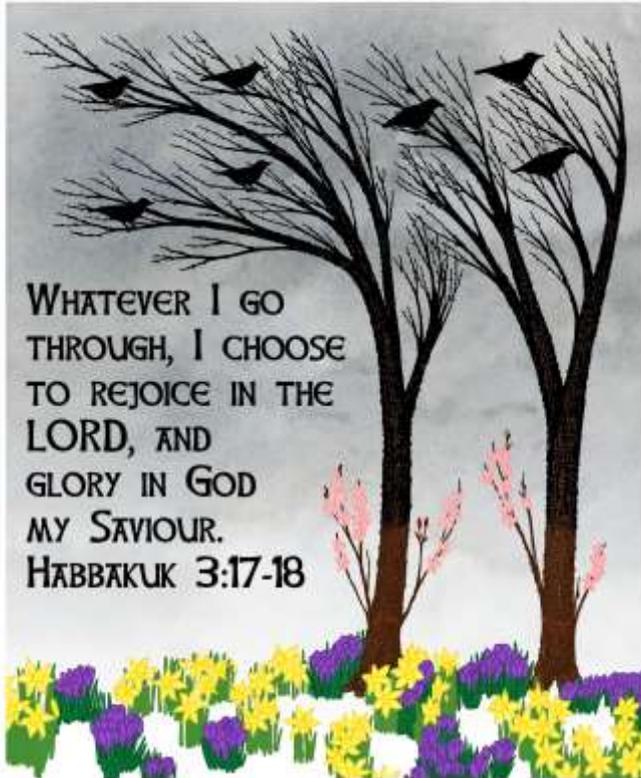




The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



February 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.

February 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)

Friday 3 February	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 5 February	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Margaret Ogden
Tuesday 7 February	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 6)
Thursday 9 February	1.00 - 3.00 pm	Ladies Fellowship (see page 7) Speaker - Community Awareness
Sunday 12 February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
Wednesday 15 February	10.30 - 11.00 am	Missional Partnership Prayer Time (on zoom - see page 4)
Saturday 18 February	6.30 pm for 7 pm	Community Film Club "The Lost King" (see page 20)
Sunday 19 February	10.30 am	Family Worship & Project Launch Led by Su McClellan (see pages 12 & 14)
Tuesday 21 February	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 6)
Sunday 26 February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Cameron Baines
Sunday 5 March	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Ken Greer
	6.30 pm	Missional Partnership Café Church

Pastoral Letter

Over Christmas my family visited Bath to celebrate with the wider family. One of the children present at the family gathering has occasional asthma problems, but so infrequently that the parents often forget to bring the inhaler. Unfortunately, this was the time that it was needed.

As the child was being tucked into bed a continual coughing and wheezing began. This continued for a number of hours. Eventually the worried parents considered calling NHS 111 or braving a visit to the local hospital.



At 11.45pm I was still awake and tending to the child. I should have done it earlier, but I decided to pray there and then. Within a minute I felt a deep sense of Christ's peace and presence. I stayed in a sense of wonder for a few minutes, and then noticed that the child had stopped coughing and was in a comfortable sleep. What should I be more grateful for; tangibly sensing Christ's presence during a minor medical situation, or that the child was (in effect) touched by Christ's healing hand? I'll happily take both.

But I know what I am taking away from this moment of grace. I'm not starting a personal healing ministry, important as this is. Healing and healthcare are vocations, but I am not called in that particular direction. However, I wish to share with you all something of equal importance - that **Christ is with us**. We can either take this for granted, or we can pursue Christ. We can strengthen our devotional lives, we can choose to live within the wonderfully liberating Kingdom of God, and desire the Holy Spirit to make Christ known to us. We shouldn't chase these experiences for experience's sake, but we can have a growing awareness of Christ's presence within our daily lives. This can be deeply liberating and empowering as we make heaven on earth a physical reality through the presence of Christ who strengthens us.

***Take care,
Daniel Harris***

Subscribe to Missional Matters



Missional Matters is the fortnightly email that goes to our churches across the Missional Partnership.

It includes news from churches, events, videos and video blogs, and a regular devotion.

