

*The newsletter of the United Reformed Church in Bramhall*

## Christ's Legacy

There was no mourning when Christ's resurrection appearances came to an end. After the final occasion we are told the disciples 'worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy'. They had already experienced the onset of grief caused by His death, intensified because of the dreadful manner of it and the consequent crushing of their hopes. Then, with feelings combining bewilderment with elation, they were confronted by Christ alive and had to rethink everything they had understood until then about the certainty of death.

They became convinced that the Crucifixion and Resurrection signposted a new beginning, not an ending, and that it gave fresh purpose to humanity, past, present and future.

Why was Christ's final departure met by joy rather than gloom? Here are some reasons, which we might think of as His legacies.

First, He had said that He was going to prepare a place for His followers. It's worth pondering John Chapter 14, to see why Jesus' disciples were so confident after His Ascension.

Second, He taught them His departure was, actually, for their benefit. Only in this way

would the 'Advocate' come. 'Advocate' is one translation of a word meaning 'called alongside' and is a description of the Holy Spirit's work in and for humanity, then and now.

Third, Christ continues to campaign for the human cause, though now out of sight. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews puts it bluntly: "He is able to save to the uttermost

May



<b>UNITED REFORMED CHURCH</b>  Robins Lane Bramhall SK7 2PE  <a href="http://www.urcbramhall.co.uk">www.urcbramhall.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:urc.bramhall2@gmail.com">urc.bramhall2@gmail.com</a>  Our church is a member of the URC South Manchester and Cheshire Missional Partnership.	<b>SUNDAY SERVICES</b>  10.00 am    Reflective Worship <i>In Church and on Zoom (see page 2 for details)</i>		
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	<b>CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY</b> Elaine Noden 0161 355 1459 <a href="mailto:elley2011@hotmail.co.uk">elley2011@hotmail.co.uk</a>	<b>OFFICE</b> Answerphone 0161 439 4807	

those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” Paul writes something similar in his letter to the Romans. It means that Jesus prays for us nonstop, so when we pray it’s like treading on a moving walkway taking us in the right direction.

Fourth, He came to show us what the unseen God is like. When one of His trainees asked, “Lord, show us the Father”, the reply was, “Have I been with you all this time and you still do not know Me? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father”. So, the more we contemplate Jesus, the closer we get to the unseen God.

*The Ven John Barton for Parish Pump*



## Church Services in May

For those unable to attend church in person the service will be on zoom. The Zoom link each week will remain the same and is as follows:

**Meeting ID: 864 1569 9327**

**Passcode: 490926**

The services will start at **10.00am**

This month the services will be led by the following people:

**Sunday 1st May**- Margaret Dexter Brown - Communion

**Sunday 8th May** - Linda Rayner

**Sunday 15th May** - Alison Pope

**Sunday 22nd May** - Elaine Noden

**Sunday 29th May** - Linda Rayner

**Sunday 5th June** - Rev Dr Marion Tugwood - Communion

Our thanks go to all for their contribution and service to our fellowship.

## Call to Missional Partnership: Revd Kurauone Mutimwii

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in the process and voted in the ballot to call Kurauone to our Missional Partnership.

You will be pleased to know that the vote was 84% in favour and that the Steering Group was delighted to issue a call for him to serve as a team minister with us.

Kurauone has written to us confirming his acceptance of the call. Both he and Nancy were grateful for the warm welcome and the love shown to them during their visit and are looking forward to working with the churches.

Please continue to pray for the family, and our serving ministers and churches at this exciting time. May God’s Spirit guide us all as we seek to make all the necessary arrangements. More details will follow in due course.

*Convenor of Missional Partnership Steering Group Revd Bob Day*

## Coronavirus Update

The Elders, as promised, continue to review the risks of Covid 19 and the strategies we use to mitigate the risks. We always refer to the guidance produced by the Synod Moderators to help inform our decisions.

The infection rates in the local area remain incredibly high and several of our members have been poorly with Covid 19 in recent weeks. To ensure the continuing safety of our members we have agreed the following for the coming month:

- To ask people with any symptoms of Coronavirus to stay away from church
- The Sanctuary will be well ventilated
- Masks to be worn during the service and when moving around the building
- Table service will continue for refreshments

These guidelines will be reviewed at the next Elders’ meeting in May.

