



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

# **Bamford Chapel & Norden URC**



**March 2021**

# **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.

**Cover photo printed with permission from Paul Wild.  
Photo not to be reproduced elsewhere without permission**



## **Stay at Home, Protect the NHS & Save Lives**

At the time of compiling this magazine the UK is still in “**Lockdown number 3**” and the rollout of Covid Vaccines has begun. Please refer to Rochdale Borough Council for the latest information.

All church activities and worship services in church are still suspended. But a **Sunday worship service is available on YouTube, on the church website ([www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk))**, or the script has been sent out to those without internet access.

### **Message from the Editor**

During the pandemic, I have continued to produce the magazine (assisted by Lesley). It is available to read on the Church website. Charlie and I have also printed, collated and stapled around 80 magazines a month (half the usual number.) Richard has posted some to people who do not have internet access; some have continued to be posted to members who have moved away; a few have been hand delivered; and a few copies have been collected from church.

The Church does not charge for magazine copies, but once a year we ask you for a donation towards the printing and postage costs. Envelopes will be available for donations in this month’s magazines. We would also ask those who read the magazine online to consider giving a donation towards the work of the Church. Donations can be dropped through Margaret Ogden’s letterbox, or contact me on 01706 522593 for further information.

**Please give a donation,  
thank you**

**Linda Peacock (Editor)**

# Message from the Student Minister

## Dear Friends

I am very excited to be sharing the writing of the Minister's Message. This is my first time and I'm very grateful for the opportunity to develop these skills!

As I write this we are preparing to enter into the season of Lent, and one of the scriptures set for today is **Mark 9:2-9 the Transfiguration**. This passage has seemed to play a large part in my life over the last 3 years, in study and in services.



Last year in particular stands out, as I led a café style, all-age communion in a small, rural, community church. In the service we imagined setting off up the mountain together with Jesus and three disciples. We stood at the top sharing in the awe, wonder and bewilderment those disciples felt at seeing their friend and teacher literally

transformed in front of their eyes. As Jesus touched them to calm their fears, we shared this touch with each other in the sign of the peace.

We served one another the bread and wine, sitting around tables, all ages, abilities, and identities together. We came down the mountain, ready with Jesus to step out into the world onto the next leg of our journey - his to Jerusalem, the trial, the cross and the resurrection. Our onward journey with the disciples, knowing we are human and will make mistakes like Peter suggesting to build shelters for Jesus, Elijah and Moses, and yet transformed by Jesus and sharing in this meal together.

With Peter we may want to stay up the mountain, revelling in the joy and wonder of this God who loves us, in the safety of this mountain top. Over

this year we have grieved for the loss of physically meeting together for worship, and fellowship and service. We have been transformed by our experiences – we have had to come down from our mountain tops of normality and tradition. We, like the disciples, have had our lives turned upside down. The disciples were given a glimpse of God’s kingdom and even in the sadness and the loss, we too have been given glimpses of this transforming kingdom - new relationships, new ways of worshipping together, new ways of serving one another and our communities – through God’s Spirit and in his strength.

In the Transfiguration God tells us with the disciples to listen to Jesus. Now during Lent, we see our world transforming with Spring flowers, longer days, warmer sunshine, and the continuing roll-out of vaccinations. I wonder if we can give extra time to hear God’s voice, to listen to Jesus, to be transformed, to come down from our mountain and with Jesus, walk through Lent, onto the Cross and Easter Day, looking out into the world for ways to continue this transforming through loving actions and prayer.



**God Bless – Kate Hunt – Student Minister**

## Family News



Wishing a warm Bamford & Norden URC welcome to *Bob & Hazel Gordon* (Alasdair’s parents). They recently moved from Stretford to Butterworth Grange and are looking forward to being part of the Bamford family.

Congratulations to David Watson on his 80th Birthday on 20th February, and to Margaret on 28th March.

Best wishes for the future to you all.





# Recycle those Weeds and make Liquid Fertilizer Tea

Easy to make

No harmful chemicals

Good for the environment

FREE!

## Plants/weeds to use to make fertilizer tea;

Comfrey – Potassium rich,  
good for fruiting plants

Dandelion – Potassium rich, good  
for fruiting plants

Nettles – Nitrogen rich,  
good for leafy green plants

Borage – Nitrogen & Potassium rich,  
good all-round fertilizer

Alternatively try making a tea with a combination of weeds/plants for a great multi-purpose feed.

