

*Buxton United Reformed Church*

*Hardwick Square East*



*February 2025*

**T**here is a lovely verse that I really appreciate from the **Old Testament Book of Jeremiah chapter 30 v 17.** **"I will restore you to health and heal your wounds," declares the Lord.**

*I think I could claim that promise for myself after undergoing surgery to repair my broken leg. Isn't it wonderful how many of the Bible verses we can claim for ourselves in our lifetime. But initially it wasn't written for me but for the Israelites. The verse goes on to say - **"because you are called an outcast."** It is calling Israel an outcast but today people are still being called outcasts because they have leprosy. **"New Day January 2025"** magazine from **The Leprosy Mission** used that verse on the front page and how appropriate it seemed to me to be.*

**O**n the last Sunday of January, every year **World Leprosy Day** is observed. This year it was on 26 January. This international day is an opportunity to celebrate people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, and call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination.

"The theme for **World Leprosy Day 2025** was **"Unite. Act. Eliminate."** The theme is a call to action aiming to raise awareness of leprosy, highlight the challenges faced by persons affected by leprosy, and inspire collaborative action to eliminate leprosy.

- **Global Commitment ("Unite"):** Eliminating leprosy requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including governments, healthcare providers, NGOs, communities and individuals.
- **Immediate Action ("Act"):** Proactive measures, including public education, early diagnosis, prevention programs, prompt treatment, and empowering persons affected by leprosy, are essential to interrupt transmission and eliminate the disease.

- **A Clear Goal ("Eliminate Leprosy"):** Eliminating the disease – the World Health Organizations' global goal - is achievable with sustained commitment. Current medical interventions and collaborative efforts have brought us closer, but continued investment in diagnostics, innovative treatments, and outreach is essential.

The campaign can also leverage the momentum of World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day on 30<sup>th</sup> January to raise awareness of leprosy as a neglected tropical disease and garner additional support."



**World Health Organization**

Quote from World Health Organisation.

*I always find The Leprosy Mission magazine very challenging to read. I thought I would share one of the accounts with you about a lady called Anjali.*

Anjali's was only 11 when she saw pale skin patches spreading across her face and body. Her uncle took her to hospital. After a series of tests, she was told she had leprosy. Anjali didn't know what leprosy was. No one in her family ever had the disease. Had she been given the cure for leprosy then she wouldn't have developed the disabilities she has now. Instead, disease was left to progress causing horrific damage to her young body.

When she was 14, she struggled to drain a pot of rice she was preparing for the family's dinner. She was unable to feel the boiling water over her hand and she and her mother were greatly concerned at this. They went from one



traditional healer to another but nothing she took made any difference. Her mother did everything she could to help her but life became even more terrifying. When no one was listening, her grandfather told her he was going to kill her. He said he was going to make sure she died.

He poisoned her food and that made her really sick.

"When he took me out of the house, my mum used to shout, 'where are you taking my daughter?'. She must have been scared too. Once, he took me to the railway and tried to push me in front of a train. I managed to run away from him."

Anjali managed to tell her mother what had happened. But her grandfather held too much power in the family. No one was able to stand up to him.

One day, her grandfather told her mother that he was taking Anjali to the hospital for treatment. He told her mother he'd bring Anjali back afterwards.

Instead, they travelled for hours until eventually they stopped at what looked like a derelict village but was a leprosy colony on



some waste ground. She was told to get out and her grandfather drove off. Distraught, Anjali called out to him as he left. But he didn't look back. She fell to the ground crying for her mother. Little did she know that she would never see her mum again.

An elderly couple took pity on this young girl and looked after her. Slowly she rebuilt her life as best she could with disabled hands and no money or prospects. Leaving the leprosy colony at 6am, before the heat of the day, she walks four miles on an empty stomach to beg outside the temple. They didn't even come near her outside the temple, they just threw a coin from afar.

Eventually she married an older man from another leprosy colony. She was 19, and they went on to have two sons, now aged 13 and 16.

"I wanted so much more for them than this life. The life I've had. We have nothing. I have to beg because no-one will employ me because of my leprosy. Our home is collapsing. There's water coming through

the roof. It's really hard living in a wet, damp room during the monsoon.

