

CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
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www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk



The
United
Reformed
Church

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JANUARY 2019

Friends,

What a legacy!

The charity Oxfam recently received a legacy of £41 million following the death of business man Richard Cousins. Richard was killed in a plane crash in Sydney Harbour on New Year's Eve **2017**, and he died alongside his two sons, his fiancé and her daughter, and the pilot.

A year before the tragic accident Richard, the CEO of catering firm Compass Group, had inserted into his will a 'common tragedy clause', stating that in the unlikely event of him and his immediate family members all dying at the same time, the majority of his fortune should be given to Oxfam. Little did he realise that such an obscure clause would actually be triggered, and so soon.

A will comes into effect only on the death of the person who makes the will. The Bible speaks in the book of Hebrews about the death of Jesus in these terms: 'In the care of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living (9:16-17).'

Just as Oxfam were the undeserving beneficiaries of such a wonderful legacy, so we too are the undeserving beneficiaries of the amazing benefits of what Christ has done on the cross. We receive an inheritance beyond our wildest dreams, which we could never have expected. His death triggered the clause whereby we could benefit from His suffering.

And what is that inheritance?

It is the knowledge that our sins can be forgiven, that we can enter in to a living relationship with God, that our eternal future is secure. This is a legacy far more valuable than any amount of money.

Don't miss out on your amazing inheritance. Christ died for us all, and YOU are included in His will. The benefits of His death at Calvary are there for you to receive freely, and without condition. You too can be very rich!

Rev Tony Horsfall, Parish Pump

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Christmas celebrations are over and most of us will now look forward towards the New Year and spring. We must remember those who are anxious or depressed and feel they have nothing to look forward to. We pray also for those who are sick at the moment. We think of Marjorie as she waits for test results and remember those bereaved.

Congratulations to Bernie and Alison on the birth of Martha Jeanne, their fourth granddaughter. We wish the family well.

We had many services over the Christmas period. Our regular services were led by Margaret Dexter-Brown (Christingle), and Rev Alan (the Family Service, the Bereavement /Remembrance Service and Communion on 23 Dec). The Ladies Circle led the Candlelight service, which was very well attended and the Lessons and Carols was headed up by Andy Altree. Some people joined with Bramhall when Alan led a joint Christmas Eve midnight service there. On Christmas Day we were back home at Swann Lane with Alan, and Bernie led the last service of 2018 on Low Sunday.

The first Jumble Sale of 2019 will be held on Sat 23 FEB and, as always helpers and jumble are needed. Please contact Mavis if you have any queries.

Thanks go to everyone who supplied goods for and bought gifts from the Christmas stall - your efforts raised £319.40 in aid of Church charities.

The Retiring Collection taken after the Christingle Service amounted to £57 which was sent to the Children's Society who were celebrating the 50th anniversary of their bringing Christingle to this country with a service held in Lincoln Cathedral in 1968.

Thank you to all those friends of Swann Lane who sent cards and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sum 13 JAN - CHURCH MEETING

Sat 23 FEB - JUMBLE SALE

Sun 23 JUN - Church 150th Anniversary

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

In December we held our Carol Service. This year it followed the Christmas Lunch organised by Sandy and Morag which was delicious. A good number of people stayed on for the service which was encouraging, and this was followed by a cup of tea and, of course, a mince pie. Many thanks to Eric for his excellent musical contribution. Our next meeting is in January on the 2nd and is, of course, our New Year's buffet lunch at Vivienne's, starting at 12.30.

Carole Davies

LADIES CIRCLE

The Ladies Circle held their annual Candlelight Service on Thursday 13 DEC which, as always, was well attended. Thanks go to everyone involved with the organisation, including the choir, so ably led by our choirmaster and organist, Eric Ward

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

TO ALL MY FRIENDS

Thank you for all your cards and kind words at this time. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a good 2019. I have put a donation in to **Walthew House** instead of sending you cards this year. Best wishes.

Barbara Danson

THANK YOU

...so much to the wonderful ladies at Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church for organising a special toddlers playgroup Christmas party. We appreciate the extra effort in arranging the party which the children all thoroughly enjoyed. Of course, thank you also for the hard work you all put in throughout the year organising such a lovely playgroup.

