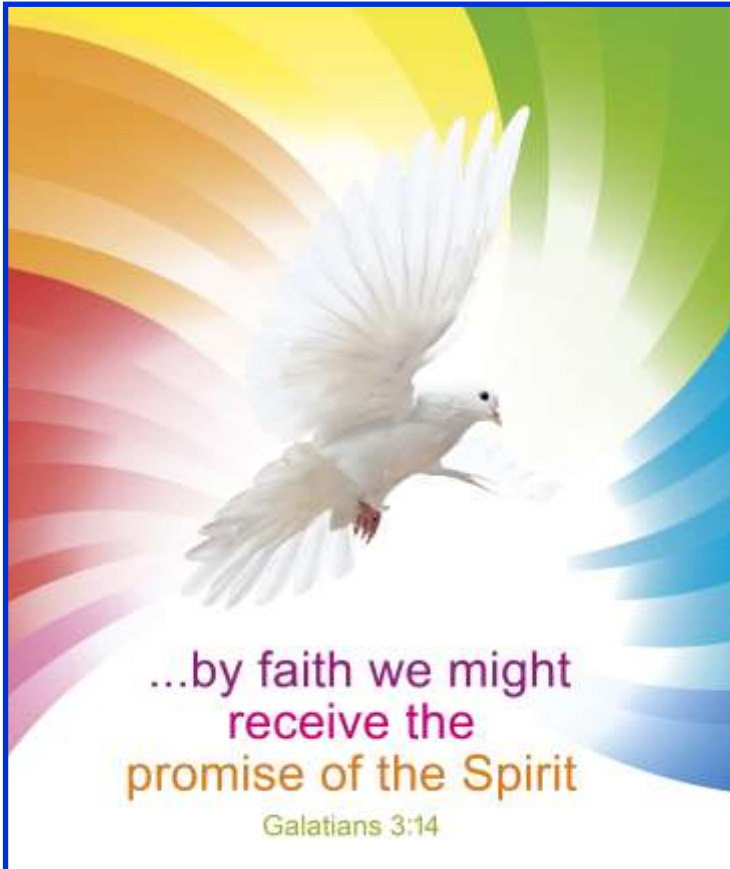




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



**May 2021**

# **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.



As of 26th April the rollout of Covid Vaccines is continuing at pace. Numbers of positive cases, hospital admissions & deaths are coming down, although there is still concern about Covid variants. Further information is available on the Government website and Rochdale Council website.

All church activities & worship services in church are still suspended. **Sunday worship service is available on YouTube and on the church website ([www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)) and in printed email form.**

**Unless infection rates or advice changes, we are planning on opening for worship at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (Pentecost Sunday).**

**We will be limiting the congregation again to 30, for the time being. People wishing to attend can text or phone the church mobile number to book a place.**

**People are asked to phone on a Thursday evening between 6 & 8pm ideally.**

**The number, as before, is 07396 617559.**

**Boris Johnson's "Roadmap out of Lockdown"** is continuing as planned.

**Step 2 restrictions are still in place until 17 May, (see April Magazine)**

**Step 3 will commence NO EARLIER THAN 17 MAY**

Most outdoor social contact rules lifted - no more than 30 people, rule of 6 or 2 households applies indoors. Indoor hospitality and entertainment, such as cinemas, accommodation, indoor sports and exercise classes can reopen. Up to 30 people allowed to attend weddings, funerals and other types of significant life events. Up to 10,000 people allowed at seated outdoor events and organised indoor adult sports.

**Step 4 - NO EARLIER THAN 21 June 2021:**

All limits on social contact removed, nightclubs can reopen and restrictions on large events and performances lifted.

## Letters from the Ministers



April saw the sad death of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and consort to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen has enjoyed the longest reign of any monarch in British history; by default Prince Philip had enjoyed the longest service of any royal consort too.

In a number of ways, Philip was an early pioneer of the changing face of British culture in the years ahead. In a time when men were defined as the household head, Philip stood aside from the spotlight to let his wife be what was expected of her - to be our Queen. This came with sacrifice on Philip's part.

