

## **June 2019**



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**

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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.

## The waiting is over...

We have been waiting, with the disciples, with the friends of Jesus; those who had seen him executed and witnessed in one way or another his re-appearances, having risen from the dead.



Some of them had been there when he ascended into heaven.

The day of Pentecost drew nearer and nearer, and the friends of Jesus wondered what exactly it was that they were waiting for.

"While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This,' he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'" (Acts 1:4,5)

Luke records Jesus speaking about them being baptized with the Holy Spirit – but what did this mean? What does it mean for us today, living many years later?

Probably, very like us, the disciples were unsure as to what exactly was going to happen,

what being baptized with the Holy Spirit was to mean, was to look like, what impact it might have on their lives.

For the moment, at least, they probably still felt uncertain and a little fearful of what was going on.

The experience of following Jesus over the last three years will have almost certainly been a challenge, whilst also being a delight to them.

How does their journey compare to our own? Do we find following Jesus to be a challenge, and a delight, or simply difficult, finding little room for delight?

One of the things that strikes me from reading through the account of the first day of Pentecost (see Acts chapter 2 for the details) is the rush, the excitement, the joy and delight that seems to pour out of the

disciples' experience on that day.

Yes, there is the call for the people to repent, which, for some people, may be something that they find difficult to hear, but the call is accompanied by a promise:-

"so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38)

Yes, there is a sense of awe about what was going on around them (Acts 2:43) and I am not quite sure what your feelings may or may not be about that, but, for me, there is an overriding sense of joy and delight coming out from the account of what happened that day...so much so that others seem to think that it looks like they are all drunk, intoxicated with new wine (Acts 2:13).

If we have received the Holy Spirit as those early disciples did, and I believe there is no reason that we should not have done so, or do so, then we should surely be expecting to see something of that joy and that excitement when we come together to worship God, shouldn't we?

If you feel that this is something that is still not quite there for you, if you feel that you may not have received the Holy Spirit then do please take some time as we approach Pentecost this year to go to God in prayer and ask that God might give you this gift.

"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches find, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened...If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:9 – 13)

God will respond to children that cry out asking, searching and knocking – an answer will come. Wait and see.

Your ministers Mark and Melanie

## **Smile Lines**

## Miscellaneous observations

One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

Try Jesus. If you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back.

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

Go to church this Sunday - and avoid the Christmas rush.

## Nun

A sister from a local convent became a certified accountant to help small shop owners manage their finances better. The title of her business? 'Nun of Your Business.'

## Crowd

The new minister, encouraged by the numbers in church for his first sermon, began: "I have never had the pleasure of preaching to such a dense crowd before."

## Here is the News

## Congratulations

We wish Jane & Howard congratulations for their 25th



wedding anniversary on the 18th June. They were married in this church by David Hamblin and Martin Legg.

## **Family Film Feast**

The Family Film Feast is taking a break for the summer and may change when in the month they are shown - updates will be in future newsletters.

## **Eco Tip**

The Mission Council of the United Reformed Church has just agreed to withdraw any investments they hold nationally from companies whose main business is the extraction of fossil fuels. This follows Bush Hill Park URC's Easter Fossil Fuel Free declaration (but perhaps not the only reason)!

Why not consider switching to a supplier which only generates its electricity from renewable sources? There are many on the market now. Mark and Melanie have been with Ecotricity for years, but other providers are available, such as Bulb and Good Energy.

## **Garth Hewitt**

A good time was had by all who went to the Garth Hewitt concert in May. We will remember Palestine and continue to pray for peace, one day the wall will fall.



## When the Spirit Came

For Christmas we have the build-up of Advent, and Easter Day is preceded by Holy Week. But when it comes to Whit Sunday, it just suddenly arrives. Yet Pentecost is all about the birth of the Christian church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Surely, that is something to get excited about!

For forty days following our Lord's resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers and taught them about the Kingdom of God. Just before His ascension into Heaven, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Spirit.

Ten days after His ascension, it was the Feast of Pentecost and this was a significant festival for the Jews. The day marked the time when the barley harvest officially ended. No work was done. It was a day of thanksgiving. A time to remember deliverance from Egypt and God's mercy and reconciliation with His covenant people. On the day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus met together in an upper room and received the Holy Spirit.

On Whit Sunday we would do well to remember why the Holy Spirit was sent to us. We are given power to live God's way:

to lead us into the things God has prepared for us;

to worship and glorify Him;

to enable us to pray;

to lead us into truth;

to give us a desire to share the love of Christ with others and to help us trust God for all our needs.

This Pentecost may our prayer be for God's Spirit to transform us, for the gentleness of His Spirit to lead us, and for the gifts of His Spirit to equip us. Amen.

