

# KEYSTONE

United Didsbury Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Catharine Hughes



May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

MAY 2026

Minister's letter

64 Brantingham Road  
Whalley Range  
Manchester M16 8QH

Dear friends,

What warms your heart?

What is it that stirs something deep within you, that brings warmth... happiness... joy? For many of us, the answers come easily: time with loved ones, acts of kindness, moments of peace, or a sense of purpose. Perhaps it is simply the 'And finally...' section of the news programme. These can be small fires that warm our hearts.

The President and Vice-President of Methodist Conference have been asking this question of passers-by near the Aldersgate memorial plaque. Aldersgate today is in the middle of the bustling City of London, where the focus is a 24/7 business culture and money-making reigns supreme. The memorial, though, is to the lighting of a fire: the 'heart strangely warmed' that Rev John Wesley spoke of in his journal on 24 May 1738. It was not just an emotional experience, but a deep assurance - an inner knowing of God's love and grace. This was a profound spiritual awakening that kickstarted the Methodist movement and (ultimately) the denomination that we know today.

This year 'Aldersgate' happens to fall on the Sunday we also celebrate Pentecost. Again, we have the image of fire, as Luke records in Acts 2.3-4: the disciples '*saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...*'

The arrival of the Holy Spirit is a moment of transformation, when fear gave way to courage and uncertainty became bold proclamation. The disciples, once hesitant and unsure, were set alight with a new confidence and clarity. Their hearts were no longer weighed down - they were burning with purpose.

And Sunday 24 concludes the period of 'Thy Kingdom Come' (which runs from Ascension Day to Pentecost), when we are invited to set aside specific time to pray so that many more people will be set on fire by the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit that moved at Pentecost... that stirred within Wesley... is present and active today: quietly kindling faith, renewing hope, and calling each of us into deeper relationship with Jesus.

So again, what warms your heart? What is it that sparks a fire in your faith, burning within you?

Perhaps it comes in a moment of prayer, a line of scripture, a conversation that lingers, or a nudge toward compassion.

Is it possible that beneath the surface of our daily lives, God is already at work - gently inviting us into the same warmth experienced by the disciples at Pentecost, or John Wesley in Aldersgate?

As we approach this season, may we remain open to the Spirit's movement. May we notice the small sparks as well as the great flames. And may we, like those first disciples - and like Wesley - find our hearts warmed in ways that transform not only ourselves, but the world around us.

Catharine

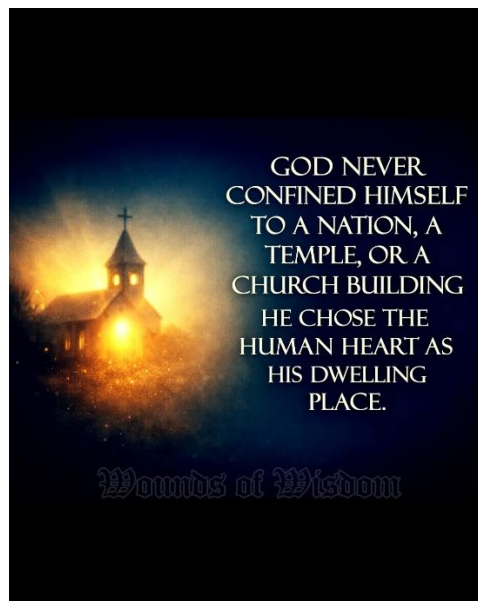
Preachers for May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> May Rev. Catharine Hughes – *Holy Communion*
- 10<sup>th</sup> May Eva Manley
- 17<sup>th</sup> May Jo Cox-Darling
- 24<sup>th</sup> May Adrian Curtis
- 31<sup>st</sup> May Chris Davis



Readings for May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> May Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2: 2-1; John 14: 1-14
- 10<sup>th</sup> May Acts 17: 22-31; Psalm 66: 8-20; 1 Peter 3: 13-22; John 14: 15-21
- 14<sup>th</sup> May *Ascension Day*: Acts 1: 1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Luke 24: 44-53
- 17<sup>th</sup> May Acts 1: 6-14; Psalm 68: 1-10 and 32-35; 1 Peter 4: 12-14 and 5: 6-11;
- 24<sup>th</sup> May *Pentecost* – Acts 2: 1-21; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13  
Acts 2: 1-21
- 31<sup>st</sup> May Genesis 1: 1-2, 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; Matthew 28: 16-20



