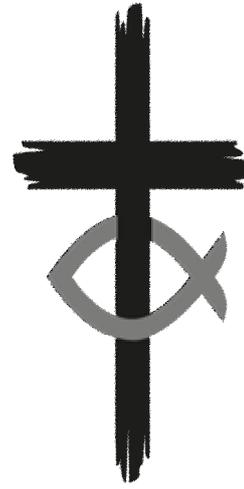


CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
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The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Minister: swannlaneminister@gmail.com

JULY/AUGUST 2019

Friends,

Holy Days or Holidays?

Some porters were hired to carry a group's possessions on a trip through the jungle. The pace quickly increased until the head porter called a halt: 'We've come so far, so fast, we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'

How often do we feel like this? July is a month when many of us take a break. Jesus and His disciples often took time to withdraw from the crowds: 'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat. He said to them, 'Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' (Mark 6: v 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break from their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday or taking time off gives us an opportunity of letting go the burdens of everyday life and renewing our rest in Him. This enables us to entrust Jesus with our issues and concerns, as we take time aside declare a holy day or holiday!

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, 'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'. John replied, 'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'

**The Rev Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump website**

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The Manchester & Cheshire Borders Missional Partnership will be Commissioned at a service at 14.30hr on 21 JUL at BRAMHALL URC.

- EVERYBODY WELCOME.

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

As we celebrated our 150th Anniversary, our thoughts were with the members and friends who were unable to share in the celebrations with us, including those who are sick in any way. We pray for friends who are anxious and depressed, the recently bereaved families or those who, because of advancing years and disabilities are unable to leave their homes.

Alan led worship for us, firstly when we joined up at Bramhall and the second being our 150th Anniversary and Gift Day when he and Rev Peter Sharp led a very memorable service for which we thank them both. It was wonderful to see our Church with hardly a seat to spare. We were also saying farewell to Alan and Karen before Alan's retirement. Bernie and Heather filled the pulpit on two other Sundays.

What a busy celebration week we had here at Cheadle Hulme URC! We remembered the times when we were Cheadle Hulme Congregational Church. The week's activities included joining the Scottish Country Dancing. Then we had Afternoon Tea after first being entertained by the Cheadle & Gatley U3A Music Group - a good and receptive audience enjoyed the proceedings. Thursday evening saw an open invitation to listen to 'Chorus Choir' who were rehearsing their Disney themed programme for an upcoming concert at St Ann's Church in Manchester. Friday was 'Teddy Bears Picnic' time with Toddlers when teddies and their owners had a very merry time. The sun shone on Saturday for a fun afternoon with miniature railway and Maypole Dancing, games, face painting and plenty of BBQ food, ice cream and tea. Sunday was our Celebration Service when we were joined by the congregation from Bramhall and friends who had been associated with the Church in the past but moved away. Donations throughout the week totalled just over £500 for our Church charities.

Don't forget the Summer Open Day on Friday 5 JUL - admission this year is £1.50 and still includes a free drink.

The Coffee Morning in aid of Francis House raised £54. Many thanks to all who attended and helped to gain this excellent amount.

If Mo Morton loaned you the DVD 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin', could you please let her know and, if possible return it - her daughter-in-law is anxious to have it back.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 14 JUL - CHURCH MEETING after Joint Service at Cheadle Hulme

Sat 24 AUG Jumble Sale

SUMMER OPEN DAY

Friday 5 JUL 2019

at **18 Hylton Drive,**

from **12.30 pm ~ 7 pm**

Admission - £1.50 - includes 1 free drink
(accompanied children free)

Lunches, Teas AND Suppers

Bring & Buy, Cakes, Plants

All proceeds to our 5 charities

150 THANK YOUs

The 150th Anniversary celebrations have already been mentioned, but I want to thank everyone for whatever part they played during the week which made it so successful and enjoyable, including the U3A Music Group, and on the Saturday Fiona Watson and the girls from the Dance School for their Maypole demonstration, Sarah and Anna Phillips (Don for the loan of the BBQ itself!) and Phoebe for their support with the BBQ and Face Painting respectively and Trevor and Frances Kimm for running their miniature train. We certainly grasped the idea of the provision of food and, considering we had no idea how many people we were providing for on two or three occasions and consequently had to hold our breath, it all worked out very well. Thank you all and here's to the next time!