*Sue on behalf of the Elders*

## Lent Easter Egg Appeal

Well you did yourselves proud gathering together a very impressive number of Easter eggs.



They all went to Chellwood Foodbank Plus who were over the moon and said it would

make such a difference to so many families this Easter.

Thank you all so much.

*Elaine*

## **Jubilee Celebrations**

On **Sunday 5th June** there are plans all around the country to do something to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We thought it would be good to extend our usual after Church coffee to include some yummy cakes, making it more of a celebration. Don't be shy about coming forward with some baking.

*Elaine*

## **News and Views**

The next edition of News and Views will be published on 5th June.

Your Editor is away on holiday, (some would say another holiday!) and so there will be a delay in publication. I apologise to all who eagerly await the monthly news letter, for this delay but hopefully June's will be a bumper Jubilee edition.

*Sue*

## **Church Family and Friends**

### **Iain Gillespie**

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Iain Gillespie on April 5th. Iain and Muriel joined Bramhall URC from St Columbus, Handforth over 25 years ago. They both played a very active role in church life until ill health meant they were no longer able to attend. Iain had a marvellous sense of humour and could usually be found chuckling with someone over coffee after the service. He had a deep faith and would enjoy discussing the service with the leader often providing thought provoking ideas. Both Iain and Muriel were extremely kind, supporting many in church, providing transport, hospitality and a listening ear. Their devotion to each other and their love for their family and friends was a shining example to us all.

We send our love and sympathy to Rhona and Gordon and to Iain's grandchildren, Douglas and Katy. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

## **Birthday Celebrations**

Congratulations to Stuart Young on celebrating a significant birthday this month. We send our love and best wishes and hope he has a lovely day.



### **Message from Carole Perkin Thank You**

Carole, Chris, Steve and family would like to thank all of their church friends for the care, kindness and the many tributes to Graham sent in cards. It has meant so much to us during this difficult time.

Thank you once again.

*Carole*

### **Message from Pam Critchley Thank You**

I wish to thank everyone involved in Brian's Celebration of Life Service on Friday 8th April.

Everyone was so helpful and kind. I really can't thank you enough.

*Pam and family*

### **Message from Sybil and Peter Browne Thank You**

We want to thank you all for your lovely Easter card. We haven't been able to get to church for a long time as Peter has been very ill. He has been in hospital from the 1st of March but came home at the beginning of April. He now has four carers coming in each day but he is getting better. We hope he will be able to get out a bit before long.

We wish to send you all at church our love and best wishes.

*Sybil and Peter*

### **Christopher Whitehead**

Christopher has just agreed to become the Convener of Synod Resources Committee and Chair of Trust. It is Christopher's role to ensure that matters relating to property and finance are managed effectively and appropriately; and as Chair of the Trust Company to ensure it acts as Custodian Trustees for property and investments on behalf of the Synod and of the local churches. We send our warmest congratulations to him on his new role.

Christopher was asked to produce an article for the North West Synod Newsletter, which I would like to share with you.

### **Christopher Whitehead – My Life in 260 Words**

I was born and schooled in Edinburgh and then attended the Universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge. I was baptised and received into membership of the Church of Scotland, Mayfield Church, Edinburgh on Good Friday, 1966. In sequence, I then worshipped at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cambridge; Broadway Presbyterian Church, New York; Heaton Moor URC, ending up at Bramhall URC in 1978. So I come from the Presbyterian wing of the URC.

At Bramhall, I am a serving elder, co-chair of elders and pulpit supply secretary and have been on management committee, a junior church teacher and church secretary.

Wider afield, I have served the URC as a Governor at Northern College, on the National Assessment Board, as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher and was Convenor of the Bolton and Salford Missional Partnership Steering Group for three year and the South Area Pastoral Committee for six.

My working life has been in academia as a chemist, moving to the the University of Manchester in 1977 where I worked my way through the ranks ending up as Professor and Head of Department before my retirement in 2014.

