



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



Faith in Jesus brings forgiveness and healing

### February 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.

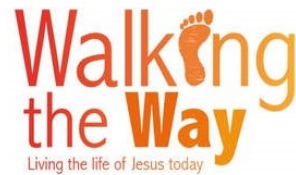


## February 2018

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Communion</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Pantivity "Another Winter's Tale"</b> <b>(No Evening Service)</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	8.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group Venue to be confirmed
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (Change of date from 1 <sup>st</sup> February)
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Andy Platt
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Formal Evening Worship</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February (Lent 1)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Walter Brisk
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Informal Evening Worship with Communion</b> Led by Margaret Ogden
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	8.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group At the Manse
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	7.30 pm	Finance Meeting
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February (Lent 2)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> Led by Cath Atkinson
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Churches Together Lent Course</b> at Norden Methodist Church <b>No Evening Service at Bamford</b>
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March (Lent 3)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Communion</b> Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Informal Evening Worship</b> Led by Joan Warner

## Message from the Manse

As I write this article (5<sup>th</sup> January) it seems like Christmas is only just over and as I glance across the document I am putting together for Linda I see the start of Lent on the 18<sup>th</sup> February! Both Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter are times that I really enjoy. Notwithstanding the busyness of such periods it is important that we take the time to reflect on the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. And these festivals/seasons/ times of the year remind us of just how much God gave to us when He gave His one and only Son Jesus Christ. Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full.



There are going to be changes afoot locally and nationally with regards ministry and how churches will be served by ministers in the years to come. Much has been said about “Missional Discipleship” and “Missional Partnerships” within the Synod and when we look at the URC nationally there is discussion on the initiative of “Walking the Way – Living the life of Jesus today.”

Both the Synod and the national initiatives have Discipleship at their core. Discipleship is something that excites me. It is a journey of walking with Jesus as through the power of the Holy Spirit we are made more and more like him. I am heartened, excited and challenged by the way we are being encouraged to think about church life differently. As I speak to people in Church about this I have heard all manner of opinions - sceptical, excited, hopeful, worried, scared, confused to name just some emotions.

On each Sunday morning in January and finishing on the 4<sup>th</sup> February I have been preaching on Discipleship using Philippians as the main text for my sermons. Each of the 5 Sundays copies of each of the five parts of Lawrence Moore’s “Missional Discipleship” booklet have been made available to you. I hope you have read and/or will read that booklet. If you have missed any paper copies there should be copies in Church. If there aren’t please ask me to photocopy you one or I can email it to you. If you have missed any of the sermons and wish to listen to them

then we have that facility on the Church website – [www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk) and click on the “audio” tab on the main page of the site. Technology dependent all of the 5 sermons will be on the website now or as soon after the Sunday as possible (paper copies can be made available if you prefer – please just ask me.)



As we move forward as a church into 2018 I want to encourage us all to be open to the promoting and leading of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for the Elders this year as we discuss what we feel, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are the priorities for us as a church. Please do your utmost to attend Church meetings as new initiatives and changes to current initiatives may well be brought to your attention. The dates of Elders’ Meetings and Church Meetings are listed in this edition of the Church magazine.

Let us commit to journeying together on the path of faith and discipleship.

Thanks and God Bless - **Richard**

<b>Elders’ Meeting and Church Meeting Dates</b> (these can be subject to change should the need arise)	
<b>Dates of Elders’ Meetings 2018</b>	<b>Dates of Church Meetings 2018</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> February (changed from 1st Feb)	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> March
8 <sup>th</sup> March (changed from 1st March)	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> May
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> July
3 <sup>rd</sup> May (may need to be changed)	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> November
5 <sup>th</sup> July	
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	
6 <sup>th</sup> September	
4 <sup>th</sup> October	
1 <sup>st</sup> November	
6 <sup>th</sup> December	

## Prayer Walking Dates

“Prayer is so important” – I hope we can all agree with that statement. I feel there is such power in Christians coming together to pray. I feel equal passion for the prayer walking initiative started last year. Please see below the dates, times and types of prayer gathering.

On the prayer walk evenings we meet in Church (or God Squad Room or someone’s house) and those who feel able go out and push cards through the doors of people living in Bamford or Norden; we then pray at the end of each of the roads we cover.

