

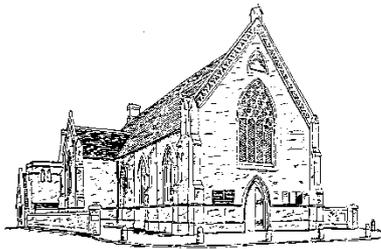
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**Dec 2014/
Jan / Feb 2015**



**Buxton
Methodist
Church**

The Church in the Market Place



WORSHIP:

Sunday: 10.30am weekly &
6.00pm - 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
Tuesday: 10.30 am

CHURCH ADDRESS;

Buxton Methodist Church
Chapel Street

BUXTON SK17 6HX

Tel: 01298 27065

Website: www.buxtonmethodistchurch.org.uk

e-mail: admin@buxtonmethodist.co.uk

bookings@buxtonmethodist.co.uk

MINISTER: Rev Andrew Parker

Tel: 01298 23556

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Buxton Methodist Church Magazine

MINISTER'S LETTER

The first prize in the glossy magazine was 'Live like a Hollywood star for a week'. It included a chauffeur driven limousine, eating at 5 star restaurants, shopping trips to the best stores in the city and staying in a mansion that had a swimming pool and gym. I guess it could have easily been to live the life of a premier footballer or top business executive or even royalty.

It's hard to imagine living a 5 star life of lavish luxury.

It's also hard to imagine the life of a worker in a clothing factory working 15 hours a day for just a few pence, the desperation of someone leaving family and home to board an overcrowded boat in the hope of a new life in a foreign country or facing persecution because of religious faith.

Obviously the publishers of the magazine knew that a prize offering a 5 star life-style would be a very effective way of attracting people to have a go at their quiz, afterall, who would want to live the life of the poor or the homeless or face persecution?

The central theme of Christmas is God's incarnation, as Wesley put it so well 'our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man'. God's chosen family were poor, unmarried, living in a land occupied by foreign military force. They were homeless, forced to sleep in an outhouse and soon to be refugees as they leave Bethlehem for Egypt. God's incarnation gives a focus to those who society often overlooks.

Before we get caught up in the glitz of Christmas, the weeks of advent offer us a time to think about those to whom God gave priority and ask that we may also learn to follow his way.

May you know God's blessing through Advent and for a joyful Christmas,

Andrew.

News from Churches Together in Buxton.....



There's no people like snow people

Snow is one of God's most wonderful gifts. No two snow-flakes are the same, each an intricate six-fold pattern. For children there is probably no such thing as too much snow, but a heavy fall is an antidote to human hubris – reminding us how easily our plans can be disrupted.

For homeless people, snow or other severe weather is not only inconvenient but life-threatening, or at best life-shortening. The railway may keep running but Buxton could effectively be cut off from the rest of Derbyshire and such emergency accommodation facilities as there are in the area. Where could homeless people turn?

Churches Together, working with High Peak Nightstop, are on stand-by through until the end of March. If severe weather is forecast, the United Reformed Church will be opened to provide somewhere temporary out of the cold and wind. Please note that this will not be publicised; it is for people who are referred to us because they have nowhere else to go. As always, we will try to 'sign-post' people to more permanent help the next day.

But we need more volunteers. Up to 8 per night (there are 2 shifts). Each shift has a supervisor and up to 3 helpers. Helpers do not need special skills: cheerful common-sense goes a long way. Supervisors can train 'on the job'. We try to plan rotas a couple of weeks ahead.

If it is a mild Winter, you might never be called out. If we get a long freeze you could be on duty a couple to times a week. We know that if 'the balloon goes up' you will be there, but it would really help to plan ahead. Please ring Cath on 07973670595 or email: hp.nightstop@yahoo.com.

CTiB Bible-Study House-Group

At the Churches-Together-in-Buxton (CTiB) meeting on 13th November 2014, my proposal to host a weekly CTiB Bible-Study Group in our house was accepted.

My wife, Elaine and I ran an open/ecumenical weekly Bible-Study group in our previous home in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire for 16 years before we retired to Buxton in July 2010. We were originally convicted to do this after attending ecumenical house-groups in Wotton, organised by the churches in Wotton, over the Lent period. In the latter years of this 16-year period we had people who were not yet Christians, as well as Christians, join us.

