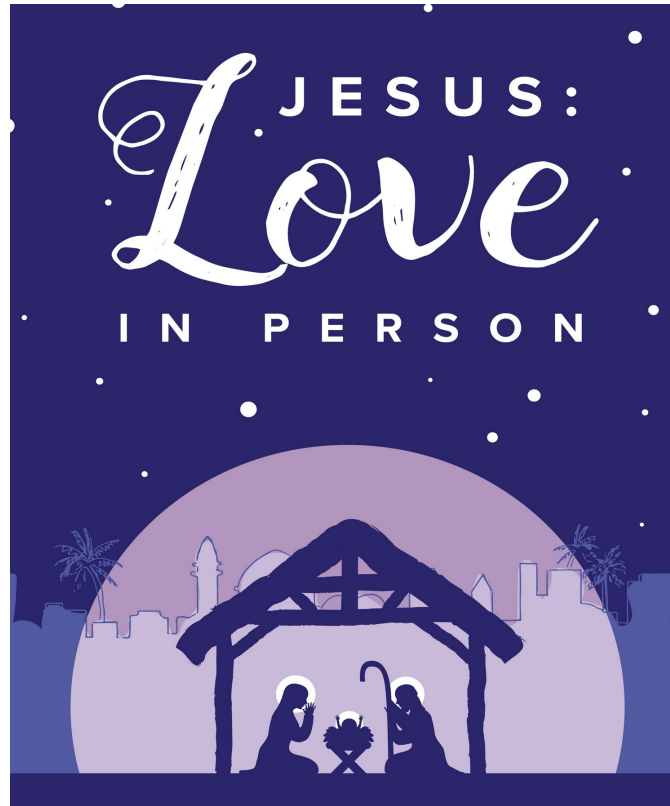




The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



**December 2017 &
January 2018**

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

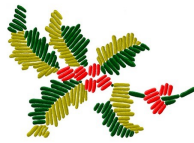
We are called as Christians to share the good news; living as examples of Christ in our everyday lives we can spread the word and love of Jesus.

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.



December 2017

Sunday 3rd December	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	7.00 pm	United Christian Singers Performance of "The Silence and the Sound"
Thursday 7 th December	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 10th December	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley & Cath Atkinson
	2.00 pm 3.00 pm	Carol Singing at Half Acre House and at Oakland - Please come and join us
	6.30 pm	Informal Evening Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Tuesday 12 th December	8.00 pm	Home Group at the Manse (Bring and share food event for Christmas)
Saturday 16 th December	12 noon	Churches Together in North West Rochdale Carol Singing at Cutgate Precinct (see p. 12)
	2.00 pm and 6.45 pm	Ian Newman Community Film Day In Chapel (see page 22)
Sunday 17th December	10.30 am	Family Worship & Nativity Service Led by Junior Church
	4.00 pm	Family Tea -All welcome (please sign up on the notice board)
	6.30 pm	Carol Service (Refreshments afterwards) Led by Revd Richard Bradley & the Choir
Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	4.00 pm	Christingle Service (please note the time) Led by Revd Richard Bradley & Cath Atkinson
	11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Christmas Day Monday 25th December	10.00 am	Christmas Day Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
New Year's Eve Sunday 31st December	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Ken Greer
	NO EVENING SERVICE	

January 2018

Sunday 7th January	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.30 pm	Informal Evening Worship Led by Cath Atkinson
Tuesday 9 th January	7.30 pm	Churches Together in North West Rochdale Meeting at Norden Methodist Church
Thursday 11 th January	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (not the usual first Thursday in the month but the second Thursday)
Sunday 14th January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.30 pm	Formal Evening Worship with Communion Led by Margaret Ogden
Saturday 20 th January	6.45 pm for 7.30 pm	Ian Newman Community Film Night In Chapel (see page 22)
Sunday 21st January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	12 noon	Church Meeting
	6.30 pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at St Clement's (No Service at Bamford)
Thursday 25 th January	7.30 pm	Finance Meeting
Sunday 28th January	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.30 pm	Formal Evening Worship Led by Anne Fitton

Christingle Service - 24th December 4pm **(all ages welcome)**

On Christmas Eve at 4pm we will be having a Christingle Service in Chapel. Feel free to invite friends to come along to it. It will be a child-friendly family service.



