

intouch



**Behold the man
upon a cross...**



The Mark Drama at South Parade, page 14

Having had a sneak preview of the Mark Drama (page 14) at one of the last rehearsals, I knew we were all in for something special at the performance of the complete gospel. I also got to see how the presentation ended: with an agonising crucifixion scene, and the joy on the faces of the women as they meet an angel at the empty tomb. These “spoilers” didn’t mar the impact of those final scenes at the performance the following day. As we remember again the last days of Jesus’ earthly life at special services and events in Holy Week (page 37), we know how the story ends – with the joy and celebration of his Resurrection on Easter Day. As we meet together as people of the Risen King, may our familiarity with the story only enrich the depth of our worship and love for our Saviour this Easter.

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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From the Ministry Team

Rewind to Easter

As we move through Lent it means it's time for Rewind to Easter. What is Rewind to Easter you may ask? It's a great resource that we have run now for a number of years. It gives us, as a church, the opportunity to introduce Jesus and the Easter story to children in Year 5 from the local schools. It allows us to share this key event in the Christian calendar.

It also gives us the chance to chat to children in their groups about the Easter story and what it means to us and why it is such an important part of our Christian story. It provides great links with

the local schools, allowing us to provide a resource that covers their curriculum.

We have the chance to chat to children about the Easter story and why it is such an important part of our Christian story

To run Rewind to Easter means we have to change how the sanctuary looks at Headingley. First we remove all the chairs and make 12 team areas where there are felt pens, colouring-in sheets, an Easter booklet and cartons of juice (very well received!). There is an empty tomb backdrop hung from the pulpit and bread and juice laid out on the table ready to re-enact the last supper on the dais.

The children arrive at 10am and are divided into groups. The next hour and a half is packed with quizzes, stories, film clips, drama, working through the Easter story using the



booklets, and decorating plant pots and planting bulbs. All to help the children think what it was like that first Easter and why it is so important to Christians now so many years later.

Of course we could do none of this without the willing volunteers. We need a leader for each team, who can work through the booklet and answer the children's questions on Easter and what it means to them. We need people that can help out on the sound desk. We need people who have muscles to move all the chairs and tables that we use. That means that we need up to 12 leaders per session.

This year we had a great bunch of people willing to give up a couple of hours to be part of this event. We had volunteers from teenagers to people who are retired, who all worked together to make sure Rewind to Easter ran smoothly. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who was part of

Rewind this year, you were all fantastic!

While the children are learning about Easter we spoil the teachers. They sit in the area next to the library. We give them tea, coffee, juice, cookies and fruit. They are able to sit and relax for an hour and a half. It makes a real difference to the staff and they feel blessed.

It has been such a privilege to be able to share Easter with the children and the teachers this year and to work in a team with very different people who all have a heart for children and the gospel. Some people enjoy it so much they help out at Rewind to Christmas as well.



So when Lent comes round next year please pray for Rewind to Easter. Maybe next year you might want to get involved with this exciting event, just let me know if you do.

Heather

“I know you’re looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said.”

Matthew 28.5-5 (The Message)

Around the Church

Headingley

2017 continues to rattle along at an alarming rate - April already?!

February and March have seen a number of activities and developments within and around Headingley MC.

First out of the blocks was a website content training session in February, led by Verity English. She is a freelance illustrative designer who lives and works in Leeds, and has connections with Mosaic Church. The purpose of the session was to help us understand how to make the most of Headingley MC's space within South Parade's overall website, but the evening was open to members across the whole church to attend. It was attended by representatives from the other mission communities and groups within the wider church (including Peter Morden), and we gained an appreciation of what constitutes good content, bad content, a consistent look and positive image



for the website. Verity's power point slides are available for whoever would like to see them; just contact any of the Leadership Team.

It became apparent that the website is not a simple "fit and forget" feature of the church's image to the outside world. By the time you read this, there will have been a follow-

up session to clarify what image we want to portray on the website and what steps are needed to achieve it. Please join in the process as it evolves over the coming months.

Outburst burst out again on 12 February, followed by a bring and share lunch in the sanctuary. This was a change in format from previous lunches, which have been held in the hall upstairs. It was thought that it would ease the logistics of tables requirements and make joining in more accessible to those of us with mobility challenges.

The theme of the service picked up on elements of the Church vision for the year, with content that included a quiz, open questions about personal growth and encouragement, and a time of prayer led by the younger end of the congregation. Paul Rockley delivered a short message, there was time for reflection and worship through a selection of music and songs.

We are sensitive to how people respond to changes in services and associated activities and, as we **prayerfully grow** through **adventure** and seek to **encourage** each other, please do share your constructive feedback with the Leadership Team.

We were challenged to take a fresh look at adoption and the issue of children in the care system

Joe and Rio Walsh led the service on 19 February, challenging us to take a fresh look at adoption and children who find themselves in the formal care system in the UK (see page 23). Adoption is a familiar (no pun intended) theme in the Bible, so it seems natural that the Church should play a part in helping

children in this respect. There is a strong tradition of this being the case, although it has also been tarnished by innumerable cases of abuse.

A representative from the charity Home for Good delivered the main message in the service, presenting some harrowing statistics relating to children from the care system, as they develop into adult life, balanced with the positive impact that adoptive parents/foster carers and other forms of support can bring. The social environment around us is constantly changing, which impacts on the circumstances of how children are introduced to, handled by and grow up in the care system. Being involved in adoption and/or fostering, either on an individual or wider church basis, need not mean actually taking a child in to our home environment. For more information about the wide range of support that you could offer and ways in which you could help, visit www.homeforgood.org.uk

More recently it has been Fairtrade Fortnight, not just for South Parade, but for schools, businesses and places of worship right across the nation. We made our contribution by holding a Fairtrade breakfast on



Sunday 12 March (see page 9), to mark the end of the event. Immediate feedback was that it wasn't as well attended as last year, but there was opportunity to donate money after the service for food items available during the usual refreshments time.

