

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.

June 2025

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Sunday 1 June Gift Day	10.30 am	Family Worship & Communion Led by Debbie Wood
Friday 6 June	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 8 June	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Linda Lees & Junior Church
Tuesday 10 June	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (see page 6)
Wednesday 11 June	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship Led by Karen Grayson (see page 4)
Saturday 14 June	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast & Plant Sale In aid of the Garden Gang (see page 8)
Sunday 15 June	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Ken Greer
Saturday 21 June	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club "Hampstead" (see page 18)
Sunday 22 June	10.30 am 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Family Worship Led by Revd Daniel Harris Messy Church (see page 12)
Tuesday 24 June	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (see page 6)
Sunday 29 June	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Cameron Baines

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) 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.

Student Minister's Message



I recently joined the pool team at my local pub, and we played our first away match at a pub in Ainsworth. When I visit a new pub, I like to get to know people before announcing to the world that I am a student minister (or Vicar, as I'm mostly known because most people think that I'm an MP when I say I'm a minister!)

I had to laugh to myself however when a friend from my local pub proclaimed to the opposing team, "this is Ed he's a Vicar!" And seeing a room of surprised faces. I was suddenly being asked to bless cues and ask for God's help when potting balls and all sorts of things, a wonderful use of a theology degree.

A notable moment was when my friend called over a member of the opposing team, I don't remember their name, but I do remember they were wearing black and had a lot of tattoos and piercings. My friend asked me, "do you think you'll be able to save their soul Ed? I mean look at them!' I did not know what to say as we locked eyes, but we quickly burst out laughing which helped to ease the moment. I said "I don't think you need your soul saving, you're alright as you are." This question about saving souls has been on my mind a lot recently, as whenever I visit my local pub my friend always asks me, "how many souls have you saved today Ed" and "do you get a bonus when you save a soul." While there is certainly a lot of jest in their comments, I recognise something else underneath that we are slowly uncovering in our growing friendship.

My hunch is that they have grown up with an experience of Church, in which the saving of souls is of paramount importance. In our interaction with the person on the opposing pool team for example, I imagine my friend's idea of saving their soul would involve making them remove their tattoos and piercings; for them to wear white rather than black and change everything about themselves. I feel a great sadness when I reflect on this. That for many people the role of the Church is one of judgement; that to be worthy of heaven they must dress a certain way and become 'pure' to save their soul.

To be honest, I find the whole concept of 'saving a soul' distasteful because for me, it can leave the other people in a vulnerable position which could be easily exploited. I would describe it as empowering people rather than 'saving' them.

I believe God wants us to be our best selves and sometimes that involves helping people through a difficult situation or helping them change something in their life that is causing harm. But this must be done with respect, consideration and compassion for both parties involved.

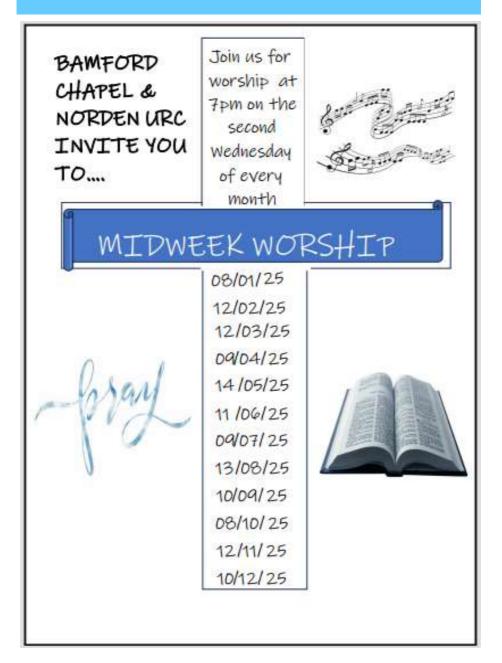
So, as we all continue our journeys with Jesus let's think about all the people that we can empower and allow them to flourish as a child of God.

Often, it's not as difficult as you think.

