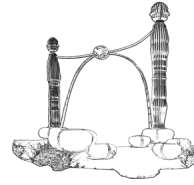




Church at The Centre

Tonge Moor United Reformed Church
Starkie Road, Tonge Moor, Bolton BL2 2ED
www.boltoncommunity.co.uk/tongemoorurc
www.buildingbridgesintongemoorbolton.co.uk



God loves us all.....especially you.....



....that's why we have the Easter story

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 10:45am | Family Service - All welcome (Communion - 1st Sunday of Month) |
| Friday | 3.30 - 5.00 pm | Friday Friends - 3 rd Friday in the Month - All welcome |
| Saturday | 9.15 - 9.30am | Informal Prayer time - All welcome |
| | 10:00 - 11:30am | Saturday Morning Café - All welcome |

Church Life - April 2010

Contact Numbers:

Community Minister – Pat Oliver – Home: 01204 520034

Childrens Centre: 01204 336746

Church Secretary – Margaret McGreavy: 01204 387905

Church Editor – Maureen Harrison: 01204 698873

Church Web Site: www.allcommunity.co.uk/tongemoorurc

Holy Week Service: Tuesday, Mar 30th at St Andrew's (time to be confirmed)

Good Friday – Service at St Andrews – 11.00 am

Easter Sunday – Morning Worship 10.45am Church at the Centre Tonge Moor URC

We will be looking to resume our regular Wednesday Midweek Fellowship meetings after Easter.

Promise of.....?

As we approach Easter, there is promise of Spring in the air. Those cold snowy days are past and there is a hint of colour appearing in the gardens, bird song is becoming more audible and the days are getting longer.

In the shops there is promise of good things to eat. Hot Cross Buns, Simnel Cake and Easter Eggs are tempting us. Cards and decorations displaying pictures of eggs, rabbits, lambs, spring flowers, crosses and churches, remind us that Easter is just around the corner.

Perhaps there is promise of a holiday or time off from work when there will be opportunities to relax, and maybe meet family or friends, or time to get to grips with an awakening garden.

The disciples and followers of Jesus must have felt great promise in Jesus' words and teaching. He had given them signs as to the nature and love of God so how devastated they must have been when Jesus was crucified. What had seemed like a life of great promise had been cut cruelly short.

The Resurrection, Jesus rising from the dead, on Easter Sunday, was and is a wonderful happening. Although confused and amazed, the disciples must have felt exhilarated. Life still held great promise. God was showing them the way, giving hints and signs to guide them.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus this Easter Time perhaps we can identify with those disciples and feel exhilarated too, experiencing the promise of new life!

Happy Easter,

Susan Evans

The Central District of the North West Synod has created a Prayer Diary to help all the Churches think about one another by praying for particular Fellowships each Sunday throughout the year. We will be including these Churches in or “Prayers for the Church Family” during our Sunday morning worship.

During this month, please pray for:

Everyone in our Fellowship, young and old, especially those leading worship and those who cannot attend;

Pat Oliver our Community Minister and everyone involved in the work of the Children's Centre and the Building Bridges project; The Pupils, Parents and Staff of Tonge Moor Community Primary School and Moorgate Primary School; Friends at other local Churches: St Aidan's, St Andrew's, St Augustine's, St Columba's. Friends at our sister Churches: Rose Hill and St. Andrew and St George

Wendy White in her role as chaplain to Middlebrook Retail Park

Other Fellowships in the United Reformed Church :

April **4th** *St George's The Hoskers,
Westhoughton.
URC/Methodist/CoE*
11th *New Chapel, Horwich*
18th *Easter Day - for Christians world
wide*
25th *Hyde URC/Baptist*

Colour of *Music*

The Flower Festival will provide an opportunity for us to work with others in the Children's Centre to publicise all that goes on in here every day of the week, and especially what we are trying to achieve through our Building Bridges project.

We need:

Sponsors for flower arrangements

- Could you? Do you know a local business who may be interested?

Help in the café

Help as a steward, sell programmes, look after a 'stall'.

Help 'fetch and carry' on Friday 30th April

Help with children's activities during the Flower Festival

Put a poster in a window – or persuade a shopkeeper to display a poster

Save your 'loose change' -

If you feel able to give some time or contribute in any way to the Flower Festival, please let John or Pat know.

