

## from Hope April 2004

### A passion for Easter

I' m sorry to say that it concerns me how very excited people get about Christmas, and how relatively unconcerned we seem to be about the celebration of Easter....and I' m not talking about the world outside,

I mean THE CHURCH !

Maybe because the images are easier to deal with.....a little baby in a crib surrounded by fluffy sheep, rather than a man having his body being torn apart with beatings, whipping, and nails of the cross. Perhaps it' s because at Christmas so much of it is wrapped up with our receiving gifts and visits whereas, apart from the odd chocolate egg, there' s not much apparently in it for us.

But the truth of it is that EASTER is our **highpoint** in the calendar.

EASTER is the focus of our thankful hearts, that a perfect man might take the punishment of the cross for us.

It' s at EASTER that the door of heaven is opened through the sacrifice of God' s beloved son.

It' s at EASTER that Jesus rose again from the dead – overcoming once and for all the power of sin and death.

I do hope that we will all use the opportunity to share with others the good news of what Easter means to us as Christians – our lives can never be the same again, because of all that Jesus has done for us.

**This year why not take a risk? Invite someone you know to the cinema !**

From the end of March the film, “The passion of Christ” is released across the UK. Although I have not seen the film yet, I know some that have, and they highly recommend it as a chance to open up conversations about Jesus and the meaning of Easter with people who might normally not give it a second thought.

It might mean taking a bigger risk – sharing your faith and bringing them to something at Church!

Let' s get passionate about Easter !!

### Andrew Gardiner

#### Prayer Focus

##### People

Our love and sympathy go to **Jenny and Ron Weeks** and family at the sad loss of Nina.

Also **Karen and Nick Beard and family** following the death of Karen' s Mum.

Please remember **Adrian, Pam and Mark Smith** at the loss of Adrian' s Dad.

Also **Alan Neate** at the loss of his wife Pam.

Continue to pray for **Marilyn Fray, Gladys Gardiner and Kelly Hopwood** following their operations.

Pray for **Peggy Horton and Claudia Robertson** who are booth waiting for operations.

L@@k Out!

**Marian Brown** is now able to see much better. Thanks be to God.

##### Church

Pray for the baptismal service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April and that everyone will enjoy the Fellowship Lunch to follow.

Pray for the Easter Services ass we share together with Pennycross Methodist and St Pancras, especially the Sunrise Service at Clearbrook at 6.30 am on Easter Day.

##### Give Thanks

For the increase in those attending Mums and Babies and pray for the helpers who attend to them.

Give thanks that Jesus loves you.

Receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, Mark 10 v15.

Pooh Bear also very welcome!

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### Thursday Coffee Morning

Could you spare a Thursday morning approximately every 6 weeks to join the Thursday Coffee Morning Rota? We are very short of volunteers to run this and if you think you might be able to join the rota, or even help out occasionally, please contact me.

Thank you

Pam Waters

### Women's Rendezvous

The Coffee Morning held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March raised the magnificent sum of £102, which has been given to Plymouth Breathe Easy. This is a local support group, allied to The British Lung Foundation, which works to support people with various lung conditions and their carers.

Thanks go to everyone who helped in any way on the day.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Mark and Dee Saunders on the (premature) birth of their baby son.

### Wanted

Families to host Spanish and Basque students, aged 14 to 18, from 29<sup>th</sup> June until 18<sup>th</sup> July - good rates. For more information phone Yve on 01752 206633.

### New Telephone number

Claudia Robertson has a new number – please change your directories:

It is - 01752 513296

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## April Diary

Thurs	1	10.00	Coffee Morning**
		6.30	6.30 HY-Powered, years 3-6 – Family Quiz Night
		8.15	Xplore
Fri	2	7.00-8.30	The Hype, years 7 to 9; Easter Entertainment
		8.15-10.00	Re:Act, years 10 to 13; End of term party
Sun	4	10.00	Prayer in the Lower Guildroom**
		10.30	10.30 40 Days of Purpose – Celebration, and Baptismal Service, followed by fellowship lunch
Tues	6	10.00	Mums and Baby Group**
		1.30	Prayer Group* venues vary, please ask
Thurs	8	7.30	Maundy Thursday Communion at Pennycross Methodist.
Fri	8	10.30	Good Friday family service at St Pancras
Sun	11	6.30	Sunrise service at Clearbrook
		10.30	Resurrection Rhythm, family Service
Sun	18	10.30	' The Road to Emmaus, Phil 2 v1930
Tues	20	1.00	Parent and Toddler Group *
		7.30	7.30 Church meeting
Wed	21	10am & 1pm	Parent and Toddler Groups *
Thurs	22	6.30	HY-Powered, years 3 – 6
		8.15	Xplore
Fri	23	7.00	The Hype, years 7 - 9



8.15 8.15 Re:Act, years 10 -13

Sun 25 10.30 'Treasures from Heaven' Phil 3 v41 1

Wed 28 7.30 Women's Rendezvous, a talk by Jean Potter  
Men's Group meet

Thurs 29 6.30 HY-Powered, years 3-6

Fri 30 7.00 The Hype 'DIY night'  
8.15 8.15 Re:Act, years 10 - 13

\*These meetings are held weekly **during term time only**

\*\*These meetings meet weekly **all through the year**

Fellowship groups now meet on various nights and in different weeks so check with group leaders when yours is meeting.

#### Advance dates

May

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Thank Offering

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Car Treasure Hunt – details to follow

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Marriage Works! A course for couples to  
enrich relationships, at St Pancras 1.30 – 5.30

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Youth Concert, at Hope in aid of BMS.

