

**Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church**

# CHURCH NEWS

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

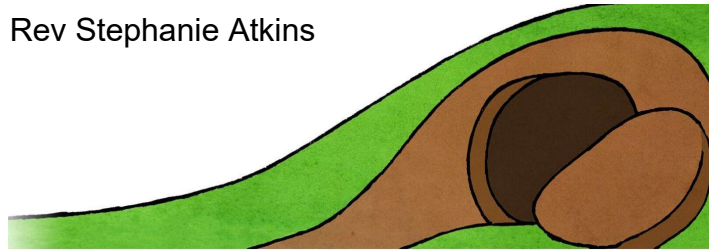


The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

Partnership Ministers: Rev Kurauone Mutimwii  
Rev Stephanie Atkins

**APRIL  
2026**

**Friends**



## **Good News in the Garden Spaces**

As we gather as individuals, churches, and communities around the Easter story once again, I am struck by how these ancient words have not yet been worn smooth in the retelling. Something new always seems to catch my imagination or tug at my heart.

This year, as I look at our broken world, my thoughts have been drawn to the gardens that frame story, those liminal spaces between sorrow and hope. In Gethsemane, Jesus seeks God in the midst of anguish and uncertainty. Days later, in the garden of the resurrection, the women discover that life has broken through death. What begins in grief is transformed into joy.

Perhaps we too find ourselves somewhere between those two gardens, standing in spaces where uncertainty and hope meet. The good news of Easter is that God is present in both. God is with us in the Gethsemane places, the places of questioning, of waiting, of feeling overwhelmed or afraid. And God leads us toward the garden of resurrection, where renewal stirs quietly, often before we can recognise it.

As ministers, we are exploring ways to offer “garden” spaces within our churches, places to bring your questions, hopes, and fears, places of inspiration, transformation and renewal. Between Easter and Pentecost, we invite you to join our Missional Partnership Discussion Group on *The Person & Power of the Holy Spirit*, meeting at Gatley URC (Tuesdays 1.30pm from 21st April) and online (Wednesdays 7pm from 22nd April). Please contact [stephanie.atkins@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:stephanie.atkins@nwsynod.org.uk) for more details.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and hope-filled Easter from all in the Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership Ministry Team.

**Rev Steph Atkins  
Partnership Minister**

## NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

Many of us may be feeling uplifted by the possibility of lighter days following the clock change and warm sunshine, but there are some people who are burdened by concerns about health and other reasons. We think especially of those who are in hospital - Philip Oliver and Carol Buttle.

We were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bernice Platt aged 98yrs on 28 FEB. She had been resident in the Ladybrook Manor Care Home in Bramhall for some time. We also learned of the death of Nancie Kilpatrick aged 102yrs, who had been living in Macclesfield for some 10 years. Her funeral was held on 27 MAR at Macclesfield crematorium. The families of both will be in our thoughts and prayers.

We were pleased to welcome both Rev Steph and Rev Kura to lead worship last month in addition to several members of the in-house Worship group. Thank you all.

Congratulations go to all the family of Peter and Geraldine Grieve for the christening on 12 APR of their granddaughter, Nola May, daughter of Jennifer and Craig. We hope they have a very happy day as we do for all those who will be celebrating a birthday or special anniversary in April.

A copy of the minutes of the last Church meeting are enclosed for all members in readiness for the Church Meeting on the **revised date of 19 APRIL**.

The News Team

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY  
10-16 MAY – CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

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CHURCHES TOGETHER

for

**CHRISTIAN  
AID**

7.30pm SATURDAY 9 MAY  
**POYNTON BRASS BAND**  
Cheadle Hulme Methodist



## MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

### Prayer for Altrincham URC:

Gracious God, we pray for your love and guidance at Altrincham United Reformed Church, for the work taking place to share our faith and further your mission in the local community. Give us strength and vision to see the opportunities around us and the energy to explore new ideas. Help us to listen to the needs of those we seek to serve, and

to use our gifts and talents to your glory. We give thanks for the fellowship of the Missional Partnership and the variety of work in all our churches to reach out and invite people in.

**Amen**

### DISCUSSION GROUP ~ The Holy Spirit

Join us on a journey toward Pentecost — online or in person—as we deepen our understanding of the Holy Spirit in this 4 week course. Through Scripture, discussion, and prayer we'll explore how to live Spirit-led lives, open to renewal and empowered for service in a turbulent world.

