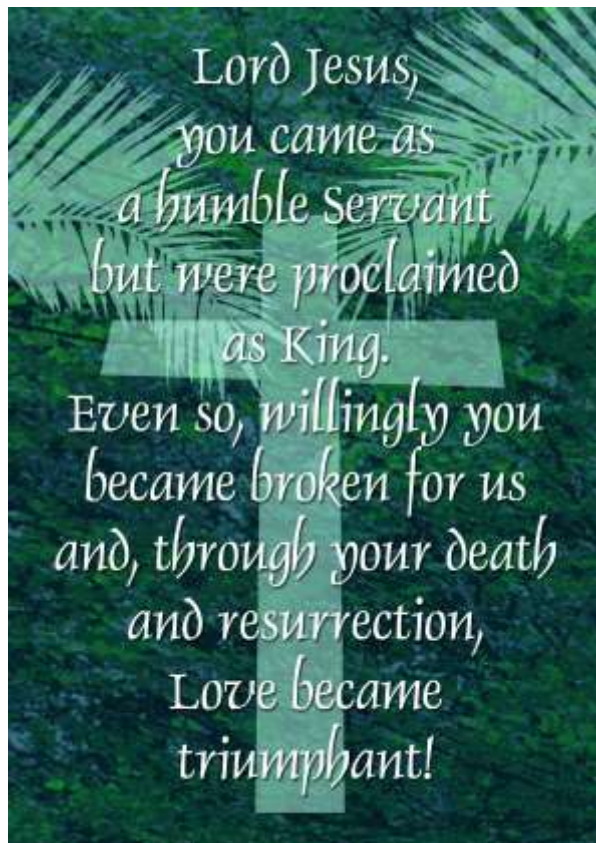




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



**April 2022**

# **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 2022

For those who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship, services are live-streamed on YouTube (Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church) and available on the church website ([www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk))

<b>Friday 1 April</b>	<b>1.30 to 3.30 pm</b>	<b>Bamford &amp; Norden Dementia Friendly Café In Church</b>
<b>Sunday 3 April</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Communion Led by Margaret Ogden</b>
<b>Thursday 7 April</b>	<b>1.00 - 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Ladies Fellowship (see page 18) Speaker Cameron Baines</b>
<b>Palm Sunday 10 April</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood</b>
	<b>2.00 - 4.00 pm</b>	<b>Messy Church (see page 5) And Launch of the Easter Trail 10—24 April</b>
<b>Thursday 14 April</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley</b>
<b>Good Friday 15 April</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Good Friday Worship Led by Kate Hunt</b>
	<b>1.00 pm</b>	<b>Good Friday Walk Led by Andy Platt</b>
	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Good Friday Drama “First Easter” (see page 12)</b>
<b>Easter Sunday 17 April</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Communion &amp; bringing new people into membership Led by Revd Richard Bradley</b>
<b>Sunday 24 April</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship Led by Andy Platt</b>

## Message from the Manse

**“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...” (Matthew 5:44 NRSVA)**



These words are taken from part of ‘The Sermon on the Mount.’ The heading under which this verse and others come is: “Love for Enemies”. It can be hard to pray, in love, for those who have hurt us. It can be hard to pray, in love, for those who hurt those we love. It can be hard to pray, in love, for those who hurt others. I am left challenged by these words as I watch the news, look at the news on the internet to see the horror unfolding in the Ukraine. I feel strongly and pray earnestly for the Ukrainian people who see their country under immense bombardment from the Russian armed forces. I feel strongly and pray earnestly for the Russian people who are being sold a lie by those in authority.

And, in Jesus’ example, we are called to pray, in love, for those who are persecutors – in this situation Mr Putin and his friends.

The great hymn by John Newton also comes to mind:

**Amazing grace – how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.\***

And as we look to Easter I am reminded of the amazing and extravagant grace poured out by Christ on the cross. On the cross he bore the sins of all of humanity past, present and to come.

