



NEWS & VIEWS

April 2025

The newsletter of the United Reformed Church in Bramhall

Being People of Safety and Solidarity this Easter

As we journey through Lent towards Easter, the gospel stories we share on Sundays highlight the many risks and dangers in discipleship. We hear again and again of the challenges the disciples went through in following Christ, and the difficult nature of the path Christ was walking in obedience to God. Think of the two who were sent to take stranger's donkey for

Jesus to ride into Jerusalem, those who witnessed him being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter being put on the spot about his allegiance to Christ, and the women who stayed with Christ at the cross when everyone else had left him. Every step Jesus took was fraught with danger, pain, and tears. Religious, social and political power were stacked against him. It was so risky for anyone to identify with Christ.

There are many people in our communities and world that are hurting right now. Those in

situations of danger who, like Christ, know rejection, oppression, persecution, and the deep pain of being abandoned by those they once trusted. This Easter let us find ways that

we can be people and places of safety and solidarity in our troubled world.

Through the welcome and friendship we offer, through prayer, through speaking out

against injustice, and through giving what we can in time or money to support those in need. Let us be sustained and inspired by the living hope and peace of the resurrected Christ, who came and endured so much so that all may 'have life and have it abundantly' (John 10:10).

*Revd. Kurauone Mutimwii and
Revd. Stephanie Atkins
Greater Manchester South Missional
Partnership Ministers*

EASTER

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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Our church is a member of
the URC Greater Manchester
South Missional Partnership.

MINISTERS

Rev'd K. Mutimwii
Rev'd S. Atkins

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00 am Reflective Worship *In Church and on Zoom (see page 2 for details)*

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of a minister, please
contact Sue Matthews in
the first instance
0161 439 1066

ROOM BOOKINGS

07909 940819
Answerphone checked daily



Church News

Church Services in April

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 April will be led by the following people:

Sunday 6th April - Linda Rayner - communion

Sunday 13th April - Elaine Noden - Palm Sunday

Sunday 20th April - Linda Rayner - Easter Sunday

Sunday 27th April - Sue Matthews

Friendly Cuppa Time

This months meeting is **Wednesday 30th April 10am - 12pm**. Please feel free to bring a friend along.



Elaine

Lunch and Chat



Our next Lunch and Chat will be on **Wednesday 23rd April**. Usual time of **12.45pm** for a serving at 1pm. It is going to be celebrating Easter and St George's day all rolled into one.

Do let me know if you want to attend.

Elaine

Positive Lent

As you are aware we are giving up things in a positive way during Lent for others and it's going well so far. Our appeal box for all the wash bag items will remain in the foyer until **Easter Sunday 20th April**.

Elaine

Eco Church



Bees

Heald Green Church have got themselves some bee hives and are busy making honey, perhaps we could look at doing something like this in our Church Gardens?

However there are lots of things we can do to help the bees even if you do not have hives at Church and in our own gardens.

Bee Hotels look really good in a garden, and you can easily make one or buy one from garden centres, creating freedom hives from hollowed out logs is another way. Wild bees have declined in the UK by a third since 1980, so it is really important to do all we can to protect them.

We need bees to pollinate our plants, to help the bees, plant lovely vibrant coloured flowers that are nectar rich to attract them, bees love plants like Lavender, Verbena and Sunflowers.

Fun facts: Bees cannot see the colour Red, Bees are mentioned several times in the Bible they have 4 wings and 2 stomachs. Let's help our Bees!

Elaine

World Day of Prayer - I Made You Wonderful

World Day of Prayer went ahead on Friday 7th March at Fords Lane Church in Bramhall.

There were around 50 people attended and there was a lot of very lovely feedback on the content of the service, which had the sound of the waves in the background and a lovely picture of one of the beaches on the Cook Islands.

The content of the Service had been put together by the people of the Cook Islands with the theme "I made you wonderful."

Elaine

Minutes of Church Meeting 23rd February 2025

Welcome – Stuart Young (chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was followed by a prayer.

27 members were present plus 2 on Zoom along with 1 adherent

Minutes - The Minutes of the Church Meeting held on 17th November 2024 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising - None

Financial A.G.M. - Joe James

Joe talked through the accounts for 2024

Income This totalled £72,305.

