

November 2016



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
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www.bhpurc.org.uk

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Other activities

Baby & Toddlers	toddlers@bhpurc.org.uk
Book Club	bookclub@bhpurc.org.uk
House Group	housegroup@bhpurc.org.uk

Weekly news sheet	link@bhpurc.org.uk
Hall & Room bookings	office@bhpurc.org.uk



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 27th November. All material for inclusion should be emailed to **newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk** by **Sunday 13th November**

On Tuesday 22nd November we hope to welcome J. John and his team as a pastorate at Christ Church. J. John will be speaking about sharing our faith story with others. As three supporting churches to the JustOne Emirates event, we hope that many members will invite family and friends along to the event in July 2017. If you need some motivation and help with how you can do this, do come along on the 22nd November from 7.30 – 9.00 pm. to hear J. John speak. To give you an idea of how he communicates, below is a monthly e-letter written by him.



Yours in Christ,

Henriette

Touch Wood

The other week I was struck by how two separate people, in the course of different meetings, reached out a finger to a table and a door and muttered, 'Touch wood!' It set me thinking and three questions came to mind.

The first, quite simply, is what does this superstition mean? In fact when you do a bit of digging around on the Internet, it turns out that no one absolutely knows for certain. 'Knocking on wood', as it is called in some countries, as a sort of supernatural insurance policy seems to be an almost global phenomenon

and there are all sorts of proposed explanations. Personally, I am taken with the suggestion that it reflects the belief that evil could be avoided by touching the wood of a cross representing the power of Jesus Christ.

The second question is more interesting: why does such a superstition still persist in our modern age? After all, the people I heard uttering 'touch wood' were educated, intelligent people yet they were utterly confident that they were touching wood to avoid bad luck. I suggest that many people have a spiritual awareness which mixed with uncertainty and

fear fuels the leaning towards anything superstitious.

The third question arises: is the practice of 'touching wood' a good or bad thing. Well if you are a Christian, muttering 'touch wood' is clearly not necessary. You have no need for such superstitions; after all God, our heavenly parent, is in control of your existence. I am reminded of the lines from an old hymn 'In Christ Alone': 'No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.' Exactly! It is Jesus who commands and controls what happens in our life. We are in the safest of hands.

And if you're not a Christian? Well I'd suggest that you think about why you say 'touch wood'. You see, to perform this little ritual is to

make an admission; it is to concede that you are not the master of your own destiny. Whether this superstition originally meant to reach out to a wooden cross I don't know. Honestly, even if it was the authentic cross of Christ, touching it wouldn't do you any good. That's not how things work. But if, facing an uncertain future, you reach out in faith, not to the cross but to the One on it, that's a very different matter.

To put your life under the control of the God who in Christ loved you so much he died for you is, quite simply, the only safe way to face the future.

J.John

(From: J. John and Philo Trust, October 2016)

WHO IS J.JOHN?

J.JOHN HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS REFRESHING, HUMOROUS, PASSIONATE, ACCESSIBLE, EARTHY AND DYNAMIC.



Smile Lines

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

Cheese

Ban sliced cheese. Make Britain grate again.

Did Noah fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

As for those signs found outside churches:

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Outside one church is a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed. A headline reads: 'For fast relief, take two tablets.'

'This is the House of God, This is the gate of Heaven.'
(This door is locked in winter months.)

Thursday at 10am there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All those wishing to become Little Mothers please see our new minister in the vicarage....

Here is the News

Harvest collection

Thanks to the generosity of those attending the Harvest Festival, 35.6 kg of goods were delivered to the North Enfield Food Bank to help those less fortunate in our part of the Borough.



Church Decorations

On Saturday 26th November from 9am please come to the church to decorate it ready for Christmas. Advent starts the next day and this is a great opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit. There will be Christmas music playing, tea, coffee, Stollen cake and maybe even some mulled wine. All welcome - the more the merrier!



Hurricane Matthew

A powerful hurricane hit Haiti in early October, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. The UN says Haiti is now facing its worst humanitarian crisis since the devastating earthquake in 2010.

Christian Aid has launched an emergency appeal to help people recover and rebuild their homes and livelihoods. We had a collection after one service and raised £50 which the church matched to send £100. Thank you to all who donated to this, if you were not at the service and would like to give please go to www.christianaid.org.uk and choose "Hurricane Matthew Appeal" from the "Emergencies" menu.



