

CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
STOCKPORT SK8 7HU
www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk



The
United
Reformed
Church

Partnership Ministers:

Dr Marion Tugwood Jonnie Hill Kate Gray
swannlaneminister@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2022

Friends,

God So Loved the World

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines' Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others. *God's love is unconditional:* God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! *'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.'* (Philip Yancey).

God's love is sacrificial: God's love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God's love. He died for our sins to give us access to God's love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

God's love is forgiving: According to the film *Love Story*, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' Yet Jesus' love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: *"I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!"*

Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.

Canon Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

The days are very gradually lengthening and spring bulbs just beginning to show above the ground and we hope that this will lift the hearts of everyone, particularly those who have been unwell among us. We pray especially for those in our congregation who have not been able to join us, for any reason.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Val Ward from Bramhall last November. Val had suffered with her health for over 9 years following the death of her husband Reg, who was a member at Cheadle Hulme. She sometimes led the choir when we had joint services with Bramhall and helped with crafts - a talented lady who will always be remembered.

We are constantly grateful to the worship leaders who lead our services from week to week. During January we were pleased to hear Rev Dr Marion Tugwood as well as Margaret, Sandy and Bernie. We also thank the readers who take part in services and the coffee makers who can hopefully return to replenishing us after the service as the restrictions slowly unwind.

Best wishes go to everyone who will be celebrating their birthday in February.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Fri 4 MAR - World Day of Prayer - Methodist Church, 2 pm

THANKS

We want to thank you for the beautiful orchid and gift voucher which Sandy presented to us at the Church meeting on behalf of you all.

Thanks are also due to 'someone unknown' for the lovely flower arrangement which was delivered to our home at the end of December with an unsigned card saying 'Thank you for all you have done for Swann Lane'.

If we managed to help keep us all feeling 'together' during the most difficult two years, that was all we wanted.

Alison and Bernie

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Our first month has included a quiz which had us all scratching our heads and a bagatelle tournament. Also a demonstration of an airfryer resulting in chip butties all round!

We finished with a game of True or False when we discovered that a lot of things we thought of as true were actually false and some amazing facts were true. Like an Apollo mission landing back on earth with only 20 seconds of fuel left. It certainly amazed me!

We meet every Wednesday at 1.30 at Mavis's and always have refreshments and a good laugh. If you would like to join us you will be very welcome.

Carole Davies

PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Dear friend,

As one of your partnership ministers, I am eager to ensure that we as a ministry team are communicating well with the members of each of our partnership churches.

I trust that you understand this new model of ministry will see myself and our other partnership minister **Rev Dr Marion Tugwood** working closely with some churches for set periods of time. But this also means that there may be periods of time where there is less contact between us and other churches.

One way of ensuring that all members stay up to date with what we are doing and what is happening across the partnership will be through our new monthly partnership newsletter. We would love to be able to simply add you to the distribution list, however data protection regulations mean that you have to sign up for the newsletter yourself.

It's simple to sign up using the following link — <http://eepurl.com/hK6nLP>

We are also eager to receive submissions for stories which must be received by the end of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Simply email your news to gmsouthandcheshiremp@gmail.com

If there is anything else you would like to bring to my attention or to discuss with me, you are most welcome to email me via jhillurc@gmail.com

Send with every blessing and good wish for the new year,

Rev Jonnie Hill
**Greater Manchester South &
Cheshire Missional Partnership**

CHURCHES TOGETHER

All being well, Lent lunches will be held this year and the respective dates are:

(Saturdays...)

March 5 - St Ann's

March 12 - Grove Lane Baptist

March 19 - URC

March 26 - All Saints

April 2 - Friends

April 9 - Methodists

12 noon ~ 2 pm



THOSE WANTING MARRIAGE

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

FORGIVENESS

A Sunday School teacher asked her children: "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy ventured: "Sin?"

Parish Pump

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES 2022

Once again, by way of trying to simplify the collection of items for the Shoeboxes this year, we are going to ask for specific donations each month - therefore, during February, we would like to concentrate on HEAT & LIGHT. Candles and holders, torches, socks and tights and small hot water bottles. (We target usual 20 boxes.)

Bernie Stevens

YOU & CHRIS WITTY

Professor Chris Witty, England's Chief Medical Officer, wants us to use stairs more.

