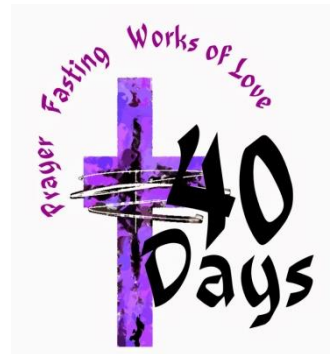


From the Manse

March 2018

Dear Friends,

Throughout our lives we are faced with making choices. Sometimes these choices aren't very important – should I choose the chocolate with the strawberry cream or the coffee cream – but sometimes the choices are more important. If you are a student it is important to decide correctly which 'A' levels you are going to study. If you are buying a car, or a house, you have to be sure that you are more than happy with your decision.



Sometimes we have to choose even more important things than that! Let's think about the choice that Jesus had to make. Jesus knew that he was alive on earth for a very important mission – he was here to save the world, and he really wanted to do that, because he loved the people. But there was a problem. He knew that saving the world was bound to land him in terrible pain and danger, more pain and agony than anyone has ever faced before or since. It would involve taking on himself all the sin and evil of the world, and going on loving right through it.

So he had the choice – to go ahead with saving the world, taking on the suffering as part of the deal, or to avoid all that suffering by opting out, in which case the world would have no hope of being saved.

And it wasn't an easy thing to choose. Everything human in him screamed out against going through the pain of it all; but everything divine in him pleaded for love and compassion, and selfless giving whatever the cost. We know what Jesus chose. Love won, and he chose to go through hell, giving up everything, including his life, just so we could be set free - to live.

From your friend and minister,

Brian

SASH Diary – Forthcoming Special Events and Services

March

2 nd		Women's World Day of Prayer
	2.00pm	South Area Roadshow (Bramhall URC)
	7.00pm	South Area Roadshow (Macclesfield URC)
3 rd	3.00pm	Messy Church 'Mothers and Others' (AoM)
5 th	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 3 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 3 (AoM)
10 th	10.30am	Gift Day (AoM)
11 th	10.45am	Mothers' Day Parade Service (Sale)
	12 noon	Church AGM (AoM)
12 th	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 4 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 4 (AoM)
17 th	10.00am	North West Synod
	2.00pm	PTA Daffodil Tea (AoM)
19 th	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 5 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 5 (AoM)
24 th	10.00am	South Area 'Celebration' (Parrs Wood Road URC)
25 th		Palm Sunday
26 th	2.00pm	Lent Bible Study 6 (Sale)
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study 6 (AoM)
28 th	2.00pm	Prayer Labyrinth (Sale)
	7.00pm	Prayer Labyrinth (Sale)
29 th	2.00pm	Prayer Labyrinth (Sale)
	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday 'Tenebrae' Communion (AoM)
30 th	2.00pm	Prayer Labyrinth (Sale)
	6.30pm	Good Friday Service (Sale)

April

1st 8.30am Easter Breakfast Service (Sale)
10.45am Easter Communion (AoM)

April (contd)

7th 3.00pm Messy Church 'Easter' (AoM)
8th Manchester Marathon
6.30pm Healing Service (Sale)
22nd 12 noon Church AGM (Sale)

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday 2nd March

This year's service has been prepared by the people of Suriname and is entitled;

'All God's Creation Is Very Good!

There will be two services in Sale:

10.30am St Mary's Church, Moss Lane, Sale. M33 4GD
7.30pm Sale Moor Methodist Church, 299 Northenden Road,
Sale Moor. M33 2PP

All - men, women and young people - will be welcome at these services.

