



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



*Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the true King of peace.
In you alone is found freedom.
Please free our world from conflict.
Bring unity to troubled nations,
unity amongst all people.
And let Your glorious peace
reign in every heart.*

November 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.

November 2025

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Saturday 1 November	7.00 pm	Concert by Nightingale Singers In aid of Petrus
Sunday 2 November	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley Missional Partnership Café Church (page 8)
Tuesday 4 November	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group on Zoom (see page 4)
Friday 7 November	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café (all welcome)
Saturday 8 November	10.00 am - 12 noon	Big Breakfast (see page 6) In aid of Cancer Research
Sunday 9 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Cameron Baines
Tuesday 11 November	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Friendship Group (see page 25) Games Afternoon, Coffee & Cake
Wednesday 12 November	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship with Communion Led by Barbara & Addie Redmond (see p 5)
Saturday 15 November	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club "It Ends With Us" (see page 26)
Sunday 16 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson
Tuesday 18 November	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group on Zoom (see page 4)
Saturday 22 November	10.30 am - 1.30 pm	Christmas Fair (see page 12)
Sunday 23 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Ken Greer
Tuesday 25 November	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Advent Reflections - Hope (see page 3)
Sunday 30 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley

Minister's Letter

The Kingdom of God is a Party



I want to ask a deceptively simple question: *"what does it mean to share the Kingdom of God in our community?"*

To find out, let's imagine a dinner party - only this one's less "MasterChef" and more "United Nations of Food." Everyone brings their own dish, their own flavours, their own traditions. But instead of hosting at *our* house (where guests feel the pressure to conform to Western habits), we meet at a neutral table - where no one is host, and everyone is guest. And something miraculous happens: the flavours mix, the laughter flows, and a new feast is born that belongs to everyone.

That's a picture of the Kingdom of God - where God is the host, the Church is the gift, and we're all guests together.

The trouble is history didn't always look like that. The gospel often arrived wearing cowboy boots - riding in to "save souls" while erasing cultures. But Jesus didn't send his disciples out as Lone Rangers; he sent them as humble guests - light packers, relying on the hospitality of others, bringing good news, not cultural baggage.

Paul did the same: he prayed, was present, proclaimed, and persuaded - with respect. No forcing, no colonising, no "my way or the highway".

And now it's our turn. Our church is like God's banqueting table in this community. But is it really open to all? Do we let others bring their own stories, tastes, and traditions - or are we secretly serving reheated leftovers of "cowboy Christianity"?

The Kingdom of God isn't a potluck where one culture cooks and everyone else cleans up. It's a feast where all are welcome, all are fed, and all belong.

So... what dish are *you* bringing to God's party?

Revd Daniel Harris

Advent Reflections

All are welcome to take some quiet time in the busyness of Advent to gather to worship and reflect. These meetings will take place for an hour on Zoom

Tuesday 25th November, 7.30pm	Hope
Tuesday 2nd December, 7.30pm	Peace
Tuesday 9th December , 7.30pm	Joy
Tuesday 16th December, 7.30pm	Love

Meeting ID: 847 9885 2008

Passcode: 517449

For more details please contact Revd Richard Bradley
richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk
07483 155807 // 01706 369622



Tuesday Home Group on Zoom

Tuesday Homegroup on Zoom

All are welcome to join us on zoom

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm—9pm

7th October	Blinded by the light—Acts 9:1-31
21st October	Proclaiming God's Promises—Acts 13:13-52
4th November	Poor Yet Rich - 1 Cor 4.8-13 & 2 Cor 6:3-10
18th November	The Power of Praise—Acts 16:16-40
25th November	<i>Advent Reflections on Zoom</i>
2nd December	<i>Advent Reflections on Zoom</i>
9th December	<i>Advent Reflections on Zoom</i>
16th December	<i>Advent Reflections on Zoom</i>
6th January	Social to start the new year (7pm—9pm) At Bamford Chapel and Norden URC
20th January	Becoming a Spiritual Mentor—Acts 20:13-38
3rd February	Truth on Trial—Acts 25:23—26:32
17th February	Strength in Weakness—2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Zoom details are:

Meeting ID: 847 9885 2008 // Passcode: 517449

If you want to find out more please contact Richard on

richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk or 07483 155807



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.

