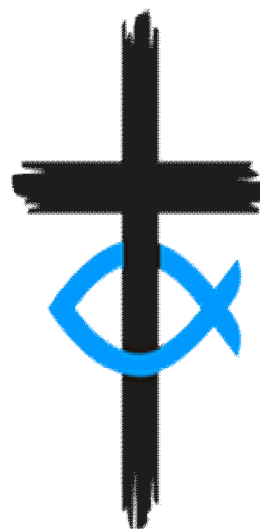


# CH URC NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme  
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[www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk](http://www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk)

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The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

Friends,

## **Christian Basics No 9: Why Belong to the Church?**

Many people are struggling to connect with church today following the pandemic. However, we should *'not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing'* (Hebrews 10:25). The church is not simply a building or services, but a shared friendship with Jesus, as the NT makes clear.

### **1. The Family of God**

The church is a community united by their love for God and readiness to sharing this love with others: *'a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light'* (1 Peter 2:9). It is in the life of the church that people can connect with God's love.

### **2. The Body of Christ**

The church is also Christ's body on earth, *'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ'* (1 Cor 12:12). We all have a unique contribution to make, using our different gifts, experience and passion. However, beware of those attitudes that stop us representing Christ: *inferiority ('I have nothing to offer')* or *superiority ('I don't need you')*.

### **3. A Holy Temple**

In the OT the temple, was God's home on earth; now the church has become His home: *'In Him the whole building is joined together ... in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.'* (Ephesians 1: 21,22). Church is a place where people can be loved, accepted and welcomed home. Is this our experience of church and what changes would make it more as God intends?

Don't forget: *'The local church is the hope of the world'* (Bill Hybels).

**Canon Paul Hardingham**  
via the Internet

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Our prayers are with all our friends in the congregation and elsewhere who are unwell in any way at the present time. We think especially of Geof Thompson.

Since our last magazine, our sincere thanks go to Rev Dr Marion Tugwood, Prof Christopher Whitehead and Alison Pope for their support in leading our worship and to Bernie for the 'Praise with Songs' service on 14 AUG.

Best wishes go to all those who will be celebrating their birthday in September.

**News Team**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> – BREAKFAST BEFORE restarts!

Sun 9 OCT – Church meeting

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Thank you to the donor for their recent contribution towards the costs of CHURC News

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### FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

We started the month by watching the other half of the DVD 'The Duchess', whilst enjoying some of Libby's cakes. Thanks Libby.

The following Wednesday, Eric gave us all a war-time sing-a-long which was great fun.

On 17th we had a session of *Coffee and Conversation* when the main topic was our experiences with angels. This was very enlightening, as many of us had an experience to relate.

The last Wednesday of the month we will be having a game of bingo to go with our coffee and biscuits. There may even be a prize!

**Carole Davies**

**FILM MATINEE**  
**Saturday 24 September**  
**3 PM**

## FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Most of the congregation will be aware of the situation that has arisen as our numbers have become smaller – we now have many more Sundays in the year than folk to serve the flower rota.

After getting the opinion of many of the congregation, it has been decided to alternate fresh with artificial flowers. There are some very good quality silk flowers available now.

If anyone has a nice plant or lovely flowers in their home, perhaps you would like to share them with us just for the service. So, if you see a "silk flowers" notice in the magazine and are able to share yours with us, please let one of the Flower Team know. Thank you.

**Heather & Mavis**

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### TO ALL GARDENERS

Cheadle Hulme library is trying to return the small plot of land in front of the library building into a flower bed but they have no plants. We can only presume planting of a prairie nature.

If you have any plants which you would like to donate to this cause, please leave them outside the library. Thank you.

**Mavis Davies**

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### Prayer for September

Father,  
September – a month of new starts for many. We pray for all starting school, university or college, or moving into a new class or job. We pray for the new Prime Minister to prove a person of integrity, dedicated to working for the good of all. We especially ask you to help those struggling with the rising cost of living who don't know how they are going to make ends meet. Have mercy on this nation, Lord and bring us back to Your ways. Thank You for Jesus and that through trusting in Him we can know You, as Father and God of truth, mercy and compassion. Thank You that You never give up on us. You will help us if we turn to You, In Jesus name. **Amen.**

*By Daphne Kitching*

## BEING GRATEFUL

World Gratitude Day (yes, it really does exist!) is on 21 SEP.

It may not be widely observed this year, for these have not been easy times in which to feel grateful. Coronavirus turned our lives upside down, and now we have the war in Ukraine, and the alarming rise in the cost of living. Add to that the heatwaves, the wildfires, and the widespread drought of this past summer, and what is there to be particularly thankful *about*?

To put it another way, how, as Christians, can we be grateful during disasters? Should we even *try* to be grateful? The letters of St Paul give us some pointers.

