Buxton United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square East

November 2026

Welcome back to Ireland

This is where we had our picnic breakfast early in the morning after travelling by ferry from Birkenhead to Belfast, docking at 6.30 am. It is the Coronation Garden at Hazelbank Park beside Belfast Lough designed by award-winning gardener, Diarmuid Gavin.

The floral tapestry has a classical architecture style, created to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles lll and Queen Camilla. The

garden has been planted in a pollinator-friendly and sustainable way, reflecting some of the great loves of His Royal Highness. The three-floor pavilion topped with a crown welcomes its guests with a musical performance of dancing topiary and spinning conical trees every 15 minutes, but unfortunately, it had not been switched on when we were there. It presumably was too early in the morning!

Peter and I were back for our annual holiday to the north coast of Ireland but staying at The Stable self-catering cottage at Kinbane Castle Farm. What was very special about the location was the rolling fields in front of the cottage and the view in the distance of the whole of Rathlin Island and beyond that Mull of Kintyre. Rathlin Island has three lighthouses, two of which remain on 24hours a day. The west one in built low down into a rock face and is red so it's light can penetrate below sea fog. We could not see it from the cottage but we could see the east and Rue Point Lighthouses.

Whilst we were staying there a helicopter came to the farm to pick up the maintenance engineers to fly them to Rathlin for work on the lighthouses.

I just want to share with you our most memorable moments of our stay starting with the great welcome we received from folk at Dunseverick Baptist Church and the hospitality of John and Edith sharing a lovely evening meal with them before the midweek mission meeting. We heard a very enthusiastic Patrick Kangi who grew up

regularly attending a Catholic church. However, it wasn't until the age of 20, that the gospel was clearly presented to him. *"I then realised I was a sinner and that I needed to repent and accept Jesus' free gift of salvation by faith."*

Soon after, at a church youth event, Patrick felt God's call to share the gospel with people who hadn't heard it. This call to mission was confirmed to him through Scripture, especially Matthew 24:14, where he felt God was showing him the direction for his life.

Seven years later, Patrick stepped out in faith and joined **Operation Mobilisation**, travelling aboard an ocean liner, sharing the gospel across the world. He then went on to complete Bible training at Belfast Bible College, before joining a London City Mission training programme in 2004.

Patrick serves as Missionary Team Leader for Kensington, Chelsea, Westminster and South Brent – where he specialises in reaching out to seniors and people living on council estates, with the love and good news of Christ. Together with his team, he equips churches to build bridges into these neighbourhoods, sharing the gospel with people who may otherwise never hear it.

*(Whilst we were in Ireland **Operation Mobilization Ship Wave of Hope** was in Belfast dock with many people visiting it. As we publish this magazine the ship is **now in Liverpool until 8th November** if you would like to visit it.)*

Pastor Billy and his wife Agnes, who have become great friends of ours have moved to Banbridge Baptist Church in Co Down. We spent a lovely whole day with them in their temporary new home in Banbridge. It was great seeing them again and hearing about their new church as well as having great food and Peter and I sharing a lovely birthday cake. They have a youth group that meets on a Friday evening with 100 young people attending. Just imagine that!

I made Billy a batch of corned beef pasties – his favourite.

The next day we went to have a great lunch with friends in Ahoghill west of Ballymena and listened to them telling us all about their church which has a nursing creche of 70 babies newly born to 18 months old! The average attendance on a Sunday morning for the service is 450! It is difficult for us to imagine belonging to a church so big.

Our last hospitality event I will share with you is us getting in contact with Ian, a farmer who we met around Billy and Agnes's Sunday dinner table for a good few years. I have written about Ian having a liver transplant in November magazine 2025. We sent him a message to say we were sorry we had

not seen him during our stay and he immediately messaged back to say he was coming to see us at the cottage that evening and was bringing apple pie and cream to celebrate Peter's birthday that day! As Irish people would say we had great craic that evening and it was a joy to spend time with him and listening to him sharing all about the time he was flown to King's College Hospital in London for his new liver and what has happened since then. The apple pie turned out to be cinnamon apple crumble and it was just great. He will share with Billy one of the corned beef pasties as he is very partial to them too!

There are other things I could share with you but I think that is enough for the moment. I leave with a photo of the morning sunrise from our cottage that seemed to be different every day.

