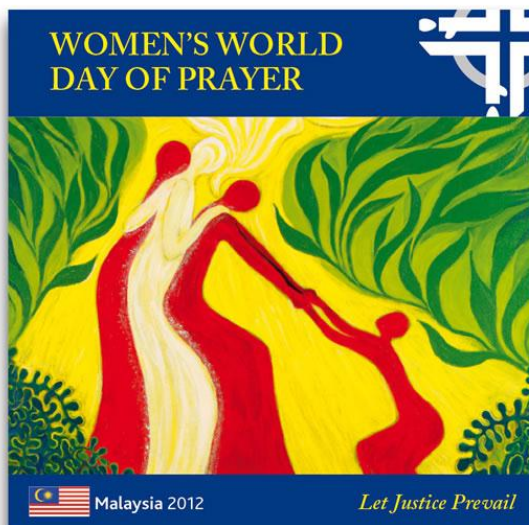


Buxton  
United Reformed Church  
Hardwick Square



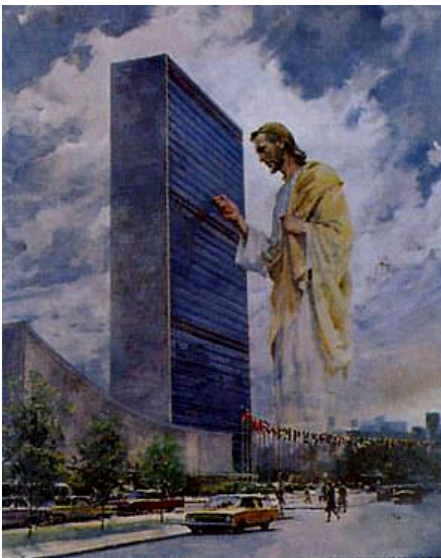
February 2012

It's February already - and almost time to start thinking about Spring. Looking out at a sky full of snow that's quite a comforting thought and I can't wait until the evenings start to get a tiny bit lighter, too!

It's also time to move on from Christmas and start to think about the journey to Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. I've been looking at the connections between Christmas and Easter with our oldest children at school. We've thought about the prophecies of the Old Testament that tell us that the story of Jesus wasn't a last-minute decision on God's part but was always part of His plan, and we've looked at the words of some carols that contain hints of something beyond the stable, like the verse of It Came Upon A Midnight Clear that says,

'And man, at war with man, hears not the love song which they bring. O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing.'

One of the things I asked the children to do was to look at some art work based on the names that are given to Jesus in Isaiah's prophecy: 'Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'. By far the most discussion provoking was this image of Jesus in the modern world which is entitled 'Prince of Peace' and which shows Him knocking on the window of the United Nations building.



We considered other ways in which Jesus might want to be at work in the world today as 'Prince of Peace'. The children had lots of ideas but my favourite was the 10 year old who chewed his pencil for a while and then said, 'Can I draw a big round table with the peace sign on it and Jesus and Osama bin Laden sitting at it?'

But the Hebrew word for peace, 'shalom', means wholeness, fullness, completeness. No part is missing. There is order and unity. It refers to good health, prosperity, and good harvest.

This gives us a different understanding of Jesus' role as 'Prince of Peace'. It isn't just about the absence of war or discord, but about building a world of fruitful relationships and harmony. And that directly challenges us as individuals and as a church to find ways to join in with God's plan. Sometimes the answer might be to make a protest or to intervene in conflict situations. At other times it might be to demonstrate positive relationships amongst ourselves and with others. Asked what the average person could best do to promote world peace Mother Teresa replied: 'Go home and love your family.' - wise words!

The coming months will undoubtedly be a time of upheaval for our church. It may involve difficult discussions and decisions and may not make us feel particularly peaceful. But let's make it a positive time of 'shalom', working closely together to build something prosperous - and make sure that when Jesus knocks at our window we invite Him in!

Love Jennie

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace.  
You call us to seek shalom in our own lives  
and the lives of those around us:  
This we now do.  
In this broken world, guide us  
and give us strength to bring shalom  
into our personal lives,  
into our church and community,  
into our nation  
and globally, among people of different faiths and backgrounds.  
We pray for a healing of the broken shalom that exists  
between men and women,  
between rich and poor,  
between the powerful and the disempowered, and  
between human beings and Creation.  
Lord Jesus, you gave us your peace.  
Give us openness to embrace this peace,  
hope to experience it in our own lives,  
and courage to share it throughout the world.  
Amen

Jennie Gill is an Elder of Buxton URC

# Dates To Remember

## **Lunch Club**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February & 1<sup>st</sup> March**

at 1pm in the church hall

## **Church AGM**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

after the morning service (12 noon approx.)

