

CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
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FRIENDS

APRIL 2022



Palm Sunday

It must have been a dramatic sight on Palm Sunday when Jesus approached Jerusalem to the adulation of the crowds. The Bible tells us that *'A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"'* (Matthew 21:8,9).

But not everyone in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus; in the very next verse we read, *'the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"'* (10). But by the end of the week, the crowds had turned against Jesus and were demanding His crucifixion. (Matthew 27:22).

Why did they turn against Jesus so quickly? Perhaps they were disappointed because He refused to fulfil their expectations in establishing a new political kingdom. Instead, He came to change our hearts and save us from our sins by His death and resurrection. As He said during that week, *'My kingdom is not of this world.'* (John 18:36). This deeply disappointed those who hoped that He would throw out the hated Roman occupiers.

Where would we have been on that first Palm Sunday? *Among the disciples who welcomed Him or among the sceptical crowds?* It's easy to judge those who condemned Jesus, but would we have acted differently? We too can be disappointed when Jesus fails to meet our hopes and expectations of Him?

The message of Easter is that God still loves and accepts us, and because of Jesus we can be forgiven. He came for one simple reason: *'For Christ also suffered once for sins...to bring you to God.'* (1 Peter 3:18). May we welcome Jesus afresh into our lives this Eastertime.

Canon Paul Hardingham
~Internet

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

As always, our thoughts and prayers are with those in our fellowship who, for whatever reason, are unable to worship with us at present.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of David Williams, aged 79 years on Sunday 6 MAR in Stepping Hill Hospital whose involvement with Swann Lane, together with other members of his family goes back a long time. His funeral was held at Swann Lane on 23 MAR when Rev Peter Sharp officiated. Our thoughts and prayers are with Norah and Robert and their families.

At the time of going to press, we have also sadly learned of the death of another Church member, Jean Mirams, on 24 MAR. She had been in Stepping Hill for a number of weeks – Hugh, Fraser and their families will also be in our thoughts and prayers.

Due to Fairtrade fortnight, the first weekend in March now regularly belongs to Sandy & Morag Smith who ran the Saturday Coffee Morning and also very ably led the Sunday service, and followed by a very enjoyable Afternoon Tea attended by 23 people (see article opposite). During the service, they drew our attention to the supply of tea amongst other things.

In addition to Margaret who led our Mothering Sunday worship, our thanks also go to Rev Steve Hough from Stockport Baptist Church for leading our worship on 13 MAR when he told us of the work they were involved with regarding help for Ukraine. He took away £220 as a donation to that cause from the pre-arranged retiring collection.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 3 APR - Voting to call Kurauone Mitimwii

Sat 16 Apr - CTCH Oak Meadow service

The News Team

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5 April

In aid of

Suk Jai Orphanage

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Fellowship has had some interesting meetings during March. We all brought an item with us that had meaning for us. There were some interesting stories about the items from everyone. It was amazing how much discussion we had over Dorothy's tea caddy spoon! We were entertained on 16th by Eric who had put together a lovely programme of music for us.

Thanks to Mavis for providing comfy seats for us in her lounge to sit and enjoy it.

Carole Davies

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES 2022

During April, we would like to concentrate on hair accessories; jewelry; small bags/purses; umbrella; sunglasses. Thank you.

Bernie Stevens

CHURCHES TOGETHER

LENTEN LUNCHES 2022 12 – 2 pm

April 2 @ Friends
April 9 @ Methodists



ALSO...

11am **OAK MEADOW** Easter service 16 Apr

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Hi Alison

I have just tallied up the various amounts from the coffee morning, afternoon tea and my jam and cake sales (to my Zumba class as well as church) and I have raised £320 for Traidcraft Exchange which is a great result!!

Thank you to everyone who helped (setting up, sandwich making, serving and tidying up) and those who came along to support both events. I enjoyed them and I hope everyone else did too. I couldn't do it without the very generous people at Swann Lane, so thank you all once again,

Morag

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The theme of this year's interdenominational service was "*I know the plans I have for you*" prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. On Friday 4 MAR we met together at the Methodist Church where there was a warm, welcome, and after a thoughtful hour together sharing in the worship there was a welcome cup of tea and conversation.

In 2023, the theme, which will be prepared by the Christian women of Taiwan, will be '*I have heard about your faith*' and the Cheadle Hulme service will be held at All Saints.

Alison Stevens

APRIL HAPPINESS

'April is the cruellest month,' wrote TS Eliot at the beginning of his magisterial poem, *The Wasteland*. And it is a good description of what April may bring us, between the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices.

