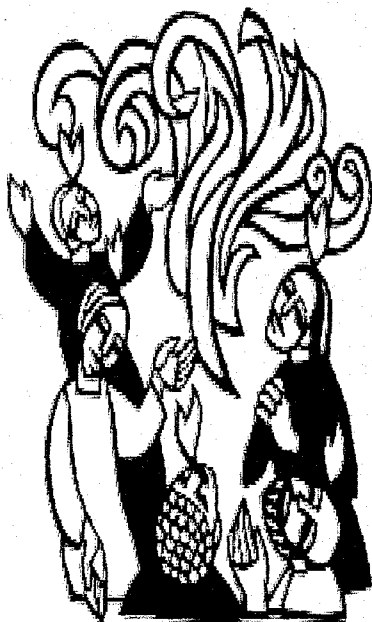


Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

*Egerton Rd South, Chorlton-cum-Hardy,
Manchester, M21 0XJ*

May 2016



Holy Spirit of God,
Light a flame in us,
Burning for justice,
Glowing with kindness,
Shining with hope
For the end of poverty
And the peace of all people
In this ever-turning world.

Amen.

*Adapted from Creation Sings Your Praise, edited by
Annabel Shilson-Thomas, Canterbury Press, 2009*

Secretary

Kath Lacy

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From the Editor..... May 2016



Proclaiming God's Kingdom

By a happy coincidence the start of Christian Aid week coincides exactly with Pentecost, the moment when the Holy Spirit empowers the disciples to leave their hiding place and go out into the world to speak of God's Kingdom with God's voice. This reflection is taken from Christian Aid Week's website with thanks to Rev Simon Couper, curate of Tonbridge Parish:

Following Jesus' ascension, the disciples followed his command to wait prayerfully and patiently in Jerusalem. Though they had received the promise of the Holy Spirit, the reality of Pentecost surpassed expectations, as God breathed new life into his world.

Tradition has it that wind and fire dramatically accompanied God's voice to Moses on Mount Sinai. In the Pentecost story we see the tongues of fire and we hear a sound like a mighty wind, but where is the voice? Did God remain silent? No! The great treasure of Pentecost is that God speaks through the disciples as they are filled with the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit does not just speak through one prophet, but is poured out on all of Jesus' disciples.

At Pentecost, the Church is sent out into the world to change it. The Church is given the Holy Spirit, and with it the charge to speak out wherever there is injustice, whenever the world is not as God wants it to be. This is why Christian Aid is charged by the churches to do what it does. We are called to be a prophetic witness where there is injustice, such as the changing of our climate. Christian Aid Week is an exciting opportunity to be part of the practical work of restoring good order to our world. Following the transformative work of the Spirit means speaking up to those in power, pressing for decisions and laws that make it possible for everyone to flourish.

We are not alone in this. Jesus promises us that with the Spirit and in his name we will achieve even greater things than he.

AMEN

Electronic and Social Media for the Morning Congregation

At the April Elders' meeting we discussed how the morning congregation might best progress in our use of Electronic Media. At present we have an out-of-date website and a Facebook page kindly maintained by Walt Johnson of the Metropolitan Congregation. Metropolitan Church are very "tech savvy" - with such a geographically spread congregation and the particular circumstances of many of them, electronic media and communications are a necessary part of their mission. You can browse their website at <http://metropolitanchurch.org.uk/> .

I think you will be pleasantly surprised at how attractive the church building looks, both inside and out!

The consensus at Elders' meeting was that the first thing to do was simply to update our existing website with up to date information. Once we have done this we can start to consider what we want from our website? Some ideas so far:

- Make it *the* place to go for up to date information on events, services, church news
- Make available electronic copies of the Bulletin and sermons. Metropolitan Church also make recordings of their sermons and make them available on the website
- Link to websites / Facebook pages of users of the buildings
- Link to campaigns such as Christian Aid, Trade Justice, Church Action on Poverty

Walt and Philip have offered us some technical and creative support but we need your help and your ideas. How can we show the electronic world our mission and our identity as the Morning Congregation of Wilbraham St Ninians URC?

How could we use electronic media - website, Facebook, Twitter, even an electronic version of the Bulletin - facilitate our mission and our message? What do we want it to do for us?

News Round up

Family News

Following her Assessment Conference at Westminster College on 8th and 9th April, **Lee Gellatley** (Battle) learned on 22 April that she has been accepted for training as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the United Reformed Church. Morning and afternoon congregations are delighted with this news and we send our warmest congratulations to Lee.

A big "Happy Birthday" goes out to **May Branney** who will be 90 years old on May 1st. We have sent her a card signed by many of the congregation.

Ruth Dillon made an unexpected visit to Manchester and called in to see Kath Lacy. Ruth is keeping well, is very busy with her 2 churches and is generally enjoying life. The death of her Mother, Aunt and cousin within months of each other shocked the family. Ruth's grandson William is starting Secondary school in September (how did he grow up so fast?!) and the latest grandson Matthias is proving to be a lively character. Ruth looks after him every Friday.

