

KEYSTONE

United Didsbury Methodist Church
Minister: Rev. Catharine Hughes



He created the universe and gives food to every living thing – including you and me. The same God who provides food for the animals will not allow us to go without - Luke 12:24-26

OCTOBER 2024

Minister's letter

The Manse
64 Brantingham Road
Manchester

Dear friends,

Promises, promises...

Dear friends,

I wonder how you feel about making promises? I also wonder how you feel when they are broken...

It was wonderful at the beginning of September to welcome three new members into our church and to hear their stories of faith. Together they promised to remain faithful to God through the life and body of our church family. Together *we* promised to support and uphold them in this journey. It is the same as the promises at a baptism, where the congregation is asked:

'Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?'¹

Our response is that with God's help we will. Together we are to create an environment where all can grow in grace and faith through worship and service. But this only follows a declaration of the truths of the faith are declared: that Jesus came into the world to live and show God's love, that he died and was raised from death... "All this for you."

The contract starts with God. It is God who has promised us an eternal relationship with him, who showed us the way to live through his son Jesus Christ and who guides and supports us through the power of the Holy Spirit. This day, and every day. His promise doesn't change or falter. "All this for you."

At our first fellowship group meeting looking at the Covenant Prayer, we began by remembering that this commitment comes because God made all his promises first. We began thinking about all the promises in the bible that mean something to us.

'I will make a new covenant...' (Jeremiah 31.31ff)

'I will be with you always, to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28.20)

'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.' (Psalm 23.1)

'Where two or three are gathered, I shall be there also.' (Matthew 18.20)

'Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength...' (Isaiah 40.31)

We humans are less good at keeping promises! It is so easy to promise things off the cuff ("I'll call her when I get home...") and then not keep our word - often through forgetfulness rather than ill-intent. We stand in commitment and support at baptisms, and then assume it is someone else's job. How often God must look at us with sad eyes, as we let him down again. How gracious is the love of God that forgives us, day in, day out, and offers us a clean slate to start again.

As a church we are looking at our mission. We want to see our church grow, but our main aim is to share that all-encompassing love of God with everyone. As we look at our strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, so we also rely on the promises of God in our lives. Can we take a step of faith? Can we be bold in our plans for the future? Can we dream dreams, and voice visions, so that we see God in action in our community?

You are invited to join in the conversation, either through the interactive displays at church or by emailing me (catharine.hughes@methodist.org.uk). Where does God want us now, and in the foreseeable future? What can we offer in God's service?

“Ponder anew what the Almighty can do.”²

With love,
Catharine

.....

Preachers: -

6th October Preacher: Rev. Catharine Hughes –



13th October Preacher: Paul Johnson

20th October Preacher: Chris Davis

27th October Preacher: Rev. Catharine Hughes



Readings

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 th October | Job 2:1; 2: 1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12; Mark 10: 2-16 |
| 13 th October | Job 23: 1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22: 1-15; Hebrews 4: 12-16; Mark 10: 17-31 |
| 20 th October | Job 38: 1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5: 1-10; Mark 10: 35-45 |
| 27 th October | Job 42: 1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34: 1-8 (19-22); Hebrews 7: 23-28; Mark 10: 46-52 |

To our Lord praise we sing -
Light and life, friend and king,
Coming down love to bring,
Pattern for our duty,
Showing God in beauty

OCTOBER



13th Oct - Homeless Sunday. This focuses on the issue of homelessness of which there are many homeless people around the country. We are blessed to have a roof over our heads and don't have to worry about finding a bed.

13-19th Oct

Prisons Week

We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support them and their families through a harrowing time and give them Your strength.



20th Oct

Freedom Sunday

This is an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of God's heart for justice, discover the realities of modern slavery and join the fight to end it.

20-27th Oct

One World Week

We need to share in our understanding about some of the global issues that affect us all and to recognise we can make a difference.



27th Oct - Bible Sunday. Of the more than 7,000 documented languages in the world today, over half do not have written Christian scriptures. This means that 209 million people do not, or cannot, possess any part of the Bible in their own language. Those of us who do are fortunate.



