

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

United Reformed Church

Charity - Reg'd No 1128387

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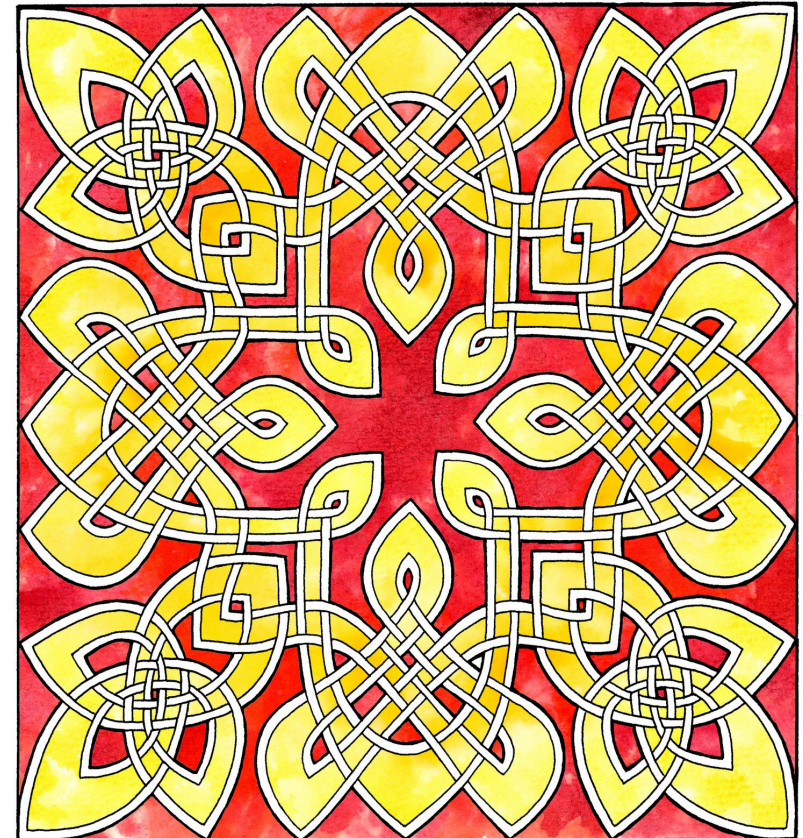
Times of Services:

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



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



June 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.

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE

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DATES FOR THE JULY/AUGUST MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 18th June

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 29th June

Magazine distributed: Sunday 2nd July

Children's Page

June 2017



St RICHARD of CHICHESTER

St Richard of Chichester, who lived from 1197 to 1253, is patron saint of the English county of Sussex.

In 1244 Richard was elected Bishop of Chichester but King Henry III wanted someone else as bishop and he ordered that no one should feed or house Richard. So Richard lived with a friend who was a parish priest and visited his entire diocese on foot for two years until the king relented.

Richard is widely remembered today for the prayer he is supposed to have said as he was dying. The prayer was adapted for the song 'Day by Day' in the musical Godspell and it is in this form that most people know it today:

Day by day,
Dear Lord, of thee
three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by Day.

SOUNDS STRANGE

There are still quite a few people called Richard today but some saints' names sound very strange to our modern ears - how many of these names are saint's names and how many of them are something else all together? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Wenceslas
2. Mesrop
3. Blaise
4. Porphyry
5. Waudru
6. Methodius
7. Attracta
8. Sebbi
9. Fiacre
10. Budoc



What do you call a man with a map on his head?

Miles.

What do you call a woman with a tortoise on her head?

Shelley.

What do you call a man checking your homework?

Mark.

What do you call a Vicar on a moped?
Rev.

Answer: all of them are saints listed in the Penguin Dictionary of Saints - honestly.



