

**December 2018 and  
January 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 February Magazine by 6th January 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.*

Dear Friends

Christmas is probably the dizziest time of the (church) year. We seem to squeeze in so many special services and activities (possibly at the expense of squeezing out Advent), and life can appear to speed up and gain intensity. All this can leave us feeling stressed and exhausted or rather empty. Even if we can block out the noise of the commercial Christmas and focus on the quiet arrival of the Word made flesh, the heightened emotions that often accompany Christmas can make us feel off-balance.

So instead of writing a letter this month, I offer a 'Christmas Cool-Down'. Rather like the 'cooling down' after hard physical exercise, this is designed to help us relax, stretch our spiritual muscles and stop our heads from spinning! It can be done as a whole, or in part, anywhere, and at any time! All that's needed is a Bible and a few moments to be alone with God.

First of all, find somewhere quiet and comfortable to sit. Sit with your back straight, your head up, and the soles of your feet placed firmly on the floor. Close your eyes, be still and listen. Be aware of the sounds all around you.

After a few moments, stop listening to the external sounds, and focus instead on your breathing. Perhaps it is shallow; if you are breathing from the top of your chest, relax and consciously take in a big breath, so that you seem to fill up your upper whole body with air. Breathe out slowly. Do this several times. Once you have relaxed, you might like to say this prayer:

Jesus, Word made flesh,  
vulnerable embodiment of Love,  
you came to live among us,  
making your home beside us,  
sharing our joy and our pain.  
Creep in beside me, Jesus,

and may these moments  
be a tent over you and me,  
that I may be myself in the shelter in your presence,  
and know your peace and your love. Amen.

Imagine that you are in the tent of Jesus' presence, just you and Jesus. Keep breathing slowly. There's no need to say or do anything – just rest. Give your mind a task - imagine the words 'Peace of Jesus' (or 'joy', or 'love', or 'help me') with every in-breath. Continue this until your whole attention is on Jesus. You may like to stay at this point, or proceed to different forms of prayer, using the words slowly with pauses in between, or saying your own prayers as though you are having a conversation with Jesus.

When you are ready, reach for your Bible, and say this prayer:

Light, Life, Love, present with me now,  
you fill this moment. Fill every moment!  
Surround me as I listen to your word;  
Support me as I open my heart and mind to you.

Read John 1:1-18.

Read the whole passage, or stay with one phrase or verse.  
Spend some time with the text and let it lead you to prayer.

God of peace,  
gifting me with your presence and lavishing me with love,  
in quietness and humility you gave birth to unquenchable light.  
I bring to you the dark places of my heart... my life... this  
world...

Bring light to the darkness – light which can never be put out.  
I bring to you my hopes and fears for myself... for my loved  
ones... for this world...

Bring grace and truth that we might be grounded in reality.

Bring your love to our relationships.

I bring to you...

Bring...



God of peace,  
Inviting everyone into your light and love,  
thank you for hearing my prayers. Amen.

As you prepare to leave this quiet tent, know that you proceed  
in the presence of God and with God's blessing:

"Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, given us  
one blessing after another." (John 1:16)

May the blessing God's quietness  
carry you through life's deafening roars.  
May the blessing of Jesus' presence  
be your comfort and your company.  
May the blessing of the Spirit's peace  
permeate each person this Christmastime. Amen.

May God bless you richly through Advent, Christmas and the  
New Year. I look forward to spending more time with you.

**Louise**

***Rev'd Louise Gough (Assistant Minister)***

### **Children , Family and Schools Work Update**

We are really looking forward to the build up to Christmas and  
the opportunity it gives us to share the great news of God  
sending His Son to bring light to the world! We will have parties  
at Tiddlywinks and Toddlers where each child will receive a  
book about the real meaning of Christmas. Baby Chat  
members will also receive a special gift. We are inviting past  
Tiddlywinkers up to the age of 7 (and including current families)  
to join us for an after school session, which we plan to host  
each term.

