



Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



March 2017

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 2017

Thursday 2 nd March	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Friday 3 rd March	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service at Chapel (see page 6)
Sunday 5th March Lent 1	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Joan Warner
Tuesday 7 th March	8.00 pm	Finance Meeting
Sunday 12th March Lent 2	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Tuesday 14 th March	Lunch 12.15 pm	Lunchtime Concert 1.00 pm (see details on page 11)
Thursday 16 th March	7.30 pm	Youth Council Meeting
Sunday 19th March Lent 3	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Walter Brisk
	12 noon	Church Meeting
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Saturday 25 th March	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	North Western Synod meets at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC
Mothering Sunday 26th March Lent 4	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Dot Craig
Wednesday 29th March	1.15 pm	Midweek Communion Service

Message from the Manse

I hope the preaching series on prayer in our morning service has been helpful for people. As we think about prayer and we think about the vision and mission of the church I want to ask you to pray for the Elders who will meet on Sunday afternoon (12th March) to pray together and to discern what God is saying to us about the Church's vision. This has stemmed from the need to review the current Vision Statement and Core Group structure. As part of this, the Elders and I will be reading, in preparation for that meeting, the book that the original vision was based on by Rick Warren "The Purpose Driven Church". Your prayers as we meet together will be appreciated.



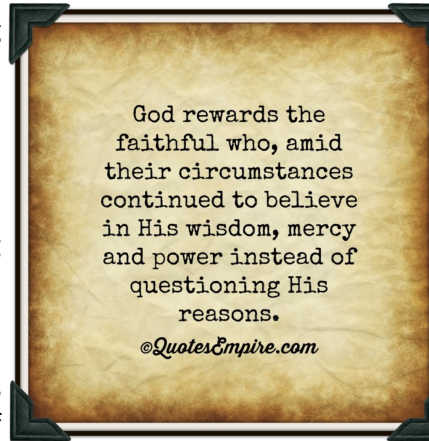
Jesus Prays in the Garden
John 17:1-26

During the month of March we will also be entering Lent. As we think about, reflect on and pray through Jesus' journey to Gethsemane. As part of this journey there are additional opportunities for engagement with the Bible. The first is the Churches Together in North West Rochdale Lent Course "The Way of the Cross" (see page 13 in this magazine). This will be run on Thursday lunch times in Chapel, starting with lunch (at 12pm) and then having a period of study and discussion (1pm-2pm).

The other is the Monday evening Lent Course which is based on a course written by the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity called "Life on the Frontline" (see page 5 of this magazine). This course explores issues relating to being a Christian in the work place, in our friendship groups etc. In other words being a Christian 7 days a week and not just when we meet on a Sunday morning or evening.

The morning service prior to the Monday evening Lent Course will be on the same theme as the Monday night course. In other words the theme of the service on the 5th March will be the same theme we unpack more on the Monday evening 6th March. Hopefully following the completion of those services and if you can get to the Monday night group we will all be better equipped, and more confident, in sharing our faith with others.

I believe God is doing exciting things in the life of His Church here at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC. God wants us to engage with what He is doing and commit to what He wants from us. We are living in challenging times in the Church – there are many demands on our time, energy and resources. But the God who is faithful remains constant even if the application of the message needs to change. I believe God has an exciting future for us.... I also believe that we may need to adapt some of the things we currently do, in order to fit with God’s vision.



By the time you read this we will be approaching, if not already passed, the end of the theme of “prayer” for our morning services. But please don’t stop praying for God’s will to be revealed to us!

May God continue to bless us in the work we do for Him!

