

September
2020

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church The Magazine



Our Mission

Living With Christ

Living For Christ

Living to Make Christ Known

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Articles for the **October Magazine by 13th September**, 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

From Rev'd Gough.....



Dear friends

These days we only connect on Facebook but, as children, it was always a treat to see my cousins, Suzi and Paul. They were a similar age to me and my sister, so you can imagine the antics! In our more sedate moments, we'd play board-games, but sometimes the rules were a matter of dispute. It seemed both families had interpreted them differently, so loud protestations of "cheat" and "you can't do that!" were frequently heard.

I don't know about you, but I seem to be spending all my time and energy trying to understand rules these days. In my lowest moments, I feel trapped in a life-sized board game where the moves I'd like to make are blocked! Then, just when I think I understand where I'm meant to be, where I can go and what I can do, the rules change again! Like all ministers and churches, I'm busy reading websites in order to discover and meet all the government and denominational guidelines for the safe reopening of church buildings. Hats off to the amazing team at CHMC who have negotiated all these. What an incredible amount of complex and detailed work they have done!

When things change all the time, working out what we can and can't do is incredibly difficult, and as I write, Greater Manchester is still subject to special restrictions. It's really hard to keep track and access the information. The various measures we've had to undertake since March have been really difficult, and it's not surprising that, for some, confidence has been knocked and the pain of being separated from loved ones or treasured activities has had a detrimental effect.

Jesus wasn't all that keen on rules. He knew that in many cases, they were used to suppress people, and not for protection, health and well-being (or to combat a virus). In the end, he came up with his own very succinct version of what mattered most. Jesus

said: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” and “Love your neighbour as yourself”. And in John’s gospel, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another”. Great rules!

When we are hearing yet another directive, or wondering why things are so different at church these days, perhaps we can summon these words of Jesus to mind. In everything we do we are called to express our love for God and for others. Perhaps we can see the measures we put in place at church, or out and about (if we’re not shielding at home) – wearing masks, limiting social contact, keeping to the two metre rule where possible, not singing or raising our voices – as acts of love towards others. Even though it’s hard to follow all the ins and outs, keeping each other safe really matters. Of course we all respond to risk differently, and it’s frustrating to see some people not following the guidelines at all – but perhaps we can model that loving kindness towards others by wrapping all the small rules into Jesus’ big ones.

Nobody wanted 2020 to turn out like this. It’s hard to know where we’ll be in a few weeks or months’ time. But the world needs love more than ever – especially when patience is wearing thin and people are in a much more fragile state of heart and mind.

We can also remember that we follow Jesus, who by his faithfulness and love, completely transformed pain and suffering, turning the cross and the tomb into a source of light, hope and life. God did not cause this virus, and God aches with those who carry the wounds of bereavement and grief – but God is already at work in a trillion loving ways, turning things round, pouring love and compassion into the most difficult situations.

When we add our love to that enormous divine, active love of God’s – well, that’s when love and hope really shine.

So let's do our best to love and encourage one another, whether we're at home or venturing further afield, as we live in these strange times, where life – and church – has been turned upside-down. Perhaps through it all, we can rediscover what really matters (just like Jesus' did with his new commandments) and reshape the church to minister to this strange new world, through our prayers, the seeking of God's mind and heart, and our loving actions.

May you know the extraordinary love and care of God as you live through these days, and a peace that defies all understanding.

With love
Louise

Rev'd Louise Gough
Assistant Minister, Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church

Welcome Back to the Building!

It's happening!

With this magazine, you will receive a letter inviting you to Church services in the building from **September 6th** – providing government restrictions are not increased. Morning worship will be at our regular time of 10.30am.

Please contact the office if you do not receive the letter.

Not yet ready to return to the building? We hope this month to continue providing a Sunday service via Zoom and YouTube and will continue to send service sheets for individuals to use at home.

Would like to try out Zoom? Please let the Church Office know (chmc145@hotmail.com) so that you can receive an invitation. If you come to one of these services, you will be invited to future services unless you let us know otherwise.

Have internet access but not able to Zoom? All Zoom services which we successfully record can be viewed on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE2ipuvHMvh-PTpfWuPY9rw> from early afternoon each Sunday.

Come and Worship

Sunday 6th September

10:30 Morning Worship, led by Rev Philip Peacock

Live in the building and possibly via Zoom*.

