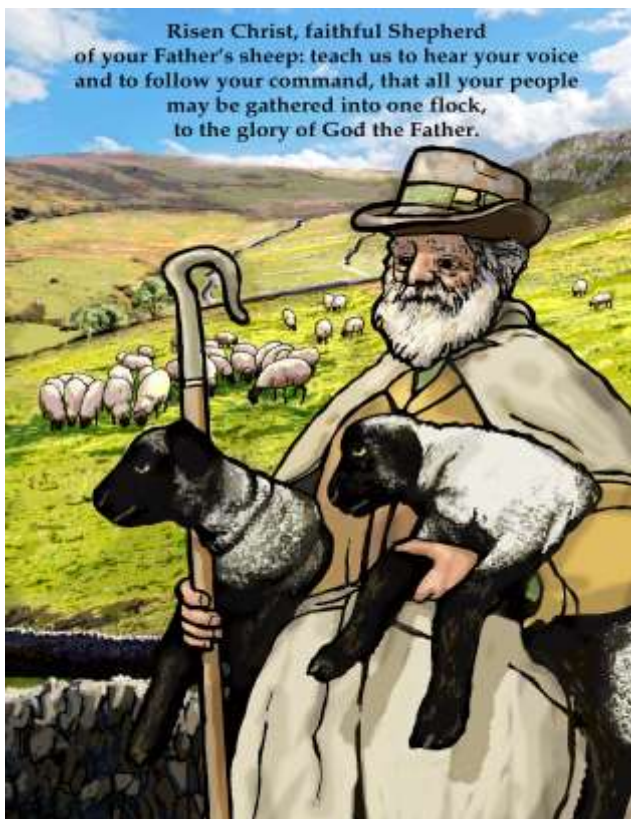




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



**May 2025**

# **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.

# May 2025

## Christian Aid Week 11 - 17 May

See pages 12 and 13

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Friday 2 May	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 4 May	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship & Communion Led by Revd Daniel Harris Missional Partnership Café Church (page 5)
Thursday 8 May	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Friendship Group AGM (see page 23)
Saturday 10 May	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast In aid of Christian Aid (see page 12)
Sunday 11 May	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson
Tuesday 13 May	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (see page 6)
Wednesday 14 May	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship Led by Jim Hurst (see page 4)
Saturday 17 May	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club "The Fall Guy" (see page 18)
Sunday 18 May	10.30 am 12 noon	Family Worship Led by Margaret Bywater and Zoe Abernathy Christian Aid (see pages 12 & 13) Church Meeting
Sunday 25 May	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Daniel Harris
Tuesday 27 May	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (see page 6)

# Minister's Message

## 2025: The Resurrection of the Church.



Over numerous decades the church has felt like it is lingering in the shadow of Good Friday. Church attendance was dropping, churches were closing, the “nones” (those without a stated religious belief) were becoming the norm.

Then the mood-music started to change. Some prominent public figures, such as footballer Marcus Rashford, and popular historian Tom Holland, talked publicly about their faith. Even famed atheist Richard Dawkins confessed to considering himself a “cultural” Christian. But the headlines were still dreary, and no evidence existed to say the tide of decline was changing.

Until now.

This year the Bible Society published their ground-breaking report *The Quiet Revival*. Picking up from their last major research in 2018, they report that the church-going population has increased from 3.7 million to 5.8 million - a growth of 56%. The growth is primarily fuelled by young people - young men in particular.

In addition, the report identifies an increase in “belonging, believing and practicing”. Nationally we are seeing a decline in cultural Christianity —

people identifying as Christians, while not engaging in the practices of faith — as more people actively engage in the faith in practical terms.

Paul Williams, Chief Executive Officer for the Bible Society says: “For decades, church attendance and nominal adherence has been in decline. And it was assumed that this decline would continue and was, in some sense, an inevitable process of modernity. While the decline has been real, we now know that the trend has been reversed. The tide of faith, whose “melancholy, long-withdrawn roar” was described by Matthew Arnold (in the poem Dover Beach), *has now turned.*”

This report has serious consequences for our churches. We have been used to managing decline, and treading water to stay afloat. We have been lingering in the shadow of Good Friday. But read those statistics again: the church-going population has *doubled* in less than a decade.

How will we respond to the resurrection of the church?

**Keep the Faith**  
**Daniel Harris**

## Church Meetings in 2025

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

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.

