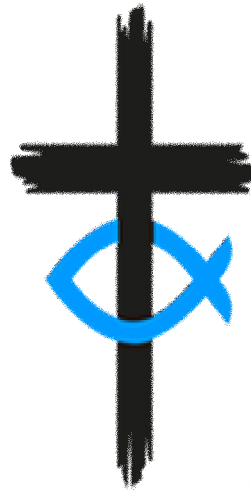


CH URC NEWS

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



The
United
Reformed
Church

Partnership Ministers: Rev Kurauone Mutimwii
Rev Stephanie Atkins



Friends,

Whole Life Discipleship - 'Growing Up Together'

NOVEMBER 2024

Andrei Rublev's popular icon of the Trinity depicts the three mysterious strangers who visited Abraham (Genesis 18:1-15). It speaks powerfully of the relationship between the three persons of Godhead. *'God as Being exists in community. The natural and simple demonstration of God's communal image for humanity is the gathering of the small group.'* (Gareth Icenogle).

Therefore, small groups provide an important place where we can grow as whole-life disciples, hence the significance of the number 3. As Paul writes: *'So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.'* (Colossians 2: 6,7). Small groups provide a healthy environment which encourages spiritual growth, as relationships are made and a sense of belonging established.

Groups go by different names: home groups, cell groups, care groups, discipleship groups etc. Whatever the name, the focus should be the same: a small gathering of people committed to spiritual growth. Unfortunately, it's easy for them to become inward looking and cliquy. So where do the challenges lie?

Small groups are places for growth:

Groups are not simply places to share information about ourselves and the Bible, etc. They are places of *formation*, where we can learn to grow Christ-like character i.e. developing the fruit of the Spirit, and then exploring the Spirit's gifts in a safe place of experimenting and making mistakes.

Small groups are places for accountability:

In a group we're not on our own, but we share the Christian journey with those who can encourage us on the way. These are the people who can hold us to account about how things are going: *'what is God doing in my life and how do I need to grow?'*

Small groups are places for mission:

Small groups also provide a place where we can *voice* the story of how God has been at work in our lives and is using us. This gives us the confidence that we need to share our story with work colleagues, friends and family, as we speak of our faith in Christ.

One lady told how she took her granddaughter to church for the first time. As they knelt in the tall-sided pew, the little girl whispered, *'Who are we hiding from?'* It is harder to hide from ourselves or from one another in the smaller group, than in the crowd.

Canon Paul Hardingham
Parish Pump

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We think of friends, family and members of our congregation who are unwell, either at home or in hospital, or anxious at this time and we remember those who have been bereaved.

In October, in addition to members of the in-house Worship team, we were pleased to welcome Linda Rayner once again who led our worship on 20 OCT. Thank you for your support Linda.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who supported the October Coffee Morning and Cake Sale when £148.70 was raised for Macmillan Nurses.

The retiring collection for 'Link to Hope' in place of shoeboxes raised £55 but, following the Church meeting agreement, this was made up to £200.

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

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 13 SEPT 2025 - Concert with Chapel Male Voice Choir

=====

**SOUP, SWEET
& MEET**
Wed 20 NOV
noon~1.30pm

=====

CTCH

I don't think it was strictly a CTCH event, but we were invited, to the Baptist church, for a wonderful concert by the Glissando Girls (mostly members of the Halle choir) in aid of a youth project in Ukraine. They were harmoniously wonderful.



**Sat 14 DEC ~ 10.30 am
CAROLS IN THE PARK
in Oak Meadow**

**followed by hot drink and mince pie
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Bernie

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



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The December newsletter will be available on Sunday 1st. You could help to raise funds for our Church charities by inserting a single, personalised greeting instead of sending lots of individual cards. Just put your greeting along with a donation into an envelope marked "Christmas Greetings" and hand to either Alison or myself please by **Sunday 24 NOV.**

Bernie Stevens

TOYS NEEDED



PLEASE NOTE

The annual Toy Service is Sun 24 NOV and needs lots of Good as new items to re-distribute via The Dandelion Community (URC, Wythenshawe.

