

CH URC NEWS

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JULY / AUGUST 2021

Friends,

Reflected Faith series: the spaces between

Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it's not easy to find someone who will 'actively listen' to you. Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens. He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month: Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken. Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.

Jo White (Parish Pump)

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We were greatly saddened to learn of Vernon Elliott's passing from his son Anthony. It had not been an easy time for him following his move to be nearer to the family but at least he was able to stay with them at the beginning before it was possible for him to move into the Retirement apartment. It is hoped that a memorial service will be held at Church once restrictions are lifted but, in the meantime, we keep Anthony, Lisa and their family in our prayers; we recall Mike Elliott too, in all his exuberance and innocence.

Our thoughts have been with the members and friends who are no longer with us at our Anniversary time. We pray for friends who are injured, anxious or depressed, recently bereaved and those who, for whatever reason, are unable to get out and about.

Services in June were mainly led in house - thank you to those who were involved and had to deal with a number of technical issues! We were very grateful to Rev Peter Sharp for leading our Anniversary service, with communion on 27 JUN.

Birthday greetings this month go to Rena Lawrence, Chris and Margaret Dexter-Brown, Bernice Platt, Don Phillips, and Jenny Hodson and, of course, to anyone else who will be celebrating.

Many congratulations to Rebecca Pope who has just heard that she has been awarded a First Class Honours degree in English Language and Linguistics.

Thank you to those who have donated towards the cost of postage recently.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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SUN 11JUL Worship Group decided Church will be CLOSED due to so many away at Grange-over-Sands weekend.

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SUN 29 AUG - Change of service time to **12noon** to incorporate a Memorial Service for Joyce Sallaway

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked for...

w/c 4 JUL: United Reformed Church. For the ministry team and those who lead the worship. For the fellowship as they witness

in the community and support the wider mission opportunities throughout Stockport.

w/c 11 JUL: Society of Friends. For the fellowship, thankful for the opportunities to remain linked together via digital means and as they witness in the community.

w/c 18 JUL: All Saints. For the ministry of Rev Sarah Hancock and the fellowship as they witness in the community.

w/c 25 JUL: Cheadle Hulme Methodist. For the ministry of Rev Philip Peacock and the fellowship as they witness in the community.

JULY St Ann's. Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. An additional prayer throughout the month of July:

***LORD**, we pray that the Lord who calls us to reconciliation will grant us a true spirit of contrition and deep desire for conversion... will grant us the humility to seek and bestow pardon.... Will grant us willingness to abandon prejudice, injustice and disrespect of others.
Amen.*

NB The CTCH World Day of Prayer service will be 2pm Swann Lane, FRI 2 JUL, + Zoom.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The last 12 months have been very difficult for those who have lost a loved one. On **Sunday 29 AUG**, there will be an opportunity for us to remember Joyce Sallaway who died on 3 APR 2020 and whose family have asked for a memorial service which will be taken by Margaret. This is the nearest Sunday to what would have been Joyce's birthday (30 August).

The family would like to provide refreshments and for this reason we have decided to amalgamate the usual Sunday service with the Memorial and change the start time from 10.30am to **12 noon** after which lunch refreshments will be available. Any Government guidelines which are still in place at the time will, of course, have to be followed.

Nearer the time, we will need to get some indication of how many will be attending the service.

Alison Stevens



N'ENGLAND PILGRIMAGES

A '*Santiago of the North*' has been launched, encouraging people to walk ancient pilgrimage routes to Durham dating back over 1000 years.

Around 30 churches in the dioceses of Durham & Newcastle are part of 4 revived pilgrimage routes starting from villages and towns in the region, re-creating the routes taken by pilgrims to Durham Cathedral.

'*The Way of Learning*', '*The Way of Life*', '*The Way of Light*' & '*The Way of Love*' allow pilgrims to walk from 27 ~45 miles whilst exploring historical and religious places.

Modern-day pilgrims can visit churches and historical monuments, museums and galleries on the route, including shrines and places associated with Saints Cuthbert, Bede, Hilda, Helen, Wilfred, Oswald, Aidan and Godric.

