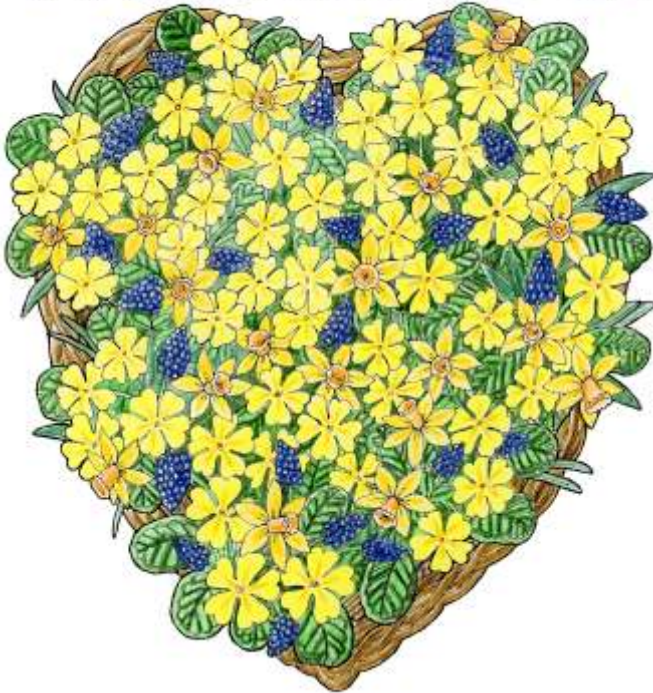




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**Bamford Chapel  
& Norden URC**

**THANK YOU**



**March 2026**

# **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MISSION/VISION STATEMENT**



Loving God, Serving Others,  
Building Community

## **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.

# March 2025

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Sunday 1 March	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship with Communion Led by Andy Platt Café Style Worship
Tuesday 3 March	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (see page 8)
Friday 6 March	10.30 am 1.30 - 3.30 pm	World Day of Prayer (see page 4) At St Andrew's Methodist/URC Dementia Friendly Café (all welcome)
Sunday 8 March	10.30 am 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley Messy Church
Tuesday 10 March	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Friendship Group - Social with Tea/Coffee and Cake (see page 15)
Wednesday 11 March	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship Led by Revd Daniel Harris (see page 5)
Saturday 14 March	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast In aid of Rochdale Hospice (see page 16)
Sunday 15 March	10.30 am	Family Worship & Mothering Sunday Led by Linda Lees
Tuesday 17 March	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (see page 8)
Wednesday 18 March	2.00 pm	Coffee, Cake & Chat (Churches Together) At St Vincent's Church, Norden (see page 5)
Saturday 21 March	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club "The Choral" (see page 26)
Sunday 22 March	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Margaret Bywater
Thursday 26 March	7.30 pm	Concert by the Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir (see page 24)
Sunday 29th March	10.30 am	Family Worship & Youth Service Led by Andy Platt

# Message from the Student Minister

## Thinking our way through Lent by Ed Lyne



Ecclesiastes CH3, VS,1 NIV, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

The season of Lent is upon us, and I’m always interested in the different ways people mark the occasion. Some choose to give things up such as chocolate, or alcohol or perhaps they do more of something, such as going to the gym or reading the Bible.

Other people I know take more of a reflective journey, some will be taking on the Lent challenge of reciting the Acorn prayer every day, “Lord, today, is there someone you want me to connect with outside the Church?” Or they might take on a personal reflection, trying to find some time for God every day, or to think about how they will bring about the Kingdom.

For my personal faith journey, I favour doing a small amount of both perspectives. Wanting to try and read the Bible a little bit every day, but to also try and take on the Lent reflective challenge and say the Acorn prayer.

The writer of Ecclesiastes states that there is a season for every activity under the heavens and the season of Lent is certainly one which encourages exploration of this kind. As Jesus spent time in the wilderness for four days and nights, I wonder what he did to keep himself going during this difficult time? Having to cope without food and with the periods of isolation?

The actions that we take whatever they may be are a small window into this period of Jesus’ life.

