

# CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme  
STOCKPORT SK8 7HU  
[www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk](http://www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk)



---

**Partnership Minister:** Rev Dr Marion Tugwood  
[swannlaneminister@gmail.com](mailto:swannlaneminister@gmail.com)

---

## JANUARY 2021

Friends,

### Epiphany for today

This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: *'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'* (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?



The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?

*'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.'* ('We Three Kings').

**Canon Paul Hardingham**  
**Parish Pump website**

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Christmas celebrations are over and most of us will once again look forward towards the new year and spring. We must remember those who are anxious or depressed, those who are enduring monotonous lives and families who have recently lost loved ones.

We think of Christine, Andrew and Jonathan Harker following the passing of husband and father, Tom, on 16 DEC who as a member, with his wife, was very involved with the life at Swann Lane before moving to the Lake District.

On 20 DEC we were greatly saddened to learn of our dear friend Jean Murkin's peaceful passing aged 98yrs and we think of her daughter Lesley and her family at this difficult time. Under present restrictions, Jean's funeral will be held on Friday 8 JAN with a service at Church at 2pm and committal at Stockport crematorium at 3.15pm. Numbers will be limited and those wishing to attend are asked to ring Alison Stevens to book a place.

We thank those members of our Church who have been involved in any way with services over the Christmas period and our organist Eric for his sympathetic choice of music during this very different time. There have been a team of people looking after our safety whilst we have been on church premises.

Thank you to those friends who have sent Christmas and New Year greetings. We hope that you have had happy celebrations and that the new year brings you all good health, peace and joy.

Birthday best wishes for January go to Eric Ward, Barbara Danson and John Smeathers and, indeed, anyone else who will be celebrating this month.

We are pleased to hear from Tony Elliott that Vernon seems to be settling into his flat in the retirement village although, because of current restrictions, he is missing the interaction he got from walking down to the cafe and playing the piano in the atrium. Hopefully it won't be too long before the situation eases due to the vaccine and he can meet up with the rest of his family, including his 2 great grandchildren.

**The News Team**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Last Sunday in JAN ~ World Leprosy Day

---

## LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

Genesis 1.1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11

1 Samuel 3.1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139.1-6,13-18; 1 Corinthians 6.12-20; John 1.43-51

Jonah 3.1-5,10; Psalm 62.5-12; 1 Corinthians 7.29-31; Mark 1.14-20

---

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked -  
w/c 3 Jan:

United Reformed Church  
At the beginning of the New Year: Loving God we remember those living under oppressive regimes. Bring healing where there is unrest, conflict and violence and we pray for those fearing for their lives and the lives of their children. Father bring healing to nations where there is unrest and inspire in us hope for a world where all can live safely.



w/c 10<sup>th</sup> January Grove Lane Baptist  
Rev Ruth Gouldbourne and the fellowship at Grove Lane Baptist. That they will support each other in different ways and continue to grow in faith and love.

w/c 17<sup>th</sup> January CTCH  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Abide in my love and you Shall bear much fruit.

w/c 24<sup>th</sup> January CTCH  
Our fellowships will continue to find ways of meeting and Worshipping together. For our ministers as they work to continue the Christian presence in Cheadle Hulme. We pray for knowledge and wisdom in organising our church practices in a changing world.

w/c 31<sup>st</sup> January St Ann's  
In the month in which we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the nations, we approach the Father of all for the needs of all.

---

+++++

**BREAKFAST BEFORE  
SOUP, SWEET and MEET**

**FILM NIGHT**

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

+++++

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

2020 has been a challenging year; one in which we've experienced the fragility of life in God's world.

We have lamented and mourned. We have also seen an outpouring of creativity and initiative that speaks powerfully of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Our hope rests in the new life resurrection which emerges out of the darkness of death. That hope is born into the world at Christmas, and we pray for you all as the Church celebrates that hope in this most extraordinary year. Wishing you every blessing this Christmas time...

**Revd Clare Downing & Mr Peter Pay  
Co-Moderators 'General Assembly**

**SYNOD NEWS**

The work of the Synod, and of the Partnership Steering group continues even in these times.