Further pilgrimage routes *The Angels Way* (30 miles) and the *Way of the Sea* (62 miles) link Lindisfarne and Durham, the two most important pilgrimage centres in Britain.

Northern Saints Trail Coordinator David Pott says: "There is a 21st-Century revival in pilgrimage – only 2,500 people walked from Camino ~ Santiago in 1985, but there were 347,538 pilgrims recorded in 2019."

"Pilgrimages are attracting people who are not necessarily of strong Christian faith but who want to explore more."

Parish Pump

BISHOP CHALLENGES BBC

A Church of England bishop has recently called on the BBC to be more imaginative in its religious broadcasting.

The Bishop of Ripon, Helen-Ann Hartley, urged the BBC to go beyond 'preaching to the converted' to producing documentaries and dramas that challenge and inform people's world views.

Writing in a recent edition of Radio Times, Bishop Hartley noted that the BBC is promising 'more content than ever before' but added:

"If most of it fails to get beyond the 'God slot' normally reserved for 'Songs of Praise', what's the point, beyond keeping the faithful happy?"

Bishop Hartley chairs the respected [Sandford St Martin Trust](#), which "promotes thought-provoking, distinctive programming that deals with religion, ethics and spirituality." By running annual awards, the Trust "promotes excellent broadcasting about all faiths, from major networks, independents and online sources, at local and national level."

In the hard-hitting article, she asked "Where are the documentaries that challenge us to rethink the world we live in? Or the dramas that ask us to re-imagine the human relationships? Instead of congratulating itself on producing more content than ever, I wonder if it's time for the BBC to ask just what *is the point of religion on the telly*, or the radio for that matter?"

Bishop Hartley described the BBC as focusing unduly on ritual "because that's what the BBC thinks religious people do or are interested in."

She said "I'm far more motivated by programmes that explore the big questions in life. You can't really understand the world and what motivates people if you're not able to interpret or understand religion."

Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley issued a strong challenge to the BBC to up its game on what the Corporation describes as 'religious broadcasting.'

She does so from an influential position, as the Sandford St Martin Trust has long championed insightful, imaginative programmes that go beyond stereotypes and superficialities to depict the role played by faith in the lives of millions of people. Bishop Hartley makes clear in the article "I don't just want to watch a multi-platform worship service at Easter. I'd like to ask hard questions and explore what the answers might be."

She applauded the Channel 4 drama series, 'It's a Sin' set in the AIDs crisis of the 1980s, commenting "Drama can shine a light on how generations have faced issues and challenges, many of which resonate with our current pandemic crisis."

"We all have world views, the question is how much these help us understand one another, and the things that motivate us. That's what great TV like 'It's a Sin' can do."

Parish Pump

MISSION MENTOR WINNER

This year's winner of the MA in Mission prize is the Revd Daleen Ten Cate, Mission Enabler for the United Reformed Church (URC's) NW Synod.

Daleen's MA dissertation 'A critical examination of the theological basis of a Christian Charity engaged in community ministry' was deemed by the judges to be a robust and rigorous piece of work which "clearly engaged a community of practice out of deep relationship".



Churches Together in England (CTE), alongside the Mission Research Network, set up the MA Mission Prize to draw out high-quality, recently passed MA theses to add to a small but growing repository of MAs and PhDs which will be made available on its new website. When launched later this summer, the resource will include about 50 MAs and 20 PhD theses.

In the inaugural year of the prize, CTE received 25 entries from students based in a wide range of locations from Falmouth, Cornwall, to Barrow in Cumbria and representing a range of denominations from its **51 Member Churches**. A short list of five dissertations was passed on to judges the Rt Rev Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford and CTE Trustee; Dr Cathy Ross, Church Mission Society; and the Revd Phyllis Thompson, of the New Testament Church of God,) who chose Daleen's study.

Daleen receives a £100 cash gift and an opportunity for the MA to appear in an edited format (6,000 words) in the recently launched journal **Ecclesial Futures, published by Wipf and Stock**, which she will be working on with her dissertation supervisor.

