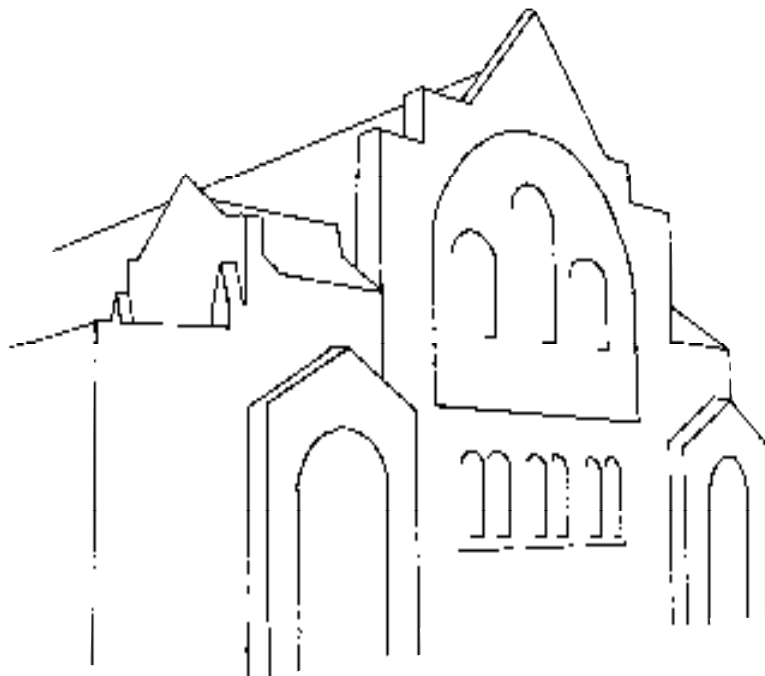


# April



2010

## Newsletter



**Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church**  
**25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ**

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

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# Serving Elders

(with areas of special responsibility)

Sylvia Page (Secretary)	020 8366 7481
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Where an Elder is listed with special responsibility for an area, please contact them first if your question relates to that area.

*The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.*

*Have you seen the news on the Church Internet site? Check it out at [www.bhpurc.org.uk/news.htm](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/news.htm)*

## Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 25th April. All material for inclusion should be placed in the folder in the church lounge (or e-mailed to [newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk)) by **Sunday 11th April.**

**Please note that late contributions may be held over.**

Editor: **Lisa Hamblin, 130 Clive Road, Enfield EN1 1RF**

## FROM OUR MINISTER

**Psalm 116:16 (ANIV)** *O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; you have freed me from my chains.*

The concept of true freedom and liberty is one that has often engaged my thoughts. To be freed from the chains of restraint imposed by work, my possessions, my financial paucity or my lack of knowledge are thoughts that seem to engage as I grow older. A liberty to be free to concentrate on God and His infinite goodness would indeed be the life chosen by many over the centuries as they became hermits in the desert far away from the demands of the world. Liberty gained from being free of my sin and weaknesses to serve God truly allows me to hope that I would one day join the heavenly host praising God in eternity.

Charlie Cox has gone there now freed from earthly chains of age and frailty. I remember him sitting in his chair during a visit and praying to be with God so the; "The loneliness in my head can go away." The quiet man who did so much for the folk at our church has gone to be free from the hindrances of his later years when he deeply felt the frustration of not being able to get his hands to execute the carpentry skills he once had. His love of Christ has indeed freed him from those chains of frustration he felt. We thank God for him and pray grace and peace on Phyl and Ann and Stephen.

We celebrated another freedom when the young men and leaders of the Boys Brigade undertook to provide us with a treat in order to "Raise the Roof" in a fund raising concert. What a joy and what an excellent evening of fun and beauty through the music allowing us to soar to heights of freedom. Thank you one and all for the excellent evening of joy and music which was

blessed by raising about £1500 for our funds. We look forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Enfield Brigade 120 year celebration later in the year!

Being a servant of God is a freedom that brings us hope and also the fun and the joy of sharing common experiences that form strong bonds of friendship and a lifetime of memories to share. The fruits of serving God are of the greatest quality and when we examine them we find that in serving others under God's banner, we are always also blessed with new things through our experiences which give us a liberty that enforces our trust and faith in God whom we set out to serve in the events we have been led to organise. *Blessed are all they who put their trust in Him. (Psalm 2.12)* is a sure promise we have seen in the 'raising of our roof' at Bush Hill Park.

