

CH URC NEWS

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MARCH 2022

FRIENDS

Observing Lent

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *'when you fast.'* (Matthew 6:17).

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

The act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life. It shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender *'my idols'* to Him. It encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6).

Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, for example joining a study group, *'random acts of kindness'*, giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

'Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.' (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

Canon Paul Hardingham

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We think again of friends and families of our Church 'fellowship' who are unwell, either at home or in hospital, or just confined to their homes for other reasons. The many people who are anxious or depressed, we pray for them and hope they find healing and peace - the winter months are long and dreary - may be the oncoming Spring will lighten their spirits.

We were especially fortunate last month to welcome Rev Jonnie Hill and Rev Peter Sharp to lead our worship along with Alison Pope and we are grateful to them all for their support.

Thank you to everyone who supported The Leprosy Mission by donations at the Coffee Morning and the Sunday retiring collection. You raised **£196.50** for their important work which includes rebuilding the Research Centre at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal.

If a visit to a theatre is long overdue, why not consider supporting Jenny Hodson as she takes to the stage once more in the Brookdale Theatre production of **'Dad's Army'** between 25 ~ 30 APR. Performances are timed at 7.30 p.m. and on 30 APR there is a Matinee at 2pm. The play not only follows the 'goings-on' of the members of the Army but also their wives, family and friends. Something for all the family.

Happy Birthday to all those who will be celebrating during the coming month.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15~21 MAY CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The News Team

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 4 MAR
2 pm

Cheadle Hulme Methodist

"I know the plans I have for you"

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

We've been keeping busy in our Fellowship meetings. At the beginning of the month, Eric brought his keyboard and we sang some old favourites and enjoyed Mary's home-made cake. The following meeting was a quiz on food and drink. On 16th the theme was more intellectual when we all read our favourite poems. The month will close with a game of bingo - with prizes!

Do join us, it only costs £1!!

Carole Davies

TRAIDCRAFT

COFFEE MORNING

SAT 5 MAR 10 am ~ noon

AFTERNOON TEA

SUN 6 MAR 3 ~ 5 pm

Morag Smith

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES 2022

During March, we would like to concentrate on CRAFT GIFTS – pencil and glass cases, lavender bags, craft kits and sewing kits. Thank you.

Bernie Stevens

CHURCHES TOGETHER

LENTEN LUNCHES 2022
12 – 2 pm



March 5 - St Ann's
March 12 - Grove Lane Baptist
March 19 - URC
March 26 - All Saints
April 2 - Friends
April 9 – Methodists

WEAR YOUR DAFFODIL

...to support MARIE CURIE and the NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION

This March the UK's leading end of life charity Marie Curie will once again be asking people across the UK to support its Great Daffodil Appeal.

Money raised from the flagship fundraising appeal will help the charity's doctors, nurses and hospice staff continue their vital work providing expert care to people at the end of life, and their families. Funds raised also go towards the Marie Curie Information and Support Line, which provides support for people dealing with all aspects of end of life including bereavement.



Last year Marie Curie provided direct support to more than 69,000 people – a 15% rise on the previous year – which is more than ever before.

Marie Curie would like to encourage as many people as possible to give their money or time through volunteering, donating, and fundraising. This could include taking part in a Step into Spring challenge, organising a fundraising event, purchasing products from the Marie Curie online shop, or donating.

This year, for the first time in two years, Marie Curie's volunteer collectors will be back on the streets donning their daffodil hats and selling the charity's iconic daffodil pins.

During the Great Daffodil Appeal, on 23rd March, Marie Curie is inviting everyone in the UK to take part in the National Day of Reflection. It will be a day to come together and support the millions of people who are grieving and remember those we have lost.

You can show your support for the day by wearing a daffodil pin and joining the minute's silence at 12 noon. Or take part

by joining one of the many local events happening across the UK or join one of the online talks for inspiration, support and reflection.

For more information on the National Day of Reflection and how to support Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal this March, visit: mariecurie.org.uk

Parish Pump

THE VERNAL EQUINOX

In the season of the Spring
The day is equal to the night;
Summer's song we soon shall sing!
Evenings filled with summer light!

Winter's cares seem long ago
Mornings spiked by bitter frost
But we shall bask in summer glow
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the Spring
And for all the seasons, too,
Of life's rhythms we shall sing
Giving all the praise to You.

By Nigel Beeton

FINDING THE RIGHT SOLUTION

A manager, an engineer, and a programmer were driving down a steep mountain road when the brakes failed. After a terrifying few seconds they managed to stop the car by running it against the embankment. Shaken by their narrow escape from death, they got out. The manager said, "We need to organise a committee, have meetings, exchange ideas, and then develop a solution." The engineer disagreed, "No that never works. I will take apart the brake system, isolate the problem and correct it."

Then the programmer said, "You are both wrong. First, we need to push the car back up the hill, get back in, and see if it happens again."

Parish Pump

SUDOKU

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

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WORD or PUBLISHER

Is the magazine different this month?
How is it different? Is it bigger, or clearer,
or smaller? Well, there is an argument
that it's all of them, or not!

We normally use a Microsoft program
called "Publisher", but it has it's foibles, it's
idiosyncrasies which it's easy to get
frustrated with. Needless to say, its
designed for printing / publishing, say, like
newsletters (!) and so on. Even so, one
man's facility is another man's 'grrr...'

Well this month we're trying "Word"
(Microsoft's suite of names are descriptive
if not very creative!) a program supposedly
designed for authoring letters and reports.
So, not ideal for a newsletter as it exhibits
a whole new set of issues and frustrations.

