

*Buxton United Reformed Church  
Hardwick Square East*



*November 2024*

For folk that are eco warriors, I wonder if you have ever heard of the Giants of the Sperrin Mountains in Northern Ireland. My guess is that you have probable not. Even if you haven't been to Ireland, it is very likely that you have heard about the magnificent Giant's Causeway on the north Antrim coast even if you don't know the name of the giant himself namely Fin McCool!

Peter and I have spent the first half of October back at Ballintoy Harbour Cottage and one of our aims this year was to visit the Giants of the Sperrin Mountains. We went to see just two of them, namely



**NOWANOIS**  
THE STORYTELLERS

Nowanois, that can be found at Glenelly Valley, Sperrin Heritage Centre.

We had lunch sitting around them with no one else there, which was good.

What makes them so special you may ask? The answer is that the giants are mainly made out of unwanted wooden pallets. Now that is a novel way of using the wood! Most of the pallets are collected from local businesses and other wood that is used is unwanted off cuts.

The man who has designed and made them along with his team of employed helpers and is known for his giants in different countries around the world is the Danish artist called Thomas Dambo. He got his inspiration for the giants from geological wonders and ancient heritage of Ireland.



“Our” giants that we spent our lunch time with are called Nowanois the story tellers and they are about 24 feet tall and much wider. How long will they be in that place for?

For as long as they take to deteriorate and return to the earth which they think will take about 24 years.



If you ever take a trip to Northern Ireland, they are well worth going to see. The other single giants are at



**DARACH**  
THE GUARDIAN

MULLAGHCARN  
GORTIN GLEN FOREST PARK



**CEOLDÁN**  
THE STARGAZER

DARK SKY PARK  
DAVAGH FOREST

and

We were welcomed back to Dunseverick Baptist Church for their services which included Harvest Festival and loved joining the

enthusiastic singing of many in the congregation. We sung a hymn before communion that Peter and I didn't know which was *"Up Calv'ry's mountain one dreadful morn Walked Christ, my Savior, weary and worn; Facing for sinners' death on the cross, That He might save them from endless loss."* The chorus is *"Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer! Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree; Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading—Blind and unheeding— dying for me!"*

We spent our Sunday lunches at the manse with Pastor Billy and Agnes Jones and other folk around their huge kitchen table. The order of the day was Agnes providing the main course and me



providing the homemade desert course – namely plums in sponge tart the first week and apple pie the second!

Agnes and Billy have adopted us as their English parents and treat us with such kindness as do the rest of their church.

They took us out for a meal to celebrate my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and at the end of our holiday we treated them to yet another meal at a restaurant at the bottom of long waterfalls in Glenariff Forest Park.

Returning to England we had another celebration with our whole family coming together from as far away as Faverges in the Franch Alps and Falmouth in Cornwall. This was to celebrate Purdy, our granddaughter's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, our grandson Jake's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, Eileen's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and Peter's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. It was a special time for us all. You could say that October was the celebration month for our family!

Eileen Blane



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

## **Latest news from East Midlands Synod**

**Presentation of candidate for  
GA Moderator 2025-2026.**

There was just one nomination for Moderator of General Assembly 2025-2026: Catriona Wheeler, who was introduced to General Assembly by the Revd Nigel Uden, acting Moderator.

Catriona is an Elder and the Church Secretary of Trinity United Reformed Church, Lincoln. She is also a worship leader





and Stepwise student.

A lay member of the URC, Catriona is a lawyer and is trustee to two local charities which benefit people in Lincoln. She serves the wider URC as Legal Adviser to the East Midlands Synod, as a director of East Midlands Synod Trust and as Chair of the United Reformed Church Trust.

Catriona was invited to address the Assembly – a moment, the Moderator said, for Assembly to discern and affirm a sense of call. She spoke about growing up in the URC and about always being drawn back to the denomination. She became an Elder aged 28 and has since taken up a wide range of different roles.

She said that each role opens her eyes to the richness of skills and talents being offered in God’s service and observed that “we don’t bury any of our talents”. A good proportion of her work as a solicitor and Notary Public is for a wide range of charities. Catriona said this allows her to feed in her own experience but also to have an experience of wider life that she can feed back into her local church. Her life in the Church is a journey, she concluded, “and I journey with you”.

In response to a question from the Moderator, Catriona reflected that we sometimes dwell too much on what is bothering and bewildering in the world around us. “We can focus so much on this that we don’t focus on the light areas – we see only the darkness.” She said that as Moderator she would remind the Church that God sheds light on the darkness. She recalled that the author Terry Pratchett writes about “light chasing around the world following the darkness – light is coming all the time”.



Catriona has now been accepted as the next Moderator of the General Assemble for 2025/2026.

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



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

*On Saturday 2nd November*

*Between  
10am and 12midday  
in the church*

## ***Buxton URC Sunday services***

3 <sup>rd</sup> November	10.30am	Rev. Caroline Andrews
10 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Eileen Blane & Fellowship Group <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
17 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Rev Mark Houghton
24 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Roger Horne
1 <sup>st</sup> December	10.30am	Link to All Saints Church, Marple

*Please note that, when appropriate, services may be subject to change*



## Please pray for:-

The WNWN **Saturday Coffee Morning** on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and for all who receive food.

Debbie Delight as she has a replacement hip operation on 30<sup>th</sup> October. For her rehabilitation and for her mother who is frail and elderly.

Mark Houghton's sister who is very unwell with lung disease. Give thanks for her church and others who are supporting her and her family at this challenging time.

The guides and guiders that will be formed again as our church company after half term.

Ian Lloyd being made a church member. Give thanks to God for all that he means to our fellowship.

Cath and Daniel Sterndale who are eager to return to their home. Pray that the builders will complete their work soon without further delay.

### Help needed with

### Warm Spaces

Every weekday and Saturday.

Church vestibule area

Time 1-3pm

*Contact Cath Sterndale if you are able to help.*





St John's  
Buxton



Sat Nov 9  
8 pm - 9.15 pm

Words

**Vera Brittain**

Music

**Durufié Requiem**

The Beresford Singers  
and Friends

Free admission  
Retiring  
collection  
in aid of



St John's

tearfund



Date - 16<sup>th</sup> November

at 7:00pm

At church.

*Bring and share snacks*

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Advanced warning of Church Annual General Meeting

5th January 2025

*Following the morning service and soup lunch.*



## Help needed

for putting up Christmas  
Decorations in church

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
from 10 am onwards.

*Contact Eileen Blane if you  
are able to help.*

# Dates To Remember

## **Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.**

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

Locations to be arranged.

## **Saturday Coffee Morning on**

2<sup>nd</sup> November

Coffee, cake and conversation

10am – 12noon

## **Elders and Leaders Meeting:-**

27<sup>th</sup> November in the church vestibule at 2:15pm.

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> November**  
**2024.**

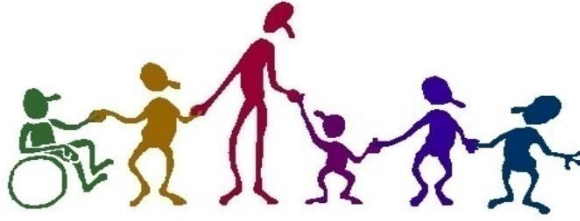
*To ensure your magazine is as informative as possible please keep us up-to-date with news and events.*



**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](http://www.buxtonurc.org.uk)**



## Buxton United Reformed Church

Website: [www.buxtonurc.org.uk](http://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.**

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### 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)