

CLAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

January 2017 Magazine

Minister: Rev. Joy Rulton



PREACHERS FOR JANUARY

1st covenant	10:30am	Rev. Joy Rulton (HC)(AAW)
8th	10:30am	Rev. Ian Mutton
15th	10:30am	Mrs Liz Stuart
22nd	10:30am	Rev. Joy Rulton
29th	10:30am	Mr John Elston
5 th Feb	10:30am	Ms Eunice Irvine

There will be no evening services during January and February

A Happy & Peaceful New Year to all our readers

From our minister, Rev. Joy


Once Christmas is over our thoughts begin to turn to the New Year, 2017. Some of us may already have thought about New Year resolutions. I have given up making them, for the simple reason that I never seem to be able to keep them. Most of us begin with such good intentions, but by the time we've got a couple of days into the New Year we've forgotten, or we've not had time, or we can find any number of excuses not to keep them. After all they're usually things we think are going to be good for us rather than things we actually want to do.

A few years ago, I remember hearing about a woman, Judith O'Reilly, who resolved to do a good deed every day of the year. She said, "An idea took hold in my head that I should do a good deed a day for a year because a good deed a day might make me a better person – might change the world." Among other things, she got rid of a dead mouse from the trap in a neighbour's kitchen, helped make soup for the homeless and helped a blind old lady off a train. (Unfortunately she realised later that she hadn't checked which station the woman actually wanted to get off at).

Although things didn't always work out or go to plan, it's a wonderful way to put Jesus' commandment into practice: "Love one another, just as I love you."


How about that as a New Year's resolution?


A peaceful and blessed year to you and yours.

	OFFERTORIES FOR DECEMBER	
	4th	£254.65
	11th	£152.70
	18th	£386.34
	25th	Donation to Christian Aid

"GOOD AS NEW" STALL

The 'good as new' stall has raised a total of £200.00. We thank everyone involved for all their hard work and dedication.

	FLOWER ROTA FOR JANUARY	
	1st	Vacant
	8th	Vacant
	15th	Mr Benjamin Allotey
	22nd	Mrs Marian Allotey
	29th	Mrs Elva Towler

	BIRTHDAYS
	Happy Birthday to everyone born in January. Wishing you God's abundant blessings now and always.

CHURCH NOTICES

Ladies Fellowship

Our December meeting was one of Christmas celebrations and seasonal refreshments. We now have a break until March but please continue to pray for us and for all the groups that meet in and outside of our church premises.

Thank you

Our festivities during December went well and a huge 'thank you' in response to the 'Toy Appeal' for Wood Street Mission. There were many more gifts this year, and all the staff at the Mission thanked us on delivery to them.

Many thanks also go to all of you who decorated the church and school room. All looked splendid and suitably festive for us and the groups who use our premises.

Thanks also go to Hilda and her 'helpers' who throughout the year, week in week out raise money for church with the stall of stationery, cards, household goods etc. The large sum of £440 was raised during 2016. We know the huge commitment made in time and effort and the stall is, of course, part of 'our mission' in the community. In addition, let us not forget the beautiful floral arrangements every week for our communion table and the work Hilda does here all year long.

Finally (for now) we say thank you to everyone who helps run the weekly coffee mornings-the people in the kitchen, in the shop, those sorting the goods, those engaging in conversation with everyone who comes in, those preparing and clearing up the rooms, for those who visit our friends and members not able to come to worship. Without this commitment, our church could not be the caring, welcoming and vibrant community that it is.

Befrienders

Just an update from Befrienders at Central Hall. This continues every Monday and Wednesday afternoons, when people come in for a chat, advice, refreshments and food parcels. Recently, cakes, pastries and bread from Tesco (in the centre of Manchester) have been giving to us from their surplus, for the Monday meetings which has gone down well, as you can imagine!

Please continue to think about those people in our city who are struggling this winter, and buy a couple of extra tins or dried goods when you go to the supermarket. Thank you.

Next Magazine

The February Magazine will be out on the 5th of February 2017. Everyone is welcome to make a contribution either by email to **marian.claytonmethodist@yahoo.co.uk** or in person to either Marian or Elva by the 1st of February. Thank you

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY

- ❖ 10:30am - Morning Service
- ❖ 1:30 – 3:30pm – TOARA (Christian Fellowship Group)
- ❖ 6:15pm - Evening worship (Except in January and February)

WEDNESDAY

- ❖ 10am-12pm - A large group of walkers meet and use the church after a walk that last for approximately 2hours.
- ❖ 2:30pm- 3:30pm – The Ladies Fellowship takes place from March to December once a month led by Elva Towler.

THURSDAY

- ❖ 10am-11:30am – Coffee morning, Good as New and Stationery stalls. These are an extremely valuable source of income and outreach, with a very attractive array of clothes, bric-a-brac, cards, household goods and many more available. This also is an ideal time for outreach work to our local community for those people who do not attend a church.

