



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

Romans 10:15

## February 2021

# BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC



Loving God, Serving Others,  
Building Community

## 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.





## Last year we had both sad & happy times.

- **Many of our friends have passed away:** Joan Holt / Geoff Ogden / Eric Bradbury / Alexander Teuton / Chris Tyrell / Frank Maclean / Margaret Gordon / Molly Brierley / Audrey Brierley / Ronnie Ford. We pray God will bring joy in the memories and comfort in the grief.
- **There are concerns** for those in care homes, those suffering ill-health or shielding, those who live alone or haven't been able to see family.
- **We send congratulations** to Katie & Paul Green on the birth of their daughter, Naomi Erin, born on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Congratulations also to Jenny & Steve Brandon on the birth of their daughter, Cerys Michelle, born on 23<sup>rd</sup> November; brother for Rory (age 2). Both are welcome granddaughters for Julie and Andy Platt.
- **Congratulations** to Fiona Challinor who retired from the NHS on her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday (1<sup>st</sup> January). Fiona started as a student radiographer (with Anne Fitton as her clinical tutor) on 6th October 1980. Well done Fiona for your 40 years' service to the NHS.
- Many of our members and carers have now received vaccinations. We give thanks and prayers for the gifts & dedication of our scientists, medical staff and carers.
- **We give thanks** for our teachers and students, who have all struggled with the continually changing nature of "being at school."
- **If you have good news or concerns to share, please let a friend / your Elder / Pastoral Visitor or Minister know. If you would like news putting in the next magazine, please contact Linda Peacock or Lesley Sutton (details on page 29).**

And please remember to keep everyone in your prayers, including the families of the bereaved, those suffering illness, NHS workers and other essential keyworkers, those who are lonely or in isolation, and those who have lost their livelihood.

*Linda Peacock (Editor) & Joan Warner (on behalf of the Pastoral Group)*

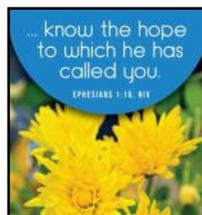
# Message from the Other Manse!

**Dear Friends,**

You may be wondering who has usurped your usual missive! Richard, Kate and myself have agreed to rotating the Minister's message. It is my turn to kick off, but I promise that you will see Richard again soon!

As we leave Christmas in the rear-view mirror, we enter what is recognised as the season of Epiphany. This is the manifestation of Christ to the world (whether as an infant or his adult baptism in the Jordan), and the Mystery of the Incarnation. St Paul summarises the mood of what God is seeking to do:

*“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you ...” (Ephesians 1.17-18)*



We are also hoping to catch a bit of the mood of this across the Missional Partnership. Over the next twelve months we will be encouraging the churches to refocus on the seed of faith that God has planted in our lives. Richard and Kate have already started the “Life Explored” course. I will be sharing the “Soul Spark” course across the churches, starting with Hallfold URC. We will also be running training on faith formation with Eldership teams in the months to come.

As the lockdown hopefully relaxes, Richard and I will be going on the road on a preaching tour of all of the Missional Partnership churches. We will be preaching what is known as the *Kerygma* - the proclamation of salvation through Jesus Christ. Hearing the Good News of Jesus again might feel like a repeat of an old television show. But we should never become bored, or regard as predictable, the revelation of Jesus Christ.

God is constantly broadcasting on all frequencies. He calls the informed and uninformed alike to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ - to hear Him, to trust in Him, and to follow Him. Let's get ready for the journey ahead!

**Daniel Harris**

## Spiritual Health

I would like to explore this simple question: “When life gets you down, what special something can lift our spirits?”

I want to examine this by looking at Jesus’ healing of a disabled woman at a religious gathering, and a few parables he told. He encountered this disabled woman at a synagogue and got into an argument with the leaders about whether he was allowed to heal her on the Sabbath. Jesus disagreed with the rule prohibiting medical assistance and immediately healed her. He then told two parables explaining what the Kingdom of God is like. (*Luke 13.10-21*)

Smallness is a theme running through all three accounts. The disabled woman had a small posture due to the debilitating effects of her condition; we can assume that she was psychologically suffering too. The parables mention a mustard seed, the size of a grain of sand, and yeast – a minor ingredient in the recipe for making bread.



