



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



**December 2021 &
January 2022**

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT



Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

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.



December 2021



Thursday 2 December	10.00 am to noon	Cancer Research Coffee Morning (see page 5)
Friday 3 December	1.30 to 3.30 pm	Bamford & Norden Dementia Friendly Café (see page 12)
Saturday 4 December	10.30 am - 1.00 pm	Christmas Fair (see page 8)
Sunday 5 December	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Ken Greer
Tuesday 7 December	7.00 pm	Choir Rehearsal for the Carol Service Please come and sing. All welcome
Sunday 12 December	10.30 am	Family Worship - Led by Andy Platt Messy Christmas - 2.00 to 4.00 pm
Tuesday 14 December	7.00 pm	Choir Rehearsal for the Carol Service Please come and sing. All welcome
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Fortnightly Home Group On Zoom
Saturday 18 December	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Ian Newman Community Film Club (see page 22)
Sunday 19 December	10.30 am	Family Worship with Nativity Led by Junior Church Junior Church Christmas Party follows after the service
	6.30 pm	Carol Service Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Friday 24 December	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Saturday 25 December	10.00 am	Christmas Day Worship (NB 10.00 am) Led by Revd Daniel Harris
Sunday 26 December	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson

January 2022

For those who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship, services are available on YouTube and on the church website (www.bcnchurch.org.uk)

NB: The annual Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has still to be arranged, possibly for the evening of 16 January 2022 at St Vincent's Roman Catholic Church.

Sunday 2 January	10.30 am	Communion & Elders' Ordination/Induction Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Friday 7 January	1.30 to 3.30 pm	Bamford & Norden Dementia Friendly Café In Church (see page 12)
Sunday 9 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson
Tuesday 11 January	1.00 to 2.00 pm	Lunchtime Concert (lunch from 12.15pm) The Kell Wind Trio (see page 9)
	7.30 to 9.00 pm	Fortnightly Home Group On Zoom
Saturday 15 January	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Ian Newman Community Film Club (see page 22)
Sunday 16 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Margaret Ogden Followed by Church Meeting at 12 noon
Sunday 23 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
Tuesday 25 January	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Fortnightly Home Group On Zoom
Sunday 30 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Kate Hunt
Sunday 6 February	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Kate Hunt

Church Meeting dates for 2022

16 January
20 March
15 May

17 July
25 September
20 November

List of Elders elected to serve 2022/23

Louise Aspinall

Laura Davies

Pamela Harrington

Gillian James

Linda Kerford

Linda Lees

Margaret Ogden

Julie Platt

Andy Platt

Addie Redmond

Patricia Stephenson

Deborah Wood

On behalf of the Church, I thank them for taking on this commitment.
Anne Fitton, Church Secretary

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

We need someone willing to **take over organising the Sunday morning Coffee Rota**. In addition, **more people are needed to help with serving coffee** after the church service.

If you think this is something you could do, **please speak to Anne Fitton**.



Letter from the Other Manse

Let's be honest - sometimes we find God's nature infuriating. Words such as certainty, predictably and control are the watch-words of our culture: we have trouble with uncertainty and disorder in life. And the Bible often describes God in terms of being mysterious and unknowable!

In my past career as a youth worker, I had trained to be a High Ropes instructor - think of Go Ape but with added excitement! One of the activities involved climbing a 30-foot free-standing telegraph pole, standing on the top of the pole (which was about 50cms in diameter), and then leaping off the pole to a trapeze hanging about a meter away. Of course, the young people were securely attached to safety harnesses.



(I am thinking of using such an activity for a forthcoming spiritual retreat. Please email me if you are keen to sign up)

That telegraph pole was made of wood and possessed a degree of movement. This might sound a bit disconcerting if you are standing on top of it. However, I remember being told that this small amount of flexibility meant that it was less likely to break through wear and tear, and through the pressure of other forces such as high winds. If the pole was rigid, it was more likely to break.

I want to suggest that our faith comes into problems when we import those expectations of certainty, predictability and control from our culture into our spiritual lives. I fear that this can lead to a mundane spirituality; but also, it fuels anxiety when we hit the storms of life. And COVID was one pretty big storm.

We are now living in times of extreme uncertainty. Businesses are under pressure, food supplies can be intermittent, the NHS is facing its hardest ever winter, and COVID has not gone away.

