

February 2019

The Magazine

Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church



Our Mission
Living With Christ
Living For Christ
Living to Make Christ Known

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Articles for the March Magazine by 11th February 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.



She Deserves

Fairtrade Fortnight: 25th February-10th March 2019

Let justice roll down like waters (Amos 5:24a)

It has been announced by Philip Hammond, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the National Living Wage is set to rise to £8.21 in April, which applies to those aged 25 and over. The National Minimum Wage for those 21-24 will be £7.70 and for those 18-20 it will be £6.15. However, daily life is much more expensive than these wage levels can realistically cover. That is why over 4,400 employers in the UK, including the Methodist Church, choose to pay a Real Living Wage (as defined by the Living Wage Foundation) to those 18 or over, which will be £9.00 (for those living outside London) and £10.55 (for those living in London) from May. This amount is meant to be enough for people to afford the basics, pay their bills and to put a little away in savings, enabling them to live with some dignity.

However, if you are a smallholder farmer in the developing world, there is no one to pay you a salary. In that situation the notion of a Living Income (defined by the Living Income Community of Practice) rather than a Living Wage is helpful. 'Living Income is the net annual income required for a household in a particular place to afford a decent standard of living for all members of that household'.¹ This amount would enable families to eat nutritious meals, drink safe water, live in a decent home, access healthcare and education, and save for the unexpected.

Many of the farmers who grow our food do not come close to earning a living income and so, in the pursuit of justice, the Fairtrade Foundation is launching a three-year campaign to try to persuade companies and other decision-makers to work towards the goal of achieving a living income for farmers. The initial focus will be on cocoa (and chocolate) at a time when the world cocoa price has collapsed, causing cocoa farmers to be poorer. The spotlight will be on women producers (with the

¹ <https://www.living-income.com/>

title: '**She deserves**') since women cocoa farmers often receive less for their crops than men. Additionally, besides enduring gruelling days in the field and transporting cocoa beans to the market for sale, they also bear the burden of carrying water and looking after children. A petition will be launched in Fairtrade Fortnight which will encourage everyone involved in the cocoa sector to play their part to make a living income a reality for cocoa farmers.

During Fairtrade Fortnight, you are also encouraged to buy Fairtrade chocolate, because by doing so you will be ensuring that cocoa producers are getting a stable, fair price for their cocoa beans and contributing to community development (through the 'Fairtrade premium'²). It may cost more than your average chocolate, but the extra does make a real difference to people's lives.

All this links in with part of the 'Our Calling' statement of the Methodist Church where it says that we are called: 'to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.' This is expanded upon in our Church Vision Statement where we read: 'The church aims to respond sacrificially and generously to local, national and international needs and to make our voice heard on issues of justice.' Further, as a Fairtrade Church, we have committed ourselves to promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible. So please look out for the petition and give your support to cocoa farmers, and buy chocolate (and other products) with the Fairtrade mark, so that justice may roll down like waters and people may get what they deserve.

Philip.



For more information about Fairtrade Fortnight see:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved//Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnig>

² When you buy a Fairtrade item you can know that as well as farmers being paid a fair price for their crops, the group of farmers has received a 'Fairtrade premium' – an extra payment – to spend on community development.

A Message from our Fresh Expressions Missioner

Linda writes:

Hello! I'm delighted to have been offered the post of Fresh Expressions Missioner, at CHMC, and have enjoyed meeting some of you at the Covenant Service and Bring and Share Lunch.

I'm sure that there are many questions about what this job will include, so I thought I'd try to explain a little – although we will be working it out as we go along. A fresh expression of church is *a new form of church that emerges within contemporary culture and engages primarily with those who don't 'go to church'*, so you can see that we're trying to share the love of Jesus with people outside of our church community.

Christians in the developed Western world are realising that 'church' is going to look different in 21st century. In some cases, a third generation is growing up having rarely heard about Jesus or set foot in a church building, and quite simply, 'church' doesn't seem relevant to their life. However, research shows a surge of interest in 'spirituality'; people are undoubtedly 'searching for something' and it's time for churches to respond in new and creative ways.

