

# The Outlook

March 2005

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## Celebrating Easter When you're living Good Friday

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David Coffin (Yes, that is his real name!) is a Lutheran minister. At 3am one Good Friday his wife, Barbara, returned home from work complaining of an increased pulse rate and feeling her heart was going to burst. Within minutes she was rushed into hospital with a suspected heart attack. Eventually her condition stabilised and Dave left her sleeping in Intensive Care.

It was mid-day Saturday and amidst the anxiety and loneliness of his situation he had to start preparing to celebrate Jesus resurrection. He found himself facing an Easter he couldn't cancel and didn't have much heart for. The question pulled at him, 'How can I celebrate Easter when I'm living Good Friday?'

It's a question those who are suffering from bereavement, illness or depression will echo. The overwhelming nature of some people's difficulties makes it almost impossible for them to feel the joy of Easter Sunday. But Easter Sunday isn't about our feelings; its focus is the hard fact of Jesus' resurrection. That reality is the promise to God's people that suffering and death are never the end of the story.

The resurrection brings hope that one day we who believe in Jesus will live beyond the grave in everlasting life. It also gives hope within this life that the Lord is able to take us through even the most grim circumstances and bring great good out of them.

I would turn the question Dave had around. 'How can I celebrate Easter if I haven't been through Good Friday?' Unless you have experienced something of the darkness of life how can you appreciate the light?

Dave didn't get much sleep but people said it was one of the best sermons he preached. Barbara recovered and they re-evaluated their lifestyle and made changes. Their brush with death led them to appreciate Jesus death and resurrection in a much deeper way than ever before.

Best wishes for Easter

Andy

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## Outreach Committee

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Each month one of the committees of the deaconate will be introducing itself through the Outlook and this month it is the turn of the Outreach Committee, formerly known as the Evangelism Committee.

We are: Nicky Hatherell (chair), Andy Saunders, Debbie Houston, David Brown, Anne-Marie Dalton and Neil Pick.

O u r p u r p o s e i s m u l t i -faceted: We plan social events, which reach out beyond the congregation, e.g. The Community Quiz that we had last month, and the Treasure Hunt planned for May. We aim to give church members opportunities to invite friends and families to a fun event where they can meet other Christians and get a first taste of the church. Although these events are planned by us we usually rely heavily on all of you to help us realise them

? We also plan events where people can find out more about the gospel. Guest nights are good introductions to the Christian message and Alpha courses give the opportunity to find out more. We always try to ensure that there are appropriate ways for inquirers to find about more about the Christian faith.

- ? In April watch out for an Evangelism Training Day – ‘ How to share your faith without losing your friends!’ , details available soon.
- ? We aim to help every church organisation to consider their role in evangelism and we are particularly linked to Parents and Toddlers, Mums and Babies, Women’ s Rendezvous, Coffee Morning, Open House and Men’ s Group. We try to meet with the leaders of each of these groups regularly for 2-way feedback, in order that we may support and encourage them. We meet bi-monthly and our meetings usually have a very long agenda – there is much to be organised if we are to fulfil our remit above; we often fail – ask anyone how long we have been planning a golf tournament!!! But we do try...! On top of all this we have to plan and manage our own budget for Outreach in the church . Please remember to pray for us and if you want to know more, then please speak to anyone of us named above.

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## Guard your heart

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Only 2 weeks to go until the start of the prayer Labyrinth! By then we’ ll have had our first sermon about ‘ ordering your private world’ . I read this book about 15 years ago and it had a profound effect on my life. The verse that arrested my attention was from Proverbs 4;

*‘ Above all else guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life’*

It dawned on me that cultivating this inner life was drastically more important than being busy and ‘ driven’ . I’ ve spent the next 15 years trying to find ways of doing it. Some of the activities in the Prayer Labyrinth are the result.

There’ s a sense of expectancy about the Labyrinth this time (It was difficult for people to work out what on earth it was last time!) There’ s a keenness to help, an enthusiasm to get involved, and some fellowship groups are planning a group ‘ outing’ to visit it. I’ m finding people outside the Church are interested too. One of my friends is planning on transporting a tree for me in her son’ s pushchair, another has disclosed a secret source of cheap cheese cloth, and the Herald is coming to photograph Toddlers and Nutkins creating the Easter gardens.

This year we also have a number of workshops to attend in the evenings. There’ s a family workshop, there’ s how to ‘ Break out of a rut’ and there’ s ‘ Raising the dead’ to name a few. By the time you read this they may be all signed up for!

