

# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

*February 2017*



Welcome the new year  
with reverence and awe.  
Sit in the silence of its dawning  
Let its vision emerge and inspire  
you  
with promise and hope.  
Hold onto God's presence.  
Have faith. Be grateful.  
Believe in what is good.  
Celebrate with gratitude and joy

*Christine Sine; <http://godspace-msa.com>*

Interim Minister

Rev Alan Poolton

Secretary

Kath Lacy

0161 860 4717

From the Editor..... February 2017



©2011 DEBBIE RIDPATH OHL. URL: INKYGIRL.COM.

## “2017: Look Forward in Faith”

“Look forward in faith  
the world is in God’s care.  
His purpose of love  
he calls on us to share”

*(Andrew J Scobie No. 237 in Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise).*

2017 is a year of celebration for the URC. For many of us, the events of 2016 and early 2017 make the idea of ‘celebrating’ difficult to grasp. The world’s peoples seem further apart, political leaders talk of walls rather than bridges, and unpleasantness seems to be the default tone of communication for many. However, 2017 is a special year because it marks some significant anniversaries for the United Reformed Church. Also, our own congregations have much to look forward to in 2017. This is a year for the whole United Reformed Church to celebrate all that we have been, are now and are called to be.

In 2017 we will see URC churches holding same-sex marriage services - we are the first Trinitarian denomination to do this! And the congregations of Wilbraham St Ninians welcome Rev Alan Poolton as our Interim Minister (see later).

It is 500 years since the Lutheran Reformation, 45 years since the URC came into being and 25 years since Commitment for Life began. It is also 100 years since the ordination of Constance Coltman - the first woman to enter Congregational ministry. Constance and her contemporaries fought for the ministry of women in order to liberate the Gospel and to proclaim Jesus’ message of reconciliation, equality and the worth of all.

So, let’s celebrate! Let us “look forward in faith” to an exciting and blessed 2017. And, in doing so, let us do all that we can to make sure that hope and promise triumph over sadness and discouragement.

## Interim Minister: Rev Alan Poolton

We are delighted to confirm that Revd Alan Poolton, presently Minister at Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme URCs, has agreed with his existing churches that 25% of his time will be released by them and offered to our church, enabling him to serve our congregations as an interim minister.



The exact allocation of Alan's time with us is still to be worked out in detail, although we know he plans to take one service a month with each congregation. We do wish to express our sincere thanks to Alan, and to the Elders and members at the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme churches, for their generosity in releasing a proportion of Alan's time for us.

Alan's first service with us is on March 5<sup>th</sup>, and Kath Lacy will liaise with the pulpit secretaries of Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme for future services in order to avoid too much disruption for everyone involved. Alan has already started to "get stuck in" - he attended the January Elders' meeting, came to the Good Neighbours Coffee Morning on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January and got to know the building, logged into our Wi-Fi and chatted to many of the Good Neighbours volunteers. He also came into the church and had a fact finding conversation with George and Kath. We look forward to his working with us.

To Alan himself, we offer a warm welcome to our congregations and look forward to working with him on the call of our disciples and the mission of our church.

# News Round up

## Family News

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Sheila Wentworth** in early January. There was a moving Service of Celebration for Sheila's life at the Crematorium on Tuesday 23rd January. The service was conducted by the Rev Philip Robinson, a life-long friend of the family. Everyone spoke of her love and kindness. Sheila will be sorely missed by her extended family of two daughters and sons-in-law, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and also by her friends from church.

There was more sad news as we learned of the death of **Ella Burton's** brother. We send our condolences to Ella and Sheila's daughter, Fiona Royle, and all their families. Please keep them all in your prayers.

**Alex Hall** has been offered a place at St John's College, Cambridge, to study Theology, Religion and the Philosophy of Religion. The offer is conditional on her obtaining very good grades at "A" Level so the next 6 months will (we hope!) be filled with hard work. Good luck, Alex.

**Sue Posada** has returned safely home from her extended Christmas break in Colombia, where she was reunited with Mario and spent time landscaping the garden of their Colombian house. Mario is well and happy; although as the "man of the family" he has a lot of family duties.

