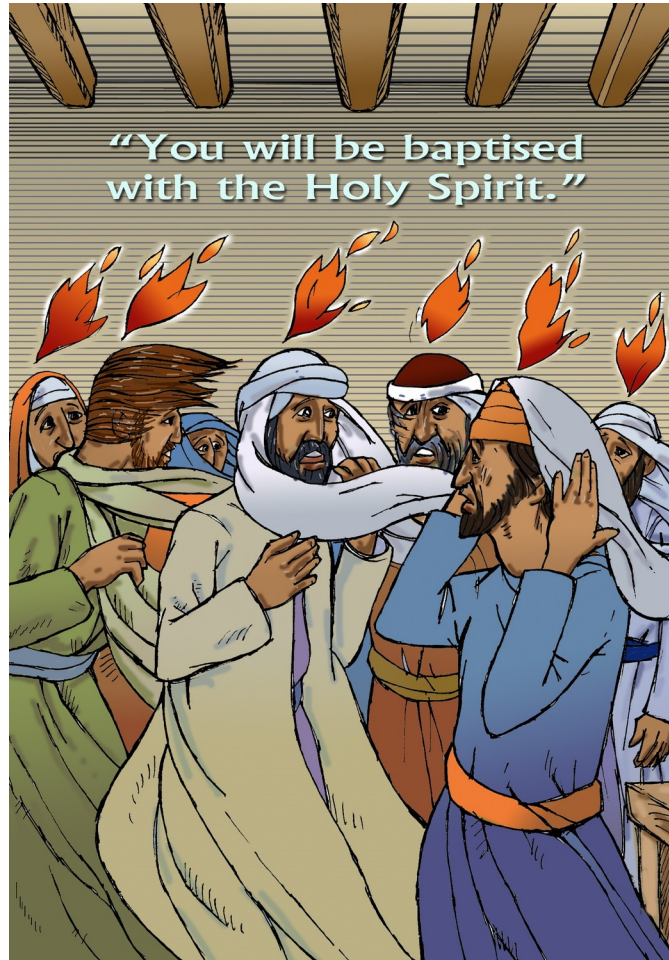




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



May 2018

# **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC**

## **MISSION/VISION STATEMENT**



### **Worship**

In our devotion we will come together to express our joy, love and thanks through worship.

We shall share our praise and dedicate it to God.

### **Ministry**

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will show compassion and love by understanding, supporting and meeting the spiritual, the physical and the emotional needs of others.

### **Evangelism**

We are called as Christians to share the good news; living as examples of Christ in our everyday lives we can spread the word and love of Jesus.

### **Discipleship**

We as a church have a responsibility as Christians to encourage people to know God and to enable them to develop their relationship with Him through prayer, discussion, study and learning.

### **Fellowship**

We welcome to our church family those who want to belong. We show our love for others by sharing acts of fellowship in God's name.

# **May 2018**

|   |                 |   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Monday<br>30 <sup>th</sup> April                        | 7.30 pm         | Prayer Walk<br>(meet in the Crèche Room)  |
| Tuesday<br>1 <sup>st</sup> May                          | 8.00 pm         | Tuesday Home Group<br>(at Debbie Wood's house)                                      |
| Thursday<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> May                         | 7.00 pm         | Churches Together Alpha Course Session 3<br>(at St Vincent's Roman Catholic Church) |
|   | 7.30 pm         | Elders' Meeting   |
| Sunday<br>6 <sup>th</sup> May                           | 10.30 am        | <b>Family Worship with Communion</b><br>Led by Revd Richard Bradley                 |
|   | Bank<br>Holiday | <b>NO EVENING WORSHIP</b>   |
| Monday<br>7 <sup>th</sup> May                           | 7.30 pm         | Focus on Prayer Group   |
| Tuesday<br>8 <sup>th</sup> May                          | 7.30 pm         | Churches Together Meeting<br>(venue to be confirmed)                                |
| Thursday<br>10 <sup>th</sup> May                        | 7.00 pm         | Churches Together Alpha Course Session 4<br>(at Brimrod Methodist Church)           |
| Sunday<br>13 <sup>th</sup> May<br>Christian Aid<br>Week | 10.30 am        | <b>Family Worship</b><br>Led by the Church in the World Group                       |
|   | 12 noon         | <b>Church Meeting</b>   |
|   | 6.30 pm         | <b>Informal Evening Worship</b><br>Led by Lifeline                                  |
| Monday<br>14 <sup>th</sup> May                          | 7.30 pm         | Focus on Prayer Group   |
| Tuesday<br>15 <sup>th</sup> May                         | 8.00 pm         | Tuesday Home Group<br>(venue to be confirmed)                                       |
| Thursday<br>17 <sup>th</sup> May                        | 7.00 pm         | Churches Together Alpha Course Session 5<br>(at Brimrod Methodist Church)           |
| Sunday<br>20 <sup>th</sup> May                          | 10.30 am        | <b>Family Worship</b><br>Led by Cath Atkinson                                       |
|   | 6.30 pm         | <b>Formal Evening Worship with Communion</b><br>Led by Walter Brisk                 |

