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[Faith Centre Website](#)

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From darkness to light . . . and so friends we approach the Easter break. How splendid it has been in recent days, with the clocks going forward, to see the weather dramatically improve, the sunsets become even more spectacular and Spring erupting into new life. Beautiful Spring, the season of rebirth, new growth and of course, renewal. In these somewhat uncertain and turbulent times globally and economically, it is good that we can be grounded in the beauty of Creation, that is, if we look after it. In the next two weeks, Christians all over the world will continue their journey to the end of Lent, move on to and through the darkness of Good Friday and await with eager anticipation for the ultimate gift of Easter and once again, **New Life**. Each day is a gift and in itself, new life. For those looking to the Easter horizon, may the path over the next two weeks be a special one. And for **everyone** journeying in whatever direction, on this precious planet of ours, let us give praise and thanks for the gift of Spring, the gift of new life to the world.

-  **Celebrate RE 2011** – following an enjoyable exhibition last week, check out some new pictures on our web pages. Click on [Celebrate RE 2011](#) . Look out for more additions to our website after Easter. Many thanks, *once again*, to Hilary Shaw.
-  **Lenten Reflections** – yesterday we were treated to a moving reflection by Fr Peter Hapgood-Strickland, following his recent pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Jerusalem, a city racked with tension and division today, a city destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Fr Peter reminded us of our duty to build a New Jerusalem, yes, here at the Faith Centre, here on the streets of Burnley and beyond, a ‘build’ founded on love, peace, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation. No-one ever said the journey or ‘the construction’ would be easy. Next week, our sixth reflection, will be led by Fr David Arnold, Chaplain to the Bishop of Blackburn. Fr David will consider the words of Simeon to Mary at the Presentation . . . “ and a sword will pierce your own soul too”. **All are very welcome. Thursday 14th April @ 1245hrs.** Soup and rolls to finish. Note, our final reflection for Lent on Maundy Thursday will take place at St Andrew’s Church Dukebar - **Thursday 21st April @ 1245hrs.** Speaker to be confirmed. No soup and rolls that day. Sincere thanks to all those who have supported the programme.
-  **Peter Sephton Coles** – Peter was a very good friend of the Faith Centre and highly skilled in Audio Visual transmission. Following some excellent work together during my previous existence in West Yorkshire, Peter had been very helpful, producing some short run materials for us here in Burnley. We had plans to produce some interesting programmes here in Burnley and Pendle. Sadly, I was informed this week that Peter had passed away. The future is not ours to hold. An extremely kind and generous person, he will be sorely missed. Do remember him and his family in your prayers. I will be attending his funeral later today in Hebden Bridge. Thank you.

- ✚ **Friends in Bereavement Group** – with clocks gone forward, it was lovely to welcome back our Bereavement Group this week, for their first session of 2011. Really good to see 40+ members coming along to listen to a highly interesting talk on Switzerland, which included some superb photography. Great to them again!

- ✚ **Talking of Switzerland . . .** last Monday we welcomed **Sam Rengier** to the Burnley Campus. Sam is the nephew of Sue Styles, a very close friend of the Faith Centre and formerly, Principal Advisor at Lancashire County Council. Sam is 18, from Lausanne and studying Business and Commerce at the equivalent of a Sixth Form here. He is with us for a two week work experience, learning all about the workings of our Social Enterprise, a gift that brings together our Campus Partners and wider community. This week Sam has been very busy working alongside our Campus Manager, Dionne Holdsworth. Next week, it's the Children Centre, the Campus Library and the Faith Centre! Always good to welcome international visitors here.

- ✚ **"East Lancashire Goes Global"** – is the name we have given to our Summer Exhibition / UN Summit in June 2011. Good progress has been made again this week and initial information has been sent out to high schools across East Lancashire. Our programme is targeted to Year 9 students and the wider community. We are always open to ideas! We will be focussing in particular on the **UN Millennium Development Goals** – for info click on [MDG Basics](#) and [UN MDGs](#)
As part of the work, we intend to have Video Conference links with a number of organisations and bodies across the globe e.g. the UN, British Council, Developing Countries, NGO's who are involved in the MDGs etc. If any readers have good (free!) contacts in Africa, the Americas, Europe or wherever, we would be happy to hear from you, so we can increase our list of partners. Why? To heighten the awareness of our young people (and others) and to send messages from sunny Lancashire!

- ✚ **Burnley Campus Library Easter Activities** – do come and join in – lots for the family.

- ✚ **Reedley Hallows Nursery** – today we welcome our wonderful students and staff from our co-located nursery, for their end of term assembly, led by Alan Scholes & team from the Burnley Evangelical School's Trust. Always a joy to welcome them.

- ✚ **Teach First** – is an independent educational charity whose mission is to address educational disadvantage by transforming exceptional graduates into effective, inspirational teachers and leaders in all fields. In recent weeks we have been pleased to assist a group of Teach First graduates who are teaching in local high schools, by making our Video Conferencing facilities available for meetings with Manchester University and Liverpool John Moores University. Good to meet them.

- ✚ **And finally** – thank you for your ongoing support. I was touched by the positive comments I received following last week's edition. The "Anyway" verse moved many ➔ we've just gotta keep building and loving – that is, to renewal and new life.

"All of us must discover for ourselves that love is a force as real as gravity and that being upheld in love every day, every hour, every minute is not a fantasy – it is intended as our natural state"

Deepak Chopra – Indian American Public Speaker and Writer