Bere Regis
Congregational Church
April 2015
Right! The clocks have gone forward and we have got over the shock of losing that extra hour. British Summer Time is officially upon us and the evenings will get noticeably lighter.

Time is a commodity we have to treat with great respect. We talk about ‘saving time’ and ‘making time’ but no one can make it longer or shorter and our lives are defined by it. Most of us carry a permanent reminder about time on our wrists.

Now we can either get really depressed about this and say... “where did the years go?” Or we can do what the Bible says—“redeem the time for the days are evil”. (Ephesians 5:16) Buy up those precious opportunities and make an impact for good on others around you.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 that we should take each day as it comes and seek first God’s kingdom—put God first. After all, He is the LORD of Time and Eternity.

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Cherry Blossom in a Bere Regis Garden photo by James Loxton

Welcome to the 2015 April edition of our magazine

- **The Ultimate Cosmic Solar** “Eclipse” came as Jesus hung upon the Cross—Pastor’s Page.

- **New Tribes Mission**—taking the message of God’s love out into the world.

- **Out of the ashes** of a bombed cathedral a famous symbol of peace emerged. See Junior Page

- **Easter Services**—all the information concerning our Easter Services inside. Why not join us?
BERE REGIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Services for April 2015

**Good Friday  3rd April**
10.00am  Pastor Jim Morris

**Sunday 5th April  Easter !**
10.00am.  Communion  Pastor Jim Morris

**Sunday 12th April**
10.00am.  Pastor Jim Morris
followed by A PRAYER LUNCH

**Sunday 19th April**
10.00am.  Communion  Pastor Jim Morris

**Sunday 26th April**
10.00am.  Pastor Jim Morris

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”
Luke 24:5,6

Junior Church every Sunday at 10.00am
Crèche facilities available on request

Minister: Rev Jim Morris 01929 471270
The Ultimate Cosmic “Solar Eclipse”!

“From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.”

The Crucifixion—Matthew 27:45

Last month millions of people in the UK and northern Europe glimpsed the best solar eclipse in years. A great swathe of the Earth's surface was plunged into darkness as the Moon came between us and the Sun.

From an aeroplane above the Faroe Islands, a BBC camera crew captured startling footage of the event reaching totality at 09:41 GMT. The deep shadow formed first in the North Atlantic and then swept up into the Arctic, ending at the North Pole. The precise timing and degree of the eclipse varied with location. For the Shetland Islands, the eclipse was at its height at 09:43 GMT and was very near total, with 97% of the Sun's disc obscured by the Moon. Scientific agencies had planes and even satellites gathering video to relay on the web and on television. In the UK, the weather turned out to be slightly better than anticipated, with clouds breaking in many places at just the right time.

There are, of course, many legends and myths associated with solar eclipses. But let me focus on the historical narrative relating the facts surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is worth noting that because we live in a Universe that was created by a form of intelligent design, which the Bible reveals as being God, we are able to accurately predict various star and planet alignments and movements.
The fact of this sudden and prolonged darkness that came in the last three hours that Jesus was on the cross is not only documented in the Bible, but is supported by Roman secular historian **Phlegon** who wrote, “in the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad, there was an extraordinary eclipse of the sun: at the sixth hour, the day turned into dark night, so that the stars in heaven were seen, and there was an earthquake.” Now Phlegon may not have been scientifically correct in referring to this unique phenomenon as an ‘eclipse’ as this could not have happened during the lunar cycle of the Passover, i.e. at Full Moon, but he, along with other historians such as Tertullian, Africanus and Thallus document it as fact and history.

For Christians worldwide, the bodily death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ are pivotal to our faith. This sign of total darkness that was the prelude to Jesus surrendering His life on our behalf was hugely symbolic. The darkness over the world represented God’s holy judgment on man’s sin—a spiritual darkness that Jesus absorbed as He died on the cross, crying out, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”, which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”. As He took upon Himself the full weight and punishment of sin, it was as if the very Godhead was torn in two. And through that one redeeming act of sacrificial love, lives shattered and broken by sin can be mended. Having met the just requirements of the Law, and because there was no inherent sin in Him, God was able to raise Him from the dead.

In our Morning Worship we have been looking at the servant-heart of Jesus leading up to Easter where we read in Philippians 2:8-9 “and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name which is above every Name!”

He was willing to endure that dreadful darkness that we might know the sunshine of His Light and Love in our lives.

Happy Easter everyone!

**Pastor Jim**

April 2015

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**As a Church we promise**

To faithfully proclaim the Good News of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ as the only Saviour.

