

# CH URC NEWS

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**SEPTEMBER 2021**

Friends,

## Climate Sunday is this month

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

*We have damaged God's creation:* God delights in His creation: 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.' (Genesis 1:31). However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most!

*Hope is found in Jesus:* He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. 'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.' (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

*An invitation to respond:* Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

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

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

The nights are starting to draw in and there is a slight chill in the air. We think of those who are still confined to their homes for whatever reason. We pray for those who are unwell, anxious, depressed or recently bereaved.

We were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Tom Clarkson on Monday 23 August, aged 93 yrs. Thanks to his daughter Ann, he managed to get back into Church with us on a couple of occasions when churches were allowed to open again. Funeral details are, as yet, unknown, but in the meantime we particularly keep Ann and her brother, Duncan, and family in our prayers.

September is always a month of 'new beginnings' and this year they seem more poignant than ever. We are hoping to re-start coffee after services and Coffee Mornings in September.

We are now able to sing! So Happy Birthday will begin again in Church to those who are willing to own up being a year older! Best wishes go to all those who are going to be celebrating this month.

A big THANK YOU to those who have donated towards the cost of postage recently.

**The News Team**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 SEP Covid Reflection, Oak Meadow 11am  
8/10 JULY **2022** - weekend away ~ Thornleigh

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### EDITH JOYCE SALLAWAY

Mum was born on 30 August 1928 near Bradford, a true Yorkshire lass and very proud of her Yorkshire roots. An only child which by her admission she found very lonely and this led to her love of being be surrounded by family and friends. A seamstress by profession and for years made clothes for herself and the family. She had a love of all crafts, a few of which are painting, cross stitch and knitting.

As a young lady Mum loved to dance and played the accordion in a dance band where she met Dad, Derek, who played the drums. They fell in love and were married for 59 years. They had three children John, Paul and Tracy.

When Paul was a little boy they moved over to

Cheadle Hulme where they lived happily for very many years. Mum took up a job working in the school kitchens, firstly at Queens Road and then Lane End Primary School.

Over the years Mum and Dad loved to holiday. When the family was young they had a touring caravan and later on they moved up in the world to a static caravan in Skipton where many happy times were enjoyed. As the family grew up and left home they continued their love of travel and went abroad many times.

As for anyone of us life has its ups and downs and Mum battled and defeated breast cancer at an early age. Mum and Dad sadly lost their middle son, Paul at a shockingly young age. His passing was devastating for the whole family and especially for Mum, losing her son. In Dad's later years he suffered ill health and Mum tirelessly looked after him and cared for him right until the very end.

As the years went by Mum had seven much loved grandchildren, and enjoyed nothing more than spending time with them. In the last two years Mum was thrilled to have five Great Grandchildren and, whilst in hospital, to see a photo of the beautiful new arrival.

She was a member of the Town's Women's Guild, where she was on the committee for many years involved in the planning and organizing of many events. Her love of music never left her and she was a valued member of the guild choir. Her faith was very important and she was a loved member of the United Reformed church.

Mum was no shrinking violet and loved to be center stage and making people smile. She delivered many hilarious talks to the guild and other groups. She had no fear of standing up and delivering a 'welcome' or 'thank you' speech. She amazed the 'hens' at Becky's hen weekend recounting a hilarious poem, which she had committed to memory, at the grand old age of 89.

Mum was a character, full of fun, caring and loyal and everybody that met her loved and remembered her. Once met never forgotten, her cheeky sense of fun and her welcoming nature, still partying at 91.

Our family gatherings will continue, as we know she would want them to, but her presence will always be sadly missed. We pray that Mum is now free of all suffering, reunited with her husband and son. sharing stories, a joke and enjoying being together once more.

***Taken from eulogy by Tracy Carley***

## VERNON ELLIOTT

Dad was born and brought up the Lancashire mill town of Heywood in 1928, living above his father's Army & Navy store which was a treasure trove of adventure when Mike and I were children. Very sadly his mother died when he was 9.

