

CONCORD

East Didsbury Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Catharine Hughes



Whoever welcomes one of these little children
in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes
me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."
Mark 9: 37

JULY 2023

Minister's Letter

The Manse
64 Brantingham Road,
Manchester

Dear friends,

Perhaps late to the party, but I have just begun watching 'Detectorists', the BBC comedy series starring Mackenzie Crook and Toby Jones about 'the lives, loves and metal-detecting ambitions of Andy and Lance'. I'm not far through, and so far they have only really found some old dinky toy cars. Please don't spoil it for me, but I am hopeful they'll find something more substantial.

Our new President and Vice-President of Conference (Rev Gill Newton and Deacon Kerry Scarlett) have announced their theme for the coming year as 'Hidden Treasure'. In her inaugural address, Rev Gill spoke of her hope for the church (both the people and the institution). 'The treasure that God has hidden for us is waiting to be discovered and used, not hidden away in a museum or a cabinet only to be used on special occasions or buried again for others to find.'*

As we go through the process of merging the Didsbury and East Didsbury churches there is plenty of hidden 'treasure' to be found. Old papers and documents. Chairs hidden away in the cellar. Craft materials saved from a time when there had been a thriving Sunday School. More chalices. More crosses. Dozens of mismatched plates. Some of our treasures remain useful; some have been a delight to rediscover after years unused; some are, I'm afraid, rotten with misuse and worth nothing to anyone.

We have a choice: keep, or dispose (be it to a charity shop or the bin). Not everything can be kept: hoarding is not the best use of treasure. Besides, there cannot be space for it all. Conversely, we cannot throw everything away without due consideration: that is an irresponsible approach to our assets. It's not easy, is it? It is often only when there is a threat that something will be taken away that we realise how precious items are. Any couple that marry bring all their stuff and combine it in one house... and then discover what *they* think is important may not be what their *partner* does. Somehow, in the midst of all the to-ing and fro-ing, a compromise has to be made, however painful that may be. For us, too, there will be painful moments, but together we can carry each other through this process of grief and rebuilding.

Echoing Rev Gill's words, the Church is not a museum, nor a storage cabinet. It is not only for Sundays, high days and holidays, nor is it a hiding place.

No, the Church is the living, breathing people of God.

You.

It is a treasure waiting to be discovered and used.

You are God's treasure, of far more worth than any physical object in our church buildings, and eternally loved by God. Hold on to that promise, that for God 'X' marks the spot where you are.

Catharine

* You can read Rev Gill Newton's opening address here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2023/presidency/the-presidents-and-vice-presidents-addresses-to-the-methodist-conference-2023/the-presidents-address-to-the-methodist-conference-2023/>

PREACHERS FOR JULY

2 nd July	Rev. Catharine Hughes – <i>Holy Communion</i>
9 th July	United Service at Didsbury
16 th July	Rev. Davadson
23 rd July	Rev. Ian Rutherford
30 th July	Chris Davis



Readings for July: -

2 nd July	Genesis 22: 1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6: 12-23; Matthew 10: 40-42
9 th July	Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-43, 58-67; Psalm 45: 10-17; (or Song of Solomon 2: 8-13); Romans 7: 15-25a; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30
16 th July	Genesis 25: 19-34; Psalm 119: 105-112; Romans 8: 1-11; Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
23 rd July	Genesis 28: 10-19a; Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
30 th July	Genesis 29: 15-28; Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b; Psalm 28; Romans 8: 26-39

Praise be to the LORD, for He
has heard my cry for mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.
The LORD is the strength of his people,
a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.
Save your people and bless your inheritance;
be their shepherd and carry them forever.



Rev. Catharine Rev. Caroline Cynthia & Andrew Peter & Jean Frank & Jan
Dave & Mary Tracy Tania Pauline Sue F Ian Christine Jinka
Sandra W Mary D Beryl G Margaret J Ben, Pat & Jonathan
Heather T Marion N Sheila P Mary S Cath H Our Church family
Those in hospital All worn torn countries The lonely/anxious/depressed
Those on the poverty line or struggling at this time

We thank you God for answered prayer and continue to pray for all
those who need Your love and hold them in our hearts. Amen



If you like anyone adding to our prayer wall, please do email me. Rosie x

Jesus went through all the towns and villages,
teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the
good news of the kingdom and healing
every disease and sickness.