Ed Lyne

Front Cover artwork by Francesca (Parish Pump)

Midweek Worship 2025



Church Flowers



Donations for flowers in church in May were received from:

Angela Hall in memory of John Christine & Andrew in memory of Kath Friend's birthday Tom Swann for Blanche's anniversary Pat Gate in memory of Bob Elizabeth Hazlehurst in memory of Paul

2025 Missional Partnership Café Church

ROCHDALE, BURY AND NORTH MANCHESTER MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP CAFÉ CHURCH

Dates of the services in 2025: 2nd February 2nd March 4th May 13th July 7th September 2nd November at 6.30pm

Venue - unless stated otherwise

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, Norden Road, Bamford, OL11 5PQ For further info contact: Revd Richard Bradley, 07483 155807 or <u>richard bradley@nwsvnod.org.uk</u>

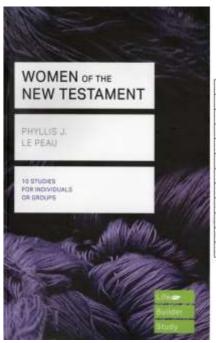
Pop in for Prayer



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	Postponed	
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 June 2025

Dear Lord,

June is the loveliest month, with long days and the beauty of summer all around us.



Thank you that, in the church's year this month, we remember one of the loveliest of your followers – Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement.

He encouraged

the believers in Antioch to *remain true to the Lord* with all their hearts. Through his ministry of encouragement, a great number of people were brought to know you.

Lord, we all thrive when we are encouraged. And we, your people, so need to be encouraged today in this world which can seem so confusing and discouraging.

So, thank you for those who have encouraged us in the past, and for those who encourage us now.

Help us to read your living unchanging Word and to remain true to you with all our hearts. Help us to be a *Barnabas* to those we know who might be struggling. May we bear fruit in our discipleship.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching





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

Like Father, Like Son

'Dead Ringer' is the odd phrase we use when referring to someone who looks like somebody else. Sometimes, instead, we say 'spitting image' when we see a likeness or similarity between one person and another.



This month includes Fathers' Day (15th June) and is an occasion when dads are particularly remembered by their children. As far as the boys are concerned, how many have heard someone say 'Oh, you really look like your father'?

One day, Jesus was talking to His disciples and said, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9) What an amazing statement! Jesus was saying that He was the dead ringer or spitting image of God! At another time Jesus said, *"I am in the Father and the Father is in Me." (Jn 14.10)* These words must have shocked His hearers, for He was saying that He was equal with God. No one had said anything like this before, but certainly His miracles were proof that He was different. No-one else could do what He was doing. Some people wondered - could He really be who He said He was?

So Jesus attempted to make His position clear and said, *"If you knew Me you would know the Father also." (Jn 8:19)* The people were being urged to know Jesus more. They had to look, listen and believe. Were His deeds of God or not? They had to decide!

Today, we all stand in a similar position. Who is Jesus? Do we look at Him and say 'Yes, this is God in the flesh' or 'No, He was just a good person — but also perhaps, deluded or crazy?'

Thomas, the disciple with the nickname 'doubter', exclaimed: "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28). Thomas was convinced that he was in the presence of God, in human form. And when the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae he said clearly: 'It was by God's own decision that the Son has in Himself the full nature of God' (Colossians 1:19).



Like Father, like Son!

The Beauty of Chamonix



I am beginning this article whilst sitting on the decking of our daughter and husband's modest rented chalet, high in the foothills above Chamonix, in the French Alps. We are spending a week 'minding' our 15 year old, 6'2" grandson on his Easter holidays, whilst his parents are both working away. It makes me smile as I write this, as he's a perfectly capable lad, and I'm not sure sometimes who is minding who! It's certainly not an onerous task, and the pleasure of his company, and this place is immeasurable.

