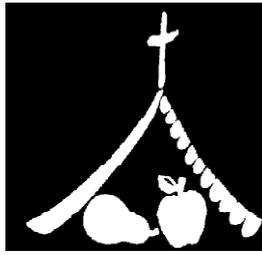


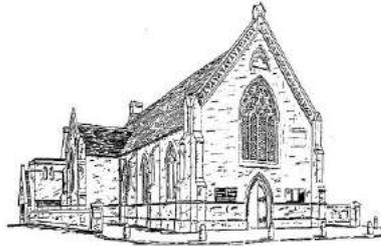
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**April/  
May/June  
2015**



**Buxton  
Methodist  
Church**

The Church in the Market Place



**WORSHIP:**

Sunday: 10.30am & 6.00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month

Tuesday: 10.30am

---

**CHURCH ADDRESS;**

Buxton Methodist Church

Chapel Street

BUXTON SK17 6HX

Tel: 01298 27065

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

e-mail: [admin@buxtonmethodist.co.uk](mailto:admin@buxtonmethodist.co.uk)

[bookings@buxtonmethodist.co.uk](mailto:bookings@buxtonmethodist.co.uk)

**MINISTER:**

Rev Andrew Parker

Tel: 01298 23556

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# MINISTER'S LETTER

## Life from a different perspective.

Climbing through Grin Low woods to Solomon's Temple brings the reward of a wonderful panorama over Buxton. From that vantage point you can see how the town 'fits together'- how roads link up, how the railway finds a level route out of Buxton, where the river flows and when you look carefully you can spot some of the significant buildings.

It provides a perspective you don't get in day-to-day life as you walk the streets. At street level it isn't always easy to work out how it all fits together.

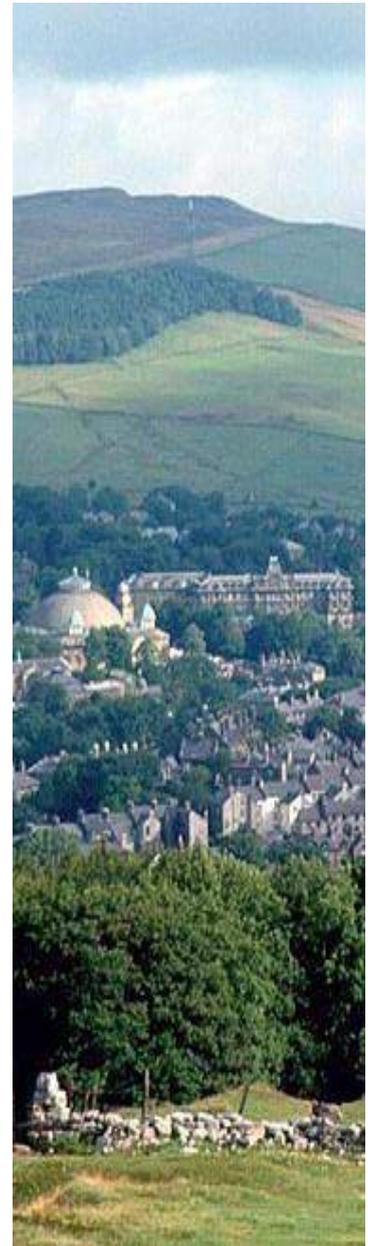
The events of day-to-day life don't always make sense either, why bad things seem to happen, the joy of unexpected surprises, a nasty turn of events, the anxiety of uncertainty.

As the followers of Jesus we are invited to view life from the perspective of God's Kingdom, his Kingdom which is seen focussed in the events of Good Friday and Easter. From the viewpoint of Easter we see despair turned to hope, failure turned to renewal, death turned to new life. This is God's pattern for life and his pattern for working in our lives, that we may discover newness and life and hope in him.

As we reflect upon our lives it seems at times they don't always make sense, but let us be faithful to our calling and know that we are held in the transforming love of God. With that assurance may we pray that God will help us see life from the perspective of his Kingdom and in that we may see his hand at work.

And what better place to pray than gazing at the view from Solomon's Temple on a warm, sunny afternoon!

