

CHURCH NEWS

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The
United
Reformed
Church

APRIL 2021

Friends,

Easter Hope

“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.” These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day 2020! Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties **this** Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus’ body. *‘But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’* (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus’ death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?*

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: *“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”* (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus’ promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus’ plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were: *“There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.”* (Justin Welby).

Canon Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump
(~Internet)

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

In last year's April magazine, the Editor drew our attention to two new phrases that had entered our conversations - unprecedented times and social distancing. Nothing much has changed, we are still using these words one year on. One other thing that must not change is our constant concern and prayers for the less fortunate than ourselves. We think of the people who are suffering from ill health in body or mind. More and more people are really depressed or anxious. We ask God to work for the people who are most able to help them. Also the bereaved - may they find love and support from friends and family.

It is with great sadness that we have learned, through the N W Synod office, of the passing of Rev David Wilkinson who was one of our 3 ministers when in the South Cheadle Group between 1982-89. He leaves wife Pauline, whom is in our prayers.

A big thank you to Bernie and Alison for their constant efforts to produce a weekly publication which helps to draw the fellowship together during this time of not being able to meet in person. Those of us who receive the very recognisable envelope every month, or the email, are very grateful.

We must also thank the team of very capable members who help to produce 'Acts of Worship' every week in whatever form. A particular thanks to Glyn orchestrating us all.

Those of us who partook of the wonderful afternoon tea on 7 MAR in aid of Traidcraft Exchange would like to say to Morag, and Sandy, a very genuine thank you, not only for the brilliant idea and all their preparation but for the wonderful total raised (see opposite).

Eric Ward is very pleased to announce the safe arrival of Milly, great grandchild number 7. We send best wishes to all the family.

We also know that Marjorie Wightman, David Williams and Sylvia Jones will be celebrating their birthdays this month. Birthday wishes to them and anyone else who has their special day in April.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 20 JUN Anniversary & Gift day

9-11 JULY Fellowship Weekend Away

BREAKFAST BEFORE SOUP, SWEET and MEET FILM NIGHT

...will each resume soonest

THIS IS THE FRANKISH FAMILY

...sending a message from Wales. Moving day went with a few hitches but we got there in the end. Packing and unpacking was a nightmare, we couldn't have managed without Louise and we still have not emptied all the boxes, but we feel more settled. We have met quite a few neighbours; one came round with some scones, jam and a card to say hello. They all made us feel very welcome.



The picture above is the vase you gave us and of course it had to have daffodils, (St David's Day & Mother's Day). It's not very clear that the sea is in the background. Best wishes,

Heather

GOOD WISHES

... for the fellowship come from Rev John and June Mitchell, now retired in Northwich. A master of organisation and reform, from an ex-bank manager. I remember his children's communion - with grapes.

Bernie

Many THANKS

...thanks to everyone who supported our Afternoon Tea to raise funds for Traidcraft Exchange. We served tea to 43 people and I have had lots of lovely feedback. I have also had quite a few additional donations including one which left us feeling very humbled. I have therefore been able to send a **magnificent £2000** to Traidcraft Exchange for their 'Regenerators appeal' and as the Government is doubling all donations till 8th June, this will make a **s i g n i f i c a n t i m p a c t**. It's amazing what can be done with a few scones and meringues. Thank you again for all your support.

Morag

SANDY and MORAG

Thank you so much for the afternoon tea you provided. The scone and cakes were delicious as usual. Also many thanks to the delivery teams for their efforts.

I would also personally wish to thank Margaret and Chris for delivering my shopping each week – I haven't been left to starve even once!!!

Rena - for providing me with a constant supply of books to read.

Alison and Bernie - for the monthly newsletter and weekly service sheets etc.

Mo - for her visits and apples in the autumn plus news of Mary's Child.

Also many phone calls to brighten my days.

All this from my Church friends has helped me through a not so good year.

Bless you all.

Marjorie Wightman

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

4 APR: Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; John 20.1-18

11 APR: Acts 4.32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1.1-2.2; John 20.19-31

18 APR: Acts 3.12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3.1-7; Luke 24.36b-48

25 APR: Acts 4.5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18



CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked on

4 APR: Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme Hallelujah! He is Risen! Let us join with Christians around the world to celebrate Easter Day.

