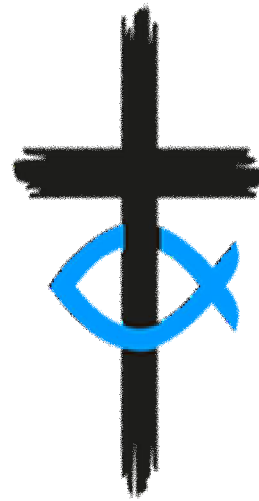


CH URC NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme
STOCKPORT SK8 7HU
www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk



The
United
Reformed
Church

Partnership Minister:
Rev Kurauone Mutimwii
swannlaneminister@gmail.com

OCTOBER 2023

Friends,

Spiritual Disciplines: Worship

'Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.' (John 4: 23).

The spiritual discipline of worship has both a personal and corporate dimension. It includes worship services as well as day-to-day activities. God is actively seeking worshippers (John 4:23) and worship is a response to our experience of God's love. The main words used of worship in the Bible have the sense of *submission* and *service*. They remind us that our lives need to be shaped by worship *on a daily basis*.

There are different ways into worship: practising stillness, offering praise (cf Psalm 95) and offering the whole of our lives as a living sacrifice (cf Romans 12:1). Worship is an act of the will; we choose to honour and please God. Depending on our circumstances, worshipping God requires effort on our part. However, entering into worship is to be transformed by His presence into the likeness of Jesus (cf 2 Corinthians 3:18).

Richard Foster in *Celebration of Discipline* offers some helpful ways in which to engage with worship on a daily basis:

Learn to practise the presence of God daily by punctuating every moment with praise and adoration

Have different experiences of worship, both in large and small gatherings (i.e., small group)

Be prepared for gathered worship in heart and mind.

Be willing to let our worship transform our thinking and practice as God meets us.

Cultivate holy dependence on God for everything in our lives, looking forward to all God wants to do

Learn to offer a sacrifice of worship, however we are feeling!

'Now the worship is over, let the service begin' (Bishop Michael Marshall, closing a service)

Canon Paul Hardingham

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We think each month of our friends and members of the congregation who, for whatever reason, are unable to join us in our worship. We pray especially for any families who have recently lost dear ones and we think especially of Don's wife Sarah whose father, Jerry, has recently died and our thoughts are with her, Don, Anna and Denny at this difficult time.

In September, worship was led by Pastor K, Sandy and Bernie. On 24 SEPT, we once again welcomed Angela & Steve Rowley (Rowley Projects) when they told us about their recent visit (No 43) to **Kenya** in the heat even though Angela was recovering from ill health. Some details of their trip are included over the page and it was an opportunity for us to present them with a cheque for £645, being donations from our Gift Day last June when their project had been the focus. They are an amazing couple who do some incredible work.

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

If you have not already put your name down for the **Fish & Chip Supper & Beetle Drive** on Sat 7 OCT, it is not too late. Numbers will be limited to 40.

We wish Carole Davies all the very best for her forthcoming move to a flat in Gatley. Her mobile number remains the same.

Congratulations go to our friend Anne who recently completed a half marathon in the Great North Run which she did for Cancer Research. Anne has joined us on our weekends away to Grange over Sands. Well done Anne!

Don't forget to come along for a nibble and a natter to the coffee morning on Saturday 7 OCT at 10 am to support the Macmillan nurses and those people facing cancer. If you would like to bake your favourite cake or just bring some along that would be great.

Best wishes go to all who will be celebrating a birthday or special anniversary, in October.

The News Team

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUN 8 OCT: **CHURCH MEETING**

WED 18 OCT: CTCH **AGM** ~Methodist: 7 for 7.30pm

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FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

Fellowship resumed on 6 Sept after our summer break. It was decided not to have a break next year as everyone missed our get togethers.

We started with a bagatelle tournament which was won by Marie, much to her surprise. We have also enjoyed Soup, Sweet and Meet. We look forward to the return of Eric who has been cruising. It's not the same without him!

Carole Davies

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THANK YOU

This note is to say how very much we appreciate receiving our copy of **Churc** News, keeping us in touch with news of members and activities of the church.

We remember the Church with much affection and thanksgiving as I was ordained at Cheadle Hulme Congregational Church on 8 September 1956! It was much a memorable and inspiring day leading to our ministry with a very warm, loving and welcoming congregation. Joy and I cherish such happy memories of those shared years of ministry and fellowship.

