

April 2019



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

Who to contact

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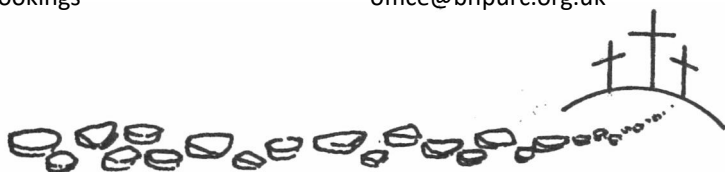
Youth activities

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
New Songs	newsongs@bhpurc.org.uk

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



We are part of a group of United Reformed Churches in the London Borough of Enfield. If you would like to know what we are all doing please subscribe to our NewsShare mailing list at: <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>. Emails are only sent once or twice a month so you can keep up to date without getting too many emails, you can unsubscribe at any time.

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.

Sitting at my desk, looking out at the mix of sunshine and sleet, I realise how urban I've become. Or rather how urban I've always been. Yes, I've enjoyed long walks in the country, I've even camped, I've grown my own veggies in the back garden, and I still can recognise a good number of birds, flowers and bugs from my childhood. But effectively, I've never lived very far away from public transport, shops, hospitals (thought I've never needed the latter) and all the modern conveniences of suburban life.



It is really difficult for me to transport myself back some 2,000 years to that 1st century outpost of the Roman Empire that was Judaea. Yes, I know something of the terrain from the TV and I know something about the dust and the heat from my own travels in India, including the blood running in the streets from the everyday slaughter of goats.

But what I can't do is to cut out the noise of the cars, telephones and amplified music; to just be there, to experience the fear of when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, to know if I would really speak up or remain silent, to

feel the heart-rending sorrow of seeing a friend tortured and hung up on a cross. To help take him down and hurry his body away, watching as guards sealed him in the tomb.

And I'm grateful, as too many people live in fear of arrest today, too many people face the decision as to whether they will speak up or stay silent, too many people watch friends and relatives tortured or killed – or even face the possibility themselves. I have been insulated from all of that, other than to watch on a television screen; but because of that, I can imagine.

What is all but impossible for me to imagine, with my educated, urban lifestyle, is the absolute shock of finding the tomb empty and then seeing Jesus, a dead man, walking and talking. How can any of us know what it was like for Mary, in that early morning encounter, as recorded by John?

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to

be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).”

This Easter, my prayer is that we can strip away all the modern encumbrances that take away from the wonder and awe of that first Easter Sunday, that we can recognise Jesus in the most unexpected places, at the most unexpected times, ready to comfort, uplift and encourage us.

Lord Jesus, help us to meet you afresh and fill our lives with such wonder and love that we truly recognise you, as we declare: He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Happy Easter!

Melanie and Mark

Smile Lines

Egg

Church notice: This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Cusworth to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The bishop's visit

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese for Easter. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long, flowing robes and carried his crook.

"Now," beamed the bishop, "do you know who I am?"

After a moment's silence, one child ventured "Little Bo Peep?"

Forgive

One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

Higher power?

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, ' We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?' One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

Here is the News

Building fund fundraising

On 13th March Martin and I climbed Mount Kinabalu in Borneo to raise funds for the building works at church. This was the hardest thing both of us have ever done. The climb started on 12th March with a 6km walk from c.1800m above sea level to 3272.7m above sea level. This took us six and a half hours with plenty of breaks as it got harder to breathe with less oxygen in the air. On 13th March we woke up in the middle of the night to have breakfast and left at 2am to climb to the summit at 4095.2m above sea level. The path included hauling yourself up the rock face using the ropes anchored into the rocks and was really hard work. We got there just in time to see the sun rise over another mountain in the distance and then headed back down.

Seeing the tops of clouds and the landscape below was breath taking.

Unfortunately, I got altitude sickness so this part of the climb was



really hard mentally as well as physically. We got back to the rest house at 10am, had some proper breakfast then started the 6km back down to the start. This took another 6 hours so the whole day was essentially walking from 2am to 5pm! Please go to www.give.net/bigclimb to give and show your support for what was a gargantuan effort for both of us.