And I am sure many of us have spent time, and will continue to spend time, praying for the situation in the Ukraine and it is right that we continue to do so. For it is right that we pray that the eyes of Mr Putin and others will be opened to the love and amazing grace that is offered to them by Christ. That they might, like the soldier at the cross, fall down and acknowledge who Jesus is and so receive the forgiveness of God.

So friends, as we approach Easter and recall the celebration of Palm Sunday, the horror of Good Friday and the joy of Resurrection – may we never tire of holding those who are enemies in prayer. Acknowledging that Jesus died for them and for us. Thanks be to God!

*God Bless, Richard.*

**\*verse 1 of the hymn “Amazing Grace” By John Newton (1725 – 1807)  
Complete Mission Praise hymn 31**

## **Dates for Tuesday Homegroup**

Holy Habits: Following Jesus Lent Course  
Tuesday 5th April - as per poster on page 15  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm  
(new course begins - topic to be confirmed)

## **The new Church Directory**

is now available from Anne Fitton, in either the printed version or it can be e-mailed to you.

Please shred your old copy (or pass to Anne for shredding) and delete from your computer if applicable.

## Psalm 46

This is a worrying time for the whole world, and so this month I want to close with some verses from Psalm 46. It reminds us that in times of trouble, each one of us can still look to God for refuge. The earth may be in uproar, but He is in ultimate control.

### Psalm 46

1. God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.
2. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,.
3. Though its waters roar and foam  
And the mountains quake with their surging.
4. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
5. God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.
6. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
He lifts his voice, the earth melts.
7. The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress....
8. He makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth.
9. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
He burns the shields with fire.
10. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."
11. The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

May God bless you and guard you this month, and may this Easter bring you the love, the solace and the grace of Jesus Christ.

*Easter greetings from Anne Coomes and the Parish Pump Team*



# Messy Easter



The poster features a background of rolling brown hills under a purple and yellow sky. In the top left, the text 'Messy Easter' is written in a bubbly, purple and yellow font. To the right, 'ALL ARE WELCOME' is written in red and blue. Below this, the event details are listed: 'On Sunday 10 April 2 – 4 pm' and '@ Bamford Chapel and Norden URC'. On the left, a cartoon character of a boy with glasses and a lab coat is next to a sign that says 'Come to Professor Potty's Lab'. A large, diagonal banner across the middle reads 'Includes the launch of In Search of Easter.....'. To the right of this banner is a sign for the 'Easter Trail 10 – 24 April'. In the foreground, there is a large brown egg and a black silhouette of a person. At the bottom left, a purple box says 'children' and a black box says 'please bring an adult with you'. At the bottom right, there is a blue sign that says 'Menu' with an illustration of a hot dog.

**Messy Easter**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*On Sunday 10 April 2 – 4 pm*

**@ Bamford Chapel  
and Norden URC**

Come to  
**Professor Potty's**  
Lab

Includes the launch of  
**In Search of Easter.....**

**Easter Trail**  
10 – 24 April

**Menu**

**children** please bring an adult with you



## Lunchtime Concerts

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, the philosopher wisely commented “to everything there is a season” and it is with regret that I have to report to the music lovers of Bamford Chapel and many outside visitors, that, after 37 seasons, the Tuesday lunchtime concerts have reached “the end of the line.” My emotions fluctuate between exhilaration at the high quality and wide variety of musical performance, and sadness at the end of an era as a regular part of the life of the church.



**Rochdale Observer**  
**6th October 1984**

### Concert dates

THE first in a series of lunchtime vocal concerts was held at Bamford Chapel on Tuesday. The series is a joint venture between the chapel and St Michael's Church, Bamford.

The concerts are on the first Tuesday of the month, from 12.45 to 1.30 pm.

This week's was by Susan Morris and Anthea Wood, accompanied by pianist Geoffrey Ogden. Next month, Mr Ogden will accompany Rosalind Kay.

Snacks are available before each performance and afterwards tea and coffee are on sale.