However, the sense of smallness changes. The woman is healed, enabling her to reach full posture. The story of her healing probably had wide-reaching consequences in her village; we can safely assume that she started punching above her weight. The seed grew into an impossibly large tree. The yeast caused the bread to rise enabling the cook to feed a family. God can grow amazing things from the small, ordinary and utilitarian things in life.

All three accounts are illustrations of the growth of God’s kingdom. But growth is not a random thing. There is an “activating agent” which triggers the growth – as demonstrated by the parable of the yeast.

This activating agent is the seed of faith. Faith is the seed that grows, positively affecting our spiritual health, our mental wellbeing and the physical world around us. It is simply responding to Jesus Christ with the words “I trust you.” If a person says to Jesus: “Who are you? I don’t trust

you” the Kingdom of God won’t grow directly in their lives. However, if a person says: “I am having trouble trusting - *help me to believe*”, then we are in business!

However, there are a number of factors that can inhibit spiritual growth. Luke’s account says that the woman was suffering from satanic oppression. Jesus also encountered pig-headed religious rules which prohibited the woman’s healing on a Sabbath day. I believe that spiritual and mental health are linked, although are distinct from each other. In the case of spiritual health, in particular, both natural and supernatural forces can be toxic to spiritual health.

The seed of faith is the simple ingredient that lifts our spirits. It is not a quick fix. If you take your faith seriously you might even invite trouble to come your way - as Jesus did when he broke the sabbath law. But I am firmly convinced that faith lays the foundations for long-term wellbeing.

Spiritual health is of the utmost importance. We need to nurture it, to stretch it, to test it, to wrestle with it, and to *live* it. We also need to be aware of forces which work against the growth of faith. These forces can be supernatural, or it could be as simple as some obscure oppressive religious rule or practices. But faith in Jesus Christ gives us the resources to work through any trouble that comes our way, and it allows us to participate in the expansion of the influence of the God of love in our communities.

Daniel Harris is a minister with the United Reformed Church. He is running the Soul Spark course, allowing people to explore and grow in their faith and spiritual health, during 2021. **Email or call Daniel for more details!**



**Email:** [danielharris343@gmail.com](mailto:danielharris343@gmail.com)

**Telephone:** 07887 581253

*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](mailto:angela.smith@rochdale.gov.uk)*



## Church in the World Kiribati Project 2020

Despite the difficult circumstances of 2020 the Project has raised an amazing **£4581 before gift aid**. Thank you to all who helped with the Project and those who donated so generously.

We have received a message of thanks from Luis, the Pastor at the school. The school, however, is shut for the Summer holidays until the 8<sup>th</sup> February and the transfer of funds will not take place until the school reopens.



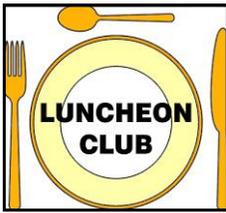
*“We are so thankful for the great support you have done for this school. Prior let me thank God for giving us the chance to meet again in this beautiful new year and especially in fulfilling this project. Happy new year to you and members of your church.”*

**Sue Travis (on behalf of the Church in the World Group)**



Thank you to everyone who has given me stamps for RNLI. I have sent off one batch, but I collect them all the time, so please carry on saving them! Put them through my door anytime when you are out on your health-walk.

Many thanks, Pamela Harrington



Having tried to keep in touch with our elderly luncheon club members during this last difficult year, I knew how much they missed their weekly home-made lunch and chat with friends. The majority of the members are from the community, everyone lives alone and they are not in regular contact with Church or its members, so this has been an important service and outreach that we provide. I have always reassured them that they are not forgotten, and that we would open again as soon as it was safe to do so.



I was therefore, delighted when 3 of our cooks, Angela, Margaret and Pamela decided that they would make a full Christmas dinner in the church kitchen, if we had drivers who were willing to transport them to our members' individual homes. Fifteen drivers immediately responded to the request, so the date was set for Wednesday 16th

December, and I began to ring round the members to offer them a free meal. Almost without exception the response was "Ooh - yes please".

