

## From the Manse

February 2018

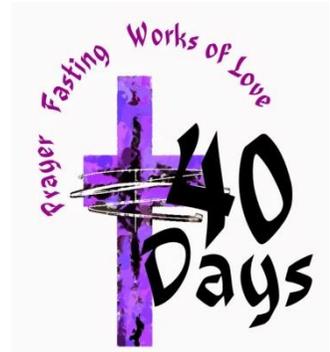
Dear Friends,

This month, on 14<sup>th</sup> February, as well as celebrating Valentine's Day it is also Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Our word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, meaning spring. Christians in Egypt established the traditional forty days of Lent before A.D. 330. Today people think of the

forty days of Lent as remembering Jesus' forty days in the wilderness before he began his ministry. This was the time when he reflected as to what kind of ministry he was about to embark upon and what were the choices (temptations) before him.

'Forty' is a very symbolic number and it shows in quite a number of significant places in the Bible. God says to Noah that he will cause it to rain for forty days and forty nights. Moses spent forty days in the wilderness, the Israelites spent forty years before being allowed to enter the promised land. Jonah gave Nineveh forty days to repent and judges and kings of Israel conventionally reign for periods of forty years. Likewise, disobedience is often punished by forty years of tribulation. For unspecified crimes and misdemeanours Judges 13:1 states baldly that the children of Israel will be delivered into the hands of their enemies, the Philistines, for forty years. It is during this period that Goliath emerges as their champion, goading the Israelites day after day for forty days before being slain by David.

In the early church, new converts fasted for forty hours to prepare for baptism on Easter Eve. When Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official state religion of the Roman Empire in the fourth century, church leaders worried that the sudden increase would change the church's character, so tried to prevent this by requiring all Christians to participate in the Lenten fast, not just new converts.



Today most people think of fasting at Lent in terms of what they will give up. Fasting in the early days was a much more severe discipline. Pope Gregory defined fasting for the church at large in a letter to Saint Augustine in A.D. 604 – “We abstain from flesh meat and things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese, eggs”. The church considers Sundays a ‘little Easter’ each week and exempts Sundays from fasting during Lent.

So, from the earliest days of the church, Lent has been seen as an important time as we prepare for the mystery and joy which is Christ’s death and resurrection. During this time we need to take a look at our lives: to consider the choices we have made, and the choices facing us now. The answers may not be easy to find, but if, like Jesus, we are ready to seek God’s guidance and listen to his voice, we will find the wisdom we need to choose between what’s right and what’s wrong.

From your friend and minister,

*Brian*

## **Pastoral Visitors**

Do you think you would be able to take on a role of Pastoral Visitor? Sale Eldership are looking for volunteers to help them in the Pastoral roles of the Church. If you feel you would be able to visit/make contact with a small number of your fellow members of our Church on a regular basis please come and see me after a Morning Service or phone me on 283 8012. To use a well-known cliché ‘Your Church Needs YOU!’  
Thank You

**Hilary Grierson**

## **Winter Warmers, Sale**

Thank you to everyone who supported, helped and made donations to the Winter Warmers. The final total raised was £561. This was £40 up on last year.

**Wendy McDonald**

## **SASH Diary – Forthcoming Special Events and Services**

### **February**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.00pm	Messy Church 'Love Rules' (AoM)
7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Wednesday Society (Sale)
13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	CTiS AGM, Trinity Methodist Church
19 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 1 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 1 (AoM)
21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Wednesday Society Sale
23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Joint Pastorate Dinner at Sale Golf Club
26 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 2 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 2 (AoM)
28 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Church and Society (Sale)

### **March**

2 <sup>nd</sup>		Women's World Day of Prayer- venues tbc
		South Area Roadshow / Mission Partnership – venue tbc
5 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 3 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 3 (AoM)
7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Wednesday Society (Sale)
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Gift Day (AoM)
11 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mothers' Day Parade Service (Sale)
12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 4 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 4 (AoM)
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	North West Synod
19 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 5 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 5 (AoM)
25 <sup>th</sup>		Palm Sunday
26 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 6 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 6 (AoM)
29 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday 'Tenebrae' Communion (AoM)
30 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Good Friday Service (Sale)

## **Lent Bible Study**

This year we will again be using resources provided by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The theme is '**40 Stories of Hope**' (further details see the CTBI web site.)

During Lent we will be using the whole of the gospel of Mark and focusing on key verses each week.

Week 1 – Fresh Start (Mark chapters 1 - 3)

Key verses ~ Mark 1: 9 -13

Week 2 – Authority Established (Mark chapters 4 – 6)

Key verses ~ Mark 6: 7 - 13

Week 3 – Identity Revealed (Mark chapters 7 - 9)

Key verses ~ Mark 8: 27 - 29

Week 4 – Decision Time (Mark 10 – 12.40)

Key verses ~ Mark 10: 42 - 45

Week 5 – Actions Speak (Mark 12:41 – 14.:52)

Key verses ~ Mark 14: 22 – 25

Week 6 – Death Defeated (Mark 14:53 – 16:20)

Key verses ~ Mark 16: 1 -7

These Bible Studies will take place on Mondays  
2.00pm at Sale URC and 7.30pm at Ashton-  
upon-Mersey URC

*Please come along as and when you can. You will be assured of a warm welcome.*

## **Communion Fund, Sale**

December: £55 was donated to AFASIC.