We will be leading assemblies in Greenbank, Lane End and  
Ramillies and welcoming Lane End to present their Christmas  
Concert in the sanctuary. It is a real privilege and delight to be  
part of such celebrations. The Bible Explorers club at

Hursthead for year 5/6 continues to meet each Tuesday lunchtime and numbers are starting to build up. We have been looking this term at a range of people whom Jesus met including Jairus' daughter, the Roman officer who sought healing for his son, Bartimaeus and the leper. These sessions have included fun and games, but also left the children in awe at the wonder of Jesus' healing power.

On Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> we have a stall in the SK8 café giving out leaflets and a lovely children's book "The New Noisy Neighbour". Thanks to the volunteers who are coming to be part of this outreach activity!

Pauline Moore

## *Come and Worship*

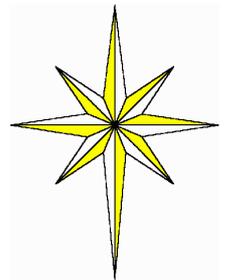
**Sunday 2nd December -**



**Toys**



**and Gifts**



**10.30am** Rev Philip Peacock and Margaret Parker

All Age Worship with Baptism of Isabella Clews

**6.30pm** No service

**Saturday 8th December**

**11.00am. Oak Meadow Carol Service with the Salvation Army Band**

Hot drinks and mince pies. Please come and support this act of witness in our community.



**Sunday 9th December**

**10.30am** Rev Louise Gough with Holy Communion and prayers for Healing and Wholeness

**6.30pm Community Carol Service** with Rev Philip Peacock

**Sunday 16th December**

**10.00 for 10.30am Taste** in Coffee Lounge



**10.30am** John Harrington

**6.30pm** No service

### **Sunday 23rd December**

**10.30am** Rev Philip Peacock will lead an All-age Nativity service (see below for further details)

**6.30pm** Carols & Readings led by Rev Philip Peacock and Rev Louise Gough



### **Monday 24th December**

**4pm for 4.30pm** Christingle led by Rev Philip Peacock (see below for further details)

**11.15pm** Candlelit Christmas Communion led by Rev Philip Peacock

### **Tuesday 25th December**

**10.00am** All Age Celebration led by Rev Philip Peacock (see below for further details)



### **Sunday 30th December**

**10.30am** Rev Charles Nevin

**6.30pm** No service

#### All-age nativity – 23<sup>rd</sup> December

For our nativity this year, you are invited to come dressed fully or in part as a nativity character. So, if you've always wanted to be a Mary, a Joseph, a shepherd, a wise man, an angel, or a particular animal, here's your chance! We'll also have some costumes for children available for those who don't manage to hear about this beforehand. If you'd prefer not to dress up, then don't let that stop you coming along to share in this service. Everyone's welcome.

## Christingle

Come and make your own Christingle from 4.00pm and enjoy festive music and refreshments. The Service will start at 4.30pm.

## Christmas Day Celebration

As usual, you are invited, if you wish, to bring along a Christmas present to show everyone during this service. Please note that the service begins at **10.00am** and not 10.30am.

## **Evening Worship at CHMC**

We have struggled to resource evening worship for a while so, at the recent Worship Planning meeting, the decision was made to reduce the frequency of evening services to twice a month. The decision was not taken lightly as we know that this will disappoint our small but loyal congregation. On a more positive note, this change may make it easier to support new initiatives with the Fresh Expressions Missioner.

As a general rule, one of the two services in the month will be Holy Communion with Prayers of Healing and Wholeness on the fourth Sunday of the month, and the second might be a Taize or Iona style service. Please see above for December services and the magazine will always include details of when evening services will occur. Pam Howie (Worship Co-Ordinator)

### **Sunday 6th January 2019**

10.30am Ian Castledine will lead All Age Worship

6.30pm Rev Louise Gough and Singers: Taizé Service

### **Sunday 13th January Covenant Service**

10.30am Rev Philip Peacock (includes Holy Communion)

6.30pm No service



## **Sunday 20th January**

**10.00 for 10.30am** Taste in Coffee Lounge

10.30am Pulpit Exchange (Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity)

6.30pm No service

## **Sunday 27th January**

10.30pm Dr Katie Smith

6.30pm Rev Louise Gough with Holy Communion and prayers for healing and wholeness

### **Covenant Lunch.**

After the Covenant Service, on January 13th, we will be having a Bring and Share Lunch at 12.15.

