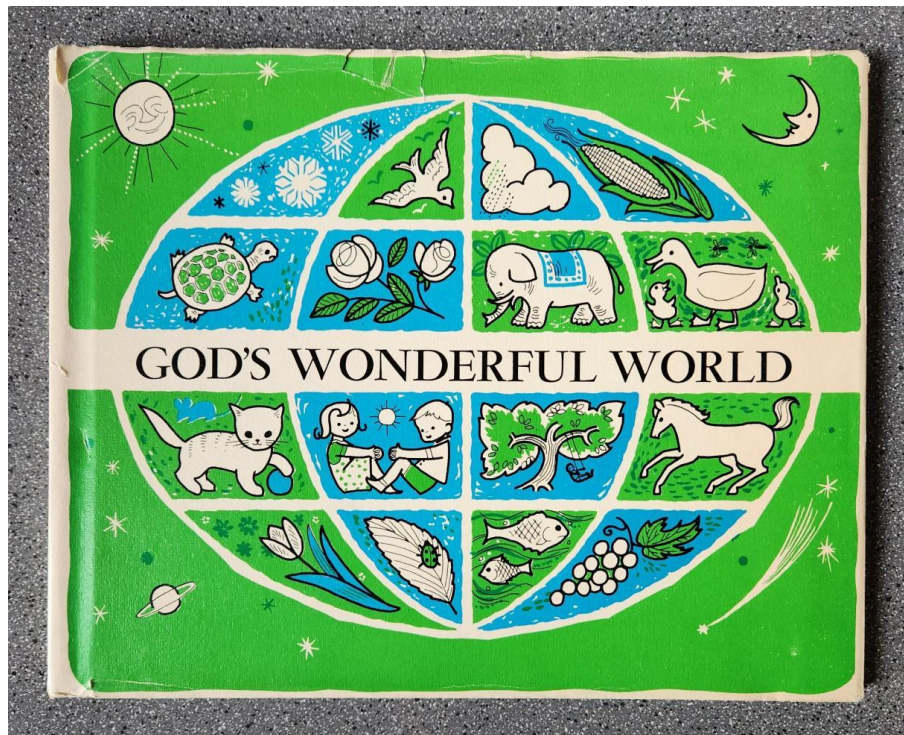


KEYSTONE

United Didsbury Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Catharine Hughes



The morning breaks with golden light, and chases off the starry night.
The mountains stand, majestic, tall, while valleys hear the river's call.
The ocean sings a ceaseless song, where mighty whales and minnows throng.
The forests breathe in green and gold with secrets that the ancients hold.
In every petal, breeze, and tree, His boundless love is plain to see.
A world of wonder, rich and grand, the perfect work of Master's hand.

JULY/AUGUST 2026

Minister's letter

64 Brantingham Road
Whalley Range
Manchester M16 8QH

Dear friends,

“Fixed it!”

My husband handed back my plastic water bottle. What had been watertight had begun to leak, and five minutes earlier I declared I'd have to throw it away. He was horrified. “Let me look...” he said.

I'm not sure, in the end, who was more pleased: me, to have my trusty water-bottle back, or him for having solved the problem.

We all have things that are used on a near-daily basis that we grow used to, then frustrated if they stop working. The temptation is to ditch it and buy new... yet often it can be easily repaired, be it replacing a fuse, re-covering a chair seat or tightening some bolts. It might simply be that you (like me!) don't have the skill or ability to do it yourself. This is where local Repair Cafes can be so useful.

There are Repair Cafes all around Manchester, usually meeting monthly on a Saturday. They are funded by donations, and rely on people willing to donate time to share their skills. (If that is you, why not volunteer a couple of hours a month to help, and teach, others?) We are just starting one at United Didsbury Methodist Church* because we believe it so important to take care of God's world and not to keep throwing objects into landfill.

