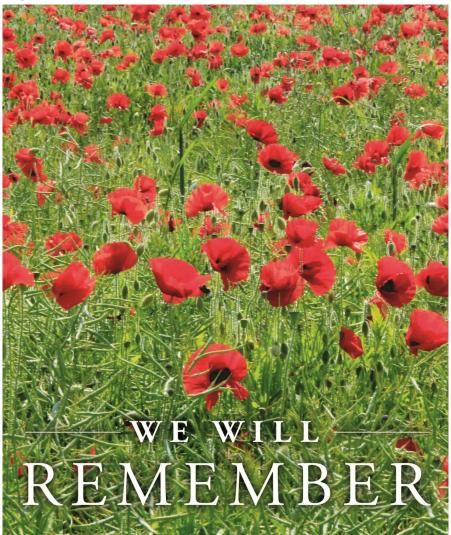


November 2018



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

# Who to contact

#### Minister

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#### **Serving Elders**

Diann Nicolaides020 8292 1094Lynda Cook07949 033 869Martin Hamblin (Treasurer)Robin Ward (Secretary)07962 207 256

#### Youth activities

Boys Brigade Girls Brigade

#### **Other activities**

Baby & Toddlers Book Club House Group

Weekly news sheet Hall & Room bookings bb@bhpurc.org.uk gb@bhpurc.org.uk

toddlers@bhpurc.org.uk bookclub@bhpurc.org.uk housegroup@bhpurc.org.uk

link@bhpurc.org.uk office@bhpurc.org.uk



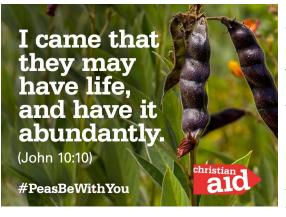
The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.

#### Safeguarding Statement

Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and adults at risk).

We expect all of our leaders, volunteers and those who use our premises to share this commitment and value the support of those who worship here in achieving this. Park United Reformed Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and adults at risk).

Please visit http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding for further information.



In this small second half of a verse from John's Gospel (John 10:10), we learn how Jesus wants us to have abundant life here and now. At this point Jesus is talking about those who have heard his voice and responded, yet he goes on to say that there are other sheep from another fold that he will bring also; there is nobody outside, 'one

flock, one shepherd'. For me, I can't help wondering what the shepherd would think about how we are behaving; a very few us keeping almost all the food and water to ourselves, and throwing out our rubbish in which the rest wallow. Surely the shepherd wants abundant life for all?

Mark and I have been blessed by the opportunity to find out how the Guyanese Congregational Union are working so that abundant life becomes a reality, when I attended the Council for World Mission gathering on The Economy of Life.

Guyana is a beautifully lush country on the north coast of South America – the only Englishspeaking country on that continent, with strong links to both Congregational and Presbyterian Churches, hence a venue for a CWM gathering. Guyana's predominantly Christian population is about 775,000, just over twice that of Enfield, although many times the size. It is made up of a thin coastal strip, where most people live, and a deep forest area. It is one of the least densely populated countries on the planet. A land of many rivers and a consistent sun-drenched climate, it is well suited to growing lush tropical fruits, sugar and rice.

Despite these natural resources, slavery and colonialism has taken its toll with high international debt, corruption and unemployment as high as a third of the population. Although wealth distribution is far more equitable than in the UK, an average Guyanese is on about a fifth of the income as someone in the UK – although from what we saw, food prices weren't that different. We visited 'Plastic City' just over the Demerara River from Georgetown, the capital. It's a settlement within the mangroves – the flood defences for the very flat coastal area. We saw how people were squatting in single room shacks, with no fresh water supply, sanitation or electricity.

We heard how Penny, who had moved into Plastic City as a child when her mother lost her job, had studied by candle-light to become a doctor. She is a committed Christian, but with wages a fraction of what she could earn elsewhere, even in the Caribbean, she is thinking of moving overseas, which would bring her and her family some stability. Guyana's health system is at breaking point and can not afford to lose medical staff, but the situation doesn't look likely to improve anytime soon.

After many years of exploration, Exxon have discovered oil off the Guyanese coast, but after Exxon take their cut to recoup their set-up costs, it will be many years before Guyana sees any financial benefit. Indeed, as Guyana has just committed to being a 'green growth' economy, the discovery is causing controversy, with politicians making unrealistic pledges to the people about dividends they country might receive.

