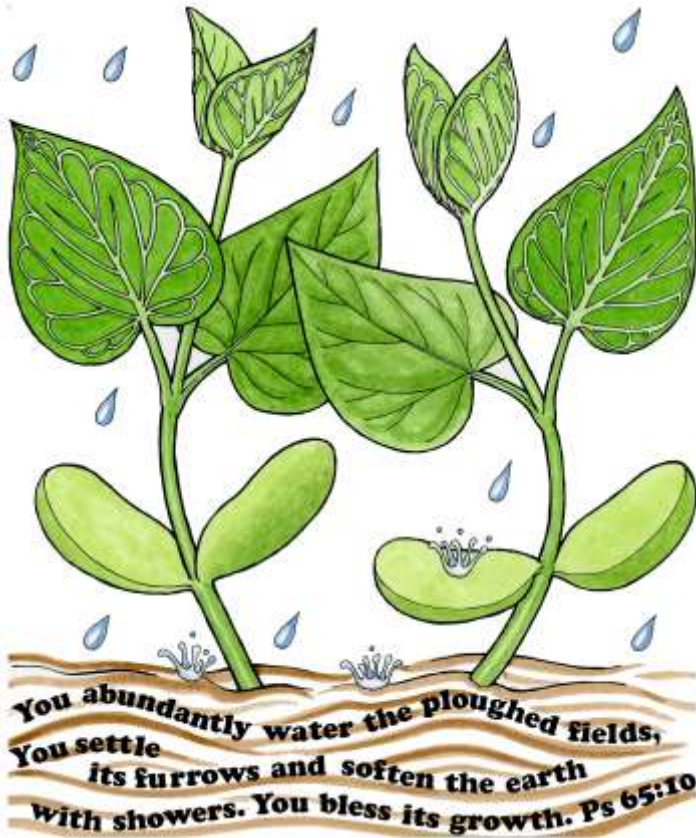




The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



April 2024

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT



Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

Worship

In our devotion we will come together to express our joy, love and thanks through worship.

We shall share our praise and dedicate it to God.

Ministry

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will show compassion and love by understanding, supporting and meeting the spiritual, the physical and the emotional needs of others.

Evangelism

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

Discipleship

We as a church have a responsibility as Christians to encourage people to know God and to enable them to develop their relationship with Him through prayer, discussion, study and learning.

Fellowship

We welcome to our church family those who want to belong. We show our love for others by sharing acts of fellowship in God's name.

April 2024

For those who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship, services are live-streamed on YouTube (Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church) and available on the church website (www.bcchurch.org.uk)

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Tuesday 2 April	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 8)
Friday 5 April	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Saturday 6 April	10.00 - 12noon 10.30 pm	Big Breakfast (see page 14) Jesus-Shaped People discussion In Church (see page 5)
Sunday 7 April	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Andy Platt
Wednesday 10 April	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship (see page 3)
Thursday 11 April	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Friendship Group "Blind Veterans" (see page 8)
Sunday 14 April	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
Tuesday 16 April	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 8)
Saturday 20 April	6.30 for 7.00pm	Community Film Club (see page 26) "The Hundred Foot Journey"
Sunday 21 April	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Clare Downing (North-West Synod Moderator)
Monday 22 April	8.00 pm	Jesus-Shaped People discussion At the Redmond's (see page 5)
Wednesday 24 April	7.30 pm	Jesus-Shaped People discussion In Church (see page 5)
Saturday 27 April	10.30 am	Jesus-Shaped People discussion In Church (see page 5)

April 2024 continued...

Sunday 28 April	10.30 am 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Family Worship Led by Linda Raynor Messy Church (see page 24)
Tuesday 30 April	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 8)

Message from the Manse



As I sit to type this magazine article I am struck by the suffering we see around the world. Whether we think about the places that are headline news – like Gaza, Israel and Ukraine and for those parts of the world that have sadly dropped from the headlines but where people are suffering immensely.

Suffering is a central theme of the Easter story. We have the horror of Good Friday when Jesus suffered the most horrendous suffering and was brutally killed in the most heinous way known to humankind – crucifixion. While crucifixion was a common way of killing someone in Jesus' day, I think Jesus suffered even more as he also bore the sins of humanity – sins past, present and to come. We cannot start to imagine what he went through on that day.

