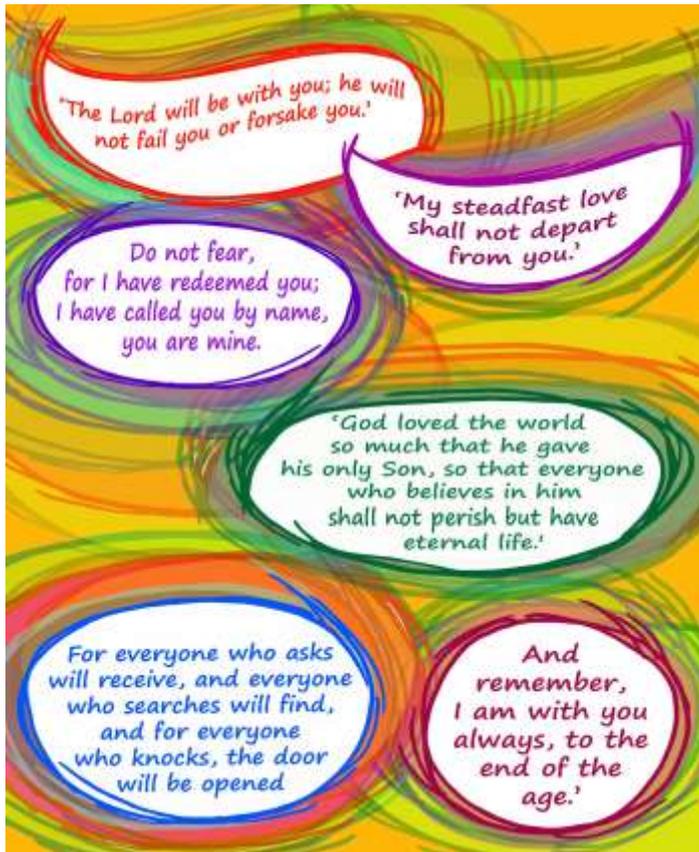




The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



October 2023

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.

October 2023

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.bcchurch.org.uk)

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge
Sunday 1 October	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Margaret Ogden
Tuesday 3 October	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 6)
Friday 6 October	1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café (see Reform Magazine article on page 20)
Harvest Sunday 8 October	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Ken Greer
Wednesday 11 October	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship
Thursday 12 October	1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Friendship Group Christmas Boxes for the Ukraine (see page 12)
Saturday 14 October	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast In aid of Cancer Research (see page 10)
Sunday 15 October	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson
Tuesday 17 October	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 6)
Wednesday 18 October	7.30 pm	Preparing the Way for Jesus Shaped Church (see page 4)
Saturday 21 October	6.30 pm for 7 pm	Community Film Club "The Duke" (see page 24)
Sunday 22 October	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Sunday 29 October	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
Tuesday 31 October	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 6)

Message from the Manse

I am looking forward to being with Bamford Chapel and Norden URC as we explore through worship and small group discussion what it means to be a Jesus Shaped Church filled with Jesus Shaped people.

The Elders have been exploring the vision of the Church and how we can continue our thinking on what it means to be a Jesus shaped Church. As part of our exploration we will be using material called "Jesus Shaped People". The material will help us build on what we have already been discussing.

One of the passages of scripture that always comes to my mind when I think about the Church's mission are the words of Jesus to the disciples at the end of Matthew's Gospel. The heading given to these last 5 verses is "The Great Commission" and we read there:



“¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19&20 NIVUK)

Anything that helps me as a Christian to fulfil these words of Jesus is good! And I believe that the 'Jesus Shaped People' materials along with the work the Elders have already done, and the wider church family have been able to

input into, is a good thing!

So, I repeat the invitation Debbie gave in the service on the 10th of September for you to come along and be part of the 'preparing the way' groups, and then in 2024 as we explore the "Jesus Shaped People Lite" materials. It promises to be an exciting step on our journeys of faith as a Church as well as our individual journeys of faith that God invites us on. Let's pray that God will bless these groups and that we will all have our faith renewed, so we can continue to be the people God has called us and set us apart to be.

Information about the groups is contained in this magazine. Debbie has also created a notice board outside the creche room where more info will be available. You can contact Debbie, Richard or Daniel for further information as we are all involved in leading the services and small groups.

