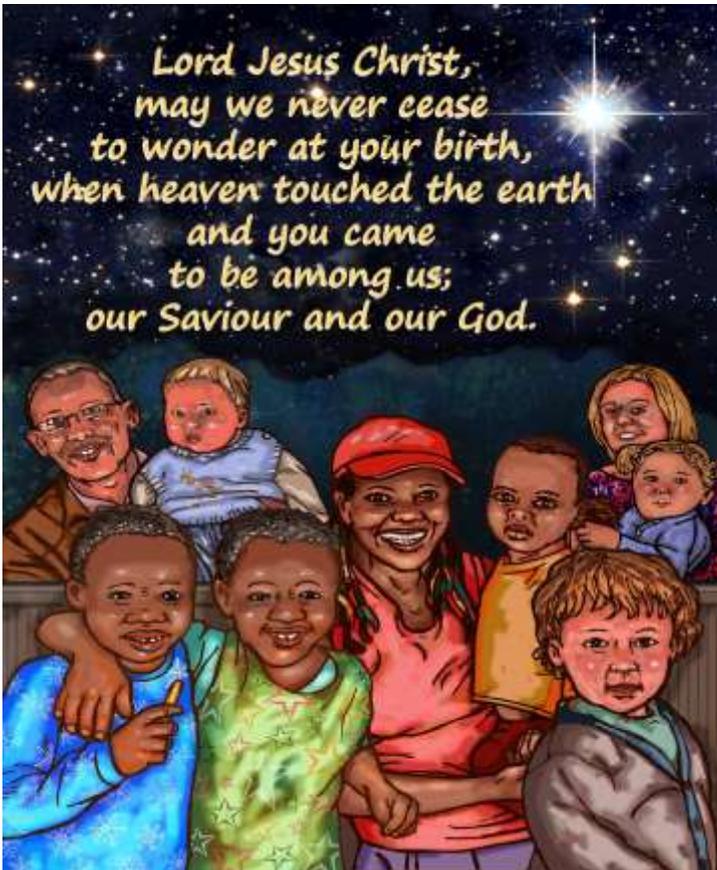




The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



**December 2022 &
January 2023**

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.

December 2022

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.bcnchurch.org.uk)

Friday 2 December	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 4 December	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Andy Platt
Tuesday 6 December	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 6)
Thursday 8 December	10.30 am - 12 noon	Cancer Research Coffee Morning
Saturday 10 December	7.00 pm	Gospel Pantomime (see page 10)
Sunday 11 December	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Sheila Coop
	3.00 pm	Gospel Pantomime (see page 10)
Tuesday 13 December	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group - In Church Christmas Social - in person
Sunday 18 December	10.30 am	Family Worship & Nativity Led by Junior Church
	4.30 pm 6.30 pm	Family Tea followed by Carol Service
Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion Led by Revd Daniel Harris
Christmas Day Sunday 25 December	10.00 am	Family Worship (NB 10 am Start) Led by Margaret Ogden

January 2023

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.bcnchurch.org.uk)

Sunday 1 January	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Andy Platt
Friday 6 January	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 8 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Messy Church (see page 26)
Tuesday 10 January	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 6)
Sunday 15 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson
Saturday 21 January	6.30 pm for 7.00 pm	Ian Newman Community Film Club (see page 22)
Sunday 22 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Clive Rotherham Followed by Church Meeting
	12 noon	
Tuesday 24 January	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 6)
Wednesday 25 January	7.30 - 8.00 pm	Missional Partnership Times of Prayer On Zoom (see page 5)
Sunday 29 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Ken Greer

Message from the Manse

As I was penning this article for the December magazines the song which breaks up the three sections of this article came to mind. The song is from Mission Praise 496....

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord**

The first verse above always reminds me of Christmas and is the same words from the chorus of the Christmas carol "O come all you faithful" These words, for me, are worthy of being sung at any time of the year not just at Christmas.

I am writing this article on the 21st November and there are many Christmas adverts on the television. I have also noticed houses where they have already put up their Christmas tree and have lights at their windows. As we enter this special time of year may we take time to reflect on the true meaning of this wonderful time of year. A time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world! May the busyness of the festive period not stop us celebrating and giving thanks to God.

