

Part of East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders Missional Partnership (United Reformed Church)



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

THE LINK



2025

**"The East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders is a
Christian Church, living out the love of God by
reaching into the heart of each community and
responding to its needs"**

Dear Friends,



As I write this it's 25°C mid-morning, and our dog Ruby is trying to find a cool spot to sleep.

Whilst we can change our clothes to suit the weather and we often do, to suit the different situations we are in or visiting places or people etc. unfortunately our pets, dogs and cats, must manage with that they have. Yes, we might add a coat for them in winter - although our Ruby isn't always keen on wearing that!

We might often wear different clothes depending on the appearance we want to project to those around us – you probably wouldn't think of wearing an Hawaiian shirt and shorts to a formal dinner. But what about the metaphorical clothes we wear – our actions, our attitude, our whole demeanour....

Paul in his letter to Galatians says we should be clothed in the coat of Jesus – not physically wearing his clothes, although we know at his crucifixion the soldiers cast lots for his clothes – but we should spend our whole lives with the metaphorical clothes of Jesus, his love, his care and when necessary, his rebellious nature, in order to help others find their freedom living in the faith of God's love.

Can you do this – all day, everyday? I know it isn't always easy when someone upsets us, or when we are concerned about stepping out of line – but sometimes we need to, to help others.

Wherever you find yourself this summer, I hope you don't find it too hot, or dry and have chance to enjoy the wonderful sunshine either from the comfort of your home, walking in the local park or community or even in some distant holiday destination.

And wherever you find yourself, may God's blessing go with you.

Mike Aspinall

Finding God in Scripture



UNMEASURED KINDNESS

Those who are kind benefit themselves. Proverbs 11 v17 NIV

Two friends were shopping for a laptop in an electronics store when they ran into a famous athlete. Aware that this sporting legend had recently suffered the loss of his sister and a former team-mate, they empathetically offered their condolences. After the two men returned to their shopping, the athlete approached them and told them to pick out the nicest laptop they could find. He then bought it for them, simply because they saw him as a person going through a difficult time and was moved by their kindness.

Millennia before that encounter, Solomon wrote, *Those who are kind benefit themselves*. When we consider others needs and do what we can to help and encourage them, we are rewarded ourselves. It may not be with a laptop or material things, but God has ways of blessing us that this world can't measure. As Solomon explained just one verse earlier in the same chapter, *A kind-hearted woman gains honour, but ruthless men gain only wealth (v16)*. There are gifts from God that are worth far more than money and he measures them generously in his perfect wisdom and way.

Kindness and generosity are part of God's character, and he loves to see them expressed in our own hearts and lives. Solomon summed up the matter well: *Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed (v25)*.

How has God shown kindness to you?

In what ways can you show his love to others today?

Dear God, I love your kindness. Please help me to become more like you so that I may share your love in practical ways.

*James Banks - taken from Our Daily Bread publication.
odb.org / 0153 956 41 49*



From Tony Baron

Great news ... The total for Christian Aid is now **£5,821.54** after a very kind donation of £100 has just been received and further gift aided envelope donations, via 'The Hollins'.

Articles from Members of the Missional Partnership.....

NB: last date for September articles is August 24th

From Margaret M Jones (Short Street)

The roses in my garden are just at their best at the moment and, occasionally, I sit on the bench (which was presented to me when I retired from teaching after 30 years), and just enjoy being there. This poem sprang to mind, which was written by Dorothy Frances Gurney -



‘God’s Garden’

The Lord God planted a garden,
in the first white days of the world, and He set there an angel
warden in a garment of light enfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,
the hawk might nest with the wren, for there, in the cool of the
even, God walk with the first of men.

And I dream, that these garden doses,
with their glades and their sun-flecked sod, and their lilies and
bowers of roses, were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
the song of the birds for mirth, one is nearer God's heart in a
garden, than anywhere else on earth.

The dawn of the morn for glory,
the hush of the night for peace. In the garden, at eve, says the
story – God walks and His smile brings release.

From Keith Whiting (T&L)

BITS AND PIECES

This picture is not likely to be hung in any London or Manchester Art Gallery but it shows nature at it's best. The bees and other insects like the plants/grass. The secret for my success is working with nature and it produces results.



I have no copyright on my method but here is some advice. First sit in the shade with a good book or the morning paper and watch for the bees; in my experience there is only likely to be one bee! I have several lovely coloured flowers dahlias, roses (some I don't know the names of) but here is the problem - the bee doesn't go for my pretty flowers and I think I have worked out why. They don't like processed food. Is that some information you can work with? My real secret of working with nature is let nature be in charge, do nothing - just watch.