Philip had a promising career in the Royal Navy. Recent obituaries have suggested that Philip had the potential to rise to the role of First Sea Lord and Chief of the Navy Staff, the professional head of the Royal Navy and Naval Service. He left this to take up royal duties as the Queen's consort.

Philip was not stepping into a pre-defined role, but had to carve a new role for himself. Being consort did not mean that he was simply the Queen's "handbag" going with her on royal engagements. This role was going to be so much more.

Philip comes from the generation where men are expected to be the family bread-winner. This expectation still lingers on today. However, I have heard of many men who have stepped away from this expectation. Instead, their wives and partners have taken on the role of being the main financial provider, while they have carved out a new role as the primary child carer. While the shift in this culture is welcome, men who have been schooled in the old ways can often struggle to redefine themselves in this new role. So, as I hope you can see, Philip faced these struggles in leaving

a promising Naval career to become royal consort. And Philip succeeded in this.

From my personal perspective, one of the Prince's major achievements was establishing the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This is a youth achievement scheme divided into Bronze, Silver and Gold awards - and famously including the long-distance camping expedition. As with many young people, I did the Bronze Award - and gained my love of wild camping from this experience. As a youth worker, my career highlights include young people gaining the award for themselves.

Philip's adjustment to a new life as royal consort can still speak to us today. Philip had a robust Christian faith which helped him to step into personal uncharted territory. Likewise, as our churches start to open up again after the pandemic, we are stepping into uncharted territory. Our communities may look the same as before. However, that pandemic has changed us all - as individuals, families, communities, and nations. We are not just going back to the old way of doing things. Instead, we are encouraged to rely on Jesus Christ, who is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13,8) to embrace life post-COVID. There are challenges in the months ahead, but there are also opportunities. Keep the faith - we do not walk alone through this life.

**Daniel Harris**

**Minister with the Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership**

## **A Reflection**

The death of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, brings a moment to reflect on an extraordinary life. For many, this death will leave them feeling shaken, as the life of someone who has for so many decades been at the heart of our nation comes to an end. He was born in Corfu and baptised into the Orthodox Church. Later received into the Church of England, many who have known the Duke of Edinburgh bear witness to the depth of his faith and his theological knowledge. A regular visitor to Mount Athos, and a keen questioner of preachers, his faith was much more than nominal. With a childhood marred by political turmoil and danger, as his family fled from Greece, Philip was, in many ways, often almost alone in the world as he grew up. Gordonstoun School and the



British Royal Navy gave him roots and a home; and with marriage to Princess Elizabeth his life's path was set. She described him, in 2012, as a 'constant strength and guide' and his supportive role as a husband was one he fulfilled over decades of marriage. It is often

said that he felt the loss of his own career keenly, but he became a hardworking member of the Royal Family, taking up causes and projects with formidable energy.

Many of us will have been, or will know, someone who learned a love of the outdoors, spurred on by the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Countless young people have learned endurance and survival skills, navigating maps and building fires, walking in the hills and bedding down in tents, achieving things they would not have imagined possible. Prince Philip has also been a tireless campaigner on behalf of threatened wildlife and for the preservation of the earth.

Known for his blunt and forthright speech, and for being the man who was always one step behind the Queen, he was a determined supporter of his wife, an energetic sportsman, a committed conservationist, with the strength of character to remain steady through changing and difficult times. Queen Elizabeth often acknowledged her debt to him and encouraged the whole nation to recognise it too.

At this moment of his death we have an opportunity to reflect and to give thanks, for a life of dedicated service to nation and commonwealth. We pray for his family and closest friends, for those who will mourn and miss him most. And we draw hope from the faith into which he was baptised, declaring that Christ is risen.

## Prayer

O God, our rock and our redeemer,  
we come to worship you  
and to give thanks for your servant Philip.

We thank you for his long life,  
for his dedicated support of his wife in her vocation as Queen,  
and for his service to commonwealth and nation.

