

February

2018

THE MAGAZINE

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church



Our Mission

Living With Christ



Living For Christ

Living to Make Christ Known

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Articles for the February Magazine by 11th February

14th February 2018

In 2008 Good Friday fell on the same day as my birthday. Apparently, this had not happened since 1913, when I was not around, and will not happen again until 2160, when I will be experiencing the after-life. Hence, my birthday in 2008 was an once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. I was not able to take the day off and go walking along the coast or around a lake or in the hills (something which I have done on other birthdays). Rather, I was committed to being involved in a number of Good Friday services, the tone of which were reflective and naturally focused on the suffering and death of Christ. They were not really the context that I would have chosen in which to mark the day of my birth. However, later in the evening, I was able to enjoy a celebratory birthday meal. Hence, my Good Friday birthday had a strange feel to it. Death and suffering were juxtaposed with life and celebration. I cannot say that I mind that this experience is not one that I am going to face again.

However, this year it might be said that there is a similar sort of thing happening with Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday both falling on the fourteenth day of this month. (The last time this occurred was in 1947, again before my birth. It will, interestingly, also happen in 2024 and 2029, but following these it will not arise again until after 2100.) This 'clash' though is something that potentially could be felt by everyone.

On Valentine's Day cards (anonymous or otherwise) will be sent; flowers, chocolates and other gifts given; and romantic dates arranged. Apparently, these traditions developed around 14th February because that date was believed to be the time when birds, such as doves and pigeons, chose their life-mates. Further, near this time there was a pagan festival to the Roman fertility god, Lupercus, which the Christian church sought to oust.

Linking this date with a particular person is not straightforward, as there are a number of Valentines who vie for the honour of being the one behind this day of love and romance. However, a prime candidate is a third century priest from Rome. A legend suggests that he gained a reputation for being a friend of lovers by performing secret Christian marriages in pre-Christian Rome. At that time, weddings had been forbidden by the Emperor in the belief that marriage prevented men from

being good soldiers. Upon hearing of Valentine's actions, the Emperor had him put to death.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and one tradition associated with it is a ceremony of ashes. These ashes may be made by burning palm crosses from the previous year. They are a sign of repentance and mortality and used within a service to mark a people's foreheads with the sign of a cross. Words such as the following can accompany the ashing:

'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.'

'Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.'

Within all this emphasis on death, sin and repentance there is nonetheless a hopeful note - God's grace is able to overcome all our frailties, weaknesses and failures and bring us eternal life.

Lent, with Ash Wednesday at the beginning of it, has also traditionally been a time for giving up luxuries like chocolate and for some denominations there are no flowers to be found in church during this period. Hence, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday do not fit well together. Perhaps I will feel similarly on the fourteenth day of this month as I did on Good Friday 2008.

Yet can we seek some thread to hold together the contrasting moods of Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday? Love is the dominant theme of Valentine's Day, or, perhaps more specifically, *eros*, the love of lovers. Through that love we can glimpse something of *agape*, the love of God. It is from this *agape* that the grace of God flows, through which we can know forgiveness when we turn in repentance to God. It is also this love which never ends and is stronger than death. Yes, our mortal bodies will return to dust (as the ceremony of ashes reminds us) but our life with God will continue after death because nothing can separate us from God's everlasting, infinite, unfailing love.

May you know God's *agape* love.

Philip



Come and Worship

Sunday 4th February

- 10.00am Rev Philip Peacock and Margaret Parker
All-age worship with baptism of Annabel Rose Berriford
'Worship offers us fresh insight'
- 6.30pm Rev Philip Peacock
Holy Communion with prayers for wholeness and healing

Sunday 11th February

- 10.00am Rev Philip Peacock
Holy Communion with prayers for wholeness and healing
Reflect led by Derek Booth & Young Church
- 6.30 pm Rev Louise Gough Taize Service

Wednesday 14th February

- 7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service with 'ashing'
Rev Philip Peacock

Sunday 18th February

- 9.30 for 10.00 Taste with Holy Communion
- 10.00am Malcolm Gunn: 'Worship transforms our everyday actions'
- 6.30pm Rev Tim Nicholls

Sunday 25th February

- 10.00am Bob Bartindale Mission in Britain
- 6.00 pm Informal Worship

CHANGES TO THE COLLECTION OF THE OFFERTORY

Now that many in the congregation give their offertory via electronic bank transfer, it has become noticeable that the need to hand around collecting baskets during the service, for folk to place their offering/envelopes, has diminished significantly.

