

*Buxton United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square East*



Praise the Lord for the harvest!

October 2024

Peter and I thought that this October Magazine would have articles from our church family about what they got up to on their holidays so I hope you enjoy hearing about their times away from Buxton.

2024 Olympics Paris

Nearly a year and a half ago Jenni our daughter said should we go to Paris for the 2024 Olympics? And after hours trying to get tickets on line and what seemed like ages sorting camp sites and travel, we made it!



The athletics were incredible watching so many talented people in the hurdles, high jump, shot put and relay.

A sad moment was in the first event of the ladies' heptathlon. This is where each competitor takes part in the same 7 events; 100m hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200m, long jump, javelin and 800 m. For each event points are awarded and the athlete with the most points wins. On the warm up one of the athletes Sophie Weissenburg from Germany suffered an injury and had to be wheel chaired off the track. We felt very sorry for her as that was the end of her Olympic debut.

As you probably know Team GB's Katrina Johnson-Thompson won silver and was so close to Gold. Maybe in 4 years.

A very exciting Olympics result was GB Toby Roberts who achieved a



gold in sport climbing and was taught at secondary school by my college friend Helen ... she even managed to see him get into the final.

Another college friend Debbie who studied PE with me and Helen at college

was the best dressed GB supporter in my opinion and here she is at the tennis.



And a last interesting Olympics story was in the Para Olympics Ukraine's para badminton players Oskana Kozyna and Olaksandr Chyrkov were shocked and surprised when they recognised a face in the crowds watching. It was their teacher Svitlana Shabalaina from the orphanage for children with disabilities that they both grew up in. She had made the trip to Paris to continue cheering them on.



See you in Los Angeles 2028?

Debbie Delight

Roger Horne wrote about going to Northern Ireland and making a trip to Rathlin Island, off the beautiful Antrim Coast not far from the Giants Causeway.

A VISIT TO RATHLIN ISLAND.



If you go to Northern Ireland, as I did recently, you cannot get any further north than Rathlin Island. Measuring four miles long by two

miles wide it is approached by a fast 20-minute passenger boat ride from Ballycastle (or a slow car ferry) and is home to about 150 people.

Rathlin has been occupied by people for about four thousand years, good farming and fishing being available. Romans, Vikings and others have occupied it and there have been a number of massacres and tragedies. It has a couple of little churches and it is believed that St Columba visited the island in the year 563.

It has a wonderful laid-back feel to it. A few cars and vans also live on the island along with thousands of sea birds. We visited the RSPB reserve (approached in an old bus along an alarmingly narrow winding road) at the end of the island, around the lighthouse, and saw (or heard) puffins, guillemots, kittiwakes, razorbills and fulmars. When we so



often hear in the media about the decline of our seabirds it was a treat to see (and smell!) so many.

One of the island's claims to fame is that it is where the World's first commercial radio message was sent from – this was in 1898 by a certain Mr. Marconi – when he radioed across the water to Ballycastle. Continuing the pioneering in communications the island is also where BT installed the first high speed wireless broadband, in 2013.

It is possible to stay on the island – maybe a longer return visit is on the horizon.

Roger Horne

Photos taken by Roger on Rathlin Island.

News from Lesley Caddy and her family in Wales

Steve and I were really excited when we heard that our daughter and son-in-law, had been offered a week in a friend's holiday home in Abersoch, Wales – and even more excited when they invited us to join them.



So, at the beginning of August, we spent a memorable seven days in a 1920s timber bungalow overlooking the bay with our own terrace, our own boathouse, our own stone steps down to the beach and, best of all, our own family to share it with – including both daughters and three grandsons.

We were blessed with several days of sunny weather: perfect for paddling, crabbing and building sandcastles. And with the sea on the doorstep – literally – we went swimming in the rain as well as the sunshine.

We enjoyed family barbecues, boating and ball games; quizzes for the grown-ups and bathtime fun for the youngsters – and silly Grandma!

And there were some great outings too: including a walk around the Nefyn headland; a day at Caernarfon Castle; and an adventure park for the under-5s. Grandma and Granddad opted out of that one and went for a hike instead, along the Llyn Peninsula to Aberdaron.

