

December 2016 and
January 2017

THE MAGAZINE

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church



Our Mission

Living With Christ,

Living For Christ

Living to Make Christ Known

A Gift for Everyone to Love

I am writing this on the day that this year's John Lewis Christmas advert has been released. By the time you read this you may have seen that advert several times. However, if you have missed it, here is a quick outline. It features a trampoline, a Christmas present for Bridget, which is erected in the garden on Christmas Eve, after she has gone to bed, ready for Christmas Day. During the evening two foxes, a badger, a squirrel and hedgehog enthusiastically try the trampoline out (to the song: 'One Day I'll Fly Away') – watched enviously from indoors by Buster, the family's boxer dog. In the morning, after the patio door is opened for Bridget to see her present, she runs towards the trampoline but Buster gets there before her and starts bouncing. The story ends with the words: 'Gifts that everyone will love.'



Lots of gifts will bring a great deal of pleasure to many this Christmas. These will include presents to family and friends (from whom a gift might be expected in return) and also those which are given to charities to pass on or to use in their work with people in need (where there will be no material 'pay-back'). There are opportunities to give to various charitable causes through the church as usual this Christmas: the Toy/Gift Service on December 4th will benefit *Stockport without Abuse* and *Action for Children's* work in Styal Prison (see elsewhere for full details and of an additional collection for *Lifeshare* working with the

homeless in Manchester); the collection from the Community Carol Service will go to *Chelwood Foodbank*, and the collections from the Carol Service on December 18th and the Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day services will be split between *Action for Children* and *Methodist Homes*. Additionally or instead, there may be other charities which you will support. In all of this giving we seek to help ensure that as many people as possible will have gifts and a Christmas to enjoy.

However, as Christians, we know that the greatest gift that is available this Christmas is that of God's own Son, Jesus. He is a gift for everyone to love. He is a gift to be



shared and enjoyed (as the trampoline is in the advert). He comes to be with us as a companion and friend. He comes as love packaged up in a person. He comes as a Saviour to mend humanity's fractured relationship with God. So this Christmas we celebrate above all the coming of Christ Jesus into our world – offering back to God our love in gratefulness for the priceless love-gift that we have received.

Wishing you a love-filled Advent,
Christmas and New Year,
Philip



Lifeshare At Christmas

As usual, I am planning to be involved with this project for the homeless of Manchester. (www.lifeshare.org.uk)

If you would like to support them/me please leave any donations in the office. Specific requests are : Toilet roll, Kitchen roll, Washing up liquid , cling film and foil Small ladies' underwear - knickers sizes 8-14, small bras Socks Jeans sizes 30-34

Thanks in anticipation, Jenni Hardman

Amnesty's Greetings Card Campaign

Last year you were asked to send a card to Albert Woodfox, a 68 year old American who had been in solitary confinement in Louisiana for 43 years. The great news is that 200,000 people across the world took action for Albert and on 19 February this year, his 69th birthday, he walked free.

This year you may wish to send a card to another American who has been in prison for more than 4 decades. Leonard Peltier. He was convicted of the murders of two FBI agents , although it later emerged that the FBI coerced eyewitnesses and withheld evidence. Leonard is currently in prison in Florida, 2000 miles from his family in N Dakota, making visits almost impossible. He has exhausted his appeals, his health is failing, and he is not up for parole until 2024. His lawyers have filed a new petition for clemency Please send a card to Leonard at:

Leonard Peltier #89637-132

USP Coleman 1 US Penitentiary PO Box 1033 Coleman FL 33521

USA A suggested message is 'I am thinking of you at this time.

Don't give up hope.' You may include your name and address if you wish and also sending a religious card is fine.

Thanks

Duncan Booth

Mission Shaped Future...

Over the last few months we have, as a church, been looking at the 'Mission Shaped' material beginning with the Mission Shaped Introduction that was open to all over various nights after Easter. This then led to a Sunday morning service looking at Mission Shaped Congregations and two further discussion sessions with the first of the sessions looking at the following questions amongst others:

- *What different congregations and communities are there in your village/town/city?*
- *Which different groups of people do they serve?*
- *Which groups of people are largely not present in these congregations?*
- *How hungry is your congregation to share the gospel?*
- *Do we need to 'go where people are' or be more effective in sharing our faith where we are, or both?*

These are trying to help us discern what we need to be doing as a Church family to reach new audiences, whether people are able to engage with our current acts of worship or whether we need to be more radical in our thinking and start new congregations that meet changing needs. This would obviously need to be in parallel to our existing worship as we cannot simply abandon our current practices which are appreciated and loved by so many.