Your Servant in Christ, Richard

Sunday Service Themes for Lent

The dates, themes and Bible passages are as follows:

Date	Theme	Bible Passage
5 th March	The Frontline Call	Matthew 28:16-20
12 th March	The Frontline Commission	Jeremiah 19:4-14
19 th March	The Frontline Community	Colossians 3:12-17
26 th March	The Frontline Concern	Acts 3:1-10
2 nd April	The Frontline Cry	Matthew 6:9-13
9 th April	The Frontline Commitment	Acts 4:23-41

Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

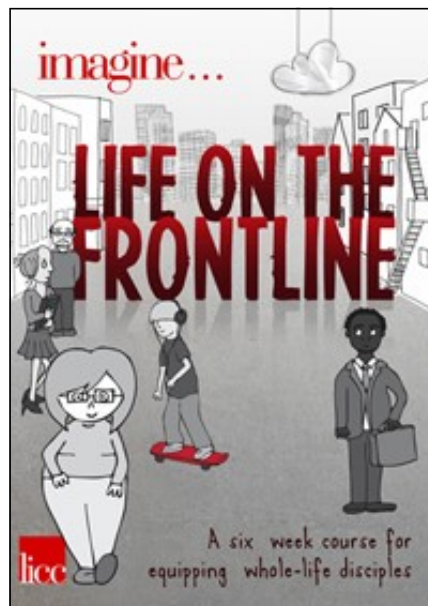
- Monday:** 9.00 am 'Monday Gang'
(do work on or around the building)
10.00 am Pastoral Meeting
1.30 pm Bridge Club
8.00 pm Focus on Prayer (in the Crèche)
8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group
- Tuesday:** 9.15 am Toddlers' Group
From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies, Guides
7.00 pm Choir Practice
- Wednesday:** 6.45 pm Boys' Brigade
7.30 pm Home Group 'Exploring the Bible'
- Thursday:** 10.00 am Community Coffee Morning
- Friday:** Scouts
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- Monday:** **Joy Group** **No March Meeting**
(The group will join the Monday Lent Group)
- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** **7th & 21st March**
2.30 pm in the Lounge
Home Group **14th & 28th March**
8.00 pm in the Manse 'Exploring Faith'
- Thursday:** **Ladies' Fellowship** **9th March** (See page 17)
7.45 pm at Chapel Entry £3

If you would like further information about any of the groups and where they meet, please check the **weekly notice sheet** or visit the website at **www.bcnchurch.org.uk** or speak to an Elder.

**You are invited to the Bamford
Chapel and Norden URC Lent
Course 2017**



**The
will be run**

**course
on Mon-**

day

**evenings from 7.30pm—9pm
in Chapel.**

**The dates are as follows:
6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March and
3rd and 10th April**



Women's World Day of Prayer



Friday 3rd March
2 pm

At Bamford Chapel & Norden URC

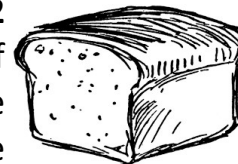
"Am I Being Unfair to You?"

Written by the Christian Women of the
Philippines

On Friday 3rd March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on Friday 3rd March, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

**The Day of Prayer is not just for women.
Everyone is welcome to attend the service**

75 years ago:- on 24th March 1942
during World War 2, the national loaf
was introduced in Britain. It was made
from wholemeal flour, and most people
did not like it.





Lyn, Steve and Lucianna would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers throughout Lyn's Mum's illness; for all the people who gave us their love and support at Mum's funeral; and for all the cards and prayers.

We feel truly blessed to be part of the loving caring family at Bamford Chapel.

Lyn Jefferies

From Peep Peep

I am a little red car
I love to come to church
I polish up my paintwork
And buffer up my glass

But when I get to chapel
My tyres all sink a bit
My smile soon turns from
laughter
To sighing in despair

The reason for this
downturn
Is all too plain to see
I look into the car park
There is no space for me!

I gaze with heartfelt
longing
I do so want to come
I see so many spaces
Is none quite right for me?

Alas no! so many gaps
Between these other cars
Yet into these I cannot
Quite squeeze my little
bulk

So to all my chapel friends
Please listen to my plea
Park with a little
thoughtfulness
And leave a space for me

Vera Morley

Bamford Chapel & Norden have lost another of our dearly loved members, Vera Morley, who would have been 102 years old on the 1st May. Until Christmas her son Geoff continued to bring her along from Abbey Wood Residential Care Home in Tottington to Luncheon Club here at Chapel on a weekly basis. Vera was such a happy and contented lady who always appreciated the love and support of her family and friends and we found it was a pleasure to help in any way we could. Muriel and I used to bring her to Chapel each Sunday; along with her neighbour Margaret Dunham and Vera would always be ready and waiting for our arrival.