Jesus went to the cross because he loved all people. He died to take away the sins of the world. He died to pay the cost of sin. He died because he loved us.

Walking through Bury Town Centre I came across the 'knife angel'. I have heard much about it but never seen it up front before. It is very tall some 27 feet tall with over 100,000 knives handed in in knife amnesties or confiscated by the police. As I looked at the sheer size and the sheer number of knives I reflected on how many lives may have been saved because these knives have been taken off our streets, but also how much pain and anguish has been caused by knife crime too.

Another reality at the centre of the Easter story (as well as suffering) is love – the love of God made known to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This Easter may well all reflect on God's love for us and for the whole world. May we pray for those who suffer whether in our communities or those communities further afield. Let us pray that the light of the risen Jesus would shine in the darkness of the world wherever that darkness is found.

I hope you all have a happy Easter,
God Bless, Revd Richard Bradley

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC invite you to...

Join us for worship at 7pm on the second Wednesday of every month

Midweek Worship

pray

10/04/24
08/05/24
12/06/24
10/07/24

14/08/24
11/09/24
09/10/24
13/11/24
11/12/24

March Midweek Worship



In March we welcomed Jim Hurst from Greenmount URC to lead our Midweek worship (which is a more intimate service with a chance for personal reflection and discussion, with a cuppa included, held at 7pm on the second Wednesday of every month). Jim led us in an Iona style worship sharing with us his experiences of discovering the way of life of the Iona community and its way of worshipping together. Jim also included his passion for geology and each of us were able to bring home a pebble, from Iona, which we had each chosen, and reflected on

about how it might represent ourselves and our own faith journey. With Jim leading us in song on his guitar, we had a most uplifting service that certainly left me wanting to go to Iona. You can experience their daily worship for yourself by following the link on their website:

<https://iona.org.uk/our-resources/prayer-and-worship/daily-worship/>

why not take a look?

OUR NEXT MIDWEEK WORSHIP IS WEDNESDAY APRIL 10TH AT 7PM AND WILL BE LED BY REV. RICHARD BRADLEY AND WILL INCLUDE COMMUNION.



Jesus-Shaped Church

Continuing to develop our Jesus-Shaped Church

All are invited to continue our discussions and learning together as we grow in faith and trust. From February to July 2024 we will be using the 'Jesus Shaped People Lite' materials and as we did during the Autumn of 2023 we will meet to discuss the materials. You only need to attend one of the dates being offered for each JSP session.



JSP Session	Monday—8pm @ The Redmonds	Wednesdays—7.30pm In Church	Saturdays—10.30am In Church
1	12th February	6th March	17th February
2	18th March	27th March	6th April
3	22nd April	24th April	27th April
4	13th May	15th May	18th May
5	10th June	19th June	15th June
6	15th July	17th July	20th July

All are welcome at any of the sessions. For further details please contact Richard on:
richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk // 01706 369622 // 07483 155807

Café Church

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP CAFE CHURCH

During 2024 we will have six services - starting at 6.30pm

5th May

1st September

7th July

3rd November

at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC (unless otherwise stated)
Norden Road, Rochdale, OL11 5PQ

The Rainbow

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: My word, but it has been a wet winter, and our hearts go out to all those whose properties and livelihoods have been damaged by floodwaters. In theory, we should still be getting showers in April, and with showers come rainbows. It may be small compensation for those with flooded homes, but the rainbow is a sign of a promise that at least nobody will have to build an ark.



The world was so wicked that God made it rain
For forty long days and long nights
The floodwaters covered both mountain and plain
They covered the highest of heights!

But Noah survived, because he – free from guilt
Kept the Word of his God in his mind
So he and his kin, in the ark he had built
Lived with two beasts of every kind.

They floated by night and they floated by day
No sign of the land could they spy;
Till at last came the day when the flood drained away
And a rainbow was seen in the sky.

And God said to Noah, “You see that bright bow?
“That rainbow up there in the sky?
“Now I’ve put it there as a sure sign to show
“Of a promise twixt mankind and I.