**We'll give Him all the glory,
We'll give Him all the glory,
We'll give Him all the glory,
Christ the Lord**

As I write I think back on the year that is coming to an end. A year that for many has meant change and challenge. We only have to see the changes there have been in UK politics. We think of the invasion by Russia into Ukraine. We may look back and think of



those family and friends who have died. We may look back and think of new things we have done, new friends we have made. We may look back and reflect on events, milestones and special events in the Churches. Let us give thanks to God for the year that has come to an end.

**For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy,
Christ the Lord**

And let us think ahead to a new year with new opportunities. May we all commit to praying that God will show us the direction that He is calling us in and how God wants us to serve Him and the communities where our churches are situated. Let us commit to growing together, learning together and praying together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

I want to strongly encourage you to come to the monthly Missional Partnership times of prayer on Zoom which will alternate between daytime and evening times. Prayer needs to underpin everything we do as individual churches and across the Missional Partnership.

And finally may I wish you all every blessing for this Christmas and I wish us all a blessed 2023.



Thanks and God Bless,

Revd Richard Bradley (Missional Partnership Minister)



**In aid of Christian Aid
Fighting Global Poverty**

**At Bamford Chapel &
Norden URC
Saturday 3 December
10.00 - 12.00**



Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester
Missional Partnership
Times of prayer on zoom



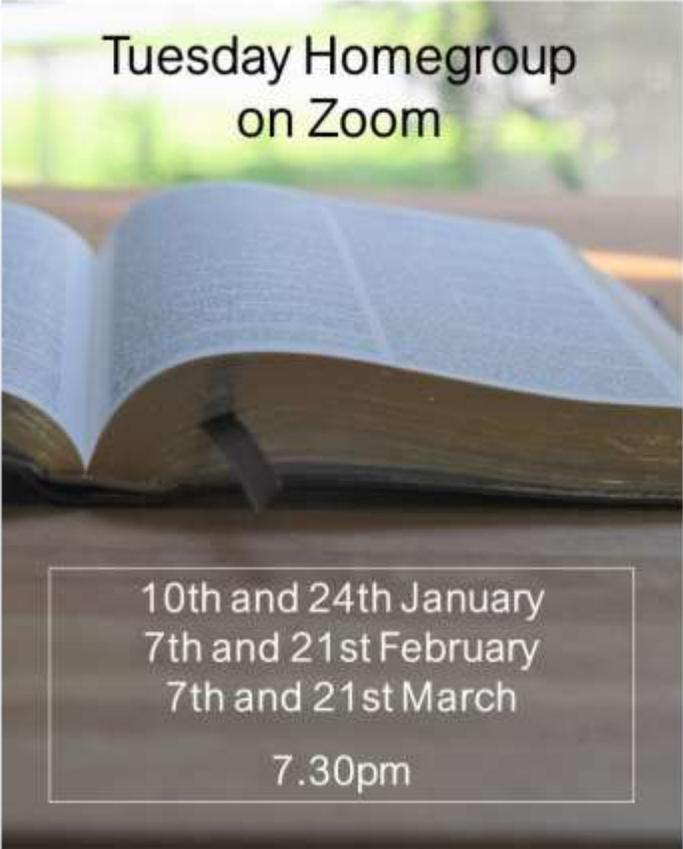
All welcome.....

Date	Time
25 th January	7.30pm – 8pm
15 th February	10.30am – 11am
22 nd March	7.30pm – 8pm
19 th April	10.30am – 11am
17 th May	7.30pm – 8pm
21 st June	10.30am – 11am

Zoom ID: 836 4636 0141

Passcode: Prayer

For any information, please contact Revd Richard Bradley
01706 369622 // 07483 155807 // richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk



Tuesday Homegroup on Zoom

10th and 24th January
7th and 21st February
7th and 21st March
7.30pm

All welcome

Zoom ID:
849 9885 2008

Passcode:
517449

For more information contact
Revd Richard Bradley on:
01706 369622
07483 155807
richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk

An Acrostic Christmas Prayer



Carols sound throughout the land
Heralding a special birth
Rejoicing as from Heaven's realm
Immanuel comes to bless the earth.
So in the town of Bethlehem
The Saviour Jesus gently lies,
Mary rocks the tiny child
As angels serenade the skies.
Shepherds told the awesome story
Divinity will now reside
As He who ruled in Heaven above
Yet Lord of all comes as a child.

