

Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

*Egerton Rd South, Chorlton-cum-Hardy,
Manchester*

July - August 2017



God of golden fields
and blue skies

THANK YOU FOR SUMMER

God of white waves
and wet pebbles

THANK YOU FOR SUMMER

God of ripe plums
and meadowsweet

THANK YOU FOR SUMMER

Thank you for warmth
and beauty and wonder

THANK YOU FOR LIFE

Ruth Burgess in "Bare Feet and Buttercups", WGRG

Interim Minister

Rev Alan Poolton

Secretary

Kath Lacy

0161 860 4717

From the Editor



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One Church, Three Families: An update on the Church Websites

Elders from the morning and afternoon congregations - Mel, Chris, Walt, Philip and Kath - met on 11th June to discuss a way forward for the church's use of the web and other digital media to enhance our mission. We recognised that not everyone has access to a computer or mobile phone, or wants to receive church information digitally so this will **not** replace existing forms of communication such as the Bulletin, or the noticeboard. It **will** be a way of reaching those people who prefer to use online media, or who want to keep in touch but cannot always get to church for various reason, or who simply want to find out more about us.

The church has 3 websites set up:

1. wsn.church - the “landing page” (also the address on the noticeboard) for both morning and afternoon congregations.
2. wilbrahamstnians.com - for the morning congregation
3. metropolitanchurch.org.uk - for the afternoon congregation

We concluded that wsn.church should load quickly and contain:

- a mission statement
- clear links to the websites for each congregation
- clear links to other URC websites
- contain the “third family” information, i.e. users of the building
- contact information
- information about booking
- images of the building, facilities and users (where appropriate)

The site can be set up to automatically copy certain information to social media such as Twitter and Instagram, (such as the photos of the flowers, which already have a large online following!)

For the morning congregation's site, wilbrahamstninians.com, it was suggested that:

- some of the initial background about the URC, that was originally created by Ruth Dillon can be reused
- we include photographs of individuals, couples, families, congregation
- regular updates are crucial, these would include
 - weekly notices
 - the monthly Bulletin,
 - the recording of the sermon, or whole service
- there should be improved, more regular use of the Facebook page

Walt has kindly agreed to design and to be the editor of the wsn.church, and to design the wilbrahamstninians.com site for us; however he will train people to be the editors. Volunteers are needed to train to be editors! Jean-François has agreed to take photographs and videos of the congregation and users of the building, subject to their approval and to safeguarding issues.

We held a wider-discussion about communication and mission generally: during the service, after the service, engaging the users of the buildings as potential attendees of worship services, and using organisational, rather than personal, email addresses for example: bookings@wilbrahamstninians.com.

The websites have the potential to be an exciting new way of doing mission and presenting all the good things we do at Wilbraham St Ninian's to the wider world. The Elders would welcome your views and ideas for design and content and on any of the suggestions here, as we want the site to be a true reflection of the Church and its work,

Wishing you all a peaceful and hopeful summer,

Mel

News Round up

Family News

We hear that **Ian Meadowcroft** has been in hospital recently for a minor procedure.

Joyce Henry is still recovering from a back injury sustained during a bout of over-enthusiastic gardening.

We wish Ian and Joyce a speedy recovery and hope to see them back in church soon.

Sue Posada recently completed a 5K night walk in aid of St Ann's Hospice. She has been really busy at work but hopes to get to church before she visits Mario at their house in Colombia over the summer, and sends her love to everyone.

The **MadDonnas** would like to thank everyone who came to listen to them at the Chorlton Methodists' Choir Festival last month. They hope you enjoyed the set and also managed to listen to a few of the other choirs. Make a date for next year – June 16th!

