

Buxton

United Reformed Church

Hardwick Square East



December 2020

January 2021

NEW ZOOM LINK

With effect from Sunday 6th December
the link for Sunday Services will now be:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87556790029?pwd=VVNmOVZ3VVdqVUJPa1NySFNSbklUT09>

Meeting ID: 875 5679 0029

Passcode: 389045

To use a phone please find your local number on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcKn5SzdWH>

Lord Jesus

We wait

For you to come.

And yet, you are already here.

Help us to feel your presence,

To share the stillness with you.

So that after a while

We see your light

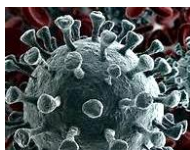
Shining out from within.



Amen

What have we been up to in 2020?

I wonder if you can remember what the international news was about during January this year. Well just to help you along with your recall it was about Australia. Yes, it was about the terrible fires sweeping across parts of that continent devastating the beautiful terrain with people's home being destroyed and the animals especially the koalas being killed or very badly burned unable to escape the fires. What followed was the much-needed rain but that turned into great areas being flooded during February.



The start of the coronavirus pandemic with the lock down of areas in China in January was followed rapidly in other Asia countries and then the world taking action.

At the end of March, for our church, it meant the end of Sunday worship in our building along with the many activities of organisations using the building too. Among them were the Thursday Lunch Club and our guides and brownies, neither have been able to resume. Christmas cards will be sent to all the brownies and guides from us all saying that we have not forgotten them.

Our church has not become an empty shell because Zinc/Foodbank staff continued their important work. Added to this has been Waste Not Want Not organised by Cath and Daniel Sterndale with help of volunteers handing out in all weathers many thousands of food bags to people in significant need during the lock down and so that need continues into December.

But what about other members of our living church. Well we are still worshipping together on Sundays with the new technology of Zoom. It has been wonderful how YouTube has been a huge resource for our hymns with lyrics sung by many different groups of people throughout the world.

Fellowship group on a Wednesday evening and elders / leaders meetings have all been able to continue thanks to Zoom too. But what about our individual members? What have we all been getting up to over the year with restrictions?



Cuddle Monkey by Blake Hellman
Illustrated by Chad Otis

Lesley Caddy became very upset and frustrated that she couldn't support her daughter and son-in-law following the birth of their first child and give them big hugs. Can you remember we prayed for that family during the first

weeks of Seth's life as there was significant concern for his health? But since then Lesley's other daughter has had a baby, Alfie, but this time Lesley and Steve have been able to play a more practical role in offering support and I am sure lots of cuddles too! We haven't forgotten cuddles for Steve's grandchildren too.

For the first time for years Roger Horne has been unable to spend time abroad helping with Christian organisations such as Mission Direct but he has been able to appreciate the birds in his garden and spend significant periods away in Scotland and the Lake District in his little van. One problem he had on the Isle of Arran was at a campsite where in the middle of every night he was disturbed by a rutting stag that came to visit him! If internet connections were good at the camp sites, he was able to join us for services and meetings. In actually fact some connections were better than at Harpur Hill!



Tim and Jane Miller were delighted to celebrate the engagement of their daughter Claire to Greg in the summer. They had hoped to have Isabelle, who is working in UAE as a teacher, home for Christmas but that will not now be possible because of Covid restrictions.

Talking about babies, Simon and Fiona Bingham celebrated the birth of two more grandchildren this year. Ceri and Phil welcomed Bobbie

(number 4) into their family. Hannah and Eamon had Katie and relocated to Ireland. For Simon and Fiona, it has been strange for them not to have to provide music for our worship services.

For the whole family the last few months have been a very challenging time with Simon being very unwell. The Lord has heard many people's



prayers for Simon and every few days we have heard of small improvements in Simon's condition that encourage us to believe that God really does answer prayer. "God is good all of the time." Quote from Simon.

Simon and Fiona were very appreciative of the meals we provided for them prior to Simon being admitted to hospital in November.

At the start of the year Alison Darby had to arrange for her mum to be moved into a nursing home and felt that God was good in directing her to find a really good place for her mum to be. Following a long period



without Charlie he was once again reunited with Alison and has been a wonderful companion during the lock down. He still is enthusiastic and wags his tail!

