

Buxton United Reformed Church

Hardwick Square East



He is
RISEN



April 2024

The sun is shining brightly and, looking out of our front window, our garden has hundreds of narcissi and hellebores ablaze as I begin to draw all the articles in April's magazine together this Maundy Thursday.



This morning King Charles is having his message for Easter broadcast at Worcester Cathedral during the Maundy Thursday Service together with a Bible reading. He will speak of how Jesus set an "example of how we should serve and care for each other," and how "we need and benefit greatly from those who extend the hand of friendship to us, especially in a time of need."

The tradition of the Maundy Money Ceremony started with King Charles II in 1662. On behalf of the King, Queen Camilla will present 75 women and 75 men – signifying the King's age – with two purses, one red and one white, filled with Maundy money.

What else has been going on during the Easter preparations?

Well, an NSH doctor has published advice not to eat Easter eggs in one go! Well, I made Easter egg cup cakes for our WNNW coffee morning and put small 2 cm Easter eggs on the top of the butter cream whirls. Are people allowed to eat those eggs in one go?

And have you heard that a cheese manufacturer has made Hot Cross Bun flavoured cheese! It includes cinnamon, blueberries and raisins. What is more, a bakery has produced "Hot Cross Buns" without a cross on the top but instead has a tick!

Where is the symbolism of Easter in all that would you tell me?

Our Fellowship Group has been busy being creative, painting Easter egg visual aids for our Easter morning service. I thought you would like to see the production team's work.



*Artists at work
painting
Easter Egg
visual aids for
Easter Sunday
Service.*





The words on the eggs are phrases from Bible readings that will be read during the service. They are:- He is not here! Why do you weep? They did not believe, Peace be to you! I won't believe it! What things? Their eyes were opened, and lastly, It is true!

My final thought today refers to the terrible disaster of the Francis Scott Key Bridge at Baltimore collapsing into the river and six workmen drowning. I finish with the words of the Governor of Maryland at a press conference. "I have met with the relatives of the men and we prayed together."

The Lord has risen! He's risen indeed, Halleluiah!

High Peak Homeless Help



(Formerly High Peak Nightstop)

existed to provide assistance for homeless people and those who experienced housing-related issues and to address the root causes of homelessness in our area.

High Peak Homeless Help (HPHH) has operated as an independent charity from our church building for many years.



Now that Cath Sterndale, HPHH manager, is retiring at the end of March it has been decided that HPHH will be run as part of the church's organisation and will now be known as

High Peak Homeless Help at Buxton URC.



Jennie Gill, Roger Horne, Ian Lloyd, Tom Donaghue, Cath, Daniel and Stephanie Sterndale and Charles Jolly.

A meeting with core members took place on 21st and 22nd March to celebrate and to launch the next phase of the organisation, acknowledging the vital role Buxton URC has to play in it.



Jennie Gill presenting Charles Jolly with a "Thank you" plant alongside Alison Jolly.



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

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



***On Saturday
6th April***

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

Love in the community



Notice of Peace Vigil on Saturday 30th March

We are a small group of Quakers in Buxton who are concerned about current conflict around the world. I have contacted Churches Together in Buxton in the past for your support. We believe many others have similar concerns and we would like to invite members of your congregations to stand in solidarity with us in reminding people that there is an alternative to armed conflict: Peace.

We are proposing to stand (or sit) in stillness for peace for an hour from 11am - 12 midday on Saturday 30th March by the Turner Memorial at the bottom of the Slopes. Please join us for any or all of that time.... even a few minutes would be a great contribution. We are proposing one simple placard: "We Stand in Stillness for Peace" with no declared affiliations and no leafletting, letting our silence make the point.

*In friendship and peace,
Pat Scampion*



Please pray for:-

The WNNW Saturday Coffee Morning on 6th April

Cath and Daniel Sterndale giving out Waste Not Want Not food. Waste Not Want Not has now been running for 4 years!

Phil Delight's mum, Eileen, who has moved to the Hawthorns Care Home in Burlington Road and has found some things challenging.

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

For the Rev Caroline Andrews who is recovering from the effects of a bad fall at home.

