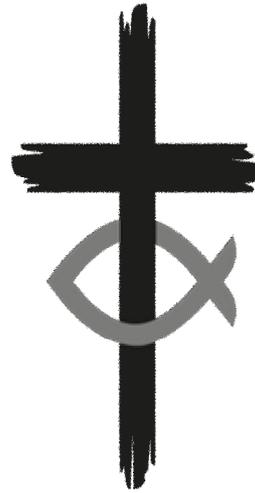


CHURCH NEWS

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

MAY 2019

Friends,

The call to maturity

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

-Colossians 1v27-28

Paul was very clear about the nature of his task. He wanted to see every new believer become mature in their faith. This is what he aimed for, and what he worked so hard for.

It is often said that if you aim for nothing, you will hit it every time. It is easy in church life to be aimless, to forget what we are about. Here we have a reminder that in all we do our aim is to help those who believe to be fully formed as disciples of Christ. It is not enough that people attend church. We want to see them become strong in their faith as well and to be actively involved in serving God.

But what does it mean to become mature in faith? As human beings we grow and develop, moving from being children to fully grown adults. There are many stages along the way, but we can all tell when a person is 'grown up'. They have left childish things behind and are able to behave in adult ways. Likewise, we are to move on from being babes in Christ to becoming spiritual adults whose faith is well grounded and living out our faith in our everyday life.

Another picture might be taken from the world of horticulture. Plants and trees mature over time not only growing bigger and stronger but bearing fruit. A mature garden is filled with such well-established plants. As Christians we become mature as our lives reflect in increasing measure the likeness of Christ in our speech, behaviour and values.

It is helpful to stop and ask ourselves if we are growing in our faith, both in our understanding and our daily application of what we believe.

*Tony Horsfall
Parish Pump website*

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

The recent spell of warm and sunny weather has hopefully lifted people's spirits but our thoughts are still with those known to us who, for whatever reason, are finding life a struggle physically or troubled by anxiety or bereavement.

As always, the Churches Together Lent lunches, which were well supported (URC raised £160 for Christian Aid), led us up to Easter and a number of services starting with Maundy Thursday when we were led by Alan at an evening service of readings and reflections on Darkness & Light. This was followed the next morning by a very meaningful 'uncomfortable' Good Friday service led by Bernie Stevens. Easter Saturday saw the sun shining on Oak Meadow for the Churches Together Easter Service when some 150 joined in celebration and Alan led our Easter Sunday communion worship when the Resurrection was told in Chocolate Bars!

It's not too long before the Summer Open Day on Friday 5 JUL - time enough to be gathering those small gifts on which we depend for the Bring & Buy stall. Thank you in advance.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12-18 May Christian Aid week - sponsored walk 11 May. Please see Sandy Smith for a sponsor form, or sponsor a walker
Fri 5 Jul - Summer Open Day ~ 18 Hylton Drive
Sat 24 Aug - JUMBLE SALE

Breakfast Before

on 12 MAY

[& every 2nd Sunday]

Typical menu:

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

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

At our last meeting on 3 APR we were fortunate enough to welcome Val, who arrived with lots of craft ideas for Easter. They included an Easter card, a small, decorated box of small eggs, a cross, a coat hanger with a lavender scented bunny and a photo frame to decorate. With Val's help we were all able to finish with a sense of achievement and something nice to take home. Our next meeting will be a canal trip from Whaley Bridge on 1 MAY. Anyone interested should have a word with Alison Stevens.

Carole Davies

LADIES CIRCLE

This meeting was held in my home and we were fortunate enough to have for our speaker our organist, Eric, who gave us a talk on his love of music interspersed by the odd joke, which kept us smiling!

It wasn't a good night, weather wise, but the ladies who did arrive had a very enjoyable time as Eric has a vast knowledge of music, together with his experience with choirs and church music. The evening ended with refreshments and our thanks to Eric who, though he has a very busy life, managed to find the time to entertain us.

There will be no meeting in May as, unfortunately, no-one is available to organise it.

Bernice Platt

+++++

SOUP, SWEET n MEET

WED 8 MAY

12 pm - 1.30 pm

+++++

JOINT WEEKEND AWAY @ THORNLEIGH

Friday 28~Sunday 30 June 2019 How quickly the weeks seem to be passing before we go to Grange-over-Sands! A letter with final details will be issued at the beginning of May to those who are booked to go but, it's not too late to add your name to the list (£145 per person) if you would like to join us.