Messy Church has now been a feature of our freedom to serve God in new ways. The adults and children who have come to present stories of

God by allowing young people to indulge freely in making crafts and simply making a mess in some of the activities has been a joyful and liberating experience for all of us. I pray that all in our membership will think of bringing a grandchild, nephew, niece, God child or friend and their child(ren) to Messy Church which happens on the fourth Sunday each month from 3 o'clock in the afternoon. A light meal follows the activity.

Christine Hughes has decided to continue her music ministry at Christ Church Chase Side from April where she will grace the congregation there with her organ playing on three Sundays per month. We thank her for her time as organist here at BHPURC and pray that she will

be blessed in her new role there. Christine has also been a passionate member when raising awareness of the work of the Leprosy Mission and we thank her for her passion and guidance in remembering their needs.

May the pain and joy of Easter renew your faith and free you from whatever has been holding you back from achieving new heights of faith. Christ is risen and alive today and tomorrow and forever and has loosed the chains of sin. Halleluiah!

*Davis*



"Why is it that no matter where we sit, the vicar always seems to be looking right at me all through the sermon?!"

# Church Library

## Questions of Life

**An opportunity to explore the meaning of life**

*Nicky Gumbel*

More than two million people all over the world have completed the Alpha course over the last few years and have been profoundly challenged by its fresh and engaging introduction to the Christian faith. The course has prompted millions to re-examine their beliefs about Jesus and the meaning of life.

*Questions of Life* is the Alpha course in book form and ideal reading for anyone wishing to explore these issues in greater depth. Nicky Gumbel accompanies us on a journey through consideration to the claims of Christianity. He tackles the questions with honesty and common sense and points the way to an authentic faith which is exciting and relevant to today's world.

*'What Alpha offers and what is attracting thousands of people, is permission, rare in secular culture, to discuss the big questions - life and death and their meaning.'*

THE GUARDIAN

*'Alpha makes Christianity relevant to modern life'*

DAILY EXPRESS

Find this and other great books at the back of the church, if you stand on the stage it is far left, just in front of where the teas are served!

# Here is the News

## Vision4Life

A group of us in February attended Transformed through Prayer with Paul Stokes from Vision4Life. Prayer is the thing Jesus talked about most during his time on earth and it is the thing we seem to find most difficult.

We talked about different ways to pray and why prayer sometimes seems to be unanswered. We had a time of prayer and worship as well as time to talk and laugh together. We were given leaflets on Encountering Jesus Christ to help us and the many ways he is willing to assist us day to day if only we will ask him. Those of us who attended felt it was a very worth while exercise and that we had all learnt something new.

We all had an opportunity to meet Paul Stokes on the Sunday when he took the service and led us in worship. Altogether a very memorable weekend.

Our prayers are with Sylvia Page since she broke her wrist at the end of March.

Please pray for healing and that any arthritis pain would not be increased by this.





## **Raise the Roof**

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported the event.

There was a tremendous atmosphere in the Church, especially when one of our guest musicians opened the concert with a fantastic performance on the church organ - this was totally unplanned, it just so happened we heard him messing around on it the day of the concert, and told him to play or face the consequences!

I always knew the night would make money but this wasn't the priority for the concert. The priority was for everyone to enjoy the awesome talent of the musicians who gave up their evening to come and play. All the performers were as pleasant to deal with backstage as they were onstage and there wasn't one hiccup in setting the running order or allocated times for each set.

It was a joy to plan the event and everyone at the church was very helpful... there has already been talk of another music night, so watch this space!

I have since had many emails congratulating myself and Robin on organising the night and Christina Petrou and Paul Clarvis said how well looked after they felt.

Arthur Neate captured all the magic on DVD, so if anyone would like a copy, just let me know!