The judges said they were impressed by the passion and level of engagement that Daleen showed in her work and the way in which she had rolled up her sleeves and got her hands dirty volunteering for six months, building relationships and the level of reflexivity was significant.

Daleen completed her MA in Contextual Theology through Luther King House in Manchester and practices her ministry just outside Blackburn as **Missional Discipleship Mentor** across 37 churches in **Lancashire**.

Originally from South Africa with a rich Afrikaner accent, Daleen moved to the UK 22 years ago after learning English at a local village school.

Daleen said that at heart she wasn't an academic but a practitioner who really just wanted to put faith into action, saying: "It is the most important thing for me."

Daleen worked with Urban Outreach, the charity her MA work focused on, as part of her placement. She worked particularly with the Eve Project which focuses on women who have just come out of prison.

In South Africa Daleen says she was often told: "You are quite liberal", but she didn't fully understand what that meant. For her it was just about doing what Jesus does.

Daleen credits her academic success to her tutor, the Revd Dr Noel Irwin and the staff at Northern College and Luther King Centre, Manchester.

URC website

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Daleen's colleague Rev Dave Fraser is our Mission Mentor in the S Manchester and Cheshire Partnership (16 churches). He started the chilled meals for the homeless in Stockport scheme that we participated in.

Regretfully he is leaving shortly and will be sorely missed by this partnership.

A 3rd 'Mentor, Darren, left some while ago but has just been replaced by Lawrence Moore, formerly Director at the now closed Windermere Centre.

Bernie Stevens

CLIMATE CHANGING TEA

Now here's something that will send you straight to your kitchen to put the kettle on: the Great British cup of tea may not taste quite so good in the future.

It seems that extreme weather and rising temperatures could lead to inferior leaves in the future, according to Christian Aid.

Kenya, the world's foremost exporter of black tea, is now affected by erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. India, Sri Lanka and China, also major tea producers, face climate change problems as well.

Climate change has been predicted by some as likely to cut production in Kenya's best tea-making areas by as much as a quarter by 2050. Even areas of only average growing conditions could see production fall by 39 per cent.

As one tea farmer in Kenya's Western Highlands, explained: "We cannot predict seasons anymore. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is erratic, often accompanied by unusual hailstones and longer droughts. If this continues, it will make growing tea much harder."

Parish Pump

MOBILE PHONES ARE BETTER

The telephone was patented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1877 and has developed since then to the point where you can direct dial New Zealand and believe they are next door. Television was first demonstrated in 1927 and UK broadcasting began in 1936 from London's Alexandra Palace and our Winter Hill (Bolton) in 1956.

Ever since, people have wanted to combine the 2 technologies into a video-phone, just like in the films. Well, yes we managed it many years ago for businesses with depth pockets and a 64K leased line. This break through led quickly to the video conference, where whole groups share the call.

Then we developed the smart phone, a little bigger than a chocolate bar like a Penguin or KitKat, it comes with a camera and yes it can easily video-conference. So, picture phones are here and work brilliantly; if you feel the picture's too small you can use a cable to feed your TV!

The mobile phone is just a miniature computer and a Tablet is just a bigger version. A computer needs a *Program* to run it just like Alan Turin foresaw - the

usual ones are Skype, What'sApp or Facebook - all good for a video call to relatives around the world. And easily done on a smart phone.

Now though, there are a few programs that excel in combining many video calls onto one, showing 10, 20, even 120 faces together! Microsoft Teams, Google Duo and Cisco Webex are competent video-conference softwares, but it is Zoom that has taken the pandemic by storm. We use Zoom.

Zoom is free for one to one 'meetings' of any duration, and for up to 100 participants for a maximum of 40 mins. The system works well on smart phones, tablets and computers.

ZOOM CHURCH

I know a little, (just enough to be dangerous?) but I am no expert. I loaded Zoom software onto the old church laptop, put it on the lectern in church and linked into a Zoom call from home. The old lappie worked, the pictures flew!

