

# CONCORD

East Didsbury Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak



*When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Dec18/Jan19

Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak  
2 Wilderswood Close  
M20 4XU

Dear Friends,

Britain in winter is not a sunny place and many of us start feeling increasingly gloomy as the long dark evenings begin to draw in. It's dark when we get up and dark when we return home, we rarely see the daylight. We want to sleep all the time, we feel constantly hungry, we feel anxious, irritable and generally down.

Why is it so hard for us to believe that spring is coming?

It's silly to doubt it - in all our years watching the seasons pass, spring has never once failed us. No matter how long it takes, winter always comes to an end. I don't know about you, but even though I know it's true, even though I witness it year after year, I'm struggling to believe in spring right now. By the time January comes to an end, the world has been dark and grey for so long that we barely remember what it looks like in colour.

Our wintertime despair is about more than winter itself. It's the same doubt that overtakes us in every season of difficulty and sorrow. No matter how many times we've seen God's faithfulness in the past, each new dark day makes us wonder if grace could possibly come through this time.

*Our memory is so short. Today, God, we are not asking for spring to come before its time, we are asking You teach us to cling to a hope that feels far away. Give us the grace of memory. Remind us of the countless ways, both big and small, that You have already proven Yourself to us. Remind us of laughter and light. Remind us what spring feels like.*





## ADVENT LUNCHES

Come along to the lunch for fellowship and meditative conversation. The lunches take place on 5th, 12th and 19th December at 1.00pm in Room 3.

### Ladies Circle 2.30pm

6th Dec Christmas Meal at The Cheshire Line 12.30pm



On Thursday 13th December at 2.30pm we are having Carols and Mince Pies in a relaxed atmosphere at the back of church with Krystyna - do pop in and join us [this is open to all the congregation, not just ladies - come and celebrate the coming joy of Christmas.

*We meet again for the New Year, and ladies you will be warmly welcomed, on 10th Jan and/or 24th Jan*



### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL at DIDSBURY

Saturday 8th December 10.00am-4.00pm and Sunday 9th December from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

Refreshments available throughout - brunch served on Saturday 12.30pm - 2.00pm. EDMC is displaying a tree.

*Many years have now passed since that night long ago  
And now we have Santa and reindeer and snow  
But down in our hearts the true meaning we know,  
It is the birth of that child that makes Christmas so.*



## United Christian Singers

### **'Emmanuel - A Christmas Blessing'**

A selection of carols and readings for Advent and Christmas. The concert is free with a donation to a charity nominated by the church on Sunday 9th December at 7.00pm at Didsbury URC. Palatine Road, West Didsbury

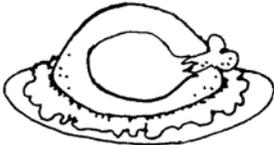
Details: speak to Anne or email her on [annewilde2002@gmail.com](mailto:annewilde2002@gmail.com)



## **CAROL SERVICE**

East Didsbury  
*Sunday 16th December*  
10.45am

Following our Carol Service our Church family will celebrate Christmas together at 1.00pm



## CHURCH CHRISTMAS MEAL

This year we are off to The Ashlea for our Christmas celebration lunch. If you have not paid your money and given your menu choice please do so NOW to Mary Adamiak

*The greatest joy of Christmas comes  
through receiving God's gift of the Saviour  
Christ our Lord.*



*SATURDAY 22nd DECEMBER*

*9.30am - 11.30am*

**BREAKFAST with SANTA**

Tickets: Adults 6.00. Children 5.00.

Under 2's Free

Tickets on sale NOW

Sausage balms - bacon balms - veggie option  
tea/coffee/juice

Tickets from Rosie or Mary

Rosie 434-7668 Mary on 445 0191

or email:

*rosieblayds@gmail.com maryadamiak@ntlworld.com*



## **CHRISTINGLE**

In the hall on Christmas Eve

Thursday 24th December

at 3.00pm led by Geoff

Richards - followed by light  
refreshments



## **CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION**

AT DIDSBURY

Methodist Church

at 11.00am

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

The young farmer led me into the bar, unhitched me from the cart, threw a blanket over me and went into his house. Now for a rest - no, that wasn't going to happen! A petite young woman walked over to me heavily pregnant and gave me a juicy carrot and a man strung some bags over my belly and then surprised me by lifting the young woman onto my back. He patted my head and told the women to hold tight; you could see the love in his eyes for her. Oh well, a donkey's life is never done!