Elaine and I would like to run the weekly Bible-Study Group on a Wednesday or Thursday evening, starting on 28th or 29th January 2015. We will be studying the Gospel of Luke. The first series of six Bible studies will span the Gospel, and the Bible-study notes/questions are designed to be appropriate for not-yet-Christians as well as Christians. So, if folks would like to bring a not-yet-Christian friend with them, who is interested in finding out more about Jesus and the Christian Faith, this would be good. Thereafter, we will start at the beginning of Luke's Gospel, and study and discuss one chapter per week – *all our welcome*.

It is important to stress that the Bible Study will be in the form of open discussion (rather than a 'teaching' session), where any constructive question/point is welcomed.

Please could you let us know if you would like to come to this Bible-Study Group, and whether Wednesday or Thursday evening, or either, would suit you?

The meeting will start promptly at 7:30pm (with a cuppa) and finish promptly at 9:00pm. Our contact details are given below.

Yours in Christ,

Chris & Elaine Gane.

E-mail: chrisgane579@btinternet.com

Tel: 01298 70016

Mobile: 07944 646431

21 Wye Head Close

Buxton

Derbyshire

SK17 9Ax

Homely Harvest

My best Sunday this year was the Harvest Festival at Buxton Methodist. I arrived late, and thought I had to wait for the brownies at the door to process in. They thought I wanted to join them! Well, I was in the cubs in the 1940s. I took the only seat vacant, at the back, which gave me a superb view of all the happenings.

Parents of the uniformed youngsters had come, bringing their other children. Some were in dad's arms, some clutched mother's hand, some stood on chairs, some toddlers were everywhere, crawling in the aisle and invading the chancel. We were a gloriously merry big family, together, serious and funny and naturally exuberant. This was not a choreographed liturgy but a spontaneous celebration of joy.

The minister's talk was, as usual, practical and involving, just right for kids. Mrs. Morten, in a pinafore, deliberately over-acted the making of bread, with sighs, wiped forehead, and hard pounding of the dough in its mixing bowl. Informative and so funny. The minister produced loaves he had baked – some like stone and some edible (maybe), and pointed to the wall charts explaining how bread is made.

I thought about this: in Singapore and Thailand it would be about rice and noodles.

The brownies, rainbows, Sunday Club and others sang, some played instruments, and a good time was had by all of us. At the end, the uniformed groups processed out, proudly carrying their flags, but I didn't want it to end. We had been celebrating a human harvest, of people of all ages, praying and singing together: harvest home, in God's house.

Brian Lawrence.

Bikes for Africa

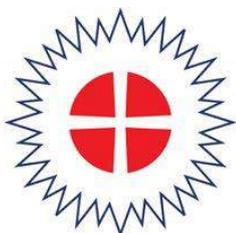
Do you have a bike in your shed or garage that's now simply gathering dust? If so the answer's the *bikes 4 Africa* project, which has been sending bikes to schools in The Gambia since 2006. Rotary Club of Buxton is supporting this flagship programme of the *Jole Rider Friends* charity, whose mission is *changing lives through education*. Bikes are loaned to students who have to walk two hours or more to get to school. They arrive too tired to concentrate, and can't do after-school activities. Using a bike for their journey results in all-round achievement.

Buxton Rotarians will collect unwanted but useable bikes and deliver to a local depot en route to HM Prisons. After overhaul by inmates, bikes and other equipment are shipped to Africa in a container every two months, at the mere cost of £10/bike. If bike donors would like to contribute to this it helps enormously.

Bikes should be suitable for secondary school children (10yr +) and be something that with a bit of TLC they would want to ride. Mountain bikes are best, or road bikes with trail tyres; the simpler the better for school maintenance, so no rear suspension models please.

Gears are not important as The Gambia is mainly flat; BMX are fine. So, if you have an old bike that deserves a new lease of life and could make a real difference to a Gambian youngster, please contact Buxton Rotarian Lyn Noble (t: 01298 71309). If you are unsure about its suitability, or need other advice, don't hesitate to ask.