The irony is that belief in a mysterious God shouldn't add to our anxiety levels, but can actually bring comfort. It allows flexibility in the storms of life and in the face of the unknown. Furthermore, such a faith can embolden us to take tentative and progressive steps forward in faith, rather than feeling we are putting out fires all of the time.

All this said however, we are not asked to embrace a completely unknowable God. The incarnation of God through Jesus Christ allows us to put a face on God, as it were. As we are reminded: "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." (Col 1.15). And this is the very reason why Christ came into the world.

Keep the Faith
Daniel Harris



**Heywood and
Rochdale
Committee
CRUK**



**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
with mince pies**

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, Norden Road,
ROCHDALE OL11 5PQ

**Thursday 2 December 2021
10.00am to Noon**

Tickets : £3.00
Pay on the door
Raffle

Loving, Almighty God,

Thank you that You came into the darkness of this broken world on that first Christmas night, pouring in your Light, in the person of your Son, Jesus.

Lord, so much of our world seems dark, still. So many dreadful things we can't make sense of: the on-going pandemic, acts of violence and injustice against good people - innocent people, child poverty, employment problems, broken relationships ... so many difficulties. It's easy to feel overwhelmed.



Lord, help us to focus on you this Christmas. Open our eyes to see your bigger, eternal picture. Help us to hear afresh the Good News that nothing and no-one can ever extinguish your Light.

Jesus overcame the troubles of the world by His death and resurrection. Father may we re-connect with you, through Jesus, this Christmas and know the Love, the Joy and the Peace, which are your Christmas gifts to us, as we trust Him.

We pray in Jesus' wonderful name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Amazed!

Editor: Lester Amann finds the Christmas story full of surprises

Some people like surprises. The pleasant ones, anyway!

When we look at the Christmas story, it is full of surprises. Mary didn't expect to be chosen by God to give birth to His Son. Joseph was surprised and shocked that his fiancée was pregnant. The couple thought they would start married life together in Nazareth, but political circumstances forced them to go to Bethlehem and then into Egypt.

The Bethlehem shepherds were surprised and frightened by the heavenly choir and an angel with a marvellous message. Later, they rejoiced at seeing the Saviour – a new born baby in a manger.

The Wise Men were surprised to see a unique star, and so they followed it all the way to Jerusalem. They thought a royal birth would be in a city and in Herod's Palace. They were surprised again, to be redirected to a remote village called Bethlehem. Herod too was surprised that a new king had come, and felt his position and authority were being threatened.



What is most surprising is that God had planned the coming of Jesus thousands of years before it happened. Prophets had told of His coming and their hearers were waiting for Him to appear. But still they were surprised when the Messiah came, for He did not come as a conquering hero but as a suffering Servant.

Jesus came to save people from their sins. He came to restore a broken relationship and bring His people to a glorious Home. The biggest surprise? It was also done for you and me!

Church Flowers



Donations for flowers placed in church
in November were received from :

Elizabeth Greer for birthday
celebrations

Tom Swann in memory of Blanche

**Bamford Chapel and Norden URC
Invite you to their**



CHRISTMAS FAIR

**On Saturday 4th December
Between 10.30am and 1.00pm
ALL WELCOME**

Donations of goods & help on the day urgently needed

Refreshments available

Raffle and Tombola

Games

Wool and Craft Supplies

Gifts

Christmas Cards

White Elephant

Souvenir Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Beakers
filled with sweets

Lunchtime Concert

On Tuesday 9th November our season of Lunchtime Concerts – the first in 20 months – got off to a flying (or rather ‘blowing’) start with an exciting recital by the A4 Brass Quartet. This group, who had played here four years ago and are principals in several UK top brass bands, gave us an eclectic mix of music in performances of amazing virtuosity and musicality. It ranged from ‘The Barber of Seville’ overture to ‘Carnival of Venice’, brilliantly and humorously executed by the euphonium soloist.

As theirs is a unique combination of cornet, tenor horn, baritone and euphonium a number of pieces had been specially written for them and it was very moving to hear ‘A Little Prayer’ by Evelyn Glennie, which they dedicated to Walter, who was much missed. We also welcomed to our audience of 50, two sets of the players’ parents, who had proudly come from Stockport and Huddersfield to give support to their talented sons. Thanks also to Margaret, Pamela and David for their contributions to a successful day.