An early memory of dad was of him pumping the organ with his cousin at the local church whilst his uncle played – hard work as the organ leaked a lot – but he always loved classical music and, much later in life, he got a lot of pleasure again from his organ lessons with Eric at Swann Lane.

Dad passed for the local grammar school where he met with lifelong friends Colin and Harry – at the end of school, WW2 was coming to an end so he went on to train as a radio officer in merchant navy.

As a teenager he joined Blue Funnel Line – sailing out of Liverpool, this was a very important time for him. He spent many years travelling to Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Far East and there were many adventures, which he would recount to his grandchildren and great grandchildren as he got older. The sunshine of the Far East must have had its attractions against the post war austerity of Britain, but there was one big pull that kept bringing dad home. He met Margaret at a local dance and they got married in 1954 back in Bury. Mike and I came along in June 1955 – by then, Dad had left the sea and joined Ciba Geigy. Despite having two small children, he took up evening classes, studying for a qualification in export sales. He remained with Ciba Geigy, working in sales and logistics for the rest of his working life.

The 1960s saw a move south as his job relocated to the London office in Barclay Square – a long commute with two small boys at home. But it was the swinging 60s, and dad certainly enjoyed the sights of all the London Totty Birds as he called them.

Work caused a move back north in 1966 to live in the long-term home in Cheadle Hulme, which was newly built at the time – a new Wimpey home with a downstairs toilet. The new estate had an active community where both mum and dad played a full part with a very strong group of friends.

Sadly, Mike became ill with epilepsy which brought some challenging times. Dad played his part in building a very happy home – always seeing himself as the breadwinner – but with the

time to introduce the boys to sailing with many happy hours spent at Toddbrook trying to find the wind so you could finish the race. Life at work was enhanced by Dad's role as Secretary and later Chairman of the Plastics and Rubber Institute – organising a range of academic and social events, this led to a famous meeting with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Dancing became an important part of Mum and Dad's life, with many hours practising the latest moves. In retirement, caravanning became an important part of Dad's life – covering much of the UK on many trips. Never a practical man – setting up the awning with Dad was never a task taken lightly. Dad was also able to return to his earlier life, becoming a dedicated radio ham, transforming the house with a number of aerials – it looked something like an outpost for MI6.

Sadly, Mike died from cancer in 2000 and Mum in 2010, becoming a domesticated housekeeper was not natural territory for Dad but with the help of a microwave and frozen meals and friends, he coped very well. Swann Lane and Probus became increasingly important as did keeping up with the lives of his granddaughters, Jessica and Daisy – always making the journey to Emberton for any family occasions.

Dad spent the last 18 months living at Wixams Retirement Village in Bedfordshire – it was yet another big move south which he took on with unexpected enthusiasm, entertaining many at the retirement village by playing the grand piano each afternoon. Living locally gave him the opportunity to see a great deal more of his great-grandchildren, Alex and James, something which gave him great pleasure in his final year.

We all know that Dad could be cantankerous but, for all his foibles, he was greatly loved and will be sadly missed.

**Taken from Eulogy by Tony Elliott**

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**So very sadly, we also add the name of Tom Clarkson to those we keep alive and present in our memories.**

**Details to follow.**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our prayers are asked for...



**Sun 5th Sept:** URC. For the leaders of the fellowship at Swann Lane as they meet the needs of the community. Give thanks for the ministry of Rev Dave Fraser who set up the provision of hot meals to those in need across the area. He is moving on and a new mission mentor will be coming.

**Sun 12th Sept:** CTCH. Education Sunday. For all those involved in Education in different ways and at different levels of pupils/students. For wisdom in delivering the curriculum under difficult circumstances. Give thanks for all the work done during home schooling and for the pupils as they return to school/college and renew friendships and respond to the school/college day.

**Sun 19th Sept:** St Ann's. Give thanks for the ministry of **Fr Sean Davidson** who has assumed the role most recently filled by Fr Chris McCurry. In ministering both at St Ann's and St Chad's Cheadle we pray that Fr Sean will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and supported and encouraged by both of the church fellowships.