Sunday 4th June Pentecost	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Margaret Ogden
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Joan Warner
Tuesday 6th June	8.00 pm	Home Group at the Manse
Thursday 8th June	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 11th June	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Uniformed Organisations
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	7.00 pm	Special Meeting/Discussion on Worship in Church (following a shorter evening service)
Sunday 18th June Father's Day	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
Tuesday 20th June	8.00 pm	Home Group at the Manse
Sunday 25th June	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	2.00 pm	Messy Church (see page 19)
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by Ken Greer

Message from the Manse

Prayer and Worship are two very important parts of any growing church. Not just any prayer and not just any worship, but heartfelt worship and heartfelt prayer.



Praying for our Community

If you have read the “Vision Newsletter” that I wrote and made available on Sunday the 7th May (copies still available in church) you will know about my desire to take the church (i.e. you and me) outside the bricks and mortar of the church building. I have felt for some time that it would be good to pray for the needs of our community out in the streets of our community. I hope by the time you read this we will have set up some dates for actually doing this.

My suggestion, supported by the Elders' and the Church Meeting is that on 2 evenings a month (starting on a Monday evening) we will pray for our community outside in the community. For some of us who can, and are happy to walk out on the streets, we will do so to offer prayer for our community. We will push cards through each letterbox we pass, asking them for any prayer requests. They can

respond via email to an email address I have already set up. Or they can write their prayer request on a card and place it in a box at the gate of Chapel. All these prayer requests can be offered in our worship services.



For those of us who are not comfortable walking around the area, or those of us who cannot walk around the area, we will still be able to be a part of praying. We can stay in church and pray for the community from there. We will also pray for those who are out on the streets too.

Please see the notice sheet for further details of dates, times etc.
We have a meeting on Friday 19th May which I am conscious is after

Palm Oil



greenhouse gas emissions associated with palm oil production in Nestlé's supply chain.

Water exploitation

Nestlé resolutely continues to bottle water in California despite the state's historic drought. Residents are forced to buy bottled water because their own wells are running dry. The "water footprint" behind a single bottle of water can be as much as seven times higher than the actual content.

Barbara Redmond

The Boasting Boys

- Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50."



- The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a
- few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give
- him £100."

- The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles
- a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And
- it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

Nestlé

For many years, probably about 40, Addie and I have boycotted Nestlé products. I have to confess that in Namibia I did buy Nestlé cocoa to make chocolate cakes for friends, as there was no alternative. It started with the well-publicised baby-milk controversy but there are many other examples of Nestlé's ethical malpractices.

Infant formula

In the 1970's Nestlé were advertising their formula milk to new mothers in the developing world using misleading adverts and free samples. When mothers weaned their babies they found they could not afford the expensive formula milk, so the babies were exposed to increased health risks. A boycott was organised and sustained until 1984 when Nestlé agreed to reform its practices. However the firm has continued to violate labelling laws and the controversy rages on.

Child labour

Nestlé uses child labour in cacao plantations thus radically reducing production costs. Although Nestlé does not directly own chocolate plantations in Africa its aggressive pricing demands effectively dictates the working conditions on the plantations.



Union-busting

Nestlé has threatened to fire workers who try to organise unions at their facilities and have even used physical intimidation. They also locate their facilities in countries with lax labour laws such as Columbia, North Korea and China.

the date this magazine is published. If I put in print here what I think the timings will be and then they get altered at the meeting there will be great confusion! So please watch out for notices, flyers, announcements etc. and please support this new initiative.

Worship

Many of you will recall that in June 2016 we trialled a two morning service structure. The aim was for people to experience an act of worship that was “different” or more “contemporary”, with perhaps more engagement from the congregation. For some of us we really appreciated the differences and for others of us we disliked it. There was quite a bit of discussion on worship at the time with the core group etc. However as I look back, the HLF and buildings works seemed to have taken over and the discussion on worship was placed on hold. Recently I have been asked by several people if anything is going to happen and whether these discussions are to be taken forward. There appears to be hunger for a different style/format of worship; not just for us who are already part of the church, but also for those who are not yet part of the church.