We thank you for the Duke of Edinburgh award,  
for the work of the World Wide Fund for Nature  
and for so many causes he inspired and supported.

We thank you for what he has meant  
to each one of us...

We treasure memories  
of meeting him ...

We rejoice that he lived and shared  
the faith we hold,  
and that, by your grace,  
he survived danger and threat.

We pray for those who will miss him most deeply,  
that they may find comfort and hope.

We celebrate and affirm our faith  
that death is defeated,  
that new life awaits your children,  
and that creation is renewed in Christ.

And, in this day and time, we pray,  
as we are always glad to pray,  
may your Kingdom come. Amen

**Andy Braunston**

**Coordinator, Daily Devotions from the URC Project**

**Minister with the United Reformed Church**



## Memories of Prince Philip HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

As a volunteer at the Manchester Commonwealth Games I recall the Queen and Duke visiting the medical volunteers. We wore a different colour outfit to the general volunteers; theirs was purple ours was red. Philip spoke to our group (five of us) and asked in his comical way “are you wearing red so we can’t see any blood”! Happy Days. Finlay wore turquoise as part of the Track and Field Team.



Finlay and I, and a few more Chapel folks over the years, have been invited to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. We weren’t presented, as that is all organised before the day. We had a lovely walk through the Palace lower entrance hall ... magnificent. Finlay was invited for his work with UK Athletics.

### *Gillian Galloway*



I was presented with my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at St James Palace by the Duke himself. We were told it’s not always him who attends and presents, but we were lucky. We stood in a room (about nine in our group with three other groups of similar sizes) about half the size of BCNURC Sanctuary, with the largest pieces of art on the walls I’ve ever seen and our viewing parties were in similar huddles opposite us. We were allowed one person to attend with us. This was late 1980s, early 90s. The Duke spent



about five minutes with each group and occasionally involved our viewing party before being ushered out of the room, probably to another room of similar waiting occupants.

**Laura Davies**



Allister met Prince Philip at Bury Grammar School to open the new Sports Hall. He arrived by helicopter landing on the sports field. Allister was introduced as an outstanding athlete in tennis, football, basketball, swimming, etc. The Prince said “And I bet he can’t pass an exam to save his life?” The Headmaster had to admit, “he has his difficulties.”

**Linda Lees**



## Plants for your Garden

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

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

**Please put the month in your diary.**

We look forward to seeing you then.

Kind regards **Mike Davies** on behalf of the **Gardening Team**



## Easter Trail



Firstly, I would like to say thank you to those of you who planned and set up the Easter Trail. I thought it was absolutely wonderful.

From a personal viewpoint it was on Easter Saturday that my younger daughter came from Littleborough with her children [aged 10 and 14]. They really enjoyed themselves and gained more understanding of the Easter story. Fourteen-year-old grandson joined in the activities, especially the star jumps contained in the maze!

A week later, on a Saturday, elder daughter arrived from Eccles along with husband and two children [aged 6 and 9]. Children attend a church school so were very familiar with the story. They gained different benefits from their journey. Both were very adept at making paper and wooden crosses without help from parents. Nine-year-old grandson was fascinated with the tomb. He examined the structure of it for a long time, asking me how it was made. I wasn't too sure so said I would ask the architect one day just how it was constructed?

I was really thrilled to spend these two special Easter days with my family who travelled to see what was happening at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC.

**Lesley Sutton**

### **Rochdale, Bury & North Manchester Missional Partnership Newsletter**

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

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



## **God is: Our Invisible Friend**

*We live in a 'physical' age. If something cannot be physically examined, it is quickly dismissed as nonsense. Many believe humans don't have souls. To them, those invisible spiritual traits of personality, self-awareness, dreams and love are simply a precise balance of chemicals, ions and memory association cells – nothing more. As for God, though science sees a complex design behind everything in creation, many dismiss Him as nonsense because the Infinity Creator of the universe doesn't fit conveniently on an examination table. If something can't stand up to the scrutiny of examination – it probably doesn't exist.*

As Christians, we proclaim to the world that we have an Invisible Friend. To a world that has become deaf to God's call and blind to His presence, it is easy to understand that many may think we are crazy. All they see is a bunch of nutty people talking (praying) and responding (Christian Service) to the demands of their Invisible Friend.

