



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of  
Songs 2:12

## March 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.

# March 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))

*Please note that from 1 March for 6 weeks the Tuesday night Home Group will join the Missional Partnership Lent Discussions.  
(see page 14/15 for details).  
Other days and times for the Lent Discussions are also available.*

<b>Friday 4 March</b>	<b>1.30 to 3.30 pm</b>	<b>Bamford &amp; Norden Dementia Friendly Café In Church</b>
<b>Saturday 5th March</b>	<b>10.00 to 12.00</b>	<b>Traidcraft Exchange Big Breakfast (see page 6)</b>
<b>Sunday 6 March</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Daniel Harris</b>
	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>World Day of Prayer 2022 A service for everyone (see page 2)</b>
<b>Tuesday 8 March</b>	<b>1.00 to 2.00 pm</b>	<b>Lunchtime Concert (lunch from 12.15 pm) Chethams School of Music (see page 9)</b>
<b>Thursday 10 March</b>	<b>1.00 to 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Ladies Fellowship In Primary Room (see page 12)</b>
<b>Sunday 13 March</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship Led by Revd Daniel Harris</b>
<b>Sunday 20 March</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship Led by Revd Daniel Harris</b>
	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Church Meeting</b>
<b>Sunday 27 March</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Mothers' Day - Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood</b>



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022**



A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE

SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH

3.00pm at

BAMFORD CHAPEL and

NORDEN U.R.C.

Prepared by women from ENGLAND, WALES and N.I.

**I know the plans I have for you**

365 days a year · Informed Prayer · Prayerful Action · 24-7 · Prayer Movement · Ecumenical · Global · Women-led · 365 days a year · Informed Prayer · 24-7 · Prayerful Action · Prayer Movement · Ecumenical · Global · Women-led · 365 days a year · Women-led · Prayerful Action  
[www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 233242

God doesn't just call people who are qualified; he calls people who are willing and then qualifies them.

## Letter from the Other Manse

Back in those days, before the internet emerged from the undergrowth, I was visiting a friend in Peckham. I had just bought a second hand car and had filled in the paperwork for the DVLA. Transferring ownership of a vehicle took a few weeks, so when I was driving it the vehicle was still linked to the previous owner.

I picked up my friend, Dave, from Peckham and we headed into central London. Dave was a good friend of Nigerian descent and we had worked together in a homeless hostel run by Steve Chalk's Oasis Trust. I was looking forward to a good night out with him.



It wasn't long before we were pulled over by the Police. I wasn't too bothered with this and spent ten minutes explaining to the Police that I'd just bought the vehicle. I assumed that they thought my vehicle was stolen, and two young male drivers often attracted the attention of the Police. However, Dave was looking very nervous.

One of the Police officers engaged with Dave in conversation.

Even back then, when I was less aware of racism, I saw the difference in how the Police spoke to the two of us. Dave also had previous experience of racism from the Police which contributed to his nervousness. The Police assumed that both of us were guilty of some misdemeanour, but Dave endured the brunt of the suspicion. We were back on our way within fifteen minutes, but this brief incident had ruined what should have been a nice evening out.

There are numerous times where I have felt myself on the margins. I thank God for the friendships I have formed with people who live at the sharp end of life and experience a different lived reality than my own. The Bible teaches us to ***“speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable” (Prov 31.8)***. This is at the very heart of the Gospel.

***Keep the faith, Daniel Harris***

# When the Angel came to Mary

Editor: Norma J Murrain, Jewellery Designer, shares her insights into the Annunciation. She can be found at [norma@silverfishjewellery.co.uk](mailto:norma@silverfishjewellery.co.uk)



***'And behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a son and call his name JESUS...' Luke 1:31***

On 25<sup>th</sup> March Christians around the world will celebrate the Annunciation, when the angel came to Mary to tell her that she would bear a child.

At this time of year, I often find myself wondering how I would react if the angel of the Lord came to me with such amazing news. There are important lessons to be learned from Mary's ready response.

