



# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church Newsletter



21<sup>st</sup> June 2020

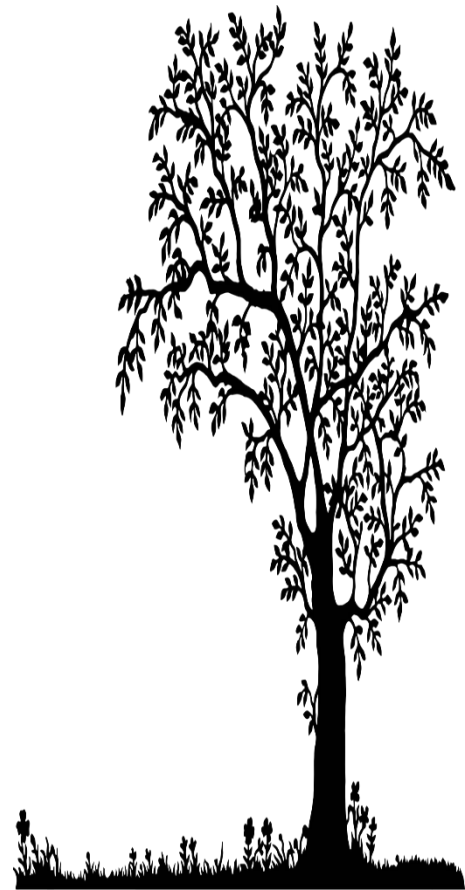


**From the Editor..... June 2020**

Although our building is closed, and most of us are cooped up indoors or, if we are lucky, in our gardens, we are still our church community even if we can't gather together for worship and fellowship. So, we are resuming the Bulletin in a slightly different form, as one of the ways we can keep in touch with each other and also the wider URC.

There is evidence that trees communicate over great expanses, sending nourishment, messages and support. They do all this grounded in place, unable to speak, reach out or move around.

We are like this right now, separate, unable to touch, yet deeply connected and sharing our love over these distances – love that radiates out of the very root of our being.



Stained Glass Window  
by Francis Spear

*With thanks to Rev Carla Grosch-Miller*

## **A Letter from Kath, our Church Secretary**

Hello Everyone,

This edition of the Bulletin is experimental. Mel Hall has produced an electronic edition to be sent out as a PDF document. Paper copies will be despatched to those without e-mail. Lockdown has produced a new way of operating and we welcome your feedback.

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. There are some key workers who have been working on the front line throughout the pandemic, Fiona at Morrison's and Steven at the Co-op. Several people have been working from home, some have been furloughed, but most have been self-isolating or shielding because of age or medical conditions. Most people have settled into a routine, structuring their day with time in the garden, reading, word puzzles, jigsaws and TV with the occasional phone call to friends and family. The more adventurous have walks each day or even painting and decorating. Most people that I have spoken to have been positive and hopeful. However, the thing that people miss the most is being able to meet up with friends and family.

There is no news yet as to when we can meet up for worship. The Metropolitan congregation operate a Zoom service at 4.30pm on Sunday afternoon and several of the morning congregation join this. Others watch the morning service on BBC TV and feel part of the service with hymns and prayers. Elders and Managers have decided that it is not feasible for us to open the church for private prayer.

We are learning very quickly how to use Zoom. Wilbraham St. Ninian's subscribes to a Zoom licence; the afternoon congregation use it for their service and First Wednesday sessions. Managers and Elders have had constructive meetings. I have attended three Missional Partnership meetings via Zoom and have also met up with some families and volunteers of the 'Tuesday Group'. Susannah and Grace are both well,

Grace is now one year old and very active. Fortunately, everyone accepts 'lockdown hair', oh for a hairdresser!

Lee Battle was to be ordained and inducted into the South Manchester Missional Partnership on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. The date was set before the coronavirus lockdown and restrictions and the intention was for this service to be held in one of our buildings. Clearly this will not now be possible. A revised date of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August has been set. The delay does not prevent Lee from beginning her ministry. She will be on the payroll from the 1<sup>st</sup> July, using the time in July to get to know the churches and communities.

Joyce had an alarming week. She had a leak through part of the roof affecting the ceiling and electric light fitting. George also has ongoing problems with his roof and Alastair and Sheila need their gutters cleared. Alastair threatened to get his ladders out!

Enid Woods was 90 on June 16<sup>th</sup>. She had a quiet birthday but was promised a celebration when we all get back together again. There are many significant birthdays in July and August and they will be included in the event. Something to look forward to!

Best wishes **Kath**

## **Finance News from George, our Church Treasurer**

All use of the buildings, apart from the Good Neighbours office, has stopped for the duration of the pandemic restrictions, and we should expect to lose around £10,000 of letting income in 2020. We do not know whether the organisations using the premises will be able to return or cope with distancing requirements, but there is likely to be less letting income from returning users.

Investment income will be reduced as companies will be unable to provide dividends. There will be some savings in areas such as heating costs and pulpit supply. Overall, the church should be able to keep going and pay M&M, etc. but will not have the surplus enjoyed in 2019.

### **Lent Gift Appeal – Reach Out to the Community**

An appeal was started for the local organisation Reach Out to the Community and some contributions were received before the lockdown. We know that their good work has continued in the lockdown and we shall augment the money given with some from church funds. If anyone would like now to contribute to the Lent appeal, they should let George Morton know soon ([g.morton50@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.morton50@ntlworld.com) or 0161 881 8195).

### **Giving to the church funds**

George is grateful to the members who have continued to give to the church though we are not meeting for worship. Many people are using direct payment to the bank, which has helped to maintain an income to the church.

