

Buxton United Reformed Church

Hardwick Square East



November 2025

I wonder, when you come back from your holidays, if you reflect about what pleased you the most about being away in that area.

Peter and I have just returned from another holiday on the north Antrim coast of N. Ireland. We left Birkenhead on the night of 3rd October and those of you who are keen weather watchers may remember it was during Storm Amy. Yes, it was very stormy on the Irish sea but we had booked a cabin for the night. Our decision was to use the bathroom and then go to bed and don't move! Even if we wanted to use the bathroom in the night we held on until the ship docked in Belfast so as not to break any bones by being tossed about by the ship's movement and it really did toss! I forgot one important thing – we took anti-sea-sick tablets while waiting to board the ferry – and they did work! It was a memorable start to our holiday.

Our joy at being back in Dunseverick Baptist Church for Sunday services was receiving the hugs from Pastor Billy and Agnes and other folk that we have known over the years. The music, played by John on the organ, Calvin on the flute and Ian on the piano and the singing were splendid and we learnt a new chorus "Let your light shine from Dunseverick."

Then it was off to Pastor Billy's and Agnes' home for lunch with 8 people sitting around their large Brazilian wood table and what a spread of food!

It was for us a time of **Celebrating the Joy of Answered Prayer**. A former friend who was one of the eight was Ian. We were overjoyed to meet him again following his liver transplant earlier this year. We first knew Ian 3 years ago when he was very ill, struggling with



Peter with Ian and Billy standing.

everyday life. It was sheer joy seeing how well he was and we had big hugs from him! His life is a real answer to prayer.

Ian is a very gifted piano player and during the time of prolonged illness he had not the energy or strength in his hands or arms to play so he sold his piano thinking he would never be able to play again. But following his transplant he started to regain strength and the desire to play so he spent time playing the piano alone at Dunseverick Baptist Church. It is a joy to listen to his inspirational playing. We reckon he should buy a new piano for home.

He would love to play the Broadwood grand piano in our church!



The lunch was also a celebration of Eileen's birthday and of course she had to have a birthday cake but with only five candles to blow out!

The following weekend for 3 days the church celebrated Missions weekend.

The Sunday morning was mainly taken up with the enthusiastic Mervyn Scott representing Baptist Missions Ireland speaking about the work of the missions in Ireland with the Lego Clubs; France, Spain and Peru including replacing the cold plywood church building with a warmer brick / stone one hopefully in time for the winter. Mervyn spoke of being so grateful for the prayers of God's people as they "hold the ropes" for those who are serving with **Baptist Missions** in those countries.



One of the services involved a group from Logos Ministries International based in Belfast, with Philip Lewis and his Indonesian wife Rita working as Cross-Cultural Missionaries as well as with local Christian islanders working across South East Asia.

Among the workers they are involved with in the islands of South East Asia is Pastor Minguss and his wife Linda and other Christians. They work with the 16,000 Baduy tribe including involvement with a medical clinic. The Christian village of the Rimba tribe has just had the N.T. translated into their language and also have an audio Bible translation of Luke's Gospel.



Pastor Minguss, Philip, and Linda with Eileen

Outreach ministry involves working with many drug offenders that are meeting Jesus in prison. Refugee discipleship and school work involves working with many Chinese children.

We were particularly pleased to meet Pastor Minguss and his wife Linda from the same island that Eileen's sister Ailish worked in for many years. They were impressed with Eileen's pronunciation of island place names – *"Just like we would say them!"* and that Eileen loved the music played on angklungs. The smiling Pastor was a splendid guitarist and played all the music of hymns for us to sing along to. It was the first time we had heard hymns being sung by them in their own language. He also gave a short epilogue in perfect English on Romans 1 v 1-7.

Our second Sunday lunch with Billy and Agnes was also an early celebration of Peter's birthday with the obligatory birthday cake and of course candles!

Then it was searching for another Giant!





Ceoldan the Stargazer
by Thomas Dambo
is the second location of the
Giants of the Sperrin
Mountains that we have
visited. The first one was
last year and called The
Story Teller. The Stargazer is
situated within the Dark Sky
accredited park and is an
area of special
archaeological significance.



The absence of light pollution provides
unparalleled views of stars, the moon, and planets.
Ceoldán is at the entrance to the OM Dark Sky Park
and Observatory with two telescopes, nestled
within Davagh Forest. We think Roger Horne would
really be interested in exploring the area.

Ceoldan is made mainly out of recycled pallets. The
blue figure standing by the giant's thigh is Eileen. It
gives you some idea how big the giant is.

**Embrace a
Giant Spirit**



The last mission speaker we want to tell you about is the geologist Mark Collier and his **Friends in Action International Northern Ireland** organisation of 25 years that drills wells in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Ghana. Mark came with his wife Louise, who was working with New Tribes Mission in West Africa when Mark first visited the area, met and fell in love with her!

