



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

## **Bamford Chapel & Norden URC**



**October 2026**

# **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC**

## **MISSION/VISION STATEMENT**



### **OUR JESUS-SHAPED CHURCH IS...**

#### **Welcoming!**

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

#### **Developing Faith!**

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

#### **Reaching Out!**

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

#### **Caring!**

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

#### **Prayerful!**

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

# October 2026

|                                 |                                              |                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Every Monday</b>             | <b>7.30 - 8.30 pm</b>                        | <b>Prayer Group in the Lounge</b>                                                                                                     |
| <b>Friday<br/>2 October</b>     | <b>1.30 - 3.30 pm</b>                        | <b>Dementia Friendly Café<br/>Music led by Maria Carney - Singer</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>4 October</b>     | <b>10.30 am</b><br><br><b>2.00 - 4.00 pm</b> | <b>Church Anniversary and<br/>Family Worship with Communion<br/>Led by Revd Richard Bradley<br/>Harvest Messy Church (see page 8)</b> |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>6 October</b>    | <b>7.30 - 9.00 pm</b>                        | <b>Tuesday Home Group (on Zoom) (see page 6)</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>Saturday<br/>10 October</b>  | <b>10.00 - 12 noon</b>                       | <b>Big Breakfast (see page 8)<br/>in aid of "Healing Little Hearts" Project '26</b>                                                   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>11 October</b>    | <b>10.30 am</b>                              | <b>Family Worship, Harvest &amp; a Baptism<br/>Led by Debbie Wood</b>                                                                 |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>13 October</b>   | <b>1.30 - 3.30 pm</b>                        | <b>Friendship Group<br/>Christmas Boxes for Ukraine (see page 9)</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>14 October</b> | <b>7.00 pm</b>                               | <b>Midweek Worship<br/>Led by Revd Richard Bradley (see page 8)</b>                                                                   |
| <b>Saturday<br/>17 October</b>  | <b>6.30 pm<br/>for 7.00 pm</b>               | <b>Community Film Club<br/>Love Sarah (see page 29)</b>                                                                               |
| <b>Sunday<br/>18 October</b>    | <b>10.30 am</b>                              | <b>Family Worship<br/>Led by Linda Lees</b>                                                                                           |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>20 October</b>   | <b>7.30 - 9.00 pm</b>                        | <b>Tuesday Home Group (on Zoom)<br/>(see page 6)</b>                                                                                  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>25 October</b>    | <b>10.30 am</b>                              | <b>Family Worship<br/>Led by Nathanael Paul (Student)</b>                                                                             |

# Message from the Student Minister



## **Mark 1:16-18 (Good News translation) -**

*16 As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, catching fish with a net. 17 Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people." 18 At once they left their nets and went with him.*

Put yourselves in the shoes of these two fishermen. Minding their own business, working, trying to make ends meet, and then something curious happens, something new arrives. For the two fishermen that newness was their first encounter with Jesus. A transformational moment when they became two of his followers. For this thought of the day, rather than focus on being called, I want to explore newness.

I wonder what that word means for you? For me it means a lot. My life is full of newness. Whatever direction I look, whatever path I take, newness follows me; ministry, new connections, new places, a growing relationship with God, and a new relationship that has led to a very new and exciting engagement

At times this newness can be overwhelming, yet it is a blessing. However, having so many examples of new things in my life does heighten the stark difference of our world. That difference being the constant struggle that so many face. Our world is in pain and so are many of its citizens. What can be done? It is difficult to say. I certainly do not have all the answers. What I do know is that within the struggle and the pain of this world, God resides. God gives hope.

God's presence is a blessing, a challenge, a kindness. God sits in every corner of this world, both in the newness and the ongoing struggles.

When those two fishermen pledged their lives to Jesus, it was a positive, a wonderful time. A time full of excitement, of newness. Yet, they did not know what was to come. A time of hardship, pain, great loss and persecution. But through all that, their lives were full of hope because of God.

