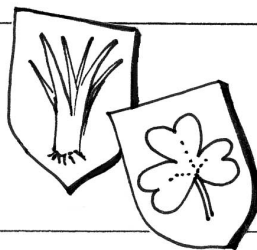


March



2011

Newsletter



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
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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 Children's Work, excluding Brigades)	020 8366 0866
Carol Rensch	020 8367 1208
Andrew Caddies	020 8363 0844

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 27th March. All material for inclusion should be placed in the folder in the church lounge (or e-mailed to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk) by **Sunday 13th March**

Please note that late contributions may be held over.

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



LENT begins on Wednesday 9th March. That makes Tuesday 8th Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts: the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It's a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast

before Lent begins. Lent comes from the old English word for 'lengthen' because in Spring the days get longer. Lent was also a time of fasting, prayer and penance in preparation for Easter.

But there's more to Shrove Tuesday than stuffing ourselves with pancakes or taking part in a public pancake race. The pancakes themselves are part of an ancient custom with religious origins.

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of *shriving* that Christians used to undergo in the past. In shriving, a person confesses their sins and receives absolution for them. When a person receives absolution for their sins, they are forgiven for them and released from the guilt and pain that they have caused them. In the Catholic or Orthodox context, the absolution is *pronounced* by a priest. I'm rather fortunate just to be a 'Minister', (and a part-time one at that).

The tradition is older than me. Over 1000 years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes: *In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him.*

Our intercessor is Jesus.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (Hebrews 4:14). So why does lent last for 40 days and why does it not include Sundays?

40 is a significant number in the Bible:

In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.

The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.

Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Sundays are a celebration of praise and worship of the risen Saviour, and therefore not included in the Lenten fasting.

As we look forward to lengthening days of Spring, let us prepare to celebrate Easter. Lent gives us an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God through His Son our Saviour Jesus, who died and was buried

and rose again for us. Who lives and reigns forever.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night for the love of your only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

m. d. m.



The church council had
warned the treasurer
about failing to balance the books

Smile lines

What the teacher says and what the teacher means....

If you have ever wondered what the teachers think of your child....

Your son James has a remarkable ability in gathering needed information from his classmates. (He was caught cheating on an exam.)

Karen is an endless fund of energy and viability. (your hyperactive monster can't stay put for five minutes.)

Fantastic imagination! (He's one of the biggest liars I have ever met).

Margie exhibits a casual, relaxed attitude to school, indicating that high expectations don't intimidate her. (The lazy thing hasn't done one assignment all term.)

Sue is a real athlete, with superior hand-eye coordination. (The little creep stung me with a rubber band from 15 feet away.)

Nick thrives on interaction with his peers. (Your son needs to shut up and start working.)

Your daughter's greatest asset is her demonstrative public discussions. (Classroom lawyer! Why is it that every time I explain an assignment she creates a class argument.)

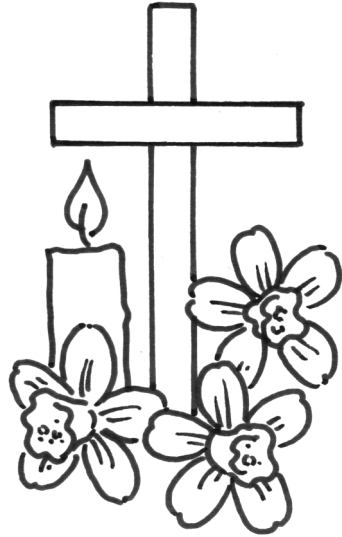
John enjoys the thrill of engaging challenges with his peers. (He's a bully.)

An adventurous nature lover who rarely misses opportunities to explore new territory. (Your daughter was caught skipping class in order to wade in the fish pond.)

Here is the News

We have heard that Marie Bonsey, who used to worship with us and who moved to Yorkshire with her family has recently had a baby girl. We send our congratulations. She

already
has a
little
boy.



A Journey Through Syria

With Revd David Hamblin
Assisted by Mr Martin Hamblin

6th - 14th October 2011

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

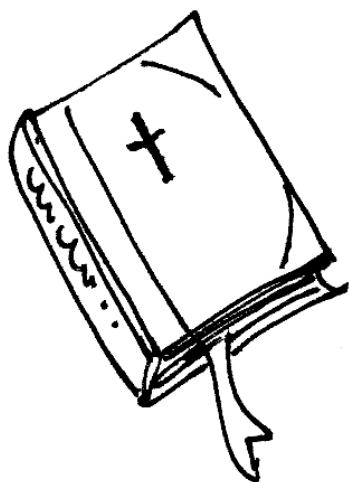
The cost of this tour is £1495 per person based on twin sharing accommodation, is full-board and includes all admission charges etc.

