

Buxton
United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square East



Corbar Cross before being cut down last year

March 2011

Dear Friends,

An article I read and a man I heard set me thinking recently. The man was Tim Smit – do you know him? Tim Smit is the man who had the vision and the drive to set up the Eden Project in Cornwall. He did it against all odds, funding not being easy to come by. Those who visit his “eighth wonder of the world” today are awed by the great bio-domes and what he has growing in there. The article was by a journalist called Heather Stewart.

Tim Smit and Heather Stewart are deeply concerned about the same thing. That is, youth unemployment and as the Christian Church we should be also.

Interviewed on Radio 4, Tim Smit was asked what he thought was going wrong – in other words, how is it that we have one in five 16 – 24 year olds out of work in an aging society. His answer was both simple and devastating. He said we are being governed by “Mumsie economics”. In other words his diagnosis is that the government are failing to understand that you cannot treat the nation’s finances like a household budget. The two are worlds apart. So talk of “balancing the budget” and “the nation’s credit card” are wrong talk. Tim Smit desperately wants to see the government borrow and spend much more – on technology and science, on engineering projects, on skilling up young people before, in his words “we have lost for ever the great skills that still exist in Britain today”. So Tim’s analysis is that there is a lack of vision and courage at the heart of government that is not only letting down our youth but our whole nation.

Heather Stewart spells out the statistics. Youth unemployment stands at one in five and is rising fast towards one million. Amongst several economists she quotes is John Philpott, chief economist at the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development who says “Britain is stuck in a job – loss recovery.” Added to all this is the government’s abolishing of the statutory retirement age due to pressure from baby boomer interest groups.

Employers were against this and so am I. It seems selfish to me for people to refuse to retire just because they do not want to. People hanging onto jobs at the top end of life doesn't help people trying to get on the jobs ladders at the bottom end of life.

Heather Stewart also points out that due to wage settlements being at an average of 1.8% despite inflation being at over 4% means that most people in work are getting poorer and have been doing so for a couple of years or more. This is one way in which money is being redistributed from the bottom to the top in our economy. Its not just greedy bankers who are still running off with the loot, but average board room salaries have increased by between 23 – 35% year on year and continue to do so.

As Christians what is our response? Do we shrug our shoulders? Do we perhaps bury our heads in the sand and hope the problems will all go away? That's not our tradition in the United Reformed Church, and nor is it in Methodism. We stand in a radical dissenting stream which refuses to accept the status quo and stands against the interests of the powers that be. Like the Quakers we "speak truth unto power".

We can express our concerns to our MP, we can join groups who are lobbying and campaigning about these matters – for example the URC is an active supporter of the "Robin Hood Tax Movement" – look it up! We can pray and we can cast our vote in the interest of the greater good.

According to the Bible a society will be judged by how it has taken care of its most vulnerable people – in that case we have a lot to do to be salt and light in this one.

Much love
Peter

Dates for your diary

February 28th to March 13th
is Fairtrade Fortnight.



Friday 4th March 2pm.
at Buxton Methodist Church
Women's World Day of Prayer

EVENTS ARRANGED BY CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUXTON

Lent Lunches and Services on
Wednesdays
March 9th to April 13th



Lunches (soup & roll)
12:15 to 1:15 pm
at the Bath Road Church Centre.
(URC responsible for lunch on March 16th)

Services at 7:30 pm for approx. 45 mins.
(URC responsible for service on March 30th)

Dates To Remember

Lunch Club

Thursday 3rd March and Thursday 7th April
at 1pm in the church hall

Church Annual General Meeting Sunday 20th March

after the morning service (12 noon approx.)
(The next Church Meeting will be on Sunday 8th May)

Prayer & Reflection Meetings

Alternate **Mondays** at 7:30 pm
March 14th & 28th at 31 Temple Road

Home group

Alternate **Mondays** at 7:30 pm
March 7th & 21st at 7 Wyedale Close

Elders meeting

Wednesday March 23rd at 7:30 pm

Contributions for the magazine

to be received by
Eileen and Peter Blane by
Monday 28th March 2011
for the April 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

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.

6th March	Communion Service – Peter Meek
13th March	Morning worship – Charles Jolly
20th March	Morning worship – Peter Meek
27th March	Morning worship – Di Horne
3rd April	Communion Service – Peter Meek

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Mon – Sat 9am-5pm (Wed Half Day)

Women's World Day of Prayer



Chile



Norma Ulloa's artwork created for WDP 2011.

“How many loaves do you have?”

Buxton Methodist Church

4th March

2pm

All are welcome

News from Bad Oeynhausen

In December 2010 I visited my 'old' home town once again.

One evening the Silaschi family invited me for an advent treat called BRATAPFEL made by Rebecca, the lovely teenager some of you might remember from her two visits here in Buxton. It is an apple stuffed with nuts and marzipan and topped with butter and then baked slowly. Delicious!

Ronald Deppe and the reverend Lars Kunkel dropped by and we had a good chat.

Of course we also talked about ideas for our partnership and what they could offer the URC Buxton and Tideswell for 2011, which is the year of our turn to visit. It was



thought that sharing an event in the church's life (as the visit in Buxton in October 2010) is a rather beautiful thing. Some examples were: The summer Festival in Bad Oeynhausen., a joint trip from Bad O. to Berlin, a joint trip to the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral in May 2012, a cycle tour along the river Weser to visit churches and monasteries in the area. The favourite was: a trip from Bad Oeynhausen to "Lutherstadt Wittenberg", the official name of Martin Luther's beautiful old city, the birthplace of reformism. This can be done in one day by train (the trip not the reformation). A guided tour in English is possible. Wittenberg is not very big and quite "walkable".

