

CONCORD

East Didsbury Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Catharine Hughes



For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

FEBRUARY 2023

Dear friends,

One of the stories I like best from the Old Testament comes from Exodus 31.1-11. It is the story of Bezalel and Oholiab (pronounce them however you wish!) who are filled with the Spirit of God in order to be the skilled craftsmen required for the building of the temple. Not the craftsmanship of a builder, but that of the artistry to decorate – working in gold, silver and bronze, cutting and setting gemstones, carving wood and stone. Their skills were to be used to the glory of God.

King David was also gifted with creative skills – in his case, that of playing the lyre, singing and writing songs. Much of the book of Psalms is a collection of his work. David had many faults and failings, but God repeatedly used his skills and talents to glorify God's name (and is still doing for us many centuries later).

In Acts 6.1-7 we read of how the early disciples recognised the variety of services needed in order for the gospel to be spread. While some were set aside for prayer and the ministry of the word, the others were to be the administrators of the church, doing the practical work that is needed to sustain the others. They were also known to be 'full of the Spirit': it was not a second-rate job in God's eyes.

As a circuit we are taking time this year to consider how our own gifts and talents might be used for God's glory: how we are to be responsible stewards of all that God has given us. This is not just a call to give more money (for many this is not possible; for others this is an important but not all-encompassing consideration) but it is to ensure that we are using all that we have and can be to the glory of God. Are you artistic and creative, like Bezalel and Oholiab? Are you a musician, like David? Are you good with spreadsheets, or good at making cakes, or able to fix the plumbing? All these, and many more, are valuable gifts in the service of God and our church.

Are you using all your gifts and talents in the best way for God? Are you grafted into Jesus such that the Spirit can flow through you, and bear fruit?

May God bless and enrich you as you continue to seek to do his will.

Catharine



Preachers ...

5th February Rev. Catharine Hughes – Holy Communion

12th February Verity Wild

19th February Rev Caroline Wickens

26th February Local arrangement – your Stewards



Readings for February:

5th February Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112: 1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16);
Matthew 5: 13-20

12th February Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 (or Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 15: 15-20); Psalm 119: 1-8
1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Matthew 5: 21-37

19th February *Sunday before Lent (The Transfiguration)*
Exodus 24: 12-18; Psalm 2 (or Psalm 99); Matthew 17: 1-9

23rd February *Ash Wednesday*
Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51: 1-17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6: 10; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

26th February *First Sunday in Lent*
Genesis 2: 15-17 - 3: 1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

JESUS

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NOT
WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL
HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE
John 8:12



Rev. Catharine Rev. Caroline The family of Leon Joan H Steve & Cynthia
Sue F Christine Paul R Sandra W Mary D Peter & Jean Beryl G
Andy Dave A Margaret J Rev. Krystyna Heather T Michelle
Marion N Sheila P 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 continue to pray for all those who need God's love and hold them in our hearts. Amen



Gracious God,
We give thanks that all ages are accepted into your kingdom of love.
We pray that everyone will be open to your call and ready to accept you.
We pray too for children and adults who have not come from loving,
caring backgrounds who find it difficult to form relationships
and to be open to others. Amen.

Taken from Manchester Methodists
The Advent Reflection, Day 16.

**THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU,
YOU NEED ONLY TO BE STILL.**

EXODUS 14:14

FEBRUARY:



12th Racial Justice Sunday

The Methodist Church has celebrated Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) since 1989, on the second Sunday in September. Since September 1995 RJS has become an ecumenical event celebrated in Britain and Ireland. RJS moved to the second Sunday in February, with effect from 2017. This Sunday is an opportunity for all Christians to join together in:

- Reflecting on the importance of racial justice
- Thanksgiving for human diversity
- Prayer for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice
- Action that truly makes a difference
- Fundraising for national and local racial justice initiatives

19th Student Sunday

This has been celebrated since 1898, making it one of the oldest ecumenical days of prayer, connecting student movements and friends across the world. It's an opportunity to pray for Britain's student population, whether we have students in our church or not. We are invited to unite in prayer for the world, the church and the students.

19th Sunday before Lent

Lent is a Christian annual period that starts on Ash Wednesday lasting for 40 days representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. This 40-day period for Christians is a time to reflect, fast, and give penance in preparation for the resurrection of Christ Easter Sunday.



22nd Lent for Christians starts on this day. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and is considered a day of repentance. It falls on a different date each year due to its dependence on Easter. The earliest it can begin is February 4th, and latest, March 10th. Lent lasts for 40 days. It starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. However, if you look at a calendar and count the days, there are more than 40 days. Lent is actually 46 days, however, the six Sundays are excluded because there is no obligation to fast on Sundays in Lent.