But the Ecclesiastes writer also says that “there is a time for everything”, and this has made me think. How many of us will continue our spiritual

practices after Lent is over? Jesus himself may have left the wilderness, but his journey continued and I've no doubt that his own ways of coping helped to sustain him as the most difficult part of his mission emerged.

So, I hope you'll join me this year in not only 'doing' Lent but also thinking about it. What practices and reflections have we done and learnt that will sustain us beyond the season? Can we make time to do things that bring us closer to God without the confines of a specific period?

All of us have many challenges in our lives especially the constraints of time. So, in this season of Lent I pray that God may allow us to form good practices that sustain us, but more importantly will carry us beyond this season and into the time beyond. Amen.

*Ed Lyne*

## Two Donkeys



Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

**The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."**



**Front Cover artwork "Thank you Mum posies"  
By Francesca Ross (Parish Pump)**

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

## Friday 6 March

*I will give you rest, come*

**Nigeria 2026**

**Service at St Andrew's  
Methodist/URC**

[Entwistle Road, Rochdale, OL16 2HZ]

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at  
10.30am**



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 233242

## North West Rochdale Churches

### Coffee, cake, and chat

Come and meet friends from other churches in the North-West Rochdale area

Date	Time	Church
26 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am	Bamford Chapel & Norden URC
18 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm	St Vincent's RC Church
28 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Norden Methodist Church
21 <sup>st</sup> May	7pm	St Michael's CE Church

An opportunity to enjoy fellowship together and meet friends

For more information feel free to contact Revd Richard Bradley on:  
[richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk) // 01706 369622 // 07483 155807



# The Power of Small



People often say God thinks big - really big. Grand plans. Cosmic scale. Universe-spanning vision. And sure, that's true. But I'd argue something else as well: God thinks small. Very small.

We all know what it's like to be steamrolled by someone with big ideas. They arrive armed with vision statements, five-year plans, and unstoppable enthusiasm. The problem? They don't listen. There's no room at the table for anyone else. And before long, the energy drains out of the room. Even good ideas suffocate under their own weight.

Scripture reminds us that God's thoughts tower over ours. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways" (Isaiah 55:9). That could make us nervous. If God thinks on that scale, where does that leave us?

Then Jesus shifts the lens.

He says the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed - tiny and easy to overlook (Luke 13:18-19). He says it's like yeast - so small you could lose it in your hand (Matt 13:33). Hardly headline material. And yet both carry explosive potential. Size matters - but not in the way we think.

Why does Jesus go small? Because small invites participation. A seed needs soil. Yeast needs dough. God plants the idea, but he doesn't crowd us out. He makes room for us to roll up our sleeves. The Spirit starts something

subtle, and we're called to tend it, knead it, nurture it. Small beginnings, when cared for, can shift landscapes. They can move mountains. (Matt 17.20)

But here's the catch: seeds can be neglected. Dough can be spoiled. Growth isn't automatic. Jesus even warns about another kind of yeast - a yeast of religious pride. It looks respectable. Sounds religious. But it corrodes from the inside. The wrong small thing, left unchecked, spreads just as quickly as the right one (Matt 13.33).

So yes, God thinks big. But he works small. A seed. A whisper. An act of courage. A quiet prayer. A faithful choice.

Don't underestimate the small things.  
That's where the Kingdom starts.

*Daniel Harris*

## Church Flowers



**Donations for flowers  
in Church in February were  
received from:**

**Elizaberh Hazlehurst  
in memory of Olive  
Dot Craig in memory of Peter  
Anita Teuton in memory of Alex  
Nita Hudson in memory of Dad**

## Tuesday Home Group on Zoom

### Tuesday Homegroup on Zoom

All are welcome to join us on zoom

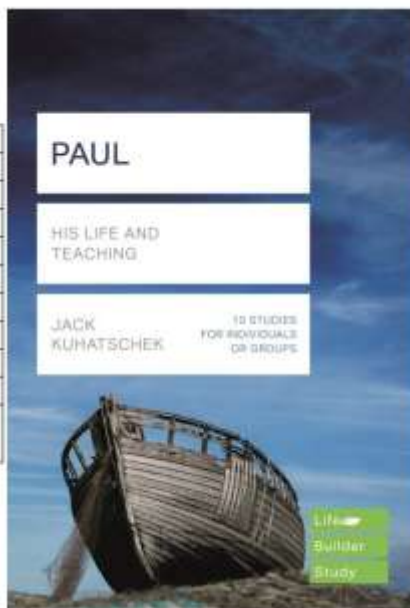
Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm—9pm

