

NEWS & VIEWS

November 2024

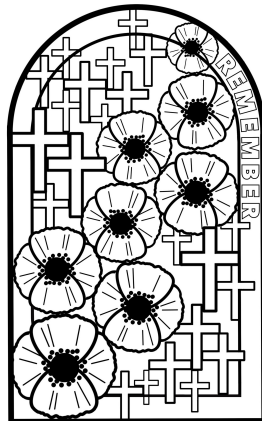
The newsletter of the United Reformed Church in Bramhall

War and Peace

John Lennon wrote: 'Imagine there's no countries, It isn't hard to do, Nothing to kill or die for, And no religion too. Imagine all the people living life in peace.' But on Remembrance Sunday, we should reflect on war past and present, and consider the real way to peace.

The way of war: 'What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill.' (James 4:1-2). James reminds us that war has its basis in our own hearts, with the selfish desires that exploit, bully and kill others to get our own way. Sadly, when nations allow these inner selfish attitudes to determine their policy the result is war. Only God can establish true peace.

The way of peace: Isaiah, 2,700 years before John Lennon, also imagined a future of peace without any war: 'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Isaiah 2:4).



Only Jesus, the Prince of Peace, can bring true peace to our lives and world. Jesus did not experience the horror of battle, but He did die an horrific death at the hand of the Romans. He gave His life sacrificially, as He took God's anger at our sin on Himself and went on to conquer death in His resurrection. He did this out of love for us, and calls us

to love others in the same way: 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' (John 15:13).

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Robins Lane Bramhall SK7 2PE www.urcbramhall.co.uk urc.bramhall2@gmail.com Our church is a member of the URC Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership.	SUNDAY SERVICES 10.00 am Reflective Worship <i>In Church and on Zoom (see page 2 for details)</i>		
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How can we demonstrate such love ourselves? We can be confident in God's plan to bring an end to all wars when Jesus returns.

Canon Paul Hardingham for Parish Pump



Church Services in November

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**

The services in November will be led by the following people:

Sunday 3rd November -Linda Rayner - communion

Sunday 10th November -10.30

Remembrance Sunday - Margaret Dexter Brown

Sunday 17th November - Alison Haigh

Sunday 24th November - Christopher Whitehead

Please Note the service on 10th November will start at 10.30am

Friendly Cuppa Time

This month's meeting is **Wednesday 27th November 10am - 12pm**
Please feel free to bring someone along.



Elaine

Prayer Tree and Prayer Wall

As I have mentioned in the services the Prayer Tree is back in place at the back of the Sanctuary and the Prayer Wall in the Hall has been spruced up for the Community who come in to use our premises.

There is one talent that none of us lose whatever our age or ability and that is the

ability to pray. Even if you do not feel the need to put something on the tree, just perhaps go and read and pray for the things that others have written, this is all they may need. You can write as much or as little as you like on the leaf you hang.

Elaine

Reverse Advent

I will be starting the Reverse Advent box off on **Sunday 17th November**, the box will be in the foyer and this will run until **Sunday 15th December**. This gives me time to get all the donations to Chelwood in time for them to get things out to their clients before Christmas.



Remember this is where instead of taking something out of an Advent Calendar each day, you put something into the Chelwood Advent Box, this will then be given to those who will struggle during the festive period.

Anything that you put in is good, remembering this is for Christmas and some cannot afford that little extra something so, you can include a Christmas treat, selection boxes, nice special biscuits, mince pies the list goes on.

Elaine

Advent Bible Study

We are holding an Advent Bible study starting on **Tuesday 26th November at 7pm-8pm**.



During the 4 weeks of Advent we will cover Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Everybody is welcome and I have invited our friends from Cheadle Hulme and Heald Green to join us.

Elaine

Christmas Fair

This year's Fair will be on **Saturday 30th November 11am - 2pm**



This year all proceeds will be going to Home Start who are one of Manchester's leading family support charities, they work with local

communities helping families navigate through many of life's difficulties.

If you have anything you think may be suitable for our Tombola stall please bring it into Church over the next few Sundays. Also if you would like to bake a cake for the cake stall let me know as that would be appreciated too.

Elaine

Church Meeting

The next Church meeting will be on **Sunday 17th November** after the 10am Service.

Elaine

Eco Church

Waitrose declared the original eco warriors were The Wombles, we think being eco-friendly is a modern matter, but as children some of us remember being inspired by The Wombles, which was first broadcast in 1973, all about those furry pointy nosed creatures that used to pick up rubbish on Wimbledon Common, and it captured our imagination.

They were also big on recycling, whether they turned an old tyre into a rocking chair, or used sweet wrappers to mend a leaky pipe, they were well ahead of their time, because there wasn't really a Green Movement then. It didn't preach to us but it did bring it to our attention.

The man who wrote the Theme tune (and don't deny you have not been singing it) wore a womble costume on Top of the Pops that had been upcycled by his Mum from various things around the house.

Elaine

Hope 2025

In Churches together in Bramhall and Woodford (CtiBW) it was agreed to have a theme for next year and going along the prayer theme Hope 2025 was born. We will show a short video at the Church meeting that explains what is happening. This is going to be an ongoing Prayer Meeting for the members of all the Churches in Bramhall and Woodford.

