



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



June 2022

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT



Loving God, Serving Others,
Building Community

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.

June 2022

For those who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship, services are live-streamed on YouTube (Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed Church) and available on the church website (www.bcchurch.org.uk)

Sunday 5 June	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Andy Platt
	3.00 - 5.00 pm	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party Games, Quizes, Refreshments - see page 23
Tuesday 7 June	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom
Sunday 12 June	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Debbie Wood
Thursday 16 June	tbc	Ladies Fellowship (see page 14) Afternoon Tea with St Paul's Norden
	7.00 pm	Monthly Heritage Group Please note the changed date
Saturday 17 June	6.30 pm for 7.00 pm	Ian Newman Community Film Club See page 20
Sunday 19 June	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Ken Greer
Tuesday 21 June	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom
Sunday 26 June	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Margaret Ogden
Friday 1 July	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Café

Message from the Student Minister



Well - here it is my last letter as student before I make the grand move to Minister! Where have four years gone? I thought I'd share with you a picture taken in our student kitchen. I am adorned in my first ever student hoody, with our LKC (Luther King Centre) logo – designed, organised, and sold by

the student body (of which I was joint treasurer). We were proud of sourcing Fairtrade organic hoodies at a reasonable price and in gorgeous colours.

The student kitchen is where all students from the three colleges with their different denominations and diverse heritages can mingle, albeit in a very small space, and make drinks and often eat cakes and biscuits. On my left, I am joined by another Kate, another mother of four, from south Wales training to be a Minister of Word and Sacrament. On my right is Alice who is also on placement in North-West Synod, working with Daleen around Blackburn, but as a Church Related Community Worker. The photo is taken by the dynamic Fliss another CRCW beginning ministry soon in Wooller.

What I have valued so much over these years is this coming together in community. Sometimes this has been uncomfortable, sometimes a sheer delight, often much fun and often challenging. All of us bring a diverse, unique mix to the process whether it's quietness, noise, energy, creativity, warmth, deep academic knowledge, or wide life-experience. We share worship once a week, where concerns, enquiries, deep wonderings, the Word, music, laughter, and creative prayers are combined, feeding us to continue our academic and ministerial journeys.

This sense of community is where I have seen the church at it's best. People working together, using their amazing gifts, discovering the needs around them so that they might serve better, in small ways being God's hand and feet, eyes and ears where they are, supporting one another, prayerfully grounding their ministry, discerning God's voice through scripture, prayer, creation, and those they meet. I am very grateful for and humbled by what I have been able to share with across the partnership and I look forward to the sharing to come as I journey alongside Cumbria Missional Partnership and the South-West Cumbria United Area. Finally, I would like to remind you of words I have often shared with people around the partnership, words that mean so much to me - Isaiah 43:1 'I have called you by name-you are mine.'

God Bless you in your journeying – Kate Hunt (Student Minister)

Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership
Café Style acts of Worship

On:

Sundays: 3rd July, 4th September, 2nd October & 6th November

Time: 6.30pm

Venue:

**Bamford Chapel and Norden URC, Norden Road,
Bamford, OL11 5PQ**

Come and enjoy a relaxed and informal act of worship where there will be refreshments, music, fun and fellowship as part of our worship



Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester
Missional Partnership
times of prayer on zoom

Wednesday 15th June	7.30pm—8.15pm
Wednesday 13th July	10.30am—11.15am
Wednesday 14th September	7.30pm—8.15pm
Wednesday 12th October	10.30am—11.15am
Wednesday 16th November	7.30pm—8.15pm
Wednesday 14th December	10.30am—11.15am



Zoom details:

Meeting ID: 836 4636 0141

Passcode: Prayer

For more information please contact
Revd Richard Bradley on:
richardbradley@cantab.net - 07483 155807 - 01706 369622

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC Website



We are looking for someone who would be willing to take on the role of regularly updating our church website. (Adding the monthly magazine and other information and removing out of date information).