It was a lovely day, ending at St Hywyn's Church, overlooking the Irish Sea. The 12th century church had a second nave added 400 years later, making it beautifully light as well as atmospheric – and interesting: renowned in the Middle Ages as an embarkation point for pilgrims to the nearby holy island of Bardsey.

Outside, a cairn of 'prayer stones' caught my eye, left by



contemporary pilgrims and visitors. Passers-by are invited to pick up a stone from the beach, write a name or a prayer on it and add it to the pile. Then, each October, the stones are returned to the sea as part of a special Sunday morning service.



Phil and Debbie Delight wrote about their son Josh's climbing achievements this August.

Earlier this year our son Josh said, in a passing conversation, that he was going to make an alpine ascent on the Eiger (Switzerland) with his school mate Joe.

Wow that sounds big, we thought, and didn't really dwell much more on it and Josh is not always forthcoming



with information.

So, his 10 days holiday came when we were away on holiday ourselves and it's then we fully realise what he is up to by looking at pictures posted on Instagram from his climbing partner Joe. We are glad we didn't know (until they were descending) the full details of his trip as the pictures are heart-in-your-mouth stuff and we are really amazed at what they have achieved ! (And blessed that they have looked after each other and been kept safe). Not just the Eiger was scaled but they also took in Jungfrau, Monch, Finsteraarhorn and Gurnhorn.



Basically, all the big mountains in the Bernese Alps range. Facts on one of the mountains the Eiger ...Height 3,967 m or just over 13,000 ft Most notable feature of the Eiger is its 1,800m (5,900ft) north face named Eigerwand or Nordwand which is the biggest north face in the Alps. This route has massive exposure and engaging climbing on its entire ascent . More than 60 people have died trying this route . The name Eiger comes from the ancient Germanic name Agimar meaning Edge point and famous. Thankfully the boys ascended the Eiger on the

west flank and descended via the south ridge taking 18 hrs to do this from 3am to 9pm . A real mean feat carrying heavy packs , rope , ice axe and crampons. Joe posted on Instagram:-

“All names and reputations are justified. The Eiger is a formidable mountain. Blessed that we snuck past this sleeping giant.”

*W*e hope that you have enjoyed reading about members of our church family's holidays. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

For Peter and I, we have really enjoyed watching the amazing Paralympic Games in Paris. The stories behind the athletes taking part were amazing and then to see their achievements was just great.

And lastly, we are sure you have noticed that some of the trees are already changing colour in Buxton and the surrounding area. We hope that you enjoy the wonderful colours of autumn and harvest time.

As the hymn goes

“The earth is the Lord's and everything in it

And all things were made for His glory!”

Eileen Blane



Harvest Festival Service

Debbie helped organise 7 people to come up the front and hold up a letter each to spell out the word **HARVEST**.

Ian asked “What makes a good harvest? “

To answer this question the letters were rearranged to spell **HAVE**.

Ian then asked people to call out all the many things which we have from God for which we are grateful.

Ian then asked for the letters to be rearranged to spell **STARVE**.

We remember the people who do not have the things we have and the birds who starve from lack of food if the insects they eat are poisoned.

Ian then asked for the letters to be rearranged to spell **SHARE**.

We share God’s earth with other people and other creatures.

**When we share what we have with those who are hungry –
that is what makes a good harvest!**





The Brownies were given wooden crosses with fruit printed on them to colour.

They really enjoyed doing that and the crosses looked splendid.



Waste Not Want Not

At Buxton United Reformed Church.



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

On Saturday 5th October

*Between
10am and 12midday
in the church*

Buxton URC Sunday services

6 th October	10.30am	Roger Horne
13 th October	10.30am	All Saints Church Marple
20 th October	10.30am	Rev. James Breslin
27 th October	10.30am	Fellowship Service
3 rd November	10.30am	Rev. Caroline Andrews



Please pray for:-

Our church elders and leaders, that God will give them wisdom and strength.

The WNWN **Saturday Coffee Mornings** on **5th October** and for all who receive food.

Debbie Delight as she has a replacement hip operation on 30th October.

Eileen Blane's continuing rehabilitating following her ankle replacement operation in July.

The situation in the Middle East.