Also whenever we have a group of folk within the church, for say a Baptism, who are not familiar with church practices, that there can be a deal of embarrassment when the



collecting basket appears and they were not expecting it.

With this in mind, and following discussions with the Vestry Stewards and the Minister, the Leadership Team have proposed a change in the way the offertory is collected.

The collecting baskets will no longer be handed around during the service. Instead these baskets will be placed on tables inside both Sanctuary entrance doors for folk to deposit their envelopes/offertory money. The baskets will be suitably marked so that folk will know what they are there for.

At a suitable point in the service the baskets will be brought forward by the Vestry Stewards for the person leading the service to say a prayer of blessing. If there are any retiring collections, these will be taken in the usual way, i.e. someone will stand at the exit doors from the sanctuary holding a collecting basket. If there are any issues which folk wish to raise over this change, please feel free to speak to a member of the

Leadership Team . Thank you

John Harrington, Leadership Team.

News of the Family

Bereavement

Marion Haigh writes "It was with great sadness that at Christmas I learnt of the death of Marjorie Hulmes. She peacefully passed away on 29th August with her daughter with her.

Marjorie along with the later husband Alan were very regular attendants at church for many years and I know she enjoyed many happy memories of their time spent with the church family. They used to babysit for us on a regular basis so that David could help with cubs and I could go to Young Wives

Thanks

I would like to thank Ann for calling with a plant for me.

My sister died on 31st October and then my brother died on 17th December.

It was good to be thought of by my church family

Thank you, Cath Armstrong

Thanks

As most people know Norman has been hospitalised for almost 6 months following an accident he had when we were on a cruise in May. By the time you read this we are hopeful that he should be home but will be permanently in a wheelchair.

Both Norman and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, good wishes, cards, phone calls, emails, visits and the love extended to us during this time.

Thank you to Jane (flower fairy) who brought me flowers and to Pat who took a Harvest gift in to Norman. He really appreciated being remembered.

It has made such a difference knowing the strength of our Church family. To say "Thank You" seems very inadequate but we would like you to know how much your support has meant to us.

Please continue to hold us in your prayers as we adapt to Norman's homecoming.

With grateful thanks and love. Norman and Margaret Pattie.

Thanks

From Ann Garood

"I am simply dumbfounded at such generosity - with the EU tripling all donations at the moment, it means well over £6,000 to a Project in Africa - THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH

May I seize the chance to tell you again how much I appreciate your giving me the chance to give thanks for all the blessings of my 88 years.

For me it was an ecstatic experience to see you all again - and to see you recognise each other after as much as 50 years in some cases! I loved seeing you renew old friendships, and discover new links with different parts of my past.

I thought you were great sports to venture journeying in the darkest part of the year - and even greater sports to humour me in my desire to SING! I know how you appreciated the hospitality that my church worked so hard to produce, and the exhibitions that Margaret created - and of course the Service, thanks to Rachel and Tim, and all the readers, and Anna on the "techy" deck. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH."

Thanks

A big "thank you" to all "Action for Children" contributors - they have contributed £411.41 and it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Elaine Busby and Marion Davies

Thanks

I would like to thank church for our Christmas plants which are still sparkling! This is on behalf of Sue Caffrey, Jean and John Davies. This was our first Christmas without Helen and we all appreciated receiving these lovely gifts.

Many thanks from us all.



If any church member is aware of someone who cannot come to the Sunday Morning Service for lack of transport please let me know

George Lea

Flower Visitor for February is Jane Kemp



In our prayers

We remember in our prayers those who have been in hospital during the last month and those who are very poorly.

We continue to pray for those who are listed in our prayer book

J. M.A. Awards. (From Ann Booth.)

On Sunday January 7th, 9 collectors of JMA (Junior Mission for All) were presented with an award for collecting almost £100.00 between them for J M A during 2017.