Thanks and God Bless, Richard

Church Flowers



**Donations for flowers placed in church
In September were received from:**

**Diane Healey
Margaret Ogden in memory of Geoff
Irene Lucas in memory
of her Grandson Robert
Dot Craig in memory of Peter**

Jesus-Shaped Church



DEVELOPING OUR
JESUS-SHAPED CHURCH
PRAYERFUL, WELCOMING, DEVELOPING FAITH,
REACHING OUT & CARING

As we journey together to develop our Jesus-Shaped Church, we are invited to consider more deeply what it means to be Jesus-Shaped People. To support us on this journey, we are offering opportunities for us to meet and explore what this looks like together through Sunday services led by Richard and Debbie and follow-up discussion groups using



resources.

We hope you will join us on this exciting journey in realising our vision for developing a Jesus-Shaped Church filled with Jesus-Shaped People who can reach out to promote a Jesus-Shaped World. We begin by "Preparing the Way". We hope that you can attend one of the two discussion groups HELD IN CHURCH, offered following each of the services, dates below!

SESSION	SATURDAYS 10.30am	WEDNESDAYS 7.30pm
1	30 th SEPTEMBER	18 th OCTOBER
2	4 th NOVEMBER	15 th NOVEMBER
3	25 th NOVEMBER	29 th NOVEMBER
4	16 th DECEMBER	NONE
5	20 th JANUARY	31 st JANUARY

For more information please contact: Debbie, Daniel or Richard on:

Debbie: d.wood927@ntlworld.com // 07757 723708

Daniel: daniel.harris@nwsynod.org.uk // 07563 286345

Richard: richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk // 07483 155807 // 01706 369622

A Prayer for October 2023

Dear Lord and Creator of all things,

In this fast-moving and high-tech world, help us to slow down – just occasionally – to notice the rhythms of Your creation; the beauty of the colours of autumn; the annual ritual of falling leaves and darkening evenings. All part of Your cycle of the year that we often take for granted.

And yet Lord, there is evidence of changes in our climate – extremes of temperature, droughts, floods and wildfires. There is evidence that our behaviour might be responsible for damaging Your world.

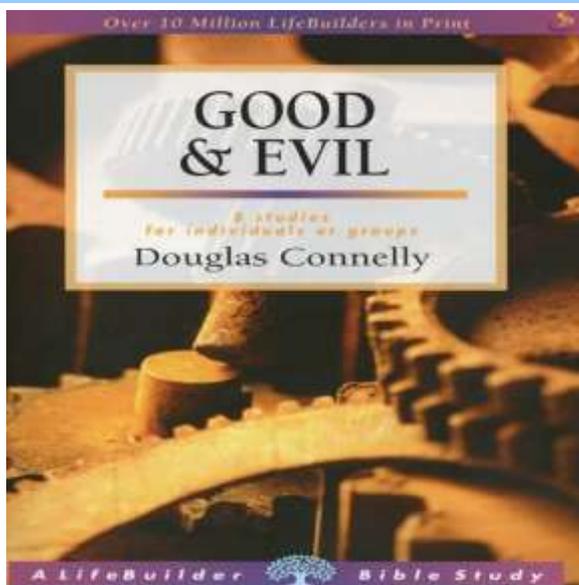
Lord, we thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness and grace to us. We are sorry when we get things wrong. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us the way to be in a right relationship with You. Help us to put our trust in Him and as part of living Christian lives, to accept our responsibility for caring for the world You created.

In Jesus' name, Amen

By Daphne Kitching



Tuesday Home Group



Tuesday Homegroup – 7.30pm

We are currently exploring the theme of 'Good and Evil' using the Bible Study Book pictured.

All are welcome. We meet on Zoom on a fortnightly basis.

The dates and zoom link are:

19th September, 3rd October, 17th October,
31st October, 14th November, 28th November,
12th December (Christmas Social)

Meeting ID: 895 4958 0284

Passcode: 144171

For more details please contact Revd Richard Bradley on:

richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk

01706 369622 // 07483 155807

Donkey Sanctuary, Manchester



At this sanctuary (which I visited for the first time on 2nd September accompanied by my younger daughter and granddaughter) I discovered what wonderful activities are held weekly to support people's life skills and wellbeing, helping individuals to better deal with changes in everyday life, whilst also promoting positive attitudes towards donkeys who have long been a passion of mine, as you will realise when you visit my home!!

Bringing donkeys and humans together – donkey assisted activities

Donkey facilitated learning uses reflection to develop key life skills recognised by the World Health Organisation as essential for human wellbeing and development.

