

CH URC NEWS

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The
United
Reformed
Church

AUGUST 2022

Dear Friends

Since our enforced closure due to the Covid Pandemic the Elders have been taking stock of the new situation that we, and everyone, find ourselves in. Much has changed, and we are only slowly getting back to what has been termed the 'new normal'.

The changes of the past two years, unwelcome though they were, have given us an opportunity to take stock and ask some questions about the life of the church. What is God saying to us? Where is God leading us? What do we need to let go of? What might re-start? What might be re-shaped? What will enable us to grow? Lots of questions!

In order that we might begin to work out some answers we invite you to be part of two exciting new things

Coffee and Prayer mornings – on the alternate Saturday to the regular coffee morning, this is an opportunity to 'Drop-In' to the church for any length of time for a coffee and to join in the prayers. Led prayer on the half-hour, prayer sheets to guide your thinking if you would prefer to pray alone and time to be quiet with God in the worship space if that is most helpful to you. The morning runs from 10:00 to 12:00 but even five minutes will help with our listening to what God is saying to us.

Renewed Beginnings – four sessions to help us all to think about the present for our congregation, our neighbourhood, our mission and our response. These sessions will run for about an hour after service and with a shared lunch – dates to be confirmed, but in the Autumn. They will be fun and let everybody have a chance to say what you think. Please try to come along as these sessions are very important as we walk with God into the future.

It is really good to be sharing some of my time with you and to part of the life of Cheadle Hulme URC; I hope that through these initiatives we can pray together and work together to build on all that you have achieved up to now and to further grow a part of God's Kingdom in this community.

My prayers are with you all,
With love, **Marion**

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Our thoughts and prayers are with those friends and members of our congregation who are suffering from illness or anxieties of any kind which prevent them from worshipping with us.

Our sincere congratulations to Anna Phillips who has recently graduated from Liverpool University with a 2:1 in Law. We wish her all the best for the future.

Our worship in July was well supported by two members of our worship group – Sandy and Bernie – together with Rev Marion Tugwood who not only preached on 17 JUL and chaired a Church meeting but also led the 5th Sunday Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme evening service at Swann Lane. Thank you all.

Thanks go to everyone who supported, in whatever way they could, the Open Day for Charity at Mavis Davies' home on 1 JUL. £400 was raised for the 5 Church charities.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 11 SEPT – **BREAKFAST BEFORE**
re-opening ~9.30am

Sun 9 OCT – Church meeting

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES 2022

In August, we would ask for donations to be concentrated on gifts for young and old – pencils, crayons, rulers, pads, calculators and notelets. Thank you.

Bernie

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Our first Fellowship meeting in July was an ever popular word game, keeping our brains ticking over. On 13th July we watched a DVD entitled The Duchess. This was quite long so we decided to finish watching at another meeting. We also had a picture quiz on TV characters which we were able to hold at Mavis' house while she was away on holiday for which we are very grateful.

Carole Davies

HUMOUR

“ . . . Frank Sinatra once played eighteen holes with golf pro Arnold Palmer. Afterwards, Sinatra asked, “What do you think of my game?” “It’s not bad,” Palmer said, “but I still prefer golf.”

**Joe Claro,
The Random House Book of Jokes**

He had a bad day in the field, dropping six catches, and now as he sat huddled in the dressing room he could feel a cold coming on. “I think I’ve caught a cold”, he muttered. “Thank goodness you’re able to catch something”, grunted the captain.

**Ernest Forbes,
The World’s Best Cricket Jokes**

Jumble Sale
Sat 20 Aug – 1pm
HELPERS NEEDED
MAVIS~ 486 1952

WEEKEND AWAY

Sixteen friends (four from the Bramhall church) spent a lovely relaxing weekend in Grange-over-Sands at the Christian Hotel Thornleigh



We enjoyed delicious food, friendship and fellowship and exercised our 'little grey cells' with Dingbats on Friday evening and, after a day of activities out and about in the area, we engaged in a challenging quiz on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning, the short act of worship based on the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke Ch 10 v 25 to 37) was a fitting end to our time together, all enhanced by the perfect summer weather.

Many thanks go to all those who helped to make this a memorable holiday, especially to Alison for the organisation.

We look forward to returning in 2023 (30 June – 2 July)

Elva Towler

ALL MEMBERS & ADHERENTS...

Dear Friends, Is anyone back to normal?

After two years of pandemic and lockdown, and Covid still with us (thankfully, for most, in a much weaker form), we can now worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for most of us it is not simply a return to how it used to be; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed and others considering it. Now we have significant European turmoil and its likely effect on fuel and food prices for us in the UK.

Thank God that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (HEB 13: v8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Plate offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source disappear. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (*if you have not considered regularising your giving in this way, please do – it helps your treasurer significantly*) may have seen a 20%+ drop in income.