Kathleen Renfrew Sale

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:

March 7 Afternoon Tea
March 21 'Reflections' - Barry Myers
April 4 'Tax, Care and Toy Boys!' - Debbie Beatson, Co-op Bank

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

PRAYER LABYRINTH

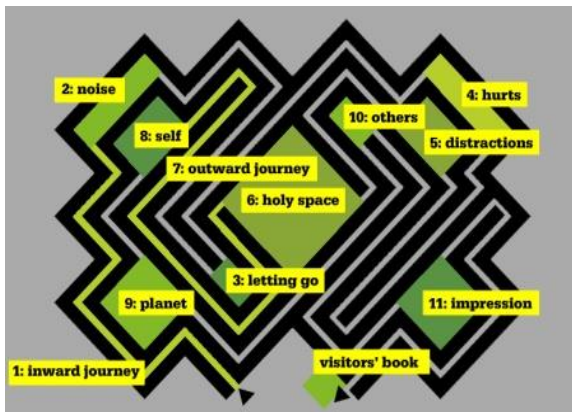
Yvonne Jones – Sale

PRAYER LABYRINTH

SALE URC

During Holy Week the Prayer Labyrinth at Sale URC will be available for people to come and spend a short time in contemplation and

reflection. The journey through the Labyrinth takes 30 – 45 minutes. As you move towards the centre there is opportunity to let go of those things in your life that, sometimes, prevent you from feeling God's presence near to you. Then as you journey out again you can reflect on



those things that you need to take into your life to become a better disciple. If you have not been on this journey then come and join us. If you have already experienced the Labyrinth then you will know how much you can

get from the journey and will want to go on it again. For further details ring 0161 969 0714.

The Labyrinth will be open during the following times –

Wednesday, 28th March, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. and 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Thursday, 29th March, 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

Friday, 30th March, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Foodbank Centres Summary: 1st April 17 to 27th January

The Trafford South FB is one of the Trussell Trust's network of over 400 FBs in the UK. Last year TT FBs gave 1,182,954 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis.

The Trafford South FB now employs Nicky Kenrick as a Manager to oversee the work of the FB and link it within the TT network.

Everyone else who works for the Trafford South FB is a volunteer staffing the DCs each week, the warehouse 2 days each week, the twice annually supermarket collections and providing administration.



We've got plenty of Beans, Soup and Pasta, but **we are short of UHT Milk and Instant Mash.**

Foodbank Centre	No. of Vouchers fulfilled	Adults	Children	Total
Partington	218 (17%)	419 (19%)	414 (24%)	833 (21%)
Sale Moor	416 (32%)	616 (28%)	535 (31%)	1151 (29%)
Sale West	138 (11%)	190 (9%)	161 (9%)	351 (9%)
Broadheath	208 (16%)	372 (17%)	274 (16%)	646 (16%)
Timperley	308 (24%)	571 (26%)	361 (21%)	932 (24%)
Unknown Centre	3 (0%)	3 (0%)	5 (0%)	8 (0%)

Totals	1291	2171	1750	3291
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Church & Society

There will be no March meeting because of the Prayer Labyrinth, but on April 25th we will meet as usual at 2 pm. Our topic will be announced in our next SASH, so watch this space!

Keith Argyle

Communion Fund, Sale

February £115 donated to Parkinson's UK.

The March collection will be for CHILDREN'S AIR AMBULANCE.

This is a new charity that "Fly to save young lives" emergency paediatric and neonatal transfers by helicopter. This charity does not receive any government funding.

Nancy Stringer

Pleasant Tuesday Afternoon (PTA)

Our March programme is as follows.

- 6 March Revd Brian Acty + Bring & Buy
- 13 March Easter Cards
- 20 March Altrincham Video Society
- 27 March Easter Service

....hope you can join us at 2pm.

Also 17 March (Saturday) 2pm – 4pm Daffodil Tea: cost £5. All are welcome.

Katherine Paxton

Flower list for A-o-M

- 4 March Helen Priestman
- 11 March Karen Garrattley
- 18 March June Horsefield

25 March Helen Priestman

Alan Douglas Menzies

Alan was born in Edinburgh on 23rd February, 1922. The eldest of 2 sons, with brother Colin, to Irene and Douglas Menzies. His parents enjoyed the outdoors and the boys were soon introduced to walking the hills around Edinburgh and then to greater heights in the Highlands. Alan always loved walking.