He led me out of Galilee, through hills toward Nazareth. Sometimes he walked beside me, holding the woman's hand when the path was easy. We made many stops along the hard trek. The young woman I carried was kind to me. She rubbed my ears and patted my neck



sympathetically when I had to trudge up steep hills, not knowing I travelled more slowly so as not to jostle her about. I can't be certain, but I'm pretty sure she was getting heavier by the day.



We arrived at the small town of Bethlehem one night. It was dark as the young man led me from house to house. Light poured out of a few opened doors, but they closed soon after a brief exchange of words. The young woman sighed, exhausted, and wove her cold fingers into my mane to keep warm. Finally, the man led me to a stable, and instead of leaving me there to eat and rest with the other animals, he lifted the young woman off my back and placed her in a soft pile of hay. She patted her large stomach and smiled endearingly, stroking the worry lines from the man's forehead with a gentle hand.

Later that night, the young woman's cries awoke me and the young man rushed over to her. Hours later, I witnessed a miracle. The woman's cries were replaced by a baby's whimpers! She had given birth in a stable, of all places.



The baby was beautiful; his mother wrapped him in a blanket and placed him in the food trough by my head. I didn't mind; I listened to his soft breathing as he slept, his tiny face aglow in the light of a new star that shone through the stable window.



I don't know how they found us, but many shepherds and even rich folk on camels arrived to see the baby. They knelt before him with such joy on their faces and left gifts with his parents. Maybe he will be a King someday. Whoever he was, he was adored by all.

Years later, and although I am somewhat older now, I am carrying the baby again, now a young man, into the holy city of Jerusalem. Turns out he was a King. Crowds are placing palm fronds on the ground in front of me to walk upon. They cry "Hosannah," worshipping him. I am honoured to bear him upon my back once again, truly realizing how important he had become. Anyway, that's another story!

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name is called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*



## The Joy of Jesus

There's nothing quite like,  
the joy of knowing Jesus  
how in every circumstance  
He is always with us.

No matter the situation,  
Jesus is always there  
our happiness is in knowing  
our burdens He will bear.

In times of want and need,  
whatever be our condition  
our gladness is in knowing  
He'll supply each provision.

When feeling overwhelmed,  
by so many troubling things  
our peace comes from knowing  
the joy ~ Jesus brings!

[www.poetrybydeborahann@wordpress.com](http://www.poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com)

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace  
in believing, that ye may abound in hope,  
through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

Romans 15:13

## INTERESTING FACTS: -

In the UK Christmas Day became a Bank Holiday in 1834 and Boxing Day was added as a holiday in 1843.

In 1843 Charles Dickens wrote his novel 'A Christmas Carol' that helped revive the *spirit* of Christmas and seasonal merriment, emphasising family, goodwill and compassion, linking worship, feasting and social reconciliation.



Christmas trees were introduced here in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century following a personal union with the Kingdom of Hanover. In 1832 Queen Victoria wrote about her delight at having a tree, hung with lights and ornaments with presents placed around the tree. After her marriage to Prince Albert, by 1841 Christmas trees became more widespread throughout Britain.

In 1843 the first Christmas card was created by John Calcott Horsley, and once printed he gave it to his friend, Sir Henry Cole, who had given him the idea. The first card depicted a typical English family enjoying themselves and showing people performing acts of charity; an important part of the Victorian Christmas spirit. 1,000 copies of the card were printed and sold for one shilling [2p]. This is reported to be the first Christmas card to be produced and sold to the public.



The first Royal Christmas message was given by King George V was on the wireless, which was an untested medium at that time and King George VI continued this speech giving when he reigned. Queen Elizabeth II gave her first Christmas message on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1952, again on the wireless, and by 1957 she broadcast on the new 'television' system. Our Queen writes her own message and is assisted by Prince Philip.