At the recent Confederation of British Industry's annual conference, he told employers that they should tell their staff to take the stairs because it could mean the difference between entering old age 'healthy or not'.

He said: "in the medium to longer term, a lot of it is about trying to make sure people can be as active as possible. And in doing small things that help, for example, ...take the stairs rather than the lift, can really help. It sounds trivial, but day in, day out over an entire work lifetime, it can be absolutely the difference between someone entering older age healthy or not healthy."

Why you should do housework

Now here is a great reason to do some housework: older people who regularly do household chores have better memory and attention spans than those who avoid domestic duties.

Not only that, but housework is linked to superior leg strength in people over 65. That means their risk of a fall is reduced.

The study, published in *BMJ Open*, found that a combination of light housework, such as washing up, dusting, making the bed, hanging out laundry, ironing and cooking – and heavy housework, such as window cleaning, changing bedding, vacuuming, washing the floor, and chores involving sawing, repairing or painting, "was associated with higher cognitive function" among older people, who showed up to 14 per cent higher attention span scores than older people who did not do housework.

Parish Pump

Fungal spores (and dirt) get everywhere, but regular vacuuming keeps them under control... **ED**

JUBILEE: FREEDOM FROM DEBT

And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. (Leviticus 25:10)

Jubilee is an ancient idea. The Bible sets out how it originated as a way of ensuring a just society where nobody was trapped in poverty or bondage because of the debts or obligations they accrued. According to Jubilee, on a regular basis land was to be returned to people, resources shared, slaves freed, land rested, debts forgiven. Jubilee offered a way of life for God's people, founded in liberation. As Christians, we see Jubilee as being about more than just economics. The Jubilee year allowed relationships to be reset, communities to be re-balanced, and people's dignity to be restored. It was a way of enabling the injustices and fractures in society to be repaired, so that all of God's people could flourish. The Jubilee principle embodies the fairness, wellbeing and freedom that God desires for all people.

Today Jubilee offers more than a technical solution to the household debt problem created by the lockdown. Covid-19 has shown us that we are all far more reliant on each other than we had previously acknowledged. Yet, without a debt Jubilee, those who are least able to bear it will continue to carry the heaviest financial burden as we move forward.

Jubilee offers a vision of what a flourishing community might look like. A community where people are not trapped in endless spirals of debt. Where children's mental health is not damaged through fear of eviction. Where everyone has a safe place to call home. Where the rich and poor do not spiral away from each other in increasing inequality. Where fairness is restored. Jubilee alone will not create such a society; however, it would be a powerful and practical start to the process. It offers a picture of a just and compassionate community that recognises the needs of the most disadvantaged in society and gives them priority.

A Jubilee for nations and for families

At the turn of the millennium, Churches called for a Jubilee to break the cycle of debt for the world's poorest countries. Millions benefited

from debt cancellation being offered as a solution to increasing spirals of poverty. Thousands of campaigners joined together, led by a distinctly Christian voice on debt cancellation. But the global debt crisis has continued. Research by Christian Aid and the Jubilee Debt Campaign in 2019 revealed that 31 countries across the world are now in debt crisis, with a further 82 countries at risk.

During the Covid-19 crisis, many have come together again to call for a debt Jubilee for some of the world's poorest countries. Debt write-off for governments held back by unmanageable debt remains urgent. As well as being an incredibly powerful and necessary tool to tackle global inequality, Jubilee is also an idea that can be applied at a household level in the UK. Debt forgiveness is a tool for building community locally. Arguably, exploring how debt Jubilees can be applied at national and international levels will strengthen the case for its use as a plausible policy action, addressing the unfairness of global inequalities in the long term.

A Jubilee Fund would provide grants to pay off and cancel unavoidable debt accrued by households during the lockdown period. A Jubilee Fund would be a one-off scheme, covering only the period of the lockdown, introduced to address the unique and grossly unequal financial effects of Covid-19.

By removing the burden of unavoidable Covid-19 debt from low-income families, we would help to mitigate the deeply unequal economic impacts of the pandemic, offering people a firm foundation from which to face the future.

Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)

a partnership between the Baptist Union,
the Methodist Church, and
the United Reformed Church.

