

CHURCH NEWS

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



Partnership Ministers: Rev Stephanie Atkins
Rev Kuraone Mutimwii

JUNE 2026
157th Anniversary

Friends

Back to the extraordinary ordinary: making connections

After we have completed the celebrations of Eastertide, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, it always feels that we are going backwards again. After a feeling of completion, the Lectionary takes us back to the midst of Jesus' ministry and to the Genesis narrative of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, Rebekah and so on. It's a bit like one of those novels that after narrating a great event, takes you back to the ordinary things led to that moment.

What a fabulous opportunity the church gives us here. Filled with the joy, hope and wonder from Easter, Pentecost and Trinity, we are invited back to the ordinary. We are invited to embed the wonders and mysteries of our faith in history, in everyday life and into our daily discipleship journey.

One of the ways we can do that, is to make connections. Connect with scripture: As we reflect on the scriptures, ask, "How does this connect with our life now?" Themes such as money, and the question of truth and authority, for example, are important issues for our time.

Connect with creation: The Summer is a wonderful time to explore our Eco Church Commitments. World Environment Day is on June 5th. I know some churches plan special events around this time. Embedding our faith into the ordinary, means exploring how we are connected with our creator, and within creation.

Connect with others: Michael Harvey, who leads the Acorn Programme talks about "Creating a culture of connection." I know many of you already pray the Acorn prayer, "Gracious God, is there someone outside the church, you want me to connect with today." It is often through these individual connections that we can notice God at work in our own lives and in the lives of those around us.

Connect more widely: There are lots of opportunities to connect more widely with others both within and outside the church. Organisations such as the Together Network and Citizens UK provide opportunities to share common aims and realise we are stronger together. (As the NW Synod is a member of Greater Manchester Citizens, all those associated with URC churches or ecumenical partnerships can access Citizens training and events under that banner). Several churches in our partnership are exploring how they can connect more with each other.

Remember that it is often in these ordinary connections that God meets us- a cup of tea with a neighbour, tending a community green space together, a conversation with a young person about their hopes and aspirations for the future. Enjoy getting back to the ordinary- may God meet with each of us there.

Liz Delafield (On behalf of the GMS Ministry team)

*Do contact me for further information about the specific projects mentioned in this article:
Eco Church, Acorn, The Together Network, Citizens UK.*

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We are greatly saddened to announce the passing of Morene (Mo) Morton on 22 MAY aged 91 years in East Cheshire Hospice. She had latterly been living in a Care Home in Macclesfield but unfortunately took a fall which fractured her femur and although this was replaced the following day, she never really recovered. Her funeral will be on Friday 26 June with committal at 10 am at Macclesfield crematorium followed by Thanksgiving Service at Cheadle Hulme URC at 12pm. Tim and Peter and their families will be in our thoughts and prayers as are all those who have recently been bereaved.

We were well supported by the Partnership ministerial team in May when we welcomed Rev Kura, Rev Steph and Rev Dave Fraser to lead worship on separate Sundays, including the joint service at Bramhall on 31 May. We were also grateful once again to Linda Rayner who led our worship on 17 MAY.

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

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
SUN 21 JUNE – CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
and IMPORTANT CHURCH MEETING

CHURCHES TOGETHER 'Cheadle Hulme

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

SAT 13 JUNE; 11~11.45am

METHODIST CHURCH

Everybody Welcome

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Tom Morrison MP

Meeting with CTCH people

Sat 13 JUN; 3.30pm

United Reformed Church, Swann La



MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Prayer for all our volunteers,
especially Rev Dave:

1~7 June Volunteers Week

Gracious God, we thank you for all those who volunteer in our Missional Partnership churches, those who offer their time and talents, their hands and hearts in a myriad of ministries. We thank you for flower arrangers and tea makers, for church newsletter writers and pastoral visitors. We thank you for those who keep the show on the road behind the scenes, for our elders who give many years to the care and oversight of all that goes on in our congregations, for steering group members, church secretaries, bookings secretaries, pulpit supply secretaries, treasurers, and safeguarding officers. We thank you for those who make sure the lights stay on, the chairs are arranged, the bins are out on time and remember the alarm codes. We thank you for those who focus on outreach to the community through foodbanks, social clubs, schools work, events and activities. We thank you for all those who volunteer with children, young people, and families, sharing God's radical love and welcome with all ages. We thank you, for all those who give their gifts to leading worship, our lay preachers, parade service and messy church leaders, and retired ministers still offering to the church they have served for many years.