We do hope that you will be able to stay and enjoy spending time together. Please sign up on the sheet on the blue notice board to say that you are coming, so we know how many tables to set and indicate whether you will be able help with:

- setting up before the service,
- serving tea and coffee after the meal,
- washing up,
- clearing away.

We look forward to seeing you there,

The Leadership Team.

### **Home Groups: Invitations from the Cross**

In January, the Home Groups will begin following some common material called 'Living Faith: Invitations from the cross' which is based on words of Jesus from the cross. Alongside this there will be a preaching series linked to these sayings.

There will be an introductory meeting about this in the evening of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, which is for those who are currently part of Home Groups or anyone interested in joining in for this (See below) Prior to this, the first sermon in the series will be preached at the morning Covenant service on January 13<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be: 'Invitation to service: 'I am thirsty'

**CALLING ALL HOME GROUP  
MEMBERS .....and those  
who would like to join a Home Group for the  
Lent Term**

Come along to  
Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church in  
The Coffee Lounge  
On  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm**  
To hear what happens in a Home Group with  
Tea ,coffee and cake : and  
an introduction to the theme for Lent

**LIVING FAITH  
Invitations from the Cross**

Invitation to service  
Invitation to forgiveness  
Invitation to hope  
Invitation to adoption  
Invitation to empathise  
Invitation to trust

**Cheadle Hulme Church website: [www.chmc.org.uk](http://www.chmc.org.uk)**

Did you know that our church has a 'web page' on the internet? If not, then have a look at: [www.chmc.org.uk](http://www.chmc.org.uk)

This website allows the church to advertise the services and activities that take place on our premises. However, for the website to accurately reflect what is going on, it needs to be kept up to date. David Bailey is our website administrator, but in order for him to keep the website up to date, we need to ensure that we submit our details (i.e. information on what is happening) as soon as we know. So please submit your information as soon as possible to either Pat James or Pam Howie from our Publicity Team. They will check and submit, as necessary, to David for inclusion on the website.

As more folk are now becoming internet savvy, so the need for the website to be up to date is paramount. So over to you.

The Leadership Team

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## *Church Family*

### **Birthdays**

Congratulations to Margaret Pattie and Cath Todd who have each celebrated their 80th birthday. As a church family we would like to thank each of you for all the work you have done, and are doing, for the life of the church. We send very best wishes to you both.

### **Thanks**

I would like to thank the church family for the lovely flowers delivered to me by Jane, on the occasion of my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thanks also to everyone for the wonderful cards, calls, messages and visits. They all helped to make it a memorable birthday for me. Margaret Pattie.

## **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**

Flower Visitor for December is Ann Booth  
and January- Cheryl Palmer



## **In our prayers**

We remember in our prayers those who have been in hospital during the last month and those who are very poorly, unhappy or lonely

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

# *For Your Diary*

## **Banner Group**

Banner Group will not meet during December or January.

## **Cameo**

Cameo is closed for Christmas Day and New Year's Day, which is on a Tuesday !! Back on Jan 8th.

## **Home Groups**

The first home groups in the new year meet week beginning Jan 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Contact Group**

12th December Quiz and afternoon tea

16th January New Year lunch out

## **Focus**

Focus doesn't meet in December  
January meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> January

## **Foodbank**

Collection continues on the second Sunday of the month

## **Network**

6th December Members Afternoon  
13th December Christmas Celebration  
17th January Louise Gough  
31st January History of Stockport with Paula Rands

## **Refugees**

"Refugee Prayers" will keep going, as the dates fall this time.  
December, we will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then on January 7th we'll be able to get going again

## **Rock Solid**

finishes for Christmas after our party  
on December 11th and we re-start on January 8th

## **Tuesday evening worship**

Reflective worship will finish on December 18th and recommence on January 8th.  
(no meeting Dec 25, Jan 1st !!)