Twelfth Night – January 6th

Epiphany takes place on the last of the 12 days of Christmas (12th night) when we celebrate the coming of the wise men from the East to worship the new-born baby Jesus, and offer him gifts. In many countries in the world, example Spain, Italy and South America, it is a public holiday on the feast of epiphany when gifts are given with much celebrating, whereas in our country, it is traditionally the day for taking down our festive decorations.

Robert Herrick wrote in 1648, 'Partly work and partly play ye must on St. Distaff's Day'. This day is the day after Twelfth night-January 7th. In those days long ago, half the day might be spent at work and the rest of the day would be spent resting and recovering (after the excesses of Christmas & New Year!) This reminds us that life is made up of both work and play-both are important, as we would not appreciate either one of them so much without the other. It is the healthy mix of both that we can strive for!



A Prayer for January

Lord, As the days of Christmas draw to a close, and the decorations are taken down, may your joy remain in our hearts and your peace and Goodwill remain in our lives throughout 2017.

May this be a time of new beginnings, rather than of endings, a time of grace for us all, and a time of greater understanding amongst all people on earth, so that a peace may come and your world will be a better place. Amen



Winter Musings

- To help ensure your Christmas poinsettia lasts, place it in daylight but not direct sunlight, nor in a draught. Only water when the surface of the soil has dried out and place the pot on a tray of gravel for better drainage.
- No two snowflakes are the same, but they all have one thing in common, they have six sides. On average, a snowflake falls to the ground at a speed of 3 miles per hour.

- January 16th is Handsel Monday, a near-forgotten tradition. On this day, people would give gifts to servants, children or poorer members of the community. 'Handse' or 'Hansel' means something given directly from my hand to yours. The gifts were said to symbolize prosperity in the year ahead. But maybe the greatest benefits of such gifts go to those who gave them!



A Poem for January

January Sales by Brian H Gent

Christmas now has been and gone

And all that it entails,

And so the next event in store

Is the January sales

There will be so many bargains

Designed to melt the heart,

So I'm really looking forward to the day that they all start.

I will buy a hat and scarf

For my mum and dad,

Plus a crate of ginger wine

Is bound to make them glad.

I think a Fair Isle sweater

Would please my Auntie Flo

And a pair of woolly gloves

For her husband, Uncle Joe.

I'll buy myself a toaster
And a heater (fan)
And a brand-new walking stick
For my dear old Gran
For on consideration and when
All's been done and said,
When Christmas comes around again,
I'll be a year ahead!

Footnote – The sales start before January, sometimes before Dec 25th! Do any of you buy in for next Christmas?



Answers to the Christmas Quiz 2016

Missing vowels

1. Come and join the celebration
2. Angels from the realms of glory
3. O come O come Emmanuel
4. Born in the night
5. I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
6. It came upon a midnight clear
7. See amid the winters snow
8. Hail to the Lords Anointed
9. I saw three ships
10. Sing we the King who is coming to reign

Missing consonants

1. In the Bleak Mid-Winter
2. Away in a manger
3. Love came down at Christmas
4. O come all ye faithful
5. O Little town of Bethlehem

6. Once in Royal David's City
7. Silent night, holy night
8. While Shepherds watched
9. As with gladness men of old
10. Hark the Herald Angels sing



INSPIRE YOUR NEW YEAR

Our brains are wired to find things we're looking for – if you're always cynical or waiting for things to go wrong, then your life will reflect that. On the other hand, having a positive outlook on life will bring you joy and provide you with inspiration when you least expect it.

-by Keep Inspiring Me

God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile.

-by Max Lucado

We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.

-by Chuck Swindoll

He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures. To him, death is loss. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him, death is gain.

-by Randy Alcorn

Let God's promises shine on your problems.

-by Corrie Ten Boom

Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong.

-by Watchmen Nee

When you understand that life is a test, you realize that nothing is insignificant in your life.

-by Rick Warren

Escape to Egypt

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 2:13-23



F R D U K B U B G L N S I P J
 J W P N T P E N A Z A R E T H
 D E C N N T T T M N F S R O A
 Y E S C A P E K H O C X F Q P
 I S Q J Y U S L R L T K F W P
 F V X G G Z L E H M E H B D E
 M F E U X I O C X E O H E Y A
 J A H Q K O I E F M R X E R R
 O S G A C B K W D N M O I M Y
 S A L I I R Z O E N M C D O K
 E S E A R C H R H C T C X U N
 P L R C H I L D X A P N K Q J
 H H O Y N A N G E L N U V Y D
 O Y R R A Z Q A G Q V G C P T
 H Y L I D N I G H T M U B J V

LORD
 NAZARETH
 ANGEL

KILL
 ESCAPE
 BETHLEHEM

JOSEPH
 HEROD
 SEARCH

APPEAR
 MOTHER
 NIGHT

MAGI
 EGYPT
 CHILD

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GOD BLESS YOU ALL