

# CHURCH NEWS

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The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

Minister:

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OCTOBER 2018

Friends,

## *Grow an attitude of gratitude*

Harvest is a time of thanksgiving to God for all His provision for us. It is good to cultivate a grateful heart, and studies have shown that people who practise thankfulness tend to have a more **positive** outlook on life, be more **optimistic** about the future, and are generally **healthier** than those who do a lot of grumbling and complaining.

On one occasion Jesus met a group of ten lepers (Luke 17v11). They called out to Him in a *loud voice*, asking for Him to have pity of them, which He did. He sent them to the priest, and on the way they were healed. However, only one of them returned to give **thanks** to Jesus, and he was a Samaritan. He threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him, giving praise to God in a *loud voice*.

It occurs to me that most of us make a loud noise when we are in need of help, but we are much quieter about giving thanks. We are not inhibited when making our needs known to God, but how many of us make a point of giving Him thanks when we have received His help? Do we sing His praises loudly? Do we give clear testimony to what the Lord has done?

Why not try and cultivate the discipline of **gratitude** in your life? Make it a rule to thank anyone who helps you in some way, or who encourages you. Let them know you appreciate them. Review each day before you sleep, reminding yourself of every good thing that happened, and offering your thoughts to God as a prayer. Introduce a short time of giving thanks in your church service. In your home group have a time of praying short, sentence prayers of gratitude to God. Keep a gratitude diary.

Rather than focus of what you don't have, or what has gone wrong, train your mind to focus on what you **do** have, and what has gone **right**. You will be surprised at the difference it can make.

*Rev Tony Horsfall, former missionary in E Malaysia*

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

After a lovely warm summer, the nights are now drawing in and there is a definite chill in the air. We must be mindful of all those people who find the winter months very difficult - those who are sick, or anxious. We pray that they may be **comforted** by friends and families.

During September we were pleased to welcome **Alan back** after his sabbatical. It was good to join him with the congregation in Bramhall on the third Sunday that month. Ed Strachan and Margaret Dexter-Brown also led worship at our services.

We are grateful to Chris Dexter-Brown not only for the **handmade greetings cards/book marks** he has left for sale, the proceeds from which will go to our charities, but for the help which he and Margaret gave with the running of the Film Night.

The Fellowship Club has now moved to the **1st Wednesday** in the month and will take place in the Church from 2.00~3.30 pm.

Soup, Sweet and Meet continues on the **2nd Wednesday** in the month from 12~1.30 pm.

If you have not already put your name down for the **Fish & Chip Supper & Beetle Drive** on Sat 13 OCT, it is not too late. Numbers are limited to 40.

Don't forget to come along for a nibble and a natter to the coffee morning on Saturday 6 OCT at 10.00 am to support people facing cancer and the MacMillan nurses. If you would like to bake your favourite cake or just bring some along that would be great. Let's change lives with every slice.

**The News Team**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sun 14 OCT CHURCH MEETING inc**

**Election of Elders**

**Sun 28 OCT—SHOEBOXES needed...**

**Sun 11 NOV - Remembrance Service followed by Exhibition - lunch refreshments available**

**Wed 12 DEC - Christmas Lunch - list for signatories will be available shortly**

## LADIES CIRCLE

The September meeting was hosted by Heather Elsdon at her home where 10 of us gathered for a really delightful evening.

Heather had got together an unusual type of quiz which involved picture cards, after which we had refreshments and chat. We all enjoyed this immensely and the next meeting on 11 OCT will be held at the home of Mo Morton.

Thank you Heather for inviting us to your home.

**Bernice Platt**

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**WED 10 OCT**

**SOUP, SWEET and MEET**

**12.00 pm ~ 1.30 pm**

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**FELLOWSHIP CLUB**

**WED 3 OCT**

**2 ~ 3.30 pm**

**Games and a chat in CHURCH**

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## SHOEBOXES

If you would like to donate items for the shoeboxes, please look at the list on the foyer notice board to see what is needed. If shopping is not possible for you, a financial contribution to the £2/box transport costs will be welcome.

**Bernie Stevens**

## HARVEST ~ 14 OCT

This year, we will again be supporting both **Lifeshare** and **Chelwood Foodbank** with Harvest donations and are therefore asking you to continue your generosity at this special time. Any of the following will be helpful, or you may prefer to make a monetary gift.

Tinned goods - meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, rice pudding. Baby nappies, cereals inc porridge, squash/fruit juices, pasta & sauces, sugar, tea & coffee, long Life UHT milk. Basically, foodstuffs that keep!

