

# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church

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

*November 2019*



November

The changing of the  
seasons.

The coming of winter.

The calendar year ending.

The church year beginning.

*Kimberly Knowle-Zeller, from "A  
Prayer for November",*

*<https://www.episcopalcafe.com/>*

Secretary

Kath Lacy

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Happy New Year!



November sees the end of the Christian year with the final Sunday in November celebrating the Reign of Christ, or Christ the King as it is sometimes known. Well, we could say that for us, every year is a Christian year, but what we mean is that November sees the end of the **liturgical year**.

The Liturgical year starts at Advent, then we have Christmas and Epiphany, then Lent, Easter, Pentecost. After Pentecost we have Ordinary Time, culminating in the Reign of Christ, and then we start again with Advent. In the midst of all this there are festivals such as Harvest, All Saints', and Remembrance Sunday.

But why do we have a “liturgical year” and why does it begin in December instead of January like the calendar year? There is a clue in the reading from Revelation 1 verse 8 that is used in some years on the Sunday of the Reign of Christ: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, so this verse means that God is the beginning of Creation and God will be at its end. And so, the liturgical year helps us to explore the main themes of our faith, like how God came into the world, how God died and rose again and how God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit. So, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany tell us the story of the beginning and of God coming into the world. Lent and Easter tell us of Jesus' ministry and of his death and resurrection, while Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit. “Ordinary Time” is an opportunity to explore other major themes of the Bible like Jesus' miracles and some of the prophets and stories from the Old Testament.

This is a lot to cover, and it takes us 3 years to cover the whole of the Bible and its major themes. Each of the three years is a cycle: A, B or C. Over the three years we therefore get a big picture of God, and then we begin the cycle over again.

So the last Sunday of the liturgical year is a bit like New Year's Day; we look back at the old year and look forward to the new year.

### **Christ Reigns**

Christ is King.  
Christ Reigns,  
but there in the background  
(can you hear it?),  
the whisper of the prophets.

Christ is King.  
Soon to be born among us,  
but let us go now  
as the year turns.

Christ reigns  
in the hope of the people.

*Roddy Hamilton in "Winter" ed, Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications,  
Glasgow 2016*

*Every Blessing, Mel*

### **CHURCH MEETING 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Re-election of Elders and other important church  
business are on the agenda at the  
**Church Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

Please make every effort to attend.

# News Round up

## Family News

It's been good to see **Alastair** and **Sheila Lyall** back in church and at Elders' meeting again. We hope that Alastair's health continues to improve.

We were delighted to celebrate the baptism at the service by the Rev Valerie Davies on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> of baby **Grace Cecilia Mkandwire**. It was lovely to welcome the friends and family of mum **Susanna** to the church and to and hear the sounds of babies and young children. Big brother **Roland** proved once again to be very helpful during the service, and we thank Susanna for providing delicious refreshments after the service.

**Susan Parry** reports the good news that her brother **John** is now in remission from his cancer. His energy has returned along with his hair! Susan would like to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes and asks that we continue to keep John in our prayers.

**Pat Anstis** is practising her Spanish by corresponding with our dear friend **Sue Posada**, who moved to Colombia this year. Sue is taking a TEFL course with a view to teaching English to the women in her village. Sue's younger daughter, Nadia, has been travelling in South America and has found work in Medellin for a couple of years, so Sue and her husband Mario are planning to buy a small flat where Nadia and her friend can live and they are looking forward to a Colombian Christmas.

Our friends in the afternoon congregation enjoyed a trip to a recording of "Songs of Praise" in Leicester, thanks to Cat Lewis and her TV production company. They have also had several asylum successes over the past few months. We are thankful for the work they do and the welcome and sanctuary they provide.

## Missional Partnerships

The next Missional Partnership Steering Group meeting will be held at Wilbraham St Ninians on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. They are hopeful that they will begin making progress again after the setback earlier this year. Our Mission Enabler, **Dave Fraser** has agreed to provide some sessions that will help both congregations of Wilbraham St Ninians explore different types of service in the church, including worship leading and eldership.

**Zenlita** from the afternoon congregation has made a banner for each church in the partnership from the different coloured ribbons used in the Commissioning Service. She will be visiting the different churches to present the banner over the next few months. We thank her for the enormous effort it has taken to make the banners and look forward to the banner being displayed in church.

## Church News

The managers have appointed Equilibrium Architects for the initial assessment of the proposed extension to the Old Hall, and have already carried out the survey.

There is a proposal to resume the distribution of fresh fruit and vegetables from Fareshare to asylum seekers once a month. **Margaret Kendall** of the Afternoon congregation has worked incredibly hard to achieve this and we thank her for her work. We are working together to try and achieve a distribution system that will meet the needs of the afternoon congregation and also meet the administration requirements of Fareshare.

