

Messenger

Market Drayton Methodist Circuit
Circuit magazine
Winter 2022



Message from Mark

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2022 my heart is full of thanksgiving, because there are so many reasons to give thanks to God. As it says in God's Holy Word,

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7 NIV)

There is an old hymn which also says,

*"Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done." (Johnson Oatman)*

I know that for some of you 2022 has been a difficult and challenging year. There have been trials along the way. There has been health issues. There have been financial issues. There have been mental health issues. There have been family issues. I could go on! However, read the above Bible verse. The Apostle Paul, being led by the life-giving Holy Spirit is inspired by Him to write those little words,

"...in every situation..."

The Apostle Paul knew what he was talking about when he encouraged us to rejoice in every situation. He didn't have an easy ride as he obediently followed his divine calling. The trials are summarised in one of his letters where he says,

“...Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.” (2 Corinthians 11:24-27 NIV)

Yikes! What a terrible list! What was Paul’s ‘secret’? Well, it wasn’t a secret. Was he bonkers? No, he wasn’t! As Paul exhorted the Philippian believers they were to rejoice in all circumstances because they knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that the ‘Lord is near’. Ponder that truth for just a moment – ‘The Lord is near’. In all the trials we may have faced during 2022. The Lord is near. In all the trials we are still facing – The Lord is near. And, in all honesty, in all the trials we will continue to face in 2023 – the Lord is still near. But what does that actually mean?

In Matthew chapter 1 the Angel of the Lord appears to Joseph, the man who was going to be the Son of God’s step-dad and said,

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel (which means “God with us”).” (Matthew 1:23 NIV)

This is the wonderful Christmas, New Year and rest of the year hope – ‘The Lord is near’ – ‘God is with us’. But it gets better as the Gospel truth unfolds. That is the promise of the love of God – near – then with, but then...in the last book of the Bible, Revelation, there in chapter 3 and verse 20 the Lord says,

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me.” (Revelation 3:20 NIV)

Near – with – and now in! If you haven't consciously done this already...as Carolyn and I say to one another if we have a visitor – “Can you get the door please?”

That's what I say to you. Get the door and for goodness sake open it to the Lord of Life so He can come in and transform your trials into testimonies, your problems into praise and your jitters in to joys, both now and in the days that lie ahead.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7 NIV)

Yours In the ever-present Saviour,

Rev Mark



where to read the whole Christmas story:

JOHN 1 : 1-5, 14 (Eternal Word made flesh)	LUKE 2 : 1-20 (Bethlehem & Shepherds)
LUKE 1 : 5-25 (Zechariah's vision)	MATTHEW 2 : 1-12 (Magi)
LUKE 1 : 26-38 (Mary's vision and journey)	MATTHEW 2 : 13-23 (To Egypt and Nazareth)
MATTHEW 1 : 18-25 (Joseph's first dream)	

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Bible Reading in 2023

As most of you know, Mark and I are always encouraging people to read their Bibles and really get to know what the whole Bible is teaching to help you in your Christian growth and discipleship. I came across the following passage in my Word for Today and thought it was worth sharing. I hope it is encouraging to you.

“The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveller’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword and the Christian’s charter. Here too, heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgement, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labour, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.” ~ Unknown

I know that reading the whole Bible in a year can be a bit much for many people and a few years ago I devised a scheme to read the whole Bible in two years which I have found much more manageable. If anyone would like to take up the challenge to read the whole Bible in 2023/2024, let me know and I will send you the daily readings.

Carolyn Lawrence

Have you ever been in a battle?

Have you ever been in a battle? – I have
Did you find the fight very hard?
Did you feel at times you were all alone, every way of escape seemed barred?
It didn't matter which way you turned, or how much you wanted to shout
You only found yourself further in no nearer getting out.

Have you ever been in a battle? – I have
When all it seemed was lost.
Amidst many others were to and fro being tossed.
Pulled this way and pulled that way to not knowing just what to do.
Well let me tell you the secret my friend, our God is still on the throne.
He'll never leave or forsake us and always remembers His own.
You see friends, God knows only victory, has nothing to do with defeat.
And Satan when he calls on us well, he just has to retreat.
There's really no need to worry, for the battle has been won.
Satan carries the bruise to remind him, and its there till the day is done.

Anyway, the battle is not yours God said,
It's mine and I shall fight.
So, let it be, leave it to me, sit back, behold the sight.
God promised His word would never fail, and the gates of hell would not
prevail.
So let's rejoice, lift up our voice and glorify His name.
He's the same today as yesterday and will always be the same.
A mighty conqueror is Jesus Christ our King.
My heart's not sad but, oh so glad, I just can't help but sing.