Thank you, **Alison Stevens**

Sunday 7 Oct: **All Saints**

For the choir at All Saints and for Trevlyn as she leads them for regular practice and special events.

## St Andrew's

**Sunday 21 Oct Grove Lane Baptist**

## Sunday 28 Oct: Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme

All our fellowships working together to be committed to sharing the Gospel in Cheadle Hulme.

I attended a Traidcraft Roadshow last week in Preston where local Fairtraders could see the new autumn stock and were given an update on Traidcraft's current trading position. **I am very sad to say that if they do not have a good autumn sales season they will not be in a position to carry on trading. All 75 of their staff are on notice of redundancy. The reasons are various:-**

dollars so when the pound dropped it cost them an extra 28%. They also had problems with their new website which did not run as smoothly as hoped at the start, and this cost them thousands of sales as customers abandoned their baskets. Supermarkets have also shifted their focus from fair-trade to giving vegan and gluten free products prominent shelf space which has also had an effect on sales.

As Fairtraders selling to Church communities, we make up 52% of sales so what we buy counts! This year's autumn catalogue has got some lovely items which although not cheap, are really good quality and reflect the work and skill which goes into making them – multi-coloured glass from Palestine comes to mind, alpaca throws which are beautifully soft, leather handbags..... I could go on.

**on 14 OCT**

**[& every 2nd Sunday]**

**Cereal, toast, fruit**

**tea, coffee, fresh orange,**

**bacon baps, pancakes or croissant**

I shall have some catalogues in the next few weeks for you to browse through or those of you who are internet savvy can order direct from the website.

Traidcraft have been fighting the campaign for fair trade since 1979, supporting small producers, lobbying the government, challenging the big companies on how they treat their workers, it's not just about selling goods, it's far from being completed.



Will you help them keep trading by buying some of your Christmas presents this year from Traidcraft? Please support them and keep them in your prayers as they struggle to meet this new challenge.

Thank you, **Morag Smith**

## MINISTRY OF REV ANDREW MILLS

This notice is being circulated for information to ministers and congregations in North Western Synod. It is not confidential.

We write to let you know that **Rev Andrew Mills, Moderator of the North Western Synod** of the United Reformed Church, has accepted a call to return to local church ministry. Andrew is to serve in Southern Synod as minister of Christ Church (UM) Lewes, Cross Way (UM) Seaford and Alfriston Mission Project. He and Ruth expect to move there early in 2019.

Andrew has been Synod Moderator since September 2015. During his years of ministry in the north west Andrew has encouraged the Synod to reflect carefully on what it means to Walk the Way of Jesus and on how members of local congregations can best be helped to develop their discipleship. As a consequence of his leadership the Synod Meeting adopted a Missional Discipleship strategy dedicated to helping churches focus on this aspect of their calling. Andrew has also led the Synod to reorganise the way in which stipendiary ministry is deployed, so that ministers' time and gifts can be focused in the most fruitful way possible on God's mission. In the wider church Andrew has shared in the ministries of the Moderators' Meeting and the Northerly Synods. In each setting he has been unstinting in giving of his time and energy, and his friendship and thoughtfulness have been highly valued.

Andrew offers the following reflection:

*"It has been a privilege to serve the denomination in the role of Moderator of the North Western Synod and particularly during a period where the Synod has been wrestling with significant challenges that confront the whole church. The decision to move mid-term has not been taken lightly.*

*"One of the particular joys for me during this time has been to meet with groups from local congregations a few weeks prior to leading worship on a Sunday, so that we could get to know each other a little more and to explore some of the mission going on as they shared the Good News of Jesus in their community in varied ways. However, these times also stirred within me a sense of loss, in that I was no longer able to*

*participate in such patterns of work directly and share in the witness of God's people in these ways.*

*"Though I have really enjoyed working with many within the Synod and the wider URC, I have personally found the role to be very isolating, losing that deep sense of belonging within a local Christian community, and where relationships with fellow ministers are framed by my role rather than a common sense of collegiality. Some of you know too that Ruth and I struggled with the way in which 'ministry' was no longer something which we were sharing in together but rather something which I now 'did' alone.*

*"I hope that in responding to the call of my heart I have also heard the call of God as I take up this opportunity within congregations to serve in a new phase of ministry."*

Let us be rightly thankful to God for Andrew's ministry in the north west, sensitive to Andrew's response to God's call to him to return to local church ministry, and prayerfully supportive of Andrew, Ruth and their family as they prepare for the move to the south coast.