Pen a prayer for 2018 handbook

Could you write for the United Reformed Church's (URC) prayer handbook? In the past, prayers were commissioned for the popular collection of lectionary-based prayers and meditations – but a new approach was adopted for the 2017 handbook by including non-commissioned prayers for the first time. And the same will happen for the 2018 edition.



Prayers are needed from people of all ages, nationalities and Christian traditions. For further details, and guidelines for non-commissioned prayers, visit the URC website www.urc.org.uk and search for “prayer handbook”.

The deadline for submissions is 28 November 2016. The 2017 prayer handbook, Feasts and festivals, is available now from the URC's online store.

The Breakfast Club

Christ Church's Bible study and prayer group will meet on Saturdays 5th and 19th November from 9:00am to 10:30am in the Elders Vestry at Christ Church (accessible through the side door on Christ Church Close). All are welcome to come and join us as we explore God's Word and enjoy some breakfast together.

Christ Church Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 19th November from 11:00am to 2:00pm in the hall at Christ Church URC. Entrance 20p

Lots of stalls including cakes and sweets, craft items, gifts, books, raffle, tombola, games/activities for children, and more! Lunches and refreshments will be available throughout.

Lancaster Road also have a bazaar on Saturday 5th, see page 17 for details.

As the numbers in prison soar - Prisons Week, 40 years on

Prisons Week celebrates 40 years of existence this November – and with more reason to exist than ever.

England and Wales together have a prison population of about 85,000 – one of the highest percentages in Europe. Even more strikingly, we have nearly 100,000 children with a parent in prison.

The week, which runs from 16th to 22nd November, was started by an ecumenical group. It included different denominations and faith-based charities working in the Justice system. It now has 19 supporting organisations, encouraging prayer not only for the prisoners, but their families, victims of crime, and prison staff.

Throughout the country, events are organised by prison chaplains, those who work with them and local churches. Some 80,000 prayer leaflets have been printed, and the focus this year is on building hope.

With prison populations more than doubling in the last 20 years, suicides rising 69% in the last year and a 30% decrease in prison officers in the last three years, these are uniquely difficult times for everyone involved in the criminal justice system.

A Prisons Week spokesperson said: “The Prison Service is facing huge challenges, with record populations and many prisons suffering from overcrowding.

“There has also been a 37% surge in serious assaults on prison staff. We need to reduce the levels of distress and despair.”



Aberfan remembered

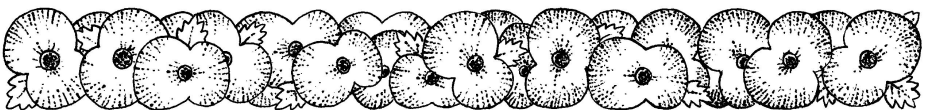
My husband, Fred, and I have talked quite a bit this week about the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster when 116 school children died as a result of a colliery tip sliding downhill. Fred was born in a South Wales mining village and can remember the tips surrounding Garnant. His grandfather, Tom, was a miner who was seriously injured in a pit accident and never worked again. He died 3 years later aged 37.



Fred's grandmother married again. Her second husband, Jim, worked the winding gear which took the miners down to the coalface and brought the coal back to the surface. Jim was in the army during the First World War and was stationed in Palestine. We have Jim's Soldier's Bible in which he pressed some wild flowers, purported to have been picked in the Garden of Gethsemane. We also have his First World War medals.

Mining communities over the years have always had to face up to the possibility of losing their menfolk to pit accidents but losing almost all their children like that in Aberfan was a dreadful tragedy. They still need our prayers.

Evelyn Rolph



JustOne

On Saturday 8th July 2017, over 40,000 people of all ages will gather at the Emirates Stadium.

JustOne at Emirates Stadium is a one day event, bringing people together from all walks of life to celebrate the Christian faith and to give them an opportunity to hear the good news about Jesus Christ.



JustOne will enable 20,000 people to invite 'just one' - a relative, friend, neighbour, or colleague. Who will you invite?

Evangelism Training Evening with J. John

Tuesday 22nd November

7:30pm to 9pm at Christ Church URC

An evening to equip members of the congregations in local churches to prepare them for JustOne Emirates on Saturday 8th July 2017



Diary

November

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

The diary is also online at www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

Sat 5th	10:30am	Lancaster Road URC's Fireworks Bazaar in their hall on Armfield Road, see p17
Sun 6th	10:00am 10:30am	Prayers in the church Communion with Christine Hall
Sun 13th	10:30am 6:00pm	Remembrance Parade with Rev Henriette Wentink Sunday Evening Reflection
Sat 19th	11:00am	Christchurch URC's Christmas Bazaar, see p7
Sun 20th	10:30am	Worship with Michaela Lawrence
Tue 22nd	7:30pm	J. John event at Christ Church, see p10
Thur 24th	7:45pm	Church Meeting
Sat 26th	9:00am	Come and decorate the church for Christmas
Sun 27th	10:30am	Advent Worship with Jill Nugent

