

CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
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The
**United
Reformed
Church**

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FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Friends

Deployment update

Hi everyone, and Happy New Year to those I haven't been able to talk to recently. Thank you to those who keep asking if I have recovered from shingles and I am glad to say that "yes" I believe so. However there is no disguising the fact that the coming months and years will bring upheaval and turmoil to us all, perhaps me more than most.

Whilst I was off sick in September, we held a joint pastorate church meeting to discuss the Synod request for all ministers to offer 25-30% of their time to a church currently without ministry, for a period of up to 2 years, until a more permanent resolution can be found. Thank you everyone for supporting me in my belief that as part of a greater calling of "the priesthood of all believers" that those who have should share with those who do not. The current projection is that by this coming September, 41% of churches in NM Synod will be without a minister.

I can now confirm to folk that (as I had suggested) I have now been paired with the good folk at Wilbraham St Ninians in Chorlton for my 25 – 30% of ministerial cover. Many of you will know that over the last couple of years I have actually been their "Interim Moderator" so I know them, and they know me and we in effect asked for each other.

WsN is a very unusual church (and it is this which attracted me to them) in that they have 2 separate congregations. The first I think would be recognisable to most as a traditional URC Sunday morning congregation with close community relationships. The afternoon congregation consists of the former Metropolitan Church that is primarily LGBT folk. They are largely refugees and asylum seekers who have left home around the world because of persecution.

However there is no disguising that 2 congregations, each with their own service will add significantly to my Sunday Service pattern – with a standard rota of 9~10 services every month which is perhaps double the usual number. In addition, just being there for such a fragile community will require all the pastoral skills that I can muster.

There is no doubt that this is the start of a period which will see Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme moving from a 2 to a 3 church pastorate (though I cannot guarantee what the final configuration will be), and we will all have to be flexible and forgiving in the months ahead as I reduce the time I have for my existing churches. Synod have asked the churches to identify areas of work which can be released and it is my view that whilst some can be identified now, others may have to be

reviewed as the practice, rather than the theory takes over.

The young man Samuel heard God's voice calling him and perhaps this is a time when we all have to open our spiritual ears to hear what God has to say to us and say as Samuel said, "Hear I am Lord, send me".

Blessings and take care, **Alan**

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

This month we think about friends and members of the congregation who have concerns about health or other stressful situations. We pray especially for Barbara & Tommy Danson, Alison & Gerry Manley, Norman & Rena Lawrence and Betty & George Chance.

We also remember Rev Peter Sharp and Linda as they start a new life following Peter's induction to two churches in Mersey Synod. We send best wishes to them and to the congregations involved.

We were pleased to welcome as one of our service leaders Margaret Dexter-Brown last month. Also visiting us again was the Rev Dr Jack McKelvey. Alan our minister also led us, as did Bernie Stevens & Heather Frankish.

If you have any goods for the Jumble Sale on 25 FEB please leave them with the items already in the store room. If you have ever wondered why we have our Jumble Sale at 1 pm (right across lunchtime), it is because it fits in conveniently between any morning or afternoon sales taking place, so customers can visit several functions.

Two of our members are celebrating the arrival of their **sixth** great-grandchild. Bernice Platt the birth of James Kenneth and Tom Clarkson the birth of Millie Moira. Our congratulations and best wishes go to both families.

Congratulations are also due to Hilary and Godfrey Jackson following the safe arrival of two more grandsons, twins Dominic and Rohan, on 17 JAN. Busy times ahead!

Rena Lawrence sends her thanks for the flowers she and Norman received after the service on 15 JAN. The thought behind them was greatly appreciated.

We were pleased to see two friends who are both regular visitors to CH URC around Christmastime. Val Hodgson from South Africa and Veda Nicholson (Morag Smith's mum) from Scotland. We hope they both had a happy time and look forward to their next visits.

