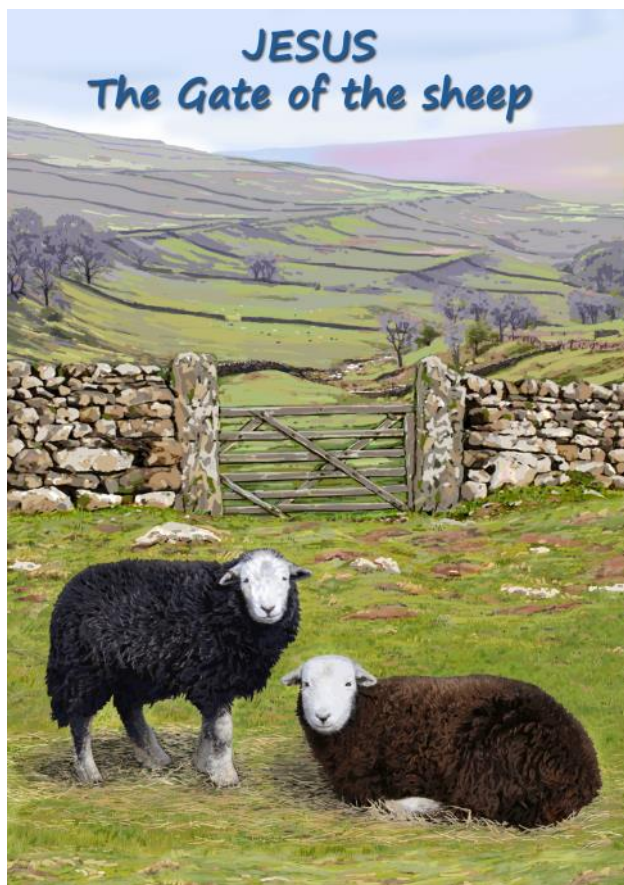




The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



September 2020

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC



Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

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

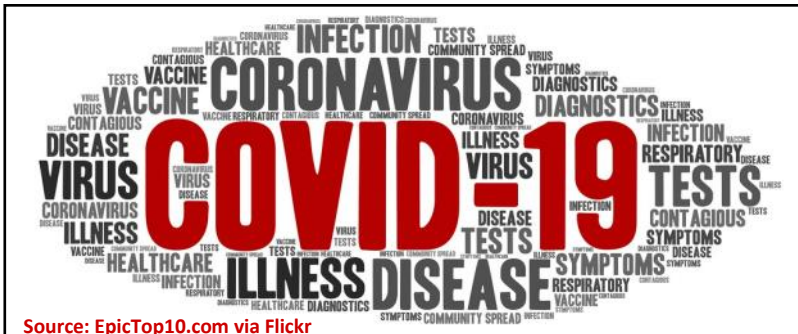
We are called as Christians to share the good news; living as examples of Christ in our everyday lives we can spread the word and love of Jesus.

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.



Source: EpicTop10.com via Flickr

“Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives.”

At the time of compiling this magazine the UK government is gradually reducing lockdown restrictions.

However, Greater Manchester (including Rochdale) still has additional local measures in place.

Please refer to Rochdale Borough Council for the latest information.

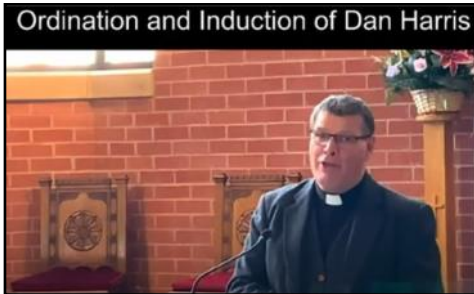


For information of when Church Services may re-commence, please see page 3.

As other church activities continue to be suspended for the time being, please use the list on page 28 to pray daily for each of our groups.

Please pray also:
for the families of the bereaved,
for those suffering illness,
for all NHS workers and for all other essential keyworkers,
for children returning to school,
for students starting or re-starting university.

