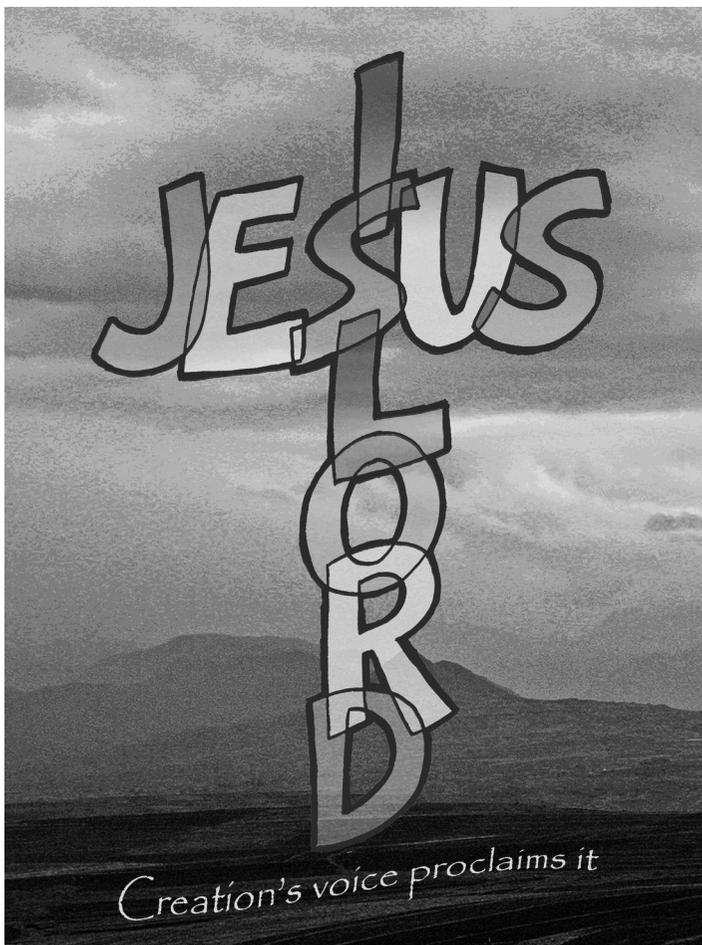




The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



February 2017

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT



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.



February 2017

Saturday 4 th February	7.30 pm	Footloose Production (see details on page 18)
Sunday 5 th February	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	7.30 pm	Footloose Production (see details on page 18)
Thursday 9 th February	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (Moved from 2 nd)
Sunday 12 th February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	12 Noon	Church Meeting (please do your best to attend)
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Tuesday 14 th February	Lunch 12.15	Lunchtime Concert 1.00 pm (See details on page 11)
Wednesday 15 th February	1.15 pm	Midweek Communion Service
Sunday 19 th February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Sunday 26 th February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Andy Platt
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Anne Fitton
Thursday 2 nd March	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting

Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am 'Monday Gang'
(do work on or around the building)
10.00 am Pastoral Meeting
1.30 pm Bridge Club
8.00 pm Focus on Prayer (in the Crèche)
8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group
- Tuesday:** 9.15 am Toddlers' Group
From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies, Guides
- Wednesday:** 6.45 pm Boys' Brigade
7.30 pm Home Group 'Exploring the Bible'
- Thursday:** 10.00 am Community Coffee Morning
1.00 pm Art Group (at Chapel)
- Friday:** Scouts
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- Monday:** **Joy Group 27th February**
6.30 pm at Dolce Vita (optional), then
7.30 pm at 17 Bamford Mews
- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing 7th & 21st February**
2.30 pm in the Lounge
Home Group 7th & 28th February
8.00 pm in the Manse 'Exploring Faith'
- Thursday:** **Ladies' Fellowship 9th February**
7.45 pm at Chapel Entry £3 (See page 18)

If you would like further information about any of the groups and where they meet, please check the **weekly notice sheet** or visit the website at **www.bcnchurch.org.uk** or speak to an Elder.