Bernie

WHAT BISHOPS DO

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors, and the bishop, were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, "Does anyone know what the bishop does?"

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "He's the one who can move crossways..."

Parish Pump



ECO-CONSCIOUS REFLECTION AND NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

As the winter months unfold, bringing a time of introspection and renewal, it's an opportune moment for us to pause and reflect on our journey towards sustainability. This is not just a season of shorter days and colder nights, but also a chance to ignite a deeper connection with our eco-conscious commitments.

Celebrate Your Green Milestones: Begin by acknowledging your accomplishments over the past year. Did you switch to a plant-based diet, reduce your carbon footprint, or support eco-friendly brands? Every small action contributes to a larger impact. Celebrate these victories, no matter how minor they may seem. Remember, in the realm of sustainable living, every step counts.

Learn from Challenges: Reflect on the challenges you faced. Perhaps you struggled to find sustainable alternatives for certain products, or grappled with balancing cost and eco-friendliness. Understanding these hurdles is crucial for growth. Share these experiences with your community; collective wisdom is a powerful tool in our journey towards a greener lifestyle.

Set Sustainable Goals: As you usher in the new year, set realistic and meaningful eco-goals. These might include reducing waste, engaging in more sustainable shopping practices, or advocating for environmental causes. Be specific with your objectives. For instance, instead of a broad goal like 'reduce waste', aim for 'start composting kitchen scraps' or 'switch to reusable coffee cups'.

Educate and Inspire: The new year is also a time to deepen your understanding of environmental issues. Commit to educating yourself about topics like fast fashion, renewable energy, or biodiversity. Your learning journey can inspire others, so consider sharing insights on your platform.

Join Forces with the Community: Remember, sustainable living thrives in community. Engage with local groups, participate in environmental campaigns, or join online forums. Together, we can amplify our impact and drive meaningful change.

The Green Muse

THE STORY BEHIND 'TO GOD BE THE GLORY!'

Fanny Crosby (1820~1915), the American singer and musician, was blind from the age of six weeks. She married her music teacher, Alexander Van Alstyne, who was **also blind**. She was a prolific song-writer, and once signed a contract with a publisher to write three songs every week for a year. She in fact wrote thousands during her lifetime.

Although American evangelists Moody and Sankey used **this** hymn on their missions, it did not become an immediate favourite. But after Billy Graham featured it in his Haringey crusade in 1954, Londoners were soon singing it on their way home, in streets and busy queues and underground trains.

When Dr Graham took it back to the United States and introduced it at his crusade in Nashville, Tennessee, it soon took its place in the group of top favourites hymns...

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;*

*Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things
He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

Parish Pump

REMEMBRANCE & GRATITUDE

This year Remembrance includes several significant dates from past conflicts...

2024 marks the 110th anniversary of the start of World War I.

2024 marks 80 years since D-Day. The Normandy Landings of 6th June were the largest seaborne invasion in earth history, and began the Allied invasion of Normandy, which led to the liberation of France and laid the foundations of the Allied victory on the Western Front.

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy, the bloodiest battle of the Italian Campaign, when Allied forces finally broke through the Germans' notorious 'Gustav Line' and freed Route Six and the way to Rome.

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the battles for Kohima and Imphal, where in northeast India the Imperial Japanese Army was held off by much smaller numbers of British and Indian troops. In Kohima alone, the defenders held off a staggering 25 Japanese attacks over 14 days in appalling conditions. Amongst the liberators was Havildar Major Rajindar Singh Dhatt of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

2024 also marks the 80th anniversary of Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands, when the Allies managed to free Eindhoven and Nijmegen, but famously failed to capture the bridge at Arnhem. (The story is told in the film *A Bridge too Far*, and by Alison Stevens' dad)

As the **Royal British Legion** says, "While D-Day was fundamental to the allied victory, the Second World War was not won on any single day – or battle – and we will recognise and pay tribute to all who served from the British Armed Forces, Commonwealth and allied nations, such as those who served in the Battles of Monte Cassino, Imphal and Kohima, Operation Market Garden and the Scheldt.