If you are interested and would like to know more about it, please contact Anne Fitton.

Introducing - Festival Manchester



If you or your kids thought Christians were boring, think again!

Festival Manchester is a Christian festival to be held over the weekend of **July 1-3rd 2022 in Wythenshawe Park** and there are a whole host of activities for all ages, including a fantastic free live music line-up including Matt Redman, LZ7, a children's mass soul choir, and the Kingdom choir (the gospel choir who famously sang at Harry and Meghan's wedding!)

There's also a funfair, extreme sports, gaming, a beach and food. Go to **festivalmanchester.com** to get the full picture.

Where

Wythenshawe Park, Wythenshawe Road, Manchester, M23 0AB

Festival opening times

Friday 1 July: 6:00pm – 9:45pm

Saturday 2 July: 2:00pm – 9:30pm

Sunday 3 July: 2:00pm – 9:30pm

A Prayer for Today



Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the beauty of the world you created, so evident in this lovely month of June.

We bring before you, in prayer, those events going on in the world which are so difficult to understand. We pray for all your children who are suffering in any way, especially those affected by war. Please, Lord, comfort them, assure them of your presence - and deliver them from evil.

May we appreciate each day which you have made. Help us to rejoice and be glad in the gift of each new day - and to trust you for all our tomorrows, knowing that in you alone is our security.

In Jesus' name. Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Gift Day

Thank you to all the organisations that contributed to our May Gift Day.

An amazing sum of £8,028.42 was raised.

Steven Gooding (Treasurer)



Bamford Chapel & Norden URC Garden Update

A lot has been happening in the Chapel gardens, not least the display of flowers heralding the arrival of Spring. There has also been a lot of work cleaning the area around the graveyard and removing years of overgrown ivy, brambles and self-seeded trees. We can now walk around the graveyard more freely though still taking care, as there are quite a lot of tombstones (567 actually but not all visible). There has also been new edging placed down the garden paths. Our thanks to the Payback Team who have helped and without whom a lot of the work would have taken us a lot longer. Thanks also to those people who have donated plants for us to use within the gardens.



On July 9th Chapel will again be holding the Garden Party after a break of 2 years. We will be there with our 'famous' garden stall. However, as a lot of plants will be in flower prior to the Garden Party, the Monday Gang will be selling plants at the front of church on **Monday mornings of the 13th and 20th of June.**

Meanwhile, please take a walk around the grounds and see the changes for yourselves. We now leave the gates open so that the community too can take a walk around the garden.

Linda Kerford (On behalf of the Monday Gang)

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Credit: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images.

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham praises an outstanding monarch.

This month we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history. Up until recently she attended church every week and still did a full week's work at the age of 96!

It is her commitment to serving God and the nation which stands out in her life. Even before she became Queen, she made a promise, which she has kept for over 75 years: *'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'* (21st birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

What is the secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service? In 2002 she said this: *"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know*

that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.” These are wise words from somebody who draws her strength from the Christian Faith and can inspire all of us who want to make our lives count!

The Queen has been an example of joyful, wise, and generous service on behalf of others all her life. Six months before her coronation she asked the nation and Commonwealth to *“pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.”* Paul urges us to pray for all in authority, *“that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”* (1 Timothy 2:2).



Eco Tip of the Month



Please resist the urge to clean up your gardens until after temperatures are constantly above 50 degrees Fahrenheit!! Many butterflies, bees and other pollinators are currently overwintering in the dead leaves and hollowed out stems of last year's plants. If you clean out your garden now, you will literally be throwing away this year's butterflies, bees and other beneficial pollinators.

Memories of Charlie Peacock

Charlie...



What comes to mind when you think about Charlie? Kind, happy, family man? All these are true but for me my memories of him are this and more.

