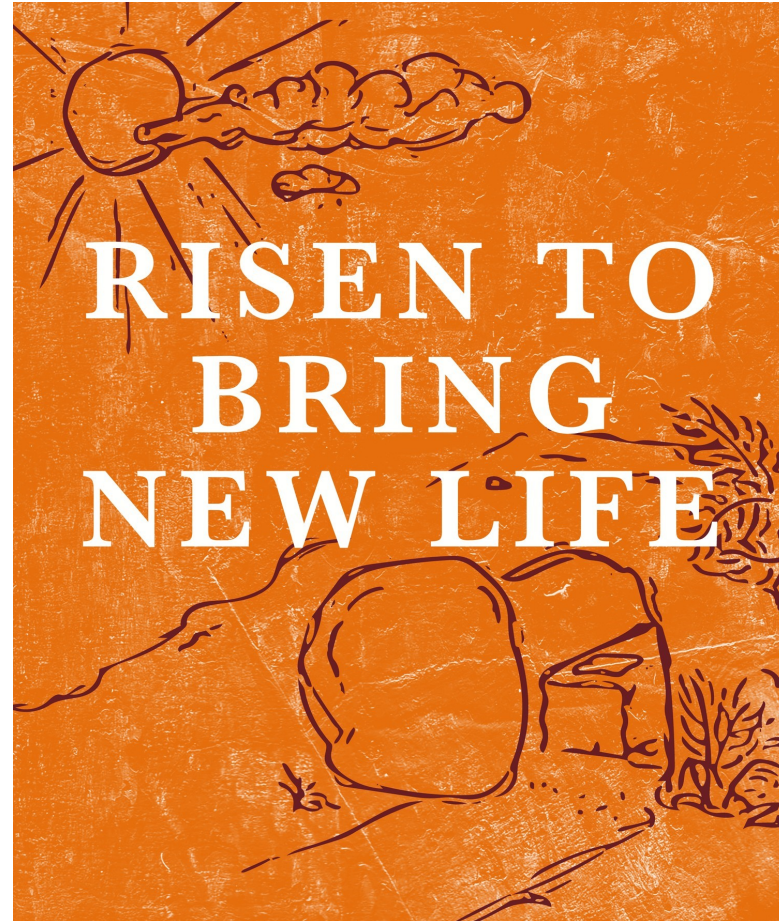




Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



April 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.

April 2017

Sunday 2nd April Lent 5	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	After Service	Burial of Vera Morley's Ashes in the Garden of Remembrance
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by David Watson
Thursday 6 th April	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 9th April Palm Sunday	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	After Service	Burial of Olive Brierley's Ashes in the Garden of Remembrance
	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Messy Church (see page 6)
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Thursday 13 th April	7.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Friday 14th April	10.00 am	Good Friday Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	7.00 pm	Good Friday Drama (see page 5)
Sunday 16th April Easter Sunday	9.00 am	Easter Breakfast in the Primary Room and Lounge
	10.30 am	Easter Sunday Communion (All Ages) Led by Revd Richard Bradley NB: NO EVENING SERVICE
Sunday 23rd April	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Walter Brisk
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Anne Fitton
Sunday 30th April	10.30 am	Family Worship with Baptism Led by Revd Richard Bradley NB: NO EVENING SERVICE

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 & Girls' Association
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** **Dates to be decided**
6.30 pm at Dolce Vita (optional) then
7.30 pm 17 Bamford Mews
- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** **4th & 18th April**
2.30 pm in the Lounge
Home Group **11th & 25th April**
8.00 pm in the Manse (unless otherwise stated
on the screen)
- Thursday:** **Ladies' Fellowship** **20th April** (see page 11)
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.

Message from the Manse “Communication”

People often say Jesus was an excellent communicator. He could speak to people in their language. To farmers he used analogies and stories to get across the gospel message.



Likewise to fishermen he would use analogies and stories of fishing to get across his message. Many a preacher would hope that she or he could have the same ability to present the message in meaningful and relevant ways.

Do we, as individuals as well as ‘we’ as the church, communicate our faith well with others? I hope those of us who are attending the Monday night “Life on the Frontline” discussion meetings have given thought and prayer to how we present the gospel, or share the gospel with others when we are being Christ’s advocates on our frontlines i.e. those places where we spend our time outside of the life of the church.

