



Welcome to Market Drayton Methodist Church

Sunday 18th December 2022

MORNING SERVICE WITH NATIVITY

10.30AM

LED BY

**Rev Mark Lawrence &
the Junior Church**

We are really pleased to welcome you today!

- * If it is your first time with us today, please do make yourself known to one of the church stewards – they will be wearing badges!
- * Children taking part in the service this morning. They will be staying in the service.
- * A creche is available in the lounge with experienced helpers.
- * Please join us for refreshments in the hall following the service if you are able.
- * If you would like prayer after the service, please take a seat on the front row and a member of the prayer team will come to you.



Today's Stewards (AM & PM)

AM Lisa Savill & Colin Barthorpe

PM Ailie McGoogan & Pete Savill

The week ahead

Sunday 18th December	Morning Family Service, (with Nativity)	10.30am	MDMC
	Encounter@Hinstock Chapel	3pm	Hinstock
	Traditional Carol Service	6pm	MDMC
Monday	TTAAH (Youth Fellowship) (Yr 8+)	7-8.30pm	41 Hampton Dr
Tuesday			
Wednesday	Ceilidh Carols @ Hinstock Memorial Hall	6.30pm	Hinstock
Thursday	Early Morning Prayer Meeting	6.30-7am	MDMC
	Zoom Prayer Meeting (details below)	7-7.30pm	Online
Friday	Music & Movement	2-3pm	Hall
Christmas Eve	Christingle Service	5pm	St Mary's
	Midnight Communion	11.15pm	St Mary's
Christmas Day	Morning Family Service	10am	MDMC
Boxing Day	Boxing Day Walk	Meet at church 10am	
Sunday 1st January	Short Morning Service (No Junior Church)	10.30am	MDMC

There are NO children's outreach clubs during the school holidays

REGULAR WORSHIP

Sundays in Church

10.30AM

These are livestreamed for church family

PRAYER

Thursdays in church

6.30-7AM

Thursdays on Zoom

7-7.30PM

Meeting ID: 918 5917 6065

Passcode: 438347

#niteblessing

A single candle pushes away darkness, warms you and brings comfort. May you remember that the shadows flee when the light shines and when you face their mysterious presence, may you recall that shadows can only appear where light is. The Light of God hold you always

Malcolm Duncan

Please take any non-perishable food, hygiene or cleaning items to the Parish Rooms Tues or Fridays 9-10.30am or drop off at supermarkets, or in the green bucket in the church foyer.



Life Groups are an important way of deepening relationships with God and each other, and inviting people to meet Jesus. If you are interested in joining a life group, please speak to Rev Mark

Items for the notice sheet to be sent by end of Thursday to Al Savill, notices@mdmc.org.uk.

07966295413

If you are able to receive this weekly publication via email, please let Al know.

Notices

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: If you are coming to join us for our family service on Christmas morning at 10am, please could you each bring a Christmas cracker! Maybe bring a spare in case anyone doesn't have one! All will be revealed on the day! Carolyn

BOXING DAY WALK: You are all warmly invited to join us for our traditional 2-3 mile circular walk, with the usual stop at the Bradeley's on Sandy Lane for refreshments (thank you Andy & Annel!). Meet at MDMC car park at 10am – all welcome. Meet in the church car park at 10am.

BIBLE READING SCHEME: Some of you will have read in the Messenger about my challenge to read the whole Bible in two years starting in Jan 2023. If you would like the reading scheme, either check out the MDMC website or email me and I will send it to you. Carolyn markcarolyn1983@gmail.com

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEAL: The next Men's Fellowship meal will be on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at Wetherspoons, MD at 7:30pm. Please let Mike Shingler know if you are coming (01630652555).

NOTICE SHEET & 1ST JAN SERVICE: There will not be notice sheet on Sunday 25th December. The next sheet will on Sunday 1st January. The service on 1st Jan will be a short reflective service (no Junior church). Thanks.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION....

