

CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
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Partnership Minister:

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MAY 2023

Friends,

The Spiritual Disciplines: Prayer

An important spiritual discipline is prayer, where we can both listen and talk to God. However, it's not always easy, and as Pentecost tells us, we have the Holy Spirit to help us to pray.

'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.' (Romans 8: 26,27)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness

We often don't know how to pray for a person /time. The Holy Spirit helps: *'He bears the burden with us'*. He enables us to connect with God and assures us that He loves to hear our prayers: *'And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'* (Romans 8:15).

The Spirit helps us in our ignorance

When we don't know what to ask in prayer, the Spirit prays for us with a perfect understanding of God's will. The Spirit pleads on our behalf in *'wordless groans'*, which go beyond mere words. We are never alone when we pray, since the Spirit takes our words and brings them to the Father.

The Spirit helps us in our requests

The Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God. He translates the prayers we can't articulate or the requests we get wrong, so that they come to God in accordance with His will. In prayer we attune ourselves to the Spirit with our words or groans. Reading the Bible alongside our prayer is helpful, so that we can pray in agreement with God's Word.

When we pray, let's confidently ask: *'Come Holy Spirit.'*

Canon Paul Hardingham

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We remember, in our prayers, those in our congregation, friends and family who are unwell at home, or in hospital, those who are lonely or depressed, those who are housebound and unable to meet with family and friends and those who are bereaved, especially Carol Buttle and her sons, Mark and John, following the passing of husband and father, Patrick.

Over Easter, our Palm Sunday worship was led by members of the Choir followed on Maundy Thursday by a visit to Wilmslow URC through zoom, at home, for those who were able and again via YouTube at Church on Good Friday. Our thanks go to Bernie and Sandy and Prof Christopher Whitehead from Bramhall who also led our worship during April. On Sunday 30th, we, along with members of Heald Green joined in worship at Bramhall which was led by Elley Noden.

Due to the Coronation ceremony being televised on 6 May, our Coffee Morning in aid of Lifeshare will be held on the **second** Saturday, 13 May when all are welcome.

The Film Matinee will also be on a changed date, due to holidays, and will now be on Saturday 20 May at 2.30 pm.

Best wishes to everyone who will be celebrating their birthday in May. *The News Team*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Sun 21 MAY - Worship will be based around Christian Aid, after which there will be a lunch with Soup and dessert. £5 per head.

Sun 25 JUN - Anniversary & Gift Day

Fri 7 JUL - Summer Open Day, for Charities

REMEMBRANCE OF THE RISEN LORD

The small light of a candle has such a big significance. All over the world candles are lit for Remembrance and Celebration.

We, here at Swann Lane, as most Christian communities, light a candle in remembrance of the Risen Lord at Easter. It is not just shining brightly on Easter Day but for the period of time when, according to the 'Bible', Jesus' presence was felt by his family and disciples, ending in his 'Ascension' witnessed by friends he was walking with on the road to Emmaus. Our candle burns until Ascension Day.

St Columba (AD 521-97) wrote:

Down in the realm of darkness
he lay a captive bound,
But at the hour appointed
he rose, a victor crowned;
And now to Heaven ascended,
he sits upon the throne,
In glorious dominion, his Father and his own.
A member of the congregation

CHURCHES TOGETHER...

Coronation Litter Pick
Monday 8th May
9.30~11.30



Any Cheadle Hulme area you want but...

Sausage sandwiches, Yellow vests, bags etc available from Methodists church, where full bags can be returned, or you can dispose.

(bring own work gloves)

The King asked for a 'big help' this bank holiday - this is our community answer.

Bernie Stevens CTCH chair

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

The highlight of April's Fellowship meetings was definitely when Eric played the organ and the piano and demonstrated the different musical effects that could be achieved. We were entertained with some of his favourite music including some pieces from Disney films. Thanks go to Eric for his hard work.

We had to postpone our planned trip to Nixons' farm but that will hopefully go ahead in May.

We were very concerned to hear that Mavis was in hospital but I visited her today and she was back to her usual self and eager to get home. We all wish her well and hope to have her back with us soon.

Carole Davies

SOUP, SWEET AND MEET

Numbers attending have been disappointingly low. Elders have therefore decided to return to a monthly event on the second WEDNESDAY. We hope to see you on

Wednesday 10 MAY
12 pm

Alison Stevens

ECO TIPS FOR MAY

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. As the weather warms up, it's worth considering what journeys can be made by walking or cycling. Could you get off a stop early to walk the rest of your journey, take a relaxing stroll home, or hop on a bike and enjoy a cycle friendly route? If you prefer exploring outdoors on foot, find out if there's a local Ramblers group.

