep snow.

In 1853, the English hymn writer, John Mason Neale, translated the words from the Czech language. The tune called 'Eastertime' comes way back from the 13th century.

Do you have a favourite carol? Well, the country's favourite one in 2022 was 'O Holy Night', originally a French carol. A much loved one is 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter' written by the English poet, Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894) with music by Gustav Holst. It first appeared in the English Hymnal in 1906. The last verse is particularly poignant.

What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him –  
Give my heart

To finish, some words from a more 'modern' carol, written by Peter Relf (born 1944), a Methodist local preacher.

Here's good news: our God is with us,  
Friend for life, in joy and need!  
In reflection, pain and trouble  
Jesus is our Friend indeed.  
Baby child and dying Friend  
Living Lord: love without end. Amen

## **Did you know?**

There is a free, online Bible resource from the Methodist church, 'A word in Time' which offers Bible study, prayers and questions to ponder 7 days a week. To join the online community visit [methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time](http://methodist.org.uk/a-word-in-time).

Here is what Tolu who works in Lagos in Nigeria says

'A word in time is part of my daily routine. I don't always agree with what the author writes, but even then, it is useful as a challenge to my own thoughts. I find the background analysis helpful in pointing on things that I might otherwise miss when reading my Bible'

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## **Peace at this time**

In our very troubled world, we all pray for peace between nations, as we see the horrors enfold every day. Terry Waite became known as a peacemaker in the 1980's. He was a hostage negotiator in the Middle East and was taken prisoner in Lebanon in 1987, enduring 1,763 days of captivity. Terry wrote the following words for the composer, Karl Jenkins, on his composition, 'The Peacemakers'

### **Peace.....**

Peace is the fragile meeting  
Of two souls in harmony  
Peace is an embrace  
That protects and heals  
Peace is a reconciling of opposites  
Peace is rooted in love,  
It lies in the heart,  
Waiting to be nourished,  
Blossom  
And flourish,  
Until it embraces the world.  
May we know the harmony of peace,  
May we sing the harmony of peace,  
Until the last of days,  
We rest in peace.

Let us echo these words in our lives.

(These words were taken from the Book 'Prayer for the Day on Peace' drawn from the BBC Radio 4 series 'Prayer for the Day'. This book was one of the many, many books that John used in his daily devotion)

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### **Answers to the crossword from November Magazine**

**ACROSS:** 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

**DOWN:** 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

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### **A Prayer to Remember What Christmas Is All About**

As the festive season approaches, I humbly pray that I can see past the distracting veil of commercialism that sometimes overshadows the profound truth of Christmas.

Amidst the chaos, may my heart find peace and focus intently on the true essence of this season: the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Through His birth, You gave us the gifts of love, hope, and joy. It was Your biggest gesture of love to the world, the fulfilment of Your promise of a Savior. As we celebrate, let every jingle, light, and gift remind us that

Christmas is, at its core, a testament to hope. Amen.

*~ Brittanie Wetherell*

**A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all our Readers.**



# Advent word search



P	B	B	E	C	A	E	P	F	S	N	A	B	S	P
Y	E	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	K	U	D	N	P	G
N	U	N	S	M	G	N	L	P	V	Y	S	M	Q	G
R	O	T	O	E	E	I	R	Y	O	J	O	E	Q	U
F	O	I	I	I	L	R	D	S	F	H	V	M	J	K
J	D	T	T	G	T	D	U	N	Z	W	O	A	O	E
P	B	T	H	A	H	A	N	O	O	O	A	R	Z	W
L	U	R	H	G	R	P	P	A	F	H	G	Y	N	R
T	F	R	O	O	I	A	E	I	C	X	C	A	E	E
Q	I	D	P	I	Y	L	P	S	C	J	X	G	O	A
Q	K	M	M	L	V	Q	P	E	O	I	S	J	T	T
W	O	M	N	T	E	A	X	N	R	J	T	H	O	H
I	U	H	X	S	X	S	S	H	R	P	I	N	K	O
F	S	F	V	J	V	Y	E	G	N	I	T	I	A	W
L	O	V	E	C	I	O	J	E	R	O	M	O	N	S

ANGEL  
ANTICIPATION  
CANDLES  
EMMANUEL  
FOUR  
HOPE  
JESUS

JOSEPH  
JOY  
LIGHT  
LOVE  
MARY  
PEACE  
PINK

PREPARATION  
PURPLE  
REJOICE  
SAVIOR  
WAITING  
WREATH

