

The Bread Run

Big Ted

I'd not been out of the Children's Corner for ages and then on Saturday 16th April there was the chance of a trip into the countryside involving fire, baking bread and a picnic - but I wasn't invited! They left me behind, even though there was honey involved. Anyway, as soon as I realised their mistake I got in touch via the Tedphone and suggested that it might be fitting for someone to come and collect me in the Tedmobile [*that's enough Ted-related hardware, Big Ted*].

Twenty minutes later we arrived at Uncle Paul's top-secret allotment in Stanton at the same time as the intrepid bakers. They'd walked from Keyworth in sensible footwear, with the dough in their backpacks, and were a bit tired after singing endless verses of 'The Happy Wanderer'. However, Kiki, Holly and Katie rushed to greet me and I was hugged wildly (but probably not quite as much as I deserved).

But what had I missed? In the kitchen of Keyworth Church Hall, the bakers (the girls and Auntie Margaret) had made bread dough using flour, water, yeast, oil, eggs, milk and honey. Uncle Paul said these were traditional ingredients that would have been available in Jesus's time. And no electric mixers or bread makers. (It's probably just as well that I wasn't there; flour and honey are a bit messy for a bear with splendid fur.)



The dough was carried to the allotment where Uncle Walter had a splendid fire going in the communal bread oven that he and Uncle Paul had built. Before we could cook the dough we had to check the oven was hot enough. But before we could do that it started raining, and then it started hailing! I got wet; I get grumpy when I'm wet and it's not good for my fur. Anyway it all worked out OK, as to check the oven temperature and to dry off a bit, I sat on top of the oven (you can see me on top of the oven in this photo).



The bakers put their dough into tins, Uncle Paul put the tins into the oven and we all waited for the bread to cook. We had a drink and a biscuit and a sing-song as we waited.

Finally, the bread was ready and the cry went up "Not a soggy bottom in sight" (apart from mine which was still slightly damp!); there were a few charred ones though.

We all had a great time and Uncle Paul did a tremendous job of organising an exceptionally interesting and successful fellowship event.



Uncle Paul's next fellowship event is on **Saturday 24th September** when we will be building a "Life Cairn". This event will finish up at Plumtree church so they won't be able to "forget" me again!

Love, Big Ted

PS I'd got really smelly and a bit sooty from sitting on the oven. It was terrible, I was made to have a bath (don't ask - I still feel sick from the spinning) but luckily it was a sunny day so I sat in the sunshine to dry off. My special t-shirts were washed as well so now I'm clean, fluffy, smell nice and look smart again.