

# CH URC NEWS

65 Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme  
STOCKPORT SK8 7HU  
[www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk](http://www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk)

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Partnership Ministers: Rev Kurauone Mutimwii  
Rev Stephanie Atkins

## Friends, A Christmas Reflection...

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6)

As my family and I prepare for our first Christmas here in Manchester, we are experiencing a wonderful blending of familiar traditions with the new. Old decorations bring happy memories to our new home, our children act out nativity plays with new friends, and we enjoy singing traditional carols with new congregations. While there is comfort in finding the known in a new place, I am also reminded to be open to how these familiar words sound in these streets and in this world. What am I hearing differently in this context? What is God pointing me to?

The headlines continue to be filled with news of war, corruption, and rhetoric that seeks to divide rather than unite, and yet in this ever-changing world we still gather to draw comfort from the familiar yet powerful promises of the Christmas story. The surprise of a child who, as Eugene Peterson writes, will grow up to 'say the big nouns: joy, glory, peace; and live the best verbs: love, forgive, save.'<sup>1</sup> A radical gospel that is just as needed in these times as it was when it was first proclaimed two thousand years ago.

We all need peace this Christmas. Peace for our families when the endless list of preparations becomes too much, or tensions run high around the dinner table. Peace for those leading activities and services for others, worrying if they have overlooked something important. Peace for those experiencing grief, loneliness, discrimination, or anxiety about their circumstances. Peace for those caught in conflicts that rage around the world, especially in the land we call holy.

As we work, speak out, and pray for peace for our world this Christmas, remember to take some time to welcome the peace of Christ into your own life. As Jesus said 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' (John 14:27)

A peaceful Christmas to us all from **Rev Stephanie Atkins**



**DECEMBER 2024**



## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Our thoughts and prayers are with friends, family and members of our congregation who, for whatever reason, are unable to be with us on Sundays or for any social events and we think of those who have been in hospital.

Our congratulations go to Heather and David Frankish following the arrival of their first grandchild, Sophie, a daughter for Rachel and James and a niece for Louise. Best wishes to you all for the future.

In November, in addition to members of the in-house Worship team, we were grateful to Christopher Whitehead and Rev Peter Sharp for leading our worship and special thanks to Denny Phillips for his part on Remembrance Sunday when he played The Last Post and The Reveille. It meant a lot to hear them played live. We were really pleased to welcome Rev Steph for the first time to lead our worship on 17 Nov. Thank you Steph.

2024 has seen some changes in our regular congregation. Mo Morton has moved to Buxton to be nearer to family: Marjorie Wightman is now in a nursing home in Bolsover, Chesterfield, also to be near to family, and Bernice Platt is living in Ladybrook Manor in Bramhall. Please contact Alison for any new addresses. We are missing them all for their various inputs into the different areas of our Church life. We thank them for what they helped us to achieve and wish them and their families all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Our Coffee Morning in December raised £121 for the **Royal British Legion** as well as £55.92 for poppies. Well done and thank you all. Our Christingle will support The Children's Society.

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

**The News Team**

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**COFFEE MORNING and CHRISTMAS  
BRING & BUY STALL with RAFFLE**

Sat 2 DEC 10

am ~ 12 noon



...in aid of our church charities

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**CAROLS IN  
THE PARK  
Sat 14 DEC  
~ 10.30 am**



**in Oak Meadow  
followed by hot drink + mince pie  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

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## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Wishing everyone at Swann Lane a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2025"  
Phil Arrowsmith

Heather, David and Louise Frankish send best wishes to all at Cheadle Hulme URC for Christmas and the New Year.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. Carole x

Norman & Mildred Burnell send greetings to all at CHURC for Christmas and Best Wishes for a bright future. We left in 1999 but remember our time at Cheadle Hulme. Names of people we knew then appear regularly and trigger good memories.

Bernie & Alison Stevens wish you all a wonderful Christmas break to recharge your batteries and renew your spirits.

*Madge and Ann Hardie wish all their friends at Swann Lane a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.*

Christmas wishes and all the best for 2025 to all our friends at Swann Lane with grateful thanks for all your support for Christian Aid and Transform Trade throughout the year.

Morag and Sandy

Don and family wish everyone a warm, friendly, and happy Christmas and New Year.

**Thanks for donations in lieu of postage...**



DEAR ALISON & CONGREGATION

Thank you all for the beautiful flowers which arrived last week . I have placed them in the foyer for everyone to enjoy & they have been very much admired by all the residents. All my love to you all & best wishes for the future

Thank you all for your kind gesture  
*Mo*

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**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
**£10 (pre-booked)**  
**WED 18 DEC**  
**12 FOR 12.30pm**  
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**CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

**WELCOME**

Welcome, Jesus baby  
 To a world that is waiting,  
 Welcome, Jesus baby  
 To a world needing joy,  
 Thank you for the presents  
 That you bring us on your birth day,  
 Peace, love and hope  
 Wrapped in one baby boy.

*By Daphne Kitching  
 Parish Pump*

**SAFEGUARDING**

What is Safeguarding and why does it matter?

