

September 2017



God provides

Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
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Boys Brigade	bb@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 24th September. All material for inclusion should be emailed to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk by **Sunday 10th September.**

This month we return to a more normal routine after the summer. You can see what dates each church activity restarts in the diary on page 11. Before we get too far into autumn, why not relive part of the summer by reading the wonderfully engaging article about Boys Brigade camp, complete with photos. You can almost feel the rain! Go to page 18 to hear all about it.

September marks 20 years since the funeral of Princess Diana. Recently Prince William described how his mother's death was like an earthquake, the shockwaves taking time to sink in. When we remember the days leading up to the funeral, the whole nation seemed touched by her death. Over 32 million people watched the funeral on television. As we look back to this event, what is its continuing significance?

As those made in the image of God, we are called to reach out to show love to others. 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.' (1 John 4:7). Princess Diana did this, especially the vulnerable in our society, remembering especially her work with AIDS sufferers and landmine victims. However, she was also a flawed individual, who fought various 'demons' in her own life and struggled with relationships. People identified with her humanity as one like us: fallible, weak yet more than good enough.

There is always something powerful about vulnerability in

others; we can identify with them because, like us, they don't have it all together. God uses flawed people in his purposes, as we clearly see in the pages of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul, to mention just a few!

Ironically, Mother Theresa died the day before Diana's funeral. Again, she was somebody who was much loved for her work among the poor. However, despite being declared a saint last year, she openly talked about the vulnerability of her faith. Mother Teresa revealed that she spent nearly 50 years without a tangible feeling of God's presence in her life! It's not easy to be a perfect saint!

'I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.' (Princess Diana).

In the spirit of loving our neighbours, this harvest we are once again collecting food for the foodbank, see page 5 for full details.

Lisa

Smile Lines

Signs that say it all

On a maternity room door:
Push. Push. Push.

At an optometrist's office:
If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

Seen on a bin lorry:
Satisfaction guaranteed, or double your rubbish back!

On a church door:
This is the gate of heaven. Enter ye all by this door.
(This door is kept locked because of the draught. Please use side door.)

Sign warning of quicksand:
Quicksand. Any person passing this point will be drowned.
By order of the District Council.

In an office:
After tea break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Oldest computer

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. Not surprisingly, it was an Apple. But it had an extremely limited memory: just one byte, and everything crashed.

Begin with...?

From a church newssheet: The church council meeting on Tuesday will be gin with prayer.

Holly's Story

"The people at the foodbank were wonderful, they understood and saved us."



Having always worked and never claimed benefits, Holly, 29, from Chichester was bringing up her four-year-old daughter, Phoebe alone. She was determined to give her the best possible start in life, but when Phoebe suddenly fell ill, Holly was forced to turn to a foodbank for help.

The council flat that Holly was living in was in a deprived area with drug dealing and dog fouling taking place in the corridor outside her door. Holly was adamant that her daughter should have a better environment to grow up in and was offered alternative accommodation near her parents but at double the cost. As well as borrowing money from her parents to meet the cost, Holly was working part time. At the same time, she had been selling second-hand clothes online and the shop she was working in noticed its success and offered her a space selling clothes in their shop.

Under normal circumstances, Holly could just about scrape by, but when her daughter became poorly and had to spend three weeks in hospital, she was forced to close the shop temporarily. When Phoebe recovered, they returned home to empty kitchen cupboards, bills racking up and no income to support them.

Holly felt unable to ask her family for help again and after discussions with the local Citizens Advice Bureau she was referred to the foodbank.

Holly said: "The people at the foodbank were wonderful, they understood and saved us." Although Holly's situation is still precarious, knowing the foodbank is there in an emergency is a huge weight off her shoulders.

