



Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



April 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.



April 2018

Easter Sunday 1 st April	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley & Cath Atkinson
		No Evening Worship
Tuesday 3 rd April	8.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group At the Manse
Thursday 5 th April	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (please pray for the Elders as they meet)
Sunday 8 th April	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Joanne Ackroyd
	6.30 pm	Informal Worship Led by Cath Atkinson
Monday 9 th April	7.30 pm	Focus on Prayer Group
Thursday 12 th April	10.00 am	Prayer Walk (meet in the Crèche Room)
Sunday 15 th April	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.30 pm	Formal Evening Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Monday 16 th April	7.30 pm	Meeting with the Moderator (ahead of him preaching on 2nd June)
Tuesday 17 th April	8.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (Venue to be confirmed)
Thursday 19 th April	7.00 pm	Churches Together Alpha Course (Session 1) (At Brimrod Methodist Church)
Friday 20 th April	7.30 pm	Prayer Walk (meet in Church)
Sunday 22 nd April	10.30 am	Parade Service Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.30 pm	Informal Evening Worship Led by Joan Warner and Dot Craig



April
2018

Monday 23 rd April	7.30 pm	Focus on Prayer Group
Thursday 26 th April	7.00 pm	Churches Together Alpha Course (Session 2) (At Brimrod Methodist Church)
Sunday 29 th April	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Margaret Ogden
	6.30 pm	Formal Evening Worship Led by Cath Atkinson

Church Weekend at Home
Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th 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. I hope to have posters out soon with timings etc. on them.

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** **3rd & 17th April**
2.15 pm In the Lounge
Home Group **3rd April** at the Manse
8.00 pm **17th April** (to be confirmed)
- Thursday:** **Ladies' Fellowship** **12th April** (see page 9)
7.45 pm at Chapel Admission £3.00
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman Community Film Club**
6.30 pm refreshments **21st April** (see page 24)
Film starts 7.00 pm Admission £3.00
(Please note new film times)

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** or speak to an Elder.

Message from the Manse

“Where there is no *vision* the people perish...”

The title above is a verse from the Bible (Proverbs 29:18 – King James Version). Other translations give the following words instead of “vision”:-

- ◆ “Where there is no **revelation** the people cast off restraint” (New International Version),
- ◆ “With no one in **authority** the people throw off all restraint” (Revised English Bible) and
- ◆ “Where there is no **prophecy**, the people cast off restraint.” (New Revised Standard Version)



When I first read these words many years ago I recall pondering them for many weeks. Plucking verses from the Bible, and out of their context, can be an unwise thing to do. But in every word of scripture there is truth to be revealed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The day my ministry becomes more about what “I” want as minister than what God wants of me will be the day I give up doing what I do. That is not to say that listening for God’s vision or voice or instruction is easy – it is not always. Some people I respect enormously say they have heard God’s audible voice speaking to them. Others I respect equally as much don’t say they hear a voice, but sense it in their being and await confirmation of that through others or through ongoing reading of the Bible and time spent in prayer.

I raise all this because for some time now my prayer for the church has been focused on “What do you want of us God?” That question is my prayer for this church as well as the wider Synod and denomination.

I personally feel strongly that how we are Church has to be flexible.

Gone are the days when shops are shut on a Sunday. When nothing other than church happens on a Sunday. The Church is quite literally competing with so many other demands on people's time. A position that says: "we must not change"...or... "we must remain the same as we have for years" worries me.

As a Synod we are being invited as a Church to be part of a "Missional Partnership". Within the suggested partnership, of which we are a part, there are thirteen churches. Currently there are 2.25 URC Stipendiary ministers within that partnership. There is the Revd Nigel Adkinson (minister of Radcliffe URC, Stand URC and Farnworth URC) myself serving as minister here and also Revd Ruth Wollaston who serves Trinity Church Cheetham (a URC/Anglican Local Ecumenical Partnership) for 25% of her time.

