



CONCORD

East Didsbury Methodist Church
Minister: Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak

December 2017/January 2018

Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak
Flat 75 Ballbrook Court
Didsbury, M20 3QT
Tel: 0161 445 6021
email: krykwar@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

The four weeks before Christmas are intended to be a season to slow down, stop the running and focus on the journey as much as the destination. Unfortunately, we live in a fast-paced, goal-oriented society and our culture has turned Advent into marathon shopping, baking and entertaining. This pulls focus off receiving God's best Gift and onto the dozens of gifts we need to select, order, purchase, wrap, ship, and deliver.

In the gospels we read that the wise men brought baby Jesus the rather unusual gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and I can't help but wonder - did anyone have the presence of mind to bring Mary the gifts she really needed - an ancient-Palestinian equivalent of nappies, baby clothes, a warm blanket? What do the gifts *we* give our loved ones say about our sensitivity to their needs? What do they say about the quality of our relationship? How could we do things differently this year?

Selecting an appropriate gift is no easy matter, but sometimes best gift ideas are experiences, time spent with one another. Here are some ideas for you to consider this advent season:

Something **HOMEMADE** – Do you have a special recipe for cookies, cake, bread, or snack? Or, how about a collection of favorite recipes? If you knit, paint, or do needlework share your gift with your loved ones.

TICKETS FOR A SHARED EVENT – Is there a film, concert, play or art exhibition you would both enjoy? Give tickets or a promise of that shared experience.

GIVE LESSONS OR CAMP – Here is something that children love and don't expect. Think about a sport or skill in which they have expressed an interest. A camp or adventure holiday will make memories for a lifetime.

SOMETHING YOU ALREADY OWN – Pass on something a friend has admired or give your child or grandchild a piece of their family history.

MEMBERSHIP – By giving a membership to the zoo, arboretum, or museum, you give the gift of time and experience together.

A PHILANTHROPIC GIFT – donate your time to a charity or cause that reflects the interests, values, or passions of the receiver.

FRAMED PICTURE – A picture of you and the recipient will be a timeless and well-received gift.

Wishing you and your loved ones every perfect gift from Above,
Krystyna

Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.



The time is drawing near : -



A virgin shall conceive and bear a son Isaiah. 7:14.

Out of Bethlehem shall come forth a
ruler in Israel

Micah 5:2.



FLOWER SPONSORSHIP 2018

The Church is very grateful for the sponsorship of weekly flowers displayed on the Communion Table.

You will be aware that these are a gift to the Church and are distributed, by the Church, to people in need. The names for recipients come from the prayer book or individual nominations from Church members.

The 2018 rota will be out shortly - the dates will be in line with the current rota.

There may be occasions when other members of the Church are asked to act as reserves - particularly in holiday periods. However, the costs are rising and the Flower Stewards will, regrettably, have to ask each sponsor for a minimum donation of £12 from January 2018.

Many thanks, on behalf of the Church, for your continuing support.

Flower Stewards
Monica Edwards, Ann Johnson,
Paula Rabone, Margaret Woosey



FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The next meeting is on Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm the home of Nick Palfreyman, Flat 1, Thorne House, Wilmslow Road, M14 6DW - all welcome.

Ladies Circle 2.30pm

7th Dec Christmas Meal
14th Dec Carols and Mince Pies

*We meet again in the New Year on 18th January.
All ladies welcome to join us*



COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next lunch will be on Thursday 25th January 12 for 12.30pm. Get your £6.50 ticket from Ken Whittaker or Jean Thickbroom. Tickets must be bought/ordered no later than *Sunday 21st January*. Thank you for your support throughout 2017.



COFFEE EXPERIENCE

Why not pop along to the Coffee Experience in Room 3 on Saturday 27th January between 10am and 11.30am for coffee and a chat.



BOOK CLUB For details for the next meeting in the Vestry, would you kindly check your notices.



You are invited to pop along on Monday afternoons at 1.00pm to a Knit and Natter session in the Vestry at East Didsbury - all welcome to learn new skills, strengthen old ones and knitter-natter. Our last session for this year will be 11th December and we return on 9th January - all welcome to join us.



