

### 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.

# **March 2023**

For those who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship, services are livestreamed on YouTube (Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church) and available on the church website (www.bcnchurch.org.uk)

Friday 3 March	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 5 March	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Ken Greer
	6.30 pm	Missional Partnership Café Church
Monday	7.30 -	Monday Prayer Group
6 March	8.30 pm	Meet in the Lounge at BC & NURC
Tuesday	7.30 -	Tuesday Home Group
7 March	9.00 pm	On Zoom (see page 6)
Thursday	10.00 -	Transform Trade ( formerly Traidcraft)
9 March	12 noon	Big Brew (see page 11)
Saturday	10.00 -	Project 2023 Big Breakfast
11 March	12 noon	(see page 16)
Sunday	10.30 am	Family Worship - Led by Church Group
12 March	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Messy Church (see page 14)
Saturday	6.30 pm	Community Film Club
18 March	for 7 pm	"Mrs Harris goes to Paris" (see page 20)
Sunday	10.30 am	Family Worship - Led by David Watson
19 March	12 noon	Followed by Church Meeting
Tuesday	7.30 -	Tuesday Home Group
21 March	9.00 pm	On Zoom (see page 6)
Wednesday	7.30 -	Missional Partnership Prayer Time
22 March	8.00 pm	(on zoom - see page 4)
Saturday	7.20 mm	Saddleworth Male Voice Choir Concert
25 March	7.30 pm	In Memory of Charlie Peacock (see page 13)
Sunday	40.20	Family Worship
26 March	10.30 am	Led by Leo Roberts

## Message from the Manse "Taking our eyes off God"

As I sit with my laptop open reflecting on what I might write in this article my mind went to the fact that as you read this it will be Lent. The Christian Church observes Lent for 40 days to reflect the time Jesus spent being tested by the devil in the Wilderness. In Matthew's account, we read:



The Temptation of Jesus <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came

and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' <sup>4</sup> But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
 <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the

### kingdoms of the world and their splendour; <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

As I read these familiar words again my thoughts went to the title I have given this message "Taking our eyes off God". Jesus in this passage despite hunger and tiredness remains faithful to God and his trust in God as his Father.

Jesus in many ways keeps his eyes fixed firmly on God and upon God's Word contained in the Bible. Jesus counters each temptation by quoting scripture to the devil.

I don't know about you but there are many times in my life when I have taken my eyes off Jesus. And it is amazing how quickly life can unravel when we take our eyes off Jesus.

I often think Lent is a time when we can re-adjust our eyes and place them back on Jesus. We often give something up in Lent.... as I type this on the 14<sup>th</sup> February I am still deciding if I am going to give something up or not. I know of some people who often start doing something rather than giving something up for Lent. For example, they may commit to reading through parts of the Bible during Lent as a spiritual discipline.

I want to gently encourage, dare I even say challenge us, to think of something we might start doing during Lent that we can continue beyond Easter Day which marks the end of Lent. Something that will enable us to fix our eyes on Jesus and keep our eyes on Jesus - the one who bore great suffering for us that we might have life and have it in abundance.

I pray we all have a blessed Lent as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

God Bless, Richard

### **Missional Partnership Prayer Times**



## Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership times of prayer on zoom

Dates and times 25<sup>th</sup> January: 7.30pm – 8pm 15<sup>th</sup> February: 10.30am – 11am 22<sup>nd</sup> March: 7.30pm – 8pm 19<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30am – 11am 17<sup>th</sup> May: 7.30pm – 8pm 21<sup>st</sup> June: 10.30am – 11am

ALL WELCOME!

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

Jesus often spent time in prayer. It is important that we as followers of Jesus do likewise.

> Zoom ID: 836 4636 0141 Passcode: Prayer



## A Reflection on The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:1-18)

*Editor: This month is Lent, when we take a good hard look at where we stand with God...* 

Our Father in heaven, please help us. We, your children, learn slowly.

So often we say nothing when your name is mis-used. Often our lives do not reflect your ways, Mostly we do what we want on earth, And this can make heaven unimaginable.

We expect so much more than we actually need each day. Sometimes we think we don't need forgiveness, Sometimes we think we are unforgivable, And we forget that other people make these same errors of thinking.

When it comes to temptation, we find our own ways, We are confused about what is and is not evil, We are confused about deliverance, We are confused...

And here is the wonder, the grace and the mystery, That you know us completely, Our failings, our secrets, And still love us forever and ever,

Amen.