Friends in Action International NI (FIAINI) has been involved in a well drilling ministry in Burkina Faso, West Africa since 2004 and have, since that time, been drilling wells on behalf of mission groups such as **Serving In Mission** and **Tear Fund**. Volunteers support full time highly trained well drilling operators and are required to undergo training before being authorised by the group to travel to Burkina Faso and now also the Ivory Coast and Ghana to serve on well drilling teams. A large number of wells/water-towers have been drilled to support school buildings and so in this way enabling the advancement of education by ensuring there is fresh water for students and teachers. Most people in Burkina Faso suffer from diarrhoea or other intestinal diseases brought on by drinking dirty infected water. Most local people take water from open wells from which animals drink from and urinate into. For villages with safe drinking water from wells/water-towers drilled hundreds of feet into the ground noticeably improves the general health of the people. **FIAINI** continues to seek to serve God by bringing a cup of clean water to needy men and woman.



As much as 50% of wells that were bored by other organisations in remote villages across West Africa are not working because there is no ownership of the wells and no maintenance and financing of the wells'

upkeep. Within the communities where **FIAINI** supplies water there is also access to skillfully trained technicians who can maintain and repair the wells, pumps and water points that they provide. **FIAINI** also provides training for pastors, evangelists and church leaders many of whom maintain the water points and at the same time use the opportunity to share the Gospel with the communities that are often difficult to reach. Most of the practical training is carried out in a field based training site in the Ivory Coast.

There is a lot more I could tell you about this wonderful work but it will have to be at another time. Enough to say we did feel the **FIAINI** is doing a very important work in those three countries in West Africa.

We were invited to Tom and Ruth's home for an evening meal with Billy and Agnes on our last whole evening in Ireland. We had massive hugs from Tom and Ruth when we arrived and also when we said goodbye. This was another lovely meal that was for us a **Celebration of the Joy of Answered Prayer**. Our friend Tom is someone we have prayed for over the years since the start of Covid. Tom was desperately ill with Covid right from the start of the pandemic and was one of the illiest people in N Ireland for a prolonged period of time. Although he has had many setbacks, he is enjoying life and thanking the Lord for the life he has.

To use Tom's own words –
"Give God all the praise and thanksgivings".



Eileen Blane



Agnes with Ruth

Harvest Festival Lunch



A lovely morning service was led by Cath and helped by several members of the church and members of guides and brownies.

Plus, Stef had assembled a visual feast of food, fruit n veg as the centre piece in the service room, and Dan, with family help and people's contributions, had arranged a wonderful array of all sorts of savoury and sweet dishes for an "pick and mix" buffet after the service.

I went back a few times and there was even soup and food left over to take home for tea !

Debbie Delight





Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Mornings on
1st November and 6th December

For volunteers at **High Peak Homeless Help** as they prepare and distribute around 150 hampers before Christmas. Please pray for everyone who needs help this autumn.

For our Elder's and Leaders and others as they plan, prepare and lead our worship each Sunday.

For Debbie Delight's healing of her shoulder and arm and for her mum's care.

For Eileen Blane following her 2nd eye operation and thankfulness that she is able to see with clarity in both eyes.

For Yolanda Blane awaiting more histology results following her 2nd operation in October.

For the work as reported in Eileen Blane's article at the front of the magazine of:-

- **Baptist Missions Ireland,**
- **Logos Ministries International** and
- **Friends in Action International Northern Ireland**

For joy of answered prayer for both Ian and Tom and their families.

Buxton URC Sunday services

2 nd November	10.30 am	Communion - Mark Houghton
9 th November	10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Eileen and Peter Blane
16 th November	10.30 am	BBC Songs of Praise
23 rd November	10:30 am	Mark Houghton
30 th November	10;30 am	Advent service 1 (Nick Fawcett) Eileen Blane <u>Followed by a bring and share lunch</u>
7 th December	10;30 am	Advent service 2 (Nick Fawcett) Eileen Blane

Dates to Remember

Saturday Coffee Mornings on 1st November and 6th December

Elders and Leaders Meeting:- Wednesday 19th November at 2^{pm} in 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 24th November 2025.

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



Waste Not Want Not At Buxton United Reformed Church.

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

On Saturdays 1st November

and 6th December

Between 10am and 12midday in the church

Waste Not Want Not are hoping to give out 150 food hampers to families in need before Christmas.

Donations of tinned and non-refrigerated packaged foods with long use-by dates will be very much appreciated.



Tear
Fund
Big
Quiz
Night

will be held at church on
Saturday 15 November
at 7pm
All are welcome

We plan to put up
Advent decorations
in Church on Saturday
29 November at 2pm .
Please come along
to help if you can.



Following the service on **30 November**
there will be a **bring and share lunch**.

WELCOME GROUP

welcoming & supportive



A place where **Anyone and Everyone** can meet in a warm and friendly setting to enjoy a hot drink, a chat & take part in a variety of fun activities.

When we meet :

First & Third Wednesdays of each month
2pm-4pm (From 5th November 2025)



St Mary's Church, Dale Road, SK17 6LN



Buxton United Reformed Church

Website: www.buxtonurc.org.uk

Minister for the North and West 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)