

# Window on the Moor



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May/June 2020

# Welcome

Hello, from my front room.

I have relocated to home, I am missing the office and my comfy chair but it is nice not having the big commute to the office at the moment! I hope you all had a good Easter, it was great to see so many of you at the Virtual services. Keep checking the Circuit Website for details of the weekly Circuit Service and other services that will take place. There is one planned for May 5th at 7.00pm there will be cake (you do have to bring your own). We hope you enjoy reading this electronically, unfortunately we can't do our usual delivery system at this moment in time.

Enjoy! The Editorial team, Garry and Sharon

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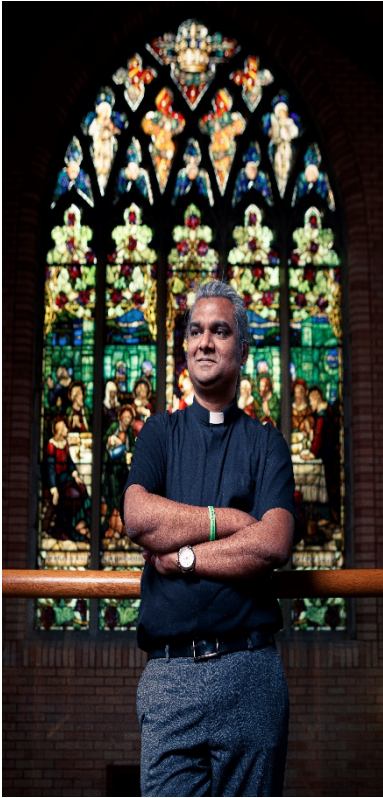
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*The Front Cover  
was done by  
Maddie.*



Dear Heaton Moor United Church family,

It has already been six weeks since we have all been locked up and in self-isolation because of COVID 19. None of us imagined this situation at the start of 2020, but here we are coping with the reality of our times, though missing on our physical fellowships, yet supporting one another in prayer, ringing people and talking and listening to one another and offering care and friendships from a distance. Thank you for all your care and support. I also thank you for sharing your stories of positivity during this crisis time.

Our strange times today is invoking on us to ask several faith questions, including where is God in all of this? Some have asked is this not God's punishment to this world? Others have asked is this not that God is testing us? Some others are asking is not this a way that God is trying to fix a sinful world? Some others are asking isn't God teaching us a lesson by this virus? Catherine

Keller, a postcolonial theologian in her open letter in the context of this current virus argued no to all of these questions and proposes, to which I concur, that "God may be calling us to account, holding us to responsible for the wellbeing of the world. It doesn't mean that God willed this crisis to happen - or any of the horrors and holocausts of history. It means nothing happens apart from God, because God isn't something that exists apart from the world: the world is a part of God, and God participates in each part of the world. God feels and suffers it all – with us. But God also calls us to face the meaning of this punishing plague, to face the interdependence of us all – an interdependence that our civilization conceals from us, that this contagion reveals to us." To put it other way, God is collaborating with us in addressing this crisis, inviting us as creatures to work interdependently with God and with one another. Keller concludes her letter by saying, "We do not wait for a dictatorial fix from on high. We enter into a creative collaboration in a process we can neither predict not control. For the process of new creation remains mysterious. "The new heaven and new earth" translate no longer as supernatural intervention or afterlife escape – but as the radical renewal of atmosphere and earth." Perhaps this crisis is calling us to understand that our God in Jesus is constantly journeying with us, collaborating with us and offering healing with us and to us.

This May bank holiday weekend in 2020, prior to the lock down streets across UK were planning for the celebrations of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, however even during this lock down, some streets are going ahead to celebrate parties on their own car parks keeping social distance to celebrate the community spirit that has been binding them during these uncertain times. VE day is an opportunity for us to rededicate ourselves as channels of God's peace in this restless world, and may God's peace remain with us and in us.

