

Bamford Chapel& Norden URC

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

February 2024

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MISSION/VISION STATEMENT



Worship

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

We shall share our praise and dedicate it to God.

Ministry

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

Evangelism

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

Discipleship

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

Fellowship

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

February 2024

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)	
Friday 2 February	1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café	
Sunday 4 February	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Daniel Harris	
Tuesday 6 February	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 4)	
Thursday 8 February	1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	The Friendship Group Laura Davies - "Escape to the Chateau"	
Saturday 10 February	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast In aid of Transform for Trade (see page 10)	
Sunday 11 February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood	
Monday 12 February	8.00 pm	Jesus-Shaped People discussion At the Redmond's (see page 6)	
Wednesday 14 February	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Midweek Service	
Saturday 17 February	10.30 am 6.30 for 7.00pm	Jesus-Shaped People discussion In Church (see page 6) Community Film Club "Ticket to Paradise" (see page 23)	
Sunday 18 February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Cameron Baines	
Tuesday 20 February	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 4)	
Thursday 22 February	7.30 pm	Missional Partnership Lent Course On Zoom (see page 7)	
Sunday 25 February	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Clive Rotherham	
Thursday 29 February	7.30 pm	Missional Partnership Lent Course On Zoom (see page 7)	

Message from the Manse

As we begin a New Year I can hardly believe that as I write this article it is the 15th January already! It seems like yesterday that we were pulling crackers and celebrating Christmas Day!



As we continue into 2024 Daniel and I are keen for the churches to focus on the theme of prayer this year. We are not suggesting that prayer is more important than it was last year or is more important than it will be next year, but that we want to encourage individuals and churches to perhaps have more focused or concentrated times of prayer and to talk about prayer.

Often in our prayer lives we somehow feel inadequate. I often sense that from one-to-one pastoral conversations I have had with people during my 18 ½ years in pastoral ministry. I wonder if there is a sense whereby we feel we need to be in as good a place as possible to pray and for our prayers to be as polished and finely honed as possible. In his book on prayer, entitled "Prayer", Richard Foster says this:

"What I am trying to say is that God receives us as we are and accepts our prayers just as they are. In the same way that a small child cannot draw a bad picture so a child of God cannot offer a bad prayer."

I can remember the very first time I prayed out loud (beyond my early childhood years). I was in the study of a minister in my home church who I held, and still hold, in very high regard. I was having a one-to-one conversation with him and he suggested we pray together. Little did he know that I had never prayed in front of someone else before. I can recall my hands getting very clammy. He prayed first and then I followed. I don't remember the words I used, but I do recall what a powerful moment it was. I felt strongly that God was listening and I have never doubted that thought.

We don't have to pray out loud. We don't even have to use words, we can pray in silence or we can pray on a busy bus or train.

I believe strongly that prayer is vital for us as Christians, both individually and corporately, and as such during this year Dan and I will be using the theme of prayer in some/all of our services. The Missional Partnership Lent Course will have a prayer focus to it and we hope to have other opportunities in the year to talk about prayer.

I leave you with a somewhat challenging quote from Martin Luther, the 16th Century Reformer:

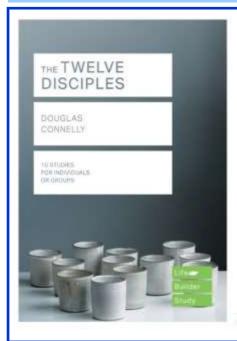
"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

God Bless,

Richard

(1 "Prayer" by Richard Foster, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 2000, page 9)

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@mwsynod.org.uk // 07483 155807 // 01706 369622

Shrove Tuesday - 13 February



The name "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word "shrive," which means to confess one's sins and receive absolution from a priest. It's a day for Christians to prepare their hearts and souls for the penitential season of Lent. The tradition of making pancakes on this day is believed to have originated in medieval England as a way to use up ingredients

like eggs, milk, and sugar before Lenten fasting began.

Today, Shrove Tuesday has become a secular celebration enjoyed by people of all backgrounds, with a primary focus on the joy of pancake indulgence.

Prayer for February 2024



Father,

In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death.

