



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



April 2021

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.



At the time of compiling this magazine the rollout of Covid Vaccines is continuing at pace. Boris Johnson has now set out the “**Roadmap out of Lockdown**”. Further information is available on the Government website and Rochdale Council website.

Dates for the Roadmap out of Lockdown

MARCH 29: Outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households allowed, including in private gardens. Outdoor sports facilities reopen, people can play formally-organised outdoor sports. Stay-home order ends.

APRIL 12: Non-essential shops, gyms, swimming pools, outdoor attractions and hospitality, leisure centres, holiday lets reopen with no mixing of households. Up to 30 people at funerals, up to 15 at weddings and wakes.

MAY 17: Sporting events and entertainment venues allowed with limited capacity. Up to 30 people at weddings. Rule of six or two households applies indoors. Outdoors, gatherings of 30 or more still illegal.

JUNE 21: Nightclubs reopen, legal limits and restrictions on social contact end.

All church activities and worship services in church are still suspended. But a **Sunday worship service is available on YouTube, on the church website (www.bcnchurch.org.uk)**, or the script has been sent out to those without internet access.

Daniel Harris produces a weekly email for the Rochdale, Bury & North Manchester Missional Partnership. See page 3 for more details.



Easter Message – God *will* use us all

For the last three days I have been attending Mission Council, which is the URC's committee that makes decisions in between General Assemblies. The theme of the worship at Mission Council was "Heroes and Villains" and the reading from the closing worship was **Acts 9**, which is the passage where Saul is converted. One of the Moderators of Assembly preached on that passage in the closing act of worship.

Part of what the Assembly Moderator was saying was how Ananias was used by God for God's plan and purpose. In this instance it was for the conversion of Saul. And for those who know that Bible passage well you will know just how powerful an encounter that was for Saul. Even though Saul was then centre stage we were encouraged not to forget the role that Ananias played. Ananias was obedient to God; he was little known, and we hear little more of him in scripture other than when Paul speaks at his trial in Jerusalem.



What had never struck me before in this passage was that God used Ananias in such a powerful way. Ananias played a small but not insignificant part in the story of God's people – if he hadn't responded positively to God's call then who would have been the one to visit Saul when he had been blinded in the encounter with Jesus? And of course, we have Saul/Paul who went on to plant Churches and teach others to pastor and lead God's people.

What we must never forget is how God can, and will, use each of us, whether we are someone who is not upfront or in the spotlight of church life or whether we are in some form of leadership. Ananias was not more important than Saul and neither was Saul more important than Ananias. This Easter as we reflect on familiar passages of scripture whether in 'in-person' worship in Churches across the Missional Partnership or whether on Zoom, or prerecorded, or text versions of services, may we never forget that God can and will use each one of us. Whether we believe we are 'good enough' or 'spiritual enough' or not – God can and will use you.

Let us open our hearts to God and allow the Living, Risen Jesus into our lives and allow him to change and transform us into the women and men he has called us to be as we seek to serve God's kingdom in the local churches of which we are a part.

I want to invite you to join me in prayer:

Risen Lord, use me in your Kingdom. May I, like Ananias and Saul, be prepared to allow the Risen Jesus into my life and to use me for the purposes of building Your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Richard


Rochdale, Bury & North Manchester Missional Partnership Newsletter

Each week Daniel Harris produces an email with information about event and activities in the churches of the Missional Partnership. This also includes details of Zoom events in which you can take part.

Please subscribe to the newsletter and be added to the mailing list by emailing: Daniel Harris at danielharris343@gmail.com or telephone 07887 581253.

Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester URC Missional Partnership

JOIN US IN SHARING EASTER HOPE



Can your church share Easter hope and joy by creating Easter Eggs to hang in your windows at home? Just as the rainbow was a universal sign of unity and hope last year, could we as churches across the partnership offer a sign of our Christian hope in the new life Jesus brings? A simple egg shape, the universal sign of new life, can be coloured, covered in paper or fabric and placed in your window. The addition of a cross reminds us of Jesus's gift to all.