Gift giving has its roots in pagan rituals held during the winter, but Christianity folded these rituals into Christmas, the justification being the Magi gifting to the infant Jesus.



Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, or simply Santa, is a legendary figure who is said to bring gifts to the homes of well-behaved ("good" or "nice") children on Christmas Eve/the early hours of Christmas morning. Santa is depicted as a portly, jolly, white-bearded man in a red clothes edged with white fur who carries a 'huge' bag of gifts for children. He accomplishes his work with the help of elves who make the toys at the North Pole in the workshop and has 'flying' reindeer to pull his sleigh; he laughs a lot saying ho-ho-ho!



The first carols were liturgical songs and during the period that 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', 'The First Noel' and 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' carolling took hold and was enjoyed by many, both singers and listeners alike.



*Of course all the above is very interesting, but we know that the true meaning of Christmas is the precious gift of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and although we love to give and receive gifts and be with our family and friends at Christmas time, we hold the infant Jesus in our hearts and thank God for His most amazing gift of all.*

God bless us all this Christmas time x

A message from Rosie:

God blesses us every single day; we are so very lucky to have Him in our lives.

A few weeks ago I was out shopping and saw a young man, no more than about 19 or 20, sitting on the pavement begging. I popped into Greggs and got him a sandwich and a hot drink and stopped to talk to him for a while.

We assume that they want money for alcohol, meths, drugs, some form of habit, but this chap had lost his Dad to cancer; his mother had met somebody else and he had moved into their home. The young man didn't get on with him and he admitted to me that he was angry about losing his Dad and somebody else trying to take his place and he wanted to be the one to care for his Mother. They argued and fought until the young man, who now told me his name was Daniel, packed his bags and left. He knew he had made a bad decision within 24 hours as he had nowhere to go and only a little money, which had now gone. I think from what he was telling me he was actually just too proud to go back home.

I said to him it was important to keep in touch with his Mother, even if it was just a phone call because she would be very worried about him and he said he had phoned her once or twice. I said that I had also lost my Dad when I was only in my early 20's and understood the pain he must have felt and was still feeling. He said he had been living rough for about two months - I had my coat on, gloves and a scarf and felt embarrassed [even though it was cold] to be warm.

I asked him if I could say a little prayer with him and he just closed his eyes and, through my tears [you know me] I prayed. He squeezed my hand and thanked me and I felt very humbled. Please pray for Daniel and all those young and old, man or woman, without shelter as we head into cold, damp, dismal weather. I have been back since and he is not at the same spot, so please continue to pray. xxx



The House Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6.30pm For the venue please speak to Krystyna or text her on 07776 121679 - all welcome to pop along.



You're invited to pop in on Monday afternoons at 1.00pm to do Crafts and chat at East Didsbury - all welcome - the next session for the new year will be 7th January.



### BREAKFAST and CRAFTS

The next Breakfast for the New Year will be on Sunday 20th January at 9.00am - all welcome ...



BOOK CLUB At East Didsbury Methodist on Thursday 24th January at 7.30pm in the vestry discussing 'The Life of Pi' by Yann Martel



Coffee Experience Room 3 Saturday 26th January from 10am - 11.30am. Pop in or coffee and a chat!



### MONTHLY LUNCH

The next lunch is on Thursday 31st January 12 for 12.30pm. Tickets 6.50 are available from Jean Thickbroom - please order/buy *no later* than Sunday 27th January, thank you. Further Lunch dates for your diary are 28th Feb and 28th March.

## Church Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults

Copies of the 2018/19 Safeguarding Policy are now displayed in Church and in the schoolroom corridor.

This Policy has to be agreed and signed at the Church Council Meeting each year and updated if necessary and telephone numbers of people to contact if you have any safeguarding issues are included.

The Church Safeguarding Officer is Paul Johnson and my roll will be processing the D.B.S. checks (Disclosure Barring Service). Most of the Stewards have been on the Safeguarding Training Course which must be renewed every four years.

If there is ever an issue, the Church aims to respond without delay to any allegations or causes of concern.

