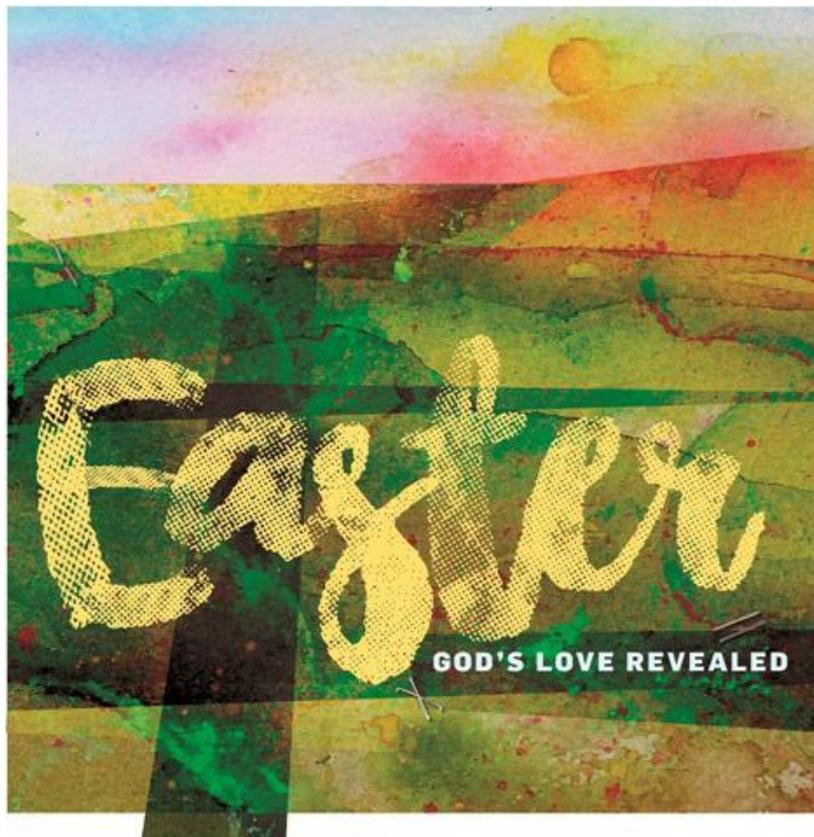


April & May

2021

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church
MAGAZINE



Our Mission

Living With Christ

Living For Christ

Living to Make Christ Known

Address: The Methodist Church,
Ramillies Avenue
Cheadle Hulme SK8 7AL

Church Office: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9:30am to 2:45pm
Weds 9:30 to 12:00 noon.

Tel: 0161 485 1605 **E-mail:** chmc145@hotmail.com

Website: www.chmc.org.uk

Circuit website: bramhallwythenshawemethodistsorg.uk

Minister (on sabbatical from 6th April)
Rev'd Philip Peacock

Assistant Minister
Rev'd Louise Gough

Children and Schools Worker
Mrs Pauline Moore

Children and Families
Mrs Susie Metcalfe

Fresh Expressions Missioner
Linda Rayner

Church Treasurer
Maurice Turnpenney

Senior Stewards (until 30th April 2021)
Mrs Joanne Scoltock Mrs Helen Deaville

Church Council Secretary
Mrs Helen Deaville

Magazine Editor
Gill Smith

Articles for the June/July Magazine by 16th May please.

If you include your personal contact details in your article it will be assumed that you are giving consent for these to be included in the paper copy of the magazine which will be in the public domain.

Remember the magazine is now two monthly

Dear friends,

I came across a cartoon recently on Facebook which made me smile. It said: “March 2021 - just like March 2020, but with toilet paper!”

I don't know about you, but I still can't comprehend that we've been living this very different, strange and difficult way of life for over a year now. Thankfully, there's definitely more to 2021 than just toilet paper (though I'm glad we've got it!).

I wonder how we've been shaped by our experiences of the Pandemic. For some of us, the devastating consequences will have changed the course of our lives. Whatever our story, we've all realised that nothing stands still – perhaps more than ever we are aware of life's ever-moving forms.