Our Harvest celebration on 17th September at 10:30am will have a food collection for the North Enfield Food Bank, located just off Lincoln Road. Items which are in need are: Tinned tomatoes, Tinned meat, Tinned fruit , Tinned Vegetables, UHT milk (1 litre), Coffee, Juice, Washing Powder, Deodorant, Shampoo, Pot Noodle, Jam, Meat Soup, Baby Toiletries, Squash, Custard and Rice pudding .

Here is the News

Henriette

Dear friends,

Thank you all very much for the lovely send-off I received in June. Seeing so many of you at Christ Church on the 18th for my last service and at the lunch afterwards was truly wonderful. Your personal words and good wishes spoken out or written on cards, the individual gifts and the leaving presents from the churches have been received with much appreciation.

I have settled in well in Plymouth and as you may have heard, the induction service at Trinity in July was a joyful occasion. What a surprise to see Stephen, Jim and Mavis, Maureen and Philip there too! They brought with them a booklet with more good wishes, further gifts and some photos. Lovely memories to keep from Enfield.

May God bless you and keep you and guide you into the future.

Shalom,
Henriette.

Friends

A number of our friends are unwell at the moment but for privacy reasons I have not put their details here. If you would like to be kept up to date so you can pray, please email martin.hamblin@bhpurc.org.uk and ask to be added to our prayer chain email.

Al-Shurooq School update

The school we support in Bethlehem has sent us a Summer newsletter. The whole thing is pinned up in the lounge, here is just an excerpt. It is a quick and interesting read, just A4 double sided, do make the time to read about what they have been doing .

The Resource room and educational toy library

We are happy to announce the establishment of a resource room and the only educational toy library for visually impaired students. The resource room is equipped with all their needs of Braille Perkins, Braille paper, readers and other essential equipment necessary for their development. As for the library, it is the only library in the West Bank that is compatible to visual impairment. It provides children with access to stimulating play materials that help visually impaired children reach their potential by developing a strong foundation for learning and behaviour.



We sincerely appreciate the support of the McCabe Educational Trust in helping us achieve our mission by providing a better life for visually impaired children.



Students of Al-Shurooq enjoying their time at the toy library



MOVIE MOMENTS

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

Communal heroism

Christopher Nolan, the writer and director of *Dunkirk* describes the true event on which it is based as 'one of the greatest stories in human history'. Brilliantly bucking the trend of recent war films he does not resort to gore and special effects, as he provides an immersive experience that enables the viewer to empathise with the young soldiers in their apparently hopeless situation, trapped between the sea and the advancing German army.

By cleverly moving around the timeline, we experience the different perspectives on land, sea and air. Particularly powerful is the interplay between two characters on one of the small boats heading to Dunkirk. Cillian Murphy plays a shell-shocked soldier picked up from a torpedoed ship, on the outward journey, and desperate not to be taken back towards the beach. Previously having starring roles in Nolan films (*Inception*, *The Dark Knight*) here Murphy is credited only as 'Shivering Soldier', a nameless character representing the 338,000 beaten and demoralised men who were rescued. Also in the boat is the 17-year-old George (played by Barry Keoghan) who is the only character whose back-story is revealed, when he says he has never achieved anything but wants to do something valuable with his life. George's only skills appear to be making tea and carrying life-jackets, thus providing a poignant representation of the many ordinary people who joined together to make the Dunkirk evacuation possible.



Nolan says: 'as a group of people we can achieve so much more than we can individually', an important message for all of us. At that crucial time in history, King George VI called the nation to pray. As we pray for our nation today, perhaps God will open our eyes to see how we can each use our limited skills and resources for the common good.

**ETHOS
MEDIA**.org

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.

PHOTOS: Melinda Sue Gordon © 2017 WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Thanking God for our creatures, both great and small

4th October is World Animal Day – a good time for us to thank God for creating the animals which we love so much, and without whom our lives would be so much the poorer.

Do you have a story about a much-loved pet? Do you have a photograph of them? If you would like your story in the next newsletter please make it 200 words or less and send in a photo, to reach us by Sunday 10th September.