If you are not on the mailing list and would like to subscribe please email Daniel Harris with “Missional Matters” in the email title to:

Daniel.harris@nwsynod.org.uk

Café Church



Rochdale, Bury and
North Manchester
Missional Partnership
Café Church

Sundays in 2023:
8th January, 5th March, 7th May
2nd July, 3rd September and
5th November

Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Bamford Chapel &
Norden URC

Prayer Times



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

Dates and times

25th January: 7.30pm – 8pm

15th February: 10.30am – 11am

22nd March: 7.30pm – 8pm

19th April: 10.30am – 11am

17th May: 7.30pm – 8pm

21st June: 10.30am – 11am

ALL WELCOME!

For further information please
contact Revd Richard Bradley:

01706 369622

07483 155807

richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk

Jesus often spent time in
prayer.

It is important that we as
followers of Jesus do likewise.

Zoom ID: 836 4636 0141

Passcode: Prayer



The Language of Love

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: *'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another'* (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?



Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an *appropriate* touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

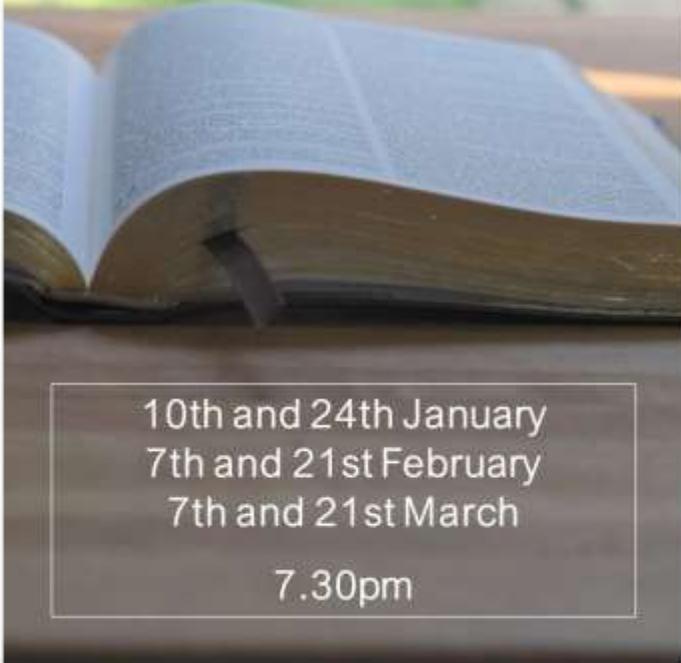
Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of *grace*, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of *truth*, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: *'speaking the truth in love'*.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

Canon Paul Hardingham



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

Rowan Tree Planting

Last year we appealed for donations to purchase 5 Rowan trees to help fill the spaces left by the felling of the deceased Ash trees. The trees would be planted in memory of loved ones and we thank members who have donated money in memory of the following people.

Elizabeth & Thomas Barlow
Robert Gordon
George & Marian Guest
Malcolm Kerford

Patricia Lapworth
Charlie Peacock
Martin Thomas
Alan Whitehead



Due to the variable good weather we had last year there was a delay in the delivery of the Rowan trees which eventually arrived in November. The trees were planted at the beginning of December just before the severe frosts. They are now thriving and new buds have been seen on the trees. We are looking forward to the Spring and Summer seasons when the trees will be in bloom.

The Monday Gang



Ladies Fellowship
Thursday 9th February 1.00 - 3.00 pm
Speaker - Community Awareness
All ladies welcome

Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will
When the road you are trudging seems all up hill
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile but you have to sigh
When care is pressing you down a bit
Rest if you must but don't you quit



Life is strange with its twists and turns
As everyone of us sometimes learns
And many a failure comes about
When he might have won had he stuck it out
Don't give up though the pace seems slow –
You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt
And you never can tell just how close you are
It may be near when it seems o far
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit

For all the sad words of tongue or pen
The saddest are these "it might have been"

John Greenleaf Whittier
Quaker American Poet
1897-1892

Chapel Garden Hawthorn Hedge

Part of the plans for the grounds are to plant a new hedgerow in the rear garden along the boundary with Jowkin Lane. The long awaited Hawthorn plants finally arrived at the end of November. Unfortunately so did the severe frosts with temperatures down to minus 5. We had arranged for children from St Michael's to come and help with the planting but this had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the weather. The plants were stored safely until the new year.

