

# CH URC NEWS

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*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

Partnership Ministers: Rev Kuraone Mutimwii  
Rev Stephanie Atkins

**APRIL 2025**

**Friends,**

## Being People of Safety and Solidarity this Easter

As we journey through Lent towards Easter, the gospel stories we share on Sundays highlight the many risks and dangers in discipleship. We hear again and again of the challenges the disciples went through in following Christ, and the difficult nature of the path Christ was walking in obedience to God. Think of the two who were sent to take stranger's donkey for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem, those who witnessed him being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter being put on the spot about his allegiance to Christ, and the women who stayed with Christ at the cross when everyone else had left him. Every step Jesus took was fraught with danger, pain, and tears. Religious, social and political power were stacked against him. It was so risky for anyone to identify with Christ.



There are many people in our communities and world that are hurting right now. Those in situations of danger who, like Christ, know rejection, oppression, persecution, and the deep pain of being abandoned by those they once trusted. This Easter let us find ways that we can be people and places of safety and solidarity in our troubled world. Through the welcome and friendship we offer, through prayer, through speaking out against injustice, and through giving what we can in time or money to support those in need. Let us be sustained and inspired by the living hope and peace of the resurrected Christ, who came and endured so much so that all may 'have life and have it abundantly' (John 10:10).

**Rev Kuraone Mutimwii and Rev Stephanie Atkins  
GM S Missional Partnership Ministers**

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We think of those in our fellowship who are unwell at home or in hospital and those known to use who have been bereaved. We have recently learned that Christine Harker, who was a member here at Cheadle Hulme with husband Tom, sadly passed away on 15 MAR in a Kendal Nursing Home aged 91yrs. There will be a private committal at Beetham Crematorium followed by a service of celebration at the URC, 106 Highgate, Kendal on Tuesday 15 APR at 3pm. A JustGiving page has been set up for donations to Lakeland Arts - <https://www.justgiving.com/page/christine-harker>

Our thanks go to Liz Delafield, Margaret Dexter-Brown, Rev Kuraone Mutimwii, Rev Peter Sharp as well as Morag & Sandy from our 'in house' team for leading our worship in March.

We send best wishes to all those who will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary in April.

Sadly, we have just learnt of the passing of Derek Weedon in his Chesterfield care home. A long time member at CH URC with his late wife, Beryl, and their children Ruth, Rachel, Emma, and David. A former Head of Geography at Cheadle Hulme School, we will remember them in our prayers.

### *The News Team*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY SUN 13 APRIL - CHURCH MEETING

### CTCH

### LENT LUNCHES 2025

2 remaining...

5 April - Friends

12 April - Methodist

No charge, but donations to  
Christian Aid are welcome

OPEN SERVICE  
on OAK MEADOW

HOLY SATURDAY  
19 APRIL 11am

followed by hot drink  
and hot cross buns.



## PARTNERSHIP PRAYER

### RE - GATLEY URC

As we give thanks for the world in which we live, may we pray for peace for which we all crave – where the light will overcome the darkness, and women and children in war-torn areas will be able to live and grow in the love that comes from the one great family of nations.

O Lord, hear our prayer. Amen

### Partnership Lent Bible Study

Details of these are on the calendar, back page. The Heald Green 'in person' sessions on Tuesday afternoons are repeated on Wednesday evenings on Zoom.

## SOUP, SWEET & MEET WED 16 APRIL Noon ~ 1.30pm

### AN AFTER-EASTER PRAYER

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies  
Within a hallowed sphere  
Don't praise Him only in your churches  
In Easter hymn and prayer...

Keep Him beside you through  
The business of ordinary days,  
In the common place encounters  
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply  
What He would have us do....  
He taught: "Love one another  
Even as I love you."

*By Elsie Campbell*

### PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP

The convenor, Rev Bob Day, has stepped down after guiding us through a pivotal developmental period from 2021, that also saw us select and commission both current Partnership ministers, Kura and Steph. He is followed by Alison Haigh from Heald Green, an experienced convenor and already a member of the group. He was presented with an Olive tree from Embrace, which supports farmers in Palestine, and an Amazon voucher.

**Bernie**

## MAVIS JOY DAVIES

Mavis was born in Hastings on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1933 to Frederick and Mildred Kennard. Fred died when Mavis was only two years old. For practical reasons, Mavis and her mother moved to live with her auntie Nora who lived in St Leonards. In 1939 they then moved to Norfolk to help another aunt look after Grandma who had had a stroke on a visit and couldn't travel back to Sussex. Mavis stayed in Shipdham, attending the local primary school and then on to East Dereham High School for girls. As a child she did a lot of cycling – there were very few cars and no public transport. From the age of 11 she had to cycle 8 miles each way to and from school. Her mother was a dressmaker and fashioned brown paper garments to wear under her gabardine in winter.

