

EDGE LANE AND CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

September Magazine 2023

Minister: Revd. Joy Rulton

Preachers/Lectionary Readings

3rd Sept	11:00am	Mrs Abigail Parr	Exodus Ch 3 v 1-15 Psalm 105 v 1-6, 23-26 Romans Ch 12 v 9 -21 Matthew Ch 16 v 21-28
10th Sept	11:00am	Rev. Joy Rulton (HC)	Exodus Ch 12 v -1 - 14 Psalm 149 Romans Ch 13 v 8-14 Matthew Ch 18 v 15-20
17th Sept	11:00am	Mrs Pamela Sewart	Exodus Ch 14 v 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans Ch 14 v 1 - 12 Matthew Ch 18 v 21-35
24th Sept Harvest Festival	11:00am	Mr Nick Palfreyman	Exodus Ch 16 v 2 -15 Psalm 105 v1-6, 37 -45 Philippians Ch 1 v 21 -30 Matthew Ch 20 v 1 -16
1st Oct	11:00am	Local Arrangement	Exodus Ch 17 v 1 – 7 Psalm 78 v 1-4, 12 – 16 Philippians Ch 2 v 1- 13 Matthew Ch 21 v 23 - 32

Dear friends,

How can we be in September already? Where has the year gone? Holidays are over and we begin to look forward to the colours of autumn, the season of “mists and mellow fruitfulness.”

September is a month of new beginnings for so many people:

We begin a new church year.

Ministers who have moved begin work in new circuits.

Young people begin a new academic year, with new teachers, and new schools or university.

For some, these transitions will seem easy. For others it will be quite a challenge.

I find myself asking questions this time of year:

What next?

What is God calling us to do?

How can we do our part in furthering the kingdom of God?

What are the needs of the people around our church?

How can we show them his care and compassion?

They're not easy questions, but I believe they are ones we need to ask as Christ's followers. And more than just asking the questions, our faith needs to be active.

In scripture we read,

Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

James 2:14-17

What can we do this coming year?

Blessings,



CHURCH NOTICES

As we move into September and out of the main holiday season, we trust that all readers have been able to spend time relaxing and refreshing ourselves even though thus far, the weather has not been too 'summery'. We continue to thank our Lord for all the seasons as we move into Autumn with all the beauty that has to offer us.

News Of Friends

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who are not well in body, mind or spirit and for those in hospital and those having and awaiting appointments and treatments. We think especially of Doreen, Jean H, Jean W, Val G, Betty, Harry, Joan P, Sharon, John S, David, Peter, Jean W. We add our own names to these and pray that the Lord will uphold you and sustain you through these difficult times.

We also pray for Ken W, whose wife has recently passed away and for Val S, whose husband has passed away. You and your families and friends are in our thought at this sad time.

Sam and family would like to thank everyone who has sent condolences to them on the passing of Sam's mother in Nigeria. You are all in our thoughts and prayers over the thousands of miles between us.

Harvest Festival - Sept 24th 11am with Nick Palfreyman

We look forward to this celebration as a whole church and would ask for gifts of non-perishable foods which will be donated to the Droylsden food bank. We will also have a collection of money for the Methodist charity, 'All We Can'. Envelopes will be available for this cause from Sept 10th. Thankyou.

Service at Central Hall Sept 5th 11am

This is the annual service to welcome the new president and vice president of the Methodist conference, the Rev. Gill Newton and Deacon Kerry Scarlett, who will both speak. The congregation will include members of different faiths in the city and Greater Manchester dignitaries, an opportunity to meet them all and hear their messages for the coming year

Circuit Meeting Sat Sept 16th 9:30am at Manley Park Methodist Church

This is the annual Saturday morning meeting for all those members of the circuit meeting. If you have any questions or comments please see Linda, Elva, Robert or Sam.

Preliminary Notice

- **Annual Shoe Box Appeal**

Items are being collected from now until November for this worthwhile Appeal. Please get in touch with Janet for further details.

- **Our first Church Anniversary** will be on Oct 8th led by our superintendent minister, Rev. Caroline Wickens. Please put this date in your diary. We plan to follow the service with a bring-and-share lunch, a time to socialise and enjoy ourselves as a whole church.
- **Christmas Fayre** – This will be a joint effort with St. Andrews Church on Sat Nov 18th. If you have any ideas about stalls to run and/or would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Linda, so that planning can proceed.

Birthdays

Wishing everyone born in September a very Happy Birthday. May you continue to grow in grace and Knowledge. May your years ahead be full of happy moments, and uncountable blessings.

Next Magazine

The October Magazine will be available both on the webiste and by 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 September 2023. Thank you.