For more details visit www.jolerider.org/programmes/bikes4africa.



the **National Methodist
Youth Brass Band**

Following last summer's very enjoyable visit from The National Methodist Youth Brass Band we are pleased to say that they are making a return visit on Feb 6-8th (2015).

We hope there will be a Saturday evening concert and that they'll provide musical accompaniment during the Sunday morning service.

Further details to follow but keep this date pencilled in for what we hope will be a very enjoyable weekend.

SERVICES December 2014.

Communion and Prayers in church every Tuesday, 10:30am
Sunday Club every Sunday 10.30 am

7th December

10.30 am	Advent Parade	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	Memorial Service	Rev Andrew Parker

14th December

10.30 am	Morning Worship	Miss Ruth Hayter
6.00 pm	Praise @6	Rev Andrew Parker

21st December

10.30 am	Lessons and Carols	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	No Service	

24th Dec. Christingle Service- 5.30pm

25th Dec Christmas Day- 10 am service

28th December

10.30 am	Morning Worship- Circuit Service	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	No Service	

SERVICES January 2015.

4th January

10.30 am	Covenant Service HC	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	Fairfield	

11th January

10.30 am	Morning Worship	Mr John Wood
6.00pm	Praise @ 6	Rev Andrew Parker

18th January

10.30 am	Morning Worship	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	CTIB Christian Unity Service at Buxton Community Church	

25th January

10.30 am	Morning Worship	Mrs Janet Evans
6.00 pm	Evening Worship Taize	Rev Andrew Parker

Memorial Service.

Christmas is a special time to be with family and friends, it can also be an especially painful time of remembering those who are no longer with us.

All are invited to this service that provides a time to remember those who have died, whether they died recently or many years ago. The service will last about 45 minutes and has carols, readings and prayers. There is also the reading of a 'Role of Remembrance' containing the names we have come to remember and opportunity for everyone to light a candle in memory of their loved ones.



Did you know ? Methodist Relief and Development has relaunched as:

All We Can

In April the Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) announced an ambitious set of plans for the future, including a new name to reflect its commitment to tackle poverty. It will now be known as **All We Can, the Methodist relief and development partner.**



The charity's new strategy and strengthened identity are the result of a wide-ranging strategic review, carried out over the last year, involving supporters, staff, volunteers and overseas partners.

Maurice Adams, Chief Executive of All We Can, says: "Over the years All We Can, under various names, has provided support and resources to many millions of people in great need. Our vision for the next chapter in the story of Methodist relief and development work seeks to build upon our strengths and heritage. This change has been inspired by our past so that we can continue the work for the future"

"We believe that our collaborative approach to tackling poverty, rooted in Christian principles and Methodist values, is more relevant than ever. We have refocused our work to better support our partners – including churches, organisations and individuals – to bring about lasting change in their communities. Our new identity reflects the renewal of our commitment to work in partnership and to do all we can for those who need us most."

New identity

For its new name, the charity has taken inspiration from words attributed to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism:

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can. "

Maurice Adams explains: "As part of our strategic review, we considered the organisation's identity and the way we present ourselves. We had recognised for some time that the name we adopted nearly 30 years ago no longer accurately reflected the work we do – having been much more than simply a fund for many years – and that it was not helping us in the challenging tasks of raising our profile and increasing support. Our new name and strengthened identity reflects our future role and vision, as well as our Methodist roots and heritage."

Increasing impact

As part of the charity's plans to increase its impact in the future, today it also launched a new initiative to help churches and faith-based organisations in poor communities to effectively meet the needs of their neighbours.

Over five years, this aims to reach one million people with sustainable long term support, through the efforts of one thousand churches across ten countries.

“Religion is central to many societies and communities. Faith groups are often highly trusted, active in even the most remote communities, and the first group to which the poor turn in times of need and crisis,” commented Maurice Adams. “Our new [Church CAN \(Church Community Action for Neighbours\)](#) initiative builds on All We Can's existing strengths in partnering with small local organisations, by working in collaboration with churches and offering training and support so that they can effectively respond to the needs of their local communities.”

