

Cheadle Hulme United Reformed

CHURCH NEWS

Church

Swann Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport
SK8 7HU

www.cheadlehulmeurc.org.uk

Partnership Ministers: Rev Stephanie Atkins
Rev Kurauone Mutimwii
Rev Dave Fraser



**SEPTEMBER
2026**

Friends,

Stepping Out in Faith

During the first week in August, I was delighted to accompany seventeen young people aged 11-18 from Cornerstone URC's Boys Brigade and Girls' Association on their annual camp to Wales. It was an exhilarating week, filled with adventurous activities including canoeing, night hikes, air-rifle shooting, archery, swimming and beach visits. I was deeply impressed by the creativity, dedication and care of the leaders, who created space for young people to test themselves, build friendships, and grow in confidence, skills and faith.

One of the gifts of the week was seeing faith questions emerge naturally in the middle of shared life together. My favourite question was, 'What is the significance of the glass of water at the front of church?' The young person said he knew what the bread and wine meant, but the water had never been explained!

I thoroughly enjoyed leading morning worship for the camp. We explored themes of teamwork, embracing our gifts, and looking after our spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing. We reflected on the ways we each might challenge ourselves that week to step out of our comfort zones to try new things while trusting in Jesus' supporting presence just as Peter did stepping out of the boat to walk on water towards Jesus (Mt 14:22-33).

As our Missional Partnership churches continue to reflect on mission in the months ahead, how might we create more opportunities for people of all ages to try something adventurous, find connection and fellowship, and discover that Jesus is already waiting ahead of them?

Rev Steph,
Partnership Minister

NEWS AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP

We are greatly saddened to announce the passing of Reg Pollitt, aged 90yrs, on 10 August in Ladybrook Manor Care Home. He never really got over the loss of his wife Pat 8 months ago. A service of celebration was held at Church on Thursday 27 August followed by committal at Manchester Crematorium. Sandra, Colin, Gail and Phillip and their families will be in our prayers.

Our grateful thanks go to Elley Noden, Rev Steph Atkins, Rev Peter Sharp, Alison Haigh, members of our Worship Group and Rev Margaret Dexter-Brown who supported us by leading worship during July and August,

Our July and August Coffee Mornings in aid of Mary's Meals and Chelwood Foodbank respectively raised £120 and £123 – thank you to everyone for their support.

Our best wishes go to all those who will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary in Sept.

The News Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 5 SEPT –

{10.30-12 noon} Coffee Morning in aid of Church Charities (5).

{2.30pm} Induction of the new Synod Moderator, Rev Mike Thomason at Worsley Rd URC, 310 Worsley Rd, Swinton, M27 0EF

21 Sept ~ 4 Oct FAIRTRADE fortnight

**2027 Thornleigh Weekend Away –
Friday/Sunday 2~4 July 2027**

OLDEST PROFESSION?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical procedure."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural masterpiece."

But the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos first!"

Parish Pump

MP Prayer for Rev Kura: SEPTEMBER

Gentle Jesus, we express our gracious thanks for Kura our big-hearted minister of word and sacraments, for his steady hand on the rudder of the partnership and for his hard work on God's behalf. He is kind, considerate and caring but amazingly attentive of us that have been in this culture forever when he has just joined. We love him as a family man and love his family too and wish we could make Britain warmer for them all, as they make it warmer for us with songs in Shona. He has learned the idiosyncrasies of the URC yet also taken on board each churches' quirks and foibles and come out smiling and we thank him. We thank you Lord for bringing him and his family to share with our family here in S Manchester. Please bless them. **Amen.**

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SOUP, SWEET & MEET

WED 16 SEPTEMBER

Noon ~ 1.30pm

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OUR NEW PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

The following decisions were agreed at the Church Meeting on 16 August:

From January 2027, there will be a monthly 3-way service with Bramhall and Heald Green URCs on the **2nd Sunday** of each month, rotating around the churches. (These follow joint services already agreed on 11 Oct at Bramhall (**10am**) and 29 Nov at Cheadle Hulme (10.30am).

