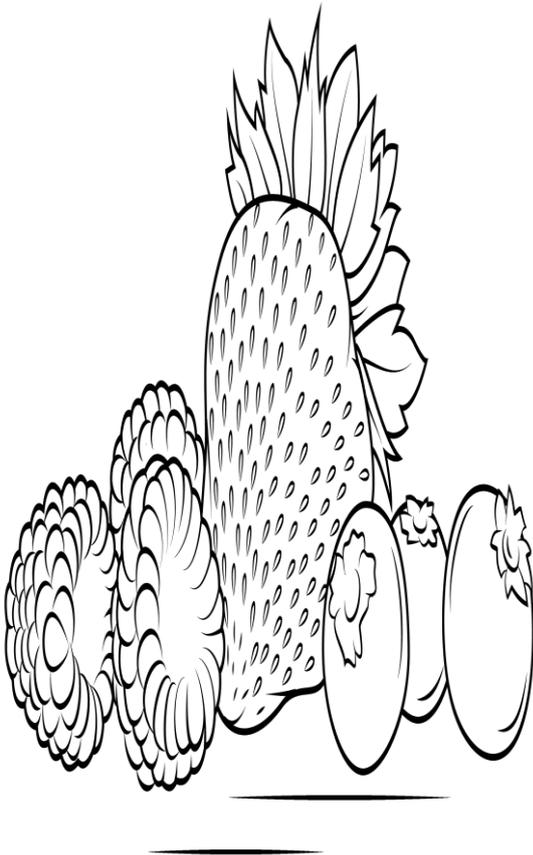


Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

Egerton Rd South, Chorlton-cum-Hardy,

Manchester, M21 0XJ

July - August 2019



We thank You, God, for strawberries:
their fullness reminds us of Your
grace.

We thank You, God, for raspberries:
they are worth the toil to protect them
from the birds.

We thank You, God, for wimberries:
so small and delicate, yet in clumps
so rich.

Thank You, God, for Your abundant
love.

*Elizabeth Kime, Bare Feet and Buttercups,
Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow 2008*

Secretary

Kath Lacy

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From the Editor..... July - August 2019



Extraordinary “Ordinary” Time

Congratulations! We’ve made it through the first half of the Christian year, and we’ve now hit the six-month period known as “Ordinary Time”. The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost have passed as we reflected and celebrated, and then reflected and celebrated again. The “ordinary” period of the church calendar now awaits.

One difficulty with talking about the season as “ordinary time” is to be aware that “ordinary” things can constrain our thinking or constrain our actions within the limits that others set.

When we think about the Church year, the idea of being in ‘Ordinary’ time doesn’t seem to cover it. “Ordinary” can mean the mundane, the day to day, the usual - things that don’t challenge us or push our boundaries. But much of the lectionary in “ordinary time” covers the life and ministry of Jesus! We are led by the lectionary through the story of a life that is not ordinary, but extraordinary, and a life that offers extravagant promise. Part of our challenge as followers of Jesus in this coming season is not so much to allow ourselves to become part of the mundane, but to recognise that we are seeking to witness to the extraordinary.

Maybe in this ordinary season we can recognise the extraordinary around us, and be open to how we can be challenged and inspired by the people and places we encounter, and have our faith informed and by the extraordinary story of Jesus.

Have a wonderful summer, and the Bulletin will see you in September!

Mel

Family, Friends and Church News

(temporarily moved this month)

Eira Meadowcroft has had major surgery, which she postponed while Ian was ill, and is now recovering well. She is doing a lot of walking!

Our friend **Rev Dr Adam Scott**, who has preached for us several times, has been appointed as **Tutor for Ministerial Formation** at Northern College, Luther King House. Originally from Dublin, Adam moved to the UK to study psychology in the late nineties. He originally trained as a Baptist minister, working in London, but transferred as a minister to the URC and undertook a doctorate in psychology in Manchester. Adam lives in Manchester with his husband; he is an active member of Levenshulme Inspire URC, one of the churches in our partnership.



We decided not to hold a street collection for Christian Aid this year, nor to hold any special events (perhaps remembering the drama of last year!). Instead, our church folk took one or more envelopes at the start of Christian Aid week, and Good Neighbours also held a collection. George and Mel are pleased to report that Wilbraham St Ninian's raised a total of £510.42 for Christian Aid. We say a BIG "THANK YOU" to everyone who filled an envelope, who gave them to family, friends and neighbours and to our friends at Good Neighbours.