July

10<sup>th</sup> Teignmouth Outing, details soon available

BMS Birthdays for April

23<sup>rd</sup> Beryl Brown

#### **Bible Society Competition**

The Bible Society is holding a competition to highlight "The Word of God".

Choosing any text, you are asked to write a "Thought for the Day" in no more than 350 words.

There are two sections, one for adults, the other for under-18s, with prizes in each section.

The entry fee is £1 per article, 50p for under-18s, and you may submit up to 5 entries. These may be typed or handwritten with your name, address and telephone number printed on the back, with your age if you are under 18.

All profits will benefit the Bible Society.

Entries should be submitted, with fees, by Sunday 25th April to **Miss Betty Travis, 4 Watson Place, St. Jude's, Plymouth, PL4 9QN. Tel: 568373**

#### Flower Arrangements for Easter 2004

As usual, we are meeting at the back of church on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am to decorate the church for Easter Sunday Celebrations. For various reasons, some of those who have faithfully helped to decorate the church at Easter time over the years are no longer able to join us, so we invite anyone who is enthusiastic or artistic to come and join us. We are not professionals and just enjoy arranging flowers and the fellowship it brings.

If you cannot join us you can still help by bringing along any suitable greenery or flowers from your garden, or by making a donation for flowers.

It would be lovely to see some new faces. Hope to see YOU there!

Pam Smith Flower Co-ordinator

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**S u r g e r y L i n k**

Jean Potter and Mike Holland continue to be part of a small group, which acts as critical friend to the

Peverell Park Surgery. It is called the Peverell Park Focus Group. The practice is keen to ensure that it provides an efficient, helpful and appropriate service, hence the Focus Group.

If you have any comments, either now or in the future please know that you could pass them, in confidence, to Jean or Mike.

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The Final Prayer Letter from our Link Missionaries

**February 2004**

**Dear friends**

This will be our last prayer letter with BMS World Mission and so we want to say a huge thank you to you all for all of your love, prayers and support. Thank you for the letters, packages and the e-mails but most of all for the prayers which have kept us going.

We arrived back in the UK in October and had a pretty frantic three months getting our house sorted, seeing midwives and doing BMS World Mission work. Josh has now settled in to the UK, although at first it was a bit of a shock. He misses his friends from Pokhara and the Nepalis he used to see regularly. Initially he didn't mention Nepal at all, as perhaps his little mind was overloaded with life back here. He now however seems happily adapted to 21st century British life! He is now going to a playgroup for a few mornings a week and is making new friends.

Our daughter Grace Maya arrived on 9 December (9lb 3oz) and has been very contented and straightforward from the start. We are thrilled and thank God every time we remember that at one time we didn't think we would have any children.

We have been back in the UK four months now and are still very much appreciating the benefits of life here; the clean water, the political stability, the NHS, being near family. We also find ourselves missing Nepal more and more. We miss our friends, and the simplicity of life, which is such a contrast to the frantic nature of life here in the UK. We also miss the mountains and the blue skies.

Hopefully we will not forget some of the great things Nepal has taught us: the importance of family and relationships, the value of great hospitality, the enthusiasm and commitment of the Nepali Christian community. Our time in Nepal has enriched us enormously and we thank you for the part you played in 'making it all possible'.

As for the future, Simon was offered a teaching job at a local school teaching maths until the summer, which has been a real blessing and is going well. Next year, we intend to examine the possibility of ministerial training for Simon. We are sure God will guide us as much in the coming years as he has in the last five years.

***Thank you once again for all your support.***

***Lots of love***

***Simon, Kate and Joshua xxx***

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Pray for the City

Dear Friend

It's now three years since we began the early morning prayer time, ***Pray for the City***. Throughout this time a steady and consistent corps of believers from various denominations have come together on a Wednesday morning to 'stand in the gap' on behalf of our city.

In recent months prayer has been led by representatives from the NHS, Plymouth City Council, local churches, Christian ministries, industry, business and the police to name but a few. How thrilling it was, a couple of weeks ago, to be joined by 30+ students, as prayer focussed on the University Christian Union's 'Mission Week'. Sometimes we have no organised leader but seek to pray as the Lord gives direction. We frequently realise that the Lord is doing far more in our city than we had imagined!

Following prayer, those who can, stay on for fellowship over a light breakfast of coffee / tea and toast! Whether discussing the issues just prayed for, catching up on current events or simply enjoying one another's company— this has proved to be a valuable time. Of this we are certain, it is no sacrifice to spend this early morning time together – indeed the comment is often heard "I wouldn't miss this for anything!"

These early morning prayer times are not intended to replace or compete with what is already going on in our local churches – but an additional opportunity to seek the Lord together for the transformation of our city.

In the fellowship of the Gospel  
The *Pray for the City* co-ordinating group.  
George Baxter, HOPFAN  
Pastor Doug Bould, Peverell Community Church  
Roy Beaumont, City Church  
Graham Jones, Emmanuel C of E  
Sue Mason, City Church  
Ron Wells, Mutley Baptist Church  
Rev Roger Williams, St Matthias C of E

Major Harry Wilson, Congress Hall Salvation Army

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For more information, telephone 01752 704201

This Outlook was compiled by Nicky Hatherell. The May edition of The Outlook will be put together by Claire Worrall who will be grateful for your articles or information **by 16<sup>th</sup> April**. If you would like to pass on anything by email Claire's address is [isclaire@worrall228.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:isclaire@worrall228.fsworld.co.uk). Please note that if you do send it this way we will **ALWAYS** acknowledge receipt of it, so if you do not get a reply then we will not have received it – remember email is not always 100% reliable.