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

The Big Read (for Easter) 2011

Here is a Lent study on Matthew's Gospel delivered through a book, video and online. Written by the Rt Revd Tom Wright, until recently Bishop of Durham, Matthew for Everyone is an engaging study on Matthew's Gospel. It has been adopted by the Methodist Church and Biblefresh as their main programme for Lent this year.

The Big Read is bringing thousands of Christians together to explore Scripture. For more information visit: <http://bigbible.org.uk/> or follow on Twitter @bigbible.



The Bible's reluctant heroes inspire new Lenten resource

A new, free, resource for Lent celebrates the reluctant heroes of the Bible. From Moses to Peter, some of the best-known biblical characters had shaky moments during their illustrious careers – and yet went on to succeed. A Life Less Ordinary focuses on the lives of Moses, Joseph, Daniel and Esther and how they foreshadow the coming of the Messiah. It

outlines creative ideas and activities for churches as part of an inspirational run-up to Easter.

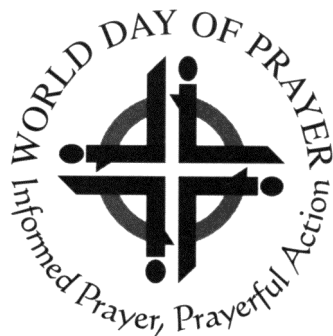
In simple but profound ways, thousands of people are reluctant heroes in the UK today, often under trying circumstances. Such as youngsters like 12 year old Victoria, whose mother, Gail, was diagnosed with a brain tumour six years ago. Gail is now blind and disabled. Victoria administers a complex cocktail of medicines to her mum through a tube up to four times a day.

Spurgeons, the children's charity, supports Victoria and many like her. You can help them to help these brave youngsters, who struggle against great odds. All the resources for A Life Less Ordinary are free at www.spurgeons.org/lent

Women's World Day of Prayer

How many loaves have you?

On Friday March 4th 2011 women from around the world will celebrate the Women's World Day of Prayer. The service has been written by the women of Chile. It is an appropriate theme for bread is eaten at every meal and is very much part of every day life. The women of Chile offer what it means to them as they share this service with us.



Jean Hackett, president of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer Movement, said:

'This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and over 5,000 services will have been held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.'

Stretching from Peru to Antarctica, the Republic of Chile occupies a long, narrow strip of land 2,640 miles long and 110 miles wide. It is a land of incredible contrasts. It also has the highest incidence of domestic violence in Latin America and most women suffer from discrimination in some form or other. Equal opportunities are being pursued.

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody as we demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend.

Services in Enfield are:

10:30am Enfield Baptist Church, Cecil Road, Enfield

Speaker: Revd. Jackie Fish

Choir: The Grovelands Singers

7:30pm Jesus Church, Forty Hill, Enfield

Speaker: Mrs Sue Warwick

Diary

March

See also Prayer pages, back cover for regular activities

Tues 1st	7:45pm	Elders Meeting
Fri 4th	10:30am 7:30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer (see opposite) At Enfield Baptist Church At Jesus Church
Sun 6th	10:30am	Communion with Martin Legg
Sun 13th	10:30am	Parade with Michaela Lawrence
Sun 20th	10:30am 3:00pm	GB District Parade with Martin Legg Messy Church
Sun 27th	10:30am	Morning Worship with John Stynes

Next newsletter deadline
Sunday 13th March

PRAYER PLAN

MARCH 2011

Heavenly Father, this Lent help me willingly to embrace with faith the new things you are doing in my life and among those around me. We ask for your help and direction for our church and our future.

Amen

Tuesday 1st

People of Wales on St
David's Day

Wednesday 2nd

Melbourne Way

Thursday 3rd

For those of our fellowship
who we have not seen lately
and for their wellbeing

Friday 4th

For the elders of Lancaster
Road, Christchurch and our
church as they meet for an
Elders Day at Broxbourne

Saturday 5th

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 6th

Thanks for new babies and
those expecting babies soon

Monday 7th

Christine Hughes

Tuesday 8th

For Christians at the start of
Lent as we think of how our
faith affects our lives

