



The
United
Reformed
Church

April
2023



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ

www.bhpurc.org.uk



Who to contact

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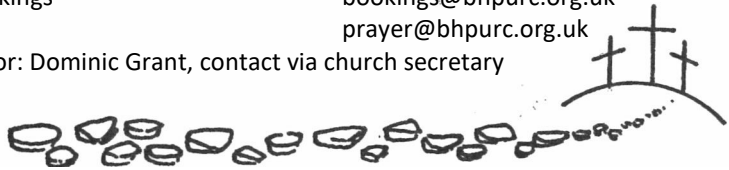
Youth activities

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

Weekly news sheet	link@bhpurc.org.uk
Newsletter	newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk
Hall & Room bookings	bookings@bhpurc.org.uk
Prayer requests	prayer@bhpurc.org.uk
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The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly. To receive email notifications please email newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk

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 <https://www.bhpurc.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding> for further information.

Easter

April Fools' Day or All Fools' Day is an annual custom on 1 April consisting of practical jokes and hoaxes. Jokesters often expose their actions by shouting "April Fools!" at the recipient. Mass media can be involved with these pranks, which may be revealed as such the following day. The custom of setting aside a day for playing harmless pranks upon one's neighbour has been relatively common in the world historically.

This is and has been a very funny and happy time.

Next comes Holy Week and Easter. This starts a very happy and joyous time when Jesus enters Jerusalem. In some ways a very similar thing. People cheering and clapping and throwing Palm leaves across the street. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to overthrow the Roman occupiers. What a massive difference occurs over the next week.

The next day Jesus goes to the temple where He meets with money changers and other merchants. He accused them of being thieves and overthrows their tables.

On Tuesday the authorities challenged Him questioning his authority. He answered by challenging and condemning

their hypocrisy. The timeline of Passion Week is not always clear. But it is evident that by midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill him.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal, the first Holy Communion. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with his disciples. Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. Later in the evening Judas arrived with soldiers and chief priests and arrested Jesus.

Probably during the very early hours on Friday Jesus had six

hearings before Jewish and Roman authorities. After daybreak on Friday, Jesus was taken before the 70-member council, the Sanhedrin. Witnesses lied to back up the bogus charges. The Jewish authorities accused Jesus of blasphemy and demanded the death penalty. But this could not be carried out without permission of the Roman authorities and so Jesus was taken before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. The Jews claimed Jesus was leading a rebellion, but Pilate saw he was innocent. Next he went before Herod Agrippa, the Roman governor of Jesus' home province, Galilee, who was in Jerusalem. Herod sent him back. There was a custom that a prisoner could be released to mark Passover. Pilate wanted to free Jesus. But the Jewish leaders whipped up the crowd to demand Jesus was crucified and another man was freed. Pilate caved in and handed Jesus over to be executed. Jesus was severely beaten and mocked for his claim to be king of the Jews. At 9am His crucifixion began and at midday, the Bible says it

became dark and stayed dark for three hours.

On the Sunday, two women followers, Mary and Mary Magdalene, went to anoint Jesus' body as was the Jewish custom with the dead. They discovered the stone had been rolled away and the body was missing. Jesus had risen!

In the weeks that followed, Jesus appeared on several occasions, including to a crowd of 500 people, before he ascended back to heaven.

A story to tell in just a very few words is not an easy task but it is the foundation of Christian beginnings and something that we still believe in and pray about over 2000 years later. For those that still find the story hard to believe, think for a moment, why has this belief lasted so long? Why are there still so many Christians in the world who DO believe?

May I wish you all a wonderful experience over the Holy Week and Easter period. Don't eat too many Easter eggs though!

Jim, Lancaster Road URC

Smile Lines

Sea of Galilee

A vicar planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land was shaken when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well," said the vicar, "at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"

I have this son...

One day a Jewish man named Leo heard from his son attending university: "I've decided to become a Christian, Dad." Leo panicked. The only thing he could think to do was call his rabbi.

