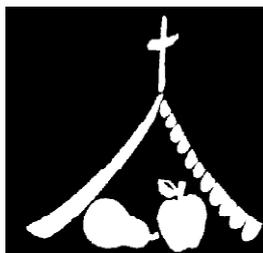


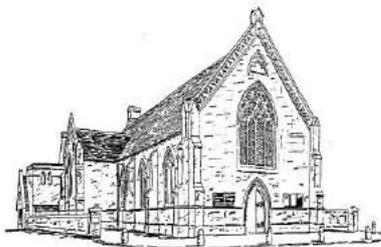
# NEWSLETTER

**Sep/October  
2013**



## **Buxton Methodist Church**

The Church in the Market Place



### WORSHIP:

Sunday: 10.30 am and 6.00 pm

Tuesday: 10.30 am

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### 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

1 St James' Terrace

BUXTON SK17 6HS

Tel: 01298 23556

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No 444  
Sep/Oct 2013

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# Buxton Methodist Church Newsletter

## MINISTER'S LETTER

In my late teens I was helping backstage with the Pudsey Amateur Operatic Society and during an interval I was chatting with my friend David.

Conversation got round to a badminton club he attended at the local Methodist church

and he said: 'Why not come

along? The following week I went and (to cut a

long story short) from going to that group more

friendships developed and I helped the team

running the youth club. After that I started going to

a monthly Family Service and a Sunday evening

group and so it went on, in time to ministry and

indeed bringing me here to Buxton!

Looking back to that invitation from David, would I have ever guessed so much would have

happened? It was the invitation that won me over,

it wasn't a long theological debate, there was no

commitment to sign up to attend meetings, church

councils or a long list of jobs. It was just a simple

invitation.

In John's gospel we read about another invitation:

two of John the Baptist's disciples saw Jesus and

asked the rather obscure question: 'where are you

staying?' Jesus invited them: 'come and you will

see'. They went and in that time together their lives

were transformed; they knew they had met the

Messiah (John 1:35-42). There again we see that



invitation of welcome, conversation shared, friendships formed and lives changed.

‘Back to Church Sunday’ is a national, ecumenical event, but at its core it is about one person offering to another person that simple invitation to ‘come along’. Research shows there are many people interested in church, but that they find it hard to take the first step. The ‘Back to Church Sunday’ website tells us that: ‘3 million people would come back to church if they had an invitation’. We might struggle to contact those 3 million people, but perhaps we could all ask a friend? a neighbour? a work colleague?

At Buxton Methodist we have chosen our Back to Church Sunday to be on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, which is Harvest Festival. The singing will be good – a mixture of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs accompanied by the orchestra. There will be contributions from the uniformed organisations and Sunday club and, above all, the wonderful thankful atmosphere of Harvest Festival worship.

There are special ‘Back to Church’ Sunday invitations available in the entrance porch for you to take home. Think about who you could invite, pray for that person and of course use the invitation to invite them to the Harvest Festival.

I am so pleased that all those years ago David offered me that invitation. You never know, one day someone might tell about how their life changed after they received an invitation to go ‘Back to Church’. You could be the person who offered them the invitation!

May we all pray that this will be a special Sunday,

Andrew.

[www.backtochurch.co.uk](http://www.backtochurch.co.uk)

# **Working and worshipping with other Christians**

We have several opportunities to get together with other Christians during the next few months to work and worship together:

14<sup>th</sup> September – St Johns Church (and maybe other Anglican churches in town) will be open to visitors all day as part of Derby Diocesan Church Day. Refreshments available.

28<sup>th</sup> September – Families Finding Faith – a morning conference with workshops particularly for those associated with families and children's work. Full information – see page 8.

20<sup>th</sup> October – at St Peters Church, Fairfield an opportunity to sing at a Churches Together in Buxton (CTiB) Songs of Praise service. 6 pm.

27<sup>th</sup> October – at the United Reform Church, Hardwick Square East, a joint CtiB service to mark One World Week. The service will be at 6 pm and will be based around Zambia when a recent project led by URC members will feature.

Chapter and Verse – Buxton's recently re-opened and refurbished Christian Bookshop on the corner of the Market Place and Market Street. Do use it and perhaps volunteer to help there – help make this a place of Christianity on the Market Place. New and second hand books, cards, Fair Trade goods.

