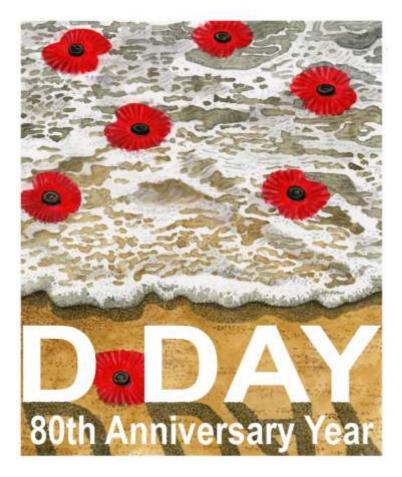


Bamford Chapel& Norden URC



November 2024

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.

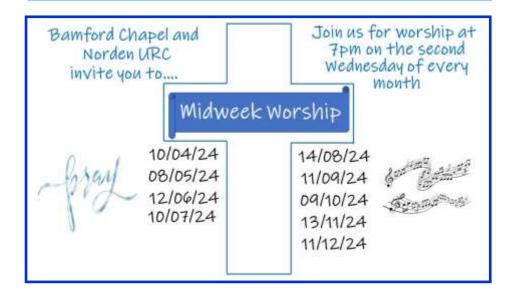
Prayerful!

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.

November 2024

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Friday 1 November	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 3 November	10.30 am	Family Worship & Communion Led by Ken Greer
	6.30 pm	Café Church (see page 2)
Saturday 9 November	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast (see page 6) Cancer Research UK
Sunday 10 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Tuesday 12 November	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 3)
Wednesday 13 November	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship (see page 2)
Thursday 14 November	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Friendship Group (see page 21) Helen Fowell - "Regency Rogues & Rebels"
Saturday 16 November	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club (see page 24) "The Great Escaper"
Sunday 17 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Andy Platt
Sunday 24 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson
Tuesday 26 November	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 3)
Saturday 28 November	7.00 pm	Light for a Life Memorial Service (see page 13) With St Michael's School Choir
Sunday 1 December	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	2.00 pm	Messy Church (see page 25)

Midweek Worship



Café Church

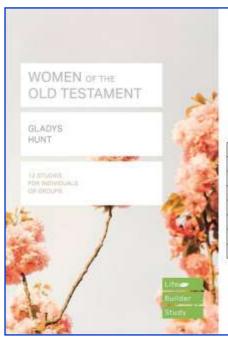
MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP CAFE CHURCH

During 2024 we will have six services - starting at 6.30pm

1st September 3rd November

at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC (unless otherwise stated)
Norden Road, Rochdale, OL11 5PQ

Tuesday Home Group



Tuesday Homegroup on Zoom

All are welcome to join us fortnightly on zoom Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm—9pm.

From September we will be discussing some of the women we meet in the Old Testament

The dates of the meetings are:

3rd September	The First Woman Genesis 3:1-13
17th September	Sarah Hager – Genesis 16; 18:1-15
1st October	Miriam: Number 2
15th October	Rahab: Joshua 2; 6:15-25
29th October	Ruth: Ruth 1-2
12th November	Naomi: Ruth 3-4
26th November	Hannah: 1 Samuel 25:2-44
10th December	Probably a Christmas social

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 07483 155807

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.

Front Cover artwork by Francesca Ross (Parish Pump)

Message from the Rochdale Manse



There is something heartwarming about being invited somewhere. Ruth and I have been invited to a wedding next year. We were given the "save the date" information and the full invitation followed a few weeks later.

There is something special about being invited to be part of someone's special day. It is not dissimilar to being invited to meet with a friend for coffee or have a meal; both are equally heartening. It is someone saying that they want your company and want to spend time with you. Either that or people feel sorry for me!

But what about the invitation to faith? Jesus invited the first disciples to follow him. Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus's home to eat. One of the URC Communion liturgies comes to mind as I type which says: "Jesus was often a guest. He shared many meals with his friends...." (Second order of Holy Communion in the URC Service Book, page 21). I suspect many people invited Jesus during his ministry. People, it seems, flocked to him to have their lives transformed.

I believe Jesus still invites us to follow him, to sit in his presence, to enjoy his company through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

As some of you will know, Michael Harvey has been working with the Synod on the theme of "invitation." Daniel and I have been exploring and using some of the Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) materials, and a sense of invitation runs through parts of them, too.

