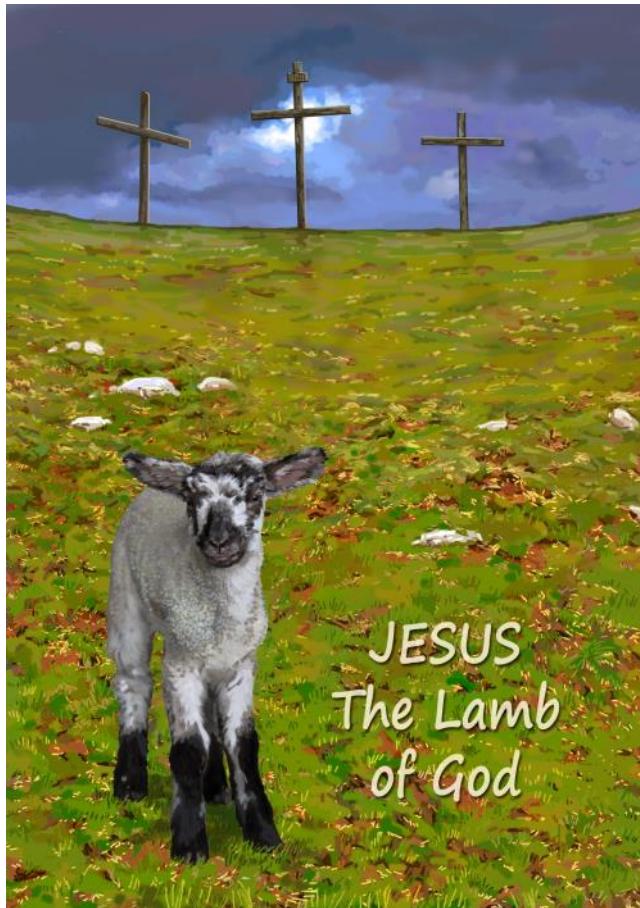




The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



October 2020

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

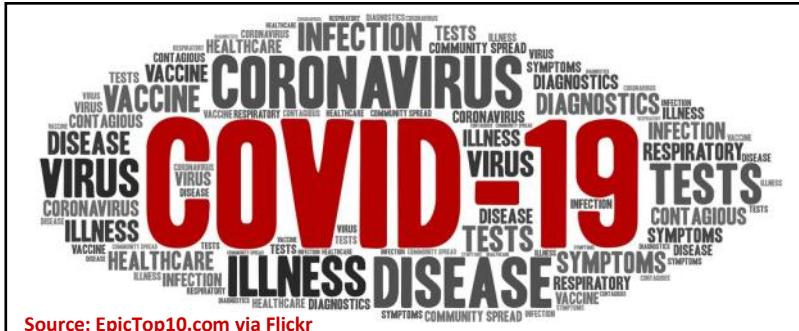
We are called as Christians to share the good news; living as examples of Christ in our everyday lives we can spread the word and love of Jesus.

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.



Source: EpicTop10.com via Flickr

“Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives.”

At the time of compiling this magazine
UK government restrictions are still ongoing

Greater Manchester (including Rochdale)
also has additional local measures in place.

Please refer to Rochdale Borough Council for the latest information.



BC&NURC re-opened its doors for worship on 20th September with restricted numbers and Covid safety measures in place (see page 2).

As other church activities continue to be suspended for the time being, please use the list on page 28 to pray daily for each of our groups.

Please pray also:
for the families of the bereaved,
for those suffering illness,
for all NHS workers and for all other essential keyworkers,
for children returning to school,
for students starting or re-starting university.

Message from the Manse

**“I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”” (Psalm 122:1)**



Some of us may have echoed the words of the Psalmist as Chapel opened its doors again for worship on Sunday 20th September. In the Chapel's 219 year history I doubt there has been a time when the Chapel has not had a congregation worshipping on Sundays for so long. If my maths are right, we have gone 24 Sundays without meeting together (in person in the building) for worship.

Just over 20 people gathered in Chapel on Sunday 20th September for worship. The feedback I have heard from people is that it was good to be back in the building worshipping together. As a worship leader it will take some getting used to... but it was nice to look out at people and not at an empty church (as I have got used to when I video the services in Church!)