Food Bank – CtiB is an agency for the Buxton Food Bank and Nightstop. The Food Bank is managing to keep up with requests largely due to regular donations from the churches. Dry, long life and canned food contributions can be brought to our church and are regularly transported to the Food Bank, which is based at the United Reformed Church.

## Churches together in Buxton – New Initiatives

### Street Pastors

This is a nationwide initiative which is very popular, particularly in city centres, where trained teams of Christians go out onto the streets at night, around pubs and clubs and offer help to anyone in need or just to chat to folks. They are well known for giving flip flops to women who cannot walk on their heels after a night on the town. They work closely with the police and it was Sergeant Phil Booth who, along with the support of Chris Gane, came to talk to CtiB and ask if this was something that could be done in Buxton. They are taking this forward by starting a prayer group first, seeking 'prayer warriors' who would gather in twos or threes, perhaps between 11 pm and 3 am, hopefully in Buxton Methodist Church, to pray for the activity going on outside. This may then progress to having a team of Street Pastors who actually go out and about. If this is something that excites you then look out for further information coming soon.

### Town Centre Chaplaincy

This came about following a Lent Group titled 'The church beyond the walls' which was led by Jonathan Green and attended by 18-ish people representing different churches at the Kwei Lin. The course was about Chaplaincy in general and was very detailed with a strong enthusiasm at the end to look at developing a town centre Chaplaincy in Buxton. Janet Heys is on a team looking at how we may take this forward, so again look out for more information which will be out soon. If you missed the Lent Course then you can check it out on the Methodist Church website under the title of 'Chaplaincy Everywhere.'

### E-mail Sent to Christine Hodkinson

Below is an e-mail sent to Christine when she tried to contact Steve Fisher from the URC Church about the recent service here on 25<sup>th</sup> August:

Christine,

While I would typically be gratified by any request to assist in worship and especially to travel to the UK to do so, the fact I have never heard of Buxton Methodist and that I am a chaplain in the US navy currently assigned in Georgia USA, suggests to me that you have probably contacted the wrong person?! You may want to confirm the email address for the particular Steve you were looking for.....

Most respectfully  
Chaplain Steve Fisher.

# **Church and Circuit Notices**

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30 pm Reflective Church Council
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	7.30 pm Circuit Meeting at Fairfield
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am Harvest Festival, Parade Service and Back to Church Sunday
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am JMA award presentations
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	7.30 pm Church Council
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am We welcome the High Peak Royal Naval Association for their Trafalgar Day service
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Holiday Club @ Buxton Methodist age 4-11+ more details to follow in Sept.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Hollinsclough Meat and Potato Pie Supper with a speaker. This starts 7.30 pm in the Chapel
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Monyash Christmas Fair
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday – <u>10.00 am</u> at Buxton
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Harpur Hill Christmas Sale 2 pm

## **Monthly Events**

1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	Earl Sterndale coffee morning 10.30 am
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday`	Peak Dale tea and cakes 2 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Harpur Hill Community coffee morning 10.30 am (at the Chapel, joint with St James Church)

## **Network**

Network starts up again on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September with a Members' Afternoon entitled "Childhood Memories". If you would like to come along with a few thoughts about your childhood (not too long or we will run out of time!), you will be very welcome.

Network starts at 2.30 pm and meets in the Lower Room. If you need flat access, then please contact Ruth Hayter 77810 before the meeting.

Network is for men and women, and has a mixed programme of speakers and member-led afternoons. We normally start with a short act of worship, and aim to finish the structured part of the afternoon within an hour.

During the Autumn this weekly meeting will be welcoming speakers from within our own Network members – Gwenda and Bob Dewson, Stan Evans, Don and Iris Sparkes; we will also be welcoming Chris Robinson, Ingrid Keith, Mike Moore, Ron Sinclair, Glynis Leyland, and our minister Andrew Parker - who will be speaking about his honeymoon in Madagascar. What is becoming a regular event is a joint meeting with Buxton Parish Mother's Union, where we will each contribute to an afternoon of hymns and readings.

We will finish this session on 11<sup>th</sup> December with a Carol Service.

**You are welcome to any or all of the meetings – just turn up and make yourself at home.**

## **YOU can be so much more than the internet....**

At Buxton we are very blessed to have a church family with ages that range from the very young to, shall we say, 'a little older'. I wonder if we have someone in each 'generation'; 0 – 10; 11 – 20; 21 – 30; 31- 40 etc?