My first memories of him are probably going back to Kinsfolk, the singing group set up by 5 ladies here at church and they were accompanied on guitar by Peter Kenyon and Charlie. I can still hear some of the songs that they used to sing and I'm sure there are a few cassettes (remember those?!) sitting in people's drawers at home!

After that I then jump to Heywood Operatic, when Charlie used to play in the band with my dad conducting, and then after the show all the cast would go out for a meal (normally at the Norden Chimney when it was around). Various people did a cabaret act after the meal and Charlie would always write a song and play on his banjo. I remember him doing a song called "sitting on the back row of the chorus" but any he did were always funny and always went down well.

Charlie also played for several shows that we did at church and I remember him and dad and Matt Wynne being the band for "Smike" that we did in 1988.

More recently I have spent a lot of time with Charlie doing a quiz night on Zoom every Saturday night. Charlie was always really pleased with himself as we had an un-written challenge on who could do the best power point presentation and he was always trying to compete for the prize!! The funniest however had to be when Charlie and Linda forgot to mute their microphone and all everyone could hear was them arguing about how to get the power point presentation started!!

Like everyone, the news of his passing was such a shock as I held him in such high regard. He always had something positive to say to me, either about football or music or something else and it is this that I will miss the most. He was a true gentleman, and he will be sadly missed by so many but the memories of him will last forever.

God bless, Steven Gooding

Thank You



On behalf of myself, Karen, Stephen and all the family, thank you all for your love, prayers and support following Charlie's sudden death. Thank you for so many cards, phone calls, visits and flowers, they were very much appreciated.

The Service of Celebration for Charlie's life was more than we could ever have hoped for, and we were overwhelmed by the number of people who attended both services. To see so many of Charlie's friends from various walks of life made me realise just how much he was thought of.

Thank you to Natalie for playing for the hymn at the crematorium; to Steven Gooding for his music before, during and after the service at Chapel; to Richard for leading the services; the tech team for the sound/projector and live-streaming and to the people who served the refreshments. Thank you to Saddleworth Male Voice Choir for the wonderful, sensitive singing, it was perfect. We are so grateful to you all.

And last but not least, thank you to my amazing grandchildren for their contributions of music, a poem and their loving, funny and heartfelt memories of their Grandpa/Pappa. He would have been so proud of them all.

Life will never be the same without him, but I am so grateful for the 58 happy years we spent together.

God Bless, Linda Peacock

The U in Jesus



Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true
That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

Author unknown



DVDs on Loan



The Ian Newman Community Film Club

It has been suggested that if you are unable to attend the screening of the monthly film, the DVD of that film could be borrowed for a donation fee [minimum 50p]. If you are interested in this idea and would like to borrow the film, please contact me on 01706 638005.

The film in March was "THE KEEPER" which told the story of Bert Trautman's life in the North of England. Already three people have put their names on the waiting list to borrow this.

Lesley Sutton

Church Flowers



**Donations for flowers placed in church
in April & May were received from :**

**Elizabeth Hazlehurst in memory of her Wedding
Anniversary, Dorothy's Birthday & Olive's Birthday**

Linda Kerford in memory of Malcolm

Anne Fitton in memory of Mother & Father

Dot Craig in memory of Peter

Linda Peacock & family in Celebration of the Life of Charlie

Pat Gate in memory of Bob

Tom Swann in memory of Blanche

Amanda & Mike Phillips in Celebration of the Life of Ally

Joyce Harding in memory of Harry

Addie Redmond in memory of Alice Redmond

Ladies Fellowship in the Afternoon with Cameron Baines



“A Life in Shorts”

On Thursday 7th April twenty ladies met in the lounge eagerly awaiting Cameron’s account of his life in shorts.

The ladies were welcomed by the Chairperson, Margaret Frain followed by an opening prayer from Patricia Stephenson.

It is impossible to relay all Cameron told us but, without hesitation, I tell you the talk was wonderful. Amusing, full of detail and a very interesting life so far. Thank you Cameron, for preparing such a detailed account of your life from birth to the present day. There was a short question and answer session following the talk. Perhaps one day you could tell the ladies about the next stage of your life?

