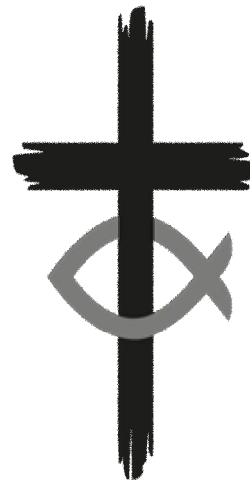


CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
Cheshire SK8 7HU

www.cheadlehulme.urc.org.uk



The
United
Reformed
Church

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JANUARY 2017

NEW YEAR, NEW LIFE

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted with two faces. We may look back to the old year with sadness or regret, but how can we make a fresh start at the beginning of 2017? The apostle Paul writes *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, if you want a new start, you need to ***forget the things which are behind***. Paul pictures himself as an athlete running for Christ, yet not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and failures to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to ***focus on the things that lie ahead***. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and career, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, and God will say, *'well done, good and faithful servant'*. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, ***'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'***

Rev Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Many of our congregation have been laid low with seasonal 'coughs and colds'. We hope they are now back towards full health. Our thoughts and prayers are with those with more serious health and anxiety problems. Our prayers are with Barbara and Tom Danson and Norman and Rena Lawrence. We also think especially of any who have suffered bereavement recently.

All our services during Advent have been led by our minister, Alan, or in-house groups/worship leaders, with the exception of the Christmas Eve Nativity which Rebecca Pope very ably led supported by the Music Group from Bramhall. Unfortunately young children were in short supply but many young at heart played their part, alongside Denny!

Thanks go to all those friends who sent Swann Lane cards with good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. We hope in return that their celebrations have gone well and that 2017 will be healthy and happy.

We had many fund-raising and sociable functions prior to Christmas. We are grateful to the folk who supported and helped with the Christmas Bring and Buy stall. Along with the December Coffee Morning, it raised £353.60 towards the ongoing hall refurbishment.

What a wonderful time we had at the Christmas lunch. Such a happy time and fantastic Christmas food and a big thank you to Morag and Sandy for steering the occasion.

We ask Peter and Geraldine Grieve to send best wishes to daughter, Jennifer, who left England for Australia in November. Jen spent Xmas and New Year in Perth - Xmas Day on the beach temperature in the 30's! She will be moving to Melbourne at the start of the New Year as she has to work 88 days on a fruit farm to get a second Year visa.

A big thank you to the "gutters and flat roof clearing" team for their efforts on behalf of all of us. An excellent job completed.

It seems never too soon to be thinking about the next Jumble Sale, particularly at this time of year and the key date for your diary is Sat 25 FEB. Help to set up will be needed in the morning and then, of course, at 1 pm for the sale itself.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 3 MAR - Women's World Day of Prayer
14-20 MAY - Christian Aid Week

The News Team



Thank you to all the donors for their recent contributions towards both CHURC News and the Church funds but also the Church charities through their Christmas greetings and use of the internal post.

Jean McMillan

Although Jean and Bill moved to Wales 19 years ago, when Jean died this November, Bill and daughter Heather had a great many expressions of love and sympathy from church members and friends. They were so grateful for all this support at a difficult time. Bill is especially grateful for all the moral support as he faces up to a new way of life from now on. Jean was 85 and she and Bill had been married for 58 years.

Jean was born in Inverness but lived mostly in Cleethorpes when young. After the family moved to London she met and married Bill. Bill's new job took the family to Bramhall, then Wales followed by Cheadle Hulme in 1968 when they became members of CHURC. In 1997 Jean and Bill moved from the shop they had run in Davenport to Colwyn Bay leaving Heather and family to continue the church membership tradition. Jean died suddenly of pneumonia at home.

**Heather Frankish
and Bill McMillan**

**Breakfast Before
ON 8 JAN 2017**
[and every 2nd Sunday]

Menu available:

Cereal, toast, tea, coffee,
Fresh orange, fruit
Bacon baps,
Pancakes /waffles or croissant

FROM JANUARY 1983!!!!!!