Repairing our planet will take far more than five minutes with a plastic water-bottle, or two hours with broken chairs and electrical equipment. Yet each piece of plastic we don't throw into landfill is reducing the non-compostable waste that builds up; each item of equipment we repair rather than ditch reduces the number of items being manufactured, and thus reduces the drain on the earth's limited resources.

Repair is part of our relationship with God. It is through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we can repair the rift caused by sin in our relationship with God. And it is by our mutual forgiveness of others that we can repair relationships here on earth. That two-fold 'repair' is voiced in the Lord's Prayer: 'forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us'. It is not always easy, but forgiveness has long tendrils that reach further than we often realise or see.

In a world where everything is disposable and short-term, and where God's creation is used and exploited, repair is a small act with wider, long-term impact.

Best wishes,
Catharine

*1st Saturday of the month, 2-4pm, UDMC.
didsburyrepaircafe@gmail.com

Preachers for July

5 th July	Rev. Catharine Hughes – <i>Holy Communion</i>
12 th July	Paul Johnson
19 th July	Abigail Ogier
26 th July	Rev. Katie Smith



Readings

5 th July	Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45: 10-17; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30
12 th July	Genesis 25: 19-34; Psalm 119: 105-112; Romans 8: 1-11; Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
19 th July	Genesis 28: 10-19a; Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
26 th July	Genesis 29: 15-28; Psalm 105: 1-11; 45b; Romans 8: 26-39; Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Let us not forget - For God so greatly loved
and prized the world, that He gave His One
and only begotten Son, so that whoever
believes and trusts in Him as Saviour
shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Preachers for August

2nd August Rev. Catharine Hughes – *Holy Communion*

9th August Rev. Mandy Boon

16th August Rev. Chris Cheeseman

23rd August Paul Johnson

30th August Liz Stuart



Readings

2nd August Genesis 32: 22-31; Psalm 17: 1-7, 15; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14: 13-21

9th August Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10: 5-15;
Matthew 14: 22-33

16th August Genesis 45: 1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32;
Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

23rd August Exodus 1:8 – 2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

30th August Exodus 3: 1-15; Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12: 9-21;
Matthew 16: 21-28

Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow. The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings. France De ales

Thanks to Isabel K



Rev. Catharine the family of Clyde the family of Ann Joan H
Sending love to the Hamlyn family Tony & Sandra Dave & Mary
Betty Barbara E Irene Margaret J Phil Cynthia Sheila
Tracey Olive & family Sue F Ben & Pat Tanya Heather T
Paul & Paula Beryl G Our church family the NHS Foodbanks
Our Community Those in hospital Those in our prayer book & on
the prayer tree
Moston Baby Basket Worn torn countries the lonely, anxious, 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*

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



AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY 25th JULY 2pm-4pm

UDMC

IN AID OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Donations gratefully received for this worthy cause



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 JULY OR AUGUST xxx



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. administrator@manchestermethodists.org.uk for joining details.

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*

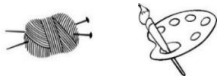
2nd July Meal out
16th July Bingo
30th July Summer Fair
Returning on Thursday 10th September.



Circuit Film Club will meet on **Thursday 9th July at 7.00pm**, and the film to watch for discussion is 'Gran Torino' available on Amazon and eBay. New people are always welcome to come along. Please contact me on lizstuartlp@aol.com if you would like to join us and I will send you the zoom code nearer the date.



A drink, fellowship & closing prayer with friends at Caramello, Didsbury, 10.00am for an hour. Open to all. Meeting for an hour on **Wednesday 1st and 15th July** and then **5th and 19th August**.



ART SPACE – Has now finished for the summer. **We will meet again on Wednesday 9th September** 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 – The Group is meeting on 13th and 27th July and 10th and 24th August in Room 3 at 2.00pm. If you would like to know more about the Fellowship Group, please speak to Nick or Patsy. All are welcome, even if you can't attend regularly.