# May 2018

|                                  |                 |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Monday<br>21 <sup>st</sup> May   | 7.30 pm         | Focus on Prayer Group  |
| Thursday<br>24 <sup>th</sup> May | 7.00 pm         | Churches Together Alpha Course<br>(Session 6)<br>(at Brimrod Methodist Church) |
| Friday<br>25 <sup>th</sup> May   | 7.30 pm         | Prayer Walk<br>(meet in Church)  |
| Sunday<br>27 <sup>th</sup> May   | 10.30 am        | Family Worship<br>Led by Revd Richard Bradley                                  |
|                                  | Bank<br>Holiday | NO EVENING WORSHIP   |

## Church Weekend at Home Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June



I hope this item is not new to anyone as I mentioned it in my “message from the manse” article in March and have mentioned it in services also. Please put both these dates in your diary as I am sure we will all learn more about God, ourselves and the Church as we meet together on this weekend. I realise this is Father’s Day weekend but trying to get a date that fitted in my diary and that of the Revd Darren Holland (The Missional Discipleship Mentor for the Central Area of the NW Synod) was a challenge! Darren and I will be leading that weekend together.

*Thanks and God Bless, Richard*



## Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am Monday Maintenance Gang  
(who do work in or around the building)  
10.00 am Pastoral Meeting  
1.30 pm Bridge Club  
7.30 pm Focus on Prayer (God Squad Room)  
8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group
- Tuesday:** 9.00 – 11.00 am Toddlers' Group  
1.30 – 4.00 pm Indoor Bowls (Upstairs Hall)  
From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies, Guides
- Wednesday:** 12 noon Luncheon Club  
6.45 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association  
7.30 pm Home Group 'Exploring the Bible'
- Thursday:** 10.00 am Community Coffee Morning
- Friday:** Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

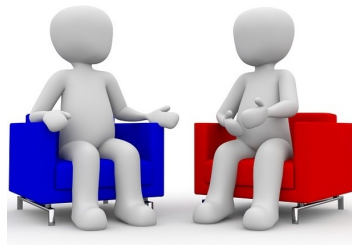
## Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May  
2.15 pm In the Lounge  
**Home Group** 1<sup>st</sup> May at Debbie Wood's  
8.00 pm 15<sup>th</sup> May (to be confirmed)
- Thursday:** **Ladies' Fellowship** 10<sup>th</sup> May (see page 9)  
7.45 pm at Chapel Admission £3.00
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman Community Film Club**  
6.30 pm refreshments 19<sup>th</sup> May (see page 24)  
Film starts 7.00 pm Admission £3.00

If you would like further information about any of the groups and where they meet, please check the **weekly notice sheet** or visit the website at **[www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)** or speak to an Elder.

# Message from the Manse

## *Missional Partnerships update.....*



On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April Carole Greaves and Pamela Harrington represented Bamford Chapel and Norden URC at a special meeting called by Revd Nigel Adkinson and myself. The meeting was to draw together all thirteen churches from within the Missional Partnership that we are to be part of.

Nigel and I called the meeting so that the different churches could begin to get to know each other more. All thirteen churches were represented at the meeting by one or two people. The meeting was very positive. It would be fair to say that those present wished to move forward in a positive way acknowledging that there are still unanswered questions.

