

**Wilbraham St Ninian's
United Reformed Church
Newsletter**



April 2022



***Marysia Kowalchyk's quilt of the
women at the tomb***



From the Editor..... April 2022

In Praise of the Hot Cross Bun

Hot cross buns are traditionally eaten during Lent. One theory is that the hot cross bun originates from St. Albans, in England, where, in 1361, Brother Thomas Rodcliffe, a 14th-century monk at St Albans Abbey, developed a similar recipe called an 'Alban Bun' and distributed the bun to the local poor on Good Friday. The cross on the top represents the cross of Christ and the spices used are said to be those used to embalm Jesus when he was placed in the tomb. However, we can now buy more exotically-flavoured buns: KFC launched a hot cross bun burger with chicken and cheese; Sainsbury's sells a cheddar and caramelised onion chutney variety; M&S sell extremely cheesy *and* extremely chocolatey hot cross buns. Some of these sound quite revolting, and none of them feel to me like they belong in the spirit of Lenten fasting.

The Queen's Chaplain recently called these non-traditional hot cross buns 'the devil's work', saying that their Christian symbolism was lost in the rush for more and more exotic flavours. However, all the buns retain the cross, a Christian symbol of torture and pain and death that is changed by Christ at Easter into one of hope and joy and eternal life. Whatever the flavour of the hot cross bun we eat, we should always welcome a reminder of what the cross means to us.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Easter,

Mel

Rev Lee Battle will be leaving our Missional Partnership in July to move to Cardiff to be with her fiancée and her daughter and be a full-time family. Although we are sad to see Lee go, we wish her and Nate and Marley every happiness in their new home.

A Letter from Rev Lee Battle:

Dear everyone,

It is with difficulty that I write to you today to tell you of my decision to leave the Missional Partnership in July.

There is no doubt that the job has been demanding and that I have not always been given the support I needed in it but that is not my reason for leaving.

My children and I have decided we would like to move to Cardiff to be with my fiancée and her daughter and be a full-time family.

There are a myriad of reasons why this is a good move for us, but I want you to know that leaving this role is not one of them. To say that I have loved getting to know you all, would be an understatement and you will never know how valued and appreciated your support of me, my ministry and my family has been these past two years.

One thing that I have not ever doubted is that you are each extraordinary churches, who in different ways and with different challenges, have so much to offer the communities around you and it has been my privilege to serve you and get to know you all.

I will leave my role with you in July and in the meantime, if there is anything I can do that would be helpful to you, please do get in touch.

Be always assured of my prayers and love for you.

Lee

Family News

Joyce Henry remains in Salford Royal. She is making slow progress after having operations on her broken hip and arm. Joyce considers her progress to be slow and painful but the nurses tell her that she is doing very well. Joyce appreciated the lovely cards sent to her and sends her best wishes to the congregation.

Jean Hunt became ill with Covid after taking her brother to the MRI. Jean, her brother and nephew sat in A&E for three hours before her brother was admitted, all became ill with Covid. It is ironic that throughout the pandemic Jean had taken part in an NHS monitoring trail, being tested once a month for Covid and remaining disease-free. Jean is much better now but she still lacks energy. She is aiming to be well enough to go to Australia to see her other brother and his family, she is being ultra-cautious and continues to wear a mask.

Rolland Mkandawire has been allocated a place at Trinity High School, his first choice. Susannah is delighted as his first application got lost in the post and a new one had to be made. **Nathan Battle** is also due to start secondary school in September when he moves to Wales. Good luck and best wishes to both boys as they start high school.

Brenda Beckett is struggling with back and leg problems. She is awaiting hospital investigations which have been delayed because her consultant is on long term sick leave.

Just before Christmas **Angela Bogg** had a successful move to Bradford-Upon-Avon to live near her son and his family. We now have the news that Angela has been diagnosed with cancer. Please remember Angela in your prayers.

Church News

Rev Lee Battle

Rev Lee has decided to move to Cardiff this summer to be a full-time family with her fiancée and her daughter. While we are sorry to see Lee go, we know she, Nate and Marley will go with our love and prayers and we wish them all every happiness in their new home in Wales.

Hybrid Worship

Equipment for Hybrid Worship is being fitted in Church on Wednesday April 13th. It should be possible to stream the Easter Sunday Service on April 17th. Elders and interested members will be trained on its use.

The Rainbow People Choir

The Metropolitan Congregation are forming a new choir to encourage the congregation back to face-to-face worship after two years on Zoom. They had their first rehearsal on February 27th and are practising regularly with their Musical Director, Alex. Their first performance is at St. Clement's Church in Chorlton on 24th April (See p.7).

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 3 rd April	NO MORNING SERVICE AT WSTN
Sunday 10 th April 10.45am Palm Sunday	Rev Fleur Houston Communion
Thursday 14 th April 7.30pm Maundy Thursday	Hybrid Communion service (voluntary foot or hand washing) Chorlton Central led by Rev Lesley Husselbee
Friday 15 th April 8pm Good Friday	Tenebrae service Chorlton Central led by Rev Lesley Husselbee
Sunday 17 th April 10.45am Easter Sunday	Rev Lee Battle Communion
Sunday 24 th April 10.45am	Chris Burton
Monday 25 th April 7.30pm	Elders' Meeting Zoom details to be emailed
Sunday 1 st May 10.45am	Mel Hall
Sunday 8 th May 10.45am	Rev Dr Walter Houston Communion



is run by churches in Chorlton
and offers a space for reflection, for prayer, for
being creative, for conversation
Please drop in! You are welcome as you are

Look for us in Chorlton precinct in the unit next to Boots from
Monday 11th April 2022 to Saturday 16th April 2022
from 10am - 3pm

For more information, contact Sarah Brewerton:

sarahbrewerton@hotmail.co.uk

Lectionary Bible Readings for this month

Taken from "Roots on the Web" Lectionary Year C

April 3 rd Lent 5	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8</i>
April 10 th Palm Sunday	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40</i>
April 14 th Maundy Thursday	<i>Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35</i>
April 15 th Good Friday	<i>Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42</i>
April 17 th Easter Sunday	<i>Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12</i>
April 24 th Easter 2	<i>Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31</i>
May 1 st Easter 3	<i>Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19</i>
May 8 th Easter 4	<i>Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30</i>

Christians Walking With Pride

FUNDRAISER – Sunday 24th April 1pm – 3pm

St Clement's Church, Chorlton

Food and drink plus activities, The Rainbow People Choir

Tickets are £5 each (apart from for people seeking asylum)

We're looking for volunteers to help prepare food.

Please let Cat Lewis know if you are interested.

URC 50th Anniversary

The United Reformed Church celebrates its 50th anniversary on 5th October with numerous events and worship services. The following is just the start...



Every Synod is invited to **plant at least 50 trees**. We would like to plant a celebration tree in our garden, but we need your suggestions for a tree that will suit our space and won't undermine our foundations or block out the light in church!

There will be a **North Western Synod 50th Jubilee service at Victoria Hall, Bolton** on the afternoon of **Sunday 25th September 2022** (please save the date!). Our friend Rev Fleur Houston is involved in the planning.

The **50th Jubilee relay** around North Western Synod with four symbols of our faith – a spade, a bowl, a chalice and a cross - will be travelling around our four Areas. Synod hopes that when your object arrives at your church, you can use it as a way of marking of our 50 years as a denomination, and record how your church incorporated the symbol into an activity, in the scrapbook accompanying it. Synod are looking forward to all the symbolic objects returning to our Autumn Synod on 15th October 2022, and to learn of the activities which have surrounded them on their travels.

More information on 50th Anniversary events will follow!