

The *Around the Church* pages this month are packed with news and photos from all corners of South Parade, about meetings and celebrations, about fellowship and opportunities to share the news of Jesus with the local community. As you read, remember to pray for the people involved and for the different groups in their Christmas events. Pray too for those people we know serving God overseas at this time, especially “Mary” and Levi, who describe Christmas in North Africa and Japan on page 30. And remember to put 15 January in your new diary, when on Vision Day the whole church meets together (with Peter Morden) to reflect on God’s goodness and look forward to another year together. Happy Christmas!

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

Contributions to: magazine@spbc.org.uk or to the church office

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From the Ministry Team

'Tis the Season to be Jolly?

When it comes to Christmas, are you Ebenezer Scrooge or Buddy the Elf? If you're not familiar with Buddy, he is the central character from the film *Elf* and he is over-full with Christmas cheer! The likelihood is that you will be somewhere in between those two polar opposites.

I am closer to Buddy than Ebenezer. At the time of writing, I have already had two and a half mince pies (Grace couldn't quite manage a whole one!) and it is not even Advent yet.



The festive season can be one of the busiest periods in the year. There are cakes to bake, cards to write, presents to buy, decorations to assemble, parties to attend, relatives to visit, meals to prepare and I've not even mentioned the extra activities in the church calendar.

With all of the above in mind and more, it is not surprising that people identify Christmas as being one of the most stressful times of the year. The question is often asked whether the busyness of the season takes attention away from the one whose birth we are celebrating too.

I don't often find myself missing the reason behind the season, however I do find myself missing the opportunity to share the reason behind the season. When my diary is full, my mind is often occupied by what's coming next rather than being truly present in the moment.



“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” – Colossians 4.5-6

*Let's make the most of
every opportunity
this Christmas to share
about our Father's love*

I find Paul's advice to the church in Colosse a pertinent reminder at this time of year. Our Christmas activities attract people who will only come to church once a year so it's vitally important that we make the most of every opportunity!

Below are a few questions for us to think through so that we are ready for the challenges that the Christmas season brings:

- Consider how you will answer

your neighbour's question,
“How will you be celebrating Christmas this year?”

- How will you act when a visitor sits on the row in front of you at one of our Christmas services?
- What will you write in your Christmas cards to turn people's attention to Jesus?
- Which friend would you love to share a conversation full of grace with?

As you think through these questions and others which are more personal to your circumstances, invite the Holy Spirit to prompt and inspire your responses.

Let's endeavour to make the most of every opportunity this Christmas to share about the Father's love, the Son's majesty and the Holy Spirit's power!

Nathan

*Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;
He that was born upon this joyful day
Around us all His glory shall display;
Saved by His love, incessant we shall sing
Eternal praise to heaven's almighty King*

John Byrom

Around the Church

Arabic Fellowship

As well as meeting in the Green House every Sunday afternoon, the Leeds Arabic Christian Fellowship also has other activities.

Back in July, we had a Middle East stand in the “Hope for the Nations” outreach in Briggate. The object is to show that the church is multi-cultural and multi-national. We had Bible portions in Arabic and Kurdish, as well as Middle East finger-food such as dates and nuts. Many good conversations took place – at the end of the day we reckoned we had spoken with people from at least 14 of the 22 Arabic-speaking countries. Two young men contacted came to our Sunday meeting the next day.

The weather wasn’t so good for our outing to Pugneys Park, Wakefield at the end of August. About 40 turned up and we had a good time together, though



The Arabic Christian Fellowship

having the BBQ under umbrellas isn't ideal! One Iraqi woman lived nearby and invited us to her home to dry out, so we ended the day enjoying warm Arab hospitality.

Sunday afternoons see about 15 to 20 meeting in the Green House. Most are already following Jesus, but some from non-Christian backgrounds are still seeking. Yagoub usually gives the Bible message, but we have also enjoyed Paul Rockley coming every couple of months to continue a very helpful series on "Christ in all the Scriptures" – in English, of course, but with Arabic translation!