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

pray

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



November Big Breakfast

Fancy a bacon butty?



Big Breakfast

Endless tea,
coffee, toast

Vegetarian
alternative

Saturday
8 November
10.00 – 12.00

In aid of



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

£6.00

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

Website: bcnchurch.org.uk Follow us on  **Bamford Chapel and Norden URC**

Big Breakfasts 2026

It has been fantastic to see how successful the Big Breakfasts have been over the last few years, both in raising money for different charities and the number of people attending.

The Big Breakfasts happen on the second Saturday of every month (with some occasional changes to the date). The Breakfasts are now £6 per person and offer people a delicious bacon butty or veggie sausage butty, toast, fruit loaf and jams, unlimited tea and coffee. They usually raise an average of £300 for charity. The Breakfasts are run by the person or group that has signed up for their chosen charity. There are also some regular annual Big Breakfasts run by the Church in the World group such as for the project and Christian Aid.

One of the purposes of the Church in the World Group is to ensure we support as many different and varied causes as possible. Due to the popularity of the Breakfasts, we need to ensure that different charities are getting the opportunity to use this platform to raise money, whilst honouring the regular charitable causes the Church has always supported.

Anyone can sign up to raise money for their chosen charity. Due to the success of the Breakfasts there has been a lot of interest for the 2026 Big Breakfasts, and the year is almost full already.

Important Updates:

1. **Signing up:** If you would like to sign up for a Big Breakfast, please contact one of the following members of the Church in the World Group: Gill James, Carole Greaves, Rebecca Abbott, Barbara Redmond. We will then let you know when the next available dates are for your Breakfast. If the calendar for 2026 is already full, we will put you on the waiting list for the following year and you will then be at the top of the list for the new dates.
2. **Running a Big Breakfast:** If you would like to run a Breakfast but you haven't done it before, when you make an enquiry with the Church in the World Group you will receive a "How to Guide to Breakfasts". This will include: a shopping list, a list of jobs for volunteers on the day, and the minimum number of helpers you will need to bring with you. This guide isn't compulsory you can run your Breakfast in any way you like, but hopefully this guide will help alleviate anyone's worries that it is difficult to do - we promise it isn't - and we would love you to take up the opportunity for your chosen charity.

Thank you - Church in the World Group

2025 Missional Partnership Café Church

ROCHDALE, BURY AND NORTH MANCHESTER MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP CAFÉ CHURCH

Dates of the services in 2025:

2nd February 2nd March
4th May 13th July
7th September 2nd November
at 6.30pm

Venue - unless stated otherwise:

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

For further info contact: Revd Richard Bradley, 07483 155807 or richard.bradley@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**

Remembrance Prayer



In November we come to remember
How war tore our country apart,
From village and town and all around
Men and boys left home and hearth.

Mothers and wives and sisters all
Saw their brave young men go away,
For some it meant the ultimate price
As they gave their tomorrows for our today.

Another Man left His home above
To rescue this world from sin,
It cost Him His life which He freely gave
So new life could enter in.



In this world there will always be war,
But the time will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

By Megan Carter



Church Flowers



**Donations for flowers in church
in October were received from:**

**Linda Kerford in memory of her
Wedding Anniversary**

**Hazel Gordon in memory of
Bob's Birthday and their
Wedding Anniversary**

**Trish Adshead in memory of
her Mum Marigold's Birthday**

Peter Sutton



Lesley, Kate, Helen and their families would like to thank you all for your love, prayers and support, both during Peter's time in hospital and following his death. Thank you for the many cards, phone calls, visits and flowers; they were much appreciated.

Donations in memory of Peter for Diabetes UK and Lancashire Wildlife Trust can be given via Mitchell's Funeral Service in Heywood.

Why go to Church?



A church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a local newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now" he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them.