UNITED CHRISTIAN SINGERS
presents

The Silence and the Sound

A Cantata for Christmas
[admission by donation]

Sunday 3rd December 7.00pm at Bamford Chapel, Rochdale
Sunday 10th December 6.30pm at Altrincham Methodist Church

It is hoped to hire a minibus for the performance at Altrincham, so please pop your name on the sheet on the table at the back of church, if you haven't already done so, today please, 3rd Dec.

ADVENT LUNCHES:

The lunches - 1.00pm in Room 3, on
Wednesdays 6th, 13th and 20th December.

All are invited to pop along for a light lunch
and a time of reflection.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL **at Didsbury Methodist Church**

Saturday 9th December 10am-4pm
Sunday from 1pm concluding at 3.00pm
with a Carol Service

Admission is free and refreshments will be served
throughout the events. There is a brunch on Saturday
and coffee and mince pies following the Carol Service on
Sunday - all monies raised will be for charity.
Please do pop along and take your family/friends.



Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.

Psalm 25 vs 20-21



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

9.30am - 11.30am

A phone call has been made and Santa has kindly agreed to pop over to East Didsbury on **SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER**

Why not come for a lovely breakfast, crafts for the children, and our special visitor with a present in his sack for everybody, and a little carol singing.

Tickets: Adults £6 - Child £5 - Under 2's free.

Tickets on sale NOW - please speak to Rosie or Mary or email
Rosieblayds@gmail.com
Mary.adamiak@ntlworld.com

Ticket sales close on 10th December



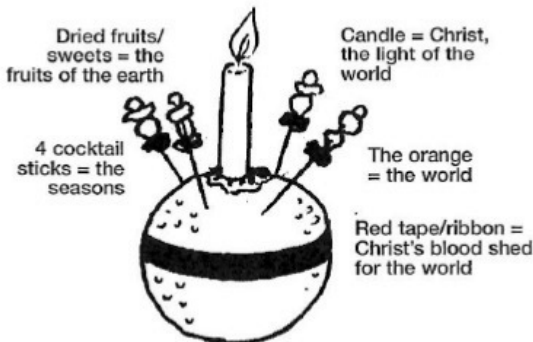
CAROL SERVICE
at
EAST DIDSBURY
SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER
at 10.45am

Worship will be led by
Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak
Carol Service and All Age Worship



CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH
THE ASH LEA
CHEADLE
SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER
following service

The menus are on the table at the back of church, and if you would like to go please pass on your choice to Mary Adamiak. All monies must be paid to her by TODAY please, 3rd Dec.



You are all welcome
to the *Christmas*
Eve Christingle
at 3.00pm in the hall
led by
Geoff Richards

AN ANGEL'S STORY:

The main hall at Angel Academy was rustling with thousands of young wings as students waited for the guest speaker who would bring the Christmastide Lecture. The headmaster delivered a flowery introduction, praising the speaker for his service at Bethlehem and standing guard at the Empty Tomb. On and on he went. Finally, he motioned to the speaker. Nervously, the angel cleared his throat and then began. "Thank you, headmaster, for that gracious introduction. But really! All the glory should go to our God, not to his servants! Nevertheless, young angels, I have a great story to tell about *His* glory. I know you've all studied about it in your classes, but I want you to hear it from an eyewitness. I was there.!

It began when I was a junior, away from the Academy on an internship with a Mentor Angel. Suddenly, my Mentor was summoned to travel by swift flight to a dark hillside just a mile south of Bethlehem, and I went along. The hillside was still, except for a few sheep moving about on the ground below us. Some shepherds were talking quietly. Suddenly the Mentor said hurry up we don't want to mess up what God has planned for the occasion. My Mentor motioned for me to take a place in the front row, and put his finger over his lips to remind me to maintain silence.

