

From Wendy McDonald

September 2019

Dear Friends,

Does something happen and for some reason you just cannot explain, or why or how it came about, but there you are taking part in something? I would like to share with you my experience and how as churches we can move forward without a minister.

In 2018, when we knew that Brian was retiring, there were discussions about how we could cover the pulpit supply for all the Sunday Services. Ideas were mulled around, and it was decided that members of the church could reform a Worship Group. At the time I had no intentions of being part of this group; I didn't have any inclination to be involved.

Then one month I was invited to go along to a preparation meeting just to advise on the children's talk. Jump forward a couple of months to February 2019, and there I was at Luther King House on a two-day workshop. It was a joint workshop with other churches in the new Mission Partnership, six members from Sale URC plus four full-time students from the college.

The workshop covered all aspects of preparing a service. At the start I sat there in the chapel, thinking I am not going to be able to do this. The workshop was challenging - it had us exploring our faith, asking questions about what faith is.

One of the aspects I found most useful was sharing ideas and learning from each other. We looked at all aspects of preparing a service. The service did not always have to follow the same format. Could we challenge ourselves to do things differently? How would it effect the congregation in our churches? I found the last part on the first day (hymns/music) very enjoyable and an enlightening session.

I realised I had been attending church for the majority of my life and had never deeply questioned how the minister/ leader had planned the service. On the second day we were given that task, luckily in small

groups. Each group was given a date and readings from the lectionary calendar; with the aid of a Bible and various books we were asked to format a service from the readings. To my surprise, and with each other's input, we were soon gathering ideas, and, once the creative juices started flowing, we had prepared a full and interesting service. With a big sigh of relief, we realised we, as Christians, had shared in something special, and we will continue to so as we share and develop in Mission Partnership.

Why did I go and do this workshop? The only answer I can give is, God in his mysterious way sent me.

Wendy McDonald

Manchester and Cheshire Missional Partnership

Do you want to know what Missional Partnership is all about and what it means to you and the future of your Church? Then if you do, please try to attend the first part of 'Partnership Day' on Saturday 26th October at Christ Church, Parrswood. The morning session from 10.00am to 12noon is intended purely for Church Members who wish to know more about our Partnership.

There is also an afternoon Pastoral Care Workshop for all Serving Elders from 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

Pam and Hilary – Church Secretaries

Communion Fund, Sale

July £145 was donated to The Dianne Oxberry Trust and August £100 donated to Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. Two very good donations! Thank you all.

The September collection will be for CHURCHES TACKLING POVERTY IN SALE. This is a new initiative by 8 Churches in Sale to fund a debt centre to help people in debt which is needed more than people think.

Nancy Stringer

Diary Dates:

7 th Sept	3pm	Messy Church, BBQ & Concert at Ashton (see the poster on church noticeboards)
18 th Sept	8.00pm	CTiS Meeting – Sale URC
19 th Sept	3.30pm	“Dorothy’s” Volunteers Meeting
21 st Sept	2.00-4.00pm	Worship Workshop at Macclesfield URC
25 th Sept	2.00pm	Church & Society – Debbie Walters, Debt Centre Manager for Churches Tackling Poverty in Sale
29 th Sept	2.45pm	Afternoon Communion Service – Sale
6 th Oct	10.45am	Harvest Parade Service - followed by Harvest Lunch at Sale
6 th Oct	10.45am	Harvest Service at Ashton
12 th Oct	10.00am	NW Synod Meeting – Carver
13 th Oct		MANCHESTER HALF MARATHON – NO MORNING SERVICE AT SALE
13 th Oct	6.30pm	Evening Communion Service at Sale
19 th Oct	10-4.00pm	“Conducting a Funeral” Course – Sale URC
19 th Oct	12 – 2pm	Autumn Brunch at Ashton
20 th Oct	12.15pm	Church Meeting after service at Ashton
26 th Oct	10.00-3.30pm	Partnership Day - hosted by Christ Church Parrswood
	10-12noon	Missional Partnership - Information for all Church Members
	12noon-2pm	Lunch & “What’s Next for Missional Partnerships?”
	2.00-3.30pm	Pastoral Care Workshops for Elders

Flower List – A-o-M

Sept 1 st	<i>Blank</i>
Sept 8 th	Heather Morris
Sept 15 th	Doreen Dale
Sept 22 nd	Andrew & Carla Dale
Sept 29 th	Kathrine Paxton

Messy Church Ashton on Mersey July & August – “ Unity in Community & Down through the Roof”



We have been busy over the summer. In July we explored ‘sharing’ in the world and how there is an



unfair distribution of resources and

opportunities in world communities – a very real problem, not that we were trying to solve it; but to raise children’s awareness through a



number of activities to encourage sharing, including 3 legged races, making a basic meal (as experienced by children in developing countries), playing board games, roleplay

shopping and building houses with Duplo. Creative activities included making a tree of hearts and continuing a giant body outline with collage and sharing messages. It was definitely fun for all ages as you can see.



