

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC



MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

<u>Worship</u>

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.



"Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives."

At the time of compiling this magazine the UK government has introduced National Lockdown Restrictions until 2nd December

It is expected that areas in England will return to a "tiered system"



Please refer to Rochdale Borough Council for the latest information.

An online worship service is available each Sunday on YouTube and on the church website at www.bcnchurch.org.uk

As other church activities continue to be suspended for the time being, please use the list on page 28 to pray daily for each of our groups.

Please pray also: for the families of the bereaved, for those suffering illness, for NHS workers and other essential keyworkers, and for those who are lonely or in isolation.

During the current lockdown restrictions you may need shopping or prescriptions collecting, or any other help. We have volunteers who can assist you.

Please contact: Angela Smith 0771 029 7377 or angela.smith@rochdale.gov.uk

Message from the Manse



"For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope at all. Who hopes for what one already has." (Romans 8:24 – NIV UK)

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of another year. Who would have imagined on New Year's Eve 2019 that 2020 would have turned out like it has? It has certainly been a hugely challenging year for so many and in so many ways. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives to Covid-19. Many, many more have suffered from it, either directly having caught the virus, and also suffering because of the loss of a loved one. Our family is still hurting having lost someone who had this terrible virus.

Paul in his letter to the Romans speaks of a future hope that we have in Jesus. Advent is seen as a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. Long predicted but a surprise to many, many people. Jesus came to bring life not death, light not darkness, hope not despair and in him we have life, light and hope, despite the pain and the anguish that can sometimes surround us.

This Advent time as we take time and reflect on, and prepare for, the coming of the Christ child may we take the time to reflect and prepare for Jesus coming as the saviour of the world. As we hear familiar words and sing familiar carols (whether in Church and/or in our homes) may we take the time to think of others as well;



those who have suffered and those who are suffering. May we take time to pray for the light of Jesus to shine in our lives and to shine out into the communities in which we are called to serve.

And as we look forward to 2021 – may we go hoping for greater things and praying for God to break through the suffering in our world. May we be prepared to be part of the answer to our own prayers.

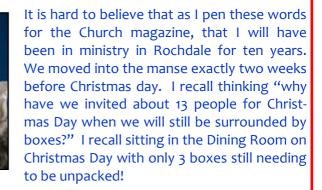


May we as a church be prepared to lay our lives into the hands of God and walk with Him into the New Year and all that that will bring to us. May we commit to pray for change and transformation in the church and in the world, so that both may look, feel and act more like Jesus.

May God bless you and all who you love, this Advent and Christmastime.

Your Servant in Christ, Richard.





It has been a privilege to serve as minister here and I hope to continue in that role for some time to come! May God bless us all as we continue to walk with Jesus together as pilgrims on a journey.

God Bless, Richard, Ruth, Evan, Millie and Evie.

Student Míníster - Kate Hunt



Hi! I thought I would let you know how your student minister is getting on. It has been great to begin to get to know people in person and via Zoom meetings. I manage to attend the Wednesday Coffee Mornings and have really valued the reflections we have done there led by Darren, hearing everyone's thoughts and ideas.

I'm also joining in with Elders, Messy Church, Junior Church, Eco

and the Steering Group giving me an insight into the faith and hopes of your church within the partnership. There are plans for a Christmas tree, a 'Tree of Hope', to stand outside church for people to add their prayers of thankfulness. We hope something similar will be visible from all the churches in our partnership, offering a reminder of our commitment to our communities and the hope that we share.

During Advent there will be a series of 4 Bible Studies as we journey towards Christmas. These will be available via email, paper, and Zoom meetings on Mondays at 7.30pm.

<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82252927108?</u> <u>pwd=bGk2VmtjTExReEhmRWJjVjN2blRlQT09</u>

and then repeated on Wednesdays at 10.30am.

<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84768464239?</u> <u>pwd=Nm5ZNDJtMGZqN1o2VXNjWWQwL3FpZz09</u>

There are plans for the partnership to prepare a Community Carol Service to be available on Youtube. We need some virtual Carol Singers and I hope many of you will send in recordings of yourselves singing along to a prepared accompaniment. We hope for some brass music and contributions from all the churches around the partnership. More information will be coming.

I will be leading 4 Sunday evening services at 6.30pm on January 17th, 24th, 31st and February 7th. We intend to meet in the church, but if not -through Zoom; again with invites from <u>katehunturc@gmail.com</u>. We will reflect on what we mean by worship, and how this Sunday evening Service can best serve God and our community, creating plans for its future. I hope everyone who values this very special service will feel able to share in these reflections, helping us to discern God's voice, together.