As Christians, it's significant that we've experienced two Holy Weeks and Easters during the Covid crisis. Two opportunities to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross, his death and rising, and the agony, hope and love of Jesus and his followers. I wonder where we've seen the pattern of crucifixion and resurrection in our lives and the world?

During Lent (at about its half way point), I participated in a wonderful Quiet Day for Probationer Ministers (I'm the District Probation Secretary), led by Rev'd Kevin Johnson and Jane from The Chapel in the Fields. They encouraged us to think about what it means to live in “the land between”. We reflected on desert experiences – the Israelites in the desert for forty years before reaching the promised land; Jesus' own desert days when he was tested. We came to see the desert as the place where God is at home, where we can have intimacy with God; the desert as a place of preparation, where God gives us just enough, and where God gently leads us through the wilderness.

Maybe you are thinking: “But we're in Easter now! Lent was ages ago!” True – except that even though we have celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, there might be a sense that we're still living

in “the land between”. We know that in Christ’s resurrection, life overturned death, light conquered darkness, and love triumphed over evil – but the cross of pain looms large in our world, and many fears and threats hang over us (globally and personally). We celebrate the joyful hope of Easter knowing that the Covid crisis is far from over, and that its effects will be felt for years to come, perhaps for the rest of our days.

In the afternoon of the retreat day, Kevin and Jane encouraged us to look for signs of hope, signs of transition that winter was giving way to spring, that the desert was giving way to the promised land or the kingdom of God, that crucifixion was giving way to resurrection. If we look for them, if we’re open to receiving, we will see signs of the resurrection, signs of love overcoming all that would extinguish them, all around us.

Easter has long been associated with chocolate! Before I gave it up, my most favourite chocolate treat was Ben and Jerry’s “Phish Food” ice-cream. “Phish Food” ice-cream is made up of all the things I loved best in the (food) world – rich chocolate ice-cream, gooey marshmallow, caramel swirls. But to crown it all, when I dug into this heavenly concoction with my spoon there was a chance I’d pull out a chocolate fish! There wasn’t a fish with every mouthful, but when I managed to catch one... Mmmmmmmmm... That intense chocolate burst - it was the fairy on top of the Christmas tree, the cherry on the cake.

For me, in this strange land-in-between, resurrection is like the chocolate fish in Ben and Jerry’s “Phish Food” ice-cream. It’s there, but buried and often hidden – and when you discover it, which you will, it comes like a gift, bringing hope and joy.

Each day, we can ask God to reveal to us signs of resurrection hope and love – indications that God’s resurrection is at work in the world, bringing change and growth, glimmers of joy, and purpose and love. We can consciously search for it, looking for good, looking for all that gives us life. Then there will be times when God will surprise us – surprise us with resurrection - and it will be wonderful!

May the God of resurrection bless you and surprise you, with light, hope, peace and love.

Louise
Rev'd Louise Gough



Rev'd Philip Peacock's sabbatical - Philip is on sabbatical from April 6th-June 20th. Any pastoral matters should be referred to Rev'd Louise Gough. Details about other cover arrangements are in the March magazine. The Acting Circuit Superintendent is Rev'd Sarah Parkin. If you have any queries, please contact Pam Howie (convenor of Philip's sabbatical support group)

Margaret Gulson, Magazine Editor 2013 – 2021.

We would like to say a very big thank you to Margaret for editing the Church Magazine for the last 8 years.

The magazine is such a valuable resource for our Church allowing us to all keep in touch with each other, hear stories of our church family and encourage our faith, particularly in the last year.

We know how much work goes into editing it, coordinating everything on time, and keeping up with advancing technology!

Many thanks Margaret for all you have done.

We would also like to welcome Gill as the new editor, thanks so much for taking this on!

Helen Deaville and Joanne Scoltock, Senior Stewards

Stay Home or Come and Worship

The church will open again for public worship from Good Friday (**April 2nd**), after the stay at home instruction has been lifted. Most of the following services will take place in the church building and all of them on Zoom (apart from, possibly, the last). They will be available on CHMC's YouTube channel afterwards. (An audio version will go on the CHMC website.) Worship materials will continue to be sent out weekly.

