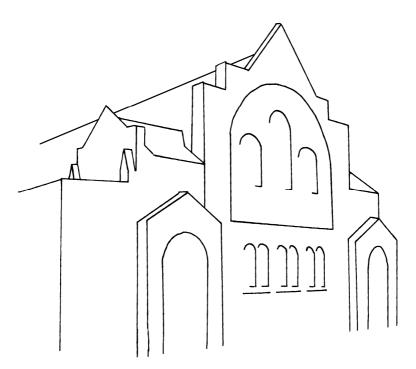


February 2015

Newsletter



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

www.bhpurc.org.uk

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Serving Elders

(with areas of special responsibility)

Andrew Caddies 020 8363 0844

Lynda Cook 020 8360 5112

Martin Hamblin (Treasurer) 020 8363 0974

Sylvia Page (Secretary) 020 8366 7481

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.

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 22nd February. All material for inclusion should be emailed to **newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk**) by <u>Sunday 8th February.</u>

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



The 40 day period of Lent leading 3 up to Easter matches the 40 days which Jesus spent in the wilderness going through a time of inner struggle and testing. He questioned his personal motives, how he should use the power at his disposal, and what were the legitimate ways of achieving his goal, not least in the face of certain opposition.

World events test and challenge us from time to time to examine what we believe and how we practise it in a modern society. This has focused in recent debates on freedom of speech in the light of the terror attack on the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris, and whether those who practise religious faith have any rights to have their beliefs protected from mockery and ridicule.

While there has been universal condemnation of terrorism, it is not always clear (to me at least) what exactly people mean by freedom of speech – except the right, apparently, to say what you want and offend others without fear of reprisal. Understandably because extremists have terrorised others in the name of Islam, the debate has centred on those who have acted in the name of an authority above and beyond civil society and have justified their actions in these terms. The immediate world-wide

condemnation of this by leaders of all faiths has shown that this was a serious perversion of religious belief and practice yet in the debates which have followed in the media it has become obvious that, faith communities aside, there are clear restrictions on freedom of speech and activity in other areas of life on racist or homophobic talk or action, against abuse of the vulnerable, or inflammatory talk that leads to violence or civil unrest. The freedom for which our society can rightly be proud depends greatly on people exercising personal and corporate responsibility to live within certain boundaries, even though there is reluctance to state how and where these boundaries are drawn, except those which can be tested in a court of law. The freedom which we all seek to defend requires broad consensus, is costly - in terms of what we require from those who defend us - and requires the vigilance of those who keep us safe.

What this has to do with Lent can be found in the pages of the New Testament. There, one finds plenty evidence of small Christian communities living in a volatile world without any state protection (that came a few centuries later).

One Christian commentator on recent events has said "We are called not to protect our own little religious piece of turf. Our job is to infuse culture with the salt and light of the kingdom. Jesus was fully human and fully divine. He provides our pattern for engaging with culture - neither escaping it to start our own subculture, nor being conformed to it. Instead working in its midst." That reflects in some wavs Rowan Williams's comment that God works "from the heart of being into the life of every day - not inwards from a distant heaven."

In other words, to practise faith is to face the same questions that Jesus did. He was not to invoke divine lightning bolts on those who opposed him, nor detonate their human equivalents in order to force conversions. Rather he was to remain close to the Father through prayer and personal obedience; patiently and accessibly teach those who came to hear him; heal the

sick; cross the invisible boundaries of self-protecting principle and prejudice against minorities which people had drawn and hidden behind in their 'freedom' and fear; show leadership by taking a towel and washing feet; and ultimately let his enemies have their own way with him ... so that God's purpose could be recognised and celebrated in Jesus's resurrection.

That these things have touched the lives of many, and drawn them freely to commit themselves to a particular way of life is a cause for genuine wonder, not least that these principles have transformed societies; and that there are witnesses today to the way of Christ in every culture and people.

God bless you

Ray

The Revd Ray Adams



Smile Lines

How do you define love?

A group of 4 to 8 year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

Rebecca - age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

"Love is when mum makes coffee for dad, she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together, you talk more. My Mum and Dad are like that. They look gross when they kiss." Emily - age 8

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6 (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

Here is the News

Christmas Collection

Thanks to you all for your generosity over Christmas. In total £295.81 was collected for our Christmas Charity the North London Hospice.

Lunchtime @ Christ Church

Saturday 14th February 2015 from 11am to 2pm
At Christ Church URC, Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ
A relaxed time of fellowship with lunches and hot or cold refreshments available throughout
Everyone is very welcome!