Wednesday 9th

Millais Road

Thursday 10th

Those Christians trying to
keep the faith in Somalia

Friday 11th

For those who help HIV
sufferers in many countries

Saturday 12th

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 13th

Thanks for young people getting married in the coming year

Monday 14th

Judith Hughes

Tuesday 15th

For the joint Lent Group with the Methodists meeting in our Church premises

Wednesday 16th

Percival Road

Thursday 17th

People of Ireland on St Patrick's Day as they face continuing financial problems

Friday 18th

For people and outside groups using our premises

Saturday 19th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 20th

Thanks for children being sponsored in poorer countries and the help they receive for their families

Monday 21st

Heidi, Kevin, Regan and Jack Johnson

Tuesday 22nd

For our Kings Club and their helpers

Wednesday 23th

Poynter Road

Thursday 24th

Christians in Nigeria who face continued persecution

Friday 25th

For those doing research work in cancer and other diseases

Saturday 26th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 27th

Thanks for water which we enjoy but millions in the world have no safe access to clean water.

Monday 28th

Martin and Vivienne Legg Giving thanks for all the work that they do for us and in the community

Tuesday 29th

For continuing work to stop trafficking of the poor and disadvantaged

Wednesday 30th

Roman Way

Thursday 31st

For the people of Haiti still suffering the after affects of the earthquake and still living in tents without adequate food and water.

Church Library

Journey to the Well

By

Diana Wallis Taylor

She went to the well for water. What she found there would change her life forever. In John Chapter 4 we are told the story of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well who met with Jesus and whose life was changed through this remarkable encounter. Jesus told her "everything she'd ever done" including the fact that she had had five husbands and was living with a man who was not her husband but we are left to wonder at the circumstances that led her life on such a tragic path to begin with.

This has always been one of my favourite stories of the Bible and I have wondered what kind of life she had led. The book tells the story of Marah a young woman living in Shechem who, although in love with her childhood sweetheart, is forced to marry an older man. The book is a well researched portrayal of a woman's life in the time of Jesus and opens a window into a fascinating world of landscapes, lifestyles and rituals so different from our own world and way of life.

By the end of the book this tragic and unhappy woman has not only changed her own life but the whole community comes to listen to Jesus and accept him as the Messiah. I certainly enjoyed reading someone else's idea of what might have happened in the life of this Samaritan woman.

Carol Rensch

Survey of Music in the United Reformed Church

So what did that Survey of Music in the United Reformed Church say?

As the person who entered all the information gathered from almost 1500 of the Church Returns Forms into a database (which had to be constantly enlarged as yet more hymnbooks and instruments were listed) I can reveal that 429 of our churches still have a choir and 324 have an instrumental music group. Another staggering fact is that no fewer than 70 musical resources are used in worship. Although an overwhelming number of churches use Rejoice & Sing and/or Mission Praise, 62 churches have their own compilation of hymns and songs. Sacred Hymns and Solos is still used in some, generally smaller, churches.

Musical events are held in over 700 of our churches nationwide. Pipe organs are used to accompany worship in 634 churches. electronic or digital organs in 691 churches and a piano and/or keyboard are used for at least part of the time in 909 of our churches. So there are literally hundreds of 'keyboard' instrumentalists of varying skills and abilities in the United Reformed Church dedicating their time and energy to making music for God. not forgetting those hundreds who use their voices every Sunday (and that must be nearly everybody worshipping in a United Reformed Church!) and a growing number of guitarists, drummers, violinists, flautists. clarinettists and at least one accordion player. If anyone would like more detail of any part of the survey report, please contact Carol Rogers [carannrop\(@aol.com\)](mailto:carannrop@aol.com).

Sylvia Page



Gabriel was in two minds about the wallpaper. Perhaps he should go for a paint effect instead?

So what's so special about Lent, anyway?

Lent begins on 9 March with Ash Wednesday, which always falls in the seventh week before Easter. Lent is widely observed by Christians as a time of fasting or meditation.

Why 'Ash Wednesday'? What do ashes have to do with anything? This recalls the Old Testament custom of putting ashes on oneself as a symbol of repentance. (eg. Esther 4.1; Jeremiah 6.26). When the early Church began to observe Lent as a period of preparation for Easter, repentance played a key part. Therefore the wearing of ashes was adopted as a proper external sign of this inward attitude of remorse and repentance.

Especially during the Middle Ages, Christians began Lent by imposing ashes on the heads of the clergy and the people. Nowadays any ashes used come from the burning of the palm crosses from Palm Sunday during the previous year's Lent. Some churches continue this theme of repentance by the symbolic use of purple clerical dress during Lent.