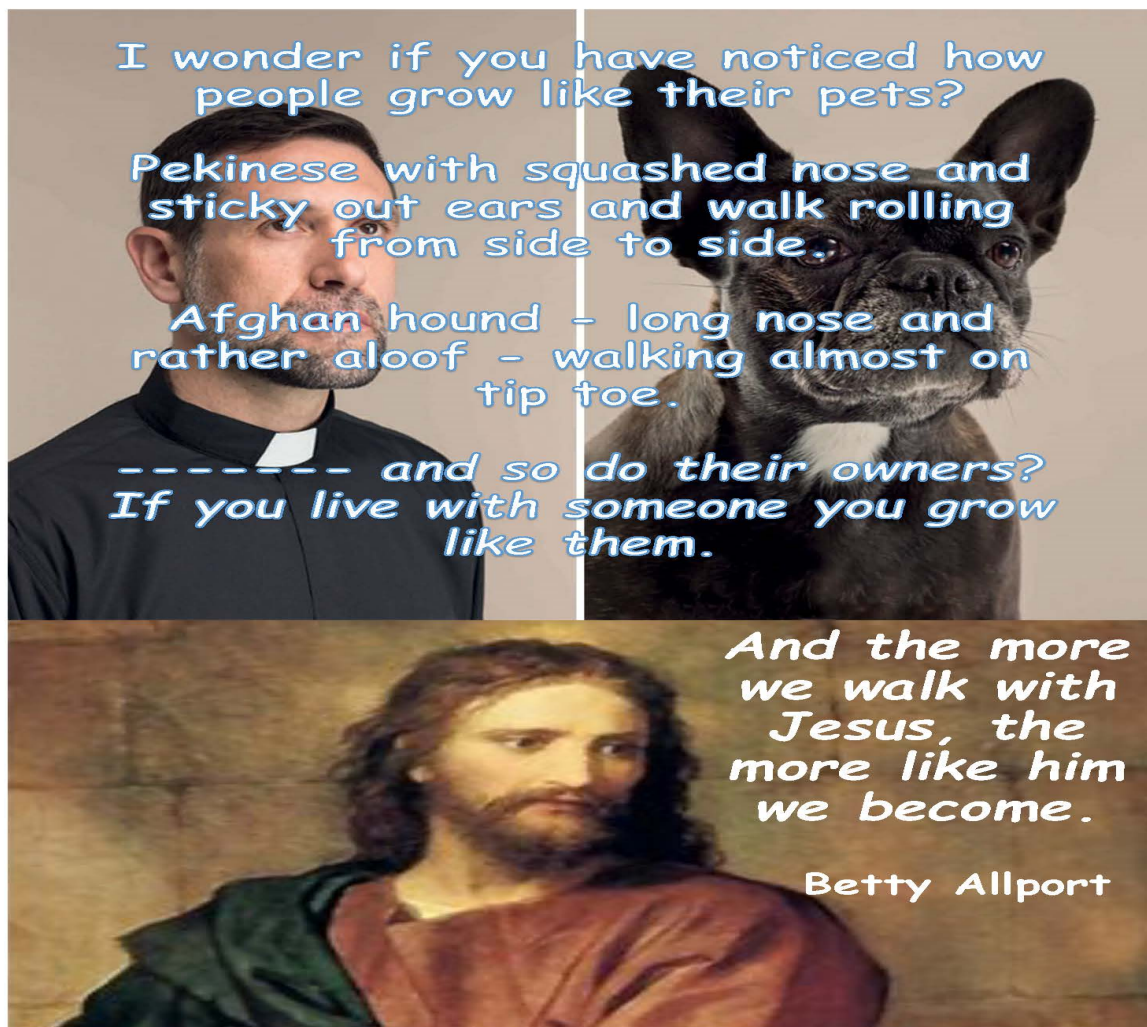
Towards the end of May, on our Christian liturgical calendar, we celebrate Pentecost, where Holy Spirit poured on the early disciples and the church went out to share the good news in Jesus Christ. The God of Pentecost, from my perspective, resisted from speaking the languages of the powerful, Hebrew the language of the temple liturgy then, Greek the language of the empire and Aramaic the language of the majority there and spoke the language of those on the margins. Perhaps this Pentecost season we are all called to speak the good news of Jesus Christ in the languages, perspectives and paradigms understandable of those on the margins of our churches and communities, to make the gospel of Jesus relevant for our times. May God's grace go with each of you and grant you peace and healing, as we strive to collaborate with God in transforming our world.