Message from the Manse



It was an Ordination and Induction like no other. I walked into the Church and had to fill my contact details in on a form and have my temperature checked. I was thankful that it came back as 36.3°.... I walked into Radcliffe and Stand URC and I could have been entering a studio! There

were three cameras positioned at different points and about 7 people standing there. I was there to take part in a special service for Daniel Harris, for it was his Ordination and Induction. I had experienced and taken part in Sarah Fitton's Ordination and Induction some 2 weeks earlier, that time from the comfort of my study and sat behind my laptop.

This time was different still. I had a named seat and Darren Holland controlling a camera just over my right shoulder. With Daniel 2.5metres to my right and a member of Radcliffe and Stand URC on the left, we put on our masks and the service began. We were in God's presence albeit feeling strange and different - God was there. It was a special moment for Daniel and for those who were involved, whether sitting in the church or watching on Zoom or YouTube.

I am glad to have a colleague. Not just any colleague, but to have the person God has called to this ministry at this time. By 3.45pm Daniel was the Revd Daniel Harris. It was different but it was worship!

So, we welcome Daniel amongst us in his first post as a Stipendiary Minister and into a world that looks very different to the one we left in March this year. Please pray for Daniel and Saskia, his wife, and their two sons who will start new schools in September. One in Primary and the other in Secondary schools.

May we welcome Daniel into our midst as he ministers with us and to us.

God Bless, Richard

Church is Opening!



As I pen this article I do so the day after the Elders' meeting agreed for the Church to open on Sunday 20th September. It will be Harvest and also "Back to Church Sunday" for 2020 – which seems rather appropriate.

However, as I stated in the article on Daniel's Ordination and Induction and how that was a service that was different.... so, friends, worship from the 20th will look different!

More will be said in a letter the Elders and I will be sending out in due course.

There will be differences...

- ◆ masks will need to be worn,
- ◆ there will be no singing
- ◆ we will be sat apart and need to remain apart for the duration of being in church
- ◆ the service will be shorter
- ◆ we will need to be mindful of hygiene
- ◆ we will need to pre-book our place at the service



All very, very different to when we last met in March. Please be patient with the Elders as they read through Government and Denominational advice and guidelines. As we know, things can change very quickly, and the Government has shown that they will act with great speed and haste should the science and testing and tracing mean they need to do so. Likewise we, in following the guidance and the law, need to do the same.

Most importantly, please pray for God to bless us in worship and to lead us in all we do. Pray for the Government and their advisors that wisdom may prevail.

God Bless, Richard

Musings from a Minister

Postcard from South Mimms Service Station

Let me start with a thought experiment. Imagine that a friend of yours has gone on holiday. They have the option of two routes. One is the M25: quick and easy, unless you get stuck in traffic. The other is a route on some B roads: slower, more wobbly, wobbly, but picks up some great views and goes through some picturesque market towns. Now imagine them sending a postcard to you.

The first postcard could come from South Mimms service station on the M25. Believe me, it's not on the tourist trail.

But could you imagine receiving a postcard from the M25? "Greetings from South Mimms service station", the postcard might say in friendly letters. "Wish you were here!" Would you be envious of your friend, who is obviously enamoured by the place? Not on your Nelly!

Now imagine receiving a postcard from that picturesque market town. The reaction would be completely different.

Now, I want to compare two spiritual "travel packages" which are on the market. One can be compared to our imaginary trip around the M25.

It is fast-moving, has unimaginative service stations with exorbitant prices to cater for the traveller's whims, and has lots of traffic. The fact that this route is so popular gives the traveller the impression that this must be the way to travel. But it is really a form of consumer spirituality which caters for the mass market.



The other route is more challenging. It doesn't appeal to the package holiday crowd, but to the more adventurous traveller. As far as travel

routes go, it doesn't pull the crowds. However, it creates unique memories and leaves one with great stories to tell.

The latter, I believe, is what Jesus had in mind when he famously said: **"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it."** (Matt 7.13). Following Jesus isn't going to cater for your every whim, it will sometimes be arduous and inconvenient, but it leads to a better quality of life that is truly lived. It creates memories and experiences to fire the imagination and feed the soul. When it comes to our assertion that Jesus is truly Lord, this sort of response to Jesus' call to follow him is where the rubber truly hits the road.

So may God be with you as you travel life's road. May Jesus lead you down amazing and often forgotten roads.

Daniel Harris

Nigel Beeton (Parish Pump) writes: "One facility that has now reopened after lockdown is the tea shop. Oh, how I've missed tea shops!"