If this had been replicated in giving to the M&M Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But no, through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure the M&M Fund result

was a deficit of only £80,000 (less than half a percent of income), a deficit that can be comfortably covered by reserves.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods' projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we “ordinary Christians” are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us we need ministers and other workers “on the ground” and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund.

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,
Ian Hardie & Vaughan Griffiths
(NW Synod Treasurer & Deputy)

**NO FILM MATINEE
IN AUGUST**

–

**WE RECONVENE ON
24 September 3 PM**

**Breakfast Before
9.30am ~ 11 SEP 2022
[& every 2nd Sunday]**

–

**Typical menu:
drinks, toast, cereal**

AN EGO TRIMMER!

Sometimes, when you're feeling important;
Sometimes, when your ego's in bloom;
Sometimes, when you take it for granted
You're the best-qualified person in the room;
Sometimes, when you feel that 'your going
Would leave an unfillable hole –
Just follow these simple instructions,
And see how they humble your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water;
Put your hand in it up to your wrist;
Pull it out – and the hole that remains
Is a measure of how much you're missed.
You can splash all you like when you enter;
You may stir up the water galore;
But stop... and you'll find in a moment
That it looks just the same as before.

The moral of this quote is simple –
You must do the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself... but remember,
NO-ONE is INDISPENSABLE.

Anon

AN ECUMENICAL CRISIS

At a recent meeting, a secretary rushed in shouting, "The building is on fire!"

The Methodists gathered and prayed.
The Baptists cried, "Where is the water?"
The Anglicans formed a procession and left.
The Quakers quietly praised God for the blessings of fire.
The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.
The Roman Catholics passed a plate round to cover the damage.
The Jews posted symbols on the door hoping the fire would pass over.
The Congregationalists shouted, "Every man for himself!"
The Fundamentalists proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"
The Charismatics declared it the Holy Spirit.
The Christian Scientists concluded that, actually, there was no fire.
The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson and committee to look into it and report.

The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

Parish Pump

CHURCHES NEW ACTION ON CLIMATE

The UK continues to occupy a position of global responsibility at a historic time for the future of humankind. We are grappling with what is left of the 'decisive decade' to prevent every decimal point of a degree of warming that makes our planet more unsafe for people today, tomorrow, and for future generations.

We are facing a nature crisis with our planet's wildlife populations plummeting. And now, world leaders are tasked with not only rebuilding economies devastated by the effects of a global pandemic that has claimed the lives of millions of people, but also escalating conflicts and war across the world, and newly in Europe. Alongside human suffering and greater instability, this only exacerbates the dangers of fossil fuels, with their increased volatility and resultant surge in costs, affecting the price of energy everywhere. Meanwhile, extreme poverty continues to hold back countries and communities across our planet from living fully the lives they deserve.

We want children to walk to school breathing fresh air instead of dangerous fumes, and parents should be able to think about their future with hope instead of fear. We want to hold our heads high in the knowledge that the UK is doing its fair share to stop climate change, and helping the hardest hit. We want to look at our countryside, forests and seas with wonder, not worry. We want to ensure that generations to come can enjoy a thriving natural world rather than one choked by pollution and a lack of biodiversity...

Jake Woodier
Senior Media & Campaigns Manager
Climate Coalition

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Visit **GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK** to get involved.

~ [greatbiggreenweek.com](http://greatbiggreenweek.com)

This coincides with the end of Creation Time, and takes place between 24 Sept ~ 2 Oct 22.

**Extract ~**  
**Reform Jul/Aug 22**

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## SUDOKU...

Every row, column and 3x3 box must contain numbers 1 ~9 once

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8 CHAIRS... to a good home.



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## CHRISTIAN BASICS #8 ~PRAYER

Most of us identify with the disciples' request: 'Lord, teach us to pray' (Luke 11:1); having seen Jesus pray, they wanted to know how to pray!

### *A Loving Relationship*

Jesus begins with *father*: 'When you pray, say: Father' (2). Prayer is like a child asking their parent for help. This reflects Jesus' own intimate relationship with His Father. He invites us to share this relationship using the Lord's Prayer, as way into His presence (2-4). Imagine using this prayer as a child sitting on your parent's lap. God delights to hear us!

### *A Loving Readiness*

Jesus' parable makes the point that God is always ready to hear our prayer. When the man turns up at midnight asking for bread, his friend inside gives him whatever he needs because of his 'shameless boldness' (*lit*)' (v.8). If the man answers despite all his family being asleep, *how much more* will our Father in heaven respond to our prayers. We should never give up!

### *A Loving Richness*

Jesus concludes with a threefold promise: 'ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.' (9). Does this mean that God will give us whatever we ask for? As earthly parents only give good things to their children, *how much more* is this true of our heavenly Father: 'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?' (11,12). He doesn't give us everything we want, but what is best for us.

