

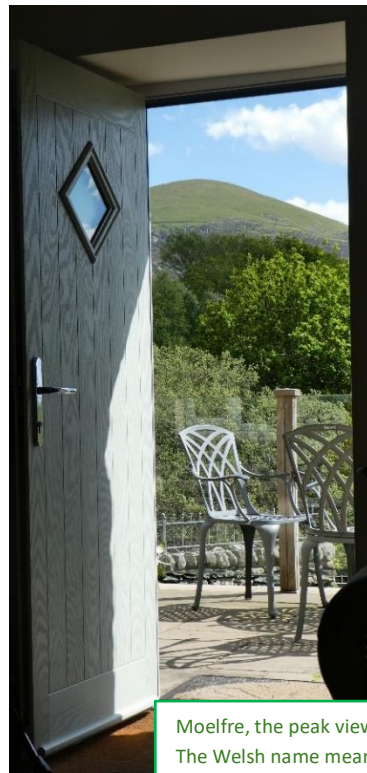
# Buxton United Reformed Church Hardwick Square East



June 2026

Wow! As I write this it is 34<sup>c</sup> in our back garden in Buxton and that is in the shade!

A few weeks ago Peter, our daughter Yolanda and I went back to Moelfre Cottage on the edge of the moors above Llanbedr in North Wales. It is in an area that we love to return to, to just absorb and appreciate the whole countryside. Each morning the dawn chorus starts with the call of the cuckoos and yes, we did hear for the first time two singing simultaneously. They seem to sing for most of the day in that area and



finish off the day with their songs at dusk.

During our last two days there swallows started to swoop around the cottage announcing their return from Africa. They are so small in comparison with the incredible journey they have made and yet they still have enough energy for their swooping dances around the cottage to let us know they are back.

The single-track road to the cottage above the waterfall.

Moelfre, the peak viewed from the cottage. The Welsh name means "Bald or Barren Hill".



The area is well known for being part of the Ancient Sessile Oak Woodland of Wales. One thing that is very common with the oaks is that they thrive growing out of big rock faces.

There are a good few mentions of oaks in the Bible. One of the references is found in Job 8 v16-17 They are like a well-watered plant in the sunshine, spreading its shoots over the garden; its roots grow down through a pile of stones; it takes hold on a bed of rocks.

That describes the very many hundreds of oaks that we saw in the surrounding rocky woodland. All seemingly growing out of rocks.



The Oaks of Mamre are ancient oak trees near Hebron in the West Bank historically associated with Abraham and significant biblical events. In Genesis 13:<sup>18</sup>, we read “So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the Lord.”

Again, it is in Genesis 18 that we read “the Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood in front of him.” After feeding the visitors, they left with a promise to Abraham that in a year’s time when they return Sarah will have given birth to a son.

I am not sure if the oaks of the Ancient Oak Woods of Wales have got any legends associated with them but we have enjoyed being around them.

Changing the subject, I hope you think that the content of the photo on the magazine cover is a good idea. We found it by our favorite beach car park. We even saw one wee girl choose something to take onto the beach to play with in the sand.

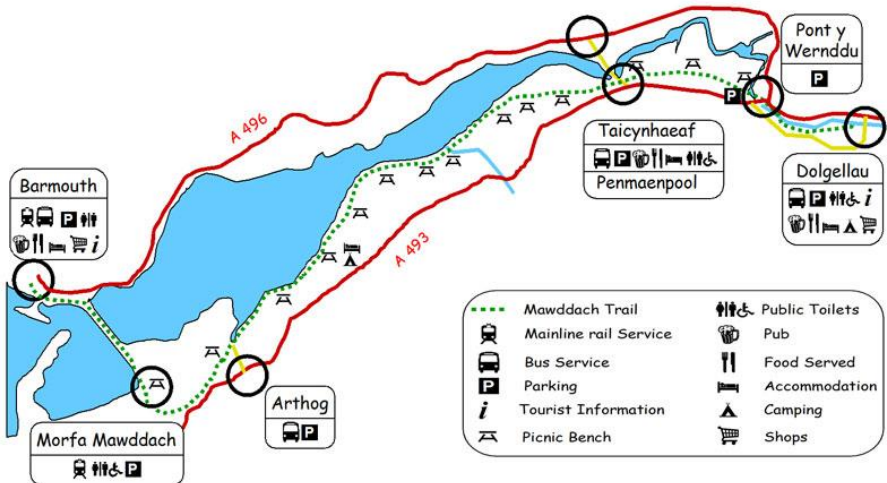
It is in the sand dunes that the ancient Eglwys St Tanwg Church is found to.





Another area which we love to visit includes the Penmaenpool Toll Bridge which is a Grade III listed wooden planked bridge built in 1879, panning the Mawddach Estuary near Dolgellau, Wales, that we

like to travel over in spite of its bumpiness with the planks of wood shifting as we go over it. At the other side by the toll booth is the George III Hotel with a very good restaurant. It is also right on the circular walking and cycling trail around the estuary and well worth a visit.



Well I guess that is most of my thoughts about our holiday at Moelfre Cottage. Do enjoy the sunshine in Buxton keeping yourself protected and drinking lots!



