

Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

September 2019



All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord
for all his love.

*"We Plough the Fields and Scatter" Matthias
Claudius (1782), translated by Jane Campbell*

Secretary

Kath Lacy

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From the Editor..... September 2019



Daily Devotions 1000th Edition

Welcome back to the Bulletin. Your editor hopes you are all feeling refreshed and renewed after the summer break! (Though said editor is about to go off for a week to enjoy sun and sea on the Greek island of Lesbos. The joy of not being tied to school terms!)

On 23rd August the Daily Devotions, the United Reformed Church's (URC) series of digital daily Bible readings, reflections and prayers, reached its 1000th edition.

The devotions are written by more than 100 people from across the denomination. More than 3,000 subscribers receive the inspirational readings in their inboxes at 6am each day, and hundreds more follow online at <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/>

Rev Andy Braunston, Minister of Barrhead, Priesthill, Shawlands and Stewarton URCs in the Synod of Scotland's Southside Cluster, created the project when ministering at Wilbraham St Ninians in 2016. He sent out his own reflections on the weekly lectionary readings to members of the congregation. This then evolved into the Devotions we know today.

He said: "I am so pleased that so many people both read the Devotions and have volunteered to write for them. Many people have commented that the devotions are a way in which the URC expresses a form of unity, each day, normally first thing in the morning, so many of us are reading, reflecting and praying about the same passage."

Because the devotions are written by a number of people across the URC, the divergent interpretations of scripture can be startling and refreshing, whether we agree with them or not.

More than 50% of subscribers recently took part in a survey which showed long-term engagement with the devotions, and a substantial number of new readers.

Almost 70% of readers were involved in a local URC and another 12% in an ecumenical church that included the URC. Roman Catholics, members of the Church of Scotland, Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of England also read the devotions.

Around 45% of respondents felt the devotions were relevant almost every day to their own faith journeys and another 53% said they were often relevant.

“Given the diverse nature of our writers and our readers this is quite an achievement; especially as everyone involved is a volunteer,” continued Andy.

“One of the most moving aspects of the feedback is that some people use the devotions as they can no longer get to church. This is sometimes due to illness or the fact their church has closed. In this small way the devotions allow people to keep contact with the spiritual tradition which has nurtured them for years.”

The Daily Devotions are a great tool for local churches for use in small groups, Elders’ meetings or even as sermon starters. They are also available in an A5 book for people to print off for those in their congregations who don’t have access to the internet. Please let one of the Elders know if you feel you would like us to print the booklets for personal or church use.

You can now also listen to the Daily Devotions at this link
<https://devotions.urc.org.uk/most-recent-podcasts/>

The latest set of Devotions focus on Paul’s Letter to the Romans, the longest and most influential of Paul’s letters. It was a major influence on the Reformation, especially because of its teaching on ‘justification by faith’. Although it was written for Christians in Rome many years ago, Paul’s letter still helps us to deepen our understanding of the significance of the work of Christ in bringing the love and mercy of God to the whole of humanity.

Every Blessing, Mel

News Round up

Family News

We hope that everyone had a good summer, enjoyed the sunshine and managed to get out and about with family and friends.

It was good to see **Joyce Henry** back in church and 'boot' free. It has been a long recovery since her accident in the summer.

Congratulations to **Ella and Chris Burton**, who are celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary this month.

Alastair Lyall was admitted to A & E in Edinburgh in August, as a result of sudden illness. Alastair was discharged and his son brought him back to his home in Manchester by car. However, Alastair's health deteriorated over the Bank Holiday weekend and he was admitted to the MRI on Tuesday 27th where he has undergone a whole series of tests. We are pleased to report that Alastair's condition is now stable, and he is being transferred to Trafford General Hospital so that an appropriate care package can be put in place. **Please remember Alastair and Sheila in your prayers.**

Sue Posada reports that she is slowly settling into her new life in Colombia with Mario. It is taking a while to get all the necessary paperwork sorted out because they have to travel into the city for everything, which is a 2-hour road trip (if the roads are good). Sue says her faith is helping to keep her grounded and she was looking forward to seeing their daughters over the summer and having a "seaside" break on Colombia's Caribbean coast. She says if anyone wants to practise their Spanish via email, she has plenty of time to reply!

We wish good luck and every blessing to **Walt Johnson** as he starts his training for Non-Stipendiary Ministry at Northern College.