I could write reams on this subject. Please see me if you would like to know more or visit

www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/about-us/donkey-assisted-activities

OR visit the sanctuary.

Lesley Sutton

The Changing face of Harvest Festivals

Although there is no official date assigned for our Harvest Festivals it is often celebrated in Churches on the first Sunday of October, which is also usually the closest Sunday to the Autumn Equinox that marks the start of Autumn. It is time when we thank God for the, hopefully, plentiful supply of food - and was traditionally held at the end of the harvest season when the country was much more reliant on home-grown food.

The festival, as we know it today, is attributed to Rev Robert Hawker who, in 1843, invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service in Morwenstow, Cornwall. As well as thanking God, gifts of produce and flowers were brought to church to be shared among the less fortunate in the parish.

These celebrations date from about 3,500 years ago in Old Testament days when God gave Moses instructions for seven annual feasts (Leviticus 23) which included three harvests: First Fruits in spring for the barley harvest; Weeks in early summer for the wheat harvest; and Tabernacles, or the ingathering, in the autumn when thanks was given for all the year's crops and prayers offered for the coming year.

As well as wheat and barley, the other main Biblical crops were grapes, figs, dates, olives, and pomegranates. These seven foods are sometimes called the 'Seven Species' of the Bible. They are those God told the Israelites they would enjoy when they arrived in the Promised Land.

In Rev Hawker's days most of the UK population relied totally on growing their food locally and a good harvest was vital for their wellbeing throughout the coming year. Today, few people in the UK rely on



home grown food or source it entirely from within their community, so the underlying nature of Harvest Festival has changed significantly. While some people still take home grown food to church for their local Harvest Festival it is becoming more common for gifts of dried and tinned food which can be distributed via foodbanks, and/or cash collections for local, national or international charitable causes, such as the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal.



Heywood & Rochdale Local Committee



FASHION SHOW

By "Hope Women's Wear"

Wednesday 11th October : 7.30pm

At ROCHDALE GOLF CLUB, Edenfield Road, ROCHDALE. OL11 5YR

TICKETS : £7.00

Refreshments can be purchased at the bar

**Cancer Research Christmas Table / Cupcakes
Antique Jewellery / Curio Stall**

Cancer Research Big Breakfast

Bamford Chapel
& Norden United Reformed Church


Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

Fancy a bacon butty?



In aid of



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

£5.00

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

The Harvest Supermoon



Harvest Moon is the name given to the full Moon that appears closest in date to the first day of autumn. In the northern hemisphere it is also known as the Autumn Equinox when day and night are the same length of time. Last year, for example, the Harvest Moon occurred on 10 September 2022 and this year it was on 29 September.

The Harvest Moon is one of four 'supermoons' during 2023. The name 'supermoon' became popular in March 2011 when the Moon's orbit brought it unusually close to the Earth, the distance being 221,565 miles. This was only 271 miles greater than the closest it can ever come to the Earth and was a very rare occurrence. The next time this will happen will be on 6 December 2052. All supermoons are full moons that come their closest to the Earth during the year.

The four supermoons are July's Buck Moon, August's Sturgeon Moon, which is followed by a Blue Moon and September's Harvest Moon. They are caused by the elliptical shape of the Moon's orbit around the Earth and the positions of the Sun, Earth and Moon which causes the appearance of the Moon to change its size, hence we see full, new and various sizes in between. When the Moon is full it is exactly on the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun and so reflects more sunlight than at other times. Supermoons appear when the position of the Earth, Sun and Moon are such that the moon appears brighter and larger than at any other time.



Friendship Group Christmas Boxes for Ukraine



Carol Hartley will once again be making up and sending children's Christmas Boxes to Ukraine

The Friendship Group

will be filling these much needed boxes on
12th October from 1.30 - 3.30 pm.

All Ladies and Gentlemen welcome.

It would be a great help if you could please consider donating some of the following items for **boys or girls aged 3 - 5, 6 - 11, or 12+**

Practical Items:

Facecloth & Soap
Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Hair Accessories
Hairbrush/Comb
Hat/Scarf
Gloves/Mittens
Underwear
Tights/Socks
Stationery:

- Notebook
- Crayons/Coloured Pencils
- Pens
- Pencil Case

Small Gifts:

Necklace
Small Soft Toy
Small Rubber Ball/Inflatable Ball/
Tennis Ball
Game
Puzzle
Toy Vehicles
Sweets (NOT Chocolate)
(use by date from March 2024)

If you prefer you can give a money donation which Carol will use towards the cost of transporting the boxes.

