

**March, April, May 2020**

**Dean Row Chapel, Wilmslow SK9 2BX**

Dean Row Chapel website: [www.deanrowchapel.co.uk](http://www.deanrowchapel.co.uk)



**Services at Dean Row every Sunday at 11.15 a.m.**  
**Meditations – Wednesday 12.30pm - 1.00pm**

**Hale Chapel, Hale Barns, WA15 0AQ**

**Hale Chapel website: [www.halechapel.co.uk](http://www.halechapel.co.uk)**



**Services at Hale Chapel every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.**

**Minister Rev Jeff Gould**

**Tel. 01625 402952**

*From Later Life A Double Sonnet of Sonnets (10 & 11).*  
By Christina Rossetti

Tread softly! all the earth is holy ground.  
It may be, could we look with seeing eyes,  
This spot we stand on is a Paradise  
Where dead have come to life and lost been found,  
Where Faith has triumphed, Martyrdom been crowned,  
Where fools have foiled the wisdom of the wise;  
From this same spot the dust of saints may rise,  
And the King's prisoners come to light unbound.  
O earth, earth, earth, hear thou thy Maker's Word:  
"Thy dead thou shalt give up, nor hide thy slain"--  
Some who went weeping forth shall come again  
Rejoicing from the east or from the west,  
As doves fly to their windows, love's own bird  
Contented and desirous to the nest.

Lifelong our stumbles, lifelong our regret,  
Lifelong our efforts failing and renewed,  
While lifelong is our witness, "God is good:"  
Who bore with us till now, bears with us yet,  
Who still remembers and will not forget,  
Who gives us light and warmth and daily food;  
And gracious promises half understood,  
And glories half unveiled, whereon to set  
Our heart of hearts and eyes of our desire;  
Uplifting us to longing and to love,  
Luring us upward from this world of mire,  
Urging us to press on and mount above  
Ourselves and all we have had experience of,  
Mounting to Him in love's perpetual fire.

## Worship services at Hale Chapel and Dean Row Chapel

Services will be conducted by the Minister unless otherwise indicated

<b>March 2020</b>	<b>Hale Chapel 9.30am</b>	<b>Dean Row Chapel 11.15am</b>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	First Sunday in Lent	First Sunday in Lent
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Second Sunday in Lent	Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Third Sunday in Lent	Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Mothering Sunday	Mothering Sunday
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Fifth Sunday in Lent
<b>April 2020</b>		
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Maundy Thursday 6.00pm Holy Communion, meal at Dean Row	
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>		Good Friday Service 3.00pm Hale Chapel
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Minister's holiday: worship will be led by Tom Grimshaw	Minister's holiday: worship will be led by Tom Grimshaw
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday services led by Rory Castle Jones	Sunday services led by Rory Castle Jones
<b>May 2020</b>		
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Victory in Europe Celebrations	Victory in Europe Celebrations
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Christian Aid Week	Christian Aid Week
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday services	Sunday services
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Sunday after the Ascension	Sunday after the Ascension
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Pentecost/Whit Sunday	Pentecost/Whit Sunday

## **LETTER FROM THE MINISTER**

2020 is being kept as the 'Year of the Word' in a number of churches and church-related organisations in Britain and Ireland. There will be a focus on 'The God who Speaks' to us through the scriptures of different world religions, especially the Bible. Our own Lenten services will bear this in mind, as they will seek to encourage chapel members to discover the Bible with their 'hearts' as well as their minds and souls and strength. Scripture can provide a series of vital entry points through which the great themes and the different aspects of the relationship between God and human beings can be explored, the threads drawn together, leading potentially to our own change and transfiguration. This divine-human relationship is one that, for those who call themselves Christian, finds its consummation in the events of Passiontide and the Easter season. Our Sunday worship will deliberately focus around a number of 'heart-burning' passages of scripture complemented by music, and art and poetry on our journey through Lent. Each week in Lent our exploration will be of an Old Testament passage. The core passages will come from Genesis or Exodus—appropriately because these are the biblical books that we literally first encounter when we 'open the scriptures.' It is my hope that this foundation will provide structure for our shared Lenten exercise in preparing for the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter.