"Funny you should come to me with this problem, Leo," says the rabbi. "Not two years ago my son came to me with the same speech. I had no idea what to do. I panicked, and the only thing I could think to do was go to God."

"What message did you get from God?" asked Leo.

The rabbi laughed. "God said to me, funny you should come to me with this problem ...'"

Here is the News

You can do this at home, leading up to Easter!

Why not put a small cross in your front window as Lent draws to a close, and Easter Week approaches? You can use a Palm cross or a wooden one. A cross is a visible reminder of the death of Jesus, and the Christian meaning of Easter and Resurrection.

Pam's Pantry

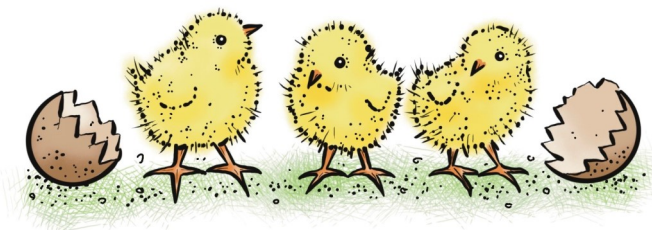
It is some time since newsletter readers heard about the work at pantry. We continue the community food bank started by Mark and Melanie at Ponders End URC. Staffing comes from four of the six churches in the two pastorates.

Funding is always of concern but donations are received from various sources including the London Borough of Enfield. God is good and an example of this was a recent order of personal hygiene items from a charity was immediately matched by receipt of an almost identical amount from a local dance group.

Our customers increase week on week the regulars assuring us they only come when there is a need and we certainly do not see them every week. Coffee and tea are offered and many stay to chat.

If you feel able please donate cash or items. We especially need gluten free food, sugar reduced tins, lactose free goods. Bring to the church or let Chris Hall, Lynda Cook or Sylvia Page know and they can be collected. Our thanks on behalf of others in need.

Sylvia





Boycott fast fashion, buy less or second hand.

You can start small, a local charity shop or, try using Facebook marketplace and ebay more to invest in second hand clothing and toys. Our clothes can bring us closer to our neighbour and reduce our impact on nature.

Like so many things today we are so far removed from the process of making our clothes that many of us don't even know what materials we are wearing.

This is something that has forced me to consider who labours, who spins, who is working hard on my behalf to make my clothes? Where did the raw materials come from to make them? Where do clothes go when they are thrown away? Furthermore, am I responsible for ensuring the companies I buy from are treating the environment and their employees well? What is the environmental cost to this excessive consumption? What can I do to step out of this system?

For the full article go to: <https://arocha.org.uk/clothing-nature-our-neighbours-and-the-wild-flowers>

Plant some trees

In 2022 we planted 100 trees (donation from a member) If you would like to plant some trees for the church go to <https://ecologi.com/bhpurc>

Total trees funded

100 trees funded



Surveying the Cross

In England in the 1600s, singing in church was confined to simple melodies attached to the words of the psalms. Each line would be sung in turn by a precentor, and the congregation would follow. This was a slow, stilted and rather uninspiring process!

When Isaac Watts was 15 years old, he complained to his father that singing in church was nothing but tuneless dirges. Watt's father, a church deacon, challenged his son that if he could do better with the worship he could go ahead and try.

Watts rose to the task in a big way: during his lifetime he wrote over 600 hymns! And from that time, countless poets and composers have followed his example, and enhanced the way we worship God.

Many churches will sing one of Watts' hymns this Easter: When I survey the wondrous cross.

It is written as though Watts is standing in front of the cross, gazing at the crucified Jesus, and taking stock of what this all means to him.

Incredibly, Watts describes the Roman device for capital punishment as a 'wondrous cross' and views this as an amazing scene of God's love. The cross was indeed a sight of horror, but it was also one of love where Jesus died for our sins.