If you would like to donate items, make up a box or help in any way, please contact Carol on 01706 367640 or Linda Peacock on 01706 522593

Friendship Group

“What the Victorians did for us”



On Thursday 14th September the inaugural meeting of the Friendship group was held. May I begin with the word WOW? Over thirty people [men and women] attended this talk and slide show by retired GP David Hudson. He has been a philatelist all his life so it wasn't surprising that he concentrated on stamps and postage for part of his talk. Fascinating information about the years from Victoria's accession to the throne in June 1837 to her death in January 1901. This era was a time of vast political reform and social change. Charles Dickens was writing profusely, railways and shipping boomed and the first telephone and telegraph service were introduced.

Did you know that in the early days of postage the receipt of a letter meant the recipient had to pay the postage? Thanks to social reformer, Rowland Hill, in May 1840 the first adhesive postage stamps were distributed, opening up what had been a complex and expensive system to the much wider public. This coincided with an increase in literacy and communication.



Lesley Sutton

21 October: An apple a day.....



... keeps the doctor away is a common saying that comes from an old English adage, 'to eat an apple before going to bed, will make the doctor beg his bread'. In 1990, Common Ground, a Dorset charity, decided it was time to boost the social standing of the humble British apple by giving it a special celebration day, aptly

called 'Apple Day' to be held on 21 October each year.

The first Apple Day was in the old Apple Market, Covent Garden, London. As well as being a celebration, Apple Day was intended to raise the awareness of the danger of not only losing the traditional British apple but to also highlight the richness and diversity of our landscape, ecology, and culture. It has, says Common Ground, also played a part in raising awareness in the provenance and traceability of food.

Common Ground describes themselves as '*a small, grass roots organisation that collaborate openly to reconnect people with nature and inspire communities to become responsible for their local environment.*' They believe that enjoying where you live and celebrating the connections people have with the wildlife and landscape on their doorstep, is at the root of meaningful conservation.

Raising awareness of the British apple is an excellent example of their ambitions. Did you know, for example, there are about 2,500

varieties of apples in the UK alone — worldwide the number is about 7,000. It has been calculated that you could eat a different variety of English apple every day for six years, so why not start by trying some different varieties on Apple Day this month?

The apple dates from Biblical times and, depending on the Bible translation, it is referred to several times. It is often thought to have been the forbidden fruit that Adam and Eve picked from the Tree of Life, although most Biblical scholars will tell you that the fig is a more likely candidate, especially as they covered their nakedness with fig leaves.

According to Christiananswers.com 'There is currently no clear evidence that apples grew in Israel in ancient times (possibly due to the heat). But they were certainly not unknown in Israel, and the land does have cooler hill country. They grew north of Israel in Lebanon and the ancient Romans cultivated apple trees extensively. It is also possible that climatic conditions may have been more favourable in ancient times in Israel. Today, more than 40 types of fruit are commercially grown there in the northern hills of Israel and in Gaza.

The apple is thought to have been domesticated 4,000–10,000 years ago in the Tian Shan mountains between western China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. It then travelled along the Silk Road to Europe, with hybridization and the transfer of genetic material between species of wild crab apple from Siberia, the Caucasus and Europe.

The earliest known named English apple variety is the pearmain which was first mentioned in 1204, having been introduced into Britain by the Normans.

<https://www.commonground.org.uk/apple-day/>



Eco - Messy Church



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023



The Season of Creation begins on 1st September on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends 4 October. This Season of Creation is based on the Prophet Amos saying *“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”* (Amos 5: 24). The aim is that we all join the mighty river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity y. As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

With 6 members of the Eco Group also helping with Messy Church we decided to base our latest one on the Season of Creation and Let Eco-Justice flow like a River. On the 10th September we welcomed 19 children and their accompanying adults to Church for our latest Messy Church. A lot of our crafts reused rubbish, kindly collected by the Church congregation.

Messy Church generally includes a range of activities with discussion topics for each activity. We also have science experiments courtesy of Professor Potty, and we were once again pleased to welcome the Scout leaders who brought down their archery sets and BBQ with toasted Smores (marshmallows sandwiched between chocolate biscuits). We then have a short children’s talk based on the theme followed by food.