On leaving school at 16 she moved to Liverpool for further education, which was a big shock after the clean air and clear skies of Norfolk. Then on to employment as a Lab Technician for Distillers Company who were pharmaceutical manufacturers (a job of which she was very proud). When in Liverpool she met Bill at a YHA club, who she married in 1956. After two years they moved to Manchester with Bill's employment and took up residence in Cheadle Hulme. Paul and Rebecca were born here. Bill had a change of career which took them back to Liverpool and Jan was born in Rainhill in 1964. In '65 Bill took up a teaching post in Cheadle, so the family moved back and Mavis has been here ever since; first in Madison Avenue, then Moss Nook, back to Hilton Drive, and then Swann Grove, to be nearer to church. At this stage, Mavis realised she would have to give up driving due to failing eyesight.

Members, friends & neighbours

## FILM MATINEE

Sat 26 APRIL ~2.30pm

She spent most of her retirement with John Osborne and shared his passions for gardening, Choral music and Austria. When in Austria, he introduced her to many of his friends, who have remained her own dear friends since John died. As a child in Shipdham, Mavis did all the usual things that children did in villages at that time – Child Friendly Society, British Red Cross, Girl

Guides. But her real love was campanology. Once tall enough to reach the Sally, and trained, it was twice on Sunday, 2-3 times a week in the home church and exchanges with other teams in Norfolk (lots of bells in Norfolk!). She always loved choral singing – starting aged 12 in the choir of the local parish church. Then in Liverpool in the choir of her church and finally here at Swann Lane. She also sang in Gatley Choral, the Lawrence Singers, Stockport Festival Choir and the North Wales Summer School each summer.

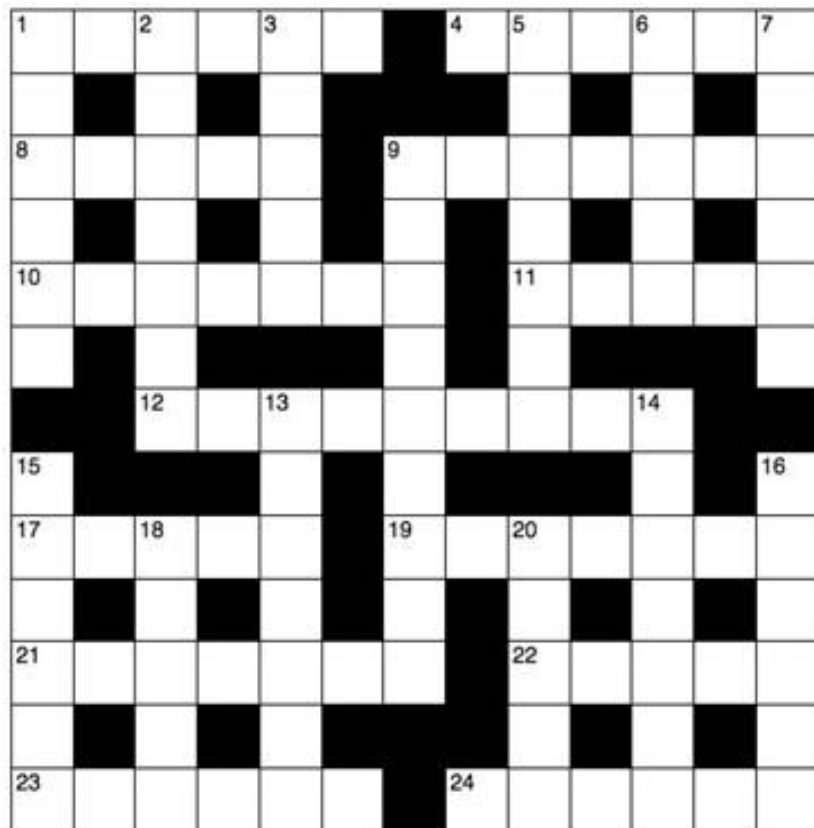


Her other love was working with flowers – in the garden and arranging cut flowers. As Dorothy Frances Gurney says: One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth. Her first experience of flower arranging was at the local church as a child when decorating churches was popular. Easter Sunday was a flower festival and the children were responsible for the windowsills, filling fish paste jars with primroses and hedgerow flowers gleaned for days beforehand. Talking of hobbies, we must not forget the sewing and knitting that have kept her hands constantly busy. Friendships were very important to Mum and we are grateful to all of you for coming to celebrate her life today.

