

CHURCH NEWS

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



Minister: swannlaneminister@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2019

Friends,

Making the most of your time

September is the time of year when we get back to normal routine after the summer break. It's an opportunity to ask how God wants us to make the most of the time He gives us. Although we can't always choose how we use our time, we can control our attitude towards it. How can we use our time wisely?

Firstly, **see time as a gift from God**. Each day is an opportunity to know God better and serve Him. Time isn't inexhaustible, as someday our time on earth will end. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (Psalm 90:12). The first thing we can do when we awake is thank God for the gift of another day.

Secondly, **commit your time to God**. Time is not to be wasted, but to be used for God's glory. We are accountable to God for the way that we use our time: 'Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15,16). We should ask God to help us organise our time more wisely, to reflect His concerns.

Thirdly, **set aside time for God, others and ourselves**. How often can we go through a whole day without thinking about God or ignoring someone who needs our help? This is because we relegate God to our spare time, so He ends up at the bottom of our list of priorities. Jesus said, 'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness' (Matthew 6:33). If we prioritise our time for God, people and our needs, the rest of life will fit around them.

'I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.' (Martin Luther).

Rev Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump website

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We are now in the summer holiday period. Most of us are able to spend a few days or even weeks having a break. We must be mindful of those people who are not able to enjoy a break for whatever reason. Our prayers are with those who are confined to their homes, those who are sick in body or in mind. We think of the many bereaved families and hope the love and support of family and friends help them through these difficult times.

During July we were pleased to welcome Robert Williams and Linda Rayner to lead our worship. All other services, including August, were led by our in-house friends - Margaret Dexter-Brown, Heather Frankish, Bernie Stevens and Sandy Smith - many thanks.

After a very busy June, our Church activities slowed down during July and August. Nevertheless, in July over £800 was raised at the annual Summer Open Day, when the weather was extremely kind to us and the function very well supported. In August, there was the bi-annual Jumble Sale which realised over £530 - both amounts going to the Church charities. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to either of these events. We now have a very devoted group of people from our Church **and** friends / families who work very hard, but also have a lot of fun.

Saturday Coffee Mornings continue to raise funds for the various charities. In July, £18.10 was raised for Suk Jai Orphanage and in August Chelwood Food Bank gained £48. Thank you to everyone who supports them in this way.

Thank you to those who continue to delight us in this time with new blinds and very comfortable chairs in the new 'Coffee Lounge'.

Jenny Hodson is once again treading the boards at The Plaza with Stockport Operatic who are presenting 'Guys and Dolls' between 22 ~ 26 OCT. Please speak to Jenny if you would like some tickets.

After a short break in August, to replenish equipment etc., the Toddler Group will be in full swing. This is a very happy group of young people. If you know of any families with

small children, they may be interested in joining us.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 12 OCT - Fish & Chip Supper and Beetle Drive (pre-book)

Sun 13 OCT - CHURCH MEETING

Sat 26 OCT - **PARTNERSHIP DAY** at Christ Church Parrswood Rd, 10 ~ 3.30 pm

THE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING.

Come along for a nibble and a natter and at the same time support people facing cancer, on the 5 OCT at 10.00am at Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church.

If you really want to put the icing on the cake bake or buy your favourite cake and bring it along. Look forward to seeing you there.

Heather and Louise Frankish

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Fellowship Group will meet again after the summer break on Wed 4 SEP when we will get out the board games and discuss what we will be doing during the next few months. We must also remember Muriel who died recently, she will be sadly missed. Hope to see you all at the meeting, full of ideas!

Carole Davies

LADIES CIRCLE

The September meeting will be on Thursday 12 SEP at Heather Elsdon's at 8 pm when all are welcome. We will be thinking about the future of the group so please do everything you can to be there so that important decisions can be made.

Bernice Platt

Breakfast Before

on 8 SEP

[& every 2nd Sunday]

Typical menu: Cereal, toast, fruit

tea, coffee, fresh orange,

bacon baps, pancakes or croissant

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SOUP, SWEET n MEET
WED 11 SEP
12 pm - 1.30 pm

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LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES 2019

During SEPTEMBER we would be grateful for **CANDLES and HOLDERS**. Thank you,

Bernie Stevens

150th ANNIVERSARY(s)

We seem to have started a trend by announcing our 150th Anniversary! Pimlott's (butchers) are also 150 years old (slight rumour of a celebration in September, but don't hold your breath) and Sainsbury's too have also been celebrating a 150th year.