By Megan Carter



Off to Pastures New

Dear Friends



As most of you will know we are regrettably leaving Bamford, after 44 very happy years here, to move to Brentwood in Essex to be close to our daughter Claire and family. This difficult decision was needed due to the challenges presented by increasing old age.

Bamford Chapel has been our spiritual

home throughout this long period and we have been blessed to enjoy such wonderful fellowship, support, care and love from the Chapel family. It has also provided so many opportunities for all our family to grow, develop and serve. Eldership, Finance, Choir, Drama, Banner making, Secretarial work, Ladies Fellowship, Junior Church and Boys Brigade to name but a few.

We will miss all of you very much, but will keep in our hearts very many happy memories. We pray that the Chapel will continue to flourish and serve the local community as it has done for over 200 years.

With love and best wishes from David and Hilary Edmonds. May God bless all of you.

(We are not giving our new address as everyone needs to cut out unnecessary expenditure in these difficult times, but our email address and mobile number are in the Chapel Directory if needed.)

Who is the Baby?



A little girl was examining a Christmas crib with her grandmother and commented, 'Grannie, it's really nice, but there's one thing that bothers me: is the baby Jesus ever going to grow up? He's the same size He was last year!!' The birth of Jesus must be the most well-known birth in the world, but are we really growing in our understanding of this story?

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of a baby is a time of great joy and excitement and Jesus' birth is good news for *all* people! He is none other than the king of the universe, who has come as our Saviour. To experience this joy, we must let go self-centredness and living as our own saviour. His deliverance and wholeness is a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace with God, ourselves, or even with those closest to us at Christmas. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine be the source of peace between God and man in the 21st century? Jesus came to establish such peace through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace in our lives brings peace with God. If we ignore this message of Christmas, we won't benefit from it. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'

By Canon Paul Hardingham



Gospel Pantomime

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC
presents the gospel pantomime

Doctor Watt
and her
(steam-powered)
Time Machine

He's behind you!

Oh no he isn't!

Saturday 10 December at 7 pm
and
Sunday 11 December at 3 pm

Bamford Chapel
Norden Road
OL11 5PQ

Tickets
Adults £5 Children £3
from Lesley Sutton
638005

Remember: if you bought tickets two years ago, they need exchanging for this year's production. See me after morning worship or ring me if you need tickets.

Thank you.

Lesley Sutton

Church Leaders in Ukraine Continue to Protest against Russia



The leaders of Churches in Ukraine have urged Christian leaders in the West to help to try and persuade Russia to comply with humanitarian standards of behaviour, and to stop indiscriminately attacking civilians and torturing prisoners and deportees.

The All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations has said “the Russian Federation has significantly stepped-up acts of terror and genocide, using a wide arsenal of missile armaments.” They go on: “Russian officials do not hide their criminal desire to destroy the vital infrastructure of Ukrainian cities on the eve of cold winter in order to destabilise the socio-political situation, to sow fear and panic...”

The Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I has told a Roman Catholic news agency that he has made “heated and fraternal appeal” to Russia’s Patriarch Kirill to distance himself from Moscow’s aggression and “unjustified bloodshed”.

However, preaching recently in Nizhny Novgorod, Patriarch Kirill assured Russian troops that they would be protected by the Virgin Mary and St Seraphim of Sarov (1754-1833) in vanquishing “forces of evil” and those who had “taken up arms against Holy Russia.”

The Primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk and the head of Ukraine’s independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko) have also voiced their opposition to the Russian Orthodox Church’s position.



Congratulations - BSc (hons)



Congratulations to Emma Hynes who has graduated from the Open University with a BSc (hons) in 'Childhood and Youth Studies with Maths and Statistics'.

Emma completed her degree over a period of 8 years around her full-time job as a Teaching Assistant at Wardle Academy working with Special Needs pupils, organising and supervising the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and running the Chapel Boys Brigade and Girls Association.