## MAY

- 3<sup>rd</sup> May Vocations Sunday - *Acts 2:42* - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.
- 5-8 May Methodist Diaconal Order Convocation - It is both an Order of Ministry and a Religious Order within the Methodist Church in the UK. Formed in 1989, a rooted in the legacy of the Wesley Deaconess Order, the Order is open to people of all genders who feel drawn to a life of service, witness and devotion. Deacons are one of the two types of ordained ministers in the Methodist Church, the other being presbyters. Diaconal ministry offers a distinctive pathway of ministry focused on nurturing community, enabling others in their discipleship and helping the Church live out its calling to be a sign of God's hope in the world.
- 10-16 May Christian Aid Week - This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.
- 14<sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day – One of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 CE. In the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. On the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.
- 24<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and is celebrated 50 days after Easter. While often called Whitsunday and it is a significant religious observance worldwide
- 24<sup>th</sup> May Aldersgate Sunday (also known as Wesley Day) - We recalls the day in 1738 when John Wesley attended a group meeting in Aldersgate, London, where he received an experience of assurance of his new birth. This was the pivotal event in Wesley's life that ultimately led to the development of the Methodist movement in Britain and America.

31<sup>st</sup> May

Trinity Sunday - The concept of the Trinity can feel difficult to understand. Many people find themselves confused when trying to grasp how God can be three persons while remaining one singular entity; this is a common experience. You don't need to have a degree in theology to appreciate the beauty behind this core Christian belief. The Trinity is simply framed as one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This forms the bedrock of Christian faith and worship across the globe. It's a day to pause, look closely at the nature of God, and celebrate the relationship between the Creator, the Saviour, and the Spirit.

<><><><>



**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY AT 3.00pm**

**SALE SALVATION ARMY**

**23 ASHTON LANE, SALE**

**M33 6NP**



Rev. Catharine    Joan H    Oscar    Tony & Sandra    Dave & Mary    Barbara  
Betty    Irene    Tom    Margaret J    Phil    Cynthia    Beryl & family  
Olive & family    Sheila P    Tracey    Sue F    Ben & Pat    Margaret W  
Heather T    Paul & Paula    Beryl G    Margaret T    Tanya    Our church family  
Our community    those in hospital    those in our prayer book & on the prayer tree  
Worn torn countries    Foodbanks    Moston Baby Basket  
The lonely, the anxious and depressed    Those without a bed and on the poverty line

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



*If you'd like anyone on our prayer wall in Keystone,  
please speak to me or email [rosieblayds@gmail.com](mailto:rosieblayds@gmail.com)*

**Please place a name for someone you wish continual prayer  
for on the prayer tree at the back of church**



You are encouraged to 'like' our page. It always good to increase our social media presence! United Didsbury Methodist Church



Happy Birthday to all born in the months of MAY xxx



What an amazing Holy Week we had leading up to Easter. Each morning during the week we met in church and talked, prayed, shared together and generally had a wonderful time with God. Catharine worked so hard depicting each day with a beautiful item she had made, which culminated in what you see here. We talked of Palm Sunday, the disruption in the temple, the washing of the feet and sharing of the bread and wine, the thirty pieces of silver and we discussed the crucifixion; the crown of thorns, and the wonderful resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was so uplifting and thought-provoking, so thanks to Catharine from all those who attended. What a wonderful display of our Christian journey together.



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

This year Manchester Methodists will support Thy Kingdom Come by sharing videos detailing 10 different ways to pray. These short reels will be shared on the circuit social media platforms, the website and our YouTube, so keep your eyes peeled!

Cleaning and chair refurbishing day:

SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MAY 1.30pm – 4.00pm



Volunteers are needed , all abilities catered for .....

We plan to:

Renew the feet on the blue & pre-school chairs to prevent damage to the floors  
(If you can please bring a screwdriver, a hammer and a pair of pliers.)