The Synod is going down the route of Missional Partnerships because of the decreasing number of ministers within the denomination. The 'old model' would simply divide the number of churches by the number of ministers. This means ministers are simply being spread more and more thinly across the Synod and also the denomination nationally.

Missional partnerships are a way of churches i.e. people (lay and ordained) working together, using the God-given talents to further the kingdom of God. Missional partnerships will allow us to share ideas/gifts in order that the church (es) in our Synod can grow spiritually and numerically.

To return to the Bible quotes at the start of this article: **vision, revelation, authority** and **prophecy** are all strands that when built together along with prayer form an important foundation of being church.

Please pray.... for a meeting Nigel and I are hosting here at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC on Saturday 7th April, when two Elders from each church within our partnership have been invited to come together to begin the process of getting





to know each other. We are meeting between 10am and 12pm that day. Please pray.... that we as a church may play our part in the missional partnership.

Please pray.... that as a church we may grow along with our brothers and sisters in Christ in other churches.

Please pray.... that ministers and churches will harness what God is doing and discern God's will for His Church in each of these places.

As with anything new there can be challenges and obstacles to overcome, but if we listen and trust God then we can move forward as faithful followers.

God Bless, Richard

Job Description for the Church Secretary



**Meeting
Minutes**

As has been mentioned before John Lapworth and Angela Smith are stepping down from their roles as Church Secretary and Minute Secretary respectively at the end of 2018. A job description for both roles is available on the leaflet stand at the back of Church. Please take one if you are interested.

Please also speak to John Lapworth (as current Church Secretary) and Angela Smith (as current minute secretary) if you want to find out more information. The sooner we find replacements the more time they will have to shadow the current officer holders. Both roles can be shared by more than one person.

God Bless, Richard

Churches Together in NW Rochdale Alpha Course



I am really excited about this Churches Together venture! At least five churches are leading an Alpha Course starting on Thursday 19th April (see poster elsewhere for all the dates). The Alpha course is being held at Brimrod Methodist Church.

- ◆ If you have been in this or other churches for many years – Alpha is for you.
- ◆ If you are relatively new to church – Alpha is for you.
- ◆ If you are seeking answers to questions – Alpha is for you.

Please speak to Richard if you have any questions about this at all. Alpha has changed the lives of many millions of people around the world. All of our home groups have grown out of Alpha courses which have been run in our Church. But this is something good that is happening ecumenically across 5 different denominations in our local Churches Together grouping.

God Bless, Richard

100 years ago, on 1st April 1918 Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) was founded when the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service merged.



ANANDABAN LEPROSY HOSPITAL

On the 8th March Ladies Fellowship welcomed Maureen and Michael Hawksworth once more to tell us of their involvement with another of their interests in Nepal. Accompanying them was Rosemary Stokes who helps with setting up and selling the selection of items [handbags, blankets, jewellery] they sell on behalf of a Christian non profit making organisation which has been working with ladies who are in need. The sale of these hand crafted goods has assisted many women by providing stable employment, helping pay for their children's education and their medical expenses.

Maureen and Michael gave the background to their involvement with The Leprosy Mission and Anandaban Hospital. This was through their childhood memories and then through their daughter, Rachel who was a doctor there for nine years. During their six years in Nepal they were frequent visitors to the hospital which is situated an hour's drive from Kathmandu. The hospital also has an outpatient department providing treatment for other illnesses and runs medical camps for the poorest of poor people in the country. Slides of the hospital's work were shown, supplementing them with stories from their experience whilst out there and also of their visit to a leprosy hospital in India. The Leprosy Mission is an International Christian organisation working with people affected by leprosy in 30 countries.

