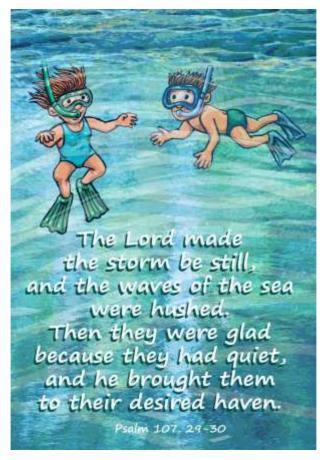


## **Bamford Chapel**& Norden URC



July/August 2024

## BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MISSION/VISION STATEMENT



#### **OUR JESUS-SHAPED CHURCH IS...**

#### Welcoming!

Jesus welcomed **all** who came to Him without judgment, and we aim to be an inclusive church, welcoming to all.

#### **Developing Faith!**

Jesus' ministry was all about sharing the Gospel with others. As a church, we need to make sure we are deepening faith and making disciples, supporting individuals on their own faith journeys, and taking the Gospel and sharing our faith beyond the walls of our church.

#### **Reaching Out!**

Jesus reached out to everyone, and we must too: within our own church community, within our local community and beyond. We will serve God by serving others.

#### **Caring!**

Jesus said: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." It is essential that all that we do is done in love and that caring for others/serving others is at the heart of our church.

#### **Prayerful!**

As it did for Jesus, we will make sure that prayer underpins all that we do as a church, that we might serve the mission of God as He wills.

## **July 2024**

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

Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)	
Friday 5 July	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café	
Sunday 7 July	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Family Worship with Communion Led by Andy Platt Missional Partnership Café Church NB Greenmount URC Old School (see page 6)	
Tuesday 9 July	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group On Zoom (see page 2)	
Wednesday 10 July	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship (see page 5)	
Saturday 13 July	2.00 pm	Garden Party (see page 8)	
Sunday 14 July	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by David Watson	
Monday 15 July	8.00 pm	Jesus-Shaped People discussion At the Redmond's (see page 5)	
Wednesday 17 July	7.30 am	Jesus-Shaped People discussion In Church (see page 5)	
Saturday	10.30 pm	Jesus-Shaped People discussion In Church (see page 5)	
20 July	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club (see page 21)	
Sunday 21 July	10.30 am	Family Worship & Baptism Led by Debbie Wood	
Tuesday 23 July	7.30 pm - 9.00 pm	Tuesday Home Group Social Evening at Church (see page 2)	
Sunday 28 July	10.30 am	Family Worship & Baptism Led by Clive Rotherham	

## **August 2024**

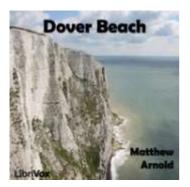
Every Monday	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Prayer Group in the Lounge (all welcome)
Friday 2 August	1.30 - 3.30 pm	Dementia Friendly Café
Sunday 4 August	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion Led by Margaret Ogden (Bywater)
Monday 5 - Friday 9 August	9.30 am - 12 noon	Holiday Club for Primary-Age Children (see page 16)
Sunday 11 August	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Linda Lees
Wednesday 14 August	7.00 pm	Midweek Worship (see page 5)
Saturday 17 August	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Community Film Club (see page 23)
Sunday 18 August	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Cameron Baines With Baptism by Julie or Andrew
Sunday 25 August	10.30 am	Family Worship Led by Sammy Spaine

NB: Additional Home Group dates
9th July on Zoom
23rd July - Social at Church
then a break until September

Front Cover artwork by Paul Judson (Parish Pump)
Olympic Artwork on page 17 by Francesca Ross (Parish Pump)

#### **Pastoral Letter**

#### Dear Friends,



Hailing from the south, I am delighted to share with you a beloved poem that holds deep significance for a town that is very dear to me. In 1851, the newlywed poet Matthew Arnold visited Dover during his honeymoon. This romantic journey inspired him to compose the poem *Dover Beach*. Dover exudes a sense of melancholy—a sentiment often remarked upon by a Doverian I know, who notes that the river flowing through the

town aptly bears the name Dour. In contemporary times, it serves as the initial point of contact for migrants crossing in small boats. Against this backdrop, Arnold penned a poignant reflection on the nation's decline and the erosion of Christian faith:

The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear
And naked shingles of the world.

