

“By The Way...”

The Joint Pastorate of
Radcliffe, Stand & Farnworth
United Reformed Churches

June & July 2018



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*Deadline date for the
September Issue
Sunday 12 August*

Please give any items for the next publication to Elaine Robinson
The communications team will then decide whether the items will
go online, in print or on the notice board.

Read 'By The Way...' on line:

<http://radcliffeurc.org.uk>

Radcliffe URC

It was agreed at the last Church Meeting that Janice Cockcroft, with immediate effect, will become CHURCH SECRETARY. We wish her all the best as she takes over the reins once more.

We send our thanks to Margaret Holcroft who has stepped down as church secretary after her second stint in this role.

Margaret is staying on as an Elder and will still be active within the church.

PORCH BOXES is a registered charity based in Radcliffe, providing crisis packs of food and toiletries for local people in urgent need.

Porch boxes was started by a lady named Carol in 2001. It began as a collection of tins in the 'porch' of a house, that's how it got its name. The food parcels include enough food for two days and some basic toiletries (Porch Boxes also provide different types of boxes depending on need including: baby packs, family 7 day boxes, Christmas boxes, street packs for people living rough and home starter packs for people moving on from hostels).

In June we are supporting Porch Boxes (as well as all year round). We ask that you give generously. There is a box in the foyer for your donations.

RURC PLAYERS. Many thanks to all who helped with and supported our recent Murder Mystery Evening. It was a great success!

PRAYER BLANKETS: There are several blankets on the table in the foyer. These are for anyone to give to someone that is feeling a little low or under the weather to let them know we are thinking of them. Please feel free to take one and distribute as necessary.

June Services

DATE	RADCLIFFE URC 11:00am	STAND URC 9:30am	FARNWORTH URC 10:45am
June 3	Ken Greer		Rev N Adkinson
June 10	Rev N Adkinson Communion		Mr Adrian Yapp
June 17	Janet Gunby		Rev N Adkinson
June 24	Rev N Adkinson	Rev N Adkinson Breakfast Service 9.30 at Stand	Mr David Foss

July Services

DATE	RADCLIFFE URC 11:00am	STAND URC 9:30am	FARNWORTH URC 10:45am
July 1	Leo Roberts		Rev N Adkinson
July 8	Church Weekend At Grange		Mr Adrian Yapp Pastorate Service
July 15	Rev Darren Holland		Rev N Adkinson
July 22	Rev N Adkinson	Rev N Adkinson Breakfast Service 9.30am at Stand	Mr Jim Atkinson
July 29	Rev N Adkinson Radcliffe Church Meeting at 12.30pm		Rev Mark Bates
August 5	Adrian Yapp		Rev N Adkinson

Until further notice, Stand URC & Radcliffe URC will have Joint Services at 11:00am at Radcliffe URC unless otherwise stated.

Nigel's Letter

".....I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions and your old men shall dream dreams." (Acts 2:17)

There is much talk at the present time within the life of the URC the Synod and local churches of mission and vision.

We are at a threshold moment in the life of the Synod as we signal the beginning of Missional Partnerships that will hopefully define and encourage mission in our local context.

So what is mission? Here is one definition

"Mission is the fundamental reality of our Christian life. We are Christians because we have been called by God to work with him in the fulfilment of his purposes for humanity as a whole. To clarify the nature of mission is to answer the question, what is the church for? It is a community bearing witness to God's activity in the world by its communication of the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed." (J Andrew Kirk)

How we fulfil our mission is a question as old as the church itself. But what is exciting about this journey at the present time in our denomination is that it gives purpose and focus to the name of the church. We are the United Reformed Church – reformed and continually reforming. Praying for and responding to the guidance of the Holy Spirit; always seeking new ways to share the Good News of the gospel.

At this season of Pentecost we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us in new ways, strengthening and supporting our missional opportunities through the formation of missional partnerships and blessing and strengthening our local churches in their mission to the

communities in which they are set. May we know the blessing of Christ as we prayerfully take the next step on our missional journeys.

Please continue to hold in prayer the work of the churches at Radcliffe, Stand and Farnworth and the thirteen churches of our Missional Partnership.

There has been a considerable amount of work being undertaken by Caroline Platt (Community Development Worker) and the Steering Group. Relationships are being built and enquiries followed up regarding the use of the Radcliffe and Stand buildings. This creates missional opportunities as those relationships grow and develop and we begin to share life together.

We are moving towards completing the sale of Farnworth URC and beginning a relationship with a partner to develop community space in the church building. This relationship will be crucial to the future mission of the church and how it develops. We pray for God's guidance in new partnerships.