Next newsletter deadline
Sunday 13th November

Prayer Diary

NOVEMBER 2016

Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

Tuesday 1st

For those who are prisoners

Wednesday 2nd

Firs Park Avenue

Thursday 3rd

Persecuted church in North Korea

Friday 4th

Opportunities to share our faith

Saturday 5th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 6th

Thanks for Christian organizations providing aid when disasters strike

Monday 7th

Matthew & Anthony Witter

Tuesday 8th

For victims of crime

Wednesday 9th

Fotheringham Road

Thursday 10th

Persecuted church in Iran

Friday 11th

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 12th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 13th

Give thanks for those who help with Kings Club and TWS

Monday 14th

Eira, Richard & Daniel Bacon

Tuesday 15th

For children with a parent in prison

Wednesday 16th

Haileybury Avenue

Thursday 17th

Persecuted church in Afghanistan

Friday 18th

Karam, our sponsored child in Bethlehem

Saturday 19th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 20th

Thanks for answered prayers

Monday 21st

Alison Bartram

Tuesday 22nd

For those who work in prisons

Wednesday 23rd

Harman Road

Thursday 24th

Persecuted church in Somalia

Friday 25th

The courage to invite someone to church

Saturday 26th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 27th

Thanks for our young people and all children who visit our church and its buildings

Monday 28th

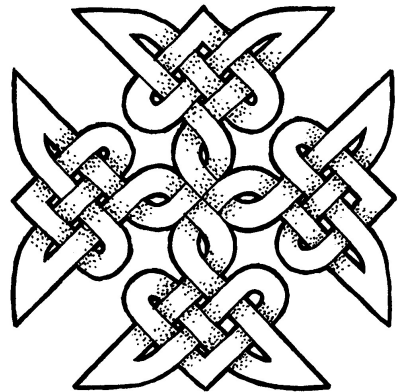
Jane, Howard, Harriet & Tom Brown

Tuesday 29th

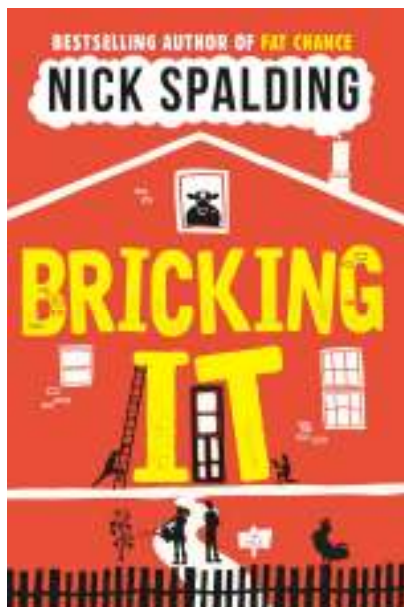
For all working in the criminal justice system

Wednesday 30th

Harrow Avenue



Book Club



'Bricking It' by Nick Spalding.

Well, this was something different a clever concept! Once you got over bad language and we did discuss why modern writers think it is so important to use it constantly, it was a very funny read.

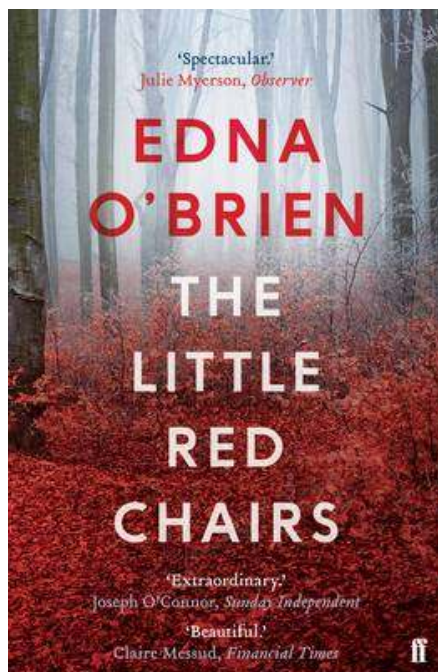
A sister and brother in their twenties inherit a derelict Victorian farmhouse from their Grandmother, the widow of a Vicar. They decide to restore it, having to borrow large amounts of cash to do this, and then sell it off at an enormous profit.

