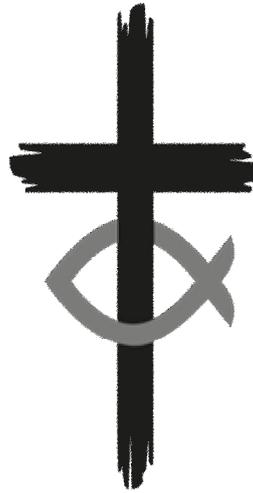


CHURCH NEWS

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



The
United
Reformed
Church

Minister:
0161 485 4132

Rev Alan Poolton MA
swannlaneminister@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2018

Friends,

BACK TO SCHOOL – AND DAILY LIFE

'Most Christians don't really believe that the ordinary things they do every day have anything much to do with God's purposes in time and eternity. But the reality is that God can and does work through His people... among the people they naturally meet, doing the things they normally do.' (Mark Greene).

September is the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. It's a good opportunity to ask how God wants us to make a difference in our workplace, school, family or with friends. Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' (Colossians 3:17).

As disciples, we are called to do the ordinary things in the name of Jesus, i.e. *act in the way Jesus would in our situation.*

'WHATEVER you do': God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which the whole is available to God.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to make a difference to the people and places where we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

'Whatever you DO': Our work is for God alone, out of gratitude for God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do seems hard, unrewarding, or unappreciated by others?

'Work doesn't take us away from God; it continues the work of God.' (Eugene Peterson).

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

As we are reminded, summer is nearly over and autumn is knocking at the door, but for those of our congregation who are anxious or depressed, the changes of the seasons are of little consequence. We pray for those friends who have been ill in any way. We pray especially for Vera Lees, Jean Mirams, Robert Hollingworth, Gerry & Alison Manley, Tommy & Barbara Danson.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with those who have been bereaved and their families - Robert Denton following the passing of his father, and Bernie Stevens, his sister Jeanne.

We send best wishes to John Smeathers and Flo Wilson for their marriage on Sat 15 SEPT at a church in Manchester and hope that the day is a very happy occasion for all the family members concerned.

Congratulations go to Tom Clarkson and Joyce Salloway who celebrated their 90th birthdays on 6 and 30 AUG respectively and to Vernon Elliott who will reach the same age on 25 SEPT.

Unfortunately there were insufficient numbers for the proposed Canal Cruise & Afternoon Tea on 14 AUG but, hopefully, this can be re-arranged for another time.

For the second and third months of Alan's sabbatical, Robert Williams, Margaret Dexter-Brown, Peter Burrows (Chelwood), Hilary Jackson, Ed Strachan, and Heather and Bernie led our worship - we are immensely grateful for the constant support of these friends and members of our fellowship. In August, we were also glad to welcome Alex Moore back to the piano for the Family Service after her maternity break following the birth of her son, Myles.

We send congratulations and best wishes to Alison Smith for her forthcoming Ordination and Induction on Sat 29 SEPT to the pastorate of Hayes Free Church and Trinity Bromley United Reformed Church in the Southern Synod. Cheadle Hulme will be represented at the service. If you would like to attend, please speak to Alison Stevens before 7 SEPT.

The August Jumble Sale realised the sum of £690 towards our Church charities. Many thanks to the loyal 'jumlbers' who make this venture possible.

The Annual Open Day at 18 Hylton Drive on 13 JUL realised £730 towards Church charities. Thank you to all the visitors who came and to those who were unable to but donated in lieu. Thanks also go to those who helped in any way to make this a very happy and worthwhile occasion.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 13 OCT - Fish & Chip Supper and Beetle Drive

Sun 14 OCT - CHURCH MEETING

Sat 20 OCT - South Area Get-Together re Missional Partnerships - 10 am-1 pm Christ Church South Manchester

The Choir Stalls 12 August

Grateful thanks to all who supported me on 5 August. So many cards and so many lovely messages make it a birthday to remember.

Hope you all enjoyed a piece of the special "Gardening" theme cake. I can assure you it was a real treat to go home with such a large empty cardboard box for recycling!