The remaining concerts, arranged by Walter, are on the following dates:

Tuesday	January 11th	The Kell Wind Trio (flute, clarinet, bassoon)
“	February 8th	Mike Manship Jazz Trio
“	March 8th	Chethams School of Music

Please put these dates in your diaries and continue to give your support!

Mike Lucas

**Bamford Chapel & Norden URC
Presents**

Music at Lunchtime

Tuesday 11th January

The Kell Wind Trio



Lunches served from 12.15pm – Concert begins 1.00pm

Luncheon Club



“On 24th November we were delighted to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Luncheon Club! What an amazing church and community service this has been, and continues to be, having run weekly since then (apart from August holidays and the recent enforced closure due to the Covid pandemic).

Jeff Yates, our church minister at the time, together with Auriel Atkins and Nell Davies, had the vision to start the freshly cooked meal service; and we still have Ray, Auriel’s husband, as a regular member, along with others who were cooks, hostesses and drivers in the early days.

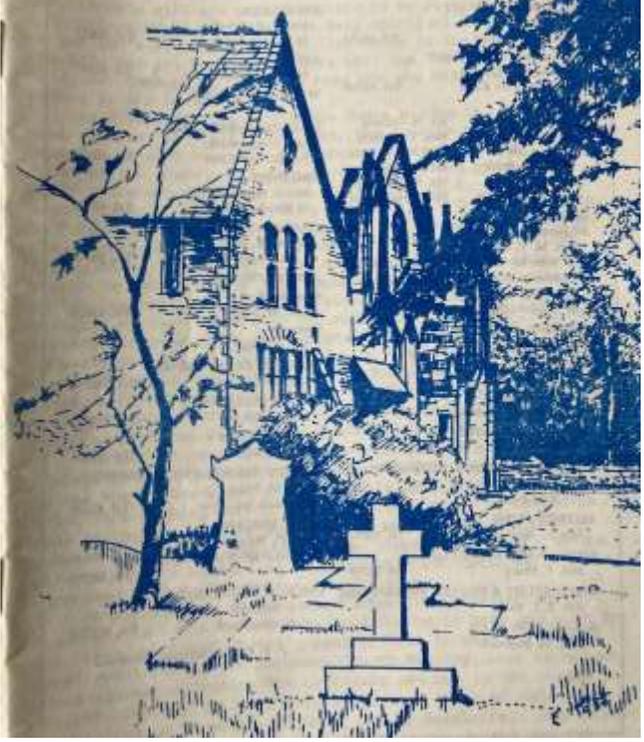
To celebrate the occasion we shared a 40th birthday cake, made by Barbara, one of our present day volunteers. We have been able to locate and reproduce a copy of the report of the first meal served, featured in the church magazine from January 1982.

Well done to all the many, many volunteers who have worked so hard to keep this valuable service going, and long may it continue”.

Pat Stephenson, Coordinator

467
JAN
1982

MCC. H. DAVIES
BAMFORD CHAPEL
(UNITED REFORMED CHURCH)
MAGAZINE



LUNCHEON CLUB The Luncheon Club held its first meeting on Wednesday, November 25th. After lunch many members of the congregation gathered for a brief ceremony conducted by Mr. Yates, who cut a cake to celebrate the opening of the club. We all then enjoyed tea and cake and felt we had made an auspicious start. The members at that first lunch totalled 15 and we now have 20 members.

More than 30 helpers are involved in the running of the club through a complicated system of rotas, with about 10 being involved each week. A job can be found for anyone who wishes to help and we would welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Because of the severe weather, lunch on December 16th was cancelled. We shall meet again on January 6th. N. D.

Bamford & Norden Dementia-Friendly Café Friday 3rd December & 7th January

Bamford & Norden Dementia-Friendly Café

*A new welcoming venue in the area for
people living well with dementia, & their
carers, family & friends.*

WHEN? THE FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH
1.30pm to 3.30pm

WHERE? Bamford Chapel & Norden
United Reformed Church
Norden Road, Rochdale OL11 5PQ

Accessible venue & facilities /ample parking

CONTACT: Lyn Jefferies on 07387 272 288

Fun, friendship, activities, refreshments, support



Ladies Fellowship



Ladies Fellowship finally managed to meet on 11 November at our new time of 1.00 - 3.00 pm, when we made up **36 Christmas Boxes** to be sent to **children in Belarus**. Carol Hartley talked to us about the charity she supports in Belarus, and the awful difficulties the country is experiencing at the

moment. Our much needed boxes were added to a larger consignment and delivered by lorry to Belarus, travelling via Latvia. These boxes will probably be the only Christmas presents these children will receive.