Church in the World Group Medic Malawi 2021 Update



Letter to Carole Greaves from Tom Hunt, Medic Malawi

Dear Carole

I hope that you are well. I wanted to make contact with you to provide some feedback and updates regarding the financial support that you provided to Medic Malawi to support our work at Chalizya School. The work to complete the two classrooms, head teacher office, staff room, library and school store has gone very well. I was able to visit the project when the building work was being done. It was great to see the community coming together to support the project. The school committee, teachers and village chiefs were so grateful for the support and did an excellent job of helping deliver the successful project.

While I was visiting the project, I was able to shoot a short video to share with you and we have also taken lots of photos to show you how your funding has helped transform the school.

Please find below the link to view the video (You may need to copy and paste the link into your search engine). <https://youtu.be/IErTRFagOGg>

Once again thank you for your support and for helping us with the Chalizya School project. The project is life changing for the young people who will benefit from it and we believe that this project will have a positive impact on many lives for years to come.

Thank you. Kind Regards Tom

Editor - it is hoped to show the photos and video in church sometime

ROCHDALE PHOENIX OPERA SOCIETY

Christmas Concert

*An Evening of Festive
Songs and Carols*

With Mince Pies and Mulled
Wine!

Saturday 17th December 2022 @
7.30pm

Bamford Chapel, Norden Road
OL11 5PQ

Ticket price: £7.50.

Tickets available on the door or,
contact Steve on: 01706 620006

Church Flowers



Donations for flowers placed in church in November were received from:

Barbara Redmond in memory of Marie Thorpe

Pamela Harrington in memory of Mum
Tom Swann in memory of Blanche
Jean Fitton

Edinburgh 10k Run



Thank you to all who gave to team Ally in memory of our beloved daughter Ally. I completed my Edinburgh 10k run and we raised £3621 for Sarcoma uk.

Amanda & Mike Phillips

Messy Church



Searching for a King

On Sunday 8 January 2 – 4 pm

@ Bamford Chapel and Norden
URC



Come to
**Professor
Potty's**

Lab

children

please bring an adult with you

Menu



Get Walking again During the Christmas Break

During the Covid lockdown many people rediscovered the joy of walking for pleasure, but how many of these have returned to their armchairs as we have returned to our previously 'normal' lives? If you are one these, or if you are looking for new walks, then the Festival of Winter Walks organised by The Ramblers could get you walking again. The festival has been running for over 30 years and is designed 'to provide an opportunity to get more people walking'. This year, it runs from Tuesday 20 December 2022 to Thursday 5 January 2023.

The Ramblers is a charitable organization that aims to protect the ability of people to enjoy 'a sense of freedom and the benefits that come from being outdoors on foot.' Its initial objective was to ensure access to the countryside for the general public. By law, The Ramblers in England and Wales needs to be consulted before there are any changes to walking paths. They have hundreds of volunteers looking after thousands of miles of walking paths.

The festival walks are being held throughout the UK – to find one near you search online for Festival of Winter Walks 2022.



Toddlers at Bamford Chapel & Norden United Reformed Church

Each month it is hoped to have an article in the magazine from each church based group to let you know what “goes on” and maybe give you an idea of whether you feel you might be able to help. For the December/January issue it is the turn of Toddlers.



Toddlers are individuals but not isolated so creating social relationships is central to toddler life while supporting the parent/carer and preventing social isolation.

Our group varies from 20-30 very active toddlers. We are allergy aware and offer a wide selection of refreshments while encouraging healthy eating. Toddlers have been meeting for 30+ years on Tuesday mornings. Today a colourful banner offers a warm welcome and we post on BCNURC website, magazine, Facebook, Rochdale on Line and community magazines. We are open throughout the year, closing only for Christmas, New Year and Holy Week. Each session is covered by volunteers from our church family who are DBS registered. We feel toddlers need to continue their much loved routines. We plan around set activities and free play. Thanks to one of our mums we have recently added singing to our morning activities.

Annually we donate to charity. This year we donated to the UNICEF campaign supporting children in Ukraine.

Families are introduced to church by using the sanctuary during Christmas and Easter Services and we encourage older siblings to attend Messy Church and Summer Holiday Club.

