



**Bush Hill Park**  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**April**  
**2025**



25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ  
[www.bhpurc.org.uk](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk)

# Who to contact

## Minister

Ruth Dewis      07592 125027      minister@bhpurc.org.uk

## Serving Elders

Andrew Caddies	andrew.caddies@bhpurc.org.uk
Lynda Cook (Secretary)	secretary@bhpurc.org.uk
Martin Hamblin (Treasurer)	martin.hamblin@bhpurc.org.uk

## Youth activities

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

## Other activities

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

## 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.

# Hello,

Christ is risen

- He is risen indeed!

Hallelujah!

Church congregations around the world will be rejoicing about this fantastic news, especially on Easter Day.

Many more people however will participate in Easter egg hunts searching for the delicious chocolate treats but less likely choosing to seek the Lord. Families often try to meet up around this Easter holiday period which brings them comfort and so much joy; making memories together is so important.

Unfortunately not everyone has a happy family life. Spring flowers have by now established themselves again in all their glorious colours; creation sharing its gifts to those who care to stop and look. It might even be sunny - and warm! But what is Easter really all about? We can get so enthusiastic about Easter time for all sorts of reasons that we forget it's true relevance for the world today.



God loves us! God is love!

However our English language can be an obstacle at times. We have the one word when there are three different definitions of love in Koine Greek; the language the New Testament was first written in. The Greek has Eros (romantic love), philia (friendship love) and agape (laying your life down for others love - as Christ did for a broken world).

God is agape! There was nothing romantic about being nailed to a cross - it wasn't a feel good event. It wasn't eros love that kept him on the cross, nor was it friendly love. It was His agape love for the world - the love that is willing to lay down one's life, not just for your friends but for those who despise you (as many did Christ - and still do).

God does not have favourites - he loves even the vilest offender (by our standards).

Too often we see people through the worlds eyes not Jesus' eyes. Those who believe in their heart and confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord know, that in this darkening world we have wonderful news to share. Christ is risen, Hallelujah!

What a hope we have! A hope that will be realised when we see Jesus face to face.

*“And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.” – 1 Corinthians 6:14*

However, until that time we have been afforded an intimacy with God through Jesus Christ our Saviour which we do not take full advantage of. So over this Easter period let us spend time to be still and enjoy God's amazing grace and his holy presence. Let us grab the opportunities to share our hope in Christ with others. Let's share our faith stories.

I came across a reflection by a George MacDonald which I felt says everything about what worship should be:

‘As for me, I can only fall on my knees and pray that the Lord Christ, who had died for me, might have His own way with me – that it might be worth His while to have done what He did and what He is doing now for me. To my Elder Brother, my Lord and my God, I give myself yet again, confidently, because He cares to have me and because my very breath is His. I will be what He wants, who knows all about it and has done everything, that I might be His own – a living glory of gladness’.

So in this Easter month of April let us go into the community being ‘a living glory of gladness’.

*“I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” Revelation 1:18*

May God bless you and those you are close to this Easter.

*Ruth*

## Smile lines

### Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

### What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef... mad cow

Can't eat chicken... bird flu

Can't eat eggs... Salmonella

Can't eat pork... fears that bird flu will infect pigs

Can't eat fish... heavy metals in the waters

Can't eat fruits and veggies... insecticides and herbicides

Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice...  
nasty carbs

Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves...  
chocolate



## Here is the news

### **Church leaders lament cuts to international aid budget**

Leaders from the Baptist, Methodist, Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church have responded to the Prime Minister's announcement concerning further cuts to the international development budget.

The statement says: "Our Churches have strongly encouraged and supported the UK in its commitment to international development, not only as a way of showing care to our global neighbours, but in recognition of the UK's historic and ongoing responsibilities to address the causes of global injustice, poverty, forced migration, climate change and conflict. It is a source of deep regret to see a backing away from that responsibility. A massively reduced UK aid budget would be experienced as a bitter blow by partners and communities in the global south, especially coming so soon after the devastating USAID cuts. We urge the government to rethink its decision immediately."