As well as opportunity to work out struggles, repent, worship and rejoice there are also areas where you can intercede for the Church, community, Plymouth and the ‘ Spirit of discovery mission’ and the wider world.

Do please pray for the Labyrinth, that people will encounter God there, maybe for the first time; toddlers, mums with babies, teenagers, atheists, agnostics... and Christians.

Above all else, guard your heart

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## Treasures on earth - Hope Baptist Church Finances

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I am very encouraged having just finalised the church accounts for the year ended 31 December 2004, which Peter Brown kindly drafted. They show an excess of income over expenditure of some £1,700 in a year when the original budget suggested that there might be a deficit in the year.

This was largely due to the level of offerings being higher than anticipated. Much of this increase can be traced to new members and attendees at Hope giving for the first time.

**To meet our commitments this year the target increase in offerings in 2005 is nearly 30% on our 2004 income figure.** This is a large increase but it does not necessarily mean that all members have to increase their own personal giving by 30% . We have a number of active new members and the church is growing all the time.

The Bible tells us that our giving should be proportionate to our income. Has your income changed in the last year?

Existing givers are encouraged to prayerfully consider increasing their giving and new members and other givers will be heartily welcomed into partnership.

So how can you help the new Treasurer and his team?

- ? **Give regularly by standing order** – forms at the back of church

- ? **Consider before God whether you should increase your giving**
- ? **If you pay ANY tax at all then also fill in a Gift Aid Form** – even if you only pay a small amount of tax, this may be reclaimable. If in doubt speak to me – forms at the back of church
- ? **Give monthly instead of weekly** – after all most of us get paid our salary or benefits monthly now

The Bible talks a lot about giving, the promises attached to it and the seriousness of not giving (see Malachi 3, verses 8-12 for some of these).

Let's continue to work together to promote the Gospel in this community.

Tony Jopson, Treasurer

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## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 1-13<sup>th</sup> March 2005

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We are all becoming so much more aware through TV and local advertising, of the number of Fairtrade items, especially food, that are now available but how do we respond? Are we really aware what it is all about?

The enormous gap between our affluence and the abject poverty of underdeveloped countries has been talked about for years. **Are you aware that the amount spent just in the UK at Christmas last year would have cancelled the TOTAL Third World debt?**

Well, "What can I do about it?" "How can I help?"

By buying goods that carry the FAIRTRADE certification mark you can be sure that you are directly supporting the farmers and producers. In turn they can rely on a guaranteed market and can plan for their future. Their standard of living improves as villages are able to fund clean water supplies and schools are built. In many places alternative occupations are being developed so that in time of crop failure families still have an income.

All the main supermarkets now stock ranges of Fairly Traded foods, which are usually also organically produced. The quality is excellent.

You can also buy from *Contrasting Horizons* at 246 Peverell Park Road, and enjoy a cup of coffee while you shop, or goods can be bought through the church.

Let us try to make this a year when we all do our best to...

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### MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

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*We would like to thank everyone who contributes regularly on a Sunday morning, this month we would particularly like to thank the following people:*

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#### Coffee

6<sup>th</sup> Claire Worrall, Nicky Hatherell  
13<sup>th</sup> Nick Beard and Kate Hatherell  
20<sup>th</sup> Judith and John Pinch  
27<sup>th</sup> Cyndy and Ray Hedges

#### Transport

David Brown  
Peter Brown  
Mike Lummis  
Mike Munson

#### Crèche

6<sup>th</sup> Ray and Cyndy Hedges  
13<sup>th</sup> Helen Pugh and Claire Knight  
20<sup>th</sup> Amanda Harris and Miranda Crowley  
27<sup>th</sup> Family service

#### After Church Care - Under 8' s only in Thee Bar

6<sup>th</sup> Ray & Cyndy Hedges  
13<sup>th</sup> Judith & John Pinch  
20<sup>th</sup> Paul Sumner & Jenny Saunders  
27<sup>th</sup> Family service

#### Flowers

6<sup>th</sup> -  
13<sup>th</sup> -  
20<sup>th</sup> Beryl and Peter Brown. To celebrate their Wedding Anniversary  
27<sup>th</sup> Pat and Charlie Sinclair. In loving memory of their son Gordon