*Please pray for a good
number to come to our
next outreach lunch and to
respond to the message*

Every month or two, we have an outreach lunch, with plenty of delicious Middle Eastern food. It's a good opportunity to invite those who are not yet Christians. Our next outreach will be on Sunday 11 December, with an experienced Iraqi/Egyptian couple coming to speak – please pray for a good number to come and to respond to the message.

David Judson

Arabic Christian Fellowship

Headingley

On 9 October the service had a little shake-up to celebrate harvest. It was a return of the all age service and the rows of chairs were replaced with chairs around tables, with questions to encourage discussion and pictures to colour in – enjoyed by all ages. Children from the Junior Church groups led us in prayer and the whole congregation were invited to plant a prayer bulb each, which I noticed have recently started to send up shoots.

The sanctuary was beautifully decorated, including harvest themed posters designed by children in the God's Gang of Junior Church. One of the designs has been used for the poster outside church and looks great. Donations of food to local food banks are still gratefully being received up to Christmas.

Christmas came early to South Parade, with a craft fair held on 5 November in aid of various charities. The sales continued on the following Sunday morning and a big thank you goes out to all those who supported it.

There was a Mission Community meeting on Thursday 10 November, with a few items to bring to your wider attention:

A joint initiative between Headingley Morning and Sent is taking shape, to develop a relationship with Leeds Rhinos Rugby League Club. There is great potential to reach out to men, who are widely recognised as being a section of the population resistant to the call of the gospel and being involved with church life.

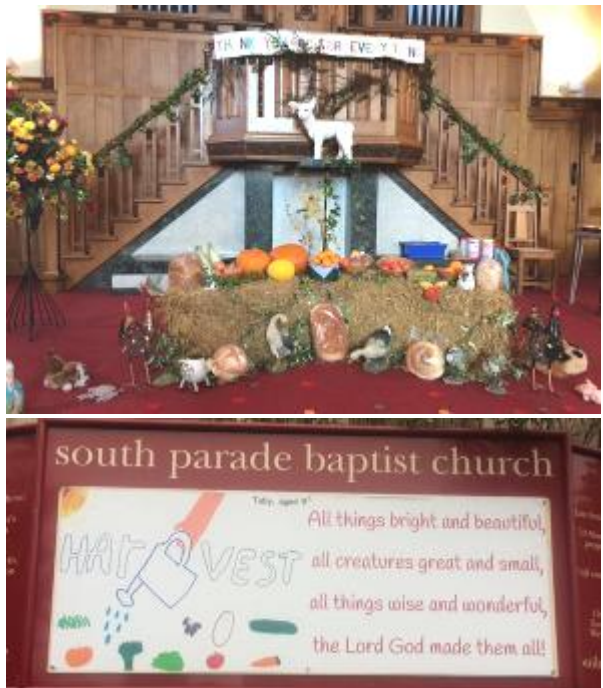
There is a need in our local community to support asylum seekers. There is a program through which this need can be met, which involves helping people to develop their English language skills by engaging in conversation. We're looking at what resources we have available, both in terms of venue and volunteers. Paul Rockley has been a key contact in progress so far, so if you are interested and would like further information, please don't hesitate to ask him about it.

Over recent months we have been developing a Mission Community goal to tie in with the overall South Parade vision statement. It is important to identify it as a goal with a deadline; otherwise a vision can remain just a

*Our goal: A vibrant,
growing church,
engaged in faithful
worship and mission...*

vision. The goal is: *In 5 years from now, 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.*

From this we need to develop action plans with shorter



Harvest at Headingley

timescales, and Peter Morden has expressed an interest in us having a plan for the next 12 months. There are lots of points to encourage discussion in this area, for example – what does a vibrant church look like and how would we measure our success at developing this aspect of our Mission Community?

Perhaps we could make a point of engaging in this type of conversation over our next bring and share lunch, planned for 11 December? The theme for the lunch is International Christmas – please bring food that relates to the festive season in your native culture, if possible. If Christmas isn't embraced in your native culture, perhaps you could bring your favourite food instead? As always bringing is not a requirement for you to be involved in the sharing. There's always plenty to go around!