For the full article go to <https://urc.org.uk/church-leaders-lament-cuts-to-international-aid-budget>

### **Who are the most generous Christians?**

Those who attend church and read their Bible at least weekly.

So says Stewardship, in its 2025 Generosity Report. Stewardship, which manages charitable donations from churches, charities and individuals, has found that, in donating an average of £314 a month, not only do 'committed Christians' give away almost five times the UK monthly average, but they experience "the most joy" from doing so.

The C of E's National Adviser on Giving and Income Generation, Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, points out: "The more we realise that everything we have is a gift from God, the more we are able to give it away".



With a damp climate it's easy to think that we have plenty of water and nothing to worry about. But water shortages is the future for many unless we rethink how we use each drop. Having a shower, cooking dinner and flushing the loo all add up to an average of **150 litres daily** for each of us.

But taking into account all the water needed to produce all the food and products we use, we actually get through a whopping **4,645 litres every day!** This way, we indirectly affect water resources throughout the world.

Some shower heads use a lot of water, so consider fitting yours with a low flow shower head, which gives a refreshing power shower while using less water. For some ideas go to [www.bestproductsreviews.co.uk/low-flow-shower-heads](http://www.bestproductsreviews.co.uk/low-flow-shower-heads)

## **Where did your Easter egg come from?**

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.

Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.

# The Real Easter

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure: *'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'* This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and His resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, *'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection'* (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

**New Hope:** Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

**New Love:** Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

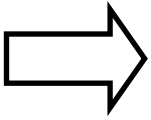
**New Life:** When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: *'Oh, you're real, you're real!'* We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

*Canon Paul Hardingham*



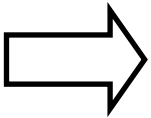
# Diary for April



## See back cover for regular activities

The full diary with regular activities is also online at [www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on)

Tue 1st	10.30am	Journey of Generosity Lent course at Lancaster Road URC EN2 0BS
	7.30pm	Journey of Generosity Lent course at BHP URC
Sun 6th	10.30am	Communion with Anna Erikson
Sun 13th	10.30am	Palm Sunday parade with Lisa Hamblin
Tue 15th	10.30am	Journey of Generosity Lent course at Lancaster Road URC EN2 0BS
	7.30pm	Journey of Generosity Lent course at BHP URC
Thur 17th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday joint service at Lancaster Road URC, EN2 0BS
Fri 18th	10.30am	Good Friday witness in Enfield Town, meet outside HSBC
Sun 20th	10.30am	Easter Sunday communion worship with Rev Ruth Dewis
Sun 27th	10.30am	Worship with Terry Silvey



## Next newsletter deadline: Sunday 13th April

All material for inclusion should be emailed to [newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk)

## Prayer diary for April

For I am convinced that neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor demons,  
neither the present nor the future,  
nor any powers,  
neither height nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

### **Tuesday 1st**

Persecuted church in Nigeria

### **Wednesday 2nd**

St Marks Road

### **Thursday 3rd**

Staff and pupils at Raglan Primary School

### **Friday 4th**

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

### **Saturday 5th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

### **Sunday 6th**

Give thanks for those who faithfully attend our church services week by week

### **Monday 7th**

Alison

### **Tuesday 8th**

Persecuted church in Syria

### **Wednesday 9th**

Second Avenue

### **Thursday 10th**

Staff and pupils at George Spicer Primary School

### **Friday 11th**

The work of Christian Aid (we support them)

