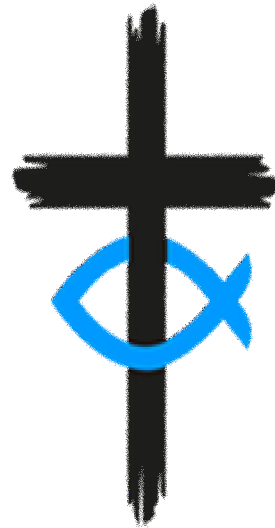


CH URC NEWS

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STOCKPORT SK8 7HU
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The
United
Reformed
Church

Partnership Ministers:

Rev Kurauone Mutimwii
Rev Stephanie Atkins

SEPTEMBER 2024

Friends,

Whatever you do: Where ever you are!

In the church today we sometimes assume that discipleship is more about the *sacred* part of our life, rather than the *secular as well*. Are we aware of what God is doing in our school, workplace, with friends and family, on our street or in our leisure time? Whole life disciples spend every day with an awareness of the presence of Jesus in their lives. As the apostle Paul writes:

***'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.'* (Colossians 3:17)**

SO, we should all do all ordinary things in the name or character of Jesus, i.e. *acting in the same way that Jesus would if He were in our place*.

It's helpful to think in terms of *frontlines*, the places where we spend most of our time: *Everyone has a frontline*: young or old, working or not, sick or well. This could be our workplace, home, college, community or club.

This is *where God has called us*! God is at work on our frontline to shape and use us, making it a place where we can grow as a disciple and make a difference to those around.

As churches we need to be *committed to helping each other* see the significance of our frontlines in God's purposes. Are we supporting one another, especially in prayer? As one teacher put it: *"I spend an hour a week teaching Sunday school then they haul me up to the front of the church to pray for me. Very nice, but the rest of the week I'm a full-time teacher and they never prayed for me at school. That says it all."*

With less than 6% of the UK population now going to church, God wants to use us as salt and light *wherever* we spend time. Christians are exactly where they need to be to serve Him, so that others might see what a disciple of Jesus looks like, as we grow as disciples ourselves.

*Canon Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump*

###~::~##

STOP PRESS We welcome our new partnership minister Rev Stephanie Atkins to join with Rev Kurauone Mutimwii in serving the 8 churches in our partnership.

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Each month we pray for members of our fellowship, as well as our friends, who are unwell or housebound for any reason .

During July and August, in addition to members of our Worship Group, we welcomed Elley Noden, Liz Delafield, Alison Haigh and Alison Pope who had kindly agreed to lead our worship, for which we are very grateful. On 29 September, we look forward to welcoming the Moderator, Rev Clare Downing and, at some point in the months ahead Rev Steph Atkins.

Our thanks go to everyone involved with our Charities Open Day back in July when £806 was raised. We are especially grateful to those people who were unable to come on the day but still made donations to the charities.

Advance notice that the weekend of Fri~ Sunday 4~6 JUL 2025 has been booked for another weekend away at Thornleigh Christian Hotel in Grange-over-Sands in the Lake District. The cost will be £236 per person.

A note for all you bakers - our COFFEE MORNING on Sat 7 SEP in aid of the Church charities, including Transform Trade, will include a CAKE SALE when any baked donations will be gratefully received.

We send best wishes to all those who will be celebrating a birthday or special anniversary in September. We hope you have a very happy time.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 9 ~ Sun 22 SEP - Fairtrade Fortnight

Sat 28 SEP - ORDINATION & INDUCTION of Steph Atkins ~ Gatley URC at 2pm

Sun 29 SEP - Joint Service at Cheadle Hulme led by the Moderator of NW Synod, Rev Clare Downing

Sat 12 OCT - Fish n Chip Supper & Beetle Drive

Sun 13 OCT - CHURCH MEEETING

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**SOUP, SWEET
& MEET**

noon~2 pm Wed 18 SEPT

=====

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

For different reasons, the number of those attending has fallen. We send very best wishes to Marjorie Wightman, Bernice Platt and Carole Davies. Marjorie is now resident in a Care Home in Chesterfield near to her daughter and Bernice is resident in Ladybrook Manor in Bramhall. Although Carole continued to come to church and social events at Cheadle Hulme after giving up her car, it began to tell on her physically and she has therefore decided that this won't now be possible on a regular basis.

