

Buxton
United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square



November 2011

Dear Friends,

I had one of those moments this week when you're pulled up short by realising you're doing something you never thought you would – or becoming someone you never thought you would.

One morning I got in to work to find an email from our training officer asking me to fill in an internal training booking form, in addition to the booking form I'd already sent off to the external training providers. I didn't react well. I exclaimed "For goodness sake!" and then complained strongly to my colleague at the adjacent desk about pointless extra form-filling and why the training officer couldn't just take the information from the original booking form!

In the middle of this rant, the phone rang. It was a man from an archaeological consultancy who wished to deposit the report of the work he would be doing with the museum. This is a regular occurrence and the system that has been agreed between the planning department (who specify what archaeological investigations need to be carried before planning permission is granted) and the museums who accept the finds and reports is that the consultants will notify the museum in advance of the work being carried out – by filling in a form... The man was not pleased that he was being asked to do this as he felt that any information I would need for my form would be in the report he was writing so why did he need to repeat the exercise? I tried to explain why the procedures were in place and in the end obtained his email address so I could send him the form, although not until he'd argued his case determinedly. The irony of the situation was not lost on me and I was left wondering whether I was being a jobsworth or a mindless bureaucrat.

My colleague, who had overheard the conversation, said at least I had explained the reasons for needing the information in advance but I still felt unsure about whether I had done the best I could for the man. We may sometimes feel that if only the reasons behind a situation were explained or if only God spoke clearly about what we should do, then life would be so much easier. But would it be? God gave us freedom to make our own decisions and with that freedom inevitable must come times when we're not sure if we're doing the right thing. Knowing the full facts on either side of the story doesn't necessarily make a decision easier to make or a situation easier to accept. The man on the phone seemed to accept my explanation but didn't seem any happier with the idea of filling in the form. We need to trust that Jesus is there with us, whatever path we choose, and remember his commandment to love one another, in every action we take.

So perhaps what I've learned from how I reacted to the "mindless bureaucracy" at work was not that I should have let the man off filling in the form but that I should be more gracious and loving towards the training officer who needs the information I provide to do her job properly.

Love,
Martha

Martha Lawrence is one of the Elders of Buxton URC

What is Autumn?

Autumn is the year's last and loveliest smile.

Dates To Remember

Lunch Club

3rd November & 8th December (Christmas Lunch)

at 1pm in the church hall

Church Meeting

Sunday 27th November

after the morning service (12 noon approx.)

Prayer & Reflection Meetings

Alternate **Mondays** at 7:30 pm

7th & 21st November

at 7 Wyedale Close

unless advised otherwise.

Home group

Alternate **Mondays** at 7:30 pm

14th & 28th November

at 31 Temple Road

unless advised otherwise.

Contributions for the magazine

to be received by

Eileen and Peter Blane by

Monday 28th November 2011

for the December/January 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 November	Morning worship – Philip Bridgewater
13th November	Communion Service – Rob Williams
20th November	Morning worship – Charles Jolly
27th November	Morning worship – Gordon Hornblower
4th December	Communion Service – Buxton URC Elders

Please pray for

Those suffering in Turkey following the recent earthquake.

Those people in our fellowship who are challenged to cope with everyday life because of their health.

For those involved in writing our Church Profile for prospective ministers to read.

CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT

Working Together – Saving tomorrow Today

The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties (CMP7) to the Kyoto Protocol, will be held in the city of Durban, South Africa from 28th November to 9th December 2011.

Although commentators do not have high hopes of a major new agreement these talks provide an opportunity for progress towards international action on climate change. It is important for the UK government to show global commitment to its pledge to be the 'greenest government ever'.

There is a Global Day of Action on December 3rd. I will post details on the Commitment for Life notice board as soon as I have more information.

Christian Aid has asked us to call on the UK government to commit to and encourage other developed countries to:

- * Support a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, to help agree binding global cuts in carbon emissions at a level adequate to stop catastrophic climate change.
- * Source international finance to allow poor countries to build a thriving and resilient low carbon future.

You might like to write to Chris Huhne, (Rt Hon Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, 3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW) or to Andrew Bingham, our M.P. (asking him to pass on your concern). Please remember in your prayers all those taking part in this meeting, especially the representatives of poor countries, many of which are facing huge problems not of their own making.

Charles Jolly

FAIRTRADE STALL



Thank you very much for all your support for producers in poor countries by buying Traidcraft products from our stall. The new catalogue for Christmas is now available (on the stall or in the vestibule or from Charles Jolly). I will be sending another order soon, so please place your orders!

Charles Jolly

stop AIDS campaign

World AIDs day 1st December

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. *Galations3:28*

Come, you are created in God's image- you are welcome in this place. Let us affirm the dignity of all people.

Let us reject all forms of discrimination and stigma.
Come, we are all God's people, many and diverse.
We are called to live out a gospel of love.
Let us enter into this worship with open minds and hearts
let us be prepared and challenged and moved to action.

© Rosie Venner/ StopAIDScampaign

Advent



Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. It is the four weeks before Christmas beginning on November 30th or the nearest Sunday to it. This year Advent starts on November 27th. This is the Church's New Year's Day. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. This time for Christians is a season of hope and the period of preparation for celebration of the birth of Jesus. They also look forward to the time that Jesus will come again.

During Advent it is customary to have an Advent Crown also known as an Advent Wreath. These are made from a circle of evergreen plants such as holly and ivy. This symbolises God with no beginning or end. The evergreen is a reminder that God does not change. The holly is also a symbol of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. Four candles are fixed round the circle and another is placed in the middle.

Various colours of candles have been used such as three purple and a pink with one white in the middle. The unlit candles represent darkness. One purple candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent. On the second Sunday it is lit again together with another purple one, the third purple one is lit on the third Sunday and on the fourth Sunday the pink candle is included. On Christmas Day the white candle is also lit representing Jesus Christ as the light of the world. A recent idea is to use four red candles and one white, red being a colour associated with Christmas.

The candles act as reminders to Christians:

- **The first candle is the candle of 'Hope'**, so prayers on this day focus on hope. This candle represents the 'Patriarchs' such as Abraham and David.
- **The second candle is a symbol of God's 'Peace'**. This candle reminds Christians of the Prophets who foretold that the Messiah would be born.
- **The third candle represents 'Love'** and stands for John the Baptist who baptised Jesus.
- **The fourth candle symbolises 'Joy'** and when this candle is lit Christians remember Mary the mother of Jesus who was joyful when the angel Gabriel told her she was to have a special baby.
- **The fifth candle reminds Christians of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.**

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If you would like to help in the construction of our **Advent Festival** please let me know as soon as possible. Work is already beginning. If you are not too creative we still need volunteers who can do painting under direction – a bit like painting with numbers! Later on we will need help of different sorts so **please come and have a talk with me.**

Eileen Blane

Please put in your diary the following dates for the **Advent Festival:-**

Dates and Times of Opening:-

Saturday November 26th 2.30-4pm

Saturday December 3rd, 10th, 17th

10.30am – 2.30pm

Sunday December 4th, 11th, 18th

12md – 2.30pm

Other times by prior arrangement.



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*

**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**