I know that even though my life is currently full of positives, that can change. Struggles can and will take place. I am acutely aware of that. It maybe easy for me to say this, but I do not fear what is ahead because I know Jesus is walking alongside me. Jesus is walking alongside each of you. The Holy Spirit dances around and within you. God's love is everlasting.

Whatever is to come, newness, struggle, both, remember that God is with you.

God bless; I pray you all have a fulfilling October.

***Nathanael Paul - Student Minister***

## Tuesday Home Group



### Tuesday Homegroup on Zoom 7.30pm – 9pm

*Theme: Listening to God*



**8th September** — *Responsibility of a God listener* — Ezekiel 33



**22nd September** — *Listening to understand* — Luke 24:13-53



**6th October** — *Holy help in listening* — John 14:5-31



**20th October** — *Listening as self-discipline* — James 1:19-27



**3rd November** — *Listening as the ears of the Church* — Revelation 1:19-3:21



#### Zoom Details

Meeting ID: 847 9885 2008  
Passcode: 517449



For more information,  
please contact  
**Rev Richard Bradley** on:  
[Richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:Richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk)  
01706 369622 // 07483 155807

## 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)

4<sup>th</sup> January

1<sup>st</sup> March

3<sup>rd</sup> May

5<sup>th</sup> July

6<sup>th</sup> September

8<sup>th</sup> November

Please note the  
change of date  
in November  
from the 1<sup>st</sup> to  
the 8<sup>th</sup>

For further information please contact Revd Richard Bradley on  
[richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk) , 07483 155807 or 01706 369622

# Prayer for Harvest



**Dear Lord,**

**As we give thanks for the harvest and pray for the farmers who have struggled through the summer's drought and heatwaves, we also give thanks and pray for those who work to share the good news of Your kingdom, to bring in Your harvest of people who are searching for You.**

**May we, who know You, join those workers and share the good news that Jesus brings. So many people are lost and without hope or direction. Help us to reach out to them, maybe with an invitation, or simply a smile, or an act of kindness. May they see Your love reflected in us and turn to You.**

**May they put their trust in Jesus, who alone is the answer to all life's great questions.**

**Lord, may we be workers in the harvest field where You have placed us, for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

***By Daphne Kitching***



## Messy Church



**Messy Church** ALL WELCOME

**Harvest**  
4 October 2026  
2 - 4 pm

Come to **Professor Potty's Lab**

**Food**  
Hot dogs

Children please bring an adult with you

'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'

## Big Breakfast



*Fancy a bacon butty?*

**Big Breakfast**

Vegetarian option

bottomless drinks and toast

**Saturday**  
10 October  
10.00 - 12.00

**£6**

and cake sale

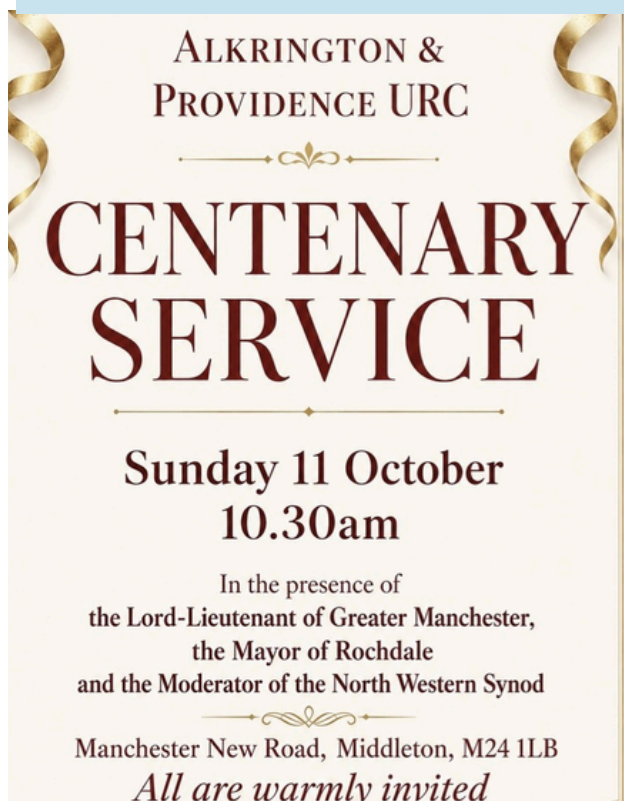
**In aid of**  
Healing Little Hearts  
Give a child a new life

