

CHURCH NEWS

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

Minister: swannlaneminister@gmail.com



The
United
Reformed
Church

NOVEMBER 2019

Friends,

The Fall of the Berlin Wall

It was 30 years ago this month, on 9 November 1989, that the fall of the Berlin Wall began. Over two million people from East Berlin visited the West in a celebration described as *'the greatest street party in the history of the world.'* However, we are still living with walls, thinking of those dividing Gaza and Palestine from Israel. It's a strong human instinct to build walls to separate us from those we view as different and threatening.

Paul writes of how the death of Jesus has broken down the barrier between Jew and Gentile: *'His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.'* (Ephesians 2:15-16).

Jesus is still in the business in breaking down the barriers between people of different gender, age, race and language, to bring them together in His church: *'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* (Galatians 3:28).

We can easily put up barriers with others, when we make assumptions about them, forgetting that they may be thinking the same things about us. We may want to avoid making ourselves vulnerable or appear needy. Yet Jesus can break down our defences and enable us to live openly and honestly with others. As His church, He invites us to be a community of risk-takers, i.e. those who trust each other, handle our weaknesses and fears, and who encourage one another's strengths and gifts.

'A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian.' (Pope Francis).

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

As the nights draw in and become colder, may we be mindful of the homeless in our community and in the rest of the world.; We also pray for the lonely and sick in our 'fellowship' - those who are sick in body and disturbed in mind. We pray for any children or young people whom we know as they settle into new schools, colleges and universities. We ask God to guide them in their new adventures.

We are so grateful to the friends who willingly lead our worship week by week. During October, we welcomed Robert Williams and Linda Rayner and from our own fellowship, Margaret and Bernie.

Margaret led our Harvest Festival Service which was both lively and colourful. Thank you to all the folk who brought along 'food stuff' or gave a monetary donation. We had a very good response this year and food has gone to Chelwood Foodbank and Lifeshare.

Again this year, the Harvest Beetle Drive was a huge success. Lots of fun and a lovely supper of fish and chips with cake and drinks later. Well done to the young man who keeps us on our toes and his wins for the last two years! A big thank you to Morag and Sandy for providing the food and to Eric for keeping the whole thing rolling and trying to keep people on the right 'rules'!

The hot soups and lovely puddings are very welcome at our Soup & Sweet each month. The food is served from 12 ~ 1.30 pm on the second Wednesday each month: all are welcome as we cater for all dietary needs.

Thank you everyone who donated goods and postage costs for the Link to Hope shoeboxes and who were involved with the packing of the **23 boxes** which have been taken to the charity collection point.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun/Mon 10/11 NOV Remembrance Exhibition
Wed 11 DEC-Christmas Lunch-please sign list
Sun 12 JAN 2020 - CHURCH MEETING

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SOUP, SWEET n MEET WED 13 NOV 12 pm ~ 1.30 pm

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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Macmillan coffee morning and made it such a marvellous occasion. It was great to see so many people there. Also thank you for all the lovely cakes and jams that people baked and the plants! We were able to raise a staggering **£205.27** to help the Macmillan nurses support people facing cancer. Once again a big thank you.

**Heather, David
& Louise Frankish**

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Following agreement by the two groups, the first joint meeting of the **Fellowship Group** and the **Ladies Circle** will be on Wednesday 6 NOV at Church from 2 pm ~ 3.30 pm when it is hoped that as many members of both groups will be able to be present, along with anybody who would like to be involved.

Bernice & Carole

CHURCHES TOGETHER

We are asked to pray for...

Sun 3 Nov. Emmanuel

The Wardens, Readers and Fellowship as they come together and plan the future for Emmanuel, now without a minister based at the church. Pray for Rev Christopher Hobbs as he ministers across the 2 churches within the parish. Pray for a working together to witness in the community.



Sun 10 Nov. Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme

The Services of Remembrance taking place today. For all those families and individuals affected by war and terrorism. We Will Remember Them.

