

KEYSTONE

United Didsbury Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Catharine Hughes



JUNE 2026

Minister's letter

64 Brantingham Road
Whalley Range
Manchester M16 8QH

Dear friends,

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice!

Oh, how I wish St Paul (who wrote this in Philippians 4.4) understood how difficult life today is. Rejoice? When there is war going on across the globe, and peace efforts falter when faced with a leader's pride? When there are children being found guilty of rape? When there are extremists promoting policies that denigrate humanity? When the car breaks down, or the dishwasher's broken, or the computer has lost the files I've been working on...?

Rejoice! It's much easier when things are going well. Think about a sport that you follow, and a particular person or team. I rejoiced when York City won automatic promotion into League Two (I suspect many of you are more concerned about a Manchester team, but I keep out of that debate). Yet Yorkshire Cricket is having another mediocre start to the season... Rejoice? (Ok, my Lancastrian friends... we'll talk about this nicely...)

It is thought that when Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians writing out of captivity - possibly prison, or under house arrest in Rome. His life was certainly at stake. Yet the letter is not one of misery and gloom: quite the opposite. There is joy and thankfulness, and a plea for unity in the church and between believers. It is hope-filled and confident in the assurance of salvation through Christ. There is even a section in my bible headed 'Do Everything Without Grumbling'. How the world would change if we all did that!

I have just returned from CliffFest, the Methodist Church's annual celebration at Cliff College in Derbyshire. The weather was glorious, the company was fabulous and there was a wide variety of activities, teaching and events to participate in for all ages. Each evening was 'Celebration' in the tent, led by a worship band. I have come home singing a song by Elevation Worship: "Praise the Lord, oh my soul."

I could grumble (we didn't take blankets and it was cold at night) or complain (if I pay for jacket potato and salad I expect there to be salad) but in reality? I was privileged to be able to praise God in the company of hundreds of Methodists from across the country, and spend time learning a little bit more about how much our God loves even me, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. That is worthy of praise and rejoicing, whatever trials and tribulations come our way.

As we look at the Bible Month book of Philippians this month, let us hear Paul's words being spoken over us, "*I thank my God every time I remember you,*" (Phil 1.3) and return to God in praise.

With love,
Catharine

I'll praise in the valley, praise on the mountain
I'll praise when I'm sure and praise when I'm doubting
I'll praise when outnumbered, praise when surrounded
'Cause praise is the waters my enemies drown in

As long as I'm breathing, I've got a reason to
Praise the Lord, oh my soul
Praise the Lord, oh my soul

(c) *Elevation Worship, Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Chandler Moore*

<https://youtu.be/LNPwyLH2crA?si=l4ABMPHg36FSAbnp>

Preachers for June

7th June Rev. Catharine Hughes – *Holy Communion*

14th June Chris Davis

21st June Phil Davis

28th June John Worthington



Readings for June

7th June Genesis 12: 1-9; Romans 4: 13-25; Matthew 9: 9-13 and 18-26

14th June Genesis 18: 1-15; Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9: 35-10:8

21st June Genesis 21: 8-21; Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17; Romans 6: 1b-11; Matthew 10: 24-39

28th June Genesis 22: 1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6: 12-23; Matthew 10: 40-42

A Prayer for Methodist Homes Sunday

Gracious and loving God,
We thank You for the gift of life and the inherent dignity
and worth of every person, no matter their age or stage
in life. We bring before You all who live and work within
MHA Care Homes, Retirement Living communities
and Live at Home schemes. Amen

JUNE

14th June Methodist Homes Sunday

A celebration of the work of MHA and the value of older people; awareness of future needs and ways to respond; fundraising to make a difference to the quality of life for older people; volunteers to work together and recognition of the Church in action for older people – MHA is Methodism's housing and care charity for older people.

14-20th June Refugee Week

The theme this year is 'Courage'. For refugees around the world, courage is often a daily necessity. It is the courage to face unknown journeys, learn new languages, navigate unfamiliar systems, or simply to wake up each morning and step into an uncertain world. We are called to come together and share the courage to welcome, to stand for what we believe in, and to celebrate culture and community – to be joyful, imagine new possibilities, dream, heal, and connect.

25-26th June

Methodist Conference (Presbyteral Session)

27th June/1st July

Methodist Conference (Representative Session)

28th June

Conference Sunday

the Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church. Meeting each year, it provides a forum for prayerful reflection and decision-making on issues that shape the life of the Church, as well as matters that impact the wider community, the nation, and the world.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." - Proverbs 3:5-6



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



BIBLE MONTH

June is designated as Bible month. A book from the Bible is given as one to study throughout the month. This year, the book is Philippians.