The laptop has built-in camera, mic and speakers but at home I had to buy a separate camera to plug in (£8). Both computers were linked by Zoom through a WiFi Internet router: a bit like a satellite box, with an extra bill.

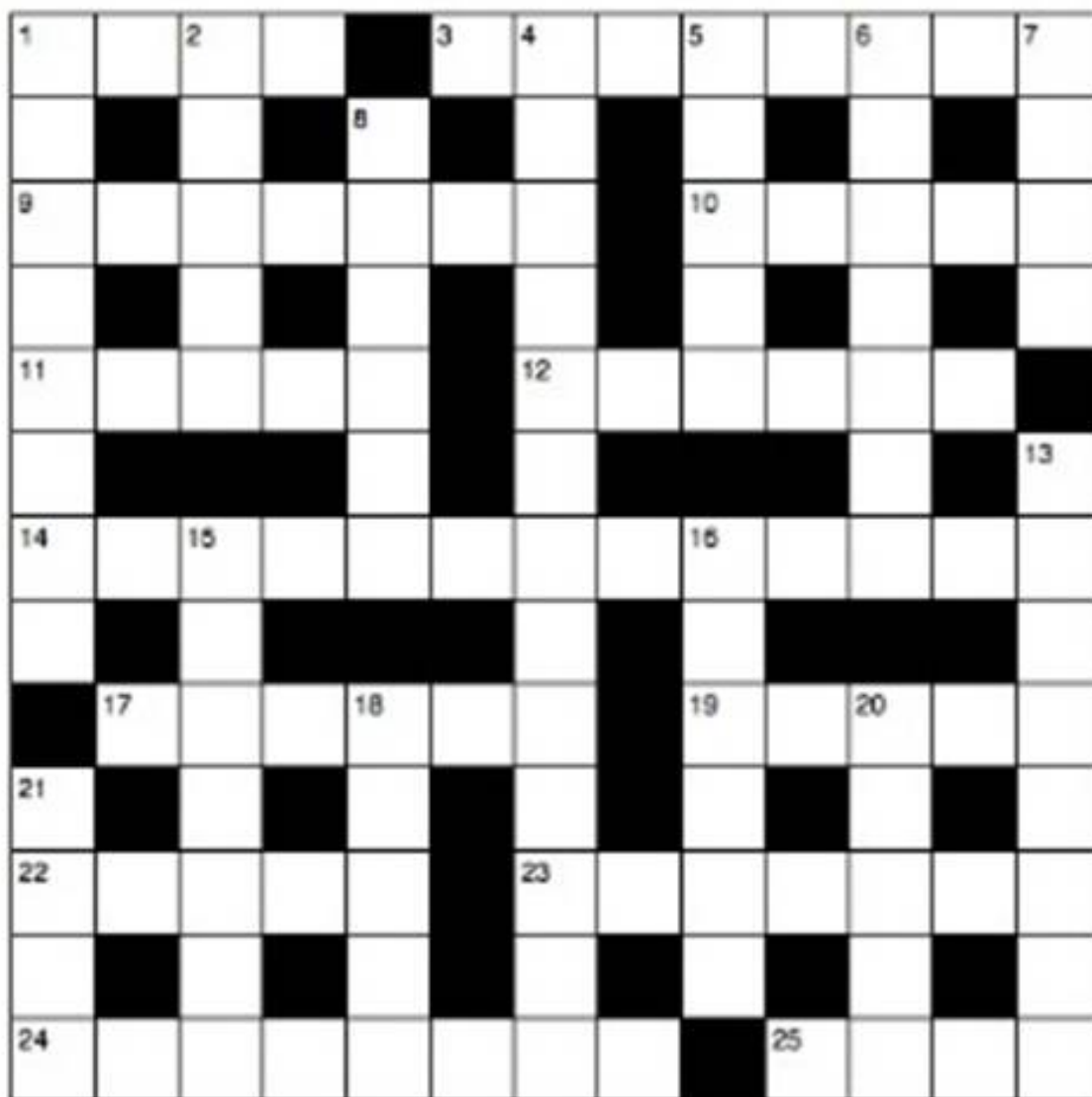
Success went to my head; I used the even older church laptop (which also needed a separate camera) to give a view from the back of church. And later again my own old laptop to give a 3rd church view from the side near the organ. All three worked fine together through the church router: we had a choice of pictures for me to click on.