We hear in the news about another case of abuse of one sort or another. They are unusual, that makes them **news**, but doesn't the media make a meal of it, producing salacious headlines. Worst of all, it especially hurts when the faith sector is involved, but itself is a reflection of much community involvement.

Bad things happen my granny would say but if we can stop any of this abuse happening at all then we must make a big effort. That's what **Safeguarding** is trying to do. The government has generated rules and guidelines to help us navigate life in a civilised society, where we respect and support one another. These are Safeguarding laws. We no longer live in caves.

The meek and mild of our communities are those at risk, usually the children, and sometimes vulnerable adults, both of whom are not always able to look after themselves.

And what are the 6 abuses? <sup>1</sup>Physical, <sup>2</sup>sexual, <sup>3</sup>emotional, <sup>4</sup>psychological, <sup>5</sup>economic, <sup>6</sup>cultural, any of which may come from any direction. The 1st is obvious - well no, it includes neglect and self harm! 2nd includes denigrating comments, even wolf whistles. 3rd, includes lack of love ~esp'ly children. 4th, involves mental health. 5th is loss of financial control. 6th inc gender and identity. So it's not at all straight forward, but it's often about power and control, and maybe over a period of time that wears down the victim.

Many organisations (from schools to scouts) provide graded training for employees / members, just like the URC's required courses: **Basic** (~Elders) , **Intermediate** (secretaries) and **Advanced** (~Ministers and Safeguarders).

All this works because we are ALL involved; the law says you, yes **you, must report** abuse if you suspect it. Not sure? You must report and let those more qualified decide.

Report to who? **Our** Safeguarding lead at the moment happens to be the secretary Alison Stevens, who you can talk to. There is also a sheet in the main hall of other contacts, from the Synod, the Social services and the Police.

Stay safe. **Bernie**

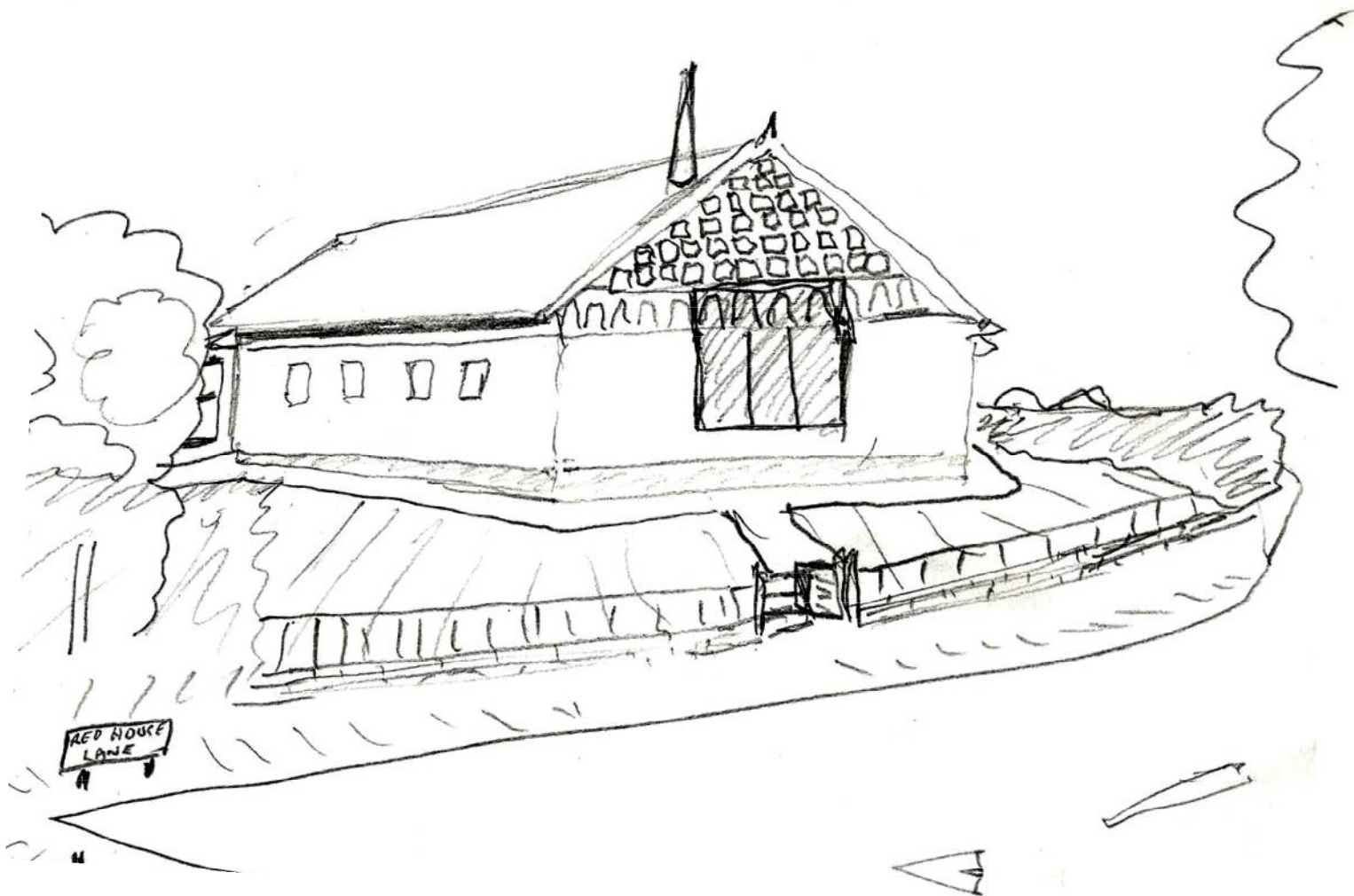
## MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