**By Daphne Kitching** 

## **Tuesday Home Group**



## **Dr Watt and Her Time Machine**



It is now over three months since Doctor Watt and her Time Machine took us on a wonderful journey through the life of Jesus Christ.

It is not too late to say thank you to all of you who were a part of this journey because we continue to be on this journey even though the Gospel Panto has ended. Doctor Watt was a perfect start to the Christmas season.

Well done all of you. I am not going to single anyone out. Each player played their part so well.

Lesley Sutton



### **Ladies Fellowship**

Meetings in March and April have been cancelled due to holidays and Easter. The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 11th May.

The group is desperately in need of new committee members, particularly to take on organisational roles, otherwise Ladies Fellowship will have to close. If you think this is something you would be interested in, please speak to Linda Kerford or Linda Peacock.

### World Day of Prayer



**Rochdale World Day of Prayer Service** 

Friday 3rd March at 11am at St Patrick's Presbytery, 2 Watts Street, Rochdale

People from Taiwan have put the service together for this year

Further information from Anne Fitton—01706 641403

All Welcome!



## **Mothering Sunday**

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers our appreciation of mothers.

Mothen's Day

Mothering Sunday is a day of mixed emotions. For many it's a happy, joyous day, but for others it's one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love, while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honoured Mary his mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John's protection: 'When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.' (John 19:26,27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also creates a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. In the past, people would go back to their *'mother'* church on this Sunday, to acknowledge its importance in their lives. Jesus invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging, where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselves getting in the way. However, God's help is available to change things, 'because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.' (Romans 5:5)

The mother of three difficult youngsters was asked whether she'd have children if she had it to do over again. 'Yes,' she replied. 'But not the same ones.'



## A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

Editor: This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith. The graphic is from Pixabay, and may be used without a credit.

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done and saw the tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large



sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement. This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old self. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, we are made in Gods image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be

enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a Theology of Science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.





## Holy Days - 24<sup>th</sup> March: Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr 1980



Oscar Romero was a bit of a modern Thomas Becket – loyal to the authorities until he was given great responsibility for the Church. Then, like Becket, there was trouble.

In Romero's case, it all began when he was born Cuidad Barrios in El Salvador back in 1917. Devout from a young age, he was ordained in 1942, and became a parish priest in the diocese of San Miguel.

For 25 years Romero worked hard in his parish, where he was a traditional priest, very

conservative, ascetic, and devoted to the Virgin Mary. In 1967 he was appointed Secretary to the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador. He was elevated to be Bishop of San Salvador and then Bishop of Santiago de Maria. An admirer of the conservative Opus Dei movement, Romero firmly opposed any liberation theology.

Then in 1977 Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador. The Salvadorian government saw him as a safe pair of hands for the job.

But they were in for a shock. For Romero's new responsibilities made him look afresh at the relationship between Church and State in El Salvador. He did not like what he saw. Romero saw that social unrest and poverty were the direct result of government repression, and even worse, that the Church played its part in the on-going violence of Salvadorian society. After the murder of several outspoken priests and then the expulsion of several allegedly Marxist Jesuits, Romero felt compelled to speak out.

The right-wing Latin American governments were well used to priests who worked with the poor speaking out against them. But this was the first time that an Archbishop had raised his voice, and they were furious.

But Romero became a champion of liberation theology. He condemned government violence and championed the right of the poor to economic and social justice. He even wrote a pastoral letter from the Salvadorian bishops, supporting proportionate counter-violence towards the oppressive rightwing regime. When, nonetheless, he also still tried to act as a mediator between the rival groups, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

For several years Romero received death threats from both left and rightwing paramilitary groups. Finally, while celebrating Mass, he was shot

through the heart by a government assassin. It was 24<sup>th</sup> March 1980, and 40 more people died in the gunfire and explosions at his funeral. The Church worldwide mourned for him.



## Saddleworth Male Voice Choir



Concert in memory of Charlie Peacock

At Bamford Chapel & Norden URC

# Saturday 25th March 7.30 pm

With guests Hindle Wakes Folk Group

In aid of the British Heart Foundation (SMVC nominated Charity)



## Bamford Chapel & Norden URC Monday Prayer Group



Before Covid we held a prayer meeting on Monday evenings. Our focus was wide and varied - our Church and our Community, topical items and personal concerns. Occasionally some people "prayer-walked" the streets with back-up from the pray-ers in the Chapel.

