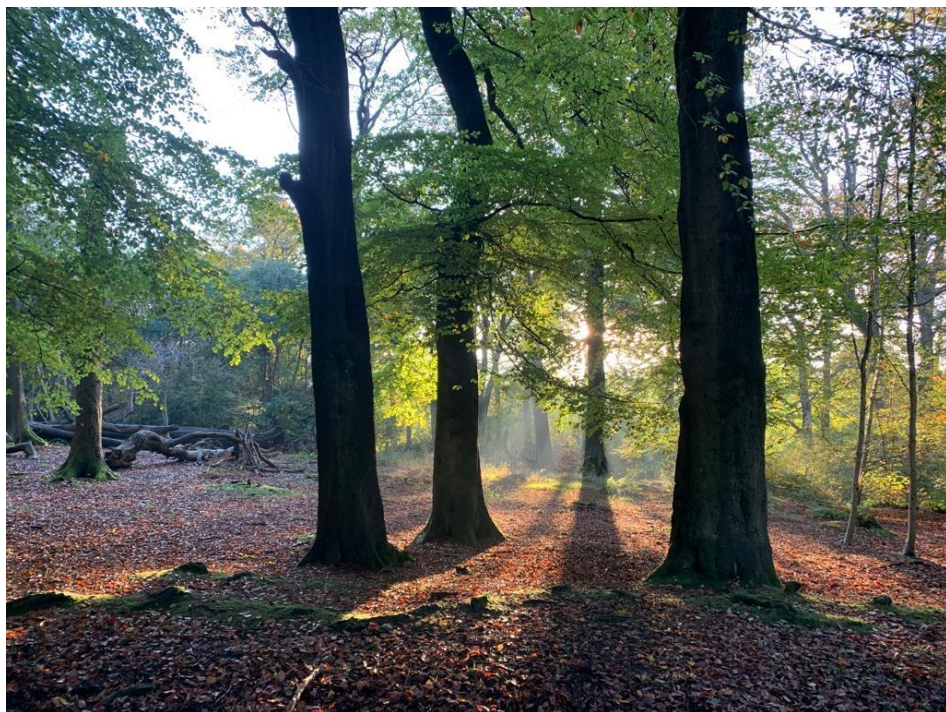


NEWSLETTER



WINTER EDITION 2023

Chapel Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1PR

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Web Site: www.wilmslowurc.org.uk

WILMSLOW UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



A warm welcome to all those who worship with us and are friends of this community. If you usually worship elsewhere, please give our greetings to your home Church.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCH

We welcome everyone to our worship in church on Sundays at 10.30am. We also livestream services from 10.25am. These can be accessed via our website <https://wilmslowurc.org.uk> by following the link in 'Worship with Us' for live worship or via 'Recorded Services and Reflections' at other times. Recorded worship is also available on Wilmslow URC's YouTube channel. This includes edited recordings of the monthly Midweek Reflections talks.

More information on our services is available on the website [Bible readings for the coming month \(wilmslowurc.org.uk\)](https://wilmslowurc.org.uk) in the WURCing week emails or via the Church Office 01625 532600.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 24th Dec (Christmas Eve) 10:30 am (Service of Lessons & Carols)

Worship Leader Worship Group

Bible Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11 & 16; Luke 1: 46b-55 or Psalm 89: 1-4 & 19-26; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

Sunday 24th Dec (Christmas Eve) 11:30 pm (Midnight Communion)

Worship Leader: Peter Bradley

Monday 25th Dec (Christmas Day)

Worship Leader: Revd Tony Burnham

Bible Readings: Isaiah 9: 2 & 6-7; Psalm 97; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 1-20

Dear Friends,

“Prepare the way for the Lord”.

We all prepare for this time of year in different ways.

Those preparations for Christmas take many forms linked to our family traditions, our Church’s traditions, or new things that we see others doing or that feel right at this time. Some of these traditions bring back happy memories and others will be things that we find difficult as they remind us of loved ones who are no longer with us or are absent at this time.

As that box comes out of the cupboard and you open it up to see those things that you packed up early last January, what is the thing that makes you smile? What brings back that sharpest memory?

