



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

www.bhpurc.org.uk

Associate Minister: Secretary Office: Revd Martin Legg Sylvia Page 020 8367 0289 020 8366 7481 020 8366 5526

Serving Elders

(with areas of special responsibility)

Sylvia Page (Secretary)	020 8366 7481
Martin Hamblin (Treasurer)	020 8363 0974
Lynda Cook	020 8360 5112
Doreen Bamberger (Youth and Brigades)	Children's Work, excluding 020 8366 0866
Carol Rensch	
Calor Relisch	020 8367 1208

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

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 30th January. All material for inclusion should be placed in the folder in the church lounge (or e-mailed to **newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk)** by **Sunday 16th January**.

Please note that late contributions may be held over. Editor: Lisa Hamblin, 130 Clive Road, Enfield EN1 1RF

Let there be light

It is only a few months ago that the old concrete street lights were replaced in our road. The new ones are a lot brighter. I am just old enough to remember gas lamps in our road. They were painted green and cream, I think and not very bright. I don't remember how many there were as I can only really remember the one on the corner of our road. I do



remember us having a power cut and everything was dark apart from the gas lamp in the road and St Michaels hospital at the back of our house.

There is so much light pollution nowadays that there is almost nowhere in this country that you will find real darkness. Have a look at this site www.nightearth.com. There are probably not many of us who have experienced real darkness so that you can not see anything, it is a strange feeling in which your other senses take over, particularly hearing. It can be quite frightening and disorientating.

When God created the world, light was created on the first day. There would be a light to guide us to our salvation

The people walking in darkness

have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

In the winter months we remember our summer holidays. The warmth of the sun and the long hot sunny days! The sun brings us warmth and light and comfort and security. It brings us life! Without it nothing can exist, almost. We know also that the sun can bring some danger. When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John's Gospel chapter 8 from which this passage comes is well worth

some study. Jesus gives substance to his ministry.

Light is a common theme in many religious festivals. I wonder how many you could think of. At Christmas we decorate our Christmas trees with lights. In some churches we light candles especially at Christmas. We have an advent crown with five candles.

I am sure many of us reach for the light switch as it begins

to get dark without a thought of what it must be like to live without this basic essential.

The heavens were filled with great light to announce the birth of God's Son Jesus. Will our church and our homes be filled with light this Christmas?



2nd Enfield BB Chocolate stocking fillers

To help raise some money for the Company we will once again be selling a range of Christmas chocolate figures. These are hand made by us and are 100% tasty. They are very professional and will make a great gift for Christmas. We are offering 2 sizes, a standard 6" and a super sized 12" model!

We are also making a chocolate nativity scene and even a snowman on a pig!!!

A BONUS Deal – 1 Large Santa plus any Small Figure – only £10, that's a discount of a whole pound....



It may be Christmas but does it meet Health & Safety....?!

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star

Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable - as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations as 'cash for gold' etc, gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause in the recipients name or perhaps give a gift voucher.

We would not advise that the traversing kings rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and suggest the use of RAC routefinder or satellite navigation, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption.

While shepherds watched Their flocks by night All seated on the ground The angel of the Lord came down And glory shone around

The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Please note, the angel of the lord is reminded that before shining his / her glory all around she / he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

Here is the News

Dear Saints,

This is a brief but deeply felt thank you to you all for your prayers and understanding and love expressed in so many ways to Pat and me during our time with you in Enfield. We have been truly blessed!

I have just returned from Belfast's Waterfront Centre where I joined 2000 plus men at a Mandate Conference headed; True Greatness -Living Life from God's Perspective. Mark Driscoll was the keynote speaker and gave a hard hitting challenge to men to come to know Jesus personally in faith uncluttered by denominational religion. He challenged men to work for God wherever and at whatever stage of life they are at.

The worship was led by Paul Baloche 'Open the eyes of my heart Lord.' And his band. He really was Spirit led and then singing a' capella with 2000 men that wonderful hymn Amazing Grace will always move me to another new level of praise!

An interview Matt Baggott the Chief Constable of the Police Service of N. Ireland on the Theme 'True Greatness at Work' was an amazing testimony of Christ working through Matt. He was given a standing ovation at the end of his talk!

I thank you all for the grant that helped fund my travel exactly!