Another 150th Anniversary - and this one celebrated with the issue of a special label. Everyone's favourite tomato ketchup - Heinz!

Keep your eyes and ears open and see if there will be any more this year.

Mo Morton

CHURCHES TOGETHER

We are asked to pray for...

Sun 1 September
St Andrew's Church
Rev Christopher Hobbs
and the fellowship at St
Andrew's as they come
together with Emmanuel to support each other
and witness and serve in the community.



Sun 8 September St Ann's RC Church
Fr Chris McCurry and the fellowship as they
worship together and witness in the community.

Sun 15 September Society of Friends
For the fellowship meeting to pray and worship
whilst making a difference in many practical
ways in the community.

Sun 22 September All Saints Church

Rev Janet Bacon and the fellowship as they
worship together. Through the different
activities for all ages may they witness and
serve in the community.

Sun 29 September
Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme
The joint 5th Sunday Evening Service hosted
by Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church today at
6.30pm. To enjoy worshipping together and
share a time together over refreshments.

CTCH AGM
TUES 24 SEP
7 pm ~ @ URC
ALL ARE WELCOME

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

A number of Church members attended the
Commissioning Service for our Missional
Partnership which was held at Bramhall URC
on 21 JUL. The church was filled with
representatives from the 16 churches and it
was a very happy occasion, the service being
led by Rev Dave Fraser with a talk by
Laurence Moore, previously Director of the
Windermere Centre. The various Church
representatives on the Steering Group were
also involved during the service.

The next meeting of the Steering Group will
be on 12 SEP and a Worship Workshop will
take place on Sat 21 SEP between 2 & 4 pm
at Macclesfield & Bollington URC.

On Sat 26 OCT there will be a
PARTNERSHIP DAY at Christ Church,
Parrswood Road from 10 am 'til 3.30pm. An
opportunity for Church members and Elders to
meet, share and discuss everything about
missional partnerships.

Bernie Stevens

PRESENCE

Expecting Him, my door was open wide:
Then I looked round
If any lack of service might be found,
And saw Him at my side:
How entered, by what secret stair,
I know not, knowing only He was there.

*By TE Brown (1830 -97)
Parish Pump*

A GOOD QUESTION: IS DEMOCRACY BROKEN?

One question, four answers....

SAL BRINTON

'The mother of parliaments is falling apart'

Our country has never been more divided, unable to listen to people with opposing views, or even to discuss difficult issues courteously with each other. People say regularly on the doorstep: 'What is the point of voting? My vote never counts.' That is true for most Westminster seats, caused by the first past the post voting system which means that many seats haven't changed hands in more than a century. In the last general election, only 553 votes in a handful of marginal seats decided the result. This meant that all the political parties bombarded those few seats. And all of this before we even start on Brexit!

Worse, our parliament, the mother of parliaments, is falling apart. Literally, the fabric is so dangerous, following decades of little or no repairs, we will have to vacate it for years of restoration; and metaphorically, our balanced (or hung) parliament can't agree on anything. No wonder the public puts politicians at the bottom of the popularity list.

But there is another side. As a member of the House of Lords, and as President of the Liberal Democrats, I meet many people across the country. One of my great delights is hearing of people taking action locally – living beacons of democracy. Some are politicians, but many are not. ...

Sal Brinton is President of the Liberal Democrat Party and Vice Chair of Christians in Parliament

NICK SPENCER *'Democracy is never unbroken'*

We should get one thing clear straight away: democracy is never 'unbroken'. This may sound like mere detail, splitting the hairs of pin-dancing angels, but it is important. Democracy works well in some places, poorly in others, and not at all in many more, but it is never perfect, in the sense of not needing any improvement. It's not either/or. The reason is that, frustratingly,

democracy is what we make it, and as we are notably imperfect, broken beings, so are our democratic creations.

In many countries, including our own, the structure of democracy still functions very well. Parties publish manifestos that are widely available to the electorate. Polling stations are accessible, well run, and free from pressure or interference. Democratic results are respected. Elected officials are cognisant of their representative and legislative responsibilities. Structurally speaking, the answer appears to be no.