**Sun 26th Sept:** All Saints. **Rev Sarah Hancock** as she develops her ministry at All Saints. Pray for encouragement and for the fellowship as they meet and pray together for effective witness in the local community.

**Welcome to the above 2 new ministers.**

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**Join CTCH for a short service of  
remembering, prayer and hope in  
OAK MEADOW 11 am Sat 18 Sep**  
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This will be an opportunity for the community to take time to reflect on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and a time to remember and to take hold of the future. We gather to remember, to pray and to hope and to give thanks to God for the hope He gives to all of us.

**EVERYONE is WELCOME.**

## OUTREACH -HAVE I LEARNT ANYTHING?

I have been asked to do a series of articles on outreach based on the last two/three years of endeavour in connection to Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church.

It took me back to the attraction and worries of doing this work with many positives and the nagging doubt of what difference if any it will make.

- It's great because I am working on something that was not my historic activity,
- It would give me insight and understanding how a 'modern' church can have a role in an increasingly 'secular' society,
- How churches can, do and maybe should contribute to the health and social care agenda in Stockport and Cheadle Hulme.
- It has also allowed me to explore what my faith (something I regard as very personal) could and should play out in the latter years of my life.

But I also had a fear that the expectations, despite constant reassurances from the eldership, was that we wanted more bums on seats on a Sunday.

### Things we have done/ tried...

- We ran an 'Autism Group' with a local resident at church for six months that had a small group (between 2 and six who met once a week.. It was pleasantly surprising to see that people would attend from across Stockport, enjoying each other's company. It ceased when the lady running it moved to the centre of Stockport and now runs a group there.
- We tried the Crones and Colitis Group that ran on Saturdays and again had a small group of young people attending, with their families, who came from as far afield as Macclesfield and Altrincham to take part. The newly created coffee lounge had provided a safe and social environment that fostered social engagement and the mutual support between the families and individuals. (Until Covid hit!)

- We looked at the online world and have built a facebook page and Google presence to go with our listings on I Love Cheadle Hulme that has augmented the CHURC website, At one level we can now claim we have more followers on Facebook than attend church and, if you're to believe Google, it's measured in the 1000's the number of people who look at the content we have uploaded about life at Swann Lane URC
- Believing that we should try and develop ecumenical links, we worked with Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme and created a central website for the Christians in the area along with a facebook page and a YouTube channel that has had many views and seems to have translated into much food and money to the foodbank and the last Oak Meadow outdoor service was very well attended.
- We did use the Church, in the socially distanced times, to run the OSBA's (The Outstanding Social Behaviour Award in 2020) in conjunction with Professor Erinma Bell who visited a few times. The Lord Lieutenant of GM attended and issued the awards and we ended up with mentions in multiple places including the Manchester Evening news
- For six months during COVID we participated in the 'Space at the Table' Programme facilitated by Synod that saw us providing 45 meals a week, and in conjunction with Chelwood Foodbank plus 250 Christmas Day meals to homeless people in Stockport. Very practical and valued by those who received.
- More latterly the thrust of how we practically 'care' for people has had me end up as the Lay Member for Lived Experience and Public Engagement on Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group. We, the public, spend about £650 million a year on Health and Social Care in Stockport each year looking after ourselves. This role started just prior to COVID hitting and has been conducted mainly on line.

Interestingly the last item has seen the faith community start getting renewed 'visibility' in the corridors of health and local government, as the response to the pandemic has seen faith organisations support many of the lonely and 'harder' to reach members of society. It is also

interesting that our current Mayor of Stockport, Cllr Adrian Nottingham, is a committed Christian and is actively supporting the faith leaders in their desires to be involved in social work across Stockport.

So it's been an interesting several years being involved in this work, but I do find myself constantly asking the 'so what?' question. Attendance at our church and online services have not gone up!

I can argue that I now personally have a range of skills and knowledge that I did not have before to complement the knowledge I previously had, but how this should be applied I find myself thinking and praying about a lot.

The next article will talk about how I am joining the Greater Manchester Movement for Recovery, which includes a Christian group based in Stockport called Renew Stockport and what that might achieve, and the role our church might play in it.