For the last two and a half years following on from Covid, the group, under Carole's direction, has been meeting at Mavis' for fellowship which has taken on a number of different forms. We are going to miss Carole's organisation of activities and, by way of thanks to her for that, she has been given an orchid and 'thank you' card.

Fellowship Circle will continue at Mavis' on Wednesday afternoons between 1.00 and 2.30pm. If you know of anyone who would gain from this time of social interaction, do please let them know they will be very welcome.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on Wednesday 4 Sep 1pm.

Alison Stevens

RULES IS RULES

"The devil was always challenging St Peter to a game of football, but he refused, until one day while walking around heaven he realised that quite a few top footballers had entered the 'pearly gates'.

"How about that soccer game now." said St Peter. 'You'll lose,' said the devil, 'You'll lose!'

'Oh, don't be so sure,' replied St Peter. 'In heaven we now have a number of great football stars from which to select a winning team.'

'You'll lose, you'll lose!' repeated the devil.

'What makes you so sure?' enquired St Peter.

'Because,' laughed the devil, 'we have all the referees down her.'"

*Lord Blease, JP,
from 'Pass the Port Again*

PARTNERSHIP PRAYER

The Missional Partnership prayer for **September** is for **Heald Green** URC...

Generous God,
Thank you for Heald Green URC; for those who had a hand in its birth, those who have worshipped there over the years, and those who are serving in it now.

Thank you for the talents and gifts of the members and adherents, and the enduring faith that they hold.

We thank you for buildings in good repair which we can share with the community; for fairly healthy finances; and for grounds which allow us to provide a quiet resting place for folk in the remembrance garden and on garden benches.

We delight that our outdoor space can display beautiful flowers and fruitful trees, as well as be a home for community bee hives.

Compassionate God, we pray for the members, many of whom are feeling the effects of increasing age.

We pray for the various groups who use our premises, and for the local community. We ask you to show us how we can best serve those who choose not to enter inside our walls.

We pray for those in positions of leadership and responsibility, that they may be open to your guidance and refreshed with the energy to continue in service.

Amen

Rev Stephanie Atkins

Our new partnership minister, Rev Stephanie Atkins, will be joining partnership on 1 SEP 24.

The Steering Group has agreed to only ask her to preach 2 Sundays per month until Christmas, as we did for Kura. However, she will be meeting with him regularly to arrange a preaching and meeting plan for the new year. They are expected to discuss how they will divide up the work and responsibilities. She has indicated a desire to meet as many congregations as possible. Also, as with Kura, we will have in place a support team at both Partnership and Synod levels.

Bernie

'PRAYS IN THE PARK'

Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership invites you to begin the Season of creation praying outdoors.

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home. The Celebration begins 1 September, the Feast of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. This year's theme is "To hope and act with creation"

Please meet outside Cornerstone URC Church (Parrs Wood site) M20 6EE at 2:20pm, OR the playing fields (near church) on Fog Lane Park at 2:30pm M20 4UP.

We will be walking to different spots within the park, reflecting on what we see and hear. If you can't find us on the day call Liz on 07740 112 628. It should take about 90 minutes in total.

There is seating in the sensory garden. If walking and standing are difficult for you, you may wish to meet us there for a short reflection. (At about 3:10pm) In the event of normal bad weather (Light rain etc) we will go ahead.

Please dress appropriately for the weather conditions. If the weather is atrocious (gale force storms) we will have a short reflection at Cornerstone URC Church to mark the beginning of Creation time instead.