**With best wishes from the parents/
carers & children of TODDLERS.**

COFFEE MORNING
In aid of British Epilepsy Association
On Saturday 2nd February 2019
at 10.00-11.45am
ALL ARE WELCOME

CHURCHES TOGETHER in CH

Month of January

St Ann's Let us all use the prayer from St Ann's during this first month of the year ... We pray for strength to hear and live the words we pray when we gather for worship. We pray for all Christian parents raising their children to live according to the Gospel, that they be given grace to live what they teach.



w/c 6 Jan: Emmanuel

For minister Anthony Barnshaw and the fellowship at Emmanuel.

w/c 13 Jan: Grove Lane Baptist

For the minister Ruth Gouldbourne and the fellowship working together to encourage the young people to grow in faith.

w/c 20 Jan: Society of Friends

The worship meetings and the fellowship as the witness in practical ways in the community.

w/c 27 Jan: Chelwood Baptist Church

Reaching into the community to give support and help especially to those who rely on the Foodbank for the food they need. For those who volunteer at this busy time of year.

St Andrew's

The students from Capernwray Bible College, this weekend, meeting with people at St Andrew's and preparing for the Outreach Week at the end of February.

FELLOWSHIP CLUB
WED 2 JAN
2 ~ 3.30 pm
New Year's Buffet at Vivienne's

MEMBERSHIP

Within our **new partnership**, starting in the New Year, there will be a series of sessions for those wanting to find out more about the United Reformed Church and what it stands for and who might be interested in membership within their local church. If you are interested, please let Alison know and she can pass your details on to me or Jen Strachan at Heald Green.

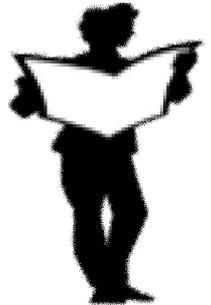
Christopher Whitehead
(Bramhall)

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SOUP, SWEET and MEET
WED 9 JAN
12 pm - 1.30 pm

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Thank you to the all donors for their recent generous contributions towards CHURC News and the Church charities.



CHURCH MEETING

A copy of the Minutes of the October Church Meeting are enclosed in the magazine for members. Reports from the Secretary and Management along with a financial statement will be available at the meeting, and fully audited accounts will be ready in April.

Please do all you can to attend the meeting.

Alison Stevens

SUPPORT for REFUGEES & MIGRANTS

European Church leaders joined in affirming the values of dignity, respect and compassion for refugees and migrants.

URC General Assembly Moderators, Derek Estill and the Revd Nigel Uden joined in for the United Reformed Church.

On 4 December, a Christmas statement, signed by more than 30 Church leaders from Europe, was jointly issued by the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) and the Conference of European Churches (CEC). On the same day, it was presented to Mairead McGuinness, First Vice-President of the European Parliament in Brussels.

In the statement, the Church leaders said: 'In the spirit of Christmas, we ask you to work and pray for a welcoming and inclusive community in Europe. 'As Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, they wait in hope and anticipation, remembering Isaiah's prophecy: *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."* (Isaiah 9.2)

'We call on the nations and the people of Europe, on the political leaders and on our Churches: **Don't allow us to become indifferent to the suffering of others.**

'Let us rather cherish the dignity of those who need our help and recognise that welcoming the stranger is part of our Christian and European heritage. 'May we be courageous and confident in the Son of God, the Light of the World, whose birth we celebrate. 'Christ will show us the way for a future life together.'

The statement's signatories come from diverse Church traditions across Europe, including Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and African-Instituted.

Speaking after the handover ceremony, Ms McGuinness commented: 'This statement is timely, challenging and is really worth reading. It calls upon all of us who have strong shoulders to bear greater weight than those who have less strong shoulders. It reminds us that everyone has a responsibility and that we need to care ... If we don't care at Christmas time then what is the best time to care for those less fortunate?'

URC website

TRAIDCRAFT GOES 'SKINNY'

The **Fairtrade** pioneer Traidcraft has made radical changes in order to avoid closure.

It has slashed its product lines and kept just 12 employees. It will now focus on a core range of grocery products such as tea, coffee, and lavatory paper, and fewer handicrafts.

But it promises to still challenge the conventional market by adopting a more radical approach to labelling, and to ensuring that customers know how much money has gone to the producer of each product.

**Parish Pump
(news website)**

THRIVE NOT JUST TO SURVIVE

As Christians, we believe that God doesn't just promise life, but life in all of its fullness (John 10:10). We want all of God's created Kingdom not just to survive, but to thrive. What will it take to make this happen, and to reach the global target of limiting the temperature rise to **1.5** degrees?

Breakfast Before
on 13 JAN
[& every 2nd Sunday]
Typical menu:
**Cereal, toast, fruit
tea, coffee, fresh orange,
bacon baps, pancakes or croissant**

Here are three ways you can begin to make changes, to see the world not just surviving, but thriving.

What will it take personally?

Have you thought about swapping the energy you use at home and at church for energy which helps God's creation to thrive?

The **Big Switch** helps churches and energy users to switch from fossil fuel based energy providers to energy suppliers that use electricity generated from 100% renewable sources such as solar, wind or water flow.

Clean energy sources help all of God's creation to thrive. If we act collectively to show a demand for renewable energy, we can send a clear message to governments to show that Christians are prepared to act for change.

Not only will this dramatically decrease our use of fossil fuels, but it will also provide investment into clean energy technologies. This will help to make clean energy sources more accessible to consumers all over the world.

Find out more, including energy providers and the difference you can make, at www.bigchurchswitch.org.uk.

What can we do as a church?

Is your church an Eco Church? Eco Church is a programme to help your church celebrate what it's already doing to care for the environment and decide what to tackle next. Care for all of God's creation is an integral part of loving our neighbours and following God faithfully, and Eco Church can help you make this central to your worship.

Signing up to Eco Church can help you think about your worship and teaching, how you engage with your local community, the personal lifestyles of your congregation and how you look after your buildings and land.

An easy online survey will help you see if your church already qualifies for a Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco Church award, and what you can do to reach the next level. Find support, stories and the opportunity to sign up at ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk. If you're in Scotland, have a look at <http://www.ecocongregation.org/>.

What can we do nationally?

We need to set national targets if we want to see the temperature rise capped to 1.5 degrees. If we want to see the world thrive, we need to put pressure on our governments to make bolder, braver commitments.

Ten years ago, MPs committed to passing a game-changing law: The Climate Change Act. However, ten years on, we have to be going much further if we are going to see our world thriving. We need to set a target of net zero well before 2050, which means only producing the same amount of greenhouse gases as we

absorb.

A group of MPs have already come together to ask for this in a cross-party letter. But to make real change, we need more MPs to sign up.

Add your name to joint letters to your MPs asking them to become a hero for zero here:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/climate-change-act-eaction>

Alternatively, set up a meeting with your MP, and talk about how they can be a Hero for Zero. Find resources and help at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/meetyourmp.

Joint Public Issues Team

LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE

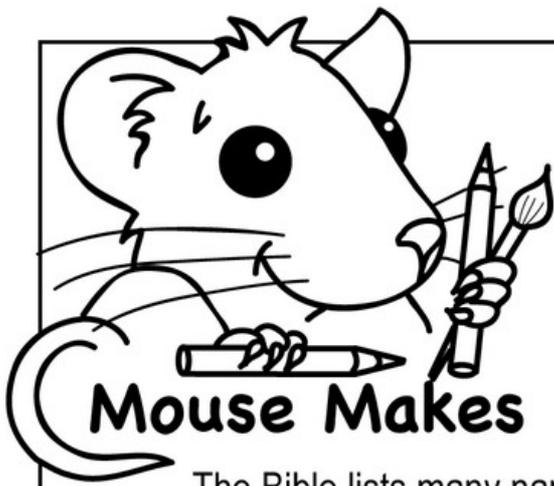
An old, tired-looking dog wandered into my house. Slowly he walked into the sitting room, and fell asleep on the rug.

An hour later he went to the door, and I let him out. The next day he was back, walked by me into the house, and again slept for an hour or so in the sitting room. This daily visit and nap continued for several weeks. Curious, I finally pinned a note to his collar: 'Are you are aware that your sweet dog comes to my house each day for a nap?'

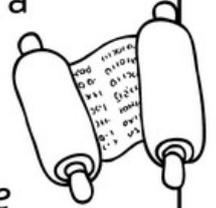
The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar: "He lives in a home with my six children - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

Parish Pump





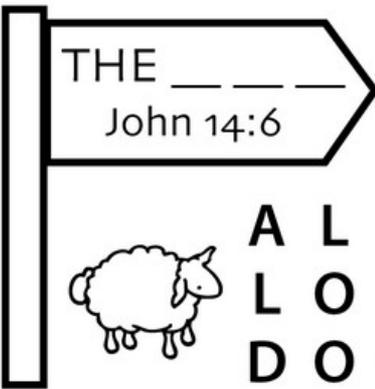
Eight days after their baby had been born, Mary and Joseph named him with the name the angel Gabriel had given them long before he had been born. It was a very special name for a very special baby... the name **JESUS** which means **GOD IS SAVIOUR**.



