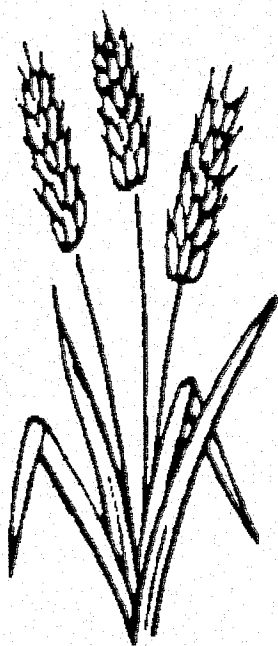


# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

*September 2016*



Come, ye thankful people, come  
raise the song of harvest- home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin:  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home!

*Henry Alford (1810 – 1820) Rejoice & Sing 40*

Secretary

Kath Lacy

0161 860 4717

From the Editor..... September 2016



## Welcome Back, Goodbyes and Au Revoirs

The Bulletin returns with a new haircut and a bad back but feeling much refreshed after its summer break! Your editor hopes you all had a pleasant summer and enjoyed what sunny weather we had! In July we said a final goodbye to Audrey Morgan and this month the family news moves to the back page to make room for a tribute to her wonderful life. This September we are saying goodbye to Lee as she begins her first placement in Levenshulme, and Au revoir to Margaret, who explains in the letter below why she is moving on after 9 years at Wilbraham St Ninians. Over to Margaret...

### TIME TO MOVE ON

September 7th 2016 will mark 9 years since Ben and I came to live in Manchester. Levenshulme URC was closed then, so we attended Morning Service at a URC church not all that far away; but that proved unsatisfactory in that after the service not one of the five men came to say hello to Ben. George Morton had already recommended trying out visits to a few 'round-about churches' (we knew George from our serving on the Province's Listed Buildings Advisory Committee) and we decided at that stage to come to Wilbraham St. Ninian's in Chorlton. Our welcome was warm and we enjoyed the Service. On the following Sunday, worship involved two hymns involving use of informal percussion instruments - and Jean Hunt (two rows behind us) gave me a gold star for my playing of the 'bottle tops stick'!

The cheeriness, laughter and sense of friendliness clinched the matter for us - roots were already being put down! We had our URC membership transferred to this Church, five miles from home. That distance wasn't a problem - after all we had worshipped and done outreach work at Read village URC, 18 miles from our Preston home, for over 14 years before transferring to Fulwood URC. (George teasingly called us 'Country Members'!)

What happy times Ben and I had here! And what deep support I was given when he died in February 2011!

But time moves us on, and over a year ago I realised it would be wise for me to try to find a church nearer home. I explained the situation to Kath Lacy, our Church Secretary, who well understood, and I began to use a 'fifth Sunday in a month' to explore other churches while you were all worshipping with local churches in Chorlton. Then my illness last autumn made me realise I was vulnerable and it was time for me to become less casual about my project.....

Well, I have not found a URC in South Manchester which has appealed to me; so I have decided to join a small Community Church with roots in the Baptist Church, as our neighbours at Chorlton Central URC have. It was planted some 20 years ago by two close friends of mine and is about 2 miles from home, near the Reddish/Heaton Chapel border. I have attended four times, been warmly welcomed, and have contributed to worship.

September 28th will be my last as a regular member of Wilbraham St. Ninian's. What rich memories I take with me - being privileged to continue my long-time work taking services, authorised to preside at Holy Communion if needed and to take Holy Communion to members in their homes on request; editing the Group's monthly edition of Newsround when Roger Tomes retired as Editor; being a member of the Worship Group; and serving for a short while as an Elder - not to mention special friendships and enjoying the social events. What a rich church life I've been blessed to have!

I've been assured I'll be welcomed if I come and visit, and I plan to take up the invitation. I shall also try to support the 4.30pm congregation as I do now, attending once every three or four weeks. So it's not, I hope, a case of 'Goodbye', but rather 'Au revoir'. Thank you, everybody, for all the many truly good and highly valued things that you have given me.

*Margaret Edwards.*

## AUDREY MORGAN: A TRIBUTE

On 22 July we said a final goodbye to Audrey Morgan at a service conducted by Rev Jack McKelvey. The following is an extract from the tribute read at the service and kindly supplied by Cathy.

Audrey was born on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1929 in Ashton-under-Lyne in a close-knit community where church-going was an important element. She attended Ryecroft Congregational Church and was involved in the church as a Sunday School teacher and member of the choir.

Audrey's first job was as a job as a shorthand typist at Tootal Broadhurst in the city centre of Manchester, where she became deputy head of the typing pool, remaining there until she got married.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 1952 Audrey married Eric, whom she had met through the church. They enjoyed going to the theatre or concerts, ballroom dancing, and walks in the country. They spent holidays youth hostelling and cycling. Audrey and Eric moved to Grangemouth, Scotland, where their first two children were born. In 1956 Audrey and Eric returned to England and moved to Stretford to the home they shared for sixty years. They had two more children here. Audrey was married to Eric for sixty three years and together they had four children, and five grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Audrey's extended family were a very important part of her life. Audrey loved sewing and dressmaking. She made her own wedding dress and is remembered by her family for her dressmaking; she combined imagination with creativity when she made dressing up costumes for her grandchildren.

