



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



June 2023

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT



Worship

In our devotion we will come together to express our joy, love and thanks through worship.

We shall share our praise and dedicate it to God.

Ministry

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will show compassion and love by understanding, supporting and meeting the spiritual, the physical and the emotional needs of others.

Evangelism

We are called as Christians to share the good news; living as examples of Christ in our everyday lives we can spread the word and love of Jesus.

Discipleship

We as a church have a responsibility as Christians to encourage people to know God and to enable them to develop their relationship with Him through prayer, discussion, study and learning.

Fellowship

We welcome to our church family those who want to belong. We show our love for others by sharing acts of fellowship in God's name.

June 2023

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)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Friday 2 June | 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm | Dementia Friendly Café |
| Sunday 4 June | 10.30 am | Family Worship with Communion Led by Ken Greer |
| Thursday 8 June | 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm | Ladies Fellowship (see page 20) Speaker Freda Farnworth - Guide Dogs |
| Saturday 10 June | 10.00 am - 12 noon | Big Breakfast (see page 15) In aid of Garden Maintenance |
| Sunday 11 June | 10.30 am | Family Worship Led by Andy Platt |
| Monday 12 June | 10.00 am - 12 noon | Plant Sale (see page 16) In aid of Garden Maintenance |
| Tuesday 13 June | 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm | Tuesday Home Group On Zoom |
| Wednesday 14 June | 7.00 pm | Midweek Worship (see page 4) |
| Saturday 17 June | 6.30 pm for 7 pm | Community Film Club (see page 24) "Fisherman's Friends - One and All" |
| Sunday 18 June | 10.30 am | Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood |
| Monday 19 June | 10.00 am - 12 noon | Plant Sale (see page 16) In aid of Garden Maintenance |
| Wednesday 21 June | 10.30 am - 11.00 am | Missional Partnership Prayer Meeting On Zoom (see page 4) |
| Sunday 25 June | 10.30 am | Family Worship Leader to be advised |
| Tuesday 27 June | 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm | Tuesday Home Group On Zoom |

A Pentecostal Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends,

Over the next month or so we celebrate Pentecost and Trinity Sunday; the rare time in the year where the Holy Spirit gets a mention in our churches. After this our services revert to the usual Father-Son dynamic - which probably take up 90% of our services.

Grace Ji-Sun Kim, a Korean-American minister with the Presbyterian Church in the USA, argues that this deficit comes with real-world consequences. The relegation of women, the side-lining of the ecology and innumerable other issues and injustices are caught up in the fall-out.

When we scan our Bibles we find that the prophets, Jesus and the Early Church followers all held what we would call a theists' view of the world. God is everywhere, through his Spirit, moving things here and shaking things over there. The Hebrew Bible (what we sadly call the "Old" Testament) is obsessed with the Spirit, Jesus could not stop talking about the Spirit, and Paul could not get enough of the Spirit. But what sort of world do we create for ourselves when we block out the Spirit's active presence from our lives?

Firstly, if we eliminate the Spirit, our spiritual conversations become dominated by the men. The Hebrew word for Spirit is the female noun *ruach*. This opens up our awareness to the mothering, nurturing and life-giving Spirit that continues to hover and brood over creation. It offers a compassionate and thoughtful response to the pagan understanding of Mother Earth. It allows us to value the voice of the Spirit talking to us through our mothers and sisters across the continents. But in an unbalanced world, if we neglect the spirit, the scales will inevitably slide towards patriarchy.

Secondly, if we eliminate the Spirit, we will inevitably view heaven as the perfect place, and earth as the lesser place in the cosmic scheme of things. Earth is viewed as damaged goods beyond redemption, thus giving tacit permission to industry to plunder its resources without consideration of the ecology and its inhabitants.

Finally, if God is isolated in heaven, then our own spirits are left to endure the ravages of time and decay without any sort of recourse. If we are genuinely alone in the universe our only other spiritual exercise, which might lift our flagging spirits, is the search for extra-terrestrial life. And as our churches slowly dry up we might reconsider the futility of keeping them open and finally close up shop.

This is why belief in the Holy Spirit is not just academic, but very practical. A belief in the Spirit's ministry among us lifts our spirits and nurtures our wellbeing, promotes the importance of the ecology, and reminds us that God has *not* left our buildings, but is present - if we genuinely take care to notice.

So may you be filled with the grace and presence of God's Spirit today and in the months to come.