In addition, for a trial period from Sep 2026 to Feb 2027, there will be a 2 way joint service with Heald Green on the **4th Sunday** of each month, alternating between the two churches, starting on 27 Sep when we go to Heald Green for communion.

We are trying to avoid being out of CH twice in 1 month when the 2 rotas collide but... All details will be in the magazine and notices and remember, use a taxi.

Alison Stevens

REGINALD ASTLEY POLLITT

Dad was born in 1936 in Moss Side, one of three children, nestled between his older brother Arthur and his younger sister Helen. Growing up, he developed a classic Manchester work ethic and an iron constitution. He was rarely ill — we always reckoned he barely had time to have a cold! He wouldn't use shampoo, shaving cream, a hairdryer, or aftershave—he used green Fairy soap for collar and cuffs and went to work with a bit of paper stuck on his chin from a shave to stop the bleeding!

When he did his National Service in Malaysia, he loved the adventure. But as much as he enjoyed it, his heart was firmly back home in Manchester with our mum, Pat. Dad wrote to her every single day. They were teenage sweethearts, and that daily pen-pal routine kicked off a marriage that lasted an incredible 68 years.

By trade, Dad was a maintenance electrician, working for over 45 years for various companies. But really, his true job title was "Mr. Fixit." Dad could turn his hand to literally anything, and he was genuinely brilliant at it. If anything broke, you didn't call a professional; you just waited for dad to show up with his toolbox.

Dad was definitely not a big communicator, an emotional sympathiser, or one for giving speeches! If you came to him with a problem or needed a bit of sympathy, he had two main responses: he'd either shout "PAT!" who was the family expert, or he'd look you dead in the eye and simply tell you to "Get a grip!"

He raised the four of us—Sandra, Colin, Gail & myself—and provided a brilliant home but it came with a healthy dose of classic strict discipline! But for all the strictness, there was so much fun. Almost every single Sunday, Dad would pack us all into the car for a day trip somewhere. He was a massive Man' United fan, taking us to Old Trafford to watch the likes of Bobby Charlton, Denis Law, and George Best creating memories we will cherish forever.

Later in life, Dad became a committed Christian. Faith became a huge part of his

life, and he loved nothing more than belting out the hymns at full volume - whether he was in key or not! Around the same time, his hearing started to go a bit, but in typical Reg fashion, he didn't see that as a problem at all. He'd give a sly smile and tell us that being a bit deaf was remarkably useful when he wanted a bit of peace and quiet from the rest of us!

Dad was always smartly dressed & happiest pottering in his garden; Dad's world was Mum. After so many years together they were still like a couple of teenagers constantly holding hands, kissing, and making each other laugh. When we lost Mum in January, Dad was completely lost without her. We believe he died of a broken heart, plain and simple - he just couldn't bear the thought of being apart from his girl for too long.

Dad worked six and a half days a week to keep the family fed and clothed. We would always eat together and went on simple, but fabulously enjoyable holidays as a family. He was passionate about doing the right thing, working hard, with high standards, trust, honesty, and a focus on unity as a family. In Dad's case, love wasn't a spoken word—it was an action which told you he loved you.

It gives us all so much comfort knowing dad is now reunited with Mum - holding her hand once again, and probably looking around heaven trying to find a broken light switch to fix. Rest in peace, Dad. We love you and miss you everyday.

Extracts from Eulogy read by son Phillip



MEMBERS & ADHERENTS -URCs & LEPs

Dear Friends, This letter is designed to give you an indication of the denomination's central finances but is necessarily a brief over-view. Your church (or group) treasurer has a letter giving more detail which we are sure they will be delighted to share with you.

In recent years, on the Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund, we have seen a gradual decline in church contributions and the shortfall on synod's pledges have been made up by the synods themselves. We are hugely grateful to the synods for their generosity but recognise this is not sustainable over the long term. It is also of concern that the weakness of church contributions weakens the covenant that binds us together as a denomination, namely that those with resources contribute to supporting those who have less.