Yet, all these structures are embedded in a rather less secure culture, in which a proper scepticism has long ago shaded over into a virulent cynicism. We don't read manifestos, and claim not to trust them (sometimes with good reasons). At least a third of us, rising to 70% in some elections, don't ever trouble polling stations (or vote online). We claim that the representatives we do elect are self-serving, not in touch with the people, and legislate in nefarious ways (as the saying attributed to Bismarck goes: You don't want to know how laws or sausages are actually made). We haven't reached the stage they have in the US, where almost any election result seems to attract contesting lawyers like wasps to jam, but I wouldn't bet against it. Culturally speaking, the answer seems to be yes...

*Nick Spencer is Senior Fellow at the religion and society think-tank **Theos***

RACHEL LAMPARD

'We must re-engage'

Democracy isn't broken. But party politics are certainly creaking round the edges.

Democracy is not just about voting. Rather, a healthy democracy enables us to manage conflict within a society. We each have different perspectives and conflicting priorities. Democracy enables us to live as a society where these conflicts are resolved without resorting to tyranny and military force. At its best, democracy enables people to feel heard and represented, even when they are in a minority.

So what is going on at the moment? Why does it feel as if our democratic institutions are insufficient to the task they are facing?

In some ways, democracy is actually working as it should. The institutions are doing their jobs when it comes to Brexit: the courts have ensured due process around decision making; parliamentarians are reflecting the (divided) will of the people.

But it certainly doesn't feel as if our democracy is healthy. Party politics is messy. At the heart of the Brexit trauma are the chasms revealed within society, which were disguised for so many years by party political arrangements. Instead of making decisions on a purely economic basis, other factors are at play in the way people decide to vote. Cultural differences, attitudes to social issues, a sense of what it is to be British. These factors do not simply align with one party or another. ...

*Rachel Lampard is Team Leader of the
Joint Public Issues Team*

JONATHAN BARTLEY

'Democracy is the answer'

There are many divisions in British politics at the moment, but if you are seeking something near consensus, the question of whether politics is broken would be a good place to start. On that there's very broad agreement. With parliament and the executive in confrontational deadlock, there's a huge problem. Public dissatisfaction is high. In the UK, we have an un-codified constitution, developed by historical accident rather than planning. That's often been applauded as flexible, but it is clearly a hopelessly tangled knot.

This has led some people to suggest the problem is democracy. I'd very firmly disagree. Rather, democracy is the answer to our current problems – a functional, modern democracy, of the kind that we can look to with envy in our Scandinavian neighbours, or, for the English, across the border in Scotland. We need a parliament that reflects the will of the people, and for votes to count in elections. We need strong, properly representative local government, ensuring that most decisions are made locally, by the people affected. Neither of these hold true in our current system. That is at

the foundation of our problems.

In 2017, research by the Electoral Reform Society found the first past the post electoral system, aside from being unfair to the 68% of voters whose votes didn't count, unable to deliver an overall majority – its chief objective. 'Take back control', the rallying cry of the EU referendum, was a correct slogan, though aimed at the wrong target...

Jonathan Bartley is Co-leader of the Green Party

These are extracts from an article that was published in the September 2019 edition of Reform



THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND

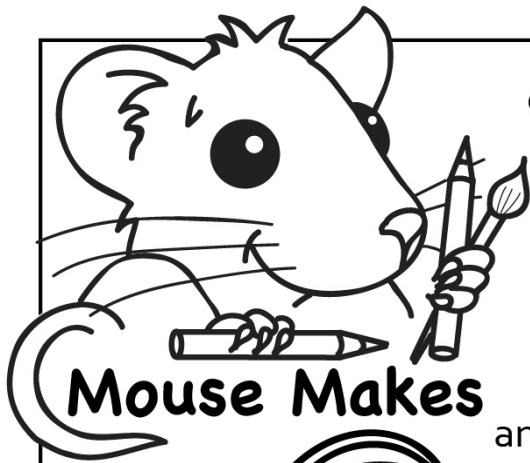
-FAMOUS PHRASES FROM THE BIBLE

Usage: Refers to bad leaders appointed by people who do not discern their unsuitability for leadership.

Context: In the biblical context Jesus refers to the Pharisees whose teachings prevent the people from responding to God.

Matthew 15.14

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

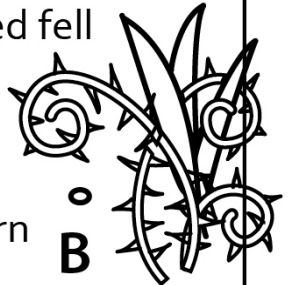


Mouse Makes

Read
the
story
in
Mark
1:1-20



Once there was a man who went out to sow corn. As he *scattered* the seed in the field some of it fell along the **path** where it was stepped on and **eaten** by the birds. Some of it fell on **rocky ground**, when the plants sprouted they **dried** up because the soil was dry. Some of the seed fell among **thorns** which grew up with the plants and **choked** them, and some seed fell in the **good** soil; the plants grew and produced corn - a **hundred** grains each!