Badminton Club the hall Tuesdays 8pm, all welcome. For further details and to make sure it's on through the summer, email: 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, children's toys, toiletries, thanks. 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*



The Circuit website is **manchestermethodists.org.uk**
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.

Dear God,

Teach us to love as You love, with kindness, patience, and open hearts. Help us to see one another through Your eyes, forgiving freely, giving generously, and walking humbly together. Let our words bring peace and our actions reflect Your grace. Amen



Hello - I hope you're all keeping cool out there!

I'm Kat, and by trade I am a creative professional (an active musician by the name *Katmuss*) - nice to meet you, if I haven't already!

About me: As you can imagine, my career has taken some organising and administration (invoicing, scheduling, relationship management, to name a few of my frequent tasks!), and as a result I concurrently built strong administrative and customer-facing skills over the same period. Having worked at Central Buildings for a few months last year as a Weeding Officer (see below. I'm on the right, Summer in the middle, and Harriet is the one in the left-foreground), I also gained valuable insight into the inner workings of Methodist Church Life, the management of its buildings across the British Isles. This is without even mentioning that everyone I met was absolutely lovely, and myself and the weeding team below had great fun together!

When I heard that Didsbury was looking for a Lettings Administrator, I jumped at the chance to apply; aside from loving the idea of continuing work with the Methodist Church in general, I used to live in Didsbury, so it would be just like old times!



As I write this, I am just 3 weeks into the role, and even though there was a lot to learn from the beginning, I'm slowly getting there: the month of June has been a month of finding my footing, getting to grips with existing processes and even renewing licences with our present licensees. Over the Summer months, though, there will be some exciting new developments:

- Firstly, we'll be rejuvenating Room 1 by painting it and also painting the corridor. Secondly, I will be working with my line manager Chris A to update the website slowly, but surely during any quiet weeks. Lastly ... there is a germ of an idea in my head at the moment, however I will not reveal any more until I get some feedback from the aforementioned Chris ... so watch this space for any updates!

If you have any queries or concerns about the above, or even if you simply want to chat because you're curious about a new person (which is also valid!), you can either email me at the usual UDMCLettings@gmail.com, or WhatsApp me on **07719 784534**.

I plan to work on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings (around 10-1 each day, mostly) – if you drop me a message/call outside of these times, I will endeavour to get back to you during my next “shift”.

...and that's me – I hope to see you all soon!

Cariad Mawr / Big Love

Kat “[Katmuss](#)” Browning xxx

+ + + + +

There is so much going on in the world. War, death, hunger, sickness, homelessness and much more. We continue to pray for those in all these situations, but we must remember, we have a lot to be thankful you. We have loving families and friends, a caring church community, nice surroundings in our neighbourhood, but most of all we have God who surrounds us; heals us; holds us and treasures us each and every day. Rosie x



Dear Church family,

Thank you all so much for the beautiful blanket that you knitted for Rory, we really appreciate every stitch and square and prayer. And it looks gorgeous on his cot (on the side at the moment in this weather!). Thank you also for all the love and support!

God bless,
Alice, Phil and Rory xxx

REPAIR CAFE

Can you help Didsbury Repair Café?

Didsbury Repair Café is a new initiative promoting repair as an alternative to tossing things out. We organise a Repair Café on the first Saturday of every month (2-4pm) in East Didsbury. Anyone can bring their broken items to fix them on the spot with the help of volunteer repairers.

We are looking for local people with different skills to join us at United Didsbury Methodist Church to act as **repair experts**. We are especially looking for people who are handy with:

- * clothing / textiles * bicycles * electrical appliances
- * * furniture / wooden objects

We're also looking for **people to welcome**, sign in, log repairs and keep visitors and repairers refreshed with coffee and tea.

Or could you help us with our **advertising**? We would really like to find people who can make Didsbury Repair Café visible on social media.