Perhaps you might want to develop the idea with a community Easter Egg Trail or by having a focus at your church building like the trees and lights at Christmas. Templates for eggs to colour in can be found on www.muddychurch.co.uk. Please get in touch with ideas and with photographs to share with one another across our communities.

katehunturc@gmail.com

These are the log in details for the Zoom worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447754110?pwd=RVNDenQzSkE4SmRsUnUxcENwU1k2dz09>

Meeting ID: 844 4775 4110 Passcode: 131071



Easter Worship on Zoom

Maundy Thursday, 1st April, 7.30
Good Friday, 2nd April, 10.30

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447754110?pwd=RVNlbnRlcjE4E45mEslmLnRlc1hldjI3a0Q9>

Meeting ID: 844 4775 4110 Passcode: 131071

Maundy Thursday - worship together over a meal and communion.

Please bring along a picnic meal including: crackers/unleavened bread, Horseradish/lettuce, apple sauce, boiled egg, green herbs/vegetable, salt water, lamb or a veggie alternative, wine/alternative, milky pudding eg yoghurt, snacks – crisps/nuts.

Good Friday – reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross with this prayerful labyrinth.

Please bring along a palm cross/leaves, a small cup of vinegar, chain, small bowl of water and towel, candle, a cross, some rocks/stones, nails, seeds/compost/pots

If you haven't got these things – it doesn't matter - improvise - but please come and share together with Jesus on this journey.

katehunturc@gmail.com

The Crossroad



The road was hard, no turning back
The way ordained by mighty God,
'Your will not mine' was all He said
As humbly down that path He trod.

The crowd that cheered Him once with palms
Began to shout for Him to die,
They chose Barabbas in His stead
And with one voice cried 'Crucify!'

Between two thieves on Calvary's hill
They put to death the Prince of Life,
One cried for help, the other cursed
The first was promised Paradise.

This promise now is for us all
Christ gave His life to set us free,
The cross divides, it always will -
The question is: what side are we?

By Megan Carter





'Thank you' to the Elders & Pastoral Visitors who delivered Mothering Sunday flowers, Palm Crosses & Easter Cards to their people. It was much appreciated.

We give thanks for those who have had successful surgery and pray for their continued recovery. We pray for those who are sick, undergoing treatment, bereaved, lonely and those for whom the pandemic has brought anxiety. We give thanks for all

NHS staff, care givers, teachers and all frontline workers. And we pray for ourselves and our young people, that God will give us strength, peace and patience, as we wait for lockdown to lift.

Church Accounts

The 2020 year-end accounts have been completed by Steven Gooding, and examined by Cameron Baines and Charlie Peacock.



Steven has presented them to Finance Committee and to Elders' Meeting. The Elders accepted them on behalf of the Church meeting because of Covid restrictions.

We thank Steven for all his hard work, and David Watson for his hard work reclaiming the Gift Aid Tax.

Thanks also to Cameron and Charlie for examining the accounts.

Anne Fitton



Cheques for donations, etc. to church should now be made payable to:

BAMFORD CHAPEL AND NORDEN URC

Rochdale, Bury and N Manchester URC Missional Partnership

Food for Thought

presents



THE DARK BEFORE THE DAWN

and other sketches for Holy Week and Easter

On  **YouTube** from Good Friday

Find the link on our
website bcnchurch.org.uk

or



Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

Easter Hope

“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.” These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus’ body. **‘But when they**



looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’ (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus’ death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?*

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: **“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.” (Mark 16:6).**

The women had forgotten Jesus’ promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus’ plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were: **“There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.” (Justin Welby).**



Remembering Sheila James



We were all deeply saddened to learn of the death early in March of Sheila James. For a few weeks she had been first in hospital and then in care at Carders Court.

Sheila, Gordon and Martyn had lived in Bamford for over forty years and been loyal members of Bamford Chapel and Norden URC in all of that time. Sheila had regularly attended our Ladies' Fellowship and Thursday coffee mornings and of course worship on Sundays.

Sadly, Gordon was in North Manchester hospital at the time when Sheila passed away, though he was discharged home a few days later. The pandemic and lockdown make it exceedingly difficult for families to cope with serious illness and bereavement, and all of us will be feeling a deep sense of affection for the family and sharing the sense of frustration faced by Sheila's family and countless others under present conditions.