The Elders spent the majority of the April Elders' meeting discussing worship. To further this discussion suggestions were made at Elders about when an alternative style of service could



take place. The Elders wondered if there was any possibility of changing the time of the evening service – as some comments have been made about 6pm being a less than ideal time for a service. Also the style could change on some weeks in the month as well.

The changing of the time might allow those for whom 6pm doesn't work to attend. It may also allow our younger people to attend a service that may mirror their desires and hopes before their God Squad group meets at 7.30pm. Conscious in all of this is that we have a faithful core of people who meet on a Sunday evening to share together in worship. The current format works for them. That said,

the numbers attending the evening service have been gradually reducing. On Sunday night (14th May) there were 11 of us including me, Steven (playing the piano) and Anna the serving Elder. Some weeks there can be slightly less and other weeks slightly more.

The Church Meeting discussed this on the 14th May and it was suggested that we have a meeting on a Sunday evening, where those who attend the current service and anyone else can come together and hear a little more about this and share ideas/questions etc. It needs stressing that all this needs doing in a prayerful and discerning way so that we seek God's desire and God's purpose for the church.



On **Sunday 11th June** we will hold a 6pm service which will last for about 40-45 minutes and then a 15 minute break, before we have a meeting starting at 7pm to pray together and to share what we feel is right.

Please pray for God to show us what is right for His church at this time. This is God's church and we are His followers and listeners. We need to be ready to pray and seek God's will and purpose.

God Bless, Richard

Saturday 1 st July	2.00 pm	Garden Party (see page 14)
Sunday 2 nd July	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Junior Church with Communion Led by Revd Richard Bradley
	6.00 pm	Evening Worship Led by David Watson
Saturday 8 th July	10.30 am	North Western Synod & Mersey Synod BIG DAY OUT (see page 8)

Answers to the Quiz : People and the Bible

There is a theme running through the quiz, with cryptic or general knowledge clues leading you directly or indirectly to the answers. All of them are either a book or a character in The Bible.



QUESTION	ANSWER
Item for Auction	LOT
Scouts charged one shilling for this	JOB
There's confusion	ESTHER
Jeans	LEVI
Meaty, bad actor	HAM
French tennis player	NOAH
Private Goldie	BENJAMIN
Change a shoe	HOSEA
Not far off the truth	RUTH
Hey! He was an obscure fictional character	JUDE
Old musical cat	DEUTERONOMY
Sleepy snake	BOAZ
Did you see him sitting on the seesaw	ESAU
Miss Everdene	BATHSHEBA
They preside in court	JUDGES
Canute, Harold, John etc.	KINGS
Jumble sails	SILAS
My, my, my	DELILAH
Double magnum	JEREBOAM
"Sorry" character on TV	TIMOTHY

Why I Envy those with Strong Faith

I am not naturally an envious person. I jog along mostly happy with my lot. But I freely admit to the sin of covetousness in one respect. I long to possess the quiet certainty of people who believe unquestioningly in the hereafter/heaven. A place where you go to spend all eternity after our brief time on this planet.



A good friend of mine told me recently of his last conversation with his mother. He was holding her hand as she slept, w h e n

suddenly she opened her eyes and said to him "What did my mother look like?" When he asked her why did she want to know this she replied "Because it will be so embarrassing when I go to heaven and see everyone else – you know, my father, grandma and grandad, and don't recognise mother. I can't recall her face." Imagine that! A faith so powerful and strong! Absolute certainty that you are about to be reunited with your dear departed family!

Even in these secular times I like to think that most of us have a fundamental belief in God and an afterlife. Yet in my case, whilst as a child I had no problem with these beliefs, the older I get the more I become a "doubting Thomas."

Author Unknown

Editors: - Are there areas of your faith that you struggle with or are you "certain"? Why not share your thoughts with other readers in the next magazine.