There is another meeting of the same group of people on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May at Radcliffe URC. The meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> will be a meeting where ideas will be shared as to how we might move forward and help and support each other in building and extending the kingdom of God in the churches in which we are all situated.

The launch date for Missional Partnerships across the Synod is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May (Pentecost Sunday). Missional Partnerships are not intended to be another level of government within the Synod but a structure or system whereby ideas, resources, and talents can be shared across the churches within the partnership.

The work in the communities in which each church is set is still to continue. Where there is ecumenical working (as there is here for us at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC) we are to continue that work not pull away from it.

The Partnership that we are a part of is one of three Partnerships

within the Central Area of the North Western Synod (and there are four areas within the Synod as a whole).

Please pray that we would all be open to the promptings of the Spirit and the new opportunities that we hope will arise as we seek to further God's Kingdom through the life, worship and witness of His Church.

### *Synod Manse Scheme update.....*

I hope most of us are aware of the Synod Manse Scheme that is being discussed at present. In order for Missional Partnerships to work fully there needs to be more flexibility in the way ministers are housed. As we move forward with Missional Partnerships the way ministers are "called" to serve will change from how we understand it now. As current ministers move on, the ones replacing them will not be called to specific churches or pastorates but to a Partnership role serving more strategically across a greater number of churches. It may be that manses are not in the right geographical location for a minister coming into a Partnership within the Synod. For this to be less burdensome on churches the Synod are asking churches to put their manse into the Synod Manse Scheme. Synod is offering a financial incentive to the church of 35% of the capital value of the manse. This offer, however, is time limited. Churches with manses have to make that decision by the 31<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

David Watson, who represented Bamford Chapel and Norden URC at the March Synod, has helpfully drawn together the main strands of the Synod Manse Scheme policy in a 2-sided document available at the back of Church. Hopefully you will already have that document by the time you are reading this magazine. If anyone wants to see the fuller document (which is more than 2 sides of A4) then please ask David or me and we will email it to you or photocopy it for you. If you have not seen the abridged document



please read it before the Church Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

The Church Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May will be discussing this so please do your best to attend that Church Meeting so that your voice can be heard.



If we decide to put our manse into the scheme this doesn't mean I, Ruth, and the children will be moving out! We will live here as long as we feel it is right to do so. Basically putting the manse into the scheme will mean we cease to own it,

but we will also cease to be responsible for paying for the repairs and upkeep of it.

This is a very short and basic update on the Synod Manse Scheme – please see the two-sided document prepared by David or the fuller Synod Manse Scheme document for more detailed information.

I apologise that this “message from the manse” is less reflective or spiritual than it usually is! I felt both these items needed to be mentioned in my article this month.

**God Bless, Richard**

### *Grace to be not like porridge ...*

*O Lord, grant that we may not  
be like porridge, stiff, stodgy and  
hard to stir*

*But like cornflakes: crisp, fresh  
and ready to serve. Anon*





It's hard to believe that May is here once more. For me it means one thing only.... [CHRISTIAN AID WEEK](#). This falls in the [week beginning May 13th](#) and during that time we will deliver and hopefully collect envelopes within our locality. This is a task that the majority of people do not enjoy but nevertheless agree to do, because they believe that Christian Aid does a very important job throughout the world in helping those less fortunate than ourselves to learn new skills in order to be able to become more self-sufficient. It is a mammoth task which demands an enormous amount of financial backing. House to House collecting is one way in which we can witness to our community of our love for our neighbour.

So thank you to those among you who have responded to the call to help once more (or even for the first time). For those who don't feel that this is something you can do, please pray for our collectors as they respond to Jesus' command to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. May they be well received and kept safe as they walk the streets and knock on doors in His name.