At the same time some people remain in Church (God Squad Room or someone’s house) praying there. They pray for we who are out walking and for the church and whatever else they feel led to pray about.

On the evening marked “prayer group” we stay in the Church praying for whatever we feel led to pray for. All are welcome and there is no compulsion to pray out loud. Sadly numbers attending can be low at these groups and I hope that more of us might feel encouraged to come along and pray.



God Bless - **Richard**

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 7.30pm – 8.45pm	Prayer Walk	<b>Venue to start from</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm – 8.30pm	Prayer Meeting	God Squad Room
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm – 8.45pm	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 7.30pm – 8.45pm	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm – 8.30pm	Prayer Meeting	God Squad Room
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 10am – 11am	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm – 8.45pm	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm – 8.30pm	Prayer Meeting	God Squad Room
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 7.30pm – 8.45pm	Prayer Walk	Chapel
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm – 8.30pm	Prayer Meeting	God Squad Room

## 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
- Wednesday:** 12 noon Luncheon Club  
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** 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February  
2.15 pm in the Lounge  
**Home Group** 6<sup>th</sup> February (venue tbc)  
8.00 pm 20<sup>th</sup> February at the manse
- Thursday:** **Ladies' Fellowship** 8<sup>th</sup> February (see page 12)  
7.45 pm at Chapel Entry £3.00
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman Community Film Club**  
6.30 pm refreshments 17<sup>th</sup> February (see page 22)  
Film starts 7.00 pm Admission £3.00  
**(Please note new film times)**

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](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk) or speak to an Elder.



## Dear Friend who will be Remembered - Rene Flood

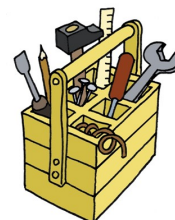
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 we lost a dear friend in Rene Flood. From what I could see Rene settled into Bamford Chapel and Norden URC very quickly. She became a Church member and literally threw herself into the life, worship and ministry of the church. She attended both the Monday and Tuesday homegroups and made friends in each. She supported and encouraged people in their faith. She had a gift of recognising when someone was struggling and would, in a quiet and pastoral way, come alongside them and give them a hug and offer to pray for them. Her desire was to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ and she had the confidence to speak to people whenever and wherever she could. Rene will be very much missed and we thank God for blessing this Church with her passion and enthusiasm for the Gospel.

**Richard**

## Philip MacKimm

Most people will be aware that Philip died recently. Fewer will 'know him' and his contribution to the church here at Bamford. For many years a member of the 'Monday Gang' he was respected by all who knew him. His skill and knowledge made him legendary with the 'gang'. He would never have preached a 'sermon' or made speeches at Church Meetings – he preached by 'doing things' and willingly gave of his time and abilities. There are very few parts of the church buildings, inside or out, that he hadn't worked on. We can't even begin to estimate the money saved for the church.

Those of us who had known him for many years will miss him greatly. The Church has lost a dedicated worker.



**Sid Hazlehurst**



**An Article copied from  
Thrum Hall Methodist Church Minister's Blog  
taken from the Internet**



“At our recent stewards away day there was a discussion around how we “do” Christmas and how those who don’t attend church see Christmas. For me it raised a few questions. A most prominent question was why do we hide Jesus in a manger and secondly a statement that we need to come out of the stable. In fact people need to leave the manger behind.

It was reported that a nursery age child in a school nativity said “I don’t want to be Mary or Joseph or an angel or any other character for that matter. I just want to be Jesus!” This can only be out of the mouth of a babe. Should this not be our cry? Should we all wish not presumptuously but with integrity to be Jesus?

It is so easy as we prepare for festivities to hide Jesus under the wrapping or as I have mentioned in the stable. It is so easy to focus life on what we get and need to do to survive the season. We then don’t have time to “hold the baby”. So many focus on trying to fix themselves and others with sumptuous extravagance and forget that the reason God sent his son was in fact to change the world.

So may we learn that in order to have a relationship with Jesus we have to get close and closer still. We may have to enter the messiness of the stable but if we pick Jesus up and gaze in wonder then we will then take his presence with us wherever we go.

