

# CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme  
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[www.cheadlehulme.urc.org.uk](http://www.cheadlehulme.urc.org.uk)



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

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**APRIL 2017**

## **1 Corinthians Chapter 15**

***<sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins. <sup>18</sup> It would also mean that the believers in Christ who have died are lost. <sup>19</sup> If our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world."***

Hi everyone, welcome to April, the season of Spring, and importantly for Christians, the month, this year of Easter. I for one will not be sorry to see the winter behind us. For the many of you whose faces I coughed and spluttered into, my deepest apologies.

Are you feeling confident in the world about you? As I write this the headlines are.... Trump..... Brexit..... Scottish Independence... and more worryingly, famine in East Africa with approximately 20 million people under threat. I don't know about you but I for one have become a touch blasé about bad news, its all I ever seem to hear, and yet... the world still turns.

I wonder if you feel confident about sharing your faith? About explaining why, to an increasingly sceptical world driven by everyday worries, why you believe in a God who values us all and wants to have a relationship with us all? Like a Father calling to his long lost children, time to come home.

It is easy to become disheartened, but I would urge you not to do so. Lent is a time of preparation, of personal reflection and I would urge you to do some reflecting on your life journey. Look back on the many twists and turns that life has had in store for you. Remember the words of the footsteps poem and look back especially on the hard times, the times you spent in your own personal desert of doubt and troubles. Remember how God was there for you when you most needed Him. He did not desert you then and his promise is that he will not desert you now. I would urge you to stand up for what you have come to believe in, and as Christians, the resurrection is central to belief – as Paul says, if it has no basis then we are to be pitied more than anyone. But I don't feel that I deserve pity. I look back on a life full of faith and fulfilment, of God being there for me when I most needed those strong and supportive arms around me, and I am sure that that is also true for you.

**Have a good Easter, Alan**

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always on your back,  
May the sun shine warmly upon your face,  
And the rain fall softly on your fields,  
And, until we meet again,  
May the Lord hold you in the hollow of His hand.

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We remember, in our prayers, any of our congregation, friends and family who are sick, lonely or depressed, those who are housebound and unable to meet with friends and families and finally those who are bereaved, having to come to terms with their loss. Our thoughts are especially with Michael & Mo Morton, Barbara & Tommy Danson, Andy & Sue Altree and Elsie Shackcloth.

We are eternally grateful to friends of Swann Lane who 'fill our pulpit' when Alan is leading worship elsewhere. Sandy & Morag revealed much of the work of Fairtrade when they led worship on 5 MAR and Ed Strachan was with us once again.

This year we share Palm Sunday with our friends from Bramhall UIRC. The 'Palm crosses' are from Tanzania and are made in villages in the Massai diocese where the villagers made them whilst guarding their maize crops from baboons!

Our February Jumble Sale realised £750. It is wonderful that so much money can be raised from 'unwanted stuff'. We must thank the stoic helpers who turn out year by year to make this effort possible.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sat 7 JUL** - Summer Open Day - Hylton Dr

**Sat 14 OCT** - Fish & Chip Supper + Beetle Drive

**The News Team**

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## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At the Jumble Sale in February Vera purchased a CD, a recording of Joyce Grenfell's songs and poems. 10 members very much enjoyed listening to this at our March meeting held at Vera's home. We could all smile and comment on this wonderful artiste before having refreshments.

Thank you Vera for a lovely afternoon. The next meeting on 5 APR is at my home at 2.15 pm

**Vivienne Wilson**

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## LADIES CIRCLE

Our March meeting was held at Vivienne Wilson's where we were given a talk by Elva on "Springs remembered", interspersed with music and poetry. This was very much enjoyed and made us all feel that Spring was indeed on the way.