“In future you’ll know that I won’t make it rain
“So the whole earth is flooded that deep.
“Now the rainbow is there and will be again –
“And you’ll know that this promise I’ll keep.”

On days when it seems that the rain just won’t go
And the floodwaters fill us with fear;
At last comes the sun and the bright coloured bow –
Our God made that rainbow appear.



By Nigel Beeton



Tuesday Home Group



The Tuesday Homegroup

Meets fortnightly on Zoom
Anyone is welcome to join us to share in fellowship and reflecting together on God's Word

We meet at 7.30pm

6th February	16th April
20th February	30th April
5th March	14th May
19th March	28th May
2nd April	11th June

Zoom details:
Meeting ID: 847 9885 2008
Passcode: 517449

For more details contact Revd Richard Bradley on:
richard.bradley@rwsynod.org.uk // 07483 155807 // 01706 369622

Friendship Group



Thursday 11th April

1.30 - 3.30 pm

In Church

Emma Flint

“Blind Veterans”

£4

All Welcome

The Treasure of Easter!



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers what Easter has given us

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God **'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.'** (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the **reason for hope**. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it **'is kept in heaven for you'** (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: *'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'*.

On the other hand, this treasure is a **source of joy**. This unburied treasure fills us **'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'** (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, **'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.'** (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof!'



Don't be afraid of clouds



Have you ever sat and watched the clouds drift by? Some of them are vast, towering up and up into the sky.

There can be clouds of discouragement and suffering in our lives as well, circumstances that temporarily blot out the sunlight of God's love for us. You may have such a cloud hanging over your life right now. You may be in a hospital bed, or suffering discouragement, fear, despair or bereavement.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes, when you board a plane, the sky is like a thick grey ceiling? It looks impenetrable. But the plane does not hesitate - it climbs steadily onward and upward straight into the cloud. And what happens? Nothing! The cloud cannot block your progress, it must give way before you.

The simple truth is, you may not be able to *see* through clouds, but you *can go through them*. The plane uses navigational aids for guidance, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us through the darkest times. And finally, we emerge through the cloudbank, and there before us is a sun-drenched sky of blue and golden glory, far above the dismal and disappointing things far below.

Whatever cloud is hanging over you at present, whether suffering, discouragement, fear, there IS something you can do about it NOW. Pray –

pour out your heart to the Lord about it. He has promised that His grace will be sufficient for anything that we encounter in this life.

And – look up. Look towards heaven, *think beyond* those clouds, and remember His promise that the sufferings we may be undergoing *here* are nothing compared to the glory that God has prepared for us *there*.

The Bible assures us: 'The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you.' Psalm 84: 11-12



Church Flowers



**Donations for flowers placed in church
in March were received from:**

**Margaret Ogden in memory of Derek
Linda & Duncan Cooper for their Wedding Anniversary
Pamela Harrington in memory of her brother David
Margaret Frain in memory of husband Geoff
Linda Kerford in memory of husband Malcolm**

Rochdale to Portsmouth

Dear Friends,



It is two and a half years since I took the decision to move the 260 miles from OL11 to PO4. Southsea is to Portsmouth as Bamford is to Rochdale.

My apartment is one of 60 in a development close to the South pier in Southsea; I have a balcony and an angled view of the sea. Residents need to be 70+ to live here, and many are in their eighties and nineties. The development includes a Bistro style restaurant and a large communal lounge. Householders meetings are held every month. The site also has a Co op store (a link to Rochdale!) which does a roaring

trade with residents and visitors.

I enjoy meeting up with other householders for lunch in the Bistro or in the lounge for the fortnightly film night and streamed concerts by the Bournemouth Philharmonic Orchestra. Or sometimes just a quick chat in the lift!

Local transport is good, with regular buses from the door to other parts of Portsmouth and to the railway stations. Most amenities and local shops are within a 20 minute walk away. Or I can get the bus if it's raining!

Parking is not especially good and is mainly by zoned permit. I have not used the car since I came here, so I sold it last year and rely on public transport or

walking. One of the reasons I chose Southsea was that it is fairly flat and good for walking. As most of you know, I have asthma and can sometimes struggle a bit on hills and steps, so walking on the flat seaside promenade or through the gardens suits me fine. I manage to get out for a walk most days, usually for about three quarters of an hour - depending a bit on the weather! The climate here is rather different from Rochdale. No snow, occasional frost and generally warmer. We do get rain, some strong winds. and rough seas.

