

CHURCH NEWS

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



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Minister:

0161 485 4132

Rev Alan Poolton MA

swannlaneminister@gmail.com

APRIL 2019

Friends,

Easter joy

I remember vividly a simple poster I saw on the notice board of our local Methodist Chapel. It had a silhouette of three crosses on a hill, and underneath the words, 'FOR YOU'. Nothing fancy or clever, but a clear presentation of the Easter message, and it struck me deeply.

At Easter our thoughts are drawn to the death and resurrection of Jesus. These events are central to our faith, but sometimes we can over-complicate their meaning. The heart of it, though, remains very simple: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and on the third day was raised to life (1Corinthians 15:3).

He died to show his love for you. He gave his life as a demonstration or proof of the love He has for each one of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. He was motivated to lay down His life for us, not out of duty or obligation, but compassionate love. See Romans 5:8

He died to set you free. Sin has entangled every one of us. We are under its power and unable to ourselves to loosen its grip. At the cross Jesus dealt with sin once and for all by dying in our place. Now, when we turn to Him for help, we can be released from the hold it has on us and find complete forgiveness.

He died to bring you home. The Cross makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God. Like the prodigal son we were once far away from God, but now because we have been forgiven, we can return to our true home in God. A welcome awaits us, and a joy-filled reunion is possible.

This Easter, why not think about these two simple words: FOR YOU.

Rev Tony Horsfall

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We are really feeling the benefits of the spring weather now. We must be mindful that there are many people sick in mind or body who are confined to their homes and unable to get out and enjoy life. We pray especially for those in our congregation and others known to us who have been recently bereaved or ill.

The first weekend in March belonged to Sandy & Morag Smith who not only ran the Saturday Coffee Morning but also very ably led the Sunday service followed by a very enjoyable Afternoon Tea. During the service, they brought to our attention the many issues surrounding Traidcraft at the moment. We heard different stories of fair trading around the less developed parts of the world and how we all can help to keep this movement active. The Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea raised £410 for Traidcraft Exchange. Unfortunately, Ed Strachan was unwell and unable to lead our service on 17 MAR but our special thanks go to Heather Frankish who stepped into the breach using the material that Ed had prepared. Alan, our minister, led two services and Margaret will fill our pulpit on Mothering Sunday.

This year we will be sharing Passion Sunday with our friends from Bramhall. On Palm Sunday, the following week, the palm crosses are from Tanzania. They are made in the villages in the Massai diocese where the villagers make them whilst guarding their maize crops from baboons. Let us pray for the people of these villages and remember them as we hold our crosses.

The retiring collection for The Leprosy Mission raised £102.10 - and doubled by the government.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 1 MAY - Canal Trip £19 per person inc 2 course lunch - speak to the Secretary if you would like to reserve a place.

Breakfast Before

on 14 APR

[& every 2nd Sunday]

Typical menu:

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

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Fellowship Group met on 6 MAR for an afternoon of fellowship, games and refreshments.

The next meeting will be on 3 APR in Church when Val will be teaching us crafting skills and hopefully we will all leave with something to be proud of. Everyone is welcome to join us and have a go.

Carole Davies

LADIES CIRCLE

Our good friend Elva Towler came to talk to us at our March meeting which was held at my house. She brought several CD's for us to listen to and the title of her talk was "The Best of British".

As at all her previous talks, Elva had done a lot of research into the composers and poets whose CD's she played so was able to tell us something about them. We listened to the music of Sullivan, Delius, Collier and Andrew Lloyd Webber and then poems by Christina Rossetti, Byron and Pam Ayres. She finished with a benediction by John Rutter.

Thank you Elva for a lovely memorable evening. The next meeting will be at Bernice's house on 4 APR.

Vivienne Wilson

TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE

Hi Morag, I wanted to share an important update from Traidcraft Exchange about the progress we have made supporting vulnerable producer groups who were affected by the downsizing of Traidcraft plc. Thanks to the generosity of amazing supporters like you, we are happy to report that our Christmas appeal raised above and beyond what we expected. This allowed us to take on the additional work helping those affected by the Traidcraft plc news, as well as continuing to support the 300,000 people living in poverty across the world who rely on us. You can also read more, and keep up to date with our ongoing progress, at www.traidcraft.org.uk/producer-update

I wanted to say thank you for your kind and generous response to our urgent appeal at Christmas and to update you on the impact your donations are already having.