It was decided (on March 18th) not to have any Communion services yet. This will be reviewed periodically by the CHMC Executive Team.

Thursday April 1st Maundy Thursday

7pm Connect team

Via Zoom, made in association with Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme

Friday April 2nd Good Friday

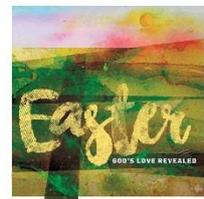
10:30am Rev'd Philip Peacock with Reflection by Rev'd Sarah Hancock (All Saints)

In the building and via Zoom, made in association with Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme.



Sunday April 4th Easter Sunday

10:30am Rev'd Philip Peacock and Rev'd Dave Fraser (URC South Manchester Mission Mentor)
In the building and via Zoom, made in association with Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme



Sunday April 4th Easter Sunday Evening Prayers

7:00pm Rev'd Louise Gough - Zoom only

Sunday April 11th The Methodist Way of Life (second of three on this theme)

10:30am Mr David James
In the building and via Zoom.

Sunday April 18th

10:30 Rev'd Louise Gough
In the building and via Zoom
This will be a shorter service than usual followed by the Annual General Church Meeting.

Sunday April 25th The Methodist Way of Life (third of three on this theme)

10:30 Mr John Harrington
In the building and via Zoom.

Sunday May 2nd

10:30 Mrs Sylvia Cowling
In the building and via Zoom

Sunday May 9th

10:30 Rev'd Simon Sutcliffe
In the building and via Zoom

Sunday May 16th Christian Aid Sunday

10:30am Mr Phil Sarbutts
In the building and via Zoom

Sunday May 23rd Pentecost and Aldersgate Sunday.

10:30am Rev'd Louise Gough
In the building and via Zoom

Sunday May 30th

10:30am Rev'd Sarah Parkin
In the building and via Zoom

6:30pm Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme United Service hosted by All Saints. Details to be confirmed.

At the moment, most activities and groups at church have been suspended until further notice. However, some activities continue online or in other ways, please see church notices for details.

Groups currently meeting are:

'Baby Chat' – Limited places, booking required please contact Susie Metcalfe

'Youth Alpha' – contact Phil Sarbutts

'Tuesday Reflective Worship'

Children, Schools and Family Work at Cheadle Hulme

We are so pleased that the potential for some face to face contact seems to be becoming closer to reality at long last! Our Babychat group has recently resumed meeting at church; much to the delight of the new mums who really value the support offered by Susie Metcalfe, our Children & Families Worker, and their peers.

We have continued to share half termly virtual assemblies with Lane End, Greenbank and now also with Hursthead Juniors, where we were previously involved in running the Bible Explorers lunch club. We have been requested to deliver an in-person assembly at Greenbank just after Easter, and are very much looking forward to doing so.

We will be using the Scripture Union "In Search of Easter Trail" with QR codes to access videos and posters outlining the events of Holy week, with questions to ponder and activity challenges to complete. This will be accessible from the outside of the church premises from Saturday March 27th to Easter Monday. We would ask people not to engage with it during the mornings of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, in the interests of social distancing.

Pauline Moore (Children & Schools Worker)

Gift Day 24th April 2021



Members of the Church Council have asked if we could hold a Gift Day on Saturday 24th April. The aim of the day is to help us to continue to support and uphold the life and mission of the Church.

At the time of writing, we are not able to let you know of the precise details as to how the day will proceed but it is hoped that the church will be open during the afternoon for members to bring their Gifts, but much depends on the circumstances of the “lock down” at the time.

If you are not able to donate by coming directly to church arrangements will be made to ensure that you will be able to give “online” (via our Unity bank account or the Charities Aid Foundation site) or by posting a cheque directly to church.

Please look out for a letter (postage paid for by a member) that will be sent to you shortly after Easter where we hope to be able to give you precise details as to how “the day” will take place.