Arts News

Chris Burton will be starring in "Stranger In The House": a one-act surreal, absurdist, portrayal of Parisian folk. Their daily routine includes barricading and booby-trapping the house, and shooting to kill any stranger that may approach, even if they don't mean any harm. Using song and satire the play shows us the folly of our own inherent racism. This is part of the Manchester International Festival Fringe, at Bar Pop on Canal S, 24th – 27th July at 7.30. Tickets cost £10.00 (£6.00 concessions) and you can buy them online at <http://www.greatermanchesterfringe.co.uk/>

Anyone who enjoyed Chris Bowles' powerful poetry at the recent MadDonnas concert may wish to see him perform his one-man show "Spectrum" at the MIF Fringe, exploring a myriad of different colour-themed stories through spoken word, poetry and soundscape. This show is on 17 –

18 July at 7.30 pm the Kings Arms, Salford, and is free. More details on the website.

Academic & Work Success

Congratulations are due to **Rosa Hall** and **Rowena Salmon**, who have both successfully completed their degree studies at York and Bristol universities respectively, and are now the proud possessors of Bachelor of Arts honours degrees. **Rosa Pearks** completed her second year studying textiles at Central St Martins and has 2 degree-related work placements over the summer. **Nadia Posada** also successfully completed her second year at Liverpool John Moores. **Alex Hall** has finished her A-level examinations and will find out about her results in late August.

Meanwhile **Susan Burton** has just returned from a “working” holiday on a river cruise in France as a reward for being so successful in selling said river cruises. It’s a tough job but somebody has to do it! Well done, Susan, and we wish you every success in your career.

Church News:

After a landmark vote at Church Meeting to register Wilbraham St Ninians for same-sex marriages, our secretary has sent off the paperwork to URC central office. We are still waiting for the URC to come back to us; we hope it will be soon!

A big thank you goes to everyone who contributed their time and money to our successful Christian Aid Week collection. We did things a little differently this year, with a limited distribution of envelopes to neighbouring streets and old friends, plus a “drop in” on the Saturday where people could drop off their envelope and enjoy coffee and biscuits. We are delighted to report that we made £656.12, so we will be thinking of different ways to raise money next year (suggestions to Mel or George).

Walt and Mel are planning to visit Bramhall URC, Alan Poolton’s “home” church, on July 16th to meet Alan’s congregations and to convey thanks from both our congregations to them for releasing Alan for ministry.

Dates & Rotas

Sun July 2	Walt Johnson
Sun July 9	Rev Alan Poolton
Sun July 16	Rev Dr Jack McKelvey
Sun July 23	Rev Valerie Davies
Monday July 24	Elders' Meeting 7:30 at W St N
Sun July 30	Joint Service with the Methodists at Manley Park
Sun August 6	Worship Group: Melanie Hall
Sun August 13	Rev Raj Patta
Sun August 20	Rev Alan Poolton
Sun August 27	Rev Valerie Davies
Sun September 3	Rev Fleur Houston

The church is open every Thursday morning 10.00am – 12.00pm, offering quiet space for prayer and reflection.

We are grateful to those people who are able to offer a hand and a willing ear to visitors.

Please look and listen out in Church for notices of forthcoming events

Readers & Readings

Taken from "Roots on the Web"

July 2	Ella Burton	<i>Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42</i>
July 9	Brenda Beckett	<i>Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19,25-30</i>
July 16	Alastair Lyall	<i>Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:(1-8),9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23</i>
July 23	Chris Burton	<i>Wisdom of Solomon 12:13,16-19; Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30,36-43</i>
July 30	At Manley Park	<i>1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33,44-52</i>
August 6	Kevin Meade	<i>Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9,14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21</i>
August 13	Joyce Henry	<i>1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33</i>
August 20	Ella Burton	<i>Isaiah 56:1,6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a,29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20),21-28</i>
August 27	Barbara Williams	<i>Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20</i>
September 3	Chris Burton	<i>Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 105:1-6,23-26,45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28</i>

**** Some readings differ from those in the URC Prayer Handbook 2017**

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

Forthcoming Events

A reminder that 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

The North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church, together with Mersey Synod, are holding the **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. It may be possible to travel by train with members of the afternoon congregation. See Walt or Philip for details

The **Ordsall Acapella Singers** are performing their “A Capella and Cake” at the Buxton Festival fringe on Saturday 15th July at two venues:

Buxton URC, Hardwick Square East at 11am

St Mary’s Church, Buxton at 3pm

Tickets are £5.00, £3.00 concessions.

The choir has performed at Wilbraham St Ninian’s in the past, and contains several church members (Mel, Ella and Adam). They would be delighted if you could come and support them – beautiful singing, home-made cake in the lovely town of Buxton, all for £5.00!!