

Buxton United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square East



March 2022

Who has “a bird brain” and how effective is it? Yes, it is a phrase used to demean people but how about the following: -



Scientist researchers in Australia decided to tag magpies with GPS trackers so they could monitor the flying habits and social dynamics of them. They placed the trackers under the breast so the birds could not reach them themselves to remove them. Within minutes of them being fitted the magpies co-operate with each other to remove the trackers from their fellow birds. The birds outsmarted the researchers in behaviour never seen before! Now that was clever! I hope it has made you smile.

Those of you who know me well and have visited our home will be aware that I am a bookworm and I do not mean the type that eat the paper and glue from books!

Two weeks ago, The Leprosy Mission sent me an e-mail of their shop supplies. Amongst many things were books, four of which grabbed my attention and I thought they would be good to read and join our bookshelves. I've read three of them and am half way through the fourth. I thought I would tell you a bit about them.

The first is a novel called “***Bird in the Bamboo Cage***” by Hazel Gaynor based on many facts of the Cheefoo Christian Boarding School in China in the second World War during the Japanese occupation of China. The school was for China Inland Missionaries’ children together with some diplomat’s children. I knew quite a bit about the history of the school because my sister, Ailish, was a missionary with Overseas Missionary Fellowship the name that replace CIM.



Alternate chapters are the thoughts of one of the pupils, a Girl Guide in the Kingfisher Patrol, and the others a teacher’s thoughts. The Guide Promise and Law is woven into the story. The story includes recollections of Eric Liddell, the famous runner and Christian

missionary, who worked with the children in the same concentration camp where he died.



**Guide
Dogs**

My second book, *“Kika and Me”* by Dr Amit Patel, is his autobiography when he was a young doctor who suddenly went blind. It is about his life changing experiences and his world opening up in truly incredible ways as a result of having a guide dog called Kika. I kept on thinking about Alison and Charlie as I read it. To be highly recommended!

The third book, *“Away with the Penguins”* by Hazel Prior, is about a rich elderly lady in Scotland who has no family that she knows about to leave her great wealth to when she dies. She decides to take herself off to the research station on Locket Island in the Antarctic to join the researchers studying Adélie penguins to whom she intends to leave her fortune. It is a life affirming story that is amusing too and will join the many books I have about the Antarctic on our bookshelves.



Lastly is *“The Shed That Fed a Million Children”* by Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow. Born in Aberdeen Magnus started his career as a fish farmer before starting **Scottish International Relief**, a charity that later became **Mary’s Meals**. He started the work from a shed his father built in his back garden, gathering emergency food supplies and medical supplies from all over Scotland to take to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina in war times. One delivery was a 44-ton lorry piled high with potatoes to be delivered to Zagreb, but how do you distribute so many potatoes? Answer came from a local Christian doctor who asked Magnus to drive to the central square and unload them on the ground. The doctor then got on the local public radio to invite folk to go to the square and help themselves to the potatoes. Within a couple of hours there were no potatoes left – they had all been distributed by the local

population! I wonder what Waste Not Want Not would think about that!

*The organisation then spread to the African continent. One young Malawi boy called Edward was asked what he wanted and he said “I would like to have enough food to eat and I would like to be able to go to school one day”. The vision of **Mary’s Meals** started to become a reality in many countries.*

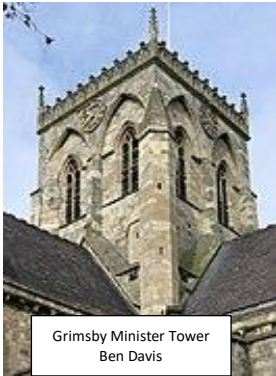


There is so much that is humbling and profoundly inspiring in this book. I could go on and on quoting from it but I won't. By the way, Magnus still works from the shed and many more sheds that have been erected in his father's back garden.

That is the end of two weeks reading folks but I go on thinking about what I've read!

Finally, I have an account that hopefully will make you smile.

I wonder how many health and safety assessments are considered before repairs are carried out by folk on tall buildings, if indeed they are actioned at all. The clock on the tower of St James Minster in Grimsby had not been working for over five years and an estimated cost of repair was £50,000. Hopes of fixing the clock were lost until this last Saturday when the church warden looked up and saw the hands of the clock moving and it was telling the right time too! Was that a modern-day miracle?