May your Christmas be about giving this amazing unconditional gift of love in Jesus to those around us and beyond and may you touch them with hope and peace and joy that can indeed change our hurting world. This challenges the “me” in the world with Christ Jesus and this is our call.

Finlay and I pray you had a wonderful Christmas and ask “How did you ‘do’ Christmas and how will you do 2018?”

***Finlay and Gillian Galloway***



## Church Secretary

John Lapworth has said he will be standing down as Church Secretary at the end of 2018. From the start of 2019 we will need a new Church Secretary. This could be one person or it could be a shared-role. Please can I ask everyone to give this prayerful consideration? We have always been served very well by our Church Secretaries and I thank John for his hard work over the last few years in the role. We will of course thank John in an appropriate way at the end of his term.

John has written a “job description” and I will make that available as soon as possible so that people can look at what the role entails and hopefully the person(s) to take over will be found a.s.a.p. so they can shadow John for the rest of 2018.



I ask again that each of us give this prayerful consideration. Feel free to chat to John or me about the role if you want to know anything further.

Thanks and God Bless - *Richard*

## Elders' Meeting and Church Meeting Minute Secretary

Angela Smith has said that she will be stepping down from being minute secretary for Elders' Meetings and Church Meetings at the end of 2018. We will, therefore, also be looking for someone to take on the minute taking at both meetings. This might be one person or two.

The role entails taking minutes at the monthly Elders' meetings (and sometimes additional ones for a specific item such as buildings related issues) and also quarterly Church Meetings (and sometimes



additional ones for a specific item).

The minutes are then emailed to the Chair before being sent to the Elders or made available to the wider church in relation to Church Meeting minutes.

The agendas, at present, are put together by Richard.

If you feel you could/would do this please speak to Angela and Richard who will both be happy to chat to you about the role.

Thanks and God Bless - **Richard**



## Christian Aid

It's that time of the year again when Rochdale's Christian Aid Committee organises a big event. This year it is to be held at St John's and if you have never been inside the RC Church with the dome, I would recommend that you take this opportunity. It is certainly worth a visit. I would hazard a guess that we visit churches when we go abroad on holidays and marvel at their beauty. Well I promise you that this Church near the station is stunning, so why not support the CA evening so that you can appreciate the beauty of the church, as well as learning something of the work of CA in Haiti. Sadly I am away that week so will not be able to be there but I do hope that Bamford and Norden URC will be represented even in my absence.

**Date: Monday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**At: St John the Baptist RC Church, Dowling Street, Rochdale  
Near the Train Station**

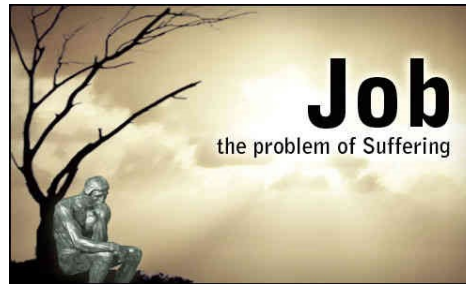
**Time: 7.30pm**

**Speaker: Lianne Howard-Dace from CA Head Office**

**Subject: "Stronger than the Storms: Christian Aid's work in Haiti"**

**Margaret Ogden**

## *The Mystery of Suffering*



*Why is there suffering, who can know  
When all is well and free from strife?  
Job also thought upon these things  
Then tragedy struck, upturning his life.*

*A curtain in heaven was drawn aside,  
A spiritual battle was all around  
Bringing death, destruction, sickness and woe  
As Satan attempted to bring Job down.*

*Job's friends arrived to sit and pray,  
To fathom out the reason why,  
But all their wisdom came to nought,  
Even his wife said 'curse God and die'.*

*Unseen forces inhabit our world,  
But God is faithful, His word is true,  
Hold fast to God, He never fails  
For God in Christ will see us through.*

*By Megan Carter*



## Church in the World Group

### Devi Prasad School, Nepal: Project 2017

The project group are pleased to let you know that the final figure with Gift Aid is £6,644.85. This is an amazing achievement by this congregation and friends of Chapel. Michael and Maureen Hawksworth are delighted and will send news of the progress of the building and equipping of the science laboratory over the coming months.