A Cup of Joy!



*A tea shop is a wondrous place
Where I for one just love to be!
A place to rest from life's harsh
pace
And sit and drink a cup of tea!*

*Indeed, it's time to take a rest!
From all life's pressures, take a
break!
And just today it might be best
To have a slice of home-made cake!*



Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership

You are invited to a mini-conference!

Darren Holland, Missional Discipleship Mentor for our partnership, along with Richard and Daniel, is organising a mini conference to which everyone is warmly welcomed.

Looking Forward.....

A Zoom event to help us think about our challenges and opportunities both now and as we look ahead to the future.

**Monday 7th September 2020 7.00 – 9.00pm
(Zoom Meeting ID: 899 6599 8677)**

Following on from the URC “Life After Lockdown’ conference earlier this year, this is an open invitation to a session which will aim to reflect on the life and ministry of our Missional Partnership and seek practical ways forward for our Congregations, Elders and Ordained Ministers.

Numbers are not limited, but please let Darren, Richard or Daniel know by email if you hope to attend, so that they have an idea of numbers for discussion groups. If you want to dial in by phone rather than via the internet please ask for details.

Darren.holland@nwsynod.org.uk
richardbradley@cantab.net
danielharris343@gmail.com

It would be good to see a healthy representation from Bamford Chapel and Norden URC to contribute towards the discussion and shape the future of our partnership.

***Carole Greaves (Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Elder Representative
for the Partnership Steering Group).***



Sarah Fitton's Ordination

Sarah was ordained and inducted into the Huddersfield Pastorate of 4 churches on Saturday 18th July 2020 at Moldgreen URC.

It was very different from a normal ordination because of lockdown. There were only 11 of us allowed to be present at the service, with everyone else present on zoom. Through the power of the Holy Spirit though we didn't feel as though there were only 11 of us there; we really felt everyone's presence, love and support surrounding her. Hopefully we will get together for a celebration in the future.

Sarah was ordained by the Yorkshire Synod Moderator Rev Jamie Kissack, who some of you might remember, as his first pastorate was in Heywood and Rochdale. He was our Minister when Sarah was a little girl; it's amazing how things work out sometimes. Jamie presented Sarah with an African study bible, which I'm sure she will make good use of. She loved her time spent in Africa as part of her training, and the Minister Paul and his Minister wife Lydia, who she stayed and worked with, were able to join us on zoom to watch her being ordained.

Sarah is settling into her manse and trying to get to know her congregations over zoom and the telephone in these unusual times.

I am sure she will write something for the magazine herself soon, in the meantime please continue to hold her and all the new ministers out of college this year in your prayers.

God Bless
Anne and John Fitton

Oberammergau



Megan Carter (Parish Pump) writes: “Oberammergau is a small village in Bavaria, Germany. When in 1633 bubonic plague was sweeping through Europe, a man travelling back home to Oberammergau for Christmas brought the

plague with him. It spread throughout the village. According to local tradition, a vow was made that if God would spare them, the villagers would perform a play depicting the life and passion of Jesus Christ every ten years. The village was saved from all effects of the plague and the villagers kept their word and first performed the Passion Play in 1634. It has since been performed every ten years. **(The 2020 Play has been rescheduled for May 2022, due to the pandemic)”**

Death stalked the streets in the Bavarian village
As the plague brought havoc, death and despair,
Europe was ravaged as millions died,
Neither man or woman or child was spared.

They gathered together in desperation
A vow was given – if they could be saved
A play would be made of the Saviour’s life
This was the promise the villagers gave.

Miracle of miracles their village survived,
Not one more death their lives had been saved,
So every ten years this Play is performed
To honour the God who had come to their aid.

Prayers were made and the answer came
A heavenly lesson we too can own,
That He who dwells in ineffable light
Is also the One who brings blessings down.

By Megan Carter

Canon Paul Hardingham (Parish Pump) considers our personal resources – in light of the pandemic.

What's in your hand?

