

Buxton United Reformed Church Hardwick Square East



Photo from BBC TV

September 2026

A while back I found a Christian song that I really liked very much called “**When Jesus Comes.**” The version I heard was sung by Bride of Christ Ministry - <https://youtu.be/79nLWcJ-mUM> Another version is sung by the wonderful singer George Beverly Shea. If you play the song, I hope you will enjoy it too.

It was written by **Oswald Jeffery Smith** (born November 8, 1889 – died January 25, 1986) who was a Canadian pastor, author, and missions advocate. He founded The Peoples Church in Toronto in 1928.

Using his base in Toronto for fundraising, he traveled the world to recruit missionaries. Over the course of eighty years, he preached more than 12,000 sermons in 80 countries, wrote thirty-five books (with translations into 128 languages), as well as 1,200 poems, of which 100 have been set to music, including When Jesus Comes. Now that is an achievement!

When Jesus came by Oswald J. Smith

1 One sat alone beside the highway begging,
His eyes were blind, the light he could not see;
He clutched his rags and shivered in the shadows,
Then Jesus came and bade his darkness flee.

Chorus

*When Jesus comes the tempter's pow'r is broken,
When Jesus comes the tears are wiped away.
He takes the gloom and fills the life with glory,
For all is changed when Jesus comes to stay.*

2 From home and friends the evil spirits drove him,
Among the tombs he dwelt in misery;
He cut himself as demon pow'rs possess'd him,
Then Jesus came and set the captive free.

Chorus

3 Unclean, unclean the leper cried in torment,
The deaf, the dumb in helplessness stood near,
The fever raged, disease had gripped it's victim,
The Jesus came and cast out every fear.

Chorus

4 So men today have found the Saviour able,
They could not conquer passion, lust and sin;
Their broken hearts had left them sad and lonely,
Then Jesus came and dwelt Himself within.

Chorus

Well, how have you got on with the heatwaves we have experienced in the last two months? Although it has been unusually hot here in Buxton it has been much more tolerable than in many parts of the country. A good reason to be in Buxton!

I heard of two things related to organs recently.

The first is about how there is a challenge with the 155-year-old Royal Albert Hall organ that is played during concerts such as the Proms. The organ has been going out of tune in heatwaves!



The Willis organ, as it is called has 9,997 pipes, some 32 feet high and as I have already said it's 155 years old.

The Royal Albert Hall organ has suffered from “drought-like” dryness and heat, which causes its wooden soundboards and pipes to warp, crack and go out of tune. The Hall installed steam-based humidification to maintain about 55% humidity and protect the instrument. But in spite of that the organ goes out of tune overnight due to soaring temperatures resulting in the visible pipes going sharp while reed pipes go flat, creating severe tonal imbalance. The staff are having to retune the instrument more frequently during the Proms. Dryness and humidity will be causing major problems to pipe organs all across Britain during the drought conditions not just in the Royal Albert Hall!

News obtained from The Telegraph

My next organ story is as a result of me watching a film about Dr Albert Schweitzer's life and refers to his time in Africa. Well, I could say it is half an organ story! During his life (he lived from January 1875 – 4 September 1965), Dr Albert Schweitzer was a French-German theologian, priest, very fine musician, philosopher and physician. He wrote books about music and religion. He started a famous hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon, West Africa.

Albert Schweitzer spent most of his life in Lambaréné. In 1904, he was inspired to help sick people in the world, so he studied medicine. After his medical studies in 1913, he went to Lambaréné with his wife to establish a hospital that would serve thousands of Africans.

But what has all this got to do with organs? Dr Schweitzer was a very skilled musician and had shipped out to Lambaréné a pedal piano. **What is it like?** It is a unique type of piano equipped with a pedalboard. The addition of multiple foot pedals enabled Dr Schweitzer to play extended bass notes using his feet, similar to those of a pipe organ such as the one in the Royal Albert Hall. I had never seen one until I saw the film!

In 1952 Dr Albert Schweitzer was awarded The Nobel Prize for peace. He gave a famous speech "The Problem of Peace". He died on 4 September 1965 at his hospital in Lambaréné.



More news about the effects of heat!

Have you heard that the rose window of York Minster is heat damaged?

Last year a survey of the Rose Window, which was restored after the Minster fire of 1984, showed it faces climate change damage as it is particularly vulnerable to UV radiation, as well as infrared rays. These environmental pressures are accelerating stone decay, damaging painted surfaces, and causing the

Images by PhotoEverywhere.co.uk

gradual failure of historic materials, experts have warned. As a result of the Minster fire, caused by a lightning strike in 1984, the rose window suffered approximately 40,000 cracks across its 73 panels as temperatures rose to around 450 degrees c. but now it faces climate damage.

The medieval stonework and stained glass will have to be carefully restored by expert conservators, while a new layer of UV- and IR-resistant protective glazing will be installed externally, creating a sacrificial barrier between the fragile historic glass and the elements.

Dr Marie Groll, director of York Glaziers Trust said *"As conservators, we have a duty of care to the Minster, its heritage, and the people of York to ensure this remarkable window continues to stand proudly over our city."*

I have three news items about the sea that might make you smile.

The first is about hundreds of whales that have migrated up the North Atlantic Ocean to the east coast of Greenland. There are as many as 16 species of whales – from the smaller narwhal, beluga and porpoise to the gigantic baleen whales, blue whales, fin whales and humpback whales.