*These plants are also excellent for bees and other pollinators.  
Embrace those weeds!*



## How to make Liquid Fertilizer Tea

All fertilizer teas are made in much the same way. All you need is a large bucket with a lid. Alternatively, an old plastic milk bottle with a lid (washed out) works just as well to make a smaller batch but you may need a stick/cane to help push the plant material into the bottle opening.

Fill your bucket or bottle by  $\frac{2}{3}$  with your chosen plant material – flowers, roots and leaves can all be used. Then cover with water. Rainwater is best but tap water can be used if need be. Put the lid on and leave to ‘steep’ for 2-4 weeks.

Now you’ll understand why the lid was necessary because the resulting liquid pongs a bit. Strain the liquid through a cheese cloth or sieve and it’s ready to use.

To use, mix 1 part fertilizer tea to 10 parts water and apply directly to the base of your plants fortnightly during your normal watering routine.

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



## Magazine Secretary



Joan Ashton became Magazine Secretary in 2007 when Dorothy Caldecott was unable to continue with this role. Being secretary involves typing labels, putting magazines in envelopes, buying postage stamps and posting magazines to Church Members who have moved away, and to anyone else who requests a copy, for which an annual donation is given.

Joan was also team leader, usually of four people, responsible for collating the magazine and stapling each month. As well as being a productive time it was a wonderful period of fellowship for those concerned.

**Joan has decided now is the time to hand this role on to someone else. We thank her most sincerely for her total commitment to this position. God bless you and your family, Joan as you leave this valuable task behind.**



I have received a Thank You card from Leila, to whom I send the stamps. She is very grateful and passes on her best wishes to all at Chapel. Please continue to save stamps and pop them through our letterbox. When I have been on my regular walks, I have quite often met people from Chapel and they take one look at me and say "stamps"!! A different greeting from "Hello" but it reminds them to pass the stamps onto me!

Many thanks for all the stamps - keep collecting. Pamela



## Reasons to be cheerful



Janne Ackroyd

Greetings from North Yorkshire! How is everyone at BCN? Hope everyone is coping and hopefully the end is in sight. Now, although Robert and I are both physically and emotionally well, I have stopped accessing the news; well, more or less. I know I need to know what's going on, but how I wish the media would also show some positive stuff. Like a sunset even if it's over a snow covered landscape; someone smiling rather than crying; it's good to say thank you for our NHS, but we have so many other things to say thank you for too, don't we? So, here is my little test of positivity!

### Things to say thank you for:

Friends who leave little parcels of home baking on my doorstep



YouTube church services



Walks in our beautiful countryside



Birdsong

Pregnant sheep on the hillsides oblivious to anything but chewing grass and looking out for the shepherd with extra goodies to eat



A glimpse into cowsheds filled with contented cows peering out at strangers walking by



My on line French teacher and friends in class who make me laugh every lesson.



Folk who work tirelessly to provide me with food; those who deliver, click and collect or take away; shop workers especially in our local shops

Technology and how much more I have mastered (well, a bit better anyway) in lockdown



The love and patience of those I live with

The eternal, wonderful, powerful love of God who promises that all will be well



**Smiling Is Infectious**  
by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,  
you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled I realized  
I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel round the earth.  
So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected!





## THREE WAYS TO COOK KALE

### Chilli Kale

Kale

1 onion sliced into fine rings  
2 cloves garlic crushed  
2 table spoons oil  
5 tablespoons / ½ cup vegetable  
or chicken stock  
½ tsp chilli flakes  
(add extra to taste)

1. Fry the onions, garlic and chilli flakes in a pan with the oil until the onions are softened
2. Add the kale to the pan, add the stock and salt and pepper to taste.
3. Cover and cook for 10 mins

### Creamy Kale

Kale

1 onion sliced into fine rings  
2 table spoons oil  
5 tablespoons / ½ cup vegetable  
or chicken stock  
Pinch of nutmeg  
1 tsp caraway seeds  
150ml soured cream

1. Fry the onions in a pan with the oil until softened
2. Add the Kale, stock, nutmeg, caraway seeds and salt and pepper to taste.
3. Cover and cook for 10 mins, stir a few times during cooking
4. Lastly stir in the soured cream and serve immediately.

