



Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church



Newsletter

November 2020

All Saints' Day, Sunday 1st November

Too Small a Saint

I'm far too small a saint
Than I would want to be.
I've been too big a sinner
Once again.
So use this little saint –
It's all that I can be –
In place of me the sinner,
Please! Amen



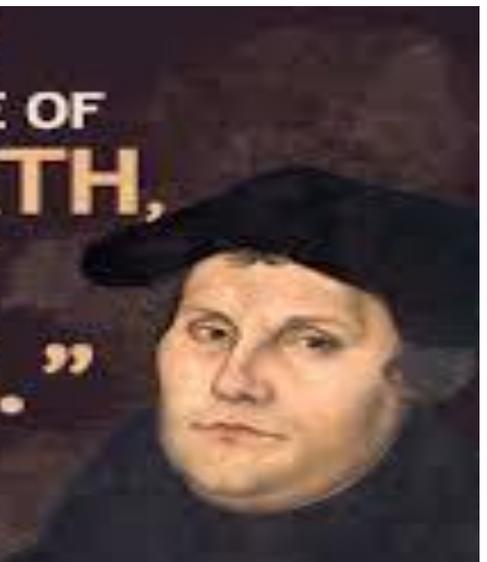
From "New Journeys Now Begin"

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**"GOD DOESN'T
LOVE US BECAUSE OF
OUR WORTH,
WE ARE OF WORTH
BECAUSE GOD
LOVES US."**

- Martin Luther





From the Editor..... Nov 2020

The lectionary gospel reading for 22nd November is Matthew 25:31-46, where Jesus talks about separating the “sheep” from the “goats”. God welcomes those who feed the hungry, give the thirsty a drink, clothe the naked, take care of the sick and visit the prisoners. In their kindness they minister to Christ himself. But cursed are those who withhold kindness and turn their backs on Christ in the person of the needy. As Dorothy Day wrote, “Those who cannot see the face of Christ in the poor are atheists indeed”.

In the passage, Jesus gives us a sense that those who stretch out a helping hand to the needy encourage others to stretch out their own hands. When footballer Marcus Rashford’s call to extend free school meals was rejected by the government, dozens of hard-hit restaurants, bars and cafes contacted Rashford with offers of help, along with families, faith and community groups, and public organisations. His petition to the government to act to end child food poverty has reached over 1 million signatures (click this link, if you’d like to add your name).

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/554276>

Marcus Rashford says, “We must stop stigmatising, judging and pointing fingers...This is not politics, this is humanity.” In his mission to defeat food poverty the young footballer has harnessed a far greater force than parliament - the kindness of strangers. “Just look what we can do when we all come together” he tweeted.

As we enter another lockdown, let’s remember to keep showing God’s loving kindness to one another and to ourselves, for when we truly recognise that every person is made in the image of God, then God’s image shines through our actions.

Every Blessing, *Mel*

Giving to Outside Causes

The December Church Meeting will decide what Wilbraham St. Ninian's should give from its funds to support charitable causes. Changes may be made to what we gave in 2019, listed below:

Northern College (URC resource centre for learning in Manchester)	£280
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit	£280
Francis House Family Trust (hospice for children in Didsbury)	£140
Bible Society (worldwide promotion of the Bible)	£140
Action for Children (Methodist organisation caring for children in the UK)	£140
Feed the Minds (worldwide promotion of Christian literacy)	£140
Church Action on Poverty (campaign against poverty in the UK)	£140
YMCA England (particularly for work supporting isolated young people)	£140
URC Retired Ministers' Housing Society (housing for URC ministers in retirement)	£140
Shelter (campaign against homelessness in the UK)	£140
The Boaz Trust (support for asylum seekers and refugees)	£140
The Longford Centre (support in Chorlton for homeless people)	£140

If you think that the church should give to new charitable cause, or that it should stop giving to a cause on the list, please propose that at the Church Meeting on 20 December.

Family News

Sid Beckett has recently returned home from hospital after a 2-week stay in MRI for investigations and treatment following a seizure at home. Brenda was unable to visit because of Covid 19 restrictions. After a worrying fortnight, with the possibility of a pacemaker being mentioned, an adjustment in medication has led to a great improvement in health. Please keep Sid and Brenda in your prayers.

Susan Parry's brother **John** continues to be in remission from his lung cancer however he has been having tests on lymph nodes. Susan thanks everyone for their kind thoughts, words and prayers.

Enid Woods has had a swift trip to hospital, and is now thankfully back home and feeling fine.

