

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.

December 2016 & January 2017



Sat 3rd December	10.30 am - 2.00 pm	Christmas Fair				
Sunday 4th December	10.30 am	Family worship with communion led by Revd Richard Bradley				
	6.00 pm	Evening worship led by Sid Hazlehurst				
Thursday 8th December	7.30 pm	n Elders' Meeting				
Sunday 11th December	10.30 am	Family worship led by Revd Richard Bradley				
	6.00 pm	Evening worship led by Food for Thought				
Sunday 18th December	10.30 am	Nativity Service led by Junior Church				
	6.00 pm	Carol Service led by Revd Richard Bradley and the Choir				
Saturday 24th December	11.30 pm	Midnight Service with communion led by Revd Richard Bradley				
Sunday 25th December	10.00 am	Christmas Day Service led by Revd Richard Bradley				
	-	There is no evening service				

December 2016 & January 2017



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Sunday 1st January	10.30 am	Family worship with communion led by Walter Brisk				
	-	There is no evening service				
Thursday 5th January	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting				
Sunday 8th January	10.30 am	Family worship to include Induction and Ordination of Elders led by Revd Richard Bradley				
	6.00 pm	Evening worship led by Revd Richard Bradley				
Sunday 15th January	10.30 am	Family worship led by Revd Richard Bradley				
	6.00 pm	Evening worship with communion led by Revd Richard Bradley				
Sunday 22nd January	10.30 am	Family worship led by Ken Greer				
	6.00 pm	Week of prayer for Christian Unity Service to be held at St Vincent's.				
Sunday 29th January	10.30 am	Family worship led by Revd Richard Bradley				
	6.00 pm	Evening worship led by Margaret Ogden				

Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

Monday: 9 am 'Monday Gang'

(do work on or around the building)

10 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 pm Rainbows, Brownies, Guides

Wednesday: 6.45 pm Boys' Brigade

7.30 pm Exploring the Bible

Thursday: 10.00 am Community Coffee Morning

1.00 pm Art Group (at Chapel)

Sunday: 7.30 pm God Squad (for our Young People)

Monthly Opportunities

Monday Joy Group: last Monday of the month

6.30 pm at Dolce Vita (optional), then

7.30 pm at 17 Bamford Mews

Tuesday Stillness 6th & 20th December /

3rd & 17th January

& Sharing: 2.30 pm in the Lounge
Thursday Ladies' Details to be confirmed

Fellowship:

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 "Churches, Conversations and Christmas"

I feel enormously blessed to have had this sabbatical. I have missed being around and seeing you all but I have also benefited from the rest and the conversations I have had and the churches I have visited both on Sundays and at others times. In total, to date, I have 17 churches or ministers I have visited or spoken to. With 2 more in the pipeline before Christmas. I have been blessed to have joined in with churches for worship on Sundays and to have had midweek meetings with ministers or church leaders. One of my sceptical thoughts at the start of this process was whether there were mainstream denominations that were growing! We hear so many sad stories of church decline. But I must say I have been heartened and blessed to have spent time with some gifted ministers working with tremendous congregations.

I have visited URC churches and ministers, Methodist Churches and ministers, Anglican Churches and vicars a Pentecostal Church and one non-denominational church. I have learnt much from them and I hope that we, as a church, can learn from them and my hope is together we may prayerfully discern what God is saying to us as a church at this time.

I am thinking through how I am going to feedback what I have learnt and what might be valuable for us to consider as a church. I feel the feedback must start in the New Year with a new eldership and with Christmas behind us. So please don't think that I am not feeding back as I feel December is so busy it would not be helpful to feedback before the New Year.

I want to say a big thank you to all those who have taken on extra work in my absence. For the Elders, those who have chaired meetings I would usually chair and for worship leaders, preachers and groups who have been willing to take extra services on or take services when they don't usually. My heartfelt thanks to you.