This is where many Christians may be tested to deny God. Even when we hear His whisper-quiet voice and feel His presence, we ignore our Invisible Friend because we don't want the world to consider us insane. But we must remember, the day is coming when we all will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and our once Invisible Friend will be visible to all, (Rev 1:7). How will we respond when Christ questions: 'I have always been a Good Friend to you and faithfully stood by your side - but what sort of a friend were you to Me? Did you stand by Me?'

Our reply will seem quite feeble if we say, 'Sorry Lord – I was embarrassed. I didn't want people thinking me silly for acknowledging You!'

**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)**

**Written & illustrated by Ian Coate <https://freechristianillustrations.com>**

## Famine may be on the way

That is the stark warning of the Disasters Emergency Committee coalition of UK aid agencies, who says that the economic devastation caused by the pandemic is leading to increasing hunger in poorer countries.

Thousands are likely to die this year as the knock-on effect of Covid-19 worldwide has left millions less able to afford food. South Sudan and Yemen are already on the brink of famine, and Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of the Congo are also in deep trouble.

Just at a time when Covid-19 and wars have crippled the economic and health systems of many countries, humanitarian funding has dropped as donor countries also struggle.

Saleh Saeed, the committee's chief executive, explained: "People living in places made perilous by conflict, violence and climate disasters are coping as best they can, but the odds are stacked against them. The knock-on effects of the pandemic have crippled economies, making the world's poorest people even poorer."



Sincere condolences to Beryl Thomas whose husband, Martin died peacefully on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Praying for comfort, strength and peace for Beryl and all the family during this sad time.

Rochdale, Bury and N Manchester  
URC Missional Partnership



Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

<http://www.bcchurch.org.uk/>

**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

**Bronze Eco Church  
Award Certificate**

This is to certify that

**Bamford Chapel and Norden URC**

has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

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

Signed

Date

17th March 2021

CEO, A Rocha UK



ROCHA



ES THEOLOGICAL  
FOR BIBLES

The Methodist Church

tearfund



[ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)  
[arocha.org.uk](http://arocha.org.uk)



## Eco Church Award

Whilst complimenting the Eco Church Team for their efforts in helping Bamford Chapel and Norden URC achieve a Bronze Award, a sincere thank you to all the Monday Gardening Gang for working so hard in improving the land around the church building, helping this award to be reached.

### *The Eco Church Team*



This is a bin bag. It's a very clever piece of kit. It can fold or roll down very small, small enough to even go in a pocket!



Then it can make itself very big! Big enough to hold all the rubbish that is left after your picnic in the park. It really likes to be taken back home when it's full and to be placed in your bin.

Why not join forces with this clever bin bag and keep our beautiful parks clean and tidy. Have respect for your surroundings, other people, children and wildlife??

## What's All the Fuss about Florist Foam?

It was only recently that someone told me about the problem with florist foam (or oasis as I knew it). I was shocked to find that it is very toxic to the environment and carcinogenic to man. It is a green fine-celled thermoset phenolic plastic foam. It contains many hazardous substances including formaldehyde, carbon oxides, phenol, cresols, xylenols and sulphur dioxide. It can cause eye irritation, allergic contact dermatitis on the skin, respiratory problems and can be carcinogenic after prolonged exposure. Shockingly official advice to fire fighters and emergency workers in Australia is to wear masks and breathing apparatus (when exposed to it) because of the fine green dust it creates. A standard foam cube contains about the same amount of plastic as 10 plastic bags. Though the foam crumbles it does not fully dissolve in water or degrade

in landfill or soil. Instead it breaks down repeatedly into particles which contaminate our marine life and enter the food chain.