I've now been touched in the inner man, by the mighty hand of God.
It goes so deep, the mountains not so steep,
As I walk in the steps he trod.

Ruth Evans (inspired by the Holy Spirit)



A Global Perspective

Carolyn Lawrence

In February 2023, a team of ten people from MDMC will be going on a mission trip to Brazil. We will be visiting Manaus in the Amazon region and working with Methodist church leaders there, then flying to Rio and hopefully also engaging with the church in that city. You'll hear a lot more about this in the coming months!

Mark and I have had the privilege of taking part in and leading various short term mission trips and also served in South America as mission partners for a year. We still have a passion for the great commission of Jesus in Matthew 28 vs 18 – 20:

‘Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”’

Meeting and ministering with and to people from other countries and cultures in their own environment is a powerful antidote to the prevailing culture of our society which promotes self-interest, consumerism and the pursuit of pleasure and comfort. We can learn so much from our Christian brothers and sisters who often have nothing materially and yet know the deep riches of a close walk with Jesus. People who know a deep inner joy despite outwardly difficult circumstances; those who have to rely on him day by day to meet their every need and yet cause us to be humbled by their extravagant generosity. Once you have experienced that, you can never be the same person again.



Not many are called to long term service overseas, but many people can experience the joy of a short term visit. We pray that our team will have a wonderful time ministering in Brazil and that it will be a life changing visit for them!

Some who are not able to actually come with us have made generous donations to help those who can and if you feel you still want to donate to help with costs on this trip do let us know.

Not everyone can go overseas but we can all become more aware of the wider church and other cultures by subscribing to a charity working overseas such as MAF, Open Doors, SAT-7 UK, All We Can or Compassion. In addition, if you are going on holiday abroad, why not engage with the local culture and search out a local church and join them for worship. We always try our utmost to find a local expression of church wherever we go, by researching it online before we travel. We have had some of the most wonderful experiences even on holiday just by sharing worship with other believers, even if we haven't understood a word, and have been an encouragement to the believers in different places just by seeking them out.

So my encouragement to you as you read this, is to lift up your head, look around you and discover what is going on in the wider world and allow God to give you a true global perspective of his world.



There is power in the name of Jesus

Jeannette Wanless

We sing the song, 'There is power in the name of Jesus' and I believe it to be true: I have experienced this personally. Here are 2 examples.

On July 11th this year Derek and I were on our way to visit my mum and to take her one of the booklets from church about the Queen's coronation. Derek was driving and I was having another look through the booklet as we drove towards Newcastle. At the crossroads in Whitmore, I heard Derek call out so I looked up to see a large tree coming straight for me! Or more precisely, I was heading straight into the tree! A car had pulled out of 3 Mile Lane and although Derek tried to avoid it, it clipped our rear and spun us round into the tree which we then bounced off, continuing to turn, to end up in the entrance to Whitmore Hall, facing the main road – a complete write-off – the car not us!

As soon as I saw the tree I called out 'Jesus help us' several times and I believe he did in so many ways. First, Derek was uninjured except for a minor abrasion on his arm due probably to the airbag. I injured my knee on the dashboard and the seatbelt broke 3 of my ribs and caused lots of bruising, front and back plus mobility issues but... 1) I didn't lose consciousness, 2) a nurse appeared almost instantly it seemed. 3) Paramedics were not far behind. I heard them talking saying the wait for ambulances was about 6 hours! – I groaned inwardly because I was holding myself in a position I knew I couldn't maintain for very long. 4) The ambulance arrived in 20-30 minutes! It didn't even seem that long! Derek and I were both taken to the Royal Stoke and came home the next morning. The first 2 weeks were agony but after that 5) I recovered much more quickly than expected. There is power in the name of Jesus.

My regret was that I didn't contact the church for prayer. It seems obvious to ask for prayer for others but if you're like me you forget to ask others to pray for you. So, a reminder from me - don't be slow in asking.