Unfortunately in 2011 her fridge self-ignited and her home was badly damaged by fire; she made it to the front door where a passing motorist spotted her and rescued her. Whilst her home was being repaired she lived with Geoff and his wife Sheila in Walmsley for a number of months. She did however return to War Office Road, which had been beautifully restored and refurbished until in 2012 she made the conscious decision that it would be a good idea to have someone keep an eye on her and Geoff found her a place at Abbey Wood in Tottington.

Today, Thursday 16th February we were privileged to attend her Service of Celebration at Chapel and learned a little more about her life. Vera was the kind of person who whilst never secretive always put others before herself, asking in our case how the boys were doing. So it was only today that we found that she was a Heywood girl who married Albert in 1939 and whilst he worked at Porritts Mill and Vera at the blanket mill in Hooley Bridge she later joined Albert at Porritts. They lived in one of the mill properties on South View and in 1943 Geoff came along. With Albert in the Royal Air Force Vera took on a Grocers Shop in Queens Park Road for some 9 years. They moved into Starkey Street before moving onto War Office Road. In 1967 her Grandson Craig was born.

Albert suffered a stroke in 1965 and in 1996 he became resident at Ashbourne Nursing Home, where every afternoon Vera caught the bus to Norden and spent 3 or 4 hours with Albert. Sadly Albert died in 1998.

During conversation with Molly Greenwood she recounted how she and Vera had been members of Norford Ladies Club, which started in about 1970, meeting in one of the rooms at the Bowling Club until numbers dropped to 10 when they then continued to meet in each other's homes. Whilst she had attended Chapel for many years Eric Lumb recalled how she made the conscious decision to become a Church Member and how they had attended David Wiseman's membership classes together; now there's a challenge from Vera!

During today's service Geoff spoke lovingly about his mum, recounting their many happy family holidays which in later years included a number of memorable cruises. He was followed by her Grandson Craig who said that she was a loving,

caring and uncomplicated Grandma and Great Grandma to his daughter Poppy. He remembered her saying that “if you are nice to people then they’ll be nice to you”. The world would be a better place if we all accepted that philosophy. Our Minister Richard along with Margaret Ogden led the service and Geoff played the organ. Margaret described her as a lovely lady with an amazing memory, who was always a joy to visit.

God Bless Vera Morley, a life well lived and who will be missed by so many.

Ian & Muriel Sturrock

Olive, Vera and Molly Greenwood at Luncheon Club



Olive Brierley

It was with great sadness that we learned of Olive’s sudden death in the Royal Oldham Hospital on February 1st following a rapid deterioration in her health. Olive had been a member of Bamford Chapel for over 70 years, our longest surviving member. She was at the core of all its activities throughout all those years.

In her youth she had been a keen tennis player making use of the facilities at the rear of the Chapel, but went on to play a major role in the ongoing life of the church. She was married to Terry who served as our Church Treasurer for many years.

She was happy to take on responsibilities and served both as a Deacon of the Congregational Church and then as an Elder when we became part of the URC. She was an enthusiastic member of the Choir for many years, never missing the weekly practice on a Tuesday night and we missed her contribution when she found it too difficult to attend. As Elizabeth reminded us at her funeral, she

became a member of the United Christian Singers, and also took part in the church pantomime in 1983 as part of the chorus and starring in the role of a tree.... an Olive Tree!! She maintained her interest in the musical activities of the church and faithfully served tea and coffee for the cast at the rehearsals for the more recent musicals like Annie and Oliver.

Olive was an active member of the Craft Club, the Ladies Fellowship and a founder member of the Luncheon Club, often serving those younger than herself. She was a willing worker at Christmas Fairs and Garden Parties whether it was serving food or manning a stall. If there was a job to do, Olive would be there to help, like decorating the church for Harvest Festivals. She was always there, totally dependable.

But above all, Olive was a regular attendee at worship each week and always made a point of making others feel welcome. Many of those came to pay tribute to her at her funeral service. She will be sorely missed.