#### Communion

20<sup>th</sup> Set-up Ray & Cyndy Hedges      Wash-up Ray & Cyndy Hedges

#### Stewards

6<sup>th</sup> Ron Dalton, Marian Brown, Pam Smith and Beryl Chun  
13<sup>th</sup> Nick Beard, Pat and Graham Dodd, and Margaret Underdown  
20<sup>th</sup> Nicky Hatherell, Margaret Tripp, Judith Pinch and Peter Man  
27<sup>th</sup> Wilf Smale, Estelle Robertson, Andrew Jones and Pat Taylor

### *Peverell Prayer Labyrinth*

From March 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Hope Baptist Church will be transformed into a prayer Labyrinth. The Labyrinth is an interactive prayer exhibition where you go on a journey of discovery. It is possible to look at each area like an exhibition or you can choose to interact more fully; sitting down, lighting a candle, writing, and engaging in a variety of activities. The aim is to become still enough to listen to God.

An Easter theme runs through the Labyrinth using tree imagery throughout. You can,

For example, sit in the Garden of Gethsemane and take time to face up to issues you struggle with. You can contemplate the cross and how it might affect you personally, and you can walk into the empty tomb, smell the Spring flowers and blossom and celebrate the joy of new life.

The Peverell Watercolour Group will be displaying paintings and there is a collection of monochrome tree photographs by a local photographer. The Nutkins Playgroup and Toddlers groups are preparing huge Easter gardens and trees. They will have a chance to experience the Labyrinth, hear the Easter story and celebrate new life with an Easter egg hunt!

The Labyrinth is open to anyone in the community. Many walked in when we had one two years ago and commented on the sense of peace they felt;

‘ Beautiful and peaceful’

‘ Inspiring!’

‘ Quite the loveliest experience I’ ve had in a long time. Thank you’

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## Caring for our children and young people

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It is encouraging to see so many children and young people enjoying the activities at Hope. Around 150 attend some event or another during a normal week. We make them welcome as valued members of the church community and that's great. But our responsibilities go much further than that. We need to ensure that they are treated with respect, listened to and kept safe.

Some 10 years ago the Baptist Union published guidelines (Safe to grow) on child protection for the local church. Since then many Baptist Churches, including Hope, have reviewed their work with children and young people and have introduced principles of good practice in order to enable our children and young people to experience the church community as a place of welcome and security.

As a church we have compiled a Policy Statement on how we wish to commit ourselves to their nurturing and safekeeping and that statement is reviewed each year at a Church Members Meeting. Because that was done at the January meeting it was thought it was a good time to share the Policy with the wider fellowship. During March copies of the statement will be made available before and after Sunday worship. Should anyone wish to discuss any aspect of the Policy or the guidelines to which the church adheres they are invited to contact Margaret Underdown (Safe to Grow Co-ordinator), Sandra Brown or Mike Holland (Children's Advocates).

Perhaps the most important thing to bear in mind is that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the entire church membership and we **all** have a duty to ensure that what is provided is within a safe environment.

David Coffey, General Secretary of the Baptist Union, in his foreword to the publication 'Safe to Grow' has this to say,

*"We would of course prefer that we did not live in a world where child protection policies have to be implemented. But the sad truth of the matter is that we do. As the people of God, committed to following Jesus in our often-violent and abusive world, it is our particular responsibility to create and nurture Gospel Communities where children may experience the love and peace of Christ..."*

Mike Holland

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## March Diary

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Tues	1	10.00 Mums and Baby Group** 1.00 Parent and Toddler Group * 1.30 Prayer Group,* venues vary, please ask	
Wed	9	10am & 1pm Parent and Toddler Groups *	
Thurs	3	10.00 Coffee Morning** 6.30-8.00 H-Y-Powered 'American Theme Night'	
Fri	4	7.00-8.30 The Hype, youth group, years 7 to 9* 8.15-10.00 Re:Act, youth group, years 10 to 12*	
Sun	6	10.00 Prayer in the Lower Guildroom** 'Driven or Called?' Andrew Gardiner	
Mon	7	7.30 Prayer meeting in the Guildroom	
Thurs	10	6.30-8.00 H-Y-Powered - PLAYZONE 7.00	Dutch Evening
Fri	11	7.00-8.30 The Hype, years 7 to 9 8.15-10.00 Re:Act, youth group, years 10 to 12*	
Sun	13	10.30 'Has anyone seen my time?' At St Pancras. Renewal of Marriage Vows (with champagne and cake).	
Mon	14	7.30-8.30 Prayer in the Guild Room	

