

CHURCH NEWS

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

Partnership Minister: Rev Dr Marion Tugwood
swannlaneminister@gmail.com



NOVEMBER 2020

Friends,

We Will Remember – 80 years on

This year we've been remembering the Battle of Britain, described by Winston Churchill in August 1940 as *'one of the decisive battles of the war... ...never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'* It was a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War. The occasions for Remembrance this month will provide us times of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war.



However, this year we are very aware of our own struggles with the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. We face an unseen enemy, but the effects on our lives and society are almost as devastating as world war.

Remembering is not just about focusing on past events. It is also about making present past events, as we give thanks for all that took place. The Battle of Britain was fought by the Few and won in the skies over the Channel. In our battle with the virus, we can call to mind the victory of Jesus: *'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.'* (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus secured the victory of death by His cross and resurrection, so that we don't need to fear death, but trust in His loving purposes for our lives.

Currently we can't see clearly what the future holds for us; it may be very different from what we might expect. However, we can pray for God's will to be done and that we will play our part, just as each of those airmen did so many years ago.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Canon Paul Hardingham
via Parish Pump (internet)

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

As we pray for members and friends of our congregation, O God grant that our own happiness and good health will never make us blind to their needs and forgetful of the unhappiness of others. This month we pray especially for the family and close friends of Vivienne. We trust that the love and support of friends and family will help them through this difficult time.

Despite the restrictions, we were able to welcome Robert Williams to lead worship and say thank you for our harvest. We have food, and plenty of it, so we should be very mindful of the millions of people in the world who have nothing - no harvest to celebrate. We pray especially for the farmers, fishermen and manufacturers who provide us with our sustenance and also for the establishments and willing helpers who try to feed the less fortunate.

As written by Henry Roberts-Moxley (1881):
Praise to God, who calls us ever in his harvesting to share,
May he own our poor endeavour, find us faithful everywhere
Praise to God, who makes us brothers from striving bids us cease.
Teaches us to share with others all the good of earth's increase.

Thank you to all the folk who provided food and money for the Harvest Festival, which were shared between the Chelwood Foodbank and Lifeshare (Manchester).

As well as Robert we want to thank Peter Sharp, Margaret Dexter-Brown and Bernie for their leadership as we try to introduce more normality into our morning service every Sunday.

Our congratulations go to Carole Davies on the arrival of another grandson, Remi, a son for David and Jess. Best wishes for the future to all the family.

Congratulations also go to Mo Morton on the birth of another **great, great** niece, Aibhlin Lesley Wildman, born 5 weeks early on 3 OCT and now living at her home in Scone, Scotland. A very welcome little charmer!

Best wishes for a happy birthday go to anyone who is due to celebrate in November, no matter what age!

Madge has reminded us that Stockport Car Scheme continues to provide essential and reasonably priced connections for appointments and the likes.

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'
Proverbs 3:5~6 © NIV

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 NOV **REMEMBRANCE** Service
6 DEC **TOY** Service

CHURCHES TOGETHER

We pray for...

w/c Sun 1 Nov: All Saints:
As we celebrate our patronal festival of All Saints. Please pray that our congregation may remain strong in the face of the current challenges of Covid 19 & serve on earth as the Saints in Heaven.



w/c 8 Nov: St Ann's: We give thanks for the 17 year ministry of Fr Chris McCurry who has reached retirement. We pray for his well being for the future.

w/c 15 Nov: Chelwood Baptist: Rejoice with us, the Lord has been faithful to the fellowship. Over the last 12 months, supplying our every need. Pray as we seek God's will for the future.

w/c 22 Nov: Society of Friends: The fellowship as they continue to worship and witness in the community .

w/c 29 Nov: CTCH /Chelwood: Advent Sunday
Father, draw the family of CTCH together in faith, hope and Vision. Use us to bring that faith, hope and vision to the people of Cheadle Hulme. May thy will be done.

LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER

1 Nov: Micah 3.5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13; Matthew 23.1-12

8 Nov: Amos 5.18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; Matthew 25.1-13

15 Nov: Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; Psalm 90.1-8,(9-11),12; Matthew 25.14-30; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

22 Nov: Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Psalm 95.1-7a; Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46

29 Nov: Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7,17-19; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP NEWS

The steering Group has met several times using Zoom video conferencing which we are all getting proficient at: mute, chat, share screen, break-out rooms, polls and other interesting facilities.