Yours in Christ, *Andrew*



# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR THINK, PRAY, VOTE

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said: “When people say that the Bible and politics don’t mix, I ask them which Bible they are reading.”

Politics is about people. It’s about people living together whether that is in small market town or how we live together on our shared planet. The simple act of choosing which banana to buy is a political decision for it can affect the life of a farmer who we may never meet in another part of the world.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, has urged Christians to resist political narratives that appeal to self interest and vote for the common good, he said ‘It’s impossible to love Jesus Christ and not to care about the welfare of people in every respect.’”

Our Christian faith is woven through with a concern for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. We seek to answer questions such as how immigrants should be treated, whether a nation should go to war and how we are stewards of the environment. These are issues for living our discipleship today as they were when the Bible was written.

Christians can be united in a common faith but have different ideas about how politics can best serve the common good.

Our identity as disciples of Jesus is something that should impact every aspect of our being – including the way we vote. The Methodist Church does not put forward any particular political view nor does it seek to influence how a person votes but it encourages people to engage with the political process and challenge any political message that asks ‘what’s in it for me?’ by asking instead ‘what is in the interest of the common good?’

The weeks leading up to polling day are a chance for us all to scrutinise ideas and ask questions before making a decision about who we want to lead us for the next five years.

Now is the time for the Churches and wider civil society to do what they can to join the debate, to help communities understand the issues and to contribute in a positive way to the democratic process.

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)\* have produced material to help us reflect upon the forthcoming election and how we may engage with the political process on May 7<sup>th</sup> and, of course, politics doesn't stop then....

Churches Together in Buxton have arranged a hustings for the various parliamentary candidates on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at St John's church 7.30pm. Questions to be submitted to Rev Steven Fisher at [revshfisher@gmail.com](mailto:revshfisher@gmail.com) in advance of meeting. Please identify the church you usually attend.

JPIT have also published 'Faith in Politics – preparing Churches for the General Election 2015' which is available to download from the website of copies will be available in church.

The JPIT campaign is to;  
*THINK* about the issues,  
*PRAY* for all involved and your own involvement  
and then *VOTE*.

.....

\* The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is a venture of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland. We help our four churches work together on issues of justice and inequality.

[www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)

## Other hustings in Buxton;

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, **Transition Buxton**: topic 'Environment & Sustainability', Green Man Gallery (the old British Legion building) Hardwick Square South Buxton SK17 6PY (can also be accessed behind the Buxton Gallery on Terrace Road) 7-9pm. Questions to be submitted in advance by emailing [contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk](mailto:contact@transitionbuxton.co.uk) or on arrival.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April **University of Derby, the Dome**, Devonshire Road, Buxton, SK17 6RY doors open 6pm – hustings begins at 7pm and will go on until 9-45pm with a 15 minute break at 8pm. To be chaired by Chris Hughes. Topics to cover Education, Economy/Jobs, Community, Perceptions of Politics, Immigration/Europe and NHS

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## Friday Club 'Stay Awake'



In November the Friday Club celebrated Advent with a "Stay Awake" from 8pm to 8am at the Church Hall. The event had the theme of "Watching and Waiting" and while there was plenty of time to consider the true meaning of Advent we made sure to have lots of fun and creativity along the way. This included a bin bag fashion show among other things that ensured they all kept going till the morning. The girls would like to thank those who helped on the night and for the use of the venue.

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## **What is 'Praise @ 6'?**