Last year, like you, we were very concerned about how producer groups would be affected by what was happening at Traidcraft plc. We hoped you would help, and we're happy to report that your donations are a big difference.

How your donations are helping

Our team have been working alongside the 12 most affected producer groups, helping them to formulate new plans for a future without sales to Traidcraft plc. We've been offering individually tailored support to each group, building on our years of expertise working with farmers & artisans across the world.

This work is a little out of the ordinary for us – the producer groups affected by Traidcraft plc's downsizing are larger-scale fair trade businesses. However, the majority Traidcraft Exchange supports through our development projects may never be in a position to export overseas, but struggle to make a basic living. That's why your donations are also helping support our core projects, reaching the most vulnerable through trade across the world.

In February, thanks to your support, five of the worst affected producer groups; Gospel House, Saidpur, Prokritee, Noah's Ark and CORR Jute works; were able to showcase their products to new buyers at a European trade show.

My colleague Kate met the producers at 6am at a bustling conference centre in Frankfurt, where trades people and artisans were gathered to display their goods, and representatives from buyers across the globe were looking to make orders, build contacts, and find new products. Shiran from Gospel House spoke to Kate about their hopes and plans:

"I'd like to thank all the people who have supported us – they have seen the vision and seen how it works. We are thankful Gospel House is in the hearts of so many people... We've had an order of 1500 small wooden emergency vehicles, which although small, is still positive."

The chance to attend the fair and gain new orders also provided a lifeline to Saidpur who told us:

"The design team helped us set up the stand so it looks attractive to new buyers. We can see the outcomes directly – everyone who comes here has appreciated the designs and the set up."

We've had a lot of interest.... the new designs of cards and printed wash bags have been popular, and a few people have placed orders for samples of cards. We have had new buyers, but also been able to see existing buyers and so been able to showcase new designs to them. Showcasing products at a fair like this also means that people can change designs to suit their needs – for example, ordering products in different colours or sizes."

It's not just producer groups your donations are supporting. Thanks to you, we are continuing the life-changing work we do with some of the world's most vulnerable people, from those exploited in bonded labour in India, to disabled workers in rural Tanzania, to women living from gathering fruit in West Africa.

This Easter, we'll be focusing our appeal on our ground-breaking work in Southern Senegal, which I look forward to sharing with you.

In the changing political and economic landscape, we know the next few years will continue to be uncertain and challenging. We also know that around the world, many very poor people face far greater challenges every day as they continue to be excluded or exploited by trade in ways they cannot control.

Once again, thank you so much for all you've done and continue to do for Traidcraft Exchange and the people we support. You're a vital part of a movement dedicated to changing the world, and we hope you're encouraged to hear of the difference we can make together.

With warmest wishes,
Esther Stevenson
CEO Traidcraft exch

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES 2019

By way of trying to simplify the collection of items for the Shoeboxes this year, we are going to try asking for specific donations each month - therefore, during APRIL, we would be grateful for **a bar of soap and/or a flannel.**

Thank you, **Bernie Stevens**

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Lenten Lunches 2019

12 noon – 2 pm

6 APR Friends Meeting House

13 APR United Reformed Church



Prayers for...

w/c Sunday 7 APR United Reformed Church. For the minister Rev Alan Poolton and the fellowship to encourage and support each other in the new partnership arrangements. For the fellowship as they host the Lent Lunch on Saturday 13 APR.

St Andrew's Church The Holiday Club 9 -12 APR - for leader Carron Hopwood and team and for all the children and families they have contact with.

w/c Sunday 14 Apr. Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. **The Easter Service in Oak Meadow 20 APR at 11.00am.** For the speaker and readers and all who come along to witness to their belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

w/c Sunday 21 APR. Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. The Easter Day services – for those leading and those attending to celebrate – He Is Risen – Hallelujah

w/c Sunday 28 APR. Chelwood Baptist Church. For the minister Rev Andrew Philips and the fellowship. For all the activities to encourage families and local people to come.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer) was held at St Ann's Roman Catholic Church in Vicarage Avenue. The service took place all over the world, as the sun rose over Samoa and ending some 38 hours later back in the Pacific as the sun set over American Samoa. We were praying and sharing with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world.