Walter & Glenda Brisk

Further Memories of Sheila

Sheila has been a special friend for many years. We became neighbours on Camberley Drive in the 1970's and over the next twenty-eight years we had lots of fun times together. Sheila was generous with her time, always full of praise and showed deep affection to all those around her, including our family.

We had lots of interests in common; Lancashire Cricket club, visits to Open Garden Events, Saddleworth Festival, Brass Band concerts and Bamford Chapel. I was working in Saddleworth for much of this time and Sheila would love to hear of the Village events. She would reminisce about living in Delph village, and would talk about collecting Martyn from Delph School and of walks they enjoyed on the moors. They visited Australia and stayed with neighbours from Camberley Drive. Their trip was discussed in tremendous detail and brought great joy to us all.

A particular pleasure for Sheila and, part of the regular coffee chats, was the Thursday tea-time visits by her grandchildren. Planning of the meal and games to play would start on Monday and continue through to Thursday. Both Sheila and Gordon were excited as the visits approached. Friday's chat was of the success of the visit..... and their recovery! Her family was central to her whole life and gave her great joy.



Bamford Chapel provided a strong focus to Sheila's existence and enhanced her faith. As a committed Christian, the Chapel gave her much strength and she participated willingly in the many aspects of chapel life.

Eventually we moved to the Cotswolds to be nearer to our family. Parting was a loss and the tiny ache of regret stayed with us. But there was the post and telephone, and we were not cut off from the sharing of joys and anxieties.

Sheila will remain a true friend always.

Bernice Magson, Past member of Bamford Chapel



Remembering Sally Crompton

Charlie and I first met Sally when she was added to my Luncheon Club transport list and I was so impressed by her courage and determination, despite her limited mobility. Sally was a pleasure to be with and I looked forward to the many conversations we would have about her life and family as we travelled back and forth. She loved meeting people at Luncheon Club and looked forward to the monthly Film Club. She also enjoyed reading the church magazine.

We send our condolences and love to Phil, Janet and all the family. Sally will be sadly missed by so many, especially her friend Jenifer MacKimm.

Linda Peacock

Bible Quiz



The answers are either a book or a character in The Bible:

CRYPTIC OR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

The figures in brackets indicate the number of letters in each answer.

ANSWERS IN MAY ISSUE

1. Item for auction [3]	
2. Scouts charged one shilling for this [3]	
3. Jeans [4]	
4. Meaty, bad actor [3]	
5. French tennis player [4]	
6. Not far off the truth [4]	
7. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 [7]	
8. Hey! He was an obscure fictional character [4]	
9. Old musical cat [11]	
10. Sleepy snake [4]	
11. Did you see him sitting on the seesaw	
12. Miss Everdene [9]	
13. They preside in court [6]	
14. Canute, Harold, John, etc. [5]	
15. Jumble sails [5]	
16. My, my, my [7]	
17. Double magnum [8]	
18. Raised in a fuss [4]	
19. The Pequod's captain [4]	
20. Warden was mixed up [6]	

28 March to 11 April

in the grounds of
Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



All ages welcome

Follow His Footsteps
Easter Trail

Lots of fun activities
for all the family



Pop in any time
and discover the
Easter Story



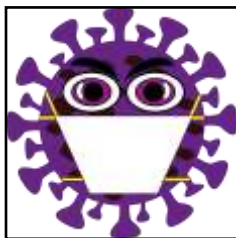
Stay Home – Protect the NHS – Save Lives

Learning the Lingo of Lockdown



After Lesley asked me if I would write my thoughts on the lockdown I noticed several 300-page books were already on sale on the topic and countless documentaries were being shown on TV. So I propose to restrict myself to one aspect which I've found intriguing – the vocabulary and its associated jargon. As someone who experienced the privations and restrictions of the Second World War, followed by an enjoyable 40 year professional career in teaching, much of which was spent preparing young people for exams in English Language and Literature, for the past year I've been trying to keep track of the new language of lockdown.

I'm sure you are fed up with hearing or reading the following words/phrases – virus, bubble, hug, mask, vaccine, jab, roll out, furlough, zoom 5pm briefing et al – and various acronyms – COVID, the R measure, PPE, MHRA, JCVI, BAME, SAGE, NAHT. ONS et al – that seeing them in print might send a few shivers.... I expect, like me, your diaries and calendars for the past twelve month are “full” of blanks!