When the concerts began in October 1984 on the initiative of Revd Jeff Yates (as a joint venture with St Michael's Church – and first organised by Linda Peacock) – they were presented by local amateurs and young professional students setting out on their musical careers. It gave them valuable performing experience in a good acoustic, and we paid the fees we could afford. As my records of all concerts only go back 20 years I can see we charged £1.50 to listen to music of outstanding quality in 2002, and only £4 for the 4 concerts in our final season.

Over the years the most popular recitals were the visits of two Jazz Trios and the students from Chethams School of Music. Their reputation had spread throughout the district – some coming from Blackpool and Huddersfield – and we had appreciative audiences of 100 on three occasions! Soloists, duos and quartets provided memorable moments and some artistes like Kathryn Rudge (soprano), Laura Jellicoe (a flautist from Norden) and the A4



Brass Quartet had won national awards and provided concerts on BBC Radio 3 and performed in Europe. We were so fortunate to hear them here.

No final farewell would be complete without expressing many thanks to Walter Brisk, who worked long and hard in “finding” over 150 groups and instrumentalists; to the teams of ladies led by Auriel, Margaret and Pamela (and Pat last month) who provided delicious light pre-concert lunches; to Ray, John Lapworth and now David for balancing the books. We lost one season to Covid, but regularly gave between £500 and £1000 to the Church on Gift Day. Thanks also to Liz and Paul for the gift of the piano.

High quality music-making produces many different emotional responses – nostalgic, sad, joyful, uplifting – and many players and listeners in Bamford Chapel over the years will say “Hear! Hear! to that”.

Thank you for all your support. *Mike Lucas*

**P.S. Weekly lunchtime concerts still continue at St Mary Le Baum Church in town every Wednesday. Go and enjoy if you can!**

*Editor - I would like to thank Mike, on behalf of the church, for all his hard work over the years in organising the concerts with Walter. In particular, for carrying on Walter's legacy, and ensuring that the last season's concerts were successful. Linda Peacock*

## **Dates of future Missional Partnership Steering Group meetings**

The Missional Partnership Steering Group meetings  
will be on the following dates:

**Wednesdays @ 7.30pm: 4<sup>th</sup> May; 6<sup>th</sup> July & 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Julie Platt is the Elder representative on the Steering Group, so if you want to add anything to the agenda, please let Julie know and she can pass it on to Sheila Coop the Convenor of the Steering Group.

## An Easter Reflection

“When you die, that’s it. Nothing. Out like a light.” That’s what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn’t really quite so certain. Still, it seemed to make sense.

After all, we know what ‘dead’ means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it’s all too easy to go from alive to dead, we’ve got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task at Easter. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died - but didn’t stay dead - in fact, that He’s alive now. That ‘return journey’ has happened, they say.

That’s the problem about Easter, Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn’t that make sense? And wouldn’t that fill the churches again?

Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn’t be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days.

After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone rolled across the doorway. Yet the following Sunday, the third day after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him.



So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They

couldn't deny His resurrection, because they were absolutely convinced that it had happened. Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn't have been difficult to prove that a dead man had stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn't do it, because it couldn't be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of 'ordinary' men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians, and because in many cases their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus - a relationship that wouldn't make sense if He were dead!

Christians don't put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in someone who is alive and *active in their own lives and in the world*. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter.

**Canon David Winter**



## Supporting Ukraine



Carol Hartley is collecting dried foods for Ukraine - rice, tea, coffee, sugar, pasta, packet soup, pot noodles and dried pulses.



Toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and nappies also needed. Goods can be delivered to Carol's home address or left on the benches outside the creche for her to collect. Thank you.



## In Praise of Technology



Cast your minds back just over two years to early March 2020. Hands up those who had heard of COVID 19..... a few; now, hands up those who had heard of Live Streaming..... no, me neither! At the time I was still mightily impressed that the words for hymns and Bible readings could appear on screens in Church.

When Church was forced to close due to COVID lockdowns, a gigantic effort was made by Richard, Addie and others to pre-record and put out services. Yes, they were a bit clunky at times, and you could definitely see the joins, but what an oasis and beacon of hope they were at the time.

The Elders agreed that this could be a way forward to help Church reach further into the community and to accommodate the hectic schedules of many Church members who don't work Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. The immense workload of pre-recorded services was unsustainable as the array of Church activities reopened, so Live Streaming was proposed.

