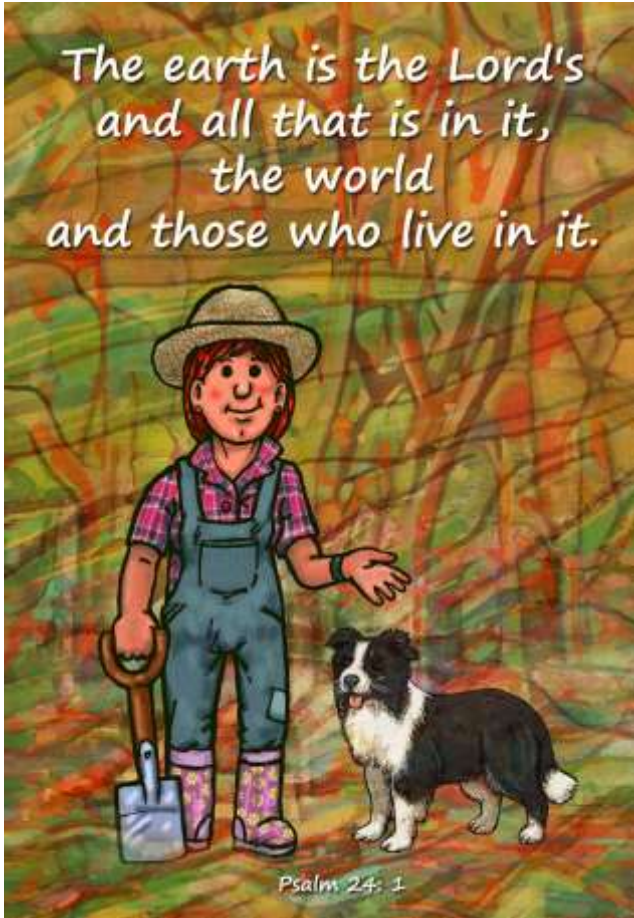




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## Bamford Chapel & Norden URC

The earth is the Lord's  
and all that is in it,  
the world  
and those who live in it.



## October 2024

# **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.

# October 2024

|                                |                               |   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Every Monday</b>            | <b>7.30 - 8.30 pm</b>         | <b>Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>1 October</b>   | <b>7.30 pm -<br/>9.00 pm</b>  | <b>Tuesday Home Group<br/>On Zoom (see page 3)</b>  |
| <b>Friday<br/>4 October</b>    | <b>1.30 - 3.30 pm</b>         | <b>Dementia Friendly Café</b>   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>6 October</b>    | <b>10.30 am</b>               | <b>Family Worship &amp; Communion<br/>10th Anniversary of Norden URC joining<br/>Bamford Chapel<br/>Led by Linda Lees &amp; Dot Craig</b> |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>9 October</b> | <b>7.00 pm</b>                | <b>Midweek Worship<br/>(see page 2)</b>   |
| <b>Thursday<br/>10 October</b> | <b>1.30 - 3.30 pm</b>         | <b>Friendship Group (see page 11)<br/>Christmas boxes for Ukraine</b>   |
| <b>Saturday<br/>12 October</b> | <b>10.00 am -<br/>12 noon</b> | <b>Big Breakfast (see page 12)<br/>Project - Cheshire Home Namibia</b>  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>13 October</b>   | <b>10.30 am</b>               | <b>Family Worship<br/>Led by Margaret Bywater</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>15 October</b>  | <b>7.30 pm -<br/>9.00 pm</b>  | <b>Tuesday Home Group<br/>On Zoom (see page 3)</b>  |
| <b>Saturday<br/>19 October</b> | <b>6.30 for 7.00 pm</b>       | <b>Community Film Club (see page 24)<br/>"A Haunting in Venice"</b>   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>20 October</b>   | <b>10.30 am</b>               | <b>Family Worship &amp; Will's Dedication<br/>Led by Debbie Wood</b>  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>27 October</b>   | <b>10.30 am</b>               | <b>Family Worship<br/>Led by Monday Home Group</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>29 October</b>  | <b>7.30 pm -<br/>9.00 pm</b>  | <b>Tuesday Home Group<br/>On Zoom (see page 3)</b>  |

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.