Gabriel was brought out. Even in those days, he was famous because of his work with Daniel many centuries before. And then it began. Gabriel went to fully glory in a split second and the effect was stunning! He stood at full height, shining in all the Father's glory -- and the poor shepherds looked like they had been struck down. The official account read: 'The glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid'

Young angels, that's an understatement. Those shepherds thought the end of the world had come! It took Gabriel several minutes to calm them down. You know, humans have an iris in their eyes that go



large in the dark, but when a bright light suddenly comes on, it can actually cause them pain and I think that is what happened.

We were all standing silently in the ranks and then Gabriel began to speak:

‘Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger’ At first, I really didn't know what was going on. But then I realized what all the hubbub in heaven these last few weeks had been about. God's Son was coming to earth, and not in all his regal splendour, but as a tiny human child. You'd expect God's Son to come to the palace of a king, but no, in all the Father's wisdom, His Son was born as the humblest of the humble, not even in a house, but in a stable. You don't find mangers in king's houses; only in barns. I could see that the shepherds were puzzled too.

But now it was our time. The conductor tapped his baton on a rock to get our attention, lifted his arms, and at the down stroke we sang in full glory. Instantly, the hillside was flooded with brilliance like thousands of arc lights. The hills rang as we sang at the top of our voices:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.

Finally, when it was over, the conductor motioned for ‘dim’ and gradually we turned down "glory" until it went off completely. The shepherds seemed stunned, unable to speak. Finally, the boldest of them said ‘I’m going to find that manger, that child’, and he began to

run down the hillside to the town below. In the meantime, the Mentor Angel motioned for me to come with him; he had been designated as the Witness Angel.

We got there just before the first shepherd peered in the door. A low lamp burned. There was a manger, a cattle trough, and in it was the tiniest child, all wrapped up snug. And his mother was there; the warmth of her smile was wonderful. And stood behind her was Joseph on his feet, staff in hand, as if standing guard over the child.

When the shepherds entered the stable, you could see him raise his staff, but as the shepherds explained what they had seen and began to kneel around the manger, he seemed to relax.

Mary asked the shepherds to tell her again what they had seen. And as they recounted the glory on the hillside and Gabriel's message, I could see her smile and her head nod. She said nothing, but I could see it all in her shining eyes. Yes, she was thinking, it was as Gabriel had told her when it began nine months before. Yes, it was true. Yes, it was worth all the struggle and shame and uncertainty and hardship -- all that was past, and all the agony that was yet to come, for she had brought God's child into His desperately needy world.

Eventually, the shepherds bowed low and then, one by one, got up and left the barn after paying their respects to Mary and Joseph. The Christ Child slept through it all.



You've doubtless seen re-enactments with angels hovering near the ceiling of the stable. It wasn't that way at all! Oh, we were there alright as witnesses, but we were invisible. Angels on the hillside were visible, but not in the stable! ”

May the Peace and Joy
of Christmas
Live in your heart
all year long



*WISH YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR*



BARNABUS
Bringing hope to the homeless and vulnerable

For the month of December, there will be a board at the back of church on which you can hang your Christmas cards to your friends in the congregation - if you would prefer to do this and pop a kind donation into the box provided for the Barnabus charity, that would be lovely - but please do give something if you can anyway.

www.barnabus-manchester.org.uk

GRATEFUL THANKS for all the telephone calls, flowers, prayers and offers of help for shopping I needed during what seems to be a never-ending health problem. At last I know what is causing my back problems! Once again, many, many thanks.

Margaret J xxx

RETIREMENT – At Last!

As many as you will know I have retired after a continuous working life of 60 years. I cannot believe I am a 'Lady of Leisure' now. It isn't just wonderful, it's proving beyond my wildest expectations.

I have always believed that life is precious and that every moment counts; now that I have retired all of these moments are there to do with whatever I wish. Steve and I have our own interests, but the things we are now able to do together are making life even more interesting and enjoyable.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has encouraged me during my recovery over the past 10 months. Your support and prayers have meant so much to me.

Bless you all

Love

Cynthia

THANK YOU:

A lovely card has been received from our hard-working cleaner of the premises, Gloria. She has done a sterling job for many years and we gave her a gift, on behalf of us all, of £100.

