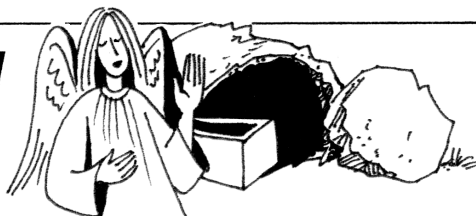
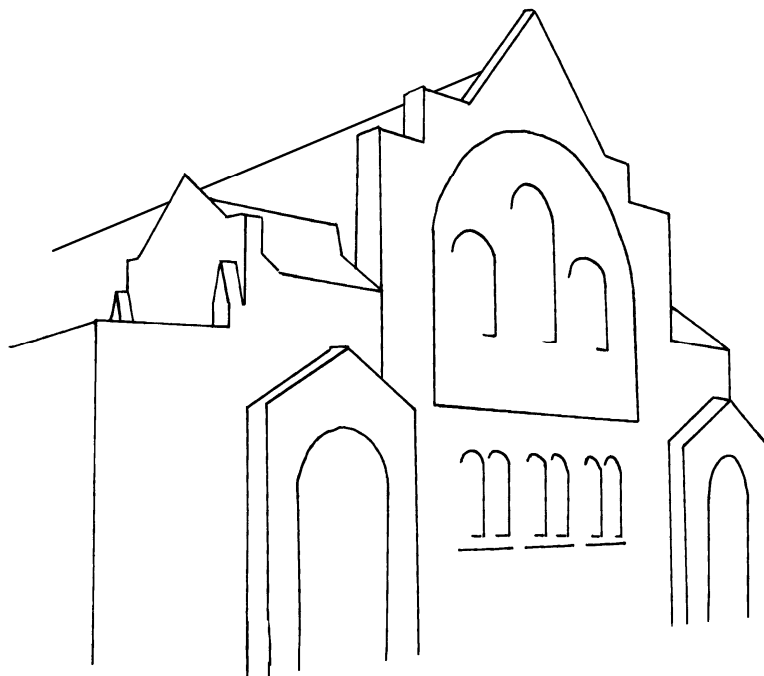


April



2012

Newsletter



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

www.bhpurc.org.uk

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(with areas of special responsibility)

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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***

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 29th April. All material for inclusion should be placed in the folder in the church lounge (or e-mailed to **newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk**) by **Sunday 15th April.**

Please note that late contributions may be held over.

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

The Lamb that was slain.

Easter was the main annual feast of the Christian church up to the fourth century. It was often called the Christian Passover. I believe this a perfect description. Everything I have read about Easter has been intertwined with the Jewish Passover Festival. The Greek word for Easter is *pascha*, which also means Passover. The early feast was a celebration of Christ's resurrection on Sunday. The early church used the Sunday which fell nearest to the actual season of the resurrection



As early as the 2nd century the Christian church was split over the date that Easter was to be celebrated. It is not until the 4th century that Good Friday appears and the Easter celebrations are fixed to the solar calendar. This move happened because the Jews mocked the Christians about their dependence on the Jewish calendar to set the date of Easter Sunday. It is not surprising the controversy that was stirred up amongst the Christian churches over the date of Easter, and it lasted for hundreds of years. Easter became a popular time for baptisms. The preparation classes were held during Lent and lasted for forty days. The Easter celebrations continued in the church for seven weeks and culminated in the celebration of Pentecost.

This was Easter of the past. What does Easter mean to us today?

I have often found it difficult to celebrate Easter without looking forward to Easter Sunday, (and I don't just mean the excitement of all the Easter eggs)! In some ways each service from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday stands on its own. Each has a meaning and sentiment that reflect the path that Jesus took from Bethlehem to Calvary.

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the door frame. Exod 12:21-22(NIV)

And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and

spared our homes
Exod 12:26-27(NIV)

*In a loud voice they were saying:
"Worthy is the Lamb, who was
slain, to receive power and
wealth and wisdom and strength
and honour and glory and
praise!"*

Revelation 5:12

The words of Revelation paint a completely different picture to the events of the crucifixion, an event in which all humanity rebelled against its Creator and

thought to kill Him so that it could go its own irresponsible, independent way. Here, at last, Jesus Christ receives His due: full acclaim and acknowledgment by every created thing.