Perhaps it’s a tree decoration that was made for you by your child or grandchild? Perhaps it’s an ornament that was a gift that will take pride of place on the mantelpiece for almost six weeks? Or perhaps something in that box brings back a memory of where it was bought?

For some of us that box will have been out of the cupboard for a few weeks now and our Christmas decorations will be up already; for others of us we will be still thinking about when to get that box out and thinking about when is it too early to start putting things out?

But while we decorate our homes and Church, let us focus on the time of preparation. Alongside everything that we need to do and sort - the shopping, the decorations, the cooking - is there a chance for a moment of quiet?

Look again at that special object from the box and for a few moments remember the person or people who come to mind at this time. The ones that you miss, the ones that have been or are special in your life. And pray for peace and love this Christmas season.

Now look again at that object, or a different special one. Picture a place in the world where there is conflict and trouble at this time. And pray for peace and love this Christmas season.

Over the days in the lead up to Christmas, let us take a few moments each day to focus on something that is part of this season and pray for someone, either someone you know or a stranger. Pray for a place you know something about or somewhere that you have only heard about on the news.

Our preparations this Christmas time will no doubt mean that we are all busy. So much to do and so few days. And it's not as if the usual things that we need to do all stop at this time.

But to just take a moment each day to stop, focus and pray helps us to prepare. It will help us with all those things we need to do this Christmas and ensure that our focus is on the real meaning of the season.

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."



I invite you to join us in any or all our services and events over this season, to focus ourselves on the greatest gift of all and share together as a Church community as we witness to the true meaning of Christmas.

And in the times in-between let's focus on that object and pray for peace and love this Christmas time. I'm now off to find that box.

*God bless,
Steve Wood*

IMAGE: [HTTPS://PIXABAY.COM/PIXABAY](https://pixabay.com/pixabay)

MERSEY SYNOD

Over the past few months, we have been working through the process to move from the North Western Synod to Mersey Synod of the URC. The formal process to make the change has now been agreed by both Synods and we are working on seeking National agreement.

Below is the speech I gave at both Synods which I thought I would share with you. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Every Church is on a journey in working to build the Kingdom and find its mission and ministry for its community and neighbourhood.

Wilmslow's history as one of the largest Churches in the URC may not be quite the same now as it once was but we bring with us a legacy of a lot of work within the local area with other Churches and charities, Partners in different communities and situations, for the Synod and for the National Church. Our Elders and members have been heavily involved in all the Councils of the Church and therefore the feelings of making a move should not be read as being an easy decision. Our links to North Western Synod have been very strong and in a couple of cases continue to the present day.

In being asked to focus on articulating our mission we are clear that this is very definitely linked in all kinds of ways to Cheshire East. The list has become a long one but as examples, our youth work through the Wilmslow Youth charity, that we helped to give birth to, is focussed on working with the High School in the town with a clear Cheshire focus. Our work with the local Health Centre and support for the pharmacy are linked to the Cheshire health services. We host meetings of the Town Council and have been working with them on the provision of support to Ukrainian families. We work through the Bollin Partnership and are a Connected Community Centre for Cheshire East.

Whilst we recognise that geographically we are marginally further away from the URCs in Cheshire than we are to those in our Missional Partnership, our people, our town and inclination is looking south and west rather than north. We are on the doorstep of Greater Manchester

and our town was created as a suburban setting for the owners of factories to get away from the city. We won't ignore this connection in the future but in all of everyday life we are part of the Cheshire community if place has any meaning.

We have reflected in a couple of settings that our process and decision making has taken some time as we look back over the past twelve months. However, we have refused to apologise for this as it has taken us that time to pray and reflect on what we were asking of each other and what it would mean for our future.

Shifting our focus in a different direction for our continuing journey feels to be the right decision to us. Over 175 years have passed since our Church started in the town and the foundations of the building were laid down. Whether the Councils of the Church concur with our decision is in God's hands, but we know that God has guided our thoughts and discussions, and we believe that He has answered our prayers and helped to signpost us to our next steps for ministry and mission for all God's people in our town and in the wider world.