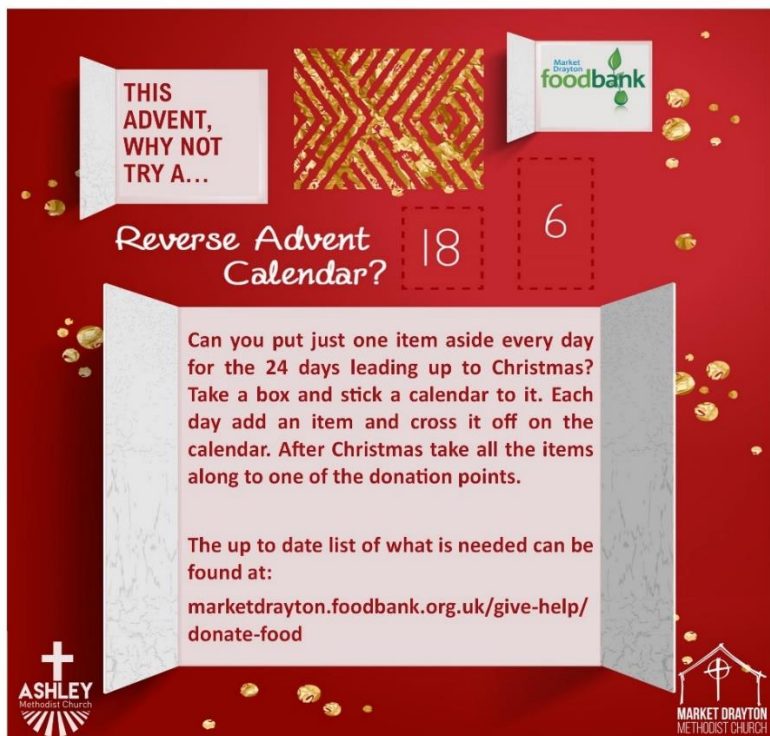
Another incident was also in a car, many years ago before I met Derek. I was driving home from Mum's at night and was going round the roundabout on the A34 at Chesterton when a car came straight towards me coming round in the wrong direction. I called out in prayer, 'Jesus!' Instantly! – I don't know whether my car moved or the other one did but, instantly, we passed each other and carried on safely. There wasn't any swerving – there wasn't time to swerve! There is power in the name of Jesus!

Over to you! What do you want to see?


This is your magazine, we would love to hear from you, our members and congregations. Whether you'd like to share some family news, your favourite bible verse, or a hymn or prayer verse that is calling to you at the moment? Do you have a photo of something/somewhere local that we could feature on our front cover? Do you have a suggestion of something we could include? It would be lovely to receive a contribution from a different member of the church family for each issue. It doesn't have to be a full testimony, but whatever is speaking to your heart to share! Please send any suggestions or contributions to me at circuitadmin@mdmc.org.uk

The deadline for the Spring Messenger is Wednesday 15th February.

Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR for



THIS ADVENT, WHY NOT TRY A...





Reverse Advent Calendar?

18 6

Can you put just one item aside every day for the 24 days leading up to Christmas? Take a box and stick a calendar to it. Each day add an item and cross it off on the calendar. After Christmas take all the items along to one of the donation points.

The up to date list of what is needed can be found at:
marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food



Baby Bank

FREE pre-loved baby essentials

If you or a family you know need any baby equipment or clothes (up to 5 years) get in touch to find out if we have what you need.

Email: carolynlawrence@capuk.org Tel: 07494 272 388

or call into Market Drayton Methodist Toddler Group to fill in a form (Thursdays in term time 9.45-11.15am and 1.15-2.45pm)



DRIVE-IN CAROL SERVICE

FREE - LIVE MUSIC - EVERYONE WELCOME

7PM

(ARRIVE BY 6.30PM)

**SUNDAY 11TH
DECEMBER**

**ON THE CARPARK
@ MORRISONS
(MARKET DRAYTON)**

SCAN THE QR CODE



OR GO TO
MDMC.ORG.UK/CAROLS
FOR MORE INFO AND TO
DOWNLOAD THE WORDS
FOR THE CAROLS



FOR MORE INFO CALL
07527 796319 OR EMAIL
REVMARK@LIVE.CO.UK

PLEASE CHECK IN BY 6.30PM SO WE CAN GET
EVERYONE PARKED BEFORE WE START



Dates for your diary

ASHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Nativity Service – 10.30am – Sunday 18th December

Bible Study – Thursday's at 10am

MARKET DRAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

Nativity Service – 10.30am – 18th December

Carol Service – 6pm – 18th December

Worship at 6 – 6pm – 8th January, 12th February

Songs of Praise – 3.30pm – 22nd January, 26th February

Wednesday Communions – 11am – 25th Jan, 22nd Feb

Early Morning Prayer Meeting: every Thursday 6.30-7am

Encounter @ Hinstock Chapel

Worship & Prayer – 3pm – 4th, 18th Dec, 15th, 29th Jan, 5th, 29th Feb

Community Events

Community Carol Singing – 5pm, 16th December – The Zone

Drive-In Carols – 7pm, 11th December – Morrison's MD Car Park

Alpha – Tuesday's at 7pm – Loggerheads Fire Station

From Tuesday 10th January

Drop Off, Drop In – Wednesday's, 8.45am-10am – The Zone



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