Stay safe and take care,

Regards,

Rev. Dr. Raj Bharat Patta

May 2020







As reported in the last edition of 'Window on the Moor', Heaton Moor United Church recently became included in a 'Cluster' of three Churches, the other two being Christ Church and Edgeley. Below is a history of Christ Church (mainly information taken from their website).

### **Christ Church---Reddish**

Like Heaton Moor United and Edgeley Churches, Christ Church became a Methodist/United Reformed partnership.

Christ Church state they seek to offer orders and styles of worship which are varied and participative in the hope that the needs of all are addressed and included.

### ***A History***

The Methodists and Congregationalists were meeting in houses in the early 1800's in Reddish but with the rise of the Cotton mills etc, a Church was needed. The Methodists built a Church on Broadstone Road which opened in 1860, moving to Reddish Green in 1870. The Congregationalists took over the Church and were there until the present Church was opened in 1914.

The Congregational Church became part of the United Reformed Church in 1974 and were joined by the Methodists in 1978 when Reddish Green was demolished. The Churches had worked together since the early 1800's so it was a natural progression for them to unite.

The building, still known by many older people of Reddish as the 'Congo', is now Christ Church, a Methodist, United Reformed Church local ecumenical partnership.

### ***The Green Group***

I know a good few HMUC congregation members have enjoyed

the 'Green Group's' Christmas pantomimes at Christ Church.

The Group was formed in 1978 with the joining of two amateur dramatic societies. The Green group produced pantomimes at Reddish Green Methodist Church on Broadstone Road and the Amateur dramatic Society at the Reformed Church on Lilian Grove. When Reddish Green closed in 1978, they joined with the United Reformed Church to become Christ Church which led to the new name, '*Christ Church Green Group Amateur dramatic society*'.

A gentleman some of you will know, **Frank Dean**, writes the material for the pantomimes and some of the other productions. He often acts the leading parts also. He tells me he has recently written a play, a farce, which was to be advertised for showing in May.

Unfortunately, however, it will not now be possible due to the Coronavirus. Frank holds the post of secretary at Christ Church and is also a lay preacher who has taken services at HMUC in the past. A man of many talents, he appeared on TV in the



1970's as a comedian, in 'Opportunity Knocks', achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the night.

**Garry**

## Strange Times.....

One of the things that has kept me going during this new normal are the positive actions I have seen going on in the community. Each day I am surprised about the compassion and caring that takes place in our community and beyond. From Thursday nights clapping to the Moor Bears (look them up!)

I have received phone calls asking for help and offering me help, done Coffee mornings via video links, no rota for the washing up needed! Helped at Circuit services, no getting lost trying to find a new church I've not been to before.

Whilst I am missing seeing people physically, I don't feel disconnected from the world due to people reaching out to say thanks for what I am doing . I want to say thank you for all your love and support and its positive vibe it is sending out.

I am sure when I am old and grey, well greyer and older I will share my positive stories of these times . Please enjoy a couple of more positive stories that have been sent it. Sharon

### The Power of Positivity and of Prayer



by Jan Southworth  
(Mrs D S Mortimer)

When Reverend Raj Patta kindly visited me after my friend and then my Mother in Law died and after my own grave bout of arthritic sepsis, he graciously invited me to write an article for the magazine on the

power of positivity. I want to thank our exceptional Elder, Noreen Baillie, Linda Fleming, Sue Docherty, Cynthia Bayley as well as all the church members who have phoned me. Also, my fabulous family and friends who have helped me through a very challenging few months. So, *Bless You.*

Although I have endured 'Hate Crimes' over the years like people spitting in my face, being told that I am an abomination who should not have been allowed to have children, the attempted theft of my scooter ( when I was sitting on it ), acts of kindness and compassion far out-weigh the nastiness.

