

# THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN BRAMHALL

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## NEWS & VIEWS

### NEW FRIENDS

I have, for the past week or so, had the pleasure of having two young people from the Waldensian church based in the valleys of northern Italy stay with Karen and myself. It has for all of us been a real education!

One the one hand our communities are so different, they have never experienced “curry mile”, charity shops or chain stores. On the other hand, we come from an almost identical root. Peter Valdo was perhaps the first of all the Reformers, his estrangement from the Catholic church took place in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and the community he forged was forced by means of persecution to live in the foothills of the Alps in northern Italy, retreating even deeper on occasion.

For many years, the United Reformed Church in the UK and the Waldensian Church have been “sister” churches

and regularly swap personnel and resources.

However, what I wanted to write about was how impressed I have been by both Marta and Maurizio. In today’s society, we hear much about the problems of young people, I have just



had a conversation with them both. They were able to talk easily and fluently (in a second language!), about the theology of Luther against Calvin, the differ-

ences of church history, predestination and transubstantiation! All of it was unrehearsed and done unselfconsciously.

Marta speaks several languages; Maurizio has won an award from the Italian President as a young playwright of acclaim.

It is easy to become despondent about

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**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

**8.00 am** - Communion  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

**9.30 am** All-age Worship with Crèche available by request  
**10.30 am** Reflective Worship with Crèche available by request  
(Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in each month)

the small number of young people in our churches, but raise your eyes, look a little higher, God is bigger than we think.

Blessings

Alan

Samaritans Purse say all children deserve some joy and at least for a short time our shoe boxes bring these children joy, happiness and maybe more. One young girl found some pencils and paper in her box and she said, "Look, now I can go to school." Such everyday things to us, but so much more, to those with nothing.

This article appeared in the Methodist church magazine and was written by Anne Clayton who has given us permission to print it. (It has been slightly modified.)

Remember as you pack your box, with lovely things, most of all, fill it with your love. When that child opens that box imagine his/her face and hold onto that, knowing that they will feel loved and have hope for their future.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Peace, hope, love, joy .... It's amazing what you can find in a shoebox!

In 2008, through Operation Christmas Child, over 1.2 million shoeboxes packed full of gifts and goodies were wrapped, packed and sent to children in disadvantaged situations from the UK. With your help alongside Bramhall Methodist Church we could do that again.

A volunteer who travelled with the boxes wrote – "It was fascinating to watch them being opened. As each child received their box they held onto it patiently until they were given permission to open it, and then they very gently peeled off the tape and carefully lifted the lid. They slowly took out each item and examined it and then very carefully repacked the box. It was almost as if they couldn't believe their luck. One little boy later in the day, called Marius, was so delighted he kept unpacking and repacking his box beaming with delight."



Help us bring joy to so many children in parts of our world, who basically have nothing, some, not even a home. Remember to make your box both FUN and EDUCATIONAL.

Yes please, these gifts are fine..

**Toys:** bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument. For boys, trucks and cars, for girls, dolls, clip on earrings etc.

**Educational supplies:** Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture/puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers.

**Hygiene items:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel etc.

**Other items:** Sweets (sell by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

**No thanks, these items should not be included...**

**No food especially chocolate.** Only ex-

ception, non chocolate sweets are allowed.

**No** medicine or vitamins of any kind.

**No** war related items: toy guns, soldiers or knives.

**No** clothing other than listed above.

**No** fragile items; Glass container, mirrors.

**No** liquids: including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols.

**No** dangerous or sharp item; scissors or razors.

**Nothing** of a political nature.

**No** hand knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark.

If you would prefer to give a financial donation, then I can assure you it will be just as gratefully received. £2.50 is needed to cover the cost of transporting each box.

My heartfelt thanks to you. I pray for another wonderful opportunity to brighten the lives of so many children to show them they are surrounded by God's love.