**The Arthur Rank Centre**

**RURAL**  
**MISSION AND MINISTRY**  
**ROADSHOW**

**Tuesday 9 June 2026**  
**Bakewell Methodist Church**  
**10am - 2pm**

*Space is limited. To book your place go to*

*[www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/rural-roadshow-arc-on-the-road/](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/rural-roadshow-arc-on-the-road/)*

*For more information contact us on [info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk)*

**Join us as we celebrate all that is rural. Come along and share a free day of learning, networking and be encouraged within the unique context of your rural mission and ministry.**

**Open to rural leaders in all denominations.**

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

31 <sup>st</sup> May	10.30am	Trinity Sunday Eileen Blane
7 <sup>th</sup> June	10:30am	Songs of Praise Cath Sterndale
14 <sup>th</sup> June	10:30am	Refugee Sunday Roger Horne
21 <sup>st</sup> June	10.30am	Welcome into church membership, Julie and Mark Clayton, with Communion, led by Mark Houghton.
28 <sup>th</sup> June	10:30am	Tax Justice Sunday Roger Horne
5 <sup>th</sup> July	10:30am	BBC Songs of Praise

*Services may be changed when necessary.*



Penmaenpool Toll Bridge

## *Guess what - We went to A Royal Garden Party!*

I was born in London and grew up in the home counties, so I've stood outside Buckingham Palace on countless occasions - from changing of the guard and trooping the colour, to the wedding of Princess Anne and the Queen's Silver Jubilee... But I'd never been through those imposing gates until I joined **Buxton Town Team**.

I've been chair of this amazing community organisation for the last five years, with duties mainly involving organising meetings and helping out with projects and events. But the highlight came this year when we were presented with the **Kings Award for Voluntary Service** - the result of a year-long application and assessment process.

The award ceremony at the Palace Hotel was memorable, but the jewel in the crown (forgive the pun) came when I was invited to a royal garden party - with husband Steve, who is the Town Team's head of communications.

My sister still lives in Hertfordshire, so we stayed overnight with her and took the train up to Buckingham Palace on the big day. I felt very self-conscious in my smart dress, jacket and obligatory fascinator, but



Us with Derbyshire's Vice Lord  
Lieutenant Andrew Cochrane

by the time we disembarked at Victoria Station we were very much part of a garden party crowd!

We had our credentials scanned outside the palace, then came the moment when we actually walked through those magnificent gates. We made our way round to the gardens, where the crowds were gathering, and spent an hour exploring around the lake, soaking up the atmosphere and chatting to people we met - from a Gurkha soldier, and a Mexican General, to Derbyshire's Vice Lord Lieutenant Andrew Cochrane, who had presented our award.

The royal guests - the Prince and Princess of Wales - arrived at 4pm and made their way through the thousands of visitors who were waiting to see them. In fact, they took so long that we missed afternoon tea while we were waiting to catch a glimpse. But we could have tea any day - this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Princess Kate! She walked right in front of us, which made it worth the wait. She was so friendly and seemed genuinely interested to talk to those she met.



Then it was back to the station for the journey home. A real day to remember!

Lesley Caddy



## Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Mornings on 6<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July

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



For Revd Caroline Andrews as she makes plans for her early retirement and for the churches in the North and West Derbyshire Resource Area as they make plans for the future.

For Cath Sterndale as she recovers from an operation to remove a cataract.

That a lasting peace deal will be agreed between Iran and the U.S. so that the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz can be ended.

For the people of Ukraine who have recently been suffering some of the worst missile attacks from Russia.

That a viable solution will emerge from the talks between Israel and Hamas over implementing the second phase of the October ceasefire in Gaza.

Wars are devastating ordinary people throughout the world. As we pray for peace let's also pray for the individuals who's live are shattered by war.

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*)



## Churches Together in Buxton AGM – Building God’s Kingdom Together

The Churches Together in Buxton AGM was a thoughtful and encouraging evening. It began with a Bible study led by Rev Howard on John 12. Many commentators see this chapter as a call to set aside our “human lenses” of judgement, fear, or worldly success, and to learn instead to see as God sees.

This prompted a lively discussion about the different ‘lenses’ through which our denominations view faith and discipleship. Rather than seeing these differences as barriers, there was a strong sense that greater understanding can help us to value and celebrate the rich variety of ways in which Christians’ encounter and follow the same Jesus. Churches Together offers a safe space in which to listen well, learn from each another, and see the joy in both unity and diversity.

The meeting also celebrated the recent CTiB stall at the Spring Fair. Visitors were invited to create 2D or 3D shapes using garden canes – a deceptively simple challenge which quickly showed that success required cooperation, trust, and people working together to hold the structure in place. It was a powerful and playful reminder of how God works through people, building his kingdom through shared effort and mutual support.

The stall led to many joyful and meaningful conversations with families, young people, and fellow stallholders, and was a reminder of the value of being visibly present together in the life of our town.

The Pet Service at St. Peter's took place on 19th April, and was a lovely, warm-hearted service which not only provided pets but also 2 new members for St. Peter's Choir!

Altogether, the AGM set a hopeful tone for the year ahead, encouraging us to keep looking beyond our own familiar lenses and to continue building God’s kingdom together in Buxton.

Jennie Gill

## ***Dates to Remember***

**Elders and Leaders**

Meeting Wednesday  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2pm at church



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

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

***On Saturdays 6<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July***  
***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 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026.***

*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)





## Buxton United Reformed Church

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

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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)