Elaine

Christmas is Coming!

If you would like to put a Christmas greeting into News and Views, please could you let me have it by **Sunday 10th**

November The message can be emailed to me, telephoned or hand written and passed to me in Church.

Sue



Christmas Post

This year I will be running the Christmas card exchange again for the Members who attend the Church regularly. The Post Box will be open from **Sunday 1st December until Sunday 8th December**. They will be sorted and ready for collection from **Sunday 15th December**.

Please put the name in the top left corner and leave a donation for Macmillan in the Post Box. Many thanks,

Carole D



Church Family and Friends

Gerald Nunn

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Gerald Nunn. Gerald and Brenda have been loyal members of our Church for over 60 years.

Gerald played an active part in the life of the church; he was a Deacon and an Elder and provided wise council and support to all the Ministers and to other elders. He was also the Church Secretary in the Jimmy Dean's era and was pivotal in the calling of Arnold Harrison as our Minister. Gerald had exceptional ability in pastoral care and would be extremely supportive of those members who were ill, ringing and visiting those in need and keeping in touch with friends who were unable to attend church.

Brenda and Gerald supported all church activities and Gerald was on the Social Committee for a number of years. Recently Brenda and Gerald were regular attendees of Friendly Cuppa and Lunch and Chat, enjoying the fellowship and good food provided by Elaine and Anthony.

Gerald has been a huge presence in the church ever since I joined over 40 years ago, he has always been interested, never afraid to challenge but always with the interest of the church and its members at the heart of any discussion. He would always welcome visitors and he has provided encouragement and help to so many people, his Christian kindness has been an inspiration to many.

We send our love and sympathy to Brenda, Julie and Wendy, and their families and we remember them all in our prayers.

We remember all those in our fellowship who are unwell and experiencing worries and sadness over loved ones. We remember those who are recovering from falls and waiting for hospital results and procedures. We also remember those in our fellowship who are unable to worship with us at the moment. We hold them all in our prayers.

Sue

Christian Aid Band Concert

Stockport Schools Senior and Intermediate Brass Bands will be playing for us on **Saturday 23rd November**. The concert will start at 7pm and run for about 2 hours. Ticket price for adults will be £7 and it's free for students under 16. The entry price will include interval refreshments. A raffle with super prizes will also be held. I think you'll all really enjoy the night.

Tickets will be available shortly.

Your support once more will be greatly appreciated as we try to raise monies for those who are less well off than us and in many cases in dire need of life support.

Put the date in your diary and we look forward to your super support.

Stuart

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible - Luke



Luke is the third of the synoptic gospels. The gospel and Acts were both written for Theophilus, a Roman official, who acted as Luke's patron to ensure that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is and that the gospel is intended for the whole world.

Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into 4 main sections: the coming and early life of Jesus (1:1-4:13); Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50); His ministry (mainly teaching) on the road to Jerusalem (9:51-24:53) and His final week in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53).

For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to His ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself (a Gentile writer in the NT) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of His day. This includes women, the poor and sinners (incl. tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!), as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit.

A key verse which reflects this perspective is found when Jesus encounters the tax collector Zacchaeus, 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost' (19:10). Whenever we find ourselves on the outside of God's life and love, as Zacchaeus, Jesus comes to find us and welcome us afresh into His kingdom.

Canon Paul Hardingham for Parish Pump

Quiz on St. Luke's Gospel

1. What was the name of the angel who visited Zechariah?

Michael, Seraphiel, or Gabriel

2. Who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ?

Simeon, Herod, or Peter

3. Who did Christ raise in the town of Nain?
Peter's mother-in-law, Jairus' daughter, or
Widow's son

4. With which parable did Jesus respond
when asked by the lawyer "who is my
neighbour"?

Sower, Good Samaritan, or Workers in the
Vineyard

5. How many loaves did Christ mention when
he spoke about a hungry friend arriving at
midnight?

One, two, or three

6. 'Eat, drink and be merry' is a reference from
which parable?

Rich fool, Prodigal Son, Great Banquet

7. Who was Jesus referring to when He said
'go and tell that fox'?

Herod, Annas, or Pilate

8. What does Jesus say is of no use if it has
lost its taste?

Leaven, wine, or salt

9. In the parable of the lost sheep how does
the shepherd bring the found sheep home?

Follows it home, on his shoulders, or in a cart

10. How many silver coins did the woman
have in the parable of the lost coin?

Five, ten or twelve

11. What did the Prodigal son ask for in
advance?

His dowry, his wages, or his inheritance

12. In the parable why was the unjust steward
dismissed from his job?

Absent from work, wasting goods, or attacked
a servant

13. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus,
the poor man was carried to whose side?