In response to the requests of several members of both Hale and Dean Row Chapels, our Lenten services will conclude each week with a different sung postlude. This is something that is very much in the Unitarian and Free Christian tradition. We will experiment with this additional element of worship and then reflect on its appropriateness for future use.

**JEFF**

## LENTEN LUNCHES

Churches Together in Wilmslow will once more offer lunches for the five Tuesdays in Lent in the Dean Row Chapel Hall. From twelve noon until 2 pm, two different soups will be served, accompanied by bread, cheese and fruit. The suggested donation per person is £5. All proceeds will be added to the total amount raised in this year's Christian Aid Week (10-17 May 2020). The following congregations will provide the soups on their respective Tuesdays:

3 March, Dean Row Chapel  
10 March, United Reformed Church  
17 March, St. Bartholomew's and St. Anne's,  
Church of England  
24 March, Wilmslow Methodist Church  
31 March, the Quakers and the Life Church

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

***Palm Sunday*** this year falls on 5 April. Palm branches will be distributed to visitors to worship on arrival that day.

***Maundy Thursday*** (9 April) will be observed in the Dean Row Chapel Hall with a simple service of Holy Communion that will be followed by a bring-and-share meal.

***Good Friday*** (10 April) will be marked by a devotional service at Hale Chapel, beginning at three o'clock in the afternoon. Hot cross buns with coffee and tea will be served in the chapel vestry and garden (weather permitting).

***Easter Sunday*** falls on 12 April this year. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered at both chapels on this day.

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**Blessed is the man who expects nothing,  
for he shall never be disappointed**

**Alexander Pope**  
Letter to Fortescue

# **DEAN ROW**

## **Dean Row Chairman's Letter - Chrissie Wilkie**

Yes, my lovely keen tomato growers, the seeds have been planted!

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January, we had a Congregational Development Evening. A goodly number of our congregation attended, and useful discussions were had. The aim of the evening was to look at how we develop in the future and how we might encourage more people to attend our Chapel. There will be follow up meetings and these will be announced in Chapel. I invite you to read a Cathedral Welcome (see below).

A delightful lady from Wilmslow has donated quite a large amount of fabric pieces to the Craft and Chatter group. We are in the process of turning them into tote bags, peg bags and pinnies etc. to sell at the Christmas Fair – yes already – if you would like to join us in making some please get in touch.

Oh dear, although this is a very special time in our Chapel calendar, the one thing which I dread is what to do for my Lenten fast. If you feel the same predicament do come and tell me what you decide to do – it just might give me some inspiration. How many times can you give up chocolate for 40 days? Or should it be gin this year – Help!!

I do wish you all a wonderful spiritual Holy Tide.

**Love to you all – Chrissie**

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## **Warden's Comments Submitted by Ian Booth**

Our Chapel has now been beautifully decorated with new lighting so a big thank you for everyone's patience whilst this was carried out. Special thanks to all who assisted in helping to achieve this.

Fly tipping continues to be a problem at the side of the Chapel so thanks to Kevin for contacting the Council who have been and assessed the latest situation. Hopefully it will be removed soon!

The recent storms have kept the Thursday boys very busy and they have done a very good job keeping the Chapel grounds in good order. Here's hoping the weather now improves so that we can all appreciate their efforts.

### **Women's League – Anne Gemmell - Secretary Women's League**

Our Party Meeting in February was a great success – thanks mainly to Chrissie Wilkie – who organised a quiz for us! After the business of the day was out of the way, we formed into groups of five or six and had a lovely hour of fun and laughter. This was followed by a yummy buffet with food which would have fed the whole of Wilmslow! Many thanks Chrissie.

Our next meeting is our AGM to take place on Thursday afternoon the 5<sup>th</sup> March. We are having Jayne Rudd to make us a meal beforehand and this is open to anyone who would like to join us. The cost is £14.00p, the place – our very own Hall, and the time – 12.00 noon for 12.30pm. Just let either Dorothy or Anne know if you would like to attend by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Finally, we are organising a visit from our Stalybridge Church on Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm. This is to renew the friendship we formed when we visited them last year. Again, everyone is welcome and we will be giving out more information during the Notices in chapel nearer the time.

