

April & May 2024

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church *MAGAZINE*



Our Mission

Living With Christ

Living For Christ

Living to Make Christ Known

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Children & Families **Fresh Expressions Missioner**
Susie Metcalfe Linda Rayner

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Leadership Team:
Wendy Turner, Margaret Parker, Margaret Pattie,
Judith Hutton, Elaine Busby

Articles for the **June/July** issue of the magazine need to be submitted to the magazine editor Gill Smith via email to

codnersmith@yahoo.co.uk

by **Friday 17th May**

If you include your personal contact details in your article 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.

Dear Friends

As I write this I imagine you sitting in a comfy spot with a cup of coffee or tea in one hand and an Easter egg in the other as you read the latest issue of the magazine – am I anywhere near the mark?

In recent days, as we prepare for Easter, I have found myself thinking about the story of the resurrection in John's gospel and particularly that moment where Jesus speaks Mary's name and Mary then recognises that it is Jesus who is standing there with her. It reminded me not only that God knows each one of us by name, but also how important it is that others call us by our name: a simple "Hello Fred" can affirm that we are known, that we are seen, that we are valued.

Being known, and valued and loved is important to our sense of belonging in the body of Christ. Paul makes clear in his first letter to the Corinthians that: "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it" (1 Corinthians 12: 26) and one way in which we enable this to happen is by keeping in touch with one another and holding one another in our prayers.

We are blessed at CHMC with an excellent team of Pastoral Visitors, the Caring Team and Emergency Help group but, of course, caring for each other is an essential part of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and so it is everyone's responsibility and privilege. It's also an important part of how we look after the body of Christ so that we might all do that which we are called to do.

As St Teresa of Avila reminds us: "Ours are the eyes with which Christ looks compassionately on this world. Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Christ has no body now on earth but ours."

May God bless you with peace, love and joy this Easter season and beyond.

Sarah

Join us for Worship



Services will be held in the Sanctuary and will be simultaneously livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Services in April

Sunday 7th April - 10.30am
Worship led by Rev Sarah Parkin
with Holy Communion



Sunday 14th April - 10.30am
Worship led by Mr David Allaby

Sunday 21st April - 10.30am
Worship led by Mr Ian Castledine

Sunday 28th April - 10.30am Worship led by Abi Parr from
Transforming Churches and Communities
6.30pm - Worship led by Rev Sarah Parkin

Services in May

Sunday 5th May - 10.30am Worship led by
Rev Sarah Parkin with Holy Communion
followed by General Church Meeting



Sunday 12th May- Christian Aid week begins
10.30am Worship led Mr Malcolm Gunn

Sunday 19th May – Pentecost
10.30am Worship led Mr Bob Bartindale

Sunday 26th May- Trinity Sunday
10.30am - United Service at Cheadle Hulme.
Worship led by Rev Ian Smart
6.30pm- Worship led by Rev Sarah Parkin

Home Groups

Home Groups normally meet on the 1st and 3rd week of the month. In April home groups will not meet in the first week, only the week beginning 15th.



Monday 10:30am in Room 2 Contact: Margaret Parker
Monday 8pm Contact: Gez Butterworth
Tuesday 8pm Contact: Val Pickwell
Thursday 10.30am Contact: Wendy Turner

In our prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are going through challenging times and coping with tests, treatments, illnesses or bereavement.

Regular Events at Church

<p>Monday</p>	<p>Take Time Together 8:00pm Meets the second and fourth Monday of the month via Zoom- contact church office for the link</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>CAMEO 10:30am – 2:15pm Contact: Val Pickwell</p> <p>Chelwood Foodbank Collection 11:00 am – 12 noon In the Church car park. Contact: Linda Rayner</p> <p>Reflective Worship 7:00 - 7:30pm in Room 2 Contact: Pat James</p> <p>MATCH (Men AT Cheadle Hulme) 7:30 – 9:00pm A meeting for men every 4th Tuesday evening on Zoom. Contact: Ian Porter</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>Toddler Breakfast 24th April, 22nd May 9:45am all welcome, booking required, see weekly notices</p> <p>Toddlers 10:30 – 11:45am in term time Contact: Susie Metcalfe</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Baby Chat 9:30 – 10:45am & 11:00 – 12:15 in term time Contact: Susie Metcalfe</p> <p>Network – 2:30pm 'Cuppa and a Natter' 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th April Next meeting in June. Contact: Margaret Pattie</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>Wobblers 10:30 – 11:45am term time only Contact: Susie Metcalfe</p>

Children's Groups at Church

Baby Chat, Wobblers and Toddlers, groups meeting during the week in term time are all flourishing.

Babychat has 25 to 30 attending over the two sessions each week, Wobblers between 15 and 20, with Toddlers regularly averaging 45.



The introduction of the card payment machine has proved popular with parents and grandparents and makes payment quicker and simpler. The lunch at Toddlers each month has become breakfast, with bacon or sausage rolls on offer from 10am.

I'm on the scrounge! Might you be able to spare an hour a month to help make drinks and wash up at Wobblers on a Friday morning?

If you can, I'd be thrilled! Ideally I'd need you to set up the kitchen with cups and biscuits (no children's drinks needed as parents bring their own) at about 10.15am ready for the parents and carers to arrive around 10.30am. Most drinks are finished with by 11am so just need washing up and clearing away.

If you can help at any of the groups (Wednesday Toddlers drinks or door duty 10.30-11.45 or Baby Chat 9.30-10.45 or 11-12.15), please drop me an email on suse@medders.org.uk Wobblers is a priority at the moment, but any extra help at any group would be very much appreciated.

Thank you

Susie Metcalfe

Children and Families Worker

CHURCH COUNCIL JOTTINGS FEBRUARY 2024

21 members present and 1 apology, the meeting was chaired by Rev'd Sarah Parkin.

- The Resources team reported that they have accepted a quote for some necessary work on the trees around the property.
- No cover was found for the cleaner's annual leave in February, so several members have been sharing out cleaning tasks between them.
- It was agreed that Room Rates from Sept 24 - Aug 25 should remain the same as they are currently.
- The Standard Form of Accounts for 2022-23 were presented to Church Council for approval, these were accepted and signed.
- New appointments were confirmed for Laura Hamlin as Resources Secretary, and Barbara Galbraith as WNAT Secretary.
- Linda Rayner reported that she is having Prayer Stations set up in Room 2 during Holy Week, for anyone to use for quiet contemplation, mindfulness and prayer.
- Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme are looking forward to the Oak Meadow service with the Salvation Army band on Holy Saturday, and the Lent Lunches.
- The Caring Team will hold Praise Teas on Saturday 20th April and Saturday 12th October at 2.30pm, and a Memorial Service will be held on Sunday 3rd November at 4.30pm.

- The World and Neighbourhood Action Team presented a revised Grants proposal, following the decision agreed at the last church council meeting to increase the amount of grants available – this was accepted.
- A small group has met to discuss the *Justice Seeking Church* report from the last Methodist conference. Many things we are already doing in this church and many others are happening in the area.
- One section of the *Justice Seeking Church* report “Enabling a Flourishing Environment” was presented to the meeting by Joanne Scoltock, who asked us to consider if we could apply to be an Eco Church. Some material around this may be studied in Home-groups soon and the matter will be looked at again at the next meeting in June.
- The Circuit Report told the meeting about the TCC (Transforming Churches and Communities) project – a representative from TCC will visit CHMC on 24th March. (*Please note this is re-scheduled to 28th April*)
- A series of webinars discussing the formation of the new North West District will begin on 12th March.
- The Farewell service for the retiring District Chair Revd Andrew Lunn will take place on Saturday 13th July; and a welcome service for the new District Chair will take place in Bolton on Saturday 31st August.
- No replacement for Church Council Secretary has yet been found; a role description is available for anyone who may be interested. Sarah thanked Helen Deaville for her work as secretary, as this was her last meeting.

Helen Deaville, Church Council Secretary

Thanks

Thank you to all the church family for all your prayers in recent months. Thank you to those ladies who sat with Connie during Alan's stay in hospital and also the support when Connie herself was in hospital. You are all amazing. Thank you all. Love Maria, Allan, Connie and family.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Lent Lunches organised by the Churches Together Cheadle Hulme group. Donations given at the six lunches this year totalled £1496.55 (total with gift aid will be £1621.20) and has been sent to Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal.

CAN WE HELP?

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church Emergency Helpline

Supporting members of our church family who may need some extra help in an emergency.

This may be one off help such as driving to a medical appointment, prescription collection, emergency shopping, sitting with a loved one or something similar.

If you need help please contact
Hazel Crummett or Gill Smith

**The Flower Visitor for April will be Joanne Scoltock and for
May will be Jane Kemp**



World Day of Prayer 2024

Some of our members had the joy of joining with about 40 Christians from across the churches in Cheadle Hulme to take part in the World Day of Prayer at St Ann's Catholic Church on March 1st.

We were using prayers prepared by the Christian women of Palestine, hearing about the experiences of women from three generations. A member of the Greek Orthodox church, a Christian journalist who campaigned for both Christians and Muslims to have access to the Holy Sites in Jerusalem, and a Lutheran Christian living in Jerusalem. It was particularly poignant, as we have no idea what their circumstances are now. If you would like a copy of the prayers there are several booklets on the cupboard in the Quiet Room.

Sarah Ball, our technical whizz from All Saints, took photos and posted an item on the Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme Face book page, which can be accessed via the Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme website.

<https://ctch.org.uk/>



We featured in an England-wide round up, which can be found at <https://cte.org.uk/poignant-and-timely/> And our photos and post on Facebook were shared by the WDP International Committee in New York!

Pat James

GENESIS – ‘SEED PLOT’ TO THE BIBLE

So, what are your plans this summer? Flying abroad, driving around the UK, visiting friends or relatives or just sitting in the garden (weather permitting). Well, the Methodist Church invites you in June and early July to take a tour through Genesis.

Why Genesis? Because it is, the first book; No. Quite simply, as the title of this article suggests, Genesis is the source of most of the major doctrines of our faith that like a golden thread run through our Bible from Genesis to Revelation. It provides the basis of our understandings of the origin of the world, humanity, and God’s relationship with His creation. Such theological themes include:

- **Creation and fall:** In the creation account it acknowledges and records God’s intentionality and design. But it also introduces the concepts of sin and rebellion.
- **God’s Sovereignty:** Genesis sets out the way in which God is active and involved with human affairs. We see evidence of the grace in his dealings, his constant love despite disobedience.
- **Covenant and Promise:** The reality of God’s covenant (*the unifying thread of God's saving action through Scripture, from Noah to Jesus*) is introduced. Such as the one with Noah (rainbow) and with Abraham (the descendants and the land). These covenants underline God’s commitment and faithfulness to his people
- **Abraham and faith:** Abraham’s journey illustrates faith and obedience. He is willing to leave this homeland and trust in God’s promises.
- **Joseph and Providence:** Joseph’s experiences demonstrate divine providence, and his subsequent forgiveness to his brothers reveals reconciliation and redemption.

- **Humanity's brokenness:** Genesis draws out our human condition – our vulnerability to sin, pride and broken relationships, but hints at God's future redemptive plan.

Genesis was written between about 1440 and 1400 BC, and it is generally agreed it is by the hand of Moses, but this cannot be argued with totally certainty. The book introduces a range of characters, some better known than others. They include Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph as well as Cain and Abel, Lot, and Ishmael.

For convenience Genesis can be divide into five sections:

1. Chapters 1 to 11 verse 30 – **The story of humanity.**
2. Chapters 11 verse 31 to 25 verse 18 - **The story of Abraham.**
3. Chapters 25 verse 19 to 27 verse 40 - **The story of Isaac.**
4. Chapters 27 verse 41 to 37 verse 1 - **The story of Jacob.**
5. Chapter 37 verse 2 to 50 verse 26 - **The story of Joseph.**

Be prepared to meet an entire range of different men and women and in meeting them also discover their strengths and weaknesses, and the temptations that assail them. Personalities touched by greed and jealousy, by pride and humility. Perhaps as you meet them you may also find your faith challenged and even strengthened. It is the story of God's work of salvation in the world, your story, and the story of all God's people, past, present and future.

So, what next. Well, the intention is for the book of Genesis to be the focus of preaching in June (perhaps reaching into July).

What else can you do in preparation for and during the Bible Month?

- i. Read a chapter of Genesis each day.
- ii. There are a range of Methodist resources on the web: [Bible Month - Methodist Church](#).
- iii. The church is producing a 30-day reading guide which will be published shortly – check with your Church Stewards.

In the next edition of the Magazine, I will produce a more detailed summary of the key focus areas for the four weeks of Bible Month. In short, they are:

- The Sovereign God who creates (Genesis 1 – 11)
- The God who calls and blesses (Genesis 12 – 25)
- The God who comes to people in their struggles
- The God who confirms and safeguards Divine Promises. (Genesis 37 – 50)

Charles Nevin



Each month we are collecting the items for the Christmas shoe boxes.

In **April** we are collecting items to bring fun, hair accessories, jewellery, small bags/purses, umbrella, sunglasses.

Keeping clean is so important so in **May** we are collecting - soap/flannel, shampoo (300 ml), razors, toothpaste & toothbrushes, small scissors.

Thank you. WNAT



Christian Aid Week



In Cheadle Hulme we will once again be delivering envelopes to as many houses in Cheadle Hulme as we can. We have ordered 10,000 envelopes.

If you can help by posting the envelopes through the doors in one or two roads in Cheadle Hulme, Hazel or Gill would love to hear from you.

If you helped last year we'll be in touch with you soon! The envelopes can be delivered anytime convenient to you from 10th May.

If people would like to donate they can return the envelope to one of the churches or donate online at

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/fundraiser-2024/cheadle-hulme>

Christian Aid Week 2024 – May 12-18.

Seven days, so many ways to make a difference.

Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.

This year's appeal runs from May 12–18 and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay. Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally.

She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand, so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep. I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children. This is a plan and I will do it; I am a woman who is an achiever."

This Christian Aid Week – from May 12-18 – supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives.

There are **seven days and so many ways** to make a difference. Find out all the ways you can support Christian Aid Week by visiting the Christian Aid [website](#).



www.hiddentreasuretrust.com

Bringing new life to families in poverty



Spring Fundraising Appeal

Across our small community right now well over 1000 households are struggling against poverty. For someone like *Steve**, life is an immense struggle. He works hard to provide for a family of 10 in a mouldy and broken 3 bedroom house which is currently well below the basic standard for rented property. Providing even the basics for his family is a challenge, particularly with a broken window that's resulted in shelling out hundreds of extra pounds in an attempt to keep the little ones warm through winter. The effects of extreme poverty on Steve and his family have been huge, with mental health challenges destroying his confidence and impacting all family relationships.

A few years ago our team started to work with Steve and his family. Initially providing regular food, a cot and missing household items, Steve was treated with love, care and dignity as our team supported them. Fast forward a couple of years and Steve is now bursting with confidence and for the first time ever, felt able to bring his children to our Who Let the Dad's out play session at The Hideaway last weekend. The Hope team have been working with the housing association to escalate Steve's case and find a

larger more suitable home, and in the meantime fix the window and support with the extra energy costs. The family have been receiving support and advice from our family worker with forms and parenting help, school uniform, and each week we provide food and essentials through our Food Pantry, ensuring that this precious family have what they need not just to survive, but to thrive.

This story is just one of hundreds we could tell; families and vulnerable people are moving from a place of poverty and despair to seeing their lives and futures being dramatically transformed. Each month the Hope Centre distributes over £13,000 worth of food, energy and essential items to households just like Steve's, who have nowhere else to turn. Over the last 30 days alone, of the 100 people who came to us for extra help (not just to use the pantry), 34 people told us that without our help they would have to borrow or steal what they needed from elsewhere, and 3 would have needed to see a doctor.

The demand for help we are currently seeing is unprecedented, and increasing all the time. Meanwhile our costs are spiralling, grant funding is harder to come by than ever, and those who should be supporting with the costs of the work are themselves having their budgets slashed over and over again.

We're sorry to ask, but would you consider supporting Hidden Treasure Trust with a donation towards our work this Spring?

This year in Partington we need to raise an additional £100,000 above our regular budget to enable our family team to continue providing their essential but unfunded services, and to enable the Hope team to increase their capacity and provide on-going, personal help to families like Steve's and the increasing numbers of others coming through the doors in heartbreaking situations.

You can support our work through a one-off donation, or by setting up or increasing regular giving. If you are a tax payer we can increase your donation by 25% through the Gift Aid scheme at no extra cost to yourself. We can assure you that every penny given will be used to support struggling families over the coming months and will make a huge difference.

You can give to this appeal by going to our website <https://www.hiddentreasuretrust.com/>

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity which enables us to continue supporting families like Steve's. Without you we simply could not do it so thank you so much for your help. Over this coming Easter season, we look forward to remembering the new life that has been offered to us through Jesus, and pray that God blesses you and your family as you rest and spend time together celebrating this precious holiday.

Thank you so much and God bless,

Ruth Lancey
CEO, Hidden Treasure Trust CIO
(The Hideaway and Hope Centre Partington)

*Steve's name has been changed to protect privacy