Since retirement, I have become a Trustee of the Daphne Jackson Trust, an educational charity which provides support to people who have to take a career break to accommodate an extended period of caring responsibilities or illness.

I was married to Rosemary in 1972 and so, just like the URC, we will celebrate a 50th anniversary later this year! We have two children and four grandchildren. Hobbies include gardening, travel and classical music, especially opera.

We remember all our members and friends who are experiencing health problems at the moment and those who may be struggling. We hold them and their families in our prayers.

*Sue*

## **Holiday at Home**

Holiday at home is taking place between **Tuesday 23rd August and Thursday 25th August** and will be held in



our Church. Thank you to those people who have already volunteered to help. If you can help with transporting folk to and from church, help setting up church, or be present on the day or part of the day to help with refreshments, stewarding or activities, please speak to one of the Elders.

*Sue*

## **Festival Manchester 2022**



The Festival Manchester is a Christian Mission to be held in Wythenshawe Park from

**1st – 3rd July** The following information was taken from their website:

*Vision: Our goal is simple: to tell people about the love of Jesus, to show the region the love of Jesus and to see disciples not just decisions.*

*This is mission on a scale never seen before, and it's all happening through the local church. The church is at the heart of Festival Manchester, partnering with The Message Trust and the Luis Palau Association to help make it happen.*

*Together, we'll be using every opportunity to share Jesus in word and deed. As we do this, people will be equipped anew for mission, spurred on to go deeper in prayer, and be empowered with a new boldness to talk to people about Jesus more than they ever have before.*

They are encouraging people to show the love of Jesus and encourage Churches to go out into the community and run social action projects from litter picking to running a fun day. The Love Where U Live Projects are part of this.

There will be a number of outreach events such as a Gospel Choir and a Dinner at the airport along with bands, kids' zone, fun fair,

extreme sports and family fun at the park venue.

There is lots of information on the website <https://festivalmanchester.com/> if you are interested.

*Sue*

## **CtiBW Update**

### **Praise in The Park**

The next thing that CtiBW are hoping to organise is the Praise in the Park afternoon. A small group from the churches are looking into if it should go ahead this year and if so when.

If it does go ahead, in order to be successful, a few people from each of the churches will need to go along to mingle, give out song sheets etc. I will keep you posted.

### **The Mill**

Reps from the Mill attended the last CtiBW meeting. They thanked people for promoting their prayer week and asked us to keep praying for them.

At the moment Tuesdays and Fridays are busy and after the Easter break they are hoping Thursdays will take off, however they are still unsure what to do to move Saturdays on, so this is where they need prayers.

They will be going into Bramhall High School one Monday a month as part of Christians in Schools.

They are also hoping to take a group of Year 6's to the Festival Manchester.

In the Summer they are exploring setting up some Summer Holiday Workshops, as they had a couple of successful ones last year.

Please continue to pray for the work at the Mill.

### **Festival Manchester 2220**

Coming under the umbrella of Festival Manchester, CtiBW are taking part in the Woodford Showcase Event at the new Garden Village, on 18th June. As part of this, there will be flyers handed out, telling people all about the various Churches in Bramhall.



The Festival Manchester will be holding a Dinner in the Concorde suite at Manchester airport, it is not a fundraiser, it is about inviting people to come to a Christian based social evening. Tables or individual tickets can be bought, details can be found on the website.

*Elaine*

## **Church Leaders' Lunch with the Mayor**

This is not quite as grand as it sounds, as the lunch is a sandwich and a donut (so I have to take my own, if I want to eat). It is an opportunity for all the Churches in the Stockport area to meet and discuss things.

It was good to learn that all Council meetings are started with a prayer.

The Baptist General Secretary of Europe spoke at the lunch. His message was that people have given a lot towards the Ukraine appeal. and the people in the Ukraine have started to attend Church more, they are coming out of hiding in basements, realising that the power of the Lord is helping them.

Charities are appealing for money donations; they have a lot of goods and it takes a lot of administration etc to get them over to the people in need.

Stockport will welcome 56 Ukraine families soon. Marple Methodist Church is assisting the Homes for Ukraine group that are going to help them settle.