April 1st – Good Friday – Informal prayer time as part of URC Prayer 24/7 from 7am - 10am at Church at The Centre (see article)

2nd – Easter Saturday - Inter-faith Event in Victoria Square -11am – 2.30pm

6th – Easter Tea ‘n Bingo – 2.30pm at The Centre, Starkie Road (Entry by ticket only –see Pat)

13th – Elders Meeting

14th – Churches Together in Tonge Moor meeting -7.30pm – St Aidan’s

16th – Friday Friends – 3.30pm at The Centre, Starkie Road – topic to be confirmed

25th – Church Meeting (Finance)

30th – Setting up for the Flower Festival – volunteers will be much needed afternoon and evening

Forward Notice:

May 1st -3rd – Flower Festival – Church at The Centre/Tonge Children’s Centre, Starkie Road

2nd – Baptism of Jack Cox during our morning service at 10.45am



The History of Hot Cross Buns

Many people in the United Kingdom, Canada, and elsewhere will recall reciting this old nursery rhyme as a child:

*Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns!
One a penny two a penny -- Hot cross buns!
If you have no daughters, give them to your sons,
One a penny two a penny -- Hot cross buns!*

The old rhyme originated back in the 1800s when English street vendors sold the popular buns to the loud cry of "Hot cross buns!"

The early history of hot cross buns is unclear, and there are numerous theories offered as to their origin. Some say their origin dates back to the small consecrated loaves once given to the poor as alms by priests after the Mass.

And it's also claimed that in 1361, a Father Rocliff of St. Albans Abby in southern Hertfordshire handed out sweet, spiced buns marked with a cross to the poor after the Good Friday Mass. Good Friday is also known as the Day of the Cross. The little buns must have been a hit with the parishioners, as their association with Good Friday remains today.

St George's Day 2010

When is St George's Day?

St. George's Day is on 23 April. It is England's national day.

Who was St George?

St. George is the patron saint of England. His emblem, a red cross on a white background, is the flag of England, and part of the British flag. St George's emblem was adopted by Richard The Lion Heart and brought to England in the 12th century. The king's soldiers wore it on their tunics to avoid confusion in battle.

Who was the real St George and what did he do to become England's patron saint?

St George was a brave Roman soldier who protested against the Romans' torture of Christians and died for his beliefs. The popularity of St George in England stems from the time of the early Crusades when it is said that the Normans saw him in a vision and were victorious.

Dragon-Slaying Patron Saint of England

One of the best-known stories about Saint George is his fight with a dragon. But it is highly unlikely that he ever fought a dragon, and even more unlikely that he ever actually visited England. Despite this, St George is known throughout the world as the dragon-slaying patron saint of England

St George is always depicted as a knight carrying a shield with a red cross (or a banner with a red cross), generally sitting upon a horse and always killing a dragon. How does England celebrate St George's Day?

By tradition, 23 April is the day for a red rose in the button hole, the national flower. However, unlike other countries, England does not celebrate it like Americans celebrate 4 July with fireworks. In fact, you are more likely to see big St Patrick parades in England celebrating Ireland's National Day, more than you would see any sign of St Georges Day being celebrated.

For most people in England St George's Day is just another ordinary working day.

Mandy Barrow

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|-------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 4th April | Easter Sunday Rev Wendy White | John Evans M McGreavy | Sharon Matthews | Maureen Harrison | Joan Hooton | Joan Bradbury Luke Chpt 24 v 1-12 Clues to the risen Christ. | Joan Bradbury Edna Thomas | Olwyn Darby |
| date | leading worship | | door steward | elder | vestry | reading | coffee | flowers |
| 11th April | Barrie Bradshaw | | Joyce Russell | Christine Cooke | Maureen Harrison | Pat Oliver Revelation Chpt 1 v 4-8 The end and the beginning. | John Evans Alan Hulme | M Hardman |
| date | leading worship | | door steward | elder | vestry | reading | coffee | flowers |
| 18th April | Pat Rae | | Kathy Hood | Joan Bradbury | Christine Cooke | Susan Evans Revelations Ch 5 vs 11 - 14 Sunday best | Joyce Russell Dorothy Anderton | Joan Bradbury |
| date | leading worship | | door steward | elder | vestry | reading | coffee | flowers |
| 25th April | Joanne Shaw Pulpit Exchange Sunday | | Dorothy Anderton | Susan Evans | Joan Bradbury | M McGreavy Revelations Chpt 7 vs 9 - 17 No more suffering | Maureen Harrison Christine Cooke | Mr & Mrs D Cooke |