Despite these challenges, and a high crime rate, we were made to feel very welcome and we were impressed by the dedication of those in the churches who were committed to feeding the population, body and soul. With micro-finance schemes for small farmers and training opportunities provided by churches, we saw firsthand how the Guyana Congregational Union is making a difference in the 'land of many waters'.

Melanie (and Mark)



# **Smile Lines**

# What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, 'Does anyone know what the bishop does?'

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: 'He's the one you can move diagonally.'

# When children tell Bible stories (real-life efforts that didn't quite make it...)

St John, the blacksmith, dumped water on Jesus' head.

Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says 'do one to others before they do one to you'.

Jesus ruled that 'a man doth not live by sweat alone.'

It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off of the entrance.

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.

## **Getting ready for Christmas!**

Lynda is taking the service on 23rd December and would like to include your favourite carols which we don't sing very often. Please speak to Lynda and tell her which carols you really enjoy and why, then we can sing them on 23rd December. You can get involved and shape the service!

## **Concert at Christ Church URC**

As well as our own concert happening this month (see page 17) Christ Church are also putting on a concert on 10th November at 7.30pm with the theme "War and Peace", it will be "An explosive musical evening of conflict and calm." Tickets are £5, feel free to just turn up.

## **Christmas Bazaar at Christ Church URC**

On Saturday 24th November between 11am and 2pm Christ Church's Hall will have lots of stalls including cakes, crafts, books, raffle, games and more.

#### **News From URC Music Network**

As members of the URC Music Network, Gillian and Adrian West from Winchmore Hill had the pleasure of attending the annual Celebration Day of the Network last weekend in York. The theme of the day was "Sing a new song to the Lord" and our day, as promised, "provided a wonderful opportunity to try new music, to be inspired to refresh old favourites." This we did with the aid of three excellent workshop leaders, including Anne Sardeson, our own Synod's Training Officer.

During the day Ray Adams, known and respected by you all, was elected Chairman. He brings a wealth of musical knowledge and experience and will be immensely valuable. It was good to meet both Ray and Mandy there. Those who remember him will be pleased to know that he is still very much in action in URC affairs and fits this in with caring for Mandy, who now uses a wheelchair and clearly enjoyed the day.

The URC Music Network is dedicated to promoting good music of all kinds in our churches. It needs the support of all who care about this. Please look at the website to find out more; or come and talk to us. We had a great time! Gillian West

# **Central Asia clamps down on Christians**

Christians in Central Asia are facing worship bans, arrest and torture as Islamic nationalism gains ground in their countries. They can be arrested for reading the Bible in a public place, such as a bus or a train, or for telling other people about Jesus. They have had their church registrations cancelled, forcing them to meet illegally in homes, where they are subject to police raids, arrests, beatings and fines.

Now pastors in the underground church have been describing their ordeal to Release International, which supports persecuted Christians around the world. In response, Release has launched an appeal to help the Church in Central Asia.

In Tajikistan, churches which do not have their own buildings are banned from meeting anywhere else. Those caught worshipping in secret can face interrogation and heavy fines. Security police arrested ten Christians in August, just for handing out gospel literature. They were fined about £750 – more than most Tajiks would earn in six months.

Pastor Anton, from Tajikistan, described a Tajik teenager who became a Christian. When his family found out, they locked him in his house and beat him. 'They made him lie on a cold floor for months,' said Anton. 'I praise the Lord that he gave him strength not to give up on Jesus. Eventually he managed to escape.'

In Uzbekistan, the law requires churches to be registered, but the authorities have refused to issue church permits since 1999. They have tapped the phones of Christians, bugged their homes and monitored church services.

Across Central Asia Christians from a Muslim background face the worst persecution, not only from the state, but from their families and communities.

Release has been working in the region for many years, supporting church leaders and helping finance their ministries in hostile environments.

Release International CEO, Paul Robinson said: 'When you live in a country where everything is against you because you are a Christian, it becomes a lifeline to know that somebody is standing with you.'



# A service for All Souls Day

An opportunity to gather with others to remember people whom we've known and loved who, for many different reasons, are no longer with us.



#### **Palmers Green United Reformed Church**

Fox Lane, London N13 4AL www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk

# Weak yet strong

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Natural thinking values strength and despises weakness. Normally we do everything we can to build up our strength and to hide our weakness. We want to be physically strong, to be strong-minded and strong-willed, strong enough to take care of ourselves and to stand on our own two feet. Often we pray with this in mind, 'Lord make me strong...'