11 APR: St Andrew's & Emmanuel (Cof E) We pray for Rev Christopher Hobbs and the fellowship as they pray and witness in the community.

18 APR: Chelwood Baptist Church We pray for the fellowship as they pray together and continue to keep in touch with the local community. Pray for the Foodbank and all those families who need the support offered through the foodbank.

25 APR: CTCH. We pray for all those known to us in Care Homes or who live on their own. Help them to know the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

St Ann's. We pray always for peace in our world. In Hope we trust that He who cured leprosy will be the strength of those whose talents permit them to treat virus sufferers.

Once again, Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme are celebrating Easter with the following series of 4 reflections which will be posted on their **website (ctch.org.uk)** and other social media opportunities.

Reflections...

28th March - Palm Sunday Rev Ruth Gouldbourne & the fellowship at Grove Lane **Baptist**.

1st April - Maundy Thursday Rev Philip Peacock and the fellowship at Cheadle Hulme **Methodist**.

2nd April - Good Friday- Rev Sarah Hancock (new) and the fellowship at **All Saints**.

4th April - Easter Day - Rev Dave Fraser and the fellowship at the United Reformed Church

GO to ctch.org.uk and see some or all at any time to suit you.

Expensive boat

A vicar planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, was aghast when she found it would cost her £50/hour to rent a Sea of Galilee boat. She protested to the travel agent the cost was ridiculous. 'That might be true,' he replied, 'but you have to take into account that its water on which our Lord himself walked.' 'Well, at £50 an hour,' she replied, 'I am not surprised!'

On Write Lines

A guilty woman in traffic court was asked her occupation; she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' and smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write "*I will not run a red light*" one hundred times!'

True story

My curate friend was nervous to preach his first-ever Easter sermon. However, he prepared hard, and when Easter day came, he strode into the pulpit and thundered through his sermon, only to crash at the closing line. He pounded the pulpit and shouted: "*Yes...it is all true! Jesus rose...and then He died again! Hallelujah!*"

OUR FIRST EVER NATIONAL PARK

70yrs ago, in April 1951, the Peak District National Park was established, Britain's first. It was partly as a result of a mass trespass on Kinder Scout almost 20 years earlier, which helped gain open access to moorland that had previously been in private hands and closed to walkers. The precise effect and extent of the trespass, in which Young Communists were prominent, is still widely disputed by rambling associations.

The Peak District is mostly in Derbyshire, but includes parts of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. It is split into the gritstone Dark Peak in the north, and the limestone White Peak, in the centre and south of the district. Altogether it covers 555 square miles with over 20 million people living within an hour's drive.

It contains only one town, Bakewell, with several others like Buxton, on the fringes. It is now the fifth largest of the 13 national parks in England and Wales. The land within it is a mixture of public and private ownership, and there are many planning restrictions imposed by the national park authority to prevent inappropriate development.

Tim Lenton
~Parish Pump

BETTY DOREEN CHANCE

Betty was born on 11 September 1929 at home at George Street, Wordsley in what was then in Staffordshire, now in the West Midlands.

Her father Len was a fork maker, a tough manual job, dawn 'til dusk. Betty told that when she had to run an errand there one day because he had forgotten his lunch, she stood in awe, at the doorway, looking into the fiery furnace. They moved to the nearby Alwen Street, very close to the Glassmaker's Cone of the world famous Stuart Crystal, now a museum. Betty's mom, Dora and her Auntie Lily both cut glass there.

Six years after Betty was born, her sister Barbara came along. The Holdnalls were a kindly, hospitable family. Although Betty had long periods of ill health, including having to stay in bed with TB for three months, their home was a very happy one, filled with family and friends.

When Betty and George got engaged in 1949. George worked in a bank and had to ask permission from the manager to marry Betty, which he did on 16 June 1951 at Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley and they took the train to Weymouth for their honeymoon. George had saved their month's worth of sweet rations to spend on chocolate at the station and they ended up both feeling quite sick!

After the wedding they lived with Betty's parents who made over their front room to them and they had the use of the wash house and kitchen. They moved into a flat above the bank in Wolverhampton in 1952.

