

*Buxton United Reformed Church*

*Hardwick Square East*



*March 2025*

I wonder if you can remember any headline news recently that has made you feel it was wonderful and joyful. I guess you are able to think of many disturbing news items but find it difficult to think of amazing things.

During Jesus' ministry it is recorded in the gospels that He healed many blind people – but we don't know how many. Indeed in the gospel of John the whole of chapter 9 is spent on what I would call a teaching aid starting with an enquiry from the disciples focusing on one man who was born blind.

Talking about blindness to His disciples, Jesus then healed the man by making a mud pack, putting it on his face and then directed the man to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. We don't know the man's name but after washing he was able to see for the first time in his life.

He went home and to the astonishment of the neighbours who could not understand how his eyes were open and he could see. *"He looks like him"* they said *"but it can't be him because he has been blind all of his life."* He

*"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I can see!"*

was then taken to the Pharisees who enquired how he became sighted because they didn't believe he had been blind. They even involved his parents in their investigations. His response was - *"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I can see!"*

I started by asking you if you could remember any headline news recently that have made you feel it was wonderful and joyful. Within the last two weeks such a headline was in the TV news and newspapers that made me react just that way when I heard about it.

It was about children who were born blind that can now see after British doctors successfully administered pioneering gene therapy at Moorfield's Eye Hospital. It is the most spectacular breakthrough in effective treatment for the most severe form of childhood blindness. The children, who suffer from the rare genetic condition severe retinal dystrophy, known as leber congenital amaurosis, can now see shapes, find toys, recognise faces and in some cases read and write.

The outcome is so impressive that it shows the power of gene therapy to change lives. More children have been given the same treatment since the first four, with life changing results. Now that is what I call a really wonderful good news story.

**A** while back Peter came to see me in hospital after a Sunday morning service which was a live connection to All Saints, Marple. He asked me if I had ever heard the Christian song "Waymaker", as it was used in the service. By coincidence I had the same morning been trawling on Youtube and found a version of *Shema and Waymaker by Joshua Aaron and The Kings Harpists* playing it by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Do take time to listen to it because I think the arrangement is wonderful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YD85zv7o7DY>

**T**o finish my thoughts for this month I wonder if you have ever heard of the Red Legged Pademelon Wallaby which is native to the east coast land of Australia. Or how about the Gumbi Gumbi that is otherwise known as the native Australian plant *Pittosporum Phylliraeoides*. Gumbi Gumbi is a medium to large tree, native to certain areas of inland Australia, and very sparsely found. Many people believe there are up to six varieties, with only one having medicinal properties used in Aboriginal



herbal remedies. They're highly toxic to cold blooded animals and some of its toxins have been identified in dead snake venom, starfish and sea cucumbers. Some are toxic to humans resulting in death if ingested.



Why did I ask if you have heard of the Red Legged Pademelon Wallaby and then followed it by asking you if you have heard of the Gumbi Gumbi? The reason is because the wallaby is one of the few creatures that can eat the Gumbi Gumbi and not die from the poison in the plant. Isn't nature wonderful!

**E**njoy and rejoice over the emerging Spring.

Eileen Blane

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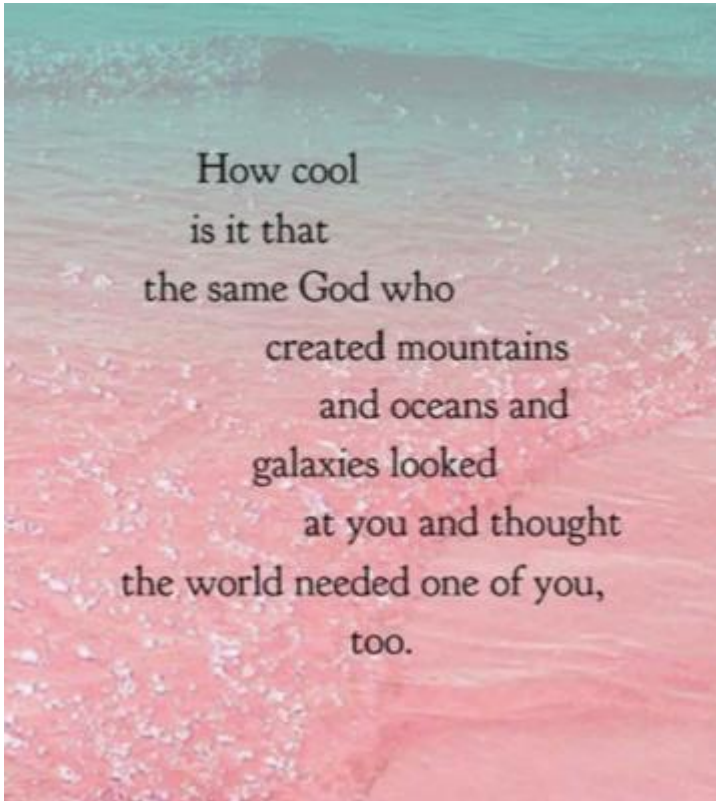
## **Some Bible verses for Lent**