As you will be aware, we are operating a “booking in system” for worship. It is not ideal to have to book to attend worship, but the Elders felt it was

the best way of gauging numbers and limiting the numbers who attend, for safety reasons. If you want to attend worship, please text (or call if you cannot text) the Church mobile phone **07396 617559**, ideally on a Thursday between 6pm and 8pm. Please use the church phone and not anyone's landline. The mobile phone will be passed around a small group of people who will list those attending. Whoever has the phone will then message you back with a confirmation of a place at the service.

For those who don't feel able to return to worship yet (which is absolutely fine) you will still be able to access the service via the Chapel website – the video and script appear on the website for each Sunday morning. This is accessed at www.bcnchurch.org.uk/worship The video is also on the Chapel YouTube Channel (search: "Bamford Chapel and Norden URC" in YouTube) and when I remember it is linked on the Church Facebook page too!

I will also continue to email out the script and post it too. Thirty people receive it via the post, and we can have up to 100 views on YouTube. I know of people who are watching it in Care Homes and those who are viewing it who may never enter a church. Despite Covid-19 restrictions worship is still happening and has continued to happen throughout lockdown. We don't have to be in the building to offer worship to God.

Moving forward we hope to continue a video/online presence with worship and to make scripts available. I am looking for a volunteer to take on the photocopying of the scripts and posting out to the 30 people who receive it by post. If you feel able to do this, please speak to me and I will let you know what is involved.

Please be assured of my prayers as we continue to live in these strange times. Let's continue to hold each other in prayer as we seek to continue worshipping God in whatever way we feel comfortable.

**God Bless,
Richard**



PS: If the Government guidelines for meeting in church for worship change, I will let you know.

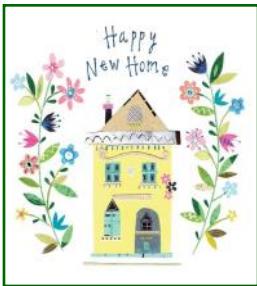


Rest in Peace - Geoff Ogden

*Geoff passed away
peacefully at home with
Margaret by his side on 28th September*



(There will be a full tribute in the November magazine)



Moving on

As many of you know, I was selling my bungalow to move down to Somerset near my daughter and family. I sold my bungalow just before lockdown so the whole process has been long and stressful. I finally left Rochdale on 10th September and moved into: Flat 3 Elmsett Hall, Glanville Road, WEDMORE, Somerset, BS28 4AD on 13th September.

The present circumstances haven't permitted me to say a personal goodbye to everyone as I would have liked, however I will always have very fond memories of my time at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC and my many friends there. It is comforting to know that Ian's memory lives on through the Film Club. It is such a pity that just as numbers were increasing and it was going from strength to strength, along with everything else it had to close. The success of the film club was down to the people involved, especially Lesley and Peter Sutton, Joan Warner, Linda Lees and not forgetting Cllr. Pat Sullivan who was a great support throughout.

I will also be eternally thankful to Richard for his help and support to Ian, to me and my family during Ian's last months.

I hope I will be able to attend the odd service when I am visiting 'up North', until then, Goodbye and God bless.

Anne Newman

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



**HELPS YOU ON YOUR WAY!
0161 549 0563**

imgflip.com

The Missional Partnership's new telephone service, "**Thought for the Day**", is now live! You can call this number any time to find a pre-recorded daily devotion or abridged version of the Missional Partnership weekly worship. For the first few weeks we will be featuring the sermon from the weekly worship. After this, we will be increasing the "Thought for the Day" to include other short devotions. We will be looking for regular contributors to this service over the next month.

**If you would like to contribute,
please get in touch with Daniel Harris.**

Community Coffee Morning



Five years ago one September Thursday, Pat Gate launched the Community Coffee Morning. A very successful venture which, not only forged friendships and new visions [Ian Newman Community Film Club for one] but also raised thousands of pounds for Springhill Hospice.

Pat was the co-ordinator of the coffee morning, Lesley Sutton prepared the rota of volunteer helpers and Sid Hazlehurst handled the money. I say **WAS** because Pat has now decided to hand over this work to someone else. At the time of writing, Lesley and Sid are carrying on.

If you would like to fulfil this role, Pat would be only too happy to discuss it with you. It could be run differently, with possibly a later starting time [10.30am rather than 10.00am] and the volunteers could bring the milk weekly etc etc.

Please consider this task prayerfully. It is a very valuable resource and will be greatly needed once we can re-open Church fully.

