

# CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme  
STOCKPORT SK8 7HU  
[www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk](http://www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk)



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

Partnership Ministers:

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## DECEMBER 2022

Friends,

### Christian Basics - No 12: the Return of Jesus



*'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people... while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ' (Titus 2:11,13-14).*

**Advent** is the time when we focus on the first and second coming of Jesus. He first came as a baby in Bethlehem as our Saviour, *'to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own.'* (14), through His cross and resurrection. Now we wait for His return to judge the world and finally put an end to sin and death.

We can understand the relationship of these two events by considering D Day and VE Day in World War 2. D Day marked the allied invasion at the beaches of Normandy on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944. It was not the end of the war, but it was a decisive turning point in which victory was assured, although not finally achieved until VE Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945.

For us, Jesus' death and resurrection marks our D Day, when He secured victory over sin and death. However, only when He returns, will Jesus finally end sin and death and all who have put their trust in Him can share the great victory celebration in heaven.

In Advent we reflect on what it means to live in the time between these key events. Paul says, we need to *'to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age'* (12). More troops died in the period between D Day and VE Day than during the rest of the war. Although we live under Christ's victory, we will still struggle with sin and suffering.

**Canon Paul Hardingham**  
**ParishPump**

**STOP PRESS -  
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Our thanks and best wishes go to Rev Dr Marion Tugwood for the advice, support and encouragement she has given to the Elders and members at Church over the past few months and we wish her all the very best in her new full time post as chaplain to the East Cheshire Hospice.

As the Christmas season approaches and people think towards their families, we must remember the many people who have no family and will spend Christmas on their own. Our thoughts are with those members of our church fellowship who are unwell, or troubled, in any way.

We are grateful for the worship support we have had during November from visiting ministers and preachers - Rev Peter Sharp, Prof Christopher Whitehead and Rev Jonnie Hill. Bernie led two services including a short Armistice Day service when there was a small exhibition of wartime memorabilia. Thank you all.

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

Thank you to everyone who supported The British Legion last month at the coffee morning, buying a poppy or with a retiring collection donation when £120 was raised.

**The News Team**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Wed 7 DEC - Christmas Lunch  
(pre-booked) 12.15 pm for 12.30 pm  
Sun 8 JAN 2023 - Church meeting

## FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

We started November with a bagatelle tournament and the following week we had an afternoon watching an Andre Rieu concert. On 16th everyone was very happy chatting, so we spent our time putting the world to rights and reminiscing, over coffee and biscuits of course. The final Wednesday in November we had a Christmas quiz supplied by Mavis when there was lots of laughter!

You may have noticed a box in the foyer containing used tablet blister packs. As most of us in the Fellowship have plenty of these, we are collecting them for Marie Curie so the material can be used again to make new blister packs. If you are throwing yours away, please put them in the box instead.

**Carole Davies**

Thank you to the donors for their recent contributions towards the Church charities and CHURC News .



## COFFEE MORNING and CHRISTMAS BRING & BUY STALL

**Sat 3 DEC**  
**10 am ~ 12 noon**



**Gifts are needed for  
the stall which will include a variety of  
goods  
– crafts, books, cards**

**...in aid of our Church charities**

## COUNT the CROSSES

Well, how many crosses have you found inside and outside of our Church?

Firstly, there are the large wooden crosses - very obvious. Then a little more discreet - on the front of the Rejoice & Sing hymn books and New English Bibles. There were many crosses on the Sunday when the magazines was laid out on the table in the foyer. We were all given a 'notice for the week' sheet with a cross on the front. There were also a few palm crosses lying around from Palm Sunday. A rough count of crosses on the church premises was well over 100!

**Mavis Davies**

## FILM MATINEE

**Saturday 17 DECEMBER**

**2.30 pm**



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Christmas Greetings yet again to all at Swann Lane. We moved away more than twenty two years ago but still have many happy memories of Cheadle Hulme, the church and the many friends we made there.

Norman and Mildred.