In his name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



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	15th 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

Friendship Group



Thursday 8th February
1.30 - 3.30 pm
In Church
Laura Davies
"Escape to the Chateau"
£4.00
All Welcome

Lent Course



ROCHDALE, BURY AND NORTH MANCHESTER MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP LENT COURSE ON ZOOM



THURSDAYS AT 7.30PM



ZOOM DETAILS:

MEETING ID: 883 1235 9847 (NO PASSCODE NEEDED)



For more information please contact Revd Daniel Harris or Revd Richard Bradley: daniel.harris@nwsynod.org.uk — 07563 286345 richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk — 07483 155807

December & January Church Flowers



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

Pamela Harrington in memory of family

Linda Peacock in memory of Charlie & his sister Margaret
Carol Hartley in memory of her Mum
Linda Kerford in memory of Malcolm's Birthday
Tom Swann in memory of his son David
Hazel Gordon in memory of her sister-in-law Patricia
Elizabeth Hazlehurst in memory of her Dad

St Vincent De Paul RC Church

Light for a Life Memorial Service

7:00PM (APPROX 1 HOUR)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL RC CHURCH, CALDERSHAW ROAD, NORDEN, ROCHDALE OL12 6BU

A Roman Catholic service of remembrance & thanksgiving where families & friends can light a candle & hear the name of their loved one read out. Light refreshments will be offered after the service in St. Vincent's Parish Centre. All are welcome.

THIS SERVICE WILL BE LED BY THE PARISH PRIEST OF ST. VINCENT'S RC CHURCH, FATHER JAMES MANOCK, & SUPPORTED BY COOP FUNERALCARE STAFF.

If you would like to attend, we encourage you to please book your free place/s by letting us know how many people will be attending in your party, a contact name, phone number & email, & the name of your loved one. Attendance without booking is also fine.

Please book by contacting your local Coop Funeralcare branch:
Cutgate Funeralcare Tel: 01706 643215
Email: CutgateFuneralcare@coop.co.uk

Rochdale Funeralcare (central Rochdale) Tel: 01706 653622 Email: RochdaleFuneralcare@coop.co.uk

Kilpatricks Funeralcare (Littleborough) Tel: 01706 374461 Email: frlkilpatricks@funeralservicesItd.co.uk

Please note that all who have been bereaved are welcome, and this event is not exclusive to Coop Funeralcare clients and families. Thank you.

Seiriol, Saint of Puffin Island, Anglesey

You can find traces of old saints in most corners of the British Isles, but Seiriol is one of the only two saints connected to Anglesey, and certainly the ONLY saint connected to Puffin Island.



It was back in the 6th century that this gentle abbot first settled in Penmon, and built a little church. His ruined beehive cell still survives there today, as does the well from which he drew water, both for his own use, and also for baptising local people.

Like many other Celtic saints, Seiriol would have travelled by sea. So he felt comfortable near the coast on Anglesey, on low-lying land. Although he lived as a simple hermit, Seiriol soon attracted followers, and eventually he decided to establish a small monastery. He chose to build it on nearby Ynys Seiriol, now called Puffin Island.

That little monastery on Puffin Island saw some scary action in 632, when Edwin of Northumbria was chasing the Welsh king, Cadwallon, and ended up besieging him on the island. Cadwallon was finally conquered, and history moved on, but the monastic ruins of Seiriol's little monastery are still there today.

Seiriol seems to have been a purely local saint who never attracted a very great number of followers. The only known dedications to him are at Penmon and Puffin Island. But Seiriol's life and work are still a testimony today. He is a gentle and encouraging reminder of what an impact even a simple local Christian can achieve, by simply being faithful to Jesus Christ in the place where he is.

Luncheon Club Christmas Meal

Our luncheon club members enjoyed a delicious turkey and Christmas pudding lunch on Wednesday 20th December. I neglected to take a photo until it was all eaten, and we were all singing well-loved carols, thanks to Carolyn's piano accompaniment, before returning home with a Christmas gift.



The luncheon club has been operating for over 40 years, and has provided hot, home cooked lunches weekly for older people who live alone in the community. We have recently been inspected by the local authority, and have retained our 5-star status, of which we are very proud.

My heartfelt thanks go to all the teams of cooks, hostesses and voluntary drivers who make this valuable community service possible.

We are currently full to capacity, but I am happy to hear of anyone who would like to go on a waiting list, which I managed to clear last year.

Pat Stephenson, Coordinator





Fancy a bacon butty?



Saturday 10 February 10.00 – 12.00

In aid of

|Transform |Trade____

So everybody benefits.

£5.00

endless drinks and toast

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

Lenten Valentines



This month both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when He was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving Him.

Finally, He was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put Him to the test, but wants to obey Him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found: 'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was His meaning.'

Canon Paul Hardingham

Who is Hiding in your Car

You may not be the only one enjoying the comfort of your car this winter.



