



Dear Friends,

Easter reminds us so clearly of the two central themes of Christianity: death and resurrection. Good Friday takes us to the depths of human emotions, lies, betrayal, violence and murder. Easter Day takes us to God's love, power and grace, after death comes resurrection - and that is something that is promised to all Christians.

There is also the death and resurrection that takes place in our own lives, churches and local communities. The desolation caused by sin, loneliness and disease can and will be replaced by new life and renewed hope of better times to come through faith in the risen Jesus.

We are pleased to see signs of new life and new hope in our work with young adults and in many other areas of the Church's ministry. Outreach news gives me the opportunity to share this and other information with you.

Sheriff of Nottingham

I have now been working with you for nearly sixteen months. It has been a time of personal growth and experience for me which I hope has blessed the Church. In September I will be starting a new job in Nottingham. I will be an Assistant Lay Minister working alongside a Minister in three Methodist churches. It is a time of change for both me and the Church but one which I think we can look upon positively. A great deal has happened while I have been here and there have been many opportunities for people to hear the gospel and meet church people in a social environment. I will still be with you until 31 July and I would like to thank those people who continue to pray for, support and encourage me.

Winter Events

Let me update you about the events since January. Firstly, we had the Burns Night at the Boringdon Hall Hotel on 22 January. This was certainly one of the highlights since we started the Outreach events a year ago with haggis, bagpipes and the traditional trimmings. We had 61 people at this event; 25 of these were guests of Church members or people on the Church fringe. David Meredith, a minister from near Inverness, was our guest speaker. It was a surprise to many people that Burns Night could be used as an evangelistic event.

Our next event was the Challenges Evening in February. It was encouraging that people on the fringe of the Church felt able to bring their families along. As well as the special events, I have run another ten week course of 'Christianity Explored', on Monday evenings. It was good to see some of our young people learning more and going deeper into the Christian faith and again I am grateful to those who have helped me run the course.

Easter Programme

The Easter programme has been very full this year with events and services for people of all ages. It was good to be able to invite all the children of primary school age in Plympton (through visits to the local schools) to the 'Miracle Maker' film. All the schools visited accepted a copy of the 'Miracle Maker' book as a gift from the Church. At the time of writing we are still looking forward to our visit to Higher Cadham Farm for 'A Taste of the Country'. However, I am pleased to say that 30 people will be taking part in this event, which is near enough the capacity of the dining room.

Future Events

TRELOYHAN MANOR

We now have 48 people going to Treloyhan Manor for the Church Community Weekend. We look forward to a weekend of fellowship, teaching and the golden sands of St. Ives!

COMMUNITY EVANGELISM

After inviting Rolf Vasby-Burnie to speak about personal evangelism last month, we will begin some community evangelism with a newspaper called 'Good News' next month. This will lead on to the 'Jesus Video' project when we hope to give local people a video film about the life of Jesus to watch and keep. Please speak to me if you would like to get involved in this work.

HOPE'S KITCHEN

The internationally known theatre company 'Riding Lights' are performing 'Hope's Kitchen' - a play about four friends living the stories of their own lives on stage. Saturday, 30 April at 7:30pm in the Church. Tickets £6 for adults, £3 for children and students. Suitable for age 12 and above.

DONKEY SANCTUARY TRIP

Our May event is a trip to the famous Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary. How many donkeys are there in the Bible? Come along and find out! Join us for this family day out on Saturday 7 May. A leaflet will be available.

GLORY! GLORY! THAT MAN BILLY

A play telling the story of Cornish evangelist Billy Bray. Thursday 19 May at 7:30pm. Tickets £4 for adults, £2 for children and students. Suitable for age 12 and above.

CHINESE NIGHT

After the success of the Burns Night and Balti Night we give you another opportunity to sample international cuisine and hear the testimony of Chinese Christian Kim Goh. Friday 17 June (more details to follow).

SPIRITUAL DAY AWAY

Deacon Ruth Richey will lead out spiritual day away at the tranquil Hampton Manor in the Tamar Valley on 16 July.

I hope you will be able to come to as many of these events as possible.

James Darby