It's always encouraging to receive

positive feedback, and we'd like to share a letter that Scott was sent by a colleague who attended for the first time on 13 November (see opposite page).

Richard Sykes

Headingley Morning Leadership Team

Sent

At the beginning of October, we hosted "An evening with Harry Baker" at Costa in Headingley. As well as enjoying Harry's spoken word poetry, guests heard stories from Alpha. It has been encouraging to see a few people from this event go on to attend the recent Alpha too!

The Alternative Christmas Service will take place on Sunday 4 December. This year we will be reflecting on some of the bleaker aspects of the Nativity and how Jesus brings hope.



In our Leadership Team, we have said, "Goodbye" to Tim Hobbs and "Hello!" to Kate Churchill. Tim has decided to step back to focus on his video ministry and Kate is looking forward to serving her home Mission Community.

Christmas Craft Fair

Dear Scott

CHURCH FEEDBACK

David and I wanted to write to formally thank you, your wife, and your church family for the incredibly warm welcome on Sunday. It was more than a pleasure to meet everyone and see first-hand where you worship.

We were exceptionally impressed with the reception we received, and felt entirely connected and accepted from the off. We were thrilled to see the glass reception and the smiles that the welcome committee radiate. Every church should do this.

David attended a Methodist meeting last night and spoke so positively of South Parade, he outlined the many aspects that make your church great, and he spoke at length about his feelings whilst in receipt of the message. He was moved, and that moment will never leave him.

We intend to visit again, as a pair, and with others in our circle. I am in a fortunate position professionally, and have the opportunity to signpost colleagues to faith when appropriate; when given the chance, and when fitting, I will mention you and your church.

I guess in many ways it does not matter where we attend, what matters is that we strengthen our number, we evangelise, and we attempt to change lives. Together, impossible is nothing.

May our work in this matter remain endless, and our strong Christian friendship too. I will give until it hurts.

God Bless

Letter received by Scott Halligan

*We hope people will have
the confidence to identify
and use the gifts which
God has given them*

During our Sunday gatherings, we have begun a series exploring spiritual gifts, which we hope will give people confidence to identify and use the gifts which God has given them.

This teaching series will also lead in to our weekend away (3-5 February 2017) where Phil Burns from Skipton Baptist Church will be sharing on being the body of Christ.

Please continue to pray for Sent, that we will be good news wherever God sends us!

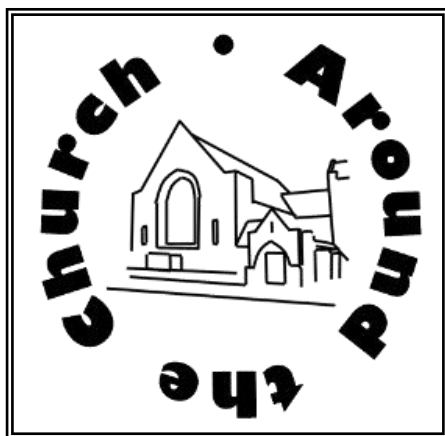
Nathan Shipley
Associate Pastor

Connect

So much has been happening in Connect this year!

In addition to our regular Sunday meetings and Friday Bible Club, our twice-termly Outburst evenings (thanks again Heather!) have continued with some 40-50 children each time. An increasing number of parents are staying for a drink, pampering and a chat which has given us the opportunity to share the Gospel in a relaxed atmosphere and also to invite parents to other events such as our second annual CAP and Connect curry evening. For some, this may be their first step on the “Belong, Believe, Become” pathway.

During the curry evening on 20 October, we heard amazing testimonies from Rod and Emma who work for CAP, as well as enjoying some magic and delicious



curry. At the end of the evening at least four people had made commitments or recommitments – praise God!

*Outburst Sunday gives
children and adults
opportunity to worship
together and learn
more about Jesus*

Since September we have started a regular Sunday Outburst (thanks Nathan) with the aim of drawing in the parents of children who come to Outburst. This gives us further opportunity to worship together as a community and for children and adults to interact as they learn more about Jesus.