## Midweek Worship

Bamford Chapel and  
Norden URC  
invite you to....

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

Midweek Worship

*pray*

10/04/24  
08/05/24  
12/06/24  
10/07/24

14/08/24  
11/09/24  
09/10/24  
13/11/24  
11/12/24



## 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



**WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

BY GLADYS HUNT

12 STUDIES FOR INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

Life  
Builder  
Study

**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@mwsynod.org.uk  
07483 155807

## Church Flowers



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

**Diane Healey for family birthdays  
Pamela Harrington for family birthdays  
Trish Adshead remembering her Dad,  
Neil Edmond**

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

# Pastoral Letter



**Dear Friends,**

Many churches describe themselves as welcoming. However, are we truly invitational? Can others genuinely benefit from our hospitality? True hospitality combines invitation with welcome.

Are we invitational churches? This challenge is presented to us by Michael Harvey, the mastermind behind Back To Church Sundays, who will collaborate closely with our Synod over the coming years. Last weekend Michael hosted a workshop at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC exploring this very idea. This workshop was well-attended and inspired us to consider afresh what true hospitality meant. His insights are worthy of our attention.

The idea of inviting someone to church can be intimidating. We may fear rejection, lack confidence, or feel that such an endeavour is too overwhelming. "Leave it to the professionals!" we might think. However, Michael advocates a different approach, encouraging us to extend God's hospitality through prayer and simple engagement.

Michael suggests starting small, beginning with a simple "acorn" prayer: "Gracious God, is there someone you want me to connect with outside the church today? Amen."

God stirs our hearts. He might bring a particular person to mind. Simultaneously, God is also working in that person's life. The common denominator is that God is doing the heavy lifting behind the scenes. He is just asking us to respond to His Spirit's promptings.

This "acorn" prayer also forms an acronym that underpins this straightforward spiritual practice:

- Ask God if there is someone you should connect with today.
- Call - a name may come to mind during prayer, or you may meet someone informally throughout the day.
- Obey (or respond) - when you meet them, simply ask, "How are you?" and take an interest in their wellbeing.
- Report - share your experiences with others to encourage and learn from each other.
- Notice God working in each other's lives through this simple approach to everyday mission.

Please be on the lookout for Michael and his "acorn" prayer. You may even wish to try the prayer yourself!

Keep the faith,

*Daniel Harris*

**Alpha Course postponed  
until March 2025**





Think about it.....



Who are  
your five  
friendly  
faces?

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



# Prayer for October 2024



**Lord,**

As we move into autumn and the month of October, the normal seasonal changes are all around us, the beautiful colours, the falling leaves, the cooler days. And that is reassuring.

But, so much else in our world is changing so rapidly, often in ways we don't understand. And that can be worrying.

Thank you that You never change. You are always the same, faithful, present and loving. And You tell us in Your Word, not to be anxious about anything, but to bring all things to You in prayer and to trust You. When we do this, You promise us Your Peace – a peace of heart that steadies us and helps us move forward.

Thank you that whatever comes, we are secure in You, when we put our trust in Jesus.

In His name, we pray. Amen.

***By Daphne Kitching***



## It all began at Bamford Chapel...



It is going to be quite hard to condense 40 years into a couple of pages but here goes. In 1983 a bus load of people from Bamford Chapel made the long journey to Pontypridd and heard Jeff Yates preach at my ordination service. There we were, a couple in our mid-thirties with two children, Marianne and Tony, aged 10 and 8, leaving Rochdale and Bamford Chapel, where we had worshipped for 11 years, to go and lead a joint URC and Baptist church in a market town in South Wales.