The central URC budget for expenditure (for 2026) includes several areas of expected costs reduction, significantly in staffing. Some very hard choices have been made and implemented. On the other hand, the URC needs to buy in expertise that we need for our world of increasing regulation and oversight, in view of the scarce resources available from volunteers. We hope that at local church level you will take a moment to reflect on the expertise (paid and unpaid) that steers the URC through all we have to do to be comply with complex regulations. (Please pray for us!).

We know you have some of these challenges at local level too. We hope that one of the outcomes of the Church Life Review and Church Life Fund going forward will be the availability of URC resources and advice that can be accessed by local congregations. Ask your Church Secretary about these and look at this year's General Assembly decisions.

The annual audited accounts of the URC (for the year ended 31 Dec 2025) are now finalised and were published just before General Assembly. You can find a copy at <https://urc.org.uk/trustees-report-and-financial-statements/>

The accounts of the M&M Fund (the greater, but not only part of the URC Trust finances) show our total income £670,000 ahead of budget, but our costs were around £610,000 higher than expected. The deficit for the year on the M&M fund was around £650,000. We had hoped for much better.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2025 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity,

continued to treat the M&M Fund as a priority and paid what they could.

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ, Alan Yates (Treasurer)
Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

Film Matinee
2.30pm ~ 26 SEPT 26
Bring your friends

NORTHERN THAILAND

Dear friends, Thank God for our two rice fields and the cornfield at the children's home! Everything is growing so well. It is now time to fertilize them so they can continue to grow strong for a good harvest. We raise rice for the children and corn to feed our pigs and chickens, which will eventually provide nutritious meals for the kids. We are so grateful to God for His daily blessings and care.

All the children are doing well. A few had light fevers, but overall everyone is healthy and attending school as usual. We thank God for keeping them safe and pray for their continued health and strength. In their free time, the kids help out in our vegetable garden. Beyond growing fresh food, it is a wonderful way for them to learn practical skills, teamwork, responsibility, and simple living - life lessons we hope stay with them.

Our catfish pond has also been repaired! This Friday, we plan to release 800~1,000 fingerlings. The rainy season is perfect for this because flying termites provide a great natural food source that helps them grow quickly. We can't wait to turn them into delicious, nourishing meals for everyone at Suk Jai Children's Home.

We are so thankful to God for food, health, work, and the joy of caring for these children. Thank you all for your prayers and support. May God richly bless you and your family!

In Christ,

Rev Abel and Ruth

ECO TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Prepare your home for autumn and reduce your environmental impact this September by focusing on seasonal energy-saving, local harvesting, and waste reduction.

Weather-Proof Your Home

- Check for draughts: Seal leaks around windows and doors with weather-stripping before cooler autumn temperatures arrive.
- Layer up first: Put on a jumper before turning up the heating thermostat.
- Service heating systems: Bleed your radiators now to ensure your heating system runs efficiently when winter starts.

Eat Seasonally and Locally

- Shop local harvest: September is a peak harvest month. Buy apples, root vegetables, and squash from local farm shops or markets to cut transport emissions.
- Reduce food waste: Plan your weekly meals and use up remaining summer produce before it spoils.
- Start composting: Throw autumn garden waste and leftover vegetable scraps into a compost bin.

