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Buxton
United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square East



September 2011

Dear Friends,

When Alick was diagnosed with cancer 4½ years ago, and we learnt that the cancer had spread into the bone marrow, we were devastated. For a while our world fell apart and I faced the possibility that, within a short time, I could be left on my own. We were never given any idea of life expectancy and we didn't ask. We didn't want to know.

I remember going to church the following Sunday and saying to Di "I don't feel as if I have any faith at the moment". Her reply was "No, but we have it for you". I've quoted you many times, Di!

I couldn't pray for healing, because "What if.....?" but I did email friends who I knew would pray for Alick. I also had the strange feeling that God was saying "Look. I'm not happy about this either".

Well, we had our miracle for 4 years as Alick's treatment was very effective. He went from strength to strength and life returned to almost normal, although the cloud was always over us. We filled those years to the brim with cruises, walking holidays, visits to friends and family around the country and many other happy events. We celebrated our Ruby Wedding anniversary and enjoyed the birth of our grandson.

At the beginning of this year it was clear that Alick's health was going downhill but we tried to be upbeat and positive. My prayers were "Do what you can".

I'd dreaded the end of Alick's life. Would I have to watch him getting steadily weaker? Would he become pale and skeletal? Would he lose his lovely hair with chemo? Would

he be wracked with pain? But it wasn't like that at all. Until he developed the headache, he'd been eating normally and enjoying the nibbles I took into the hospital and Eileen's cake. God took him as he was, peacefully. He just went to sleep and there was nothing he liked better than a good sleep! We all hoped he would be patched up for a bit longer, but I think we also knew this to be unlikely. He even joked "Have you booked up the Buckingham yet?"

I've had people say "Well you know where he is, don't you" or "You know he is in a better place" Do I? We don't know for sure, do we. If we did we would not need faith. When Alick was unconscious I said to him "We've had a wonderful life. Let's hope we meet up again sometime". At this moment, I don't know. I was brought up with a Christian faith and it has always been part of my life, but although I'm saying "I don't know".

I thank God for doing what He could in that, Alick died painlessly. He was so well cared for in hospital. He needed no home nursing, chemo or hospice care. It all happened during the summer. Travelling in snow and ice would have been terrible.

The early morning call from the hospital came when it was just light. I don't do full beam! Alick's sister, who'd simply come to visit was there with me.

Alick enjoyed our grandson, but Thomas is too young to keep asking for Grandad.

We moved together and Alick loved the new house. The garden is my refuge. After the early morning call, I went into the garden and felt peace surrounding me and I had the silly

thought that the garden could not ring me in the night and tell me that it was dying.

Sometimes I feel as if Alick's life is in a cupboard. If the cupboard is untidy everything tumbles out. If it is tidy I can take out what I want and put it back. Sometimes I'm sitting on the top of a dark cloud in the sunshine, but there are times when I sink beneath and it envelopes me.

It's a long future ahead, but Alick and I had a great life together and I treasure it.

Love Mary

PS. There is a perk. I now have control of the TV remote!

Mary Macdonald is one of the elders of Buxton URC



Please Pray:-

- For Peter and Tracey Meek and all the family in the new phases of their lives.
- For Peter Meek's induction as Moderator on 17th September.
- For Dorothy Phillips waiting for an operation.
- For the work of High Peak Nightstop.



Dates To Remember

Lunch Club

Thursday 1st September & 6th October
at 1pm in the church hall

Church Meeting

Sunday 18th September
after the morning service (12 noon approx.)

Prayer & Reflection Meetings

Alternate Mondays at 7:30 pm
September 12th & 26th at 7 Wyedale Close

Home group

Alternate Mondays at 7:30 pm
September 19th at 31 Temple Road

Elders meeting

Wednesday 28th September
at 7:30 pm at 7 Wyedale Close

Contributions for the magazine

to be received by
Eileen and Peter Blane by
26th September
for the October 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.**

4th September	Communion Service – Buxton URC Elders
11th September	Morning worship – John Wood
18th September	Parade Service – Charles Jolly
25th September	Morning worship – Rev Fleur Houston
2 nd October	Harvest Festival – Roger Horne and Jennie Gill

Harvest Festival Sunday 2nd October

Gifts of food will be welcomed. They will be passed on to High Peak Nightstop after the service.

Alison Darby will be at church on Saturday 1st October between 10am and 12 noon to receive any gifts for decorating the church or for Nightstop.

After the service on Sunday we will share together a ploughman's lunch. Please let Mary Macdonald know if you wish to partake.

This is the speech Ken and Dorothy Phillips composed to be read by Peter Blane at the Farewell Lunch for Peter and Tracey on 10th July.