January's collection of £35.70 was for the communion fund.

The February collection will be for PARKINSON'S UK (In memory of John McConnachie)

**Nancy Stringer**



## **Wednesday Society**

We meet in the lounge at Sale URC on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 2pm and the New Year promises to an interesting Programme of activities. Our forthcoming Meetings are:

February 7      The Altrincham Film Club  
February 21     RNLI - a volunteer speaker  
March 7         Revd Paul Brewerton tbc

We do hope you will join us and we look forward to seeing you; you will be made most welcome.

**Yvonne Jones - Sale**

## **Church and Society**

Following our January Elders Meeting, we are putting out an appeal for Church Members to offer topics/speakers for any of our future Church & Society Meetings, you do not have to attend the meetings, although you would be very welcome, but we do need topics which affect both our local and wider communities.

Please see Lily Lloyd or Keith Argyle with your ideas and suggestions. Next meeting will be Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Hilary Grierson**

## **Sale Flower List - February**

4<sup>th</sup>      Stella Salmon  
11<sup>th</sup>     Hilary Grierson  
18<sup>th</sup>     Nan Scott  
25<sup>th</sup>     Kathleen and Alasdair Renfrew

## **Ashton-on-Mersey Flower List, February**

4<sup>TH</sup>      Christine Witty  
11<sup>th</sup>      Ivana Spencer  
18th      Andrew Seath  
25<sup>th</sup>      Gillian Hunt

## **Evening Fellowship C.A.M.E.O (Come and Meet Each Other) - Ashton**

Well almost another twelve months has past and we are still knitting and crocheting away at our once a month meeting. We have sent blankets and children's jumpers to Syria, blankets to the homeless in Manchester, neo-natal baby clothes to Wythenshawe Maternity, twiddle muffs to hospital Dementia wards, hats, scarves and gloves to the Salvation Army and we have two parcels of knitted squares ready for South Africa. We must thank our good friends at Altrincham URC for their wonderful donations, so neat and colourful. You really do work so hard and we can always find homes for anything you let us have.

We do enjoy our get-togethers and invite anyone who likes to knit or crochet to come along to knit and natter and to listen to Alf Joyce, who always has a superb choice of music to play for us in the background. We also enjoy a cake and a drink during the evening.

**Pat Joyce**

## **Christmas at the Manse**

What a lovely time we had singing carols at the Manse before Christmas, it was really good hearing peoples poems and jokes and such a wonderful rendition of 'Pinderella and the Since' (yes it is spelt correctly) from our dear Sue Acty. Really amusing, I shall always remember it!!

**Pat Joyce**

## **Joint Pastorate Dinner**

You are all cordially invited to attend the Joint Pastorate Dinner. This will be held at **Sale** Golf Club on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7 for 7.30pm.

The cost will be £20 per person to include a 3-course meal, tea/coffee & the gratuity.

There will be a list of the choices available for each course on noticeboards in both churches.  
Please indicate your preferences next to your name on the list.  
Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the night.

**Pam Boyes**

## **Communion Funds 2017 Ashton on Mersey**

Last year the total of £400 from our communion collections from AoM were used as follows to make donations:

£200 to the Christian Aid DEC appeal and £200 to Water Aid. Both of these appeals were matched pound for pound by the Government by an equal donation.

It is hoped that these two donations will be used to best effect to make small changes in families' everyday lives across the world.

**Helen Priestman Ashton on Mersey URC**

## **Pleasant Tuesday Afternoon, Ashton**

6 <sup>TH</sup> February	Revd. Brian Acty	Bring and Buy
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Bingo	
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Alfred Joyce Miscellaneous	
27th February	Lunch at Mersey Farm (12 for 12.30pm)	

## January Messy Church Ashton on Mersey



We held our first Messy church of the New Year on the first Saturday in January with the focus on new beginnings and the Story of Noah and the flood. We all had a wonderful time with 18 children and their

families coming along to have fun and meet. We were definitely awash with water as children explored water play



with various toy boats, animals and plastic tubs. They also had chance to make musical instruments to make animal and storm sounds, animal masks to think about all the variety of animals there are in the world and rainbow beads in a bottle as a sign of Gods promise never to flood the earth again. During the talk and singing led by Brian and Karen respectively the masks and musical instruments were used to great affect by the children as they enthusiastically joined in.

A big thank you to all who came to help. All are welcome- if you want to come along and join us. Next month's theme is Love 'Rules'. It would be lovely to see you there.

**Helen Priestman Ashton on Mersey URC**

## **Jean DeMeza**

Jean has recently moved, and should anyone wish to visit her would they please ask one the Church Elders or Church Secretary for her new address. We hope that Jean will be very happy in her new home. Thank You

**Hilary**

## **Tuesday Club, Sale**

This is the programme for February, and all are welcome:

Feb 6<sup>th</sup>            Film Night

Feb 20<sup>th</sup>           Pam Boyes: Ronald MacDonald House – an update.

