



# Welcome to Market Drayton Methodist Church

*Sunday 3rd December 2023*

## MORNING SERVICE

WITH COMMUNION

10.30AM

LED BY

**Rev Graham Horsley**

### Today's Stewards

Ailie McGoogan  
Alan & Elizabeth Herd

[mdmc.org.uk](http://mdmc.org.uk)

[circuitadmin@mdmc.org.uk](mailto:circuitadmin@mdmc.org.uk)

[@marketdraytonmethodist](https://www.facebook.com/marketdraytonmethodist)

Market Drayton Methodist

Circuit Office Answerphone   
01630 655957

*MINISTER*

**Rev Mark Lawrence**

**Room Bookings;**  
[bookings@mdmc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@mdmc.org.uk)

## REGULAR WORSHIP

**Sundays in Church**

10.30AM

## PRAYER

**Thursdays in church**

6.30-7AM

**Thursdays on Zoom**

7-7.30PM

Meeting ID: 918 5917 6065

Passcode: 438347

### **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 are invited to Junior Church this morning. They will join the adults in church for the first part of the service.
- \* A creche is available in the lounge with experienced helpers.
- \* 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.
- \* Please join us for refreshments in the hall following the service if you are able.

### The week ahead

|                      |  |   |  |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Sunday 3rd December  | <b>Morning Service</b> (with Junior Church)<br><b>TTAAH (Youth Fellowship)</b> (Yr 8+)   | <b>10.30am</b><br>7-8.30pm  | <b>MDMC</b><br>MDMC                            |
| Monday               | <b>Hard of Hearing</b><br><b>Ukulele Group</b><br><b>Explosion</b> (5 years old – school year 3)<br><b>Fireworks</b> (years 7+)  | 2.30pm<br>4-4.30pm<br>6 - 7pm<br>7.30–8.45pm                                  | Hall<br>Hall<br>Hall<br>Hall                   |
| Tuesday              | <b>Social Hour</b><br><b>A Choired Taste</b> (Community Choir)   | 2.30pm  | Hall   |
| Wednesday            | <b>VIP club</b>  | 2-4pm   | Hall   |
| Thursday             | <b>Early Morning Prayer Meeting</b><br><b>Toddlers</b><br><b>Toddlers</b><br><b>Fusion</b> (years 4-6)<br><b>Zoom Prayer Meeting</b> (details below)<br><b>Ukulele Group</b> | 6.30-7am<br>9.45-11.15am<br>1.15-2.45pm<br>6 - 7.15pm<br>7-7.30pm<br>7.30-8pm | MDMC<br>Hall<br>Hall<br>Hall<br>Online<br>Hall |
| Friday               |  |   |  |
| Saturday             | <b>Church Prayer Meeting</b>   | 9-11am  | MDMC   |
| Sunday 10th December | <b>Morning Service</b> (with Junior Church)  | <b>10.30am</b>  | <b>MDMC</b>                                    |

### **#niteblessing**

*Tomorrow is a word that can bring possibility or fear, excitement or dread. May God give you grace today to trust Him for tomorrow. Whatever lies ahead of you, may you be reminded that God got there first. He was there yesterday, He is there today and He's got this.*

*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.



<https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

**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 one of the leadership.

**Items for the notice sheet** to be sent by end of Thursday to Al Savill, [notices@mdmc.org.uk](mailto:notices@mdmc.org.uk) or 07966295413.

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

# Notices

**CHURCH PRAYER TOGETHER:** You are invited to another whole church prayer meeting on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 9:00am to 11:00am. We would encourage as many people as possible to come along, at any point in the morning even if you can only be there for a short time. There will be more opportunities to pray together in the New Year.

**SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS:** Coffee volunteers required for Sunday 31st December. Please speak to Al Savill if you can help.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEAL** at Wetherspoons is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm. If you would like to attend, please let Mike Shingler know or phone him on 0163065255 by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

## Advent and Christmas

A time for waiting and a moment of great celebration

**Advent** means coming. It is a time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for a movement towards a beginning. The season of Advent, as it first emerged in the Church in the fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today, of four Sundays before Christmas Day.

It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

### What the Christingle Means

The custom of Christingles comes from the Moravian church and since the latter part of the twentieth century has become a part of how many churches mark the season (though Christingle services make take place before or after Christmas). Its success stems from The Children's Society who encourage and resource churches and schools around the country to hold Christingle services.

- The lit candle represents Jesus being light in the world
- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon represents the blood of Christ
- The sweets represent all of God's creations

### Christmas

We celebrate the mystery of God coming to live among humanity as one of us in the person of Jesus, son of Mary, the saviour promised by the prophets of the Old Testament. This great feast that marks the anniversary of Jesus' birth has inspired the many joyful customs and traditions that we use to mark Christmas. Many of these - carols, cribs, decorations, and special foods - are shared with and enjoyed by millions of people across the world. But there is more than tinsel, trees and reindeer. There is amazement, wonder and joy here.

The gospel accounts of the first Christmas provide so many ways for us to enter into the mystery of God becoming human. There are hosts of angels filling the night sky with singing; a group of astounded shepherds on a hillside who find their lives and expectations turn upside down; there is a shining star and the birth of a child, which, like many other births before and since, bring hope and possibility.

And the readings for Christmas day - including the prologue to John's gospel - invite us to look beyond the joy of Jesus' birth to the significance of his life, and the saving power of his future death and resurrection.

The season of Christmas lasts for twelve days, culminating in another feast - that of the Epiphany on 6<sup>th</sup> January, when we recall how Jesus was first revealed to the wider world in the visit of the Magi.

### Matthew 1: 18-23

**Lord Jesus, Light of light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**

## Sunday 10th December

**10.30am**

*Preacher* **Paul Bishop**  
*Worship Leader* **Mark Savill**  
*Reader* **Alan Herd**

*Church Stewards* **Alan & Elizabeth Herd**  
*Welcome stewards* **Pete Savill**  
**Rob Jennings**  
**Barbara Shingler**

*Prayer ministry Team*

*Organ* **Al Savill**  
*Piano* **Al Savill**  
*PA* **Andrew Cooper**  
*Visuals* **Derek Wanless**

*Creche* **Ros Cooper**  
*Children & youth* **Jeannette, Rob J, Jess S**  
**Jo C, Jess R**  
*Coffee* **Youth**