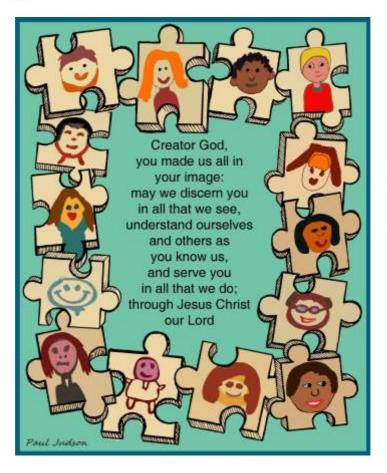


Bamford Chapel& Norden URC



July & August 2025

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MISSION/VISION STATEMENT



OUR JESUS-SHAPED CHURCH IS...

Welcoming!

Jesus welcomed **all** who came to Him without judgment, and we aim to be an inclusive church, welcoming to all.

Developing Faith!

Jesus' ministry was all about sharing the Gospel with others. As a church, we need to make sure we are deepening faith and making disciples, supporting individuals on their own faith journeys, and taking the Gospel and sharing our faith beyond the walls of our church.

Reaching Out!

Jesus reached out to everyone, and we must too: within our own church community, within our local community and beyond. We will serve God by serving others.

Caring!

Jesus said: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." It is essential that all that we do is done in love and that caring for others/serving others is at the heart of our church.

Prayerful!

As it did for Jesus, we will make sure that prayer underpins all that we do as a church, that we might serve the mission of God as He wills.

July 2025

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Friday 4 July	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café (all welcome)
Saturday 5 July	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast In aid of Myaware (see page 10)
Sunday 6 July	10.30 am	Family Worship & Communion Led by Joanne Ackroyd
Tuesday 8 July	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (see page 8)
Wednesday 9 July	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley (see page 6)
Saturday 12 July	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Garden Party (see page 12)
Sunday 13 July	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship & Baptism Led by Margaret Bywater Missional Partnership Café Church (page 7)
Saturday 19 July	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club "The Good Liar" (see page 14)
Sunday 20 July	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship Led by Cameron Baines Communion with Optional Prayers for Healing (see page 3)
Tuesday 22 July	7.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group Summer Social (see page 8)
Sunday 27 July	10.30 am 12 noon	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood Church Meeting (please try to attend)

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

There is also Midweek Worship at 7pm on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and a Sunday evening Café Church at 6.30pm every 2 months.

August 2025

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Friday 1 August	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café (all welcome)
Sunday 3 August	10.30 am	Family Worship & Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Monday to Friday 4 - 8 August	9.30 - 12 noon	August Holiday Club (see page 13)
Saturday 9 August	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast (see page 10) In aid of Hollinshead Centre, Chorley URC
Sunday 10 August	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson
Wednesday 13 August	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship Led by Linda Lees (see page 6)
Saturday 16 August	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club "Paddington in Peru" (see page 20)
Sunday 17 August	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
Sunday 24 August	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Ken Greer
Sunday 31 August	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Linda Lees

Church Meetings in 2025

Sundays at 12 noon in church 18th May, 27th July, 14th September & 10th November

Service of Communion & Healing







Service of Communion with optional prayers for healing all welcome

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC Sunday 20th July 2025, 6.30pm

Service led by Revd Richard Bradley







Front Cover artwork "Made in God's Image" by Paul Judson (Parish Pump)

Minister's Message

"22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23 NRSVA)

As I pen this article it is Pentecost Sunday. The day is also referred to by some as the 'birthday of the church', the day when the disciples were gathered inside, no doubt discussing all that had happened to and with Jesus. They had seen Jesus ascend into heaven and were no doubt gathering themselves together when the Holy Spirit descended upon them and filled them. Jesus had promised them an "advocate" as John's Jesus says in John 14:16-17 and at this moment the Holy Spirit powerfully came upon them and transformed them and those around them.

The God we serve is faithful. As the writer of Lamentations tells us, the love God has is steadfast and never ceases. The mercy God offers us never comes to an end. His faithfulness is great.



Those words came to mind as I was reflecting that on the 23rd July this year I will celebrate my 20th Anniversary as an ordained URC minister. It is hard to believe that I have been a minister for two decades. I can recall my Ordination day with great memories. When family, friends and those in the churches came together to worship and to mark the

beginning of my ministry in the two churches where I served in my first pastorate. They will always be special, as all first ministries are, but the memories are extra special, as it was in one of the churches where I met Ruth and we would not long after get married.



