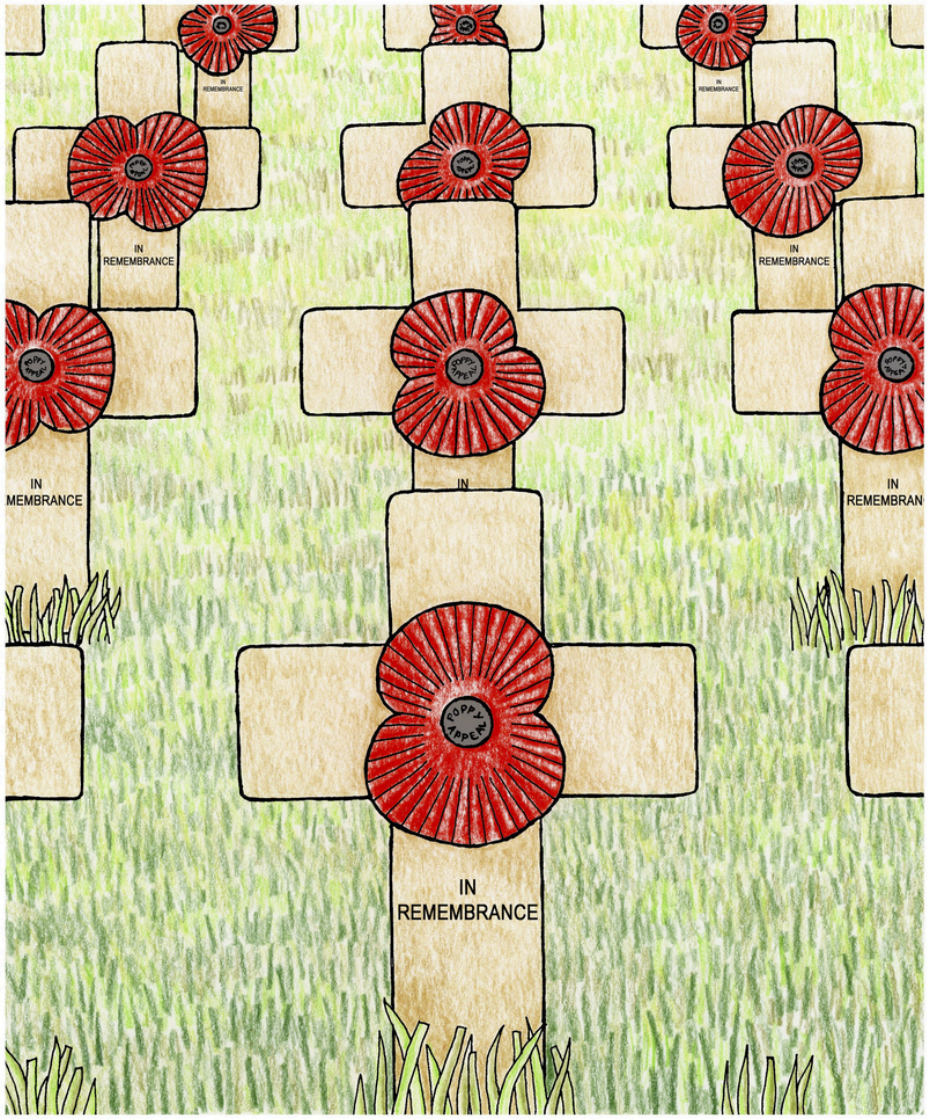
The United Reformed Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



November 2026

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC
MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

OUR JESUS-SHAPED CHURCH IS…

Welcoming!

Jesus welcomed all who came to Him without judgment,
and we aim to be an inclusive church, welcoming to all.

Developing Faith!

Jesus' ministry was all about sharing the Gospel with others.
As a church, we need to make sure we are deepening faith and making disciples, supporting individuals on their own faith journeys, and taking the Gospel and sharing our faith beyond the walls of our church.

Reaching Out!

Jesus reached out to everyone, and we must too: within our own church community, within our local community and beyond.
We will serve God by serving others.

Caring!

Jesus said: "A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
It is essential that all that we do is done in love and that caring for others/serving others is at the heart of our church.

Prayerful!

As it did for Jesus, we will make sure that prayer underpins
all that we do as a church, that we might
serve the mission of God as He wills.