A gentleman called Chip, told us all about the opportunity for all the schools in the Manchester Boroughs to join together to make one big Gospel Choir to perform at the Manchester Festival in Wythenshawe Park in July. Stockport, at present has 13 schools signed up which is the largest number across the boroughs.

On the 13th June Stockport County has lent them free of charge their large function suite to do a rehearsal between 5-6, the parents will also be there and the football club will donate free tea and coffee to them while they wait, it was hoped that perhaps members from the local Churches would volunteer to help look after the parents, which would be a good opportunity to witness to people. If you would like to help, please let me know.

Chip is also hoping that after the festival he can continue with some of the children and get a monthly Stockport Youth Gospel choir established.

It was the current Mayor's last Lunch as he steps down at the end of the Month, we are hoping the new Mayor carries on some of the Christian activities.

*Elaine*

## War in Ukraine: Appeal for More Bibles

Bible Society is appealing for funds to send more Bibles to Ukraine. It says that Christians in the UK "can speak hope" into the crisis by providing Ukrainian pastors and churches with more Bibles with which to share "the love and power of God's Word."

Oleksandr, who leads the Bible Society team in Ukraine, tells the story: "A few days ago, a pastor visited our office, asking for Bibles. When he heard that we had none left, he pleaded for Bibles that were damaged or even copies with pages missing. He said, 'These Bibles would be of immense value to my congregation and the community!' It was heart-breaking.

"God's Word can help bring comfort, peace, and reconciliation to our nation. We long for more Bibles." Details at: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

*From Parish Pump*

## Coventry Cathedral - 60 Years On

Sixty years ago, on 25th May 1962, the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during World War Two. The Queen had laid the foundation stone in 1956, and she was present for the consecration.

On the night of 14th November 1940, the old Cathedral – together with much of the centre of Coventry – was devastated by incendiary bombs, but the decision to rebuild it was taken the next morning. The Provost, Richard Howard, wanted to do so as a sign of faith, trust and hope, rather than as an act of defiance.

This rejection of bitterness and hatred led to the Cathedral's Ministry of Peace and

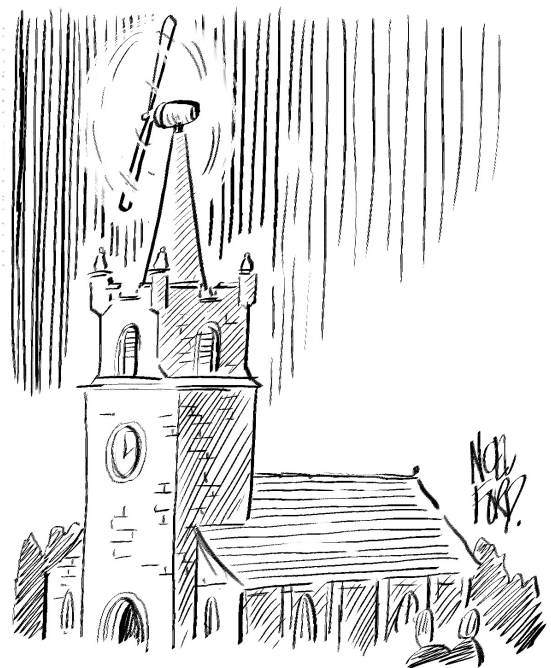
Reconciliation, which continues to give spiritual and practical support in areas of conflict. It is symbolised now by the Cross of Nails, made from three nails found in the roof truss of the old cathedral and set in the centre of the altar cross.

The place now called Coventry Cathedral, on the site of a Benedictine monastery, is in fact two buildings – a joining of the old and the new. The older building, still hallowed ground, was originally a parish church, and then given cathedral status in 1918. Its 295ft (90m) spire, containing 181 stone steps, is the third highest in England, behind Salisbury and Norwich.

The 'new' Cathedral was an inspiration to many celebrated artists, most of them yet to become famous. Among those commissioned by the architect, Sir Basil Spence, were Graham Sutherland (iconic Christ in Glory tapestry), John Piper (baptistry window), Ralph Beyer, John Hutton, Elisabeth Frink and Jacob Epstein, who created the striking sculpture of St Michael defeating Lucifer.

