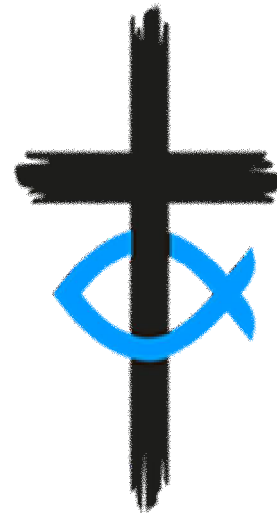


CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
STOCKPORT SK8 7HU
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The
United
Reformed
Church

Partnership Minister: Rev Dr Marion Tugwood
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MARCH 2021

Friends,

FINDING GOD IN EACH MOMENT OF THE DAY

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is a hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!

In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to Him. As the psalmist says, '*On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night*' (Ps 63:6).

What does this look like in practice? Here's a step by step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.
3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day. Yes, just mumble something.
5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen: Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change.

Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary any more!

Canon Paul Hardingham
taken from Parish Pump (~Internet)

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We are well into Lent now and the 'norm' is to try and give up something - sweets, chocolates and biscuits to bring us nearer to God. But, no, we have been deprived of so much over the last twelve months. It has been suggested that instead of giving up we should take up this year. Perhaps spending a bit more time having a few words on the phone to the many people for whom lockdown has been very lonely and who are very worried for the future. We remember all the sick and anxious people and we pray that they will find the strength to get them through to a time when there is less illness and distress.

We remember the families who have lost either family members or friends and have not been able to say their final farewells in a way they would have liked. May the love and support of those around them help them through this difficult time. We think particularly of the family of Betty Chance who died on 24 FEB. She and her family have had a long association with Church and our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. At Betty's request, there will be a funeral service in Church, which will be on 17 MAR.

Congratulations to Eric Ward on the arrival on 20 FEB of great granddaughter, Isabella. Best wishes to all the family concerned.

Birthdays wishes this month go to Christine Brooks, Mavis Davies, Reg Pollitt, Andy Altree, Carole Davies, Glyn Elsdon and Norman Lawrence and to anyone else who will be celebrating in March.

We wish every good fortune to the Frankish family who moved to N Wales, and many thanks for many years service at CHURC.

'Daily Hope' - a free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers-0800 804 8044. It also offers worship services. The line, which is available for 24 hours a day, has been set up for those who are unable to join on-line church services, providing comfort and spiritual nourishment.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 7 MAR - Fairtrade Afternoon Tea, for collection or delivery (**fully booked**)

Sun 28 MAR - Clocks go forward 1 hour

BREAKFAST BEFORE

SOUP, SWEET and MEET

FILM NIGHT

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

THANK YOU

Heather, David and Louise would like to thank everyone for the beautiful vase, and hope to use the money towards some new garden furniture. Also for all the good wishes on our move to Wales. Our address will be available from the secretary. We will keep in touch, and hopefully will be able to connect and attend the Zoom events whilst they continue. We leave with lots of happy memories of the church that will stay in our hearts.

Heather, David & Louise Frankish.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked on 7 MAR

United Reformed Church
The fellowship of the United Reformed Church that although challenged by not being able to meet to pray and worship they will grow stronger in faith.



14 MAR Society of Friends

Pray for the Friends as they seek to support each other and witness in the community.

21 MAR St Ann's

Father, you know our weakness before the seduction of the gods of our world. Protect us in our waywardness and instil in us the truth that we are your work of art, redeemed in your Son.