Alison Stevens

DAWN

Dawn slides across the sky
and stretches,
reaching our her fingers
of light
to stroke the day awake.

'This is the day,' she beams,
'This is the day God made.'
Her nimble fingers tickle the earth.
'Rejoice,' she says, 'and be glad in it.'

Irene Howat
[Heather Frankish's cousin]

THE COMPLACENT STAND CONDEMNED

Sometimes, seeing your children in action can take you back to your younger days. What mine did last week took me back to the 18th century! The story of the abolition of the slave trade and of slavery itself in the British Empire has a varied cast. There are famous figures like William Wilberforce who, from a position of power and privilege, devoted decades to fighting the great evil. There were those, less celebrated today, like the flamboyant MP Banastre Tarleton, who passionately denied there was anything wrong with slave trading.

There were those like Olaudah Equiano who broadcast their own story of enduring slavery. There were those like John Newton who told their story of trafficking people.

There were those like Sam Sharpe who risked everything to rise up against the powers who oppressed them. There are those like John Smith of the London Missionary Society who risked the wrath of the establishment to preach to enslaved people. There were those who boycotted sugar and signed petitions and went to meetings. There were those who had every opportunity but did nothing.

From 200 years later, it all seems spectacularly clear. The slave trade was the greatest evil in existence. Those in Britain who defended it were very badly wrong; those who fought it were right. Britain's economy had thrived on slavery, so those who were comfortably off and turned a blind eye to it should have known better. Those who used their privileged position to campaign

were stepping up to their moral duty. Those who made great sacrifices in the struggle against slavery were heroes.

What my firstborn did to remind me of all this was to join the high school strikes in February and March, marching to demand action on climate change. For him, it all seems spectacularly clear. My generation is irreversibly breaking the world that we will pass on to his, shuffling towards worldwide catastrophe. It is the great evil. The fighters are right; the complacent stand condemned.

I find it easier to see shades to grey. What you have to realise is that people like me just have so much stuff to do. You can't fight every battle. It's hard to believe something so big can change. I have other responsibilities.

But now I have heard Firstborn talk about his protest, and his disgusted judgement on our society has been powerfully amplified for me by reading *Reform's* news pages and letters on the subject this month. It occurs to me that history will not be so understanding as I am. Am I seizing the opportunities I have been given to fight this great evil, or am I one of this generation's complacent multitude, who felt concern and put stuff in the right bin, but who had the chance to do something that mattered more, but didn't? The answer to that question is starting to seem spectacularly clear. *What will do about it.*

Editorial
April Reform

SUMMER OPEN DAY

Friday 5 JUL 2019



at 18 Hylton Drive,
Cheadle Hulme
from 12.30 pm - 7 pm
Admission - £1 - includes 1
free drink

(accompanied children free)

Lunches, Teas & Suppers

Bring & Buy, Cakes, Plants

All proceeds to our 5 charities

HOW SHOULD WE EAT?

'Choose sustainable food'. Eating is a fact of life, and we rely on agriculture to provide the food we need. However, the greatest causes of biodiversity loss worldwide are land clearance for agriculture and unsustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, the greenhouse gas emissions from global agriculture (for example, released from the soil by ploughing, or methane from cattle) are a significant contributor to global climate change – which is the most severe threat facing our biosphere.

It is obvious that how our food is produced has a significant effect on the environment – mostly for the worse. Although for individuals it might seem impossible to make the food industry more sustainable, we can as consumers together choose to buy food that is produced more sustainably, thereby lowering our collective ecological footprint to a significant degree and investing in sustainable production for the future.

A plethora of information on sustainable food exists, and some of the advice is conflicting. The academic community is working towards a consensus on what constitutes the most sustainable diet and methods of producing food with some significant progress in recent months. For consumers, synthesising the information from numerous sources can be a challenge. There are, however, some general principles that one can follow to make food purchases more sustainable. ...

***Hadden Turner, volunteer with
Christian ecology charity A Rocha***

'Meat is doing us no good'. If there's one thing the modern world isn't short of, it's advice on what we should be eating. The media subjects us to an unceasing barrage of often contradictory claims about what constitutes healthy eating (and yes, here I am, adding to it – guilty as charged, your honour.) One week kale/quinoa/lark spittle/oak-matured aura of wildebeest is hailed as a miracle cure for some disease or other, the next it's causing it.