As Paul put it: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Galatians 6:14

Watts realises that anything he has of value pales into insignificance when considering the magnitude of Jesus coming from the glorious realms of heaven to live for a while on earth. As Watts looks at his

Saviour dying in agonising pain, he knows there is no place for self-esteem. Jesus sacrificed Himself for us, securing our salvation and it is only about Him we should boast.

Watts uses an imagery of the starkness of the crucifixion with 'sorrow' and 'love'. It was sorrow for our sin that took Jesus to the cross; it was not the nails that held Him there, but His love for us.

The final verse is about gratitude and commitment. What can we give to Jesus as a 'thank you'? How can we repay Him? Even if we could give the whole world as a gift to Jesus it would be inadequate — a 'present far too small'.

Our only proper gift can be to offer Him our own 'soul, our life and our all'.

Lester Amann



Committed to supporting our global partners Zimbabwe

Many aid agencies have relied on the strategy of ‘development’ to bring about an end to poverty. Yet after decades of hard work, we still observe islands of absurd wealth surrounded by a sea of debilitating poverty in Zimbabwe. What has gone wrong? It seems despite our best efforts at development, extreme deprivation and inequalities persist. Why? At least part of the answer is that the economic architecture in which we operate is fundamentally unfair. This means that development – in this context – simply increases the gap between rich and poor at an ever-faster pace.

Christian Aid’s research suggests that highly exploited countries lose \$416bn a year in revenues because of finance flowing illicitly across borders, often facilitated by British, American, and now Chinese banks. The IMF estimates that \$200bn a year is lost to low-income countries



alone, a larger share of GDP than for advanced economies, and over four times the amount of official aid that they receive from donors. Often this ‘aid’ is geared towards privatising the social good around the world to benefit Big Finance. This tracks well with Jesus’ observation that in this ‘Domination System’ of empires (some Bible translations call it ‘this world’) the poor will always be with us. It is well beyond time that all aid agencies concentrate their efforts at exposing this global financial architecture and proffer genuine alternatives to business-as-usual.

Please pray that economists, bankers, politicians, aid agencies and churches wake up to this fundamental injustice for the sake of all those we seek to bless through our sharing and gifts.

Diary

April

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

The full diary with regular activities is also online at
www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

Sun 2nd	10.30am	Palm Sunday All age worship with Barrie Thompson
Thur 6th	2.00pm 7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Reflection led by Chris Hall at Ponders End URC Communion and Tenebrae (service of shadows) led by Martin Hamblin
Fri 7th	10.30am	Good Friday Witness in Enfield Town, outside HSBC
Sun 9th	10.30am	Easter Sunday Communion with Martin Hamblin
Sun 16th	10.30am	Worship with Ray Pettipher
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Worship with David Moir
Sun 30th	11.15am	Worship at Christ Church (no service at our church)

Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 9th April

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

APRIL 2023

For the message of the cross is foolishness
to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved
it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Saturday 1st

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Palm Sunday 2nd

Give thanks for our young people and all children who visit our church and its buildings

Monday 3rd

Danny

Tuesday 4th

Persecuted church in Libya

Wednesday 5th

Roman Way

Thursday 6th

Local Councillor for Bush Hill Park
– Patricia Gregory

Good 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

Easter Sunday 9th

Give thanks for Jesus and the hope we have

Monday 10th

Derek

Tuesday 11th

Persecuted church in Pakistan

Wednesday 12th

St Marks Road

Thursday 13th

Local Councillor for Bush Hill Park – James Hockney

Friday 14th

The work of Tearfund (we support them through Toilet Twinning)

Saturday 15th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 16th

Thanks for the Peacemakers

Monday 17th

Diann

Tuesday 18th

Persecuted church in Eritrea

Wednesday 19th

Second Avenue

Thursday 20th

Local Councillor for Bush Hill Park – Peter Fallart

Friday 21st

Children in Zambia, particularly those who are helped by Beyond Ourselves who we support as a church