Charles and Alison Jolly at the moment are packing up for their move into temporary accommodation in West Rainton before buying a new home. Much has been written in November magazine about Charles so we just ask God to bless them in their new home.

Mark Houghton set up the connection that has enabled us to be on Zoom so a big thank you to him. Now he is sharing his time between our church and others in the North Derbyshire group. Samuel is on the front page of this magazine. I think I can hear him say "Oh no - did I really look like that!" He is now in his first year at Manchester

University. Sorry that we have not seen Ben and Susan very much this year at our services. I expect they are both still enjoying cooking!



The year started for Jennie Gill with her return in January to teaching staff and children in Kolkata in India.

On return it has been a challenging year for her with the children at school and all the implementation of regulations relating to Covid-19 protection. Added to that her dear grandparents, Peter and Noreen Blackwell, who were members of our church, left this life on earth to be with our Lord forever. We continue to remember her family in prayer as her dad Anthony continues to receive medical care. Her mum and dad are hoping to move from Tideswell into a lovely apartment in Broadwalk, Buxton.

Debbie and Phil Delight have continued to teach, Phil mainly from home using Zoom to connect with his students. During the summer they went to Kent, the Cotswolds and then to North Wales with Joshua and had fun sea kayaking round the Llyn peninsular.

But from April this year onwards we have been keeping up with the current news of their friend Richard, Lois his wife and their young adult children. Richard had severe coronavirus and was critically ill for months. Although now home he is on a very long road of recovery. Our church has prayed very regularly for all the family. This month Debbie, Phil and Richard were meant to be climbing in the Himalayas along with some other friends. Sadly, this adventure was unable to take place



but we must praise God for the healing that is taking place in Richard's life and we continue to pray for the whole family. PS. Debbie has mastered the art of flavoured gin with Joshua as the trial taster!

Well I reckon that is nearly all our church family news apart from hearing about Peter and I. Yolanda and Douglas, our children, have taken it in turns to do our weekly shopping which is much appreciated. We have been unable to see Gordon and our grandchildren, Purdy and Jake for over a year now but we are thankful that we can have chats on Skype.



We enjoyed a peaceful holiday with Yolanda in Llanbedr North Wales in September. The area is part of the Celtic Ancient Rainforests with



COEDWIGOEDD
GLAW CELTAIDD
CYMRU

CELTIC
RAINFORESTS
WALES

Sessile Oaks that have acorns in clusters like grapes which we had never seen before. It was a joy to spend time in the peaceful forests covered with so many different mosses and ferns. Much has been written especially in the

November magazine about our holiday in Ireland; the joy of meeting Tom and Ruth Sampson and God's little miracle Hannah Smyth, her daddy and grandfather all of whom you have been praying for. Experiencing outdoor Sunday Services at Dunserverick Baptist Church carpark was just great too.

Well as I finish talking about all our immediate church family members it occurs to me that our church has been praying for quite a lot of our friends I have mentioned, with or without us meeting in our church building and the Lord has been busy working His healing power in those folk which is wonderful.

It has been hard for families not to be able to say their proper good byes on the death of loved ones and I include the families of our wonderful friends Ken Phillips along with Peter and Noreen Blackwell.

Christmas may be different this year for many families but it will remain a very special celebration of joy as we celebrate Christ's birth.

A very happy Christmas to you all and a healthy and peaceful new Year. O yes and keep on praying!

Eileen Blane

The Zink Project (High Peak Foodbank) Update

You can double your donation to High Peak Foodbank up to £75 at no extra cost by donating online at <https://localgiving.org/charity/highpeakfoodbank/>. You give £20, the foodbank gets £40. The match money comes from a £1m Coronavirus fund given by a wealthy philanthropist.

Zink, the charity which runs High Peak Foodbank, was presented with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service on 9th October by the Queen's Derbyshire representative, The Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire. The award recognises the work of all supporters of High Peak Foodbank @Zink and is the equivalent of an MBE. Thanks to everyone who has continued to support Zink during these last few months.

Best wishes from everyone at The Zink Project.