18th November	The Power of Praise—Acts 16:16-40
25th November	Advent Reflections on Zoom
2nd December	Advent Reflections on Zoom
9th December	Advent Reflections on Zoom
16th December	Advent Reflections on Zoom
6th January	Becoming a Spiritual Mentor—Acts 20:13-38
20th January	Truth on Trial—Acts 25:23—26:32
3rd February	Strength in Weakness—2 Corinthians 12:1-10
17th February	Feeling Safe In A Storm—Acts 27:1-44
3rd March	Finding Hope in God's Kingdom—Acts 28:11-31
17th March	Experiencing Joy in Sufferings— Philippians 1:12-26

Zoom details are:

Meeting ID: 847 9885 2008 // Passcode: 517449

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



## 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**

# Midweek Worship 2026

**BAMFORD  
CHAPEL &  
NORDEN URC  
INVITE YOU  
TO....**

Join us for  
worship at  
7pm on the  
second  
Wednesday  
of every  
month



## MIDWEEK WORSHIP

*pray*

14/01/26  
11/02/26  
11/03/26  
08/04/26  
13/05/26  
10/06/26  
08/07/26  
12/08/26  
09/09/26  
14/10/26  
11/11/26  
09/12/26



# 2026 Missional Partnership Café Church

## Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership Café Church Worship 2026

Start time: 6.30pm

Venue: Bamford Chapel & Norden URC  
(Unless stated otherwise)

4th January

5th July

1st March

6th September

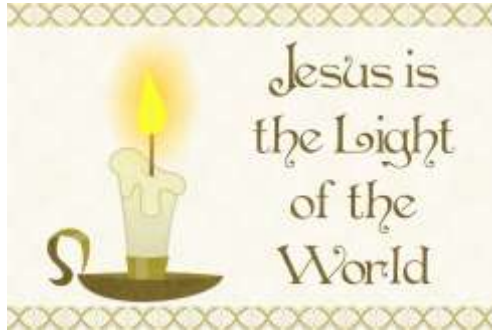
3rd May

1st November

For further information please contact Revd Richard Bradley on  
Richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk , 07483 155807 or 01706 369622

**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](http://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.**

# Prayer for March 2026



*(Based on Jn3:21, Jn 14:6, Jn 8:12, Jn 16:33, Heb 13:5)*

Lord, In these weeks leading up to Easter, many of us spend time reflecting on what Jesus has done for us and how he can help us live our lives.

But we live in a harsh, confusing world, where traditional values are upended and we can hardly believe some of the things we hear from powerful world leaders. Truth seems to be lost in the darkness.

Lord, your word tells us that, *whoever lives by the truth comes into the light.*

Jesus says He is *the Truth*. He also says He is the *Light of the world*. Help us to hold fast to these facts. Help us to remember that Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble – so we shouldn't be surprised – but that He has overcome the world – so we should be encouraged.

Whatever is going on in the troubled world around us – we can live by the real Truth – and in the real Light – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you so much.

In Jesus name. Amen.

*by Daphne Kitching*



# Are You Listening?



**“I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand”** was a mantra when I was at Teacher Training College, but more recently I have begun to think that the statement undervalues listening and hearing. When many of us were at school we had little in the way of visual aids, “concrete” apparatus and technology to aid our learning, and yet we still learnt; because we had to listen. I suspect that most people of a similar age to me can still recite their “tables” and also answer quick fire spot questions. I know I can and I am certainly not a mathematician. Listening and hearing is a valuable tool for learning, sometimes with a little seeing and doing on the side. How many of you can complete the following because you heard them so often?

1. **Are you sitting comfortably?** (3 words)
2. **You`ll wonder where the yellow went** (7 words)
3. **Murray Mints, Murray Mints, the** (5 words)

And there are many more that we were constantly exposed to. When I was at Primary school, technology consisted of a weekly serialised story on the radio. I particularly remember “Tom`s Midnight Garden”. How I enjoyed it, and I`ve since read it to my son, grandson and other children. I still love listening to the spoken word on the radio.