Thanks, Richard.

Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am Monday Maintenance Gang
(who do work in or around the building)
10.00 am Pastoral Meeting
1.30 pm Bridge Club
7.30 pm Focus on Prayer (God Squad Room)
8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group
- Tuesday:** 9.00 – 11.00 am Toddlers' Group
1.30 – 4.00 pm Indoor Bowls (Upstairs Hall)
From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies, Guides
7.00 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:** Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** 5th & 19th December
2.15 pm in the Lounge 2nd & 16th January
Home Group 12th December
8.00 pm At the Manse
- Thursday:** **Ladies' Fellowship** 14th December (Meal)
7.45 pm at Chapel 11th January (see page 8)
Entry £3
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman Community Film Club**
(NB: Additional Film at 2.00 on 16th December)
6.45 pm refreshments 16th December (see page 22)
Film starts 7.30 pm 20th January (see page 22)
Admission £3.00 (3rd Saturday in the month)

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

It is amazing to think that as I write we are just a little over five weeks before Christmas. As we all get busier with the preparations for Christmas, whether that be writing Christmas cards, wrapping presents for Santa or preparing for the parties or family get togethers, I hope we will get the opportunity to focus on the true meaning of this season – the birth of Jesus Christ.

I am as guilty as anyone in allowing the busyness of Christmas to crowd out the true meaning of celebrating the greatest gift ever given and ever likely to be given. God sent His one and only Son to Mary and



Joseph, a poor couple who were prepared to be part of a much bigger story that God was telling the world. A story that was (is) as true as the words I am writing on this page. A story like never told before and a story greater than any that will ever be told in the future.

This Christmas time there are many opportunities for worship and to hear the Christmas message. We have the **“United Christian Singers”** performing **“The Silence and the Sound”** at **7pm on Sunday 3rd December**. On **Sunday 17th December** we have the **Nativity Service at 10.30am** and the **Carol Service the same evening** followed by refreshments. On **Christmas Eve at 4pm** we will have a **Christingle Service** which is for all the family. And at **11.30pm on Christmas Eve** we will have our **Midnight Communion Service** when we can sing the final verse of **“O come all ye faithful”** with great gusto! We will then have our **Christmas Morning service (at 10am)** to celebrate as a Church family. Please invite friends to these services which are all ways of celebrating the true message of Christmas.

Let us all remember that Jesus came to show the world how to love and how to live. That message is as vital today as it was when Jesus

was teaching and preaching over 2000 years ago! Jesus came to be the “light of the world”, a light that shone in Bethlehem and a light that needs to shine in the world today.

Ruth, Evan, Amelia, Evie and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the very best for 2018!

May we all grow closer to Jesus Christ in the year that lies ahead, as in January I will begin my 8th year in ministry here at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC.



**God Bless,
Richard**

Luncheon Club

For a number of reasons our membership numbers have fallen during the past couple of months and at present we have 4 vacancies.

The only criterion is that an applicant should live locally bearing in mind that the majority are picked up by other volunteers. Additionally they should be living alone because we see this as much as a social gathering as well as providing a nutritious meal. If they still drive they can of course bring themselves along each week.

So if you know of anyone who you think might benefit please let me have their name, address and telephone number and I will arrange to pay that person a visit.

Their membership would probably commence in the New Year.

Muriel Sturrock - Tel 01706 653109



Spare a Thought and Prayer

Christmas festivities are almost upon us, and most of us who are reading this church magazine will be looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord, worshipping together, and then with family and friends in the comfort of our own homes, exchanging gifts and sharing good food!