Chris Payne



# Easter Services

## Maundy Thursday

1st April 7:30pm

Tenebrae service of light & darkness



## Good Friday

2nd April 10:30am

Family communion

## Easter Sunday

4th April 9:00am

Breakfast

10:30am

Family communion





# Diary

## April

See also Prayer pages, back cover for regular activities

Thur 1st	7:30pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Tenebrae service of light & darkness
Fri 2nd	10:30am	<b>Good Friday</b> Family communion with Rev Denis Simons
Sun 4th	9.00am 10:30am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Breakfast Family communion with Rev Martin Legg
Sat 7th	9:00am	Prayer Breakfast
Sun 11th	10:30am	Parade with Rev Denis Simons
Sun 18th	10:30am	Morning Worship with Rev Denis Simons
Sun 25nd	10:30am	Morning Worship with Rev Martin Legg

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Next newsletter deadline  
Sunday 11th April

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# PRAYER PLAN

APRIL 2010

Miraculous God, work in us the signs and wonders of your kingdom and help us to be rejoicing people, delighting in your world and leading others to share in your intoxicating love. God rejoices, delights, gives to and loves his people. Amen

Thursday 1st

Our Brigades and the staff  
who teach them each week

Good Friday 2nd

Thank you Lord for dying on  
the cross for us

Saturday 3rd

Sunday's worship leader and  
the service tomorrow

Sunday 4th

HE IS RISEN Alleluia

Monday 5th

Julia, Bob, Rosie and Emily  
Neate

Tuesday 6th

People of Uganda facing  
many difficulties

Wednesday 7th

Roman Way

Thursday 8th

Those undergoing hospital  
treatment

Friday 9th

Women in many places re-  
sponsible for their family af-  
ter their men have been  
killed

Saturday 10th

Sunday's worship leader and  
the service tomorrow

Sunday 11th

Thanks for all those who  
were part of our fellowship  
in the past 100 years

### Monday 12th

Frances & Ray, Jackie, Yan-  
ick, Ray Jr. & Catherine  
Nguene

### Tuesday 13th

The people of the Chinese  
Church who worship here on  
a Tuesday

### Wednesday 14th

St Marks Road

### Thursday 15th

People of the Philippines

### Friday 16th

The homeless in our society  
and those looking for a suit-  
able home.

### Saturday 17th

Sunday's worship leader and  
the service tomorrow

### Sunday 18th

Thanks for holidays and a  
chance to meet other people

### Monday 19th

Diann & Tony, Rebecca, Jo-  
seph and Stephen Nicolaides

### Tuesday 20th

People in Ethiopia

### Wednesday 21st

Second Avenue

### Thursday 22nd

The dance groups who use  
our premises each week

### Friday 23rd

For all English peoples as we  
celebrate St George's Day

### Saturday 24th

Sunday's worship leader and  
the service tomorrow

### Sunday 25th

Thanks for the improvement  
in aid being given in Haiti  
after the earthquake.

### Monday 26th

Mabel Osae

### Tuesday 27th

People in Nigeria, especially  
Christians being persecuted  
in the North

### Wednesday 28th

Southbury Road

### Thursday 29th

Victims of torture and asy-  
lum seekers and those work-  
ing with them.

### Friday 30th

Those people in many places  
living in temporary shelters  
that they will be safe and  
comfortable.

## Passover Sensation in Jewish Capital

“Never a Passover like it.” “Unheard of in Jerusalem before.” “Galilean hysterics.”

These and like expressions have been on multitudes of lips at this annual feast, for Jerusalem has witnessed the most unusual and startling Passover in its long history. Part of the mystery is that no one seems to know exactly what has happened. As with all crowds, some say one thing and some another.

In the last few days I have interviewed scores of people and the result is baffling. Certainly, a few of those questioned were adamant and not a little aggressive in asserting that nothing whatever had happened. The priests were particularly scornful about the whole affair. But a far greater number were more or less convinced that strange happenings were undeniable.

The accounts were garbled, confused, and contradictory. But two observations in particular keep reappearing: first, an account of a country prophet, believing himself to be the Messiah, was crucified by the Romans and now is said to have risen from the dead (!); and, second, a startling rumour, neither confirmed nor denied by the priests, that the great curtain of the holy place in the Temple was suddenly ripped from top to bottom on the Passover eve.

On sifting the accounts of many witnesses, the story seems to be this.

For a number of years, Jerusalem and many of the neighbouring towns and villages have witnessed strange scenes through the preaching of a layman from Nazareth. Reports have it that in spite of the large crowds he drew, this peasant-prophet had had no rabbinical training. Indeed, many assert that before taking to the road, he was a carpenter.

There have been plenty of stories of strange scenes and “miracles”—of lunatics healed, cripples made to walk, the blind to see—and one fantastic account of a man in Bethany raised from the dead! The priests soon put a stop to that rumour.

