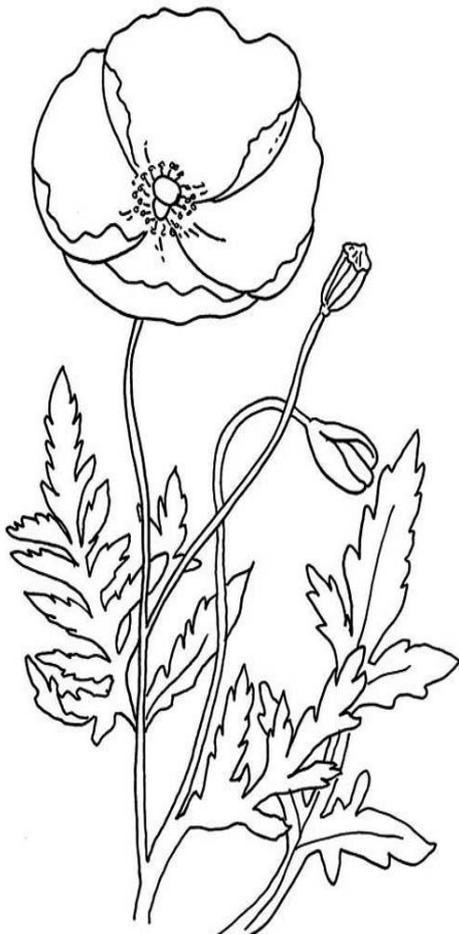


Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

November 2018



Interim Minister
Rev Alan Poolton

⁵The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right
hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ The Lord will keep your going out
and your coming in
from this time on
and for evermore.

Psalm 121

Secretary
Kath Lacy
0161 860 4717

Remembrance Customs



November is the month of Remembrance, with Armistice Day being on the 11th November and All Soul's Day (Day of the Dead) being on the 2nd November.

All Soul's Day (2nd November) is celebrated more in Catholic countries now, but we used to observe it in the UK until fairly recently. It

follows Halloween (Hallowe'en), or All Hallows Eve as it should be called, and All Saint's Day (*All Hallows Day - Hallow being the old English word for Saint*) which is on November 1st, a day devoted to commemorating saints and martyrs of the Christian faith. Hallowmas was the feast which the early English Church took most completely from a pagan celebration: the great pagan Celtic feast of Samhain, which celebrated the end of summer and the harvest. Early English Christians kept it as a fast day with bonfires lit at night, especially on high ground, in order to light the soul's way to heaven.

The Celts believed that, on the eve of the festival (on what we now call Hallowe'en), the dead returned to walk the earth for a night and a day. But with them came the spirits of evil, at their most potent. Fires blazed on every hilltop to purify the land, defeat the evil ones and encourage the wasting sun to revive. Ceremonial dancing, noisy games and harvest-end rituals took place around these fires, with drinking of the herbal ales for which the Celts were renowned.

In Catholic and Orthodox Europe, people believed that the souls in Purgatory were allowed home for two days. Candles were lit - and still are - on their graves and in the windows of houses to light them home. Fires were kept burning to warm their cold bones. Food and drink were left ready.

In Britain bands of 'soulers' went from house to house singing ancient 'souling' rhymes; and small loaves or cakes were handed out to them to be eaten hot while saying a prayer for the departed. The cakes - a cross between a biscuit and a scone - were usually filled with allspice, nutmeg, cinnamon, ginger or other sweet spices, raisins or currants, and before baking were topped with the mark of a cross to signify that these were alms. They were traditionally set out with glasses of wine on All Hallows' Eve as an offering for the dead, and on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day children would go "souling", or ritually begging for cakes door to door, singing a traditional song (you can hear a version sung by the folk group "The Watersons" on YouTube).

As this a time for remembrance, I am posting here is a prayer from the URC Worship Book, for all of us who are remembering or grieving for loved ones at this time:

God of comfort and compassion,
we come seeking the faith to trust
that our loved ones are with you.
We come seeking the peace you promise to us.
In the pain of grieving,
may your strong love hold us.
In the joy of treasured memories,
may your peace comfort us.
In the love and support of family and friends,
may your grace keep us.
Grant us strength for today and hope for tomorrow
as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour

Amen.

May our loving God wrap his arms around us all, and send us peace.

Every blessing, *Mel*

News Round up

Family News

We send our condolences to **Chris, Ella, Susan and Adam Burton** on the death of Chris's father, Edward Henry Burton, on 31st October. Chris's dad was a farmer and Congregationalist lay preacher for many years and had recently celebrated his 91st birthday. His funeral will be held in Dorset on Monday 19th November.

We are saddened to hear of the death of **Sue Posada's** mother, Betty Edmundson, on 2nd November. Betty had been very ill and frail for some time, her husband Tony was with her when she died. We send our love and condolences to Sue and her family.

