

# 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)

---



**MAY 2021**

**Friends,**

## **Pentecost**

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

### **God's Promise:**

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

### **God's Power:**

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

### **God's Purpose:**

The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).

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

## RE-OPENING

Taking into account the advice from N W Synod, Elders have remained very cautious over re-opening for services. With the guidance advising Pentecost / Whit as appropriate, Elders made the decision at their meeting on 4 April to open Swann Lane for services on Sunday 23 May, when Bernie will be leading the service of Holy Communion.

As before, the capacity of the church is significantly limited by the 'Covid Secure' rules (social distancing etc) and it would be embarrassing, if we were overwhelmed by more congregation than we can cope with. It is almost unthinkable to need to operate a booking system, but the alternative of refusal at the door is even worse.

We must stress that it will be necessary in these early days to ring Bernie or myself at home sometime during the week before **each service to book a place**. This will also be the easiest way of keeping a register in the event of any illness and Track & Trace having to be used, although the NHS Test and Protect QR code is displayed inside the Foyer and Corridor entrances to the Church premises.

We know that some of you will be very anxious about returning to Church, because it has been so long time since we were together but we must always take account of the current Government guidelines and our own Personal Risk Assessment.

Looking forward to seeing you again.  
**THE ELDERS**

---

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

The calendar tells us that it is now Summer. Hopefully we can start to enjoy the summer months with a more carefree feeling about our safety!

We must be mindful of the many who will not be able to share this feeling with us. Those who are sick in body or mind and have heavy worries and anxieties on their shoulders. There will be some who cannot leave their homes for other reasons. We pray for all our congregation and community.

We must remember the wider community. We pray for all who work to relieve suffering: for our NHS staff and vaccination teams here at home and for the United Nations and World Health Organisation working around the world.

We pray for the peace keeping forces, medical teams and all who work for the wellbeing of others, remembering especially those who put their own lives at risk and in danger to help other people.

There seems to be a web of connections between members of our congregation at the moment. On speaking to one, they have just spoken to Mrs A and Mr B, the next has visited Mrs C and Mr D and so on! Hopefully it will not be too long before we can connect under one roof - our 'Church'.

Birthday greetings in May go to Morene Morton, Alison Manley, Bronwen Cameron, Marie Smithers, Elsie Shackcloth and Barbara Oliver and all those who are celebrating this month.

**The News Team**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christian Aid Week: 10 ~16 May

Pentecost / Whit 23 May 2021

+++++

**BREAKFAST BEFORE  
SOUP, SWEET and MEET  
FILM NIGHT**

...will each resume soonest

+++++

---

## LECTIONARY FOR MAY

**2 MAY:** Acts 8.26-40; Psalm 22.25-31; 1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8

**9 MAY:** Acts 10.44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17

**16 MAY:** Acts 1.15-17,21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19

**23 MAY:** Acts 2.1-21; Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 104.24-34,35b; Romans 8.22-27; John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

**30 MAY:** Isaiah 6.1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8.12-17; John 3.1-17

-----

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

### Our prayers are asked on

w/c 2nd May St Andrew's & Emmanuel The Annual PC Meeting today . That more people will come forward to serve on the PCC and make decisions on behalf of the fellowship. Give thanks that the children's work, Little Rews, has re-started at St Andrew's .



**To be arranged**  
5th Sunday Service 30th May at All Saints

**CTCH Business Meeting**  
in May, scheduled for CH Methodist

w/c 9th May Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme Christian Aid Week. The work of Christian Aid bringing relief and aid to people in desperate need. Pray for the fund raising efforts of the local team in Cheadle Hulme and for the generosity of those who give in many different ways to the work.

w/c 16th May Thy Kingdom Come 13th May – 23rd May 2021  
St Andrew's In praying "Thy Kingdom Come" we commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nation and the transformation of communities.  
17th & 18th May St Andrew's is hosting the South Manchester Keswick ( Deeper) meeting with Jonathan Dawson speaking both evening at 7.30pm Pray people will come along to hear the message.

w/c 23rd May Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. Pentecost Sunday. Celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit . Acts ch2 v 1- 4 Promised by Jesus and fulfilling an Old Testament prophesy in Joel ch2 v 28-29

St Andrew's and Emmanuel. Hosting the Bishop of Chester – 5.30pm at Emmanuel and Café Church at St Andrew's. That people will come to listen to and meet the "new" Bishop ,Rev Mark Tanner.

St Ann's. Deep thanks for the many positives in our groups throughout the period of lockdown. We give thanks for our clergy who have adapted services and provided ways to minister and keep our fellowships together.

w/c 30th May Chelwood Baptist Church. Praise God for the wonderful support the Food Bank has received during the worst months of the pandemic. Pray with us as we consider the future of this important ministry. Praise God for His Faithfulness to Chelwood Baptist Church. The Lord is sustaining the diaconate. Pray with them for wisdom and guidance in the coming months .

