

October 2020

*Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church
The 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: 0161 485 1605.

Please note, revised office hours:

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

e-mail articles for weekly notice sheet: chmc145@hotmail.com

Website: www.chmc.org.uk

Circuit website: bramhallwythenshawmethodists.org.uk

Minister

Rev Philip Peacock

Assistant Minister

Rev Louise Gough

Children and Schools Worker

Mrs Pauline Moore

**Children and Families
Worker**

Mrs Susie Metcalfe

Fresh Expressions Missioner

Linda Rayner

Church Council Secretary

Mrs Helen Deaville

Senior Steward

Mrs Joanne Scoltock

Senior Steward

Mrs Helen Deaville

Room Bookings

via the Church Office
0161 485 1605

Church Treasurer

Maurice Turnpenney

Magazine Editor Mrs Margaret Gulson

Articles for the **November Magazine** by **11th October**, please.

If you include your personal contact details in your article then 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.

HARVEST

Dear friends and members of Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church.

You will be receiving this magazine around the time that we are celebrating harvest. This celebration is going to be somewhat different with the restrictions which the pandemic places upon us. However, our support for others at this time is so important. We are focussing our attention on a local charity, 'Chelwood Foodbank Plus', to which we give not only at harvest but throughout the year, and 'Link to Hope', which works in Eastern Europe. This is the first year as a church that we have sought to support 'Link to Hope'.

Food poverty is real in Stockport. Local people are dealing with hunger every day. Too many families are worrying about their next meal because of circumstances beyond their control. The current Coronavirus pandemic has only increased demand for food parcels and urgent support.



Hopefully, you know something about the work of Foodbanks and Chelwood's in particular. 'Chelwood Foodbank Plus' has been serving Stockport since 2013, providing urgent practical support to local people. In 2019, it issued 1537 food parcels and fed 2023 adults and 1091 children. You can find further information at: <http://www.chelwoodfoodbankplus.org/>



'Link to Hope' is a Christian charity with almost 30 years' experience of reaching out a helping hand to people in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria, bringing hope to those who would otherwise have none. It aims to fight poverty and give humanitarian aid to the most disadvantaged: the poorest – especially those who struggle to survive in villages that lack basic amenities; the most vulnerable – including children; and the most exploited – who have no control over their circumstances and are at the mercy of the authorities. Further information can be found at: <https://linktohope.co.uk/>

One of the things which 'Link to Hope' does is distribute shoeboxes to families or the elderly at Christmas-time. We are collecting items, shoeboxes and financial donations (it costs £3 to send each shoebox) to be ready for the end of October so that they can be sent in time for Christmas. Shoeboxes are given out freely to the most marginalised and poorest groups of people, regardless of religion, colour or creed.

Link to Hope's vision is that one day every person in Eastern Europe will have a safe environment to live in and access to basic healthcare, human rights, employment and education.

You will have seen details of the items which we are collecting for 'Chelwood Foodbank Plus' and 'Link to Hope' in the church notices. If you are not able to bring items to CHMC on our Harvest Sunday, please also see the notices for other ways in which you can donate.

At harvest-time we give thanks for all that God has provided for our physical and spiritual needs. We also recognise that many in our world, both locally and globally, lack the basic necessities of life and so we seek to respond. As we do so, we serve Christ Jesus in our neighbours, for Jesus said: 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40 – NIV).

May God bless you, that you may be a blessing to others.

Philip



3 Mins

Please watch, listen and enjoy original, short reflections by members of Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. These are published on (most) Wednesdays: <https://ctch.org.uk/3mins>

From a Rev Ken Howcroft Past President of the Methodist Conference - from 'Prayers during the coronavirus pandemic', The Methodist Church in Britain website [www.methodist.org.uk], abridged.

