
Altrincham United Reformed Church

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Kenneth Lea.

**December 2011 / January 2012 - Selected items from VISION
Brian Jolly shares news about an exciting opportunity
coming up in January!**

Altrincham Interfaith Group (AIG) visit to

Altrincham United Reformed Church (AURC)

The date? Thursday 12th January 2012.

The time? 7.30pm.

The place? Altrincham United Reformed Church, Trinity Hale.

The purpose? This is one of a series of visits to places of worship of the faith groups which belong to AIG, to promote understanding, friendship and co-operation between people of different faiths. It will also be an opportunity to think about the key features of a Reformed understanding of the Christian faith.

The title? 'By God's grace alone - Sola gratia'

Who will be coming? You, we hope, along with other AURC members from Trinity Hale and Woodlands Timperley, together with visitors from member churches of the local ecumenical bodies

to which we belong and visitors from the local Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh and Muslim faith groups.

Who will be speaking? The main speaker will be Revd Dr John Parry, Acting Principal of Northern College whose field of teaching is Missiology and World Faiths. Although an academic, John has an engaging manner and an ability to communicate the heart of the matter with a light touch and humour.

Who is organising the gathering? The evening is hosted by Altrincham United Reformed Church on behalf of Altrincham Interfaith Group.

What will happen during the evening? There will be a tour of the church's premises, an introduction to the life of Altrincham United Reformed Church, the main talk by John Parry, an opportunity for questions and a time to meet and chat with others over refreshments.

How long will it all last? A maximum of 2 hours.

Would some help in preparation and on the night be welcome?
Most certainly – please speak to Edmund Shaw or Brian Jolly.

Can someone give me a lift? Yes, of course – please contact Lynn in the Church Office on 929 9747.

Can we invite friends and neighbours? Yes, please do – all are welcome.

If we have other questions who do we contact? Edmund or Brian.

Why should I attend, and encourage others?

- To be hospitable and help provide a warm welcome to our visitors;
- To increase your knowledge and understanding of the Reformed tradition of the Christian faith;
- To help build good relationships between the different faith communities in this area;
- To support AURC in this important event in our life;
- To play a constructive part in answering our prayers for greater harmony and understanding within the communities of Altrincham and south Manchester.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Brian Jolly writes ... It always seems strange writing about Christmas during the middle of November when even the beginning of Advent is several weeks away. A discussion with colleague ministers recently highlighted a common concern that the commercial world has stolen Advent from the church by insisting that we think 'Christmas' all through Advent if not long before - hence the reluctance on the part of many ministers and clergy to include too many Christmas carols in worship during the season of Advent. So it is with a rather peculiar feeling that I write in mid-November to offer all readers of *Vision* a ***Happy Christmas*** - but I do so sincerely, praying, too, that as we travel together in worship during Advent we may be prepared and blessed, so that our Christmas celebrations this year may reveal to us anew and afresh that ***God is with us*** and calling us as individuals and as a local church to engage with him in his mission in the world.

HALE LIGHT ORCHESTRA

Members and friends of Altrincham URC will have noted that 'Music for a Winter's Afternoon' has been missing from the Church's calendar. After discussion, the aim is to have a Summer Concert in 2012 reflecting either the Queens Jubilee or the Olympics, or even both. More news in the New Year.

VOLUNTARY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2012

It is intended to distribute the voluntary offertory envelopes for 2012 at the end of November. If you do not currently participate in the scheme and wish to do so, please contact Jennifer Maratos at Woodlands or Marueen Austin at Trinity Hale. Additionally, if you have any questions about the voluntary offertory envelope scheme, please ask Jennifer or Maureen in the first instance.

Copy for the February issue of *Vision* should be handed to any member of the Magazine Panel (Ian Allan, Roger Budenberg, Enid Edwards or Kenneth Lea) by 15th January

BIBLIOS

**The Days of Christmas and the New Year to come
Draw near – time for a little Cheer.**

**Insults from an era before the English Language came down to
four letter words!**

A Member of Parliament to Disraeli: “Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease”. “That depends, Sir” said Disraeli “ whether I embrace your policies or your Mistress”.

“He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire” – Winston Churchill.

“I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure” – Clarence Darrow.

“He has never been known to use a word that might send the reader to a dictionary” – William Faulkner about Ernest Hemingway.

“Thank you for sending me a copy of your book, I’ll waste no time reading it” – Attributed to Dorothy Parker and Moses Hadas.

“ I didn’t attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it” – Mark Twain.

“He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends” – Oscar Wilde.

“ I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play. Bring a friend, if you have one.” (George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill) “Cannot possibly attend the first night but will attend the second – if there is one” – Winston Churchill’s reply.

“He is a self-made man and worships his creator” – John Bright.

“I’ve just learned about his illness. Let’s hope it is nothing trivial”. – Irvin S. Cobb.

And Oscar – again: “ Some cause happiness wherever they go, others, whenever they go”.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

**The Magazine Team would like to wish all our readers
a very Happy Christmas
and good wishes for the New Year.**