Thanks again to everyone who took time out to join in the celebration. Hope you all enjoy your own special days just as much.

In gratitude - God bless you and yours.

Tom Clarkson

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Fellowship Group got together for lunch at The Governors during August which seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. Thirteen members turned up and we sat around one big circular table with a very grand flower arrangement in the middle. We will meet again as usual after Soup and Sweet on 12th September when we will decide whether to go back to meeting on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month so that we spread our social life out a bit more.

Carole Davies

LADIES CIRCLE

Our last meeting before the summer break was at the Deanwater Hotel where 12 of us assembled on a perfect summer evening for dinner. We had a really lovely evening and from the universally cleared plates, we all enjoyed our meal!

There was no meeting in August but we commence again in September and will be hosted by Heather Elsdon on the 2nd Thursday which will be 9 SEPT.

Bernice Platt

WED 12 SEPT
SOUP, SWEET and MEET

12.00 pm ~ 2 pm

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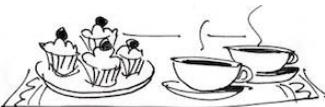
FELLOWSHIP CLUB

1.30 ~ 3.00 pm

THE MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Come along for a nibble and a natter and at the same time support people facing cancer and the MacMillan nurses by coming to the world's biggest coffee morning on Saturday 6 OCT at 10.00 am at Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church.

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.



Heather Frankish

IN PRAISE OF KNITTING

Knitting can be astonishingly good for you. This gentle hobby has been found to lower blood pressure, reduce depression, keep your mind alert, slow the onset of dementia, distract from chronic pain (such as arthritis), boost wellbeing and reduce loneliness.

A major study by the organisation Knit for Peace has found that knitting lowers the heart

Breakfast Before

on 9 SEPT

[& every 2nd Sunday]

Typical menu:

**Cereal, toast, fruit
tea, coffee, fresh orange,
bacon baps, pancakes or croissant**

rate by an average of 11 beats per minute and induces 'an enhanced state of calm.' The repetitive movement also boosts calming serotonin, which lifts your mood and dulls any pain. Knitting also boosts the reward centres of the brain, because it allows people to feel that they can still make a contribution to society.

In Britain, where the NHS spends more than £2 billion each year on blood pressure treatments, around £300 million on anti-depressants, about £26 billion on dementia, and unknown billions on various chronic pains, perhaps more people should take up knitting. As one expert says: 'Research has shown that there is a growing crisis in primary care. As a skilled and creative occupation, knitting has therapeutic potential. There is an enormous amount of research showing that knitting has physical and mental health benefits.'

Perhaps we should start our own knitting circle?

SHOEBOXES

We will try to fill 20 shoeboxes for Eastern Europe on Sunday 28 OCT 2018. We need **unwrapped** shoeboxes, but a start has been made to get the fillings - please check the list to see what we have already.

A balance between ELDERLY and FAMILY 'boxes can be arranged when we see what we have got. If you're not good at shopping or packing, perhaps you can think about the transport costs of £2 per box that we need to find...

Bernie

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sun 2 Sept

St Andrew's & Emmanuel The fellowships as they enjoy the Parish Weekend away together- Fri 7 to Sun 9 Sept. For the speaker as he leads the daily Bible, Worship and Prayer sessions. For all the planned activities and for safety.



Grove Lane Baptist The Induction Service of Rev Ruth Gouldbourne at 2.00pm on Saturday 8 September. For the work of the church going forward under her leadership. For Ruth and Ian (Gouldbourne) to quickly get to know the local Cheadle Hulme area too.

Sun 9 Sept Chelwood Baptist For Rev. Andrew Philips at the start of a new school year as he works with young people in different places and for the fellowship as they serve God in the community.

Sun 16 Sept Society of Friends The fellowship as they meet weekly together and for reaching out with love in the community.

Sun 23 Sept Cheadle Hulme Methodist Thurs 27/9/18- Sun 30/9/18- "It's A Miracle" Flower Festival- many people will come and be uplifted, challenged, and inspired by the stunning tableaux of flowers. Thanks for all those preparing and using their gifts in this way.