### **Saturday 12th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

### **Sunday 13th**

Give thanks for the beauty of Spring and brighter days

**Monday 14th**

Amaka

**Tuesday 15th**

Persecuted church in India

**Wednesday 16th**

Southbury Road

**Maundy Thursday 17th**

Staff and pupils at Grafton

Nursery School

**Good Friday 18th**

Children in Zambia, particular-

ly those who are helped by

Beyond Ourselves who we

support as a church

**Saturday 19th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and

the service tomorrow

**Easter Sunday 20th**

Give thanks for Jesus

**Monday 21st**

Andrew

**Tuesday 22nd**

Persecuted church in Libya

**Wednesday 23rd**

Third Avenue

**Thursday 24th**

Staff and pupils at Bush Hill

Park Primary School

**Friday 25th**

Child carers and the charities

who help with support and en-

joyable events

**Saturday 26th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and

the service tomorrow

**Sunday 27th**

Thanks for those who teach

us whether at school, universi-

ty or as we get older in self-

help groups

**Monday 28th**

Anne

**Tuesday 29th**

Persecuted church in Paki-

stan

**Wednesday 30th**

Trinity Avenue



## Youth Alpha evenings

Over four weeks we have been looking at some of the youth alpha videos with a group of young people from Boys Brigade. The shortened course was to fit in with the heavier exam schedule young people are facing at this time.

We looked at who Jesus is, the reason for the cross, why the Bible is important even today and who the Holy Spirit is.

Each evening has included food, ranging from pizza to lasagna.

It has been encouraging to see the commitment of the boys who attended regularly. This has been a time to ask questions and think about the Christian faith. It has been good to get to know this group better and give them the opportunity to think about Jesus for themselves and what difference a commitment to Jesus would make to their lives. Please pray that the seeds sown will flourish in God's perfect timing for each of the boys.

Thanks to, to Andrew, Robin, Lynda and Derek who have helped cover these evenings

*Ruth*

**Committed to supporting our  
global partners in Zimbabwe**

Commitment  
for **Life**  
Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

The BBC reports that the worst drought in living memory is devastating southern Africa, leaving close to 70 million people without sufficient food and water.

People living in the Mudzi district of northern Zimbabwe dig down into the bone-dry riverbed of the normally flowing Vombozi



river. Using shovels and buckets, they desperately trying to extract the last drops of water.

Along the riverbed there are a number of dug up holes, large enough to fit a single bucket. The water is used to bathe children, do laundry, and give cattle a drink.

Gracious Phiri, a 43-year-old mother of five, says that she now must walk up to three hours every day to fetch water. “I have never seen anything like this.”

Food is also in short supply in Zimbabwe, where 7.7 million people face hunger. Children have been badly impacted, with hospital admissions for moderate to severe malnutrition increasing. Often, ground baobab fruit is stirred into a porridge for extra nutrients.

Your donations to Commitment for Life are helping our local partners install boreholes with solar power. This is one way to help people deepen their resilience in the face of climate change. See this video for more information:

[https://youtu.be/Ux9hZp5\\_aWg](https://youtu.be/Ux9hZp5_aWg)



## Services

### **Palm Sunday - 13th April**

**10.30am**

Worship led by Lisa Hamblin

### **Maundy Thursday - 17th April**

**11.00am**

Communion led by Chris Hall at Ponders End URC

**7.30pm**

Reflection led by Rev Ruth Dewis and Rev Martin Legg at Lancaster Road URC

### **Good Friday - 18th April**

**10.30am**

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

### **Easter Sunday - 20th April**

**10.30am** Easter Celebration and Communion at Bush Hill Park led by Rev Ruth Dewis

## **Second Most Dangerous Country in the World for Christians**

After North Korea, where in the world is it most dangerous to be a Christian?

The World Watch List puts Somalia in second place. In the entire country there are only hundreds of Christians, almost all from a Muslim background.

As under President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, being Muslim is a huge part of Somali identity, to reject Islam is seen as a huge betrayal. Somali converts to Christianity are often killed on the spot when their faith is discovered – murdered either by Islamic militants or even their own family.

Believers who aren't killed outright face vicious persecution from family members, house arrest, forced marriage, sexual violence or being forced to take part in Islamic rituals.

Al-Shabaab, a violent Islamic militant group at war with the government, controls large swathes of the country. This group enforces a strict form of Sharia (Islamic law) and is especially keen to eradicate Christianity from Somalia. Church leaders are particularly targeted.