Christ is risen.... Truly he is risen.

God bless & Happy Easter



...rumours that we would be giving out easter eggs are unfounded - er, there aren't any left!

Smile Lines

The taxi

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a department store window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!"

The passenger apologized and said he didn't realize that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

Twitter

A man walked into a church and approached the minister. "I need help. I think I'm addicted to Twitter." The minister looked at him and said gently, "I'm so sorry, I don't follow you."

Preach

When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?

Here is the News

We were pleased to hear that Father Paul Atherton (St Mark's Church) is recovering well after a triple heart bypass.

He is now out of hospital.

We send our best wishes.

Don't forget you can receive the newsletter by email instead of paper/post. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please email newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk with the preferred email address you would like us to use.

If you have any news please let Ivy Neate know and we can include it in the next newsletter.



Although it was a memorable service, the new showbiz couple in the parish hadn't quite got the idea of a donkey for Palm Sunday.

The torn curtain

The Rev Dr Roger Roberts considers the significance of what happened on Good Friday...

When Jesus was crucified, several signs accompanied his suffering and death. There was darkness, there was an earthquake, and numerous graves were opened. And then – at the moment of his death - there was a final sign which to the first century Jewish Christians was profound, but which to a modern reader may be puzzling: the curtain that hung in the Temple was rent from top to bottom. Why should this have happened?

To understand the significance of the torn curtain, it is important to understand that it separated off the most holy inner sanctum of the temple. This holy of holies, or Most Holy Place, contained the Ark of the Covenant. To come here was to come directly to God. No one could do this and live; sinful man could not approach a holy God. Even the High Priest was allowed in briefly only once a year, on the Day of Atonement. Then God would accept the sacrifice offered by the High Priest, and the people would be assured of his willingness to forgive and to continue the covenant that he had made with them.

That curtain in Jerusalem's temple had hung there for hundreds of years. There was no direct access possible between sinful man and God. But on that Good Friday, everything changed. During those hours of darkness, when Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" he was being offered as our sacrifice. The Father made the Son to become sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21), and thus turned away from him. Jesus plunged into hell.

As the book of Hebrews explains, the Old Covenant between God and man was sealed by the sacrificed blood of animals. But the New Covenant would be ratified by the blood of Jesus, the only one who could make atonement for the sin of the world. The Old Covenant sacrifices had to be repeated. Jesus' vicarious sacrifice for us was done once – and forever. Jesus went to the cross as our eternal High Priest, bearing the sin of the world.

Once Jesus had done this, no wonder the temple curtain tore in two (John 19:30).

The way to God was at last open - once and for all – and forever – by Jesus. 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life....no one comes to the Father but by me.' The way is open!

EASTER

PALM SUNDAY

1st April at 10:30am
Communion Worship
with Revd Andrew Prasad
Synod Moderator



MAUNDY THURSDAY

5th April at 7:30pm
Communion Worship
with Revd Martin Legg



GOOD FRIDAY 6TH

6th April at 10:00am
All Age Worship at the Methodist
Church, Wellington Road
Our Church will be open from 9:30am - 11:30am for
those wishing to stop for quiet prayer and reflection
on this day.



EASTER SUNDAY 8TH

8th April at 8:30am
Easter Communion
with Revd Martin Legg followed by Breakfast

8th April at 10:30am
All Age Easter Celebration
with Revd Martin Legg



Diary

April

See also Prayer pages, back cover for regular activities
The diary is also online at www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|---|
| Sun 1st | 10:30am | Palm Sunday Communion with Rev Andrew Prasad |
| Tues 3rd | 7:45pm | Elders Meeting |
| Thur 5th | 7:30pm | Maundy Thursday Communion with Rev Martin Legg |
| Fri 6th | 9:30am 10:00am | Good Friday Blood donations in the Hall All Age Worship at the Methodist Church |
| Sun 8th | 8:30am 10:30am | Easter Sunday Easter Communion with Rev Martin Legg All Age Celebration with Rev Martin Legg |
| Sun 15th | 10:30am | Morning Worship with Vic and Sue Russell |
| Mon 16th | 8:00pm | Book Club |
| Sun 22nd | 10:30am 12:15 | Morning Worship with Martin Wells Arts and crafts for all ages |
| Sun 29th | 10:30am | Morning Worship with Rev Martin Legg |

