

CH URC NEWS

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The
United
Reformed
Church

Partnership Minister:

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JULY/AUGUST 2023

Friends,

Mary Magdalene

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar. What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed and she became a follower. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Put Jesus at the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest in the world:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: *'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don't follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!

Canon Paul Hardingham

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Sylvia Jones on 2 JUN aged 93yrs. She was not a church member but, over a number of years, she had become a regular at services and social events. She will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Can we also hold in our prayers; Linda Rayner and her family following the death of her father, David Hazelby, both Bramhall members; Fiona Smith (~ Dance School) and all her family following the death of her mother.

Our thoughts are with our friends and congregation who are in any way indisposed at this time and unable to join us.

Our grateful thanks go to those who led our worship in June - Bernie, Christopher Whitehead and Rev Alison Smith whose kind offer to take the service on our Anniversary and Gift Day we wholeheartedly accepted. It was good to have Alison with us once again and her very relevant service was followed by lunch which, from donations, raised £87.80 for our Church charities. This will be added to whatever is raised at the Open Day on 7 JUL.

Please note the change of venue for our Open Day on 7 JUL which will now be held at church. Do please look out any goods for the Bring & Buy, Bric-a-Brac, Cake and Plant stalls.

In JUL / AUG, with Bramhall, we host a student minister, Ed Lyne, a tall young man.

Our best wishes to everyone who will be celebrating their birthday in July or August, no matter what age.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Sat 7 OCT - Harvest Supper - details nearer the time.

CHURCH MEETING - SUN 9 JULY

The Minutes of the short meeting held on 4 JUN are enclosed in the magazine for members.

We meet again on Sunday 9 JUL, after the service, when the Agenda will include a discussion regarding the recent bequest by David Williams.

Alison Stevens

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Soup, Sweet & Meet re-started this month on the 2nd Wednesday, before our Fellowship meeting. We enjoyed the food and conversation and have decided to just enjoy the lunch as our Fellowship get together. In future we will have our usual Fellowship meetings starting at 1.30 in the church lounge on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays.

We were very happy to be joined by Mavis on 21st. She came out of hospital the day before and was keen to get back to normal.

On our final June meeting we were delighted to be serenaded by Eric who had put together a programme of music for us to enjoy.

Carole Davies

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SOUP, SWEET & MEET

Wednesday 12 JUL

12 pm

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ECO TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

Help birds in hot weather. Keeping your bird bath topped up with fresh water in warmer weather can be a life saver for our feathered friends. Get your garden birds through a heat wave when natural supplies, like worms, become scarce, by putting out supplementary food - black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mealworms, wax worms and good seed mixture.

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

Members, friends and neighbours...

FILM MATINEE

Sat 22 JULY 2.30 pm

No Film in August

BERNIE, the new Chair of Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme, is re starting meetings following Covid.

2022'S WEATHER EXTREMES

July 2022 will be remembered as the month when UK temperatures exceeded 40°C for the first time ever. Scientists say this would not have been possible without human-induced climate change. A temperature of 40.3°C in Lincolnshire broke the previous UK record, set only 3 years earlier, by an astonishing 1.6°C. But it was not just the record heat that impacted wildlife. A very early spring, extreme rainfall in the first three months, drought from May to August and a lack of autumn frosts combined to make 2022 a year of extremes. The impact on wildlife was significant and complex.

It was a year of wildlife challenges. The Wildlife Trusts, the RSPB and others lamented the drying up of small ponds and puddles before toad and frog spawn and tadpoles had matured enough to survive. There is anecdotal evidence that some resident butterflies (which lost meadow flowers to drought) and more northern species of dragonfly, the black darter for example, saw significant local population declines. The biggest impact reported by a range of charities was the loss of thousands of young trees in all of the areas impacted by drought. The National Trust reported major losses of new trees at Cambridgeshire's Wimpole Estate and the Buscot Estate in Oxfordshire for example.

There were, however, some unexpected benefits from the warmer, drier conditions. Early rainfall in spring combined with summer heat meant that 2022 was an outstanding year for many fruit trees, especially apples and pears. In response to the protracted drought across much of central, southern and eastern England and Scotland, many native trees produced record quantities of seeds – a reaction to heat stress to preserve future generations. According to the National Trust, an abundance of beech mast, rowan seed and acorns will have helped to give a new generation of trees a fighting chance.

'A Rocha UK' is calling on the government to take three steps to help protect nature from climate change. Firstly, we would like local authorities to reduce mowing parks and roadside verges – longer grass will help to reduce soil surface temperature and retain moisture. This is about shifting perspectives, not additional funds. Secondly, we want new legislation to ensure that at least 15% of the area of every new housing estate is planted with native trees and shrubs – for climate resilience and to act as a carbon sink. Finally, we seek assurance that the government

'Breakfast Before'

9.30am ~ 9 JULY

[& every 2nd Sunday]

Typical menu:

drinks, bananas

toast, cereal, pancakes,

~ croissant or pain au chocolat?

will deliver its target of 30,000 hectares of new woodland every year from 2024, and would welcome a focus of planting in local neighbourhoods as well as major native forest schemes.