Roger Horne attended a charity Christmas carol service last year and sang O Little Town of Bethlehem with an extra verse he had not seen before.

Bearing in mind the work that goes on in our church building he suggested we publish the new verse so here it is.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee
Son of the Mother mild,
Where Charity stands watching
And Faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

The Together Trust



BUXTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS TREE TRAIL

12TH - 20TH DECEMBER

The trail will be an activity for the whole community, encouraging people to get out and about in Buxton. A real opportunity to spread a little Christmas joy and goodwill!

We are asking members of the community, companies and organizations to decorate a tree for the whole of Buxton to enjoy!

To enter the Christmas tree trail:

- Place a Christmas tree in a location where people passing by can view either through a window or see it placed outside.
- Sign up at www.buxtoncommunitychurch.org.uk and you will be allocated a trail number.
- Display your allocated number on or next to your tree.
- There is no set theme so creativity is encouraged, however we do ask that any chosen theme is appropriate for all viewing ages.
- The community will be encouraged to vote for their favorite trees online.
- First, second & third small prizes will be awarded!
- Remember to bring the Buxton community spirit!

Season's Greetings from Buxton Community Church
God Bless



KEEP SMILING

Keep smiling, the world will smile with you
It's infectious and caught very fast
You never know who may catch it
And then will make it last

It's hard to smile with a mask on
People cannot see your grin
But there are other ways to smile
And show what you feel within

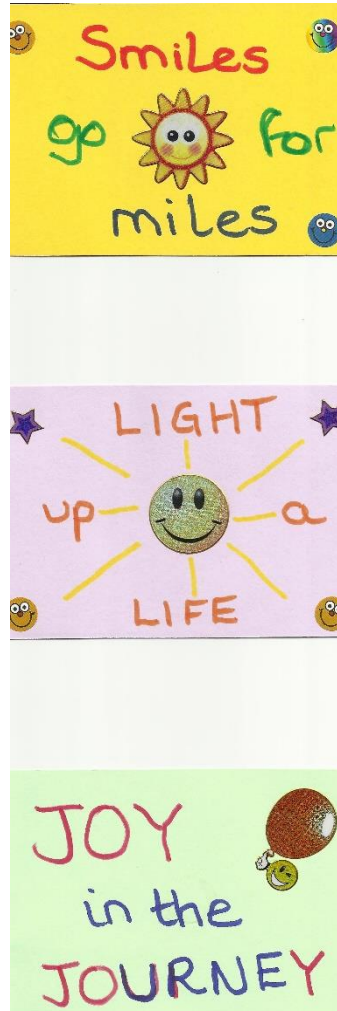
Smile with your eyes
People will certainly see
Smile with all your body
In word, thought and deed

Smile with every part of you
Light up a life and see it shine
It could make such a difference
And travel for miles and miles

No one can take your smile from you
Guard it in every way
Make a decision to act right now
And see someone smile today

Your age and health doesn't matter
Don't worry what others think
Let your joy reveal itself
In that very special grin

So, if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick
And get the world infected





Please pray for members of our church family and friends, especially:

***Simon Bingham** who has been very ill in hospital. We thank God for the progress he is making and continue to pray for the care he will receive in Christie Hospital in Manchester.*

Pray for peace for the whole family. May they know God's continual love and peace surrounding them each day.

Charles and Alison Jolly have moved into rented accommodation prior to buying a home, hopefully, in West Rainton, Co Durham.

***Cath Sterndale, Daniel** and others continuing to give out food bags from our church with **"Waste Not Want Not"**. Up to the date of publishing the magazine **3,803 bags** have been given out. Pray for those who need to be supplied with the food.*

For Phil and Debbie's friend, **Richard** and all his family. He is still making progress recovering from Covid 19 and now able to ride a tricycle and in the near future will be getting a new car adapted for him to drive.

***For Tom Sampson** and members of his family in N Ireland continuing along the path of recovering from Covid 19.*

For **Hannah Smyth's** recovery and for her **father Ryan** and **Grandfather Greg Smyth** facing Christmas this year without Hannah's mummy and little sister at their farm outside Ballycastle, N Ireland.