Saturday 22nd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 23rd

Thanks for those who teach us whether at school, university or

as we get older in self-help groups

Monday 24th

Evelyn

Tuesday 25th

Persecuted church in Yemen

Wednesday 26th

Southbury Road

Thursday 27th

Local politics and council decisions

Friday 28th

For the vulnerable

Saturday 29th

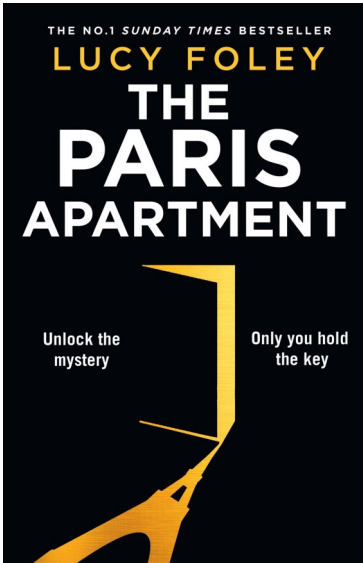
Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 30th

Give thanks for God's love



Book Club



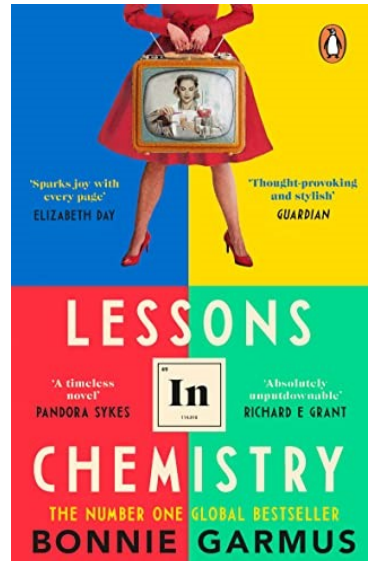
The Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley

A large building in Paris is the destination for Jess - a troubled girl who has to get out of England quickly. She leaves the Eurostar to meet her brother, Ben who is renting in an opulent apartment block, an ideal place for her to stay for the time being. She arrives, expected and he is not there, but his money, clothes and passport are! Where is he? There is no love lost between Jess and the UK police, so she is reluctant to contact the French Gendarmerie. Nick, another occupier and Ben's friend helps

her with this, but as the conversation is in French she cannot follow it. The police appear to show no interest in her missing brother so Jess decides to try to find Ben herself. Slowly the story unfolds through the lives of Jess and the other occupants of the apartment building, leading to a dramatic - and somewhat unexpected - conclusion. The characters are interesting, some instantly we take to but dislike others... The writing is descriptive, both of Paris and the people she meets.

We enjoyed this book.

Our next meeting is on Monday 3rd April at 10:30 – ask Sylvia or Yvonne for the venue. We would love more to be involved. We will be reading Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus.



Remembering Corrie ten Boom

It was 40 years ago, on 15th April 1983, that Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch writer, watchmaker, and Holocaust survivor, died. She wrote about her experiences in Christian books that became best-sellers.

Corrie's family were Calvinist Christians in the Dutch Reformed Church, and served their neighbourhood by offering shelter, food and money to the needy. They believed the Jews were precious to God and that all people were created equal. During the Second World War, she – and the rest of her family – helped many Jews and others to escape from the Nazis at great risk to themselves. She later received the rare accolade from Israel of being named Righteous Among the Nations.

The Dutch Resistance helped them to build a secret room in their house behind Corrie's bedroom, which became known as The Hiding Place – later the title of her most famous book. The room held six people, had its own ventilation and an alert buzzer, and was astonishingly successful. It is estimated that about 800 Jews in all were saved through Corrie's efforts, which included obtaining at least 100 false ration cards.

Eventually an informer gave them away, and the family were arrested in February 1944 – though not the six people in the Hiding Place at the time. After months in prison, Corrie and her sister Betsie were sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp in September 1944, where they continued to worship and share the message of forgiveness, hope, love, and salvation. Betsie died in the December, but Corrie was released later that same month, apparently because of a 'clerical error'. A week later all the women in her age group were sent to the gas chambers.