A Christmas meal has been arranged at the Willows in December and our following meeting will be on **13th January at 1.00 - 3.00 pm**.

Linda Peacock



Community Coffee Morning January 6th 2022

On this day in January, two nurses from Highfield Hospital will be attending the coffee morning, offering free mini health checks to anyone interested, and also offering advice based on the results.



MESSY
Christmas

ALL ARE WELCOME

food

crafts

fun!

Celebrating God's gift of Jesus

Sunday 12 December
2 - 4 pm
Bamford Chapel
& Norden URC

Come to
Professor Potty's
Lab

children

please bring an adult with you

For Your Information

As this magazine went to print at the end November, please be aware that some dates and events may be subject to change.

RHS Rochdale in Bloom



Since the first Covid lockdown from March to May 2020, when we were finally allowed to meet outside, the Monday Gang have worked on plans to improve the grounds around chapel. Our efforts were recognised this year after we

entered the RHS and North West in Bloom Your Neighbourhood Award and achieved Level 5 Outstanding.

We were all both amazed and delighted at this recognition. However, it is the fact that people from church and in the community have noticed the difference in the work that has progressed over the last 18 months.

We would also like to thank those who have donated plants to be planted in the grounds. Next Spring and Summer will hopefully provide a floral display to help us achieve another award in Rochdale in Bloom, but the development of the gardens will be of benefit to everyone.

We should also recognise the work put in by those in the Community Service groups who attend on Mondays. The work they have carried out has been of great help to the few in the Monday Gang.

Thank you for your support and if you have a little time to help us we will be happy to see you. We don't ask anyone to do more than they are able, but every little helps.

Linda Kerford

Church in the World Project

The season of giving is upon us. As you start to make your Christmas lists, don't forget to add a gift of money for Medic Malawi. Your money will help to create a staff room, improve the school and community library, fix the rubble flooring, buy new doors for better security and install solar power lighting and rain-water collection. **Our project total so far is £1262 (as of 14/11/21).** With help from Tom, The Director of Chalizya School, here is a day in the life of children at Chalizya School over the Christmas period.

Chalizya School	Monday – Friday			
5.30am-7.30am Travel to School	Walk! In some cases children are walking up to 8km (5 miles) around 2 hours to get to school. Imagine walking from Bamford Chapel to Newbank Garden Centre in Radcliffe. It is now the rainy season so walking to school becomes even more challenging as the paths often become flooded and difficult to navigate.			
7.30am- 12 noon	English 	Maths 	Science 	Geography 
12 noon LUNCH	Nsima and fried vegetables. Nsima is made from maize flower and has the consistency of mashed potato.  			
Sport and Games	Football, Netball and Volleyball. Younger children will play tag and hide and seek. Children in Malawi are generally good at entertaining themselves outside as they don't have access to screens and technology like children in the UK.   			
12.30-2pm/ 3pm	English 	Maths 	Science 	Geography 
Home time 3pm- 5pm	Walk home, another 2- hour walk to get home for some children			

Church in the World Project contd.



Christmas preparations

What are you doing at the moment to prepare for Christmas? Are you rehearsing a Christmas play or nativity at School? Are you busy going to Christmas Fayres and Markets? Are you looking forward to time off at Christmas? Are you making plans for your 2-week school holiday? Will you be making snowmen if it snows?

In Malawi Christmas is quite low key and there is very little build up to Christmas. Most people only really take Christmas Day off; there is no holiday period and children don't get 2 weeks off! The challenges of daily life in Malawi mean that people can't stop to celebrate for long, as there are always things that need doing, such as collecting water or working in the fields, especially during the wet season which is between November and April. During this warm-wet season 95% of the annual precipitation takes place usually in December, January and February, and the daily temperatures can be between 27°C and 35°C. There will be no white Christmas for people in Malawi!