### Crispy Kale

1. Tear up Kale into smaller pieces, and put on a baking tray. Drizzle kale with oil and season with salt and pepper. Cook in the oven for 10- 15 mins, then turn the kale with tongs and bake for a further 10 minutes until kale is crispy and edges are slightly browned.
2. You can add different seasoning and toppings to the kale for example: chilli flakes, Chinese five spice, paprika or sesame seeds.

**Rebecca Abbott**

Editor: This is an edited version of an article that comes from:  
<https://christianity.org.uk/article/the-first-easter>.

## **Palm Sunday & Holy Week**

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week. It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving from to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, **'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'**. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.



## Prayer for Families

Dear Father God,

In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.



As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive - and to strengthen others by the love we give.

May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus – who is alive - and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family. Thank you for the love and security we have in you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*





## HOW I BECAME A LEADER AT SPOTLAND BRIDGE SCOUTS

I first started to help at 7thA Rochdale Scouts, at Spotland Bridge, when I was asked by Mike, who I later married. He told me that the Scouts was a large part of his life and would I like to be involved. This was in 1984. I helped with Scout meetings and camps over several years as a helper. I chose to do some leader training at weekends. Twice as I changed sections as different training was needed for the Cub Scouts.

I was asked to help with the Cub Scouts in 1994. At that point I took out a leaders' Warrant after 10 years of helping with the Scouts. I took over the running of the Cub Pack in 1997 and did more training, eventually gaining my wood badge beads. Following years of service to the Scout Association, I was awarded my "Medal of Merit" in 2015.

Over the years I have run more camps than I can remember and trips to places like the Fire and Police Stations, along with various museums. Since March last year, and the start of the first lockdown things have changed. I started to run Zoom meetings after seeing other groups doing the same on Facebook. I must admit I had never heard of Zoom. I started running meetings with the free 30 minutes and having to log back on repeatedly, which did cause a few issues and laughs, as parents and myself struggled to get back on and readmit them.

Happily, the Scout Association was offered Zoom for free, which is a godsend. At Easter, I decided to run my first of 3 virtual camps. It seemed weird as I set the programme and left the parents to do everything. It went well with pictures being posted online as to what the youngsters had managed to do.

Twelve months down the line, except for one meeting when we managed to meet outside for a night walk, we have remained on Zoom, trying to inspire the Beavers and Cubs to achieve badges in these trying times. Hopefully soon we will be able to meet face to face again. Until then we will carry on, on Zoom doing our best.

**Amanda Phillips**

## Is Prayer an Odyssey or a Sunday Afternoon Car Drive?

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” *(Luke 18.1-8)*



In this article I want to explore a simple question regarding prayer: “Is prayer like a Sunday afternoon car trip or an odyssey?” For such purposes we will be looking at *Luke 18.1-8*.

Jesus’ parable uses the story of a corrupt judge being hassled by a woman demanding justice to explain something about prayer. This theme seems to resonate well with many social justice movements including the recent *#Me Too* and *Black Lives Matter* movement. However, we need to make sure that we are not taken off subject - this parable is primarily about prayer.

- We find the corrupt judge being confronted by a woman who has been denied justice. This woman in the parable was determined, courageous and feisty. She wasn’t going to let some corrupt bureaucrat ruin her life.
- Initially, the judge ignores the woman first. But she keeps banging at his door. She is resilient and won’t give up. Eventually, the judge helps her - not out of a sense of justice, but just to shut her up.

- What does this say about prayer? Firstly, we need to point out that God is not being portrayed as not a corrupt judge. Instead, this parable tells us something of the dynamics of prayer. Prayer requires the investment of effort. The parable implies that we must be prepared to hassle God. We need to take our prayers to his very doorstep, day or night, and bang on heaven's door. In that sense, the parable shows that prayer can be hard work.
- The parable also hints that God can be (mistakenly?) viewed as a hard taskmaster. Why is this? This parable embodies the nature of prayer.
- If prayer was easy, like a walk in the park, how strong would we be? Any gush of wind would be able to knock us over and send us into spiritual crisis. But prayer with perseverance strengthens us.
- Prayer is at the root of the life and power of the church. Praying has the ability to overcome obstacles. But such prayer highlights our vulnerability.
- This parable shows us that prayer is often urgent. Sometimes we will feel that we are not being heard. Sometimes even the most feisty of woman or bold of men will feel like throwing in the towel. "God doesn't hear me!" We may sometimes say. "God is silent!"