Next newsletter deadline
Sunday 15th April

PRAYER PLAN

APRIL 2012

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake." Psalm 23:1-3 NIV

Sunday 1st

Thanks for those who make
Palm Sunday crosses

Monday 2nd

Anne & John Hatchett

Tuesday 3rd

For those on duty or training
in the RAF

Wednesday 4th

Southbury Road

Thursday 5th

Boys Brigade

Friday 6th

Spring Harvest (running up
to 15th April) to impact
Christians & non-Christians
alike

Saturday 7th

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 8th

Thanks for Jesus rising from
death and saving us

Monday 9th

Margaret & John Hitchcock

Tuesday 10th

For those on duty or training
in the Paratroopers

Wednesday 11th

Third Avenue

Thursday 12th

Girls Brigade

Friday 13th

Karam, our sponsored child
in Bethlehem

Saturday 14th

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 15th

Thanks for holidays and a
chance to meet other people

Monday 16th

Christine Hughes

Tuesday 17th

For those on duty or training
in the Army

Wednesday 18th

Trinity Avenue

Thursday 19th

Kings Club

Friday 20th

The Government
consultation to allow people
of the same sex to be
married in civil weddings

Saturday 21st

Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 22nd

Thanks for our transport
system which allows us to
travel the country

Monday 23rd

Judith Hughes

Tuesday 24th

For those on duty or training
in the Special Forces

Wednesday 25th

Tweedy Close

Thursday 26th

Book Club

Friday 27th

Ruth, our sponsored child in
Zambia

Saturday 28th

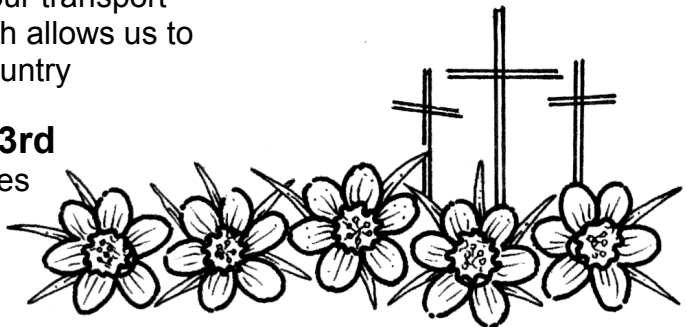
Sunday's Worship Leader
and the service tomorrow

Sunday 29th

Thanks for all who do work
around the church

Monday 30th

Heidi, Mark, Regan & Jack
Johnson



Book Club



The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
(These Foolish Things, Deborah Moggach)

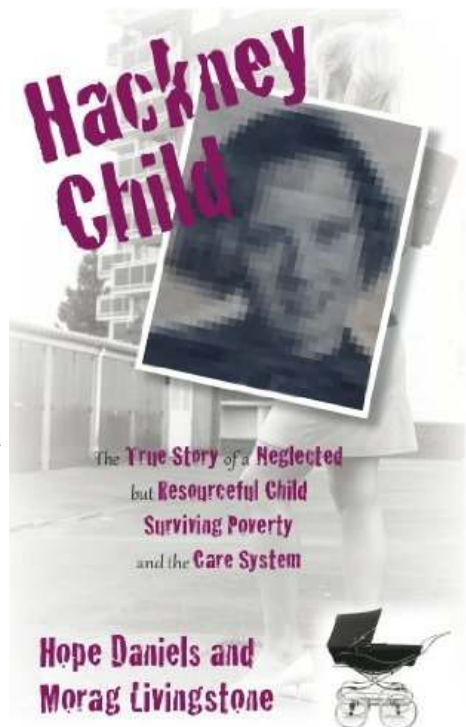
Book club Monday 12th March

Our book club members discussed this sweet natured story of British retirees staying in an elderly retirement hotel in India. We enjoyed the theme of this light-hearted book and agreed it was a story of secrets, lies and discoveries.