St Ann's We pray for guidance from all the prejudices history has left us and to be guided towards the unity of God's kingdom. We pray for all those who labour under pain of depression and anxiety that they will come to know the joy of God's love. We pray for those engaged in medical research for the benefit of others.

Sun 17 Nov. Society of Friends Pray for the fellowship who meet faithfully to worship and pray each Sunday. Pray for the CTCH Prayer and Praise meeting on 18 November to come close to God in the quiet time and through the worship.

Sun 24 Nov. All Saints

Rev Janet & Peter Bacon as they prepare to leave All Saints on Janet's retirement. Thank you for Janet's support to CTCH. For the fellowship at All Saints, Rev Janet Owen and Readers as they begin a new phase but continue the activities and ministries of outreach into the community.

Churches Together are holding a lunch in support of the work of **Christians Against Poverty** (CAP) on Saturday 2 November 2019 at 12noon hosted by Grove Lane Baptist Church. There will be a simple lunch with a speaker . There will be a collection to support the work.

CTCH Prayer and Praise meeting in November is hosted by the Society of Friends and will take place on Monday 18 November starting at 7pm with light refreshments.

MOBILE COMMUNION

We celebrate our act of communion once a month, on the 4th Sunday. In truth, it is the most renewing and up-lifting of our services for which we have a portable Communion Set that allows us to offer communion to any and all unable for any reason to attend these services. Several elders and Margaret are trained and authorised to preside at the sacraments (communion, baptism and funeral) and are ready willing and able to bring communion to your homes or hospitals. Between us, we have done all these.

Bernie and Margaret

TWO MINUTE SILENCE

Schoolgirls in 1918 were warned that they might never be married. So many prospective husbands had been killed in World War 1, that their chances could be slim. It's hard for us to imagine such slaughter. The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people, ending only when the Armistice took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

The idea of a 'Two Minute Silence' originated in South Africa. The first minute was to be a time of thanksgiving for those who had returned alive: the second minute was to remember those fallen. It was taken up by King George V, writing, "it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities."

It had an immediate impact. An observer wrote, "The whole World Stands to Attention. From the Indian jungles to Alaskan snows, on the trains, on ships at sea, in every part of the globe where a few British were gathered together, the Two-Minute pause was observed."

The Great War was said to be 'the war to end all wars'. But it wasn't. It didn't. About three per cent of the world population were to die in World War 2. So, for some years now, today's 11th Nov remembrance, repeated on the nearest Sunday, incorporates all conflicts.

The Royal British Legion describes the Act of Remembrance as a deeply personal act available to everyone, acknowledging the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces and their families, across all conflicts.

In keeping the Two Minute Silence, many will long for the day when, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Parish Pump website

Most recently, the British Legion included all acts of terrorism as conflicts. Ed

NEXT MODERATOR OF NORTH WESTERN SYNOD NOMINATED

The Revd Brian Jolly has been nominated as the next Moderator of the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Born in 1956 in north London, Brian moved to the north west in 1978 for his initial ministerial formation at the University of Manchester and the Congregational College.

He was ordained in 1982 and has served pastorates in Blackburn, Bolton, Stockport and Altrincham. He serves now as Clerk of the North Western Synod and has been covering some of the duties of a Synod Moderator during a vacancy period.

He has served extensively in the wider church and as a trustee of the UK Christian charity Embrace the Middle East (formerly BibleLands).

Brian and Denise, who is a specialist in the residential care of children who have special educational needs and disabilities, have three adult children, Sam, Peter and Hannah, and a baby granddaughter.

Brian said: "I am looking forward to continuing to serve the North Western Synod and the wider church in this new role, and especially to supporting the ministers and churches of the Synod as they engage with the Missional Discipleship strategy which they have prayerfully discerned and agreed in the last few years."