People who use FWO envelopes may wish to keep them with the weekly contribution until we are able to meet again. That is fine, but it may be easier to put the money, or a cheque, into one envelope (with your FWO number on it). People who pay into the loose collections without envelopes may be accumulating what they would have given and now want to pass it on.

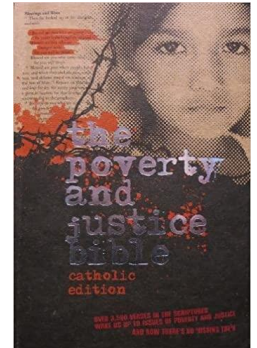
To pass on the money before the church is open again for worship, either:

- Send a cheque payable to Wilbraham St. Ninian's URC to the Treasurer (George Morton, 4 St Annes Road, Manchester M21 8TD, or
- pay by BACS to the Wilbraham St. Ninian's account. Please contact George for details of the account and sort code – 0161 881-8195 or [g.morton50@ntlworld.com](mailto:g.morton50@ntlworld.com) )

# Synod and Missional Partnership Updates



As we said, Lee Battle's induction and ordination is provisionally scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> August. To mark this occasion, the missional partnership is planning to give Lee a gift of 7 olive trees (one for each church in the Missional Partnership) to be planted in Palestine next year and an inscribed 'Poverty and Justice' Bible (chosen by Lee).




Dave Fraser and Lee plan a series of 3 Zoom meetings **in the week starting 13th July** with:

1. church secretaries and pulpit supply secretaries
2. the church treasurers and lettings organisers
3. those interested in exploring mission post-Covid19 (hopefully most of the Elders)


Details will be circulated as soon as possible.

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## Induction of Rev Brian Jolly as Moderator of NW Synod



### The United Reformed Church



is pleased to invite you and members of your church/es to an on-line Service of Worship in which

**Rev'd Brian Jolly**


will be Inducted as

**Moderator of the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 11am**

**RSVP**

if you are able to attend **please reply by 25<sup>th</sup> June** to receive joining details



*Please reply to*  
Ms Kerry Later, Communications & Business Support Officer  
[office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk)

**Joining In**

once you have replied **a link will be sent** to your email address

Brian Jolly's induction service will be led by Derek Estill, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church and the preacher will be Rev Ruth Whitehead, Moderator of South Western Synod

## Online Worship and Support During Lockdown

For people who are comfortable with computers and smartphone, the URC offers some support for prayer and worship while churches are shut.

### **Sunday Zoom Service – Afternoon Congregation**

The Afternoon Congregation offer a short service of prayer, reading, music and reflection every Sunday at 4.30pm, via the Zoom online video platform, lasting around 45 minutes. If you would like to participate please email [contact@metropolitanchurch.org.uk](mailto:contact@metropolitanchurch.org.uk)

### **URC Daily Devotions**

Every morning at 6am the United Reformed Church sends out a daily devotion – a reading, reflection and prayer – via email to more than 1,700 people. If you would like to subscribe to the Daily Devotions, they can be found at <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/>

### **URC Sunday Worship**

An online worship service from the United Reformed Church will be available **from 10am onwards** via a link on the URC's Daily Devotions webpage. Just go to <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/> any time from 10am onwards and click on the relevant link to listen to the service.

### **Act of Remembrance 24<sup>th</sup> June 6pm**

All are welcome to a short service of remembering for those who are grieving the loss of a relative, friend, neighbour, church member and weren't able to attend a funeral service. The service will be held via Zoom at 6.00pm on 24th June and will be led by Rev Dr Marion Tugwood.

### **Missional Partnership Coffee Morning – Wednesdays 11am**

Dave Fraser, the Mission Mentor for the Manchester South Missional Partnership invites us to join him for a brief act of devotion and then sharing of concerns for our church and community each Wednesday morning at 11 am (log in from 10.45 am).

There will also be an opportunity to share ideas and God-inspired new approaches. If you fancy popping in, then all you have to do is send an email to Dave at [david.fraser@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:david.fraser@nwsynod.org.uk) telling him you want an invite and he will send you some easy-to-follow instructions.

### **Online worship offered by Other URC Congregations**

The United Reformed Church (URC) has compiled a list of its churches which are live streaming acts of worship, offering sermons as podcasts or audio files, or offering recordings of services for people who are unable to access church due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. You can view the list at <https://urc.org.uk/news/3385-coronavirus-worshipping-digitally>

### **Reform Magazine free online**

“Reform” magazine is free to read online while churches are closed for worship. It is available at:

<https://ocean.exacteditions.com/magazines/762/issues/>

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## **Bible Readings for this month**

June 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10,11-15,16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39</i>
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4,15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42</i>
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19,25-30</i>
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:(1-8),9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23</i>

Rev John Bell of the Iona Community has written some very moving words  
You can hear them sung as a hymn by Alison Adam, accompanied by Ian  
McLarty on the internet. The song has been made freely available  
provided it is credited properly. The lyrics are powerful and express very  
powerfully what many of us have perhaps been feeling but not able to  
articulate. It could also be used as a prayer or affirmation.

## **We Will Meet When the Danger Is Over**

John L Bell (C) Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community

We will meet when the danger is over,  
we will meet when the sad days are over;  
we will meet sitting closely together  
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly,  
we will join to break bread and share wine;  
and the peace that we pass to each other  
will more than a casual sign.

So let's make with each other a promise  
that when we've all come through is behind,  
we will share what we missed and find meaning  
in the things that once troubled our mind.

Until then may we always discover  
faith and love to determine our way.  
That's our hope and God's will and our calling  
for our lives and for every new day.

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**Look after yourselves and each other, and stay safe**