First of all, he says that we are not to be terrified when bad things happen. Instead, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Then, "let the peace of God rule in our hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful ...." (Colossians 3:15)

Again, in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Paul urges: "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." It is not that we should thank God for losing our jobs or other disasters; it is rather that we need to keep our eye on the bigger picture, and never forget what God has blessed us with in Jesus Christ.

Giving thanksgiving to God is a sure sign of the fruit of His Spirit in our lives. In fact, a thankless attitude is abnormal for a Christian! It goes against everything that is in our new life. No wonder that the NT continually calls us back to thankfulness.

And there is good reason for this. Romans 8:28 assures us: "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose." So even when things are bad, Paul assures us that we can be sure that God has not abandoned us, but instead will stand by us through the hard times.

The early church, whenever they gathered, gave thanks together. Whenever we meet for fellowship with believers, it is good to include a time of giving thanks.

But even when we are on our own, each day we can make time to be "singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Eph 5:18). We can be "giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph 5:20)

**Parish Pump**

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*Here is a poem written with 'Back to Church' Sunday in mind, which this year is on 18 SEP.*

### GOING BACK ~ (Luke 15:11-32)

Could I go back  
After all this time,  
After all I've done,  
The places I've been,  
The wild living  
And the wasted years,  
Could I go back?

Would they let me in,  
Would *he* want me at all,  
Is it possible even now  
To turn round  
And simply go home?

From the coming to my senses  
Comes decision,  
Comes a risking,  
Comes a turning  
And a danger of rejection, after all.

But when I'm still far off  
And searching  
The way beckons like a beacon -  
And there He is,  
Arms wide in welcome.  
And He's running out  
To bring me in  
To the still place of the love  
That is my Father and my home.

*By Daphne Kitching*

**Breakfast Before  
9.30am ~ 11 SEP 2022  
[& every 2nd Sunday]  
Typical menu:  
Drinks, toast, cereal**

## 1 YR AFTER THE FALL OF KABUL

One year ago, it was reported that the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, had fled the country. In April 2022, President Biden had announced his intention of fully withdrawing of US troops from Afghanistan. Subsequently, the Taliban's attacks across the country intensified and a number of regions were seized. With no President or active government in Kabul, the city was overcome by the Taliban on the 15 AUG. Efforts to evacuate British personnel and vulnerable Afghan citizens accelerated.

I am sure you can remember the scenes. Desperate people pressing up against fences hoping to board a plane, families separated in the chaos, mothers begging soldiers to take their children to safety. I'll never forget the images of people hanging onto planes as they took off. They all knew what Taliban rule would mean for them and their families, and they would do anything to get away.

In the following months, the Taliban attempted to assure the world they would bring peace, stability and economic growth to the country, but their assertions were met with scepticism. To date, no government has officially recognised their rule.

A year on, reports are rife of a collapsing economy, ever increasing tensions, and continued human rights abuses – particularly against women and girls. There are serious concerns that Afghanistan might, once again, be becoming a haven for terrorists. It is no wonder vulnerable Afghan citizens continue to look for safety elsewhere.

In the immediate aftermath of the fall of Kabul, Operation Pitting saw around 8,000 Afghans evacuated to the UK. They were primarily those who had worked with the UK in Afghanistan and their families. Many of them were sent to hotels around the UK while the government looked to identify more suitable accommodation. Since then, others have come to the UK through the two safe routes established by the UK government (known as ARAP and ACRS), and the vast majority of them were sent to hotels too.

The government has said homes have been found for around 7000 Afghans so far, but the

heart-breaking reality is that around 9,500 of these traumatised people, including children, are still languishing in temporary accommodation. They may be safe, but they're far from settled. Some report being isolated from wider society, cooped up for months on end in one room for the whole family. Many are unable to cook for themselves and lack liberty of choice over many areas of their lives. Others are desperate to be reunited with family members, but the current safe routes from Afghanistan do not allow for family reunion, so Afghan families must rely upon Immigration Rules which are extremely restrictive. For instance, the mother of a child who was evacuated would not be able to come to the UK, as children cannot sponsor family members. It is notable that the rules for Ukrainian refugees have been much more generous.

Meanwhile, expert groups on Afghanistan have criticised the UK's resettlement routes as slow and "unjustifiably restrictive". Many Afghans disillusioned or deemed ineligible are being forced to resort other routes to safety. 1 in 4 people crossing the Channel have fled Afghanistan – the highest nationality crossing the Channel – but the government are still pushing forward their plans to export many asylum seekers who come through this route to Rwanda without considering their asylum claims.