Steve Wood, Church Secretary

MESSY CHURCH - EVERYONE IS WELCOME

*Your Invitation to
Messy Church
at
Wilmslow
United Reformed Church*



4-6pm in Wilmslow URC Halls, Chapel Lane.

On Sunday 4th February, 3rd March, 7th April, 5th May

messychurchwilmslow@gmail.com or 01625 532600 or just turn up.

Please bring a picnic tea – drinks are provided. Different theme & activities each month. Children must be accompanied.

DONATIONS WELCOME

NEWSLETTER

As well as welcoming written contributions to the newsletter to newsletter@wilmslowurc.org.uk we have now added an option to our online giving portal DONA for donations towards the printing of the Newsletter. <https://donate.mydona.com/wilmslow-urc> You can also donate via the iPad in the church vestibule.

Each newsletter costs £1 to print and we publish 4 a year. *Thank you.*

Wilmslow URC

What's your donation for?

Freewill Offertory

Flowers in Church

Church Charities

Printing the Newsletter

FLOWERS

Before the pandemic some members of the Church made an annual donation which contributed to the cost of the flowers. The flowers were arranged by the flower team, now they are arranged by a few members of the congregation and paid for mostly from Church funds.

There is now a way to donate money to the Church funds for the specific use of providing flowers each week. We have added an option to our online giving portal DONA for collecting donations towards flowers <https://donate.mydona.com/wilmslow-urc> You can also donate via the iPad in the church vestibule. And there is a basket for cheques in an envelope made payable to Wilmslow Reformed Church, with 'flowers' being specified.

The flowers are a welcome sight each week and at the end of the Sunday service the flowers are divided into bunches and distributed to people who are ill or, it is felt, are in need of extra recognition.

Hilary Gills

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Attributed to himself by Andrew Graystone)

This prayer was first used at the Christian Festival, Greenbelt, which the URC Supports, in 2016 in a Communion Service led entirely by children.
It should be said to the rhythm of This is the house that Jack built.

READER We are the people who God loves

ALL We are the people who God loves

READER We are the people who turned away

And put ourselves first in every way

But we are the people who God loves

ALL We are the people who God loves

READER We are the people who turned away

And put ourselves first in every way

So we turn to God and say sorry today

Because we are the people who God loves

ALL We are the people who God loves

READER We are the people all stiff and proud

Who wanted to be ahead of the crowd

And felt what we had was never enough

But wanted more money and power and stuff

So we are the people who turned away

And put ourselves first in every way

So we turn to God and say sorry today

Because we are the people who God loves

ALL We are the people who God loves

READER We are the people, selfish and greedy

Who closed our eyes to the poor and needy

And poisoned the rain and emptied the seas

And built up the walls and cut down the trees

And burnt the fuel that heated the sky

That made the land all barren and dry

That caused the people to fight each other

Sister and sister and brother and brother

Who couldn't survive and were forced to flee

Far from their homes over land and sea
We are the people stiff and proud
Who wanted to be ahead of the crowd
And felt what we had was never enough
But wanted more money and power and stuff
So we are the people who turned away
And put ourselves first in every way
So we turn to God and say sorry today
Because we are the people who God loves
ALL We are the people who God loves

READER We are the people wealthy and strong
With food to eat and a place to belong
Who choose the leaders, who give the orders
To turn the strangers away from our borders
We are the people, selfish and greedy
Who closed our eyes to the poor and needy
And poisoned the rain and emptied the seas
And built the walls and cut down the trees
And burnt the fuel that heated the sky
That made the land all barren and dry
That caused the people to fight each other
Sister and sister and brother and brother
Who couldn't survive and were forced to flee
Far from their homes over land and sea
We are the people stiff and proud
Who wanted to be ahead of the crowd
And felt what we had was never enough
But wanted more money and power and stuff
So we are the people who turned away
And put ourselves first in every way
So we turn to God and say sorry today
Because we are the people who God loves
ALL We are the people who God loves

READER We pray today that our God will forgive
The choices we make and the ways that we live
Because we are the people who God loves
ALL We are the people who God loves"

POSTCARD FROM MY HOLIDAY - GLASGOW



During November I travelled by train up to Glasgow for a university reunion. I graduated with BSc Hons in Food Science in 1975, along with 13 other students, at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. We said at

the time that we would keep in contact, but inevitably, we didn't.

