

Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

June 2018



¹ I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my
mouth.

³ O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered
me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

⁸ O taste and see that the Lord is
good;
happy are those who take refuge in
him.

Psalm 34

Interim Minister

Rev Alan Poolton

Secretary

Kath Lacy

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St Columba of Iona



9th June is the feast day of St Columba, one of the most important Celtic saints and the one who is credited with the main role in the conversion of Scotland to Christianity. His feast day is 9th June, the day he died in 597 CE, aged 75, on the island of Iona where he founded a monastery that

became a centre of learning, pilgrimage and mission - St Aidan set out from here on his mission to evangelise Northumbria.

Columba or, in Gaelic, Columcille (“Dove of the Church”), was born into an Irish noble family on 7 December 521 in what is now Donegal in the north of Ireland. He studied at the monastic school of Movilla, at Newtownards, under St. Finnian who had studied at St. Ninian's "Magnum Monasterium" on the shores of Galloway. Columba entered the monastery of Clonard and was one of twelve students of St. Finnian who became known as the Twelve Apostles of Ireland. He became a monk and eventually was ordained a priest.

He never intended to become a missionary but was involved in a quarrel with St Finnian over an allegedly illicit copy of a psalter, which led to a battle in which many men were killed. Instead of being excommunicated Columba was allowed to go into exile and win as many souls for Christ as had perished in the battle. So, in 563, Columba travelled to Scotland with twelve companions in a frail wicker and leather curragh (coracle), making several landfalls until he reached the Island of Iona.

The monks built their cluster of beehive cells, and their little church, they gathered for worship but also honoured God in their daily work, farming on the fertile land of Iona and Tiree, caring for the sick, preaching to the people, copying out the scriptures.

and welcoming the many guests who made the journey to Iona - seeking advice, absolution, healing, blessing.

For Celtic Christians, the whole world was the 'great book' of God's creation. Within it they carried and read the 'little book' - the Bible - not less important, but simply something that human hands could hold. Columba and his followers, as part of their austere religious observance, would sometimes stand waist-deep in the swirling sea, chanting the psalms. The person of Abbot Columba and the sanctuary of the monastic 'family' drew people from different walks of life to Iona. There they also experienced the presence of God - as many still do today at Iona Abbey.

There are many stories of miracles performed by Columba, the most famous being his encounter in 565 with an unidentified animal that some have equated with the Loch Ness Monster. It is said that he banished a ferocious "water beast" to the depths of the River Ness after it had killed a Pict and then tried to attack one of Columba's disciples. As well as founding several churches in the Hebrides, Columba worked to turn his monastery at Iona into a school for missionaries. He wrote several hymns and was credited with having transcribed 300 books.

Columba died on Iona and was buried in 597 by his monks in the abbey he created. The story goes that on the day Columba died aged 75 - 9 June 597 - he was copying the words from Psalm 34:1-10.

May kindly Columba guide you
to be an isle in the sea,
to be a hill on the shore,
to be a star in the night,
to be a staff for the weak,
Amen

(Jan Sutch Pickard, Bell, Book and Candle, Wild Goose Publications, 2013, Glasgow)

News Round up

Family News

We say a temporary “Farewell” to our interim minister, **Alan Poolton**, as he takes a well-earned Sabbatical over the summer months. He is planning to cycle two of the British pilgrim routes, or at least parts of them: St Ninian’s Way in Scotland, taking in St Ninian’s cave in Whithorn, and the Roman Catholic and Anglican Shrines to Mary, mother of Jesus, at Walsingham, Norfolk. Alan says he is looking forward to it but is slightly apprehensive at the thought of all those miles in the saddle! We wish him well and hope he returns refreshed in spirit, if not in body!

Fiona Royle’s knee has now recovered well enough that Fiona can play the organ for us once more. Thanks to Philip Jones and Joyce Henry for stepping in while Fiona was unable to play. Good to have you back, Fiona!

Ella Burton and **Mel Hall** are attending a course called “Empowered Conversations”, a practical way of looking at the way our emotions, thinking and attitude can transform the quality and enjoyment of our relationships with people with dementia. They have started by looking at barriers to communication and are looking forward to learning new skills over the next few weeks. Here’s something to think about: can you start a conversation with anyone without asking a question? It’s more difficult than you think!