When I think back I can see the times when the Holy Spirit has been at work in my life and the lives of those I have had the privilege to serve alongside (lav and ordained). I recall the nudge of God when I was first called to ministry. I felt the nudge of God when called to my first churches. I felt the call of God to serve in Bamford and Norden back in 2010 and there have been many more occasions when I have felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit; sometimes that nudge has been a nudge of confirmation as to the direction I and the churches I have served should be heading in. Sometimes that

nudge has been painful as the Spirit of God has sanded off some rough edges in me (and I am a work in progress)!

I can also testify to the steadfast love of God that never ceases. The love that is always around us as followers of Jesus. I recall many occasions on which God's faithfulness was evident in calling and affirming that call on numerous occasions.

We are all called to serve God in many ways in the church. Ministers are no more important than anyone else in the church. God longs for us to place our hands into His and walk with Him. If there is one thing I know from my walk of faith, it is that when God calls He also equips. I am living testament to God's faithfulness, calling and equipping for I couldn't do any of this without God's presence in and through the Holy Spirit.

I look back and give thanks to God for those 20 years and I look forward to the next 20 years of serving Him and the Church and seeing God work in the lives of those I have the privilege of ministering with.

God Bless, Your servant in Christ, Richard

Midweek Worship 2025

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC INVITE YOU TO.... Join us for worship at 7pm on the second Wednesday of every month



MIDWEEK WORSHIP

frail

08/01/25 12/02/25 12/03/25 09/04/25 14/05/25 11/06/25 09/07/25 13/08/25 10/09/25 08/10/25 12/11/25



10/12/25

Church Flowers



Donations for flowers in church in June were received from:

Audrey Telford in memory of John
Addie Redmond in memory of
Alice Redmond
Hazel Gordon in memory of husband Bob
Anne Fitton in memory of Mum & Dad
Margaret Frain in memory of Christine

2025 Missional Partnership Café Church



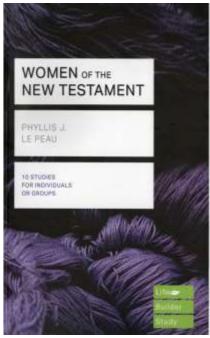
Pop in for Prayer



Look out for the "Pop in for Prayer" sign in front of the Chapel gates.
It means the Sanctuary is open for prayer.
Why not come along and "Pop in for Peace".

Mondays 10 - 11 am Tuesdays 2 - 4 pm

Tuesday Home Group 2025



Tuesday Homegroup on Zoom

All are welcome to join us fortnightly on zoom

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm-9pm

18th March	Elizabeth-Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-66	
1st April	Mary-Luke 1:26-38, 46-55	
15th April	Postpaned	
29th April	Herodias—Mark 16:14-29	
13th May	A Sinful Woman—Luke 7:36-50	
27th May	The Canaanite Woman—Mathew 15:21-28	
10th June	Mary and Martha—John 11:1-44	
24th June	Sapphira—Acts 4:32-5:11	
8th July	Lydia—Acts 16:6:15	
22nd July	Summer Social (7pm)	
9th Sept'er	Euodia and Syntyche-Philippians 3:20-4:9 & 2:1-8	
23rd Sept'er	Priscilla—Acts 18:1-4, 18-28	

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

If you want to find out more please contact Richard on richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk or 07483 155807

Prayer for July



Lord, in this month, we, your church, remember Thomas.

Thomas, who asked questions and doubted when he didn't see You with his own eyes. And Lord, You walked through those locked doors of his questions and doubts specifically to meet his needs.

Help us to come to you, honestly, with our questions and doubts, knowing that You understand and will meet our needs too.

Help us to recognize You with eyes of faith - the only One who can help us.

May we declare, with Thomas, in humility, devotion and thankfulness, 'My Lord and my God!'. We pray in your powerful name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



July & August Big Breakfasts





It's that Wimbledon time of the year

Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: July sees that annual festival of lawn tennis, Wimbledon, which seems to be regarded as the pinnacle of tennis tournaments. Whether you go to Wimbledon, or watch it on TV, it's there to be enjoyed!



The 'pop' of a ball on a racket

The voice of the Umpire so clear

There is nothing in quite the same bracket

As that Wimbledon time of the year!

'Fault!' cries the line judge, eyes beady,
The ball boys and girls on their toes;
For more of these matches we're greedy:
The bug for this game grows and grows!

The weather may shine, or be raining
The temperature warm, mild or chill;
Our appetites won't be restraining
For strawberries on Henman Hill.

The queues may be long, but endure them
You'll get to the court – have no fear
Just settle and watch, and be sure then –
It's that Wimbledon time of the year!