It has been good to worship here on the one or two occasions I have been present to share worship with you on Sundays. I will say one thing, stemming from my sabbatical, I am excited about the future. But that future is something we must all work for under the guidance of God who created us, redeemed us and empowers us to be the people He wants us to be.

It is a future with an agenda and timeframe set by God and we must, together and prayerfully, discern what that agenda and timeframe is. I cannot promise it will be easy, but I can assure us all, that if we work for God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will see and experience the growth God longs to see in His church.



As we approach this busy time of Advent and Christmas may we truly take the time and the space to reflect again on the true meaning of this festive season. I love Christmas but it is always tinged with sadness as I think about those for whom Christmas is difficult because of a relationship break up or the loss of a loved one whoever recent that loss may have been. I am conscious some of you will be one of those people – please be assured of my prayers.

May the God who gave the greatest gift EVER be the God who walks with us all through Advent onto Christmas and beyond.

May you all have a great and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Your servant in Christ,

Richard

Richard's Day Off changing

Just to let everyone know that my day off will change in the New Year. I have, since my ordination over 11 years ago, had Friday as my day off and that has worked well. However due to our children's commitments on a Saturday I have decided to take Saturdays off instead. Panic not I will still be around for events that take



place on a Saturday in Chapel but when possible I will take Saturdays. When I cannot, due to weddings or fairs etc. I will take another day off in the week.

Thanks, Richard.

Diary dates:

Thursday 8th December Elders' meeting (Please pray for the Elders as the current and new eldership both meet together)

Saturday 17th December 12-1 Churches Together in North West Rochdale Carol Singing at Cutgate Precinct (followed by mince pies at Cutgate Baptist Church)

Sunday 18th December 6pm Carol Service followed by refreshments at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion Service

Christmas Day Service 10am Bring a present you have bought

Thursday 5th January 7.30pm Elders' meeting (please pray for the Elders this night)

Choir Visit

We have been given another fantastic opportunity to host a choir from U.S.A. This time the choir is from Minnesota and there are 35 members and a choir leader to host. Those that have hosted before know it is a pleasure getting to know these young people. Some of us are still in contact with previous visitors.



The choir will be arriving on Sunday 15th January about 4pm and will be leaving Tuesday 17th January about 8;30 am. They will perform a concert in chapel on the Sunday evening and on the Monday the 16th January will be out all day with their leader.

If you are able to host some of the young people please sign up on notice sheet (under the clock) For further information please have a chat with me.

Julie Platt





Flowers in November/December

Donated by:

Ronnie Ford in memory of Harold Barbara Redmond in memory of Marie Howarth

Jean Fitton

Lesley Sutton: remembering all those who are alone at this time of year

Irene Lucas : to wish everyone a Happy

Christmas



AN APPEAL FOR USED STAMPS

Please could you save all used stamps and pass them

to me. I am in contact with a lady who fundraises for

the RNLI and so far this year she has raised £850 from the sale of used stamps. She is hoping to reach nearer £1000 by the end of the year with our help.

Thank you.

PAMELA HARRINGTON





A Special Thank You

As I recover from hip replacement surgery I would like to thank all the staff at Wrightington Hospital for their skill and excellent care. Charlie and I would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who sent cards, flowers, prayers and good wishes; telephoned, made delicious meals and visited. We are really grateful. Bamford



Chapel and Norden URC can pride itself on being such a caring, supportive fellowship.

Thank you also to Louise Aspinall and Lesley Sutton for producing two issues of the church magazine in my absence.

It was lovely to be back in chapel on Remembrance Sunday to hear our grandson Daniel play The Last Post so sensitively; a very moving and proud moment.

Linda Peacock

JUNIOR CHURCH



History repeating itself.....