In the words of a hymn that it reminded me of:

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky
Casting its shadows near
And on this morning bright though it be
I feel those shadows near me.
But you are always close to me following all my ways,
May I be always close to you following all your ways, Lord

Eileen Blane

Buxton URC Sunday services

1st November	10:30am	Roger Horne
8th November	10:30am	Mark Houghton with Communion
15th November	10:30am	Cath Sterndale Safeguarding Sunday
22nd November	10:30am	Link to All Saints' Marple
29th November	10:30am	Eileen Blane with Nick Fawcett's Reflections. First Sunday in Advent
6th December	10:30am	Eileen Blane with Nick Fawcett's Reflections. Second Sunday in Advent
13th December	10:30am	Eileen Blane with Nick Fawcett's Reflections. Third Sunday in Advent
20th December	10:30am	Eileen Blane with Nick Fawcett's Reflections. Fourth Sunday in Advent
27th December	10:30am	*To be arranged*

Services may be changed when necessary.

Please pray:-

For the **Saturday Coffee Morning** on **7th November**

For our Elders and Leaders and others as they plan, prepare and lead our worship each Sunday.

For **Helping Hands** a Christian Charity based in Kamuli, Uganda.

For Cath Sterndale following her second eye operation on 26th November.

For Phil, Debbie and all the family following the death of Eileen, Phil's mother.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4 6-7)

Rathlin Island and Mull of Kintyre from Kinbane Castle Farm

Eileen Elsie Delight

A few years ago, my mother Eileen Elsie Delight, moved into a care home here in Buxton where she could be near to us as a family and where it was reasonably easy for wider family to visit. One of her pleasures during her time in Buxton was to be taken to church on Sunday, where she enjoyed taking part in services and getting to know other congregation members. Sadly, Mum has attended her last service with us as, after a short illness she passed away peacefully early in the morning on Friday 9th October. In her memory, the notes below provide a very much abridged version of the eulogy used at her funeral, for those of us who would be interested to know a little bit more about the wonderful lady that was my Mum.

Childhood

Born in November 1932, Mum was the youngest of four girls and grew up in a loving home filled with strong women. An experience which I'm sure laid the foundation for the loving family life she later provided for us. She excelled academically at school but a key childhood memory for her was the second world war when, apart from two periods of evacuation to Devon, the family lived in London. Memories of bombing haunted her throughout her life, she never

could stand the sound of fireworks and once my brother and I had to leave the cinema with her at a showing of the 'Battle of Britain', as Mum became so distressed and tearful (I think she took to see the film in an attempt to educate us). We had no idea of what she'd experienced in those younger years.

More light-heartedly, Mum always loved dogs, a passion that started in childhood when she was allowed to 'adopt' two Scottie dogs, and which continued through a long line of much loved (but not necessarily obedient) canine friends, and finally in Buxton when she enjoyed sitting in our various parks watching dogs taking their owners for walks. Always thrilled when a friendly dog wanted to say hello.

Adulthood

At nineteen, and already a Psychology student at London University, she married John, a dashing ex fleet air-arms pilot, and by then a young curate. Mum and Dad went on to have six children together. Along with fully supporting Dad in his vocation as vicar and later Archdeacon, and with moves to Manchester, Leicester, Staffordshire and finally Kenya, you'd think there would be little room for much else, but that would be wrong. Alongside all this Mum worked in education teaching special needs kids, achieved two master's degrees, and became a qualified counsellor. She was no slouch. To the very end she was known amongst us as a kind soul and a wise counsellor, even just a few weeks ago advising her grandson Josh on the nature of love.

Family

My sisters recently characterised Mum with three words, Faith, Love and Family. I think that's accurate. Her faith has I think been in evidence at services here in Buxton, but you may be less

familiar with her role in her family. As a child I remember our house as always busy and noisy. Mum was usually to be found at work in the kitchen and rarely sitting down in an easy chair. She did enjoy listening to the Archers though, and in common with most of my siblings I have happy memories of dancing with her to the theme music. There were memorable family holidays too, when both parents were more relaxed and playful. Most memorable for me were holidays to mid Wales where we stayed regularly on a true mountain farm. Introducing us all to the great outdoors and kick starting a lifelong enjoyment of mountain walking and other active outdoor sports.

Older Age

As Mum grew older, she did find more time for reflection and often wrote down her thoughts. Some of which we have found in clearing out her last home. She loved words and numbers, Scrabble, crosswords, Sudoku and puzzles. And she liked to win! When she did find time to relax one of the things she liked best was playing the piano. Classical pieces, but also lots of hymns. She was also an accomplished sewer and knitter and made many clothes for her children and grandchildren. She also enjoyed baking and always wanted to ensure there was a cake in the larder. Just in case a visitor dropped in.