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease caused by a bacterium that damages the nerve endings especially in the fingers, toes, legs, arms and face. It can stay in the body for up to 20 years without showing symptoms. It is most common in places of poverty. It is not hereditary and cannot be caught by touch. Scientists believe that it is passed through droplets of moisture, carried on the air, from someone who has leprosy but has not yet started treatment. There is no specific vaccine but leprosy is curable with multi-drug therapy. Within one day of starting this MDT treatment there is no risk of the disease spreading to anyone else. However, lack of education means many people affected by leprosy are stigmatised, especially if the disease has caused



disfigurement or disability. Many people are terrified of catching leprosy and it is often seen as a curse, resulting in divorce, loss of work, home and friends. People hide their symptoms for a long time rather than seek help and medication which eventually causes much more physical damage leading to disability.

The Leprosy Mission provides medication, surgery and support to those affected by leprosy, demonstrating the love of Christ with care and compassion.

At the end of the presentation there was a question and answer session which showed the interest all those present had taken in the very interesting and enlightening evening. A vote of thanks was given by Linda Peacock and a donation to the work of The Leprosy Mission was handed over.

PS: Thank you to Richard for setting up the projector and screen.

**The next meeting is on 12th April
entitled "Who do you think they are"**



Bamford Chapel & Norden URC Ladies Fellowship

are holding a

GOOD AS NEW SALE

on Saturday April 28th 2018

10.00am – 2.00pm

Do you have any unwanted items that are in very good condition? If so perhaps you would like to donate them to the sale.

All items must be booked in 1 week prior to the event (by April 22nd). Items donated will raise money for Ladies Fellowship (and ultimately Bamford Chapel and Norden URC). As well as donated items, we will also sell items on your behalf with a donation of 20% of the sale to Ladies Fellowship. **No bric-a-brac**. We will also not take any electrical items unless a current PAT test certificate is supplied with it.

Any items unsold must be taken back by the donor within 1 week or will be donated to charity.

Tea/Coffee, cakes and sandwiches will be available throughout the event.

For further information contact Linda Kerford or any of the Ladies Fellowship Committee.



Dementia Friends Session 4th April 2018



- ◆ Do you want to know more about dementia and how you can help people with dementia live well in their community?
- ◆ Why not attend a Dementia Friends session?

People with dementia sometimes need a helping hand to go about their daily lives and feel included. Dementia Friends helps you understand how you can help make a difference. From helping someone to find the right bus to spreading the word about dementia on social media, every action counts.



A Dementia Friends event is being hosted by Bamford Chapel & Norden URC and the Alzheimer's Society on the evening of 4th April as follows:

6.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. Wednesday 4th April at Bamford Chapel & Norden United Reformed Church, Norden Road, Bamford, Rochdale, OL11 5PQ.

Refreshments will be served afterwards.

To book your free place please register on:

www.dementiafriends.org.uk OR contact: Ali Roberts, Dementia Support Worker on 07809 349671

or email alison.roberts@alzheimers.org.uk or sign up under the clock

The Lambs

A poem by the Revd Joyce Yates

If I were asked to tell you how I know that Spring has come
I'd say "The Lambs"

They're out in fields from East to West
From North to South of our green land

Each ewe's surrounded by her twins or triplets
Which skip and leap and land unsteadily on skinny legs

A half-turn, then a twist for fun, then quickly fastening
To mothers' breasts

With tails a-wagging there they tug
Until impatiently she moves a step or two

Then off they go again to chase or frolic
Sometimes they seem to lose direction

And stand and look around to find their mother
Bleating with frantic urgency,
a cry which only she could recognise



Her answering call is heard
and back they come
To nuzzle once again into her
warmth and reassurance

Yes, Spring has come
The lambs are here

March 17th 1992

Gloria

It was a very sad day when Gloria Norbury left us to travel on her final journey following a very short illness.

We were delighted when some years ago on the death of Ralph, her husband, Gloria accepted an invitation to assist run Toddlers. This began many happy dedicated years of friendship between the Toddlers and their families.



Gloria was so loved by the Toddlers. On Tuesday mornings the children arrived fresh and full of energy making a beeline for 'Gloria's Bun Table' even before taking off coats and wellies.

Gloria enjoyed the company of young children and had a wonderful way of reaching out to them. Being very creative, she enjoyed preparing fun craft activities and in her last conversation with me was planning a Mother's Day Craft and asked me to take paper and card into the hospice, sadly she never got to complete her idea.