They were: Joshua and Daniel Sarbutts, Beth, Charlie, Heidi and Nell Campbell, Hannah Booth, and Hazel and Peter Crummett. An appeal for more collectors was made during the presentation and I'm delighted to say we had 7 new collectors who responded. They were : Luke Scoltock, Jesse Lois, Soruzondu and Sochima Obasi, Grace Aimiuwu, and Oscar Osazuwu. The J M A promise is to Learn, Pray and Serve with

the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ. Please remember our J M A collectors in your prayers and support them all you can. I am pleased to announce that Joshua Sarbutts (with the help of Jacqui and Phil) will be our new J M A secretary.

Men's Dinner & Film night

A dinner and film night for ANY men, has been arranged for **Friday 2nd February** at CHMC. Please arrive at approximately **7.15pm** for dinner at approximately 7.30pm followed by viewing the film '**The Case for Christ**' which is the true story based on the worldwide bestselling book. Lee Strobel, the Legal Editor of the Chicago Tribune newspaper, decides to try and disprove the claims of Christianity in order to save his crumbling marriage, pitting his resolute atheism against his wife's growing faith. Menu choices for the evening will be published in the church notices.

Churches Together Lent Lunches.

You are invited to our traditional Soup-and-bread-and-cheese Lent Lunches, which begin at 12 noon.

No charge, donations accepted for the work of Christian Aid.

Sat 17 th February	at St Ann's
Sat 24 th February	at All Saints
Saturday 3 rd March	at Society of Friends
Saturday 10 th March	at Cheadle Hulme Methodist
Saturday 17 th March	at Grove Lane Baptist
Saturday 24 th March	at United Reformed Church

For Your Diary

Cameo

Tuesdays 10.30am until 2.00pm

Elderly people come together to chat, have refreshments and a hot lunch and enjoy entertainment

Contact

The next meeting of Contact will be on 21st February with Peter Crummett.

Focus

Will be on 16th February - "The work of a Civil Funeral Celebrant"

Foodbank

Continues on the second Sunday of the month, please bring tins in date.

Network

1st February - Wycliffe Hotel for New Year lunch

15th February - "Look back with laughter" with Susan Craig

22nd February - "Family History" Kath Lee

Refugees

A group meets on Monday mornings (10.30 - venue in the Notice Sheet), to share information and to PRAY, about various aspects of this on-going crisis.

Toddlers Wednesdays at 10.30am for toddlers with carers

Baby Chat Thursdays at 10.30am

Tiddlywinks Fridays at 10.30am (2nd and 4th Fridays)

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BOOK OF ACTS

The main interest is the spread of the Gospel, and the growth of the church, from its beginning in Jerusalem, throughout 'Asia', Greece, and eventually to Rome. The author, Luke, was present for part of that journey, though not an eye witness of the gospel events, nor the very early days of the church.

At the start the main characters are Peter (and John), then Paul and his missionary companions, with a large cast of co-workers and significant people along the way. There is little or no information about the other apostles, nor of the spread of the

church in other directions. (Nor, in fact do we know how the Gospel first reached Rome - the church was established there well before Paul arrived.)

We start with the disciples waiting in Jerusalem after the ascension, as Jesus had instructed them, then on to the amazing Pentecost events, often referred to as 'the birth of the church'. Then life for the early believers, as they worked through what had happened, and how they were to live as a new community - sometimes this is truly inspirational, but there were also times of strife and disharmony.

We see miracles, we hear stirring sermons and see thousands come to follow Jesus, but there is also persecution, imprisonment and martyrdom.

The journeys were long and often difficult - Paul and his companions experienced storms and shipwreck, as well as violent opposition - but the message spread, and churches grew.

There is unmistakable divine guidance, and there are very human disagreements. There were significant questions of doctrine to be resolved, as Gentile believers joined the ever growing church, and principles to be established in terms of church leadership and discipline.

The last chapters concern Paul's arrest and his various trials, his imprisonment, and the eventful journey to Rome, and the book ends, rather abruptly, with Paul still preaching boldly in Rome, where he would later be executed for his faith. It's an exciting narrative, covering not much more than 30 years - the book was probably written by AD 80 - maybe even earlier.

'Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' indeed - but the 'Acts of the Holy Spirit' are not over yet - the Good News is to be shared, and the church is to grow, until Jesus comes back again !

"UNSTOPPABLE !!" Why not join the Church Bible Study Group, as we explore this fascinating book together ?

Thursdays, January 25th, Feb 22nd, March 22nd 1.30 – 3.00 at Church.

Any changes will be given in the Sunday Notice Sheet.

Saturday 3rd March 11am - 3pm

The Quaker National Day of Distant Healing at Cheadle Hulme Meeting House.

The purpose is for us, together, to hold in the Light those for whom we are concerned whether individuals, groups or situations. You are warmly invited to come, and to stay for as long or short a time as you wish. Drinks will be provided, bring your own lunch if required.

Passover Meal

We hear a lot about Passover and the meal associated with it, but what is the Passover Meal? Well come and find out. On **Tuesday March 27th** commencing at **7pm** a representative from the organisation called '**Jews for Jesus**' will be at church to take us through the Passover Meal and explain all about it. So you will have the opportunity to taste some of the various items included in the meal and understand their significance. Apart from the Passover experience we will also be sharing together with a 'normal' meal during the presentation and as such therefore, a charge will be made for this meal of £5.00 per person. The whole evening will be concluded by 9.30pm. Children from the age of 10 upwards will be welcome and the charge for them will be £2.50 each. This event will be open to the Circuit so we will need to take booking for the meal. More details will be included in the church notices



Stockport Christian Counselling are in need of volunteers.

During counselling sessions, a volunteer is needed to act as a receptionist, to meet and welcome clients and record attendance. Could you commit to 2 hours per month to join the reception team at the Town House, off Greek Street in Stockport? If so, please phone Grace Anderson on 0161 428 7388.

Fishermen's Tale

Those who remember the Christmas and Easter Trails we have put on at church in years gone by, will know what a fantastic experience they are. Everyone who has attended these events have been 'blown away' by the experience and have asked when we can have another one. Well the wait is over! Commencing on Tuesday afternoon **12th June** and running through to Friday morning **22nd June**, excluding the weekends we will be running the Fishermen's Tale (not Trail!). Just as with previous events the local schools will be sending their pupils in during the days of the Tale but for two evenings each week there will be evening tales to following for any adults and children who have not been able to take part via the local schools.

So more details nearer the time BUT these events don't just happen. They need a lot of help in setting up, clearing away and also catering. So according to the organisers of the event, an organisation called '**Bible Encounter**', this is the help we need:-

Saturday 9th June

1. 11:00am - Deliver Props [**8 people to help off-load**]
2. 12:30pm - Deliver catacombs [**4 people to help off load**]
3. 2pm - [**6 people to help off load – heavy lifting**] Deliver Boat

Sunday 10th June – Pre Set-up Day

1. Move pews after morning service **8/10 to move pews**
2. 2pm – 6pm
Initial set-up – **6/8 active people to build set** - happy up ladders/wielding a screwdriver.
Bring own stepladders and tools (electric screwdriver etc)

Monday 10th June – Main Set-up Day

1. Morning Session: 9:15am-12:30.
 - a. 9am for 9:15am **8/10 active people to build set** – happy up ladders/wielding a screwdriver. Bring own stepladders and tools (electric screwdriver etc)
 - b. 10am **6 people to iron** – with own iron and a thick blanket
2. Afternoon Session: 1:30pm – 5:30pm
 - a. 1:30pm – 4pm **6 active people to complete set** - happy up ladders/wielding a screwdriver
 - b. 2pm – 5:30pm **6 active people to hang cloth** - happy up ladders
3. Evening Session: 7pm–9pm
 - a. **4/6 active people to help with** final cloth hanging/set dressing & tidying up

Tuesday 12th June – Friday 22nd June – Fishermen's Tale

1. Day to Day needs
 - a. Welcome/Refreshments team **(2 people)**
2. Evening Presentations
 - a. Stewards and refreshments for Wednesdays & Thursdays
 - i. 6:45pm
 - ii. 8:00pm

Friday 22nd June – Dismantle

1. 3:30-5:30pm **6 active people** to - remove and pack artefacts & remove and fold cloth
2. 4:15pm-6:30pm **8/10 active people** to dismantle framework/set
3. 6:30pm - 8pm **6 active people** to load van etc

Saturday 23rd June

11am **6/8 active people** to load boat and replace pews

So as you can see we are going to need a lot of help if we want to be able to run the Fishermen's Tale.