How can you help Somali Christians? Please keep praying, as your prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus, no matter the cost.

Open Doors supports Somali believers across the Horn of Africa through discipleship training and by equipping them to cope with severe persecution. If you want to help, please go to: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

# The Ultimate Offer to Humanity

This Easter the media will rightly remind us of the carnage in Ukraine and the Middle East. For as we celebrate this great Festival, commemorating Christ's victory over evil, we are confronted with death, barbarity and terror in the world. Unless we choose to live in fantasyland, we have to relate the two.

First, Jesus Christ did not escape death. Nor did He promise His followers a trouble-free world. Actually, they themselves can expect an above average share of suffering.

Secondly, we believe that Christ's death was no accident, no mistake. It was typical of the evil deeds that human beings mete out to each other. Innocent suffering did not begin in Jerusalem and will not end there. But the crucifixion was a calculated risk: God's costly and unexpected intervention in human affairs. The Christian claim that God's Son was put to death is deeply offensive to religious groups who cannot believe that the remote and all-powerful God to whom human beings should submit, has Himself submitted to our brutality. Yet it is in this way that God enlists in His creation without violating it.

Thirdly, Christ's way of sacrifice, forgiveness and reconciliation is God's ultimate offer to the human race.

The first reaction of the people who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ was fear. Incredulity, too, but fear. And no wonder: they were seeing the King of Kings.

In the last book of the Bible, the Risen Christ is described like this: "I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across His chest. His head and His hair



were white as white wool, white as snow; His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters..... When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead.”

That is the proper first response of reverence and respect to a vision of God. Only then can we hear the words spoken by this terrifying figure:

*“Do not be afraid: I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, and see I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and the world of the dead.”*

God’s rule over the world – the world at its worst and the world at its best – was reasserted at the first Easter. This is no domestic, ecclesiastical event. It is God’s glorious yet solemn challenge to His rebellious creation: the grip of evil and death is terminally weakened. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

*The Ven John Barton*



*They could have either a procession of crosses,  
or a donkey. But not both.*

# 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. But because He does live, we have a sure and certain hope for our future.

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

E	A	E	S	E	B	C	C	E	B	B	R	G
W	C	L	T	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M
S	B	P	I	B	T	U	R	S	T	O	N	E
A	E	M	R	I	R	C	T	S	B	O	E	N
E	N	E	O	A	A	I	A	T	L	D	D	Y
Y	A	T	T	T	Y	F	I	E	S	I	R	L
D	M	S	I	A	A	I	N	R	R	A	A	J
S	E	N	I	W	L	X	E	C	M	L	G	N
I	S	E	C	L	A	I	R	T	E	E	E	T
E	H	G	S	E	D	O	P	G	X	S	N	G
B	T	E	A	L	S	N	N	T	I	T	I	F
R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P	R	I	A	V	S
P	G	S	A	D	U	J	B	O	D	Y	O	O

# Prayer

Living Lord Jesus, We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts.

For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!"

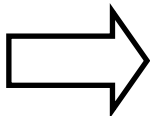
Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations. Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

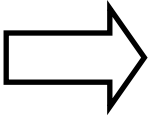
*Daphne Kitching*



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](mailto:newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk).

If you would like prayer for yourself or family and friends please email [prayer@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:prayer@bhpurc.org.uk)

# Weekly activities



Please check the church website to confirm if the activity you want to go to is going ahead.  
[www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on)

## Monday

- 6.15pm Boys' Brigade Junior Section
- 7.30pm Boys' Brigade Company Section
- 10.30am Book Club (once a month, date inside)

## Wednesday

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

## Thursday

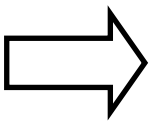
- 10.30am Friends Group (2nd & 4th Thursday)

## Friday

- 6.00pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

## Sunday

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



The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly. To receive email notifications please email [newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto: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.