The café in Fog Lane Park is open until 4pm for refreshments and toilets. **Please leave no litter.** For all ages. Bring all the family!

Looking forward to seeing you on 1st September to begin our celebrations of the Season of Creation and to hope and act with creation in this beautiful Park.

Liz Delafield



NET ZERO IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Here are things we all want to see in our neighbourhoods. When we implement climate-friendly policies locally, we all benefit from an improved living environment and greater harmony with the world around us.

Clean air
Access to green spaces
Good jobs
Well insulated homes (lower heating)
Efficient public transport

Globally, we face an enormous challenge to move away from fossil fuels that pollute the atmosphere and contribute to global warming. The latest IPCC report states that emissions need to have peaked by 2025, and to then decrease by 46% by 2030, for the atmosphere to remain within 1.5C of warming from pre-industrial levels. [1]

Simply put, if we don't make significant changes in the next 3-5 years, we will have lost the chance to avoid climate catastrophe. We need to find new ways of living that honour all people and respect the planet and all that lives in it.

Looking Global, Acting Local

If we do nothing to stop a warming planet, the consequences for all of us will be enormous – but particularly for the 3.3 billion people currently living in climate-vulnerable countries. The vast majority of these people live in low-income countries, and it will be the poorest within those countries who suffer the most. Rising sea levels, extreme weather and crop failures are already ending lives and destroying land. Natural and cultural heritage is being eroded, meaning that life for those who survive is irreversibly altered.

For many, this is tied up with their very being, their spiritual identity, and their sense of belonging. Simon Kofe, the Foreign Minister of Tuvalu, delivered a striking speech to COP26 while knee-deep in sea water, to drive home what those in low-lying small islands stand to lose:

"In Tuvalu, our islands are sacred to us. They contain the mana of our people. They were the home of our ancestors. They are the home of our people today. We want them to remain the home of our people into the future."

Tackling climate change is a matter of justice. Those with the least resources to cope will be most affected by these changes. It is estimated that there could be 1.2 billion climate refugees by 2050. A changing climate increases the prevalence and impact of poverty, conflict, displacement and disease. These issues cannot be ignored.

Changes need to happen at every level, in order for

them to be as sustainable and wide-reaching as they need to be. Crucially, this involves governments, industries, institutions & people reaching net zero carbon emissions.

Net zero is the point at where the amount of carbon dioxide (main greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming) released into the atmosphere is balanced by the same amount being taken out. As we do not currently have the technology to remove large amounts of CO2 from the air, at present reaching net zero means reducing our carbon emissions as close to zero as possible. The world has been powered by carbon through the burning of fossil fuels for the last 200 years, so reducing emissions by the amount necessary requires a fundamental transformation of our economies, energy supply, transport systems and more.

Reaching 'net zero' has been a core goal of climate policy in the past few years. The UK government enacted a law in 2019 committing the country to reach net zero by 2050, but it hasn't had full support across the board. We're still a long way from meeting the interim targets set out by The Climate Change Committee, which holds the UK government accountable for its actions. [2]

National government, however, is not the only level of government with the powers – and responsibility – to act on climate change. In the last few years, local government has taken serious steps to address the climate emergency. 85% of local councils in the UK have set a target year for reaching net zero emissions. The vast majority of these target dates are much earlier than the national government's own target of 2050.