This year the British Legion is also looking beyond the Second World War, to Kosovo and Afghanistan. It wants to pay tribute to those who served and currently serve in Kosovo 25 years after the deployment of the NATO peacekeeping force, KFOR, and to those who served in Afghanistan, as this year marks 10 years since the end of Operation Herrick.

Parish Pump

CHRIST THE KING

24th November is the Sunday of Christ the King, when we look forward...

Peace My soul, there is a country
Far beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
All skilful in the wars:

There, above noise and danger,
Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles,
And one born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files,

He is thy gracious Friend,
And – O my soul, awake! –
Did in pure love descend
To die here for thy sake.

If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flower of Peace,
The Rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress and thy ease.

Leave then thy foolish ranges;
For none can thee secure
But one who never changes –
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

By Henry Vaughan 1623~95

WHEN POVERTY PUSHES PEOPLE INTO DARK PLACES

As Christmas approaches, the charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is warning that "Poverty has become more ruthless than ever. There are rarely simple solutions anymore. Families can't afford to live, let alone repay debt, as incomes don't cover the basics."

CAP tells the story of Bea, one of its clients. "Like nearly half of CAP's clients, Bea's income wasn't enough to live on. She and her husband had been made redundant and, no matter how careful she was, after paying for rent, food, and other essentials, the money couldn't stretch to the end of the month. "I got to the point where I didn't want to be here. I was in a black hole, and couldn't get out."

Nearly half of CAP's clients have attempted or considered suicide as a way out of debt, as on-going poverty and debt is literally driving people to the brink.

And so this Christmas, CAP is asking for support, as “your gift to CAP could save lives. The holistic care and debt help local churches across the UK are providing is vital for people like Bea.”

If you would like to send a donation, please visit: <https://capuk.org>

Parish Pump

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

The Missional Partnership prayer for **Wilmslow URC** (now moved on to the Mersey Synod):

For all your blessings, gracious God, we give you thanks.

- For the work of Wilmslow in the community
- With young people through the continuing work of Wilmslow Youth
- For the support for their parents and families
- With Messy Church and its families, for possibilities and ministry
- For the many groups who meet on the premises
- With outreach and contact with our neighbours
- For growing relations with the Health Centre, the Council and other Cheshire East organisations

- And we pray for the congregation, members and friends of the Church
- For groups and activities that provide a network of support
- For new opportunities ahead
- And for all the Church is called to do in the months and years ahead.

In your loving mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen



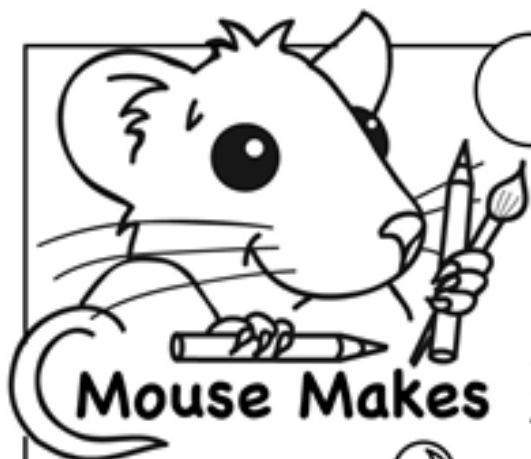
SUDOKU

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

HOW WE RUN THE CHURCH

- Worship Group** - looks after services etc
- Management Grp** - looks after finances and fabric (building)
- Elders** - oversee all day to day
- Church meeting** - has strategic command of everything.

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Mouse Makes

"DO AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU."