Rev. Catharine Rev. Caroline Alastair & Joan Angela Phil Dave
Janet Cynthia Betty Isabel Olive & family Jinka Christine
Kath David Tracy Sue F Pat, Ben & Jonathon Suzanne Rosie
Margaret J Margaret W Sandra W Beryl G Paul & Paula
Pat Heather T Sheila P Eugenia & Oscar Joyce Our church family
Those in hospital The NHS Those in our prayer book Worn torn countries
Foodbanks Moston Baby Basket Those without a bed and on the poverty line
The long anxious and depressed

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, please speak to me or email. Rosie x

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Matthew 4: 23-25

FELLOWSHIP GROUP: - The first meeting of the fellowship group took place on Monday 23 September, which was announced in church on 22 September. The next meeting will take place on 7 October again at 2pm in Room 3 at UDMC. Rev. Catharine will lead the first few meetings, which will be Bible studies related to the Covenant prayer.

As most of you know, 12 people expressed an interest in the group, so over the course of the meetings we can discuss the feasibility of splitting into an afternoon and an evening session and the practicalities thereof. If you did not put your name down on the list and wish to join the group, please do pop along.

So Be It

Often we rush into the Covenant Service in early January, our minds still full of the celebrations of Christmas and New Year. This series of studies gives us a little time to look at it and consider the promises that are being made.

The best bit is that God made his promises first! Together we will try to understand more of the enormity of what God has already done for us.

The proposed dates are:

23 September	Submit
7 October	Service
14 October	Status
28 October	Summits & Sloughs
4 November	Stuff
11 November	So Be It

All are Mondays at 2pm in Room 3, depending on numbers.

Rev Catharine Hughes

I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT THINE
PUT ME TO WHAT THOU WILT, RANK ME WITH WHOM THOU WILT.
PUT ME TO DOING, PUT ME TO SUFFERING.
LET ME BE EMPLOYED FOR THEE OR LAID ASIDE FOR THEE.
LET ME HAVE ALL THINGS, LET ME HAVE NOTHING.
I FREELY AND HEARTILY YIELD ALL THINGS
TO THY PLEASURE AND DISPOSAL.
AND NOW, O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED GOD,
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT,
THOU ART MINE AND I AM THINE.

SO BE IT.
AND THE COVENANT WHICH I HAVE MADE ON EARTH,
LET IT BE RATIFIED IN HEAVEN.
AMEN.

-JOHN WESLEY



Jean, Andrew and family would like to thank everyone for their love, prayers and cards on the loss of Peter. The outpouring of love on the Sunday after his death was tangible and great solace to us.



I know that God has an amazing love for us and I appreciate all the love that I have received during my recent stay in hospital. I am still recovering and having further treatment, but will get there. Many thanks again for your prayers and concern. Rosie xxx

A PRAYER FOR HOPE

When I stand at the beginning of a new day, Bless me with VISION
To see the best of things to come, WISDOM
To make good decision and, most of all FAITH
that You are walking with me every step of the way

Amen



HARVEST SUPPER
Saturday 12th October
5.45pm for 6.00pm meal

There is a list at the back of church if you would kindly put your name down right away and state if you have any allergies or wish for a vegetarian option - or speak to a steward. There will be a Quiz with Nick and £10 is requested (or more) towards your meal. All donations will be for: - ALL WE CAN



A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace.
In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world
from conflict. Bring unity to troubled nations.

Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart.
Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity
of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love.
Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from
selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war.

Amen



The Circuit Service continues; 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.

LADIES
CIRCLE

All ladies are welcome to join us in Room 3 every other Thursday to meet in love and friendship. Start 2.30pm (finish 3.45pm after tea/coffee and biscuits/cakes). Door open from 2pm - do pop along if you can. *Rosie x*

3 rd October	Quiz with Karen
17 th October	Talk from BIFFA
30 th October	Beetle Drive



Circuit Film Club will meet on Thursday 17th October at 7.00pm - the film to watch in preparation for discussion is 'Their finest!' available from Amazon and eBay. If you'd like to come along, please contact me at lizstuartlp@aol.com and I will send you the Zoom code. Liz



A drink, fellowship & prayer with friends at Caramello, Didsbury. Open to all. Meeting for an hour on **2nd, 16th and 30th October** at **10.00am** for an hour.