3pm Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Sarah Parkin (see further details elsewhere in the magazine).

Sunday 13th September

10:30 Morning Worship, led by Rev Philip Peacock

Live in the building and possibly via Zoom*.

Sunday 20th September

10:30 Morning Worship led by Rev Louise Gough

Live in the building and possibly via Zoom*.

Sunday 27th September

Harvest Festival

10:30 Morning Worship led by Rev Philip Peacock

Live in the building and possibly via Zoom*.

*If it is not possible to transmit the sanctuary service by Zoom, we hope to provide a separate Zoom service. (See notices for further details.)

Important Note regarding Transport and Car Sharing:

Transport Rota:

We do **not** advise offering someone a lift to Church.

If you do, please carefully follow the government guidelines: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#private-cars-and-other-vehicles> , part of which we reprint here:

Car sharing

You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. If you need to do this, please try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to [wear a face covering](#)

Prayer

PRAYING “TOGETHER” at CHMC

From the start of our “Church Prayer Mornings”, back in the Autumn of 2017, the idea of coming TOGETHER to pray seemed to be a significant part of what God was calling us to do. To come together, to “look up”, to listen, to pray, and to seek his guidance and his purpose for this church, as we look to the future – that guidance is surely needed now as much as ever !

Just now, of course, it is not possible for us to be together in a literal sense – but the aspect of praying together is still important. We may not be “together” in time and space, but we do come together to meet with God – shared hopes, shared concerns, and a shared need to know the reality of his presence and his guidance. And when we come together to pray, Jesus himself has promised to be there with us too.

For the last few months an email has been sent (or a paper copy if requested) to all the people who have been a part of the Church Prayer Mornings – coming occasionally or regularly - and to those receiving the Prayer Updates and joining the church family in prayer, at home. The mailing has usually included a meditation or appropriate Bible verses, a short prayer, and a link to a worship song, as well as the Prayer Updates from the Leadership Team and from Linda, Pauline & Susie. (All of which we would have used, had we been together at Church).

Our hope is that people have been able to “be still” for a moment, to “look up”, and to be reminded of the “steadfast love” of God and of his presence with us: then to move on to pray for the matters mentioned on the “update sheet”. Some Church people have messaged us, saying that they found the material helpful, or that they appreciated a particular song – which is encouraging – thank you!

This email format seems to be the best way to continue for the next few months at least, so if you have any comments or suggestions as to what we should include, or how we could improve things, do please get in touch. And if you have not as yet been receiving the monthly Prayer Morning material, but would like to do so, just let us know.

Jean Goodacre & Dilys Turnpenney (for the Prayer Morning Planning Group)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4 : 6

Prayer requests and prayer team availability

At present we do not have access to the Church Prayer Book, or to the Prayer Corner, and **even when church re-opens this may still be the case**. Therefore, prayer requests for friends, family members etc, or for the wider world may be made in one of the following ways:

- **At the start of Sunday morning worship** either on Zoom or in Church (when we re-open), requests made will be prayed for during the service as part of our intercessory prayers.
- **A Prayer Box** is available **each Tuesday 11am to 12noon in CHMC car park, when your donations are received for the Food Bank**. Written prayer requests placed in the box (use a first name or initials) will be passed to the Prayer Team.
- **By email or phone call to one of the people listed below, on any day of the week**. The person receiving the request will pray at home, and, if agreed by the person making the request, will share the information with the other people listed below and they will pray too.

Contact detail are available in the Church Directory.

Pat James
Jean Goodacre
Margaret Parker
Wendy Turner
Margaret Clarke
Val Pickwell
Dilys Turnpenney

The present situation is not easy, and any of us may be glad of some support - members of the Prayer Team continue to be available, at home, to listen and to pray.

Church Family

In our prayers

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

Flower Visitor for September if possible

Jenni Hardman



Staying in touch

From this month, there will not be a weekly email or letter but you will continue to receive notices and a worship service that you can use as an individual at home. Please let the Office know if you prefer not to receive them.

Want to keep in touch and currently receiving this from a friend? Do email the Office to receive your own copy of the notices and magazine via email.

Please visit the CHMC Facebook page for regular updates and posts – a good way to keep connected. Updated most days with prayers, news, reflections and links: <https://www.facebook.com/cheadlehulmemethodistchurch>

We are also making every effort to start updating the website with relevant information – please be patient as we endeavour to catch up!

