

Buxton United Reformed Church

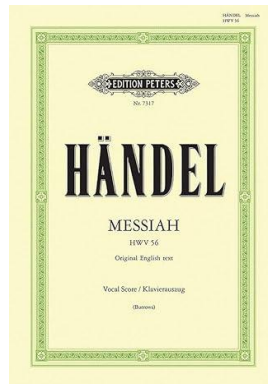
Hardwick Square East



Window depicting Gethsemane in St. Olcan's Church, Armoey

March 2024

There was a tradition in the Anglican Church in Kent, where I was brought up during the first eighteen years of my life, of listening to the whole of the Messiah in the vicarage during some part of the Lent / Easter celebrations. Our vicar, who we referred to as Uncle Humphrey, but his full name was the Rev John Humphrey Newman, encouraged us to listen and sing along to the Messiah played on his record player for the whole two hours in the vicarage. The work was premiered in Dublin in 1742 — at Easter time. In fact, Messiah was always intended for Lent but in modern times is often performed at Christmas instead. The Messiah was, for our church, part of the important celebration of the holiest time of the year in the churches' calendar, namely Easter.



The hymn – *“There is a green hill far away”* is one that is sung particularly during Passion Week, the days from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. It was written by Cecil Frances Humphries. As a small Irish girl born in Co. Wicklow, Ireland, Cecil wrote much poetry in her school's journal. In 1850 she married Rev. William Alexander, who later became the Anglican primate (chief bishop) of Ireland.

1 There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

2 We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains He had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

3 He died that we might be forgiv'n,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heav'n,
Saved by His precious blood.



From: Cyberhymnal

4 There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin,
He only could unlock the gate
Of heav'n and let us in.

5 Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved!
And we must love Him too
And trust in His redeeming blood
And try His works to do

Cecil showed her concern for disadvantaged people during her life by traveling many miles each day to visit the sick and the poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. She and her sister also founded a school for deaf children.

Her first book of poetry, *Verses for Seasons*, was a "Christian Year" for children. She wrote hymns based on the Apostles' Creed, baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Ten Commandments, and prayer, writing in simple language for children. Altogether she wrote nearly 400 hymns and poems mainly for children. Such hymns as "**All things bright and beautiful**," "**Once in Royal David's city**," "**There is a green hill far away**," "**Jesus calls us o'er the tumult**," are deservedly among the most popular in use today, over 129 years following her death in Londonderry in 1895.

I have thought about other composers of Easter hymns. Charles Wesley wrote the stirring hymn **Christ the Lord is risen today**, Halleluiah! What a splendid hymn to welcome in Easter Day. Charles

Christ the
Lord is risen
today,
Halleluiah!

wrote it in 1739 when it was initially titled "Hymn for Easter Day". Do you know it has 24 Halleluiahs in it! Now that is a celebration.

By the way, were you aware that Charles was the eighteenth child in his family?

Charles published more than 4,500 hymns and left some 3,000 in manuscript. Now that is a lot! Among Charles Wesley's best-known hymns are "**And Can It Be**", "**Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**", "**Love**

Divine, All Loves Excelling", the carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", and "Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending".

The last hymn I chose was "**Low in the grave he lay**" written by Robert Lowry – I don't think he was any relation to Lowry the artist! As a young person I use to think that the song was relatively modern but I was wrong.

1 Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2 Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
[Refrain]

3 Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my
Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]



United Methodist Hymnal, 1989

"Robert Lowry was born in Philadelphia, March 12, 1826. By the time he was twenty-two he was working as pastor at West Chester, (No, not in Cheshire, England) in New York City."

It is reported that "Dr. Lowry was said to be a man of rare administrative ability, a most excellent preacher, a thorough Bible student, and whether in the pulpit or upon the platform, always a brilliant and interesting speaker. He had a genial and pleasing disposition, and a high sense of humour was one of his most striking characteristics. Very few men had greater ability in painting pictures from the imagination. He could thrill an audience with his vivid descriptions, inspiring others with the same thoughts that inspired him."

He once recorded that "I was in London, and had gone to meeting in the Old Bailey to see some of the most famous Sunday-school workers in the world. They were present from Europe, Asia, and America. I sat in a rear seat alone. After there had been a number of addresses delivered in various languages, I was preparing to leave, when the chairman of the meeting announced that the author of *"Shall We Gather at the River?"* was present, and I was requested by name to come forward. Men applauded and women waved their handkerchiefs as I went to the platform. It was a tribute to the hymn; but I felt, when it was over, that, after all, I had perhaps done some little good in the world, and I felt more than ever content to die when God called."