Alison Stevens

Breakfast Before

on 14 JUL

[& every 2nd Sunday]

**Typical menu: Cereal, toast, fruit
tea, coffee, fresh orange,**

bacon baps, pancakes or croissant



FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our June Fellowship meeting included board games and refreshments with the added visit from Alan to answer any questions we might have about arranging a funeral. This was important as we will soon no longer have a minister to call on for advice. Alan handed out some sheets of information that I am sure we will find very useful.

For our July meeting, it has been decided to join with the Ladies' Circle for a summer lunch. Bernice and I have decided on Thursday 4 JUL at the Governors at 12 for 12.30. If you would like to go, please let Bernice or I know.

Carole Davies

LADIES CIRCLE

We had a very nice evening at Vera Lees' home. She had invited Margaret Dexter-Brown to talk about her recent visit to Australia.

This was a most interesting narrative and we heard all about the different places she went to with her family who live there. Margaret also filled us in about the Australian 'way of life' and how expensive it was to buy a house and the usual things a housewife buys - food etc.

Unfortunately, there was only a small attendance due to holidays, illness etc but our little group thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

We finished with refreshments provided by Vera - many thanks go to her. Next month is our annual visit to a restaurant and this year we are joining the Fellowship Group at 'The Governors' on Thursday 4 July 12 for 12.30 pm.

Bernice Platt

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SOUP, SWEET n MEET

WED 10 JUL

12 pm - 1.30 pm

+++++

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES 2019

During JULY we would be grateful for more **Sweet/Chocolates** (best before June 2020 EU origin) AND in AUGUST **small games (travel size draughts/dominos/playing cards** Thank you,

Bernie Stevens

CHURCHES TOGETHER

We are asked to pray for...

w/c Sun 7 July Emmanuel Church
Messy Church on Saturday 13 July- the leaders and Rev Anthony Barnshaw as they prepare the fun activities and tell the young people about Jesus.

w/c Sun 14 July Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church
The minister Rev Philip Peacock and the fellowship as they pray for their witness in the community.

w/c Sun 21 July Chelwood Baptist Church
The minister Rev Andrew Philips and the fellowship as they witness and serve in the community, and encourage each other to grow in faith.

w/c Sun 28 July All Saints Church
The minister Rev Janet Bacon and the fellowship as they witness in the community.

FAMOUS BIBLE PHRASES

'in the twinkling of an eye'

Usage: Something that happens very quickly, in an instant; used by William Shakespeare in the Merchant of Venice in the phrase 'I'll take my leave of the Jew in the twinkling of an eye'.

Context: The phrase is used by Paul to refer to future events that will happen so quickly that no one will have time to think about it.

1 Corinthians 15.52

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Bible Society

CHURCH MEETING

A copy of the Minutes of the last Church Meeting in April are enclosed in the magazine for Church members.

Please do everything you can to be at the meeting on Sunday 14 JUL. The meeting is open to non-members but they will have no voting rights.

Alison Stevens

INTERVIEW

which Alan gave to 'I Love Cheadle Hulme' website + later appeared in 'Reform' magazine

What was your background before you became a minister?

"I worked in senior roles at local authorities for years, both in Runcorn and in West Houghton near Bolton. Before then I worked in housing advice in Warrington. I was in charge of homelessness, hostels and housing advice in general. The roles I held really opened my eyes to how different our realities across society can be."

What prompted you to go into the URC?