As you read this, some of you will be doing so in November. As Facebook kindly reminded me earlier in the day, there are nine Fridays before Christmas. Maybe you could invite a friend to some of the Christmas activities in your church. An invitation to a Christmas Fair, Carol Service, Christmas Day service, or other such events or times of worship.

Michael Harvey encourages us to pray:

"Loving God, is there someone outside the church you want me to connect with today?"

I would also say that sometimes, connecting with people already in the church is equally important. I want to invite you to pray that prayer, not just once, but make it a regular prayer in your life. But be warned, God will answer that prayer and not always in the way we might expect.

Let us trust that God knows what He is doing and will lead and guide us to connect with people and when the time is right, to invite them to something that is happening in our church.

God Bless, Richard.

Advance Notice Brownie Coffee Evening

Tuesday 3rd December at 6pm
Tea, Coffee & Cake
All welcome

Big Breakfast



A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God".

Matthew 5:9.



Photo by corina ardeleanu on Unsplash

Peace-loving God,
on this Remembrance Sunday
your church remembers
all who have fallen in war;
those who re-live war daily through injury or broken spirit,
those left behind, grieving for a loved one.

And as we remember,
we pray for those who seek peace:
for those who are good negotiators working with dedication and persistence;
going the extra mile for peace.
We pray for peace.

But also...

help us to find new ways of addressing aggression; constructive ways of challenging harsh regimes, seeking justice as well as peace.

Martin Hazell (from Opening Doors, URC 2014 Prayer Handbook)

Magazine Articles



You may have noticed in recent magazines there have been interesting articles written by ex-Bamford Chapel and Norden URC members. I hope you have enjoyed reading them. I certainly

have. If you are in touch with anyone who once attended this church, perhaps you would like to ask if they would be prepared to write about their life since leaving this area and let us know what they are doing now.

Thank you. Lesley Sutton

Church Flowers



Donations for flowers in church in October were received from:

Linda Kerford in memory of Malcolm & their Wedding Anniversary Hazel Gordon in memory of Bob & their Wedding Anniversary Linda & Duncan in memory of Duncan's Father Margaret Bywater in memory of Geoff Ogden

Hymn Writer Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith



Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

A well-known name in our hymn books, Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith died earlier this year on 12th August 2024, at the age of 97. He wrote more than 400 much loved hymns enjoyed in Christian worship, including, "Tell Out, My Soul" and "Lord for the Years".

It was over 60 years ago that he began writing poems, but did not believe they would become hymns because, as he said, "I lacked all musical ability". (A lesson in itself!).

However, he went on to author metrical settings of psalms and scriptures, Christmas carols and many texts on Christian discipleship. He said that a good hymn must adhere to divine truth and to Christian experience, adding, "It is the hymn writer's privilege to offer worshippers the words in which to clothe and express the aspirations and emotions of the heart".

Rev'd Timothy was born in Manchester. After graduating in maths and then theology at Cambridge, he prepared for ministry in the C of E's Ridley Hall. Ordained in 1950, he ministered in Kent, Bermondsey and Norwich, becoming Bishop of Thetford in 1981. At a birthday celebration he commented, "Hymn writing has been for me a most enriching and entirely unexpected gift".

Sandy Harris (edited version)

Editor: "Lord for the years" is one of my favourite hymns and I know there are many others at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC who feel the same.

Project 2024 Update: Raising Funds for Cheshire Home, Katima, Namibia

As I'm sure most of you are aware we as a church are raising money to buy specialist walking frames for children with physical disabilities living in a Cheshire Home in the north of Namibia. The money is gifted between the launch on 15th September and Christmas Day, mainly through personal giving.

At the time of writing this article we have raised a total of £905, so I'm sure it will be significantly more by the time you read this. Thank you so much to all those who have contributed to date and shown such interest in the children we are supporting.

Since the launch we have had a very well attended Saturday morning breakfast and sponsored walk (see David's article on page 16), and this will raise the total significantly, hopefully by over £1,000. We are delighted that one of our Missional Partnership Churches, Dundee URC is also hoping to donate.

We have been in negotiation with the company we hope to purchase the walkers from, and they have agreed to sell them at less than half price, and also help us to work out the most cost-effective means of getting the walkers to the Cheshire Home in the Zambezi Region of Namibia.

Otherwise, a few of us are going to have to save up and take the frames there!