Clear the building of cobwebs (Fluffy dusters welcome)

Vacuum the upholstered chairs

(If you are able please to bring a cordless vacuum cleaner with you)

Do help if you can , tea and cake will be provided



Thank you



**The Circuit Service** continues; you're warmly welcomed to join on Sunday evenings 6.30pm on Zoom - the room opens from 6.00pm for a chat and fellowship with friends. *For joining details: [administrator@manchestermethodists.org.uk](mailto:administrator@manchestermethodists.org.uk)*

LADIES  
CIRCLE

All are welcome to join us in Room 3 every other Thursday to meet in love and friendship. Start 2.00pm (finish 3.30pm after tea/coffee and biscuits/cakes). The door is open from 1.40pm, so do pop along if you can, you'll be made very welcome. *Rosie x*

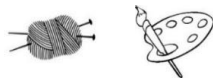
7<sup>th</sup> May            Rev. Catharine  
21<sup>st</sup> May            Quiz with Karen



Circuit Film Club will meet on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.00pm**, and the film to watch for our discussion is '*Life is Beautiful*' available new and pre-owned on Amazon and eBay and also can be watched on Amazon Prime. . New people are always welcome to come along – if you email me on [lizstuartlp@aol.com](mailto:lizstuartlp@aol.com) I will send you the Zoom link nearer the date. ***Make sure if you buy the film that it has English subtitles!***



A drink, fellowship & closing prayer with friends at Caramello, Didsbury for an hour. Open to all. Meeting for an hour on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am**.



**ART SPACE** – Meets Wednesdays from 10.00am until noon. This is a chance to do something creative in the company of others. Whether it's painting, embroidery, knitting, card making or anything else that you do, just bring your kit with you and enjoy the peace and quiet. This is not tutor led, just an opportunity to work on those unfinished projects and develop skills with friends. Why not give it a go? *Patsy x*

**Fellowship Group** – We're meeting on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm in Room 3**. If you would like to know more about the Fellowship Group, please speak to Nick or Patsy. All welcome to pop along.

**Badminton Club** in the hall on Tuesdays from 8.00pm and all are welcome to pop along. For further details please email: [nicholaspalfreyman@yours.com](mailto:nicholaspalfreyman@yours.com)



**Chelwood Foodbank** As always, thanks for your donations of food and money - always something in the box and they are so very grateful for your kindness. Not only food needed, but towels, blankets, nappies, children's toys and toiletries. Please do continue to give. Rosie x



**Moston Baby Basket** THANK YOU from Moston Baby Baskets. All donations are gratefully received and much appreciated. *Paul*

### **Church Bank Account**

We are in the process of completing paperwork to transfer our current account to the Co-operative Bank. All standing orders will be transferred automatically. If you pay into the Church by using on-line banking to make individual payments, you will need the new bank account details once the account is opened. You will probably need them if you are reviewing your giving and wish to change your standing order. The account information will be available from Chris Davis.

We will let you know when the new account is opened.

Chris D

Why not take a look and see what's going on in our District. See what we do in the Circuit, the different resources, get a prayer for comfort and strength and lots, lots more.



TRUST in the timing  
TRUST in the waiting  
TRUST the process  
God knows when you are truly ready.  
He never sends blessings too soon or too  
late – only at the perfect time.

Because you came as one of us, Lord Jesus, growing up in an ordinary home, living an ordinary human life, facing the problems, the disappointments, the highs and lows that we all face, we know that whatever our need we can trust you to understand. Because you suffered pain and injustice, betrayal and denial, we know that you are aware of how cruel a place the world can be, and that you stand alongside those who are oppressed, abused and ill-treated, and long for their freedom and for them to find hope. May we, Lord, who seek to live in your way, follow your example of reaching out to those who are marginalised and suffer discrimination, and speak up for those whose voices are not heard. For then we shall be truly living out our faith as Easter people, sharing with others the love and new life we have found in you. Amen

*Daily Prayer – Manchester Methodists*



Music lessons: a metaphor for the Christian faith

The passage “I will praise you with a harp....O holy one of Israel” (Psalm 71:22), is one of several allusions to music in the Bible.

Without music lessons, however, there can be no meaningful music.

Even in the digital era, so-called “white noise” is the nearest we can get to the contribution of artificial intelligence to the genre of contemporary music.

Many parents and grandparents of my age have gone through the agony of persuading the reluctant 10-year-old to practice their scales and adhere to the diligence and perceived drudgery of keeping up with their music lessons. We so passionately want it for them and for their sake but, in reality, it is ultimately intended to be a fulfilment of our own dreams.

And so it is with Sunday school and the Christian faith. We do so passionately want it for them but they would rather be doing something else.

And, guess what, when they, too, become parents, they will repeat that futile cycle.

As a consequence, somewhere in the universe, perhaps in outer space, there is a repository for all the musical instruments and books of scales and exercises that have been discarded by reluctant music pupils who had only attended music lessons to pacify their parents or grandparents.

Anything for a quiet life!

