



# Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church Newsletter



February 2021

"How do you do it?" said night.

"How do you wake and shine?"

"I keep it simple" said light.

"One day at a time"

© Lemn Sissay.

Lemn Sissay MBE is an award-winning writer and popular broadcaster as well as being the author of five poetry books. In 2015 he was appointed Chancellor of the University of Manchester. He is British and Ethiopian.

*"I am not defined by my scars but by  
the incredible ability to heal"*



Photo credits

Snow in the Light by Sienna Grace Wheelhouse

Jackson's Boat Bridge, Chorlton Meadows, by Ella Burton's neighbour

## **From the Editor..... Feb 2021**



### **February Light**

The Bulletin wishes a belated Happy New Year to all our readers; I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

I'm writing this on February 2<sup>nd</sup>; unfortunately, today's weather is nowhere near as good as yesterday's, which was lovely and sunny, if still cold. It was so good to get out into the sunshine for a daily walk and to hear birdsong and see the snowdrops blooming in next door's garden.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the feast of the presentation of Christ in the Temple, where Anna and Simeon recognised just who Jesus was. It is also known as Candlemas. Exactly 40 days after Christmas Day, Candlemas was observed as the official end of Christmas in mediaeval England. Candles intended to be used in churches that year would be blessed, and there was also candlelit processions to celebrate the feast.

It was also the time when Christmas decorations had to be taken down. This year, many people have kept up their decorations, perhaps to cheer up themselves and passers-by (see the houses on Nell Lane and Sandy Lane) but perhaps it is to keep the light of hope burning through the dark, seemingly interminable, month of January 2021. Many of us have had our first vaccination, and we can now perhaps see a glimmer of light at the end of what is still a very long tunnel.

For Christians, the blessed Candlemas candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. As Rev Lee said in her recent newsletter, at this time we have to rely on the light we each carry within us, the gift that God gives each of us to share with the world.

You may have watched the inauguration ceremony of US President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, a significant occasion in many ways. There were many high-profile performances, for many it was the 22-year-old Amanda Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet in US history, who truly inspired the crowd with her powerful and passionate poem. Here's a link to Amanda reading her poem [The Hill We Climb](#) but I'm going to leave you with the first and last lines.

### The Hill We Climb

“When day comes, we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never-ending shade?”

“...When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.

The new dawn blooms as we free it.

For there is always light,

if only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we're brave enough to be it.”

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Every Blessing, *Mel*



## Family News

December's Church Meeting formally said a big 'Thank you' to **Pat Anstis** who collected, sorted and delivered cards before Christmas bringing pleasure to so many of the congregation.

Several members of the congregation have had their first vaccination. Staying safe and well is the top priority. Everyone seems to keep busy by reading, completing jigsaws, painting (watercolour or acrylic, not emulsion!) and watching Netflix or programmes such as 'The Joy of Painting', 'Songs of Praise,' and listening to the radio!

**Joyce Henry** had her first vaccination in December and her second one in January. She has been enjoying classical musical evenings with her daughter, Joyce on keyboard and Corinne playing the flute.

As well as being vaccinated, **Joan Devine** enjoyed a 3-way FaceTime party for Burns Night with the family. Her brother did the address to the haggis and Joan did the Selkirk grace. Joan had veggie haggis with "ingin" (onion) gravy. They enjoyed it so much that they are thinking of doing a similar event for Shrove Tuesday!

**Enid Woods** has been vaccinated. **Jenny Johnson** has been missed out and is now actively seeking a vaccination. We are puzzled as to how a 99-year-old can be missed, but we hope Jenny is vaccinated soon!)

Kath had an e-mail from **Jean Hunt**. Her brother is now settled in his flat in Sale. He has had his vaccination, but Jean is still waiting for her invitation. The local church she was attending has now had to stop-face-to-face services but live streams a 10.00am service each Sunday. Jean shops early morning and exercises the dog three times a day so is pretty active.

**Philip Jones** continues to recover slowly and steadily from his heart operation. He reports he is still feeling some discomfort but otherwise feeling good

The **Tuesday Group** sessions at Chorlton Central Church have been halted, and it is unclear at present when they will resume.

The **Space at the Table** project continues bringing a meal once a week to people who are isolated: It provides an important link to our church fellowship for those without the technology to attend Zoom services. Thanks to **Lee Battle** and **Dave Fraser** for delivering the meals.

**Rev Lee Battle** had a pleasant 2 weeks leave after the busy Christmas and New Year and is now back at work. She reports that the Christmas Eve service well received; and the New Year's Eve was extremely well-attended. Lee will hold an Ash Wednesday service via Zoom (Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February) and will post out ashes to everyone who wishes to participate. Details will appear in the Missional Partnership newsletter.

# Church Events

*online via Zoom until further notice*

## 2021 Church Meetings - 2pm

March 21st	September 19th
June 20th	December 19th

## 2021 Elders Meetings – Mondays at 7.30pm

February 22nd	[No August meeting]
<i>March 15th (if required)</i>	<i>September 13th (if required)</i>
April 26th	October 25th
May 24th	November 22nd
<i>June 14th (if required)</i>	<i>December 13th (if required)</i>
July 26th	

## Mindfulness services 3rd Sunday of each month 7-8pm

Led by Rev Lee Battle, details in Lee's newsletter for that week.

February 21 <sup>st</sup>	August 15 <sup>th</sup>
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	September 19 <sup>th</sup>
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	October 17 <sup>th</sup>
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	November 21 <sup>st</sup>
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	December 19 <sup>th</sup>
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	

## Missional Partnership Newsletter and Coffee Morning

Rev Lee 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. Lee also invites us to join her for a partnership coffee morning each Wednesday morning at 11 am (log in from 10.45 am).

## Lectionary Bible Readings for this month

Taken from "Roots on the Web" Lectionary Year B

Jan 31st <b>Epiphany 4</b>	<i>Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28</i>
Feb 7th <b>Epiphany 5</b>	<i>Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11,20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39</i>
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup> <b>Transfiguration</b>	<i>2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9</i>
Feb 17 <sup>th</sup> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<i>Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</i>
Feb 21st <b>Lent 1</b>	<i>Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter :18-22; Mark 1:9-15</i>
Feb 28th <b>Lent 2</b>	<i>Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22.23-31; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38</i>
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Lent 3</b>	<i>Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22</i>

### Book Club 2021 - Tuesdays at 7pm with Rev Lee Battle

February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Rohr: Falling Upwards.
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Book TBC
August 10th	Book TBC
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Book TBC

**Zoom Meeting ID: 845 4273 0681**

**Passcode: 412972**



## World Day of Prayer 2021

### “Build on a Strong Foundation” written by the women of Vanuatu



The Day of Prayer is virtually WDP's only source of income. Even if you cannot attend the Zoom service (details below) please consider donating by post, text or online:

CHEQUE: payable to WDP, and sent to WDP, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2RR

ONLINE: go to the WDP website: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk). Minimum donation amount £10

TEXT: from your mobile phone. TEXT 2021WDP 5 to 70085 to donate £5. Any amount can be donated up to £40. Add your donation amount after **2021WDP**. Your text will cost the amount plus one standard rate message.

If you are a taxpayer, don't forget Gift Aid!



**Zoom Service Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**

**Zoom Meeting ID**

Meeting ID: 820 8752 1931

Passcode: 382783

Telephone dial-in number: +44 203 901 7895