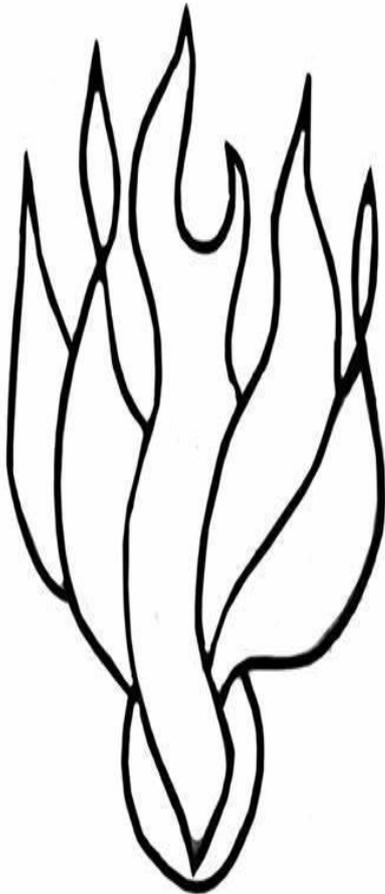


Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

June 2019



God of fire, burn brightly in your
Church.

Consume our petty concerns and
jealousies,

purify our deeds and intentions,

kindle in our hearts the fire of your
love.

Amen

*David Hamflett in "Fire and Bread" ed Ruth Burgess, Wild
Goose Publications, Glasgow 2006*

Secretary

Kath Lacy

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Some Thoughts on Pentecost

Before he was lifted up to heaven, Jesus had encouraged his disciples to ‘wait’ in Jerusalem: “This”, he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised

with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (*Acts 1.4-5*), Luke tells us that all Jesus’ followers, including the women and Jesus’ mother and brothers, spent the days in constant prayer. Their waiting was resolved by what they experienced at Pentecost.

Pentecost was originally a Jewish harvest festival, but it came to celebrate God’s covenant with Israel and the giving of the Law. Luke alludes to the Exodus story with his references to ‘wind’ and ‘fire’ (*Exodus 19:16-20*). His language suggests that the disciples had a shared visionary experience, for which their “constant devotion to prayer” had been preparing them. There are enough signatures of God in this scene to indicate a heavenly rather than earthly source for what Luke pictures! Outside on the street, the Jewish pilgrims hear and understand what the disciples are saying (so this is not the “speaking in tongues” of *1 Corinthians:12-14*).

Along with the crowd we might ask “What does this thing mean?” (*Acts 2:12*) Some of the crowd suggest drunkenness, but Luke’s opening (literally, “When the day of Pentecost had been fulfilled”) suggests that this is the fulfilment of John the Baptist’s words and Jesus’ promise to the disciples (*Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5,8*).

And then Peter - the Galilean fisherman who had deserted and denied Jesus on that terrible night in the Garden - raises his voice and begins to prophesy.

Peter quotes the scriptures, going back to the prophet Joel, who, eight hundred years earlier had announced an outpouring of God's Spirit to restore Israel's fortunes (*Joel 2:28*). Israel's hopes for a bright new future have arrived on a Jerusalem street at Pentecost, just weeks after the dark days of Passover.

Pentecost was the start of the Church, and we see how something seemingly so small - an event affecting a few dozen people in one city on one particular day 2,000 years ago - has led to the Church spreading across the globe. How might the Holy Spirit be at work in our generation? What small Spirit-filled steps might we be called to take right now?

Every Blessing, Mel

Preaching with a View

The Steering Committee of the Missional Partnership has invited the two "jobshare" candidates for the ministry vacancy in our Partnership to "preach with a view". This will take the form of one day of activities on Saturday 29th June at Wilbraham St Ninians., followed by 2 services on Sunday 30th June.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Workshop activities for Elders and worship leaders

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Faith lunch and opportunity to meet the candidates

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Worship in the church

Congregations can "dip into" the events as they wish

On **Sunday 30th June**, "the Revs" will each preach with a view at one of two worship services: one at Trinity Community Church, Amani Centre, and one at St Peter's church.

The plan is to make our decision on whether to call the ministers to the partnership at the Church Meeting on July 7th.

News Round up

Family News

We continue to send our love and prayers to **Susan Parry**, of the afternoon congregation, and her brother John who has recently finished his first bout of chemotherapy to treat lung cancer. May God bless and comfort John and Susan and all their family and friends.