As I look out at my surroundings, in the foreground I can see dozens of trees, all in the vivid greens of Spring, and laden with blossom. Below me are green fields bright with wild flowers, and a herd of brown and white cattle with bells round their necks. A little further are the first mountain slopes on every side, covered in thousands and thousands of fir trees, and beyond that are the magnificent snowcapped peaks of the Mont Blanc mountain range -

rising to 4810 meters - the highest in all of Europe, and 3 and a half times higher than Ben Nevis! I can imagine my son in law scaling those peaks leading his clients, and all three of the family skiing down the snowy slopes.

All I can hear at the moment are the sound of the cowbells in the valley, and the singing of birds, and all I can smell is the pristine fresh air of the Alps.

I have been very fortunate in my long life to have trekked and explored in many beautiful places in the world, including in the Annapurna mountains in Nepal, the Blue mountains in Australia, the Tasman peninsula and stunning blue lakes in New Zealand, the Canadian Rockies, and the canyons in America's Midwest. At this moment I feel that NOWHERE exceeds the peace and beauty of this place, which overwhelmes me, fills me with wonder, and leads me to praise and thank our great and loving God for His glorious creation.



Pat Stephenson

Messy Church



Jesus-Shaped Church Update

It's time for our latest Jesus-Shaped Church update! Your elders meet quarterly to discuss the vision for our church on a Saturday morning, so that we can just focus on our vision for our mission. We took time at our meeting last month to reflect on our journey so far and what we have achieved in the last couple of years since we wrote our original action plan, extra to what we were already doing.

In light of our discussions we have updated our action plan, which is available on the Jesus-Shaped Church notice board. The second column is what we have achieved, and the third column is what's next. We have tentatively assigned people who can lead on each idea but maybe YOU might feel you can help with something; if you do please let me or your elder know!

Of course any action plan is a working document and this is not a finished article, so we are asking you to contribute your ideas for any of the five areas for how we could be even better at what we do, and hope that you will be willing to lead on your idea if you are able. This is YOUR church and however old you are we hope you will get involved in some way.

Thank you for your support and encouragement so far! The action plan will be displayed on the Jesus-Shaped Church notice board where you can also add your ideas on a post-it note. Please pray for our church, for all the incredible mission that goes on here and for what is to come. God bless!

Debbie Wood

Church Meetings in 2025

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

Always up for a Challenge



The question asked in April's magazine article was *"has anybody reading this run a marathon"*? Metaphorically I raised my hand (having completed three) and here we are.

So why? Particularly as social running appears to be gaining popularity each week. It's hard "work" yes, demands discipline (if you wish to focus upon times or a particular event) but believe it or not it can be great fun!

As with Christianity there are many types of runner, professional, social, regular or spasmodic and here's the thing... it doesn't matter. It's entirely in your hands. Nobody judges or comments, although runners do get a tad obsessive ("boring") over PBs, splits and other technical stuff. The best part for me

personally is the feeling of freedom alternating between running solo, in a pair or with a group. Listening to music/podcasts or birds in the trees. Thanking God in my head for being able to do and enjoy this - I suppose you could label it silent prayer. I'm considerably slower now than I was but that's life - you can still enjoy it but from a different perspective.

Running drives me along, it washes away negative thoughts and feelings. You remember those no longer physically with you and look forward to days ahead. You recall happy memories and thinking of family, friends, events and people you love. *And so to the plug.* I completed my third marathon (London) in 2014. An unforgettable lifetime experience after which I promised myself and openly stated that I would then formally retire from "racing". That's also the thing. running is not necessarily "a race". It can be of course (there's that feeling of freedom/choice again) but really, all that it is is a pleasure, yes, honestly, a real pleasure. "Go out on a high" was what I told myself - no more half's or 10ks.... 5k Parkruns are ok (but they don't really " count" do they?).

The last year or so emphasised to me the importance of "health and family". I needed to give something back. If London was my favourite marathon then Newcastle was certainly my favourite half. Why? Quite simple really, the people and the community, the atmosphere, oh and the route's not too bad either! *I am running as part of Team MacMillan at the Great North Run on Sunday 7 September hoping to raise a minimum of £500. Watch this space and more will follow.*

Run strong, all in the love of our Holy Father.