### Project 2018

No sooner than one project has come to the end of the 'giving period' and the group start to consider the next project. We would like to invite the congregation to nominate any possible project to the group for consideration, and will always be pleased to welcome anyone interested to come along and support the work of the group. The group also support the work of Christian Aid and Traidcraft.

The following are some of the criteria we consider when choosing a project:

- ◆ **Is the Charity Registered in the UK?**
- ◆ **Is there a specific item or piece of work we can support/deliver with the money we give/raise?**
- ◆ **What will the outcomes be for local people?**
- ◆ **Is the project sustainable?**
- ◆ **Is the country/area of country in significant need?**
- ◆ **Have we contributed to a project in this country previously?**
- ◆ **Is there a local UK contact that will be able to support us and provide feedback?**
- ◆ **Will the project appeal to Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Congregation?**

Please keep your eyes, ears, hearts and minds open for a suitable project where we can once again make a real difference to the lives of others. If you are aware of a previously nominated project which you still feel should be considered please make us aware again and we will consider all the options. Feel free to consider joining us to discuss and share the ideas.

We are meeting at 8pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Chapel to consider all options. Thank you for continuing to support the Church in the World Group.

***Carole Greaves on behalf of the group - January 2018***



## Annual Christmas Meal

on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December at The Pavilion Bar and Bistro, Birtle, Bury

Yet again, another very enjoyable evening as members and friends of The Ladies Fellowship celebrated a pre-Christmas dining experience. As always it was good to welcome a few visitors to our gathering;

ladies who are unable to attend regular monthly meetings but who were pleased to be invited to join us.

Approaching The Pavilion was magical - all the trees were lit with twinkling lights creating a definite Christmas feel to the evening. This was especially so when snow began to fall as we all left for home [reminded me of the closing scenes of the film "White Christmas."]

Special thanks are due to Linda Kerford in recognition of her endeavours in planning the annual December meal.

**Lesley Sutton**



from The Ladies Fellowship of  
Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

## Ladies Fellowship January Meeting

At our January meeting we were given a talk by Richard Whittle on the history of Healey Dell. Richard led us around a 3 mile walk with photos both from the past and the present. We were shown the changes that had been made to ensure everyone was safe and the kissing gate made to accommodate the disabled with their motor scooters. The trees planted along the walkways and the changes made to allow for all the rain we get and hopefully not destroy any more of the history through flooding.

We were taken through the history of Healey Dell from its beginning in 1867 and were told about the remains of the mills dotted around the dell. There was Broadley Wood Mill which was a cotton mill. Stone Rubbing Mill was built in 1880. This mill smoothed off the flagstones





## The Choir

It was with great regret on Tuesday 16th January that the members of the Choir decided that they could no longer continue to serve in this capacity following the announcement that Geoff Ogden, our organist, had decided that he is no longer safe climbing onto and sitting on the organ stool and has tendered his resignation to Richard. Geoff has, apart from holidays, played for our Tuesday rehearsals for the last 41 years and for many of us it has been an important part of our lives which we will really miss. We have asked around to see if someone could step in and fill the gap but so far we have no one who could commit themselves on a regular basis.

Our choir has had an excellent reputation over many years, reaching its Heyday under the direction of Walter Brisk when we were over forty in number and formed the nucleus of what became known as the United Christian Singers in their first ever performance held at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester when we sang Roger Jones' "Mary Magdalene".

Walter was a hard act to follow and I took on the leadership role in fear and trepidation in January 1996, having stood in over the previous few years when Walter was unavailable. I never claimed to be a choirmaster but together we muddled through and, I hope, have made a worthy contribution to worship over the last 21 years. I would like to pay a personal tribute to the members of the choir who have so loyally turned up to rehearse week by week. We have had lots of fun in the process and it really has been a privilege to share such happy times, and sad ones too, with them all. Sadly the years have taken their toll as we have said goodbye to loyal members like Olive Brierley, Margaret Entwistle, John Telford and Derek Gooding who have gone on to sing in God's choir: others like Audrey Telford and Diane Healey who found their singing days were at an end and yet others who could no longer commit the time or have moved away from the area.