November 2026

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge
Sunday 1 November	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Youth Group & Andy Platt
Tuesday 3 November	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group (on Zoom) (see page 6)
Friday 6 November	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 8 November	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship & Rembrance Led by Revd Richard Bradley Missional Partnership Café Church (see page 6)
Tuesday 10 November	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Friendship Group Table Games, Coffee & Cake (see page 15)
Wednesday 11 November	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship Led by Revd Daniel Harris (see page 14)
Saturday 14 November	10.00 - 12 noon	Big Breakfast (see page 14) in aid of Cancer Research UK
Sunday 15 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
Saturday 21 November	10.30 - 1.30 pm 6.30 for 7.00 pm	Christmas Fair (see page 10) Community Film Club - “Chicago” (see page 28)
Sunday 22 November	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Mike Thomason (Moderator)
Sunday 29 November	10.30 am 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Family Worship and Toy Service Led by Margaret Bywater Messy Church - Christmas (see page 14)

Threads of Faith: Celebrating a Century



In this issue we reflect on the words of Rev'd Janet Sutton, a previous minister at Alkrington & Providence URC, who preached at the church's centenary service on 11th October 2026.

Alkrington & Providence URC was a match made in heaven for me as my first pastorate. I carry many treasured memories of this church and its people, and I couldn't have asked for more. Yet my experience is only one small part of a story stretching back more than a hundred years.

As we celebrate Alkrington & Providence URC's centenary, we give thanks for those who came before us, remember friends no longer with us, and look ahead with hope. Our anniversary scripture readings remind us that God's hand is at work throughout that story: past, present and future.

Psalm 145 speaks of one generation commending God's works to another. Each generation receives something precious and passes it on. We belong to a story greater than ourselves, rooted in God's creation and reaching towards the promised renewal of all things.

That does not mean life is always easy. Isaiah spoke to people living in exile, far from home, whose future seemed uncertain. Yet God's mesage was hopeful:

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
(Is 43.19)

They could honour their past without becoming trapped in it. God was opening a way forward.

Paul offered a similar perspective to the divided church in Corinth. Its members were becoming attached to particular leaders, but Paul reminded them: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” (1 Cor 3.6) Their common purpose mattered more than their differences. They were God’s servants, working together.



An image that helps me understand this is a tapestry. Inspired by Jacqui Parkinson’s textile exhibition, Threads through Creation, I picture the world as a vast work of art, its colours, textures and patterns woven into a glorious whole. Each of us is a thread within it. We may see only a small part of the design, but our contribution matters. Psalm 139 describes us as wonderfully made, knitted together in our mother’s womb. We are created and loved by God, and each of us has a place in the unfolding story of creation.

So our centenary offers three reminders: we are deeply loved; we belong to something greater than ourselves; and we can face the future with hope, trusting the God who continues to call us forward.

For now, let us treasure our memories and give thanks for this church, for our place within its life, and for those whose faith and service have brought us here. Then let us continue together, ready to discover the new things God is doing.

Rev'd Janet Sutton

Tuesday Home Group



Missional Partnership Café Church

Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester
Missional Partnership
Café Church worship 2026

Start time: 6.30pm

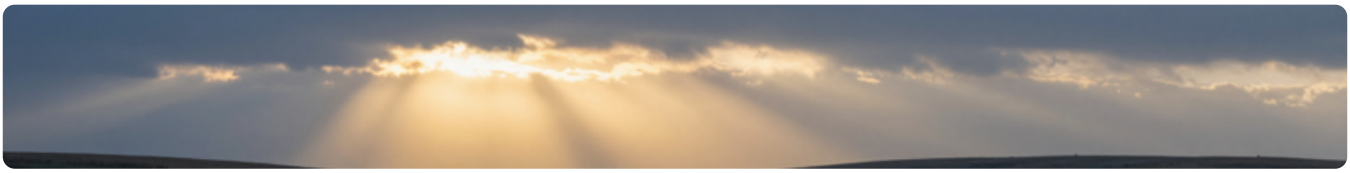
Venue: Bamford Chapel and Norden URC
(unless stated otherwise)

4th January	5th July
1st March	6th September
3rd May	8th November

Please note the change of date in November from the 1st to the 8th

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

Prayer for November 2026



Dear Lord,

At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down and our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits.

Help us to adjust our perspective, to turn and look up, to focus afresh on You, to remember that Your name is above all names, above discouragement, above despair, above confusion.
Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully.

May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives – Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to remember your words,

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this November and always. In your name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Revd Edward Lyne



26th September was a very special day in the life of Revd Edward Lyne ("Ed, the student minister" as he was known to us over the last two years) when he was ordained as a Minister in the United Reformed Church.