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian

arochoa.org.uk

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES

Thank you for the donations last month. We would like to concentrate on small colouring pads, crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, rubbers, A5 pads in May.

Bernie

THE CORONATION

As we approach a time of national rejoicing, the United Reformed Church (URC) prays that Almighty God will bless Their Majesties the King and Queen when they are crowned at Westminster Abbey on 6 May and grant them every happiness in their new roles.

At the heart of the Coronation is a service where the King will be anointed in a rite going back to the earliest days of the, English, monarchy. The Church of England, as the established *English* Church, has the honour, and burden, of presiding – with other denominations and religious traditions getting cameo parts.

In a typically British piece of ritual, much pomp and ceremony will take place to anoint and crown someone to a purely symbolic office with no real independent power. Such authority that the King has can only be exercised with the advice, and consent, of the government. Such guidance and advice that the King may give to ministers is necessarily

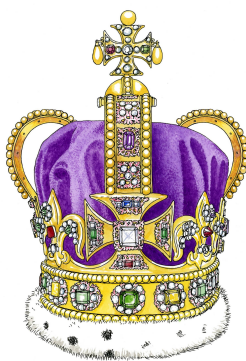
private and, of course, can easily be ignored.

The URC stands in a tradition of British Christianity which was, at best, rather ambivalent about the monarchy.

Our spiritual ancestors welcomed the Commonwealth in the Civil War era and argued, after all, for the execution of Charles I! Passages in the Old Testament which showed God warning against the Jewish people establishing a monarchy were used as guidance in the Civil War era and the identification of the monarchy with the Church of England added another layer of complexity to our history.

Thankfully, the turmoil of those years is long behind us and, in a much more secular age, differences between Christian denominations are less acute. The URC, and its antecedents, were – and are – eager to play a key part in the civic life of our nations; each year we continue a long tradition of sending an Address To The Throne from our General Assembly where we comment on the issues of the day, presumably in the hope that His Majesty will send those comments on to various government departments.

In our contemporary society, and certainly within our congregations, there are a variety of views on the monarchy, yet we can unite in wishing Their Majesties The King and Queen well today.



We pray that they will feel God's presence as they are anointed and throughout His Majesty's reign. We hope that they will use their office well and use their voices at the centre for those on the margins of our bitterly divided society. We pray that His Majesty The King reminds us of the importance of spirituality and religion in the lives of our nations. Above all, the URC commends their Majesties, The King and Queen, to God's care and protection.

Prayer - Eternal God, You order and govern our world and all that is therein, bless, we pray, Charles and Camilla today as they are crowned and anointed, that amid the pomp and ritual, they may feel your loving presence, that they may fulfil the roles prescribed for them, and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed, and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come. Amen.

The United Reformed Church

UNITED

An ancient ornate wooden seat
And an historic stone
Shall once again be joined and meet
To form a royal throne.

Our kings and queens, anointed there
O'er seven hundred years.
Upon this Anglo-Scottish chair
They heard their people's cheers!

The throne was formed of English Oak
And gilded with fine gold
It bears the marks of common folk –
Who slept there, so we're told.

The stone was used by Scottish kings.
Upon the Stone of Scone
Was marked the destiny it brings
In time-eroded rune.

And now, united once again
As royal anthems ring;
We sing, united just like them
Our hymn 'God save the King!'

By Nigel Beeton

HOW YOUR FRIENDS MAY BE KEEPING YOU ALIVE

Take care of your friendships, and they will take care of you.

A recent study has found that if, in later life, you enjoy your friends on a regular and frequent basis, then the joy that they bring you may even halve your risk of death within five years.

The book of Proverbs (27:9) compares the

balm of ointments and perfumes to the soothing effect of a good friend, and an analysis of the research would seem to confirm this. People in their later years who socialised every day were healthier than those who didn't. Even those who saw their friends only once a week were healthier than those who saw no friends on a regular basis.

In fact, the team reported having found a 'dose response', with the greater the frequency of socialising, the greater the likelihood of living longer. As one doctor put it: "The more frequent the social activity, the more prolonged the survival time."

It is thought that having regular contact with friends encourages healthier thinking, better personal habits, increased physical activity, and reduces stress.

Yet according to Age UK, more than two million older people in England live alone, and more than a million older people can go for a month without speaking to anyone.

The study was published in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*.

Parish Pump

Life abundant

Two students from a theological training college decided to spend part of their holiday in the countryside doing outreach. They stopped at an old farm house and proceeded up the path through a group of screaming children and a washing line heavy with wet clothes. When they got near the door, the woman of the house stopped scrubbing the steps, brushed her hair and perspiration from her brow, and asked them what they wanted. "We'd like to tell you how you can live forever," they answered.