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

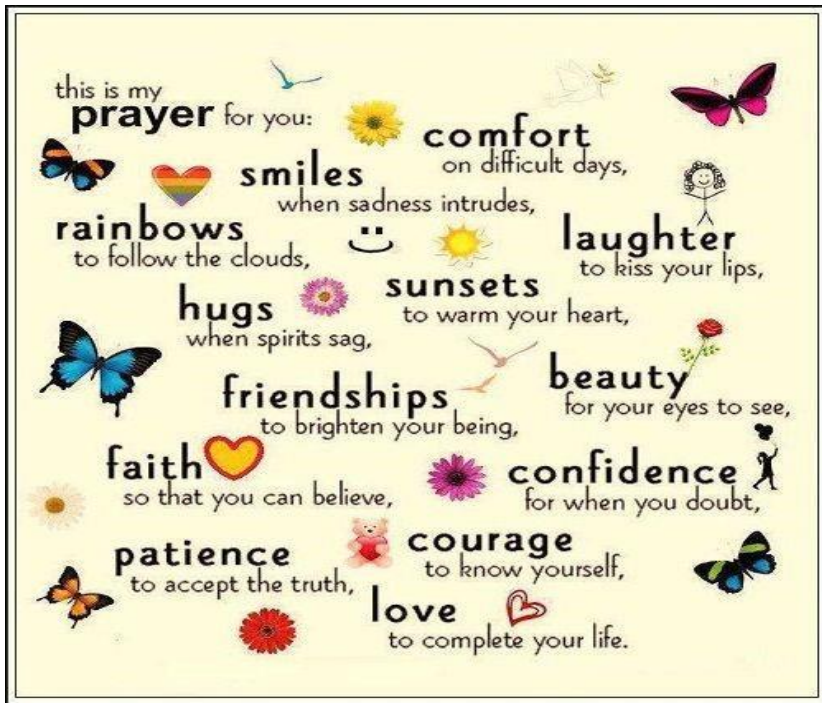
When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, **'What is in your hand?' (Exodus 4:2)**. Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at); his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security (which God was asking him to lay down). God asks the same question of us:

What has God given you? Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?



John Ortberg, in his book ***It All Goes Back in the Box***, speaks of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. He worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a **thought for the day** into the bags. Every night his dad would help him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, **'I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.'** A month later the store manager noticed that Johnny's line at the checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!

What has God given you that will help and encourage others?



What's Been 'Appening?'



I may be jumping the gun but by the 7th August I will be another year older, have somehow developed wavy and longer hair and have spent five months in shielding. All being well, if people play their part correctly I will, with others in shielding, be allowed out to play and how we are looking forward to it!

It seems a long time now, around early April, since the beginning of **BC&NURC WhatsApp**. To begin with and by word of mouth people joined the group. It evolved, as Laura mentioned in the last magazine, as a mutual support fellowship with friends chipping in with their daily news about their anxiety around Covid-19. Our thoughts “was this really happening” – our stress levels were high - at that point the chit chat came through at a rapid rate. This, in an odd way, helped to allay fear that we were all in the same place emotionally. With added daily

prayers and images, Biblical readings of encouragement, those who remained on the site began to relax and become good buddies. We had the odd difference of opinion, but all families do; all said in love.

There was family news regarding very much missed grandchildren and their activities. We were keeping each other up-to-date with those who were alone and housebound, poorly, hospitalised and sadly our community and friends who had died.

As Summer came we discovered BC&NURC had a multitude of amateur gardeners, all proudly displaying vegetable patches, homemade garden ponds from reclaimable sources – from their mobile cameras.

We learned about different types of sheep, butterflies and beetles and I learned a new language – Montbretia, Crocosmia, Watsonia, Chilean potato, Shasta daisy, Vervain – to name but a few! ***Our garden this year, thanks to Finlay's energy levels, has been magnificent.***



If we didn't know before, we learned to WhatsApp, Zoom, record for our Morning Worship, Messy Church and Junior Church.

As we come through what could have been a difficult five months, I can't express enough how much Finlay has helped me through, with his usual calm demeanour and long-term patience. Thankyou Richard and your pop into WhatsApp, and thank you to those who were working in whichever role you were undertaking. A huge thank you to my WhatsApp buddies for keeping up their chit chat and for understanding how important it was to us shielders. Five months would have been so much different without you all, the jokers and the serious minded.

May God bless you all as I say thank you.