We pray especially for our newly appointed Non-Stipendiary Minister Dave Fraser. May Dave inspire and challenge us in his ministry, and may we support and encourage him and his family so that they can flourish in this place. Lord for all for all these wonderful people we thank you and ask you to bless them and each of us as we work together for the building of your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

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SOUP, SWEET & MEET
WED 17 JUNE
Noon ~ 1.30pm

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MARIE ELIZABETH SMITHERS

Our mother, Marie, was born in May 1934 in Acton, West London to Alice & George Bauchop. An only child of 5 yr when the 2nd world war began, she was evacuated to a small village in Somerset where she enjoyed country life and some of her responsibilities, were helping with the harvest, and pumping the church organ on Sundays.

She returned home as an 11 yr old to a London she hardly knew. There was still rationing, bomb damage and general upheaval and through all this Mum had to navigate her way on 3 buses to Chiswick County Grammar School where she was a fine and dutiful scholar. One of her best teenage memories was of going to Stamford Bridge with her father to watch Chelsea play: they were regulars. In fact even in her later years she always looked at the football results to get the Chelsea score - not always too pleased with it either. When she left school at 16 she went on to train as a cartographer (or mapmaker) for the military. This job required much skill and hand precision and is probably the reason she possessed such beautiful handwriting, even in her later years when her eyesight was failing.

[ED. She mapped Christmas Island in the Pacific using aerial photos; the atoll used for nuclear tests]

One of the first things she did when she started working was to buy a bicycle, with which she'd cycle everywhere - independence was very important to her. In 1954 she met Ronald Smithers at a dance at Ealing Town Hall and a year later they were married. Their first child, me, was born in 1957 and in 1960 they purchased their first house, a mid-terrace in Perivale, Mum continued to get good use out of that bike every day by cycling with me on the back 3 miles to the babysitter and then on to work, whatever the weather. In 1963 Karen was born and Mum stopped working. In 1965 they moved out to the brave new world of Woodley, near Reading, a west London exodus indeed. Nicola was born in January 1966, but 3 was not enough because in July 1967 Sarah came into the world and at last the set was complete. Mum did all the house maintenance, repairs, painting and decorating. She was a very practical woman and very good with her hands - even to the point of single-handedly knocking a wall through to provide better access to her kitchen.

When dad retired from the civil service they moved down to Dorchester in Dorset, and generally had a quiet, domestic retired life. But that all came to an end in March 2005 when our father died suddenly of a brain aneurism.

As well as losing her husband, Mum found herself alone, at the age of 70, down in Dorchester where she had no roots and didn't know many people. Karen and her family were living in Reading and helped Mum find and move into a bungalow close to where they lived. And when work took Karen's family off to Cheadle Hulme, Mum soon followed behind and they helped her find a bungalow in Hastings Close. So at the age of 76 she sets out to find herself a new life. She started going to keep fit classes and then found a spiritual home right here at Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church and made many friends here too.

Mum has 6 grandchildren of whom she is immensely proud - Emily, Peter, James, Alex, Lorna and Andrew. It must be noted that our mother has been in great pain for most of her adult life and she also lost most of her sight in her later years, but she never complained, indeed most people who knew her would have been unaware of these difficulties. In the last couple of years, she became increasingly immobile and relied more and more on Karen and the services of Assured CARE, who mum came to regard as her 2nd family, and the District Nurses.

But the most thanks go to our sister Karen as she has basically been Mum's own personal carer since our father died 21 years ago. Mum was the last of her generation of the Smithers extended family. Thanks and appreciation are due to all of them for the sacrifices and diligence that they demonstrated in raising and leading their families. We are saddened by Mum's passing, glad that she is no longer in pain but proud of the life she has lived and the fight she put up to the very end. Goodbye Marie Elizabeth Smithers.