Margaret Ogden

Flowers in February



Brenda Griffiths in memory of Peter Griffiths

Charlie Peacock in memory of Molly Peacock



Marigold Edmund

***There are many spaces to fill on the calendar.
Please hand any donations to
Pamela Harrington or Gillian James***

Flower Co-ordinator

As I am now a serving Elder I would like to relinquish my role as flower coordinator so I am looking for a volunteer to take over. Here is the job description:

- ◆ Compile a rota of people to arrange and deliver the flowers.
- ◆ Collect donations for the flower fund.
- ◆ Give out flower money weekly to the people on the rota.
- ◆ Write a brief note for the magazine listing donations and those in memoria.
- ◆ Organise an annual calendar for donations to the flower fund. In the past 6 years Sue Hampson has done this for me.

Thank you Pamela

**Bamford Chapel
& Norden URC**

Presents

MUSIC AT LUNCHTIME



**Tuesday 14th March
Chetham's School
Brass Ensembles**

*Reasonably priced Lunch Items
are served from 12.15pm*

Concert begins at 1.00pm
Concert Admission is £3.50



Lifeboats

AN APPEAL FOR USED STAMPS

Thank you very much for all the stamps given to me so far.

Please can you continue to save them.

Thank you.

Pamela Harrington



Shuktara

I have just received my regular update from project 'Shuktara' which Chapel supported in 2005. Shuktara is a home for disabled young people found abandoned on the railway lines in Kolkata.

David Earp was a young man from Wales. While on holiday he saw the distressing signs of abandonment and decided he had a calling to provide shelter and nourishment for the abandoned youngsters. Our project aim was to help David fulfil his dreams to buy such a property.

David's project has been greatly successful, he has now gifted two homes, which he oversees, one for boys and one for girls. There is also a refreshment/sweet making shop which the more able boys run with supervised support. The young people are found specialist schooling support and some so successful they have been able to move out of Shuktara, marry and have their own families. Last September a new boy Subhash, who has severe Cerebral Palsy needing 24/7 care, was found on the streets and taken to a 'nursing home'. Papu one of the now young men found him tied to a bed and immediately removed him to Shuktara where he is lovingly cared for.



Some of you may have seen the newly released film LION (Finlay & I saw it in Bury). What a very moving film, based on the true-life story of a little Indian boy Saroo, stranded in Calcutta/Kolkata and eventually adopted by a couple in Tasmania. The film is the story of the adult Saroo's attempt to trace his family in India. It was called LION because Saroo was only a 5 year old boy when he was lost, so mispronounced his name. His name, correctly pronounced, is Sheru which translated means Lion.

Four of 'our boys' Bablu, Raju, Sumon and Ashok were given roles in the film. The Indian production team visited both the girls and boys homes along with Miranda Harcourt who coached the young boy who takes the lead role as Saroo. It was great to see that Miranda was acknowledged in the film and to our delight also Shuktara. So we guess we must have seen 'our boys' somewhere in the film. A great uplifting 'feel-good' film and through our project we have a real connection with it.

After so many years Shuktara is now seen as a positive enterprise and has caught the imagination of the local community. From a tiny seed a mighty oak So proud of David.

Should you wish to donate and help towards the continued running of the two homes you can pay directly to:

Shuktara Trust UK account
Santander UK plc
Account no: 04404505
Sort Code: 09-01-50
Account Name: Shuktara

Gillian Galloway (and Joan Warner)

Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church Project 2017

We are already starting to think about Project 2017. Any ideas or nominations will be considered along with several projects we have considered in previous years but felt that they needed further investigation.

The Church in the World Group will be meeting on **Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30 pm.** The agenda will consider project ideas and other church world items. Anyone who is interested in coming along will be very welcome and sure to be given a job! (We are looking for young people to join the group too and already have one volunteer.) Please contact Barbara Redmond or Carole Greaves.

