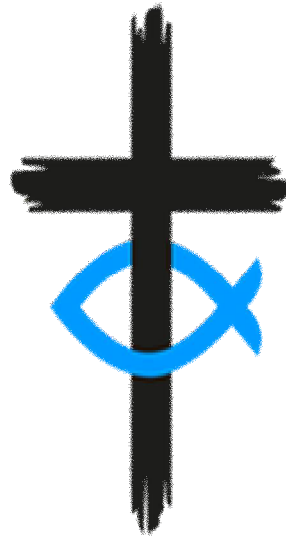


CHURCH NEWS

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

JANUARY 2022

Friends,

Looking to the New Year

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: for-getting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus'* (Philippians 3v13).

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to ***forget the things which are behind***. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to ***focus on the things that lie ahead***. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say *'well done, good and faithful servant'*. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, *'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'*

Canon Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We **pray** this month for the many people who are sick or lonely, some who are known to us and others who have no one to care for them.

We were greatly saddened to learn of the death of **Eric Chilton** on 29 NOV at the age of 87 yrs - a friend and lay preacher for us, Barclay's bank chairman and URC national treasurer. His funeral was held at Wilmslow URC on 22 DEC and we remember his family in our prayers.

It was with deep sadness that the United Reformed Church announced the death of Peter Pay, **Moderator** of the URC General Assembly, a former Synod Clerk and an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher who was a member of Salisbury URC.

As always, we are immensely grateful to those who plan and lead our **worship**, most particularly last month with all the extra and special services involved. We thank of course Revs Jonnie Hill and Marion Tugwood, but also Linda Rayner and our 'in house' leaders - Margaret Dexter-Brown (Bereavement and Candlelight Services), Morag & Sandy Smith and Bernie Stevens.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Church charities fund raising in the form of the Coffee Morning on 4 DEC and the Advent Lunch at Mavis' the following day. These, and the Christmas stall raised **£445**.

The **Toy** Service collected many good-as-new presents for **Dandelion** Community URC church in Wythenshawe and **£40** too.

Well done everyone who sent seasonal greetings to their friends via this magazine or used the in-house Christmas Post Box – Thank you for donating **£37** for our church charities.

The Churches Together Carol Service on Oak **Meadow** was well attended when **£223** was collected for Christian Aid and well done Bernie who setup the sound system.

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

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

18 ~ 25 JAN Week ' Prayer ' Christian Unity
Sun 30 JAN - CTCH Joint Evening Service
(5th Sunday)
FRI 4 MAR - World Day of Prayer

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 5 JAN from 1.30pm until 3pm.

Mavis has kindly offered her bungalow for our meetings and all our friends at church will be welcomed every Wednesday (unless Soup and Sweet is taking place). So any Wednesdays you feel like a friendly chat or discussion, including tea/coffee and biscuits/cakes, please come along, everyone is welcome.

Carole Davies

CHURCHES TOGETHER

PRAYER

CREATING GOD,
you have called us in your love,
help us to serve you
for you have called and you are
faithful;

Redeeming Christ, you have found us by your
grace, help us to name you
for you have called and you are faithful;
Sustaining Spirit, you have filled us with your
power, help us to work with you
for you have called and you are faithful;
So may we be faithful followers too
May our love and unity shine as a beacon of
light bringing all the people in Cheadle Hulme
closer to you.

AMEN.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Madge & Ann Hardie hope that all their friends at Swann Lane had a very happy Christmas and wish them all a very healthy New Year. Keep cheerful and safe!



POEM - THE NEW YEAR

If we put our hand in God's hand
As we enter this New Year
Not knowing what the future holds
But that our Friend is near

We shall not fear what lies ahead
If He is by our side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came
To dwell with us on earth,
He sought and bought us with His blood
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year
He knows the things He's planned,
So let us trust and know just this -
Our times are in His hands.

By Megan Carter

HELP YOUR GARDEN, HELP YOUR PLANET

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has launched a modern-day 'Dig for Victory' campaign to help tackle climate change.

