



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



November 2020

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC



Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

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.

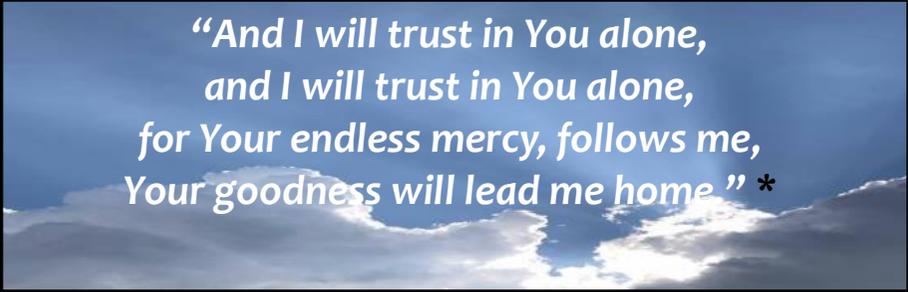
Discipleship

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.

Message from the Manse



*“And I will trust in You alone,
and I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy, follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home ” **

These are the words from the chorus of Stuart Townend’s version of Psalm 23. The song from which these words are taken was played at the Prayer 2020 prayer time last night. The theme of the Prayer 2020 initiative for October was “trust”. Trust is something that we are all learning more about during Covid-19. These are such difficult and challenging times both for Covid sufferers and their families, and the NHS which at times has been, and in some places still is, overwhelmed.

Just think for a moment of all the times in a day that you place your trust in something or someone? It might be placing trust in the chair you sit in! It might be placing your trust in a bus driver or taxi driver. But returning to the chorus from Townend’s song – have we, or perhaps more personally, have you placed our/your trust in God?

I recall the time when I became a Christian – when I placed my trust in God. It wasn’t a Damascus Road experience like Saul had in Acts chapter 9 – Saul (later Paul) had that powerful life changing experience of Jesus. I have probably been more like a Jonah and run in the opposite direction at times in my life!

But one thing I do know is that when I have said “yes” to God and trusted Him, He has never let me down or left me alone.

So, friends, I want to encourage us all to place our trust in God, who will always be there no matter what; who will always walk beside us in life, and love us more than we can ever fully understand. God will be there when we fall down or trip up. God will be there even if we are struggling in life and don’t feel we have a close relationship with Him.

I want to end with some words from another Christian song:

***“Trust, trust in the LORD,
lean not on your own understanding.
In all, all of your ways acknowledge Him,
He’ll make your paths straight.” *****

May we trust in the Lord with the whole of our lives, to the glory and praise of God!

Your Servant in Christ, Richard

[*Psalm 23 adapted by Stuart Townend © 1996 ThankYou Music/Capitol CMG Publishing/Integritymusic.com

**©1998 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music (Admin. By Crossroad Distributors Pty. Ltd.) Amy Sandstrom-Shroyer]

Journeying through
ADVENT

Bible Study and Reflections for Advent.
Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership.
Led by Kate Hunt.
Email katehunturc@gmail.com for Zoom invite.

30 NOV	HOPE ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 7:30 PM
02 DEC	HOPE ZOOM COFFEE BREAK 10:30 AM
07 DEC	PEACE ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 7:30 PM
09 DEC	PEACE ZOOM COFFEE BREAK 10:30 AM
14 DEC	JOY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 7:30 PM
16 DEC	JOY ZOOM COFFEE BREAK 10:30 AM
21 DEC	LOVE ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 7:30 PM
23 DEC	LOVE ZOOM COFFEE BREAK 10:30 AM

Made with PosterMyWall.com



What a Beautiful Thing

*What a beautiful thing
To meet friends in our life
To get courage from them
And to accept blessings that arrive*

*What a beautiful thing
Your friend to be as your family
All the hardest things
To be back in normality*

*What a beautiful thing
God for us created
Our friendship in our life
With love to be decorated*

Author: Luli 20th October 2020

This poem was written for the church WhatsApp group during the Covid restrictions.