With Love and God Bless,

Anne Clayton

PS from Jean James. Please bring your boxes to our church on November 7<sup>th</sup> and give them to either me or Norma Fox. We will then join them with the ones from the Methodists.

## THE "FATHER'S PRAYER"

A few weeks ago at our 9.30 service we listened to The Lord's Prayer sung in Aramaic – entitled The "Abwoon" or the Father's prayer, and the way that it would perhaps be translated today.

Quite a number of people have asked for details of it so I enclose the modern translation below. I was especially struck by

the new phrasing for the section about forgiveness:

"Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt".

If this seems a little odd, remember that Aramaic, like Hebrew, has several titles which we just translate as "God". I can assure you that this is legitimate!

*O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,  
focus your light within us.*

*Create your reign of unity now.*

*Your one desire then acts with ours, as in  
all light, so in all forms.*

*Grant what we need each day in bread  
and insight.*

*Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,  
as we release the strands  
we hold of others' guilt.*

*Don't let surface things  
delude us, but free us  
from what holds us back.*

*From You is born all ruling  
will, the power and  
the life to do, the song  
that beautifies all, from  
age to age it renews.*

*Truly power to these statements may they  
be the ground from which all our actions  
grow. Amen.*



If you would like to look at the online video, you can do so free at:

<http://video.filestube.com/watch,35cd3436f46ac3d403ea/Abwoon-D-Bashmaya-The-Lords-Prayer-in-Aramaic.html>

The audio can be purchased online, it is found on a CD entitled "Sacred Ragas" and is sung by a young Christian Syrian man.

Alan

## **CHRISTIAN AID RESPONSE TO THE FLOODS IN PAKISTAN**

Thanks to all those who contributed to the Christian Aid collection in August. The grand total was £402 plus £68 in Gift Aid.

Thank you from everyone at Christian Aid.

Howard Fox

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## **VISIT TO GORTON MONASTERY**

I hope that you will receive your News and Views in time to add your name to the list for this visit. If you are not sure just give me a ring.

On Thursday 16 September there is a joint visit with Cheadle Hulme URC to Gorton Monastery. There is a coach leaving St Michael's carpark at 9.45am and it will be returning by 2.30pm. The cost is £19.00 which includes, coffee, tour and lunch. To book a place ring Jean (439 8241) as soon as you can; I need payment by 5<sup>th</sup> September. (but a call after this date may be in order).

Jean James

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## **COFFEE MORNING FOR MAC- MILLAN CANCER RELIEF**

Last September David and I held a Coffee morning to raise a little money to help the Macmillan charity continue the marvellous work they do to help both patients and families come to terms with terminal illnesses. We are planning to hold one this year too.

It will be held in our church hall on **SATURDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER 2010**, from 10am until 1pm. Please keep the date in mind (and free!). I know there will be many coffee mornings held on Friday, but our hall is so busy, we couldn't find a free morning! There will be notices around a little nearer the time. However, we are hoping to hold a raffle and to have a "homebake" stall. If anyone could bake or give items to be raffled, we would be most grateful. Thank you in advance.



Mary Hazelby

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## **SNAG DATES**

### **SNAG SPORTS**

September 22, October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup>. A range of sports – games for those with special needs held at Bramhall URC, 7.00pm to 9.00 pm

### **SNAG NITE**

September 29<sup>th</sup>, October 27<sup>th</sup>, November 24<sup>th</sup> December 15<sup>th</sup>. A free disco and supper for those with special needs, held at Centrepoint from 7.00 pm to 9.00pm.

For those who already help, please make a note in your diary, and if you would like to help, please contact Graham or Carole Perkin – 440 9588.

Graham Perkin

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## **DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER**

### **SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

## SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS

There is someone called Santa, well, that  
is what I've heard  
But he doesn't  
come here, we're  
in the Third  
World,  
He visits children,  
with presents for  
Christmas Day,  
All over the land  
– that's what people say.