Thank you Oscar



**GOOD NEWS**

**Joan H is back home and in recovery. Thank you God for answered prayer.  
And to all those who are unwell at the moment or suffering, whether physically  
or emotionally, we hold you up; we pray for Oscar and ask God to cover him in His love.**

## FIND THIRTY BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund-raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Hunana humbly puts it, 'the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight'. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

# Repair Cafe

United Didsbury Methodist Church

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month

2-4pm

**Starting 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Bring items for repair or come and find out  
more about it and join us for a brew**

We'd be delighted to see you.

Any questions or to get involved email – [DidsburyRepairCafe@gmail.com](mailto:DidsburyRepairCafe@gmail.com)  
or speak to Stephen Hughes or Janet Green



CLOTHING REPAIR



When we think about Jesus, His compassion stands out remarkably. Throughout the Bible, we see Jesus reaching out to those in need, offering healing and hope to the broken-hearted and the sick. His ability to heal is rooted in His love for us. When we read about His acts of healing, we are reminded that He cares deeply for our well-being, both physically and spiritually. We can take comfort in knowing that no matter our circumstances, Jesus is always there to mend our wounds, both internal and external. His healing power is not just about physical recovery but also emotional and spiritual wholeness. Together, let us embrace this truth and allow His compassion to fill our hearts.

Matthew 14:14 - *“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”*



Tracey (Joan H's daughter) has asked me to pop this advert in. She has one four-wheel walker with a seat and never been used and one three-wheel foldable walker if anyone would like one of them – no cost. Please get in touch with me on [rosieblayds@gmail.com](mailto:rosieblayds@gmail.com)



# Manchester & Salford Whit Walk 2026

An Ecumenical Walk of Witness

Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May

**9.30am Assemble in Cathedral Gardens (behind the Cathedral)**

**10.00am Procession to St Peter's Square via Deansgate**

**10.45am Act of worship**

**11.30am Return procession to Manchester Cathedral**

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/ManchesterSalfordWhitWalk/](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterSalfordWhitWalk/)

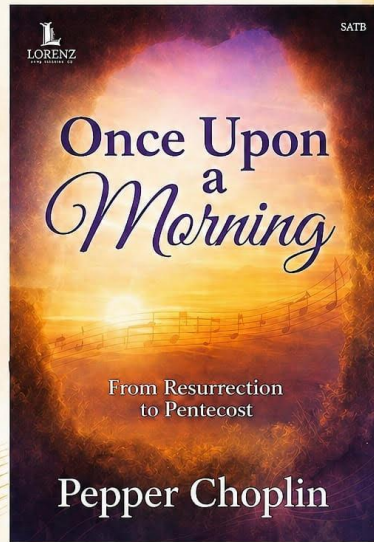
**PUZZLE ON PAGE 10 - As it says, there 30 and I can only find 26 – good luck Rosie x**

MARK	LUKE	JOHN	JOEL	JUDGES	HEBREWS
ACTS	JAMES	ROMANS	RUTH	MATTHEW	GENESIS
PHILEMON	NAHUM	CHRONICLES	DANIEL	HOSEA	LAMENTATIONS
REVELATION	TIMOTHY	SAMUEL	NUMBERS	MALACHI	PETER
EXODUS	KINGS				

United  
Christian  
Singers

PRESENTS...

Once Upon a Morning is a delightfully creative musical telling of the days after Christ's Resurrection, beginning with the discovery of the empty tomb and depicting the instances when Jesus appeared to His disciples.



Saturday 13th June,  
3.00pm

The Village Methodist Church  
Northenden Road, Sale,  
M33 2PP

*Free admission. All are welcome to an afternoon of music, fellowship and refreshments.  
Donations invited for the Partington Methodist Church roof fund.*



Rev. Catharine, Liz, Patsy, Nick H, Nick P, Oscar, the Circuit Office and Rosie

Articles for the February edition to be with me no later than **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** please. Please pass to me at church or email [rosieblayds@gmail.com](mailto:rosieblayds@gmail.com) or 07758 011362.

## Last Thought

"Faith in action is service. We try to be holy because we believe. In most modern rooms you see an electrical light that can be turned on with a switch. But if there is no connection with the main powerhouse, then there can be no light. Faith and prayer is the connection with God, and when that is there, there is service."

*Mother Teresa*




### **Rev Catharine Hughes**

 [catharine.hughes@methodist.org.uk](mailto:catharine.hughes@methodist.org.uk)

 @abrewandaprayer

 [facebook.com/revcatharine](https://facebook.com/revcatharine)

 0161 226 6019