Following Gloria's funeral her daughters, Philippa and Stephanie, brought a party of buns and balloons for every child and buns for the adults, 80 decorated buns in total. We sat around our party table and spoke of Gloria likening her to a star in the sky and then sang with actions to Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, which caused a few tears and smiles. The Toddlers went home clutching balloons and faces covered in various colours of sticky icing sugar.

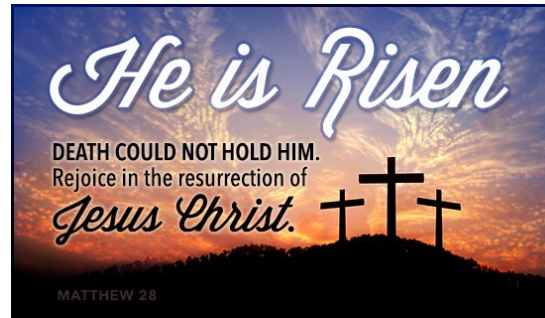
Our Toddlers and their parents are planning to place a pinky white camellia bush called volunteer; we couldn't find one called Gloria, in the church grounds in memory of our very special person. We are waiting patiently for the weather to become slightly warmer before we start digging.

Gloria you did a good job, a faithful servant.

A small lady with a big character.

God Bless you

Why Easter will Never go Away



How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that:

"they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!"

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups - when taking drugs, for example. But, of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross,

despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead - which is exactly what they did preach - would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me", and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil



for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.' Have a joyful - and a challenging - Easter. **(article from 'Parish Pump')**

Prayer for Faith and Freedom



Almighty God,

Lord of life, we thank you for the life and death of Jesus.

Most of all we thank you for His resurrection which changed the world and made it possible for us to know you as our loving, gracious Father.

Lord, when we feel locked in, imprisoned by fears and circumstances, help us to remember that locked doors mean nothing to you.

You can set us free. You can help us. You give strength for today and tomorrow. You give us new life as your children, through faith in Jesus.

*May we open our hearts to your help today;
to receive from you the peace and power that we need
- and then to share it.*

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Facebook Page

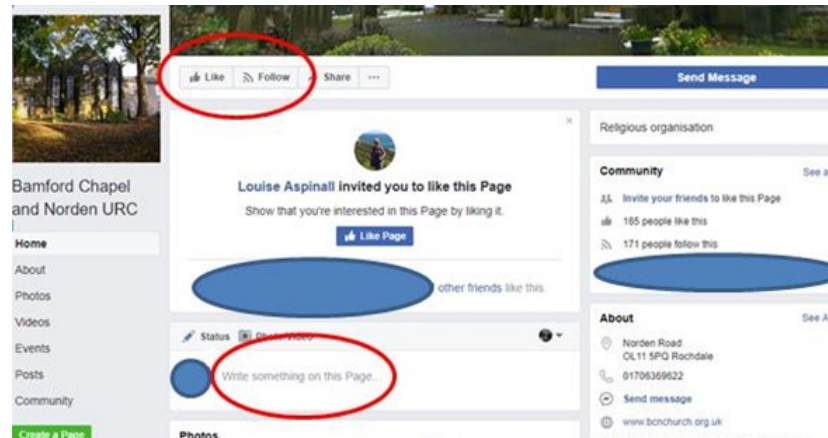
Many thanks to the 171 people who have *liked* and the 165 people who *follow* our facebook page.

If you haven't *liked* or *followed* yet please consider doing so. It's a great way of making people more aware of the opportunities to worship and to join us in fellowship.

Once you have done this please make an effort to *like* and most importantly *Share* our posts.

At the time of writing this article not one person, other than the editors, has put a post on the page. This page belongs to all at Bamford Chapel. Please feel free to post details of your upcoming events or to put a thank you or pictures following your successes. The editors of the page reserve the right to remove any content which is not felt suitable. Our Code of Conduct can be seen in the 'About' section. Remember to always ask people on your pictures if they are happy for their picture to be shared prior to doing so. If in doubt, stick to pictures of yourself or items in the event.