We are hoping to put together a full Programme of Events to be ready for our AGM so watch this space or listen very carefully during chapel notices!!

**Love from Anne**

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**A friend of mind found this Notice in the Cathedral in Cape Town  
Submitted by Anne Gemmell**

### **A CATHEDRAL WELCOME**

**We extend a special welcome** to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable or dirt poor.

**We extend a special welcome** to wailing babies and excited toddlers. **We welcome you** whether you can sign like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

**We extend a special welcome** to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organised religion (*we're not that keen on it either!*)

**We offer a welcome** to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

**We welcome those** who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost in the city centre and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... **and you!**

***With kind permission of Coventry Cathedral***

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### **Mike's Musings – Mike Heale**

If Spirituality is to be effective, it must be well integrated and active within our lives:-

- 1) Some of the sadest people are those who adhere to all religious rituals, but seem to have no inner spirit and very little ability to walk in the shoes of the original founder of the religion or philosophy.
- 2) "The efficacy of religion depends on the degree in which it is well integrated into people's lives, and on the manner in which



people extend that belief system and framework into all aspects of their lives to the benefit of others”

*From Spirituality and Mental Health by Peter Gilbert (2012)*

Jesus criticised the Pharisees for their adherence to the rules of religion rather than the essence of spirituality.

- 3) At the core of spiritual truth is the capacity for healing and restoration. This identifies the potential capacity for the individual for liberation from ‘Past conditioning and affliction’.
- 4) “An awareness of spirit, then, potentially holds the key to our psycho-emotional recovery enabling us to ‘access the life-giving currents that flow beneath a divided world, offering it an opportunity for healing and renewal”.

*From Spirituality and Mental Health (2003) Derek Tracy*

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### **Meditation by Angela Herrera, UU Minister** *(adapted)*

Submitter by Rory Castle Joes from his service on the 16<sup>th</sup> February

Consider this an invitation to you.

Yes – you

With all your happiness

and your burdens,

your hopes and regrets.

An invitation if you feel good today,

And an invitation if you do not,

if you are aching –

and there are so many ways to ache...

Whoever you are, however you are,

Wherever you are in your journey,

This is an invitation into peace.

Peace in your heart,

-- with every breath –

Peace in your heart.

Maybe your heart is heavy  
or hardened.  
Maybe it's troubled  
and peace can take up residence  
only in a small corner;  
only on the edge,  
with all that is going on in the world,  
and in your life.

All that you need  
for a deep and comforting peace to grow  
lies within you.  
Once it is in your heart  
let it spread into your life,  
let it pour from your life into the world –  
and once it is in the world,  
let it shine upon all beings.

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Sidesman's Rota for March, April, May 2020		
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Mr I Booth	Mrs B Booth
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs D White	Miss E White
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs P Wood	Mrs B Robinson
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Mr P Weigh	Mrs M Weigh
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Mr A Earp	Mrs E Earp
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev P Johnson	Mrs A Slade
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Mrs C Best	Mrs E Godfrey
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Mr J Wenham	Mrs H Shaw
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Mr I Booth	Mrs B Booth
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Mrs D White	Miss E White
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs P Wood	Mrs B Robinson
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Mr P Weigh	Mrs M Weigh
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Mr K Upham	Mrs S McFadgen
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Mr A Cupper	Mrs M Cupper

**If the date allocated to you proves to be inconvenient please try to exchange it.** If you are unable to do so, please inform Elizabeth Earp so that an exchange can be arranged (0161 439 3079)

## **Dean Row Events for March, April, May 2020**

### **2.00pm Thursday 5th March**

Women's League AGM

### **10.30 Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> March** Lent Lunches will be held in the Chapel Hall hosted by Churches Together in Wilmslow

### **6.00pm Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday**

Holy Communion, meal at Dean Row

### **3.00pm Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Good Friday Service 3.00pm Hale Chapel

### **2.00pm Thursday 30th April**

Visit from Staybridge Church Congregation members

### **Craft and Chatter Group – Wednesdays at 2.00**

4<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 29 April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> May.