- Persistent prayer sometimes manifests heavenly silence and feels like a form of crucifixion. It leads us to a point of resignation. Hopefully not resignation away from God, but towards God. This is the mystery of the Christian life: when we get to a place of vulnerability, we become more open to God's love. This is what persistent prayer exposes us towards.
- Such prayer creates faith that can hold onto God in the toughest of circumstances. Perseverant prayer can overcome apparent hindrances in heaven and in ourselves. Such faith will not forget God in the hard times but will call on God again and again.



**Persistent prayer isn't a Sunday afternoon drive in the car, but an odyssey into the heart of God.** And when we get there, we won't find a cosmic judge or hard taskmaster. Instead, in the words of Hosea, we find God who is like this:

***I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love.  
To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek,  
and I bent down to feed them.***

This is the ultimate prize in life. To know God like a parent who holds a child and lifts them to his cheek. Easy lessons are quickly forgotten, but trial by adversity builds strength of character. The best prizes are hard won and not easily forgotten. And this prize is won because Jesus Christ died on a cross for us and we are invited to wrestle with God through prayer.

This prize isn't a reward for self-indulgence. Instead, it is a prize which resources us and empowers us to seek God's will. To pray for his Kingdom come, His will to be done, on this earth as it is in Heaven.

**Daniel Harris**

## **Your Daily Walk should be a Sacred Ritual**

Under lockdown, millions of us who rarely walked around our immediate locality are now well acquainted with every nearby driveway, every crack in the pavement, and every pothole in the road. We have developed views on our neighbours' gardens, on their oddly coloured garage doors, and on their dogs, children and cars. If we go out at the same time every day, we may even be saying hello to the same people we don't know every day.

For many of us, that daily walk has become the high point of our day. After all, it is one of the few liberties we have left. Some of us go early, to enjoy the relative peace and quiet. Some of us go midday, to at least see other people, even if we can't talk to them. Others of us opt for dusk, the dark comfort of a street with lit houses and stars in the sky.

**Whatever time you most enjoy, make sure you do make the time to go for your walk. Your mental and physical fitness can only improve!**





This year the focus of Fairtrade Fortnight is on climate change and the impact it has on Fairtrade farmers and producers around the world.



Unfortunately, we will not have our usual fund-raising activities for Traidcraft Exchange – Big Brekkie, Fairtrade Community Coffee Morning and the Big Brew after the morning service. But you can still buy Traidcraft products. By the time you read this I will have the new Traidcraft spring catalogues. I have lots of chocolates for sale including new, exciting chocolate-coated gingers (which we treat ourselves to every weekend). Don't forget to order your Real Easter eggs too.



Climate change poses growing problems to farmers and workers within the Fairtrade community. It is a huge challenge for farmers and workers in countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Honduras, yet these are the countries who have contributed least to the causes of climate change. Droughts, crop disease, floods, heat waves and shrinking harvests are among the challenges they face. When the Fairtrade Foundation spoke to some of these farmers, they were told that they felt climate change was one of the biggest obstacles their generation is facing. They also commented that only with more money would they feel equipped to meet their everyday needs and deal with the devastating challenges climate change brings.



Fairtrade works to raise the voices of farmers and workers and prioritise what they need to respond to the environmental crises unfolding in already vulnerable communities. This Fortnight, we are asking you to 'Choose the World You Want' and use your voice to tell others about the challenges that farmers face from climate change.

**Choosing to buy fair trade, ethical food and drink is everyday activism, and is the simplest way to change the world.** Through fair trade, farmers and growers can earn enough to feed their families, send their children to school, provide a future for their local community and look into solutions to the problems they face due to climate change.