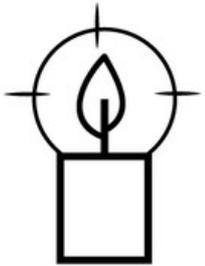
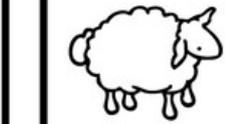
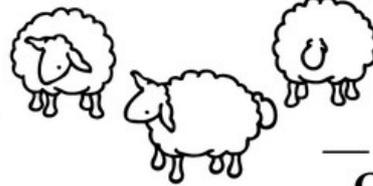
"You are to give him the name JESUS because he will save his people from their sins."

Read Luke 2:21-38

The Bible lists many names and titles that were given to Jesus. There are 28 to find in the wordsearch, most are listed below but for some you will have to look up the Bible verses!



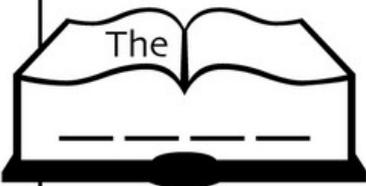
S _____ John 10:11



_____ H _____ John 8:12



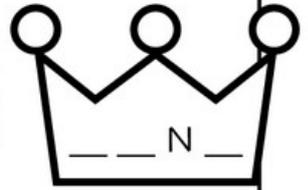
John 6:35



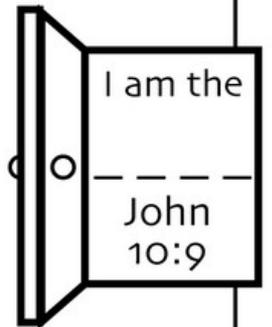
John 1:1-5

A L P H A T S B R E A D H
 L O C O R N E R S T O N E
 D O O R S A V I O U R D M
 W S O N O F M A N P L J M
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_____ OF GOD John 1:29



Revelation 17:14



S _____ R

ALPHA • LORD • JESUS • MESSIAH • LIFE
 TRUTH • PROPHET • PRINCE • JUDGE
 SON OF GOD • SON OF MAN • CHRIST
 VINE • ROCK • REDEEMER • MEDIATOR
 CORNERSTONE • EMMANUEL • OMEGA

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.

	6 JAN	13 JAN	20 JAN	27 JAN
Service	Morning Worship	Family Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Robert Williams	Rev Alan Poolton	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Rev Alan Poolton
Reader	T Clarkson	V Elliott	L Frankish	J Hodson
Elder Duty	C Davies	B Stevens	H Frankish	P Oliver/S Smith
Door Duty	D Green	V Elliott	A Manley	N Lawrence
Flowers	Christmas	D Green	B Platt	A Stevens
Coffee	V Wilson M Wightman	A & S Aintree	B & A Stevens	H & L Frankish
Notes	1ST AFTER EPIPHANY	BREAKFAST BEFORE CHURCH AGM		HOLY COMMUNION Induction of Elders

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

The New Year 2019

2018 has slipped away
And a New Year now comes into view,
What will it hold, no-one yet knows
What will it bring - good or bad news?

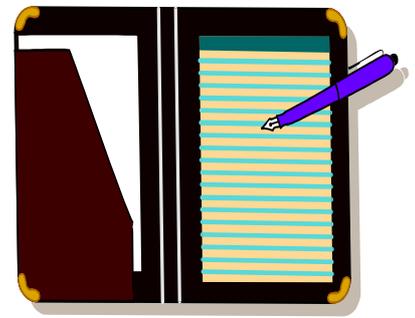
Whatever the way the wind will blow
Our craft is safe in the Master's hand,
Whether placid seas or sudden storms
The wind and the waves are at His command

Our lives like a voyage keep journeying on
With vistas new and vistas past,
The Lord in His mercy holding us tight
Steering us on to safe harbour at last.

by Megan Carter

CALENDAR (programme of services inside)

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



JANUARY 2019

Tues01	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church		
Wed 02		2.00-3.30 pm	Fellowship Club	~ New Year's buffet at Vivienne Wilson's
Thu 03				
Fri 04	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Mon 07			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues08	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting ~ Church
Wed 09		12.00-1.30 pm		SOUP, SWEET and MEET
Thu 10				
Fri 11	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Mon 14			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues15	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church		
Wed 16				1st meeting of Missional Partnership Steering Group
Thu 17				
Fri 18	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Mon 21			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues22	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church		
Wed 23				
Thu 24				
Fri 25	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 26			7.00 pm	FILM NIGHT
Mon 28			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues29	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church		
Wed 30				
Thu 31				

FEBRUARY

Fri 01	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 02	10.00 am-12 noon			COFFEE MORNING in aid of Epilepsy charity

Copy for **FEBRUARY 2019** **CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **20 JAN 2019**

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