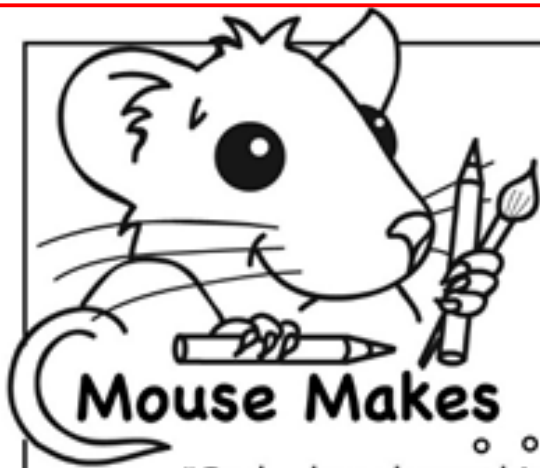
If every council in the country were to reach net zero, significant progress would be made on the targets as a whole. But this requires tangible, practical steps towards change, and support from the whole community. That's why we're encouraging churches to be part of the change in their communities. When we all come together to seek the welfare of the places we are planted, we can build towards a global community of neighbourhoods that enable the flourishing of all life.

Joint Public Issues Team

(~ URC, Methodists, Baptists)

This is a moral obligation which churches must lead. Next month: How churches can help.

ED



Mouse Makes

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
 _____ you, O God!
 May all the peoples praise you!
 The land yields its harvest;
 God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
 giving you rain from heaven
 and crops in their seasons.
 He provides you with
 plenty of _____. He fills
 your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
 and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
 the Lord our God.
 He gives us autumn and
 spring _____
 at the right time.
 He makes sure that we
 have the harvest at
 just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

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

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
 NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
 FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
 BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!

Prayer for September 2024

Lord, here we are in September – a beautiful month at the end of the summer, but before the autumn has taken hold. A month of excitement and new starts for many, a month when courage is needed for our children and young people.

And Lord we pray for courage, compassion and integrity for our new Prime Minister and our new government. We pray for justice and peace in our country and in the world.

Help us Lord, to know that you are Lord of September; you are Lord and giver of every new month, every new day, every new minute. Help us to put our trust in you for our adventures and for our mundane everyday routines.

You are our generous, loving Father and promise that you will never leave us or forsake us when we trust in you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

By Daphne Kitching

Members, friends &
neighbours

FILM MATINEE

Sat 21 SEPT

SUDOKU

Every row, column and small block must contain 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 only once.

					1	3		
5			4	3		2		
	8	3				9		
	2		9					
	3						9	
					6		7	
		4				1	5	
		9		7	8			4
		5	2					

There is a system.
Ask Bernie.

SERVICES

Elders' wish to keep everyone safe, so please stay home if you are unwell.
 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 (ask for link) and Leaders /readers may speak in church or Zoom in.

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

Date	1 SEPT	8 SEPT		15 SEPT	22 SEPT	29 SEPT
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	MP Zoom Evening Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Joint Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	***6.30 pm***	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leader	Christopher Whitehead	Rev Kurauone Mutimwii	Rev Kurauone Mutimwii	Robert Williams	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Rev Clare Downing
Elder Duty	D Phillips	P Oliver		S Smith	A Stevens / P Oliver	B Stevens
Door	M Hardie	H Elsdon		G Elsdon	P Grieve	J Hodson
Reader		D Green				
Flowers	M Hardie	Silk		R Pollitt	Silk	E Ward
Coffee	S & M Smith	B & A Stevens		D Green	B & A Stevens	M Hardie
Notes		EDUCATION SUNDAY	Meeting ID: ...ask... Passcode			5th SUNDAY JT SERVICE

LECTIONARY for SEPTEMBER

1 SEPT: Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9; Psalm 15; James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23

8 SEPT: Isaiah 35.4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2.1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7.24-37

15 SEPT: Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 116.1-9; James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-38

22 SEPT: Jeremiah 11.18-20; Psalm 54; James 3.13-4.3,7-8a; Mark 9.30-37

29 SEPT: Esther 7.1-6,9-10; 9.20-22; Psalm 124; James 5.13-20; Mark 9.38-50

PRESENCE

Expecting Him, my door was open wide:
 Then I looked round
 If any lack of service might be found,
 And saw Him at my side:
 How entered, by what secret stair,
 I know not, knowing only He was there.

By TE Brown (1830 ~ 97)

