

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

NOVEMBER 2018

Friends,

Remembering the end of World War One

This year Remembrance Sunday (11th November) marks the centenary of the end of World War One. Of the 65 million men who were mobilized, 8.5 million were killed and a further 21 million wounded. Wilfred Owen wrote of those *'who die as cattle.'*

How should we celebrate this anniversary? In remembering the Armistice, our response should be to desire Micah's vision of universal peace in our world: *'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Micah 4:3).

However, why keep asking God for peace, when we continue to see such violence and unrest in our world? The Bible makes it clear that peace is not just the absence of war or being untroubled. It means being in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, with other people and with wider society.

Of course, Micah's words are looking to end of time when God will make all things new in His universal kingdom. However, these promises also can speak to us now. The ministry of Jesus demonstrated the kingdom or reign of God breaking into the everyday, as He healed the sick and brought reconciliation and hope. When we pray for peace, we're rejecting the 'old order of things', of violence and war and asking God to make His kingdom real today. We're citizens of the new kingdom, reshaping the old.

The end of the centenary of World War 1 is a time to consider peace. Although the war did not bring a lasting peace to the world, for the Christian there's a deeper lesson: peace begins with the healing of hearts, the restoring of relationships and with a deep, costly commitment to justice.



NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We think of friends, family and members of our congregation who are sick or anxious at this time. We pray in particular for Ron & Vera Lees, Mavis Mott, Christine Brooks and her family, Robert Hollingworth and his family, Tommy & Barbara Danson and Reg & Pat Pollitt.

Again, this month, we thank the leaders of our Sunday worship. Visiting us from Bramhall URC was Linda Rayner. Other services were led by Heather Frankish and our minister, Alan, was with us to lead the Harvest Service.

Please think about any gifts you may have for the Christmas Coffee Morning (with mince pies) and Bring & Buy stall on Sat 1 DEC from 10 am until 12 noon. There will also be the Traidcraft stall - all in aid of our Church charities.

Our Harvest Service was well attended with the proceeds going to the Chelwood Foodbank and Lifeshare (Manchester and Salford). Thank you to all those who donated food and money.

Thank you to everyone who supplied **shoeboxes**, donated gifts and helped with the filling of the 21 boxes for Link to Hope. How quickly the year passes!

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 8 DEC ~ CTCH **Carols in the Park**
~ Oak Meadow 11 am

Wed 12 DEC - **Christmas Lunch** - list to sign available on the foyer notice board

LADIES CIRCLE

Our October meeting was held at the home of Mo Morton when 11 members were present and an enjoyable evening was spent working on a very appropriate 'flower' quiz provided by Mo. Chat and refreshments followed and thanks were expressed to Mo for her hospitality.

The next meeting will be held on Thurs 8 NOV at 8 pm at Joyce Sallaway's home.

Vivienne Wilson

TOYS NEEDED

The annual Toy Service will be on Sun 25 NOV and lots of Good as New items are needed which will be taken to be distributed via The Dandelion Community (URC), Wythenshawe.

Alison Stevens

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WED 14 NOV
SOUP, SWEET and MEET
with



to hear more about supporting people
with sight or hearing loss in Stockport
12.00 pm ~ 1.30 pm

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The DEC newsletter will be available on Sunday 25 NOV. You could help to raise funds for our Church charities by inserting a single, personalised greeting instead of sending lots of individual cards. Just put your greeting along with a donation into an envelope marked "Christmas Greetings" and hand to either Alison or myself please by **Sunday 18 NOV.**

Bernie Stevens

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FELLOWSHIP CLUB

WED 21 NOV
2 ~ 3.30 pm

Xmas crafts in CHURCH

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CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

SAT 1 DEC

10 ~ 12 noon

Christmas 'Bring & Buy' stall

Traidcraft & Raffle

Children welcome

**Proceeds towards
our 4 church charities**

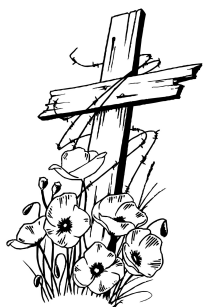
Thank you to the donor for their
recent contribution towards CHURC
News



Thursday 8 NOV ~ 7.00 pm
CTCH Prayer & Praise meeting
ALL ARE WELCOME @Chelwood Baptist