The famous Charred Cross was created when the cathedral stonemason, Jock Forbes, saw two wooden beams lying in the shape of a cross after the bombing and tied them together.

*Tim Lenton for Parish Pump*



"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"

## The Lectionary Readings for May 2022

*The readings may not always correspond with those chosen by our preachers, but this information could be used for personal reading.*

*Sue Matthews*



Week beginning	First reading and Psalm	Alternative first reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
May 1st 2022	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 8th 2022	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7: 9-17	John 10:20-30
May 15th 2022	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 22nd 2022	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
May 29th 2022	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17,20-21	John 17:20-26

### Prayer Corner

*Please let me know if you would like any specific prayers added to our prayer corner each month. Sue Matthews*

Please continue to pray for individuals affected by Covid 19

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are unwell, and are facing hospital treatments.

Please pray for those who have lost a loved one recently

Please pray for the people providing humanitarian aid to those fleeing the war in Ukraine

Please pray for the people of the Ukraine as they continue to face the military threat from Russia

Please pray for those who face food poverty and those having problems heating their homes



## Crossword Challenge

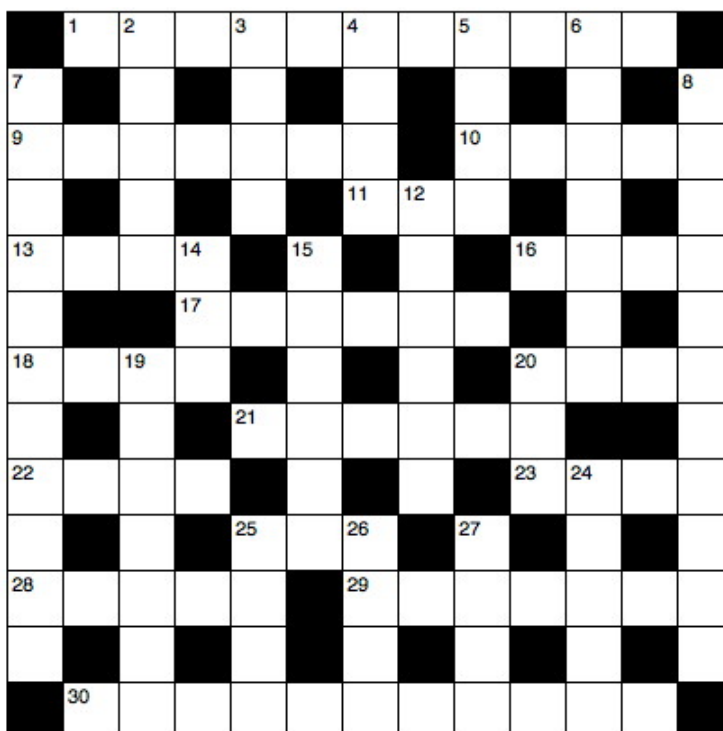
### Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)  
 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)  
 10 'Each man—a sword to his side'(Exodus32:27) (5)  
 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)  
 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)  
 16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought — and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)  
 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts13:50) (6)  
 18 Burden (Luke11:46) (4)  
 20 'As far as the east is from the —,so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)  
 21 Sign (Luke23:38) (6)  
 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)  
 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)  
 25 Has(anag.)(3)  
 28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth,—sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)  
 29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and—awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)  
 30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

### Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)  
 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)  
 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)  
 5 Slip (anag.) (4)  
 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)  
 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)  
 8 'Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)  
 12 Acquire(2Timothy2:10) (6)

- 14 Container cover (Numbers19:15) (3)  
 15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on — —!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)  
 19 Refrain(1Peter2:11) (7)  
 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears'(Luke7:38) (3)  
 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)  
 25 'Give to everyone who—you'(Luke 6:30) (4)  
 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my —come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)  
 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)



### Answers April 2022

**Across:** 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet. 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow. 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel. 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

**Down:** 1, Will hide. 2, Minor. 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe. 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice. 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able.

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