Lisa Hamblin

Holy Week

During Holy Week this year there will be some other opportunities for churches in the North Enfield group of the URC to worship together.

On Maundy Thursday, 19th April, at 8pm there will be a Maundy Thursday service of holy communion held at Christ Church URC.

On Easter Sunday at 8 am Mark will lead an informal communion service at Lancaster Road URC. Please do come along and join us for these services if you are able to...and don't forget that on Good Friday the Enfield churches will be gathering in the town centre!

Don't bin your broken electricals, join a Restart Party to fix them!

Hackney Fixers aim to promote repair in Hackney as an alternative to growing mountains of waste and consumption. As a joint project of Sustainable Hackney and Hackney & Tower Hamlets Friends of the Earth we were inspired by The Restart Project to run our first Restart Party in 2013. Our events always include electricals and electronic fixing and most now also include clothing repair. Once a year we run a festival called The BIG Fix which includes other types of repair like furniture and bikes. Visit www.hackneyfixers.org.uk to find out when and where our next event will be held.

To see all Restart Parties in London go to www.meetup.com/Restarters-London

Drop Sierra Leone's Debt

Christian Aid are asking the Chancellor to write off Sierra Leone's debt. When Ebola struck Sierra Leone, its government had little choice but to accept loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help it cope with the crisis. Now Christian Aid's asking our Chancellor to push the IMF to drop Sierra Leone's debt.

The country lacks funds for proper health clinics, health training and enough ambulances. This makes it the most dangerous place in the world to become a mum. Debt repayments have left Sierra Leone with even less money to provide the healthcare so desperately needed to ensure mums and babies survive childbirth.

The UK Government has a lot of power within the IMF to do something about this.

If you'd like to join your voice, then visit www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week or ask Mark or Melanie for a hard copy of the petition, calling on the Chancellor to ensure the UK Government uses its power in the International Monetary Fund to:

- make sure all Sierra's Leone's debts on the loans it received for fighting the Ebola outbreak are written off
- take urgent action to prevent new debt crises in developing countries and tackle them effectively when they arise.

Taking steps towards a fossil free future

Recognising the current climate crisis to be the biggest threat this generation has faced, Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church is taking up a new challenge. The church has reviewed Bright Now's Fossil Free Church Easter Declaration and is delighted to announce that it is "taking the pledge" on divestment from fossil fuels.

This decision has been made by the leadership team after beginning the process of applying for an Eco Church award, a move supported by its church meeting.

A small team of people have been reviewing what the church can do to be more environmentally friendly, and the church is keen to investigate all possible ways of increasing its awareness of the environment and taking steps to make the church "greener".

The church's commitment has worked itself out not only through a resolution at the church meeting about Eco Church, but also through the Boys Brigade based at the church (2nd Enfield) making bird boxes to populate the small garden area at the church and engaging in conversation about what the young people can do to help the planet.

Bush Hill Park URC has made a commitment to divest from fossil fuels, move to a 100% renewable energy supplier and is in the process of switching from HSBC to a fossil-free bank account. The church is also writing to Thames North Synod (the area in which the church is based), which will debate a resolution calling on the United Reformed Church to divest at a national level, to communicate their decision to them.

Church minister, Revd Mark Meatcher, said:-

"We have been challenged by increasing awareness of the climate chaos around us and the need for each and every one of us to make changes to the way we live to protect our world environment."

As Christians we believe that God has given us responsibility to care for our world and to ensure that it is still there for those who will come after us. Many children in recent days have been speaking out about the enormous issues facing our communities, and the church should be at the forefront of responding to these challenges.

So we, at Bush Hill Park, have decided we will take a step forward and do our own bit. We are prepared to make further changes to the way we live and work and are encouraged that our sisters and brothers in four other United Reformed Churches in Enfield are also seriously looking at Eco Church awards."