However, at the start of 2018 I thought I'd search my fellow graduates on Facebook and was fortunate to find Thierry who lives in Mauritius. I sent him a message and he then was able to circulate some others who had been on the same course.

We were then able to keep in touch by email and I suggested we meet up for a reunion lunch. This took place at a restaurant in Glasgow that October, and every year since, we've continued to meet in the Autumn.

Although we'd all changed slightly in appearance, we all





recognised each other, having the same characteristics as at university. It's amazing how the conversation keeps flowing after more than 45 years. We had a great afternoon and evening together.

Last October, I suggested that we have a Christmas

meeting by Zoom online and in December, most of us were able to join the meeting. It was quite difficult to arrange due to the different time zones. Seven of us tuned in at 3:30 pm in the afternoon, but Awlwyn in Vancouver had to join at 7:30 am in the morning.

This year we're again having a Zoom meeting in the middle of December and are hoping that Lee in Singapore, Thierry in Mauritius and Olav in Norway will be able to take part. Lee will be Zooming in at 11:30 pm.

Our reunion in Glasgow this year coincided with Armistice weekend and after recovering from overindulgence on the Saturday, I attended the Armistice Parade and service at George Square in Glasgow city centre on a bitterly cold Sunday morning. This was a very moving experience, and we were surrounded by representatives of the various Scottish regiments of all three services and veterans from both World Wars and those who served in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan. In George Square, a Garden of Remembrance was erected showing crosses from all the Scottish regiments.

This was certainly a very memorable weekend in Glasgow.

Ken Wallace.

Postcard from my holiday - Please tell us about somewhere you have been (in the past or recently). Please send your 'postcard' (text and photo) to newsletter@wilmslowurc.org.uk

THE MAN BEHIND THE MEMORIAL

Sometimes it takes a visitor to make us notice the treasures around us. That rang true when the church was contacted by Barry Clark, who is producing a book about the Northern Arts Workers Guild, 1896 to 1912. One of his collaborators sings in a choir and spotted a hidden gem on the wall above the organ when he was performing in Wilmslow URC. He knew the striking and unusual World War One war memorial from Morley Chapel he saw was in the distinctive style of a Guild member. The church has given permission for this image of it, taken by Ken Wallace, to be in a forthcoming book published by Manchester Metropolitan University. Look closely in the bottom right-hand corner of the plaque and you will see the name Walter Pearce. So who was the man behind this war memorial?



Born in Brighton in 1856 he was orphaned aged 10 and apprenticed to a London painter and decorator six years later. By 1883 he was one of about 300 employees working for leading church furnishing company Cox and Buckley, which was said to have bought many of E W Pugin's designs from the Society of Decorative Art. It was no doubt at their stained glass

works in Convent Garden where Walter learnt his trade. In 1883 he got married and moved to Manchester where he and his wife raised a family of two daughters and son. By 1899 Walter had his own stained glass firm, was teaching painting and decorating at the Manchester Municipal School of Technology, had written a standard textbook on the subject and was on the Council of the Northern Art Workers Guild. He pioneered a medium he called 'Vitemure', combining mosaic with stained glass. In 1917 the Pearces moved to Wilmslow, siting Walter's office and workshop at 16 Alderley Road and later making it their home too. Walter worked late into the 1930s, and died in 1942, aged 86. His stained glass is in Emmanuel Church Didsbury, St James's Haslingden and St Paul's Kersal Moor, Salford.