“Malawian children are incredibly friendly and inquisitive and often they just want to hang around you for no particular reason. They will just come and sit with you for ages, they are just so friendly”. (Tom, Director of Chalizya School)

Rebecca Abbott

Postage Stamps for RNIB



Pamela Harrington is collecting used postage stamps for RNIB. Please separate stamps into British and foreign stamps (Channel Islands and Isle of Man count as foreign).

Make sure you leave a centimetre of envelope or packaging around each stamp. Thank you.



The Boys' Brigade Queen's Badge



'A young person wishing to work towards their Queen's Badge must first have completed their President's Badge. The Queen's Badge offers the chance to engage with the local community, take on responsibility, set personal goals, build self-confidence and experience a sense of achievement.'

The above is a quote from the official Boys' Brigade's Queen's Badge website, but it does not tell the full story.

When I was Captain of the 2nd Rochdale Company of the Boys' Brigade, based at Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church, I was privileged to attend several Queen's Badge presentations, but it was a special delight for Margaret and I to attend on 3rd October when our grandson, Mark, received his from the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Manchester, Sharman Birtles. We were also present when elder brother, Luke, received his Queen's Badge a few years ago.

Mark and Luke both started their BB membership in 2nd Rochdale Company, and both attained their Queen's Badge whilst members of 55th Manchester, based at Patricroft URC, one of mum, Ruth's, churches. They took on added responsibility within their BB company, learned new skills and both well exceeded the required minimum of 30 hours of service within the community, Luke at Salford Royal Infirmary and Mark at Fairfield Hospital.

‘A young person wishing to work towards their Queen’s Badge must first have completed their President’s Badge.’ Only a few words but what a story this tells! The years of service, not unusually between 10 and 15 years; and the badges and awards gained during those years that eventually qualify them for President’s Badge, demonstrates that ‘working for Queen’s Badge’ begins when that young person first joins Boys’ Brigade.

None of this is possible without the commitment and dedication of the Officers and Leaders who, throughout those years, lead and teach the young people. We should be grateful to all the leaders of our young peoples’ organisations, uniformed and non-uniformed, who prepare for and lead the weekly sessions that prepare young people for achievements later in life, that bring credit to the recipients, but should also do the same for those who make this possible.

A further quote from the Queen’s Badge website tells us, ***‘In 2019, young people completing their Queen’s Badge contributed over 75,000 hours of volunteering within The Boys’ Brigade and their wider community.’***

Well done and congratulations to Mark and the other 22 young people who received their awards that day, but also to all those who contributed along the way to their achievement.

David Watson



Safeguarding and Health & Safety

Elders need help with dealing with Safeguarding and Health & Safety, as it is too much for one person to deal with. If you feel you could help to form a team of people to help keep everything up to date, please contact Anne Fitton, Church Secretary. **Thank you**

John Hall



A gentleman, church organist, friend to many and FUN.

Wherever I went with Angela and John there was always a “fun” incident. For example, once on a Probus trip to Llandudno, when looking in an estate agent’s window (not intending to move to Wales). John leant on what he thought was a closed door into the shop and in slow motion fell into the shop as the door was ajar! Once our mouths had closed in amazement at what had happened and we had stopped laughing, John was invited into the shop to sit down. ***Does this remind you of a scene in “Only Fools and Horses?”***

Another time when vetting an amateur musical performance out of town which could have been performed at Heywood Amateur Operatic Society, we were sitting watching the performance when a football came crashing through a window narrowly missing us! Also, Angela tells me that once when she and John were on holiday, he sat on a glass table which collapsed under him ending up on the floor! Glass wasn’t broken, the table simply collapsed.

Claim to Fame Many of you may not know that when John retired, he opened a stall on Heywood Market called “Hall’s Smalls.” As he used to say, he had handled most of the underwear of women in Heywood, including Lisa Stansfield’s grandmother and that of a well-known Coronation Street actress who lives in Heywood. You can see, John had a wonderful sense of humour.

John was very much a people person who could hold a conversation with anybody. As a pivotal member of Heywood Amateurs, holding many roles, he would always reach out to make new people welcome. Sixty plus years as a call boy, backstage, front of house, house manager,

treasurer, chairing committee meetings, fundraising, raffle tickets, programmes. He did everything, even those famous little parts that he played – his chance in the spotlight.