There's no toilet, and we walk to the river to get water. There's so much sickness. I can't afford a doctor, no-one can here. I'm scared our children will get leprosy too. No-one cares about us. We are forgotten."

*"I can't afford  
a doctor. No  
one can here.*

*I'm scared  
our children  
will get  
leprosy too.*

*No-one cares  
about us. We  
are  
forgotten."*

Despite everything, Anjali refuses to give up for the sake of her precious boys. She'll keep on begging to provide for them. She picks up seeds as she walks to beg, and collects plants from the forest she knows they can eat. On a small piece of shrubland outside their shack, Anjali has grown a little vegetable patch. It's a vital source of additional food for her family. A mother will do all she can to stop her children from suffering.

Anjali will never know what her grandfather told her mother when he returned without her. Perhaps he told her that Anjali had died or run away? She will never know. But what we do know is that we will not stop until we break the chains of leprosy in Jesus' name. Her grandfather's fearful legacy cannot define the future of a new generation. We cannot allow it. With your help, we can revive hope and life in all its fullness for Anjali and her family.

Extract from the magazine New Day January 2025, published by The Leprosy Mission.

Changing the subject completely I wonder if you have ever heard of the Mad Hatterpillar. It lives in New Zealand and Australia where it is a serious pest of eucalyptus trees. It munches eucalyptus leaves down to the veins – a talent which has also earned it the name of 'gum-leaf skeletoniser'.

Just like all caterpillars, *U. lugens* must regularly shed its exoskeleton in order to grow. But unlike other larvae, it doesn't discard the empty head casings. After the fourth moult, it starts stacking the increasingly

large structures on top of its noggin to form what has to be the world's most bizarre 'hat'. Scientists think the unlikely edifice may be anchored by a crown of sticky hairs. Caterpillars use the protruding headgear to swat predators, such as stink bugs, away. How's that for an excellent hat trick?



Holly Spanner BBC Science Focus

*To end my contribution to the February Magazine I would like to say thank you for those of you who have prayed for Peter and me following my accident and my prolonged time in hospitals awaiting surgery to put my leg back together again. Also, for the e-mails, telephone calls and folk who came round to our home to sing Christmas carols with us. We did appreciate the support you gave us but we would ask that you continue to pray that **The Lord will restore me to health and heal my bones** as it says in that verse from **Jeremiah 30 v 17**. I have been told by the Orthopaedic Consultant that it will take many months of rehabilitation to recover full use and health again in my leg but I do have very nice physiotherapists coming to our home to help me in that process!*

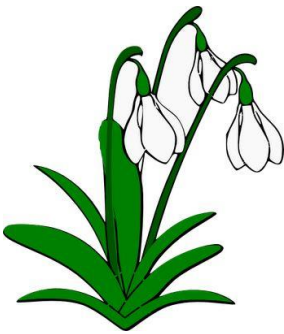
Eileen Blane





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

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



***On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>  
February***

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

***Love in the  
community***



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

2 <sup>nd</sup> February	10:30am	Rev Mark Houghton
9 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30am	National URC Service
16 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30am	All Saints Marple live link
23 <sup>th</sup> February	10:30am	Roger Horne
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	10:30am	Rev Caroline Andrews

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

## ***Dates to Remember***

**Fellowship Evenings: Wednesdays.**

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

Locations to be arranged.

**Saturday Coffee Morning on**

**1<sup>st</sup> February**

**Elders and Leaders Meeting:- to be arranged**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> February 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](http://www.buxtonurc.org.uk)**







## Please pray:-

For the Saturday Coffee Mornings on 1<sup>st</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March

For Cath and Daniel Sterndale and other volunteers giving out Waste Not Want Not food especially in this very cold weather.

For the residents of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and for tens of thousands of people fleeing neighbouring towns as M23 rebels advance against the Congolese army.



For continual progress on healing for Debbie Delight's hip and Eileen Blane's leg.

For Alison Darby in Stepping Hill Hospital.

That the stage 1 ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas will hold and that the negotiations for stage 2 due to start on 4<sup>th</sup> February will go ahead as planned.

Any concern too small to be turned into prayer is too small to be made into a burden. *Corrie Ten Boom*

Work as if everything depends on you. Pray as if everything depends on God. *St. Ignatius of Loyola*



## Buxton United Reformed Church

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

Minister for the North 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)