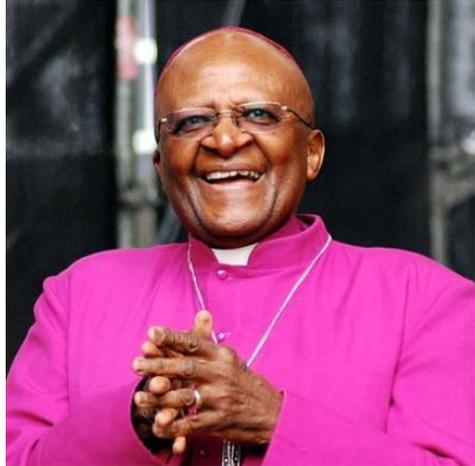


Buxton United Reformed Church  
Hardwick Square East

February 2022



*Wikimedia Commons/Joel Rouse (MoD)*



*Wikimedia Commons/Kristen Opalinski*

**Q** What have Sir Roland Hill and Dolwyddelan Castle have in common?

Answer later on in the magazine.

**A**t the start of this year, I think we can say how blessed the world has been to have “known” Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Peter and I thought that we would give you some of his quotes at the bottom of each page of the magazine for you to consider and enjoy along with the memory of his smiling face, wonderful personality, his dancing to hymns and his infectious giggle.



This year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

*“When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future”.*

*“Let us not take ourselves too seriously. None of us has a monopoly on wisdom.”*

Quotes from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



I hope that we will join in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in different ways together with thanking the Lord for such an incredibly outstanding, faithful Christian Queen.

**H**ow about the news of natural history around the world? First the ichthyosaur discovered at Rutland Reservoir. It is the largest and most complete ichthyosaur fossil ever found in

Many people ask me what I have learnt from all the experiences in my life and I say unhesitatingly: People are wonderful. It is true. People really are wonderful.

Desmond Tutu

*the UK, measuring nearly 33 feet in length and with a skull weighing one ton. Now that really is a find!*

**B**ut have you heard about another astonishing discovery about a crocodile being found under the floor boards of a Rhondda school after at least 70 years?

A legend about a crocodile being associated with the school has been told across many generations, with the tale describing a local person who served in the First World War bringing back the body of a crocodile as a souvenir for the school.

It is thought that the crocodile was put on display but then hidden beneath the floorboards to protect it during later times of conflict.

No longer a legend the crocodile has once again been put on display for the children to see after being hidden for about 70 years.

*"The first story I had was that the crocodile was actually on the school site, under the floor. I didn't believe a word of it," said head teacher Dr Neil Pike. "The joy, sheer excitement and enthusiasm about the crocodile has been wonderful. We're over the moon."*

**A** dog was stranded on reed beds near Emsworth, Hampshire for three day and once found, the dog was lured off the dangerous coastal mudflats at Langstone by a drone dangling a sausage as bate. Well done to the Denmead Drone Search and Rescue Group who launched the sausage rescue after two days of previous rescue efforts failed.

*Desmond Tutu said about his friend Nelson Mandela that he had appalling choice in his shirts to which Mandela said he hated his friend going around in a frock! (Frock = clerical robes!)*

An unknown exciting coral reef has been found off the coast of Tahiti. A group of scientist divers discovered a massive reef of rose-shaped corals between roughly 98 and 213 feet below the Pacific Ocean's surface near French Polynesia's Tahiti islands. The reef, discovered in "pristine" condition in November, stretches nearly two miles long and 200 feet wide. The rose-shaped corals are giant, measuring up to more than 6.5 feet across. Now that is something to marvel at.

*and lastly*

**Q** *What have Sir Roland Hill and Dolwyddelan Castle have in common?*

*Peter and I received a Christmas card from one of our friends that had the two stamps shown below on the envelope.*



*We don't ever remember seeing them before so we looked them up on Google to find out more about them.*

*Sir Roland Hill stamp was published in 1979 and had*

*a value of 25p and the castle stamp 41p in 1994 which added together is the cost of a second-class stamp in 2021/2022.*



*My father always used to say, "Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument." Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.*

*Desmond Tutu*

*Sir Rowland Hill, (3 December 1795 – 27 August 1879) was an English teacher, inventor and social reformer. He campaigned for a comprehensive reform of the postal system, based on the concept of Uniform Penny Post and his solution of pre-payment, facilitating the safe, speedy and cheap transfer of letters. Hill later served as a government postal official, and he is usually credited with originating the basic concepts of the modern postal service, including the invention of the postage stamp.*

*And what about Dolwyddelan?*

*Commanding Welsh stronghold in spectacular mountain setting **Dolwyddelan** is as Welsh as the rugged mountains of Snowdonia that provide its spectacular backdrop.*

*One of a group of fortresses built to command the mountain passes, it stands as a lasting memorial to Prince Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, or Llywelyn the Great. He was the undisputed ruler of Gwynedd from 1201 to his death in 1240.*

And finally, the franking of the stamps in writing was

“Shop early,

Send early this Christmas”

How about that for being early! One stamp taking 42 years to arrive and the other stamp 27 years!