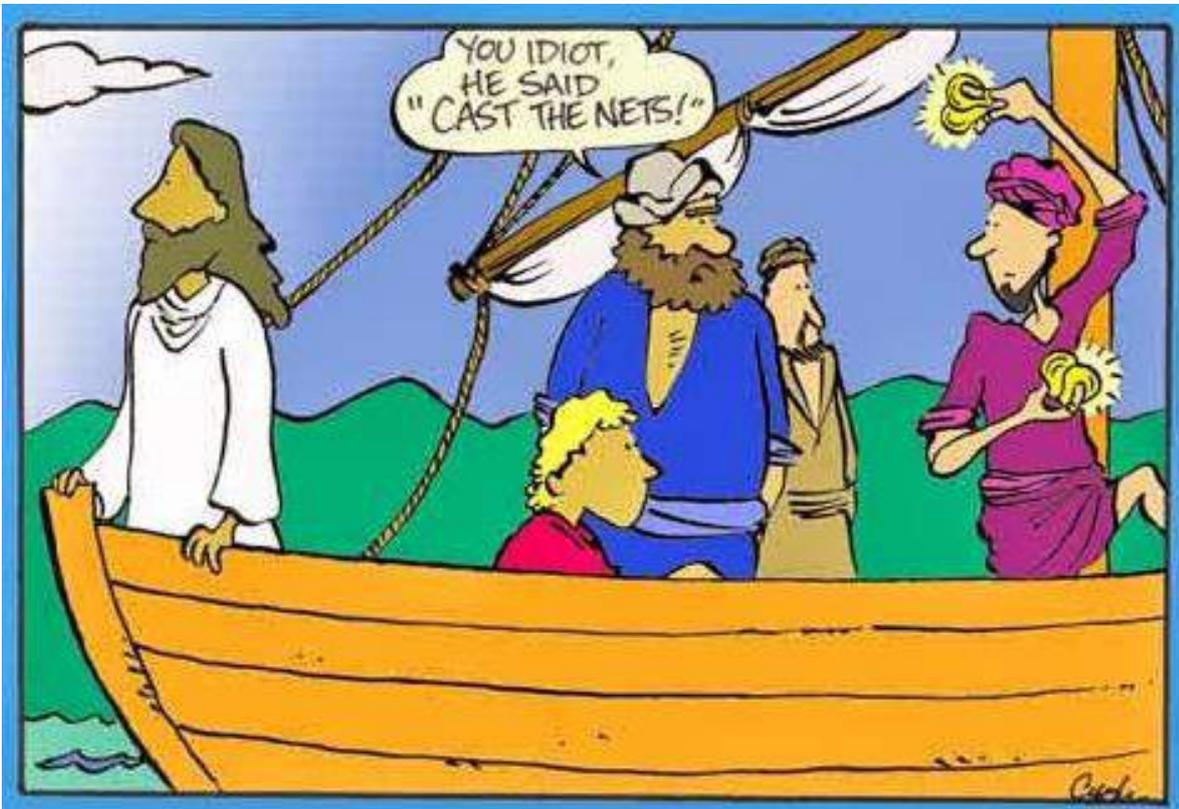
Praise @ 6 is a very informal service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening of the month. We usually meet in the main hall and sit round tables, often enjoying tea/coffee and nibbles.

The pattern of the service that has emerged is for the music group to lead us in some singing. Some are new songs others are familiar ones, sometimes they are from the new hymn book 'Singing the Faith' and at other times they are chosen because the music group like the words or tune.

After a time of worship through singing we then have a discussion time which has covered a variety of topics. For example, following the shooting at the Charlie Hebdo Offices in Paris and the offense some felt at the political cartoons published in that magazine we talked about humour in relation to our faith and how for some of us certain things can be offensive whereas for others they are funny. We looked at various cartoons and thought about whether they crossed the line from humorous to offensive. A couple of the cartoons are printed opposite this article – what do you think? Are they offensive? No one found the cartoons offensive but even in a group of 30-or-so people there was a difference of opinion when it came to some of the more challenging examples. The Monty Python Film 'Life of Bryan' has a 'crucifixion' scene where the characters sing 'Always look on the bright side of life', some people found that offensive, others found it humorous.

It is hoped that the discussions lead us to reflect upon our faith and so we finish with a time of prayer for ourselves and the world. The music group close our time together as they lead us in another couple of songs.

The evening is very informal, it is hoped that through sharing and discussion we get to know one another better, we learn from one another and share our thoughts in a friendly and trusting environment so that through it all we grow in our faith as followers of Jesus.



Used with permission

SERVICES April 2015.