"I'd been a Christian since my early teens and was ordained into the URC in 1998, in my early 40s. The URC resonated with me and I began training for the position in my late 30s on the sudden realisation that the church needed the support of non-stipendiary ministers if it was going to continue being financially viable. I worked in the position voluntarily, alongside my day job, while also studying a theology degree - I've always been interested in deepening my understanding of faith."

What's been your experience of ministry?

"Being a minister has been an unbelievable experience. The URC is a 'thinking' denomination - we have more PHDs than anyone else outside the medical profession. I've been lucky enough to travel around the world as part of my ministry, to places like Johannesburg in South Africa and to Jerusalem - experiences I would never otherwise have had. I've always worked with the poor and needy, which is so important - Jesus spent his life with those in need. I've also worked with a fantastic growing LGBT church in Manchester which functions exactly as a church should - it's an open, honest environment in which to share faith without judgments."

Why do you think church is so important to the community and has its role changed?

"Decades ago, churches were where lots happened. Football teams, amateur dramatic societies and other clubs were all connected with churches. Society has changed and it's

important that churches respond appropriately to stay relevant.

"By incorporating community activities like mums and tots sessions, reading groups and messy church, and by expanding networks, attracting services and participating in social enterprise, churches can remain important community hubs that benefit local people.

"Cheadle Hulme URC for example has established links with a local pre-school and dance school, and these connections not only ensure that financial overheads can be met but also attract people to the church itself."

How have you found getting both the URC in Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme working together?

"Society is very different now from how it was 40 or 50 years ago, and congregations have had to come to terms with this. Both churches have strong traditions and are very community minded. Each church needs to relate to its people - after all, it's only as strong as its congregation. We've been lucky that both Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme URCs are full of incredibly gifted people, not least Elaine at Bramhall and Don at Cheadle Hulme, who both do a fantastic job of taking charge of organisational and other matters."

What have been the best parts of ministry for you?

"Being a URC minister is both intellectually stimulating and touching on a human level. I have always enjoyed working with people and supporting those in any kind of need, seeing people rise above and finding God's grace. Fundamentally, the church is at the heart of the community, and the URC congregations in Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme are people filled with big, good hearts, who are willing to help where there is need - a great example of this is the support Cheadle Hulme gives both to local causes and to the Mae Gone orphanage in northern Thailand."

Any particularly memorable moments for your ministry?

"More than anything, I've focused on being there for people in times of need. During one pastoral visit, which I made on a whim, I found a lady in the act of taking her own life. I was able to talk things through with her and I'm

happy to say she is still with us. Since announcing my retirement I have been overwhelmed by the kind words and tributes from members of both churches - I've been fortunate enough to meet some exceptional people during my ministry and I will certainly miss my congregations."

You're planning to follow pilgrim routes in your retirement - what does that entail?

"I'm very interested in walking and cycling pilgrim routes. The foundations of Christianity in the UK actually came from the dispersed church in North Africa and along trade routes from Northern Ireland. I've cycled 600 miles along pilgrim routes, two of which I completed last year. I followed routes from Birmingham to Warwickshire, through Leicestershire and Norfolk to Walsingham, which is essentially a shrine that attracts millions of people. I'm deeply interested in finding out how and why these places become shrines.

"I also cycled from Glasgow down through Ayr and to Whithorn in south west Scotland, where St Ninian built the first brick church - it's been archaeologically proven. The pilgrim routes pay respect to the saint who travelled them; I feel a special sort of tingle in spiritual places like these, as well as Coventry Cathedral and especially in Jerusalem - my spiritual antenna went wild!"

What are you looking forward to once you retire?

"I'm looking forward to spending time with my grandchildren - I have one and another on the way. After 11 years of living in the manse, it's time to return to our family home in Cheshire, which has been tenanted all this time. We're moving back in summer, so there's lots to organise.

"I'll also be spending time at our other property in south-west Scotland, exploring faith along the pilgrim's route near Whithorn. My good friend Jim also runs a cycling charity and I'd like to help him with that - I'm still very much committed to helping others."