**Front Cover artwork by Paul Judson (Parish Pump)**

## 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

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

*pray*



## Church Flowers



Donations for flowers in church  
in April were received from:

Linda Kerford in memory of Malcolm  
Linda Peacock in memory of Charlie  
Roy Smithson in memory of Dorothy  
Dot Craig in memory of Peter  
Trish Adshead in memory of her  
Dad's birthday (Neil Edmond)

## 2025 Missional Partnership Café Church



**Rochdale, Bury and North  
Manchester**

**Missional Partnership  
Café Church 2025 – 6.30pm**

2<sup>nd</sup> February

2<sup>nd</sup> March

4<sup>th</sup> May

6<sup>th</sup> July

7<sup>th</sup> September

2<sup>nd</sup> November

All services, unless stated otherwise, will be at  
**Bamford Chapel and Norden URC**  
Norden Road, Bamford, OL11 5PQ

For further information contact: Revd Richard Bradley, 07483 155807 or  
richardbradley@nwsynod.org.uk

## Pop in for Prayer

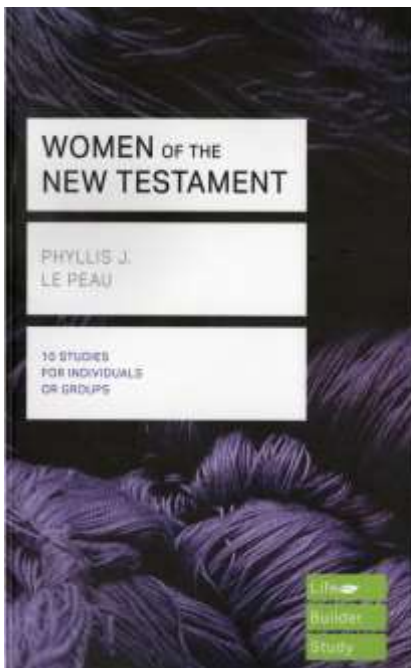


Look out for the “Pop in for Prayer” sign  
in front of the Chapel gates.  
It means the Sanctuary is open for prayer.  
Why not come along and “Pop in for Peace”.

**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	<i>Postponed</i>
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@rwsynod.org.uk or 07483 155807

## Prove It !



‘Prove it!’ they cried, ‘that You’re the Messiah  
Wouldn’t He come as a conquering king?  
Not as a poor man riding a donkey  
How do you think we’d believe such a thing?’

Wherever He went large crowds would follow,  
He calmed the storm and turned water to wine,  
The lame could walk and the deaf made to hear,  
Fully a man and yet also divine.

His teaching had never been heard before,  
He fed the five thousand with fish and bread  
Gave sight to the blind and lepers were healed,  
He cast out demons and raised the dead.

He died on a cross to take away sin  
Rose up from the grave, what more could He do?  
To prove of His love for all of mankind  
Believe it or not, it’s all up to you.

***By Megan Carter***



# Safeguarding



## **Safeguarding Training Opportunities at Bamford and Norden URC and Beyond!**

Please see poster for Intermediate Safeguarding Training being held at Chapel. Completion of Intermediate Training is required for those leading Children's / Youth Groups, Junior Church Leaders, Leaders of Adult Groups, Pastoral Visitors, Worship Leaders, Safeguarding Coordinators. This list is not exclusive but is a general guide taken from the URC Good Practice Guide. You will need to have completed the Foundation Training prior to undertaking this training. See link for Foundation Training and other options for training on the

poster opposite.

If you require training due to your role, please consider attending the face-to-face training on 17<sup>th</sup> May at Chapel and email me to confirm your attendance. I will forward all names to the Synod Safeguarding Team. We hope that there will be participants from various churches, enabling us to learn from each other's practices. There are other dates as advertised on the poster above / below.

It is appreciated that you may already have undertaken safeguarding training for a different organisation, however the URC policy at present is that all volunteers should do the URC version; having done both required training in a professional role and URC training I can see why. The training

## Safeguarding Training

Please click [here](#) for the URC Safeguarding Training Matrix showing the levels of mandatory safeguarding training required for different roles.

Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility

### Foundation Safeguarding e-Learning

Follow this link for the [Foundation e-learning module](#)

### Upcoming Training Dates

#### Online Intermediate Training

Tues 13th May 2025 - 1.00pm - 3.00pm - Online

#### In Person Intermediate Training

Wed 30th April 2025 - 1.00pm - 3.00pm - Radcliffe + Stand URC

Sat 17th May 2025 - 10.00am - 12.00pm - Bamford + Norden URC

Wed 21st May 2025 - 10.00am - 12.00pm - Over Wyre URC, Poulton-le-Fylde

#### Online Advanced Safeguarding Training

Mon 28th April 2025 - 6pm - 8pm - Part 1

Tues 13th May 2025 - 6pm - 8pm - Part 2

You need to be able to attend both sessions.