As you can see - there's a lot going on! I appreciate your support and your prayers. My prayers are with you, especially with all the difficulties of lockdowns and Covid-19 fears. May God bless you this Christmas, as once again we welcome this tiny scrap of humanity, God among us, Jesus, who shares with us the difficulties and the delights of being human, who brings light in the darkness and hope for our hearts as we go forward into a new year.

Kate



Ability is what we are capable of doing; motivation determines what we do; attitude determines how well we do it.

Background and circumstances may influence who we are, but we are responsible for who and what we become.

Journeying through ADVENT

4 Bible Study and Reflections for Advent. Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester URC Missional Partnership. Led by Kate Hunt Mondays - 7.30pm Nov 30th, Dec 7th, 14th & 21st

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82252927108?pwd=bGk2VmtjTExReEhmRWJjVjN2blRlQT09

repeated on Wednesdays - 10.30am Dec 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd

https://us02web.zoom.us/i/84768464239?pwd=Nm5ZNDJtMGZqN1o2VXNjWWQwL3FpZz09



Línes from Invocation of Peace



Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you; Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you; Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you; Deep peace, pure grey of the dew to you, Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you! Deep peace of the running wave to you, Deep peace of the flowing air to you, Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.



By Fíona Macleod (19th century Celtic visionary and romantic)



Letter received from Jannette Norbury, Secretary, Norden Anglican Ladies dated 24th October 2020.

Dear Mrs Sutton

On behalf of St Paul's Anglican Ladies I am writing to say that unfortunately we will be unable to hold our annual social evening due to Covid 19. I am sure this does not come as a surprise to you as most social events cannot go ahead this year.

Hopefully next year things will be much improved and we will be able to welcome you all once again.

Yours sincerely, Jannette

Note: Every Christmas Norden Anglican Ladies invite ladies from Bamford Chapel and Norden URC to their annual social evening. This event is of long standing so it is very sad that this year we are unable to meet together.



The Story is Still the Same!

'Christmas may look different, but the story is still the same!' That's the message for Christmas in 2020. Coronavirus will make our celebrations this year look very different from usual. However, the message of the baby born in Bethlehem is still relevant!



In one nativity play, the highlight was to illuminate Jesus, with a light in the manger, when all the other lights were turned off. At the appropriate time, all the lights went out, including the manger one. The silence was broken when one of the shepherds loudly whispered: 'Hey, you turned off Jesus.' Of course, nobody can turn off Jesus this Christmas!

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of this baby brings great joy and good news for everyone! As the king of the universe, He has come as our Saviour. In an uncertain world, He offers joy and hope, because He holds this pandemic in His hands. This is a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace amid the anxieties over our current circumstances. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine bring peace to our lives today? Jesus established peace with God through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace for our lives brings God's peace amid the huge uncertainties we face. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'

By Canon Paul Hardingham (Courtesy of Parish Pump)

Below is a notification received by Linda Lees from Rochdale Young Carers. See details on the next page.

Rochdale Young Carers and The Rochdale Acute Needs Trust

To all our Friends & Supporters

Christmas Goodies 2020

This year, because of the pandemic, things will have to be a little different

We are aware that churches are not meeting for worship. Strange, isn't it? Also costs have increased whilst income has probably reduced.

We have no desire to put additional pressure on your church, but we are sure your commitment to the vital work of Rochdale Young Carers is as enthusiastic as ever.

Even if you do not feel able to make any contributions, the Rochdale Young Carers staff would love to hear from you.

The needs of Young Carers remain the same. A highlight of Christmas has, for many years, been the arrival of the Christmas Hamper. The presents have been a particular source of excitement and delight.

This year, because of the restraints of Covid, we want to suggest a different approach. See the attached "Goodies List".

We hope that you will be able to contribute again this year to this vital project. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please note that, because of the restrictions, we are NOT asking for hampers this year.



CHRISTMAS GOODIES 2020 For Rochdale Young Carers and Rochdale Acute Needs Trust



Please note this is a guide only, any extra or duplicated items are made up for other families.