Regards  
Joan (Parker)

Safe in the arms of God

I cannot find the right words  
to describe the way it feels  
To be wrapped up in Your arms  
Soft breath on my neck  
Supporting my back  
I cannot explain it  
But in Your arms I am home  
And I know I am where I belong  
Your love God is amazing and thank you.

Amen

## What's in a Name?

Has anyone ever asked you what your name means [Rosemary means: dew of the sea]. You might like to find out what your name means; there are books and loads of sites on the Internet. My 'babies' names are: Stephen [the crown], Robert [bright fame] and Angela [heavenly messenger].

When Mary and Joseph found out that they were going to have a baby, they didn't choose his name because, as we know, God sent an angel to say, "*You will have a son, and you will call his name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sin.*" The name Jesus means 'the Lord saves' and God loved us so much that he sent his only Son to die on the cross to save us from our sin. The Bible tells us that there is no other name that can save us.

*Heavenly Father, we thank you that there is salvation  
in the name of Jesus. During this holiday season,  
help us to remember that it is in Jesus  
that we celebrate Amen.*



At the name of Jesus,  
every knee shall bow.



**TRAIDCRAFT**

HOPE - There are to be three focus groups as, following the announcement that Traidcraft Plc will continue to trade in a downsized, restructured and transformed way, these focus group events are for existing Fair Traders who have an active account with them. Fair Traders are at the core of the new strategy and they want to share some of their thinking and hear our thoughts on how we should shape the organisation over the coming years.

Groups are being held in Nottingham, Gateshead and London and it is likely that further groups will be held nearer to our area and you will be informed of this if it happens. We pray for these groups at their meetings and for all those who work so hard in this field.

**THANKS!**

To all those who have helped in the smooth running of our Church over the past year and continue to do so, thank you - to the Property and Management Committee, to Church Council, to the church stewards, flower and communion stewards, lettings, safeguarding issues, helping with special services and events, the Fair Trade stall, the sound system, tea and coffee servers, those who do Breakfast and Crafts and of course the typing of Concord and the notices! and anybody else who I have missed off this list - without you Church wouldn't run as well as it does. Grateful thanks to Krystyna for guiding us and to the preachers who visit. However, our greatest thanks and praise must go to God for being there for us, not only on a Sunday, but every day, to support and hold us always. *Rosie xxx*

**HELP!** If you would consider being a church steward, do please have a chat with one of them. This is a very rewarding and satisfying 'job' and EDMC is desperate for people to step forward to offer their support, thank you. x



A lovely picture of  
our dear friends  
Kathy and Violet  
to share with you

## FRIENDS

A friend is like a star that twinkles and glows  
Or maybe like the ocean that gently flows.  
A friend is like gold that you should treasure  
And take care of forever and ever.



The write up about Pauline Giles in the Didsbury Diary  
was beautiful. We at East Didsbury will remember her  
fondly, but know she is now safe in the arms of her Saviour.  
Thank you Pauline for your friendship x

*Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe on His gentle breast,  
There by His love o'ershaded,  
Sweetly my soul doth rest.*



## FUNNY THINGS CHILDREN SAY AT CHRISTMAS TIME !

A friend's two little girls were looking at a picture of the Virgin Mary holding Baby Jesus. "That's Mary," said the older girl, "and that's her baby Jesus in her arms." "Where's Jesus's dad then?" asked her little sister. "Oh he is the one taking the picture," replied her sister.

At my grandson's nativity play, the third wise man was hilarious when he marched up to the manger and bellowed: "Frank sent this!"

My daughter was playing Mary and forgot her lines so she ad-libbed, telling Joseph: 'I'm having a baby - oh, and it's not yours...'

I was at my friend's house when her six-year-old son poked his head round the door and said: "Mum, you know I wanted a bike for Christmas? Well I don't need it now. I just found one behind your wardrobe!"

My four-year-old granddaughter was telling me all about the gifts given to baby Jesus by the Wise Men. I asked what the shepherds took. She thought for a bit then asked: "Was it pies?"

When I went to stay with my daughter for Christmas, I heard my grandson praying at the top of his voice for a new bike. His big sister told him: "God's not deaf, you know!" He replied: "No, but Nan is."