Sun 30 Sept Cheadle Hulme Methodist Hosting the Churches Together 5th Sunday Evening Service after a busy weekend. A sense of Christians Together in the community.

CTCH AGM
on Tuesday 25 September
starting at 7pm
and hosted by
Cheadle Hulme Methodist

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

I thought 'twas time to update you all about this sea change coming soon to a church near you.

The background to this is the 'lack of ministers' - well, no, not really. There's still a similar number of ministers for the member numbers, rather all the churches have got smaller and smaller. The URC (we) cannot afford to pay a minister for a mere average membership of 20~30. Shared nationally we only have 1 minister for over 200+ members, so even joined with Bramhall, we're on very shaky ground.

For over 2 years, the moderator placed a moratorium on recruitment to the Synod because the NW had its total allocation. Alison bless her, whom we sent for training, successfully applied to a pastorate pair in Kent.

This blockage is now lifting slowly, but there is now a new wind blowing. The Moderator plans that NO church will have its own minister, instead all churches will be grouped with others. Frankly, only 1 or 2 churches like Wilmslow could reach benchmarks over 200 anyway.

These Partnerships will have meetings to share resources for mission, which includes ministers, preachers, bible study leaders, visitors and other things to be discussed. The first draft had us in a partnership of 7 churches; you may remember some 20 years ago we were in a pastorate of 3 churches.

The final plan sees us in a group of 16 churches BUT sharing 3 or 4 ministers. That gives broadly similar ratios but with more flexibility, though working

collaboratively may be more difficult with such numbers.

New ministers coming into the Synod will be assigned by the Synod to a Partnership, whose Steering Group will plan deployment. The old pastorates, like ours with Bramhall, (and our temporary relationship with Wilbraham St Ninians) will be swept aside in favour of Partnerships. The tide is turning.

The meetings are starting this September though real changes may take time to affect us. Glyn has already booked worship leaders for much of the next 18 months - Alan retires within the next 3~9 months anyway.

The fly in the ointment is the number of ministers in the area of our Partnership of 16 at this moment. I understand there is Alan and 1 other colleague, who is also due to retire! So it may be that our 'partnership' is a name only **until** the synod manages to appoint new people. If, just possibly, elements of the meeting make demands on these 2 retirees Alan may find it prudent to go nearer 3 than 9 months.

Equally, I'm unsure of my own reaction if asked to travel around other churches, though at the moment that will need a change in the rules, but goalposts are moving everyday...

It's easy to be critical of the moderator in all this. Yes he's driving something he believes in, but he inherited a nettle that others refused to grasp, both historically and nationally.

We must travel in faith and prayer, trusting that God's great plan will bare fruit in the fullness of time.

**Bernie Stevens'
opinion**

HERE SHE COMES

May I share some reflections with you. I was not a robust child, nearer something of a wimp. I was the eldest and tried to look out for my 2 sisters, famously once chasing the school bully away. We did bicker, mostly sibling rivalry for scarce resources, but all that changed with adulthood of course.

Even before my parents died, Christine was diagnosed with MS and slowly descended into severe disability, thankfully and graciously managed by brother-in-law Pete. She died in 2004, shortly after them.

Jeanne, the youngest, seemed the strongest of the 3, both physically and mentally, and led a busy life in Leighton Buzzard with 2 boys, and various employments as children's book rep, to swimming instructor, to driving instructor. Four years ago she contracted cancer and recently passed away.

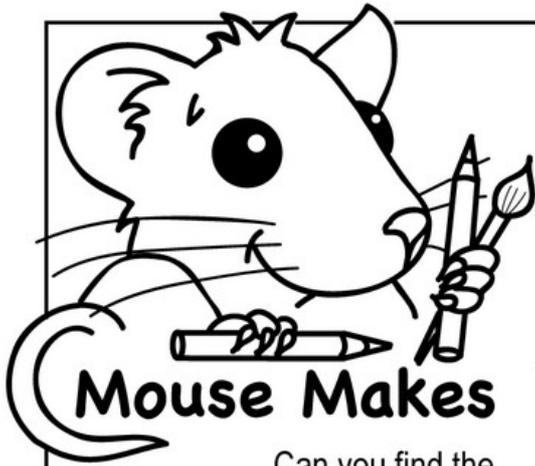
It's tough to lose people younger than yourself, it seems contrary to the natural order but the growing number of funerals we go to has become a fact of life. I am now more or less the patriarch of the family and able to do as I please. Wonderful!