ART SPACE - Have you got a craft project on the go or do you want to try a new one? Ever thought of learning to draw and paint? On a Wednesday morning between 10.00 and 12.00 there is a chance to do something creative in the company of others. Whether it is 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 come along and give it a go? Please ring the bell three times - Any questions, please see Patsy.

Badminton Club in the hall on Tuesdays from 8.00pm - all welcome to pop along. For further details, email: nicholaspalfreyman@yours.com



REFRESHMENTS: - PLEASE consider putting your name down to serve tea/coffee.

All you need to bring is 2 pints of milk and some biscuits - it's such a lovely way to end our Sunday service. The sheet is on the notice board at the back of church - pop your name on, thank you. X



Happy Birthday to all born in the month of October xxx



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



A BIG thank you to Elizabeth from us all. Every time there is an occasion - be it a birthday or a happy memory or a membership celebration, Elizabeth gets the cakes, so we are all very grateful.

Thanks to Joan H for these lovely words: -

HELLO

This is God.

I will be handling all of your problems and concerns today. That's my job. Your job is to give them to me, and then to trust me.

HAVE A GREAT DAY!

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Cynthia's chit-chat

Autumn greetings to everyone.

TV Memories

I am going to start a new section in my chit-chat. As there are lots of programmes on current TV, which, after seeing them, brings back memories, most of them from the past 20 years, but this memory goes back further than that. You may have seen Pam Ayres on Channel 5 recently when she was visiting the Cotswolds and where she met Princes Charles (as he was then) at Highgrove House. What thrilled me was that he showed her a wild flower meadow where he remarked on his orchids (common spotted orchids), one of Steve's favourites. As you know our King is a keen conservationist and encourages young people today to take an interest in the natural world. In 1980, Pam Ayres came to Boots where I was working and signed her latest book for me, which I still have. A nice memory!

My second memory is the film, *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, and a lot of the film was shot in Sherbourne, Dorset, where my Mum had lived and worked just before I was born. Mum made many friends where the children were born at the same time, and Mum took my brother and I on holidays to Sherbourne where her friend still lived with her family, so it became a special place for me and always will be and I took my late husband there for many holidays, but sadly, before I met Steve, Mum's friend had died. We still visited Dorset and Steve loved it too. Seeing the film again the other week brought back many memories of Sherbourne, which I know well. The film was made in 1969.

My sit out

You will have heard of sit ins, but I have started by sit outs! If the weather is nice, I take my rollator and sit out at the front of my flat. Last week I saw two sets of neighbours, including Gabriel (5) who came and gave me a big hug - absolutely delightful. Another delight was seeing two brimstone butterflies hovering the garden next door, but I couldn't quite see which flowers were attracting them.

Caramello

I was delighted when Rosie took me to the fortnightly group from church. It was my first time back since4 my fall and good to share coffee with everyone. The staff are so welcoming and thank you Rosie for also taking me to Aldi!

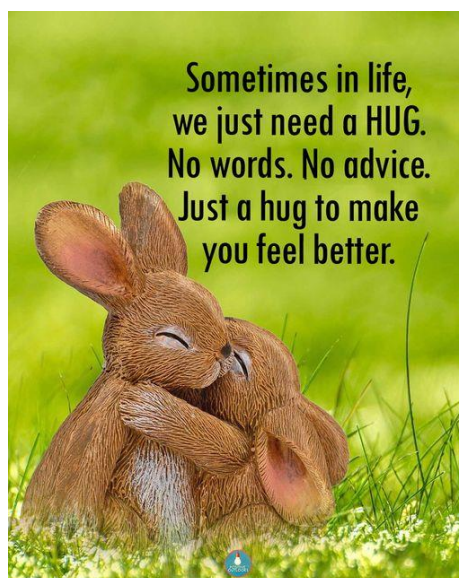
Well, that's all my chit-chat for now and enjoyed any sunny days we have left.