The National Trust was one organisation that reported back formally at a national level on the impacts of 2022 on nature.

**Andy Lester May 26, 2023 ,
Head of Conservation
A Rocha UK**

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## FOODBANK VOLUNTEERS

Based on Acts 6:1~7

In God's kingdom there are many roles and duties. These are the work of the church in the world, and the spirit grants us the gifts so as to do such work. For some are gifted towards some tasks and others to different tasks. And yet in the kingdom of God, no task is greater than the service we all give to God. So as the Apostles called the church to select from their number those who would see that food was fairly distributed to those in need. We to give thanks for those who continue this work. Those who employ their gifts so to ensure that all may share and partake. So send your spirit upon them Lord, strengthen them for the task to which they are called. But let us not forget, that though others may do the task, we cannot abandon it to them, that we must support them. And that all of this is done, so that the Word of God may be more widely known. Amen.

**JPIT  
Joint Public Issues Team**

*[CH URC collects for Chelwood Foodbank Plus -  
What's the ...Plus? Non-food, inc beds-yes! ]*



## WORDSEARCH CLUES

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July the Church remembers St Thomas, also called Doubting Thomas, because he would not believe his fellow disciples' news of the Resurrection. But 'doubt' did not mean that Thomas did not love Jesus! Only a few weeks before, Thomas had urged his fellow disciples to follow Jesus to see Lazarus in Bethany, despite danger from the Jews. "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life. Thomas was sometimes very confused about just where Jesus was headed. But in John 14:5 Jesus untangled his confused commitment: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me." Finally, after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Thomas, showing him the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was electrified, and his immediate response : "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26ff). Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of people down the centuries.

July  
Thomas  
Resurrection  
Doubt  
Doubting

Love  
Jesus  
Follow  
Lazarus  
Bethany

Danger  
Jews  
Die  
Life  
Confused

Going  
Father  
Wounds  
Crucifixion  
Response  
Immediate



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Lord  
God  
Honest  
Faith  
Reassurance

## LECTIONARY for JULY and AUGUST

**2 JUL:** Jeremiah 28.5-9; Psalm 89.1-4,15-18; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

**9 JUL:** Zechariah 9.9-12; Psalm 145.8-14; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

**16 JUL:** Isaiah 55.10-13; Psalm 65.(1-8),9-13; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

**23 JUL:** Isaiah 44.6-8; Psalm 86.11-17; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

**30 JUL:** 1 Kings 3.5-12; Psalm 119.129-136; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

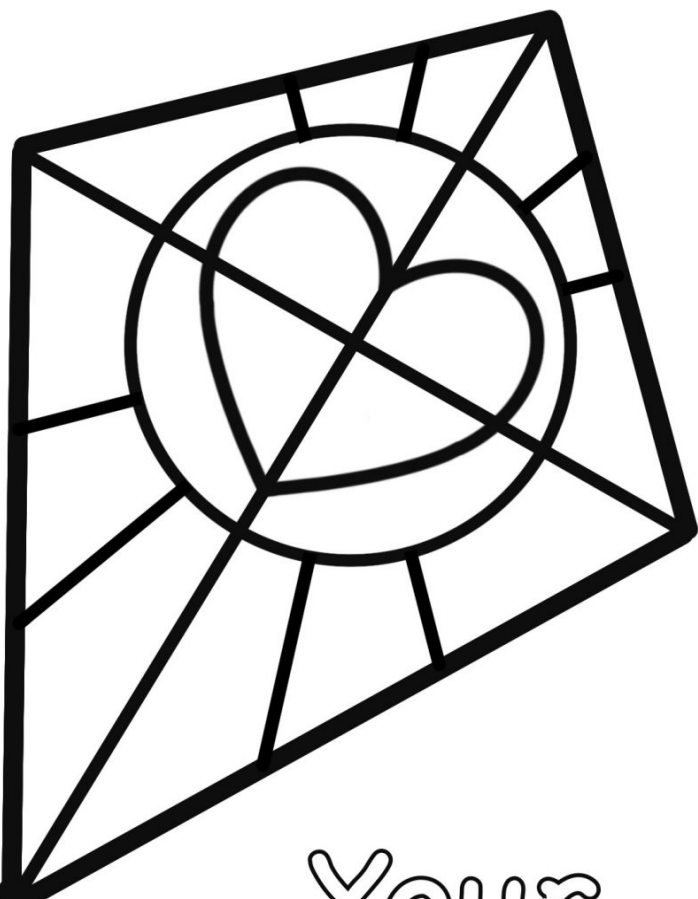
**6 AUG:** Isaiah 55.1-5; Psalm 145.8-9,14-21; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

**13 AUG:** 1 Kings 19.9-18; Psalm 85.8-13; Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33

**20 AUG:** Isaiah 56.1,6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11.1-2a,29-32; Matthew 15.(10-20),21-28

**27 AUG:** Isaiah 51.1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

Lord,  
Your great  
**LOVE**  
reaches to  
the skies...