BC & NURC are supporting this charity for our annual project 2026

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

Website: [benchurch.org.uk](http://benchurch.org.uk)

## Centenary Service



ALKRINGTON & PROVIDENCE URC

**CENTENARY SERVICE**

**Sunday 11 October**  
10.30am

In the presence of  
the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester,  
the Mayor of Rochdale  
and the Moderator of the North Western Synod

Manchester New Road, Middleton, M24 1LB  
*All are warmly invited*

## Midweek Worship



**BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC INVITE YOU TO...**

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

**MIDWEEK WORSHIP**

14/01/26  
11/02/26  
11/03/26  
08/04/26  
13/05/26  
10/06/26  
08/07/26  
12/08/26  
09/09/26  
14/10/26  
11/11/26  
09/12/26

*pray*

# Friendship Group



**Tuesday 13th October**

**1.30 - 3.30 pm**



**Christmas Shoeboxes for Ukraine**

**Bring your friends and enjoy tea/coffee and cake  
as we fill Christmas Boxes for Ukraine**

**All welcome**

If you (or any group) are interested in supplying items or making up a shoebox, please let Carol (01706 367640) or Linda Peacock (07503 942 630) know, or bring them to the meeting on 13th October.

Carol is also happy to collect any items telephone - 01706 367640.

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

|                  |                     |                   |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Facecloth & Soap | <b>Stationery:</b>  | Glove puppets     |
| Toothbrush &     | Notebook            | Small rubber ball |
| Toothpaste       | Crayons/ Coloured   | Game              |
| Hair Accessories | Pencils             | Puzzle            |
| Hairbrush/Comb   | Pens                | Small Musical     |
| Hat & Scarf      | Pencil Case         | Instrument        |
| Gloves/Mittens   |                     | Toy Vehicles      |
| Underwear        | <b>Small Gifts:</b> | Sweets (NOT       |
| Tights/Socks     | Necklace            | Chocolate)        |
|                  | Small Soft Toy      | (use by date June |
|                  | Playing Cards       | onwards)          |

**Additional cash donations appreciated to pay for transport**

# Season of Creation

Editor: The Revd Paul Hardingham considers our earth.



## ***The world is not ours:***

*'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'* (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! This means we have a responsibility of caring for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). Clearly, we have not done the best job! The effects of global warming have been all too obvious this summer. And 2025 ranked as the third warmest year on record globally, 1.3°C to 1.44°C above pre-industrial levels. This follows the historic peak in 2024, driven by ongoing fossil fuel emissions and high ocean surface temperatures.

## ***Our hope is found in Jesus:***

Any hope for the future lies in Jesus Himself. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion: *'all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.'* (Colossians 1:16,17). God's plan is *'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.'* (Ephesians 1:10).

We can look forward to the climax of history when God through Christ will restore our broken world and make everything new.

In the present, we are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth. Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving, choosing reusable options, careful diet and a commitment to simple living can help the planet.

However difficult the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage it with faith and not fatalism!

**Revd Paul Hardingham (Parish Pump)**

## Advance Notice Haslingden Concert Band

Christmas  
CONCERT

Presented by  
**Haslingden Concert Band**

at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC  
Norden Road Rochdale OL11 5PQ

**Saturday 5 December 7.30 pm**

**Tickets £8** including tea and cake  
**Available at Chapel**  
**Or Julie Platt 07732074298**

In aid of  
**SPRINGHILL HOSPICE**  
Rochdale

**Bamford Chapel & Norden United Reformed Church**  
Loving God, Serving Others, Building Community

# Toddlers



We were happy, sad and encouraged as we said goodbye to eight of our wonderful Toddlers as they moved on to the next stage of development, Nursery and Reception. Each child received an activity book on the subject 'Going to school'. We hope they remember their many happy times with us at Toddlers.