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## **Symbols of resurrection**

Taken from Eggs and Ashes by Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill

We have made a resurrection garden as a part of our gardens on the theme of the Christian spiritual journey. It was the hardest to make because resurrection gets so little time in our church life; Lent and Holy Week receive plenty of attention, but resurrection? A nod on Easter Day and then, generally, the great fifty days of Easter are ignored. So it was a challenge to express resurrection.

The first space is a Mary Magdalene garden, made enclosed yet open by having a circle of upright posts as a boundary. There is a stone (the stone rolled away) with a tree of heaven by it. We grow a few vegetables and have some old tools in the garden — a spade and a wheelbarrow — as Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener. On the yellow brick path is creeping thyme, and, close by, other sweet-smelling plants like the winter-flowering honeysuckle and camomile lawn, because Mary brought sweet-smelling herbs to the tomb. There is an almond tree in the centre of the garden, associated with Mary Magdalene because of the sound of its name in Greek, *amygdalus*. We have also planted a Mary Magdalene rose, which has a scent like myrrh.

The next area is a story-telling place to encourage people to tell their own resurrection stories. This is set underneath a hazel tree with two benches. As part of the floor between the benches there are two lines of tiles with an interweaving Celtic pattern — interweaving like our life experiences, of sorrow and joy, dark and light. The joy of Easter is not the surface joy of a party, but the joy that only comes through suffering, the joy that comes when God's perspective makes a new pattern of suffering. A resurrection pattern that does not deny the suffering but alters its perspective.

Hung in the story-telling place are butterflies, some made of CDs by a youth group, and others made from glass picked up off the streets of Bethlehem after Israeli tanks had rumbled through — butterflies made by Palestinians as a prayer for the resurrection of their country. Then there are a few coppiced trees. When you coppice a tree for fuel it grows again and again.

Next are 'surprise beds'. Alternately these have wheat — another symbol of resurrection — and flowers grown from seeds given to visitors. Visitors don't know what kinds of seeds they have been given to plant and, later in the year, get the nice surprise of the beautiful mix of flowers and plants they find growing.

The waterfalls took an entire winter to construct. We searched a number of quarries to find a deep yellow stone, and with help from the people from GrowWell (a project for people who have been mental health patients) cut into the bank to make an upper and lower pool, with two streams running between them — streams of life-giving water. By the upper pool is a hut which faces the dawn at Easter time. The floor of the hut is made of recycled plastic, the walls of living willow. It is at the highest point in the garden. All through the resurrection garden we try to have white or yellow flowers at all seasons, and the beech hedge gives a warm glow throughout the winter.

Each of our gardens has an environmental theme in synergy with the spirituality for that garden. In the resurrection garden the environmental theme is woodland, particularly deciduous woodland, so we have a small tree nursery there where we pot-on tree seedlings that we find. When these are large enough they will be planted locally; some are already planted alongside a local canal. Trees renew the air from pollution, trapping dust so it falls to the ground and releasing oxygen.

Symbols of resurrection are all around us if we have eyes to see, but best are the stories we can tell from our own lives, because resurrection is for now as well as eternity.

Chris Polhill

# **HALE CHAPEL**

## **Hale Chairman's Letter – Alastair Brown**

It's newsletter time already – where have the last three months gone!

The answer of course is that Christmas has also been and gone – but we'll soon be saying "it's nearly Christmas!". I have a theory that between the ages of say three and eight the distances between Christmas's seems like about five years. But as we get older the distances between Christmas's gets progressively less and less. No sooner have the Christmas decorations gone up into the attic and it's time to get them down again – or so it seems!

One other (random) thought about the Christmas festival – if turkey is so good why don't we eat it at other times during the year? I personally rather feel that turkey is a dry and rather tasteless meat whereas chicken is much tastier and more moist. But perhaps Christmas (the festival) wouldn't be Christmas without the ritual of eating turkey?

But I do like Christmas pudding..... When I was at boarding school many many years ago, they used to hide silver threepences within the pudding wrapped in greaseproof paper. If you found one, you handed it in and got a sixpenny piece in exchange. What would Health & Safety 2020 say about that?!

Our carol services this year went very well and the Chapel was pretty packed for the Christmas Eve service which I attended. We were lucky to have Oliver Turner and his sister Isabelle with us to sing a beautiful rendition of "Silent Night" and then Fiona Harrison took centre stage with her own recital of "On Holy Night". All three have simply stunning voices.