[Thank you - Margaret Ogden](#)

*The same yesterday ...  
Why did Moses wander in the desert  
for 40 years?  
Because even back then  
men wouldn't ask for directions!*

## *Pentecost Prayer*

*Father,*

*Thank you for sending Jesus to be one of us  
and to show us how you want us to live.*

*Thank you that He chose to live for us and to  
die for us.*

*Thank you that when He returned to you,  
He didn't leave us to flounder but sent us His  
Spirit to live in us and to equip us to  
continue the work He had begun.*

*Thank you for that Day of Pentecost when  
the Spirit became freely available to  
everyone who believes in Jesus and is willing  
to receive Him.*

*May we be willing Lord, willing and  
confident that whatever challenges life  
throws at us, we can face them and  
overcome them because you are with us and  
in us.*

*Please fill us afresh daily with your Spirit,  
that we may overflow with your love and  
peace and joy.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*By Daphne Kitching*



## April Meeting Fun and Games

At the commencement of the evening prayers were offered for Linda Kerford and family on the death of Malcolm.

A change of plan for this evening was decided when the committee met earlier in the week. It turned out to be a very good idea. The evening consisted of a raffle [lovely prizes donated by the committee], two games of bingo and an easy quiz with multiple choice answers. [One question foxed the ladies. Do you know the answer - "which TV soap was first broadcast in 1985? Hollyoaks/Brookside or East Enders.] Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, Beetle and Dominoes as well as many others were played. Some of us hadn't played these for years and some had never played dominoes with 9 spots. I could hear lots of laughter which was very satisfying.



Thank you to all who came and all who helped with the evening's arrangements.

### **AGM 10<sup>th</sup> May : Pot Luck Supper**

There will be a raffle as well so if any ladies have an item they could donate, please bring along on the night. Thank you.

### **Summer Evening Meal : 14<sup>th</sup> June at Owens Restaurant, Ramsbottom**

Thirty places have been booked and the signing up sheet [on the Ladies Fellowship notice board opposite the kitchen] is filling up. If more than thirty are interested, I will try to book more places. All ladies are welcome irrespective of regular attendance at meetings. Transport can be organised. Please ask me for a menu which should be returned to me , along with payment by 10<sup>th</sup> May.

***Lesley Sutton***





We would like to express our grateful thanks for the wonderful surprise given to us on Palm Sunday when we were presented with certificates and gifts on the occasion of our retirement from the musical activities of the Church. It was completely unexpected which made the gesture even more special.

Thank you all for your kind thoughts and generosity.

*Geoff and Margaret Ogden*

### Who's been good?

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present.



'Who is the most obedient?' he asked. 'Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?'

Five small voices answered in unison: 'You do, Daddy!'





We do not have the April statistics as yet but these are the latest to hand.

**Please find March statistics below:**

|                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total number of vouchers fulfilled | 301 (2017 figure was 275) |
| Total number of Adults fed         | 391                       |
| Total number of Children fed       | 167                       |

**Total fed** **558**

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Total weighed in  | 4574.35K |
| Total weighed out | 4466.15K |

The only change that has occurred during April is that we no longer have storage facilities above the Post Office next door. A wall has now been built to separate their space from the Foodbank upper floor. Hence we have had to find new accommodation for surplus stock. This has been generously offered by the Wheatsheaf centre, which meant obtaining a van and willing volunteers to transport a great many boxes which, as the need arises, will have to be brought back to restock the shelves. Speaking of shelves prompts me to remind you of our collecting box at the front of church where we would appreciate donations of sugar, milk, coffee, noodles and jam which are currently running low.



Thank you

***Margaret Ogden and Anne Newman***

## 1st May Philip, the Apostle with Common Sense

Is there someone in church whom you respect for their spirituality and common sense combined – someone you feel easy about approaching to ask questions? That person's patron saint should be Philip.

Philip came from Bethsaida, and was a disciple of Jesus from early on. He knew how to lead others to Jesus – he brought Nathanael (or Bartholomew) to Him in a calm, kindly way. He knew how to do some financial forecasting: at the feeding of the 5,000 it was he who pointed out that without divine help, even 200 pennyworth of bread wasn't going to feed that crowd. He was the one whom the Greeks approached when they wanted to ask Jesus to show them the Father, but didn't quite have the nerve to approach Jesus directly. People had confidence in Philip's spirituality, common sense and kindness. Such a person is a gift to any church! In art, the Apostle Philip has been represented either with a cross, or with loaves of bread.