Fairtrade isn't just restricted to two weeks, but can be incorporated into our regular consumer spending throughout the entire year. For more information go to www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/what-is-fairtrade

As well as the church vision for the year, Headingley MC is working towards a complementary goal – ***In 5 years (2022), Headingley Morning Mission Community will be a vibrant, growing church, engaged in faithful worship and mission locally and abroad, made up of all ages and nationalities, being supportive of and committed to each other.***

The next stage of making this a reality is to break it down into manageable and measurable action plans for shorter timescales. Any input from the



Church Weekend at Church
Friday 30th June - Sunday 2nd July

Join us for a variety of activities including: BBQ, live music, football and film night.

CWAC



wider Mission Community will be gratefully received.

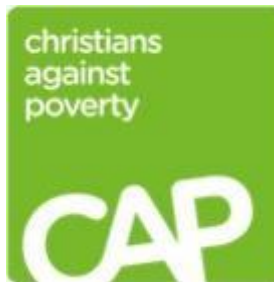
A date for your diaries this summer: Friday 30 June to Sunday 2 July for CWAC! Church Weekend At Church.

Richard Sykes
Headingley MC Leadership Team

CAP News

In 2016, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) celebrated its 20th Birthday.

In those 20 years, over 6,000 CAP clients have become Christians. In fact, in the calendar year 2016, over 1,000 clients became Christians and over 2,500 clients went debt free.

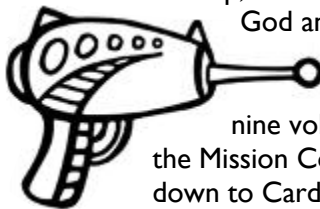


At our CAP debt centre at South

Parade, we are celebrating that 3 clients have become Christians, one client has been baptised and 5 clients went debt free in the last 12 months. This includes one client who had been paying into her CAP account for over three years before going debt free.

The South Parade centre has 30 active clients, who we are visiting and supporting in their journey out of debt

We have visited over 120 different clients in their homes since we launched our centre three years ago. Currently we have 30 active clients, who we are visiting, delivering food parcels and generally supporting in their journey out of debt.



If you could spare an hour or two each month, in order to visit someone, invite them out for coffee or generally support them, then please contact either Amy Shipley or Andrew Bedingham or leave a message at the church office and Andrew will contact you. Thank you for your help and prayers.

Andrew Bedingham
CAP Debt Centre Manager

Youth Work Gathering

At the beginning of February, we had the sixth gathering of youth work volunteers from across South Parade. The get-togethers provide an opportunity for our volunteers to stop, collaborate and listen to God and one another.

On this occasion, nine volunteers from across the Mission Communities headed down to Cardigan Fields for two games at LaserZone. The evening allowed us to get to know one another better in a slightly more competitive context than normal.

After battle had ceased, we sat down and discussed topics for our future gatherings. There were plenty of suggestions including how to create rapport, encouraging response and mastering the art of storytelling.

Please pray for us as we plan future gatherings and don't hesitate to ask if you would like more information.

Nathan Shipley

Associate Pastor, Youth and Young Adults
nathan@spbc.org.uk

Fairtrade Update

Thanks to all who supported our Fairtrade Breakfast a few weeks ago, both those who made it for the actual breakfast (though it was a disappointingly low number) and those who contributed after the morning service by buying cakes or just

*You can order
the only Easter eggs
to mention Jesus!*



donating. Our special thanks to the young people who helped in making toast and serving.

If you would like to add to the gift we are sending to Traidcraft (this year the emphasis is on support for small-scale farmers), it's

not too late. See me or David in church or at the next stall.

If you would like to order any of the fairtrade Easter Eggs (the only eggs to mention Jesus!) please contact me asap. There is a flyer with full details on the Welcome Desk at Headingley.

Pam Roe
Traidcraft rep



Fairtrade Breakfast at Headingley in March

The Macpac in Reggio Calabria, Italy

In this their final year as BMS missionaries please continue to pray for health and strength for David and Ann MacFarlane.



The three young people being baptised; David and Ann.

- Remember the Action team Sarah, Laura, Jessica and Finlay as they return to the UK in April.
- Pray for Blessing, a young woman who was rescued but witnessed her two little boys of 4 and 5 years old drown, her future.
- Pray for Bruna, who coordinates the food runs on Mondays and Fridays to the homeless, and for the advice centre and for all the volunteers who take part in this work of love.
- Praise God for the continued support they are getting for the food bank.



- Praise God for Ransel 19, Robin 17 and Bernadette 30 who were recently baptised.
- Praise God for the continual spiritual and numerical growth in the church.

Thank you

Pat Dalglish

BMS link worker for the Macpac

...informed...

Share news from Around the Church for the next edition of *Intouch* by sending reports, photos and updates from your Mission Community, home group, cell group, project or meeting to magazine@spbc.org.uk



BMS World News

Educating the World's Most Inspiring Children

Syrian and Iraqi refugee children don't want to give up on their futures. BMS World Mission is helping them to access a good education.

You're nine years old and you have never entered a classroom. Never read a book. Never even learned how to hold a pencil. Over the last five years, your home has been destroyed, you've seen family members killed, you've fled your country and you've begun to live in a shipping container. You're not living the life of a child anymore.

This is the life that hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria and Iraq are living in Lebanon. It's not the life that any of us would want for them. That's why BMS is doing something about it.