After she was set free, Corrie travelled the world for 33 years, from 1944 to 1977, speaking in 64 countries. She suffered three severe strokes from August 1978 and died on her 91st birthday.

“All you who pass by....”

For Good Friday last year, the morning service at York Minster was offered online for everyone to see, anywhere in the world. It's the most solemn day of the year. Hymns, readings, prayers: all focussed on Christ's death and its benefits for humanity, for all time.

A hundred or so people were in the congregation, alongside choir and clergy. Towards the end, the Archbishop of York carried a large replica cross from the back of the cathedral to a stand at the front. People were invited to come forward in silence, to venerate the cross, in the way they chose. Many came and knelt, or stood to pray, or touch the wood in memory of Christ's suffering and death.

While this was going on, the entrance doors remained open, and scores of visitors wandered round that great building. A number stopped briefly to look at what was going on; some appeared bemused. One man wearing a baseball cap lifted his video camera for a few seconds to record a snapshot of what was happening, then moved on. A teenager ran from one side of the Minster to the other and then disappeared out of sight.

It was an extraordinary mixture of reverence and irreverence. Should the doors have been closed while the service was taking place? Then one remembered this was a commemoration of the actual Crucifixion, which was also witnessed by a cross-section of the human race. A handful of disciples, mainly women, were nearby; others perhaps observing from a distance. Curious onlookers stared. Some just passed by. Telling verses from the Old Testament are often recalled on Good Friday:

“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?”

This was the day when Christ pronounced absolution on us for our ignorance, saying *“Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing”*. When we hear this, we feel both ashamed and revived, for we know this is what it cost Him to allow us another go at living as we should.

The Ven John Barton

Easter Services



Palm Sunday (2nd)

Parade led by Barrie Thompson
10.30am at Bush Hill Park URC

Maundy Thursday (6th)

Reflection led by Chris Hall
2.00pm at Ponders End URC
Communion and Tenebrae (service of shadows) led by Martin Hamblin
7.00pm at Bush Hill Park URC

Good Friday (7th)

Witness in the community
10.30am in Enfield Town outside HSBC
There will be a brass band playing from 10am

Easter Sunday (9th)

Celebration led by Martin Hamblin
10am at Bush Hill Park URC



National Stop Snoring Week 18th to 22nd April

Do you love and also live with someone who snores? Then you will know how difficult it can be at times. Snoring can put great strain on the health and relationship of both partners.

For this reason, the British Snoring & Sleep Apnoea Association (BSSAA) runs the National Stop Snoring Week, to encourage people to seek help with their problem. It warns that: 'snoring will not go away – it will only get worse if not addressed.'

Sadly, snoring affects a large portion of the adult population. It can range from gentle vibrations to whistles to very loud growling. The noise of snoring is well known to be one that cannot be tolerated for long without disrupting sleep.

Long-term snoring can even be an indicator of a potentially serious sleep disorder known as obstructive sleep apnoea, which is found in 4% to 10% of adults.

So if someone in your home snores, you may find the following websites helpful:

The British Snoring & Sleep Apnoea Association (B.S.S.A.A.) :
<https://britishsnoring.co.uk>



Mayo Clinic: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/snoring/symptoms-causes/syc-20377694>



NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/snoring/>

Prayer

God of compassion

God of compassion,
today Lord I bring you all of my situations,
When my strength has reached its capacity.
I lift my eyes to you, the one I trust –
the maker of heaven and earth.
Thank you for the gift of your presence.

God of compassion.
When I lift my eyes, only to see strife, grief and sadness.
Draw my focus back to you. My help comes from you,
the one who breathes life into the impossible.
You guard my heart and never grow tired or weary.
You invite me to rest in your presence, assured by the
depth of your love and protection.

God of compassion.
You give the sanctuary of shade when the sun pierces
my skin with heat.
When surrounded by darkness, you provide your light
as a sanctuary.
You keep my soul.
I lift my eyes to you and remember I am known and
loved by you.