A vote of thanks was delivered by me.

Lesley Sutton

Ladies Fellowship Afternoon Tea



All ladies have been invited to Afternoon Tea with the ladies of St Paul’s Church, Norden on the afternoon of Thursday 16th June. This is in place of their Christmas Tea which was cancelled because of Covid.

Details are on the Ladies Fellowship notice board opposite the kitchen, but please give your name to Linda Kerford for catering purposes if you wish to attend.

Please note this is also in place of the usual June Ladies Fellowship evening meal.

Seasonal Vegetables



Seasonal produce in May/June promises an abundance of exciting flavours and textures, from juicy peas and broad beans to sharp oranges and lemons. Succulent spring lamb is not one to miss, along with the short but sublime British asparagus season.

Lamb tray roast with mustard, leek and tomatoes

This easy lamb tray roast sees cutlets, leeks, peppers and beans all cooked in the same roasting tray and pepped up with wholegrain mustard.

- 2 leeks, cut into 2cm slices
 - 2 red peppers, deseeded and cut into chunks
 - 4 whole garlic cloves, peeled and lightly bashed with a rolling pin
 - Drizzle olive oil or rapeseed oil
 - 400g tin borlotti beans, drained
 - 250ml hot lamb or chicken stock
 - 400g cherry tomatoes on the vine
 - 4-8 lamb cutlets (depending on appetite)
1. Heat the oven to 200°C fan/gas 7. Put the leeks, peppers and garlic on a baking tray or in a roasting tin, drizzle with a little oil and season with salt and pepper, then toss to coat and roast in the oven for 10 minutes.
 2. Add the borlotti beans, stock and cherry tomatoes to the tray/tin, stirring to combine, then roast for 6-8 minutes more. Meanwhile, coat the lamb cutlets on both sides with the mustard (½ tbsp per cutlet), add them to the tray/tin and roast for 12-15 minutes or until cooked to your liking.
 3. Serve the lamb with the roast vegetables and roasting pan juices, as it is or with crusty bread or your favourite potatoes.

Garden Party – Help & Donations

The garden party will take place this year on 9th July.

Donations are needed for the bottle stall, tombola and cake stall. Help is needed in the kitchen and for the raffle on the door. Please speak to Julie Platt if you can help, or for more information.



Harry Potter

Twenty-five years ago, on 26th June 1997, J K Rowling's first Harry Potter novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, was published in the UK.



It received massive acclaim, and another six best-selling books and eight hugely successful films followed. The books have been translated into over 80 languages, and have sold more than 500 million copies worldwide. Spin-off books and films have followed, and the author also publishes crime novels under a pen name.

Death and the struggle between good and evil are the central themes of the Harry Potter series, and it has provoked much religious debate, centring mainly on claims by some that the books contain occult and Satanic sub-texts. Defenders of the books say that the magic in the Harry Potter series is more akin to fairy tales and to *The Lord of the Rings* and *Narnia*.

Supporters argue that the whole story can be viewed as essentially Christian in character, particularly the last volume, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, in which the hero dies and comes back to life to save mankind. Elsewhere themes of courage, love and the temptations of power are central.

Its author – born Joanne Rowling in 1965 – has described herself as a Christian and attended a Church of Scotland congregation while writing Harry Potter. Her daughter Jessica was baptised there. More recently she has been reluctant to talk “too deeply” about her beliefs.

By Tim Lenton, *Parish Pump* community reporter



Memories of Allyson Phillips



Allyson Phillips was born on the 22nd July 1988, at the Oldham and District General Hospital. She weighed 5 pounds 10 ounces. Her first home was on Molyneux Street, where she lived until she was 3 ½, when we moved to Elmsfield Avenue. She went to university, but

returned to Elmsfield Ave. Ally finally left home, to Bury, being joined by Debs after a couple of years. Despite the flat being quite comfy and modern, their landlord decided he wanted to sell up, so Ally and Debs moved, again, onto Bradshaw Street.

