



Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church Bulletin



July 2021

God of golden fields and blue skies

THANK YOU FOR SUMMER

God of white waves and wet
pebbles

THANK YOU FOR SUMMER

God of ripe plums and
meadowsweet

THANK YOU FOR SUMMER

Thank you for warmth and beauty
and wonder

THANK YOU FOR LIFE

*Ruth Burgess: Bare Feet and
Buttercups, Wild Goose Publications,
Glasgow 2008*





From the Editor..... July 2021

Hopes and Fears

There's a football cliché that 'it's the hope that kills you'; after the final of Euro2020, would it have been better not to have had such high hopes because then we would not feel so bad when they were so brutally crushed! No matter that they have achieved more than any England team since 1966, those young men will feel the sting of 'failure' before they are able to take a more balanced view of what they've achieved.

Wise parents tell their children that, even if you fail, it's more important to be brave in the first place (even though it hurts desperately when you do fail). Otherwise, you'll never do anything for fear of failure! Likewise, it's hard to face up to things, but it's better for you and everyone else in the long run when you do. Saying 'Sorry' is the decent and humble thing to do. Because it's not your mistakes or when you fall short that are your defining moments. Rather, it's how you respond to them: you own up, you say sorry, you learn from your mistakes and put into practice what you've learned so you come back better and stronger. After all, the original meaning of 'sin' is 'falling short'.

So don't let the fear that your hopes might be shattered or that you might fail stop you from choosing to participate in the long-term hope for God's kingdom. It is this communal hope that allows us to continue working for justice and righteousness even when we despair of that hope manifesting fully in our lifetime.

Every Blessing, Mel

The Bulletin is going on its holidays in August and hopes to return, refreshed, in September. We wish you all a pleasant summer, and please stay safe!

Brief Encounter

On the 12th of June David Williams was about to leave the Church car park when a young man drove in, accompanied by a very smartly dressed couple; the lady complete with a lovely bouquet. He had brought his parents, Carolyn and Peter Bramhall who wanted to take some photos outside church, as they were celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, having married at St. Ninian's on 12th June 1971.



They were delighted that David was able to take them inside church and also into the Old Hall, (the original church) where her parents Edward and Winifred Henderson were married on Christmas Day 1948. They would like us to keep in touch as they would love to attend a service when possible and share a few memories.

Old Hall, 1960

Barbara was able to check the names in the Marriage Register, which is shortly to be handed in to the Manchester registrar at Heron House. Once we move to digital records all the old records will only be available from Central Library. A bit of history lost...

Barbara says, "It's a nice little episode of perfect timing, just meant to be I think."

Family News

Following all the Covid guidance (including the wearing of masks) it was a delight to hold our first 'Face to face' service on Sunday 4th July. It was a lovely service containing a dramatic reflection, live music courtesy of the MadDonnas and prayers. Huge thanks are extended to Melanie Hall, Chris and Ella Burton, Sian Richards and Mandy Pearks.

The service was well attended. It was good to see **Susannah Mkandawire with Grace and Rolland**. Susannah and Grace regularly attend 'the Tuesday Group'. Grace is now a lively toddler and Rolland will be starting secondary school next year. The family are hoping to go to Malawi for a holiday in August.

Congratulations to **Alex Hall** who starts a new job in September as a Learning Support Assistant at Didsbury High School supporting students with diverse special educational needs.

We thank **Dave Fraser** for his work within the Missional Partnership and wish him every success in his new role as hospital chaplain in Salford.

With Dave Fraser resigning from his role as Mission Mentor, 'Space at the Table' has finished but a new opportunity has arisen. **Open Kitchen** (opposite Southern Cemetery) does a lot of catering using otherwise wasted food. They run the café at the People's History Museum, and supply meals at a price and to people referred to them by the Council. **Kate Grand** from Chorlton Central has negotiated meals on Central's and Wilbraham St. Ninian's behalf and **Emma Sutcliffe** will continue to deliver to the same people over the summer.

Our Minister the **Rev Lee Battle** is on a week's leave. She has gone to South Wales to relax after a hectic few weeks.

Church Services

Following advice from Tavistock Place we will continue to be cautious about re-opening. We will continue to wear face coverings in church as well as sanitising hands on arrival and a careful cleaning routine practised between services. Re-opening will be phased.

Our **next service will be on Sunday 25th July at 10.45am. Chris Burton** will lead this service. The service following that will be held on **Sunday 8th August at 10.45 am. Rev Lee Battle** will conduct the service. The Metropolitan Congregation will continue to hold their 4.30pm services online for the foreseeable future. A Preaching Plan is being developed for the autumn. Stay safe, we will keep you informed about services.