This had been going on for some time, and nothing might have come of it had it not been for an incident last week.

Roman Guards Doubled This preacher, called Jesus, had by now a large following. Multitudes declared him to be Israel's Messiah and deliverer, the great prophet long promised. On the other hand, there was a multitude equally vocal in emphatically denying this, including most of the priests and men of letters. To them, this Jesus from Nazareth was an impostor, one more in a line of many deceived into thinking they were Messiah.

Two weeks ago, this carpenter-preacher entered Jerusalem on a donkey, followed by great, excited, clamouring, shouting crowd of followers. The Romans immediately doubled the guards, well knowing the explosive nature of Jewish crowds.

Jesus, however, showed no signs of firing the popular enthusiasm. Instead, he slipped quietly away to the Temple—and there it happened. It wasn't a religious speech, political harangue, or "miracle" that started things moving, but an attack by Jesus—a physical assault in the Temple courtyard. This place, known here as "The Court of the Gentiles," was filled with traders doing a roaring business. Apparently Jesus watched this for a while and then went to work. He routed the traders and money changers and overthrew their stalls. Next he drove out the cattle and sheep and ordered the caged pigeons and turtledoves removed.

His reasons? With blazing eyes, reminiscent of an Elijah some said, the carpenter-turned-reformer rebuked those whom he denounced as turning God's house into a bazaar. The result was uproar. The priests were furious. One report has it that Caiaphas, the high priest, on hearing the news, swore that this time the impostor had gone too far.

No one is quite sure of what happened after that. By the Passover eve, Jesus had been arrested and his followers scattered. The charges brought against him were three: (1) blasphemy against the law; (2) pretending to be Messiah; and (3) exciting the populace to revolt against Rome, saying he was the true king of the Jews.

One cannot but feel that the last charge was a desperate attempt to pin something on him. The Jews are always grumbling against Rome, and

have never for a moment recognized Caesar as their king.

The Sanhedrin not only had trouble with the charges, but with the witnesses as well. What a mixed crew it was! A Jerusalem lawyer and a swarthy money changer, a fumbling old scribe from Bethany and a vigorous orator from somewhere in the north, generally reputed to be a leader in the underground rebel movement, the Zealots. Other witnesses included merchants, priests, and a half-dozen fellows one can only describe as riffraff. Some say that one Judas, a former follower of the prophet, was also there.

The Sanhedrin, in spite of all its questioning, examination, and cross-examination, found it difficult to establish any of the charges. No two witnesses seemed to agree on anything and it was all too evident that many of them were hired to testify against the preacher. Finally, when it looked as though the accusations might fail, Caiaphas, in a fit of rage, flung aside his robe, declaring the imposter had condemned himself. But others were not so sure. The prisoner said very little.

Immediately after, Jesus was sent to the governor, Pilate. There are confused reports of what happened then. Many believe that Pilate, at first, wanted to let the prisoner go free. But the crowds in the street, made vocal by the priests, howled that such an act would be treason against Rome.

A few hours later the prophet, in company with two thieves, was led out to a hill, known locally as Calvary, and there crucified. Multitudes gathered to watch the grim procession but there were no attempts to free the prisoners. The awful work completed, the people began to drift away, thinking it was all over.

In fact, things had just begun. Although it was only midday, a sudden darkness filled the sky, blotting out the sun and making people stumble and fall in their frantic fear and rush to get home.

When the darkness finally cleared at about three in the afternoon, what a commotion there was! A great earthquake near the Calvary hill had rent the ground into great fissures.

Then, to add the last touch, a young Temple priest ran among the crowd, tearing his hair and jabbering that judgment was about to fall. On being calmed down, he gasped to a dumb-struck crowd the incredible news that the great curtain of the holy place, the most feared and sacred thing in all Jerusalem, was mysteriously ripped from top to bottom. Ordinary priests, he wailed, had looked into the “holiest.” What could now prevent the wrath of Heaven?

On the third day it happened—the most shattering and unbelievable part of this whole fantastic affair. Things were beginning to settle down as before when a rumour spread like wildfire that the

Nazarene prophet had disappeared—his grave was empty! Expecting some mischief from his followers and tipped off by the Jewish leaders, the Romans had placed sentries by the tomb. Now the centurion was sent to investigate. What a sight he and the soldiers saw! The great stone was rolled away from the mouth of the grave, which was now empty. All around, as though struck by an invisible hand, the guards lay unconscious, with fear frozen on their faces. Of the prophet's body, there was no trace. He had vanished.

