



Your Church, Our Community

As I look forward to 2025 I do so with a lot of optimism. That's partly down to character, as I am naturally a 'glass half full' kind of man; much to other people's frustrations at times. It's partly because there are some plans in place that I'm excited about and looking forward to. But, its mainly because even though I don't know what the future holds, I do know WHO holds the future. I am convinced that God has good plans for us this coming year.

I've found myself reflecting on some words from one of my favourite Bible passages over recent months, Isaiah 61:1-4. It speaks of how God's Spirit is upon the prophet to speak out God's words. And the prophet goes on to talk about broken people, those whose lives are all tied up in knots, those who are grieving, those living through times of darkness. I know quite a lot of those people at the moment and within our wider community there are a great deal more.

What the prophet says is that they are the people who will be involved in a kind of a rebuilding. Whilst the grief is still real God will provide what they need, and he will turn ashes into beauty, mourning into gladness and despair into praising.

And then we read this: *"They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations."* (Isaiah 61:4)

That is not to minimize the difficulties that people are living through and it is certainly not saying that really unhelpful comment, "Just pull yourself together." It's not that at all. But, what it is, is saying that those who have lived through so much and continue to do so have a real purpose. It is about saying that such people understand what life can really be like better than most others. It's about saying that they can be a lead in us putting our world right.

And that is not just about people in our church too. One of our plans for this year is to explore how we can do things better with our wider community. One of the things I like the most about the Church of England is the parish system. In theory everybody in our country has their own parish church and their own vicar; even if they don't usually want them. But, if you need us then we are here and we are yours. But, this is our community - for all of us.

So, in 2025 let us all (church, community, those of us who live here) work with those who know what life is really about, and work together to put our part of the world as right as it can be. If we can even start to do that, then what an amazing year we could have ahead of us.

God bless,

Paul

IN THIS ISSUE

5 Ways to Improve your Finances in 2025

This month's article from Christians Against Poverty (Page 2)

The Green Zone

This month's top tip of something we can do better to look after the environment. (Page 2)

Something New in 2025

Find out about something we are trialling at All Hallows - 'Church & Community Transformation'.. (Page 3)

New or Visiting

The back page has some pieces of information about our church and services that you might find helpful (Page 4)

5 Ways to Improve your Finances in 2025

christians
against
poverty

CAP

Why not make it your New Year's resolution this year to prioritise your financial health? Many of us face money worries post-Christmas, and here at Christians Against Poverty (CAP), we want to share five top tips to empower you to take control of your finances.

1. Find out your financial personality

We all have different habits when it comes to managing money. CAP's free, online [money personality quiz](#) can help you to better understand your spending habits and provides useful tips on building a healthier relationship with money.

2. Create a personal budget

Creating a personal budget is key to understanding your financial situation in order to make positive changes. A balanced budget will help give you a clear picture of how much money you have coming in each month, what you're spending and where you're spending it. It can also help you with saving for the future. Download CAP's budgeting guide at capuk.org/budgeting to create your own personal budget.

3. Cut back, cut costs and cut out

To make your money go further, you can reduce spending by cutting back (reducing how much or how often you buy something); by cutting the expenditure out completely (identifying if it's a need or want), or by cutting the cost (finding it cheaper elsewhere).

Consider buying second-hand, shopping around for the best price, and use discount codes where you can. Plan ahead to give you plenty of time to shop around, and use price comparison sites and online search engines to find the best deal. For grocery shopping, look for the cheapest supermarket, plan your shopping list ahead of time, and try not to shop when you're hungry. Shopping in the evening may also lead to discounts on food approaching expiration dates.

4. Build up an emergency fund

It's important to save for future emergencies. Start small so that it's manageable within your budget, and set up your bank account to transfer the money into a savings account automatically each month so that you're not tempted to spend it. An emergency fund can offer huge peace of mind if and when unexpected costs arise.

5. Seek free help

Find out how CAP can help you further improve your financial situation. We provide free, expert debt advice, guidance on finding work and money education, all delivered face-to-face so you'll receive an effective combination of practical and emotional support. You can find more information on all CAP's services in your area at capuk.org/help. If you're struggling with unmanageable debt, call our free helpline on **0800 328 0006**.

Alternatively, visit moneyhelper.org.uk for a wide range of support.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 800 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

The Green Zone



Princes William and Harry have both talked fondly about walks that they used to have with their dad (now King Charles III) when they were younger. They would go through the countryside, or over some hills with bin bags in their own bags. As they walked they would pick up the rubbish, and take it back with them. By their own admission they thought that 'everybody did it'.

In the early days of the New Year you might well be going out for a family walk. Or maybe on a Saturday if the weather is actually dry, you might try to get some exercise and be out in the light during the dark, cold winter months.

Why not take a bin bag and tidy the area that you walk in as you go?