Women's Circle... *For the first time our annual Candlelight Service was held in the church itself. (Prior to this it had taken place in the Primary) It proved to be a beautiful setting for this truly delightful occasion. We were pleased to welcome over 70 ladies, many of whom came from St Columba's and from Long Lane. The soft lighting threw the lovely Christmas floral displays into sharp relief and the candles added their own gentle glow. True it was a little difficult to see our hymn books but everyone coped extremely well! After all, so many of the carols have familiar and well-loved words.*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The last meeting for 2016 was held on Wed 7 DEC in a beautifully decorated Church, when members and friends were joined by the church choir and Eric Ward, organist, for the annual 'Carols with the Choir'. David Williams introduced the programme which included a reading by Sandy Smith and a closing prayer from Alan. Tea and mince pies were served after the service with time to share fellowship together – a very happy occasion and thanks go to all who helped in any way.

The next meeting will be on 4 JAN at my house at 12.30 pm but, in the meantime, a very happy New Year to all from the Women's Fellowship.

Vivienne Wilson

Mince-pies and coffee afterwards in the hall provided an opportunity to chat awhile. My personal appreciation goes to the many ladies from our own church who helped in so many ways to ensure the success of the evening.

Our first meeting in January 1983 is an open meeting to which we invite members, their husbands, children and friends and neighbours. It will be a slide show and talk by Norah Binns on Alaska and the Yukon. Those who have heard Norah on other occasions talking about her travels will know what an interesting evening we shall have in her company. She is a delight!

May I remind members of the Women's Circle that annual subscriptions are due and also that we can begin to save towards our end of season 'evening out'.

LADIES CIRCLE

The Ladies Circle held the annual Candlelight Service on Thursday 8 DEC 2016.

It was well attended and the choir, led by our choirmaster and organist, sang beautifully.

We all enjoyed the evening which is a lovely start to our Christmas celebrations. There will be no meeting of the Ladies Circle during January.

Bernice Platt

CHURCH MEETING - 8 JANUARY

A copy of the Minutes of the October Church Meeting are enclosed in the magazine for members, along with a copy of a Management and Secretary's Reports for 2016. A financial statement will be available at the meeting, although fully audited accounts will not be ready until April. As always at the January meeting, it will be followed by a Faith Lunch - a chance to share food and fellowship - please do all you can to attend the meeting.

Alison Stevens

+++++

+	WEDNESDAY 11 JAN	+
♦	Soup & Sweet	+
♦	12.00 ~ 2 pm	+

+++++

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked on:

1 JAN Cheadle Hulme Methodist. The minister, Philip Peacock and the fellowship as they prepare and lead the Taste services on 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings during January and February. That families will be encouraged to come along.

8 JAN All Saints (CofE) The minister, Janet Bacon and the fellowship as they encourage each other and serve God in the community.

15 JAN Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity- 18th-25th Jan- theme based on 2 Corinthians ch 5 v 14-20. May these verses be true in our lives.

22 JAN Society of Friends To cherish God's love within us, so that the love will grow and guide us in our worship and daily life.

29 JAN United Reformed Church, Swann Lane The minister, Alan Poolton and the fellowship as they encourage each other and serve God in the Community.

SUNDAY 29 JAN 2017
5th SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE
ALL SAINTS ~6.30 PM

CTCH BUSINESS MEETING
MON 30 JAN 2017 ~7 pm
Society of Friends
ALL WELCOME



7 pm
Sat 28 JAN

WORDSEARCH

January 2017 brings us numerous significant dates. 75 years ago, in Jan 1942, the first US troops arrived in Europe. 50 years ago, in Jan 1967, the Apollo 1 caught fire at Cape Canaveral. 30 years ago, in Jan 1987, Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy in the Middle East, was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon. 20 years ago, in Jan 1997, Bill Clinton became President of the USA for a second term. 15 years ago, in Jan 2002, the Euro became the official currency of the EU. And this month, Donald Trump becomes President of the United States.



Numerous
Dates
Europe
Cape
Envoy
Beirut
Bill
Official
Donald
United

Significant
Troops
Apollo
Waite
Kidnapped
President
Euro
Currency
Trump
States

Orphanage (Suk Jai Children's Home)

The children at the orphanage



rice for the children, the total cost for buying additional rice for the children will be \$1,328.