'Space at the Table' project went well this week thanks to Don.

A partnership (6.30 pm) Evening Service is now Zooming every 2nd Sunday each month.

We are considering co-operation between partners to produce *recordings* for incorporation into many church's services. The Zooming of music in one form or another has required us to buy 2 more licenses to cover 'streaming' over the internet - we now have 8 (of the dozens.)

SHOEBOXES

Celebrations are in order that we managed, in the face of Covid, to still complete 14 shoeboxes within church AND a further 5 from preschool with Jenny Hodson's input. **NINETEEN BOXES!** **Thank you to all:** the poorest families in the whole of Europe will be the beneficiaries.

Bernie Stevens

TOY SERVICE

The annual Toy Service will be on Sun 6 DEC when we hope to gather as many new and Good as New items as possible that can be taken to The Dandelion Community (URC), Wythenshawe for distribution. Under the present situation, more families are going to need to be supported in this way.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

If you would like to help raise funds for our Church charities by inserting a single, personalised greeting into the December newsletter instead of sending lots of individual cards, please just email me with your greeting, or pop it in an envelope along with a donation and hand to either Bernie or myself by **Sunday 15 NOV.**

Alison Stevens

BREAKFAST BEFORE

SOUP, SWEET and MEET

FILM NIGHT

...will each resume as soon as we dare.

POPPY APPEAL 2020

Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contact less donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be 'point of sale donations'. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: "The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead", but that "the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised "not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present."

And yet the need is still huge: "Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them."

Parish Pump



LOAVES AND FISHES

'Loaves & Fishes' is the homeless project that supports homeless and disadvantaged people from Stockport and the surrounding area.



It is based at the 'Olive Branch' drop-in on Castle Street, Edgeley. Ed Leavy is the founder and team leader and is based at the Olive Branch from where we distribute clothes, bedding, tents, sleeping bags plus we provide emergency food parcels when needed. L&F also provides a hot meal every Sunday evening between 6 and 7.30pm at Stockport Baptist Church nr Greek Street Stockport. Along with a hot meal and drinks for about **45** people on average, we also provide winter clothing, tents, sleeping bags, underwear, gloves etc when we can.

The project started in 2013 when Ed Leavy believed that God was calling him to start a ministry with the homeless of Stockport. After being told that there are no homeless in Stockport, Ed and the team pitched up in an empty car park in the middle of Stockport and began a simple soup kitchen type operation, with around 5 people turning up. A year later there were between **35~50 homeless** people using the street kitchen. We were then offered the opportunity of using St. Mary's in the Marketplace church which we did for the next six months before we moved again to 'The Stepping Stones' on Middle Hillgate which is a drop in run by Austin Moores. Eventually we outgrew the Stepping Stones, so were very fortunate to be given the use of the downstairs lounge and kitchen area at Stockport Baptist Church, where we have been ever since. We have been extremely blessed in the way that we have always managed to find a place to meet and we thank all those people who have supported us in so many different ways.

stockportloavesandfishes.org
Don Phillips

VIVIENNE FRANCES WILSON

Vivienne: a very special lady. Born Vivienne Frances Broadbent in 1934, into one of the original farming families in Cheadle Hulme, and the youngest of 5 siblings. Her father, Frank and eldest brother Charlie being well known for their fishmonger businesses.

Growing up in that era, money was tight, and their small home was becoming overcrowded with Vivienne recalling that she slept in a cot until she was 7 - nevertheless she did have a very happy childhood. Part of this childhood involved attending Adswood Mission church which then led to her becoming a Cubs and Scouts leader.

Vivienne was academically very bright and her father wanted her to continue her studies, but 6th form wasn't for her so at 16 she started work in the Tax Office in Stockport and then Stalybridge. A move to Stalybridge was to change her life as it was through a friend she met there called Alison, that she joined Wythenshawe 18 plus social group and met her future husband Charles.

Their wedding was planned for the 13 October 1958, but the couple soon realised that Adswood Mission was far too small to accommodate their guests so they chose to marry here, in the original building, and became members 4 years later in 1962. A decision they never regretted. They enjoyed an active social life with many friends and travelled on their scooter for numerous fun filled holidays around the country. I would have loved to have seen Vivienne on that scooter.

