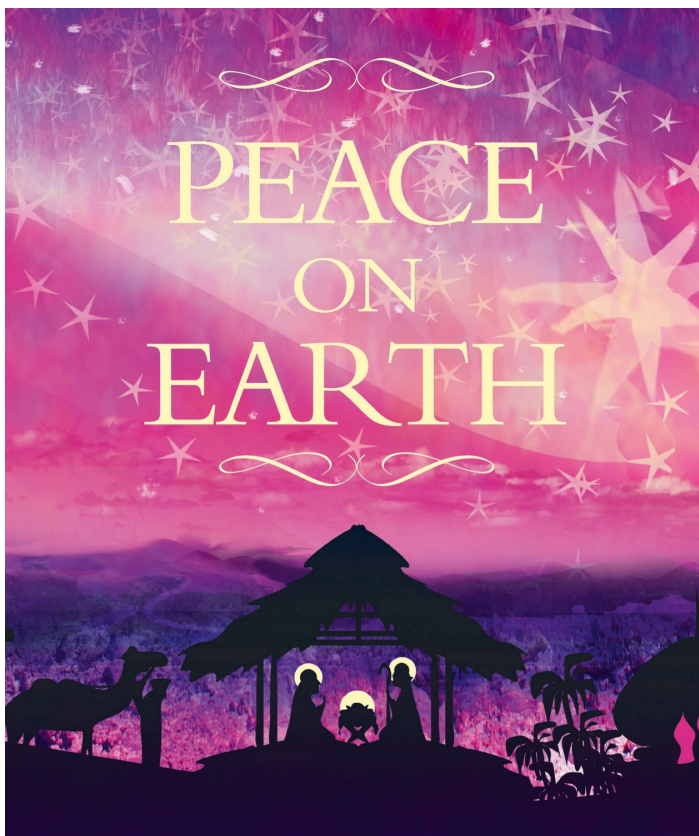




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



**December 2018 &  
January 2019**

# **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 2018 & January 2019

<b>Sunday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Communion</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Meeting 2 of 2 for Church Membership</b>
	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Messy Church</b> (see page 5)
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Evening Worship with Communion</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
<b>Monday</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Focus on Prayer Meeting</b> (In the God Squad Room)
<b>Thursday</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Elders' Meeting</b>
<b>Friday</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>1.30 pm - 3.30 pm</b>	<b>Bamford &amp; Norden Dementia Friendly Café Launch (see page 9)</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>10.00 am - 2.00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Fair</b> (see page 10)
<b>Sunday</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Joanne Ackroyd
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service</b> Led by Cath Atkinson
<b>Tuesday</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Tuesday Home Group</b> (Christmas Social in the Manse)
<b>Thursday</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Prayer Walk</b> (Meeting in Church)
<b>Saturday</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Churches Together Carol Singing at Cutgate Precinct (followed by refreshments at Cutgate Baptist Church)</b>

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	<b>3.30 pm</b>	<b>Christingle Service</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley & Cath Atkinson (followed by refreshments)
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Food for Thought Christmas Drama</b> (followed by refreshments) (see page 16)
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Focus on Prayer Meeting</b> (In the God Squad Room)
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship &amp; Nativity Service</b> Led by Junior Church
	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Church Family Tea</b> (see page 14)
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b> (followed by refreshments) Led by Revd Richard Bradley & the Choir
<b>Christmas Eve Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>11.30 pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion Service</b> Led by Cath Atkinson
<b>Christmas Day Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Morning Service</b> Led by Cath Atkinson
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
		<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>1.30 pm - 3.30 pm</b>	<b>Bamford &amp; Norden Dementia Friendly Café</b>
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Communion &amp; Induction of the Elders</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley & Cath Atkinson
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Evening Worship</b> Led by Cath Atkinson
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Focus on Prayer Meeting</b> (In the God Squad Room)

Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	7.30 pm	Churches Together in North West Rochdale Meeting
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (venue to be confirmed—ask Richard)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting ( changed to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday for this month only)
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.30 pm	<b>Evening Worship</b> Led by Dot Craig
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	Prayer Walk (Meeting in Church)
	7.30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Margaret Ogden
	12 noon	<b>Church Meeting</b>
	To be confirmed	<b>Service at St Clement's Church</b> for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	7.30 pm	Focus on Prayer Meeting (In the God Squad Room)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	8.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (venue to be confirmed)
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.30 pm	<b>Evening Worship with Communion</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	7.30 pm	Focus on Prayer Meeting (In the God Squad Room)
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Bamford & Norden Dementia Friendly Café

## Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am Monday Maintenance Gang  
(who do work in or around the building)  
10.00 am Pastoral Meeting  
1.30 pm Bridge Club  
7.30 pm Focus on Prayer (God Squad Room)  
8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group
- Tuesday:** 9.00 – 11.00 am Toddlers' Group  
1.30 – 4.00 pm Indoor Bowls (Upstairs Hall)  
From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies, Guides
- Wednesday:** 12 noon Luncheon Club  
6.30 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association  
7.30 pm Home Group 'Exploring the Bible'
- Thursday:** 10.00 am Community Coffee Morning
- Friday:** 6.00 pm onwards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

## Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- |                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| <b>Tuesday:</b>  | <b>Stillness &amp; Sharing</b><br>2.15 pm<br><b>Home Group</b><br>8.00 pm     | <b>4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup> December</b><br><b>8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> in the Lounge<br><b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b> Christmas Social<br><b>8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b> (venue tbc) |
| <b>Thursday:</b> | <b>Ladies Fellowship</b><br>7.45 pm<br><b>Heritage Group</b><br>7.00 pm       | <b>10<sup>th</sup> January</b><br>Desert Island Discs (page 13)<br><b>17<sup>th</sup> January</b><br><b>(No meeting in December)</b><br>(3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month)  |
| <b>Saturday:</b> | <b>Ian Newman Community Film Club</b><br>6.30 pm refreshments<br>7.00 pm film | <b>19<sup>th</sup> January</b> (see page 24)<br>Admission £3.00  |

Further information on the **weekly notice sheet** or visit the website at [www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk) or speak to an Elder.





**ALL ARE WELCOME**



*On Sunday*  
 2 December 2 – 4 pm  
 @ Bamford Chapel  
 and Norden URC





children please bring an adult with you




Come to  
**Professor Potty's**  
 Lab



## Heritage Group

The Heritage Group is looking for volunteers with good eyes and infinite patience to transcribe letters, books etc.; the more the merrier as this is a mammoth job, not least because the content is often fascinating. Archives can be taken home but please sign them out so we know where everything is. If you'd like to know more please speak to me.

*Thank you, Louise Aspinall*

## Message from the Manse

Recently we purchased an “Alexa” – if you don’t know what one of those is, it is a small speaker that connects to the internet that you can speak to and ask things of! So we can play music through ours as we have a music subscription.



You can ask it to play certain radio stations.... you can ask Alexa to tell you jokes! At the moment the most frequently asked question, from Evie, is: “Alexa - how many days are there until Christmas?” And instantly, and correctly, Alexa tells Evie. Each time I overhear this I think – “How many? Surely there are more than that!”

As I write this article there are 43 days until Christmas Day; arguably one of the most special days in the Christian calendar. I often think as I approach Christmas that I need to be better prepared, as I always seem to end up being really busy leading up to Christmas with all the additional meetings or events that take place at this time of year.



Sometimes we get so busy with the preparations that we fail to fully grasp the enormity of the season. God in His grace and His selflessness gave His own Son to be the Saviour of the world. I hope and pray that we will all allow ourselves the time to reflect on the greatest gift ever given – Jesus Christ. Who was given (by God) and who gave himself some 33 years later on the cross of Calvary.

My hope and prayer for the New Year is that the gift of Jesus, that we celebrate at Christmas, will not be packed away with all



the decorations until Christmas 2019, or won't be thrown away with the wrapping paper and envelopes. But that Christ will remain not just at the centre of Christmas but at the centre of our lives throughout the whole year.

As we begin a New Year let us commit ourselves afresh to the greatest gift ever given – Jesus Christ!

We hope you all have a great Christmas and a very happy New Year!