In addition, we have already bought the new truck for general use in the ministry and at the orphanage. We thank you for your support and for all your prayers.

Family news

We were so glad that we got the chance to be able to visit most of you "our friends" when we were in the States this past summer.

Since coming back from the States I have been going around as usual and visiting and preaching at the churches and completing the projects.

In the last monsoon season after we came back from the U.S., around the area of the orphanage there was an outbreak of Dengue fever and there were reports that many people in Mae Gone village and the surrounding area contracted Dengue fever from the large number of mosquitos. Though this was the situation in the orphanage area, we truly thank God that none of our children at the orphanage got Dengue fever.

This month is a month that our family is quite busy, we will be going to the different villages and celebrating Christmas with the villagers and also the children at the orphanage. This is also a very good time of the year to evangelize to non believers as Christmas programs with it's fun and games brings non believers to the Churches and also opens a window of opportunity to evangelize to them.

Children watering the garden in the greenhouse

This year at the orphanage we have 29 children in total. 2 are in Kindergarten, 15 in elementary, 3 in junior high, and 5 in high school and finally 4 are in Bible college and universities.

The rice harvest this year is not very good for some unknown reason, all the rice farmers in this area are suffering from a bad harvest. every year we normally harvest around 358 bushels of rice, which is sufficient for one year. But this year we only managed to harvest 179 bushels of rice which will not be enough for this entire year. We need to find an additional 148 bushels of rice in order to have enough for the children this year. Please pray for this situation and that we will have enough funds to buy the



Lastly, we pray for all of you and we wish you a very merry and blessed Christmas.

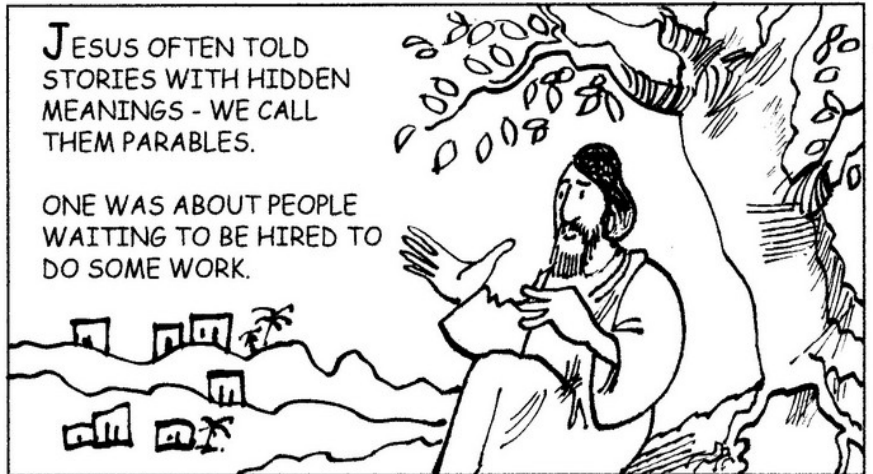
Rev & Mrs Abel & Ruth Sairattanyu

The Hired Workers



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM PARABLES.

ONE WAS ABOUT PEOPLE WAITING TO BE HIRED TO DO SOME WORK.



A HOUSEHOLDER HIRED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE MARKET PLACE, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HE AGREED UPON A FAIR WAGE.



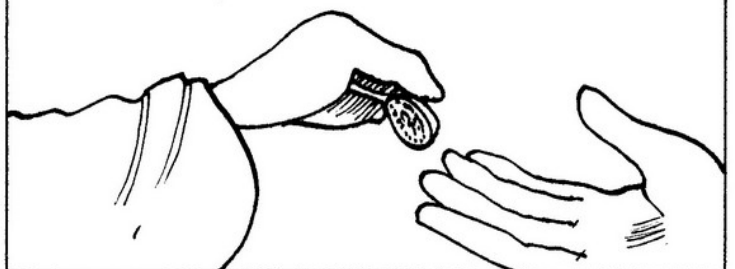
A BIT LATER ON THE HOUSEHOLDER RETURNED TO THE MARKET PLACE AND HIRED SOME MORE WORKERS.



HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, EACH TIME HIRING MORE WORKERS. HE EVEN HIRED SOME PEOPLE JUST AS THE SUN WAS SETTING!



WHEN THE DAY WAS OVER THE HOUSEHOLDER BEGAN TO PAY THE WORKERS, STARTING WITH THOSE WHO HAD ONLY JUST ARRIVED. HE PAID EVERYONE THE SAME.

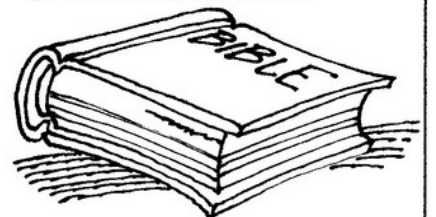


THIS UPSET THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY. THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET MORE.



BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID WHAT THEY HAD AGREED AT THE START OF THE DAY.

JESUS CONCLUDED "SO THOSE WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST" - IT'S A HARD PARABLE!



see Matthew 20:1-16

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.

	1 JAN	8 JAN	15 JAN	22 JAN	29 JAN
Service	Joint Morning Worship at Cheadle Hulme	Family Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Bernie Stevens	Rev Alan Poolton	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Rev Alan Poolton	Junior Church Rev Dr Jack McKelvey
Reader	V Elliott	L Frankish	J Hodson	V Lees	V Wilson
Duty Elder	A Stevens	G Elsdon	P Oliver	B Stevens/ H Frankish	S Smith
Door Duty	V Elliott	D Green	B Danson	M Morton	V Wilson
Flowers	Christmas	M Davies	B Platt	A Stevens	T Clarkson
Coffee	M Davies / C Brooks	S & M Smith	G Thompson / E Shackcloth	C Davies / M Smithers	H Elsdon / M Morton
Notes	LOW SUNDAY	BREAKFAST BEFORE CHURCH MEETING		HOLY COMMUNION	

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

HINTS OF SPRING

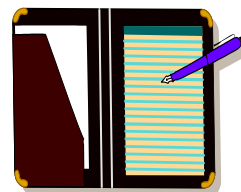
I am writing this two weeks before the shortest day (21 DEC) which tradition and my calendar says is the start of Winter! So in four weeks time we might be able to see a change of a fraction more day light which can be so encouraging. However, if you start looking now, you will see that the Silver Birch has catkins already and some of the earlier and braver bulbs have already appeared in our gardens and elsewhere around us. Don't let delight run away with you - wait until the end of February/beginning of March to prune roses. If you do it earlier and there is a warm spell, new growth may start which could be killed off by a sudden frost. Also leave the "deadery" on plants such as Penstemons and Michaelmas/large white daisies - it is excellent frost protection.

The Gardening Group would love to welcome you if you feel able to give half or one hour on a Tuesday morning (start about 9.30 am). You don't have to be Capability Brown, or even a keen gardener. There are jobs for all abilities.

Every good wish for 2017
Mo Morton

CALENDAR

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



JANUARY 2017

Sun 01	11.45 am	Management meeting	
Mon 02			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 03	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club
Wed 04	12.30 pm	Women's Fellowship ~ Vivienne Wilson's home	
Thu 05			
Fri 06	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat 07			
Sun 08		CHURCH MEETING & FAITH LUNCH	
Mon 09			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 10	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club
Wed 11	12—2 pm	Soup, Sweet & Meet	7.30 pm Elders' meeting ~ Church
Thu 12			
Fri 13	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 14			
Sun 15			
Mon 16			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 17	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club
Wed 18			
Thu 19			
Fri 20	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 21			
Sun 22			
Mon 23			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 24	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club
Wed 25			
Thu 26			
Fri 27	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat 28			7.00 pm Film Night
Sun 29	6.30 pm	CTCH 5th Sunday Evening Service ~ All Saints	
Mon 30			7 pm CTCH Business Meeting ~Friends meet'g hse 8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 31	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8 pm Badminton Club

FEBRUARY

Wed 01			
Thu 02			
Fri 03	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat 04	10.00 am	COFFEE MORNING	

Copy for **FEB 2017 CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **15 JAN 2016**

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