Two of our young people are involved with musical theatre group Manchester Musical Youth (MMY), based at Z-Arts (formerly Zion) in Hulme. **Susan Burton** has designed and constructed sets for their production of “Shrek Jr” – including a near life-size dragon’s head that took up most of the living room! **Rosa Hall** will be featuring in a production of “Made in Dagenham”; a musical based on the Ford women car workers' strike of 1968, in which female staff sewing seat covers for Cortinas and Zephyrs went on strike for the same wage as the men. This commanded headlines, galvanised the political debate, and indirectly led to the Equal Pay Act of 1970. “Made in Dagenham” runs from Thursday 20th – Saturday 22nd June at 7.30pm.

Chris, Ella and Adam Burton and Rosa Hall also feature in an independent film based on the diaries of Anne Frank, which premiered on 1st June. It is set to original music written by a Chorlton woman and promises to be very interesting and very moving.

Rosa Pearks leaves for her new job in Vientiane, Laos this month. She will be designing woven fabrics which will then be hand woven by artisan women. We wish her all the best in this exciting new venture.

Ruth Anigbere of the afternoon congregation has requested that her three boys be baptised at a future afternoon service. Ruth is also moving into a new house in East Manchester. We ask for God’s blessing on Ruth and the boys.

Church News



George and Mel send a big “thank you” to everyone who took Christian Aid envelopes for themselves and friends/ family. We have not yet been able to count the money but, as the advert says, “every little helps”! If you have not brought back your envelope, please drop it into the collection bag or give it to George or Mel.

Christian Aid urged all supporters of its “Big Shift” campaign on climate change to lobby HSBC to change its policy of investment in fossil fuels. On behalf of both our congregations, George Morton delivered a letter signed by many of us which outlined the problems of climate change and how HSBC could help alleviate them by disinvesting in fossil fuels and investing instead in renewable energy

The **Lent Gift Day Appeal** for Mercy Ships raised £502.90; Gift Aid added £105.72 to this sum, making a total of £608.62 which has been sent to the Mercy Ships charity.



Pat Anstis has given £700 in Traidcraft commission on ending her long and faithful service as a Traidcraft representative. As is the church’s custom, we will donate this to Traidcraft Exchange to support their many worthwhile projects. We also thank Pat for all the work she has put into Traidcraft over the years.

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 food and fellowship in the New Hall (see back page for details). We also have news of potential ministers and a weekend of “preaching with a view” at the end of June. See page 3 for more information...

Dates & Rotas

June 2	Rev Sue Rowe 10:45 am
June 6	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
Saturday June 8	Commissioning Service for our Missional Partnership 2:30pm – 3.30pm followed by light refreshments in the New Hall
June 9 Pentecost	Worship Group 10:45 am Communion
June 13	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
June 16 Trinity	Worship Group led by Ella Burton 10:45 am
June 20	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
June 23	Walt Johnson 10:45am
June 27	Open Church Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
June 29	Workshops and Worship at Wilbraham St Ninians -10:00am – 3:00 pm (bring lunch)
June 30	“Preaching with a View” at Trinity (Amani Centre) and St Peter’s Church
June 30	United Service at Wilbraham St Ninians Rev Valerie Davies 10:45am
July 7	Worship Group Church Meeting 1:45

Readers & Readings

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

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>
June 16 Trinity Sunday	Barbara Williams	<i>Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15</i>
June 23	Kath Lacy	<i>Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39</i>
June 30	Chris Burton	<i>1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62</i>
July 7	Ella Burton	<i>Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20</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 RESCHEDULED

There will be NO Church Meeting on Sunday 16th June.

The meeting will take place on

Sunday July 7th

to allow for discussions and (hopefully) decisions about ministry in our Partnership.

Commissioning Service for our Missional Partnership



In the future, URC Ministers will be called to the Missional Partnership, rather than individual churches or pastorates. They will share their time and ministries across the whole Partnership, focusing on where their skills are needed most or where a particular mission project requires their involvement.

For the seven churches in our Partnership, this begins formally with a **Worship Service at Wilbraham St Ninians on Saturday 8th June, starting at 2.30pm**, where people from all seven churches will come together for worship and formal commissioning of the Partnership.

The service will be led by Rev Dave Fraser and Rev Alison Termie, with members of all the churches participating in the prayers and readings.

There will be light refreshments and fellowship time after the service. This will be an opportunity to meet and get to know the people who will be our partners in the mission of the church in our area.

Please let Kath know if you are planning to attend as we need numbers for catering.

If you can help to set up the church and the New Hall on Saturday morning between 10:30 and 12:00, or stay behind to help clear up after refreshments, this would be much appreciated!