## **Toddlers, Baby Chat and Tiddlywinks**

Our last Tiddlywinks is Friday 14th December.  
Last Toddlers is 19th December.  
Last Baby Chat 20th December.  
Toddlers starts back Wednesday 9th January 2019.

## **Toy and Gift Service**

At the service on December 2nd, we will be collecting toys for children aged between babyhood and 8 years old for 'Stockport Without Abuse'; also, toiletries and gifts of hats/scarves/gloves, small items of jewellery etc for teenagers for an 'Action for Children' project in the North West.  
Please try and support these worthy causes.

## **Christmas card board**

From December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the WNAT noticeboard will be available for you to send greetings to your Church family.

Save paper, time and money by sending one card!

Please put a donation in an envelope marked Christmas Card board and give it to the office. Donations will go to JMA (Junior Mission for All).

### **Network are having an ORGAN RECITAL**

**In Church on 24th January at 2.30pm  
with John Ramsbottom**

**Open Invitation - Anyone (men and women) is invited to join us**

### **Church Council Jottings – October 2018**

21 members present and 5 apologies, the meeting was chaired by Rev Philip Peacock.

- The provisional accounts for year ending August 2018 were presented, although they are not yet finalised.
- A draft summary of the Flower Festival income and costs was provided; council agreed how different streams of income should be accounted for, with an estimated £2,600 to be distributed between the four nominated charities.
- A small group had met to discuss the purchase of new pew bibles where it was suggested that the translation should be the New International Version. This was agreed. They also looked at what could be done with the current Good News bibles, one option would be to donate some to a charity based in Didsbury which sends them to communities abroad.

- Leadership team noted that they are still struggling to fill roles for door, vestry and communion stewards. Any suggestions should please be brought to John Harrington.
- GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation): some further changes to be noted:

Notices have been rewritten for the prayer book and prayer tree – medical details can be included as long as appropriate permission has been given.

If personal contact details are supplied with an article for the magazine or notices then it will be assumed that consent is being given for these to be included in the paper copies (does not include the church website).

Consent is to be sought from all church members/adherents with respect to whether they wish to receive details about fund-raising activities of CHMC for itself or other charities.

- The World & Neighbourhood Action Team provided a budget for distribution of funds to their supported charities for 2018/19 which was agreed.
- Morning worship planning group are going to invite visiting preachers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, whenever possible, when there will be Young Church, with all adults together in the Sanctuary.
- Evening worship planning group reported that they are struggling to resource services and therefore evening services will normally be reduced to two per month from December. One of these will be a Holy Communion service (with prayers for healing and wholeness).
- Pastoral Committee is looking for new pastoral visitors and also a new pastoral secretary; thanks were given to Christine Woodhead who has stepped down.
- The Evangelism Enabler post has not yet been filled; it was decided to revise the initial documentation and re-advertise the post as a “Fresh Expression Missioner” and this is currently in progress.

- Tiddlywinks – some older children who have moved on from this group will be invited to a new after-school session for under 7s planned for once a quarter.
- The Circuit Stewards are looking for a Manse steward for 31 Victoria Avenue – please speak to Ian Castledine for further details.
- Philip Peacock's invitation to serve in the Circuit has been extended to August 2022 and Philip Berry's until August 2020 (after which he will retire).

### **Action for Children**

As we enter Advent and look forward to Christmas please remember the work of Action for Children at this time, a time when many children and families find life difficult and are unhappy. The following prayer written by Rev. Kathleen Richardson, the first female president of Conference, is a good starter

We recall with thanksgiving that you entrusted your son, Jesus, into the loving home of Mary and Joseph, to be brought up in difficult circumstances. We give thanks for families today where children are enabled to grow and develop in loving relationships in a family home.