26th First Sunday in Lent

We encounter Jesus on retreat in the wilderness, the temptations of Adam and Eve, and then hear of Christ's overcoming the consequences of Adam's misuse of freedom. The impact of sin, however we understand it, is devastating on our personal, relational, and planetary lives. The impact of grace, embodied in the moral and spiritual arcs of history, and God's persistent presence in every moment of experience overcomes the power of sin, and its impact, to control our lives.



After Mary gave birth, she and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, to present him to the Lord. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was on him. (Luke 2:39,40).

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Matthew 4.1-11

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

WARM SPACE



At East Didsbury we are providing a 'Warm Space' on Mondays from 1pm until 3.30pm. Do pass this on - you can come along and do some crafts, read a book, bring a jigsaw or just chat and enjoy some company with a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. All are welcome.

Please use the side entrance
and ring the bell three times



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 and when the Christmas break is, email Nick on nicholaspalfreyman@yours.com



We meet on Mondays from 1.30-3.45pm in the Vestry and you can stay for as long as you like. New folk are always welcome. Contact Angela for more details. Items are still available at the back of church for purchase, do have a look. angelajohnson2@ntlworld.com

LADIES CIRCLE

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

9th February
23rd February

Factoids with Mary S
Who/What Am I? with Rosie



Circuit Film Club will meet on Zoom on Thursday 9th February at 7pm. The film to watch in preparation for discussion is 'East to East' available on Amazon Smile. New people are always welcome to come along; just email me for the joining details on lizstuartlp@aol.com Liz

A message from a kind soul - Tom (who was training at St. James & Emmanuel) came to speak to us at Ladies Circle and gave a wonderful talk and insight into his life and his faith. He has sent an email to Krystyna and she has passed it on to me to share with you: -

Dear Krystyna,

As we come close to the end of this year, I'm thinking of all the invaluable people in my life. You and the Ladies Circle at East Didsbury Methodist Church are among those people, your kindness, acceptance and hospitality have left a lasting impression on me. It was a pleasure speaking to you over the course of this year, you all added a sparkle to my life, and I am glad our paths crossed. I am warmly thinking of you and wishing you and the church family an extra measure of comfort, joy, and hope this festive season.

Love,
Tom Twongyeirwe



Jesus is the central figure of Christianity. He the Son of God, Messiah (the Christ) prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. Jesus was a Galilean Jew who was baptized by John the Baptist, and began his own ministry. His teachings were initially conserved by oral transmission and he was often referred to as "rabbi". Jesus debated with fellow Jews on how to best follow God, engaged in healings, taught in parables and gathered followers. Born of the Virgin Mary; conceived by the Holy Spirit, he performed many miracles and we are blessed to know Him. The teachers in the temple must have been amazing that Jesus knew so much about God.

I received a lovely letter from **Chelwood Foodbank Plus** thanking us for our continued support. They are most grateful for our donations to help families struggling. We're blessed to put food on the table and have cash in our purse/wallet. Thanks again for your kindness. The box is at the back of church, so please drop anything in you can spare, and **Moston Baby Basket Appeal** continues and the box is also at the back of church for your donations; which are much appreciated. Thanks from Angela and me.

Rosie x

MANCHESTER METHODISTS
Seeking, serving, sharing Christ



This is a service in Manchester helping people get back on their feet.
You can donate new shoes or boots or make a donation.
For further information: email Pru at Befrienders,
Central Hall. pru.cahill@methodist.org.uk (0161-682-8805)



A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
Laugh a little louder, smile a little bigger
Love a little deeper, pray a lot harder
and walk through life a little slower.

The Biscuit Tin

Ian and I had so many boxes of biscuits this year, I don't need to buy any for months! This lovely verse about the biscuit tin is taken from The Fireside Book 2023.

I open the lid and peer inside, eager to dive in,
as my hand hovers expectantly above the biscuit tin
Oh crumbs, they're all delicious, too much choice it seems.
Should I pick the malted milk or the last two custard creams?
Garibaldi and cookies packed with chocolate chips,
Each moment lovely pleasure as I lift it to my lips.
I find wafers are the prettiest; brandy snaps have bite.
You just can't beat a shortbread when you have an appetite.
Vivien Brown

The Lord himself will go before you,
He will be with you; he will not leave you or forget you;
Don't be afraid and don't worry.
Deuteronomy 31:8

From Embrace the middle East

20th February starts the week of the UN's World Day of Social Justice. We pray for all our partners in the Middle East as they strive for peace and justice and some of the most challenging situations.

26th February - The Maryamana Hospital in Erbil was established to provide a high standard of medical care for disadvantaged people in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. The hospital is led by the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese and offers a full range of services, including maternity care, an intensive care unit and an emergency department. We pray for the country and for all those work in the hospital.