## **Prayer & Reflection Meetings**

Alternate **Mondays** at 7:30 pm

**13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February**

at 7 Wyedale Close

## **Home group**

Alternate **Mondays** at 7:30 pm

**6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February**

at 31 Temple Road

## **Elders Meeting**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

# Contributions for the magazine

to be received by

**Eileen and Peter Blane by**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**for the March publication.**



*We appreciate your contributions so please keep them coming.*

*To ensure your magazine is as informative as possible please keep us up-to-date with news and events.*

**Tel: 01298 27591 or email [peter@blane.co.uk](mailto:peter@blane.co.uk)**

***Please also remember to send details of meetings and events to Alison Darby to collate in the church diary.***

# Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

5th February	Communion Service – Rob Williams
12th February	Morning worship – Buxton URC Elders
19th February	Parade Service – Charles Jolly
26th February	Morning worship – Brian Heeley
4th March	Communion Service – Fleur Houston

## Special event on Sunday 11th March

Alwyn Knight will be taking the morning service and then everyone is invited to stay for lunch.

After lunch Alwyn will talk to us about his experiences as a peacekeeper.

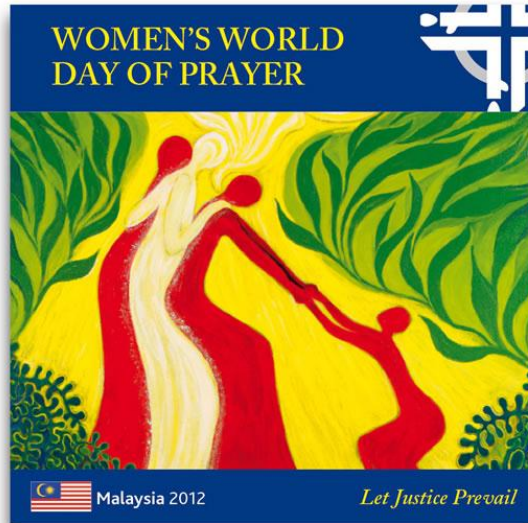
If you don't know what a peacekeeper is, come along and find out!

(There is no charge for lunch.)

Alison Darby

## Please pray for

- those of our church who are unwell.
- our church and Fountain Square Church Tideswell as we seek a new minister.
- Joan Neville whose husband Tom died just before Christmas and for all the family.



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm  
St. Anne's Church, Terrace Road, Buxton.

Plases come along to the service. All are welcome.

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### North Staffs Christian Aid



