

The Magazine

March 2019

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church



Our Mission

Living With Christ

Living For Christ

Living to Make Christ Known

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Assistant Minister
Rev Louise Gough

Children and Schools Worker
Mrs Pauline Moore

**Children and Families
Worker**
Mrs Susie Metcalfe

Fresh Expressions Missioner
Mrs Linda Rayner

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Mrs Helen Deaville

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Magazine Editor Mrs Margaret Gulson

Articles for the April Magazine by **10th March** 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.

Philip writes:



What do you believe?

During the early centuries of the Church's life there was a great concern for defining the orthodox faith of the Church. Such a need arose because of controversies developing within the Christian Church. For example, questions about the relationship of Jesus to God the Father, about whether God could suffer, and about the way the Holy Spirit worked in people's lives, had led different Christians to different conclusions.

So, at particular times in the history of the Church certain statements of Christian belief (creeds) emerged. The two most important of these are the Nicene Creed (from the fourth century A.D.) and the Apostles' Creed (which is more difficult to date but its development is thought to have begun prior to the Nicene Creed).

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. (From the Apostles' Creed)

For our sake [Jesus] was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again ... (From the Nicene Creed)

I wonder what sort of creed you might draw up if you took time to do so. What do you believe about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit? What are the essentials of your belief? How similar would your creed be to the traditional statements of belief mentioned above?

This March magazine comes to you just before the beginning of Lent which starts on March 6th (Ash Wednesday). Lent has always been a time for Christian reflection. Perhaps you might like to use some time within it to go back to the basics of the Christian faith and then write your own creed. If you do so, you could even send it in to be published in a future magazine!

Wishing you a time of fruitful reflection during this Lenten season,

Philip.

Fresh Expressions Missioner – introductory meeting

The introductory meeting for Linda Rayner, recently appointed Fresh Expressions Missioner, took place on Monday evening, 28th January 2019. More than 20 people braved the wintry weather, the conversation was lively, and there was lots of laughter as Linda attempted to grasp the expectations of the church and explain what is likely to happen next.

Linda began by asking what was envisaged of her in this role; and was delighted to discover that most people in the room understood that this is about *enabling* and *guiding*, rather than completing a list of tasks on her own. The meeting agreed that the advantage of having an ‘outside’ person, is that there is no pre-conceived idea as to what might prove to be the ‘right’ pathway for CHMC as the church moves into the unknown territory of Fresh Expressions. The ultimate goal is to bring disciples to Christ (Matthew 28: 19-20), and it was acknowledged that this does not mean increasing numbers at 10.30 at a Sunday morning, or any other worship, and might mean that we start a form of church that is unrecognisable for many church-goers.

We looked at the definition of a fresh expression of church and talked about what this means for Cheadle Hulme: “*A fresh expression is a new form of church that emerges within contemporary culture and engages primarily with those who don’t ‘go to church’*”

It was noted that society has recently faced some dramatic changes, yet in many cases ‘Church’ has struggled to keep up. However, whilst ‘Church’ needs some modifications, it is also important to keep existing worship if it is working which is clearly the case at CHMC. By offering **both** old **and** new, there is stability for the new, fledgling fresh expressions of church that are springing up around the country.

CHMC will continue to treasure the existing forms of worship whilst also developing a deeper understanding of the local community, in order to share our faith with people who don’t come to church.

Sharing faith is not easy, and Linda will facilitate a short course to help people talk about faith in everyday life.

The meeting accepted that the process of discerning God's will and joining in will take a long time, and the presence of a Fresh Expressions Missioner is not a quick-fix.

Most of all, we need to listen to God through prayer, allowing time for prayer, and time to understand what God is wanting. This means paying attention as other people speak – God speaks through some of the least expected people.

Next steps:

Listening

There is a lot of 'listening' for Linda to do. She will begin by listening to anyone who wishes to help her get to know Cheadle Hulme. This means conversations with people in the church fellowship, leaders, premises users, and staff – about passions and ideas.

Please phone or email if you would like to chat, to set up a meeting.

Linda will also be talking to people in the community (cafés and shops) and other local churches, because it is vital that we understand the needs of the area, and what is already happening.

Prayer

Prayer is vital for any fresh expressions activity, and Linda emphasised this throughout the meeting. Prayers will be said at Saturday Prayer Mornings, and at Prayer Ministry Team meetings. We are also exploring the possibility of setting up a group specifically to pray for this venture. Could YOU offer some time for this? It might be occasional meetings, plus time at home, rather than coming out regularly...

Dream BIG for CHMC – special prayer meetings. This is a creative way to pray together, helping the church to consider what is important and where we believe God wants us to go. There will probably be two meetings. More information to follow.