Every blessing, Denis

ъſ

Next newsletter deadline Sunday 16th January

Thank you to all who have given to our Building Fund so far – as at the end of October we have raised \pounds 30,007 which is 46% of our \pounds 65,000 target.



Our works are now completed and it is essential that you continue to give! Online donations can be made via www.charitygiving.co.uk/ bhpurcbf or via Gift Aid envelopes at the Church! We will need to repay a loan of £35,000 plus interest so are keen to raise as much money as possible to reduce this cost.

If you can't get to the Church but have a computer please see our website www.bhpurc.org.uk or our Facebook page for photos of the works – visit www.facebook.com/bhpurc (click LIKE to keep updated with our news).

Thank you again for all your generous support.

Martin Hamblin



A Journey Through Syria

With Red David Hamblin Assisted by Mr Martin Hamblin

6th - 14th October 2011

A 9-day tour featuring stays in Damascas, Palmyra, Lattakia, Aleppo & Maaloula

The cost of this tour is £1495 per person based on twin sharing accommodation, is full-board and includes all admission charges etc.

Brochures are available from Martin or contact David (david@thehamblins.org.uk) for further information.

Biblefresh – get ready for next year!

Imagine Christians across the UK becoming more confident in the Scriptures. Imagine all kinds of people engaged with the weird and wonderful stories and characters which make up the amazing text. Imagine lives that are more generous, just, kind and wise, through daily encountering God's Spirit-breathed words.

As the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible approaches, a special nationwide initiative, Biblefresh, is building momentum. Biblefresh has more than 100 partner organisations working together to equip Christians across the country as we get immersed in God's Word in 2011.

This autumn churches across the UK have started preparing for Biblefresh by holding special church services, where Christians have reflected on how the Bible has shaped their lives in the past. Now Biblefresh is asking for stories. Can you help them? As a spokesman explains: "We'd love to hear about the creative ways in which you are engaging people with the Bible – and we can share some of the stories with the wider media to inspire others. Please use the online form or email info@biblefresh.com.



As solicitors go - he was one of the best!

Are you looking for a different. more contemporary take on the all-too-familiar Christmas story? Have a look at this: www.paperless christmas.org.uk. It tells the Christmas story through short (90 seconds) film clips in a way you've never seen it before.

North London Brass Concert

Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church

Wednesday 8th December

7:30pm

Free entry with a retiring collection for the roof fund and the band



Where did Christmas stockings come from?

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

Diary

December & January See also Prayer pages, back cover for regular activities

December Sat 5th	9:00am	Prayer Breakfast
Sun 6th	10:30am	Communion with Rev Martin Legg
Tue 7th	7.00pm	Elders to share a meal together
Wed 8th	7:30pm	North London Brass concert (see page 9)
Thur 9th	8:00pm	Church Meeting
Sun 12th	10:30am	Parade with Robin Hall
Sun 19th	3:00pm	Advent service led by the 2nd Enfield Boys Brigade Messy Christmas with tea and cake Carol service
Fri 24th	•	Communion & Carols with Rev Martin Legg
Sat 25th	10:30am	Christmas Day Family service with Rev Martin Legg
Sun 26th		No service
January Sun 2nd	10:30am	Communion with Rev Martin Legg
Sun 9th	10:30am	Parade with Martin Wells
Sun 16th	10:30am	Worship with Rev Martin Legg
Sun 23rd		Worship with Michaela Lawrence Messy Church
Sun 30th	10:30am	Worship with Rev Martin Legg

PRAYER PLAN DECEMBER 2010

Lord, thank you that as you call us to live for you, you enfold us in your grace and empower us by your Spirit. Help us to follow you faithfully day by day, so that when we leave this life and step into your heavenly kingdom, we will know the joy of a race well run. Amen

Wednesday 1st Hadrians Ride Thursday 2nd For those suffering effects of flooding in Cornwall Friday 3rd People of Haiti as they continue to suffer a cholera outbreak and lack of safe water Saturday 4th Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow Sunday 5th Thanks for clean water, gas and electricity and sanitation for our homes

Monday 6th Yvonne Coe Tuesday 7th The dustmen who take our rubbish week by week and street cleaners Wednesday 8th Halstead Road Thursday 9th The elderly and lonely that they may find friends and companionship Friday 10th People of the Philippines Saturday 11th Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow Sunday 12th Thanks for those who entertain us, make us smile and show us other worlds.