Message from the Manse

“Sabbatical update: Change can be hard”



There was much I enjoyed about my sabbatical: the conversations with people, the worship I enjoyed in varying places, the conversations with Church leaders who shared some of their stories with me. Two such conversations saddened me immensely. One was of a minister who had been at his Church for 17 years. He had done remarkable things and the Lord was blessing his ministry at the Church. He inherited a church with two services (one traditional and one contemporary) and two further services had begun a Spanish speaking service and an Asian Service. I sat having lunch with him and he said to me that the changes he had overseen had been hard. One thing I will never forget him saying was, “Richard, there are some people here who hate me.” I was somewhat taken aback at his statement. He went on to explain that some people had really struggled with the growth and the changes that had been made to bring about that growth. The same people also said that “they were waiting for the minister to leave so that they could get their church back.”

A church that had grown in numerical terms under the minister’s leadership – how difficult some people find change.

The second conversation was with another minister who had been at her Church for 11 years. She was a young married Mum when she began her ministry. She told me of letters that were written to her by people who attended her church; letters which had been immensely painful to read so much so that she had sought counselling. Under her ministry the church she served has grown numerically and a full time youth worker was employed. Some of the people who had written those letters had been won over by her time and dedication to the people she served.

I tell you these stories as I was quite shocked by what I was told. In the first instance the pain had been so great that the minister spent his first sabbatical recovering from the stress and strain of what had been a difficult period bringing changes to a church so that it could grow.

Ministry can be hard. A minister cannot please his or her Church(es) all the time. Decisions sometimes mean that we as members of the church don't get our own way and we might not necessarily agree with the decisions taken.

What strikes me as I reflect on those two conversations is the Parable of the Gardener in John's Gospel Chapter 15. I encourage you to read that passage of scripture. In it we hear of a Gardener (God) pruning the branches that bear no fruit. Sometimes that is us being pruned where we have stopped producing fruit. Sometimes, in the Church sense, it can be groups/meetings/events that need to stop because they do not or have stopped producing fruit.



My hope for 2017 and beyond is that even though we might have further buildings works to do we do not lose sight of the spiritual and the faith aspect of church. I am not going to list things that need to change but I want us together to discern the mind of Christ. To pray together and what I mean by that is sharing together in times of prayer - that being *speaking* to God and *listening* to God to hear what He has to say to us as His Church.

I want the Elders to take more of a lead in the direction of the Church and not to get bogged down too much with matters of finance and property – as important as these things are for the Elders (trustees). Please pray for the Elders and me as we offer a lead to the Church and may we ALL together GROW into the people God wants us to be. Not for the glory of any individual/group/organisation but for the glory of God and God's Kingdom!

I am excited about the future if not a little apprehensive, as I know things need to change for us to grow and be the people and the Church that God wants us to be. Sometimes that change is laying down and sometimes that change is taking up.

May what we lay down and take up be in line with God's good and perfect will.

God Bless us all on this journey together

Richard

Church Meeting Dates 2017

These are the dates of the Church Meetings. If changes are needed, or additional meetings required, these will be announced.

12th February; 19th March; 21st May; 16th July; 17th September and 19th November.

Please put these dates in your diary as Church Meetings are an important part of the life of the Church. They start as close to 12 noon as possible on these dates.

Preaching Series January and February – Morning Services

As I said in my sermon on the 8th January one of the most striking things I found on my sabbatical in churches that are growing is their commitment and dedication to prayer. Not just praying as individuals or in their services but coming together to discern what God wanted of them as churches.

I felt that leading up to Lent it would be good to think about the theme of prayer. Since the 8th January, and continuing to the end of February, the themes of our morning services will be Prayer.

You are invited to look at the passages and read through them before each Sunday to prepare for what God might say to you (and us) as His people.