### URC VACCINE CAMPAIGN RAISES MORE THAN £18,000 FOR CHARITY

Generous donors have helped the United Reformed Church (URC) beat its initial fundraising target of £5,000 to raise a whopping £18,796 for Christian Aid.

First launched in February, the aim of the campaign is to provide people with the opportunity to show gratitude for their Covid-19 vaccines and help protect our global neighbours for whom the vaccine remains out of reach.

In the UK, almost 32 million people have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, while poor nations are yet to receive a single dose. Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support, but with donations, the charity can do more.

The Revd Dr Kevin Snyman, URC Commitment for Life Programme Officer, said: "I actually don't even quite know how to articulate how appreciative I feel. It is just such a phenomenal affirmation of the growing legend that is the generosity of URC members. Amazing! But more than that, it shows how deeply the URC cares about justice. We want everyone in the world to be vaccinated; you can see that desire expressed in many of the comments."

The campaign remains open. If you haven't and would like to, please make a donation -

<https://giving.tapsimple.org/page/christian-aid/united-reformed-church-supporting-a-just-vaccine-rollout>

**URC website**

## URC SHOCK AT EVENTS IN MYANMAR

**Members of the United Reformed Church (URC) have expressed shock and dismay at recent events taking place in Myanmar, starting with the military coup on 1 February:**

*Speak out for those who cannot speak,  
for the rights of all the destitute.  
Speak out, judge righteously,  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.  
(Proverbs 31:8-9)*

We have listened, almost in disbelief to reports of unarmed civilian protesters, including children, being killed indiscriminately by members of the Myanmar Armed Forces. We are outraged by the blatant disregard for the welfare, safety and wellbeing of Myanmar's citizens displayed by the military regime which claims to be "on the side of the people", and the callous behaviour of military leaders in light of the violence used to suppress the nationwide protests resulting in the deaths of more than 100 protesters on a single day (27 March).

We lament all the lives lost – now estimated to be in excess of 400 people. We grieve with the families who have had their lives shattered.

The URC stands in solidarity with our partners and friends in the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar (PCM). We support the Church's statement of 8 February following the coup, reproduced below, but note with deep sadness that the enforced military government has ignored the PCM's appeal not to cause harm, or to oppress anyone taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement. Our prayers are with the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar, with all the people of Myanmar, and with the friends and loved ones scattered around the globe who feel keenly the pain of all we are witnessing.

The URC adds its voice to the numerous voices condemning the violence being meted against Myanmar's citizens as they exercise their right to protest, and in demanding that the human rights of Myanmar's people be respected and restored. We affirm the united statement issued by twelve national defence chiefs, including the UK's Foreign Secretary, insisting that "a professional military... is responsible for protecting – not harming – the people it serves", and urging the Myanmar Armed Forces to cease violence and work to restore respect and credibility with the people of Myanmar<sup>1</sup>. We support calls for the

immediate and unconditional release of members of Myanmar's democratically elected government, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint.

Myanmar's anti-coup protestors are displaying immense courage in their determination to secure justice for their nation and in standing against the forces of evil: the United Reformed Church urges the UK government to pursue all political and diplomatic means to support the protestors' efforts and contribute to seeking a peaceful, just and considered way forward for all Myanmar's diverse peoples.

*But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
(Amos 5:24)*

In the face of injustice and oppression, the United Reformed Church reaffirms its commitment to this biblical mandate and urges its members, and people everywhere, to continue speaking out - with and for the people of Myanmar.

---

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week this year is 10~16 May and while the aims are still the same – to help the poorest of the poor – the way in which we can do something about it is going to be very different.

Firstly, there will be no House to House re-collection of Christian Aid envelopes again this year (I'm sure you have all just heaved a huge sigh of relief). However, what we are planning to do is to deliver the envelopes in the same way as usual and each envelope will have details of how to donate electronically or the address of their nearest Church in Cheadle Hulme where they can drop off the envelopes if they prefer to do it that way. Now, for most of us who have done the House to House collection for years, delivering the envelopes is the easy bit so if anyone can offer an hour of their time to walk around and drop off some

envelopes, I would be very grateful. Christian Aid, like most charities, suffered very badly last year, more so for Christian Aid because of the cancellation of the House to House collection which was one of their biggest fund raisers so hopefully people will still feel motivated to give.

If any of you would like to give electronically the address is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chulme-caid2021>

That will feed into a site specifically for Cheadle Hulme so we can get some idea of the total donations from this area but you can also donate directly to the Christian Aid site if you prefer (caid.org.uk/caw21). If you don't fancy any of those methods, I'll be happy to pop round to collect any donations and get them sent on to Christian Aid.

