

CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
Cheshire SK8 7HU
www.cheadlehulme.urc.org.uk



Minister: Rev Alan Poolton MA
8 Delfur Road, Bramhall, STOCKPORT SK7 2HG
0161 285 9206 email: ap.poolton@ntlworld.com

DECEMBER 2017

Continuing our series of articles from 36 years ago

My dear Friends,

*Outside a Church was a wayside pulpit which read:
'Be square all the week
But come round on Sunday.'*



This reminds me that there are many who stand squarely away from Church all the year round, but who, at Christmas, come round and enter places of Christian worship.

It would be, of course, very easy for us who are regular attenders at Church to be judgmental about such people. We might well 'tut-tut' at those who 'use' the Church in this way, and even feel resentful (as many do) as the pews fill up with people whom we do not see from one year to the next.

But when we begin to think about it, Christmas was after all planned for people just like that. God in Christ broke into the everyday life of the world, and offered that world a new beginning. But the way God did this was not to condemn the world, but through the embodiment of His love for the world, sent Jesus to draw all men to Him.

Today the Church (you and I) need to be aware that we are engaged in this very self-same mission of Christ. This means that when the stranger comes to worship with us, there is no room for judgment, nor resentment. Instead, there should be only room for joy, that at least on this Christmastide a need is felt to worship God.

Our privilege is, when that need is answered by our faithfulness throughout the year to make it possible for us to open wide the door of the Church in welcome. That need is also answered when with us, friend and stranger alike, join together in glorifying Him who as the Babe of Bethlehem came to save us all.

***May your Christmas be blessed!
'Bert Baker. Group Minister***

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Again, this month we think of anyone who is unwell in body or in mind; for the elderly who often find the pressures of everyday life a great burden. We pray especially for David Williams, Tom Clarkson, Philip Oliver, Barbara Danson and any others who may need our prayers of support.

During November we welcomed Robert Williams and Margaret Dexter-Brown as our visiting leaders. Our service on Remembrance Sunday was taken by Alan, our minister, who also led our Family Toy Service on 26 NOV. The toys donated at this service are taken to the Dandelion Community in Wythenshawe.

We held a special event on Armistice Day - an exhibition of artifacts and poems depicting life during both world wars. Material for this event was gathered up by members of the congregation along with wonderful displays from four of our local schools and a short act of worship took place at 11 am remembering all those who lost their lives during those conflicts. It was good to talk about events that took place during those times with visitors who popped in during the day when tea and coffee and lovely cakes supplied by Morag were available.

Christine Brooks sends her best wishes to everyone at Swann Lane as she settles into new surroundings in Alderley Edge.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the shoeboxes, either by donating gifts or putting them together at Church. Particular thanks go to Philip Oliver's daughter, Joanne, who with Jaidan, Zac and Grace filled two boxes which made our total 24.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 24 FEB '18 - JUMBLE SALE

The News Team

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

A valiant group of six members made it to my house in Moss Nook for our November meeting so they fitted onto the settee very nicely. After a chat I told everyone about Mike's charity run to Morocco to fit solar panels to six schools in the Atlas Mountains region. There is an article in the magazine

with more details. We finished with refreshments and more chatting as usual and most ladies returned home safely (see Vera for details). Thanks to you all for coming.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13 DEC in Church at 2.15 pm 'Carols with the Choir', followed by tea and mince pies. Everyone will be very welcome.

Carole Davies

LADIES CIRCLE

Mo and Alison arranged a play reading at Church of two short plays, each requiring 5 women to play the parts. About 14 members attended and 10 people had been given their parts. We had a read through and then the first 5 read their parts followed by the next 5 reading their play. Each play, which was set in working class areas, had good plots and unexpected endings.

The evening turned out to be both interesting and enjoyable. Even though we finished a little later than usual, we didn't go home without our refreshments! Our thanks go to Mo and Alison for a very novel evening.

The December meeting will of course be the Candlelight service on Thu 14 DEC at 8 pm.

Bernice Platt

+++++

WED 13 DEC

Christmas Lunch

[places must be pre-booked]

12.15 for 12 .30 pm

~ 2 pm

+++++

Thank you to the donor for their recent contribution towards CHURCH News.



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

SAT 2 DEC

10 ~ 12 noon

Christmas 'Bring & Buy' stall

Traidcraft & Raffle

Children welcome

Proceeds towards

our 4 church charities

Dear Cheadle Hulme URC

What a wonderful thing you have done.

You have given a kind gift of £100 to help people who are the poorest of the poor, the most rejected, and the most unloved. But with your gift you have shown them love. I'd like to say a really big heart-felt thank you. This is so generous of you and we really appreciate and value your help.

Your support provides the cure from leprosy to children, women and men, stopping the disease in its tracks. Your care gives people life-transforming surgery so they can walk again, or hold their child's hand for the first time in many years as their hand is freed from the leprosy-affected 'clawing'. Your gift provides a homeless disabled person with shelter, safety and warmth. And this is just the beginning! You are giving young people who were thrown out of school (because Mum or Dad had leprosy), the chance to learn a trade, you are giving elderly disabled people the full-time care they need, and you are standing with people disabled by leprosy as together we stand up for their rights.

People suffering with the effects of leprosy needed you and you were there for them.

Thank you again for your kindness.
Support Care team

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you for your continued support throughout my training, both your financial support and your prayers.

Three months into my placement (it already seems much longer!), things seem to be going quite well. I have settled into my new life in Peterborough, both into the flat and into the life of the two churches. My supervisor is lovely, and has been both supportive and challenging.

In some ways I have been lucky in the pastorate, as there has been a huge variety of things to get involved in. I have seen a Baptism, Wedding and 2 funerals, and am due to take the lead on a funeral in a couple of weeks time. I have been doing some pastoral visiting both with my supervisor and

on my own. I have also helped to distribute water in the city centre with the Ladies Interfaith Coffee Group, and been part of the Remembrance Day parade and service in Whittlesey. This is alongside the regular meetings, prayer groups, young people's Bible study and weekly supervisions.

Being in pastorate has been challenging – lots of new people to meet, and going to new places, but I'm loving being out in the real world again, getting to know people, and learning how to be a minister in practice, rather than in theory.

As I will be leading several services in Peterborough over Christmas, I will not be back in Cheadle Hulme until the following week. **I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas**, and look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year.

With love and best wishes,

Alison

THE SCHOOL RUN 2017

In the September magazine I reported that Mike would be taking part in his second charity school run, this time to the Atlas Mountains in Morocco and entitled "Light2Learn". This mission was successfully completed and he is now safely home. It provided sustainable solar lighting to six remote schools that had no electric power. I have put more details of the project, together with photographs, on the notice board.

The journey went very well and Mike did not encounter the crime and corruption that he did on the last mission to Gambia.

My sister, Ruth, loves to knit small, colourful hats for babies so Mike took a big bag of them with him and a lot of young boys took a shine to them as you will see from the photographs.

The charity is becoming more well known and a wealthy sheikh has shown an interest which is encouraging for the future and hopefully the charity is soon to become a registered charity. No doubt this will mean another mission will take place in the not too distant future.

Carole Davies



CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Mo Morton sends Christmas greetings to everyone at Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall United Reformed Churches. May everyone

have a peaceful, happy Christmas and may 2018 be full of friendship and love.

Tom Clarkson would like to thank everyone who has sent cards and kind thoughts following his recent fall and stay in hospital which have been much appreciated. He and his family send seasons greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all at Cheadle Hulme.

Ron and Vera Lees wish all their friends at Swann Lane Church a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Jean Murkin wishes all her friends at Cheadle Hulme a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year all the best - The Elsdon Family

A Merry Christmas to everyone at Swann Lane and grateful thanks for all your support of Traidcraft and Christian Aid throughout the year. Morag and Sandy

Madge & Ann Hardie wish all their friends at Swann Lane a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Barbara Danson would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers which she received from Church and wishes everyone at Swann Lane a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year to all our readers wherever they may be. Bernie and Alison

Isobel Grieve wishes all members and friends at Swann Lane a very happy and joyful Christmastide and with every blessing for 2018.

SINGAPORE & AUSTRALIA

Sunday 10 September – Depart Manchester Airport on the 14-hour Singapore Airlines flight to Singapore.

Monday 11 September – Arrive in very hot and humid Singapore – first views of the incredible architecture here and the preparations for the Singapore F1 Grand Prix which is taking place at the weekend. Amazing local cuisine.