The Moderator and Synod officers are working from home. We recently managed the North West wide Synod Autumn meeting using Zoom video conferencing software.

The Steering Group has concluded the call of a new minister to the S Manchester & Cheshire Partnership using Zoom. He is the student on placement 'til next summer at Altrincham /Sale URC, Jonnie Hill, an effervescent Irish man who is quick and intelligent, tolerant and understanding.

**Bernie Stevens**

**WORLD LEPROSY DAY ~31 JAN**

It is not just Covid-19 that makes other people want to avoid us. Up to three million people worldwide are living with leprosy, a disease that can separate sufferers from their loved ones for years.

Someone is newly diagnosed with leprosy every two minutes, and millions of people suffer crippling deformities.

Leprosy Mission was founded to help defeat this terrible disease, and to transform the lives of its victims. Nowadays this established Christian charity is a global network active in 34 countries across the world. 15 countries have a high burden of leprosy; Leprosy Mission works in 11 of them.

Leprosy Mission works closely with governments, local communities, partner health organisations, the World Health Organisation, local NGOs, local churches, and Christian partners.

And – you can help! This month you can pray, make a donation (see Bernie), or even consider working with Leprosy Mission. Visit <https://www.leprosymission.org/get-involved>

**Parish Pump**

**CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18 ~25 JAN**

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice. More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

**Parish Pump website**



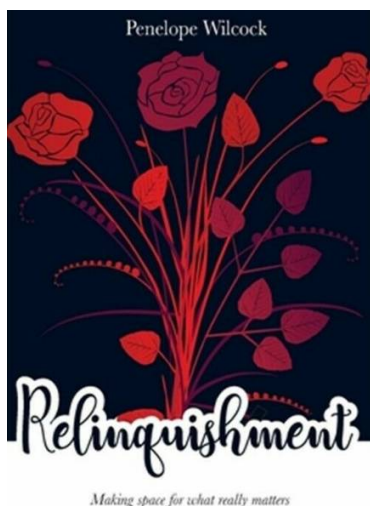
## STRUGGLING TOWARDS RELINQUISHMENT (PART THREE)

During lockdown the little Methodist chapel to which Pen and I belong has been refurbished.

After the builders left, we started putting things straight, and were stunned to realise how much *stuff* we had. Old hymns books. A broken communion set. Paper and defunct pens, stickers and dried glue from Messy Church. Wonky plastic chairs. A portable font. A cassette player. A communion jug from 1864. A spare organ stool. Endless vases. A handsome, heavily carved table that had been donated in memory of someone no one can remember. Not all of it useless, but none of it needed. I didn't win every discussion, but we filled a skip.

Adaptation is the motor of evolution. If we are encumbered with objects – and habits and old stories – we will be less able to change. Churches should not be museums.

Much of the problem arises from sentiment. My grandparents were world travellers, mainly in India and the Far East, and my childhood home was filled with trinkets. But one man's heirloom is another's junk, and over the course of the decades I have ditched most of the stuff that dogged my steps. If you value things for their sentimental value, rather than their intrinsic utility or beauty, your heirs will sigh as they open your attic. This is where relinquishment comes in.



Relinquishment empowers love and generosity. You'd have thought the more you have the easier it is to give. In fact, the less you have, the more lightly you sit to everything. This is the principle of the Widow's Mite; those who have relinquished much are more often willing to share.