Extracts of Eulogy by Mark Smithers

BOASTING

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

Parish Pump

Film Matinee
2.30pm ~ 27 JUN 26
Bring your friends

MUSIC WITH A MISSION

Albion URC. Saturday 20th June

Who is it for? Anyone who would like to engage with an exploration of how music can enable and inspire God's mission in our churches. That includes church musicians, Church elders, lay preachers and worship leaders, ministers and anyone who would like to come along and be inspired by the wide range of musical offerings we have available.

What should I expect? A range of engaging and inspiring presentations of Music with a Mission: engaging with the world church, across the generations, from traditional organ music to rock music. A chance to raise a joyful noise together. More details to follow.

Tea / coffee will be provided. Please bring your own packed lunch.

Doors open at 9:30 for a 10am start.

Liz Delafield

A BRIEF MISSIVE

..from Gabriel Jones for the *David Williams Memorial Award* upon the commencement of his sixth term at the RNCM

Hello, I hope that everyone's keeping well at Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church and enduring the changeable weather!

I'm very happy to share that things are going very well on my end and that I have quite a busy couple of months to come. I'm in the midst of preparing for my final recital which will take place at the RNCM on 2nd June and will feature works by Bellini, Schubert, Fauré, Britten and Quilter. The following week on 9th June, I'll be competing in the finals of the Joyce and Michael Kennedy Award for the Singing of Strauss, an opportunity which came as something of a surprise but nonetheless as a great honour. At the beginning of my studies I certainly would not have been capable of making it past the first round, and I think it will be a great evening of music-making at the RNCM. Keep your fingers crossed for me!

I'm also delighted to share that I've been cast in the RNCM's community opera, *The Water Mark*, which will be performed on 1st and 2nd July. So far I've really enjoyed being part of the devising process – a great show!

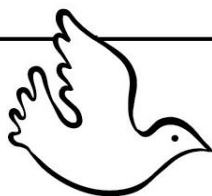
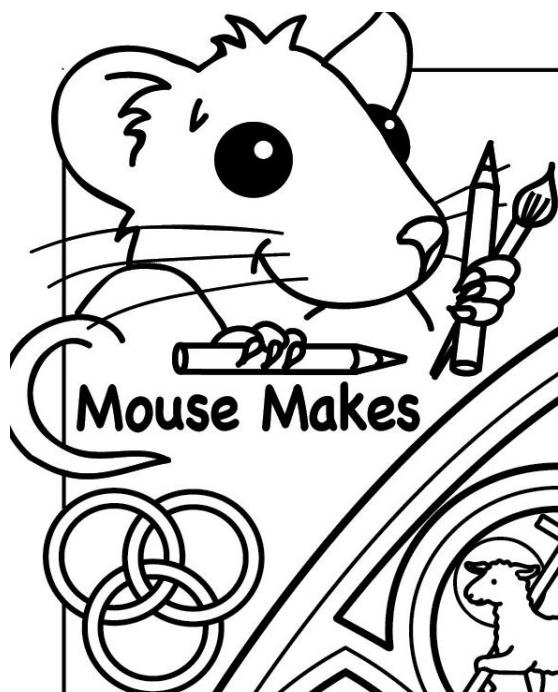
As well as my RNCM activities, I also have a couple of external gigs lined up – later this week, I'll be travelling to Guernsey to sing my first Mozart Requiem and I'll be joining Altrincham Choral Society on 11th July for a performance of Beethoven's Mass in C.

As I'm coming to the end of my master's, I'd like to reiterate my thanks for your support throughout my time at the RNCM – it really wouldn't have been possible without this award. As for what happens next, it's looking very likely that I'll be staying on at the RNCM, studying for a postgraduate diploma.

I leave you with an image of my appearance in last term's production of *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and I wish you all the best.

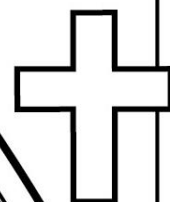
Gabriel





"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
love of **GOD** and the
fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
with you all."