We are glad to hear via Tom Clarkson that Nancie Kilpatrick enjoyed Christmas and New Year with the family and she hopes that everyone at Swann Lane did likewise.

Thanks go to those who have donated to the Chelwood Foodbank, either gifts or money. We and they are very grateful for all the donations received.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 MAR - TRAIDCRAFT & Afternoon Tea

11 MAR - Lent Lunch URC

18 MAR - Sausage, Mash & Quiz - tba

19 MAR - Church Meeting

The News Team

THANKS

Thank you very much for the lovely plant you gave me for Christmas and also the Lindt Chocolate Reindeer you sent. **Ann**

We hope you had an enjoyable time and we send our best wishes to you all for 2017.

Love, **Madge & Ann Hardie**

JUMBLE SALE

SAT 25 FEB
1pm

Jumble and helpers needed
486 1952

Any goods left in the storeroom should
be clearly marked 'Jumble'.

Breakfast Before ON 12 FEB 2017

[and every 2nd Sunday]

Menu available:

Cereal, toast, tea, coffee,

Fresh orange, fruit

Bacon baps,

Pancakes /waffles or croissant

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER 2 pm Fri 3 March 2017 Cheadle Hulme METHODIST Church

Theme: **"Am I Being Unfair to You?"**

Prepared by the Christian Women of
The Philippines

ALL ARE WELCOME

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our post-Christmas lunch was held at Vivienne's. After partaking of a delicious spread, we tackled some quizzes. Well!! We all tried our best, some doing better than others - no names mentioned!

Thank you Vivienne for such a pleasant afternoon, made all the more enjoyable by Stella, who looked after us so well.

The February meeting will be held on 1 FEB at my home.

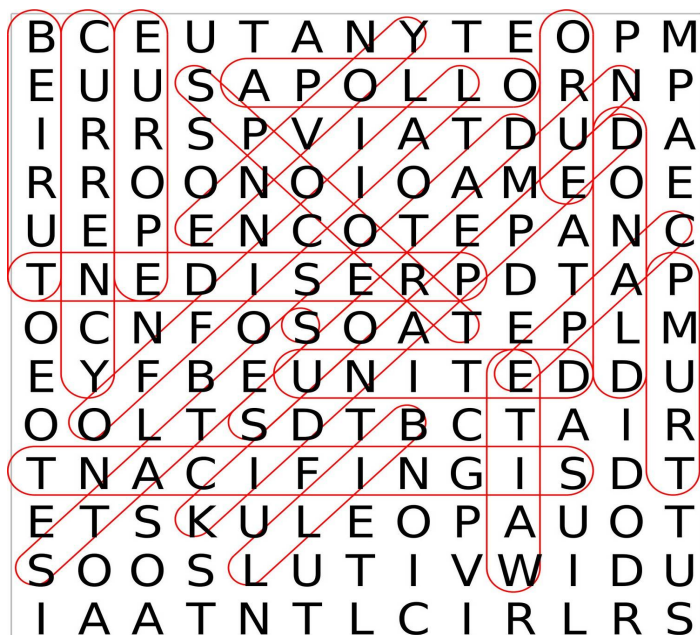
Vera Lees

LADIES CIRCLE

Thursday 9 FEB is the date of our next meeting which will be at Muriel Prestbury's home at 8 pm.

Bernice Platt

WORDSEARCH SOLUTION



GOD'S ARMY

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!"

Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service..."

WORTH HER WEIGHT IN £ & P

The much-loved novelist **JANE AUSTEN** is about to make history. 200 years after her death, she will appear simultaneously on a British coin **and** a British bank note. That means that only the Queen, who as head of state must be depicted on British currency, will be more prevalent.

The Royal Mint has chosen Jane Austen as the new image for its commemorative £2 coin. About five million will be released into mass circulation sometime this Spring. At about the same time, the Bank of England will release its new, plastic, un-rippable £10 note, with Jane Austen replacing Charles Darwin.