CHURCHES TOGETHER in CH

w/c Sunday 4 Nov : St Andrew's -
 Hosting the "Deeper " Conference . For the
 speaker, James Robson as he delivers his
 thoughts, gained through many years of studying
 and teaching the Bible.



w/c Sunday 11 Nov : Churches
 Together In Cheadle Hulme
 Remembrance Day Services taking
 place across Cheadle Hulme. Special
 Service of Remembrance following the
 order from 1918 taking place at All
 Saints at 3.30pm. **Exhibition of
 Remembrance following service at
 URC Swann La**

w/c Sunday 18 Nov: St Ann's -
 Those embarking on the "Journey of Faith "
 programme, rejoicing in our common strength.
 Give thanks for faith & witness of those who have
 gone before us into the Heavenly Jerusalem.

w/c Sunday 25 Nov: Churches Together in
 Cheadle Hulme, as we enter the period of Advent.
 Help us to prepare prayerfully and with fresh
 wonder at the events leading to the birth.

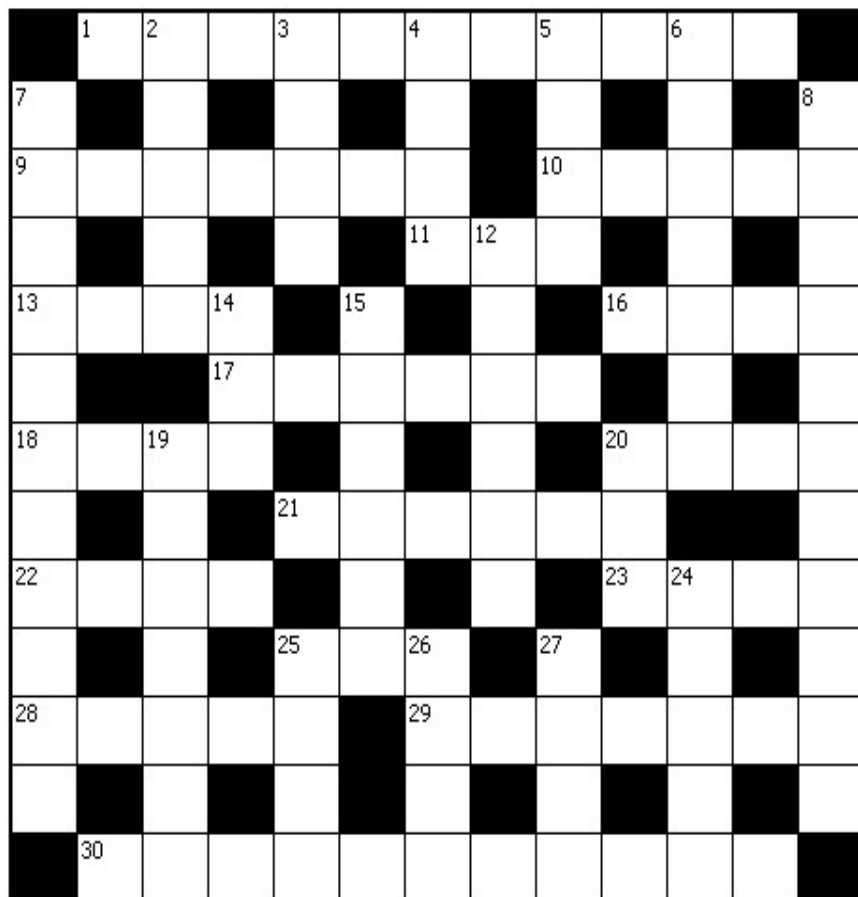
CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1 and 20 Down Lord of all ..., Lord of all...,
 whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could
 destroy (11,3)
 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew
 labourer: Why are you ... your fellow Hebrew?
 (Exodus 2:13) (7)
 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple
 sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline
 ... (2,3)
 11 At even ... the sun was set, the sick, O Lord,
 around thee lay (3)
 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
 16 Do not leave Jerusalem, but ... for the gift
 my Father promised
 (Acts 1:4) (4)
 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
 18 Peter's response to questioning by the
 Sanhedrin: We must ... God rather than men!
 (Acts 5:29) (4)
 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and
 campaigner, ... Eareckson Tada (4)
 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
 22 Such large crowds gathered round him that
 he got into a boat and sat ... (Matthew 13:2)
 (2,2)
 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
 25 Tree (3)
 28 No fear of me should ... you, nor should my
 hand be heavy upon you (Job 33:7) (5)
 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon
 (7)
 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday,
 according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 O Jerusalem, how ... I have longed to
 gather your children together (Matthew
 23:37) (5)
 3 Way out (4)
 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
 5 Done (anag.) (4)
 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a
 choir (7)
 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and
 Chapel (11)
 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony
 (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones
 (7)
 20 See 1 Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 For the wages of sin is death, but the
 ... of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus
 (Romans 6:23) (4)



THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

About 20 years ago I had been to the local war memorial on Remembrance Sunday and had been thinking about the names which had been read out. Our memorial just lists names and initials. So, I set out to discover more information about these men.