Lester Amann

## Promoted to glory

Yes, I know that's not a phrase that we generally hear used much nowadays, but it takes me back to my early Christian adventures when I was a member of the Pentecostal church for a while — and it is wording that describes how I felt recently when, over the course of a weekend, two people who have been influential on me in my own personal spiritual journey, died.

First, there was Rachel Held Evans.

I encountered Rachel a little by chance when I picked up her first novel "Evolving in Monkey Town", (published in 2008) which explores her journey from religious certainty to a faith which accepts doubt and questioning. From reading that and beginning to find out more about her and following her activities on social media I have found myself over the years identifying strongly with many of her viewpoints and the things that she shared.

She had a very open approach to faith and was keen to encourage millennials in particular to find and explore faith in an open way, not simply accepting without question the teachings and approach of the church ("Young people don't simply want a better show" – one of her quotes).

Her subsequent books demonstrate that approach:-

A Year of Biblical Womanhood: How a Liberated Woman Found Herself Sitting on Her Roof, Covering Her Head and Calling Her Husband Master (published 2012)

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church (Published 2015)

Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again (Published 2018)

Rachel was placed in a medically-induced coma in April 2019 following an allergic reaction to medication for an infection. Her condition

worsened due to "severe swelling of her brain" and she died, aged 37, on 4 May 2019.

Secondly, a couple of days later the news came through of the death of **Jean Vanier**, at the age of 90.

Jean was a Canadian Catholic philosopher, theologian and humanitarian who, in 1964 founded L'Arche, an international federation of communities now spread over 37 countries for people with developmental disabilities.

Over the years he wrote 30 books on religion, disability, normality, success and tolerance and, on many occasions, I have found his words to be both inspiring and challenging. Here's a quick sample:-

"We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

"Many people are good at talking about what they are doing, but in fact do little. Others do a lot but don't talk about it; they are the ones who make a community live."

"Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated. Only when all of our weaknesses are accepted as part of our humanity can our negative, broken self-images be transformed."

As I said at the beginning, the only words I can use to describe these two people is that they have been promoted to glory.

I must admit to still being a little shell-shocked at the death of such people, following on, for me, so closely to the sudden death of someone who had also become an inspiration in a very short period of time for us in Enfield, Vicky Martin.

May all those we know and love retain a place in our hearts for ever.

Mark (and Melanie)

p.s. a little thanks to Wikipaedia for some of the above information



## **Diary**

## June

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

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

Sun 2nd		Prayers in the church Communion with Revd Barrie Thompson	
Sun 9th	10:30am	Parade with Revd Barrie Thompson	
Sat 15th	7:00pm	Great British Quiz, see page 10	
Sun 16th	10:30am	Worship with Revd Mark Meatcher	
Sun 23rd	10:30am	Worship with Ray Pettipher	
Sun 30th	10:30am	United Worship here at BHP with Revd Mark Meatcher	

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# Next newsletter deadline: Sunday 16th June

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

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## **Prayer Diary**

## **JUNE 2019**

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## Saturday 1st

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

## Sunday 2nd

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

## Monday 3rd

Tony

## **Tuesday 4th**

For older people who are isolated and lonely, in need of salvation and have no sense of purpose

#### Wednesday 5th

**Trinity Avenue** 

## **Thursday 6th**

Surgeons

## Friday 7th

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

## Saturday 8th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

## Sunday 9th, Pentecost

Give thanks for our homes and the shelter we have

## Monday 10th

Vikkie

## **Tuesday 11th**

For the 6.5 million people in the UK who care for the elderly, the

sick and the disabled

## Wednesday 12th

**Tweedy Close** 

## **Thursday 13th**

**General Practice Doctors** 

## Friday 14th

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

## Saturday 15th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

## **Trinity Sunday 16th**

Thanks for those who teach us whether at school, university or as we get older in self-help groups

## Monday 17th

Yvonne

## **Tuesday 18th**

For the managers of each of our care homes, for wisdom and resilience as they lead their teams.

## Wednesday 19th

Wellington Road

## Thursday 20th

Nurses

## Friday 21st

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

## Saturday 22nd

Sunday's Worship Leader and

the service tomorrow

## Sunday 23rd

Thanks for doctors and nurses who go to areas where the people have no access to health care

## Monday 24th

Valerie

## **Tuesday 25th**

For people in our church and for charities like Pilgrims' Friend Society working to care and support families who care

## Wednesday 26th

Alberta Road

## **Thursday 27th**

**Junior Doctors** 

## Friday 28th

Safety for men, women & children facing violence in the home from a spouse or parent

## Saturday 29th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

## Sunday 30th

Give thanks for family and friends



## **Book Club**



'Loitering with Intent' by Muriel Spark

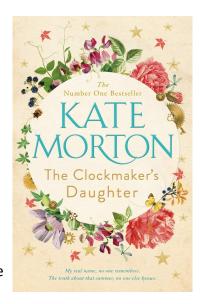
This story, written in the first person, draws heavily on the author's experiences as a young woman in post-war London, alone and financially struggling, Fleur becomes 'secretary' to an 'aristocrat' who has formed a 'society' of people writing their memoirs; never to be published. She needs the money because she is writing her own novel 'Warrender Chase' and that title is mentioned, boringly so many times! Snobbery abounds and that feeling from the 1950s or early 1960s had been experienced by some.