Eileen Blane

*Children learn about nature of the world from their family. They learn about power and about justice, about peace and compassion within the family. Whether we oppress or liberate our children in our relationships with them will determine whether they grow up to oppress and be oppressed or to liberate and be liberated.*

*Desmond Tutu*

**PS** It was really good to meet Rev Geoffrey Clarke the East Midlands Moderator and for him to take our service in Advent on 12<sup>th</sup> December.



Thanks, Eileen Blane, for the yummy soup you provided for the church meeting.

Due to our son Josh having Covid, we could only join with you by phone, but thankfully Eileen left some soup on our doorstep for us to enjoy. AND WE DID 😊

Debbie Delight

## Fairtrade fortnight: 21ST FEBRUARY – 6TH MARCH.



MOST COCOA FARMERS HAVE NEVER TASTED CHOCOLATE, but farmers from a Fairtrade-certified co-operative in Ghana own 44% of the Divine chocolate company. Launched in 1998, it went down in history as the first farmer-owned confectionery brand in the UK.

This is one of 10 facts about chocolate that you can find on the Fairtrade website: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/media-centre/blog/10-facts-about-fairtrade-chocolate/>

*We humans can tolerate suffering but we cannot tolerate meaninglessness.*

*Desmond Tutu*



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

You are invited to join with us for  
**free coffee, cake and  
company**



**Saturday 5th February between 10am  
and 12midday in the church**

**Love in the community**



Our angel and  
Christingles at our  
Christmas Carol  
Service, where we  
welcomed people  
joining us who accept  
Waste Not Want Not  
food.



*Peace involves inevitable righteousness, justice, wholesomeness, fullness of life, participation in decision making, goodness, laughter, joy, compassion, sharing and reconciliation*

*Desmond Tutu*

# Trying to be green(er) PART 2- the House

**G** Great  
**E** Environmental  
**C** Crisis

Following on from my article published in December 2021 / January 2022 magazine about my garden I am continuing the saga about what I am trying to do on the Green / Environmental / Climate front. (Otherwise known as the Great Environmental Crisis) which I have shortened to “GEC.”

Heating – I have become obsessed by my smart meter. I gave it a target of three pounds a day and it just laughs at me with its little row of red lights outnumbering the green ones. I can keep the green lights on by turning off the central heating and I have learned that I am just as warm at night with the electric blanket on low as with the central heating on. My little red friends have to wait until I get up in the morning before they start grinning at me.



But for a man of my age, I have to keep the heating on a constant 18 degrees, for health purposes, apparently. Achieving that whilst trying to keep my energy consumption on low is a bit like avoiding drafts to save heat to reduce CO2 output whilst simultaneously providing ventilation to blow away Covid bugs – you pay your money and you take your choice and whichever you do someone will tell you it's wrong. The one thing



*If we have loved well while we were alive, there is life after death here  
-our love will go on for generations.*

*Desmond Tutu*

I have learned from my smart meter is that the best saving comes from not using gas heating but using the electricity instead. My solar panels help here but when the sun is out, I don't need to heat the house.

I do have an interesting question about out how best to dry clothes when the sun is out. I can hang them in the garden or stick them in the tumble dryer. The dryer is powered by solar electricity and does the job quicker than the sunshine falling on the washing line. The logic of that escapes me.

Food – now here is a topic, covering all the GEC issues in one go. Currently I order organic vegetables on-line which arrive in a plain brown box and brown paper wrappers with no plastics in sight, but are delivered by a lorry which, despite its green claims written on the side, runs on diesel. I don't buy



plastic bags except to put the reusable vegetable boxes in when left out for collection by the man with the diesel lorry. Otherwise, the boxes go soggy overnight. I return all the reusable paper wrappings in the hopes they will be reused but with the knowledge that every paper wrapper I receive is pristine and has never been used before.



I have stopped eating red meat because I am told that cows give off methane when they poo. I am conscious that I have consequently abandoned my support of livestock rearing framers, on which our local agricultural economy depends. I choose organic chicken and fish instead (do they really swim in

*We should be generous in our judgements of others, for we can never really know all there is to know about another.*

*Desmond Tutu*

organic water unpolluted by the 21st century? The fish not the chicken.) I am told that my support of organic farms results in huge increases in wildlife, bugs, birds etc but, I wonder, how do the farmers stop them eating the organic food intended for me?