Arnold's poem captures the Victorian anxiety over the church's diminishing influence. Using the metaphor of the sea retreating from the shingled beach, this verse powerfully conveys the sense of lost faith within society - a tide that seems to have been receding ever since. This sense of unease was particularly evident during the lockdown when churches were closed, and communities had to gather virtually on Zoom. The decline accelerated, causing some churches, which might have endured a few more years, to close prematurely.

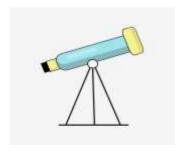
Arnold's imagery of a receding tide suggests that it will inevitably return. Some commentators now propose that this tide might have stopped its retreat and could even be turning back. Take Richard Dawkins, once a leading figure in the New Atheist movement. Fifteen years ago, he firmly denied any personal connection to Christianity. Recently, however, he has reluctantly identified himself as a "cultural Christian," acknowledging that his most cherished values are deeply rooted in Christian culture. Similarly, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a former close ally in the New Atheist movement, embraced Christianity after a decade-long struggle with depression. She recently shared a stage with Dawkins and openly discussed her newfound faith, much to Dawkins' bemusement.

There are numerous public figures who have embraced faith or speak favorably of Christianity, including historian Tom Holland, musician Nick Cave, psychologist Jordan B. Peterson, and the controversial Russell Brand. On a local level, while some churches remain vulnerable, others are experiencing steady attendance, and some have even regained their pre-COVID numbers. Behind every statistic is the story of an individual - precious in the sight of God - working to follow Jesus in their daily life.

Perhaps you have noticed a shift in how people react to Christianity. They may be more open to discussions or curious about faith. They may be seeking a Love greater than themselvesa Love to which they can fully surrender.

#### Keep the faith, Daniel Harris

## Pause for Thought...



I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth.

Isaac Newton

## **Jesus Shaped Church**

#### Continuing to develop our Jesus-Shaped Church

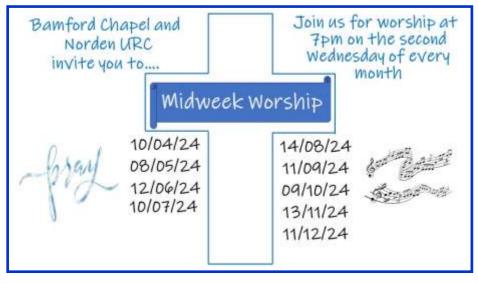
All are invited to continue our discussions and learning together as we grow in faith and trust. From February to July 2024 we will be using the 'Jesus Shaped People Lite' materials and as we did during the Autumn of 2023 we will meet to discuss the materials. You only need to attend one of the dates being offered for each JSP session.



JSP Session	Monday—8pm @ The Redmonds	Wednesdays—7.30pm In Church	Saturdays—10.30am In Church
1	12th February	6th March	17th February
2	18th March	27th March	6th April
3	22nd April	24th April	27th April
4	13th May	15th May	18th May
5	10th June	19th June	15th June
.6	15th July	17th July	20th July

All are welcome at any of the sessions. For further details please contact Richard on: richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk // 01706 369622 // 07483 155807

## Midweek Worship



#### **Church Flowers**



Donations for flowers in church in June were received from:

Addie Redmond in memory of his Mum Alice Redmond

Audrey Telford in memory of John

Hazel Gordon in memory of Bob

Anne Fitton in memory of Dorothy & Harold Wilson

Margaret Frain in memory of Christine

# MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP CAFE CHURCH

During 2024 we will have six services - starting at 6.30pm

5th May 1st September

7th July\* 3rd November

\*The 7<sup>th</sup> July service will be at Greenmount
URC Old School

at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC (unless otherwise stated)

Norden Road, Rochdale, OL11 5PQ

### **Alpha Course**





## Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership Alpha Course — All welcome

#### Where?

#### Bury URC, Parson's Lane, Bury, BL9 oLY

#### When?

	Marcolana de Marcola de Marcola de Companyo de Company
Thursday 5th	September @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 12th	September @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 19th	September @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 26th	September @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 3r	d October @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 10	th October @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 17	th October @ 7pm—9.15pm
Saturday 19	th October @ 10am—4pm
(venue for th	e away day to be confirmed)
Thursday 31	st October @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 7th	November @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 14th	n November @ 7pm—9.15pm
Thursday 21st	November @ 7pm—9.15pm

Food will be included as part of the course (please note no meeting on Thursday 24th October)

#### What is Alpha?

"Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation." (from www.alpha.org.uk)

"Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith." (from www.alpha.org.uk)

Alpha is for anyone wanting to learn more and deepen their faith

For more details or to put your name down
to attend please contact:
Revd Richard Bradley
(Minister in the Missional Partnership)
richard.bradley@nwsynod.org.uk
01706 369622 // 07483 155807



## The Glory of Creation

Editor: Denzil Walton is a writer living in Belgium. He is a member of the International Baptist Church of Brussels.