Portsmouth has strong naval connections and there are interesting places to visit. The historic Naval dockyard is very popular. I have been a few times to see the old ships - HMS Warrior, Mary Rose and Victory. From time to time we get glimpses of the Aircraft carriers that have been in the news recently, and we see many huge container ships and cruise ships pass by. The Isle of Wight is often clearly visible, and is another popular place to visit. I've been over on the Hovercraft to Ryde and spent a short holiday there with Anne and Ian. This year sees the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings, and special events will be taking place in Portsmouth, so I look forward to seeing some of those.

Martyn lives about 35 minutes away, and I see more of him than I used to, though he is very busy at work and very involved with his barbershop singing. Anne and Ian still live in the Birmingham area but still make regular visits to see me. I have not been able to find a convenient Male Voice choir (like Saddleworth) here so support Martyn's chorus from the Stalls instead. There isn't a URC within easy reach either, local churches are mainly C of E or Catholic.

As you know I have always been quite keen on photography. My move has caused changes in my subject matter. No snowy hills and attractive lakes, but more ships, lighthouses, seascapes, flowers and sunsets!

Bamford will always be special to me, but I do feel at home in Southsea.

The photo was taken on my recent birthday.

Best wishes, John Lapworth

Big Breakfast

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

Fancy a bacon butty?



*Saturday
6 April
10.00 – 12.00*

£5

In aid of

**Rochdale
foodbank**



Remembering Eric Marquis

A letter from Jenny Marquis to Richard



Richard, thank you very much indeed for your help in making Eric's funeral such a special occasion. I've had so many comments from people who attended about how lovely it was. So thank you again for your help, support and advice. I really appreciate it.

We are also so grateful to the members of Bamford Chapel who attended the Service and helped to make it so special. There were some very complimentary comments about the singing! A special thanks also to the people who stayed after the Service to help with the refreshments. Their kindness and sense of fellowship were noted by many of the guests, some of whom wished they lived nearer to Rochdale so they could attend Bamford Chapel!

A special thanks must go to the people who stayed behind while we waited for my two young grandchildren, who had been delayed by traffic, to arrive. We had a little candle-lighting ceremony for them and a prayer for grandad. That really meant a lot to them and to us.

Please pass on my gratitude to them. Hopefully I'll be able to thank them personally at some stage.

Kind regards

Jenny Marquis

Memories of David & Norma Milnes



I first met Norma Milnes at Bamford Chapel many years ago. We used to sit together and over time became very good friends. She was a very generous lady who was always willing to help where she could. Norma drove for Luncheon Club for many years and helped with flower arranging for church.

She also baked for the cake stall at the Garden Party but never attended herself. Norma loved her garden and sitting in her summer house watching the birds. She took Joan Holt under her wing, doing hospital visits and providing Sunday lunch when she could.

Ian and I loved our many days out with Norma and David, they were like magical mystery tours for us. David gave directions and Ian drove down all the country roads until we arrived at wherever we were going for lunch. We shared meals and many days out and about in Lancashire with them. Whilst David did not attend worship at Bamford Chapel, he faithfully transported Norma to Chapel and was always waiting for her at the end of service. They both enjoyed the Lunchtime Concerts.

Norma used to say that we got on so well because we were both Aquarians. Her birthday was 3 days after mine and she was able to celebrate her 90th birthday with her family before she died on 17th February.

One of the privileges of the time we spent in Bamford was knowing David and Norma and members of their family. They were so proud of all of the achievements of their family. Ailsa's piano and artistic talent, the progress of her boys, Daniel and Raphael a credit to them. They welcomed John, Ailsa's husband, into their family circle in later years. Their love for Mark, his wife Julie and children, Jason, Louisa and Amanda who they all missed so much, was shown even more after the sudden death of grandson Jason in a motorbike accident. We felt as if we knew Julia prior to her return from the States and the support she provided in later years to her mum and dad in Bamford.