To encourage awareness and growth in Christian truth by upholding the teachings of the Bible as God’s revealed Word to the world.

To offer Christian love, care and pastoral help to anyone in need.
Mothering Sunday proved to be a busy morning with guest missionary speaker, Tom Jardine (pictured here with his wife Ann), from the Zambesi Mission. He gave an illuminating talk on the work currently going on in Malawi and Mozambique. The Service concluded as Pastor Jim drew together the themes of Missionaries and Mothers. He explained that both required a servant heart as outlined in Philippians 2:1-11. Following the Service all the ladies present received a small flower arrangement, expertly and lovingly prepared by Helen Stevens. Thank you, Helen.

The times they are a changing! After some research, prayer and discussion we shall be moving the start time for the Sunday Morning Worship to 10.30am. This will take effect from Pentecost Sunday—May 24th. Our services are family friendly and we enjoy singing hymns and worship songs together with prayer and a relevant word from the Bible. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship with us—you will be most welcome!

Basil Norgate had a fall in Swanage last month and has fractured a bone in his shoulder. It should mend on its own but the first few weeks are likely to be painful. Please remember Basil and Beatrice in prayer. Pastor Ray Healey continues to be troubled by back pain and breathing difficulties and currently Joyce needs to be on hand to help him. Please remember these men of God and their wives in your prayers. Please remember the following: Kerry Kent and her mum Val, Carole Blues, Mary Overton and John and Bronwen Pitman. We pray regularly for any in the village with needs—if you wish to be included in our prayer list contact Pastor Jim on 01929 471270.
Last month Bill and Heather Kneale celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary. Just to prove they haven’t changed a bit in all those years, here we see the young Bride and Groom cutting the cake on the 19th March 1960! Many congratulations to you both!

This month we celebrate birthdays for.... Jo Bowkett (7th); Sue Close (12th); Ashley Gee (13th); Janet Morris (19th); Bill Kneale (27th) and Marianne Paterson (30th). Happy Birthday to you all and anyone reading this whose birthday occurs during this month.

The “Open The Book” Inter-church team have been well received in the opening Assemblies at Bere Regis First School. Having acted out the Creation and The Fall the team continue this month, working our way through the Old Testament stories and giving opportunity for reflection and prayer.

Don’t forget our Easter Services on Good Friday (3rd) and Easter Sunday (5th) both at 10.00am. Join with us to celebrate the good news that “HE IS RISEN !” The Prayer Lunch this month will be held following the Morning Service on Sunday 12th April.

The free “Good News” paper is being well received throughout the village each month and plans are afoot to extend our visiting to neighbouring villages. Most Wednesday mornings Basil Norgate, Tim Hunt (pictured) and Pastor Jim extend a warm welcome to our Chapel and offer some good news! Pastor Jim comments, “although a great many people in the village know me, mainly through my Pop In Place work, it’s good to get out and about and be among the people. It is a necessary, and very enjoyable, part of my pastoral ministry”.

neighbourhood prayer watch

This month we pray for families and individuals in .... Southbrook, Stanbarrow Close, Tower Hill, Turberville Court and Turberville Road
What does the Mission do? Here’s a brief description of their work.

Planting Tribal Churches

Of the world’s 6,500 people groups, 2,500 are still unreached. New Tribes Mission UK helps local churches train, coordinate and send missionaries to these tribes.

Ministering among unreached people groups

In 2,500 of the world’s 6,500 people groups, there is no church, nor is there any work being done to establish a church. These are the people among whom New Tribes Mission UK works.

Working in culture and language

These tribes’ cultures and languages have isolated them from the Gospel. Missionaries must learn their language and understand their culture in order to clearly present the Gospel and effectively plant a church.

Training in the UK

The European Training base for NTM is based in North Cotes College, Grimsby in Lincolnshire. It’s a place where Christians study the Bible and learn how to communicate its amazing message to those of other cultures and languages.

Presenting foundational Bible teaching

Unreached people groups have no concept of the God of the Bible. So Bible teaching begins at the same place God began -- at the beginning. Chronological Bible teaching presents a foundation for understanding Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Establishing mature churches

Following the pattern seen in Acts, God’s people carried out the Great Commission, missionaries seek to establish mature churches that can take their rightful place as agents of change in their own communities and partners in the Great Commission.

Students from New Tribes Mission (NTM) shared at Truth 4 Youth this year, a few of them first heard of NTM at Truth 4 Youth and we thank God for His work in all their lives and for the work of NTM.