The exhausted woman hesitated for a moment, and then replied, "Thank you, but I don't think I could stand it!"

Married

How many women can one man marry? A little boy who attended his first wedding worked that one out pretty quick: the answer is 16. It is easy, if you think about it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer. Comes to 16.

'Breakfast Before'

9.30am ~ 14 MAY

[& every 2nd Sunday]

Typical menu:

Drinks, bananas

toast, Cereal, pancakes,

~ Croissant or pain au chocolat?

FIRST LESSON

A nervous Head boy was reading the New Testament Lesson in School Assembly for Pentecost: "Here beginneth the first Actor of the Chaps."

Parish Pump

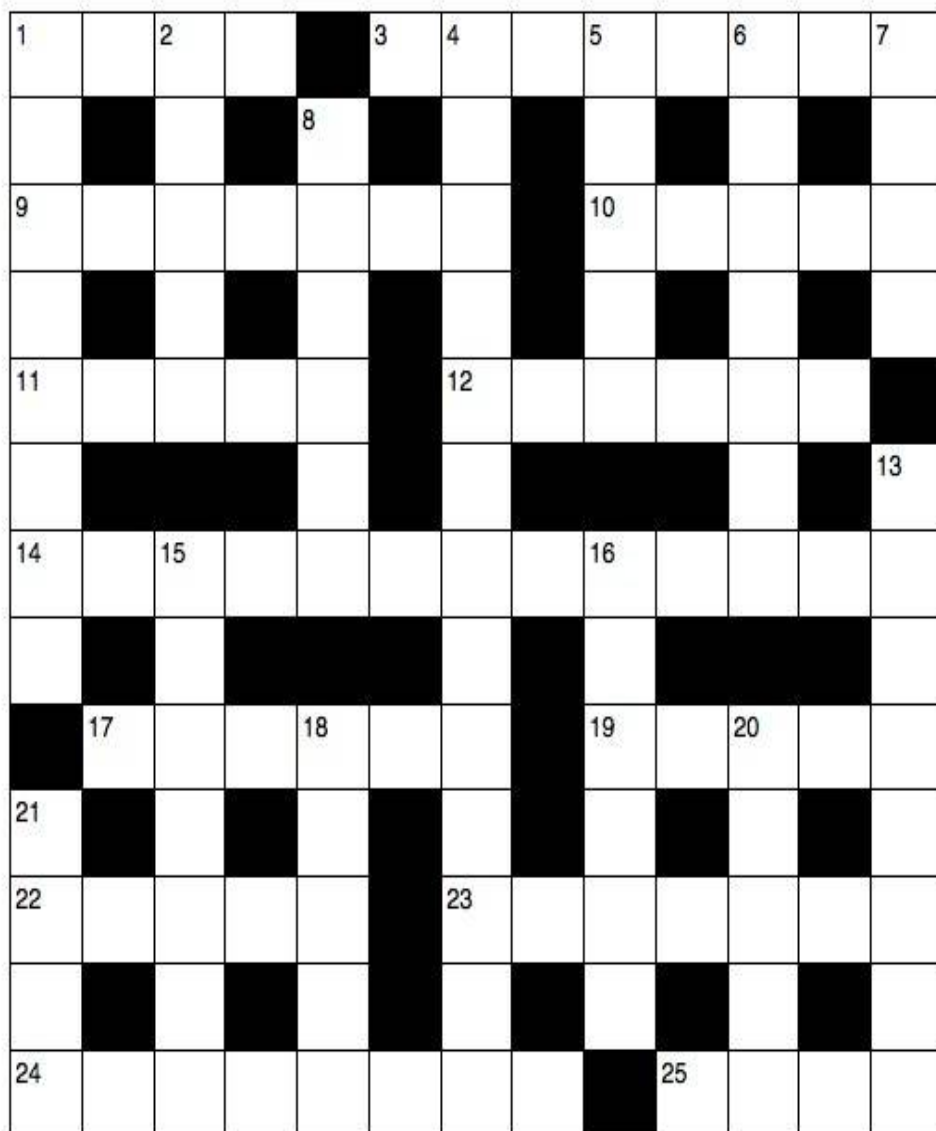
CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
 10 Group of eight (5)
 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
 19 Attend to (3,2)
 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
 8 Minister of religion (6)