As you will read from the above, life was NEVER boring with John; always fun. Oh, how we are going to miss you, John.

All my love, **Margaret [F]**

Thank you

I would like to say a big thank you to all our friends at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC for your kind words, cards, flowers and friendship in memory of John. We were amazed at the number of people who attended the funeral and all the memories of good times we both shared.



A big thank you to Margaret Ogden for all her help and conducting the funeral service. A special thanks to Mike Huck for his very moving tribute,

Barbara Bradbury for playing the piano and to Andrew for sharing loving and funny memories of his Dad.

Andrew, Simon and the whole family have been a great comfort and support at this sad time.

Angela Hall



**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

**6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film
every third Saturday in the month
£3 ADMISSION – Includes Fair Trade Refreshments**

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER
“Another Mother’s Son” 12



SATURDAY 15 JANUARY
“VICTORIA AND ABDUL” PG



Supported by Rochdale Township

Traidcraft Stall



You will have noticed that the stall is up and running once more. The team of two volunteers needed to manage this stall each week after Sunday morning worship is in need of extra helpers. This involves setting up the stall from the stock cupboard in the print room, half an hour before the service, and then serving goods for the same amount of time afterwards, as well as putting supplies back into cupboard.

If you feel this is something you would like to be involved with but need to know more, please have a word with one of the current volunteers, ie **Barbara Redmond, Lesley Sutton****, Elizabeth Hazlehurst, Dot Craig, Eleanor Bevan, Frank Greaves, Rebecca Abbott, Pat Stephenson, Carolyn Divers and Debbie Wood. If your name isn't here and you were on the rota before lockdown and wish to continue, please ring me**

Traidcraft are passionate about trade, social and environmental justice. They are the original fair trade pioneers in the UK and advocate the importance of organic farming sustainability and transparency to the lives of growers and artisans around the world. They are saving vanishing traditional skills from extinction, and celebrating a world of creativity and culture through quality fair trade products offering sustainable fashion, home and garden goods and handmade, ethical, fair trade gifts.





ECO Church Tips



Did you know that you can tell if present wrapping paper is recyclable using the **Scrunch test**?

All you have to do is get a bit of the wrapping paper in question and crumple it into a ball. Now open your hand and see if the paper stays scrunched together or bounces back open. If the paper stays in its ball, it can likely be recycled. If it bounces back open, it can't be recycled.



Make sure you remove tape from the paper beforehand, as well as any ribbons or tags.



Remember that glitter isn't recyclable, so even if your paper scrunches, if it's covered in glitter, it cannot be recycled. The same goes for any super fancy paper that's laminated with plastic or decorated with gold or silver foil.

You can buy **recycled recyclable** wrapping paper from Traidcraft, Oxfam and other on-line sources.

Christmas Cards

It is IMPORTANT to note that any cards containing glitter and ribbons can't be recycled!

What are the solutions?

- **Reduce:** If you are sending cards, avoid buying any cards with glitter, sequins, ribbons or plastic decorations on them. Buy Fairtrade or recycled cards. Reduce the amount of Christmas cards you send this year, or send a communal card and put it on the Church notice board.
- **Reuse:** Reuse the glittery front cover. Use the front cover to make present labels for next year's presents.
- **Recycle:** If you receive cards with glitter, and other additions on, rip off the front throw in general refuse, and recycle the back separately.

Eco Tip - Christmas Leftovers Menu

Main: Bubble & Squeak

Ingredients

- **Leftover cooked veg** – Brussel Sprouts, Carrots and Parsnips. Broccoli and cabbage make good additions too. Peas, sweetcorn and green beans are best left out.
- **Leftover roast and mashed potatoes** (make extra mash as needed)
- **Leftover stuffing** (4-5 stuffing balls minimum)

If you've got any leftover roasted shallots or onions, chop them up small and throw them in too.

Method

Step 1: Chop all the leftover veg, roast potatoes and stuffing into small chunks. I throw all mine in a mixing bowl and attack it with a pair of kitchen scissors! Now grab your masher and break it up even more.

Step 2: Add your mashed potatoes to the bowl and give it a good mix. You're aiming for a ratio of roughly 50% potatoes to 50% veg and stuffing.