Our trusted friend and fellow Truth 4 Youth steering group member Tim Palmer asked the students to share about their time at New Tribes Mission. He asked each of them to share one thing that the Lord is teaching them this year from His Word. Tim was well equipped to do this as he’s one of their Bible teachers. Tim himself is American and was a missionary in Senegal.

Student Testimonies

Natalie is an Essex girl who has been coming along to Truth 4 Youth for many years now and is a trusted helper and dorm group leader for us. Natalie is in the Biblical studies course. She shared how she had been reading a prayer letter about a missionary who was out in Papua, New Guinea and a man had walked from his village for a couple of days to get to the missionaries who were giving the most amazing account of creation and speaking of a God who wasn’t a demon and wasn’t part of animism which the man and his tribe knew and feared. He desperately asked the missionaries to come to his village but there weren’t enough missionaries to go. Natalie shared how this story gave her a real drive to see why NTM exists and the reason why God wants us to work for Him to see souls saved. She has also realised how many in the UK do not know the gospel and even if it’s scary we must share our faith.

Joseph grew up as an MK which stands for Missionary Kid. His family are still missionaries with New Tribes Mission. Joseph is doing the first year Biblical Studies Course. He shared how God has

The College Campus is a former military airfield and student accommodation has been adapted as seen below.
taught him about Church discipline and how Tim Palmer teaches that judgement is not in the Bible to judge but is there to restore. He shared how this encouraged him as he himself had so many reasons to judge himself but he discovered the love of God is there to restore, not to condemn.

Ben is doing the Biblical Studies course also and is British. He shared how he had struggled to see how the Bible all fits together until he came to NTM. The teaching at NTM is chronological and therefore it is in order and Ben shared how it all made sense. He learnt where to look for certain scriptures and with that foundation he really got a love for reading his Bible which he says was lacking before.

**Cross Cultural Communication**

**Toby** from Germany, now in his second year at the College, was doing a ‘Cross Cultural Communications Course’. He heard about New Tribes Mission back in 2008. This involves learning basic medicine and how to analyse languages, culture, technical tips, language learning, cultural anthropology, literacy, Bible translation and Church planting. Part of the course also involves five weeks of practical language and culture acquisition which is done while simulating living in a remote area.

Toby went on to share how he felt stretched in many ways but the amazing thing he learned was to see how amazing God is. Although it’s scary sharing your faith, we can be assured that our God is Almighty, All knowing, All loving and All supporting. The learning process was ’step by step’. He concluded, “it’s amazing to see what the Bible actually teaches about God and how I can take it and walk in it by faith and slowly get over my fears”.

**Katie** is American and now works in the New Tribes Mission nursery which looks after the younger children of parents doing the course. She shared how she was enjoying learning more and more of who God is throughout scripture and how, whatever circumstances she finds herself in or whatever she’s doing she can really live day by day for Him and be faithful to Him whatever she’s at. And this is not because of who she is or her circumstances but because of who He is and He is always the same.

“I’m a Missionary, Get me out of here!” Below—simulating living in remote conditions
Samuel is another Missionary Kid born to missionary parents in the Philippines but is British. He shared how through studying Paul’s Letter to the Romans he understood how we often misunderstand the Christian life and the gospel. “I have been encouraged by the tremendous potential I have in God’s sight as a Christian. He reminded to youngsters how in Romans 6 it speaks about walking in newness of life. “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life”.

Firm Foundations

Nelli from Germany is also doing the Biblical Studies Course. She shared a little about Firm Foundations which is the ‘Creation to Christ’ teachings that NTM use for the college and for tribal people. Over two weeks they completed an overview of the Old Testament. What really stood out for her was that God from the beginning had promised a Deliverer and He kept His promises the whole time and in the end He came (Jesus) and she shared how there is only one Deliverer and how people look to all kinds of things to get them to heaven but Jesus is the only way to Heaven and Jesus is what God’s story is all about.

God is real to these young people

We’ve invited the students to share a couple of times now and of course each year it’s different students but every year all of us oldies shed a tear of happiness at all that God is in each of these faithful young people’s lives. They are all bright, intelligent with so much to offer the world but they are sacrificing all that the world offers for something so much better.

