

Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

June 2017



⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:7-8, 11

Interim Minister
Rev Alan Poolton

Secretary
Kath Lacy
0161 860 4717



From the Editor..... June 2017

“If you think hate will tear us apart you picked the wrong city” (Dave Haslam, Manchester DJ)

We’re probably still all in shock from the horrific events on Monday, and the thought that this was happening, quite literally, on our doorstep. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of our city whose lives were changed forever by Monday night's atrocity at the Manchester Arena: the families and friends of those who lost their lives, all who were injured, members of the emergency services, and all who have been affected in any way by the events of the evening.

But the biggest part of the history of this terrible week is not the incomprehensible rage and hatred of the perpetrator and the act, but the spirit of the city of Manchester and the way that Mancunians (and non Mancs!) have met hatred with love. Look at the masses of flowers, not just in St Anne’s Square but all over Greater Manchester and the seemingly endless series of life-affirming actions on the night and afterwards, motivated by “how can I help?”

One of those actions is the “Manchester Bee” tattoo, available for a £50 donation to the MEN Appeal; demand is such that every tattoo studio in Manchester has had queues of people wanting the tattoo as a symbol of remembrance and of Manchester’s spirit. The Worker Bee has been a symbol of Manchester from the Industrial revolution, stemming from the textile mills that were a “hive of industry”

It symbolises hard work and sacrifice; it is co-operative, resilient and communitarian - togetherness is its greatest strength. You can hear this reflected in the accounts of the emergency services and hospital staff, all of whom stressed that they can only do what they do with the support and strength of their team. You hear it in the words of bereaved families paying tribute to the love and support they've received from family, friends and total strangers.

1 John 4:7-21 is my favourite Bible passage; for me it says everything you need to know about our faith. God is love and we are God's beloved. When we open ourselves to the warmth and light of God's presence we find even our darkest secrets and ugliest parts of ourselves are not beyond God's reach. Nothing in us is so broken or dirty that God is unwilling to touch it. How can we keep this to ourselves? How can we possibly love God while hating God's beloved? Seeing ourselves as God's beloved means seeing our brothers and sisters as God's beloved too.

Every act, whether it is putting a "We ♥ MCR" poster in a shop window, laying flowers in St Ann's Square, attending a vigil, or even sending a supportive tweet, is a small act of love for our brothers and sisters. I leave you with the last lines of Ryan Williams' Bee poem

“So, come at us again, and again if you must.
Time after time we'll rise from the dust.
You'll never prevail - not against us...
This is Manchester, our MANCHESTER
And the bees still buzz!”

News Round up

Family News

Our **young people** are sitting important finals, A-levels or end-of-year exams, and submitting their final dissertations. These have been, and are, stressful times for them and their friends and families, so please keep them in your prayers.

Help needed. Please bring to the attention of Elders any significant birthdays (preferably in advance of the event!), exam successes etc. so that congratulations may be extended and suitable celebrations made. The Editor always welcomes news of happy events!

Following the bomb attack on the Manchester Arena and the deaths and injuries associated with it, people attending **Chorlton Good Neighbours** coffee morning on Thursday observed a minute of silence to remember those who had died. Rev Alan Poolton conducted a short service of Remembrance leading up to 11.00am and the silence, and finished with a prayer. Two people had grandchildren at the concert and one a son-law working as a security guard: all were safe but traumatised.

On Saturday 22 July the **Rev Andy Braunston** will be inducted into his new pastorate at Barrhead, Glasgow. A small group of friends from the morning and afternoon congregations will make the journey north to support him.

Church news

Kath Lacy has sent off our registration forms for same-sex marriage, although we do not expect to hear back for a few months. Philip and Anna have volunteered to be “authorised persons” for any weddings that may result.

Asylum Seeker Update

We were delighted to hear that **Beryl**, who has been worshipping with the afternoon congregation since July 2016, was successful in her recent asylum appeal. Unless the Home Office appeal the judge's decision, Beryl should soon be formally granted leave to remain in the UK and can begin to build her life here in freedom and safety.

Chorlton Arts Festival (or not)



The church premises hosted two concerts last week. The MadDonnas presented an **Acoustic Collage** on Wednesday 24 May – an audio-visual interplay of images, music and poetry and refreshments. The MadDonnas sang splendidly, as ever, to frame performances by others. The poet Chris Bowles read his thoughtful work with

dramatic expression; the formidable ZunZun drummers played with crisp timing and weighty balance; it was good to hear Mandy Pearks' distinctive voice with accompaniment as well as a *cappella*. The band Loose Change appeared late in the programme. The proceeds of the evening went to Cancer Research; some of us who left early may like to contribute to the worthy cause – donations may be given to the MadDonnas – for Cancer Research.



As part of the restricted Arts Festival of 2017, and somewhat to our surprise, the church hosted **The Fair Rain**, a contemporary folk band previously called the Old Dance School. The seven piece group provided a lively and enjoyable programme of varied voices and instruments for an appreciative audience.

(Thanks to George Morton for this review)

Dates & Rotas

May 28	Rev Dr Jack McKelvey
June 1	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
June 4	Worship Group led by Chris Burton Pentecost
June 8	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
June 10	Coach Trip to Buxton & Bakewell 9am – 6pm Manley Park Methodist Church
June 11	Rev Dr Walter Houston
Jun 15	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
June 18	Worship Group led by Ella Burton
June 18	Church Meeting 1:45
June 22	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
June 25	Songs of Praise service
June 29	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
July 2	Walt Johnson
July 22	Rev Andy Braunston Induction, Barrhead

Readers & Readings

Taken from 2017 Revised Common Lectionary Year A

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>
June 11	Ella Burton	<i>Genesis 1:1–2.4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20</i>
June 18	Ian Meadowcroft	<i>Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)</i>
June 25	Mandy Pearks	<i>Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10, 11-15, 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39</i>
July 2	Melanie Hall	<i>Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42</i>

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



SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE

Sunday June 25th

Chris Burton will soon be handing out forms for you to submit your favourite hymns, with any stories you have about them

Forthcoming Events

Chorlton Methodist Church Choir Festival



Saturday 17th June

11am - 4pm

£5 Admission, Lunch 1-2pm

Featuring the MadDonnas at 11.30 am

Manley Park Methodist Church

Coach Trip to Buxton and Bakewell

Saturday 10th June 2017



Leaving the church at 9.00 am and returning for about 6.00 pm

Cost:	Adults	£10
	Children	£3

Names required plus £2.00 deposit

The North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church, together with Mersey Synod, are holding another **Big Day Out** on Saturday 8th July from 10.00 am, at Southport Convention Centre. Tickets cost £10 for adults; children 16 years and under have free entry. although they will need to book a ticket. If we can get enough numbers it will be possible to have some form of organised transport.