Fresh Expressions



Thank you to everyone who continues to bring donations for Chelwood Foodbank to the carpark each Tuesday morning. It's become quite 'the place to meet', and there are often little groups standing chatting, but the need for what you're all doing is continuing to rise.

Sadly, foodbanks are serving just about 100% more people than at the start of lockdown and as we hear of yet more redundancies, it is set to rise yet more.

As I write, there is particular hardship as families try to manage over the holiday period – it's known as 'holiday hunger' and is a time when many mothers go hungry as they feed their children. Even in places like Cheadle Hulme!

With just one exception, each week since lockdown, we have taken two cars full to Chelwood, and we've even been recognised with a 'certificate of appreciation' from the team at the foodbank.

The people who donate are by no means all from church, many have seen what we're doing on Facebook and are joining in because of this. Some come in cars, others walk across the road. It's great to have a chat with everyone, and we'd hope to invite them to join us as the building opens up...

If you have any ideas about inviting people along to events, do let me know!

Our second litter pick took place on Friday 21st August, and we were delighted to welcome 3 families along with a happy team of helpers from CHMC. We enthusiastically collected bags full of litter from Station Road, the side roads and also Oak Meadow. At the request of the Council, we (well... it was John – thank you John!) weeded the area around every bollard from the church down to the station. It's fair to say, the road and pavement was far cleaner and tidier when we left. Best of all, we had great fun, despite a downpour halfway through! There will be another litter pick on a Sunday in September – date to be confirmed.

Finally, we are thinking about running another course – perhaps thinking about some of the 'BIG' questions in life, and how our thinking might have been affected by COVID19. This is still in the early stage of discussion but do give me a call if you have any ideas.

Thank you!
Linda

For Your Diary

At the moment most activities and groups in the building have been suspended but the church remains active in the following 'at a distance' activities:

Chelwood Foodbank Plus Collection takes place every Tuesday from 11am—12noon, at the Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church car park. Please observe social distancing when you are dropping anything off. Also, wash your hands or use hand gel before and after handling any packaging.

Another collection takes place every Saturday, at Grove Lane Baptist Church from 11.00am - 12 noon. If you are not able to give food donations but could support the Foodbank with a financial donation please go to:

<http://chelwoodfoodbankplus.org/donate/>

For further information, see our Facebook page or contact Linda Rayner.

Tuesday Reflective Worship is continuing in a different way. The people who usually meet at church on Tuesday evening for this have decided that they will continue to 'meet' by following their usual pattern at home on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. If you would like to join in with this, can you let the church office know and they can send you further details and the sheets you require?

Take Time Together continues on the first Friday of each month at 2pm and the second and fourth Mondays at 8pm. The next sessions are Friday 4th Sept at 2pm and Mondays Sept 14th and 28th at 8pm

Take Time takes place online, via Zoom. To receive the Zoom link, please email:

chmc145@hotmail.com

Baby Chat will be restarting on Weds 9th September from 10:30am to 11:45am. This is for mums with non crawling babies. There will be three sessions a week, with a limit of 6 mums per session, to enable social distancing. Places can be booked via Eventbrite. For full details please go to the CHMC Babychat Facebook page.

Welcome service for Rev'd Sarah Parkin, Bramhall Methodist Church

On Sunday 6th September, the Circuit is holding a Welcome Service for Rev Sarah Parkin. As one would expect, it will be a little bit different from normal Welcome Services because of the current restrictions. It will be held at 3:00pm at Bramhall Methodist Church and will be streamed live on the Internet.

The service can be accessed by browsing to <http://bmethods.link/welcome> at that time.

A limited congregation of invited guests only from the Circuit, Church and Community will be gathered in person in church. Our Superintendent, Rev Philip Peacock, will be leading the service, and Rev Andrew Lunn, the Chairman of the District, will be preaching.

Please remember



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020 - working in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria & Ukraine

You are invited to contribute to Christmas boxes for either a 'Family' or 'Elderly'.