*Irene Lucas and family would like to thank everyone at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC for the kind good wishes and flowers given during Bill's illness.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Irene and all Bill's family following his recent death.*

*Nigel Beeton writes: On 3rd May the Local Government Elections will take place, thus offering us an opportunity to take up the right won for us all by the suffragettes and campaigners of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Turnout is often low for Local Government elections. That, it seems to me, is a pity.'*

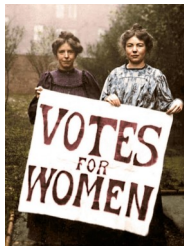
## Thursday, the Third Day of May

When we opt not to vote  
We ought to take note  
That it's not been forever like this;  
Not that long ago  
It would have been so  
That we'd have to give voting a miss!



Unless we were rich  
With cloth of gold stitch  
A Lord or a Peer of the Land  
A country Esquire  
Referred to as 'Sire'  
But always, and only, a man!

Yet, over long years  
Of blood, sweat and tears  
The inflexible rule of the male  
Was challenged and fought  
And liberty bought  
'Gainst strong opposition, and jail.



So no-one forgets  
The brave suffragettes  
Who fought till the system gave way,  
Go early and bright  
Make use of your right  
And vote on the third day of May!

**By Nigel Beeton**



## Congregation Members Become “Dementia Friends”

On the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> April the Serving Community Group welcomed Ali Roberts, local support worker for the Alzheimer's Society and volunteer Dementia Friends Champion to help us to become Dementia Friends. This is the UK's biggest ever initiative to change the way people think, act and talk about dementia. Some of the group were already Dementia Friends and wanted to update knowledge and remind us how we can support people with dementia, and some came for the first time to develop their understanding of the disease. The session was interactive and although sobering at times, very reassuring that if we all work together we can create dementia friendly communities where we can help people to live well with dementia.

### **Ali promoted the five key messages:**

1. *Dementia is not a natural part of ageing*
2. *Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain*
3. *Dementia is not just about losing your memory – it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks*
4. *It's possible to live well with dementia*
5. *There's more to a person than the dementia*

Ali also informed us about the Alzheimer's Society's Turning up the Volume Research Report, some of the findings are below:

- ◆ *1 in 14 people over 65 years old have dementia*
- ◆ *850,000 people in the UK are living with dementia*
- ◆ *44% of people in the UK with dementia do not feel part of the community*
- ◆ *40% of people in the UK with dementia feel lonely*
- ◆ *By 2051 over 2 million people in the UK will be living with dementia*

Ali finished the session by giving us all a Dementia Friends Badge and challenging us to think about what action(s) we will take in our

communities. Judging by the discussion afterwards I think there were many actions planned.

**My own actions are as follows:**

- ◆ To promote and encourage congregation members, through this article, to consider either renewing their Dementia Friends training or attend a session
- ◆ To wear my badge at work and in my own time and tell at least 5 people about the training
- ◆ To work with the others in the Serving Community Group to maintain our ministry in local residential care homes and consider other new ventures to serve our community

For more information please see the link below or please ask me for further information and I will do what I can to help or point you in the right direction.

[www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk)

*Carole Greaves on behalf of the Serving Community Group*

## Church Flowers



*Donations for flowers placed in church  
in April were received from:*

*Sid Hazlehurst remembering Dorothy's birthday  
Elizabeth Hazlehurst for Paul & Elizabeth's Wedding  
Anniversary  
Elizabeth Hazlehurst remembering Olive's birthday  
Ronnie Ford in memory of Dorothy  
Anne Fitton in memory of Dorothy & Harry Wilson*



## A Retrospective.....

It is now 12 months since Robert and I emigrated to North Yorkshire and at Lesley's invitation here is a bit of a retrospective of my 20 years at chapel.

I have seen 5 ministers serve God and His people over these 2 decades; all very different save for their uniform commitment to the service of word and sacrament. I look back on the faithful preaching of God's word from the pulpit, a metaphorical one in recent years, and an example so strong to me that I followed in their footsteps and continue to do so as a lay preacher. The word of God is read and taught faithfully, the people both in church and in the community are cared for in spiritual and practical ways; Gods praises are sung with gusto! There is youth involvement, Junior church thrives (few churches today have any at all, sadly) luncheon club, prayer group, ladies fellowship, food for thought, all ongoing when I joined and still thriving often in new and dynamic ways. The eldership continues in the same format and chapel has never been without a secretary and treasurer, all of whom ensured that during vacancy, and I saw 4 periods without a Minister; God's word and faithful service continued unabated.