We really are blessed in this land of ours. In some places on the planet nature is finding it difficult to cope with climate change. We have to change, before the situation gets worse!!

I would like to say (along with many others) many thanks to Elizabeth Hall and her team of reps from the 8 churches organising the weekend for the minister to 'preach with view.' It was, I think, a stressful experience for Elizabeth and Rev Jane. I wish them every success in their future work for the Christian Church.

Happy summer to all. Keith

A reminder from Peter Crawford (M)

FUNDAY MONDAY COMMUNITY GROUP
10:30am-2:00pm

We are a welcoming, warm safe space for every age to come and have a cup of tea, coffee etc. sit and chat

From Ian Kenna (M)

GOOD NEWS

Efforts to improve air quality in Europe are paying off, with fewer illnesses and premature deaths due to people breathing polluted air. The European Environment Agency's latest assessment shows that, between 2005 and 2020, early deaths from exposure to *PM* 2.5 (the most dangerous particles) fell by 45% and the continent is on track to reach its target of a 55% reduction in premature deaths by 2030.

Sunday Times Magazine

From Jill Kenna

Having put many people through the ordeal (?!) of providing 10 things about their life, I thought it was about time I interviewed myself. So here goes

10 things you may not know about Jill Kenna

1. At Beaver Road Infants school I painted a boy's arm blue – he dared me – and had to stand at the front of the class for the rest of the lesson and all through playtime. Many of my Junior school reports had a similar theme “Talks too much”. No change there then!
2. I was the first year group who didn't have to take the 11 plus exam as Comprehensive education came in. I attended Parrs Wood High School when it was a brand new school and there were only us first years there. The desks, books and everything were all new. Although I didn't leave school until 18, our year were also the first who had to stay on until 16 due to the raising of the school leaving age from 15.
3. Ian and I once got locked in Bodnant Gardens after going to the furthest end and losing track of the time. We managed to attract the attention of security who were not very pleased with us! Later in life 3 teacher colleagues and I got our car locked in the Coop car park in Poynton, having parked there illegally whilst going for a pub lunch. We had to wait until they reopened after lunch and were all late back to teach our classes.
4. My teacher training college in Ilkley was at the top of a steep hill opposite the Moor. My digs were only part way down and I was almost there but accepted the offer of a lift to the bottom from one of the Lecturers so as not to appear ungrateful and then walked up again!
5. My only claim to fame is that my aunt in California ran Olivia Newton-John's fan club and my uncle managed her estate. My parents met her on a couple of occasions when visiting.

6. Ian once used me as collateral at a Petrol Station when we filled up after Keep Fit before remembering we didn't have any money with us. He left me there whilst going home for some cash. Fortunately he came back.
7. When the National Curriculum changed my subject from Home Economics to Technology, I got a job in an Advice Centre, later working for the home visiting team of Welfare Rights. However, I continued to do exam marking and also taught "Cookery for Men" at night school. I once went into the BBC studios to be interviewed about this by Mike Sweeney for his radio show. He wasn't as scary as he sounded!
8. I was taken to ParrsWood Congregational Church and went through all the departments of the Sunday school. When we joined with 2 other churches to become Christ Church, I met Ian who attended Green End Church of Christ. We got married at ParrsWood and ours was the first Christ Church wedding. I couldn't wish for a better husband and we have been very happily married for 43 years. Our only sadness was not being able to have children despite 3 attempts at IVF and trying every old wives's tale in the book, including getting drunk. However, Ian was captain of the 40th Manchester Boys' Brigade and I was a Lieutenant so with that and teaching, we have had lots of children in our care.
9. Being part of the Boys' Brigade gave me lots of new experiences including camping in Bell Tents, Caving, going on an Assault course (don't ask about the rope bridge!), pony trekking, driving minibuses, playing the cymbals in the band (and occasionally the Bass Drum), teaching Figure Marching, marching through Manchester on parades, taking part in Annual Displays and the Blackpool Displays, standing in the rain cheering on the boys at football matches, helping with cross county runs and lots more.
10. Faith and family are the most important things in my life. I had a wonderful, happy childhood with loving parents and a great sister and being brought up in a loving Christian home and marrying into one, I have been blessed with both.

From Ian Kenna

UNSUNG HEROES

STEPHEN CRESSWELL

An analyst on the HS2 rail project, Cresswell, 51, became concerned that cost estimates were being kept artificially low to cover up budget overruns. An experienced project risk manager who had worked on Heathrow, Thameslink and Hinckley Point C Nuclear Power Station in Somerset, Cresswell felt uniquely placed to blow the whistle. He suffered for speaking up, initially struggling to find construction work. But he said, “You have to live by your values.”