Ally spent a lot of her childhood with her Nan, Grandma and Grandpa. Nan looked after her during the week, taking her to various play groups, nursery, and tumble tots. She loved going with her Nan to Sarah's coffee shop in town to meet her Nan's friends. Ally spent many weekends with her grandparents, with days out, which she thoroughly enjoyed, and helping Grandpa in the garden. Ally attended Howard Street nursery school. After nursery, Ally attended Caldershaw Primary school. Following primary, she attended Falinge Park High School.

On leaving school, Ally, being animal mad, did two years studying animal care at Hopwood Hall. This is when Ally chose to have Ferrets. She started with just two, but over the years she had eight. Though when she moved to Uni, mum ended up looking after them! Ally needed another A level, so she chose to study performing arts, again at Hopwood Hall. Then Ally needed to decide what she wanted to do. After much thought, she chose Drama, at Edge Hill University, Ormskirk. She loved her time at Uni, graduating with a BA Honours.

Ally was always a hard worker, her first job being a paper round, at 13. The first “proper job” was selling frozen yogurt in Rochdale Market. Over the years she has had many jobs, before finally working at “It’s a Baby” where she started just before the pandemic.

Sadly, Ally started with back problems last December, being admitted to Fairfield in late February. After tests and Scans, she was diagnosed with cancer, which had already spread, a biopsy was taken, and a rare but aggressive type of sarcoma was identified. The same day, Ally was transferred to the Christie. Her consultant, Dr Lee, started Ally on Chemotherapy the next week, and she was making progress.

After eight weeks, we managed to get Ally back here for a week, living downstairs. She had a great week at home, going for crepes in Bury, calling in to work, and spending time with Rob, her fiancé. They were looking for an engagement ring. Sadly, on the Tuesday morning, Ally became unwell. She was admitted back to Fairfield, onto the ICU. Despite everything being done that could be done, Ally passed away in the early hours of the 20th April surrounded by those she loved, her Mum Amanda, Dad Mike, Sister Debra and Fiancé Rob.

Ally will be missed by us all. She was a bright light in the lives of her family and friends and we know many of you will have your own memories of her enthusiasm and joy of life.

Amanda & Mike Phillips

Remembering Delyth Rees



We give thanks for the life of Delyth Rees who passed away on 24th March after a short illness. Delyth was an active member of Bamford Chapel and the supportive wife of Ivor when he was minister here from 1986 - 1996. Ivor has also recently spent some time in hospital. We send Ivor, Lythan, Dafydd and all the family our love and hold them in our prayers.



**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB

Saturday 18th June 2022

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film

“AMELIA” PG



Supported by Rochdale Township

**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

***THE IAN NEWMAN COMMUNITY FILM CLUB at
Bamford Chapel and Norden United Reformed
Church, Norden Road, ROCHDALE. OL11 5PQ***

16th June : “AMELIA” PG 2009 1 hour 51 mins Amelia is a biographical film about the life of Amelia Earhart. Most of the story is told in flashbacks before ending with Earhart’s mysterious disappearance. The film stars Hilary Swank, Richard Gere, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor.

16th July : “WAR HORSE” 12 2011 2 hours 26 mins War film based on the 1982 novel of the same name by Michael Morpurgo. Starring Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson and Peter Mullan.

20th August: “BELFAST” PG 2021 1 hour 38 mins The film chronicles the life of a working-class Protestant family from the perspective of their nine year old son, Buddy. Starring Jude Hill as Buddy, Ciaran Hinds, Jamie Dornan and Judi Dench.