The initiative will focus on Methodist church partners in developing countries, and has been developed in co-operation with the World Church Relationships team of the Methodist Church in Britain.

Going where the need is greatest

All We Can has always been committed to reaching the most marginalised people where the need is greatest, and will continue to focus on communities which are often overlooked and underserved by larger agencies.

Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Britain, said: “John Wesley famously said ‘Go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most.’ One of the important things about All We Can through its history has been the focus upon people truly on the margins. Methodists have great resonance with that idea that you listen to people who no one else seems to care about, and yet make enormous differences to their lives.”

Do all you can

British Methodism has always had a strong commitment to social justice and practical compassion, and All We Can continues to reflect those values. The charity is using the launch of All We Can to invite Methodists to renew their commitment to doing all they can to contribute to the alleviation of poverty and speak out against injustice. Tim Baker, a volunteer coordinator for All We Can in the Thames Valley Circuit, said: “All We Can is about doing all that I can, all that we can, all that the people involved in the charity and in Methodism can do to bring about a better, safer, less broken world.”



Lily and Sarah with the shoeboxes.

"Friday Club" made six shoeboxes for "Samaritan's Purse". The girls raised money at a table top sale in October and then shared out the proceeds to go shopping for items for the boxes. They learnt the benefits of bulk buying together to maximise your spending options and about the various needs of young people across the world.

Their next venture is the "Stay Awake" on 28/11/14 when we will be exploring "Advent and watching and waiting".

Friday Club (Ecumenical Youth Group) has been very busy. We used the money we raised at the September "Table Top Sale" to provide a kitty for the members to go out and spend on items for the six Christmas boxes we had made for the "Samaritan's Purse" project. The members came back with some useful, as well as fun, items. They also learnt that shopping together and buying in bulk made their monies (talents) go even further.

We had a visitor from the United Reformed Church in October who sought the members' help in completing a Prayer Reflection Wall. As the subject was about children in "conflict zones" it proved to be a relevant talking point for the group and their copies of other children's diary entries will help to complete the display. We hope that it will, in time, travel round the churches for other congregations to see.

Mary Lou offered a craft workshop at another meeting and we all made gift boxes. However, they must remain secret in case they appear in December!

Unfortunately our half term trip to Blaze Farm Pottery had to be postponed due to various reasons but we hope to offer this again in the Spring. We are now busy planning Christmas events and hope to offer, instead of a "Sleep Over", a "Stay Awake" at the end of November. We have enough volunteers for this but if anyone has a hobby or talent that they would like to share with the group we would love to hear from you. Musicians and craft enthusiasts would be especially welcome to offer sessions for the New Year programme.

Please don't forget that new members are very welcome and they don't need to belong to any church congregation to join. Contact Johanna, Di, Mary Lou or Aileen for further details. (Tel No.07912617135)



Presentation of JMA Certificates.



JMA Sunday after the lunch.

JMA SUNDAY – 19th OCT.

(please look in this magazine + on church board at the photos taken by John)



This year we really enjoyed celebrating JMA - Junior Mission for All, part of the Methodist Church's mission programme.

Throughout the year children and young people raise money and then annually we come together to acknowledge effort, say thank you to sponsors and learn more about projects abroad and life in other countries.

The morning service on 19th October started with the JMA collectors giving us an update of the year and announcing a wonderful total of money raised:

£798.68

Rev Andrew Parker then handed out certificates and we congratulated the collectors for their good work.

Our focus for the day was China and Hong Kong. So readers then gave us a host of fascinating facts about the countries. *Did you know: Ice cream was invented in China about 2000BC when the Chinese packed a soft milk and rice mixture in the snow...* The young people then went to their groups to help prepare for a thank you Chinese lunch for collectors, sponsors and families. After the service a happy crowd gathered in the hall with all ages eating and chatting and then playing games together! A huge thank you to all those who helped. What a good day!

We ask you to please support our next event:

SUNDAY 7th DEC. ADVENT SERVICE - JMA CAKE STALL
Cakes on sale after the service.



Anyone willing to bake something for the stall please contact Catherine Whelpton (Bx 213455) or Glynis Leyland(Bx 26088).