*written by Mavis herself,  
read by daughter Jan  
Paul and Rebecca also read poems*

**Bernie** also detailed Mavis' extensive work within the church from youth work and jumble sales to flower arranging, magazine reporter to charity adviser, not to mention sewing & holding Fellowship meets at home and a thousand other roles, over years. He drew parallels with Tabitha (called Dorcas) in Acts 9 who also selflessly supported her friends. Finally, *I think* we heard her singing on a recorded blessing by The Lawrence Singers.





### Across

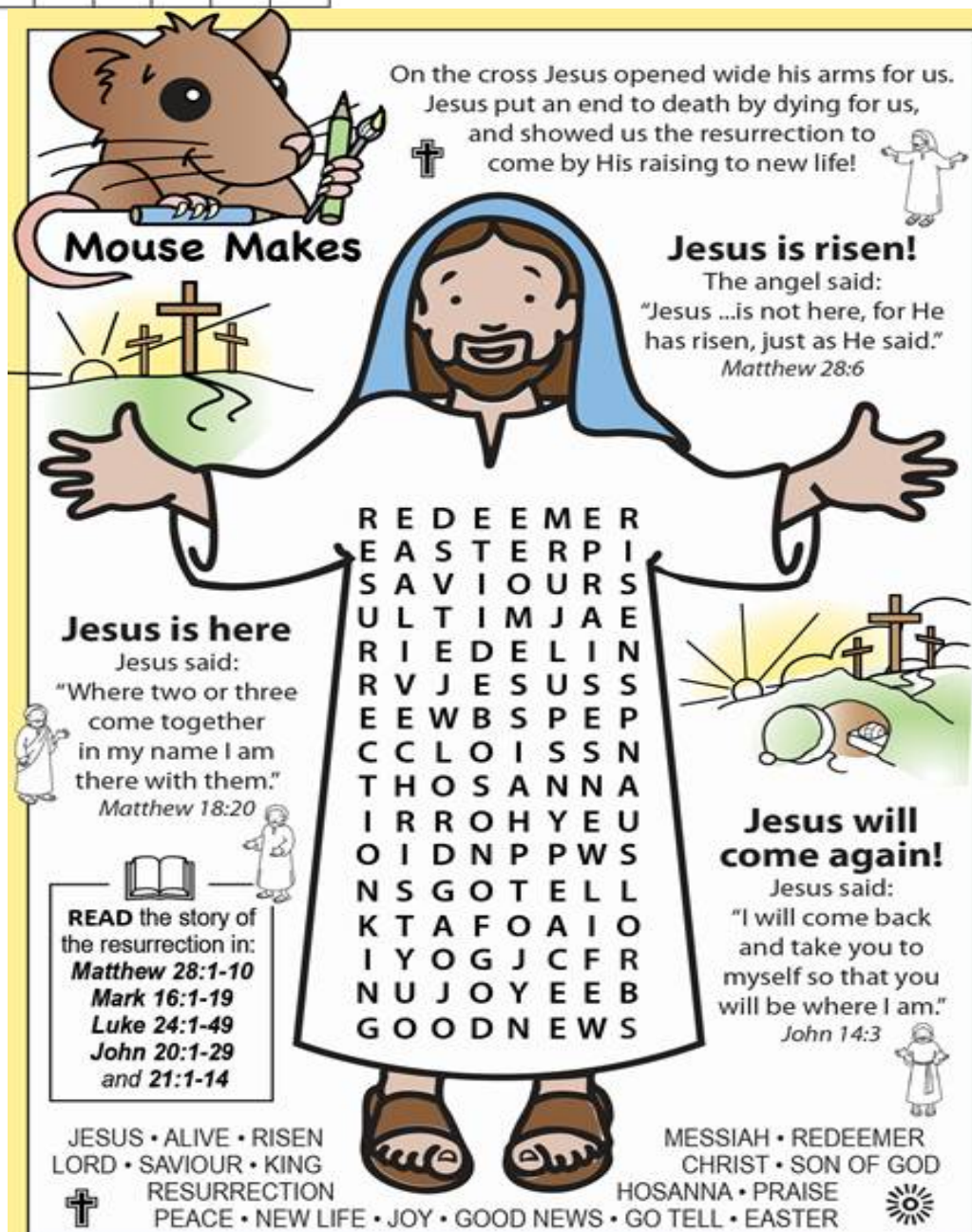
- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)  
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)  
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)  
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)  
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)  
 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)  
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)  
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)  
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)  
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)  
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)

23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

### Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)  
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)  
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)  
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)  
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)  
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)  
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)  
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)  
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)  
 15 The human mind or soul (6)  
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)  
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)  
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)