Wilmslow Congregational Church 1921 newsletters tell the story of the memorials for the men of Wilmslow and Morley congregations. The Wilmslow plaque was unveiled on April 3rd, with special collections made afterwards to cover the cost (about £40). In July the newsletter reported Morley's decision to erect a tablet and by October over 100 subscribers had raised the needed £33. The December 'Morley Notes' column said the war memorial had been unveiled at the evening service on November 13th 'in the presence of a large congregation'. Morley superintendent John Beaumont performed the ceremony in his role as lay leader. This appointment was made by Wilmslow Congregational Church as Morley did not have its own Church Meeting. Mrs Collinson had given a beautiful solo rendering of 'Nearer, my God, to Thee' and the new minister and former treasurer of Wilmslow, the Revd Lewis Gaunt and Mr Theodore Crewdson, were also present. In 1925, when John Beaumont died, Morley members agreed to commission a stained-glass window in memory of 'one of the best friends Morley ever had'. The resulting pair of windows, installed and dedicated the following March, were also the handiwork of Walter Pearce, designed in his familiar Art Nouveau style. They can no longer be seen as the chapel is now an office. Even so, Wilmslow URC can now tell the story of the artist and craftsman whose skills lay behind the colourful lilies, oak and laurel leaves, red roses, lions and wheatsheaf of the Morley tablet on the church wall.

Kirsty Thorpe

Sunday 3rd September

that was the day the Second World War broke out in 1939.

The government had given the Germans a deadline of 11 o'clock to withdraw their troops from Poland. We listened to the radio

announcement which said, no such undertaking had been received, we were now at war with Germany.



IMAGE: [HTTPS://PIXABAY.COM/PIXABAY](https://pixabay.com/pixabay)

I was with my parents in Blackpool on holiday for a week. We had gone the day before by train. We usually went to Douglas, Isle of Man to see the motor bike Tourist Trophy Races. I think that the adults sensed the advent of War and decided on a shorter journey. We only stayed for three days as everything closed up and holiday makers left.

When we came home my mother made blackout curtains as required. Schools were closed initially until the air raid shelters (under the playing field) were finished and then, in early October, we went back but only for half days at first. We had to have our gas masks with us at all times and practised wearing them. Outdoor coats were carried around and we no longer changed our shoes.

Having just re-read the above it seems pretty miserable, and I suppose it was at the time. Over the next six years we got used to the black-out and food rationing. Not only food and clothing but sweets were rationed, and it was not until 1974 that we were able to buy sweets without ration. Cars were 'laid up' and petrol was only available, with coupons, for essential occupations – like doctors for example.

You can imagine the celebrations in 1945 when peace came and life got slowly back to normal. It wasn't the same as it had been and we had a long period of austerity and adjustment to make.

Lilian Grimshaw



A heartfelt thanks for all the cards, flowers and prayers I have received the last two months. I've appreciated them so much and they gave me much strength. Thank you so much.

Jenny Spiller



THANK YOU



Ray James and family would like to thank the Prayer Chain and all his friends at Church for their thoughts and prayers for his great grandson, now aged 3 during his stay in Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool over the last 12 months with a rare heart problem. For those who have not heard, 2 weeks ago a telephone call was received from Great Ormand Street hospital to say they had managed to get a new heart for him. He was rushed off to

London by ambulance and the same night his heart was replaced by surgeons working for over eight hours. He is now recovering well with his new heart ticking away steadily.

This must surely have been a miracle! *Ray James*

BADMINTON CLUB



Junior Badminton Club is open to all young people of high school age who enjoy, or want to try, badminton. Tuesdays 6.30 to 7.30. Please contact David Jackson for more information – the church office email office@wilmslowurc.org.uk or badminton@wilmslowurc.org.uk

Adult Badminton Club for over 18s, Tuesdays 7.30 to 9.



THURSDAY LUNCHTIME RECITALS - Chet's Vocal Group

Our next Thursday Recital is on Thursday February 8th at 12noon in church. A group of singers from Chetham's School of Music in Manchester will entertain us for an hour. The College send us a vocal group in February and an instrumental group in May. We have always been entranced with every group from Chet's in the past few years and we're sure next February's recital will be no different.

As usual it's free entry to the recital and a retiring collection with either cash or card payments. Their recitals tend to attract the largest audiences we see so it would be nice to break our record of 60+! We look forward to seeing you there.

Cliff Crewe and Andrew Allen

MIDWEEK REFLECTIONS

On the second Wednesday of each month a group of 16-20 of us meet in the Church Vestibule at 11.30am for about 45 minutes to join in Midweek Reflections. Usually, we have a single speaker who leads on the theme which is then followed by a Question-and-Answer session or some further discussion. At other times a small group or pair will lead but the atmosphere is always welcoming and informal. Our themes in the past year have varied from 'Hands', 'Birthdays' and 'Promises' to 'Our Green Church' and a brief 'History of Congregationalism'. All fascinating and enjoyable.