Maurice Turnpenney



Flower Visitors:

The flower visitor for April is Cheryl Palmer.

The flower visitor for May is Ann Booth.

Church Family

Obituary Susan Howie 1941-2021

Susan was born in Sale the youngest of three children. She attended Ashton -upon -Mersey Secondary School where she was House Games Captain and a prefect. She then attended Loreburn College in Manchester for a Commercial Training Course. She loved sport and played tennis to a high standard, taught dancing to a high level and enjoyed ice skating. She was also a Manchester United supporter.

She moved to Tenby Drive with her parents and started to attend CHMC.

In 1967 she married Bob Howie, Gillian was born in 1969 and Lynne in 1973. Gillian and Lynne gave Sue five grandsons who she was very proud of and loved spoiling.

After her divorce in 1983 Sue always ensured that however hard it was, she would ensure that she took the girls on holiday every year and would also turn her hand to any DIY job.

Sadly her health began to suffer as her spine deteriorated and she endured days of acute pain for many years. However she took on many jobs at church, including office duties, room bookings and editing the church magazine.

She also attended lay-witness weekends. It was commented on that she had been a real witness to others and that her faith had enabled them to put their trust in the Jesus she had encountered. In September 2002 she was baptised.

She moved to Middlewich and then Hyde but was admitted to hospital in 2007 and remained until 2009. She made a brave decision to move into a flat to live on her own in Smithy Green,

(which she loved) and she remained there until the end of her life. She never wanted to ever leave her beloved flat. She had loved her garden and always had hanging baskets on her balcony which she dedicatedly cared for.

I have been Sue's Pastoral Visitor for about ten years and have seen Sue's health deteriorate over the years and latterly she had become virtually housebound. I have always admired her determination to be independent and her strong will which has enabled her to stay in her flat.

To have come out of hospital after two years to live alone is truly amazing. Sue would often tell me that her faith was an important part of her life and without it she could not have managed. She always felt part of the church family and took a great interest in all its activities and a great interest in my own well-being. Over the years, Sue and I have shared many interesting talks and many humorous moments together. I am going to miss her voice on the phone 'Susan here'.

God Bless you Sue, now at peace.
Val Pickwell

In our prayers

We remember in our prayers those who have been in hospital recently, and those who are unwell.

As we come out of lockdown... *Reflection from Linda Rayner - CHMC Fresh Expressions Missioner*

I think everyone will agree that it's been a most peculiar year, which has affected each of us in a unique way and affected churches in many different ways too. I've seen churches that closed the doors last March and are quietly waiting for 'normal', churches that concentrated all their effort on getting back into the building for Sundays, and churches that came *out* of the building, looked around and realised that God needed them to *be church* in a different way, whilst they also worked out how to manage worship in the future.

Returning to worship is essential, and many churches like CHMC, look forward to physically meeting again on Sunday mornings and perhaps other times in the week too. It's important to maintain or rebuild a rhythm that sets priorities and creates space in our busyness as we worship God, care for each other and ensure warm hospitality for any stranger who appears, we know there will be some good changes that will make us even more welcoming.

This background of a traditional, open-minded, praying and stable church underpins my work as '*fresh expressions missioner*', which is about making connections with people 'outside' and sharing faith with those who might not 'go to church', the relationship with, and blessing of the wider church is vital. A *fresh expression* of church is a new form of church for people who are not yet Christians you can find out more at www.freshexpressions.org

or <https://churchsupporthub.org/godsend/overview/>

However, my work with CHMC is half-time, and I have another half-time post as national coordinator for fresh expressions in the United Reformed Church (URC). The URC post means that I am involved in conferences and meetings with those from many denominations who shape 21st century-thinking about new ways of being church, I am privileged to work alongside missiologists (yes, it is a real title!), theologians and some brilliant people who speak prophetically about the future of the church in the UK.

Recently, inevitably the fresh expressions associates have been considering how the pandemic has left churches wrestling with numerous questions, and caused many - like CHMC - to think carefully about what is important as buildings reopen. What can we let go? What needs to change? Who has been excluded since Zoom? Who is included now, but missed-out before Zoom?

