

Buxton United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square East



July/ August 2026



When our children were small, we drove down from our home in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire to Welling in Kent for a day's trip to spend with Peter's Mum and Dad. As we were leaving to return home our children squabbled over where they were sitting along the back seat – the middle being the least favoured position. They continued to squabble and didn't seem to settle down so I stopped the car and opened the door and told them all to get out. I said that I was leaving them there to walk home while Daddy and I would drive home without them! The fear of them being left alone to walk home seemed to settle the problem and they made their peace with one another without a peep from them the rest of the journey safely back home!

Why have I recounted this to you?

I have just finished a book called [Strong to the End](#), by Moody Publishers, the account of a young married couple, Davy and Natalie Lloyd, working with [Missions in Haiti](#)'s orphan children in a home and school. Davy was brought up in Haiti with his missionary parents and regarded the country as his home rather than America. Soon after Davy and Natalie were married a gang, of which there are many ruling the country, murdered them and their wonderful faithful Haitian Christian friend and co-worker Judes Montis.

The book is the harrowing account of what happened during those days but also recounts Davy's and Natalie's early lives recalled by their parents. One of the accounts by Natalie's parents is the following that had similarities to what Peter and I experienced with our children on the way back home after a visit to Nana and Granddad but with significantly different way to resolve the situation. I thought I would share it with you.

“Natalie loved her dad with a passion. They shared a warm admiration for one another, even when he felt correction was necessary. Ben tells the story of an all-day trip back from their grandparents’ home after Christmas when Natalie was nine or ten. As the miles kept racking up, Natalie and her sister Nicole, (two and a half years younger) grew ever more quarrelsome. Both parents exhorted them repeatedly to settle down and get along with each other, to no avail!

“Finally, I had just had it,” Ben admitted. *“I said alright, Natalie and Nicole, you are not listening. When we get home, you two are going to get a good spanking!”* We didn’t resort to that measure very often, but this time words weren’t doing any good.

Once out of the car at home, Ben bought the girls into the master bedroom, along with a wooden spoon from the kitchen. He had decided to make a large point on this occasion.

“Now girls, I want you to realise that it is very hard for daddy to discipline his children,” he began. *“I hate to do this, but I need to, because I love you. So instead of my spanking you, I’m going to have you two spank me!”* Their eyes began to widen.

He went on to a spiritual application. *“You know Jesus took our punishment on the cross because He loved us. He hadn’t done anything wrong, but He took what we all deserved anyway.”* He then handed the wooden spoon to Natalie and knelt his 6-foot frame across the bed. *“Okay, go ahead,”* He instructed.

She began bawling and so did Nicole. *“No daddy, no!”* they protested loud enough that their mother could hear them all the way to the kitchen. *“Please , no, no!”*

“Nope, you’ve got to do it!”

“I can’t daddy, I can’t!”

“You have to.”

Seeing no option, Natalie eventually gave one feather-like tap to Ben’s backside and then threw the spoon onto the floor and cried all the harder. For his part Ben began to snigger, his shoulders bouncing up and down to the point where he couldn’t stop them. The girls thought he was crying.

“We definitely made a memory that day,” Ben says. The next trip from their Grandparents’ home was much better. The story got told and retold many times with embellishments, for years to come!

Davy, Natalie and Judes, young people murdered by the gang, walked with Jesus in faithfulness. As Paul wrote in his epistle

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21

My last piece of news I share with you concerns Roger recalling his visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia whilst on holiday in Scotland, that we have included in this magazine.



One of my claims to fame is that I made the wedding cake for one of the Royal Yacht Britannia sailors and his wife. Fourteen of the sailors in dress uniform came to the wedding and were spread out at the reception around the tables. They acted as hosts and showed their significant social skills to make sure everyone was having a good time. Eileen Blane
Top tier of the cake. ←

Buxton URC Sunday services

5 th July	10:30am	BBC Songs of Praise
12 th July	10:30am	Julie and Mark Clayton
19 th July	10:30am	link to All Saints Marple
26 th July	10.30am	Jennie Gill
2 nd August	10:30am <u>7-9pm</u>	Rev. Martin Smithorpe <u>Uganda Coffee Evening</u> Julie and Mark Clayton
9 th August	10:30am	Eileen Blane
16 th August	10:30am	Roger Horne
23 rd August	10:30am	Cath Sterndale
30 th August	10:30am	? Mark Houghton
6 th September	10.30am	BBC Songs of Praise

Services may be changed when necessary.

Dates to Remember

Elders and Leaders Meeting

9th September at 2pm at church



Waste Not Want Not

At Buxton United Reformed Church.

Please join with us for free coffee, cake and company

On Saturday 4th July

Between 10am and 12midday in the church

Roger Horne on
Holiday in Scotland!

A Visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia



Last month I did a short camping tour up the east coast of Scotland including a couple of days in Edinburgh where, not far from the city, at the port of Leith, lies the Royal Yacht Britannia. Now retired, she floats in restored splendour next to a permanent exhibition base which includes the Royal Barge and car.

I was expecting to be awed by the presentation of her, but I did not expect also to discover that she still feels very personal to the late Queen and Prince Philip. Many of the rooms contain her mementos (including numerous soft toy corgis) and gifts from journeys they took in her. Over 43 years they travelled over a million miles visiting 135 countries, some several times over.



The ship is owned and maintained by a charity with the benefit of many staff and volunteers to keep her in good shape and an attraction to visitors, of which there are over 300,000 a year. When I was present there were visitors from many different countries and the audio guide "wands" you hold to your ear were available in a number of languages.

These told us not just about the purposes of the rooms you were standing in but also told amusing little anecdotes about things that had happened there.

The late Queen described her ship as the only place where she could really relax and one can see why. The ship is cosy without being cramped and formal



without being overbearing. I did wonder, however, how the Queen felt when, after many relaxing days at sea, she had to get ready for a rapturous welcome at the next port of call.

Not all personnel had the benefit of being cosy without being cramped, however. The strict naval hierarchy required engineers and naval ratings to be bunking in very small, overcrowded, areas; officers had slightly better accommodation and only the captain had a cabin to himself but not even that was large.

There was a large security detail on board, usually the Royal Marines, who changed their Marines military uniforms into those of the Royal Marines Band and played when ashore. They were under strict instructions to practice quietly on board and as far as possible away from the royal party.

Smartness at all times was the order of the day. All personnel had several uniforms and whites were just that. And crisp. And



immaculately ironed. All prepared in the ship's laundry in which several crew members worked at about 40 degrees and used one set of equipment for whites and another for blues. The laundry was constantly in use.

The car bay was designed so that the royal Land-Rover could accompany them on visits. It was winched up and on from the quay and slid sideways on rails into a "garage" built into the ship. As the years went by, the old Land-Rover was replaced by newer bigger ones which only just fitted the space, but the first Rolls Royce had to have its bumpers removed before winching on board.

The banqueting suite was the biggest room aboard. It was said that, during the Queen's reign, she entertained nearly all the World's leaders in it, but not all at once!



The first photo showing the Britannia tied up alongside shows both past and future. The yellow structures behind are the bases of sea wind turbines. The crane ship to the left is the three-year-old Les Alizes, one of the largest offshore cranes in the world, lifting 5000 tonnes, and is used for installing the wind turbines.



The Britannia has the cleanest engine room I have ever seen. Even when in use, apparently, the engines looked like this so that a visiting American admiral refused to believe there were not some other normal oily looking engines elsewhere doing the work. The engines are original – the only changes over 40 years were to enable diesel to be used in the boilers instead of oil.

If ever you are in Edinburgh I recommend a visit – but allow several hours to appreciate it all properly.

Roger Horne

Did you know Roger, that all the clocks on board the Royal Yacht remain stopped at 3:01pm?

That was the exact time Queen Elizabeth II was piped ashore for the final time during the decommissioning ceremony.

Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Mornings on 4th July and 1st August



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 four times but has now been rescheduled for July 9th.

For Lesley and Steve Caddy and Steve's mum, Jean, who has been on end-of-life care for over two weeks.

That talks between the US and Iran will resume next week and will lead to restoring peace in West Asia.

For the people of Venezuela affected by the recent earthquakes.

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*)

Welcome to our new church members

Mark and Julie Clayton, who have been part of our church fellowship for some while, were welcomed into church membership on Sunday 21st June. We all look forward to working more closely together in the Lord's name.



Churches Together in Buxton (CTIB) Meeting Roundup

June 2026

Food for Thought

Rev. Howard began with a Bible study on Matthew 7, focusing on the "pearls before swine" passage. He shared that this is a reminder not to waste or water down religious truths. If we aren't clear about what we believe, our message gets confused and lost. This led to a great discussion about how our churches can stay warm and welcoming to everyone while still standing firm in our core faith.

Local News & Updates

- **Town Planning:** CTIB is still actively involved with the *We Are Buxton* team. The Capital&Centric redevelopment of the town centre is huge news for us all. High Peak Borough Council wants your feedback on the new planning proposals over the next month. You can check out a fantastic video about the project put together by local volunteer Leo on [YouTube](#).
- **St Mary's Community Garden:** Next time you are on Dale Road, pop around to the back of St Mary's Church! Their community garden project is doing well (see photo), and

everyone is welcome to have a look and help themselves to some fresh produce.



- **Looking Ahead:** The group is eager to find more ways to get stuck into local community events.

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 24th August 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)