**W**aste and rubbish – I have set targets – all food waste goes in the compost except chicken bones which magpies, jackdaws and crows are grateful to peck at in my garden. I did once put a turkey carcass in the compost at Christmas and was reunited with it some years later totally unaltered but a bit browner.

**I** never use my green wheelie bin – I feel pleased to say that all biomass from my property stays on my property. It just shrinks – ultimately, I estimate, by seventeen times. Even I will admit that measuring the shrinkage of garden waste is a bit obsessive.



The black bin is allowed out once a year. Its annual trip down my drive takes place in December. This target was well on track until, when I was away, a neighbour admitted that she had put some of her stuff in my bin and then put it out for emptying. The brown bin is allowed out four times a year, mostly full of rigid plastic, paper and glass and is remarkably heavy when containing three months' supply of wine bottles. Still, my drive is downhill all the way and I follow the brown bin in hot pursuit.



**M**arch 2022 magazine – the final instalment – plastics, packaging and transport. I bet you cannot wait!

Roger Horne

December 2021

*At times of despair, we must learn to see with new eyes.*

*Desmond Tutu*



**Please pray for members of our  
church family and friends,**

**but also, for the many needy  
across the world**

*For Phil and Debbie's friend Richard Bower. In addition to Long Covid he has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. The latest scrape on his bladder revealed that the cancer had not entered into the muscle and he has started immunotherapy. He is positive about the outcome. Please pray God is there for him at this time.*

For the next Waste Not Want Not Saturday Coffee and Cake morning at church on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

*For the suffering children of our world who have neither enough food, health care, education or shelter available for them.*

For aid agencies trying to help the people of Tonga, recovering from the massive destruction of their island and others islands nearby as a result of the volcanic eruption.

## **27th February 10:30am Songs of Praise**

Please take part in the service by choosing a hymn and if you are able to share why you have chosen it to folk that would be great. Let Cath Sterndale and Roger Horne know about your contribution.

*To be neutral in a situation of injustice is to have chosen sides already.  
It is to support the status quo.*

*Desmond Tutu*



## The Thanksgiving Service and Celebration of the URC's 50th anniversary

### About this event

On the **afternoon of Saturday 1 October 2022**, in Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972, a chance to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of the United Reformed Church. We want as many people as possible from across the denomination to attend.

Several venues, including United Reformed Church House, local URCs and buildings of ecumenical partners, will be available for people to visit during the day, to offer activities, information, workshops, reflection, discussions, singing, catering and other support for visitors before the service.

This is a free event and we will be asking nearer the time for a confirmation of numbers. We expect this to be full and will operate a waiting list of those who want tickets. If you have any questions, please email [50@urc.org.uk](mailto:50@urc.org.uk). There is a possibility that BBC Songs of Praise will be filming part of the service too.

#### Date and time

**Sat, 1 October 2022**

**14:30 – 17:00 BST**

Free tickets to the URC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving are now available. Book your tickets through the Eventbrite booking system here: [bit.ly/urc50](https://bit.ly/urc50)

*Have you ever seen an orchestra? There is a chap at the back carrying a triangle. Now and again the conductor will point to him and he will play "ting." That might seem so insignificant, but in the conception of the composer something irreplaceable would be lost to the total beauty of the symphony if the "ting" did not happen.*

*Desmond Tutu*

# Dates to Remember

**Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.**

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

**Elders and Leaders Meeting – Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

## **Contributions for the magazine**

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

Contributions please for the next magazine to

**Eileen and Peter Blane by 21st February 2022.**

*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](mailto:peter@blane.co.uk).*



**Please be aware that we are not producing a printed magazine, only an electronic version that is available to read on the church's website:**

**[www.buxtonurc.org.uk](http://www.buxtonurc.org.uk)**

## ***Buxton URC Sunday services (normally at 10:30am)***

***Proposed services for February (these may be revised)***

6 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30am	Mark Houghton
13 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30am	National Service
20 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30am	Fellowship service
27 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30am	Songs of Praise
6 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30am	Mark Houghton
13 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30am	Caroline Andrews

A Service of Induction for **Reverend Caroline Andrews** as a minister for **the North Derbyshire Resource Area** will be held in Chesterfield on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

The first occasion for Caroline to lead worship in Buxton has been arranged for **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March.**



## Buxton United Reformed Church

Website: [www.buxtonurc.org.uk](http://www.buxtonurc.org.uk)

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.*

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

*Romans 15:5-7*