Thank you to Pamela and Pat for their dedication to these Church tasks.



Baptism Secretary

In the September magazine the role of Baptism Secretary was announced as becoming available from January 2021.

Please refer to Page 23 of the September issue.

If you are interested in taking on this valuable role, please contact Pamela Harrington for more details.



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER issue of the magazine

This issue of the magazine was full of articles concerning the planning of the Bicentenary Celebrations in 2001. **It was a wonderful celebratory year with so much planned.** Here is a list of many events being organised.

- ♥ 10th/11th/12th/13th January: “Dick Whittington” at Playhouse II Theatre, Shaw. Produced and Performed by “Food for Thought” and the Chapel’s young people
- ♥ 17th March: Celebrity concert at The Gracie Fields Theatre given by Rochdale Music Service with guest soloist Suzanne Mather
- ♥ 5th/6th/7th May: Art exhibition by local professional artists and Art Competition for children with the theme “My Impression of Bamford Chapel
- ♥ 22nd/23rd/24th June: Flower Festival with music and refreshments
- ♥ 12th/13th/14th October: Photographic Exhibition and Exhibition of Memorabilia
- ♥ 13th October: Dinner at Rochdale Rugby Club
- ♥ 14th October: Anniversary Service – 200 years old this day
- ♥ 17th November: Youth Concert by the young people of Bamford Chapel

Next October BCNURC will celebrate 220 years. Let's have a celebration. Ideas?

Lesley Sutton

Do you need any kind of help at this difficult time

*If you do, please contact: Angela Smith
0771 029 7377 or angela.smith@rochdale.gov.uk*

Hello from Huddersfield,

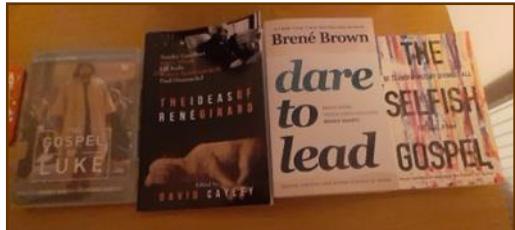
I want to say a big thank you to you all at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC. Thank you for your support, generosity, kind words and love. It means the world to me to have you as my sending and home church.



Richard and I had a coffee to catch up after my ordination and he said that on behalf of the church he would like to give me a present of money. I was very honoured, touched and grateful for this gift.

Please see below the photos of what I have used the money for so far. One of my churches doesn't have music technology, so I bought a blue tooth speaker that links to my phone to play hymns and create a portable atmosphere!

I bought a range of theology books and videos for private study and also some to



inform my preaching and worship style in services and bible study. I have written in the cover that they were bought as part of your gift to me.

I am settling in my new home and I am buying furniture piece by piece. Mum and Dad have been round most weeks to help me with the DIY... (Monday group - you know how handy dad can be! And I have been putting him to work x Hee-hee x)

The 4 Churches have been so welcoming and have been keeping me busy with exciting things to do for God. I am sorry you weren't able to meet them in July on my Ordination day, but they have said when Covid allows you are invited to come and celebrate my arrival.

I hope you are all doing well and I think about you often. When I have time, I watch the YouTube services and it's nice to see your faces. Through the name of Jesus Christ, I send my blessings and love.

All my prayers always,

Sarah Fitton x

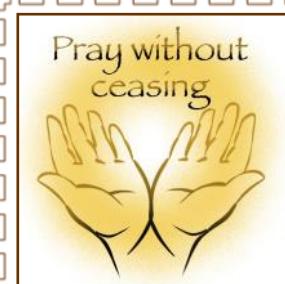


Toddlers Group

Looking to the future, once Bamford Chapel and Norden URC opens its door to every activity, the Tuesday Toddlers Group will need volunteers. This can be once a month, twice a month or every week. Two and a half hours on Tuesday morning throughout the year from 9.30am – 11.30am; this includes tidy up time.

Please either phone, text or email me if you are interested or if you wish to take a long-earned rest – RETIREMENT.

**Thank you,
Gillian Galloway**



Need for Healing

*Heavenly Father,
We bring to you all those struggling with
their mental health just now.*

We pray:

For everyone who is smiling, when inside they're in pain.