28 MAR Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church

We ask your blessing on Rev Philip Peacock as he begins his Sabbatical at the beginning of April. We pray that this will be a time of rest and study, a time for physical and spiritual refreshment, along with time to spend with his family.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

from **Vanuatu**

"Build on a Strong Foundation"

**Friday 5 March
(postponed in Cheadle Hulme)**

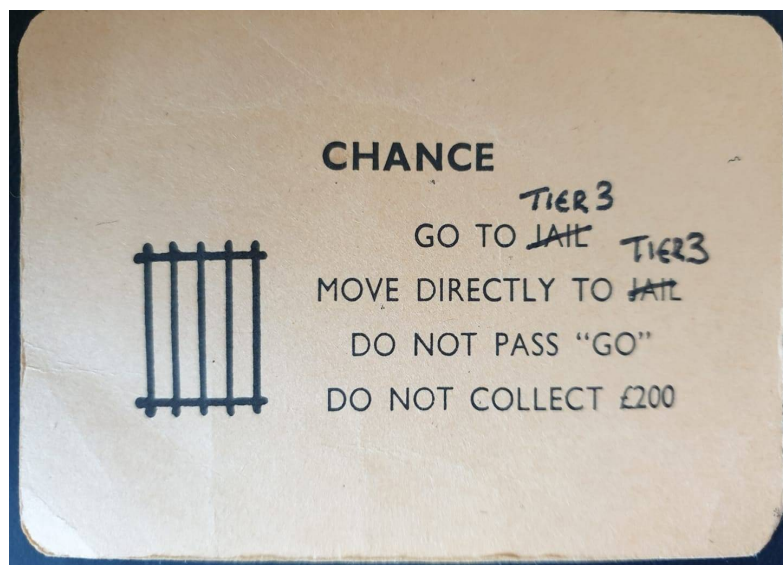
Because most Churches are not open due to the pandemic, this year's service, which has been prepared by the Christian women of Vanuatu, an archipelago of 80 islands in the South Pacific, just over 1,100 miles east of Australia, will be celebrated in a number of ways.

It is actually the turn of the United Reformed Church in Cheadle Hulme this year! A small planning group of CTCH met over Zoom and have decided to postpone the service until FRIDAY 2 JULY at 2 pm when we believe that we can meet together in Church, hopefully sing and share refreshments afterwards. The service will also be available on Zoom on the day. The World Day of Prayer International Committee have recorded a video of the worship service led by WDP Vanuatu and the WDPIC Executive Committee which can be viewed on the home page of their website - <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

**Carole Davies
Alison Stevens**

THE 'NEW ABNORMAL'

Monopoly card...



THORNLEIGH WEEKEND

9 /11 JULY 2021 - Thornleigh are planning to re-open on 17 May which means that, all being well, the weekend away can go ahead and they will ring me this month about payment details.

The cost per person is £150. At the moment, 8 people have indicated they would like to book a place so there is plenty of room for anyone who feels confident, after having had the vaccines, that two days away would be very welcome. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you are interested.

Alison Stevens

DEFINITIONS FROM CHURCH LIFE

AMEN: The part of a prayer that everyone knows.

PEWSHEET: Your receipt for attending Matins.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Sunday morning worship, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JONAH: The original 'Jaws' story

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of a formal Sung Eucharist, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

SIDESMEN: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew

**Parish Pump
-to which we subscribe**

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

7 MAR: Exodus 20.1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22

14 MAR: Numbers 21.4-9; Psalm 107.1-3,17-22; Ephesians 2.1-10; John 3.14-21

21 MAR: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Psalm 51.1-12; Psalm 119.9-16; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33

28 MAR: Psalm 118.1-2,19-29; Mark 11.1-11

CHURCHES AFTER THE PANDEMIC?

One question, 4 answers...

NICOLA FURLEY-SMITH

'God is giving us the opportunity to do a new thing'

The world will look significantly different after the pandemic if, as we emerge, we take action to bring about fundamental change. The Church is not exempt from this challenge: God is giving us the opportunity to do a new thing.

At the start of the pandemic, as buildings closed, some churches, and not all of them large, swiftly adapted to other forms of worship – online platforms, telephone services, delivering printed services – which often resulted in more people 'attending' Sunday worship. There was an explosion of choice and a 'try it and see' approach to church. Surprisingly, perhaps, traditional church adapted more quickly than other forms of being church.