It only seems like vesterday that, as a teenager, I moved to Rochdale and came across Bamford Chapel and from there became involved in the youth club (led by Ken Greer and Richard Oldroyd at the time), Hay Hodos or God Squad as it is now called (then led by Addie and Barbara Redmond) and Junior Church [Sunday School]. And not only did I attend Junior Church but under the leadership of Bernice Magson (of whom I hope some people still remember) I became a Primary Junior Church Leader. Some 30 years later, I find myself in the same place being that same Primary Junior Church Leader, just with 'a few' more grey hairs and certainly carrying a few extra pounds. And if that alone does not make me feel old, then having my daughter, Rebecca, helping in the Primary Junior Church each month, certainly does. Even my younger daughter, Emma is itching to become a leader when her age allows.

So why become a Junior Church leader? Well thirty years ago it was the experience I needed before going to university in order to become a teacher....a vocation I had wanted from the age of 5 if not even younger. Teaching was and still is my dream job but now as a Headteacher I rarely get chance to actually teach. And it's the younger children I love. Don't get me wrong, all young people are lovely but hormones and attitude are a worrying combination at the best of times. So when I got the chance to help with the Primary Junior Church, I felt immensely privileged and felt I was 'back

home.'

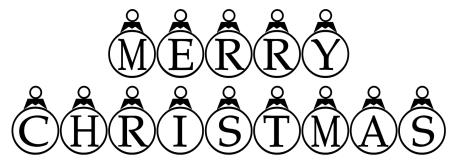
The Primary section of Junior Church have at least 10 children who attend (sometimes less, sometimes more) and it caters for children who are in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes of Primary School. Gillian Galloway and myself plan alternate weeks and although I confess to being nowhere near as creatively talented in preparing activities for our young children as Gillian, I try my best and the children are always enthusiastic to take part. Together with Michelle, Rebecca and Alison we make a good team but we would always welcome any additions should you feel you may like to help, as indeed would any of the groups I am sure.

When I plan the activities every fortnight for these young children, I learn so much myself and as we spend our Sunday mornings together we have so much fun learning about Jesus and God's love for each and every one of us. Children (or young people as they rightly prefer to be called) within our church are so very precious and it's the one thing that will keep our church alive for years to come.

May God bless each and every one of our young people now and always.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Clair Gooding





Once again, we are able to report on two concerts in the Chapel.

The first was our own midday event on Tuesday the 8th. Some of us had wondered how successful a programme of double bass music might be:

the artistes came to us highly commended, but still – a double bass! We need have had no fear. Toby Hughes, accompanied at the piano by Benjamin Powell, enthralled us with his programme. In his hands, the instrument sang with real delight. The audience were clearly very appreciative and showed this by vigorous applause and, in many cases, speaking personally to Toby at the concert's conclusion. The accompanist too received high praise – he is on the staff of professional accompanists at the Royal Northern College.

The following Saturday the Rochdale Music Society held its second concert in the Chapel. The date turned out to be an awkward one, so that regular audience members were committed to other events that evening, which was a real pity because the Brixxi Singers, previously unknown to us in Rochdale, proved to be a highly efficient chamber choir with a repertoire that included some lovely a cappella singing of religious music as well as some lighter songs, even including some audience

participation. A relatively small audience responded enthusiastically to this very professional-sounding choir.

Our next midday concert is on Tuesday 13th December when our guest will be Claire Lees (soprano). She has a well-deserved local following in Rochdale and is currently a student at the Guildhall College of Music in London. Claire was to have sung for us two years ago, but had to withdraw for health reasons. Please do your best to come to this event to be sure to hear some memorable music-making from a fine singer and her accompanist.

The Music Society is returning to Heywood Civic Hall for the remaining four concerts in its 2016/7 season. I very much hope that they will have regarded their trial concerts at the Chapel with much favour and that we will see them here again. The Chapel agreed not to charge a specific rent for the two concerts but to share the profits on a 50/50 basis. When the figure is known, it will be reported to you in the magazine.

Glenda and a few helpers put on interval drinks at each concert, donations were invited and around £70 was paid into the Chapel accounts.

I am always very pleased when the Chapel is used for musical events, especially as these bring into our premises folk who do not attend here for worship. Thank you for your support. Please keep coming!