Gillian Galloway (written on 28th July)



Why English is so Hard

*We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.
Then one fowl is goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.*

*You may find a lone mouse or a whole lot of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hīce.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?*

*The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But the plural of vow is vows, not vine.
And I speak of a foot, and you show me your feet,
But I give you a boot — would a pair be called beet?*

*If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
Then one may be that, and three may be those,
Yet the plural of hat would never be hose.*

*We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis and shim!*

*So our English, I think you will all agree,
Is the trickiest language you ever did see!*

Anonymous

Submitted by Lesley Sutton



My Favourite Flowers

As many of you will know, the poppy is the flower I love the most. I have what I call a poppy bedroom with curtains, bed linen, ornaments and pictures adorning this room. I have saved birthday cards with poppy designs for a long time. Decided to look through them today (16th August) and found this one Patricia Lapworth and family sent me years ago. She wrote this poem inside the card. In our garden are cuttings from the original poppy plant in her garden, a constant reminder that she is always with me.

Lesley Sutton

The Poppies in the Garden by Frida Wolfe



The poppies in the garden, they all wear frocks of silk,
Some are purple, some are pink, and others white as milk,
Light, light, for dancing in, for dancing when the breeze
Plays a little two-step for the blossoms and the bees.
Fine, fine, for dancing in, all frilly at the hem,
Oh, when I watch the poppies dance I long to dance like them!

The poppies in the garden have let their silk frocks fall
All about the border paths, but where are they at all?
Here a frill and there a flounce — a rag of silky red,
But not a poppy-girl is left — I think they've gone to bed.
Gone to bed and gone to sleep; and weary they must be,
For each has left her box of dreams upon the stem for me.



Recipe of the Month



On our walks we have noticed that there is going to be a big crop of blackberries this year. I remember blackberrying with my mum and making blackberry and apple jelly. I was reminded by one of my ex guides how we made it in our kitchen. I remember the mess too although she didn't.

When staying with VSO friends in Perth we experienced the delights of Barry's homemade jelly so here is his recipe. As I love gadgets, I have bought a jelly bag and thermometer and I am just waiting for the berries to ripen.



Barry's Bramble and Apple Jelly

Apples and Brambles vary in flavour from year to year and from variety to variety, so don't expect exactly the same flavour every time.

Originally the apples would be wild crab apples. A sharp cooker (Bramley) works well, but I use whatever I can get hold of from friends' gardens. A really flavoured eating apple can make it more apple than bramble so use less apple. You also know my recipes are approximations depending on what I have available. The only critical bit is the sugar/ juice ratio.

To yield approx. 10 jars

Use roughly equal quantities of brambles and apples. I suggest about 2kg of each but usually slightly more bramble than apple.

Peel, core and chop the apples.

Put the brambles and apples in a pan with 600ml of water per Kg of fruit, bring to boil then simmer until it is pulpy and the apple is very soft. Strain through a "jelly bag" (or old pillowcase, or muslin) into a bowl and

leave to drip overnight. 4kg of fruit will yield about 4 litres of juice, so use a big bowl.

Put the juice in your jam pan, add 1lb sugar per pint of juice (sorry, it's an old recipe) bring to boil and boil for about 20 mins until setting point is reached.

To find the setting point, drop a small amount onto a cold plate. After a minute or so push it with your finger. If it wrinkles it is ready, if it doesn't, keep boiling for another 5 minutes and try again. (or get a thermometer and I think the temperature needed is 105°C).

(I use the finger test. You can't lick the jam off the thermometer. Barry)

Put in jars, seal, and enjoy at your leisure.

Barbara Redmond



Smile.amazon.co.uk



Many of you will have heard of Amazon, which is a way to buy goods online. Perhaps many of you will have used it. I have found it is quite straightforward and secure.

Running along-side it is smile.amazon.co.uk. This is an identical shopping channel and you keep the same account that you had with Amazon, but if you use smile.amazon.co.uk then Amazon will donate money to a charity as a percentage of what you have spent. The donation is 0.5% of net purchase cost. If you decide to shop this way you get to choose your charity from an extensive list. They keep you informed what they have donated on your behalf. It costs you nothing but your charity benefits.