Thank you!!

When potatoes are peeled.

When potatoes are peeled and pounded
For the sake of the older folk,
When tables are put up and wiped clean
With a smile and a friendly joke,
Then the Light of the world is shining
As when the Babe in the manger lies.
Yes, the Light of the world is shining;
He shines out through your eyes.

When the colouring sheets are copied,
Stories shared and music played,
When handprints are sticky and joyful,
Friendships forged and welcome made,
Then the Light of the world is shining
As when the Babe in the manger lies.
Yes, the Light of the world is shining;
He shines out through your eyes.

When welcome, words and music
Are the channels of His grace,
Then the Spirit moves us
And holy is this place.
Then the Light of the world is shining
As when the Babe in the manger lies.
Yes, the Light of the world is shining;
He shines out through your eyes.

Mary Heyward



**Christmas Greetings to all our Church Friends
from Richard and Mary Morten**

Inbetweeners Group

'The Inbetweeners' is the name we've informally given to the group of people at church who find themselves too old for youth club but still too young to qualify for U3A.

It's really reassuring to note the healthy number of people at our church who fall into this category.

We all lead busy lives but people in this age bracket often have particularly onerous work/family commitments and can sometimes find it more difficult than others to get involved and feel part of our church family, it can also be hard to get to know other people. With this in mind, a few of us felt it would be an idea to develop a programme of social events specifically for this group.

We got off to a great start with a well attended BBQ at the manse on a wet Friday evening in August. We managed to come to a decision over a name for our group and we started to put together a list of ideas for future activities. Since then a few of us attended a Simeon Wood concert in Calver (part of the Derbyshire Village Mission programme); we've had a private viewing of the Buxton Spa Prize exhibition at the newly re-located Green Man Gallery; we've organised the quiz at the Harvest supper and we've had a great Sunday afternoon hike along Burbage edge (followed by a very well deserved pub lunch).

The purpose of this group is to encourage people to get to know each other, and feel more connected. If you would like to know more about the Inbetweeners – or would like to be included on the email list for notification of events etc please get in touch with Jenny, Kate, Sarah or Anne-Marie.



Christmas Quiz

1. What date is St Stephen's Day?
2. In Charles Dickens' novel A Christmas Carol, who was Scrooge's dead business partner?
3. The song White Christmas was first performed in which 1942 film?
4. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country?
5. In the song The Twelve Days of Christmas, '...my true love brought to me nine...' what?
6. Name the original eight reindeer from the 'Twas the night Before Christmas' poem?
7. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics '...To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray..'?
8. The character Jack Skellington appears in which 1993 Tim Burton film?
9. What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
10. In the inspirational 1946 film, It's a Wonderful Life, what's the name of George Bailey's guardian angel?
11. What are the names of the three wise men said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus?
12. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland?
13. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding-cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
14. In what year was Band-Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas the UK Christmas chart-topping record (bonus point each for the years of reissue success by Band Aid II and Band Aid 20)?
15. In which modern country is St Nicholas's birthplace and hometown?
16. Who wrote How the Grinch Stole Christmas?
17. From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?
18. Who is officially credited as the author of Auld Lang Syne?
19. How many points does a snowflake have?
20. What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?

Sourced by Tracey from

http://www.businessballs.com/quizballs/quizballs29_free_trivia_quiz_questions_answers.htm

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(01298 23556).

GENERAL INFORMATION

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday 10.30 am and 2nd and 4th Sunday's at 6.00 pm
Tuesday Communion 10.30am

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, Yoga, University of the Third Age, Buxton Musical Society and numerous other groups on an occasional basis.

Room Hire.

Our rooms are suitable for:

- Conferences
- Meetings
- Training
- Dance/exercise classes
- Concerts/Recitals
- Children's Parties

All rooms have tea/coffee making facilities.

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Children's Parties from £42 per booking.

Enquires: (01298) 27065 email - bookings@buxtonmethodist.co.uk

The deadline for the March-May edition of the Newsletter is
Sunday 15th February.

Material in writing, can be given to Anna direct or e-mail Anna Quick on
annabrownwl31@gmail.com