Congratulations to our former minister Revd Steve Faber

The United Reformed Church has announced the appointment of the Revd Steve Faber as moderator of the West Midlands Synod. He will take on the role on 1 September 2015, replacing outgoing moderator, the Revd Roy Lowes, who is retiring at the end of August, with warm thanks of the Synod and wider denomination for a long, varied and fruitful ministry.

Holiday at Home at Christ Church URC

Friday 17th and Saturday 18th April 2015 10:30am to 4:00pm each day

Holiday at Home is like a holiday club for adults which will be held in the Christ Church Hall (Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ). The programme will include craft activities, quizzes, Bible talks, musical items and entertainment. A cooked lunch and afternoon tea will be provided and the charge for each day is £6. For further information and to book a place please contact Rosemary Milns on 020 8363 6571 or email us on mail@ccurc.org.uk. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment!



World Leprosy Day

On 1st February we will be holding our annual World Leprosy Day service led by Chris Hall, at which there will be a collection for the work of The Leprosy Mission. Please give generously if you can.

Have you been saving the stamps from your Christmas cards and parcels etc.? The Leprosy Mission can sell them if they are in good condition, not dirty and with a border of not more than 5mm. It's surprising how much money is raised for their work by selling them, also postcards and coins.

Thank you to all who save stamps and have given through the boxes during the year. If anybody wishes to have a box for their small change, please let Judith or me know. I will be pleased to give you one.

Christine Hughes

The BIG Marathon Quiz

Armfield Road Hall, Armfield Road, EN2 ODH

Saturday 7th February 7pm for 7:30pm

£10 a ticket wit dinner included!
Chicken and chips or quiche and chips

Bring your own drink

Raising funds for Whizz-kidz, move a life forward

To book a table please contact Elizabeth (07787 962245), Anna (020 8363 6611) or Rachel (07738 966597)

Leadership in our Church

At Bush Hill Park we have four serving elders which for the size of the fellowship is not enough. In order for the Elders to be really effective we should have at least six preferably eight. Only having four elders is putting a great strain on those who are trying to serve. Having a larger number not only means that there is a greater mix of ideas but a greater variety of opinions in the decision making process.

I therefore appeal to all church members to prayerfully consider as to whether you could fulfil the role of an elder. There are rules concerning the appointment of elders the main ones being that you must have been a church member for at least one year and that husband and wife cannot serve at the same time.

See www.bhpurc.org.uk/about-us/church-leaders/elders for more details.

If you wish to explore the idea of eldership then please contact Chris Hall.

Chris Hall



Lent Bible Reflection

This Lent you are most welcome to join us reflecting and discussing the bible. We'll start the six sessions at the Ash Wednesday service and then you can either join us at 8pm, Tuesday evenings at 130 Clive Road or at 10:30am, Wednesday mornings in the Lounge.

We'll be going through Jeff Lucas' Singing in the Rain - Navigate life's rough waters with confidence and poise. Here's a bit about it:

When life's violent storms and nasty surprises hit you, what happens to your faith? As followers of Jesus, we can learn to 'dance in the downpour' without being unreal or superficial.

Through six stimulating sessions, Jeff Lucas explores how Jesus conducted Himself in the week leading up to His crucifixion, enabling us to develop:

- Hope without naivety
- Courage without presumption
- Steadfast faith, not mere belief and more.

So if you'd like to join us, feel free to just turn up or see Lisa Hamblin or Chris Hall if you'd like more details.



Diary February

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

Sun 1st	10:30am	Communion with Chris Hall
Sat 7th	10:30am 7:30pm	Smart Homes (see page 15) The BIG Marathon Quiz (see page 8)
Sun 8th		Parade with Bob Taylor Sunday Evening Reflection
Sat 14th	11am - 2pm	Lunchtime @ Christ Church (see page 6)
Sun 15th	10:30am	Morning Worship with Adrian West
Wed 18th	8:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Fri 20th	Various	Blood donation service
Sun 22nd	10:30am	Morning Worship with Chris Hall
Tues 24th	8:00pm	Lent bible reflection (see page 10)
Wed 25th	8:00pm	Lent bible reflection (see page 10)

