

The Crisis of Capacity

The Crisis of Capacity is our opportunity to discover our capacity: Mark 6:35-36

35 *By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late.*
 36 *Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”* 37 *But he answered, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”*

Our discipleship in Christ could be found in a crisis of doubting and mistrusting our capacity to serve Christ in ways that bring transformation to Societies. This is because we practice our discipleship within a Church which is caught up in the tension of competing and clamouring for recognition

and validation as a relevant entity in the world space, and the overwhelming powerful sense of being under resourced, helplessness and deficiency of the capacity to holistically address issues bedevilling nations politically, economically and spiritually. The sense of being under resourced takes away the guts, courage and brevity to stand for what is difficult but ideal and right and what must be done to stir the world into the right direction. Now, instead of us going before God to ask God for the tools they need to boost our capacity, we approach God to bemoan and express our intention to shy and slide away from the issues of the people, or chase away people with challenging issues away from our presence. Whilst we acknowledge our incapacity, we must not use this as an excuse to chase away those in need but pray for means and courage to face those challenges, trusting that God can and is willing to do something about it.



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. MINISTERS Rev'd K. Mutimwii Rev'd S. Atkins	SUNDAY SERVICES 10.00 am Reflective Worship <i>In Church and on Zoom (see page 2 for details)</i>		
	SECRETARY Helen Beattie 0161 440 9227 helenmbeattie@outlook.com CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY Elaine Noden 0161 355 1459 elley2011@hotmail.co.uk	TREASURER Elaine Noden and Stuart Young 0161 355 1459 elley2011@hotmail.co.uk stuart.young9@hotmail.co.uk OFFICE Answerphone 0161 439 4807	MINISTERIAL CONTACT If you require the support of a minister, please contact Sue Matthews in the first instance 0161 439 1066 ROOM BOOKINGS 07909 940819 Answerphone checked daily

Christ has only but one command to his disciples as a solution to those who in their desperation, take refuge in Him; we give them something to eat. Though we may be projecting our incapacity to address what God's people desperately needs, we are and will always be Christ's instrument in intervening on affairs of his creation. We may not speak up, complain of little resources or send them away to suffer by themselves but Christ still challenges us to give them something to eat. You and I could have been a part of that of a discipleship that never said or did anything when people were victims of violence, were displaced and denied equity and justice. You and I could have been there in theological reflections, praying them away, winking uncaringly when the earth is subjected to eco injustice. You and I could have been there, urging the Lord to send them away because we cannot help. It is not about what we can or cannot, but opportunities in his presence, possibilities within his presence, and our capacity potentially realisable and achievable through him. I pray that we desire to be a part of what God can do through us and to be there when the Lord demonstrates that we have his capacity to transform the world around us.

*Rev'd Kurauone Mutimwii,
Missional Partnership Minister*



Church Services in October

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 September will be led by the following people:

Sunday 5th October - Rev'd Kurauone Mutimwii - communion

Sunday 12th October - Jackie Hill

Sunday 19 th October - Elaine Noden

Sunday 26th October - Linda Rayner

Friendly Cuppa Time/ Lunch and Chat



The meeting this month will be on **Wednesday 29th October**. I have yet to decide on what it will be, but I will keep you posted.

Please feel free to bring a friend along.

Elaine

Eco Church



We are now starting to see Christmas in the Shops, advertisements for Christmas lights around our Stately Homes and of course we have booked in our Christmas Coffee morning here at Church.

Wouldn't it be great if we could make Christmas greener, less wasteful, less stressful, more enjoyable, and with more space to focus on what it's really all about?

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' He said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.' Luke 21:1-4

It's easy to think that whatever we do won't really make a difference, but this story says otherwise. So, we don't have much time/energy/money/expertise? So, climate change, let alone the world's many other problems, seems too big to make a dent in? In God's economy, even the smallest things count and have value. Avoiding disposable gifts made of plastic, giving homemade gifts is a great idea. Look at Eco friendly gifts.

There are lots of ways we can help even in small ways, which all add up, to saving Gods Creation.

Elaine

Chelwood

I mentioned this at the Church meeting, but people really did make a difference during the

School holidays at Chelwood. I took lots of donations not only of goods but also of money. They were so grateful as it is a very busy time for them.