Next meeting of the Book Club will be Monday 16th April 2012 and the book chosen was Hackney Child by Hope Daniels.

Please join us for a sociable evening.

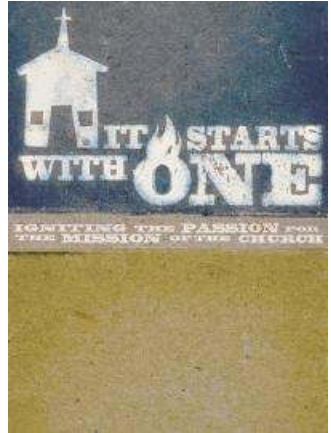
Sue Paraskeva



Second Sunday Supper.

We will be starting a new series in May. There is no supper in April as it is Easter Sunday.

'It starts with One' looks at the first 6 chapters of the Book of Acts. Each month I will outline the chapter we will be reading with some questions in the magazine. The study includes a short 5 minute discussion DVD as a starter. There is a book that is available. If anyone would like one, let me know and I will order them.



We have enjoyed some good food, good fellowship and reading from the Bible together has encouraged us. It would be great if a few more joined us for an hour once a month. We have so much to learn from each other about our faith. Who knows where it might lead us?

Stay awake

Should you sleep on a problem? Some say yes, some say no. But consider this: when you sleep on a problem, it often causes the painful memories to haunt your dreams, making the whole thing even more vivid. Some medical research now suggests that unpleasant experiences should be 'mentally digested' a bit before you go to sleep.

At the University of Massachusetts, young people were shown upsetting photographs of car crashes, etc. They remembered them in more detail if they slept soon afterwards; rather than if they stayed awake and gave themselves a chance to 'move on' from the unpleasant incident. The Bible urges all people in distress to turn to God in prayer. "Find rest, O my soul in God alone; my hope comes from him.... Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is your refuge." (Psalm 62 5 & 8)

The many names of CHRIST

To the ARTIST he is the One Altogether Lovely.
To the ARCHITECT he is the Chief Corner Stone.
To the BAKER he is the Living Bread.
To the BANKER he is the Hidden Treasure.
To the BIOLOGIST he is the Life.
To the BUILDER he is the Sure Foundation.
To the CARPENTER he is the Door.
To the DOCTOR he is the Great Physician.
To the EDUCATOR he is the Great Teacher.
To the ENGINEER he is the New and Living Way.
To the FARMER he is the Good Shepherd.
To the GEOLOGIST he is the Rock of Ages.
To the HORTICULTURIST he is the True Vine.
To the JUDGE he is the Righteous Judge, Judge of All Men.
To the LAWYER he is the Counselor, the Lawgiver, the Advocate.
To the OPTICIAN he is the Light of the Eyes.
To the PHILANTHROPIST he is the Unspeakable Gift.
To the PHILOSOPHER he is the Wisdom of God.
To the PREACHER he is the Word of God.
To the SCULPTOR he is the Living Stone.
To the SERVANT he is the Good Master.
To the STATESMAN he is the Desire of All Nations.
To the STUDENT he is the Incarnate Truth.
To the THEOLOGIAN he is the Author and Finisher of our Faith.
To the TOILER he is the Giver of Rest.
To the SINNER he is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the World.
To the CHRISTIAN he is the Son of the Living God, the Saviour, the Redeemer and the Lord.

To me...he is all of this. He is my everything, my Saviour, my King, my God.

What is he to you?

The Way I See It: BACK FROM THE DEAD?

Christmas packs them in, but Easter, which falls this month, is undeniably the defining Christian festival. It was St Paul, no less, who set out the stark truth: 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile'. Without the resurrection of Jesus which Easter celebrates, the whole Christian story collapses. He would simply take his place with all the other great religious teachers of history who died and are buried somewhere. But the Christian creeds are adamant: 'on the third day, he rose from the dead'. The resurrection is not, for Christians, an optional extra.