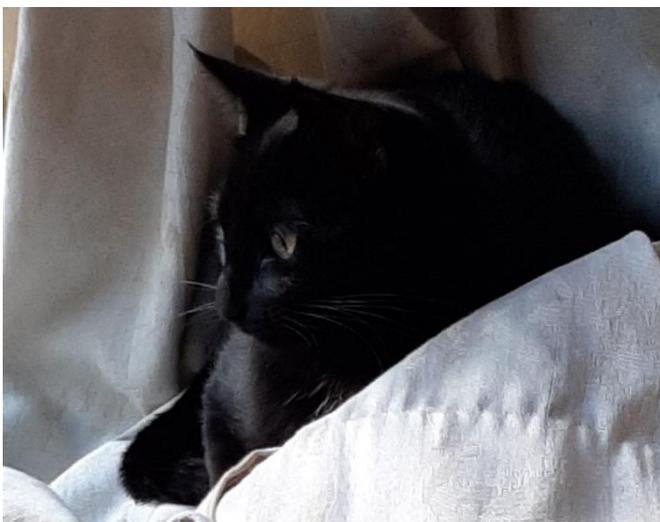
Steve Duffy often joined us towards the end of services and enjoyed a chat, a cup of tea and a few biscuits. **Chris Burton** reports that he has seen Steve out and about, walking his dog and looking well. Steve has been asking after people at church. We hope he continues to stay safe and well.

The **Tuesday Group** is making a temporary move to Chorlton Central Church to continue the support offered to families under stress. A thorough risk assessment has been carried out in order to allow the group to operate under strict Covid-19 safety guidelines.

'Space at the Table' has provided a welcome meal each Wednesday to members of the congregation isolated at home unable to attend meetings or worship via Zoom. **Rev Lee Battle** has personally delivered the food and has enjoyed introducing herself and meeting everyone. This is especially important as face-to-face worship is unlikely for the foreseeable future.

And finally (especially for people who feel cheered up by pictures of cats) the Burton and the Hall households have both welcomed new feline members in recent months!

Say hello to **Simba** and **Carter**, the new Burton kittens. They are making themselves at home and growing fast.



And here is **Magik** who has a perfectly nice cat bed but prefers to sit on the living room curtains where she can see the birds and squirrels, or to snooze on Alex's bed beside the radiator!

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.

Missional Partnership Newsletter and Coffee Morning – Wednesdays 11am

Rev Lee Battle produces a Missional Partnership Newsletter every week. If you don't yet receive it and would like to (either electronically or as a paper copy) please ask Kath Lacy. Rev Lee also invites us to join her for a partnership coffee morning each Wednesday morning at 11 am (log in from 10.45 am).

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

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.

Commitment for Life

At a service each autumn, we usually renew our **Commitment for Life**, making our statement together and receiving money contributions for the URC programme to relieve world poverty. Commitment for Life funds Christian Aid and Global Justice Now. Sadly, this year that service will not take place, but the project work goes on – the need this year is greater than ever.

Commitment for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love



The church has long had a special interest in Zimbabwe and Christian Aid recently sent a report on the extremely difficult situation there. The Christian Aid Zimbabwe team continues to speak out for justice, while treading a

careful line to avoid recrimination from the government. However, in response to Covid-19, they continue to ensure that 15,000 people have enough water to wash regularly and support local communities.

Global Justice Now is calling for the immediate cancellation of huge swathes of debt in the global south, as well as pressing the UK government to ensure a fair deal in post-Brexit trade deals.



We need to continue the church's generosity to the Commitment for Life programme at this critical time. If you would like to give your Commitment for Life donation this year, you can pay by cheque or electronically. Cheques (to Wilbraham St. Ninian's URC) identified as for **CforL** should be sent to George Morton, 4 St. Annes Road, Manchester M21 8TD. Please contact George for details of the church bank account, if you don't already have them.

This is our **Commitment for Life promise**, which we traditionally say every year when we return our envelopes. You might wish to say it as you write your cheque or click the button on your computer/ phone:

We, the members of Wilbraham St. Ninian's URC, renew our involvement in the Commitment for Life programme, committing ourselves to provide time, energy and money to help development work and also to strive to understand and make known the issues which must be addressed to bring about justice and peace in the world.

Lectionary Bible Readings for this month

Nov 1 st All Saints	<i>Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12</i>
Nov 8 th Remembrance Sunday	<i>Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13</i>
Nov 15 th	<i>Zephaniah 1:7,12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11),12; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</i>
Nov 22 nd Christ the King	<i>Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46</i>
Nov 29 th Advent Sunday	<i>Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80.1-7,17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37</i>

Thank you and stay safe!