...Your  
**TRUTH**  
to the  
clouds!

**Psalms 57:10**

## 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.

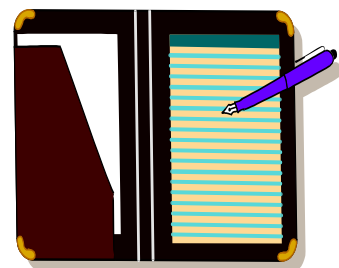
**Duties** are performed by a small team on a rota. Please check the board for swops.

| Date       | 2 JUL                                | 9 JUL                       | 16 JUL          | 23 JUL             | 30 JUL                                                                         |          |          |
|------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Service    | Morning Worship                      | Morning Worship             | Morning Worship | Morning Communion  | Morning Worship                                                                |          |          |
| Time       | 10.30 am                             | 10.30 am                    | 10.30 am        | 10.30 am           | 10.30 am                                                                       |          |          |
| Leader     | -                                    | Ed Lyne<br>Student Minister | Sandy Smith     | Bernie Stevens     | Rev Kurauone Mutimwii                                                          |          |          |
| Elder Duty | D Phillips                           | B Stevens                   | A Stevens       | S Smith/D Phillips | JOINT SERVICE<br>with<br>HEALD GREEN<br>and<br>BRAMHALL URCs<br>at Heald Green |          |          |
| Door       | CHURCH<br>OPEN<br>FOR<br>PRAYER      | D Green                     | H Elsdon        | P Grieve           |                                                                                |          |          |
| Reader     |                                      | M Morton                    |                 |                    |                                                                                |          |          |
| Flowers    |                                      | C Davies<br>(Fellowship)    |                 |                    |                                                                                | Silk     | M Morton |
| Coffee     |                                      |                             |                 |                    |                                                                                | C Davies | M Hardie |
| Notes      | Quiet Prayer only<br>-Thornleigh w/e | CHURCH<br>MEETING           |                 | HOLY<br>COMMUNION  | Free transport<br>available                                                    |          |          |

| Date       | 6 AUG                 | 13 AUG                      | 20 AUG                | 27 AUG                      |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Service    | Morning Worship       | Morning Worship             | Morning Communion     | Morning Worship             |
| Time       | 10.30 am              | 10.30 am                    | 10.30 am              | 10.30 am                    |
| Leader     | Margaret Dexter-Brown | Alison Stevens /Glyn Elsdon | Christopher Whitehead | Ed Lyne<br>Student Minister |
| Elder Duty | A Stevens             | D Phillips                  | S Smith /P Oliver     | A Stevens                   |
| Door       | M Morton              | C Davies                    | M Smith               | J Hodson                    |
| Reader     |                       |                             |                       |                             |
| Flowers    | B Danson              | Silk                        | Silk                  | M Smith                     |
| Coffee     | S & M Smith           | B & A Stevens               | D Green               | C Davies                    |
| Notes      |                       |                             | HOLY COMMUNION        |                             |

## CHURCH REGISTERS - NONE

# CALENDAR



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

## JULY

Sat 01 ] **THORNLEIGH WEEKEND AWAY**

Sun 02 ]

Mon 03

Tues 04 12.15pm Funeral of Sylvia Jones at Stockport Crematorium

Wed 05 1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Coffee Lounge

Thu 06 10 am Management meeting - Church

Fri 07 11 am ~3 pm OPEN DAY (for Charities), at church

Sun 09 9.30 am Breakfast Before

**11.45 am CHURCH MEETING**

Mon 10

Tues 11

Wed 12 12pm SOUP, SWEET & MEET 1.30pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ coffee lounge

Thu 13 7.30 pm MP Steering Group ~ Cheadle Hulme

Fri 14 2pm Choir Rehearsal

Mon 17

Tues 18

Wed 19 1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Coffee Lounge

Thu 20 7.30 pm Worship Group (Zoom)

Fri 21 2pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat 22

2.30 pm FILM MATINEE - members and friends /neighbours

Mon 24

Tues 25

Wed 26 1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Coffee Lounge

Thu 27 2pm Elders' meeting~ Coffee Lounge

Fri 28

Mon 31

## AUGUST

Sat 05 10am~12 noon COFFEE MORNING in aid of Chelwood Foodbank

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