Please see the image to find out where you can '*like*', '*follow*' or '*write something on this page*'



If you need any help please ask me. I'm not an expert but I'll do my best to assist. Thank you for your support. **Louise Aspinall**



Church Flowers



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

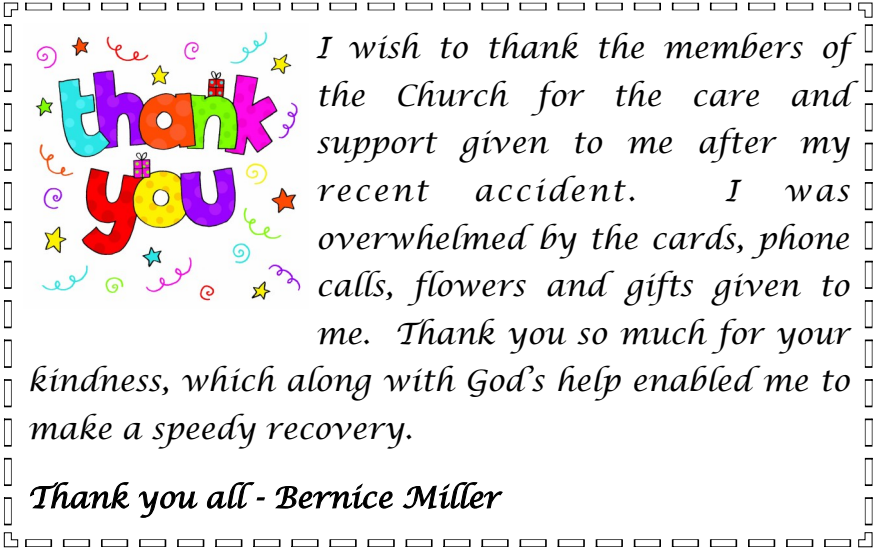
- Carolyn Divers in memory of Derek Gooding*
- Linda Peacock in memory of her Mother Lily*
- Margaret Frain in memory of Geoff Frain*
- Anne Newman in memory of Ian Newman*

Two of Billy Graham's notable quotes

There is nothing wrong with men possessing riches.
The wrong comes when riches possess men.

Take one day at a time.
Today, after all, is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

(Billy Graham died 21st February 2018)



*I wish to thank the members of
the Church for the care and
support given to me after my
recent accident. I was
overwhelmed by the cards, phone
calls, flowers and gifts given to
me. Thank you so much for your
kindness, which along with God's help enabled me to
make a speedy recovery.*

Thank you all - Bernice Miller

Midday Concerts, 2017 – 2018



So another season has come and gone! Six concerts, each very different from the others – jazz, brass, string and wind ensembles; guitars – one by itself and one with flute; and a baritone singer. The concert that closed our season in March was presented by superbly accomplished young musicians from Chethams School of Music, and our audience numbers were gratifyingly up from the preceding few months. We had been affected this year by some horrible weather, and are especially grateful to those faithful friends who were here at all or almost all the concerts.

It is appropriate now to thank the team who make the concerts possible. We are preceded on Tuesdays by a large and lively Mums and Toddlers group, and cannot start putting out and laying tables until the space is cleared. Mike Lucas, who has always been involved in the concerts with me, sees to that, assisted by John Lapworth and Keith Wiener. The catering for lunch is shared between two teams, led by Margaret Ogden and Pamela Harrington: this has been an especially difficult year for these ladies because of the varying numbers of those attending! It is this large group of helpers who together make the concerts possible.

A few of us will meet very soon to plan next season's programme. It has been our intention over many years to bring to the Chapel the very best talent we can find – and of course afford! We have tried too to engage artistes early in their careers, and the RNCM is where we often find performers who richly deserve to be heard.