However, in the medical profession at least, there's broad consensus that the modern predilection for a generous daily ration of meat is

really doing us no good at all. Indeed, while meat may be a rich source of protein, vitamins and minerals, it turns out that pretty much any interaction with animals that involves cutlery is deleterious to our health. Processed and red meats increase the risk of cancer; saturated fats have links to Alzheimer's; and fats (again), dairy and eggs raise cholesterol levels. God may have knitted us together in the womb but the omnivore in us is spending every meal thereafter attempting to pull the stitches apart.

Of course, the consumption of meat and dairy products has an impact way beyond the ramifications for our own bodies. It's a startling fact that the methane emanating from the world's farmed animals is a more powerful accelerant of global warming than the emissions from all the planet's planes, ships, and motorised vehicles put together. ...

***Dixie Wills, a travel writer. His latest book
is The Wisdom of Nature (Quadrille, 2019)***

Extracts from article published in Reform

150th ANNIVERSARY

The March magazine gave some details of plans for our 'Anniversary week' and we hope that you have put these in your diaries! The full programme of events will be published nearer the time.

Family and friends will be very welcome to any of the events including the Victoria Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 19 JUN when a group from the Cheadle & Gatley U3A choir will be entertaining us along with some ukulele players.

We are also looking into the possibility of arranging something with Cheadle Hulme School who are also celebrating their 150th Anniversary this year.

Please don't forget to complete the reply slip indicating whether you are able to stay for the 'finger buffet' after Alan's last service on 23 JUN.

Alison Stevens

CHURCHES TOGETHER

w/c Sun 5 May:

St Ann's RC Church

The minister Fr Chris McCurry and the fellowship as they witness in the community. For the young people preparing for their first Communion.



w/c Sun 12 May:

Emmanuel Church Preparation for Messy Church activity on Saturday 18 May. Children and families will come.

CHRISTIAN AID – 12 -19 May:

Collections in supermarkets /street and house will be well supported.

w/c Sun 19 May:

United Reformed Church The minister Rev Alan Poolton and the fellowship as they plan for their 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

w/c Sun 26 May:

Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme Thy Kingdom Come project- Ascension – Pentecost - 30 May–9 June - praying for people to come to know Jesus Christ. Light Up The World In Prayer.

CTCH Business Meeting

7 pm Mon 20 May

~ St Ann's RC

ALL ARE WELCOME

=====

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 MAY, we would be grateful for **gloves/scarf /hat** (new or knitted). Thank you,

Bernie Stevens

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BREXIT & POLITICIANS

A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman of the next generation.

There are two sides to every question, and a politician usually takes both.

Parish Pump website

IN PRAISE OF WORK

'Edward Jones, 39, chemist, was convicted by Harrow magistrates of drink driving.' I learnt the formula early in my journalistic career. Whatever else you observe, always be sure to report age and job. Contestants on TV quiz programmes are always asked 'What do you do?' They don't reply 'comb my hair on the left' or 'do the washing up' but with their occupation present or past.

Strangely enough, even the Bible does the same. In the second of the creation stories – Adam and Eve – we are told how the man was shaped from the dust of the earth. What a powerful image. Then straight away, he was given a job to do: he was to be the gardener of Eden. We don't know what he looked like, or even at that point his name, but we do know his job!

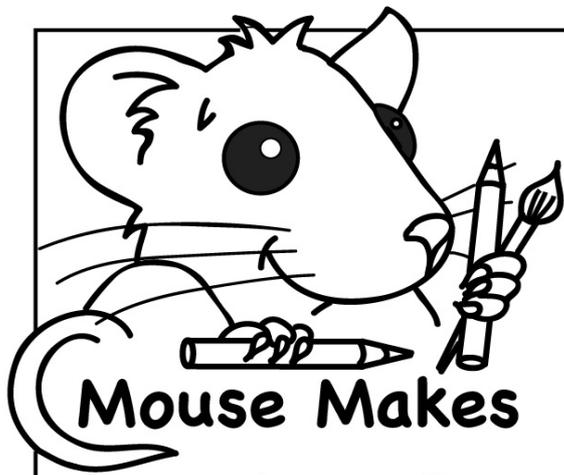
In conversation at parties we are often asked 'What do you do?' My late wife loved that because she had been a nurse and people were so positive about it. Perhaps if she had been a traffic warden it would have been different. But for all of us our work, what we do, is a vital part of our lives. It certainly includes the job of home building and bringing up children. Work gives us worth, which is why being 'out of work' is for most people an unwanted and frustrating existence.

