

Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

October 2017



O wild West Wind, thou breath
of Autumn's being,

Thou, from whose unseen
presence the leaves dead

Are driven, like ghosts from an
enchanter fleeing!

Ode to the West Wind"

Percy Bysshe Shelley 1792 - 1822

Interim Minister

Rev Alan Poolton

Secretary

Kath Lacy

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From the Editor..... October 2017



A Poem for October

As we reel in incredulity and horror from yet another mass shooting in the USA, coming hard on the heels of stories of the suffering caused by so-called “natural disasters”, which are really the result of man-made climate change, it’s almost impossible to find the words to articulate our thoughts and feelings. And we also see and hear images of war, persecution and terror in places like Myanmar and Syria.

Poetry is not for everyone, but it can sometimes work for me. Like lyrics in a song (which is poetry set to music), it can speak to the heart in ways that prose cannot. And what are large chunks of the Bible, if not poetry?

82-year-old American poet, Mary Oliver, has continuously explored her Christian faith in her poetry. She writes, “Poetry is prayer, it is passion and music, it is beauty, comfort, it is agitation, declaration, it is thanksgiving...Often poetry is the gate to a new life...It brings new thoughts or welcome remembrance of old ones. It offers simple pleasure, complicated joy, and even, at times, healing.” I am going to print her poem “Heavy”. Written after the death of her life-long partner in 2007, it touches on grief, faith and the healing power of love - love of friends, love of nature and love of God.

I hope you too, find ways of holding on to peace, faith and hope in these troubled times,

Mel

Heavy

That time
I thought I could not
go any closer to grief
without dying

I went closer,
and I did not die.
Surely God
had His hand in this,
as well as friends.
Still, I was bent,
and my laughter,
as the poets said,
was nowhere to be found.
Then said my friend Daniel
(brave even among lions),
“It’s not the weight you carry
but how you carry it—
books, bricks, grief—
it’s all in the way
you embrace it, balance it,
carry it

when you cannot, and would
not,
put it down.”
So I went practicing.
Have you noticed?

Have
you
heard
the
laughter
that
comes,
now and
again,
out of my startled mouth?

How I linger
to admire, admire, admire
the things of this world
that are kind, and maybe
also troubled—
roses in the wind,
the sea geese on the steep
waves,
a love
to which there is no reply?

© Mary Oliver
“Thirst”, Bloodaxe Books, 2007

News Round up

Family News

Congratulations to **Alastair and Sheila Lyall** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 30th September. They enjoyed a family party on a train – where else! The train in question was the East Lancashire Railway's steam train, a celebration in old-fashioned style! We send them our congratulations on 60 years of marriage and best wishes for the future

It was lovely to see **Suzette Warburton** in church recently. Although not completely restored to health, Suzette is responding to treatment. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Suzette, on your journey back to health and healing.

We are pleased that **Kath Lacy** no longer has to use crutches to get about and is nearly back to driving and dancing. Probably not as pleased as Kath!

Susan Posada has returned from an extended visit to Colombia, where Mario is now living and working. He is getting on very well, but misses his family, as you would expect.

We send birthday wishes to **Ian Meadowcroft**, who celebrated his 80th birthday recently.

.Church news

Assuming the weather did not spoil plans for the Church Gardening morning and general clean-up, we say a BIG “thank you” to everyone who came down to help and to provide lunch for the workers. It's nice to have our church looking good inside and out.

Several Elders from both congregations attended the “**Missional Partnerships**” Roadshows, concerning the development of “Missional Partnership” groupings of churches across the Synod. As we all continue on this journey, please pray

- for the listening to God and one another which will help shape the journey we share in together
- for the Synod and Area Pastoral Committees as they continue to work on the shape of the possible Missional Partnerships
- for all our Synod congregations as in the next two months they contribute to the thinking that is taking place, in preparation for this new phase of our journey together.

Our secretary, Kath, has invited **Dave Fraser**, North West Synod’s new Mission Enabler, to come and speak with the Elders’ at their meeting this month. We hope that this will help move forward in these uncertain times.

THE WORSHIP GROUP PRESENTS...

A HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

11.45 am SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Please bring items for the Foodbank:

Long-life foodstuffs such as:

- rice,
- pasta,
- pasta sauces,
- tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, baked beans, kidney beans, potatoes, chopped or plum tomatoes),
- tinned fruit,
- jams and preserves,
- tea, coffee, sugar,

and any other long-life basic larder items such as herbs, spices and condiments



Dates & Rotas

Oct 1	Rev Alan Poolton
Oct 5	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Oct 8	Rev Valerie Davies
Oct 12	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Oct 15	Harvest Festival Worship Group Led by Mel Hall
Oct 19	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Oct 22	Rev Raj Patta
Oct 23	Elders' Meeting 7.30 pm
Oct 26	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Oct 29	United Service with the Methodists at Chorlton Methodist Church
Nov 1	Open Church: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Nov 5	Rev Alan Poolton
Nov 11	Remembrance Sunday Rev Dr Tony Burnham

Readers & Readings

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

Oct 1	Ian Meadowcroft	<i>Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32</i>
Oct 8	Joyce Henry	<i>Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46</i>
Oct 15	George Morton	<i>Isaiah 25.1-9; Psalm:23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14</i>
Oct 22	Ella Burton	<i>Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96.1-9,(10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22</i>
Oct 29	At Chorlton Methodist	<i>Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46</i>
Nov 5	Brenda Beckett	<i>Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12</i>

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

Thoughts and Prayers – a thought...

We hear politicians and celebrities offering their "thoughts and prayers" in response to recent tragic events. It's right to pray; however this do not diminish the need for more concrete steps sometimes . It might be argued that the one requires the other. James, the brother of Jesus, certainly thought so.

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters," he wrote, "if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

A Look Ahead

Advent and Christmas are closer than you think!



Please put 26 November in your diaries for the famous Wilbraham St Ninian's **pre-Advent Tea**. Featuring crafts, carol singing, songs from the MadDonnas (featuring a John Rutter carol – we hope!) and Kevin's fiendishly twisted quiz, as well as a bring-and-share tea. What better way to kick off Advent 2017??

Honour Choir Autumn Concert & Hotpot Tea

Sat 14 October, 7pm

An evening of song and spoken word with a hotpot tea included (veg option available).

At Brunswick Parish Church, Manchester M13 9YX

Tickets cost £10 / £20 for a family ticket of 4 (must include 1 under 16). And are available from:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/honourchoir>

“Honour” is a Manchester-based choir singing at events to mark the centenary of the First World War. Originally formed in 2014 for a commemorative event at MediaCityUK, Honour choir now consists of around 70 members drawn from across the North-West.

Featuring our own Ella Burton and members of the Ordsall Acapella Singers