I am glad that many folk, both Chapel members and visitors from outside, have supported the concerts. I keep hoping that more might join us, both to keep us financially viable – we insist on paying our artistes as generously as we can and like to make a substantial donation each year to Gift Day – but also to have really good audiences for excellent music-makers. So – see you in October for another season, and may the weather be gentle with us!

Walter Brisk

The Programmer's Prayer



The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash.

*He installed his software on the hard disk of
my heart; all of His commands are user-
friendly.*

*His directory guides me to the right choices for
His name's sake.*

*Even though I scroll through the problems of
life, I will fear no bugs, for He is my backup.
His password protects me.*

*He prepares a menu before me in the presence
of my enemies.*

His help is only a keystroke away.

*Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all
the days of my life, and my file will be merged
with His and saved forever.*

Amen.

God is Able to Bless us Abundantly

By Philip Hardingham

'And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.' (2 Corinthians 9:8).

How generous are we, on a scale between Scrooge and Bill Gates? Let's not forget that we have a God who is able to out-give us on all levels!

A God who blesses: Paul reminds the Corinthians that we have a generous God, who meets our needs, even when we don't deserve it. This is demonstrated by the grace of God seen in the death and resurrection of his Son, 'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!' (15).



A Response of blessing: Paul calls for generosity as a response to God's grace, as the Corinthians were reluctant to support the Christians experiencing famine in Jerusalem. He uses an agricultural picture to make the point: 'Remember this:

whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.'(6).

We sow sparingly when we hold on to what we have and put our needs first. However, by sowing generously we share God's heart and bless others, by using our time, money and talents to serve them.

'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'(7). We should consider carefully what to give, but to do it cheerfully (literally hilariously!). With God, the more we give, the more we bless others and are blessed ourselves!

Has this been true in our own experience? A farmer was known for his generosity; when asked why this was he replied, 'I keep shovelling into God's bin and He keeps shovelling into mine, but God has the bigger shovel!'





FAIRTRADE

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Hidden Entrepreneur Appeal

26th February to 11th March 2018

Thank you to everyone who shared in supporting the Fairtrade Fortnight. The coffee morning on the 8th March [postponed from the previous week due to the weather] was very well attended as was the Big Brew on the 10th March, serving the great British Bacon Butty.

The proceeds from these two events plus the sale of raffle tickets for a Fairtrade hamper [won by a visitor to our coffee morning] raised the wonderful amount of £373.00 which will be matched pound for pound by the UK Government. This amount has been donated to Traidcraft Exchange who run programmes in developing countries supporting poor and vulnerable people to get a better deal from trade. They give business advice, training and help them improve their product.

Barbara Redmond/Lesley Sutton



*Carol Hartley &
The Belarus Fund*

A Grand Tombola

Heywood Market

Friday & Saturday

6th & 7th April

In aid of the Children of Belarus

Please Support us

Canon David Winter remembers a very special lady...

A Christian Pioneer for Women

During this year's celebration of 'votes for women' - well, some women, to start with - a hundred years ago, the BBC ran a public poll to nominate the one woman who had made 'the most difference'.

People were nominated from different sectors of society - the arts, business, fashion, politics and so on - but unless I missed it there was no nomination for such a revolutionary figure in the world of religion.



So let me nominate one: Catherine Bramwell Booth. She was the grand-daughter of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, the first religious group to give women an equal role in leadership. Catherine was duly commissioned as an officer in the Army, rising to the rank of Commissioner - about the same as a bishop, I suppose.

In the sixties and seventies she became a media favourite, appearing on TV shows like Parkinson's and being voted 'Speaker of the Year' by the Guild of Toastmasters - although she, of course, was a life-long teetotaller. By then she was in her nineties, but still had an infectious sense of humour and an attractive media personality. All the while, though, she was committed to the Army's social and support work for women.