On a similar theme of sharing the gospel is the issue of sharing with others what we do as a church. I have been somewhat surprised with some conversations I have had with some members recently, who seem not to know about some of the groups involved in Church. I am not talking about those groups that may hire the church, I am talking about groups that are a fundamental part of the church. That got me thinking about the different ways we communicate what is going on in the life of Bamford Chapel and Norden URC. I feel we need to:

Make more use of those modes of communication. For we have many – we have (the name in brackets is the person to contact to give info to):-

- a) the weekly notice sheet (Joan Warner)
- b) the monthly magazine (Linda Peacock and Lesley Sutton)
- c) the notices scrolling on the screen at the start of the morning service (James Challinor)
- d) the Chapel website (Richard Bradley)

- e) Facebook (Louise Aspinall)
- f) the spoken notices during morning and evening service (Elder on duty)
- g) the church notice boards around church (Gillian James)
- h) the community page in "streetwise magazine" (Joan Warner)
- i) the "community pages" in the Observer newspaper (Joan Warner)
- j) word of mouth (all of us)
- k) Church Meeting (all of us)



That is 11 different ways we can communicate about what is going on in the life of the Church. There may be others that I have not thought about! But the above listed ways of communicating are only good if we as individuals use those modes of communication. In short we need to read/listen to what we do as a church. Because each group that we have and each meeting we have is a way of sharing the faith that we profess as Christians. If we don't know what is going on then it makes it impossible to invite those outside the church to those events.

We have many groups within the church, some you may know a lot about others you may not. In the morning services we will hear news from the different groups as they share with the rest of us what they do. This will not only enable us to know what goes on in the life of the church but it will also help us to know how to pray for each of the groups too.

*God Bless
Your Servant in Christ, Richard*

**Bamford Chapel and Norden URC
Lent Course 2017 - Life on the Frontline
Monday 3rd April - The Frontline Cry
Monday 10th April - The Frontline Commitment
7.30 pm - 9 pm
In Chapel - All Welcome**

Food for Thought

presents

Come and take a
fresh look at the
Easter story



Drama for Easter

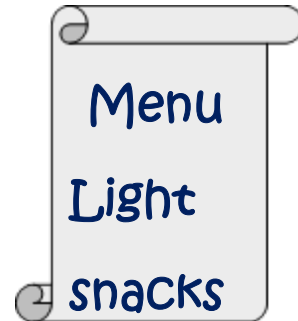
@ Bamford Chapel & Norden URC
Norden Road, OL11 5PQ

Good Friday 14 April 2017

7 pm



**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**



On Sunday

9 April 2 – 4 pm

**@ Bamford Chapel
and Norden URC**



Come to
Professor
Addie's lab



Children please bring an adult with you

***Advanced dates: Sunday 7th May – Gift Day for the
organisations
Sunday 21st May 10.30am – Mayoral Service at Bamford
Chapel and Norden URC.***

Chaplain to the Mayor

Some of you may or may not know that the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ian Duckworth, has asked me to be his chaplain from May 2017 – May 2018 during his Mayoral year. This will mean I attend the Mayor Making ceremony, lead the Mayoral Service, attend council meetings and lead a prayer at the start of them. I am then allowed to stay for the full meeting or leave!



Ian has asked if the Mayoral service can be held at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC. He wants it to happen in the morning service rather than at any other time. **On Sunday 21st May that will take place in Chapel at 10.30am.** It will be a busy morning with more people attending than usual. (The Church Meeting due that day has been brought forward to 14th May.) We will need help nearer the time in preparing for that service and may need extra help to serve drinks after the service! Please pray for that service as we will have people there who perhaps don't usually attend any church and it will be an opportunity to welcome them and to share with them.

Thanks, Richard.

Pastoral Visitors



Is visiting something you could do? One of the many duties of Elders is to visit and oversee people who attend Church and those who can no longer attend. Each Elder has a visitor to help in this role. As a pastoral committee we are always happy to recruit people to help with this valuable work. If you feel you would like to be a visitor please

contact Dot Craig, Jean Fitton, Gillian Galloway, Elizabeth Greer, Audrey Telford, Joan Warner or Margaret Watson.

***Thank you - God Bless
Pastoral Committee***

Gift Day



On Sunday 7th May during the service we will hold our annual Gift Day, when the organisations kindly donate financial gifts to the church. It is an occasion not only to give financially but it also reminds us all of some of the groups that are part of Bamford Chapel and Norden URC. Please speak to Steven Gooding, our treasurer, if you need any further information about this.

Work Days



As most of us know we are blessed with a large building and land to match! Whilst this is a good resource for mission it also comes with the regular challenge of maintenance. As I write this article I look out on a newly cut field at the back of Church – the first cut of the year. But this doesn't just happen. There are many other things that happen around the buildings and grounds that are done by willing volunteers. Often done quietly and unnoticed.