So what has changed? Well, as I write this I realise the answer is, quite a lot! The church is no longer Bamford chapel, following the closure first of Heywood and more recently Norden we are a bigger family

under the umbrella of Bamford Chapel & Norden URC. Church has evolved as all living organisms should; the organ music is now supplemented by piano and other instruments. New music, new hymn books; use of projector and screen; no pews!!! Lovely comfy chairs creating a flexible worship space. Exciting new service format supplementing the established hymn/prayer sandwich ensuring a greater appeal to new folk; miss the choir though. But so many opportunities for mid week prayer and Bible study with home groups and sharing groups, an amazing preaching team serving within and outside, most of whom have come on board in these last 20 years.

May the light of Christ continue to shine through your witness and may the church continue to grow, thrive and evolve.

Christ be praised and a huge thank you for my spiritual journey at BCN; miss you all!

*Love and prayers always - Joanne Ackroyd*

### **Some miscellaneous one-liners ...**

*The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.*

*Don't give up on yourself.  
Even Moses was once a basket case.*

*Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.*

*Was Noah's wife called Joan of Ark?*

*Lead me not into temptation. I can find it myself.*

*The things that come to those that wait may be the  
things left by those who got there first.*

*Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case  
you have to eat them.*



## A Blast from the Past

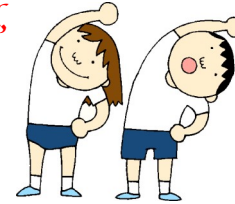
*I found this article by Frances Kenyon in our March 1987 church magazine and thought it was appropriate for our church today. Linda Peacock*

### **"The Silent Pulpit"**

Recently, on joining a local "club", I was given a book containing all the facts I needed to know about the "club". On the cover of the book is written the following, which I would like to share with you.

#### *The Club that Cares*

*It's never too late to change yourself,  
you can't be all that bad.  
In spite of the blunders that you have made  
and the failures that you have had.  
You are not set in an iron-hard mould,  
re-shape yourself again -  
stretch yourself and change yourself  
in body, heart and brain.  
It's never too late to strengthen  
powers of mind and force of will.  
It's always the moment for starting out  
to climb another hill.*



*It's never too late to change  
your life  
and prove what you can do -  
building it up on strong  
foundations,  
making yourself anew.*

#### *Patience Strong*

It set me thinking about our church and its needs. It doesn't matter who we are or what our past failures may have been, or at what level our relationship with God may be, it's never too late to rededicate our



commitment to him and to our church. If our foundations are strongly rooted in God we can – if we have found ourselves slipping away from him or have become lethargic in our ways towards his word – start to rebuild our Christian life and sense of commitment. It's a challenge to me and I hope to you, but are we doing and being what God wants us to do and be, or are we being what we want to be? As Christians we all belong to a “club that cares” but do we care about our “club”.

*“Commit thy ways unto the Lord and he will direct thy paths”.*

**Frances Kenyon”**



*I will be going to Greenbelt for the August Bank holiday weekend to help staff the College stall there. If anyone else is interested in attending Greenbelt this year, please let me know and we can go together - the more the merrier!*

*Thanks - Cath Atkinson*

### **Your dwelling-place**

Lord, grant me a simple, kind, open, believing, loving and generous heart, worthy of being your dwelling-place.

**By John Sergieff, Russian priest, 1829 – 1908**

## 20th May - Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.



Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples – but He knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need His help.

And so they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with his other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.



Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of his Holy Spirit.



***From Parish Pump Website***

## **Fathers Selling Daughters to Avoid Poverty**



In Ethiopia, one girl in five is now married off before she reaches the age of 15. Two in five girls are married by the age of 18. Many are married before they are 13. Child-marriage is on the increase due to the on-going drought, where struggling farmers sell their daughters, often to wealthy men, as a way of getting some income.

