

# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

*September 2018*



<sup>1</sup>For everything  
there is a season,  
and a time for every  
matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to plant,  
and a time to pluck up  
what is planted;

*Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 2*

Interim Minister  
Rev Alan Poolton

Secretary  
Kath Lacy  
0161 860 4717



### A Time of New Beginnings

As a family, our life has always been tied to the rhythms of the Education calendar, so for me, Autumn has always felt like a time of new beginnings. This September one of our members, Kevin, writes of his new beginnings. We will miss Kevin's gentle humour and fiendish quizzes as well as his hard work as one of the church Managers' team. We are also looking to the formation of the Missional Partnership Steering Group, so there will be plenty to think about once the Group starts meeting with Dave Fraser as its Convenor. I leave you with the verses from Ecclesiastes 3, which I hope will help us reflect on the time of changes this Autumn.

- <sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:
- <sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- <sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- <sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- <sup>5</sup> a time to throw away stones,  
and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- <sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- <sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- <sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

*Every Blessing, Mel*

## From Sprung Bed to Springhead: metaphorically speaking!

There comes a time in everyone's working life when your mind turns to slowing down and reducing your hours at the grindstone. In my case it became an obsession when my daughter Kim and her partner Al started to look to move to Saddleworth closer to her work in Uppermill. This area is beautiful and lends itself to my passions for photography, painting and walking.

Out of the window went working part-time when I found we could sell up in Urmston and buy a nice cottage in Saddleworth and live comfortably up to my state retirement age. This we have now done. We have sold our house, as has Kim, and we are journeying to Springhead and Grasscroft respectively.

As a massive surprise during the early days of this process, Kim and Al announced that they are expecting a baby in January, confirming to us that we have done the right thing. There will be lots of grandparenting duties (and dog walking!) to keep us busy.

This will not be the end of our relationship with Wilbraham St Ninian's as we have lots of friends and family still in the area, so I will be dropping in on an occasional basis.

Don't miss us too much!                      *Kevin*

*[But we will! Especially the fiendish quizzes! - Ed.]*

# News Round up

## Family News

It was lovely to celebrate **Eric Morgan's** 95th Birthday with him on Sunday 19th August. Michael had travelled from Prague to be with him and Pat had made a celebratory cake for the congregation to share. Together with Cathy, the family enjoyed a birthday lunch at The Boathouse in Sale Water Park.

**Ian Meadowcroft** is still in hospital with his neck in a thoracic brace, he has experienced difficulty swallowing. Ian is also awaiting neurological investigations for suspected supranuclear palsy. Ian has had several falls during his stay in hospital and a carefully structured 'care package' will need to be in place before he can return home. Eira Meadowcroft has been advised to have heart surgery but has delayed the operation until Ian's care has been resolved.

**Joyce Henry's** husband, John, has been recovering from a fall and has been having rehabilitation. We hope he is (literally) back on his feet soon!

**Mel Hall** has begun volunteering at The Longford Centre, helping recently-homeless people get back on their feet by helping them with job searches, CV writing and job applications, and general use of IT.

**Chorlton Good Neighbours** (CGN) put on a fabulous piece of dramatic comedy titled "Lovechester 1970" at "The City Seen" community festival event at HOME in August. This was written and directed by local volunteer and playwright Nakib Narat. Over ten weeks, volunteers – including our own **Ella Burton** - and older members of CGN - including our own **Enid Woods** (see photo) worked together to practise and perform this short play, which includes singing, poetry and a tipsy vicar. Nakib very kindly wrote a short article for the Bulletin, which you can read on the back page. (A longer version will appear in the NW Synod Newsletter)



*Photo of the “LoveChester70s” performance courtesy of Ella Burton*

## Church News

All members of the congregation have been sent a copy of Mark’s gospel to help them ‘Walk the way of Jesus’ in our congregation and the Synod.

The first meeting of our **Missional Partnership Steering Group** will meet as soon as each church appoints their representative. Dave Fraser, who led worship on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August, is convening the steering group

At the **Elders’ Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>** we will be discussing the Church Profile required for the bid for ministry for our Missional Partnership.

The **Church Meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>** will need to make a decision about the Manse Fund; please be there to make sure you listen to the arguments and have your say in what happens.

## Dates & Rotas

September 2	Rev Sue Rowe
September 6	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
September 9	Rev Fleur Houston
September 10	Elders' Meeting 7:30 in the Vestry – discussion of the Church Profile
September 13	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
September 16	Worship Group led by Chris Burton
September 16	Church Meeting 1:45 preceded by faith lunch
September 20	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
September 23	Rev Dr Walter Houston
September 27	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
September 30	Rev Alan Poolton United Service with the Methodists at Wilbraham St Ninian's
October 4	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
October 7	Worship Group: Harvest Festival <i>Please bring items for the Foodbank</i>

**Please sign up for the tea rota if you are able to help after the service on Sunday**

# Readers & Readings

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

September 2	Kevin Meade	<i>Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23</i>
September 9	Melanie Hall	<i>Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7:24-37</i>
September 16	Mandy Pearks	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38</i>
September 23	Cathy Morgan	<i>Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2.1,12-22; Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4.3,7-8a; Mark 9:30-37</i>
September 30	Chris Burton	<i>Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9.38-50</i>
October 7	Joyce Henry	<i>Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2.5-12; Mark 10:2-16</i>

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

**Thank you to Kath Lacy for producing the Readers' Rota.**

---

## **Llandudno and Chester**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Departing 9am**

Coach trip with Manley park Methodist Church to  
Llandudno and Chester

Please tell Kath Lacy asap if you want to go

## **Chorlton Good Neighbours Goes “HOME”**

I am an actor and writer and first came across the wonderful, serene, atmosphere of Wilbraham St Ninian’s Church and the work of Chorlton Good Neighbours when I was rehearsing The Manchester Passion 2017 in the New Hall (as Pontius Pilate!). I met Helen Hibberd of CGN when she asked me to present a talk for Chorlton Book Festival. Helen and Bernard Leach enthusiastically took on board my thoughts about Drama Workshops and even found a small grant to help fund the project. The first Workshop was on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2018. Over 30 people, mainly aged 70 plus, including a lady of 96, came to the (free) workshops.

Paid actors and directors helped facilitate the acting classes and I directed the final performances with the help of Ella Burton. Ella’s considerable experience and really generous support (coming to meetings with Home, sourcing props, as well as reassuring and gently directing the actors) was really welcome. The actors had a lot of fun and their confidence visibly grew over the weeks. I wrote the play, “LoveChester ‘70s – What Are You Doing Sunday Baby”, setting it in 1970’s Alexandra Park as an outdoor re-marriage by a couple who first married 40 years earlier when the guests were last all together as friends. We had the first performance for Manchester Festival of Ageing in WStN and I persuaded the Producer of Home Arts Centre, Anne Louise Kershaw, to let us perform at their first community festival “A City Seen”. Both evenings went really well. It was wonderful how our participants, who had never acted before, sailed through the two performances in front of over 70 strangers with joy and enthusiasm and abandonment to the most enjoyable silliness! They were given a wonderful show of appreciation by both audiences at the end.

I have learned from the experience that this kind of involvement in a joint artistic project really does have enormous benefits in bringing people closer and enhancing their lives. Helen, Bernard and I are planning another series of workshops culminating in another production. I am looking at the possibility of bringing Miss Marple to Chorlton!

**Nakib Narat**, (*Writer and Director of “LoveChester 70’s”*)