## 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       | 6 APR           | 13 APR                        | 17 APR          | 18 APR   | 20 APR          | 27 APR                |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Service    | Morning Worship | Morning Worship               | Tenebrae        | Morning Worship  | Morning Worship | Morning Communion     |
| Time       | 10.30am         | 10.30am                       | 8.00pm          | 10.00am  | 10.30 am        | 10.30 am              |
| Leader     | In House        | Rev Stephanie Atkins          | Bernie Stevens  | Rev Kurauone Mutimwii  | Worship Group   | Margaret Dexter-Brown |
| Elder Duty | P Oliver        | B Stevens                     | A Stevens       | CHEADLE<br>HULME<br>CLOSED<br><br>SERVICE AT<br>HEALD<br>GREEN | D Phillips      | P Oliver/<br>S Smith  |
| Door       | various         | M Smith                       |                 |  | M Hardie        | H Elsdon              |
| Reader     |                 |                               |                 |  |                 |                       |
| Flowers    | Silk            | A Stevens                     |                 |  | Silk            | Silk                  |
| Coffee     | S Smith         | M Hardie                      |                 |  | M Smith         | B Stevens             |
| Notes      | PASSION SUNDAY  | PALM SUNDAY<br>Church meeting | MAUNDY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY  | EASTER SUNDAY   | HOLY COMMUNION        |

## CHURCH REGISTERS - FUNERAL

MAVIS JOY DAVIES, who died on 18 February 2025 aged 91 yrs, at Stockport Crematorium and Cheadle Hulme on Thursday 20 March 2025.

## LECTIONARY for APRIL 2025

**6 APR:** Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8

**13 APR:** Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 118.1-2,19-29; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 19.28-40; Luke 22.14-23.56

**20 APR:** Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; John 20.1-18; Luke 24.1-12

**27 APR:** Acts 5.27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31



## DAVID WILLIAMS MEMORIAL AWARD

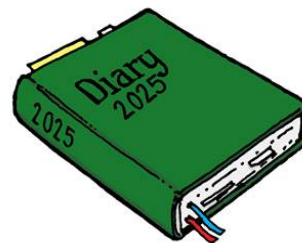
Thanks to the generosity of the late David Williams, we are excited to say that Gabriel Jones, a Tenor student at the Royal Northern College of Music, is the recipient of this sponsorship award. Prior to his MMus studies, Gabriel read French and History at King's College, Cambridge but is now turning his part-time musical passion into a full-time area of devotion and study.

Bernie and I recently attended a splendid performance he made with the Lindow Singers in Wilmslow when Gabriel sang the tenor solos in *Stainer's Crucifixion*. He is currently singing the role of the Narrator in two performances of the RNCM Spring Opera, *Owen Wingrave*.

We hope that it will be possible for Gabriel to take part in a concert at Church on 13 September 2025 with Chapel-en-le-Frith Male Voice Choir, of which David's brother, Robert, is a member.

*Alison Stevens*

# CALENDAR



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

## APRIL

|         |            |   |
|---------|------------|---|
| Tues 01 | 1.30pm     | Partnership Lent Bible Study - Heald Green URC                |
| Wed 02  | 7pm        | Partnership Lent Bible Study on Zoom                          |
| Thu 03  | 7.30pm     | MP Steering Group - Altrincham                                |
| Fri 04  | 2 pm       | Choir rehearsal   |
| Sat 05  | 10-11.30am | COFFEE MORNING in aid of <b>SUK JAI ORPHANAGE</b>             |
|         | 12-2pm     | CTCH Lent Lunch - <b>Friends</b>                              |
| Mon 07  |            |   |
| Tues 08 | 1.30pm     | Partnership Lent Bible Study - Heald Green URC                |
| Wed 09  | 7pm        | Elders' Meet at Church 7pm Partnership Lent Bible Study ~Zoom |
| Thu 10  | 7.30pm     | Worship Group on zoom   |
| Fri 11  | 2 pm       | Choir rehearsal   |
| Sat 12  | 12-2pm     | CTCH Lent Lunch - <b>Methodist</b>                            |
| Sun 13  | 11.45am    | CHURCH MEETING  |
| Mon 14  |            |   |
| Tues 15 |            |   |
| Wed 16  | 12 ~ 2pm   | <b>Soup, Sweet &amp; Meet</b>                                 |
| Thu 17  |            |   |
| Fri 18  | 2 pm       | Choir rehearsal   |
| Sat 19  | 11am       | CTCH Service on Oak Meadow                                    |
| Mon 21  |            |   |
| Tues 22 |            |   |
| Wed 23  |            |   |
| Thu 24  |            |   |
| Fri 25  | 10am       | Management meeting 2 pm Choir rehearsal                       |
| Sat 26  | 2.30pm     | <b>FILM MATINEE</b>   |
| Mon 28  |            |   |
| Tues 29 |            |   |
| Wed 30  |            |   |



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**ACROSS:** 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:** 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

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Last date for MAY 2025 copy is 20 Apr 2025  
 Published & Printed by Alison & Bernie Stevens 01625 877 180  
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