Thanks go to both Vivienne and Elva for such a pleasant evening. The next meeting will be on 20 APR at Bernice's home **Vera Lees**

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**WED ~ 12 APR**

**Soup Sweet & Meet**

**12.00 ~ 2 pm**

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**48 YEARS AGO!!!!**

**CYCLING NORTH WALES** - *By now, you are probably thinking this excursion has gone on long enough, but honestly, it didn't seem long enough last summer, when Hugh (Mirams) and I were doing the round of North Wales.*

*The tale had got as far as Anglesey. Well, we only stayed at Rhosneigr one night because time, as I said, was just flying and we had to be getting on home. We planned just to get on down the coast road, somewhere around Conway or Colwyn, we'd camp a night, and spend one last night somewhere on the Welsh side of Chester.*

*However, plans were made to be broken, and because Anglesey is so flat and monotonous, we only pushed it as far as Penmaenmawr. We had left quite late anyway. After camping at a nice site under the towering granite cliffs we set off into rain, rain, and more rain.*

*The weather this day was very depressing, but we were getting into the country that we both knew now and the scenery was more varied.*

*Our hemlines were high as well as our spirits for we cycled through Colwyn Bay down in the pouring rain, wearing shorts and capes. This way we kept our trousers quite dry, but ooh, it did little for the crazy Englishman's image: the school (famous, ain't it!) there was out for dinner and did we get some strange looks!!!*

*By now we had decided that we just had to have another day, or two, in the wilds. So we camped again at Rhyl, intending still to camp nearer Chester and make the closing stages of the ride very easy. We had terrible trouble, however, finding a camping site near Rhyl. All of those near the front would only take family parties and the one we eventually found was almost five miles inland and was being closed by the Council the next day!*

*The weather hit at us again the next day; that would be the Friday after August Bank Holiday. We just mounted our faithful steeds and headed in the general direction of Cheadle Hulme. We were going to camp at Chester but we got there for dinner, so we just kept on going into the rain and had dinner much later, near Northwich. Of course there was little point in not finishing the job started so we carried on until we got home, at about dusk. That meant that Rhyl to home, some 80 miles, had been completed, with a stop for dinner in about 8 and a half hours; and with full packs. This was the best timing taken during the whole distance.*

*If the first half of the journey was plagued by punctures, the second half was plagued by broken spokes - 12 in one wheel (max 48) by the time I arrived home at Heald Green.*

**A younger Bernie Stevens**

## **Breakfast Before on 9 APR 2017**

[& every 2nd Sunday]

Typical menu available:

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

## **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2017**

Thank you to everyone who supported me in any way over fair-trade fortnight, both the coffee morning and afternoon tea were very well attended and enjoyed by all (I hope!)

I have been able to send £375 to Tradecraft Exchange (50% up on last year!) to help with

their FIVE campaign which supports small farmers in Africa. The farmers are struggling to grow their crops now because of changes to formerly predictable weather patterns; they can no longer rely on the rains coming when they used to.

Traidcraft are giving them training on terracing their land to conserve water, advice on more drought resistant varieties of crops and how to diversify into growing a wider variety of crops. Also, access to more accurate weather forecasts so that they can time their planting for when the rains do come.

Every pound makes a difference to someone's life, which then impacts on their families and the wider community, so thank you again on their behalf.

**Morag Smith**

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## **AM I BEING UNFAIR TO YOU?**

This year's **Women's World Day of Prayer** was prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines and was held at the Methodist Church in Cheadle Hulme.

The Day of Prayer began when the sun rose over Samoa and the first service took place. This began a great wave of prayer around the world. An estimated 3 million men, women and young people in 170 countries and islands will have prayed with and for the people of the Philippines. In the British Isles alone some 6000 services will have been held.

We had a lovely service arranged by Christine from the Methodist Church and concluded by all joining hands around the church for the blessing.

We sang a lovely song for justice for people in need and oppressed and here is a prayer from Amos 5: 24 for this.

"Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream".

**Phillipino Mini Muffins with Coconut** (These muffins were made for after the service and were delicious.)

100g softened butter

100g caster sugar

2 eggs

Tin (397g) condensed milk

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

200g dessicated coconut

80g plain flour

This mixture makes 48 mini (or 24 ordinary) muffins.

Pre-heat oven to 350F (180C, gas 6).

Mix together butter and sugar, beating until fluffy. Add eggs, beating continuously. Add condensed milk and vanilla extract, mix well.

