

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN BRAMHALL

Volume 14 Issue 2

February 2012

NEWS & VIEWS

Warmer hearts..... and Greater resources

I recently attended a regular minsters' meeting, which ended with a colleague of mine praying the words "Lord we don't ask for greater resources, we ask for warmer hearts".

But greater resources are not necessarily the answer to a problem – as I was reminded, we also need warmer hearts.

Well today I am writing to you about both, greater resources and the need for warmer hearts.

As I hope now all of you will be aware, we have finally completed the vacant possession sale of the former Cheadle Hulme manse at Wyngate Road, and churches should be receiving the funds very soon into respective accounts. Cheadle Hulme will be investing some of the funds into a 1/3 ownership of the manse at Delfur Road.



At Bramhall, the release of funds coincides with illnesses within our fellowship which have caused me to pause and ask questions. We had earmarked some of the funds for a part time outreach worker, but will there be enough support from within the church to make the post feasible? If we don't carry on any outreach, what will the future

hold for us? It is time for us I think to review the extent of what we regularly do as a church, and what resources we have available. We are a busy church, but we rely heavily on a few volunteers to carry out much of what we do, Perhaps we need a new

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Open: Mon. Weds. Fri
10.00 am to 12 noon
Answer phone checked daily
e-mail: URC@robinsln.fsnet.co.uk
www.urbrahamhall.co.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8.00 am - Communion
2nd & 4th Sunday

9.30 am All-age Worship Breakfast from 9.00 am
10.30 am Reflective Worship (Communion 1st Sunday in each month)

way of doing things.

At Cheadle Hulme, in many ways the task is bigger. The church needs much physical improvement, and though we are well into a scheme which has seen Alison Smith work one day a week as our outreach worker for almost a year now, and the formation of a Community Interest Company for the transfer of the existing pre-school and staff, we start a work programme already heavy. It is alright having the money available – but that is by no means the full story.

The next handful of years will be critical in the stories of both churches, and will determine whether we stay open for new generations to come into our walls, or whether we go the way of so many churches and close gracefully.

Money alone will not keep churches open, we need wisdom, we need willing hands, and above all else we need warm hearts to stand alongside people at the troubled times of their lives.

As one of our hymns says:

“I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you;
Speak the peace you long to hear

Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant, too”

The Christian life is about being Christ to each other, and allowing others to do the same for us.

God Bless

Alan

THANK YOU

On behalf of Alan and the Elders I want to take this opportunity to thank Paddy Buck for her many years of faithful service on the flower rota . It has been much appreciated. We hope she now enjoys her well-deserved rest.



Helen Beattie (Secretary)

MEETING POINT REPORT

We welcome Keith Vigurs who will talk about ‘Mystery Shopping’ on Tuesday 24th January at 7.30pm. This is a change to the original programme and ‘The Story of Jodrell Bank’ by Professor Morrison will now take place on 27th March.

‘Supporting Families of Prisoners’ by Sister Moira Bain is the subject of the meeting on 28th February.

Everyone is welcome to all of these meetings. Please bring your partners and friends.

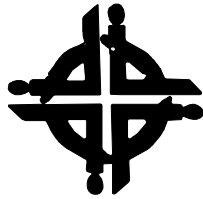
Anne Denning
Secretary

SINCERE THANKS

Norma and Howard Fox would like to thank sincerely all those folk who showed so much kindness and concern after Howard’s recent sojourn in Stepping Hill. We had lots of cards, telephone calls and visits which were much appreciated. Christmas 2011 and New Year 2012 were certainly very different!

Norma and Howard Fox

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Women's World Day of Prayer which takes place on the first Friday in March, is a service written by the women of a different country each year. The service takes a theme related to life in that particular country incorporating relevant biblical texts. The service highlights and share the issues and problems faced by the women of Malaysia. That country then becomes the focus of informed and meaningful prayer. The same service is held all over the world, starting at dawn in Tonga, continuing across each continent and finally on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in 36 hours. A Mexican Wave of Prayer.

