

Buxton United Reformed Church

Hardwick Square East



Embracing Spring

May 2025

During Palm Sunday Service we lit a big candle to celebrate three occasions. The first being for our longest serving elder of our church fellowship, namely Alison Darby's birthday. The second was to celebrate The Leprosy Mission's 151st birthday and the third was for the 80th birthday celebration of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

On 3 April 2025, His Majesty King Charles unveiled MAF's latest aircraft to an excited audience at MAF's special 80th anniversary event at RAF Northolt.

Thanks to the generosity of a UK based charitable trust, MAF's latest plane will serve the remotest communities of Papua New Guinea (PNG) – a commonwealth country where the charity has been operating since 1951.

National Emblem of PNG



It was a double celebration given that PNG marks 50 years of independence this year.

MAF pilot Joseph Tua has worked in PNG since 2019 where MAF has its largest programme. Joseph, who will fly the new aircraft to serve his own people, proudly wore his country's ceremonial face paint for the occasion. *(Sorry I can't show you a picture of it but the makeup was impressive!)* He was particularly excited to meet the King – a fellow pilot who had learnt to fly with the Royal Air Force:



“To be invited to the UK for the commissioning ceremony of MAFs newest aircraft and to meet the King is insane!

This is a similar photo to how Joseph looked like.

<https://stuckincustoms.com/2015/12/05/people-of-papua-new-guinea-part-12/>

MAF carries everything from patients to tons of coffee, sweet potatoes, peanuts and oranges. This new aircraft will help us do a lot more.

I never dreamed this amazing thing could happen to me. To be a part of this ceremony means everything. I am eternally grateful."

Following the commissioning of the aircraft, the RAF's Chaplain in Chief, who is Honorary Chaplain to the King – declared a short blessing over the new Cessna.

As many of you know I enjoy reading the obituaries in my national newspaper. Today had the obituary of Squadron Leader Jack Hemmings. Who was he you might well ask. He was, together with Stuart King, the founder of Mission Aviation Fellowship and who died on 24th January this year at the age of 103!

Jack Hemmings, who has described MAF as "the Good Samaritan of the skies", established the Christian mission along with his late friend and fellow pilot Stuart King in 1945. It is the worlds largest humanitarian air service.

**"MAF is the
Good Samaritan
of the skies."**

During the second World War Jack flew Lockheed Hudson and Douglas Dakota aircraft with 353 Squadron; which was tasked with maritime patrol and transport duties in South East Asia.

After the war, Jack flew a Miles Gemini twin engine light aircraft in 1948 when he and Stuart King, an RAF D-Day veteran, headed for Nairobi to assess the humanitarian needs of people in isolated villages

across Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda and the Belgium Congo.

The journey lasted six months during which they faced difficult terrain, adverse weather, and many logistical problems. On arrival in remote settlements the men were usually met with total bewilderment. Most folk had never seen an aircraft flying, let alone landing in their village! Liaising with local missions, the men compiled reports on what humanitarian aid they could offer and the possibility of building airstrips and hospitals in areas most remote. They covered over 7,000 miles visiting more than 100 outposts.

MAF's formative period in the years that followed, he once observed, was shaped by a group of Christian pilots who "were all of one mind; namely that wartime had given us a skill that we wanted to offer to God. There was much prayer."

MAF is the
worlds' largest
humanitarian
air service.

Speaking of their legacy months before he died, Jack said: "Today, one cannot count the number of people whose lives have been enriched by MAF's services."

He added: "Seeing aircraft used as weapons of war – as we did as young RAF airmen – reminds me of MAF's initial purpose: to use light aircraft to bring peace and hope to needy places."

Today the Mission has 123 aircraft around the world. *"Every flight does some good. I like to think that MAF is like the Good Samaritan of the air."* Jack said. Imagine if your community had no roads and little access to the outside world. **How would you or your family reach a**

doctor if you were sick or injured? How would you receive an education or access job opportunities? This is the reality for millions of people. Jungles, mountains, swamps, insecurity and dilapidated infrastructure are all barriers to receiving physical and spiritual care and a hope for the future.



Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is a Christian mission organisation that uses planes to overcome these barriers. Their pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines – everything that can only be safely and speedily transported by air. Supporters give and pray to make this all possible.

With an MAF aircraft taking off or landing every six minutes, the need is huge.

MAF pilot Joseph Tua who has worked in PNG greeting the King together with a colleague from PNG.



The Daily Telegraph and Mission Aviation Fellowship resources used for this article.