What about the custom of giving up things? Lent is based on the period of 40 days spent by Jesus in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee. Jesus fasted for 40 days, and so his followers were encouraged to do the same thing. The early Church recommended a fast of two or three days, but by the fourth century, people were encouraged to fast for the full 40 days.

The precise nature of this 'fasting' varied. In general, the western church understood 'fasting' as a reduced intake of food, and encouraged Christians to spend time in devotional reading or attendance at church rather than fasting.

What about the length of Lent? The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day is actually 46 days. Why not the 40 days that Jesus fasted? In the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection of Christ - so fasting was forbidden on a Sunday! So the period of 46 days thus consists of 40 days of fasting, plus the six Sundays which fall between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day.

Finally, just before Ash Wednesday, we have Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Tuesday. This reflects the many thousands of Christian housewives down the centuries who cleared out their larders immediately before the fast of Lent. The simplest way of using up all their eggs, flour and milk was to make pancakes. In some countries the day is known as Mardi Gras, and is marked by major carnivals, most famously in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Girls Brigade News

The New Year started with a whisper and suddenly we're in February!!

We have booked a couple of trips this year. At Easter Charlotte, Emily & I are taking a small group on a PGL weekend. My own children went regularly to PGL and always insisted that PGL stood for "parents get lost" but they always enjoyed themselves.

We will be going to PGL's new centre at Liddington in Wiltshire, just off the M4. It is a apparently a fantastic site with excellent accommodation and 150 acres of grounds and lots of brand new activity bases. It used to be a four star hotel and training centre so the standard of accommodation is very high in all rooms. The site provides a peaceful and beautiful rural setting, bordered by mature woodland. It offers the full range of PGL adventure activity bases - including a tree-top walk.

There are lakes for water-based activities and a central activities hub with changing rooms and showers. Indoor facilities are extensive - with meeting rooms, entertainments rooms, cinema and spacious dining room. The joy for us is that a range of activities are organised and supervised by qualified instructors. The range of activities offered at the centre include abseiling, aero ball, archery, ball sports, bridge building, canoeing, climbing, crate challenge, fencing, first aid, giant swing, initiative exercises, Jacobs ladder, low level ropes course, mountain bike trail, nature trail, orienteering, quad biking, raft building, sensory trail, trapeze, tree top trail, tunnel trail, vertical challenge & zip wire.

A sample itinerary

Friday : Arrive in the afternoon, settle in to accommodation, Evening entertainment - Great Egg Race.

Saturday: Morning sessions - Quad Biking and Tree Top Trail, Afternoon sessions - Abseiling and Aero ball, Evening Entertainment - Disco.

Sunday: Morning session - Jacob's Ladder, Afternoon sessions - Zip Wire and Fencing, Evening - depart from centre after evening meal.

In the summer we have booked "The Old Station House", Darsham, in Suffolk, but we tell you more about that next month.

Boys Brigade News

Well the month of February was a very busy month indeed. At the start of the month we held the Battalion PR Games here at our hall. The PR Games competition is basically like a team games competition, with teams of 6 taking part in 10 different physical activities. Most of the company turned up to take part in this event so we were able to entre 2 teams. Our A team won the competition and we have retained the trophy for another year. These results will now be posted off to the London District for entry into the larger competition.

The Junior Section have also been very busy, as they took part in the Battalion Activity Day. The Activity Day was held at the 10th Enfield Headquarters and consisted of a number of competitions, both individual and team events. Activities included Uni Hoc, table tennis, Jenga, dominoes, Noughts and Crosses, Wii Bowling, pool and skittles. The boys did very well finishing 3rd in the Uni Hoc and although we did not make the top two in the individual events the boys had a really great time.

The next competition that the company section entered was the London Cross Country. This is held in Greenwich Park every year. The course is twice round the park which equates to 5 km in total. This year 3 boys wanted to enter. Thomas Humphries came 5th and Charlie Humphries came 8th, followed shortly by Euan Gibbs in 15th. Well done to all 3 boys for such a great effort.

That same day we also attended the Battalion Swimming gala, which this year was held at Southgate swimming pool. The first half of the evening was the Junior section swimming gala.

The Junior Section team was made up of Tom Brown, Joseph Nicolaidis, Joshua Paul-London and Kiran Creasey. They all put in great performances with Tom wining the front crawl and the breaststroke, Joseph winning the backstroke, Kiran was second in the freestyle and Joshua was placed third in the front crawl. Together they won the relay. These great swimmers placed us first in the senior section and second in the intermediate section with the team coming second in the overall Junior Section competition.