**Communion and Prayers** every Tuesday  
in the Church 10.30 am to 11.00 am  
**Sunday Club and Crèche** every Sunday 10.30 am  
*HC = Holy Communion Service*

Easter Sunday

10.30 am	Easter H.C	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	@Fairfield	

12<sup>th</sup> April

10.30 am	Morning Worship	Mrs. Janet Evans.
6.00 pm	Praise @6	Rev Andrew Parker

19<sup>th</sup> April

10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	No Service	

26<sup>th</sup> April

10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev. Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	Evening Worship H.C	Rev. Colin Smith

SERVICES May 2015.

**Communion and Prayers** every Tuesday  
in the Church 10.30 am to 11.00 am

**Sunday Club and Crèche** every Sunday 10.30 am

*CTIB = Churches Together in Buxton Ecumenical Service*

3<sup>rd</sup> May

10.30 am Morning Worship and HC Rev Robert Davies

6.00 pm No Service

10<sup>th</sup> May

10.30 am Morning Worship Rev. Andrew Parker

**6.00pm** CTIB @ St Peters Fairfield

17<sup>th</sup> May

10.30 am Morning Worship Mrs. Brenda Bryant

6.00 pm No Service

24<sup>th</sup> May

10.30 am Morning Worship Rev. Andrew Parker

6.00 pm CTIB @ URC.

31<sup>ST</sup> May

10.30am Morning Worship Rev. Rod Hill

6pm No Service

## Christian Aid Walk



Well done to the intrepid bunch of Inbetweeners for braving the weather at Tittesworth reservoir on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March for the Christian Aid Sponsored Walk (special recognition to the 2 Easter bonneteers; Mandy and Kate).

This was the 25<sup>th</sup> year that the event has been organised, with something in the region of £500,000 raised for Christian Aid over that time. It's obviously still very popular as there was a very large turn out on the day, despite the rain.

The Inbetweeners would like to thank everyone who sponsored them. They raised £312 so it was worth getting wet.

## A Mythical Adventure with the Brownies.

On the week-end of 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> March 6<sup>th</sup> Buxton Methodist and 1<sup>st</sup> Fairfield (St.Peter's) joined together to go on Brownie Holiday to Glenbrook in the Hope Valley.

They enjoyed a trip down Treak Cliff cavern and then went hunting for mysterious creatures whilst exploring the grounds of Pevril Castle.

Back at the centre they were busy working on parts on the Onsie challenge badge and enjoying sweet treats.

On Sunday before heading home there was just enough time for a bit of bouldering and slack lining.

A great time was had by all and it was a great way for the two groups to get together, meet new friends and be able to enjoy a Brownie Holiday.



Down the cavern



A magical den!!



Slack Line adventures.



All together 😊

# Inspirational Women Appeal – March 2015 From *All We Can* – Methodist Relief and Development

Bible readings Judges 4:1-10 and Mark 12: 38-44

These bible passages offer us two very different examples of Biblical women, but both are inspirational, and both convey a strong message about God's concerns and priorities.

The widow's mite. The familiar story of the widow's mite, on its surface reading, is a simple message about selfless giving, and about the generosity of one who had little by way of material resources, but who was rich in the values of God's kingdom. It provides an encouragement to value every person's contribution, however small, and to give all we can. However, put in the context of the preceding passage, it takes on a new significance. Jesus had been teaching his disciples about true worship and criticising the scribes, who solicited respect through their displays of religiosity, whilst at the same time "devouring the houses of widows". They used their wealth, position and power for themselves at the expense of the poorest and most vulnerable – as widows at that time had no security or property rights, and little protection. The scribes may appear Godly, but their actions reveal their true motivations. By way of illustration of his point, as the group sits watching people giving in the temple, they see many wealthy people giving large sums. Jesus instead highlights the widow's small offering, not to laud her, but to point to the hypocrisy and injustice of a system which honours those who exploit widows and leaves her impoverished, and perhaps feeling compelled to give beyond her means. It is interesting to consider whether the widow is to be commended for her action, as Jesus's commentary does not actually make that clear. She is nonetheless inspirational, because of her devotion and for showing the world for how it is. As we look at the position of women in the world today, we find plenty of evidence that these injustices continue. In most parts of the world, women have significantly fewer opportunities than men, and are much more likely to face poverty, discrimination and domestic violence.