It was quite a culture shock, but in many ways, delightful. Amazingly friendly people who welcomed us (except on international rugby days between Wales and England), who gave us a welcome in the valleys, where the rivers Rhondda and Taff merged.

The first couple of years were difficult - a new church; the house we had bought being riddled with dry rot - builders in for 18 months, and children sleeping next door for 3 months; and being a new minister, learning the ropes.

But the church was a great teacher - many wonderful down to earth people who accepted us, wanted to learn and who opened the whole area of the social gospel to us. We worked with Social Services over Christmas to provide support to families in need. We supported miners in the strikes of the 1980s and sponsored a black South African student to study for a degree at the local Polytechnic. We also learned a lot from the radical side of the Baptist Church. Pam did some supply teaching, taught French at night school and gained an extra qualification in teaching Adult Literacy. Marianne and Tony went to a C of E comprehensive school in Cardiff, from where Marianne went to study Drama at Royal Holloway and Tony went to study History at St John's college in Cambridge.

1993 saw us move to the United Church in Winchester, a joint Methodist/URC. At my first church leaders' meeting I asked them what they wanted from their new minister. "We'll run the church" they said "and you help us connect with the community and be a preacher and teacher." Though initially not as warm and friendly as the church in Pontypridd, eventually we were able to establish ourselves in Winchester and spent a very happy and creative time there developing all sorts of social, community and ecumenical links. We were able to set up a Live at Home scheme for the elderly, a city centre chaplaincy, an ecumenical Christmas project, a Christian counselling service, as well as close links with a nearby Anglican church and good links with the Cathedral.

Pam did some more voluntary work in literacy and with a disabled group of adults, and then as a meals on wheels organiser for the local WRVS where she set up a frozen meals delivery service. Marianne worked with Prince Edward's theatre company before working abroad with Vienna's English Theatre company. Tony taught in Sri Lanka before doing a Masters in Social Work at Oxford, but both returned home in the late 1990s to sort out their careers. Marianne becoming a drama lecturer at Winchester university and completing her PhD, and Tony doing further study to become a psychotherapist.

Our churches in both places encouraged us to do foreign exchanges, so we spent 2 months in New York State, just outside Buffalo, and 2 months just south of Vancouver and enjoyed these different church and cultural experiences.

After 10 years in Winchester, and much to our surprise, I was interviewed for the position of Moderator of the Mersey Synod of the URC and was appointed in 2004, and Pam and I spent 10 happy years in Liverpool. Pam became the training administrator for a Christian counselling service and I survived in the role of Moderator. Much of it was enjoyable but there were significant difficulties dealing with declining churches, ministerial problems and a lot of administration, which was not my forte! Working with other church leaders, seeing the Christian commitment of so many ordinary church members and being pastor to a lot of hard working ministers was a real privilege.

During this time Tony got married and settled in Alton, Hampshire and we soon became grandparents to 2 boys, James and Joseph (now 17 and 13). This and the fact that Marianne lived in Winchester led to us moving to Alton, in retirement in 2014.

We have settled here very well, attending a joint Methodist/ URC in Farnham. We keep busy with golf and preaching (Howard), Bridge, Keep Fit and the Arts Society (Pam,) and now with grandparenting duties with Ella, Marianne's six year old daughter who came as a delightful surprise after Marianne decided to approach a Harley St clinic for a sperm donor in her 45th year!

We look back fondly on our time at Bamford chapel where I first felt God's call to Christian ministry, with nudges from Sid Hazlehurst and Jeff Yates and encouragement from a number of church members.

The United Reformed Church is going through a difficult time and will need to continue reforming if it is to survive. But the gospel message and the person of Jesus continue to be relevant and inspirational and still shape our lives and, I hope, yours too.