Here are some questions to help inspire you – only answer what you like!

What is/was your pet's name and what kind of animal is/was it?

What made you decide to have your pet?

Did your pet turn your lifestyle upside-down? How?

Did your pet do funny/smart things? What, exactly?

What one thing do you wish your pet did NOT do...

How did/does your pet express its affection for you?

What are/were the best moments of the day with your pet?

Why do you thank God for your pet? What difference has it made in your life?

Would you like our church to consider holding a Pet Service?

Would you like our church to support a local animal sanctuary in some way?



National
Prayer
Weekend



29 Sep - 1 Oct 2017

Prayer changes lives

Your street. Your community. **Your prayers!**
We believe that local people praying for their community
and neighbours can change lives.

'Prayer matters, and prayer changes everything. Because, as God changes us in prayer, He drives us out to be justice-seekers, peacemakers, healers and bringers of good news.'



Justin Welby,
Archbishop of
Canterbury

'If you're longing to see the kingdom of God come – not just in other parts of the world, but in your neighbourhood, with your friends, at the school gate, in your workplace – then get involved with the National Prayer Weekend.'



Pete Greig,
24-7 Prayer
co-founder

Find out more and join in at:
www.national-prayer-weekend.com



evangelical alliance
action network



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Diary

September

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

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

Sun 3rd	10:00am 10:30am	Prayers in the church Communion with Rev Barrie Thompson
Mon 4th	6:15pm	Boys Brigade Junior and Company sections restarts
Wed 6th	9:30am	Baby and Toddlers' Wednesday session restarts
Fri 8th	9:30am 6:00pm	Baby and Toddlers' Friday session restarts Anchor Boys' restarts
Sun 10th	10:30am 6:00pm	Morning worship with Lisa Hamblin Sunday Evening Reflection led by Sylvia Page
Tue 12th	8:00pm	House Group restarts
Wed 13th	6:15pm	Girls Brigade restarts
Sun 17th	10:30am	Harvest Worship and Parade led by Ray Pettipher
Sun 24th	10:30am	Worship with Laura Marlow
Fri 29th	All weekend	National Prayer weekend

Next newsletter deadline
Sunday 10th September

Prayer Diary

SEPTEMBER 2017

You are the light of the world.
A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14,16

Friday 1st

Crime reduction initiatives

Saturday 2nd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 3rd

Give thanks for our homes & the shelter we have

Monday 4th

Sue Stubbs

Tuesday 5th

That we as a fellowship will be open to the guiding of the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday 6th

Cross Road

Thursday 7th

For our Queen

Friday 8th

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 9th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 10th

Thanks for all the benefits we enjoy living in England

Monday 11st

John Smith

Tuesday 12th

The leadership of the church and its organisations

Wednesday 13th

Delhi Road

Thursday 14th

For our Chancellor of the Ex-chequer

Friday 15th

Those caring for vulnerable adults and the charities which help

Saturday 16th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 17th

Thanks for what we harvest and can share with others

Monday 18th

Vicky, Wayne, Jude, Owen and Tilly Thompson

Tuesday 19th

That people will earnestly pray about their role in the church and if they are being led to take a more active part in the life of the church and its mission

Wednesday 20th

Dimsdale Drive

Thursday 21st

For the Leader of the House of Lords

Friday 22nd

Children and staff at Al-Shurooq School in Bethlehem who we support as a church

Saturday 23rd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 24th

Thanks for those who love us and share our lives

Monday 25th

Margaret Trevallion

Tuesday 26th

For the future of our church and fellowship

Wednesday 27th

Downs Road

Thursday 28th

The United Nations and their work as peacekeepers

Friday 29th

Those suffering from Alzheimer's and the charities who seek to find a cure

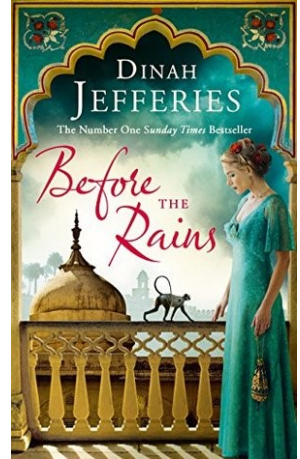
Saturday 30th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Book Club

Before the Rains by Dinah Jefferies.