There have been some improvements to it and it is still marketed falsely as biodegradable (see Smithers-Oasis for more details). The manufacturers claim it is 100% certified biodegradable within 567 days! However, checking the Material Safety Data Sheet shows that this is not true. It states “this formulation has not been tested for environmental effects. It is a thermoset plastic and is not biodegradable.” As a plastic it is a product of the oil industry. The manufacturers suggest recycling the foam and using as a soil conditioner, which seems shocking and foolhardy considering the toxic mix of chemicals in it.

The concern about this product is such that the Royal Horticultural Society is banning its use from this year at all of its horticultural shows (see RHS). It can't be disposed of safely in compost, garden waste and water because of fragments remaining. Water containing fragments (some are too small to see) must be strained through fabric and the water then poured into a hole in the ground, and the residual fragments need to go to landfill. If it's poured down the sink only a small percentage is captured in sewage works and the rest ends up in our watercourses; some is used on our farm land.

Thankfully, there are alternatives to florist foam. Some may not be as convenient, but they are certainly safer.

- ◇ use pebbles, sand, gravel, marbles, moss or even fruit to support your flowers
- ◇ Use a Kenzan or flower frog that sits in the vase/bowl
- ◇ Use twigs to support flowers
- ◇ Chicken wire or metal pin
- ◇ BE CAREFUL of “biodegradable” florist foam because it doesn't entirely decompose and can leak more noxious substances into water than regular foam.

So that's what the problem is with florist foam!

***Trish Adshead***

**References:**

<a href="http://goodhousekeeping.com">goodhousekeeping.com</a>	<a href="http://medium.com">medium.com</a>
<a href="http://gardenguides.com">gardenguides.com</a>	<a href="http://thepetalstudio.co.uk">thepetalstudio.co.uk</a>
<a href="http://smithersoasis.com">smithersoasis.com</a>	<a href="http://rhs.org.uk">rhs.org.uk</a>

**Editor: By The Revd Dr Jo White from her Reflected Faith series on the freedom that May brings....**



## **Reflected Faith: Hiding, Waiting, Hoping – FREE!**

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others, and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be ‘free’ again.

**May, in the Church’s calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.**

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

**Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus’ return to His Father.**

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

**Freedom indeed!**

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

**What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.**



It is the story of those ‘simple’ men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.



As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that *whatever happened now would be manageable.*

***This month:***

Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads?

I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

***Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.***



**Deepest sympathy to Councillor Patricia Sullivan whose husband, Gerry died in the early hours of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. We also remember her family at this saddest of times.**

**Pat is a wonderful supporter of Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, attending coffee mornings and always being there when needed. Without her The Ian Newman Film Club would not have taken off.**

## Moving On...



It is with mixed emotions that Muriel and I have penned this article for the Chapel magazine. We are moving back to the North East on 27th April, from where we originated many years ago. We will be just 9 miles from Matthew and his wife, Kate and our 2 granddaughters, Emily and Annabel, who are now aged 7 & 4. It will be lovely to see more of them.

Bamford, since 1978 & Norden, since 2006 has been our home since we moved to the 'bird estate' when I went to work in Manchester. Bamford Chapel became our spiritual home and we found that we always received more than we put in.

Muriel became a Girls' Brigade Officer when the Company was quite active, and I was asked by Derek Gooding if I would take on the role of Secretary of the Men's Fellowship, at a time when men's weekends involved virtually all of the male attendees. Walter even turning us into a Men's Choir!

It has since been a privilege to serve as Elder and Church Secretary, with Muriel initially helping with Luncheon Club and then taking on the role of Luncheon Club Co-ordinator for many years.

During these times we have seen the various aspects of Chapel life flourish and grow. Matthew particularly benefited from the various aspects enjoyed by Junior Church and the musical productions which Steven and Clair Gooding produced. Addie and Barbara Redmond helped to challenge many, many young people, including our boys.