*How shall we praise you, Lord our God?
When we are locked down
how shall we praise you?
When the doors to your house are barred,
and your people cannot assemble?
When we have to circle round people in the street,
and to queue for shops while maintaining safe distance?
When we can only communicate
by hearing on the phone
or seeing on the screen
or digitally messaging
or just waving through a window?
When we cannot meet our parents and children,
grandparents and grandchildren?
How shall we praise you?*

Faithful God, as we struggle with present challenges, we thank you for your unfailing love, and we trust you with our eternal future. Amen.

Come or Stay and Worship

Sunday morning worship in the church building

Worship will begin at 10.30am. Please arrive a little earlier to allow time to complete the test and trace form on arrival. Remember to bring your own pen and also to wear a face mask. Singing isn't possible at this time although music will be played. The service will last 30-40 minutes. Social distancing will be aided by floor and pew markers and a one way system around the church. Stewards will be on hand to help and guide.

Worship via Zoom from your home

Also at 10.30am. We plan to broadcast the 10.30am church service to all those who are registered for CHMC Zoom services, so that the whole congregation, whether in the church building or at home, can share in one church service.

If you have not joined us via Zoom before, please email the church office for a Zoom invitation link. Once you have registered for CHMC Zoom worship, you'll receive weekly emailed invitations to Sunday services unless you request otherwise.

A recording of the Zoom worship will be uploaded later in the day, each Sunday, and will be available to view on the CHMC YouTube channel, along with services that have taken place on previous weeks:

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCE2ipuvHMvh-PTpfWuPY9rw#>

Worship Resources at home

We shall continue to send out weekly notices and a Worship Resource to all those on the CHMC mailing list. Please contact the church office if you no longer wish to receive either/both of these.

Sunday October 4th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Philip Peacock.

Sunday October 11th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Revd Philip Peacock with input from Sandra Lopez (World Church Sunday).

Sandra is the Methodist Church's Partnership Co-ordinator for The Americas and the Caribbean.

Sunday October 18th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Louise Gough.

Sunday October 25th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs Pat James.

Reflective Worship - On Tuesdays at 7.30pm in Room 2.

Children

We have really missed our families from Young Church, Tiddlywinks, Toddlers, Wobblers, Babychat and schools over recent months.

It was so lovely to see 5 families, comprising 8 adults and 8 children; as well as myself, Susie and Pam, who had a picnic, chat and Rainbow hunt on Sunday 13 September, on the grass at the front of church. They responded positively to the idea of us having Family fun activities during school holidays and on the occasional weekend. Given the current situation, this will work better rather than Tiddlywinks/ Young Church on a monthly basis.

We are delighted that it has been possible for Babychat to resume so that we can offer support to new mums. We are very grateful to the Back to the Building Team for facilitating this and negotiating the ever changing regulations and guidance. Susie is working with 3 different groups of 6 once a week, partly during sessions previously allocated to the older children's groups. This will stay in place until half term, when we will review in the light of the advice in place at that time.

Schools work will operate in the virtual sense of Rev Philip and me sending videos to be shown to pupils in class groups. Would be wonderful if we could visit in person, but this will not be for some time yet.

Thank you to everyone for the support, encouragement and prayers for our work.

Pauline Moore

Church Family

Thanks

I would like to send grateful thanks to everyone who sent kind greetings and to the flower visitor (who called when I was, with Valerie and Vanessa, half way up Mam Tor!) for remembering me so kindly on my 80th birthday. I cannot believe that I am writing this, God still helps me feel that I am 21, so I'll continue like this for as long as possible!

Margaret Clarke

Funeral

Rev Louise Gough conducted the funeral service for the late Geoff Dunstan on Wednesday August 12th at Stockport Crematorium. Please see the tribute later in the magazine.

Thanks from John, Jean and Eric Dunstan

Dear all, Thank you for all your cards, calls and messages, we really appreciate them. Mum and Dad made so many good friends at the church over the years and both enjoyed many activities and social events.

We thank you for turning out to give him, Geoff Dunstan, a good send off outside his house last Wednesday and fully understand that not everyone could make it especially in the current circumstances. Hopefully we can hold some kind of church service later in the year.