So I think I am wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column, much to the delight of the Editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me I can't recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Author Unknown (this article was originally printed in a Bamford Chapel magazine in 2005, the year Revd David Wiseman left his ministry at Bamford Chapel and also the year that Heywood URC closed and well-known friends from that congregation came to Bamford).

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve.

It was an Apple with very limited memory.

Just 1 byte and everything crashed!!

**Front Cover artwork "Prayer for Peace"
by Paul Judson (Parish Pump)**

Christmas Fair



Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

Come and join us at our

Christmas Fair



Saturday 22nd November
10.30 am – 1.30 pm

Christmas Stall

Raffle and Tombola

Cakes and Preserves

Father Christmas

Festive Refreshments available

Everyone welcome!

Our Christmas Fair this year is slightly earlier than normal, it's on Saturday 22nd November between 10.30 and 1.30, so it will soon be here.

After a lot of thought we have decided to slightly scale it down this year. We would like slightly less stalls but want to keep the atmosphere welcoming and Christmasy.

Urgent - Christmas Fair Help Needed

We are aiming to have a raffle and tombola, a Christmas stall and a cakes and preserves stall. Father Christmas will be visiting and festive refreshments will be available.

Could you please save us any used, clean jam jars and if you can think of any small gifts which would fit in those, they would be very welcome.

The Christmas stall will sell new or homemade Christmas items or gifts so again please think what you could donate.

If your talent is catering or baking please see Julie and find out what is needed in the kitchen or for the cake stall.

Most importantly please come along and invite your family and friends to join us as we start the festive season.

Please speak to either Gillian James or Julie Platt if you need any more information. Thank you.

Look at it this way...

Newcomers find church strange because:

The last time they put their hand up was to leave the room;

The last time they put both hands up was when they were being robbed;

The last time they sang in public was in a public house;

The last time a man in a dress led the singing was at a panto....

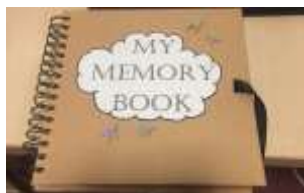
Submitted by Joanne Ackroyd

Put together a Memory Book



Do you have grandchildren? Then this winter, during those long dark days, why not spend some time putting together a sort of scrapbook of memories to pass on to them?

Things you might like include could be: where you lived when you were a child; what your school was like, what games you most enjoyed, who your best buddies were, what pets you had, what your first job was, and how you met your partner. What was your first car, and where was your first home as an adult? Add a selection of photographs that you have from the past.



Leaf some green stuff in the garden



The clocks have gone back, and we are putting our gardens to sleep for the winter. But this autumn, when you tidy up, do not tidy away too much.

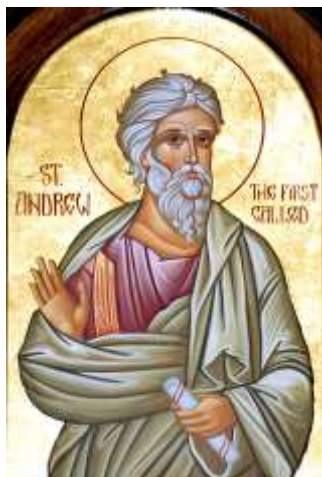
Many insects and wild creatures will be relying on some ground cover or hideaway to call 'home' for the winter. Several piles of twigs or pruning, left around your garden in discreet places, will provide a great winter 'snugs' for toads, grass snakes and other small garden inhabitants.

Spent' seed heads provide cover and food for birds over the winter. Above all, before you light any bonfires on 5th November, take care there are no hibernating hedgehogs inside!



St Andrew and Football

"Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don't like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that" (Bill Shankley).



When you replace the word 'football' with 'mission', this quote still has something to say! The apostle Andrew (we remember him on 30th November) demonstrates what the mission of the Church is all about (cf John 1:35-42). It's not unlike following your favourite football team!

When we support a football team, we make sure that we know all about them! When Andrew and his friend heard about Jesus, they wanted to find out more: 'Look, the Lamb of God.' (John the Baptist, v35). The first stage of mission is finding out more about Jesus, the One who enables us to be friends of God through His death and resurrection.

