

# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

*September 2017*



Reap me the earth as a harvest  
to God,  
gather and bring it again,  
all that is his, to the Maker of all:

lift it and offer it high!

*Bring bread, bring wine,*

*Bring glory to the Lord,*

*Whose is the earth but God's?*

*Whose is the praise but his?*

*Luke Connaughton, R&S 437*

Interim Minister

Rev Alan Poolton

Secretary

Kath Lacy

0161 860 4717

From the Editor..... September 2017



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## A radical centenary

On 17 September 2017, the United Reformed Church and the Congregational Federation in the UK will mark the centenary of the ordination of Constance Todd Coltman as a Congregational minister. She was the first woman to be ordained in a mainstream British denomination - and she continued her pioneering role by remaining active in ministry as a married woman and mother.

Her courage showed from the start in the sacrificial ministry she shared with her husband Claud in London Docklands. A committed pacifist and suffragist, she was also an early supporter of birth control. With clear views on women's history and role in the Church, Constance Coltman did much to promote women's ordination across the churches, at home and abroad.

She applied to study theology at Mansfield in 1913. It was an entirely male institution at the time, and there was no provision for a woman to study there, nor any expectation that a woman could be ordained and enter ministry, though the issue was under discussion in the Congregational Union.

However, then as now, the call to ministry, in congregational churches, was entirely in the hands of the local church meeting, seeking, then as now, to discern the mind of Christ in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.



So the principal of Mansfield at the time, W.B. Selbie, accepted her for training, so that it would be open to a church to call her to its ministry. Four years later, on completion of her theological training, that is what happened. Constance and Claud served a number of churches together, during a long ministry. The way was not always smooth, and Constance retained her radical edge, as a pacifist, supporter of women's suffrage, and with a passionate care for the poorest and most disadvantaged of her church members.

The URC are holding two public events to mark this important centenary:

On Saturday 16 September at 1pm there will be a public lecture at the Dr Williams Library in London. Please contact Eve Parker by email at [eve.parker@urc.org.uk](mailto:eve.parker@urc.org.uk) to register your interest. A thanksgiving service to mark the Centenary will be held on Sunday 17 September 2017 at 3pm at the American International Church in London. The preacher will be Revd Dr Susan Durber and taking part will be international guests from the wider family of the Council for World Mission. Please contact Tracey Hardingham by email at [tracey.hardingham@urc.org.uk](mailto:tracey.hardingham@urc.org.uk) to register your interest.

As a woman involved in preaching and leading worship, I am enormously proud that it was my church that led the way in ordaining women to ministry in this country. I hope you feel the same,

*Mel*

# News Round up

## Family News

Most of you know that following a fall at home **Marjorie Burton** spent several weeks in hospital. She was too frail to return to the Hawthorns and she needed 24 hour care. Consequently Marjorie is now settling in at Laurel Court (1 Candleford Road, off Palatine Road Didsbury M20 3JH). Laurel Court is a Methodist Nursing home. Marjorie feels more secure in her new environment; she is sleeping better, walking better and going to the dining room for meals with the other residents. Marjorie has been taking part in the Methodist services provided and joining in the social activities provided for the residents.

**Suzette Warburton** is still in Maple Ward, North Manchester General Hospital and is responding to treatment

Most of you will have seen our Church Secretary, **Kath Lacy**, hobbling round on crutches after breaking her foot in a fall at the start of summer. She reports that she is now wearing normal shoes but learning to walk again. No driving or dancing yet!

We send all our “invalids” our prayers for comfort and healing, and as speedy a recovery as possible.

It was wonderful to hear of the exam successes of both **Rosa and Alex Hall** this summer. Rosa obtained a 1st class degree in Sociology from York University and, after several gruelling interviews, has obtained a job in recruitment and resourcing at Shield Safety Group, based in the fashionable Northern Quarter area of Manchester. Alex achieved straight A's at 'A' level and starts at Nottingham University in September to study Theology and Religious Studies. Mum looks forward to some assistance with future

sermons! We offer congratulations both Rosa and Alex and wish them well for the future.

**Alastair and Sheila Lyall** celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 30<sup>th</sup> September. We send them our congratulations on 60 years of marriage and best wishes for the future.

## Church news

On Saturday 22nd July 2017 the Synod Moderator conducted the ordination and induction service of **Rev Andy Braunston** as minister to the Southside Cluster at Barrhead URC.