July	August	September
Soap & flannel Toothbrush & toothpaste Shampoo (up to 300ml) Hairbrush or comb Candles & holder Scissors or nail clippers	Colouring pads, crayons, pencils, pens or paper Small toys eg yo-yo, cars Small games eg travel size draughts/dominoes/cards Soft toy (with CE label) Tape measure	Gloves, scarf or hat Sweets or chocolate (BB June 2021 EU origin) Reading glasses/magnifier Mug, hot water bottle Head scarf, socks or tights, work gloves

Any contributions and empty shoeboxes gratefully received. For collection of donations please email the church office - alternatively drop off at the weekly Tuesday Foodbank collection at CHMC church car park 11am -12 noon or keep items at home until we are meeting again at church. To read more about this project: <https://linktohope.co.uk/> WNAT (email the church office for more details)

Heroes of the Faith

William Wilberforce

Over the summer I want to look at some of my favourite Christian heroes. One figure who stands high is William Wilberforce (1759–1833). Although he is remembered mainly for leading the battle against slavery, he did an enormous amount of good in many other areas.



Wilberforce was born into a Yorkshire family and after going to Cambridge University, where he seems to have done as little in the way of studying as possible, he became an MP in 1780. He was to later admit that at this time he had no other ambition than to promote his own career.

In 1784 his life changed when he converted to the Christian faith. He took his new relationship with God so seriously that he considered becoming a clergyman, but accepted advice to stay in politics. He soon became involved with other Christians who were determined to work out their faith in changing society for the better. For many of them the pressing issue of the time was the abomination of slavery and the evil trade associated with it. Wilberforce joined them and, gifted with eloquence, he became the champion of the anti-slavery cause and made it his life's mission. Although bitterly opposed by those who had interests in what was a very profitable business, Wilberforce persistently introduced Bills from 1789 onwards to abolish first the slave trade and then slavery itself. Despite defeat after defeat he persisted until finally, in 1833, just three days before his death, the British government passed the Bill to abolish slavery. His lifelong battle had been victorious.

Wilberforce was also involved in many other social issues: he campaigned on behalf of single mothers, orphans, Sunday schools, juvenile delinquents and children employed as chimney sweeps. He helped set up many organisations such as the Church Missionary Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society, and was a founder member of one of the first charities against animal cruelty, what is now the RSPCA. Although it has what is now an unfashionable title, his Society for the Suppression of Vice stood against many of the social evils of his day (and, sadly, ours): drunkenness, corruption, prostitution and animal cruelty.

In these days, when every figure of the past is scrutinised by whatever standards are currently held, there are those who might find fault with Wilberforce. He was as much a man of his time as we are of ours, and on many social issues was very conservative. Yet, as he would be the first to agree, the ultimate issue is not how any of us measure

against the fluctuating and ever-changing standards that our culture creates, but how we measure up against those of God. Indeed, if we are to condemn, we should remember that to judge is to be judged. If we point a finger in accusation it means three fingers point back at us. After all, it is not as though we live in a time of no evils or injustices. Were he alive today, I think Wilberforce would be a busy man.

Let me suggest five things that challenge me about William Wilberforce.

1. *He applied his faith.* As many Christians have done, before and since, he could easily have separated his spiritual life from his daily work. He didn't. With Wilberforce there was a wonderful harmony between what he believed and what he sought to achieve.
2. *He served in costly leadership.* A small, frail man with poor health, Wilberforce willingly took on a role that he knew would make him a target. We may view him as little short of a saint today but for many of his contemporaries he was a man of dangerous ideas who deserved to be criticised and obstructed. He paid the price for leadership.
3. *He had determination.* Wilberforce persisted in his battle against slavery, not just for months or years, but for decades. He realised his calling and he stuck with it. His was truly a 'purpose-driven life'.
4. *He had wisdom.* Wilberforce was a strategic thinker, sought the support of others and built friendships and alliances from as wide a circle as possible.
5. *He guarded his spiritual life.* With all his involvements and activities, Wilberforce could easily have had his faith crushed under the weight of his duties and responsibilities. Yet he knew that only God could be the source of the strength he needed. To the very end of his life he remained permanently dependent on the grace of God.

William Wilberforce was an example of a true conversion to Christ. Today, some are cynical of an individual 'becoming converted' or being 'born again'. If any sort of change to faith is talked about, it's that of a gradual process or some sort of 'spiritual journey'. The unarguable reality with Wilberforce is that he did undergo a dramatic transforming conversion. He reminds us that conversions do happen, and they can have remarkable effects.

Finally, given that Wilberforce was already a Member of Parliament when he converted to the Christian faith, it inspires me to pray for the same thing to happen to today's politicians.

Written and given permission to publish by **J. John**
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