Holy God,

In your Kingdom the strong need the weak,
the rich are transformed by the poor,
the fortunate are welcomed by the homeless.

Your Kingdom is built by those who expect their God to come.

Amen

Commissioning the Missional Partnership

Wilbraham St Ninian's hosted our Missional Partnership Commissioning Service for on Saturday 8th June.

It was lovely to welcome around 90 people to the service which was led by the Rev. Dave Fraser, and the preacher was the Rev. Alison Termie. Representatives from all eight congregations took part in the service with readings, prayers and liturgy.



The service began with 8 ribbons on the Communion table, symbolising each of the 8 congregations comprising the Missional Partnership, each existing separately.

As people entered and took their seats for the service, each person received a small piece of ribbon.



As part of the act of commissioning during the service, the ribbons were unfurled to cover the whole church and people pinned their small ribbons on to the large ribbons, each large ribbon having many different colours clipped to it.

At the end of the service, the ribbons were gathered up on the Communion table, now intertwined with each other, symbolising the new Missional Partnership and new ways of walking with God together



In the background you can see the stunning flower arrangement by Brenda that drew many compliments from the worshippers, and matched the “rainbow” of ribbons on the table.

The service was followed by refreshments and a special cake, marking the birth of the new Partnership.



Thank you to all the helpers for the preparations, setting-up and clearing away.

Dates & Rotas

July 7 th	Worship Group led by Mel Hall Church Meeting 1.45pm
July 14 th	Rev John Piper
July 21 st	Rev Tony Burnham
July 22 nd	Elders' Meeting 7.30pm in the Vestry
July 28 th	Songs of Praise
August 4 th	Rev Valerie Davies
August 11 th	Rev Fleur Houston Communion
August 18 th	Worship Group
August 25 th	Rev Valerie Davies
September 1 st	Rev Sue Rowe

Open Church: the church is open for quiet reflection and prayer every Thursday between 10:00am and 12:00pm

Readers & Readings

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

July 7 th	Ella Burton	<i>2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20</i>
July 14 th	Melanie Hall	<i>Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37</i>
July 21 st	Cathy Morgan	<i>Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42</i>
July 28 th	Chris Burton	<i>Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13</i>
August 4 th	Barbara Williams	<i>Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21</i>
August 11 th	George Morton	<i>Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40</i>
August 18 th	Kath Lacy	<i>Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29 – 12.2; Luke 12:49-56</i>
August 25 th	Mandy Pearks	<i>Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17</i>
September 1 st	Sian Richards	<i>Sirach 10:12-18; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14</i>
September 8 th	Joyce Henry	<i>Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33</i>

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

Thank you to Kath Lacy for producing the Readers’ Rota and Preaching Plan.

Calling New Ministers

On the weekend of 29th – 30th June, members of the 7 churches comprising the Missional Partnership had the opportunity to meet the two ministers, Kate Gray and ‘Frin Lewis-Smith, who have expressed the wish to work in a job-share in our partnership. This was the best way to allow as many people as possible to make an informed decision about whether to call Kate and ‘Frin to our partnership.

At our Church meeting on **Sunday 7th July at 1.45pm** members of Wilbraham St Ninians will be asked to decide on whether to accept **both** or **neither** of the ministers. It is not possible to accept just one of them.

The vote will be a secret ballot. The rules from the Synod say that 75% of church members across all 7 churches in the Missional Partnership must be in favour of accepting both ministers.

All the ballot papers from all 7 churches in the Missional Partnership will be put into a sealed envelope and brought together at a special meeting of the Missional Partnership Steering Group on Wednesday 10 July. The envelopes will be opened and the votes will be counted in the presence of representatives from each church in the Missional Partnership.

The decision will be announced by the Synod following the count.

UPDATE: The 7 church meetings voted to issue a call to the ministers; however, after much thought and prayerful reflection the ministers have decided to decline the call. This is no reflection on the partnership, the churches or the people!

So, for now we remain minister-less and we hope and pray for the wisdom to discern a way forward for ministry within the Synod and the partnerships