Daniel Harris, Community Minister

Pause for Thought

**It's not what you gather, but what you scatter
that tells what kind of life you have lived**

Midweek Worship



Midweek Worship

Wednesday 14th June, 7pm
Bamford Chapel and Norden URC
All Welcome!

Other dates: 9th August, 11th October and 13th December

Missional Partnership Prayer on Zoom

Rochdale, Bury and North
Manchester Missional Partnership
time of prayer on Zoom

Dates and times

19th April: 10.30am – 11am

17th May: 7.30pm – 8pm

21st June: 10.30am – 11am

ALL WELCOME!



ID: 836 4636 0141
Passcode: Prayer

A Prayer for June 2023



Dear Father,

As we come to this beautiful time of year, the month of June, we thank you for the wonder of your creation and the way our spirits are lifted as we see all around us the freshness of a new summer.

This month we remember Barnabas, whose name means, *child of encouragement*. He was a good person, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Lord, help each of us to be a *Barnabas* to someone today, to encourage and lift up, led by your Holy Spirit and full of faith.

Help us to share your love and goodness, especially with those whose circumstances are difficult. Help us all to trust you through good times and testing times, knowing you are always with us, always encouraging us, always faithful.

In Jesus' name. Amen

By Daphne Kitching

The Story behind the Hymn: Lord, for the Years

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.*

By Timothy Dudley Smith



This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, at his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for the Queen herself. She did indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

The 'extra' verse, added for the Queen, can now become our prayer and hope for King Charles.

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

Editor: these are only some of the lyrics of this well-loved hymn.. The full lyrics may be found on the internet.



Just think about it ..

**It's nice to be important -
but it's more important to be nice**

Prayer



THERE IS POWER IN
persistent prayer



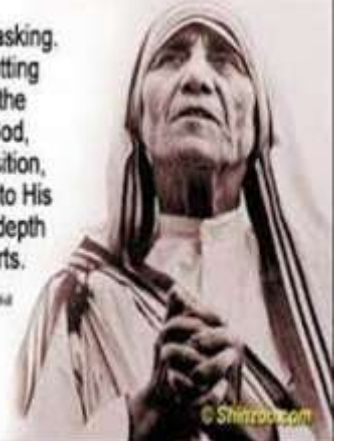
MICAH 7:7

That prayer is at the core of Christian faith is indisputable. Christ Himself was constantly talking to His Father and listening to His will. We know because throughout the gospels we are told about the times that Jesus went off to pray. And Jesus tells us often that all that He said and did came from God and prayer is the channel, the line of communication to God. And, of course, it is Jesus the disciples turn to asking how they should pray; how they might be able to have that same relationship with God that they saw Jesus had for they witnessed His connection to the very One Who breathed life into us. If we want to know Who God is and the secrets to life that only He has, we must learn to pray without ceasing, that is be in constant communication with Him.

I have always loved this quote on prayer from Mother Theresa. I think it captures the essence of that relationship through prayer that Jesus had with His Father. I wonder how typical this is of our prayers. So often, I know mine ask of God rather than asking and listening to Him of what He wants of me, and I need to make a conscious effort to shift that balance! Are you ready to put

Prayer is not asking.
Prayer is putting
oneself in the
hands of God,
at His disposition,
and listening to His
voice in the depth
of our hearts.

Mother Teresa



© Shutterstock

Yourself in His hands and listen to His voice in the depth of your heart and then ACT on what you have heard? Are we as a church ready to do this? To make sure that everything we do is His will not ours. Then PRAYER MUST BE AT THE CORE OF ALL THAT WE DO!

Because prayer is essential to our faith, maybe we could aim to have an article on prayer in the magazine each month? Could you share your prayer habits? Can you share any prayer ideas or resources? Can you share examples of answered prayers (remembering that how God answers them might not be how we want them answered)? Can you share the importance of prayer in your life with others? If so, please get writing and send your article to Linda or maybe you'd be willing to be interviewed and I'll happily write your story.



**CHALLENGE FOR THIS MONTH:
SPEND TIME LISTENING IN PRAYER!**

Debbie Wood

Church Treasurer



Bamford Chapel and Norden URC would like to thank Steven Gooding for his years as Treasurer of the church accounts. At the same time we welcome David Stephenson as his successor. All the best David as you take on this vital role in the church.

Coronation Celebrations

You might have spotted some 'royal visitors' around church during the run up to the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla! If you look carefully, they are in attendance at the Dementia Café! Celebrations for the coronation included a party at our Toddlers' Group and our Dementia Café, culminating in a celebration afternoon tea on Sunday afternoon which was followed by an outdoor Songs of Praise led by Richard, with music provided by Barbara and the hymns chosen from your suggestions. A **big thank you** must go to **everyone** involved in bringing our community together for this historic event.