It is asking the UK's 30 million gardeners to consider digging up their garden paving and instead to plant trees, grass and bee-friendly flora, to help nature survive.

The RHS has calculated that if every gardener in the UK grew at least one medium-sized tree in their garden, then that would be the equivalent of storing the carbon produced from driving 11 million times around the planet.

Further research from a YouGov survey has found that only 19 per cent of gardeners say that they have adopted sustainable gardening practices.

Parish Pump

KNOCK KNOCK

The passenger tapped the taxi driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window.

For a second everything went quiet in the car, then the passenger apologised and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied, "I'm sorry. Today is my first day as a taxi driver. I've been driving a hearse for the last 15 years."

MOSES REVISITED

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Parish Pump

CHURCH MEETING 9 JAN

A letter is enclosed for members for our meeting on 9 January together with an Agenda and the minutes of the meeting last November.

A financial statement will be available at the meeting, although fully audited accounts will not be ready until April. Unfortunately, due to the current Covid situation, we will not be holding a Faith Lunch.

Please do what you can to attend the meeting. Obviously, we will be Covid aware but also subject to any new restrictions. Thank you.

Alison Stevens

TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS

Happy New Year! January is, of course, the time to take down the decorations and put them away for next year. In many churches however, the Crib scene is left up until the beginning of February to celebrate the presentation of Christ in the Temple - **the Feast of Candlemas**. It's yet another moment of 'illumination,' and has a number of meanings.

The date 'set' for Candlemas is the 2 FEB each year and also marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. So, from that date onwards the days begin to get longer and the nights shorter.

It's the day when we celebrate Mary and Joseph taking their baby, Jesus, to the Temple. The custom was set down in Leviticus chapter 12, where the parents presented the child to the Lord, and received a blessing from the priests. It was a picture of the sacrifice of the first-born son, giving him to the Lord. There is also a third meaning? Any ideas? (*next month.*)

As you take down your decorations, think about where you will store them ready for use next Christmas – and also, how carefully you will put them away.

Will the string of lights be a tangled mess of knots when you take them out of their wrappings or will you be able to hang them straight on the tree? One of the biggest concerns is where to put the figure of baby Jesus. It's usually so small in a Crib Set that it is easily lost, which destroys the whole point!

Have a think about where you put Jesus after Christmas. Not the figure but the 'real' person. He's easily left in a virtual crib as a baby in our minds, just like the wooden or plastic figure in our attics or under the stairs. If we keep Him as that lovely sweet-smelling-cute baby we miss out on His teaching and miracles, we will fail to understand and engage with His massive love and compassion for each of us on the cross – and most importantly His resurrection. Death is not the end.

Not for Him. Not for us. And not for our loved ones.

The Rev Dr Jo White
Reflected faith Series
Parish Pump

EXPLAINER: SOCIAL CARE

Following the government's announced social care reforms in September 2021, JPIT's Paul Morrison provides a guide to some of the issues involved.

What is social care?

Social care covers a wide umbrella of services to people of working age as well as the elderly. It varies from light touch support to help people stay active and engaged in their communities, to regular personal care visits to help with washing or dressing all the way through to long term nursing home care. For some, the care is simply essential for life, and for many more social care offers the opportunity to maintain a dignified and connected life.

Good social care can transform lives, but bad or absent social care can ever so quietly close people off and strip them of their dignity. Both good and bad care often go unnoticed by all but very close friends and family.

Who gets social care?

Adult social care is used by adults of any age whose needs are assessed to be significant enough to warrant support. The service is particularly needed by people of pension age who account for two-thirds of the 800,000 individuals receiving long term care, and just under over half of all social care spending. This does however mean that support for working age people with disabilities or impairments forms a sizable and often overlooked component of social care.

Why does social care need reform?

The case for change falls into three broad areas of concern:

1. There are not enough social care services available to meet the need: Local authorities in England receive around 2 million new requests for help each year, and for a variety of reasons reject around 42% of them. The number of requests is steadily rising, levels of reported disability are rising, but the numbers receiving long term care are steadily falling. Other surveys indicate that 1.5 million over 65s who need and are entitled to care do not receive it. Increasingly stretched local authorities have had to spread their resources more thinly.