*For everyone who is saying they're fine,
when inside they feel drained and empty.*

*For everyone struggling with fear and worry
as the easing of the lockdown brings new anxieties.*

*Be with them in their suffering, as so much of their world
has been stripped back and emptied.*

*When loved family and friends have been taken by illness,
Or made distant by lockdown.*

Pour your healing balm into their pain and sadness.

*May you walk with them besides still waters
May you speak to them in a still small voice.*

*May you heal them, and fill them, and bless them
with your abundant love and fullness of life.*

*And may they know that they are loved by you for the
beautiful unique person that they are, created in the image
of their heavenly creator and loving Lord.*

*In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.*

***Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler is a Church of England priest
in St Albans, Herts,
and a former communications director for the C of E.***



Wоnдер zone

Discovering
God's
wonderful
world

The Churches of the
Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership are
running a 'virtual holiday Club' during October Half Term.

There will be three sessions looking at the wonders of God's World.

There will be fun activities, drama, music and fun!

The three videos will be posted online (YouTube) for the start of the
Half Term in October (available by Monday 26th October)

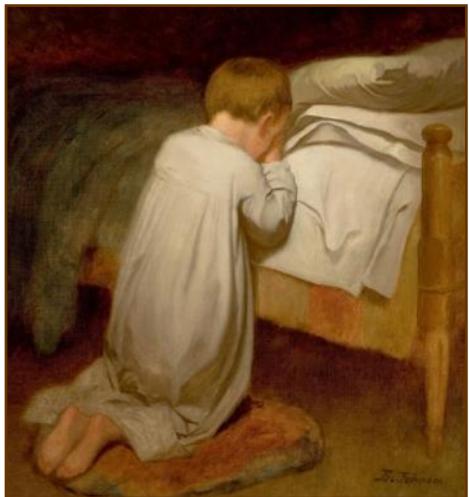
Please let your friends know

For more information please contact

Revd Richard Bradley

Email: richardbradley@cantab.net or phone: 07483 155807

Thank you, Dr Luke!



‘Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on’ - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a ‘physician’ - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish.

Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, ‘only Luke is with me’.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark’s Gospel may have more drama, Matthew’s more prophetic background and John’s a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly story-teller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged reformation, the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of

course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us.

Thank you, Dr Luke!

By David Winter, Courtesy of Parish Pump



ECO Tip of the Month

Do you throw away more bananas than you eat? Do you make banana loaves by the dozen because the fruit has over ripened too quickly and become inedible as a fresh fruit?

Here is the solution.



- ◆ Keeps bananas fresh for up to 2 weeks
- ◆ Prevents over-ripening and blackening
- ◆ Store in the fridge
- ◆ Holds up to 6-8 bananas

This item was recommended to me by a friend. I was very sceptical BUT it really works. No more bananas in the bin or baking the inevitable loaf.

Would you like one? Buy one for a Christmas present? Let me know and I will see if I can order one for you.

Lesley Sutton

Messy Church

(available via our YouTube link from 4th October)

Hosted by Messy Church at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC
and the Gathered Youth Group NW Synod



Matthew 6:25-30



Connect

Be Active

Keep learning

Five Ways to Wellbeing
Taking steps towards living well

Give

Take Notice



**Come and gather to share activities,
crafts, and celebration!**

Place: Via our You Tube link

Date: 4 October

Messy Churches are now all over the world www.messychurch.org.uk

Some people make the world a better place for hundreds of thousands of others. By Tim Lenton. Courtesy of Parish Pump

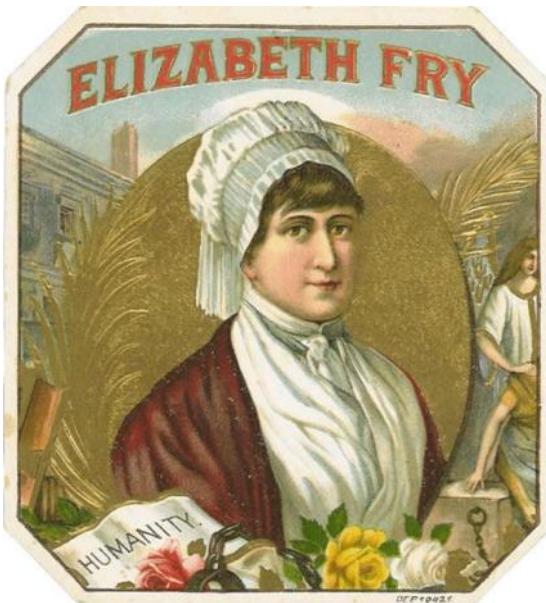
Remembering Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer

The prison reformer and philanthropist Elizabeth Fry died 175 years ago, on 12th October 1845. She was widely admired during her lifetime and after, and was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.