In this diverse age range there are people who grew up knowing life without TV or telephone and people who are growing up unable to imagine life without TV, internet and mobile phones!

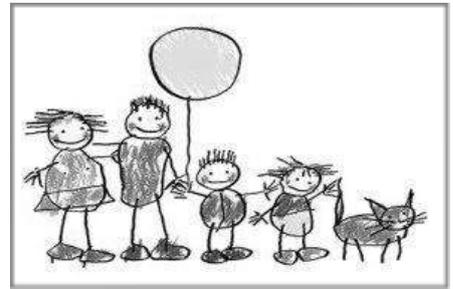
It can appear that a generation brought up on internet and social media feel no need to belong to a church where so many are old enough to be their parents or grandparents. Yet, this thoughtful reflection offers a different view.

Hayley Moss is the Methodist Youth president and writes this from personal experience; *'While at a recent Conference I was interviewed and one of the questions I was asked was this; 'How can we connect with younger generations when their lives are so different from ours. I feel like we have nothing in common and I have nothing relevant to offer'.*

*Clearly many older people feel that there is a chasm between them and the younger generation. Can we cross this chasm? As I look back, I can see a number of Christian people, particularly women who are older than me, lining the way. They have played a very significant part in my life and my journey as a disciple. They have a part in who I have become and am becoming. They have demonstrated a simple, heartfelt, unwavering care for me. Some I have known and am very close to, some I don't know very well, but have received many a friendly smile or hello from. Some have been around for years, some for a few months or even weeks.*

*Young people **need** these sorts of relationships. They need more than Facebook friends and Twitter followers. They need people who will notice when they don't turn up for a few weeks. They need people who will cook a good healthy meal with plenty of vegetables when they are living on pasta and cheap tomato sauce at university. They need people who will sit next to them at church. They need people who will invite them round for a cup of tea. They need people who will tell them they are praying for them when they have exams. They need people who will say 'you look lovely today'. They need people who will send them encouraging cards when they have moved far away from home. They need people who will look them in the eye and say 'are you ok?' They need role models, companions, stories to learn from and shoulders to cry on. They need people with wisdom and experience, with love, with hugging arms and squeezing hands and praying hearts who are actually there in their lives.*

*Church can offer the sort of community that I haven't found anywhere else. Don't underestimate what you can contribute to a young person's life today. You can cross the chasm. Be brave - reach out to a young person. It really will be good for them and good for you. Your love and care will make a huge difference. The internet is no match for you.*



## 'Families Finding Faith'

Aimed at those churches that currently have few young families in their congregations, this will be a series of workshops exploring Churches' outreach to families in Buxton and surrounds. Come and join us for this event facilitated by Sara Brown, Children's advisor at Derby Diocesan Board of Education. Questions and issues to be discussed will be:

Should Children's work be differently interpreted in each Buxton Church?

Should we just focus on meeting families faith needs on Sundays?

Should we be sharing ideas and planning activities together across all of our churches?

Should churches be more involved with schools?

What do we want for our families and what do families want from us?

**September 28th 2013 - 10am to 2pm To be held at the Methodist Church, Buxton**

Lunch and refreshments will be included. You will be welcome whether you are a visionary, grandparent, carer, teacher, youth worker or simply because you care about families and their faith needs in Buxton and its surrounding communities.

**Everyone Welcome**

For registration or further details please contact:

Johanna Partridge on 07779385387 or e.mail [johannapartridg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johannapartridg@hotmail.co.uk)



Passed on from Kate MacLean taken at a pub in Alstonfield



Mary and Malcom with their daughter Anne, her husband Ashaka, and other daughter Jenny on their special day



Jenny and Andrew's Wedding in Ireland



The Wedding Blessing in Buxton



## SERVICES OCT 2013

**Communion and Prayers** every Tuesday  
in the Quiet Chapel 10.30 am to 11.00 am  
**Sunday Club** every Sunday 10.30 am, apart from 6<sup>th</sup> October

### 6<sup>th</sup> October

10.30 am	Harvest Festival, Parade Service & Back to Church Sunday	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	Praise @ 6	

### 13<sup>th</sup> October

10.30 am	Holy Communion & JMA Service	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	Worship Team

### 20<sup>th</sup> October

10.30 am	Morning Worship with the RNA	Rev Andrew Parker
6.00 pm	Churches Together in Buxton, Songs of Praise at St Peters	

### 27<sup>th</sup> October

09.00 am	Alive @ 9am	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Mrs Janet Evans
6.00 pm	Churches Together in Buxton United Service at URC	

# **BIG Y HOLIDAY CLUB**



Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

10am-12 noon each day

Ages 4-10 yrs old in the main holiday group

11 plus activities

All welcome

Contact [Anna.Quick@btinternet.com](mailto:Anna.Quick@btinternet.com)

To book a place or ask more see Anna.