A Co-op staff member lights a candle for me every Sunday. He was upset when I was so poorly but his beaming smile and big hug when I remerged into society made my day! All the Co-op staff have been so thoughtful, as have the lovely people at the local

shops including Tesco, the Easy Fish Shop, Unwin's and the superb Savoy before it had to close temporarily. When I was first home but virtually bed bound one of the hairdressers came to my house to do my hair on her day off! How marvellous of 'That Hair Place'.

Also, La Moor hauled me over the rear door threshold and wheeled me around the salon.

How many people have had the former jewellery shop owner

doing bits of shopping for them?  
Oh! the inimitable Angie!

Before these challenging times many of Lucia's friends rang, messaged or visited me and I was so thrilled by their thoughtfulness. Another heart-warming moment was when my eight-year-old Godson, who is eight going on 38, told the Consultant to make Auntie Jan better and the Consultant gave him a respectful reply.

Let us hope that the neighbourliness remains when the pandemic is over. I was not surprised that Sharon Heginbotham was so quick to offer to help others. Church really would not be the same without her!

I am grateful and I do try to count my blessings.

In case anyone is wondering in an idle moment-- Yes, of course I wear lipstick and perfume and jewellery *at home*. Yes,-- the walking stick has to match the outfit though I can barely shuffle and I remain my usual shy and timid self 😊

Dr Charlotte Hickman, graduated from medical school at Edinburgh University on 6 April 2020, a very proud day for her parents, Rosy and Paul and of course grandparents, *Eddie Hickman* (and how *Betty* would have loved



it) and extended family.

Charlotte is currently working as a junior doctor at Stepping Hill hospital on wards for the elderly and terminally ill.

All being well she moves to a hospital in Cambridge in May for her foundation year, another exciting time in her life, but she will be missed by her parents and family living "north".

Many congratulations Charlotte, you'll be a wonderful doctor. We look forward to hearing more of your journey.

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**During lockdown I noticed self distancing floor signs in two local shops;**

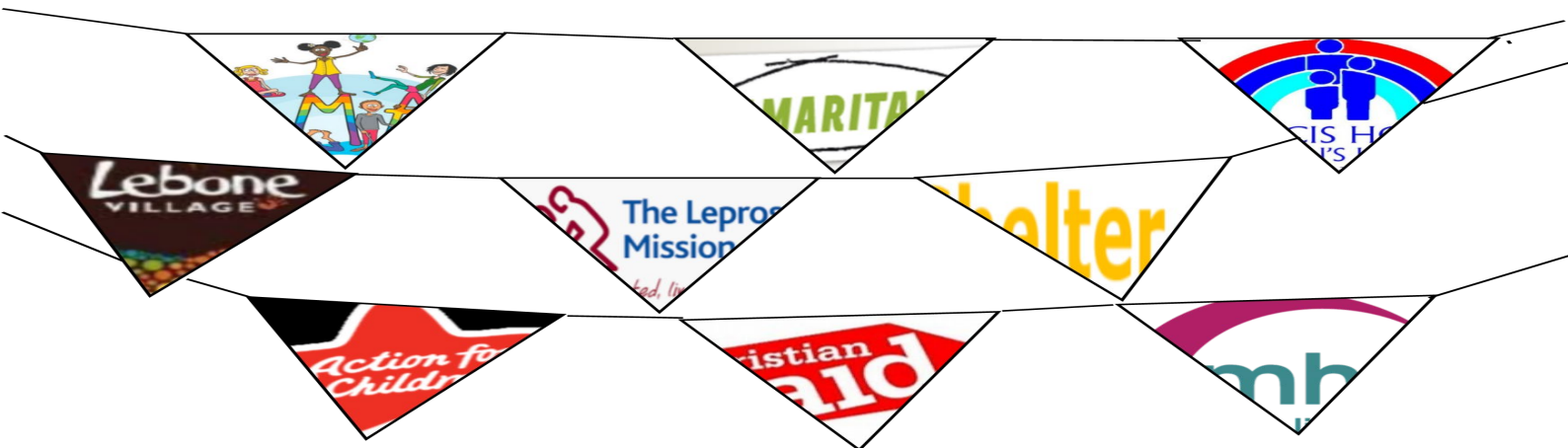
**1. 'Thank you for keeping your distance'.**