She was born into the family of a wealthy Quaker banker, John Gurney, in Norwich in 1774. She rededicated her life to Christ at the age of 18 and devoted herself to helping the downtrodden. This she continued to do after her marriage to London merchant Joseph Fry, and while giving birth to 11 children.

She was a minister of the Society of Friends from 1811 and travelled in England and Europe inspecting prisons and writing reports that were highly influential, transforming gaols from “pits of indecency and brutality” to more orderly places with a new interest in reform. She was admired by both Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale.

Early on she made frequent visits to Newgate Prison in London, suggesting radical improvements that were adopted both there and in other prisons. She read the Bible to inmates and gave Bibles away, combining social work with proclamation of the Gospel in a way that inspired future generations. Her insights also led to the Prison Reform Act of 1823.



10th OCTOBER 2020

WORLD MENTAL
HEALTH DAY



2020 has proved challenging for many people and particularly for those suffering from Mental Health issues. Some people have discovered many ways to lift their spirits.

Rochdale & District Mind is celebrating WMHD by asking people to SEND A PROMISE LINKED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH together with a Selfie photo or drawing.

Examples of items already received are; I promise..... to spend time with my friend walking the hills..... Garden each week to make it my beautiful haven. Contributions will be displayed on our Website and in the Wellbeing Centre's window

Contributions can be sent to either hayleyprice@rochdalemind.org.uk, aliceastley@rochdalemind.org.uk or to Alice's mobile via WhatsApp 07766140904.

We pray for all who struggle
and all who support them.

Bamford Chapel & Norden United Reformed Church



BCNURC as it is affectionately known is part of the Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership of which there are 12 churches.

Revd Richard Bradley works across the partnership in his role as Central Area Ecumenical Officer and Interim Convener of the Central Area Pastoral Committee. On the 3rd August a new minister was inducted and ordained to this partnership, Revd Dan Harris who has emigrated from Cambridge to be with us.

Every Sunday since lockdown began, starting 29th March, Richard has delivered WORSHIP via YouTube, WhatsApp and Facebook. A challenging task, but he has risen to this wonderfully well with the assistance of technological wizards at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC. Each week there were added aspects now delivering a very professional watch. Members of the congregation have taken part either with prayer, Bible reading, music or reflections. This weekly service has maintained the wellbeing of Missional Partnership congregations. For those who don't have access to technology, Richard has posted weekly newsletters and service sheets. Typing the service content is an enormous task. This has meant that each church member has been in touch with the Sunday worship.



Richard took a well earned break in August whilst other lay preachers from BCNURC led Sunday morning worship.

PS: The above article was submitted by Lesley Sutton to 'Streetwise', the monthly magazine for Bamford and Norden.

Let's keep  **TRAIDCRAFT**
Fighting poverty through trade
trading fairly
in the developing world

Even though there will continue to be no Traidcraft stall while the Covid restrictions are in place, you can still buy Traidcraft products by contacting Barbara Redmond on 07983714195 or addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk

chocolate
raisins & ginger





THE ETERNAL WALL OF ANSWERED PRAYER

Many of you may already know about this inspiring project, but I have only just learned of it, so wanted to share the excitement. The website is eternalwall.org and the information on this page is from this website. The reason for highlighting it this month is because planning permission was granted on 17th September 2020. Building will begin in December 2020 and the Opening Ceremony will be in June 2022.

Standing at a height of 169ft (51.5m) the arch of the Eternal Wall will be visible from 6 miles away. This striking new monument will be over twice the size of the Angel of the North and seen by 500,000 journeys a week.

The construction will have 1 million bricks and each brick is linked by an app which will access the recordings of the answered prayers.

This vision began to evolve in 2004 as Richard Gamble, now CEO of the project, was carrying a cross around Leicestershire at Easter to lead people to think about Jesus. He prayed over the idea for 10 years until 2014 when he felt the nudge to begin acting on it.

So, the fact that the Eternal Wall will be built, is itself a celebration of answered prayer. “This project is about how one person’s answered prayer can become another person’s hope. Answered prayer is a springboard for faith with each story reflecting a beautiful aspect of God’s intention towards us. We know it will **make hope visible** to our country”.