is arranging  
**A SPONSORED WALK**  
to be held at  
TITTLEWORTH RESERVOIR  
On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Registration from 9.15 am Walk starts at 10 am  
Sponsor forms on the Commitment for Life Notice Board

~~~~~

£1 EAST MIDLANDS CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ £1

Please take a Quiz form from the Commitment for Life Notice Board and  
give your £1 to Barney Lawrence or Charles Jolly.

## A short visit to Bad Oeynhausen

On the third Sunday in Advent Detlef and Heike visited the service at our partner church, the Auferstehungskirche in Bad Oeynhausen. They were greeted by many a churchgoer and enjoyed the ever wonderful hospitality and friendship. Something new and wonderful has happened to the church building. Walking through the main doors you get the impression of being in the wrong place. The entire back of the building now is a Café, very stylish, light and modern. The café is open two days a week and has become one of the favourite meeting places of many people and small groups in town. Besides the homemade cakes and biscuits you can get a good 'cuppa' or a nice cappuccino or hot chocolate – all fair traded of course. On top of that there is all sorts of information to be found and if requested good counsel and friendly words are offered. Fair Trade goods can be bought, magazines invite to read and a WiFi area exists. The church is open so you can light a candle, write your thoughts into a book and find quiet moments. It is a café for body and soul.

Detlef and Heike delivered the good wishes and greetings of the URC Buxton church meeting. Some people asked when we will visit again – they are looking forward already.

*They send their good wishes for a blessed 2012 to all friends in Buxton and Tideswell.*

**Heike Huschauer**



Detlef, Irmgard, Johannes Lohmann and Sandra Siegemund



Serving coffee: the friendly church ladies of Bad Oeynhausen

I thought other people might like to read this, slightly abridged, passage that I found in Anthony Trollope's book 'Barchester Towers'.

“There is, perhaps, no greater hardship at present inflicted on mankind in civilised and free countries, than the necessity of listening to sermons. No one but a preaching clergyman has, in these realms, the power of compelling an audience to sit silent, and be tormented. No one but a preaching clergyman can revel in platitudes, truisms, and untruisms, and yet receive, as his undisputed privilege, the same respectful demeanour as though words of impassioned eloquence, or persuasive logic, fell from his lips.

A member of Parliament can be coughed down or counted out. Town councillors can be tabooed, But no one can rid himself of the preaching clergyman. He is the bore of the age and the nightmare that disturbs our Sunday rest.”

Mary Macdonald

## **BOOKCASE**



The bookcase in the vestibule was donated by the family of Freda – Eileen and Peter Blane's neighbour. The books have been hiding away in a cupboard for years, but are now looking good on these shelves.

Feel free to borrow them. Maybe you have some tucked away at home that you would like to put on the shelves for others to read.

Mary Macdonald

**EVENTS FOR LENT  
ARRANGED BY  
CHURCHES TOGETHER  
IN BUXTON**



On **Good Friday evening (6<sup>th</sup> April)** the Churches Together choir will be singing **John Rutter's Requiem**. This will be at 8.00pm at the Methodist church. Everyone who is enthusiastic about singing is welcome to join the choir. The practises start on February 10th, 7.30 at the Methodist church.



***Lent Lunches (soup & roll)***  
For 6 Wednesdays 12.15pm – 1.30 pm  
Commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012  
In Bath Road Church Centre  
Priced at £2.50  
All proceeds to  
Christian Aid, Tearfund and CAFOD

We are responsible for making the soup and serving the lunches on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

***Lent Services at 7:30 pm for approx. 45 mins.***  
Starting on 29th February St Anne's Church, Bath Road.  
The first service will be led by the Anglican Church.

**Riding Lights** are giving a performance on **March 2nd, at 7.00pm at the Methodist Church**. Further details to follow.



For further details please ask Alison Darby

**Buxton Junior School  
at our  
Advent Festival**

Two hundred children plus staff walked in snow storms to come to our church. They explored the festival displays and sung carols.

Their singing was wonderful.

They were excited to be in the church. We had a very happy time with them.





## Thank you

to all those people who helped in any way with the Advent Festival.

Your help was appreciate.

### Comments from visitors

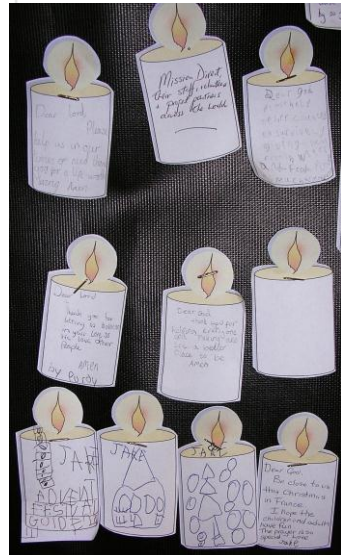
"I love this, it is so different, creative and innovative."

"Well done to all concerned,  
Very inspiring"

"The church looks beautiful. Thank you for welcoming us."

"Thank you, so much love in it all, sitting still, listening to Bach, taking time off for thinking about Advent- very good indeed."

"This is what Christmas is all about!"



## The Hawthorns

The chaplain at The Hawthorns (the Salvation Army care home) has asked me if we would take a service there in February. I was very happy to say 'yes', especially as Hazel Harby now lives at The Hawthorns.

Some of us will be going to the home at **2.30pm on Sunday 19th February**, and we would be delighted if you could join us.



