

Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

Egerton Rd South, Chorlton-cum-Hardy,
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June 2016



Secretary

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SAINTS WHO HAVE WALKED OUR ROADS

A Northumbrian prayer

We thank God for the saints who have walked
our roads:

for Aidan who refused to give up on us

for Hilda who nurtured us

for Cuthbert who led us

for Josephine who spoke up for prostitutes
for miners from Jarrow who marched for justice

for Bede who wrote our history

for Bega who left footprints in the snow

God who calls us to be saints,
fill us with laughter and courage,
set us on fire with your love and justice.

Walk with us on our roads. Amen

*Ruth Burgess. "Bare Feet and Buttercups", Wild Goose
Publications, 2008 Glasgow*

From the Editor..... June 2016



Ordinary Time, Ordinary Saints

Having negotiated Easter and Pentecost we are now in the time the church calls “Ordinary Time” when nothing much happens until we get to All Saints Day and Advent in the start of winter. This time of year sees many feast days of the Celtic saints. On 9th June it is the feast day of St Columba, who journeyed from Ireland in a tiny boat, ending up on the isle of Iona. Here he founded an abbey, from where monks travelled to the Scottish mainland and Northern England. One of the important features of Celtic Christianity was the monastic community; this was not enclosed in the way we would recognise now, but something closer to the Buddhist tradition, whereby people could study, worship and live with the community for a time but then return home. They might retire to the monastery in their old age. The monasteries provided hospitals, employment and also help for the poor, so they were very much a part of their community, rather than apart from it. The sacred was very much wrapped up in the ordinary!

To make you smile, here is an extract from “Bare Feet and Buttercups”, an Iona publication full of resources for “Ordinary Time”. A class of schoolchildren in Northumbria were learning about Bede, who entered the monastery at St Peter’s as a child. They enjoyed helping each other write letters of recommendation about themselves to the Abbot of the monastery:

DEAR ABBOT

Dear Abbot, This is Tony. He is strong. He will feed the horses. He helps people. He likes music. He is as strong as a lion.

Dear Abbot, This is David. He will try and work hard. He sleeps well at night. He likes to grow things. He is seven years old. His birthday is on June 4th.

Dear Abbot, This is Ian. He will try to work. He can colour in well. His friend is Robert.

Dear Abbot, This is Emma. She is tall. She likes working. She is a very good reader. She is a good writer. She is a good drawer. She is eight. She looks after her brother and sister, and she wants to look after people who are sick.

Dear Abbot, This is Jonathan. He is a good drawer and writer. He tidies up for me. Jonathan is fussy what he eats. He will like to help to do the pictures in the books.

Dear Abbot, This is Terri. She will be good and she will go to work at the pigsty. She will go to bed at seven o'clock. She will do the dishes.

Dear Abbot, This is Mandy. She would do anything for you. She would make the tea and she would do it properly. She would not stop. She would clean up and her birthday is 12th of June and she is seven.

Dear Abbot, This is Gary. He is good. He is a good worker. When you say go to bed he does.

Dear Abbot, This is Mark. He tries to paint properly.

Dear Abbot, This is Philip. He is good. He is strong and does lots of exercises. He will work with Tony. He has big muscles.

Dear Abbot, This is Stacey. She would like to work with some horses. Sometimes she gets a stomach ache and a headache when she goes to bed.

Dear Abbot, This is William. Sometimes he is a fighter. He is polite. He is strong. He likes singing and he wants to learn how to read and write.

Dear Abbot, This is Cindy. She is a hard worker. She would guard the Abbey. She can draw well. She drinks lots of milk. She likes to eat egg sandwiches.

Dear Abbot, This is Haley and she will go to bed at seven o'clock because she is seven years old. She is very good at doing things like washing up. She is good at playing games.

She goes to sleep and she never snores.

Dear Abbot, This is Leanne. When she goes to bed she goes fast asleep. She can dress herself.

To all our "ordinary saints", may the sacred never be too far from the "ordinary" in your lives.

News Round up

Family News

Kath Lacy's older brother, David, collapsed in M&S in Burton-on-Trent just over a week ago. He was taken to hospital in an ambulance and was diagnosed with an acute respiratory infection. Because he was not carrying any I.D. it took 2 days for the authorities to contact his relatives. Fortunately Kath was able to get over to Burton on Trent to see David. He is responding to a cocktail of antibiotics and is thankfully on the mend and back home. Please keep David and Kath in your prayers.