On the very wet Wednesday, the full turkey dinner and Christmas pudding was cooked and delivered at lunchtime to 30 grateful members, together with a mince pie, Christmas present and card, with instructions for the safe receiving and warming of the meal. We were constantly receiving phone calls of thanks afterwards from very grateful members, saying that it was delicious, and more than one said " I ate up every morsel". All those involved agreed that it had been well worth the effort.



**Pat Stephenson. Luncheon Club Coordinator**

*A poem provided by Deidre, an ACE member, with permission from the author, John Winterbourne*



## *What would JESUS do*

*Whenever there's a problem  
And I don't know what to do  
I stop right there  
And ask myself  
What would JESUS do*

*Whenever I am feeling low  
And just a little blue  
I stop right there  
And ask myself  
What would JESUS do*

*Whenever my mind goes wandering  
To where it shouldn't do  
I stop right there  
And ask myself  
What would JESUS do*

*Whenever someone's unkind to me  
It gets me in a stew  
I stop right there  
And ask myself  
What would JESUS do*

*Whenever days go by  
And I don't know what to do  
I stop right there  
And ask myself  
What would JESUS do*



## Remembering Joan Holt

I first got to know Joan when I became her Elder, in 2009. I knew of her before then, as she was a regular member of Ladies' Fellowship, but she was quite a private person so it took a while to get to know her properly.

It was always a pleasure to visit Joan, and whenever I went and knocked on her door, I was confident that she would be immaculately dressed, usually with a tasteful scarf, and that she would be pleased to see me. We had many long chats; she was always interested in my family and loved to talk about her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was amazed by the fact that her granddaughter, Saskia had twin boys and another boy, and her grandson, Sam had twin girls and another girl.

Joan loved to go out and until fairly recently she travelled on the bus to meet friends in Marks and Spencer's café in Bury. She told me that they would sit and chat for a long time, and that the staff at the café knew them well and never bothered them. Sadly, her friends passed away and if she went out, she had to have coffee by herself. She and I had several outings together, to a garden centre, to Morrison's or to Tesco in Bury, and always ended up in the café. Joan used to enjoy "people watching" and often commented on everything that was going on whilst she was sitting alone in her house.

When Betsy Gwilliam was living in a care home in Heywood, Joan and I visited her regularly. She and Joan had been very friendly and used to walk together after church to visit Beth Stott in Half Acre House, calling at the Elephant and Castle for a glass of wine on the way home. She was also very close to Norma and David Milnes, and often went to their home for Sunday lunch, which she very much enjoyed.

Joan was a quiet lady who it was worthwhile to get to know, and I use the word "lady" deliberately. She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her well and by her family.

God Bless Joan, and rest in peace.

