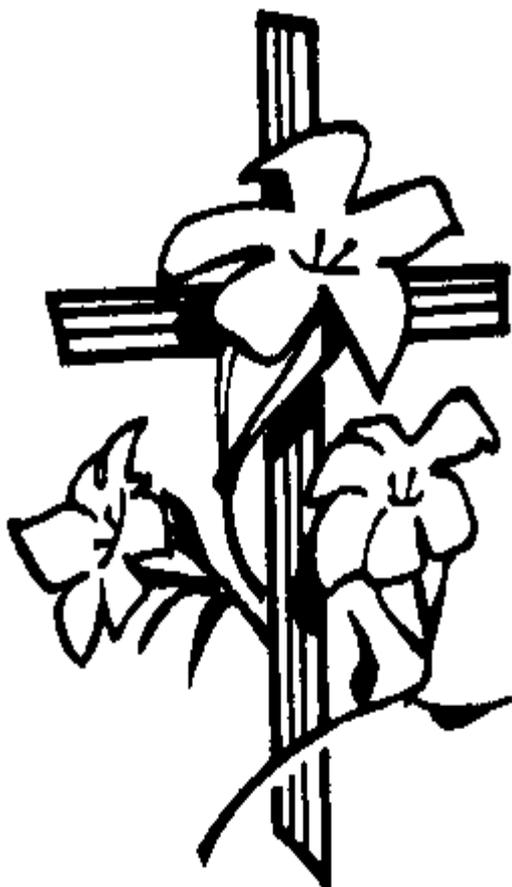


# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

*April 2019*



The veil of darkness  
Transformed to the brightest light.

The most dreadful end  
Became the most beautiful beginning.

The depths of despair  
Fade to reveal hope everlasting.

The curse of death  
Defeated by eternal life.

Thank you Lord, for the wonder of  
Easter.

*a contemporary prayer for Easter day  
from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com)*

Secretary

Kath Lacy

0161 860 4717



## St George - a saint for many faiths and nations

April 23<sup>rd</sup> is St George's Day when the English celebrate the life and legend of their patron saint, St George. But did you know that St George is also the patron saint of Aragon, Catalonia, the Balearics, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany, Greece, Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and he is venerated in Venice, Russia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro, Sicily and Sardinia? And that George is also revered in Palestine by Christians and Muslims?

In Christian tradition St George was a Roman soldier during the Third Century AD, when the Emperor Diocletian was in power. It is said that he once lived in al-Khadr near Bethlehem, on land owned by his mother's family. While the saint's father is usually traced back to Cappadocia, an area in modern Turkey, it is believed his mother was Palestinian from Lydda - now Lod, in Israel. St. George objected to the persecution of Christians by the Emperor Diocletian at the beginning of the 4th century AD and resigned from his military office as a sign of protest. When George tore up the emperor's order against the Christians, Diocletian was furious and had him imprisoned and tortured in an attempt to force St. George to renounce his Christian faith. George, however, refused to reject his faith and so his jailers had him dragged through the streets of Diospolis (known also as Lydda) in Palestine and beheaded.

The legend of George saving a maiden by killing a dragon is first recorded in the 11th century, in a Georgian source, and reached Europe in the 12th century. It was probably the 12th century Crusaders who first invoked St George's name as an aid in battle, but King Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England in 1350 when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name.

In Palestinian Muslim legend, George was from Palestine and lived in the times of some disciples of Jesus. He was killed many times by Dadan, the king of Mosul, and resurrected each time. When the king tried to starve him, he touched a piece of dry wood brought by a woman and turned it green, with varieties of fruits and vegetables growing from it. Eventually, George exposed that the king's idols were possessed by Satan, but was martyred after his fourth death when the city was destroyed by God in a rain of fire.

For Palestinian Christians, St George is a local hero who opposed the persecution of his fellow Christians in the Holy Land. "We believe he was a great martyr for his faith who defended the Christian faith and values," says Greek Orthodox Archbishop Atallah Hanna. "By making sacrifices for his faith he was able to defeat evil."

With its associations of courage, gallantry and honour, the name George (Arabic: Jiriyas or Girgus, or Khadr, Arabic for "green one") remains one of the most common in the Palestinian Territories.

Images of St George are also a permanent feature on many Palestinian Christian homes and public buildings. It is thought that the saint brings them protection. "He's presented as a knight full of peace and grace, riding his horse and always fighting evil, which is symbolised by the dragon" explains sculptor Akram Anastas. "We write underneath in Arabic 'God bless our house.'" Although many details of his life remain unclear, Palestinians see him as having set a powerful example for helping the needy and bravely standing up for one's beliefs.