***God Bless, Richard, Ruth, Evan, Amelia and Evie***

## **2019 – 2020 Elders**

As was announced on Sunday 11th November, the new Elders for the 2019 – 2020 two-year period are: **Louise Aspinall, Dot Craig, Laura Davies, Carolyn Divers, Carole Greaves, Pamela Harrington, Elizabeth Hazlehurst, Gillian James, Julie Platt, Addie Redmond, Simon Wareing, David Watson, Anne Fitton (Secretary) and Steven Gooding (Treasurer)**. Please pray for the 12 newly elected Elders who will work with Steven, Anne and I to lead the church into and through the next two years.

The Induction service for the Elders will be on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January at the monthly Communion Service when we will celebrate the New Year as well as praying for the 14 Elders to serve the Church.

***Thanks and God Bless, Richard***

# Christmas 2018

## Angels

### Time for Action 2

Knitters have been doing a great job; we now have approximately 200 angels to deliver with Christmas greetings to our community. The greeting we are sending reads:

**Faith makes all things possible,  
Hope make all things work,  
Love makes all things beautiful,  
May you have all three this Christmas.**

**Greetings from Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church.**



The angels and greetings will be delivered to homes or businesses as advised by the Prayer Walkers during the 3rd and 4th week of December. You may wish to help with the deliveries.

### Action 3

Groups within our Church Community will be encouraged to decorate a tree or tableau to depict the story of a carol which will include our theme angels. The designs will be used to decorate the sanctuary during Advent.



We pray you will all get behind our Christmas event when we will open the Church for Community viewing. Help will be needed

over the open days so volunteers also needed for this role.

Thank you knitters for a job well done.... keep knitting.

***Blessings, Gillian, Dot and Margaret***

## **Bamford & Norden Dementia-Friendly Café**

*A NEW welcoming venue for people  
living well with dementia, and their  
carers, family & friends.*

**WHEN?**      **The first Friday in the month**  
**1.30pm to 3.30pm**  
**LAUNCH DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018**  
Next meeting Friday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2019

**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*



## Church Flowers



*Donations for flowers placed in church  
in November were received from:  
Ron Ford in memory of Sgt H J Ford, RAF  
Debbie Wood in memory of my Dad  
Debbie Wood in memory of Mick  
Barbara Redmond in memory of my Mum*

*And in December from:*

*Doreen Watts in memory of Cyril  
Sybil England  
Olivia Greenhalgh in memory of her Mum, Rene Flood  
Margaret Eccles for her 59th Wedding Anniversary*

*Christmas is about making room, finding room to put the tree up,  
room for that second serving of pudding, room in the stable that  
night and room in my heart to welcome Jesus. Rev. Kate Bottley*

**DON'T FORGET - next week**

**Saturday 8th December is our  
Christmas Fair  
from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm**



**It's not too late to volunteer or to  
donate, but most importantly come along and bring your  
family, friends and neighbours.**

**See you there!**

**Thank you, Gillian and Julie**



*Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: It is often forgotten that Advent is supposed to be a season of fast and reflection before Christmas just as Lent is before Easter. In reality we eat more than usual, we rush about more than usual, and we are in danger of praying less than usual. I think that, to discover the true ethos of Advent requires real discipline...*

## *Advent*

*Advent's upon us once more!  
A season to fast, and adore  
Our Jesus who came  
Salvation to gain  
And worship, as shepherds before.*

*But is it a season of hush?  
Or Christmas commercialised mush?  
We miss Advent's joys  
Buying trinkets and toys  
For Advent's the season of rush!*

*Nor is it a season of fast  
As it was in the days now long past;  
We don't get much thinner  
With pre-Christmas dinner  
Or parties with edibles vast!*

*But we who love Jesus decide  
To set Christmas hurry aside  
And spend time each day  
To read and to pray  
And discover the true Adventide!*