It was made up of Giving £33,554, Room Hire £25,349 and Other £13,402. It was the best year ever for room hire and Sue Vernon was thanked once again for her tremendous efforts. Tom Swan was also thanked for his work on Gift Aid and Tax Returns which brought in £8,067.

Expenditure This totalled £74,482 comprising of: Ministry £44,424, Church £27,455 and Donations £2,603. The roof problems have caused more maintenance costs and is ongoing. M&M is increasing despite our numbers decreasing as we have to pay a contribution on our assets of 2.5%.

This gives an overall deficit of £2,177 for the year.

Investments/assets total £102,436 along with £11,385 owed to us from the Manse Scheme and cash. This gives us total funds carried forward of £180,793. Joe warned that the Mission Fund is decreasing year on year. If no record can be found for the use of the Restricted Legacy Fund, this money could be transferred to the general fund.

Joe also mentioned that the value of the buildings had increased greatly from around £2.5 million in 2023 to £3.3 million in 2024.

Joe was thanked for his 13 years of service as Treasurer and presented with some bottles of wine.

Updates from Elaine

C.TiB.W.

1. Mill Closure - This is now complete with all obligations ceased.

2. Hope 2025 - A monthly prayer meeting is being held at the Baptist Church on a Wednesday at 12noon.

3. Wototo Choir - The choir is singing on 4th March at 6.30pm in St Michael's Church.

4. World Day of Prayer It is on Friday 7th March at 10.30am in Ford's Lane Church.

5. Easter/ Summer School. This will be at St. Michael's for young people, for either a few days or a week.

Partnership News

1. New Convenor Alison Haigh will take over in March.

2. Lent Group Bible Study led by Steph and Kurauone will be held in person at Heald Green Church at 1.30 pm on Tuesdays 11th March - 8th April or on Zoom at 7pm on Wednesdays 12th March - 9th April.

3. Altrincham U.R C. is holding 3 events-

A St. David's Day afternoon on 1st March

Cooking Lessons with a professional chef at 11am on 27th Feb. 27th March and 24th April (pre-booking required as food involved)

Dave Frazer is holding a one person play on Mark's Gospel at 2pm on 15th April.

4. Discussions are being held on how the churches can adapt or curtail activities which require lots of volunteers, as they are harder to get these days

Our Church News.

1. Positive Lent. A washbag appeal is being run. Items suitable for men and women will be welcome.

2. Joint Elders' Meeting with Cheadle Hulme and Heald Green. This will be held to discuss how we can work more closely together.

3. Crossroads Day It looked at how the church might look in 10 years' time.

4. Stockport Leader's Meeting. Elaine is attending these to learn what is going on in all the churches around the borough

5. Prayer Breakfast This will be with our M.P. Tom Morrison.

6. Cheadle Mosque, They have asked if we would like to arrange a visit and chat.

Safeguarding Updates

Training It is now compulsory at different levels for people working within the church. This ruling comes from Church House. We now have to do an annual Safeguarding return saying who has done what training and when, if people refuse training, the matter will be passed over to Synod to deal with. Everyone needs to be aware of coercive and bullying behaviour along with any other problems, and also know how to go about reporting them.

G.D.P.R.

Stuart has produced a new church directory. Before printing and distributing it, he wants people to have a last chance to amend details or say if they don't want both land line and mobile numbers included.

A.O.B. Service Time

Some members have been requesting a move from 10am to 10.30am . Any move would have implications for those leading worship .After some discussion and a show of hands, it was clear that the majority of people present, were happy to keep the timing as it is.

The meeting closed with everyone saying The Grace.

Helen Beattie

Partnership News

Altrincham URC

A reminder that there is a one person play on the **15th April at 2pm** retelling Mark's Gospel. All welcome.

Elaine

Church Family and Friends

We remember all those in our fellowship who are struggling due to health issues. We remember those who have had falls, those waiting treatment and those in our fellowship who are unable to worship with us at the moment. We also remember those waiting for test results and those worrying about loved ones. We hold them all in our prayers.