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



JESUS • TEACH • LAKE • CROWD • GATHERED • BOAT • SHORE
PARABLE • LISTEN • SOWER • SOW • SEED • PATH • BIRDS • ATE
FELL • ROCKY • GROUND • SOIL • SUN • SCORCHED • ROOT
WITHERED • THORNS • CHOKE • GRAIN • GOOD • SPROUT • GROW
THIRTY • SIXTY • HUNDRED • HEAR • EARS

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.

Date	1 SEP	8 SEP	15 SEP	22 SEP	29 SEPT
Service	Morning Worship	Family Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	JOINT Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Eric Chilton	Robert Williams	Alison Pope	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Christopher Whitehead
Reader	H Elsdon	V Lees	V Wilson	tba	CHEADLE HULME CLOSED
Elder Duty	S Smith	C Davies	B Stevens	P Oliver/H Frankish	
Door Duty	H Elsdon	M Morton	V Wilson	D Green	
Flowers	M Hardie	V Elliott	J Murkin	R Hollingworth	
Coffee	B & A Stevens	H & L Frankish	D Green/G Thompson	S & M Smith	
Notes		BREAKFAST BEFORE		HOLY COMMUNION	@ BRAMHALL

CHURCH REGISTERS

FUNERAL - DOROTHY FROST, aged 82 years, on Tuesday 16 JULY 2019 at Swann Lane and Stockport Crematorium.

Say it slow

On a beautiful late summer's day, two American tourists were driving through Wales. They reached Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwylllantysiliogogoch (yes, *that* place in Wales) and stopped for lunch.

Still gazing in fascination at the place name on the sign outside, one of the tourists approached the waitress and said: "Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?"

"Sure," the girl shrugged. She leaned over the counter and said: "Burrr-gurrr-king".

Fair cop?

While taking a routine vandalism report at an infants school, I was interrupted by a little girl about six years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?"

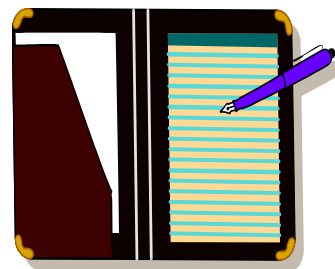
"Yes," I answered and continued writing the report.

"My mum said if I ever needed help, I should ask the police. Is that right?" she ventured.

"Yes, that's right," I told her, and added expansively: "We are always here for you."

The little girl looked reassured. "Well, then," she said, as she extended her foot toward me, "would you please tie my shoe?"

CALENDAR (programme of services inside)



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

SEPTEMBER

Sun 01		
Mon 02	9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 03		7.30 pm Joint Bible Study at Bramhall
Wed 04	2.00 pm Fellowship Group ~ Church	7.30 pm Worship Group ~ Church
Thu 05		7.30 pm Elders' Meeting ~ Church
Fri 06	10.00 am Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 07	10~12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of Church charities
Sun 08	11.45 am	Management ~ Church
Mon 09	9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 10		
Wed 11	12 ~1.30 pm	SOUP, SWEET n MEET - friends & neighbours welcome
Thu 12		7.30 pm Missional Partnership (MP) Steering Group meeting
		8.00 pm Ladies Circle ~ Heather Elsdon's
Fri 13	10.00 am Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 16	9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 17		7.30 pm Joint Bible Study at Bramhall
Wed 18		
Thu 19		
Fri 20	10.00 am Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 21	2 ~ 4 pm	MP Worship Workshop ~ Macclesfield & Bollington URC
Mon 23	9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 24		7.00 pm CTCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~ URC
Wed 25		
Thu 26		
Fri 27	10.00 am Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 28		7.00 pm Film Night
Sun 29	6.30 pm	CTCH 5th Sunday service ~ Methodist
Mon 30	9.30 am Gardening group ~ Church	8.00 pm Scottish Country Dancing

OCTOBER

Tues 01		7.00 pm CTCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~ URC
Wed 02		
Thu 03		
Fri 04	10.00 am Toddlers	7.45 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 05	10~12 noon	MacMillan coffee morning