To Peter and Tracey,

In the church news which announced you were coming to preach with a view, the front cover told of a man having the words but seeking an explanation of what they meant. He was looking for a teacher – we were too and in you, Peter, we found one. Also a minister who is at home with the whole range of ages to be found in the church congregation.

The past seventeen years has seen the arrival on the membership of forty two. As always some leave the town, some fall by the wayside and some die. But in spite of this the church is in far better heart than when you came. Nothing more could be expected of a minister.

It has been a very important period of your lives – possibly the most important – seeing your children grow up.

Now as you move on to a new calling we wish you every success and happiness in your new position as moderator of the East Midland Province.

May God bless you and your family.

Ken and Dorothy

10th July 2011



Farewell Peter
and thank you!
10th July 2011







local support for homeless young people

EMERGENCY FOOD PARCELS

We are very grateful for dry and tinned food left in the box at the back of the church. Please see the list on the next page for suggested items.

Please check use-by date and do not leave any soft, perishable or short-life food (although we do accept financial donations towards perishable items, which we buy as and when required).

Thank you very much for your generosity. Your gift helps people to get through a crisis and back on to their feet. The number of referrals for food parcels is increasing sharply. Over the past five years, the number of food parcels given out has approximately doubled each year.

Until now, gifts at harvest festivals etc. have met the demand but we will need to collect items on a more regular basis or we will be faced by bare shelves. Several churches have agreed to have regular collecting points. In August we also held two public collections to boost our stocks (one on front of the Methodist Church and one in front our church).

Most food parcels go to young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness but please note that we do not apply any age restrictions when supplying food parcels.

Charles Jolly and Cath Sterndale

nightstop

local support for homeless young people

Examples of Items Needed:

DRY FOOD

cereals
sugar
tea bags , coffee
long grain rice
crisp bread , crackers
cereal bars
pasta

JARS

jam, marmalade
coffee-mate
lemon curd

PACKETS

pasta bake (or jar)
stir in sauces (or jar)
UHT milk

TUB

margarine

COMFORT FOODS

chocolate
boiled-type sweets

TINS

ravioli
meat balls
hot dogs
mince and onion
beans and sausages
luncheon meat
tuna
sardines
peas & other vegetables
baked beans
tomatoes
soup
fruit
rice pudding
chicken in sauce
evap milk

Two weeks in Narok.

A report from Di and Roger on their visit to Kenya in August:

First of all many thanks to all of you who donated items or money before we left. The items given were all very useful. We received childrens' books, craft materials, clothes, reading books, first aid items, gifts and puzzles. This is how they looked when we were packing them:



We were very fortunate that Kenya Airways allowed us 46 kilograms of luggage each divided into two cases. So we were able to fill one case each with all the items you gave us. Thank you very much !

The trip was organised by Mission Direct, a national short-term mission charity. Our task was to start building a family

rescue centre for the Maasai Evangelical Association. Their aim is to rescue young girls from early marriage (at the age of 12) and from female circumcision, which is still practiced in this part of Kenya.

13 of us arrived in Kenya early in August and, for a building team, we were fortunate to have one professional builder. We also had two architects, so we were not short of advice. Local building practices are somewhat different from those in the U.K. For example, no spirit levels, scaffolding or ladders were to be found anywhere! Also, more to the point, there were no cement mixers so it all had to be mixed by hand.

The money you gave us went to buy building materials: sand, cement, building blocks and gravel. Some of these materials were ready for us when we arrived and some were bought when we needed them.



Here is where some of your money went. The pile of building blocks is being expertly supervised. Later we had to carry them all to the site. They are not as heavy as they look, fortunately.

After two weeks, the building looked like this:



It is not actually as wonky as it looks!

Apart from building works, during the two weeks, we visited a street boy centre, a children's village centre (supported by Compassion), a church in the bush (where we had to deliver the sermon), a family with HIV/Aids, an isolated village (where we helped to drill a well to save the villagers from walking 10 hours a day to fetch water); we were stunned by the size of the African Rift Valley, spoke with the Maasai people (who still wear their traditional red clothes), and spent a day in the Maasai Mara nature reserve. Being a few yards from wild cheetahs, elephants, zebras, hippos and giraffes was an experience never to be forgotten.

A short magazine article cannot do justice to two such wonderful two weeks. Once again, we return home with the question “how can people who have so little be so contented with life?” We have much to learn from them.

Di & Roger Horne



Learning new signs!

The Induction of the Revd. Peter Meek
as Moderator of East Midlands Synod
will take place at Sherwood URC, Nottinghamshire on
SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER at 2.30pm.



*We are glad that Edith Oulton was able to enjoy her
90th birthday celebrations with her family.*



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**