**Angela Smith**



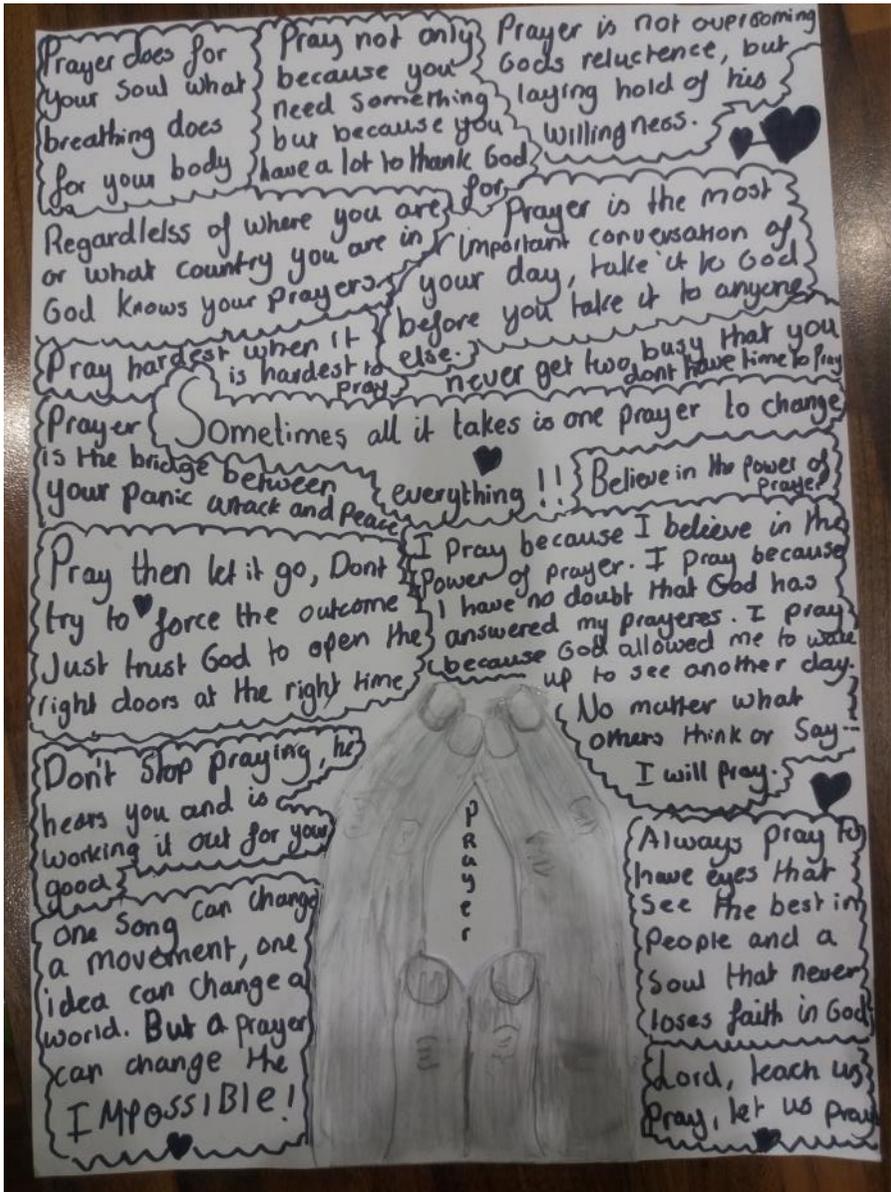
There's quite a few problems with Covid 19  
Doctors and nurses searching for a vaccine  
Boris Johnson introduced a new lockdown  
Unlike the silly protesters there's no need to frown

Can't see my friends the way we used to do  
Covid's making us feel down and blue  
People in hospital feeling dreadfully ill  
While we're stuck at home doing nothing but chill

I've had enough – Corona's done my head in!  
Shortage of food made everybody thin  
Kids lost out on a lot of education  
Left people feeling sad all over the nation

*A 'Rap' poem written by Rhianna for her school*

**Rhianna produced this article when she was practising drawing hands...**





## Church in The World Group Update from Gayle and Paul in Kenya

Steven our Treasurer has now transferred the money raised for our 2019 Project GAP Kenya, as Gayle and Paul have advised the time is right, see below for the exciting news about acquisition of land and the newsletter. **Total amount gathered by Bamford Chapel and Norden URC £9, 825 including Gift Aid).**

### Exciting news!



We have begun to purchase the land we need to build the new Joseph Centre. During our numerous searches to find land we have discovered that most land in Mwakirunge does not have a Title Deed - if it does, the land is either too far away, has no road access or no power or water availability.

The land we have found is in a large village called Marimani which already hosts a primary and high school along with a newly built hospital which has yet to open. The land is very close to the road and the man who lives there has an allotment paper (which states the land is his) and is eager to sell to us. We are proceeding cautiously but the surveyor has been out to measure the land and establish its borders. We will need to meet with the chief and chairman of this area who will help to establish that the land will be sold legally to Gap Kenya for when the Government eventually issue Title Deeds for the land.





## Christmas

We had a wonderful Christmas party at the Joseph Centre for the mums and their children. The mums were presented with a gift of maize flour, chapati flour, oil, tea and sugar whilst the children all received sweets.

The gift of food will enable the mothers to eat without scavenging on the garbage dump until the centre re-opens in the New Year. As a personal gift, the mums all received a lipstick each which put big smiles on their faces (no pun intended!) Food, games and lots of fun made Christmas very special this year.



Meanwhile at Stepping Stones, parties were held for the two groups of boys who attend each week. Lots of fun, games, food, prizes and sweets meant each boy had a brilliant time and was able to celebrate a little bit of

Christmas. Along with a little bit of magic to share how much they are loved by us and by Jesus. It has been brilliant to be able to open the centre these past three months even with Covid around.