- Gifts for a mum, dad or children aged 12 and over. Please wrap them in Christmas paper and indicate the category. E.G. "Boy age 12+".
- 2. Donations of cash, Tesco, Asda or Morrisons gift vouchers, or cheques made payable to "Friends of Families", or pay by bank transfer direct to Friends of Families: Sort code Nat West Rochdale 010744 account number 50650866 please quote reference BCN Church.

All donations will be used for Christmas dinners, fresh food, presents for children under 12 and other Christmas goodies.

Please let Linda Lees know what you would like to contribute, Tel 07745 803107. I can collect. No later than Sunday 6th December 2020.

Rochdale Young Carers offers a comprehensive service of support to children and young people who have a caring role in their family.

The Rochdale Acute Needs Service is a multi-agency support to families who have children with complex needs.



December 2000/January 2001 issue of magazine

2001 celebrated Bamford Chapel's 200 years' existence, so in 2001 it will be 220 years since the chapel (now amalgamated with Norden URC) was founded. This is something worth celebrating isn't it?

This was on the first page of the December 2000/January 2001 magazine:-

"May the peace and hope of Christmas be with you throughout the coming year"

A Plea from the Heart

I don't take milk in coffee, I don't take milk in tea,

I don't have spread upon my bread,

My dressings are fat free.

I eat a little half fat cheese, just for a special treat,

But I always grill or dry fry, when I am cooking meat. I have low fat yoghurt for a pud, When I've eaten dinner, So why oh why, please tell me, Do I not get any thinner?





THE ETERNAL WALL OF ANSWERED PRAYER www.eternalwall.org.uk

The continuing story.....

Each brick will recount a personal, specific way in which God has answered a prayer for people both now and in the past, offering a vast amount of experiences all explaining how God has come through for individuals in the midst of life's storms

There are already many videos of prayer stories that will be part of the wall. Anyone can submit their own story of answered prayer on the website at <u>www.eternalwall,org.uk/testimony</u>

The journey so far (Monday 16th November)

- 4,547 people have raised £634,245
- 191 people have volunteered
- 25,318 answered prayers submitted

Some Beliefs about Prayer that inspire the Team

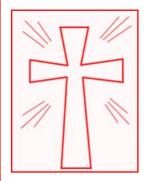
- Prayer is a conversation with God (Jeremiah 29: 12-13)
- God hears our prayer (1 John 5: 14).
- God wants us to seek him through prayer (Lamentations 3: 24).
- God wants us to pray for healing (James 5: 14-15).
- God knows our prayers even before we pray them (Isaiah 65: 24)
- All prayers are answered (Mark 11:24). Some **immediately**, some **after a period of waiting**, some God is **still in the process** of answering.
- Prayers are answered differently. Sometimes **YES**, sometimes **NO** & sometimes not in the way we expect!
- Our conversations with God should include thanks (Philippians 4: 6)

We offer our prayers of thanks for this venture and for God's blessings on it.

Joan Warner

For those of you who have lost loved ones this year

The Work of Christmas



Memories are the leaves of gold They never tarnish or grow old Locked in our hearts You will always be Loved and remembered For all eternity

Lesley Sutton



When the song of the angels is stilled When the star in the sky is gone

To find the lost To feed the hungry To free the prisoner To redeem the nations To bring peace among the peoples To make music in the heart





Band of the Irish Guards

Many people have been asking for an update on my career as a musician within the Band of the Irish Guards; and what I have been up to lately in my job. In the first lockdown earlier this year I was part of a team running mobile testing units. With this, we would be given a location each morning, drive up to this location and set up a testing site. We would then spend the day handing out tests to members of the public and aiding them in carrying out these tests. This was a very rewarding job, as it felt as though I was doing my bit to aid the fight against this virus.

Since then, I have been part of a guard of honour for a Ukrainian Government official.

This involved a short parade where the band provided music for him whilst he arrived at Horse Guards Parade. Even though it couldn't be as big a parade as it normally would be, due to Covid restrictions, it was still a great feeling to put on the uniform for the first time and perform for a limited number of the public. (Photo taken before the event)

I was due to take part in a number of other events; however, due to a second lockdown and more restrictions being put in place, all ceremonial events have had to be cancelled, or have had a reduced number of players, selected from across the five Household Division Bands, the Band of the Household Cavalry and the Countess of Wessex String Orchestra (such as the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall and the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph). However, I was involved in a security role during the recording at the Albert Hall.

I look forward to the time when everything is back to normal and I can do a little more with my band. Also, I look forward to being able to do some more public duties, rather than spending all my time cleaning and polishing my uniform and boots; and to actually be able to wear it at public events.