**2. 'STAND HERE.**

**Protect yourself and others by keeping a safe distance'.**

**Don't you think, 'Please' and 'Thank you' can make such a difference?**

**Noreen Baillie**



## Gift Day for the Church Charities

Although the politicians are fond of telling us 'we are all in this together' - there is no doubt that the current pandemic is affecting some people, some organisations, and some sections of the economy much harder than others. Many of the charities which we support as a church are busy meeting this need both in the UK and overseas in a variety of ways. Yet just when they have an increased need for funding their income, in many cases, has fallen dramatically. Many charities rely on fund-raising activities over the summer months such as the London marathon and other sponsored events, garden parties, and store collections. As a church many of our fund-raising activities such as coffee mornings, the summer fair, concerts and other events have had to be cancelled. We have, therefore, decided to hold a **Charity Gift Day on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>** which is around the time when we would have held our summer fair. We invite you, if you wish and are able, to send in a donation to arrive by that date. You can either send a cheque made out to Heaton Moor United Church (marked on the back 'charity gift') or make a BACS transfer to the church

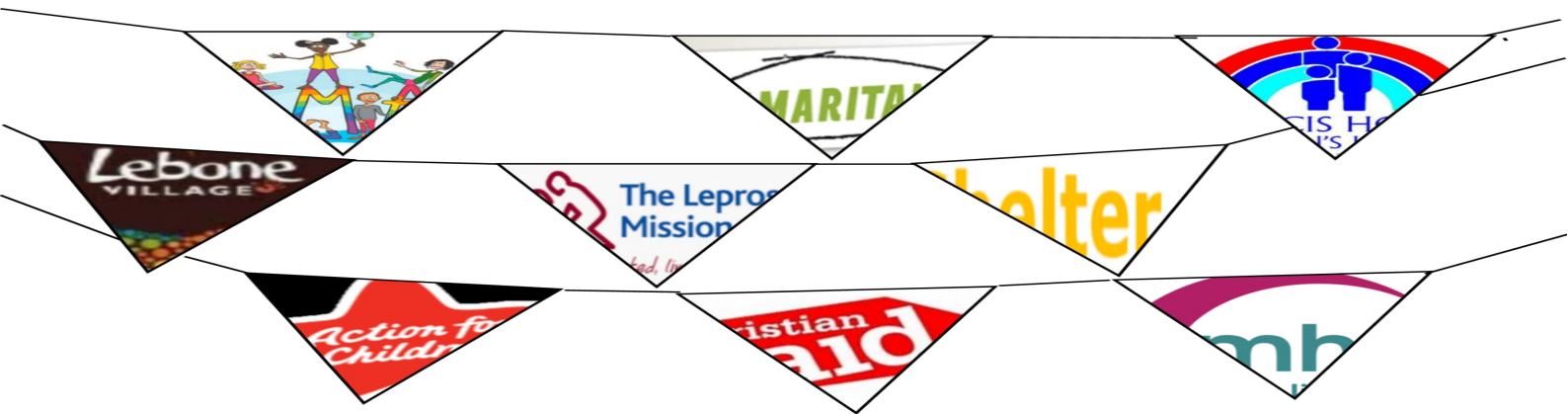
account with the reference 'charity gift' (see panel for further details). The total will be distributed amongst the church charities in proportion to our usual giving. If you already Gift Aid your giving to the church then that will be applied to your charity gift and added to the total distributed. If you are a tax-payer not already signed up for Gift Aid but would like to add Gift Aid to your charity gift please contact Sharon who will let you know how to do this.