*Howard and Pam Sharp*

**For every minute you are angry with someone, you lose 60 seconds of happiness that you can never get back.**

## Friendship Group

The next monthly meeting is on

**Thursday 10 October**

**1.30 - 3.30 pm**

**£4**

**Christmas Shoeboxes for Ukraine**

**All welcome**

Please come and help fill shoeboxes provided by Carol

Donations to consider for filling the boxes  
for boys & girls aged 3-5; 6-11 or 12+

Facecloth & Soap  
Toothbrush & Toothpaste  
Hair Accessories  
Hairbrush/Comb  
Hat & Scarf  
Gloves/Mittens  
Underwear  
Tights/Socks  
Stationery:  
• Notebook  
• Crayons/ Coloured Pencils  
• Pens  
• Pencil Case

Small Gifts  
Necklace  
Small Soft Toy  
Small rubber ball  
Game  
Puzzle  
Toy Vehicles  
Sweets (NOT Chocolate)  
(use by date from March)

# Project Breakfast

*Fancy a bacon butty?*



# Big Breakfast

## Cake Sale

Endless tea,  
coffee, toast

**SATURDAY**  
**12 OCTOBER**  
**10.00 – 12.00**

***In aid of***  
our 2024 project supporting  
children with disabilities in the  
Cheshire Home, Namibia



**£5.00**

Website: [bcncchurch.org.uk](http://bcncchurch.org.uk) Follow us on



## Charity Concert in aid of Petrus

# The Nightingale Singers



## IN CONCERT

### In Aid of PETRUS

Organised by Rochdale Catenians

At Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

Norden Road, Rochdale OL11 5PQ

Saturday 26th October 7.00pm

Cost £10, Children Free

Refreshments and Raffle



CATENIANS





# Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association

## JOIN THE ADVENTURE

**THE BOYS' BRIGADE & GIRLS' ASSOCIATION**  
→ the adventure begins here



**ANCHORS**  
5 – 8 Years

**ANWYR**  
8 – 11 Years

**Company**  
11 – 14 Years

**Seniors**  
14 – 18 Years

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GROUP**

BB and GA at Bamford and Norden URC is on a Wednesday  
Anchors from 6pm  
Juniors from 6pm  
Company from 6.45pm  
Seniors from 6.45pm  
Contact Emma Hynes by email if you are interested on [ejhynes57@gmail.com](mailto:ejhynes57@gmail.com)

**[BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/JOIN](http://BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK/JOIN)**

The Boys' Brigade is a registered charity. Incorporated in England & Wales. Registered Office: 100, The Quadrant, London, W1 1AA. Registered in England & Wales. Charity No. 1000000. Registered in Scotland. Charity No. SC000000. Registered in Northern Ireland. Charity No. NI000000. Registered in the Republic of Ireland. Charity No. 1000000.

# Have you ever been to No.1 Riverside?



I go there regularly for meetings, and as I walk through the massive area on the ground floor I am always impressed by how much is going on and how vibrant it is.

Anyone can go in to

this area, but a pass is needed to go upstairs. As you go in there are often tables set out for various groups; the other day a table was reserved for a knitting group. Citizens Advice are often there, Action Together, various health related tables are set out. There are often displays from local schools and other art works.

The Children`s Library is near the entrance and I love to see story or music sessions going on. The main library covers most of the rest of the space. As well as books there are audio books and even jigsaws to borrow. I joined the library the other day and was told I could borrow twelve books! I wonder if anyone does? Students of all ages work there at the many computer stations, older people read the paper or just chat. It is a warm, safe space and there are toilets too.

And when you get to the back of the area there is a very nice café with comfy chairs and a lovely view out to the river and the geese. It does close quite early in the afternoon though, around 3pm I think, so go early.

Next time you are in Rochdale, pop in and have a look, you don`t need to be on any sort of business, although of course there are council enquiry desks and even Barclays Bank should you need them.

You can park on the old Mecca car park, Marks and Spencer`s or there is disabled parking at the back of the building. Give it a try.