Talking Jesus short course

Most of us struggle to talk about our faith, and this course offers practical tips to help us to be natural and relevant as we talk about Jesus to our friends and to others. Six sessions based on videos and conversation. More information to follow.

Contact Linda

Children & Schools Worker's Report- February 2019

It was wonderful to see Lane End and Greenbank choirs participating in our Community Carols; and to host Lane End's Carol concert. We continue to lead half termly assemblies in both these schools and are currently investigating increasing our involvement in terms of clubs or lessons. Hursthead weekly lunchtime club, Bible Explorers, has a loyal band of regulars, with average attendance since September being 8. Several of last year's members now have duties which prevent them attending.

We hope to invite several classes to either come into church or host us on their premises for an Easter themed event put on by ourselves.

As Tiddlywinks is very small in number, we hope to develop further our Tiddlywinks Plus group. This is an after school session for children up to age 7. It was brilliant to see 14 of our families in December. We had planned termly sessions, but are considering making them half termly- or even monthly!

Despite numbers being small, our Young Church continues to meet and learn more about God on the second Sunday each month. Supportive comments have helped us not to be disheartened; as has the enthusiasm of the children and young people. Many thanks to Gill Smith who plays a major role in every session, bar holidays!

Members of the Girls' Brigade, from my home circuit, Stretford & Urmston, are coming to Rock Solid on March 26th. They will give a presentation on 3Generate, the children and young people's conference that takes place in November at Pontin's,

Southport. Hopefully this may spark (generate!) interest and we will be able to take a group of our own. Please pray in particular for this, as it is so important for younger people to develop their own faith.

Pauline Moore

Come and Worship

Sunday 3rd March

10.30am Rev Philip Peacock and Mrs Margaret Parker: All-age service – Invitations from the cross: ‘Here is your son ... Here is your mother’

6.30pm No Service

Wednesday 6th March Ash Wednesday

7pm Led by Rev Philip Peacock and Rev Louise Gough

Sunday 10th March

10.30am Rev Louise Gough: Church Anniversary and Holy Communion. Young Church & Reflect.

6.30pm Rev Philip Peacock leads an Iona form of service

Sunday 17th March

10.00am for 10.30am: Taste

10.30am Pat James takes the sanctuary service: Invitations from the cross: ‘My God, why have you forsaken me?’

followed by the **General Church Meeting**

6.30pm No Service

Sunday 24th March

10.30am Informal Worship

10.30am Rev Philip Peacock Baptism and Cradle Roll service. Reflect.

6.30pm Rev Philip Peacock and Rev Louise Gough with Holy Communion and prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Sunday Mothering Sunday 31st March

10.00am for 10.30am Taste/Messy – starting and finishing in the sanctuary with a choice of varied activities in between:
'Invitation to trust.'

6.30pm United Service at St. Andrew's Church, Cheadle Hulme

Church Family

Bereavement

We are sad to hear that Robin Lee died on February 2nd and are grateful that it was peacefully at home. We are thinking of you and your family Kath and assure you of our prayers.

Sheila McIntosh died in the morning of February 14th. We assure David and Sheila's family of our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time

Thanks

Kath Lee and family would like to thank everybody for all their prayers and support during the last eighteen months .

I would like to say thank you to the Church for the lovely flowers brought by Jane Kemp on my 80th birthday.

Also thanks to the Singers for their beautiful plant and to everyone who sent cards and good wishes. They all contributed to a wonderful birthday. Cath Todd

Kath Armstrong sends her thanks to Ann for bringing her a lovely plant on behalf of the church.

Transport

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



Flower Visitor for March is Jane Kemp

In our prayers

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

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

For Your Diary

Banner Group Banner Group

Meets on Tuesdays at 1.30pm

Cameo

A meeting place for the elderly on Tuesdays 10.30am -2.00pm

Contact Group

Our next meeting will be on 20th March, with Wiltshire Farm Foods

Focus

On 15th March we will be hearing from Dave James on "Keeping you Safe" the ups and downs of airport security

Foodbank

Continues on the second Sunday of the month all gifts gratefully received.

Network

Meets every Thursday at 2.30pm

7th March AGM and afternoon tea.

14th March 'Are you sitting comfortably' Christine Betton

21st March Rosemary Amor

28th March Maggie and her travels

Reflective Worship

Is on Tuesdays at 7pm to 7.30pm

Refugee Prayer Group

A small group still meets regularly to share information, and to PRAY, as it seems as if thousands of people are on the move, as refugees, across the world.

We usually meet on the First Monday of each month, at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome. Please see the Sunday Notice Sheet for the venue.