James Buchanan, who works for Christian climate charity Operation Noah on the Bright Now divestment campaign, says: *"We are delighted that Bush Hill Park URC has taken this step and is calling on the United Reformed Church nationally to divest. It is time for Churches to get out of the problem and into the solution by divesting from fossil fuels and increasing their investments in renewable energy and clean technologies."*

Rev Mark Meatcher and his wife Rev Melanie Smith, who are United Reformed Church ministers with responsibility for six churches in Enfield, hope that Bush Hill Park URC's decision will give a boost to the Divest Enfield campaign, which calls on Enfield Council to divest their pension fund of £60 million in fossil fuel investments. They invite other churches of all denominations to join them in divesting from fossil fuels as part of the Easter Declaration for Fossil Free Churches on Tuesday 23 April.

More information about the Easter Declaration for Fossil Free Churches, a joint divestment announcement for local churches on Easter Tuesday (23 April), can be found on Operation Noah's Bright Now campaign website: <http://brightnow.org.uk/>

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The second of the three R's is Reuse.

After looking at how to reduce waste last month, we now look our reducing our waste.

If you have an item that you can no longer use or simply do not want, but is still in perfectly usable condition, you should try to find a way that it can continue to be used rather than throwing it away.

Here are some examples of ways that you can reuse:-

- Sell the item, for example by advertising it on one of the many websites such as eBay, on Facebook groups or via local newspapers. If it is an antique or collectable item you may be able to sell it to a local antiques shop.
- Give it to a friend that needs the item.
- Donate it to a charity shop where it can be sold to raise money for a good cause.
- Give it to somebody who is looking for something, via websites such as Freecycle or Freecycle.
- Get a pitch at a car boot sale, or watch out for details of a jumble sale coming up in our churches.
- Make the item into something else completely. This is sometimes referred to as 'upcycling'.
- If you do need to buy something, before you buy it new, see if you can buy one second-hand, borrow it from someone else or hire the item. As a bonus you will also save money!

Another idea is 'swishing'; please look out for an opportunity to swish coming to our churches soon.

See reducereuserecycle.co.uk for further information.

Melanie Smith

Free* Family Film Feast

3.00pm 6th April



The adventures of an orphaned boy named Pete and his best friend Elliot, who just so happens to be a dragon. **PG 2016 102 Minutes**



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

**Bush Hill Park United
Reformed Church**

25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ

www.bhpurc.org.uk

with Enfield United Reformed Churches

Garth Hewitt Concert

Please see elsewhere in the magazine information about purchasing tickets for the Garth Hewitt concert being held on Saturday 18th May at Christ Church URC.

If price is a little too much for you then please speak to Mark or Melanie as the planning team for the event are keen to ensure that price doesn't prevent anybody who wishes to attend from coming along and joining in on what is bound to be a thought provoking, challenging and incredible evening.

We are now also pleased to announce that Garth will be joined on the evening by Martin Wroe, a poet and writer.

Martin Wroe has been a staff writer on The Independent and on The Observer, co-authored The Rough Guide to a Better World and, recently, Lifelines, Notes on Life & Love, Faith & Doubt. He is a volunteer vicar in his local parish, a contributor to Thought for the Day on Radio 4 when he can think of an idea and writes poems most days.

Garth has invited him along to chat about his writings and read us some of his poems. Garth will chat to him about some of the work with which Martin has been involved, including both Greenbelt Festival and the Amos Trust.

Do you need any more encouragement to come out for an evening in Enfield?

Aspiring to more

Join our learning circle to enlarge your faith and understanding
through shared study in 2018-19

Want to know more about the Bible and faith?

Want skills in worship-leading, Bible study or preaching?

Want to qualify as a lay preacher?

Join us for one or two modules or the whole course

Join us just to explore or do assignments for a qualification

At High Cross United Reformed Church, junction of High Road and Colsterworth Road, Tottenham, London N15 4BN – only 6 minutes' walk from Seven Sisters Station. There's also a car park for building users.