Thank you also for the donations to Millie's Trust. The reason we chose this charity is because it's a local charity offering first aid courses to enable people to learn the skills that may help to save a life, I'm sure dad would have approved.

Best wishes

John, Jean and Eric Dunstan

Flower Visitor for October is Jane Kemp



For Your Diary

Please contact your group leader for details of current activities

Babychat - please contact Susie Metcalfe for details. Pre booking is essential.

Network - there are no plans to meet at present. We will keep you updated via the Notices.

Foodbank support continues

Every Tuesday from 11am—12 noon, at the Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church car park. Please observe social distancing. Also, please wash your hands or use hand gel before and after handling any packaging. Collection also on Saturdays at Grove Lane Baptist Church, 11.00am - 12 noon. Financial donations also very welcome: please go to <http://chelwoodfoodbankplus.org/donate/> Further information on CHMC Facebook page or contact Linda Rayner.

Take Time Together

Continues on the 1st Friday of each month at 2pm and 2nd and 4th Monday at 8pm. Take Time takes place online, via Zoom. To receive the Zoom link, please email: chmc145@hotmail.com

Geoff Dunstan

Being 95, Geoff had time to put some thought into this service, and he left an unfinished eulogy – written in the 3rd person, so the words I'm going to share to start us off and tell us most of his story are his own!

The only thing is that he doesn't actually mention Hilda or how they met – probably because she was such a big part of his life it would have been like saying his house had walls.

They were married for over 50 years, and Geoff did a brilliant job of caring for her in later years. Anyway, here's what Geoff says, and it's very special to hear his voice through his own words:-

Geoffrey Edward Dunstan was born in Newport Monmouthshire on 7th April 1925. He was almost educated at the Allensbank School in Cardiff, where in the last two years he was prompted to assume the captaincy of both the football and the cricket team.

His proper schoolwork struggled to reach average. In a late report, there might be a glimmer of optimism.

Leaving school in the summer of 1939 he started work as an office boy in a firm of ship owners. Then his friend left to join the Royal Navy, he stepped up to Customs Clerk, processing and documenting to clear the ships outward bound to join the Atlantic convoy. Within this time, all five ships were lost to enemy action, and a large proportion of the crew were lost in the Bay of Biscay.

While working in the shipping office he volunteered for aircrew duties in the RAF, and following selection procedures was accepted. Some months later in March 1943 he was called to report to Lord's Cricket Ground two weeks before his eighteenth birthday. Various aspects of training followed, a highlight of which was flying Tiger Moth, with an instructor helping a little bit.

Nearly all his class were designations for navigation training in Canada. The Atlantic crossing was made in the original Queen Mary. The ship berthed at New York within five days. The flying was done in Avro Ansons, initially in Alberta then Manitoba. On return to the UK, further training was to culminate at an advanced flying school prior to joining a squadron. VJ Day arrived two weeks before the end of the course (and an operation in the Far East was avoided).

Upon release from the RAF in 1947 he worked in a couple of offices before joining the Co-operative Wholesale Society in 1955. This was at their Cardiff depot and he soon transferred from the office to the drapery department. He progressed to Sales Representative, calling on drapery stores throughout South Wales, and was later appointed Regional Sales Manager to London and the South East.

And then to the National Buying Office in Manchester in 1966 – eventually appointed as a national buyer. He worked himself out of a job in the 1980s, helping to set up a computer controlled store management, for wholesale warehouses and increasingly for retail stores.

Retirement in 1987 was coupled with a redundancy package and marked 33 years in which he appreciated the humour and enjoyment of so many friends and colleagues spanning the whole country.

He continued to play football and cricket until his early 30s. Then followed the stages of domestic duties and helping with the children. In 1974 neighbours invited him to join the Ladybridge Bowling Club, and he gradually became more involved. His term at the club spanned more than 40 years, during which he was privileged to play with and receive friendship and kindness from so many members. He also treasured similar companionship with walking groups, including our church group, sharing the panoramas and beauty of woodland, hill and dale, on the trails within and bordering the Peak District.