You only need to talk to families who have dealt with the care system to know that the effect of this is to make it much harder to ensure loved ones are cared for with dignity. The system can appear to be a confusing, guilt inducing maze. Unfortunately to ensure good care families are often required to have sufficient money to top-up the basic care packages on offer, and/or the ability to put their case to the local authority persistently and well.

2. Care staff have persistently been undervalued: There are around 1.5 million people working in the care sector. In Scandinavia, care work is viewed as a profession with progression, training programmes, and wages at around three quarters that of a nurse's. In the UK care work is viewed as a low paid, low skill occupation with a limited career pathway. By 2019, average pay had slipped back relative to other low paid jobs, and for example is now below that of retail assistants. The job can be difficult and demanding and given the low pay and status we cannot be surprised that each year almost 1 in 3 carers leave the profession (for home care workers it is nearer 1 in 2), and that recruitment is a persistent problem.

Even if not financially rewarding, care-giving can be a hugely rewarding job. However, when surveyed, three quarters of domiciliary carers said that cost pressures meant they did not have time to provide dignified care.

3. For some people care is very expensive, even to the point of needing to sell their home to pay for it: Unlike the NHS, social care is not free when you need it. Essentially if you have assets of over £23,250 then you must foot the full cost of care, and may need to pay a proportion of costs if you have assets below this threshold. The 'housing disregard' means that if you need to continue living in your own home, the value of your property is not counted in your assets, but if you move into residential care it does then count.

Fees for care can quickly become substantial, and the government estimates that 1 in 10 adults will face costs of over £100,000.

What reforms are being proposed?

The Command Paper contains 3 sections. The first about the NHS, the second about social care and the last about a 1.5% rise in employers and employee's National Insurance contributions. This tax increase is branded "the Health and Social Care Levy" and will raise an additional £11 billion to be

divided between the NHS and the social care sector.

Changes to means tests: There is a fairly detailed answer to the issue of families needing to pay high fees for care. It sets a cap where once a person has paid £86,000 they will not be asked to pay any more for their care.

The means test is also restructured, so that if you have assets of less than £20,000, no care fees are payable; between £20,000 and £100,000 a contribution of disposable income and up to £20,000 per year may be charged; and over £100,000 the person must pay full costs.

The annual cost of this will be around £1.6 billion, but this is not additional money to the sector to improve services – local authorities will lose some fees from people with assets, but they are replaced by money from National Insurance contributions.

Few specific commitments to social care: Ironically for an announcement billed as 'fixing social care', beyond the funding reforms, there are very few commitments to change or even provide additional funding to social care. The paper says encouraging if familiar things about the system and promises that a White Paper will be forthcoming. However the only additional money it specifically offers the sector is £160 million per year to provide a helpline and other support for care staff.

Costs in context: The care system costs £23 billion a year, and the Health Foundation estimates that by 2023 an additional £1.9 billion is needed to simply keep pace with current demand. £160 million will not go far – nor does the paper suggest it will. It is currently unclear how much of that £11 billion will go to the NHS and how much to social care.

**Paul Morrison
Joint Public Issues Team
(of the URC, the Methodist's,
the Baptists and
Church of Scotland)**

SUDOKU

Every row, column and small 3x3 square must contain numbers 1~9.

			6				7	
		7			3	5		
3					7		4	
					2	6		
8	5						1	7
		9	3					
	9		5					3
		4	1			8		
	2				9			

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

URC 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In OCT 1972, the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH was formed by act of parliament. In Oct 2022, the URC will be 50yr old!

Free tickets are now available for the URC's 50th Anniversary Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving, taking place on 1 October 2022, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly took place in 1972.

The day starts at Church House at 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT with an Open Church House event, packed full of jubilee related talks and activities, as well as to meet the team that work at the office.

There will be a Walk to Westminster with a guided tour before gathering for the service that starts at 2.30pm.