***Philippians 2:4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Carole Greaves

cover to cover
LENT STUDY GUIDE

the way of the
CROSS

Rob Frost

**You are invited to the Churches Together in
North West Rochdale Lent Course 2017**

The way of the Cross

Lunch at 12.30pm

Course 1pm—2pm

The course is on a Thursday lunch time at
Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

We hope you will be able to come and join us

Date	Leader
2nd March	Revd Richard Bradley
9th March	Anne Stevenson
16th March	Revd Debbie Hopkinson
23rd March	Revd Denise Owen
30th March	Revd Sylvia Baron
6th April	Mr Mike Davis

Please come along and share fellowship and faith with each other
from across the Churches in the Churches Together in North West Rochdale
group of churches. It is great to have two new colleagues with us this year—
the Revd Stephen Nolan serving the parishes of St Michael's,
St James' and St Paul's and the Revd Debbie Hopkinson the minister of Norden
Methodist Church and Spotland Methodist Church.

More course details can be obtained from Revd Richard Bradley on 369622

WISDOM STORY-TIME: 'It depends how you look at it'



During the Middle Ages, a traveller once came upon a place in France, where a great deal of building work was going on. He began talking with the stone cutters and asking them about their work.

He approached the first worker and asked, “What are you doing?” The man, very disgruntled and obviously unhappy in his hard toil, replied, “I’m cutting these huge boulders with the simplest of tools and putting them together in the way I’ve been told to. I’m sweating in this heat and my back is hurting. What’s more, I’m totally bored and I wish I didn’t have to do this hard and meaningless job.”

The traveller moved on to a second worker and asked the same question, “What are you doing?” The worker replied, “Well, I have a wife and children at home, so I come here every morning and I work these boulders into regular shapes as I’m told to do. It gets repetitive sometimes but it helps to feed my family and that’s all I want.”

The traveller moved on to a third worker and asked, “and what are you doing?” The third worker responded, with shining eyes, as he pointed up to the heavens, “I’m building a cathedral!”



Source: 'One hundred and one Wisdom Stories from around the world'. Margaret Silf (Lion Book)

Joan Warner



Ladies Fellowship 9th February

In our ladies fellowship meetings we try to arrange a varied and hopefully interesting programme every month which will appeal to our members. Sometimes we are challenged or entertained by interesting speakers, and sometimes it's more practical, where we can join in with crafts, games or filling boxes for needy young people abroad. This month our numbers were rather depleted by illness, including members of the committee, so we had a last minute change from 'Pot luck recipes', and had a fun evening of games of bingo! I say fun evening, because there was plenty of laughter, and especially when the same member kept winning all the little prizes that had been donated! How glad we are that our Lord Jesus is pleased to bless our times of fun and fellowship together, as well as our more serious times when we seek to grow in knowledge of Him, and it is all done in His name. The next meeting is:

Thursday 9th March 2017 at 7.45 pm

“Making a Difference”
[Plight of women in Nepal]

A talk by Maureen Hawksworth



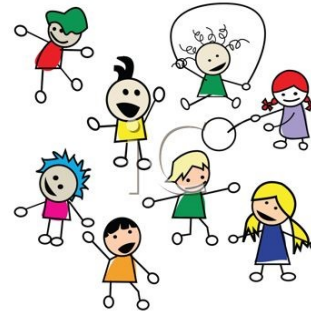
Maureen will be bringing beaded jewellery [Emmanuel Crafts] for sale to help poor Christian Nepali women earn a living so they can feed and educate their children

Admission : £3.00

[includes tea/coffee and biscuits]

Toddlers

Today I have been reading a little of David Wiseman's book 'An Illustrated History of Bamford Chapel' and found information regarding our Mums and Toddlers Group. Were you aware that it began over 40 years ago in September 1976? The group met every Wednesday afternoon under the leadership of Bernice Magson. Wow! I wonder how many of our community spent happy



hours growing and learning here in their early years. Today we continue to see Toddlers come, go and yet we grow. The group is now called Toddlers, as the littlies are brought by parents, great/grandparents, childminders and other family members.

We are a busy group; we drive battery operated bikes, make dinners in 'our' kitchen, ice buns and eat them before we are told 'save it for after dinner'. We mould with play dough, draw and colour in, and very proudly make a weekly craft for mummy, daddy or a family member. We are very busy people.