I hope that some of you will join the fun at Playhouse 2 in Shaw to watch Allo Allo, on Monday 2nd December. I believe that Rebecca Abbott and Addie Redmond have starring roles. This will raise a significant amount of money also for the project. See the poster on page 12 for details.

When Addie, Barbara, and myself went to Namibia in July 2023 we had the pleasure of Jacob (Addie and Barbara's grandson), and my daughter Rosie being with us. Jacob and Rosie have written short pieces about their time at the Cheshire Home and the impact it had on their lives.

By Jacob Redmond

Helping the kids at Cheshire Home was such an unforgettable experience, and honestly, it was just as much fun as it was heartwarming. There was this one girl who we brought a walker for and once she had gotten to grips with it, she was so determined to outrun me with it during our little races - I'm pretty sure she let me win once or twice just to boost my ego. Another kid was super shy at first, but as soon as I pulled out the camera, he turned into a total model, posing like he was ready for a magazine cover.

We spent a lot of time doing crafts, which usually ended up with more glue on our hands than on the paper and I helped with their homework, which was great, except for the one time they tried to teach me math - I definitely failed that test. We also played football, where I'm convinced some of them have a future in pro sports, while I mostly tripped over my own feet.

But in between all the laughs and chaos, it was those moments of connection - like gathering for group photos, arms wrapped around each other, grinning ear to ear or Addies science experiments with all the kids getting involved - that made it all so special.

By Rosie Greaves

Spending time at Cheshire home was truly a life changing experience. Cheshire Home staff and children were so welcoming, loving and such a joy in life. We spent lots of time with the wonderful children, singing, dancing, practicing their mobility, doing exercises, playing sports, chatting and doing crafts. Throughout this I was amazed by their ability to persevere and their drive to overcome their physical and social barriers.

From a physiotherapy perspective, I had the opportunity to learn and support the children develop their skills and physical abilities to improve their independence and function of everyday life. This was eye opening as the children had such resilience during activities of daily living and in their therapy sessions.

Furthermore, it was so heartwarming to see how much love they showed for each other; embracing one another's differences, showing endless love and hope for their futures. It was such a pleasure to be a part of each child's journey and development, and it certainly provided some food for thought in the current status of the world. I had such an incredible experience, but yet such a reality check....

The Bible teaches us the importance of a family unit and love. Cheshire Home reminded me of this in a way that I will cherish forever. God reminds us that we can conquer our challenges, and this will lead to comfort in our life. I believe that the strength of God guides them through their challenges, allowing them to overcome barriers (those that are beyond what we experience in the UK). To be part of their journey was an honour.



Memorial Service

Light for a Life Memorial Service

WITH ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL CHOIR

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2024 7:00PM (APPROX 1 HOUR)



AT BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC, NORDEN ROAD, BAMFORD, ROCHDALE OLII 5PQ

(The Church car park is across the road, opposite Bamford Chapel).

A service of remembrance & thanksgiving where families & friends can light a candle & hear the name of their loved one read out.

THIS SERVICE WILL BE LED BY REVEREND RICHARD BRADLEY,
A MINISTER OF BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC
& SUPPORTED BY COOP FUNERALCARE STAFF.

Light refreshments will be offered after the service.

All are welcome.

For more information, please contact your local Coop Funeralcare branch:

Cutgate Funeralcare Tel: 01706 643215
Email: CutgateFuneralcare@coop.co.uk
Rochdale Funeralcare (central Rochdale) Tel: 01706 653622
Email: RochdaleFuneralcare@coop.co.uk

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

Safeguarding

"Love one another as I have loved you" John 13, V 34 – 35

I am writing this short article to give an update on what our church is doing to ensure we are all kept safe.

You may have seen posters around church, which give anyone coming into the church building a clear message that we are committed to safeguarding all.

The safeguarding noticeboard in the coffee area has been updated and includes the following:

- What to do when you have a safeguarding concern
- Names of our church safeguarding coordinators (see poster for names)
- Updated Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Safeguarding Policy
- Local key contacts for Rochdale Borough Council safeguarding adults and children
- Contact details for the North West Synod Safeguarding Officer

We have recently completed a safeguarding audit to assess where we are up to and have a list of further actions we need to take in the next 12 months.

This includes the following:

- Making sure all church group leaders and helpers have a current DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service check)
- 2. Making sure all relevant people have completed the correct level of safeguarding training
- 3. Introducing a safe recruitment of volunteers process

All the work that has been done in relation to safeguarding is to create and maintain a safe environment for everyone and we can respond promptly to any safeguarding concerns, and that we seek to prevent abuse from occurring.