Alison Darby

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## The search for a new minister...update

Good news - after a great deal of work by the Call Group (Alison Darby, Jennie Gill, Barney Lawrence and Cath Sterndale plus four people from Tideswell) the Moderator has now approved our Pastorate Profile, minister's role description, terms of settlement, and Pastorate Profile Summary sheet. (If you don't know what all those documents are, neither did we when we started this process!) All these documents had to be written and approved before the vacancy could be advertised.



All ministers in the URC can now see (on-line) our Pastorate Profile Summary sheet. From mid-February, any minister looking for a move may ask their Moderator for a copy of our full Pastorate Profile. If they like the sound of us the Moderator will pass their details to the Call Group and we take it from there.

If you are not clear about what is happening, please ask me, and I'll do my best to explain where we are up to.

Alison Darby

## **Pastorate Profile Summary Ref. Numbers: 5A06 5A55**

### **Pastorate Details:**

Name of pastorate: Buxton and Tideswell  
Churches in pastorate: Buxton URC and Fountain Square  
Methodist/United Reformed Church, Tideswell

Date of declaration of vacancy: 01.09.11  
Scoping (%) & Term: 100% No fixed term

### **Mission Context:**

(e.g. inner city/urban/suburban/market town/rural; population size and composition; ecumenical scene, etc.)

The pastorate is located in the heart of the beautiful Peak District. Buxton is a country market town; Tideswell is a large, rural, village. The manse is situated in a residential area close to the centre of Buxton. Driving between Buxton and Tideswell takes about 20 minutes. Employment in both Buxton and Tideswell is mixed, and includes quarrying, light industry, the higher education and public sectors, as well as tourism. A number of residents commute to either Sheffield or Manchester to work. Buxton and Tideswell have active Churches Together groups in which the URC is fully involved.

### **Mission Opportunities and Priorities:**

In both churches we have developed good links with the community, but we want to see more people worshipping with us. This is both a challenge and an opportunity. In Buxton we have recently refurbished premises, and in Tideswell we are currently planning the extensive refurbishment of our premises following the recent creation of Fountain Square church from Tideswell Methodist church and Tideswell URC. Main priority: To show our communities that we are committed to following the teachings of Jesus, so that they will see God's love in action and want to learn more about Christianity and join us.

## **Theology and Worship Style:**

A wide theological spectrum in both churches.

Various styles of worship, both formal and informal, are used in the two churches.



## **Minister's Role Priorities and Ministry Arrangements:**

(e.g. other colleagues, pattern of team work, relationship to congregations in joint or group pastorate, etc.)

The minister's time will be split 50 / 50 between the two churches.

Fountain Square Church is part of the Peak Methodist Circuit. From the Fountain Square time allocation, the minister will be expected to lead one evening and one morning service in the Circuit each quarter.

## **Personal Specification for Prospective Minister:**

We believe our churches need a minister who can offer:

- challenging Biblical teaching
- strong pastoral skills
- help to make the most of our opportunities (outlined in the profile), working with all age groups.



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NB The clip art has been added by Peter & Eileen Blane for the magazine only.

The summary of our pastorate profile is now on a website which every minister in the URC can access.

## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Fairtrade Fortnight this year is  
from **27<sup>th</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> March**

As a Fairtrade Church we not only undertake to serve Fairtrade tea, coffee, biscuits and sugar at all our events but also to take part in Fairtrade Fortnight and to take other opportunities to promote Fairtrade. For example, the Lunch Club always uses Fairtrade products. As convenor of the Buxton Town Fairtrade Group, I would be delighted to hear from people who could help in Fairtrade Fortnight. Perhaps we could arrange a Traidcraft Big Brew or you could help with a stall?



We hope that an overseas Fairtrade Banana grower will be visiting Buxton on 10<sup>th</sup> March and perhaps speaking at lunchtime. More details to follow.

As you know, I run a Traidcraft stall which is open at the Church, in particular on the first Sunday of the month (and at any time on request). This is a Traidcraft food stall. I have been selling-on Fairtrade products (mainly food) since they started with WDM tea and Campaign Coffee. The tea was very nice but only the most committed said they liked the coffee! Interestingly, some people still remember the coffee but no one seems to remember the tea.

Moral: If you want to be remembered . . . !

This has all changed now. There are many Fairtrade companies and hundreds of Fairtrade products. It is very good to buy any of these to give the producers a fair deal, but if there is a choice, remember that Traidcraft is a Christian company that seeks to go the extra mile.