In our total freedom, and relative plenty, could we spare a thought, and especially remember to pray for those, both at home and abroad who will be having a very different Christmas.

No doubt we have seen the harrowing pictures of the thousands of refugees from Myanmar who have been driven from their homes because of enormous religious intolerance. Much air time has been rightly devoted to their plight and the dreadful inhumanity that has caused it, but little publicity is given to the persecution of Christians who practice their faith, in so many parts of the world.



In June this year I received news of the escalating persecution of Christians in Eritrea, a country on the east coast of Africa. I was brought to tears on hearing of how the repressive regime there had not only closed all evangelical churches, but imprisoned thousands of believers, and were keeping many of them in metal

shipping containers - the pictures were really shocking. I signed a petition sent to the Eritrean embassy in London, and pledged my prayer support for their release.

A Christian gospel singer now living in Europe, Helen Berhane, who was a former Eritrean prisoner, recently wrote *"Despite severe suffering and persecution God's church in Eritrea continues to grow both in numbers and in likeness to Christ. In prisons or in underground house churches, Eritrean Christians are sharing their faith with other*





prisoners, friends and neighbours. Many of them are praising their Father in heaven like we did at Mai Serwa military camp. When I was detained there some time ago several prisoners asked me: 'Helen, what can we do?' - I replied, 'We can worship our God together.' And we did! We raised our voices to God in song and prayer in that filthy 20ft shipping container prison cell'.

Wow, what a testimony! Christian partners in Eritrea talk about prison guards becoming Christians and others who visit prisoners having their lives changed when they witness the joy of Christian prisoners. And they say that they are seeing churches grow numerically and in likeness to Jesus despite the growing persecution and suffering.

I often wonder what these repressive and cruel regimes fear from Christians, who do not wish to start a coup, or lead a revolution, but simply wish to live out their faith, and tell others of the joy of knowing Jesus. May we remember them this Christmas, and be encouraged in our own journey of faith.

Pat Anderson

Carol Singing - Sunday 10th December
2 pm at Half Acre House
3 pm at Oakland



Due to age or infirmity some of our church family move to live in residential/nursing homes. As part of our ongoing care for them and for others from the local community people from Chapel make regular visits to homes. As well as personal visits, Bamford Chapel & Norden URC hold occasional short services at Half Acre House & Oakland. It would be lovely to have a large group there on 10th December to share in this time together, which means so much to those who are no longer able to celebrate Christmas with us in church. Please come and make this a special Christmas for our elderly folk (Molly will be delighted!)



Ladies Fellowship

Belarus Christmas Boxes

At our October meeting we busily filled boxes and wrapped them in Christmas paper to be sent to young girls in Belarus. A total of 48 boxes were completed on the night with some additional boxes made up by the God Squad following later. Carol Hartley updated us on what was happening in Belarus showing us pictures of the people and places she had visited, including the wedding she attended of one of 'her girls'. All the boxes were despatched in mid November together with boxes made up from other churches and organisations. An estimated 500 boxes made their way to Belarus ready for Christmas.

Christmas Angels

The guest speaker for our November meeting was Sheila Hurst who conducted a "master class in paper craft". There was a topical theme as we all attempted to transform pages from paperback books into Christmas Angels! After a little hesitation and with practice, we all soon became adept at paper folding and successfully produced beautiful demure angels with Sheila's expert help. It was a super evening and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, even those of us who had previously admitted lacking creative skills!



The December meeting will be the Christmas meal at the Pavilion in Birtle on 14th December. The January meeting will be "**Tales from Healey Dell**" on 11th January 2018.

Ladies Fellowship wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2018

Money Money Money

In my 11 months since I took over from Peter as the church treasurer I have learnt a lot about how much is involved and how often people want money from me!

