



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



February 2022

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.

February 2022

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

Sunday 30 January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Kate Hunt
Friday 4 February	1.30 to 3.30 pm	Bamford & Norden Dementia Friendly Café In Church
Sunday 6 February	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Kate Hunt
Tuesday 8 February	1.00 to 2.00 pm	Lunchtime Concert (lunch from 12.15 pm) Mike Manship Jazz Trio (see page 21)
	7.30 to 9.00 pm	Fortnightly Home Group On Zoom (The Prodigal Son)
Thursday 10 February	1.00 to 3.00 pm	Ladies Fellowship In Primary Room (see page 8)
Sunday 13 February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Kate Hunt
Sunday 20 February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
Tuesday 22 February	7.30 to 9.00 pm	Fortnightly Home Group On Zoom (The Prodigal Son)
Thursday 24 February	10.30 am - Noon	Fairtrade Coffee Morning (see page 24)
Sunday 27 February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson

Message from our Student Minister

Dear friends,



After preaching with a view and meeting with churches at the beginning of December, I have been called to the Cumbria Missional Partnership. So, I will be staying with the Synod!

There are 14 churches, and I will be working alongside 4 other ministers – 3 full-time and 1 part time. As you can imagine the geography is vast, so we are more focussed on a particular area. I will be ministering alongside Helen Hooley, a Methodist superintendent, in the South-West Cumbria United Area. There are church communities from Barrow round to Millom and we hope to live in Dalton-in-Furness. Having grown-up on the south side of Morecambe Bay, I cannot believe I am returning there, albeit to the north side – with the beauty of the Bay and the hills amongst the energy and determination of these churches to serve God in their communities.

Recently, I spoke at my sending church where I described some of the many things I have experienced during my four years at college. This included the academic subjects alongside placements. My first year was

with a local Methodist church and Community Café and larder. I met small groups, led services in large churches, developed worship for café church and helped out with volunteers at the café.

During my second year I was placed with the local hospital and hospice chaplaincy team, where I met all sorts of people – many of whom would never have walked through the doors of a church. We sat with poorly children, premature new-borns and their families, the dying and people undergoing treatment. I worked alongside a community church in the middle of a rural isolated large village as it sought to meet their community's needs.

In my third year I joined this partnership working mainly on-line – meeting people through Zoom, working across the different churches through on-line worship, reflections, meetings, and social events.

This year I have been able to meet more people in person, join in with community groups, sit with people, listen, and hear what is important to them.

As I look back over these four years, it is quite amazing how many of these experiences have prepared me for the churches and places I have been called to. Even the travelling across cloud or fog covered hills have set me up for the terrain I will be working in. It is good sometimes to look back at our lives – to give time to reflect and see these patterns. Sometimes we wonder quite what God has in store for us, whether there is any rhyme or reason to what happens in our lives, and some life events may challenge even the greatest of faiths.

But as we give time to be with God, sharing with him our honest feelings whether of grief, sadness, bewilderment or indeed joy, we become more aware of his presence with us in even the darkest days. And we may even begin to see patterns of nudges or encouragements that lead us to new places and new challenges or a place of quiet rest. But we do need to give this time to be with our God, building our relationship, letting God hear our needs and desires and listening to his voice as he tells us how loved we are, how beautiful we are and how he is alongside us in all that we do.

God Bless – Kate Hunt (Student Minister)

A Prayer at Candlemas

Dear Lord God,

February can be a difficult, cold month, and this year there is much to be concerned about, with the pandemic still affecting our lives in so many ways. But thank you, Lord, that February can also be a month of wonderful signs of hope.

Help us, when we look down, to see the snowdrops - sometimes known as Candlemas Bells - and other bulbs pushing through the dark earth, showing the promise of Spring and brighter days ahead.



And then, help us to look up, to see the light of Jesus, Your revelation to all the world, in that baby who grew and died and rose again to offer salvation, hope and life to all who put their trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus and that, because of Him, nothing – no pandemic, no circumstance - can ever separate us from You.

Thank you for Your Holy Spirit, living in all who trust in You, giving us strength for each new day of this and every month.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Just a thought...

**Anybody who's busy pulling on the oars
hasn't got time to rock the boat**

God so loved the World

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the nature of true love.

‘For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’ (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines’ Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others. *God’s love is unconditional*: God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! *‘There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.’* (Philip Yancey).