However, you cannot fail to have noticed that we have a dwindling membership, fewer people being able to undertake vital roles within our Church and an ever increasing age gap as families who once were regular attendees at church have fallen away.

Yet, we have a huge number of people using our building every week. Counts that were undertaken as part of our Horizons project suggest that around 1200 people use our premises on a weekly basis but what are we doing to engage with them? How are we letting them know about who we are or what we believe?

That was the aim of the discussions. To discern a way forward that would perhaps engage with others and thereby help develop the mission of God in our local community. It will take time to understand what God wants us to do in our community. Plenty of prayer and listening is required and not just with God either. We need to listen to various people; those who have drifted away, those who are not connected but merely use our premises and of course, each other.

One thing that has already been heard is how we have lost the sense of being one Church family with the creation of the Taste services and maybe we need to look at re-introducing 'All Age' worship where everyone is catered for. Our Harvest Festival service this year did this very well and perhaps we need to build on this.

Equally, we held a Messy Taste service at the end of October as there was a 'fifth Sunday' in the month. This was on the theme of light and resurrected our Messy Church and combined it with elements from a Taste service to create a relaxed worship style that seemed to be well received by those who came. Maybe there is space for this to become a more regular style of worship?

So where next?

I think if we are honest, no-one is sure where we will be led. There will undoubtedly be some failures along the way and things that, on paper, shouldn't work but in reality do. We have to be prepared to be Spirit-led to achieve anything and also be accepting to change.

In February we are planning a relaxed evening service to try and create a new congregation. Having held discussions it is felt that this 'service' needs to be relaxed where families are made to feel welcomed and children and adults can chat. A small amount of learning would happen but the main aim is to make a community - somewhere where people want to come.

We also plan to ask the groups that use the premises what we could do for them or what we might do together. What would they like to see? Do they have questions about the Christian faith? Is it time for another Alpha-style course? It might be we can't help but maybe we can create opportunities for the wider community to engage with matters of faith or feel more of a sense of belonging.

This won't happen without prayer, effort and listening and that's where you come in. You may not find the idea of Messy Taste appealing, you may feel uncomfortable sharing with strangers but you may get behind others in prayer. Or it may be that the thought of something new excites you.

Get involved, listen, pray and encourage. Our Church won't exist if we don't engage with those around us and explore possibilities for growth.

Church Council Jottings – 11th October 2016



- 18 members present and 8 apologies, the meeting was chaired by Rev Philip Peacock
- The Resource Team are investigating a loop system and flat screen monitor for the lounge.
- A possible saving on printing costs would be to email the magazine to those who wish and to check who still wants to receive a magazine.
- Horizons: Deficit of £26k has been paid from Reserves.
- Plans for the 50th anniversary are progressing include the weekend celebration around 4th March, April 'More than Gold', 14th July Fun Day, 10-22 June 'Fisherman's Tale', September Harvest & flower festival.
- It was agreed to think about a church weekend away.
- The leadership/meeting structure is to be revised with the aim of getting people involved and having meetings only if necessary.
- The Mission Shaped Congregation lunch and discussion was well attended and anyone interested in taking this further should see Philip Peacock or Margaret Parker.
- A praise tea is being organised for 12th February 2017.
- Membership now stands at 194. At least two more pastoral visitors are needed.
- The meeting thanked Barbara Tyson and Catherine Mottershead for their many years in their role as Pastoral Visitors.
- The meeting agreed the proposed grant budget of £13,700 which is a percentage of our total income (giving and rental).
- Friendly Food (soup and roll) needs volunteers.

- Evening services: 'Hot Potatoes' is running. A silent communion is planned for January and a Taizé service will be included on the next plan. In February something more informal is proposed one evening, starting 6pm to 7.15pm.
- Sunday morning services were discussed. Reflect is valued. Taste is another way to worship. Is Taste working? Are the morning services working? We need to re-imagine all-age worship. The prime focus is always to worship God.
- Alison Gunn, Liz Parkinson, Kieran Metcalf and Rick Price were all agreed as worship leaders for a further three years.
- Two spaces for **Circuit Meeting representatives** to be filled - let Philip Peacock know if interested.

Articles for the December and January magazine by
11th January PLEASE

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church
Presents,

'A Christmas Opera Gala'



Professional Opera singers from the Royal Northern college of Music. **Charlotte Stephenson - Mezzo, Abigail Iveson- Soprano, and Alistair McCall- Baritone with their Accompanist Jonothan Ellis** perform Musical and Operatic Highlights with a sprinkle of Festive Fun!