Musician Daniel Gordon, Band of the Irish Guards

COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

ROCHDALE, BURY AND NORTH MANCHESTER MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP



You are invited to take part in a Partnership Carol Service bringing the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Christmas to our communities to be available via Youtube, CD and DVD.

We need people from all the churches in the partnership...

 to record themselves singing along to an accompaniment. These will be put together creating our Virtual Carol Singers. All kinds of voices are needed.
No-one is too old, too young or too croaky to take part.

- to record one of the readings, a poem, or a prayer

- to send photos of Christmas art or craft work or of something that says Christmas to you – but please don't include people

- to send ideas and thoughts about the carols we include

Time is short! Please be in touch ASAP

Then we will send out music and more information.

Thank you!!

Kate Hunt URC Student Minister - katehunturc@gmail.com



Recycling is the process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects. Every single plastic bottle, every glass jar and every piece of paper you recycle in your bins at home is recycled into something new.

And every blade of grass, every eggshell and teabag you recycle is made into compost.





Remember to use your compost bins.



One of the Secrets of Life is to make Stepping Stones out of Stumbling Blocks



Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

Sunday Evening Worship Reflections

January 17th, 24th, 31st & February 7th

Reflections at 6.30PM

Bamford Chapel and Norden URC or via Zoom

Contact Kate. Hunt – katehunturc@gmail.com

Project 2020 Kiribati Update for 25 Oct to 15 Nov

















Children from Junior Church were asked to write to children in Kiribati.

Here is a letter from Lottie with a reply from Uere

Lattie 1m 10 at School in e alish bacau nn 13 5 guns Do you a a craet What do you o do? play it ly cookie and Bonnie a Bob and Jorger. Do you Cat ry pets? go anas you teris. 00 to your pane: Ho From Lottic 40 you.

06/11/20 Bikeniben

Hi Latte,

My name is liere, I am a boy. I am 16 years old. I have no parents, they pasted away few years back. I live with my dads sister on Tarawa.

Last Month, I lived on Nonouti and later the same month, I transferred to Tarawa. I join the special School now and have frends who have same vision impairment as mind My teacher helps me write my letter because I don't have / My English is not good. I will write again myself to you. God bless, Use

These are the real statements about the Bible from school exams – !! ??

- The Egyptians were drowned in the dessert. Afterwards Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the Ten Commandments
- Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibles.

Letter from Savvana and a reply from Bwaueti

Hi,

I am Savanna Bentham and I am ten years old.

I live with my Mum, Dad, Sister and my puppy, my school is Whittaker Moss Primary School, also my favourite subject is English and P.E but I don't enjoy maths and geography, in September I will be moving into year six.

I also go to Bamford chapel and Norden URC and I am part of junior church we do lots of religious activities and sometimes we use cake biscuits to resemble religious events.

My favourite things to do are play out, seeing my friends and family, swimming, playing with my puppy and watching films with my family.

I would absolutely love to ask you a few questions if that's okay, what school do you go to? Who lives with you? And what out of the 33 islands do you live on?

I would love to hear a reply from you

All the best

Savanna Bentham

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06/11/20 Bikeniben Tarawa

Dear Rihanna,

My name is Antaake. I go to the Special School. I am from Onotog. But I live with my parents on Tarawa this time.

How are you? I am fine from here, and have many friends with disability. Can you use facebook? I am a facebook user.

Hope to hear from you again.

In my spare time, I like to play mobile games. What your school like? This time my teacher helps write my letter. Next I will, write it myself. God bless, Antaske.

A letter from Rhianna and a reply from Aritaake will appear in the February Magazine.



FRUITS OF AUTUMN

Rebecca Abbott has been busily collecting items to make displays at home. Look at what she has created







With Christmas in Mind...

It is no use saying that we are born 2000 years too late to give room to Christ... Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.... And giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ. – Dorothy Day

Believe in God and you'll believe in miracles. Believe in the baby of Bethlehem, and you'll experience one. – Anon

Christmas Quiz

The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower originates from which country?	
In which fictional land was it always winter but never Christmas?	
What day does Advent, the period leading up to Christmas, start	
What breed of dog is Santa's Little Helper in The Simpsons?	
What did The Grinch want to steal in the 2000 American comedy film?	
In which Christmas film does Buddy accidentally learn that he is human?	
Which famous scientist, born on Christmas Day, was the first scientist to be buried in Westminster Abbey in London?	
In the Christmas song "Jingle Bells", how many horses pulled the sleigh?	
A year contains 365 days so on what number day does Christmas Day fall?	
What is the most common gift received from a Christmas Cracker?	