In Israel 1,139 people were killed and 251 hostages taken by Hamas on 7th October last year unleashing untold destruction and suffering in Gaza.

Pray for an urgent diplomatic resolution to the tensions between Israel and Hezbollah.

The rapid spread of Mpox in Africa, especially in Congo, where conflict and the displacement of a large number of people have already put health services under pressure.

The European countries affected by severe flooding.

Praise Prayer for Harvest

Lord, we praise you for the harvest of the fields around
For fields of wheat and barley; for oil-seed rape and maize, for healthy
cattle, for sheep and pigs,

We give thanks.

We praise you for the harvest of local hedgerows, for the straggling
bramble; for black showers of elderberry, for mushrooms nestling in
the dewy grass

We give thanks.

We praise you for the harvest of gardens and allotments;
For earthy roots and crackling cabbage, for hanging beans and striped courgette

We give thanks.

Lord, we praise you for the harvest of talents in our church;
for buildings well maintained, for flower arrangements and music,
for responsible stewardship, for charities supported.

We give thanks.

We praise you for the harvest of fellowship here in Buxton
for friends made and support given.

For people with whom to laugh and with whom to weep.

We give thanks.

Lord, we praise you for the harvest of prayer in this place.
For commitment deepened; for discipleship taken up,
for the cross carried and the burdens borne

We give thanks.

Now Lord, as we give thanks to you,
bless us, strengthen us, unite us in your love.

Amen

(The Reverend Rachel Parkinson, Northallerton)

Dates To Remember

Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.

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

Locations to be arranged.

Saturday Coffee Morning on

5th October and 2nd November

Coffee, cake and conversation

10am – 12noon

Elders and Leaders Meeting:-

16th October at 2:15pm.

Stuck behind a tractor!

Hoorah!! It is harvest time again!!

There you are, hurtling through the lanes in your car on some mission of huge national importance, muttering venomously at cyclists in helmets shaped like wasps' bottoms, inconsiderate enough to want a bit of your road (and hoping they can't lip-read), rounding a bend and coming up behind the ponderous majesty of a tractor and trailer.

On closer inspection over the next ten minutes you conclude that it is actually a convoy of three tractors and two trailers and the glory of the aforementioned ponderous majesty begins to wear a bit thin! Hoorah. It is harvest time again. And I would wager a considerable sum that most of you do not at this point start singing songs of everlasting thanks and praise to our great God for his generous provision, or blessing the farmers for the work they do to put food on our plates!

So here is your challenge for harvest and beyond. I've learned to do it and if I can manage it anyone can. If you get stuck on your travels behind a tractor or a combine or a plough or any other mysteriously shaped implement of the sod, (by which I mean, of course, the soil!) take it as an opportunity for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise.

Why should you bother?

Firstly, because praising God for what he gives us should become a matter of habit in all of us and secondly because as a nation we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the farmers who are taken totally for granted by most of us who have become emotionally and practically detached from the source of our food.

We cannot and must not take national food security as a given. Climate change and population growth mean that it is more difficult to produce enough grain for the world's needs.

Global markets will sell to the highest bidder regardless of need. Political mismanagement and the power of global enterprise in the

inherently local business of food production are putting countless family farms out of business.

So when you get stuck behind that tractor take a deep breath, smile and wave at the farmer and ask for God's blessing on his family and work.



Reflect on our corporate relationship to food and the land as the God given source of all our well-being and praise God from whom all blessings flow. And if I rush in late to take your service on a Sunday morning you will understand why!

Happy harvest to you all.

Reverend Sarah Brown

Contributions for the magazine

Thank you everyone who has contributed to this magazine.

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

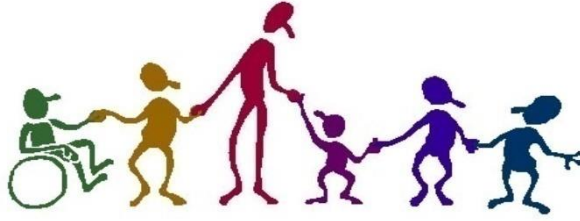
Contributions please for the next magazine to

Eileen and Peter Blane by 28th October 2024.

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 & 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)