What else is happening during Christian Aid Week? Well, once again we have had to cancel the Sponsored walk round Lyme Park (we may be able to re-schedule it for the Autumn) but Maurice Henegan from St Ann's is doing a walk of witness to publicise the focus of Christian Aid this year which highlights the problems people have in the developing world of getting fresh water, often walking for miles to get it. Rose a 68 year old Kenyan lady makes a 6 hour round trip every other day to fetch water for her family – how would any of us like to have to do that?? Each day during the week Maurice is going to walk round all the Churches in Cheadle Hulme carrying a couple of Christian Aid buckets and wearing a tabard. At each Church he will collect a bottle of water to carry in his rucksack so by the time he finishes, it will be pretty heavy. The idea is not to raise money specifically (although I'm sure he won't object if people happen to drop money in his bucket, but just to let people see what many folks have to do every day of their lives.

If you would like any more information about Christian Aid Week or you can help in any way just give me a ring.

**Sandy Smith**

---

## 100 YEARS OF THE BRITISH LEGION

One hundred years ago, on 15 May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

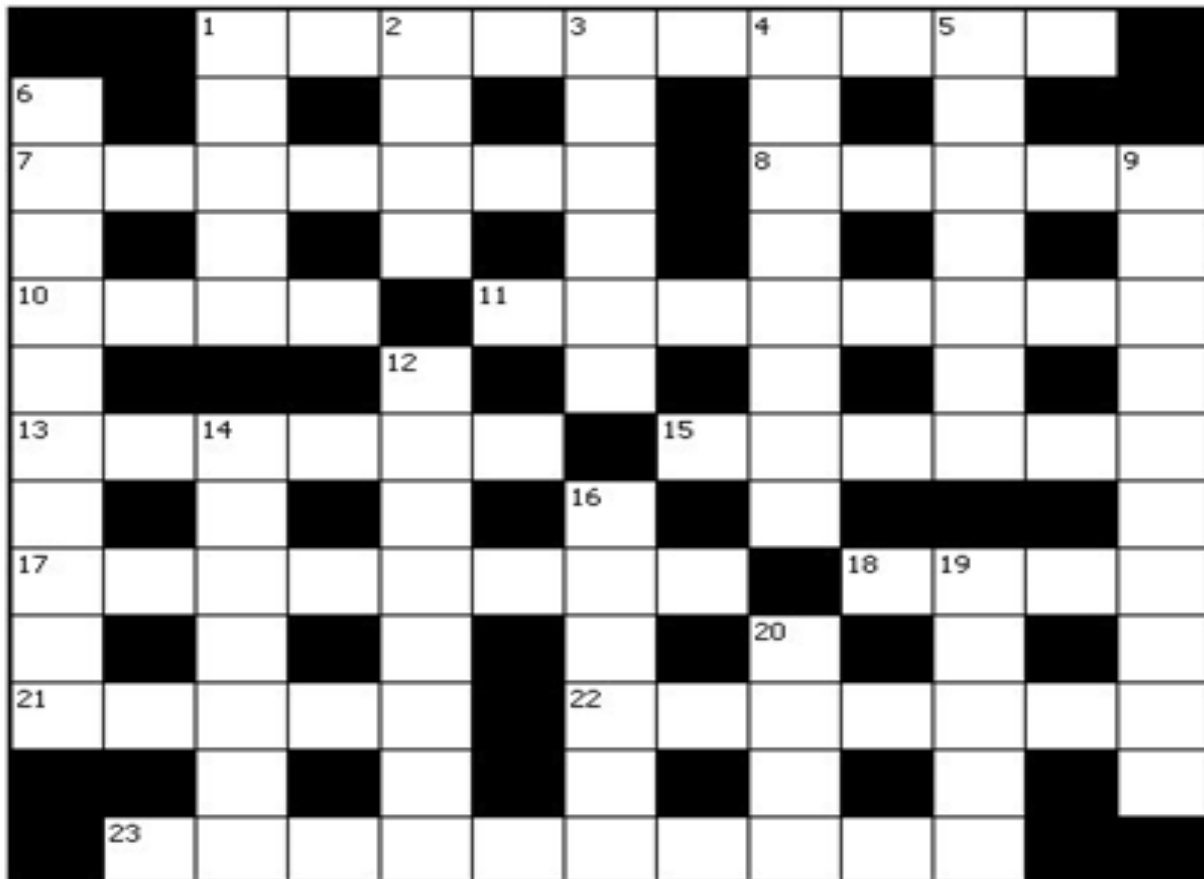
In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year.