Answers in the February Issue





A UK Registered Charity No:1111373 Registered in Kenya CBO No: DGSD/MSA/CBO/2012/518

Project Update November 2020 for 2019 Project

Hi to everyone at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC from Kenya!

We arrived back in Mombasa at the end of September so have been here now for about 6 weeks. Although Covid doesn't seem to be as bad in Kenya as in the UK, we are trying to be careful as we don't have any medical insurance should we contract it here. And of course it is always difficult to know how accurate the figures are from the Government.

We have had meetings with the Children's Dept and they gave us the goahead to open our Stepping Stones Day Care Centre which was wonderful, though we are only allowed 10 children to attend at a time.

The Joseph Centre always remained open, albeit operating at a reduced level than previous. As yet we are not allowed to open fully – it will possibly be January before this happens and the schools open. Meanwhile the mothers continue to learn their tailoring skills, making clothes for their children, and the children continue to have teaching and play sessions within the centre.



We now have a new manager after Betty (our previous manager) began some evangelical outreach work for a church focussing on youth. Peter Okoth started working for Gap Kenya in October and is proving to be a very able and capable manager.

Re: the new Joseph Centre, we have once again begun to look at

land. Peter has contacted several agents in the area who are helping in this, although again, due to Covid (and now the rains) it is not



straightforward. We continue to pray for the land which we know God has prepared for the new centre and cannot wait to begin the new build.

We have recently moved the children in the foster family home into new accommodation, which is more spacious and has a garden – much better than the apartment they were living in, especially

with the schools being closed. Re: the schools, children in their final years at Primary and at High School have now returned prior to taking their exams in the New Year. This involves three of our children, the other five won't go back to school until January at the earliest.

We are so happy to be back here even though things are not as they used to be. At least we are able to manage things, along with Peter, from the ground and not via Zoom! Zoom is great, but not like being here in person. We appreciate your prayers for our safety, for our work, and of course for the land.



We pray you will all stay safe and well, especially during the lockdown the UK are back in. Kenya just has a curfew – we are not allowed out after 10pm which is fine for us as we are usually in bed by then!



Take care and God Bless, Gayle & Paul

Photos: Top - Linet, Ibrahim, Lilian & Muthoni show off clothes made by their mum Zena

Middle: Jumwa being taught how to cut out material by teacher Tumaini Bottom: Some of the children at the Joseph Centre

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We	ekday Opportun	ities for Learning	0
	& Sharing F	_	U
(all suspended until further notice)			U N
Monday:	9.00 am Monday Mai	ntenance Gang	n
monday.	(who do work in or ar	-	Ň
	10.00 am Pastoral Me		Õ
	1.30 pm Bridge Club	C C	0
	7.30 pm Focus on Pra	iyer (God Squad Room)	0
	8.00 pm Monday Nig	ht Home Group	0
Tuesday:	9.00 – 11.00 am Todd	•	0
		r Bowls (Upstairs Hall)	0
		ows, Brownies, Guides	0
Wednesday:	12 noon Luncheon Clu		0
	6.30 pm Boys' Brigad 7.30 pm Home Group		0
Thursday:			U
Friday:	10.00 am Community Coffee Morning 6.00 pm onwards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts		
Sunday:	7.30 pm God Squad (f	-	U
For	rtnightly & Montl	hly Opportunition	U N
		hly Opportunities	n
Tuesday:	Stillness & Sharing	1st Tuesday in the month	ň
		Coffee: Meeting 2 - 3 pm	ŏ
	Home Group	(Fortnightly)	Ō
Thursdow	8.15 pm	In Crèche Room	0
Thursday:	7.30 pm	nd Thursday in the month)	0
	Heritage Group	(3rd Thursday in the month)	0
	7.00 pm		0
Friday	•	f é (1st Friday in the month)	0
-	1.30—3.30 pm		0
Saturday:	lan Newman Commu	nity Film Club	U
	6.30 pm for 7.00 pm f	film (3rd Saturday in month)	0
Further information on the weekly notice sheet or visit the website at www.bcnchurch.org.uk or speak to an Elder.			

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Articles to be handed in by:Sunday 17th JanuaryMagazine to be completed by:Thursday 28th January

Sunday 31st January

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