

APRIL 2011

RUSH HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH FROME ROAD, BATH

MINISTERS:

Rev Helen and Rev David Pattie
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SECRETARY:

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TREASURER:

Clive Shellard
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ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

10.30 am Morning Worship

HOLY COMMUNION

Every 2nd Sunday morning

TUESDAYS

5.00 pm Rainbows

6.00 pm Brownies

THURSDAYS

9.30 am Ramblers

7.00 pm Guides

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

6th	10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Roger Nunn
10th	10.30am Morning Worship and Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Hazel Starritt
17th	10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev David Pattie
21st	Maundy Thursday 7.30 pm Joint Service at Larkhall
24th	Easter Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship Rev Helen Pattie
28th	7.30 Bible Study
29th	Royal Wedding Quiz and Supper commencing 6.30 pm
May 1st	10.30am Morning Worship led by Mr David Pendle

Dear friends,

As I write this letter my mind is turning to Easter. Our first Easter with you in Bath.

The files of the Easter collectanea are gradually being opened. The seeking afresh for insight and creativity of presentation, things which often come from the most unlikely sources.

John Miller, a minister in Castlemilk Glasgow for 36 years and former Moderator of the Church of Scotland General Assembly, provides a unique example. He once shared a story of an afternoon spent in a graveyard.

He had heard that every year the Roman Catholic churches hold a mass in the local cemetery. This mass at the burial place is a custom among the Irish. Thirty years into his pastorate he decided to go along to the service himself. In a crowd of several hundred he found himself standing among people he knew. Some were his neighbours, for John had chosen to live in a council flat rather than the splendid manse provided, something for which the Kirk had disciplined him. With others he had shared family funerals. After the mass everyone strolled from grave to grave, talking fondly to other families, laughing at good memories, asking after one another with genuine concern.

Reflecting on the afternoon John said "the afternoon was extremely moving. With heightened emotions people shared their thoughts about life and death, about family and loss, and about the Kingdom of Heaven and the resurrection".

Holy Saturday is traditionally the time when graves are tended in preparation for Easter Sunday. Maybe on Holy Saturday, the place of burial is a good and meaningful place to be.

Have we lost something in our own Reformed practice and tradition? Holy Saturday the Day of Desolation? Holy Saturday the turning point? In over 20 years of ministry I can think of only one occasion when in an Ecumenical gathering on the edge of the local shopping centre we marked the low point of Holy Week. We felt that same forsakenness of those women who came to anoint the broken body. [Mark 15vs42-47] Someone had offered their own tomb for Christ's burial- a cave cut in the rock. They wrapped him in linen grave clothes and grieving love. But nothing could alter the despair. The Lord of Life laid in the cold dark earth. A stone closed the cave of the mouth and shut out the light.

Imagine the body taken from the cross, the wounded flesh, the final acts of love, the darkness. As you think on these things pray for light even in darkness, for patience to wait on God for the morning.

Blessed Easter

Revd. Helen

Holy Week Services at Rush Hill

17th April	Palm Sunday: 10:30am 'Palm Praise – I am the way!' – led by Revd David Pattie
20th April	Wednesday: Screening of the film "The Boy in Striped Pyjamas" as an act of worship. 7:30pm in The Percy Hall, Central URC
21st April	Maundy Thursday: 7:30pm Combined Service at Larkhall ... led by Revd's David & Helen Pattie
22nd April	Good Friday Cross Walks—see leaflets at back of church for details of the route
24th April	Easter Day: 10:30am Morning Worship to include Communion – led by Revd Helen Pattie This is an all-age event and everyone is invited to bring their decorated hard-boiled eggs for our display and then you are invited to participate in an 'Egg-Roll' after the service.