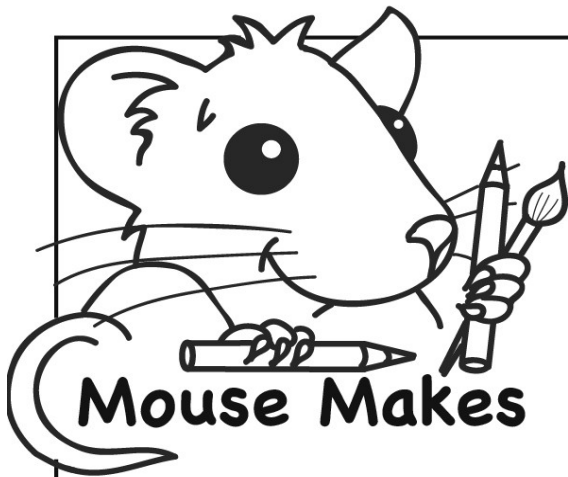


- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
 20 Establish by law (5)
 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

~members, friends and neighbours...

FILM MATINEE

Sat 20 MAY 2.30 pm



Forty days after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the Apostles one last time. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come, then He blessed them and **ascended** into heaven.

What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would give the Apostles?



READ
Acts 1 4-17

Find the answers in the word search

_____ to be Jesus' witnesses.

Acts 1:8

What did Jesus say from the Apostles?

a _____
Acts 1:9

Who appeared to the Apostles?

Two _____ and what were they dressed in? _____

Acts 1:10

Where was Jesus taken up to? _____

Luke 24:51

Where did the Apostles return to? _____

Acts 1:12

Where is Jesus seated?

At the _____ of God.

Mark 16:19

W G A C J S A P O S T L E S D C M P
I A B L E S S E D H E A V E N H E R
T T I O S M C P O W E R E T U R N A
N H W U U J E R U S A L E M T I J Y
E E H D S K N L O O K I N G A S O E
S R I W O R S H I P P E D O K T Y R
S E T Y D R I G H T H A N D E L S Y
E D E K E F O R T Y D A Y S N L A E
S K Y S B H N H O L Y S P I R I T R

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING
SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT
GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT

SERVICES

Elders' wish to keep everyone safe, so please stay home if you are ill. You may wear masks (perhaps for singing). Also, 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	7 MAY	14 MAY	21 MAY	28 MAY
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leader	Linda Rayner	Prof Christopher Whitehead	Sandy & Morag Smith	Margaret Dexter-Brown
Elder Duty	P Oliver	D Phillips	B Stevens	P Oliver / A Stevens
Door	H Elsden	P Grieve	M Morton	G Elsden
Reader				
Flowers	Silk	Fellowship	M Smithers	Silk
Coffee	B & A Stevens	D Green	C Davies	M Hardie
Notes			CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE	PENTECOST HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS - none

LECTIONARY for MAY

7 MAY: Acts 7.55-60; Psalm 31.1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2.2-10; John 14.1-14

14 MAY: Acts 17.22-31; Psalm 66.8-20; 1 Peter 3.13-22; John 14.15-21

21 MAY: Acts 1.6-14; Psalm 68.1-10,32-35; 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11; John 17.1-11

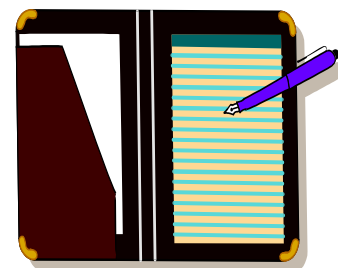
28 MAY: Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b; 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 7.37-39

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

CALENDAR



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

MAY 2023

Mon 01	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Tues 02	
Wed 03	1.30~3 pm Fellowship Circle ~ to be advised
Thu 04	LOCAL ELECTIONS IN CHURCH
Fri 05	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 06]
Sun 07] CORONATION WEEKEND & BANK HOLIDAY
Mon 08] 9.30~11.30am King's Litter Pick from Methodists
Tues 09	
Wed 10	12pm SOUP, SWEET & MEET ~ coffee lounge 1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Swann Grove
Thu 11	
Fri 12	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 13	10 am - 12 noon Coffee Morning in aid of Lifeshare
Sun 14	9.30 am Breakfast Before
Mon 15	
Tues 16	
Wed 17	1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Swann Grove
Thu 18	7.30 pm Steering Group ~ Bramhall
Fri 19	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 20	2.30 pm FILM MATINEE
Sun 21	11.45 am Management meeting ~ coffee lounge
Mon 22	10.00 am Elders' ~ Coffee Lounge
Tues 23	12.30 pm Memorial service for Patrick Buttle
Wed 24	1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Swann Grove
Thu 25	
Fri 26	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 27	
Sun 28	
Mon 29	Spring Bank Holiday
Tues 30	
Wed 31	1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Swann Grove

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