## **Gospel Quiz**

The gospel for this year's lectionary is Mark. Here is an easy quiz to see how much you already know! **Answers on the last page.**

- 1: Who is the first prophet quoted in the Gospel of Mark?
- 2: In whose house did Jesus dine with publicans and sinners?
- 3: On what day did the disciples pluck ears of corn, much to the anger of the Pharisees?
- 4: What sin does Jesus say is unforgivable?
- 5: Where was Jesus when he taught the parable of the sower?
- 6: Which relation of Jairus did Jesus heal?
- 7: What did Jesus tell the twelve to shake off their feet if people refused to hear the gospel message?
- 8: At the feeding of the 5,000, how many fish did they have?
- 9: Complete the quote: "This people honours me with their \_\_\_ but their heart is far from me."
- 10: What did the Sadducees not believe in?

## **Montague Patchers**

was 30 years old last June. From small beginnings in Room 4 and then the lounge at Sale URC, we have become a thriving group of enthusiastic ladies, producing ever more exciting quilts of all sizes, bags, cushions, wall hangings and so on. To celebrate our Pearl Anniversary, I challenged the ladies to make a 6 inch square quilt for the party night in June, resulting in over 40 little master pieces!

Do come to our Exhibition in the Church premises on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 February, and see the results of my challenge and all the other wonderful creations of the last two years!

Soup and cakes too! Hope to see you there!

**Margaret Menzies, President.**

## **Commitment for Life**

In recent months I have had a reason for neglecting Commitment for Life, but, in church on Sunday looking at the pulpit fall, I felt I must turn over a new leaf! This church has supported Bangladesh for many years; maybe the church meeting would like to vote to change. We could choose Zimbabwe, an area of South America or Palestine.

The pulpit fall illustrates four aspects of the URC. The bottom left circle is the logo of the URC. Above that is the flame to show we are supported by the Holy Spirit. Over to the right we remember the importance of working with other Christian denominations, both locally and nationally, while the fourth circle reminds us of the mission of the church throughout the world. Finally, the central circle tells us of our reason for making the pulpit fall in the first place – and the several talented people in the congregation who did the embroidery.

**Stella Salmon – Sale**

## Bobotie

As many of you might know I spent part of my childhood living in South Africa, here is a recipe enjoyed in the winter months, not quite as cold as here.

Ovenproof dish

Preheat oven to gas mark 4 / 180C / 350F

### Ingredients serves 4

15g / 1/2 oz butter	1 onion chopped
1 clove garlic chopped	1 thick slice of bread 50g / 2oz
150ml/ 1/4pt of milk	1/2 cup of tea (redbush if you have it)
500g / 1 lb minced lamb	1 tablespoon of mild curry powder
1/2 tbsp granulated sugar	2 tbsp of lemon juice
25g / 1oz flaked almonds	75g / 3 oz raisins
2 eggs	Salt and pepper

### Method

- 1 Soak the raisins for 30 minutes in the tea, drain and discard any remaining tea.
  - 2 Heat the butter in a large frying pan, add the onion and garlic and fry until lightly browned.
  - 3 Remove the crusts from the bread slice and soak in the milk for 2-3 minutes.
  - 4 Squeeze the milk from the bread and reserve separately.
  - 5 Mix the mincemeat with the fried onion and garlic in the pan. Continue to stir and add the curry powder, sugar, lemon juice, almonds, raisins and soaked bread.
  - 6 Season with salt and pepper and stir an even mix.
  - 7 Finally beat in one of the eggs. Spoon the mixture into a greased 2 litre / 3 pint dish and smooth down.
  - 8 Beat the other egg with the reserved milk, season and pour over the meat mixture. Bake in the oven for 45-50 minutes, the top should be set and browned.
- Serve with either vegetables or a green salad and garlic bread.

**Wendy McDonald**

## Dorothy's Memory Café



Our first eight months concluded with a very happy and crowded Christmas



Party on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Father Christmas and Mrs Claus dropped by to give everyone a little Christmas gift. Cathy and Sam from Skipton Building Society were on hand to see our new piano their grants had helped to buy, and on which Sue and Doreen led our carol singing. It was also the eighth day of Hanukkah, so Sheila told us the story behind the Jewish festival. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, a fitting climax to the year.

### New Editors

Margaret and Keith have taken over the SASH joint editorship. We are grateful to Yvonne for holding the fort while Margaret made up her mind to respond to the still small voice – and Keith had no option but to agree! We hope to continue in the excellent tradition set out by previous editors. All suggestions for new formats and initiatives will be gratefully received, and we will welcome your articles and ideas at any time, either by email or on paper.

Copy for March SASH should reach us please by **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**.

### Quiz Answers

1. Eye of a needle
2. Donkey
3. Sabbath
4. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
5. In a boat
6. Daughter
7. Dust
8. Two
9. Lips
10. Resurrection