We are looking into having some sort of 'distance' social event on this day such as a quiz and will let you know more about this as plans evolve.

PS: All of the gifts received on the Charity Gift Day will be used for external charities. Cathy Bird and Jim have indicated, in previous messages, the ongoing staff and maintenance costs of our church and have asked that you continue with your regular giving as you are able.

Fund-raising committee





## June 6<sup>th</sup> 2020

# Payment Details

**Make Cheques Payable to:**

**Heaton Moor United Church**

**Reference on the back**

**Church Charities**

**Please send cheques to:**

**S.Heginbotham**

**8 Chinley Close**

**Heaton Moor**

**SK4 4ER**

**BACS transfer to:**

**Heaton Moor United Church**

**COOP Bank**

**Sort Code : 08-92-99**

**Account : 65561034**

**Reference: Church Charities**

**Don't forget Gift Aid we can claim**

**an extra 25p per £ given .**

**So If you don't already do it and pay tax  
please contact Sharon at:**

**[office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)**

**or**

**call 07471 065729**



## Letter From Linda.....

Hi

As I prepare to take on my new role as Pastoral Worker for Heaton Moor United Church. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on my previous role as family worker.

The role has been a blessing, it allowed me to meet many families and share sad times to good times and everything in between. Helping them to welcome new members to their families and supporting them through

the loss of loved ones. Sometimes I haven't known which way God was sending me but after a lot of prayer I knew, but there is one thing I know, God has away been with me through thick and thin, when I have felt lonely and excited, whilst doing the job. Him supporting me whilst I have been there for many different people and praying with them and for them has been a great privilege.

I would like to take this opportunity to say to the people of Heaton Moor United Church, my support team and all the volunteers who have helped over the years with many different activities that have taken place such as parties, story's, crafts, prayers, music, baptism's, home blessings, making tea, coffee and lots more.

To you all a great big THANK YOU for supporting me, listening to me and for praying for the work I do.

Linda

## Charity News



On 21<sup>st</sup> April, our Heaton Moor United Church donated £834 to our 'Home' Charity for this year, 'The Samaritans'.

Chrissie Gibson (Stockport Samaritans Deputy Director for Fund raising), in reply, said, **'Thank you so much and please pass on our thanks to everybody at church that has been involved in raising the money. It is much appreciated'**



**'Many of our fundraising activities have been postponed or cancelled all together, so this is very welcome'.**

## Mow Cop

Mow Cop is a village incorporating a hill which rises 335 metres above sea level. It is situated on the border of Cheshire and Staffordshire, some 6 miles from Stoke on Trent.

**Jean James** remembers the 'folly' castle on top of the hill as being a place of pilgrimage from her Chapel, particularly on Good Friday.

Jean`s brother in law wrote a poem about it;



*Now worn down to a bounding elevation  
One thousand feet above Britannia's waves  
300 million seasons since Namurian rivers  
Dumped millstone sands on coral strands  
Then ferns and forests formed 26 seams  
That fuelled a faulted syncline of industry  
Coal, clays and ironstones fashioned  
Beneath a coughing blanket of black  
Where Primitives lived worked and prayed  
In camps that processed preached and sang  
Of glorious things to be accessed when  
Shortened lives of toil gain eternal life  
What a folly this Cop of Mow this heritage  
Why trust a castle that was never fort  
Above fustian factory mills and quern  
Mines closed like its station way down in  
Another county plainly seen in scholarly  
Green stargazing the bang from another bank  
While I recall my origin and from the other  
South facing side seeing Tunstall with its Jubilee  
Chapel and Sunday school my bedrock*

*by Trevor Siggers©*

## **Obituaries**

### **Alison Ashworth 1934-2020**

Alison was born in Rochdale in December 1934. She attended Rochdale High School for Girls, passing all exams despite spending quite some time as a teenager in a sanatorium being treated for T.B.

She excelled at sport, playing hockey, netball, tennis and golf which led to her career as a P.E. teacher.

Her first degree was from Anstey College—a specialist college for P.E. and only the second one in the country for women. Alison made many friends there and remained a life member of the Anstey Association for Old Girls—something she treasured.