We continue to meet on Friday mornings for our Bible Club and although small in number we look forward to others joining us to share life together, study the Bible and pray.

Food appears to be a recurring theme amongst Connectors - at the beginning of October we held the first Great Bramley Bake-off, ably judged by Hollybush School's secretary Bridgitte and our very own Paul Hollywood aka John Pelham! Much cake and bread was consumed and enjoyed by all!

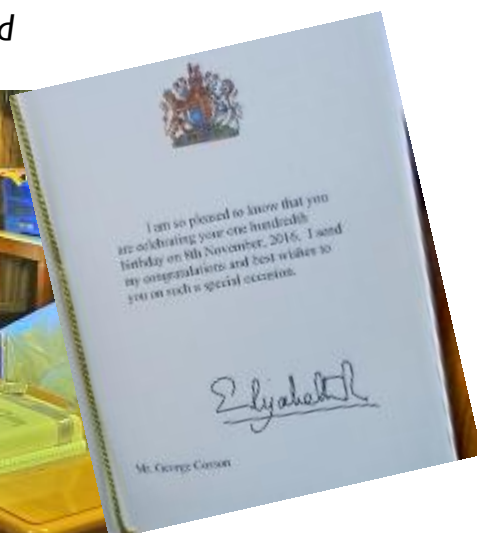
(continued on page 12)



Happy 100th Birthday Alastair!

Alastair Corson, a former church secretary and much-loved member of the church, recently celebrated his 100th birthday at his home in Keswick. Three of us from his home group joined him and his family in the celebrations and took the greetings of all those who know him. It was good to share in a lovely afternoon with him and enjoy reminiscing and tucking into a delicious buffet meal. Alastair still feels very attached to South Parade and enjoys keeping up with news through the *Intouch* magazine. He sends his greetings and thanks to all those who remembered his birthday, making his day a very happy one.

Val Dooks & John Lockwood



Our thanks go to all those from SPBC who continue to help and support our work on a regular basis enabling us to reach out and share the love of Jesus with the people of Bramley.

Please pray for:

- Our next Outburst Sunday on 11 December.
- The many children God is sending our way. We are being so blessed in this that we desperately need more teachers!
- Those who made commitments at the curry evening.
- Our upcoming Christmas celebrations on 18 December.

John Pelham

Elder

Peter Morden and Vision Day

Over the last ten years or so South Parade has had Vision Day in September when it focussed on how to apply and grow our vision of *“a world populated by Spirit-filled people, passionate in following Jesus Christ and wholehearted in their commitment to build community in him, so that all whom the Lord our*

God calls can belong, believe and become all that he wants them to be”.

This year the day was displaced by a weekend of meetings with Peter Morden and with his wife Anne, culminating in a church meeting on 29 September at which a decision was taken to call Peter to be Senior Minister and Team Leader at South Parade.

We were delighted when, after a weekend of prayer, Peter accepted the call. He and Anne will be moving into the Adel manse around the end of July, after working out his notice at Spurgeons College.

The Governors of Spurgeons have released Peter for two days a month to prepare for coming to Leeds and he will be with us for the rescheduled Vision Day, 15 January 2017. Prior to this he will be with us on 9-12 December when all the

mission community leaders will be meeting to prepare for Vision Day.

Peter intends to visit and preach at all the mission communities between now and August and he is excited about what he believes God is preparing to do here.



Peter Morden

Charles Fletcher

Church Secretary



Farewell Helen

On Monday 22 October long-time member, Helen Wilson, of the Cragg and Sent Mission Communities left St James hospital to take up a new post in a Lancashire hospital. Over many years Helen has played an important role in the life of South Parade, particularly at Cragg, where she will be greatly missed. To say a big thank you, the two Mission Communities held a tea party for her at Cragg on the preceding Saturday. The photographs catch a little of the atmosphere of the tea, where all had a great time.