But apparently, major problems do not mean that we can't enjoy anything. According to the 'science of happiness,' fuelled by advances in brain-scanning technology and a cultural shift towards seeing happiness as a key index in human development, there is a way through the deep gloom that hangs over this month.

Neuroscientists suggest that even while we are dealing with the big problems of life, we can also make room for 'small, fleeting moments of fulfilment'. These can range from holding the hand of a loved one, to appreciating the daffodils in your garden, to enjoying a cup of tea with a good friend. Such moments of quiet contentment are 'joyful vignettes' which can be the bread and butter of our daily human happiness. As one writer has said: "Hold on to the small moments and the bigger picture of gloom doesn't have to be as overwhelming as it first seems."

Parish pump

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of all, with alarm and concern we bring before you the military intervention in Ukraine.

In a world you made for peace and flourishing, we lament the use of armed force. We mourn every casualty of this conflict, every precious life extinguished by war. We pray comfort for those who grieve and those who are fearful.

Hear our longing that leaders and nations will honour the worth of all people by having the courage to resolve conflict through dialogue. May all our human failings be transformed by your wonderful grace and goodness. We ask this in the name of Christ, the author of peace and sustainer of Creation. Amen.

Joint Public Issues Team

HE TOO

When the blackest clouds enfold us
When the strongest winds may blow;
When our dearest friends have sold us
And we have nowhere to go,
In the depths of great despairing
Through the sharpest jabs of pain
There we find our Father, caring
Giving shelter from the rain.

For He too, one dreadful Friday
Saw His most beloved Son
On a cross, raised by a highway
Naked, bleeding, cruelly hung.
Yes, He too has felt the starkness
And He too has been betrayed
For He too has known the darkness
And the price which must be paid.

As you weep, reach out your fingers
Feel His gentle, loving hand,
Feel the care just He can bring us
For your life is known and planned.
He too knows the path before us
And He too has fought the fight
Only Jesus can assure us
On our journey to the light.

By Nigel Beeton

DAVID CUTTER WILLIAMS

David was born in Cheadle Hulme, the youngest of four – himself, Robert, John and Nora. He lived there all his life and saw many changes: when he was just a lad, Cheadle Hulme was semi-rural – Orrishmere was still a farm – as were the other farms, where housing estates and new roads have now taken over.

David attended William Hulme's school, where his father was a senior master. On leaving school, he entered into an apprenticeship with motor dealers, Joseph Cockshoots in Manchester, to train as a motor mechanic. Later, he enjoyed a successful career as Service Manager with Vantage Garages in Timperley, until he retired in his Fifties in order to look after Penny and Viki.

In his younger days, David enjoyed hill walking, mountain climbing, badminton and lacrosse. His other great passion was singing. He was a member of the East Cheshire Operatic, at a time when the regular output was Gilbert and Sullivan. He also sang with the Poynton Male Voice Choir for many years, performing some of their solo items in concerts. A large part of David's life was spent in and around amateur theatre – beginning with Players Theatre in 1961, becoming President in 1985, and later with the Greater Manchester Drama Federation where he also became Chairman.

It was during his time with East Cheshire, that David met Viki - he asked her out and they eventually married. Life changed forever when daughter Penny was diagnosed with MS and within 3 years, Viki was also diagnosed with MS and David became a full-time carer. With characteristic energy, David threw himself into the support of Stockport branch of the MS Society, eventually becoming its chairman.

David looked after both Penny and Viki at home, until Penny's condition deteriorated and he conceded very reluctantly that she go into a care home in the late 1990's. Similarly, it was a very sad day for David when Viki moved into care in Bowerfield Court in 2007. Sadly, Penny passed away in 2003 within the

year following her wedding to Andrew. Viki remained in Bowerfield care home until her passing in January 2015. Perhaps the climbing, the lacrosse and Badminton, the lifting and moving of Penny and Viki at home had taken its toll on David so that in time his lovely light began to wane and his own physical condition began to decline.

He had achieved so much in his work, and within the Societies and institutions he supported. He was an elder of this church and sang in the choir - all this carried out for the most part with a cheerful disposition and a wicked sense of humour. He was loyal and generous to those he loved creating a good family life for himself, Viki and Penny with complete devotion in their last years.

He could also be very persuasive and determined. In dealing with difficult situations, he was fearless. In Robert's words: *David in whatever he did was wholehearted in his efforts. He knew how to serve and hated poor service, often with vigour. He knew what he thought ought to happen and fought to achieve it. His hatred of the digital world he made very evident, but he always found a way through. His support for Penny and Viki ruled his life for so long but he never lost heart, and never forgot to thank everybody who helped him in any way.*

**Taken from Eulogy
written by David Burns**

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

A few more deductions, and your take-home pay isn't going to be enough to get you there.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

It should be easy for any government to please the people. All we want is lower taxes and more spending.