We love the bubble machine and also when it's birthday time we bring out our singing birthday cake; the group go very quiet as they listen to the cake sing Happy Birthday then we all sing with gusto. Many Toddlers take their first steps with us and to our great delight bring their new-born siblings; that's when we adults get a cuddle.

Our volunteer helpers are wonderful. Weekly Gloria Norbury ices buns, Finlay Galloway sets up the room furniture and recharges the bike batteries, and monthly rotating Margaret Watson, Margaret Ogden and Jean Fitton find themselves busy in the kitchen brewing up, making toast and serving fresh fruit.

We would love more help; hope that doesn't sound too greedy, but we could do with more help especially for our craft table. If you would like to help on a rota or if you would like to help run the group, come along and see us or please speak to one of the team.

Many Blessings, Gillian Galloway

Focus on Prayer

"The secret of every relationship is communication"



So true for a marriage, a friendship, even a business relationship. So how much more true must it be for our relationship with God? Prayer. The life blood of the Christian, so essential to our spiritual growth.

Our Focus on Prayer group meets each Monday evening between 8pm and 9pm, usually in the Elders' room. Why not come along?

Prayer can be private, our one to one time with God; then there is shared or corporate prayer; this is what we have in our worship time on Sundays, but also the reason we meet on a Monday evening for our prayer group.

This hour of quiet contemplative prayer is such a blessing. How often do we manage a whole hour talking to and listening to God without outside distractions! Sometimes we are silent; at other times someone will say a prayer, perhaps from a book, at other times their own words. Often someone will bring a reading to share; perhaps a poem or a hymn, and this may be a cd to listen to.

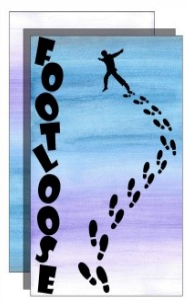
We try to continue the theme from the previous Sunday service and we remember in prayer those whose names appeared in the prayer book from the Sunday as well as sharing pastoral concerns. This is a lovely opportunity to pray for those known to us (including ourselves!) who may not want their situations more widely known.

We have been meeting now for over 10 years and our Monday evening hour is one of the most relaxing yet stimulating hours of my week.

Why not come along? No pressure! Sit in silence, talk, pray, read; the time always goes so quickly and you will be most welcome.

God will be so pleased to see you!

Joanne Ackroyd



Footloose

I just want to say what an absolute pleasure it has been to meet you all over these last few months. When I came along I had mixed feelings over who I would meet and what they would be like! But I can honestly say that I have never met a more dedicated, kind and accepting bunch than you lot! It baffles me to say but I have not only improved as an actor over these last few months but also as a person.

Zach Tait (Ren)

Looking back, it only seems like yesterday that I was waiting with fingers crossed for my mum to come out of the elders meeting to see if we were allowed to do Footloose. Now, the songs have been sung, the story has been told and a Footloose family has been created. Footloose for me has been one of the best experiences of my life. I've been able to work with a group of extremely talented people who have each individually made this show a huge success. I was so shocked when I was given the part of Ariel because I didn't believe I had the talent to pull it off. However, due to the immense support my Footloose family has given to me, I have grown in confidence and ability so I could strut around the stage without a care in the world. Knowing I had Ariel's world to escape into every Sunday has helped me get through exams, interviews and lots of other worries that came my way. Throughout this experience, I have made friends for life and created magical musical memories I will never ever forget.

Rebecca Gooding (Ariel Moore)

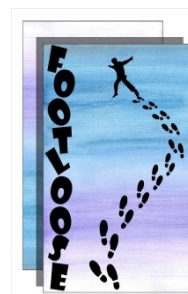
Footloose

What a marvellous show! It's a long time since the Mayoress and I have enjoyed such a very special night. Feet tapping, hands clapping and laughter. The standing ovation was justifiably deserved by all, from the directors, choreography, actors and band. A special night for one and all, but special praise must be given to the lead boy Zach Tait and lead girl Rebecca Gooding, who are surely destined for great careers on the stage. I'm sure they will be successful in their future chosen careers.

What a wonderful example the actors on stage set, both young and not so young, showing what our borough has to offer.