The pandemic has reminded us that being the Church has become more important than going to church. The Church is not synonymous with buildings and ecclesial structures. It is possible to go on being and doing Church without them, and to stay connected beyond Sunday using technology, which does not rely on physical meeting places: telephone 'visiting', Zoom meetings, drop-in digital coffee mornings, online Messy Church...

Nicola Furley-Smith is the United Reformed Church's Secretary for Ministries

SINDISO JELE

'Conversation with God has changed'

Measuring the impact of Covid-19 is relative, contextual and depends on the subject area and the intentions of the assessment. I will avoid the fallacy of assuming that what is true with the fraction is true with the whole – that is theological carelessness.

Firstly, churches depend on offerings from members. Now that members no longer have income, the churches' economy is impacted. What it means is that churches in developing countries will now turn to those in developed countries to seek funding for mission programmes and social responsibility.

Secondly, the world's current focus is on the Covid-19 vaccine. The question that Africa is dealing with is: 'Who gets it and when?' This question exposes the economic inequality in the body of Christ. ...

Sindiso Jele is the Council for World Mission's Africa Mission Secretary

RUTH MAXEY

'We have stripped back to essentials'

Our church, [Church Without Walls](#), looked a bit different to other churches even before the pandemic. We had no building and met in a variety of places: the local school, for Cafe and Dinner Church; the countryside for Forest Church; and we had just lost the room we were hiring for Quiet Church. That means that 'church' has never meant a place but has always meant the people. Relationships are at the heart of Church Without Walls, and while we have no yearning to be back in a particular building, we have all longed for the time when we can be together physically as a community again, sharing food, kids running around, Communion shared in a messy, chaotic fashion.

We have continued to meet throughout the pandemic, sharing together on Zoom on a Sunday and in small groups. And when restrictions eased, we erected a gazebo and our small groups flourished again despite the lack of home-made cake and coffee.

There has been a stripping back to the essentials which will, I believe, lead to a more sustainable future for our community ...

Ruth Maxey is Minister of [Church Without Walls](#), Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

REUBEN WATT

'I am really excited to see what churches will be like'

I am actually really excited to see what churches will be like after the pandemic. During the first lockdown, I really looked forward to seeing the churches that I follow on social media advertising how they are having worship. For some, it may have been a multi-camera set up, with sound, graphics, the lot; for others it involved producing a short service that could be accessible by phone call. It was great to see

people trying and adapting to the lockdown situation so quickly. Churches had been thrown into the deep end, and, where previously they probably had been reluctant to use technology, they were now jumping in headfirst. Post pandemic, I hope that people will embrace technology and not think of it as this scary thing. Yes, it goes wrong, and I think even I had a whole service that went out live and those watching couldn't actually hear a thing! We are all learning....

Reuben Watt is the United Reformed Church Youth Assembly Moderator

Extracts from FEB 'Reform'



Springing up...

Courtesy of Irene Howat

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2021

TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE With all that's gone on in the last year, it's easy to forget the biggest crisis our world faces – that of the changing climate. Climate change is putting millions of lives in danger, through increased air pollution, rising sea levels, extreme and erratic weather, drought and floods, and the melting of the polar ice caps. 2020 was the hottest year on record. Together, we need to take action.

On the plus side is the fact that over the last few decades millions have left extreme poverty behind for good, and now look to a brighter future full of opportunities. More people than ever before can feed their families, vaccinate their children, and

send them to school. But the progress we've made is under threat. Climate change could destroy the advances made by humanity and those who caused the least damage are paying the highest price.

Mwanaidi who lives on the coast of Tanzania, knows this better than anyone. With increasingly long seasons of drought threatening her crops, it's getting harder for Mwanaidi to make even a basic living. In her village, no one asks if climate change is real. They ask, 'When will the rains come?' The climate crisis is hitting those living in poverty the hardest. But those like Mwanaidi on the frontline have a plan. They are the **Regenerators** and with our help, they can fight back against climate change.