Sunday Times Magazine

From Ruth Miller (Hatherlow and George Lane)

We are open every Wednesday morning 10:00am-12noon for tea, coffee, toast and toasted tea cakes, with a smile of welcome thrown in for free!

The next Craft-a-noon is on Tuesday 1.30 - 4 p.m. All welcome.



From Ian Kenna (M)

Walking with Jesus

Lord Jesus walk with me. Be for me a fellow pilgrim, help me to see the world as you see it, one of potential and hope, to look for signs that you are there before me, showing me the way, to take advantage of opportunities to smile or chat with those I meet. To avoid distractions that only serve to please me and not others; to find in myself compassion for those who have particular needs; to enjoy being immersed in community and nature, praising God alone.

Most importantly, help me to become a worthy fellow pilgrim as I walk the path of life.

Jill Nugent, URC Prayer Handbook

From Revd Elizabeth Sheppard

The Garden Party was disappointing due of the weather but we had it inside. The event raised £110. Thanks to all who supported this event.

MS is a life limiting disease with accumulating disabilities and paralysis, and ending in a premature death some six or seven years before might be expected. However the disease makes patients vulnerable to other illnesses and the terminal illness may not be MS. I have MS and I don't want to scare myself more than that!

Despite many advances in relapsing and remitting MS drug-modifying treatment, the feared secondary progressive MS remains resistant to preventing progression and death. The MS Society is still working to publicise the seriousness of the disease and asking for money for MS research to put to an end the tyranny MS causes in families. If I ever call upon you to help the MS Society again I hope this will help you to make a contribution.

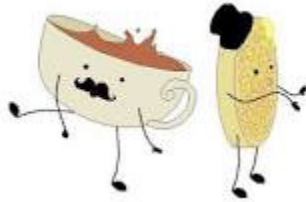
Sound of Music Geriatric-Style

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings
Bundles of magazines tied up with string
These are a few of my favourite things

When the pipes leak
When the bones creak
When the knees go bad
I simply remember my favourite things
Then I don't feel too bad.



Hot tea and crumpets and corn
pads for bunions
No spicy hot foods or food cooked
with onions
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot
meals they bring
These are a few of my favourite things



When the joints ache
When the hips break
When the eyes go dim
Then I remember the great life I have
And then I don't feel so bad.



SUMMER QUIZ

1. Which British seaside attraction is 158 metres tall?
2. At 1.34 miles, where is the longest pleasure pier in the UK?
3. Which group had a Top 10 hit with Summer Sunshine in 2004?
4. What was the name of the ITV holiday show fronted by Judith Chalmers, which ran from 1994 to 2003?
5. Thunderstorms are most likely to hit the South East of England. True or false.
6. When does summer officially start?
7. The month of July is named after which famous historical person?
8. Who had a hit with Summertime Blues in September 1958.
9. In which month are most babies born in Britain?
10. The First Day of Summer is an annual public holiday celebrated in which European country in April?
11. Can you give the first line of Grease's 'Summer Nights' lyrics?
12. Which feast day falls on July 15th each year?
13. Which American president was credited with saving 77 lives during seven summers working as a lifeguard at Lowell Park, Illinois, starting in 1926?
14. Which singer was known as the 'Queen of Disco'?
15. Who met and fell in love with Marge Bouvier in a 1974 summer camp?
16. Which novel is told partly by its heroine Esther Summerson?



MARPLE NEWS & NOTICES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

wishes in July/August go to:

July

Peter Crawford (12th), David Burrridge (19th),
Ian Kenna (23rd) Kereena Donna Crawford (25th)

August

Simon Taylor (6th), Wendy Atkinson (15th), Liz Daily (22nd)

From Molly Fowler

I would like to thank everyone for my cards, gifts, and flowers to celebrate my 90th birthday in June. I also received a gift of £112, which I have given to Francis House in memory of my granddaughter.

Services in July/August

July ...

6th Rev David Jenkins, Communion
13th Rev Paul Frampton
20th Liz Delafield, followed by Church Meeting
27th Rev Mike Aspinall Joint with Providence,
Tintwistle & Glossop, Hatherlow & George Lane.

August tba ...

Jill and I recently took £71.50 to The Wellspring, together with several bags of good quality clothing. This was very much appreciated by the staff, as always. *Ian Kenna (M)*

STRICTLY COME TOGETHER

Wednesday Mornings at Marple URC 10.30am-12.00

JULY - All are welcome

- 2nd Armchair exercises (Jill Kenna)
 - 9th 'Great American Railway Journeys' (Kevin Daily)
 - 16th 'Buckingham Palace' (Pauline Harrison)
 - 23rd 'Ukraine' Jane McLean
 - 30th Buffet Meal, 11.30am for 12 noon
- Please let Jenny or Anita know in advance if you are planning to come.