Matthew 9:35

JULY in the Methodist Church

9th July **ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY**

Safe and happy childhood

Action for Children protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives. Last year they helped 671,275 children and their families. To learn more go to: www.methodist.org.uk/action-for-children

9th July **SEA SUNDAY**

This need not necessarily be celebrated on this date the charity says and you can choose whatever Sunday a particular church wishes, but each year churches come together to celebrate sea farers and fisher folk and thank them for the vital and sometimes dangerous work that they do to support us. Their website is: www.missionseafarers.org/sea-sunday

9th July **RURAL MISSION SUNDAY**

This can be celebrated on any Sunday in July to suit the church – a thank you to all those who work the land and provide us with nourishment and a blessing on all small rural churches doing their bit for God. For more info: www.methodist.org.uk/special-sundays/rural-mission-sunday

The earth belongs to the Lord, and everything in it
The world belongs to the Lord and all who dwell in it.
The Lord looks upon the earth and fills it with his blessings,
while the earth remains there will be seedtime and harvest;
summer and winter, day and night will never cease
Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.





The Circuit Service continues, so you're warmly welcomed to join in on Sunday evenings 6.30pm on Zoom - the room opens from 6.00pm for a chat and fellowship with friends.



Badminton Club meets in the Hall at East Didsbury Tuesday evenings. For more information please contact on nicholaspalfreyman@yours.com

LADIES CIRCLE

We meet alternate Thursdays in Room 3 at 2.30pm (finish 3.45pm after tea/coffee and biscuits/cakes). Do pop along; you'll be warmly welcomed. We have a really fun time in love and friendship. *Rosie x*

13 th July	Summer Quiz/Picture (there's a short AGM before we start our session)
27 th July	Mini Summer Fayre
7 th Sept	Return for the Autumn season



Circuit Film Club next meets on Thursday 10th August at 7.00pm. The film to watch for discussion is 'The English Patient' available on Amazon Smile and eBay. Do come along and enjoy the company and lively debate. Contact me in advance for the Zoom code on lizstuartlp@aol.com



Please look on our stall. There's owls, teddies, mug cosies, chicks and lots more. There's also handmade cards – have a browse. We meet Mondays 1.30-3.45pm - you can stay as long as you like. New folk are always welcome. Contact me if you want more details. angelajohnson2@ntlworld.com

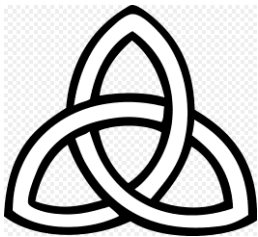


Tea/coffee/milkshake and prayer at Caramello, Didsbury, on 6th July at 10.00am and again on 20th July. Do pop along for some fellowship with friends.



As most of you will know my husband, Peter, has moved into Laurel Court. The last two years have been very difficult and I would not have coped without your love, care, help and prayers. Many thanks to you all, especially Sandra and Tony.

Jean T x



On Trinity Sunday I invited you to think of three words to describe God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Here are the suggestions I put on the screen:

Sovereign, Saviour and Shelter
Author, Word and Translator
Parent, Partner and Friend
Majesty, Mercy and Mystery
Creator, Christ and Compassion
Potter, Vessel and Holy Fire
Life, Liberation and Love

(They came from Wilda C Gafney's 'A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church - Year A'.)

What three words did you choose (they don't need to be from this list)?
Which of these descriptions of the Trinity by Wilda Gafney help you, or hinder you?
Can you re-write 'the Grace' as a blessing that uses your Trinitarian words?

Thank you,
Catharine

MOSTON BABY BASKET and CHELWOOD FOODBANK

Thank you for your continued support with donations for the Baby Basket, the Foodbank and your monetary donations popped into the box. *Angela and Rosie x*



A prayer taken from EMBRACE – the Christian development charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East.

A Prayer for the Middle East

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of prayer.
Thank you that we can approach you, the God
of the Universe, with freedom and confidence
because of Christ's death and resurrection.

We confess our hearts are heavy as we hear the news from
the Middle East, where poverty and injustice has robbed
people of hope; we pray you may bring renewed joy and opportunities.

When violence and conflict reign, we pray that you may heal broken
relationships and bring peace. We pray that our partners continue to be salt
and light in the communities where they work. May we continue to be
faithful in praying for them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

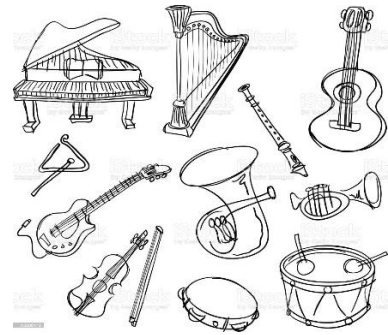
The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:126

We pray for the problems in our cities, for the homeless,
the hungry, the unloved and unwanted. We pray for all
those involved in violence; drugs or alcohol and ask that God
guides them and holds them and that they
realise that they are truly loved. Amen.