We call to mind those children for whom life is a struggle, for those deprived of simple necessities; for those whose bodies or minds are neglected or abused; for those for whom laughter, delight and hope have been diminished; and we thank you for those willing to respond to those needs with loving care, and for Action for Children's work in bringing them together.

We recall with thanksgiving that the man, Jesus wept over the city and longed to bring its people together like a mother hen with a brood of chickens; and we pray for our community life, for those in poverty where others feast, for

the lonely in time of gathering together, for the emotionally starved and the spiritually drained ; for those who Action for Children supports

We ask you, Lord to give us renewed hope in the realisation that you are still present in your world and renewed commitment to proclaim this news.



## **And a little Nativity play from Action for Children's Christmas resources:-**

### **Narrator**

Let's imagine what it may have been like for Mary and Joseph that first Christmas. Most of us have expectations, hopes and dreams that mark out our future, especially we find a partner and plan a family. How do we cope when things turn out differently? How did it go for those involved in the Christmas story - for Mary and Joseph, for the innkeeper?

### **Mary**

I had hoped for a white wedding, a joyous family occasion in which the whole community would join. I looked forward to the feasting, dancing, laughter and even more to the prospect of a happy marriage to the man I loved and who I believed loved me. Joseph and I had often talked of that day, sharing our plans of building a home, raising a family, enjoying each other's company. But that was until the angel came he told me I would bear a son - not Joseph's, nor any man's but God's. I would be the mother of Messiah. But I was a virgin. I had pledged myself to Joseph. So I was troubled. How would I explain? Who would believe me? What if I was rejected by Joseph, my parents, the villagers?

Saying "Yes" shattered my dreams for the wedding and for my whole future, and Joseph's as well. Yet whilst I experienced anxiety, a fearful joy was born inside me. I knew things would never be the same.

## **Joseph**

I had hoped for a loyal and faithful companion with whom I would raise a family. Despite it being an arranged betrothed, I had loved Mary. I had hoped for a son to whom I would teach the skills of my trade, who would carry on the business here in Nazareth! Is that too much to ask? Then she tells me what God has said to her through an angel. We see precious few of those in Nazareth I was distressed and felt betrayed - the news shattered my trust in Mary.

The marriage was off; it was impossible, but out of respect I decided I would go away quietly. Then, I had a dream. Would you believe it, there was an angel who told me exactly what Mary had said to me. So we are off to Bethlehem for the census. Why Bethlehem? It's King David's birthplace and we are his descendants. There's lots of us, so it will be crowded. I really hope the baby is not born on the way.

## **Innkeeper**

Business is brisk, in fact frenetic. All the world and its wife have descended on Bethlehem. I never knew King David had so many descendants! On reflection I suppose it's not surprising if you count the number of his wives. We are packed out with travellers at least six to a room, and yet more on the roof. My wife and kids are doubling up with my mother-in-law, not a welcome arrangement.



But still we have got to cash in at a time like this-  
it's a once in a lifetime  
opportunity. I've built temporary shelters in the  
yard, so that's crammed  
as well. Then this couple arrive, poor, tired, desperate. She's  
very pregnant. I tried to send them elsewhere. Didn't they have  
kin? His face told it all. Not welcome he said - a scandal I  
suspect. My wife, more soft-hearted than me, suggested the  
cowshed! Free!! I told her we're not a charity. She gave me  
such a look! Hence the manger and the straw. I'll put it here.  
Now I've got to get back to making a living. There's a host of  
thirsty Galileans waiting to be served. ..OK. I'm coming: I'm  
coming.

### **Narrator**

There she gave birth to her new born son because there was  
no room for them in the inn. She wrapped him in swaddling  
clothes and laid him in the manger.

**Innkeeper**      Born to be king!  
                         Had I but known  
                         Then, I'd 've given my bed  
                         Instead of a feeding trough  
                         In a ramshackle bed.