

Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

May 2019



God bless to us each sign of Spring:

each green new shoot

each lighter day

each warmer wind

God bless to us

rebirth

*Kate McIlhagga in "A Book of Blessings" ed Ruth
Burgess, Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow 2001*

Secretary

Kath Lacy

0161 860 4717



Ascension - the footprints of Jesus

Outside Jerusalem, there is a place where you can see the footprint of God. It is on Mount Olivet, the hill where tradition tells us Jesus ascended to heaven. There, encased in glass, a weathered stone lies on the floor, inside a small domed shrine. And if you look long enough at that stone, (they say) you can see the final imprint that Christ made on the earth: the outline of his foot as he touched the ground one last time and was lifted to the skies.

Many paintings of Christ's Ascension, including the well-known engraving by Durer depict the followers of Jesus staring upwards in astonishment at Jesus' dangling feet as he ascends to Heaven, his body often out of shot. The imprints of his feet are on the rock below.

However, the disciples don't remain staring heavenwards for long! Mark writes that after Jesus was taken into heaven, the apostles went forth and preached "while the Lord worked with them." They soon lowered their gaze, looked around and realised they had work to do.

So maybe the footprints of Christ are not to be found on a pebbled hilltop in the Middle East. They are not on stone or clay. Christ's footprints are the footprints he has left on lives. And they are everywhere – too numerous to count. Maybe some of them even belong to us.

If we lower our eyes, we can see the work waiting to be done. Just as the apostles did 2000 years ago, we are each of us plodding on from our own Mount Olivet, still seeking out the footprints of Christ. Soon, the Spirit will join us, bringing fire and wind, wisdom and hope and sustenance. Pentecost beckons!

Every Blessing, Mel

Easter Flowers

Here are some of our beautiful Eastertide flowers decorating the church on Easter Sunday. The Easter lily has also been a religious symbol since the birth of the Christian religion. The flower is even mentioned in the Bible quite a few times.



It's said that when Eve shed tears of remorse as she and Adam left the Garden of Eden, white lilies sprang up where her tears fell. It's also believed that the lilies grew where Jesus' sweat and tears fell to the ground during his crucifixion.



Our Easter lilies were complemented by the bright orange flowers of the Clivia Miniata, or Kaffir Lily, plant which lives at the foot of the pulpit and rarely produces any flowers.

How blessed we are with talented flower arrangers like Brenda and faithful gardeners!

News Round up

Family News

The funeral of our dear friend **Ian Meadowcroft** was held at a packed chapel at Manchester Crematorium on April 15th. It was conducted by the Reverend Hazel Church (who some of you may have known as Rev Hazel Addy!) and was a very moving occasion. Family and friends from all over attended, including friends from the university where Eira and Ian met, and a sizeable Welsh contingent. Unsurprisingly the singing was wonderful with excellent harmonies! The choice of closing music raised a few smiles – “A Nice Cup of Tea” – reflecting Ian’s love of a cup of tea wherever he went. We send our love and prayers to Eira and all the family.

We also send our love and prayers to **Susan Parry**, of the afternoon congregation, and her brother John who was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. May the God who walks with us and bears our loads bless John and Susan and all their family and friends with God’s strength and love.

A big thank you to **Brenda Beckett** and all who helped with the Easter flowers, which featured white Easter lilies and were spectacular. They have attracted many hits and “likes” on Facebook and Instagram (where they have their own account!). See inside the bulletin for a picture.

Congratulations to **Rosa Pearks**, who is off to Vientiane in June for a year. Vientiane is the capital city of Laos (yes, that country surrounded by Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and China). Rosa will be designing woven fabrics which will then be hand woven by artisan women. She has been working in textile mills in Lancashire and Italy, gaining valuable experience and is now going to exercise her design and weaving talents in the Far East. We wish her all the best in this exciting new venture.

Church News

It was agreed at the Church Meeting that our **Lent Giving** should 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.

We are pleased to report that the Lent Gift appeal for Mercy Ships has raised £502 to date, of which the church will claim £105 in tax reclaimed through Gift Aid, making a total of £607 to be sent to Mercy Ships.

Thanks to everyone!

A big “thank you” to everyone who helped with the recent gardening and cleaning morning. It was very productive!

Missional Partnership

The service to officially commission our Missional Partnership will be held on Saturday 8th June at 2.30 – 4.30pm at Wilbraham St Ninians and will be followed by light refreshments and a chance to get to know other members of our Partnership. More details will follow when they become available – keep an eye on the Notices section of the Orders of Service over the next few weeks!

Interest has been expressed in the advertised ministerial post; however, the details are still confidential but expect some news soon about the process of calling prospective ministers to the partnership. Your editor hopes to have more substantial information in the June Bulletin.

Dates & Rotas

May 5	Worship Group led by Mel Hall 10:45 am
May 9	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00 – 12:00
May 12	Rev Dr Walter Houston 10:45 am Communion
May 16	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00 – 12:00
May 18	“Uprooted and Displaced” Christian Aid exhibition at Chorlton Methodist Church 10:00am – 4:00pm
May 19	Roby Church 263 rd Anniversary. Service at 11:00 am led by Rev Raj Patta followed by catered lunch
May 19	Rev Fleur Houston 10:45 am
May 22	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00 – 12:00
May 26	Rev Valerie Davies 10:45am
May 29	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00 – 12:00
June 2	Rev Sue Rowe 10:45am
June 6	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00 – 12:00
Saturday June 8	Missional Partnership Commissioning Service at Wilbraham St Ninians 2.30pm

Readers & Readings

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

May 5 Easter 3	Sian Richards	<i>Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19</i>
May 12 Easter 4	Joyce Henry	<i>Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30</i>
May 19 Easter 5	Cathy Morgan	<i>Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35</i>
May 26 Easter 6	Ella Burton	<i>Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22 – 22.1-5; John 14.23-29</i>
June 2 Easter 7	Brenda Beckett	<i>Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17:20-26</i>
June 9 Pentecost	George Morton	<i>Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, (25-27)</i>

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

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

CHURCH GARDENING AND SPRING-CLEANING MORNING

Thank you to everyone who helped with gardening and cleaning on Saturday April 13th.





“Uprooted” Exhibition

Christian Aid’s “Uprooted” exhibition is touring the country to raise awareness of the 40 million internally displaced people around the world. This is a moving photographic exhibition featuring stories of people displaced in Nigeria, Kenya and Iraq.

To mark the end of Christian Aid week, Chorlton Methodist Church will host the exhibition in their foyer area on Saturday 18th May from 10.00am to 4pm. Christian Aid volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions you may have, and light refreshments will be available.

Because those displaced inside their own country have not crossed a border, they often lack international recognition and support. The exhibition will give you the chance to hear displaced people tell their own stories. Through a series of powerful images and individual accounts, you will learn more about the global crisis of displacement, its consequences and the challenges displaced people face.

The exhibition will also give you the opportunity to involve yourself in the campaign further.

It will also be on display at Chorlton Central Church on Sunday 19th May 9.00–10.30am and 12.00–1.30pm