Women produce up to 80% of the food in poorer countries, but are more likely to go hungry than men. As at the time of Jesus, statutory and customary laws limit women's rights to land and other types of property in most countries in Africa and about half the countries of Asia. This has a particularly detrimental effect on widows, who may lose everything after the death of their husband. All We Can, through its partners, is providing a response to some of these injustices. From Cameroon to Nepal, widows are being offered employment opportunities, the chance to join support groups, and assistance to claim their rights. In rural western Nepal, All We Can's partner Kopila helps marginalised women – those who are widowed, single,

divorced, disabled or survivors of abuse – to support each other and develop their income through forming self-help groups. Members are provided with vocational skills - based training and offered small loans to enable them to start their own businesses. Through these activities, women are rediscovering their worth and self-esteem and, like the widow in the Gospel passage, being recognised for the contribution they make.

Deborah the prophet offers a very contrasting example of an inspirational Biblical woman. What is remarkable about Deborah is that she was a strong female leader in this male-dominated society, who was chosen by God to lead his oppressed people to freedom. In response to the Israelites' suffering under the regime of King Jabin, Deborah summons the commander Barak and sets out God's plan to defeat Sisera's powerful armies. As a prophet and a judge, she was clearly already respected by the community as a mouthpiece for the Lord, and entrusted with making important decisions. But now they were asked to trust her voice as a military strategist. If the people do as she says, they will be able to overthrow those who are oppressing them. Barak, who evidently valued Deborah's presence as much as her message, sought the reassurance of her company as he led his army into battle, refusing to go if she did not join him.

The plan worked, and their eventual victory led to freedom for the Israelites and forty years of peace (Judges 5:31).

Deborah's story shows that gender is no barrier, in God's eyes, to holding positions of leadership and authority. This faithful married woman guided and led her community on matters military, legal and spiritual, and was used by God to free people from oppression and suffering. In Nepal, we also see empowered female leaders helping to challenge discrimination and injustice, and women's voices increasingly heard in positions of authority.

Traditionally, women's views were not considered important and women played little role in decision-making. Many girls do not attend school and the female literacy rate is only two-thirds of the male rate. All We Can's partner Kopila therefore trains communities on women's rights, gender discrimination and domestic violence. This ensures that these important issues are exposed, discussed and challenged. Through the women's self - help groups Kopila provides training on leadership, decision-making and advocacy. The training and ongoing support of the group helps women to grow in confidence and increasingly speak out for their rights – both at home and in the community. Some of the women trained by Kopila have even been voted on to Village Development Committees –the equivalent of the local council – and other influential bodies in their communities.

With women's voices being heard and women increasingly taking leadership roles, they are able to assert more control over their lives and challenge the discriminatory views and practices that have kept them oppressed for so long.

## Conclusion:

These passages not only highlight two inspirational women from the Bible, but demonstrate God's concern to see people freed from oppression and injustice, including the discrimination and suffering which can arise from being female and being poor.

They challenge us to consider what we can do to confront attitudes and practices that hold others back, and help create a world where all people – both women and men – can flourish.

## Prayer of confession

Lord, we acknowledge that we have fallen short of your goodness. You are like the mother hen who gathers her chicks under her wings, whose embrace provides layers of protection and emanates the warmth of your love and care.

We are often more self-seeking: manipulating what we can for our own advantage, putting the desires of our stomach above the hunger of others, using our own voices to drown out the cries of those oppressed.

Lord, help us to put other people above ourselves, to assist in feeding those who hunger for justice, and to amplify the voices of the oppressed.

Lord in your mercy, forgive us and change us.

Amen.

(Extracted from All We Can website:

<http://www.allwecan.org.uk/downloads/resources/inspirational-women-appeal/2015/service-materials> )

## Churches together in Buxton Walk of Witness on Good Friday 2015



The walk began with a short service led by Andrew outside St. Johns...



...and carried on to the Opera House where the Community Church did a short talk with a reading and led prayers.



Members from Church in the Peak passionately addressed the crowd at Turner's memorial. The Hymn singing was led by Fairfield Band.