Historically people have given in receipts for items purchased, without prior discussion with the treasurer, with the expectation that there is money in the church accounts to be reimbursed. Whilst people are right to be reimbursed, money has been spent without it being allocated firstly within the church budget, or more importantly agreed in the first place.



So this is a polite plea. If you plan to spend any money which will need to be reimbursed from the church's accounts, please before spending and certainly before putting in a receipt, speak to either myself or an elder to check this is OK. Highly likely the answer will be 'that's fine' but is it not always better to check?

Secondly, I have now produced an expense claim form which will need completing and signing with the details of what has been purchased and why on it. These will be located on top of the safe in a blue folder in the printing room.

Many thanks for your help.

God Bless
Steven - Church Treasurer

thankyou

I would like to thank friends from Bamford and Norden URC for the cards and flowers sent to me in my recent illness. They were much appreciated.

Catherine Fitton

Christingle: a Generous Present from the Moravians to the Churches

It is the Moravians whom we have to thank for bringing us the Christingle. Especially one Moravian clergyman: John de Watteville.

On 20th December, 1747, John de Watteville was taking a children's service in his Moravian church in Marienborn, Germany. He led the children in some hymns, and read out verses which the children themselves had written to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Then he explained to the children that true happiness only comes through knowing Jesus. Jesus, said John de Watteville, "has kindled in each little heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and our happiness".



Christingle
Shining light into darkness

John de Watteville then went on to illustrate that 'flame'. He gave each child a little lighted wax candle, tied around with a red ribbon. He ended his service with a little prayer: "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like Thine become".

The visual aid was a great success with the children; for the Marienborn Diary for that day concludes: "hereupon the children went full of joy with their lighted candles to their rooms and so went glad and happy to bed".

The candle and red ribbon were remembered the following year, and the following after that.... The years came and went, and as the Moravians began to travel beyond Germany, so they took the custom with them: to Labrador, to Pennsylvania, to Tibet and Suriname, to the Caribbean and South Africa. In each country the Christians adapted it for their own use.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used with regard to the custom. No one even knows where the word

'Christingle' comes from. Some people say it is from the old Saxon word 'ingle' (fire), meaning 'Christ-fire or light'. Another theory is that it derives from the German 'engel' (angel), meaning 'Christ-angel'.

In any event, the symbolism of Christingle gradually developed, until today the Moravians in the British Province use an orange, representing the world, with a lighted candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World. Nuts, raisins and sweets on cocktail sticks around the candle represent God's bounty and goodness in providing the fruits of the earth. Red paper, forming a frill around the base of the candle, reminds us of the blood of Christ shed for all people on the cross at Calvary.

Now you've got
your christingle;
shining clear and bright.



We can be
like christingles
and shine hope
into the night.

In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve. The website for the Moravian Church says: "We are glad that the Moravian Church has been able to make this contribution to the wider Christian world."

Church Flowers

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



R Ford in memory of Sgt H J Ford (RAF)



The Bradleys for Millie's Birthday



Debbie Wood in memory of Mick



Barbara Redmond in memory of Marie Haworth

Churches Together in
North West Rochdale



Carol

Singing

at Cutgate Precinct, Edenfield Road,
Rochdale

at 12 noon

on Saturday 16th December

Please join us to witness
in the local community

Refreshments afterwards
at Cutgate Baptist Church

Toddlers

We have recently received a letter of thanks from Peter Branson, the Chief Executive of Grace's Place, following our sponsored walk and the generous donations of support from Church Members. £350.00 was raised and donated.

A quote from the letter received reads 'We are working very hard to get Grace's Place up and running as soon as possible - providing essential Hospice services for 650 local children with life-shortening conditions, and their families.'

Finlay and I visited Grace's Place and although bare of furniture and decoration we found it to be warm and welcoming. Home nursing is planned to commence around February 2018 and, depending on funding, hospice care is planned to commence by September. The area of hospice care covered will be Rochdale, Bury and Oldham.

