



THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN BRAMHALL

Volume 21 Issue 2

February 2019

NEWS & VIEWS

LOVE DESPITE BREXIT?

Should I stay or should I go?' (The Clash). Since the Referendum in June 2016, we have seen families, our nation and Parliament divided by different opinions over Europe. But *'at the heart of the Christian message is Jesus' command to love our neighbour. This includes those with whom we agree and disagree: at home, in Europe and further afield.'* (CofE Bishops, December 2018).

As we celebrate St Valentine's Day this month, how can we conduct this debate in a loving way? The Apostle Peter reminds us: *'Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.'* (1 Peter 2:17).

Respect everyone: However much we may disagree with another people's

perspective, we should respect them as people. This applies even if they don't respect our views!

Love the church: Among the family of believers there should be an even greater respect for each other! The way we treat each other not only reveals the depth of our love; it will also cause people to glorify God and want to be part of the family.



Fear God: We must demonstrate our allegiance to God by putting Him first and following His leading. Of course, this doesn't stop Christians from having different opinions to each other.

Honour those in authority: We are called to honour those who are in authority over us *'for the Lord's sake'* (13). Even when we disagree with their decisions and actions, we should keep our respect and not speak

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SUNDAY SERVICES:

9.30 am All-age Worship Breakfast from 9.00 am
10.30 am Reflective Worship (Communion 1st Sunday in each month)

ill of them.

Peter is calling us to live with the freedom to make up our own mind on Europe, while listening to what others say (16). *'A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.'* (Martin Luther).

Parish Pump Web Site



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRAMHALL & WOODFORD (CTIBW) UPDATE

CTiBW Prayer Breakfast:

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held at the Christian Fellowship on the 23rd March from 8.30am. Breakfast is taken after prayers and the meeting closes about 10.00am.

Come and join as we offer prayer for the churches and local issues.

JOIN IN THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER **FRIDAY 1st MARCH**

Churches Together in Bramhall & Woodford invite everyone for this special service at **10.30am on Friday 1st March in the Bramhall Baptist Church**, Woodford Road, Bramhall.

"Come - Everything is Ready"

Is the title given by the women of Slovenia to this year's service for the World Day of Prayer which will circle the globe from Samoa, to American Samoa over a period of 38 hours involving more than 120 countries. The people of Slovenia which was part of former Yugoslavia faced many challenges during the Marxist era but they now have great hopes for the future of their country.

St Vincent's Community Party

Sunday January 27th from 2.30pm – 4.30pm for all over 65s.

Transport is available for those who need it.

Vicar of St Michael's

The Induction and Collation of Calum Piper as Vicar of St Michael's will take place on Thursday 7th February at 7.30pm

Graham Perkin

IMPORTANT

There will be a church meeting on Sunday 17th February when the Church Accounts for 2018 will be presented.

Graham Perkin

A CHRISTMAS MEAL

Well Anthony and Elaine did it again, a beautiful meal in Church on 3rd January. It was fantastic: turkey, vegetables including 'Brussels Sprouts' (I can't stand them but others obviously enjoyed them), pigs in blankets, stuffing AND 'crispy roast potatoes to die for'. Lovely, as the crum-

ble with custard was, two of us asked whether there had been any 'crispy roast potatoes to die for' left over! We would have enjoyed a third helping for "pudding". This mouth-watering meal was followed by tea/coffee and chocolate mints.

We had two quizzes which stirred our lazy brains after eating. It was all good fun: enjoyable in the fellowship of 28 people.

Thank you Elaine, Anthony and Sue Matthews who helped with setting, serving and clearing away. It was truly a wonderful meal and a good time spent with our friends.

Norma Fox

APRECIATION LETTER

Hello and Good Morning from sunny Devon.

Eric and Jean wish you a happy and healthy 2019, and to say thank you for all your good wishes when we moved to Devon. Jean adds another big thank you for the lovely Birthday card you sent to her for her 90th Birthday. It was a very kind thought and much appreciated.

Best regards to all from
Jean and Eric Milne

CHRISTIAN AID

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Christmas Christian Aid appeal. We have generated £484 and this has now been banked. Coupled to this, can I thank those who completed Gift Aid proforma as this adds an extra 25% to the amount donated. For very little effort this has added an extra £75 to the value of our collection. So we've generated over £559.

We also collected £46 from the Christmas collection box.

There have been such devastating natural events happening across the globe, from famine in Africa to a tsunami in Indonesia. These cataclysmic events put such a strain on people's lives and leave many dead and many bereft. Your donations go a long way to alleviating hardship and help those in need to recover and rebuild following on from those devastating situations. We are so lucky to be cosseted from these sort of events.

Thank you once again for your continued support and let's look forward to a peaceful year.

Stuart Young

KNIT AND KNATTER

Yes,— some Angels came to the Carols by Candlelight on 23rd December 2018. We believe that there were people attending, who would not usually come to Church.

It was so lovely to see the Church full and beautifully lit with candles. We were so pleased that so many came from the Knitting Group also. Some had brought family members along with them and joined us for refreshments afterwards in the Hall.

Now we look forward to knitting (and knattering) in 2019.....especially as we closed on New Year's Day, as it happened to fall on the first Tuesday of January. Thank you everyone for the great amount of knitted goods which we have made and received from friends and Church folks. Easter looms and this means eggs, which means chickens, we will be knitting again and filling them with a Cadbury Crème egg, ready for

Francis House to sell. Would you like to help? Lost your pattern? We have lots. Last day for knitting is 17th March. Last year Francis House made £51,000.

Norma Fox.

CHELWOOD FOODBANK PLUS

There has already been a start to 2019 with contributions to take to Chelwood in terms of goods and also kind and generous donations of money to be spent for the benefit of those people in Stockport whose circumstances are so very different from our own.

I trust that many good folks will continue to bring along gifts of food and/ or toiletries. Any of these sort of items are incredibly appreciated by Chelwood Staff Volunteers and ultimately by the recipients. It could be that someone can bring a packet for the first time.....all contributions will be gratefully received.

Thank you,
Howard Fox

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

On the 23rd December we held our annual Carols by Candlelight Service. This year it was also the return of the Angels that had been placed around Bramhall a few weeks before. The Church looked magical with all the Candles lit and the greenery all around. It was so good to see so many people attend and a lovely refreshing problem to have to keep getting more chairs out to accommodate people.

The readers did an exceptional job and the singing and Angel waving was done with great enthusiasm.

The mulled wine and mince pies went down a treat and we even had some home-made snacks supplied by one of the Knit and Knatter ladies.

The whole evening was a success and I believe this was down to some great TEAMWORK.

Elaine Noden

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NEXT DEADLINE

SUNDAY

10th

FEBRUARY