Richard Bower update for prayer

Richard got sepsis for the second time a couple of weeks ago and was in hospital again. He then came home with sickness and diarrhoea which he shared with his wife Lois !

His urology operation has been put back to 10th April to give him time to get back to full strength. He is recovering and dealing with some realities ... he has said our son Josh can have his climbing gear as he knows it will never be used by him again.

Debbie Delight

Dates To Remember

Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.

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

Locations to be arranged.

Saturday Coffee Morning on

6th April

Coffee and cake 10am – 12md

Elders and Leaders Meeting:-

25th April 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 22nd April 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



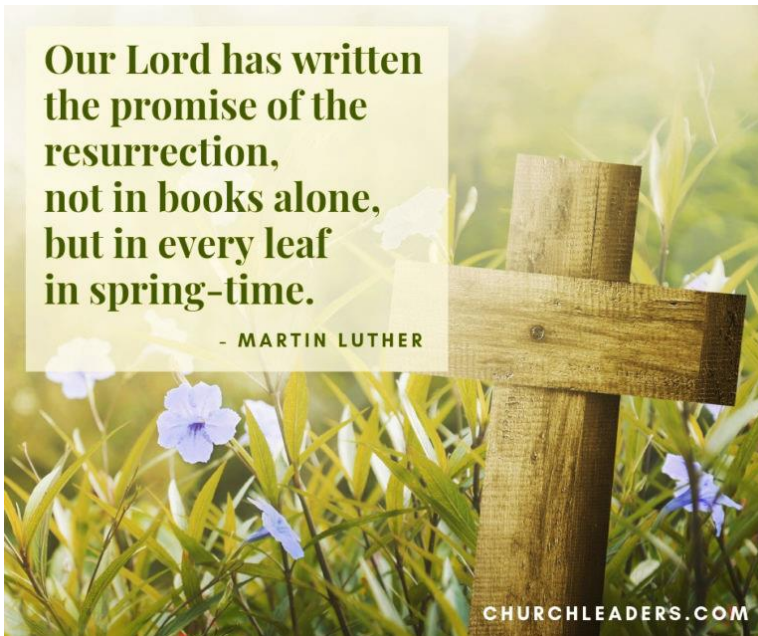
HPHH jumble sale

Saturday
13th April 2-4pm

Buxton URC Sunday services

7th April	10.30am	Steve Fisher Followed by the Wedding of Jenni Delight to Adam Walker
14 th April	10.30am	Sunday Night Live (Pam Rhodes)
21 st April	10.30am	URC National Service
28 th April	10.30am	Rev. Caroline Andrews
5 th May	10:30am	Service from St. Peter's Brockley

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



Krakow and Auschwitz

In March this year Phil and I visited Krakow the “Royal Capital” of Poland (Warsaw is the true capital) which is a beautiful city about 160 miles from the Ukraine border.

Krakow has beautiful architecture, as it was not bombed in WW2, makes wonderful flavoured vodka including hot cherry vodka, specialises in dumplings and stuffed cabbage and is about 1.5 hrs away from Auschwitz.



Kraków central square

As part of our trip, we decided to visit Auschwitz, out of both curiosity to see it and learn about it, and to pay respect and honour to the memory of those who suffered and lost their lives there.

Auschwitz is free to get in but most visitors pay for a guide to take you round and talk about the main parts of each camp which takes about 3.5 hrs with only a 5 mins toilet break and no food only a little water. It's not a site where you eat, drink and enjoy the view.

Auschwitz consists of over 40 concentration, labour and extermination camps operated by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during WW2 (1939- 1945) and the Holocaust. We went to visit 2 sites, 3 km apart; Auschwitz I (the main camp) in the small town of Oswiecim and Auschwitz II-Birkenau (a concentration and extermination camp) both of which are incredibly well preserved sites.

After Germany invaded Poland, Auschwitz I, a prisoner of war camp, was created out of an army barracks. Initially political detainees were taken here and consisted almost solely of Poles (for whom the camp was initially established) and in the first two years, the majority of inmates were Polish. In May 1940, German criminals brought to the camp as officials established the camp's reputation for sadism. Prisoners were beaten, tortured, and executed for the most trivial of reasons. The first gassings of Soviet and Polish prisoners took place in block 11, the punishment cells, of Auschwitz I around August 1941. Zyklon B, the prussic acid preparation that was constantly in use in the camp to control vermin, was used which was so readily available.