In 2012 the country in focus is Malaysia and the service will take place, on the first **Friday 2nd March**, at the Methodist Church in Bramhall at 2pm. We would commend it to anyone who is able to come.

Norma Fox & Anne Denning

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Now you all have you new diaries in operation, please will you make a note that the church meeting will now be held on **Sunday 12th February** and not on Sunday 5th February as previously mentioned.

Helen Beattie

AGGIE

I want to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to everyone who gave me so much help last Autumn, which resulted in the short nativity play so many of you seemed to enjoy, judging from the comments, hugs and kisses I received. It is indeed a huge 'thank you' to so many people who were involved in various ways. I must mention by name Linda, Val and Graham. Linda, apart from appearing in the play did a lot of work producing copies of my script, and Order of Service as well as signs etc. Val also gave me such a lot of help and we had great fun. I had the nerve to say all the stars she had weren't quite right for what I wanted-so she made one to my specification. When it came to costumes, well the box she produced reminded me of Mary Poppins carpet bag, as they just kept coming!! Still not satisfied I asked if she'd be one of the carol singers, yes of course said she, with a big smile.

Whilst on this subject, together with Barbara and Carole they chose the not-so-well-known tune for Away in a Manger and a jolly good idea it was too. I think you'll agree that along with Helen, they did the musical accompaniment great credit. Graham-what can I say-apart from being the main furniture remover he was always on hand when I had a query and nothing was ever too much trouble, even down to making a pulley for the star! Thanks also go to all who help at TNT-for putting up with me turning up on Thursday evenings-for all the fun-and all the coffee.

To all who participated in the play itself, huge thanks, the girls from TNT were all a joy and I miss them already. Many thanks must also be made here to two of my friends who do not attend this church. Lilian who helped with the costumes and last but by no means least, Liz. She was a huge support to me from the very begin-

ning and we have to thank her for lending us various props and costumes including the screen and Joseph's beard and staff and more. She came to most rehearsals and helped in the background and I am very grateful to her. I'm leaving the last few words to my pal Aggie- "Ta ever so ducks and lotsa luv".

Janet Watson

PASTORAL CO-ORDINATORS

You may be aware that as from January 2012 Elizabeth McLaughlin and myself are now the Pastoral Co-ordinators. We had our first meeting with Alan this morning (Tuesday 17th January) to work out how best to organise the pastoral visiting.

Many of you are already involved in pastoral visiting but may not be part of the "official pastoral visiting team." The more people who get involved in visiting the lighter the load and we would like to encourage you to consider being part of the team if you think you would be able to take on this valuable role. Elders are not automatically going to be involved in the team although some have expressed a wish to be included.

Pastoral visiting can only work if a need is known and too often we have heard that "no-one visited". However, we haven't got a crystal ball so need you all to let us know when you think that there should be pastoral involvement, don't think that some-one else will do it! This information will be treated with the strictest confidence and we will contact the member of the team to whom you have been allocated or if we feel it necessary we will ask Alan to visit. In an ideal world, all visiting would be carried out by Alan but with all the work of running two churches this is not possible.

A meeting will be held on Sunday 5th February after the Communion Service for all who are interested in either continuing as a member/ becoming a member/ or just wanting to find out more about what is involved. Please come along. If you are not able to attend the meeting but are interested, please contact Alan, Elizabeth or myself.

Telephone numbers – Elizabeth 01625 872487, Linda 01625 875913

Linda Phillips

FUNDRAISING

Hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and are ready for more celebrations from the Fund Raising committee. As I write this it is too early to report on the Bridge Seminar and the concert with the men's Barber-shop choir, "Harmony Revival".

The next event is on 17th March and will be a little different from our usual events. Does 17th March ring any bells? Yes, it is St Patrick's Day and No, we are not all going to turn into leprechauns.



The event is called Patrick's Party and will consist of a concert concentrating on Irish music and dance and we will be serving "Patrick's Platters". The cost is £12 and will start at 7.30pm so look out for the committee with the tickets and get your money ready. Do not expect the usual after all it is all "Irish" to me!