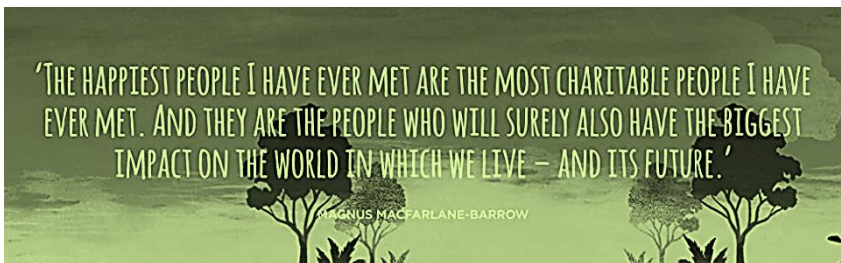
Grimsby Minister Tower
Ben Davis

Three days before, two of the bell ringers were carrying out maintenance on the church's ten bells one hundred steps up in the bell tower when their attention was diverted to the wooden boxes of the clock and they decided to open the boxes containing the time pieces. They found three dead pigeons wrapped up in the cogs which they removed. After giving the mechanisms a good clean and squirts of WD40 together with grease administered from a grease gun,

the two lads, Rick Harwood a local cheese maker and Jay Foley a 15-year-old student, recalibrated the chimes and the hands and off the clock went ticking and chiming for the first time in over five years. It took the lads over three hours to complete the task and when they finished, they didn't tell anyone what they had done. The church warden was the first to notice "the miracle".

Now I think that is just great!

Eileen Blane



Churches Together in Buxton

Lent Lunch

Wednesday 9th March

12:15 - 1:15

At Bath Road Centre

We are going to have an outside party to celebrate the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee,
joining with the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and family members
in the gardens of our church. We intend to dress the outside of the
church with bunting and other things.
Please put it in your diary and have a good think about what ideas
you can come up with that we could implement too.
Share them with Cath Sterndale and Eileen Blane.

Mark it in your dairy Saturday 11th June



Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12 v 27)

Each and every one of us is vital to God, we are all vital to each other. Together we are enriched and empowered through God to welcome and love and help others in our churches and communities to belong. And in so doing we are further enriched and blessed together by God's amazing grace and overwhelming love.

Revd Sarah Gower

taken from [URC East Midlands E-LETTER 360](#) (17/2/22)

Helping others / giving a bit

I don't know about you but sometimes a week goes by and I think, "What good have I done for someone else?" and I wonder what I can do to help my community and show God's love to others.

Well, it's taken us a while to get into the habit, but now each Thursday (our weekly shopping day) we purchase extra "provisions" to give to Cath and her team at Waste Not Want Not. We shop in Aldi and the pictures of the cans of food are great as they last a long time, have a good amount of protein in them and the price is definitely affordable.

So, if you are wanting to help our community and outreach of our church ... this is one way you can.

Debbie Delight x



Fairtrade fortnight: 21ST FEBRUARY – 6TH MARCH.



Did you know IT TAKES 2,720 LITRES OF WATER TO MAKE ONE COTTON T-SHIRT?

That's a lot of water to throw away on fast fashion. We shouldn't take lightly the work and resources that go into our clothes.

Check out Fashion Revolution's campaign to radically change the way we source, produce and consume clothes.

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



East Midlands Synod Jubilee Event

Commemorate – Celebrate – Create
Saturday 10 September

To mark the URC's 50th anniversary here in the East Midlands, we are planning a Synod Jubilee Event, to be held on Saturday 10 September 2022.

Plans are evolving for a mini festival at a central location, suitable for all ages. As well as celebrating our Jubilee together, the day will feature opportunities to commemorate past hopes and create visions for the future. A range of workshops and activities will help us mark the life of our Synod, with a lively act of intergenerational worship as the centrepiece.

Please mark the date in your diary and watch out for further details. The event will be held in full compliance with any health regulations still in force at the time.



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

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



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

Love in the community



**The Three C's
Coffee
Cake
and Company**

Thanks to all who supported the
Waste Not Want Not, Coffee, cake
and company morning in February
with cakes, prayer and your
presence.

We had 34 visitors !

There was a lovely buzz of chatter in the worship room as we drank and ate some amazing cakes shown here!



Buns that had special

adornments celebrating the Queen's 70 years in her post. I particularly enjoyed the bun with the Corgi dog on it. And then the yummiest looking Victoria sandwich cake (which tasted as good as it looked - yes I



had a piece of that too). So, please help in any way you can for our next one which is Saturday 5th March 10 till 12 midday. If you are buying or baking a cake, so just let us know please.

Debbie n Phil Delight xx



Daniel with the Waste Not Want Not food.



Welcome Caroline

A Service of Induction for **Reverend Caroline Andrews** as the new minister for **the North Derbyshire Resource Area** took place on **Saturday 26th February 2022**. This was by Zoom because Caroline tested positive for Covid prior to the planned service in Chesterfield.