In previous years at this time of composing the March Newsletter, I've been able to say that there is a touch of Spring in the air. Not this year though – currently much of the country is under water and my thoughts and prayers go out to those whose homes and properties have been flooded. We in the North west seem to have been spared the worst effects. Let's hope we've nearly seen the last of it and Spring is just

round the corner. That's another thing about the aging process – Summer is very much my favourite season with the other three a long long way behind.

Best wishes to you all – and roll on Summer

Alastair

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FLOWER AND COFFEE ROTA FOR MARCH – APRIL – MAY 2020		
DATE	COFFEE	FLOWERS
<b>MARCH</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> March	B. Ellis/J. MacDermott	
8 <sup>th</sup> March	E. Taylor/S. Cobb	N. Houston
15 <sup>th</sup> March	H. Wilson/E. Jones	
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	M. Gallagher/A. Hart	
29 <sup>th</sup> March	L. Wilson/J. Allcock	
<b>APRIL</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup> April	B. Ellis/J. MacDermott	
12 <sup>th</sup> April	E. Taylor/S. Cobb	
19 <sup>th</sup> April	H. Wilson/E. Jones	
26 <sup>th</sup> April	M. Gallagher/A. Hart	
<b>MAY</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	L. Wilson/J Allcock	M. Taylor
10 <sup>th</sup> May	B. Ellis/J. MacDermott	
17 <sup>th</sup> May	E. Taylor/S. Cobb	
24 <sup>th</sup> May	H. Wilson/E. Jones	
31 <sup>st</sup> May	M. Gallagher/A. Hart	

***If you would like to donate flowers or give a small donation for the purchase of flowers to enhance our beautiful chapel for the Sunday services, please contact Margaret Taylor. 0161 980 3813***

**To all contributors and helpers *THANK YOU***

Do you have a special date in the year when you would like to have flowers placed in the chapel in memory of a loved one? Many people like to do this, and Margaret will be happy to add your name to the diary if you contact her.

## Hale Chapel Diary Dates for March, April, May 2020

**Chapel AGM-** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March after the service. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining the Chapel Committee please contact Alastair Brown (Chair)

**Thursday coffee mornings-** 12<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> June, in the vestry 10.30 – 12 noon

**Thursday Lunch Group-** 26<sup>th</sup> March –Booths 12.30, 30<sup>th</sup> April-The Bulls Head, Hale Barns, 28<sup>th</sup> May –The Bulls Head, 25<sup>th</sup> June – The Bulls Head.

**Good Friday Service –** 10<sup>th</sup> April 3pm

**Easter Sunday Service -**12<sup>th</sup> April -9.30 am

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### **SPACE**

*There's a space at the table where he used to sit  
There's a space in the wardrobe where his clothes used to fit  
There's a space in the garden with space all around  
But no birds sing, there isn't a sound  
There's space everywhere since we've been apart  
There's a space inside me in place of my heart.*

A poem written by OLWEN – a friend of LIZ WILSON

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### **Interesting People of Hale Chapel - by Helen Wilson**

Whilst looking through the old minute books of Hale Chapel the names of the Trustees/Committee members became familiar. The Crampton sisters who lived at 'Spring Vale' Wicker Lane were listed. Ann as a young girl stitched the beautiful sampler on display in the vestry.

Another name that was of interest was A. E. Paterson a solicitor. The Paterson grave is near the Cramptons on the left hand side of the chapel.

I was intrigued to find out more about the Paterson family and they proved to be significant members of the community, interested in social

reform, health, education, and particularly education and equal rights for women.