Date	Theme	Bible Passage
8 th January	Praying for Ourselves	John 17:1-5
15 th January	Praying for the Leadership	John 17:6-19
22 nd January	Praying for all Believers	John 17:20-26
29 th January	This is How you should Pray	Matthew 6:5-18
5 th February	Persistent Prayer 1	Ephesians 6:10-23
12 th February	Persistent Prayer 2	Luke 6:12-16 & 18:1-8
19 th February	Thanksgiving & Prayer	Ephesians 1:15-23
26 th February	Praying God's Will	Matthew 26:36-46

Preaching Series during Lent

Whilst on my sabbatical I was led in my research to the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity and to a 6 week study course called: "Life on the Frontline". It is a course that I will be running during Lent on Monday evenings in Church (*see the poster on page 18 of this magazine*). It is a discipleship course which will help us think about being whole life disciples. We are disciples whether we are at work....at play....with our family....shopping etc. etc. I hope as many of us as possible will attend this course. Don't worry if you can only make a few dates, come along anyway. Which led me in my thoughts and prayers to the possibility of using the same Bible passage and weekly course headings for the Sunday morning services. We will therefore follow the same passage in the Sunday before the course itself. So on the 5th March in the morning service we will use the Bible Passage and course title for the course on Monday 6th March. This doesn't mean that we will use all the course material on the Sunday but we can set some context and explore the passage on the Sunday in preparation for the Monday evening.

The dates, themes and Bible passages are as follows:

Date	Theme	Bible Passage
5 th March	The Frontline Call	Matthew 28:16-20
12 th March	The Frontline Commission	Jeremiah 19:4-14
19 th March	The Frontline Community	Colossians 3:12-17
26 th March	The Frontline Concern	Acts 3:1-10
2 nd April	The Frontline Cry	Matthew 6:9-13
9 th April	The Frontline Commitment	Acts 4:23-41

News of the Family

We no longer include a regular "news of the family" article as the magazine is now open to the public on the Bamford Chapel & Norden URC Website. However if you still wish to have a personal article included in the magazine and you don't mind it being made public please contact Linda Peacock or Lesley Sutton.

Last Night I Took a Journey



Last night I took a journey
To a land across the seas
I didn't go by ship or plane
I travelled on my knees.

I saw so many people there
In bondage to their sin,
And Jesus told me I should go,
That there were souls to win.

But I said "Jesus, I can't go
To lands across the seas"
He answered quickly "Yes, you can
By travelling on your knees."

He said, "You pray, I'll meet the need,
You call, and I will hear,
It's up to you to be concerned
For lost souls far and near.

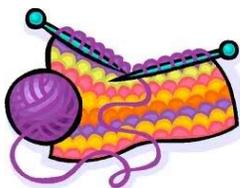
And so I did, I knelt in prayer,
Gave up some hours of ease,
And with the Saviour by my side,
I travelled on my knees.

As I prayed on, I saw souls saved
And twisted persons healed,
I saw God's workers, strength renewed
While labouring in the field.

I said, "Yes, Lord I'll take the job,
Your heart I want to please;
I'll heed your call and swiftly go
By travelling on my knees.



Heritage Advent at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC



A Knitted Christmas Tree was the highlight of our festivities on the 11th and 12th December. Our church was opened for the Community to come and view the successful renovation of our sanctuary. 216 years of our heritage was exhibited through physical, visual and electronic means.

The theme for our Christmas Trees was Heritage, the trees designed by groups from within the church family. Our highlight was the knitted tree, an idea gleaned from Reform Magazine. A total of approximately 550 squares and knitted decorations made up our 6-foot tree. What a waste of wool you say! Well no, come January we shall be converting the squares into blankets for the Manchester Homeless.

ANNUAL BROWNIES COFFEE EVENING



In aid of



The Brownies would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported them at the coffee evening in November. They raised £283 and hope you all enjoyed it.





**ROCHDALE
CHRISTIAN AID
EVENING**

Speaker

Bonnie Gillies
From Christian Aid

"A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME"

Stalls, Activities, Refreshments, Quiz!

christian
aid

6th February 2017 - 7.30pm
at Rochdale Parish Church
Sparrow Hill OL16 1FF

6th February 2017 at 7.30 pm
At Rochdale Parish Church, Sparrow Hill OL16 1FF
All Welcome

A New Year's Day Poem **by Charles Moir**

O Thou whose glory
fills the heavens,
Whose bounty
clothes the earth,
To Thee a poem of thanks
we raise
For blessings from our birth.

For that untiring love
Thou dost,
From day to day renew,
O may it on our hearts descend
Like heaven-distilled dew.