Here are the seven lessons I learn from Mary, based on the story re-told by Luke 1.

## **1. Trust**

I am struck by how much Mary trusted God, in my experience, a woman's trust is built up only through intimate relationships and strong and open communication over a long period of time. Mary therefore had an intimate relationship with God which must have been built up over the years prior to the visitation by the angel Gabriel. She will have known the Jewish scriptures and prophecies of the coming Messiah, which enabled her to recognise God's will and plan in the voice of the angel. (Luke 1:26-38)

## **2. Willingness**

She was willing to surrender her life to God's will, she never asked why, she only asked how; the 'how' question itself shows a willingness to obey. "How will this be", Mary said, "since I am a virgin." (Luke 1:34)

### 3. Obedience

She was obedient "I am the Lord's servant" she said. (Luke 1:38)

### 4. Surrender

Surrender goes a step further than obedience when she said, "let it be to me according to your Word." She shows a complete yielding and openness to God. (Luke 1:34)

### 5. Faith

Mary's faith was built on trust; her unwavering belief was evident to her cousin Elizabeth who when she saw Mary exclaimed: "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished." (Luke 1:45)

### 6. Action and Testimony

It's one thing to say we believe or even to say yes to God but it's a whole different ball game to get up, get ready and go and tell somebody about His love. Mary did just that; "At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth." (Luke 1:39-40)

### 7. Worship

Finally, Mary worshiped, her poetic song of love shows her genuine love and reverence for God: (Luke 1:46)

**So, I ask myself this question, what has God conceived in me lately?**

*May our prayer be to ask Him to fill us afresh, to breathe life into the dreams and visions He have given us, and grant us to conceive of His will in our lives. May His plans and purpose grow in our hearts, and may we be ready to 'push forward' and birth those plans at the right time to the glory of name and for the building of His kingdom. Amen.*



**To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.  
(Martin Luther)**

*Fancy a bacon butty?*



# Traidcraft Exchange Big Breakfast

£3.50

*Saturday  
5 March  
10.00 – 12.00*

**FAIRTRADE  
FORTNIGHT**



**21 February to 6 March**

**CHOOSE THE WORLD  
YOU WANT**



## When the Angel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son

*(Annunciation, 25 March)*



Almighty, loving Father,

Thank you for the month of March,  
the month of Spring, the month  
when hopes are high and new  
things seem possible, when even  
coming through the pandemic  
seems possible.

This month we remember the day that the angel told  
Mary that she would bear your Son – how could that have  
seemed possible to her?

Help us to trust you as she did. Whatever we may face,  
help us to have peace and confidence, knowing, as she  
did, that nothing is impossible with you.

In Jesus' name. Amen

*By Daphne Kitching*



**If Christians praised God more, the world would  
doubt Him less. - C E Jefferson**

## Church Flowers



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

Dot Craig in memory of Peter  
Charlie & Linda Peacock in memory of Charlie's Mam  
John Lapworth in memory of Patricia  
Joyce Harding remembering her Wedding Anniversary  
and in memory of her Mother

## Thank You



Sincere thanks from the Beaumont Family for the many cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and words of comfort from our friends at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC at the sudden loss of our Grandson, Oliver Smith.

The support helped us to get through a very sad and difficult time.

Oliver was a lovely young man of 28 years and will be missed by us all.

**Malcolm & Irene Beaumont**

## Lunchtime Concerts

A larger audience of 42 music lovers were entertained by the February concert given by our regular Jazz Trio – Mike Manship (piccolo, flute, clarinet, saxophone) Gary (electric bass) and Derek (guitar and banjo). The last time they played for us was in October 2016 when 71 Jazz enthusiasts came.

The trio dazzled us with performances of Trad and Dixie favourites, including such classics as Benny Goodman's 'Stomping in Samoa', Gershwin's 'I Got Rhythm', 'Tea for Two', and 'Tico Tico'. In the fine acoustics of the Chapel they, as well as we, really enjoyed showing off their wide-ranging talents and were enthusiastically applauded.