Norma and David did so much for so many folk in Bamford which was perhaps not always acknowledged. Norma will have so much to tell David. I know Bamford Chapel will remember Norma and David and the Milnes family in their prayers as we will. Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. A true Christian lady.

God Bless, Muriel and Ian Sturrock

My mother was a caring person who always kept her children close to her heart. She was also a great feeder which worked really well for me after a big day out playing with my mates. She could cook the best of food from whatever was at hand. We were never short of a good meal.

As a boy, I can honestly say I had a very happy childhood. That in itself speaks volumes about the ethics of my mum and dad. I never heard my parents argue during the time I lived at home. They were very content together.

Mum thought the world of our son, Jason. She loved his way, cheekiness and sense of fun and humour. She was also very comforting and gave a lot of support at his untimely passing. She had great time for our daughters Louisa and Amanda. She loved watching Louisa riding her horse at a local farm in the heart of Kent, and would often comment that Louisa had the Whittaker straight back. This experience re-kindled her memories of being with and looking after animals on a farm in Whitworth during her younger years. Mum would also spend a lot of time with Amanda, our younger daughter. Teaching her cookery skills and also the art of tapestry working. My wife, Julie, also loved to sit and watch and learn tapestry techniques from mum.

As children we used to worship at Bamford Chapel and I attended the youth group. Once a year we would join in the Whitsun procession, walking around Bamford with a brass band playing and banners being carried. The locals used to line the streets and wave as we passed.

In later life, and as mum found more time, she began to worship again. She also loved being part of the Bamford Chapel community. This was a very fulfilling time of her life and lasted for many happy years.

We greatly miss you mum, but also realise you are now at peace and back where you belong with dad. Thanks for all you have given over the years.

Mark, Julie, Louise and Amanda Milnes.

Developing World Project 2024



Bamford and Norden United Reformed Church's project 2024: *Accepted unanimously by the Elders' and Church Meeting*

The Church in the World Group has decided to recommend Cheshire Home and Outreach Services for Disabled Children and Young People, based in Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Region of Namibia, to the Elders and the congregation as our 2024 project.

We hope that you will feel as we do that the monies given from this Church can be used to help children and young people in Namibia to reach their potential and live life well.

Namibia is located in the southern part of the continent of Africa. Katima Mulilo is in the North East of Namibia, 750 miles from the capital city, Windhoek. The country is sparsely populated and is a land of great contrasts in relation to landscapes, weather, health and wealth. The main religion is Christianity. In the Zambezi Region where the centre is situated there is a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and deprivation.



Background to the organisation: Cheshire Homes (Namibia)Trust

The Cheshire Home was set up in 1987 under the umbrella of The Leonard Cheshire International Organisation who, since before 2008 have not provided financial support. Financial support is all voluntary and includes funding from Polish donors and thanks to an entrepreneurial nun, Sister Lucy, the centre has rooms that can be hired out for conferences and for Government Officials visiting the region. A group of trustees, including one former resident, support and guide the work of the centre.

The main staff we have contact with and have asked about the current priorities/needs to keep the centre running effectively are Sister Agnes, children's nurse, Jesse Nehemia, physiotherapist, Sister Judyta, finance and general running of the centre.

The centre caters for 30 children and young people and additionally has a significant outpatient caseload of and over 25 children are seen in the wider Zambezi Community for wheelchair provision and disability support. The children all live with disabilities, some have mobility and movement difficulties, other have impaired hand skills, speech difficulties, problems with continence etc. Several of the current children have degenerative conditions and therefore there is a focus on helping them to accommodate their changing needs.

The children living in the centre receive therapy and also access mainstream education via concrete pathways which have been laid between the centre and the nearby local schools. The children are encouraged to be as independent as possible and attend school daily during the week. They return home to their own family homes every month for a weekend and during the longer school breaks.

The centre is a very happy place where the children enjoy social activities, therapy and going to school. They have long days and learn to be independent in all aspects of their lives.

The centre welcomes volunteers to bring new ideas and support with care and support as there are very few staff.