And that's where Geoff's own words stop! So we have to add our own! Most importantly to say that Geoff was a very caring dad. Jean says he used to call himself her personal taxi driver, as there was no way he'd ever have her walking home at night; he'd drop her wherever she wanted to be. There will be so many memories for Eric, Jean and John – too many to mention - but as a dad he was always helping them. He was very generous and knowledgeable, always ready to give good advice, most of which John says they ignored!

As grand-dad to James and Ryan, he gave them so many memories from times spent with grandma and grand-dad, and he made sure they had lots of adventures. He'd always take them walking, which they loved, and he taught them how to play cricket. Geoff did enjoy his sport and always watched the cricket, snooker, football and rugby (being a Welshman).

He was a keen bowler at Ladybridge club, and was loved to bits at Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church where he took part in productions – he was a good singer, having a big role when they put on “Spirit” in the 1980s, and he was a member of the church choir.

Geoff had a very full and long life. His own words show how much he valued the people in his life, and he was loved and valued himself. Geoff had a very good sense of humour – he was fun and so funny. The family are grateful to have received so many messages saying how much they will miss Geoff, how helpful he was, and how much he was loved.

Geoff always astounded everyone for being so great for his grand old age, because he was so sprightly - right up to the end he was totally and fiercely independent and fit as a fiddle.

Geoff was lovely man – a real gentleman; he was always smart, always interested in people, always friendly, always had a smile. He would give you a lovely greeting and make you feel special.

As his family said, he will be sadly missed by his children and grandchildren and all his friends.

Geoff was a lovely man who was very caring and friendly to all he knew.

Tools for Self-Reliance (TFSR)

If you have any unwanted tools in your garage or shed, or an old sewing machine, (TFSR) is a charity that recycles tools and sewing machines. These may have been in use for many years – the tools are cleaned, refurbished and if appropriate, sharpened. Sewing machines are cleaned and serviced. The tools are then packed into sets (between about 20 and over 100 items) for various purposes (e.g. building, carpentry, car/motorcycle/cycle repair, shoe making and repair, plumbing, metalworking, wiring) and sent to Ghana, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia and Malawi.

On arrival the tools and sewing machines are used to train individuals to enable them to earn a living. The training groups are brought together by cooperation between our charity and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Projects generally last for 6-12 months, training groups of young people in a practical skill so that they can set up their own businesses, using the tools that we have provided.

Previously, many trainees were dependent on subsistence farming to feed themselves and their families and have frequently experienced extreme poverty.

Programmes also include training in costing and book-keeping, marketing and health (especially important in areas where HIV/AIDS are endemic).

As businesses become established, apart from raising individual's esteem and confidence, their income gradually enables improvement of the quality and quantity of food they can buy, provides for medical treatment and pays for the children's education.

Your local group, who are all volunteers, is based in Didsbury. At present we will attempt to collect tools that are offered to us but must work within the current government regulations. Please contact Harry Epton on 0161 485 2231. Also please visit our website at www.tfsr.org to find out more about the charity.

Heroes of the Faith:

Josephine Butler

Written and given permission to publish by J. John
Reverend Canon www.canonjohn.com



This summer I have written about some of my favourite Christian heroes and a particularly fascinating one is Josephine Butler (1828–1906). She is little known today despite being one of the most important Englishwomen of the nineteenth century.

It's not hard to find reasons for Josephine's neglect. She worked tirelessly for decades trying to rescue prostitutes and prevent women being trafficked into prostitution and, in doing

so, exposed a dreadful business that many people – especially men – would have preferred to remain hidden.

Unfortunately, she paid the price: those who tackle an unmentionable evil often become unmentionable themselves.

Josephine was born into an upper-middle-class Christian family who were very much interested in social reform and who treated her education with a seriousness rare at that time.

In her teenage years Josephine's childhood faith was deepened through a spiritual experience that gave her a profound love for Christ. She married a man who not only loved her deeply but shared her faith and was prepared to treat her as an equal.