Trying to be green(er)

PART 3- plastics, packaging and transport

G	Great
E	Environmental
C	Crisis

Following on from my last two articles 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.”

Plastics - ah yes – a knotty issue. I resolved never to buy single use plastic containers or bags again (except to protect the reusable cardboard boxes on the assurance that the bags are reused by the delivery company to stop the cardboard going soggy overnight) and I do not put plastics in the black bin. Instead, plastic bags go into empty plastic milk bottles to become “eco bricks” which I plan to use to build a raised vegetable bed in the garden. Painting them black keeps the soil warm and the veg grow better.



I feel guilty about buying milk in plastic but without the empty bottles the raised beds would collapse and the flimsy plastic bags would blow around the garden. Even though that might scare away the remaining toileting cats (see November article) before the bags settle in for their eventual 300-year composting half-life. I think I will still go on buying the milk in plastic bottles for the time being.



Some of our local supermarkets are good at providing food which is not wrapped in plastic and some are very bad. I realise that food safety is all important but if millions of Africans can survive

when eating fly-covered meat hung in open markets (because they cook it thoroughly) I think we can kill harmful organisms if we cook food properly as well.

The difficult choices for me in supermarkets are (in order) Fair Trade, Organic, Rain Forest certified, non-plastic wrapped and availability. Five parameters then, and each of them has an effect on price. Mostly they are sold by price only – supermarkets assume that GEC loonies like me are few in number. I wonder if they are right?

Transport – OK – guilty – I drive a diesel vehicle. I might as well tell the GEC community I have horns and a forked tail but my newish 1500 cc engine is a clean burner and can do 60 miles to the gallon. I could change it for an electric model but if you factor in my remaining driving lifespan, I am producing a lot less CO₂ by keeping it going efficiently than by generating a vast amount of CO₂ by buying a newly manufactured electric model, not to mention the use of rare earth minerals and the large quantity of copper for the batteries plus all the exploitation of developing countries that goes into producing it.



Clothing – and here I have found I am developing my parents' wartime habits inherent in my DNA, it seems. I no longer buy new clothes (except underwear and socks) and only buy from charity shops. Better still, I have learned my mother's skill at reversing worn out collars and shirts. Her darning ability has so far escaped

me although I persevere. My newly darned jumpers have a habit of creating a grinning face in the middle of a new darn – darn it! (as my mother would say).

I was surprised to see how much electricity my iron uses - far more than the solar panels can provide – so I have re-learned my parents' skills in drip-drying and only ironing the collars.



Shoes can be kept going for extra years by stick on soles made out of abandoned car floormats. I use “Shoe Goo” - an excellent adhesive for this. (But it is made in the USA and comes with a large CO2 shoeprint all of its own.)

Paper – I have promised myself never to bin anything printed on only one side. I print on the reverse for home purposes only. Sending out printed items with irrelevant but interesting things on the back is a bit non GDPR compliant, I am told. I was sad when the refillable printer cartridge firm on The Market closed down.



Internet and phones – I use Ecosia as a search engine. They plant trees with the profits and I have “planted” about 200 trees in four years’ searches. My phone is a Fairphone – made from recycled/responsibly sourced rare earth minerals by properly paid people. It is a bit clunky and was expensive to buy but I cannot say I believe in challenging GEC without paying the price for doing so.

I think that is about enough – for now. For me, I have to continue to challenge the GEC doomsayers by finding new funny things to do which might make a difference so if you can share any ideas please do write in and tell us all.



It seems to me that it is all about balance. We will never get it right but we can have a bit of fun experimenting and trying.

We can each only be a drop in the ocean but oceans are created by many small drops.

Roger Horne
January 2022



**Please pray for members of our
church family and friends,
but also, for the many needy
across the world**

For the next Waste Not Want Not Saturday Coffee, Cake and Company morning at church on 5th March.

Daniel Sterndale undergoing urgent health checks.

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



The Ukrainian crisis.

The cross at Mylor in Cornwall was built in 1948 by Orthodox Ukrainian Christians in gratitude for having escaped violent persecution of the communist regime at the end of the 2nd World War, and in thanksgiving for the welcome and refuge given to them by the Cornish Community.

For Rev Caroline Andrews as she takes up her role as minister of North Derbyshire Resource Area.

Dates to Remember

Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.

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

Elders and Leaders Meeting – Friday 25th March at 1pm
Location to be decided nearer the time.

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 28th March 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***



Please be aware that 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 URC Sunday services (normally at 10:30am)

Proposed services for March (these may be revised)

6 th March	10:30am	Mark Houghton
13 th March	10:30am	Caroline Andrews
20 th March	10:30am	Steve Fisher
27 th March	10:30am	Fellowship Service



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)