So while we are physically able, we have taken the decision to move into a reasonably small apartment complex in a village 2 miles from the coast. The village is called Cleadon and is midway between South Shields and Sunderland, with Whitburn being the nearest spot on the coast.

**Our address will be: 15 Foxtan Court, Cleadon, Tyne and Wear SR6 7XQ**

The village is only a short, flat walk from Foxtan Court and has a few local shops, a Parish Church and a Methodist Church, 2 pubs and a duck pond. The nearest URC, St Margaret's, is a short drive north on the South Shields road. So we shall investigate each of them in time.

We will travel north taking the A19 just north of Wetherby and staying on that road until we meet the A184 signed for Sunderland, taking the B1299 through East Boldon and on into Cleadon.

Our mobile phone numbers will stay the same for the foreseeable future, and we'll have to see about a land line. So please keep in touch.

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC is presently moving into a new and exciting future. Please do all you can to support one another and may God continue to challenge and support you in the years to come.

Thank you for the years gone by, the love and friendship and ministry of all our friends, Richard, Ruth and their family, and all previous ministers at Bamford Chapel. We take so many happy memories with us on our continuing journey. May God bless you all; and look after one another.

*Ian and Muriel Sturrock*



I'm so grateful for the prayers, messages and flowers regarding my recent surgery and ongoing recovery. The skills and dedication of NHS staff, and the love and concern of all at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, has been so much appreciated.

*Sheila Lawley*



## Eco Recipes



### Felixstowe Tart

#### Ingredients

3 oz flour	½ tsp baking powder
3 oz cornflour	1 egg
3 oz butter, margarine or lard (or mixture)	Milk
1 tblsp sugar	1lb apples stewed with sugar in small quantity of water

#### Method

- Sift flour and baking powder together and rub in fat.
- Add sugar, drop in yolk of egg and make all into a stiff paste with the milk.
- Turn onto floured board, roll out to size of pie-plate and bake in hot oven.
- When ready, place apples in centre and cover with white of egg beaten stiff and sweetened.
- Return to oven until egg is set and slightly browned.

### Florida Whisk

#### Ingredients

Small tin of grapefruit in syrup	1 egg
Pint packet of grapefruit or lemon jelly	1 dessert spoon castor sugar
	Pinch of salt

#### Method

- Melt half the jelly in ¼ pint boiling water and add enough of the syrup to make up to ½ pint.

- Set this in a glass dish and arrange some grapefruit on top
- Mix yolk of egg with sugar and salt and beat until thick
- Make up remaining jelly cubes to ½ pint with water, and while hot pour onto egg yolk, beating slowly
- When cool but not set, whisk
- Then fold in stiffly beaten egg white.
- Pour this mixture onto the jelly
- Decorate as desired

**NB** Any tinned fruit and jelly can be similarly used

## Crème au Chocolat

### Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp flour
- 2 tbsp castor sugar
- 2 x 2oz bars of plain chocolate
- 1 pint of milk



### Method

- Mix sugar and egg yolks to a smooth paste.
- Add flour and a little milk, and mix to a smooth paste.
- Melt the chocolate and heat the milk.
- Mix together, and when a little cool, pour onto the first mixture.
- Cook the whole very slowly in a double boiler until thick.
- Leave until cold, stirring occasionally, and add the stiffly beaten whites of egg.
- Serve in individual glasses with whipped cream or wafer biscuits

**Trish Adshead**

## 150 years of the Royal Albert Hall

Joyce Grenfell wrote a wonderful song, *Joyful Noise*, about three lady choristers: Miss Clissold, Miss Truss and Ivy Trembley. Their greatest delight was to sing in an oratorio at the Royal Albert Hall.

‘It may be like a gasworks with a greenhouse roof above it, and it may lack convenience, but all the same we love it.’ That love has marked the life of the Royal Albert Hall over 150 years as this month we celebrate its opening on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1871.