The Revd John Proctor, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, said: "Brian Jolly has done an immense amount to sustain the life of our North Western Synod, in his role as Clerk over the last three years, and in carrying many of the Moderator's responsibilities in the recent months of vacancy.

"His nomination offers the Synod the prospect of continuity, known and understanding leadership, and a steady and supportive attention to churches as they respond to the Synod's strategy of Missional Discipleship.

"It is anticipated that his appointment would begin on 1 January 2020 and run until the end of 2024, when he will retire."

The churches in the North Western Synod are

spread across the many towns and cities from Bewcastle in Cumbria to Macclesfield in Cheshire, all supported from the Synod office in Eccles.

URC website

SECRETARY OF STATE...

The Secretary of State for Work & Pensions has decided to stop imposing 3 year-long benefit sanctions as a punishment for not obeying the instructions of the Jobcentre. Such sanctions meant that people had no support for food or heat for 3-years, causing untold hardship. I am overjoyed that this will stop.

I am angry that such a foolish policy was ever started and that so many lives have been damaged in the last seven years. We will never know how many lives have been damaged as this is not recorded.

Three year sanctions were part of a package of policies beginning in 2010 that massively increased the number and severity of sanctions applied to the unemployed and to some sick and disabled people also.

This system reversed natural justice. When the Jobcentre believes that an instruction has not been obeyed a sanction is applied. The result is that those least able to argue their case are most likely to be sanctioned and highlighted those with mental health problems but the trend is clear for other groups – those with the most difficulties are those who are sanctioned most.

Churches and charities have tried to support families affected by sanctions. Foodbanks are called upon to feed people who have been sanctioned and importantly they show compassion and humanity where the sanctions system has not.

The sanctions policy's stated intention was to move people into work – but there has never been evidence that ramping up sanctions would achieve this. Over the past 9 years the Government has refused to look for evidence that its policy is achieving its aims, and worse has refused to look for evidence of the hardship caused by its policy choices. While others including JPIT and the Government's own watchdog the National Audit Office, produced report after report detailing the damage the policy has caused the Government preferred to maintain its ignorance.

The Secretary of State said she reviewed the DWP's internal unpublished data, which tells her that "a six-month sanction already provides a significant incentive to comply with the labour market regime".

So, only 6 months without heat and food, because you missed an interview when the bus was late.

précised from...

PAUL MORRISON
Joint Public Issues Team

URC CALLS TO END VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

The United Reformed Church General Assembly Co-Moderators, Derek Estill and Revd Nigel Uden, with leaders from the Methodist Church and Baptists Together, have urged the UK Government to work for peace in Syria. Recent military attacks in the north-east of the country have left unarmed civilians caught between two fighting parties. The pastors of three local churches have shared their concerns for the desperate situation facing families in the area, which includes disruption to the water supply, bombings, food prices soaring, people unable to attend their workplaces and some aged under 45 being forced to join the fighting. With the cold of winter fast approaching, people of north-eastern Syria are understandably deeply distressed and wish to live in peace and safety but they need help.

Statement on Syria

Following reports from our Church partners in Syria, we are extremely concerned about the impact on civilians of the assault on north-eastern Syria by Turkey.

The diverse people of the region were just beginning to see some respite from the turmoil and destruction that has overtaken them during the past 8 years of war. The region urgently needs a political settlement that guarantees a place for every citizen. The people of north-eastern Syria, both Muslim and Christian, need and desperately

long for freedom and stability in order to live side by side in peace.

We appeal to the UK Government to take urgent and decisive political action to ensure that a further escalation of conflict is averted. We appeal for all parties to work for a sustainable peace based on agreements that guarantee respect for human rights and a complete rejection of violence.