Secondly, when supporting a football team, we will spend time watching their games. Andrew asked, 'where are you staying?' and Jesus replied, 'Come and you will see' (v39). Andrew spent the rest of the day talking and listening to Jesus. As a result of this time, he had something to share. How much time do we spend with Jesus, reading His word and praying?

When our team wins, we want to share the good news! After meeting Jesus, Andrew's first action was to tell his brother Peter: 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ)' (v41). Are we willing to tell others about Him too? Sharing with family and close friends can sometimes be harder than talking with strangers. However, we don't need to follow a football team to engage in mission. It's all about being excited to share Jesus with those we meet day by day.

'Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in' (Rowan Williams)

By Canon Paul Hardingham



Advance Notice - 4 December



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

**Community Coffee Morning
Thursday 4th December 2025
10.00am to 12 Noon**



In aid of Cancer Research

Suggested Donation £5

**Mince Pies and Shortbread
Christmas Gift Stall and Raffle**

Mission Accomplished



Well I (or should I say “we”) did it!

Both myself, my son Tim and his wife, Jess all successfully completed the 13.1 miles half marathon Great North Run - some quicker than others mind!

Sincere thanks to all of you who offered words of encouragement as well as financial support. Between the three of us we were able to raise over £2000 for both my chosen charity (Macmillan) and theirs (Diabetes UK).

After all the hype of choosing a music playlist, given the number of people my Bluetooth connection was

patchy at best. Instead I chose to just let the atmosphere and crowds push me along. The love and support of the City of Newcastle was immense. Geordie folk really are the best with a real sense of pride for their community.

In this world of perceived and often real negativity, blame and fear, it was a delight to spend a few hours (2.31 actually!) in a bubble of fun, joy, love and hope.

Thank you all once again, Martyn James

Memories of Peter Sutton



Christmas Eve 2020, during lock down, was the first one for over twenty years that Ken and I had not spent with Lesley and Peter. We had all joined Bamford Bowling Club in 1994 and decided to go to the Christmas Eve party there. However, when we came to buy our tickets they had all been sold. Instead, we chose to go to the cinema, where we watched "George of the Jungle". If you haven't seen it, don't worry. Afterwards we went back to Greenvale and had a takeaway meal. We had bought the Suttons

a Christmas balloon and put it in the boot of our car to give them. Sadly, but inevitably, when we opened the boot it flew away. But every Christmas Eve since then, whoever hosted the occasion has been presented with a balloon, very carefully.

Our Christmas Eves continued with cinema and takeaways and then morphed into restaurant meals with more people joining us, Lesley Stiles, Phil Hignett, Sue Harrington, Margaret Ogden and, more recently, Peter and Pamela Harrington and Malcolm Bywater. We took it in turn to host after the meal, organising quizzes and games and generally enjoying fellowship

Peter was always happy to play games or to compete in a quiz of some sort. Ken particularly remembers a quiz between St Michael's men and Bamford Chapel, when Rev David Wiseman was very confident of his team winning. Peter and Ken played with Bob Gate and Gordon James and came out on top, not least because of Peter's knowledge of the NATO phonetic alphabet.

We have shared many meals and holidays with Peter and Lesley; PROBUS breaks at Warners and a holiday in Llandudno, all organised by Walter, when

we were often in trouble for sharing a table at every meal rather than moving around. Latterly we played board games or cards rather than venture out, and I remember us trying to teach Peter a new card game. He questioned every rule we gave him and wanted to know exactly why it was there.

Peter and I attended the same Alpha course and later both enjoyed the Bible Study group held at Ray and Auriel Atkins' house. Again, he always had a question about the text, faith and other issues and wasn't afraid to ask. As Steve Lawley has often said, Peter asked the questions that everyone else wanted to ask, but didn't dare!