Sue

Missional Partnership Prayer

Each church within the Missional Partnership have prepared a prayer to share with the other

churches over the year. This month we have one from Gatley URC

As we give thanks for the world in which we live, may we pray for peace for which we all crave – where the light will overcome the darkness, and women and children in war-torn areas will be able to live and grow in the love that comes from the one great family of nations. O Lord, hear our prayer.



Amen

Where Did Your Easter Egg Come From?

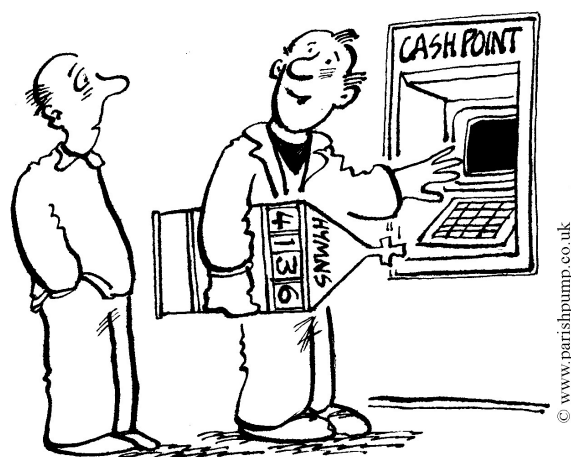


Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.

Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.

From Parish Pump



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!

The Lectionary Readings for April 2025

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
April 6th 2025	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
April 13th 2025 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
April 20th 2025 <i>Easter Day</i>	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
April 27th 2025	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31

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 of Israel, Gaza and the Sudan as fighting continues

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are unwell, particularly those with a worrying diagnosis and treatment

Please pray for those who have recently lost a loved one

Please pray for those worried about changes to disability payments

Please pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia as the peace process remains uncertain

Please pray for those caught up in the nightclub fire in North Macedonia

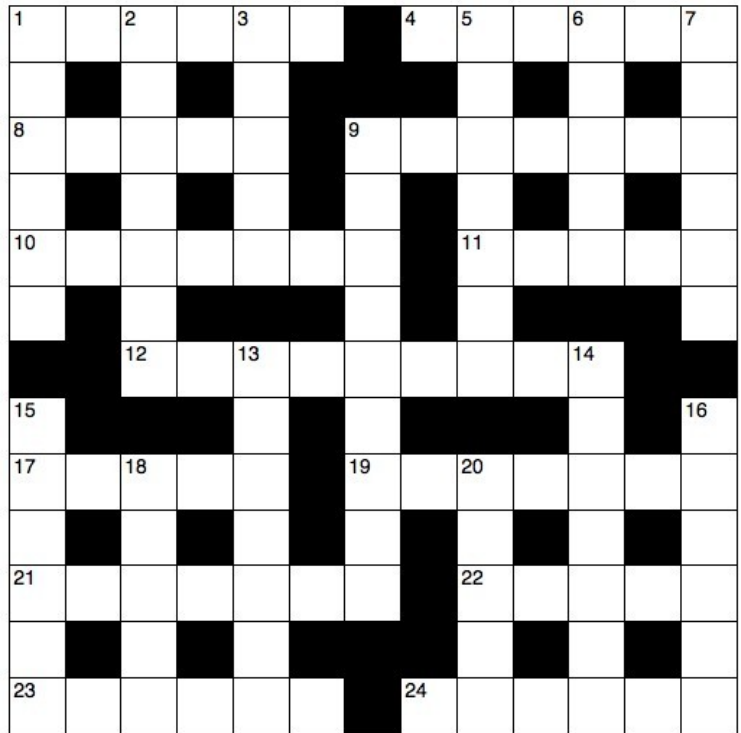
Crossword Challenge

Across

1. Relating to the whole universe (6)
4. The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
8. 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
9. He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
10. Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
11. 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
12. Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
17. Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
19. 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
21. Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
22. Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
23. The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
24. 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

1. Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
2. Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
3. Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
5. For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6. 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7. He reps (anag.) (6)
9. Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
13. Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
14. They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
15. The human mind or soul (6)
16. 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
18. 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
20. Bared (anag.) (5)



Answers March 2025

Across: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

Down: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

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

SUNDAY 13th April

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