#### Church House Additional Training

Please click on the following link - [National-safeguarding-2025-002.pdf](#) for Church House ADDITIONAL training for anyone who is interested.

The quarterly Newsletters from the URC Safeguarding Team contain useful information - please click the following link - <https://urc.org.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-newsletter/>

#### Safeguarding Contacts:

Yvette Hansbury-Robinson - Synod Safeguarding Officer - [safeguarding@newsynod.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@newsynod.org.uk)

General Safeguarding Queries - relating to safeguarding training and/or DBS, please email the Safeguarding Team on [helpdesk@newsynod.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@newsynod.org.uk)



does explicitly relate to URC / faith environments and issues as well as URC processes. Our synod safeguarding officer has advised that in the concerns she has addressed, investigators consistently inquire whether the individual possesses an appropriate DBS certificate and has undergone organisation-specific training. Training is crucial to protect both the vulnerable people we support and ourselves, as well as our church.

I hope that you will consider this training or one of the other options advertised.

***Carole Greaves - Elder/Safeguarding Team***

## St George & Shakespeare

I was very interested in the article in last month's magazine, listing important dates and events in the month of April. However, I was surprised that there was no mention of two very important things relating to a particular day in April, the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> is thought to be the date that William Shakespeare was born and died. England and possibly the World's greatest poet and playwright is rarely celebrated on his birth/death anniversary. It is strange that so many of us, whether Scottish or not, celebrate Burns Night, but how many of us hold a similar celebration for Shakespeare?

April 23<sup>rd</sup> is also the feast day of St George, England's patron saint, who was born in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD in Cappadocia, now Turkey and died in Lydda, now Israel, in the Roman province of Palestine. His tomb, in Lod is a centre of Christian pilgrimage. George never actually visited England.

It is likely that George was an officer in the Roman army, who was martyred for his Christian faith and for refusing to make a sacrifice in honour of pagan gods. His reputation for holiness and virtue spread across Europe and his feast day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April was celebrated in England from the 9<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

The dragon story was added later, and may have been a representation of the battle between good and evil. However, the story was developed in the Middle Ages when it appeared in a compendium of the lives of Saints – "The Golden Legend".

Shakespeare's Henry 5<sup>th</sup> calls on St George "Cry God for Harry, England and St George", as from around the 11<sup>th</sup> century, his help has been sought to protect the English army.

The George Cross created by, and named after King George 6<sup>th</sup> bears the image of St George vanquishing the dragon, and his image also appears on the Order of the Garter and on many memorials built in honour of those killed in World War 1.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April this year I went to a flag raising at the Town Hall in honour of St George. Unfortunately there were only a few people there; less than 10 Councillors, volunteers from Town Hall, a few council officers and very few members of the public. But it was nice to see 4 children from St Andrew's Primary School reading about St George and a member of the multi-faith partnership reading a sonnet to Shakespeare.

*Angela Smith*

*Photo:  
Veterans from the  
Lancashire Fusiliers*



# Big Breakfast

Bamford Chapel  
& Norden United Reformed Church

  
Loving God, Serving Others,  
Building Community

*Fancy a bacon butty?*



# Big Breakfast

Endless toast  
and drinks

Vegetarian option  
available

*Saturday*

*10 May*

*10.00 – 12.00*

Cake sale



**£5**

*In aid of*

**christian  
aid**

**Christian Aid Week**  
11 - 17 May

**Fighting global  
poverty**

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

# Christian Aid Week 11 - 17 May

## Hope in Action

Every year Christian Aid invites us to become involved in the story of hope - a hope that refuses to be extinguished by poverty, conflict or injustice. We are invited to join churches, communities and individuals across the UK to make a difference where it is needed most.

This year the focus is on the people affected by climate change in Guatemala, where intense heatwaves and unpredictable rains are devastating small farms. The Christian Aid partner in the region is Congcoop and it is supporting farmers like Aurelia and her community by training them in the use of organic fertilizer, harvesting rainwater and diversifying crops to adapt to the changing climate.