Peter loved nature and was very knowledgeable about plants and birds. He and Kate were keen members of the Field Naturalists, going on organised visits and attending talks. I often wish he was there when I hear birdsong as he would be sure to identify the singer. He loved his garden and still pottered in it until quite recently. The beautiful crocosmia in my own garden will always remind me of Peter, who gave me the plants many years ago.

Cricket was also one of Peter's passions and he attended matches as often as possible, sometimes going to Old Trafford, as well as watching matches on TV. I wonder if anyone can guess who his favourite cricketer was. If you attended his funeral you will know. And of course he was a football fan and used to enjoy discussions at the Community Coffee Mornings. I won't mention his favourite football team!

He was also an avid reader and we often swapped books. But he read far more widely and intellectually than I do and he often changed from reading thrillers to re reading the classics.

And of course, he was a great family man, devoted to Lesley, his daughters and his grandchildren. He supported Lesley in everything she did and was always by her side, even if he wasn't always enthusiastic about the event.

This Christmas Eve won't be the same without him. Lesley will be there and I'm sure that as the evening goes on we will all share more memories and raise a glass to our friend Peter.

Angela Smith

Church in the World Project 2025

Great Minds Bright Futures



The launch of this year's Church in the World Project, "Great Minds Bright Futures" took place on Sunday 7th September. The



congregation was inspired by the presentation from Dave Armstrong who is the founder of this Malawian based charity.

After the service about forty people enjoyed a lunch prepared and served by the Church in the World group. It was also an opportunity for members of the congregation to chat to Dave and his colleague Julia informally.

During the service all the young people were given a gift bag which contained among other things a £1 coin. The idea was to use this money for a good purpose and potentially make it grow. The youth group used their money to buy chocolate and have held a raffle which has raised £165 towards the purchase of much needed mosquito nets. The Scout Group, Beavers and Cubs have also been busy raising £140.

Great Minds Bright Futures supports children who have been orphaned due to HIV, malaria and malnutrition. Currently three centres are funded by the charity in the central region of Malawi. Although the charity provides meals and clothing for these children and others, providing education is an essential part of its work. It supports and funds schools in the area and has also funded a few children to attend a secondary boarding school. Through education the children can achieve their dreams, aspirations and potential in a loving safe space.

Dave uses local people and businesses to provide the infrastructure required to support these centres. He also actively raises funds himself, although the recent three peaks challenge in September had to be postponed due to bad weather. He also visits Malawi with his family regularly to maintain his local contacts and has a good relationship with a local MP and the local chiefs, which is beneficial.

Dave visited Malawi with his children this year and made the following observations:

"Our arrival was at the start of the last week of school term, meaning as our Great Minds Bright Futures children received their school reports, they were constantly bringing them to me, so that I could read them, as any parent would do. A great number of our children had truly spectacular results, with 100%, 99%, 98%, 97% results. Outstanding! I congratulated them and we arm wrestled, and fist pumped to celebrate the successes. This is testament to the hard work by my team educating and inspiring our children and the resilience of children who are orphaned, living without beds, power and running water, plus walking up to 10km a day to school without food until they reach our centres for lunch. Do not underestimate the impact our healthy meal each day has on our children. Simply having food in your tummy allows you to go to school and provides you with energy for your mind to learn.



Some of our children's carers send them to school (and to Great Minds after school) as they know this will be their own chance of food each day. Please re-read that sentence and let it sink in. We are literally a lifeline for so many children. Local chiefs say without the support of Great Minds Bright Futures, children would starve to death. Let me check, yes, it is indeed 2025. How can it be that in 2025, with all the wealth and

resources in the World, children need a lifeline like Great Minds Bright Futures to eat."

As previously mentioned, malaria is a significant cause of ill health and death in Malawi. Young children and babies are particularly at risk from dying.

The aim of the project this year is to buy mosquito nets for 300 orphaned children. The cost of the nets is approximately £20 each and by the 5th October we could buy 56 nets but that number is rising thanks to recent donations. Dave and his volunteers will ensure that all nets are fitted correctly to give maximum protection.



We welcomed Dave back to the Big Breakfast on 11th October where further funds were raised for this worthy cause which equated to about 18 more nets. Once again Dave spent time talking to people about the project and his his work with the people of Malawi over many years.