In addition to learning about various “ologies” from scientific experts and clever researchers, including immunology, virology and (wait for it) pharmaco-epidemiology, we quickly found an epidemic (flu) had become a pandemic (Covid 19). Masks and social distancing – with no hugging – became the order of the day (and remain) and, because of several variants, lateral flow tests were introduced and in future we could be issues with vaccine passports or Covid status certificates.

Teachers were told algorithms were ‘out’, but not logarithms, and grade inflation is likely to be ‘in’. Exceptions to rules were given to key workers (so many) and their children and for shielded individuals. Although super-spreaders existed in care homes and illegal gatherings, fortunately only a few people suffer vaccine hesitancy or refusal and the roll-out has worked very smoothly (locally) through the projected cohorts! Next slide please!

I've tried to avoid referring to 3 other areas of our lives which have developed other 'lingos' – Brexit, social media, climate change. Topics perhaps for someone else to deal with in a future magazine?

Thank you, Lord, for your love and comfort in these strange and difficult times, for the NHS and that we will all remain safe and well. If we continue to follow the 'road map' we will surely arrive at the bright 'light' at the end of the tunnel! Roll on June 21st.



Michael Lucas LL (Licentiate of Linguistics!)
1st March 2021

In Praise of the Afternoon Nap

A short nap in the afternoon improves your memory and keeps your brain more agile.

People who nap tend to speak more fluently, have greater mental agility, and remember things better than those who do not break up their day with sleep.

Even a five-minute nap can offer your brain a chance to down-time and replenish itself, so that it is 'good to go' again.

If you want longer than five minutes, try to stop at 40 minutes, before you enter the deepest stage of sleep. If you do carry on, sleep for two hours, which is a full sleep-cycle.

The study was published in the British Medical Journal.

Editor's comment: Wow! I didn't realise my many "naps" were improving my brain. I won't feel so guilty next time I close my eyes!





Eco Church Award

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC has won a BRONZE ECO CHURCH AWARD in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable).

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Thank you to Rebecca Abbott for all her hard work in producing the evidence to help us reach this award and to all the members of the Eco Church Team.

If you wish to learn more about this project, please look at the website arochoa.org.uk where there is lot of information.

We have another logo to add to our magazine pages too. Here it is at the top of this page.

The Eco Church Team



Eco Tip

Make your Garden Wildlife Friendly

One of the best ways is to add a wildlife pond. It doesn't have to be big or expensive. A mini pot pond made with an upcycled container such as an old baby bath or washing up bowl is just as beneficial and will attract an array of wildlife.

This pot pond cost me less than £20 to create.

Your chosen container should ideally be filled with rain water but tap water will do.



As a minimum you will need to purchase an oxygenator plant such as

Elodea. These are plants that live under the water and are typically found in bunches in a bucket or pool at the garden centre. One bunch for a small pot pond is more than enough. Simply drop the bunch in your pond. No pot or soil required.



Ideally you should also add a marginal plant. These live in shallow water or boggy areas and are a must have for emerging dragonflies and other insects that start life in water. Depending on the depth of your pond, simply put an old brick or upturned plant pot in your pond

to sit the marginal plant on.

Before long this little pond had water beetles, dragonfly nymphs, daphnia and tadpoles.

We've since upgraded to a much larger pond and I've installed a wildlife camera. The camera has proven quite how welcome a pond is to wildlife. A wide variety of birds come to drink and bath along with a squirrel or two. Hedgehogs and foxes have become regular visitors and even a little field mouse comes to visit.



Jess Davis (Eco Church Team)



Congratulations to Mark Watson (Ian and Ruth's middle son)

After years of commitment and hard work Mark has achieved his Queen's Badge, the highest award in the Boys' Brigade.

Congratulations Grandma and Grandad Watson

Best wishes to Steven Gooding and Pamela Harrington who have recently celebrated "big birthdays".

A Lifetime in Banking

I will be leaving work on 31st May 2021. Made redundant after 41 years.