I would just like to say I have enjoyed every minute of my time working at East Didsbury Methodist Church. I will truly miss everyone I have met in the time I am been here. Also a big thank you for my gift.

God bless

Gloria xx

Action for Children Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the story of Jesus, calming the stormy seas. Thank you for being with us in the storms we go through, giving encouragement to others and to our children and their families in difficult times.

We think of the supportive work of Action for Children. We pray for all who listen and give youngsters and parents a new and positive outlook on life, who offer them a coping strategy.

We pray for the counsellors, and pray you give them patience, understanding and a holy wisdom of their work. We pray for the children and young people, that they will believe in themselves.

We pray for families that look after disabled children, for courage, joy and strength. We pray that you bless them and continue to inspire this work as they share your love and peace in the world.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

www.actionforchildren.org.uk

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. Advent candles are a popular Christmas tradition in many cultures. What does the word advent mean?
2. Who said, "You'll want all day tomorrow, I suppose"?
3. Which song was heard on both sides of the trenches on Christmas Eve 1914 ?
4. When was it always winter, but never Christmas?
5. In which book does it say “Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without any presents”?
6. What is the Christian penitential season from end of November to Christmas?
7. According to the song, what is given on the 7th day of Christmas and what are they doing?
8. Which King of England was crowned on Christmas Day?
9. Which popular Christmas song, originally recorded by Judy Garland, was first heard in the 1944 musical 'Meet Me in St. Louis'?
10. Which mind boggling and very frustrating device, named after it's inventor, was one of the best-selling Christmas gifts of 1980?
11. What was Brenda Lee doing around the Christmas tree in 1958?
12. Name the three Santa’s reindeer that start with the letter D ?

Answers on page 22

Do you really know about Santa ??



What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck
in a chimney? *Claustrophobia!*

Why does Santa have three gardens?
So he can 'ho ho ho'!

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?
Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?
A Holly Davidson!

Who delivers presents to cats?
Santa Paws!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective?
Santa Clues!

What did the sea Say to Santa?
Nothing! It just waved!

What does Santa do with his chubby elves?
He sends them to an Elf Farm!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
A Christmas Quacker!



WORDSEARCH



Words to find: Bethlehem Joseph Shepherds Emmanuel
Tax Angel Mary Augustus
Manger Inn Nazareth Jesus Virgin

ENJOY !

CONGRATULATIONS: to the winners of the Ecumenical Quiz for 2017 - *DIDSBURY METHODIST CHURCH*. The team consisted of Chris and Phil Davis, Krystyna Kwarciak, Liz and Martin Stuart and their daughter Anna. East Didsbury had two teams which were placed 2nd and 3rd, so a good night all round. Well done again Didsbury x

And thoughts for 2018:

May Light always surround you;
Hope kindle and rebound you.
May your Hurts turn to Healing;
Your Heart embrace Feeling.
May Wounds become Wisdom;
Every Kindness a Prism.
May Laughter infect you;
Your Passion resurrect you.
May Goodness inspire
your Deepest Desires.
Through all that you Reach For,
May your arms Never Tire.”

D. Simone
www.goodreads.com





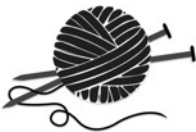
FILM CLUB AT DIDSBURY

You are very welcome at Didsbury Methodist on Wednesday 24th January at 1.45pm to see

HOMECOMING [U]

Synopsis:

A group of sibling children are forced to band together and seek out their grandmother, living as a hermit and seemingly shut off to the world around her. The children show their grandmother what it is to truly live and feel again in this heart-warming tale of family finding one another and coming together under the toughest of circumstances.



Knit and Natter on Mondays is proving very successful. £100 has been given to The Rainbow Trust and £50 to the church, and when all the bits and bobs come in, a further donation will be given to East Didsbury. The group are looking forward to wrapping the gifts for 'Breakfast with Santa' to save his elves the time! This is a lovely group and we always welcome new folks any Monday.

Pat Adams

On behalf of Knit and Natter

BREAKFAST AND CRAFTS takes place each first Sunday in the month in Room 3. A nice breakfast, crafts, and a lovely time of togetherness. Do pop along and join in - it's fun!



