

Buxton United Reformed Church

Hardwick Square East



Remembering the country of Ukraine and all its people spread throughout Europe.
The Ukrainian floral wedding headdress with sunflowers, the flowers of Ukraine.

April 2022

Welcome to the joy of spring time. That is what it is like in our garden. The snow drops, early harvest salmon coloured



tulips and purple crocus have just about finished flowering to be replaced by



hundreds of hellebores and narcisi along with the catkins of the twisted hazel. Now that is something to celebrate and there is much more to come.

Peter and I listened during our Sunday service to a recording on Youtube of Daniel, a Ukranian Christian, telling about his experience of living in the Ukraine with all the bombing around him. The recording was firstly played to folk at the Buxton Prayer for Ukraine Group. Daniel started by talking about what really was important in his life. What were his priorities?

He said

*"I have been thinking of **three things I want to share with you.***

Firstly my family and city feel fairly safe. God is showing us miracles today. No bombs and rockets have hit us and the Ukranian army are resisting the Russian invasion.

Secondly so many things that we thought as important stopped being important. We make so many things of number one priority but when we look closely we find they really aren't the most important things. Then we start seeing the things that God wants us to know that are the most important; helping others keeping safe, taking in refugees from other cities, or taking aid to those cities and bring people out to safety, keeping them safe.

I had so many plans- building a new home for our family, travelling somewhere, I had plans for my business – it's all irrelevant. Other things are more relevant than building and travel. That is what I think God wants to show us. We have other things to take care of. Other things are much more important.

The third thing to share with you is we feel God's work so much clearer. We see God's answer to our prayers almost instantly and

*it is something I have never experienced in my life before even though I have been a Christian since I was a little boy and for that reason I want to thank you so much for your prayers and ask you to continue praying for us because **prayers actually work**. We see God's affect when we hear airraid sirens and hear the news there is a rocket aimed at our city and then all of a sudden it falls out of the sky, not even intercepted or it falls into the woods, not the target it was aiming for. Please continue praying for us, asking God to keep us safe and to stop the war and use us as instruments to help other people. Thank you so much."*

Daniel



Christians praying in Kharkov City

Photo taken from the News Letter from **Faith in Action**, a Christian group in Northern Ireland. They have helped some of the most vulnerable people in the Ukraine for the past 21 years believing they were put there by God for this very moment.

Kharkov was the old capital of Ukraine, almost two million people live there. It's a sprawling city with thousands of villages running off it.

Donald Fleming founder of **Faith in Action** said: *“We work in the villages, with people who are very poor and very sick, we set up care homes, we work with people with addictions, people in prisons and help to set up rehabilitation centers for them when they come out, we work with churches – there’s a whole range.”*

“We’ve been in the east at the war zone, helping families who had lost everything. We have different funds over there to reach out to the people who have nothing.

When we are not in the Ukraine the work continues to be carried out by Christians there.”

He added: *“Even though the war is going on people are still doing all of the work I’ve talked about.”*

There’s a lot we can do from here in Ireland but nothing we can do over there at the minute.”

Donald said the ethos of **Faith in Action** was to help anyone in need: *“It doesn’t matter who they are or what they are. We work with everyone in Ukraine – Muslims, Hindus, Christians, unsafe people – we work with them all. If they need help, they get help.*

The important thing we can do is share the word of God with them. At the end of the day if there are more Christians in the world there will be less trouble in the world.”

Donald Fleming, Founder of **Faith in Action**



Children taking shelter from bombs.

Over the past few days since the Russian invasion, Donald has been receiving regular updates from fellow Christians in the Ukraine who run organizations based around the city of Kharkov that are helped by funds raised by **Faith in Action**.



Pastor Pavel, who runs a Christian fellowship at **House of Hope**, has sent a video of children crying out to God for help and the sound of shooting and shelling which can be heard from the church.

Donald said: *"These children are literally crying out to God for help."*

*"We are praying for the Lord to redirect the shooting and bombs away from the **House of Hope** and the Christian school and church building."*

I hope that these articles have given you some ideas as to how you can pray for these Ukrainians still in Ukraine.

I started this article by telling you about what is flowering in our garden at the moment and said there is more to come. Well, we have a lot of hanging baskets and wall baskets so this year I decided the flowering plants that we will grow in them will be representing the colours of the national flag of Ukraine –



yellow of Gaillardia maxima Aurea and blue of the Eryngium alpinum Blue Star (posh thistle to you and me!) and Lobelia Crystal Palace.



I hope that will make a welcomed sight to all who see them.



And finally, a farmer near Dunseverick Baptist Church in Northern Ireland plants every year a maze of sunflowers in his field for folk to enjoy walking through.

If you fancy doing something in your garden why not plant sunflower seeds – the sunflower being the national flower of Ukraine. They can be all different heights so you don't have to have giant ones if you don't want to! In seeing them grow it can be a reminder for you and me to continue praying for that country and its courageous people wherever they are around Europe.

