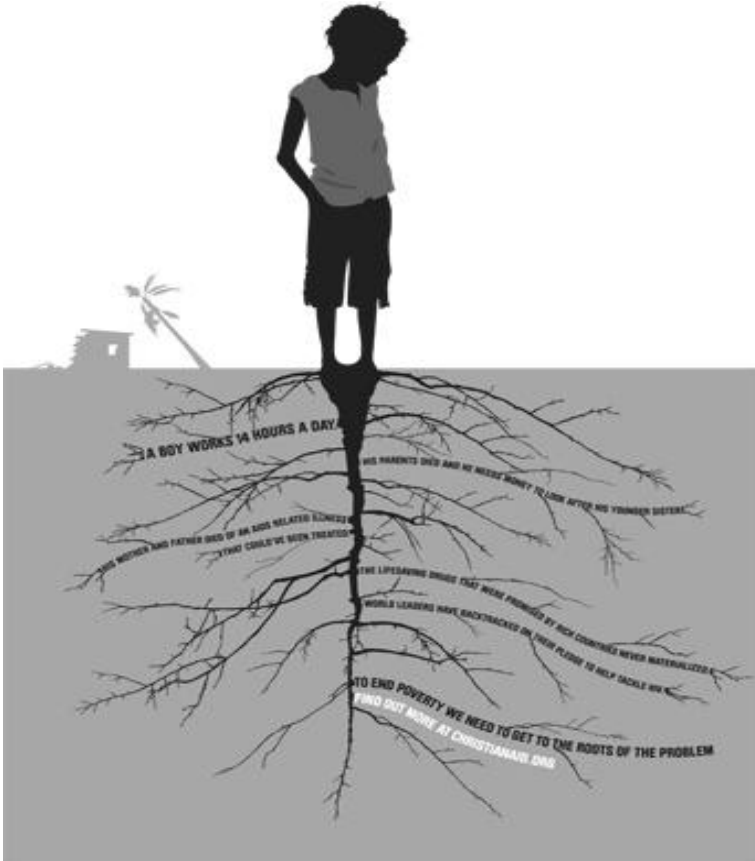


Buxton
United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square East



Christian Aid Week May 15-21

May 2011

ELDERS' RAMBLINGS :

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first in the series of Elders' Ramblings – thoughts from the church eldership team during the time when we do not have a minister. In last month's magazine, we heard from Peter with his final letter as our minister and we all wish him peace on his sabbatical and God's help in his future role as our moderator in the East Midlands Synod.

Two things struck me in recent weeks – one about something far from home, and the other on our doorstep. In some way they are connected. Let us look at the far away one first:

As some of you know, I have been visiting the Fairhaven School for children with special needs, in Alexandria, Egypt, for several years at about this time of year. This year it was not possible because Highway Projects, the organisation I went with, has ceased to exist. But even if it were still going, it would not have been running a trip to Egypt this year because of the recent revolution and struggle for democracy. Those of us who have visited the school have wondered how things are going in that historic city on the edge of the Mediterranean.

Alexandria is said to be the place where Mark landed his boat and introduced Christianity to the nation in the first millennium. Before that, Alexander the Great founded it; it saw the construction of the world's first library, the world's first large lighthouse and many other "firsts". It is an enlightened city, a place of radical thought and understanding.

Today the city is a vibrant mixture of nationalities and religions. There has been a history of friction between Christians and Muslims and it would be wonderful if it became a place where the two religions first come together properly. I have already seen this, in a small way, in the school where Christian and Muslim staff

happily work alongside each other. Children from the two religions share classroom activities and sport without any thought about their background differences.

So, I was delighted to receive the following email from Lynda, the School director:

“When the policemen withdrew and prisoners were released on the streets, all people, Muslims and Christians, felt threatened and stood shoulder to shoulder in the streets to guard buildings and cars and ensure the safety of their families. Neighbours who didn't know each other spent long hours every evening together sharing their fears and hopes. This has certainly brought people together and pulled down walls of hostility that built up along the years. People felt they were all in the same boat facing the same dangers, suffering the same problems.

Last Sunday, Muslims and Christians had a memorial prayer in remembrance of the deceased. For the first time in the history of Egypt, the cross was held high in Tahrir Square, hymns were sung and supplications made to the Merciful God to save Egypt with a loud AMEN from all the audience.”



The Cross and the Koran in Tahrir Square (with thanks to *The Guardian*)

What an encouraging message! Let us hope and pray that such friendship and co-operation continues.

Nearer to home, Buxton has recently been part of Prayer 24-7, at little St Anne's church, in which members of many of the local churches took part. I took a couple of night-time slots, coming home at about the time people are going to work. These sessions will stay in my memory for many months as being times when I felt closest to God.

Imagine total silence (save for the occasional car in the High Street).....time to think, write, draw, pray, doodle and ponder... to ask big questions.....to ask for help...and for how to help.....to hear the first bird of the dawn chorus (a blackbird at 5.20 am on both days) and then all the others that join in....to see the east window turn from darkness, to grey, to dark blue and then slowly to yellow as I watched the rising sun beyond it. At this time of year, I could not help but think about the rising sun, in the context of Easter.

What, you may ask, is the link with Egypt? I see churches coming together in Alexandria, in times of strife, and churches coming together in Buxton at time of prayer. For whatever reason, let us all continue to come together this springtime.