Rev Jonnie Hill will be ordained and inducted to serve as a minister in the Greater Manchester South and Cheshire Missional Partnership on Saturday July 17th at 1.45pm at Wilmslow United Reformed Church. The Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe will lead the service, and the preacher will be Rev Dr Graham Adams. The live stream can be accessed through the Church website on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChTQoFOfC7YbPyHLHRI0kEw>



Many of you will already know Jonnie, who is married to Adam, a fellow URC minister and tutor at Northern College who has preached for us several times. Jonnie and Adam are currently moving with their two dogs to live in a manse in Sale. Jonnie says he is looking forward to getting his sleeves rolled up, and to play his part as we discern together where God is leading us. We send Jonnie our blessings and good wishes for his new role in our neighbouring partnership.



Dates for your diary
Online and
In-Person

Wednesday 13 th July 7pm Zoom ID - 814 3357 7898	Hybrid Worship – Technology Walt Johnson & Tom Miller
Sunday 18 th July 7pm Zoom ID - 874 3223 9592 - Passcode - Relax	Mindfulness Service Rev Lee Battle
Tuesday 20 th July 7pm Zoom ID - 879 8348 7389	Beyond Acceptance – Celebrating LGBTQi+ faith - Wellbeing Rev Lee Battle & Felicity Morse
Thursday 22 nd July 11am Meeting ID: 770 690 9432	Coffee Morning with Rev Lee
Sunday 25th July 10.45 am In Person Worship	Led by Chris Burton At Wilbraham St Ninians
Monday July 26 th 7.30pm Zoom id - tbc	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 28 th July 7pm Zoom ID - 814 3357 7898	Hybrid Worship – Leading worship in a hybrid environment
Thursday 29 th July 11am Meeting ID: 770 690 9432	Coffee Morning with Rev Lee
Wednesday 4 th August 7pm Zoom ID - 814 3357 7898	Hybrid Worship - Music
Sunday 8th August 10.45am In person worship	Led by Rev Lee Battle At Wilbraham St Ninians

Lectionary Bible Readings for this month

Taken from "Roots on the Web" Lectionary Year B

July 11th	<i>Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29</i>
July 18th	<i>Jeremiah 23:1-16; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34,53-56</i>
July 25th	<i>2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21</i>
August 1st	<i>Exodus 16:2-4,9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35</i>
August 8th	<i>1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5.2; John 6:35,45-51</i>
August 15th	<i>Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58</i>
August 22nd	<i>Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69</i>
August 29th	<i>Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23</i>
September 5th	<i>Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 7:24-37</i>

Elders' Meeting
Monday 26th July at 7.30pm
Zoom Meeting ID will be emailed to you

Madge Addy: The Nurse Who Became a Spy

Chris Hall has written a biography of Madge Addy, a remarkable Manchester woman who was both a nurse in the Spanish Civil War and a secret agent in France during World War II. Marguerite (“Madge”) Addy left her marriage and her job in Manchester to volunteer as a nurse in the Spanish Civil War (1936-38). In summer 1939 Madge went to France where she helped allied agents and servicemen escape to Britain, and carried money and messages to and from Lisbon in the lining of her fur coat.

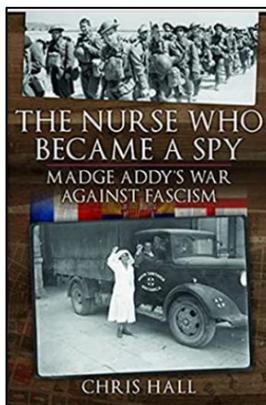


Her World War II activities were honoured with an OBE and the French *Croix de Guerre*. In the 1950s she returned to Britain and settled in London with her third husband, a Danish agent named Thorkild Hansen. Thorkild died in 1966 and Madge died four years later aged just 66.

Madge lived in Chorlton from 1932-37 at 34 Manchester Road, now “Amy-Sha Hairdressers”, where you can see the City of Manchester plaque installed there in her honour.



At the time of her death, Madge and her story were unknown. Chris hopes that in some small way this biography will bring the life story such a brave woman into the public domain.



The Nurse Who Became a Spy: Madge Addy's War Against Fascism by **Chris Hall**

Published by Pen and Sword History on July 30th, 2021

H/B £20.00

Available to pre-order from Chorlton Bookshop and the usual online sources.