Saturday 17th of December at 7.30pm
Tickets £10.00 Concessions: £8.00



Come and Worship

Sunday 4th December Advent 2



Toy / Gift
Service



9.30 am for 10am Taste
10.00am Mrs Mary Langton
6.30pm Rev Philip Peacock with Community Carol Service

Sunday 11th December Advent 3

10.00am Rev Philip Peacock with Liz Parkinson and
including Holy Communion. Reflect led by Derek Booth
6.30pm Contemporary Christmas Worship: 'Carols with a Twist'
with the band

Sunday 18th December Advent 4



10.00am Rev Philip Peacock
All Age Worship with Nativity
6.30pm Rev Philip Peacock with Carols

Wednesday 21st December

11.00am Morning Communion

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle
Service



11.15pm Holy Communion led by Philip Peacock and
music led by Richard Spurr

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

10.00am All Age Worship led by Philip Peacock



No evening Service

Sunday 1st January 2017

10.00am Margaret Parker
No Evening Service

Sunday 8th January

10.00am Bob Bartindale
6.30pm John Harrington



Sunday 15th January Covenant Service

10.00am Philip Peacock

6.30pm Circuit Service at Bramhall

Methodist Church

Sunday for 22nd January

9.30 10.00am Taste

10.00am Pulpit Exchange

6.30pm Philip Peacock with service of Holy Communion

Sunday 29th January

10.00am Philip Peacock with Alison Gunn

6.30pm Churches Together Service – All Saints (t.b.c.)

Transformed Life

From January to April 2017, the home groups will all be following the course called 'Transformed Life'. If you are not part of a home group already you may like to join one during this time. Alongside this there will be a preaching series beginning on 15th January and the opportunity to follow daily notes which can be purchased. The course looks at answering three of life's key questions: Who am I?; Where do I belong?; and What am I living for?; and is based on Ephesians, chapters 1-3. Please see notices for further details.

Transport



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 December is Ann Booth
and for January is Jenni Hardman



News of the Family

Thanks

Thank you so much for all the lovely enquiries over Fred's health. Thank you too for your gift from CHMC via Cheryl Palmer - the 'Flower Fairy' and for cards and get well wishes. It truly is what we believe of CHMC members - a Real Family and very caring. Our Pastoral Visitor, Raymond, has been most kind too. Elaine and Fred Busby

Evelyn Richardson Tribute

Evelyn was born and brought up in Arburthorne in Sheffield. Sadly her father died of tuberculosis when Evelyn was really quite young. So Evelyn, along with her sister Teresa, and her four brothers Sydney, Derek, Brian and Leslie were all raised by their mother and the family situation meant that Evelyn left school at the age of 14 and went out to work, her first employer being the National Coal Board.

Some years later, Evelyn met Keith Richardson from Chapelton in Sheffield at a dance and they eventually married and made their home in Sheffield for a while. However, Keith's work as a sales representative, selling building and drainage supplies, resulted in them moving first of all to Shrewsbury in Shropshire for a while and then to Thornway, in Bramhall.

Whilst living in Bramhall their children, Jane and Andy were born and whilst the children were young and at school, Evelyn didn't go out to work. However, she later returned to paid work outside the home and was employed at the Hazel Grove Swimming Baths as the cashier or receptionist as we might now call that role. She only worked part time, but Evelyn made her presence felt and used her influence and authority to change things. Some might go as far as to say that she ran the place but she obviously did that in the nicest possible way because she was very popular amongst her colleagues and continued to work there for a good number of years.

By the early 1980's both Jane and Andy had left home but then sadly, Keith started to show the signs of early onset Alzheimers and Evelyn essentially became full time carer for him, showing great fortitude in dealing with his needs and his changing personality until his death in 1998.

That same fortitude was displayed by Evelyn many times throughout her life as she faced and overcame heart attacks and heart surgery, cancer, kidney problems and the ongoing challenges of Type 1 diabetes. Her determination and resolution were certainly clear hallmarks of her character.

Aside from her work outside the home and her caring for the family, Evelyn pursued a number of interests. She and Keith shared a love of music and there was always music playing in the house. Keith had a particular love of jazz music and Evelyn tagged along with that, enjoying in particular the singing of Frank

Sinatra and Cleo Laine. And of course, as many of you here will know, that love of music was also expressed in her commitment to organising the transport for many of you to the regular Halle Concerts at the Bridgwater Hall.

She was also an enthusiastic follower of tennis, and when Wimbledon was on each year if she could get tickets then she would be there in person or if not she would be glued to the television and in recent years she had become a big fan of Andy Murray.

Evelyn was someone who took a keen interest in the political scene, taking it all very seriously, forming and holding strong opinions of her own which she was willing to share, diplomatically of course, and of course, never failing to take the opportunity to place her vote

Evelyn also loved to be with family and friends and she has been delighted to have five grandsons added to the family over the years in Mark, David, Oscar, Tom and Jamie and then more recently a precious great grandson Leo whose photograph graced the walls of the Newlands Care Centre in these last few weeks of her life.

She also enjoyed many close friendships through her life including neighbours from her years at Thornway. She enjoyed going on holidays with them and also with her daughter Jane, and many of those friends have been a great support to Evelyn in recent years whilst she lived in her flat. She has of course, also developed friendships through her involvement in this church here.

As a child Evelyn had attended church with her family, but the church or matters of faith had never featured heavily in Evelyn's adult years. However, in the latter years of her life Evelyn attended our Alpha course and became a Christian and made this church her spiritual home. It was with joy we received her into the membership of this church in 2008 and she became very much part of the family here as she became a member of one of our home groups and also joined a team of people providing telephone response to those who phoned the Communicare organisation seeking help with transport and other domestic matters. These years brought about a lightening of Evelyn's character, transforming this already very positive, loving and resilient person into an even more loving, tolerant and forgiving individual as she reflected the character of Christ in whom she had placed her faith.

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:-
Sue Howie, Geoff Dunstan, Sharon and Paul, Fred and Elaine Busby

From “The Refugee Prayer Group”

The Calais “Jungle” may have been cleared, but the “Refugee Crisis” is far from over. This month, a few points for prayer.

- Over 1500 unaccompanied children and young people from the Calais camp have been dispersed to Reception Centres around France - pray that they will be treated with compassion and sensitivity.
- For those who have a right to join family in Britain - pray that their waiting will soon be over.
- For the refugee families already here in the UK - pray that they will be made welcome, despite the increase in anti-immigrant attitudes.
- In Greece, thousands of migrants and asylum seekers are still waiting for their appeals to be considered - pray that the rest of Europe will soon honour promises made, in terms of resettling these people, and providing staff to help with the appeals process
 - In Egypt, over 100,000 Syrian refugees are seeking asylum, or considering the dangerous Mediterranean crossing to Europe - pray for them, for safety.

With reports of food shortages in Eastern Aleppo, and further atrocities in Mosul, above all, ***we pray for peace***

For Your Diary

Cameo

Meets on Tuesdays 10.30am - 2.15pm. The last one before Christmas will be our party on 13th December.

We will be back again on Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Contact

On 14th December – Christmas Celebration at 2.30p.m.
Contributions of music, poems or readings from members would be appreciated. Please let Margaret Pattie have details of your item by Sunday 11th Dec in order to produce a balanced programme. This will be followed by a small afternoon tea at approximately 3.30p.m. In order to assist with catering please let Margaret Pattie know if you hope to attend (even if you are not providing an item).

The next meeting will be when we will be having lunch at “The Three Bears” at 12 noon. Names and a deposit of £5 should be given to Margaret Pattie by Sunday 8th January. Cost of a carvery meal at present is £7.75 however this may vary and often in the early New Year there are special offers available.

Focus will be on the last Friday of January

Food bank

Continues to have a collection on the second Sunday of January

Men's Breakfast ceased to meet earlier this year so there are no men's meetings currently taking place. However, I have organised a meeting for men to determine what the church can do for them and that will take place on **January 14th** initially as a one off.

Network will have a Christmas Celebration on 15th December and the next meeting will be on 12th January 2017 when the subject will be 'Refugees' with Catriona Stoker.

Home Groups

The last meeting for this year is in the week beginning 5th December although some groups may be having a party after that. They recommence in the week beginning 16th January 2017

Refugee Crisis

A group meets regularly to share information, and to PRAY about various aspects of this on-going crisis. Usually the FIRST MONDAY of the month, at 10.30, meeting at the home of Les & Wendy Turner. In January, however, the meeting will be on **Monday, Jan 16th** - all are welcome

Rock Solid finishes on **Dec 13th** and recommences on **Jan 10th**.

Teenies

Tiddlywinks finish on 9th Dec and start again on 13th Jan
Toddlers finish on 21st Dec and start again on 11th Jan
Baby Chat finish on 22nd Dec and start again on 12th Jan

What Happened to Our Petition?

Christian Aid has been concerned to re-alert our people that climate change is with us, and affecting most seriously those who have done least to cause it.

They issued a petition which 232 of our Church members in Cheadle Hulme signed and, after an evening service focused on this issue, they also prepared questions which they felt we could raise with our MP, Mary Robinson.

Six of us met her in our coffee lounge on Sat Nov 6th.