And the children write letters saying just  
what they'd like.

A doll or an engine, a teddy, a bike.  
And I've heard that they get what they  
asked for and more.

I guess that this Santa must have a large  
store.

These are the stories that have been  
handed down.

But I'm in the third world and he's never  
been round.

Then only last year a big plane flew in.  
It was making a loud noise, a terrible din.  
Then a man with something held to his  
face, shouted to villagers to meet at this  
place

Men and women were there to greet us  
with smiles,

Their plane was full of boxes – piles upon  
piles.

They were covered in paper, all lovely and  
bright, silver and gold, red, blue and white  
“Do I get a whole box? Is one there for  
me”?

Has someone sent us this magic for free?  
I hope that I'm not too old to be given a  
beautiful box of my own.

I'm eleven.

I looked round to see how the happy faces  
glowed, bare feet dancing in the muddy  
road.

And into every outstretched hand a pre-  
cious box was placed.

The children shouted thank you and home  
again they raced.

I received my parcel and shed a tear of joy  
as it said upon the label “for an 11-year-  
old boy”.

There is someone called Santa – that is  
what I've heard,  
But now I know he's out there  
I believe it, every word.

Betty Richard  
Copyright obtained

## MEETING POINT REPORT

We welcome our new chairman, Carole Perkin, supported by vice-chairman Mary Hazelby. Sadly we are saying goodbye to Anne Thompson, our previous treasurer, who is moving down south. Many thanks Anne for the contribution you made to Meeting Point – we will all miss you. The finances are now in the hands of Norma Murray, our new treasurer.

Many thanks to Jean Milne who has acted as programme secretary and devised a very interesting and varied series of talks.

Elsie Grattan helped by Betty Ager is in charge of the catering team.

Our first meeting is on September 14<sup>th</sup> and we are very pleased to welcome Margaret Dexter-Brown with the topic ‘Pause for Thought’.

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, David Tomlinson's talk is ‘Bread: the staff of life’. This is an open meeting so please give your support by bringing husbands, partners and friends.

The new Meeting Point programme is out soon!

Anne Denning, Secretary

## FUNDRAISING

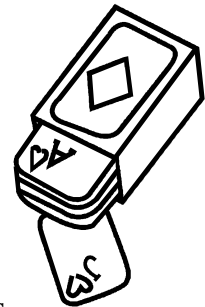
The Summer holidays are over and we have already had a meeting to plan our dates for 2011. There are many exciting times ahead. We like to have first choice on all the dates before any birthday parties.

I hope you are all ready to “party” at our next event; the date is Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and the event is an “Olde English Nite”. We have booked the Mancunian Singers and the Splendid Shilling ceilidh band. Don’t worry, we do not expect dancing in the aisles. So for the modest sum of £14 you will enjoy singers and music (and maybe an additional item – I’m working on it) after a three course meal with wine. Tickets are on sale from any member of the fundraising committee.

The Christmas Fair is on 12<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00 until noon and there will be a cake stall. This is the fair organised for the Brownies and will be selling toys, books, toiletries and gifts.

The Lunch and Christmas market is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December and will be having the traditional stalls, tombola, cake and homemade produce stall, and probably one or two surprises, as well as lunch.

If you are a Bridge player don’t forget we are now having regular Bridge seminars with Kevin Comrie. The next one is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00 am until 12.30 pm and the cost is £7.00 including refreshments. The topic is “the Art of Good Defending”. To ensure a place make sure you give me your name. You do not need to have a partner.



Jean James

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## WOULD YOU LIKE A VISITOR?

If you would like a visit, or know of any one who is unwell, please contact Elizabeth McLaughlin (tel. No: 01625 872487), or Carole Perkin (tel: 440 9588).

Elizabeth and Carole are the co-ordinators of our Pastoral Care teams.

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DEADLINE FOR

OCTOBER  
EDITION

SUNDAY  
12 SEPTEMBER

1700 HOURS