*by Nigel Beeton*



## Christmas Boxes for Vulnerable Teenage Girls in Belarus [living in a Safe Haven]

*Teams4U operate around the world changing the lives of deprived children through supporting education, healthcare, providing aid and delivering shoeboxes. Teams4U is a charity set up by Dave Cooke, who has nearly 30 years' experience working within international relief and development. In 2006 Dave founded Teams4U to enable many others to be able to have the opportunity and experience of working with and supporting vulnerable children and their families. "I set up Teams4U because I wanted to give people that wanted to help the opportunity to give more than just money". Teams4U is the legacy from The Christmas Shoebox Appeal which started 28 years ago in Dave Cooke's house. This idea has been adopted by multiple charities delivering shoeboxes all over the world.*

**Belarus, officially the Republic of Belarus, formerly known by its Russian name Byelorussia or Belorussia, is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe bordered by Russia to the northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest.**

**Its capital and most populous city is Minsk.**

**Over 40% of its 207,600 square kilometres is forested. Its major economic sectors are service industries and manufacturing.**

A busy evening in November at Ladies Fellowship when thirty two of us filled 59 shoe boxes with such things as *hair bobbles, soap, toothpaste, combs, sweets, pens, pencils*. The boxes were decorated with Christmas wrapping paper, some already pre-wrapped and others done on the evening by a group of talented ladies. This activity has been undertaken by Ladies Fellowship for many years. Originally for orphaned babies [Abandoned Babies Home] then later men and women [Babuska and Dedushka] and now teenage girls living in a safe haven supported by **Teams4U**. The coffee mornings held regularly at Trinity Methodist Church, Heywood support the Abandoned Babies Home in Borosov where babies are given up for adoption by their mothers or abandoned; there are currently 72 waiting for adoption.

**The Belarus Fund** [supporting the victims of Chernobyl in Belarus] has been working to support families, orphans and people with learning difficulties in Belarus, as a registered charity (Reg. No. 1116762) since 2006, and for several years before that. Alan, Carol and Janet, three friends who lost their hearts to the people of Belarus set up The Belarus Fund.



Since the charity became registered, it has seen it grow in numbers and to date, the charity has several volunteers who make annual trips to Belarus including Carol.

On 26th April 1986, Belarus was devastated by over 70% of the fallout from the Chernobyl disaster. Radiation contaminated the land, the water & compromised the health of the nation. Children were born with limbs missing and birth defects. Of those that were born healthy, a percentage went on to develop cancers. Belarus is the country most polluted by radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The country is affected by people having poor immune systems, dying younger and being weakened by this catastrophe. Research shows that the radiation will continue to affect the people of Belarus, the land that they farm, the water that they drink, for at least 200 years.



*Thank you to Carol Hartley once again for her sterling work in supporting vulnerable people living 1,485 miles away!! Thanks also to everyone who donated items for this year's boxes. If you wish to know more about the work Carol is involved with, I know she would be pleased to talk to you.*

**The next Ladies Fellowship meeting which will be on 10<sup>th</sup> January is entitled "Desert Island Discs".**

**Lesley Sutton**



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

Good  
News!

After a disturbing few weeks when Traidcraft said they would probably have to cease trading at the end of 2018 there has been good news!

Traidcraft has found a way of continuing their mission involving a slimmed down marketing model with a simpler range of products and a very reduced number of staff. Loss making lines will be phased out, core grocery lines will be established and fewer craft lines will be carried.

Please support our Fair trade stall and enable Traidcraft to transform the world through trade. We stock lovely Christmas cards, Advent calendars, Christmas food and look out for beautiful crafts in the catalogues and at the Christmas Fair.

## Family Christmas Tea

**Sunday 23 December at 4 o'clock**

**Followed by the Carol Service**

Just a reminder that everyone, young and old, is invited to our Family Christmas Tea. For a nominal donation you will receive a festive afternoon tea and good fellowship before our Carol Service.

A list will be put up soon so that we can get a rough idea of numbers to cater for, so please come and join us.



## The Story of Mince Pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.



Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the unthinkable

## God's Special Gift

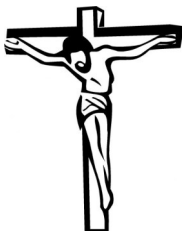
For those of us about to spend Christmas with a new child or grandchild, we will know how very special the arrival of a baby is! This Christmas we celebrate again God's gift of Jesus: *'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!'* (2 Corinthians 9:15). What can we say about this baby?