Walter

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Christmas

All heaven waited with bated breath As the Lord sent Gabriel on ahead To break the news to the young Jewish girl, 'You will be with child' was all he said

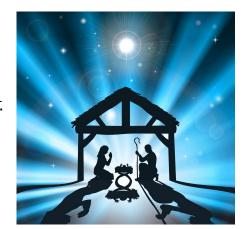
'How can this be?' Poor Mary cried,
'I am a maid and know no man.'
'With God all is possible' came the reply;
This child would fulfil redemption's plan

News spread fast when the baby was born, Shepherds were alerted by a heavenly host, Glory to God and peace on earth, God was coming to redeem the lost.

This Christmas day we celebrate, Like the shepherds and wise men we play our part,

As they bring their gifts we worship Him too,
But the one gift He longs for is our heart.

By Megan Carter



Food For Thought

putting **Christ** firmly into **Christ**mas.



Join us for an evening of light-hearted sketches on

Sunday 11th December
6 pm
Bamford Chapel
and Norden URC



A Recommended Read!!

I came across this book when the Ladies' Fellowship Committee asked me to provide a list of women in the Bible and their words. This was their theme for their Advent Christmas Tree. Good old Google found a title that looked promising. It was:

> "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter" (published 2014)

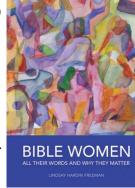
The opening statement of the description on Amazon grabbed me:" there are 93 women in the Bible, 49 of whom are named. These women speak a total of 14,056 words collectively – **ROUGHLY 1.1% OF THE TOTAL WORDS** in the holy book! The Bible is about 1.1 million words long. The words of ALL the women in the Bible could be spoken in less than 2 hours!!

These are the findings of Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman, an episcopal priest in Excelsior, Minnesota. No such analysis existed so she and three other women dissected the Bible's New Revised Standard Version.

The ten women who speak the most are all in the Old

Testament or Apocrapha. Top 3 are in first position Judith (Apocrapha) 2,689 words: second position the Shulammite women who wrote Song of Solomon, 1,425 words and at position three Esther, 1,207.

It's a well-researched and well-written book. I downloaded it on to Kindle for £8. The structure of each chapter is



the same and makes it very readable.

The sections are:

The name
Biblical reference
the level of her importance
a classic moment in her story
Likely psychological characteristics
the number of words
her 'story' is summarised
questions to consider
what we might learn from her
and a final reflection

I loved it, the Ladies' Fellowship got what they needed. I shall continue dipping in and out. A surprise 'find'! Thank you for asking me, Lesley.

Joan Warner

Thank you from the Ladies Fellowship



At the October Ladies Fellowship meeting, you will be pleased to know that 50 shoe boxes were filled with items for girls aged 14-16.

Thank you to everyone who donated items and helped to pack the boxes.



Village Rwanda UK: Project 2016.

At the time of writing the project total is over £1,000 and no doubt will continue to rise until its final point on Christmas Day. Thank you to everyone who has taken such an interest and contributed so far. The Brownies are busy with their Coffee Evening preparations, the Rainbows collecting pennies and a meal at Bury College for seventy seven people is being prepared.

The following facts researched and produced by the BBC News Service are harrowing to read and whilst our money will help and support the people of Gasundwe we must also pray for them. The facts make stark reading

DR CONGO

Lake

Kivu

Lake

Edward

□ Kigali

RWANDA

BURUNDI

UGANDA

Lake Victoria

TANZANIA

and reinforce just how fortunate we are.