Our last contribution was at the Carol Service when we were down to just sixteen. However, numbers are not everything and lots of people commented on how well the choir had sung. (In reality many churches



would give anything to have a congregation of sixteen never mind a choir!) So at least we finish on a high and pray that God will use whatever talents we have in other ways in the future.

Thank you all again for your loyalty and support

***Margaret Ogden***

## **Geoff Ogden**

On Sunday 14th January after the evening service, Geoff reluctantly made the decision that he had played the organ for the last time. (For some time he had felt very unsafe on the organ stool and those of us who were at a service last year when he actually lost his balance and fell backwards off that very stool, will be able to sympathise with those feelings.) It was not an easy decision to reach after being a church organist for 76 years. I posted the news on Facebook and he has been overwhelmed by the comments made on that social media network.

Geoff fell in love with the organ at a very young age. He had started piano lessons at the age of seven in 1936 and had a few organ lessons on the organ at York St Congregational Church where his family were regular worshippers. At the age of twelve he became the assistant organist and played each week for the morning



services. He also played for his first wedding in Bury at the age of twelve. He took over as the York St organist, which meant playing for the evening services, at the age of fourteen and continued in that role until the York St church was pulled down because of dry rot in 1970.

The congregation then moved to Captain Fold which had been an off shoot Sunday School and that is where the Church remained through the changeover to the URC, with Geoff playing for both services. In 1976 the minister at Bamford Chapel, Jeff Yates, asked Geoff if he would consider becoming the organist at Bamford. He agreed and played for both morning and evening services while continuing to play for the afternoon services at Heywood. He thus played for three services every Sunday until Heywood closed in 2003 and since then has continued playing for two services at Bamford Chapel (assisted by Lifeline) until Richard became our minister and invited others to form a

rota. Throughout the years he has played for about 8000 services in addition to hundreds of weddings, funerals and choir practices.... an amazing commitment by anyone's standard.

He will certainly be missed by those traditionalists among us who still enjoy singing with the organ and we say thank you for all those hours of dedication. We will particularly miss the sensitive way he picked up on the theme of the children's address or sermon and played pieces to reflect that as the children left or at the end of the service, causing many of us to smile. There will never be another one like you Geoff and we wish you well in your 'retirement'.

*These are just a few of the Facebook comments.*

**Bob Marble - USA** *He assisted me in 8 weddings and one funeral, not to mention the worship services during our tenure at Bamford; and then to come over to the colonies and assist during a service here. Truly a wonderfully talented and caring friend. Good friend, it has been a fabulous ministry. Now sit back and enjoy the retirement you so well deserve. Blessings to both of you, Bob & Joy*

**Anne Newman** *Geoff will be missed. Ian and I both enjoyed listening to the organ before the service. Thanks for your years of service Geoff, you have earned a restful retirement but I am sure you will miss playing.*

**Alan Crump** *I have such fond memories of my time at Bamford and your ministry through music. In the pain of stopping may God give the joy of great memories. Much love to you both*

**Linda Peacock** *Such sad news for the choir and Geoff. There isn't another organist who plays as sensitively as Geoff. He's an inspiration and unique! It won't be the same without him. I remember the caring Geoff playing "you'll never walk alone" as I carried the bible out at the end of an evening service. I was going into hospital for surgery the next day. So thoughtful. Thanks Geoff for your years of dedication.*

**Fran Kenyon** *I well remember as Geoff was playing us out one Sunday, snippets of " Oh I do like to be beside the seaside "could be heard in his improvisation. Always some wry humour in his playing. In the Salvation Army one of their terms could really be applied to Geoff and yourself at this time. "Well done thou good and faithful servant."*

**Margaret Ogden**

## Midday Concerts

In December we played hosts to a superb wind quintet. Unfortunately, an earlier snowfall followed by a severe frost had made the pavements and the Chapel car park very hazardous, and to our dismay only 24 people turned up to see and hear this delightful group of highly accomplished musicians, who reached us safely because the roadways were actually safe for driving. The young people in the quintet were very understanding: though we always negotiate a few months ahead, their payment was secure but one senses that a very small audience must be a bit of a disappointment to artistes of this quality. They did not complain and said that they completely understood the situation.