**Angela Smith**

## 10 Years since Norden URC closed

*This is an edit of my articles for the Lectern Magazine which included news from St Paul's, St James and the Methodist churches from October and November 2014. Later we added Bamford Chapel and St Michael's church. We continued until Covid.*



*This is a picture of Norden URC when it was prepared for filming "Last Tango in Halifax". The scene was an antenatal class in 2015.*

### News from the soon to be former Church Secretary

It's all been rather hectic and very changeful for us. My final service on 7<sup>th</sup> September went without a tear or a sniff. The church meeting afterwards voted unanimously to close our building and commence worship at Bamford Chapel.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September we were welcomed with open arms at Bamford Chapel.

Then on 21<sup>st</sup> September at 4pm we held our closing service which was very pleasant, led by our minister Rev Richard Bradley with the sermon from our



Moderator (a bit like a Bishop in CofE) top man Rev Richard Church.

The church was full with old friends like the Millard family, friends from the Norden churches, Bamford Chapel friends and former members, friends and pupils Harry, Cara and their new sister Libby. Actually, she is about 4 but she was a baby last time I saw her.

Richard wisely chose people who could hold it together to provide their memories of our church. Beryl Thomas and Nicki Houghton did a sterling job. Bringing back long forgotten memories of events and activities over the years

I was allowed to write the prayers of intercession but just couldn't resist giving an ad-hoc introduction to explain who and why I was praying for the likes of Ron Dunn our former secretary and Frank Brown a former active member. This did make me blub just a bit, not helped by seeing my husband Allister on the front row with red eyes and blowing his nose. It was his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday and he had already stated forlornly: "I'm nearer to 60 than 50 now." Perhaps that was causing his discomfort.

It was just fantastic to see so many people with smiles and sympathy. We had tea and cakes afterwards and the ladies from Bamford very kindly assisted. It was also Ian Madeley's birthday so they were dashing off afterwards. We returned home to find our usually absent offspring in our kitchen preparing dinner for six – with grandma and grandad. There was quite a lot of panic but no fires and the food was delicious.

I am still getting to grips with all the activities at Bamford Chapel. You could literally fill your diary every day. Any age, any interest, any time. There are about 7 prayer groups in people's homes. Youth groups, midday concerts, coffee mornings, craft groups, etc.

So far I have three meetings this week, so much for that "quiet life" I was



seeking as a “back bencher”. I will also be joining the Joy Group in leading our 6pm service on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### **November 2014:**

We have been enjoying ourselves and participating in the new style and old style services. Beryl, Dot, Nicki and I attended an elders meeting which was quite a contrast to our usual meeting. The agenda alone took up a full A4 page. They were certainly very thorough. We have decided to put forward Beryl and Dot as our representatives on the eldership. Bamford Chapel has a strict rule on eldership being refreshed regularly, whereas at Norden you had to die to get out of the job. This means you don't serve for more than 6 years and preferably less.

We have been asked to submit our responses to a “*Bamford Chapel and Norden URC's Got Talent*” questionnaire to make sure we are making the most of our “talents”. I can't really play a musical instrument unless you can count being able to play “London's Burning” on a recorder from my primary school days. I do have medals for dancing the Cha Cha, Jive, Samba, Rhumba, quick step and waltz but I am not sure how useful that will be in church.

Perhaps I will greet people at the door as my smile can be quite a knockout when applied appropriately. Perhaps volunteer for the crèche. I was asked if I could sing but that's questionable. It depends upon the previous night's activity. On a good day I'm okay.

So, if you have any special talents, please let Richard know.