Each year the service is put together by a different country and this year was written by the women of Slovenia, who are relatively new to the WDP movement. At the heart of the service was an open invitation for all to come to God's table 'Come – everything is ready!' We heard the voices of some of those coming to the table: wives, mothers and

grandmothers, Roma people, refugees and migrant workers. Their stories reflected the political and economic situation of Slovenia from the time it was a socialist-communist state to the present day.

While listening to these stories, we asked forgiveness for being silent in the face of injustice, and we prayed that God may open our hearts to compassion and understanding. We left with a prayer of blessing to mutually support one another on the path of freedom, justice and peace. Refreshments followed the service and everyone left with a red carnation that had been displayed on the table.

Carole Davies

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SOUP, SWEET and MEET

WED 10 APR

12 pm - 1.30 pm

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The Gambia

Cheadle Hulme School runs an altruistic trip every 2 years to Africa, where students get the opportunity to experience what the schools are like in a culture completely different to ours. We support many schools, but our partner 'Cheadle Hulme School Gambia' is very special to those who went on the trip because the students and staff are truly amazing people. Victoria Hartley and I decided that running an afternoon tea to aid the cause was an effective way to raise money, and fortunate that CH URC accommodated our event. After a lot of planning, baking and brewing we raised **£560**, which went to the Gambia and a better education.

I have been fortunate to go on a lot of school trips, however this one was the most eye opening one of my life. We arrived in the Gambia and immediately noticing the complete difference in culture that we were stepping into, but we were eager to see what awaited us. We were met at the airport by Mr Shaw an incredible man who has been our connection with the Gambia for years and over the week we visited many schools. One, while being one of the more advanced we saw, still had its need for our support. There was broken tiles, overcrowded classrooms and they not enough chemicals for their science practicals. They are very smart individuals who could do so much if they had the proper equipment and talking to them they had high aspirations and I felt a real need to help them.

After viewing the school, we experienced the Gambian markets which was very interesting and like no other I had seen before. We also got to

stroke crocodiles at a holy place; some of us were terrified but still managed the courage to at least give them a little pat. At the end of the day we got to take in the beautiful African sunset which was an experience in itself.

The next day we experienced African dancing /singing and which I was most excited about, in a fun welcome ceremony at a rural high school. After we took a tour of the school we realised that the buildings there were not in proportion to the students there, being a technological school they lacked the resources that were needed in order to get the full benefits. Yet, they were all spirited and intellectual individuals who were making the best out of what they had. Later, we visited a primary school in-land, who had been eagerly waiting for us all day and they gave us the greatest welcome of our lives: parading up down the road all the way to the school. We were introduced to their local dancing and singing by the women of the village, they showed us all the improvements that our fundraising had done, such as the vegetable patches that they had on site and we got to view the village on the way for a very special meal that they put on for us. They were so welcoming and treated us with such importance, it was amazing to see the community that had developed there and we all really appreciated their warm welcome to their school. Later that evening we travelled further in-land to Tendaba Camp where we were staying for the next couple of days.

To kick start our time in Tendaba we first visited the Primary School, where a group welcomed us with a beautiful song. We got to participate this time, with them singing some songs for us and we even sang some songs for them. A lot of us didn't want it to end, especially with the grand finale of the conga! I have to say a highlight was reading to them in their library, where a lot of us tried our best to do the different voices of the characters. Although they didn't have a lot, they made an effort to make the place colourful and welcoming so it was sad to leave them. However, next we got to meet the most adorable toddlers at a nursery school, who recited their ABCs and sang for us. We were made aware that this nursery was community run because the government wouldn't fund nursery schools, which is heart-breaking. The people running this nursery were making such an impact in these children's lives and I hope that we can support them more in the future. Our next stop was the Islamic school, which was in the worse condition out of any of the schools that we saw. There were 96 children in a classroom smaller than the smallest ones we have back home and the toilet was a hole in the ground surrounded by