The final concert of the season on Tuesday 8 March will be given by the young students of Chetham's School of Music and they are always special. I hope church members and our regulars will turn out in good numbers. We had audiences of 90 for their concerts in 2004 and 2006.

***This could well be the last of our monthly concerts after 35 years of some wonderful music making. If there is someone who has the musical contacts and the enthusiasm to organise next season, please let me know.***

Thanks go to Margaret, Pamela and Liz for preparing refreshments, and to Keith Wiener for finance in February.

**Mike Lucas**



**Bamford Chapel & Norden URC  
Presents**

**Music at Lunchtime**

**Tuesday 8th March**

**Students from  
Chetham's School of Music**

**Lunches served from 12.15pm - Concert begins 1.00pm**

# The Story of the Yellow Ribbons

*Editor: Dr Herbert McGonigle, former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, continues his series of true-life stories.*

We are loved with everlasting love! One of the greatest and most comforting doctrines taught in the Bible is the love of God for His people. In the Law and in the Prophets; in the poetical and historical books; in Gospels and Letters – all agree to tell us what God said to His people through Jeremiah. ***“I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).***

It was that love that moved the Father to send His Son into the world (John 3:16). Paul writes glowingly of ***“that great love with which He loved us” (Ephesians 2:4).*** John emphasises the same great truth in a magnificent creed of just three words: ***‘God is love’ (1 John 4:8).*** Quite simply there is nothing in all creation more reassuring, more comforting, more encouraging, more uplifting than to know that God loves us. And we can go further and put it in personal terms as Paul did. ***‘He loved me and gave Himself for me’ (Galations 2:21).***

How can we illustrate the illimitable love of God? One such illustration was told by the Rev John Wilbur Chapman of Indiana, an ordained Presbyterian minister who in 1893 went into full-time evangelistic ministry.

One evening Chapman was travelling by train in a rural part of Kansas. The other passenger in the carriage was a young man who kept glancing out the window and then covering his face with his hands. Chapman asked if he could help.

The young man confessed that many years before he had run away from home and ‘sown his wild oats.’ He had not written to his parents at all, until a few weeks before, telling them that he would be travelling on this train. At a certain point it passed very close to his home. In the letter he had begged his parents’ forgiveness and asked if they wanted him to come home. If so, they were to tie a yellow ribbon on the old apple tree that grew right beside the railway lines.

“Sir,” he said to Chapman, “the train will soon pass my home but I’m afraid to look. If there’s a yellow ribbon on the tree, I’ll get off at the next station and go home. If there’s no ribbon, I’ll just travel on. But I’m too afraid to look out for the tree.” So Chapman offered to look for him.



“You can open your eyes now,” he said a few minutes later. The returning prodigal looked at Chapman with tears and quivering lips. ‘All is well,’ said the evangelist. ‘There is a yellow ribbon on the apple tree. In fact, there’s far more than one. Every branch is hanging with yellow ribbons, scores and scores of them. Your parents love you that much, they want you to come home.’”

If parents can love their wayward children like that, how much greater is the love of God! Truly, we are loved with everlasting love.



## Ladies Fellowship



**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**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.***

**It was: 40 years ago, on 3rd March 1982 that the Barbican Centre in London was opened. It is the largest arts and conference venue in Europe.**

**25 years ago, on 6th March 1997 Queen Elizabeth launched the official Royal website: [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)**

**Also 25 years ago, on 21st March 1997 Rev W V Awdry, British clergyman and children's writer, died. Best known as the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine.**

# Veg Pesto Pasta

## Ingredients

209g tenderstem broccoli/sprouting broccoli

170g green beans

100g frozen peas

2 leeks

400g Tagliatelle pasta

Green pesto (a jar of ready made is just fine). Alternatively you can make your own with the following ingredients combined together in a food processor:

50g pine nuts (cook until golden before combining with remaining ingredients)