(This poem is most often used as a hymn. It was written to the tune Ewing (Jerusalem the Golden), but it has also been sung to Stand up Stand for Jesus. They are both 7.6.7.6.)

The glory of creation, throughout the universe, So wonderful in essence, delightfully diverse. Antarctica to Asia; the jungles of Brazil, Established by the Father, with loving care and skill.

From mountain tops to valleys; in forests and in parks,

We watch the playful squirrels; we hear the joyful larks.

Wild orchids so unusual; bright parakeets so loud, Rare butterflies so fragile; the tiger standing proud.



Deep mysteries, of oceans and unknown outer space, Migration paths of swallows, the eagle's nesting place. The more we gain in knowledge, the less we understand This world so rich and complex, created by God's hand.



But crisis looms upon us; the planet's under threat, The global climate's changing, the balance is upset. The melting of the ice caps; diversity declines, Extinction of key species; we're overwhelmed with signs.

So Father please forgive us for spoiling Planet Earth, Give us a chance to change it; to instigate new birth, Let's care for Your creation, in details and in whole Protect, preserve and cherish; may this be our new goal.

**By Denzil Walton** 



#### A Letter of Thanks

#### **Dear Lesley**

I have just received the Bamford Chapel booklet you so kindly sent to me. It was so good of you to write such a lovely tribute and it made me realise even more how much I miss you and everyone at the Chapel. It's very hard to make a new life in a new place but I am trying hard. The big saving grace is the church next door which is C of E and also a URC Chapel. We have two ministers who alternate. It's not Bamford Chapel but the congregation and staff are welcoming and kind. We all go to both services.

I will be visiting the North in a few months' time and I will most certainly come to the coffee morning.

Give my love to all and much love to you and Peter

#### Patricia x

## **Community Coffee Morning**



To let you know that there WILL NOT be a Community Coffee Morning on

THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024

Because the holiday club is being held week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> August.

#### Tea or Coffee?



My name is Rachel, and after a career serving and helping others, I now spend time doing things I want to do. That's why I volunteer at Bamford Chapel and Norden URC coffee morning along with Karen, Cameron and Lesley.

Retiring at the young age of 50 I still

want to meet people. By helping others at the coffee mornings, I get to meet and speak to people who I usually wouldn't, like Shoba who recently introduced me to a crochet class, and Jane who gave me a pair of arthritis gloves after I spoke to her about my Mum's arthritis.

It is so nice to be helpful still serving members of the community and in return meeting new people and friends who share kindness.

**Rachel Mitchell** 

### **Thursday Community Coffee Mornings**

Whilst on the subject of coffee mornings, there is an urgent need for more helpers [Baristas !!]. It is a five-weekly rota of three, sometimes two people — male OR female. If this is something you feel able to help with or would like to know more about this community outreach, PLEASE have a word with Pamela Harrington or Lesley Sutton.

There is a distinct possibility the coffee morning will close unless we can recruit more help.



### **Four Score Years and Twenty**



Do you find the concept of time confusing? I am unable to believe [accept] it is a year since I was eighty. Another year will be added on 15<sup>th</sup> August [hopefully as I wrote this in June!].

The memories of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 will be with me always. It was a wonderful day orchestrated by daughters Kate and Helen [plus grandchildren who baked cakes]. I had twenty-two celebrations altogether! This year will be a little flat wont it? I enjoyed two afternoon teas, two meals out with family and friends, lunch at an ex-colleagues' home, trip to a Donkey Sanctuary, a Genealogy Report organised by daughters and a friend I have known for 74 years, five bouquets and many, many cards and gifts.

I am the longest living member of the female side of the family. I am honestly delighted to reach

this age as not everyone has the privilege. There are health issues as you know but I always try to look on the positives and every day count my blessings and give thanks. I have everything I need and more. I am a very, very fortunate person.

Many of us have difficulties as we age. Life changes and we are faced with the prospect of loneliness. Search your memory bank, trying to focus on the positives. Surely we all have some.