This occasion made me reflect on our KING OF KINGS, Jesus Christ, whose own coronation was very different - no golden carriage rather a humble entrance on a donkey; no anointing by leaders of the church rather by a woman (and women had no influence in Jesus' day); no golden, jewelled crown rather a crown of thorns; no glorious venue like Westminster Abbey rather a crucifixion cross. Both men were born to be a king; both born to serve; but one lives a life of privilege and great wealth, the other a life of humility and with no possessions; one is king of a small worldly kingdom, the other King of heaven and earth. There is only ONE TRUE KING and that's our Saviour, Jesus Christ, KING OF KINGS!



**Ready for the Toddlers'
Celebration**

Dementia Café





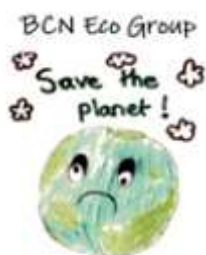
Afternoon tea celebration

Followed by an outdoor
Songs of Praise

Debbie Wood



Eco Church Tip



For anyone who eats
Pringles [or other tubed
crisp varieties], nurseries
love the empty containers
with lids for craft and
musical instruments.

Cameron will collect and
distribute.



Your Church Needs You



This is the second in a series of articles that celebrates the ways in which people serve in our church, and I hope you might be encouraged to get involved and to support those who have already committed to help our church make a difference, and without whom we would not be able to make the difference we do!

This month we shine the spotlight on **THOSE WHO WORK WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE - from the tinies to the teens!**

We are very blessed as a church to have so many children and young people join us for worship and to grow in their faith journeys. It's wonderful and they are ALWAYS welcome! Here's how we try to support them!

THE TODDLERS TEAM: Gillian and Finlay Galloway, Dot Craig, Liz Hazlehurst, Margaret Ogden, Margaret Watson, Julie Heywood and Wendy Cotterill

Toddlers Group meets on a Tuesday morning from 9 -11am and welcomes young children and their parents and carers from our church AND the wider community. Much fun is had and as the children play, parents and helpers have chance to chat and watch the little ones enjoying themselves in a fun and creative environment, joining in a time of singing nursery rhymes before setting off home and they even sometimes pop into church to look for the church mice.



Maybe you can help?

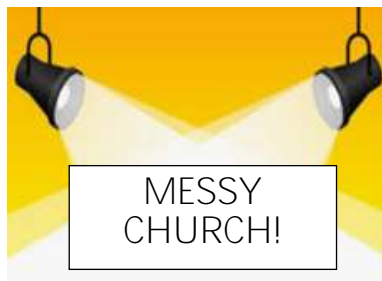


THE CRECHE TEAM: Julie Platt, Gill James, Louise Aspinall, Olivia Greenhalgh, Nicki Houghton, Julie Heywood, Liz Hazlehurst, Carole Greaves, Luli Goburi, Carolyn Divers, Jane Baines, Margaret Watson and Lisa and Angela Guest

THE JUNIOR CHURCH TEAM: Rebecca Abbott, Julie and Andy Platt, Jane Baines, Jess Davis, Addie and Barbara Redmond, Linda Lees, Gillian Galloway, Linda Cooper and Debbie Wood

Children are welcome in our services! Creche and Junior Church are offered during our Sunday morning services if parents and children choose to use them. Creche is available whenever it is needed for our very young ones. A safe place to play whilst parents can have space for their own worship, although they are also welcome to spend time with their children in creche. Children who are school age are invited to go out to Junior Church during the service with the leaders; to have age related learning; to grow their faith (on Communion week they start in Junior Church and join the service later ready for Communion, which children participate in if they/their parents wish). Children learn about Jesus and their faith in a younger (up to year 5) and older (year 6 +) group and enjoy activities that develop their understanding. **Maybe you can help?**

THE MESSY CHURCH TEAM: Barbara and Addie Redmond, Gillian Galloway, Rebecca Abbott, Joan Warner, Margaret and David Watson, Pat and David Stephenson, Jane Baines, Dot Craig, Linda Lees, Margaret Ogden, Wendy Smith, Nicki Houghton, Julie Heywood, Wendy Cotterill, Angela Guest, Beatty Osborne, Rachel and Scarlett Hesselwood, Georgina Bowen, Carole Greaves and Debbie Wood