But in our busy world, do we really listen, and more importantly, do we hear what is being said or not said? I feel a bit sad when the words of Bible readings appear on the screen in church and I try not to look, so that I can really listen to the words. It does make a difference. How often do we listen

to a sermon, but not really hear the message behind the words? And how often do we talk to our friends and family, but not listen to them because we are too busy thinking of what we want to say? In a novel I was reading recently I came upon this piece of advice “We need to realise that having a conversation involves listening as well as speaking”

And when we pray, do we really listen and hear what God has to say?

I’m ashamed to say that this article is the result of me not listening to a sermon fairly recently. I realised that I wasn’t listening and so began thinking about the importance of doing so. Listening is a skill and it’s sometimes hard, but from listening springs hearing and understanding what is being said or not said. “Listen very carefully, I will say this only once...”

Try it!

Answers 1) Then I’ll begin 2) when you brush your teeth with Pepsodent 3) too good to hurry mints

*Angela Smith*

## Remembering Hilary Edmonds & Maureen Grundy



We remember Hilary Edmonds and Maureen Grundy who passed away recently.

**Hilary** was a long-standing member of Bamford Chapel & Norden URC before she and David moved south to be near their daughter Claire. Hilary was gifted at crafts and was one of the people who designed and produced the banners we have in church. We send our love and prayers to David, Claire, son Ian and to all the family.

**Maureen** was a faithful member of Bamford Chapel & Norden URC, despite living with a long-term debilitating illness. She was an inspiration to us all. We send our love and prayers to sons Michael, David and to all the family.

# The Song of the Spirit



***Editor:** Nigel Beeton writes: St Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 that the Spirit speaks within our hearts to call out our gifts, so that we may use them to build up the Church. But we must learn to hear the Spirit's voice; it is like a gentle whisper, a song, and it can easily be overwhelmed by our doubts, our lack of faith, and the cares of the day. Yet the song of the Spirit can make the ordinary person extraordinary. But it is our job to listen out for God's Spirit, as He sings:*

O when Your Spirit softly sings  
Within our hearts of stone  
Lord, speak to us of godly things  
And make our hearts Your home.

Sometimes our doubts like briars grow  
Sometimes our faith is weak,  
O Spirit, sing, that doubt may go,  
Lord, help us hear You speak.

Transform us through Your Spirit's voice  
And set our hearts alight,  
So truly may our hearts rejoice  
And shine with Godly light.

For those who hear the Spirit's song,  
Are filled then with His power!  
Their light shall shine the whole day long  
And praise fills ev'ry hour!

***by Nigel Beeton***

## Friendship Group



At the Friendship Group in March we will be showing pictures taken at an exhibition called “The Longest Yarn 2, Britain at War – 80 Year Anniversary”. The exhibition shows Britain at war depicted through knitted & crocheted characters and scenery.

The pictures will be shown on the large screen in Chapel, and each picture will be explained as to what it represents and who were involved in making the items you will see. Everyone is welcome to join us and wonder at the work involved in putting this exhibition together. As in all our meetings, coffee/tea and cake will be available while you socialise and discuss what you have seen.

Hope to see you on **Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm**

***Linda Kerford***

# March Big Breakfast

*Fancy a bacon butty?*



*Saturday  
14 March*

Endless toast  
and drinks

*10.00 – 12.00*

Vegetarian option  
available

*In aid of*



**£6.00**

*Making every moment count*

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

# Mothering Sunday

*Editor: By the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.*



Mothering Sunday - the fourth Sunday of Lent- offers families an opportunity to honour the women who have nurtured them. Lots of different streams and traditions have come together to make today's Mothering Sunday the special day that it is.

In the Middle Ages it was an occasion for everyone to visit their 'mother' church - the place where they had been baptised. Later, an opportunity for those who worked away from home to visit their mothers became added to the mix of reasons to make it a special day.

Today we honour all women who have in one way or another been special to us, and in church this is usually signalled by small bunches of flowers for every woman present.

Treating mums and grans to Sunday lunch, chocolates and flowers is also part of the present mix. And will there be a simnel cake to be seen - a tradition from ages past - with its rich layers of marzipan, and eleven balls of marzipan on top, reminders of the 11 disciples who remained faithful to Jesus?