Monday 13th Kathleen Cole Tuesday 14th Our GPs and nurses working to keep us fit and well Wednesday 15th Hazelwood Road Thursday 16th Those caring for family members at home that they may find help and support Friday 17th People of Bangladesh Saturday 18th Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 19th Thanks for our young people and all children who visit our church and its buildings Monday 20th Lynda, John, Alex and Matthew Cook Tuesday 21st The work of Crisis as they help the homeless with food, medical care and a warm place to stay. Wednesday 22nd James Street Thursday 23rd Those spending the holidays looking after other people

Friday 24th Safety for all those travelling to be with their families and to our service tonight Saturday 25th

Joy to the World this Christmas Day

Sunday 26th Thanks for Family, Friends and Fellowship

Monday 27th Phyl Cox Tuesday 28th The children who will receive our shoeboxes and know someone cares about them Wednesday 29th John Street Thursday 30th Parents of children with learning difficulties as they care for them day by day Friday 31st For all those for whom this new year will bring a change, either a wedding, a baby or a new home or work.

PRAYER PLAN JANUARY 2011

Lord Jesus Christ, your way is hard, but to whom else can we go? Give us courage to follow you wholeheartedly, giving our time, expertise and knowledge to help others to know and follow you in this New Year, as we face the future together.

Saturday 1st Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow Sunday 2nd Thanks for our Brigades as they help local girls and boys to learn useful skills

Monday 3rd Janet and Derek Cutts Tuesday 4th Mothers needing help and support to care for their children Wednesday 5th Kingsbury Place Thursday 6th The United Nations and their work as peacekeepers Friday 7th For the people of Burkino Faso who face famine Saturday 8th Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow Sunday 9th For the future of our church and fellowship

Monday 10th Jill Garrett Tuesday 11th Financial problems of Ireland Wednesday 12th Ladbroke Road Thursday 13th The Coastguard Service Friday 14th People of Indonesia

Saturday 15th Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow Sunday 16th For friends who come and preach and take our services Monday 17th Norma, Mike, Beth and William Grimsey Tuesday 18th Asylum seekers as they learn to live in a strange country Wednesday 19th Landseer Road Thursday 20th Fisherman going to sea in icy conditions and storms to catch fish for us to eat Friday 21st Those living in North Korea under a totalitarian regime Saturday 22nd Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow Sunday 23rd For the churches of Bush Hill Park and their congregations

Monday 24th Christine and Robin Hall

Tuesday 25th Safety for women facing violence in the home Wednesday 26th Lathkill Close Thursday 27th Those suffering from cancer and the charities who seek to find a cure Friday 28th The miners and their families trapped New Zealand mine Saturday 29th Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow Sunday 30th Thanks for our musicians, the stewards, tea makers and those who project our services and provide the flowers week by week

Monday 31st Lisa and Martin Hamblin





Advent Service

10:30am led by the 2nd Enfield Boys' Brigade



Messy Christmas

3:00pm with tea and cake, followed by

Carol Service

4:30pm with Revd Martin Legg

24th December

Communion & Carols

11:30pm with Revd Martin Legg

25th December

Family Service

10:30am with Revd Martin Legg

World Leprosy Day 2011 **Justice and dignity**

'Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.' Isaiah 1: 17b

World Leprosy Day is celebrated around the world in over 100 countries on the last Sunday in January. In the countries where leprosy exists it is a time to lobby governments for rights and services and raise awareness that leprosy is curable and not highly contagious. In places like the UK it is an opportunity to offer prayer and support for people affected by leprosy, people who are often forgotten or ignored by society.

For many the burden of social exclusion, through loss of home, work, spouse or marriage prospects, is a daily reality, and a situation that The Leprosy Mission sees time and again in its work and projects. The Lord calls us to defend the cause of those who are excluded and marginalised, so, as well as medical care, the Mission's work strives to bring justice and dignity that many people affected by leprosy have given up hope of attaining.