Historians cannot recall the last time a figure other than the reigning monarch appeared on both coins and notes at the same time. The release of both coins and notes will be in step with the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, in the summer of 1817, at the age of just 41.

Parish Pump

THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

In November 1917 the government of Britain issued the Balfour Declaration which promised a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine whilst also promising to protect the rights of the existing indigenous Arab population. However, in 1915 Britain had already promised the Arabs that after the war they would be granted independence in their lands, including Palestine. The Balfour declaration stated that the British Government viewed with favour:-

"the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, ..."

In 1947 the UN passed the resolution on the Partition Plan for Israel and Palestine. Following the Arab/Israeli war in 1967 Israel occupied the West Bank. Currently, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) report that in 2016 the Israeli authorities demolished or seized 1,089 Palestinian-owned structures throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing 1,593 Palestinians. These are the highest West Bank demolition and displacement figures since OCHA started recording in 2009.

Consequently it is argued that the latter part of the Balfour Declaration regarding the rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine has yet to be satisfied. For some the Balfour declaration represents an important step in the self determination of the Jewish people. Israel's Ambassador has called for a public celebration of the anniversary while the UK Government has said only that it will be "marked with pride" Meanwhile for Palestinians the Balfour Declaration is a matter of profound regret.

Various events are being planning in 2017 to mark 100 years since the Balfour Declaration and 50 years of military occupation including a walk to Jerusalem in June For more on the history of the Balfour Declaration see <http://www.balfourproject.org/>

JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM

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WED ~ 8 FEB

Soup Sweet & Meet

12 .00 ~ 2 pm

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FROM THE ARCHIVES ~1993

WALKING

Saturday 13 February: A larger than normal group gathered and we travelled to Castleton in Derbyshire to meet up with another group of walkers from the Northern College, comprising staff, students and some former students. Amongst this group were Peter Jordan with his wife and two children. Peter will be joining us in September as an Internship student so this was an early opportunity to meet Peter and family.

The walk commenced with an ascent through Cave Dale which goes up behind Peveril Castle. Having made height we crossed the upper fields towards Mam Tor. At this point we stopped for lunch. Having eaten the group divided into two. One group continued over Mam Tor summit and along the ridge path to Hollins Cross. From there they made the descent back to Castleton. The second group made their way down Winnats Pass with some families stopping off to explore Speedwell Cavern before returning to base. Most of the high ground was shrouded in heavy mist so those going for the first time missed seeing the spectacular views that are available from Mam Tor and the ridge.

John Mitchell



7 pm
Sat 25 FEB

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

Ruth Maxey moved to Milton Keynes in 2013 to pioneer a new kind of church. Three and a half years later, she leads a thriving worshipping community – and still has no church building.



Recently at Talking Point, a weekly meeting where our church has tea and cake and talks about life, someone said they thought the group had met without them. I explained they hadn't – one of them had had an Ann Summers party and invited her church friends. That just wouldn't happen at a normal church, but it's how it is at Church Without Walls – refreshingly different!

I began Church Without Walls when I came to Milton Keynes in the summer of 2013. My word, it was daunting to start this from scratch, but exciting. We started a monthly

Cafe Church, with discussion over coffee and croissants. We added Dinner Church on another Sunday, with communion and a meal and a talk. In 2015 we started a third monthly gathering, Forest Church, which is breakfast followed by a walk and a reflection. Finally, in summer 2016 we added a fourth Sunday event, Quiet Church, a five o'clock service with contemplative prayer.

The majority of those who come to Church Without Walls have no church background at all. We don't really attract people from church backgrounds. That's great and what church should be about of course, but it has its issues. Despite getting 40 or 50 people to most meetings, we don't have a solid church, because – apart from our small leadership team – people are very new to faith and to the ideas around it. I haven't even touched the Old Testament in three years, because we're only just getting people on to ideas about Jesus. Building a sustainable church community is slower and harder if people are starting on a blank sheet...