There will be no SCT in August

3rd September Time to chat etc.



Please note there will be no Strictly Come Craft in July or August. The next Strictly Come Craft will be on Saturday 20th September

MARPLE BRIDGE NEWS & NOTICES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

wishes in July/August go to –

July

Alison Hunter (10th), Lynne Cruickshank (24th)
Chris Dexter-Brown (27th), Margaret Dexter-Brown (29th)

August

Cath Brown (2nd), Margaret Wood (7th)
Elizabeth Povey (17th), Clare Ridgway (17th)

Services in

PLEASE NOTE SERVICES START AT 10:30AM

July

6th	Margaret Dexter-Brown
13th	Elders
20th	Frank Dean (followed by Church Meeting)
27th	Chris Whitehead

August

3rd	Margaret Dexter-Brown
10th	Rev Paul Frampton
17th	Rev Jonnie Hill
24th	Visit Marple
31st	Elders

The next Working Party will be on

Saturday 12th July

No Working Party August. – all welcome



PROVIDENCE NEWS & NOTICES

Services in

July

6th tbc,
13th Alison Pope,
20th Revd Paul Brewerton,
27th Visit Marple URC,

August

3rd Revd David Jenkins,
10th Michael Brueck,
17th Revd Adam Scott,
24th tbc
31st tbc

From Gill Collins

Music for a Summer Afternoon

We were all delighted when Gordon announced he would be arranging a concert in memory of his two friends, Martin Brook and Reg Holmes, which would raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Martin gave us the grand piano and Reg was a regular at our concerts and Open Church Week. An added treat was that Tom Osborne (trumpet) was joining him. Tom has played concerts with Gordon at Providence many times and they recorded a CD, 'Sound of Trumpets' at Huddersfield Town Hall in 2020.



Tom grew up playing in local brass bands and studied at RNCM and Manchester University. He was a brass finalist in BBC Young Musician of the Year, winner of the Liverpool Musician of the Year, first recipient of the London Symphony Orchestra's Candide Award and graduated with the college's Gold Medal and a first class BMus (Hons) degree.

Gordon opened the concert with a very lively dance, 'Mohrentanz' by Tylman Susato, a 16th century composer. Tom then played 'Three Heroic Marches' by Georg Telemann. Next was the wonderful Bach's 'Prelude and Fugue in G' and the organ sounded at its best. It was so good to have the screen showing both the manuals and pedals to appreciate Gordon's flying fingers and feet.



We then had a complete change when Tom played George Gershwin's 'Three Preludes' and the haunting 'Misty' by Erroll Garner. Gordon followed with 'Spring Song' by Alfred Hollins and Derek Bourgeois's 'Serenade'. This was written for his wife for their wedding. It is a very lively piece with 11 beats to a bar. Tom brought out his flugelhorn for 'O Sole Mio' and 'Napoli – Variations on a Neapolitan Song', the latter starting with an amazing 'show off' flourish. What a wonderful programme of music but the audience were not letting it close without an encore and Tom chose Ennio Morricone's 'Gabriel's Horn', a perfect end.

To say the church was full was an understatement, as we even had people in the balcony. What wonderful support and over £1100 was raised for Macmillan. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the afternoon such a success and in particular Mike Bolderson for erecting the screen and being Gordon's page-turner! The concert was certainly a celebration for the lives of Martin and Reg. Thank you Gordon

From Sheena Cartledge



I am having an afternoon tea event on Saturday 12th July, from 3pm, with scones and cake. Venue: 6 Hillside View. New Mills. SK22 3DF.

Donations to Commitment for Life and Providence URC.

Many thanks. Best wishes *Sheena*

SHORT STREET NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

wishes in July/August go to:

July ... Linda Alderman (3rd), Ellen Ijima (7th)
Jane Ijima (12th), Tracy Mullin (16th) Christine Johnson (24th)

August

Congratulations to Roy Flannery who will be 90 on the 15th

Val Dooley (16th), Kevin Hogg (17th), Sandra.
Harrison (22nd)
Kath Hogg (23rd)



Services in July ...

- 6th Worship Group**
- 13th Mrs. B. Aspinall**
- 20th Rev. C. Downing (Moderator)**
- 27th Rev. P. Frampton (Communion)**

August ...