By Nigel Beeton

Garden Party



Community Coffee Mornings



Community Coffee Mornings will be closed in August.

We will reopen in September and would welcome more volunteers for the rota.

Lesley and Pamela

August Holiday Club



July Film Club

The Ian Newman Community
Film Club



Saturday 19th July 2025

6.30pm refreshments: 7.00pm film

Admission £4.00

"THE GOOD LIAR" 2019 15



Supported by Rochdale Township

Mary Magdalene



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the difference Jesus can make in our lives.

Mary Magdalene

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar (22nd July). What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past: When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed, and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a

disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

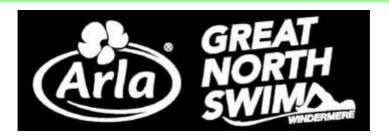
Make Jesus the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest people for His purposes:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: 'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously. We shouldn't be quick to dismiss the things that don't agree with our expectations, as Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we allow Him, He can do it through us!

I Did it!!





In the afternoon of Friday 13th June, I joined a throng of around 50 swimmers lined up at the start of the 2-mile swim, with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. I had trained for this, but I wanted it to be over!

Having acclimatised in the shallows, we were led through a short warm up routine (by someone that everyone else seemed to know!) Then we filed down like lemmings, into the freezing water - no chance to wade in - the stones were slippery!

And we were off! Yellow heads all around me, to start with at least, then one by one they passed me until there I was, just me and the waves and a **very** far off distant marker which was the half mile mark, then across and down to the start, and then round again! How on earth can I do this again I thought until I actually heard a distant shout "Mum!" I took it to be from my own family's lips (it was!) and it spurred me on around the corner and up again towards the far distant marker, which I am sure they were moving further away.

I was sure I was the very last person on the lake, but then - more yellow heads caught **me** up, but then passed me again! On I went 1 stroke, 1 breath at a time, until eventually I did reach the far distant marker and then, oh bliss, the home straight, (well the last half mile). I spotted some more yellow headed swimmers and got crashed into by some 10 K swimmers, but the

finish was approaching, and despite really bad cramp in 1 leg, I could see the final markers, just a few more efforts (trying to look stylish rather than a flailing crab; apparently it was the latter). I reached the mat to climb out and the lovely people who help you to your feet. What a wonderful feeling the finish is!



What did I learn from this?!

- That training and preparation is important.
- That the encouragement of people around you is priceless.
- That when things are tough and you can't see the finish, just keep going or, as Dory says in 'Finding Nemo'

"Just keep swimming"

Thankyou so much to everyone who supported me and/or donated. Together we raised over £1000 for Centrepoint. They will use this to support homeless young people in our area.

Jane Baines



Thank you for the Music A Blast from the Past!

In recording memories of Ray Atkins in a recent magazine it was mentioned that he was treasurer of the original lunchtime concerts and as well as collecting the money, he also wrote articles for the church magazine.

Jeff Yates had encouraged starting a monthly joint venture with St Michael's church in 1984, and I had the pleasure of organising the concerts, along with church members who served sandwich lunches before the concerts. That tradition carried on after Walter Brisk took over until 2022.

The first concert in October 1984 was mentioned in the Rochdale Observer and stated that "the singers were Susan Morris and Anthea Wood, accompanied by pianist Geoffrey Ogden".



The Rochdale Observer also reported on a concert in December 1986 when Zena Jones. a former English National Opera soprano, entertained with folk songs, Christmas music and snatches from opera in English, Welsh, German, Italian and French.

Back row from left to right Linda Peacock, Audrey Telford, Sheila James, Zena Jones, Ray Atkins, Front row Lewis Broadbent & Mary King

I came across a church magazine from March 1987 and found Ray's article for that month, which I thought might be of interest to our readers.

Lunchtime Concert February 1987

"The February concert was very well attended, and without taking an exact count it was estimated that between 90 and 100 people were there. This surely is indicative of the love and support given to the children of St Michael's school choir and recorder groups by parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends alike.

The range of music presented was very interesting, with the choral pieces nicely interspersed by the offerings of the recorder groups, which also included a musical quiz, when three well-known pieces were played after which we were given their titles. Linda and I in collusion only scored one out of three and felt suitably ashamed for not being able to identify "Dance des Mirlitons" (Dance of the Reed Pipes) from the Nutcracker Suite (having confused it with "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy") and Fauré's Pavane. Having recognised all three melodies, we could name correctly only one—"The Largo" from "The New World Symphony" by Dvorak, but this at least will give you some idea of the variety of music enjoyed.