*Extract from Dec/Jan'17
edition of **Reform***



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had
to forgive people three times before
getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus..

How many times do I have
to forgive? Seven?



You must never
stop forgiving.



A king decided to check
his accounts



One servant owed him
50 million silver coins



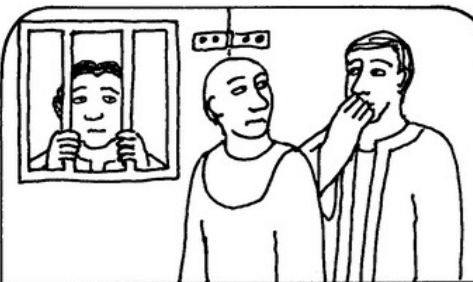
Please give me more
time to pay



Then the servant saw
someone who owed him
100 silver coins



Please give me more
time



The other servants found
out what had happened..

and they told the king.



You bad man! I forgave you
so much - why did you not
forgive?



So he was put in
prison



Jesus ended by saying...



SERVICE DETAILS & DUTIES

Readers: Please double-check your bible references upon arrival at church.

Elders and Readers: If you cannot do a duty, **please arrange your own swap**, notify Glyn Elsdon **and** mark it up on the **master copy** on the foyer notice board.

On arrival, always check notice board for last minute changes.

	5 FEB	12 FEB	19 FEB	26 FEB
Service	Joint Morning Worship at Bramhall	Family Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	9.30 & 10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Rev Alan Poolton	Rev Alan Poolton	Ed Strachan	Bernie Stevens
Reader	J Hodson	B Platt	A Altree	H Elsdon
Duty Elder	C Davies / B Stevens	C Davies	A Stevens	G Elsdon/ S Smith
Door Duty	JOINT SERVICES AT BRAMHALL	B Platt	A Manley	H Elsdon
Flowers		E Shackcloth	D Williams	M Davies
Coffee		V Wilson / M Wightman	A & S Altree	B & A Stevens
Notes	JOINT COMMUNION	BREAKFAST BEFORE		HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

THE NORTH WESTERN & THE MERSEY SYNODS JOINTLY PRESENT...

BIG DAY OUT 2017

8 JULY

from 10 am

SOUTHPORT Convention Centre

Fun
Worship
Workshops
Drama

Speakers: John Proctor, Steve Chalke, Lawrence Moore

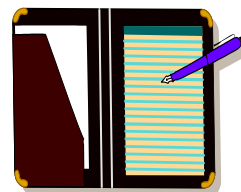
Early bookings **£8 per adult** (will be £10 after 17 April)

During FEB there will be a notice on the foyer board

Please sign if you're interested in going to **Southport!**

CALENDAR

.....to the best of the editor's knowledge, unless you know better.....



FEBRUARY

Wed 01	2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship ~ Vera Lees' home	
Thu 02			
Fri 03	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat 04	10.00 am	COFFEE MORNING	
Sun 05			
Mon 06			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 07	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club
Wed 08	12 -2 pm	Soup, Sweet & Meet	
Thu 09			7.30 pm Elders' ~ Church 8 pm Ladies Circle ~ Muriel Prestbury's home
Fri 10	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat 11			
Sun 12			
Mon 13			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 14	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club
Wed 15			
Thu 16			
Fri 17	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 18			
Sun 19	11.45 am	Management meeting ~ Church	
Mon 20			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 21	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club
Wed 22			
Thu 23			
Fri 24	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 25	1.00 pm	Jumble Sale	7.00 pm Film Night
Sun 26			
Mon 27			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 28	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club

MARCH

Wed 01			
Thu 02			
Fri 03	10.00 am	Toddlers	
	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer ~ Methodist	7.45 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat 04	10.00 am	Coffee Morning ~ Traidcraft	
Sun 05	2.30 pm	Traidcraft Afternoon Tea	

Copy for **MAR 2017** **CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **12 FEB 2016**

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