# Dates & Rotas

Nov 3	Worship Group led by Mel Hall
Nov 7	Open Church: Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
Nov 10 <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	Worship Group led by Ella Burton
Nov 14	Open Church: Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
Nov 17	Worship Group led by Chris Burton
Nov 21	Open Church: Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
Nov 24	Rev Fleur Houston
Nov 24	<b>Pre-Advent lunch</b> after church
Nov 25	Elders' Meeting 7.30 in the vestry
Nov 28	Open Church: Quiet reflection and prayer 10:00am – 12:00pm
Dec 1 <b>Advent 1</b>	Rev Tony Burnham <b>Communion</b>
Dec 15	<b>Church Meeting 1.45pm</b>

# Readers & Readings

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

November 3	Joyce Henry	<i>Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12</i>
November 10	Mandy Pearks	<i>Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38</i>
November 17	Sian Richards	<i>Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians:6-13; Luke 21:5-19</i>
November 24	Ella Burton	<i>Jeremiah 23:1-16; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43</i>
December 1 <b>Advent 1</b>	Melanie Hall	<i>Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44</i>
December 8 <b>Advent Gift Day Service</b>	George Morton	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12</i>

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

## **Support for Missional Partnerships**

### **Retreat Days**

A day of silence, prayer, fellowship and Bible study (lunch provided):

**November 9<sup>th</sup>: 10.00am – 3.00pm**

**at Trinity Church, 81 Cecil Road, Hale WA15 9NT**

**OR**

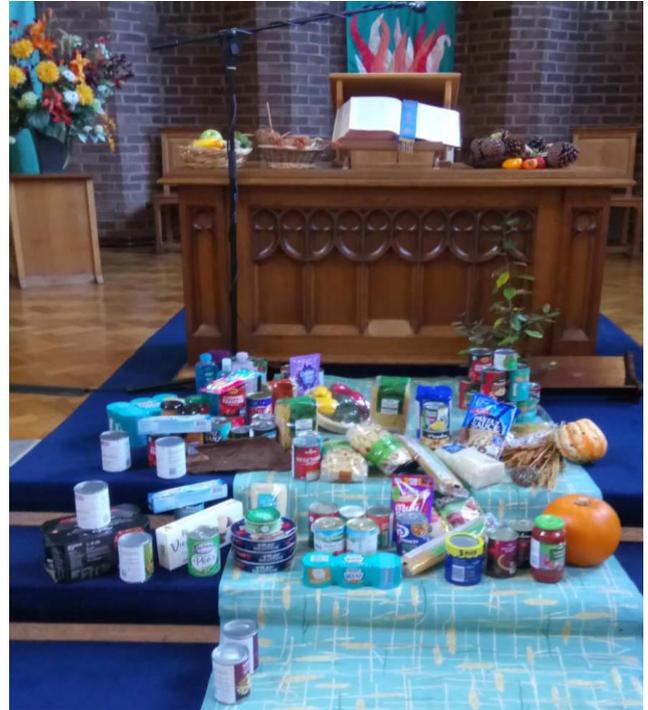
**November 16<sup>th</sup>: 10.00am – 3.00pm**

**at Short Street URC, Short Street, Hazel Grove SK7 4AD**

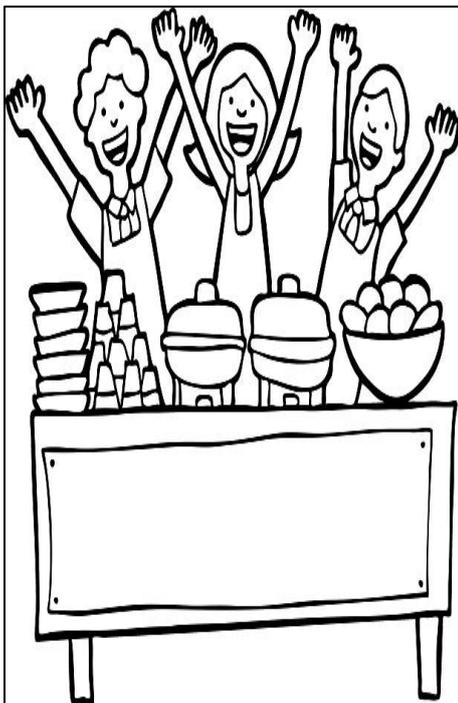
All are welcome to attend

## Harvest Festival

Thank you to Brenda and Kath for the flowers and to everyone for your generous gifts.



## PRE-ADVENT LUNCH 2019



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November after church**

**“Age and Wisdom”**

**A time for the morning congregation to remember the past year and celebrate “the wisdom of age”!**

**The MadDonnas (3/4 of them anyway!) will be singing some new songs and some old favourites**

**Please put the date in your diary!**