The characters are strange to say the least; perhaps the least so his mother who certainly brings humour into the novel. The control by Sir Quentin made one squirm but what were his intentions?

Her manuscript of 'Warrender Chase' is stolen; why do the events of this working relationship appear to mirror the contents of her novel?

All very weird, funny at times, once you have put yourself into the context; quirky to say the least but then that is the writing of Muriel Spark.

A total change next time; we skip May with its Monday Bank Holidays and will meet on the 3rd June having read 'The Clockmaker's Daughter' by Kate Morton. Sylvia Page



## Have you lost someone you loved?

I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. How the mighty have fallen! 2 Samuel 1:26

A lament is a passionate expression of grief, a heartfelt cry of sadness. Here David, who composed some of the most memorable and uplifting songs of praise, allows himself the opportunity to pour out his heart to God because of his deep sorrow.

Christians are sometimes confused about how to express grief. Some contemporary teaching has emphasized the power of praise, and of praising God in all circumstances, so they feel guilty about the pain inside them and do not know how to release it.

Whilst Paul does say we are not to grieve 'like the rest of mankind' (1Thessalonians 4:13), he means we should not grieve in the hysterical way that characterizes those who have no hope in God. He does not mean that we should not grieve at all, or that we should suppress our true feelings. That would be cruel, unnatural and unhealthy. Grief is best acknowledged and expressed, and in a way that is consistent with our belief in heaven.

David's own heart feels most keenly the loss of his dearest friend, Jonathan. Those who have known the loss of a 'soul mate' will understand the depth of his feeling and the pain in his heart. His lament enables him to get in touch with his grief, to express it, and so begin the slow process of healing and recovery.

If you are grieving yourself today, be encouraged to pour out your heart to God. You could pray aloud or write your prayer down. You may find a song that helps, or a piece of music. You might talk with a trusted friend. You may just want a good cry. Whatever you do, remember that it's OK to grieve.

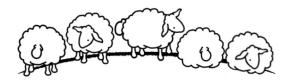
**Rev Tony Horsfall** 

## **Rotas**

	Door welcome	Reader	Tea and Coffee	Flowers	Sound room
2nd	Kath	Sylvia	Yvonne	Diann	Robin H
9th	Alison	Brigades	Jane & Ivy	ВВ	Tony
16th	Kath	Judith	Sylvia	Alison	Tony
23rd	Alison	Anne	Valerie	Sylvia	Robin H
30th	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.

## God MOO-ves in mysterious way to save woman in Azerbaijan

A cow has played an unlikely role in leading a young woman in Azerbaijan to faith in Jesus Christ.

Azerbaijan sits between Russia and Iran and has very few Christians. So Rena was furious that her sister and mother had become Christians in the Muslim-dominated nation. She scorned them, "Will you shame us among people, maybe you will even put a cross on your house?"

Her mother simply held out the New Testament and said, "If you knew

about this book, you'd want to read it."

Then one day Rena lost her cow and spent three days searching in vain for the animal. On the third day, she thought, "They say Jesus Christ is alive. If this is true, let my cow return to me, and I will believe in Him.



"As it got darker, we went again along the road, and in lights from the cars I saw something running toward us. It was my cow! Then I said, 'Lord, I believe that You are truth' and when I came back to my courtyard with the cow I said, 'My cow has been found and Jesus Christ made it happen!'

"From that day I am a Christian and I am following Jesus," Rena said. She now attends a growing church, which receives help for renting a meeting place from Barnabas Fund.

From Barnabas Fund and their contacts

## The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the meek'

Jesus calls those who live for His kingdom to demonstrate His character: 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.' (5:5). Meekness can come over as being 'weak or feeble', hence 'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild.' However, the Greek word means being tamed: 'Blessed are those who are tamed, under control.' The picture is that of a horse brought under control: strength under submission. Meekness begins with an honest view of ourselves, where we don't have to worry about what others think of us, but trust in what God is able to do in us.

Moses is described as 'very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth' (Numbers 12:3, RSV). Moses was certainly not a weak leader, but he submitted to God's plans for his life. Meekness accepts what comes, even if it hurts, knowing that it's for our good.

A meek person will tame themselves to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who shows us how to respond in any situation practically and prayerfully. It means being careful about how we respond to those who provoke us by not being angry or striking out. When we encounter difficult situations or people who wind us up, how are we prepared to pray before speaking? We should not be out of control, but under God's control!