We feel it is time to resume these meetings, commencing on:

Monday 6th March 7.30 - 8.30 pm In the Lounge

Please come and join us as we pray, all are welcome



## Think about it..

- If you were raised on eggs, bread, butter, bacon, cabbage, spuds and tea
- played in dirt, rivers and streams fishing for tadpoles
- got smacked when you misbehaved
- had one television channel and no remote
- \* no telephone, no computer
- got jobs/chores to do after school
- \* shops were closed on Sunday
- watched films thinking they were real



- recorded the top twenty from the radio by blocking the holes on cassette tapes
- drank water from a hose
- didn't know what a Happy Meal was



### AND YET YOU STILL TURNED OUT OK

## **Embrace the Middle East Project 2023 Big Breakfast**



## **Weekly Monday Home Group**



# Monday 8.00pm [unless notified otherwise] at the home of Barbara and Addie Redmond

Lively discussions led by members of the group on various topics and themes, eg SAINTS, ANGELS, HAPPINESS. Pastoral prayers commence the evening which ends around 9.30pm with The Grace. Fellowship, fun and faith could describe this group. Tea, coffee and biscuits welcome the evening.

These are "drop in" sessions which means that if you are unable to come every week, it is fine. Just come along when you can. There is a Whatsapp group for up to date information.

At the close of the summer session there is a delicious BBQ in the Redmond's back garden with contributions from each visitor PLUS in January a meal at a local restaurant is organised.

#### Please contact Barbara or Addie if you wish to know more.

BCN ECO Group

Save the



## **Eco Church Recycling Tips**





#### **Blister Packs**

What: Empty blister packs Where: Bamford Chapel opposite the ECO Church notice board in the corridor or Superdrug Manchester Why: Superdrug have teamed up with drug brands to recycle blister packs

#### School Uniform

Paint

packs

What: New, or like new, uniform and shoes, for Falinge Park High School, Oulder Hill High School, Redwood High School, St Cuthbert's High School, Spotland Primary School, Meanwood Primary School, St Vincent's RC Primary School, Caldershaw Primary School and Norden Primary School. Where: Co-op Cutgate, Co-op Rooley Moor Road and Co-op Norden Why: Donate old uniform





#### **Useable Eyeglasses**

What: Old glasses you no longer wear or with old prescriptions Where: Heywood Library Why: The Glasses are shipped across the world for people unable to access them.

#### Batteries

Where: You can take batteries to a Recycling Centre. Regular household batteries can also be recycled at most supermarkets or electrical stores. Why: Please do not throw

why: mease on not throw any batteries in any of your wheelie bins at home. This is because they are a fire risk and contain hazardous materials.

#### Soft Plastics

What: Plastic carrier bags, bread bags, bubble wrap and frozen food bag Where: Supermarkets: Aldi Shaw Aldi Mellor Street Tesco Bury Tesco Rochdale (near café) Co-op Cutgate

#### Cosmetics

What: Mascara, lipstick, makeup palettes, travel miniatures, pumps from soap dispensers, toothpaste tubes Where: All Boots stores Wher: Transformed into construction boards



#### from DIY projects. Where: Recycling centres (tips) Pass It On (part of RBH) 271 Olney, Freehold OL11 4LQ Why: This paint can be reused in community recycling schemes

What: Left over cans of paint

Contact lenses packaging Whot: contact lenses blister

Where: Specsavers Why: Recycled and turned into construction materials





## **Eco Recipe of the Month**



### **Roasted Carrot and Fennel Soup**

1kg Carrots 2 x Fennel Bulbs 1 Large Onion 2-3 Garlic Cloves 1L Veg Stock

Peel, trim, and chop carrots, fennel, and onion accordingly into large chunks and spread in a roasting tin.

Drizzle with olive oil and give it a mix to make sure all the veg is coated. Roast in oven for 20mins on 180c Add peeled whole garlic cloves to the tray and return to the oven for further 20 mins.

Put veg in a saucepan, pour over the stock and simmer for 15 mins. Use a hand blender to puree to a smooth soup.

Note: The aniseed fennel flavour is surprisingly subtle

## World Water Day is 22<sup>nd</sup> March



We take clean water for granted. After all, when did you last turn on the tap and expect filthy water to come out?

But sadly, bad water is still a daily reality for billions of people. The United Nations wants to help them by ensuring that everyone can access clean water by 2030. It is part of the so-called '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', and it is an enormous challenge.