A dozen of us from Bamford were privileged to be in the congregation as the Moderator of Yorkshire Synod presided over this service which also included Ed being inducted as a Minister into the Leeds URC Partnership.

That was the formal structure of the gathering but the reality was a really happy and relaxed welcome into formal ministry of an extremely personable and committed young man!

This was apparent in his "Statement by the Ordinand" (to give it's formal title) when Ed took us back to his earliest days of wanting to "serve" in some capacity but not knowing exactly what that meant. Through a number of involvements and religious studies over a few years he felt ready to offer to full time ministry and this resulted in him being commended for ordination by West Midlands Synod and the rest, as they say, is history.



The church in Leeds was packed to overflowing (best guesses are over 200 people) and was a mix of local worshippers and ministers and others from further afield (Rochdale! and Ed's family from Birmingham, just to mention a few).

Of note was one of the readers in the service, a fellow new ordinand from two weeks previously in the Wirral had been Ed's flatmate in Bury!

And connections don't finish there. The Moderator of Yorkshire Synod is Jamie Kissak who, with his wife Fran, ministered in Heywood and St. Andrews, Rochdale quite some years ago and the Church Secretary, where the service was held, has been an athletics colleague of the writer for 40 years.

The day ended in the customary eating together from a marvellous buffet and, as the day was extremely sunny, many folks migrated into the beautifully kept small gardens to the rear of the church.

Finlay Galloway

Donations needed for the Christmas Fair

Preparations are in hand for the Christmas Fair to be held on 21st November. If you can help in any way please speak to Julie Platt or Gillian James, or put your name on the list next to the kitchen.

Below is a list of items needed. Please leave any items in the labelled boxes next to the creche.

- Any homemade items – show us your creativity!
- Homemade cakes
- Christmas goods eg selection boxes, decorations, crackers, boxes of mince pies
- Prizes for the tombola
- Bottles of wine, empty wine bottles and bottle gift bags
- Any good quality second hand toys and books

Bring your family, friends and neighbours to make this a happy and successful pre-Christmas occasion.



Love-links





To lose a loved one
feels to break the heart and being.
All those years ahead, alone, to face.
A new reality.

And yet the true reality
is that we loved.
We loved each other
and we loved the Lord Jesus – who lives!

He lives in me
as He lives in the one I love.
And that love goes on,
linking heaven and earth
in life that will never end.

Love-links to comfort and encourage
as the journey continues
in trust and anticipation…

by Daphne Kitching

Lest We Forget

Editor: The Revd Paul Hardingham considers the grief and loss of war…



'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soonbecame to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of peace is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. 'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever' (Micah 4:5). Let us ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Remembrance Sunday 2020



This year the national service for Remembrance will be held on 8th November and include the annual march past involving up to 10,000 veterans and eligible participants. It will be followed by formal two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November.

This year Remembrance marks several significant milestones:
The 110th anniversary of the 1916 Battles of the Somme and Jutland, as well as the introduction of wartime conscription.
The 70th anniversary since the Suez Crisis of 1956.

The 25th anniversary since UK armed forces first entered Afghanistan, following the 2001 deployments.

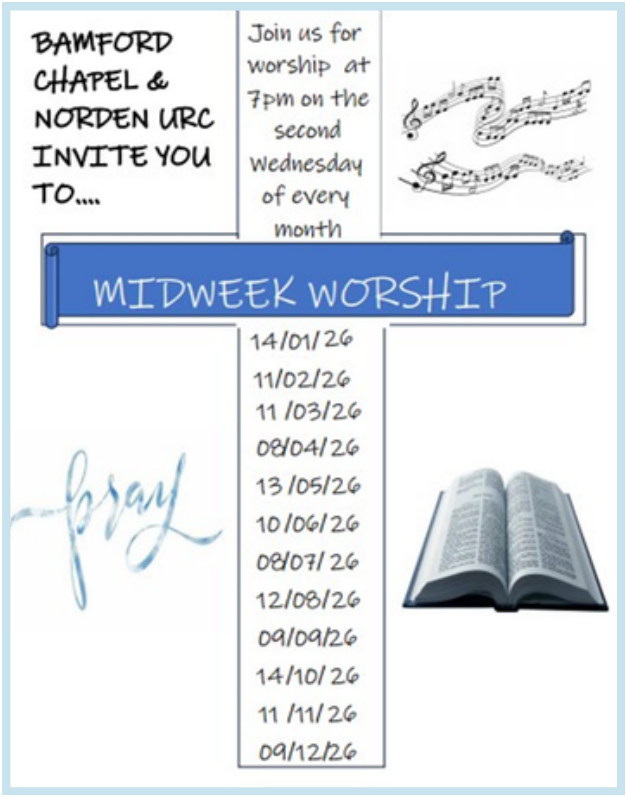
Big Breakfast



At Bamford Chapel and Norden URC,
Norden Road, Rochdale OL11 5QP

Website: bcnchurch.org.uk Follow us on

Midweek Worship



Messy Church



'The **Messy Church®** name and logo are registered trade marks of Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a charity (233280) and company limited by guarantee (301324), registered in England and Wales'