Messy Church is a different worship opportunity for children, young people and their families! There's no age limit!! It's a themed worship, on

a Sunday afternoon in church (and sometimes outside as well when the weather permits) about every 6-8 weeks, that is explored through craft activities and games. Families move around the different activities as they choose, and the children collect a bagful of goodies that they have made whilst learning about Jesus. There is a short time of fun worship and a meal together to end (usually hotdogs and fruit and drinks). EVERYONE is welcome and it's wonderful to see people from the wider community and other churches coming too! The next Messy Church is Sunday July 16th 2-4pm. **Maybe you can help?**

THE YOUTH GROUP TEAM: Andy and Julie Platt, Jane Baines, Addie and Barbara Redmond



The Youth Group meets on a Sunday night from 7:15-8:15. It's a very welcoming, relaxed and extremely fun group for all young people aged 8+ from our church AND the wider community! Beginning with a prayer, the young people have chance to share news, enjoy games and activities and chill out with refreshments

in a safe space with their own dedicated room! **Maybe you can help?**

So, I'd like to finish by asking you to take time to pray for all these wonderful people who are prepared to work with and inspire our young people to be part of a team to work together for the good of our church and its mission - to bring God to others!



Thank God for them and all they do and thank them too!



And remember we are always looking to expand the teams (especially Junior Church and the Youth Group). Please volunteer if YOU can help in any way. Details on the next page.

To volunteer/ask for more information please contact:

TODDLERS: Gillian Galloway 07927424251

CRECHE: Julie Platt 07732074928

JUNIOR CHURCH: Rebecca Abbott 07711072980

MESSY CHURCH: Barbara Redmond

07983714195

YOUTH GROUP: Andy Platt 07767103600



God bless all who work with our young people, Debbie xx

Bamford Chapel
& Norden United Reformed Church

Living God, Serving Others,
Building Community

Fancy a bacon butty?

Big Breakfast

*Saturday
10 June
10.00 – 12.00*

In aid of

Garden Gang

£5.00

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

Vegetable Noodle Stir Fry



3 tbsp Sesame Oil
3 tbsp Honey
6 tbsp Soy Sauce
2 tsp Ground Ginger
2 Garlic Cloves

Vegetables : mange tout, mixed peppers, baby corn, carrot sliced into thin batons
Egg Noodles

Method : Heat Sesame oil in the pan, add the ginger and garlic and cook for 1 min

Add all the veg, Soy Sauce, honey and splash of water.

Cover and cook on low to steam the veg.

Add the noodles to a bowl of boiling water.

Cover and leave for time shown on packet.

Before straining and adding to the veg.

Mix well and serve.

Monday Gang Plant Sale



Monday 12th & 19th June

10 am - 12 noon

**All proceeds in aid of
Garden Maintenance**

Church Flowers



Donations for flowers placed in church
in May were received from:

Elizabeth Greer in memory
of her parents

Tom Swann in memory of Blanche

Pat Gate in memory of Bob

Linda Cooper in memory
of her cousin Anne

Anne Winter in memory of
Mike Lucas' 95th birthday

Community Coffee Morning Celebrating the Coronation 4th May 2023



The proceeds from this event
were donated to Springhill
Hospice. As well as the usual
tea/coffee etc. being served,
scones with jam and cream
were on offer.



The magnificent sum of £85 was raised. I say "magnificent" because the few people attending were very generous. Thank you to Pamela for baking the scones, to all the helpers and to those of you who attended.

Lesley Sutton

Return to Namibia

Addie & Barbara are returning to their African home to visit friends, take a look at our church project there and do some tourist stuff. We are not going on our own this time. When we went to visit the project in Tanzania, Carole Greaves and Alison came with us. On this trip Carole is joining us again with Rosie and our



grandson Jacob is coming, too. We will spend a couple of weeks based in the Cheshire Home for children with disability in Katima Mulilo, where Carole and Rosie hope to use their professional skills to improve the lives of the children. Carole has already been in touch with our friend Jesse who was a Dutch VSO and is now the physiotherapist for the home. Jacob will use his artistic skills to find activities for them. Addie & Barbara? – well, someone must be the manager! We will spend time doing fun craft activities with the children and visiting schools in the region.



We are selling cakes after church on Sundays and hosting the Big Breakfast 1 July. Barbara is taking orders for her legendary meringues. The money raised will be for the Cheshire Home, for which Carole is trying to source some specialist equipment.