More whales have come to the sea in the summer around Greenland since it is ice-free and there is abundant food including crustaceans, copepods and small fish. But the bowhead whale, narwhal and beluga are the only ones that overwinter.

If you fancy a trip to Greenland, there is a high chance of seeing humpback whales, fin whales and minke whales, as well as porpoise and white-beaked dolphin.

My second news item about the sea is that, because of the warmer waters, blue fin tuna have returned to British waters especially around the south-west coast where they seem to be thriving. Scientists have

tagged 165 blue fin tuna in that area but say that a blue fin tuna that has been caught recently in the North Sea off the coast of Whitby for the first time in almost 90 years is possibly genetically distinct and considerably larger than those already tagged. It weighed 746 pounds! Can you imagine how chuffed the fishermen were that landed the tuna. It would make a good story to tell children for generations to come. It was to be cut up and sold to restaurants around Britain. I wonder how many mouths it would feed!



My last sea news is about a barn owl that was seen flying above an army crew's yacht sailing 80 miles off the coast of Newcastle during a boat race around the coast of Britain and Ireland.

The owl collapsed onto the yacht, was given food and wrapped up in a towel by the racing crew who got in contact with the Barn Owl Trust to ask for help. Caister Life Boat crew off the Norfolk coast met the racing yacht at sea and transferred the owl back to land to be cared for by the Marine and Wildlife Rescue.

And to finish I would like to tell you about visitors to our daughter, Yolanda's back garden.

In spring time, she had hedge sparrows, black birds and blue tits all nesting in her garden to bring up their young.

But those were not the only visitors – in recent weeks she has had five hedgehogs making their home too. They seemed to appreciate the shelter of the undergrowth especially during the very hot weather. There are 3 hoglets, one medium hedgehog and one very large one -? pregnant.





Then, when Yolanda got home from work the other day, she found a wee mouse stuck in the hole of her covered compost bin it was trying to leave!

Did it eat so much that its belly couldn't get through the hole again?
She had to cut another whole in the lid to enable it to escape!

Now we regard what has been going on in her garden as very special.
That's all the news from her Bakewell garden for now folks!

Eileen Blane

Buxton URC Sunday services

6 th September	10:30am	BBC Songs of Praise
13 th September	10:30am	Eileen Blane
20 th September	10:30am	Cath Sterndale <i>Harvest Service</i> <i>Followed by a Bring and Share Lunch</i>
27 th September	10.30am	Roger Horne <i>Disability Sunday</i>
4 th October	10:30am	Julie and Mark Clayton

Services may be changed when necessary.

Dates to Remember



Waste Not Want Not
At Buxton United Reformed Church.

*Please join with us for **free coffee, cake and company***
On Saturday 5th September
Between 10am and 12midday in the church

Elders and Leaders Meeting

9th September at 2pm at church



Sunday 20th September - Harvest Celebration
Harvest Service at 10:30am
Followed by a Bring and Share Lunch
All are welcome



Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Morning on
5th September

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

For Julie Clayton as she sets off for Uganda on Wednesday 26th August and returns on Wednesday 9th September, working with Helping Hands a Christian Charity based in Kamuli, Uganda. It aims to change the lives of people living in this rural area. Through the hard work of Ronnie Waibi and sponsors in the UK, US and Australia, the local people find new life in Jesus and relief from poverty and hardship.



For Cath Sterndale. Her eye operation has been cancelled umpteen times but has now been rescheduled for September 10th.

For Purdy Blane and other young people who have just graduated or completed their secondary education and are now seeking employment.

For rescuers looking for survivors after a massive glacial collapse and debris flow triggered the **flash flood on the Nepal-Tibet border**, with homes destroyed, roads swamped, and bridges swept away by surging mud and water. More than **800 people are missing in Nepal** including locals and tourists. At least **177 bodies have been recovered** so far, with rescue efforts complicated by **rain and geography**.

In Tibet, at least **558 people are missing**, with three confirmed dead - it's not clear if these figures overlap with Nepal's.

(Latest stats. given on 27th August 2026.)

Buxton Broadwood Piano Recitals are held each month in our church in association with budding pianists from the Royal Northern College of Music, in Manchester.

The recitals started when the Broadwood was restored a few years back by Keith Savage. He organised them and we let him have free use of the church - he gave us half the proceeds in return.

After Keith died, the concerts were continued by John Winter. And now he's handed over the baton to Tony Parsons, John Anfield and Carol Bowns. The concerts recommence on September 24 – at 2pm – and they're keen to spread the word as much as possible, so I thought including them in the church magazine might be a good way to help them (and us)!

Lesley Caddy

Here are the details of the RNCM Recitals so far.

24 September 2026	Nye Hughes-Watts
29 October 2026	James Smith
26 November 2026	Yonina Liss
17 December 2026	Anastasia Gould
28 January 2027	?
25 February 2027	Maia Payne
25 March 2027	?
29 April 2027	Jane Xiong
27 May 2027	Betty Bao
24 June 2027	Candy Yuan





The Treasurer of the National URC has sent out a letter to all URC members giving an indication of the denomination's central finances. The letter ends "thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2025 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could."

The full letter can be downloaded by using the following link.

https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-Churches-thank-you-letter.vwg_.docx

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 21st September 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



Buxton United Reformed Church

Website: 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.*

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)