Led by the Partnership Ministry Team, each meeting is repeated online by Zoom...

#### WEEK 1: WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

TUE 21st APRIL 1.30~2.30pm - Gatley URC

WED 22nd APRIL 7~8pm - Online by Zoom

#### WEEK 2: THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN REGENERATION

TUE 28th APRIL 1.30~2.30pm - Gatley URC

WED 29th APRIL 7~8pm - Online by Zoom

#### WEEK 3: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

TUE 12th MAY 1.30~2.30pm - Gatley URC

WED 13th MAY 7~8pm - Online by Zoom

#### WEEK 4: SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR SERVICE

TUE 19th MAY 1.30~2.30pm - Gatley URC

WED 20th MAY 7~8pm - Online by Zoom

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## ECUMENICAL COVENANT

At the Installation of Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury earlier today, the first woman to be elected to that ministry, the **Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, one of the Presidents of Churches Together in England and Moderator of the Free Churches' Group**, took part in the historic and joy-filled service by asking the new Archbishop to sign an Ecumenical Covenant.

During the service, **Tessa, a URC Minister with churches in Gants Hill, Grange Park, Wanstead and Walthamstow**, who served as Moderator of the General Assembly from 2023-2024, asked Dame Sarah to “add your signature to the Covenant we share as Presidents of Churches Together in England, and join your voice to ours in prayer and in the service of the Gospel in our nation.”

The Archbishop responded by saying: “Willingly I share with you the service of the churches of this country, and pledge myself to strive for the full, visible unity of Christ’s Church in truth and love,” before signing the Covenant.

In an interview with the BBC, Dame Sarah said that she recognised the significance of being the first female archbishop, but that she was “also aware of the women that have supported me in my ministry, and the men as well.

...The installation service will have women’s voices right the way through it, so there’s something about celebrating women, but also being able to say to other people, in a sense, it’s entirely possible for you to follow your dreams.”

Guests included the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Prime Minister and leader of the opposition, representatives from local and national government, the Commonwealth and the United Nations, members of the Church of England clergy and lay, 100 people from the wider Anglican communion around the world including 26 Primates, 150 people from different Christian denominations in England (the URC was represented by Catriona Wheeler, Moderator to the General Assembly, John Ellis and Andy Jackson), representatives from a broad range of other faith groups, charity workers and nurses from Canterbury.

The service included prayers, hymns, readings and liturgical texts in many languages including the kyrie in Urdu, the gospel in Spanish, choral songs in languages from the Democratic of Congo and Namibia.

The Bible on the Archbishop took her oath is the heritage edition of The Saint John’s Bible, the first hand-scribed, illuminated manuscript commissioned by a Benedictine Monastery since the invention of the printing press more than 500 years ago.

She was then led to St Augustine’s Cathedra, a seat made from Purbeck marble in the 13th century. Bishop Anthony Poggo presented her with a Compass Rose pendant, the symbolic badge of the Anglican Communion, and other prayers were led by people from the diocese.

**URC website**

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**SOUP, SWEET & MEET**  
**WED 15 APR**  
Noon ~ 1.30pm  
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## **NANCIE AGNES STRANG KILPATRICK**

Nancie was born on 7 December 1923. Her career was in nursing which she loved and worked hard at but, although this was a blessing to patients and staff, for her children it was a different experience! No attempts to be ill for school were allowed.

Nancie loved to travel which was just as well when her 3 grown children went living in Texas, Bermuda and Canada. Her hobbies were baking, a love of classical theatre, music and opera.

Although she was very guarded with her emotions, bordering on stoic, she was quietly very proud of her children and, in later years, her most important roll were her 4 grandchildren and then 2 great grandchildren. She loved to be around them and she was in her happy place.

She is described by those who knew her as a beautiful soul – kind, friendly, patient, forgiving, gracious, composed, traditional and optimistic. She was an incredible woman who shared her values of care, compassion, love and respect to everyone she met.