This year for World Leprosy Day, The Leprosy Mission is aiming to raise funds and prayer support for staff, services and patients at its Naini hospital in northern India. Naini is close to a main station, so patients come from far and wide to receive treatment which otherwise might not be available to them.

The hospital offers counselling to help people deal with the psychological effects of leprosy. It also establishes community-based rehabilitation projects to help people escape poverty and therefore raise their standing in their local communities.

This year, would you consider committing to pray or raise money for Naini hospital and stand with the millions suffering from leprosy around the world today? Details are available from your church representative or online at www.worldleprosyday.org.uk.

A Very Special Gift?

George asked, 'My dad's so rich that I don't know what to get him for Christmas. What do you give to a man who has everything?' Harry replied, 'A burglar alarm!'

It's not easy buying Christmas presents for others, especially in times of economic uncertainty. However, let's not forget the greatest gift ever given: Jesus Christ. Our gifts at Christmas mean very little unless they point at the greatest gift of all. This was certainly true of the gifts given to Jesus by the Magi.

'On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.' Matt 2:11. These were just the kind of gifts that visitors from the east might bring, as they were all traded in this region. They were also very expensive gifts, including gold, frankincense and myrrh. Although very familiar, they help us to understand God's gift of Jesus:

Who is he? Gold is a gift fit for a king. In Jesus we see a king in baby clothes. The worship of the wise men was costly, not only in terms of their gifts but also for their lives.

What did he come to do? Frankincense was used by the priests in the temple as part of the sacrificial system. Jesus, as the ultimate priest, is the one who came to bring God and man together in reconciliation. He can do this because he is both divine and human.

What did it cost him? Myrrh was used to embalm the dead. This gift reminds us that the baby of Bethlehem would die on the cross to give his life for us. The wood of the crib and the cross are the same wood!

The wise men offered him costly gifts; what are we going to offer him this Christmas? Jesus is for us:

the Christ, the king who came to rule us and take care of everything.

the Lord, who's not just a person like me but he's God as well.

the Saviour, the one who came so that we can be friends with God.

'At Christmas time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.' (J John)

The Nativity on BBC 1 this Christmas

Look out for The Nativity on the BBC this autumn. The script has been written by Tony Jordan, hailed as one of the top television scriptwriters in Britain. His work includes Boon, Minder, Holby Blue, and Hustle, not to mention 250 episodes of EastEnders.

This time he is telling the story of the Nativity, over four half-hour episodes on BBC1 on the run-up to Christmas. Jordan says: "I want this film of the nativity to be accessible, all right? I want it to be watched by the people who watch EastEnders, Hustle, everything I do. I want them to watch it, believe it and sob like a child.

"I do have a faith....I believe Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that he came to take away our sins. So, I have written a version of the nativity that I can believe. The people who watch it who aren't already sold, they can watch it and see that it's truthful and they can say, 'That's really cool.'

"It's really helped me, writing it. It's helped me to make sense of the story. It's made sense of the birth of somebody that I believed in. Before, I had nagging doubts. Now, I don't have any doubts."

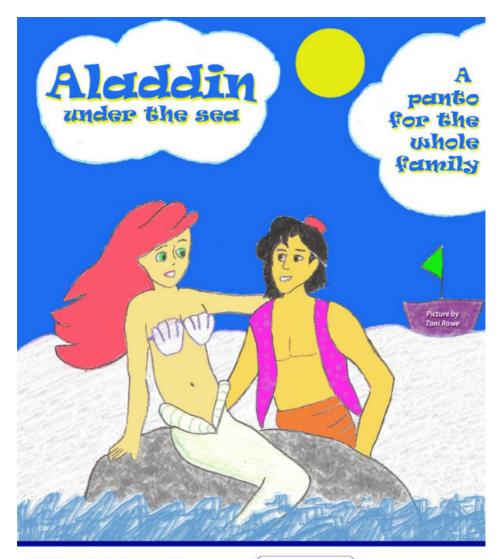
Girls Brigade News

Thank you to all the girls (and parents) who came to Enfield Town to march on Remembrance Sunday even in such horrible weather.

The 1st Winchmore Hill GB company are performing Aladdin under the sea (see page 19 for details), please do go along and support them.

Have a great Christmas everyone!