Unfortunately the number of people able to do some of these jobs is dwindling. The Elders have suggested that we set some dates for working parties to come and do some of the odd jobs around the grounds and buildings. The Scout leaders have kindly said that the Scouts would do some jobs on a Friday night when a date can be found.

We will set some dates for these over the summer. There may be one or two Friday night dates as that is when scouts and some members have said they prefer to come. Whilst others may prefer a Saturday morning. Please look out on the notice sheet and the projector screen for dates and times and if you are able to come and give some time in helping out that would be really appreciated!

Thanks and God Bless - Richard

Big Day Out 2017

The North Western Synod (of which we are a part) is holding another Big Day Out, together with Mersey Synod. It is on **Saturday 8th July from 10am at the Southport Convention Centre. Ticket costs are £8 for adults before the 17th April (£10 thereafter); children under 16 have free entry (please note even though children get free entry a ticket will still need to be booked.)** Please see the Synod Website for more details of the day at www.nwsynod.org.uk

Addie and Barbara Redmond, Richard Bradley are on the planning group, so we hope that we will see some familiar faces at the event! Alison Greaves will also be there sharing about her time at the UN Youth Council. Please see the posters up in church and speak to Addie, Barbara or Richard if you want any further information.

The programme will include speakers like:

- ◆ Revd John Proctor - Acts: The Church in Action
- ◆ Revd Steve Chalke - The Church and Peace-making Initiatives
- ◆ Revd Richard Church - Walking the Way
- ◆ Revd Andrew Roberts - Holy Habits
- ◆ Lawrence Moore
- ◆ Grace Pengelly

Workshops:

- ◆ Dementia – awareness in worship & work within the community
- ◆ Developing the Church in the community
- ◆ Gathering and telling stories
- ◆ Puppets in worship
- ◆ The Naked Vicar
- ◆ Magic/clowning
- ◆ Art in worship
- ◆ Drama
- ◆ Crafty Christians & Fun Science



*I'd just like to say **Thank You** for the lovely flowers that I received from Chapel on 12 March. It was so kind of people to think of me. Sarah Gall*



MARCH MEETING “Making a Difference” [Emmanuel Crafts]

Maureen Hawksworth came to us on 9th March from Harwood, Bolton to tell to us of her six years in Kathmandu and of the work she and her husband did whilst living there. Initially the plan was to stay for two years working for Methodist Mission Partners but this extended to six. [Reminds me of a couple from this church whose stay in Africa was longer than originally planned!!]. I am so pleased the meeting was very well attended as Maureen had such a lot to tell us and I am particularly delighted to inform you that £277 was raised from the sale of jewellery and handbags. Her time with us was enlightening, illuminating and very rewarding.

Nepal is a beautiful country with lovely people but it is a very male dominated society and life is hard for the women there, especially in the high villages where life has not changed for centuries. 85% of the population live off the land and most of the work in the house and fields is done by the women.

School is not compulsory and traditionally girls have not been educated as they marry young and become the property of their husband's family. Most marriages are arranged. Horoscopes provide the means of identifying a suitable partner.

There are many problems in childbirth as the girls start bearing children when still young and have had no antenatal classes or sex education. Traditionally they are sent out on their own to give birth as they become ritually unclean when they start in labour. One in five children dies before the age of five. The government is now trying to train someone in each village to be with the girls; not a fully trained midwife but a birthing attendant. A woman has little status in a family until she produces a son. Daughters are not usually welcome.

In this mainly Hindu country, the first son lights the funeral pyre and looks after the father in old age and the second son looks after the mother. If a woman does not produce a son, the husband may take a second wife; his wife's sister if she is available. This is now illegal but the practice still exists. Women only wear red after they are married and cease to wear it if they are widowed.

Many women are abused by family and fellow villagers making their life very hard. **Emmanuel Crafts** has helped many women since it started to get “back on track” and be able to feed and educate their children, regaining their self-esteem.

In July 2007 **Emmanuel Crafts** started. It supports eight ladies and their families by making beaded jewellery. Two young girls are unmarried and the other ladies are either deserted wives or widows left to bring up children on their own. There is no provision for such people from the state. Working for Emmanuel Crafts means rice on the table and money for schooling for their children. There is also help for medical costs and any other emergencies. Emmanuel Crafts is owned and run



by the ladies themselves and they make all the decisions including the pricing. The intention of the project is to give work to as many as possible, not to make a few rich. All the ladies are Christians and each day begins with a small act of worship. Before being given the opportunity to work, life was very hard. Maureen feels that as she started and supported the project whilst serving as a Methodist Mission Partner in Nepal, she can now help the ladies by marketing their goods. The jewellery is very well made and reasonably priced. **Everything used by the project is bought in Kathmandu to ensure that it is sustainable and environmentally friendly.** She buys from the ladies and sells for a small profit which, in turn, helps to support a village school in Nepal for which she helped to raise funds. The school is in Palpa district which is a day’s journey from Kathmandu.