Three times she was nominated as General (archbishop, as one might say) of the Salvation Army, but she agreed that it would be wrong to appear to establish a Booth 'dynasty'. She lived to 104, long enough to see the arrival of women ministers in the Free Churches but ten years before Anglican women achieved it. William Booth had once said that 'some of my best men are women', which was, I suppose, a contemporary way of saying that they were equals. Actually, the amazing Catherine Bramwell Booth outshone them all!



THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

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

6.30 pm refreshments: 7.00pm film
every third Saturday
£3 admission [refreshments included]

~~~~~  
**21st April: "SULLY" 12A**  
[Miracle on the Hudson]

Biographical drama film directed by Clint Eastwood and written by Todd Komarnicki, based on the autobiography Highest Duty by Chesley Sullenberger and Jeffrey Zaslow. The film stars Tom Hanks as Sullenberger, with Aaron Eckhart, Laura Linney, Anna Gunn, Autumn Reeser, Holt McCallany, Jamey Sheridan, and Jerry Ferrara in supporting roles. The film follows Sullenberger's January 2009 emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River, in which all 155 passengers and crew survived with only minor injuries, and the subsequent publicity and investigation.

**Please note earlier starting time**

**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**



**MOVIE  
MOMENTS**

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

## This is me

'No-one ever made a difference by being like everyone else.' This is a great line in the powerful film *The Greatest Showman*, which calls us to reconsider our attitudes to difference.

It tells something of the real story of Phineas T Barnum, who never actually said the phrase infamously attributed to him: 'there's a sucker born every minute'. But he did say (in a speech to the Connecticut State Legislature in 1865): 'A human soul, that God has created and Christ died for, is not to be trifled with... amid all assumptions of caste, it will in due time vindicate the great fact that, without regard to colour or condition, all men are equally children of the common Father.'

This vision is conveyed in *This is Me*, one of the most powerful songs in the film (amazingly written during an overnight flight on the way to pitch the movie to a studio). The lyrics describe someone previously hiding in the dark: 'I've learned to be ashamed of all my scars. Run away, they say. No one will love you as you are.', but now emerging into the light: 'I am brave, I am bruised, I am who I'm meant to be... I'm not scared to be seen, I make no apologies, this is me.'



These are inspirational words. And they inevitably raise the question why all people should have worth. Does our significance derive from being valued subjectively by the society in which we live? Or is there an objective basis for the value of all people? As we seek to answer those questions, perhaps we should consider the real Barnum's statement that all of us are equally children of the common Father.

**ETHOS  
MEDIA.org**

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



A great film to see if you get the chance.



100 years ago, on 16th April 1918 Spike Milligan was born. This Indian-born Irish comedian and writer was a member of The Goons, known for his anarchic sense of absurdity.