The boys in the foster family home had a great time at the beach and swimming in the ocean.

Some of the children from the Joseph Centre.



We thank you all for your continued support as without this none of the work would be able to happen. As we have said previously, Covid has made fundraising extremely difficult but these children and their mums need you. Without you, these children wouldn't be going to school. The mums wouldn't be learning literacy and tailoring skills. The children on the streets would remain dirty, hungry and uncared for with little hope of ever having a chance in life. You are the people enabling lives to be changed - thank you.

*Gayle and Paul Woods, GAP Kenya, January 2021*

*Submitted by Carole Greaves (Church in the World Group)*



I would like to say thank you for the prayers, cards and messages following the recent loss of my husband, Alex. The love and support from the family of Bamford Chapel and Norden URC has been a great comfort to me.

Thank you so much., Anita Teuton, Debra and Joanna.

Glenda was truly shaken when she had to have an emergency operation on her left eye on Christmas Eve and a return visit to the Eye Hospital on Christmas Day.



It has been wonderful to experience the immense kindness of so many of our Christian friends from the Chapel, especially the provision of meals for two weeks, and the provision of transport by Margaret Ogden when Glenda had to return to the Eye Hospital for a further check-up. Others have popped round from time to time and helped with shopping.

We simply thank God for you all, especially during this most troublesome time of lock-down. We have had our Covid injections and were grateful for the wonderful organisation at Riverside.

Walter and Glenda Brisk



## Get Seed Swopping!

Have you got seeds packets with far more seeds in than you are ever likely to sow and grow?

Why not do a seed swap? Save a little bit of money and the seed doesn't go to waste.

We have the following vegetable seeds available and are happy to drop packets off:



**Aubergine, Beetroot, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Celeriac, Courgette, Cress, Kale, Kohl Rabi, Leeks, Lettuce/Salad Leaves, Mustard, Onions & Spring Onions, Parsnips, Peppers & Chillies, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Swede, Swiss Chard, Tomato, Turnip.**

**Please send Jess a WhatsApp or text if you'd like a packet or two or 07789 022926 (while stocks last!)**

## How to Sow & Grow

Fill your pots and trays, ideally with fresh compost, but if you haven't got any, garden soil or spent compost from last year will do to get your seeds going.

All seed packets have a sowing guide on the back telling you how to grow your seeds. The smaller seeds are easier to sprinkle over the surface of the soil, and then sprinkle a little more soil over the top to cover them. For larger seeds poke a hole with your finger or a pencil. Drop your seed in before covering and firming the soil.

**Stand your pots** in a tray of water until the soil surface starts to look damp.

**Put your pots** on a sunny windowsill and check daily, giving them a little water if the soil is drying out; just be careful not to overwater them!

**Seedlings** normally appear within 7-14 days, but some can take a little longer.

**When the seedlings** are large enough to handle, transplant the seedlings into separate pots. I use a sharpened pencil to loosen the seedling, then holding your seedling by a leaf lift and plant into a pre-prepared pot of soil/compost with a hole already made. The sharp end of a pencil is also handy to help gently push the roots into the hole. Firm the soil around your seedling before standing your pot in a tray of water to give it a little drink.

**Before your plants** can be moved outside you will need to 'harden them off'. This simply means putting the plants outside in the day and bringing them back inside on colder nights for 7 to 10 days, before leaving them outside full time once all risk of frost has passed. In Rochdale the last frost date is normally around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May.

**All plants** benefit from some food to help them grow and bloom. There are many plant foods available to buy, but keep a look out in the March magazine for how to make free plant food.

**Here's a few some ideas of what to sow over the next few months:**

### **Feb/March**

Indoors: Tomatoes, Chillies, Peppers, Lettuce, Broccoli, Cabbage, Peas, Courgette

### **April/May**

Indoors: Most Annual Flowers

Outside: Carrots, Spinach, Lettuce, Beans – keep an eye on the weather and check your packet instructions. Some may need to be left until June.