So reports World Vision, which warns that because of this, thousands of girls are being forced to leave school in order to perform the duties of women: housework, fetching water, cooking and care of siblings. World Vision warns that the drought may drive as many as seven million Ethiopians to rely on relief assistance this year - at a cost of £640 million.

*Carol Hartley &  
The Belarus Fund*

*Thank you to everyone for donations  
and support at the Tombola in aid of the  
Children of Belarus*

*£676 was raised*

*All money will have been spent on the  
children on Carol's visit on 16th April*



*Children at the School for Blind and Deaf Blind  
(taken in 2014)*

*For further details please see the website  
[www.thebelarusfund.org](http://www.thebelarusfund.org)  
or speak to Carol Hartley*



## Forgiveness and restoration

It is clearly coincidental, but perhaps providential, that *Paddington 2* was released whilst the media has been driving the #MeToo hashtag. We continually read new salacious stories revealing people's hidden depths of wickedness, with an implicit expectation that we should now vilify and exclude them. Then, along came *Paddington 2*, with its heart-warming story of a little bear who looks for the hidden depths of goodness in vilified and excluded people, with the explicit expectation that they should be recognised as part of the society which we all share.



The film's storyline is simple, but beautifully developed. Paddington is working hard as an accident-prone window cleaner to earn enough money to buy a pop-up book from an antiques shop to give to his aunt for her birthday. However, the book contains a secret message about the location of hidden treasure, and the villainous Phoenix Buchanan (Hugh Grant) steals it away. Wrongly convicted of Buchanan's crime, Paddington is sent to prison, where he faces the violent Knuckles McGinty (Brendan Gleeson).

Many children's films operate at two levels: obvious visual slapstick for young viewers, and subtle verbal humour for adults. *Paddington 2* has a much more connected integrity, with an underlying message for young and old. As much as many of us have been hurt, in different ways, by the wicked behaviour of other people, there is good in everyone. And, as much as evil within people's hearts must be recognised and repented, the goal must be forgiveness and restoration. Many films utilise a redemptive story-arc for key characters. *Paddington 2* applies this to everyone. And, thereby, has an important message for us all.



**ETHOS  
MEDIA**.org

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.



## THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC  
Norden Road, Rochdale OL11 5PQ

**19<sup>TH</sup> May : "A STREETCAT NAMED BOB" 12A**

James Bowen is a homeless man and former heroin addict, living on the streets of London, and down to his last bits of change. After a life threatening, drug-related, incident, his support worker, Val, in an attempt to get him off the street, gets him into a council flat, and prescribes him methadone. On his first night in his flat, James discovers a cat rifling through his food.

**6.30pm every third Saturday**

**£3 admission [refreshments included]**

**Supported by Rochdale Township**

***NO FILM IN JUNE***  
***21<sup>st</sup> July "DUNKIRK" 12***

**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**





400 years ago, on 23rd May 1618, that the Thirty Years' War (Central Europe, mainly present-day Germany) began. One of the longest and most destructive conflicts in European history. Millions of people were killed. Finally ended on 15th May 1648.

200 years ago, on 4th May 1818 that Britain and the Netherlands signed a treaty on the prevention of the slave trade.

150 years ago, on 26th May 1868 that the last public execution in England took place. Irish nationalist Michael Barrett was hanged at Newgate for his role in the Clerkenwell explosion in London in December 1867, in which 12 people were killed.

75 years ago, on 16th & 17th May 1943 that the Dambusters Raid took place. Britain's RAF launched Operation Chastise, deploying bouncing bombs to bypass anti-torpedo nets and breach dams, causing catastrophic flooding in Germany's Ruhr Valley.

70 years ago, on 14th May 1948 that Israel was declared an independent state as the British mandate in Palestine came to an end. (Several Arab states invaded Israel the following day.)

50 years ago, on 8th May 1968 that British gangsters the Kray twins were arrested for murder. They were convicted in 1969 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

20 years ago, on 23rd May 1998, that in a referendum, the people of Northern Ireland voted to accept the Good Friday Agreement. 75% were in favour of a Northern Ireland Assembly.

10 years ago, on 25th May 2008 that NASA's Phoenix robotic lander spacecraft landed on Mars. It searched for environments suitable for microbial life and studied the history of water on Mars.