Rock Solid

Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays (excluding school holidays) at 7:15pm

Scouts

Thursdays at 7:15pm

Toddlers Wednesdays at 10:30am

Baby Chat Thursdays 10:30am

Tiddlywinks meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 10:30am

Pew Bibles.

I hope you read the article about the new pew Bibles in the February magazine, and saw that, where you donated one of the Good News Bibles, you can choose what will happen to it. Unfortunately the list of dedication was omitted, so here it is:-

“In Memory of”

Elsie Duckworth, Cyril M H Evans, Mrs Eileen Grice,
Jeanette Harris,

Joanne Ogden, Betty Robinson, Doris Shores, Mark Tulson,
Stan Wood, George Woodcock

“Presented by . . .” Alan & Margaret Cameron, Margaret
Smith

“In Appreciation of the Influence of CHMC” Janet White

“In thanks for his family” Ian White

If you are aware of any dedications that have been lost over the years, please write a note and hand it in to the office, so that they can be included in the Book of Remembrance as well.

In case you can't find your February magazine, here are your options

You could :-

Have the Bible kept in a cupboard at church for groups to use.

Have the Bible sent to Dignity, a Didsbury charity that sends Bibles to Zambia and Namibia.

Or take it home.

To let us know your preference, please write a note with your name, the name on the dedication, and what you would like to do with the Bible, and place it in an envelope marked 'Pew Bibles'. This can be placed in the collection basket or handed in at the office.

If we have not received a note by the end of April then we will assume that the Bible can be either kept for church use, or sent to Dignity.

Church Council Jottings – February 2019

23 members present and 9 apologies, the meeting was chaired by Rev Philip Peacock.

* New bibles for the Sanctuary will be purchased soon; there is an article in the February magazine regarding the old bibles.

* Line-painting of the car park will take place on Friday 22nd February with the area to be coned off Thursday evening. Eric Ogden asked for volunteers to help clear leaves prior to Friday.

* The annual church property return for the year 2017-18 was submitted to Church Council for approval and accepted.

* Independent examination of the church annual accounts is currently in progress; approval of accounts to be sought from Council in an extra-ordinary meeting to be held prior to the GCM on 17th March.

* Income from giving in the first 5 months of the financial year is down approx 13% compared to last year.

* The Publicity task group gave a short summary of their work, it was noted that the Facebook page is very attractive.

* The Leadership Team asked for guidance from Council on how to manage their workload, as they are having to take on additional tasks which would previously have been done by other now non-existent teams. They are also struggling to recruit new members – Philip asked Council to think and pray about finding other possible people to approach about filling one of the gaps which will be left when two people finish their three-year term in April.

* Linda Rayner spoke to Council on what she has been up to so far – she has been looking at the area of Cheadle Hulme and how it is laid out, and talking to people in cafes etc. as well as church. She asked to be informed of any evangelical initiatives that we know about.

* There will be a prayer meeting “Dreaming big for CHMC” on Monday evening 8th April which will then be repeated as part of the Saturday prayer morning on 13th April.

* “Talking Jesus” course to be run on alternate Sunday afternoons when there is no evening service (1st and 3rd Sundays) from May to July.

* World Church Sunday is on October 13th where Stephen Leah will be preaching.

* Louise Gough expressed her gratitude for the support received for the carol singing at the Mickerbrook pub.

* The Children and Holy Communion Policy has been updated, this was approved by Council.

* The church photo album will be completely re-done; photos to be taken after the morning services throughout March. Consent forms will need to be completed.

* A review of pastoral care was taken following the ending of the Pastoral worker role last year. Philip and Louise emphasised that they are both available for any pastoral issues which the pastoral visitors feel they need to refer on (e.g. when someone is in hospital). Louise asked that we use her home phone to call regarding pastoral matters.

* Anna Pollard was appointed as Pastoral Secretary. Cheryl Palmer and Andrew Hardman were approved as new pastoral visitors and Val Pickwell as a vestry steward.

* District service to be held 9th June 6.30pm at Altrincham. The President and Vice-president of Conference will be taking part.

Woodley Methodist Church is organising 3 concerts during 2019. They would welcome our support. Tickets are £8 each available either at the door (if available) or from Phil Taylor

Taken from communication about the events:

The first concert is on Friday 29th March at 8pm. This is by the Notability Choir Notability, a 17 strong, mixed voice choir.

Based in North Manchester, members come from all over the region to share a love of singing. Notability's repertoire covers a range of genres and styles. With choral arrangements of hits from the Beatles to Billy Joel, sacred and contemporary choral classics and songs from stage and screen there will be 'something for everyone'.

The 2nd concert will be an organ concert by Jonathan Scott on a Friday in September, date to be confirmed. Tickets £9 each available as above. More details and poster later.