Many meet for coffee in the Undercroft Café prior to the meetings which allows us to make the morning as long or as short as suits.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 13 December at 11.30am** when the Rev. Tony Burnham will talk about 'My Little Black Book' and on **January 10th** Caroline Mellior-Smith will discuss 'To be or not to be'.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Look forward to seeing you.

Liz McGuire

MONDAY FELLOWSHIP (Undercroft) 2-3.30pm

On Monday 4th December about 30 members enjoyed the Christmas meal of the Fellowship at the Coach and Four.

The session so far has run smoothly with attendances building up steadily since lock down. It has been a great pleasure to welcome new members from the local community and we hope this will continue in 2024. We had a surprise excellent speaker at the end of November, due to a lack of communication between speaker, charity and secretary. The speaker had travelled from Devon so we were grateful to Sonia Dykstra for standing down but she is able to talk to us about the History of the Green Room on 8th January. Our remaining 11 meetings are open to anyone - meeting fortnightly on Monday at 2.00 pm. Come and join us, meet friendly faces, learn something new and enjoy a cup of tea.

Christine Noden

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FUNDRAISING TEAM



PUBLIC TRANSPORT - BUS – TRAIN - FLEXILINK

We often write articles to encourage use of alternative means of travelling to reduce our carbon footprint. We hope you find the following information helpful in proving a practical means of achieving this.

If you have reached the state pension age, then you're eligible for a free bus pass allowing you to travel free anywhere in England after 9.30am. If you're not eligible the fare has been capped at £2 for most journeys.

Locally we are served by three bus routes. The 130 goes hourly from Macclesfield to Manchester Airport. It takes you straight to the station at the airport from which it's an easy walk to all terminals. It also takes you directly to Macclesfield hospital. No car parking worries! Incidentally, the train from Wilmslow to the Airport is also very quick and convenient.

The 88 goes hourly between Altrincham and Knutsford, with an onward connection to Northwich. It comes up Moor Lane and Chapel Lane, so could be a useful link to Wilmslow URC for those living in South Wilmslow.

The 312 goes hourly from Wilmslow to Handforth Dean.

Timetables are available online or from the local library. Bus travel is something to consider for those who don't like driving, parking or paying for petrol!

A free downloadable app called **Moovit** shows when the next bus is due.

FlexiLink is a demand responsive transport service providing free travel (with a bus pass) for Cheshire East residents who:

- are aged 80 or over
- or have a disability
- or live beyond the reach of any other public transport.

Rather than operating to a set timetable or route, FlexiLink provides shared transport to passengers who specify their desired location and the time of pick-up and drop-off. Passengers must register to use the service and all journeys must be pre-booked so routes can be planned efficiently.

Hours of FlexiLink service - The core hours of the service are between 9.30am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays.

How to book on FlexiLink - Call 0300 123 5110 to book a journey (local call charges apply, calls from mobiles may cost more), or email flexilink@ansa.co.uk for a booking form. They aim to reply within 24 hrs Mon to Fri. The booking line is open 10am - 1pm Monday to Friday.

Customers registered to use FlexiLink may request a booking by calling them between 48 hours ahead and one month in advance of when you wish to travel. The more notice customers can provide, the more efficiently we they are able to plan each journey and route.

The Administration Team

SOUPERDAY TUESDAY

From Tuesday 9th January the Undercroft Café will be open every Tuesday for soup, bread & cheese. The café will be open 11:30am to 2:00pm with soup served between 12noon and 1:30pm. The cost will be £4.00. We would also be grateful for any offers of help from volunteers, if this interests you, please contact Sonia Dykstra or Wendy Williams. Thank you.