**God bless**

**Linda Lees**

**And the rest is history....**

## Five Little Pebbles



Five little pebbles lay in a brook  
And nobody passing cast even a look.  
“What are we good for?” said one to another;  
“Little or nothing I think”, said the other.  
Wearing away, day after day,  
It seemed that forever those pebbles must stay.  
If they stood out in the crowd from the rest  
Or if they were cherished like eggs in a nest  
Or if they were big stones that built up a wall,  
They’d feel more important, not useless and small.  
But wait, little pebbles, rounded and clean,  
There in your loneliness, lying unseen,  
God has a future especially for you;  
Five little pebbles, sturdy and true.  
The five little pebbles hid in the brook,  
Then David came down and gave them a look.  
He picked them up carefully out of the sand,  
The five little pebbles lay in his hand.  
Soon there was fighting not far away  
And the five little pebbles entered the fray.  
David put one of them into his sling,  
In no time at all the pebble went ‘Zing’.  
Swift as an arrow, straight as a dart,  
For all of that nation the stone played its part.  
Striking a giant right on the head  
And laying him low – a mighty man dead!  
Those five little pebbles found in the brook  
Are mentioned with honour in God’s Holy Book.  
Are you like those pebbles, lying quite low  
With little to do and nowhere to go?  
Then make sure you’re ready when God comes to look,  
He may want to use you, like the stones in the brook.



# Walking the Labyrinth

On 21st September I attended a Labyrinth Prayer Retreat at Hallfold URC (one of our Missional Partnership churches) run by the lovely Karen Grayson. It was wonderful to share a time of prayer and contemplation whilst walking the labyrinth. There was also opportunity to share a Lectio Divinia, which is a way of engaging with scripture that focuses us to depend on God.

The piece of scripture (ours was Psalm 139) is read aloud several times; we listen without trying to work it out just receiving God's Living Word and become mindful of words or phrases that God is highlighting to us as individuals. If you want to try it here are the stages:

- + **LECTIO:** Read the text, thanking God silently for His Word.
- + **MEDITATIO:** Read again paying attention to words or phrases that light up for you.
- + **ORATIO:** Read the text again being mindful of the words or phrases that lit up for you, asking God in silent prayer "What is Your invitation to me?" and listen for His response.
- + **CONTEMPLATIO:** Read the text a final time and consider what God is communicating to You through His Word. Sit quietly in the knowledge that God is with you and that His Word is living and active. Thank God and linger in His presence. Carry the words or phrases that God revealed to you allowing its meaning to unfold according to His timing.

The phrase I took away from this Lectio Divinia session was:  
***"Wherever I go Your hand will guide me."***



I thoroughly enjoyed my walk around the labyrinth; it was a wonderful way to spend time in the presence of God away from the busyness and distractions of the world; focusing on my relationship with Him; I felt Him all around me and within me. It really was a very peaceful and moving, spiritual experience.



When I sat in the sanctuary after my walk I wrote the following:

I trust in You; I need You before me; I need You behind me; I need You beside me; I need You within me.

Fill my heart, my whole being.

Fill me with Your peace; help me to be still.

Fill me with Your love; help me to have compassion.

Fill me with Your hope; help me to share it with others.

Fill me with Your wisdom; help me to make the right choice.

Fill me with Your courage; help me to act in Your name.

Fill me with the joy of knowing You; help me shine Your light.

Help me to take all that You give me, all that You are, into the world reflecting You in my life, living You, living my faith! AMEN.

***Debbie Wood***

## The story behind the hymn... Come Ye Thankful People Come

*Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home!*

*We ourselves are God's own field,  
Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear:  
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be....*

*By H Alford (1810 – 71)*



Very probably, you will sing this well-loved Harvest hymn this month. It was written by the Revd Henry Aldford, DD, a Victorian clergyman who had been a fellow student at Trinity College, Cambridge with Alfred Tennyson, and whose transparent goodness and friendliness seem to have made him liked and appreciated wherever he went.

His ministry began as vicar of Wymeswold, a tiny village in Leicestershire with a badly neglected church. Over 18 years, Henry rebuilt the faltering Christian community, faithfully visiting every person in his parish, and preaching his way through the Bible in sermons that were so clear that everyone could understand him. He then moved on to the incumbency of Quebec Chapel in London for four years, before moving to the Deanery of Canterbury, in 1857, where he lived until his death in early 1871. Henry was one of life's good people; gentle, kindly, grateful for everything he had (he used to say 'grace' before AND after each meal), and eager to encourage all those whom he served. He was prodigiously productive; writing something like 50 books. The best known of these was a four-volume exposition of the New Testament, which took him nearly 20 years.