A small group of our members travelled north on Saturday 22nd July up to the South Glasgow pastorate to celebrate Andy's ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacraments in the United Reformed Church and his induction as a Minister to the URC congregations within the pastorate. We give thanks for Andy's many years of ministry as the Pastor of our congregations, and we offer our love and prayers for the start of this new stage of Andy's ministry in the church of God.



**Chorlton Good Neighbours** are celebrating being 50 years old this year with a big party at Hough End Police and Social Club on Sunday 3rd September. A commemorative pebble border designed by a local artist and painted by Chorlton Good Neighbours service users and volunteers is due to be inlaid soon.

## Dates & Rotas

Sep 3	Rev Fleur Houston
Sep 7	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Sep 10	Rev Alan Poolton
Sep 11	Elders' Meeting 7.30pm
Sep 14	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Sep 17	Rev Dr Jack McKelvey
Sep 17	<b>Church Meeting</b> 1:45pm preceded by faith lunch
Sep 21	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Sep 23	Coach Trip to Buxton & Bakewell 9am – 6pm Manley Park Methodist Church Costs £10 adults / £3 children
Sep 24	Worship Group
Sep 28	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Oct 1	Rev Alan Poolton
Oct 5	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm Quiet space for prayer & reflection

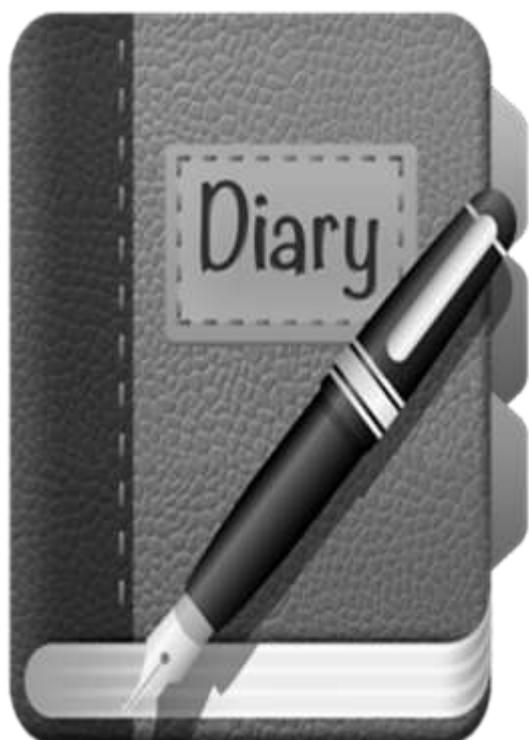
# Readers & Readings

Taken from "Roots on the Web" 2017 Revised Common Lectionary Year A

Sep 3	Chris Burton	<i>Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28</i>
Sep 10	Sue Posada	<i>Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20</i>
Sep 17	Mandy Pearks	<i>Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:(1-7),8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35</i>
Sep 24	George Morton	<i>Jonah 3:10-4.11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16</i>
Oct 1	Ian Meadowcroft	<i>Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32</i>

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

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Save the date...

**CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday September  
17<sup>th</sup>**

**1.45pm**

**Preceded by faith  
lunch**

# Christian Aid Appeal – South Asia Floods



**Christian Aid has launched an emergency appeal to respond to the catastrophic South Asia floods.**

More than twelve hundred people have been killed and a staggering 40 million people are affected across Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

They have already deployed £45,000 of funds to provide emergency relief and disease prevention awareness to 24,000 disaster-hit families, but such is the scale of the crisis that more funds are needed to scale up our response.

Christian Aid's Head of Humanitarian Programmes for Asia & Middle East, Madara Hettiarachchi, said she hoped people wouldn't forget people in South Asia whilst floods in Texas were dominating the news agenda.

"These are some of the worst floods we've seen in South Asia in decades and the impact is likely only going to get worse," she said. "Farms and livestock have been washed away so food security is going to be a huge problem in the coming days and we will likely see the death toll rise. The good news is we are reaching people and bringing them the vital help they need to stay alive and begin to rebuild their lives. We've all seen the terrible impact floodwater is having in Texas and that is in a country with 'first-world' infrastructure. The people in South Asia are much less equipped to cope with such a deluge of floodwater which is why they are in such a precarious position."

You can donate by card or PayPal via the Christian Aid website