IMAGE:
[HTTPS://PIXABAY.COM/PIXABAY](https://pixabay.com/pixabay)

THANK YOU

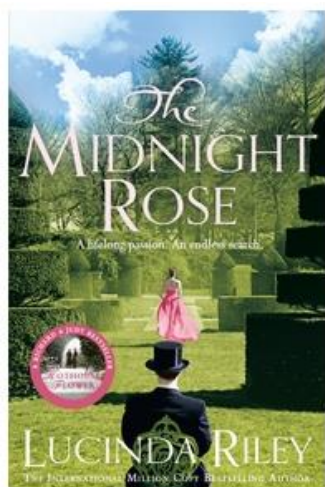
A massive thank you to everyone following the coffee, cake and jewellery morning we held in the Undercroft, back in September, for my expedition to Peru in 2024.

We had a fabulous morning and raised £850 towards my trip next year. Special thanks must go to my grandparents (Wendy and Michael) for organising everything and to all the cake makers.

Callum

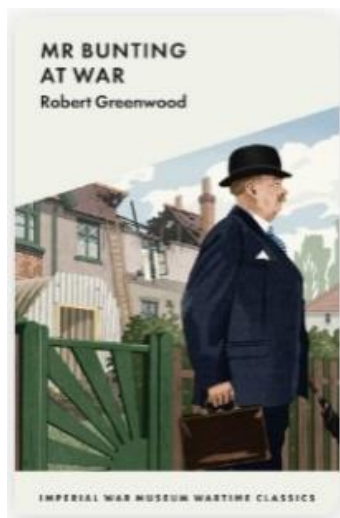
BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets on the second Monday of every other month at 2pm in Room A of the Church Halls. Everyone is welcome, at our informal meeting (whether you have read the book or not) when we all have a chance to discuss the book over a drink and a biscuit.



Our next meeting will be held on Mon, 8th Jan when we will discuss 'The Midnight Rose' by Lucinda Riley. 'Spanning four generations, The Midnight Rose by Lucinda Riley sweeps from the glittering palaces of the great maharajas of India to the majestic stately homes of England, following the extraordinary life of a girl, Anahita Chavan, from 1911 to the present day.'

IMAGE & TEXT FROM
<https://lucindariley.co.uk/books/the-midnight-rose/>



At our following meeting to be held on Mon, 11th Mar, we will discuss 'Mr Bunting at War' by Robert Greenwood. "Bunting—businessman, husband, and father—lives a quiet life in Laburnam Villa in Essex, reading about the progress of the war in his trusty newspaper and heading to work every day at same the warehouse where he has been employed his entire adult life. [But] this bumbling everyman is forced to confront the true realities of the conflict."

IMAGE & TEXT FROM
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/29672249.Robert_Greenwood

Pat Crewe

Once again, we had another very successful repair café in our halls on Saturday 4th November. The atmosphere was buzzing with visitors and customers, and 97 items were submitted for repair.

In 2022, we were thrilled that we were able to save an estimated 1¾ tonnes of CO₂ rather than the item going to landfill. This year we smashed that total with an estimated 2.8 tonnes of CO₂ saved.

The dates for our repair cafés next year are:

- Saturday 2nd March 2024 at St Chad's Church in Handforth
- Saturday 6th July 2024 at Wilmslow URC
- Saturday 2nd November 2024 at St Chad's Church in Handforth

The repair cafés run from 10am to 1pm, with last repairs accepted at 12:30pm. All repairs & refreshments are free, donations are welcome.

We're looking for more volunteer repairers, especially anyone who can turn their hand to general repairs such as clocks, lampshades, ceramics and prams etc., but we also need more electrical repairers. If you know of anyone, or would like to be part of a team of likeminded people, please email repaircafewilmslow@gmail.com

Ken Wallace



Note from the Editor ~ I went to my first repair café on 4th Nov and I can testify that the atmosphere was indeed 'buzzing'. I have rarely seen so many friends and acquaintances in one place. There were friends from church, teachers at the Wilmslow Guild For Life Long Learning, mothers from Wilmslow High School. I really recommend finding something to fix and going along. It was the highlight of my weekend and made me feel part of our very special Wilmslow Community.

Juliet Harris



When the Undercroft first opened its doors, Dr James Pullé, then head of Wilmslow High, spoke at the celebration service one Sunday morning about the importance of community. His address centred around the proverb ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ – a saying that captures much of the heart of Wilmslow Youth. Community has always been central to our work; both serving the community of Wilmslow, and also creating a little community of our own in which young people can simply come and be themselves. We recently set out our charity mission statement, which says this:

“Our mission is to build a vibrant community where every young person can effortlessly tap into timely and free support.”