Many of our churches, of course, are doing what they can. Whether it is in conjunction with "Afghan Welcome" or simply in collaboration with their own local councils, churches have been reaching out to the families in hotels, offering all sorts of provision and kindness – embodying the posture of welcome that the Bible demands of God's people. But, one year after the fall of Kabul, my desperate hope is that all Christians might encourage our councils to do all they can to welcome and house Afghan refugees, implore our MPs to encourage the government to expand and improve the safe routes for Afghans to come to the UK, and pray for peace, freedom and justice for Afghanistan and all its citizens.

**Joint Public Issues Team**

## LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES 2022

In September, if you are able, we ask for donations to be concentrated on **fun gifts** - yoyos, skipping ropes, toy cars, draughts, dominoes and playing cards etc. Thank you.

**Bernie**

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## HUMOUR

### How to get to heaven

"If sold my house and my car, had a big car boot sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into Heaven?" the teacher asked her Sunday School class.

"No!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was "No!"

"Well", she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?" A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead first!"

### Mystery music

A friend of mine, a professional organist, was asked to play for a wedding. Unfamiliar with the church's organ, she went to the sanctuary to practise. Curious about a small keyboard that slid out from under the two regular keyboards, she tapped out a couple of bars of a simple tune but heard nothing. Then she played a few more notes, but still no organ music.

Just then a man came running into the church, shouting, "Who's playing 'Three Blind Mice' on the church-steeple bells?" She had been operating the carillon.

### First day back

It was the first day of school. As the new Head made his rounds, a terrible commotion came from one of the class rooms. He rushed in and spotted one boy, taller than the others, who seemed to be making the most noise. He seized the lad, dragged him to the hall, and despite his protests, told him to wait there until he was excused.

Returning to the classroom, the Head restored order and lectured the class about the importance of good behaviour. "Now," he said, "are there any questions?"

One girl stood up timidly. "Please sir," she asked, "Can we have our teacher back?"

**Parish Pump**

## PARTNERSHIP

The Steering Group said from the start that the partnership ministers would work with individual churches that had issues or projects to bring to fulfilment. Several churches have realised their plans in one way or another. The details are generally confidential, to protect all, but we do know what Marion has done here at CH. She has preached here several times, she has started Saturday prayer meetings and encouraged us to restart film night (now matinee) and to restart toddlers with a revised strategy. She has worked with Elders using "Renewed Beginnings" material to envision the future and taken Elders and church meetings.

Jonnie has worked similarly with churches in the east of the partnership. He has also attended Stockport Pride, wearing his clerical collar and within moments of arriving, a woman approached saying 'it's really good that you're here, thank you', referring to 'being a visible Christian minister'. It was great to join Elley and Alison Haigh on the Bramhall URC stall and to visit Sharon and Methodist friends on their stall.

Ironically, the ministers are now considering some sort of low key 'preaching rota' so that every church 'sees' them at least minimally. I reported earlier that of the original 16 churches, 2 have closed and now 2 are considering moving to other partnerships.

**South Area** which includes the partnership and some more, has a new Mission Mentor: Liz Delafield has been appointed and starts SEP.

A small group has been preparing for the arrival of Rev Kurauone Mutimwii from Zimbabwe. The preferred plan is to rent a (furnished) house in the short term before the Synod buys a manse in the previously discussed 'Kingsway corridor' near East Didsbury. They have visited a suitable house but at least 8 other people are interested. We have put in our expression of interest and await news from the agent. There are very few such 4 bed properties available so we need to keep looking. In Zimbabwe, Kurauone has submitted all his paperwork and awaits a response from the UK visa service.

**Bernie**

# CROSSWORD

## Crossword Clues & Answers

### Across

1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)

4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)

7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)

8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)

9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)

13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)

16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)

17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)

19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)

24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)

25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)

26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)

27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

### Down

1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)