For mercy great, unending still,
Which gave up to the grave
Thine only Son,
the Sinless One,
Our sinful souls to save.

While entering on another year
Our cares on Thee we cast,
Beseeching aid in days to come
Which cheered us
through the past.

That still the freedom
may be ours
To kneel down in Thy sight,
And worship Thee at
shut of day,
And in the morning light.

That from temptation's
fatal paths
Thou turn our steps away;
And keep us from
unholy thoughts
That lead the mind astray.

No more may lust of
worldly wealth
Command thoughts
that are thine;
Nor may we envy other's lot,
Or at our own repine.

Than all the riches
earth can boast
Or gems beneath the sea,
We know the pious,
humble heart,
More precious is to Thee.

How needful, then, to train
our thoughts,
And fan the heavenly flame
Of faith, in the
believing heart,
Triumphing o'er sin
and shame

And holding by the Word,
thou hast
For grace and guidance given,
Pass through this world
in holy fear,
True candidates for heaven.

**Bamford Chapel
& Norden URC**

Presents

MUSIC AT LUNCHTIME

Tuesday 14th February



Henry Fry :
Saxophone

Alex Smith : Percussion

*Reasonably priced Lunch Items
are served from 12.15pm*

Concert begins at 1.00pm

Concert Admission is £3.50

Lunchtime Concerts

Since the double issue of the magazine appeared Bamford Chapel music lovers have been enthralled by two delightful lunchtime concerts. In December, despite a disappointing audience, due to a clash with another event, a local soprano, Claire Lees, who had been nurtured by the Rochdale Music Service several years earlier, presented a wide-ranging and attractive programme of songs, from Britten's folk song arrangements to ballads from the shows, via some demanding Richard Strauss music. Claire, currently a student on the Opera course at the Guildhall School of Music in London, whose vocal quality reminded me of Kathryn Rudge, was sympathetically accompanied by Elizabeth Legroux.

Our New Year concert was given by a fascinating duo of instrumentalists, with Anna Mari on the flute and Elinor Nicolson playing the harp. Both were former "distinction" students of the RNCM. We had already enjoyed Elinor's musicianship when she appeared at the Chapel in a Music Society recital in October.

Their music had a distinct French and Spanish flavour and both demonstrated the extent of sounds their instruments could provide, explaining why a harp needs seven pedals and how half a flute has its uses! A larger audience certainly enjoyed their performances and their rapport.



It was good to welcome some new faces to our audience and we hope they will return for the last two concerts of the current season. On Tuesday February 14 we have invited another

unusual twosome – Hannah Fry playing the saxophone with Alex Smith on percussion. Then on March 14 we look forward to hearing a talented Brass Ensemble from Cheetham’s School. It’s always a special occasion when their students come to Bamford. Previous audiences have reached 100!

So as we try to keep live music flourishing in our attractive surroundings, I hope church members will support these final two concerts and invite friends and neighbours to join us. An hour of calm in a busy and demanding world can be both soothing and uplifting,

Michael Lucas

A decorative border consisting of 28 small globe icons arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

**Bamford Chapel and Norden United
Reformed Church Project 2017**

We are already starting to think about Project 2017. Any ideas or nominations will be considered along with several projects we have considered in previous years but felt that they needed further investigation.

The Church in the World Group will be meeting in March to consider all options. Meeting date to follow. Anyone who is interested in joining the group please speak to Barbara Redmond or Carole Greaves. All will be welcome.

Philippians 2:4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

**cover to
cover**
LENT STUDY GUIDE

the way of the
CROSS

Rob Frost

A silhouette of a person carrying a cross against a bright, cloudy sky. The person is seen from the side, with their arms raised to support the cross. The cross is made of two dark wooden beams. The background is a bright, hazy blue sky with some light rays or lens flare effects.