Suddenly it was made clear to me Jeanne expected I would conduct the service. Did I really agree to this, years ago, when we were invincible? I've done lots of services over the last few years, even had extra training for communion services in my role as Local Leader, somewhere short of an accredited Lay Preacher and limited to my own church.

But a funeral? Well, a cremation actually. In fact anybody can officiate in a chapel at crematoriums so there's no jurisdictional issues. Sheila Glenton had set an example and conducted funerals before moving to Devon. But, my own little sister?! A case of "here I am", step up, be brave, get on with the job.

The Internet is wonderful, Google is great. I sketched out an order of service from the URC website, then scrapped it, then simplified another and the funeral directors idea closely matched too. I suggested the hymns, standard stuff really, brother-in-law Denis found some photos. I wasn't nervous now, just loud and clear (but late!) and it was well received. In my sermon, "**There she goes**" changes to "**Here she comes**"...

Thanks God, **Bernie**



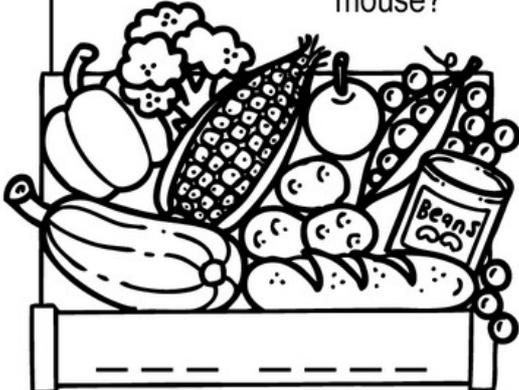
A HARVEST PUZZLE

Change each letter to the letter **before** it in the alphabet to see how QSPWFSCT 3:9 says we can give thanks to God.



IPOPVS

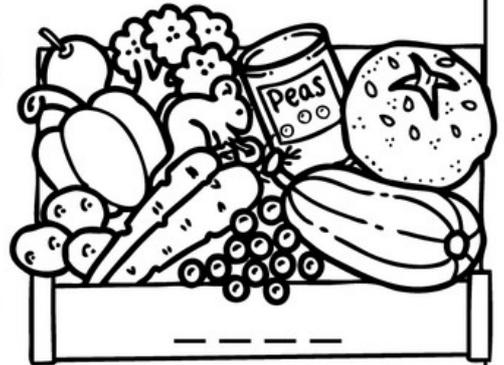
Can you find the mouse?