Programme dates for 2019:

Worship module – **'Leading Worship'** starting 1st May 2019

1st May, cell groups in week of 6th-10th May

Study Day on Saturday 18th May 10am-4pm

22nd May, cell groups in week of 27th-31st May

5th June, cell groups in week of 10th-14th June

19th June

Study Day Saturday 29th June, 10am-4pm

Cell groups in week of 1st-5th July

Wed 10th July '19

Preaching module – **'God's word for today'** starting 17th July 2019

Interested? Contact:

Anne Sardeson 07979 520 308 / training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

John Campbell 07429 627 156 /

john.campbell@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Easter Joy

I remember vividly a simple poster I saw on the notice board of our local Methodist Chapel. It had a silhouette of three crosses on a hill, and underneath the words, 'FOR YOU'. Nothing fancy or clever, but a clear presentation of the Easter message, and it struck me deeply.

At Easter our thoughts are drawn to the death and resurrection of Jesus. These events are central to our faith, but sometimes we can over-complicate their meaning. The heart of it, though, remains very simple: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and on the third day was raised to life (1Corinthians 15:3).

He died to show his love for you. He gave his life as a demonstration or proof of the love He has for each one of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. He was motivated to lay down His life for us, not out of duty or obligation, but compassionate love. See Romans 5:8

He died to set you free. Sin has entangled every one of us. We are under it's power and unable to ourselves to loosen its grip. At the cross Jesus dealt with sin once and for all by dying in our place. Now, when we turn to Him for help, we can be released from the hold it has on us and find complete forgiveness.

He died to bring you home. The Cross makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God. Like the prodigal son we were once far away from God, but now because we have been forgiven, we can return to our true home in God. A welcome awaits us, and a joy-filled reunion is possible.

This Easter, why not think about these two simple words: FOR YOU.

Rev Tony Horsfall

Diary

April

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

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

Sun 7th	10:00am 10:30am	Prayers in the church Communion with Martin Hamblin
Sun 14th	10:30am	Palm Sunday Parade with Revd Mark Meatcher
Thur 18th	8:00pm	Maundy Thursday Evening worship with Revd Mark Meatcher at Christ Church URC (EN2 6NJ)
Fri 19th	10:30am	Good Friday Worship in Enfield Town (outside HSBC)
Sun 21st	10:30am	Easter Sunday Worship with Martin Hamblin
Sun 28th	10:30am	Worship with Revd Barrie Thompson

Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 14th April

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

Prayer Diary

APRIL 2019

Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects,
always trusts,
always hopes,
always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13: 6-7

Monday 1st

Mark

Tuesday 2nd

Those who still don't know Jesus
personally

Wednesday 3rd

Melbourne Way

Thursday 4th

Our libraries & those who work
in them

Friday 5th

Those suffering from addiction,
their families and the charities
that help them break free

Saturday 6th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 7th

Give thanks for those who lead
and help with Boys and Girls bri-
gade

Monday 8th

Martin

Tuesday 9th

The courage to invite someone
to church

Wednesday 10th

Millais Road

Thursday 11th

Bin & recycling workers

Friday 12th

Elijah, our sponsored child in
Zambia

Saturday 13th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Palm Sunday 14th

Thanks for the small things people do to help us

Monday 15th

Melanie

Tuesday 16th

That we will be effective in telling the Jesus story and giving people ways to find out more and to respond

Wednesday 17th

Percival Road

Maundy Thursday 18th

For our parks & those who maintain them

Friday 19th

Crime reduction initiatives

Saturday 20th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Easter Sunday 21st

Give thanks for God's love

Monday 22nd

Phyl

Tuesday 23rd

New believers to grow in their faith

Wednesday 24th

Poynter Road

Thursday 25th

Social workers

Friday 26th

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

Saturday 27th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 28th

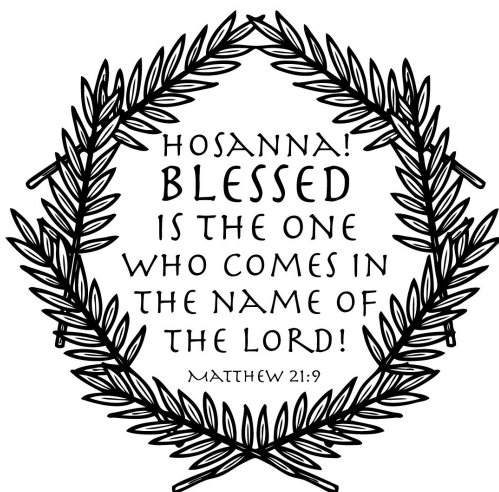
Give thanks for the hard won freedoms we enjoy in the UK

