

# EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

## January Magazine 2024

Minister: Revd. Joy Rulton

### Preachers/Lectionary Readings

7th Jan Epiphany	11:00am	Mrs Daphne Maganga	Genesis Ch 1 v 1 – 5 Psalm 29 Acts Ch 19 v 1- 7 Mark Ch 1 v 4 - 11
14th Jan Covenant Service	11:00am	Rev. Ali Jones (HC)	I Samuel Ch 3 v 1 – 10 Psalm 139 v 1-6, 13 - 18 I Corinthians Ch 6 v 12-20 John Ch 1 v 43- 51
21st Jan	11:00am	Mr Nick Palfreyman	Jonah Ch 3 v 1-5, 10 Psalm 62 v 5 -12 1 Corinthians Ch 7 v 29 - 31 Mark Ch 1 v 14-20
28th Jan	11:00am	Rev. Ali Jones	Deuteronomy Ch 18 v 15 -20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians Ch 8 v 1 - 13 Mark Ch 1 v 21 -28
4th Feb	11:00am	Mrs Abi Parr	Isaiah Ch 14 v 21 – 31 Psalm 147 v 1-11, 20c I Corinthians Ch 9 v 16- 23 Mark Ch 1 v 29 - 39

# CHURCH NOTICES

Another year has swiftly passed and we look forward to this new year with anticipation as to what lies before us. There are mixed feelings at this time for all of us, but we know that if we trust our Lord and listen to Him, He will guide us through all that is to come. In the words of the hymn writer, Joseph Hart, 'We'll praise him for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come.'

## **News Of Friends**

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

## **The Christmas Period**

What a busy time we had during December. A highlight for all was the Nativity Play led by our young people and their leaders. What a joy to see 20 people taking part from the age of 1 to several decades older – all so well-rehearsed and eager to tell the remarkable story of the birth of Jesus. What a privilege to be part of this special day, culminating in refreshment and excitement in anticipation of what was to come.

This was followed by our Christingle Service where everyone successfully made a Christingle to take home to be the centre piece on Christmas day, again followed by refreshments and happiness and laughter. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make our Christmas Celebrations so special. Thank you too to those who have 'stepped in' to help (often at short notice) during December and into January.

## **Looking to the future**

We understand that Rev. Paul Welch will be moving into the Circuit in September and he will be our minister from then, when Rev Joy retires.

## **Birthdays**

Wishing everyone born in January a very Happy Birthday. May this year be the best one yet. May the year be filled with exciting opportunities and wonderful moments.

## **Next Magazine**

The February 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 31st of January 2024. Thank you.

## The Season of Epiphany (January 6th)

The beginning of January marks the season of epiphany when we remember the long journey the three magi took to find Jesus and worship him and give him gifts. In many countries this time is much celebrated, e.g. in South American countries, Egypt, Austria, Italy, Poland, more than we do here.

Here is the collect for Epiphany

Eternal God,

By a star you led wisemen to the worship of your son: guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may see your glory; 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.

What is your favourite epiphany hymn? Is it 'As with Gladness men of Old?' or 'Brightest and Best of the Sons of the morning' or 'We three Kings of Orient Are'.

Here is a modern hymn written by Lynda Masson Singing the Faith 223

A special star, a special star

It led the way to Jesus.

A special star, a special star

Shone over where he lay.

A special star, and special star

It led wisemen to Jesus

A special star, a special star

Led them to worship him

A special star, a special star

Shone over baby Jesus

A special star, a special star

Leads us to worship him.

Very simple but poignant words which gets to the 'heart' of the latter part of the Nativity story.

**The New Year** of 2024 is a leap year, with 366 days instead of 365 days. Those people born on Feb 29th will have a very 'special' birthday, which only comes round every four years. We add an 'extra' day to the year to keep the calendar year in synch with the astronomical year. An astronomical year lasts for 365 1/4 days.

A poem by Judy Jarvie

**New Year**

Another year is over  
A new one has begun  
It often feels like life's fast tracked.  
As days to years soon run  
For New Year brings reflection,  
And celebration, too  
For all the blessings, life has brought  
And good times we've been through  
So we face firmly forward now,  
Most thankful for the past.  
May all enjoy a happy year  
As special as the last!

Optimistic words for everyone!

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Our friend, Rev. John Forster, has written hymns especially for this time. Here are two verses from one of these

We thank you, Lord, for what is past,  
Help us to learn its lessons too;  
For those who do not heed the past,  
Repeat mistakes in what they do.  
Teach us the things we need to learn,  
That your great truth we may discern.

Lord, we would fill this year with praise,  
And seek your guidance through its days.  
Help us, your truth to make and learn  
That we may walk in all your ways.  
Incarnate Lord, walk with us still  
Your life, your way, your truth instill.

## **The call of Samuel**

In the Old Testament lectionary for Jan 14th, the reading is the well-known passage about when God calls the boy Samuel, but he does not realise until the third calling.

The word search for this month is based on this.

This Sunday in our church year is the day when we hold our covenant service, a very special time. From the earliest days of the Methodist societies, John Wesley invited the Methodist people to renew their covenant relationship with God. The emphasis is on God's readiness to enfold us in generous love, not dependent on our deserving. Our response, also in love, springs with penitent joy from thankful recognition of God's grace. We are asked to say,

*I am no longer my own but yours*

*Put me to what you will.....*

It is a time to re-dedicate ourselves to the Lord and listen to what he asks us to do in his name.

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## **Prayers from our Young People**

Dear God, we thank you for your love and goodness throughout the year. We pray that as we go into the new year, we will love and serve you and your blessings shall be with us always in Jesus' name. Amen- Jaydon



Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the joy that music can bring, for ears that can listen and voices that sing.

We thank you for being with us throughout the year.

As we go into a new year, help us to learn more about you. We look to you for our hope, joy and peace.

May the year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.

May you shower your blessings on us each day and let our lives be filled with good news in Jesus' name. Amen. - Theodora

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Is it too late for jokes from our Christmas crackers? What do you think of these?

- How do Christmas trees get their emails?
  - They 'log on'!
- How did the Christmas tree get ready for a night out?
  - It got spruced up!
- How do snow men get around?
  - They ride an icicle

- What's a parent's favourite carol?
  - Silent Night!
- What athlete is warmest during winter
  - A long jumper

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### Inspirational Quotes for January

1. "January, the first month of the year. A perfect time to start all over again, changing energies and deserting old moods, new beginnings, new attitudes."

— **Charmaine J. Forde**

2. "Don't count the days, make the days count" – **Muhammad Ali**

3. "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

— **Mahatma Gandhi**

4. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present." — **Bill Keane**

5. "When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

— **Helen Keller**

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### Some Facts about January

1. The name for January comes from the Roman God Janus, who is always depicted with two heads. He uses one head to look back on the year before and the other head to look forward to the New Year!

2. In leap years, January always starts on the same day as April and July.

3. In the United Kingdom, some people practice "Dry January." This is a movement to encourage people to quit drinking alcohol for the month in order to encourage public health.

4. The January birthstone is garnet, which symbolizes love, faithfulness, and constancy.

5. January Wasn't Always the First Month. Despite its current status as the first month, January wasn't always at the forefront. In the ancient Roman calendar, the year started in March, making January the eleventh month. It wasn't until 46 B.C., when Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar, that January assumed its position as the first month.

# The Call of Samuel

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)

Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10



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

LAMP	WORD	VISIONS	EYES	SERVANT
BOY	SPEAK	CALL	REVEALED	LORD
NIGHT	SAMUEL	LISTENING	WEAK	ARK
LIE	SEE	TEMPLE	THIRD	ELI