Alan attended George Watson's College where his interest in engineering, and how things work, was developed. Meccano was his favourite plaything and, even at the age of 11 was fixing things around the house, beginning with arm of the toilet cistern. He went on to build his own radio, amassing a large collection of radio components over the years. Alan moved on to cycles, motorbikes and cars and his great pride was his Lagonda Rapier which he was driving when Margaret first met him!

Alan studied engineering at Edinburgh University, which included an apprenticeship at Metropolitan Vickers at Trafford Park, where he went on to full employment. Amongst a variety of places he stayed during this time in Manchester was a house on Broad Road, eventually joining Sale Presbyterian Church.

Alan worked on steam turbine development and was sent to Brazil to work at Belo Horizonte' to work on diesel electrical engines, then it was back to Rugby for 2 years before he returned to Manchester, where he remained. Alan's role was to write specs and manuals on electric engines for the General Electric Company. He eventually retired in 1987.

After retiring, his parents moved to Gatehouse of Fleet on the Galloway coast. It was there that they met Margaret Frew's parents, who had a strong connection to the area. No diaries record how Alan and Margaret first met, but Margaret's family were heading for

Australia on 1959 for the wedding of her sister, Gracie, and where Margaret was staying on to work as a teacher in Auchterarder, near Perth. So Margaret went away to work in Australia and New Zealand with Alan's ring on her finger. Unfortunately, due to the death of Margaret's father, she returned earlier than intended but his enabled them to marry in Griffnock South Parish Church on 7th September, 1960. They honeymooned at Ardgour, near Fort William, where Alan introduced Margaret to walking in 'the hills', unsuccessfully!

Their first home was in Rugby, however after a year they moved to their Broad Road home. It was here that Andrew and Robert were born to make up the family unit.

The Menzies family became very involved in the Presbyterian Church with Alan joining the Finance Committee. Over the years he also served as Freewill Offering Treasurer, oversaw much of the funding for the building of the new church and re-roofing of the hall and served on the Property Committee, repairing the locks and taps - and he was known as 'Mr. Heating' for quite a long time.

Alan's hobbies included photography and he kept a good record of the widening of the M60, at junction 6, and the installation of the Metro line through the Water Park – this was part of his daily walk for many years. Apart from family, Alan's main interest was planning and rebuilding the house that Margaret had inherited on the Solway Firth, near Gatehouse.

Alan had enjoyed good physical condition over the years, apart from his eyes which required surgery and then daily drops both morning and night. Sadly, just after Christmas, his health deteriorated quite quickly and he died, peacefully, in Wythenshawe Hospital on 24th January. He had enjoyed 57 years of happy marriage, family life and quiet achievement.

Brian Acty

“Are You A Walking Bible?”

In a book purchased from Revd Paul Brewerton, the following text was found: “I received a book of friendship from one of our church members in appreciation of an act of mine, which I believe was motivated by God. Turning the pages, I found this statement:

‘The only bible most read is you.’

“The bible tells us how God would have us live. I think His book’s insight puts us in perspective. If we claim to be Christians,

‘WE SHOULD ALL BE WALKING BIBLES.’ *Ben Gates, Knottingley.”*

Supplied by Karen Garrattley

Lent Bible Studies

The theme is ‘40 Stories of Hope’.

During Lent we are continuing to use the whole of the gospel of Mark and focusing on key verses each week.



March 5th – Identity Revealed (Mark chapters 7 - 9)

Key verses ~ Mark 8: 27 - 29

March 12th – Decision Time (Mark 10 – 12.40)

Key verses ~ Mark 10: 42 - 45

March 19th – Actions Speak (Mark 12:41 – 14.:52)

Key verses ~ Mark 14: 22 – 25

March 26th – 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.