A big thank you all who gave.

Elaine

Minutes of Church Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 7th September.

Welcome – Rev Steph Atkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and led us in an opening prayer.

Stuart Young then Chaired the meeting with 22 members and one adherent present.

Minutes - The minutes of the church meeting held on 23rd February 2025 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising - None

Finances - Stuart

Copies of a summary of the finances from 1st January - 30th June were available.

Giving: Broadly similar to last year's. £35,234 as opposed to £35,364. Donations were up due to a rebate of £1,500 from the closure of the Mill, £300 from a G&S Concert and £253 from Knit & Knatter. Tax refunds were down by £1,400 due to fewer members and fewer gifts. Room Hire was up by £844, a really important source of income.

Expenditure: M&M is our biggest outlay at £14,976 (51% of the total) More money has also been spent on the roof recently. £4,000 deposit has been paid to the firm Lovatt's for the tiles to be removed on one side of the roof, the roof relined and then retiled. A further £7,500 will be due on completion. This is being done during the week starting 22nd September. It will not impact on access to the building.

Future Challenges

1. Our cleaner has retired and has been replaced by a cleaning company Bright and Beautiful. This will cost around £6,457 plus outlay for materials as against £5,600 for the cleaner. It will be partially offset by not having to pay National Insurance costs.

2. **Energy Costs:** We have come to the end of a 3 year deal and are paying £3000 more for our energy in the 1st six months of this year £5,500 as against £2,500 last year. We now have a new contract. Management will keep a close eye on usage to try and avoid wastage but with lots of room hire, the heating is on quite a lot during the week.

3. **Ministerial Costs:** We have been asked to pay an extra £972 to Synod to help cover their ministerial costs for 2026/27.

There has been an increase in giving from members which helps to cover our costs but if you still haven't thought about it yet, please do so as every little extra helps!

We still do have sufficient funds with £100,000 in investments, £39,000 in a reserve account and £21,000 in a Vernon account. Stuart thanked Elaine for dealing with all the finances whilst he was unwell over the summer.

Updates from Elaine

C.T.iB.W

1. **Hope 25:** This still continues with prayers each 2nd Wednesday of the month (12noon) at the Baptist Church

2. **Holiday Club at St Michael's:** It was a very successful event catering for over 40 children from a Tuesday to a Friday. It ended with the joint service which was well received and brought families together. Maybe next year there will be a barbecue too?

3. **Holiday at Home:** This went very well despite its struggle for volunteers. Two ministers are going to the review meeting to see if there are ways that more help can be offered.

4. **Praise in the Park:** It has not been held this year. New ideas are being sought.

5. **Healing Event: 4th October (10am -2pm)** at the Baptist Church

6. **Bible Study:** This is an 8 week course being held at St. Michael's (See flyers for details)

Partnership News

1. **New Partnership Convenor:** Alison Haigh is the new convenor. She has previous experience in this role.

2. Advent Bible Study: This will be run by our ministerial team. It will be held in person on a Tuesday afternoon with a repeat Zoom session on the Wednesday evening. Details have still to be finalised.

3. Church Life Review: There will be a presentation on Zoom on 15th September in the evening. Ask Elaine for the link to the meeting. There is also a 9 minute video on YouTube showing where they are up to at the moment. Again Elaine can send you a link. It explains about having central resources which churches can access, thus seeing what information and advice is available.

4. Wee Big Sing: It is being held on **25th September** at Altrincham U.R.C. There will be a meal at 6pm followed by singing from 7-9pm. Please let Elaine know if you wish to attend.

5. Praise at Fog Lane Park: 28th September (2.30pm). There will also be a walk around the park looking at God's creation. If wet the service will be in the church.

Our Church News.

1. Chelwood Holiday Support: Elaine took lots of produce to Chelwood along with £120 for which they were very grateful.

2. Joint Elders' Meeting: One was due this month but has been delayed until Oct/Nov time until there is something meaningful to discuss.

3. Stockport Leaders' Meeting: Hosted by the Mayor. Elaine attended this so that we can find out what all the churches of every denomination are doing in Stockport.

