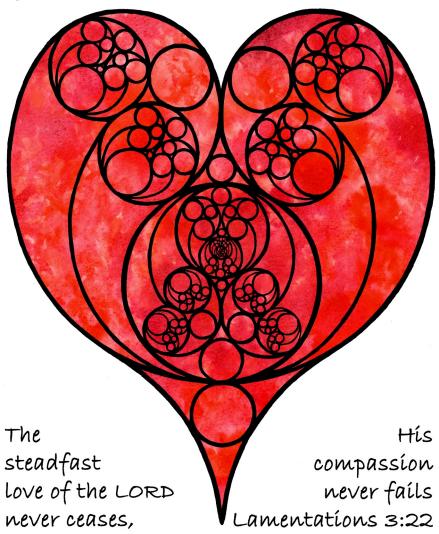


February 2018



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church 25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ www.bhpurc.org.uk

Who to contact

Serving Elders

Diann Nicolaides	020 8292 1094	diann.nicolaides@bhpurc.org.uk
John Vyse	020 8367 0362	john.vyse@bhpurc.org.uk
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Martin Hamblin (Treasurer	martin.hamblin@bhpurc.org.uk	
Robin Ward (Secretary)	07962 207 256	secretary@bhpurc.org.uk

Youth activities

Boys Brigade	bb@bhpurc.org.uk
Girls Brigade	gb@bhpurc.org.uk

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



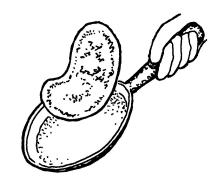
The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.

Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 25th February. All material for inclusion should be emailed to **newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk**) by **Sunday 11th February.**

This year Shrove Tuesday is on the 13th February, a day of preparation for Lent, the day before Ash Wednesday.

We think of it as "Pancake day", but to many Christian communities across the world Lent is known as a time of fasting or at least abstaining from our favourite foods. It a time to reflect on our past



sins. The world "Shrove" comes from the verb "to shrive", to hear someone's confession of sins. In the past it would have been the priest, or spiritual advisor that gave you absolution but in our tradition we receive prayer directly for forgiveness from our Lord God. Over 1000 years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes:

"In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him".

Looking for the meaning of the words, I found that the expression "short shift" derives from the word "shrove". To give someone "short shift" is to pay little or no attention to his problems or excuses.

Traditionally we use up all our old fat (by making pancakes) on Shrove Tuesday, which also has other names I was surprised to find. "Carnival" meaning without meat, "Mardi Gras" (in French, Mardi =Tuesday & Gras = fat as in "pate de foie gras").

As well as praying for forgiveness (I hope we don't do this just during Lent!), Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration. It's the last chance to

indulge yourself and to use the foods not allowed in Lent. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up, perhaps to remember our blessings or have more time with God by eating more simply. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent, foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shriving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes became

associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

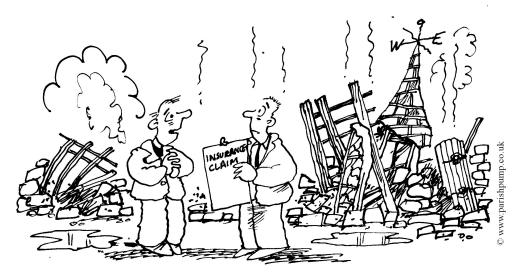
But please, during this time Lent remember the "Two P's" Penitence & Prayer.

Lynda Cook

Events are picking up at our church and beyond. The 5th Enfield Guides and Rangers have a Quiz Night, see page 23. A lent course led by Chris Hall starts at Ponders End URC on Thursday 15th February, see page 6. Women's Wold Day of Prayer, see page 18. There's Quiz night coming up at Lancaster Road URC to support the Night Shelter, see

page 10. And we have an exciting event lined up at the end of the month – the Boys' Brigade are hosting a Murder Mystery on Saturday 24th February, see page 20 and don't forget to get your tickets!

The few things I want to highlight in this newsletter are an update on our sponsored child, Elijah in Zambia on page 6, UK church size statistics on page 19 and a reminder that God keeps His promises on page 17. Of course there are other interesting bits too, I hope you enjoy it all.



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...

Smile Lines

Lights

Halfway through a romantic dinner, my husband smiled and said, 'You look so beautiful under these lights.' I was falling in love all over again when he added, 'We really should get some of these lights.'