His famous hymn draws upon two of Jesus' parables; the story of the wheat and tares (Mt 13:24-30) and also the story of the seed that grows unbeknown to the sower (Mark 4:26-29). Both are parables drawn from agriculture; both are about the ultimate harvest of our souls before God. During this lifetime we properly give thanks to God for our harvest of His gifts of creation, but we should also reflect on what seed we are sowing in our lives, and what harvest we may expect; as one day God will gather together *only His own* for the eternal heavenly harvest.



## 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**



**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**

**The Ian Newman Community Film Club  
Seven Years**

**Saturday 19 October 2024**

**6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film**

**Admission £4.00**

**“A Haunting in Venice” 2023 12A**



***Supported by Rochdale Township***

# The Story of the Praying Hands



About 1490 two young friends, Albrecht Durer and Franz Knigstein were struggling young artists. Since both were poor, they worked to support themselves while they studied art.

Work took so much of their time advancement was slow. Finally they reached an agreement: they would draw lots, and one of them would work to support both of them while the other would study art. Albrecht won and began to study, while Franz worked at hard labour to support them. They agreed that when Albrecht was successful he would support Franz who would then study art.

Albrecht went off to the cities of Europe to study. As the world now knows, he had not only talent but genius. When he had attained success, he went back to keep his bargain with Franz. But Albrecht soon discovered the enormous price his friend had paid. For as Franz worked at hard manual labour to support his friend, his fingers had become stiff and twisted. His slender, sensitive hands had been ruined for life. He could no longer execute the delicate brush strokes necessary to fine painting. Though his artistic dreams could never be realised, he was not embittered but rather rejoiced in his friend's success.

One day Durer came upon his friend unexpectedly and found him kneeling with his gnarled hands intertwined in prayer, quietly praying for the success of his friend although he himself could no longer be an artist. Albrecht Durer, the great genius hurriedly sketched the folded hands of his faithful friend and later completed a truly great masterpiece known as 'The Praying Hands'.

Today art galleries everywhere feature Albrecht Durer's works, and this particular masterpiece tells an eloquent story of love, sacrifice, labour and gratitude. It has reminded multitudes the world around of how they may also find comfort, courage and strength. *(Author unknown)*

## Prayer Walking - Reaching Out

On Monday evenings we have been walking the streets in our local community, posting prayer cards through doors and praying on the street corners for those who live there. Whilst we are out walking, we are supported by the Monday Prayer Group who meet in chapel and some people who pray from their own homes. It is a privilege and a blessing to be a part of this mission and it is part of our reaching out as a Jesus-Shaped Church.

We have had cards posted into our prayer request box outside chapel by people who have received them, and one lady even



popped into church for prayer when she posted hers, as Joan had opened church for prayer that Tuesday afternoon as usual. It's wonderful to chat with people we meet as we walk and to share our faith in this way.

**If you would like to be involved please speak to Debbie. May God bless all those within our local community.**



## Advance Notice...



# 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 OL11 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](mailto:CutgateFuneralcare@coop.co.uk)  
Rochdale Funeralcare (central Rochdale) Tel: 01706 653622  
Email: [RochdaleFuneralcare@coop.co.uk](mailto: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.*



## 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** 1st, 15th & 29th October on Zoom  
7.30 - 9.00 pm (see page 3)
- Thursday:** **Friendship Group** 2nd Thursday in the month  
1.30 - 3.30 pm 10th October (see page ??)  
**Heritage Group** 3rd Thursday in the month  
7.30 pm 17th October
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month  
1.30 - 3.30 pm 1st October
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month  
**Community Film Club** 19th October  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film - (see page 24)

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



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## DATES FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

**Articles to be handed in by:**            Sunday 20th October

**Magazine to be completed by:**        Thursday 31st October

**Magazine distributed:**                    Sunday 3rd November

## **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN**

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Charity - Regd No 1128387

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