While we are there, we will visit Chobe Safari Park and Victoria Falls. Then we will move on to Etosha Safari Park and the beautiful sand dunes of the Namib Desert. Jealous? You should be. **It will be an unforgettable experience!**

Big Breakfast in aid of Leonard Cheshire Disability, Namibia

Bamford Chapel
& Norden United Reformed Church


Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

Fancy a bacon butty?



In aid of

**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

**cheshire homes
namibia**

£5.00

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

Ladies Fellowship



Thursday 8th June 1 - 3 pm
Speaker - Freda Farnworth - Guide Dogs
All ladies welcome

At the Ladies Fellowship AGM in May the future of the group was considered, as numbers were declining and the current committee were no longer able to continue in its present format. As there was still a need for a similar group it was agreed that:

As from 14 September:

- the meeting will become an **open meeting to men and women**
- the name will be changed to **"The Friendship Group"** meeting on the **2nd Thursday in the month** at the new time of **1.30 pm to 3.30 pm,**
- at a cost of **£4** per meeting
- 8 ladies had agreed to share committee duties
- the new club will be advertised across the churches and community.

Please come and join us to make this a successful venture.

**Friendship is the only cement
that will ever hold the world together**

Woodrow Wilson

Keeping in Touch



Each month 14 copies of the church magazine are posted to former members of BC&NURC who have moved away from the area for different reasons. One such couple is Reverend Howard Sharp and his wife, Pam who moved 40 years ago!!

They recently posted a donation towards the cost of the monthly magazine accompanied by this

letter. For those of you who remember Howard and Pam, I thought you might like to read an extract.

ALTON, Hants.

16th May 2023

Dear Lesley

We are very grateful to be kept in touch even though the names of people we know are getting fewer as the years go by. Pam and I are keeping reasonably well despite the old creaking limbs! Pam still manages regular keep fit classes and I play golf twice a week and still preach about twice a month.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Howard and Pam Sharp

North-West Rochdale Churches

Coffee, cake, and chat

Come and meet friends from other churches in the North-West Rochdale area

| Date | Time | Church |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 25 th April | 10.30am | Norden Methodist |
| 15 th June | 2pm | Bamford Chapel & Norden URC |
| 1 st August | 7pm | St Paul's CE Church |
| 5 th October | 10.30am | St Clement's CE Church |
| 6th December | 2pm | St Vincent's RC Church |

An opportunity to enjoy fellowship together and meet friends

For more information feel free to contact Revd Richard Bradley on:
richard.bradley@nwrcynod.org.uk // 01706 369622 // 07483 155807



Celebrating Fatherhood

'What is a Christian? The richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father. If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child and having God as his Father.' (J I Packer, *Knowing God*)



This month we celebrate fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, as Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What can we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, the role of fathers and our relationship with God?

The Father's presence

When Jesus was baptized, the Father made His presence real by the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to call God *'daddy'* (abba, Galatians 4:6). God is with us and knows our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. In this way, dads can relate to their children.

The Father's love

The Father described His Son as *'beloved'*, who like us, is subject to His unconditional love. Dads should be constant in assuring their children of their love.

The Father's pleasure

The Father tells Jesus that He is *'well pleased'* with Him. We also need to hear this, if we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. This can arise with harsh words spoken by our parents. Fathers should use every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.

By Canon Paul Hardingham



*The Ian Newman
Community Film Club*

**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

Saturday 17th June 2023

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

Admission £3

“FISHERMAN’S FRIENDS – ONE AND ALL”

12A - 2022



Supported by Rochdale Township

Coffee at the Craven



We took the £85 raised at The Community Coffee morning on 4th May To COFFEE AT THE CRAVEN, Broad Lane, Rochdale, OL16 4PG on Friday, 12th May, where we enjoyed delicious refreshments. This donation was used as an excuse for us to visit this Hospice Café, but the only excuse you really need is to enjoy lunch, morning coffee or afternoon tea and support Springhill Hospice at the same time. If you would like more information, please have a word with one of us.



Pamela Harrington/Lesley Sutton

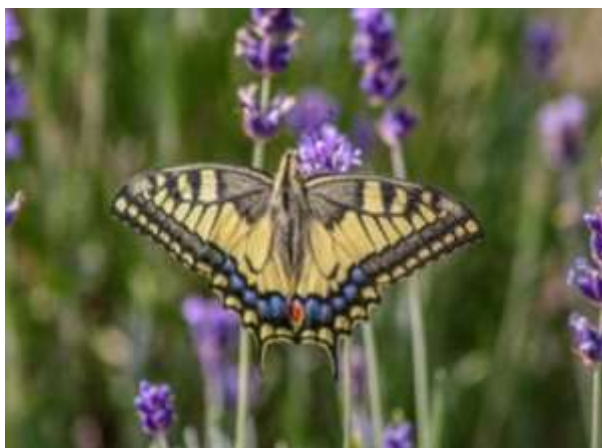
“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.” Helen Keller

Where have all the Butterflies gone?