Laptop speakers only whisper so I wired the earphone socket into the hi-fi system. Worship leaders wanted the lectern for their papers so the front laptop moved to the aside.

All was going swimmingly until I asked it for **more**. I tried to show pictures and hymn videos; Oh dear, it all slowed or crashed. We were already having phone problems so the company gave us a newer router which helped a bit but clearly we were near the limit of the ~2010 computer technology. We're looking to get a better computer.

We also invested in a Streaming License and PRS Music LOM License to stay legal. Easie peasie.

Bernie Stevens



24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

DOWN

1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
2 Church of England incumbent (5)

BIBLE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8-12) (4)
3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
23 I gain me (anag.) (7)

4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in —' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
16 Real do (anag.) (6)
18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day —' (Romans 14:5) (5)
21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (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.

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. Video conferencing continues and Leaders /readers may Zoom in or speak in church from one of the three different lecterns.

Duties are performed by a small team on a rota system.

July & Aug

Date	4 JUL	11 JUL	18 JUL	25 JUL
Service	Morning Worship	CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am		10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Alison Pope		Bernie Stevens	Sandy Smith
Reader	D Green		M Smith	J Hodson
Elder Duty	B Stevens		P Oliver	D Phillips/ B Stevens
Notes				HOLY COMMUNION

Date	1 AUG	8 AUG	15 AUG	22 AUG	29 AUG
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship	Memorial Service
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	12.00 pm
Leaders	In House	Bernie Stevens	Margaret Dexter-Brown	In House	Margaret Dexter-Brown
Reader	B Platt	M Hardie	G Elsdon	P Grieve	M Morton
Elder Duty	S Smith	A Stevens	B Stevens/ P Oliver	D Phillips	M Dexter-Brown
Notes			HOLY COMMUNION		Joyce Sallaway MEMORIAL

CHURCH REGISTERS - none

LECTIONARY FOR JULY / AUGUST

04/Jul Ezekiel 2.1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12.2-10; Mark 6.1-13
 11/Jul Amos 7.7-15; Psalm 85.8-13; Ephesians 1.3-14; Mark 6.14-29
 18/Jul Jeremiah 23.1-16; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2.11-22; Mark 6.30-34,53-56
 25/Jul 2 Kings 4.42-44; Psalm 145.10-18; Ephesians 3.14-21; John 6.1-21

01/Aug Exodus 16.2-4,9-15; Psalm 78.23-29; Ephesians 4.1-16; John 6.24-35
 08/Aug 1 Kings 19.4-8; Psalm 34.1-8; Ephesians 4.25-5.2; John 6.35,45-51
 15/Aug Proverbs 9.1-6; Psalm 34.9-14; Ephesians 5.15-20; John 6.51-58
 22/Aug Joshua 24.1-2a,14-18; Psalm 34.15-22; Ephesians 6.10-20; John 6.56-69
 29/Aug Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9; Psalm 15; James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23

THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."
I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak,
I wondered why God didn't show me,
He said, "But you didn't seek."
I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."
I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the day,
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

Author unknown

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Dove. 3, Offender. 9, Alcohol. 10, Loses. 11, Horam. 12, Ophrah. 14, Archbishopric. 17, Samuel. 19, Dwarf. 22, Lacks. 23, Imagine. 24, Military. 25, Revd.

DOWN: 1, Drachmas. 2, Vicar. 4, Fellow-soldier. 5, Eglah. 6, Despair. 7, Rust. 8, The mob. 13, Scofield. 15, Chancel. 16, Ordeal. 18, Upset. 20, Alike. 21, Elim.

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