[continued overleaf...](#)

Appeal to Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Congregation:

The group feels this project is valuable, sustainable, and managed by a dedicated group of staff at the Cheshire Home, along with people in the wider community, and a Polish Order of Sisters who support the children and staff team. As three of our group members have personal and recent experience of seeing the work at first hand, we think we can show first-hand what can be achieved, thus promoting positively, and encouraging the congregation to give generously. The group believes that everyone connected with BCNURC can benefit from the widening of our own horizons regarding the issues children with disabilities face living a rural and deprived community of Namibia which has a high-level health inequality.

The Current Church in the World Group members are: Margaret Ogden, Barbara Redmond, Addie Redmond, Carol Hartley, Gillian James, Rebecca Abbott , Sue Travis and Carole Greaves, *but new members are always welcome.*

A Sinner's Spiritual Journey



Up to now

My every day spiritual journey so far has been along smooth motorways, bumpy pothole infested streets, many wrong turns and numerous no entry signs. All these routes have tested my faith as I've travelled from belief, doubt, hope, prayer, encouragement, truth, trust, fear and love.

Joining up the dots

Then at last the mysterious dots of Christ’s message started to join up as God revealed His plan for me – which is still a “work in progress” – one mile at a time, as He tests, humbles and tasks me in His forever moment of now.

Breakdowns

During my life’s journey, spiritual breakdowns often occur resulting in a prayerful “call-out” request to the most reliable Breakdown and Recovery Service ever.... God. He always listens, understands my problems and in His own good time sends a Patrol Angel to put me right – thus enabling my journey to continue in a positive direction. The Breakdown and Recovery Service always appreciates a heartfelt “thank you”.



God places no limitations on the number of call-outs I make and despite my many failings He never cancels my lifelong subscription or “hangs up” when I talk to Him daily in prayer. Even though there’s a whole lot less to me than meets the eye, I’m blessed with God’s correction, love and I remain teachable.

The wonderful world tomorrow

My destination is becoming clearer as I realise God is steering me through an apprenticeship of healing, encouragement, faith and salvation in readiness for the certainty of Christ’s return and the coming Kingdom of God.

Bring it on the best is yet to come.

“Dear Lord, please take my hand, we have many a mile to go”.

Steve Lawley

Youth & Age

This poem was provided by ACE in memory of one of their contributors who died recently. She published three collections of her poetry – this one is from her last book, called 'More Doggerel Days' and reflects her love for the natural world around us.



Give me green fields
And green hills
And sheep and cattle and trees.
Give me running brooks
And homing rooks
And bells on the evening breeze.
And sunny lawns
And bright new dawns
And gentle rain on my face.
And heavenly choirs
And dreaming spires
And I'll know I have found my place.

Autumn inspires
Cosy fires
And a need to stay close to home.
The song of the birds
Are comforting words
To those unable to roam.
Music and dance,
Books and romance,
Pets and laughter and space.
Friendship and love
And heavens above,
I'll know that I've found my place.



"More Doggerel Days" by Jane Gascoin



Addie & Barbara's Plastic Footprint

In one week we used 60 bits of plastic

Over a year that's equivalent to 3120 pieces of plastic

If all households were the same as ours, the UK would use 87, 672,000,000 bits of plastic every year.

Imagine the volume of plastic being created globally, over years and years. That's why we need the governments across the world to agree to a Global Plastic Treaty which cuts plastic production. This would mean less plastic litter in our parks and green spaces, fewer incinerators polluting our air, and less of our waste being dumped abroad.



What happens to our plastic waste?

14% is recycled in the UK.

Plastic waste that is sorted and reprocessed in the UK and then turned into new materials.

Since The Big Plastic Count in 2022, the UK is reported to be recycling more domestically.

12% is exported

The UK sends tonnes of rubbish to other countries every day, with Turkey the main destination.

Since The Big Plastic Count 2022, the UK is reported to be exporting less. However, lots of UK waste is still being found abroad, so this figure is likely to be an underestimate.

12% is landfill

When plastic is buried in the ground at a landfill, it releases harmful gases into the atmosphere, while wind and rain carry microplastics into surrounding areas.

The UK is now sending less to landfill than in 2022, as landfill sites are running out of space.