Next newsletter deadline Sunday 8th February

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PRAYER PLAN

FEBRUARY 2015

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky Philippians 2:14-15

Sunday 1st

Thanks for Christian organizations providing aid when disasters strike

Monday 2nd

Andrew Caddies

Tuesday 3rd

Persecuted church in Saudi Arabia

Wednesday 4th

Lincoln Road

Thursday 5th

Bin & recycling men

Friday 6th

Those in pain, suffering without a diagnosis or cure

Saturday 7th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 8th

Give thanks for family and friends

Monday 9th

Barbara Camp

Tuesday 10th

Persecuted church in Somalia

Wednesday 11th

Leighton Road

Thursday 12th

Our libraries & those who work in them

Friday 13th

Karam, our sponsored child in Bethlehem

Saturday 14th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 15th

Thanks for clean water, gas and electricity and sanitation for our homes

Monday 16th

Yvonne Coe

Tuesday 17th

Persecuted church in Maldives

Wednesday 18th

Main Avenue

Thursday 19th

For our parks & those who maintain them

Friday 20th

New believers to grow in their faith

Saturday 21st

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 22nd

Thanks for the Peacemakers

Monday 23rd

Kath Cole

Tuesday 24th

Persecuted church in Yemen

Wednesday 25th

Melbourne Way

Thursday 26th

Social workers

Friday 27th

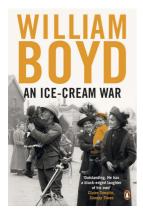
Ruth, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 28th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow



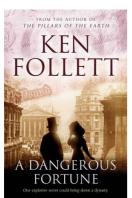
Book Club



'An ice cream war' by William Boyd.

The group enjoyed the book up to a point, but could not really say they particularly liked any of the characters, although their actions and reactions were only too believable. Set in East Africa and Kent during the First World War, this story covers all aspects of human life and frailties. What we did find interesting was learning more about how the war impacted on soldiers in East Africa – which for the most part comprised of marching round the country and utter boredom waiting for orders. The war in this area is not

often covered, apart from in history books. It was a different theme for William Boyd, but well-written.



'A Dangerous Fortune' by Ken Follett.

In 1866, a schoolboy drowns in a mysterious accident. Present are Hugh Pilaster and his older cousin Edward, the dissolute heir to a banking fortune and Micky Miranda, son of a brutal South American landowner. Caught in the ensuing maelstrom are sly matriarch Augusta Pilaster, rich heir Solly Greenbourne and slum girl Maisie Robinson. Micky Miranda uses blackmail and murder to advance his family and threatens the whole British economy...

This was 'enjoyed' by us all. Ken Follett is an amazing writer with good stories to tell from so many centuries and aspects of human life. Most of us have read others. Thoroughly recommended and it does come closer to home with a part of the family in Chingford freely using the train from London.

The next Book Club is on Monday 9th February when we will have read 'The Miniaturist' by Jessie Burton.

JESSIE BURTON

Sylvia Page

Smart Homes

Better | Warmer | Greener

What is Smart Homes?

The Smart Homes is a home energy efficiency improvement grant scheme primarily aimed at offering financial support for solid wall insulation or hard to treat cavity wall insulation for privately owned properties in six North London Boroughs - Enfield, Haringey, Hackney, Islington, Camden, and Waltham Forest.

You could benefit from: Solid wall insulation; Cavity wall insulation; Double glazing; Boiler upgrade; Loft insulation; Personal Smart Homes advisor

If you live in Enfield (or the other Smart Homes boroughs – see below) and are a homeowner you may qualify for **a grant of up to £6,000** to improve the Energy efficiency of your home.

Drop in Session

A drop-in coffee-morning session will be held on Saturday 7th February at Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church for you to find out more about Smart Homes, ask any questions and learn about energy efficiency.

No need to book, just turn up on the day (teas and coffee provided).

When: 7th February 2015 At: 10.30 and 12.30

Where: Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church

Find out more

For more information about Smart Homes

Visit www.smarthomes.house or to apply or find out more about Smart Homes Call the advice line on 020 7527 4736 (open Monday to Friday, 9am - 7pm Attend the drop-in session

London Sustainability Exchange

London Sustainability Exchange (LSx) are an independent charity working on sustainability issues across London. For more information about LSx please visit www.lsx.org.uk .

London Sustainability Exchange are working alongside the London Boroughs of Haringey, Hackney, Islington, Camden, Enfield and Waltham Forest to deliver this project.

Women's World Day of Prayer



Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, interchurch, organisation which enables us to hear the voices of women, from a different part of the world each year, expressing their hopes and concerns and bringing them before the rest of the world in prayer.

On Friday 6th March an estimated 3 million people, in over 170 countries, will gather to observe the day of prayer, using an order of service written by Christian women from The Bahamas and translated into over 1000 different languages and dialects . In the British Isles alone over 5,000 services will be held. The day will begin when the sun rises over the island of Samoa, and continue until it sets off the coast of American Samoa some 35 hours later.