On Children's Day in Brooklyn, in 1865, this song was sung by over forty thousand voices. Now that must have been really something to hear!

While Dr. Lowry said, "I would rather preach a gospel sermon to an appreciative, receptive congregation than write a hymn," yet in spite of his preferences, many of his 200 or so hymns have gone on and on, translated into many languages, preaching and comforting thousands upon thousands of souls, furnishing them expression for their deepest feelings of praise and gratitude to God for His goodness to the children of men.

Rev. Robert Lowry, D. D., died on November 25, 1899. Dead, yet he lives and his sermons in gospel song are still heard and are doing good. Dr. Lowry was a great and good man, and his life, well spent, is highly worthy of a place among the world's greatest gospel song and hymn writers.

What is common with all these hymn writers is that they walked with God and expressed their thoughts in many hundred poems and hymns that became a huge valued source for generations to rejoice and sing. As Frances J Crosby expressed in her wonderful hymn,

To God be the glory great things He has done!

Thanks to the Hymnary.org and Wikipedia for quotes.



Please pray
for:-

The Saturday Coffee Mornings on 2nd March and 6th April

Cath and Daniel Sterndale giving out Waste Not Want Not food.

Phil Delight's mum, Eileen, who has moved to the Hawthorns Care Home in Burlington Road.

Wisdom for the health care professionals planning care for Alison Darby when she is to be discharged from hospital.

Ukraine now into their 3rd year of being invaded by Russia.

The conflict and suffering in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel. For humanitarian aid to get through unimpeded.





Churches Together In Buxton

The last Lent Lunch 2024
will be

At the Bath Road Centre from 12:15 to 1:15pm on
Wednesday 6th March
Donations will be given to relief fund charities

Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.

Join us at 7:30 to 9:00 pm:

Locations to be arranged.

Saturday Coffee Morning on

2nd March

Coffee and cake 10am – 12md **followed by**

Lent Lunch, soup, bread and cheese – 12md – 1pm

Elders and Leaders Meeting:-

26 April 2024 at 2:15pm at church

Contributions for the magazine

Thank you everyone who has contributed to this magazine.

We really do appreciate your contributions so please keep them coming.

Contributions please for the next magazine to

Eileen and Peter Blane by 25th March 2024.

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

We are producing only a limited number of printed magazines. An electronic version is available to read on the church's website: www.buxtonurc.org.uk



Buxton URC Sunday services

3 rd March	10:30am	Rev Caroline Andrews
10 th March	10:30am	URC National Service
17 th March	10:30am	Fellowship Group
24 th March	10:30am	Palm Sunday Service Eileen Blane
31 st March	10:30am	Easter Day Fellowship Group
7th April	10.30am	Steve Fisher Followed by the Wedding of Jenni Delight to Adam Walker

Please note that, when appropriate, services may be subject to change.

For one week in March, thousands of people around the country are going to count their household plastic waste. The act of doing this can help you to see how much plastic you use and encourage you to reduce it in some way .

Plus, the evidence will put pressure on the UK government to act and end the age of plastic for good.

If you are interested sign up to take part at <https://act.gp/403aFxB>

Happy counting and reducing plastic .



Debbie Delight



***Waste Not Want Not
At Buxton United Reformed
Church.***

***Please join with us for
free coffee, cake and company***



***On Saturday
2nd March***

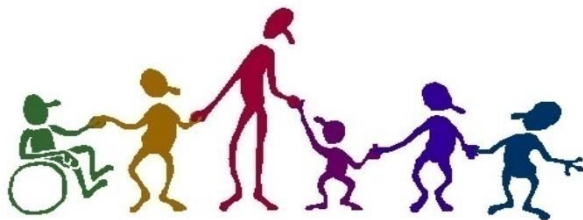
***Between
10am and
12midday
in the church***

***Followed by a Lent Lunch
Of Soup, Bread and Cheese,***

From 12md to 1pm



Love in the community



Buxton United Reformed Church

Website: www.buxtonurc.org.uk

Minister for the North Derbyshire Resource Area
(which includes Buxton URC): **Rev. Caroline Andrews**

We warmly welcome everyone who wishes to join us for
Sunday worship

Details of services, including times, can be found inside this
magazine and on our website.

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

Activities for young people

- **Rainbows:** for girls aged 5-7 Tues. 5 - 6pm
Leader: Stephanie Sterndale (Tel. 07967205209)
- **Brownies:** for girls aged 7-10 Tues. 6 - 7:30pm
Leader: Cath Sterndale (Tel. 07973670595)
- **Guides:** for girls aged 10 to 14 Tues. 6pm
Leader: Stephanie Sterndale (Tel. 07967205209)