

Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church

CHURCH NEWS

Swann Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport SK8 7HU
www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk



Partnership Ministers: Rev Stephanie Atkins
Rev Kurauone Mutimwii

MAY 2026

Friends

The Priority for Equity

Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, ~ Mark 6:41b-42

We all need to eat and to be contented. In times when resources are scarce or limited, people fight and scramble for them. Those privileged with access hoard them and perhaps sell them for too much profit. The Church must always champion for the equitable access and distribution of resources to its society. No one should, on basis of politics, race, ethnicity, status, age or gender, be excluded, be barred from approaching the table, be denied rights, justice and access. Economic gaps between the rich and poor in our society keep widening wherein the rich keep getting richer and the poor keep entangled in their poverty must be issues of active advocacy in economic justice for all. It is the task of Church to exhibit the spirit of Christ who from the meager resources availed by his people, everyone got equitable share and satisfaction. Those called to serve in the name of Christ must ensure that they reach out to everyone who is looking up to God for help. In most cases it is the common people who generate the wealth (bread and fish) that is sadly in our contemporary world scenario selfishly confiscated into the granaries and closed in the straits of a few powerful connected elites.

The Church of Jesus Christ must lead by example that the resources presented to Christ, are blessed by Christ to be enough for everyone and to be accessed by all. Therefore, our message must preach against corruption, greed, and lack of good organizational leadership where resources for common good suffer inequity, entitlement, shortages, favouritism, selective access, injustice, elitism, and silencing of some voices, if we are to revolutionize our societal attitude towards generosity on prosperity. The Church can learn that the selflessness of the little boy combined with the blessing of God will never disappoint in making everyone experience the privilege of ownership, power of access, joy of satisfaction, and reality of surplus. We let it go to God and Christ let it come to us.

Rev Kurauone Mutimwii
Partnership Minister

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We are greatly saddened to announce the passing of Marie Smithers on 24 APR aged 91yrs. A remarkably courageous lady. Her funeral will be on Thursday 4 June at church at 2pm with committal at Rowan Chapel on Friday 5 June at 10am. Mark, Karen, Nicola, and Sarah and their families are in our thoughts and prayers as are all those who have recently been bereaved.

We are pleased that Philip Oliver is eventually back at home after his time in hospital and hope that it won't be too long before he is able to be with us at church.

On Good Friday we joined our friends at Heald Green when the service was led by Caron Small, and on 19 APR Linda Rayner led our worship. The other services during the month were led by members of our Worship Group and our grateful thanks go to everyone involved.

Our best wishes go to anyone who will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary in May.

The News Team

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

10~16 MAY – CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Sun 21 JUN – Church Anniversary & Gift Day

Christian Aid Week:
10th~16th May



It's that time of year again – when Christians across the country raise funds for Christian Aid's programmes, which help those suffering poverty and injustice worldwide.

Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has brought faith and action together to help families survive poverty and violence, and communities rebuild after crisis.

It says: "This is all thanks to the amazing support of churches, communities and individuals who choose to walk, run, bake, dance, make, and do whatever it takes to help make lasting change.

"Through our locally led work with partners around the world who are rooted in their communities to lead change, your valuable

support will help communities ravaged by poverty and the effects of the climate crisis.

Christian Aid welcomes anyone who would like to be involved this year in raising support. And there are various ways to take part:

- Give online or through collections.
- Fundraise with friends, family, colleagues or your community.
- Take part through your church with worship, prayer and events.
- Volunteer locally to support Christian Aid Week activities.

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Thank you for supporting CTCH
Oak Meadow Easter Open Air Service
which was in aid of CHRISTIAN AID

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CHURCHES TOGETHER 'CH

**POYNTON BRASS
BAND**

plays for

CHRISTIAN AID

7.30pm SATURDAY 9 MAY

at Cheadle Hulme **Methodist**

Tickets - £10 on the door



MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Prayer for Ashton URC:

We see the pain and hear the cries of those living in darkness because of their vulnerability and negative life experiences. Shine your bright light upon them, illuminating the message of hope and love. Show us Lord, how we can follow your example of caring and loving our neighbours, our brothers, and sisters, as you show us your eternal love and care in everything we do. Walk with us Lord, on our Christian journey as we face future challenges connecting our congregation in church and the community of those not in church, here in Ashton on Mersey. Give us the courage and strength to face and embrace the spiritual challenges within our mission partnership, to lead us to grow in harmony not conflict, hope not to despair, light not darkness. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISCUSSION ~ 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 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 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