With our prayers and best wishes from Joy and myself.

Rev Roy Martin

HARVEST - Sun 8 October

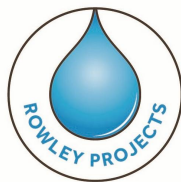
Our Harvest Service will be supporting **Lifeshare AND Chelwood Foodbank Plus**

Below are details of what each charity is requesting, OR you may prefer to make a monetary gift -

Chelwood – hot dogs in brine, tuna fish, thick bleach, 1ltr Long Life Semi skimmed UHT milk, baby nappies size 7 15+kg, squash/fruit juices, Bolognese tomato sauce (500g), 500g/1kg granulated sugar, basmati rice.

Lifeshare - Protein Tins, Porridge pots, Pot Noodles, Cereal Bars, Biscuits, Bottled Water, Chocolates, Tinned Vegetables.

ROWLEY PROJECTS



We had a great welcome as always in the primary school and pupils were thrilled with **pens, pencils and of course knickers and pants**. The **canvas bags** were again well-received as were the printed **T shirts for the sports teams** and **books** donated by the author. We would like to 'shoe' more of the school and are sending enough money for another 50 pairs. The **playground** is being much enjoyed. The primary school has 445 pupils and only 4 government teachers. Very sad news; **Everline Banda**, who has taken care of **girls' welfare** at Kolweny for the whole of her teaching career, has been moved to another relatively local school as deputy head. She was told one week and moved the next! We visited her at **Kadie** (where some years ago we built a classroom and provided plimsols for the whole school in response to seeing bare-footed children wading through the mud.) We took all our extra knickers and sets of pens for exam candidates. The four sets of latrines at the primary school are full – yuk!! They need to be '**exhausted**'. For less than the cost of one new latrine block the 'exhaust' company will come from Kisumu and empty all four blocks.

Our anticipated grand opening of the **IT Suite** at the High School was thwarted by the shoddy finishing by the builders. The building looks fantastic and the community is delighted with it but **culture clash alert!** To our community anything is better than nothing and sub-standard finishing is not a problem but to us, if we're paying a good price, we expect a good job and shoddy work is unacceptable. How can progress be made if standards aren't raised?

The trench for the irrigation of the **shamba** is being dug this month. I gave my usual 'girlie' talk to the Form 1 and Form 4 girls about self-esteem and self-confidence. It seems there's a population explosion in Kenya despite smaller families so I was asked to talk about contraception to Form 4. Talk about 'on the hoof!' I tried to explain that getting married isn't the problem, just immediate children. Every girl, 196 and more than 50% of the student population, received a pair of **knickers**. Around 95% are using mooncups ensuring attendance, saving money and not

blocking the latrines!

The dispensary is so busy the government has given Edwin an assistant Community Health Worker, Valary, but still no gloves, none in 4 years! He absolutely loves Germolene with its antiseptic properties. We replenished school first aid kits and handed over almost 1 000 paracetamol to schools.

Our long discussion with Joseph last time about re-invigorating the water filter workshop has not borne much fruit as he has been very ill. He does have a young man who helps him out, but he needs to find someone else so that he can hand over the business. When I suggested a woman it was snorted at but I asked if the men had ever tried lifting the water pots onto their heads – I can't even get them off the ground! There's urgent need of a filter on many compounds still. The Sunday School children at Bramhall Baptist donated a large sum of sponsorship money to buy filters so we discussed how to put this to best use. The picture still is a complaining donkey bringing barrels of disease-ridden water up from the shrinking river.

Form 4 Scholarships We are again sponsoring 7 students by giving them a laptop and paying accommodation, books and travel and to the rest we give a small bursary each year. The entry procedure is little short of shambolic. Last Monday was registration and fee-paying day and acceptance letters were still being received the previous Friday. (Exam results came out in February) Ayugi had to deal with two students in a predicament last weekend, having only just received their letters and no money for travel or to pay fees and no accommodation. Imagine us parents sending our children off into the unknown like that! He will have spent Monday at the bank transferring money to the different universities and colleges and the students will have travelled there in hope.

We took this time (along with a miscellany of other things)... Germolene, incontinence sheets (for operating and delivery beds), plasters, toothpaste 418 toothbrushes, 965 pens, 658 pencils, 670 prs knickers, 70 prs pants, 12 bags, 1,000 prs latex gloves & 2,840 paracetamol (packaging removed).