Mr Derek Estill & Revd Nigel Uden
Co-Moderators of the General Assembly
of the United Reformed Church

Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of &
Prof. Clive Marsh, Vice-President of the
Conference of the Methodist Church

Revd Tony Peck, General Secretary,
European Baptist Federation

A prayer for Syria

Gracious God,
We weep with those in Syria,
crying out for those who have been killed,
for those who grieve loved ones,
for those who face the chaos and upheaval of
losing homes and livelihoods,
for those who are injured, traumatised and
violated,
for those whose futures have been stolen from
them,
for those seeking power through violence.
Turn these cries of lament into calls for justice.
Convict our politicians, world leaders, and the
international community to work together create a
way of lasting peace.
Give strength and wisdom to religious and
community leaders in the region who seek to
build bridges across divided communities.
Challenge each of us to work for a world which
enables freedom, respect and stability for all
people. In the name of Christ, Amen.

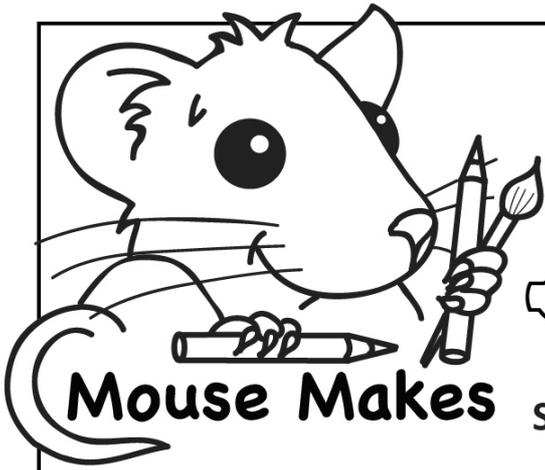
URC website

Breakfast Before

on 10 NOV

[& every 2nd Sunday]

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



BIBLE JOURNEYS

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after it's journey?

Genesis 8:4

Where did God tell Samuel to travel to to find a new king?

1 Samuel 16:1-4

To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2

Which town did Joseph take Mary to before Jesus was born?

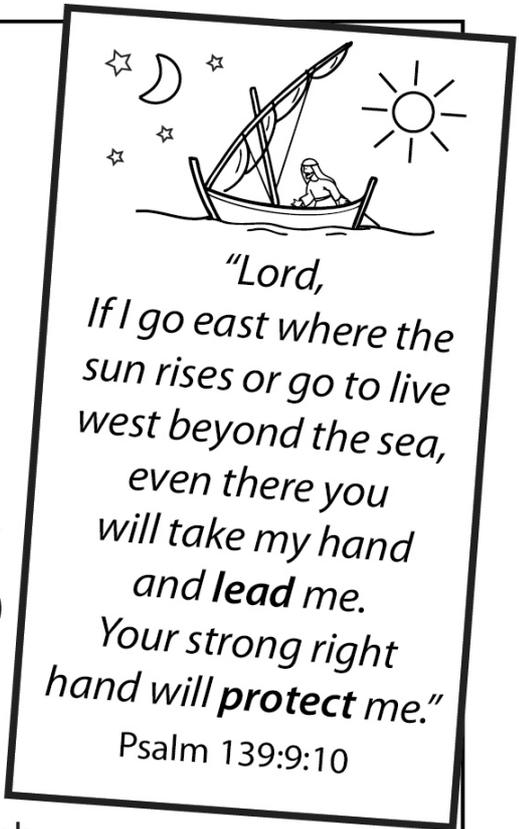
Luke 2:4

Where did Mary and Joseph flee to to get away from Herod?

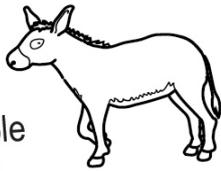
Matthew 2:13

Where was Saul (Paul) going to when Jesus spoke to him?

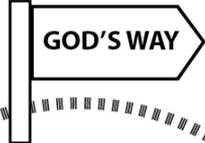
Acts 9:1-18



What kind of transport goes with each bible character?



- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| NOAH | DONKEY |
| BAALAM | CHARIOT |
| MOSES | SHIP |
| JONAH | ARK |
| ELIJAH | BIG FISH |
| PHILIP | BASKET |
| PAUL | WHIRLWIND |



"God is our God for ever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end."
from Psalm 48:14

"People can plan what they want to do, but it is the Lord who guides their steps."
Proverbs 16:9



Find the travel words in the word search



JOURNEY

- FLEE • LEAVE • TRAVEL
 • **GOD WITH US** •
 DONKEY • CAMEL
 HORSE • CHARIOT
 BOAT • RIDE • WALK
 PATH • ROAD
 • DIRECTION •
 GUIDE • MAP • SIGN
 VILLAGE • TOWN • CITY



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

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.

Date	3 NOV	10 NOV	17 NOV	24 NOV
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Rev Steve Hough	Robert Williams	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Bernie Stevens
Reader	H Elsden	V Lees	V Wilson	M Morton
Elder Duty	H Frankish	A Stevens	P Oliver	P Oliver / S Smith
Door Duty	H Elsden	M Morton	V Wilson	D Green
Flowers	M Wightman	Remembrance	Remembrance	P Grieve
Coffee	H & L Frankish	B & A Stevens	S & M Smith	C Davies / M Hardie
Notes		BREAKFAST BEFORE		JOINT HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

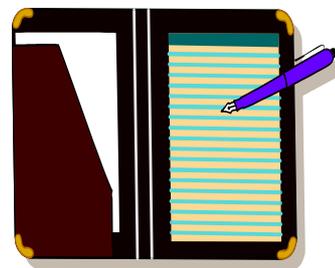
"The Perfect Church"

I think that I shall never see
 A church that's all it ought to be;
 A church whose members never stray
 Beyond the straight and narrow way!
 A church that has no empty pews
 Whose Pastor never has the blues,
 A church who's Elders always seek
 And none is proud and all are meek;
 Where gossips never peddle lies,
 Or make complaints and criticise;
 Where all are always sweet and kind
 And to all others faults are blind.
 Such perfect churches there may be,
 But none of them are known to me.
 But still we'll work and pray and plan
 To make our own the best we can.

Anon



CALENDAR (programme of services inside)



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

NOVEMBER

Fri 01	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 02	10~12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of Lifeshare		
	12 noon	CTCH Lunch ~ Grove Lane Baptist		
Sun 03				
Mon 04	9.30 am	Gardening group - Church	8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
			7.30 pm	Joint Bible Study at Bramhall URC
Tues 05				
Wed 06	2.00 - 3.30 pm	Fellowship Circle ~ Coffee Lounge		
Thu 07				
Fri 08	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 09	10.00 am-3.00 pm	Missional Partnership Retreat Day ~ Trinity URC, Hale		
Sun 10		REMEMBRANCE EXHIBITION		
Mon 11	9.30 am	Gardening group	10 am ~ 3 pm	REMEMBRANCE EXHIBITION
			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 12			7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting ~ Church
Wed 13	12 ~1.30 pm	SOUP, SWEET n MEET - friends & neighbours welcome	7.30 pm	Worship Group ~ Church
Thu 14				
Fri 15	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 16	10.00 am ~3.00 pm	Missional Partnership Retreat Day ~ Short Street URC , Hazel Grove		
Sun 17				
Mon 18	9.30 am	Gardening group - Church	7.00 pm	CTCH Prayer & Praise ~ Friends Meeting House
			8.00 pm	Scottish Country Dancing
Tues 19			7.30 pm	Joint Bible Study at Bramhall URC
Wed 20				
Thu 21				
Fri 22	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 23			7.00 pm	Film Night
Sun 24				
Mon 25	9.30 am	Gardening group - Church	XX	NO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING XX
Tues 26				
Wed 27				
Thu 28				
Fri 29	10.00 am	Toddlers	7.45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 30				

Copy for **DECEMBER 2019** **CHURCH NEWS** should be in the editors' hands by **17 NOV 2019**

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