New year brought a new start and the children from St Michael's joined us on the 12th January to help plant the whips (this is the name given to the young Hawthorn plants). They also helped to dig up clumps of bluebells that were in the way of the hedge planting. These will be replanted in the chapel car park. Unfortunately, after just over an hour, the rain came down quite heavily and we had to abandon the planting. However, we did get quite a lot done and the children really enjoyed themselves, even though they were a little muddy by the end. The children were taken into the chapel and were given a well earned drink before setting off back to school. The remainder of the trees will be planted by the Monday Gang and the Payback team.



We are always looking for extra help on Mondays, or any day that suits. So if you would like to keep fit, why not join us.

Linda Kerford



Association for Church Editors 2022 Church Magazine Awards



You may remember a visit by Alan Rickards (Treasurer and Membership Officer for ACE) to present the Certificate of Achievement to the magazine team. Below is a summary of the comments made by the judges.

“While the consistent cover design is good and helps to give the magazine an identity a name for it would be an even greater help.

Generally, the layout and structure is good although there are probably too many different type faces and colours used – it is better to have two fonts (one serif, the other sans-serif)

throughout to provide a consistent feel. Choose fonts that come with a range of 'weights', for example, light, regular, bold, heavy, black, italic and so on.

Some more creative headlines rather than titles would be a good improvement and perhaps fewer stories and headings in boxes would make the layout less fussy and more readable. It's better to make a story stand out by using creative headlines, good images, and x-heads to break up the text than sticking it in a box.

There are some good large images that work well but too many small ones dotted all over the place Try using one larger well captioned and credited image and break the text up with x-heads.

The print quality could be improved, and two staples might help to make it a little neater.

The clarity of the Christian message and the appeal to the church members is good.

If you want to reach out to non-church members some more general interest stories will help.

Overall, the magazine has the potential to become a future 'winner'."

Bob Peters, ACE Vice Chair

I have read the report and taken on board some of the comments. Please let me know what you think.

Linda Peacock (Editor)



Coffee after Morning Worship



To all of you who serve coffee after morning worship. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH.** Always welcome refreshment which is usually the first one after breakfast. As has been happening this past year, please could you continue to arrange to swap if you are unable to fulfil your allotted date.

Church in the World Group Developing World Project 2023



I am writing to remind you all that our developing world project, which previously ran from September to Christmas Day will be launched on Sunday 19th February 23 and run for the period of Lent. During this time there is an opportunity for personal giving as you feel able which will go towards the specific project.

Su McClellan from Embrace the Middle East will be with us again to launch the project during worship on the 19th February. Su will tell us about the specific project / partner organisation we will be supporting in Egypt.

A poster for the project launch service and lunch. At the top, it says "Our 2023 project will be supporting the work of" followed by the EMBRACE logo and "with women in Egypt". Below this are three images: the Egyptian flag, a map of Egypt, and a photo of a woman in a headscarf holding up a red garment. A large blue banner in the center contains the text "Project launch service and lunch Sunday 19 February". At the bottom left, it says "Please sign up on the notice board 'Under the clock'" and the EMBRACE logo. At the bottom right is a photo of a group of women sitting at a table in a dining area.

Our 2023 project will be supporting the work of  with women in Egypt

Project launch service and lunch
Sunday 19 February

Please sign up on the notice board
"Under the clock"

 EMBRACE the Middle East

Following the service, the Church in the World Group will be providing lunch, see poster and sign up sheet in the coffee area. Su will be available to answer any specific questions you have.

See link below which allows you to see more information about Embrace.

<https://embraceme.org/>

Embrace supports Christian Partners in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised communities. Where there is a need – for refuge, a home, for health care, for education, for justice and human rights – we, with our partners, respond. Our goal is to contribute to a culture of human flourishing in a troubled region.

Ours is a vision of love in action. It is rooted in, and inspired by, Christ's invitation to care for those most in need.