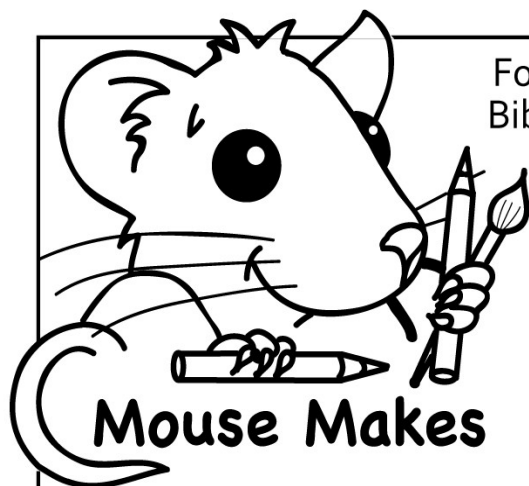
metal. This was the school that opened my eyes the most, they had the bare minimum but were still some of the happiest people that I have ever met. We spent a long time playing with the children: dancing, singing, playing football and giving a few piggy back rides. After, we visited the Christian school just on the other side of the village; while there were in better conditions compared to the Islamic school they were still in desperate need for our help. It is amazing how one community in the middle of the Gambia could inspire you so much.

Our final day in Tendaba was the one a lot of us had come on the trip for. Our first stop was the Islamic school that we had invested a lot in, a majority of their buildings had been built by the funds that had been raised over our long partnership with them. One of the buildings had Cheadle Hulme School painted in big letters across the top. They had so much gratitude for all our school had done for them but what they didn't realise was how much they inspired us, with their perseverance through the tough times that they had faced. However, the main part of the day was spent at the 'Cheadle Hulme School Gambia', where we got to meet the children who attended and the local community. We danced the most here and were more involved in the proceedings, all their buildings are named after staff past and present from our school.



We learned that a lot of the children went to school with an empty stomach, so they relied on the meal that they were given at school was their main meal of the day. It was enlightening to see how much they relied on our support and I really hope that we continue to help develop the school and support them as much as possible in the future. After hours of singing, dancing and football (they won) we ate a special dinner and prepared for the long journey back to Kombo Beach Hotel, where we spent our last evening. Before our flight home we visited a craft market, to get any last-minute presents and to witness the beautiful and fascinating intricate carvings that made there. The children that we met truly touched me and I will never forget the remarkable individuals that I met on that trip.

Anna Phillips

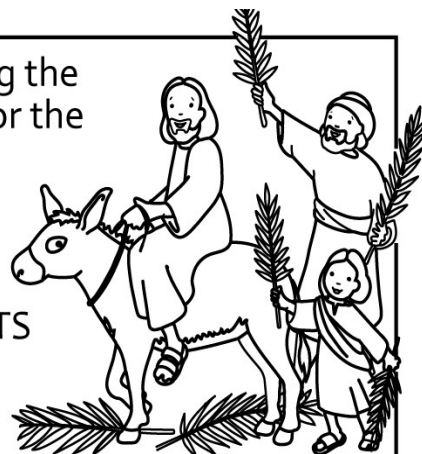


Follow the **Easter story** using the Bible references, then look for the words in the puzzle.


Into Jerusalem

read *Matthew 21:1-11*

DONKEY • ROAD • COATS
BRANCHES • PALMS
KING • HOSANNA



 **The Last Supper**
read *Matthew 26:17-30*
TWELVE DISCIPLES
PASSEVER
ROOM • BREAD
WINE • SON • MAN
BODY • BLOOD
CUP • MEAL

 **Betrayal and Death**
read *Matthew 26:36-27:56*
GETHSEMANE
PRAY • BETRAY
KISS • ARREST
MESSIAH • CHRIST
SON • ACCUSED
CRUCIFY • JESUS
CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE
NAILS • CROSS
DARKNESS
QUAKE • DEATH
LOTS • DICE

