

Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church

CHURC NEWS

Swann Lane Cheadle Hulme Cheshire SK8 7HU
www.churc.org.uk



Partnership Ministers: Rev Kurauone Mutimwii
Rev Stephanie Atkins

JANUARY 2026

Friends

The Opportunity for Stewardship ~ Mark 6

⁴³ *The disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.*

⁴⁴ *The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.*

Advent and Christmas time, being a time of sharing gifts, can also be a time people tend to over indulge, overspend, and wastefully fill up and throw away in our bins, wipe our mouths, come and claim we identify with Christ with little regard that someone somewhere cannot afford a meal and we probably may be in need in the near future. In moments like these when we seem to have plenty with us, we could be easily drifted away from the awareness that none of whatever good around us, especially the gift of Jesus Christ, is of our own making.

Perhaps, for the disciples of Christ it is our opportunity to whisper some sense of stewardship within people, maybe reminding each other to combat the tendency for excesses in our consumer habits, to keep guard against insatiable hoarding of things around ourselves, to keep guard against lack of generosity, unwillingness to welcome others to our tables and against wastefulness. May we teach that stewardship is our response to God's miracle of providence as we acknowledge that all we are, have or will be, we have received from God's care, and the generosity of others. Our satisfaction is by the blessing of God; therefore, we must consume what we need and save surplus for others and for unknown days to come.

Resources of all kinds belongs to God and we must receive and use them responsibly and accountably as gifts meant to demonstrate his goodness to all creation. Welcome to 2026.

Rev Kurauone Mutimwii
Missional Partnership Minister

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We would like to thank all those friends who sent Christmas and New Year best wishes to Cheadle Hulme. We hope in turn that you have had joyful festive celebrations and that the New Year brings peace and happiness.

Our thoughts and prayers this month are for those people who are unwell, troubled or lonely, some who are known to us and others who have no one to care for them.

Many congratulations to Bernie Stevens following the award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours list for his contributions to mountain safety and youth education.

Our thanks go to both Rev Steph and Rev Kura for their leadership of a number of Advent and combined services (and a joint meeting), at Cheadle Hulme, Bramhall and Heald Green.

17 members and friends once again enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch on 17 DEC and sincere thanks go to Sandy & Morag for their hard work in preparation both before and on the day when £110 was sent to for 'Crisis at Christmas'.

If you celebrated your birthday or an anniversary in December, we hope you had a joyous time and we send best wishes to all those who will be celebrating in January.

The Minutes of the October Church Meeting together with the agenda for the re-arranged meeting on Sunday 18 JAN, are enclosed (for members)

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



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SOUP, SWEET & MEET

WED 21 JAN

Noon ~ 1.30pm

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MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

A Prayer for Heald Green URC:

Lord Jesus, In these uncertain times, help us to be steadfast in our faith, to believe only what is true, discounting lies and fake news. You, Lord, are the Way, the Truth and the Light.

We praise and thank you for all who come through our church doors here at Heald Green: worshippers and workers, stitchers and slimmers, musicians and dancers, children who sing and party. May their gifts bring honour and glory to you.

Loving Christ, may your love and support surround each one of us every day. Empower us through Commitment for Life, our local Youth initiative, Chelwood Food Bank, Christian Aid and our Advent and Lent appeals, to have compassion for those who need our help. We pray, too, for a continuing good relationship with our friends at Cheadle Muslim Association.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us. Encourage and help us as we work towards our Silver EcoChurch award, striving to limit the effects of climate change and pollution on your beautiful world.

We praise you, Lord, as, with our Partnership members and Christians worldwide, we try to follow in your footsteps, going forward with "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow".

In the name of Jesus we pray, **Amen.**

JPIT STATEMENT

...in response to the government's announcements on proposed changes to its asylum and returns policy:

Let us keep loving our neighbours. Public debate around migration has increasingly been shaped by voices that trade in fear, resentment, and the scapegoating of those who already carry heavy burdens. We fear that the tone and content of the Home Secretary's recent announcement on asylum policy reform risks deepening these fractures rather than healing them.