Let us also be prayerfully supportive of the churches of the North Western Synod, and of all who will be involved in the process of discernment concerning the impending vacancy.

**Rev John Proctor    Gen Sec of the URC**  
**Rev Brian Jolly    Clerk of NW Synod**  
4 SEP 2018

**Sat 27 OCT**

**F I L M**  
**N I G H T**

**7.00 pm**

## WHAT CHURCH LOOKS LIKE IN 2018

The church is both declining and growing! There are **270 different denominations** in the UK, 95 in Scotland. For simplicity these are put into 10 groups, the three largest are the Anglicans, Catholics and Presbyterians. Between them, these three Churches account for 20%, of all the denominations, but sadly, 60% of all the members are declining.

Two smaller groups, the Baptists and the Methodists are also declining. Together, they represent 4% of the denominations and 7% of the members.

That leaves five groups: the **Independent Churches** (such as FIEC and the Brethren), **New Churches** (such as Vineyard and Newfrontiers), **Orthodox**, **Pentecostals** and the **Smaller Denominations** (such as the Salvation Army, Quakers, Seventh-Day Adventists, all the many immigrant churches, and so on). Each of these five groups is **growing** in membership terms. They account for 76% of the UK's denominations but only 33% of church members. Unfortunately, the decline by the larger denominations is too great to be offset by the growth.

The faster growing denominations fall into roughly three equal groups:

1) *Immigrant churches* (especially Poles, Romanians, and Filipinos and Koreans in England and Chinese in Scotland). Most of the Poles are Roman Catholic; many of the Romanians are Orthodox, but the others are mostly Evangelical.

2) *The Pentecostal churches*, which are mostly Black, although welcoming all nationalities. The largest of these is the Redeemed Christian Church of God [RCCG] (planting 800 churches in the UK in the last 20 years). The RCCG uses a mantra straight out of Nigerian bush country, "Plant a church within 10 minutes walking distance" (of where people live), which is equivalent to about a ½ mile circle.

3) *Other growing denominations* include Hillsong, Churches of Christ, the FIEC, Vineyard, and Messy Church. These churches are planted where there is a need or an opportunity.

**Parish Pump website**

## 2 MANY APPLES

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun had posted a note on the apple tray, 'Take only ONE. God is watching.'

At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cakes, next to which, in a child's handwriting, was a sign, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

**Parish Pump**

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & COFFEE

Don Philips is now our Social Enterprise Co-ordinator and has started by recruiting a **High - functioning Autistic Group** to use our premises.

We hope that this is the first of several such outreach groups that are good and useful to the community around us, AND raise our profile as well.

I'm not sure where we will put them all unless and until the coffee bar is created in the lesser hall; on the subject of which, the Management team are comparing the 3 tenders received.

**Bernie Stevens**



*...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...*

# The tale of the Mustard Seed & the tale of the Yeast

JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS



SOME OF HIS STORIES WERE  
VERY SHORT, BUT THEY MEANT  
A GREAT DEAL

ONCE JESUS EXPLAINED HOW  
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN  
WAS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

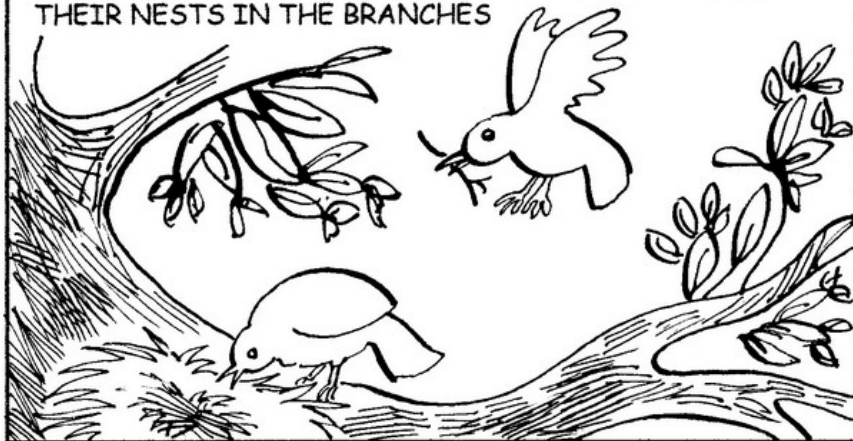


IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST  
OF SEEDS....