**You are invited to the Churches Together in
North West Rochdale Lent Course 2017**

The way of the Cross

Lunch at 12.30pm

Course 1pm—2pm

The course is on a Thursday lunch time at
Bamford Chapel and Norden URC
We hope you will be able to come and join us

Date	Leader
2nd March	Revd Richard Bradley
9th March	Anne Stevenson
16th March	Revd Debbie Hopkinson
23rd March	Revd Denise Owen
30th March	Revd Sylvia Baron
6th April	Mr Mike Davis

Please come along and share fellowship and faith with each other from across the Churches in the Churches Together in North West Rochdale group of churches. It is great to have two new colleagues with us this year—the Revd Stephen Nolan serving the parishes of St Michael's, St James' and St Paul's and the Revd Debbie Hopkinson the minister of Norden Methodist Church and Spotland Methodist Church.

More course details can be obtained from Revd Richard Bradley on 369622



Ladies Fellowship

At our January meeting, the Ladies Fellowship welcomed our own Rebecca Baines to talk about her experiences with the homeless in Manchester. What an interesting and informative evening we had. Rebecca opened by explaining how she worked for The Challenge but mainly talked about her voluntary work for Lifeshare where she has been since August 2015.

Lifeshare works to prevent and break the cycle of homelessness, reduce harm and promote health. Rebecca quoted official figures showing the number of homeless in Manchester but explained how this was done in one night by counting only those who were asleep and did not even cover all the streets in the city centre, therefore the number was not accurate. Official figures showed 43 in 2014 and 70 in 2015. This compared to the number that Lifeshare helped of 90 in 2014 and in 2016 it rose to 300!

It was explained that people had to meet a criteria to be officially homeless by the council, known as Statutory Homelessness. They were offered help if they fell into the following categories:

1. A right to remain in the UK
2. Unintentionally homeless (several versions of this)
3. Priority need (under 16 therefore not eligible for housing)
4. Pregnant
5. Care Leaver
6. Physical or mental issues
7. Old (though how old was old we didn't know)

Rebecca went on to explain the different types of homelessness including sofa surfers, people in Bed & Breakfast accommodation, hostels and night shelters. We were then shown a very moving short film of the homeless in Manchester where people talked about being on the streets. One man had been on the streets for 7 years in Poland and then 5 years in Britain (now 7 years as the film was made in 2014) and how he boarded up the doors of derelict buildings where he was staying so no-one could get in. He was frightened he was going to be killed but it was his home! *The film can be found on You Tube.*

We were then informed about Lifeshare and how it works. Lifeshare is for 18 to 25 year olds and help by Crisis, Assessment, Referral, Diversity Service (CARDS). This involved 80% of expenditure, 1:1 support meetings for clients who are homeless, at risk, vulnerable to violence, sexual exploitation or abuse. Lifeshare assess their needs, whether it is housing, financial, physical or mental health and design an individual support plan. Intervention includes finding accommodation, food

parcels (just for the day), helping sort benefits and advocating on client's behalf helping to rebuild family links.

We were shown photos of the rooms used by Lifeshare and the storage areas for clothing, toiletries and food. The kitchen had been donated by companies who were renewing their own equipment and there was a very large area for clients to eat breakfasts which are given every weekend. There was also a room to relax in, play games and chat or just sleep in comfort. A shower is available and access to clothing and toiletries. Once a month, there is also access to a barber and a nurse.

The Christmas project covered the 23rd to 29th December, 8.00am to 8.00pm. Between 40 and 60 clients were given 3 meals a day with 100 being served on Christmas day. Showers were available and the barber, a podiatrist, a doctor as well as a nurse were in attendance. Some people would only see the nurse as they were afraid the doctor might find something wrong. However, if there was anything causing concern the nurse would refer them to the doctor anyway. Musical entertainment was also provided and all was overseen by 100 volunteers.

We were also shown the lighter side of volunteering when Rebecca talked about some of the people she met and explained she tried not to get too attached to some, but that was hard. She had become very fond of some and missed them when they did not turn up.

Rebecca concluded by explaining the way forward and the **Vision to End Homelessness in Manchester**. This was by the Manchester Homeless Partnership which calls on the citizens of Manchester, the City Council, healthcare and other public sector services together with charities, faith groups, business and other institutions to adopt and implement the values of this charter.