We're helping children like Wissam. He was 13 years old and had been out of school for five years when he first came to the BMS-supported Learning Support Project (LSP) – an education scheme to help children learn Arabic, French, English and

Maths. Most of the children who attend are, like Wissam, refugees.

Wissam joined LSP last October. By June, he had improved a school grade in every subject taught at the project – and a huge five grades in French! His self-esteem has grown too.

Without BMS support, LSP might have closed last year due to a lack of funding. By giving £15,000 to the project, BMS helped LSP through a difficult time, enabling it to thrive and continue to help extremely vulnerable children. That was only possible because of UK Christians giving to BMS.

“Without the BMS funding we could have closed,” says BMS mission worker Louise Brown, Project Director of LSP. “It took us from a very, very weak place to a very strong place, where we are today.”

You can support vulnerable people around the world by giving to our Syria's Forgotten Families appeal today at bmsworldmission.org/syriasfamilies



Adventures in Growth

Finance Update

If you have been at church or reading the magazine this year you will be aware of the elements of our vision for 2017, which are Prayer, Encouragement, Growth and Adventure. At the March Church Meeting, on behalf of the Deacons I asked members to review their giving to the church in Prayer and a sense of Adventure, so that we might all be Encouraged and see Growth.

What am I talking about? At the church meeting in January I presented the budget for 2017. You may remember that when one of our members died in 2015 he left his house to the church. This was a windfall of £157,000.

Last year we budgeted for a deficit, and church meeting agreed that we would use part of the legacy to make up the shortfall while giving increased.

Giving is still on a downward trend – the number of people leaving the church and taking their giving with

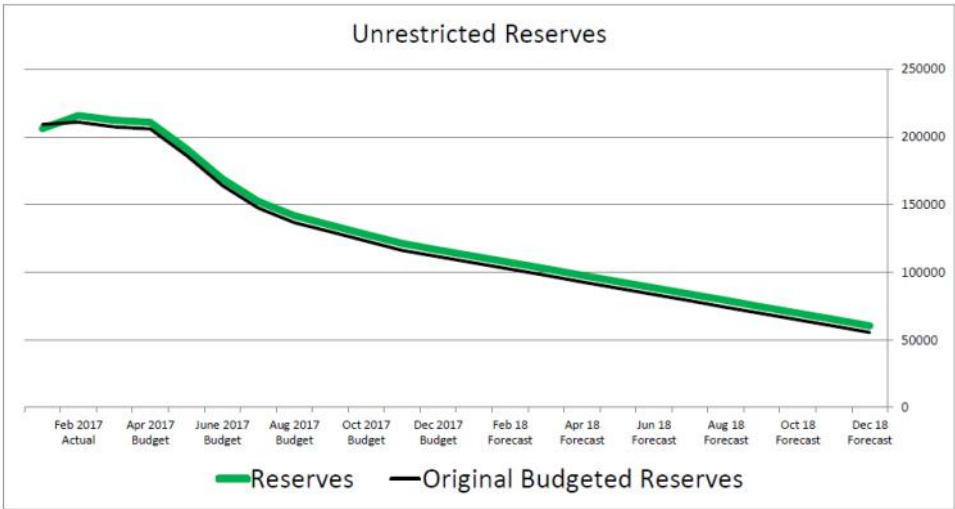
them is much greater than those increasing giving. Giving per month has fallen by £560 since October. This cannot go on indefinitely. The graph shows our reserves projected to December 2018. Unless we change things, by the end of 2018 we will have 6 weeks' expenditure in the bank.

All our costs – salaries, repairs, heating, children's work etc – are paid for by the members.

All our costs – staff salaries, repairs, heating, children's work, catering etc are paid for by the members. As I said in January, the biggest cost in 2017 is our employees £245k, followed by buildings £112k (including £50k to improve the Headingley heating system) and donations £61k.

What can we do? We could increase income....





- We can each prayerfully review our contribution. For the Bible’s teaching on tithing, have a look at Leviticus 27.30, 2 Corinthians 9.6-7, Malachi 3.10, Malachi 3.8, Proverbs 11.24, Luke 6.38, Proverbs 3.9-10, Matthew 6.21.
- If you do not already give to the church, will you join our envelope scheme and give £2 or more per week?
- Why not be adventurous and set up or increase a standing order to the church.
- If you pay tax, you can complete a Gift Aid form so we can recover some of that tax paid.

...or we could cut expenditure...

- Close Cragg Hill. We would have capital from the sale but would need to hire rooms for worship and Drop-in.
- Stop all support to Christian

workers or missionaries. This would save up to £35k per annum.

- Stop or significantly reduce giving to BMS and Home Mission. This would save £35k pa.
- Stop cleaning and maintaining our buildings. This could save £100k pa – but the bills would be even bigger when we eventually do the repairs.
- Stop Sunday services or children’s work or Connect.

These are not sensible suggestions, but they give an idea of the amount of savings required. Please talk to a Deacon, David Rugg about envelopes, or me about any financial matters.

Katharine Widdowson

Acting Treasurer
 treasurer@spbc.org.uk

To Play The King

The Mark Drama

In two powerful performances at Cragg and Headingley in March, a group of actors from across the Mission Communities brought all the scenes from Mark's gospel to life as they presented The Mark Drama. With minimal costumes, props, scenery or effects they showed the disciples as they followed Jesus from his first call on their lives, to the garden of Gethsemane, and to the cross and the empty tomb. *Intouch* caught up with the actors on a final rehearsal as they prepared for the performances, and with Andrew Page, the director, who created the Drama, which has now been presented around the world.