In the latter years of Dads life, when he became more physically disabled. She hated being described as his ‘carer’ but nevertheless did that job with diligence and to the best of her ability until his death in 2013. They adored each other, and she asked for her ashes to be buried alongside his in the graveyard of Holy Trinity Church Macclesfield.

So, thank you mum for your inspirational life, for the love you gave us, for the happy home, for the treasured memories. May you rest in peace.

Our time in Aldridge, six-kids, Dad running a busy church, two dogs and quite probably a degree or two being studied for…

Here's a little extra that my brother Steve plans to include in the eulogy at the service. There are probably enough words in the previous bit I think, but this might make you smile. Mum was a Readers Digest reader and if you know that publication you will know that people used to (and may still) send in short stories along the lines of 'it happened to me'. This is Steve's account of a story Mum sent to the magazine in

which he plays a key role. It is also a story that captures a little of the chaos and general busyness that can surround a Mum with four kids (this was before my last two brothers arrived).

Phil Delight

A short story was published in the monthly magazine Readers Digest around the mid 60s. It told of a harassed young mum in a department store surrounded by her young children in a panic because she thought she had lost her youngest. Stephen, Stephen, where are you she called as her panic increased. A small voice emerged from the small child she was in fact carrying – "I'm here Mum". The small child was me. I'm still here but Mum, you've gone.

How do we describe who you were in just a few short minutes?

Steve Delight

Buxton Broadwood Piano Recitals are being held each month from September 2026 to June 2027 at 2pm in our church in association with budding pianists from the Royal Northern College of Music, in Manchester.

Lesley Caddy attended the September recital saying “it really was amazing”.

Here are more of her thoughts on the event:

The pianist was Nye Hughes-Watts, who's studying for a Master’s degree at the RNCM, Manchester Conservatoire. He was introduced by John Anfield (organist at Buxton Methodist Church), who's one of the three-strong committee now organising these monthly recitals at the URC (on the 3rd Sunday of each month.) Entry is £8 and it's worth every penny. I

Nye's programme featured A Fairy Tale by Frank Bridge; Phoebe by Mel Bonis; Concert Etude no. 4 "Reminiscence" by Mikolai Kapustin; a selection from Children's Songs by Chick Corea; and finally, the amazing Phrygian Gates by John Adams. It was amazing to hear Nye play such complicated pieces – and to experience our piano being played as it was meant to be. He played most pieces from memory, but had a fellow musician to page-turn for him (on the iPad!)

Lesley Caddy

Julie Clayton's visit to Uganda with **HELPING HANDS.**

This is a message from Brother Ronnie, thanking you all for the laptop Buxton URC provided.

🎉 A Heartfelt Thank You! 🙏💻

We are thrilled and delighted to share the wonderful news that we have received a new laptop through the generous support of our donors

A heartfelt thank you to all our donors for your kindness, generosity, and support. ♡

This is not just a laptop; it is a valuable tool that will make our office work easier and support the learning and educational development of our sponsored children. Your generosity will make a meaningful difference in our work and in the lives of the children we serve.

From the bottom of our hearts, we are truly grateful for your support. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.
🙏♡

Thank you once again for being part of our journey

and for helping us make a difference!

Also, the borehole that the Coffee Evening raised funds for, is now complete.

It will make a massive difference to this Kasokoso community to have clean water.

Julie Clayton

Poppy Poppy

Poppy poppy what do you say?
Wear me on Remembrance Day.

Poppy poppy what do you tell?
Many soldiers in battle fell.

Poppy poppy what should we know?
That peace on earth should grow, grow, grow.

From 'A Primary School Service of Remembrance | Edspire'

Dates to Remember

Elders and Leaders Meeting Wednesday 25th November 2pm at church.

Waste Not Want Not

At Buxton United Reformed Church.

Please join with us for ***free coffee, cake and company***
***On* Saturday 7th November.**
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 23rd November 2026.
To ensure your magazine is as informative as possible please keep us up-to-date with news and events.

Advent Preparations

We will be decorating the church for Advent on Saturday 28th November from 1pm onwards. We would welcome help please. Contact Eileen Blane

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 United Reformed Church

Website: **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.

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)