Maureen will be returning next season to talk to us about other projects with which she has been involved and maybe a little more about the beautiful country of Nepal. She has emailed me twice asking me to thank the Ladies Fellowship for the warmth of their reception and of how grateful she is for the amount raised.

LESLEY SUTTON

*The next meeting is on **Thursday 20th April** when Addie Redmond will entertain us with poetry readings. Please bring your favourite poem if you have one. This is not going to be a serious evening [No “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” or “Wasteland”] but hopefully lots of fun with poems by Hilaire Belloc, Ogden Nash AND Pam Ayres!*

The Safe House in Mugumu



Carole, Alison, Barbara and Addie went to visit the safe house which was our project in 2014. You may remember Mama Rhobi from the safe house who visited our church. It was really inspiring to work with her for a week. We would like to share a few thoughts and experiences with you, but we would need a book to record it all!

We arrived late on Sunday so nothing started until after a good night's sleep at our guest house. Monday morning and we were introduced to the full-time and volunteer staff and given the full tour of the safe house. It was good to see a dormitory for 4 girls with "Bamford" written across the top of the door. We were impressed by the garden where they grow their own vegetables and fruit and they were in the process of building a new dining hall, which they could hire out for functions (weddings, etc) to bring in much needed funding.

Addie and Barbara had not met Rhobi before but were instantly impressed with her. Rhobi is a visionary with great drive to get things done. She is highly motivated, organised and we were incredibly impressed with her. All this with her loving concern for the girls in her care makes her awesome! The safe house could not be in better hands. This is how it all works:

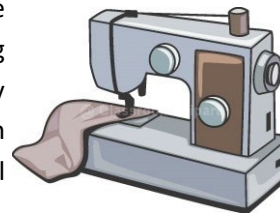
- ◆ A "roadshow" is taken around the region to villages and schools. Girls are informed of their right not to be cut and how to get to the safe house if necessary. They also set up local volunteers who keep an eye out for likely victims and offer them support.
- ◆ The girls whose families insist that they keep to the ancient customs can escape to the safe house – some walk many miles to get there, some are helped by the police (FGM is illegal in Tanzania) and some by local pastors or sympathetic family members.
- ◆ The girls stay at the safe house for the duration of the "cutting

season” usually November to January. Afterwards they are escorted to their homes by staff of the safe house, who will not let them remain there unless they get an undertaking from their families that they are not at risk of being cut in the future. They really try to win over the families to believe that it is time to end FGM.

- ◆ Groups including safe house staff, a police officer and a social worker do 3 monthly visits to check on the girls who have returned home, to make sure that the families are genuinely sticking to their promise of no FGM.
- ◆ The girls who remain at the safe house either go to the local primary and secondary schools or attend the tailoring class or computing class run at the centre.

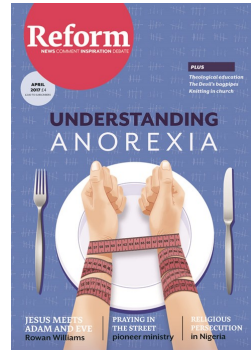
Rhobi was keen to let us make a contribution to the work of the safe house and together we worked out a programme for the week. It was very rewarding for us to be able to make a significant contribution to the life of the girls in the safe house as we led them in games, craft, Maths and Science activities. Group mentoring sessions and the UN sustainable development goals completed our contributions. Neema, the full-time social worker at the safe house was an extremely good translator so we were able to communicate effectively.

We were able to accompany Rhobi on some of her follow-up visits. To be able to visit girls in their own homes and schools was very special for us. To see the thorough follow-up that was taking place assured us that the girls’ safety and education should not suffer in the future. In particular we visited Leah who after completing her tailoring class returned to her family. She was given a sewing machine by the safe house and now runs a successful tailoring business. We are currently raising money to buy a second embroidery sewing machine for Leah so she can expand her business and train local girls to work for her.



Addie, Barbara, Carole and Alison

Look forward to *Reform* magazine!



The Easter (April) edition of *Reform* – the monthly magazine published by the United Reformed Church – is out on Sunday 26 March. It contains theology from the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, a comedic column about ‘the devil’s bagpipes’ and the ever-popular crossword page – as well as the usual mix of news, commentary, inspiration and debate. Don’t miss out! Order your copy today.