I end in the words of a chorus:

*“Whosoever will to the Lord may come He'll not turn one away.
Jesus heals the broken hearted. He will set them free.”*

Eileen Blane

CTiB Lent Lunch

Churches together in Buxton organised a Lent lunch in the Bath Road centre on Wednesday 2nd March.

The room was laid out really lovely and there were about 6 different types of soup to choose from. Phil and I were able to try 2 of them which were yummy and we were able to meet with Christian friends from another church in Buxton. The lunch time event raised £261.05 for the Disasters Committees Appeal for the Ukraine. Very many thanks to all who helped in any way at all.



If you are doing anything special during Lent, giving anything up or taking anything on, here is an encouragement to keep going as Lent is till 15th April.

Debbie Delight x



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

You are invited to join with us for
free coffee, cake and company



**Saturday 2nd April between
10am and 12midday in the church**

Love in the community

Other news

Thank you to all those that gave at the last coffee morning for DEC for Ukraine appeal. The total was **£76.72**.

*It was good to have the **Rev Caroline Andrews** taking our service the other week together with her friends from Wilmslow and Alderley.*

Caroline is the Minister for the North Derbyshire resource area which includes our church in Buxton.

We look forward to working with Caroline in the coming months.

Churches Together in Buxton

Easter Egg Outreach in the Pavilion Gardens in Buxton

16th April 10am -12md All welcome





Please pray for members of our church family and friends, but also, for the many needy across the world

*For the next **Waste Not Want Not Saturday Coffee, Cake and Company** morning at church on **2nd April**.*

Daniel, Cath and Steph Sterndale all undergoing significant health checks and awaiting histology.
Cath has been confirmed as having Covid too and at present time of reporting is very unwell.

For the suffering children of our world who have neither enough food, health care, education or shelter available for them including those in Ukraine and Afghanistan.

For the safe travel of many lorries of relief aid that is being taken to the bordering countries with Ukraine, that it will be distributed to those in need and bring about some relief to many.

For thanks to the many people who have given to the relief efforts with money, clothing and health care products as well as the haulage companies that have loaned their lorries for transportation of the aid.

For thanks for the new heating system in our church and the Tomkinson's engineers who were so professional during the time spent installing the boilers.

Supporting our brothers and sisters in Ukraine

To help us think and pray for the situation in Ukraine Eileen Blane has been very thoughtful and creative in decorating the church as we meet together on Sunday.

You can see a typical **Ukrainian bridal head piece on the wooden cross and Bible on the communion table** as illustrated on the front cover of this magazine. It has yellow sunflowers on it which are the national flower of Ukraine, and these have grown in the country since the mid 1700's. It's said that sunflower oil became increasingly popular in Ukraine because the Orthodox Church did not restrict its use during Lent.

The ribbons round the head dress in blue and yellow have both held significant roles in the history of this nation. These colours were used prominently during the country's fight for independence. **The blue is designs to represent peace as well as the sky above the nation and the streams found throughout the country.** The colour yellow is a symbol of prosperity and also represents the many wheat fields found throughout nation.

Eileen has also **hand painted a picture of a Ukrainian woman** that was featured on the front page of a prominent newspaper. (Illustrated in Eileen's article.) The woman is holding a crucifix with INRI on it meaning Jesus King of the Jews and then in English and Ukrainian,

"Please continue to pray for us."

Будь ласка, продовжуйте молитися за нас.

So, let's all do that! And thank you Eileen for your creative talents and helping us to pray for Ukraine.

Debbie Delight xx

More news:

Supporting and praying for Ukrainian friends

Chris Gane (Churches Together in Buxton) and his wife Elaine have been visiting Ukraine for nearly 25 years and have many dear and

close friends there. They have been talking and praying with them when they have been able and communications has been working. As a church we have been sending words of encouragement and photos of Eileen's creative work in our church via Chris to specific people in Ukraine.

Here are some of the responses to our messages....

Alexey Butov : *"God bless you all!!! Thank you for your support!!!"*

Elena Kambur : *"Very nice of her. 🙏 Thank you for the prayers for Ukraine"*.

Svieta Kravchenko : *"Thank you very much friends. It's such a privilege to be in God's family. Praise God for a lot of reminders to pray. We do need a lot of prayers and are very grateful to God that you are standing with us."*

Viktoriya Yip : *"Thanks, Chris! You know, someone sent today a message to the church chat group. It says that Ukrainian soldiers realize that God is helping them in many ways: sometimes Someone's invisible hand covers them from the bullets; they get victory in tremendously difficult situations; God blinds the enemy at night while gives vision to Ukrainian warriors; or suddenly the right decision and understanding of the battle comes. It encourages them a lot. God fights for Ukraine. It's a spiritual battle as well."*

Anjela Kim : *"Thank you for your prayers 🙏 pray for our Ukraine 🙏 we love you ❤️"*.

Lena Vishemirskyy : *"A lovely, lovely picture with the flowers - thank you for your Encouragement."*

Anna Butova : *"❤️ ❤️ ❤️"*

Yanina Kartashova : *"That is so sweet and touching"*.