Monday 29th

Robin (both)

Tuesday 30th

Opportunities to share our faith





SATURDAY 18TH MAY 7.30PM

Tickets £11.00 (£8.00 Concessions)

Email: mail@ccurc.org.uk Phone: 07865 675936

Find us on Eventbrite and Facebook 'An Evening with Garth Hewitt'



Christ Church
United Reformed Church

 **GingerDog RECORDS**
www.gingerdog-records.com



Enfield
United
Reformed
Churches



The Beatitudes – ‘Blessed are the Poor in Spirit’

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). The word **blessed** describes how we can live under God’s blessing. Jesus talks about the ‘*beautiful attitudes*’ (Billy Graham) that characterise followers of Jesus. They speak more about ‘*who we are*’ than ‘*what we do*’ and reflect perfectly the character of Jesus that He wants to develop in us.

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’ is the first beatitude (5:3). To be ‘*poor in spirit*’ is not simply being poor economically, as the word used means ‘*being dependent on others for support*’. It is the opposite of spiritual pride, recognising that we all fall short of God’s standards in our thoughts, words and actions.

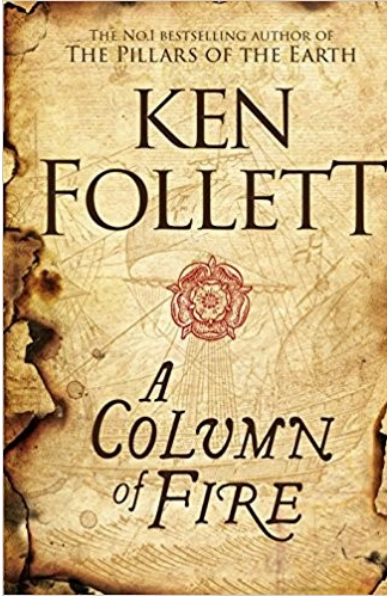
It’s not just about what we do for God, but what He has done for us through Jesus’ death on the cross. As we bring our sin, guilt, shame and failure to Him, in grace He offers us His love, acceptance and forgiveness. We come with empty hands: *‘Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to thy cross I cling’* (Augustus Toplady).

This is well illustrated by the tax collector in Jesus’ parable: *‘God have mercy on me, a sinner’* (Luke 18:13). It is cry that says *‘O God, I am in a mess. I’ve got nothing to offer. I haven’t begun to pray or hear you properly. I am spiritually poor’* To those who cry out like this, Jesus says *‘theirs is the kingdom of heaven’* (v3). The kingdom of God flings opens its doors to beggars!

‘There is nothing we can do to make God love us more; there is nothing we can do to make God love us less.’ (Philip Yancey: *What’s So Amazing About Grace*).

Rev Paul Hardingham

Book Club



A Column of Fire by Ken Follett

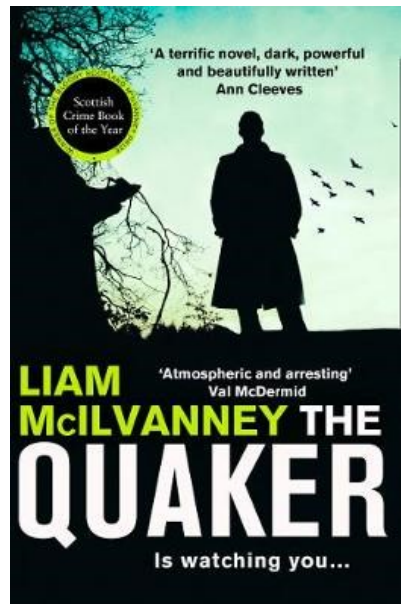
A very long read but we did give ourselves an extra week this time. It is a fascinating weaving of Tudor history with real and invented characters. The religious hatred between Catholics and Protestants was just awful with such fanaticism which Queen Elizabeth throughout her reign attempted to quell to enable England to be a country of tolerance. We were reminded of how Spain was such a world force at that time. The story takes us from England to the Caribbean via Spain and back to the Netherlands and of course

France where the battle between the Monarchy of the two countries was prevalent. There were interesting characters in the book, and it provided a worthy lesson in history. We discussed the cause of this major conflict some 500 years ago and its continuing presence in today's world ...