Three scenes among so many:

The disciples crouch in a boat, bicker over who sits where, and row out on to the lake, as a storm brews. The rain falls harder, the wind gets louder and the sound of thunder fills the air. Jesus is motionless throughout all

the deafening uproar, asleep, until the terror of the disciples finally wakes him and he stands and commands the storm to cease, and it does. "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him".

A crowd has gathered to hear Jesus, they are hungry and too many to feed. The disciples grumble, and try to ration out the food that has been found. "Fish or bread?" they ask us - there's not enough for both. Within a few minutes, they are astounded as the food keeps coming, and we count the baskets of leftovers as the disciples pile them high.

As Jesus lies on the ground, the agonising sound of nails hammered into wood echoes all around us, and a terrible cry is heard. And then again. And again.

Over a few days of intensive rehearsals, the team of 15 worked through these and all the other scenes from Jesus' life that make up Mark's gospel, switching from character to character, reacting to the

teaching and miracles that Jesus performed. One of the actors said, “One of the really special things is to react to the Jesus character and see my friends and how they react. Putting the stories that we know so well and translating that into people’s faces and their reactions - the amazement when miracles happen and the running away when they’re in danger”.

“I’m praying that people will be impacted by the gospel: that’s what it’s all about.”

Andrew Page, who wrote and directed the Mark Drama, and played Peter at South

Parade, is passionate about the power of

the mark drama

the gospel story to change people’s lives. He told *Intouch* about working with the team from South Parade: “They’ve been a very good team to work with. I’ve directed it about 120 times, and it’s happening in 20 countries around the world. I’m astonished at what God has done. I didn’t expect it to spread like this and it’s staggering to me. I’m praying that people will be impacted by the gospel: that’s what it’s all about.”

He worked the team hard, encouraging them to squeeze every emotion and reaction out of each situation, to draw in and involve the audience and urging them to pray even as they performed. And as they learned their lines, saw how each scene fitted together in the overall story of Jesus’ life, and immersed themselves in the gospel, they were changed themselves.

“It’s been brilliant because so often you can read through a passage and you don’t really look in detail”, one of the actors said, as they took a break before the last full rehearsal. “It gives you a chance to look in depth and the amazing thing is doing it and bringing it to life. It’s not just words on the page any more, it’s actually something that comes to life.”

And in performance, in

Cragg on the Saturday evening and at Headingley the following morning, the scenes really did come to life. We laughed at the disciples as they bumbled around, failing to grasp the full purpose of Jesus’ mission; we shared the wonder of the miracles and the healings, and we shuddered as the cry of “crucify him!” rang out around the church. We saw all saw Jesus in new ways, saying things we’d forgotten or not

(Continued on page 18)





The Mark Drama in rehearsal, with Andrew Page, Joe Walsh and the cast

heard before, and saw the whole of Jesus' ministry in a breathtaking 90-minute sweep.

Portraying Jesus was a special challenge for Joe Walsh, who'd not acted in anything like this before, and like the rest of the cast had spent six weeks preparing for the performances. Joe had the task of learning all the words of Jesus from Mark's gospel, and on the day he delivered them with confidence and a quiet authority that helped us all remember who our Saviour is, what he is like, and what he came to do for all of us.

Towards the end the whole audience sat and stared as Joe was slowly lifted up as if on the cross, his arms stretched out wide and his cries of pain going on and on, until "it is finished" and a terrible silence.

Our thanks go to all the members of the team who worked so hard, and gave so much of their time to present the Drama, who have reminded us so powerfully of the amazing story of Jesus' ministry.

The images, emotions and words we saw will replay in our minds this Easter

As Easter approaches and we remember the death of Jesus and celebrate the truth of his rising again, the images, emotions and words of the drama we saw in church will replay in our minds. And we will come again to Jesus, and worship him with thankful hearts, for all he has done for us.

Matthew Newman

Editor, *Intouch*

Review by Liz Crathern: *What an amazing event - the church was transformed into a theatre in the round. Of course, I would like to think that Christians know their gospels well but this play offered more than a chronology of events as retold by Mark. The interpretation was indeed dramatic, innovative and creative in the way it brought to life the loving and paternal relationship Christ had nurtured with his disciples, how they just seemed like any one of us with all their strengths and foibles and at times infighting. Yet Christ showed them love and compassion even in His own hour of need and disappointment with them. The reminder that we should be as the small child with their father was beautifully enacted as was the distress of Christ, particularly the crucifixion that moved me to tears. The cast should be applauded for their hard work and dedication over such a short space of time. Thank you for a truly inspiring and thought provoking drama.*

Prayer Diary



April & May 2017

APRIL		
Sun	2	Peter and Anne Morden
Mon	3	Non-Christians who saw the Mark Drama (<i>page 14</i>)
Tue	4	Our friend in North Africa
Wed	5	Children who attended Rewind to Easter events (<i>page 3</i>)
Thu	6	Preachers and worship leaders in all Mission Communities
Fri	7	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Sat	8	Kate Burkett
Sun	9	Outburst at Headingley
Mon	10	Holy Week services with other local churches
Tue	11	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Wed	12	Your own place within South Parade
Thu	13	The church office
Fri	14	Outreach events in Headingley and Horsforth today (<i>page 37</i>)
Sat	15	The Joanna Project
Sun	16	Celebrate our Risen Saviour

Pull out and use!