According to recent figures from the RAC, if you have left your car standing alone for even a week, then anything from rats, squirrels, mice, foxes and even snakes may have moved in.

A squirrel stockpiling nuts in a car air filter, ten mice nesting under a windscreen, rats living in engine bays,

and foxes chewing brake hoses, are only some of many culprits listed this year as having caused a breakdown. There was also the baby python found behind a wheel trim.

In all, last year the RAC responded to over 300 incidents of vehicle damage caused by animals. That's a 55 per cent increase from the 196 recorded in 2018. Alice Simpson, spokesman for the RAC, said: "Finding a rat or mouse in your car is not only a nasty shock, but often the cause of very expensive damage.

"Our best advice is to make sure no food is left inside. Also, check for unusual smells in the vehicle, and be mindful of any dashboard warning lights that don't disappear after a minute or two."



What's the best way to study the Bible? You Luke into it!

Friendship Group Christmas Lunch



On Thursday 14th
December twentytwo members
[male and female]
of this newly

formed group met for lunch to celebrate the coming of Christmas. It was good to be together with familiar faces as well as new. The food was expertly served to beautifully decorated tables where crackers were cracked and paper hats worn. There was entertainment as well in the form of a female Father Christmas singing familiar songs and some not so well known to some of us.



Once more "thank you so much" to Linda Kerford for organising this event. She had prepared reminder slips which were very welcome to those of us who had forgotten what we had ordered! Tasty food at a very reasonable price was enjoyed by all.





The Train of Life



At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum. Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realise they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you all a joyful journey

Submitted by Linda Kerford (no known author)

Hugs

It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.
A hug can say, "I love you so," or
"Gee, I hate to see you go."

A hug is "Welcome back again," and "Great to see you! Where've you been?"

A hug can soothe a small child's pain,

And bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug! There's just no doubt about it...
We scarcely could survive without it!
A hug delights and warms and charms
It must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers, Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers. And chances are your favourite aunts Love them more than potted plants.



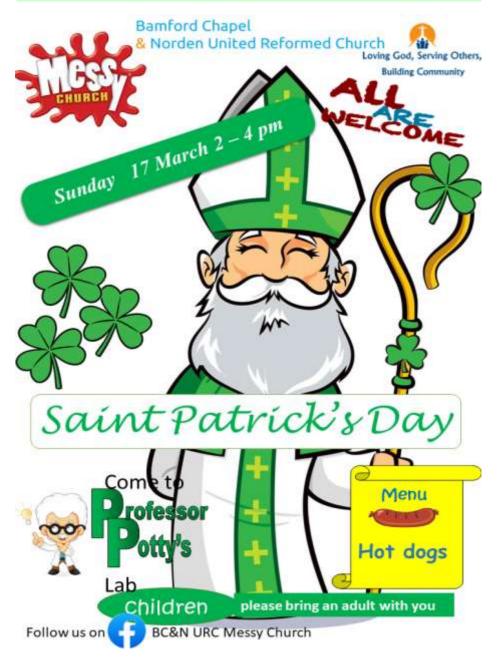
Kittens crave them; puppies love them; Heads of state are not above them. A hug can break the language barrier And make your travels so much merrier.

No need to fret about your store of 'em;
The more you give, the more there's more of em!
So stretch those arms out without delay,
and GIVE SOMEONE a HUG TODAY!

(Author Dean Walley)

Submitted by Margaret Ogden

Messy Church - 17 March



Toddlers Christmas Party 2023

Thanks to the great team we have running Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Toddler Group we held another highly successful Christmas Party this year. We catered for 33 toddlers with a mix of parents and grandparents. A good noisy group for seating around the toddler tables at party food time, at a guess approximately 80 people. I wonder if this is the time to ask for the Primary to be extended please!



We sang some of our favourite rhymes, Sleeping Bunnies, Aram Sam Sam, Miss Polly, Twinkle Twinkle and Jingle Bells when Father Christmas arrived and sang an encore at the request of Father Christmas. It was all so exciting and very noisy. We had great difficulty hearing the music as we played Pass the parcel, even with Steven G's speaker. Thank you Steven.

Party food was eagerly munched, and drinks enjoyed (non alcoholic), all this before Father Christmas arrived with his helpers. Toys were distributed and opened before Father Christmas continued on his journey. Our morning closed with very tired toddlers happily clutching their parcels. We sang our Goodbye Everyone song and then peace descended.