It may surprise you to know that God does not want to make you stronger, so that you can manage without Him, but to help you realise just how weak you are, in order that you will depend on Him. You see we were not created for self-sufficiency, but for God-dependency. This is the true, spiritual way to live. Much of God's working in our lives is to bring us to a realization of the truth that Jesus spoke of in John 15:5 – that 'apart from me you can do nothing.'

God has many ways of bringing us to the place of dependency upon Himself, and some of His tools are mentioned here – weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties, to name but a few. Do you see them at work in your own life? If so, don't always expect God to remove them from you.

Instead, come to Him in your weakness and ask that His overshadowing power – the power of Christ – might rest on you day by day. He may not take you out of your circumstances, but He will bring you through them.

Here is one of the great lessons of the Christian life, a paradox that turns everything upside down: it is when we are weak that we are strong!

**Rev Tony Horsfall** 

# Al Shurooq School update

Al Shurooq School For The Blind was founded in 1981 with the aim of enabling blind people in Palestine to become self sufficient and productive members of society. Ruba, the Headteacher of Al Shurooq, speaks passionately about how they are still working towards including as many children as possible into mainstream education, as long as they are ready. Currently there are 40 pupils at Al Shurooq. Eleven are from the Bethlehem area who live with their families. The rest are generally from the Jericho/ Hebron areas, who board during the week.



Al Shurooq itself is trying to focus on working more with children with multiple disabilities, as there is no provision for them elsewhere. They want to become a resource centre, particularly in terms of training teachers with the necessary skills and stop being a dumping ground.

Their Christian and Muslim staff emphasise human values common to both faiths, particularly in terms of respecting others rights. The staff have been visiting families in their homes with the aim of educating mothers and to help them have confidence in the work. Muslim families who live in very tight communities are resistant to their children boarding at Al Shurooq. Overall I was impressed with Ruba's emphasis on working with the children's families to get their trust in the work that Al Shurooq is trying to deliver. Rosemary Nutt

From: https://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/al-shurooq-school-2/

# Diary

# November

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#### See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

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

Sun 4th		Prayers in the church Communion with Martin Hamblin
Sun 11th	10:30am 6:00pm	Remembrance Parade with Revd Mark Meatcher Sunday Evening Reflection
Sat 17th	8:00pm	Concert in the church - "Last Night of the Proms" see page 17
Sun 18th	10:30am	Worship with Revd Melanie Smith
Sun 25th	10:30am	Worship with Revd David Hamblin

# Next newsletter deadline: Sunday 11th November

ba

F

All material for inclusion should be emailed to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk

# **Prayer Diary**

# NOVEMBER 2018

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

# Philippians 4:4

#### **Thursday 1st**

Enfield charity – Enfield Mencap, working with adults with a learning disability

#### Friday 2nd

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

#### Saturday 3rd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

#### Sunday 4th

Thanks for Christian organizations providing aid when disasters strike

Monday 5th Bill

#### **Tuesday 6th**

Persecuted church in Somalia

#### Wednesday 7th

Erminside

#### **Thursday 8th**

Enfield charity – Mind in Enfield, mental health organisation

#### Friday 9th

Those suffering from Multiple Sclerosis and the charities who seek to find a cure

#### Saturday 10th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

#### Sunday 11th

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

# Monday 12th

Caroline

**Tuesday 13th** Persecuted church in Iraq

Wednesday 14th

Falmer Road

Thursday 15th

All People All Places, working with the homeless in Enfield and beyond

## Friday 16th

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

#### Saturday 17th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

**Sunday 18th** Give thanks for those who help with Kings Club

Monday 19th Charlotte Tuesday 20th Persecuted church in Eritrea Wednesday 21st First Avenue Thursday 22nd Enfield charity – Foodbank, feed-

#### ing the hungry **Friday 23rd** Those without clean drinking

water and the charities that seek to bring clean water and sanitation to everyone

#### Saturday 24th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

## Sunday 25th

Thanks for all those who give their time and support to our organisations and to help in our community

# Monday 26th

Christine (both)

#### **Tuesday 27th**

Persecuted church in Syria

# Wednesday 28th

Firs Park Avenue

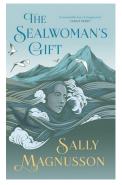
# Thursday 29th

Enfield charity – The Chicken Shed Theatre Trust, for people of all abilities to develop through the arts

# Friday 30th

The homeless on the streets of London as the weather gets colder

# **Book Club**



#### The Sealwoman's Gift - Sally Magnusson

A very different read, but one which was very much enjoyed. The story line is cleverly woven into the true historical events that took place in Iceland in 1627 -Iceland and its smaller islands were raided by Barbary pirates and 400 people were abducted and taken to Algiers to be sold as slaves.