**Extracts from notes by Craig Fitzpatrick**  
Nancie became a member at here in 1997.

**Film Matinee**  
**2.30pm ~ 25 APR 26**  
**Bring your friends**

## **BERNICE PLATT**

My mother, Bernice Platt, was born in 1927 into a very different world. No smartphones, computers or TV. As a young girl she had to make her own entertainment. She found this in her love of dance. Together with her mother, who was a professional seamstress, she loved to design and make top-quality costumes for her dance performances. Equally, her ability to knit and sew became the cornerstone of our wardrobe. She had an intuitive sense of fashion, always on trend and elegant.

She loved travel, particularly for the family holidays. A favourite destination of hers was Bude in Cornwall and she never lost her desire to travel. Even in her 90's we regularly

went on holiday with her, usually to her timeshare in Lanzarote. When she was 93, we suggested we do something a little different. How surprised were we when responded that India could be quite interesting. We found a transition cruise which started in Oman and visited ports along the West coast of India, with stops in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia. She was fascinated by the Far East.

In every sense she was the Matriarch of the family. Strong but always supportive and encouraging, cajoling and pushing when needed. She was always so ambitious for us. We were to be the very best we could be.

Religion was always very important to her and she was a keen church goer. Married in Stockport at St Mary's in the Market Place, she was a regular at St. Martins in Heaton Moor and, following her move to Cheadle Hulme, she joined the United Reform Church on Swann Lane in 1997. It almost goes without saying that she was involved in the many activities, from jumble sales to the church choir. A favourite of hers was organising the nine lessons and carols each Xmas which Ann and I attended on numerous occasions.

Mum was generous with her time and for many years she assisted with the WRVS Meals on Wheels services. One role she particularly enjoyed was organising trips and visits for the Town's Woman's Guild which were always very well attended. She did this for many years.

Mum passed away at the age of 98 and two thirds. She refused to let age define her and fought robustly against anything which suggested she should slow down, get help, give up living at home or driving a car. When she was approaching her 90th birthday we were trying to organise a celebration, but she was much against the idea simply because she didn't want anyone in her circle of clubs and roles to know how old she was.

This was our Mum as we remember her. A leader, a formidably strong, fiercely competitive and endlessly stylish women. She leaves 2 sons and a daughter, 10 grandchildren and (at the last count) 11 great-grandchildren. We will all miss her so much.

**Extracts from Eulogy by Garry Platt**

## BLESSED IS THE ONE

Blessed is the one  
Whose sins have been forgiven him;  
Blessed is the one  
With no deceit or lies in him!

When I ignored the Lord  
I groaned and cried the whole day long,  
When I heard not His Word  
My life was all so very wrong.

And so I came to Him  
Confessing my iniquity;  
Then He forgot my sin –  
My faults were all forgiven me!

O come, ye faithful, come!  
And seek the Lord this very day!  
Salvation will be won!  
Yes! He will take your sin away!

The Lord's unfailing love  
Surrounds the one who Trusts in Him  
Rejoice in God above!  
And let your praises ever ring:

Our praises be to God!  
And Jesus Christ for ever be!  
The Spirit of the Lord!  
All praises to the Trinity!

*By Nigel Beeton  
Parish Pump*

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## COMMANDMENT

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her 5- and 6-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"  
Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

## Parish Pump

## MEETING COMMUNICATION

Over the past ten months, the Elders of Bramhall, Cheadle Hulme and Heald Green URC have met three times. During these meetings, we have discussed and explored a range of matters affecting both our individual congregations and our shared life together. We have agreed to continue meeting and to explore several key areas, including:

1. Developing opportunities for more joint worship
2. Employing and sharing staff
3. Use and management of our buildings
4. Considering both organic and structural forms of closer union

We recognise that significant work is required on each of these areas before meaningful discussion and decisions can be brought to our individual Church Meetings. Throughout 2026, we will ensure that all church members are kept fully informed of discussions and developments. Any decisions arising from this process will be made solely by the Church Meeting of each individual church.