### ***He is God Himself:***

The unthinkable has happened: God has become a human being! The eternal, creator God enters the world of time and space, both fully human and fully divine. This divine baby can bring hope to our messy world, because He has fully become part of it. He doesn't stand apart, but demonstrates a commitment to be with us and on our side in the midst of sin and suffering.

### ***He is human like us:***



Jesus fully engaged with the jungle of human experience. By His cross and resurrection, He can release us from the power of wrong, hurt and shame to secure for us a life of love, peace and forgiveness. Remember, the crib and cross are made of the same wood!

### ***He is one with us:***

In the coming of Jesus, God doesn't draw us simply into a cosmic event, but into a relationship. Just as you or I can hold and hug our children and grandchildren, so we have a God who wants to be intimately involved in our lives. As Emmanuel, *'God is with us'* (Matt 1:23).

***Therefore, the question is: Are we with Him? Are we ready to make space for Him at the centre of our Christmas Celebrations this year?***

***'At Christmas time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.'*** (J John).

Food for Thought  
*presents*

The humans have  
forgotten Jesus!



**On Sunday 16 December 2018**  
6.30 pm

At Bamford Chapel and Norden URC  
Norden Road OL11 5PQ

*The story of Christmas, of God coming among us, says 'love you' in a language we can all understand. In the days after Christmas, through hospitality given and received, we also say 'I love you' to family, friends, and those who would otherwise be alone. **The Rt. Revd. Libby Lane, Bishop of Stockport.***





Many thanks to all who contributed to the Harvest collection in aid of the Foodbanks in Heywood and Rochdale. We have been delighted once again by the response of schools and churches to the needs of those in

our town who suffer the indignity of poverty. It is a humbling experience to hear their stories and to witness what many see as their shame at having to ask for food, so it is good that so many people, many of them Christians, have come forward to volunteer to meet that need. However it is only because of the generosity of those who donate regularly that this service is maintained, so we ask you to be mindful of the need when you do your weekly shopping. We gave out more food in September than was donated and our stocks were running low so the Harvest Festivals were a much needed top up which will keep us going. Thank you again.

Margaret and Iain Wight spent four months in prayerful contemplation before they decided to go forward in faith to set up the Foodbank in Rochdale and on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our sixth anniversary with an Afternoon Tea at the Town Hall. God has truly blessed their vision.



### **Margaret Ogden**



**Thank You!**

*I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, and the Pastoral Group for the card and flowers, following the death of my mother-in-law in October; it was really appreciated.*

*Many thanks*

*Nicki Houghton and family*

## Midday Concerts



On 13<sup>th</sup> November, we welcomed a young cellist new to us, accompanied by pianist Jonathan Ellis, whom we have known for many years. Isabel Williamson is manifestly a superb cellist, already very experienced, both in chamber music groups and in orchestras. Her programme consisted of two cello sonatas, one by Prokofiev and one by Beethoven. Her playing was technically excellent and her interpretations were immensely sincere. Our audience showed the not uncommon uncertainty about applauding between movements – some did and others did not – but the artistes received the bursts of applause most graciously! From the BBC Proms and outwards, friendly controversy persists about what is the right thing to do. Certainly Isabel and Jonathan were untroubled, and even once or twice acknowledged graciously the applause when it might not have been expected! The encore was a lovely performance of “The Swan” by Saint Saens , most warmly received by the audience.

Our next concert on 11<sup>th</sup> December will bring to us Kay Jordan (soprano) and Tim Walker (pianoforte). We already have received their programme, which contains appropriate music for winter and for Christmas. I have not heard this duo before, but they come to us highly commended. Kay will be our only vocalist this season.

The concert on 8<sup>th</sup> January features Anna Rosa Mari (flute) and Eira Lynne Jones (harp). This is a return visit for these artistes. Come if you can – it really does warm the hearts of all our artistes when a good-sized audience turns up to hear them.



In November, Pamela Harrington got the catering arrangements spot on. All were fed, and little was taken away! Our thanks to Pamela and Margaret Ogden and their teams cannot be expressed too highly. Not only do they provide and serve lovely food – they actually enable us to make a generous donation every year on Gift Day.