80g basil

50g Parmesan

150ml olive oil

2 garlic cloves



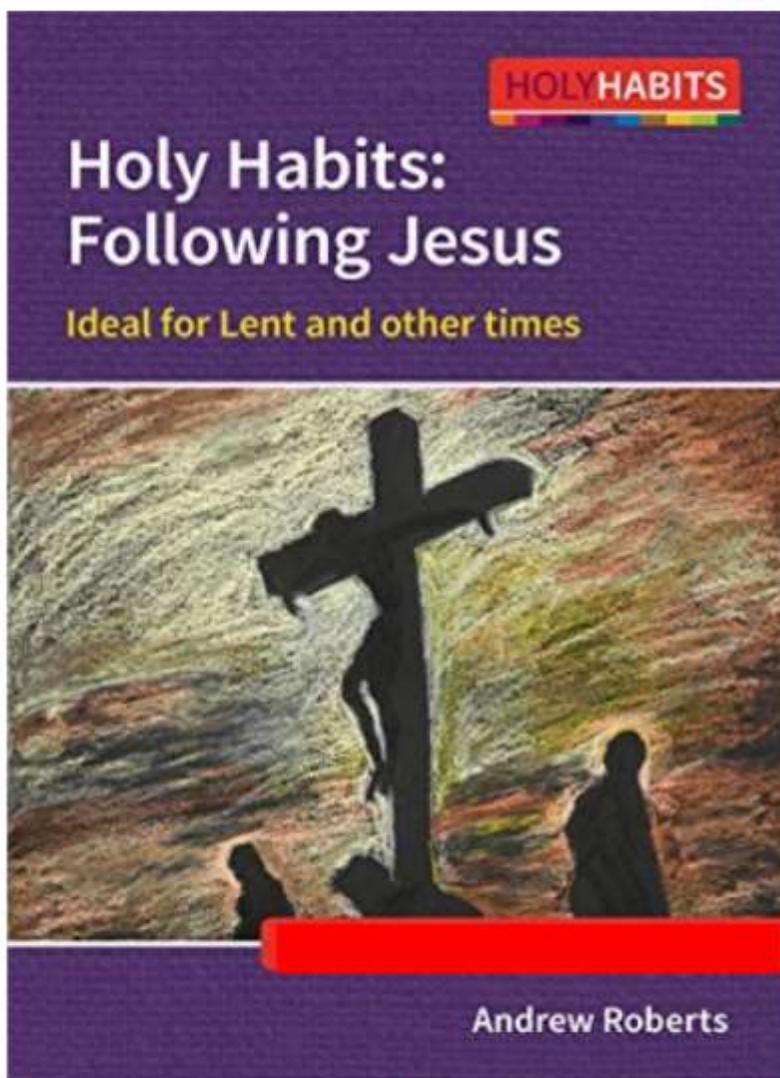
## Method

Cook your Tagliatelle according to the packet instructions. If your pan is big enough add your trimmed broccoli and green beans to the pan 7 minutes before the end of the cooking time and peas 5 minutes later. Alternatively cook the broccoli and green beans in a separate pan of boiling water for 7 minutes adding the peas 2 minutes before the end.

While your Tagliatelle and veg are cooking, heat a pan with a little oil and add your finely chopped leek and cook until softened. Add pesto to the pan along with a little cooking water from the Tagliatelle or veg to get the consistency of the pesto from a paste to more of a sauce. Approximately 1 cup should do. Add the drained cooked veg and Tagliatelle to the same pan and combine until the pasta and veg are coated with the pesto sauce.

**Serve and enjoy. Jess**

**ROCHDALE, BURY AND NORTH MAN**  
**LENT DISC**



For further details please contact:

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

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# **MANCHESTER 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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**Wednesdays 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 Wednesdays: 8th & 15th March and 5th April at 11am for 20 minutes. You could then have lunch at their 'Listening Ear Café')**

## Medic Malawi News Update

On behalf of everyone at Medic Malawi I wanted to write to thank you for all that you have done over the last few months to support our work, and to raise funds to support Chalizya School and the wider community in Chimbiya Village.