Step 3: Add the mix to an oven dish. It will keep in the fridge several days or you can freeze the prepared dish for another time. Must be fully defrosted before cooking.

Cooking: Put couple of knobs of butter on the top before baking in the oven on 180° until the top is golden brown.

Delicious on its own or with leftover cold meat and pickle on the side, or if you're my children, smothered in ketchup!!

A Sweet Treat-leftover Christmas pudding bonbons (inspired by Nigella)

Ingredients:

125g dark chocolate

350 g Leftover Christmas pudding

60ml Sherry

2 tbsp golden syrup

(contd. overleaf)

For decoration: 100g white chocolate, 6 glace cherries

Method:

Step 1: Line a baking sheet that fits in the fridge with baking parchment or cling film

Step 2: Melt the dark chocolate using whichever method you prefer

Step 3: Crumble the cold Christmas pudding into a bowl and add the sherry and syrup and mix together well.

Step 4: Pour in the melted dark chocolate and stir again.

Step 5: Roll bits of the mixture into balls (you might want to wear disposable gloves as it gets sticky!) about the size of a chocolate truffle. You should get about 30. Cover with cling film and pop in the fridge to firm up.

Step 6: melt the white chocolate using whichever method you prefer and leave to cool whilst you snip or chop the cherries into small pieces to look like berries.

Step 7: Drip a little white chocolate on each bonbon and top with a piece of cherry.

Enjoy or give as a gift!

Thank you

I wish to say a huge "thank you" to all my church family for the tremendous support and love I have received during my replacement hip operation and recovery.

I felt the power of everyone's prayers when going in for my op, and have been overwhelmed by the flowers and cards received since. Hopefully by the time this appears in the magazine I will be out and about again, seeing you all and close to resuming more of my church activities.

Pat Stephenson



Play-in-a-Day



A group of 11 youngsters from the Partnership got together one Saturday to make a film. At 10 am we read through the script, at 4 pm we finished the recording. The production was enhanced by the equipment funded by URC Training. Then it was down to the editing – no small job, but completed at last! You can see the resulting film on YouTube by clicking this link or copying it into the YouTube search.

<https://youtu.be/l17yJF87Sfc>



PHEW!!

“The ‘Entire Life of Jesus in 5 Minutes’ is absolutely fantastic – please pass on our congratulations to all the young people who took part”

Philippa Linton

Administrator to Education & Learning The United Reformed Church

Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am Monday Gang / Garden Gang
(who do work in or around the building)
10.00 am Pastoral Meeting
1.30 pm Bridge Club
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
7.15 pm Singing Group
- Wednesday:** 12 noon Luncheon Club
6.30 pm Boys’ Brigade & Girls’ Association
- Thursday:** 10.30 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:** **Home Group** Fortnightly on Zoom
7.30 - 9.00 pm 14th Dec, 11th & 25th Jan
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** 2nd Thursday in the month
1.00 - 3.00 pm 13th January (see page 13)
Heritage Group 1st Monday in the month
7.30 pm In Church
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 3rd Dec & 7th January
(see page 12)
- Saturday:** **Community Film Club** 3rd Saturday in month
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film 18th Dec & 15th Jan
(see page 22)

For further information see website www.bcnchurch.org.uk
contact Anne Fitton or speak to an Elder.

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



EDITOR:

Linda Peacock 01706 522593
lm.peacock@hotmail.co.uk

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Lesley Sutton 01706 638005
suttyjohnny@gmail.com

DATES FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 16th January

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 27th January

Magazine distributed: Sunday 30th January

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

United Reformed Church

Charity - Regd No 1128387

Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs. OL11 5PQ

www.bcnchurch.org.uk

**Ministers of the Rochdale, Bury and
North Manchester Missional Partnership**

Revd Richard Bradley

The Manse, Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL11 5PQ

Telephone: 01706 369622

Work Mobile: 07483 155807

Email: richardbradley@cantab.net

Revd Daniel Harris

Work Mobile: 07887 581253

Email: danielharris343@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Anne Fitton

Telephone: 01706 641403

Email: annefitton@btinternet.com

Wedding Secretary: Julie Platt

Telephone: 01706 360129

Email: julie_platt62@hotmail.co.uk

Lettings Manager: Nicki Houghton

Telephone: 01706 750376

Email: nahoughton@sky.com