Friendship Group

At our October Friendship Group meeting we filled 51 Christmas Boxes for chidren in Ukraine

Our meeting on Tuesday 10th November 1.30 - 3.30 pm will be a Table Games afternoon with Coffee and Cake

All Welcome

Advance Notice Haslingden Concert Band



Christmas is coming, shops' profits are getting fat

Christmas 2026 is going to be very different in our family this year. We will, of course, quietly and reverently celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ – the event which changed the world forever.

But there is another Christmas, widely celebrated, often by people who don't know the origin of the 'real' event. I call this ***'Commercial Christmas'*** when everyone seems to get very stressed, congregate in overcrowded shops to buy gifts which they know will be half-price in the up-coming January sales, and buy enough food to feed half the homeless in Rochdale. This is without the hours of mental anguish and Googling trying to find a suitable gift for Auntie who is vegan, non-smoking, tee-total, hates chocolates and has more slippers and woolly gloves and scarves than she can find room for.

This year, we as a family have chosen not to become part of the ***Commercial*** version.

In many homes any celebration will be very muted after the passing of a family member or good friend. When we had a family discussion on how we all felt about the coming 'festive season' it became apparent that we all had similar, but unvoiced, views. Talking together we unanimously agreed that it would seem inappropriate to 'eat, drink and be merry' when the cornerstone of our clan was no longer with us. The proverbial 'empty chair'. The consensus without dissent is that we should this year not exchange gifts within the close family and instead donate to a worthy charity.

After reading Margaret Bywater's emotive article in September's Chapel Magazine and listening to the launch of Project 26 there was an obvious choice. ***Healing Little Hearts*** is dedicated to providing cardiac

care and treatment for babies and very young children who would otherwise not survive.

Healing Little Hearts
Give a child a new life

There is a lot of information on the internet about the work of this established charity. It provides teams of highly qualified medical and surgical professionals who, without pay, go to third-world countries for several weeks, often using precious leave time, to save the lives of very sick children. This treatment would not be available for babies and infants whose parents were unable to pay and the child would die.

All our family donations will be Gift Aided and made through the Chapel's Project 26. Special Project 26 envelopes are available at the back of church if you wish to donate. You can also make your donation though the Chapel Project or directly to the charity (web page below).

So this year we may not receive a pair of jazzy socks or box of chocolates (bad for you anyway!) but we feel that the knowledge that we have helped give a child (or maybe children) an infinitely greater gift – the gift to grow and thrive, the ***Gift of Life***. We know that although she will not be present, Ann would approve wholeheartedly. I feel that our donations will also provide for us a fitting, living memorial to a wonderful lady.

You can read more about the charity and donating by going onto the internet **https://healinglittlehearts.org/contactus** and click the Donate button if you wish.

Have a REAL Happy Christmas with your loved ones.

Bryan Scott

Health and Safety at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC



As part of our ongoing drive to ensure the safety of all members, adherents and visitors to Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, Carolyn Divers and Jess Davis have been working through all requirements from legislation to ensure we are compliant.

As a result, there has been some changes that you may see around the building (this list is not in any list of priority)

1. A fire risk assessment was completed by Wyvern Fire Solutions – they identified some recommendations. These include:
    - A revised image of where the fire extinguishers are located throughout the building
    - A re-drafted fire safety information poster which details what to do in the event of a fire and how to reset the fire alarm
2. There is now a new fire safety policy and a full set of risk assessments for all areas of the building. These can be found pinned to the new health and safety board in the coffee area opposite the creche door.
3. There is a new policy for the use of personal electrical equipment. Please note if you are charging your phone or using an electrical appliance from home (that has not been PAT tested at church), please ensure that it is in full working order and is not left unattended.

4. The fire alarm, emergency lighting and lightning conductors have now been serviced and repaired. These will now be checked every 12 months to ensure that we are compliant with the latest standards.
5. In the coming months, we will be scheduling a fire evacuation on a Sunday morning. This will enable everyone to hear the fire alarm and be more familiar with what to do in the event of a fire.