At the end of the talk, there were several questions and comments. Although this had been an insight into the homeless in Manchester there were many homeless in Rochdale too. We were all grateful that we were not in such a position and gave thanks for people like Rebecca who volunteered to help those who found themselves in such circumstances. There but for the grace of God.....

***A plea from Rebecca for men's items still needed by the homeless:
Shoes size 8 to 11; Boxer underwear; Thick coats***

Linda Kerford



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEAL

on Thursday 8th December at The Pavilion Bar and Bistro, Birtle, Bury.

What an enjoyable evening thirty-six ladies experienced : we occupied more than half of the ground floor of the restaurant! Excellent service, delicious food, beautiful surroundings [the Christmas decorations were breathtaking, especially on arrival when driving into the entrance – all the trees were lit with twinkling lights. Magical]. Special thanks were extended to Linda Kerford along with a spray of flowers in recognition of all her hard work on behalf of the Ladies Fellowship. The Christmas tree in Chapel during Advent was solely her design (I was the labourer) and for this the Fellowship is very grateful.

One final word on the Christmas outing, it was so good to be able to welcome a few visitors to our gathering; ladies who are unable to attend monthly meetings but who were pleased to be invited to join us on 8th December. Thank you for your company.

LESLEY SUTTON



The second meeting of 2017 will be on 9th February at 7.45pm. There is a change to the advertised evening. We are going to have games of BINGO [with Prizes!!] so please come along and have some post Christmas party fun!

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC presents

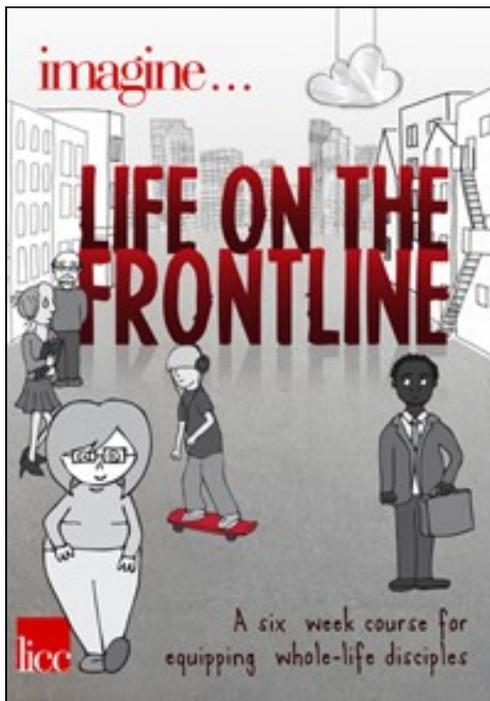
Footloose

*under the direction of Clair Gooding
& Steven Gooding*

**Saturday 4th February
& Sunday 5th February
At 7.30 pm**



You are invited to the Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Lent Course 2017



**The
will be**

**course
run on**

**Monday
evenings from 7.30pm—9pm
in Chapel.**

**The dates are as follows:
6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March and
3rd and 10th April**

United Nations Youth Delegate



United Nations

The 1st of December, one of my favourite days of the year. Finally, Christmas is getting started and no-one can deny it is happening anymore. This year 1st of December had a rather different kind of excitement for me. I received news that I, Alison Greaves am attending the United Nations 2017 Winter Youth Assembly as a delegate for the United Kingdom. Crazy, crazy stuff and then a few days later my jaw dropped yet again. After further contact with the conference organizing committee I was informed that I am the sole representative for the UK. Shocked? Don't worry, me too!

So where did it all begin? On an unplanned trip to the United Nations Headquarters on a family trip to New York in 2016, world lover me was overwhelmed and inspired by the scale and commitment of the organisation. I have always had a keen passion for geography and politics, particularly on how they affect the environment that we live in, and my A Level studies continued to spur it on. After a summer of relaxing and holiday making following a hard two years of A Levels, I received my results, successfully getting a place at Northumbria University to start a Child Nursing Degree in March 2017, which I am very much looking forward to. This left me with six months between the summer and starting my degree; so currently I have two jobs, the first working as a Bar associate in Rochdale's own Wetherspoons Regal Moon and the second as a Bank Mental Health Nursing Assistant for Pennine Care. Whilst researching for a climate change presentation for the Monday evening Home Group, I stumbled across the United Nations Youth assembly where selected youth from around the world unite at the UN Headquarters in New York to improve the world that we will grow up in. So, after a long application process I was offered a place to attend the United Nations Youth conference and this is me

explaining to the people I call my church family.