This summer, **Mario Posada**, returns to his home country of Colombia to take up a new job bringing the Arts to life in the district around Venecia, where he and **Sue** have a house. He hopes that his first activity will be to ride around the district with a mobile cinema and if this sounds like the Italian film, Cinema Paradiso, it is meant to! Although this is an exciting opportunity for Mario to do something he has always wanted to do, it will mean long periods of time away from Sue, Lauren and Nadia. We wish Mario every success in his new venture and hope that things work out well for the Posada family.

The afternoon congregation had wonderful news regarding the granting of asylum to **Christelle Fansi** and **Martha Kitaka**. We are delighted that the merits of Martha's case have been recognised early - effectively at the first decision-making stage in the asylum process - even though the procedure remains painfully slow and filled with stress, uncertainty and delays for the asylum seekers themselves. God bless you Martha and Christelle!

There was also sad news for the afternoon congregation of the death of **Jane Hallewell**, a regular worshipper with the Metropolitan Congregation, who became a member of Wilbraham St. Ninian's in October last year. While undergoing a major depressive episode, tragically Jane brought her

own life to an end on 11th May. During the 4.30pm service with the afternoon congregation there will be a memorial ceremony to remember Jane. Our prayers go to Jane's family, her friends, her work colleagues, and all who were touched by her life.

More sad news, this time from our friends at Manley Park Methodist Church. **John Cavill**, their regular organist and Christian Aid co-ordinator, has died after a short incurable illness. John was diagnosed with a rare form of CJD and died within 6 weeks. On Friday 3rd June, John had a green funeral attended by family and close friends, followed by a service at Manley Park to celebrate his life. Former colleagues from the Open University attended the packed service.

Church News

Please remember to put the **Church Meeting** in your diaries for Sunday 19 June at 1.45. There are important things to discuss and the Elders will need your views on the issue of deployment of ministers within North West Synod ready to take to the Synod roadshows in June and July (see back page).

A new **Bible Readers' Rota** is on its way. The current one goes up to the end of July and can be seen at the back of the church (for those whose rotas didn't quite last the 6 months!). We are so grateful to Kath for organising this rota, and we are thankful to be blessed with so many willing and able readers!

A huge thank you goes to everyone who collected for and contributed to **Christian Aid Week**. It seems to get more difficult each year, but people still trudge the streets of Chorlton and Whalley Range knocking on doors! If you haven't yet brought in your takings please give them to George or Mel at church, or leave them in the safe if neither are around.

Dates & Rotas

June 5	Lee Gellatley
June 9	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
June 12	Rev Dr Jack McKelvey Communion
June 16	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
June 19 Fathers' Day	Rev Dr Lesley Husselbee
June 19	Church Meeting 1.45 pm
June 23	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
June 26	Rev Raj Patta
June 26	4.30pm Refugee Week Commemorative Service
June 30	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
July 3	Rev Dr Walter Houston

Readers & Readings

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

June 5	Kath Lacy	<i>1 Kings 17:17-24; Psalm 30; Galatians 1.11-24; Luke 7.11-17</i>
June 12	Mandy Pearks	<i>2 Samuel 11:26 –12.10,13-15; Psalm 32; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36–8.3</i>
June 19	Ian Meadowcroft	<i>Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39</i>
June 26	Barbara Williams	<i>1 Kings 19.15-16,19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5.1,13-25; Luke 9.51-62</i>
July 3	Chris Burton	<i>Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6.(1-6),7-16; Luke 10:1-11,16-20</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

Volunteers Needed!

Please sign up for the Tea Rota if you are at all able.

Help would be much appreciated, even if you can only manage the odd Sunday

Contributions to the Flower Fund also welcome any time!

Thank you

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	Altrincham (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.

National Refugee Week

20th-26th June is **National Refugee Week**. From 20 to 26 June, Refugee Week 2016 will celebrate the welcome shown to refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, and seek to encourage and inspire communities to continue to welcome new arrivals in the weeks, months and years to come.

Metropolitan Congregation will be marking the Week with a special theme to the service on Sunday 26 June at 4.30pm. In this service we wish to remember before God those in our church whose cases are still in the asylum system, those whose claims were successful and have been granted leave to remain in the UK. A "bring and share" faith tea will follow the service. All are welcome.