For a month (or 2?), we're going to try
'Word', re-learning how to adjust, justify
and import. So far it's been frustrating
yet pleasing, limiting margin control but
allowing us odd numbers of pages.

If you didn't notice, we probably managed
quite well, OR, are we basically just
reminding ourselves of why we use
Publisher.

Bernie & Alison Stevens

MORE HUMOUR

A mechanic was removing a cylinder
head from a Harley motorcycle when he
spotted a well-known heart surgeon
passing.

He called out "Hey Doc, can I ask you a
question.

"Look at this engine. I open its heart, take
out the valves, grind 'em down and
replace them to make the bike run like
new! So how come I'm paid a fraction of
the thousands that you get, for doing
basically the same job? "

After a slight pause the surgeon leaned
forward and whispered, "Can you do it
with the engine still running..."

Anonymous

SYNOD MODERATOR'S UPDATED GUIDANCE

Now that governments in England, Scotland and Wales have eased legal restrictions around coronavirus, the Synod Moderators have updated their guidance to churches.

Although regulations have changed, and the current wave of infections is showing signs of easing, infection rates remain high across the United Kingdom. We would therefore urge the continued use of face coverings in churches, including during singing, as well as maintaining good hand hygiene and appropriate physical distancing.

We fully appreciate the high, and rapidly increasing, costs of heating churches, but we remind you of the importance of good ventilation as well to prevent the build-up of virus particles in the atmosphere.

We know the vast majority of people in our buildings will be fully vaccinated, and that vaccination reduces the seriousness of infection. However, it is abundantly clear that the Omicron variant is still making people ill, even amongst those who are vaccinated.

Please continue to care for yourself and others by taking all reasonable measures to reduce the spread of the virus. If you are infected the symptoms may be minor – they could have a much more serious effect on anyone to whom you inadvertently pass the disease.

**The Synod Moderators
FEB 2022**

ELDERS continue to discuss this controversial subject every monthly meeting and have come to near identical conclusions, so far. We hold our elderly member's and visitor's care as paramount.

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Holy God,
We hold before you all who live close to war and conflict; and all who live close to the threat of war and violence.
We remember especially at this time, people in Ukraine and Russia. We pray for nonviolence and peaceful resolutions of conflict.
Give us hearts of hospitality and sanctuary, forgive us all our hostility and hatred.
Bring all people to the humanity you give us, and to the reconciliation and healing for which you gave your life.
Strengthen us all to work with you to build justice and peace, reconciliation and healing, in our hearts and homes, in our streets, in all communities, neighbourhoods and nations.
Bless all who live lives for the peace and wellbeing of others, and make their service fruitful.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

By the Rev Inderjit Bhogal
Honorary President ' Fellowship of Reconciliation <https://for.org.uk/>

SERVICES

Elders' wish to keep everyone safe, so please wear masks (especially for singing) and 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, from one of the 3 lecterns.

Duties are performed by a small team on a rota. Please check the board for swops.

Date	6 MAR	13 MAR		20 MAR	27 MAR
	10.30 am	10.30 am	6.30 pm	10.30 am	10.30 am
	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Evening Service	Morning Worship	Morning Communion
Leader	S Smith	Rev Steve Hough	Partnership Service on Zoom	Bernie Stevens	Margaret Dexter-Brown
Duty Elder	A Stevens	P Oliver		D Phillips	A Stevens/S Smith
Door Duty	M Smith	M Hardie		M Morton	J Hodson
Reader				V Lees	
Flowers	R Pollitt	V Lees		J Hodson	J Mirams
Coffee	D Green	C Davies		M Hardie	H Elsden
Notes	1 st Sunday in LENT				HOLY COMMUNION MOTHERING SUNDAY

CHURCH REGISTERS - none

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

6 MAR: Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Psalm 91.1-2,9-16; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13

13 MAR: Genesis 15.1-12,17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3.17-4.1; Luke 13.31-35

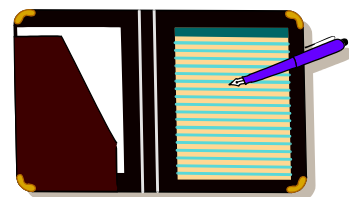
20 MAR: Isaiah 55.1-9; Psalm 63.1-8; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.1-9

27 MAR: Joshua 5.9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5.16-21; Luke 15.1-3,11b-32

Sudoku Solution

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

CALENDAR



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

MARCH

Tues	01		
Wed	02	10 am	Elders meeting in Church 1.30 ~ 3.00 pm Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove
Thu	03		
Fri	04	10 am	Management meeting in Church + Zoom 2 pm WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at Methodist
Sat	05	10 am ~ noon	COFFEE MORNING in aid of Traidcraft noon ~ 2 pm CTCH – Lent Lunch – St Ann's 3 ~ 5 pm Traidcraft Afternoon Tea
Sun	06		
Mon	07		
Tues	08		
Wed	09		1.30 ~ 3.00 pm Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove
Thu	10		
Fri	11	2 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	12	noon ~ 2pm	CTCH – Lent Lunch – Grove Lane Baptist
Mon	14		
Tues	15		
Wed	16		1.30 ~ 3.00 pm Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove
Thu	17		
Fri	18	2 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	19	noon ~ 2pm	CTCH – Lent Lunch – URC
Mon	21		
Tues	22		
Wed	23		1.30 ~ 3.00 pm Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove
Thu	24		7.30 pm Worship Group
Fri	25	2 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	26	noon ~ 2pm	CTCH – Lent Lunch – All Saints
Sun	27	British Summer Time begins - clocks leap forward...	
Mon	28		
Tues	29		
Wed	30		1.30 ~ 3.00 pm Fellowship Circle – 5 Swann Grove

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