Wizzard famously sang: "Oh I wish it could be Christmas every day!" Most of us recoil at the thought! Having the Christmas tree and all the decorations up all year round; preparing a Christmas dinner every day; forced to spend a whole 24 or 48 hours with people you might spend the rest of the year avoiding! And then there's the expense of buying presents.

The sort of Christmas we've come to understand in today's Britain is definitely an impractical suggestion to celebrate every day. And if many of us are honest, by the time we get to Christmas Day itself, we're a bit over the hype. What were they thinking with those lyrics?! But there is a sense in which it *can* be Christmas every day, a sense in which it *should* be Christmas every day, in fact a sense in which it *is* Christmas every day.

The Word became flesh and lived among us. The promise of the incarnation was a real event in time and still has an impact today.

It wasn't an event just for Mary, Joseph, some shepherds and (eventually) some magi bearing gifts for Jesus. It was an event that changed history and continues to do so – if we look *beneath the paper wrappings* of Christmas to find the promises of God being fulfilled.

Christmas changes things: Christmas means humanity isn't alone anymore – God – the creator of all we see is close by us every day.

Christmas means humanity isn't without hope anymore. Love came to earth at Christmas promising to bring down the powerful from their thrones and lifting up the lowly; promising to fill the hungry with good things and sending the rich away empty. (Lk 1: 52-53).

Christmas means no one is excluded from God's love. Shepherds and visitors from the East weren't at the top of the list of people who would be expected to meet a new king, let alone *The King of kings*.

We may look at the world and think these promises are far from fulfilled and we would be right. But perhaps that's why it *is* Christmas every day. We need to be reminded of the eternal nature of Christ's coming. We need to look for signs of his coming again. And we need to be part of the fulfilment of those promises in our own lives in the small ways possible to us.

As a reminder that Christ comes every day, not just once *a long time ago in Bethlehem*, why not, when it comes to packing up your Christmas decorations, if you have them up, leave just one small ornament out. It might be a tree decoration, or a small nativity set. Leave it somewhere where you might see it every day and remind yourself that Christ comes to you every day, not just on Christmas Day and let that be a reminder that we are part of the fulfilment of Christ's eternal promises, praying for and looking for signs of his coming again.

Wizzard wished it *could* be Christmas every day. The irony is that the incarnation means that it *is* Christmas every day! Amen!

Ian Worsfold © The Methodist Church

Into the darkness of this world,

into the shadows of the night;
into this loveless place you came,
lightened our burdens, eased our pain,
and made these hearts your home.
Into the darkness once again --
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with your love
to make us whole,
come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls:
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Into the longing of our souls,
into these heavy hearts of stone,
shine on us now your piercing light,
order our lives and souls aright,
by grace and love unknown,
until in you our hearts unite --
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with your love
to make us whole,
come with your light to lead us on,
driving the darkness far from our souls:
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
hope of the ages, God with us,
visit again this broken place,
till all the earth declares your praise
and your great mercies own.
Now let your love be born in us,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Come in your glory,
take your place,
Jesus, the Name above all names,
we long to see you face to face,
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Maggi Dawn (b. 1959)

Christmas Day & New Years Day

	25th Dec, 10am	1st Jan, 10.30am
<i>Preacher</i>	Mark & Carolyn	Mike Shingler
<i>Worship Leader</i>	Rachel Faul	—
<i>Reader</i>	Lisa Savill	Anne Gaulton
<i>Church Stewards</i>	Lisa Savill Pete Savill	Ailie McGoogan —
<i>Welcome Team</i>	Barbara Shingler	TBA
<i>Prayer Team</i>	—	Team C
<i>Organ</i>	Paul Savill	TBA
<i>Piano</i>	Kat Williams	TBA
<i>PA</i>	Will Cooper	TBA
<i>Visuals</i>	Kat Turner	TBA
<i>Creche</i>	—	Ros Cooper
<i>Children & youth</i>	—	—
<i>Teams (am)</i>	—	—
<i>Coffee (am)</i>	No Coffee	No Coffee
<i>Flowers</i>	Christmas Decs	Christmas Decs