The theme of the service is taken from St John's Gospel, chapter 13 verses 1-17, 'Jesus said to them: "Do you know what I have done to you?"' and it challenges us to demonstrate the same radical, unconditional love for others that Jesus showed when he washed the feet of his disciples.

The Bahamas consists of over 700 islands, scattered over 100,000 square miles in the Atlantic Ocean, only a small proportion of which are inhabited. It refers to itself as a 'family of islands' and in the service the needs of the smallest islands are given as much prominence as those of the larger ones.

Everyone is welcome to attend the service, men, women – people of all ages.

In Enfield the meetings on Friday, 6th March are: 10:30 at Trinity Church, Enfield. The speaker will be Mrs Nancy Hands. 19:30 at Jesus Church, Forty Hall. The speaker will be Revd Maureen Lunn.

How can you be competent when it comes to prayer?

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come." Luke 11:1-2

More often than we would care to admit, our desired objective in prayer is to 'get what we ask for'. If this doesn't happen, we might think that prayer hasn't worked, that its results are, at best, arbitrary, or that we are just not a competent pray-er and so best leave it to those who are! Yet, as P.T. Forsyth points out in The Soul of Prayer, 'if we got all we asked for we should soon come to treat Him as a convenience, or the request as a magic. The reason of much bewilderment about prayer is that we are less occupied about faith in God than about faith in prayer'.

The only way to learn how to pray is to pray. And God, through his Spirit, teaches us to pray. Through relationship with God, we come into alignment with his will, which leads to believing declaration, petition or action.

First and foremost, prayer is the primary way we relate to and communicate with God. Without communication we can only know about someone. Prayerlessness amounts to a rejection of the loving relationship the Father offers.

Then, as we spend time in God's presence, our heart and mind become aligned with his. We begin to see God, ourselves, and the people and situations we're concerned about from God's perspective. Our hearts 'tune in' to his as we pray, causing us to feel his compassion, sense his pleasure, or mourn with him for our workplaces.

Having aligned ourselves with God's perspective we pray, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done' (Matthew 6:10) with increased understanding and conviction. We may also be given direction as to how to act or speak.

Bev Shepherd

who works with The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity

18 Fairtrade fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight is coming - 23 February - 8 March 2015!

We've come so far since the first Fairtrade Fortnight in 1995, educating the public on why to choose Fairtrade and increasing sales on Fairtrade terms for marginalised producers. Over the past 20 years, together we've made the



Fairtrade mark the biggest and best known ethical label in the UK.

78% of the UK public recognise the FAIRTRADE Mark.

From UK sales alone, £26m of Fairtrade Premium was invested by producers in 2013.

But we know there is still a long way to go to make all trade fair – just 1.2% of cocoa and less than 10% of tea globally is traded on Fairtrade terms.

So this Fairtrade Fortnight check the goods you're buying are fairly traded if they can be.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 7 to 14 October 2015

Psalm 122:1-2 I was glad for the suggestion of going to Jerusalem, to the Temple of the Lord. Now we are standing here inside the crowded city. (TLB)

Jerusalem has been a place of pilgrimage for thousands of years and today it is a must for many Christians, Jews and Muslims. A Holy Land Pilgrimage is a life-changing experience. You will never be quite the same again. Every time you hear Bible readings and sing hymns and songs you will immediately be transported back to Bethlehem, Galilee, Nazareth and Jerusalem.

Expect to be renewed spiritually by visiting the places where Jesus walked, talked and healed. To celebrate Communion and pray together beside the Sea of Galilee and in the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem are powerful and moving experiences.

Christians still live in the Holy Land today and we will visit two Christian projects in the Palestinian Territory run by local Christians (Bethany and Bethlehem) and worship with local Christians at St Georges Cathedral where the service will be in both English and Arabic. In addition we will travel through Biblical Samaria and encounter the Crusaders at the Crusader capitol of Acre (Acco).

For more information please see www.israel2015.co.uk.

For a brochure please contact me (with your name and address so I can post a brochure):

Email: david@thehamblins.org.uk

Phone: 01270 625789 Text: 07940754221

If a group of you are interested in joining the pilgrimage I am very willing to visit.

Revd.David Hamblin

40acts - do Lent generously

What is 40acts?

Lent is usually about 'giving stuff up', isn't it? What if you could add something transformational to the traditional?

What if you could give up chocolate and give the money to your favourite charity? What if you could turn the TV off and spend more time helping your neighbour? What if Lent was a preparation for a lifetime of big-heartedness that reflected God's amazing generosity? Well, that's where 40acts – the generosity challenge from Christian charity Stewardship - comes in.