Collecting for next visit: New **Knickers** ages 3-4 up to size 12-14 (midi not full brief). Bras (34-36 A or B) **Underpants** ages 3-4 up to age 18. Toothbrushes. Mini toothpastes. Reading glasses. Paracetamol. Plasters. **Germolene, latex gloves**. Click top pens (Tops get lost!) Pencils with erasers.

Angela & Steve Rowley

August 2023

www.rowleyprojects.com

URC AT A CROSSROADS

Introduction

In late 2021, the United Reformed Church (henceforth the URC) approached **Theos** to conduct research into the life, identity, and flourishing of the URC. The key objective of the proposed research was to provide a snapshot of the URC today, exploring its identity rooted in practice, what flourishing looks like, what resources exist or need to be sought, and what barriers there are to flourishing in the future.

The project was conceived as a partnership, reflecting Theos' belief that the proposed research, while immediately relevant to the United Reformed Church itself and the 'Church Life Review' it was undertaking, would also be of wider interest and help nuance the picture of Christianity in the UK at a time of complex change in the religion and belief landscape.

The public conversation surrounding religion and society in the UK is often dominated by certain recurring themes, namely disagreement, secularisation, and polarisation. In contrast, this review would consider the life of the church on the ground through a particular case study: the lived experience and practices of local URC congregations, including how these congregations interact with their communities, and how they are supported (or not) by the church structures of the URC.

Methodology

We adopted a mixed-methods approach to the project, with the research consisting of desk-based study, qualitative and quantitative components. The qualitative element consisted of 56 semi-structured interviews, conducted in person and online, with local church leaders and volunteers in local contexts, synod staff from two representative URC synods, Church-Related Community Workers (CRCWs), and members of the URC Youth Executive, among others. 39 out of the 56 were individual (1:1) interviews, and 17 were group interviews. The size of each group ranged from 2 to 8 people. In effect, we were able to hear from over 90 individuals, across 7 synods, and at different levels of church structures and responsibility.

The local contexts chosen as case studies included single congregations, pastorates and

Local Ecumenical Projects (LEPs). Pastorates are congregations grouped together in a particular geographical area for administrative and pastoral purposes that are under the care and leadership of a single minister or team of ministers. Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) are – as the name suggests – formal partnerships in which two or more denominations work together in mission and ministry at the local level. This can take a variety of forms, including shared worship services, joint outreach programs or the sharing of resources and facilities.

These locally-based case studies, along with the ones run at synod level (Yorkshire and South Western) were chosen in consultation with the project's steering group and synod moderators. The aim was to achieve, within the constraints of the project, a cross section of the denomination, capturing the shared challenges and opportunities, the diversity (theological, churchmanship, and ethnic) and different levels of flourishing within the denomination.

Members, friends

and neighbours...

FILM MATINEE

Sat 28 OCT ~ 2.30 pm

The quantitative element, developed to complement the qualitative data, consisted of a short online survey sent to all URC churches. The survey gathered 402 responses, with the data providing additional insight, nuance and clarity to the picture resulting from the qualitative element of the project (in Appendix 1). We also made use of data collected through the 'Jubilee Questions', a survey run in-house by the URC to mark the denomination's 50th anniversary in 2022, which yielded 40 responses. 62.5% of respondents to this survey were individuals, while 37.5% of respondents completed the survey on behalf of a local church/pastorate. This phase of the research ultimately enabled direct consultation with over 30% of URC congregations across the UK.

In addition, we engaged in a limited mapping exercise, matching URC church closure data in

England, Scotland and Wales to deprivation data, the purpose of which was to ascertain whether URC churches are disproportionately closing in deprived areas. A summary of the findings can be found in Appendix 2.

Structure of the report

This report consists of three main parts. The first chapter unravels positive examples of church life and flourishing in the URC. The second examines some of the key barriers to flourishing that we identified during the research. Some of these are found at the level of local congregations, while others emerge at the level of wider church structures, including synod and other conciliar forums. The final part of the report presents a series of recommendations and possible pathways to flourishing for the URC.

Nathan Mladin
to be continued...