We do this as out of God's concern for justice and care for the vulnerable

and the Church's call to live out a ministry of caring, forgiving and healing love. We also need to do this as a legal, regulatory and Charity Commission requirement.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility not just the ministers, church secretary and safeguarding coordinator's role. Any questions please don't hesitate to ask and if you think you should have a DBS and training please ask and we will talk this through with you.

Carole Greaves (Elder)



Project Namibia Sponsored Walk

Pat and I read a Latin motto this week in a historic house which translates roughly as 'a word once said cannot be recalled'. This just about sums up how the sponsored walk to Dundee URC came about.

A few of us were chatting at the Project launch lunch about how to both promote the Project and raise funds. I suggested an idea I had for a sponsored walk around Hollingsworth Lake on the winter solstice; even had a title for it: 'Shortest day, longest walk', my idea being to walk from sunrise to sunset. Suffice to say, that wasn't greeted with much enthusiasm!



Not to be defeated I then put forward a revised proposal to walk from Bamford Chapel to Dundee URC as they have expressed a wish to support us with the Project. 'Great idea' was the consensus. Until we looked it up on Google maps....

A few days passed and I had become determined that the walk should happen, so I asked Carole to contact Dundee URC, and Addie to plan a route. Good delegation don't you think? And so, on Saturday the 12th of October, seven walkers, three runners and one cyclist set off for Dundee from Chapel after the Big Breakfast.



After 7.5 miles (plus or minus a couple of 'diversions' - yes we nearly got lost) we arrived in Ramsbottom to be enthusiastically greeted by people from Dundee, BC&N and Dan Harris. The runners had long gone by then - probably home, showered and relaxing. Dundee had laid on, frankly, a mountain

of cake which, despite valiant efforts, we struggled to make much of an impression on! After a lovely time of fellowship we headed for home to rest weary legs and start collecting sponsorship money in.

We will have boosted the Project by over £700, perhaps more thanks to the generosity of all sponsors, supporters and walkers/runners/ cyclist. A fantastic all-round effort.

Now, where to next year....?



David Stephenson

Sid Hazlehurst 1929 - 2024



It is a great pleasure to write this tribute to Sid as I had known him for almost 60 of his 95 years and have always felt as though I was part of his family as he was of mine. I was so disappointed to be on holiday in Rhodes at the time of his funeral but relieved that I was able to watch the committal and service of thanksgiving via live streaming.

Sid was born in Wigan and lived in a back-to-back

terraced house with his mum and dad in what can only be described as a deprived area. His dad was out of work for many years during the Great Depression and would go out every morning trying to find a job, only to return home disappointed. Times were very hard.

Sid was always small for his age and had to learn to defend himself against the bigger bullies who frequented those back streets. His dad encouraged him to stand up for himself and that lesson stayed with him. Though not physically aggressive, he was a fierce opponent both in arguments, discussions, or sport. He was also quite bright and to his family's surprise (because it had never been achieved before) Sid passed his 11+ and went to the Grammar School.

During his time there, his sporting abilities were soon recognised, and he was soon a member of both the school football and cricket teams. He loved sport and excelled (according to Sid) in not only football and cricket but in table tennis too. After leaving school he was called up to do his National Service but, although he did the training, his sporting abilities were valued

much more highly as he was chosen to represent his Company. He was even spotted by Wickham Wanderers and offered a professional contract.

By then he was very much in love with Dorothy, and he couldn't wait to get back up north to be with her. He had met Dorothy in his teens at Bethel Independent Methodist Church in Wigan where he had first attended Sunday School, then the Youth Club and where his faith was nurtured and developed. They were married in 1952 and had a long and happy married life being blessed with the arrival of their three children, Martin, Paul and Gillian.

Sid had secured a job at Hindley Green with Turner Brothers asbestos company and in 1963 he got a transfer to Rochdale. They moved to Arnside Drive and became members of Bamford Chapel, soon becoming involved in all aspects of the church's life.

My mum and dad moved into the Manse in 1965 and a year later Derek and I were married and our friendship with the Hazlehursts began. We shared so many happy times with them.

Sid became very involved with the church at local, district and national level and became an accredited lay preacher. He became well known for his forthright expression of his views in church and Elders' meetings. In those days we had a very active Sunday School and Sid became the superintendent, as it was then called. We also had evening services and afterwards a group of us (including Sid and Dorothy) would go to Meadow View Care Home to conduct a service for the residents. We did this for more than ten years.