Carole Greaves on behalf of the Church in the World Group

Church Flowers

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



**Olivia Greenhalgh in memory of
her Mum Rene Flood
Irene Lucas - thanks to
everyone for your care and
support**

**Carol Hartley in memory of her
Mum's birthday**

In January

**Linda Kerford in memory of
Malcolm's birthday**

**Hazel Gordon in memory of
Patricia Lane**

**Olivia Greenhalgh in memory of
Rene Flood**

Bamford Chapel making Transformational Change possible



For anyone who has read Margaret Attwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* or watched the TV adaptation, it is easy to dismiss it as far fetched and ridiculous. But as Attwood once explained, she put nothing into the book that has not happened to women somewhere in the world at some point in history. In our own time we see this most explicitly in Afghanistan, where women are now denied education, the right to work, the right to travel unaccompanied and are expected to stay at home and produce babies – like the *handmaids* in this dystopian work of fiction.

Whilst what is happening in Afghanistan is extreme and runs the risk of plunging the whole country into famine, the attitudes underpinning the tragedy are not unique to the Taliban. Misogyny is live and well in many places, often disguised as traditional values or religious belief. Women and girls are denied the right to self-determination and the opportunity to flourish. Sadly, this is the case in numerous places in Egypt, particularly in the more remote rural areas and consequently many of Embrace's partners are working tirelessly to empower Egyptian women and change lives. One of the biggest barriers to overcome for many of these women is their illiteracy. This goes way beyond not being able to read and write or to do simple mental maths. I once had a conversation with an Egyptian bishop where I said that I had a sense of what it's like to be illiterate when I visit Egypt because I can't read any of the street signs. "Oh no you don't" he said, "you have no idea what it's like for these women, you know why the sun comes up in the morning." It was a salutary reminder of why education is so important.

Embrace's partners provide a range of educational opportunities for women and girls. The development organization, Think and Do run Life Schools, giving women the chance to learn to read and write, do simple maths, learn new skills and eventually run their own small business. For women like Manal, such an opportunity doesn't just benefit them, it makes all the difference to their children.



“My name is Manal. I am 37 years old with children. I had no goal for my life, all my days were the same. I was invited to join the Life School. I faced a lot of challenges. People were making fun of me, saying bad words when seeing me going to school. I insisted to attend, learn and compensate (*for*) what I missed. At school I learnt how to read and write. Now I have self-confidence, my life has changed and become more organized, everything has its time. I understand how precious I am, and I am not just a number among millions. I hope to have my own microenterprise to be a blessing for me and my children.”

Manal reads to her classmates

Other partners provide women with opportunities to extend their education once they are literate. There are very few professional nurses in Egypt. In many hospitals their duties are restricted to cleaning, meaning that all patient care is left in the hands of overworked doctors. The Harpur Memorial Hospital Nursing School is aiming to change all that. Their two-year nursing programme not only transforms the lives of the nursing students, giving them a profession and the income to go with it, but it has made a tangible difference to the hospital’s treatment programmes, saving more lives and improving patient outcomes.

Embrace’s partners are tilling the ground for those they work with to flourish. Human flourishing sits at the very heart of the Christian tradition. It begins in Genesis when God looked at God’s creation and described it as “very good” (Genesis 1.31). It’s the golden thread that then weaves its way through the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, with Jesus promising abundant life (John 3.16) and Paul declaring that this life is for everyone (Galatians 3.28)

In partnering with Embrace to support this transformational work in Egypt, you are making your contribution to the flourishing of women and girls who otherwise would live a life of domestic servitude and ignorance. On their behalf I want to say a huge THANK YOU.

Su McClellan January 2023

**Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, Norden Road,
Rochdale OL11 5PQ**

**COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING
and WARM HUB**

**EVERY THURSDAY
10.00 a.m. TO NOON**

*Welcome to anyone who would like to come along to keep
warm, have a brew, something to eat, chat and make
friends*

**DONATIONS FOR COFFEE, BISCUITS,
HOT BUTTERED TOAST
TO
BC&NURC AND SPRINGHILL HOSPICE**



Lost and Found

(A simple poem about a dog, but so often this can apply to us as well!)

Lost and found, what a wonderful sound
To a little dog like me,
I slipped my lead, I gave no heed
It felt so good to be free.



It's getting dark, I'm lost in the park
It's cold and starting to rain,
I should have stayed and never strayed
I'll never do this again.