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** **June date to be decided**
6.30 pm at Dolce Vita (optional) then
7.30 pm 17 Bamford Mews
- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** **6th & 20th June**
2.30 pm in the Lounge
Home Group **6th & 20th June**
8.00 pm in the Manse
- Thursday:** **Ladies' Fellowship** **8th June** (see page 10)
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.



PENTECOST

Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter. The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include flames, wind, the breath of God and a dove.



This year the Churches Together Group will be holding a special Prayer walk between our various places of worship. We will be stopping along the way to pray for the people and their needs, come and join us!

Please also join us for a 'Churches Together' Prayer Service at St Clements at 6:30pm on Sunday the 4th of June.



A Churches Together Project

PRAYER WALK SCHEDULE

Tuesday 30th May @ 7pm

Congregating outside
St Paul's, Norden
Walking to Norden Methodist for
a short concluding prayer service
inside.

Wednesday 31st May @ 11am

Congregating outside
Norden Methodist
Walking via St Vincent's to
Cutgate Baptist for a short
concluding prayer service inside.

Thursday 1st June @ 7pm

Congregating outside
Cutgate Baptist
Walking via Spotland Methodist to
St Clements for a short concluding
prayer service inside.

Friday 2nd June @ 11am

Congregating outside
St Georges
Walking via Bamford Chapel to
St Michaels for a short concluding
prayer service inside.

**SUNDAY 4th JUNE 6:30pm
PRAYER SERVICE**

St Clements.



Project for 2017

Gyanjyoti School, Kathmandu, Nepal

To be launched on 10th September
Followed by a lunch



Advance notice is given of the 2017 project which was proposed and agreed at the church meeting on 14th May.

£6000 is needed to build an extra classroom at the school to provide a science lab.

The project was recommended by Maureen & Michael Hawsworth, who spent 6 years working in Nepal and will be our link with the project. Maureen spoke to Ladies' Fellowship in March about Emmanuel Crafts, a project she helped set up there to provide employment for young women.

Further details of the project will follow in the next magazine.

A Big “Thank You” to the Scout Group

I would like, on behalf of the church, to acknowledge the help readily given by leaders and lads of the Scout group who now meet at Chapel. We were faced with what would have been a mammoth task of clearing the cellar, because of the fire risk due to the amount of timber which had accumulated down there over many years. Simon Wareing mentioned that this was the kind of thing the Scouts might be able to help with, but they would need to be bribed with the promise of a “bacon butty”.



So on Saturday the 29th April they turned up and a job was well done. Courtesy of Gillian Galloway the bacon butties were provided and enjoyed by all. A huge bonfire burned all morning and other items were loaded into Richard's trailer and taken off to the tip. Attention was also given to the contents of the Bier House and again various items removed and added to the flames.

Those who helped were Leaders: Mark Pickard, Gary Holt and Simon Wareing. Explorers and Scouts: Will Pickard, Edward Pickard, Ethan Tattersall, Mason Holt and Max Wareing.

The scout leaders are also making plans to provide assistance in other areas and to have this practical help is much appreciated. As Simon mentioned “it's never a problem mobilising when there is the ability to set a fire and food on offer. There is a great scout t-shirt available on-line which has the phrase ‘Once a scout, always a pyromaniac’ on it. Definitely true!”



Ian Sturrock

Pentecost – Prayer Walks

This year we are doing something different for Pentecost. We are having something which takes place on several days. It is a prayer event and walk between 9 of the 10 churches in the Churches Together in North West Rochdale (CTiNWR) group.



The idea is that we walk through parts of each of the church's communities taking in what we see. Those walking can stop in-between the churches praying if they so wish.



What will happen is that people will start off at a named church and be told a little about that church's mission. The group then walks to a destination church where they will hear about that church's mission. There will be opportunity to pray together inside the destination church. Some days we may walk via another church. The hope is that we will hear about the mission of each of the churches visited so that we can pray for that church's mission.

If people cannot walk then they can arrive at the destination church and enjoy a cuppa and even spend time praying before the walkers arrive. **Please see the poster opposite for more information.**

Please do your best to take part at any of these times of walking and/or praying. The times, churches etc. are listed on the poster.