Traidcraft Exchange can give them a helping hand to invest in climate smart technology, like solar panels and irrigation systems, alongside planting trees and new crops, so that those on the frontline of the climate crisis can take direct action to protect their homes and increase their incomes. With new knowledge and skills, the **Regenerators** can reduce the impact of climate change on their land, protect the earth and earn more for the hard work they do every day - so they can invest in a brighter, greener future for generations to come.

Throughout the bible, we see that God, humans and the world are deeply connected – that we all depend on one another, and those relationships are to be valued, stewarded and looked after. If one aspect of them breaks, it impacts on everything else.

Traidcraft Exchange is an international development charity which uses the power of trade to bring about lasting solutions to poverty. It runs development programmes in South Asia and Africa, works directly with businesses to improve their supply chains and does advocacy and campaigning in the UK to promote justice and fairness in international trade. It works closely with specialist fair-trade company Traidcraft plc.

This year all money raised between 8th March and 7th June will be doubled by the government, so if you are joining us to share Afternoon Tea it's a great way to join this campaign and I am very grateful once again for all your support.

Morag

2 Sexually immoral (1)

3 All judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)

4)

5 of the boy brought to Jesus (3)

6)

7 associated with St Patrick (5)

8 descendants of Kohath (1)

9)

10 brother came out, with his

11 ' (Genesis 25:26) (5)

12 sword struck the Arameans

13 quest (2 Kings 6:18) (9)

14 the cock crows today, you

15 that you know me'

16)

17 59:7) (4)

18 n still with you' (Psalm

19)

20 17:20) (5)

21 r in purple cloth (Acts

22)

23 of seven cows in

24 e this (Genesis 41:19) (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 CLOSED FEB-MAR DUE TO THE HIGH RATE OF INFECTIONS. We may open for 'Prayer Time' during the tightest lockdown restrictions, or for 'Service Time' under Tier 3.

We are using Zoom video conferencing for services both 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	7 MAR	14 MAR	21 MAR	28 MAR
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Sandy & Morag Smith	Robert Williams	In house	Sandy Smith
Reader				
Elder Duty				
Notes	FAIRTRADE	MOTHER'S Day	PASSION SUNDAY	PALM Communion

+++++

CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

+++++



Peace

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners glumly filed out of the church past the minister. Towards the end of the queue was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Vicar, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God."

The vicar was thrilled. "Nobody has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."

"Because it endured forever."

Parish Pump

'Be honest, doctor. Is this new virus as bad as they say?'

THE UPPER ROOM

They meet together in the upper room
Gathering together in one accord,
He fetches a towel and washes their feet
And Judas slips out to betray His Lord.

The bread and wine are there on the table,
He takes up the bread and breaks it in two,
The cup is passed round, each drinking from it,
'These symbols,' He says, 'are given for you'.

'This bread is my body I freely give
This cup is my blood which soon will be shed',
They eat and they drink not really knowing
Or understanding of what lies ahead.

A new covenant that night has been made
Where God Himself gives His life for us all,
The Life divine in exchange is given
To free mankind from the curse of the fall.

Two thousand years on we come to partake
Of His life poured out to cover our sin
We eat and we drink the bread and the wine
With thankful hearts in remembrance of Him.

By Megan Carter
~parish pump

SACRED DAILY WALK

Under lockdown, millions of us who rarely walked around our immediate locality are now well acquainted with every nearby driveway, every crack in the pavement, and every pothole in the road. We have developed views on our neighbours' gardens, on their oddly coloured garage doors, and on their dogs, children and cars. If we go out at the same time every day, we may even be saying hello to the same people we don't know every day.

For many of us, that daily walk has become the high point of our day. After all, it is one of the few liberties we have left. Some of us go early, to enjoy the relative peace and quiet. Some of us go midday, to at least see other people, even if we can't talk to them. Others of us opt for dusk, the dark comfort of a street with lit houses and stars in the sky.

Whatever time you most enjoy, make sure you do make the time to go for your walk. Your mental and physical fitness can only improve!

~Parish Pump

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

DOWN: 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

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