**SAVE THE DATE AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

## LETTER FROM ANDREW AND JENNY

Jenny and I have been so touched by the love and kindness shown by so many people particularly on the occasion of the celebration lunch and Blessing Service. We have written a 'thank you' in the notice sheet and once again want to express our thanks.

Many people commented about the beautiful words in the blessing service and so I have included the words of two of the hymns on the next page.

Central to the service was the invitation for Jenny and I to take our two individual candles and light a central candle symbolic of our new life together. Rev Liz Wills, Superintendent of the Sheffield East Circuit, wrote the liturgy and this is an extract:

'Andrew and Jenny, these 2 candles symbolise your separate lives. In your marriage you have chosen to join your lives as one. Your individuality is not lost, but rather deepened, as, by God's grace, you become one.

*(Centre candle is lit)*

This central light symbolises the new reality of your marriage. You each remain unique children of God, but the light of this candle signifies that from now on your light will shine together, for each other, for your families and friends, for your communities. You are two persons, but one in love and commitment.'

A photo of us at the table with Liz is on page 10 here in the magazine.

It was a very fitting and moving occasion and along with the lunch we have been delighted to continue our wedding celebrations with our friends here in Buxton.

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,  
without the need to manage and to own;  
a haven free from posing and pretending,  
where every weakness may be safely  
known.

Give me your hand, along the desert  
pathway,  
give me your love wherever we may go:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and  
space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,  
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us  
free;  
that helps us face the risk of truly living,  
and makes us brave to be what we might  
be.

Give me your strength when all my words  
are weakness,  
give me your love in spite of all you know:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and  
space to grow.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,  
no secret wish to harness or control;  
let us accept each other 's incompleteness,  
and share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and  
disappointments,  
give me your trust when all my failings  
show:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and  
space to grow.

*Michael Foster, Singing the Faith 615  
Tune – Londonderry Aire (Danny Boy)*

We come, dear Lord, to celebrate  
the love our friends have found;  
and thank you, God, for their embrace,  
the joy and promise in this place  
which makes it holy ground,  
which makes it holy ground.

Help them fulfil the vows made here;  
let this new family share  
a welcome home, a future blessed  
by love and laughter, grace and guest,  
with time enough to spare,  
to listen love and care.

In seeking what the future holds,  
in letting go the past,  
we seek your grace to clear a way  
through what must go and what should  
stay  
if love is meant to last,  
if love is meant to last.

*Hymn written by John Bell and sung to the tune  
Repton (Dear Lord and father of mankind)*

**Buxton Methodist Church**

# **HARVEST SUPPER**

**Monday 7th October 2013  
6.30 pm  
in the Main Hall**

**Further details will appear in the  
weekly notice sheet nearer to the  
time.**

## HARVEST FESTIVAL GIFTS

Gifts for the Festival would be welcome – flowers will be sent to elderly or housebound friends, tins of food etc will be given to Nightstop and the sale of fresh produce after Monday evening's supper will go to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. Further details of the weekend will appear in the weekly noticesheet. The Harvest Festival services will be on 6th October and a traditional harvest supper will take place at 6.30 pm in the Hall on Monday 7th October.

### *Family Treasure Hunt*



**Harvest Sunday Afternoon - 6<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Following last year's successful family Cycle Ride along the Tissington Trail, this year we plan to have a local Treasure Hunt! It will start from Church and be a walking trail ending with refreshments. Linked with Harvest, child-friendly clues will lead us around God's interesting and beautiful world. So save the date - details to follow. Please let Roger (27065) or Glynis (26088) know if you'd like coming along.



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday 10.30 am and 6.00 pm

Tuesday 10.30 am

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday morning and the third Sunday evening 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, Stepping Stones, 11 Up, Messy Church, Talk FX and Parents and Toddlers.

As a community church with the community at heart we regularly host numerous organisations in the town including: Junior Strings, Buxton Field Club, Weight Watchers, Yoga, 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.

The deadline for the Nov/ Dec edition of the Newsletter is  
**October 11<sup>th</sup>**

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