In the current western atmosphere of scepticism, that claim is regarded as self-evidently ridiculous. We all know what 'dead' means, whether it's a dead bird or flower or person. Death is the termination of life - as people say now, 'end of'. Many people are attracted to the teaching of Jesus, but they simply can't accept as credible the claim that he rose from the dead. They assume that the whole idea is the product of gullible minds. His followers wanted to believe that he was alive again, and simply talked themselves into believing that he was.

However, this scepticism about the resurrection of Jesus is itself the product of preconceived assumptions. The sceptics don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead and assume that it is self-evident that he didn't. In fact, their position is not based on evidence, but on an assumption that it simply couldn't have happened. Yet strangely enough, what evidence we have suggests very strongly that it did.

We can, for instance, be pretty clear about a number of facts - well established, incontrovertible facts. One is that Jesus of Nazareth was a real person who lived in the early decades of the first century (as we call it). Another is that he was put to death by crucifixion during the period 26-37AD, when Pontius Pilate was the prefect of the Roman province of Judaea. Another is that by 70AD - within a lifetime - Christianity was flourishing (though in places heavily persecuted) all over the Roman empire, and that its core belief was that Jesus had been raised from the dead after his execution, and had appeared alive to anything up to 500 different people, in various places and on various occasions over a period of about forty days. Many of these witnesses (listed by the apostle Paul in his letter to Corinth written in about 55AD, just twenty years or so after the event)) were still alive as he wrote - they could speak for themselves!

It shouldn't, surely, be hard for a regime as efficient and ruthless as the Roman empire to prove that a wandering Jewish preacher they had executed had remained dead. Yet it did prove impossible, to the point that Christianity eventually became the official religion of the empire.

Were those gullible times? No, they weren't. The story of 'doubting' Thomas, one of the disciples of Jesus, is evidence that even among his closest followers there was a reluctance to believe the evidence of their own eyes. They became completely convinced. Ten of the twelve apostles probably died for that conviction. You've got to be pretty sure of something to do that. When we sing 'Jesus Christ is risen today' on Easter morning, it's a lot more than a pious wish!



Do Something Amazing...

96% of us rely on the other 4% to give blood. Please don't leave it to someone else.

If you're generally healthy and aged between 17 or over, do something amazing.... Give blood

Amazing Stories - Awele Nwosu-Akeh **Living with sickle cell**

Awele Nwosu-Akeh, 17, was diagnosed with sickle cell anaemia when she was ten. She has been in hospital many times because of her condition but is determined not to let it affect her life, despite the obvious challenges.

"Being a teenager with sickle cell can be difficult. I sat my GCSE exams in hospital but I couldn't write myself so someone wrote for me. It was hard but I am glad I did the exams as I earned the grades I needed to study BTEC Media at college."

Awele hopes to finish her college course next summer so she can go to university. As she receives regular blood transfusions, and could potentially spend longer in hospital if she becomes unwell, her tutors have allowed her extra time to finish the course should she find that she needs it.

"I have a blood transfusion every four weeks to keep my haemoglobin levels healthy. I am very grateful to all the people who give up their time to donate the blood I need to survive."

If you would like to give blood the blood donor team are at our church on Friday 6th April from 9:30am to 12:30pm and 13:30pm to 15:00pm.

Girls' Brigade News

On Friday the 9th March Ellie, Allysia & I joined with 3 seniors from 3rd Tottenham Company & their Captain, Belinda Blunkett, who is also our district commissioner, on a canal boat.

The boat, Red Watch, is a 67ft long, 12ft 6inch wide residential canal boat which sleeps 12.

We cruised from Harlow, south through Roydon on the River Stort, and then headed north on the River Lee to Stansted Abbots to spend the night at Ware.

The girls learnt how to control the boat, to navigate the locks, and a bit about canal etiquette (how to pass on the right, not to crash into other boats, and to say "Hello" to people passing by). Our devotions were "water based" about Joseph providing water for the Israelites'.