Our September term welcomed back 18 younger Toddlers eager to enjoy the Tuesday morning activities. Full of energy and action, the new older Toddlers are happy to take charge of the 'big' toys and show the little ones how to play and who are the bosses!

Bamford Chapel is blessed with many volunteers, and this is shown by a faithful team helping on Tuesdays, carrying responsibility to the younger end of our Chapel community life.

This year our charity donation connection focused on the Shoe Box Appeal and Button Bear.

Of course offers of help are always welcome as each one of us attends every week. We thank our occasional helpers for stepping in at short notice.

Toddlers run throughout the year from 9am till 11am on Tuesday mornings.

***Many Blessings, Toddler Group***

# The Journey We Share



Life travels on a quiet train,  
Through sunlight, storm, and rain.  
At every stop new faces come,  
And some depart when their time is done.  
We learn from those who sit nearby —  
A word of hope, a gentle sigh.  
Some stay only a moment long,  
Yet leave behind a guiding song.  
The track bends on through night and day,  
Past fields of joy and hills of grey.  
And though the journey twists and climbs,  
We're shaped by all we meet in time.  
So let us ride with open hearts,  
Grateful for each friend who starts -  
The journey with us, side by side  
Companions on this sacred ride.

*(copyright-free, written by Copilot for Linda Peacock)*

## Boo!! It's Ken Greer



*Some memories of Ken from someone who shared over 40 years of Food For Thought with him.*

In the early 1980s a group was formed to deliver faith stories though the medium of fun drama in worship and special church calendar events. We called ourselves Food for Thought. We had not been going very long when we were joined by Ken Greer who had much better bible knowledge than the rest of us. He used that knowledge to write sketches for us to perform.

Some of you may remember “The Lost Sheep” in which Pat Lapworth delighted in baa-ing as a sheep; “Who is My Neighbour” where, over coffee after the service, we were taken from our local community to realise that our neighbours included every person around the globe; and “Matthew and Son” where Matthew’s training of his son in the devious ways of the tax collector ended suddenly when Matthew left to follow a certain itinerant preacher.

Ken came with us to many other churches and events to perform sketches, run workshops. We brought our own background screen so that we could place props behind it and have somewhere from which to make our entrances and exits. At one church, Ken and I decided to gain the attention of our audience by staging a loud argument behind the screen. The plan was to stun them into silence and then get on with the show. However, it just caused our audience to chat even more loudly to make themselves heard!

Food for Thought have produced plays or evenings of sketches for special occasions in the church year, particularly Christmas and Easter. There have been very few Good Fridays since 1980 that Ken was not involved. He played characters from King Herod to King Rat with that very unmistakeable voice of his – you can take the boy out of Northern Ireland, but you can't take Northern Ireland out of the boy.

Ken was cast so often as the baddie in productions that he started to become typecast. The result was that he was sometimes boo-ed as soon as he appeared even when he was playing the hero!

Then in 2000 he was struck down with cancer. At that time we were preparing our pantomime to celebrate the bicentenary of the church. Despite having an illness that would lay most people low, Ken insisted on playing his part – the show must go on. He was out of action for some time, but happily he bounced back and returned to FFT. Since then, he has been through several other cancer attempts to see him off, but he remained so positive throughout that time and continued to take part in plays, pantomimes and sketches.

He would say that it was his faith that carried him through – such an example for the rest of us to aspire to!

While I was in Namibia, he helped Food for Thought to keep going while also being the church secretary. It was in that role that he wrote to our church in Namibia to thank them for gifts that they had sent. In that letter he expressed surprise that I wasn't running a drama group there. You can guess the result of that comment – no rest for the wicked!

Ken was much more than a character on a stage. He was leading worship in our church and several others for even longer than he was in Food For Thought his last one being on 14 June this year. We could always rely on Ken giving us rousing hymns to sing if, perhaps, not as modern as some of us like! He would start his service with a call to worship from the psalms and he shared his wide knowledge and understanding through his sermons.

