

Buxton United Reformed Church

Hardwick Square East



September 2025

Peter and I have really enjoyed our garden this year during the warm weather. We always have some shade in the garden if the sun is too hot even though it may mean us moving around to find it.

Our roses have excelled in their blooms along with other plants. Agnes and Pastor Billy in Dunseverick asked me to take a video of our garden to share with them. I filmed all the roses



mentioning them by name – Alpine Sunset, Arthur Bell, Golden Wedding, William Morris, Port Sunlight, RNLI With Care, Chandos Beauty, Jude the Obscure, Lady Emma Hamilton, Just Joey and Munstead Wood and they all smell wonderful!



BUT there has been one disappointment. We have four magnolia trees – two in the front garden and two in the back. It is one in the back garden that has been of great sadness to us. We planted it about 23 years ago. We bought it from Dunge Valley near

Windgather Rocks and it was very healthy.

This spring the buds were visible, waiting to burst open, but they never did. No leaves, no flowers, nothing!

What should we do with it?

For alternate services on Sunday during July and August we have been following Nick Fawcett's *"No Ordinary Stories"* services on the parables of Jesus. On 10th August one of the parables, we will be thinking about is the Barren Fig Tree. You can find it in [Luke 13 v 6-9](#).

⁶ Then Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

⁸ "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

What have we decided to do with our magnolia tree?

Following chats with our daughter Yolanda, we have decided to leave it alone for this year (not 4 years as in Jesus' parable!) and if there are still no signs of life, we are going to prune back some of the branches and then train two of our climbing roses up it next year.

I might add that the underplanting of Crocosmia and Chinese Anemone flowers have grown very tall and excelled in blooms as a result of light being let in by no leaves on the magnolia!



I wonder if you have a junction box along your road. We have one at the bottom of Temple Road. Junction boxes house electrical equipment and other utilities, like telecommunications equipment. They always seem to be painted green.

Belfast artist Roy Bonner decided to transform and brighten up a junction box in East Belfast by turning it into what looks like a box of crayons. It is part of a Belfast Canvas Project to transform junction boxes with street art across the city to bring Belfast alive. That is great!



Image, Ray's crayon box sits at the intersection between Grand Parade and the Castlereagh Road in east Belfast. Taken from **Catherine Moore** BBC News NI Published 19 July 2025

When we have visited Wales on holiday we have noticed there are many disused chapels. One such chapel is the Grade II listed Baptist owned Chapel of Rhondda in the village of Hopkinstown, South Wales. The villagers had feared that developers would turn it into flats and have raised over £47,500 to buy it and refurbish it. The instigator of the fundraising project was Rhian Hopkins who was horrified at the thought of it being turned into flats or a home. He just wanted it for the community to enjoy for the foreseeable future. The chapel was built in 1885 for worshipers in the mining valleys and now looks likely to remain in the hands of local people and to become a community hub.

Why did Rhian want the village to own it so much?

It was all because of the composer John Hughes, who wrote the well-known hymn Cwm Rhondda for the anniversary service of the chapel in 1907. The hymn, for those of us that do not speak Welsh is *Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer (Jehovah)* with the chorus starting with

the words – “*Bread of Heaven feed me now and ever more*” and if you watch Welsh rugby matches you will know the fans often sing it.

And finally, I must tell you about a wee 2-year-old lad in India. He was playing at his home in the state of Bihar when he saw a three-foot-long snake. The cobra lunged at the lad and coiled itself round his tiny hands.

What, might you ask, happened next?

Well, what happened next is quite remarkable. The lad didn’t scream! Instead, he put the cobra’s head into his mouth and clenched his jaws shut! His grandmother removed the cobra from his mouth and it died on the spot but the lad quickly lost consciousness after ingesting some of the deadly venom. He was rushed to hospital for urgent treatment. The doctor treating him said that although the lad had eaten part of the cobra he had not been bitten by it, nor had the venom entered his blood stream; after specialist treatment and observations for 48 hours he was allowed to return home again. Wow!



Now that really is a story to share with other folk. I hope you were not in the middle of eating your tea when you read this. It would have put you off your food!

Eileen Blane

The following e-mail was received by our church on 23 Jun from Rev Matt Stone.



'Hello Lesley, Roger and Cathy,
Thank you so much for your hospitality on Saturday. We had a good church away day and very much appreciated being able to meet in Buxton and enjoy worship together. Cath's generosity in helping with refreshments and clearing up was also very kind, and we hope and pray your ministry and mission to Buxton continues to bless your community.

With thanks, and Christian love,
Matt and all at Herringthorpe URC'



This toilet sign was seen at a campsite in Emberton, north of Milton Keynes.

After being shown to Roger Horne he wrote

"I saw this sign in an African hospital where, apparently, some patients needed to be told how to use it. It was next to instructions written in English but I guess many could not read them.

It brings back memories of my Toilet Twinning days!"

Buxton URC Sunday services

7 th September	10.30 am	Eileen Blane
14 th September	10:30 am	Live link to All Saints Marple
21 st September	10.30 am	Roger Horne
28 th September	10.30 am	Through the roof disability Sunday Roger Horne and Alison Derby
5 th October	10.30 am	Harvest Festival Celebration led by Cath Sterndale <u>Followed by a bring and share lunch.</u>

Dates to Remember

Saturday Coffee Mornings on 6th September and 4th October

Elders and Leaders Meeting:- Wednesday 23rd September at 2^{pm} in church

Safeguarding Afternoon 20th September from 1-3^{pm} in Church with Ben Twelves from URC East Midlands Synod. Everyone welcome

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 September 2025.

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



Waste Not Want Not At Buxton United Reformed Church.

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

On Saturdays 6th September

and 4th October

Between 10am and 12midday in the church



**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
2025**



22nd September - 5th October 2025

For over three years every Sunday we have placed a Ukrainian headdress on our Bible or cross to remind us to remember and pray for Ukraine.

What does the wife of the Ukrainian President do when her husband has been so engrossed in protecting his country against the Russian invasion?



*I listened to a speech given by Her Excellency **Olena Zelenska**, first Lady of Ukraine at the **Ukraine Recovery Conference** in July that I thought was worthy of including part of it in the magazine. I certainly learnt a lot from listening to her. It was officially transcribed.*

Eileen Blane

“So dear attendees, esteemed head of government, I would like to thank first of all the Italian government and the Prime Minister George Maloney for organizing this and hosting this year’s conference here in Italy.

Thank you for your genuine concern and for your commitment because today we're discussing not only the fate of Ukraine region.

I want to tell something about the destruction because destruction is not only a physical concept. It is also a social one manifesting as a hardship, security threats and mental distress. It can spread far beyond the battlefield and affect everyone and it already has. For all these

recent months, precisely as long as Russia has been stalling negotiations, the aggressor has been shelling Ukraine with particular cruelty night after night. Last night, where floors once stood, international partners who visited Kiev saw apartment buildings shattered by ballistic strikes and said that they have never seen anything like this. A gap where people once lived in two residential buildings in the capital were destroyed this June. More than 30 lives were lost and nothing will bring back these people, these parents, these children. Top priority in every sense is to emphasize this above all else. **What matters most in rebuilding any country is its people. Building buildings without people, enterprises without people, a country without people. That is not a country.** It's a memorial. In Ukraine, we have learned this through pain and we would not wish such suffering on anyone. So, amid fierce defense, we have made saving lives our top priority in every sense, physical, social, and mental. **Our principle is - restore the individual and they will restore everything else only in that order.**

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Today our experts will share the details of how this principle is being implemented across the recovery agenda. Allow me to briefly highlight a few areas in which I'm personally involved.

Mental health recovery.

When a building is destroyed, what remains is not only rubble and graves. There are also hundreds of people living in grief. Relatives, friends, and many, many more living with anxiety, in fear, knowing they could be next. According to the latest sociological studies, more than 80% of Ukrainians are living in a chronic state of stress and emotional strain. Our economy continues to function thanks to millions of people who go to work after spending their nights in basements. But in those moments, the main emotions they carry are fatigue, tension, and despair. Already in the first months of the Russian vision, Ukraine responded to this challenge with the **Ukrainian Mental Health Programme**.

'How are you?'

Which I patronize. It is a full support system in which all ministers, regions, and communities are involved and work in co-ordination. It is a network of services where various mental health service providers know about one another because only in this way can a person avoid getting lost in their search for help. The key principle mental health in all sectors and all policies is now enshrined in law signalling that change is irreversible. Right now, it is critically important for Ukraine not to lose momentum and to continue backing changes in state policies in this area. Much effort is also being directed towards scaling up to ensure that mental health services reach every community and this requires support from partners. The key actor in this field is the Co-ordination Centre of Mental Health under the cabinet of the ministers of Ukraine. Its representatives are part of the Ukrainian delegation here and they are ready to respond to any of your enquires and questions. When people arrive at hospitals

after another Russian strike, they suffer severe injuries, bleeding wounds, burns, crushed limbs. **Saving their lives alone is not enough. We must help them live fully again.** Therefore, today we have 11,000 rehabilitation specialists working across the country, seven times more than in 2022. In just the last year and a half, they have helped 600,000 Ukrainians. This is also the result of state policy. Our specialists have the opportunity to learn from colleagues in the world's best clinics for which we are deeply grateful to those clinics and to your countries. But our own expertise has also grown to the point where we can share it. For this purpose, Ukraine has launched a medical partnership that directs international cooperation between medical institutions. I invite you to join and thank those who have already become part of it's education.

You may have seen the headlines: -

Ukraine now has fully functioning underground schools. It's true. We have already built 15 underground schools out of 200 planned. Russia deliberately targets our educational institutions, having already destroyed 394 facilities and damaged over 35,000. I want to especially thank every international partner who helps us provide education to children and welcome the international alliance supporting the transformation of early childhood education in Ukraine; **First Steps Forward** which will be established on the sidelines of the **Ukraine Recovery Conference** today. In the early months of our defense, when we made the important decision to preserve education for our children, we also made another crucial choice to continue the school nutrition reform. We are probably the only country implementing such a reform during wartime. But precisely in times like this, **a quality**

school lunch becomes more than just a meal. It is also an expression of care, a form of social protection and a support for entire family. I have the honour of patronizing this project, **a project about more than just food, about dignity and opportunities.** The reform team has already modernized over 1,000 school kitchens and more than 6,000 school cooks have been trained to prepare meals according to updated health care standards. Every day, more than 1.5 million Ukrainian children receive free hot meals at school. Our healthy eating campaign has reached over 7 million Ukrainians because we believe that by cultivating healthy habits from childhood, we shape a healthy nation. Our goal is that by 2027, every child has daily access to high quality healthy food. To achieve this, Ukraine still needs 6,000 modernized kitchen facilities and 12,000 trained cooks. I invite you, all those who feel connected to this to join us. And I also invite everyone to literally taste the reform. For the second year in a row, we have a school meal show kitchen here at the Conference. You're welcome to taste the food!"

A quality school lunch becomes more than just a meal. It is also an expression of care, a form of social protection and a support for entire family.

*Her Excellency **Olena Zelenska**, first Lady of Ukraine
at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in July 2025, Rome Italy.*





Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Mornings on
6th September and 4th October

Demand for help from **High Peak Homeless Help** is on the increase. Please pray for everyone needing help and for our volunteers who provide it.

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

For Amy Odeke, Eileen and Yolanda Blane; all recovering from operations.

For all elderly folk who have had to relocate following the imminent closure of the Hawthorns Salvation Army Care Home. Especially those known to our church family including Eileen Delight who has moved to Haddon Hall, Buxton and Brian awaiting relocation.

For Ukraine and the **Mental Health Programme, 'How are you?'** Also, the **underground schools and free meals to all students in Ukraine**. The goal is that by 2027, every child has daily access to high quality healthy food. To achieve this, Ukraine still needs 6,000 modernized kitchen facilities and 12,000 trained cooks.

For northern Pakistan where Catastrophic flash floods have swept across, **killing hundreds and leaving thousands homeless**.

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

Currently, regions experiencing severe famine conditions include parts of Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti, and Mali, with millions facing acute hunger due to conflict, economic instability, and climate crises.

Now Gaza has been added to the list!

Prayer for those suffering famine by Rev. Maren Tirabassi

Christ, you have said that we should never be among those who put stumbling blocks in the path of children –

help us to be heart-changers in this time when there could be fourteen thousand more children dying in Palestine, because they have nothing to eat.

You have said, Let the children come, and we are now your voice.

Let children come to the table, let children come to a home that is not rubble.

Let the infants receive formula when their hungry mothers can give them no milk. Let the infants have fathers who hold a spoon for them, sisters who grow and carry them, brothers who play with them.

We pray that hands be opened, hearts be opened, roads be opened.

Let the food come unto the children, and do not stop it, for to these your love belongs. Amen.



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)