Vivienne and Charles welcomed Clive in 1963, followed by Stella in 1965 and they settled into family life on Rowan Drive where Vivienne spent the rest of her life. In the 60s it was usual to give up work and look after your children; but once they had started school, she was keen to use her mathematical brain and found employment as a wages clerk until her retirement.

The family recall wonderful holidays to Wales, Devon and Cornwall, very special memories for Clive and Stella. They also remember playing lots of board games, whilst watching the rain and mist on those Welsh hills, but not to worry,

Mum had packed enough tinned meat and veg for 14 days.

Vivienne loved life: and the centre of that life was here at Swann Lane; enjoying the Women's Circle and Fellowship meetings, Scottish Dancing and the Walking Group. I am told you could always rely on her being in the kitchen helping out at Burns nights and other church socials.

She and Charles shared a passion for walking in the hills; especially YHA holidays, then later holidays abroad, a tour of Australia and New Zealand being one of the highlights. Sadly, Vivienne became widowed at 67, but picked up her social life in new ways. She became Treasurer of the Townswomen's Guild and acted as Assistant Treasurer at Church for many years; her Sunday afternoons spent counting the church collection, a duty she fulfilled even when her health was failing last year. Trying to contact Vivienne at home was a continual challenge, as she was out living life to the full; days out, lunches with friends, volunteering at Lyme Park to name but a few.

I don't need to tell you this, but I will.. Vivienne was a wonderful Mum, and Grandmother to Hannah and Lauren, so proud of all their achievements and particularly thrilled to attend their University Graduations. She was equally delighted when Clive found happiness with his long term partner Bariza and all have fond memories of her excellent Sundays Roasts. However, there were a couple of things that Vivienne didn't master... singing in tune for one, no worries for me, we should have sat together, because the choir wouldn't want either of us: and one more thing... technology was not a forte. But she was heard to say to Lauren and Hannah, I want one of those Google Phones like yours - 30 repetitive lessons later and no further on - a wonderful memory.

Each one of us, will have unique memories of Vivienne. I have only known her for a relatively short time compared to many of you. The lady I met and developed a friendship with was above all a 'family orientated' person, someone who was fun loving, gentle, kind and always had time for others. Equally I knew Vivienne could be forthright, definitely determined and knew her own mind, qualities I have always admired. Her company, was both stimulating and entertaining. I spent some wonderful times with her at garden

centres, enjoying morning coffee or afternoon tea, always accompanied by a slice of delicious cake. On the last of these occasions, I take away the memory of her thoroughly enjoying the most enormous piece of lemon cake, in three layers. Ours was companionable conversation, interspersed with stories of our families. But, something that will remain with me, perhaps above all else; is that she knew friendship and shared friendship. Something I think everyone here today can echo - so thank you Vivienne from us all.

She had a huge infectious smile which never left her even during the last difficult months of her life; and she rarely complained. A wonderfully caring people person loved by her friends, adored by her family. Sadly it was her time to go and we share with her family, in rejoicing that she is at peace and her suffering is over. There will be more stories to tell at a later date when we have an opportunity to celebrate her life with all her friends and family in the way she would have wanted, and we look forward to that time.

**Address by
Margaret Dexter-Brown**

=====

THANKS

Clive and I would like to thank the members and friends of Swann Lane URC for their kind messages, cards and prayers following the sad loss of our mum, Vivienne, on 14 October.

Despite the huge void left in our lives, we gain comfort from knowing that mum had so many friends in her Church family and I myself have many fond memories of Swann Lane church.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped to arrange the funeral service during these difficult times. A beautiful service and fitting tribute to our mum. We are sorry we could not invite all her friends and were touched to see people stood outside in the rain. We hope to celebrate mum's life with a memorial service when restrictions are lifted.

Love and best wishes to all

Stella Griffiths

THIS IS NO ORDINARY CHRISTMAS

-- Paul Kerensa imagines

Christmas markets will struggle this year. Which local creators, sole traders and small businesses can you support? Encourage family or friends to get behind your local artistes and artisans.

I normally save my inevitable Christmas-themed article for, well, Christmas. But 2020 is a year like no other. Magic FM started their festive spin-off station in August – the same week as John Lewis opened its grotto. So, I'll embrace Christmas creep too, with good reason. Because, to misquote the M&S festive ad, this is no ordinary Christmas: this is a socially-distanced Covid-compliant Christmas.