Matthew 4:4: Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

2 Corinthians 5:21: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Psalm 51:10: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Matthew 6:21: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



How cool  
is it that  
the same God who  
created mountains  
and oceans and  
galaxies looked  
at you and thought  
the world needed one of you,  
too.

Natia Beradze

"Remember that Lent and Ash Wednesday are not just about putting away the bad things. It is more about creating good things and helping the poor and the needy, being kind to people, and much more."

Jacob Winters

"O lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen."

Henri Nouwen



## LENT LUNCHES 2025

Churches Together is pleased to be able to offer three Lent Lunches this year on;

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

VENUE; BATH ROAD PARISH CENTRE, 26 BATH ROAD SK17 6HJ

TIME; SERVING FROM 12.00 TO 1.15PM

On the menu; homemade soup, crusty bread and butter, tea, coffee, biscuits, and cake when available. Gluten and dairy free soups available.

There is no charge but donations are invited for BLYTHE HOUSE HOSPICE.

You will be assured of a warm welcome!

## Calling a Wounded Earth Home

Buxton Methodists are running a **5 week Lent course** prepared by "Green Christian", entitled: "**Calling a Wounded Earth Home**".



It starts on **12th March at 19.30** **in the Lower Room at BMC,** and will last between 60 and 90 minutes.

What kind of people may we need to be to face the challenges of Climate Change?

Music, prayer and bible text are used to inform reflection and discussion. All are welcome.

## Buxton United Reformed Church AGM

The Church AGM will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March after the morning service

### AFTERNOON TEA



On 23<sup>rd</sup> March Waste Not Want Not will have been running for 5 years.

**At 3pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March** there will be an afternoon tea at church to celebrate.

Please come if you can.



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

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



***On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
And  
5<sup>th</sup> April***

***Between  
10am and 12midday  
in the church***

***Love in the  
community***



## ***Buxton URC Sunday services***

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	10:30am	Rev Caroline Andrews
9 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30am	Fellowship Service
16 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30am	URC National Service
23 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30am	Roger Horne
30 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30am	All Saints Marple live link

*Please note that, when appropriate, services may be subject to change.*

### ***Dates to Remember***

**Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.**

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

Locations to be arranged.

**Saturday Coffee Morning on 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**Church AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> March after the morning service**

**Elders and Leaders Meeting:- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> March 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](http://www.buxtonurc.org.uk)**





## March 7 is the 2025 World Day of Prayer

The program this year is written by people of the Cook Islands and the theme is

**“Wonderfully made”**

based on Psalm 139 v14:

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.*

Precious Lord, thanks for creating us, all in our own different but unique way. We are all so different in our minds and attitudes, yet when we come together, we come as one spiritually knowing that you are at the helm.

Lord, it's so uplifting to know we are so wonderfully made. Thank you, Lord, for moulding us in such a beautiful way. Lord, we acknowledge we have weaknesses and flaws, but when we come before you, we come as one seeking your forgiveness, guidance and protection.

Dear Lord, the harvest is ripe and ready to be plucked. We ask you to equip us with the armour of wisdom and courage, ready for the reaping. Surround us, Lord, with your mighty presence and encircle us with your impenetrable shield.

Lord, we thank you for hearing our prayers, as we walk in the confidence of your presence, knowing that you are interceding on our behalf with your continuous protection.

In your mighty name we pray.  
Amen.

*by Audrey Eccleston*  
from Together in Prayer, 2025





## Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Mornings  
on 1<sup>st</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April.

For Cath and Daniel Sterndale and other volunteers giving out Waste Not Want Not food especially in this cold weather.

For our church elders and leaders, that God will give them wisdom and strength.

For world leaders, that they will seek the ways of freedom, justice, compassion and truth and that they will work for the good of the people they govern and serve.

For world peace

Lord, we pray for world peace in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between nations.

We pray for wars to end.

We give thanks for your promise that one day there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.

Until that day, we pray for your continued grace and goodness to overflow in this world so that humans can live alongside one another respectfully, allowing for mutual flourishing. Amen.

Psalm 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble".



## Buxton United Reformed Church

Website: [www.buxtonurc.org.uk](http://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.*

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### 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)