An excellent read, if you have the time!

Next month we meet on the 1st April at 8pm having read 'The Quaker' by Liam McIlvanney.

Sylvia Page



Reflections on the Sacred

Art Exhibition

Celebrating multi-faith & spiritual life
in our community



Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 April 1-5pm
FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, WINCHMORE HILL
enjoy our beautiful and peaceful garden

FREE ENTRANCE * REFRESHMENTS

FIND US AT: 59 Church Hill, Enfield London, N21 1LE

*Turn right out of Winchmore Railway Station*Just ten minutes walk*

From Southgate:125 bus to Winchmore pub, walk up Church Hill (to the right)

twitter@WinchHQuakers
facebook:WinchmoreHillQuakers
www.winchmorehillquakers.org.uk

Rotas

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



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.

Holy Week – Imago Dei

Made in God's image – what does that mean?

Our exhibition at Christ Church, entitled **Imago Dei**, will give all those who visit an opportunity to think about what it means to be made in the image of God, and also to think about what God is really like.

Imago Dei will include poetry, music and art around this theme and is a community event. There will also be a display about the history and architecture of the church. On the Wednesday and Saturday local poet Mary Duggan will run a workshop open to all “Where word meets art”, which will provide a practical opportunity for other members of the local community to add their own work and thoughts to the exhibition (11 am to 1pm on Wednesday 17th April and Saturday 20th April). Local poets will also be reading their poetry live on Saturday from 2pm to 3pm.

Imago Dei will focus on images of God, and also images of humanity e.g. refugees and others from various parts of the world, including our own.

Guided tours of the historic building will also be available during the week.

Local photographer Debbie Jay will have some of her photography on display and local poets led by Mary Duggan will be sharing some of their work during the week.

Local schools and youth organisations from the Enfield and Barnet area are contributing artwork and poetry as well, in what promises to be a fascinating exhibition.

“Artist, theologian, sewer, crafter, project manager, dancer, process designer and boringly more..” Elizabeth Gray-King has supplied two of her paintings to also be displayed – pictures which are bound to provoke discussion.

And there will be lots more... the Friends of Bush Hill Park, for example, will be involved in the workshops on the Wednesday and Saturday. The exhibition will be open from 10 am to 4pm every day from Monday 15th April to Saturday 20th April (From 1pm to 4pm only on Good Friday, 19th April) and is FREE. Refreshments will be available every day.

A testimony from the Rwandan genocide

The Rwandan genocide began 25 years ago this month, in April 1994. The Rev Antoine Rutasiyrie, now the pastor of a large church in Kigali, recalls the beginning of that terrible 100 days, when up to one million Tutsi were slaughtered by the Hutu.

“My family were Tutsi and we lived in Kigali. We had experienced Hutu aggression before: they had killed my father in the early 1970s, and then burned our family home in the 1980s. It had taken me years to forgive them, and only with God’s grace.” But by the Spring of 1994 ethnic tensions were escalating once again, the country crackling with tension. Antoine recalls: “My wife and I were on our knees for at least two hours every evening, pleading with the Lord for our country, and for our protection.”

Then, on April 7th, 1994, the president of Rwanda was shot down over Kigali. That first morning after the plane crash, Antoine and his family nearly died as well.

“Just before dawn by the sound of gunfire exploded in the street outside our home. We rushed to our windows and also tuned into the radio. Running battles had begun across the city, between the Hutu militia and the Tutsi RPF soldiers.”

As the morning wore on, Antoine and his wife heard explosions and screams in the distance, and he could see smoke rising below him as the city burned. Then came news that road blocks had been set up all over the city. The Interahamwe (Hutu soldiers) were everywhere.

Antoine and his wife were terrified, especially as they had young children. Antoine says: “We were in a panic, but we dared not leave the house – where would we go? So, we poured out our fears to God.”