Carole Davies sends best wishes for Christmas and 2023 to everyone at Swann Lane

**Madge and Ann Hardie** wish all their friends at Swann Lane a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year



Best wishes to all our friends at Swann Lane for Christmas and the New Year  
~ John and June Mitchell

Christmas wishes and all the best for 2023 to all our friends at Swann Lane with grateful thanks for all your support for Christian Aid and Traidcraft throughout the year. Morag and Sandy

Geoff Thompson sends very best wishes to you all for happiness at Christmas and peace and good health for the New Year

Wishing all at Swann Lane U.R.C. a warm, friendly, family Christmas Season.

With love from **Mo**

THE EDITOR AND HIS BOSS WISH EVERYBODY THE SEASONS GREETINGS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.  
...B & A

Christine Harker sends Season's Greetings to all at Cheadle Hulme.



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## CHURCHES TOGETHER...

# CAROLS IN THE PARK



**in Oak Meadow**  
**11 am SAT 10 DEC**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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## KEEP WARM

Warm Space is here - the council are opening the libraries and some churches are joining too.  
NOV ~MAR

The churches of CTCH...

Monday	Baptists, Grove la	2~5
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>United Reformed, Swann la</b>	<b>11~2</b>
Wednesday	All Saints, Church rd	10~2
Thursday	Chelwood, Adswood rd	10~2
Friday	St Ann's, Vicarage rd	1~4

1st & 3rd Saturday Coffee mornings, 10~12  
~United Reformed on Swann La

Free Drinks, newspapers(2), maybe snacks.

**Bernie**

## 'Breakfast Before'

**9.30am ~ 11 DEC 2022**

**[& every 2nd Sunday]**

**Typical menu:**

**Drinks, toast, Cereal, pancakes,**  
**...maybe**

**Croissant or pain au chocolat**

## CHRISTMAS INTERNAL MAIL



There will be a 'post box' in the church foyer for all those Christmas cards you want to send **to friends at Swann Lane.**

There will be a box at the side for small donations to take account of the postage saved! These, along with those contributions for published Christmas Greetings in the magazine, will go to the charities.

## CALL TO RAISE BENEFITS

*The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Canon Graham Thompson, has joined a call for the Government to affirm its commitment to ensuring benefits rise in line with inflation.*

Along with the **Rev Fiona Bennett**, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church, and the Rev Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain, he points out:

"The social security system should prevent families from being pushed into hardship, yet foodbanks are facing rapidly rising demand and almost half of claimants receiving Universal Credit report skipping meals to make ends meet.

"The value of benefits has declined for the last decade and already an average family of four relying on Universal Credit will be £1,400 worse off this winter than last – despite the interventions already put in place. Against this background it would be outrageous to erode benefits further."

**Parish Pump**

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## OUTREACH UPDATE

The Lord charges each of us to take the word of God out into our community, to spread the Good News. This is part of our OUTREACH.

Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church is small, but we do our best, indeed we punch a little above our weight. The church meeting has thrice voted to fund an outreach worker, currently DON Philips, and twice voted funds for a software program. Called HUBSPOT, this will record, store and track information and initiatives of churches and the faith community.

Whilst we have looked across Stockport, Cheadle Hulme churches were an early target and indeed CHELWOOD (Baptist) FOODBANK is beginning to form a nucleus.

Information-figures-statistics-DATA is king in this day and age and this is emerging now from the work Don is doing with Hubspot. It enables us to talk with authority to people like the council, it is used for reports and features in applications for grants and the like. IT IS

## EVIDENCE.

Here at Swann Lane our Outreach also includes harvest donations delivered half to Chelwood and half to Lifeshare (~homeless charity in Manchester). We also open with a Warm Space every Tues 11am~2pm, but also welcome people 2 Saturdays a month at our coffee mornings. Warm Spaces is now supported by Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme who cover all the days of the week.

Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme are in the top 5% of affluent communities in the country. (Britain the top 2% in the world!) We are very lucky. Brinnington is in the bottom 5%, which makes Stockport a very polarised town.

Using the information from the database wielded by Don, we can now say that 139 families are supported with food, the largest has 8 children. The foodbank has extended to other supermarket items... half of the families take toiletries. Also needed are a range of cleaning materials and pet food. Yes, pets have become important over the pandemic as a relief for mental stresses.

In responding to need, Chelwood is launching a bed store in January. They are also wondering about the Warm Spaces initiative. Consequently they have changed the name to "Chelwood Foodbank Plus".