Combine flour and coconut and stir into mixture.

Put into mini muffin cases and bake for 15 to 20 minutes until golden.

ENJOY!

**Carole Davies**

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## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked on:

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church. Praise God for 2 new appointments. May God bless the work of Pauline Moore, Children and Schools' Worker and Susie Metcalf Children and Family Worker.

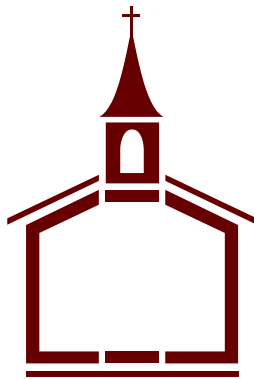
The Lent Lunch held on 8<sup>th</sup> April at 12noon.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April:** Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. All the services taking place in Holy Week as we pray and meditate on the events of Holy Week.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April:** Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. The ministers, fellowships and all who come to celebrate Easter Day and hear the Good News of the risen Jesus.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April:** Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. All those who are housebound, sick, elderly and those in need in our churches. For those who visit.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April:** Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. Those preparing for street



collections, house collections and other events marking the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christian Aid Week- 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

## LENT LUNCHES ~ 12 noon to 2 pm

1 April - Society of Friends

8 April - Methodist

## OAK MEADOW SERVICE

Sat 15 APRIL 11 am

ALL WELCOME

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## "MARY"

*Passover brought no gladness,  
The Paschal feast spelt gloom,  
My heart was torn with sadness -  
My Lord lay in the tomb.*

*Men one day shout "Hosanna,"  
Acknowledging His say;  
The next they turn against Him,  
Cry "Crucify! Away!"*

*They nailed His tortured body  
To the accursed tree;  
They taunted and reviled Him,  
Those crowds who came to see.*

*Today, before the dawnlight,  
Still oh, so weebegone,  
I found the tomb was empty  
My loved one's body gone.*

*Then in my grief I saw Him,  
Though tears disguised my Lord  
Until His voice said "Mary" -  
What joy came with that word!*

*For, with a memory quickened,  
The echoing words came true,  
My Saviour's reassurance -  
"I live - and so shall you."*

Easter 1981

Donald A Hodge (1894-1997)

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## CHRISTIAN AID 50<sup>th</sup> WALK

**The Christian Aid Sponsored Walk in Cheadle Hulme will be 50 this year.** If say 100 people /yr, averaged 8 mile each, that's over 40 000 Cheadle Hulme miles walked!

I clearly remember completing the first walk organised by Jack Gerrard in May 1968, **25 miles** and being sponsored per mile. A sea of mainly teenagers led by our then minister, Amos Cresswell, set off from one Saturday afternoon, walking down Station road to the path near the railway station. We walked to Bramhall Park via the seven arches, up Jackson's Lane and onto the canal at High Lane. At Bollington Methodist Church we were provided with tea and sandwiches, then we continued via Prestbury, with a further stop for refreshments and onto Handforth in the dark, along the A34 and down Turves road, arriving back at church late evening. Jack continued to organise the event for more than 30 years, assisted by his wife Phyllis who organised soup and other refreshments and a band of willing volunteers. Over the year the walk has been modified, for many years walkers were transported by bus to Higher Poynton to the start of the walk then completed one or two laps of Lyme Park. Although the number of walkers have dropped over the years we have continued to raise many thousands of pounds for Christian Aid.

We now offer the choice of three new routes introduced in 2016, to cater for all ages and walking abilities [and considering safety], all starting and finishing at St Martin's Church, Shrigley Rd N, Hr Poynton, SK12 1TE. The 3 & 6 mile walks along the Macclesfield canal in the direction of Marple and back to St Martins along the Middlewood Way, are gentle and suitable for buggies and scooters. The 8 mile route is a circuit around beautiful parts of Lyme Park, passing the Cage, the Lantern and Paddock Cottage, through woods and meadows. All the routes are well signposted, there are marshalls to guide you and we give all walkers a map. Well behaved dogs are also welcomed as walkers. To date our youngest 'walker' was under one and the oldest over 90. Walkers register at St Martin's Church between 10~11 am on the day. Sponsor forms will be available for those planning to ask for sponsorship or alternatively we ask

walkers to make a donation on the day to Christian Aid. Further information about the walk, the three routes and sponsorship forms will be on the Christian Aid notice board at church.

