

It's Bad Friday for the Blues

WYCOMBE Wanderers will go ahead with their Good Friday match against Grimsby, despite objections from church-goers who are furious it kicks off at 3pm – the exact time Jesus died on the cross.

Wanderers' match is the only League game in the country kicking off at 3pm on the religious day.

The Blues even moved the match forward 24 hours to give their players a longer rest before their Easter Monday fixture at Oldham, not realising the religious significance of the time.

Bristol Rovers did the same thing with their game against Wigan but have now put it back to a 3.30pm after realising.

Church-goer and season-ticket holder Eddie Ball has written to Blues chairman Ivor Beeks.

REPORT By Dave Peters

He said: "I won't be at Adams Park. At 3pm on Good Friday, I'll be in church. Services are held all over the world to commemorate the sacrifice of the flesh of Jesus Christ to save our souls."

Beeks said: "With hindsight it

would have been better to get a different time. It wasn't done for any malicious reasons or to be discourteous to anyone. It was done with the best of intentions and perhaps in hindsight more thought should have been given to the time."

It was former boss John Gregory who wanted to bring the match forward and Grimsby and the

Football League agreed to his request.

Gregory, now manager of Aston Villa, had not intended to cause offence and pointed out it was him who organised a church service for the players and their families at the start of the season.

He said: "If anyone has got it on their conscience the church should come first."

The Rev Frank Hillebrand has volunteered to pacify the row.

He said: "It would be nice if the football club made some sort of acknowledgment with half a minute's silence before the match. If they asked me to come and do that as the town chaplain I would be very happy."

"Three o'clock is the moment when our Lord died on the cross and a verse of a Green Hill might be very nice as well."

A solemn day for the church

GOOD Friday is the most solemn day in the Church calendar, commemorating the day when Jesus Christ was crucified **writes the BFP's religion correspondent Sandra Carter.**

In Britain it used to be a day when frivolity and games would be discouraged and most people would attend church.

The Bible record states that the time when Jesus actually died was 3pm. Many church services take place at this time, with an emphasis on meditation and solemnity before the joyful services on Easter Day which celebrate the Resurrection.