But for this article I think this is a point where we can take a break.

**Don Philips**

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## **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

*"There has never been a more important year for a unified effort to invite people back to church. Most of us closed our doors last spring for the sake of our communities. Since then, church re-openings have been staggered and people unsure. In all the places that we can, let's declare on **September 19th** that our churches are ready to share good news with our world. This could be the most significant Back to Church Sunday ever."*

**Ed Stetzer**  
**Executive Director, Wheaton College**  
**Billy Graham Center**

## THORNLEIGH

The Church weekend away to Grange-over-Sands in July was a delightful friendly start to normality returning to life. The Hotel, as always, was welcoming and we knew from past visits that the food was excellent. It was an inspired booking by Alison Stevens and Graham Perkin (Bramhall) just before the first lockdown, and since I was unsure who was attending it was interesting to see who appeared! One unexpected arrival was David and Heather Frankish. I had encouraged Heather to join us but she never mentioned anything about coming - it was lovely to see them both.

Friday evening was sit and natter night - planning the Saturday individual programmes. Two people - myself and Eric Ward - were wanting to visit Cartmel to buy Sticky Toffee Puddings so off we went and, to my amazement, arrived in Cartmel about 10 minutes after leaving Grange. I found it to be an interesting place. There was a Priory, which we visited, a Racecourse, a number of very good shops and the Sticky Toffee Pudding shop, with a socially distanced and masked queue! Puddings come in two sizes of aluminium freezer containers - medium (6 portions) or about half as big again (10-12 helpings). We managed to leave there on the wrong road so our trip back took about 1 and a half hours!!

Saturday is traditionally 'quiz' time and this one was no exception thanks to Elaine and Tony Noden from Bramhall. On Sunday morning there was more time to do your own thing until we got together for a short service of worship, thank you Elaine again, before lunch and home time.

### Face to Face with Cartmel - an unusual display in the Priory in Cartmel

On entering the Priory one found that the whole of the right hand side of the building was roped off. The left-hand side first quarter was the

shop. The remainder had two very large pillars which were covered in decorated masks - the whole of the face side of an adult head. There were tables containing paint, brushes, glue, hair, wool, fabric - in fact anything useful for decorating the masks. These could be purchased for £1 from the shop. Those people buying them were encouraged to show on the masks how they had felt during lockdown. However, they were free to decorate the mask however they wanted to. Hopefully it had been a helpful therapy for most people. Some masks were quite upsetting to see and other were comical.

Mo Morton

### WORDSEARCH (right, down & diagonal)

d	a	v	i	d	g	i	h	o	n	t	h	e
n	m	m	p	r	o	m	i	s	e	a	s	i
d	m	s	n	o	i	s	e	p	j	m	a	e
p	o	n	o	l	d	n	m	i	m	b	n	v
x	t	a	n	n	o	u	n	c	e	d	c	e
s	h	i	e	m	r	o	d	h	e	n	t	r
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n	h	a	s	c	a	r	e	d	e	m	a	w

party  
trumpet  
everyone  
Adonijah  
king  
friends  
invited  
Nathan

promise  
sanctuary  
Bathsheba  
trouble  
mule  
mother  
scared  
announced

David  
Gihon  
son  
noise  
annointed  
Solomon  
celebrate  
old

## 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.

Date	5 SEP	12 SEP	19 SEP	26 SEP
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Bernie Stevens	Christopher Whitehead	Rev Peter Sharp	Daily Devotions
Reader	D Green	H Elsdon	M Smith	B Platt
Elder Duty	S Smith	B Stevens/ A Stevens	D Phillips	P Oliver
Notes		HOLY COMMUNION	BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY	

## CHURCH REGISTERS FUNERAL

**VERNON ELLIOTT**, who died on 10 JUN 2021, aged 92 years, cremation at Crown Hill Cemetery, Milton Keynes on 29 JUN and Memorial Service at Swann Lane on 27 JUL 2021

**EDITH JOYCE SALLAWAY** who died on 3 April 2020 aged 91yrs, at Stockport Crematorium on 14 April 2020 and Service of Celebration at Swann Lane on 29 AUG 2021.

