

Gorse Hill

BAPTIST CHURCH

CRICKLADE ROAD
SWINDON
WILTSHIRE
SN2 1AA

Tel: 01793-534193 (24hr answer phone)
www.ghbc.org.uk
Charity Registration No: 1127294

EASTER WITNESS (19TH - 21ST APRIL 2019)

Introduction

In recent years GHBC has joined other local churches on Good Friday for a march/witness around local streets.

This is poorly supported by the churches, although GHBC make up a significant proportion of those attending. Response from local residents is limited – many of them treat this day of part of an extended holiday weekend where all the usual social and recreational facilities are readily available.

Proposal for 2019

An outline program for our witness this year (subject to MM approval) could look like this

Monday to Thursday
15th to 18th April

Reflection on the Easter story (7 – 7.30 pm daily)
Communion on Thursday 18th

Friday 19th April

Reaching out from GHBC (11 am to 2 pm)
Reflection on the Easter story (2 pm)

Saturday 20th April

Reaching out from GHBC (10 am to 2 pm)

Sunday 21st April

Community Breakfast (from 9.30 am)
Worship & celebration (10.45 am)
Hymns and Tea - chose your favourite! (5 pm)

New/additional activities are noted in bold above

The **community breakfast** together with **Hymns and Tea**, are similar to what we have done before. The difference is that we are extending the invitation beyond the immediate church fellowship.

Reaching out from GHBC For the past two Christmases we have had an "open church" event on the Saturday preceding Christmas. Last December we handed out coffee, hot punch (non-alcoholic), mince pies and hot chestnuts.

over page/

Easter provides us with a number of opportunities to reach out and engage the community in this way

- serving refreshments to passers by
- giving out Hot Cross Buns & Easter Eggs
- Gospel tracts/other Easter related materials
- running an Easter egg hunt and/or activities for children. The former could include searching for clues in Gorse Hill and coming down on Friday or Saturday to collect a prize
- Street outreach – walking through Gorse Hill meeting shoppers. Perhaps some street drama (if it's done in the church porch or on our land, then we don't need any SBC permissions)
- other ideas are welcome

Publicity

This will be advertised externally through

- through GHBC's website and facebook page
- on Gorse Hill Community Facebook page
- through Recreate (held Saturday 30th March)
- invitations via local schools and Easter Investigated

We'll also make people aware of this through the current groups and activities at GHBC.

What do we need?

- anyone who can give an hour or more of your time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Talk to someone who helped at Christmas – it's great fun plus you get to supervise the eggs and the buns
- someone to design a leaflet which publicises the event – attention grabbing for children and adults alike
- a budget approval of £500 for materials
- your prayers and support for this proposal

Steve Robinson
January 2019