Rwanda: 10 quick facts

- As much as 10 per cent of the population of Rwanda was killed in the 100 days of the genocide. The current population is now 8.4m
- The ethnic make-up of Rwanda is very skewed. As much as 85 per cent of the population is Hutu, but the elite positions have traditionally been taken by the minority Tutsis.
- The country had long suffered from ethnic tension because of the traditionally unequal relationship between the dominant Tutsi minority and the majority Hutus. In 1959, the civil war led to 200,000 Tutsis fleeing to Burundi.
- The UN set up a tribunal in 1995 to investigate the massacre. But despite a large budget, 16 judges and 800 members of staff, only eight people have been convicted of genocide-related crimes.
- Human Rights Watch has done the most reliable study of the genocide. Researchers speak of hundreds of thousands of women having been raped. United

Nations investigators say it could be between 250,000 to 500,000.

- The events in Rwanda led to rape being recognised as an act of genocide for the first time by an international court. The tribunal ruled that such acts "were committed solely against Tutsi women".
- Thousands of women raped during the genocide are now suffering from HIV or full blown AIDS. (An Avega survey of 900 women raped during the genocide found 68 percent HIV positive).
- Seventy percent of the population of Rwanda is female.
 Half of them are estimated to be widows.
- 500,000 Rwandans Hutu and Tutsi are infected with HIV. That represents more than 11 percent of the population. The average in sub Saharan Africa is eight percent.
- 150,000 people have died of AIDS in Rwanda some 20,000 of these were children.
- Carole Greaves (on behalf of the Project Group)

STOP PRESS

A successful fundraising meal was held at Bury College on 24th November raising over £600 towards our target of £5000.

Many thanks to the students and staff of Bury College and to everyone who came and supported this event.





The story of how that date came to be chosen as his 'birthday' is one that stretches back long before his birth.

it seems to have

started on the Greek island of Rhodes in 283 BC. That year the solstice fell on 25th December, and it was also the year that the Ancient World's largest Sun God stature – the 34 metre, 200 tonne Colossus of Rhodes, was consecrated.

By 46 BC, Julius Caesar had made 25th December the official winter solstice.

In AD 274, the Roman Emperer Aureilian chose the winter solstice to be the birthday of the Sun God. He also decreed that Sol Invictus (the unconquered sun) was 'Lord of the Roman Empire'.

Fifty years after that, and Constantine had become the first pro-Christian Roman Emperor. He wanted the Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on 25thDecember. Perhaps it was that to him, Jesus was more or less the same person as the mighty Sun God. Or perhaps he felt that the ancient sun god's association with goodness, light, warmth and life would help ease the people's transition from paganism to Christianity. Whatever the reason, the Church went along with it, and chose 25th December to be the date of Christmas. And in an ancient mosaic in the crypt of St Peter's Cathedral, Jesus is portrayed as adorned with sun rays and riding in a chariot – just like Sol Invictus.

As for the huge, bronze 200 tonne Sol Invictus? He fell over during an earthquake, and was sold off for scrap metal in 654AD by an enterprising Arab scrap merchant. Meanwhile, Jesus lives on...

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC presents

MUSIC &T LUNCHTIME

CLAIRE LEES (SOPRANO)



TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 1.00 PM - 2.00 PM

LUNCH ITEMS PRICED INDIVIDUALLY ARE AVAILABLE FROM 12.15 PM

CONCERT ADMISSION £3.50 ännnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnn

Christmas carols as mis-heard by children

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly

We three kings of porridge and tar

On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me

Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire.

He's makin a list, chicken and rice.

Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.

With the jelly toast proclaim

Olive, the other reindeer

Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say

Sleep in heavenly peas

In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then

pretend that he is sparse

and brown

You'll go down in listerine ...

Oh, what fun it is to ride

with one horse, soap and

hay

O come, froggy faithful.



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God Romans Mary temple holy Israel Elizabeth duty name incense prayer burn Jerusalem childless angel pregnant rescue son invaded baby gracious Zecharaiah John cousin



THE LIFE OF OUR LORD by Charles Dickens [part four]

But they did not go back to King Herod, for they thought he was jealous, though he had not said so. So they went away, by night, back into their own country. And an Angel came and told Joseph and Mary to take the child into a country called Egypt or Herod would kill him. So they escaped too, in the night – the father, the mother, and

the child – and arrived there, safely.