**£5392 is an incredible amount of money and will have a positive impact on the lives of so many people for years to come.**

Over the last few months, we have been busy both in the UK and in Malawi with our work to support the community in Chimbiya village, so we wanted to share with you a couple of the highlights of what we have been doing and what's been happening in Chimbiya.

### **The Community in Action:**



***Figure 1: Sapulain Chitonde Leading the community in planting trees.***

Making the most of the raining season, the community led by Sapulain Chitonde have been working hard to plant trees around the village. Deforestation is a significant problem in Malawi and the community is doing

what it can to ensure trees are planted to protect the environment and the much-needed soil for planting crops.

### Advocating for Educational Opportunities:



Justin Chazama grew up in Chimbiya village and attended Chalizya Primary School, a school we have worked with for many years. Justin is a bright and able student and completed primary school with good grades and was selected to go to one of the top National Secondary Schools where he completed his MSCE qualifications with high enough grades to go on to university to study medicine.

*Figure 2: Justin Chazama*

Sadly, while at secondary school Justin's Mum died whilst giving birth to Rejoice, Justin's younger sister. Following his mother's death the family was unable to support Justin financially, so he returned to the village having been unable to attend university to study Medicine.

During our Community consultation project in April last year we met Justin and heard his story. Since then, our team in Malawi have been working with Justin and advocating on his behalf to find opportunities to enable him to return to university and complete his education, and ultimately to support his family through obtaining a job in a healthcare facility in Malawi.

This work culminated in Justin having the opportunity to sit his entrance exams for a diploma in nursing in January. His results are due in March and, if all has gone well, he will be able to start his course in April.

### Cyclone Ana:

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, large areas of southern Malawi were devastated by Cyclone Ana. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, we launched an urgent appeal to help in the aftermath of the Cyclone. The efforts in the southern region of Malawi have now moved from rescue and recovery to relief and rebuilding.

The Department of Disaster Management Affairs have reported that over **870,000** people have been affected with more than **22,000** households displaced. **122** emergency camps have been set up across the affected regions to provide emergency shelter for those impacted.

We have received a fantastic response to our appeals for help and have so far raised over £7200 towards our target of £8000. Our team on the ground in Malawi has been working hard with our partners to identify where our support is most needed.

Our Country Coordinator has been visiting some of the temporary camps and working with the Christian Health Association of Malawi to ensure our support reaches the most vulnerable at this difficult time.



Once again, thank you for all you have done raising money to support our work. Our team will be visiting Chalizya School in the next few weeks to continue the work of delivering the Library, School Office and Solar Power projects.

***Figure 3 Cyclone Ana caused extensive damage across southern Malawi many of the people effected are now living in temporary camps***

Thank you for your support.

***Tom Hunt, Medic Malawi Director***

# A Friendly Reminder



Products made from recycled paper are eco-friendly. Products are not the only thing which can be environmentally friendly. Activities can also be friendly to the environment, as in the case of things like carpooling, gardening, composting, and recycling. You can start to become eco-friendly by becoming aware of the how your choices affect the environment. There are three basic stages to becoming eco-friendly, they are – learning to consume items that cause minimal environmental harm, discovering the extent of your carbon footprint and acting to lessen that footprint on the environment.



Being eco-friendly or environmentally friendly is becoming more and more important. You can see the term used in everything from job ads to even listings of houses and homes. So, what is being eco-friendly?

The simplest way to define what being eco friendly means is to say that it is the act of living with intent. The intent is focused on not creating harm to the environment, and to prevent as much harm from occurring to the environment through your interactions with it. It goes beyond an idea and extends to actual practices that influence how communities, businesses and individuals conduct themselves. Being eco-friendly goes far beyond just turning off lights when you leave the room or separating your garbage for recycling – it is about changing the purpose of how you live.

