

Buxton United Reformed Church Hardwick Square East



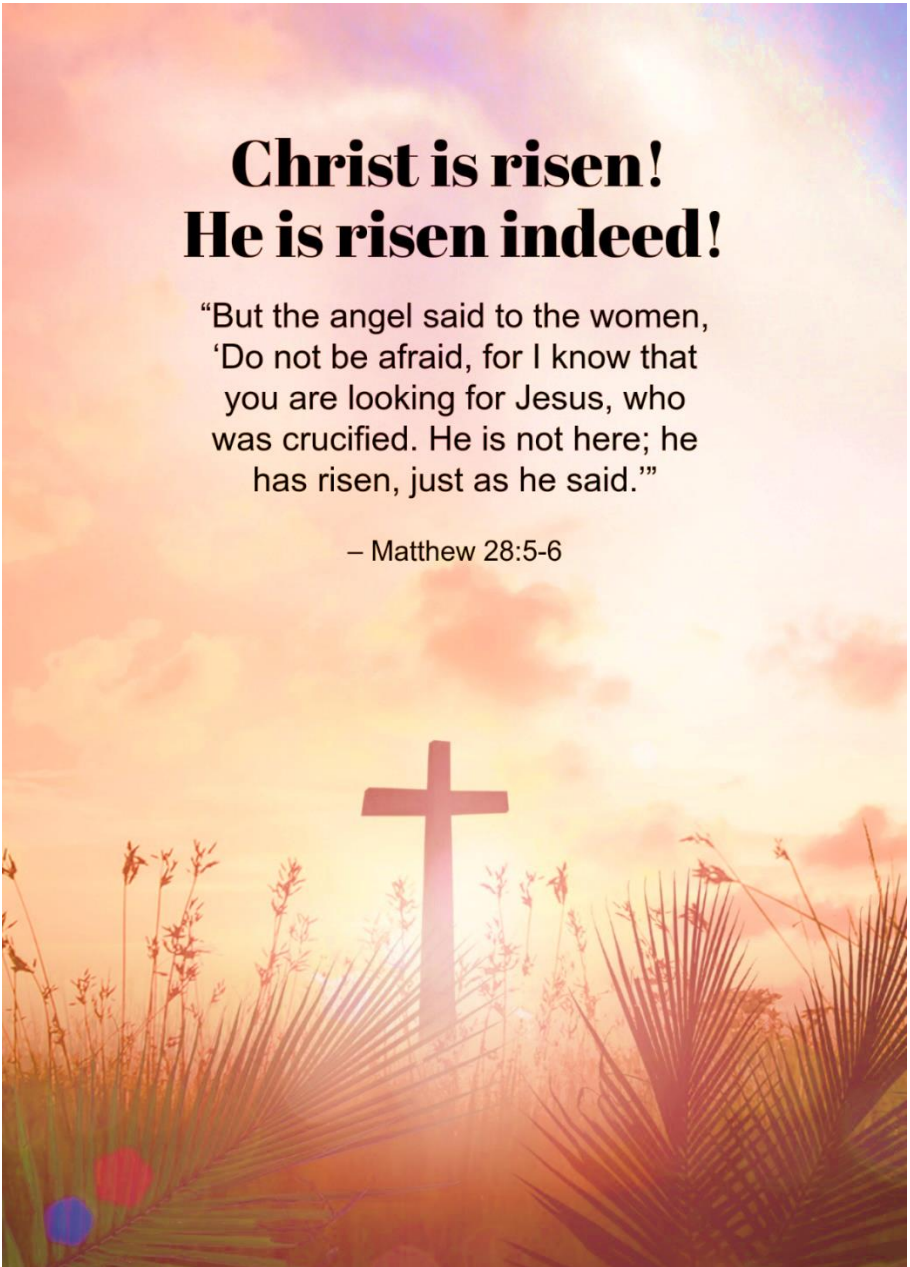
Palm Sunday 29th March 2026

April 2026

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

“But the angel said to the women,
‘Do not be afraid, for I know that
you are looking for Jesus, who
was crucified. He is not here; he
has risen, just as he said.’”

– Matthew 28:5-6



I came across the following poem a while back and thought it was appropriate for our Easter magazine to share with you.

Two Mothers by Velma West Sykes

Long time ago, so I have been told,
Two angels once met on streets paved with gold.
“By the stars in your crown,” said the one to the other
“I see that on earth, you too, were a mother.