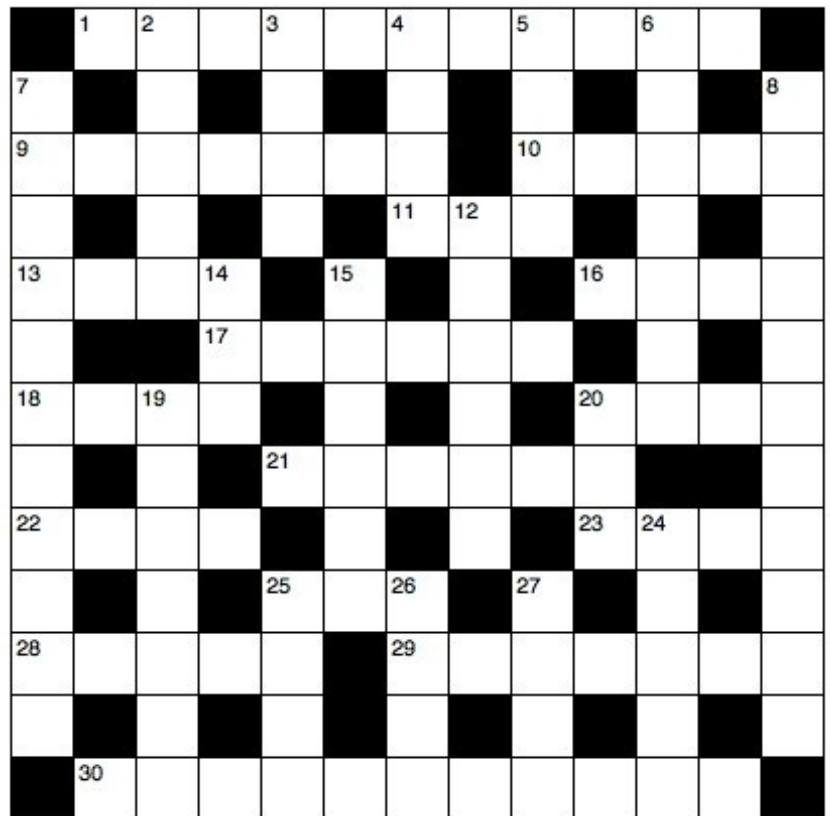
WED 20th MAY 7~8pm - Online by Zoom

The Zoom link is: Meeting ID: 825 8516 9177
Passcode: 889747

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
9 'The _ are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)
11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought _ and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
17 Stir up or provoke (Acts 13:50) (6)
18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)
20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
21 Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)
22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
25 Has (anag.) (3)
28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)



Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
3 'A bruised — He will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
5 Slip (anag.) (4)
6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
19 Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7)
20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)
24 Person worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke 6:30) (4)
26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my— come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

Film Matinee
2.30pm ~ 23 MAY 26
Bring your friends

NET ZERO IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD:

WHY CHURCHES?

“Local leaders are well placed to engage with all parts of their communities and to understand local policy, political, social, and economic nuances relevant to climate action.”

UK Government Net Zero Strategy

77% of councils have published climate action plans, outlining how they plan to reach net zero. The next step is for them to be held to account on those plans, something churches can play a key role in. Councils themselves are saying that hearing the voices of their communities is essential to carrying out these plans effectively. So how might churches help to bring this about?

Collaboration – One of the most effective ways to lobby anyone is to bring together a broad coalition. By bringing together a range of voices from the community, we can represent a fuller picture of our neighbourhood and benefit from the experiences and perspectives of others. As key community institutions, churches are well placed to organise this kind of collective voice.

Community – Like councils, churches often have a deep understanding of their local area, through relationships built in support services like foodbanks and homeless shelters, or in community groups like youth groups and drop-in mornings. Churches can play a key role in bringing this knowledge of the community together with their concern for justice to ensure that councils’ plans for transition are just, fair and sufficient.

Commitment – Many churches are also doing the work themselves. The Methodist Church in Britain and the United Reformed Church have committed to reaching net zero emissions as denominations by 2030, and there are over 250 Baptist, 400 Methodist, 200 URC and 100 LEP churches registered with Eco Church in the UK. [1] You can use these facts, and anything you have done in your congregation, to demonstrate your own commitment to environmental action and encourage your council to follow.

It shouldn’t have to be the case that individuals and institutions have to lead before government follows, but it certainly helps your case to have made progress on getting your own house in order.