## How we can help

We will be giving each attendee at church some Christian Aid envelopes. One will be for your contribution (should you wish to make one), and any others can be given to your neighbour or anyone you know, who might also like the opportunity to help. Any amount you can spare will be gratefully received. Every gift will help fund vital tools and training so that families like Aurelia's can escape hunger and build a more secure future. You can return the envelopes to your Elder or place them in the box at the front of church. We will also be having a Big Brekkie on May 10<sup>th</sup> in aid of CA.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> May we will be welcoming Zoe Abernethy, who works for CA. who will be telling us more about this year's appeal.

*Margaret Bywater*

**Gift Day this year has been postponed.  
It will now take place on Sunday 1st June.**

# Remembering VE Day - 80 years on



80 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30<sup>th</sup> April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4<sup>th</sup> May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7<sup>th</sup> May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7<sup>th</sup> May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

Of course, the end of a war could never be neat. In Europe the last known shots on the Eastern Front were actually fired on 11<sup>th</sup> May, and on 25<sup>th</sup> May the battle of Odžak ended in a Yugoslav Partisan victory. Tragically, in French Algeria, Muslims celebrating the end of the war (some also peacefully protesting for independence) were “inexcusably” massacred by colonial authorities and militias – leading eventually to the Algerian War nine years later.

*Tim Lenton*



## Heywood and Rochdale Foodbanks



Just a reminder that the 2 foodbanks are always in need of donations of food. Recently there have been very few items given.

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. Cash donations would also be appreciated.

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

## Tribute to Ray Atkins



My Grandad, Ray Atkins sadly passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 at the age of 91. I have grown up as a part of the Bamford Chapel and Norden URC family because my Grandparents Auriel and Ray chose to make this Church their home. I am immensely proud of everything both my Grandparents did for this Church and the commitment they showed. My Grandma Auriel appeared to be the more active and involved out of the two but that was only because my Grandad was understated, and quietly went about his business. But this in no way diminishes the amount he did for the Church.

He was a member of the probus group and they went on many holidays with the members. He helped count money every Monday, he could always be relied on to collect the money as people arrived at Garden parties and Christmas fayres. The Bible study group at their house was always well loved by attendees, and he was respected for his knowledge of the Bible. He would usually have been anywhere my Grandma was, doing all the jobs people asked him to, no questions asked. He may not have sung in the choir like my Grandma but he loved music, mainly classical music and Barbra Streisand and he absolutely loved attending all the concerts at Church.

He will be sorely missed, but I am proud that both he and Auriel have left a legacy at this Church, and I can only hope to make a difference by even half as much as they did.

Our theme for the funeral was gratitude, as this sums my Grandad up the best. He was always extremely grateful and thankful for anything anyone did for him and would say this profusely even when the Alzheimer's got bad.

He was a kind hearted, loving man who didn't need much to make him happy, he was a man of simple pleasures, all he needed was his family, friends and the odd glass of red wine.

So, to end, our entire family would like to share our gratitude and thanks for all the lovely comments and well wishes we have received from everyone who knew him. It is wonderful to know how many lives both Ray and Auriel touched and how many fond memories people have.

**Rebecca Abbott**

## **Reflection**

*This church was very blessed to have Ray (and Auriel) as part of its life. Since his death several people have mentioned to me times they spent with Ray.*

*He was involved in the Lunchtime Concerts acting as treasurer and taking the money for people as they came in. Linda Peacock, the Church Magazine Editor, said he always did a write up for the magazine after each concert. Pat Stephenson, the current Luncheon Club coordinator, mentioned how he attended Luncheon Club in recent years after Auriel died. Ray often said to Pat how Auriel was part of the original team that set up the Luncheon Club many years ago.*

*My own memories of Ray are always of someone who was caring, compassionate, a good listener and always ready to offer sound and wise advice. In my early ministry here he was part of my support group.*

*The thing that I will always remember Ray for was his faith. He was well read, even though he never felt comfortable leading the Bible Study– he was always ready to offer some really helpful insights into whatever book of the Bible they were studying.*

*Paul in the 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reading, reminds us: **“16 Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances...”** Ray rejoiced in the faith he had and the trust he had in Christ. He was a man of deep personal prayer and a man who often gave thanks not just to the people that did things for him, but also thankful to God.*

*A man who loved his family deeply. I know from my visits just how difficult it was when Louise, one of his daughters, died. I recall visiting him on a number of occasions as he endured something no parent should ever endure. But even through that darkest of times his faith and trust in Christ Jesus helped him.*

*The words from Psalm 100 say: **“<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise...”** (Psalm 100:4 NIVUK). I believe that is what Ray has done....he has entered the gates of heaven with thanksgiving to God and entered God’s courts with praise.*

**Thanks and God Bless, Richard Bradley**

# May Film Club

The Ian Newman Community  
Film Club

**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**

**Saturday 17th May 2025**

**6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film**

**Admission £4.00**

**“THE FALL GUY” 2024 12A**



***Supported by Rochdale Township***

## 24 May - The Hymns of the Wesleys



The Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John's great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He wrote over 6,000, most of which aren't sung nowadays, but among the ones

we do still sing are all-time favourites – *'Love divine, all loves excelling', 'O for a thousand tongues to sing', 'Jesu lover of my soul', 'Hark the herald angels sing'* – and scores more.