**God bless and happy growing from the Eco Church Team**

## An Exciting Journey



First of all I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers and messages throughout my recent surgery and recovery. Just to let everyone know where I am up to, I was diagnosed as being hearing impaired at aged 5. I wasn't born this way, as it hasn't affected my speech. I went through numerous tests and procedures to determine the cause and it was thought I suffered a virus which damaged my hearing. I

had to wear hearing aids in both ears, which never really bothered me as I got to choose the colours and sometimes even had logos inside the moulds; my favourite was the Manchester United logo.

I had regular check ups throughout my childhood and my hearing never changed until November 2019, when for some reason it deteriorated substantially and I was now profoundly deaf. I got new stronger hearing aids in December 2019 and was told to consider having a cochlear implant. I investigated the possibility to have this fitted. The process involved lots of audiology testing to check suitability, MRI scans and balance checks. The whole process was supposed to be completed within 6 months, however due to the pandemic this wasn't possible and some of the tests were done online virtually, including one in a coffee shop while we were away in Formby.

The date for surgery was Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, which even the pandemic tried to interfere with, as we went into lockdown 2 on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. I had to isolate for 2 weeks and because I live with mum and dad they had to isolate as well. This meant my sister Zoe and Adam and Grandparents doing shopping for us. I was allowed to travel for hospital appointments, which included a Covid test prior to surgery. I was fortunate for my mum to be allowed to accompany me in the hospital, mainly because I couldn't hear anything after the surgery. I went home the same day which was amazing and a relief.

I had to wait just over 2 weeks before they switched the implant on, to allow the surgery to heal. Even at the switch on it was limited to what I

could hear to prevent overload. It will now be gradually increased to allow me to hear more clearly over time. I have a lot of work to do to get used to all the sounds I have missed. So far I am now hearing the microwave beeping, the indicator on the car and my footsteps on the kitchen tiles. It is all very tiring but exciting and I am looking forward to when we can all meet up again and I can join in with everyone's conversations. I give thanks for all the NHS staff who have enabled me to get to this point and thank you to you all for your kindness. If you want to know anymore details including pictures, please just ask and I will be happy to tell you all the gory bits when we can meet up again.

**Love Megan Davies**

## Describe what Love is

*J R Miller (1840-1912) was considered by many to be the most gifted devotional writer of his generation. His book 'In Green Pastures' was much loved. Here is J R Miller's paraphrase of the famous 'love' passage in 1 Corinthians 13:*



Love thinks no evil. It does not suspect unkindness in kindly deeds. It does not imagine an enemy in every friend. It does not fear insincerity in sincere professions of esteem. It does not impugn others' motives nor discount their acts.

On the other hand, it overlooks foibles and hides the multitude of faults that belong to every human being, even to those who are the holiest and the best. Love believes in the good that is in people and tries to think of them always at their best, not at their worst.

It looks, too, at the possibilities that are in people, what they may become through divine love and grace, and not merely at what they now are. It is wonderful how seeing through love's eyes changes the whole face of earthly life, transfiguring it. If the heart be filled with suspicion, distrust, and doubt of people, the world grows very ugly. But love sees brightness, beauty and hope everywhere.

**Courtesy of Parish Pump**



## Message from the Garden Team

Although Chapel has been closed, the Garden Team have been busy clearing and maintaining all the plants, bushes and trees. In February 2020 we put together plans that would develop and maintain the grounds around Chapel over the next few years (there's a lot to do!). Unfortunately, Covid19 arrived. Not to be daunted, we started on the plans at the end of May. As the grounds are quite large, we had no problem with social distancing - there are only 7 of us!

We began cleaning up the front garden of weeds and roots, including drastically cutting back the bushes and pruning some of the trees. In September we were lucky enough to have the Payback team join us again. Though we are not able to have as many as before, we are grateful for the help they give us. They helped to clear the mountain of leaves that fall in the Autumn. We hired 2 skips to start clearing the mounds of debris left at the bottom of the garden from 30 years of garden waste. Who knew there was a small wall and a path down there? See the before and after pictures below.

We have now had to stop again, due to the lockdown, but we are grateful for the break and hope to start again in March. The plants have already started to grow, and the daffodils & snowdrops are showing their heads. If you go on a walk, take a look and see the difference.

**From this....**



**To this....**



**Linda Kerford (on behalf of the Garden Team)**

## Bamford Chapel & Norden URC Heritage Group

Prior to Corona Virus the Heritage Group were meeting monthly. Part of their remit is to catalogue all photographs and memorabilia collected.