There are other memorials in the village including a roll of names in the church porch and these had more detail such as which unit the men served in. I published an appeal for information and people came forward with photographs, memories and letters. I also read local newspapers and found articles on the village and notices about the men.

The Commonwealth Graves Commission has a lot of information on the casualties. I searched under the name of the local village. Sometimes it was difficult, as some surnames are commoner than others. In those days you had to pay a fee and send a request by letter but now the database is simple to use online.

Some of the local men had emigrated to the Empire before the war and had enlisted there. The war records held in Canada, Australia and New Zealand are much better preserved and accessible than in this country.

I enjoyed visiting people who proudly showed off their family treasures of medals, letters and memories. 20 years ago, there were people who remembered casualties from the Second World War and even someone who recalled a man who had been gassed in the First World War. A special shed was built for him, which rotated so he had access to fresh air.

What was special for me was putting first names to men only known previously by an initial and then guessing they were known as Bill or Fred rather than William or Frederick.

In the time leading up to Remembrance Sunday why not visit your local memorial? If it is well looked after and free of litter and weeds, then

why not write to whoever looks after it and thank them? If not, then find out who is responsible and ask some questions.

Parish Pump



You get all sorts in churches. They'll let anyone in – thank God. And we do thank God, for that freedom, though we do that thanking in a variety of ways – sitting, kneeling, standing, arms raised... You never know who will do what. That is, I'm sure, a good thing.

You can tell when your church has guests, because the minister tells them they're 'almost welcome' (or it might be 'all most welcome' – it's not always clear.) I love it when we're joined by different shapes and shades of any faith background, or none, or nuns. Yes, it might mean people stand and sit at different times, but that's just a nice reminder that we're all moving at different speeds on different paths, rather than being just one giant amorphous congregation. Although that's nice too.

Mostly, visitors have a relatively passive role (proviso: all church worship is of course active – I just mean that most attendees don't get to alter the worship style per se. High Anglicans may try and smuggle in Latin though, like 'proviso' and 'per se'.) Sometimes, guests are granted a more active role. Oh yes, I'm talking about The Praying Godparents.

It was a christening. You could tell from the influx of suits and smart dresses, and the lack of parking spaces. The godparents and regular (non-god) parents gathered around the font, and the child was baptised. We all erupted into applause for this new tiny member of the church. It's like birth, except with more witnesses, without the surprise announcement of gender, or an obsession

with the baby's size (although ironically, the water displacement could help answer this... if its full immersion).

This church has a post-baptism custom whereby godparents offer prayers for their new godchild. So, four godparents stood centre-chancel, around the baby girl. We all bowed our heads, or knelt, or pressed hands together, depending on background.

The godparents on the groom's side were old school, bringing liturgy and corduroy in equally bountiful measure. With a rustle of parchment, a centuries-old prayer was spoken: 'We beseech thee, O God. Shape your servant after the pattern of your own divine beauty. May it be clear that she belongs to You, O Creator of the Universe.' Their high and lofty prayers – presumably from a high church background – were pretty epic for the little life in front of them.

The microphone was passed to the other couple, presumably friends of the bride. My eyes were closed but I recalled them with less corduroy, more beard and blonde dreadlocks. They brought no paper. Their prayer wasn't centuries or even seconds old but vocalised as they felt moved. More like, you know: 'Like, God, you know, I mean you know this child. Like, you know her right to her bones, and then some into, like, her cells. Would you just, like, really care and protect, and just help her prosper, and really just feel your love, in her very core, like, all her days.'

I may be exaggerating. Equally I may not be. Either way, I don't mean to sound disparaging – because I love that these two very different sets of Christians have been thrown together by this child. This child was brought into the world by their mutual friends, then brought into God's family here today. We only got a tiny snapshot of the god-parental differences. Liturgical meets spirit-led. Lofty, epic, divine creator meets up-close, bone-growing, heart-knowing protector. A bit of both. A foot in both camps. That's my God.