Barbara Redmond

Contact me to get a catalogue and buy Fairtrade goods including Real Easter eggs

[addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk](mailto:addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk)

01706354559/07983714195



## PLATINUM WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



*On the 31<sup>st</sup> March, Glenda and Walter Brisk will celebrate 70 years of marriage. Many congratulations to them from their Church Family on this remarkable anniversary.*



## Seventy Years Married

We planned to marry in the school summer holiday of 1951. Then we heard from many friends that if we were to marry before April 4<sup>th</sup> there would be a very considerable income tax repayment for the whole tax year. So we decided to marry in the Easter holiday instead – much to the surprise of my parents and colleagues! We lived for three years with Glenda's parents whilst saving the deposit for our first house, which cost us all of £1850. Whilst living with the family, we queued one day, as one had to then, outside a Liverpool store to buy a dining table and 4 chairs that actually fitted in our bedroom. This was our very first ever furniture.

Once in our own house, we acquired two fireside chairs and an upright piano and some substantial bedroom furniture given to us by kind friends, put down some carpets and put up some curtains – and that, for the time being, was that! Such was life in those now very distant and difficult post-war years.

Mervyn was born in 1956. Husbands were not invited into hospitals during child-birth then, so whilst Glenda toiled alone giving birth I watched the Cup Final on the Radio Rentals TV set at home.

In 1957, we moved to Berkshire so that I could become Head of Music and RE in a brand-new secondary school. Glenda had given up her training as a nursery assistant when we married, and had later worked for a time as

an assistant in T J Hughes and in a china shop. The move away was extremely hard for her, who, apart from being evacuated during the war, had never lived away from Liverpool and her family.

In 1960, we moved to Gloucester when I became Deputy Head in yet another spanking brand-new school. By now Philip had been born, so we were now four. Here Glenda was much happier, and we made some strong friendships, mainly through a very lively Methodist church.

In 1965, we moved once more to Brandon, in Suffolk, to a Headship. Not so many really good friends here, though Glenda was greatly helped by meeting other Mums at the primary school gate, with a couple of whom we are still in regular touch. But this was an exceedingly rural and remote area, with little social life. Mervyn had a 16 mile journey each day to grammar school, and even had to go there on Saturday mornings! No way did we want our boys to continue to grow up there, so it was that in 1970 I made one more move back to the north and the Headship of a Middleton High School. After a few years, when the boys were both in their teens, Glenda found a position with the School Dental Service, and both of us became deeply immersed in the fellowship of Bamford Chapel.

Other wives of professional men will have had to move around as their husband's careers developed, and will know how difficult this can sometimes be. ***I deeply appreciate how Glenda has coped with some very long moves, when I have had all the challenge of work, and she has faithfully supported me and for many years stayed home bringing up two sons and devotedly caring for a busy husband, far away from her parents and sisters. No matter what our problems and squabbles, it just never occurred to either of us to go our separate ways! We guess that is the nature of love.*** The bad days have to come, and you have to get through them. The good days are always coming back if you work together for them! That's what we signed up for on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1951.

With 7 greatgrandchildren, 3 of whom we have not yet seen because of lockdown, we delight in a large family and give thanks for all the blessings we have received – not least the friendship of so many of the wonderful folk of Bamford Chapel and Norden URC. We give thanks for you all.



**Walter Brisk** (Walter has written this at my request. Thank you, Walter. Lesley Sutton)

## Mother's Day—Sunday 14th March

### In praise of Mothers



*A mother's love endures through all. – Washington Irving*

*Life doesn't come with a manual. It comes with a mother. – Anon*

*Mothers are like buttons. They hold everything together. – Anon*

*A mother understands what a child does not say. – Jewish Proverb*

*All I am I owe to my mother. – George Washington*

*Mother's love is peace. It need not be acquired, it need not be deserved. – Erich Fromm*

*I can imagine no heroism greater than motherhood. – Lance Conran*

*A mother is the one who fills your heart in the first place. – Amy Tan*

*A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go. – Anon*

*Sooner or later, we all quote our mothers. – Bern Williams*



**The editors have asked that I try to bring you up to date with the situation at the Foodbank.**

Although many volunteers have opted to step back from their involvement whilst we are in lockdown, I returned to my duties at the end of November, working in a totally different environment than previously. Because of Covid restrictions, clients are not allowed to enter the building; they have to wait outside, pass their voucher through a screen and wait for us to pass their bags under a table which blocks the door. So, although we are providing for their physical needs, we are unable to offer any sort of support, social or spiritual, because only 3 or 4 volunteers are allowed each day and all their time is taken up with packing bags or serving clients. (That having been said, there are other volunteers working in the warehouse, as drivers, or fulfilling other vital roles, so there are still close to 60 of us altogether.)