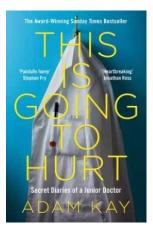
It is a tale of love, loss, patriotism and religious conflict. A young woman, Astra, married to an older impoverished

pastor, was taken from her cold, spartan homeland and sold to a rich Moor to live with his harem in a rich luxurious palace. She entertained the Moor with sagas and folk tales from her homeland and he became intrigued by this strong-willed foreigner who was very different to Algerian women.

Astra was pulled from a cold, barren land where she worked long hard hours to keep a roof over their head and (just enough) food to eat, and was thrown into a radically different environment where the accommodation was palatial surrounded by beautiful flowers wafting in the warm air, food in abundance, lovely bright clothes to wear in soft flowing materials that could never suffice back home. She was also living in a radically different culture and, critically, with a different religion. Astra was held there for 10 years and was then offered the choice - go back to Iceland and her husband or stay in Algiers where her son and daughter are ...

This book was a lesson in Icelandic history, and Sally Magnusson researched the subject well. The various threads running through it - the hard life of Icelanders, abduction from your homeland to life in a faraway hot land, the conflict of a strict Christian upbringing and watching your children take on another faith - produced a good group discussion.

Our next book is a little more light-hearted - This is going to hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor by Adam Kay. We will meet at an earlier time of 10.15am on Monday 5th November to discuss it.



# **Dementia Friendly Church**



# An exploration for local churches Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 9:30 - 16:00 Palmers Green United Reformed Church

Fox Lane, London N13 4AL

Dementia describes a range of diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, associated with the brain which can affect memory, everyday tasks, communication and perception. One in three aged 65+ will develop dementia as they age, and getting a diagnosis can be devastating. It is important families can get the information, treatment and help they need to live as fulfilling a life as possible. Sadly, many people living with dementia don't feel communities and society are geared up to help them.

Our day together will begin to address what we can do as churches and encompass worship, understanding dementia, reframing dementia, look at what's available locally, practical ideas, and a include a questions and answers time.

The day will be resourced by Charlotte Overton-Hart and Revd Mhari McLintock, in association with Enfield Dementia Action Alliance.

Charlotte is Livability's Associate on Dementia and a reminiscence facilitator and bibliotherapy practitioner. Mhari is the Dementia Friendly Church Advocate for the West Midlands Synod of the URC.

This event is open to all and free at the point of use, although expected costs will be approx. £10.00 per participant. If you can afford to contribute, there will be opportunity on the day.

Please reply to Melanie (revd.melanie@gmail.com) to reserve your place

Bring your own packed lunch - or something to share



Enfield United Reformed Churches, working with...

DAA



# Rotas

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

# The Charity Card Shop at Palmers Green United Reformed Church opens Saturday 27 October 2018 at 10.30am

Cards for Good Causes is a non-profit making, multi-charity initiative operating a national network of over 300 Christmas card shops. It aims to make a wide selection of charity cards available to the public and at the same time secure the highest possible return for the participating charities. Shops are set up in a variety of venues such as churches, libraries, museums, civic centres etc in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Palmers Green United Reformed Church, Fox Lane, are in their 25th year supporting Cards for Good Causes.

There are cards from approximately 30 national charities and a selection of Christmas goods including The Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

# They are open 10am – 4pm Monday to Saturday, until Wednesday 12th December 2018.

For every card sold, CFGC gives a minimum of 70p in every £1 to the charities.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Enfield Boys Brigade Presents. "Last Night of the Proms" **Music Concert** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November **At Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church 8pm** Featuring: 2<sup>nd</sup> Enfield Boys Brigade & Friends Brass Band. The London Tuba and Recorder Ensemble. **Plus More** 

# **Exercise** Family Film Feast 3.00pm 1st December





The story of a boy named Ted and his search for a real tree. To find it he must discover the story of the Lorax, the grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. **2012 86 Minutes** 

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

# **Prayer/Poem**

#### Waste

Waste of Muscle, waste of Brain, Waste of Patience, waste of Pain, Waste of Manhood, waste of Health, Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth, Waste of Blood and waste of Tears, Waste of Youth's most precious years, Waste of ways the Saints have trod, Waste of Glory, waste of God -War!