Mon	17	Geoff King
Tue	18	Local government councillors and leaders
Wed	19	Pam Roe and the work of Traidcraft (<i>page 9</i>)
Thu	20	Ann and David MacFarlane (<i>page 10</i>)
Fri	21	The Deacons
Sat	22	Nathan Shipley
Sun	23	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Mon	24	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Tue	25	The Elders
Wed	26	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Thu	27	Teddy Praise and Play
Fri	28	The Ministry Team
Sat	29	JustAct Middle East
Sun	30	Headingley Morning Mission Community
MAY		
Mon	1	Sam and Katie _____
Tue	2	Hannah Preston and Kate Churchill
Wed	3	John and Ann Pelham and family
Thu	4	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Fri	5	ABC Coffee Shop
Sat	6	Heather McLeen
Sun	7	Church @ Little London
Mon	8	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre (<i>page 7</i>)
Tue	9	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	10	TLG mentors working with children in schools

Thu	11	St George's Crypt
Fri	12	Work with children and young people across the church
Sat	13	Paul Rockley
Sun	14	Connect Mission Community
Mon	15	Those in hospital or waiting for treatment
Tue	16	Levi Booth in Japan
Wed	17	The Barnabas Bunch
Thu	18	Sent Mission Community
Fri	19	Drop-in @ Cragg
Sat	20	Brian and Elsie Nicholls
Sun	21	Your Mission Community
Mon	22	Someone you know who doesn't know Jesus
Tue	23	Katharine Widdowson and the church finance team
Wed	24	Chris Gnanakan (<i>page 26</i>)
Thu	25	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Fri	26	Students at the Leeds School of Theology (<i>page 24</i>)
Sat	27	Pray for another local church
Sun	28	Cragg Mission Community
Mon	29	The Torch Trust (<i>page 35</i>)
Tue	30	Rooted
Wed	31	Caring for Life
JUNE		
Thu	1	Transformations Leeds
Fri	2	Under 5s work across the church
Sat	3	Home For Good (<i>page 23</i>)

Easter Prayer

*When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.*

*Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.*

*The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.*



*Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.*

*We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.*

Amen

Rev Michaela Youngson

Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Ealing Trinity Circuit

Home For Good

Adoption and Fostering

On 19 February Headingley Morning mission community hosted Adoption Sunday. Phil Green came, who is the Chief Executive of the charity Home For Good. Phil spoke about Home For Good's vision to find permanent homes for children in care and to support those who foster and adopt. Home For Good are passionate about the role the church family can play because we have first been adopted into God's family.

Here is a reminder of some of the ideas from that service (ways we can support our church family as they adopt or foster):

- Pray (families in the church, fostered/adopted children, Home For Good, and/or the local council)
- Offer voluntary support to Home For Good, the council or an adoption/fostering agency/SPBC
- Talk to your own children about adoption and fostering or create an opportunity to discuss

The charity is passionate about the role the church family can play in supporting those who foster and adopt

it in Junior Church

- Support Home For Good financially
- Consider giving a child or young person a home (fostering/ adoption/rent a room)
- Read the Home For Good book
- Offer support to a family who foster or adopt: babysitting/food-shopping/listening/providing meals/play dates/lifts/ ironing/ friendship/bake a cake



Keep an eye and an ear out for a notice soon on a date to discuss how Headingley Morning MC can support

fosterers/adopters across the church.

Rio Walsh

SPBC Intern

Thoroughly Equipped

Leeds School of Theology

In January, eight intrepid South Paraders embarked on the Leeds School of Theology. Over the next twelve months, we will catch up with the students to find out how the course is going and how we can support them.

Name: Matt Dobbie

Age: 36

Occupation: IT bod at Lloyd's Banking Group

Mission Community: Sent

Why have you embarked on the LSOT?

I guess that anyone who reads the Bible and meditates on it is a theologian of sorts, but it also seems easy at times to get lost when we don't have a good understanding of the context that a passage is written in, or who it was addressing and the purpose it was written for.

I signed up for LSOT as I was keen to fill gaps in my knowledge and learn how to approach scripture with a better perspective. I wanted to learn how to "do theology."

What are you enjoying about the adventure so far?

I've only attended three sessions so far but I feel I've learned a lot more of how God has chosen to reveal Himself and His love for us through His word. What has been striking is to see Him at work in all things, even in circumstances that look less than ideal to human understanding. Even the small discrepancies between surviving copies of New Testament texts, rather than cast doubt, actually serve to build a more robust view of the originals.

How do you hope to grow through the experience?

When I signed up I didn't consider anyone else at all. It was merely a means for me to learn more of God



and His grace towards me, in an effort to deepen my relationship with Him. But this isn't just about me.

If you have a thirst to really delve into God's word and learn how to "do theology," then you can't go wrong with LSOT.

A really key point that was made in the first session was that we shouldn't develop our theology just to win debates. It shouldn't be about having understanding just for our own gain, or defending the faith - as good as those things may be - but it should enable us to reach out to those in need of God's love. I hope to keep that in mind and really consider in future how best to use and share

what we're learning to further God's kingdom.

What would you say to encourage others to start in 2018?

I signed up not really knowing what I would learn and I've come away from each session with lots of food for thought. If you have a thirst to really delve into God's word and learn how to "do theology," then you can't go wrong with LSOT. They have free coffee on tap too!

How can we pray for you as you continue with the LSOT adventure?

I'd really appreciate prayer to apply and share what I'm learning so that it wouldn't merely be head knowledge but of benefit to others. Thanks!

Nathan Shipley

Associate Pastor, Youth and Young Adults

...inspired...

Find out more about the Leeds School of Theology at leeds-school-of-theology.org. Or catch up with Matt or Nathan in church.

*The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now:
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.*



Thomas Kelly

Gnanakan News

Intimacy

Chris Gnanakan, our friend and Mission Partner working with pastors and churches in Asia with OTAN, sent his greeting to the whole church, just before setting off for training in Bhutan and Nepal, along with these thoughts on intimacy.

How to Enjoy Deep Love through... Intimacy

Mark 12.30-31

Christianity reflects the ways God loves. True *spiritual* maturity will result in a

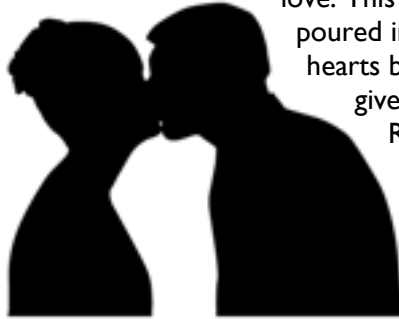


God-intended *sexual* intimacy. After all, love begets love. Intimacy is about how well one shares all what they have in common with the other. Christian love in the Bible is demanding yet something divine. We are created to love God and loving others as we are loved, is our only debt! (Romans 13.8).

Vertical Intimacy - Loving God

Judaism is more about ethics than theology. Rabbis often discussed the gravity of their many laws as to which is greater or “the most important”. Jesus’ answer links both mandates to love God and others (Deuteronomy 6.5; Leviticus 19.18. PS: we already love ourselves!) This central confession of Israel’s monotheistic faith was indeed *whole-hearted* and *exclusive*. This scribe approves Jesus’ words, then adds biblical basis to this “royal law” (1 Samuel 15.22; Psalm 40.6; Hosea 6.6; James 2.8). Jesus not only rivets the two, He demonstrated their correlation as an evidence of his kingdom and made it foundational

for our faith and Christian ethics (John 13.34-35; Galatians 5.14). Such intimacy is not without *involvement* - an intentional, practical lifetime commitment. It is a *mystery* yet a sure *sign* of Jesus' kingdom come. It requires a new *life* "in Christ". We can only enter and express such kingdom *living* and *loving* by means of a new *birth*. This required Jesus' *death* and resurrection (John 3.3, 14-16).



we did not love Him? The answer is: No! Being trinity, God the Father, Son and Spirit relate to each other in perfect love! Within this *unity* there is *intimacy* for God is love. This same love has been poured into the believer's hearts by the Spirit who is given to us (John 17.3; Romans 5.5). We live in a broken, divided, hostile, cruel world. Yet, with this love in us and focus on Jesus' return, we can: "above all, love each other deeply" (1 Peter 4.8).

Yes, we can love God intimately because He first loved us. We know what love looks like because God "in Christ" gave Himself for us (1 John 3.16; 4.16). Having been created *imago Dei*, we have the capacity to love others as we have been loved. So, we must reciprocate God's love specially to the one near/dear to us - the love of our life!

We know what love looks like because in Christ God gave Himself for us

Marriage is the most intimate human relationship with two become one flesh! There's a strong link between *spirituality* and *sexuality* which is a divine gift. Romance for both the Christian husband and wife is gratifying since "together" they are heirs of this grace of life (1 Peter 3.7)!

Intimacy is a gift yet a mystery - a picture of Christ's love for His church (Ephesians 5). Especially in marriage, intimacy first must reflect a *spiritual* sacrificial giving of ourselves to the other (verse 25).

Reciprocal Intimacy - Loving Others

Do you think God will be loveless if

Next, it is sensible enough to meet our spouse's *physical* needs. We know how to care for our own

body! (verse 28) Third, it meets *emotional* needs by cherishing/nourishing our spouse (verse 29). It means setting aside time for meaningful conversations and finding practical ways to esteem the other person and showing empathy by listening to or serving them when needed.

As each of us draw near to God, He will draw near to us and guess what? We will be drawn closer to each other. Now that is true *intimacy - loving the other, as we have been loved!*

Chris Gnanakan

Executive Director, OTAN

...informed...

Find out more about Chris Gnanakan and his work with OTAN by visiting www.outreachtoasianationals.org



*Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide, till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!*

Charles Wesley

**I am a
Child of
God**
©BibleLockScreens

I know it. I live it. I love it.

Spotted on the church
Facebook page at
[www.facebook.com/
SPBaptistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/SPBaptistChurch)



A Dry and Thirsty Land

The Science behind Drought

John Lockwood, church member and environmental expert, looks at the science behind droughts, and offers some predictions for the future.

Droughts rank among the world's costliest natural disasters because they affect a very large number of people each year. For example, the United Nations has warned that the world is facing the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945 with droughts contributing to starvation and famine in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northeastern Nigeria. Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan, where 100,000 people face starvation and nearly 5 million need urgent food aid. This follows more than three years of

conflict that has intensified the impact of a drought in parts of the country.

The same drought has caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. Drought is not the only cause of starvation. Starvation can be, and often is, the result of war and conflict.



Drought has been a long-term interest of mine. Drought is a recurring phenomenon that has plagued civilisation throughout history. This is illustrated by reading the Old Testament. A

drought is considered to be a period of abnormally dry weather that causes serious hydrological imbalance in a specific region. However, the definitions of “serious” and “abnormally dry” depend on the

nature of the local climate and the impact of the drought on the local society. A dry spell in a humid climate may be classified as a drought, while similar conditions in a semi-arid climate would be considered a wet period. This makes it difficult to produce a definition of drought that applies in a variety of climates.

The American Meteorological Society grouped drought definitions into four categories: meteorological or climatological, agricultural, hydrological and socio-economic. If atmospheric conditions result in the absence or reduction of precipitation over several months or years, the result is a meteorological drought. A few weeks' dryness in the surface layers (vegetation root zone), which occurs at a critical time during the growing season, can result in an agricultural drought that severely reduces crop yields, even though deeper soil levels may be saturated. The onset of an agricultural drought may lag that of a meteorological drought, depending on the prior moisture status of the surface soil layers.

Precipitation deficits over a prolonged period that affect surface or subsurface water supply, thus reducing stream flow, groundwater, reservoir and lake levels, will result in a hydrological drought, which will

persist long after a meteorological drought has ended. Socio-economic drought associates the supply and demand of some economic good with elements of meteorological, agricultural and hydrological drought.

The proportion of the land surface in extreme drought is predicted to increase from 1% now to 30% by the end of the century

Using global data sets and powerful numerical atmospheric models it has been found that very dry regions over global land areas have increased from ~12% to 30% since the 1970s, with a large jump in the early 1980s due to an El-Niño-induced precipitation decrease and enhanced surface warming. Research climatologists commented that it is likely that droughts have increased in many areas since the 1970s, and that it is more likely than not that there is a human contribution to this trend. During the past two to three decades, there has been a tendency for more extreme (either very dry or very wet) conditions over many regions, including the United States, Europe, east Asia, southern Africa and the Sahel.

One of the UK Meteorological Office's global climate models has been used to study drought on a global basis. The model shows that between 1952 and 1998 on average 20% of the land surface was in drought at any one time. At decadal timescales, on a global basis, the model reproduced the observed drying since 1952 and analysis showed that there was a significant influence of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and sulphate aerosols in the production of this drying trend.

Future projections of drought in the twenty-first century using the Meteorological global model show regions of strong wetting and drying with a net overall global drying trend. The proportion of the land surface in extreme drought is predicted to increase from 1% for the present day to 30% by the end of the twenty-first century.

John Lockwood

PhD, FRMetS.

Cragg Mission Community

*You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.*

*I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*

Psalm 63.1-5 (NIV)

Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part 12: Seeing Jesus

Steve Ford's detailed study of John's gospel continues this month with a look at the healing of a blind man in chapter 9.

To set the scene for this chapter I want to go back to John 8.59. The hardened scholars had become so incensed that it says *"they took up stones to cast at him; but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them and so passed by"*. This verse leads us into John 9 where we will uncover an unfolding story of a man who was given the opportunity to see Jesus, all because Jesus was prepared to stop and engage with him as he passed by.



Jesus' response is revolutionary and liberating

The first thing to note in this passage is that Jesus stopped and engaged with this man who was born blind, in response to a question that his disciples asked him. John 9.2 says *"Master who sinned? This man or his parents?"*. The understanding in Jesus' day was that if you were ill or infirm then God must be displeased with you or someone close to you and therefore you had to carry the evidence for all to see. What Jesus says in response is both revolutionary in its concept and liberating in its application:

"Neither has this man or his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be made manifest in him" (verse 3).

What Jesus is saying is that you don't need to be like this, in this state of blindness: God can set you

free so you can see Him and worship Him as Lord. I wonder what is going through this man's head as he is listening to this conversation? His primary reason for being by the gate of the temple was to wait for someone to stop for a second and drop a meagre amount of loose change at his feet, so that he could at least get some food to sustain him for a little while longer.

Yet here he is listening to a conversation that seems to be saying neither he, nor his parents, had sinned and that he was in this state in order that the works of God could be made manifest. What on earth does that mean and was he prepared for what was about to happen? I suspect not, I wonder if we would be?

God steps into life's complications in the form of Jesus. He stops and speaks words that will revolutionise our lives.

In some sense we are all in this state of blindness, not because of anything we have done or anything

our parents did. We are born in a spiritual state of blindness because of the fallen state of humanity, a fallen state that has spiralled out of control to such an extent that we are reduced to a life whereby we are spiritually forced to exist on meagre handouts in order to survive. The great thing for all of

us is that in all of life's busy-ness and its complications, the world's heady arrogance and its feeble explanations about life and our existence, in steps God in the form of Jesus. And as He passes by, He stops and speaks words that will

revolutionise our lives to such an extent we will never be the same again.

What we witness next is Jesus stooping down and making clay from the ground beneath his feet and anointing the eyes of the man born blind. This is Jesus demonstrating that this man was being sanctified, being set free, in order that he could worship and testify to the greatness of God. When Jesus steps into our space and engages us in conversation we must be prepared to act in order for His words and his actions to be fulfilled. This action is called faith.



Jesus says to the man “Go wash in the pool of Siloam”. The anointing on its own was not enough to make this man see, he had to believe that something supernatural had taken place and move from a place of begging to a place of freedom in order for him to be free. At this point it is important for us to recognise and acknowledge that if we want to be healed from our spiritual blindness then we have to act on what God has accomplished through Christ and move our lives in the direction that Jesus points out for us.

In our story, the blind man was pointed to the pool of Siloam and his obedience resulted in him not only being able to see but also in other people starting to ask ques-

tions. We begin to see a fulfilment of Jesus’ words in John 9.3 “that the works of God should be made manifest.. This miracle was not just for one man but for humanity, in the same way that our salvation is not just for ourselves but for all of us collectively.

So the question that gets asked is “is this he who sat and begged?”. Some said yes, some said no he is like him, but the man said “I am he”. One thing we will be certain of when Christ steps into our lives is that we will know who we were and more importantly who we have become.

Steve Ford

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Jesus then said, “I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretence of seeing will be exposed as blind.”

John 9.39 (The Message)

www.spbc.org.uk

For service times, locations, Mission Communities, children’s and student work, the weekly notice sheet, sermon downloads, this magazine and much more go to the church website!



Torch Trust

David Judson, more familiar to us at South Parade from his role with the Arabic Christian Fellowship, introduces the work of an organisation that helps blind and partially sighted people and encourages us to get involved with their work.

Torch Trust is a Christian organisation that serves those with sight loss. The local Leeds group of about 20-25 meets on the third Saturday of each month from 2.30–4.30pm at City Evangelical Church, Beeston. New faces (and guide dogs!) are always welcome. We also need more sighted helpers who can help with transport one Saturday a month.

We are part of a network of about 110 groups in the UK. From the centre in Market Harborough,

Torch produces Christian literature in Braille, large print and audio and also runs a specially equipped holiday centre in Sussex. Torch's magazines, in braille and large print, also go world-wide and Torch has set up a base in Malawi that produces braille for African countries.

Torch can help church members with sight loss to enable them to play a full part in church life

Many churches have members with sight loss, and Torch can help with resources in braille or large print to enable them to play a full part in church life.

David Judson

...involved...

For more information please visit the Torch Trust website www.torchtrust.org or contact David Judson.



Church Noticeboard

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

Intouch always needs contributions from around the Mission Communities. We aim to **inform** the different parts of the church about what's going on in Leeds and further afield; to encourage you to get **involved** in the mission of the church; and to **inspire** you to pray, and to follow Jesus more closely. If you can help by writing or suggesting articles and features, especially for the sections below please email magazine@spbc.org.uk.

intouch



Date for your Diary

Peter Morden's Induction will be on
Saturday 2 September at 2.30pm

Holy Week and Easter at South Parade

Palm Sunday 9 April

- Outburst Service at Headingley
- Palm Sunday services at Cragg, Connect and Sent



Monday 10 April

- 7pm - United Service with Churches Together in Headingley at St Luke's Lutheran Church (Alma Road)

Maundy Thursday 13 April

- 2.30pm ABC Coffee Shop Service
- 9pm Tenebrae Service Headingley St. Columba's URC (Headingley Lane)

Good Friday 14 April

- Walk of Witness (Horsforth) Meeting at Central Methodist Church 11.30am and process down Town Street. 12noon act of witness on the Green (bottom of Town Street). 12.30pm Soup and hot cross buns at the Grove.
- Walk of Witness (Headingley). Meet outside Headingley Methodist Church at 10.30am. After a short introduction, we walk round to the Arc (with our banners and crosses) for the main event. Coffee and hot cross buns will then be served at Headingley Methodist church hall.
- 3pm Good Friday Service at Headingley



Easter Day 16 April

- 10.30am Headingley All-together Service
- 10.30am Cragg Easter Service
- 6.30pm South Parade Together – Easter Service



For more details of services over Easter see the flyer and notice sheet in church, visit the church website or contact the church office on 0113 275 4989.

THE HOME GROUP

THE HOME GROUP (OR HOUSE GROUP, OR CELL GROUP, OR SMALL GROUP) MEETS ON A MID-WEEK EVENING TO UNDERTAKE BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE YOU WILL FIND THERE

THE KNOW-IT-ALL: ALWAYS HAS THE ANSWER. EQUIPPED WITH HEAVY DUTY STUDY BIBLE

THE APPEASER: CALMS THE WARRING FACTIONS

THE CONVERSATION MONOPOLISER: GIVES THE FIRST ANSWER AND HAS THE LAST WORD

THE LIBERAL EXTREMIST: WILL NOT TOLERATE ANYONE WITH INTOLERANT VIEWS

THE OVER-GENEROUS HOST: PLIES EVERYONE WITH COPIOUS QUANTITIES OF FOOD, COFFEE, WINE ETC

THE UNCHALLENGEABLE FUNDAMENTALIST: HOLDS EXTREME VIEWS AND BURSTS INTO TEARS IF CONFRONTED

THE JOKER: PROVIDER OF JOKES AND TRIVIAL ASIDES

THE DEVOUT: FROWNS AT JOKES AND TRIVIAL ASIDES

THE LEADER: INSISTS THAT THE STUDY NOTES ARE FOLLOWED RELIGIOUSLY. INSISTS ON FINISHING THE MATERIAL NO MATTER HOW LATE IT GETS

THE SILENT WITNESS: SAYS NOTHING FROM THE TIME THEY ARRIVE UNTIL THE TIME THEY LEAVE



This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dove Walker originally appeared in the Church Times.

CartoonChurch.com

Books of the Bible I still have to look up in the index

- Amos
- Ecclesiastes
- Esther
- Ezekiel
- Ezra
- Haggai
- Joel
- Nehemiah
- Philemon
- Titus

CHRISTIANITY EXPLODED

#5

Books of the Bible I'm still not sure are really books of the Bible

- Hosea
- Jude
- Obadiah
- Zephaniah

Books of the Bible I can't really spell

- Galatians
- Habakkuk
- Isaiah

christianityexploded.tumblr.com



South Parade meets as four distinctive Mission Communities across Leeds: in **Headingley** and **Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and as **Sent** at Headingley on Sunday evenings. **Connect** meets in the community in Bramley. We're involved with Church@Little London, run a CAP Debt Centre and run the ABC Coffee Shop in Holt Park and have a partnership with the Arabic Christian Fellowship. To find out more, visit the website or contact the church office.

Together, we have a shared vision to **build community in Christ**. We hope that all who meet us will be helped to **belong** to Christ and his people, will discover what it means to **believe** in him, and will **become** all that he invites them to be in character, lifestyle, witness and service.

Minister

Paul Rockley

Associate Pastor for
Youth and Young Adults
Children's Worker
Associate Pastor
Church Administrators
Under 5s Co-ordinator

Nathan Shipley
Heather McLeen
Geoff King
Hannah Preston & Kate Churchill
Kate Burkett

Elders

Andrew Bedingham, Steve Burras,
Freeman Dumenu,
Charles Fletcher (Church Secretary),
Ruth Hughes, John Pelham,
Sue Ricketts

South Parade Baptist Church
Kirkstall Lane, Headingley
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“

“Surely this man was the Son of God!”

”

Mark 15.39 (NIV)

intouch

SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Building Community in Christ