Our client numbers are fluctuating from week to week; according to no particularly predictable pattern. Actual numbers of vouchers are between 90 and 115 each week; parcels between 120 and 160. These are still lower numbers when compared to early 2020 and may be accounted for by the emergence of the Food Pantries and Food Clubs, and the increase in the weekly payment of Universal Credit. However, we remain concerned that the true economic impact of this pandemic has yet to be felt.

Until now the warehouse, where the surplus food is stored, has been housed at the Wheatsheaf centre, which is now being gutted in readiness for its re-development. Hence our storage facilities have to be moved by the end of February. They will move to the Exchange centre and will be accessible for donations from outside on Newgate. It seems likely that, in due course, the Foodbank itself will vacate the premises on South Parade and move to Newgate right next to the warehouse.



Thank you to all who donate food or money on a regular basis. Rochdale Foodbank is now well into its ninth year and continues to meet a vital need in our community.

**Margaret Ogden**

**PS: the Foodbank is currently in need of carrier bags and is having to buy them. If you have any spare bags, please let Margaret have them.**

## Fun Nostalgia, Love (one day in lockdown)

The alarm has just gone off – 7 o'clock. I will have a bit longer in bed. I need five minutes to decide what day it is. Exercise time – 200 steps marching on the spot. **Is it egg run day? – no.** (If you want to give your car a little run, go past Springhill Hospice to the little hut on the side of the road, join the cars waiting to buy eggs - £1 for half a dozen – only on



Saturday and Sunday. I have never tasted eggs like these since my father had an allotment.) If you have never sat in front of a roaring coal fire with lots of thick newspaper and ten little chicks teaching them to peck seed and drink, you don't know what you have missed!! We were not a posh family, but we had lots of love.

**Is it meat ordering day at Chadwick's Butchers?** Must ask *Margaret* if she wants two steak and kidney puddings and *Angela [Hall]* if she wants her special sausages and two steak puddings? I wonder if she is going to Marks and Spencer in Bury? I could do with a cheese and onion pie - sorry Dot – not a bit as good as yours, with the M on top because mine has stronger cheese in it.

Telephone is ringing “Mum it's me” My son in London. “I have ordered you a new television so you can watch Netflix. I've put it on mine, so it won't cost you anything. Got to work from home (only the price of a new television that takes care of the two months I don't pay Council tax).”

Must ring *Joyce Harding* (Walter's sister). We were two little girls during WWII and finish our conversation with “we will fight IT on the beaches, we will fight IT in the air.” Walter on the 'phone, “have you still got the book I loaned you, THE THURSDAY MORNING MURDER CLUB?” “No Walter, I passed it on to *Margaret Ogden* like you said (I always do as I am told – I love you Walter).” He reads the same genre of books I like so I try to be his friend. Oh, its ten o'clock coffee time.

Schools will open soon, we hope. Only played truant once – chose the wrong day. It was Ladies Meeting Day at Cutgate Church. My Mother



played the piano for the two hymns they sang. Not much fun at eight years old with your Mother glaring at you because she caught you! (I kept wishing the sirens would go so we could go home).

*Thank you, Margaret Ogden, for taking me for my “jab.” We were given a parking ticket but did not have to pay it, thank goodness. Thank you, Linda Kerford, for taking me and bringing me back from Manchester for my cataract surgery.*



We all come into the world the same and leave it the same. What happens in between is up to you. I was brought up to have respect, manners and LOVE and the greatest is LOVE.

**Take care and love to everyone. Blame Lesley Sutton for this article. She asked me to write something different for the Church Magazine.**

**GUESS WHO?? (answer next month in case you are unable to guess)**



*You are invited*

**TRAIDCRAFT**  
**L+VE**  
**FAIR**  
**AN HOUR OF GIVING**  
**FOR LENT**

Come to a Zoom meeting on Monday 8 March at 8 pm and listen to **Matt Oliver from Traidcraft** outlining how you can do something positive for Lent instead of just giving something up.

