

# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church Newsletter



*October 2020*

*Dear God,*

*Give me today a strong sense that you are by  
my side.*

*Remember me in your mercy, and keep me in  
your grace.*

*Be my guide through all that is dark and  
doubtful;*

*be my strength in times of testing;*

*gladden my heart with your peace,*

*Through the grace of Christ my saviour.*

*Amen.*

*© Rev Fleur Houston*



Stained Glass Window  
by Francis Spear



## From the Editor

*<sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;*

Psalm 130 is a psalm of lament, calling on God to hear the cries of those who suffer. It has certainly been in my mind over the past 7 months! Sometimes it feels like all we do now is wait and hope - wait for shopping deliveries, wait for phone calls or Zoom/Skype conversations, all the while hoping for a vaccine and the end of lockdowns.

*<sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.*

Verse 6 says this waiting is like the work of the anxious watchman on the city wall who fears the enemy's attack and finds relief and safety in the arrival of dawn. It conjures up an image of someone sleepless with worry and fear, waiting for the relief of knowing they have made it through the night to another day. The certainty of the coming light makes clear that the waiting is not delusional or unrealistic. To "wait" in the sense mentioned here is to live expectantly, with awareness of how God has acted in the past and anticipating what God is about to do.

We wait on the Lord to act - to deliver, to answer our prayers, to do what only God can do. As we wait on the Lord, God changes us and strengthens us.

*Every Blessing, Mel*

## Missional Partnership Events

### Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday 11am

Rev Lee Battle, our Missional Partnership minister, invites us to join her 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).

Zoom meeting ID: 770 690 9432

Zoom password: 000555



Lee gives details of all Missional Partnership activities in her Newsletter.

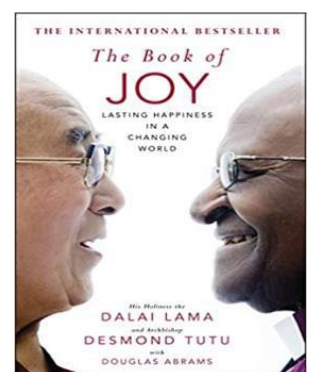
### A Theology of Brexit – Anthony Reddie



In October, Anthony Reddie, will talk about his latest book “Theologising Brexit”.

Anthony is an established scholar in the field of Black Liberation Theology. Rev Lee will send out details in her Missional Partnership newsletter.

The partnership is starting a quarterly Faith Book Club. The first book is ‘The Book of Joy’ by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. The club will “meet” at the end of November to discuss the book and vote for the next one. If anyone is struggling to get a copy, please get in touch with Lee Battle, likewise, if anyone has any ideas for the next book, please do be in touch. [leebattle@hotmail.com](mailto:leebattle@hotmail.com)



## Family News

**Joyce Henry** has spent a relaxing few days in the Lake District with her daughter Corinne. There was lots of walking and fresh air, good food and lots of hand sanitising. While Joyce was away the ceiling of her flat was re-plastered and decorated.

**Winifred and Alan Gaunt** send their best wishes to the congregation. Alan is now 85 and Winifred 83. Their daughter Miriam is a librarian at Liverpool Central Library and son Paul is a lecturer at Coventry University.

**Sonia Hilton** sends her best wishes to everyone. Sonia was unable to attend the Zoom Church Meeting because she was involved in an all-day and all-groups Manchester Arena attack support meeting which generated a lot of work over the week-end.

**Susan Parry** celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Her brother John, who is in remission from cancer, had developed a lump, but thankfully a biopsy resulted in an “all-clear”. Susan thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

**Sue Posada** sends her love to all from Colombia. She and Mario are keeping well, Nadia is still in Colombia and training to become a Personal Trainer. Lauren celebrated her 28<sup>th</sup> birthday and is doing fine in Manchester. Sue reports that church services are resuming with spaced seating but are struggling financially and charging about £2.25 to enter to help pay for hand sanitiser etc!

With Covid 19 on the rise it is unlikely that face-to-face church services will resume in the near future. If you would like to receive a phone call, or indeed offer a phone call, each week please contact Kath Lacy. If you have any ideas on how to keep everyone on touch at this difficult time please contact Kath or one of the Elders. If you need some additional support **let us know**.

**George Morton** reports that 2020 will be quite a challenging year financially due to loss of income from lettings and the lack of opportunity to give regularly at church services. The Elders are grateful to everyone who gives their regular offering via Standing Order. If anyone would like to take out a Standing Order, or write a cheque for the amount they wish to give, please contact George. He will either send you the church account details to help you set up a Standing Order or bank any cheques you would like to post to him.

Chorlton Good Neighbours AGM took place on Zoom on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Paper Reports will be set out to everyone who receives a CGN newsletter.

Zoom meetings have taken over everyday life. Rev Andy Braunston preached at the 4.30pm services via Zoom on 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September. Wilbraham St. Ninian's held their first Zoom Church Meeting which was attended by 20 people. Thank you to everyone who managed the technology.

## North West Synod Meeting – Autumn 2020



NW Synod Executive is holding a 'Virtual Synod Meeting' this Autumn, as they feel there is important business that needs consideration and further discussion. The discussion sessions are open to Church members as well as the Synod Representatives, which will enable wider and fuller discussion before decisions are taken at the November meeting. These sessions will last approximately one hour.

The meetings on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November will last for the morning only.

### TIMETABLE

Saturday 10th October <b>10.00am</b>	Welcome Constitution of Synod Worship Presentation of Reports and key discussion items
19 <sup>th</sup> October <b>10.30am</b> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> November <b>7.00pm</b>	Q&A and discussion sessions on the Finance Reports
14th October <b>10.30am</b> and 4th November <b>7.00pm</b>	Q&A and discussion session on the Synod Review Report
15th October <b>7.00pm</b> and 6th November <b>10.30am</b>	Q&A and discussion session on the remaining Reports
Saturday 14th November <b>10.00am</b>	Plenary, following discussions, and decisions on resolutions Closing Worship

Synod will contact Church Secretaries nearer to 10th October, with joining details and the Book of Reports for the first part of Synod Meeting.

## **Bible Trivia Quiz** *(answers on next page)*

1. What is the last word in the Old Testament?
2. By which previous name was Paul of Tarsus known as?
3. In the bible, who is said to have lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey?
4. How many years did Noah live for after the flood?
5. There are only three angels named in the bible, Michael and Lucifer are two, name the other?
6. The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?
7. The Bible was written in three languages - Hebrew, Koine Greek and which other language?
8. Name the longest book of the Bible with 150 chapters?
9. Who was the older brother of Moses?
10. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?

### **Zoom for Users and Hosts**

Facilitated by Lawrence Moore and Dan Morrell

Maximise the medium to open up new possibilities for a post-pandemic church. The sessions and dates are:

#### **7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> October: Introducing Zoom**

2.00pm - 3.30pm  
or 7.00pm - 8.30pm

#### **14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> October: Getting the most out of meetings**

2.00pm - 3.30pm  
or 7.00pm - 8.30pm

*Register: [office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk)*

## Lectionary Bible Readings for this month

October 4th	<i>Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46</i>
October 11th	<i>Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14</i>
October 18th	<i>Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22</i>
October 25th	<i>Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18; Psalm 1; Matthew 22:34-46; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8</i>
November 1st	<i>Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12</i>

---

---

### Bible Trivia Quiz Answers:

1. Curse
2. Saul
3. John the Baptist
4. 350 years
5. Gabriel
6. The word "God"
7. Aramaic
8. Psalms
9. Aaron
10. Gopher wood