The theme of the conference is “Realising the 2030 Agenda: Youth in Action”. The aim is to start to implement the new 17 Sustainable Development Goals so that countries will increase efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Many of the factors that will determine how effective the world will respond to these 17 goals will come from governments and organisations within each nation, which at the United Nations Youth Conference the youth of the world help decide. However, every person has a part to play as the Sustainable Development Goals focus not only on developing nations but developed nations too.

Yes, that means us, here in the UK. The United Nations even has suggestions for ways to help the world move towards the Sustainable Development



Goals without leaving the sofa! So, nobody can get out of it that easily.

Currently I am visiting local primary and secondary schools teaching them about the Sustainable Development Goals in an interactive way. I am visiting a few local colleges too for a more discussion based lesson, as well as meeting with Rochdale Voice and Manchester Hive (Youth Councils) to see if they can weave the Sustainable Development Goals into their work. I have also been working with some of the Local Councillors and am hoping to receive some funding and further support from them. They even managed to get me a bit of press, if you saw the Rochdale Observer and Manchester Evening News a few weeks ago. But the most important aspect for me is that I see this as my mini mission from God to do something that means

people will have better lives. It is my way of letting my “Jesusness” shine. I hope I can inspire you guys to make small changes in your lives to benefit all, so by 2030 the Sustainable Development Goals will have been met creating a more equitable and just world. Because of this I am working closely with the URC Youth and hopefully will be able to run a workshop at URC Youth Assembly in 2018 about the work I have done. The Joint Public Issues team, of which the URC is a part, targets very similar areas as the United Nations do, so we are working in partnership to see how the URC can benefit from my experience. I have also been interviewed by the URC and potentially a short video is being made about me too. So, so exciting!

If you would like to keep up with my crazy adventure and see more about the Sustainable Goals, please check out my blog at the web link www.seeingtheworldfromanaeroplanewindow.wordpress.com and please don't hesitate to ask me about anything. I would be very happy to hear anyone's input.

Alison Greaves





Foodbank News from John Tolley

November: We have now completely vacated our former premises at 9/10 South Parade for our new neighbours, The Post Office and are settling into No.8 amid ongoing building work to meet our storage needs, although we have still had to take off-site storage for some of our main foodstuffs.

In November we honoured 276 emergency vouchers and we were delighted to accept over 1 tonne of extra food collected by Round Table and we know that there's more to come from them.

December saw a sharp increase in demand for our help with 308 vouchers being serviced, each with a three day emergency supply of food. This accounted for almost 5 tonnes of food. Fortunately our intake of donated food also rose by 7.5 tonnes, boosted by 1.25 tonnes from our collection at Tesco and a further 0.5 tonnes from the Round Table collection continued from last month.

So we start the new year with confidence but still reliant on the continuing support of churches and individual donors throughout Rochdale, for which we thank you all.

PS from Margaret Ogden

The increase in demand has continued into the New Year. On January 5th the Thursday team, of which I am a part, served 27 clients which was the most we had had on one day since the Foodbank started over four years ago. It might also interest some of the longer serving members at BCN to learn that Chris and Anthea Wood joined our team on that same Thursday. It was good to renew our acquaintance after such a long time and we wish them well.

Remember that you can do your part in serving our community by placing a regular donation of food in the box at the front of church or, if you prefer, by making a monetary gift in person to me. The other alternative is to make a contribution in Tesco because they add 30% to anything given in the store.

Thank you



Feeding the Community



**Thursday 9 Mar
10 - 12
Including cake stall**



**Sunday 12 Mar
Games raffle & cake stall
Look out for Banana Man**



Thank You!

We would like to express our thanks for all the cards and good wishes received on the occasion of our Silver Wedding. A special thanks also to all those who dropped in and shared in the celebration... about 50 in total. We had a wonderful couple of days as we rejoiced with our family and friends. There's a pub in Middleton that we used to drive past called "Who'd a thowt it" and it always made us smile in the early days of our courtship. How much more so now? We find it hard to believe and praise God for his goodness to us over these 25 years.