Maybe 0.5% doesn't sound like a lot, but something is better than nothing and it costs you nothing. We support Mission Aviation Fellowship, a Christian charity. Give it a go, you've nothing to lose.

Trish Adshead

Project 2020 Update: Kiribati School



I wrote in the last magazine to introduce you to the project for 2020. The Church will be supporting the **Kiribati School for children and adults with a wide range of disabilities**. This project will not only support disabled children and adults, but our gifts will also assist staff in delivering education to those in greatest need.

The Project Launch will be on Sunday 13th September and will be the focus of worship on that Sunday. The service will be recorded and on YouTube, the link available via the Church website, Face Book or in a written format. Sadly, there will be no Project Launch Lunch to kick start our giving, but feel free to have your own celebratory lunch!

The launch will include an interview with school staff and hopefully we will be able to meet some of the children and staff on video. We will hear about life in Kiribati, the work of the school and what we can fund.

Giving will be very different this year and we will provide the final details during the service launch. We are going to ask you to give money during the two-week period at the start of Advent in our very own “12 Days of Christmas”.



Giving will be by direct transfer, cheque or cash, in a similar way to what we have used recently for Gift Week. Details to follow. If you normally donate on a weekly basis we would ask you to still do this, but keep a note of what you want to give and combine it during the “12 days of Christmas”.

We hope that you will join the Church in the World Group in celebrating yet another partnership across the globe, to help enhance the lives of others with the gifts God has provided to us.

Hebrews 13:16 - And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Carole Greaves (On behalf of the Church in the World Group)



ECO Church in the World

Carole has introduced you to this year’s Church in the world project. I am now going to add an ECO Church spin. I would like to introduce you to the climate crisis facing the Kiribati people and more specifically the Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs.

The Republic of Kiribati is located in the Central Pacific Ocean; it consists of 32 low-lying island atolls which generally have a maximum height of 2 to 4m above sea level. These low-lying islands are already feeling the effects of rising sea levels. Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs is located on the capital island, Tarawa.

Many people living on Kiribati are already among the first climate change migrants and refugees. People are forced to move because their homes are no longer habitable, due to severe climate events. Sadly



climate change refugees are not protected under the UN 1951 Refugee Convention, because environmental degradation is not defined as “persecution”. Kiribati government has implemented a programme, “Migration with Dignity”, with the aim of creating a skilled workforce able to find good employment abroad. The children and young people from the Kiribati school have physical and learning difficulties, yet they may have to move soon and be expected to prove themselves useful and not be a burden to their new country. That is why it is so important that the school is teaching the children to be as independent and educated as possible to prepare them for a very uncertain future.



Not only is this climate crisis affecting the country, but it is directly impacting the school. The school is located close to the sea in which coastal erosion is their main critical issue. During high tides, the seawall gets damaged which can affect the classrooms. The vegetables grown for the children are spoilt and brackish water runs onto the property, which is unsafe for their children.

I always find that global issues, are often easier to understand when you put a personal spin on it. The Kiribati school is now our personal connection with the effects of climate change. The residents are doing their best to save their Island, and show great faith in God during this uncertainty. Eco-theology has become a common theme in Kiribati, and they hope to encourage it across the world. Every change we make in our lives, as individuals and as a Church, contributes towards the global climate crisis and to the lives of people like those on Kiribati who are literally trying to stem the tides of climate change.

“The church never sinks in the midst of the rough and angry waves; instead, the church should be a floating coconut with life in it, in the context of climate change, sea level rise, and an uncertain future.” (T Timon)

Rebecca Abbott

Hosted by Messy Church at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC
and the Gathered Youth Group NW Synod



Matthew 6: 25-30



Connect

Be Active

Keep learning

Five Ways to Wellbeing
Taking steps towards living well

Give

Take Notice



**Come and gather to share activities,
crafts, and celebration!**

Place: Via our You Tube link

Date: 4 October

Messy Churches are now all over the world www.messychurch.org.uk

Christmas Boxes for Belarus



Due to Covid restrictions Ladies Fellowship will be unable to fill Christmas boxes this year.

Carol Hartley will still be filling and sending boxes to Belarus **for children aged 3 – 6, 6 – 12 and over 12**. She would be grateful if you could contribute any of the following items. Carol is happy to collect any items from you if you telephone her on **01706 367640**.