May 1st has become the International Day of Work. Most of us enjoy our work, even if it's only the company of colleagues. After all, if it weren't for work, what would 'leisure' mean?

Ed - how much do you/did you enjoy work?
Parish Pump website

Sat 25 MAY

7 pm



You may have read the Bible story of Daniel in the **lions'** den, but have you ever read the whole book of Daniel? Take your time and read a little each day and find out about the **vegetables**, the **statue**, the **gold idol**, the **furnace**, the **tree**, the **writing** on the wall, the **lions**, the **four animals**, the **ram** and the **goat**, and the **man**.



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




 Ashpenaz changed Daniel and his friends names. Look up **Daniel 1:7** to see what he changed them to.

Can you find these words from the book of Daniel in the wordsearch?
 KING • NEBUCHADNEZZER • DANIEL • DARIUS • ASHPENAZ
 HANANIAH • MISHAEL • AZARIAH • DREAM • STATUE
 IDOL • FURNACE • TREE • WRITING • WALL • LAW • LIONS
 DEN • PRAYER • LORD • GOD • TRUST • RESCUE • ANGEL

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.

	5 MAY	12 MAY	19 MAY	26 MAY
Service	Morning Worship	Family Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Hilary Jackson	Rev Alan Poolton	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Rev Peter Sharp
Reader	V Wilson	T Clarkson	V Elliott	L Frankish
Elder Duty	P Oliver	B Stevens	A Stevens	P Oliver/ H Frankish
Door Duty	V Wilson	D Green	V Elliott	A Manley
Flowers	Fellowship Group	Ladies Circle	M Smithers	L Denton
Coffee	A & S Atree	B & A Stevens	H & L Frankish	D Green / G Thompson
Notes		FAMILY SERVICE		HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

DUTY DONE (FOR THIS MONTH) *Sitting there, on Sunday morning,
Congregations in their pews
Read their magazines, informing
Them of all the latest news.*

*All save one who sits there smiling –
She knows that journal very well
Having spent a month compiling –
She knows what those pages tell!*

*She it was who, deadlines facing
Got those varied items in
Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing
Each a battle she must win!*

*Though she earns no princely wages
Though she gladly gives her time
Efficiently she fills those pages
Choosing pictures, prose, and rhyme.*

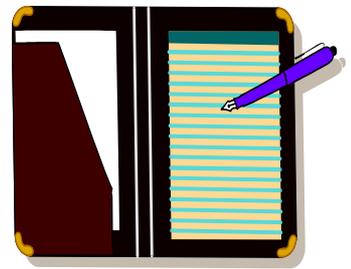
*So she sits, her rest deserving
For this month her duty's done
Maybe she's just strength conserving –
Soon she starts another one!*

By Nigel Beeton

Parish Pump website

CALENDAR (programme of services inside)

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



MAY

Wed 01	12.00 pm	<u>Canal Trip from Whaley Bridge</u> with lunch (pre-booked)		
Thu 02				
Fri 03	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 04		10—12 noon		Coffee Morning in aid of Church charities
Mon 06	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 07				
Wed 08		12.00-1.30 pm		SOUP, SWEET n MEET - friends & neighbours welcome
Thu 09				
Fri 10	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 11				<u>CHRISTIAN AID WEEK BEGINS</u> with WALKS IN LYME PARK
Sun 12	11.45 am	Management meeting ~ Church		
Mon 13	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting ~ Church
			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 14				
Wed 15				
Thu 16				
Fri 17	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Mon 20	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	7.00 pm	CTCH Business Meeting ~ St Ann's RC
			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 21				
Wed 22				
Thu 23				
Fri 24	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 25				7.00 pm FILM NIGHT - friends & neighbours welcome
Mon 27	9.30 am	Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 28			7.30 pm	Joint Bible Study ~ Bramhall
Wed 29				
Thu 30				
Fri 31	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal

Copy for **JUNE 2019** **CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **19 MAY 2019**

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

& Bernie [swannlanebookings@gmail.com]