Toddlers thank our volunteer helpers for the love shown to them over the years.



A new term saw all our big boys and girls move up to big school; we miss them but saw some again during the half term holiday. We thank Gloria, Jean, 2 Margarets and Dot for all their support on Tuesday mornings and a special thanks to Margaret Frain and Marcia plus Lucas and Sonny for their help at 'tidy up time'. The boys loved to sweep the floors and tidy the bikes away. We say a big thank you to Margaret Frain who would step in as a volunteer cake decorator and could be seen also in the kitchen helping out. Margaret is now having Tuesday morning as 'free time' now that Lucas is at school.

Due to health issues we are looking for help to cover either on a weekly or rotational basis, 2 hours, Tuesday mornings, 9am till 11am. Salary - lots of love and cheeky faces. If you can help please speak to one of the 'team'

Blessings, Gillian Galloway

Music at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC



Once again in November, we had a superb concert presented by a quartet of brass band instruments. The performers all play with famous brass bands as well as working together as a foursome. Their technique is amazing to behold, and their programme was highly entertaining. I want to say again that we are engaging some of the very best musicians around, all in the early stages of what promise to be very successful careers as professionals. Do come to our concerts if you can and have not done so already. We have had seventy in our audiences so far this season, very many of them from a wide area – in November, we welcomed a gentleman from Blackpool who had heard that the quartet was coming!

On 12th December our artistes will be the Prima Wind Quintet from the Royal Northern College of Music. Then on 9th January, before our next magazine is to be published, our guest will be a baritone, our only singer this season, again from RNCM.

On the evening of Sunday 3rd December the Chapel will be host to the United Christian Singers, who will be under their new MD Anne Wilde. This choir was “born” at the Chapel nearly 30 years ago when the church meeting agreed to support me in hiring the former Free Trade Hall on behalf of Roger Jones and Christian Music Ministries – we



we could possibly have lost money! In the event, we were able to assemble a choir of almost 200 from all over the district and the performance of the new musical “Mary Magdalene” was a sell-out, and this new choir was born. After 28 years as its MD, I knew it was time to look for a successor, and a former member of the choir and a professionally trained singer offered to take my place. I have been

thrilled to see the UCS develop further and its extraordinary fellowship continues to be a blessing to its members.

I hope we will turn up in good numbers for this act of worship, as we begin our preparations for another Christmas.

Walter Brisk

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC
Music at Lunchtime

Tuesday 12th December
1 - 2 pm

Prima Wind Quintet



Tuesday 9th January
1 - 2 pm



Edward Robinson
Baritone

Concert Ticket £4

Reasonably priced Lunch Available from 12.15 pm



The Anniversary celebration of the Foodbank was held in the Town Hall on Thursday 9th October. On these occasions, tribute is paid to all the volunteers who give of their time each week and Afternoon Tea is enjoyed by all. This year the volunteers were joined by Donna

Martin, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Tony Lloyd, MP both of whom paid tribute to the work of Iain and Margaret Wight and all the volunteers. Each team was called out in turn to be acknowledged for the part that they have played since the Foodbank was started 5 years ago. During that time 250 tons of food has been distributed; 36,000 individuals have been fed as a result of the needs of the 18,000 clients who came through the door. It is an amazing service that is offered and Anne and I feel privileged to be part of such a well organised enterprise, remembering that it is only through the generosity of people throughout the borough that makes it possible.

In his capacity as a Trustee, our minister Richard Bradley was also present and said the Grace before the food was enjoyed. It was a very pleasant event.

Margaret Ogden and Anne Newman

PS We have received lots of food from Harvest Festivals at schools and Churches but we are still in need of pasta sauce, coffee and cereals if anyone would like to make a contribution in the box at the front of church. Thank you.



With Christmas in mind

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. – Anon

Happiness is more than a grin on one's face, it is the glory in one's heart. - R. Parlette

In Jesus Christ heaven meets earth and earth ascends to heaven. - Anon

Prayer Meeting / Prayer Walk Dates



Please see below the dates for the Prayer walks for December, January and February.