After the success of the Great Exhibition, Prince Albert dreamed of creating a more permanent cultural area in London to promote and popularise the arts and sciences. On his death in 1861 at just 42 years, it was decided to erect a memorial and a ‘Central Hall.’ And so the Royal Albert Hall was built. At heart it is an impressive concert hall promoting classical music with an annual performance of Handel’s *Messiah* from 1876, and from 1941 the BBC Proms: 8 weeks of concerts in the summer welcoming musicians from all over the world and culminating in the memorable *Last Night*. Composers from Wagner and Verdi to Bernstein and Britten have conducted and had works performed there.

But the Royal Albert Hall has also hosted an amazingly wide variety of events through its life: the Beatles in 1963, Ella Fitzgerald in 1990, poetry evenings, sport (boxing, tennis and basketball), the *Cirque de Soleil*, Teenage Cancer Trust concerts, and the 25th anniversary performance of *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2011. It has provided a platform for Winston Churchill, Einstein and the Dalai Lama. Many of us will have poignant memories of the annual Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance held every November since 1923: a moving occasion that culminates with the shower of poppy petals.

Sadly, because of the restrictions with the pandemic, the Hall’s programme of events has had to be limited in scope since last year, but

the frieze on the outside of the building remains to inspire. There we see a celebration of the rich variety of arts and sciences that include music, sculpture, painting, astronomy and navigation, and the words *Thine O Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty* - a reminder that all our creative work here is a reflection of the wonder of God the Creator.

*'He will never forget at all The day he played at Albert Hall'*. That line from the Kinks' song *Session Man* invites us all to celebrate and give thanks for the richness of the life and work of the Royal Albert Hall as we look back over its 150 years and as we look ahead with hope and faith to a richer future.

*The Revd Michael Burgess celebrates a special building*



## The Dark Before the Dawn and other sketches

### Food for Thought



Thank you so much to all of you who took part in the Easter Drama on Good Friday. Amazing to be able to share in the Easter story outside church premises in such a professional way.





See how many of these ancient hymns you can identify by the first letter of each word of the title

1. M.H.B.	
2. O.C.S.	
3. T.O.A.W.W.A.F.	
4. T.M.L.A.L.I.B.	
5. T.I.A.G.H.F.A.	
6. W.W.T.V.S.	
7. H.O.T.N.R.	
8. G.R.Y.M.G.	
9. T.L.M.S.	
10. G.I.W.H.P.O	
11. I.H.T.V.O.J.S.	
12. I.C.U.T.M.C.	
13. G.M.J.	
14. W.Y.T.	
15. T.M.T.S.O.J.	
16. L.O.A.H.	
17. F.A.T.S.	
18. L.D.A.L.E.	
19. J.H.W.K.H.D.G.T.A.	
20. C.Y.T.P.C.	



## Ascension



To complete Your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, You ascended through the air into the heavens, before the very eyes of the apostles. In this way You showed that You are Lord of all, and are the fulfilment of all creation. Thus from that moment every human and every living creature should bow at Your name. And, in the eyes of faith, we can see that all creation proclaims Your greatness.

*A prayer of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153)  
He was the main inspiration of the Cistercian Order of Monks*



## Platinum Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Glenda and Walter Brisk want to thank the very many friends from the Chapel who helped them celebrate their Platinum Wedding Anniversary. There were many cards, telephone calls, balloons, flowers and even a teddy bear fan of Liverpool Football Club to brighten the day. Several callers came to the house, and the very mild weather allowed some to sit in the garden with us.

Once again we were reminded of the care and love of so many at the Chapel. We also received many greetings from United Christian Singers, from Saddleworth Male Voice Choir and from Heywood Probus Club. It was a pity that we were not able to entertain folk at an Anniversary meal, but such are the conditions under which we have to live for a little longer yet.

Much love to you all from the two of us.

*Glenda and Walter*



Congratulations to Angela Hall,  
who celebrates  
her 80th birthday on 13th May.

On 28th March Margaret Watson enjoyed  
a surprise Zoom call from family and friends  
to celebrate her 80th birthday.

Margaret writes...