LOAVES AND FISHES

*They came together from far and wide
All wanting to hear what the preacher would say
Hanging onto His every word
Nobody ever taught this way.*

*The crowd were hungry, so many to feed
As a young lad offered the Master his lunch,
Five barley loaves and two small fish -
For such a crowd it wasn't much.*

*Who could imagine what He would do
As He blessed the crowd on the mountainside?
And looking up and giving thanks
Bread and fish were multiplied.*

*Whatever we give the Master to use
Just like the lad with an offering small,
Placed in the hands of the Miracle Worker
He multiplies the gift bringing blessings to all.*

By Megan Carter

Chicken and pig

A chicken and a pig were walking by a church where a gala charity event was taking place. Getting caught up in the spirit of the fun, the chicken suggested to the pig that they each contribute to the meal. "Let's offer them ham and eggs!"

"Not so fast," said the pig. "For you, that's a contribution. For me, it's a total commitment."

Prove it... The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.
(I don't think that that's a joke at all... ED)

Parish Pump

+++++
SOUP, SWEET & MEET
Wed 18 OCT
12 noon

+++++
LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES

As we move towards the filling of the shoeboxes at the end of OCT, we are reviewing the goodies we have and the boxes we are short. Note also that we need a £3 donation for each Christmas shoebox to cover the cost of shipping it to eastern Europe (especially Ukraine). I would like to pack the boxes on the 22 OCT to get us a week in hand.

Bernie



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

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 changes.

Date	1 OCT	8 OCT		15 OCT	22 OCT	29 OCT
Service	Morning Worship	Harvest Worship	MP Evening Service On Zoom	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	***6.30 pm***	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leader	Elaine Noden	In House	Rev Kurauone Mutimwii	Rev Kurauone Mutimwii	Chris Whitehead	Rev Peter Sharp
Elder Duty	B Stevens	S Smith		P Oliver	D Phillips	A Stevens / B Stevens
Door	G Elsdon	C Davies		J Hodson	M Smith	M Morton D Green
Reader						
Flowers	J Hodson	Harvest		Harvest	Silk	Silk
Coffee	B & A Stevens	D Green		C Davies	M Hardie	H Elsdon
Notes		CHURCH MEETING	Meeting ID: 717 0575 5463 Passcode (case sensitive) 2Hs7w3		HOLY COMMUNION	JOINT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE at CHEADLE HULME

CHURCH REGISTERS - none

LECTIONARY for OCTOBER

1 OCT: Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32; Psalm 25.1-9; Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32
 8 OCT: Isaiah 5.1-7; Psalm 80.7-15; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-46
 15 OCT: Isaiah 25.1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14
 22 OCT: Isaiah 45.1-7; Psalm 96.1-9,(10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22
 29 OCT: Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 22.34-46

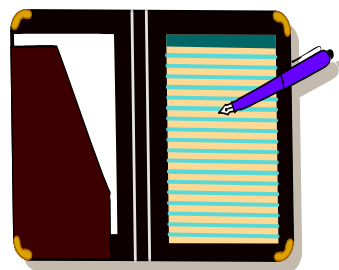
JESUS WOULD...?

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for 'What Would Jesus Do?', and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.

The man pondered only a moment before he replied, "I don't think He'd pay £17.99 for that hat."

Parish Pump

CALENDAR



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

OCTOBER

Mon 02	
Tues 03	
Wed 04	10.30am Elders' meeting 1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Coffee Lounge 7.30 pm Worship Group on zoom
Thu 05	
Fri 06	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 07	10am~12 noon COFFEE MORNING in aid of Macmillan Nurses 6.30 pm for 7pm Fish & Chip Supper (pre-booked) and Beetle Drive ~11.30am CHURCH MEETING
Sun 08	
Mon 09	
Tues 10	7.30 pm MP Steering Group ~ Gatley
Wed 11	1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Coffee Lounge
Thu 12	
Fri 13	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 14	10am - 2/3pm Away Day at Bramhall URC for Elders & Worship leaders
Sun 15	
Mon 16	
Tues 17	
Wed 18	12pm SOUP, SWEET & MEET and FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ coffee lounge 7 for 7.30 pm Churches Together AGM ~ Methodist
Thu 19	
Fri 20	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Mon 23	
Tues 24	
Wed 25	1.30~3 pm FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ~ Coffee Lounge
Thu 26	
Fri 27	2pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat 28	2.30 pm FILM MATINEE - members and friends /neighbours
Mon 30	
Tues 31	

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swannlanesecretary@gmail.com

swannlanebookings@gmail.com

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CROSSWORD Answers

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.