The second half of the evening was the Company Section swimming Gala. For this we had 4 boys from the company section and 2 junior sections boys who joined us.

Again we did very well. Thomas Humphries came 2nd in his front crawl race and 2nd in his backstroke race. Charlie Humphries came 3rd in the front crawl and 3rd in breast stroke. The 2 junior section lads also won the relay race their age group. With all the points added up, our senior boys won the overall 16 - 18 year old category and brought home the Trophy. Well done to all that took part.

Well we have now come to the half term break, during which we held our annual Company supper. This is when all the staff and boys get together and have a great meal together. There was a long list of Guests invited, who were or are still are connected to the company in some way.

We all sat down for our 5 star 3 course meal, cooked this year by Mr and Mrs Rushbrook. I do love Mrs Rushbrooks cooking, it's fantastic (extra portions for me at camp this year Mrs R).

After the food, we had a few speeches from some of the guests before we were entertained by the 2nd Enfield sketch Show. This year a handful of the boys joined myself and Mr Payne on stage to perform some very random sketches.

After half term we have another term of badge classes arranged. There is going to be some first aid taught and also a lot of planning for our Easter Expedition. This year we are planning to go to the Lake District.

We now have two boys working on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and also have four boys working on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh.

We also run circuit training every Thursday which is very well attended by the boys. We now also run a military fitness session on most Sundays and Tuesdays. This is a very tough hour's session of nonstop, heart racing exercises. Keeping fit and staying healthy has become a big part of the 2nd Enfield. It's quite amazing to see 10 teenagers preferring to do exercise than lounge about of an evening playing on their X boxes.

Andrew Caddies

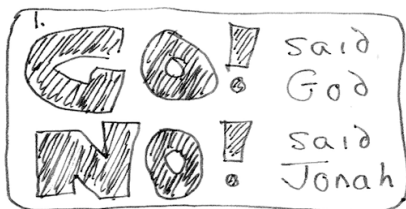
Wordsearch

March brings us daffodils – and the official start of Spring (whatever the weather may be doing!) It begins with a leek – in honour of St David of Wales. It goes on to parades and the colour green – in honour of St Patrick of Ireland. Most important, it brings us Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent – the 40 day period of prayer and spiritual self-examination, leading up to Easter.

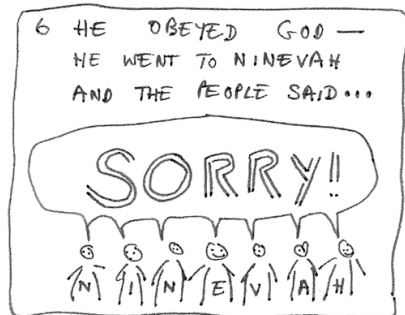
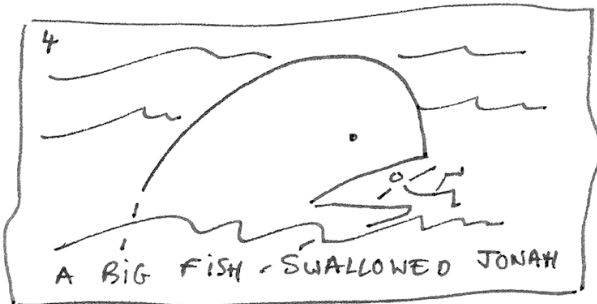
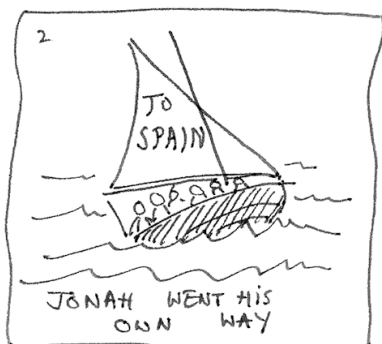
daffodils	weather	cold	wet	leek	david
wales	patrick	ireland	ash	lent	wednesday
forty	wilderness	prayer	fasting	spiritual	reflections
temptation	devil	glory	power	stones	angels



Bible Sketchbook



Jonah disobeyed God. He liked doing his own thing. God said "Go to Ninevah and tell the people to repent." Jonah said "No!" Storms hit his life and swallowed him up. Finally he turned to God and God heard him. At last he obeyed. He told the people to obey God and despite his own struggles they did! God had mercy! Say "yes" to God and know his mercy too! (Read more in Jonah)



William Mather ©

BHP DAY BY DAY URC

Sunday 10:30am 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)