Meanwhile, this year each one of us can do at least something to help on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. A donation to Water Aid will help provide safe water to marginalised communities worldwide. Simply go to: <u>www.wateraid.org/uk</u>



THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

### Saturday 18th March 2023

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film Admission £3

# "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris" 12 2022



Supported by Rochdale Township

## A Reflection on the Prodigal Son's Mother by Lynne Chitty

Did his mother go out day by day, and stand and watch and wait

Hoping, hoping her younger son would come back.

Today.

Did her heart leap each time she saw a figure in the distance, and break when it was another mother's son?

Did she weep for her husband as he looked away from the empty place at the table, meal after meal?

Did she blame him?

And did her anguished prayers finally reach her boy at last, and touch the desperation in his soul, kindling some small vestige of hope, a flickering of faith that saw, in a moment, almost too late, his wretchedness and the pride that kept him imprisoned with the pigs? Did her calling prompt his journey home?

And later, when he became a father himself, and realised what pain he had caused, did he seek out his ageing mother and embrace her, finally understanding the cost of love?

Did he tell his own son of his failing?

And which mother's son is feeding the pigs now?



## **Surviving Grief by Gary Sturgis**



People always ask me how I can be so happy after suffering so much loss. They want to know how I survived my grief.

Please don't be mistaken.... .my happiness doesn't mean my grief is gone. I think about the people I love and lost all the time. Every single day. But I have also evolved to having more good days than bad.

My grief isn't always in the form of sadness. My grief doesn't look the same every day. Some days I feel really happy, and some days I just want some quiet time.

Here's the thing... some days I'm just living between joy and pain. My grief just always looks different... but it's always there.

A part of me died when the people I love died... but I'm at peace knowing that I'll never be the same again. I've accepted the fact that I had to learn to live with my grief.

This is my reality.

So instead of trying to be the old me, I look for ways to define who I am as I carry the pain from my loss. I try really hard to preserve my happiness at all times. The way I cope with my grief is relative to my own experiences and my own emotional needs. That's why it's "my grief". It belongs only to me. It's mine...and mine alone.

I want you to remember that you don't have to compare the way you grieve to anyone else. This life changing event is unique to you, therefore your pain and your healing will be unique to you too. It's "your grief". I also want to emphasize how important it is not to think that you'll eventually "get over" your loss and move on. Sure, I'm very happy, but my grief is still a part of my life...I've just learned to live around it.

You'll eventually learn how to live after your loss..... without leaving behind the memories you shared with the one you love.

*Editor:* Gary Sturgis is an American Bereavement Facilitator who has published several books on grief and loss since the death of his spouse in 2014. Further articles can be found on Facebook.

This article is copyrighted and can only be reproduced with permission from Gary by email at **gary@sgrief.com** 

### **Church Flowers**



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

Dot Craig in memory of Peter

Anita Teuton in memory of Alex

Diane Healey - Thank you for all love and care

Joyce Harding - in memory of her Wedding Anniversary

### Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

Monday:	<ul> <li>9.00 am Monday Gang / Garden Gang (who do work in or around the building)</li> <li>10.15 am Pastoral Meeting</li> <li>1.30 pm Bridge Club</li> <li>8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group (at Redmond's)</li> <li>7.30 - 8.30 pm Monday Prayer Group (in Lounge)</li> </ul>
Tuesday:	9.00 – 11.00 am Toddlers' Group 1.30 – 4.00 pm Indoor Bowls (Upstairs Hall) From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
Wednesday:	<ul> <li>7.15 pm Singing Group</li> <li>12 noon Luncheon Club</li> <li>6.30 pm Boys' Brigade &amp; Girls' Association</li> </ul>
Thursday: Friday: Sunday:	10.00 am - 12 noon Coffee Morning & Warm Hub 6.00 pm onwards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

### Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

Tuesday:	Home Group	7th & 21st March	
	7.30 - 9.00 pm	On Zoom (see page 6)	
Thursday:	Ladies Fellowship 2nd Thursday in the month		
	1.00 - 3.00 pm	NB: No meeting in March or April	
	Heritage Group	2nd Thursday in the month	
	7.30 pm	9th March In Church	
Friday	Dementia Friendly Café 1st Friday in the month		
	1.30 - 3.30 pm	3rd March	
Saturday:	lan Newman	3rd Saturday in the month	
	Community Film Club (see page 20)		
	6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film 18th March		

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

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### **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE**



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### DATES FOR THE APRIL MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 19th March

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 30th March

Magazine distributed:

Sunday 2nd April

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