John Piper is recovering from his knee injury and his farewell party is rescheduled for Saturday 14th July at Shaw St Paul’s Church, with a short service followed by a buffet. Details are on the wall at the back of the church

Good Neighbours are entering the “**Chorlton Open Gardens**” on Sunday June 24th 11am - 5pm. Entry costs £5 with proceeds going to Freedom from Torture. Please go and support our friends and colleagues with a visit.

Church News

Although we have seen little concrete progress, North-West Synod launched the new “Missional Partnerships” over Pentecost, and we were delighted that **Chris Burton** made such a good job of including some of the associated worship resources on the following Sunday. The Elders hope to have more details about how these partnerships will be structured and how they will work over the next couple of months.

The **TLS Lite** course resumes this month on 29th June, led by Rev Mike Walsh. This course is to enable our local Worship Leaders develop their own spirituality and discipleship and the next module is “Theology” or “Talking about God”. Mel, Chris and Ella are attending, along with Walt and Philip from the afternoon congregation.

Christian Aid Week

The Christian Coffee Morning proved to be rather more dramatic than we anticipated, as a car collided with a bus outside the church! **David Williams** called the Emergency Services, and

church folk offered (literally) tea and sympathy (and cake and biscuits) to all involved. The poor bus driver was fasting for Ramadan so couldn't partake! We hear that, although the driver has to be cut out of the car, she was able to walk into the ambulance, and there were no serious injuries to anyone.

George and Mel have yet to count the takings, so the results of collection will appear in next month's Bulletin. Thank you to all who baked, brewed, set up and cleared away!

If you didn't manage to contribute, we have spare envelopes at the back of the church and all contributions are still gratefully received!



Dates & Rotas

June 3	Worship Group led by Ella Burton
June 7	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
June 10	Rev Sue Rowe
June 14	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
June 17	Rev Tony Burnham
June 17	Church Meeting 1:45 preceded by faith lunch
June 21	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
June 24	Worship Group led by Melanie Hall
June 28	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
July 1	tbc
July 5	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm

There is no Elders' Meeting this month as there is a Church Meeting.

The next Elders' Meeting takes place on Monday July 23rd at 7.30pm.

Readers & Readings

Taken from “Roots on the Web” 2018 Revised Common Lectionary Year B

June 3	Brenda Beckett	<i>Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23 - 3.6</i>
June 10	George Morton	<i>Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5.1; Mark 3:20-35</i>
June 17	Barbara Williams	<i>Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4,12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10(11-13)14-17; Mark 4:26-34</i>
June 24	Kath Lacy	<i>Job 38.1-11; Psalm 107:1-3,23-32; Mark 4:35-41; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13</i>
July 1	Sue Posada	<i>Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43</i>
July 8	Kevin Meade	<i>Ezekiel 2.1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13</i>

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

Thank you to Kath Lacy for producing the Readers’ Rota.

Church Meeting

Sunday June 17th

At 1.45pm

There will be a faith lunch after the morning service and before the meeting – all are welcome to partake of the feast!

Please save the date in your diaries

Chorlton Arts Festival at Wilbraham St Ninian's

The Chorlton Arts Festival ran from 18th – 27th May and, as usual, Wilbraham St Ninian's was one of the venues. We say a massive “thank you” to all the managers who were involved with preparing the building and keeping on top of recycling. Special thanks go to everyone involved in the Simon Rimmer extravaganza – I hear it was madness and mayhem beforehand but it appears to have gone really well!

The **Chorlton Proms**, a variety of musical acts, from blues to classical, from synth-pop to folk, included “Moody Elf”, a soul/jazz/world-folk duo, and Helgi Clayton McClure, a singer-songwriter”, billed as “the new Jake Thackray” (*pictures from CAF Twitter*)



Local chef, “Strictly” star and TV presenter (“Sunday Brunch”) Simon Rimmer, presented a 3-course vegetarian / vegan dining event, **The Art of Food**, on Friday 25th May.