Want to know more about the Repair Café? Look at the international website repaircafe.org/en or on any of the other Manchester sites recycleforgreatermanchester.com/repair-directory/

Want to get involved as a volunteer? Email:
didsburyrepaircafe@gmail.com or
Hope to see you soon



The paradoxical dimension of exceptionalism

“Why, even the hairs on your head are all numbered”(Luke 12:7)

In that passage the Bible tells us that , in the eyes of the Almighty, each one of the billions of human inhabitants of this planet is unique. Surely, that must be a contradiction in terms because unique means one in a million (or one in many billions), given the fact that, outside the context of higher education, “uni”(as in the Latin word “unicus”) means “one” .

Even in the midst of the deluge of the purges and famines that characterised the advent of the communist era in Russia, Stalin acknowledged the existence of exceptionalism in the aphorism “The death of one man is a tragedy, the death of millions is a statistic” .

In the transformative era following the publication of the Flexner recommendations (published in 1910) on training of prospective doctors, the Stalinist aphorism could be paraphrased to read “The death of one person from the atypical version of an eminently treatable disease is a profound tragedy, the death of millions from an untreatable disease is, by comparison, a statistic” .

It is that paraphrase which came to mind when I read the headline “Docs tell woman to take painkillers for a cold. After she’s found barely breathing, she’s diagnosed with meningitis” (Article by Cara Shultz in Yahoo news 1 June 2026).

It is by virtue of their rigorous training (based on the Flexner blueprint), both at undergraduate and at specialist level, that doctors, and not physician associates or nursing care practitioners, are best suited to the intellectually demanding role of diagnosing atypical presentations of potentially life-changing, but eminently treatable, disorders. By a further perversion of statistics, even if only one in a hundred patients with that treatable disease presents atypically, if that disease goes undiagnosed it does not necessarily follow that death will be the outcome in only one percent of undiagnosed cases. The overriding caveat, however, is that time is the crucial ingredient for optimising diagnostic skills. There is little diagnostic benefit to be gained from perfunctory history taking and perfunctory clinical examination, let alone if diagnostic skills are implemented telephonically or on line.

Accordingly, we need more doctors, taking more time to conduct a medical consultation, regardless of the imperative to cut costs by promoting the use of non-doctors, to fill doctor rotas, even if the purpose of non-doctors is to reduce the statistics of waiting lists and corridor care (“Physician associates now “substitutes” for doctors: Daily Telegraph 11 July 2024).

What is more, doctors, themselves, are of little use if they go on strike every few months, given the fact that , for a few to several patients with eminently treatable diseases (both typical and atypical), death will be a tragedy if they go undiagnosed. That eventuality might even be a greater tragedy than the death of millions from untreatable diseases.

Oscar

Tis moonlight, summer moonlight, all soft and still and fair;
The solemn hour of midnight breathes sweet thoughts everywhere,

But most where trees are sending their breezy boughs on high,
Or stooping low are lending a shelter from the sky.

And there in those wild bowers, a lovely form is laid;
Green grass and dew-steeped flowers wave gently round her head.

Emily Bronte



Have a blessed summer with love from all the Blayds family xxx



Rev. Catharine, Liz, Patsy, Nick H, Stephen, Oscar, Kat, Isabel K & Rosie x

Articles for the February edition to be with me no later than **Friday 26th August** please.
Please pass to me at church or email rosieblayds@gmail.com or 07758 011362.

Last Thought

Lord our God, whose light shines out of the darkness and gleams brightly into our hearts, we thank you for all the goodness you allow us to see. We want to see your goodness clearly and have confidence in it, no matter how much around us is dark and disquieting. We want to remain firm and full of trust, looking to what you have put into our hearts so that we may come to know you. Be with us with your Spirit. Lead us to realize ever more clearly that we are made for your honour. Amen.



Rev Catharine Hughes



catharine.hughes@methodist.org.uk



[@abrewandaprayer](https://twitter.com/abrewandaprayer)



facebook.com/revcatharine



0161 226 6019