Please keep the Burton family and the Posada and Edmundson families in your prayers.

Rosa Hall has obtained a new job as an HR Assistant with a jewellery company in Wythenshawe. She reports that there is a lot to take in and she is happy to be starting on her chosen career path in HR.

Rosa Pearks is currently in Italy, near Lake Como, learning more about the textile industry, and **Mandy** is visiting in early November. Unfortunately, the weather in northern Italy has been atrocious so sightseeing has proved very difficult.

Enid Woods is now home and recovering steadily. She is ready to receive visitors.

Ian Meadowcroft is settling into his new residency at Morris Feinmann Care Home, 178 Palatine Road, Didsbury M20 2UW. If you are planning to go and see him, please contact Eira to find out the best time to visit. Chris Burton is planning to share Communion with Ian in the near future.

Walt Johnson is due to attend his assessment conference, which is the next step towards candidating for non-stipendiary ministry. We send our prayers and good wishes to Walt as he moves onward in his faith journey.

Church News

The third meeting of the **Missional Partnership Steering Group** for our group (Group A) took place at Wilbraham St Ninian's on Thursday October 4th. Kath Lacy and Walt Johnson are representing the morning and afternoon congregations respectively. Kath reports that the meetings have been quite drawn out, and there have been some interesting developments; however, Steering Committee members have been sworn to secrecy!

The wording of the Synod resolution on **Manse Funds** caused some concern at the last Church Meeting on September 16th. After some discussions with Synod staff, Kath Lacy and George Morton are off to the Synod office in early November to seek clarity on the matter of the Manse Fund.

The Metropolitan Congregation welcomed **Magdaline Moyo, Mamadou Sissoko** and **Azeez Amosun** into their church by baptism on Sunday 21st October. We give thanks to God and offer our welcome and prayers for them as they begin their new life in Christ.

We heard the good news from the Metropolitan Congregation that Elizabeth, one of their attenders, has been granted asylum in the UK after the Home Office withdrew their initial decision to refuse her claim, as some errors in the decision-making came to light. Elizabeth received confirmation that her asylum application has now been granted. We thank God for the good work that is done by the afternoon congregation in supporting people who are seeking asylum because of their gender identification or sexuality.

Dates & Rotas

November 4	Worship Group led by Ella Burton
November 8	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
November 11	Rev Alan Poolton Remembrance Day Service
November 15	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
November 18	Worship Group led by Melanie Hall
November 22	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
November 25	Rev Sue Rowe Christ the King
November 25	Pre-Advent lunch after the morning service
November 26	Elders' Meeting 7.30 pm Church Vestry
November 29	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
December 2	Rev Alan Poolton (Communion) 1st Sunday in Advent
October 30	Open Church for quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm

Please sign up for the tea rota at the back of the church if you are able to help after the services

Readers & Readings

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

November 4	Sian Richards	<i>Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34</i>
November 11	Chris Burton	<i>1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44</i>
November 18	George Morton	<i>Daniel 12:1-13; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14(15-18)19-25; Mark 13:1-8</i>
November 25	Melanie Hall	<i>Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37</i>
December 2	Kath Lacy	<i>Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36</i>

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

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

PRE-ADVENT LUNCH

Sunday 25th November after the service

A "count your blessings" time for the morning congregation to remember and celebrate the past year and share food together. Please bring desserts / mince pies to share.

The MadDonnas will be singing some new Christmas songs and some old favourites

Please put the date in your diary!

URC Daily Devotions 2018

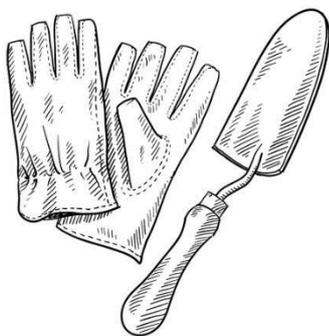


The URC provides a daily devotion with a short Bible reading, reflection and a prayer. This started as an initiative by our friend Rev Andy Braunston, now based in Glasgow. You can find them on the URC website at <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/> or you can go to the website and sign up to receive the Devotions via e-mail.

Rev Andy also compiles the Devotions into a series of themed booklets, which you can download from the same web address. The October series of Devotions followed the story of Saul, Israel's first King, then there are two booklets in November which look at David's Reign and also include some (possibly) new Advent hymns. In December we conclude the Saul-David-Solomon Saga and then, just before Christmas, start reading through St Luke's Gospel which will take us beyond Easter next year.

The Devotions website also features a link to the BBC iPlayer "Songs of Praise" programme from 27th June featuring Rev Andy Braunston and Rev Susan Durber talking about the power of prayer and their use of the Devotions.

<https://devotions.urc.org.uk/>



A big "thank you" to everyone who helped with the church gardening morning in October.

It is much appreciated