

## Big Questions

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. – Psalm 25:4**

Last month I was asked to give an assembly to ninety Year 1 children, aged 5-6, at a local primary school. I was prepared for joyful chaos and had brought along all kinds of objects and pictures with me to share how Christians show our love for God and our world.

Before I was able to finished my introduction, hands were shooting up into the air, eyes bright and minds bubbling up with big theological questions ranging from ‘Where does Jesus live now?’ and ‘How do we know God is real if we can’t see God?’ to ‘Why is there still war in the world?’ and a lot of questions requesting the gory details of exactly how Jesus died on the cross. As you can imagine, the teachers looked on with wry smiles as I did my best to explore these

mysteries of life and God in an age-appropriate way, mindful of the different beliefs held by some of the children and their families.

Towards the end, one little boy cautiously shared that his grandma had died recently and that he hoped she was in heaven with God now. This immediately sparked even

more hands popping up into the air to tell me about people in their families or community who had died. I came away from our spirit-filled time of wondering with a deep sense of privilege. By letting go and enabling the children’s

curiosity and questions to shape our time together, we covered far more inspiring topics than if I had just kept to my plan and reached a place where they felt comfortable sharing their own stories and hurts not just with me but with each other.



<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 Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership. <b>MINISTERS</b> Rev'd K. Mutimwii Rev'd S. Atkins	<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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Sometimes we can be wary of exploring the big questions with others as they rarely have tidy answers, but by allowing our childlike curiosity about faith and our world to take the lead we can often find deeper connections with God and each other.

*Revd. Stephanie Atkins*  
*Missional Partnership Minister*



### Church Services in July and August

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 July and August will be led by the following people:

**Sunday 6th July** - Rev'd Dr John Parry - Communion

**Sunday 13th July** - Rev'd Kurauone Mutimwii

**Sunday 20th July** - Rev'd Stephanie Atkins

**Sunday 27th July** - Eddie Allman

**Sunday 3rd August** - Christopher Whitehead - Communion

**Sunday 10th August** - Margaret Dexter Brown

**Sunday 17th August** - Alison Haigh

**Sunday 25th August** - Sue Matthews

**Sunday 31st August - Joint Service at**

**Cheadle Hulme 10.30am** - Christopher Whitehead

**Please note later time of the joint service at Cheadle Hulme on Sunday 31st August**

### Friendly Cuppa

The meeting in July will be **Wednesday 30th July** and in August the meeting will be **Wednesday 27th August**.



Both are at the usual time of **10am - 12pm**. Please feel free to bring a friend along.

Please note that the August date might change, as Anthony may be persuaded to do a summer Lunch and Chat. I will keep you updated!

*Elaine*

### Wash Bags

Our Positive Lent wash bag appeal resulted in being able to fill 23 Wash Bags.

These have now gone to their home at MRI Hospital to the department that looks after the vulnerable people that are victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

It has taken a little time due to the sensitivity of the department.

Well done all, a fantastic achievement.

*Elaine*

### Eco Church



#### Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is about reducing single-use plastic waste every day at home, work, Church, even in your local cafe.

Take a reusable cup to the cafe, a simple solution to disposable coffee cups. Popular choices include travel cups made of glass, ceramic and insulated stainless steel with sealable lid, you probably already have one at home.

Or stuck for a gift for someone who has a birthday coming up buy them one.

Buying plastic-wrapped or packaged fruits and vegetables can be convenient, but unfortunately it creates plastic waste. Instead, consider looking out for loose fruit and vegetables in your local grocery store, or head to a farmers' market or organic store where plastic packaging is less often used.

Choosing lightweight, reusable produce bags instead of the single-use plastic bags that are usually provided. Be sure to look for ones made from recycled plastic or repurposed netting fabric. Many stores offer cardboard boxes as alternatives as well.

It's also worth asking if you really need a bag at all. For example, if you're buying a bunch of bananas, consider keeping them loose in your

shopping basket or trolley and transport them home in your reusable shopping bag.

There are lots of ways to help reduce plastic. The above are just two examples.

*Elaine*

## Songs From The Musicals



As advertised on **Saturday 19th July at 2pm** Sale G&S Society will be stepping away from their usual G&S music for the afternoon and bringing you a concert of songs from the musicals.

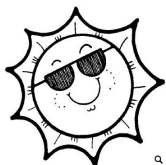
The cost of a ticket is £7 and the proceeds will be going to Church funds, so you will be supporting our Church.

The society supports us at our Carols by Candlelight Service at Christmas so you have heard them sing before, they really are excellent.

Please come along to support this event, it should be a splendid afternoon of entertainment.

*Elaine*

## Summer Holiday Club



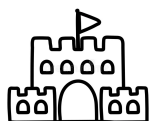
The week of 4th to 8th August CtiBW are holding the Summer Holiday Club. It is an extension of the Easter Activity Day that I reported on and will be hosted by St Michaels.

Due to volunteer numbers there will only be 40 Children not the 60 we had at Easter, there will be lots of fun events for the 4-11 year olds and it is a perfect opportunity to tell them stories about Jesus and God's Kingdom, in a fun, interesting and educational way.

Please remember the week in your prayers especially for the Volunteers who will probably need their own holiday afterwards!