Deeper questions are being asked too, about the nature of church.

- ‘what is our mission focus (and what does that actually mean?)’
- ‘what is church?’
- ‘what is church *for*?’

As we make our way out of lockdown, I’m thanking God for CHMC and praying for blessing as we try to discern what God is calling us to do alongside our traditional worship as we share our faith through loving and serving our neighbours – this year a lot of effort has gone into building and maintaining relationships through activities like Baby Chat, Christmas celebration services, social events on Zoom, and supporting the foodbank week after week, faithfully underpinned by the prayers of the church members.

So dare we ask those deeper questions in 2021?

I'm reminded of former Archbishop Rowan Williams, who spoke of the importance of having *BOTH* traditional church *AND* new forms of church – a mixed ecology of church and my prayer is for God's blessing as we work together to share our faith in *BOTH* traditional *AND* new ways here in Cheadle Hulme.

Linda

Lock-Down Activities.



A year in Lockdown

Who would have imagined this time last year how the next 12 months would turn out?

I have recollections of the news, the talk about a “new virus”. We began to hear about travel problems, then our Easter holiday was cancelled. This was getting serious!

But looking back I have to admit that the months have flown. Yes, we've had disappointments.

Our Grandson's First Birthday was planned to be his Baptism, of course he had his birthday, but no Baptism.

Multiple holidays cancelled.

Lockdown birthdays for everyone.

Not seeing some of our family.

Not meeting up with friends.

Not a lot of work for me, so less money coming in - but somehow it didn't matter, we weren't going anywhere to spend it!

On the other hand we have had some wonderful things happening in our family.

Our Daughter did get married - not what had been planned, but fabulous all the same!

A new Granddaughter, our very own Lockdown Baby!!!

Conceived, carried and born during the pandemic!

All 4 of our children have embraced working from home, some more than others! But we are so grateful that they, and their "other halves" are all in employment, even securing new jobs/promotions during this time!

I have had time to do plenty of crafty stuff, card making, knitting and crocheting.

We have enjoyed Lego building, the sets you can get these days are amazing!

The Close that we live in have also supported one another, 4pm on Saturday afternoons, in the good (and sometimes not so good) weather, we would all take a cuppa and chairs and sit on our drives for Socially Distanced chat!

But most importantly, the one single thing that I think we have enjoyed the most - has to be Zoom!!!

Wow - what a difference it has made. Zoom has given us another "window on the world".

We "meet" family and friends on Zoom, have coffee and cake catch ups, quiz nights, Murder Mystery parties, our Christmas was basically going from one Zoom to the next and we even saw the New Year in on Zoom with friends!!!

Zoom worship has been great, since April we haven't missed a Sunday service! It's wonderful, the breakout groups have meant that we have chatted to people who we had never spoken to before - it's fabulous!

It has strengthened our sense of belonging to our church, so a huge “Thank you” to all the people who have made this possible!

Christian Aid



For more than 75 years, Christian Aid have provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people’s rights.

The Cheadle Hulme Christian Aid group has raised thousands of pounds over the years through the local house to house collection, annual sponsored walk and swim, supermarket and street collections. In 2019 our group raised and sent over £14000 much of which was increased with matched funding. None of our usual events could take place in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately this looks likely to be the case again in 2021, so the local group have made alternative plans to try and continue to support Christian Aid financially.

Our first event is the ‘Brew and Bake’ on Saturday 10th April, see details on next page.

The house to house collections in Christian Aid Week, 10th – 16th May, will be different this year, envelopes will be delivery-only with the option for envelopes to be returned to local collection points like churches or to donate online. We plan to deliver around 4,000 envelopes to houses in Cheadle Hulme so if you would be willing to deliver envelopes please let Andrea, Gill or Hazel know.

We will be holding a Christian Aid Family Quiz on Saturday 15th May. Details will follow in the weekly notices.

Andrea, Gill and Hazel



Brew and Bake!