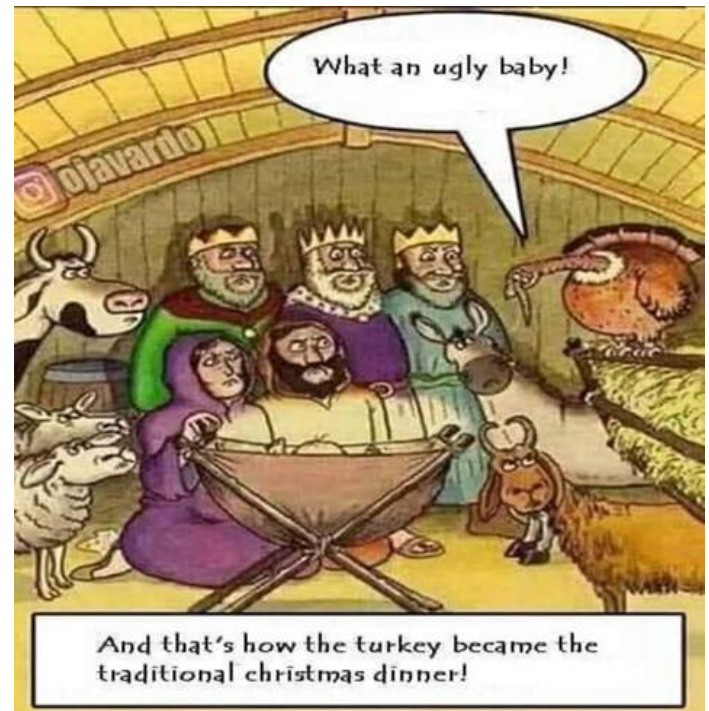
Relinquishment is the starting point for spiritual growth. What if we've been missing the chance to discover not only who we could have been, but who we at heart really are? What if the nothing we brought and leave with is precisely our birth-right, an instrument of spiritual power? If we remove the possessions and commitments

that form our armour, our true selves can emerge. And, once your mother's ancient sideboard has finally gone, you can break out the vacuum cleaner.

Learn how to sit light to stuff by reading Pen Wilcock's new book, [Relinquishment: Making Space for What Really Matters](#), available from Amazon in paperback and ebook.

*Tony Collins has worked for most of his life as a publisher and literary agent.*

-----



## THE CAT

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it.

The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

**Parish Pump website**

## FIVE THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE IN 2021

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren. Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year.

Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

***Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily.*** Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

***Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic*** – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

***Let's value nature.*** Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

***Let's bless technology.*** Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

***Let's value our church family.*** Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life, and be able to pass it on to others.

*Rev Peter Crumpler  
Church of England minister  
& CofE former communications director*

---

## "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

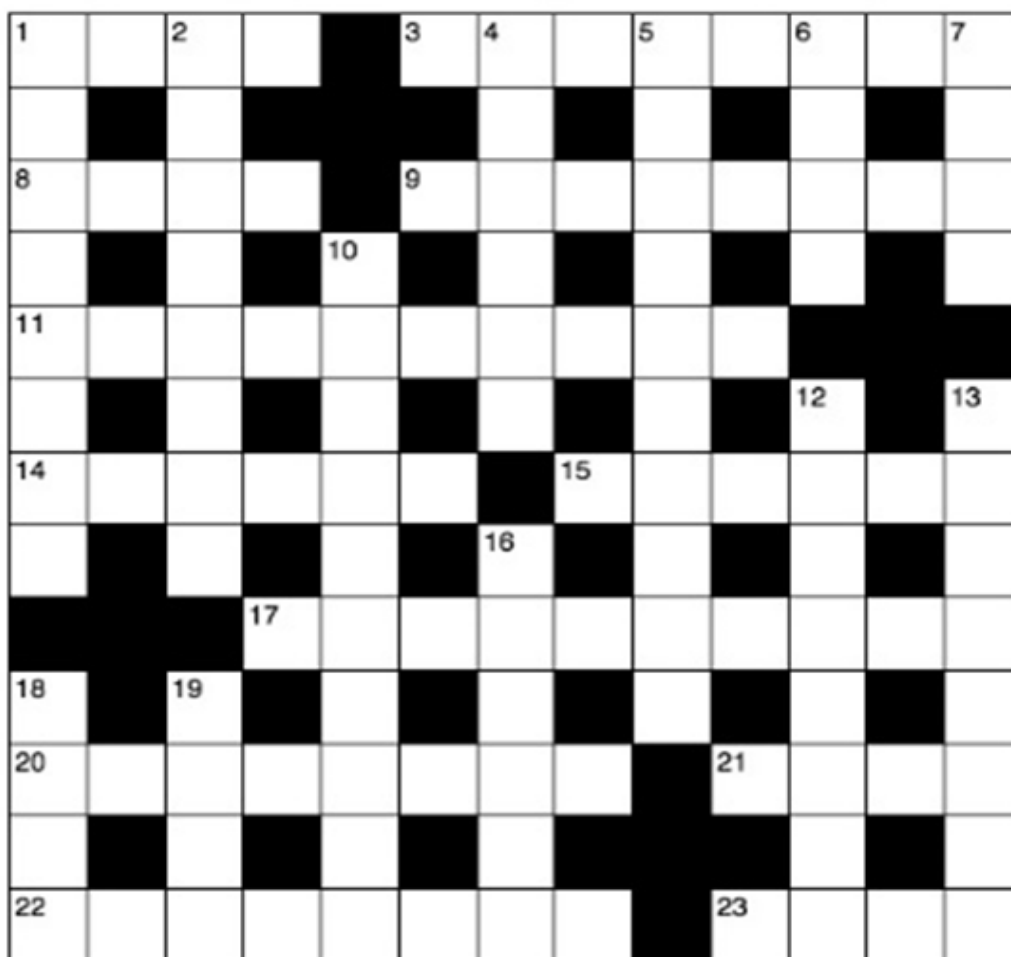
(An acrostic poem where the first letter of each line spells out the title of the poem)