This year though, the planning goes beyond church leadership. My plea is for everyone: 'Save Christmas' (as they say in countless Disney films, missing the irony that it's the birth at Christmas that saves us.) We must all play our part.

Talking of which, nativity plays – will they go ahead? Guidelines may mean gold, frankincense and myrrh must be wet-wiped before being left outside of the stable door, as the wise men run off, marking it as 'delivered'. We know that pantos are sadly behind us ('Oh yes they are!') Nativities could follow.

'Enough!' you may think. 'It's not even Bonfire Night.' Tell that to the world of commerce. This year, think like they do: plan early.

Part of the challenge is that 2020 has been like one long Christmas: people home off work, no school, TV full of repeats or the Queen delivering messages, and no one knows what day it is. How can Christmas stand out against that?

I think the festive customs worth preserving are the communal, local and familial ones. Ho-ho-hooray to independent shops, mulled wine with friends and a spot of carolling. Bah humbug to Black Friday, Amazon Prime and Elf on the Shelf.

But in 2020, ordering online is the easy go to. Local independent shops have had to open and close like doors on an Advent calendar. If local lockdowns kick in, we may even be legally forced to shun our high streets, and just click.

Carol services may be forced online quicker than you can sing 'While Shepherds Watched Their

Live Stream by Night'. Some outside gatherings might be permitted – but probably with no singing. We can't go carol-No-singing. 'Carols' were originally medieval French dances, but reviving 'Le Hokey-Cokey' won't get us through midwinter.

So, think now about how to creatively preserve a wholesome Christmas – one that doesn't choose e-commerce and debt as the easy option. How can this season be memorable, life-affirming and far-reaching?

Oh, I don't have any answers, by the way. That's where you come in.

Email your ideas to reform@urc.org.uk by the end of October, and I'll include some suggestions in December's column. Some thoughts to start...

What can your church /neighbourhood do indoors? (Not much...) What about outdoors? What can you post through letterboxes that's Christmassy, inventive and welcome?

We'll be online. I've already written a Zoom 'Pantonline', to be performed for one company's Christmas do. Should your church or family be doing an online nativity, carol service or Christmas quiz?

We'll also want time offline. What can you do in the real world that's local, communal and brilliant... but at an allowed distance? Candles and windows? Neighbours and gifts? A biblical reading, done like never before?

Hope's at the heart of it. It's what we all need right now – and Christmas announces hope.

It's early yet. But thinking caps on now to plan ahead. Otherwise... Well, this year Amazon's Jeff Bezos became the first person to be worth \$200Bn. He'd love to get to \$201bn, if we all leave it too late, and make that easy click.

Paul Kerensa is a comic writer, performer and broadcaster. His book, *'Hark! The Biography of Christmas'* (Lion Hudson) is available from all independent bookshops – and Amazon!

from **REFORM**
Oct 2020

We're working on a new **DUTY ROTA ...**

Date Service	1 NOV	8 NOV	15 NOV	22 NOV	29 NOV
Title	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders		Bernie Stevens		Sandy Smith	
Reader					
Elder Duty					
Notes	PRAYER SERVICE	REMEMBRANCE	PRAYER SERVICE	HOLY COMMUNION	ADVENT SUNDAY

CHURCH REGISTERS

FUNERAL - VIVIENNE FRANCES WILSON, who died on 14 October 2020 aged 86 yrs: at Cheadle Hulme URC and Stockport Crematorium on 23 October 2020 to be followed at a later date by a Service of Celebration at Cheadle Hulme.

The Soldier's Prayer

*I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.*

*I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.*

*I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.*

*I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.*

*I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.*

*I got nothing that I asked for –
But everything that I had hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.*



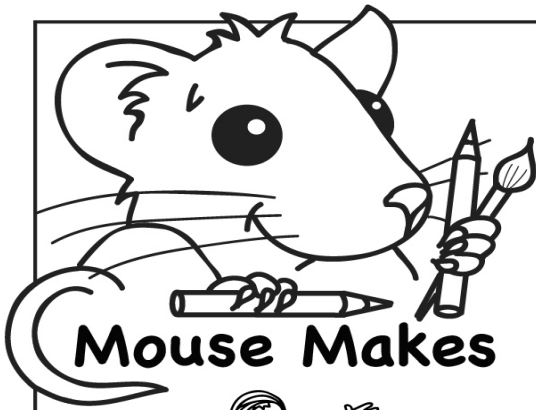
REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