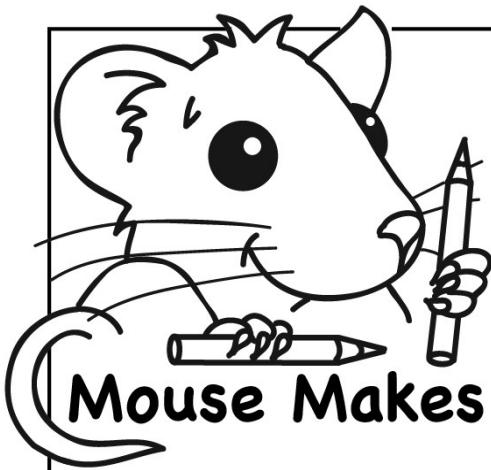
During this period, the Rev'd Dave Fraser and the Rev'd Kurauone Mutimwii are available to be contacted with any questions, concerns, or insights you may wish to share with them. We would ask, that if you have comments or concerns, that in addition to sharing with your ministers you share your thoughts with your elderships.

Please, continue to pray that we together may discern who God would have us be and what God would have us do.

The final thing to say is that we are attempting a tricky and challenging thing. Our ability to communicate well with each other will be central to how successful we are in guiding our churches through this process. Can I ask that you don't hesitate to phone me, email me at any time so that we can be clear, concise and helpful in our communication with each other.

My love and blessing to you all  
**Rev Dave Fraser**



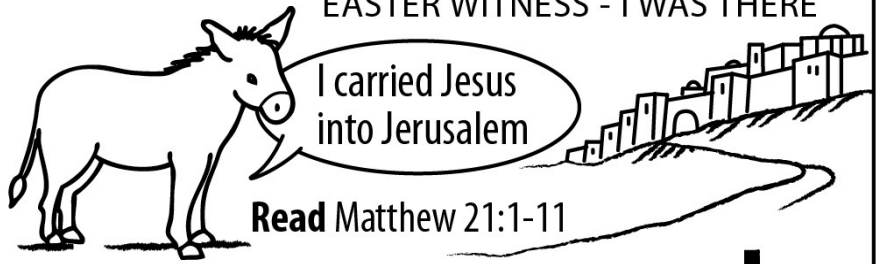


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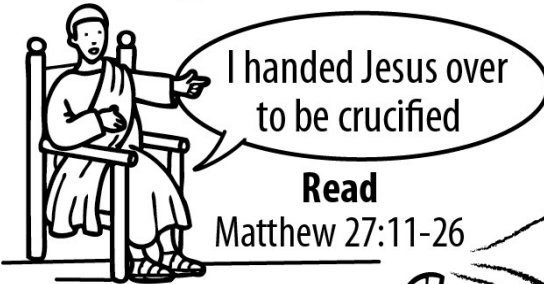
JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



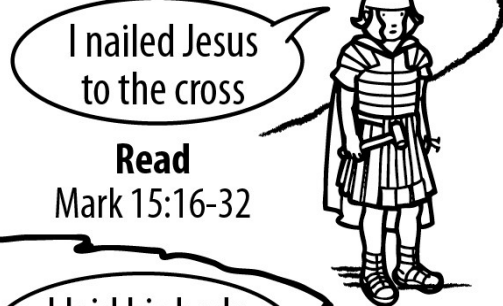
EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