Churches are well placed to start making change for net zero locally. But it’s important to do what we can to recognise that there may already be networks working on this where you are.

If this is the case, you can get stuck in and add your voice to that coalition.

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SOUP, SWEET & MEET

WED 20 MAY

Noon ~ 1.30pm

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What contribution does our theology make?

Ultimately, everything we do as churches is shaped by the gospel. We have a theology of justice and care for creation that demands we protect the planet and all life within it, and we have a theology of hope, grounded in the resurrection, that keeps us from despair. [2]

Christians have a mandate to care for the whole of creation, to build a bigger table, to challenge injustice, and to have hope in God’s future.

Because of our concern for justice, Christians should campaign for a renewable energy future that is affordable and sustainable. If anyone is excluded from the transition to net zero, whether by financial means or otherwise, it is not a just transition. We can advocate for our local communities, our global family and for the planet as a whole, refusing to place them in competition with each other.

In Jeremiah 29, the demoralized and dejected Israelites in exile are encouraged not to hunker down and protect themselves from outside influences, but to seek the welfare of the city in which they now found themselves in.

In other words, they were encouraged to pursue the peace, prosperity and thriving of the community around them. It is in this context that God gives them the famous promise:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

God’s plan for the future of our planet is not dependent upon how well we treat it. Yet, while we hold on to that plan for a hope and a future, we have a calling in the here and now to do what we can to care for and in our communities.

Joint Public Issues Team

Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord

Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord,
Fill me with Your love.
Fill this empty heart of mine,
Come down gentle dove.
You see all my self-concern,
Lovelessness and pride;
Help me open up my heart,
Place Your love inside.

Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord,
Fill me with Your power.
Give to me Your source of strength,
From this very hour.
You have seen me trying hard,
Failing every time,
Show me how to let You now,
Live Your life in mine.

Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord,
Fill me with Your joy.
Give to me that happiness
Nothing can destroy.
Even when my sufferings
Point me to despair,
May I know that joy inside
Just because You’re there.

Fill me with Your Spirit, Lord,
Fill me with Your peace,
Quieten all the turbulence,
Bid my struggles cease.
Often my anxieties,
Fill my life with stress,
Show me how to let them go,
Give to Me your rest.

By Howard Webber

SQUIRRELS IN CHURCH

Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels.

After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied.

The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, so they humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

It was the Anglican church which succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now, they only see the squirrels at Christmas and Easter.

Parish Pump

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

3 MAY: 1 Peter 2.2-10; Psalm 31.1-5,15-16; Acts 7.55-60; John 14.1-14

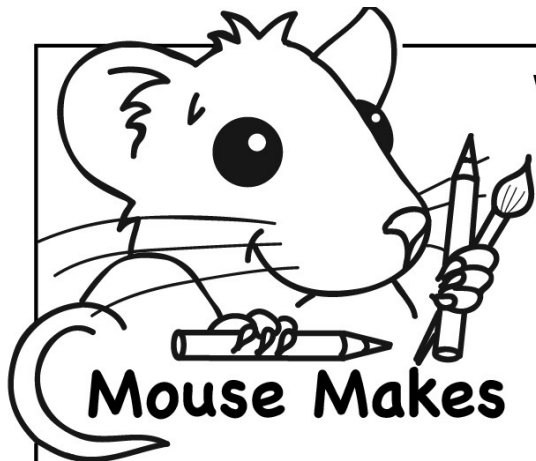
10 MAY: 1 Peter 3.13-22; Psalm 66.8-20; Acts 17.22-31; John 14.15-21

17 MAY: 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11; Psalm 68.1-10,32-35; Acts 1.6-14; John 17.1-11

24 MAY: Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b; Numbers 11.24-30; 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 20.19-23