**Thanks and God Bless
Richard**



The
United
Reformed
Church

BIG
FUN

BIG
WORSHIP

BIG
SPEAKERS

JOHN PROCTOR
STEVE CHALKE
LAWRENCE MOORE

WORKSHOPS

BIG
DRAMA

BIG 2017
DAY OUT

8TH JULY 2017

SOUTHPORT CONVENTION CENTRE


ADULT £8 BEFORE 17TH APRIL 2017/£10 AFTER 16 AND UNDER FREE
BOOKINGS:

NW SYNOD OFFICE 0161 789 5583 EMAIL ADMIN@NWSYNOD.ORG.UK

MERSEY SYNOD OFFICE 0151 722 6590

EMAIL SYNODOFFICE@URCMERSEYSYNOD.ORG.UK

INFO: WWW.NWSYNOD.ORG.UK OR WWW.URCMERSEYSYNOD.ORG.UK



May Church Flowers

Donations for flowers placed in Church in May were received from:

Pat Gate in memory of Bob Gate
Gillian & Finlay Galloway in memory of their parents
Frank McClean in memory of his beloved wife Pattie, who died 18th May 2014
Ruth & Richard Bradley to celebrate Evie's Birthday
Addie Redmond in memory of his mother
Christine Fowler & Andrew Friend in memory of Kath Friend

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017



We launched Christian Aid Week on May 14th with a Big Brekkie in the schoolroom. About 36 people came and enjoyed cereals, fruit juice, bacon rolls, toast with jam or marmalade, tea or coffee... all served by willing volunteers. There was a lovely atmosphere of fellowship and it was good to welcome Laura Jones, the Regional Coordinator for Christian Aid, to share with us. She also took part in the service which followed and we thank her for making us more aware of the needs of refugees across the world. Special thanks too go to Samantha, Poppy and Isaac for their help in the kitchen. I am glad to report that we raised £130 which is a good start to our fund raising for Christian Aid Week.

As I write this, some envelopes have already been distributed and I hope that the weather improves to assist in their collection. Thanks once again to all who offered their services in the House to House Collection: it is a tremendous witness to our community. I will be able to report on the amount collected in the next magazine.

Margaret Ogden



Message to Margaret Ogden

Hello everyone

Thank you for the support and encouragement you give to the Foodbank, which we really appreciate. Our website gets updated regularly with lists of food we are short of, if that is helpful for you and your people.

The number of clients through the door for April has dropped quite a bit, which is good news as stocks are running low for quite a few items. We have received 3258.25 Kg and given out 3190 Kg with 246 people coming in with a voucher during April.

I have taken this task on from John Tolley, who sadly died on Saturday 13th May after a short battle with cancer. Please let me know of any changes I should be aware of, or if you would like any more information.

Kind Regards

Margaret Wight

Rochdale Foodbank Joint Co-ordinator



Synod BIG DAY OUT



As a United Reformed Church congregation we are part of a much larger denomination. In this part of the country we are part of the North Western Synod (approximately 144 churches). This year we are joining

again with our friends from the Mersey Synod to hold a Big Day Out. This takes place on Saturday 8th July from 10.30am to about 5pm at the Southport Convention Centre.

The day will begin and end with worship. There will be many events taking place with talks, discussions and more interactive sessions too. Addie, Barbara and I are part of the planning group from our Synod along with



others. Andy and Julie Platt are also helping out with leading a session on drama. Alison Greaves will also be there using the theme of her time in New York at the UN Youth Council. It promises to be a good day.

Please see the poster opposite. If you want more details please speak to Addie, Barbara or me.

God Bless, Richard

Night-time Prayers

The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered.

"Wasn't talking to you," said the small one firmly.