We are with them all the way as the costs increase. There are digs at some of the TV programmes which follow this theme but the secret they find is well, embarrassing to say the least!

Something very different we thought.

We meet next on the 7th November having read 'The Little Red Chairs' by Edna O'Brien – a well-known author we have not tackled at Book Club before.

Sylvia Page



How to treat our enemies

During this month we remember those who have heroically given their lives in war. However, Jesus calls us all to a radical heroism: 'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:43-45).

Love Your Enemies: Our 'enemies' are not always life-threatening; they can simply be impatient, judgmental, self-righteous or just plain disagreeable! Whether the conflict is with a family or church member, work colleague or spiteful neighbour, our attitude toward them must be one of love. We will naturally want to retaliate, but Jesus commands us to love!

Pray for Your Persecutors: It's only when we are ready to pray for someone we don't get on with, that God can soften our attitude towards them. Like us, they are those in need of God's forgiveness and grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor executed by the Nazis at the end of World War 2, wrote:

"This is the supreme demand. Through the medium of prayer we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. For if we pray for them, we are taking their distress and poverty, their guilt and perdition upon ourselves and pleading to God for them."

Become More Like Jesus: When we start loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors, we become more like Jesus. This is how Jesus lived; He willingly laid down his life for us and gives us the power to love our enemies as He did.

In this season of Remembrance, when we recognise that we all need heroes, what is the call to radical heroism in our own life?

Rev Paul Hardingham

Rotas

	Door welcome	Reader	Tea & Coffee	Flowers	Sound room
6th	Kath	Sylvia	Jill	Lisa	
13th	Alison	Brigades	Ivy & Jane	John	Robin & Lisa
20th	Alison	Sue	Valerie	Alison	
27th	Evelyn	Judith	Yvonne & Jill	Sylvia	Tony

If you can fill in the gaps above please put your name in the sheet on the wall in the lounge.

If you would like to do any of the above but feel you'd need a little guidance first please talk to Lisa, she'll make sure you find the right person. The sound room is easier than you think - go on, volunteer!



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system

Lancaster Road URC present a

FIREWORK BAZAAR



Saturday 5th November 2016

10:30 – 2:30pm



At Armfield Road Church Hall

Entrance 30p

**Delicious lunches and snacks
served all day plus**

**Bric-a brac, Homemade Cakes and Sweets, Plants,
Crafts, Books, Raffle, Gifts, Tombola, Stationery,
Jewellery, Crafty Corner for the children,
Face-Painting**

Why not come along and pick up a bargain!!

Make a good Will gesture to be proud of

Nobody likes to think about dying, but it seems that in the UK we are particularly bad about confronting its inevitability.

So Will Aid is a charity drive that targets the huge amount of Britons who haven't yet made a Will. For the month of November, it offers you the chance to make a basic Will with a solicitor – and donate a small sum to charity in exchange for the service.



A Will tells your loved ones two very important things in the event of your death:

who should have your money, property and possessions; and who will be in charge of following the instructions you leave - your executor. Without this information, the law decides how your estate is passed on – and this may not be in line with your wishes!

Since being founded in 1988, Will Aid has enabled legal firms to raise over £17 million for nine of the UK's favourite charities: ActionAid, Age UK, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, NSPCC, Save the Children, Sightsavers, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (N. Ireland).



At the same time, the campaign has encouraged and helped thousands of people to write their Will. So if you do not have a Will and think it is time you did, visit www.willaid.org.uk

Prayer

Forgive me, Lord, for what I do

Forgive me, Lord,

but I don't know who I am.

Am I like a gambler, gambling with my faith

believing that a little bit of clothing

is all I need to wear?

Am I like a spectator, standing at a distance,

watching injustice unfold

without a word of protest?

Am I like a passerby, listening to the scoffers,

hoping that the crucified

will save themselves from death?

Am I like an enemy, shouting with the mockers,

teasing the persecuted

with cheap wine no one wants to drink?

Forgive me, Lord,

I don't know who I am.

Help me, Lord, to find the you in me

Richard Becher

From the URC prayer handbook 2016 for 20th November looking at Luke 23:33-43

Ed: I hope to include a prayer from the URC prayer handbook each month, if you have a prayer you would like put in the newsletter instead (or indeed as well as...) do email it to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk. If you want it in a particular month make sure you meet the deadline for that month, usually the second Sunday of the month. Thanks.