John Lockwood

Cragg Mission Community

Northside

- We held our last service at Adel Primary School, Tile Lane on

Northside

9 October. A good service including memories, reflections and thanks to God for his goodness over the last 24 years.

- We now meet at the ABC Coffee Shop every Sunday, for a trial period. This will be discussed at our congregation meeting on 8 December

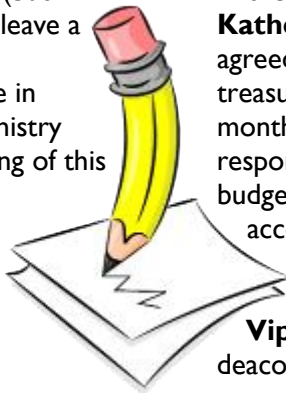
- Our first “ordinary” service at ABC was well attended and deemed a success by most.
- We are sad that Gaynor has accepted a calling to Hebden Bridge Baptist Church (but glad for her). This will leave a significant pastoral and ministerial gap. We are in discussion with the ministry team regarding the filling of this gap.

Northside Leadership Team

Church Meeting Highlights

From the church meetings in October and November:

- **Hannah Preston** will be returning to the Administrator role part-time (Thursdays and Fridays). After a selection process Kate Churchill has been re-employed as Administrator in a job share (Mondays to Wednesdays).
- **Rio Walsh** has requested an internship at SPBC, to work two days a week alongside the Ministry Team. Paul and Nathan are finalising arrangements for supervising and mentoring her. The church meeting unanimously supported Rio in this internship role.



- **Andrew Bedingham** was elected as an Elder, **Neil Chambers** as a Deacon and **Scott Halligan** as a Mission Community Leader.
- In the absence of a Treasurer, **Katherine Widdowson** has agreed to do the tasks of the treasurer for the next six months including day-to-day responsibilities, preparing the budget, and the end of year accounts. She may attend some Deacons’ meetings to assist with this. **Mark Vipian** will represent the deacons at Elders’ meetings

MN

New Job for Job Club Leader!

At the November church meeting it was also announced that after many

years working for the church (including leading the CAP Job Club in Bramley)

Lawrence Cockrill has resigned as part-time Associate Pastor. He will begin a permanent role as Media and Events Co-ordinator for Leeds

Church Institute on 1 January 2017. He said he will continue to attend Connect Mission Community.

CF



Lawrence

Update from Sam & Katie _____

A quick update that we have returned safely from our two week trip to Chad. The trip went well and there is clearly a significant need for Christian work in South Eastern Chad. Please join us in prayer for decision making and conversations with our church leaders.

future hopes, I (Sam) face the need to raise more support for my current role with SIM. In fact I need to raise £140/month more than I currently do. That could come from 7 people or churches giving £20/month, which would be amazing. This year a generous SIM donor has offered to match any new donation to my support. Please pray for this too!

Completely independent from our

Sam & Katie _____

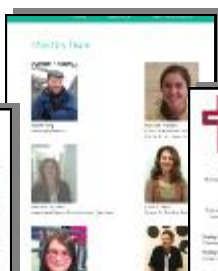
...informed...

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



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!



Christmas at South Parade

Connect

Hollybush Primary School, Broad Lane, Bramley, LS13 2JJ

Sunday 11 December 11am

Outburst Sunday Christmas Special

Sunday 18 December 11am

Turkey and Carols



Cragg

Cragg Hill Baptist Church, Cragg Avenue, Horsforth, LS18 4LX

Saturday 17 December 4.30pm Carol Service

Sunday 18 December 10.30am Nativity Service

Sunday 25 December 11am Christmas Morning Celebration



Under 5s

Wednesday 7 December 7.45pm Christmas meal for parents & carers

Please contact Kate Burkett in advance if you'd like to come along.

Toddler groups Christmas parties:

Monday 12, Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 December, all 10am-12
in the sanctuary.