But when this cruel Herod found that the wise men did not come back to him, and that he could not, therefore, find out where this child, Jesus Christ, lived, he called his soldiers and captains to him and told them to go and kill all the children in his dominion that were nor more than two years old. The wicked men did so. The mothers of the children ran up and down the streets with them in their arms trying to save them and hide them in caves and cellars but it was of no use. The soldiers with their swords killed all the children they could find. This dreadful murder was called the Murder of the Innocents. Because the little children were so innocent.

King Herod hoped that Jesus Christ was one of them. But He was not, as you know, for He had escaped safely into Egypt. And He lived there with his father and mother until bad King Herod died.

[another extract from "The Life of Our Lord" written by Dickens for his children]

LESLEY SUTTON

"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour." <u>Charles</u> Dickens "A Christmas Carol"

I saw a stable low and very bare,
A little child in a manger.
The oxen knew Him, had Him in their care.
To men He was a stranger.
The safety of the world was lying there.
And the world's danger.





Christmas is coming and I'm about at the end of my tether! So much preparation towards Christmas ... so much to do and not enough time, not enough money ... I could almost wish Christmas wasn't coming at all. Let me close my eyes, Lord shut out the clamour of jingling bells fat Father Christmases ... I need to be quiet ... to be still. How foolish I have been rushing and tearing around letting the secular and material side of the Christmas jamboree take the upper hand – in this moment of stillness I can only see one thing matters; there is a God, He cares for me and great will be my celebration of praise for His Son's birth

PUPPIES – DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS



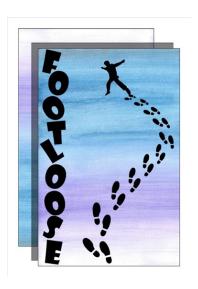
It's the day before Christmas and all through the house
The puppies are squeaking an old rubber mouse.
The wreath which had merrily hung on the door
Is scattered in pieces all over the floor.

The stockings that hung in a neat little row Now boast a hole in each one of the toes. The tree was subjected to bright-eyed whims And now, although splendid, it's missing some limbs.

I catch them and hold then, "BE GOOD," I insist They lick me, then run off to see what they've missed. And now as I watch them the thought comes to me That theirs is the 'spirit that Christmas should be'

Should children and puppies yet show us the way And teach us the joy that should come with this day. Could they bring the message that's written above, And tell us that most of all 'Christmas is Love.'

> Jesus did not come to take sides but to take over



Saturday 4th February 2017

Sunday 5th February 2017

7.30pm

£9 adults £7 children under 12

and concessions

Tickets for sale after morning worship every Sunday in the coffee area

Lesley Sutton Peter Sutton Angela Hall Margaret Frain

Thank you so much to Sam Divers for designing this logo

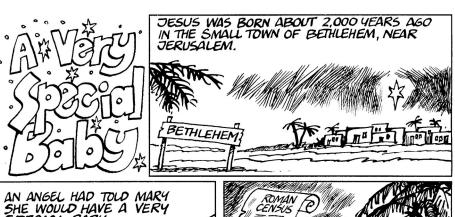
Stage adaptation by DEAN PITCHFORD and WALTER BOBBIE

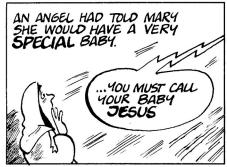
Based on the Original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford

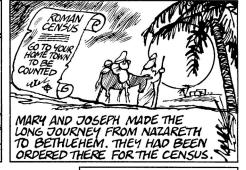
Music by TOM SNOW Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD

Additional Music by ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR, KENNY LOGGINS

and JIM STEINMAN

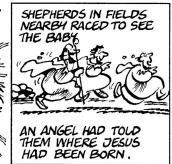
















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DATES FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 15th January

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 26th January

Magazine distributed: Sunday 29th January

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN United Reformed 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