## God in the Arts

*Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, which hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.*

### Enter my rest

At this time of the year, we are planning our gardens for the Spring and Summer ahead. The book of Genesis opens with a glorious account of God's work of creation, and it also tells us that God rested on the seventh day.

We all need to find that balance of work and rest, of activity and slowing down in our lives. And we are not always good at that because our world seems to be in the fast lane. We rush everywhere, we rush out of habit, and we rush because everyone around us is rushing.



This month's painting, 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, a 19<sup>th</sup> century French artist, portrays two peasants at work. They don't seem to be rushing, but Millet has certainly portrayed the hard toil of their work, digging in the earth from sunrise to sunset to eke out a living. Millet was the son of a farm labourer and many of his paintings convey the severe realism of peasant life. We can sympathise with the couple working on the land, and our eyes focus on them as they dominate the canvas.

But in the corner under the shade of a tree there is a donkey and a sleeping child. The donkey knows only too well the reality of toil and work, but here he is resting, enjoying the peace and the shade. Andy Merrifield, an American philosopher, has just published an account of his travels with a donkey, Gribouille. As they journey together, the donkey teaches him the value of patience, the importance of going slowly through the world, and the preciousness of tender friendship between humans and animals. They are all caught up in the little donkey in this painting.

The man and woman in the foreground may reflect our own lives with the duties, the expectations and the demands called of us at work. Take time to focus on the donkey, enjoying his rest. Take time this Spring and Summer to find relaxation and recreation. The world may carry on spinning around us, but we can stand apart, and enter into the rest that God enjoyed after His work of creation.



## Smile as you eat your broccoli!

If you look happy while you are eating vegetables, you will help your children consume up to double the amount that they would have eaten otherwise.

A study by the College of Health and Life Sciences at Aston University has found that adults who have a positive expression on their faces while they eat can convey 'food enjoyment' to their children, who are then more willing to try the vegetables for themselves.



BCN Eco Group  
Save the planet!



## Eco Pledges for 2022

Re-use and recycle more

Try to buy unpackaged fruit and veg

Use recycled printer paper

Put the heating down one degree

Try to walk more instead of using the car - To walk to local shops



Bring medication blister packs to Church for recycling

Take plastic film etc, to local Co-op or Tesco supermarket for recycling

Switch tap off when brushing my teeth

Switch my bedroom light off

Register for 'Waste savers' on Facebook to give away re-useable items and get other things for own use

Stop using cotton buds and pads for make-up and use washable cloths,

Shop in charity shops more instead of buying new things

Send more things to charity shops

Use more local shops i.e. local produce

Plant a tree



# The Bridge Club

Monday February 7<sup>th</sup> was a red-letter day in the life of the Chapel Bridge Club. The current membership (12 of the 16) celebrated our Silver Anniversary in the time-honoured fashion with a cake (see below) with the number 25 prominently displayed – we couldn't manage 25 candles! The previous Monday we had welcomed two new members and we would be pleased to have other Contract Bridge Players join us. It is a very friendly afternoon of social fellowship from 1.30 – 3.45pm, as well as keeping the 'grey matter' stretched when the hands of cards are played. Sometimes the bidding reminds us of 'Bridge over Troubled Waters'? Thanks to Peter Harrington for continuing as Club Treasurer.