What threatens our social fabric is not the presence of vulnerable people seeking sanctuary, but rhetoric and policy that sets neighbour against neighbour and encourages suspicion instead of solidarity. The solution is not to try and appease those who seek to divide us, but to build a fair, compassionate and well-managed asylum system, that reflects Britain's values and responsibilities.

Our Christian faith compels us to hold that such a system should prioritise human dignity and treat people as any of us would wish to be treated. That means it must be resourced to make decisions swiftly rather than leaving people in limbo for months or even years; allow those applying for asylum to work, support themselves and contribute to society; enable families to be together if possible; and encourage integration into local communities. Yet many of the UK government's new proposals would have the opposite effect placing more demands on vulnerable individuals and an overstretched system.

We welcome the promise of new safe regulated routes for people to be provided with sanctuary in the UK, sponsored by individuals and communities. We have long believed this to be a far better approach to

tackling dangerous channel crossings than ever more hostile policies. In this, we glimpse seeds of hope.

Our churches continue to be enriched by the involvement of those who have sought refuge in this country, and our experience is of people who wish to contribute positively to British society. Our calling and commitment is to keep loving our neighbours, and our heartfelt longing is for our society's approach to immigration to embody those values."

Ms Catriona Wheeler,
General Assembly Moderator,
United Reformed Church
The Revd Richard Andrew,
President ' Methodist Conference
The Revd Lynn Green,
General Secretary
Baptist Union of Great Britain

A PRAYER

God of welcome you call us to love our neighbours as ourselves and show your care for those who are most vulnerable.

We hold before you today those forced to make dangerous journeys in search of safety, children separated from their families and those who have been waiting a long time for good news.

Be with all who are fearful or angry because of the treatment they have received and communities struggling with poverty and inadequate services.

We pray for those who lead that they would make wise and compassionate decisions guided by principle rather than political expediency.

May we keep loving our neighbours – all our neighbours – even when that is costly or unpopular and be agents of your healing, and peace, and hope.

Amen.

WORLD LEPROSY DAY 25 JAN 26

We read about leprosy in the Bible and assume it is a disease of the past. But leprosy is very much a disease of today, with more than 200,000 newly diagnosed cases every year.

That means that every two minutes of every day, someone hears the words 'you have leprosy'. Three short words, but they carry thousands of years' worth of fear, stigma and shame.

Leprosy thrives in areas where poor nutrition, overcrowding, shared wash facilities and low standards of living naturally lower people's immune systems.

Lepers will suffer growing numbness and worsening nerve damage, ulcers and finally even amputations. They will also suffer the hurt and shame of being an outcast, often abandoned by their own families.

And this is where The Leprosy Mission steps in, and with the support of churches in the UK, works to help the sufferers of leprosy around the world. The Leprosy Mission is a medical Christian mission which helps people with leprosy both medically, spiritually, and practically. With your help, their Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Centres can give sufferers a chance to learn a skill and get a qualification.

In Mark 1, the leper said to Jesus, 'If you are willing, you can heal me.' That plea stands today – if we are willing, we can help The Leprosy Mission to still do Christ's work of healing and rehabilitation today.

More details <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk>

Parish Pump

Members, friends & neighbours

FILM MATINEE

Sat 24 JANUARY

Menai Suspension Bridge

Ever been to Anglesey, you probably used the Menai Suspension Bridge (*Pont y Borth*, in Welsh) along with an average of 13,300 vehicles a day, or over 4.8 million vehicles a yr.

The bridge is 200 years old this month

The bridge is special – it is the world's *first ever* major suspension bridge, with a 176-metre span. Designed by Thomas Telford, it took seven years to build and has been a huge success. It made the crossing safer (until then farmers had had to swim their livestock across the strait), and it also made the crossing more dependable and quicker for everyone, cutting hours off the trip from London to Holyhead.

But the Menai Suspension Bridge is still a much loved and critical road bridge for Anglesey, and there will be warm celebrations for it this month.

To put the history of the bridge into perspective: it was built in 1826, nearly 60 years before the Eiffel Tower (in 1889).