Messy Church Ashton on Mersey in February

We all had a great time at this month's Messy Church with the theme of '**Love Rules**'. Families explored love and emotions through various crafts and activities including making volcanoes to think about anger, making cards for Valentine's Day, looking at what colour we think love is, decorating cakes and growing cress in a heart shape to show our love.



Look how high the cress grew after 5 days!



Brian astonished and thrilled children, as he displayed his scientific knowledge for geophysics, as children added baking soda to vinegar to make colourful fizzing volcanoes.

In our celebrations we imagined being Martha and Mary preparing for Jesus to visit their home. This involved a lot of dashing around and dusting as the children busied themselves acting out being Martha dusting her home to make it look perfect in preparation for Jesus. We thought about the different way we show love for each other and God and recognised this is OK.

Next month our theme is '**Mothers & Others**'. As always, we would love to see you there. Messy Church is for all ages, so come along and join us, 3 till 5pm on the first Saturday of the month.

Helen Priestman - Ashton on Mersey

PUZZLE PAGES

WORDSEARCH

Armour of God

R W N O I T A C I L P P U S N C E
I E O F L A M I N G D A R T S X A
K T I R I P S E H T F O D R O W S
H A T Z C J O Y O F T H E L O R D
T L A W R E S T L I N G G I P U N
I P V Q F M E K F T R O G V T W A
A T L R I G H T E O U S N E S S T
F S A L Z S A J H W N P R L D I S
F A S E C A L P Y L N E V A E H H
O E F P X F V G A K G L G U N E T
D R O L E H T N I G N O R T S C I
L B T D F A C F A O Z F F I E B W
E Z E A H E R D K H J P S R O Z K
I B M R I F D N A T S E Z I H O V
H G L A P O W U R E Y A R P S N D
S T E L T N U A G G W C Z S V D L
T L H T U R T F O T L E B C N C Z

While most of the 'words' appear in the Bible, some don't and are just general pieces of 'armour'

BELTOFTRUTH
BREASTPLATE
DAGGER
FLAMINGDARTS
GAUNTLETS
GOSPELOFPEACE
HEAVENLYPLACES
HELMETOFSAVATION
JOYOFTHELORD
LANCE
PRAYER

RIGHTEOUSNESS
SHIELDOFFAITH
SHOES
SPEAR
SPIRITUALEVIL
STANDFIRM
STRONGINTHELORD
SUPPLICATION
SWORDOFTHESPIRIT
WITHSTAND
WRESTLING

Christian Aid Statement

Climate change – for the love of the world. This is the biggest challenge we face. But together we can restore God’s Earth.

We hold a vision of a better world, free from poverty and climate change. Where everyone has enough to eat, and can live without fear of their home being destroyed. But right now, millions of the world’s poorest people are feeling the worst impacts of climate change, and experts predict more floods, drought and extreme weather patterns to come. For those living in poverty, this means more hunger, conflict and insecurity, and a more uncertain future for us all.

What we’re aiming for

At the moment, money from government subsidies, investments of churches and pension funds, and our own bank accounts supports the fossil fuel industry and continues to fuel climate change. We need to make the Big Shift away from fossil fuels and into renewable energy so that we can build a cleaner, safer world. Money is key! We aim to:

1. phase out fossil fuels
2. adopt renewable energy
3. keep global temperature rise below two degrees from pre-industrial levels.

Latest update

So far, more than 3,500 churches either switched to clean electricity or pledged to do so. To find out how you can join in, go to

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change-campaign>

Who can stop climate change? We can. We have a responsibility to do so, that began when God commanded the earliest human inhabitants of the Garden of Eden to 'till it and keep it'. To keep it; not to abuse it, not to destroy it'

Desmond Tutu

Thank you - for all your contributions. Please keep them coming!

Deadline for the April edition will be Sunday 11th March.

Keith and Margaret Argyle