An additional concert in aid of Epilepsy Action will be in Romiley Forum on Saturday 8th June at 7.30pm, by the Werneth concert band. Tickets £8 each, as above. More details and poster later.

The Church Photo Album.

It is time for the album to be updated and for people to give their permission for their photo to be on display at Church. Gill Smith will be available to take individual or family photos after morning Church on March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.

People have found the photographs helpful to put names to faces and vice versa, so please come along to Room 2 for a photo shoot.

Christian Aid Climate Change Challenge

“What can I do?” was the “bottom line” challenge of our recent evening spent considering Climate Change ... where despair is NOT an option.

We have known for years that the climate is being affected by our various activities, but the current URGENCY of the situation is, perhaps, new. Young people feel it acutely. A teenager, who has already campaigned for change for years, shocked her audience by pronouncing, “I do not want your “Hope”, I want your PANIC! And I want you to feel the fear I feel every day, for our future!” We all know young teens who we care about, and we are told by Christina Figueres, (the U.N.s expert on Climate Change) that we MUST MAKE 2020 be the year of peak emissions ... if we are to regain control of our run-away emissions projector. So ACTION IS NEEDED!

We have done a lot already! But the 40% reductions on the last 30 years are the easiest ones to reduce. The next 40% reductions needed in the next 30 years will need every one of us to “do our bit”

Yes! Turn off the stand by; eat less meat; delay buying new clothing and equipment ... use second-hand where possible; reuse what we have. Buy renewably sourced electricity; divest from fossil fuels (at your own bank, or ask your pension provider to do so!)

As we ask probing questions of ourselves, we must also check that our church fellowship asks about the same issues. Here at CHMC we are so grateful for all the “greening” of our premises inspired and enabled by Richard Watson who gained for us an “Eco-congregation” award. We must continue to attain the standards of an Eco-church, and why not an Eco-circuit and Eco-district? The National Finance Board of the majority of churches have divested from coal and tar sands industries, and promise to divest from oil and gas if the company concerned is not acting in strict accord to hit targets set by the Paris Agreement in 2015, by 2020.

The “Divest Movement” has already won support from 958 institutions, and it is observable that investments in Renewable Energy on the Stock Market have out performed investments in Fossil Fuels over the last 5 years. Times are changing rapidly!

The Big Shift campaign by Christian Aid has been challenging all the big banks about divesting from fossil fuels. HSBC has done so in Europe, but continues currently to invest hugely in fossil fuels in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam, countries already suffering from the consequences of climate change. Christian Aid ask that HSBC do not invest a penny more in these industries and that they shift their investments into renewables, in these countries. There are over one billion people who live without electricity at all. A solar panel on each roof would provide light for homework after dark, a fridge in the clinic, so that vaccines can be stored and power for pumps to raise water to surface ... for drinking and irrigation. We could ourselves finance those solar panels, as an acknowledgement that we have become wealthy because of the industries historically founded on fossil fuels, which has helped create these current difficulties.

Recently Bristol became Carbon-Zero ... so we could ask our politicians to show us how Stockport could achieve the same. And as this is likely to entail initial extra expenditure, I suggest we should agree to paying higher Council Tax, because the health of our planet is more important to us than a few years of discomfort until sustainability has been achieved. We could reduce our high expectations for our own lives and share what we have so that others can develop a similar quality of life to our own. But do it sustainably! We have the privilege of investing all we have now so that we leave a world which future generations can enjoy! The world HAS listened. We KNOW what to do.

Plans are afoot to stabilise our environment. IT CAN BE DONE. It is on all of us to respond, as fully as we are able, to the searching questions. Let us use Lent to reflect on these issues. This is the topic for a Bible Study at Grove Lane Baptist Church, each Thursday in Lent. ALL WE CAN offer a 40 day resource, for personal daily study in Lent, entitled "Travel Lightly".

God promises ... He will do what we sincerely pray for in His name. Let's do that!

Margaret Clarke



Church Life
Homegroups



Monday			7pm
Monday			8pm
Monday			8pm
Tuesday			8pm
Wednesday			7:45pm
3rd Thursday			10am – 12 noon
Thursday			

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

MEETING TOGETHER

People to contact

Sunday

Young Church 10.30 Pauline Moore
Great Heights 20.00

Tuesday

Cameo 10.30
Banner Making 14.00
Reflective Worship 19.00
Rock Solid 19.30

Wednesday

Toddler Group 10.30 Susie Metcalfe
Contact 14.30
The Singers 18.45

Thursday

Baby Chat 10.30 Susie Metcalfe
Network 14.30
Scouts 19.15

Friday

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

Heating Steward: R. Watson/A Hardman -
Envelope Secretary: David Clark
Room Bookings: Church Office 485 1605
Transport Rota: George Lea