What challenges do you think churches face?

"Relevance to today's world and always looking forward. We are now asking more important questions about faith and the world around us,

which is to be encouraged. The URC is a very supportive and congregational church in which members have the chance to get involved and lead celebrations of faith. Having a single voice always speaking only gives a single outlook; it's important that churches represent the broad spectrum of its members.

"Being there for the community is so important, too - people rely on church in times of need. All denominations are facing challenges but I'm confident that both Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme URCs will rise up and meet those challenges head on."



QUIET PEACE

O Lord, my heart is all a prayer,
But it is silent unto thee;
I am too tired to look for words,
I rest upon thy sympathy
To understand when I am dumb;
And well I know thou hearest me.

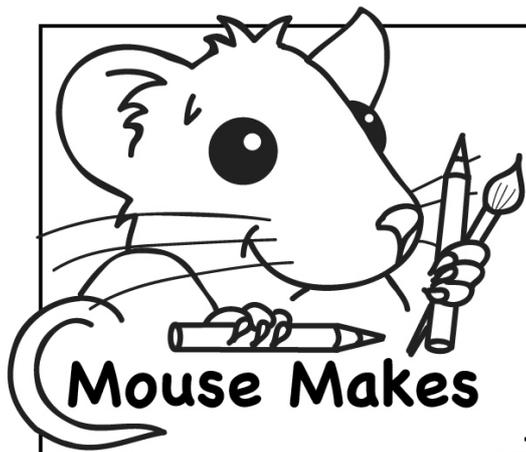
I know thou hearest me because
A quiet peace comes down to me,
And fills the places where before
Weak thoughts were wandering wearily;
And deep within me it is calm,
Though waves are tossing outwardly.

By Amy Carmichael (1867 – 1951)

A GARDEN MYSTERY

A garden is a mystery
It makes me question 'why?'
The plants I nurture with such care
Just shrivel up and die?
While seeds that I don't know about
All vigorously thrive
And grow like fabled beanstalks
From cracks within my drive!

Parish Pump website



Who did Jesus choose as His first disciples?
 _____ and _____
 Matthew 4:18

Which disciple was a tax collector?

 Matthew 10:3

Who was John's brother?

 Matthew 4:21

Which disciple betrayed Jesus?

 Mark 3:19

Which Apostle wrote Revelation?

 Revelation 1:1

Who became the Apostle to the Gentiles?

 Acts 13:9
 Acts 9:1-18

DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the Apostles recorded the stories of Jesus and wrote about what it means to be a Christian.

Matthew and John wrote gospels.

Paul wrote many letters to the new Christian churches. (Look at the New Testament to see how many he wrote.)

James, Peter, John and Jude all wrote letters.

John wrote the book of Revelation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Four of the disciples were fishermen: **Andrew, Peter, James and John.**

They would have used **two** different nets to fish: a circular one in shallow water and a large dragnet in deep water.

In the time of the disciples it was usual for men to have two names. Which second name belongs to which Apostle?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| JUDE | BOANERGES |
| MATTHEW | SIMON |
| JOHN | DIDYMUS |
| PETER | THADDEUS |
| THOMAS | SAUL |
| PAUL | NATHANIEL |
| BARTHOLOMEW | LEVI |



A J O J E S J U D P A U L J
 T M J U D M A T T H E W A E
 J A O D J A M E S I M O N S
 A T H A D D E U S L E H D U
 M T N S M A T T H I A S R S
 E N O T H O M A S P E T E R
 S A B A R T H O L O M E W S

Can you find **JESUS** and all the Apostles in the word search?
 PETER • JAMES • JOHN
 ANDREW • PHILIP
 BARTHOLOMEW
 MATTHEW • THOMAS
 THADDEUS • SIMON
 JAMES • JUDAS
 MATTHIAS • PAUL