The intergenerational thanksgiving service is free and open to all in the URC. To

ensure adequate provision is made, tickets for under 5s, 5-11s, 11-18s, and wheelchair users are available.

Book your tickets through the Eventbrite booking system here: bit.ly/urc50.

URC website

LECTIONARY for JANUARY

2 January: Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12; **Matthew 2.1-12**

9 January: Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17; **Luke 3.15-17,21-22**

16 January: Isaiah 62.1-5; Psalm 36.5-10; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; **John 2.1-11**

23 January: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; **Luke 4.14-21**

30 January: Jeremiah 1.4-10; Psalm 71.1-6; 1 Corinthians 13.1-13; **Luke 4.21-30**

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 lecterns.

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

Date	2 JAN	9 JAN	16 JAN	23 JAN	30 JAN
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leaders	Sandy Smith	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Rev'd Dr Marion Tugwood	Bernie Stevens	Sandy & Morag Smith
Elder Duty	B Stevens	A Stevens	S Smith/D Phillips	P Oliver	A Stevens
Door	M Smith	M Hardie	M Morton	H Elsdon	B Platt
Reader	M Smith	M Hardie	D Green	H Elsdon	B Platt
Flowers	Christmas	B Platt	A Stevens	E Shackcloth	D Williams
Coffee	A & B Stevens	D Green	C Davies	M Hardie	H Elsdon
Notes		EPIPHANY CHURCH MEETING	Holy Communion and Induction of Elders		

CHURCH REGISTERS - none

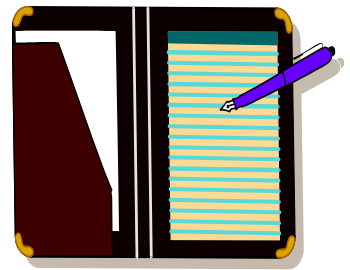
1 JAN - THE NAMING OF JESUS

Matthew and Luke tell how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - actually a not uncommon, name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1 JAN, eight days after 25th December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). In Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

However, for the early Christians, the *name* of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated His ministry, and it continues so today... we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

Parish Pump
(by Internet subscription)

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.

JANUARY 2022

Sat 01 **NO Coffee Morning this month**
Sun 02
Mon 03
Tues 04
Wed 05 1.30-3 pm **FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE**
Thu 06
Fri 07 2.00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 08
Sun 09 **11.30 am Church meeting**
6.30pm Missional Partnership 2nd Sunday Evening Service on Zoom
Mon 10
Tues 11
Wed 12
Thu 13
Fri 14 2.00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 17
Tues 18
Wed 19
Thu 20
Fri 21 2.00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 24
Tues 25
Wed 26
Thu 27
Fri 28 2.00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 31

MEDIA DOOM - Merry Christmas everyone. Despite all the doom and gloom portrayed in the media you'll be pleased to know the number of deaths from war between nations has never been so low, deaths from natural disasters are far less than half those of the early 1900s and absolute poverty across the world has also never been so low and is continuing to decline. Life expectancy has increased over the past 250 years across the world from 29 to 73. Under nourishment has fallen and is continuing to fall across the world and finally the chance of an under 18 dying from Covid is less than 0.0002%. Despite what we read and see on the news there has probably never been a better time to be alive!
Adi Taylor - Kinder Mountain Rescue Team

Sudoku answers... ..

9	4	2	6	8	5	3	7	1
6	1	7	4	9	3	5	8	2
3	8	5	2	1	7	9	4	6
4	7	1	8	5	2	6	3	9
8	5	3	9	6	4	2	1	7
2	6	9	3	7	1	4	5	8
1	9	6	5	4	8	7	2	3
7	3	4	1	2	6	8	9	5
5	2	8	7	3	9	1	6	4

Last date for FEB copy is 16 JAN 2021

Published & Printed by Alison & Bernie Stevens 01625 877 180
swannlanesecretary@gmail.com swannlanebookings@gmail.com

©CH URC 2021

Parts may be ©REFORM (URC magazine) ©URC website
Or ©Parish Pump (Internet), ©Rootsontheweb (both by subscription)