Representatives from the Anglican Church led the worship outside Argos. Childrens' books on the Easter story were distributed to families who stopped to listen.



Rev. Steve Fisher from the United Reformed Church took the final station at the low end of town, proclaiming the Good News of Good Friday.

Christine Hodgkinson would like to thank everyone who bought or sold 'Parts of the Body' quizzes. They provided many pleasant hours of head scratching but more excitingly raised £156 for the organ fund.

### **ANSWERS TO 'PARTS OF THE BODY' QUIZ**

1. Hedgerow berries - HIPS
2. Sounds like money for the poor - ARMS
3. Impudence! Impudence! - CHEEK
4. Ripening on the corn stems - EARS
5. Young livestock - CALVES
6. Twenty-four inches - 2 FEET
7. Could be related to the rabbit - HAIR
8. Makes dates - PALMS
9. Metal pins - NAILS
10. Denotes the learner - used in the playing of stringed instruments - ELBOW
11. Dotted crossed or black - EYES
12. How soldiers march - INSTEP
13. Pulls another vehicle - TOES
14. Sounds like nephew's sister - KNEES
15. Flat fishes - SOLES
16. Measures the horse or hired on the farm - HANDS
17. More than one (spoken with a lisp) - THUMB
18. Rotters - in fact uneducated ones might get jellied - HEELS
19. Just like a child - middle of the legs - KIDNEYS
20. Smug but mixed up - GUMS
21. Shellfish - MUSCLES
22. At the back of the book - APPENDIX / SPINE / INDEX
23. Large and used to be filled with tea - CHEST
24. Warning shout on the links - prepare for war - FOREARM
25. A film star big fish loses its end - JAW
26. Used by an artist - PALATE
27. Layers of ore - VEINS
28. To do with forces at sea - NAVEL
29. A group of herring red backwards - SHOULDER
30. Spend time in a bookshop for enjoyment etc - BROWS
31. The lisp was altered - LIPS
32. Just wait, keep still for a moment - PORES
33. One of many found on a hedgehog - SPINE
34. Snooker stick - the moving touch of a feather caused laughter - CUTICLE
35. Male red deer over 5 years old - HEART
36. A Holy place - TEMPLE
37. Worthless by-product of a manufacturing process - WAIST
38. Where the plug fits - SOCKET
39. The Culls' daughter was named after the Princess Royal - ANKLE
40. Fruit of the first man - ADAM'S APPLE
41. Found in the classroom - PUPILS
42. Together with thunder becomes an action-packed book or film - BLOOD
43. Between 9 and 11 university lecturers - TENDONS
44. On saw or comb - TEETH
45. London rail terminal gains an ear but is no longer cononised - PANCREAS
46. Nay! No! Non! - NOSE
47. Monks' rooms or sounds like disposes of goods for cash - CELLS
48. Whips and scourges – LASHES
49. What blows - could be a flute, recorder or piccolo – WINDPIPE
50. One who is alive - (and tasty with onions!) - LIVER

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday 10.30 am and 6.00 pm (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month).

Tuesday 10.30 am

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday morning of each month and every Tuesday morning.

**PEOPLE MEET PEOPLE CAFÉ** is open on market days, Tuesday and Saturday mornings, when the church is accessible for viewing and prayer. You are invited to borrow books from THE CHURCH LIBRARY to be returned within one month.

**NETWORK**, which is a fellowship group for men and women, meets on Wednesdays at 2.30 pm. Other groups for study, prayer and fellowship are often arranged.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES** include: Sunday Club and Youth Group as part of Sunday morning worship, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Junior Friday Club, Friday Club, Messy Church, and Parents and Toddlers.

As a community church with the community at heart we regularly host numerous organisations in the town including: Buxton Field Club, Weight Watchers, University of the Third Age, Buxton Musical Society and numerous other groups on an occasional basis.

If you require further information, a list of precise times when groups meet and contact numbers, please write to Buxton Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Buxton, SK17 6HX or ring the office number on 01298 27065.

Material in writing, can be given to Anna direct or e-mail Anna Quick on [annabrownwl31@gmail.com](mailto:annabrownwl31@gmail.com)