God’s love is sacrificial: God’s love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God’s love. He died for our sins to give us access to God’s love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

God’s love is forgiving: According to the film *Love Story*, ‘Love means never having to say you’re sorry.’ Yet Jesus’ love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: *“I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!”*



Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.



Project 2019 Gap Kenya update



Rescue. Nurture. Restore
A UK Registered Charity No: 1111375
Registered in Kenya CBO No: DG8D/MSA/CBO/8018/518

I have recently managed to catch up with Gayle and Paul Woods from Gap Kenya as they are currently in the UK. Although times are tough in Kenya, Paul reported that they have raised enough funds to keep all their projects running until the end of April 22. I advised that both the Elder's and Church Meeting have agreed that if the monies we provided are needed to keep day to day projects running, we are happy for them to use some of the monies we donated and completely trust them to make the right decisions about priorities for using the money. Paul was so pleased and reassured that we wanted them to keep the money and use it as needed, but also stated that they really hope that the monies can be preserved to buy the land and build a new Joseph Centre.

They have been talking with another church who work in Kenya who have contacts they can use to assist in the land purchase. When Paul and Gayle return to Kenya they hope to re-commence the search for suitable and available land. Systems are often corrupt so great care is needed when purchasing land, as sometimes it does not belong to the person who is trying to sell it!

Paul talked about some very difficult times for the women who survive by scavenging pickings from the rubbish tip in Mombasa, and are supported by the Joseph Centre staff to find meaningful



work to support themselves and their children. Sadly rape and abuse seem to be common. Paul reports that, along with the Joseph Centre Manager that they have employed, they have made strides towards partnership work with the local Children's Services; this is helping support the women and their children and bringing the perpetrators of abuse to justice.

Paul and Gayle remain in England and hope to go back to Kenya fairly soon, with a focus on the Joseph Centre work as all the other projects are running well with local people managing them effectively.

I have printed the most recent Gap Kenya Newsletter on the noticeboard in the coffee area, which I can forward to anyone who would like a copy. Alternatively you can view it on their website or follow them on Facebook for regular news and updates.

Paul and Gayle asked that we continue to pray for Gap Kenya and keep all the women, children and street boys that they serve in our prayers.

Carole Greaves (on behalf of the Church in the World Group)

What a tree can do for you



Trees can help prevent you getting depressed. At least, you are less likely to be on antidepressants if you live on a tree-lined street.

That is the finding of a survey by the Forestry Commission, which looked for the first time at the mental health value of our forests and woodlands. Apparently, they save the NHS something like £185million in antidepressants each year.

A spokesman at Mind, the mental health charity, said: "Although many of us feel like hibernating in winter, getting outside in green spaces and making the most of the little daylight we get can really benefit both your physical and mental health."



Ladies Fellowship



Thursday 10th February

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

All ladies welcome

If you usually come to the Thursday Community Coffee Morning, why not bring your lunch and stay to chat with friends before the Ladies Fellowship meeting.

Garden Maintenance



People visiting chapel recently may have noticed some changes in the landscape of the gardens and car park. At the judging of the gardens for Rochdale in Bloom in August, we were advised to have the trees checked at the rear of chapel for pruning and safety issues.

Subsequently, a tree surgeon was contacted to check all the trees. This culminated in us being informed that several of the trees had “Ash Dieback” and needed to be felled. Consequently, a total of 20 Ash trees (3 on the car park and 17 in the rear gardens) were felled costing chapel a tidy sum. Although the tree trunks had to be removed, we were able to utilise the chippings that were left and have covered the paths at the rear of the tennis court and rear garden area.

This action has obviously left gaps in the landscape but has also opened up the area to let in more light, which will benefit the gardens. It is hoped that a few more trees can be planted and the Monday Gang and Eco Group are looking into this possibility. Would you like to help? Maybe donating a tree in memory of a loved one. Contact a member of the Monday Gang for more information.

Linda Kerford
(On behalf of the Monday Gang)



**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

SATURDAY 19 February 2022
6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film
“STAN AND OLLIE” PG



Supported by Rochdale Township

Golden Wedding



Congratulations to Angela and Ken Smith who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 18th December 2021.

Rotas

Community Coffee Morning and Traidcraft stall volunteer rotas have been prepared and e-mailed or handed to those involved. ***If you haven't received your copy, please could you ask me for one.*** Thank you.

Lesley Sutton

Rochdale Foodbank

The Foodbank is still in need of items. A box is available at the front of church near the organ for any contributions.