Remembering Eric Bradbury

On behalf of our family I want to say 'thank you' for the cards, calls, texts, flowers etc. that have been sent to us during the sad loss of Eric, Barbara's husband, Ruth and Paul's Dad, Louise, Andrew, Evan, Millie and Evie's granddad and a father-in-law to Jo and myself. For those who knew Eric when he attended Bamford Chapel and Norden URC for a while, you will know him to be a man of great faith. It has been, and will continue to be, a comfort to us that he knew and trusted in Jesus and we know exactly where he is now.

That said, the pain for his family is still immense and raw, but that is because he was loved so much in life and is still loved now. We have many, many happy memories of him and they will help us through this difficult time.

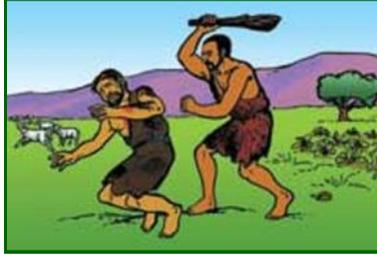
We have had some wonderful messages from people from this country and overseas, about how Eric touched their life and encouraged them in their faith. He was such an evangelist and was never put off by sharing the faith he professed in Jesus with others.

At this time the family are learning again about trust. As we face this period of grief we do so knowing that God is faithful and that our friends in this Church, across the Missional Partnership and in many other churches are holding us all in prayer, and for that we are enormously grateful and thankful.

*We plan to video his funeral service in Chapel and that will be made available for people to view as soon as possible after the funeral. We trust that he is resting in peace and has risen in glory! **God Bless, Richard***

11th November is Remembrance Day...

War and Peace



*War is not a new thing
It's been here from the start,
When Cain slew brother Abel
And their lives were torn apart.*

*Brother still fights brother
And nations go to war,
It seems these things will never end
Perhaps we need to ask 'what for?'*

*Man has chosen his own path
Where might and power tell,
But God desires a better way
Where harmony and peace can dwell.*

*And so a time will come at last
When all man's rule will cease,
Emmanuel will come to reign,
Our Lord and Saviour, Prince of Peace.*

By Megan Carter

The Revd John Crew (Parish Pump) considers an historic moment in recent history.

80 years on, we still need Courage and Endurance



This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – when the horrors of the Luftwaffe bombs were heavy over British skies. On this Remembrance Day we can only imagine the terror of living in

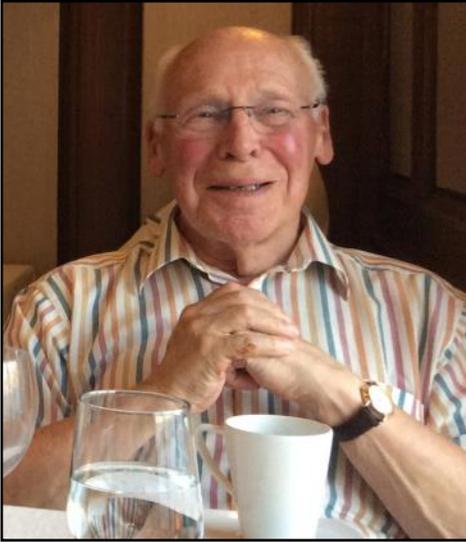
Coventry, in Liverpool, in London during those months, 80 years ago. It must have seemed like the beginning of the end of the world.

It is a good time to stop and thank God that in the end, evil did not prevail. Hitler did not win the battle to dominate Europe. His expected ‘rule of a 1000 years’ lasted a mere 12 years (1933 to 1945). And we can thank God for the courage and endurance of our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, in the midst of such towering darkness and destruction.

Sadly, 80 years on, the world is still at war. Man’s greed, arrogance and desire for domination have not gone away. There are still battles to be fought for our land, major problems to be solved. Coronavirus, economic uncertainty, terrorism, climate warming... the threats are different from Hitler, but our need for courage, endurance and perseverance is the same.

It is a good time to pray for our nation and ourselves; to turn to God in repentance and in faith; to ‘walk more nearly’ and ‘follow Him more clearly’. It is a good time to be ready to serve our God and serve our neighbour in whatever ways lie open before us.