Soap & Flannel

Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Hairbrush & Comb

Hat & Scarf

Gloves or Mittens

Knickers

Tights

Stationery:

- **Notebook**
- **Pencils**
- **Pens**
- **Pencil Case**

Necklace

Sweets (NOT Chocolate)

Small Soft Toy

Game

Small Ball

Psalm 23 - a Psalm for the Pandemic

There are few psalms as personal and real as Psalm 23. It records David's experience of God as his Shepherd going through dark times. In the midst of the effects of a global pandemic, this psalm speaks to the fears that can overwhelm us.



He Knows Me: 'The Lord is my shepherd...' Just as a good shepherd knows every sheep in his flock, so God knows each one of us intimately.

He Provides for Me: 'He makes me lie down in green pastures...' Just as the shepherd knows the needs of his sheep, so God will provide what we need in our lives and circumstances.

He Guides Me: 'He guides me along the right paths...' Just as the shepherd leads the sheep to the best pastures, so God provides the best for us, as we listen and follow Him.

He Protects Me: 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley...' Just as the sheep have no need to fear danger when following the shepherd, so we live knowing God's presence and protection.

He Comforts Me: 'your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' As the shepherd's rod defends the sheep, and the staff enables him to control the sheep, so God comforts us through His Word and discipline.

The final verses of the psalm (v5-6) offer the security of knowing that our lives are in His hands, even through death, as He leads us to the home we've been looking for all our lives.

Some years ago, a great actor was asked to recite Psalm 23, but asked one of the other guests to do the same. His remarkable rendition was followed by the other man, an older Christian speaking from the heart. Afterwards the actor said: **'The difference between us is that I know the psalm, but he knows the shepherd.'**

Celebrating 400th Anniversary of the Voyage of the *Mayflower*

If we find it difficult to cross the Atlantic just now, it was even worse 400 years ago this month. On 6th September 1620, 102 determined Puritans climbed on board the *Mayflower* and set sail from Plymouth. They had 30 crew to steer them across 3000 miles of open, perilous ocean.



Those Puritans, or ‘Pilgrim fathers’, could never have dreamed that their journey would become one of the most influential in world history. Their courage and purpose for the voyage would help shape the very history and culture of the USA.

The Pilgrim fathers themselves were in search of religious freedom and a new life. Years before they had rejected the Church of England, due to its Roman Catholic past, and in 1608 they had moved to Holland, where they could worship freely. But life was very hard there, and so the New World beckoned to them.

They had originally intended to use two ships, but the *Speedwell* sprang a leak shortly after sailing, and so they crowded as many as possible into the *Mayflower*. After a long and difficult 10 weeks at sea, they reached America, but could not reach their intended destination, Virginia, because of heavy seas. They finally landed in Provincetown Harbour, Cape Cod, Massachusetts on 11th November.

That presented the next great challenge: the bitter, harsh winter of Massachusetts. Half of the Pilgrims perished that first winter, of hunger and cold. Without the help of the local Indigenous peoples to teach them food-gathering and other survival skills, all of the colony would probably have perished.

After months of hard work, by the 'Fall' of 1621 the tiny colony had its first harvest. They celebrated this great achievement with their new Indigenous friends. It became Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims had been convinced that God wanted them to go to the New World. They wrote: "We verily believe and trust the Lord is with us, and that He will graciously prosper our endeavours according to the simplicity of our hearts therein."

The Mayflower was one of the earliest pilgrim vessels, and so became a cultural icon in the history of the United States. This year, until coronavirus put a stop to things, many celebrations in the USA, England and the Netherlands had been planned.

The voyage of the Mayflower changed US history.... The graphic comes from Wikimedia Commons and is understood to be from a book in the public domain. (Parish Pump)

Baptism Secretary



This role will become vacant in January 2021. It is a small administrative and pastoral post which includes:-



- ♥ Liaising with the minister about details of the baptism
- ♥ Completing the register, certificate and cradle roll
- ♥ Buying a spray of flowers for mother and arranging for a junior church member to present them
- ♥ Looking after the family before and after the service



If you are interested in this role, please contact me for more details.

Pamela Harrington

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

How can a Christian be a Scientist?