As such, it has always been our hope and prayer as a charity that we will both serve our community well, but also invite our community to partner with us and feel a sense of ownership over the work we do.

To meet the needs of young people and families in our town, we need to invite support from the Wilmslow community as a whole, both through people giving their time, energy and expertise, but also through their financial support. Hundreds of young people’s lives have been touched directly because of the WURC and Life Church Wilmslow family stepping out in faith, starting this work and standing alongside us for the last seven years.

Harvest Appeal in support of Wilmslow Youth

In order to carry out its full programme of youth work, Wilmslow Youth needs to attract grants and donations to supplement the funding it gets from WURC and Life Church Wilmslow.

This autumn, Churches Together in Wilmslow selected Wilmslow Youth as their Harvest Appeal charity. WURC’s contribution to this was a magnificent £3,158.

This year, Wilmslow Youth applied to be part of The Big Give – a non-profit, charitable website that enables donors to find and support charity projects in their field of interest. To be part of The Big Give, Wilmslow Youth had to complete an application and set a target amount. It then had to raise £3,500 in pledges from its own supporters. Due to the hard work of Claire Carter (a member of Wilmslow Youth staff whose role is to develop new community partnerships) the target of £3,500 was reached in time to be matched by a £3,500 pledge from a Big Give champion!!

The Big Give's champions are philanthropists, corporate bodies and charitable foundations or, simply, members of the general public with big hearts. The Big Give champion who came forward to match the donations raised by Wilmslow Youth is keen to support youth work.

The donations were made during The Big Give Week, which began on 28 November (called Giving Tuesday). During this week, Wilmslow Youth held The Big Give Community Night on 30 November in the Undercroft. It was great to see how many people came to find out about the work of Wilmslow Youth. As well, several small businesses, community groups and parent groups came forward with donations during this week.

The total raised for Wilmslow Youth was as follows:

Wilmslow Youth's pledges plus The Big Give champion's pledge:

£7,000 (plus Gift Aid)

Harvest Appeal plus personal and community group donations:

£10,536 (plus Gift Aid)

TOTAL £17,536 (plus Gift Aid)

Wilmslow Youth is extremely grateful for the support of Churches Together in Wilmslow and thanks all its local donors at WURC who helped raise these much-needed funds.

Thank you again for being with us on the journey. I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas when it comes!

Matt Williamson and Peggy Arnell

CHURCH WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

For a full list please visit our website <https://wilmslowurc.org.uk/>

Mondays

The Undercroft Café 10-12:00 – everyone welcome

Monday Fellowship (Undercroft) 2-3.30 Alt Mondays

Tuesdays

Short Mat Bowls (large hall) 1.45-4.15

Badminton - Junior 6.30-7.30; Adult 7.30-9.00 (large hall)

Wednesdays

The Undercroft Café 10-12:00 – everyone welcome

Midweek Reflections (church vestibule) 11.30-12, Dec 13th

Thursdays

Ladies Badminton (large hall) 10-12

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Ladies Badminton (large hall) 10-12

Rainbows fortn. 5-6; Brownies wkly 6.15-7.30; Guides wkly 6.30-8.30

Fridays

Gardening Team (am)

Beavers (large hall) 6-7pm; Scouts (small & large hall) 7-9pm

Book Club (2nd Mon alt months); **Quilting Group** (1st Tue of month)

Citizens Advice in the church halls on Monday mornings for drop-in and Wednesday mornings for appointments. Free, confidential advice on benefits, work, consumer, housing and other concerns. To book an appointment call 01625 432847

**citizens
advice**

To book the church rooms please email bookings@wilmslowurc.org.uk or call 01625 532600 or visit <https://wilmslowurc.org.uk/hiring-rooms-in-our-buildings/>

Thank you for your contributions, comments & compliments.

Deadline for articles for the Spring Edition is Friday 1st March.

All contributions gratefully received at newsletter@wilmslowurc.org.uk