17th September : “WEST WIDE STORY” PG 2021 2 hours 36 mins Adaptation of the 1957 musical, the film tells the tale of forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Starring Ansel Elgort, Ariana Debose and David Alvarez. ***CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF THE FILM CLUB ALTHOUGH ALMOST TWO WERE LOST BECAUSE OF COVID.***

15th October : “LADIES IN LAVENDER” PG 2004 1 hour 44 mins Two sisters befriend a mysterious foreigner who washes up on the beach of their 1930s Cornish seaside village. Starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Daniel Bruhl.

19th November : “DOWNTON ABBEY – A NEW ERA” PG 2022 2 hours 5 mins Lady Violet [Maggie Smith] has come into possession of a villa in France and this unexpected inheritance looks like unveiling some saucy secrets from her past. It also transports the Crawleys and their loyal attendants to warmer climes. Starring Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern, Phyllis Logan, Dominic West.

No film club in December

If you have any queries, please ring Lesley Sutton on 01706 638005

Supported by Rochdale Township

Father's Day



Fans of the popular *Star Wars* films were surprised when Darth Vader said to Luke Skywalker "I am your father." This unexpected disclosure paved the way for future surprises in the episodes that followed.

Many times, Jesus surprised His hearers with parables that had unexpected twists and turns. No doubt He astonished the disciples when He first called God 'Father' and went on to instruct them to pray saying "Our Father in heaven...". No one had called God 'Father' before!

Shortly before His arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus talked to His disciples about God the Father. He said: "In my Father's house are many rooms." This prompted Philip to ask: "Show us the Father, that is all we need." Jesus replied: "Whoever has seen Me *has* seen the Father."

Jesus knew this concept would be hard to grasp and so had to frequently speak about God as His Father. For three years the disciples had listened to profound teaching and witnessed miracles. They knew Jesus was different, but as His ministry drew to a close they were learning more about the special relationship that God had with Jesus.

On 19th June it will be Father's Day. This is an occasion to remember the role our dads are playing now or have played in our lives. Hopefully, we have good memories and recall times of loving care they showed to us.

Unfortunately, some people do not know their fathers, or they have been absent for long periods or may be neglectful, deceitful, or abusive. Sadly, some children and adults would rather not remember their fathers, having suffered some trauma or family breakdown.



It is good to know that God is not like this. Jesus came to reveal God as our Heavenly Father, who is loving, compassionate, merciful, forgiving, and caring. God is the model father who knows what is good for us and wants the best for us.

So, Father's Day can be a reminder that we are God's children, and that we can possess the blessings He has kept for us. In the story of our lives God has revealed Himself in a surprising way. He says to each one of us 'I am your Father'. Now that is something to celebrate!

Lester Amann



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration



**Come and celebrate
the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
on Sunday 5th June from 3 – 5 pm**

**Games, Quizzes, Refreshments
Sign up on the notice board for catering purposes**

God in the Arts

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess of Parish Pump continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at the famous Book of Kells... our picture shows an eagle from the famous book.

The Thread of God's love

In 563 an Irish monk was forced to leave his homeland because of a conflict that had led to a misuse of power and even bloodshed. On Pentecost Sunday he arrived on the island of Iona off the north-west coast of Scotland with twelve companions. There he began a new way of life, founded on Christ's mercy and forgiveness of the past, and so created one of the great centres of faith and mission in the Christian Church. His name was Columba, and we keep his feast day on 9th June.



His monastery on Iona started as a small cluster of wooden buildings with a church and a guesthouse. Around were fields of crops and cattle and bees. But under Columba's guidance, it grew, and from Iona monks were sent into Scotland as one arm of a missionary advance that reached down through England to France and across Europe.

That outreach was an amazing achievement. But just as amazing was the consolidation of monastic life on Iona that resulted two centuries later in the Book of Kells. This text of the four Gospels was begun by scribes and artists in the library of Iona. It grew into one of the masterpieces of Celtic art that was taken to Kells in Ireland to escape the Viking invaders who ravaged the island.