Footsteps I hear, 'please do come near',
On my collar they see my name,
I'm put in a car, we're travelling so far,
Will life be ever the same?

A knock on the door, kisses galore,
Cuddles and pats on the head,
No more will I roam, I'm now safely home
And warmly curled up in my bed.

By Megan Carter

Wonderful Things

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: "100 years ago on 16th February 1923 the archaeologist Howard Carter broke the seal on the tomb of Tutankhamun. When he and the Earl of Carnarvon had peered through a small hole in November 1922, Carter had described seeing 'wonderful things', as indeed they turned out to be. Such treasures, laid up with the mummy of a dead pharaoh were intended to provide security in the afterlife, the tomb of Tut was unique in that it hadn't been plundered previously by thieves. But Jesus had advice on this very subject, which we can find in Matthew 6:19-21:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Wonderful Things

Mister Carter And the Earl
Went off to Egypt, hot
Just as they'd planned
They dug the sand –
And look at what they got!

*Wonderful things, glorious things
Of silver and of gold
Marvellous things, beautiful things
And very, very old!*

Mister Carter
And the Earl
They peered into the gloom
And what they spied Deep inside
Was Tutankhamun's tomb:

*Wonderful things, glorious things
Of silver and of gold
Marvellous things, beautiful things
And very, very old!*

Mister Carter
And the Earl
They shouted out for glee!
For twenty years
Through lots of tears
They'd hoped this sight to see:

*Wonderful things, glorious things
Of silver and of gold
Marvellous things, beautiful things
And very, very old!*

Our treasure, too
Is stored for us In Heav'n,
not underground!
And when we die Both you and I
Will hear the angels' sound:

*Wonderful things, glorious things
As promised by the Lord
Marvellous things, beautiful things
Our Father kept His Word!*

By Nigel Beeton



Advance Notice



Saddleworth Male Voice Choir

**At Bamford Chapel
& Norden URC**

Saturday 25th March

A concert in memory of Charlie Peacock

In aid of the British Heart Foundation





**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

Saturday 18th February 2023

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

Admission £3

“THE LOST KING” 12 2022



Supported by Rochdale Township

Toddlers' Christmas Party

13th December 2022



From 9.15am the children aged from six months to two and a half arrived. Lots of fun games were enjoyed, organised by Margaret Ogden and Elizabeth Hazlehurst, followed by the ever popular pass the parcel. It was then time for the party food. Yum Yum!

“YOU KNOW WHO” [a very busy person at BC&NURC this year!!] then appeared. Each child received a gift from our well-rehearsed Father Christmas. Thirty-six gifts were handed out this year which is a record number. Local councillors, Steve Anstee and Angela Smith joined in the fun.

An extra present was handed out this year to one of the Mums who organises a sing song at the close of each morning's session. This has been a great success.



Again, we must thank Rochdale Township for funding to buy new toys etc.

Thank you also to all of you who regularly help Toddlers Group to be the success it is.

Transform
Trade
Formerly Traidcraft Exchange



Big Brew

£2.50

Including
tea/coffee
+ scone & jam

TRAIDCRAFT stall
Helping poverty & human rights

cake stall
raffle for hamper
(tickets £1)

2023!

Thursday 9 March 2023

10 – 12

Look out!
for our next
12 March

Messy
CHURCH

ALL
ARE
WELCOME



CRAFT TIME



food

FUN



science



On Sunday 12 March 2 – 4 pm

@ Bamford Chapel and
Norden URC

Norden Road Rochdale

OL11 5PQ

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

Fancy a bacon butty?



Vegetarian option available

£5

Also including toast
and endless drinks

*Saturday
11 March
10.00 – 12.00*

In aid of

our 2023 church
project in Egypt
together with



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** 7th & 21st February
7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see page 6)
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** 2nd Thursday in the month
1.00 - 3.00 pm 9th February (see page 7)
Heritage Group 2nd Thursday in the month
7.30 pm 9th February In Church
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 3rd February
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month
Community Film Club (see page 20)
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 MARCH MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 12th February

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 23rd February

Magazine distributed: Sunday 26th February

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

United Reformed Church

Charity - Regd No 1128387

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