Something New in 2025

What is Church & Community Transformation



Other names given to CCT Journey:
Finné le Dóchas (Witness to Hope) - Ireland
Koumi Istaneeri (Arise Shine)
Umoja (Along Side and With) - Kenya
Unidos (Together) - Bolivia

Church and Community Transformation is based on the following three points in the biblical narrative:

God's intention for the world is good

He created a perfect world where humanity was created in the image of God to live in union with God, ourselves, each other and all of creation. To live in a place of Shalom.

Current state of brokenness

Following the fall, this perfect state was disrupted and poverty and brokenness entered the world. Humanity's relationship with God was broken, our identity as humans was distorted, our relationships with one another became full of selfishness, envy and power and our relationship with the created world was marred by greed, exploitation and toil. The poverty we see now is a consequence of this brokenness.

God's restorative plan and the role of the church

When God sent Jesus to die on the cross and be raised to life he made a way for these relationships to be restored; for humanity to once again live in shalom with God, ourselves, one another and all creation. Although Jesus accomplished this on the cross we won't see the fullness of this restoration until Jesus returns. Until then He calls his church to partner with Him in this ministry of reconciliation and bring the good news to all parts of life so humanity can experience more of this restoration now.

Building on this theology Church and Community Transformation is a journey that empowers and equips churches to live out this integral mission.

"They might be hidden but people in desperate need, need to be supported to change and throwing money at them won't change them. We need to help them see they have the agency to make the change themselves. If we can help and support Christians to listen to God, we help people realise they have the key to unlocking their situation" (Mothers' Union)

Overcoming poverty in the community is approached holistically and from within, as people realise their potential and recognise the resources God has given them.

The results everywhere are astounding – the church impacting its immediate community in such a way that it influences important decisions that affect the way of life of the church and the community; the church motivating its immediate community to transform challenging situations sustainably; relationships among people being restored in a lasting manner; people supporting one another to meet their needs; people addressing their physical and spiritual poverty deeply and extensively; people honouring and worshipping God more consciously; and much more.

New or Visiting?

First Time Here?

If it's your first time here then welcome! It's great to have you with us. Here are a few short notes that you might find helpful.

Relax - You're our guest, so make yourself at home. If there is anything that you would like to know then ask one of the Welcome Team by the front door.

We don't expect guests to give - For those who are members or regular attenders there is an offering plate at the back, but we don't ask our guests for any money.

We have a Loop System - Switch your hearing aid to T-coil.

You might find it useful to sit towards the middle.

Hang around afterwards - Come and join us for a cup of tea or fresh coffee, and for a chat—drinks are served in the hall and we usually gather in the lounge to chat.

Prayer - If you would like someone to pray with you — either prayer for you or for someone you know — there are people who would love to do so after the service. Please make yourself known to the service leader.

Children & Youth - Once a month, the whole church worships together. On other weeks, there is a Sunday School for primary aged children. One of the Welcome Team can show you where Sunday School meets. For pre-school age children, there are green tables at the side of church with activities. Please don't be embarrassed if your children make any noise—they are welcome here and are part of the service, too! All our children and youth leaders have DBS checks and have undergone safeguarding training.

Next Steps

We are all on a journey through life, and our faith is no different. Depending upon where you are on your journey with God here are some 'Next Steps' you could take:

COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

Commit to follow Jesus today!

RE-COMMIT TO CHRIST

It's never too late for a fresh start with faith.

DECLARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM

If you feel you've made a commitment to God but have never been baptised, then this could be a great step for you.

JOIN A LIFE GROUP

If you're not in one, there are a number of groups that meet in homes throughout the week to get to know each other better, look at the Bible and pray together.

BE PART OF THE MISSION

There are lots of ways you can use your gifts to serve God, his Church and the wider community. Speak to one of the church team to find out more.

JANUARY 2025

Sunday 5th

10:00 Family Commissioning Service
(followed by Bring & Share Lunch)

6:30 Evening Communion Service

Monday 6th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

Wednesday 8th

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Friday 10th

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

Sunday 12th

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

Monday 13th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

Wednesday 15th

9:00-1:30 Light Café

9:30-11:00 Messy Toddlers

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Friday 17th

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

Sunday 19th

10:00 Morning Communion Service &
Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

Monday 20th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

7:30 PCC

Wednesday 22nd

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Friday 24th

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

Sunday 26th

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

Monday 27th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

Wednesday 29th

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:30 BCP Holy Communion

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Thursday 30th

10:00 Social Night

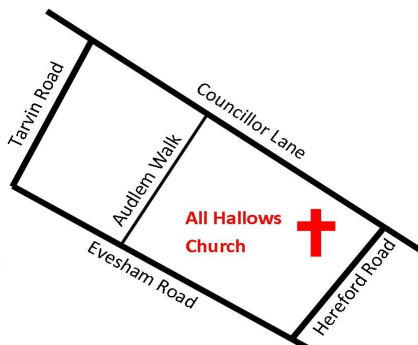
Friday 31st

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

Contact Details

All Hallows Church Office
222 Councillor Lane
Cheadle, SK8 2JG

0161 428 9121
allhallows.cheadle@gmail.com
allhallows-church.org.uk



If you would like to make a one-off donation to the work of All Hallows Church you can do so by using the QR Code.