Love

'Love is when a little old woman and a little old man are still friends, even after they've been married forever.' Tommy - age 6

Honeymooners

For our honeymoon, my fiancée and I chose a fashionable hotel known for its luxurious suites. When I called to make reservations, the desk clerk inquired, 'Is this for a special occasion?'

'Yes,' I replied. 'It's our honeymoon.'

'And how many adults will there be?' she asked.

Curiosity

A teacher was finishing a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. 'After all,' she declared, 'Where would we be today if no one had ever been curious?'

One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room. 'In the garden of Eden?'

Prayers

My 10 year-old niece says her prayers every night, but instead of 'amen', she says 'click, send.'

Here is the News

News from Beyond Ourselves

Your sponsorship enables us to provide quality education, access to basic medical care and a meal each school day to every child at the schools we partner with in Zambia. It is incredible to see the impact receiving these basic needs is having on both the children and their families. Children are stronger and healthier, achieving high grades and going on to High School with a great foundation. We are thrilled to have just celebrated the graduation of our first group of Grade 12 students.



Elijah lives with three other children and three adults in his home. He is cared for by his mother, Peg Mambwe. Elijah is responsible for washing the dishes. He enjoys reading at home. Apart from the staple diet of nshima (maize), Elijah enjoys eating pie. At school Elijah's favourite subject is literacy and one day he would like to be a firefighter. Elijah's favourite moment from the last school year was hosting visitors.

Thank you for joining us as we continue on the journey towards sustainable transformation for the pupils, staff and wider community.

Melissa and the Beyond Ourselves team



Another Story Must Begin

Based on the story of Les Miserables by Victor Hugo.

Through discussion of some of the themes and principle characters of this epic narrative we will explore the grace of God.



Starting at 2pm on February 15th at Ponders End URC setting the scene. Then every Thursday for five weeks finishing on 22nd March. Why not join us.

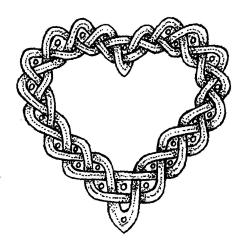
Chris Hall

Love is...

What do children know about love? When questioned, some four to eight year olds came up with the following:

When you're born and see your mummy for the first time. That's love.

Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.



If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who hates you.

Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.

I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.

You have to fall in love before you get married. Then when you're married, you just sit around and read books together.

I let my big sister pick on me because my Mum says she only picks on me because she loves me.

Love goes on even when you stop breathing, and you pick up where you left off when you reach Heaven.

Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying it.

When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.



BASED ON A TRUE STORY

MOLLY'S GAME



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

A higher purpose?

The real Molly Bloom, whose story is told in *Molly's Game*, says that despite her power and wealth she felt an 'emptiness'. She was successfully running high-stakes poker games in which millions of dollars changed hands. She was popular with the rich and famous. She had fast cars, shopping sprees, and more cash than most other twenty-somethings could ever dream of. But, she says, 'my definitions of success and ambition were off'.



If you are a fan of Aaron Sorkin's screenwriting (A Few Good Men, The West Wing, Steve Jobs etc) then you will love Molly's Game where, for the first time, he also directs the screenplay he has written. This enables him to dig deeply into Molly's character and to raise questions that are helpfully left hanging in the air. One such is whether morality is anything more than psychology.

Molly (played brilliantly by Jessica Chastain) is a complex character. She runs a game in which experienced regulars beat naive new punters, but she also counsels players to get out before they lose too much. She won't collect bad debts from people who can't afford it, and is thus forced into the position of operating illegally by taking a percentage of the pot. She resists dishing the dirt on players in order to protect their lives and preserve her reputation.

So, how does she decide right from wrong? Is there any objective basis for her ethics beyond her personal experience? It is significant that much of the action is framed between two arguments with her father (played by Kevin Costner), a psychotherapist, in which she resists psychoanalytical explanations for behaviour.



Reflecting on her life, as now told on the screen, the real Molly Bloom says 'I'm not going down the road again where I sell my soul... I'd like to use that skill set for a higher purpose.' Perhaps we might pray that she, and many others like her, will discover the creator God who provides the ultimate purpose for our lives, and an objective

basis for morality beyond our individual experience.



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



'Lenten Valentines'

During this month Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, share the same date! It seems an odd mix, yet there is an obvious link: love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning how to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. It's also an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit (1), where He was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the path of real love. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread. Love gets to the heart of human need, not just satisfying physical desires. Satan tempts Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is the beginning of love and results in sacrificial service to meet the needs of others. Finally, He is tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Only real love can change hearts by practical love and care.