We hoped that the January audience might see us back to the 50s and 60s in numbers, but for no weather reason we could see, we still managed only the mid-30s. This month the soloist was Edward Robinson (baritone) together with his accompanist Dennis Tjiok. Their programme was entirely based on varying styles in folk song. We heard songs, many of them unfamiliar, from a number of eminent British composers, but were quite bowled over by a couple of compositions by Dennis, our accompanist, who surprised us by playing on the keyboard and by plucking the piano strings from above – at virtually the same time! Though our audience was relatively few, many stayed behind to compliment the two visitors on the range and quality of their music.

We sincerely hope our audience will be substantial on 13<sup>th</sup> February, when a partnership called the Meraki Duo (flute and guitar) will be our guests. Like all our other artistes this season, these two come very highly commended. It would be good to see more present than in December and January, partly to show encouragement for young musicians at the very beginning of their professional careers, and also to help consume the splendid refreshments prepared by our most loyal catering ladies. It is exceedingly hard for them to determine in advance how many will come for lunch! Do consider coming – and bring a friend or two as well! We can promise you fine music. And in March, to close our season, we will welcome string players from Chetham's School of Music, and once more we can be assured of uplifting entertainment from young musicians.

**Walter Brisk**

**Bamford Chapel & Norden URC**

**Music at Lunchtime**

**Tuesday 13th February**

**1 - 2 pm**

***The Meraki Duo***

***(Flute and Guitar)***

**Concert Ticket £4**

*Reasonably priced Lunch Available from 12.15 pm*



**THE OLD LIBRARY  
COMMUNITY CAFÉ**

**782 Edenfield Road,  
Norden, Rochdale.**

**Opening times :**

**Monday to Saturday**

**8.00am to 3.00pm**



If you are looking for somewhere different to enjoy a light breakfast, sandwich, jacket potato, panini, daily special, confectionery, cakes and a variety of hot and cold drinks, why not try the newly opened Community Café in Norden?

**Enjoy your food in a relaxed and comfy environment  
Johanna will make you very welcome**

*Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham considers this month's unlikely link of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day ...*

## 'Lenten Valentines'

During this month Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, share the same date! It seems an odd mix, yet there is an obvious link: love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning how to love



God more, as we give Him space in our lives. It's also an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit (1), where He was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the path of real love. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread. Love gets to the heart of human need, not just satisfying physical desires. Satan tempts Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is the beginning of love and results in sacrificial service to meet the needs of others. Finally, He is tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Only real love can change hearts by practical love and care.

Lent teaches us how to live out the love of God in practice, as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

Valentine was Christ's follower, committed to sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and was martyred on February 14th. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret. He also helped Christians in Rome during times of persecution. He demonstrated the importance of showing real love in action.

**LOVE**

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found: 'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning.'



## Fairtrade

Open doors and come on in to our Fairtrade Fortnight Events

**Thursday 1 March - Fairtrade Community Coffee Morning – 10 am – 12 noon**

**Saturday 10 March - Breakfast with bacon butties**

**Sunday 25 Feb, 4 & 11 March - Fairtrade Craft Stall & Raffle**

### **Come on in and help the hidden entrepreneurs**

When people in low-income countries receive training in proven business skills – to add to their natural will to succeed – they can turn a profit from the work they do, and use it to feed their families and educate their children.

Ruth is a 62 year old hidden entrepreneur from Kenya who is always looking for new opportunities to grow her farm. After increasing her income through participating in Traidcraft's Horticultural project she bought some cows for milk. With her income she can improve her house and save for the future.



Marcial, a banana farmer, the price he used to receive per box wasn't enough to cover his costs. Since joining Coobana, a Fairtrade banana co-operative in Panama, his life has had a mega-revolution.

Justine is a coffee farmer and chair of a women's group which runs an orphanage and primary school in Uganda. She says "The Fairtrade premium is like a miracle to us. It comes directly into our hands. It is an acknowledgement of our work, of what we are capable of and who we are. It is so important to us. Thank you"

During Fairtrade Fortnight (27 Feb – 11 Mar) stand with hidden entrepreneurs like Ruth, Marcial and Justine who are transforming


their communities through Fairtrade. Help to close the door on exploitation and welcome more people in to Fairtrade.