The government not only has the bad habit of living beyond its income, but also beyond ours.

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

SUK JAI ORPHANAGE

We have 25 children at the orphanage this year. We also have one of the girls who will be finishing high school. Her name is Nut cha. Nut cha will be coming to the city of Chiang Mai to continue her studies in university. Please keep her and her studies in your prayers. Please pray also that we will have to necessary funds for her to continue her studies.



Some of the orphanage children



Pi ya (when he first came)



Pi ya (now)

In addition we also thank God for Pi ya who is now a young man and is one of our kids from the orphanage. This year Pi ya has graduated from University. He studied at a Physical Education University. Before working Pi ya will be doing his part for the country and will be doing his national service. This is still a law in Thailand that every male at the age of 18 will have to serve in the military. This service will take around 6 months since he will be signing up instead of being drafted which would take about 2 years. Please keep him in your prayers that God will watch over him as he completes his national service.

As for Ruth and I, we feel very blessed to be here and serving God even though at the moment there are certain complications due to covid 19, since we are not able to move around freely to visit and preach at the villages as before. As for Ruth and I, we feel very blessed to be here and serving God even though at the moment there are certain complications due to covid 19, since we are not able to move around freely to visit and preach at the villages as before. Despite this we thank God for technology that makes it possible for us to still be able to talk and encourage the villagers during these difficult times. Nonetheless, we have been thankful to God for his mercy and grace in keeping our family safe from the pandemic. We also thank you for praying for Ruth, at the moment she is doing well and she has another appointment with the doctor in July to see if she will need to have the surgery.

Once again, we thank you so much for your prayers and for your support, and thank you always for your faithful partnership in the Good work that we are doing for our Lord and saviour here in Thailand.

Rev Abel & Ruth Sairattanyu

WHAT A HOOT

One evening a bird-loving vicar strolled over to his huge country churchyard, and just for fun, hooted softly, like an owl. To his delight, an owl hooted softly back. The next night the same thing happened, and again, the night after that. Soon it became a regular habit, and every night for the following year, no matter what the weather, the vicar would go to the churchyard and hoot back and forth with his feathered friend. The hoots became longer and more complicated, and the vicar kept a careful log of the 'conversation'.

Just as he thought he was on the verge of a real breakthrough in interspecies communication, his wife had a chat with the neighbour who lived in a big house and garden next door to the church. "My husband comes here each night," she said, to "hoot to the owl in the churchyard." "That's very odd," the neighbour replied, "so does my husband."

Parish Pump

CALL FOR IMMEDIATE END TO WAR

In this season of Lent, the Rev Dr John Bradbury, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church (URC), the Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, along with 18 other URC representatives join 300 delegates at the Churches Together in England (CTE) Forum in calling for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine.

CTE Forum is the broadest gathering of churches and Christian organisations in England, gathering 52 national member churches, Christian organisations and intermediate ecumenical bodies. Meeting at The Hayes in Swanwick from 14–16 March, the Ukrainian crisis was an urgent priority alongside its planned programme considering ‘Reconciling Hope — A Broken Church for a Broken World’.

The [Presidents of CTE](#) and the Fourth Presidency Group made this statement on behalf of the whole of Forum:

“As 300 delegates from 52 national Member Churches, numerous Christian organisations and ecumenical bodies from across England, we call for the immediate cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of invading forces and the observance of the Geneva Conventions.

In this holy season of Lent, we call upon churches everywhere to campaign for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine, and to proclaim the dignity of every human life, whatever its nationality.

We welcome and commend the extraordinary efforts of countries neighbouring Ukraine in receiving refugees from the war and call on the UK and the whole of Europe to follow their example. We support every measure to protect the most vulnerable.

We commit ourselves to pray for the nations of Russia and Ukraine, our own Government and people, and for all who find themselves refugees, or bereaved, wounded or destitute. May Christ have mercy upon our world.”

Website

PARTNERSHIP VACANCY

The 15 representatives of the Steering Grp, acting as the vacancy committee, and including me, interviewed **Rev Kurauone Mitimwii** by video link from Zimbabwe and decided to invite him to ‘preach with a view’. The Synod and Church House helped with arrangements and he arrived on 15 MAR.

So on Thurs 17 Mar, 12 members of this church met Kurauone and Nancy his wife at a meet and greet in our new coffee lounge. On Sun 20 MAR we watched him preach at Altrincham URC through a less than flattering video link; a 2nd ‘preach with a view’ will be at Macclesfield on Sat 26 at 3pm. All are invited to go there in person, or come to church to see him, again on screen.

