



# Disciple

## *The Weekly Newsletter of The MCC of Manchester*

### **Sunday 15th November 2009**

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**Welcome** to this newsletter and to the ministry of MCC Manchester. If this is your first contact with us, know that you are welcome. You can take part in our ministry through attending our worship services or mid week meetings, or by using the various resources on our website. You can keep in touch with us in person, by email, or by text. It is our prayer that our people grow as committed disciples of the Lord Jesus.

**Worship Today** We concluded our service looking at Old Testament history by looking at the Maccabean revolt against the Greeks. This is recorded in two books found in Orthodox and Catholic Bibles but not Protestant ones – 1 and 2 Maccabees. Andy looked at why the Jewish people revolted against the oppression they felt and considered about how we are often also pressurised to conform to the expectations of wider society in order to fit in.

**Thanks.** Thank you for your generosity last week. 46 people worshipped with us and gave a £207 in the collection; this is on top of the £1,300 or so that is given by monthly standing orders to our bank account. 160 people attended the multi-faith Remembrance Day service Andy led at the police college on Wednesday; this was over twice the normal attendance and shows how the war in Afghanistan is deeply embedded in the public consciousness.

**Visiting Preacher Next Week.** Next Sunday we celebrate the festival of Christ the King. We reflect on Jesus as being the Universal King and the demands made by him on us as his subjects. The reading for

#### **In Your Prayers**

*Please remember*

Those who encountered us at Pride –that they may come along and check us out.  
MCC Bournemouth as their numbers continue to increase.

Amanda Styles recovering from surgery.

Elaine Bailey as she considers whether to have more surgery.

MCC Edinburgh as it decides whether or not to close.

the day is the story from St Matthew's Gospel where Jesus says that whatever we do for the "least of these" we do to him. Appropriately, we welcome Nigel Biggs from the Boaz Trust who will be speaking about their work with some of the "least of these" destitute asylum seekers whom they house and feed. Government policy seems to force people into destitution when they get to the "end of the line" on their cases regardless of how effective their legal representation has been nor how ill informed the system is about the home countries. For example the Home Office still try to say it's possible to be a "discrete" gay person or Christian in Iran! Come and hear Nigel next week as he tells us of their work, and how we can help as part of our response to Jesus' message to love "the least of these".

**Advent Retreat.** We are having a 24 hour Advent Retreat from Friday 4th December until Saturday 5th. We will start with the evening meal on Friday and end at tea time (around 5) on the Saturday. The cost is £40 and this includes lovely en suite accommodation, the evening meal on Friday night, breakfast and lunch on the Saturday as well as teas and coffees throughout our stay. The retreat is being led by Elaine Ambrose from MCC South London; Elaine is studying for the ministry in MCC. Booking forms are available in church – please return them with a £20 deposit.

**Annual General Meeting & Christmas Meal** Our AGM this year will be after worship on Sunday 13th December at 6.15pm. We will elect Board members, adopt a budget for 2010, approve the audited accounts for 2008 and receive an update on the financial position for the first 11 months of 2009. We will also receive Andy's report. You can read the information for the AGM on our website: - [www.mccmanchester.co.uk/agm](http://www.mccmanchester.co.uk/agm). After this we will go for a Christmas meal together at the Horse and Jockey on Chorlton Green. This is a lovely recently refurbished pub and the food is superb (a few of us sampled it last week). The Christmas meal costs £20 for a three course meal (including the service charge). We need a £10 deposit in order to book and must finalise numbers in the next couple of weeks! Forms giving the menu choices are available at the back of church. Please return these, with your deposit, to Ian or Andy.

**ChangeMakers** A Board Based Organising group is starting to form in Manchester and we have been invited to get involved. Broad Based organising seeks to get local people (particularly faith communities) to identify local social problems and solutions to them and then lobby people in power to effect change (knowing that it can get hundreds of people to public meetings to demonstrate support for their ideas). In London the organisation London Citizens has done just this and worked to get the London Assembly to pay, and ensure all the people they have contracts with pay, a living wage in London which is higher than the national minimum wage. London Citizens got 2,000 to special mayoral hustings and persuaded every candidate to agree to work with them on their issues. The day after Boris won his aides were on the phone... London Citizens called for an amnesty for asylum seekers and migrants without documents. It's good stuff. In Manchester they are about to launch and are looking at three particular issues - the lack of role models for young white males in particular, the desperate situation of asylum seekers and the plight of carers of those who are both mentally ill and drug dependant. We have tickets for those who want to attend their first Assembly on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November in central Manchester. This

#### Birthdays in November

Robin Fox 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Paul Blackburn 11<sup>th</sup>  
Smiley Robinson 15<sup>th</sup>  
Jane Hallowell 20<sup>th</sup>  
Alma Fritchley 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Daily Devotional

You can get our daily devotional in church or on our website. It is designed to help us grow spiritually by giving a resource for our own daily prayer times. It consists of a short "order of worship" of a Psalm, other Biblical reading and a reflection. It also gives ideas of things to pray for.

will give a taster and help us see how we could be involved. There will be a fuller introduction for the churches in Chorlton in mid January which we'd like some of our folk to attend. If you'd like a ticket please see Andy.

**Christmas Carol Concert at the Bridgewater Hall** We are off to this carol concert which raises money for children with cancer and is provided by choirs from local hospitals on Tuesday 8th December. Tickets are £17 from Margaret. Please let her know if you wish to come and she will order you a ticket.

**Office Closed** Andy, the Board and some others are on a training retreat from Thursday afternoon until Saturday morning. The office will be closed. You can reach Andy via email but he may not return emails as quickly as normal.

### ***The Church for Our Community***

**Metropolitan Community Church of Manchester**  
Postal address: PO Box 19 Manchester, M34 3XF

Phone: 0161 881 6050

[www.mccmanchester.co.uk](http://www.mccmanchester.co.uk)

Facebook: [tinyurl.com/mccmanchesterfb](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/mccmanchesterfb)

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