If you are not happy walking and delivering cards at night I encourage you to come for the occasional daytime walk or come in the evening and remain inside with those who are praying and seeking God's direction for the Church and ourselves.

Day, Date and Time	Prayer Walk or Prayer Meeting?	Chapel or God Squad Room?
Monday 4 th December 7.30pm –	Prayer Walk	TBC*
Monday 11 th December 7.30pm –	Prayer Meeting	God Squad
Thursday 14 th December 10am –	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Monday 8 th January 7.30pm –	Prayer Meeting	God Squad
Monday 15 th January 7.30pm –	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Monday 22 nd January 7.30pm –	Prayer Meeting	God Squad
Thursday 25 th January 10.00am –	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Friday 2 nd February 7.30pm –	Prayer Walk	TBC**
Monday 5 th February 7.30pm –	Prayer Meeting	God Squad
Monday 12 th February 7.30pm –	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Friday 23 rd February 7.30pm –	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Monday 26 th February 7.30pm – 8.30pm	Prayer Meeting	God Squad Room



I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported me, in any way, at the Coffee Morning in aid of the Abandoned Babies Home in Belarus. The total of £945.70 raised will be spent on the children.

Thank you, Carol Hartley



I would like to thank all those who gave help and support during my stay in hospital for hip surgery and during the weeks afterwards at home. The many phone calls, get well cards, visits and home cooked meals delivered for 2 weeks were very much appreciated.



The love and care received from members of this church has been wonderful. Many, many thanks to you all.

Love, Shirley Sharp



3rd Rochdale (Bamford Chapel) Brownies Help Needed

We have a fantastic Brownie Pack which usually has the maximum number of girls. Girls move up from Bamford Chapel Rainbows when they reach 7 years of age and girls join from elsewhere if we have vacancies.

There are 3 leaders who have nearly 100 years of guiding experience between them! Unfortunately, Barbara, Gillian and Lyn are reaching (or have reached!) 60 years of age and cannot carry on for ever!

We are looking for potential new leaders who can work with us for some time and eventually take over. In this way the Brownie Pack will continue without interruption.

Previous guiding experience is not essential. This is a very rewarding volunteering position.

Please contact Barbara on 01706 356862 if you are interested.

Thank you.

**Santa's helpers are subordinate
clauses.**

**Every calendar's days are
numbered.**



**This is a Prayer from the Magazine
"Woman Alive"**

**A Prayer for Christmas
by Jennifer Rees Larcombe**

So Lord, here comes Christmas again! Before I'm sucked into that awful swirling whirlpool, I want to stop and ask you for something special. This year I don't want to view Christmas through the eyes of TV adverts; they see it as an exhausting avalanche of spending, rushing, eating and drinking. Please could you give me the gift of viewing it through the eyes of the people who were actually there that first Christmas?



I need the compassion of the innkeeper who, although he was crazy-busy, still made time to help people no one else wanted.

Help me catch the glory the angels experienced as they viewed your birth from the perspective of eternity. Lift my eyes from my to-do lists long enough to see your big picture too.



Please let me experience the awe the shepherds felt as their eyes rested on Heaven's King in a manger

I long for the worship the wise men offered as they presented gifts that cost them so much. Over Christmas, time is my most valuable gift because I have so little of it! Please remind me to pause sometimes in your



THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

Two films on 16th December

2.00pm – complimentary refreshments

2.30pm – “SING” *Certificate U*

6.45pm : complimentary Fairtrade refreshments

7.30pm “IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE” *Certificate U*

MINCE PIES

Showing on 20th January 2018

6.45pm : complimentary Fairtrade refreshments

7.30pm “SUPERMAN” 1978 *Certificate PG*

Admission: £3.00 to all films

The Way I See It - By David Winter The Love that in a Family Dwells

Christmas is, beyond doubt, the family event of the year. For holidays and weekends we go away, but at this one time of the year most of us get in our cars to join some or all of the family somewhere.