Caravanning Memories

We have just sold our caravan after being keen caravanners for 46 years!
Many happy memories of so many trips - where do I start!

The British Isles is so beautiful - **Scotland:** We did the Fort William to Mallaig steam train journey. We went to Castle Mey the home of the Queen Mother, where the Guide told us some interesting stories about her (she only had a black and white tv and when she wanted a different channel she would ring for her butler!) We also went to John O'Groats and had a day trip on the ferry to the Orkney Isles, where surprisingly there are no trees except in Kirkwall. Another interesting trip was to Leith visiting the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Wales: The Snowdon area is particularly lovely. Robert and our girls walked to the peak, but I took the easy way out and went on the train with our Yorkshire Terrier Suzi. There was a party of blind people on the train and I was asked if Suzi was a guide dog!



Ireland: We took the caravan on the ferry from Liverpool to Dublin and were very impressed with Dublin. We saw the Book of Kells at the University when it happened to be Graduation Day and went to the Guinness Factory where they gave you a pint at the end of the tour! Also visited a prison which was used in the film "The Italian Job" and where many Irish political prisoners were held. On our tour we visited the Ring of Kerry, the Dingle Peninsula and then we went up to Northern Ireland to visit Galway and The Giants Causeway - all very picturesque.

England: Visited a lot of the National Parks - one of our favourites being the Lake District where Robert and our daughters climbed Helvellyn and Skiddaw and we did a very long walk to Blacksail Youth Hostel, where we sat in an outhouse eating our lunch when it was snowing! Amazing scenery.

After we had had the caravan for a couple of years, we decided to become a bit more adventurous and took it abroad. **France** was our first destination where we went many times, mostly enjoyable but a few hair-raising moments such as driving round the Arc de Triomphe in the centre of Paris when my navigation skills failed; another was a canoe trip on The Ardeche which has a lot of white water - it was a 21 mile trip and we capsized 5 times. It was calm and picturesque until you heard the sound of rushing water when fear set in, but you had to keep going as there are sheer cliffs both sides and no way of getting out!

We went to **Prague** in 1993 before many English people visited and en route we stopped on a caravan site in Sopron, where we were the centre of attention as we were the only English visitors, and I remember in the shower block it was communal with no private cubicles! Went over the Charles Bridge which was built in 1357 and is now just a pedestrian walkway; very interesting astrological clock in Main Square and very impressive ornate buildings.

Loved **Amsterdam** when again we had a hair-raising experience following the Sat Nav; it took us onto a cycle path with a dyke on one side so it was impossible to turn the caravan round and we met a group of Dutch cyclists who looked at us in horror! Eventually after going over a



small rickety bridge we were instructed to turn right and ended back on the motorway we had just left! We went to a clog factory, the Anne Frank Museum and the Keukenhof Gardens in the Spring to see the thousands of tulips, all different colours - spectacular!

In **Switzerland** we went to the Jungfrauoch, which they say is the top of Europe. The train travels through the Eiger Mountain and stops as they have a viewing window looking down the North face where many climbers have lost their lives. We went to Bern, the Capital - it is said its name comes from bears and there is a Bear Park in the City.

Must now start to plan further adventures - but sadly not in the caravan!
Jean Foster

Toddlers' Christmas Party

- 14th December 2021



Nine enthusiastic helpers arrived at BCNURC at 8.30am to prepare for this much anticipated party. Gradually through the morning from 9.15am the children aged from six months to two and a half arrived. Balloons were enjoyed at first followed by a few games ably organised by Margaret Ogden and Elizabeth Hazlehurst. Not easy with such a young group. Pass the parcel took place, followed by food!

Then it was time for “YOU KNOW WHO.” Each child received a gift from our well-rehearsed Father Christmas. One little girl stood in front of him patiently the whole time presents were handed out. Hers was the very last one at the bottom of his sack! Local councillors, Anstee, Smith and Sullivan came along at our invitation, as money from Rochdale Township has been given to Toddlers to buy toys.



Some lovely comments have been received from the adults who brought children along.

“Thank you for today. We really enjoyed ourselves.”