Contact Addie & Barbara for the Zoom link  
[addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk](mailto:addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk) or 07906599966

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT CROSSWORD:  
**CLIMATE CHANGE EDITION**


**ACROSS**

- Carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor and other human-made gases allow solar radiation to enter the atmosphere. What do we call these gases? (10,5)
- A process where there is no net release of CO<sub>2</sub> is known as being carbon \_\_\_\_\_. A company or country can achieve this by carbon offsetting, like planting trees. (7)

**DOWN**

- The amount of carbon we emit is known as our carbon \_\_\_\_\_. (9)
- Rising sea levels, shrinking mountain glaciers, icecaps melting and changes in flower and plant blooming times are all results of what? (7,6)
- By burning fossil fuels, we are adding more of this into the atmosphere. Also known as CO<sub>2</sub>. (6,7)
- This is an example of a fossil fuel. (4)
- Using naturally replenished resources to create energy, such as sunlight, wind, and water, is known as what sort of energy? (9)
- A fuel derived from renewable, biological sources, including crops such as maize and sugar cane, and some forms of waste. (7)

Answers on Page 26

## Ten years of Syria at War

Ten years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011, the Syrian Civil War began. It continues today.

Hostilities started with “Arab Spring” pro-democracy demonstrations that were crushed by President Bashar al-Assad, and the violence spread, with different groups, backed by various countries,



joining in. The Sunni Muslim majority clashed with the President’s Shia Alawite sect, and jihadist groups flourished, with the Kurds – demanding self-government – dominating the north of the country.

Syria’s Christians – formerly ten per cent of the country – suffered atrocities from all sides. Many have fled, and those left in Syria now number about 670,000 out of a population of 19 million. It has been said that both sides in the war want to “displace Christians and change the culture”.

Key supporters of the Syrian government have been Russia, Iran and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, while Western powers, Gulf Arab states and Turkey have backed some of the rebels. Israel is nominally neutral, but has attacked Iranian and Hezbollah forces in south-western Syria, perceiving them as a threat to Israel.

Estimates of the total number of deaths by the end of 2020 are hard to establish, but vary between 380,000 and 600,000. More than 200,000 of these were civilians, and 25,000 of those were children .

*Photo credited to : Rajanews, CC BY 4.0*

*<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons*



£9

**To purchase**

**Contact Barbara Redmond**

[addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk](mailto:addiebarbara@redmonds.me.uk)

07983714195

**Made with Fairly Traded Chocolate**

**Includes Easter story booklet**



£4.50



£4.50



£5.40

**Other flavours  
available**



## “Tomorrow will be a Good Day”

The above words will probably go down as one of the most quoted phrases of 2020, and they have been words of hope for so many people in the difficult days of the pandemic. RIP Captain Tom.



**Captain Sir Thomas Moore** (30 April 1920 – 2 February 2021), more popularly known as **Captain Tom**, was a British Army Officer who raised money for charity in the run-up to his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday during the Covid-19 pandemic. He served in India and the Burma campaign during the Second World War, and later became an instructor in armoured warfare. After the war, he worked as managing director of a concrete company and was an avid motorcycle racer.

On 6 April 2020, at the age of 99, Moore began to walk one hundred lengths of his garden in aid of NHS Charities Together, with the goal of raising £1,000 by his 100th birthday. In the 24-day course of his fundraising, he made many media appearances and became a popular household name in the UK, earning a number of accolades and attracting over 1.5 million individual donations. In recognition of his efforts, he received the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Helen Rollason Award at the 2020 ceremony. He performed in a cover version of the song "You'll Never Walk Alone" sung by Michael Ball, with proceeds going to the same charity. The single topped the UK music charts, making him the oldest person to achieve a UK number one.