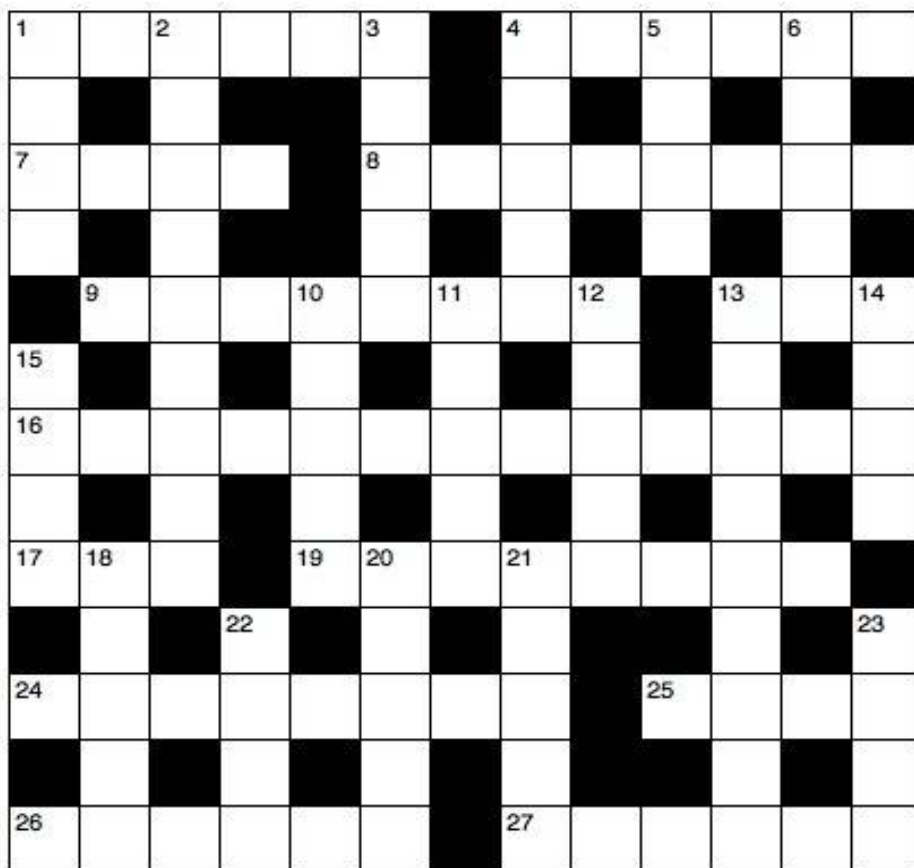
2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)

3 O raid (anag.) (5)

4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)

5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)

6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)



10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)

11 Do ten(anag.)(5)

12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)

13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)

14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)

15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)

18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)

20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)

21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)

22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)

23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

## 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 with 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	4 SEP	11 SEP		18 SEP	25 SEP
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	Alison Stevens/ Glyn Elsdon	Linda Rayner	Partnership <b>ZOOM</b> Service	Steve & Angela Rowley (Rowley Projects)	Sandy Smith
Duty Elder	B Stevens	A Stevens	Meeting Id: 821 8150 8988 Password: 716978	S Smith	P Oliver/D Phillips
Door Duty Reader	M Smith	M Hardie		M Morton D Green	H Elsdon
Flowers	H Elsdon	Silk flowers		M Morton	Silk flowers
Coffee	M Hardie	H Elsdon		M Morton	B Platt
Notes			<b>EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY</b>		<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>

**CHURCH REGISTERS** - none

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## LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

4 SEPT: Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33  
11 SEPT: Exodus 32.7-14; Psalm 51.1-10; 1 Timothy 1.12-17; Luke 15.1-10  
18 SEPT: Amos 8.4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2.1-7; Luke 16.1-13  
25 SEPT: Amos 6.1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6.6-19; Luke 16.19-31

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## WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is **Macmillan Cancer Support's** biggest annual fundraising event, held to support people living with cancer. People all over the UK either host or attend a Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan.

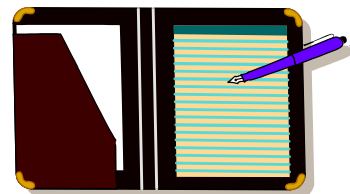
The official date is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, (Ed ~ **we will be holding ours at Cheadle Hulme on Saturday 1 October**). From a group in the garden, sharing a coffee over a screen or a takeaway cake and cuppa, they can be held however people like.

Last year, 2021, Macmillan raised over £11 million and hopes to top that this year.  
Find out more at: <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk>

**Parish Pump**

# CALENDAR

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



## SEPTEMBER

Thu	01			
Fri	02		2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	03	10am~12 noon	<b>COFFEE MORNING for Church charities</b>	
Mon	05			
Tues	06			
Wed	07		1.30 ~ 3pm	Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove
			7.30pm	Worship Group on zoom
Thu	08		2.30 pm	Elders' meeting at Church
Fri	09	10 am	Management meeting at Church	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Sun	11	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>BREAKFAST BEFORE !!!!!!!!!</b>	
Mon	12			
Tues	13			
Wed	14		1.30 ~ 3pm	Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove
Thu	15			
Fri	16		2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	17	from 10am	<b>'Drop-in' Coffee and Prayer time</b>	
Sun	18	<b>BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY</b>		
Mon	19			
Tues	20			
Wed	21		1.30 ~ 3pm	Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove
Thu	22			
Fri	23		2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	24		3 pm	FILM MATINEE - bring your friends
Mon	26			
Tues	27			
Wed	28		1.30 ~ 3pm	Fellowship Circle ~ Swann Grove
Thu	29			
Fri	30			

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## CROSSWORD Answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

**DOWN:** 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

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