Giod bless

Love Cynthia x



We'd like to share some wonderful news with you. On Friday 13th September, our son Robert proposed to his partner Jade and she said YES. We are so happy for them. With love: Rosie, Ian and all the family x



In paraphrase

"Ask, and ye shall be given"

This was a prescient invocation, which has resonated, down the ages, in the guise of a variety of paraphrases.

My own favourite paraphrase is to one attributable to the mathematician, Tukey, who declared: "Far better an approximate answer to the right question.... than an exact answer to the wrong question"(The future of data analysis: Annals of mathematical statistics 1962;33:1-67).

My next favourite reads as follows: - "There are lots of answers, out there, all waiting for the right questions" (Anon:23rd August, 2024).

In response to the second "soundbite", I Googled the House of Commons Library, where is discovered an amazing answer to a question which had not previously been coherently articulated.

The answer read as follows: -

"Economic consultancy London Economics estimates that international students starting in 2021/2022 would bring economic benefits to the UK of £41.9 billion, have costs to the UK of £4.4 billion and, hence, net benefits of £37.4 billion"

Thank you, Oscar

NOTE: It has been decided that items for our Harvest Festival this year, which will be led by Paul Johnson on 13th October, will be donated to Chelwood Foodbank Plus who we support, and, in advance, thank you for your kind donations for this worthy cause. Rosie x





www.chelwoodfoodbankplus.org
Registered Charity No: 1155933

HELPING FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY

HARVEST APPEAL

We are grateful for whatever you can give,
either in food items or a monetary donation.

Shopping List

Pasta Spaghetti Rice Baked Beans Tinned meat
Tinned fish Tinned Fruit Juices Cereals
Tinned Vegetables Jams Sauces Tea Coffee
Long-life milk Crackers Toilet Rolls
Baby Wipes Baby powder Toys
Good condition unwanted clothing/bedding

We started on 2013 in Chelwood Baptist Church and before long, the Foodbank started developing a life of its own, providing essential food items and cash. We are an emergency service where people can come and collect their food stuff and necessary items and we provide pre-packed food parcels to support those in financial crisis or food poverty, which is very real in the area. During the last 12 months we have issued 2,700 food parcels, opened three days a week for food collections and supported 4,350 adults and 2,553 children



MOSTON BABY BASKET and **CHELWOOD FOODBANK**

Many thanks once again for your kind donations to Moston Baby Basket and the Foodbank and monetary gifts popped in the basket for the Foodbank. These wonderful causes are most grateful for the gifts we take on your behalf.

Love Angela and Rosie xxx

In the Old Testament, God was FOR his people
In the Gospels, God was WITH his people
In the New Testament, God is IN his people



ADVANCE NOTE: - On Saturday 7th December United Christian Singers will be performing at UDMC - more details to follow, so save the date.



ADVANCE NOTE: Breakfast with Santa will take place in the hall from 9.30am until 11.30am on **Saturday 14th December** with a visit from Santa, who will have a present for everyone. All invited to join in the fun - breakfast, face painting, parachute games, etc. Poster and flyers will be out soon.



Rev. Catharine, Liz, Patsy, Cynthia, Joan H, Oscar, Angela, Sandra & Tony and Rosie x

*** Please accept my apologies if there are any errors in the typing of this issue.

Articles for the November edition by **26th October**. Pass to me at church or email rosieblayds@gmail.com (07758 011362), 13 Moor Park Road, E Didsbury, M20 5PF.

Much love as always.

Rosie xxx

LAST THOUGHT

The gift of silence

We are so busy, Lord, we do not listen.

The world is so noisy, Lord, we do not hear.

We do not hear what your Spirit is saying to each one of us.

We have been afraid of silence.

Lord, teach us to use your gift of silence.

Teach us, Lord.

*From Favourite Prayers,
compiled by Deborah Cassidi*




Rev Catharine Hughes

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