Martyn James

Heywood and Rochdale Foodbanks



Please remember our 2 foodbanks are always in need of donations of food.

There are many people in our community who are only managing to feed their children because of access to a foodbank. Please think about them as

you do your shopping and add a couple of items for the foodbank. (Boxes available at the front of church)

Cash donations would also be appreciated.

Items needed include Cereal, Tea Bags, Jam, Biscuits, Pasta and Pasta Sauce.

How Many Steps a Day is Enough



Counting steps has, for many of us, become a part of our lives. We feel triumphant when we hit 10,000, and guilty when we notch up less than 2,000 a day.

But daily steps, which are really no more than regular daily exercise, are not just a gimmick.

Medical research has found that your daily step count, especially when taken over years, really can make a huge difference to your health and life expectancy. The Government's official statistics

cite physical inactivity as responsible for one in six otherwise preventable deaths.

So how many steps do you need to achieve different levels of protection?

2,000 to 3,000 steps a day – or just over a mile. This can help reduce your risk of heart disease.

4,000 to 5,000 steps – can reduce risk of chronic disease and helps reduce risk of cognitive decline. (People who walked this far were found to have a 25 per cent lower risk of dementia.) As a scientist at the European University of Madrid, said: "This is likely because of improved blood flow to the brain, reduced brain inflammation, better metabolism of glucose in the brain, and an increase in beneficial brain chemicals which stimulate neuron growth."

7,000 to 8,000 steps, about three miles, can provide a 31 per cent lower risk of depression, and it can also lower your risk of cardiovascular disease by 51 per cent.

10,000 steps - about five miles, achieves a wide range of health benefits. But even just 8,800 steps a day has been found to reduce risk of premature death from many diseases by 60 per cent.

As a scientist at the University of Sydney explained: *"It's about setting initial targets that are achievable, and then gradually working your way up to more daily steps, as you build up your capacity to handle more activity."*



Go the Extra Mile!



Jane Baines is raising money for Centrepoint

On June 13th I will be attempting the Great North Swim 2 Mile swim in Windermere for the first time. It's 10 years since I last did the 1 mile swim in Windermere; how time flies!

Centrepoint is the UK's leading youth homeless charity. Together with their partners, they support over 16,000

16-25-year-olds into a home and a job every year. Their award-winning helpline provides support to vulnerable young people across the country. They campaign to end youth homelessness by 2037.

Homelessness is increasing, and is especially harmful for young people. Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated. Here is the link to my Just Giving page: <u>https://www.justgiving.com/page/jane-baines-</u>

or just go to the Just Giving page and search Jane Baines Go the extra mile

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

Thank you - Jane

June Film Club

The Ian Newman Community Film Club



Saturday 21st June 2025

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

Admission £4.00

"HAMPSTEAD" 2017 12A



Supported by Rochdale Township

A Statement following the death of Pope Francis



Pope Francis – Credit: Casa Rosada, Wikimedia Commons

The Archbishop of York has issued a statement following the news of the death of Pope Francis today. Here are excerpts from that statement:

"Let us walk together, work together, pray together.' These are the words Pope Francis said to me when we met in 2023. They sum up his vision for the church, both the Roman Catholic Church but also ecumenically.

"Francis's whole life and ministry was centred on Jesus who comes among us, not to be served, but to serve. We saw that in Francis's service of the poor, his love of neighbour especially the

displaced, migrant, the asylum seeker, his deep compassion for the wellbeing of the earth and his desire to build the church in new ways. Francis showed us how to follow Jesus, and encouraged us to go and do likewise.

"His encyclicals and teachings were supported by his deeds and actions. His whole life was instantly recognisable as those of one who followed Jesus.

"Pope Francis was acutely aware of the divisions between our churches, and I remember the powerful work he did with the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland in promoting peacebuilding in South Sudan.

