

Roger's Easter Prayer Letter and Diary

I hope you all enjoyed a great Easter and had time to experience and share the greatest weekend in history, the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Without his willingness to die and his power to rise again we have no hope to share in this world. I am struck once again at Jesus' human nature, desperately seeking to avoid the pain and suffering ahead yet his divine nature shines through in saying 'not my will but yours'. It is as we surrender to his will and ways that we see far beyond our own understanding and catch glimpses of His heavenly purposes. We give thanks once again for your love, prayers and support which have given rise to many changed lives.

Mark 14: 35 'Going a little further, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from Him'.

We really enjoyed having Chris, Abbi and Annabelle over with us for Christmas which made it a wonderful time for us all. In the New Year we ran a Lost for Words course in Seaford to train and enable Christians to share their faith effectively and we were encouraged that over 50 turned out each week for 6 weeks on a Sunday evening. As a result of this we have an outreach programme for 2018 when we can encourage our local people to pray, invite and bring friends and neighbours to events, and arrange for courses for those who respond. Many of these events are listed in the diary below. I reached the venerable age of 65 on March 24! The family are all well and Matthew our youngest grandson in New Zealand, reached the age of 18. I am looking ahead to mission outreach in Ireland, Bicester and Eastbourne and now give a report of the Easter mission in Hungerford. I led a team of 8 in a Holy Week mission alongside Rev Mike and Ali Saunders. This was as part of an ongoing partnership between St Lawrence and TFM. Other churches were involved from Hungerford town.

It was a very cold and wet week but the team rose to the occasion and the D2D work was good and generally fruitful. The Palm Sunday services were good with responses to the Gospel and we also enjoyed Master baker Henry baking some hot cross buns and explaining their origin. I had the privilege of sharing the meaning of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day with 400 children at the local primary school across 3 assemblies. Question time alongside the local Bishop brought up many controversial issues! On Wednesday we found favour with Tesco's who donated a large quantity of hot cross buns and the team went to Hungerford Station at 6am in the pouring rain to hand them out with a serviette with an Easter message and a copy of the Hope Easter magazine. The team also attended local walks and rugby matches in the rain managing to gossip the Gospel. The Good Friday service

was well attended and again in the rain the open air witness at the Town Hall was well supported with over 50 there and many Roman Catholics responding to the message. The showing of the film 'The Shack' on Saturday evening was very moving with 6 outsiders responding to the Gospel challenge after the film. On Easter Sunday morning, there was a large turnout with over 20 people responding to the Easter message and the evening service was again well supported. Overall, despite the weather and many other challenges, we had around 60 responses who are being followed up and have been invited to the Alpha course starting on 17 April. Please continue to pray for Rev Mike and Ali Saunders.

In Seaford, while I was away, the team held an Easter outreach event at the Cabin when around 35 children and parents attended. We intend to build a monthly meeting to establish a Christian presence on the estate

April

3-5	Speaking at Transformers Kids' Club, SEAFORD
3	Mission planning meeting, St Elisabeth, EASTBOURNE
10	Leaders' Meeting at SEAFORD BAPTIST CHURCH (SBC)
13-15	Mission training weekend, WEST OF IRELAND
23	Speaking at Golf Club Dinner, SEAFORD
26	Mission planning meeting for 'The Turning' in EAST SUSSEX
29	Speaking at an invitation service at SBC in the morning and at the outreach family event at the Cabin, SEAFORD, in the afternoon.

May

8	Leaders' meeting, SBC
12	Speaking at 'Who let the Dad's out?', SEAFORD
20	Preaching at Invitation service, and training the church in outreach in the evening at EMMANUEL CHURCH, BICESTER
24-27	Mission at St Elisabeth's, EASTBOURNE

Roger will visit on Wednesday 23 May to speak at a café meal at 12 noon

	Thursday 24	Friday 25	Saturday 26	Sunday 27
am	9am Team arrive 10-12 Totz group, parents and children D2D	9am Team meet D2D	Breakfast at Golf club D2D	9.30 and 11am Invitation services Thanks Lunch
Pm	Any Questions? Panel with cream tea D2D	After school club, all age activities D2D	Community gathering of hall users - fund raiser for charity D2D	
Eve	Home meetings with invited friends and neighbours	Quiz night	Line or Barn dance	6.30 Healing and wholeness service

June

- 2-10 Witnessing on the streets of SEAFORD AND NEWHAVEN as part of 'The Turning', EAST SUSSEX.
- 12 Leaders' Meeting, SBC
- 17 Preaching at Fathers' Day, invitation service, SBC
- 22 Speaking at Invitation BBQ at a member's home, SEAFORD
- 24 Speaking at outreach family event at The Cabin, SEAFORD

July

- 7 Speaking at Men's Breakfast, SBC
- 10 Leaders' meeting, SBC
- 15 Speaking at outreach family event at the Cabin, SEAFORD