*Proud to have been there!
Proud to be their Mayor!
Thank you 'one and all!'*

*Cllr Ray Dutton and
Elaine Dutton,
Mayor and Mayoress*

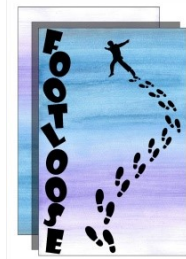


I came over for a short holiday from Spain especially to see Footloose. I was very impressed by the standard achieved both by the cast and band, and also the sound and lighting.

Congratulations must go to the Director and the MD for their hard work and their vision. Well done to everyone. It was amazing and I could see how much hard work was undertaken over the months; a great success. Thank you very much.

Judith O'Neill

Footloose was an outstanding success, as you can see from the number of reviews.



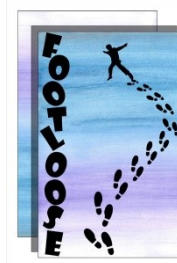
Footloose

What an inspiring show 'Footloose' was - full of verve and spirit and lovely music, well sung and danced. I really did enjoy it last Saturday and so did my fellow Councillors. In fact we also found it very relevant and we cast sneaking glances at each other when Ren discovered to his horror that The Town Council had arranged before the meeting how they were to vote. It was ever thus, Ren.

I don't want to select anyone to give them special praise because it was an ensemble piece and everyone in the cast had a lovely time and performed with great expertise and enthusiasm. Their enjoyment shone through the whole show. However, I must give a kind word to my old friend and ex neighbour Jane Baines - she always seemed a gentle soul to me, never shouting at her children and kindly soothing the brows of the animals in her care. In her role in 'Footloose' she banged that gavel with extreme viciousness and was terrifying to hear, Congratulations to the directors of the show - both musical and acting - and please invite me to the next one. I certainly don't want to miss it. Well done to all concerned.

Councillor Patricia Sullivan

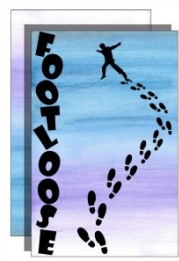
Footloose



First of all I would like to congratulate everyone who played a part, either on stage or behind the scenes at this very well polished production of "Footloose" at Bamford Chapel. The energy of the young people on stage was electric and their lines and stage presence were beyond the years of some of the young cast. I was particularly impressed with the leading man - what a fabulous voice and diction far beyond his years. The leading lady, I believe this was her first major role and boy what a fantastic job she made of it and wow she could move. I was also impressed with the Reverend and his wife - a perfect balance between them and they complimented each other well. I was well impressed when the Reverend lost his cool - it was a fantastic piece of dramatic theatre. The older "senior" members of the chorus were an asset to this fine production, especially to the sound and harmonies in the musical numbers. A big congratulations to the production team on a first class performance; can't wait to see what's next for the Bamford Players.

Well done to all
Christine Greenway

What a privilege it was to be part of the Footloose team, playing a very minor role behind the scenes. I was so proud of the whole cast, not least the five members of my own family on stage, Steven and Clair of course and all those involved in any way. When one sees such well-polished performances on show nights, it is easy to overlook the hard work put

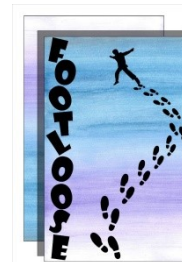


in over so many months to reach that amazing standard and amazing it certainly was! I was happy to be part of the standing ovation given at the end of Sunday's performance, to recognise the talents of so many people. It has been a blessing to Bamford and Norden URC as so many of those young people are now part of God Squad on Sunday evenings, where hopefully they will learn more of the Good News of Jesus and I know that one of the 'imported' adults is already planning to become part of our worshipping fellowship too. We must never underestimate the value of such ventures and I congratulate Steven and Clair on their choice of show and commitment to it.

Margaret Ogden

Hi everyone from Footloose! I've just written this to say thank you to everyone.