P.S. I don't make any profit. Alan Sugar would fire me!

Many thanks for all your support.

Charles Jolly

## What makes Traidcraft different?

In Traidcraft's own words: Traidcraft is one of the UK's fair trade pioneers. We go far beyond simply applying fair trade standards to our products. Innovating, campaigning, building lasting relationships with our suppliers, and engaged in a wide range of charitable projects – Traidcraft and our supporters really go the extra mile.



During 2010 Traidcraft undertook a major strategic review of its goals and activities. This led us to summarise our vision and key areas of activity as follows, building on our model of working in the key areas of Trade, Support and Influence. Traidcraft is committed to working in new and innovative ways. We have been working in the fair trade area since 1979 and have been influential in changing the way other businesses work.

Traidcraft's vision is a world freed from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just and people and communities can flourish. We are a Christian based organisation, committed to working with people of all faiths and none in our common fight against poverty.

Traidcraft's unique structure - a trading company and a development charity working together - gives us a distinctive perspective on how trade can be made to work for the poor. This gives us opportunities to influence opinion and behaviour in the charitable, business and public sectors.

Charles Jolly

# Commitment for Life is 20 years old this year!

Commitment for life is about:

- fullness of life for all people
- helping this become a reality for all God's people
- commitment to generous and just stewardship
- commitment of time

Thank you for all your support for Commitment for Life.

Charles Jolly.

## ***This is the Commitment for Life prayer for February***

This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

***How can we rejoice? We have brothers and sisters, all over the country; we must face issues, which may affect their rejoicing.***


This is a day of opportunity; a time to remember all those who face oppression and exploitation of various kinds.

***A time to be challenged to greater action and service, to improve the conditions of all who cry out for justice.***

This is not only a day for rejoicing, but a day to seek the truth, a day when we must not turn away into comfortable enclaves of silence.

***It is a day of hope that the truth will set all people free. Yes, this is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.***

1999 Prayer supplement: ©National Council of Churches, India



This month we have a bumper magazine!!  
Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed.

You are invited to join  
Pilots  
for a Fun Evening  
of  
**PANCAKES**

**When?** THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY  
from : 6.30 - 8.30p.m.

**Where?** At Church (through main door)

**Why?** For Pilots Funds



**Evening Includes:**  
Secret auction, Lots of Pancakes plus drinks.  
Tickets available: £2

(ticket includes 1 pancake [sweet/savoury]  
plus drink - extra pancakes £1 each)

## PRAYER

Ever giving Lord,  
mistaken by Mary as the gardener  
teach us how to tend to the garden  
of our giving.

May the cuts and pruning that we have  
to make encourage new growth  
that can feed the Kingdom's cause.

All that we have, all that we are,  
comes first from you.

Yet so often we try to hold tight to them.

Forgive us and help us to see  
that it is in generously sharing  
all that we are and have  
that we are your faithful stewards  
serving the Kingdom  
and glorifying you.

Amen

From URC Ministry and Mission (M&M) Fund annual leaflet.

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Jennie Gill has received the following from Jean Jackson in Tideswell:

'Following on from our day out together at Peter's induction, Fountain Square Church would like to organise another joint Church outing in May or June, if members in Buxton would like to go, too. They are keen to go to Liverpool, firstly to the Catholic Cathedral which is an awesome building and then down to the Albert Docks area. We would leave in time to have tea on the way home, possibly at a friendly church en route. Hopefully the travel cost would not be huge, but obviously that depends on how many people are with us. If you are interested in joining in could you let Jennie know sometime this month and she will let Jean Jackson know in Tideswell.'



## Sunday Worship

**Family Service 10.30 a.m.**

Communion Service (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)

*We offer a sincere, loving welcome to all in Christian  
Worship*

Secretary: Alison Darby  
(Tel: 01298 26260)

Web site: [www.buxtonurc.org.uk](http://www.buxtonurc.org.uk)

### Weekly Activities for Children and Young People

- **Rainbows:** Tues. 5 - 6pm  
Leader: Stephanie Sterndale  
(Mobile Tel No: 07967205209)
- **Brownies:** Tues. 6 – 7:15pm  
Leader: Tracy Ryde  
(Tel: 01298 79714)
- **Guides:** Tues. 6pm  
Leader: Stephanie Sterndale  
(Mobile Tel No: 07967205209)
- **Pilots:** Thurs. 6:30 - 8pm  
Leader: Di Horne  
(Tel: 01298 83328)

### Other Activities

- Home Group and Prayer & Reflection – alternate Mondays
- Lunch Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday