

Buxton

United Reformed Church

Hardwick Square East



September 2021



Peter and I spent a week in August staying at Alderholt on the western edge of the New Forest. One day we decided to spend time at Salisbury Cathedral; you know the one with the tallest spire in the country and also the keeper of one of the copies of the Magna Carta, one of the most celebrated documents in English history. The cathedral copy is displayed in the spectacular Chapter House. What amazed us was how small the writing was on the document. A photo of the beautiful Chapter House ceiling is on the front cover of the magazine.

Whilst we were taking a quiet rest a Chaplin came up to us and started to ask us where we were from. On hearing we had come all the way from Buxton his face lit up with a big smile and he told us he was from Tideswell and went to school at Buxton College. How about that!

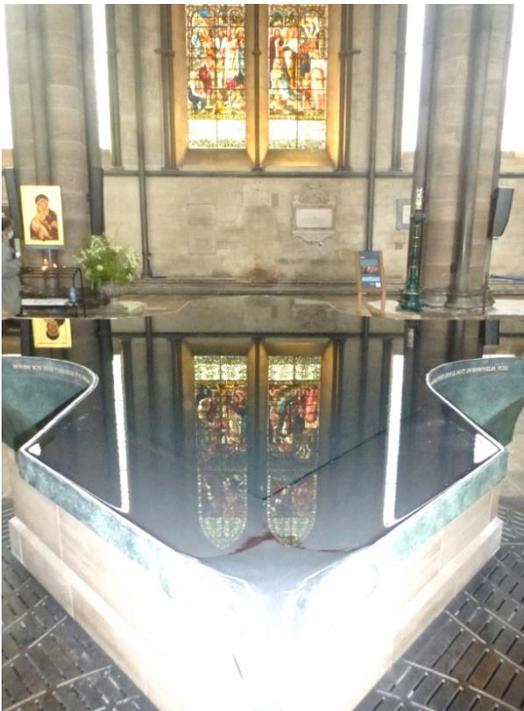
The cathedral was built over 800 years ago and it took 38 years to build. Compare that to the building of Guildford Cathedral that took 30 years to build and was completed in the early 1960's. I was one of many thousands of people who bought a brick for the cathedral. Why do I mention Guildford Cathedral? Because the building has got significant

problems with “cancer” concrete meaning it will need major repairs and that is only after being built 60 years ago.

The skilled craftsmen who built Salisbury Cathedral certainly were masters in their trade and that is without any cranes or modern construction machinery to assist them.

A significant addition to the cathedral is the wonderful baptismal font installed in 2008 and designed and constructed by William Pye. The shape was developed from a square footprint. A cruciform shape is created by scooping out radiused sections of the four sides. This immediately accentuates the directional flow of water, channelling it towards the corners which overflow as spouts into drainage areas on the bronze floor grating.

The base is clad in Purbeck stone. Here two contrasting aspects of water are woven seamlessly together: stillness expressed in the reflecting surface, and the flow and movement through the spouts expressing its essential life-giving properties.



One visitor thought the surface of the water was a mirror and he put his photography equipment on it only for it to disappear to the bottom of the tank! The surface is completely smooth and you cannot see the water rising in it. It is great for reflecting the wonderful architecture of the building.

The font was consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th September 2008 with a celebration of two baptisms. Strangely enough the cathedral did not have a font for over 200 years prior to the splendid installation of William Pye's font.

In contrast, last Sunday on Songs of Praise, the BBC visited the Dorset Coastguard station on the top of St Aldhelm's headland. Near to it was the square St Aldhelm's Chapel made all of stone, thought to be about 800 years old.

Going from Salisbury Cathedral to see a Chapel just 30 feet square, with thick walls and a solid stone roof supported by a heavy internal rib-vaulted ceiling that radiates out from a stout central pillar, is such a contrast and yet both are believed to be about the same age.



Photo from Diocese of Salisbury
"On St Aldhelm's Trail."

Although the Chapel has a cross on top now, this only dates from 1873 and there is evidence that prior to that, there was a beacon at the apex of the roof. This could lead to the supposition that the building might have been used as some kind of coastal lookout.

Two buildings used for prayer, both for over a period of 800 years and still in a reasonable state of repair. Now that is amazing.

What about up-to-date news. Can you remember the Chinese elephants we reported that went on a very long ramble causing much mayhem and damage to the farming communities? Well, they decided they had enough galivanting and they returned back to their home area much to the relief of many communities.

Many people have been climbing Snowden over the last few weeks and it has been a bit of a challenge for those who live in the area especially when people return from their hike to the top in the middle of the night and start celebrating their achievements.

But there is some special news about the area.



A rare wild flower, Snowdonia Hawkweed, thought to have been near extinction for more than 50 years due to sheep overgrazing the mountain slopes, has been found again on the slopes of the mountain. Although to the untrained person it may look like just another dandelion it is a very precious plant. Removing the sheep from

the grazing area has enabled a small collection of the plants to flourish much to the joy of Snowdonia-based consultant botanist Robbie Blackhall-Miles.

Lastly our church fellowship has started to worship again in our building. It is great to be able to sing and be with each other again. We also celebrated our freedom by having a Garden Party for folk at Phil and Debbie Delight's home which was appreciated by those of us who were there. Because of the rain we spent much of the time inside rather than in the garden, except for the lads who braved the elements under an umbrella! Photos are included in this magazine.

Eileen Blane

The Zink Project (High Peak Foodbank) Update

Thanks to the support of the local community, businesses and various grants, the new Zink HQ will open later this summer after just eight months of planning, building and fundraising. As well as existing services (foodbank, advice, employability), Zink will be opening a new Eco-Café to prevent food waste, music therapy to improve wellbeing, a book exchange and other exciting projects. Check our Facebook page for more announcements.

Best wishes from everyone at The Zink Project.

Christian Aid



In view of the Government's decision to extend the period of covid restrictions, the Christian Aid Goyt Valley sponsored walk has been rescheduled from 3rd July to 4th September.

Kate MacLean Tel: 01298 78276

(Kate would be very pleased to hear from anyone who feels able to help with the event, perhaps as a walk leader, a first aider, a writer of risk assessments, a provider of refreshments or in any other way.)



Please pray for members of our church family and friends, especially:

Alison Darby, following the recent death of her mother. Pray that Alison will find appropriate help to administer her mother's estate.

Update for prayer for Richard Bower.

After the highlight of managing to canoe for about an hour and a half on a river in Scotland over May half term, Richard and Lois have been having a tough time.

Richard has been finding he has no energy to do anything (possible long Covid effect) and the turbo med attachment for his stroke leg which helps him to walk has been giving him a lot of pain. It's felt like one step forward and 2 back and, whatever negative feelings Richard has, Lois feels it too.



This week however has seen him much more positive as energy has returned and there are possibilities of dealing with the nerve pain and the contraction in his stroke foot. So here he is at the gym on the running machine ... not quite running YET ... but his walking gait is so much improved.

Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to be with them both; to comfort them when down and to show them how much they are loved.

Debbie Delight x

Please also pray for

The people of Haiti as they struggle to recover from the earthquake that struck their country on August 14 and was followed by a tropical depression, causing widespread destruction. Pray that Haitian-led organizations will be able to manage the way relief aid is used.

The people of Afghanistan following the rapid fall of the Afghan security forces into the hands of the Taliban and now attacks at Kabul airport by Isis-K. Pray for those who have managed to leave Afghanistan and those left behind and remember those being taking to Manchester to start new lives.

Let us give thanks for the achievements of all the people taking part in the Paralympics in Tokyo.

For we are human, weak and prone to wrong,
And by Thy grace alone are we made strong.

Henry Coyle, Thankful Heart

Dates to Remember

Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81496046535?pwd=T1Rxa2c4ZWJmb0oyWi95QXZsSjJaZz09>

Elders and Leaders Meeting via Zoom – 18th October 2021

Contributions for the magazine

We appreciate your contributions so please keep them coming.

Contributions please for the next magazine to

Eileen and Peter Blane by

Monday 20th September 2021

for the October publication.

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 not producing a printed magazine, only an electronic version that is available to read on the church's website:

www.buxtonurc.org.uk



Buxton URC Sunday services (normally at 10:30am)

We're back in the church building!

Proposed services for September (these may be revised)

5th September	10:30am	Mark Houghton
12th September	10:30am	National URC Service
19th September	10:30am	National URC Service
26th September	10:30am	Link to a N. Derbyshire area church
3rd October	10.30am	Mark Houghton
10 th October	10:30am	Fellowship Service - Harvest

Services will be monitored and changes made if it is felt appropriate.



*Church
Garden Party
7th August
At
Phil and Debbie's*







(Photo: Bevan Roos)

Little Amal is hardly little! She is a puppet that has been produced to highlight the plight of Syrian refugees in a Festival called **The Walk**, by the **Good Chance Theatre Company**. Amal evokes the vulnerability of those who, ejected by catastrophe from their homes, take their lives into their hands and risk everything in the hope of finding safety for themselves and their families.

Handspring Puppet Company known for their creation of the War Horse was asked to make the “little” puppet that is 3.5 m tall. The story of The Walk takes the nine-year old Amal 500 miles across Europe from the war torn, devastated Syrian border with Turkey ending up in Manchester on 3rd November. Her journey started on 27th July in Gaziantep in south east Turkey and is making its way through Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and France finally ending up in England and her last stopping place being in Manchester during the beginning of November.

The Walk continues to 3rd November. For the full list of events, visit walkwithamal.org

Little Amal in Istanbul
(Photo: Andre Lihonuy)



*I asked my child to paint a sky,
Sky blue, white clouds and golden sun.*

He painted it red.

*I asked my child to paint his village,
Homes, roads, paths, people.*

**He painted landslides with wrecked buildings.
People hanging from trees or on the roofs of
buildings waiting to be rescued.
Their homes all gone.**

*I asked my child to paint the countryside;
Fields of crops ready to be harvested;
Animals grazing.*

**He painted an area flooded, with no crops.
He painted no birds to sing, no animals to graze.**

*I asked my child to paint what he remembered of
his childhood.*

**He painted land covered in grey ash.
Trees burnt with only their charred trunks
remaining upright. Sky red with fire.**

Is this how you remember things? I asked him.

Yes – why do you ask me?

I have known nothing else!

Get ready to celebrate the URC's 50th anniversary



The United Reformed Church (URC) will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2022. Marking our 50th year can help us to plan for the future – not only to keep pursuing our ecumenical vision, but also to plan for how we will continue to be an active, engaged and faithful Christian presence in our communities and in new ones. Watch this [short video](#) to find out what plans are in place to mark the occasion.

United

*Unique
Unwavering
Unafraid
Understanding
Upbeat*

Reformed

*Reflective
Resourceful
Radiant
Resilient
Rejoicing*

Church

*Courageous
Creative
Charitable
Caring
Compassionate*





Buxton United Reformed Church

Website: www.buxtonurc.org.uk

We warmly welcome everyone who wishes to join us for Sunday worship

We are now holding Sunday services in the church building once again.

Details of services, including times, can be found inside the magazine

We offer a sincere, loving welcome to all in Christian Worship.