I know it's a massive over simplification. Mr and Mrs Corduroy probably cut loose far more than my glimpse implied. The beard 'n' dreads duo might harbour a love of Latin, bells and

smells that I didn't catch onto. But it doesn't matter. This new baptisee will benefit from their differences, God willing, gaining valuable mentors in her toddle through life.

Life in all its variance means seven billion different humans have seven billion different potential mouthpieces with which to worship God, if we choose to. And if that new addition chooses to, we can make that seven billion and one (again, a massive over simplification in terms of numbers.)

May church be a place where all are welcome, whatever language we speak, and however we choose to use that language, or that corduroy. God knows what we're trying to say. Because, O God, we beseech thee, well, like, You know.

Paul Kerensa

comic writer, performer and broadcaster

~Reform October 2018

Breakfast Before

on 11 NOV

[& every 2nd Sunday]

Typical menu:

Cereal, toast, fruit

tea, coffee, fresh orange,

bacon baps, pancakes or croissant

GREAT WAR PHRASES

'Bombing along'

When capturing enemy trenches, soldiers would often throw grenades or 'bombs' ahead of them to clear the area, this was done as quickly as possible to maintain the element of surprise.

'Cushy'

This word comes from the Hindi word 'Khush', meaning pleasure. Servicemen often referred to comfortable things as 'cushy', such as cushy jobs, cushy trenches and cushy billets.

'Chatting' or 'having a chat'

'Chat' is a Hindi word meaning 'parasite'. In WWI many soldiers became infected with lice which they would have to remove from their uniforms. The activity often provided the chance to have a conversation with friends, or to 'have a chat'.

The tale of the Salt and Light

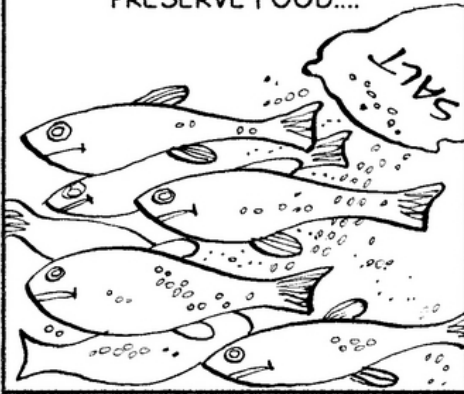


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

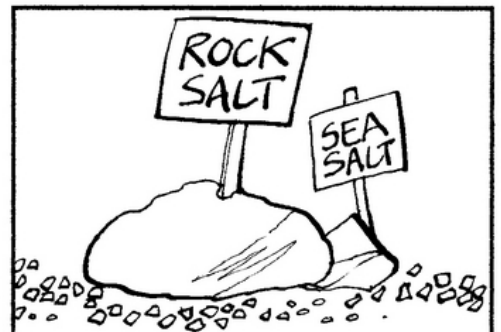


HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS
FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A
BIT LIKE SALT!

IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS
VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED
PRESERVE FOOD....

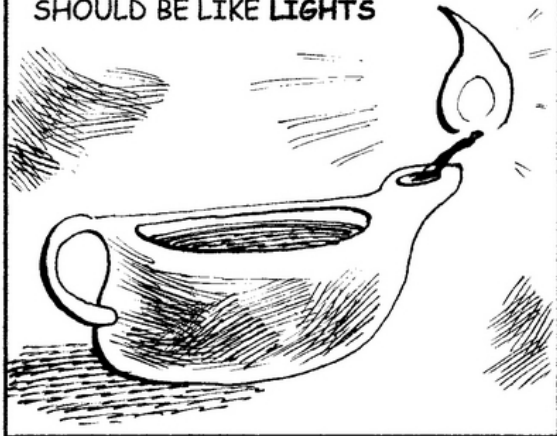


....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR.
IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED



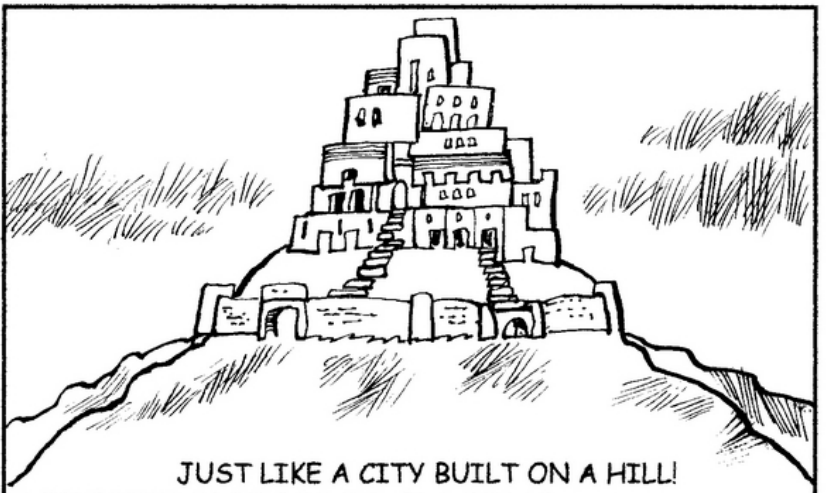
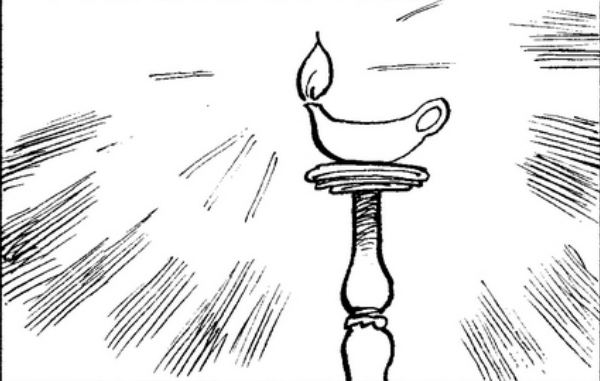
SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE
BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP
MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE
CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!

JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS
SHOULD BE LIKE LIGHTS



'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS
IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS

THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS
CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE
TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!

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.

	4 NOV	11 NOV	18 NOV	25 NOV
Service	Morning Worship	Remembrance Service	Morning Worship	JOINT Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Bernie Stevens	Ed Strachan	Rev Alan Poolton
Reader	J Smeathers	V Wilson	H Elsdon	J Hodson
Elder Duty	P Oliver	A Stevens	G Elsdon	B Stevens/S Smith
Door Duty	D Green	V Wilson	H Elsdon	B Danson
Flowers	Remembrance	Remembrance	M Wightman	P Grieve
Coffee	B & A Stevens	H & L Frankish	D Green/B Platt	M Davies and another
Notes		BREAKFAST BEFORE REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY		1ST BEFORE ADVENT TOY SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE



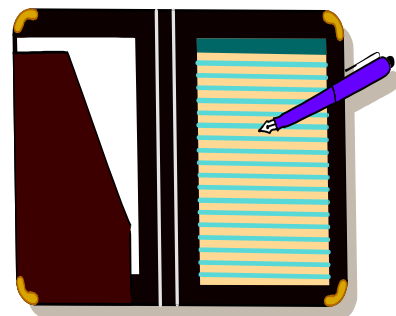
THE SOLDIER'S PRAYER

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for – but everything that I hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.

*a prayer written by an anonymous Confederate soldier
in the American Civil War*

CALENDAR

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



NOVEMBER

Thu 01			
Fri 02	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 03	10.00 am	Coffee Morning in aid of Church charities	
Mon 05			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 06	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm Bible Study ~ Bramhall URC
Wed 07			
Thu 08			7.30 pm Elders' meeting ~Bramhall URC Library 8.00pm Ladies Circle ~ Joyce Sallaway's
Fri 09	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 10		CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED SWIM	
Sun 11		REMEMBRANCE EXHIBITION after Sunday Service until 3 pm	
Mon 12			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 13	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 14		12 ~1.30 pm Soup, Sweet and Meet	
Thu 15			
Fri 16	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 19			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 20	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm Bible Study ~ Bramhall URC
Wed 21		2.00 pm	Women's Fellowship ~ Church
Thu 22		7 pm	CTCH Prayer & Praise meeting~ Chelwood Baptist ALL ARE WELCOME
Fri 23	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 24			7.00 pm Film Night
Mon 26			8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 27	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	
Wed 28			
Thu 29			
Fri 30	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal

Copy for **DECEMBER** **CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **18 NOV 2018**

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

& Bernie [swannlanebookings@gmail.com]