Let's not forget the promise of this beatitude, that the meek person will 'inherit the earth.' Those who are prepared to let go their rights in this world, will be made infinitely rich in the future.

'The meek man knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto.' (AW Tozer).

The Rev Paul Hardingham

## **Prayer**

## Send me!

Gracious God,
we thank you, that through the ages
you have revealed yourself to your people.
You are a holy and righteous God,
you are full of majesty and power.

When like Isaiah, we feel unworthy and full of guilt, Come to us and make us whole and responsive!

Thank you, that in Jesus,
you have revealed yourself as merciful and loving.
You do not condemn but continue to forgive,
you never give up on us,
you always desire a relationship with us.

When like Isaiah, we feel unworthy and full of guilt, Come to us and make us whole and responsive!

Holy Spirit,
you come and blow through us,
touching,
cleansing,
renewing,

so that we too feel called to offer ourselves for the sake of your gospel of love Come to us and make us whole and responsive!

Nan Maxwell

From the URC prayer handbook 2015 for 31st May (Trinity Sunday) looking at Isaiah 6:1-8

## **Boys' Brigade News**

Owing to the bank holidays and school holidays this month's article will be slightly shorter than normal.

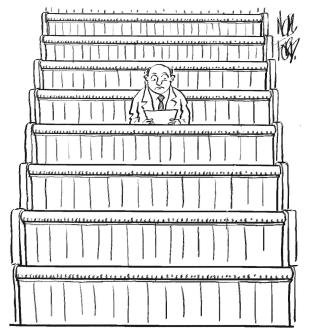
The meeting we had on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May was largely spent with preparations for our item for the awards night on the following Friday (17<sup>th</sup> May). With inspiration from Marty McFly and "Doc" we decided to go Back to the Future starting with what the boys have done most recently and work back to September. The item included the Easter Expedition, bird box building, trips to the London Dungeons, Snow Dome and the Ninja Warrior Aqua Park, Fire safety, Company Section Weekend Camp, First Aid and the circle of the year was closed by a short video of Camp 2018 and the count down begins to Camp 2019! Awards for Smartest NCO went to Stephen while Jeffrey was the Smartest Private. At time of writing it is not yet known who the other awards went to.

On the theme of Camp the 20<sup>th</sup> July is fast approaching us! The summer session, beginning after the awards night, sees us going to places such as Quasar, Mega Jump, Danish Rounders and Football over Bush Hill Park, Bowling, Canoeing and finishing off with a BBQ the Monday before we set off for Camp. These meetings are more informal, non-uniformed and we encourage boys to bring friends along to these sessions before they come back in the new year.

This year we are hosting a Great British Quiz night with BBQ to raise funds. This will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Doors will open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start, tickets cost £10 each or a discount applied for tables of 8 or more. If you would like to see if you know your Geography from your James Bond and your Literature from your Landmarks come along for a night off fun, food and quizzing! Information is on posters but you can call me 07935 435958 or speak to me after Church services on a Sunday for tickets and more information! Hope to see you there!

Next month you'll hear mostly about the activities we have done as well as the big build up to Camp where this year's theme will be reviled as well as how we got on at the Athletics competition and Quiz Night.



Joseph Nicolaides

With the congregation depleted by the bug that was going around, it suddenly dawned on Roy that he wouldn't be able to get away with just miming to the hymns this week

## Wordsearch

This month the Church remembers the Irish monk who first brought Christianity to Britain in around 565. He was St Columba, and he left Ireland with 12 companions to settle on Iona, a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. For as well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts.

A prayer of St Columba runs: My dearest Lord, Be Thou a bright flame before me, Be Thou a guiding star above me, Be Thou a smooth path beneath me, Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me, Today and evermore. Amen

Church Columba Ireland First Companions Settle Iona Tiny island mull monastery tall striking impressive Powerful scholar skills ruler poet fearless converted Dearest bright Flame guiding star

CMPNSOSOASK LDWNNE RNΥ RAONORESS N ANULAF Ν NRLLPAORNRUA CMAAHOKLΕ TASN G FRD MDRGRLE ESMO

## Other local church activities

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Date	Time	Activity	Location
2nd	3pm	Tea and worship in the hall	BHP Methodist
2nd	4pm	Messy Church	Lancaster Road
17th	2:15pm	Friendship Club Patagonia - John Wallington and Anne John- son	Christ Church
27th	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 7.30pm 7.45pm	Ladies Bible Study English Conversation Club Prayer at Betty's (Fortnightly)	Living Room Living Room BHP 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 9.45am 2pm	Bible Study (Fortnightly) Prayer (Fortnightly, alternates with above) Wednesday Fellowship (Talks from a variety of speakers, see Margaret Barbour for detail)	Lancaster Road Lancaster Road BHP 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 (1st and 3rd 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

**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)