COFFEE MORNING

**On Saturday 5 February 2022
at 10~11.45am**

In aid of The Leprosy Mission

ALL ARE WELCOME

ROOM FOR THE PLANET

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

Start in the KITCHEN

25% of the world's food is thrown away! One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, by poor planning and because many of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature **below** 4°C will help food last longer & save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities, meaty meals and using leftovers would all help. Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills. (60% of electricity is produced from fossil fuels - gas)

According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are based on chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and ammonia that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

Don't forget the BATHROOM

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Bio-degradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but are not biodegradable, because they are part-

plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available.

NOT saving the planet WILL cost the earth.

**Ven John Barton
Parish Pump**

Think about OTHER ROOMS...

HUMOUR

Mr Baker, why is this cake more expensive?
Ah, yes! That's Madeira cake!

=====

As a child we made faces in the mirror. Now we're adults, the mirror gets even.

=====

Need a friend? call me. Need a laugh? text me.
Need some money? Number out of service.

=====

If you lose one of your senses, like smell, your other senses are enhanced.

That's why people with no sense of humour have a swollen sense of self-importance.

=====

Next time I lose my mind, I swear I'm not even going to try looking for it!

=====

Sometimes I don't feel like going to work, then I remember that I was born cute, not rich.

=====

Sometimes, peace is better than being right...

=====

When you boil a funny bone, it becomes laughing stock. That's humorous.

=====

What do cows like to do in any spare time?
They go to the moovies.

=====

A recent study has shown that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

=====

What's tiny and sounds like a pigeon?
A smidgen.

=====

I couldn't work out how to fasten my seatbelt.
Then it clicked.

=====

SERVICES

Elders' wish to keep everyone safe, so please wear masks (especially for singing) and understand our plans may change with little notice.

We may sometimes have a speaker and sometimes a simple in-house led service. Video conferencing continues and Leaders or readers may Zoom in or speak in church, from one of the 3 lecterns.

Duties are performed by a small team on a rota. Please check the board for swops.

Date	6 FEB	13 FEB		20 FEB	27 FEB
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Evening Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	6.30 pm	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Alison Pope	Rev Jonnie Hill	ON	Rev Peter Sharp	Alison Stevens
Elder Duty	D Phillips	B Stevens/ P Oliver	ZOOM	S Smith	B Stevens
Door and Reader	P Grieve	M Morton	VIDEO	G Elsdon	C Davies
Flowers	E Ward	tba	CONFERENCE	H Elsdon	I Grieve
Coffee	M Morton	B Platt		B & A Stevens	S & M Smith
Notes		HOLY COMMUNION	PARTNERSHIP SERVICE		

CHURCH REGISTERS - none

LECTIONARY for FEBRUARY

6 FEB:

Isaiah 6.1-8,(9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11

13 FEB:

Jeremiah 17.5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26

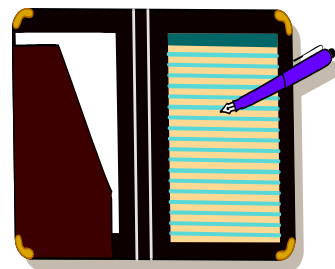
20 FEB:

Genesis 45.3-11,15; Psalm 37.1-11,39-40; 1 Corinthians 15.35-38, 42- 50; Luke 6.27-38

27 FEB:

Exodus 34.29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36,(37-43)

CALENDAR (programme of services inside)



.....to the best of the editor's knowledge, unless you know better...
As groups return in the new year, please double check timings.

FEBRUARY 2022

Tues 01			
Wed 02	1.30~3 pm	Fellowship Circle	
Thu 03	2.30 pm	Elders' meeting on Zoom	
Fri 04	11 am	Management meeting	2 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 05	10~12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of The Leprosy Mission	
Mon 07			
Tues 08			
Wed 09	1.30~3 pm	Fellowship Circle	
Thu 10			
Fri 11	2 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Sun 13		6.30pm Partnership Evening Service on Zoom	
Mon 14			
Tues 15			
Wed 16	1.30~3 pm	Fellowship Circle	
Thu 17			
Fri 18	2 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Mon 21			
Tues 22			
Wed 23	1.30~3 pm	Fellowship Circle	
Thu 24		7.30 pm Worship Group meeting on Zoom	
Fri 25	2 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Mon 28			

Crossword solutions

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

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