Overheard in the car park a few weeks ago: “Mummy this is the most exciting day of the week.” “Why,” asked Mummy. “Because it’s Toddlers!”

What more do we need? Fills our hearts to know we are responding to a need in our community.

This year we thank Rochdale Township again for their generous donations towards our Toy and Craft cupboards.

Finally, thank you volunteers. Your love and dedication to Toddlers is amazing. *Should anyone like to visit us on a Tuesday morning, please do. It may encourage you to volunteer your help on an occasional basis.*

God bless, Gillian Galloway

Friendship Recipe



Ingredients

4 cups of love
5 spoons of hope
2 cups of loyalty
2 spoons of tenderness
4 quarts of faith
1 cup companionship
1 barrel of laughter

Method

Take love and loyalty, mix it thoroughly with faith.
Blend with tenderness, kindness and understanding.
Add friendship and hope, sprinkle abundantly with laughter.
Bake it with sunshine.

Serve daily with generous helpings.

Which is correct, Xmas or Christmas?



Sally Churchus, ACE chair asks which is correct. . .

Well, the answer is both really. Surprisingly, the shortened version of 'Christmas', ie the word 'Xmas' began as an abbreviation for church records and charts. X is the Greek symbol 'chi', which is the first letter of the word 'Christ'. Therefore, X stands for Christ. or the early Christians, most of whom spoke and wrote Greek, the word 'Xmas' signified 'Christ's Mass'. The shortening of 'Christmas' to 'Xmas' has been a common practice since at least the 16th Century. The correct pronunciation for the word 'Xmas' is 'Christmas', the same as if the word was written out in full. Xmas is not ex-mas!

Some people are unhappy with the abbreviation, thinking that the letter X is a secular replacement and is crossing Christ out. However, this is not the case if it is used in the original context. Although there is increasing secularization of Christmas, knowing the above, the X in Xmas can still remind us of the real reason for celebrating Christmas.

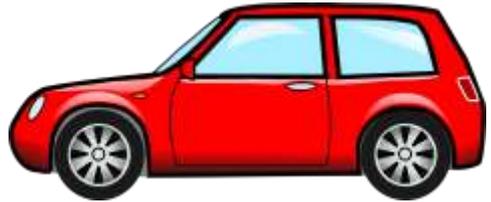


Luncheon Club



I just want to say a HUGE Thankyou to all the volunteer cooks, hostesses and drivers who have worked so hard this past year to make it possible for us to provide a lovely 'home cooked' lunch every week for over 30 people who live alone in our community. We have a great team who work very hard on a rota basis, and I know that it is very much appreciated by our members, who do not like to miss their weekly treat of good food and much needed company.

Inevitably there are times when volunteers have to step back - usually after many years of service, and we always welcome new helpers, whether it be transporting our members to and from their homes or helping with meal preparation. It is not a huge commitment of time, and usually means 3-4 hours once every 4 weeks.



If you would like to know more please speak to myself or Addie, or pop into the church schoolroom to see what happens every Wednesday lunchtime. We have a full compliment of members at present, but I do maintain a waiting list.

Our Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 4th December, and we meet again on the first Wednesday in January.