Susan Parry of the afternoon congregation has returned from her extended stay in the south of England. We have missed her and I'm told that Chorlton Folk Club has missed her guitar playing and singing! (*she's really good! Ed.*)

It's that time of the year again for our young people and we wish **Alex Hall** all the best in her "AS" levels, and also wish Rosa Hall, Rowena Salmon and Rosa Pearks good luck in their university examinations and coursework. Our prayers are with everyone taking examinations or tests at this time – we hope you are working hard and you get the results that you deserve.

We were delighted to see **Rev Andy Braunston** and **Ian** in the congregation on April 24th. They were somewhat surprised to be surrounded by Scouts and their leaders, but took it all in their stride and it was good to hear how Andy's training for URC ministry is going.

Church News

The **District Scouts** were greatly impressed with their St. George's Day Service and Mel Hall received a personal e-mail of thanks from Akela Sandra Lancashire. Arthur Brandeth (from Chorlton Good Neighbours and a Scout Leader) also thanked Wilbraham St. Ninian's (via Kath Lacy) for the hospitality, warm welcome and lovely service put on for the scouts. A massive "Thank you" goes to everyone who helped on the day. Sheila's and Alastair's Award of Merit did not go unnoticed by the District Commissioner.

The church now has **Wi-Fi** installed. We are thankful for Walt Johnson's expertise in setting up the quite complex (and necessary) security arrangements for the various users of the building. The wi-fi has already been put to good use. Melanie Hall used it to play a "YouTube" clip in her service for the scouts. At the last Elders meeting a Skype link allowed Jenny-Anne Bishop to take part in the meeting from her home in North Wales. The afternoon congregation are able to take advantage of the wi-fi link, which is a particular benefit for our asylum seekers.

Walt mentioned that he maintains an album of **Brenda Beckett's** flowers on the Metropolitan Church's "Facebook" page. The photographs of the flowers attract 70 – 100 Facebook "likes" per week from around the world!

At the beginning of May **Mel Hall** and **Elia Burton** are attending the 2016 Lay Preacher's Conference at Luther King House, titled "Words and Images for Worship". We are sure that they will bring back loads of ideas for our Worship Group to use in services!

Dates & Rotas

May 1	Worship Group: Chris Burton
May 5	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
May 8	Rev Fleur Houston Communion
May 12	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
May 15 Pentecost	Worship Group: Melanie Hall
May 15	Christian Aid Evening Service Chorlton Central URC 6.30 pm
May 19	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
May 22 Trinity Sunday	Rev Valerie Davies
May 26	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
May 29	United Service at Chorlton Methodist Church
June 5	TBA

Readers & Readings

Taken from "Roots on the Web" 2016 Revised Common Lectionary Year C

May 1	Sian Richards	<i>Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22 – 22.1-5; John 14:23-29</i>
May 8	Brenda Beckett	<i>Acts 16.16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17.20-26</i>
May 15	Alastair Lyall	<i>Genesis 11.1-9; Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b;</i>
May 22	Cathy Morgan	<i>Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5.1-5; John 16.12-15</i>
May 29	At Chorlton Methodist	<i>1 Kings 8.22-23,41-43; Psalm 96.1-9; Galatians 1.1-12; Luke 7.1-10</i>
June 5	Kath Lacy	<i>1 Kings 17.17-24; Psalm 30; Galatians 1.11-24; Luke 7.11-17</i>

**** Please check readings with the preacher in good time before the service ****

Thank you to Kath Lacy for producing the Readers' Rota.

Please look at the Tea and Flower Rotas at the back of the church – please sign up if you can help.

CHORLTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2016

At Wilbraham St Ninians URC

Saturday 21 May	13:00	The Vonnegut Collective (New music)	Free
Saturday 21 May	19:30	Ordsall Acapella singers (and cake)	£5 / £3
Wednesday 25 May	19:30	Barton Theatre Company: "Like There's No-one Watching"	Free
Friday 27 May	20:15	Ren Harvieu/ Romeo Stoddart	£15 / £13
Saturday 28 May	20:00	A Ceilidh with The Beech Band	£5



Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week 2016 runs from 15 -21 May. It has been called “the single largest act of Christian Witness”

and is the UK’s longest-running door to door collection. This year the focus is on Bangladesh and on Climate Change. Thanks you to those who have already volunteered – your efforts are really appreciated. We hope as many people as possible will be able to collect; if not perhaps you could “Take 5” and give envelopes to 5 friends or acquaintances instead? Please see George or Mel before or after services.

A joint Christian Aid service will be held at Chorlton Central Church on the evening of Sunday 15 May at 6.30.

Synod Roadshows

North West Synod is running a “roadshow” around the Synod Areas (one 2- - 4pm and one 7 -9 pm in each Area) with the opportunity for every church to hear more about the deployment issue we have to deal with as a Synod, and how each congregation has something to contribute to the way forward:

Area	Date	2 – 4 pm	7 – 9 pm
South Synod Area	Wednesday 29 June	Aittrincham (Hale) URC	Gatley URC
Central Synod Area	Tuesday 12 July	St Andrew's & St George's	Hurst Nook, Ashton
Lancashire Synod Area	Friday 1 July	Poulton-le-Fylde URC	Fulwood URC
Cumbria Synod Area	Thursday 21 July	Cockermouth URC	Grange-over-Sands

Synod would like church members and Elders to attend in order to hear as wide a range of views and ideas as possible. You are welcome to attend another Area’s meeting if you cannot attend the “local” roadshow.