These lovely words were part of the Communion Service led by Rev. Chris Cheeseman on Sunday 18th June that especially touched me. Rosie x

God, we come knowing that we depend on you for life and truth and love.
We come knowing that you welcome us with open and accepting arms.
We come ready to meet with you and be changed by the encounter. Amen.



MANCHESTER METHODIDISTS Seeking, serving, sharing Christ

SALVATION ARMY BAND CONCERT
SATURDAY 1st JULY at 7.30pm
At Chorlton Methodist Church
Manchester Road, M21 9JG

(£6 on the door, cash only please)





DIDSBURY METHODIST CHURCH

There will be a Circuit Service to mark the merger of Didsbury and East Didsbury at Didsbury on **Sunday 3rd September** at **3:00pm** followed by afternoon tea.

If anyone could volunteer to help Didsbury with the welcoming; the preparation of the afternoon tea or the serving of refreshments at the tea, please speak to Chris or Rosie or email chrisdavis34@btinternet.com or rosieblayds@gmail.com thank you.



COMPETITION TIME

East Didsbury -Concord
Didsbury - Horizon

We need a new name for the two magazines that will become one when our churches merge. What do you think? Any bright ideas? The competition will run for the new name, which Chris and I will judge, and there's a closing date of 20th August for your entry. A lovely box of chocolates will be the prize (courtesy of Rev. Catharine) Speak to Chris or Rosie or email rosieblayds@gmail.com or chrisdavis34@btinternet.com

Five suggestions have been received up to now"

SUMMER QUIZ

1. Can you give the first line of Grease's 'Summer Night's lyrics?
2. Which Feast day falls on the 15th July each year?
3. Which singer was known as the 'Queen of Disco'?
4. What was the first name of Clegg in the sitcom, Last of the Summer Wine?
5. Can you name the fictional town in the Australian soap, Home and Away?
6. Castel Gandolfo is famous as being the summer residence of?
7. London has hosted the Olympics three times; can you name the years?
8. British Summer Time begins and ends on the last Sundays of which two months?
9. In the nursery rhyme what did the Queen of Hearts make 'all on a summer's day'?
10. By how much does the Eiffel Tower get taller in the summer?
11. What is the longest day of the year called?
12. Which vitamin can you obtain from direct sunlight?
13. Where do people gather to see the Summer Solstice in Southern England?
14. Which water sport is not part of the Summer Olympics?
15. And which game was introduced in the Summer Olympics of 1983? (two words for a clue)
16. According to Forbes (a global media company), what are the top 6 worst Summer injuries?

A total of 17 points available – see how you do and enjoy Rosie x

Answers on page 12 ...

CONGRATULATIONS

To **GEORGE AND NICOLA** (Patsy and David's daughter)
who are getting married this Saturday 1st July.

We send our love and best wishes for a lovely day
and a happy life together from all at
East Didsbury Methodist Church.

xxx



Happy Birthday to all born in the month of JULY xxx



Rev. Catharine, Patsy, Liz, Angela, Nick, Chris, Sandra & Tony and Rosie.

Quiz Answers: -

1. Summer loving had me a blast
2. St. Swithin's
3. Donna Summer
4. Norman
5. Summer Bay
6. The Pope
7. 1908, 1948. 2012
8. March and October (begins last Sunday of March, ends last Sunday of October)
9. Some tarts
10. Six inches
11. The Summer Solstice
12. Vitamin D
13. Stonehenge
14. Surfing
15. Table Tennis
16. Skateboarding, lawn mowers, BBQ grills, garden tools, playground equipment, Trampolines.

Items for the JULY edition of your magazine need to be with me by **26th July** please. Email: rosieblayds@gmail.com (Mobile 07758 011362) 13 Moor Park Road, East Didsbury, M20 5PF, thanks.

*Much love as always.
Rosie xxx*

Peace

LAST THOUGHT

Heavenly Father, You are all-wise, all-powerful and all-loving. In the midst of uncertainties, help me to rest in the certainty of who You are. I thank you that Your peace will guard my heart.
I place my trust in You.




Rev Catharine Hughes

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