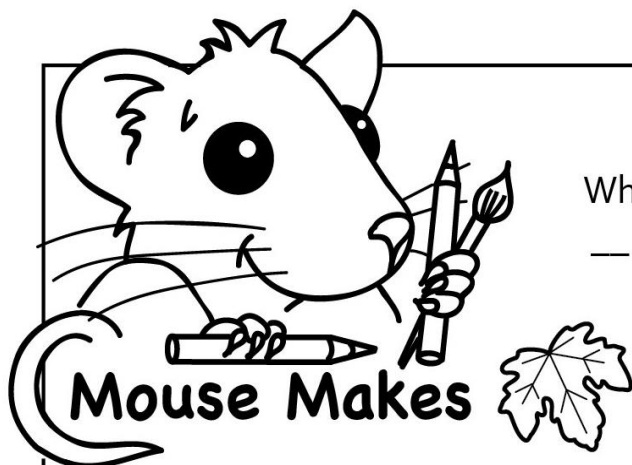
Participate in September Green Events

- Zero Emissions Day: Observe Zero Emissions Day on September 21st by leaving the car at home and walking, cycling, or using public transport.
- Join local clean-ups: Take part in community litter picks or World Clean Up Day initiatives to keep local parks tidy.
- Prepare the garden: Leave fallen leaves in a corner of the garden or mulch them with a mower to protect natural soil health for local wildlife.

SUDOKU

Every row, column and small (3X3) block must contain numbers...
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 once.

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



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

— — — — —
John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

— — — — —"
John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

— — — — —
and

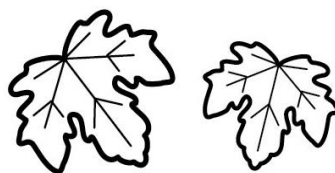


READ
John 15:1-17

How many times does Jesus use the word FRUIT?

What does Jesus command?

To — — — — —
one another.
John 15:12,17



How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?

— — — — —
John 15:6

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

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	6 SEP	13 SEP	20 SEP	27 SEP
Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	JOINT Communion
Time	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am
Leader	Elley Noden	Steve Wood	Bernie Stevens	Caron Small
Duty Elder	A Stevens	B Stevens	D Phillips	CHEADLE HULME CLOSED
Reader & Door	H Elsden	G Elsden	M Smith	
Flowers	Silk	Silk	Silk	
Coffee	M Smith	B Stevens	H Elsden	
Notes		Wilmslow URC on YouTube		Service at HEALD GREEN

CHURCH REGISTER – FUNERAL

REGINALD ASTLEY POLLITT, who died 10 August aged 90yrs, at Cheadle Hulme URC and Manchester Crematorium on Thursday 27 August.

LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

6 SEPT: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20

13 SEPT: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

20 SEPT: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45; Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16

27 SEPT: Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 78:1-4,12-16; Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32

SEASONAL PRAYER

Dear Lord, September – the month of new starts!
New terms, new groups, new friends, new hopes, every year.
Lord, be with us!

Lord, thank you for the new start you offer us when we put our trust in Jesus. A new start that we make once – and then can renew every day.

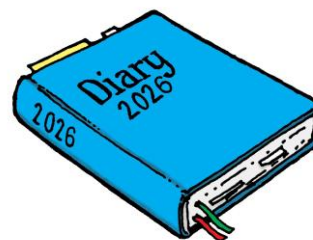
Every time we falter, you pick us up. Every time we come back to you, you forgive us and accept us.

Thank you, Lord, for never letting us down, for never leaving or forsaking us, that new starts with you are always possible, not just in September.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

By Daphne Kitching

CALENDAR



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

SEPTEMBER

Fri 04 Sept	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat 05 Sept	10.30am	Coffee Morning in aid of Church Charities.
	2.30pm	Induction of the new Synod Moderator, Rev Mike Thomason at Worsley Road United Reformed Church, 310-312 Worsley Road, Swinton, Manchester, M27 0EF
Wed 09 Sept	7pm	Elders' Meeting
Fri 11 Sept	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Wed 16 Sept	12noon	Soup, Sweet & Meet
Fri 18 Sept	2pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tues 22 Sept	7.30pm	Combined Elders' Meeting at Bramhall URC
Fri 25 Sept	2pm	No Choir Rehearsal
Sat 26 Sept	2.30pm	Film Matinee

OCTOBER

Thu 1 Oct	7.30pm	Worship Group on Zoom
Sat 3 Oct	10.30am	Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses

SODUKO answers.....

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

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swannlanesecretary@gmail.com swannlanebookings@gmail.com

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