It was relatively recently that Ken and Elizabeth joined our homegroup, but he quickly became a valuable and knowledgeable asset aiding our discussions. We were all uplifted by his choice of music relating it to things about his life which many of us didn't know about. It was almost like Desert Island Discs.

And all the work he did for CRUK is another story for someone else to tell....

***Ken lives on in our memories. Great man, good friend and an inspiration.***

***Addie Redmond***

# Junior Church Summer Project



**Youth room chaos!**



**Church Design**



**Bamford Chapel & Norden URC**

Over the summer, junior Church have joined the older and younger groups together, and have worked extremely hard in creating a replica of our Church. This involves stain glass windows, a stage, a communion table, chairs, a congregation, a roof made out of prayer tiles and even a garden of remembrance. This symbolises community, and faith because at the end of the day a building is a building, it can have blue walls, green carpet and a red roof but what makes a Church a place of worship is the people that come to worship and learn about God and Jesus.



**Inside**



**Bier House**



**Garden of Remembrance**

Every child who has come to Church over the summer has had a huge input in creating and learning about the image of God and the lesson we learned over this period of time is that it's not about the building but the people that are in it, because God is everywhere not just in one type of building.

**The children designed their Church, chose the colours, what went in it, and made all items themselves. Please have a look at the Church we have created.**

# You've got the Wrong Person!

*Editor: By the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.*



At church recently, we stood to sing Charles Wesley's hymn 'Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire'. Except the organist was playing the tune which normally accompanies the Christmas carol 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night'. (No, not 'On Ilkley Moor bar t'aht' - the other one).

I had never sung Wesley's hymn to this tune before, and it took a bit of believing that it was possible, a bit of getting used to. Some hymn tunes are what I call 'portmanteau tunes' - we can sing a number of hymns to the same tune, and we are usually quite happy about it. But we mess with carols at our peril! Most people know them, and they have become identified with very particular hymn tunes. Give us what we expect, please, organist!

We can all be a bit fixed like this. The Bible is full of examples of 'Who me? You've made a mistake there, God!'. Or it comes down to 'Here I am, Lord, send him!' Perhaps the most well-known example is Jonah, who was so convinced that God had made a mistake in calling him to go and tell the citizens of Nineveh to turn from their wicked ways, that he set off in entirely the opposite direction to Nineveh, and took a ship going west, until he was ambushed by God and ended up in the belly of the great fish. But once Jonah realised God was serious, and that God would be with him, he set off as God had asked him to.



Moses is another example. ‘Me, tell Pharoah to let my people go? Me? You cannot be serious, Lord!’ But again, once Moses was convinced that this was the way God wanted him to go, he submitted to God’s plan, and became the great leader of his people, bringing them out of slavery in Egypt to the boundary of the Promised Land.

God’s plans for us are always bigger than our horizons can presently accommodate. If you have a niggling feeling God is calling you to a particular task, or to abandon a particular something, it may take time to come round to God’s point of view, but it will ultimately turn out to be a better way. When God calls, He does not leave us at that point; He will always resource us for the task, often in surprising ways.

**‘Who, me, Lord?’ Yes, YOU!’**

**For those who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship,  
services are live-streamed on YouTube**

**(Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church)  
and available on the church website ([www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)).**

**There is also Midweek Worship  
at 7pm on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and  
a Sunday evening Café Church at 6.30pm every 2 months.**

## JESUS-SHAPED CHURCH UPDATE!

By Debbie Wood

### PRAYERFUL, WELCOMING, DEVELOPING FAITH, REACHING OUT, CARING

Well, since we updated our action plan in May there's been a lot going on! We have updated the plan with our progress and displayed it on the Jesus-Shaped Church board in the back room, next to the creche! (Things highlighted green have been done, yellow means we're on the way with it!)