It was good to see the fairly even balance of boys to girls in both the choir and recorder groups, and an even greater pleasure to see the happy smiling faces of the children as they entertained us. Linda summed it up nicely as she thanked them saying "how the future seemed secure in the hands and voices of such talented young people".

Not only were we treated to both aural and visual delights but gently educated at the same time. How appropriate.

At the March Lunchtime Concert Rodney Porter – Tenor, Anita Stuttard – Soprano and Eileen Johnson – Accompanist entertained the audience.

Raymond Atkins

Editor: Where has the time gone?!! And we still have links with St Michaels' school choir, who occasionally come to sing at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC events such as the Dementia Café and July's Garden Party.

Thank you for the music! Linda Peacock

August Film Club

The Ian Newman Community
Film Club



Saturday 16th August 2025

6.30pm refreshments: 7.00pm film

Admission £4.00

"PADDINGTON IN PERU" 2024 PG



Supported by Rochdale Township

The 'Father' of Modern British Policing



It was 175 years ago, on 2ndJuly 1850, that Robert Peel, who was Prime Minister from 1834 to 35 and from 1841 to 46, died. He founded the Metropolitan Police Service and is seen as the father of modern British policing.

Peel, born in Bury, was one of 11 children of the first Sir Robert Peel, who as well as being a textile manufacturer was also an MP and moved his family down to London. He had his

son educated at Harrow and Oxford, where he got a double first; he then entered Parliament and married Julia Floyd: they had seven children.

Home Secretary twice in the 1820s, Peel founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829, reforming criminal law to emphasise rehabilitation and creating a new kind of police officer, nicknamed a 'bobby' or a 'peeler' for obvious reasons.

A committed Christian and member of the Church of England, Peel became involved with the dispute about employment of Roman Catholics (and non-conformists) in public office – initially supporting the status quo but later changing his views and backing legislation such as the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, partly in order to avoid what he called "civil strife".

He is also known for – in 1846 – repealing the Corn Laws, which had imposed high tariffs on imported grain; and for being one of the founders of the modern Conservative Party. He held old-fashioned views, however, on the function of ministers of the crown, who he regarded as primarily servants of the state.

Peel was an outstanding debater, but rather shy and could be autocratic, which may have been why Queen Victoria allegedly found him difficult. Having survived a failed assassination attempt by a paranoid stalker in 1843 (his personal secretary was killed by mistake), Peel died at the age of 62 after injuring himself when falling from his horse.

By Tim Lenton

It's Just Two Months Away



Running and music go hand in hand (or should I say "foot in foot") for me.

I love the whole process of creating playlists for different runs in an attempt to "capture the moment and inspire"... titles vary from the specific "6.00am Bury Road run" to the promotional vague... "New Asics trainers".

'Gimme Shelter' is a Rolling Stones personal favourite. The Great North Run is "just a shot" (or rather) "just 2 months "away.

My training is going well... light and warm mornings help. No need for hats/gloves/jackets, just shoes shorts and top. Just come as you are.

By way of a reminder, I am running 12.1 miles on Sunday 7 September in Newcastle.

www.justgiving.com/page/martyn-james-113

I am also more than happy to accept cash before the day!

All monies received go direct to MacMillan Cancer Support.

Whilst the atmosphere will be "100% Geordie" just to add a bit more fun to the day please feel free to pick one running tune for the day. I promise to add it to my race day playlist.

I'll post again in October's magazine with my post run thoughts, thanks and also name (and possibly shame those who chose them) those tunes.

Living and running in the love of our Holy Father.

Martyn James

Editor - I'll give Martyn 3 traditional Geordie folk songs to choose from if he hasn't already got them: "Blaydon Races", "When the boat comes in" and "Cushie Butterfield".

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.

None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he cannot be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and 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 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 so 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)

10.15 am Pastoral Group 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

Wednesday: 12 noon Luncheon Club

Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association 6.00 pm Anchor Boys (age 5 - 8) 6.45 pm Juniors & Company Section

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 8th July On Zoom (see page 8)

7.30 - 9.00 pm 22nd July Summer Social

Thursday: Friendship Group 2nd Thursday in the month

Resumes in September

Heritage Group 3rd Thursday in the month

7.30 pm 17th July

Friday Dementia Friendly Café 1st Friday in the month

1.30 - 3.30 pm 4th July & 1st August

Saturday: Ian Newman 3rd Saturday in the month

Community Film Club 19th July (see page 14)

16th August (see page 20)

6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film

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 SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 17 August

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