At Stand we certainly know what it feels like to be vulnerable. Our plans and how we move forward require daily reliance upon God and his guiding of us, as we seek to be a faithful, welcoming, healing and loving place in the Chapelfield community. We pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us.

May we know the peace of Christ in our hearts at this season of Pentecost. May we know the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our churches. May that same Spirit give us strength and hope as we continue to step out in faith for the sake of the Good News of the gospel.

In Christ

Nigel

Community Project Development

Update from Caroline:

- The Training Room on the first floor is now fully refurbished and has started to be used by outside groups.
- It has been used on Wednesday mornings as part of the Bury College No Barriers programme, helping the long-term unemployed to gain confidence and self-esteem and move back into work.
- Pennine NHS Trust held their first training session at Radcliffe on 25 April on 'Understanding Anxiety and Depression'. They had a great turnout of 13 people.
- We have had good feedback. "The lady from the NHS Trust loved the venue and she was pleasantly surprised how nice it looked so that's great. She will be delivering the next session so that's nice".
- A follow up session on 'Supporting Motivation' will now take place on 16 May. Delivered by The Pennine Trust and supported by the Bury College No Barriers team, this session will focus on helping people to break the cycle of depression and low mood through gradually increasing levels of activity. The self-help strategies covered in this session are based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.
- We are speaking to Bury Adult Learning Service about tapping into their Positive Steps programme who deliver similar training workshops targeted at people with mild to moderate mental health problems.
- An Open Day is planned for Radcliffe URC at some point in the near future so that people can come in and look at short courses and undertake tasters.
- We have re-engaged with the Staying Well team who are now based in Bury. Their focus is now exclusively on the over 65s. Members of the team will be visiting Radcliffe next Tuesday to look at the training room as a potential venue for their 'Help Yourself to Wellbeing Courses' and 'Dementia Awareness' training.
- The Staying Well team have expressed a need for awareness raising sessions that can help inform the over 65s on benefit entitlements, pension credits etc.
- Further meeting to take place with Ann-Noi around linkages with the Radcliffe Hub, now based at the former Library on Coronation Road. Ann is keen to explore with us a number of ideas including the development of a volunteer hub, community café, cooking, healthy eating on a budget, links to schools and young mums.
- Usage of the church for conference and meeting use is also starting to grow. The Church has been used by Bury Council for their planning consultation for the Paper Mill Housing Development, local Elections, the Radcliffe Regeneration Task Force and PITCH community funding events. Other users include Radcliffe South Labour Party and 6 Town Housing.
- Radcliffe has hosted the Radcliffe Regeneration Task Force twice. Several of the Radcliffe councillors have indicated their support for the Community Engagement Report and Councillor Rishi Shori has stated that Radcliffe URC is an under-utilised community asset.
- We have approached the Bury Directory for the church to be included in the next edition.
- A marketing pamphlet that we can share with partners will be finalised shortly.

Diary Dates for June & July

JUNE

- 6 Stand URC Elders Meeting 7pm. Revd Richard Bradley attending.
- 12 Radcliffe Elders Meeting at 7pm.
- 14 Thursday Group Meeting at Farnworth URC at 8:00pm. Speaker: Sister Dorothy Needham from the Church Army.
- 28 Thursday Group Meeting at Farnworth URC at 8:00pm - Quiz Night.
- 30 Missional Partnership Event at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC 12pm-2pm.

JULY

- 6-8 Pastorate Church Weekend
- 10 Radcliffe Elders Meeting at 7pm. Revd Richard Bradley attending.
- 12 Thursday Group Meeting at Farnworth URC at 8:00pm. Speakers: Jean & Harry Charlesworth - visit to Australia.
- 18 Farnworth Elders Meeting at 7pm. Revd Richard Bradley attending.
- 29 Radcliffe URC Church Meeting.

Missional Partnership "GETTING TO KNOW YOU" event will take place at Bamford Chapel & Norden URC on Saturday 30 June 12pm-2pm. Please bring a picnic lunch. Further details will be provided in the church notices during June.

Take it to the Lord in Prayer

We pray for those in our fellowship who are unwell at the present time.

We pray for those who are awaiting an operation or the results of medical tests.

We pray for those, from our church families, who can no longer worship with us and those in care homes.

We pray for those who have been recently bereaved and need love and support. May they find solace in you.

We pray for Radcliffe, Stand & Farnworth as each church faces new challenges in the coming months ahead.