Yesterday Peter and I took a trip to Southwell Minster (In the village of Southwell, west of Newark-on-Trent) to see **“Threads through the Bible.”** Jacqui Parkinson has created 44 huge extraordinary silk panels that are exhibited in the Minster, that took her 10 years to produce, of images from Creation, moments in the life of Christ to the inspiring visions in Revelation. Each panel is about 3m high and varies in width between 1.5m and 4m. The following is one of the panels from Creation.

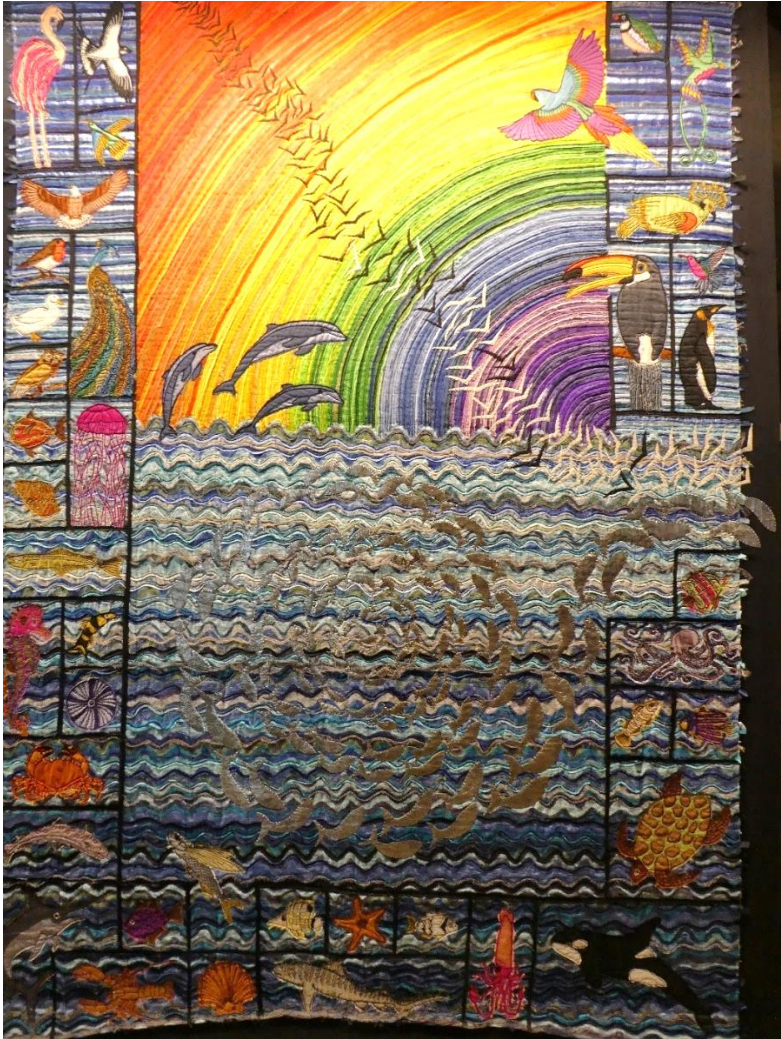




Photo: [Oystercatcher - Alchetron, The Free Social Encyclopaedia](#)

Did you know that two red oyster-catchers were found in Norfolk recently with tags on them?

One was tagged 40 years ago and the other 42 years ago. Yes, we knew that they could live a long time but would never have guessed it would be that long!

Lastly, when Pope Francis went to Wales and heard the Welsh language spoken, the words that he remembered and liked the most were *popty microdon*. I reckon he liked the sound of the words.

If you haven't worked out what they mean it is microwave oven!

Eileen Blane



OUR ROVING church member REPORTERS exploring the RING OF KERRS in South West Ireland in early APRIL.

In the distance, **Valentia Island**. It is linked to the mainland by the Maurice O'Neill Memorial Bridge at Portmagee. There is also a car ferry to get to the island.

The English name 'Valentia' or 'Valencia' Island does not come from the Spanish city of Valencia. Instead, it comes from the Irish name of Valentia Harbour, *cuan Bhéil Inse*, "harbour-mouth of the island"

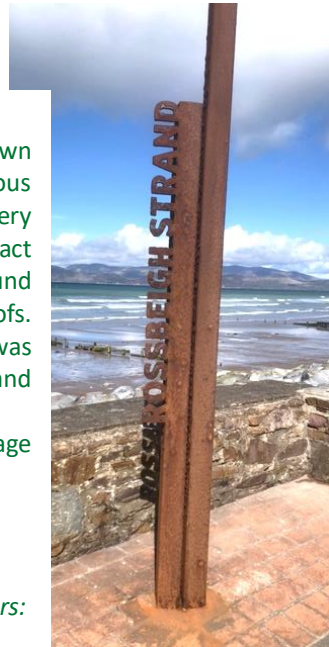


Skellig Michael Islands

The larger of the two is known as Great Skellig, and is famous for an early Christian monastery with the incredible intact clocháns; dry-stone round beehive huts with corbel roofs. The Gaelic monastery, was founded between the 6th and 8th centuries.