Adequate, rather than extravagant, equipment has been purchased and teams of volunteers have been formed into a rota. Addie and James have provided some initial instruction, but all of the tech teams, including Addie and James are going through a period of 'on the job' training. I have seen both sides of the transmission process, and admit that I don't fully understand the in-Church processes yet.

The occasional glitches when watching from home are frustrating, but be patient. We will get better. Our equipment is nowhere near the standard of the BBC, ITV or Sky, and how often do we find ourselves struggling to hear dialogue in their output?

There is a saying that 'necessity is the mother of invention' and I suspect we would still be in the discussion stage with Live Streaming and a number of years from making any commitment had COVID 19 and lockdowns not happened. We now don't need to miss a service if we are unavailable to visit Chapel at 10.30am on a Sunday morning.

I know some will be thinking 'I wouldn't have a clue how to view a Service on -line', in which case have a word with Addie, Andy or any of the other 'youngsters' as there is every chance you will already have the right equipment at home.

*David Stephenson, Tech team member (novice).*

*PS. Zoom is a rocket shaped ice lolly? I'm right, aren't I?*

## Attack on Ukraine 'an act of great evil' - statement from Archbishops



The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell have condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine as “an act of great evil.” They are urging Christians to keep praying for Ukraine, for Russia, and for peace.

In a joint statement they said: “The horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil. Placing our trust in Jesus Christ, the author of peace, we pray for an urgent ceasefire and a withdrawal of Russian forces. We call for a public decision to choose the way of peace and an international conference to secure long term agreements for stability and lasting peace.”