Though independent from the Trussell Trust (which runs 66% of foodbanks in UK ), Chelwood Foodbank has other branches in Stockport, at Edgeley and Brinnington. They run the Olive Branch outreach cafe in Edgeley village and have just bought (with the help of a grant) the premises next door to distribute the food items and have flat(s) upstairs for refugees or homeless 'tenants'. Of the 139 families mentioned above, 57 in Brinnington, 43 in Adswold and 30 in Edgeley, together.

All these people at Chelwood and the Olive Branch couldn't do it without the support of the churches, especially in Cheadle Hulme. BUT, as well as financial and food support, the deprived areas of our community also need our prayers. Please pray for all families that are short of our basic facilities we take almost for granted. Please pray for all volunteers that work for the less fortunate in society.

**Bernie**

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## GIFT FOR DEMENTIA

Christmas time, with its music and traditions, offers “a special gift” to people living with dementia. Christmas can act as a powerful reminiscence therapy, especially for Christian believers, who will have long term memories of past Christmases, even though their short-term memory (working memory) has faded.

So says Louise Morse, a cognitive behavioural therapist and author of several books about dementia (Lion Monarch and SPCK) and old age. So, this Christmas she is urging families who have someone with dementia to use those long-term memories and help a loved one who is suffering memory loss.

Louise Morse explains: “Reminiscence therapy helps us recall the past as a means of owning it, and strengthens a sense of self. Grandma may have only a tenuous grasp of herself in the present, but in the past, she knew who she was – and therefore, still is.”

The effect of music on the brain is well known, and so Louise Morse urges that traditional Christmas music can play a big part here. She quotes a line from the hymn ‘O Holy Night’, when ‘the soul knows its worth.’ She says: “And bound up in Grandma’s memories of Christmas will be worship. Worship unites us with God, and we enter into His peace.”

Louise Morse also advises other music. “There are also the popular songs Grandma would have heard in her day, like Bing Crosby’s ‘White Christmas’. Perhaps record a selection and play them through wearable earphones. Also, don’t be surprised if she ‘time-travels’ temporarily to a familiar place in the past!

If this happens, “don’t ask them, ‘do you remember?’ or even say, ‘I remember when,’ because it will challenge and disturb your loved one. Instead, when showing family photographs or memorabilia to them, simply frame the memory with enthusiasm and warmth by saying, ‘that was the day our Kevin ....’ Or ‘this came from Aunt Mabel when ...’

“Let the rhythms and music of Christmas do their work.”

Louise Morse writer & speaker ~  
Pilgrims’ Friend Society  
([www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk](http://www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk))

## ECO TIPS ~ DECEMBER

At the next Management, Elders’ and Church meetings we will be considering a resolution to commit to working towards **Eco Church** status. In the meantime, here are a tips from the 6R’s (Refuse, Reduce, Re-Use, Repair, Re-think, Recycle)

**Reduce:** If you have to drive, for example visiting family or friends over Christmas, try to use energy efficient driving. Most cars have a setting that tells you how many mpg or mpkWh your journey takes. Challenge yourself to reduce this. Advice on energy efficient driving techniques can be found at <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/efficient-driving>.

**Re-use:** Many parcels sent out now are packed with brown paper rather than bubble wrap; this can be ironed and reused as wrapping paper, personalised for the recipient with paint, stickers, etc. If you need to make a lot wrapping paper the old favourite of home-made stamps made from shapes cut into potatoes or ready-made stamps dipped in paint speed the process.

**Re-think:** Alternative presents give twice – to the recipient and the good cause they support. Many charities offer a huge variety of options from the goat (Christian Aid) to the carpenter’s pack of refurbished tools (Tools with a Mission) to the new well (Practical Action) to setting someone up as a beekeeper (Embrace the Middle East) to a bicycle (All We Can). These are just examples, and besides the environmental aims by the charity of many of these gifts, giving them helps us reduce emissions involved in transporting goods. A win-win situation

Alison

## HUMOUR

### Good home

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home. His father asked three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, “That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys.”

### Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in the garden centre grotto . He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: “And what would you like for Christmas?” The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. “*Didn’t you get my email?!*”



Comfort  
Mourn  
Bestow  
Crown  
Beauty  
Ashes  
Son  
God  
Jesus  
Seen  
Father  
Whoever  
Longing

### Parish Pump

Thousand

### WORDSEARCH CLUES

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah

Broken

Heart

Freedom

Darkness

Favour

Prisoners

### SEASONAL POEM



Carols sound throughout the land  
Heralding a special birth  
Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm  
Immanuel comes to bless the earth.

So in the town of Bethlehem  
The Saviour Jesus gently lies,  
Mary rocks the tiny child  
As angels serenade the skies.

Shepherds told the awesome story  
Divinity will now reside  
As He who ruled in Heaven above  
Yet Lord of all comes as a child.

By Megan Carter

## 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.

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

Date	4 DEC	11 DEC		12 DEC	18 DEC	25 DEC
<b>Service</b>	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Evening Service	Bereavement Service	Lessons & Carols	Christmas Morning Communion
<b>Time</b>	10.30 am	10.30 am	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	10.30 am	10.30 am
<b>Leaders</b>	Linda Rayner	Glyn Elsdon/ Alison Stevens	Partnership Zoom Service	Margaret Dexter-Brown	In House	Bernie Stevens
<b>Elder Duty</b>	D Phillips	B Stevens	Meeting Id: 821 8150 8988 Password: 716978	A Stevens	S Smith	A Stevens
<b>Door</b>	J Hodson	P Grieve			M Morton	G Elsdon
<b>Reader</b>					Various	
<b>Flowers</b>	M Morton	Christmas		Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
<b>Coffee</b>	D Green	B & A Stevens			C Davies	M Hardie
<b>Notes</b>	<b>2nd in Advent</b>	<b>3rd in Advent</b>	<b>ZOOMED EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY</b>	<b>BEREAVEMENT SERVICE</b>	<b>LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY Communion</b>

**++++ WORSHIP GROUP APOLOGISE THAT, AFTER MUCH CONSIDERATION,  
THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (15 DEC) HAS BEEN CANCELLED +++++**

**CHURCH REGISTERS - none**

## LECTIONARY for DECEMBER

4 DEC: Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7,18-19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12

11 DEC: Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm 146.5-10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

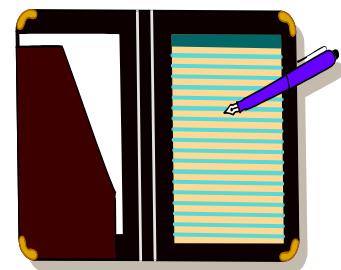
18 DEC: Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-7,17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

25 DEC: Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12; John 1.1-14

## ROYAL MAIL DELIVERIES...

The industrial action is set to cripple normal Christmas delivery slots, with Royal Mail warning customers they should 'allow plenty of time' this year. For cards and presents that need to arrive by Christmas Day, customers are advised to send 2nd class items by Monday, December 19 at the very latest. The cut-off for 1st class packages and post will be Wednesday, December 21. Sending items abroad will entail even more planning, with Royal Mail advising sending mail to family in the Armed Forces before December 3.

# CALENDAR



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

## DECEMBER

Thu 01	
Fri 02	10am Management meeting 11am Visit from Audioworks 2.00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 03	10am-12 noon CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING in aid of the CHURCH CHARITIES
Mon 05	
Tues 06	11am - 2 pm WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 07	10.30 am Elders' meeting 12.15 for 12.30pm CHRISTMAS LUNCH (pre-booked)
Thu 08	
Fri 09	2.00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 12	
Tues 13	11am - 2 pm WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 14	1.30-3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE - Swann Grove
Thu 15	7.30 pm Missional Partnership Steering Group on Zoom
Fri 16	2.00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 17	10am-12 noon 'Drop In' Coffee & Prayer Time 2.30 pm FILM MATINEE
Mon 19	
Tues 20	9.-10.30 am Pre-School Nativity in Church 11am - 2 pm WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 21	1.30-3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE - Swann Grove
Thu 22	
Fri 23	2.00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 26	
Tues 27	11am - 2 pm WARM SPACE in coffee lounge
Wed 28	1.30-3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE - Swann Grove
Thu 29	
Fri 30	
Sat 31	

**JANUARY 2023 ~~~ HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PUBLISHING TEAM ~~~**

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