It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For the film enthusiasts, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017) were filmed on the island.



Why, you may ask is a **Charlie Chaplin statue in Waterville**? Charlie Chaplin and his family first visited **Waterville** in 1959 after his friend Walt Disney recommended the area as a good place for fly fishing. The Chaplins were so enamored with Waterville and the surrounding area that they came back year after year for over 10 years and developed close friendships with some of the locals. **The Charlie Chaplin Comedy Festival** takes place in Waterville every year during the month of August. The festival celebrates the life and works of Charlie Chaplin with film screenings, workshops, competitions and comedy performances.



The mighty **Carrauntoohil Mountain** is, at a giddy **1,038 metres**, the highest mountain in Ireland





The Gap of Dunloe was formed 25,000 years ago during Ireland's last ice age as a result of a "glacial breach" where a glacier in the *Black Valley*, estimated to be over 500 metres deep, broke through the *Head of the Gap* and moved northwards carving out a U-shaped valley.

The pass runs north–south between the Old Red Sandstone Mountain ranges of the MacGillycuddy's Reeks and the Purple Mountain Group. The highest point at the *Head of the Gap* is at 241 metres (791 feet), Within The Gap are five lakes and are connected by the River Loe.

The origins of the name **Black Valley** are not entirely known. Some have suggested that the name comes from the fact that this part of Ireland was one of the last to be connected to the national electricity grid, only achieving this as late as the 1970s!



The following are the words to a document Debbie and Phil saw in
St Mary's Cathedral Killarney.

The words were written by Wilferd Arlan Peterson August 21, 1900 - June 2, 1995

Slow Me Down, Lord!

Slow me down, Lord!
Ease the pounding of my heart
By the quieting of my mind.
Steady my harried pace
With a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me,
Amidst the confusions of my day,
The calmness of the everlasting hills.
Break the tensions of my nerves
With the soothing music of the singing streams
That live in my memory.

Help me to know
The magical power of sleep,
Teach me the art
Of taking minute vacations of slowing down
To look at a flower;
To chat with an old friend or make a new one;
To pat a stray dog;
To watch a spider build a web;
To smile at a child;
Or to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day
That the race is not always to the swift;
That there is more to life than increasing its speed.



Let me look upward
Into the branches of the
towering oak
And know that it grew great
and strong
Because it grew slowly and
well.

Slow me down, Lord,
And inspire me to send my
roots deep
Into the soil of life's enduring values
That I may grow toward the stars
Of my greater destiny.



Beehive hut from Skellig.
Rob Burke

Thank you, Debbie and Phil Delight, for sharing your holiday photos.

Where is the next one going to be?

A full rainbow from Valentia Island to the mainland at Portmagee.





Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Mornings on 3rd May and 7th June

For the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

For the people of Ukraine, especially those affected by heavy shelling. Over 9,000 people have passed through UNHCR transit centres since January. They have with them little or no belongings and are deeply traumatised. The cut in aid from Western countries means support has been reduced in Ukraine and worldwide.

Richard Bower News

Richard went for a biopsy after getting sepsis a couple of times and needing antibiotics many times thinking he may have cancer in his kidney or urethra . He has to wait for the biopsies but the consultant has said that she had a good look around and couldn't see any visible signs of cancer so it's looking more positive. Please pray the biopsy results are good .



For the Brew & Brekkie
On Sunday 11th May
starting at 9:30



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

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

On Saturdays 3rd May

and 7th June



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

Love in the community

Buxton URC Sunday services

4 th May	10:30 am	All Saints Marple live link
11 th May	9.30 – 10.15	Brew and Brekkie
	10:30 am	Christian Aid Sunday
18 th May	10:30 am	BBC Songs of Praise
25 th May	10:30 am	Roger Horne
1 st June	10:30 am	All Saints Marple live link
8 th June	10.30 am	Eileen Blane
15 th June	10.30 am	Rev Caroline Andrews <u>or</u> Cath Sterndale

Dates to Remember

Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.

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

Locations to be arranged.

Saturday Coffee Morning on 3rd May

Elders and Leaders Meeting:- Wednesday 28th May at 2pm in 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 26th May 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





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)