**Walter Brisk**

# Bamford Chapel & Norden URC

Presents

**Music at Lunchtime**

**1.00 - 2.00 pm**

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

**Kay Jordan (Soprano) &  
Tim Walker (Pianoforte)**



**8<sup>th</sup> January**

**Anna Rosa Mari (Flute) &  
Eira Lynne Jones (Harp)**

**Concert Admission £4.00**

**Lunch items priced individually  
are available from 12.15 pm**

## The Man who Married Mary



The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance. After all, we praise God for Jesus with our

familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. Twelve years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, and find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55)

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of



the countryside which was evident in our Lord's teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as 'Father', knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of His father's responsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God's will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God's call to us and please Him in all that we do.

**By Lester Amann**

 *We would like to say a big thank you to all at Chapel for your care and concern over the past month. It is much appreciated. We spent much of the month in Middlesbrough supporting Charlie's sister's family while she was seriously ill in hospital and subsequently passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> November. It was a great comfort to know we were kept in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you too for your cards and messages of condolence and for the beautiful flowers. It is at times like this that we realise just how much we were being upheld by the Bamford and Norden family.*

*Thank you, Charlie and Linda Peacock*





Lifechanging Education for All in Rural Nepal

Shree Gyanjyoti School, Pokharathok, Nepal

9 Brockenhurst Drive  
Harwood  
Bolton  
BL2 4HP

Tel: 01204 548919  
Email: hawksworth578@btinternet.com

21 October 2018

Mrs Carole Greaves and  
Mr & Mrs Addie Redmond  
c/o Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church  
Norden Road  
Bamford  
Rochdale  
OL11 5PQ

Dear Carole, Barbara and Addie

Now that the **building** of the science room at Gyanjyoti School in Nepal has been completed, we **are** writing to express our profound gratitude to Bamford Chapel for raising the money to make this possible. This new facility will make a big difference to **the school** and will persuade more parents to take advantage of what the school offers, **compared** to government schools. The School Principal, Balkrishna Gaire and the Chairperson of the School Management Committee, Devi Prasad Neupane have asked us to pass on their very sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity.

A few months ago we formed a registered charity, LEARN, specifically to support the school in the long term. We have seven trustees, ourselves and five next-generation members of our church.

We plan to visit Nepal and the school in March 2019 and would love to come to your church again to give an illustrated talk at one of your meetings.

Please pass on our thanks and best wishes to our friends at your church.

Yours sincerely

*Michael*

Michael Hawksworth  
Treasurer of LEARN

*Maureen*

Maureen Hawksworth  
Fundraiser for and Chair of LEARN



This was in a Meaningful Chocolate box purchased from the Traidcraft Stall last Christmas. Festival of Christmas runs from Christmas Day to 5<sup>th</sup> January. The carol lists a gift for each day of the Festival. It is thought that each gift had a hidden meaning which helped children learn aspects of faith.



## Hidden Carol Meaning



**1** A partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. **2** Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. **3** Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love. **4** Four calling birds were the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. **5** Five gold rings were the first five books of the Old Testament. **6** Six geese a-laying were the six days of creation. **7** Seven swans a-swimming were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. **8** Eight maids a-milking were the eight Beatitudes or blessings from The Sermon on the Mount. **9** Nine ladies dancing represented the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. **10** Ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. **11** Eleven pipers piping were the eleven faithful disciples. **12** Twelve drummers drumming were the twelve points of faith in The Apostle's Creed.