## Women's World Day of Prayer

On Friday March 3rd at 7.00pm Wilbraham St Ninian's is hosting the WWDP service. The service has been compiled by women from the Philippines and is based on Jesus' parable in Matthew 20:1-16, about the Kingdom of Heaven. While Jesus sees no wrongdoing in giving generously, the workers who felt entitled to receive more strongly

complained. This dialogue has been turned into a question for the 2017 WDP theme: “Am I Being Unfair to You?”

All are welcome to attend and anyone who wants to volunteer to participate should see Kath Lacy.

## **New Members and Re-affirmation of Elders**

The 4.30pm service on Sunday 5th February will be a day of celebration as six of the regular attenders at the Afternoon service are admitted as Members of our church in a service at which Revd Alan Poolton will preside. This will also be the occasion when three of our Elders, who were re-elected as Serving Elders at the December Church Meeting, will be inducted by Alan into that role for a further 3-year period.

Everyone is welcome at the 4.30pm service to welcome the new members and to affirm the service and dedication of all who serve the church in such a variety of roles.

## **Inspiration in Your Inbox**

Every day of the year, early each morning, the URC sends out, by email, a Daily Devotion consisting of a reading, reflection and short prayer. You can read them on your computer, phone, or tablet and they provide inspiration in your inbox!

The Devotions are written by a team of over 90 people, many of whom are familiar to us like Andy Braunston, Rev Fleur Houston, Walt Johnson and Philip Jones. They are written from a range of perspectives and places within the URC.

If you would like to receive the Daily Devotions you can sign up by going to

<http://tinyurl.com/URCDailyDevotions>

and filling in the form.

## Dates & Rotas

February 2	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
February 5	Worship group: Melanie Hall
February 5	4.30pm service: Admission of new members & re-affirmation of Elders <b>Rev Alan Poolton</b>
February 9	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Saturday February 11	Fair Trade Fortnight Coffee Morning
February 12	Rev Dr Jack McKelvey
February 16	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
February 19	Rev Dr Lesley Husselbee
February 23	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
February 26	Rev Valerie Davies
March 2	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Friday March 3	<b>Women's World Day of Prayer</b> 7pm at Wilbraham St Ninians
March 5	Rev Alan Poolton

# Readers & Readings

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

January 29	At Chorlton Methodist	<i>Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12</i>
February 5	Chris Burton	<i>Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112.1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12,(13-16); Matthew 5:13-20</i>
February 12	Sue Posada	<i>Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Sirach 15:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37</i>
February 19	Melanie Hall	<i>Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23; Matthew 5:38-48</i>
February 26	George Morton	<i>Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9</i>
March 5	Ian Meadowcroft	<i>Genesis 2:15-17, 3.1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11</i>

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

<b>Church Meetings</b> (Sundays 1.45pm)	<b>Elders Meetings</b> (Mondays at 7.30pm)	
March 19th	January 23rd	June 12th (if required)
June 18th	February 27th	July 24th
September 17th	March 13th (if required)	September 11th (if required)
December 17th	April 24th	October 23 <sup>rd</sup>
	May 22nd	November 27 <sup>th</sup>
		December 11th (if required)

# LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

## LENT GROUPS IN CHORLTON

A weekly group beginning on Wednesday 8th March will meet at St Werburgh's church at 11am. The sessions will be followed by a soup lunch for those who would like to stay. The course is likely to be the 2017 York course, "Receiving Christ".

Another weekly group will also begin on Wednesday 8th March at 239 Ryebank Rd with food at 6.30 pm (if wished) followed by the course running from 7.30pm. The course will be based around the film "The King's Speech", and asks how we can recover our voices as Christians. Anyone who would like to go/ have food should contact Rev Laurie Windle on 881 8313.

## JESUS AT THE MOVIES: Gatley URC, Elm Road, Gatley, SK8 4LY.

**7pm (Refreshments); 7.15pm (Film). All welcome**

We will explore how four films have presented Jesus by watching the film and having a short discussion afterwards to see how the depiction helps, or hinders, our understanding of Jesus.

**Wednesday 1st February "Godspell"** (1971) musical presenting Jesus and the Apostles as hippies

**Thursday 9th February "Jesus Christ Superstar"** (1970) A "rock opera", criticised for focusing on the relationship between Jesus and Judas at the expense of fidelity to the Gospels.

**Thursday 16th February "Son of Man"** (2006) Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection set in modern day South Africa.

**Tuesday 28th February "The Passion of the Christ"** (2004) Mel Gibson's controversial graphic portrayal of the torture and crucifixion of Jesus.