Construction of Auschwitz II began the following month, and from 1942 until late 1944 freight trains delivered Jews from all over German occupied Europe to its gas chambers. I could not believe that some Jews (families old and young, pregnant women with babies and children) had travelled from as far away as Greece for up to 6 days cramped in a wooden train carriage with no food, no open windows and only a bucket to use for a toilet and another bucket of water to drink.

Railway carriage to transport Jews



Of the 1.3 million people sent to Auschwitz, 1.1 million were murdered. The number of victims includes 1,100,000 Jews (70 % to 75% of whom were gassed on arrival), 140,000-150,000 Poles, 23,000 Roma/Gypsies, 15,000 Soviet prisoners of war, and up to 25,000 prisoners from other ethnic groups. Those not gassed were murdered via starvation, exhaustion, disease, individual executions (shooting or hanging), or beatings. Others were killed during medical experiments.

I was surprised by how large both sites were and how many prisoners were on site in such a small place. By 1942 there was a complex of 28



two-storeys blocks, the majority of which were used to house prisoners. Normally two large rooms upstairs and a number of smaller rooms downstairs. The blocks were designed to hold about 700 prisoners each but after the second stories were added, they housed up to 1,200 in bunks, 3 tiers high, with more than 3 people per bunk, on a straw filled mattress, who had to sleep on their side in order to fit in. Further expansion meant there were more than 74,000 prisoners in Auschwitz II-Birkenau.

When we entered Auschwitz I you walked along a wide, long, drab, grey concrete walkway with tall sides and listened to the names

of people who had been killed here. It was very haunting and moving. You then entered the site and saw the barracks and iconic gate (it's been in a few films) with the sign over it in German saying, "Arbeit macht frei" in English means "work sets you free." The place was shockingly intact and complete, strangely familiar as seen here.

In one of the barracks there were pictures on the walls of the many faces of prisoners in the "striped pyjamas" prisoner uniform with their arrival date and date they died. Some dates were days, weeks or even just months apart. The Germans were great record keepers and that's why these many pictures existed and later the Nazi's tattooed prisoners as this was a lot easier to keep track of prisoners. Most faces were very sombre but there was 1 lady who stuck out to me, with a smile on her face and it made me think of what this lady was like, what happened to her and what her life would have been like in another time in history.

Next, you walked in silence past piles of shoes, suitcases that people had brought with them, the execution wall, punishment block, gas chamber and cremation ovens, where bodies were put in 3

at a time. It was hard to take it all in and believe this actually happened.



At the same time there were hundreds of visitors here, lots of young people, it was busy and difficult to make sense of all you were seeing.

Next, we caught the bus to Auschwitz II-Birkenau and again the feeling of " I've seen this before " as we looked at the entrance with the railway tracks.

The awful facts were that from each train that arrived here, you either went one way to the gas

chamber or another route to work on the camp, or got picked to be experimented on. 70% to 75% went straight to the gas chambers. This was if you were old, pregnant, a baby or young child unable to work, or disabled / different in any way.

The gas chambers here were able to deal with larger numbers. Hundreds at a time, where the people left their belongings next to the train, were herded into a room to take all their clothes off and then shoved into the gas chamber. Sometimes 1,000 arrived by train per week, sometimes 3,000. Interestingly here the gas chambers had been destroyed and were left as a pile of rubble with a memorial around them which had plaques in many languages reading ...



After the Holocaust ended, only around 780 SS Nazi personnel (no more than 15 percent) ever stood trial. Several were executed,

including camp commandant Rudolph Hoss. The Allies' failure to act on early reports of mass murder by bombing the camp or its railways remains very controversial.

As the Soviet Red Army approached Auschwitz in January 1945, toward the end of the war, the SS sent most of the camp's population west on a death march to camps inside Germany and Austria. Soviet troops entered the camp on 27 January 1945, a day commemorated since 2005 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In 1947, Poland founded the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum on the site of Auschwitz I and II, and in 1979 it was named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

So how do I summarise our visit to Auschwitz? I'm still working through some of the things we saw and the things the guide told us. Parts of the visit were harrowing and made me think "How could man do this to man?" "Where was God in all of this? Have we learned from this awful part of our history? It was great to see so many people both young and old visiting the site to maybe learn more and pay respect to those who have died here?"