I'd like to start by saying thanks to Sam and Emma, because without them I wouldn't have auditioned. I'm so fortunate to have been part of this amazing production and I am so sad it is over and so proud of everyone. I am blown away by the amount of talent and how giving and helpful everyone backstage is. You are the nicest bunch of people I have ever met and I just want to say thank you for accepting me, my mum and brother into the family. Everyone has cared for us so much and been so supportive and I've made some amazing friends and I can't wait to keep coming to God Squad and church. It was an honour to perform with you all and I





Fairtrade Fortnight 27 February – 12 March

It's time to put Fairtrade into your break

Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 is highlighting the exploitation of farmers and workers in poor countries who produce the food and drink that make our breaks so enjoyable.

Uncertain times

2017 will be one of the most uncertain years for our generation when it comes to trade. Following the vote for Brexit, the UK will be coming to terms with the need to negotiate more than 50 international trade deals. ***No one knows yet what this means for farmers and workers in poor countries. At the same time, the spiralling price wars between supermarkets are set to intensify, putting even more pressure on the most vulnerable producers who deliver so much of what we eat.***

Caught in the Poverty Trap

Many of the farmers and workers who grow our food aren't getting paid fairly. Thousands of farmers in countries such as Malawi, Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire all contribute to tea, coffee and cocoa we enjoy in the UK. And yet many of those farmers are living in poverty.

The Human Cost

Low prices paid to farmers can mean:

- ◆ They can only afford to feed their families one meal a day. This can lead to health problems for their children such as stunting.
- ◆ They can't afford medical care and put off treatment their families really need.
- ◆ They don't have enough money to send their children to school. Lack of money also means pressure for children to work.
- ◆ They can't afford to invest in better farming. That means they can't improve the quality of their crops and charge a higher price for them.

Fairtrade exists to change this. Fairtrade means that farmers get a better deal for what they grow. This leads to a better and more stable income, and can help break the cycle of poverty they are trapped in. But many companies are only buying a fraction of their crops as Fairtrade, and even more companies aren't buying Fairtrade at all. Not enough companies are doing it, not enough people are buying it and not enough farmers are benefiting from it.

That is where you come in

Come along and support the Fairtrade events at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC during Fairtrade Fortnight.

Thursday 9 March Community Coffee morning 10am – 12pm with cake and craft stalls.

Sunday 12 March after the morning service Big Brew with cake stall, games, raffle, craft stalls, goods to sample.

Start buying Fairtrade goods at the supermarket and at the Fairtrade stall at chapel.

Order crafts from the new spring catalogue.

Proceeds from Fairtrade events will go to Traidcraft Exchange, the charity wing of Traidcraft who provide support, training and advice to their producers.



Foodbank Update

January was unexpectedly busy, in fact our busiest month yet, with 402 vouchers for emergency food being presented. As a result we gave out 1.25 tonnes more food than we received in the month, emphasising again just how reliant we are on the continuing goodwill and generosity of our supporters.

Our website rochdale.foodbank.org.uk is now updated regularly with lists of food products of which we're short and those of which we have a surplus. To find this, from the home page, click on Give Help and then Donate Food.

Thank you all once again.

Margaret Ogden pp John Tolley



**Feeding the
Community**

Daily Devotions

Every day of the year, early each morning, the URC sends out, by email, a Daily Devotion consisting of a reading, reflection and short prayer. You can read them on your computer, phone, or tablet and they provide inspiration in your inbox! The Devotions are written by a team of over 90 people from a range of perspectives and places within the URC. If you would like to receive them you can sign up by going to <http://tinyurl.com/URCDailyDevotions> and filling in the form.

Andy Braunston
URC Daily Devotions Project Co-ordinator



A BIG PLEASE

Before disposing of anything please make sure nobody else has any use for it. Even though you may think it is useless, others may need the use of it.

If you take things please return them as soon as possible.

If you borrow or lend anything please write it in the book in the coffee area when taken and when returned.

Please remember to be thoughtful at all times of others.

We are a very busy Church and it is very inconvenient if items go missing, especially when they are needed for some event or organisation.

God Bless
Margaret Watson (Elder)

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

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

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Times of Services:

Family Worship : 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1st Sunday in month
Evening Worship : 6.00 pm : Holy Communion 3rd Sunday in month