#### There are a lot of Biblical references to growing older

Ageing is a universal part of life. The Bible often associates growing old with gaining wisdom. For example, <u>Proverbs</u>

16:31 says, "Grey hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life."

## Growing old is meaningful, and even joyous, when we realise and accept God's greatest bestowment to us: His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16)

I hope you enjoy reading this account of a special time in my life. If you feel able to share something of your life with us, please consider writing for our magazine.

I offer to help anyone to do this.

#### **Lesley Sutton**

## Prayer for July 2024



#### Father.

Thank you for summertime, when thoughts turn to holidays and relaxation.

July is a month of endings for many; the ending of the school or college year and for some a moving on to the next stage of education or work. Often, there is uncertainty or trepidation about the future.

Whatever stage of life we are at, whatever season of the year it is, we can feel uncertain and concerned in a world which seems increasingly secular and confusing.

Remind us Lord, of Your promise to be with us always, every step of every way, when we put our trust in You, through Jesus.

Thank you that in the ups and downs of life, You never change. You are the rock on which we stand securely, eternally. Help us to move forward confidently, trusting in that truth.

Thank you, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

#### By Daphne Kitching



## Church in the World Group Update Developing World Project 2024



Cheshire Home Katima Mulilo, for children with physical disabilities (Welfare organization No 41).

The Group have met recently to make plans for this year's project. For those not aware we as a congregation select a Developing World Project to support every year. This year we have chosen to support a Cheshire Home in Namibia, which provides services for children with disabilities. The project will be launched on **Sunday 15**<sup>th</sup> **September 2024** during worship, followed by a lunch to raise funds. Nearer the time please can you sign up so that we know the numbers for catering. All are very welcome.

The money raised is mainly gifted by personal giving with a few fundraising events, between the September launch and Christmas Day.

The home supports 33 children on a residential basis, with rehabilitation provided, as well as providing help to younger children and their families on an out-patients basis.

We will be specifically raising money in line with the needs identified by the Cheshire Home physiotherapist and other staff. The current need is to provide funding for specialist wheelchairs to support children who have difficulty sitting independently, standard wheelchairs, swimming equipment and specialist walking frames. We will have more detailed information at the launch and hopefully hear from some of the children and staff/volunteers.

As some of you will know five of us visited the home last July to build on the relationship Barbara and Addie made many years ago when they taught in Namibia. The home is a special place where the children learn and develop independence skills as well as accessing education.

If anyone is interested in joining the group please contact myself or any of the following group members, Susan Travis, Carol Hartley, Gillian James, Margaret Ogden (Bywater), Addie Redmond, Barbara Redmond or Rebecca Abbott.

Carole Greaves
(On behalf of the Church in the World Group)



## **Holiday Club**



Holiday Club 5 - 9 August 2024 09.30 to 12.00 for primary-age children

Each day we will enjoy lots of different activities both indoors and outdoors (weather permitting)



Interested? – see Barbara R or visit the website bcnchurch.org.uk and click on the Sparks and Stories poster.

### **The Olympic Games**



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham looks forward to Paris...

This month sees the start of the Olympic Games in Paris. In describing the Christian life as a marathon race, the writer of Hebrews (12:1-2) challenges us to finish well.

#### 'throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles' (1)

As in a normal race, we have to get rid of any burdens that weigh us down (eg possessions, worries, what others think of us) and besetting sins (wrong habits or attitudes). We can cast our burdens on the Lord (Ps 55:22) and be assured of His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

#### 'run with perseverance the race marked out for us' (1)

The Christian life is like a marathon not a sprint race, which calls for endurance. The course is *marked out* for us, as we all have a unique race to run, with its opportunities and difficulties. God knows our path and will provide all that we need to complete the race.

#### 'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (2)

The runner keeps their focus on the finishing line and avoids all distractions. Our focus is on Jesus, who has run the race before us ('author'), but is the one who can show us how to finish well ('perfecter').

We are also surrounded by a 'great cloud of witnesses' (1). These are God's people, both past and present, who are cheering us on!

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the 400 metres semi-finals. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore, and he fell to the ground in pain. However, his father ran on to the track to support him in completing the race. Let's not forget that whatever we face, God is there beside us to enable us to finish the race!

## Poem to the Spell Checker on my PC



Eye have a great spell checker, It came with my pea sea. It plainly margues four my revue Mistakes I cannot sea. Eye strike a quay and type a word And weight for it to say Whether eye am write or wrong, It shows me straight a weigh. Whenever a mistake is maid. It shows bee four too long And eye can put the error write It's almost never wrong. Eye ran this poem through it and I'm sure you're pleased to no It's letter perfect all the weigh My chequer tolled me sew. Sauce unknown.