The pace was very slow and you get a totally different perspective on the towns you pass through, the gardens backing on to the river with their little jetties, the garden furniture placed to soak up the atmosphere of the river, houses positioned to get the river view.

There were also signs of spring - the willows were turning green, and there was blossom on the flowers cherries. We fed the ducks, swans, geese, coots & moorhens.

We arrived back at Harlow on Sunday afternoon, and I for one, was thankful that the weather had been so kind to us.

I would like to thank The Canal Boat Project, Belinda & her husband Tony, who was our skipper & head chef, for organising the trip for us. Hopefully we can do the same thing again next year, with a larger contingent of girls from 1st Enfield.

Wordsearch

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. We remember that Jesus gave his body and his blood on the Cross, to redeem us from our sins. We can pray 'Abba, Father,' because Jesus' death means we can now be accepted by God. Jesus 'bought' us with his blood – we are redeemed! We are the Easter people.

| | | | | |
|------------|--------|---------|-------------|--------|
| triumphant | crowds | messiah | praise | donkey |
| tomb | risen | room | passover | bread |
| wine | body | blood | betrayal | false |
| witnesses | cross | nails | jerusalem | pilate |
| gethsemane | judas | trial | crucifixion | |



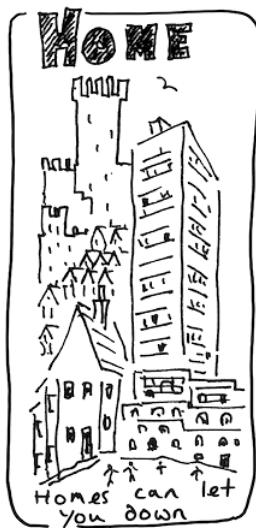
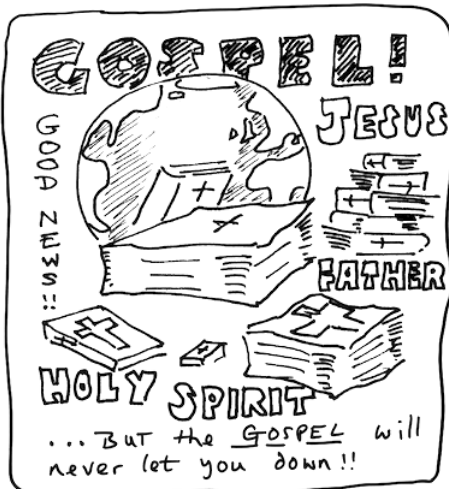
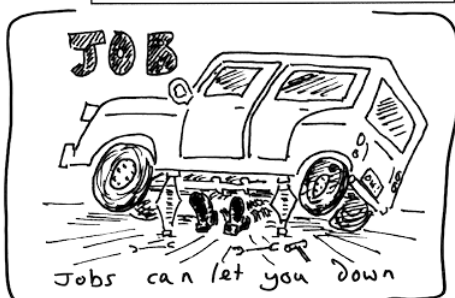
I'll never let you down!

Let down by
Your job?
By your parents?
Your home?
Your bank?
Your health?
Can you have
confidence
In anything today?
But Jesus died
and rose again
So you won't feel
let down ever.
The world
will change
But believing
In Jesus
Means you
Are saved
From the world,
The devil and sin...
If you believe,
God says:
"You're OK
and I'll never
let you down!"
This is the gospel,
The GOOD NEWS!!
Don't be ashamed:
Have confidence
in it!

Sound good to you?

Read more in
Romans 1:16ff

Bible Sketchbook



BHP DAY BY DAY URC

Sunday 10:30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday in the month)
12:15pm Arts and crafts for all ages (4th Sunday in the month)
5:30pm Second Sunday Supper (2nd Sunday in the month)

Monday 7:30pm Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
8:00pm Book Club (2nd Monday in the month)

Wednesday 6:15pm Girls' Brigade

Friday 9:30am Prayers in the Junior Room
10:15am Baby & Toddler Group
6:00pm Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys)
7.15pm Junior Section)