Margaret and Geoff Ogden



Flowers in Church

Donations for Flowers in January
received from:

C. Friend in memory of Kathleen Friend
Bob & Hazel Gordon
in memory of Bob's sister Tricia

If you would like to know more about donating for flowers in church, please speak to Pamela Harrington or Gillian James

**A Cappella Choir of Hamline University
Saint Paul, Minnesota**



What a treat to listen to this wonderful young people's choir conducted by Dr George Chu. The varied programme showed off their excellent tone and

sensitive harmonies and made the hairs stand up on the back of my neck. They are very talented young people with excellent soloists and their enjoyment of singing together shone through. It was a pleasure to talk with some of the girls after the concert and learn a little bit about their life in the USA. Their visit to Bamford was very short but I'm sure they would all have enjoyed their time with their host families and their visit to York the following day. Thank you to all those who made the visit possible.

Linda Peacock



Tanzania
Development Trust

Mugumu Safe House, Tanzania
(our 2014 project)

Barbara, Addie, Carole and Alison are visiting the Mugumu Safe House, Tanzania (for girls fleeing FGM) in February.

They are selling sandwiches and cakes after the morning service for the next few weeks to raise money for the Safe House. All donations for the work of the safe house would be gratefully received.

If you have a spare digital camera which you no longer require, Carole would like to take them to do some work with the girls on self image.

WELCOME TEAM ROTA for February/March/April 2017

Date - Sunday	Name	Name	Name
5th February	Lesley Sutton	Jean Fitton	Ian Sturrock
12th February	Rebecca Gooding	Clair Gooding	Sam Divers
19th February	Julie Platt	Joan Warner	Angela Smith
26th February	Linda Kerford	Beryl Thomas	Clive Glover
5th March	Lesley Sutton	Jean Fitton	Ian Sturrock
12th March	Rebecca Gooding	Clair Gooding	Sam Divers
19th March	Julie Platt	Joan Warner	Angela Smith
26th March	Linda Kerford	Beryl Thomas	Clive Glover
2nd April	Lesley Sutton	Jean Fitton	Ian Sturrock
9th April PALM SUNDAY	Rebecca Gooding	Clair Gooding	Sam Divers
16th April EASTER DAY	Julie Platt	Joan Warner	Angela Smith
23rd April	Linda Kerford	Beryl Thomas	Clive Glover
30th April	Lesley Sutton	Jean Fitton	Ian Sturrock

TEN WAYS TO LOVE

1. Listen without interrupting [Proverbs 18]
2. Speak without accusing [James 1:19]
3. Give without sparing [Proverbs 21:26]
4. Pray without ceasing [Colossians 1:9]
5. Answer without arguing [Proverbs 17:1]
6. Share without pretending [Ephesians 4:15]
7. Enjoy without complaint [Philippians 2:14]
8. Trust without wavering [1 Corinthians 13:7]
9. Forgive without punishing [Colossians 3:13]
10. Promise without forgetting [Proverbs 13:12]





£5,282 money has been gifted to Village Rwanda UK by the people of Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church. A further sum of money will be given once Gift Aid is claimed.

The Trustees of Village Rwanda UK are delighted to have received this amazing amount of money and now they can start the work with local people to put plans in place for building the boat. A big thank you to everyone who was able to contribute in any way. Watch this space for more news.....



**HEYWOOD AND ROCHDALE
COMMITTEE
for Cancer Research**

**OPEN DAY at the home of
Elizabeth and Ken Greer**

TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2017

To acknowledge World Cancer Day on
Saturday 4th February 2017

10.00am-12 Noon : 2.00pm - 4.00pm : 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Admission - £5.00

Coffee : Tea : Cake : Scones

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

United Reformed Church

Charity - Reg'd No 1128387

(FAIRTRADE CHURCH)

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Times of Services:

Family Worship : 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1st Sunday in month
Evening Worship : 6.00 pm : Holy Communion 3rd Sunday in month