I'm sure by now you've all seen the newly-decorated creche room, it's so much more **WELCOMING** and will hopefully feel like somewhere our families with very young children can continue to spend time with God when they go out of the service to spend time with our lovely creche team. A BIG thank you must go to Julie Platt and Gillian James for organising this refurb! The pre-school books from our children's library are on the new storage units and parents/carers can borrow a book to take home to share with their little ones (a way we are **REACHING OUT and DEVELOPING FAITH**). Maybe we might be able to get some Christian toys for the children to play with in there, in the future?

Talking of our children's library, we have extended it to include books for our older children in consultation with Penny, who chose the selection.



There's a new prayer box on the church gates, have you noticed? Steve Lawley kindly checks it every week and our Monday Prayer Group follow up with prayers. A very small group of us have been prayer walking on Monday nights over the summer and have delivered 802 prayer cards, we have received prayer requests because of this - in our

prayer box on the gate and via our website. **(REACHING OUT, PRAYERFUL, CARING)**. It's too dark to go out in the evening now so we are going out on the second Saturday of every month 9:30-10:30 (we meet in the main car park) then we pop into the Big Breakfast for a bacon butty! If you'd like to come let me know (07757723708) so we don't set off without you.

Talking of prayer cards, we have now got prayer cards for in church and boards to pin them up on (one in church and one going up in the primary room). If you lead a group in church, please see me for some cards to make available at the sessions you run. This was inspired by toddlers using some prayer cards with their families. We are also going to create a post-service prayer space up near the organ, for anyone who would like to have someone to pray with them individually and we have volunteers who are happy to help. If this is something you feel you'd like to help with, please let me know.

You will have read in September's magazine of the amazing mission that was carried out at our holiday club in August! An incredible team effort that exemplified our Jesus-shaped church in all the areas - **PRAYERFUL, WELCOMING, DEVELOPING FAITH, REACHING OUT, CARING**. It was brilliant!

And finally, for now, **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**. At our September Vision meeting the elders started planning for a **LET'S GET TOGETHER EVENT**, which will be held the afternoon of **Sunday March 14th 2027** to which **EVERYONE** is welcome, there will be food, an opportunity to get to know more about our church and what goes on, as well as a chance to get to know each other better - those of us who have been here for a long time and those of us who are quite new to our church family - there will be activities for children too! More details to follow but if you run a church group I'll be catching up with you very soon!

Please check out the action plan and if you have any thoughts or ideas or can help with anything please speak to your elder or myself!

Thanks and God bless, Debbie 😊x

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**Linda Peacock (Editor)**

# Thank you from Maggie's



2637619  
Bamford Chapel & Norden United Reformed Church  
Norden Road  
ROCHDALE  
Lancashire  
OL11 5PQ

Dear all at Bamford Chapel & Norden United Reformed Church,

20 August 2026

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £250 to Maggie's Oldham. Thanks to your generous donation, Maggie's can continue to provide a different kind of cancer care.

*"Being in Maggie's is totally different to anything I've experienced. I felt struck by the loveliness and the beauty of the environment, right from the seamless opening of the front door. Somebody immediately came over and said 'hello', which I loved because it meant somebody knew you were there. It's the total opposite of arriving at hospital where every conversation begins with you giving your NHS number rather than your name." – Alison, who came to Maggie's for support after her diagnosis.*

The time after a cancer diagnosis can be filled with worry and uncertainty. But thanks to you, the team here at Maggie's Oldham can continue to work alongside the NHS to offer expert support. We are here for every kind of cancer and every kind of story. Whether someone needs psychological support, money advice, or just a friendly, welcoming place to go when they're feeling overwhelmed – we're here for them.

Maggie's is for everyone with cancer and all the people that love them. Your commitment to helping people with cancer, and their families and friends, is so appreciated.