Set in India in the 1930s, this gave us insight into the British rule pre-Mountbatten. Being descriptive we experienced the sunrise over Rajputana and the coming of the Monsoon at Udaipore. This is seen through the lives of a young widow from Britain who was contracted by the British Government to stay with the Maharajah and his family in his Palace to take photographs of their lives during a year. She meets Jayant the Maharajah's younger brother and there is instant attraction.



We experienced the injustices of life for women in those times; especially when the practice of sati had been banned by Queen Victoria but was found to continue. (For those who do not wish to get out the dictionary, this is the self-sacrifice of a widow onto her husband's funeral pyre or being thrown there by others.)

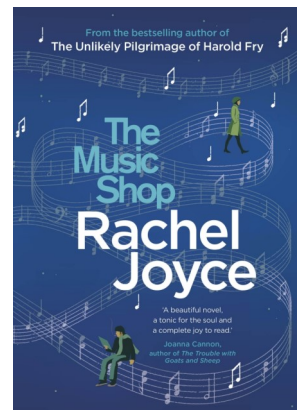
OK, somewhat contrived and lengthy in places it is a good read. There is the usual twist at the end.

Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

This was brutal in places. Fiction based on fact of the attempt by a cotton plantation slave Cora to become free. This is not an easy read and definitely not a book to pick up before sleep! OK, we admit it, two of us did not complete because it became too unsettling. Perhaps because of the frame of mind we were in at the time. The others did finish and agreed it was certainly thought-provoking; an interesting read.

We next meet on Monday 18th September having read 'The Music Shop' by Rachel Joyce.

Sylvia Page



China opens its arms to the Bible – with 30 years help from Bible Society

Just over 40 years ago, the Bible was a banned book in China. But today, in this largely atheist country, the Bible is a best seller. In China today, you will find churches so full that their congregants spill out on the pavement. Those in rural areas often walk for hours just to attend a service, while more and more city-dwellers can be found in churches – both underground and state-run – on a Sunday morning.

What's more, copies of the Bible – once a banned book in China – are now within reach through local churches and specially-licensed bookshops. And those Bibles are desperately needed. As one Chinese Christian explains: 'The fire of revival has been burning in China for 30 years. But if we want it to keep burning, we need to feed it with God's word.'

It's a remarkable story. And over the last 30 years, the Bible Society has been at the heart of it. Over decades, through working with the registered Church, they have carved out a unique ministry in China. For it was back in 1987, in response to requests from Chinese church leaders, that Bible Society helped to establish the Amity Printing Company. In 2008, it moved to a larger, upgraded facility, the size of 12 football pitches and with the capacity to print 20 million Bibles a year. It's now the world's biggest Bible printing factory!

Bible Society is still hard at work, printing and distributing Bibles across the country, helping to strengthen the roots of the Chinese Church, and to help new believers grow into mature followers of Jesus.

Here's just some of the numbers that describe the Bible Society's work in China:

68 million Chinese Bibles printed from its press since 1987.

55,000 local churches with whom it is connected.

77 distribution centres from which it bases itself.

48 Bible vans taking Bibles wherever they need to go.

Rotas

	Door welcome	Reader	Tea & Coffee	Flowers	Sound room
7th	Alison	Robin H	Jill	Kath	
14th	Evelyn	Bill	Jane & Ivy		Tony
21st	Kath	Anne	Valerie		Tony
28th		Bill	Sylvia	Diann	

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!



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

Prayer

Manna – what is it?