31 MAY: Genesis 1.1–2.4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13.11-13; Matthew 28.16-20





WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

Genesis 1:2

The

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A _____

Romans 8:15

H _____

John 14:26

The Spirit of

John 16:13

The Spirit of

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

___ O ___

___ Y ___

___ C ___

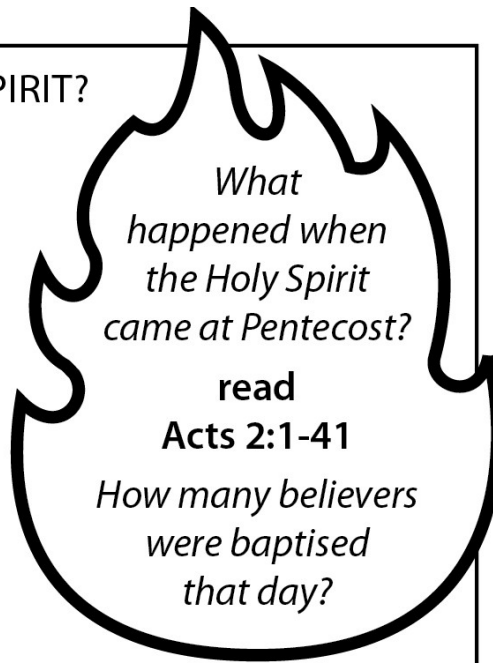
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What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read Acts 2:1-41

How many believers were baptised that day?

O G C O M F O R T E R L C
 K E O N P P E A C E G O D
 I N U F A K J D H J R R F
 N T N A T L O V E O A D H
 D L S I I O H O L Y C D L
 N E E T E A I C P L E E G
 E N L H N D E A E D E B L
 S E L F C O N T R O L J O
 S N O P E P T E A C H E R
 J S R J O T R U T H F S Y
 R S P I R I T I L U I U K
 K P P R O M I S E R S R
 I D W I N D D O V E W

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

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	3 MAY	10 MAY	17 MAY	24 MAY	31 MAY
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Time	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.00am
Leader	Rev Kurauone Mutimwii	Rev Steph Atkins	Linda Rayner	Rev Peter Sharp	Rev Dave Fraser JOINT SERVICE AT BRAMHALL CHEADLE HULME CLOSED
Duty Elder	A Stevens	S Smith	B Stevens	D Phillips	
Reader & Door	G Elsdon	P Grieve	M Smith	J Hodson	
Flowers	Silk	A Stevens	Silk	H Elsdon	
Coffee	M Smith	B Stevens	H Elsdon	A Stevens	
Notes				Pentecost	Trinity Sunday

CHURCH REGISTER - BAPTISM

NOLA MAY FAIRHURST daughter of Jennifer Grieve and Craig Fairhurst, born 11 November 2025, baptised 12 April 2026.

CHURCH UNION

For those near and far who may not have been following the narrative closely, Cheadle Hulme URC is actively exploring a solution to seriously falling congregations. We are trying to not close down, we love our premise users, the Marple pre-school, Fiona Watson dance school, Lawrence Singers, Manchester Alliance Church, we won't abandon them.

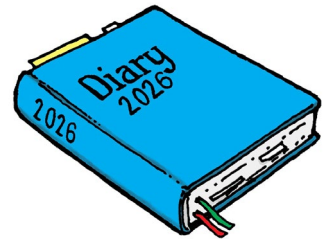
It's not the money, we could go on for years. It's not a lack of managers, though yes we are tired. There is a 5 yr plan and that says we are running out of people. We need to start looking now if the present team are to see it through. **Of course the Lord says travel in faith, hope and love, and we have – that's what got us this far.**

So, logic says we merge, in one of many ways, jointly administering buildings and sharing the services. We've actually been working on it for 2 years already, more and more joint services, joint elders, joint socials.

The treasurers looked closely at the ££s and decided the impossible was possible. Maybe the churches could agree quickly, split the services between them, and the buildings administered by a CIO - Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Covid taught us to video, joining may teach us charity law. After so much 'jointing', the real difficulties would be the buildings and the name?

Bernie Stevens, Local Leader

CALENDAR



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

MAY 2026

Fri 1 MAY	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 2 MAY	11am-12.30pm	COFFEE MORNING in aid of Chelwood Foodbank
Wed 6 MAY	7 for 7.30pm	Special Steering Group meeting – Bramhall
Fri 8 MAY	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 9 MAY	7.30pm	Poynton Brass Band concert in aid of Christian Aid - Methodist Church
Tue 12 MAY	1.30~2.30pm	Week 3 Discussion Group - Gatley URC
Wed 13 MAY	7pm	Elders Meeting
	7~8pm	– Discussion Group Online by Zoom
Fri 15 MAY	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tue 19 MAY	1.30~2.30pm	– Week 4 Discussion Group - Gatley URC
Wed 20 MAY	12 – 1.30pm	Soup, Sweet & Meet
	7~8pm	– Discussion Group Online by Zoom
Fri 22 MAY	10am	Management meeting
	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 23 MAY	2.30pm	FILM MATINEE
Fri 29 MAY	2pm	NO Choir Rehearsal

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.

DOWN: 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.

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