And by, the blue-tinted halo you wear
“You, too, have known sorrow and deepest despair...”
“Ah yes,” she replied, “I once had a son,
A sweet little lad, full of laughter and fun.”

“But tell of your child.” “Oh, I knew I was blessed
From the moment I first held him close to my breast,
And my heart almost burst with the joy of that day.”
“Ah, yes,” said the other, “I felt the same way.”

The former continued: “The first steps he took-
So eager and breathless; the sweet startled look
Which came over his face – he trusted me so.”
“Ah, yes,” said the other, “How well do I know”

“But soon he had grown to a tall handsome boy,
So stalwart and kind – and it gave me so much joy
To have him just walk down the street by my side”
“Ah yes, “said the other mother, “I felt the same pride.”

“How often I shielded and spared him from pain
And when he for others was so cruelly slain.
When they crucified him – and they spat in his face
How gladly would I have hung there in his place!”

A moment of silence – “Oh then you are she –
The mother of Christ”; and she fell on one knee.
But the Blessed one raised her up, drawing her near,
And kissed from the cheek of the woman, a tear.

“Tell me the name of the son you love so,
That I may share with your grief and your woe.”
She lifted her eyes, looking straight at the other,
“He was Judas Iscariot: I am his mother.”

Now onto miscellaneous news that I hope will make you smile.

The first is a man who is the **World Watercress Eating Champion**. He has won the title for seventeen consecutive years and guess what, he doesn't like the taste of watercress. The festival is held yearly in Alresford, Hampshire and in order to win the title, entrants have to eat 80gms as quickly as possible. The man, Glen Walsh, holds the record of 25 seconds for the fastest time eating the watercress.

Will he take part
in this year's
competition?



Travelbeginsat40.com

He is not sure because increasingly he finds the taste less enjoyable and guess what, he says he doesn't like cress anymore!



Have you ever wondered what area territory a fox keeps to? Well one fox exceeded all potential expectations by climbing aboard a cargo ship at Southampton dock and

travelled the 3,400-mile trip across the Atlantic to New York without being detected. The healthy red fox was found alive and well on the ship's transporting car when it docked in New York and New Jersey Port. It is being cared for by Bronx Zoo before it is being rehomed. If it could talk it might have a lot to tell folk about !

My next good news item is about news in Death Valley, Eastern California, that has recorded the hottest surface temperature in the world with the recorded temperature in 2020 of 54.4c. A record rain fall in autumn last year caused the protective coatings of moisture-soaked seeds to be washed off. The wet winter that followed enabled



plants to develop strong root systems triggering a super desert bloom this spring. Among the flowers identified include Brown-eyed primrose and the desert gold star which is a bit like our common daisy. Most of the showy desert

flowers are short lived annuals with a short life span. Rather than struggle to survive in the extreme heat their seeds lie dormant. When flowering en mass the flowers attract a large number of pollinators such as butterflies, moths, bees and humming birds that otherwise may not visit Death Valley.

If you travel around the Peak District on 17th April you will probably hear peels of bells ringing out from churches. Why?



They are celebrating the **75th Birthday of the Peak District National Park**, the first National Park in the country.

My last good news story is of a Derbyshire man, Tommy Lynch, who woke up one morning blue all over his body; looking like "an Avatar", if you know the blue beings from that film. A friend persuaded him to go to the A&E department of the local hospital where everyone was staring at him as if they were looking at a ghost. Tommy was rushed into the department and had an oxygen mask placed on his face as staff thought he was cyanosed, in other words -



blue, which off course he was! At one point he had 10 doctors around his bed staring at him. It was only when one of the doctors rubbed his arm with a swab in preparation to taking some blood, that they and Tommy realised what was wrong. The swab turned blue and

his skin turned whiter. Tommy's friend had given him a new set of blue sheets for his bed. It was the dye from the new bedding together with Tommy's sweat that had turned his body blue much to the amusement of the staff in A&E and the embarrassment of Tommy!

So, my advice to you is, if you buy new bedding give them a wash before putting them on your bed, especially if they are coloured otherwise you may end up like Tommy!

Over the years Peter and I have sent out many church magazines to folk who in some ways were associated with our church family. One such person was a lady of 102 years of age called Norah Lowe. She was the sister and sister-in-law of Dorothy and Ken Phillips, who we remember with great fondness and thankfulness to God for their loving service. Dorothy was bought up in our church family from a very young child and so likewise was Norah. We heard a few days ago that Norah had died and so we thank God for a life well lived.





GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Please join us for a
Good Friday Walk of Witness
**The walk begins outside Iceland, at the
bottom of Spring Gardens.**
Gather at 10am.

We will walk silently through the pedestrianised street **to the Methodist church where we are invited to a Good Friday Service.**

We shall stop briefly at points on the way for a reading, a prayer, and to sing one verse of a hymn.

A cross will be carried at the head of the walk.

All are welcome!

Buxton URC Sunday services

5 th April	10:30am	Easter Sunday – Eileen Blane
12 th April	10:30am	Cath Sterndale
19 th April	10:30am	All Saints Marple Church
26 th April	10:30am	Roger Horne
3 rd May	10:30am	BBC Songs of Praise
10 th May	10.30am	Christian Aid Sunday / Cath Sterndale



Lesley Caddy has just sent this photograph of our church's stained-glass windows to the URC press office – in response to their request in last month's URC Comms newsletter for photos of stained-glass windows (among other things made of glass).

The 2027 United Reformed Church Calendar is titled **'Transparent as glass'** and will feature stained-glass windows and glass sculptures from our churches and Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

Glass has been used in churches since the 7th century for visual storytelling and religious education, acting as colourful "picture books" for congregations to learn Bible stories and for Christian teaching.

Stained glass also creates a sacred atmosphere by focusing light for worship and enhancing our churches' architectural beauty.

Hopefully our window will be included in the 2027 calendar that will be available on the URC Bookshop from August 2026.





Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Mornings on
4th April and 2nd May

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

For the newly installed Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally.

'Our world today needs the love, healing and hope that we find in Jesus Christ. I continue to pray that we renew our confidence in this good news, and recommit ourselves to sharing the joy of the Gospel.'

(Dame Sarah Mullally at her installation service)



Wars are devastating ordinary people throughout the world. As we pray for peace let's also pray for the individuals whose lives are shattered by war.

A Prayer for Leaders to Choose Peace in the World

Almighty God, we lift those in power who make decisions about war and peace. Grant them discernment and courage to reject violence and embrace dialogue. Let their hearts be filled with mercy and justice, so they may lead their nations away from destruction and towards harmony.

Fill hearts with compassion and minds with wisdom.

Replace conflict with cooperation and enmity with love.

May their decisions reflect Your will for unity and not division.

Amen

Dates to Remember

Elders and Leaders

Meeting 21st April 2pm at church

Church Annual General Meeting 26th April following a Bring and Share Lunch after the morning's service.



Waste Not Want Not
At Buxton United Reformed Church.

Please join with us for
free coffee, cake and company

On Saturdays 4th April and 2nd May
Between 10am and 12midday in the 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 20th April 2026.

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



At the service on **Saturday 14th February to celebrate Alison Darby's life £182 was donated** which has been shared between Torch Trust and Guide Dogs. Below are extracts from letters received from these organisations thanking the church for the gifts sent to them. We are grateful to everyone who gave so generously.

Letter from Torch Trust



Thank you for the donation in memory of Alison Darby from the cash collection at the church of £91.00 towards the ministry of Torch Trust. We were sorry to hear about Alison, please accept our condolences. We have updated our records as requested.

Each gift serves as an encouragement to us as we continue to minister to blind and partially sighted individuals in the UK and abroad.

Our Lent Group has now been running for multiple weeks; each Wednesday in the run up to Easter. We have seen about 20 people attending each week - how amazing! It has been great to see this community coming together to discuss this year's chosen book - In Quietness and Trust - Lent Devotions from the Beatitudes by Matt Searles.

Your donations help us to be able to provide these online groups, which provide community to people who may otherwise be feeling lonely or isolated. Thank you for helping us to provide this sense of belonging to our Torch family.

Letter from Guide Dogs



Thank you so much for the kind gift of £91.00 sent in memory of Alison Darby. Please accept our sincere sympathy at this time.

Gifts made in memory are a really special way of supporting our vital work, enabling us to provide the life changing gift of a guide dog. As guide dog owner Emily says of her guide dog: 'Putting my trust in Unity was like second nature to me.' By making this donation in memory, you will make a very real difference to the lives of the people that Guide Dogs supports.

We'd love to use this gift to open a Fund in memory of Alison. If you're interested, just let us know and we'll arrange everything for you and send you a personalised pack of information. You'll find more details in the enclosed leaflet. If you'd like to discuss this, or find out about using this gift in another way, please call us on 0800 953 0113.

Thank you again for supporting us in such a special way.



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)