Charlotte McBride



Saturday 11th December Performances at 2pm and 7pm at Winchmore Hill Baptist Church

Tickets: Child £4.00 / Adult £7.00 / Family (2 + 2) £20.00

For tickets or more information: ring 020 8360 4529 or email GBPanto@gmail.com



Performed by: Tat Winchmore Hill Girbs Brigade Company Tat Winchmore Hill Girbs Brigade Company Biogenetic States Stat

Boys Brigade News

Gosh, it's December already. What a cram packed term we have had. Firstly I need to get you up to date with things gone by.

At the start of half term (back in October) we took five boys away to join the Battalion weekend camp at Feldon Lodge. We left on the Friday night and arrived around 7.30pm. The boys unloaded into their room and then met the rest of the lads who were also there. There were boys from all the companies in the battalion present. Our lads made friends very quickly. That evening was made up of sports, games and free time. The next day, we went to an activity centre where they did activities such as a mechanical climbing wall. This wall is like a vertical tread mill that speeds up and tilts like you are climbing around an overhang. In the afternoon we went to Aqua Splash, where they had great fun on all the water slides. By that night the boys were all very tired and the talking and messing around finally stopped much earlier than the night before. Well, it was still gone 1am!

Bright and early on Sunday morning we left Feldon lodge to travel back to Bush Hill Park to collect everyone else who was coming on the Thorpe Park trip.

We had large numbers of us going this year and needed two mini buses. Once again we were all very excited. With Europe's fastest rocket coaster (0-80mph in 2 seconds), the world's only 10 looping rollercoaster, the world's first air powered swing, free fall rides, the only "in the dark backwards rollercoaster" in the world, inverted roller coasters, water rides and many, many more amazing rides, the day was set to be great. The weather was good as the rain stayed away, with the sun shining all day. The queue lines were not too long and we managed to get on all the rides. The new addition to the park was 'Saw Alive'. This is a live action horror maze, where people jump out on you as you walk round a darkened maze, going through different scenes from the film Saw. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and we look forward to next year. The Monday of half term we held a pizza and film night. The film we showed was the eagerly awaited Camp 2010 film. It was great to re-live the camp memories and also very funny to watch back bits, for example the huge water fights that we had. Or when Mr Cutts was caught on film sleeping in his bed (at 12.30pm on the first afternoon!!) The film made boys who have never been to camp before very excited about future camps.

Every Wednesday we take any boy who is interested, along to the Enfield band, to join in with their band practises. It is hoped that more boys will be encouraged to learn a bass instrument over the coming years. Currently we have 4 second Enfield boys attending.

It was great recently to see the four Duke of Edinburgh boys being awarded with their Bronze award. What an achievement. They will now be starting on their silver award, while another lot of boys have started their bronze. It could be very soon that we see some Gold awards being presented (the first gold since 1967).

Recently we attended the Remembrance Day parade in Enfield town at the cenotaph. Our company had the biggest turn out from the battalion and they all looked and marched really smartly. We were very proud of them. (Regular Drill must be paying off).

At the end of November we entered the Battalion Bowling competition, where we came 2^{nd} . We also entered the Battalion 5-a-side competition.

Once again we will be going out carolling, around the streets of Bush Hill Park. Please come and say hello if you hear our brass band playing down your street. The boys will be collecting and Mr Rushbrook will be in the kitchen cooking loads of hot dogs, ready to feed all the boys after their cold night of collecting.

From all the boys and staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Andrew Caddies

Wordsearch

It's Advent, with Christmas fast approaching....

jesus ivy presents wrapping nativity joseph emmanuel holly cards tree play shepherds christmas mistletoe crackers decoration excitement angels

carol mulled tinsel stocking mary baby



Bible Sketchbook



We may feel 'ordinary' but we can all be extraordinary

Ordinary people in a field. Farmers looking after their sheep. Ordinary people Going to the Tax Office: but nowhere to stay. everything booked. Have to stay in the simplest place: a shed behind the pub. Ordinary but extraordinary. Signs in the sky; angels singing; amazing moments. A baby born in that shed. but his mother a virgin. Angels come to her too. All of us are ordinary; but with Jesus all is extraordinary. Read more in Luke 1 & 2



BHP DAY BY DAY URC

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

- 3:00pm Messy Church (4th 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 (1st Saturday in the month)