Dr Alexander Henry Paterson (1825-1862) and his wife Mary Chance Herford, daughter of a Manchester wine merchant residing in Altrincham set up a rural medical practice in the village of Swadlincote near Burton-on Trent, Derbyshire. Both came from Unitarian families. Mary did not like living in the village as the villagers were suspicious of a Dr who did not worship at the Parish Church. The practice did not flourish. Mary sick and depressed wanted to move back to Altrincham where she was born and had family. In 1848 they had a daughter Helen Mary Elizabeth and they decided to move to Altrincham the following year 1849. They lived at No 16 High Street (now Market Street) which was then part of the main Manchester to Chester road. In 1852 they moved to a house on The Downs and again in 1856 to a house Dr Paterson built at the top of St John's Road known as 'Oakfield' and now 'Levenshurst'. In March 1859 Dr Paterson became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and Practitioners. The family and practice flourished. The family increased to seven children. Helen had six siblings, 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Henry Walter Paterson (b1850), Alexander Edgar Paterson (b1852), Arthur Henry Paterson (b1862), Louisa Paterson (b1854), Caroline Paterson (b1856), Isabel Paterson (1859-1862).

The Paterson family enjoyed a happy and prosperous time in Altrincham and the children grew up to have interesting and influential lives, probably attending Hale Chapel and joining in with activities of the Unitarian community. Unfortunately in 1862 a severe epidemic of Diphtheria broke out in Altrincham which had many areas where people lived close together in poor housing with poor sanitary arrangements with no piped water drains, or sewage pipes. The disease spread quickly with such close contact and Dr Paterson faithfully tended his patients with the simple rudimentary treatment available at the time. A vaccine was not invented until the 1890's. Sadly in May Dr Paterson caught the disease himself and died within 4 days and his youngest daughter Isabel aged 3 years also caught the disease and died. Both are buried in the churchyard at Hale Chapel.

Amazingly, Mary Paterson pregnant with her seventh child and the rest of the children did not catch the disease. Her youngest son Arthur was born a month after his father's death. Mary now a widow with six young



children moved to Chorlton-cum Hardy, and then to Birmingham to be near the Paterson family who could help support her and educate the children. Alexander Edgar Paterson grew up to be a solicitor and came back to live in Bowdon and serve on the committee of Hale Chapel.

(Further instalment about the Paterson Family in the next issue)

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## **Do Unitarians celebrate Easter?**

Text taken for 'Unitarian? What's That?' by Rev Cliff Reed

Most Unitarians do, but with perhaps three separate, although not mutually exclusive, perspectives.

First there is the view that in the stories of Jesus' Resurrection we have a powerful myth. This celebrates the triumph of the human spirit, exemplified in Jesus, over all that would crush it, and even over death.

Second, from a more specifically Christian standpoint, is the belief that the loving spirit of Jesus triumphed over death and passed into the community of disciples who formed the early church. The body of the faithful thus became the physical resurrection, the risen body, of Christ. Inasmuch as a religious community continues to embody that loving spirit, then it continues to embody the resurrection. Most Unitarians would doubt the literal veracity of the Gospel resurrection accounts. Some, though, see them as based on vivid spiritual experiences undergone by several of Jesus' followers in the aftermath of his death. These then played an important part in convincing the disciples that his spirit was still among them.

The third principal way in which Unitarians celebrate Easter is as the festival of life's renewal in the spring. The earth's resurrection after winter's apparent death is something that affects us profoundly as dependent children of nature. Many Unitarians therefore feel that it is a time of deep spiritual significance in itself. They point out that the word "Easter" is derived from "Eastre", the name of the ancient Anglo-Saxon Goddess of spring, fertility and renewal.

Unitarians do not see any differentiation between the Holy Spirit and God, and use the words more or less interchangeably. We conceive of the Spirit as the active divine presence in individuals and communities, as the divine breath that gives us life, as that ineffable factor that binds us together.

The Spirit, for many Unitarians, is the divine mystery moving among us and within us as we work and worship. Indeed, for many, God as loving, creative Spirit is the primary concept of the divine.