B R A N C H E S S E T S
C E L O R D O N K E Y H K O
A L T S K M E S S I A H J B O G
T I R S C U P A S S O V E R A E
W A A K J E A N O S W I N E C T
E M Y M E A L N N O Q U B A C H
L W R O A D M A N B L O O D U S
V I S L C K S C R O S S D A S E
E T U Q O Y C R U C I F Y A E M
D H D E A T H O R N S N U T D A
I Y M I T G R W M A R Y C H Y N
S O F V S K I N G I V I T R E E
C U P P N Y S K H L A N G E L R
I A R R E S T Y E S T O N E I O
P L M A C K U Q A B O D Y D N B
L W O Y G O T U V I M S E A E E
E A R O O M O A E Q B U R Y N L
S Y N K D A R K N E S S A S D O
K S I P E A C E N J S P I R I T
I W N J G O O D N E W S S T C S
T O G O T E L L A S O N E T E S
A B Y S A V I O U R S D U C
P R A I S E A S T E R R

Burial and Resurrection

read *Matthew 27:57-28:20*

TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS
MORNING • MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • LORD • GOD
RAISED • JOY • GO TELL • GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT
SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER • I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS



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 Elsden and mark it up on the **master copy** on the foyer notice board. **On arrival**, always check notice board for last minute changes.

	7 APR	14 APR	18 APR	19 APR	21 APR	28 APR
Service	JOINT Morning Worship	Family Service	Service of Light and Dark	Worship for Good Friday	Morning Communion	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	8.00 pm	10.00 am	11.15 am	10.30 am
Leaders	In House	Rev Alan Poolton	Rev Alan Poolton	Bernie Stevens	Rev Alan Poolton	Rev Alan Poolton
Reader	various	B Platt	various	J Smeathers	H Elsden	V Lees
Elder Duty	B Stevens	H Frankish	A Stevens	P Oliver	A Stevens/ B Stevens	S Smith/ C Davies
Door Duty	N Lawrence	B Platt		B Danson	H Elsden	M Morton
Flowers	V Lees	E Ward			Easter	C Davies
Coffee	S & M Smith	C Davies/ M Hardie			H Elsden/ M Morton	V Wilson/ B Platt
Notes	PASSION SUNDAY	BREAKFAST BEFORE PALM SUNDAY	MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER SUNDAY	HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

Moses and the Red Sea

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. 'Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, Moses had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed HQ for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.'

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, startled.

"Well, no," her son admitted. "But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Parish Pump website

PRE-CHRISTIAN AID WEEK SUPPORTER EVENING

8 April 2019 6.30-8.00pm



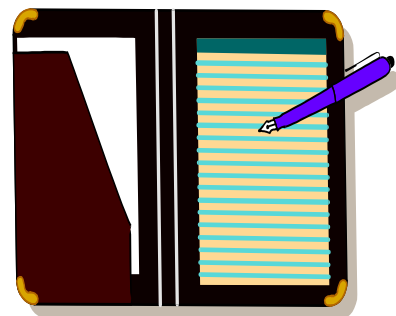
Dean Row Unitarian Chapel Hall, Chapel Road, Wilmslow, SK9 2BX

Christian Aid Week will be focusing on maternal health in Sierra Leone, which is the most dangerous place in the world to become a mum.

Refreshments provided.

CALENDAR (programme of services inside)

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



APRIL

Mon 01	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 02				
Wed 03		2.00 pm	Fellowship group	
Thu 04			7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting ~ Church
			8.00 pm	Ladies Circle ~ Bernice's home
Fri 05	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 06		10—12 noon Coffee Morning in aid of Mary's Meals		
		12—2 pm CTCH Lent Lunch ~ Friends Meeting House		
		6.30-8 pm Christian Aid evening ~ Dean Row Unitarian Chapel Hall		
Mon 08	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 09			7.30 pm	Joint Bible Study ~ Bramhall
Wed 10		12.00-1.30 pm SOUP, SWEET and MEET - friends & neighbours welcome		
Thu 11				
Fri 12	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 13		12—2 pm CTCH Lent Lunch ~ URC		
Mon 15	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 16				
Wed 17				
Thu 18				
Fri 19			7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 20	11.00 am	CTCH Easter Service ~ Oak Meadow		
Mon 22	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 23			7.30 pm	Joint Bible Study ~ Bramhall
Wed 24				
Thu 25				
Fri 26	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 27		7.00 pm FILM NIGHT - friends & neighbours welcome		
Mon 29	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 30				

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

& Bernie [swannlanebookings@gmail.com]