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 JUL	14 JUL	21 JUL	28 JUL
Service	Morning Worship	JOINT Family Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Robert Williams	Bernie Stevens	Linda Rayner	Margaret Dexter-Brown
Reader	V Lees	V Wilson	T Clarkson	V Elliott
Elder Duty	H Frankish	A Stevens	S Smith	C Davies / P Oliver
Door Duty	M Morton	V Wilson	D Green	V Elliott
Flowers	G Thompson	J Sallaway	B Chance	V Wilson
Coffee	B & A Stevens	H & L Frankish	D Green/G Thompson	S & M Smith
Notes		BREAKFAST BEFORE FAMILY SERVICE + CHURCH MEETING		HOLY COMMUNION

	4 AUG	11 AUG	18 AUG	25 AUG
Service	Morning Worship	Family Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	TBA	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Heather Frankish	Bernie Stevens
Reader	L Frankish	J Hodson	B Platt	J Smeathers
Elder Duty	B Stevens	H Frankish	P Oliver	A Stevens / S Smith
Door Duty	A Manley	N Lawrence	B Platt	B Danson
Flowers	C Brooks	A Manley	B Danson	M Smith
Coffee	C Davies/M Hardie	H Elsden / M Morton	V Wilson / B Platt	A & S Altree
Notes		BREAKFAST BEFORE FAMILY SERVICE		HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

TOO GRAND A PIANO

The story is told how, after the concert hall at Broadcasting House was built, there was doubt whether the door would admit a concert grand. "Try it," said somebody. But the musical director objected on the ground that if his beautiful Bechstein got stuck it would be damaged. So they instructed the carpenter to take measurements and make an exact replica in plywood. This was done, and then they found they couldn't get the model out of the carpenter's shop...

(from Alexander Donald)

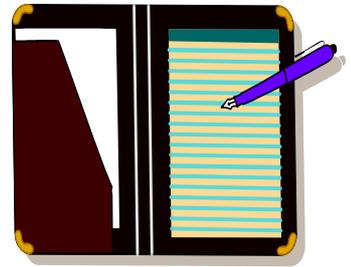
INTELLIGENCE?

Should we be surprised to read in a guide to degree course vacancies that the place to study Artificial Intelligence is at Westminster?"

(from P C Holderness)

Parish Pump website

CALENDAR (programme of services inside)



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

JULY

- Mon 01 9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church 8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 02
Wed 03 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting ~ Church
Thu 04 12 for 12.30 pm Ladies Circle and Fellowship Group Lunch Out - The Governors
Fri 05 10.00 am Toddlers
12.30 ~ 7 pm SUMMER OPEN DAY - Hylton drive
Sat 06 10~12 noon Coffee Morning in aid of Suk Jai Orphanage
- Mon 08 9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church 8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 09 7.30 pm Joint Bible Study at Bramhall
Wed 10 12.00-1.30 pm SOUP, SWEET n MEET - friends & neighbours welcome
7.30 pm Worship Group ~ Church
Thu 11
Fri 12 10.00 am Toddlers 7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Mon 15 9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church 8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 16
Wed 17
Thu 18
Fri 19 10.00 am Toddlers 7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 20
Sun 21 11.45 am Management ~ Church
2.30 pm Commissioning Service for the Missional Partnership ~ Bramhall URC
Mon 22 9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church 8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 23 7.30 pm Joint Bible Study at Bramhall
Wed 24
Thu 25
Fri 26 10.00 am Toddlers 7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 27 7.00 pm Film Night
Sun 28
Mon 29 9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church 8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 30
Wed 31

MANY GROUPS CLOSE OVER THE HOLIDAY - PLEASE CHECK DETAILS BEFOREHAND

AUGUST

- Sat 03 10~12 noon Coffee Morning in aid of Chelwood Foodbank
Sun 18 3 ~ 5 pm Partnership Bar-B-Q at Gatley URC
Sat 24 1.00 pm JUMBLE SALE

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& Bernie [swannlanebookings@gmail.com]