With kindest regards,

Angela Campbell  
Supporter Care Team

**President**  
HM The Queen

**Founders**  
Maggie Keswick Jencks  
Charles Jencks

**Registered Office**  
Maggie's, The Gatehouse, 10 Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, G11 6PA  
Reg Charity No SC024414

The Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Scotland with Company no. SC162451

## Church Flowers



**Donations for flowers in Church in August and September were received from:**

**Linda & Duncan in memory of Philip Madden**

**Lesley Ashworth in memory of her Mum**

**Dot Craig in memory of her Sister Edna**

**Margaret Bywater in memory of Geoff**

**Glenda Brisk in memory of Walter**

## 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**

## Letter from St James the Least of All

*Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained... by the Revd Dr Gary Bowness.*

### On how long a sermon should last

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50-minute exposition



on the theology of St Paul concerning women wearing hats in church is, I am sure, of real interest to you. But as your sermon slowly unfolds, I suspect it will prompt quite a different concern among your congregation. Have they set the oven timer to come on too early? Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological importance may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation. You know the look – you see it on golden Labradors whenever they try and work out what their owners are telling them.

There are certain sure signs that should warn you when you have preached for long enough. One is when members of the congregation reach for their prayer books to try to work out for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say “and finally” is another.

Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon. But when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies, that is absolute proof that it is time to stop.

There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard eight minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard the latch on the vestry door for the second time. That meant he was back, and ready to play the last hymn. Unfortunately, one Sunday, his dog ran away.

While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, discussing the food laws set forth in Deuteronomy, and arguing for a Deutero-Isaiah. I was headed for the Babylonian exile when we all heard the vestry door re-open.

After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck. And at the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

***Your loving uncle,  
Eustace***



## Those Giant Autumn House Spiders



We've all been there – quietly relaxing at home, when suddenly a HUGE thing with LONG legs scuttles right by you. You can't help but jump, and if you are normal, scream.

What just scared you was a fully grown adult male *Eratigena atrica*. They are among the largest spiders in Central and Northern Europe.

It has not just come in from the cold. It has been living warm and cosy, hidden in your house for weeks. Now it has left its dark hiding spot to race across your carpets and walls and bed with a definite purpose in mind: it is looking for love.

For autumn is mating time for the big spiders, and there are also females living in your house, safe and secure in cracks, lofts and behind furniture.

If you think giant house spiders are big, you are right. With a body length of 1.6cm, their leg span can commonly reach up to 7.5 cm. And heaven help you if you find you are sharing your house with a cardinal spider (*Tegenaria parietina*) – their bodies are up to 2cm long, and their long hairy legs can span up to 12cm. If that thing runs down the couch towards you, you'll notice it! And giant house spiders are fast. They can hit speeds of up to half a metre per second.

The good news is that giant house spiders are as scared of you as you are of them. They are disease-free, and their bite is extremely rare and harmless. They even pay their rent by eating your flies, mosquitoes, and other small bugs.

So, try and be kind to them, and let them live with you – they don't like the cold outside very much. Just lift your feet as they gallop across the carpet...



# September Film Club

The Ian Newman  
Community Film Club

**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**

2025 - 100 years of  
Community Film Clubs

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## Saturday 17th October 2026

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

**Admission £4.00**

**"Love Sarah" 2020 12A**



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***Supported by Rochdale Township***

# Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

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

## Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday:</b>  | <b>Home Group</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> October<br>7.00 - 9.00 pm On Zoom (see page 6)<br><b>Friendship Group</b> 2nd Tuesday in month<br>1.30 - 3.30 pm 13 <sup>th</sup> October (see page 9) |
| <b>Thursday:</b> | <b>Heritage Group</b> 3rd Thursday in the month<br>7.30 pm 22 <sup>nd</sup> October<br><b>Friday Dementia Friendly Café</b> 1st Friday in month<br>1.30 - 3.30 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> October                   |
| <b>Saturday:</b> | <b>Ian Newman</b> 3rd Saturday in the month<br><b>Community Film Club</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> October<br>6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film (see page 29)                                                                |

For further information please see website [www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)  
contact [Carolyn Divers](#) or speak to an Elder.

# BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



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**Articles to be handed in by:**      **Sunday 18th October**

**Magazine to be compiled by:**      **Thursday 29th October**

**Magazine distributed:**      **Sunday 4th November**

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