Boys' Brigade News

Since starting back in September we have been very busy indeed. Before the session even started we were offered free places for our Senior lads to spend a day at Bisley Rifle Club. There they got the chance to shoot a range of rifles from a World War Two Lee Enfield Rifle, to a modern sniper rifle with scope.

While one group was on the range shooting, the others were at the 'butts' controlling and marking the targets. It was quite an amazing experience and fully enjoyed by all.

We have two groups of D of E lads at the moment. A bronze group consisting of Dan & John May, James Cutts and Daniel Parsons, and a silver group consisting of Tom Brown, Joseph Nicholaides, Daniel Bacon and Nnamdi Onyewgra. During September, we took both groups away for the weekend for them to practice their expedition. Both groups walked different routes on each day but they all camped in the Rushbrook camping and caravan park. As with all expeditions, they had to cook for themselves.

On the weekend of Saturday 1st & 2nd October, we took the bronze group to the Chiltern Hills for the expedition assessment. This time they would have a D of E assessor checking up on them at random points. Their navigation was spot on all weekend. However on day one, they did experience a massive rain and thunder storm. It rained so hard for a good hour, making the conditions during their last hour of walking quite difficult. Despite this, they arrived at the campsite and set up camp and cooked a hot evening meal.

On day two, they all arrived at the end location looking very pleased with themselves. The assessor passed them and was very pleased with their navigation but he was also very impressed with the support and friendship they gave each other during the expedition.

Our silver group are setting off on their assessment to Mid Wales during half term. They will be getting the train (well three trains) all the way from London to Mid Wales, ready to start their three day expedition.

While I am writing this, the group has not gone yet, so I can't report on how it went, but we wish them the best of luck.

On Mondays we have had good attendance since we started back. Our newest lads have been learning the basics in being able to play a brass instrument. They have picked it up very quickly and are already sounding really great.

Our middle lads have been designing and making their own T-shirts. They spent two weeks in the design process and then another two weeks actually printing and making the T-shirts. The final week saw them presenting their T-shirt to a panel of judges. They had to set a sale price and pitch who they think would buy their design.

Some of our Seniors have been doing cooking, while both groups of D of E lads have been working on their D of E expedition or presentations.

Every Monday all the lads are also inspected, and their uniform marked, plus they all do drill practice and have a full games session.

On Thursdays I have been running our fitness training session which is attended regularly by six lads and three staff.

During Half term we are taking all the lads to Quasar in Hemel Hempstead for a fun game of laser tag. After half term everyone will start new badge classes for the following half of the term.

Andrew Caddies



Wordsearch

Remembrance Day this year will have a special significance. It comes almost exactly a century after the Battle of the Somme finally ground to its inconclusive end (18th November). The unbelievable slaughter of the Somme – more than a million men were killed or wounded – made it perhaps the bloodiest battle of history. The incessant bombardment of heavy artillery, the suicidal waves of attack by unprotected soldiers, the introduction of the first tanks in battle, all contributed to the vast number of casualties. So did the pointless efforts of both sides to break what was in fact a five month stalemate. This was a battle nobody won but a million men lost. 100 years on, we shall remember them.

Remembrance	Day	Significance	Century	Battle
Inconclusive	Somme	Slaughter	Million	Killed
Bombardment	Wounded	Bloodiest	History	Heavy

Artillery
Suicidal
Waves
Attack
Soldiers

Tanks
Casualties
Pointless
Stalemate
Remember
them



The Doctor and the Sick



THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.



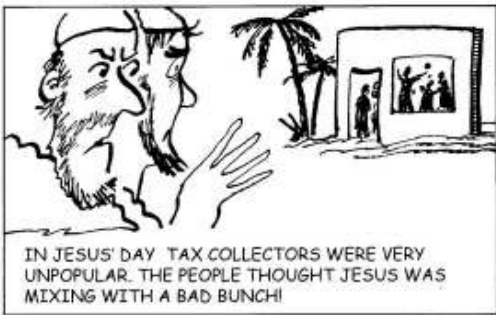
ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!



SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32

Weekly Activities

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	9.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	6.15pm	Girls' Brigade Explorers & Juniors
	7.40pm	Girls' Brigade Seniors & Brigaders
Thursday	7.30pm	Boys' Brigade Company Section circuit training (when advised)
Friday	9.15am	Prayers in the Hall, open from 9 for a chat first
	9.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	6.00pm	Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys
	7.30pm	TwS@bhpurc
Saturday	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast (2nd Saturday)
Sunday	10.00am	Prayers (1st Sunday)
	10.30am	Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)
	6.00pm	Sunday Evening Reflection (2nd Sunday)