Remembering Geoff Ogden



I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their kind thoughts on the death of my dear husband Geoff. I have been overwhelmed by the number of cards that have arrived through the door day by day ... 175 in total. Such lovely tributes have been paid and I know that Geoff would be amazed, for he was never one to blow his own trumpet (although he did play the keyboards pretty well!!)

Sadly, we were restricted as to the number of people who could attend his funeral service because I know that, under normal circumstances, the church would have been full. It was a very different kind of service, necessitated by government guidelines. The invited congregation, all wearing masks, sat in ones and twos scattered around the church, maintaining the 2 metre rule. There were no hymns but Rev Cath Atkinson, who stood in for Richard who had had to self-isolate because of Covid, ensured that it was truly a memorable occasion. Carolyn and Steven delivered a moving eulogy to the man who had embraced them as his own, followed by Rebecca, Emma and Samantha with their memories of Grandpa. There were smiles as well as tears.

When I first started going out with Geoff, I was told by a close friend that I was making a big mistake because Geoff was, and I quote, "a funny fella and it won't work". Well 29 years later I can put my hand on my heart and say that he was proved wrong. We had a wonderful marriage and he was a 'funny fella'... we laughed a lot even though I could have strangled him on many occasions at choir practice. We shared our interest in music and served God together both at Heywood URC and Bamford Chapel. The contribution and commitment he made to these two places was second to none.

I have so many happy memories, as we were so blessed to be able to travel all over the world. We shared many holidays with some lovely friends, many of whom were able to join us at the service. We shared many meals with them too, enjoying good food, wine and conversation. Geoff was always so appreciative of my culinary efforts, as well as those of friends and family.

The last few years were not very kind to him physically or mentally, but it has been my joy and privilege to care for him, assisted by his Carers from Select 4 Care, District Nurses and Hospice at Home nurses too. He will be missed by many, but most of all by me. God bless you Geoff. Rest in peace.

Margaret

This poem was read by Joanne Ackroyd at the committal at the Crematorium

**Man's life is made
in the loom of time
To a pattern he does not see,
While the weavers work and
the shuttles fly
Till the dawn of eternity.**

**Some shuttles are filled with
silver thread,
And some with threads of gold.
While often just the darker hues
Are all that they may hold.**

**But the weaver watches
with skilful eye
Each shuttle fly to and fro,
And sees the pattern
so deftly wrought**

**As the loom moves sure and slow.
God surely planned the pattern:
Each thread, the dark and fair,
Is chosen by his master skill
And placed in the web with care.**

**He only knows its beauty,
And guides the shuttle which hold
The threads so unattractive,
As well as the threads of gold.**

**Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God reveal the pattern
And explain the reason why**

**The dark threads were as needful
In the weaver's skilful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
For the pattern which he planned**

Author unknown



The following is an update Carole Greaves received from the Devi Prasad School in Nepal, (our project for 2018.) It's good to hear what a difference our funding made.

“Respected Michael, Maureen, Priya and all participants in the annual meeting of LEARN.

We are very happy to have this golden opportunity to express our views on the current situation of our school, society and country in the complex situation caused by the corona virus.

First of all, I would like to briefly describe about the school. Our school was established in 2004 to provide English medium education for all level children i.e. orphans, disable, poor, helpless, homeless and needy of our society. It was registered in Regional Education Office, Pokhara in 2005 and the registration no. is 44. It is a Basic level school runs grade Nursery to Eight. It is not profitable school. The Government of Nepal only provided authority for its establishment, but we haven't got financial and administrative support. It is running by the great support of both of you, your friends, helping hands and community. According to our record in this running academic year - 2077, we have 193 students, 14 teaching staff, 1 volunteer teacher and 1 non-teaching staff. But all the students are not admitted in the school due to regular lockdown by corona virus pandemic. We hope that the number of students will be little bit increased when the school resumes.

We have been securing first position in the District Level Examination of grade - 8 in our Rural Municipality for the last five years. This is a matter of happiness for our school and for all of us. We would like to express our

heartfelt thanks to the Almighty father, both of you, your friends, communities, schools, churches, social groups, supporters, helping hands, school staffs, guardians, students and good wishers to all of us for that great achievement. We look forward to similar support in the coming days.