## Why Children Find Pencils Difficult



Here is an unexpected problem: children are struggling to use pencils these days, because the excessive use of touch-screen phones is damaging their dexterity.

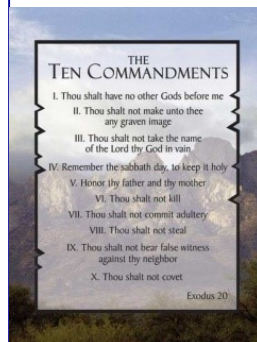
Now paediatric doctors, handwriting experts and orthopaedic therapists are warning that although kids may swipe a screen, they no longer have the hand strength and agility to learn to write correctly when they start school.

It seems that the traditional skills of writing, drawing, painting, and cutting-out boost fine motor skills and co-ordination.

But now 'children coming into school are being given a pencil but are increasingly not able to hold it, because they do not have the movement skills,' says a paediatrician from the NHS. 'They need to manipulate playdough, hold scissors, scribble with pencils, and so develop muscles in their shoulder, elbow and wrists.'



## Applied Law



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'



# The parable of the FIG TREE



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

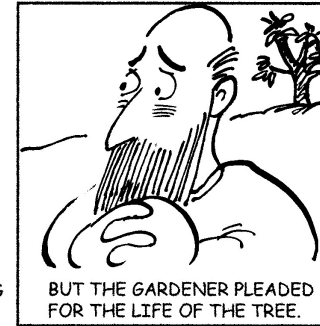


ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A FIG TREE

THE MAN WHO OWNED THE  
FIG TREE WAS VERY  
DISAPPOINTED WITH IT

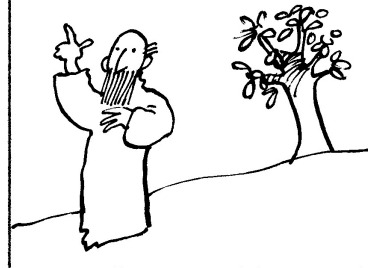


HE ORDERED HIS GARDENER TO  
DESTROY THE TREE BY DIGGING  
IT UP.



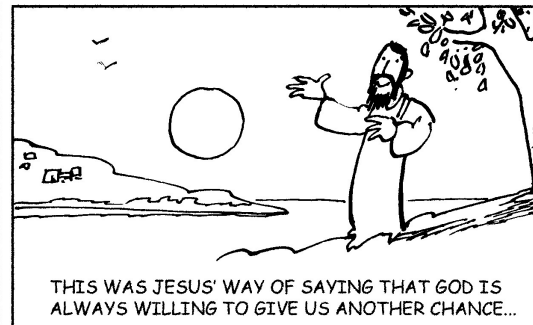
BUT THE GARDENER PLEADED  
FOR THE LIFE OF THE TREE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE TREE  
SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE



THE GARDENER PROMISED HE WOULD LOOK AFTER THE  
TREE TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITIES...

...THEN IF IT BORE FRUIT A YEAR LATER  
- THEN THE TREE WOULD BE ALLOWED  
TO LIVE.



THIS WAS JESUS' WAY OF SAYING THAT GOD IS  
ALWAYS WILLING TO GIVE US ANOTHER CHANCE...

# Children's Page



**Mouse Makes**

Read the full story in Acts 2

Which city were they in?  
Which countries had people come from?  
Who spoke to the crowd?  
How many were baptised that day?

It was the festival of **Pentecost** and the Apostles and other believers were all together in one place, when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like flames of **fire** which spread out and touched each person. They were all **filled** with the Holy **Spirit** and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

A crowd gathered outside, they were excited and confused because each of them heard the **believers** speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.

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The words in **bold** in the story have all been jumbled up in the flames, can you unjumble them?

See how many other words can you make using the letters from **PENTECOST**

May18 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

## **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE**

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## **DATES FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE**

Articles to be handed in by:              Sunday 20th May

Magazine to be completed by:              Thursday 31st May

Magazine distributed:                      Sunday 3rd June

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### **Times of Services:**

Family Worship : 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month  
Evening Worship : 6.30 pm : Holy Communion 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month