*“Thank you all so much. **O** had a fantastic time at the party and has told everyone she’s seen Father Christmas and had lots of food.”*

*“**G** had an absolute blast. He loves his present from Santa.”*

*“Just to say thank you to you all for the lovely party. **N** had a great time and loved her present off Father Christmas.”*

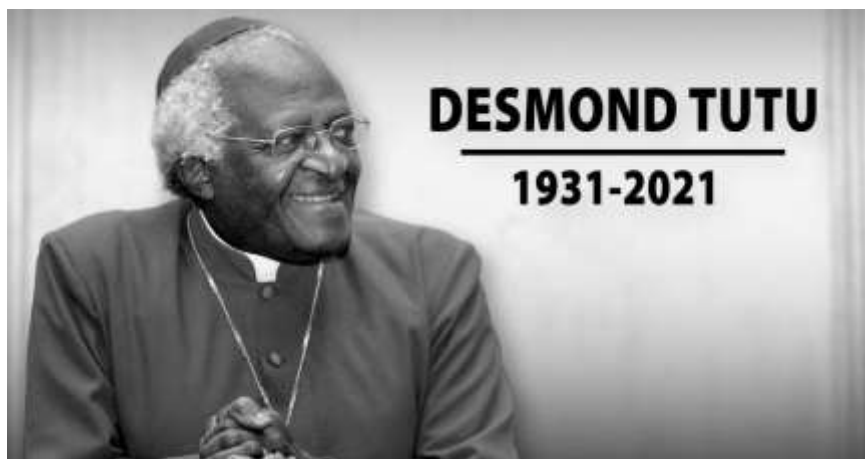
*“**F** had the best time ever. First proper Christmas party and loves his present. Thank you.”*

*“Thank you all for organising a brilliant party. **A** had a great time and loves her present from Santa.”*

*“**E** and I want to say a very big thank you to all the wonderful ladies who run the playgroup. The party was lovely and the present was amazing.”*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

South African Archbishop, anti-apartheid veteran and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Desmond Tutu, died in Capetown on 26 December 2021. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, described him as a “prophet and priest, a man of words and action – one who embodied the hope and joy that were the foundations of his life”. The Queen also paid tribute to Archbishop Desmond Tutu as a “tireless champion of human rights” and said the whole royal family were saddened by the news of his death



“We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Be kind. Remember that everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle. – Harry Thompson

Remembering Brenda Griffiths



I had the pleasure of knowing Brenda for many years and especially over the last 30 years, since I moved into Hawthorn Rd and she became a regular visitor at our home. We shared lots of interests.

Despite the fact that she always claimed to be an Anglican and really preferred the Anglican form of service as she often told me, she attended Bamford Chapel and enjoyed taking part in all the activities there. Like me, she loved singing, so it was no surprise that she was a member of the church choir for many years. She was a very loyal member and never missed our Tuesday night rehearsals. She also enjoyed being part of the much bigger United Christian Singers, as well as the Rochdale Retirement Choir.

Brenda was a valued member of the Bible Study group that was held at our home, and later, the one held at Auriel and Ray's home. She enjoyed taking part in discussions and was able to share her considerable Biblical knowledge gained at University. She also served on the Finance Committee.

She was a loyal member of the Ladies Fellowship, enjoying the varied programme of speakers, the days out and the Christmas meals. She loved going to the Luncheon Club every Wednesday and, more recently, she used to enjoy the Dementia Café. She could talk to anyone.

On a more personal note, she enjoyed dining with us at home, sharing a gin and tonic and a bottle of wine while chatting to Geoff and, of course, she loved music. She really appreciated Geoff's organ playing. Prior to lockdown, we enjoyed our trips to the Bridgewater Hall to listen to the Halle Opus concerts.

I will always remember Brenda as a very kind, appreciative, generous and gregarious lady. When we went to the Halle she was the one who bought a programme, which she would immediately hand to Geoff before she had even opened it and would only read it herself when he and I had finished looking at it. Then at the interval she would always treat me to an ice-cream and, if I suggested paying, she would always refuse. It was her way of showing her appreciation.

The last few years have been difficult for her, as she suffered the effects of dementia at the same time as being forced to lose contact with her friends during lockdown. It was such a distressing time for her. I feel it was a blessing when the end came, because she would no longer be alone but reunited with her beloved Peter and surrounded by all those who had gone before. I thank God for a life well lived. I miss her.

Margaret Ogden

Brenda's family would like to thank her friends at Chapel for their love and support of Brenda for so many years, and the phone calls and visits in recent years. Amanda, Rachel & Sarah have appreciated the messages of sympathy they received and the attendance of friends at the Service of Thanksgiving.

Sunday Morning Coffee



COFFEE served after morning worship has a new rota being prepared by me. There are currently seven pairs of volunteers willing to provide refreshments.