If you have any concerns in relation to health and safety or need any clarification on any of the changes made, please contact either of us.

Carolyn Divers and Jess Davis

Cancer Research Coffee Morning

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Community Coffee Morning

In aid of Cancer Research

Thursday 3rd December 2026

10.00 am to 12 Noon



Suggested donation £5

Mince Pies & Shortbread



Christmas Gift Stall & Raffle

Remembering Joan Barnes



We sadly lost one of our longstanding Luncheon club members recently at the ripe old age of 101!

Joan Barnes will be known to many of you, and you will remember her sharp mind and caring nature. She always had time to ask about the families of her friends and luncheon club volunteers. Until a year or so ago she would often be seen walking around Norden with a companion.

Some of the secrets of her longevity came out at her funeral, when her family highlighted her love of red wine, and her insistence that olive oil and garlic formed part of her diet!



On Joan's 100th Birthday

One of Joan's final wishes was that the luncheon club should benefit in some way at her passing, as it became the highlight of her week in later years.



The family have consequently given all the donations from the funeral to our luncheon club, which should benefit all the present members, and all the volunteers - including cooks, drivers and hostesses. There was sufficient for all the members to have a free week's meal, and a gift for all the staff.

We thank Joan's family for their generosity. She is greatly missed by everyone. Joan was 'quite a character', and her constant cheerfulness was an inspiration to us all.

Pat Stephenson, Luncheon club coordinator

National Tree Week 21 - 29th November



It really is time to appreciate our trees. Did you know:

That the UK has 123,000 ancient and veteran trees, and more ancient oak trees than the rest of Europe combined?

Or that trees help us feel better? Studies have found that exposure to forests generally reduces our mental and physical stress, anxiety, and depression.

Or that 95% of land carbon in the UK is stored in soil, and trees help put it there? When wood and leaves fall, their carbon gets stored in the soil.

Or that hedgerows alongside our roads can reduce air pollution exposure by up to 63%?

No wonder that each year the Tree Council and its partners bring together the conservation sector, volunteers and tree-lovers to

mark the start of the annual tree planting season. Together, they plant thousands of trees and hedgerows, to celebrate these "magnificent mainstays" of our landscape.

And we need more trees. Sadly, only 13% of the UK's total land area is covered in trees. That's compared to an average of 46% in Europe. In England, the figure is just 10%.

On the plus side, there are more than 80 community tree nurseries in the UK, growing an estimated 250,000 trees a year, often from locally collected seed, and which are given away or sold at minimal cost.



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.

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Linda Peacock (Editor)

Many thanks



Thank you to Bamford Chapel & Norden URC for the beautiful roses I received following my recent surgery. The good wishes and lovely flowers were much appreciated and brightened my day!

Thanks again, Susan Travis

Thank you

I'm so grateful for all your prayers, support, offers of help, transport lifts, cards and flowers during my recent medical diagnosis, major surgery and current recovery.

Thanks also to all the dedicated NHS staff at the various hospitals who have cared for me and continue to do so.



May God bless you always and all ways.

Stephen Lawley

Church Flowers



Donations for flowers in Church in October were received from:

Linda Kerford in memory of her wedding anniversary
Elizabeth Hazlehurst in memory of Paul
Hazel Gordon in memory of Bob's birthday and their wedding anniversary
Pamela Harrington for Sarah and James' birthdays

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

All Saints

At the beginning of this month, we celebrate ‘All Saints’ (1st November), when we remember all those heroes of the faith who have in one way or another been a witness to Christ in what they said and what they did. But sometimes the saints of old - those portrayed in Renaissance pictures or in craggy, oversized sculptures - can matter less to us than the saints we have personally known.

For instance, one minister tells of a good friend of his, Stan, a farmer on the Yorkshire Wolds, who died earlier this year. Stan was the sort of man you’d meet at the mart, or stop to have a chat with in the village. He always had time for you. You’d go away thinking ‘salt of the earth’, and you would be right.



But Stan was much deeper than that. He was a devout Christian, with a simple but profound faith, used by God in many situations that never made the public eye. His farm had a Site of Special Scientific Interest in that it captured many of the unique features of the Wolds. He was a knowledgeable plantsman, although you

would have to drag it out of him. In his day he had taken Bibles to Soviet-era Ukraine and Romania, and received the thanks of Christians there who were so encouraged that they were not alone, that someone cared, made the effort to bring them the Word of God.