Spring will be here soon and what do we do then? Why we Spring Clean. Well do not take those unwanted items to the charity, save them for the church jumble. Put this date in your diary Saturday 14th April.

When do you all find time to read? The total amount raised from our book stall last year was £296.00, that's about 590 books. Please don't go and buy that Kindle it is much more satisfying turning over the page. Thank you for all you donations and your continued support.

Jean James

CONCERT

IN AID OF THE MULTIPLE
SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

SUNDAY 25th MARCH 2012
AT 2.30 pm

ANDANTE CHOIR

Singing popular songs in four part harmony, together with

WHINGE and RACKET
Four Hands on Two Keyboards
to be held at the

BROOKDALE CLUB

Bridge Lane, Bramhall

Tickets £6.50 each (incl. Tea/Coffee and biscuits) from Peter Browne
Tel. 440 8158

FAMILY NEWS

We would all like to wish Helen and David Roberts a speedy recovery after their respective health setbacks and we are praying that soon we hear good news about them both.

You will all also remember Ken and Jean Simkin. Ken is at present in hospital and has been diagnosed with suspected legionnaire's disease. Our thoughts and prayers are also with them.

CRACKERTERIA CAFETERIA

at Centrepoint (Christmas 2011)

Many thanks to all who supported last years Crackerteria.

YOU helped raise £130 for Tear Fund

Graham Perkin

CHRISTIAN AID

The Christmas collection for Christian aid was very well supported again with the final total at £480 plus a bonus of £88 from Gift Aid. Thank you to Everyone.

Howard Fox

PS. we got £21 from the quiz

HOLIDAY AT HOME

Churches Together in Bramhall & Woodford (CTiBW) are once again organising a summer activity for folks at the senior end of the age spectrum in our community, and your help is needed. The **Holiday at Home** was a great success last year and the churches have decided to repeat the activity again this year

Holiday at Home August 21st to 23rd

For the 'senior citizens' in our community.

Outreach to the elderly and those living alone, who do not know the love and fellowship of a church family. We're going to give them a holiday at home—three days of fun, food and fellowship and lots more, including a trip out to Buxton.

The location this year is our own church, Yes 'Bramhall URC'. The previous venue has been St Michael's Church, but this

year they are having major building work done in the summer, so we have been asked help by providing our premises.

Can you help?

Help is needed in all sorts of ways, from providing transport to getting folks from their homes to the Church Hall (and back home again), to helping set up tables or being there during the event acting as stewards and carers.

If you can help at all, on any of the dates above, contact Graham Perkin (440 9588, gperkin@supanet.com) or contact the main organiser direct, David Langton (439 2348 langton_david@hotmail.com)

Graham Perkin

SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITY GROUP

SNAG Sports

The United Reformed Church Hall – Robins Lane – 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

A range of “sports – games” for those with special needs. Charge is £1.00. Drink and biscuit provided. Parents and carers are welcome to stay and have a drink and chat in the lounge.

22 February, 21 March, 18 April, 23 May, 20 June, 18 April, 23 May, 20 June, 18 July.

SNAG Nite

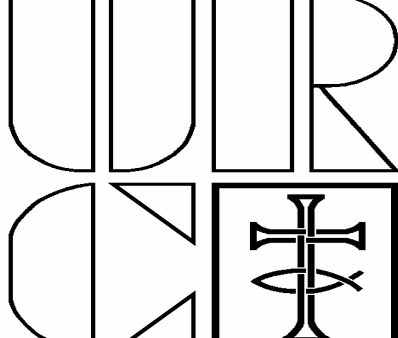
Centrepoint next to the Methodists Church, Bramhall Village, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. A free disco and supper for those with special needs. Parents and carers are welcome to stay and have a drink and chat in the café.

29 February, 28 March, 25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July

For more information contact Graham or Carole Perkin – 440 9588

Or visit the web site of Bramhall United Reformed church at www.urebramhall.co.uk and follow the links through “Life Together” and “Churches Together”

Graham Perkin

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