Isaac's, Abraham's, or Jacob's

14. When Jesus met the ten lepers who did
He tell them to go and show themselves to?

No-one, families, or priests

15. In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax
collector how often did the Pharisee fast?

Every day, twice a week, or once a month

16. In which city did Jesus meet Zacchaeus?

Samaria, Jerusalem, or Jericho

17. What did Jesus tell His disciples to sell
their cloaks for if they didn't already have one?

Staff, knapsack, or sword

18. Who said "Jesus remember me when you
come into your kingdom"?

The thief on the cross, Nicodemus, or Mary

19. How many men walked with the
resurrected Jesus on the road to Emmaus?

Two, five, or seven

20. When Jesus appeared to His disciples
after His resurrection what did they give Him
to eat?

Bread, lamb, or fish

Answers on next page

Missional Partnership Prayer Calendar



Each Church has prepared a prayer for you. The prayers are not designed to be for a specific event, they are about the general life and mission of the Church so they can be used in any month.

This month we pray for **Trinity Church, Cheadle**

Eternal and loving God, we thank you that you bless us in so many ways.

We pray for the life, worship, teaching and fellowship of Trinity.

Bless all that is done to serve the community

for the young, the lonely, the hungry

We thank you for the support of the Missional Partnership

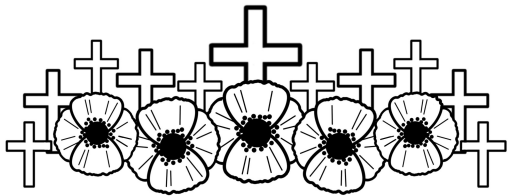
Help us to care for one another as true members of one family regardless of physical, cultural or intellectual differences.

We pray for friendship and good will between us.

Teach us to enjoy the richness of variety among us.

For we ask this in your name,

Amen



Remembrance Poppies

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

From Parish Pump

Quiz Answers

1. Gabriel (Luke 1:18-19)
2. Simeon (Luke 2:25-26)
3. Widow's son (Luke 7:11-17)
4. Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
5. Three (Luke 11:5-6)
6. Rich fool (Luke 12:13-21)
7. Herod (Luke 13:31-32)
8. Salt (Luke 14:34-35)
9. On his shoulders (Luke 15:5)
10. Ten (Luke 15:8)
11. His inheritance (Luke 15:11-13)
12. Wasting goods (Luke 16:1)
13. Abraham's (Luke 16:19-22)
14. Priests (Luke 17:11-14)
15. Twice a week (Luke 18:9-14)
16. Jericho (Luke 19:1-2)
17. Sword (Luke 22:35-38)
18. The thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43)
19. Two (Luke 24:13-35)
20. Fish (Luke 24:36-43)



"...and don't forget we're coming into Nativity Play season – make sure we have extra tea-towels in stock!"

The Lectionary Readings for November 2024

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
November 3rd 2024	Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146	Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34
November 10th 2024	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Psalm 127	1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
November 17th 2024	1 Samuel 1:4-20 1 Samuel 2:1-10	Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16	Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
November 24th 2024	2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37

Prayer Corner

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

Please pray for the people who are worrying about heating their homes as the cold weather arrives

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are unwell

Please pray for those who have recently lost a loved one

Please pray for all those affected by the hurricane in Florida

Please pray for the people of the Ukraine, Palestine and Isreal as the fighting continues

Please pray for those families affected by the famine in Darfur and the aid workers supporting them

Crossword Challenge

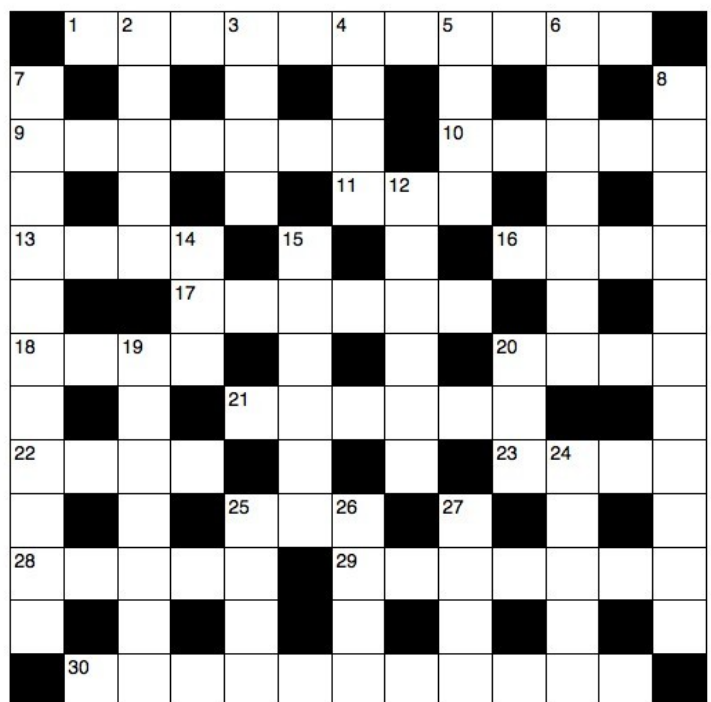
Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
 13 Taverns (4)
 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4)
 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)

- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
 2 See 18 Across



Answers October 2024

Across: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

Down: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

NEWS & VIEWS is published on the last Sunday of each month. The deadline for the next issue is:

SUNDAY 10th November

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