Reform is one of the freshest, most challenging and most enriching Christian magazines there is. But don’t take our word for it – read it, buy it, and judge for yourselves. Single copies are just £4 each, and a year’s worth of *Reform* magazines costs £18 (for digital copies), £28 (for paper copies) or £34 (for both digital and paper copies). **Call the subscription hotline on 01371 851 886 or visit www.reform-magazine.co.uk for more information.**

If you’re already reading and enjoying *Reform*, why not make it a bigger part of your spiritual life by using the study material published online? Every month, the *Reform* team makes discussion and study resources available based on the Bible studies and feature articles published in the magazine. These can be found online from www.reform-magazine.co.uk/study-materials. *Reform* can be an invaluable resource for your faith as well as for church life, so don’t forget to read it, buy it and support your denomination’s magazine.

Easter Eggs

Though a great success commercially
We ask (if maybe controversially)
Are the lessons of the lectionary
Really found in such confectionery?

By Nigel Beeton

Churches Together in North West Rochdale

Lent Course 2017

At Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

The Way of the Cross

Last meeting of the course

Thursday 6th April

Lunch at 12.30 pm - Course 1 - 2pm

Prayer for Resurrection Power



Thank you Father that, because of what Jesus achieved on the cross, we can be resurrection-powered people; empowered to live each day confidently, whatever life's challenges may be, knowing that our security is in you alone.

In Jesus you have overcome the world and its troubles and have defeated death.

When the world seems overwhelming Lord,
help us to keep Jesus as our compass
and to come safely to the one
who has the words of eternal life.

Help us to hear those words and respond
in trust and anticipation.

Thank you Father for giving us your Son and your Spirit.

Thank you for your life-giving Easter work.

In Jesus name.

Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Sent to Pat Anderson by a Dear Friend



A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbour if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbour girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them, as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, **“Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?”** Timmy nonchalantly replied, **“Yeah, I know who she is.”** The little girl said, **“Well, who is she?”**

“That's just Shirley Goodnest” Timmy replied, **“and her daughter Marcy.”**

“Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?” **“Well,”** Timmy explained, **“every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, ‘Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life’ so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!”**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always. I know you smiled! I sure did.

Please pray that Shirley Goodnest & Marcy go with everyone you love!!!

Pat Anderson

Fashion Show by Denis Hope
Friday 28th April : 7 for 7.30pm
At Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

Admission – £6.00

Raffle : Tea : Coffee : Biscuits

This is a first for our newly refurbished Church, and I'm sure the ambience of the Sanctuary will lend beautifully to the styles and fashion.

We know many of you support our efforts to raise funds for Cancer Research. Maybe you could bake a cake to donate to the cake stall on the evening? Any willing bakers please let Dot Craig know if you can provide something for the stall. Dot, as usual, will be making her famous Cheese and Onion Pies. Every penny raised goes towards Cancer Research.

We also have some other stalls – a new one to some of you will be Lenspeed. If you wear spectacles, Darryl has over 25 years experience making them, and will have a huge selection of frames on display, many of which are leading designer brands. All types of lenses are available - Vari-focal, Bi-focal, Single Vision, High Index, and Transitions, **all at unbeatable prices**. Spectacles will be delivered to your door on completion. All Darryl needs is your prescription. I'm sure he will have set up by 6.30 on the evening, should you wish to come early.

Of course, as this is a Denis Hope Fashion show, there will be many items to interest the gentlemen too, so don't feel it's a Ladies only evening. We look forward to seeing you.

Elizabeth Greer

*(on behalf of the Heywood and Rochdale Cancer
Research Committee)*



My Return Trip to Zambia in October Last Year

I was really excited about returning to Zambia for 2 weeks with Mission Direct for the 3rd time in 7 years; to work on their building project and to meet all my Zambian friends again. There were only 9 of us in the team this time, and we were the final team out last year, so we were painting the two new classrooms, both inside and out, which had been built by previous teams. We also spent a few mornings renovating classrooms in the first school that Mission Direct had built in this poor area of Lusaka. 7 years before, on my first trip I had worked hard with a much younger team of students, building the foundations to the school. I remembered how physical that work had been; carrying bricks, mixing cement by hand and building the walls of the foundations under the guidance of the Zambian builders, with no mechanical tools whatsoever, as there was no electricity for miles!! Meeting and sharing time with hundreds of the children and teenagers at both schools was such a joy. The standard of education in



these deprived areas of Zambia is poor in comparison to ours, the teachers not always fully trained, but the children's enthusiasm to learn, and happy, friendly manner to us whilst working in the schools was so good to see. These children feel they are lucky to be in school. So many of the

children we met, whilst visiting families in the 'shanty towns' around Lusaka do not go to school at all.