Betty worked as a filing clerk at a firebrick manufacturer, E, J and J Pearson Ltd where she was happy. She had missed a lot of schooling with being ill but her methodical and conscientious nature suited the job and she made lifelong friends there.

Caroline was born in 1960 and their second floor flat was no longer suitable. Betty's boss came to the rescue and offered to rent them a cottage in the grounds of his family home.

George was offered a sub managers job at Lloyds Bank, Manchester and they moved to Nursery Road, Cheadle Hulme in 1962. George went away on a six week course and Betty had

to join him for a weekend to be vetted to see if she was fit to be a Bank Manager's wife!

It was back to the Midlands in 1969 when George became assistant manager at Wolverhampton. Betty enjoyed being back near her family. In 1974 Caroline met Graham on school camp, and he became her husband.

Moving again in 1975, George became manager at Manchester. It was a tough decision with Caroline just starting her last year of school and she wasn't happy at having to leave her friends and boyfriend. Their friend Ron, found them their "forever home" in Bramhall and it did turn out to be just that. Betty loved her home and garden and felt very lucky.

A year later, Betty's mom, Dora came to live with them and stayed until she died 13 years later. Graham came and lived there too while on a Sandwich Course at Aston University working at Balfour Beatty in Bramhall.

Betty was in her element, a real homemaker and always quick to add another plate at the table or bed for the night to anyone who needed it.

Caroline and Graham married in 1980. George took early retirement in 1982 just in time to welcome their first grandson, Adam into the world. They loved being grandparents and both Betty and George formed such close bonds and friendships with Adam and Jordan who arrived 9 years later.

Betty welcomed Caroline's friends and Adam and Jordan's friends into her home and life. She counted herself



lucky having multi generational visitors, who in turn became parents and grandparents, Betty becoming "nanna Betty", always ready with the toy box and sweetie jar. The love was paid back and friends were always ready to help out with a lift to the hospital, a batch of cakes or mending a leaky tap!

In 1984, a year after Adam was born, Caroline and Graham moved to Cheadle Hulme, next door to (now Rev.) Sandy and Mary Mailer. Adam started Toddler Group and then on to Play Group at Swann Lane, and Sunday School at Church. He loved it; the whole family started attending Church, with Betty continuing until ill health finally prevented her from attending services. Unfortunately, at the grand old age of 91, she has outlived many of the congregation who gave her such a warm welcome – the likes of Fred and Jean Abel, Edith West, Christine, Vivienne and many more. She was very

grateful to Bernie and Alison, and Mavis who made her still feel very involved, sending the Church magazine and all the Newsletters during the pandemic. It made her feel like she was still part of the Church community.

Betty was a very content lady, happy with her lot. She was immensely proud of her grandsons. She was happy when her friends and family were happy and recently enjoyed welcoming Adele into the family, first as Jordan's girlfriend and then as his fiancée. In fact, after his surprise "pig sty proposal" last March, it was back to "nan's" for a celebratory buffet!

Betty suffered all her life from terrible health problems which she bore stoically. She coped admirably when George developed dementia during his latter years. As well as Caroline, she was blessed with two amazing carers who have both been absolutely fantastic, and allowed Betty to fulfil her final wishes of being allowed to stay at home, looking out onto her beloved garden until the very end.

Because of her ill health, and missing so much school, Betty never had a yearning to achieve, never had a yen to travel the world, she was happy and content to simply be. She adored her garden, George on veg duty, she on flowers.

She loved her house, and loved cooking, and her food. She loved going out to eat, and although she quite liked a fancy restaurant, she was just as happy going out for a Big Mac!

She loved reading, especially historical romances, and loved the fact that the mobile library delivered her large print books. She loved the TV "Nanna's old films" usually black and white westerns, and obviously a bit of Corrie. She always thought everyone was lovely, and they were to her.

However poorly or tired, not a night went by without her saying her prayers before sleeping, praying to keep her loved ones safe and being thankful for all she had.

**Extract from Tribute
by Rev Peter Sharp
on behalf of the family**

SUDOKU

Every row, column and 3x3 box must contain all the numbers 1-9.