Please then will you volunteer to assist with this venture.

Please let me know your availability as soon as you can. Thank you.

John Harrington

C.H.M.C. REUNION

Nearly there - so we ask that you:-

keep praying for all the events and those involved.

that you tell others of what will be happening

tell us of the occasions you have used CHMC

Prayer for this month

Dear Lord, As we move on into this new year we remember that you hold the whole world in your hands. We remember the difficulties that some people face in this country and especially in other countries. It is hard for us to know how it feels to be hungry and cold and alone and/or in pain and those who are grieving because of horrendous situations. Lord - you are Lord of all and we know that you can hold each of these people in your loving hands - may they feel your peace and strength



Where do we stand?:-

An American minister was being introduced to his new and large church. He dressed up as a beggar and went into church. It was quite obvious that people didn't want this vagrant around in their church on the first Sunday with their new minister and folk were either trying to ignore him or some even trying to remove him from the church.

The service was being led by the church elders who kept telling the congregation that the new minister would be there presently. Then the beggar made his way to the front amid gasps and some, tears of shame announced himself as the new minister.

This is what he said: "Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me".

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?"

When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? The King will reply "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me".

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all that he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame. He then said "Today I see a gathering of people, not a church of Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples. When will **you** decide to become disciples?"



Let's ask ourselves these questions What will we feel when that tramp comes into church? How will we feel when we realise he is a lovely Christian person?

Are we willing to do some or all of those things Jesus listed?

Rev Alan Poolton C.H. United Reformed Church



Joseph

In Sunday School one morning young Joseph raised his hand and proceeded to ask a question that had perplexed him for some time.

"There's something I can't figure out. According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right? 'Right' said his teacher.



"And the Children of Israel beat up the Egyptians, right?"
'Er, right.'

And the Children of Israel fought the Philistines and then the Moabites and lots of other tribes, and built a temple, and were always doing something important, right?

'All that is right too' agreed the teacher. So what is your question Joseph?.

'Well what were all the grown-ups doing all that time?'





Church Life



Homegroups

Monday	Wendy and Les Turner		8pm
Monday	Rachel Monkhouse		8pm
Monday	Pam Howie		7.45pm
Tuesday	Pat James Cheadle Hulme Meth Church		7.45pm
Tuesday	Val Pickwell		8pm
Wednesday	Dilys and Maurice Turnpenney		8pm
3rd Thursday Thursday	John Harrington		10am – 12 noon

Home Groups meet on the first and third weeks of each month

MEETING TOGETHER

People to contact

Sunday

Young Church	10.00	Pauline Moore
Great Heights	20.00	Phil & Jaqui Sarbutts

Tuesday

Cameo	10.30	Val Pickwell
Banner Making	14.00	Sue Jacklin
Reflective Worship	19.00	Pat James
Rock Solid	19.15	John Harrington

Wednesday

Toddler Group	10.30	Susie Metcalfe
Contact	14.30	George Lea
The Singers	18.45	Christine Watson

Thursday

Baby Chat	10.30	Susie Metcalfe
Network	14.30	Ruth Mason
Scouts	19.15	David Heatley

Friday

Tiddlywinks	10.30	Susie Metcalfe
Beavers	18.30	Jacqui Metcalfe
(6- 8years)Parish Rooms		
Cubs	18.30	Andrew Thompson
Thorn Grove Guide HQ		
Focus	19.30	Val Pickwell

Heating Steward:	R. Watson/A Hardman	-
Envelope Secretary:	David Clark	
Room Bookings:	Church Office	
Transport Rota:	George Lea	
Bookstall:	-	