Our activities this time included:

- **Turtles** made from egg boxes. Discussing how you would feel if people came and dumped their waste in your home?
- **Bulbs** planted in animal plant pots made from the bottom of plastic bottles. Discussing taking care of things we grow and how God takes care of us as we grow.
- **Bird feeders** made from lollipop sticks. Discussing taking care of God’s creation by feeding the birds.
- **Fat balls** made from toilet rolls. Discussing how the Bible talks about how

even sparrows have a place to live. How does it make you feel knowing that you have a home?

- **A mighty river** made from crisp packets and other plastic wrappers. Discussing how our rivers should be crystal clear like the river of water of life in the Bible, how do you feel when you see rubbish in a river?
- **Plastic bottle fishes.** Discussing how our oceans and seas are polluted by plastic, how do you think you can help reduce the amount of plastic you use?
- **Wooden animals.** Discussing how animals are an important part of our world.
- **Snow Leopards** discussing endangered animals.
- **Season of Creation tree** with names of attendees
- **Rocky roads and decorating sea creature biscuits.** Discussing how there are many different sea creatures and it's sad that their home is polluted by humans.



St Francis of Assisi - love for the Creation



St Francis (1181 - 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life. Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.



Dementia Care

This article was copied with permission from REFORM MAGAZINE.
(a monthly magazine written by the URC.) and submitted by Gillian
Galloway

(She showed the article to Linda and Lyn, and both agreed it is a suitable
article for our own Church magazine)

All are welcome? Dementia care
'It's painful when people ask how she is,
but don't visit her themselves'



Alex Clare-Young, the author, speaks to a range of people from around the United Reformed Church about their experiences of church and what welcome might feel like for them.

I wonder what feeling genuinely welcome means to you. This month, I have been speaking with a church goer whose wife lives with Alzheimer's and experiences the dementia group of symptoms. He attends a church belonging to another denomination, and midweek events at his local URC. She is protected under the disability characteristics of the equality Act, and her husband is protected under the marital status characteristic. The couple's names and some details have been changed to protect their anonymity.

Here are three top tips from this month's article:

1. *Continue to communicate with people regularly when their circumstances and communication styles change*
2. *If there are regular activities in your church, consider how you might bring those activities to people who are not able to attend in the church building*
3. *Remember the humanity of carers, and continue to engage with them as the people that they are, as well as asking after the relatives they care for. If you do ask after relatives, and if appropriate/possible, consider following the question up with asking whether a phone-call or a visit from yourself or an elder or pastoral carer would be appreciated.*

4. *You may also consider becoming a 'dementia friendly church' (We as a church have already done this)*

Ben's wife lives with Alzheimer's. Her disease, which is the term Ben uses to describe Julie's experiences, has been progressing for years. When I asked Ben if he would like to write an article for this column, he asked me to write it for him, drawing on the experiences that he has shared with me in the past. When I send Ben the drafted article, he replies **"It says it all, doesn't it? It's not the church's fault, and some things have changed since then, it's just not a fair situation for anyone really."** I am impressed, not for the first time for his generosity of spirit.

Julie and Ben have been attending the same church since they got married. Julie has been attending for her whole life. She has always found church supportive, particularly when their children were growing up. Ben describes Julie's love of church warmly, with a nostalgic expression. It makes me ask what has changed. Ben says poignantly, **"People think that the problem with dementia is that people forget things; the real problem is that people who don't have to live with it forget the people who have dementia"**.



Ben goes on to explain that Julie hasn't heard from their church since she moved to a care home. Before then, when Ben was bringing Julie to church regularly, fellow members had become more and more distant. They didn't really talk to either of the couple anymore. Now that Julie cannot get to church, Ben attends by himself and sits in the back row. He leaves during the last hymn because he finds it painful when people ask how Julie is, but don't visit her themselves.

I ask him whether the care home has a chaplain. He shakes his head sadly and explains that a minister visits but that, because Julie had never met him before her symptoms increased in severity, she doesn't recognise him and won't talk to him.

Another time, Ben tells me about the care home that Julie lives in. He feels that they are doing their best, despite being understaffed and underfunded,

but also notes that, because Julie is significantly younger than other residents, she is often left out of social activities. He visits her every single day to make sure that she is able to attend events and appointments, and effectively manages her care from home.