Tuesday 12 September – Morning boat trip around the Singapore harbour front – very hot today, again the architecture round the bay is awe inspiring – especially the Marina Bay Sands Hotel which has three separate towers with literally a full size curved ocean liner perched on the top. Afternoon visit to see the orchids at the Royal Botanical Gardens and in the evening – night time safari at Singapore Zoo where you walk and drive round the zoo seeing the animals in their night time habitat.

Wednesday 13 September – Morning visit to futuristic park. 'Gardens By The Bay' - an exhibition centre with a difference – incredible 'Harvest' exhibits, waterfalls and views across the bay. In the afternoon Singapore Slings in Raffles (got to be done) – and in the evening 7-hour flight with Singapore Airlines to Sydney.

Thursday 14 September – Fantastic sea views from our room in Coogee, Sydney. Surprised Jenni by meeting her at Sydney Airport foiling her attempt to surprise us by arriving early at our hotel. Great family reunion (many of you will have seen it on Facebook).

Friday 15 September – Walked the coastal path from Coogee to the famous Bondi beach – great for surfing.

Saturday 16 September – Day trip to the Blue Mountains – 2-hour drive from Sydney – incredibly dramatic mountain scenery, completed a Bush walk and saw many different birds. Watched local Waradah Aboriginal show which was very interesting. Went on an almost vertical cable railway – Geraldine and Jenni crying/laughing at same time as very fast and very steep. First sight of koalas, wombats and kangaroos at Featherdale Wildlife Park. Returned to Sydney via Rivercat ride down the Parramatta River where we got our first close up views of Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House.

Sunday 17 September - Quieter day – got ferry to Manly and walked round the coastal path.

Monday 18 September – Peter and James walked over Sydney Harbour Bridge. Geraldine and Jenni went shopping!

Tuesday 19 September – Morning visit to Taronga Zoo – incredible Sydney Bay views the animals have. In the afternoon what has to be one of the highlights of the whole trip – a boat trip to see the hump back whales which were travelling back to Antarctica with calves. Awe inspiring as the whales spout and breach out of the water.

Wednesday 20 September - Got to be done – wine tasting trip to Hunter Valley – first sighting of wild kangaroos – hic!

Thursday 21 September – Another highlight of the whole trip Peter and James climbed to the top of Sydney Harbour Bridge (attached by cable) – amazing experience and views. Geraldine and Jenni went shopping! Great seafood tea at famous Doyles restaurant at Watson Bay.

Friday 22 September - picked the hire car up and drove to scenic Palm Beach where they film 'Home and Away' – great for surfing – great views from the lighthouse.

Saturday 23 September to Monday 25 September – drove the 800 miles from Sydney to Melbourne along the scenic coastal road. Incredible views with more sightings of whales. In the evening first walk out to see the wild 'Little Blue' penguins at St Kilda harbour. Males return from a day's fishing to feed the females who have laid eggs and nest amongst the manmade boulders of the harbour.

Tuesday 26 September – Sightseeing around the city of Melbourne including going up the Eureka Tower – 297.3 metres high. At the top went into 'The Edge' a clear glass cube which projects 3 metres out of the building and 285 metres up with you in it – not good if you don't do heights!

Wednesday 27 September - drove down the most famous road in Australia - The Great Ocean Road to one of the most famous Australian sights the rock pinnacles known as 'The 12 Apostles' although there are only 8. Again, amazing views.

Thursday 28 September – quieter day around Melbourne, went on one of the oldest remaining wooden roller coasters (the only one in the world with a human braking system) at Luna Park and another evening visit to see the penguins.

Friday 29 September – Visit to Sea Life Aquarium at Melbourne amazing sights including Dragon fish, stingrays, penguins and crocodiles. Our last meal together in the evening with all four of us at Abbey Road Restaurant in St Kilda – very nostalgic, great food and great music.

Saturday 30 September - James leaves in early hours for his flight back to Heathrow via Dubai. Peter, Geraldine and Jenni have last full day together around St Kilda, Melbourne.

Sunday 1 October – With much sadness but having had an amazing holiday – Peter and Geraldine leave Jenni for the return flight to Manchester via Singapore,

An amazing family reunion in Australia – would definitely go back again.

Peter Grieve

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked on



3 Dec: Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme Carols in the Park – Oak Meadow Service on Sat 9th Dec. A good number of people attend and hear the message of Christmas.