The Church worship group has agreed that we focus on Philippians in worship for 4 weeks. Because of the way the preaching plan has been set, we will do this from Sunday, 31st May for 4 weeks, as follows:

31st May – Philippians, chapter 1. A harvest of joy. Chris Davis

6th June – Philippians, chapter 2. Shine humbly. Rev. Catharine Hughes

13th June - Philippians, chapter 3. Press on. Chris Davis

20th June - Philippians, chapter 4. Grace be with you. Phil Davis

You are invited to familiarise yourself with the chapter by reading it in the days before each service.

Focus on *God*, not the world.
Focus on *God*, not the storm.
Focus on *God*, not the stress.
Focus on *God*, not the struggle
If you depend on *God*, say
..... Amen



SATURDAY 6th JUNE 2026

The Procession: The festival kicks off at 11:00am with a colourful, themed carnival procession that winds through the village from St Catherine's School to the park.

Activities: There will be live entertainment, funfair rides, local business and charity stalls, and diverse street food.



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 JUNE 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*

4th June Summer display for the church
18th June Sayings, colours and shapes with Rosie



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 3rd and 17th June**.



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 – The Group is meeting on 1st, 15th and 29th June 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 in the hall on Tuesdays from 8.00pm and all are welcome to pop along. For further details please 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



Note: If possible, please give any food items that you can, bearing in mind that the summer school holidays are coming up and many children will not have their regular school dinner, so maybe no hot meal for a while, and thank you for your continuing support to help the families in need; we are very blessed to have food on the table. 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.

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**
- * **electrical appliances**
- * **bicycles**
- * **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 extra mile

As in so many examples of the affairs of man(and woman), the Good Book has the last word, and the most appropriate metaphor.

Consider the extra mile as in Matthew 5:41:- “And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain”.

In the Roman/Biblical era a mile was a thousand steps, as in “mille passus”. In the contemporary era , a recent headline read “Scientists say 8,500 steps a day could stop weight from creeping back”, following weight loss from dieting (Science Daily, May 11, 2026)

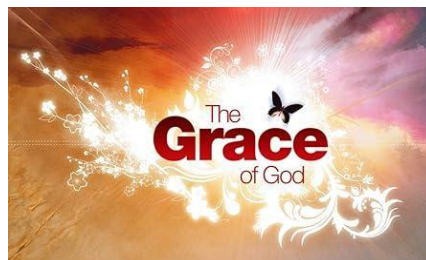
Presumably, that lifestyle strategy is also applicable to people who have lost weight after receiving the eight-loss jab, Ozempic.

There is also a metaphoric dimension to the extra mile, especially in the contemporary era of the so-called “zero-sum game”, where the winner takes all. We see this in the tariff wars, where the gains(increased revenue) for the imposing country are matched by the losses(reduced exports) for the affected country, and no attempt is made walk the extra mile to alleviate the economic damage to the affected country.

We also see this in international negotiations, where one party openly declares “red lines” which run counter to the strategy of walking the extra mile to mitigate damage to either of the negotiating parties. Further back in history, no attempt was made to meet defeated Germany halfway, at the Versailles conference that concluded the First World War.

The rest, as they say, is history, hence the Biblical invocation to reach out to our enemies, if need be, by walking the extra mile, because none of us are without fault, and we all owe our survival to the Grace of the Almighty.

Oscar



I believe there is reason to hope, for there is love in the world,
and beauty and joy, an impulse that inspires,
those it touches to do good, to dream up dreams,
and create wonders, to heal wounds and spread peace.

I believe there is reason to hope, to hold out for eternity,
for the Source of All, to act with courage, to be gentle and true,
and by watching and listening to increase in wisdom;
to trust that a seed can grow, in time, into a fruitful tree.

I believe the Earth needs me to care, though I often fail.
and am daunted by the task. Yet, I need the Earth to give herself to me;
hourly and daily, year by year. All that dies that we may live,
I believe is making a noble sacrifice, and I honour the life,
by striving to live in hope and in gratitude as well as I can.

I believe that I am but stardust and breath, yet supported by forces I cannot
comprehend, I journey through life like a river to the sea, rough ground and
smooth all teaches me, I believe that my life is about more than myself,
and I search and I wonder, how best to love. Amen.

By Annie Heppenstall

Thank you to Jo (Our Superintendent)

KINDNESS, it costs nothing
and means everything x

Dear God – Thank You for the blessings of each day.
Calm my thoughts and ease my burdens.
Help me grow in love and understanding.
Grant me restful sleep and stay
close to me always. Amen



Rev. Catharine, Jo, Liz, Patsy, Nick H, Stephen, Oscar, Chris D and Rosie

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

Last Thought

God desires a life of hope, prosperity, and fulfillment for each of us. As stated in Jeremiah 29:11, He has plans “to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. This reflects His intention for our wellbeing, guiding us toward meaningful and purposeful lives. Trusting in God’s plan allows us to navigate challenges with faith, knowing that He works for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).



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