4. Wellspring Winter Appeal: This will run throughout September in order to collect items of winter clothing for the homeless men and women in Stockport.

5. Christmas Coffee Morning: Saturday 28th November. Knit & Knatter will run their stall and the tombola. The chosen charity is undecided yet.

Safeguarding: No incidents have been reported. New rules and guidance have been issued. Levels of training will be reviewed. People have done Level 1 training but some will be asked to do Level 2. Going forward the church insurance will require levels of training

to be recorded. If Elders ask people for additional training it will be mandatory, to avoid financial risk and invalidate our insurance.

GDPR: Directories have been issued and spare copies are in the safe if needed.

A.O.B.: Anthony felt that the unsung heroes of the church should be thanked. That is all the people who quietly go about doing important little jobs to enable its smooth running. The meeting acknowledged this.

The meeting closed with everyone saying The Grace.

Helen Beattie (secretary)

Our Community

Bramhall Humane Research Trust

Most of you will be aware of the Humane Research Trust, even if it's just that you have seen their building as you drive into Bramhall from Church. We often are not aware of things in our community except that we have seen a sign or something.

Well, the other day they asked for volunteers to go and help send out their Christmas catalogues, so I thought I would go along and help and find out what goes on.

They actually have a mini shop on the premises, but their main thing is their online shop.

So, my task for the morning was to stuff envelopes, with a letter from the CEO, a survey and a Christmas Catalogue (I have put a couple at the back of Church).

I met some lovely people and was able to witness to them all about BURC. I even met an old colleague from Shell who now works for them. They have been a UK charity since 1961 supporting scientists to find ways to replace animals in medical research.

Elaine



The Lectionary Readings for October 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
October 5th 2025	Lamentations 1:1-6 Lamentations 3:19-26 Psalm 137	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
October 12th 2025	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-12	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
October 19th 2025	Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
October 26th 2025	Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65	Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 Psalm 84:1-7	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14

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 those attending the UN's 80th Anniversary meeting.

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are unwell, particularly those undergoing tests and procedures

Please pray for those who have recently lost a loved one

Please pray for those who are worrying about how they will heat their homes this winter

Please pray for all those affected by war but particularly in Ukraine, Russia and Gaza

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are worried about loved ones

Crossword Challenge

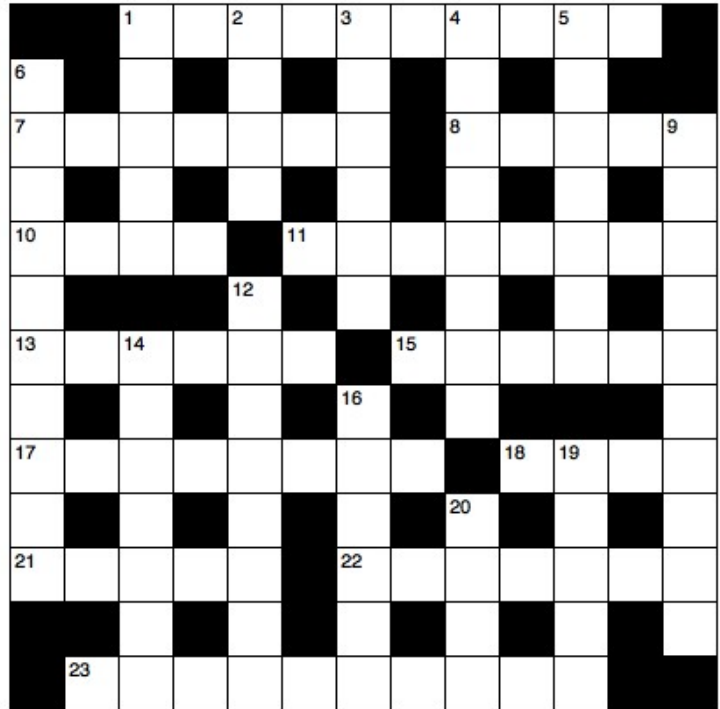
Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
 8 Relieved (5)
 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)

- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
 20 See 18 Across



Answers September 2025

Across: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

Down: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

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

SUNDAY 12th October

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