It's been cathartic writing this piece and the visit will stay in my memory for a long, long time.

Debbie Delight

SPRING INTO SPRING WITH

THE BUXTON URC KITCHEN RE-PAINTING PROJECT!

If you fancy a bit of painting please come into church on

Monday 15th April,

Tuesday 16th April and Wednesday 17th April

Any time between 8 am and 5 pm each day.

Just come as you are (but in old clothes you don't mind getting messy)

Everything will be provided.

THANK YOU !!





East Midlands Synod

The United Reformed Church in The East Midlands

***We are an Easter people and our song is
“Alleluia”***

(St Augustine of Hippo)



**To: The Church Secretary, Treasurer and Elders’ Meeting
of each church in the East Midlands Synod**

Dear Friends,

Each Christmas a card is sent to the ministers and those who serve in roles and groups associated with the life of the Synod. In preparing the cards last Christmas we realised that there is another group of people whose service to the churches across the Synod is significant – so significant that without it the worship and witness of the Church would stop overnight. We are referring, of course, to the elders of each local church. So, instead of a Christmas card we are sending you Easter Greetings.

St Augustine's words have been quoted at many an Easter celebration. As churches and individuals, *we are an Easter people and our song is Alleluia*. Easter faith – confidence in the resurrection of Jesus – is at the heart of our faith. Daring to believe that ultimately Love has the final word holds and heals us in the face of all that threatens, hurts and harms us. The joy that marks Easter worship, punctuated by “Alleluia” in many of the hymns and prayers, offered amidst the heavy scent of beautiful spring flowers, makes it one of the high points of the Christian year.

But I wonder whether for some of us hitting the top note of “Alleluia” is not easy? I wonder whether, for some of us, we might feel, as we look around us and recognise the reality of the struggle to “keep the show on the road”, it might be closer to say ...

We are a Holy Saturday people and our song is “when and how?”

I remain grateful that it was the well-established custom in my home church to have daily worship for each night of Holy Week – linking the “Hosanna” of Palm Sunday to the Alleluia” of Easter Day. Tucked between Good Friday and Easter Day, the crucified Lord lying cold and dead in the tomb, Holy Saturday (or Easter Eve) presented both an uncomfortable focus but also a realistic one: life, even for those holding faith in God, features the despair and darkness of the tomb. Yes, we know the ending of the story. Yes, even for this service the heavy scent of Easter lilies filled the air (chiefly, of course, because the flower-arrangers had to do their work ahead of the Easter Eve service because there was no time to do so afterwards). But though we know such things in our heads, our hearts might well be asking, of the uncertainty and challenges we face, “when and how?”.

In sending you this letter we seek to convey our thanks for all you do to sustain local church life – with all its vulnerability and uncertainty – and the generosity of your service. These are tough days to serve as elders. Please know that you are not alone – the wider family of the Synod, together with its staff, are in this with you. Together we ask “when and how?” and together we sing “Alleluia”. You may not sing it but *Rejoice and Sing* features a hymn for Holy Saturday: *Your body in the tomb, your soul in hell, and with the dying thief in paradise, Enthroned as God, in Holy Trinity: Christ, filling all things, ever unconfined.* (Anon. Adapted from the Orthodox Liturgy. 231 in *Rejoice and Sing*)

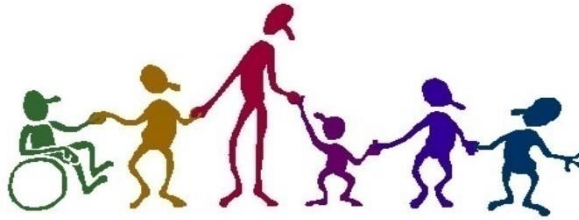
With our greetings and thanks,

Revd. Geoffrey S Clarke,
Moderator

Dr Graham D J Jennings,
Moderator Clerk



Photos: Easter Garden and font displays, St Mary & St Giles' Parish Church, Stony Stratford



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)