Annual General Meeting Thursday 11th May 2017

What a super evening we enjoyed with a wonderful turn out. As usual Margaret Frain, our Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM, followed by a prayer and the Co-ordinator's report which outlined the activities of the previous year. Linda Kerford, Treasurer presented the audited accounts and highlighted the fact that as not as many ladies were currently attending the meetings, income was down and the donation to Gift Day 2017 was reduced. She also mentioned that unless attendances in the future were higher and people volunteered to help run the group, there was a remote possibility that Bamford Chapel and Norden Ladies Fellowship would have to close. Current committee members were thanked for their commitment to the Fellowship and Lesley Sutton was presented with a bouquet thanking her for her years on the committee, from which she is now standing down.

Then the highlight of the evening : the ladies choir "MORE THAN MELODY" entertained for 20 minutes with a delightful selection of songs. Margaret Ogden gave an amusing vote of thanks.



The Pot Luck Supper followed. It is amazing isn't it how the food provided is so varied and there is always a good balance between savoury and sweet? Everything was absolutely delicious. The choir really enjoyed their supper, for which they sang!

If you haven't already handed in your menu choice and payment for the evening meal on the 8th June to Linda Kerford, please could you do this as soon as possible. Details of the day out on August 17th will be available very soon. At this stage we know it is to York followed by an evening meal at Millstones, Skipton.



**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**



On Sunday

25 June 2 – 4 pm

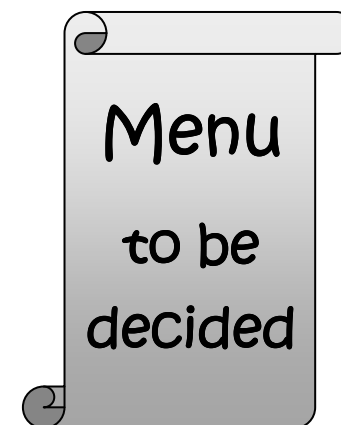
**@ Bamford Chapel
and Norden URC**



Come to
Professor
Addie's lab

Children

**please bring an
adult with you**





COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

Every Thursday 10.00am to Noon

Can you believe it is the third year of this wonderful initiative started by Pat Gate? What a great success it has been so far. New friendships started and a perfect opportunity for friends from Bamford Chapel and Norden URC to spend relaxing time together to “catch up.”

In September the Ladies Fellowship take over the coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. This will be on 21st September this year. The Heywood and Rochdale Cancer Research Committee have also used this event to raise money for their very worthwhile cause.

On the first Thursday of the month Bamford local councillors come along to their forum meeting. As a result of their using BC&NURC, our minister Richard is to be Chaplain to our new Mayor, Councillor Ian Duckworth. By the time you read this article, the Mayoral Service will have been held. How brilliant to welcome visitors to our beautiful sanctuary.

Another development because of the coffee morning is the film club due to begin here in September. Councillor Pat Sullivan is part of the organising team. She helped with gaining finance for Footloose and is 100% behind the idea of a community cinema.

Yet another plus is the amount of money which is being raised for charity. Sid Hazlehurst is the treasurer of the happy band running the coffee morning. There are twenty people actively involved in helping but we can always welcome more. If you would you like to join the rota of helpers [three on duty per week including Pat] please see me or Pat if you want more information. It is great fun.

Lesley Sutton

This poem is one of those read out at the May Ladies' Fellowship Poetry Evening

ROCHDALE by Anita Teuton



A childhood journey on a blue and white bus
from Manchester to Rochdale – a thrill for all of us
Gran and Mam and my sister and me
Out in the morning, home before tea.

We arrived in the square and looked up at the clock
It seemed so near in the Town Hall block
We passed the gardens to the market – such fun
Mam loved the stalls and we had a bun.

Up to Woolworths, a more colourful array
And if we are lucky a toy or good today
For Gran a visit to Redman's shop
Baking “specials” for her cakes that never flop



Quickly down Yorkshire Street we all go
No more shopping, no walking slow
Back we head to the blue and white bus
Tired and happy, laughing we rush.