Join us for coffee or tea and cake on Saturday 10th April and help fundraise for Christian Aid.

Various options for joining in available:

- pre-order cakes to be delivered on the morning 10th April
- join on Zoom from 11am – 12noon for a chat
- enjoy offline within your ‘bubble’ (or in accordance with govt. restrictions at time of event)

Please order cakes by 6th April from the menu.

Chocolate Cake	Coffee & Walnut (nuts)	Sticky Gingerbread	Gluten free Flapjack
Marble Cake	Almond Tarts (nuts)	Rocky Road	Gluten free Almond Cake (nuts)
Carrot Cake	Fruit Cake	Lemon Drizzle	Millionaire’s Shortbread

When ordering please state:

- type of cake and how many pieces
- any allergies or intolerances

For Zoom link and/or to order cakes please contact Andrea:

peacock.clark@btinternet.com

If ordering cakes may we suggest a minimum donation of £5. Donations to Christian Aid can be in cash or cheque payable to Christian Aid and passed to Gill, Hazel or Andrea, or on delivery of cake (in a sealed envelope please), OR online - All monies raised will go to Christian Aid. Thanks.

£20 could provide access to clean water for a family for 6 weeks

£30 could help plant drought-tolerant crops for communities to grow

Giving Thanks for Our Vaccine



You may be interested to know that the Diocese of Manchester have partnered with Christian Aid in a recent appeal titled “Giving thanks for our Vaccine”. The appeal, which was only launched last week, has already raised over £1,600. If you would like to contribute to the appeal as an expression of thanks for receiving the link

is: <https://giving.tapsimple.org/page/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-in-the-diocese-of-manchester>

Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information in the face of the pandemic. Many communities around the world face an uncertain wait for a vaccine as questions remain around the cost and timing of a global vaccine programme.

You can find more information about the appeal here:-

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/news/latest-news/sharing-the-benefits-of-your-covid-vaccination.php>

Thy Kingdom Come - 13th May - 23rd May 2021.

Taking place between Ascension Day and Pentecost this is ten days of prayer for many people to come to know the love of God in Jesus. In its 6th year the movement is global and taken up by many Christian denominations. The theme this year is based on Luke chapter 15, Jesus tells the parables of The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and The Lost Son.

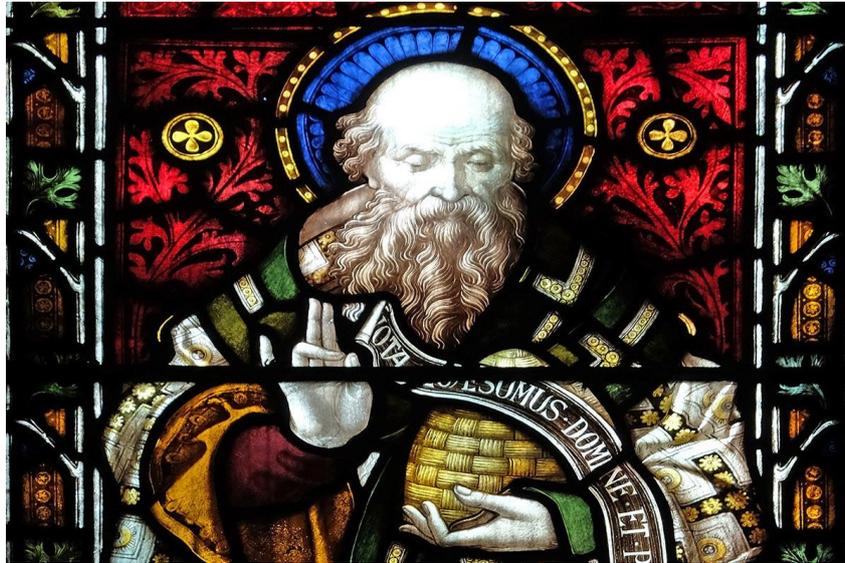
Christians are asked to **Pray for five**people

- 1) A friend, family or neighbour who have not heard or who do not know Jesus (The Lost Sheep)
- 2) People who have drifted away from their faith (The Lost Coin - which was lost in the house/ church).

Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives to come to know Jesus who loves them and is their Saviour.

The Thy Kingdom Come website www.thykingdomcome.global is full of resources for churches, families and individuals to use and can be ordered from now onwards.

Shelia Richardson, Churches Together Cheadle Hulme



Heroes of the Faith: John Chrysostom

When, in the fourth century AD, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, it lost the threat of persecution but gained new perils. As the church became popular, powerful and prosperous, a deadly formalism and corruption crept in. Into that troubled situation was born a man called John Chrysostom.

John was born in Antioch in Syria to a Greek family in AD 347. John was given a good education and learned rhetoric – the skill to speak effectively in public. After a reckless youth he turned to Christ in his twenties.

He became a monk and lived such an austere lifestyle for several years that it affected his health. Of greater long-term benefit were his efforts to memorise the entire Bible. John moved from the monastic life for the church and became a priest in 386. For twelve years he remained in Antioch, preaching frequently and drawing large crowds. John was more than just a clever speaker. He spoke clearly to ordinary people with messages that were simple and practical and used illustrations from everyday life. John constantly appealed to the Bible as God-given authority. It is claimed that his eyes shone 'like burning torches'

John was a gifted communicator and his sermons are some of the very few from the ancient world that can still be profitably read today. He also wrote many commentaries, showing the same common sense and practical application.

John had intended to stay in Antioch but the Emperor felt that Constantinople, the eastern capital of the Roman Empire, needed someone of quality to occupy the pulpit. The result was that John was kidnapped in 398, taken to Constantinople and persuaded to be bishop. It was not a happy appointment!

The authorities wanted a superstar preacher; instead they got a man of God. Standing on the authority of the Bible, John sought to reform both the church and his society. Rejecting all attempts to pressure or limit him, he attacked extravagance and immorality and did all he could to deal with corruption within the church.

He preached against excessive wealth: 'It is foolishness and a public madness to fill the cupboards with clothing and allow men who are created in God's image and likeness to stand naked and trembling with the cold so that they can hardly hold themselves upright.'

He practised what he preached. He sold off some of the art in the Bishop's palace, refused to give lavish dinner parties, and criticised anything that involved excessive wealth and spending. Straightening out a corrupt financial system, John saved enough on his expenses in his first year to build a hospital for the poor. His attacks, not just against excessive wealth but against a whole range of social ills, gained him the friendship of the downtrodden and the hostility of the powerful.

He refused to play politics and so it is hardly surprising that after five years he found himself banished from Constantinople to the edge of the Black Sea. There, in exile, he died in 407 and his last words were, 'Glory be to God in all things. Amen.'

Sixteen centuries lie between us and John Chrysostom and yet he still challenges us.

1. John was a model evangelist. He had fire in his belly and logic in his brain; he preached Christ with urgency and life in a language that all could understand. He lived to proclaim the gospel and once said to his congregation, 'Preaching improves me. When I begin to speak, weariness disappears; when I begin to teach, fatigue too disappears . . .' There was, too, an extraordinary urgency to his message. As he said, 'There is nothing colder than a Christian who does not seek to save others.'
2. John was also an evangelist with vision. In marked contrast to most of his contemporaries he saw beyond his own city and community, sending out church planters into the Danube Valley and eastwards to what is now Iran.
3. John was a man who preached that right beliefs had to be matched with right actions. He wanted to see his society and his church cleaned up.

4. John was a biblical man. He took his stand on Scripture and taught that it had supreme authority. He encouraged his hearers to read the Bible too.
5. John proclaimed a simple lifestyle. He consistently opposed excess wealth and self-indulgent luxury.

John Chrysostom is an awesome figure. In troubled times he spoke out for an authentic Christianity; a faith centred on Christ, guided by the Bible and utterly independent of every pressure of culture. John was indeed a 'golden mouth' for the gospel: our age needs more men and women like him today.

Written and given permission to publish by J. John Reverend
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