The Methodist Prayer Handbook 2023/2024

The theme this year is 'Hidden Treasures' based on Isaiah Ch 45 v 3.

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.

This was chosen by the Methodist & Vice President of the Methodist Conference as these words were spoken to people experiencing huge disruption, conflict and challenge. They say, 'God is with us in our challenging times. Even in the midst of uncertainty, we hear stories about how people have encountered God at work in unexpected places and amongst unexpected people. Finding these hidden treasures and riches in our churches and communities can help us to rediscover a sense of hope about what lies ahead and find a renewed calling to see where God is at work and to join in. '

As you are aware, Rev. Andrew Charlesworth and family have now moved to Cardiff as he takes up his new role as joint-chair of the Wales Synod, in the Methodist Church in Wales.

Here is Andrews's prayer in the Handbook for Day 8

Heavenly Father,

In the darkness of grief, may the light of Christ Shine.

In the darkness of suffering, may the light of Christ Shine.

In the darkness of oppression, may the light of Christ Shine.

In the darkness of captivity, may the light of Christ Shine.

In the darkness of our lives, may the light of Christ Shine.

When all seems lost, when hope is hard to find,

When we cannot understand the way things are,

May the Light of Christ Shine. Amen

This prayer of hope in the darkest hour, reminds us of the popular hymn by Graham Kendrick in Singing the Faith No. 59

'Lord the Light of your love is shining' with the refrain: -

Shine Jesus Shine,

Fill this land with the Father's glory;

Blaze, spirit blaze,

Set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow,

Flood the nations with grace and mercy;

Send forth your word,

Lord, and let there be light!

There are also contributions in the prayer handbook from our friends, Rev. Bruce Thompson and Deacon Pru Cahill – more of them in further issues!

Harvest

Harvest is a time when all nature begins to change from verdant greens to shades of red, orange, yellow and bronze – so many different colours that all complement each other and remind us of the splendour of God's creation all over again.

Here is a poem by Iris Hesselden

Harvest Time

The summer now has slipped away

And harvest time is here.

A time for giving heartfelt thanks

As many gifts appear.

A season filled with bounty,

Of flowers, fruits and grain,

And so much Mother Nature gives

Produced by sun and rain.

And so give thanks with gratefulness

Rejoice with song and rhyme,

And share the harvest with the world,

Give thanks at harvest time!

And now a collect for Harvest Thanksgiving.

Bountiful God,

You entrust your creation to our care.

Grant us grace so to order our common life

That we may use your gifts to your glory,

For the relief of those in need

And for our own well-being;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

To finish with two verses from a hymn written by the Rev. John Forster which reminds us that we must all try to:

'Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can'. – John Wesley

We celebrate the harvest
That comes in tins and cans
We celebrate the goodness
Made real in pots and pans
Lord, may we all remember
Your gifts are made to share
And not just at our 'Harvest'
Show others how we care.

You show us that our caring
Must have a human face.
Your love was seen as Jesus
Cared for the human race
Help us to show your love now
To those who are in need,
That all may know your care, Lord,
Through kindness, not through greed

(The tune to this hymn is the one for a favourite Harvest Hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter')

Gardening at Church

Over the past few weeks, we have been spending time 'weeding' the long flower bed that borders the car park at church. So far, more than 20 bags of 'unwanted' weeds etc. have gone to the recycling centre to be made into future compost. The weeds had in many cases grown so tall that they were choking the perennial plants that were there, preventing them from showing their true splendour.

It is hoped that we now have space to re-plant some of the shrubs that were brought from the Clayton grounds, so that hopefully they will flourish again.

We are aware that we name a plant 'a weed' when it is growing in the wrong place! Here are some comments from gardeners when asked 'What is a Weed?'

- In my garden it is anything that is growing where I don't want it to grow – or getting too big for its boots! – Mark G.
- I believe that no plant is a weed. It is really just a wildflower growing in an unintended place. Kate D.
- Weeds are pretty, supply nitrates back into the soil, fabulous for wildlife and important for bio-diversity. Jennifer W.

Interesting answers to make us think!

It makes us Smile

- A little girl of four got out of bed one morning and said: 'I've just had a lovely film'
 - A small boy of six was looking at a field of cows. 'Is that number on the cow's ear his mobile phone number?' he asked.
 - A not-so-young lady was sitting in her yard looking at the lilies when she saw a dragon fly – she couldn't believe it – as she had lived in the house for 55 years and had never seen one until then!
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September Puzzle

How many words of 4 letters and more can you make from

HARVEST- TIME

(No proper nouns or foreign words!)

What is the longest word you can make?

GOD BLESS ALL OUR READERS