Now decades on, no blue and white bus
The market has moved, Woollies got the push
Small shops have vanished, school, courts – all gone
Little left of the town my young eyes gazed upon

Now it looks sad. Makes me quite sad
But maybe the future is not quite so bad
Hopefully Rochdale will revive and come back
And reclaim the lustre that at present it lacks

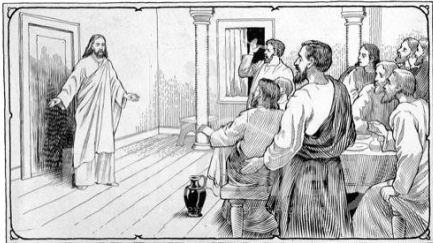
New builds, new ideas, new notions, new shops
And together will deliver a town that's the tops
A new thriving Rochdale may one day appear
And a wide Esplanade shows the Roch clean and clear

A new modern library, new modern town
With bright yellow trams it's so proud to own
To replace the old Rochdale of my younger years
'cos that's just a memory, for me and my peers.



Pentecost - a day that changed history

People call it 'Whitsun' because once upon a time it was a day for wearing white and going on church processions. The church, however, calls it 'Pentecost' and it's on June 4th this year. It is a crucial date in the Church calendar – in some ways the birthday of Christianity as we know it.



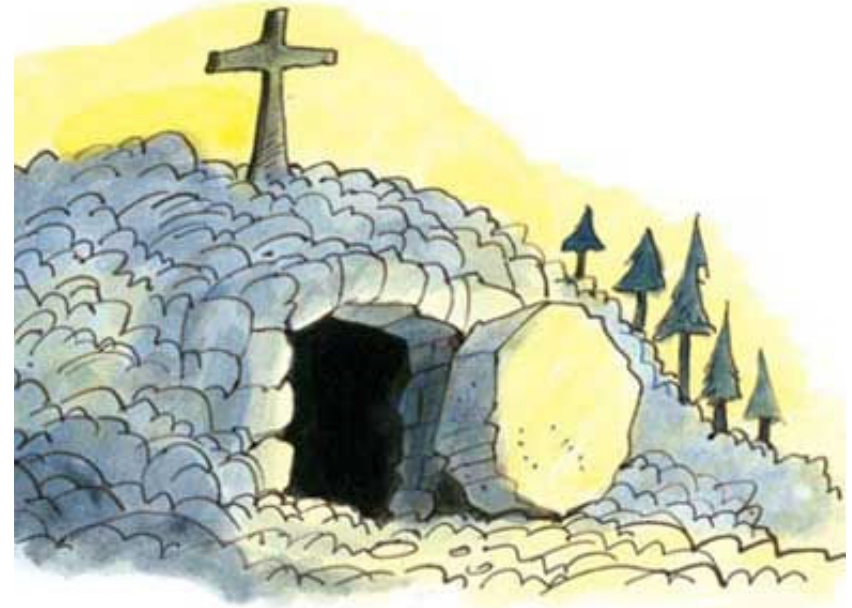
After the crucifixion the followers of Jesus took to meeting in an 'upper room' in Jerusalem, with the doors locked 'for fear of the Jewish authorities'. It was here that the risen Christ appeared to them several times, as well as on a

few occasions in other locations when they ventured out. Eventually He told them that He was 'going back to the Father', but that they should stay in the city until they received the spiritual resources to do the job for which He had called them – to take His message to the world. They did as they were told, about 120 men and women, Luke tells us, including the mother of Jesus.

Then it happened, on the Jewish feast of Shavuot, which was 50 days after the Passover. Pentecost was a spiritual experience which transformed their lives. Emboldened, they emerged from the upper room and started preaching on the city streets. They continued to do so even when ordered to stop. What had happened to bring about this transformation? The answer was two words: Holy Spirit. If that sounds very elusive and vague, think of it in its basic meaning in the Greek of the New Testament: Breath – the very source of life itself, the most precious gift of God. At Pentecost the handful of believers were brought to new life because the Holy Spirit of God breathed upon them. The Church was born. Two thousand people were baptised. Wimps became witnesses!



disappeared. A stone had been rolled away and the only clue was some of the cloth left behind. And that's the point of course: the living don't need the burial clothes of the dead. Making the all too obvious point, a smartly dressed stranger asks the question: 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?'