'If God were to say to me, 'I want to give you a special love gift, what would you like?' I would say: 'you choose'' (SD Gordon).

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

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## SERVICES

Precautions are a personal decision. If you feel the need, please wear a mask.  
We may sometimes have a speaker and sometimes a simple in-house led service.  
Video conferencing continues - Leaders, readers or congregation may Zoom in or speak in church.  
(join Zoom meeting id **880 4446 8056** – pw **185236**)

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

| Date             | 7 AUG                 | 14 AUG                 |                                                     | 21 AUG                     | 28 AUG                 |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Time             | 10.30 am              | 10.30 am               | 6.30 pm                                             | 10.30 am                   | 10.30 am               |
| Service          | Morning Worship       | Morning Worship        | Evening Service                                     | Morning Worship            | Morning Communion      |
| Leader           | Rev Dr Marion Tugwood | Bernie Stevens         | Partnership<br><b>ZOOM</b><br>Service               | Prof Christopher Whitehead | Alison Pope            |
| Duty Elder       | B Stevens             | P Oliver               | Meeting Id:<br>821 8150 8988<br>Password:<br>716978 | D Phillips                 | B Stevens /<br>S Smith |
| Door Duty Reader | P Grieve              | M Morton               |                                                     | G Elsdon                   | C Davies               |
| Flowers          | B Danson              | Silk flowers           |                                                     | M Smith                    | Silk flowers           |
| Coffee           | S & M Smith           | B & A Stevens          |                                                     | D Green                    | C Davies               |
| Notes            |                       | <b>SONGS OF PRAISE</b> | <b>EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY</b>                  |                            | <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>  |

**CHURCH REGISTERS** - none

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## LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

7 AUG: Genesis 15.1-6; Psalm 33.12-22; Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16; Luke 12.32-40

14 AUG: Jeremiah 23.23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11.29 – 12.2; Luke 12.49-56

21 AUG: Isaiah 58.9b-14; Psalm 103.1-8; Hebrews 12.18-29; Luke 13.10-17

28 AUG: Proverbs 25.6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16; Luke 14.1,7-14

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## A PRAYER FOR PRESENCE

We give thanks for the abiding presence of the church at the heart of the communities we serve, its people and its buildings which provide a safe space for all people.

*“When people see and experience the good work of the church in the community, this also opens up opportunities for engaging with people’s questions and needs.”*

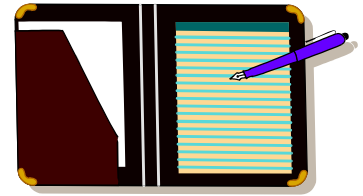
We pray for the continued growth of church mission, that it may become more outward-looking and ever more inclusive.

Ever-present God, strengthen your church to serve You. Give us the grace to meet human need through loving service, and to help build communities of hope and resilience.

**Amen.**

# CALENDAR

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



## AUGUST

|      |    |              |                                                                    |
|------|----|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon  | 01 |              |                                                                    |
| Tues | 02 |              |                                                                    |
| Wed  | 03 |              | 1.30 ~ 3pm Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove                         |
| Thu  | 04 |              |                                                                    |
| Fri  | 05 |              | 2pm Choir Rehearsal                                                |
| Sat  | 06 | 10am~12 noon | <b>COFFEE MORNING for Chelwood Foodbank</b>                        |
|      |    |              |                                                                    |
| Mon  | 08 |              |                                                                    |
| Tues | 09 |              |                                                                    |
| Wed  | 10 |              | 1.30 ~ 3pm Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove                         |
| Thu  | 11 |              |                                                                    |
| Fri  | 12 |              | 2pm Choir Rehearsal                                                |
|      |    |              |                                                                    |
| Mon  | 15 |              |                                                                    |
| Tues | 16 |              |                                                                    |
| Wed  | 17 |              | 1.30 ~ 3pm Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove                         |
| Thu  | 18 |              |                                                                    |
| Fri  | 19 |              | 2pm Choir Rehearsal                                                |
| Sat  | 20 | from 10am    | <b>'Drop-in' Prayer time with Coffee</b><br>1pm <b>JUMBLE SALE</b> |
|      |    |              |                                                                    |
| Mon  | 22 | 9.30 am      | Working party at Church                                            |
| Tues | 23 |              |                                                                    |
| Wed  | 24 |              | 1.30 ~ 3pm Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove                         |
| Thu  | 25 |              |                                                                    |
| Fri  | 26 |              | 2pm Choir Rehearsal                                                |
|      |    |              |                                                                    |
| Mon  | 29 |              |                                                                    |
| Tues | 30 |              |                                                                    |
| Wed  | 31 |              | 1.30 ~ 3pm Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove                         |

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### Answers...

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

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