When I joined the Midland Bank in 1979 I felt all bank managers were “old” and this

remained the same until HSBC took over in 1992. After their investment in technology and improving attitudes to “*work life balance*” more women became managers and more young men and women stepped up. It also opened up a world of opportunities to work abroad. One of my colleagues managed to move from Yorkshire to London, Toronto, New York and Hong Kong. Now he too is an “*old man*” in his fifties but his job title begins Global Head of..... I have to be careful here because I worked with Ian Sturrock as a manager of Midland Bank when he was in his fifties and I was in my twenties. Not to mention the late Mr Telford, who I never worked with, but I heard he was a strict boss in the days when you addressed your manager as Mr and never by their first name.

I never intended the job to be permanent, it was a quick choice after spending the summer of 1979 backpacking around the Greek Islands with four young men, one of them my future husband, and deciding against going to university. My dad said I was only going for the craic and he didn’t think that was good enough. As he would be paying for my fun I agreed with him.

I started work at Swan Street, Manchester branch 22 October 1979 as a computer operator as I had keyboard skills. The one computer in the office was the size of a piano. This was a dark and dingy part of Manchester adjacent to the Daily Express buildings on Ancoats. It is now in the trendy Northern Quarter. I was appalled in 2013 when our son said he was going to live in a lovely apartment on Oldham Street!!! I used to fill the franking machine at the GPO on Oldham Street in 1979/80 and the area was a den of iniquity.



The job paid for our holidays and enough to save up for a deposit for a house. We bought a house on Bury Road and got married in 1983. We were too young to qualify for a mortgage with Midland Bank. Norden URC had to apply for a licence to marry people and buy a safe to keep the documents in. I really hadn't anticipated how much effort would be required. We also painted the church. Our honeymoon was in Skiathos, Greece.

We still had fun and lots of parties and nice holidays travelling around the world. I continued to work for Midland Bank in Higher Blackley with Carol Tattersall, and when the branch closed I moved to High Street branch in city centre Manchester.

We had our first child, Rory, in July 1990; the first grandchild for both families. It coincided with my grandfather dying and I wanted to buy his



house which held fond childhood memories for me. It was foolhardy as it only had two bedrooms, and a longer term plan should be for three or four bedrooms. However, I loved the position in Norden village with the cricket field behind it as a play area for our son and the war memorial at the front. The shops and schools are within walking distance. The house

had no central heating, no double glazing, needed a new roof, electrics, plumbing and decoration. So we moved in with my parents “for a few weeks” whilst the renovation was completed.

Three months later in March we won a holiday for a week in Lanzarote. Taking a child abroad for the first time was definitely an eye opener. We returned from holiday on Thursday, moved house Friday to Sunday and I started back to work full time on Monday at a new branch in Rochdale. It was quite a shock to the system. My friend Alison had become registered as a child minder to look after Rory with her two boys, Ben who was around Rory's age and Tom 2 years older. My new colleagues were considerably more amenable to and understanding of parental duties and issues than my previous branch colleagues. I wasn't back for long before I

had another baby, daughter Helena, in 1992 coinciding with HSBC Holdings acquiring Midland Bank.

Returning to work in 1993, I changed to part time working two days per week at Royal Exchange branch in Manchester. I earned just enough to cover childcare costs and transport. In 2000 I returned to working full time at Rochdale branch, my second stint, for 11 years. I needed to improve my income when Allister had a breakdown in 2006 and left work. I passed the necessary exams to achieve a Certificate of Mortgage Advice and Practice and became a Mortgage Manager.

At age 50 I was transferred to Oldham branch and covered Ashton branch as Mortgage and Protection Manager. I took a Sabbatical at age 55 for one year and had a lovely holiday travelling around the world, returning to work in 2017 three days per week at Manchester, St Ann's Square. I moved back to Oldham branch in 2019, where I am ending my days working from home during the Covid19 pandemic.

I am so pleased we didn't have to work at home for my whole career. I am writing down the stories. If I should ever publish this memoir, there will have to be pseudonyms! One person said *"Please can you wait until I am dead?"* when this subject was broached. We used to have so much fun and experienced so many diverse life events.