The Church in the World group thank you all for your continued support.

Susan Travis (Church in the World)

The Poppies of Remembrance

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.



And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



PS. Take time to look at our display of knitted/crocheted poppies on Bamford Chapel & Norden URC's gates during November.

Remembering Anne Newman



The death of Anne Newman came as a shock to us all. Anne had been an important part of our fellowship, before and after the death of her husband Ian. But she was also my friend and colleague as we volunteered together at the Foodbank in Rochdale and even before that, when we did Meals on Wheels together.

It was a wrench when she left Rochdale to go to live near to her daughter in Wedmore, Somerset but we kept in touch and we had the pleasure of staying with her in her beautiful apartment. It's no surprise then that as soon as we heard the news of her death, we, along with Pat

and David Stephenson, determined to attend her funeral which was held on Wednesday 22nd October.

It was held at the Mendip Crematorium. She had never really settled at the local parish church because her heart was forever at Bamford Chapel, but the service was conducted by the vicar of the church, and he ensured that it was a celebration of her life rather than a mourning of her passing. All the members of her family were dressed in bright colours as Anne had requested and the eulogy was given by her brother Barry, who spoke, without any notes, as he delivered a very moving tribute to his sister.

Anne Dowling was born in Rochdale in 1945 (she died 2 days before her 80th birthday). She had two older brothers Tony and Barry and a younger sister Joan, and her mum raised the family as a single parent. When Anne was eight years old she became very ill and her mum was told that it was unlikely that she would survive, but she was a fighter and after a long illness she

pulled through. She was a bright girl at school, passed her 11+ exam and attended Littleborough Central High School. Sadly, when she was 13 her mum died and Anne took on the responsibility for caring for the home and her siblings. It was great training for the role of wife and mother which came later.

Anne had a very happy marriage to Ian Newman, after whom our film club is named, and they were devoted parents to their three children, Michelle, Anthony and Joanne, and eventually grandparents to Bethany, Joshua, James, Jack. William, Saskia and Laura. She was devastated when Ian died in 2014 but showed tenacity and a willingness to build a new life in Somerset. She was delighted to attend Bethany's wedding this year and was looking forward to the birth of her first great grandchild in December.

Anne was out-going, with a happy and positive disposition in spite of the sadnesses she had had during her life. She was good company, kind, compassionate, honest and unafraid to express her opinions; she was generous, loyal, hard working and a very attractive lady. She was a loving mother, nana and friend to many. She will be missed and remembered by all who knew her.

Margaret Bywater

Friendship Group

The next monthly meeting is on



Tuesday 11th November



1.30 - 3.30 pm

Table Games with Tea, Coffee & Cake

All welcome

November Film Club

The Ian Newman Community
Film Club

**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

Final film of the season.
Re-opens on - 21st February 2026

Saturday 15th November 2025

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

Admission £4.00

“IT ENDS WITH US” 2024 15



Supported by Rochdale Township

December Messy Church

Messy
Christmas

ALL
ARE
WELCOME



Stamford Chapel
Epsom, Surrey
United Reformed Church
Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

Looking forward to
Christmas



Sunday 7 December 2 – 4 pm

craft



Come to
Professor
Potty's

Lab

children

please bring an adult with you



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BC&N URC Messy Church

Website: bcnchurch.org.uk

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	4th & 25th November 7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see pages 3 & 4) Friendship Group 2nd Tuesday in month 1.30 - 3.30 pm 11th November (see page 25)
Thursday:	Heritage Group	3rd Thursday in the month 7.30 pm 20th November
Friday	Dementia Friendly Café	1st Friday in the month 1.30 - 3.30 pm 7th November
Saturday:	Ian Newman	3rd Saturday in the month
	Community Film Club	15th November (see page 26) 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film

For further information please see website www.bcnchurch.org.uk
contact Anne Fitton or speak to an Elder.

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



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DATES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 16th November

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 27th November

Magazine distributed: Sunday 30th November

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

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