If you would like to help with this undertaking, which is a very valuable fellowship resource enabling people to chat following worship, then you know what to do? Contact ME. Thank you.

Lesley Sutton

How to Live a Greener Life



Insulate your home. Grants are often available for cavity wall/loft insulation – about a third of all heat loss in an insulated home escapes through the walls. **Professional draught-proofing of windows, doors, and blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards can save £s a year on energy bills; a chimney draught excluder can save £s too a year.**

For heating, install a room thermostat and thermostatic radiator valves and you could save even more £s a year. Turning down the room thermostat by one degree can also save money.

Greggs Fairtrade Chocolate Pledge



Supporters of Fairtrade goods have praised the commitment by high street food retailer GREGGS to use 100% Fairtrade chocolate across the supply chain in all chocolate products by the end of 2021. Since 2005 Greggs has used only Fairtrade coffee beans and fruit and has extended that to other Fairtrade since. The decision to source all its chocolate from Fairtrade accredited suppliers forms part of the company's sustainability plan, 'THE GREGGS PLEDGE'

The 2nd tip of the month is to perhaps visit this store to buy your chocolate products.

Eco Team

Proud Grandparents



Ella on the right

Our Granddaughter, Ella, was very privileged to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day. She is in year 6 at Eaton House School in Clapham, London and became head girl in September. Although there were a few senior schools invited to this special occasion, Eaton House was the only junior school and apparently it was because their sister school, Eaton House, Belgravia, is the oldest junior school in London. She went with the head boy from the boy's school and the Headmistress. Ella was on the very front row, on the opposite side of the Cenotaph to the Duchess of Cornwall, and she said that though she was very nervous when she had to step forward to lay the wreath it was a very moving experience, and she was extremely proud to represent her school.

She had another amazing day on Remembrance Sunday as she once again represented her school at a ceremony in Clapham. She walked with her Headmaster in a procession organized by the British Legion, led by a brass band, to the local church where she laid a wreath by the War Memorial. We were there to watch her on this occasion and as you can imagine we were very proud grandparents!!

Ella said both events were amazing experiences and she would always remember them with great pride.

Ian and Sue Hampson

Church Flowers



Donations for flowers placed in church in December & January were received from :

Anita Teuton in memory of Alex
Irene Lucas with thanks for support
Charlie & Linda Peacock in memory of his sister Margaret
Pamela Harrington in memory of Mum
Linda Kerford in memory of husband Malcolm's birthday
Hazel Gordon in memory of sister-in-law Patricia
Lyn Jefferies in memory of her Mum Sheila Thomas

Thank You



Carol Hartley would like to thank friends at Chapel for the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy on the death of her brother Alan. Also for concern for her recent eye health issues.

Many thanks.

Lunchtime Concerts

Our January concert, given by the Kell Wind Trio, was unusual and rather different in that it was the first time we had heard the clarinet, flute and bassoon combine in such an attractive programme. Although low in number (25) the audience was very appreciative of the experience and musicianship the players brought to the music, which ranged from Bach and Purcell to Macmillan and Mancini. Musicians have had a tough pandemic and were glad to be performing at Bamford Chapel.

On **Tuesday February 8th** we look forward to the return of friends in the form of the **Mike Manship Jazz Trio**, who have proved popular on their several visits during the past 30 years. Expect plenty of nostalgia and feet tapping!

So please come and enjoy their virtuosity at our penultimate concert this season.

Thank you to Margaret, Pamela and other ladies for soup and rolls, and to David for finance.

Mike Lucas

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC

Presents

Music at Lunchtime



Tuesday 8th February
Mike Manship Jazz Trio

Lunches served from 12.15pm - Concert begins 1.00pm

Remembering Ray Ashton

Raymond Horace Baxter Ashton was an only child, born in Heywood in 1929. As a lad he liked nothing better than making things and learning how things worked. When quite young, he acquired a motor bike and loved tinkering with it as well as riding it. In addition, he loved dogs... black Labradors, and most of us will remember him walking Rye around Bamford in all weathers, right up until a few years ago when ill health meant he could no longer get out and about.

Ray met Joan Birtwistle as she was then, on a blind date. She confessed to me that she fell for his dog Roddie and his motor bike (she liked riding pillion). It was an unusual foundation for a marriage that lasted 65 years. She must have wondered about her decision when during their wedding reception he left her to go and fix someone's lights! He could never refuse a challenge.