I have been fascinated by butterflies since my father gave me a small patch of ground at the bottom of our garden about 70 years ago. I could grow anything I liked, so the first thing was to plant some runners from a strawberry patch in the family fruit garden. We lived near Tiptree in Essex where there were acres and acres of strawberries, so the location was perfect.

It was while tending my tiny strawberry patch that I became interested in the visiting butterflies that would always seem to be there.

Then there was a fascinating collection of butterflies and moths we had. I can't remember where it came from, but as I was the only family member interested in it, so I claimed it as mine. They were displayed in several boxes with glass fronts. Each specimen had been carefully pinned and labelled with their Latin names which I spent hours unsuccessfully trying to decipher.



My favourite butterfly was a splendid Swallowtail and I always hoped that one day I would see one flying in my garden — there was a remote chance because at that time migrant Swallowtails were said to frequent East Anglia and my garden was only about 100 miles south of their habitat. I never saw one flying wild until I went to the Mediterranean in my adult life.

There are lots of excellent images of butterflies on all the popular photograph agency websites. This one is a free copyright image of a Swallowtail by [Noah Boyer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

I'm by no means an expert on butterflies, I simply enjoy seeing them when spending time in the garden — and I am no expert in gardening either; my approach has always been 'trial and error', as it has also been with everything else in life (including magazine design)!

A bout of Covid a couple of years ago left me without the energy to do much gardening until recently — this lack may have also been age related! However, this year I have been able to get out in the garden a little more and apart from an abundance of thistles, nettles and a variety of weeds, normality is slowly returning.

The most striking thing that I have noticed is the lack of the butterflies that I usually like to stop and watch. I know that it is still early in the season, but by now there should be a good number flying around. I have spotted one lonely Brimstone, which is always the first to be seen every year, one Orange Tip, and one splendid Peacock.

So, where I wonder, have all the butterflies gone?

The best source of information on this subject that I have found is the latest 28 page report published by the UK charity, Butterfly Conservation. The report is called *The State of UK's Butterflies 2022* and it summaries the key findings as being a massive decline:

In the UK, long-term trends show that 80% of butterfly species have decreased in abundance or distribution, or both since the 1970s.

The report can be downloaded free at: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/state-of-uk-butterflies-2022>

Butterfly Awareness and Education Day: 3 June

by Bob Peters



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 Meeting 1.30 pm Bridge Club 8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group (at Redmond's) 7.30 - 8.30 pm Monday Prayer Group (in Lounge) |
| Tuesday: | 9.00 – 11.00 am Toddlers' Group 1.30 – 4.00 pm Indoor Bowls (Upstairs Hall) From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides 7.15 pm Singing Group |
| Wednesday: | 12 noon Luncheon Club 6.30 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association |
| 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 | 13th & 27th June |
| | 7.30 - 9.00 pm | On Zoom |
| Thursday: | Ladies Fellowship | 2nd Thursday in the month |
| | 1.00 - 3.00 pm | 8th June (see page 20) |
| Heritage Group | | 2nd Thursday in the month |
| | 7.30 pm | 8th June in Church |
| Friday | Dementia Friendly Café | 1st Friday in the month |
| | 1.30 - 3.30 pm | 2nd June |
| Saturday: | Ian Newman | 3rd Saturday in the month |
| | Community Film Club | 17th June (see page 24) |
| | 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film | |

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

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



EDITOR:

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

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Lesley Sutton 01706 638005
suttyjohnny@gmail.com

DATES FOR THE JULY/AUGUST MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 18th June

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 29th June

Magazine distributed: Sunday 2nd July

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: richardbradley@cantab.net

Revd Daniel Harris

Work Mobile: 07887 581253

Email: danielharris343@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Anne Fitton

Telephone: 01706 641403

Email: annefitton@btinternet.com

Wedding Secretary: Julie Platt

Telephone: 01706 360129

Email: julie_platt62@hotmail.co.uk

Lettings Manager: Nicki Houghton

Telephone: 01706 750376

Email: nahoughton@sky.com