Since she has been in residential care, Ben has been walking and getting buses more often than ever before, travelling to and from the care home. He is saving up for new shoes and for craft activities that Julie might enjoy. I wonder aloud whether the local church might not be able to provide some activities for members who are not able to attend services. Ben smiles and says “That would mean the world”.

For more information and advice visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk

Christmas Cards for sale



For Sale Christmas cards.

Just 10p each or 12 for £1.

Every penny donated to support the work of Bamford Chapel and Norden URC.

There is an honesty box for your payment.

Thank you - Louise

Coffee Mornings



Did you know?

Donations towards tea and coffee are split between Springhill Hospice and Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, once cost of ingredients is deducted.

£7,500 raised
since coffee mornings began in 2014!

Thank you to those who come to this Thursday coffee morning [10.30am to Noon] and donate generously.



*The Ian Newman
Community Film Club*

**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

Saturday 21st October 2023

**6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film
Admission £3**

“The Duke” 2021 PG



Supported by Rochdale Township

A Big Breakfast for Springhill Hospice



A big breakfast was held in aid of Springhill Hospice on Saturday 9TH September

A very well attended breakfast was held in aid of Springhill Hospice. The assembly was graced by His Worship the Mayor of Rochdale, Councillor Michael Holly accompanied by The Lady Mayoress, Margaret Holly. The fund raising manager from the Hospice, Jenna, also came along to support the event. £158 was raised by the hard working folks in the kitchen. The weather was very hot so working in there was not very pleasant.

Thank you to the helpers and all of you who came to support this very worthwhile cause.

Lesley Sutton



Anyone can be a heart specialist. The only requirement is that you love somebody.

A Reflection: What in God's Name?



When naming a newborn child, or changing our name for whatever reason, it is not unusual to turn to a book, or more likely today to search online, to check what the name means. In Biblical times, names were taken much more seriously and would usually reflect the child's ancestry and what that child was expected to achieve in the future. Very often we find that when someone was called by God to serve him, God would change their name to reflect their new calling; for example, Abram became Abraham, Sarai was changed to Sarah, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter and so on. This tradition of changing your name when called by God continues today in convents and monasteries, when nuns and monks take on a different name from the one they were called in the world outside.

It's not surprising, therefore, that when Moses was sent by God to rescue the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, he asked God for his name so that he could tell Pharaoh who had sent him. The name in Hebrew that God gave Moses was YHWH, a name that is unpronounceable in Hebrew or any other language. It was probably because God's real name is unpronounceable that it became a Jewish tradition that the name of God must never be written down or said out loud. Even the word 'God' would be written, and is still written today by some people, as G_d.

However, as time went on vowels were added to YHWH and this led to YaHWeH (pronounced yarway) which evolved into Jehovah. We are told in Exodus 3:14 that God answered Moses' question about what his name is by

saying, **"I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"** The name 'I am ' implies that God has existed since before time began, that he exists right now and will continue to exist forever, and that his name will not change.

Moving on to the time of Jesus, you can see why the names that Jesus called himself angered the Jewish leaders. Seven times – seven being the Biblical number for completeness - Jesus declared that he was I am, the name of God that is so Holy that no-one was allowed to say it, or indeed, write it. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says: **"I am the bread of life; I am the light of the world; I am the gate; I am the Good Shepherd; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the way, the truth and the life; and I am the true vine."** Jesus clearly identifies himself as God's son, I am. As such Jesus reveals that he existed with God before the Creation, exists now, and will exist with God the Father for ever.



Ian Newman Community Film Club



**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

If you are unable to visit the film club on a specific date but would like to watch the film at home, you can always borrow the DVD of the film for a small fee – no more than £3 [which is admission].

Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am **Monday Gang / Garden Gang**
(who do work in or around the building)
10.15 am **Pastoral Meeting**
1.30 pm **Bridge Club**
7.30 - 8.30 pm **Monday Prayer Group** (in Lounge)
8.00 pm **Monday Night Home Group** (at Redmond's)
- 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 - 12 noon **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** 3rd, 17th, 31st October
7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see page 6)
- Thursday:** **Friendship Group** 2nd Thursday in the month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 12th October (see page 12)
- Heritage Group** 2nd Thursday in the month
7.30 pm 12th October
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 6th October
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month
Community Film Club 21st October
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film - (see page 24)

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

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



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DATES FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 15th October

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 26th October

Magazine distributed: Sunday 29th October

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

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