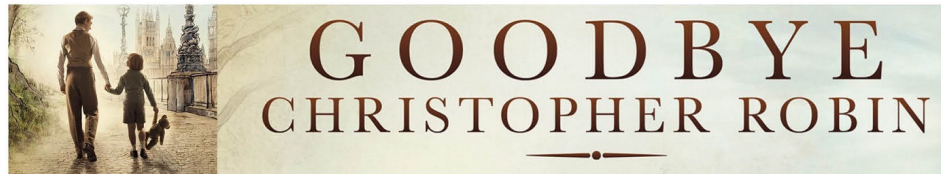
Being human, there may be the odd squabble or falling out (and if we believe the television drama, not much else), but in fact they are usually treasured get-togethers.

This family element of Christmas probably originates from the story of the birth of Jesus. There must be hundreds of famous paintings of the Holy Family gathered around the manger – Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus. It was a little family from which, in the Christian story, vast blessings flowed to the whole human race. The Son of God had an earthly father and mother, and grew up in an ordinary home in an ordinary town. His later life was extra-ordinary, but his home life was utterly normal.



Family lies at the heart of our whole culture. It is created by two things, choice and inheritance. Around the family table are some who are there because by choice they married someone, and others are there because they were born into the family. It's usually a happy mix. We are glad we chose our partner, and we are glad to be members of this family, and probably another one as well.

In his poem, 'Christmas', John Betjeman spoke of 'the love that in a family dwells'. It's not a bad idea once a year to celebrate it.



**MOVIE
MOMENTS**

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

Comfort in our troubles

'His childhood was sacrificed to make other childhoods better' says Will Tilston about the title character he plays in *Goodbye Christopher Robin*.

This is the latest film providing a surprising back-story to a popular children's book. But unlike *Saving Mr. Banks*, *Miss Potter* and *Finding Neverland* (which primarily focus on the mind of the writer) *Goodbye Christopher Robin* also shows the impact on the story's main character, who is a real person – the author's eight-year-old son. This young boy has been experiencing the pain of living with emotionally disengaged parents. His father is shell-shocked from the First World War, and finds it difficult to express his feelings. His mother cannot properly attach to her son because she is convinced that another such war is inevitable and he will be called up to fight, so she showers him with affection one minute and ignores him the next.



Then, in a magical few days when Christopher is alone with his father in the woods surrounding their Sussex house, the two of them bond together through imaginary stories about a group of toy animals. Christopher's father is A. A. Milne, who writes these down as the tales of Winnie-the-Pooh, and the whole family finds themselves swept up in the success of the books. But young Christopher Robin cannot stay little forever.



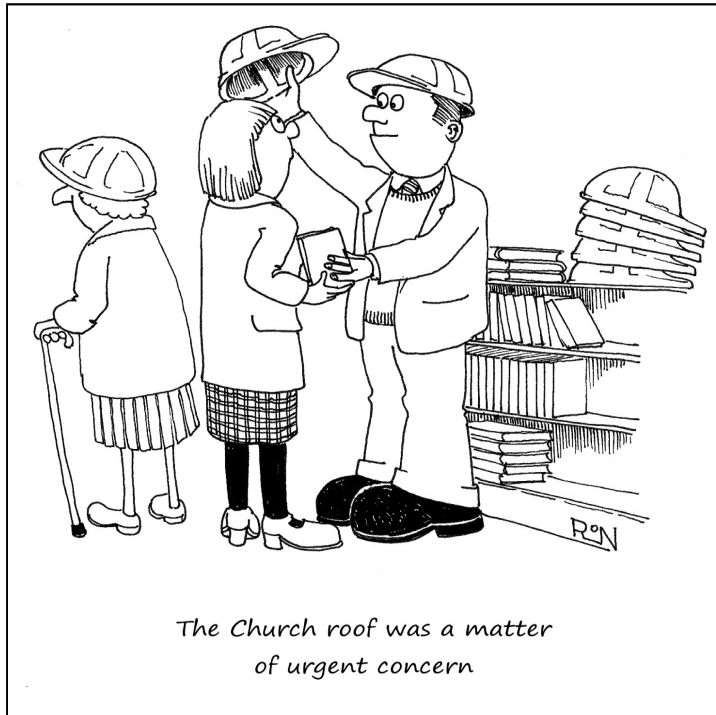
As he grows, these childhood stories make his adolescent life a misery.