Lent teaches us how to live out the love of God in practice, as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

Valentine was Christ's follower, committed to sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and was martyred on February 14th. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret. He also helped Christians in Rome during times of persecution. He demonstrated the importance of showing real love in action.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning.'

Rev Paul Hardingham

Lancaster Road United Reformed



Church



Winter Night Shelter for the Homeless.

Invites you to a QUIZ DINNER The Character

The Church Hall, 9 Armfield Road, EN2 0DH

On

Saturday 3rd March 2018

7 for 7:30 pm

Tickets at £10 each including a Fish and Chip Dinner (or Home Made vegetarian Quiche and salad).

Tickets from Mrs Beryl Woolley on 07950592454

You can also make a donation for Winter Night Shelter at www.give.net/WNS

All proceeds raised from this event will go towards the running costs of the Winter Night Shelter, for which we thank you for you generosity.

Diary

February

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

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

Sun 4th	10:00am 10:30am	Prayers in the church Communion with Martin Hamblin
Sun 11th	10:30am	Family Parade Service with Martin Wells
Wed 14th	7:45pm	Ash Wednesday Service at Ponders End URC with Chris Hall
Sun 18th	10:30am	Worship with Laura Marlow
Sat 24th	7:30pm	Murder Mystery in the hall, see page 20
Sun 25th	10:30am	Worship with John Stynes

el .

Next newsletter deadline Sunday 11th February

Prayer Diary

FEBRUARY 2018

Then Jesus declared,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me
will never go hungry,
and whoever believes in me
will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

Thursday 1st

Member of Parliament for Enfield, Southgate - David Burroughs

Friday 2nd

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

Saturday 3rd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 4th

Thanks for our Brigades as they help local girls and boys to learn useful skills

Monday 5th

Bill and Michelle Hanson

Tuesday 6th

Worship God for his majesty

Wednesday 7th

John Street

Thursday 8th

Member of Parliament for Edmonton - Kate Osamor

Friday 9th

The elderly and the charities seeking to provide information and help on health, money matters, friendships and more

Saturday 10th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 11th

Thanks for the small things people do to help us

Monday 12th

Anne and John Hatchett

Tuesday 13th

Worship God for his kindness

Ash Wednesday 14th

Kingsbury Place

Thursday 15th

Member of Parliament for Enfield North - Joan Ryan

Friday 16th

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 17th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 18th

Give thanks for our Elders

Monday 19th

Margaret and John Hitchcock

Tuesday 20th

Worship God for his faithfulness

Wednesday 21st

Ladbroke Road

Thursday 22nd

Local government decisions

Friday 23rd

Those suffering from motor neurons disease and the charities who seek to find a cure

Saturday 24th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 25th

Give thanks for good health

Monday 26th

Christine Hughes

Tuesday 27th

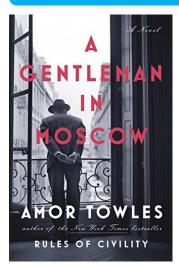
Worship God for his mercy

Wednesday 28th

Landseer Road



Book Club



A gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

This is a very strange book and a bit slow in its revelation of an interesting story.

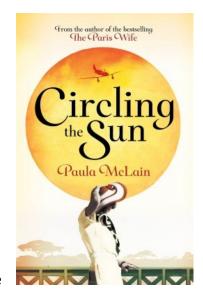
In 1922 Count Alexander Rostov, a young aristocrat of the 'Old School' in Russia, well-travelled in his past, is sentenced to live out the rest of his life under "house arrest" in the Metropol hotel in Moscow, following his "conviction" by a Bolshevik tribunal. He was convicted of being an unrepentant aristocrat and is stripped of his wealth by the new Bolshevik regime but ...

From one of the hotel's most prestigious guests, to becoming a member of the wait staff, Count Rostov manages his fall from grace with poise and dignity. He used to stay in a most luxurious suite but is sent to the attics unable to retain most of his furniture and fixtures which have come from his childhood home

In the early days he befriends Nina, a very serious child who is another hotel guest and he begins to see the present through her eyes all the while reminiscing on his former life. She has obtained a pass key to the hotel rooms and delights in taking him to parts he has never seen, yet he knows this hotel so well.

The years pass, and we will say no more here as you may wish to read it yourself. The characters evolve and we end in 1954.

We next meet on Monday 5th February having read 'Circling the Sun' by Paula McLain.