**Lesley Sutton**



## THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

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

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

~~~~~

### Saturday 19th January

*Starting the New Year with this wonderful  
2017 animated fantasy*

### “PADDINGTON 2” PG

**CINEMA  
FOR  
ALL**

Supported by Rochdale Township



# St James the Least of All

*Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

## **On two wise men, one three-legged sheep and a tipsy tree**

The Rectory  
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

It really is time to get some new figures for the crib. After a series of accidents over the years, we are now down to two wise men, two shepherds, and one three-legged sheep that only remains upright if it is leaning against a shepherd.

Joseph, having been obliged to stand outside the shelter of the stable for the last four decades, is now comprehensively veneered with bat droppings. In a rather desperate effort to enlarge this rather frugal cast, Miss Timmins hit on the idea of introducing characters from the children's Easter garden. This would have all been very well if both sets of figures had been to the same scale, but we now have the shepherds apparently being threatened by two ten feet rabbits.

One of our local farmers – I am sure very kindly meant – donated far more straw for the stable than was necessary. Our decorators, refusing to let his generosity go to waste, used the lot. The result is that Mary and Joseph stand up to their waists, looking as if they are being engulfed by a straw snow drift. The crib, along with baby Jesus, has disappeared entirely. The latter is not entirely to be regretted, since no one can now see that Jesus has no nose and only one arm, the result of one of our children dropping Him on the floor at last year's Crib Service.

I am sure your ecologically appropriate Christmas tree, made of re-cycled dustbin liners will be much appreciated by your congregation, knowing that they are saving the planet for future generations. We however remain traditional, with a tree always donated by the local squire from his estate, even if it is at the cost of adding another degree to global warming. Not only does it look more fitting, but it gives our verger something to do on twelfth night, as he sweeps up several hundredweight of pine needles.

I sometimes wonder if it is entire coincidence that the tree is always delivered by the estate staff on a day when there has been torrential rain in the area. Carrying it into church up the aisle makes it look as if the parting of the Red Sea has unsuccessfully taken place inside St. James'. The major problem every

year is getting the wretched thing to stand upright in the sanctuary. It takes so long that I sometimes feel it would be quicker to re-align all the church pillars to the same angle as the tree itself.

Last year's decision to have tree lights which flashed in succession was not a success. Those members who stared at them for too long while singing carols tended to fall over – although I suspect that Major Crump's inability to remain upright at the midnight Service was for rather different reasons. Not using flashing lights this year, the Major will have to find a different excuse.

*Your loving uncle, Eustace*

## Project 2018 Update:



### Drumbeat Farm Project Uganda

At the time of writing the Project Total is at £2,674.25. John Mugwanya, the Director of the Charity in Uganda is currently seeking to buy land to start the farm. This is apparently easier said than done in Uganda! Our local project contact Peter Williams will be coming to update us on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December during worship. Donations continue to be welcome up until Christmas Day.