**Mike Lucas**

**5th Anniversary  
Celebration**

**4 February  
2002**



**25th  
Anniversary  
Celebration**

**7 February  
2002**



**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**

**THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB**

**SATURDAY 19 March 2022**

**6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film**

**“THE KEEPER” PG**



**Supported by Rochdale Township**

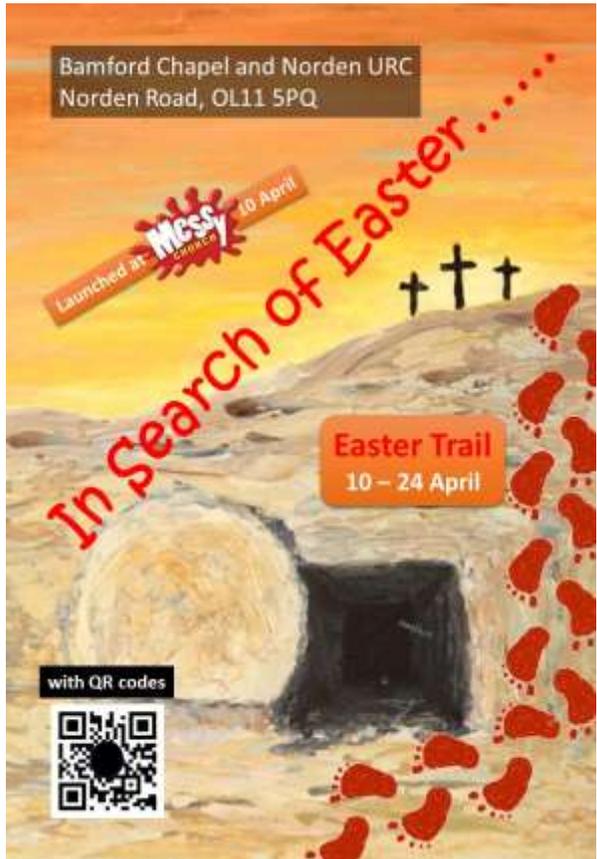
# Easter Trail

Many of you will remember our very successful Easter Trail in 2021 - this was our attempt at having Messy Church during Covid! Many families enjoyed walking around the church grounds and following the trail, which finished at the specially constructed 'tomb' in the front garden. Families took home some Easter goodies and an Easter Comic.

The Christmas Trail during the Christmas holiday was planned with the help of Scripture Union resources, which uses posters with QR codes to give access to a short video, each giving a clue. At the end the Christmas (or Easter) story is revealed!

This Easter, we plan to incorporate the Scripture Union resources into another Easter trail, with a mixture of activities as well as the QR code trail. This will be launched at our Easter Messy Church on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

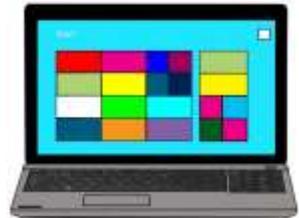
Remember - Messy Church is not just for kids! So get ready to explore this Easter, and tell your friends and neighbours.



# The Computer Swallowed Grandad!

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: "One thing that never seems to improve as we get older is the deepening mystery of the power that computers have over us, and the utter confusion that results when they do something that we don't expect!"

The computer swallowed Grandad!  
Yes! Honestly! It's true!  
He pressed Control and Enter -  
And disappeared from view!



It devoured him completely  
The thought just makes me squirm!  
He must have caught a virus  
Or been swallowed by a worm!



I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even searched the internet  
But nothing did I find.

I went to Mr Google  
My searches to refine  
His reply was in the negative,  
'Nothing found' was Google's line.

So, if inside your inbox  
My Grandad you should see -  
Please copy, scan, and paste him  
And send him back to me!



*By Nigel Beeton*

## 27 March: Mothering Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.



In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother’s Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

**It was:  
500 years ago, from 9th to 17th March 1522  
that Martin Luther preached his Invocavit  
Sermons. He urged citizens to adhere to the  
core Christian values and trust in God, rather  
than using violence to bring about change.**

## Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 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
- 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** Usually Fortnightly on Zoom,  
7.30 - 9.00 pm but joining weekly with the Lent  
discussions in March (page 14)
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** 2nd Thursday in the month  
1.00 - 3.00 pm 10th March (see page 12)  
**Heritage Group** 1st Monday in the month  
7.30 pm In Church
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month  
1.30 - 3.30 pm 4th March & 1st April
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month  
**Community Film Club** (see page 24)  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film 19th March

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 APRIL MAGAZINE

**Articles to be handed in by:**      Sunday 20th March

**Magazine to be completed by:**      Thursday 31st March

**Magazine distributed:**      Sunday 3rd April

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