UIF MPSE

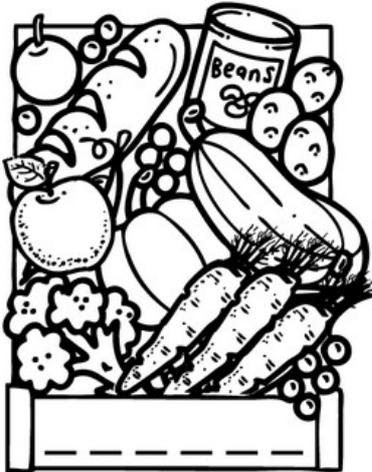


XJUI



ZPVS

Sep18 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



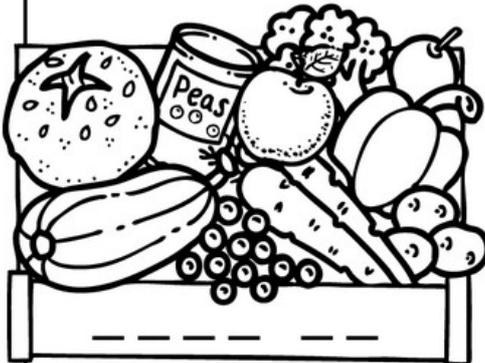
XFBMUI



BOE UIF



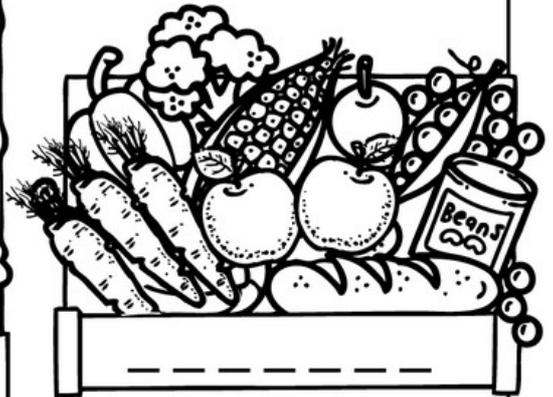
GJSTU



QBSU PG



ZPVS



IBSWFTU

Which two boxes have the same harvest food?

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 SEPT	9 SEPT	16 SEPT	23 SEPT	30 SEPT
Service	Morning Worship	Family Service	JOINT Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	9.30 & 10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Ed Strachan	Rev Alan Poolton	Rev Alan Poolton	Rev Alan Poolton	Margaret Dexter-Brown
Reader	V Wilson	L Frankish	CHEADLE HULME CLOSED	J Hodson	V Lees
Elder Duty	H Frankish	A Stevens		H Frankish /B Stevens	P Oliver
Door Duty	V Wilson	D Green		B Danson	N Lawrence
Flowers	M Hardie	V Elliott		R Hollingworth	J Murkin
Coffee	B & A Stevens	Mavis Davies/ Another		G Thompson/ E Shackcloth	C Davies/ Another
Notes		BREAKFAST BEFORE FAMILY SERVICE	JOINT SERVICES AT BRAMHALL	HOLY COMMUNION	

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

SECURITY

(Jn1:4,5 Heb13:5)

God knows the end from the beginning,
 He knows His purposes are good.
 When darkness hides the path and signposts,
 He keeps our feet on the safe road.
 His light shines in Jesus, true forever,
 Darkness a trick of troubled minds,
 God is real and travels with us
 Guards our steps before, behind.

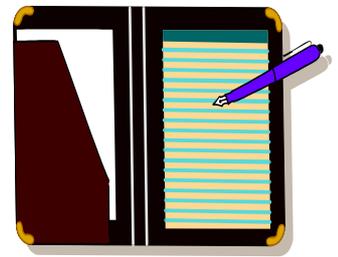
Let's be thankful for this moment,
 Trust our questions to His grace,
 He knows the end from the beginning,
 We are secure, He has a place...
 Prepared and waiting and beautiful,
 For His children.

By Daphne Kitching



CALENDAR

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



SEPTEMBER

Sat 01	10.00 am	Coffee Morning in aid of Church charities	
Sun02			
Mon 03			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues04	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm Elders' meeting ~ Church
Wed 05			
Thu 06			
Fri 07	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 08	10.00 am	South Area Leaders Workshop re Missional Partnerships ~ Gatley	
Sun 09			
Mon 10			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues11	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 12	12 ~2 pm	Soup, Sweet and Meet followed by 'Fellowship Club' from 1.30pm	
Thu 13			8.00 pm Ladies Circle ~ Heather Elsdon's
Fri 14	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 17			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues18	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm Bible Study ~ Bramhall URC
Wed 19			
Thu 20			
Fri 21	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 22			
Sun23	11.45 am	Management meeting	
Mon 24			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues25	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 26			
Thu 27			
Fri 28	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 29			7.00 pm Film Night
Sun30			6.30 pm CTCH 5th Sunday service ~ Methodist

OCTOBER

Mon 01			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues02	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm Bible Study ~ Bramhall URC

Copy for **OCTOBER 2018** **CHURC NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **16 SEPT 2018**

Edited & Published by Alison [swannlanesecretary@gmail.com]
& Bernie [swannlanebookings@gmail.com]