Kurauone is well qualified and leads 3 Presbyterian churches in in Zimbabwe. He told us on Thurs he has been to Britain before a few years ago and even came to Manchester. He has an accent which you kind of get used to - his wife Nancy is very bubbly early year’s teacher and took an interest in our pre-school.

After the 2 ‘preach with a view’ services, a church meeting could then decide to ‘call’ the minister. In this case 1 church meeting is called in 5 places so the ~800 members of this Partnership can decide to ‘call’ him. It will be a simple paper ballot, the slips being sealed and taken for counting centrally (75% needed) after the last meeting. The chair of each meeting will be an independent convenor of a Steering Group.

The voting venues, where anyone can go:

Wed 30 Mar 7.30pm Ashton-on-Mersey

Sun 3 Apr all 12noon (or thereabouts)

Heaton Moor United Church

Wilmslow URC

Cheadle Hulme URC

Sun 3 Apr 6pm - video conference vote

Yes, here! We will host several churches, certainly for the vote. Names will be taken and scrutinised by the Steering Group meeting to oversee the count at Wilmslow URC also on 3 April at 7pm.

Bernie

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 swaps.

Date	3 APR	10 APR		14 APR	15 APR	17 APR	24 APR
	10.30 am	10.30 am	6.30 pm	7.30 pm	3.00 pm	10.30 am	10.30 am
	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Evening Service			Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Leader	In House	Bernie Stevens	Rev Jonnie Hill	Revs Jonnie Hill & Marion Tugwood	Revs Marion Tugwood & Jonnie Hill	Rev Peter Sharp	Prof Chris Whitehead
Duty Elder	B Stevens	P Oliver		D Phillips	S Smith	P Oliver/ B Stevens	A Stevens
Door Duty	M Morton	B Platt	Partnership Service on Zoom Meeting ID: 821 8150 8988 Passcode: 716978	Partnership Service on Zoom From Altrincham URC Meeting ID: 962 308 8631 Passcode: 417731	Partnership Service on Zoom From Bramhall URC Meeting ID: 864 1569 9327 Passcode: 490926	P Grieve	J Hodson
Reader	Various					Easter	Easter
Flowers	H Elsdon	TBC					
Coffee	M Morton	B Platt				S & M Smith	B & A Stevens
Notes	Passion Sunday	Palm Sunday		Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday Communion	2 nd Sunday of Easter

CHURCH REGISTERS - FUNERALS

MICHAEL ANTHONY HARRIS, who died on 20 February 2022 aged 80 yrs, at Cheadle Hulme and Stockport Crematorium on Wed 9 March 2022.

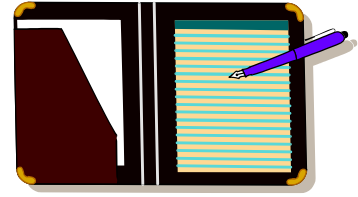
DAVID CUTTER WILLIAMS who died on 6 March 2022 aged 79 yrs, at Cheadle Hulme on Wed 23 March 2022.

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

3 APR: Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8
 10 APR: Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 118.1-2,19-29; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 19.28-40
 17 APR: Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; Luke 24.1-12
 24 APR: Acts 5.27-32; Psalm 118.14-29; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31

CALENDAR

.....to the best of the editor's knowledge, unless you know better.....



APRIL

Fri	01		2 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	02	10 am ~ noon	COFFEE MORNING in aid of Suk Jai Orphanage	
		noon ~ 2 pm	CTCH – Lent Lunch – Friends	
Sun	03		noon – Special Partnership Meeting	
Mon	04			
Tues	05			
Wed	06		1.30 ~ 3.00 pm	Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove
Thu	07		4.00 pm	Elders' meeting
Fri	08		2 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	09	noon ~ 2pm	CTCH – Lent Lunch –	Methodist
Mon	11			
Tues	12			
Wed	13		1.30 ~ 3.00 pm	Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove
Thu	14			
Fri	15		2 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	16	11 am CTCH	Easter Service on Oak Meadow	
Mon	18			
Tues	19			
Wed	20		1.30 ~ 3.00 pm	Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove
Thu	21			
Fri	22		2 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	23			
Sun	24	11.30 am	CHURCH MEETING	
Mon	25			
Tues	26			
Wed	27		1.30 ~ 3.00 pm	Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove
Thu	28			
Fri	29	10.00 am	Management meeting	2 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat	30			

Last date for MAY copy is 17 APR 2022

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