We take tuition fees with the parents according to their financial background. Every year about 80 students are studying in more/less scholarship. We have been providing textbooks, exercise books, pencils and other essential learning materials for all our students free of cost. We have been getting all those learning materials, scholarship and other financial support by the respected Michael, Maureen and their entire team. Many thanks for to the God, both of you and your entire team. We have two RCC buildings with 16 rooms. We have a computer lab, a science lab and a library which are also set up by your great contributions.



We are very grateful to the Bamford Chapel for financial support for the construction of science lab in our school. We are also very grateful to Late Dorothy Drake for her great financial support to the school. We have also been developing friendly relationship with St. Mary's School. Both schools' children are sharing their letters. Children and parents are very happy by getting this opportunity. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the God, Late Dorothy Drake's family, St. Mary's School, all the volunteers and other helping hands.

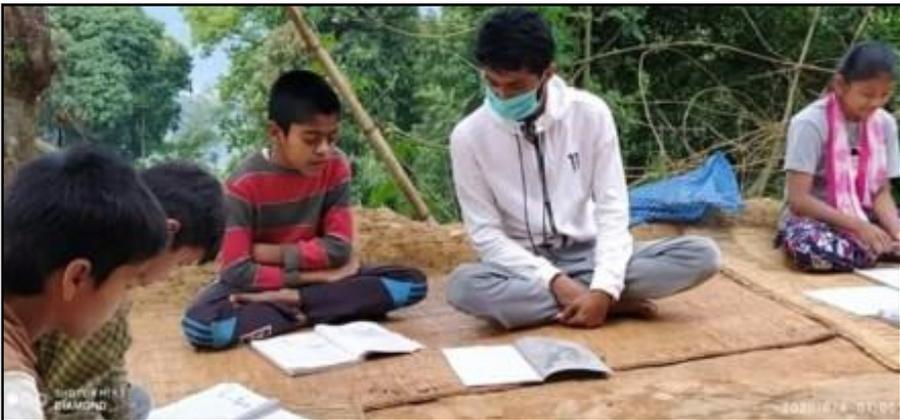
We have been starting non-formal education for our parents and non-parents. They have been participated in literacy program and became able to read, write, run their mobiles etc. Around 200 parents and non-

parents women are participated in this program and became literate. They are very happy by getting this opportunity. They have been getting goat, pig, hens etc. to generate income. Disable people also have been getting helping tools for their comfort. We are also helping helpless, Dalits and backward families.

We have been continuing sewing program for parents and non-parents. In this program about 100 parents and non-parents women have got basic level training and about 40 parents and non-parents women have got advance level training. Now, it is going continue. They all are also very happy and thanking to the God, both of you and your entire team. They also pass Namaste to all of you.”