In August we looked at the miracle Jesus performed curing a lame man. We talked about how Jesus cured people who were sick and how he can still do that today.



The children made Get Well cards for people they know who were sick, wove colourful woven mats and printed wall hangings with special messages for people they cared about. Children also had chance to build first century houses and role play looking after sick dolls.



The Celebration section was led by Valerie with the aid of the Duplo First century home built by the children to help in the retelling of the story.



In September our theme will be **'I don't want to.'** We will think about things we don't like to do and remember the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at the last supper as a demonstration of his love for us. We would love to see you there. Messy church is for all ages, so come along and join us 3 till 5pm on Saturday 7th September. This will be followed by our annual BBQ. It's definitely a date for the diary. See more of what we get up to on Facebook: [@Messy Church AonM](https://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchAonM)

Helen Priestman

Duty Rota – Sale

Communion	Hilary Grierson Jerry Cutler	Nancy Downie Yvonne Jones
Reception	Lily Lloyd	
Vestry Elder	Jerry Cutler	
Hymn Books	Margaret Gaskin	Ken Humber
Collection	Carol Everett	Liz Jones

Flower Providers in September - Sale

1 st	Wendy McDonald	22 nd	Stella Salmon
8 th	Rosemary Hill	29 th	Margaret Menzies
15 th	Nancy Stringer		

News from Sue Acty

Dear Friends,

I thought I would write a note once we had settled in our new home and after the first three months of retirement.

Firstly, Brian and I would like to thank you all for making our church and social life at Sale and Ashton so happy during our six years with you. Your prayers have helped sustain us during some difficult times with the medical problems over the past years - your love and support has been tangible and has been a great strength offered by both churches. It is something that others have experienced and would concur with.

Also, we wish to thank you for our lovely 'send-off' and your very generous gifts. Our family and friends felt the warmth of the churches.

Brian has spent a long time in our garden which could be described as 'minimalist' before we moved in. It now has a greenhouse, a pond and is in full bloom! We have been worshipping at the local Methodist church and will probably make this our regular worship place.

I have been in regular contact with Ann Walker since our move and we have been updated on people's progress with medical care and we hope you all keep on making good progress. You will remain in our prayers.

I have been placed on the 'urgent' list for neck surgery and my Surgeon said it would be September or early October; after this I will need to wear a rigid collar for two months and then be admitted to the Spinal Injuries Unit at Oswestry for in-patient rehab. So, we are hoping that 2020 will be a good year.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your continuing prayers. Our good wishes to you all.

Sue

Wednesday Society

We meet in the lounge at Sale URC usually on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm. At the beginning of our new session we extend a very warm welcome to anyone who is interested in any of our activities, to come along and be part of the group.

The following is the programme for the coming weeks:

Sept 4 The Bridgewater Canal - Tom Everitt

Sept 18 Quiz and Discussion of the programme 2020

Oct 2 'Lunch in the Lounge' - !.30pm
Please note an earlier starting time).

Do make a note of these dates and consider joining us - you will be made most welcome!

Yvonne Jones – Sale

Pleasant Tuesday Afternoon (PTA)

Our programme for September:

3rd Flower arranging by Mrs Joyce Doggart

10th Revd Valerie Davies

17th Half yearly meeting & quiz

24th Altrincham Video Society

Please join us at 2pm when you will be made very welcome.

Katherine Paxton

Bag2School - Sale

We have a collection on 22 October - there are bags (to fill) in the Church. The company are again taking certain household linens. **The list showing what they will accept or not accept is on the next page.**

Nancy

BAG2SCHOOL - WHAT THEY COLLECT:

Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing

Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)

Handbags

Hats

Bags

Scarves and ties

Jewellery

Lingerie

Socks

Belts

Soft toys

Household linen

Household curtains

Household towels

Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

They DO NOT accept:

Duvets and blankets

Pillows and cushions

Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)

Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing

School uniforms with or without logo

Corporate clothing and workwear

Textile off-cuts, yarns or threaded material.

Editor's Postscript

Many thanks to all contributors this month. We look forward to the start of a new church year, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to take advantage of new challenges and opportunities in God's purposes.

Our next SASH deadline for items will be: Sunday September 8th.

Keith