The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971, 50 years ago, on its Golden Anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

**Parish Pump**

---



## Crossword clues (May '21)

### Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (*1 Corinthians 8:7*) (10)  
 7 Coming (*John 11:17*) (7)  
 8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (*John 17:10*) (5)  
 10 Smarten (*Acts 9:34*) (4)  
 11 Hold back (*Job 9:13*) (8)  
 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)  
 15 At ague (anag.) (6)  
 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)  
 18 So be it (*Galatians 6:18*) (4)  
 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)  
 22 Empowers (*Philippians 3:21*) (7)  
 23 Imposing (*1 Samuel 9:2*) (10)

### Down

- 1 Healed (*Luke 7:21*) (5)  
 2 Central space in a church (4)  
 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)  
 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (*Exodus 2:12*) (8)  
 5 Bravery (*Acts 4:13*) (7)  
 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (*Acts 16:26*) (10)  
 9 Transgression (*Psalms 36:1*) (10)  
 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)  
 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)  
 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (*Genesis 1:2*) (6)  
 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)  
 20 Cab (4)

## 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	2 MAY	9 MAY	16 MAY	23 MAY	30 MAY
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	<b>Morning Communion</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Alison Pope	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Linda Rayner	Bernie Stevens	Christopher Whitehead
Reader					
Elder Duty					
Notes				<b>PENTECOST HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>

## CHURCH REGISTERS - none

+++++

## NECTAR IN YOUR GARDEN

Our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps in towns and cities. They yield 85 per cent of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology.

Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the bee equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees.

One ecologist has called home gardens "pivotal" in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the county. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.



## WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR THE URC TO REACH NET-ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2030?

asks Simeon Mitchell

Emergencies demand attention – and then action. Last year, the URC's Mission Council recognised the climate emergency, and called for more environmental action in all parts of the Church.

The URC's Environmental Task Group therefore started its first meeting of 2021 with a big question: should the Church be considering making a more ambitious environmental commitment – and if so, what would this take? The question was prompted in part by recent moves by the Church of England and several other denominations to commit to a target of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

The URC's Environmental Policy sets out an aspiration to reach net-zero by 'well before 2050' – and calls on the UK Government to achieve the same. But much has changed since that target was set: a 2050 net-zero target has been set in UK law; there is heightened public awareness of the climate crisis; and there is growing evidence of biodiversity loss. More of our churches – about 18% – have enrolled in the Eco Church and Eco-Congregation programmes, and the first Eco Synod has been awarded. (our NW Synod!)

The date 2030 is significant: if global warming is to be kept to 1.5 degrees, the budget for further emissions into the atmosphere is very tight, and it is therefore vital that societies, especially developed industrial ones like the UK, manage the transition to low carbon economies as early as possible. The independent Climate Change Committee, which advises the UK government on its climate plans, has said: 'The 2020s must be the decisive decade of progress and action on climate change.'

While the pandemic has put a temporary pause on some of the activities that contribute the most to individuals' carbon footprints, notably travel, global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to rise. Even if we hold onto some of the habits of the 'new normal' when restrictions lift – such as continuing some meetings online – this on its own will not be enough to avert climate catastrophe.

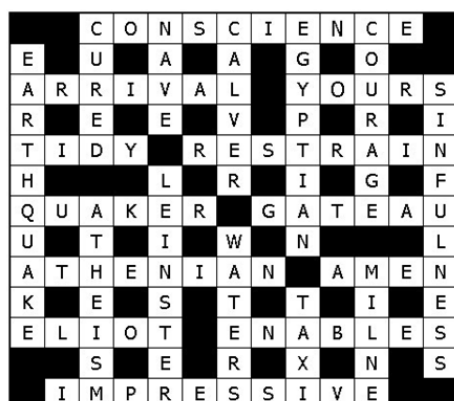
The Environmental Task Group therefore began to explore what it would take for the URC to reach net zero emissions by 2030. What would it mean us doing – at local, synod and national levels? We offer some highlights of our discussion as a prompt for further conversation.

The first question to be addressed is how 'net-zero' is defined. It would be possible to define it in ways that cause minimal inconvenience – such as by allowing the purchase of large amounts of carbon offsets to compensate for continuing with carbon-emitting activities – but that would not be the right thing to do (even though it is currently how the UK Government intends to reach its target). We need to have a robust and defensible definition of net zero.

The most significant contributors to the URC's carbon footprint are travel, buildings, energy use, and how investments are used....

**Simeon Mitchell** is the United Reformed Church's Secretary for Church and Society. To offer feedback, email [church.society@urc.org.uk](mailto:church.society@urc.org.uk), or write to the Reform letters page.  
*This is an extract from an article published in the May 2021 edition of Reform*

+++++



Last date for JUNE copy is 23 MAY 2021

Published & Printed by Alison & Bernie Stevens  
01625 877 180 [swannlanebookings@gmail.com](mailto:swannlanebookings@gmail.com)  
[swannlanesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:swannlanesecretary@gmail.com)

©CH URC 2021

Parts may be from ©Rootsontheweb  
or our subscription to Parish Pump  
or REFORM (URC magazine)