Heaven's gift of another year  
As the old departs and the new is born,  
Plans for a future and a hope  
Preparing us for each new dawn.

Yesterday has gone forever,  
New days and ventures lie ahead,  
Even darkness turns to light  
When we make the Lord our head.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit  
Ever mindful that He's there,  
As we live our lives before Him  
Rejoicing in His loving care.

*By Megan Carter*



## CROSSWORD CLUES

### Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)  
 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)  
 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)  
 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)  
 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)  
 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)  
 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)  
 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)  
 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)  
 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)  
 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)  
 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

### Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)  
 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)  
 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)  
 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)  
 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)  
 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)

- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)  
 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)  
 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)  
 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)  
 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)  
 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

=====

## SERVICES

Our worship in church is subject to the Covid rules and Elders' wish to keep everyone safe so please understand our plans may change with little notice.

We are open for individual 'Prayer Time' during the tightest lockdown restrictions, and 'Service Time' under Tier 3 often using Zoom video conference as well.

We may sometimes have a speaker and sometimes a simple in-house led service. We usually send a paper based service by email or post for use outside the sanctuary. Duties are performed by a small team on a rota system. Readers often Zoom in or perhaps read in church from one of the three different lecterns.

Date	3 JAN	10 JAN	17 JAN	24 JAN	31 JAN
Service	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	Simple Service	Sandy Smith	Robert Williams	Rev Peter Sharp	Simple Service
Reader					
Elder Duty					
Notes		1ST SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY	EPIPHANY 2	EPIPHANY 3	EPIPHANY 4

**CHURCH REGISTERS - none**

---

## TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Day	GIFTS FROM TRUE LOVE	OUR CHRISTIAN VERSION
1st	A Partridge in a Pear Tree	<i>The one true God</i>
2nd	Two Turtle Doves	<i>the two Testaments</i>
3rd	Three French Hens	<i>Faith, Hope and Charity</i>
4th	Four Calling Birds	<i>the four Gospels</i>
5th	Five Golden Rings	<i>the five Books of Moses</i>
6th	Six Geese a-laying	<i>the six Days of Creation</i>
7th	Seven Swans a-swimming	<i>the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit</i>
8th	Eight Maids a-milking	<i>the eight Beatitudes</i>
9th	Nine Ladies Dancing	<i>the nine Fruits of the Spirit</i>
10th	Ten Lords a-leaping	<i>the ten Commandments</i>
11th	Eleven Pipers Piping	<i>the eleven Faithful Apostles</i>
12th	Twelve Drummers Drumming	<i>the Apostles' Creed</i>

---

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

**DOWN:** 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap

**Last date for FEB copy is 17 JAN 2021**

**Published & Printed by Alison & Bernie Stevens**

**swannlanesecretary@gmail.com**

**swannlanebookings@gmail.com**