

# NEWS & VIEWS

March 2026

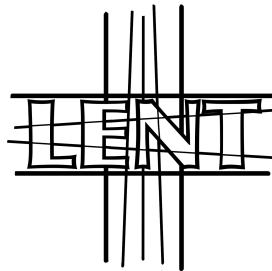
*The newsletter of the United Reformed Church in Bramhall*

## Lack as an Opportunity for Potential

Mark 6: 36-38.

36 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat; for they have nothing 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?" 38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish. our churches to God's nudging and leading. When things feel too much, let us focus on the next step, and let us remember that we can 'do all things through Christ' who strengthens us and walks beside and ahead of us.



As people, we sometimes are in deep distress. We become frustrated because we lack basic needs for life and we cannot fulfil our aspirations. We feel time is running out especially for generations who are heading into the twilight of our lives. People out there lack justice, equity, equality, peace, voice, economy, progress, dignified humanity, opportunities, and hope. The sun is going down, and these are likely never to be addressed in their life time. They are hungry, feeling let down and deserted. They cannot trust anyone, or church because they have waited but without anything meaningful coming their way.

Then Jesus challenged his disciples to give them something to eat, perhaps something to reignite their hope and aspirations. He challenges the Church which underestimates itself to audit what it has and investigates its potential and the possibilities that can be

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| <b>UNITED REFORMED CHURCH</b><br><br>Robins Lane<br>Bramhall<br>SK7 2PE<br><a href="http://www.urcbramhall.co.uk">www.urcbramhall.co.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:urc.bramhall2@gmail.com">urc.bramhall2@gmail.com</a><br><br>Our church is a member of the URC Greater Manchester South Missional Partnership. | <b>SUNDAY SERVICES</b><br><br>10.00 am Reflective Worship <i>In Church and on Zoom (see page 2 for details)</i>                          |   |  |
|  | <b>SECRETARY</b><br>Helen Beattie<br>0161 440 9227<br><a href="mailto:helenmbeattie@outlook.com">helenmbeattie@outlook.com</a>           | <b>TREASURER</b><br>Elaine Noden and<br>Stuart Young<br>0161 355 1459<br><a href="mailto:elley2011@hotmail.co.uk">elley2011@hotmail.co.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:stuart.young9@hotmail.co.uk">stuart.young9@hotmail.co.uk</a> | <b>MINISTERIAL CONTACT</b><br>If you require the support of a minister, please contact Sue Matthews in the first instance<br>0161 439 1066 |
| <b>MINISTERS</b><br>Rev'd K. Mutimwii<br>Rev'd S. Atkins   | <b>CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY</b><br>Elaine Noden<br>0161 355 1459<br><a href="mailto:elley2011@hotmail.co.uk">elley2011@hotmail.co.uk</a> | <b>OFFICE</b><br>Answerphone<br>0161 439 4807   | <b>ROOM BOOKINGS</b><br>07909 940819<br>Answerphone checked daily  |

achieved. God works wonders, more with what we have than what we do not have. Christ teaches us to give what we have rather than worry about what we do not have. Christ, we have is more than what we actually think we need in realising what God can do to change our world. There are people who still trust that God is the solution and we have God who desires to see those people go home fully fed and satisfied. As disciples, in obedience to Christ, there are opportunities to explore what potentials are still within the people, though they look so desperate. Five loaves and two fishes were enough for God to spark something satisfactory for the people. As long as there is still a piece of bread or fish, or a droplet of an idea, small as they may be, hope is still on. Christ is in our midst; therefore, people must not be sent away hungry but be rallied around those specks of hope. He encourages us to take stock of what little positives we still have in our politics, economy, spirituality, and relationships so that he ignites aspiration for people because with God, it is not about quantity but potential.

*Rev'd Kurauone Mutimwii*  
*Missional Partnership Minister*



## Church Services in March

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 March will be led by the following people:

**Sunday 1st March** - Rev'd Margaret Dexter-Brown - communion  
**Sunday 8th March** - Linda Raynerr  
**Sunday 15th March** - Jackie Hill  
**Sunday 22nd March** - Rev'd Stephanie Atkins  
**Sunday 29th March** - **10.30am** Joint Service with Heald Green URC and Cheadle Hulme URC - Rev'd Kurauone Mutimwii

**Please note Joint Service at Heald Green will start at 10.30am**

## Friendly Cuppa Time



The meeting this month will be on **Wednesday 25th March 2026**. Usual time **10am -12pm**.

Please come along even if you have never been before, and bring a friend.

*Elaine*

## Prayer Tree

When was the last time you went and looked at what was on our Prayer Tree? It sits there quietly in the back corner of the Church. It is there because a lot of people don't like to talk about certain things in their life, but they do pray about them, and they would like others to pray for them. So if you have something that you want prayer for but don't want to make it public or don't feel able to ask for prayer, then pop it on one of the paper leaves next to it and hang it on the tree, it can be as anonymous as you want it to be.