*Elaine*

## Holiday at Home



A reminder that this year's "Holiday at Home" is taking place on **Tuesday 20th August - Thursday 22nd August.**

If you can help or know anyone who would like to attend, please speak to Carole Perkin

*Carole Perkin*

## Church Family and Friends

We continue to remember our friends who are unwell and we send our love. We have friends who have been in hospital, others waiting results, and others who have close relatives who are poorly. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families and we hope their health issues can be resolved quickly.

*Sue*

## 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 Cheadle Hulme URC.

Lord, we thank you for the worship and fellowship shared together at Cheadle Hulme and for all the people we meet. We give thanks for the groups who make use of the buildings and pray that the coffee mornings, Soup & Sweet events, film matinees and other activities will continue to reach out into the community as we seek to do your work.

Help us all to remember that your purpose embraces the whole world and to understand the implication of that for spreading your word. Show us all the part you would have us play and inspire us through the example of others.

We pray for our ministers, worship leaders and all who work for your kingdom, giving your guidance along new paths and showing us what traditions to value and what to leave behind.

We give thanks for your continuing presence with us.

**Amen**



## Smile Lines

### Breakages

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

'Is there anything breakable in here?' asked the post office clerk.

'Only the Ten Commandments.' answered the lady.

### Morning people

'Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world.

There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning".

### Giving

There is the story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: 'I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.'

## Human Nature

Many people want to be at the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the centre of attention.



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"

## 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 our world leaders as they strive to find solutions to the unrest in the world

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are unwell, have been in hospital and are worrying about results

Please pray for those who have lost a loved one

Please pray for all those waiting exam results

Please continue to pray for the people of the Ukraine, Gaza and Israel in this time of conflict

Please pray for those who are lonely and won't see their families over the summer

## The Lectionary Readings for July and August 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
July 6th 2025	2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30	Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9	Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 13th 2025	Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Psalm 25:1-10	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
July 20th 2025	Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52	Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
July 27th 2025	Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85	Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138	Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)	Luke 11:1-13
August 3rd 2025	Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-12	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
August 10th 2025	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
August 17th 2025	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
August 24th 2025	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
August 31st 2025	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16	Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7 Psalm 112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14



## Crossword Challenge

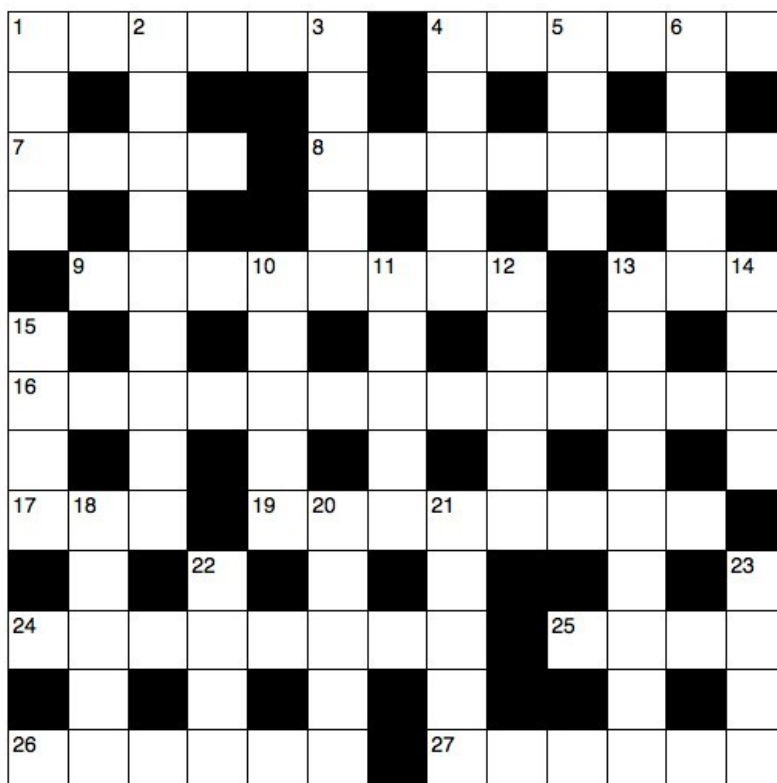
### Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)  
 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)  
 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)  
 8 See 5 Down  
 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)  
 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)  
 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)  
 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)  
 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)  
 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)  
 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)  
 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)  
 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

### Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)  
 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)  
 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)  
 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)  
 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)  
 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)  
 10 Trout (anag.) (5)  
 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)

- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)  
 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)  
 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)  
 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)  
 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)  
 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)  
 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)  
 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)  
 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)



### Answers June 2025

**Across:** 18, Grandchildren. 9, Pro. 10, Marvelled. 11, Strut. 13, Startle. 16, Babysit. 19, Orate. 22, Eucharist. 24, Map. 25, Commissioners.

**Down:** 11, Egypt's. 2, Favour. 3, Edomites. 4, Thorns. 5, Blue. 6, Armlet. 7, On edge. 12, Tea. 14, Adoption. 15, Lot. 16, Breach. 17, Become. 18, This So. 20, Armies. 21, Expose. 23, Avid.

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**SUNDAY 17th August**

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