- 3rd Rev. M. Aspinall (Communion)**
- 10th Mr. E. Allman**
- 17th Mrs. B. Cowan**
- 24th Visit to Hazel Grove Methodist Church**
- 31st Worship. Group**

Pastimes

Monday 14th July and 11th August - 1pm to 4pm.

Bring your knitting, sewing, crosswords etc. Or just come for a natter. All welcome

Worker Bee Pop up Markets

Just to let everyone know the Worker Bee. Pop up Markets scheduled for 9th August and 29th November at Short Street have been cancelled.



**JAMIE
SCHOFIELD**
IN CONCERT
SATURDAY 5TH JULY
7PM START
SHORT STREET URC
HAZEL GROVE
TICKETS: £5
(INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS)

On Saturday 5th July our pianist. Jamie Schofield is holding a concert (playing on a grand piano) - admission £5 including refreshments.

Please come and support our wonderful pianist.

MIDWEEK COMMUNION:

Midweek communion is held in the meeting room of Short Street URC on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. The next one will be held in July on Tuesday 23rd July and in August on the 27th and will be led by Eddie Allman. All are welcome.

TINTWISTLE & GLOSSOP NEWS

Services in

July

6th Rev Mike Aspinall
13th Outdoor Service – Alan Kendrick
20th Alistair Cole
27th We visit Marple

August

3rd Tim Ashworth
10th Outdoor Service – Alan Kendrick
17th Kevin McCann
24th Lee Fawcett
31st John McNeil

Babies and Toddlers each Monday in term time 10.00-11.30 am

HATHERLOW & GEORGE LANE NEWS

Services in July/August

July ...

6th Rev Jenny Austen

12th TBA

20th Margaret Dexter-Brown

27th Visit Marple

August

3rd TBA

10th Rev Jonnie Hill

17th TBA

24th Rev Paul Frampton

31st Elders

Answers for Quiz

- 1) Blackpool Tower,
- 2) Southend,
- 3) The Corrs,
- 4) Wish you were here,
- 5) True,
- 6) 21st June,
- 7) Julius Ceaser,
- 8) Eddie Cochrane,
- 9) September
- 10) Iceland
- 11) Summer loving had me a blast
- 12) Saint Swithins
- 13) Ronald Reagen
- 14) Donna Summer
- 15) Homer Simpson
- 16) Bleak House



Please could you send all items for the September 2025 edition of the Link to Barbara Northover –

(email: northoverfamily@gmail.com)

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY 24th AUGUST



**Have a very enjoyable summer,
best wishes from the Link team**

**Please check the Pastorate website for any events, which are happening in all churches:
www.ecdbmp.wordpress.com and scroll down the page. The website is frequently updated!**

**Part of East Cheshire and Derbyshire
Borders Missional Partnership**

Web: www.ecdbmp.wordpress.com

Minister: Rev'd Jonnie Hill 07862 220997

Email jonnie.hill@nwsynod.org.uk

NSM Minister. Rev'd Mike Aspinall 07929 525909

Email mike54.ma@gmail.com

Mission Mentor: Liz Delafield 07740 112628

Email liz.Delafield@nwsynod.org.uk

Moderator: Rev'd Clare Downing

Email: moderator@nwsynod.org.uk

Phone: 08000 903 903



Part of East Cheshire and Derbyshire Borders
Missional Partnership - details for Ministers inside cover

Hatherlow and George Lane

Otterspool Road, Romiley, Stockport. SK6 3DR

Secretary: Christine Corris:

07929628723.

Marple

Hibbert Lane, Marple, Stockport. SK6 7NN

Secretary: Mrs Jill Kenna

01663 810088

Marple Bridge

Hollins Lane, Marple Bridge, Stockport. SK6 5BB

Secretary: Mrs Alison Hunter

0161 427 7462

Providence, New Mills

Mellor Road, New Mills, High Peak. SK22 4DP

Secretary: Penny Noon

Email: providenceurc@nwsynod.org.uk

Tintwistle and Glossop

Old Road, Tintwistle, Glossop. SK13 1JY

Secretary: Mr Keith Brierley

01457 862032

Short Street

Short Street, Hazel Grove SK7 4AD

Secretary. Jo Moores

0161 285 5229

Heaton Moor United Church

0161 431 0262

Stanley Road, Stockport, SK4 4HL

Admin: Sharon Heginbotham, Office Open: Mon, Wed, Fri.

Edgeley Community Church,

Edgeley Rd, Edgeley **SK3 9NB**

Contact: barbara.aspinall@hotmail.com

The Missional Partnership also includes **Whaley Bridge (Uniting Church)**. To find out more about each church and its activities, please see the new website (address inside back cover).