Ray was a very talented practical man and could turn his hand to anything. He was a joiner before going to night school and becoming a woodwork teacher. He taught his joinery skills to many pupils at Siddal Moor in Heywood, eventually becoming Head of Department.

Ray and Joan lived with his mum for a few years, during which time he acquired a piece of land in Bamford to build a bungalow. He drew up the plans, dug the foundations and with Joan's help, as labourer, they started to build. They both had full time jobs, so all the building was done after work and in the evenings. Their hard work paid off two years later, when it became their home and remained the home where Nicola and David were born and raised; their home for 63 years.

Motorbike scrambling was one of his passions, as well as his love of sports cars. He once bought an old open-topped MG sports car, stripped it back and repainted it racing green. He and Joan became members of the MG club, and he treated himself to a new MG for his 80th birthday. Ray passed on his love of motorbikes to both Nicola and David. He also passed on his love of making things. Nicola and David remember how



they used to watch Blue Peter together and then they would make whatever had been demonstrated that day. As a family they loved their holidays together... always in their caravan. They joined the Sprite caravan club and Ray organised rallies. They used to go away most weekends and loved walking their dogs.

In retirement he pursued his interest in woodwork; making things which he and Joan would sell and take orders for at agricultural shows and horse trials, including Royal Windsor. He even met Prince Philip once at the Lowther Carriage

Driving show. Ray also went around to various local groups, giving talks about the various woods available and showing finished articles as an illustration of his craftsmanship. When Joan was treasurer of the Cancer Research Committee she turned up with a beautifully crafted gavel, which Ray had made especially for Margaret Ogden for her to use as Chairman. He also became interested in genealogy and based another of his talks on that subject.

Ray enjoyed his time spent in Heywood Probus club in and served as president. He and Joan took part in the many holidays that were organised by the club and made many friends.

Sadly, Ray's health deteriorated and despite all her efforts, Joan could no longer offer the care that he needed. He went into the Meadow View nursing home in Castleton and was well cared for by the staff for about four months until he passed away. He will be missed by his family and friends. Rest in peace Ray

Margaret Ogden

We send our love and condolences to Ray's wife Joan, daughter Nicola and son David, following the passing of Ray in December.

Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Big Brew

Thursday 24 February 2022

Bamford Chapel
and Norderm URC

10.30 - 12

 **FAIRTRADE
FORTNIGHT**

21 Feb - 6 Mar



TRAIDCRAFT
Exchange

Big Brew

All the money raised at the Coffee morning on 24 February will go towards Traidcraft Exchange's work helping communities in the Global South fight climate change and an unfair trading system which traps them in poverty.

Traidcraft Exchange works with farmers who are facing increased risks to their crops from rising temperatures and extreme weather. Many are forced to migrate into cities where they are trapped in terrible working conditions.

Traidcraft Exchange is helping communities to regenerate their land with climate-resilient crops and renewable technologies so that they can protect the earth for generations to come and earn more for the hard work they do every day. Traidcraft Exchange also campaigns for a humane trading system which protects workers and the environment from exploitation.



Donations Towards the Cost of the Church Magazine

Did you know that **160 copies** of the magazine are printed 10 months of the year? This uses:

11,200 sheets of paper
1,600 sheets of card
25,600 photocopied sides

Over the years, producing the magazine has changed from typing up hand-written articles (or copying and pasting), to editing computerised articles received by email from group leaders or members of the congregation. Other articles are copied from paid subscription websites, such as Parish Pump (a Christian resource with copyright cleared articles for use by all denominations), and from the Association for Church Editors (headed by a committee of inter-denominational church editors).



Hopefully the variety and types of articles, and the addition of graphics and photos has enhanced the magazine. We also photocopy in colour now on our church photocopier.

The cost to print the magazine is around 50p per copy. It has been policy for many years that the magazine is free, but donations have always been welcomed. We would wish this to continue.

If you would consider giving a donation in the envelope provided, to help defray the costs, that would be much appreciated.

Linda Peacock (Editor)

14th Feb: The very first Valentine card, a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14th February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'



So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."



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** Fortnightly on Zoom
7.30 - 9.00 pm 8th & 22nd February
(Currently exploring The Prodigal Son)
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** 2nd Thursday in the month
1.00 - 3.00 pm 10th February (see page 8)
Heritage Group 1st Monday in the month
7.30 pm In Church
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 4th February
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month
Community Film Club (see page 10)
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film 19th February

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 MARCH MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 13th February

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 24th February

Magazine distributed: Sunday 27th February

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

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