The weather is getting very hot in October, so it was good to return to our little 'chalets' for lunch and a little break. If we were lucky the electric power would be on and we could have a bath, even though it was in about four inches of water! There's not enough power in Zambia, so it goes off for 4 hours most days! Each afternoon we had visits - to the abandoned babies home, or the refuges for both boys and girls built by Mission Direct, for those who had been street kids, and the 'half way house' where street kids came for a bath and a meal. These were often heart wrenching times.

They were run by dedicated young Zambian Christians, who had been street kids themselves, and who had such love and concern for the children. They had wonderful testimonies of God's grace and deliverance. We spent time reading with, and playing games with the boys at the half way house, and then how sad it was to see them walk down the road to spend the night on the street again. It's hard for us to understand the draw and the camaraderie there is on the streets for many of them, and how hard it is for them to live by the rules of the refuge. The girls at their newly built refuge were a delight. They sang and danced for us, and many of them now go to the Crown of Life School where we had been working.

It was also a delight to meet Nelson again, the student who I had sponsored through school and to arrange a year-long electrical course for him. I also met for the first time the two boys who are being sponsored by friends from church. They had walked for a few miles in the heat from their school to meet me, and what great boys they were. They were delighted, and a bit overwhelmed with photos of their sponsors, and gifts of football shirts, red and blue, kit bags and scarves etc. My nephews and friends had given me enough Manchester City football shirts to kit out the whole team at the school!!

I want to thank again, all the friends at church for giving me so much clothing for the children and teenagers, and also money gifts. I was able to give some to the orphanage, some to the boys and girls refuges, and some to the families we visited in the 'shanty' town nearby. The £300 cash gifts I received, I was able to give directly to families and individuals as I saw the need; particularly when on home visits with the Home based Care team from the church, and also some to help at the refuges.



Our last day at the school was a Saturday, and all the schoolchildren came to the Grand Ceremony of handing over the two new classrooms, which will be used for the older students to continue their education. They all sang and danced for us, and one of our team was given the honour of cutting the tape! The various Mission Direct teams during the year had built the classrooms, and we did the finishing off - but we got all the glory!!

Pat Anderson

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017

Christian Aid (Bamford)



Christian Aid week looms once more and I would ask you all to put the dates in your diary... **14th-20th May**. We shall be doing a House to House collection once more and, as always, I will need

volunteers to help. If you are already on my list, please have a word with me to indicate your willingness to help again. I will assume you are willing to help unless you let me know otherwise. If you are not on my list please give it some serious thought.

As I am writing this I am pleased to report the fantastic response to our Lenten 20p appeal. I have no doubt that we will be able to make a chain which will stretch right round the Church by Easter. So well done everyone. Sadly the need just keeps on growing. I took the liberty of putting posters around the Church to bring to your attention the appeal which has been issued to try to alleviate the threat of starvation for millions of people in Africa. I'm sure you have all seen the harrowing pictures on your TV screens of people suffering from malnutrition and I would urge you to send as much as you can to respond to this terrible situation.

This is what it says on the Christian Aid web page:

People are dying daily from hunger and malnutrition across East Africa. This is the worst humanitarian crisis since 1945.

Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan, where 100,000 people face starvation and nearly 5 million people urgently need food. This crisis follows more than three years of devastating conflict, which has left millions of people without a safe place to call home.



The situation is also grave in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia where 14 million people are going hungry every day, caught up in the region's worst drought in 50 years. **In Somalia alone, over 360,000 children under five are extremely malnourished.**

The situation is deteriorating rapidly. A major catastrophe is unfolding. We need to reach people quickly. We must act now. [Please donate to our East Africa Crisis Appeal](#)

Thank you for your continued generosity in response to the many blessings we enjoy.

Margaret Ogden

Christian Aid (Norden Village Centre)

Christian Aid week beckons, **commencing Sunday 14th May**. If anyone could possibly spare some time to deliver and/or collect envelopes in Norden Village centre, this would be greatly appreciated.

Please speak to me, Linda Lees - 07745 803 107

There is also the chance to raise further funds by attending or assisting with the delicious Christian Aid lunch at St Paul's Church Hall on Sunday 21st May after church 12 pm. Tickets £7 adults, £3.50 children. This is an annual event and a chance to meet people from the Churches Together group.