I'm sure we've faced tough times in the last year, situations we could even describe as deathly, given how serious they have seemed to us. Easter tells us that Jesus steps into those dark and hard places of life and brings hope and newness. This is what the resurrection means and it is as the heart of Easter.

This season really isn't about 'How do you eat yours?' or whether it's Cadbury or Galaxy. It's about finding God with us in the thick of life and death issues. It's about putting Easter back in the whole of life and not just on our Easter eggs.

Andrew Bangor

Whilst on the recent Probus holiday to Llandudno we were doing some sightseeing in the Llanberis area and were pointed to St Peris's Church at Nant Peris, which dates from the 14th Century. There on a table in the entrance was the following article referring to Easter. I found it interesting and hope that you might also find it so. Ian Sturrock

Put Easter before the Eggs



The furore has been short lived: 'Cadbury faces social media backlash over Easter eggs' read the headline. The decision to remove the word Easter from the eggs is unlikely to generate a wholesale

boycott of Cadbury products and as one observer wryly put it: 'All this fuss over Easter eggs is ignoring the REAL issue: Why does chocolate taste better when it's shaped like an egg?' !

Witticisms apart, I can understand where the complainants are coming from – one more example of a secular company distancing itself from our Christian roots. The symbol of the egg, after all, is all about new life, the very message of Easter. So, perhaps they have a point?

It's interesting that the first Easter wasn't full of such delicacies nor controversies, though it had its share of scandal with people being accused of grave robbing and skulduggery. The real energy was found when some women turned up and found a human body had

Sending Prayer



Heavenly Father, Thank you that you are a sending God. From your divine community of Father, Son and Spirit, you sent Jesus to live as one of us, to die, rise and ascend for us. You then graciously sent your Spirit to live in us to equip us for our own sending.

Help us Lord, to hear your voice, to respond to your empowered sending, to be witnesses of your love and reality and relevance in our troubled world. Help us each to be willing to say, "Here am I, send me!" And then to go. In Jesus name, Amen.

*Here am I
Send me*

Isaiah 6:8



By Daphne Kitching

Garden Party

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC

**Saturday 1st July 2017
at 2 pm**

To be opened by
the Mayor and Mayoress of Rochdale,
Councillor Ian Duckworth & Mrs Christine Duckworth

Come and share a fun afternoon
Stalls, Cream Teas
Rochdale Music Service Community Wind Band

Sponsored by Reside Agency

If anybody else would like to offer extra sponsorship of the event, with a note of appreciation in the programme, please see either Julie Platt or Clair Gooding

Similarly if anyone else would like to donate, run a stall or help in any way please see either Julie or Clair. Thank you.

Book Review

God Gave Me You

By Tricia Seaman and Diane Nichols, Authentic, £9.99

In this inspiring story of a single mother with terminal cancer who asked a nurse she'd met on the oncology ward to raise her son after her death, two extraordinary mothers learn that family isn't always blood ... sometimes it's made up of the people God gives you, if you have a willing heart.

Oncology nurse Tricia Seaman and her family had their hearts set on adopting a son. They were months into the gruelling process when Tricia met terminally ill cancer patient Trish on her regular rounds. As the cancer spread, Trish asked her nurse, a complete stranger just days before, to raise her beloved son when she passed away.

This is the true story of how these two remarkable women met, the immediate bond they formed, and the ups and downs of joining their families together as Trish's life ebbed away.

God Gave Me You is a story of courage, trust, and faith that God's plans are bigger and more amazing than we could ever hope for on our own.