*Feel free to bring your tots in fancy dress or borrow an outfit from our Christmas dressing up
rail on arrival.*



Headingley

South Parade Baptist Church, Kirkstall Lane, Headingley, LS6 3LF

Sunday 4 December 10.30am	Toy Service
Saturday 10 December 11am-12	Carol Singing at the Arndale Centre
Sunday 11 December 10.30am	Festival Service
Saturday 24 December 5pm	Christingle Service
Sunday 25 December 10.30am	Christmas Morning Celebration



Sent

South Parade Baptist Church, Kirkstall Lane, Headingley, LS6 3LF

Sunday 4 December 6.30pm	Alternative Christmas Service
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South Parade Together

South Parade Baptist Church, Kirkstall Lane, Headingley, LS6 3LF



Sunday 18 December 6.30pm
Carols by Candlelight

...informed...

For details and more events this Christmas see the noticesheet at www.spbc.org.uk or contact the church office on 0113 275 4989.

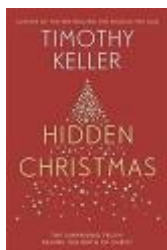


The Wondrous Gift

Christmas Gift Ideas

Rio Walsh suggests some Christmas present ideas that are either ethical or particularly good for Christian family or friends, which help us to keep Jesus at the centre of this time of celebration.

Books



Hidden Christmas: The surprising truth behind the birth of Christ by Timothy Keller, (available from Aslan Christian Books and other websites). Or search for other

Christian books on websites such as www.ivpbooks.com.

Bags

Madlug bags: For every bag you buy a bag is donated to a child in care: go to madlug.com

Shoes

Keep an eye out in shoe shops like Office and Schuh for ethical brands such as Veja, Toms and Ethletic.

Music



Campfire II: Simplicity the new CD by Rend Collective Experiment.

Fairtrade Gifts



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Also, don't forget the

lovely range of Traidcraft gifts, advent calendars and edible goodies, regularly available in the foyer at Headingley Morning.

Rio Walsh

SPBC Intern

*How silently, how silently
the wondrous Gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His Heaven.*

Philips Brooks

Prayer Diary



December 2016 - January 2017

DECEMBER		
Sun	4	Sent Alternative Christmas Service
Mon	5	Caring for Life
Tue	6	"Mary" in North Africa (see page 30)
Wed	7	Levi Booth in Japan (see page 31)
Thu	8	Andrew Bedingham, Neil Chambers & Scott Halligan (see page 14)
Fri	9	Carol singing at the Arndale Centre tomorrow morning
Sat	10	The launch of <i>Stari's Story</i> tonight (see page 36)
Sun	11	Families at Headingley's Festival Service and Outburst Sunday
Mon	12	Rooted
Tue	13	Cragg Mission Community
Wed	14	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Thu	15	The church office
Fri	16	Under 5s work
Sat	17	Visitors to Cragg's Carol Service
Sun	18	Visitors to the Candlelit Carol Service

Pull out and use!

Mon	19	Geoff King
Tue	20	Local government councillors and leaders
Wed	21	Pam Roe and the work of Traidcraft
Thu	22	Ann and David MacFarlane in Reggio Calabria, Italy
Fri	23	The Deacons
Sat	24	Nathan Shipley
Sun	25	Celebrate the birth of Jesus!
Mon	26	The Arabic Christian Fellowship (<i>see page 5</i>)
Tue	27	Your neighbours
Wed	28	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Thu	29	The Elders
Fri	30	The Ministry Team
Sat	31	Lawrence Cockrill and his new job (<i>see page 14</i>)
JANUARY 2017		
Sun	1	You and your place within South Parade
Mon	2	Sam and Katie _____ (<i>see page 15</i>)
Tue	3	Hannah Preston and Kate Churchill
Wed	4	Members and friends who are sick, or in hospital
Thu	5	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Fri	6	Alastair Corson (<i>see page 11</i>)
Sat	7	Heather McLeen
Sun	8	Church @ Little London
Mon	9	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	10	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	11	TLG mentors working with children in schools