### Do you know these men?

We think the photograph was taken in 1947 and shows members of Bamford Chapel football team. Can you provide any further information or identify the team members? **If you can help please email Louise on [l.aspinall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:l.aspinall@yahoo.co.uk)**

(Back row left to right 1,2,3,4,5,6 Front Row 7,8,9,10,11)

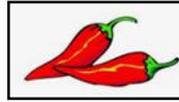


**Do you have any older photographs which would enrich our archive?  
Please let me know.**

**Louise Aspinall (on behalf of the Heritage Group)**



## CHILLI JAM



### INGREDIENTS:

- 150g LONG FRESH RED CHILLIES (each de-seeded and quartered)
- 150g RED PEPPER (cored, de-seeded and cut into chunks)
- 1Kg JAM SUGAR
- 600ml CIDER VINEGAR
- 6 X 250 ml JARS (sealable and sterilised)

### METHOD:

- Put the quartered chillies into a food processor and pulse until finely chopped.
- Add the chunks of red pepper and pulse again.
- Dissolve the sugar in the vinegar in a wide pan (I use a stock pan) over a low heat without stirring.
- Scrape the chilli and pepper mixture into the pan.
- Bring the pan to the boil and leave it boiling for 10 minutes.
- Take the pan off the heat and allow it to cool (the liquid will thicken and become more jelly-like as it cools).
- After about 40 minutes the red flecks should be evenly distributed in the jelly.
- Ladle it into your jars (you can stir very gently at this stage if you feel the need!).
- Seal the jars.

**Debbie Wood**

**(With thanks to Nigella!)**

## Community Coffee Morning



As well as missing a lot of regular activities at present, are you missing the Thursday coffee morning? I know we are. It was hoped to reinstate this weekly activity at Easter, but this looks



unlikely. We are now aiming for May. Lesley is preparing a rota in readiness!!! and if you would still like to be on this, there is no need to let her know. If you wish your name to be deleted, then please let Lesley know, either by phone call, text message (07939-336906) or email ([lesley.sutton@zen.co.uk](mailto:lesley.sutton@zen.co.uk)). A copy of the current rota is below. If you are interested in being added to the rota, please give her a ring.

As mentioned in a magazine article in October, Pat is no longer co-ordinating the running of the coffee morning. Once we resume, one person on the weekly rota will be responsible for bringing milk. Wrapped biscuits will be supplied by us for a charge.

Ring either of us if you have any queries at all. Hopefully, we could have a meeting to fine tune the arrangements before the opening date.

## Community Coffee Morning Weekly Rota (every six weeks)

Lesley Sutton	Linda Kerford	Pamela Harrington
Audrey Telford	Carol Bedford	Irene Beaumont
Margaret Frain	Bernice Miller	Angela Hall
Shirley Sharp	Jean Fitton	Glenda Brisk
Dot Craig	Eleanor Bevan	LINDA PEACOCK
Lesley Sutton	Linda Kerford	Pamela Harrington

Linda Peacock is a new recruit replacing Muriel. Thank you to Muriel for sterling support of the coffee morning.

*Pamela Harrington & Lesley Sutton*

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ: Answers

[page 25 Dec/Jan issue]

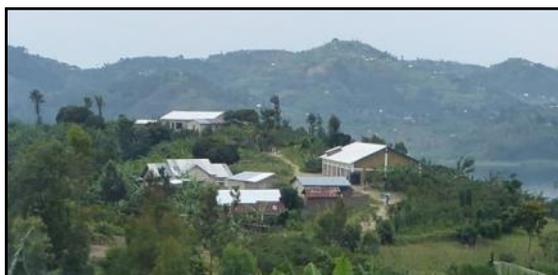
The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower originates from which country?	<b>MEXICO</b>
In which fictional land was it always winter but never Christmas?	<b>NARNIA</b>
What day does Advent, the period leading up to Christmas, start	<b>Advent starts on the Sunday nearest to 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. It ends Sunday before 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>
What breed of dog is Santa's Little Helper in The Simpsons?	<b>GREYHOUND</b>
What did The Grinch want to steal in the 2000 American comedy film?	<b>CHRISTMAS</b>
In which Christmas film does Buddy accidentally learn that he is human?	<b>ELF</b>
Which famous scientist, born on Christmas Day, was the first scientist to be buried in Westminster Abbey in London?	<b>SIR ISAAC NEWTON</b>
In the Christmas song "Jingle Bells", how many horses pulled the sleigh?	<b>ONE</b>
A year contains 365 days so on what number day does Christmas Day fall?	<b>359</b>
What is the most common gift received from a Christmas Cracker?	<b>A HAT [every Cracker has a hat]</b>