Pat Stephenson – Luncheon Club Co-ordinator



**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

Saturday 21st January 2023

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

Admission £3

“THE DUKE” 12 : 2022



Supported by Rochdale Township

**Fatherheart Ministries
21 January 2023**

A FATHERHEART MINISTRIES EVENT

JAN
21
2023

Conference
GO DEEPER
IN FATHER'S LOVE

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC CHURCH, UK

NORDEN ROAD, BAMFORD,
ROCHDALE, LANCASHIRE OL11 5PQ
UNITED KINGDOM

SPEAKERS: ANDY & GUNILLA GLOVER
TIME: 10.00 AM TO 17.00 PM. COST £10.00

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL: EDAMHASO@GMAIL.COM

***A further week's course is to take place 21 - 26 May 2023
at the Open Door Church (see page 26)***



FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY 2023 at 7.30pm

At Bamford Chapel and Norden URC



**For more information speak to Elizabeth or
Ken Greer, Elizabeth Hazlehurst, Margaret
Ogden**

Megan's New Home

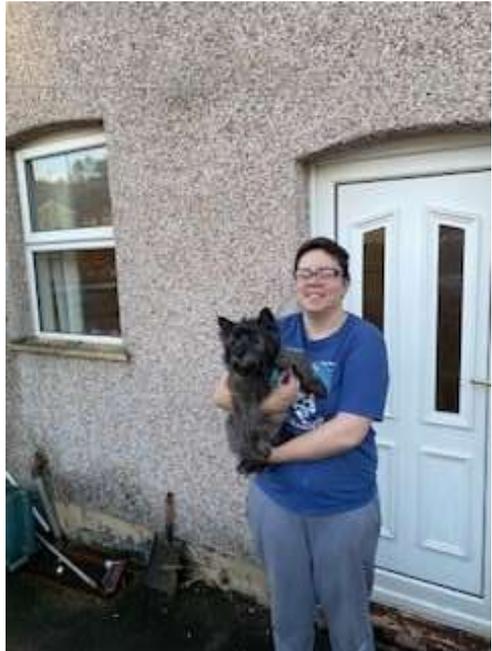
I would like to thank everyone for their support for me moving into my new home. It took a lot longer than I anticipated due to the amount of refurbishment required.

I got the keys Friday 29th October 2021 and following the re plumb, re wire, re plaster, new kitchen, new bathroom, new radiators and new carpets throughout I finally moved in Sunday 4th September 2022.

Apart from a plumber, electrician, and plasterer, me and my family did all the other work, which included removing the old kitchen and the old bathroom, all the old wallpaper (all 7 layers of it in every room), some of the old plaster, all the old radiators and skirting boards and carpets, and relaying some of the floorboards. Then came the fun of building and fitting the new kitchen and tiling the bathroom; and when I say me and my family I really mean my dad. He has learnt so many new skills which he is really grateful to me for letting him learn.

I would also like to thank everyone who came and/or sent good luck messages to my open house coffee afternoon. I really enjoyed showing everyone my house and introducing you to my new puppy Jarvis. So once again thank you, and now you know where I live feel free to pop in for a drink.

Regards Megan Davies



Fatherheart Ministries
21 - 26 May 2023



ROCHDALE, UK

21-26 MAY, 2023

For more information:
edamhagg@gmail.com

AN 'A' SCHOOL IS A ONE WEEK ENVIRONMENT FOR YOU TO ENCOUNTER, EXPERIENCE AND DWELL IN A REVELATION OF THE LOVE OF THE FATHER - A PLACE TO FIND THE "GLORIOUS FREEDOM OF THE SONS OF GOD" - A TIME TO COME HOME TO THE PLACE THAT JESUS HAS PREPARED FOR YOU - WHERE YOU FIND YOU ARE ACCEPTED AND THAT YOU BELONG - TO DISCOVER THAT HIS STRENGTH IS PERFECTED IN YOUR WEAKNESS - AND A PLACE TO FIND TRUE REST

www.fatherheart.net

A Smile



A smile costs nothing but gives much.

It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give.

It takes but a moment but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

**No one is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it
and no one is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it.**

**A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business
and is the countersign of friendship.**

**It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad
and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.**

**Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen,
for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.**

Some people are too tired to give you a smile.

**GIVE THEM ONE OF YOURS,
AS NO ONE NEEDS A SMILE AS MUCH AS HE WHO HAS NO MORE TO GIVE.**

Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am Monday Gang / Garden Gang
(who do work in or around the building)
10.30 am Pastoral Meeting
1.30 pm Bridge Club
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
7.15 pm Singing Group
- Wednesday:** 12 noon Luncheon Club
6.30 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association
- Thursday:** 10.30 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:** **Home Group** 10th & 24th January
7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see page 6)
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** 2nd Thursday in the month
1.00 - 3.00 pm 12th January (tba)
Heritage Group 2nd Thursday in the month
7.30 pm 12th January In Church
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 2nd December & 6th January
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month
Community Film Club (see page 22)
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film 19th November

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

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



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DATES FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 15th January

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 26th January

Magazine distributed: Sunday 29th January

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

United Reformed Church

Charity - Regd No 1128387

Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs. OL11 5PQ

www.bcnchurch.org.uk

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