# Good Friday Drama

Food for Thought *in association with*



Religious Drama Society  
of Great Britain



presents



## First Easter

by  
Les  
Ellison



**Good Friday,  
15 April 2022  
at 7 pm**

**Bamford Chapel  
and Norden URC  
Norden Road  
Rochdale  
OL11 5QP**

*It's fun, thought-provoking and free!*

## Seasonal Vegetables - April



**Celery**



**New potatoes**



**Pak choi**



**Spinach – embrace the delicate flavours of spring with a simple:**

### **Spinach Soup** (full of iron for those recovering from Covid)

#### **Ingredients**

25g butter

1 bunch spring onions

1 leek (about 120g) sliced

2 small sticks of celery (about 85g) sliced

1 small potato (about 200g) peeled and diced

½ tsp ground black pepper

1 litre stock made with two chicken or vegetable stock cubes

2 x 200 - 235g bags spinach

150g half-fat crème fraîche

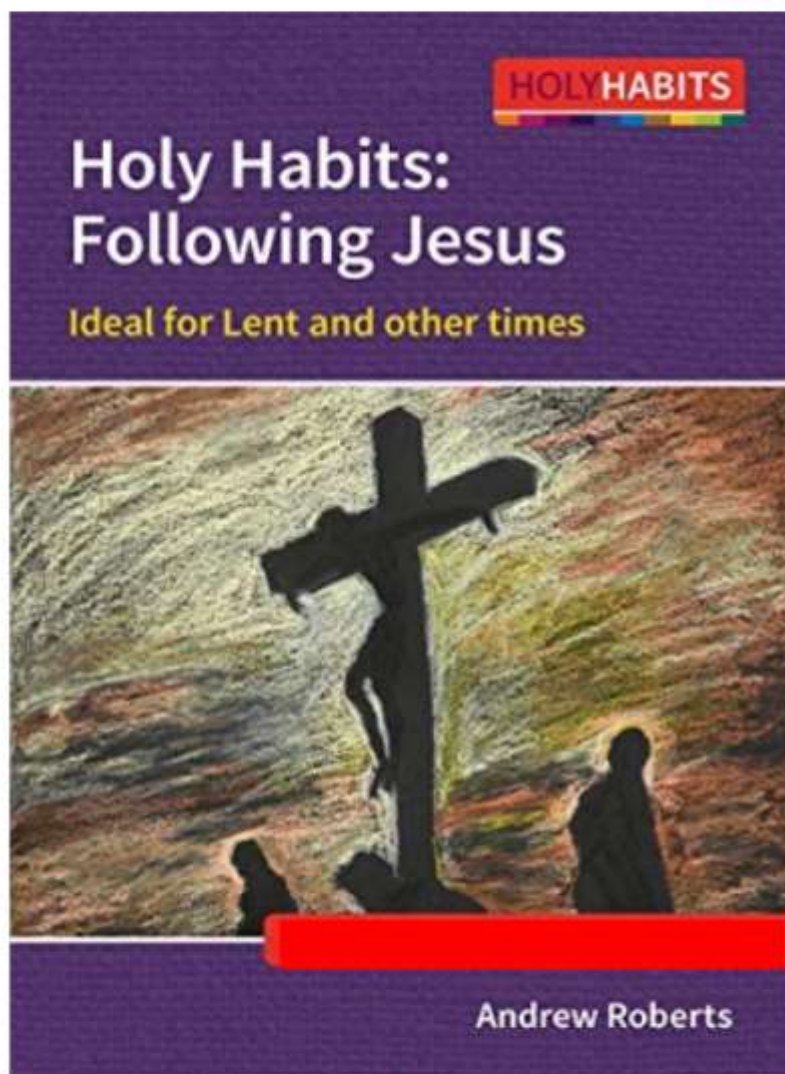
#### **Method**

- Heat the butter in a large saucepan.
- Add spring onions, celery, leek and potato.
- Stir and put on the lid.
- Sweat for 10 minutes stirring a couple of times.
- Pour in the stock and cook for 10-15 minutes until potato is soft.
- Add spinach and cook for a couple of minutes until wilted.
- Use a hand blender to blitz to smooth soup.
- Stir in the crème fraîche.
- Reheat and serve.



# ROCHDALE, BURY AND NORTH MAN

## LENT DISC



For further details please contact:

Revd Daniel Harris [danielharris343@gmail.com](mailto:danielharris343@gmail.com) // 07887 581253

Revd Richard Bradley—[richardbradley@cantab.net](mailto:richardbradley@cantab.net) // 07483 155807

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## **RICHESTER MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

### **DISCUSSIONS**

The discussions will take place over 6 sessions on three different days and times. You are welcome at any of the sessions.

Session number	Tuesdays 7.30pm (Zoom)	Wednesdays 11-12	Thursdays 7pm (Zoom)
1	1st March	2nd March	3rd March
2	8th March	9th March	10th March
3	15th March	16th March	17th March
4	22nd March	23rd March	24th March
5	29th March	30th March	31st March
6	5th April	6th April	7th April

**Zoom Details for the Tuesdays Sessions (@7.30pm) are:**  
**Meeting ID: 847 9885 2008**  
**Passcode: 517449**

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**Tuesdays Sessions, (@ 11am) at Bury URC - meeting in person**

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**Zoom details for the Thursday Sessions (@7pm) are:**  
**Meeting ID 837 5656 3343**  
**Passcode: 238391**

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**Life and Stand URC invite you to attend Lent Reflections on:**  
**8th & 15th March and 5th April at 11am for 20 minutes.**  
**You could then have lunch at their 'Listening Ear Café')**

## Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Developing World Project 2014

You may remember that in 2014 we raised money to help the Tanzanian Development Trust support Rhobi Samwelly and her team to provide a Safe House for young girls and women who were at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) or had been mutilated. Rhobi, during a tour of the UK to share her work, came to speak at Chapel and certainly made a big impact on us all. As in the UK FGM is unlawful in Tanzania.

I was fortunate to travel to Tanzania in 2017 with Barbara and Addie Redmond and my eldest daughter Alison. We travelled to the Maguma region where the Safe House is located and got involved in the lives of the girls and young women; and travelled into the bush to see at first-hand the influence that Rhobi had in the community. Rhobi herself endured FGM as a child and was fortunate to survive. She has committed her life to provide safety, education, and shows great love and empathy to the girls who flee to safety. She continues her work with other professionals to bring perpetrators to justice and also work with communities to influence and change their attitudes to the practice of FGM.