Not everyone has enjoyed a wonderful or enduring relationship with their mum, so lest we get carried away on a wave of love and sentimentality, there is usually space in the Mothering Sunday church service to reflect on and pray for those whose relationships with their mother were not all they might have been.

Also, there are the families blighted by the lack of, or death of a child; families remembering a mum who died tragically young; women who never

had a child but would have dearly loved the opportunity; all these and more are a recognition of the imperfections of human love, human life.

These imperfections can be brought in prayer to the God who mothers us. In the Old Testament, Isaiah speaks of God comforting His people like a mother hen. In the New Testament, both Matthew and Luke bear witness to Jesus expressing His desire to gather His people as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Yes, God has strong maternal qualities which He invites us to discover and enjoy!

Have you discovered the mothering, nurturing, maternal qualities which God offers to all people? It's lovelier than flowers, more long-lasting than simnel cake, better than a visit from family, and it's free to everyone who wants it - it could be yours!



## Share the Easter Story - with an Egg



Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

There are six types of eggs to choose from. Each Real Easter Egg comes with an Easter story in the box, the stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions. So, buy a 2026 edition Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

The 2026 Real Easter Egg will not be available in any supermarkets, but the full range can be ordered at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) or by calling 01925 877004. **They can also be purchased from Barbara Redmond. A Fairtrade milk chocolate egg is £5.50; Dark chocolate egg is £6.50. To donate a Real Easter Egg to a foodbank, go to [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)**

## It was....

**300** years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1726 that Sir John Vanbrugh, architect and playwright died. Best known for designing Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard.

**175** years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1851 that the premiere of Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Rigoletto*, was held in Venice.



**150** years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1876 that the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Graham Bell used his telephone to call his assistant, Thomas Watson, after spilling acid in his laboratory. The first words ever spoken on a telephone were: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you."

**100** years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1926 that Ingvar Kamprad, Swedish businessman, was born. He founded IKEA, the furniture retail company, in 1943, when he was just 17 years old. (Died 2018)

**90** years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1936 that the German airship *Hindenburg* made its first flight. It was the largest airship ever constructed, and was destroyed in a fire in May 1937, ending the era of airship travel.

**80** years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1946 that Rudolf Hess, former Commandant of Auschwitz concentration camp, was captured by the British forces in Germany. At the Nuremberg tribunals in April, he admitted to being responsible for the deaths of the 2.5 million people who had been killed at Auschwitz. He was executed on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1947.

**Also 80** years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1946 that London's Heathrow Airport first opened as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow Airport in 1966.

**75** years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1951 that Dennis the Menace first appeared in the British children's comic, *The Beano*.

**65** years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1961 that George Formby, the 'Ukulele King,' comedian, singer and actor died. Known for his comic songs.



# Church in the World Project 2025



Thank you from Malawi for the funds to buy 386 mosquito nets.  
Dave and his team will ensure that all the nets are installed correctly.





## Homeless Veterans Fund-raiser



### **Minister to Sleep Outdoors in North Manchester for Homeless Veterans**

A local minister will spend a cold March night sleeping outdoors to raise funds for homeless armed forces veterans as part of **The Great Tommy Sleep Out**, supporting the Royal British Legion.

On **Friday 20th March**, **Reverend Daniel Harris**, who serves churches across Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester, will take part in a solo overnight “stealth camp” in North Manchester

with only basic essentials. The challenge reflects, in a small way, the harsh reality faced by veterans without a safe place to sleep.

“As a minister, my faith calls me to stand alongside those who are often overlooked,” Daniel said. “No one who has served their country should be left without shelter or hope.”

Funds raised will provide emergency support for homeless veterans. Just **£15** can supply a vital food pack for someone arriving at emergency accommodation.

👉 **Please donate here:**

<https://socialsync.app/fundraiser/cr-k3951406kov5>

Every donation helps ensure veterans are met with care, warmth and dignity.



**Just a little note to everybody who helped to make  
my birthday a special one.**

**Thank you for the cards, gifts and flowers,  
and the donations to Macmillan Cancer Support.**

**Love from Audrey**

## 26th March Concert

# The Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. 7.30pm

Doors open 7pm

Bamford Chapel

Rochdale

OL11 5PQ

Promises to be a great evening of music and mirth



Tickets £10 on the door.

light refreshments available and Raffle.

# Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal 2026 - as it celebrates 40 years



Throughout the month of March, the end-of-life charity Marie Curie will be holding its annual flagship fundraiser, the Great Daffodil Appeal.

There's only one chance to give someone the best possible end of life.

And one chance for you to help give care that makes all that possible. Care that protects someone's dignity – instead of leaving them alone or in pain. This Great Daffodil Appeal is that chance.

Now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, the appeal raises vital funds to help Marie Curie provide end of life care and support in homes, hospitals and hospices across the UK. By donating and wearing your daffodil this March, you can help Marie Curie Nurses bring expert end of life care when there's no cure, whatever the illness.

Money raised also funds the charity's free support line and webchat which is available to anyone with an illness they're likely to die from and those close to them. It offers practical and emotional support on everything from managing symptoms and navigating care to financial information, including how to get help with energy bills and bereavement support.

Whether it's taking part in a fundraising challenge, organising a bake sale or volunteering your time to collect donations, every penny will help Marie Curie deliver quality care to those who need it most.

The Great Daffodil Appeal only happens once a year. This is your chance to make it count.

For information and to donate visit: [Mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](https://mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil)

# March Film Club

The Ian Newman  
Community Film Club

**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**

2025 - 100 years of  
Community Film Clubs

**Saturday 21st March 2026**

**6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film**

**Admission £4.00**

**“THE CHORAL” 2025 15**



*The Choral © 2025 Sony Pictures All rights reserved.*

***Supported by Rochdale Township***

# Amusing Quotes



*Originally submitted by Lesley Sutton in the July & August 2013 magazine*

## **Lot's Wife**

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once whilst she was driving", he announced triumphantly. "And she turned into a telegraph pole".

## **Good Samaritan**

A Junior Church leader was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class "if you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence. "I think I would be sick" she said.

## **Did Noah Fish?**

Another Junior Church leader asked "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was in the Ark. "No" replied Jonny. "How could he with just 2 worms".

## **Moses and the Red Sea**

Nine-year-old John was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mummy, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea he had his army build a pontoon bridge and the people walked across safely. Then he



radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and the Israelites were saved". "Now John, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no mummy, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

## 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** 3rd & 17th March  
7.00 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see page 8)  
**Friendship Group** 2nd Tuesday in month  
1.30 - 3.30 pm 10th March (see page 15)
- Thursday:** **Heritage Group** 3rd Thursday in the month  
7.30 pm 19th March
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month  
1.30 - 3.30 pm 6th March
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month  
**Community Film Club** 21st March  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film (see page 26)

For further information please see website [www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)  
contact Anne Fitton or speak to an Elder.

## BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



### EDITOR:

Linda Peacock            01706 522593  
[lm.peacock@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lm.peacock@hotmail.co.uk)

### ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Lesley Sutton            01706 638005  
[suttyjohnny@gmail.com](mailto:suttyjohnny@gmail.com)

## DATES FOR April 2026 MAGAZINE

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

## **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN**

### **United Reformed Church**

Charity - Regd No 1128387

**Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs. OL11 5PQ**

**[www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)**

**Ministers of the Rochdale, Bury and  
North Manchester Missional Partnership**

### **Revd Richard Bradley**

**The Manse, Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL11 5PQ**

**Telephone: 01706 369622**

**Work Mobile: 07483 155807**

**Email: [richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk)**

### **Revd Daniel Harris**

**Work Mobile: 07563 286345**

**Email: [daniel.harris@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:daniel.harris@nwsynod.org.uk)**

### **Church Secretary: Anne Fitton**

**Telephone: 01706 641403**

**Email: [annefitton@btinternet.com](mailto:annefitton@btinternet.com)**

### **Wedding Secretary: Julie Platt**

**Telephone: 01706 360129**

**Email: [julie\\_platt62@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julie_platt62@hotmail.co.uk)**

### **Lettings Manager: Nicki Houghton**

**Telephone: 07502 308964**

**Email: [nahoughton@sky.com](mailto:nahoughton@sky.com)**