Just when a life of quiet respectability seemed guaranteed, tragedy struck with the death of a daughter in 1863, and Josephine – always sensitive to injustice – began to occupy herself in charity work, visiting workhouses and rescuing prostitutes from the streets.

A combination of social and economic factors had meant that prostitution was widespread in Victorian Britain. It was covered by weak laws and policed with a harsh insensitivity. Unpleasant as it is to mention, prostitutes were treated as villains rather than victims, frequently abused – there are appalling references to 'padded rooms' in brothels – and in an age when there was no treatment for sexual diseases, virgins were much prized. Matters were made worse by Victorian sensitivities which meant that the injustices and cruelties were hidden because 'decent' people would not mention or investigate them.

Josephine adopted a double strategy. She simply befriended prostitutes, speaking to them of Jesus and, where possible, offered them a way out. Some she housed in her own house, others in hostels.

Yet she also 'went public' and, gifted with intelligence, charm and good looks, began public meetings to take her campaign against prostitution and female injustice to the nation. It took courage as she was subjected to repeated verbal and sometimes physical attacks. For a woman to speak publicly was unusual in the Victorian era and for one to speak on sexual matters was felt to be an outrage. Despite frequent ill-health Josephine tirelessly travelled backwards and forwards across the country speaking everywhere she was allowed to.

She soon made strategic friends and, as the years passed, saw bad laws repealed and good laws introduced. In the 1880s she began a campaign against child prostitution which resulted in the age of consent being raised from 13 to 16, a move which made the prosecution of the men involved possible.

Josephine's passion extended beyond the injustices of prostitution to every area in which women were badly treated. She was a prime mover in demanding that women's education be taken seriously and an early advocate for women's rights to vote. Her interests and enthusiasm took her to the Continent where she encouraged action there against prostitution and other injustices.

It is fascinating to note that Josephine campaigned vigorously against a system by which the British Army in India obtained large numbers of local prostitutes in order to protect the health of its soldiers.

Josephine was in every way a remarkable woman and her life and actions pose all sorts of challenges to us today.

There are the obvious things: her commitment, her sacrifice, her courage and her passion. There is also, of course, her relevance: a century and a half later such things as child abuse, people trafficking, prostitution and the sexual mistreatment of women have not gone away. Yet there are many other aspects to her life and let me list five that I find fascinating.

1. Josephine was a woman of faith. Josephine was driven by a living faith in Jesus in which daily prayer and Bible study were essential. One of her famous sayings was, 'God and one woman make a majority.'

2. Josephine was a woman of grace. While many Victorian Christians abhorred the horrors of prostitution, they took a cold and condemning approach that ended up punishing the women involved.

3. Josephine shunned judgement and instead showed friendship and love for those at the heart of this evil trade. Ultimately her battle was not against prostitution as a system but for prostitutes as people.

4. Josephine didn't close her eyes. While only a small minority of the population may have actually used prostitutes in the nineteenth century, the vast majority chose simply to look away. After all, prostitution was a business that was conducted largely at night, behind closed doors and which generally involved 'girls of the lower classes'. Josephine realised that in the face of evil, it's not enough simply to turn your face away. She acted.

5. Josephine was prepared to break the rules of society. She chose to do what society said she mustn't do. In doing so she was, of course, following the pattern of Jesus who

shocked his contemporaries with his friendship for those who were considered sinners.

6. Josephine recognised the limits of the law. Yes, she was a great social reformer, but she was under no illusions that morality could save society or individuals. Josephine's great hope was the transformation of lives through an encounter with Jesus.

In the current climate there are a lot of empty plinths where statues have been removed. A very suitable replacement would be one of Josephine Butler. I suspect, however, that had you asked her whether she wanted to be commemorated in some iron or bronze figure, she would have said that her best memorial was the continuation of her work, I'd agree.

Written and given permission to publish by J. John Reverend
Canon www.canonjjohn.com Philo Trust:
<mailto:connect@canonjjohn.com>