Blessings - Linda Lees



Coffee Rota

Please could I ask for volunteers to kindly offer to help with this rota as due to unforeseen circumstances some helpers have had to withdraw? At the moment the rotas are every 8 weeks and everyone swaps between themselves if they can't be here on their particular week for whatever reason.

We all seem to enjoy partaking of this refreshment after service so please speak to me if you would like to try it on the other side of the counter! We are mostly old hands so you wouldn't be thrown in at the deep end and you get to meet many of the congregation.

Whilst making this plea, can I also say a heartfelt thank you on behalf of us all to everyone who helps week by week and also for past service? It's very much appreciated.

Love and God Bless - Diane Healey

Olive Brierley



As a family we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone in our church family here at Bamford and Norden URC for your kindness and sympathy expressed to us all following Olive's death.

The many cards, letters and flowers we received gave us great comfort and support, and the kind words and memories of mum touched us deeply.

Olive's funeral was a wonderful celebration and thanksgiving for her long and blessed life here at Chapel. We were so grateful that so many friends attended and made it such a special occasion; and for all the generous donations given in her memory.

It is at times like these that one feels truly blessed to be upheld and supported by the love of God and all our Church family and friends.

With love and thanks - Elizabeth and family

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Flowers in Church

Donations for Flowers in February & March received from:

Philip and Jenifer MacKimm - Wedding Anniversary

Carolyn Divers in memory of Derek Gooding

Anne Newman in memory of Ian

Margaret Frain in memory of Geoff



*
* **Flowers Coordinator** *
* * * * *

* **Elizabeth Hazlehurst** has very kindly volunteered to
* take over this role. She will supply the next rota from
* the end of April. Gillian James will continue to assist
* and deputise for Elizabeth, and Sue Hampson will
* compile the annual calendar.



* Many thanks to Elizabeth for taking on this important part of our
* Ministry.

* *Thank you to Pamela Harrington for her service in this role*
* *over the past 6 years.*

* **PS: There are still many spaces to fill on the calendar. Please**
* **hand any donations to Elizabeth Hazlehurst or Gillian James**

**Prayer is more than meditation. In meditation the source
of strength is one's self. When one prays he goes to a
source of strength greater than his own.**
Madame de Stael

* * * * *
* **Belarus Fund** *
* * * * *

* A big "Thank you" from Carol Hartley to everyone
* who supported the Tombola at Heywood Market
* and also to those who donated gifts

* **Amount Raised**

* **£574**

* Proceeds will be used to support the Children of
* Belarus on the Charity's next visit



COMMUNITY CINEMA AT BAMFORD CHAPEL AND NORDEN URC

At the church meeting on 19th March 2017, I outlined the latest progress in setting up the above. Here are some of the pointers.

The **proposal** is to set up a community cinema; to be known as “The Ian Newman Community Cinema”. Initially to show one film per month, probably on Saturday evenings and possibly starting in September this year.

- ◆ The **purpose** is to enable people to enjoy films in the comfort of our newly refurbished sanctuary.
- ◆ To welcome people into our fellowship in the hope they will find love and may want to be part of our life of worship and service.
- ◆ To present general films that fit with Philippians 4:8 “whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy” [adding FUN].

Progress so far ...

- ◆ Lesley Sutton and I have met with Councillor Pat Sullivan who is keen on the idea and willing to provide yearly funds via Rochdale MBC. She advised us to make contact with Beverley Wilkinson who is the local licensing officer. [Pat volunteered to do this on our behalf]
- ◆ A small enthusiastic team has been formed and will meet on Monday 20th March at Lesley’s home. They are myself, Lesley, Anne Newman, Diane Davies, James Challinor, Pat Sullivan and Beverley Wilkinson. At a later date John Fitton and Linda Lees will be part of the team. Gareth Rich will also be involved. Help will be asked for on the night with car parking and refreshments.
- ◆ We have guidelines from the national organisation “Cinema for All” which deals with legal issues, organising a team and constitution, sourcing films, licensing, finance and publicity.
- ◆ On Friday 31st March a few of the team will be visiting Monton Film Club held at Monton Unitarian Church for a 7.00pm

showing of "Amelie." If anyone wishes to join us, please have a word with either myself or Lesley.

- ◆ Lesley has been in touch with the organisers of the Reel2Reel Film Club in Ramsbottom and also from the film club at Playhouse 2, Shaw. Both have offered help.

PLEASE support this venture, and the people involved, with your prayers. Finally if you have any expertise/experience in this field, please speak to us?

