

Well, can you believe that we are already fast approaching Easter, yet it only seems like five minutes ago that we were putting up the tinsel and the Christmas tree! Mind you, it is not unusual to see Easter Eggs or Hot Cross buns in the shops on Boxing Day!

As with Christmas, Easter is a time of celebration too. At Christmas we are reminded of the birth of Jesus, and at Easter we remember His death on the cross and the resurrection of the risen Lord.

This is a cause for great celebration, for the death and resurrection of Christ tells us of the greatest love story ever told. It tells us that we are no longer condemned, but free from sin and have eternal life. A great message of love, hope and grace. The story of a new life for all for those who believe.

I had the privilege of serving as a Prison Chaplain in a high security prison for many years. This time was challenging but incredibly rewarding for I saw many men give their lives to Jesus and be set free from their sins. One day, as I was chatting with a prisoner I noticed how he was bubbling over with excitement and had a sparkle in his eyes. When asked how he was he said God had revealed to him that was truly set free from the past because of the forgiveness he has received through God's grace. He then went on to say he phoned his brother the night before to tell him of this great news and the joy he felt inside. He said to his brother "I'm free brother!" His brother, in an alarmed voice yelled "What! You've escaped from prison?"

The prisoner then put his brother's mind at ease and said, 'No, I've given my life to Jesus. I'm forgiven, I am free!'

Yet, in one sense he had escaped from a prison. A prison of condemnation, guilt, shame, rejection, regret, and a prison of despair. Many of us, if not all of us, can relate to those same feelings. Yet, this prisoner had broken free of all of that, and he even said that he was, in one sense, freer than others who lived outside of the prison. He truly knew what it meant to be free, even though he was incarcerated in a place consisting of thick walls, barbed wire, bars and prison dogs.

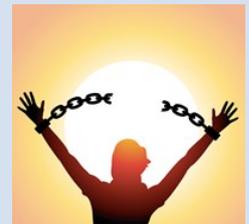
I wrote in the Christmas edition of the Bridge that there is a bible passage that talks of Jesus coming to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim FREEDOM for the captives and RELEASE from the darkness for the prisoners (Isaiah 61). May you know that there is hope, that there is freedom through Jesus Christ and that this truth will fill you with great joy.

May this Easter be a blessing to you and all those whom you love, and may you know the true meaning of Easter.

With blessings and peace,

Vanessa

Rev'd Vanessa Appleton
Minister, Hooe Baptist Church



The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be

This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm

It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me

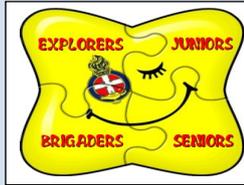
When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me

It reminds me too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care

So I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let Him be

Verna Mae Thomas (1918-2014)
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1ST HOOE GIRLS' BRIGADE

Our company is a lively and energetic company whose mission, in partnership with the church at Hooe Baptist, is to see girls' lives changed, challenged and enriched as we share the love and teaching of the Lord Jesus together.

We meet on Thursday nights during term time between 6pm and 9pm with members ranging from the ages of 4yrs -18yrs, which are divided into four groups. Each group follows a different programme which has been designed nationally to equip girls with knowledge, life skills and Christian teaching which will endeavour to enhance their learning through fun and friendship in a safe environment.

Our company nights comprise of badge work and fun, which in turn is rewarding and enables leaders to build good relationships with our young people.

The company is part of the wider fellowship of the Girls' Brigade and we actively take part in district, regional and national competitions and events which enable girls to share, participate and form friendships with girls from all parts of the country and even internationally.

The company is blessed with a team of dedicated, committed and trained leaders who bring a wealth of knowledge, gifts and skills to the individual groups they lead.

The Girls' Brigade's aim is to encourage girls to become followers of Jesus and to live out our Motto **SEEK, SERVE, AND FOLLOW CHRIST**. Over the years that Girls' Brigade has been a part of the church we have seen many girls whose lives have been transformed.

As Captain of our company what makes it special and worthwhile for me is when I, or any of the leaders, come into contact with past members they are always ready to share with us what GB meant to them, a place where they could come, enjoy and be themselves, and to be valued for who they were.

That's what Girls Brigade is all about.

Jean M Osmond
Captain



Community Litter Pick
Sat. 19th March 2016
10.00 am to Noon



Meet at Hooe Baptist Church at
9.45am. Tools and bags provided.

Free Soup, Rolls, Tea and Coffee
provided afterwards



Easter Services
Dates for your diary

Hooe Baptist Church

Good Friday 25th March 2016
10.30am Service
followed by Tea, Coffee and Hot Cross Buns

Easter Sunday 27th March 2016
9.00am Continental Breakfast
10.30am Family Service

St Johns C of E, Hooe

Good Friday 25th March 2016
2pm Good Friday Devotional

Easter Sunday 27th March 2016
10.45 Family Communion Service

**Looking for a
venue for your meeting or party?**

We have the ideal place for you,
with a well-equipped modern kitchen -
the HBC Community Hall.

For further details please contact the
Church Secretary on (01752) 480247