<https://youtu.be/IPPmLW-yvSo>

Link to Video showing how the vision developed through prayer.

To be continued.....

Joan Warner

Church in the World Kiribati Project 2020



The Special School BCNURC are supporting in 2020 is in the Republic of Kiribati, which is a country of 32 atolls in the Pacific Ocean. The school is located on the island capital of Tarawa and educates children and adults with a wide range of disabilities. There are about 320 pupils and the school offers preschool, primary, junior and secondary education.

The school was originally set up by the Red Cross in 1991 in the old hospital. By 2002 the Red Cross funding only paid for staff salaries and the school was going to close. However, a group mainly of mothers of the pupils took over the running of the school and currently the school is managed and administered by an elected school board made up of the parent membership. The school is a non-governmental organisation that is funded by the Australian Government with a fixed budget and since 2017 the Ministry of Education has paid the salaries of 12 teachers. The total income is 102,000 Australian dollars.

The school is the only institution in the southern islands of Kiribati which can cater for the needs of these children. Their medical conditions cover a wide spectrum and include deafness and blindness, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, learning and physical disabilities as well as autism.

The school has a good relationship with the community who are invited to participate in school functions and are sometimes invited into the school as speakers.

The effect of climate change and rising sea levels frequently affect school buildings, especially at high tides. This can cause damage to the classrooms and rusting, due to sea spray, is an ongoing problem.

Financial resources are limited at the school and the majority of the income, as detailed above, goes on staff costs. As well as the teachers there are administration staff and a watchman.

The money we raise can be used to fund specialist equipment such as Braille embossing machines for children with visual impairment, and electronic tablets to support learning in those with impaired hearing. This will allow some to sit local examinations and gain valuable qualifications to allow future independence. Similarly, for other pupils, equipment to aid daily living and fulfil their potential is important; e.g. adapted cutlery, crockery and utensils.

Craft and carpentry is enjoyed by the pupils and our help would facilitate these worthwhile activities, the funding of which is outside the normal budget.

Finally, some of our donation could help with the never-ending repair bills caused by the sea. Currently the school project manager is working with the community and other agencies to raise funds for this.

Susan Travis

Gift Week raised £8,915



**A huge thanks to organisations and individuals
who contributed to this amount.**

He gave us eyes to see them: ‘St Francis of Assisi preaching to the fish’



On 4th October we give thanks for one of the most loved saints in the church - Francis of Assisi. He died in 1226, but his example and witness have lived on to inspire Christians through the centuries.

His was a life focused on the crib and the cross, Lady Poverty and the stigmata, suffering and transfiguration. But also, it was a life marked by a deep love of creation: St Francis had a special nearness to all creatures great and small. As we read the stories of Thomas of Celano, we learn how he tamed a wolf in Gubbio, how swallows would chirp and fly around his head, how lambs would come close and gaze with delight, how his faithful donkey wept as the saint approached death, and in this month’s painting, how fish would come to the shore to hear him preach.

Thomas relates how Francis returned some fish that had been caught to the water, telling them not to be caught again. They lingered near the boat, listening to the saint until he gave them permission to leave.

The sermon to the fish is portrayed in this work by Luc-Olivier Merson, a French artist who lived from 1846 to 1920. He is better known for his work with designs for banknotes, postage stamps, and the basilica of Sacré-Coeur in Montmartre. Here in this canvas, we see St Francis with followers young and old, a faithful dog and the fish at the water’s edge.

What was the saint telling them? I think that they were loved and valued as part of the rich tapestry of God's creation, and they must return that love. It is the mood of the Benedicite where all things that move in the earth, the skies and the seas are exhorted to praise the Lord and magnify him forever. St Francis captures that mood in his own Canticle of the Sun.

In the weeks and months of lockdown many of us have had the time to look afresh at our relationship with the world of nature as we have journeyed through the seasons of spring and summer. We have learnt to wonder at the richness and variety of creation. We need to take that lesson into the 'new normal' as restrictions are gradually relaxed. The clock and the complexity of life may easily take over again, but St Francis is inviting us to journey with him in simplicity and joy as we praise God with all His creatures:

*'Let all things their Creator bless
and worship Him in humbleness.'*

The Revd Michael Burgess considers 'St Francis of Assisi preaching to the fish' by Luc-Olivier Merson. Courtesy of Parish Pump

Don't 'go it alone'

If you are helping others at this time, remember to still leave space and time for yourself. Going the extra mile for other people all the time will only ensure one thing; your collapse. Work in teams. Even the Good Samaritan did not attempt to help the injured man all on his own; he brought in the innkeeper. By sharing the problem, they solved it!