This year the money raised from the events will be doubled by the Department for International Development. Every penny generated will go to Traidcraft Exchange which helps change families' futures in the developing world.

**Four things your money will do**



**Best of all each pound donated to Traidcraft Exchange will be doubled by the UK Government**

 *Thank you so very much to all my friends at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC for the telephone calls, visits, flowers and cards I have received following my knee operation. I am overwhelmed by all your kindness.*

*God Bless and Happy New Year*  
*Dot Craig*

**No matter how much you push the envelope,  
it'll still be stationery**

**A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired**



**THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY  
FILM CLUB**

**at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC**

**Norden Road, Rochdale OL11 5PQ**

**6.30 pm refreshments: 7.00pm film**

**every third Saturday**

**£3 admission [refreshments included]**

~~~~~

**17th February 2018 PG**

**“LION”**

**(Four boys from our 2005 project to Shuktara in  
Kolkata/Calcutta India also star in this film)**

**Please note earlier starting times**

**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**





**CINEMA  
FOR ALL**

**THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB**

**17th February: "LION" PG**

Lion is a 2016 biographical drama film directed by Garth Davis (in his feature debut) and written by Luke Davies, based on the non-fiction book A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley. The film stars Dev Patel, Rooney Mara, David Wenham and Nicole Kidman, and tells the true story of how Brierley, 25 years after being separated from his family in Burhanpur, sets out to find them.

**17th March: "WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING" PG**

1995 romantic comedy film starring Sandra Bullock as Lucy, a Chicago Transit Authority token collector, and Bill Pullman as Jack, the brother of a man whose life she saves, along with Peter Gallagher as Peter, the man who is saved, Peter Boyle and Glynis Johns as members of Peter's family, and Jack Warden as longtime family friend and neighbour. Love at second sight.

**21st April : "SULLY" [Miracle on the Hudson]**

Biographical drama film directed by Clint Eastwood and written by Todd Komarnicki, based on the autobiography Highest Duty by Chesley Sullenberger and Jeffrey Zaslow. The film stars Tom Hanks as Sullenberger, with Aaron Eckhart, Laura Linney, Anna Gunn, Autumn Reeser, Holt McCallany, Jamey Sheridan, and Jerry Ferrara in supporting roles. The film follows Sullenberger's January 2009 emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River, in which all 155 passengers and crew survived with only minor injuries, and the subsequent publicity and investigation.

**19TH May: "A STREETCAT NAMED BOB" 12A**

James Bowen is a homeless man and former heroin addict, living on the streets of London, and down to his last bits of change. After a life threatening, drug-related, incident, his support worker, Val, in an attempt to get him off the street, gets him into a council flat, and prescribes him methadone. On his first night in his flat, James discovers a cat rifling through his food. Assuming he had escaped from somewhere, James tries to return the cat to his real owners. After letting him go, the same evening, the cat returns to James's flat, this time, with a purulent wound on his back leg.





Lock 50, Oldham Rd, Rochdale OL16 5RD  
Email: [enquiries@rochdalecarers.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rochdalecarers.co.uk)  
Telephone: 0345 0138 208

15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Linda and all at Bamford Chapel.

We were pleased once again to receive your kind donation of hampers for our Christmas Project.

This year due to your kindness we were able to support many families and individuals in the area.

In our freshfood shopping we were able to purchase Chicken, sausages,bacon eggs along with fresh fruit and vegetables.

As we have said in previous years Christmas can be a difficult time for many people not only financially but physically and emotionally and your gifts help to make people feel special and valued.

I know that a lot of time and commitment is made by the individuals who bring together the hampers, collecting together the festive goodies and decorating and delivering the boxes etc – I would like to tell you you are much appreciated.

I also know that buying presents and food for Children and Young People can be difficult and this is always done so thoughtfully.

Please accept once again our thanks and appreciation andIf you would like to know more about our work please contact.

Kind Regards

Andrea Ashton – Young Carers Practitioner