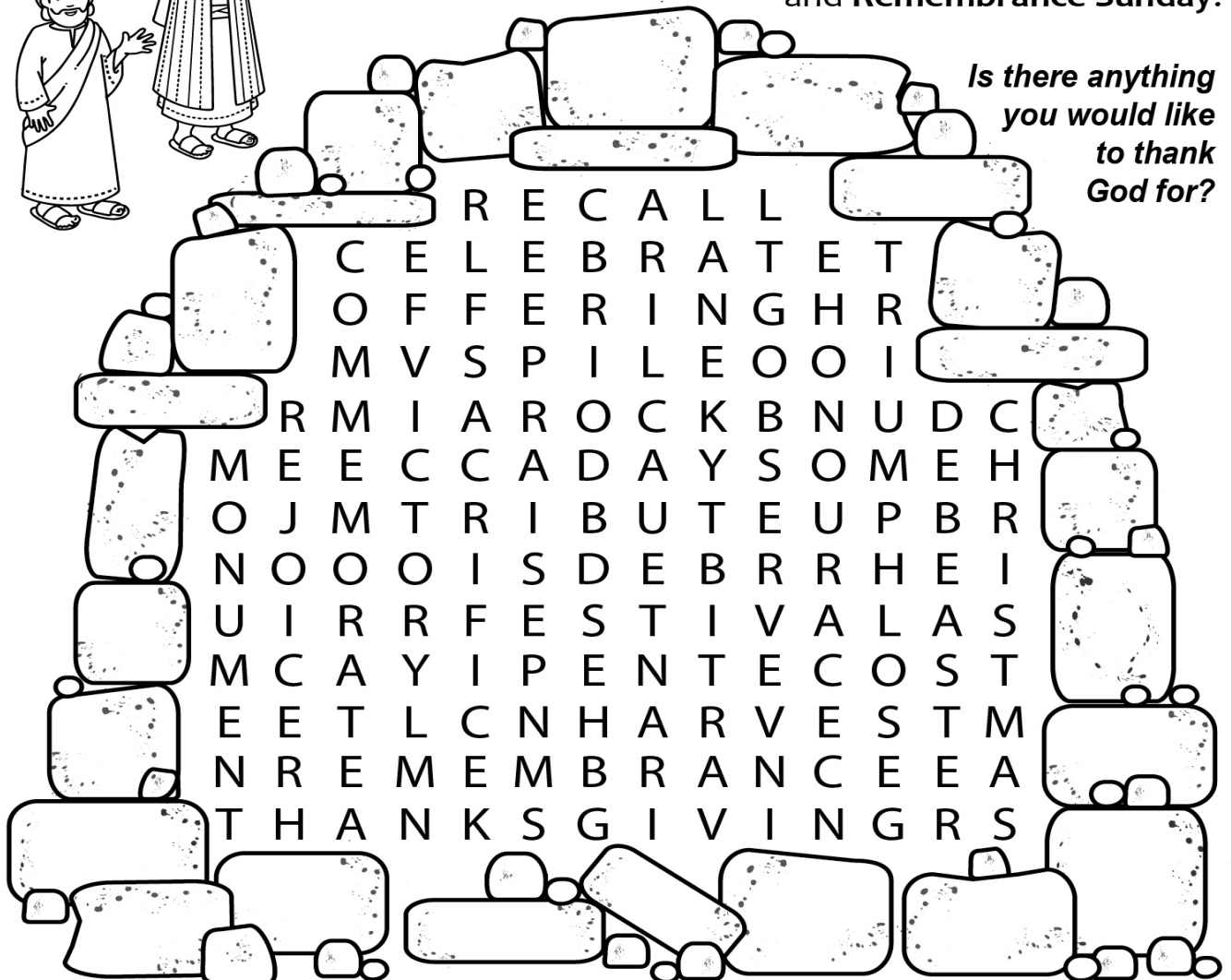
In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



*Is there anything
you would like
to thank
God for?*



REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT
 ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING
 HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS
 FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

Nov20 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

via Parish Pump

Last date for DEC copy is 15 NOV 2020

Published and Printed

by Alison & Bernie Stevens

swannlanesecretary@gmail.com

swannlanebookings@gmail.com