The Church in the World Group ran a successful Breakfast Fundraising Event welcoming around 40 people to Chapel throughout the morning and raising £150.

The following fundraising events also took place:  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November: Brownie Coffee Evening  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November: Meal at Bury College



Hopefully by this time next year the orphaned children and the families who have stepped in to care for them will be benefitting from growing crops and rearing livestock to eat and sell any surplus.

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



## **Birmingham Royal Ballet "Beauty and the Beast"**

**Music** Glenn Buhr : **Choreography** David Bintley

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – 6.15pm from  
Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Car Park  
The Lowry, Salford Quays.  
£49.00

**I need to know by 16<sup>th</sup> December if you would like to join this trip and also need payment by that date, please. There is a signing up sheet on the Ladies Fellowship Notice Board [opposite the kitchen.**

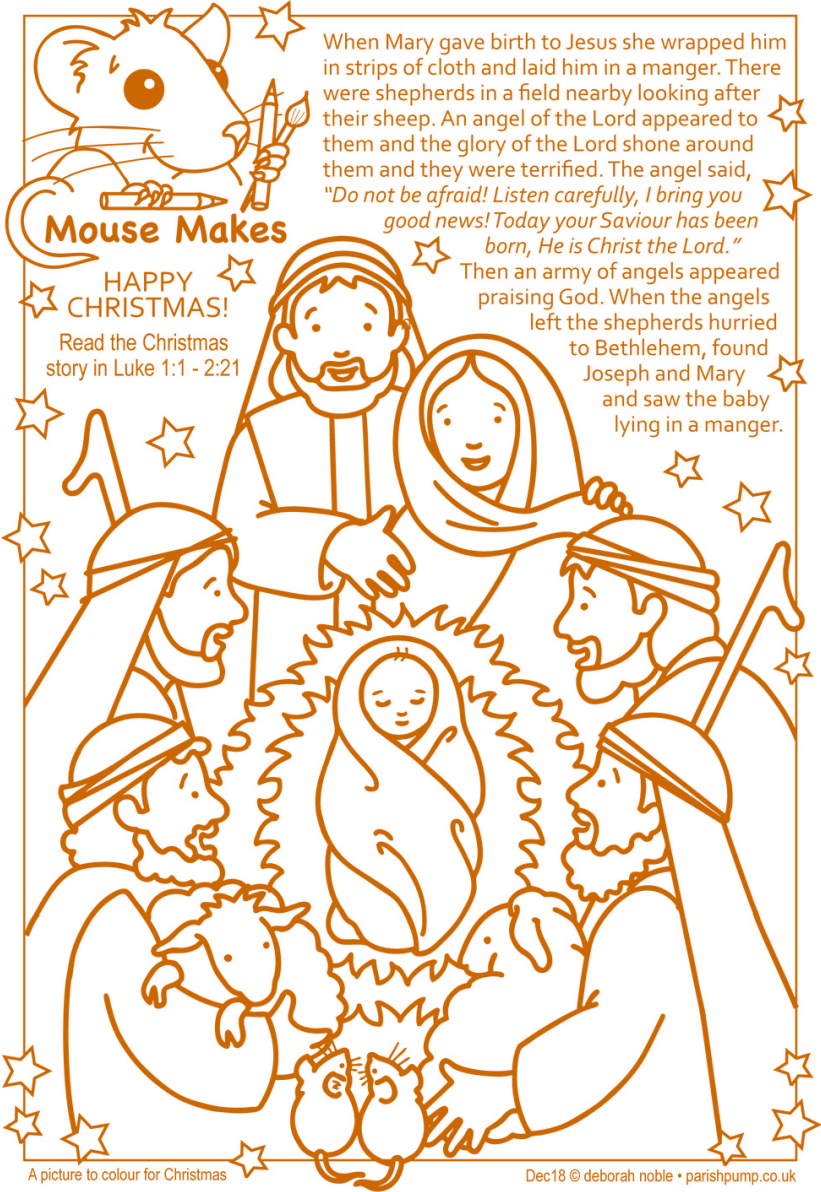
***LESLEY SUTTON***

A cruel Prince, cursed to spend the rest of his life living in a fantastical castle with the animals he callously hunted, finds salvation in the heart of a beautiful girl.

Caught stealing a single rose, Belle's desperate father exchanges his youngest daughter's freedom for his own life. In his distant castle the Beast, stripped of his handsome features and his very humanity, must win her heart, or spend the rest of his life in bitter solitude...

Witness transformations, wild waltzes, soaring birds and a relationship between Belle and the Beast that is at first terrifying, but ultimately serene and beautiful.

# Children's Page



## **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE**

### **EDITOR:**

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

### **ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

Lesley Sutton                      01706 638005  
lesley.sutton@zen.co.uk

### **SECRETARY:**

Joan Ashton                      01706 360395  
ray-joanashton@sky.com

## **DATES FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE**

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

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

**Magazine distributed:**                      Sunday 3rd February

# **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN**

## **United Reformed Church**

Charity - Reg'd No 1128387

*(Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs. OL11 5PQ*

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

**Telephone: 01706 369622**

**[www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)**

**Minister :** **Rev Richard Bradley**  
**Email:** **[richardbradley@cantab.net](mailto:richardbradley@cantab.net)**

**Church Secretary:** **John Lapworth**  
**Telephone:** **01706 341458**  
**Email:** **[john@lapworth37.plus.com](mailto:john@lapworth37.plus.com)**

**Wedding Secretary:** **John Lapworth**  
**Telephone:** **01706 341458**  
**Email:** **[john@lapworth37.plus.com](mailto:john@lapworth37.plus.com)**

**Lettings Manager:** **Nicki Houghton**  
**Telephone:** **01706 750376**  
**Email:** **[nahoughton@sky.com](mailto:nahoughton@sky.com)**

### **Times of Services:**

**Family Worship :** 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month

**Evening Worship :** 6.30 pm : Holy Communion 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month