Bamford Chapel
& Norden United
Reformed Church


Living God, Serving Others,
Building Community

ALL
ARE
WELCOME

Sunday 28 April 2 – 4 pm

Save the date



Come to

Professor
Potty's

Lab

Children

please bring an adult with you

Menu



Hot dogs

Follow us on



BC&N URC Messy Church

Messy Church



George regularly attends the messy church sessions held at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC and thoroughly enjoys them.

Back in September 2023 at the ECO themed messy church George planted some daffodil bulbs to take home and watch them grow. Fast forward to March 2024 after a lot of care and patience the first daffodil bloomed just after Mothering Sunday.



**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

The Ian Newman Community Film Club

At Bamford Chapel & Norden URC, Norden Road

Rochdale OL11 5PQ

20th April 2024

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

Admission £4.00

“THE HUNDRED FOOT JOURNEY” PG 2014



Supported by Rochdale Township

50 Years of Abba!



Fifty years ago, on 6th April 1974, the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song *Waterloo*. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

The victory, in Brighton, was just the first step on the road

to conquering the world, as far as pop music was concerned. The songs, written mainly by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, were matched by the passion, exuberance and good looks of singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid 'Frida' Lyngstad, who later married them – and even later, divorced them.

The name of the group came from the initials of the four Christian names. Some have suggested a link to the biblical Abba and looked for Jewish themes in their songs, but this is wishful thinking. While Anni-Frid (who was born Norwegian) may be Christian, Björn is definitely an outspoken atheist. In fact, ABBA is the name of a Swedish canned fish company that had to give permission for the singers to use it – a decision they are unlikely to have regretted.

Both *Waterloo* and ABBA achieved worldwide superstar status quickly – no small feat for a group performing in a language that is not their own. The film *ABBA – the Movie* and the musical *Mamma Mia* and its sequel, featuring their compelling songs, were huge successes. It is estimated that the musical has been seen by more than 60 million people worldwide.

ABBA hit the jackpot again when their revolutionary new project, *ABBA Voyage*, launched in 2022. In it, Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid perform their love-songs digitally with a live 10-piece band, in a purpose-built ABBA arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Not bad for four divorcees in their 70s.



Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am **Monday Gang / Garden Gang**
(who do work in or around the building)
10.15 am **Pastoral Meeting**
1.30 pm **Bridge Club**
7.30 - 8.30 pm **Monday Prayer Group** (in Lounge)
8.00 pm **Monday Night Home Group** (at Redmond's)
- Tuesday:** 9.00 – 11.00 am **Toddlers' Group**
1.30 – 4.00 pm **Indoor Bowls** (Upstairs Hall)
From 6.00 pm **Rainbows, Brownies & Guides**
7.15 pm **Singing Group**
- Wednesday:** 12 noon **Luncheon Club**
6.30 pm **Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association**
- Thursday:** 10.30 am - 12 noon **Community Coffee Morning**
- Friday:** 6.00 pm onwards **Beavers, Cubs and Scouts**
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm **God Squad** (for Teenagers)

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- Tuesday:** **Home Group** 2nd, 16th & 30th April
7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see page 8)
- Thursday:** **Friendship Group** 2nd Thursday in the month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 11th April (see page 8)
Heritage Group 2nd Thursday in the month
7.30 pm 11th April
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 5th April
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month
Community Film Club 20th April
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film - (see page 26)

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

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



EDITOR:

Linda Peacock 01706 522593
lm.peacock@hotmail.co.uk

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Lesley Sutton 01706 638005
suttjohnny@gmail.com

DATES FOR MAY MAGAZINE

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BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

United Reformed Church

Charity - Regd No 1128387

Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs. OL11 5PQ

www.bcnchurch.org.uk

**Ministers of the Rochdale, Bury and
North Manchester Missional Partnership**

Revd Richard Bradley

The Manse, Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL11 5PQ

Telephone: 01706 369622

Work Mobile: 07483 155807

Email: richardbradley@cantab.net

Revd Daniel Harris

Work Mobile: 07563 286345

Email: danielharris343@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Anne Fitton

Telephone: 01706 641403

Email: annefitton@btinternet.com

Wedding Secretary: Julie Platt

Telephone: 01706 360129

Email: julie_platt62@hotmail.co.uk

Lettings Manager: Nicki Houghton

Telephone: 07502 308964

Email: nahoughton@sky.com