Tell me more...

40acts celebrates its 5th birthday in 2015! Each year we've encouraged individuals to take a daily challenge: 40 nudges in a generous direction, alongside 40 blogs to read and ponder. In 2014 over 46,000 joined us, creating a wave of over 1.8 million acts of generosity in more than 180 countries worldwide.

We also created 40acts Together especially for groups. Whether you're a family, church, small group, school or student, 40acts Together provides you with online and printable resources to guide you through your generous journey as a community.

Here's what you can do next:

- 1. Sign up to receive the daily challenges by email at www.40acts.org.uk
- 2. Find a group to do 40acts with, and sign up for 40acts Together
- 3. Get connected with 40acts on social media

What are the daily reflections?

The 40acts blog has previously featured daily inspirational contributions from likes of Shaun King (HopeMob), Rob Parsons (Care for the Family), Mike Pilavachi (Soul Survivor), Krish Kandiah (Evangelical Alliance), Luke Smith (Fusion UK), Dot Tyler (Tearfund), Jonty Langley (Huffington Post), Caleb Meakins (My 40 Days), Sam Gibb (Sorted Magazine), Charlie Blythe (A21 Campaign, Hillsong) and many more.

If you sign up to receive daily emails, these blog posts will come straight through to your inbox every morning during Lent, along with a featured act of the day.

Girls' Brigade News

On November 29th our Junior girls joined with the Enfield Battalion Boys Brigade for a Super Heroes afternoon. Girls and Boys dressed up in their favourite superhero, Juliet won the first prize and Julia came third.

The afternoon was divided up into three sections, firstly there was the training camp to attend. Put into teams, the young people had to complete various physical tasks and yet again our girls were in the winning team. We then watched a play about the super heroes who were worried about a new hero who was to be born. The superheroes went in search of the new baby. They were of course led to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. A fun twist on the Nativity which all enjoyed.

Following this the girls took part in icing cakes, making superfast model cars and decorations using hammer beads. The girls had a great afternoon and our thanks to the Boys Brigade Battalion for arranging this.

For the Senior girls we arranged a trip to see the Christmas lights in London. Thanks to the directions from Lisa and Barbara we were able to see many of the smaller streets that had some amazing decorations including Burlington Arcade. Our tour was concluded at St Christopher's Place where we enjoyed some real hot chocolate at an Italian café.

Chris Hall

Wordsearch

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West.

forty days
mary jewish
jesus purified
Llght world
nunc dimittis
west

baby boy public
mothers temple appearance
present lord festival
candlemas simeon presentation
office evening prayer

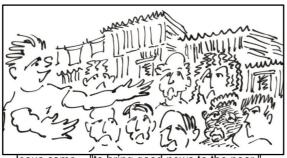
FORTYBABBYBUICEEMIIWMAORIOANSOFFICEDYAUNOITATNESERPMDETHIDSICIEUILMTESVRNYFVBREIIRLIAOEIELEMSMSCRWLLRNIYAIIJANPETUICASYDEEMUSJPNERSLPRESENTWGRPMPETSWULIGHTEADLROWPSYADYP

I don't have to

Bible Sketchbook

stay the same!

The wonderful good news of the Christian story is that I don't have to stay the same! Jesus helps me to be different! I don't have to be tied down to the rubbish of the past - either because of things I have done, or things that others have done to me.



...Jesus came ..."to bring good news to the poor."..

Through the power of Jesus I AM free! He forgives and forgets all my sin if I really bring it all to him. I am still the same 'me' but I am a new person - spiritually free and spiritually alive!

That's what Jesus was getting at in Luke 4: 18-19. This is his life-

changing message. Maybe there are things he can set you free from too...



And go for







..."to free the oppressed ...the blind... the prisoners... "



BHP DAY BY DAY URC

Monday 6.15pm Boys' Brigade Junior Section

7:30pm Boys' Brigade (Company Section)

8:00pm Book Club (1st or 2nd Monday)

Tuesday 8:00pm Housegroup (2nd & 4th Tuesday)

Wednesday 6:15pm Girls' Brigade Explorers & Juniors

7:40pm Girls' Brigade Seniors & Brigaders

Thursday 7:30pm Boys' Brigade Company Section circuit training

(when advised)

Friday 9:30am Prayers in the Junior Room

10:00am Baby & Toddler Group

6:00pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

7:30pm TwS@bhpurc

Sunday 10:30am Worship with groups for children and young

people (Communion 1st Sunday)

5:30pm Sunday Evening Reflection (2nd Sunday)