Provider God,
for frozen, filleted and packaged,
baked, boiled and breaded,
farmed, smoked or netted –
for this food we give you thanks.

For fresh, juicy and ripe,
all colours, smells and type,
from far flung nations bright –
for this food we give you thanks.

For warm, floury and sliced,
buttered, toasted or iced,
by smell we're all enticed –
for this food we give you thanks.

**When we have eaten and are satisfied,
We praise you, Lord, for all you provide.**

Tim Yau

From the URC prayer handbook 2016 for 25th September (Harvest) looking at
Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Ed: 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

Well that seemed like a very quick (and wet) summer. It feels like only yesterday that I got back from camp, and I am already writing about September.

Were to begin? Well let's look back to before the summer. We held our annual Jumble Sale. This year we had more stuff to sell than ever before. We had spent two weeks driving around the local area collecting random jumble from people. On the day of the sale itself, there was a queue outside from 8.30 in the morning! (The doors did not open till 10am)

It was a very successful sale and all the money raised went to directly fund and subsidise camp for the boys. Things aren't cheap these days, so it is very important we maintain our fundraising to enable us to do different and exciting things at camp, while keeping the cost of camp itself as low as possible. A huge thank you to everyone who donated jumble, helped collect the jumble, delivered leaflets, helped sell on the day or came and bought items. Everyone's contribution helped to make the morning a great success.

At the end of July we all went away on our annual camp. This year we went back to our usual campsite in Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. On Saturday 22nd July we all met in the car park at 7.30am ready to set off to the ferry port. This year's theme was 'Lord of the Rings'

Everyone had dressed up in a range of costume, depicting different characters from the film. The big lorry containing all the equipment had travelled down the night before.

At the M25 the annual camp album was put into the CD player and we pumped out some great music for the journey. We also produce a camp magazine called "second Thoughts" for the lads to read on their journey to camp. It's a very factual, serious and highly intellectual magazine - yer right, you know our sense of humour. The jokes and witty banter keeps the lads entertained for the journey.

Arriving at the ferry port and boarding the ferry in our fancy dress is always an interesting moment - when you get the looks of disbelief from the other people on board. Sitting in a full Gandalf outfit, drinking a coffee amused so many people.

By the time we reached the island, the sky had decided to open and the rain started. The rain stopped again the following Saturday when we left. Well that's a bit of an exaggeration. The weather, as I am sure you can imagine was wet. Very wet. And it was not normal rain, but like a monsoon rain storm that lasted forever!

Anyhow, the rain did not dampen (pun intended) our spirits and we just got on with camp. The rain did not let up all day or all night for the first 2 days. However we still managed to do most of our planned activities (even water fights!) as rain does not stop you having fun.

On Monday morning it started to clear so we were where able to do a range of field activities. In the afternoon the lads took part in a coastal race, which saw them race along the coast, cross a bay in canoes and then tunnel through wet sand for a meter on a beach, before running back to the camp site. On Tuesday we had the best weather of the week, it was a very hot and sunny, which was lucky as we wanted to go to the beach for our beach parade and Olympics day.



With good weather we set off on our parade (in fancy dress) though the public campsites and onto the beach.

We had a good beach Olympics with still no one beating me at the Burpo drinking competition!

In the afternoon we had a theme afternoon, which saw the tents visit Golems cave, elf archery, escaping shelobs (spider) web and visiting the prancing pony. There was also a grand siege that everyone took place in.

The nice weather did not last and it was back to monsoon rain from Wednesday, which was ok as we were doing a cross island, bike ride that day. We had bikes for everyone delivered to the field and then we set off! Once we had navigated a very long uphill section, it was plain sailing downhill into the town and the along a disused railway line, right across the island. The rail added to the excitement and made skidding even more fun.