May we be brave enough to follow St George's example, and may God bless your houses this Eastertide,

*Every Blessing, Mel*

# News Round up

## Family News

We offer our love and prayers to **Jean Hunt**, after her recent bereavement. At Shaun's funeral at Manchester Crematorium the chapel was filled to overflowing with family and friends of Jean and Shaun, and it was a beautiful spring day. We heard stories of Shaun's early life, his competitive streak and Jean spoke about their loving and happy marriage of 18 years.

After seven weeks **Margaret Edwards** is now back home after her spell in hospital and convalescence at Gorton Park. Margaret wants to thank all her friends who sent cards and greetings.

We are sad to report that **Ian Meadowcroft** died peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He had recently returned to Morris Feinmann Nursing home after a stay in hospital being treated for pneumonia. Ian was very frail but welcomed prayers and a pastoral visit from Chris Burton. We send our condolences to Eira and Ian's family; Ian was a loving husband to Eira and a proud Dad and Granddad, and he will be missed. We also send special thanks to Chris for his ministry to Ian during his time at the care home.

A big thank you to **Pat Anstis** who operated our monthly Traidcraft stall for almost 30 years; Pat paid all profits into church funds and they were subsequently donated to the Traidcraft exchange. Pat has recently had her long-awaited knee operation and is pleased with her recovery so far.

Congratulations to **Mel Hall** who started a new career with Co-op Funeralcare in Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale, at the beginning of April. Mel will be working as a Funeral Arranger, assisting the Funeral Director with the administration and logistics of funerals, day-to-day running of the funeral home and working on community outreach activities. She is enjoying this new departure very much and sees it as an extension of her ministry.

# Church News

## Lent Gift Day:



It was agreed at the Church Meeting to support the charity “Mercy Ships”. Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

Founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 70 countries, providing services valued at more than £1 billion. By improving healthcare delivery in every country it visits, Mercy Ships is working to eradicate the diseases of poverty and effectively do itself out of a job. Mercy Ships follows the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus by “bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor”, helping people of all faiths and none. A flyer and envelopes will be issued on Sunday 7th April. Please would you return your envelopes on or before Easter Sunday.

The New Hall will be used as a Polling Station for local Council elections on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May all day.

## Missional Partnership

There will be a service followed by light refreshments to officially commission our Missional Partnership on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 – 4.30pm at Wilbraham St Ninians. More details will follow when they become available.

Still no news of ministers but a new advertisement was issued, and we hear that some interest in the post(s) has been expressed.

# Dates & Rotas

April 7	Stewart Graham
April 11	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
April 14 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	Rev Dr Adam Scott Communion
April 18	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
April 18 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Maundy Thursday Seder meal and Communion Service 7pm Walt Johnson and Chris Burton
April 19 <b>Good Friday</b>	Good Friday Service 3pm led by Walt Johnson
April 21 <b>Easter Sunday</b>	Rev Tony Burnham Communion
April 25	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
April 28	Worship Group led by Chris Burton
May 2	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
May 5	Worship Group led by Mel Hall

All Sunday services begin at 10.45 am unless otherwise stated

# Readers & Readings

Taken from "Roots on the Web" 2019 Revised Common Lectionary Year C

April 7 <b>Lent 5</b>	Chris Burton	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8</i>
April 14 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	Mandy Pears	<i>Psalm 118:1-2,19-29; Luke 19:28-40</i>
April 21 <b>Easter Sunday</b>	George Morton	<i>Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12</i>
April 28 <b>Easter 2</b>	Sian Richards	<i>Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Psalm 150; John 20:19-31</i>
May 5 <b>Easter 3</b>	Melanie Hall	<i>Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19</i>
May 12 <b>Easter 4</b>	Joyce Henry	<i>Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30</i>

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

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

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## **CHURCH GARDENING AND SPRING-CLEANING MORNING**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**10:00 – 12:00**

**HELP NEEDED**



## Holy Week and Easter

### **Maundy Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April (7pm)**

Seder Meal and Communion service led by Walt Johnson and Chris Burton

### **Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 3pm**

Good Friday service led by Walt Johnson

### **Easter Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10.45am**

Joint Communion service with the afternoon congregation led by Rev Tony Burnham

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**Manley Park  
Methodist Church**



**Coach Trip  
to**

**Bowness and  
Lytham St Annes**

**Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
9 am to 7pm

<b>ADULTS</b>	<b>£12</b>
<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>£3</b>

*Everyone Welcome*