\*\*\*\*\*  
**Flower Calendar 2018**  
\*\*\*\*\*

The new Flower Calendar for 2018 is available for anyone wishing to choose a significant date to either celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or to remember a loved one. The calendar is on the notice board in the coffee area. If you would like to have flowers placed in church please sign the appropriate date and kindly give a donation to Elizabeth Hazlehurst. A member of our flower arranging team will place flowers in church on your behalf. Thank you. **Elizabeth Hazlehurst**

**Church Flowers**



Donations for flowers placed in church in December & January were received from:

-  Doreen Watts in memory of Cyril
-  Irene Lucas to wish everyone a Happy Christmas
-  Christine & Andrew Friend in memory of Kath Friend
-  Hazel & Bob Gordon in memory of Bob's sister Tricia
-  Lyn Jefferies in memory of Mum Sheila
-  Elizabeth Hazlehurst in memory of Dad Terry Brierley

*May I express my thanks for the prayers  
and messages of support at the sad loss of my  
partner, Ruth, in hospital recently.*

*To know that others share in  
your grief  
is comforting.*

*God Bless - Ronnie Ford*





## **Women's World Day of Prayer 2018**

**"All God's Creation is Very Good"**

Programme written by the  
World Day of Prayer Committee of  
SURINAME - South America

Service to be held

**on Friday 2nd March 2018  
7.00pm**

at St Vincent's R.C. Church Norden

All Welcome

ROALD DAHL®  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

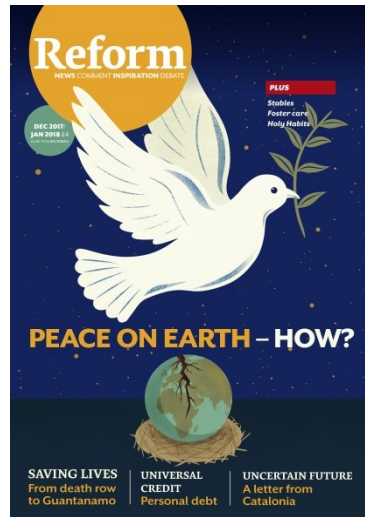
**24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

Matinee performance – At the Palace, Manchester

Tickets still available to order from Ian Sturrock at £55 each  
(Sorry no under 5s)

BALANCE DUE DATE FROM THOSE WHO HAVE ORDERED  
HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Cheques to Ian before then please. Some folk have been saving. Ian has a separate account for this, just have a word with him.



## Reform Magazine

### Not just for Christmas...

'Glory to God ... and on earth peace.' But how? Four commentators tackled world peace for the Christmas issues of *Reform* – the national magazine published by the United Reformed Church. But *Reform* is not just for Christmas, it's also for life! Read the forthcoming February 2018 edition to find out how Ashley Evans, Yorkshire Synod's evangelist, fosters church growth and excitement about the

Gospel. The same issue has four perspectives on the following question: 'Ageing congregations: gift or problem?' and an interview with the Jamaican poet, Benjamin Zephaniah.

The February 2018 edition of *Reform* is published out on the last weekend of January. If you've not bought your subscription yet, visit [reform.escosubs.co.uk](http://reform.escosubs.co.uk), call 01371 851 886 or speak to the church distributor. A subscription to *Reform* costs £18 for a year's worth of digital copies, £28.50 for paper copies and £34.50 for both.

Got your copy but wanting to share the love? Then gift subscriptions are available too – just use the contact details given above, or use the subscription form on page 21 of the current December 2017/January 2018 edition. The editorial office thanks you in advance for your support. Happy New Year!



### Overhead Projector


**The church has an overhead projector which is available for use by any group. Please see Andy Platt or Richard Bradley.**

# Children's Page


The tale of  
the  
Tower  
Builder




JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS




ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....'




...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



|        |
|--------|
| 147.00 |
| 21.00  |
| 6.30   |
| 47.95  |
| 12.42  |
| 42     |


IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...



...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, ....




...WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....



...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...




...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



TOWER TO BE CANCELLED BUILT HERE



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

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

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## **DATES FOR THE MARCH MAGAZINE**

Articles to be handed in by:                      Sunday 18th February

Magazine to be completed by:                      Thursday 1st March

Magazine distributed:                      Sunday 4th March

**BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN**

**United Reformed Church**

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**Times of Services:**

Family Worship : 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month

Evening Worship : 6.30 pm : Holy Communion 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month