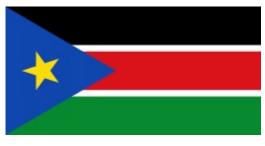


Sylvia Page

South Sudan

Pray

South Sudanese bishops have been urging their political leaders to think of their country before themselves, as South Sudan recently marked four years of a war with devastating consequences. It has left twothirds of the population in need



of aid, and created the largest exodus in Africa since the Rwandan genocide.

The Bishop of Wau, in South Sudan, the Rt Revd Moses Deng Bol, said he was praying for leaders, 'that they will put the interest of their people first... that they will embrace the rule of law instead of the current military mind-set; and that they be willing to hold those who have committed atrocities against civilians accountable.'

Hunger crisis set to intensify in 2018

Christian Aid has renewed its call for urgent action to stem alarming levels of hunger and malnutrition in South Sudan.

Ongoing violence and civil insecurity, which began in late 2013, have crippled South Sudan's economy, created catastrophic food shortages and forced four million people to abandon their homes. The UN recently warned that more than 1.9 million people in the country are displaced, with 1.2 million 'just one step away from famine'. In fact, food security experts predict that famine could occur in multiple locations in the country in 2018.

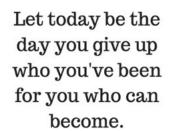
Progress towards sustainable peace is desperately needed. Meanwhile, the UK Government has recently announced an additional £52 million humanitarian package for South Sudanese communities affected by the conflict – including refugees and internally displaced people.

Rotas

	Door welcome	Reader	Tea & Coffee	Flowers	Sound room
4th	Evelyn	Sue	Yvonne	Yvonne	Robin H
11th	Kath	Judith	Ivy & Jane		Tony
18th	Alison	Sue	Valerie	lvy	Robin H
25th	Judith	Anne	Sylvia	Diann	Tony

Ponders End United reformed Church

College Court High Street Ponders End EN3 4EY



Blessed Ash Wednesday

14th February 2018

7:45 pm

Contact Chris Hall 020 8804 9652 for further details and parking arrangements

God is able to keep His promises

'Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.' (Romans 4:20,21).

How good are we at keeping our promises? Paul sppaks of a God who is able to keep His promises, not only to Abraham but also to ourselves.

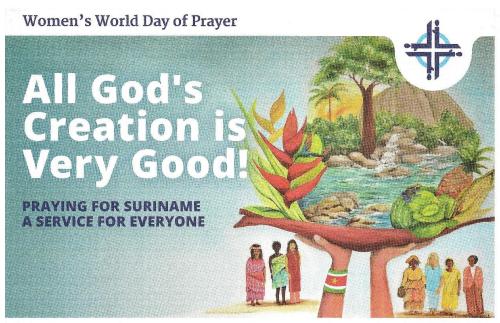
God promised a son to Abraham, who was 75-years-old, and his wife Sarah, who was barren. Faith faces the problem, but focuses on the promise. They trusted God's word, despite their age and bodies. Abraham was prepared to face the facts, as well as focusing on the promise. In an impossible situation, are we doing the same? What stands in the way of God's promises in our life?

Abraham was fully persuaded that God would keep His promise. Faith believes that God is able to fulfil His promises. Are we fully, or only partially, convinced of this truth? Abraham and Sarah had their own method (Hagar) to hasten God's promise. To what extent do we do the same? Is our faith growing weaker or stronger as a result?

Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for the arrival of Isaac. Faith believes that God is willing to fulfil His promise. Abraham was not just convinced that God is able to fulfil His promise; he believed that God is willing! What promises are we claiming from God's Word that have not yet been answered? God has a different timetable from us and delights in surprising us with how He answers!

'God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves.' (AW Tozer).

Rev Paul Hardingham



Friday 2nd March 2018

10.30am

Enfield Baptist Church

www.wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

The size of our congregations

The size of a congregation is significant in a number of ways. Larger churches, for example, have more resources, both in people and (usually) finance, to undertake more activities. It is surprising, though, just how many smaller churches have numerous activities being undertaken frequently by a dedicated army of often older people, faithfully labouring behind the scenes.

The number of congregations in England which are comprised of under 50 people is about half, or 54%. In the Church of England, about five per cent of these 'under 50' churches number only seven people, and about 25 per cent of these churches number 15 people.