After the children had all started school Audrey worked as an auxiliary nurse at Park Hospital (now Trafford General) and then she trained as a primary school teacher. Audrey taught in several schools in Salford before going to Manley Park in Whalley Range where she remained until her retirement in 1986. She completed a B.Ed degree during this time.

Audrey and Eric enjoyed travelling and visited many different countries together: touring in Europe in a camper van or with a tent with the

children and later, holidays in Israel, Tunisia, Morocco, Mexico, India, Ukraine and the Czech Republic.

Audrey's faith underpinned her life and her belief shaped her as a person. She gladly took on a range of roles and responsibilities in church and was for many years an Elder, Junior Church convenor, and a member of our choir. Audrey led services, encouraged and guided our young people in their Christian faith, made regular pastoral visits to the ill and elderly and made props and costumes for Junior Church productions. With Rev Susan Armitage, Audrey was responsible for introducing Thursday morning prayers coinciding with the Choriton Good Neighbours coffee mornings. She belonged to the 'Banner Group' and her handiwork can be seen on the walls of the church. Audrey was always available to decorate the church with flowers at Easter and Christmas. In the early days she organised flower festivals in church following specific themes.

The loss of Audrey to her family is inestimable and it is difficult to select memories from the treasure trove she has left us. She made birthdays and important events in the life of the family special and often included her church family in these big celebrations. Audrey had a gift for friendship: a theme of the memories people have shared has been Audrey's ability to make people welcome. *(Ed: I can vouch for this!!)*

Audrey loved music – she loved to sing and was involved in choirs throughout her life. Audrey sang in the choir in church every Sunday for many years. People have made reference to her lovely voice, and the congregation listened to a recording at the funeral service.

Over the years Audrey had various health issues and in recent years she had Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, which eventually meant that she needed to be cared for at home. Audrey did not complain and coped with increasing lack of capacity with enormous strength and courage.

Audrey will be sorely missed by family and church family alike. We give thanks to God for Audrey and all that she has meant to us and to so many.

# Dates & Rotas

Sep 4	Worship Group: Chris Burton
Sep 8	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Sep 11	Rev Sue Rowe
Sep 15	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Sep 17	Coach Trip to Fleetwood and Cleveleys organised by Manley Park 9am – 6pm. Cost £10 Adult £3 child
Sep 18	Rev Fleur Houston <b>Church Meeting 1.45 pm</b>
Sep 22	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Sep 25	Rev Raj Patta
Sep 29	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Oct 2	Dr Adrian Curtis
Oct 8	Church Gardening morning 10.00 am – 12.00 pm
Oct 14	Ceilidh Retirement event for Bob Day at Chorlton Central 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm

**Vestry Elder:** Alastair Lyall

**Duty Manager** David Williams

# Readers & Readings

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

Sep 4	George Morton	<i>Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33</i>
Sep 11	Barbara Williams	<i>Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10</i>
Sep 18	Kath Lacy	<i>Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13</i>
Sep 25	Sue Posada	<i>Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31</i>
Oct 2	Sian Richards	<i>Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2.1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10</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**

---

## **Rev Bob Day retirement events**

Rev Bob Day is retiring after 25 years as a URC minister and he invites everyone to help celebrate at the following events:

### **Ceilidh at Chorlton Central Church**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October from 7:00 – 10:00 pm including food (bring your own drinks!)**

### **Worship / Reflections at Trinity Community Church**

**Sunday 23 October 10:45 followed by faith lunch from 12:45 – 1:30pm and reflections on Bob's ministry**

RSVP to Kath Lacy or Bob himself at [bob.i.day@googlemail.com](mailto:bob.i.day@googlemail.com) / 07954 388482 before Sunday 11 Sep

# News Round up

## Family News

**Marjorie Burton** is expected to return home on Monday 5th September after convalescing at Gorton Park. Hopefully a care package will be in place by then.

**Lee Battle (Gellatly)** has started her placement at Levenshulme Inspire. Lee's last service with us will be on Sunday 25th September at 4.30pm followed by tea and cake in the New Hall. Everyone is welcome.

**Audrey Morgan's** family felt fantastically well supported and cared for at the time of Audrey's death and in all aspects of the organization of her funeral. They greatly appreciated the help and offerings of time and energy from the church family and say a big thank you to everyone. There is an extract from the funeral tribute on the back page (what an amazing, full life she had!)

## Church News

Please remember to put the **Church Meeting** in your diaries for Sunday 18 September at 1.45. The issue of deployment of ministers within North West Synod rumbles on, not entirely to anyone's satisfaction!

Our indefatigable managers are arranging the repair and refurbishment of the church noticeboard. It will include details of services and a new church website: [WSN.church](http://WSN.church). This umbrella website will lead into general information about Wilbraham St. Ninian's and the users of the premises and then allow the user to select either the morning or afternoon congregation's individual websites. Further details to follow.

PS Apologies to **Ian Meadowcroft** who kindly sent some jokes for the bulletin – the editor ran out of room but she promises they will appear in next month's bulletin!!