Many of his followers, in hiding since he was arrested, now suddenly appeared—claiming to have seen their leader, risen and fully alive. Two of them, going home to the nearby village of Emmaus, rushed back to Jerusalem, declaring excitedly that they had met Jesus and that he had dined with them! Others speak of seeing him at different times, and all of them confidently assert it is the same prophet and preacher from Nazareth, alive from the dead! As expected, the Jewish leaders flatly deny the whole thing, speaking of it as a hoax, practised by the prophet's followers.

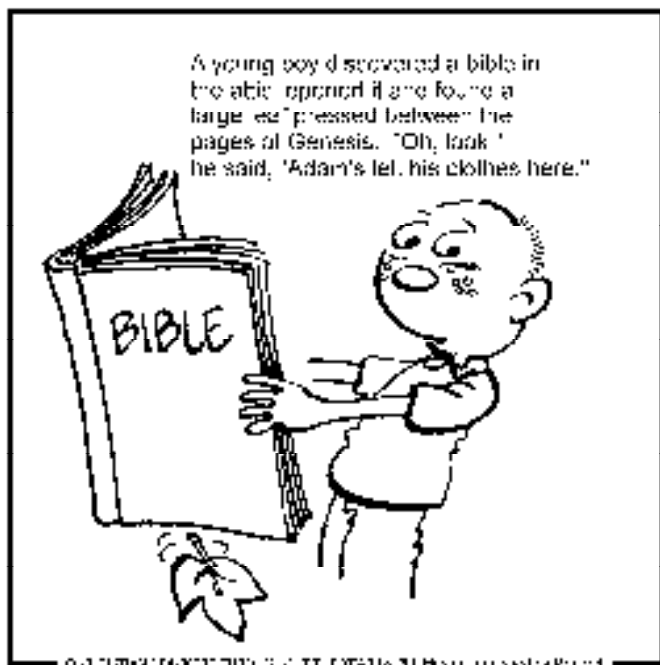
I, with many others, just don't know. But thinking of all that happened, especially the darkness, I wonder if it was a hoax. Could it be true? Really true? What if?

One thing is sure: this Passover, Jerusalem will never forget!

# Anchor Boys News

At the beginning of March around twenty or so boys from six companies in the area came to our church for the Anchor Boys' Craft Afternoon. The afternoon started in the church with songs and a bible reading—the theme this time was 'Creation'. The boys were split into four groups for the craft activities which included cutting out and putting together skeletons, making animal masks, drawing pictures of stars and moons and making a sunflower, there was also a time for playing games in the hall. After refreshments we all came back into the church to look at all that had been made and for closing prayers.

Margaret Trevallion



# *Boys Brigade News*

At the beginning of March we entered the swimming gala competition. It was held this year at Southgate swimming pool. We entered a junior team in the competition and they performed very well. A special mention to Zaf, who came first in his races, with a very slick and fast front crawl. All the team performed well and they won the competition in their age bracket.

Badge classes have now come to an end for the year. We have had an active and successful year and covered a huge variety of classes. I must thank all the staff for their hard work and all the effort they put into preparing and carrying out the classes. The senior boys finished off making golf clubs and got to try them out over the driving range. They then went on to cover some important expedition training at a higher level, as they will need to be able to plan their own two day hike for their Duke of Edinburgh award.

The boys who were making rockets finished these and they look great. Their rockets passes the aero dynamics test and were finished with a paint job. We hope to take the boys over to the playing fields to launch their rocket soon. As they are designed to deploy a parachute at 300ft and then float back down to earth, I hope that we will take the rockets to camp to re-launch them from the downs. If anyone is interested in seeing the launch at the playing fields, then please let me know and I will keep you informed of the launch date.

The weeks of cooking badge class for your year 7 boys also went very well, even if the pizzas they made one week came out looking like a map of south America rather than round.

We now have a two week break for the school holidays, but I do hope that we will be doing a bit of DIY around the church at some point. I know the boys are keen to get stuck into some practical work, so keep your eyes peeled for any improvements!!

Also during the Easter break we are taking seven boys away on an expedition trip. This year we are going to the Snowdonia national park,



where it is hoped that on one of the days we will climb mount Snowdon, which is one of the highest peaks in the UK. Once again the boys will have to cook their own meals on stoves and prepare their own packed lunches each day. The older boys will also undertake map reading, route planning and navigation in preparation for their Duke of Edinburgh award.