Parish Pump

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Lent, the season in the run up to Easter...

LENT LUNCHES 2026

Saturday 21st February - St Ann's RC
Saturday 28th February - Grove La Bap
Saturday 7th March - All Saints CE
Saturday 14th March - Friends Qrs
Saturday 21st March - URC
Saturday 28th March - CH Meths

...usually noon-2pm

On Sat 17 January there will be a second meeting with Tom Morrison MP between 3-4pm at Grove Lane when all are welcome. The next CTCH Business meeting is on Wed 14 January – 7 for 7.30pm also at Grove Lane.



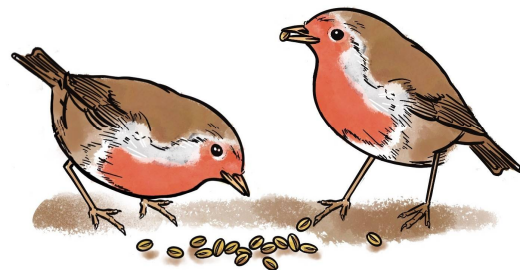
BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

This is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping RSPB to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. Spend **an hour** watching the birds in your patch, between **23 ~ 25 January**, and **record** the birds that land in your patch. Tell us what you saw (even if that's none)! You can submit your results online or by post.

Get your free guide and stock up on supplies, with 20% off and free delivery on food and feeders at the RSPB shop.

Search for 'Big Garden Birdwatch'


<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>



SERVICE DETAILS & DUTIES

Readers: Please double-check your bible references upon arrival at church.

Elders: If you are unavailable do a duty, please arrange your own swap and mark it up on the master copy on the Foyer noticeboard, which should always be checked for last minute changes.

Date	4 JAN	11 JAN	18 JAN	25 JAN
Service	Morning Worship	Combined Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Time	10.30 am	10.00 am	10.30 am	10.30 am
Leader	Sandy Smith	Rev Steph Atkins	In House	Bernie Stevens
Duty Elder	P Oliver	CHEADLE HULME CLOSED SERVICE AT BRAMHALL URC	B Stevens	A Stevens
Reader & Door	J Hodson		M Hardie	H Elsdon
Flowers	Silk		Eric Ward	Silk
Coffee	A Stevens		B Stevens	S Smith
Notes			 <p>Week of Prayer For Christian Unity</p> <p>CHURCH MEETING</p>	HOLY COMMUNION

CHURCH REGISTERS – none

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

4 JAN: Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Psalm 72; Matthew 2.1-12

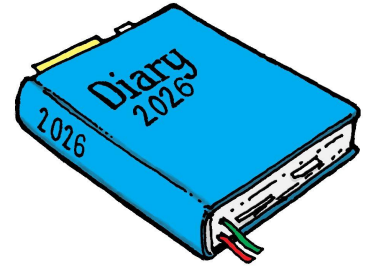
11 JAN: Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-17

18 JAN: Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

25 JAN: Isaiah 9.1-4; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23

CALENDAR

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



JANUARY 2026

Thu	01		
Fri	02	2pm	Choir rehearsal
Thu	08	7.30pm	MP Steering Group meeting on Zoom
Fri	09	10am	Management meeting
		2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Wed	14	7pm	CTCH Business meeting – Grove Lane
Thu	15	7pm	Elders' Meeting
Fri	16	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	17	3-4pm	CTCH meeting with Tom Morrison MP – Grove Lane
Sun	18	~	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS
Wed	21	12pm	Soup, Sweet & Meet
Fri	23	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	24	2.30pm	Film Matinee

NEW YEAR 2026

*If we put our hand in God's hand
As we enter this New Year
Not knowing what the future holds
But that our Friend is near.*

*We shall not fear what lies ahead
If He is by our side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If He will be our guide.*

*The Sinless One from heaven came
To dwell with us on earth,
He sought and bought us with His blood
And offered us new birth.*

*Now as we travel through this year
He knows the things He's planned,
So let us trust and know just this -
Our times are in His hands.*

By Megan Carter

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