The disciples had met with Jesus in an upper room to share a meal together, but there were no servants to wash their dusty feet. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer clothing, wrapped a towel around his waist and began to wash the disciples' feet just like a servant would do.



Then Jesus said:

"Do you understand what I have done for you? Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done for you."



READ

the story in
John 13:1-17

By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed that as God's people we are never too important to serve and care for others.

S C L O T H I N G S
 N U N D E R S T A N D T
 G S W I P E T E R E W R
 W D A U A S E R V A N T A E H M
 A O R P S C L E A N X O T X O A
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JESUS
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 FEAST • SUPPER • MEAL

PETER
 SCRIPTURES
 LORD • TEACHER
 SERVANT • MASTER

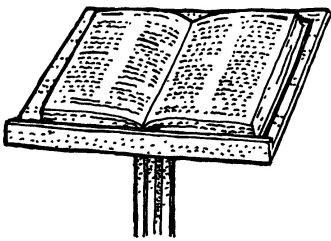
GARMENTS • CLOTHING • TOWEL • WAIST • WATER • BASIN • WASH • FEET • WIPE
 CLEAN • UNDERSTAND • OTHERS • EXAMPLE • DO • LOVED • CHOSEN • BLESSED

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 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	3 NOV	10 NOV		11 NOV	17 NOV	24 NOV
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	MP Zoom Evening Service	Armistice Day	Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	***6.30 pm***	10.45 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leader	Chris Whitehead	Rev Peter Sharp	Rev Kurauone Mutimwii	Bernie Stevens	Rev Steph Atkins	In House
Elder Duty	P Oliver	S Smith		A Stevens	D Phillips / A Stevens	B Stevens
Door	H Elsdon	G Elsdon			J Hodson	P Grieve
Reader						
Flowers	Silk	Remembrance		Remembrance	Remembrance	P Grieve
Coffee	B & A Stevens	TBA			M Hardie	H Elsdon
Notes		REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Meeting ID: ...ask... Passcode	ARMISTICE DAY	HOLY COMMUNION	TOY SERVICE



LECTIONARY for NOVEMBER

3 NOV: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9.11-14; Mark 12.28-34

10 NOV: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9.24-28; Mark 12.38-44

17 NOV: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10.11-14(15-18)19-25; Mark 13.1-8

20 NOV: Daniel 7.9-10,13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1.4b-8; John 18.33-37

SUDOKU answers...

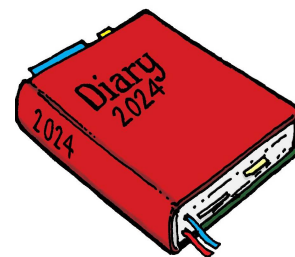
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8	7	3	6	1	2	4	5	9
2	1	4	9	3	5	7	6	8

Members, friends & neighbours

FILM MATINEE

Sat 23 NOV

CALENDAR



To the best of the Editor's knowledge, unless you know better...

NOVEMBER

Fri 01	2 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Sat 02	10~11.30am	Coffee Morning and Cake Sale for ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	
Mon 04			
Tues 05			
Wed 06	1.30 ~2.30 pm	Fellowship Circle	7.00pm Elders' meeting
Thu 07			7.30 pm MP Steering Group - Zoom
Fri 08	2 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Mon 11			
Tues 12			
Wed 13	1.30 ~2.30 pm	Fellowship Circle	
Thu 14			
Fri 15	2 pm	Choir rehearsal	
Mon 18			
Tues 19			
Wed 20	12 ~ 2pm	SOUP, SWEET and MEET and Fellowship	
Thu 21			
Fri 22	2 pm	Choir rehearsal	
Sat 23	2.30 pm	FILM MATINEE	
Mon 25			
Tues 26			7.00pm 1st Advent Bible Study - Bramhall
Wed 27	1.30 ~2.30 pm	Fellowship Circle	
Thu 28			
Fri 29	10 am	Management meeting	2 pm Choir rehearsal
Sat 30			

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