40 years ago, almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that's no longer true. Traditional hymns aren't usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for *'Songs of Praise'* on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are older people.

Nowadays, with only about five per cent of the population going to church, there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is *'Jerusalem' and 'Amazing Grace'*, because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing *'Bread of heaven'*! It seems a pity to lose it.

It's not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think about what is your favourite hymn – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience!

**Editor:** *You could always write an article for the June magazine with your favourite hymns/songs and what they mean to you!*



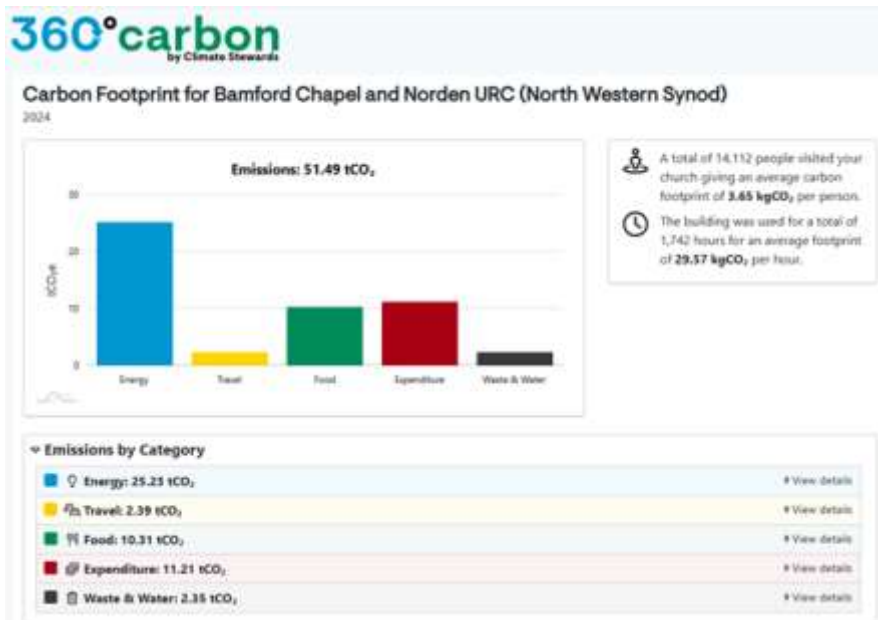
# Church Carbon Footprint



## Definition of Carbon Footprint:

A number, often measured in tonnes, kilograms, or grams, that represents the total amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other equivalent greenhouse gases that are associated with an individual, product, person or even country.

## Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Carbon Footprint



As part of our aim to achieve Silver Eco Church award. I have calculated the first annual carbon footprint using 360°Carbon. This calculates how much greenhouse gas is released into the atmosphere by the things we do as a Church. This includes our gas and electric consumption, travel to Church, food usage, financial expenditures and Waste and Water production.

## Data Collection

As much as possible I used actual information. I would like to thank David Stephenson for the financial and energy consumption data, individual group leaders who I pestered for information about food usage, and number of attendees in their groups, and our wedding and funeral secretaries about numbers of services last year. The only data that I had to approximate was travel to Church by individuals, but this is something I hope to make more accurate for next years carbon footprint.

## Interesting Facts about our Carbon Footprint:

- Our Total Annual Emissions for the financial year of 2024/25 was **51.49 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>**. This would require approximately **2340 trees** to absorb all this carbon dioxide. Approx. 45 trees per ton of Carbon emitted.
- They have estimated that **14,112** people visited our Church in this year, equivalent of **3.65kg CO<sup>2</sup>** per person. Although my calculations which are based on specific figures, make it closer to **18,100** people over the year across all groups, Sunday services and special services. This is an impressive figure, as on average this is approximately **348 people per week** entering our Church building.
- The building was used for a total of 1,742 hours in the year, or **29.57 kg CO<sup>2</sup>** per hour.