Turning to the larger churches, across the 0.5% of largest churches, the attendance is 700 (excluding the six churches with attendance in four figures, two of which are in central London [HTB and All Souls]). Across the largest 5% the average congregation is 150, and across the largest 25% it is 60.

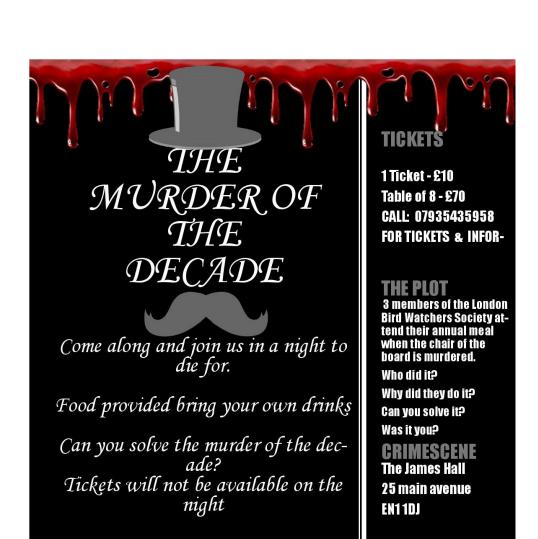
Across the whole country and across all denominations the median size of congregation is 44 people; which means that is there are almost 20,000

churches with fewer than that on a Sunday, while 20,000 have more.

In America, the size issue takes totally different dimensions, since there are probably about 1,500 "mega-churches", those with more than 2,000 on a Sunday. There are probably a further 15,000 what they call "medium-sized" churches, that is, with between 500 and 2,000 attenders, with something like 325,000 churches catering for 34 million churchgoers.

Dr Peter Brierley

Our Church Family



DATE & TIME Saturday 24th February Doors open:7pm

7:30pm start

BENFITING The Second Enfield Boys Brigade

Prayer

Temptation

For forty days Jesus was tempted by the devil.
Forty days? Is that all?
Keep us strong in the face of daily temptations:

whispered gossip, turning a blind eye, sharp words, lack of patience, false pride, old resentments, failure to forgive, sense of guilt, self-absorption, judgement of others, self-deprecation...

Help us not to be overwhelmed by weakness and failure; keep us confident in the knowledge that, whatever we face, we face it with you.

Melanie Smith

From the URC prayer handbook 2016 for 14th February looking at Luke 4:1-13

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.

Wordsearch

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through his death for us on the cross, and his resurrection, his love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good — unless we accept it!

Valentine Rose Romance Love Present Restaurant Hearts Kiss hug girlfriend boyfriend fiancé worship repentance angels baby temple Mary Candlemas presentation D C L E M A R Y B A B E S T R P L D T E M P L E D N E I R F L R I G N N N A P H L A I C R I E D P R E S E N T A T I O N E U N R T A A N N E L E S A T O I R E D S C C I S T A W G L A L S N É R I S N L A U E E A R O F K E C V O G H M H S A Y R R E M N V O A E O P O M O S A P R E S E N T B

Other local church activities

February

Date	Time	Activity	Location
3rd	7pm	5th Enfield Guides and Rangers Quiz Night	Armfield Road
4th	3pm	Tea and worship in the hall	Methodist
14th	2pm	Wednesday Fellowship Talk and Art - Lynda Clark	Methodist
14th	7:45pm	Blessed Ash Wednesday	Ponders End
19th	2:15pm	Friendship Club Walking and photography with Holiday Fellowship Holidays - Brenda Brown	Christchurch
22nd	10.30am	Community coffee morning	Methodist
28th	2pm	Wednesday Fellowship My late gap year - Bev Maydon	Methodist

Weekly

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Sun	6.30pm	Service (1st of the month is Café style, 4th of the month is Contemporary with the band)	Lancaster Road
Mon	10am 7.30pm 7.45pm	Ladies Bible Study English Conversation Club Prayer at Betty's (Fortnightly)	Living Room Living Room Methodist
Tues	10am 1.30pm	Tots and Toys Open House (Coffee and Chat)	Gospel Hall Living Room
Wed	9.45am	Bible Study (Fortnightly, next on 7th Feb)	Lancaster Road
Thurs	1pm	Back to Life (Support Group / Board Games) starts with lunch	Living Room
Fri	10am 4pm	Shoppers Coffee Morning EPIC (Club for kids in years 3-6)	Lancaster Road Gospel Hall
Sat	9am	Breakfast Club (1st and 3rd of the month)	Christchurch

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)