On the morning of Moore's hundredth birthday, the total raised by his walk passed £30 million, and by the time the campaign closed at the end of that day had increased to over £32.79 million (worth almost £39 million with expected tax rebates). His birthday was marked in a number of ways, including flypasts by the Royal Air Force and the British Army. He received over 150,000 cards and was appointed as honorary colonel of the Army Foundation College. On 17 July 2020, he was personally knighted by the Queen at Windsor Castle. He died on 2 February 2021 at Bedford Hospital where he was taken after being treated for pneumonia and then testing positive for Covid-19.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Captain\\_Tom\\_Moore\\_fundraising\\_walk.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Captain_Tom_Moore_fundraising_walk.jpg)



## St Patrick's Day - 17th March

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore. – *St Patrick*

## Charlie Chaplin lived 88 years

He was born on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1889 in London.

He left us four statements –

- Nothing is forever in this world, not even our problems.
- I love walking in the rain because no one can see my tears.
- The most lost day in life is the day we don't laugh.
- Six best doctors in the world ...



**a] the sun; b] rest; c] exercise; d] diet; e] self-respect; f] friends**

Stick to them at all stages of your life and enjoy a healthy life. If you see the moon, you will see the beauty of God. If you see the sun, you will see the power of God. If you see a mirror, you will see God's best creation. So, believe it. We are all tourists, God is our travel agent who has already identified our routes, bookings and destinations... trust him and enjoy life.

~~~~~  
A healthy life isn't always possible is it? In these lockdown days some of these statements are difficult to follow but I think Charlie had the right idea.

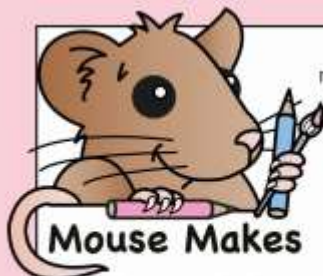
*Lesley Sutton*

## Answers to Fairtrade crossword on page 22

1 Footprint 2 Climate change 3 Carbon dioxide 4 Greenhouse gases  
5 Coal 6 Renewable 7 Biofuel 8 Neutral



# For our Young People



## Mouse Makes

**Who is my mother?**  
Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

**CAIN and ABEL**  
*Genesis 4:1-2*

**JOSEPH**  
*Genesis 30:22-24*

**ISHMAEL**  
*Genesis 16:15*

**TIMOTHY**  
*2 Timothy 1:5*

**RUBEN**  
*Genesis 29:32*

**GAD**  
*Genesis 35:26*

**SAMUEL**  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

**OBED**  
*Matthew 1:5*

**ISAAC**  
*Genesis 21:3*

Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

**SOLOMON**  
*1 Chronicles 3:5*

**JOHN**  
*Luke 1:57-60*

**ESAU and JACOB**  
*Genesis 25:24-26*

**JESUS**  
*Acts 1:14*



R A C H E L M A R Y A V Z  
E L I Z A B E T H H E V I  
B Z D R E B V S U A U O L  
E T M U M L E A H N N L P  
K M O T H E R R T N I E A  
A I S H H A G A R A C G H  
H S T A B A T H S H E B A

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?



## **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.

## BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE



### EDITOR:

Linda Peacock      01706 522593  
lm.peacock@hotmail.co.uk

### ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Lesley Sutton      01706 638005  
lesley.sutton@zen.co.uk

## DATES FOR THE APRIL MAGAZINE

Articles to be handed in by:      Sunday 21st March

Magazine to be completed by:      Thursday 1st April

Magazine distributed:      Sunday 4th April

## **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN**

### **United Reformed Church**

Charity - Regd No 1128387

**Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs. OL11 5PQ**

**[www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk)**

**Ministers of the Rochdale, Bury and  
North Manchester Missional Partnership**

### **Revd Richard Bradley**

**The Manse, Norden Road, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL11 5PQ**

**Telephone: 01706 369622**

**Work Mobile: 07483 155807**

**Email: [richardbradley@cantab.net](mailto:richardbradley@cantab.net)**

### **Revd Daniel Harris**

**Work Mobile: 07887 581253**

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

### **Church Secretary: Anne Fitton**

**Telephone: 01706 641403**

**Email: [annefitton@btinternet.com](mailto:annefitton@btinternet.com)**

### **Wedding Secretary: Julie Platt**

**Telephone: 01706 360129**

**Email: [julie\\_platt62@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julie_platt62@hotmail.co.uk)**

### **Lettings Manager: Nicki Houghton**

**Telephone: 01706 750376**

**Email: [nahoughton@sky.com](mailto:nahoughton@sky.com)**