Real Easter Egg on its way to become a UK top seller

A church backed campaign has succeeded in convincing retailers to stock The Real Easter Egg, the UK's first and only Fairtrade charity egg to mention Jesus on the box. Morrison's, Waitrose, Co-op and Booths are to stock a limited 'trial listing' of the Real Easter Egg and sell it in their biggest stores. A number of independent shops and a selection of cathedrals are also stocking The Real Easter Egg. And hundreds of Traidcraft supporters have ordered thousands of eggs on behalf of their communities.

The retail price of The Real Easter Egg is £3.99. It is made from high quality Fairtrade chocolate. Two charities benefit from the sale of the egg: Traidcraft Exchange receives 30 pence from every egg sold and Baby Lifeline will receive 10% from Real Easter Egg net profits.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Friday 29th April

Royal Quiz. An opportunity to end a day of celebration with a fun quiz and supper at Rush Hill. 6.30pm.

Sunday 15th May

Christian Aid Lunch. A frugal lunch following the morning service

Saturday June 18th

Enjoy a walk in local countryside and finish at a local pub for lunch. The walk will be an easy two hour walk. See Carol or Clair for more details

Sunday 3rd July

Church Picnic at Alexandra Park following the morning service. Transport will be available. Just bring a plate of food to share.

Saturday August 6th

Trip to Abergavenny Market, and Brecon Mountain Railway
Tickets £14. See Carol or Clair for more details

Sunday 23rd October

Church Anniversary—Sunday lunch to follow the morning service

Saturday 19th November

Craft Fair at Rush Hill. Jewellery, glass, pottery, and other crafts, refreshments and light lunches. 11am—2pm. See Carol for more details and to book a stall.

Friday 2nd December

Carols and Chips Getting the festive season underway, 6pm for chips, 7pm for Carols.

BEETLE DRIVE

We are pleased to report that 22 people had a good evening of entertainment at the Beetle Drive on Saturday 12th March. A salad supper was enjoyed and the evening realised a profit of £42. Our thanks to all who supported this event.

CHRISTIAN AID—Commitment for Life

Loretta Minghella, Director of Christian Aid has written to all URC churches thanking them for the record amount of income through the Commitment of Life Scheme from URC members around the country and to a particularly generous legacy. This has meant that partners in the four linked countries were able to benefit.

Loretta Minghella has completed her first year as Director of Christian Aid and expresses her thanks for the warm welcome at the General Assembly and for her enriching experiences with supporters and church leaders in visiting partners on trips to Kenya, India, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, also working with teams in regional and national offices in Britain and Ireland, meeting politicians, officials and ministers and others who do so much support the work of Commitment for Life.

The strategic review is to be completed this year and she asks for continued prayers as work begins on devising the new strategic framework for the period after 2012.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

PRAYER FOR APRIL

Luke 16:19-31

Lord in a world of obscene wealth and scandalous poverty, remind us that the gap is not inevitable. Challenge our perception of the world with a holy discomfort; Forgive our failure to notice the starving people at our gates. Help us to break down barriers, to open doors, to heal divisions, to recognise all your people as loved and precious.

FRIDAY 29TH APRIL 2011

Having spent the day enjoying the celebrations of the Royal Wedding why not come along and join us for our **ROYAL QUIZ**.

A light hearted evening to include supper, commencing at 6.30pm - bring your friends!

Planet Wise

Bible Study

Session 2 - Creation Calls

April 26th @ 7:30pm

Please bring along something you have made ...

FLOWERS

April	3rd	Bert and Olive
	10th	Eileen
	17th	Clive and Pam
	24th	
May	1st	Joyce
	8th	Eileen

CHURCH CLEANING

April	3rd	Maintenance Team
	10th	Mrs E Rumble
	17th	Miss A Child
	24th	Mrs J Smith
May	1st	Maintenance Team
	8th	Mrs C Rumble

CHILDRENS ROTA

April	3rd	Sue
	10th	Jackie
	17th	Carol
	24th	Sue
May	1st	Jackie
	8th	Carol

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Items for the next issue to Sue Thurston by 24th April