I would like to say thank you to my immediate family  
and church family for making my birthday special, the  
celebration was different to any other I have had, but  
it was good. Thank you once again to all who  
contributed in any way to make it a day I will  
remember.

God Bless,

Margaret



Christian leaders, activists, writers and theologians world-wide  
have written prayers for a new book  
to celebrate Christian Aid's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Rage & Hope: 75 Prayers for a Better World* from:  
<https://spckpublishing.co.uk/rage-and-hope>



## Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May 2021

The ground-breaking work of Christian Aid began in 1945, when it was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War.

For more than 75 years, it has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights. Christian Aid week began in the 1950s and since then the money raised has helped people across the world, from Palestine to Korea, from China to Biafra, Kenya to India. In the 1980s it supported people during the Ethiopian famine while in 2004 it reached more than 500,000 people with food, shelter and healthcare after the Asian Tsunami.

It informs about and campaigns against climate change. It champions tax justice. It continues to work with local partners on the ground to make a practical difference to the lives of new waves of refugees locally, while campaigning and advocating for change globally.

This is the work that we at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC have faithfully supported year after year with our house-to-house collections during Christian Aid Week. Sadly, this year it is not possible for me to arrange such a collection as we are not meeting together due to the Covid pandemic. But the work of this wonderful organisation must go on and we need to find a different way of supporting it.

As I say every year, Jesus calls us to feed the hungry and to fight for justice, so I know that I can depend on you to respond to this appeal. **We are hoping that every family connected with BC&N will receive two envelopes, one for yourself and another to encourage a neighbour or friend to join in this fund-raising effort.** Please put in the envelope as much as you can afford to give and return it to any of the elders, who will in turn let me have them so that I can pay the money into the bank. The last time we did the house-to-house collection in 2019 I sent £2500. It would be wonderful if we could aim to meet that target.

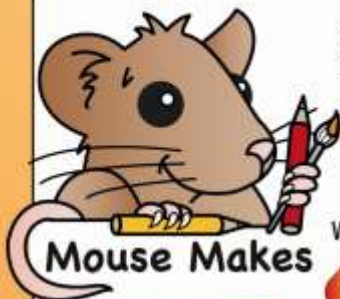
Thank you in anticipation. **Margaret Ogden**



## BIBLE QUIZ (page 12 April magazine)

### ANSWERS

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



## Mouse Makes

Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit  
**VSEIL**  
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit  
helps us to  
**WKNO**  
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit  
**HCTSEEA**  
us about God.

The Holy Spirit  
**KPESSA**  
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit  
**PHLSE**  
us to tell others  
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit  
helps us when we  
**AYPR**

On the day of **PENTECOST**  
the disciples were gathered  
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries  
had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was  
their reaction?  
Acts 2:12-13

Who explained  
what was  
happening?  
What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many  
people were  
baptised  
that day?  
Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the  
letter before it in the  
alphabet and see what  
the **Holy Spirit**  
produces in us:

KPZ  
IVNJMJUZ  
TFMG DPOUSPM  
GBJUIGVMOFTT  
LJOEOFTT  
QBUJFODF  
QFBDF  
MPWF  
HPPEOFTT

22:5 Sunday

What is the work of the  
**Holy Spirit**? What does He do?  
Fill in the missing letters.

  
TEAC \_ES  
COMF \_RTS  
REVEA \_S  
IN \_OU  
    
TRAN \_FORMS  
 HEL \_S   
GU \_DES  
GENEWS  
CONV \_CTS  
SANC \_FIES

## **Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship**

**(all suspended until further notice)**

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

## **Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities**

- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** 1st Tuesday in the month  
1.45 pm in lounge for Coffee: Meeting 2 - 3 pm  
**Home Group** (Fortnightly)  
8.15 pm In Crèche Room
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** (2nd Thursday in the month)  
7.30 pm  
**Heritage Group** (3rd Thursday in the month)  
7.00 pm
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** (1st Friday in the month)  
1.30—3.30 pm
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman Community Film Club**  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film (3rd Saturday in month)

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

# BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



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