My daughter Katie was chattering away for ages to Santa but he didn't seem to be understanding what it was that she wanted for Christmas. Jumping off his knee, she chirped: "I know. I'll come back tomorrow with the Argos catalogue."



A PICTURE TO COLOUR

MERRY  
QUIZMAS

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
2. According to Matthew, how many wise men visited Jesus?
3. The name Emmanuel means what?
4. Who was the Governor of Syria at the time of Jesus' birth?
5. Mary and Elizabeth were believed to be related, in what way?
6. What was the name of the devout man who had been assured by the Holy Spirit he would not die until he saw Jesus and then had the opportunity to hold baby Jesus in the Temple?
7. Bethlehem is also known as the city of who?
8. What were the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus?
9. Apart from giving gifts, what did the wise men do when they saw Him?
10. Who are the four women named in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus?



DIDSBURY METHODIST  
CHURCH  
Wednesday 23rd January 2019  
at 1.45pm  
**'Hidden Figures'** [PG]

SYNOPSIS:

Three brilliant African-American women at NASA, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world.

*The afternoon closes with light refreshment*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

*First Sunday in Advent*

2nd Dec 10.45am Worship: Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak

4th Dec 1.00pm Lunch Club & First Tuesday at Didsbury

5th Dec 1.00pm Advent Lunch - Room 3

6th Dec 12.30pm Ladies Circle Christmas Meal

*Second Sunday in Advent*

9th Dec 10.45am Worship: Adrian Curtis

12th Dec 1.00pm Advent Lunch

13th Dec 2.30pm Ladies Circle - Carols and Mince Pies  
with Krystyna - open to all

*Third Sunday in Advent*

**Carol Service**

16th Dec 10.45am Worship: Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak  
1.00pm Church Christmas Lunch

19th Dec 1.00pm Advent Lunch

**Breakfast with Santa**

22nd Dec 9.30am Breakfast with Santa in the hall

*Fourth Sunday in Advent*

23rd Dec 10.45am Worship: Pamela Sewart A.A. *Worship*

**Christingle** 24th Dec 3.00pm In the hall with Geoff Richards



25th Dec 11am **Christmas Day Celebrations**  
At DIDSBURY  
with Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak

30th Dec Worship: Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak  
*Holy Communion*

2019

6th Jan 10.45am Worship: Paul Johnson

10th Jan 2.30pm Ladies Circle

13th Jan 10.45am Worship: Rev. Sue Rowe  
*Covenant Service*

20th Jan 10.45am Worship: Liz Stuart

23rd Jan 1.45pm Film Club at Didsbury

24th Jan 2.30pm Ladies Circle

26th Jan 10.00am Coffee Experience - Room 3

27th Jan 10.45am Worship: Rev. Sue Rowe  
*All Age Worship*

31st Jan 12.30pm Monthly Lunch

CONCORD Items for the February edition of your magazine need to be with me no later than 20th January please - pop in the envelope on the notice board, email me on [rosieblayds@gmail.com](mailto:rosieblayds@gmail.com) or post to 13 Moor Park Road, East Didsbury, M20 5PF.

Much love as always, and a Very Merry  
Christmas and Peace-Filled New Year  
Love Rosie, Ian and our family x

#### QUIZ ANSWERS

1. One
2. He doesn't say, just that they brought three gifts.
3. God with us
4. Quinnus [Luke 2:2]
5. Cousins [Luke 1:36]
6. Simeon [Luke 2:25-35]
7. David
8. Gold– thought to symbolize Jesus' royalty. Frankincense– thought to symbolize worship of Jesus and His sacrifice, and Frankincense was used in sacrifices in the Old Testament. Myrrh– thought to symbolize Jesus' death
9. They fell down and worshipped him.
10. Tamar (Matt. 1:3)  
Rahab (1:5)  
Ruth (Matt. 1:5)  
Bathsheba (Matt. 1:6)

To: Krystyna  
Wesołych Świąt i wypełnionego pokojem Nowego  
Roku od twojej rodziny kościelnej xxx



LAST THOUGHT  
May the grace that we encounter  
At this time of Christmas cheer  
Not be true just in this season  
But remain throughout the year.

Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak  
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