Alison taught at Manchester High School for Girls and then Didsbury College achieving an advanced diploma in 1970 and a Master's degree in Education in 1979.

She retired in her early fifties but spent a happy and productive retirement—travelling, teaching advanced driving, playing golf and bowls, watching sport and spending time with her family and friends.

She was a member of the U.3.A. and previously Rochdale Golf Club and later Heaton Moor Golf Club where she had been Ladies' captain. She played off a handicap of 4 and was the winner of many competitions and trophies.

Alison spent the last six years in Bamford Close Care Home where she was looked after so well. The staff respected her independent nature and her time there was a happy one. None more so than when the former men's captain of Heaton Moor Golf Club took up residence. It was good to meet an old friend.

Alison was an unassuming, undemanding gentle person—but then I never met her on the hockey field!

Because of the constraints caused by the corona virus there were only four people at the cremation service. Her niece Sally remarked that if Alison was looking down she would have had a wry smile because she was leaving this world so quietly and unobtrusively.

May she rest in peace.

**Noreen Baillie**



## **Marjorie Austin (nee Palliser) 1924 - 2020**

Marjorie was born on February 9<sup>th</sup> 1924 in Otley, Yorkshire and remembered happy days in her grandad's toffee shop. The family moved to Stockport, her mum and dad, Marjorie, her sister Audrey and brother Tom. She went to Fallowfield Church of England School and gained 8 passes in the central school examinations. She was proud of her achievements. This stood her in good stead as she gained secretarial skills and her first job as a secretary. She could still remember the right fingering for the keyboard.

The war came and in 1943 she joined the Land Army which she loved, in her words, it was a life changing experience. She spent the time on a farm in Sandbach, milking cows, digging potatoes and driving tractors, *not always in the right direction*.

In 1945 she married William (Wilf), who was in the Fleet Air Arm, a short honeymoon in romantic Rhyl was all they could manage. After the war, William joined the police force and they set up home in Alderley Edge, where they had 2 children, David and Lesley.

A move to Mellor police station led to an idyllic few years of village life. She was the Lollypop lady at the primary school and knew all the children, waiting patiently for one lad who always had an army waiting on the other side of the road. Life as a village bobby's wife was, to say the least, interesting, having cups of tea with a lady with mental health problems, stray dogs and even train robbers up top Mellor.

Moves to Cheadle Hulme and then Marple followed where she continued as a secretary - and then came a change of career. She and William took on the Woodman Inn in Hazel Grove and she spent the next 10 years as a Landlady - a hard, busy life but one she really enjoyed, making many friends, but never afraid to bar anyone misbehaving.

Moving to Derby Road, Heaton Moor, led to a different life, but still busy. She enjoyed sewing, (her tapestries were always admired), knitting, reading, flower arranging and dancing at Fairey's club, even though William had 2 left feet.

They had many happy holidays in this country, they loved walking in the Lake District and around Llandudno - they walked up hill and down dale, she managed all the routes up Snowden but was usually a few paces behind William.

They became involved in the local congregational Church, her faith was important to her and strong to the end. She taught in Sunday school and organised numerous flower shows. Church friendships meant a lot to her. When William became a Minister, her secretarial skills came into use again as she typed and edited his sermons and generally kept him on track. During this time they gained 5 lovely grandchildren, Xanthe,

Davina, Damian, Matthew and Emma, who spent many happy days at the flat.

After her William died in 2004, Marjorie moved to Sparth Court, where she embraced a new life, making new friends and joining in everything, coffee mornings, quizzes, fish and chip suppers and entertainment. Determined to the end she wobbled along with her walking stick, not missing anything. For the last 3 years she had needed more help which, eventually, to the credit of Janet her long suffering carer, she accepted.

During this time the family expanded again and she gained 10 great grandchildren, she loved them all and enjoyed special times with those that visited her, watching them play in the flat, picnics in the lounge and times in the garden. They loved G Nan.