A precious new-born is due to my family as well as that of Mary and Joseph and the world:

I would just like to share with you that my fifth grandchild, a little boy, and a baby brother for Roxanne, is due on 21st December. No doubt you will hear me shouting from the roof tops when he arrives! Please pray for my daughter Angela and her husband Tom, the little boy's big sister Roxanne and the precious bundle that we are desperately waiting to meet. I thank God also for the blessings of Jonah, Betty and Edith and the joys of sharing time with them all.

Rosie x

Good cheer, great hope and the best that the Christmas season has to offer for us all as we celebrate this time of togetherness, in the name of Jesus. Amen

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!



May I say a sincere thank you to all those who have kindly passed me articles for the Concord throughout the year.

Rosie x

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

3rd Dec	9.00am	Breakfast and Crafts
	10.45am	Worship: Keith Paver
	7.00pm	United Christian Singers [see page 5]
4th Dec	1.00pm	Knit and Natter
5th Dec	7.30pm	Fellowship Group
	8.00pm	Badminton Club
6th Dec	12.30pm	Advent Lunch - Room 3
7th Dec	12.30pm	Ladies Circle Christmas Meal
9th Dec	10.00am	Christmas Tree Festival at Didsbury For details see page 5.
10th Dec	10.45am	Worship: Rev. Sue Rowe <i>Holy Communion</i>
	1.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival at Didsbury followed by a Carol Service at 3.00pm.
	6.30pm	United Christian Singers
13th Dec	12.30pm	Advent Lunch
14th Dec	2.30pm	Ladies Circle Carols and Mince Pies
16th Dec	9.30am	Breakfast with Santa - ticket only Please see page 6
17th Dec	10.45am	Worship: Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak <i>All Age Worship/Carol Service</i> Followed by our Church Christmas lunch.

24th Dec 10.45am Worship: Rev. Sue Rowe
 Holy Communion
 3.00pm *Christingle* in the hall



25th Dec 11.00am Worship: Anne Wilde
 Christmas Day Celebration

31st Dec 10.45am United Service at DIDSBURY

2018

7th Jan 9.00am Breakfast and Crafts
 10.45am Worship: Phil Davis

9th Jan 1.00pm Knit and Natter and continuing weekly.

14th Jan 10.45am Worship: John Roberts

18th Jan 2.30pm Ladies Circle

21st Jan 10.45am Worship: Janet Green
 All Age Worship

24th Jan 1.45pm Film Club at Didsbury [see page 13]

25th Jan 12.30pm Monthly Lunch

27th Jan 10.00am Coffee Experience

28th Jan 10.45am Worship: Kenneth Whittaker

Note: Our Covenant Service, which will be led by our own Minister. Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak, will be on Sunday 4th February.

CONCORD:

Articles for the next edition, which will be for February, need to be with me by 21st JANUARY please. Pop into the envelope in the fellowship area, phone 07758 011362 - you can email me on Rosieblayds@gmail.com or post to 13 Moor Park Road, East Didsbury, M20 5PF thank you.

Much love as always
Rosie xxx

God of hope, we cling to you, for your renewal of the face of the earth. Through the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus, we follow you on the path of dawn. Enlightened by your love and wisdom, help us to lead each other and all creatures back to your open arms.

Amen.

www.cafod.org.uk

Answers to Christmas Quiz:

1. Arrival
2. Scrooge to Bob Cratchit in 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
3. Silent Night [Stille Nacht]
4. In Narnia
5. Little Women
6. Advent
7. Swans a-swimming
8. William the Conqueror
9. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
10. Rubik Cube
11. Rocking
12. Donner, Dancer and Dasher

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Ian and I and our children and
grandchildren wish you all a very
happy time this Christmas.
Keep well and keep smiling.

Rosie xxx

LAST THOUGHT

He walked where I walk,
He stood where I stand,
He felt what I feel,
He understands.
God with us, so close to us,
God with us,
IMMANUEL!

©Graham Kendrick1988