## Are you interested in Rochdale History and have a Story to Tell?

If you need further information or have any queries or concerns please email: engage@royalexchange.co.uk or text/call +447494315213.

Visit the RET (Royal Exchange Theatre) website for all details:



## Remembering the Faith of Eric Liddell 100 years ago at the Paris Olympics

Editor: Many people will recall the popular film Chariots of Fire which came out in the 1980s. We are approaching the centenary of that big race...



The 2024 Paris Olympics (26 July – 11 August) will soon be here. It was 100 years ago this summer, also at the Paris Olympics, that a young science student at Edinburgh University, Eric Liddell, ran an astonishing race that caught the imagination of millions worldwide.

Liddell had been born in China in 1902, to Scottish missionaries there. Early on, he had

made a deep commitment to Jesus Christ, and sensed he was being called to spend his life in serving others. But Liddell was also an outstanding sportsman, playing rugby for Scotland before settling on athletics.

When he was chosen for the Paris Olympics, he expected to run his preferred 100m. But then came the news that the race would be run on a Sunday, and Liddell refused. Quickly, he trained for the 200m and 400m. He took bronze at the 200m, but no one expected much from him at the 400m. Instead, he won, and even broke the world record in the process.

After the Olympics, Liddell felt God calling him to his life's work. He went back to China, to teach in a Christian college. As the Second World War loomed, he sent his wife and children home, but stayed on himself. By 1943 Liddell was confined to a brutal prison camp, where he shone among the fellow prisoners – encouraging them, teaching Bible classes, and praying for both his fellow inmates and the prison wardens. Deeply malnourished, his health failed and in 1945, just months before the war ended, he died, aged only 43.

In 1981 his story was made into the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*.







#### The Ian Newman Community Film Club

At Bamford Chapel & Norden URC, Norden Road Rochdale OL11 5PQ

## Saturday 20th July 2024

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film Admission £4.00

"ALLELUJAH" 2023 12A



Supported by Rochdale Township

## Some Interesting Facts about God's Wonderful World

Largest continent	Asia	
Smallest continent	Australia	
Largest ocean	Pacific	
Smallest ocean	Arctic	
Largest country	Russia	
Smallest country	Vatican City	
Largest gulf	Mexico	
Largest bay	Bengal	
Largest island	Greenland	
Largest peninsula	Arabian	
Longest river	Nile	
Shortest river	Roe	
Largest river	Amazon	
Deepest ocean	Pacific	
Largest lake	Caspian sea	
Largest fresh water lake	Superior	
Lowest lake [surface of water	Dead Sea	
below sea level]		
Tallest waterfall	Angel falls, Venezuela	
Deepest underwater trench	Marianas	
Highest Mountain	Everest	





#### The Ian Newman Community Film Club

At Bamford Chapel & Norden URC, Norden Road Rochdale OL11 5PQ

## Saturday 17th August 2024

6.30pm refreshments : 7.00pm film Admission £4.00

"A MAN CALLED OTTO" 2023 15



Supported by Rochdale Township

## Midweek Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

Monday: 9.00 am Monday Gang / Garden Gang

(who do work in or around the building)

10.15 am Pastoral Meeting

1.30 pm Bridge Club

7.30 - 8.30 pm **Monday Prayer Group** (in Lounge)

8.00 pm **Monday Night Home Group** (at Redmond's)

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 - 12 noon 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 9th July on Zoom

7.30 - 9.00 pm **23rd July** - **Social** (see page 2)

**Thursday:** Friendship Group 2nd Thursday in the month

1.30 - 3.30 pm **NB:** No meetings in July or August

**Heritage Group** 2nd Thursday in the month 7.30 pm 11th July & 8th August

Friday Dementia Friendly Café 1st Friday in the month

1.30 - 3.30 pm 5th July & 2nd August

Saturday: Ian Newman 3rd Saturday in the month

**Community Film Club** 20th July & 17th August 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film - (see pages 21 & 23)

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 SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE**

Articles to be handed in by: Sunday 18th August

Magazine to be completed by: Thursday 29th August

Magazine distributed: Sunday 1st September

## BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN United Reformed Church

Charity - Regd No 1128387

Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs. OL11 5PQ www.bcnchurch.org.uk

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