JOAN WARNER



"I sort of got into Westerns... It was a sort of desperation move, really. I had several pictures that didn't go very well, and I just realized that I would have to try something else." James Stewart

Remembering Corrie ten Boom



Corrie ten Boom, the Dutch Christian writer and speaker, was born 125 years ago this month, on 15th April 1892. She died on the same date in 1983.

According to Jewish custom, celebrating the same date for both birth and death is the sign of a special individual, and this was certainly true of Corrie ten Boom, who helped many Jews escape the Holocaust during World War Two, and then established a rehabilitation shelter for concentration camp survivors.

She said: "You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have."

The story of 'The Hiding Place' set up in the ten Boom family house to hide Jewish refugees and others is well documented. When an informant tipped off the Nazis, the entire family was imprisoned, and Corrie and her sister were sent to Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.

She was released, through a 'clerical error', just days after her sister had died there. A week later all the women in her age group were sent to gas chambers.

Corrie ten Boom told the whole story in her best-selling book, The Hiding Place (1971), which was made into a film in 1975. In 1977, she emigrated to California.



Thank You!

I write to thank all those who recently helped me to make ten daily visits to the Christie's at Oldham; not only for their transport but equally for their company and conversation during our visits. I wish to thank firstly, Addie, for the volunteer scheme, and the following for giving up their time and cars to be with me:- Dot Craig, Margaret Ogden, Anne Fitton, Sue Harrington, Gill Galloway, David Watson, Joan Warner and Ian Sturrock. They were all a great support.

PS On the way out of the hospital and adjacent to the Reception and small cafeteria hung a brass bell on the wall, along with a plaque inviting one to ring it following your final session - which I did; and to my amazement all the people sitting in the cafeteria and staff around in the area all clapped vigorously. What a perfect and lovely idea!

Derrick Yates

MARJORIE FARRINGTON

Sadly Bamford Chapel and Norden URC lost another of our members at the beginning of January. Marjorie had been a member for many years and when possible always attended the Sunday morning service and often helped serve the coffee afterwards. Marjorie was a quiet, elegant lady but had many friends in the Church and liked to take part in the activities of the Ladies Fellowship, the Stillness and Sharing Group and for a short time attended the Luncheon Club. Her family were very important to her - Ken her husband who unfortunately died a few years ago, her two daughters Susan and Heather and her Grand Daughter Lindsey, who she was very proud of. She will be sadly missed and I feel privileged to have been one of her friends. *Jean Foster*





**HEYWOOD AND
ROCHDALE LOCAL
COMMITTEE**

ROCHDALE YOUTH BRASS BAND

Conductor: Ben Dixon

DIXIE BAND

FANFARE TEAM

Conducted by Cathie Brooks

on

Saturday 20th May 2017

7.30pm

at

*Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed
Church, Norden Road, ROCHDALE OL11 5PQ*

Raffle [in aid of Cancer Research]

Ticket Price: £7.00 [adult]

£4.00 [children under 12]

Family Ticket: £18.00 [2 adults, 2 children]

Tickets available from: Lesley Sutton [01706 638005]

Margaret Ogden [01706 642343]

Rochdale Music Service : 01706 926750

Admission by ticket only

*Proceeds to be split between Cancer Research and
Bamford Chapel and Norden URC*

Children's Page



EASTER SYMBOLS

At Easter it is all bunnies, eggs and lambs in the shops. Why are they symbols of Easter?

One of the oldest Spring symbols in the world is the egg - it promises new life as in Spring, fluffy yellow chicks are hatched from eggs.



The hare was a symbol of the moon and is connected with Easter because the date of Easter depends upon the full moon. Over time, the hare became a rabbit, because there are more rabbits around than hares!

The lamb represents Jesus and links His death to that of the lamb sacrificed on the first Passover. Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

EASTER WORDSEARCH

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with Spring and Easter - can you find them all?

D C A G M Y N N U B
A D H A R E T U L I
F U B I N A G P O P
F C M I C R S G Y M
O K A Y R K S S E O
D P L N E D R A G S
I I C R O C U S A S
L L B G N I R P S O
B U F L O W E R D L
U T D U O L C D U B

bird blossom bud
bunny chick cloud crocus
daffodil duck egg flower
garden grass hare lamb lily
spring tulip

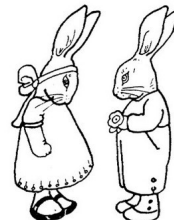


How do baby hens dance?

Chick to chick.

Why does the chicken go to the theatre?

For hentertainment.



Which rabbits were famous bank robbers?

Bunny and Clyde!

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE

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DATES FOR THE MAY MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 16th April

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 27th April

Magazine distributed: Sunday 30th April

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

United Reformed Church

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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