10 Dec: Chelwood Baptist Rev. Andrew Philips as he develops his ministry and leads the fellowship within the community. For those who volunteer at the Foodbank.

17 Dec: Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme For all the services taking place this week, Crib Services, Christingles, School Carol Services. That young and old will rejoice that the Saviour of the World has come, born in a stable at Bethlehem.

24 Dec Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme All the Church services taking place – Christmas Holy Communion- Christmas Day Services- will be a blessing to all who attend.

A Saviour is born !

Colour in one star
a day as you
countdown to
Christmas

Read the
Christmas
story in
Luke 1 and 2



CHRISTMAS
BABYTHOLYJUDEARTH
BJPEACESONOFLOCKPUS
ROFIELDEGASHEPHERDS
IYONBORNNOZEGMARYAAA
NMRNATOZOAPAAALIRIVV
GODSCHILDRHLNASOSII
LJESUSHONELIGHTOEDO
OGUARDIBETHLEHEMZSU
RSLSHEEPWHYERLORDOR
YNNANGELSBHEAVENAME

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID
HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN
SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING
GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT
PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

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.

	3 DEC	10 DEC	11 DEC	14 DEC	17 DEC
Service	Morning Worship	Family Service	Bereavement Service	Candlelight Service	Lessons & Carols
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	7.30 pm	8.00 pm	10.30 am
Leaders	Linda Rayner	Rev Alan Poolton	Rev Alan Poolton	Ladies Circle	In House
Reader	H Elsdon	B Platt		various	various
Elder Duty	G Elsdon	P Oliver	B Stevens	S Smith	H Frankish
Door Duty	H Elsdon	B Platt	N Lawrence	A Manley	V Elliott
Flowers	Scottish Dancing	D Green	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
Coffee	A & S Altree	V Elliott / M Hardie		Ladies Circle	V Wilson / M Wightman
Notes	ADVENT SUNDAY CHRISTINGLE	BREAKFAST BEFORE			

	24 DEC		25 DEC	31 DEC
Service	Morning Communion	CHRISTMAS EVE AT BRAMHALL	Family Service	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	11.30 pm	9.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Bernie Stevens	Rev Alan Poolton JOINT SERVICE AT BRAMHALL	Rev Alan Poolton	Margaret Dexter-Brown
Reader	L Frankish		J Hodson	V Lees
Elder Duty	C Davies / G Elsdon		A Stevens	P Oliver
Door Duty	D Green		B Danson	M Morton
Flowers	Christmas		Christmas	Christmas
Coffee	H Elsdon / M Morton			B & A Stevens
Notes	CHRISTMAS EVE		CHRISTMAS DAY	LOW SUNDAY

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

NOVEMBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.

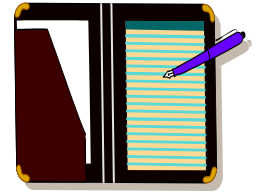
CHRISTMAS INTERNAL MAIL

There will be a 'post box' in the church foyer for all those Christmas cards you want to send to friends who come to Swann Lane.

There will be a box on the side for small donations to take account of the postage saved! These, along with those contributions for published Christmas Greetings in the magazine, will go to the charities.

CALENDAR

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



DECEMBER

Fri 01	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 02	10.00 am	COFFEE MORNING & CHRISTMAS STALL		
Mon 04			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 05	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm	Elders' meeting ~ Church
Wed 06				
Thu 07				
Fri 08	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Mon 11			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 12	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church		
Wed 13	12.15 for 12.30 -2 pm CHRISTMAS LUNCH (pre-booked)			
	2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship ~ Carols with the Choir		
Thu 14	8.00 pm	Ladies Circle ~ Candlelight Service		
Fri 15	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 16			7.00 pm	FILM NIGHT
Mon 18			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 19	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church		
Wed 20				
Thu 21				
Fri 22			7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 23				
Mon 25				
Tues 26				
Wed 27				
Thu 28				
Fri 29			7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal

JANUARY 2018

Mon 01			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 02	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church		

Copy for **JAN 2018** **CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **17 DEC 2017**

Edited & Published by Bernie & Alison Stevens, 77 Dean Lane, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 6EJ
01625 877180; swannlanesecretary@gmail.com