During the week we kept the lads very busy and I can't write about everything. We had a Football competition, Wallyball tournaments, a three miles long challenge course (in the rain), games in the sea and dinghies, large puzzles, slippery pole, a wet walk, Balloon games and loads of other things. We also had lots of night activities. The lunch time quiz this year was 'Pointless' and was very entertaining.

At the end of the week we took the lads coasteering, where you jump off cliffs into the sea (with a proper instructor - it wasn't a DIY session). However, due to the increasing size of the waves, it was unsafe to do that activity. So they took us sea kayaking, which was great fun on such big waves.

Even that was hard work, so we went to the coast and had one of the best times being knocked about in the waves. It was unbelievable good fun!



Despite the weather, all the lads still had a fantastic time, and were very understanding and supportive when we suddenly had to rearrange something due to the rain. I was very impressed with all the lads, as not one of them became miserable or moaned about the weather. We stuck it out and had a fantastic week. Everyone came home very tired and very muddy.

And now we are fully up to date. We all start back to BB the week of September the 11th and are looking forward to a packed programme of events. There will be our normal trips away in the coming months as well as many competitions.

Finally, if you know anyone with a child aged from 5 - 18 who would be interested in joining the boys or girls brigade, please speak to any member of brigade staff. We are all as keen as ever to keep the companies alive and we want new members to join all the time.

Andrew Caddies



The vicar's scheme to make the church more appealing to men seemed to be having a degree of success

Wordsearch

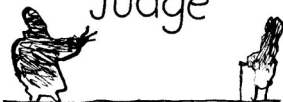
On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor, and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, 'They are Angles.' Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, 'They are not Angles, but angels!' He planned to go to England to evangelise the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory
History
Son
Roman
Senator
Converted
Young
Estates
Monasteries
Generous
Poor
Monk
English
Slaves
Angles
Angles
Plague
Pope
Apostle
elected

N	G	R	A	N	G	L	E	S	A	L	T
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G	O	P	L	A	G	U	E	O	N	E	Y
P	P	S	D	L	R	O	E	Y	N	R	E

The
Tale of the
**The Widow
and the
Judge**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

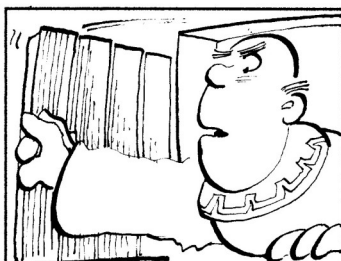
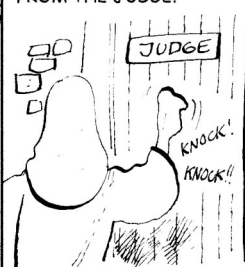


ONE WAS ABOUT A PROUD JUDGE...



...AND A POOR WIDOW

THE WIDOW NEEDED HELP
FROM THE JUDGE.



BUT HE WAS FAR TOO PROUD
AND BUSY TO LISTEN

BUT THE WIDOW
WOULD NOT GIVE UP



PLEASE COME AND SORT OUT
MY LEGAL PROBLEMS

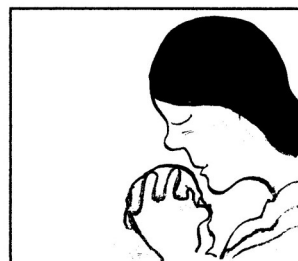


AT LAST THE JUDGE
GAVE IN - AND WENT
TO HELP THE WOMAN

I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE
YOU KEPT PESTERING ME!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'GOD IS
MUCH KINDER THAN THE JUDGE
- WE DON'T HAVE TO PESTER
GOD...



...HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS
WITHOUT OUR NAGGING HIM!

Weekly Activities

Monday	6.15pm	Boys' Brigade Junior Section
	7.30pm	Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
	8.00pm	Book Club (Once a month, see inside for date)
Tuesday	8.00pm	House group (2nd & 4th Tuesday)
Wednesday	9.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	6.15pm	Girls' Brigade
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
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)