Tip - start doing the numbers one at once...

Work through from 1 to 9 then start again...

				5	7		3	
3			2					
	8	5						
1				6	2	3		7
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						7	4	
					8			3
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Can it be Easter Already?

Can it be Easter already?

Can that be really so?

The carols and the Christmas tree

Don't seem that long ago!

Can it be Easter already?

Do April showers splash?

The weeks gone by since Christmas day

Have gone in just a flash!

Can it be Easter already?

The time of Lent has passed

The forty days and forty nights

Went by so very fast.

If it is Easter already,

That time has sped away.

Perhaps it's time to ponder, pause

And savour every day!

By Nigel Beeton

SPRING (Acrostic Poem)

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,

Petals of every colour and hue,

Rain and sun caressing the earth

Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view

Now is the time of new beginnings

Giving us pleasure all season through.

By Megan Carter

From RS 497

Whenever people seek Him, the story is the same.

He meets us by the roadside, He calls us by our name.

His "Peace be with you" calms us, His "Go and tell" inspires.

"For I am with you always" puts pay to all our fears.

...Hymn writer **Rev Caryl Micklem**

OUR 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.

Our building was CLOSED due to the high rate of infections.
However, WE ARE ZOOMING OUR SERVICES, either from homes **or** from the sanctuary.

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	1 APR	2 APR	4 APR	11 APR	18 APR	25 APR
Service	HOLY	WEEK	SERVICES Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	7.15 pm	10.00am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Partnership	Margaret Dexter- Brown	In House on behalf of Rev Peter Sharp)	Simple Service	Simple Service	Margaret Dexter-Brown
Reader						
Elder Duty						
Notes	MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER COMMUNION			HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS

FUNERAL

BETTY DOREEN CHANCE, who died on 24 February 2021 aged 91 years, at Stockport crematorium and Cheadle Hulme URC on Wednesday 17 March 2021

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW MOVES TO THE AUTUMN

For the first time ever in its 108-year history, Chelsea Flower Show will not be held in the Spring, but in the Autumn.

The 2021 Chelsea Flower Show will now take place from 21st to 26th September. The Royal Horticultural Society, the show organisers, will still hold it at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea.

The hope is that by September, millions more people will be vaccinated, so that mass outdoor events will be able to happen safely. 140,000 people are predicted to attend this year's Chelsea, over the six days.

Sue Biggs, RHS director general, says: "We believe many designers and nurseries will look forward to working with different plants that would not be available or at their best in May. We will do our utmost to deliver a beautiful, uplifting and different RHS Chelsea safely in September 2021."

Parish Pump

URC CHURCH & SOCIETY SECRETARY TO LEAD JPIT FOR TWO YEARS

Simeon Mitchell, the URC's Secretary for Church and Society, is to become Team Leader of the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT).

JPIT is a ground-breaking ecumenical enterprise, drawing together the **Baptist Union of Great Britain**, **Methodist Church**, **United Reformed Church** and **Church of Scotland**. The Team supports churches and Christians in working for justice and peace. Recent campaigns cover issues including climate change, household debt, asylum policies and economic renewal.

The vacancy was created by the secondment of the current team leader, Rachel Lampard, to head a two-year project looking at how the Methodist Church responds to its calling to challenge injustice. The project will start after Easter this year.

Simeon is currently Deputy Team Leader of JPIT and will take up the Team Leader role for the two years that Rachel is seconded to the project. He joined the URC staff team 3 years after working in senior roles in international development charities.

Francis Brienen, Deputy General Secretary (Mission) of the URC said: "Simeon will bring vision, skill and experience to the role and no doubt it will lead to even greater involvement of the URC in the Joint Public Issues Team and a greater profile for issues of justice and peace.

"Simeon will remain Secretary for Church and Society for the URC but leading the Joint Public Issues Team and liaising with the four denominations that participate in JPIT will be the main parts of his new role. I hope you will join me in congratulating Simeon on his new role and in wishing him every blessing for the next two years."

Simeon Mitchell said: "It is a privilege to have been appointed to this role. It will hopefully create opportunities to strengthen the work we do to witness for justice and peace, both in the URC and ecumenically."

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk

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