2 Corinthians
13:14



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S L A E P L G
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R L G B F I S
K E O M E G A

JESUS • CHRIST

SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
BREAD • WORD • HEALER
VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

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J E H O V A H
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S H I E L D R
S A V I O U R

GOD • FATHER

ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
ETERNAL • CREATOR
KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

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C T R I A I F
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E S L G I F T
D S G U I D E
T H E L P E R

HOLY SPIRIT

GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
COMFORTER • GUIDE
ADVOCATE • WISDOM
POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



SUDOKU

Each row, column and small block (3x3) must contain the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 only once.

+++++

'LORD FOR THE YEARS'

The story behind the hymn:

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Rev Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford, had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire.

And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

He need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, on his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002... Timothy Dudley Smith was then asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for Queen Elizabeth herself. Her 'official' birthday on the second Saturday in June. She did indeed thank God 'for the years 'Your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

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

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Lyrics...

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.*

**Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name. ...
By Timothy Dudley Smith*

And so also the 'extra' verse added for the Queen **also** held true:

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name*

...Added by royal command?

Parish Pump

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	7 JUN	14 JUN	21 JUN	28 JUN
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Communion	Morning Worship
Time	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am
Leader	Bernie Stevens	Rev Peter Sharp	Rev Kurauone Mutimwii	Linda Rayner
Duty Elder	A Stevens	P Oliver	B Stevens	S Smith
Reader & Door	H Elsdon	G Elsdon	M Smith	P Grieve
Flowers	R Lawrence	Silk	R Lawrence	Silk
Coffee	M Hardie	B Stevens	A Stevens	H Elsdon
Notes			CHURCH ANNIVERSARY **CHURCH MEETING**	

CHURCH REGISTER – FUNERAL

MARIE ELIZABETH SMITHERS, who died on 24 April, aged 91 yrs, at Cheadle Hulme URC on Thursday 4 June and Stockport Crematorium on Friday 5 June 2026.

LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

7 JUN: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4.13-25; Matthew 9.9-13,18-26

14 JUN: Genesis 18:1-15,(21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2,12-19; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35-10.8(9-23)

21 JUN: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10,16-17; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39

28 JUN: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

IMPORTANT CHURCH MEETING – Sunday 21 JUNE

After the service as usual we will have a church meeting of all members. This is our premier decision-making body – no bishops, not even the Synod, just us decide.

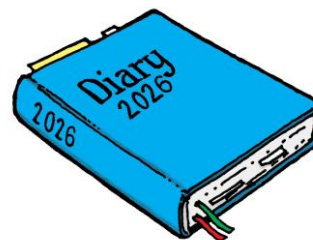
For about 2 yrs now the Elders have been advising the meeting of the reduction of our membership **and** the lack of officers to continue the managing of the church. This has led to discussions about amalgamating with Heald Green and/or Bramhall URCs, both of whom are in similar, if less urgent, positions, and are each under 2 miles away from us. We're not short of money, we're short of people.

In preparation Elders have organised more and more joint services, joint Elders meetings, and even joint other events. Our 2 ministers, Steph and Kura are involved, and now also Rev Dave Fraser, who recently joined the team with much experience in church change.

We continue with discussions which are complex, emotive and slow. See you Sunday 21st.

Bernie

CALENDAR



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

JUNE 2026

Fri 01-Sun 07	Volunteers Week	
Wed 03	7.30pm	MP Steering Group meeting – Cheadle Hulme
Thu 04	2pm	Service of Celebration for the life of Marie Smithers
	7.30pm	Worship Group meeting
Fri 05	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 06	10.30am-12pm	COFFEE MORNING in aid of Francis House
Fri 12	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 13	11am	'Prayers for Peace' – Methodist
	3.30pm	CTCH meeting with Tom Morrison MP – URC
Wed 17	12-1.30pm	Soup, Sweet & Meet
Fri 19	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun 21	11.45am	IMPORTANT CHURCH MEETING after the Anniversary Service
Tue 23	7.30pm	Joint Elders Meeting at Heald Green
Fri 26	12pm	Service of Celebration for the life of Morene Morton
Sat 27	2.30pm	Film Matinee

Sudoku answers

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

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