Rhobi is the most inspirational woman I have ever met, she works tirelessly to reduce the incidence of FGM. If you want to learn more about Rhobi's work she has produced a short film with a Canadian Journalist; it is a moving and informative account of the work of "Hope for Girls and Women" in Tanzania. The film is called "In the name of your father" and can be found on YouTube.

Recently Rhobi has won a prestigious award and will be travelling to France for the presentation. See the Facebook post below;

*"Hope for Girls and Women's Founder and Director Rhobi Samwelly has been selected by President Emmanuel Macron, as one of just 15 winners of a Marianne Human Rights Defenders Award. This forms part of the Marianne initiative for Human Rights Defenders, with the international pillar supporting those committed in their countries to defending fundamental rights and civil liberties.*

*Rhobi travelled to Paris in February to collect the prestigious award during a ceremony taking place in March.*



*We are all so incredibly proud of Rhobi! We will be sharing further updates on this exciting news over the next few weeks.*

*Due to the length of time that Rhobi is expected to be in Europe (6 months in total), we are now recruiting for a new role - Coordinator for Hope for Girls and Women. When Rhobi returns from France, she will be more focused on strategic development of Hope and public engagements, so the Co-ordinator role is a permanent placement.*

*Visit [hopeforgirlsandwomen.com](https://hopeforgirlsandwomen.com) for more information about our work in Tanzania."*

As you can see from the post Rhobi will be away for 6 months, hopefully she will spend time in the UK and we will be able to catch up. On her previous visits to the UK she has been involved in supporting UK safeguarding agencies to develop effective services to support girls and women in the UK who are at risk or have endured FGM.



Every year there is a World-Wide Day of zero tolerance of FGM; it is always 6<sup>th</sup> February; please note in your diary and maybe next year the power of our combined prayer will hopefully help to protect those at risk and help perpetrators to understand the harm they do and how they can change.

The United Nations and the World Health Organisation are accelerating World-Wide plans to eradicate FGM by 2030.

***Carole Greaves, Church in the World Group***

***12<sup>th</sup> February 2022.***



## Ladies Fellowship

**Thursday 7th April**  
**(please note the rearranged date)**

**1.00 pm to 3.00 pm**

**“My Life in Shorts”**

**Speaker - Cameron Baines**

**All ladies welcome**

***If you usually come to the Thursday Community Coffee Morning, why not bring your lunch and stay to chat with friends before the meeting.***

## Garden Party – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2pm



I am pleased to say we will be having our Garden Party this year. We have got sponsorship from Reside Estate Agents and we will have Sign Along With Us (finalists in Britain's Got Talent) and Rochdale Pop Choir.

Please see me with any ideas for stalls or entertainments – all offers of help gratefully received. I will be arranging a meeting after church in the next few weeks. **Julie Platt**

## Eco Tips for the Month



## Ink Cartridges

Jill Hamnett has recently sent her unused ink cartridges for recycling (new printer bought) to Rochdale Heartbeat. Apparently there is a collection point at the Co-op Supermarket on Rooley Moor Road.







**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**

**THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022**

**6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film**

**“WITNESS” 15**



**Supported by Rochdale Township**



## Fairtrade Fortnight 21 February - 6 March



During Fairtrade Fortnight we raised £300 for Traidcraft Exchange through the raffle for the fairtrade hamper, cake stall and Big Brew coffee morning. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the breakfast due to the covid outbreak in the church community.



Traidcraft Exchange is a charity which works independently from Traidcraft. They offer training and support to small-scale entrepreneurs such as the Mama Mzungu cooperative in Uganda which works with women with albinism to make hand creams and soaps. We learnt about them at the Fair for Lent zoom talk at Monday Homegroup. You can read more about them in the Traidcraft catalogue. On our African travels, we were often called Mzungu, which means white person.

**Don't forget to buy your Real Easter eggs with an Easter message inside from the Traidcraft stall.** Thank you so much to all who helped and contributed in Fairtrade Fortnight events.