At 3.30pm that day the Interahamwe arrived at his front gate. Antoine locked the children and the housemaid in a bedroom in an effort to shield them and peered through the window. He could hear the Interahamwe arguing about the best way to break down the gate. I thought to myself: “So this is the end. Are they going to cut us in pieces? I shuddered to think what they could do to my wife, my children. I

wondered if I could fight them, even kill a couple of them before they killed us. “Then I remembered the promised the Lord had given us: ‘He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.’ And again, ‘Have mercy on me oh God, I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.’”

“I felt my spirit grow calmer, and I heard a quiet voice saying; ‘You have been preaching sermons on loving and praying for your enemies. Instead of trying to ‘die like a man’, why don’t you just die like a Christian?”

“So, then I prayed: ‘Lord, give me grace. If it is your will that I and my family die now, have them give me time to die praying for them, as you did for us on the cross.’ At that moment a feeling of deep peace that I had never experienced before flooded through me. I now knew I was ready to face death with a Christ-like attitude.”

Meanwhile the Interahamwe soldiers had broken down the gate into their compound and were heading straight up the path towards the house. Antoine looked into their faces as they came, at the machetes which they carried. He prayed.

Suddenly, staccato bursts of machine gun fire burst out, just outside the compound. The Interahamwe wheeled round in fright, ‘The cockroaches are coming!’ It was their name for the RPF soldiers. In their panic, the Interahamwe veered off the front path, and ran around to the back of the house, where they scrambled over the back wall, pursued by the RPF soldiers. Antoine and his family were left alone.

After the genocide, Antoine and his family ended up in a displaced persons camp in Kigali. “It was tough, but Jesus’ spirit of peace and forgiveness stayed with me, throughout all the hardships and hunger.” In the years that followed, Antoine was ordained, and became dean of the cathedral in Kigali for a time.

“When we survivors tell how God rescued us, we are not saying that we were the successful ones. In Christ, those very many Christians who died a brave and forgiving death were just as successful. Christians are called to witness to Christ, and if they do that, then whether they live or die, they are successful.”

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Prayer

Love poured out

Loving God
you whose concern is holiness
in our way of living and being:
we thank you for
gifting us with a pattern
of bending down,
pouring out
compassion, care and love
for the other.

Through Jesus
our brother and friend
you, gracious God,
have poured out
life and love for us.
Lead us to empty ourselves
for the sake of others so that in the overflow of love
the world may recognise
the poser of your love.

As walkers of the Jesus way
may our practice
of loving
feed our spirits,
refresh our bodies and
bring courage to our hearts.

In the name of the one
who showed us
that your table-space
is a place of
grace and more grace
for all.

By Michael Jagessar

From the URC prayer
handbook 2016 for 24th
March looking at John
13:1-17, 31b-35

Boys' Brigade News

The appropriately named month of March saw the boys enter the annual Enfield Battalion Drill Competition. We entered Small Squad Drill which was made up of James, Josiah B, Chris, Taejah, Josiah J and Jeffrey. This year we managed to regain our title again, as the boys came 1st place in the Small Squad Drill. The same boys entered into the Single Line Drill competition, which they had little practice in but still managed to come 2nd place. A competition that we are keen to win every year is the Three Person Colour party as this gives us the opportunity to house the Battalion Colours, as well as parading them at Battalion Church Parade and on Remembrance Sunday through the streets of Enfield. This year, the practice put in by James and his colour party of Josiah B and Chris, really paid off as they won the competition allowing us to keep the colours for another year. We also picked up 1st and 2nd place in the Smartest New Recruits with Tom and Miles coming 1st and Miles and Dilan coming in 2nd. All the boys did really well in the competition and did the company proud, winning in total three of the four competitions we entered and coming 2nd in two competitions. Until next year that's drill...

There was also a Company Section weekend away which three of the boys went on. This was held at the Boys' Brigade HQ at Felden Lodge. The boys enjoyed many activities such as foot-golf, frisbee-golf and a giant swing as well as going to a water park, doing some high climbing, archery, a quiz and other games such as basketball, football, ultimate frisbee and table tennis. The boys were very well behaved and had a fun weekend away.