“Respected Michael, Maureen and other participants,

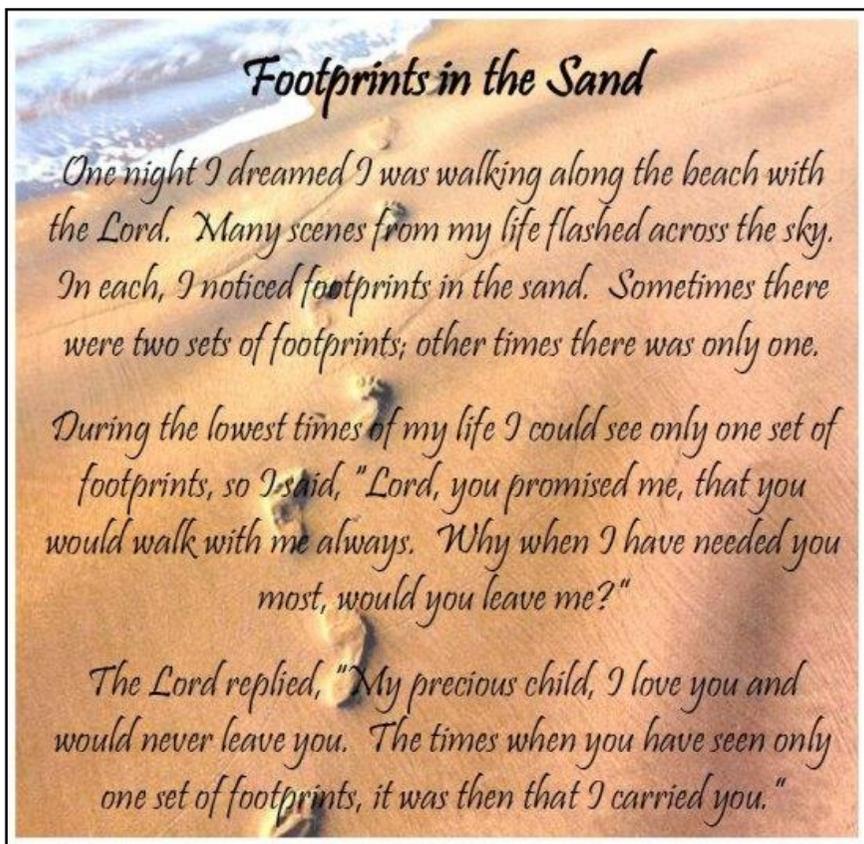
Now we are going to present our brief views on the current situation of our school, community and country. As you know that our country has not been spared from the corona virus that has spread all over the world. Due to the virus more than 65000 people are infected and more than 450 deaths to date. But no one close to us has infected by the virus to date. By this pandemic all schools, organizations, offices, markets etc. have been closed for the last six months. The Government of Nepal has announced lockdown before the end of the previous academic session even few fees of the previous academic session has not been completed. Now, many parents are unemployed due to lockdown. We hope that when the situation is normal they will clear remain school fees of their children.

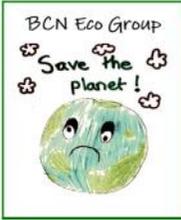


Even at the time of lockdown all the teachers are going to the students' homes to carry out the teaching and learning activities. Students and parents are very happy to learn at home. From this week the public transport, offices, markets are open by following health and safety measures. So far, no decision or direction has been made regarding the resume of the schools. We have decided to continue our door to door teaching and learning activities until the school resumes.

We would also like to express our heartfelt congratulations to Priya for taking the membership of LEARN and gratitude to all of you for inviting us to the Annual meeting of LEARN and giving us the opportunity to present the current situation of our school, society and country.

**God bless to all of us.
Devi Prasad Neupane"**





ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

TIP of the month



Rake up the leaves in your garden and put in compostable bin liners. Tie and store and you will have leaf mulch ready for next year.

Debbie Wood
[member of Eco Church Team]

Trisha Adshead
[member of Eco Church Team]
stores her leaves in a mesh container.



As we move into Coronavirus Tier 3 restrictions, you may not wish to go out. If you need shopping or prescriptions collecting, or any other help, we have volunteers who can assist. Please contact: Angela Smith 0771 029 7377 or angela.smith@rochdale.gov.uk



On page 18 of the October magazine there was a reminder that although the Traidcraft Stall is not available at the moment, it is still possible to order items.

For example, Christmas Cards, wrapping paper, Festive delights. I have copies of the Autumn/Winter Catalogue. I can deliver one to you very easily.

Please ring me on 07983 714195 or addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk

Extract from the catalogue. *The last few months have affected each of us differently, as companies and as individuals. At Traidcraft, thankfully, we have surfaced relatively unscathed, solely thanks to your continued support and we have learnt a lot of valuable lessons along the way.*

(I have been ordering for BCNURC members in the past months. BR).

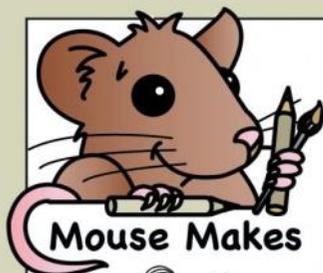
Despite being challenging, uncertain and often unsettling, the past few months have acted as a profound reminder to be appreciative of the things we may have previously taken for granted. Things like family, friends, our homes and gardens, our physical and mental health and the privilege it is to have fully stocked cupboards with which to sustain ourselves. This period has also taught us to consume more thoughtfully and consciously, to be resourceful in the face of adversity, to recycle, reuse and be less wasteful, and our planet is thanking us.