Along with the text of the Gospels, there are illustrations of Jesus, Mary and the four evangelists, together with decorations at once intricate and fantastic: patterns that interweave and interlace across the page with an

odd face here and a weird creature there. The design is in brilliant detail, and you can follow the lines as they weave in and out. This delight in patterns is evident in lots of Celtic art.

It is good to imagine Columba on Iona meditating on the thread of God's grace woven into his life as he looked back to his years in Ireland and his pilgrimage to Iona. It might have seemed at one glance a complicated interweaving of events and experiences, and then perhaps as he looked again, he would see God's love threading its way through that history and redeeming both it and him.

It is the same for us. As we look at our lives, they may seem complex and involved patterns of events and circumstances taking us here and there. As we ponder those patterns, then we can begin to see a thread woven into the patterns that guides and leads us on. And as we stand back, all the patterns and threads seem to make sense as we spot that guiding thread. Just as we can stand back from the designs of this page and see God's love spelling out the name of Christ, our Lord.

Rhubarb Eco Recipe



Rhubarb is seasonal at the moment

Here is a simple recipe

- 500g rhubarb (approximately)
- 4 Tablespoons orange juice (fresh or from a carton)
- 50 grams sugar (you can use more if liked)

Wash, trim and chop the rhubarb into chunks

Place in an oven dish, sprinkle with sugar and add the orange juice

Bake in a 160C fan oven 180C conventional oven or gas 4 for about half an hour

Stir occasionally

Ready when the rhubarb is soft but still holding its shape.

Barbara Redmond

July Messy Church



children

please bring an adult with you

Purse Strings? A personal aside!

The idea of holding the purse strings dates from the mid-15th century in The Book of Margery Kempe, where it refers to a string used to close a leather purse. It may surprise you, as it did me, that such purses are still in use today.

The picture below is of two purses with strings I was given during the annual Maundy Thursday service in St George's Chapel in which The Queen traditionally presents Maundy Money to members of the congregation for their service to the Church. The number of male and female recipients being the same as her age. Because of the Queen's mobility issues, Prince Charles distributed the purses this year. Thus, this year, 96 women and 96 men received two leather purses with strings for their voluntary service to their church (of whom I was proud to have been one, especially because my nomination included my work with parish magazines).

One purse included specially minted silver coins to the value of the amount originally given by the monarch in the 1600's – this year it was a £5 Jubilee crown and a 50p Jubilee piece – and the other held specially minted 1p, 2p, 3p, and 4p silver coins to the sum of 96p. All are legal tender, although I would be surprised if my local shop would accept a silver 3p or 4p coin! As I am known in my family for my lack of financial wisdom, they will be the only purse strings that I am ever likely to hold!



Bob Peters - Association for Church Editors (Picture: Bob Peters)

Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

- Monday:** 9.00 am Monday Gang / Garden Gang
(who do work in or around the building)
10.30 am Pastoral Meeting
1.30 pm Bridge Club
8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group
- Tuesday:** 9.00 – 11.00 am Toddlers' Group
1.30 – 4.00 pm Indoor Bowls (Upstairs Hall)
From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
7.15 pm Singing Group
- Wednesday:** 12 noon Luncheon Club
6.30 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association
- Thursday:** 10.30 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:** **Home Group** 7th & 21st June
7.30 - 9.00 pm On Zoom
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** Please note changed date
1.00 - 3.00 pm 16th June (see page 14)
Heritage Group 2nd Thursday in the month
7.00 pm (except 16th June) - In Church
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** 1st Friday in the month
1.30 - 3.30 pm 1st July
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman** 3rd Saturday in the month
Community Film Club (see page 20)
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film 18th June

For further information please see website www.bcnchurch.org.uk
contact Anne Fitton or speak to an Elder.

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



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DATES FOR THE JULY/AUGUST MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 19th June

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 30th June

Magazine distributed: Sunday 3rd July

BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN

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