## The Village Boat in Gihombo, Rwanda

In 2016 our annual developing world project was to support a boat building project in a small remote village in Rwanda through the charity Village Rwanda UK (VRUK).

**The following is a report from Margot Park, one of the trustees of VRUK, who visited the village in February 2020.**

**“The reason for a boat...** Because of the village location on a rural and isolated peninsular of Lake Kivu, getting to hospital on foot using narrow tracks takes several hours. Transporting goods to the local market at Mugonero meant locals hiring a boat from a nearby village, which could be uneconomic and wasn't always available when needed.



**Completion...** In May 2017 the 55-seater boat, with roof, was built in less than 10 days, using local labour and traditional methods. With its new Yamaha engine, it can get to the hospital or market in Mugonero in under half an hour.



The boat project provided the village not only with employment in the building of it, but more importantly, the opportunity to form a **Boat Co-operative business**. It became both a life-saving facility and a potential sustainable income

generation project. Within three months of the Boat Co-operative being formed, the business began to make a small profit, giving employment to three local people: a captain, under captain and night watchman.



*Once home, the crew carry the boat engine up the steep hill to the Children's Centre, for security*



### **Boat Future - October 2020**

During Margo's visit, she saw first-hand the organisation and enthusiasm of a group of eight local men who are making stoves. Two hundred have been made and given to vulnerable families. VRUK funded the materials for this social enterprise. In addition, the group are making stoves for sale, both locally and further afield. For their business to expand, they plan to rent the boat from the Boat Co-operative to sell their safer stoves throughout the sector and even into other sectors of the district of Nyamasheke. As part of the rental agreement the Safer Stoves Group have now repaired and adapted the boat for both passengers and for transportation of goods, making it a multi-purpose boat. With its newly serviced engine, it has become an integral part of the local economy, as well as supporting the well-being of the whole community.

The future looks very promising as it creates income and provides:

- transport for local farmers and families to and from the local market at Mugonero
- transport for medical emergencies at the hospital, or treatment at the medical centre
- transport to the tarmac road for bus travel to the capital, Kigali or other destination
- monthly transportation of ingredients for the children's feeding programme in Gasundwe
- transportation of the stoves to markets further afield
- planned tourism activities (post pandemic) of traditional fishing and tours of the lake

The aim of the all the projects started and supported by Village Rwanda UK is for their eventual self-sustainability. The boat project is very much a key part of that aim. The future of the area, with the boat playing its part, is looking really promising.



*Transporting porridge ingredients from Mugonero market to Gasundwe for the feeding programme*



The people of Gihombo sector and VRUK would all like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC.

*Submitted by Barbara Redmond (Church in the World Group)*

## Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

**(all suspended until further notice)**

- 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  
6.30 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association  
7.30 pm Home Group 'Exploring the Bible'
- Thursday:** 10.00 am Community Coffee Morning
- Friday:** 6.00 pm onwards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

## Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** 1st Tuesday in the month  
1.45 pm in lounge for Coffee: Meeting 2 - 3 pm  
**Home Group** (Fortnightly)  
8.15 pm In Crèche Room
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** (2nd Thursday in the month)  
7.30 pm  
**Heritage Group** (3rd Thursday in the month)  
7.00 pm
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** (1st Friday in the month)  
1.30—3.30 pm
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman Community Film Club**  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film (3rd Saturday in month)

Further information on the **weekly notice sheet** or visit the website at [www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk) or speak to an Elder.

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## DATES FOR THE MARCH MAGAZINE

**Articles to be handed in by:**

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**Magazine to be completed by:**

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**Magazine distributed:**

Sunday 28th February

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