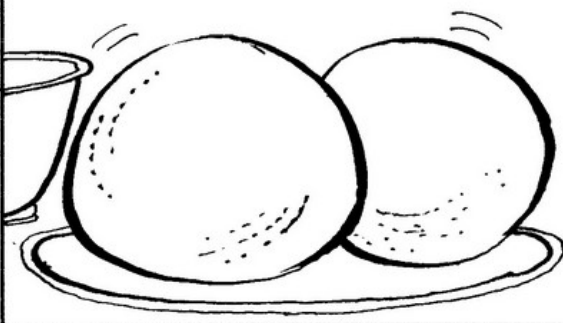
BUT WHEN IT GROWS UP IT IS  
THE BIGGEST OF ALL PLANTS

IT BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT BIRDS COME AND MAKE  
THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES



JESUS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE  
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE YEAST.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TINY INGREDIENT,  
WHEN IT'S MIXED WITH THE FLOUR,  
THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH RISES



THIS WAS JESUS' WAY OF SAYING THAT EVEN IF WE  
HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF FAITH... IT CAN MAKE A  
HUGE DIFFERENCE TO OUR LIVES, AND TO THE LIVES  
OF OTHERS.

## 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.

	7 OCT	14 OCT	21 OCT	28 OCT
<b>Service</b>	Morning Worship	Family Service HARVEST	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
<b>Time</b>	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
<b>Leaders</b>	Heather Frankish	Rev Alan Poolton	Linda Rayner	Rev Alan Poolton
<b>Reader</b>	B Platt	T Clarkson	V Elliott	M Smith
<b>Elder Duty</b>	B Stevens	C Davies	S Smith	G Elsdon / A Stevens
<b>Door Duty</b>	B Platt	A Manley	V Elliott	M Morton
<b>Flowers</b>	Harvest	Harvest	A Pope	H Frankish
<b>Coffee</b>	H Elsdon / M Morton	V Elliott / M Hardie	V Wilson /M Wightman	A & S Altree
<b>Notes</b>		<b>BREAKFAST BEFORE CHURCH MEETING</b>		<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>

## CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

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### The Pianists and Musicians

A long row of black and white keys  
You'd think you could master with ease!  
But blood, sweat, and tears  
And practice for years  
Are needed before one can please!

Yes, singers must be in no doubt  
Musicians don't simply come out  
To support all we singers  
With those skilful fingers –  
If they did, you know you'd soon shout!

I'm afraid that there's only one way  
That these people can skilfully play  
In order to wow us  
They practice for hours  
They practice by night and by day!

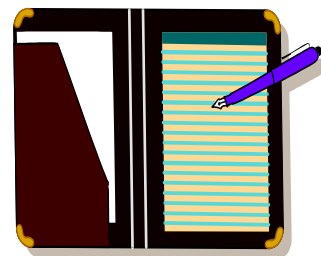
Next Sunday, when they have played well  
Their music entranced, like a spell  
Set aside what you've planned  
And go – shake their hand!  
They won't know you're glad 'less you tell!

***By Nigel Beeton***



## CALENDAR

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



### OCTOBER

Mon 01		8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 02	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	<b>7.30 pm Bible Study ~ Bramhall URC</b>
Wed 03	2.00 pm	Women's Fellowship ~ Church	7.30 pm Elders' meeting ~Church
Thu 04			
Fri 05	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 06	10.00 am	<b>Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan cancer support</b>	
Mon 08		8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 09	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 10	<b>12 ~1.30 pm Soup, Sweet and Meet</b>		
Thu 11		8.00 pm	Ladies Circle ~ Mo Morton's home
Fri 12	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 13		<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Fish &amp; Chip Supper and Beetle Drive</b>
Sun 14	<b>CHURCH MEETING</b>		
Mon 15		8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 16	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	<b>7.30 pm Bible Study ~ Bramhall URC</b>
Wed 17			
Thu 18			
Fri 19	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 20	<b>10 am~1 pm South Area Get-Together re Missional Partnerships ~ Christ Church</b>		
Mon 22		8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 23	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 24			
Thu 25			
Fri 26	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 27		<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Film Night</b>
Sun 28	<b>BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS</b>		
Mon 29		8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 30	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 31			

### NOVEMBER

Thu 01			
Fri 02	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 03	10.00 am	<b>Coffee Morning in aid of Church charities</b>	

Copy for **NOVEMBER** **CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **14 OCT 2018**

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