Ksenya Gilova : *"Thank you dear Chris and everyone who is praying ❤️"*.

Alla Schule-Nikol : *"Thank you very much, this is very important for us."*

Alex Ivanichik : *"Thanks so much for your prayers and support"*.

Alla Fipps (nee Kostunina): *"Thank you for this, Chris! XX"*

Larisa Poliah : *"Thank you"*.

Yaroslav : *"Thank you so much for your prayers - may God keep you and us 'in His' ways."*

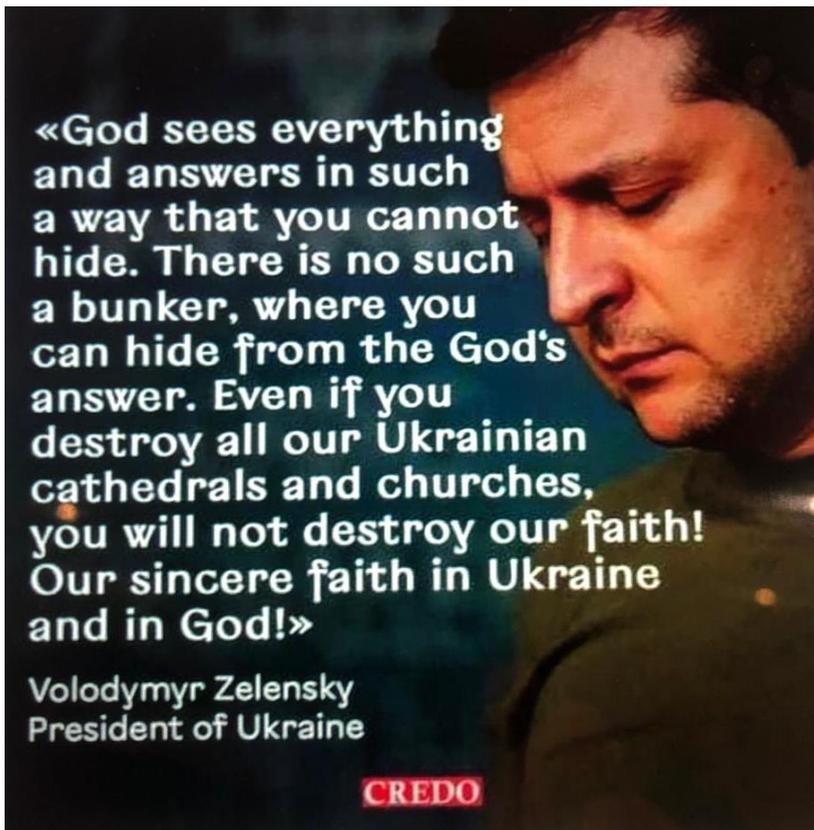
Maxim [about 25 years old, and serves in the Ukrainian Army]:
“Greetings. Thank you for your support and protection prayers. We need it. 🙏❤️”

These are real people that we can continue to pray for and send messages to. If anyone wants to send a message, please let me know and I will give you Chris’s mobile number.

Also, if anyone wants to join in a zoom prayer meeting specifically for Ukraine and joining with other churches and people that have a heart for prayer, you can!

Prayer for Ukraine: It’s every Monday, 7.30 pm, just for half an hour, on zoom. Let me know and I can pass on the zoom link.

Debbie Delight x



Don't forget we are going to have an outside party to celebrate the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee,

joining with the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and family members in the gardens of our church. We intend to dress the outside of the church with bunting and other things.

Please put it in your diary and have a good think about what ideas you can come up with that we could implement too.

Share them with Cath Sterndale and Eileen Blane.

Mark it in your dairy Saturday 11th June



Dates to Remember

Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.

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

**Elders and Leaders Meeting – Tuesday 10th May at 1 pm.
Location to be decided nearer the time.**

Contributions for the magazine

We really do appreciate your contributions so please keep them coming.

Contributions please for the next magazine to

Eileen and Peter Blane by 25th April 2022.

*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.***



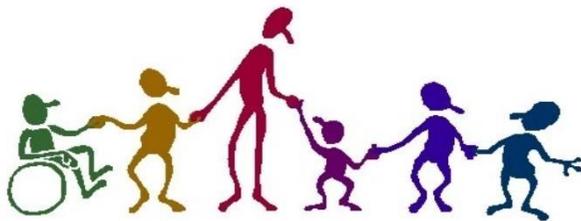
Please be aware that we are producing only a limited number of printed magazines. An electronic version is available to read on the church's website:

www.buxtonurc.org.uk

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

Proposed services for April (these may be revised)

3 rd April		10:30am	Sunday Night Live
10 th April	Palm Sunday	10:30am	Camilla Veitch
17 th April	Easter Day	10:30am	Mark Houghton
24 th April		10:30am	Fellowship Service
1 st May		No service in church	



Buxton United Reformed Church

Website: 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.*

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)