In the upcoming month of April the boys in Year 9 and above will be attending an Expedition. For those that haven't been

before they've got a lot to look forward to from the navigation to the camp craft and cooking. The boys will be setting up their tents, cooking their own food on a stove and map reading to certain points along the journey, similar to how a real Duke of Edinburgh Expedition would be done. The Easter Expedition will be all the boys first taste of what it will be like as they continue with their Volunteering, Physical and Skill segments to complete those parts of their DofE Awards.

On Monday nights all the boys have been building bird boxes and we've been doing some team challenges for the games session, including an alphabet relay. The boys were put into teams and a statement is said such as "name a colour" and the boys grab a letter from the 26 letters of the alphabet which they have on their tables. The boys then, in their team, in turn have to take the letter to the question master and give a correct answer. For example, if they gave the letter "B" and said green it would have been wrong so they would get that letter back. However, if they gave the letter "B" and said "Blue" as it is a correct answer the letter would be kept by the question master. The first team to use all their letters wins! The boys enjoyed this, however it did raise some interesting questions such as "Are the Pyramids of Giza in Europe?", "Are there really 26 letters in the alphabet?", "Is the pink power ranger a superhero" and "Mr Caddies why isn't the letter "T" in the alphabet?" That last one still remains a mystery.

After Easter the boys will be finishing up their badge classes and bird boxes and start preparing for the awards night. That's about it for the BB Review. Oh yeah, and the countdown to camp will start with the Summer Session after Easter!!!

Joseph Nicolaides

Wordsearch

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.

passover	bread	wine	body	blood	betrayal
jerusalem	pilate	judas	trial	crucifixion	gethsemane
soldiers	cross	nails	vinegar	temple	curtain
tomb	angel	stone	risen	gardener	mary

b	o	i	n	s	u	i	s	l	a	c	y	t	u
u	m	o	g	a	r	d	e	n	e	r	w	r	v
i	l	o	e	d	b	y	a	e	a	g	i	i	i
x	a	e	t	u	e	l	l	m	f	i	n	e	a
x	y	n	h	j	g	n	o	s	d	e	e	a	r
n	a	n	s	p	l	s	i	o	g	u	r	r	i
u	r	a	e	a	e	g	s	a	d	t	i	b	r
n	t	i	m	s	c	p	r	o	t	a	t	e	e
m	e	l	a	s	u	r	e	j	r	r	e	e	n
a	b	s	n	o	i	x	i	f	i	c	u	r	c
r	l	t	e	v	u	e	d	a	s	a	i	c	b
e	l	p	m	e	t	a	l	i	p	s	a	o	i
a	s	u	e	r	s	t	o	n	e	n	d	n	o
b	s	a	r	n	s	i	s	n	e	y	s	i	b

Other local church activities

April

Date	Time	Activity	Location
7th	3pm	Tea and worship in the hall	BHP Methodist
7th	4pm	Messy Church	Lancaster Road
15th	2:15pm	Friendship Club <i>Favourite photos - bring your favourite photo to show us and tell us about it (including short AGM)</i>	Christ Church
25th	10.30am	Community coffee morning	BHP 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	Ladies Bible Study	Living Room
	7.30pm	English Conversation Club	Living Room
	7.45pm	Prayer at Betty's (Fortnightly)	BHP Methodist
Tues	10am	Tots and Toys	Gospel Hall
	10.30am	United Prayer (1st and 3rd of the month)	Winchmore Hill Baptist
	1.30pm	Open House (Coffee and Chat)	Living Room
Wed	9.45am	Bible Study (Fortnightly)	Lancaster Road
	2pm	Wednesday Fellowship (Talks from a variety of speakers, see Margaret Barbour for detail)	BHP Methodist
Thurs	1pm	Back to Life (Support Group / Board Games) starts with lunch	Living Room
Fri	10am	Shoppers Coffee Morning	Lancaster Road
	4pm	EPIC (Club for kids in years 3-6)	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 Prayers (1st Sunday)
 10.30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)
 6.00pm Sunday Evening Reflection (2nd Sunday)