With love, in the risen son,

Roger

(Roger Horne, Hon. Treasurer)

A Special church meeting with Brian Heeley, Interim Moderator,

to discuss the mission of the church, the pastorate profile, and future ministry will be held on **Friday 20th May, 7.30pm.** at the church.

Please come along if you possibly can. Thanks, Alison Darby.

Christian Aid Week

15–21 May 2011

Prayer for the week

God, who is more than we can ever imagine,
give us a bigger picture of the world;
give us a broader view of justice;
give us dreams of love
that are not defined by boundaries of geography or race or religion,
or by the limitations of worldly structures and systems.
Enlarge our imaginations and inspire our courage this Christian Aid Week
to put ourselves in that bigger picture.
Keep us struggling,
keep us faithful,
keep us strong,
so that we never give up on the promise of your kingdom,
where the world is transformed,
and all can enjoy life in all its fullness.
Loving God,
in Jesus you offer life to the world
and love to its people.
When we see life only for ourselves,
forgive us.
Help us to hear your transforming love
speaking to us of respect, dignity and worth,
telling us that we are loved
and that we are to love one another.
In the knowledge of this love,
work through us to bring your justice to the world,
this Christian Aid Week and beyond.

POVERTY

A Manifesto for Change

Poverty robs people of dignity, hope, and the power to determine their own future.

We're highlighting eight of the global issues that underpin poverty, and some of the changes required to shift the balance of power in favour of the poorest.

- Climate Change
- Corruption
- Food and Agriculture
- Inequality
- Conflict
- Disaster
- Health
- Tax

We need many more people to understand these issues and act on them. Together, we're all the more likely to bring an end to poverty once and for all.



COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PRAYER FOR MAY

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?

James 2: 14

Giving God,

Make my faith strong enough to take action.

Make my faith strong enough to knock on doors and face rejection.

Make my faith strong enough to keep on knocking.

With campaigning,

with lobbying

with..... a heart yearning for an end of poverty and injustice.

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Churches Together on Good Friday evening

Thanks are extended to all those who participated in the performance of Karl Jenkins Stabat Mater on Good Friday evening – to the singers, accompanists, readers and all those who provided support and inspiration behind the scenes. Many positive comments have been received from the congregation and those who took part – thank you.

The retiring collection raised £437 for Christian Aid.

If you would like to receive a copy of the readings, which were selected by the Rev Canon Stephen Shipley especially for this performance of the Stabat Mater, please telephone Kate MacLean (Buxton 78276) and leave an answerphone message including your name and postal address. Alternatively email Kate at director@heritageworks.co.uk to receive an electronic copy.

Kate MacLean

Dates for your diary

- **Saturday 7th May 7.30 am prompt Methodist Church. Buxton Churches Environmental Group Spring Walk. Led by Rev'd Colin Smith. Good footwear but not too onerous. Ending back at the church for prayers and a well-earned cup of tea**
- **Wednesday 11th May 6.30 pm East Midlands Synod Roadshow, Rose Hill Chesterfield. Contact Charles Jolly if you would like transport**
- **Sunday 15th May at Fairfield Methodist Church Christian Aid Service.**
- **15th to 21st May. Christian Aid week.**
- **Saturday 4th June Spring Gardens. Transition Buxton plant swap**
- **Thursday 9th June (provisionally) early afternoon: Tea with Andrew Bingham MP in London.(Arranged by Christian Aid and Action Aid) (information from Charles Jolly)**
- **Saturday 11th June Melbourne: Derby Diocesan Environment Day. Arranged by the Ecumenical Derbyshire Environmental Group. A family day. Lots of activities, stalls and a service. Details will be displayed as soon as finalised.**
- **Sunday 12th June from 12:30pm Picnic in the Pavilion Gardens.**

Dates To Remember

Lunch Club

Thursday 5th May and 2nd June
at 1pm in the church hall

Church Meeting

Sunday 8th May
after the morning service (12 noon approx.)
Special church meeting
Friday 20th May, 7.30pm. at the church

Prayer & Reflection Meetings

Alternate Mondays at 7:30 pm
May 9th & 23rd at 7 Wyedale Close

Home group

Alternate Mondays at 7:30 pm
May 16th at 31 Temple Road

Elders meetings

Wednesdays 4th & 25th May at 7:30 pm

Contributions for the magazine

to be received by
Eileen and Peter Blane by
30th May
for the June 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.

1st May	Morning Worship – Buxton URC Elders
8th May	Morning worship – Philip Bridgewater followed by Communion– Alison Darby
15th May	Morning worship – Charles Jolly
22th May	Morning worship – Philip Bridgewater
29th May	Morning Worship – Rob Williams
5th June	Morning Worship – Brian Heeley with Communion– Alison Darby



The service on 15th May will include the presentation of our **eco-congregation award**.

Norah Lowe (Dorothy Phillip's sister) would like to thank her friends at church for their thoughts, prayer and the lovely card after her operation. They have meant a great deal to her.

2011 Roadshow coming to you:-



Wednesday 11th May - DERBYSHIRE:
Rose Hill, Chesterfield

Meet friends from other Churches; Hear good news stories;
Share best practice; Learn about new ventures;

Talk to the Synod Team; Look at resources

Tell us you're coming!

Please email Chris Willis at: admin@urc5.org.uk

or telephone: 0115 960 9241

or write to: 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottinghamshire,
NG5 3AA

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**