For the last 4 days of her life she was wonderfully cared for in a nursing home in Sheffield, she was safe, comfortable and at peace. She was born in Yorkshire and she died in Yorkshire.

The above was the tribute to Marjorie, read at her funeral by daughter, Lesley.

I had the privilege of being Elder to Wilf and Marjorie for nearly 30 years. Every visit was a delight, with Wilf's comical stories and Marjorie's tempering of his tales! They were a very loving and happy couple. Always interested in what other people were doing and offering help to those who might appreciate it.

They emerged themselves fully in church life.

After Wilf's passing, Marjorie remained fully committed to The Heatons URC, and latterly to HMUC. The decision to move from Derby Rd to Sparth Court was taken hastily, after Lesley had visited one day. She had seen that Marjorie was going to struggle with the outside wrought iron steps in Derby Rd, and spotted that there was a vacancy in Sparth Court. A quick visit was organised, and once they had seen the apartment and facilities an immediate decision was taken. Yes, she would move!

The first time I visited Sparth Court I could see that Marjorie was so happy with her new home. Marjorie was not one for staying in though.

Sparth Court was so close to the A6 that she would take many shopping trips into Stockport. As the years passed Marjorie's eyesight started to deteriorate, as did her back and legs. It was just 2 years ago that she found it uncomfortable to sit for too long, and her days as a regular attendee at HMUC were over. Despite her health problems Marjorie remained interested to hear all that might be going on within Church life and was always a pleasure to chat with.

Right to the end her Christian love and faith stayed with her. I will miss my visits!

Ian Anderson

## Julia Collinge 1943 - 2020

Here are just a few words from one old friend about another old friend, Julia Collinge (affectionately known to me as '**Jules**'), who sadly and unexpectedly passed away so recently.

Julia and I went through Sunday school years together and then Senior school, where, a year ahead of me, she achieved the status of Head Girl. She was obviously destined for greater things! Then our paths divided and we went our separate ways.

In those intervening years, Julia moved to London, where she worked for a number of years (in the Civil Service) before choosing to train as a teacher, when she then moved back up north to live in a lovely cottage in Glossop. She finally came back to her roots, settling here in Heaton Mersey, becoming a very active and respected member of and worker in, our Church. Her organisational skills (honed no doubt, through her years as a secondary school 'English teacher', in Bredbury) really came to the fore during her two 'stints' as a steward in our Church. Julia always strived for perfection, possibly ruffling a few feathers along the way but only because she cared so deeply and whatever she did, she gave of her best.

During our years together in choir, especially when we became 'joint' leaders, we worked well together and she was always a wonderful support to me. She loved to sing and her knowledge, memory and sense of humour were such a blessing -- to us all. Our annual session together, spent organising the seemingly endless choir folders for a carol service, went like clockwork after so many years of doing it and what could have been a chore, was an evening full of laughter between us. Her witty turn of phrase was such a gift and so reminiscent of her Mother, who was simply the best at 'One Liners', along with George Amans for those whose memories like mine, go back that far.

Oh! Happy Days!

Julia had been heavily involved in drama groups throughout her life and Church Socials which heavily benefited her for her many solo recitations and participation in sketches. She really was multi-talented, which she would deny, but then *We know better!!*

Her final 'role' before complete retirement was a GP's invaluable assistant/receptionist, loved by both patients and the GP and his family. That says it all.

Finally, Julia was always so elegant and gracious and I think most people would not disagree with that description but she was so much more than that. Most importantly, she was a warm, caring, generous, kind human being and we shall all miss her greatly.

RIP my friend.

Pauline Chatham

[www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk)

A green watering can is shown in the upper right corner, tilted as if pouring. A large, dense stream of small, colorful flowers in shades of pink, purple, orange, and white flows from the spout, filling the lower half of the image. Numerous butterflies in various colors, including yellow, orange, green, and blue, are scattered throughout the stream of flowers, appearing to fly along with them.

**Send in pictures of  
your garden, so we  
can have a virtual  
open garden in the  
next magazine.**