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## LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

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**5 SEPT:** Isaiah 35.4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2.1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7.24-37

**12 SEPT:** Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 116.1-9; James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-38

**19 SEPT:** Jeremiah 11.18-20; Psalm 54; James 3.13-4.3,7-8a; Mark 9.30-37

**26 SEPT:** Numbers 11.4-6,10-16,24-29; Psalm 19.7-14; James 5.13-20; Mark 9.38-50



## Flying bishop

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airfield to charter a flight, and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

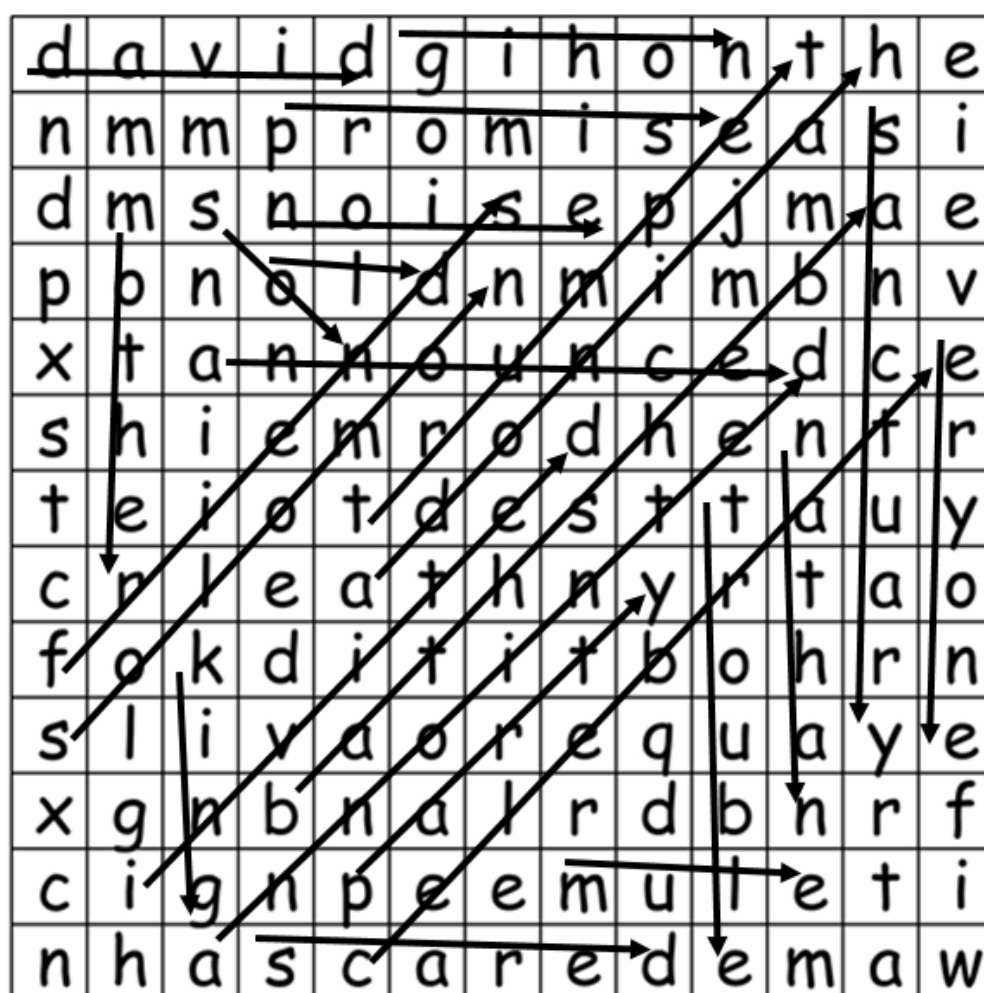
At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally, he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot. "Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is, you're NOT my flight instructor?"

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### Answers



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