"I remember, in the brief times I spent with him, how this holy man of God was also witty, lively, good to be with, and the warmth of his personality and interest in others shone out from him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory."



Memories of Joan Ashton



David and I only got to know Joan for the last few years of her long life, but we became friends with her and Ray and the family.

Joan loved all animals, and especially their Labrador dogs, of which there were quite a number down the years. She told us all about building their own house, soon after they were married - literally from the foundations up, on War Office

Road, and at the time there were no other houses nearby. I remember her recalling that they had to lay down the concrete foundations overnight in the dark, before it set!!

Joan was very good at accounts, ran all the family finances, and was accounts manager at the Harvester for a number of years, when it was the Winston Churchill. Her daughter Nicola remembers waitressing there before leaving for university.

Ray was a woodwork teacher, and on their retirement they led a busy life travelling round to shows in their caravan, giving talks about working with different woods, and selling items crafted by Ray, and also clothing. One of their claims to fame was that Ray designed and made a whip holder for Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, for use in his carriage driving.

Friends at Bamford chapel will remember Joan working hard for various charities including Cancer Research, and being one of their luncheon club

cooks for some years - always sourcing the meat from Costco - the family's favourite shop! Joan was also secretary/treasurer for the church magazine for many years, and Linda Peacock recalls the many doorstep conversations with Joan, Ray and David when delivering the magazine during Covid.

Joan spent the last 2 and a half years in residential care near Nicola's home in Derby, and Nicola visited her almost every day, taking her out to the garden centres and the donkey sanctuary, giving her a good quality of life to the end.

Pat Stephenson



Annual Garden Party



ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY SATURDAY 12^{TH} JULY 2025 Ideas needed and help before and on the day. Please see Julie Platt



All in the Month of June

It was:

500 years ago, on 13th June 1525, that German Protestant Reformer Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora, a nun whom he had helped to escape from a convent.

250 years ago, on 14th June 1775, that the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Army. Later it became the United States Army. On 15th June, George Washington, who would become first President of the USA, became the Army's Commander-in-Chief. This army would defeat the British army, and America would declare independence the following year, on 4th July 1776.

Also 250 years ago, on 23rd June 1775, that the first Thames Regatta was held in London.

125 years ago, on 25th June 1900, that Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was born. He became Governor-General of India (1947-48), First Sea Lord (1955-59), and Chief of the Defence Staff (1959-65). Assassinated in 1979 by an IRA bomb planted on his fishing boat.



90 years ago, on 1st June 1935, that driving tests became compulsory for all new drivers in Britain.

75 years ago, on 3rd June 1950, that the first successful ascent of Annapurna in the Himalayas was made. It was a

French expedition and the first successful ascent of a mountain over 8,000 metres. Annapurna is the tenth highest mountain in the world.

50 years ago, on 7th June 1975, that the first Cricket World Cup to be held in England began.

40 years ago, on 2nd June 1985 that UEFA banned all English football clubs from playing in European competitions following the Heysel Stadium disaster of 28th May. The ban was lifted after five years.

25 years ago, on 10th June 2000, that the Millenium Bridge opened in London. It closed for a while two days later, when it was found to sway uncomfortably when people walked in step.



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: Friday: Sunday:	10.30 am - 12 noon Community Coffee Morning 6.00 pm onwards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

Tuesday:	Home Group	10th & 24th June		
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	On Zoom (see page 6)		
Thursday:	Friendship Group 2nd Thursday in the month			
	1.30 - 3.30 pm			
	Heritage Group	3rd Thursday in the month		
	7.30 pm	19th June		
Friday	Dementia Friendly Café 1st Friday in the month			
	1.30 - 3.30 pm	6th June		
Saturday:	lan Newman	3rd Saturday in the month		
Community Film Club 21st June				
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film - (see page 18)				
For further information please see website www.bcnchurch.org.uk				

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



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DATES FOR COMBINED JULY/AUGUST MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by:	Sunday 15th June
Magazine to be completed by:	Thursday 26th June
Magazine distributed:	Sunday 29th June

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