**Dean Row Chapel Officers:**

**Chairman**

**Chrissie Wilkie Tel. 0161 439 8262;  
Email [chrissie@wilkies.me.uk](mailto:chrissie@wilkies.me.uk))**

**Treasurer:**

**Peter Shaw Tel. 01625 584881  
Email [pgshaw@aol.com](mailto:pgshaw@aol.com)**

**Secretary**

**Anne Gemmell Tel. 0161 637 5347  
[annegemmell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annegemmell@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Warden: Ian Booth 01625262819**

**Women's League Secretary:**

**Anne Gemmell Tel. 0161 637 5347**

**Flower Secretary:**

**Bridget Wenham Tel 01625 820772**

**Honorary Life President**

**Tony Cupper**

**Minister Emeritus**

**Rev Penny Johnson**

**Items for Newsletter to Chrissie Wilkie**

## **Hale Chapel Executive Committee**

### **Chairman**

**Mr. Alastair Brown    Tel.01925 262332**  
email: [alastair6451@aol.com](mailto:alastair6451@aol.com)

### **Secretary**

**Ms. Averil Hart    Tel. 0161 980 2811**  
email: [dumboah@btinternet.com](mailto:dumboah@btinternet.com)

### **Treasurer**

**Mrs. Margaret Taylor    Tel. 0161 980 3813**  
email: [me.taylor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:me.taylor@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Chapel Fabric**

**Dr. Jean Ormerod    Tel 0161 929 7945**  
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### **Junior Church**

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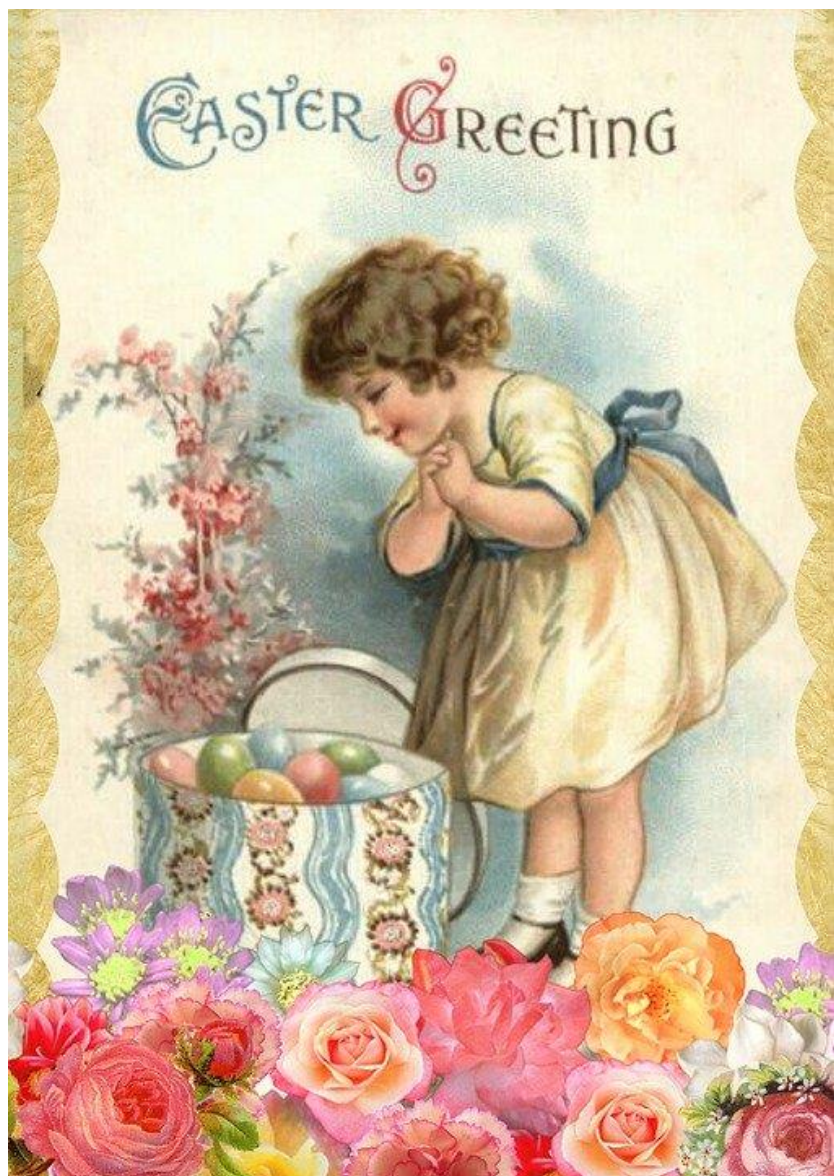
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May the gifts of Easter  
Cause you much delight,  
And the sun of Easter  
Make your pathway bright.