I completed my Stepwise course called **Faith Filled Life**, the URC training scheme for Elders and worship leaders. Thank you too to those who were in the wrong place at the right time to support making a **Prayer banner** as my concluding project. The course was not as onerous as I feared.

The partnership held a successful '**Retreat Day**', where I made a Christmas wreath with both holly and ivy and sketched the (Methodist's) **Chapel in the Fields** venue (~Dunham Massey). It's abundantly clear that I'm not artistic in either field but I was able to reflect on our place in God's world.

Following these excursions into messy activities, we now look forward to the various shared services in this **busy** Christmas period (including the Church's Together Oak Meadow carol service).

**Bernie**



Members, friends & neighbours

**FILM MATINEE**

**Sat 14 DEC**



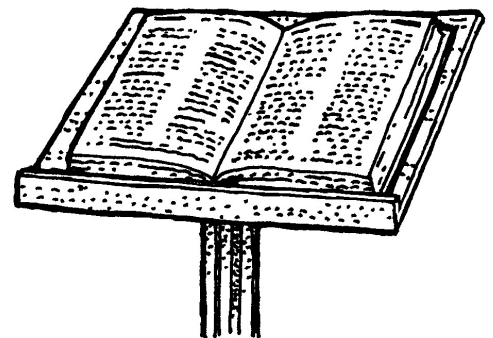
## SERVICES

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	1 DEC	8 DEC	15 DEC	16 DEC	22 DEC	25 DEC	29 DEC
Service	CHRISTINGLE Service	Morning Worship	Lessons & Carols	Bereavement Service 'Light	Morning Worship	Welcome Service	Morning Worship
Time	10.30 am	10.30 am	10.30 am	<b>7.30 pm</b>	10.30 am	<b>10 am</b>	10.30 am
Leader	Rev Steph Atkins	Chris Whitehead	In House	Margaret Dexter-Brown	Sandy Smith	Bernie Stevens	Rev Kurauone Mutimwii
Elder Duty	P Oliver	B Stevens	S Smith	A Stevens	D Phillips	A Stevens	<b>CHEADLE HULME CLOSED</b>  <b>JOINT SERVICE AT HEALD GREEN</b>
Door Reader	M Smith	M Hardie	various		J Hodson		
Flowers	Fellowship	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	
Coffee	S Smith	M Smith	A Stevens	tba	B Stevens		
Notes	Advent Sunday					Christmas Day	

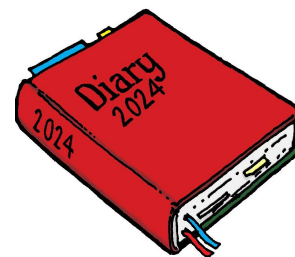
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**Bereavement Service of Light**  
**Mon 7.30 pm**  
**16 DEC 2024**  
**Led by Margaret Dexter-Brown**  
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## LECTIONARY for DECEMBER

- DEC 1: Jeremiah 33.14-16; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36
- DEC 8: Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 1.68-79 (Benedictus); Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6
- DEC 15: Zephaniah 3.14-20; Isaiah 12.2-6 (Canticle); Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18
- DEC 22: Micah 5.2-5a; Luke 1.46b-55 (Magnificat); Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45(46-55)
- DEC 25: Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-14,(15-20)
- DEC 29: 1 Samuel 2.18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

# CALENDAR



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

## DECEMBER

Mon 02

Tues 03

Wed 04

Thu 05

Fri 06

Sat 07

Sun 08

Mon 09

Tues 10

Wed 11

Thu 12

Fri 13

Sat 14

7pm Advent Bible Study @ Bramhall

7pm Elders' meeting - Church

7.30pm MP Steering Group - Zoom

2pm Choir Rehearsal

**10 - 11.30 am Coffee Morning, Cake Sale and stall in aid of Church charities**

7pm Advent Bible Study @ Bramhall

9-10am Pre-School Nativity in church

7.30pm Worship group on Zoom

2pm Choir rehearsal

**10.30am CTCH Carols in the Park - Oak Meadow**

**2.30pm FILM MATINEE**

**7.30pm Bereavement Service of Light**

7pm Advent Bible Study @ Bramhall

**12 ~ 2pm Christmas Lunch (pre-booked)**

2 pm Choir rehearsal

Mon 23

Tues 24

Wed 25

Thu 26

Fri 27

Sat 28

**10am Christmas Welcome Service ~ Bernie Stevens**

Mon 30

Tues 31

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[swannlanesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:swannlanesecretary@gmail.com)

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