So Stan, although a quiet family man living on a fairly remote farm, had had a profound influence for God and for good in many people's lives, both in the area – and in Ukraine and Romania.

And there have been multitudes like him. This month, are there folk in your life who have been an influence on you for God and for good? What difference did they make to you?

All Saints-tide is the ideal opportunity to give thanks for them. They are life's unsung heroes, who help others steer a path closer to God by their wise words, or their support, their prayers. The impact of a good life on others can be enormous.
For all of them, let's thank God.

Harvest Donations to Foodbank

Following the Harvest service on 11th October 23 bags of food were given to Rochdale Food Bank and 20 to Heywood Food Bank. Both Foodbanks were overwhelmed by the amounts given and thanked the church for their generous donations. Church members were reminded that the Foodbanks are always in need of donations, not just at Harvest.

November Film Club

The Ian Newman Community Film Club

2025 - 100 years of Community Film Clubs

Copyright (C) 2026 Cinema For All. All rights reserved.

Saturday 21st November 2026

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

Admission £4.00

"Chicago" 2002 12A



Copyright © 2002 by Miramax Film Corp

Supported by Rochdale Township

What are you built on?



Photo: Peter Craig / wikimedia commons

"Lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left…"
Isaiah 54: 2, 3

How strong and flexible are you, as a person? Did you know that the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco can move up to 20 feet in either direction as its centre? It's built to sway – to absorb and accommodate vast daily stresses and heat. But it always comes back to its true centre, because it is built on a vast system of steel and concrete that sinks down, down into a solid rock foundation far below in the Pacific.

Each of us needs to be anchored like that - onto a sure foundation. Without it, we will be at the mercy of the storms and strong tides of life. Burdens and flying debris from other people's lives will knock us off balance.

That foundation for us is Jesus. How is your relationship with Him? Is it solid? Is it deep enough to hold you steady on your course as 2026 draws to a close? Jesus urges us to 'abide' in Him. It takes time to get to know Him. The Bible is His message to us; prayer is our message back to Him, and more: for if we draw close to Him,
He promises to draw close to us, too.

Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

Monday: 9.00 am **Monday Gang / Garden Gang**
(who do work in or around the building)
10.15 am **Pastoral Group Meeting**
1.30 pm **Bridge Club**
7.30 - 8.30 pm **Monday Prayer Group** (in Lounge)
8.00 pm **Monday Night Home Group** (at Redmond's)

Tuesday: 9.00 – 11.00 am **Toddlers' Group**
1.30 – 4.00 pm **Indoor Bowls** (Upstairs Hall)
From 6.00 pm **Rainbows**

Wednesday: 12 noon **Luncheon Club**
Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association
6.00 pm **Anchor Boys** (age 5 - 8)
6.45 pm **Juniors & Company Section**

Thursday: 10.30 am - 12 noon **Community Coffee Morning**

Friday: 6.00 pm onwards **Beavers, Cubs and Scouts**

Sunday: 7.30 pm **God Squad (for Teenagers)**

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

Tuesday:	**Home Group**	3rd November
	7.00 - 9.00 pm	On Zoom (see page 6)
	Friendship Group	2nd Tuesday in month
	1.30 - 3.30 pm	10th November (see page 15)
Thursday:	**Heritage Group**	3rd Thursday in the month
	7.30 pm	17th November
	Friday Dementia Friendly Café	1st Friday in month
	1.30 - 3.30 pm	6th November
Saturday:	**Ian Newman**	3rd Saturday in the month
	Community Film Club	21st November "Chicago"
	6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film	(see page 28)

For further information please see website **www.bcnchurch.org.uk**
contact **Carolyn Divers** or speak to an Elder.

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE

Member Editor 2026
Association for Church Editors

EDITOR:

Linda Peacock **01706 522593**
lm.peacock@hotmail.co.uk

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Lesley Sutton **01706 638005**
suttyjohnny@gmail.com

DATES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2026 MAGAZINE

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BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

United Reformed Church

Charity - Regd No 1128387

Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs. OL11 5PQ

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

Revd Daniel Harris

Work Mobile: 07563 286345

Email: daniel.harris@nwsynod.org.uk

Church Secretary: Carolyn Divers

Email: Secretary.bcnchurch@nwsynod.org.uk

Wedding Secretary: Julie Platt

Telephone: 01706 360129

Email: julie_platt62@hotmail.co.uk

Lettings Manager: Nicki Houghton

Telephone: 07502 308964

Email: nahoughton@sky.com