Amen

Stephen Ansa-Addo

From the URC prayer handbook 2023 for 5th March looking at Psalm 121

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 would like prayer for yourself or family and friends please email
prayer@bhpurc.org.uk

Boys' Brigade News

There's not a huge amount to update you on this month, as we come up to the Easter break, but here's a short review of the past few weeks.

The company section has been cooking, from pancakes to pizzas and others foods beginning with other letters of the alphabet. With cracking egg breaking and sauce making skills there could be a future chef in the making. They have also had a skills challenge one Monday night where they were tasked with making a lollypop stick Da Vinci bridge. A Da Vinci bridge's unique design is held together by its own weight. I recently watched a documentary on how bridges are built. It was riveting! Alongside this they have been playing various games such as uni-hock, football, dodgeball and chairball.

The Seniors have been starting off the sessions with drill practice followed by various games/sports activities. These include fitness, football, basketball, and a variation of tchoukball. Following this they have been working on a short comedy/spy action film. I have to say so far it couldn't be going any grater. Following a grilling from their boss, two British Secret Agents have been tasked with finding a confidential file which has been stolen by villain Colby-Jack Stilton and his accomplice Emmental Gouda. The way things are going it looks to be brie-lliant when it's finished.

We recently held a well-attended trip to a ninja warrior park, similar to the TV show there's a course which finishes

with the wall and a giant inflatable obstacle course. We also entered the badminton competition with pairs finishing 4th, 3rd. Leading up to their final game, Miles and Charlie were on an unbeaten run; match after match, win after win, one final match and victory is their's. The final game was tense and evenly matched but through fist bumps and encouragement, they took victory by winning the tie break point!

Joseph

Girls' Brigade News

This session we have been looking at the value of forgiveness using Jesus' forgiveness in leading up to and including Easter.

We watched a children's video on the story of Easter and watched part of "The lion, the witch and the wardrobe" where Aslam forgives Edmond for his betrayal. The following week we spoke about Maundy Thursday, made a purse and the girls enjoyed polishing up some coins to act as Maundy money.

We will be looking at other stories of forgiveness from the bible, for example the Prodigal Son and discussing how many times we should be forgiving people.

I would like to thank the parents, Chris, Sue, Margaret, Vicky, and the girls for making Girls Brigade so enjoyable.

God Bless and please keep us in your prayers.

Lynda

Wordsearch

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethesmane that this fearful cup of suffering might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. Because of Easter we can approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ. He has opened the gates to heaven for us!

jesus ate last passover meal
disciples warned betrayed bread blessed

wine
thanks
drink
covenant
law
old
new
body
blood
gethsemane
cup
removed
will
easter
approach
god



Other local church activities

Weekly

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Mon	10am	Ladies Bible Study	Living Room
	7.30pm	English Conversation Club	Living Room
Tues	9.15am	Tots and Toys	Gospel Hall
	10.45am	Bumps and Babies	Gospel Hall
Wed	9.45am	Bible Study (Fortnightly)	Lancaster Road
	10am	Prayer (Fortnightly, alternates with above)	Lancaster Road
	2pm	Wednesday Fellowship (alternates between general chat and talks from various speakers)	BHP Methodist
Fri	10am	Shoppers Coffee Morning	Lancaster Road

Other activities take place monthly or fortnightly. See the following websites for details:

Lancaster Road - www.lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

Christ Church - ccurc.org.uk

BHP Methodist - www.bhpmethodist.org.uk

BHP Community Church (Living Room and Gospel Hall) - www.bhpcc.org.uk

Weekly Activities

Monday 6.15pm Boys' Brigade Junior Section
7.30pm Boys' Brigade Company Section
10.30am Book Club (Once a month, see inside for date)

Wednesday 10:00am Toddler Group
6.30pm Girls' Brigade

Thursday 10.45am Friends Group (2nd & 4th Thursday)

Friday 6.00pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

Sunday 10.30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)

Please check the church website to confirm if the activity you want to go to is going ahead. www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