- 7.30 Plymouth Guildhall, Jonathan Aitken – ‘ from power to prison to peace’ , admission free
- Tues 15 7.30 Church members meeting  
7.30Sports Theme evening at Albion Marquee inc buffet, £5.50, more info/tickets - Roger Horsley 795989
- Thurs 17 12.00 Golf at Staddon Heights and evening meal, info from Graham Jones, 704201  
6.30-8.00 H-Y-Powered – ‘ EGGstravaganza’
- Thurs 17 6.30 ‘ The twilight of atheism’ ,Professor Alister McGrath, Robbins Theatre, Ply University, admission free  
7.30 Ann Atkins, broadcaster/author at Moat House, inc coffee - £1 on the door
- Fri 18 7.30 Sports theme evening at Albion Marquee, £2on the door
- Sat 19 7:30 Barn/Folk Dance with live music (including Jive Display). Light refreshments. Venue and cost to be confirmed.
- Sun 20 10.30 ‘ Spiritual strength’ , Andy Saunders
- Mon 21 2.15 Open House  
7.30 Prayer meeting in the Guildroom
- Thurs 24 7:30 Maundy Thursday service at Hope
- Fri 25 10:30 Good Friday service at St Pancras followed by march of witness and soup lunch at Hope  
7:30 Mary Magdalen musical by Roger Jones at Pennycross Methodist
- Sun 27 7am Sunrise service at Clearbrook  
10.30 Easter Family service – Andrew Gardiner
- Mon 28 7.30-8.30 Prayer in the Guild Room

\*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.

### April

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Evangelism Training Day

### May

Bank Holiday Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Car Treasure Hunt

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## Open House

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Our January meeting was very enjoyable and informative. Paul Aldersley came along to show us slides and talk about his diving experiences. He had loads of diving equipment to show us, including his wet suit, air tanks, dry suit, lead weights and lots more. Sarah also went diving with Paul before Laura and Jessica Rose were born. I expect she will get back to doing it again as soon as the girls are a bit older. Paul dives with his dad now.

The slides Paul showed us were incredible. It was amazing to see all the colours of the coral, various fish, jellyfish, sea urchins, starfish and conger eels. It’s part of God’s creation we do not all get to see first

hand but Paul certainly gave us a good insight. Paul hopes to be able to dive in the sea where the Tsunami caused so much devastation on the land. He plans to help survey the damage it did to the seabed and the effect it had on the sea life.

It is no wonder Paul donated the money we raised that afternoon to the Tsunami appeal.

At our March Open House we will be welcoming someone from the Ship Hostel at Stonehouse. They will give us an insight into the work they do there to help homeless people. Those they help usually spend a few weeks at the hostel learning life skills to enable them to get a bed-sit or similar accommodation and be independent.

We will meet in the church hall at 2.15 on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March. As usual we will be enjoying afternoon tea with various sandwiches and cakes. The suggested donation is £1.50 and this will all go to the Ship Hostel.

If you require a lift that afternoon, please don't hesitate to ring me to arrange a pick up time. I am Pam Smith, and my telephone number is Plymouth 219844.

Hope you can join us. We are a friendly bunch and welcome anyone of any age to join us.

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## **Dutch Evening Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**7pm for a prompt 7.15pm start.**

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Adrian and Pam Smith invite you to join them for a lavish and colourful audio/visual tour of the Netherlands including Dutch bulb fields, "The Keukenhof Gardens", and The Biggest Flower Parade in the Netherlands plus many other exciting and interesting places, concluding with a little wartime history in and around Ypres in Belgium.

Sixty tickets have gone on sale and are already selling well. For catering purposes NONE will be sold on the night. If you are considering coming we recommend you do not delay in purchasing your tickets. They can be obtained from 'Contrasting Horizons' on Mondays and Tuesdays between 10am & 12.30pm or myself in church on Sundays, failing that telephone reservations can be made on 01752 219844. The cost is £2.50 for adults, children from 4 to 12 years old £1 and this will include a small buffet of Dutch food.

The proceeds will be going to the church building fund so we hope lots of you will be able to support us. Should you require transport, please don't hesitate to call us on Plymouth219844 to arrange a pick up time.

Pam Smith

## **BMS Birthdays for March**

None this month, if you would like to be a part of the BMS Birthday scheme which raises funds for BMS medical supplies, please speak to Beryl Chun

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## **New address**

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Lin, Jim and Vicky Pringle have moved! Their new address is 14 Bickham Park Road, Peverell, PL3 4QL. Their new telephone number is 767366.

We all wish them well in their new home