To ensure the walk runs smoothly and as we offer three routes, we need a considerable number of helpers on the day, people to put up and take down the route signs, act as marshalls, help at St Martin's with registration and making refreshments. Please could you offer to help for a couple of hours?

Each year we aim to raise as much as we can through the various events we organise like the **walk**, the **swim** and the street **collection**, as well as the annual house to house collection. This year the Christian Aid committee have signed up to support a matched funded Christian Aid project in the Congo, you may recall the article 'Communication Matters' in last month's magazine. If we can raise £5000 by 2017, this will be **matched funded by the EU** and give Christian Aid £20000. The money from the house to house collection cannot be included so we can only use money raised through the events we organise like the walk. Please could you support Christian Aid though sponsoring a walker, and if you are able to gift aid any donation you give that would bring in even more money for this project.

Please could you note the date of the walk this year, **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**, and consider what you could do, walking, helping with the walk on the day or sponsoring a walker?

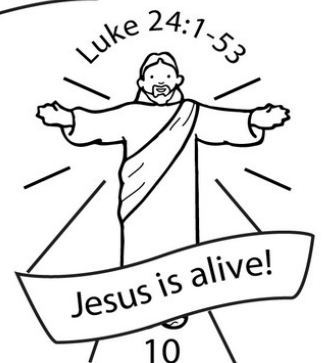
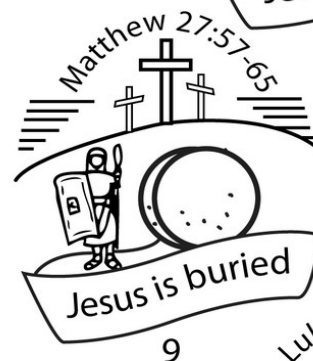
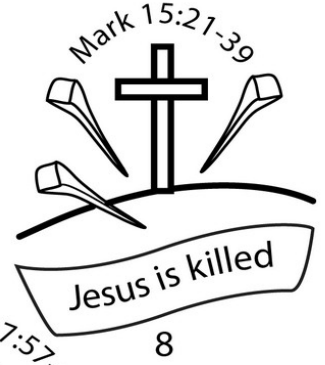
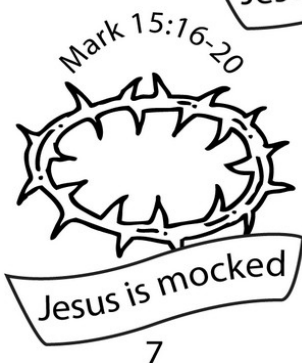
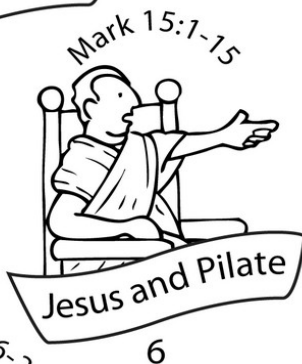
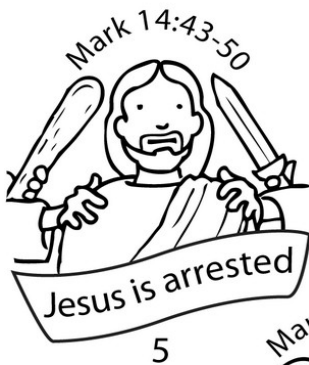
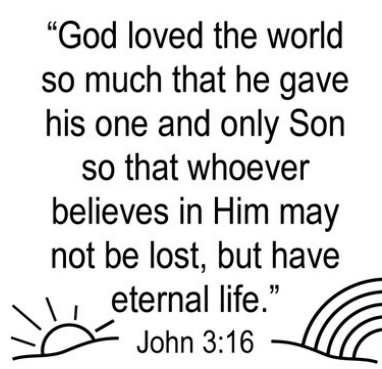
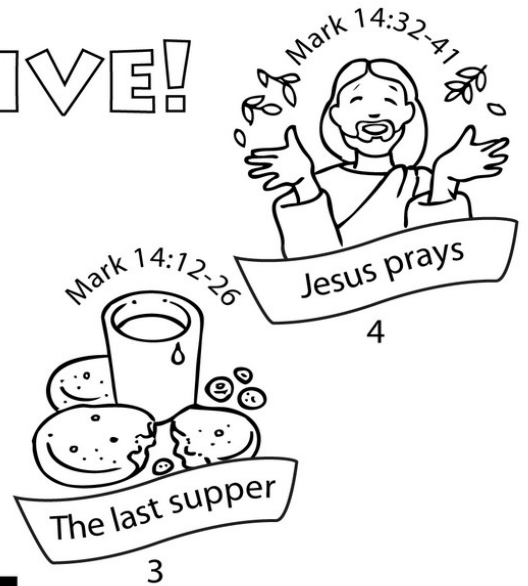
**Gill Smith**