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect”. Romans 12 v1,2
Jesus poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:5

Join us for our Easter Services 2015

Bere Regis Congregational Chapel
Butt Lane

Good Friday 3rd April at 10.00am
“He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross”

Easter Family Sunday 5th April at 10.00am
“Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him a Name which is above every Name”
“MY PEACE”

Two brothers had been fighting and quarrelling all day. At bedtime their Mother was so exasperated with both of them that she said, “Just suppose one of you died during the night, so before you go to sleep tonight forgive each other now, then we may all get some peace at last.” One of them said, “Yes, OK, I will forgive him now, but if my brother is still alive in the morning ......!!!!”

Many Christian believers who have a heart for and care about the nation of Israel, and daily pray and intercede for ‘the peace of Jerusalem’, as we are instructed to do in Psalm 122, received a wonderful answer to prayer in the re-election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister in the recent elections. The last opinion poll taken a few days before polling day had the opposition in the lead, the exit polls on polling day forecast a neck and neck result with the opposition still likely to win. But when the result was finally announced the Prime Minister was re-elected, for the third consecutive time, with a comfortable majority. He stands firm that Israel is the land given by God to the Jews thousands of years ago, and therefore cannot be divided.

In a speech given to the United Nations, Netanyahu said, “I often hear Palestinians accuse Israel of Judaizing Jerusalem. That’s like accusing Americans of Americanising Washington, or the British of Anglicising London. You know why we are called Jews...? Because we come from Judea.” declared Netanyahu.

How interesting it is that Israel, a strip of land in the Middle East only the size of Wales, can cause such passion across the world. It truly is the centre of the world and the focus of world attention. Zechariah 12:1-3 speaks of Israel and Jerusalem being ‘the burdensome stone...’ and indeed it is. “If only there was no Israel” – the world says – “then we will have peace” – really??!

As we come to Passover and Easter once again, the world in general will pass-by on the other side, and ridicule and dismiss as irrelevant the fact that God’s only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, died on a cruel cross on that first Easter. But Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and the Lamb of God, was crucified between two criminals. One mocked and scorned Him, but the other one truly believed Him, repented of his sin and received new eternal life with Jesus, His Saviour and Lord.

Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life” John 11:25-26

Our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, because we believe and have been born anew by faith in what Jesus has done for us on the cross of Calvary? John 3:5-8

CHRIST JESUS said, “MY PEACE I leave with you, MY PEACE I give to you, but not as the world gives do I give to you who believe” John 14:1 &27
During the last war Coventry Cathedral was bombed and the beautiful building became just a burnt out shell. The Cathedral stonemason noticed that two of the medieval charred roof beams had fallen in the shape of a cross. These were picked up and tied together to make a cross, and this makeshift symbol was set up where the altar had been. On the sanctuary walls were written the moving words “Father, forgive”. Instead of bitterness came forgiveness. A cross was also made from the iron nails that had held the roof together, and this cross today remains as a symbol of forgiveness and reconciliation. At Easter time we remember that Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for all the wrong things we have done. Because of His cross we can be forgiven and reconciled to our Father God. The most wonderful thing is that Jesus rose again from the dead on Easter Day. And because He lives now, we can know Him and live for Him.

**True Story.**

It was Palm Sunday and Jane’s five-year-old son had to stay at home with a neighbour because he was sick. When the family returned home carrying palm branches he asked what they were for. His mother explained, “People held them over Jesus’ head as He walked by.” At that the little boy looked deeply disappointed. “Just my luck”, he said, “the one Sunday I don’t go to church Jesus shows up!”

**Cleaning Rota**

April 5 Michelle McCowen
12 Joyce Healey
19 Shirley & Richard Woolford
26 Pastor Jim & Janet Morris
Bere Regis Congregational Chapel, Butt Lane

Sunday Worship 10.00am Morning Service
Join us in family worship—youngsters have their own Junior Church time. We do have occasional Evening Fellowships at 6.30pm—please check for details in this magazine or phone Pastor Jim on 01929 471270

Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am Chapel Toddlers Group
a time for mums & carers to relax and get together as the toddlers interact together—in the Chapel

Tuesday Fellowship Group at 7.30pm
want to know more about the Bible and pray in a friendly atmosphere? Held in Manse Long Room every alternate week

Wednesday 10.30am Ladies Share ’n Prayer
an opportunity for coffee and chat—and a time of prayer together—held in various homes—phone Janet on 01929 471270 for more information.

Thursday Fellowship Group at 2.00pm
for those who prefer to meet during the day. Held in Manse Long Room every alternate week

bereregischapel.org

Further information from Pastor Jim on 01929 471270

The Family Church - where everyone is welcome!
Tom Jardine from Zambesi Mission; Flowers for the ladies—Mothering Sunday; Open the Book—an interchurch outreach to our local school.