Read Matthew 21:1-11



Read Matthew 27:11-26

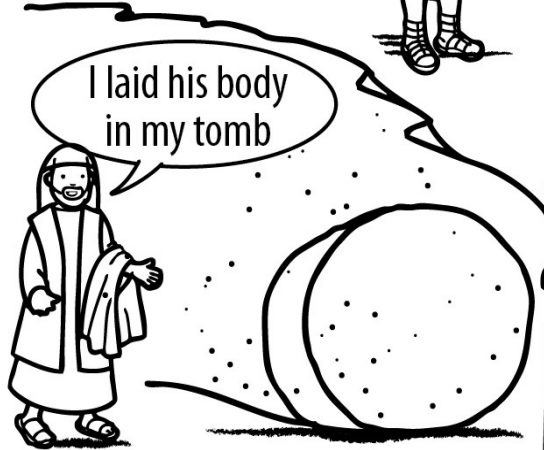


Read Mark 15:16-32

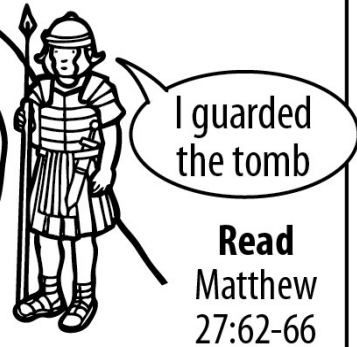


We watched Jesus die

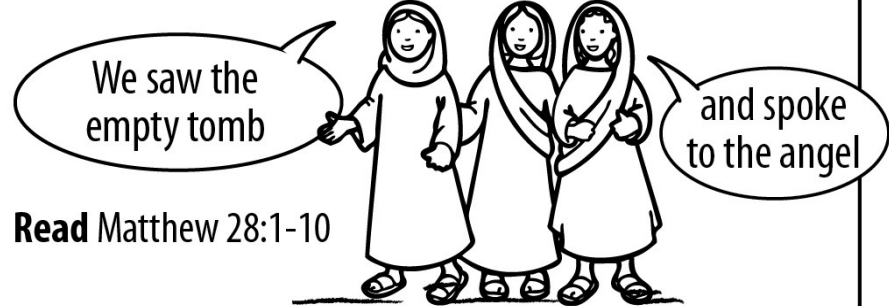
Read Mark 15:33-41



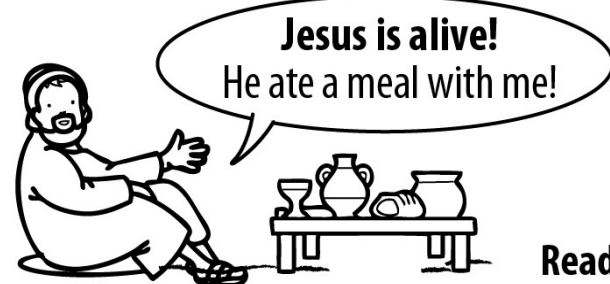
Read Mark 15:42-47



Read Matthew 27:62-66



Read Matthew 28:1-10



Read Luke 24:13-35

## SUDOKU

Every row, column, and 3x3 block must contain numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 only once.

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

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## 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	2 APR	3 APR	5 APR	12 APR	19 APR	26 APR
<b>Service</b>	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Morning Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
<b>Time</b>	8pm	10 am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am
<b>Leader</b>	Bernie Stevens	CHEADLE HULME CLOSED. SHORT SERVICE AT HEALD GREEN	Sandy Smith	In House	Linda Rayner	Bernie Stevens
<b>Duty Elder</b>	A Stevens		B Stevens	S Smith	D Philips	A Stevens
<b>Reader &amp; Door</b>	Various		M Smith	J Hodson	M Hardie	H Elsdén
<b>Flowers</b>	Silk		Easter	Easter	Silk	Silk
<b>Coffee</b>	-		H Elsdén	A Stevens	S Smith	M Hardie
<b>Notes</b>			<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>		<b>CHURCH MEETING</b>	

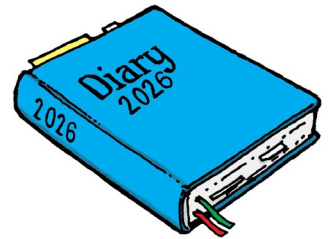
## CHURCH REGISTER

**FUNERAL** - BERNICE PLATT, who died on 28 February aged 98yrs, at Rowan Chapel, Stockport Crematorium on Thursday 26 March 2026.

## LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

- 5 APR:** Jeremiah 31.1-6; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; Colossians 3.1-4; Matthew 28.1-10  
**12 APR:** Acts 2.14a,22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31  
**19 APR:** Acts 2.14a,36-41; Psalm 116.1-4,12-19; 1 Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35  
**26 APR:** Acts 2.42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10

# CALENDAR



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

## APRIL 2026

Fri 03		2pm	Choir rehearsal
Sat 04	10.30		COFFEE MORNING & CAKE SALE in aid of Suk Jai Orphanage
Wed 08		7pm	Elders meeting
Fri 10		2pm	Choir rehearsal
Wed 15	12noon		Soup, Sweet & Meet
Fri 17		2pm	Choir rehearsal
Sun 19	11.30am		CHURCH MEETING
Fri 24		2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 25		2.30pm	FILM MATINEE
Mon 27		7.30pm	<b>Joint</b> Elders Meeting at Cheadle Hulme
Thu 30		7.30pm	Worship Group on Zoom

## SUDOKU - answers

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



Bernie and Alison attended Windsor Castle with their daughter and son on 31MAR26 for his MBE investiture by The Princes Royal, HRH Princess Anne.

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