Thu	12	St George's Crypt (see page 36)
Fri	13	The Joanna Project (see page 36)
Sat	14	Paul Rockley
Sun	15	The whole of South Parade Baptist Church on Vision Sunday
Mon	16	Those in hospital or waiting for treatment
Tue	17	Northside Mission Community
Wed	18	Pray for another local church in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Thu	19	Sent Mission Community
Fri	20	Drop-in @ Cragg
Sat	21	Brian and Elsie Nicholls
Sun	22	People who can't get to church any more
Mon	23	ABC Coffee Shop
Tue	24	Katharine Widdowson (see page 14)
Wed	25	Rio Walsh (see page 14)
Thu	26	Charles Fletcher, Church Secretary
Fri	27	Kate Burkett
Sat	28	The Barnabas Bunch
Sun	29	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Mon	30	Connect Mission Community
Tue	31	Chris Gnanakan
FEBRUARY		
Wed	1	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Thu	2	Peter and Anne Morden
Fri	3	People on the Sent weekend away
Sat	4	Headingley Morning Mission Community

Bethlehem

*Bethlehem is wreathed in silence
Just an hour before the dawn;
In the stable all is stillness
Where the Prince of Peace was born.
In the streets hear shepherds singing
As they run back to their sheep;
Underneath the silver starlight,
Bethlehem is fast asleep.*



*Strangers riding through the
darkness,
Wrapped up well against the cold,
Bearing gifts so rich in meaning,
Myrrh and frankincense and gold.
Seeking truth and finding Jesus,
In the manger, in the hay,
There they kneel in adoration:
Bethlehem on Christmas Day.*

*Now the morning mist is fading
As the sun climbs in the sky;
Christ is born, the light eternal,
Only Son of God most high
From this day, a new beginning,
Now the world can know for sure
God Immanuel is with us,
With us still forever more.*

Matthew Newman

Churches Together in Headingley

An ecumenical **Advent Course** has been arranged by St Michael's. Based on the York Courses and entitled "Living in the Light", the four sessions will explore the reports in the four Gospels on the coming of Christ. Witnesses to a single event often give contrasting reports. When the event is God's coming to the world as a child it's not just fascinating, it's highly instructive. It opens our eyes not only to what God is like but to how life can be lived to the full. The course engages with the distinctive nature of Christian spirituality and how we can give expression to it in our lives. Tuesdays 29 November, 6, 13 & 20 December, 7.30pm at St Michael's Church Hall. All very welcome.

Carol Singing in aid of Wheatfields Hospice is on Saturday 10 December 11am-12 noon at the Arndale Centre. Come and join us, even if only for a few minutes. We will be giving out cards to shoppers with our Christmas greetings and inviting them to our services. *(These cards also go to several of the large hotels in the area, who tell us that many of their guests like to have details of where they can go to a service on Christmas morning. If you know of any place which would like a few cards, please let me know.)*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January 2017

Advance notice for your new diary! The theme of Unity Week in January is "Crossing Barriers" and has been prepared by churches in Germany. The joint service will be held at Headingley Methodist Church on 22 January; St Michael's will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 21 January; and there will be some ecumenical get-togethers during the week (a chance to chat, to discuss the theme and to enjoy coffee and cakes). Choose your venue:

- Wednesday 18 January 10.15-12 noon at SPBC (Green House)
- Tuesday 24 January 7.15pm at St Chad's Parish Centre
- Wednesday 25 January 1.45pm at Headingley United Reformed church

No need to book, just come along.

Pam Roe

Headingley Morning Mission Community



Holiness and Holy Living

Liz Crathern follows up the references from Steve Ford's sermon on holiness at Headingley Morning on 30 October.

Listening to the sermon and being led through the message of holiness, being set apart, I felt God encouraging me to take notes of the many biblical references Steve was referring to – not something I would normally do during the sermon. I prefer to concentrate on the spoken word.