Bernd said it would be good if we found something we could do together other than visiting. Which concerns do we share and could we work on together? A charity, a topic like reconciliation, environment or ...

Well, the “Oeynhauseners” will have a think and let us know.

What else is new at the banks of the great German river Weser?

Most exciting and successful in church life at the Auferstehungskirche are the THOMAS MESSEN, or in English: **Apostle Thomas services**. Invited are people who do not belong to the church any longer or never have or haven't been for a long time, the disappointed and estranged, the non-believers, the seeking, the nosy and everyone else. I talked to a woman my age, my former secretary in fact. She went once feeling quite unsure about the whole affair, not knowing what to expect. But she got all excited about how wonderful it was when she told me about it. A church without expectations, just giving ideas, time for meditation, an opportunity to try to pray, some quiet and sharing it all with people who didn't come because they had to do their Sunday duties and showed off their clothes – that is the way she put it. And she decided to come again and again and maybe again. How wonderful is that?

The church itself was doused in dust; there is a lot of construction going on. The entire back part is going to be something completely new – a CAFÉ. You must imagine something like one of the glorious British museum tea shops with home baked goodies and friendly volunteers plus a place of help and information where people have time for a chat or for a private talk. They hope for a big success, the church being in the middle of town and also a place near the twelve specialist hospitals in Bad Oeynhausen for hundreds of patients with all their questions about a life after cancer, hip or heart surgery. A place of healing in the town of healing.



In the town of Bad Oeynhausen and the surrounding towns and cities (like Paderborn, Herford and Hameln) new times are causing concerns. Many thousands of British service personnel and their families will leave the country 67 years after the war in 2012. What to do with the vast manoeuvre areas, the large barracks and the housing estates? How many jobs will be lost? How will it affect Paderborn Airport with its direct flights to British cities? Quite a number of British families live in Buxton as well as the highest ranking commander of the British Rhein Army in the walled, secluded villa strangely called the “White House”.

Who doesn't remember Helga Weiß, the lovely old lady who visited in October? Shortly after coming home she felt unwell, was brought to hospital and now she has got a new heart valve. She says she thoroughly enjoyed her time here and she is so grateful for everything we shared. And she sends her love to you all. Her letter sounds as if she was her old cheeky self again. Let's hope and pray for her fast recovery.

Heike Huschauer

Fairtrade Fortnight (Feb 28 – March 13, 2011)

As a Fairtrade Church, we are committed to taking part in **Fairtrade Fortnight**. Please support these events if you can fit them in. Help 'personing' stalls always very welcome!

Charles Jolly

March 3rd: Big Brew at the Methodist Church

March 7th and 8th Stall at 'Get Sorted' in the Dome

March 8th (Shrove Tuesday) Fairtrade pancake race in the Dome: 1.15 pm (Fairtrade pancakes on sale from 11 am)

March 12th Stall in Spring Gardens Centre 10 am – 4 pm

**FAIRTRADE "BIG BREW" –
BUXTON METHODIST CHURCH,
THURSDAY 3RD MARCH, 10.00 - NOON:**

The Buxton Fairtrade Steering Group warmly invite you to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee as part of Fairtrade fortnight.



Bees and teas – the Traidcraft connection

As declining bee populations continue to feature in the news, developments in Kenya make Traidcraft's range of Fairtrade tea even more refreshing!



Until recently, smallholder farmers at Iriaini Tea Factory in Kenya – one of Traidcraft's newest tea suppliers – relied solely on tea grown on their small plots of land. With limited space and some ground unsuitable for cultivation, many struggled to earn a living.



Now, thanks to training from Traidcraft, the tea growers have become beekeepers. They are also planting passion fruit – providing extra income for them and nectar for the bees.

Some farmers have begun water harvesting and their small plots of land are flourishing, providing food for families and with surplus to sell.

Iriaini factory manager Mathew Ng'enda explained: "We attribute a lot to fair trade. The farmers are now seeing fair trade as a concept, not just in tea, but something that is bringing them together.

"We are so happy because all those activities engage our farmers and they have an extra income. We have become the pioneer beekeepers in the tea industry."

Find out more about Traidcraft's work with beekeepers and other groups at www.traidcraft.org.uk

Thank You

A big "thank you" to all the members of Buxton United Reformed Church for the lovely flower arrangement and card you gave us on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Also, thank you for your prayers; we feel that we have been greatly blessed.

After all the celebrations we are now back to normal living!

Noreen and Peter Blackwell

A prayer for March from Commitment for Life:

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God....
But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.....
Luke 6: 20, 24

Blessed are those who see no need for poverty in the kingdom of God.
Blessed are those who grant no place to hunger and gluttony.
Blessed are those who are moved with compassion at the plight of others.
Blessed are those who are stirred into action out of our complacency.
Blessed are those who give no heed to prejudice and hatred.
Blessed are those who seek the way of peace and understanding.
Blessed are those who look not to this life for reward and self-gratification.
Blessed are those who work for fullness of life for all.
Thanks be to God for those who hunger and thirst for the rights of others.

Amen.

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Charles Jolly

Sunday Worship
Family Service 10.30 a.m.

Communion Service (1st Sunday of each month)

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

Minister: Revd. Peter J Meek BSc. BD
(Tel: 01298 27638)

Secretary: Alison Darby
(Tel: 01298 26260)

Web site: 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 – 1st Thursday**