The Fresh Expressions Missioner's role is to help CHMC to explore how to increase connections with local people, and help new people come to Christ – trying to find the 'spiritual searchers'. These people are unlikely to come to our traditional services, instead, we need to go out to find them.

It's an exciting role – a journey of exploration for CHMC, and for me, and not something I can manage on my own! My prayer is that you will join in, as we work together as Jesus' disciples, to bring more people to him – whatever that might mean in Cheadle Hulme.

Linda Rayner

Come and Worship

Sunday 3rd February All Age Worship

10.30am Rev Philip Peacock and Mrs Pat James: 'Invitation to Forgiveness'

6.30pm No Service

Sunday 10th February - Mission in Britain

10.30am Rev Philip Peacock will lead service with Holy Communion. Speaker from Emmaus charity: Mr Roger Speare

6.30pm Local Arrangement

Sunday 17th February

10.30am Rev Louise Gough: 'Invitation to hope'

6.30pm No Service

Sunday 24th February

10.30am Rev Philip Peacock

6.30pm Rev Alan Mimmack with prayers for healing and wholeness and Holy Communion

Pew Bibles.

It was agreed at the Church Council in June that we would replace the existing Pew Bibles, as many have become somewhat dilapidated. A small group was delegated with choosing new Bibles, with the option to have a different translation, and deciding what to do with the existing ones. At the October Church Council it was agreed to replace the existing Good News Bibles with the New International Version (Anglicised). Also to have some matching large print Bibles which will be kept in the book stands, and a lectern Bible. You may remember, when the original Pew Bibles were purchased, that we had the option to buy one or more for church, and that we could have a dedication printed on the front page.

We have checked the Bibles carefully and have found dedications to a number of people. We have made a list of the dedications which will be included at the back of the 'Book of Remembrance' so that these memories will be honoured.

If you are one of the people who donated a Bible in this way, then you may wish to have the dedication transferred to one of the new Bibles – please let us know. As for the future of the earlier “dedicated” Bible itself, there are a number of options – you may like to decide what to do with it.

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 March then we will assume that the Bible can be either kept for church use, or sent to Dignity.

In the same way, the Bibles that have no dedication will be either kept for church use or sent to Dignity.

Church Family

Thanks

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

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 February 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

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 February and will have Hazel Betteridge with Wiltshire Farm Foods (free samples)

Focus

On 15th February we will be hearing from Margaret and Jim Jones about "Life as an Ex-Patriot"

Foodbank

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

Network

Meets every Thursday at 2.30pm

Reflective Worship

Is on Tuesdays at 7pm to 7.30pm

Rock Solid

Will meet on February 12th and February 26th at 7:15pm.

Scouts

Thursdays at 7.15pm

Toddlers Wednesdays at 10.30am

Baby Chat Thursdays at 10.30am

Tiddlywinks Fridays at 10.30am

News from Retrak – one of the many charities CHMC supports

Tamrat (name changed to protect identity) was found on the streets of Addis Ababa, sick with pneumonia. He had no access to a hospital or even a safe place to sleep at night. One of Retrak's street outreach workers found him and asked him to come to Retrak. There he received the medical care he desperately needed and slowly regained his health and strength. He recovered at Retrak's transition centre in Addis Ababa where he accessed safe shelter, medical care, life skills and psycho-social counselling, but what he loved most were the educational catch-up classes. This awakened a love of learning and a desire to go back to school and continue his education.

Once Tamrat was ready to be reintegrated with his family, Retrak ensured he had a place at his local school, and provided his family with a small income generating grant and business skills training to make sure they could pay the school fees.

Ten years after he found was found on the streets, Tamrat graduated from university with a degree in Information Technology. It was a radical change from the life he had lived on the streets.

Laura Ambler – Head of Public Fundraising.