*Give thanks for all the **scientists and drug companies** working hard to develop safe coronavirus vaccines that will be able to be given to people across the world.*

Dates to Remember – or not!

Sunday services 10:30am via Zoom (New Zoom link)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87556790029?pwd=VVBmOVZ3VVdqVUJPa1NySFNSbkllUT09>

6 th December	Fellowship Group
13 th December	Rob Williams
20 th December	Charles Jolly
27 th December	To be arranged
3 rd January	Mark Houghton
10 th January	Fellowship Group
17 th January	To be arranged
24 th January	To be arranged
31 st January	To be arranged

Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays. Join us at 7:30pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81496046535?pwd=T1Rxa2c4ZWJmb0oyWi95QXZsSjJaZz09>

Next Church Meeting [TO BE ARRANGED](#)

Elders and Leaders Meeting via Zoom

1st December 2020

Contributions for the magazine

***We appreciate your contributions
so please keep them coming.***

Contributions please for the next magazine to
Eileen and Peter Blane by
Monday 25th January 2021
for the February publication.



*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 not producing a printed magazine, only an
electronic version that is available to read on the church's website:**

www.buxtonurc.org.uk

Making your Christmas eco-friendly in 2020 The year of Coronavirus!

Facts to think about.

While Christmas is a season defined by generosity and kindness of spirit, it cannot be denied that for some, it is also a time of abundance and consumerism.

The Yuletide period results in huge amounts of waste, whether in the form of irresponsibly discarded Christmas trees, mounds of leftover food or presents that are bought, given and promptly thrown away. *(But will it be like this this year?)*

Britons bin around 108 million rolls of wrapping paper, throw away 54 million platefuls of food and fill almost 100 million black bags with packaging from toys and gifts over the Christmas period a 2017 survey found.

The world has become increasingly eco-conscious in recent years, with millions of people across the world taking part in marches to demand action is taken to combat the climate crisis.

So, let's consider ways to be more eco-friendly at Christmas ...

1. Buy or Rent a real Christmas tree



Try to buy your tree as locally as possible. Why not consider buying from Macclesfield Forest! Did you know that you can rent from a British farm called Love a Christmas Tree, which offers real Nordmann Firs to your door from Leicestershire? You decorate and care for the

tree and then it is picked up in January and replanted.
After Christmas recycle your tree by putting it in the green waste at the tip or chopping it up and stacking the wood to make a habitat for birds and bugs.

2. If possible, choose recyclable wrapping paper

Think about buying recyclable paper or use recycled wrapping paper, brown paper or tissue. Why not store and re-use any gift bags you get a present in rather than putting in the bin.



3. Think about your Christmas cards

Recycle or compost your cards in January or turn them into decorations / present tags for next year. Buy cards that give a donation to a charity you support.



**FORESTSTM
FOR ALL
FOREVER**

Look for cards with Forest Stewardship Council FSC which guarantees paper has been produced sustainably and ethically.

Or think about buying a plantable card! See Wildflower Paper.

Debbie Delight



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL TREAT
FOOD BAGS
FOR WASTE NOT WANT NOT DISTRIBUTION.

Are you able to buy some things extra with your weekly grocery shop that you could give to Cath Sterndale? She could use contributions to make up special Christmas grocery bags to give to those that collect food from **Waste Not Want Not**.

Some suggestions that might be included are:
Special Biscuits and bakery produce with long shelf life.

Jam Tinned Tuna / Meat

Chocolate Puddings

Just anything a little bit special.



*"If you look for me at Christmas,
you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are."*

~ By an Unknown Author

Buxton United Reformed Church



We would be very happy to warmly welcome everyone who wishes to join us for Sunday worship.

But

because of the current restrictions all church services and all other activities in the church building have been cancelled until further notice.

Instead

we are arranging virtual services on Sundays at 10.30 am using Zoom. If you have internet access you are welcome to join us using the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87556790029?pwd=VVBmOVZ3VVdqVUJPa1NySFNSbkllUT09>

Once things are back to normal, we will again offer a sincere, loving welcome to all in Christian Worship in our church building.

Maybe sometime in 2021!