We tailored our questions to allow her to focus on her own stated special interests and, having established that she DOES believe that human activity has SOME influence on our environment, we asked

1) Could the planned building of 2000 new homes locally be seized as an opportunity to make them zero-carbon, and reliant on clean energy? Would the government allow homes run solely on clean energy to be exempt from the Carbon Levy Tax?

2) Can encouragement to businesses be rapidly guaranteed, so that long-term research and development can proceed? So many projects seem to have had funding withdrawn recently, and there is an alarming lack of plans for British industrial development ahead.

3) We wonder, whether, in an age of skype, e-mails and mobile phones, development of a third runway is really necessary? (70% of flights are taken by 15% of air travellers)

4) Will our MP continue to support our allocation of 0.7% of GDP to Overseas Development AND ask that the whole of that money be focused on sustainable developments requested by the poorest

countries? This would actually reduce the likelihood of future generations of "climate refugees" deciding to try to come to Britain

5) Can pressure be applied to global businesses so that they cannot further destroy the world's rain forests and with them, many endangered species.....?

The meeting ended with the presentation of the petition.

I have had a written response from Mary. She responded by assuring me that the expansion of Heath Row will not be allowed to affect anyone adversely.....and she looks forward to seeing us again!

Margaret Clarke

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE?

Here are the "Books of the Bible Quiz" answers. Thank you again to Ann Booth.

1. Leviticus
2. Job (everyone should have got this one!)
3. Esther
4. Kings
5. Psalms
6. Luke
7. Genesis
8. Jude
9. Corinthians
10. Zechariah
11. Romans
12. Samuel
13. Daniel
14. Hebrews
15. Ruth
16. Ezra
17. Ecclesiastes
18. Habakkuk
19. Exodus
20. Philemon
21. Titus
22. Acts
23. Matthew
24. Joel
25. Galatians

If you took part, thank you and well done. Ann



4th December	Chelwood Baptist Cheadle Hulme Methodist	The minister, Andrew Philips and the fellowship as they work with the Foodbank and serve God in the community. The Community Carol Service held this Sunday evening. That all who come will be blessed by it
11th December	Grove Lane Baptist	The ongoing life of the Church- putting a profile together with a view to welcoming a new minister. For the deacons as they continue to lead the fellowship and witness in the community.
18th December	Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme	The Carol Service in the Oak Meadow Park. A joyful witness to the reason and meaning of Christmas For all the different services taking place in our Churches- Crib/Christingle/Carol – people will be encouraged to come along.
25th December	Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme	All our fellowships meeting today to celebrate the Good News of Christmas Day. For Grove Lane providing lunches throughout the period and into the New Year- bringing people together.
W/C Sunday 2017	CHURCH	OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...
1st January	Cheadle Hulme Methodist	The minister, Philip Peacock and the fellowship as they prepare and lead the Taste services on 1 st and 3 rd Sunday mornings during January and February. That families will be encouraged to come along.
8th January	All Saints (Cof E)	The minister, Janet Bacon and the fellowship as they encourage each other and serve God in the community.
15th January	Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme	The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity- 18th-25th Jan- theme based on 2 Corinthians ch 5 v 14-20. May these verses be true in our lives.
22nd January	Society of Friends	To cherish God's love within us, so that the love will grow and guide us in our worship and daily life.
29th January	United Reformed Church, Swann Lane	The minister, Alan Poolton and the fellowship as they encourage each other and serve God in the Community.



Home Groups



Monday	Wendy and Les Turner		8pm
Monday	Rachel Monkhouse		8pm
Monday	Pam Howie		7.45pm
Tuesday	Val Pickwell		8pm
Wednesday	Dilys and Maurice Turnpenney		8pm
<u>4th Thursday</u>			
Thursday	John Harrington Not in December but will recommence on 26th January 2017		10am – 12 noon

MEETING TOGETHER

People to contact

Sunday

Young Church	10.00	
Great Heights	20.00	Phil & Jaqui Sarbutts

Tuesday

Cameo	10.30	Val Pickwell
Banner Making	14.00	Sue Jacklin
Reflective Worship	19.00	
Rock Solid	19.30	John Harrington

Wednesday

Wednesday Worship	10.30	Fred Busby
Toddler Group	10.45	
Contact	14.30	George Lea
The Singers	18.45	Christine Watson

Thursday

Baby Chat	10.30	
Network	14.30	Sue Burnett
Scouts	19.15	David Heatley

Friday

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

Saturday

Heating Steward:	-
Envelope Secretary:	David Clark
Room Bookings:	Maggie Thompson
Transport Rota:	George Lea
Bookstall:	

CHEADLE HULME METHODIST CHURCH

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