We can't detail the end of the film without spoilers but can highlight that, in the final scenes, we discover that the tales of Winnie-the-Pooh, which had comforted the young boy, became comforting to others in their own distress. Perhaps, as we watch this powerful and moving film, we might reflect on the biblical message that God 'comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive.'



**ETHOS
MEDIA.org**

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.



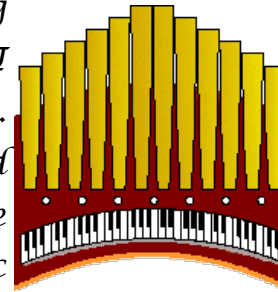
The Church roof was a matter of urgent concern



I would like to thank everyone for the good wishes as I started my new job in November. This means I have left JD sports, 4 days on 4 days off, to work as Office Manager at QA fleet services, this is a Monday - Friday role so I will return as a regular worshipper to Chapel. My new position isn't really all that new as I had been working there on my off days from JD sports. Megan is still working at JD sports on 4 on 4 off and as such will continue to attend as and when she can. Thanks once again.

Memory from Sarah

Over the past 15 years of playing the organ for Church services I witnessed many acts of kindness. One in particular that affected me personally was when the Parish Priest in a Catholic Church invited me, just me, to lunch with him in order to discuss Christmas services and music. He had read the booklet I had given him previously about my recovery from arthritis and had made a delicious home-made meal for me that completely covered my special dietary requirements.



Sarah Gall



Children's Page



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Time to write your Christmas cards again – what designs have you picked to send this year? Are they religious ones?

Look in the shops at all the different designs, traditional and modern. Traditional religious cards have usually included the nativity – Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. But what else would you count as religious? The Three Kings? The Bible doesn't say they were kings, or that there were three; just that they were Wise Men, who travelled far to bring special gifts for the baby Jesus.

Do you know why there are so many robins on Christmas cards? The first postmen in Victorian times wore red and were called robins, so robins were shown as delivering cards.



Whatever kind of card you send this year, be sure to include a kind message with love for your friends. Our love is a tiny echo of God's love for all the world.

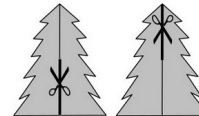
CARD or DECORATION

Here is a simple 3-D Christmas tree that you can use as a decoration or a card. You will need green card, crayons, glitter or paint, scissors and sticky tape.

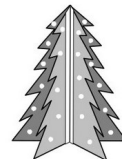
Fold a piece of card in half, then cut it in half. Put the two pieces together and fold them in half again.

Draw half a Christmas tree opposite the fold. Cut along the line and you will have 2 identical trees. Fold the trees in half, very lightly, hardly creasing the centre line to mark the centre of the tree. Cut a slit along the bottom half of the centre of

one tree and along the top half of the centre of the other tree. Slip the two trees together along the slits. To help the tree to stand firmly, use sticky tape to fasten the parts together where they meet.



Decorate the tree. If you are using it as a card then leave an area free of decorations so that you can write on it.



*What goes red white red white red white?
Santa rolling down a hill.*

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE

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Times of Services:

Family Worship : 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1st Sunday in month

Evening Worship : 6.30 pm : Holy Communion 3rd Sunday in month