Barbara Redmond

PS: We have some free out-of-date Traidcraft cookies and sweets.

Can you help us dispose of them?

For our Young People



REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.



READ *Joshua 4:1-9* and *Exodus 12:1-14*

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



Is there anything you would like to thank God for?



REMEMBRANCE • SACRIFICE • VICTORY • TRIUMPH • MONUMENT
ROCK • PILE • OBSERVE • TRIBUTE • COMMEMORATE • RECALL • OFFERING
HONOUR • CELEBRATE • PRAISE • REJOICE • THANKSGIVING • DAYS
FESTIVAL • EASTER • PENTECOST • HARVEST • CHRISTMAS

Nov20 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Junior Church

Here are a couple of the lockdown creation collages I challenged the members of junior church to create. Some of these have even been taken over lockdown to show the beauty that we are lucky to have around us. They chose eight photos representing the different aspects of Gods natural creation:

- 1) Day or night
- 2) Sky
- 3) Water
- 4) Land
- 5) Plants
- 6) Sun, Moon, Stars
- 7) Birds or fish
- 8) Animals



Rebecca Abbott



Eco Recipe of the Month

Autumn Stuffed Chicken

Ingredients (all can be locally sourced)

- ♥ 2 large chicken breasts (I always use butcher ones as they are larger so only need 2. **Must be large. Could use 4 small ones but a bit fiddly.**)
- ♥ 1 large cooking apple
- ♥ 1 large pear
- ♥ 25gms walnuts
- ♥ Elderflower cordial

Method

- ♥ Wash unpeeled apple and pear. Roll and crush walnuts. Slice chicken breasts from the side but not all the way through - lay open. Thinly slice apple and pear and layer on the chicken breast with the walnuts in between. Close the breast and hold closed with tooth picks or mini skewers. Place close to each other in a just big enough dish. Heat for one minute 4 tablespoons of dilute (not too weak) elderflower cordial along with leftover fruit and nuts, mash this mixture and pour over breast in the dish. Grate a little black pepper over the top and put the lid on or cover.
- ♥ Preheat cooker at 160 degrees C for 90 minutes, 150 if a fan oven, gas mark 3. Don't cook too quickly as the flavours don't blend but make sure chicken is cooked.
- ♥ I serve with a leek and potato mash and grated blanched carrots. Cut breasts in half to serve.

A glass of an English crisp citrus Chenin is a wonderful accompaniment, but not compulsory!!!!

Cameron Baines

Walking with God with my Dog!



This is my wonderful Border Collie, Hugo! I am thankful for the gift of him every day! He is joy! Walking had become a luxury in the busyness of everyday life, now it's a necessity and one I savour!

Because of Hugo, I spend so much time out in God's AMAZING creation in this WONDERFUL world that God has gifted us. On every walk we take - at least 4 times a day - I am constantly in awe of the beauty I find. From sunrise to sunset and beyond, through every season, in whatever location I might be, the marvels of nature never fail to amaze and inspire!

It is when I am walking my lovely dog that I feel so close to God, because I am so acutely aware of His majesty and wonder in the beauty I am surrounded by. It prompts me to talk with God - and yes often out loud! I am inspired to be thankful, but I also have time to have a dialogue with Him to ask that I might realise His purpose for me; to ask for forgiveness for the times I have failed Him; to ask for His healing and love for those I know are in need. Each day I know I am not just walking with Hugo, my dog, but that I am walking with God, because He is always walking with me and waiting for me to notice that He is always there. I pray that each of us might spend time every day consciously walking with God in His natural cathedral of creation.



Debbie Wood

Project 2020 Kiribati

Every week we are opening a door on our project calendar and seeing some information about Kiribati, the Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Disabilities, and our project total.



Kiribati Population is 107,000 similar to the population of Rochdale Town

Time in UK 8pm Time in Kiribati 7am

The principal and chaplain got up early in the morning to come to our Zoom meeting.