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**7 pm**  
**Sat 22 APR**

# JESUS IS ALIVE!



## 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.

	2 APR	9 APR	13 APR	14 APR	16 APR	23 APR	30 APR
<b>Service</b>	Morning Worship	Joint Worship	Joint TENEBRAE Service	Good Friday Worship	All Age Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
<b>Time</b>	10.30 am	10.30 am	8.00 pm	<b>10.00 am</b>	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
<b>Leaders</b>	Margaret Dexter-Brown	In House	Bernie Stevens	Rev Dr Jack McKelvey	Rev Alan Poolton	Robert Williams	Bernie Stevens
<b>Reader</b>	V Wilson	Various	B Platt	T Clarkson	V Lees	V Elliott	L Frankish
<b>Elder Duty</b>	A Stevens	G Elsdon	C Davies	S Smith	P Oliver B Stevens	A Stevens H Frankish	P Oliver
<b>Door Duty</b>	V Wilson	H Elsdon	B Platt	N Lawrence	A Manley	V Elliott	D Green
<b>Flowers</b>	P Pollitt	C Davies			Easter	Easter	V Lees
<b>Coffee</b>	G Thompson E Shackcloth	C Davies M Smithers			H Elsdon M Morton	V Elliott M Hardie	V Wilson M Wightman
<b>Notes</b>		<b>BREAKFAST BEFORE PASSION DRAMA</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>		

## CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

## HUMOUR

### The taxi

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a department store window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, 'Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!'

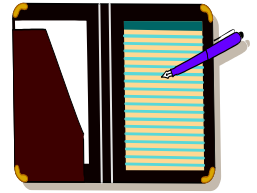
The passenger apologized and said he hadn't realized that just a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, 'You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years.'

**Parish Pump**



## CALENDAR

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



### APRIL

Sat 01	10.00 am	Coffee Morning	
	12 noon	CTCH Lent Lunch ~ Society of Friends	
			<b>7.30 pm Sue's Singers in Concert</b>
Sun 02	11.45 am	Management	
Mon 03			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 04	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm Elders' ~ Church
			7.30 pm Lent Studies ~ Bramhall URC Library
Wed 05	2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship ~ Vivienne Wilson's home	
Thu 06			
Fri 07	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat 08	12 noon	CTCH Lent Lunch ~ Methodist	
Mon 10			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 11	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 12	<b>12 -2 pm</b>	<b>Soup, Sweet &amp; Meet</b>	
Thu 13			
Fri 14			7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 17			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 18	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 19			
Thu 20	8.00 pm	Ladies Circle ~ Bernice Platt's home	
Fri 21	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 22			<b>7.00 pm Film Night</b>
Mon 24			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 25	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 26			
Thu 27			
Fri 28	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
<b>MAY</b>			
Mon 01			8 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 02	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	

Copy for **MAY 2017** **CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **16 APR 2016**

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