I have made lifelong friends, many of whom have supported me through the really tough times. I have taught so many people so much over the years. Many have gone on to better things, many moved on to other employment, some have retired, and some of them are no longer with us. I have met such characters both employees and customers. I am so grateful for the experience. I will do my best to keep in touch. It is so much easier these days with technology and different ways of sending messages and speaking to friends via email, telephone, text, WhatsApp, Messenger, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Let's see what the future holds in retirement. We are carers for my parents and occasional dog sitters for our daughter's whippet. I can't wait to visit our son in Canada.

God bless - Linda Lees





TRAIDCRAFT goods ordered from Barbara can be paid for through on-line banking. If you would like account details, please contact Lesley or Peter Sutton.

If you have paid into the account already, please could you let Peter [Treasurer] know how much has been paid.

Thank you Fairtrade supporters.



On pages 20/21 of the March magazine was a wonderful article by? It ended GUESS WHO? Have you guessed? If not here is the name of the author – **MARGARET FRAIN**. Were you right or couldn't you guess?

If you would like to pen an article for the magazine on either a topical theme **OR** something interesting that has happened to you in the past year **OR** your hobby **OR** recommending a good book you have read. There are lots of subjects which could make an article for **YOUR magazine**. If you prefer, send the ideas to me and I will attempt to make an article from them.

Thank you to those of you who have responded so willingly to my request for an article. YOU might be the next person I contact

Lesley Sutton
lesley.sutton@zen.co.uk

GOD and the Arts

The Rev Michael Burgess looks at 'The Supper at Emmaus' by Caravaggio. It now hangs in the National Gallery.

Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

I like the story of the vestry noticeboard of a church in Hampshire: after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion', the choirmaster wrote: "The Crucifixion" – well done, everyone! Later that day, someone had added, 'The Resurrection – well done, God!'



For the two disciples treading the road to Emmaus, there was no such sense of victory and celebration. Their minds and hearts were numb with the sense of loss and failure. They had seen their Lord tried and crucified. As Luke recounts that walk in his Gospel, he shows how it began with absence and loss, but journeyed to presence. It was a road that took the disciples from blindness and despair to sight and insight. They talked over past events with the stranger who joined them, and Luke uses ten different Greek words to describe that conversation – all stages in their understanding. And when they share a meal with the stranger, who becomes the host, taking the bread and giving thanks, then the understanding becomes vision and insight.

That meal is the theme of Caravaggio's painting of 1601, 'The Supper at Emmaus.' Caravaggio had a reputation for being a violent, irrational artist, given to bouts of anger and forced to spend part of his life in exile in Naples and Sicily. His paintings as well as his lifestyle shocked and provoked comment. This portrayal of Jesus with a plump, youthful face

and his depiction of the apostles as ordinary labourers upset the church authorities. But by giving Jesus a beardless face, Caravaggio was trying to show Him in the new likeness of Resurrection – an Easter image of our Lord. The light from that Easter Jesus fills the scene as the two disciples look on, astonished and finally understanding.

When we read the Gospel, we are drawn into the scene. For Caravaggio the movement is the other way: the scene reaches out to us from the canvas. Look at the outstretched hand of Jesus, the elbow of one disciple and the left hand of the other: they are being projected into our world. And that basket of fruit, full of apples and figs and grapes, symbols of the fall and the eucharist: it is about to topple off the table and into our laps. It is an Easter encounter two thousand years ago, reaching out to us through light and shade and the skill of the artist.

In many ways the Gospel story in Luke is of an ordinary encounter between travellers and a stranger. But it is made extraordinary by the transforming power of the risen Lord, talking with the disciples in the open air and then going inside for a meal. However, the doors are not shut to us. For Caravaggio shows how that special moment of encounter for the two disciples can reach out to enter our world. And he shows the hand of the risen Lord beckoning us to step into that Easter world of sacrament and new life.



Plants for your Garden

As it is very unlikely that we will be having a Garden Party again this year, the gardening team will be selling plants on:

**Mondays during JULY
from 10am to 12 noon**

Please put the month in your diary.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Kind regards Mike Davies on behalf of the Gardening Team



Green Pastures

Green Pastures is an organisation set up in 1999 in Southport by Pastor Pete Cunningham. Up until that time, the church had housed homeless people in its building, but Pastor Pete and associates used their own money to buy a property to house homeless people.

