

Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

May 2017



¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

John 14:16-21

Interim Minister
Rev Alan Poolton

Secretary
Kath Lacy
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From the Editor..... May 2017



An Eastertide Reflection from Rev Alan Poolton

Are you feeling confident in the world about you? As I write this the headlines are.... Trump..... Brexit.....

General Election And more worryingly, famine in East Africa with approximately 20 million people under threat. I don't know about you but I for one have become a touch blasé about bad news, it's all I ever seem to hear, and yet.... The world still turns.

I wonder if you feel confident about sharing your faith? About explaining why - to an increasingly sceptical world driven by everyday worries - why you believe in a God who values us all and wants to have a relationship with us all? Like a Father calling to his long lost children - time to come home.

It is easy to become disheartened, but I would urge you not to do so. Lent was a time of preparation, of personal reflection and I would urge you to do some reflecting on your life journey. Look back on the many twists and turns that life has had in store for you. Remember the words of the "Footsteps" poem and look back especially on the hard times, the times you spent in your own personal desert of doubt and troubles. Remember how God was there for you when you most needed Him. He did not desert you then and his promise is that he will not desert you now.

I would urge you to stand up for what you have come to believe in, and as Christians, the resurrection is central to belief - as Paul says, if it has no basis then we are to be pitied more than anyone. But I don't feel that I deserve pity. I look back on a life full of faith and fulfilment, of God being there for me when I most needed those strong and supportive arms around me, and I am sure that that is also true for you.

Alan

An Introduction to Alan

Yes, we know most of you have met Rev Alan Poolton already but your editor and Elders thought it would be good to know a little more about our new interim Minister, from the “horse’s mouth”, so to speak:

Hi everyone, it has been good to meet some of you on different occasions over the past couple of months or so. My name is Rev Alan Poolton, my home churches are at Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme in Stockport and I will be your interim minister on a 25% basis to both congregations during the next phase of talks about ministerial deployment within the Synod.

I was asked to write a little about myself:

I have been a minister in the United Reformed Church for almost 19 years over a number of different churches and prior to being in ministry I worked in local government as a Principal Officer working predominantly with homeless people.

Karen and I have been married for 36 years (April is our anniversary) and we have 2 children, Emily and James.

I asked to be placed alongside you after becoming your interim moderator around 2 years ago whilst (at that time) I believed that my role would be to introduce a new minister to you, and you never know, it may yet be that.

The United Reformed Church is facing a time of unprecedented change in identity and the way that it uses and trains ministers for churches and whilst this conversation goes on behind the scenes I hope to be able to learn from you (in both congregations) as we move forward.

Best wishes and see you soon,

Alan

News Round up

Family News

David Williams is recovering well from his operation. It was good to see him back at church. Barbara struggles to prevent David from doing too much too soon! We wish him a sensible and steady recovery...

Steven Williams, who works for the Co-op, put forward Chorlton Good Neighbours as the Co-op's local charity and Helen Hibberd made a successful bid for the funding. Last week Helen received a £5,000 cheque at a special ceremony with the press in attendance. Thanks are due to Barbara and David Williams who made sure that Helen got the application in before the deadline.

Lee Battle felt very privileged to celebrate her first Good Friday service last month, and do so. She maintains a lively presence on Twitter and we hear good reports of her progress in training for ministry.

With exams and university deadlines fast approaching we wish our young people every success. This is a very stressful time for students and parents alike and your prayers are much appreciated!

We have a "**Songs of Praise**" Service on June 25th. **Chris Burton** would welcome suggestions of hymns to be included.

At the last Elders' meeting it was decided that 3 - 4 Elders from both our congregations would visit the joint service at Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme on 16th July to formally thank the congregations for releasing 25% of the **Rev Alan Poolton's** ministry to Wilbraham St. Ninian's

It was lovely to have **Andy Braunston** back to preach to us. The 18 months training in Scotland have led to his development as a preacher and added an air of gravitas to his demeanour. He sends us news of his Induction and plans for the future.