Our social lives revolved around the church too with another group of friends; Sid and Dorothy, Pat and Bob Gate, Marjorie and Donald Goodwin, John and Betty Ainsworth and Derek and me. We used to enjoy a weekend away together for many years and got into the habit of spending Sunday evenings together too, taking it in turns to provide supper. They were happy times but sadly over the years, our numbers dwindled until Sid (Uncle Sid as he was called by Carolyn and Steven) was the only man left and now he is gone too, and Pat and I are the only pair remaining.

The intervening years held many sad times for Sid as his lovely wife developed Alzheimer's disease and he nursed her at home, coping with all the demands that laid upon him. But he never complained. To use his own

expression and the title of the book he wrote, he "just got on with it". He was, of course supported by his family, especially Paul and Liz who helped to fill the gap that she had left. It was such a tragedy then when Paul too contacted an incurable disease and died in 2018, leaving Liz to become Sid's main carer. I can't overestimate the level of care that she has lavished upon him during his final years.

Of course he loved talking, had many tales to tell and would regale anyone who would listen. "Have I told you?" would often be the start of a story which we had heard many times before, telling of his many successful negotiations at TBA or his success on the cricket or football field or his experiences in the church. Liz can repeat them all almost word for word!

Sid never accepted that he was no longer able to adequately look after himself at home, even after his many falls and setting fire to the kitchen! He resented going into a care home, but he was so well cared for at Four Seasons and Half Acre and the family appreciated all they did for him on their behalf.

In conclusion I want to pay tribute to Sid for being such a very loyal friend, the one I could always depend on, as well as a faithful member of the church, a true Christian, always willing to go the extra mile. We will all miss him!

Margaret Bywater

2025 Missional Partnership Café Church



Friendship Group

At the October meeting we filled Christmas Boxes which Carole Hartley will arrange to be sent to children in the Ukraine. We thank all those who knitted hats, gloves, scarves and hand puppets and those who contributed other items such as toiletries, games and stationery. Forty-three boxes were completed on the day and surplus items will be used to complete other boxes.



Come and join us on Thursday 14 November

1.30 - 3.30 pm

£4

Helen Fowell

"Regency Rogues & Rebels"

All welcome

Christmas Fair Saturday 7th December



Your help is needed to plan for this year's Christmas Fair.



Ideas are needed for stalls and offers of help are required, both beforehand and on the day. The success of the day is dependent on willing hands! Please speak to Julie Platt for more information.



Play on Words....

- Someone posted they had just baked some synonym buns. I replied, you mean just like the ones grammar used to make
- English is the only language where you recite in a play and play in a recital.
- When you transport something by car it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship it's called cargo.
- You can't run through a campsite. You can only ran since it's past tents.
- There was once a king who was only 12 inches tall. Terrible king, but made a great ruler.



Thank you to Sandy Harris

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".

> Monday 10 - 11 am Tuesday 2 - 4 pm



The Ian Newman Community Film Club Seven Years



Saturday 16th November 2024

This is the last film in 2024.

Next screening will be on 15th February 2025

[film not yet chosen]

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film
Admission £4.00

"The Great Escaper" 2023 12A



Supported by Rochdale Township



Community Coffee Morning



Please help us

Thursday 5th December 2024

10.00am to Noon
In aid of Cancer Research

Who are your five friendly faces?



Think of five people who could grow closer to God through your friendship and prayers!







Christmas Carols

At Cutgate Precinct

Come and join with friends from across the churches locally to sing carols together

Saturday 14th December

10.30am

Cutgate Precinct

After the Carol Singing we will have refreshments in Cutgate Baptist Church







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 & Brownies

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 12th & 26th November on Zoom

7.30 - 9.00 pm (see page 3)

Thursday: Friendship Group 2nd Thursday in the month

1.30 - 3.30 pm 14th November (see page 21)

Heritage Group 3rd Thursday in the month

7.30 pm 21st November

Friday Dementia Friendly Café 1st Friday in the month

1.30 - 3.30 pm 1st November

Saturday: Ian Newman 3rd Saturday in the month

Community Film Club 16th November 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film - (see page 24)

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 DECEMBER/JANUARY MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 17th November

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 28th November

Magazine distributed: Sunday 1st December

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN United Reformed Church

Charity - Regd No 1128387

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