*Also 100 years ago, on 21st April 1918 Manfred von Richthofen ('The Red Baron'), German WW1 fighter ace, was shot down in France, aged 25.*

90 years ago, on 25th April 1928 the first budget was broadcast in the UK. Chancellor of the Exchequer Winston Churchill's annual budget speech in the House of Commons was broadcast live on BBC radio.

*80 years ago, on 9th April 1938 the first football match was broadcast on television: Scotland beat England 1 - 0.*

75 years ago, on 5th April 1943 the renowned German theologian and anti-Nazi dissident Dietrich Bonhoeffer was arrested by the Gestapo. He was imprisoned for 18 months, including two Nazi concentration camps. He was executed in April 1945.

*70 years ago, on 7th April 1948 The World Health Organisation (WHO) was founded.*

50 years ago, on 3rd April 1968 American Baptist minister and Afro-American civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous 'I've Been to the Mountaintop' speech at a rally in Memphis, Tennessee. It was his last ever speech, as he was assassinated next day, aged 39. Noted for his promotion of non-violent civil disobedience, including the march on Washington. In the days after his death there were race riots in dozens of major US cities.

*30 years ago, on 23rd April 1988 Michael Ramsey, Baron Ramsey of Canterbury, the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury (1961-74), died.*

25 years ago, on 29th April 1993 Queen Elizabeth 2 announced that Buckingham Palace would open to the public for the first time, to raise funds to repair fire damage at Windsor Castle.

**PANTIVITY**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018**



*Comments from the audience*

*"I haven't laughed as much for ages."*

*"What a cleverly written panto with the perfect ending. Enjoyed it enormously"*

*"Excellent, well produced, everyone played an excellent part, particularly Kath"*

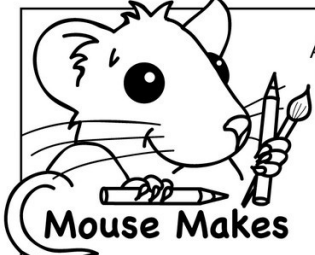
*"Thank you to Addie, Ben and cast for giving us a different slant on the Good News"*

*"As a Blackadder fan I was utterly bowled over!! A brilliant concept & superb performances from everyone. Each main character was so true to the original series but so uniquely their own person. And the 'chink in the wall' in the shepherds' play within a play will stay with me for ever.*

*Ben & Addie, cast & crew, thank you so much."*



# Children's Page



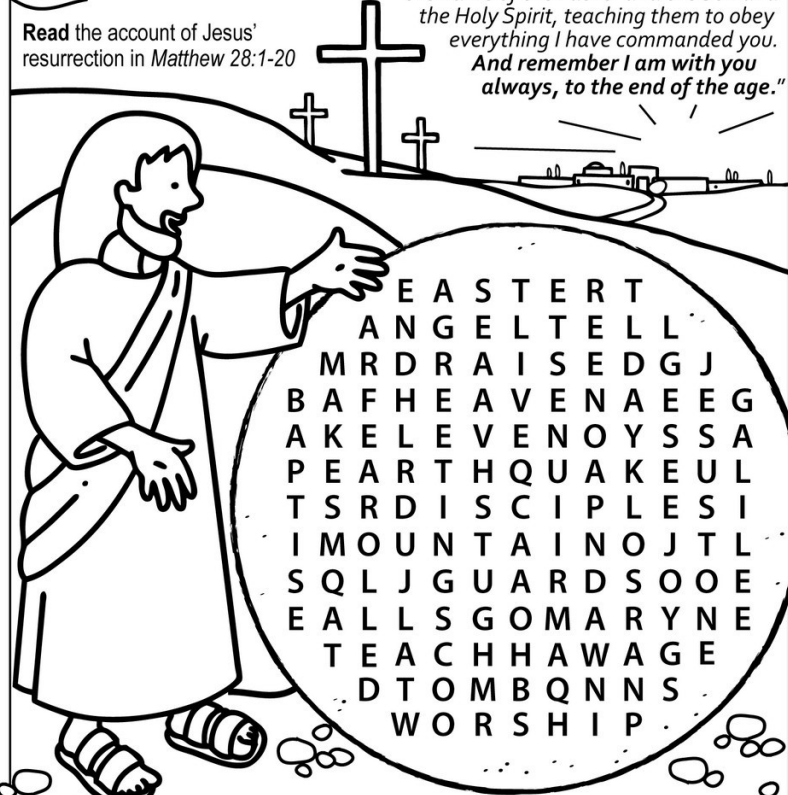
**Mouse Makes**

**JESUS IS ALIVE!**

After Jesus had been raised from the dead He met Mary and Mary Magdalene "Greetings," He said, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

When the disciples met Jesus in Galilee He said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

Read the account of Jesus' resurrection in *Matthew 28:1-20*



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Can you find these words from the story in the word search above?    EASTER • DAWN  
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 JESUS • RAISED • FEAR • JOY • RAN • GREETINGS • TELL • DISCIPLES • SEE • ELEVEN  
 GALILEE • MOUNTAIN • WORSHIP • ALL • GO • MAKE • BAPTISE • TEACH • END • AGE

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## DATES FOR THE MAY MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by:      Sunday 15th April

Magazine to be completed by:    Thursday 26th April

Magazine distributed:                Sunday 29th April

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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