However, it's not just for people who want to hang a Prayer, the big thing is for people to read the need and to pray for those needs, this way we are supporting each other, your fellow members who maybe sit there and you don't know they have a worry or a need.

So please remember when you have a moment before or after the service, to have a quick check on the tree what your fellow members perhaps need your prayers for.

*Elaine*

## Eco Church



March is a busy month in the eco diary.

**World Wildlife Day – Tuesday 3rd March 2026**. This is a global event, held every year on 3rd March. It celebrates and raises awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

We all rely on wildlife and biodiversity-based resources to meet our needs, from food to fuel, medicines, housing, and clothing. Millions of people also rely on nature as the source of their livelihoods and economic opportunities.

As such, this day seeks to raise awareness of the vital role our wildlife has in sustaining the planet

### **Food Waste Action Week – Monday 9th to Friday 13th March 2026**

This is organised by Love Food Hate Waste, it is the UK's biggest annual food waste reduction campaign. The week highlights the environmental impact of food waste while offering practical solutions, and encourages households to rethink how they store, cook, and use food to prevent waste.

There are eye-opening facts, creative recipes, and simple hacks on their website - <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>  
The aim is to inspire people to make small changes that add up.

This is an environmental awareness day created in 2018 by the Global Recycling Foundation.

This day helps to recognise and celebrate the importance that recycling plays in saving carbon emissions. Each year, recycling alone saves over 700 million tonnes in carbon emissions. This is projected to increase to 1 billion tons by 2030.

Global Recycling Day seeks to tell world leaders that recycling is simply too important not to be a global issue. Instead, it advocated that a common, joined-up approach to recycling is urgently needed.

*Elaine*

### **Tubs2pubs**

Our 'Tub2Pub', a collection to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and recycle plastic tubs was a huge success and I delivered 154 tubs, last year it was 40. The breakdown this year being, 46 Celebration, 44 Heroes, 44 Quality Street and 20 Roses. Well done.

Our friends at Cheadle Hulme and Heald Green also contributed.

*Elaine*

### **Positive Lent**

As I posted in last month's N&V's we will be collecting for the Handy Ladies, who as a side to their cleaning business help the Elderly and

Vulnerable across our Community, at key points of the year.

The next event is an Afternoon tea for Easter on Wednesday 1st April.

On the day, they want to be able to give each person attending a chocolate treat to take home, so Easter eggs of any kind, mini eggs, cream eggs, small easter eggs.

Our positive Lent initiative is where we don't particularly give up something, but we donate something to somewhere and someone else. So when you think of buying a chocolate treat, either buy it for the Handy Ladies or still buy it for you but buy them one too.

The box will remain in the foyer until Sunday **29th March**, where you can donate your eggs, this will allow time to get them to the Ladies for the Afternoon Tea on the 1st April.

*Elaine*

### **Church Meeting**

On **Sunday 15th March** after the 10am Service we will be holding our next Church Meeting.

*Elaine*

### **Lost Property**

There are five items of clothing hung up in the foyer, they have been there for many many months, we have left them there in case people from outside of the Church had left them, but as it has been so long it was decided that some action was needed, so please could you take a look and claim if any are yours, if not any that are still there by the end of March will be donated to Wellspring.

*Elaine*

### **Church Family and Friends**

#### **Howard Fox**

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Howard last month.

Howard and Norma moved to Bramhall at the end of December 1970 in preparation for Howard starting a Headship at Handforth C of E School in the January. The family joined Bramhall Congregational Church under the

leadership of Jimmy Dean and quickly became active in the life of the church.

Howard had been made a Deacon when he was 16 at his home church in Haslington where he also served as the Treasurer and Secretary and the District Rep. His experience of leadership within the church was evident and Howard was invited to stand as a Deacon, then Elder at Bramhall. In recognition for his service, he was made an Elder Emeritus and continued to serve in this role. Howard was a Junior Church Teacher and then Youth Leader. He joined Bramhall Christian Aid Committee in 1971 serving on the committee for over 40 years. Howard was probably responsible for all of us doing the dreaded house to house collections every May, but you couldn't say no to Howard! Traidcraft operations also became a large part of Howard's life; everyone will remember him encouraging us to purchase bargain short dated chocolate and biscuits. Howard also started our association with Chelwood Food Bank.

Howard's knowledge of theology was impressive; he would always have something profound to add to bible studies and he would question and debate with ministers. He was always encouraging and appreciative to those of us who took services.