I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference.

Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr

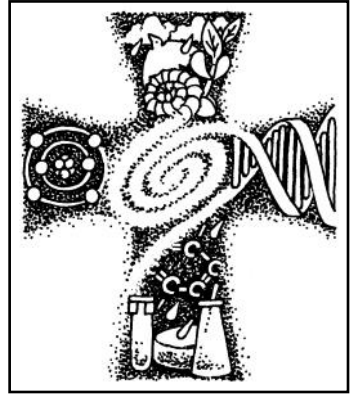
Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.” So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don't affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be ‘very good’ (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don't want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.



Dr Ruth Banciewicz is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge, and a member of Christians in Science.

See www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches and <http://www.cis.org.uk>

There is just one way to bring up a child in the way he should go, and that is to travel that way yourself. - Abraham Lincoln

Do you need any kind of help at this difficult time

*If you do, please contact: Angela Smith
0771 029 7377 or angela.smith@rochdale.gov.uk*

Message from the Garden Team

Due to Covid 19 and the lockdown, Bamford Chapel was unable to have the Annual Garden Party in July. Fortunately, regular attendees of the garden party contacted us to see if we had any plants ready for sale. With social distancing in place, Hanging Baskets and Tubs were delivered as requested and some eager gardeners visited our homes to collect plants.



Never daunted, and with plants still growing, we decided we should try to sell remaining plants at Chapel on Monday mornings in July when the garden team were doing their weekly duties of trying to keep the garden and grounds tidy. For 3 Mondays we took the plants to chapel and were happy to see people calling in to see what we had; not just people from chapel, but the local community too.

A big **'thank You'** to all those people who purchased plants from us. We are pleased that we managed to raise a total of **£400** which we have donated to church funds.

See you all again next year at the 2021 Garden Party.

Linda Kerford & Mike Davies

Music and Memory

Have you ever heard a certain song or tune that immediately takes you back to your youth? It can be a very poignant moment.

When researchers at the University of Westminster examined the choices of 80 different guests on the BBC radio show *Desert Island Discs*, they found that most guests had chosen music which dated back to when they had been between 10 to 30 years old. This time span was identified as a ‘self-defining period’ in their lives.

The research concluded: “The music we know and love between the ages of 10 to 30 will play a significant role throughout our lives, connecting us as individuals to other people, places and times that become central to our identity.”

When I read this article in Parish Pump it reminded me of how important music has been in my life and that I enjoy many types of music. There are so many songs/pieces of music I could choose that have meant something to me, and as I look back most of them bring memories of different family members. But one of my earliest musical memories is being brought to tears hearing a Christmas song on the radio, released by Nat King Cole in 1953 when I was six: **“The little boy that Santa Clause forgot.”** As a family we weren’t very well off in those days, so Christmas presents were few. But the words of the song made me realise just how fortunate I was to have my Mam, Dad and Sister and whatever gifts Santa had left for us.



If you don’t know the song, you can find it on YouTube by Nat King Cole or Vera Lynn. It’s a simple song, but on that Christmas Day it taught me to appreciate the special gift of family.

What songs trigger the big memories for you?

Perhaps we could include this as an ongoing theme in future magazines. Please email me or Lesley Sutton to share your special tune, and say why.

Thank You, Linda Peacock

Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

(all suspended until further notice)

- 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
6.30 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association
7.30 pm Home Group 'Exploring the Bible'
- Thursday:** 10.00 am Community Coffee Morning
- Friday:** 6.00 pm onwards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** 1st Tuesday in the month
1.45 pm in lounge for Coffee: Meeting 2 - 3 pm
Home Group (Fortnightly)
8.15 pm In Crèche Room
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** (2nd Thursday in the month)
7.30 pm
Heritage Group (3rd Thursday in the month)
7.00 pm
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** (1st Friday in the month)
1.30—3.30 pm
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman Community Film Club**
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film (3rd Saturday in month)

Further information on the **weekly notice sheet** or visit the website at www.bcnchurch.org.uk or speak to an Elder.

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE

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DATES FOR THE OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 20th September

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Times of Services:

Family Worship : 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1st Sunday in month

Evening Worship : 6.30 pm : Holy Communion 3rd Sunday in month