## Remembering Gordon James



Gordon was a true northerner, friendly, warm, caring and inclusive, a wonderful representative of all that is good in the North West of England. His family were the centre of his existence. Together with Sheila, he focused on providing a happy, comfortable home, full of love, initially for Martin and then extended to Gill and later his grandchildren. Often, he reminisced about their home in Delph and Martin's schooldays. As time went on, he spent many hours preparing for the weekly Thursday teatime visit of each of his

grandchildren. He knew that they loved him and Sheila, and it gave them great joy.

Then there was his interest in sport, particularly the cricket season at Lancashire Cricket Club or the football matches of Oldham Latics. He thrived on (or suffered!) the joys and sorrows of each of his favourite teams and remained totally committed.

Gordon was a wonderful friend and we shall miss him dearly. We became neighbours on Camberley Drive in the 1970's and spent almost thirty years, sharing many happy experiences together. We found both Gordon and Sheila amiable and totally inclusive. Regularly we shared coffee mornings or barbecues. His garden was meticulously maintained, admired as one of the best on Camberley Drive and hard for the neighbours to emulate! Together we went on visits to cricket matches, brass band contests, Saddleworth Festival, and walks on the Pennines. Our children were treated to trips to Heywood Park and even Lancashire Cricket Club. These will remain memories for us to treasure.

When we moved to the Cotswolds, our friendship stayed strong. Gordon was always honest and told us of his disappointment that we should leave, but he was tolerant of our decision and telephone calls stayed very frequent. After every cricket match in the UK or overseas, he would telephone and clinically analyse the successes and failures of each match. Even Oldham Latids received a regular report from Gordon. We were not cut off from sharing his joys and anxieties.

Bamford Chapel shaped and sustained his faith. As a committed Christian, he enjoyed many aspects of chapel life. When times became more difficult for him, his love of the church and its community were still a constant presence in his thoughts. Until very recently, and only when he became less mobile, he sent a monthly copy of Bamford Chapel magazine to us. It was followed with a summary of Chapel news (and gossip!) in his next phone call.

Gordon will remain a true friend who we shall love and cherish always.

***Bernice Magson,  
Past member of Bamford Chapel***

## Church Flowers



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

**Carolyn Divers in memory of her Dad, Derek Gooding  
Linda Peacock in memory of her Mam, Lilian Fairfield**

**Martyn & Gillian James in memory of Gordon & Sheila  
Margaret Frain in memory of Geoff & their Wedding Anniversary**

## Sunday Evening Youth Group



During lockdown a lot of our youth groups were forced to close. Also, during that time many of our youth moved on to university, college or work. When lockdown was coming to a close, and we were reviewing our youth activities, we made a decision to drop the age of our Sunday evening youth group to 8, to incorporate a lot of the children at chapel.

We have now been running the group for about 6 months and we have seen a continuous growth in numbers from the 3 we had in our first week. We now have 17 on the register and the last couple of weeks have seen 13 young people using our facilities. The focus of the group is to provide a safe, church based environment to relax and have fun. Each evening we have a sharing time when the young people talk about what they have been doing during the week. This is followed by a prayer and then games and activities. Many of the young people are not from church families and they are bringing friends and siblings.

The group is great fun and really active. They certainly keep Julie and I on our toes.

***Andy and Julie Platt***

## Thank You



Thank you from Karen Nuttall and Barbara Bramwell. They are both very grateful for all the cards, flowers, phone calls and good wishes following Barbara's stay in hospital.

## Donation Thank You

Dear Lesley,

Thank you, and everyone at Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church, so much for joining us for Big Brew 2022! We know how much effort goes into creating a fantastic Big Brew event and we are truly grateful for all your hard work – it really does make a difference.

The fantastic £300.00 raised by your Big Brew will help fight for a fairer world over the coming year – be that campaigning for a new human rights law or running development programmes in Africa and South Asia. We will continue to battle for climate and trade justice; for a world where everyone earns a fair income for their work and can create a strong future for themselves and their family. Everyone who attended your Big Brew has helped make this work possible – so please pass on a massive thank you from all of us here at Traidcraft Exchange.