Now Green Pastures is a national Christian social enterprise that provides homes for the homeless and those in most need. They currently house and support 1,000 people through a network of 60+ partners. Each partner houses the homeless in properties identified by the partner and purchased by Green Pastures.

There are two main arms of the Green Pastures 'model'.

The Investor

An individual or organisation can invest money to add to the loan stock with which Green Pastures purchases property.

The investor can choose an interest rate of 1-5%. Green Pastures finances property purchases from loan stock (issued by Green Pastures Community Benefit Society), bank lending, mortgages and long-term capital growth (increases in the value of the property).

"Since 2011 individuals and organisations have invested money in Green Pastures for a 5% return. We use this money to give homeless people a roof over their head and through our network of partners we offer on going pastoral support. Your money will make a real difference in the lives of many whilst you achieve an attractive return. Where is your money invested today? Is it having a positive impact on society?"

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 17:19"

"Since 1999 we have been earning our investors more than the banks, whilst helping end homelessness in UK."

The Partner

The partner is usually a church or group of churches. Green Pastures help the church to find and purchase a property (with funds provided by Green Pastures). The partner then contacts the relevant agencies to find people in need of housing.

Green Pastures provides training to help the church to support the tenants. Rent is sourced through local authority housing allowance, and this pays the mortgage and gives a return for the investors. In January 2019 there were 330+ properties, and 1,000 residents.

“Transformation

We are all about the person, loving one person at a time. Through 75+ Christian partner organisations each resident receives a support plan that leads to positive transformation. Residents are encouraged to engage in meaningful activity every week.

Some of the amazing outcomes include restored family relationships, new skills & increased confidence.

Many of our residents have also come into a relationship with Jesus through witnessing first-hand His love.”

I first learnt about Green Pastures, by reading about them in the Big Issue magazine, and then met them at the Christian Resources Exhibition.



I think it is such an exciting idea that by acting in partnership, individuals, organisations and churches can make such a difference and impact lives in such a practical way, also challenging one of the injustices of our society. I wonder if this is something our churches could get involved in, either as investors or partners?

Written by Jane Baines, referenced by quotes from the Green Pastures website, and Premier Christian Radio.



I was watching Raymond Blanc on television recently and he says that celeriac is available all year round. I think it looks a little bit ugly but it smells gorgeous.



Parsnip & Celeriac Bake

Recipe taken from BBC Goodfood
20 minutes preparation, 40 mins cooking

600 grams **Parsnip** (peeled and cubed)
1 kilogram **Celeriac** (peeled and cubed)
25 grams **Butter**
4 tablespoons **Double Cream**
Nutmeg (freshly grated)
1 tablespoon **Sage Leaves** (chopped)
For the topping
50 grams **Fresh Coarse Breadcrumbs**
5 tablespoons **Parmesan** (coarsely grated)
handful **Flaked Almonds**
1 tablespoon **Olive Oil**



Method

STEP 1

- Cook parsnips in a pan of boiling salted water for 2 mins, then tip in the celeriac and boil together for 8 mins.
- Drain well, then mash with butter and cream.
- Season, then add a grating of nutmeg, stir in the sage and spoon into a buttered ovenproof dish.
- Make up to this stage 1 day ahead or freeze for one month.
- Defrost in fridge overnight.

STEP 2

- Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5.
- Mix breadcrumbs, Parmesan, almonds and oil together.
- Season, scatter over the mash, then bake for 35-40 mins from cold, 25-30 mins if not, until topping is crisp and golden.

Linda Lees (Eco Church Team)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in:
Matthew 26:20-25, 31-35, Mark 14:17-21, 27-31
Luke 22:22, 31-34, John 13:21-30, 36-38

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.
One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, had
accepted money from them to betray him.

As Jesus and his disciples ate the
Passover meal, Jesus said



John was sitting
next to Jesus, so
Peter said



So John asked Jesus



It is the person I give
this piece of bread to.



Jesus dipped a piece
of bread in sauce, and
gave it to Judas.



What you are about to do
you must do quickly.



Why has Judas gone out?



They continued
the Passover meal.



Jesus then told the rest of the
disciples



Peter said



Before tomorrow morning
you will have denied you
even know me 3 times.



Even if I have to die, I
will never disown you!



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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Thursday 29th April

Magazine distributed:

Sunday 2nd May

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

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