G A Studdart Kennedy

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**

October has been an eventful month for the Second Enfield with us having our all too important annual enrolment service, this year taken by our new minister Mark. As it was Mark's first time taking the enrolment service he received a special badge from Cad to commemorate this occasion and his new connection to the Second Enfield. This enrolment also saw several promotions within the company, with Stephen Nicolaides and Chris Vasco being promoted to the role of NCO from private, and Joe Nicolaides and Bomber leaving the role of boys and becoming the company's newest Staff Sergeants. We were also able to boast a full roster of boys attending enrolment this year with the only absences from a certain unnamed staff sergeant and unnamed warrant officer who I know for a fact regret missing the amazing puppet show performed by Mr Butcher and Mr Cutts Jr who had spent the past few weeks working on it during our Monday sessions.

The day culminated with a trip to Aqua Park after the church service. Eight boys attended supervised by Cad, Gavin and Joe. Cad felt that it would be best if he supervised from inside, away from the water, with a cup of hot chocolate. Definitely nothing to do with the torrential rain and cold conditions, purely for health and safety reasons... definitely. According to Mr Nicolaides Snr whose skin invented a completely new shade of purple the water was actually quite warm when you got in. The afternoon was extremely fun, and the course was excellent. Even Mr Butcher quite enjoyed it once he got over the seaweed in the lake. A great time was had by all.

Our weekly sessions have been going well also. Every Monday starts off with a band rehearsal for those in the band, as the big November concert looms ahead, the band is really starting to take shape. Badge classes have also been very successful over the past few weeks in teaching the boys important life skills. The older boys have been working on their first aid skills with Robin, whilst the younger contingent has been honing their cooking skills in Gavin's Cooking School. Both classes have been very successful although have produced some questionable moments, such as Taejah's very accurate impression of an unconscious person on the floor who despite being unconscious talks quite a lot, also some very dry muffins coming from Gavin that supposedly had a melt-inthe-middle centre, that no-one has yet been able to find. The reintroduction of Devotions into the Monday sessions has also been highly successful in bringing more of the boys to church every week.

Next week we look forward to a more relaxed half term session with pizzas and the premier of the Senior's horror film starring such illustrious stars as Joe Nicolaides, Bomber Brown, Mr Parsons and Mr Caddies. Next week will also be non-uniform and include a large games session. A much needed break after all of the effort the boys and staff have put in over the previous few months. Tom 'Bomber' Brown.

# **Girls' Brigade News**

We have had a lot of fun getting Creative this half term and Learning the meaning of the Lord's Prayer. We have also welcomed another four girls to the company and it was lovely to see so many of them at Parade for enrolment.

Between now and Christmas we are going to be looking at friendship. We will be asking ourselves how we can be a good friend, what's special about our friends, how we can make new friends, how we can make up with friends and how we can have fun with friends. We will be having a friendship party on Wednesday 28th November to celebrate with our friends and to hopefully make some new ones.

Charlotte McBride

# Wordsearch

For Britain, the First World War began on 4th August 1914 and ended on 11th November 1918. At the start, the British Government asked for 100,000 volunteers to join the Army. 750,000 applied in the very first month. An estimated 250,000 British boys lied about their age in order to join up. The youngest caught was just 12 - he was sent home. Average life expectancy in the trenches was just six weeks. In all, 65 million men from 30 countries fought in the First World War. More than nine million fighting men were killed during the conflict, a third of them through disease. At least 750,000 of these were British. The Victoria Cross, the highest military award, was awarded 628 times in the First World War.

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# **Other local church activities**

#### November

Date	Time	Activity	Location
3rd	3pm	Tea and worship in the hall	Methodist
19th	2:15pm	Friendship Club Olympic Games makers - Carole and Derek Lindfield	Christ Church
29th	10.30am	Community coffee morning	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 10.30am 1.30pm	Tots and Toys United Prayer (1st and 3rd of the month) Open House (Coffee and Chat)	Gospel Hall Winchmore Hill Baptist Living Room
Wed	9.45am 2pm	Bible Study (Fortnightly) Wednesday Fellowship (Talks from a variety of speakers, see Margaret Barbour for detail)	Lancaster Road Methodist
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 (2nd and 4th of the month)	Christ Church

# **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
	8.00pm	New Songs (1st Wednesday)
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
	9.45am	Baby & Toddler Group
	6.00pm	Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys
Sunday	10.00am 10.30am	Prayers (1st Sunday) Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)
	6.00pm	Sunday Evening Reflection (2nd Sunday)