Do you know who these doors belong to? Which is the school door?



Which door do you think will open next?

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. - Jesus quoted in Matthew 11:28-30.



“Well that concludes your training and checks, can you host tonight?”

That was the sentence that, after one day training in Manchester, an interview, two home checks and DBS approval, started our Nightstop journey. Actually, it’s more accurate to say that the journey started after we had moved to our larger house and were wondering what we should do with the extra space. It was Richard (Bradley) who first mentioned Nightstop, and after some prayer and consideration, that was what we chose.

So, on that Monday night, it was with some trepidation, that we welcomed our first young person. We didn’t know then that he would stay for around 5 months! A very rich 5 months of challenges and learning, (and playing chess!) This is not the normal Nightstop model, but Covid changed a lot of things. We were all locked down together!

Since then we have had 4 other short-term guests, (2-7 days) and are currently hosting another young person who may be with us slightly longer, but we don’t know!

Nightstop comes under the umbrella of DePaul UK, and Nightstop Greater Manchester launched in November 2017. The normal Nightstop provision is that a young person is hosted for 1 night only, or a weekend, after which they move onto another host. They are given a private room, a meal, breakfast, and a packed lunch, and then go onto their next place. They may be at college or work, but simply find themselves for a whole host of reasons, with nowhere stable to live.

Hosts fill in an availability log, so it is very flexible. Usually within 3 weeks, Nightstop and the other agencies they work with will find them permanent accommodation. The point of Nightstop is to PREVENT young

people from becoming street homeless and being then caught up in that dangerous spiral.

Covid has changed the 1-night model and has also prevented quite a few hosts from being able to host. In our case, we found we had a handy solution - our camper van! This meant we could provide short term accommodation in a safer way (amazing the things God can use that you would never have imagined!)

Vulnerable young people are exempt from Covid household mixing restrictions, but we also had to think about our own safety and that of our family. As I write, we are hosting in our house again, because neither ourselves nor the young person are going out, so we felt the risk was low.

Even though we were nervous at the start, we realised of course that the young people would probably be even more nervous, and the wonderful staff at Nightstop, who are on call 24/7, gave us plenty of support. The Nightstop team carefully check each young person to make sure they are suitable to be hosted, and there are strict rules that they know they have to follow (such as no drug or alcohol abuse, no bringing friends, abide by the hosts house rules).

All in all, we are enjoying the challenge and have met some lovely young people, finding it so true that while we tend to label people, homeless young people are no different from you and I, and given a listening ear have stories to tell.

I will finish with the words of our current guest:

“I came across Nightstop through Centrepoint, when I was in a time of needing help, and being homeless. Their job is to help lift you up, access help to get you into education or employment, whilst also helping to tackle homelessness on the streets by finding somewhere for you to stay. This is a very great organisation. It has helped me build my confidence and be more optimistic about the future. I thank Nightstop for what they have done for me.”

Jane and Cameron Baines



An extract from the November 2000 issue of the magazine

Tapestry 2000

Eighteen months ago, Gillian Galloway put forward the idea that a tapestry should be made to celebrate the bicentenary. Much time and thought was given to the design. Ideas were bounced about by a small group and it was decided to make a large wall tapestry depicting some of the history of the church. [*Have you looked at this recently? Hanging in the sanctuary*]. Gillian spent many hours putting together all the ideas and they were put on canvas. The canvas was mounted on a wooden frame, wools bought and we were ready.

An invitation was given to any member of the church who would be interested in helping with the stitching. Twenty-two people offered to help!!! There were teething troubles at the beginning. We were all on a sharp learning curve, but with the help of Margaret, who lectures in needlecraft, we learned quickly. As one stitcher commented “it’s two stitches forward and one back.” Through it all there has been much laughter, but also some tears. So far 738 hours have been spent in stitching and we are about halfway.

We all get great pleasure from the results of our work. Sometimes we become territorial with our little bit of canvas! But it’s all done with humour. Because so much pleasure has been gained from stitching together, there is a swell of feeling that when this tapestry is finished, the stitchers would like to continue with other stitching projects, but that is for the future. For now, it is enough that we are producing something which, to us, is very beautiful and which is giving us much pleasure.