Church News

It was with deep sadness that the death of **Rev Graham Cook** (1939 – 2019) was announced by the URC in August. Graham was the founding Director of the URC training centre at Windermere, then spent a decade as Moderator of Mersey Synod, retiring from that post in 2004. Graham was elected as Moderator of the URC General Assembly and served in that role from 1990-91. The family are holding a private cremation for Graham on 4th September in the morning, and a thanksgiving service will be held on the same day at 1.30pm at St John's URC, Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 6QE, to which all are welcome. For further details, e.g. parking arrangements, please contact the URC Mersey Synod Office

Songs of Praise

In July 2016, the URC became the largest UK denomination to freely permit the celebration and registration of marriages of same-sex couples in its churches. Our friend, Rev Andy Braunston, made his second appearance on the *BBC Songs of Praise* episode broadcast on 18 August to tell Rev Kate Bottley how and why that vote allows individual congregations the choice to hold same-sex weddings. Rev Andy said that we in the URC believe that God has led us to a place where we can live together with disagreement and grace, saying that “if the church can model how to disagree well, we could teach the politicians a thing or two” (hear hear)! The episode focused on faith and marriage and featured the joyful wedding of two men who are members at Rutherglen URC.

Church Meeting

There will be a Church Meeting on Sunday 15th September at 1.45pm preceded by a faith lunch. Please put the date in your diaries to ensure you have a say in the life of this church!

Dates & Rotas

Sep 1	Rev Sue Rowe 10:45 am
Sep 3 Tuesday	Managers' Meeting 7.30pm
Sep 8	Rev Dr Walter Houston
Sep 9 Monday	Elders Meeting 7.30pm
Sep 14 Saturday	Green Christian event 10.30am - 4.30pm, The Dandelion Community, Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe, M22 1AH
Sep 15	Rev Tony Burnham followed by faith lunch and Church Meeting at 1.45pm
Sep 17 Tuesday	"Heading for Extinction" event 7.30pm Chorlton Methodist Church
Sep 18	Safeguarding Meeting Chorlton Central Church 6.00pm – 9.30pm
Sep 21 Saturday	Advent & Christmas Worship Workshops 10 – 12 at Trinity Community Church 2.00 – 4.00 Macclesfield & Bollington
Sep 22	Worship Group
Sep 26	Missional Partnership Representatives 7.30pm
Sep 29	United Service at Manley Park Methodist Church 10.30 am

The church is open for quiet reflection and prayer every Thursday
from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Readers & Readings

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

September 1	Sian Richards	<i>Sirach 10:12-18; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16; Luke 14:1,7-14</i>
September 8	Joyce Henry	<i>Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33</i>
September 15	Cathy Morgan	<i>Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10</i>
September 22	Ella Burton	<i>Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13</i>
September 29	Manley Park	<i>Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31</i>
October 6	Chris Burton	<i>Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2.1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10</i>

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

CHORLTON ARTS FESTIVAL 2019

...going back to its roots as a festival by and for Chorlton people!

Saturday 21st September at 7.30pm, St Clement’s Church

An evening of Acapella singing and possibly cake with Open Voice choir from Whalley Range (featuring Sian Richards) and Ordsall Acapella Singers (featuring Ella Burton)

Monday 23rd September at 7.30pm South Manchester Cricket Club, Ellesmere Rd, Chorlton

Heavenly heartfelt harmonies, new songs and old favourites from our very own MadDonnas. Spoken word and songs from Serina Wain.

Saturday 28th September at 7.30pm, Wilbraham St Ninians

“First Men in The Moon” – HG Wells’ tale told via a mix of film and live action and featuring Chris, Ella and Adam Burton.

Forthcoming Events

Green Christian 'On the Road Together'

Sat 14 Sept 10.30am - 4.30pm

The Dandelion Community, Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe, M22 1AH

A day with Green Christian and local communities to deepen ecological discipleship, mobilise for change, and build common cause for creation.

The event is free but donations on the day welcome. Lunch will be available from a local food initiative. Booking is essential at:

www.greenchristian.eventbrite.co.uk or telephone 0345 459 8460 or visit www.greenchristian.org.uk

Heading for Extinction

Tuesday 17 Sep at Chorlton Methodist 7.30pm

Hosted by Chorlton Extinction Rebellion

In this public talk, speakers will share the latest Climate Science and evidence of ecological breakdown, discussing where our planet is heading and what, together, we can do about it. Everyone is welcome. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and you'll hear about how to join the extinction rebellion movement.

Advent & Christmas Worship Workshops

A worship resource workshop for worship teams and worship leaders to share ideas and resources for Advent and Christmas

Saturday September 21st

10.00-12.00 am at Trinity Community Church, The Amani Centre M16 7DG

2.00-4.00pm at Macclesfield & Bollington URC, Park Green, Macclesfield, SK11 7NA