



**WHEN A
PLAN
COMES
TOGETHER**

Easter Invitation
Bethel Baptist Church, Laleston
www.bethel-laleston.co.uk

If you are old enough, you will remember the TV show, the A-Team. If not, you will be able to see what you were missing when the feature film remake is released some time this year!

The “team” were a bunch of former US soldiers who were available to help right wrongs in their explosive and usually highly unorthodox ways. Their leader, John “Hannibal” Smith was often seen looking on as cars exploded and bad guys scattered saying with a smile. “I love it when a plan comes together.”

There is something satisfying about making plans and seeing them work out as we hoped. Perhaps it is more your experience that things haven’t gone exactly to plan. There are so many unforeseen circumstances that can knock your well-laid plans sideways.

The Easter story, recorded for us by four eye-witnesses in the gospel accounts of the bible is full of drama and emotion. Much of that emotion is initially sorrow and grief but aggravated by disappointment and unfulfilled expectations. Jesus’ friends had so many hopes for him and what he would do. Most of them had only known him for a few short years and then all those plans seemed to have been dashed as Jesus was executed on the cross. They might have asked questions: “how could this have happened?” or “who was responsible?”

The bible gives us the fullest answer. Execution on a cross was a Roman practice and as the governing power it was their responsibility. So who killed Jesus? **The Romans**. But there is more to it than that.

The instigators of the whole chain of events that led to the death of Jesus were not Roman but Jewish. In all four gospel accounts, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is followed closely by Jewish disapproval and the desire to kill him. It is not difficult to see why they wanted him out of the way as he often exposed their hypocrisy. So who killed Jesus? **The Jews.** They handed him over to the Romans. But there is more to it even than that.

This verse is from a sermon the apostle Peter preached soon after Jesus' death and resurrection:

“This man [Jesus] was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge.” (Acts chapter 2 verse 23)

So although the Jews wanted Jesus dead and the Romans carried out the execution, all of this was encompassed by God's plan. The people involved were not innocent of his death. It was a wicked, sinfully motivated act, but one which served God's ultimate purpose to send someone who would save sinful people and make them right with God. Why would God do this?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John chapter 3 verse 16).

God's loving plan to send a Saviour for sinful mankind came together at the cross, when Jesus died. The bible tells us that Jesus, God's Son, carried the sin of those he would save and was punished in their place, so that all who believe in him might know forgiveness, peace with God and new life.

Why not join us for one of our special services this Easter to hear more of God's amazing plan?



Bethel Baptist Church

L a l e s t o n

www.bethel-laleston.co.uk

We would like to give you a warm
invitation to join us
for our special Easter services:

Friday 2nd April

10.30am Good Friday Service

Refreshments following

Sunday 4th April

10.30am Easter Morning Family Service

Service suitable for the whole family

6.00pm Easter Evening Service

Refreshments following both services

For more information contact:

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