Winifred Schofield

Lord, prop us up!

There is a story of an old farmer who always prayed the same prayer at his church meeting. “Lord, prop us up on our leanin’ side”. After hearing this many times, his minister asked him one day quite what he meant.

The farmer replied: “Well, it’s like this... I’ve got an old barn out in one of my fields. It’s been there a long time, and gone through a lot of storms.

One day a few years ago I noticed that it was leaning to one side a bit. So,

I went and got some poles and propped it up on its leaning side, so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, and seen plenty of storms in life. I was still standing, but I was also leaning a bit. So, I decided to ask the Lord to prop me up, too, on my leaning side. Our 'leaning side' is where we are weakest in ourselves. Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, bitterness, bleakness in life. Then we too need to pray for God to prop us up, especially on that leaning side. He wants us to stand tall and free, in Him.

Courtesy of Parish Pump

Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness

John Keats wrote many a memorable and arresting opening line in his short life, but his opening to his great poem '**To Autumn**', one of his finest odes, is perhaps his most resonant of all.

Lesley Sutton





The Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer

www.eternalwall.org.uk

The continuing story.....

The wall will consist of 1 million bricks. Each brick is linked to an answered prayer story, which will be accessed by means of a bespoke app.

On-site features include:

- state-of-the-art educational exhibition on prayer
- Interactive touch screens to access answered prayers on bricks
- 24/7 Prayer Room
- Cafe and Christian bookshop
- Parkland areas for prayer and reflection
- Trained chaplains providing support

The wall itself is a result of answered prayer:

- CEO Richard Gamble first had idea in April 2004 – prayed for next 10 years
- January 2015 – Richard felt the nudge to begin acting on it
- April 2016 – crowdfunding campaign to raise £45,000 for the website and to run a GLOBAL Royal Institute of British Architects’ (RIBA) design competition
- June 2017 – team member has a dream from God about the landowner
- January 2018 – team receive the land
- August 2018 – competing architects visit the site
- June 2019 – planning process begins
- September 2020 – planning permission granted
- Spring 2021 – building will begin
- Autumn 2022 - completion

Joan Warner

This article is courtesy of Parish Pump; written by Kirsty Steele, a retired teacher and active church organist; graphic by Ruth King

Green Grow'th the Holly

A music manuscript from about 1515 and attributed to King Henry VIII has the words:

**Green grow'th the holly,
So doth the ivy,
Though winter blasts ne'er so high
Green grow'th the holly.**



The next three verses take us through spring, summer and autumn, so this is clearly not a Christmas carol, unlike the familiar 'The Holly and the Ivy'. What may not be known is that holly and ivy are two of the very few native evergreen trees, and in past times must have been especially popular in providing greenery during winter months.

With its shiny spiky dark green leaves, holly is surely one of the most easily recognised trees in this country. Though often bushlike, holly can grow up to ten metres high with a straight trunk and pyramid shape. It is *dioecious*, meaning each tree is either male or female, explaining possibly why the one in your garden never has any berries!

Nowadays we associate holly with Christmas wreaths and garlands, cards and carols. Pre-Victorian times saw holly branches used as Christmas trees, with the spiky leaves representing Christ's Crown of Thorns and the red berries as drops of blood. Holly brought into the house was regarded as protection against evil spirits and as a refuge for good 'faeries' who would guard the residents of the house in return.

It is interesting to note that where no person or animal brushes by a holly, the leaves lack all spines except the one at the tip. This includes upper leaves on mature trees. A bit like people – be nice and they won't be scratchy!

Back to 'Green grow'th the Holly'. The final verse ends:

**The God of life can never die,
Hope! Saith the holly.**

How wise. Where would we be without hope?

Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

(all suspended until further notice)

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

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

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

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

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE

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DATES FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 15th November

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 26th November

Magazine distributed: Sunday 29th November

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Time of Service:

Family Worship : 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1st Sunday in month
(Please see page 1 if you wish to attend worship during Covid restrictions)