Courtesy of Parish Pump





AUTUMN RECIPES

These recipes are from a booklet entitled "MORE FAVOURITE RECIPES" December 1955: Mortlach Church Woman's Guild.

The Apple Chutney recipe was my Gran's, Agnes Edmond. She was my Father's mother who lived in Dufftown, Banffshire.

Apple Chutney

Ingredients

- 1 lb apples [peeled]
- ½ lb stoned dates
- ½ lb brown sugar
- 1 pint wine vinegar
- 1 large onion
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp ground ginger



Method

Put the apples, dates and onion through a mincer !! [food processor].

Put into a large oven proof bowl with the other ingredients and mix well. Cover and stew gently in the oven for 2 hours, after which time it should be a nice brown colour.

No oven temperature given. I would suggest 100c. When cool put into jars and cover.

Beetroot Chutney

Ingredients

3 lbs beetroot

1½ lbs apples

2 large onions

1 tsp salt

½ lb sugar

½ tsp ground ginger

1 pint vinegar

Juice of one lemon



Method

Boil beetroot in salted water for 1½ hours, then skin and cut up. Chop apples and boil for 20 minutes in vinegar to which sugar, lemon juice, salt, ginger and chopped onion have been added. Add beetroot and boil for further 15 minutes. When cool put into jars and cover.

Trisha Adshead

Moses Revisited

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

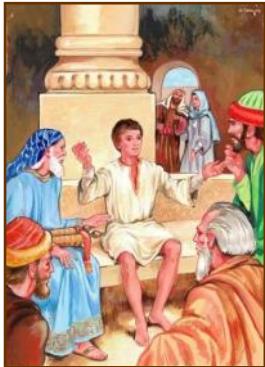
"Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

This was in one of the tabloid newspapers before Christmas and also in one of the Christmas cards produced by Cancer Research UK. As Christmas 2020 approaches, I thought it opportune to reproduce this again. Margaret Train

THE SON OF GOD *by Jeffrey Archer*



He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education. And yet, as a teenager he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers.

He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven and living off bread and water and the occasional fish, while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen.

He became the manager of a football team known as The Disciples, not one of them a star; in fact, the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition.

The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God.

They strung him up with a couple of criminals and when he finally gave up the ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they'd hear of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season. In fact the captain claimed on more than one occasion that he'd never been a member of His team.

When He died at the age of thirty-three there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, He'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his brand, or spin

doctors to sharpen his image and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So how can one explain that over two thousand years later, JESUS CHRIST, is still the best-known celebrity on earth.

COULD IT JUST BE THAT HE WAS THE SON OF GOD?

PS: Jeffrey Archer based this “on a piece of prose from the 17th century” which also appeared in the May edition of this magazine.

Urgent Appeal for Christmas Boxes for Belarus



Due to Covid restrictions Ladies Fellowship will be unable to fill Christmas boxes this year.

Carol Hartley will still be making up boxes herself and sending them to Belarus **for children aged 3 – 6, 6 – 12 and over 12**. She

would be grateful if you could contribute any of the following items as soon as possible, but by the end of October at the latest.

Pencil Case

Hat & Scarf

Notebook

Gloves or Mittens

Crayons/Coloured Pencils

Knickers

Pens

Tights

Soap & Flannel

Necklace

Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Sweets NOT Chocolate

Hairbrush & Comb

Small Soft Toy

Game

Small Ball

Carol is happy to collect any items from you if you telephone her on 01706 367640. Also if you are interested in making a shoe box, please let Carol know as soon as possible.

Thank you

Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship (all suspended until further notice)

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

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

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

Further information on the **weekly notice sheet** or visit the website at www.bcnchurch.org.uk or speak to an Elder.

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE

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DATES FOR THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 18th October

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 29th October

Magazine distributed: Sunday 1st November

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

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Times of Services:

Family Worship : 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1st Sunday in month

Evening Worship : 6.30 pm : Holy Communion 3rd Sunday in month