## Take home messages:

Our energy consumption (gas and electric) was our highest production of Carbon Dioxide with 25.23 tonnes CO<sup>2</sup>. However new systems have been put in place for working our heating, and the hope is that next year we will notice a significant decrease in our gas consumption.

Our next two highest carbon dioxide producers were our financial expenditure and food usage, with 11.21 tonnes and 10.31 tonnes respectively. Over all, per meal Vegetarian, Vegan or fish meals produce less carbon dioxide than meat meals, and could be considered as alternatives when catering.

Within our financial expenditure, the things that have the highest carbon emissions per £ are cleaning products, paper products and printing. The thing we can all try to do is decide if we need to print something, and make sure we only print what we are going to use so there aren't more copies than necessary being printed.

## Individual Carbon Footprint

If this has inspired you to calculate your own carbon footprint you can fill in the questions on the WWF carbon footprint calculator [footprint.wwf.org.uk](https://footprint.wwf.org.uk).

*Rebecca Abbott on behalf of Eco Group*

# The RHS Chelsea Flower Show - world's greatest flower show

20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May brings us the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The most prestigious gardening show in the world, it attracts about 168,000 visitors a year. Its cutting-edge garden designs have been called the 'haute couture' or '**World Cup**' of gardening.



Here are 12 interesting facts about the Show:

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.

The Show began in 1913, with about 250 exhibitors in a large single tent. Today the

Show covers more than 23 acres with more than 550 exhibitors and gardens, not to mention the Great Pavillion.

The Great Pavillion is HUGE – it covers 2.90 acres, with enough room to park 500 London buses.

The Show has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London every year since 1913, excepts for gaps during the two World Wars and Covid.

It takes just under three weeks to build a Show Garden, and five days to take it down.

In 1927 there was a campaign to get the RHS to ban foreign exhibits, to reduce competition. The RHS refused, saying 'horticulture knows nothing of nationality'.

The late Queen Elizabeth II attended RHS Chelsea more than 50 times.

It takes 14 judges and two moderators 25 hours to judge and assess all gardens at the show. It takes 50 judges and four moderators three hours to judge all the exhibits in the Great Pavilion.

Garden gnomes have always been banned, except in 2013, the show's centenary year. That year, well-known supporters, including Elton John, Dame Helen Mirren, Joanna Lumley, and Mary Berry – painted gnomes to sell for charity.

2020 brought the first ever virtual RHS Chelsea, during the Covid pandemic.

It is not Britain's largest flower show, that is now the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival.

One very wet year the show was nicknamed the 'The Chelsea Shower Flow.'

## **The Friendship Group**

**The next meeting will be the  
Annual General Meeting  
held on**

**Thursday 8th May**

**1.30 - 3.30 pm**

**Admission £4**

**All Welcome - Please come to discuss  
the future of this group**

## Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

<b>Monday:</b>	9.00 am <b>Monday Gang / Garden Gang</b> (who do work in or around the building) 10.15 am <b>Pastoral Group Meeting</b> 1.30 pm <b>Bridge Club</b> 7.30 - 8.30 pm <b>Monday Prayer Group</b> (in Lounge) 8.00 pm <b>Monday Night Home Group</b> (at Redmond's)
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.00 – 11.00 am <b>Toddlers' Group</b> 1.30 – 4.00 pm <b>Indoor Bowls</b> (Upstairs Hall) From 6.00 pm <b>Rainbows</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	12 noon <b>Luncheon Club</b> <b>Boys' Brigade &amp; Girls' Association</b> 6.00 pm <b>Anchor Boys</b> (age 5—8) 6.45 pm <b>Juniors &amp; Company Section</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	10.30 am - 12 noon <b>Community Coffee Morning</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	6.00 pm onwards <b>Beavers, Cubs and Scouts</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	7.30 pm <b>God Squad</b> (for Teenagers)

## Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>Home Group</b>	13th & 27th May 7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see page 6)
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>Friendship Group</b>	2nd Thursday in the month 1.30 - 3.30 pm 8th May (see page 23)
	<b>Heritage Group</b>	3rd Thursday in the month 7.30 pm 15th May
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dementia Friendly Café</b>	1st Friday in the month 1.30 - 3.30 pm 2nd May
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Ian Newman</b>	3rd Saturday in the month
	<b>Community Film Club</b>	17th May 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film - (see page 18)

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 JUNE MAGAZINE

**Articles to be handed in by:**      [Sunday 18th May](#)  
**Magazine to be completed by:**      [Thursday 29th May](#)  
**Magazine distributed:**      [Sunday 1st June](#)

## **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)**