It is a great experience for the boys and teaches them how to look after themselves in the great outdoors. The achievement and feeling they get from reaching the top of a high and steep climb is fantastic.

We will be staying in a local farm camp site near Snowdon. This is where the boys will have to prepare all their own meals. The camp site also has a river where fishing is permitted, so we might try and catch our dinner on one of the evenings.

As an extra activity we will be taking the boys to the National White Water Rafting Centre where they will spend four hours rafting down the rapids of a mountain river. The centre boasts the best natural rapids in the UK and they are all looking forward to it, even though the water is going to be very cold.

As with all activities we try and take photos to put on our web site. Once the expedition ones are on there I will let you know. We are also planning to upgrade the web site to allow us to put all our archive photos on line. I have currently been scanning photos into my laptop, some which date back to the 1920's. Again, once this is up and running I will let you know, so you can have a look.

After Easter we will be working on the Awards night which this year is happening on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Please feel free to come along and see what the whole company has been up to.

After that we move into the summer session, where the count down until camp really starts. During the summer session we do all sorts of activities, but more about those next time. Don't forget if you know anyone who you think would enjoy being a part of the brigades then please put them in touch with us.

Andrew Caddies

# Wordsearch

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.

passover	bread	wine	body	blood	betrayal
jerusalem	pilate	judas	gethsemane	trial	crucifixion
soldiers	cross	nails	vinegar	temple	curtain
tomb	angel	stone	risen	gardener	Mary

b	o	i	n	s	u	i	s	l	a	c	y	t	u
u	m	o	g	a	r	d	e	n	e	r	w	r	v
i	l	o	e	d	b	y	a	e	a	g	i	i	i
x	a	e	t	u	e	l	l	m	f	i	n	e	a
x	y	n	h	j	g	n	o	s	d	e	e	a	r
n	a	n	s	p	l	s	i	o	g	u	r	r	i
u	r	a	e	a	e	g	s	a	d	t	i	b	r
n	t	i	m	s	c	p	r	o	t	a	t	e	e
m	e	l	a	s	u	r	e	j	r	r	e	e	n
a	b	s	n	o	i	x	i	f	i	c	u	r	c
r	l	t	e	v	u	e	d	a	s	a	i	c	b
e	l	p	m	e	t	a	l	i	p	s	a	o	i
a	s	u	e	r	s	t	o	n	e	n	d	n	o
b	s	a	r	n	s	i	s	n	e	y	s	i	b



## EASTER FLOWERS

From the darkness of Good Friday, the day on which Jesus died on the cross, we come to the light and joy of Easter Day.

In Lent the church was dull and bare but at Easter it is bright with masses of flowers. The flowers remind us that the world is full of life, even though it looked so dead through the winter months.



You can read what happened in a special garden on that very first Easter Day in the Gospels; Matthew, chapter 28; Mark, chapter 16; Luke, chapter 24 and John, chapter 20.



**What flower does everyone have?**  
Tulips.

## YOUR OWN EASTER GARDEN

Lots of churches build an Easter garden to show the empty tomb.



You can make your own quite simply – you will need a shallow tin or dish, soil or potting compost, moss, stones, empty little jar (from baby food or paste), flowers and leaves and a small clay flower pot.

Line the dish with soil or potting compost and put the clay flowerpot on its side to make the tomb. Cover the sides of the pot and the soil with moss.

Make a hole in the 'grass' large enough to take the jar. Fill the jar with water and a small arrangement of flowers and leaves.



Decorate the garden with stones (for a path), pebbles and other flowers. Put one large stone by the side of the mouth of the flower pot to make the door of the tomb that was rolled away. Spray your garden with water and it will keep green and fresh for quite a long time.

# BHP DAY BY DAY URC

**Sunday** 10:30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday in the month)

6:00pm Bible study (1st Sunday in the month)

**Monday** 7:30pm Boys' Brigade (Company Section)  
8:00pm Book Club (1st Monday in the month)

**Wednesday** 6:15pm Girls' Brigade

**Friday** 9:15am Prayers in the **Junior Room**  
10:15am Baby & Toddler Group  
6:00pm Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys and Junior Section)

**Saturday** 9:00am Prayer Breakfast (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the month)