We wish Andy and Ian every blessing as this new chapter of their lives begins.

News from Andy Braunston

“I will be inducted as a minister in the Glasgow Southside Cluster of the URC’s Synod of Scotland on Saturday 22nd July. This will take place at Barrhead URC, on Athurlie Street, at 12.30 and all are welcome to attend. The churches in the cluster are: Shawlands, Giffnock, Mosspark and Priesthill in the Southside of Glasgow and Barrhead and Stewarton. I will be serving three of these alongside another minister who is already in post and who works with Giffnock and Mosspark. We are currently deciding which three I will work with and which extra church the other minister will pick up. The Synod of Scotland have recently bought a manse for us.

Ian is likely to continue to work in Manchester and travel up to Glasgow on Thursday evenings and back on Sunday afternoons unless he can find a job at the same professional grade in Scotland.

9 years ago you welcomed the then Metropolitan Community Church of Manchester, as tenants here. In that time much has happened – I joined you in 2013 and started preparation for URC ministry in September 2015. You have wonderfully accepted my former congregation into your life and ministry. Your support, encouragement and generosity have led to amazing things – three others connected with the life of this church – Lee Battle, Jonnie Hill and Alma Fritchley – have been accepted for ministerial training.”

Dates & Rotas

April 30	Rev Dr Walter Houston Joint Service with the Methodists at Wilbraham St Ninians
May 4	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
May 7	Rev Raj Patta
May 11	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
May 14	Rev Dr Lesley Husselbee
May 14 -20	Christian Aid Week
May 18	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
May 20	Christian Aid Coffee morning 10:00 – 12:00
May 21	Rev Alan Poolton
May 25	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
May 28	Rev Dr Jack McKelvey
June 4 Pentecost	Worship Group (Chris Burton)

Your editor apologises profusely for the misprint in the last Bulletin, which led to confusion over the start time for the Easter Service. She will proof read more carefully in the future!

Readers & Readings

Taken from 2016 Revised Common Lectionary Year A

April 30	Sue Posada	<i>Acts 2:14a,36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35</i>
May 7	Sian Richards	<i>Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10</i>
May 14	Kevin Meade	<i>Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14</i>
May 21	Cathy Morgan	<i>Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21</i>
May 28	Joyce Henry	<i>Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11</i>
June 4	Kevin Meade	<i>Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39</i>

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

The MadDonnas present:

ACOUSTIC COLLAGE

WEDS 24TH MAY

An evening of music, poetry,
images and collage

Wilbraham St Ninians URC,

7.30 – 10.30pm in the New Hall

Tickets £2.00;

Light refreshments available, BYOB

All proceeds to Cancer Research



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Christian Aid Week 14 – 21 May 2017

After much discussion, we are scaling down our collection to the streets closest to

church, and to donors that you know. So we are planning to invite people to bring back their envelopes to a **Christian Aid Coffee morning on Saturday 20 May 10:00 – 12:00.**

This year there is a booklet of daily devotions for the week available. You are asked to take a piece of red wool and hold it as you read the passage for each day. As you reflect on the questions, tie a knot in the wool – one for each person who comes to mind as you pray. Each knot is a symbol that we are bound together as sisters and brothers in Christ. At the end of Christian Aid Week, we'll collect the threads together at church as a visible symbol of the praying, acting and giving that has taken place during the week, while remembering those who are hungry, sick or need inviting in.

There will also be campaign materials, such as postcards and a petition that you can sign, at the back of church or at the coffee morning, asking the Prime Minister to uphold our tradition as a nation that stands up for those in need, wherever they are in the world. Christian Aid will present the postcards and bundles of wool to our political leaders as a reminder that we are bound together, and that each of us around the world is deserving of safety and welcome – particularly those in need of food and shelter.

See George or Mel at church if you can drop off / collect envelopes or maybe take some with you to collect from friends and family. Thank you all for your sterling efforts.