Message from our Minister: -

The gospel of Matthew has been divided up and each Church is responsible for illustrating a given passage or passages. The illustrations will be on A3 paper, which will be provided and the aim is to have a complete gospel before our Circuit's 20th anniversary celebrations in May. Rev Joy Rulton is coordinating this, but she is going on sabbatical shortly, so there is a deadline of *28 February* for completion. This is meant to be fun, not burdensome; you don't have to be a great artist or craftsperson, just come along and give it a go!

This is for all ages - you can draw a picture, do a collage, use a photograph, potato print, finger print, so some sewing, the possibilities for the illustration are endless – or just pop along to give encouragement and have a cuppa.

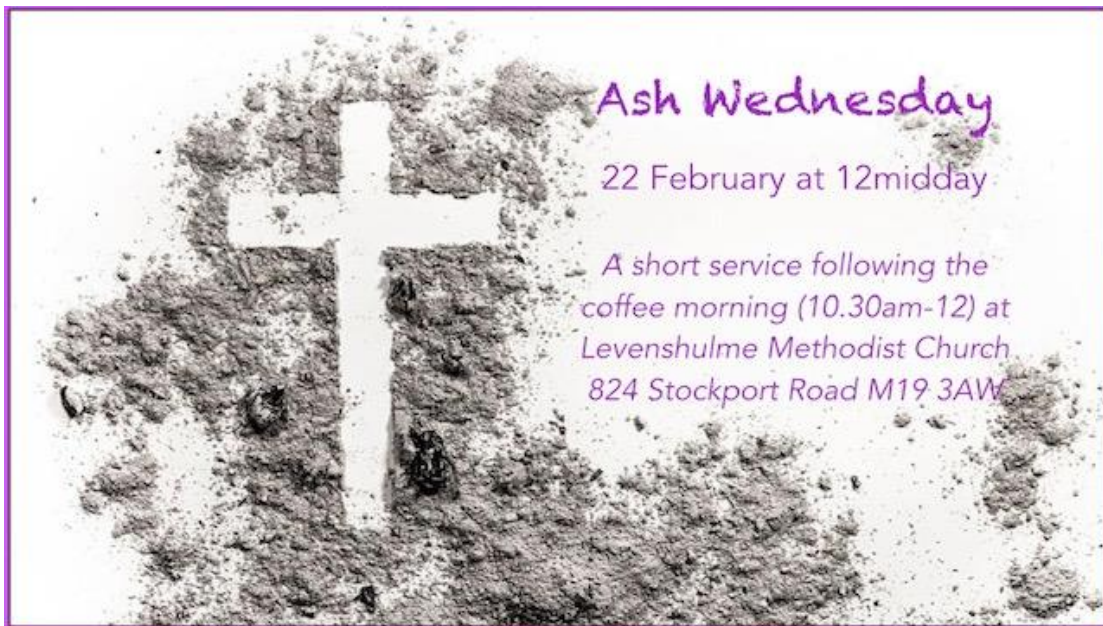
A date has been arranged for Saturday 18th February in Room 3 from 10am until noon, so if you are interested, would you kindly email me or speak to me as I am building a list of helpers to pass on to Catharine - she will bring readings to choose from on Sunday 5th February; the illustration can of course can be done at home, but do remember, it is the same deadline.

LENT All welcome at the Lent gatherings as listed: -

St. Catharine's	Monday	10.00am (after Mass)
The Baptist Church	Wednesday	7.30pm
Christ Church Rectory	Thursday	2.00pm

It will be for five sessions, starting week commencing 27th Feb.

Also, Rev Lisa Battye will be hosting at St James & Emmanuel Vicarage the Lent series from Christian Aid "Talking Climate Change": Wednesday evenings from 1st March at 7.30pm.



Led by our Minister. Rev. Catharine Hughes.
All invited for coffee and/or the service.

A BIG THANK YOU

To all those who were able to attend the Concert on Sunday 15th January, a grand total of **£210** was raised for Church funds. A lovely entertaining afternoon with friends.

Thank you to The Glissando Girls and their conductor, Judith.

Rosie x



The first mobile phone was created by God - He named it prayer.
It never loses its signal. You never have to recharge it.
And you can use it anywhere.

Always believe something wonderful is going to happen. Never take a day for granted.
Smile, cherish the little things and remember to hugs the ones you love.



Happy Birthday to all born in the month of February xxx



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

Items for the March edition of your magazine need to be with me by **24th February** please. Email: rosieblayds@gmail.com or 434-7668 (Mobile 07758 011362) or 13 Moor Park Road, East Didsbury, M20 5PF, thank you.

*Much love as always.
Rosie xxx*

LAST THOUGHT

Christ be beside me,
Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me,
King of my heart.

Christ be within me,
Christ be below me,
Christ be above me,
Never to part.




Rev Catharine Hughes

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