We must not forget we also had a visit from our local Councillors who, like yourselves, are welcome to pay us a visit. You may find you like what you see and want to join us on a monthly rota.

Our families are very supportive and encouraging in all our activities and also encourage us to increase our fees when they believe we should.

God Bless all our little ones and keep them in his care. With love and thanks to The Team and the Monday Gang who also support us.

One more step into the world they go. Gillian

Toddlers 9am - 11am Tuesday Morning

Torvill & Dean - and the Bolero that made Olympic History

Forty years ago, on 14th February 1984, figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice dancing at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.

Both are from Nottingham and, despite the obvious chemistry between them, they have never been romantically involved with each other. Jayne is married, and Christopher is in a long-term relationship. Jayne was originally an insurance clerk and Dean a policeman, and they built up their ice partnership while working full-time — though they eventually received a grant from Nottingham City Council that enabled them to concentrate on their skating.

This was much like a full-time job. Christopher later described it as "obsessive...almost like being in a monastery. It was a religion in its own way".

At Sarajevo they became the highest scoring figure skaters of all time for a single programme, which they skated to Ravel's *Bolero* (it came in just within the time limit) and were awarded 12 perfect 6.0s – including a 6.0 from every judge for artistic impression – and six 5.9s. In 2002 this performance was voted into eighth place in a Channel 4 poll of the 100 Greatest Sporting Moments.



The pair turned professional after Sarajevo and won the world professional championships five times. Their innovations had a lasting impact on the sport, and in 2000 they were made OBEs for their outstanding contributions to skating and to British sport.

The National Ice Centre in Nottingham is now accessed through Bolero Square; a housing estate in the Wollaton area of the city contains a street named Torvill Drive and an adjoining one called Dean Close.

By Tim Lenton

Doing Small Things for God

Some time ago I met a shop fitter. He had just finished refurbishing a large London department store as a member of one of two teams of fitters. The work had to be done overnight with each team doing identical halves of the shop. You can imagine the competition between them. One team, who decided it was a simple job, set to work immediately and rapidly their half took shape.

The other team unwrapped all their boxes and then sat around talking for about an hour, then they sent someone out for some food and not a single unit was assembled for almost two hours. By midnight the first team had almost everything set up while the first team still had little to show.

Then disaster struck. The first team discovered a fundamental mistake and all their display units had to be taken apart and rebuilt, it was going to be difficult for them to be ready by opening time.

Meanwhile, the second team worked steadily and finished in plenty of time to enjoy breakfast as they waited for the others to catch up. T heir success lay in the first two hours when they carefully studied the instructions and worked out how everything should be assembled before a screwdriver was taken out of their toolbox.

Taking time to think before acting is a useful lesson for us all to learn. It's a lesson that can be applied to everything we do including our Christian faith (and especially editing our magazines!) First we need to study our instructions found in the Bible, then make time to think about what God is saying to us through its pages, and then act in a steady, well thought out manner, just as the second team did. That way we can achieve much more for God in the world around us.

This reminds me of a talk by Lord George Carey just after he retired as Archbishop of Canterbury. He urged all Christians to do small things for God where we live, in that way we could all make the wider world a much better place.

hurch Editors

By Bob Peters

Café Church

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP CAFE CHURCH

<u>During 2024 we will have six services - starting at 6.30pm</u>

14th January 7th July

3rd March 1st September

5th May 3rd November

at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC (unless otherwise stated)

Norden Road, Rochdale, OL11 5PQ





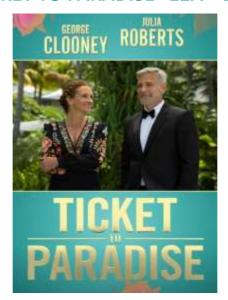
The Ian Newman Community Film Club

At Bamford Chapel & Norden URC, Norden Road Rochdale OL11 5PQ

17th February 2024

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film Admission £4.00

"TICKET TO PARADISE" 12A 2022



Supported by Rochdale Township

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 6th & 20th February

7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see page 4)

Thursday: Friendship Group 2nd Thursday in the month

1.30 - 3.30 pm 8th February (see page 6) **Heritage Group** 2nd Thursday in the month

7.30 pm 8th February

Friday Dementia Friendly Café 1st Friday in the month

1.30 - 3.30 pm 2nd February

Saturday: Ian Newman 3rd Saturday in the month

Community Film Club 17th February 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film - (see page 23)

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 MARCH MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 18th February

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 29th February

Magazine distributed: Sunday 3rd March

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN United Reformed Church

Charity - Regd No 1128387

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