We hope your Big Brew was a joyous occasion to share with friends and family. Please do send us photos from your event, we love to see everyone having a good time and could even feature you in our Trade Matters magazine! We are committed to building a movement for trade justice and by spreading word of our work in your community, you have taken us a step further.

We'd love you to keep on following our work over the next year so you can see the amazing impact your kindness and generosity will have on communities across the world! It has been a difficult two years for everyone, so as we look forward to a bright Springtime we send you wishes for a happy and prosperous 2022.

*Kind regards,*  
**Karen**

**Karen Smith**  
**Fundraising Administrator**  
**Traidcraft Exchange**



## Dem Bones, Dem Bones....

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

**There are the Wishbones** – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

**There are the Jawbones** – who spend their time talking about the problem.

**There are the Knucklebones** – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

**Finally, there are the Backbones** - who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

**Which type of bone are you?**



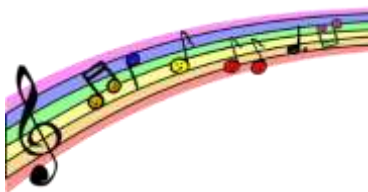
## Share your Thanksgiving

People across the United Reformed Church are being invited to send a postcard to be used as part of **the URCs thanksgiving and celebration service on 1<sup>st</sup> October**. On one side of a blank postcard write your details that you are happy to share (e.g. name, age, location and which URC you're connected to), and on the other side as imaginatively and brightly as possible, share your thanksgiving to God for an aspect of the URC that you want to celebrate (50 years since the union with the Presbyterian Church of England and Congregational Church in England and Wales). The postcards will be used as photos on the screen as the service unfolds.



**Please send to Sam Richards. United Reformed Church House,  
86 Tavistock Place, LONDON. WC1H 9RT by 1<sup>st</sup> August.**

## Remembering Kath Cutteridge



Kath was a lovely Christian lady and member of our Luncheon Club and Dementia Café. She was also a member of Rochdale Street Pastors. Kath will be remembered by many families in Rochdale for inspiring their children to love music and play musical instruments, when she taught at schools including Bamford Primary and St Michael's. She taught my daughter Karen to play recorder and took her to hear Handel's Messiah at the Free Trade Hall when she was nine. It's thanks to Kath that Karen's love of music developed further, and she is now an oboist in Todmorden Orchestra.

Kath was always interested in people and had an amazing memory for families of children she had taught. She enjoyed receiving our church magazine, passing it on to her family. I delivered the magazine for 2 years during the pandemic, enjoying our many conversations on the doorstep while Kath sat in the porch. I'll miss her so much.

*Linda Peacock*

## Two Donkeys



Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."





## Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

<b>Monday:</b>	9.00 am Monday Gang / Garden Gang (who do work in or around the building) 10.30 am Pastoral Meeting 1.30 pm Bridge Club 8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.00 – 11.00 am Toddlers' Group 1.30 – 4.00 pm Indoor Bowls (Upstairs Hall) From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 7.15 pm Singing Group
<b>Wednesday:</b>	12 noon Luncheon Club 6.30 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association
<b>Thursday:</b>	10.30 am Community Coffee Morning
<b>Friday:</b>	6.00 pm onwards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
<b>Sunday:</b>	7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

## Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Home Group</b>	5th & 26th April 7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>Ladies Fellowship</b>	Please note changed date 1.00 - 3.00 pm 7th April (see page 18)
	<b>Heritage Group</b>	1st Monday in the month 7.30 pm In Church
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dementia Friendly Café</b>	1st Friday in the month 1.30 - 3.30 pm 1st April
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Ian Newman</b>	3rd Saturday in the month
	<b>Community Film Club</b>	(see page 20) 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film 16th April

For further information please see website [www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)  
contact Anne Fitton or speak to an Elder.

## BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



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## DATES FOR THE MAY MAGAZINE

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Magazine to be completed by:      Thursday 28th April

Magazine distributed:      Sunday 1st May

## **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN**

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