Howard has been a huge influence on our pastorate. All of us will have benefited from his kindness, his thoughtfulness and generosity. I know all of us will have favourite memories of Howard, for me he was the first person to visit us when we moved to Bramhall in 1981. His welcome made us join this church.

Howard and Norma played such an active role in church life, supporting all social activities, encouraging new initiatives and providing wise council. Howard was first to welcome visitors to church and would be interested in their stories and experiences. He was a person who could talk to anyone of any age but would also listen.

Howard was a pivotal part of our fellowship; despite poor health he continued to be a very regular attender either in person or on zoom and to be interested in the life of the church. Howard had a mischievous sense of humour and could appreciate the silly and ridiculous. He is greatly missed by us all and our fellowship and the local community is poorer

as a result of his passing. We send our sympathy and prayers to Sue, Peter and Timothy and their families at this very sad time.

### **Mary McVey**

We are also saddened to hear of the passing of Mary McVey. Mary hasn't attended church for several years, but during Arnold's ministry she was an active member of our fellowship, helping with the annual Spring Clean, supporting social events and helping with SNAG.

We send our sympathy to her daughter Rhona and family and remember them in our prayers.

We also remember all those in our fellowship who are unwell and experiencing worries over loved ones and their own health. We hold them all in our prayers.

*Sue*

## **Missional Partnership Prayer Calendar**

Each Church has prepared a prayer for you. This month we pray for **Trinity Methodist/ Cheadle URC**



Lord, acknowledging the love you have for all people,

We pray that the Good News of your love may spread throughout the world

so that those with power and influence may make decisions that enable your kingdom to grow.

We pray for the healing and mending of lives broken by war, hatred, insensitivity, anxiety, bereavement, pain, loneliness or need.

We pray for more loving attitudes in our homes, our churches, our communities and all Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

We pray for more care for one another, and a greater willingness to forgive, understand and respect each other.

Bless our Missional Partnership, our Ministers and Steering Group as we seek to share the Good News with all. **Amen**

# The Lectionary Readings for March 2026

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                                  |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| March 1st 2026  | Genesis 12:1-4a         | Psalm 121                           | Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 | John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9           |
| March 8th 2026  | Exodus 17:1-7           | Psalm 95                            | Romans 5:1-11       | John 4:5-42                             |
| March 15th 2026 | 1 Samuel 16:1-13        | Psalm 23                            | Ephesians 5:8-14    | John 9:1-41                             |
| March 22nd 2026 | Ezekiel 37:1-14         | Psalm 130                           | Romans 8:6-11       | John 11:1-45                            |
| March 29th 2026 | Isaiah 50:4-9a          | Psalm 31:9-16                       | Philippians 2:5-11  | Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54 |

## 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 church ministers and elders as they think about mission in our church

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

Please pray for those who have recently lost a loved one

We give thanks for the first signs of spring and the wonders of new life

Please pray for all those affected by war; particularly people in Ukraine as they enter the 5th year of fighting

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are unable to worship with us at the moment

# Crossword Challenge

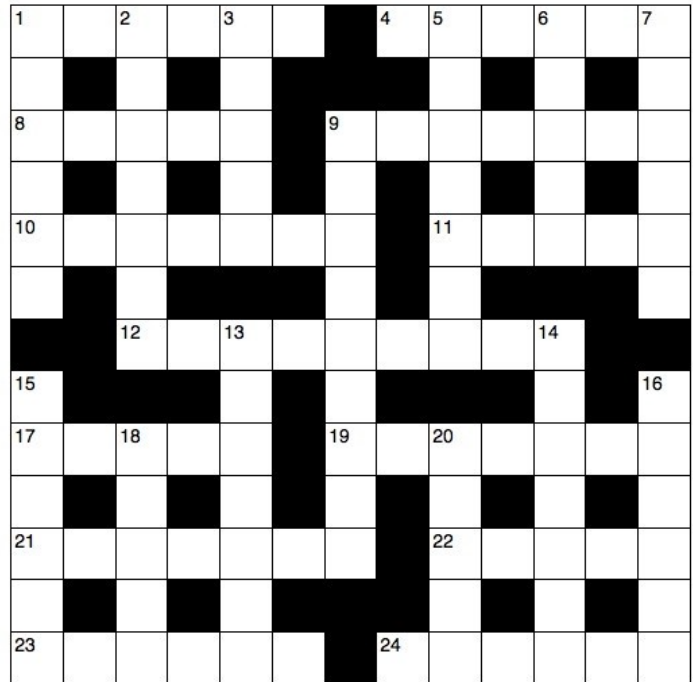
## Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

## Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (6)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)

20 Raked (anag.) (5)



## Answers February 2026

**Across:** 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

**Down:** 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

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

**SUNDAY 15th March**

### EDITOR

Mrs Sue Matthews  
sm@tthews.me.uk  
0161 439 1066