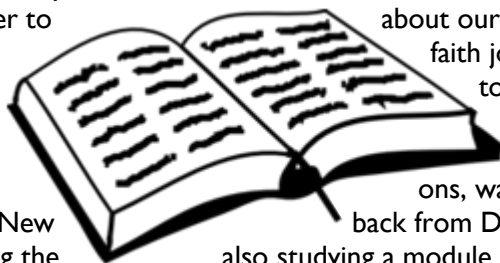
However, Steve was moving back and forth between the Old and New Testament encouraging the congregation to read the verses as we journeyed through the sermon. I found myself captivated by how God was speaking through Steve's interpretation of the text – reminding us all "God works out what God has worked in". This was a powerful reminder of God's love for us and His desire for us to be set apart – to be both salt and light.

This was a powerful reminder of God's desire for us to be set apart

I met a young man on my train journey back from Plymouth recently – we ended up sitting next to each other on this very busy train and talked for four and a half hours about our personal faith journeys. He told me he is working with prisoners, was on his way back from Dartmouth, also studying a module on systematic theology and I promised him I would send him a synopsis of the sermon that we were discussing as it seemed to me to be a clear systematic focus on Holiness.

Liz Crathern

Headingley Morning Mission Community



Reference	The Message
Exodus 3.1-10	The burning bush - marked out as holy ground - sanctified. The promised land - I will be with you - I am the one who sent you (Moses).
Exodus 19.5-6	God tells Moses he is special – set apart.
Exodus 30.22-30	Anointing the tent with holy oil – consecrated and soaked with holiness.
Deuteronomy 10.12-16	Live in His presence in holy reverence – live a good holy life.
Acts 1.8	We are chosen through the Holy Spirit. Baptised in the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2.1-4	Filled with the Holy Spirit - giving us the power and ability to live according to his word and share His message.
Ephesians 3.18	Filled with the holy spirit - strengthened by the Holy Spirit.
1 Thessalonians 4.1-8	God has invited us into something beautiful and holy as beautiful on the inside as outside – do not offend God - he is making you a gift of his Holy Spirit.
Titus 2.11-15	Salvation available for everyone. Live a good, pure life - energetic in goodness.
Hebrews 10.9-14	I am here to do it your way God. God has set a new plan - purified through the perfect sacrifice.
1 Peter 1.13-16	Shaped by God's life - a life energetic and blazing with holiness.
1 Peter 2.9-10	Chosen by God - chosen to be a holy people to do his work - tell others of the day and night difference he made for you - accepted.
1 John 1.2	We saw it, we heard it, and now we are telling you so you can experience it along with us.
Jude 1.20-21	Build yourselves up in this most holy place by praying in the holy place.

God Wills That I Should Holy Be

*God wills that I should holy be,
Himself will lead me by the hand
Into the truth, the liberty,
The glorious rest, the promised
land.*

*Patience its perfect work shall
have,
They shall be all entire and whole,
I will to all perfection save,
And fill their body, spirit, soul.*

*My soul doth magnify the Lord,
(Then every chosen one shall cry)
Washed by the water and the
word,
I triumph in the Lord most High.*

*My God hath saved me from all
sin,
His everlasting righteousness
Into my new-born soul brought in,
And filled with heavenly joy and
peace.*

*The righteousness of saints I wear,
Which He the King of saints hath
wrought;
Salvation from all guilt, and fear,
From pride, and every evil thought.*

Charles Wesley

Quoted by Steve Ford in his sermon at Headingley morning on 30 October, available in the resources section of the church website.

*Jesus my garments hath put on,
Hath clothed me with the milk-
white vest,
And sanctified through faith alone,
And in His glorious image dressed.*

*He now mine inmost soul hath
turned,
And hid me in His nature shine,
With every perfect gift adorned,
And all my graces are Divine.*

*With faith, and every grace beside
He hath endowed me from above,
My Lamb hath decked me like a
bride,
And my best jewel is His love.*

*Surely the Heavenly Adam's seed
Shall in our earthly hearts take
root,
Spring up in works, its branches
spread,
And holiness, its golden fruit.*

*The Lord our God shall give the
increase,
Shall matter for His glory find,
And lo! The perfect righteousness
Springs forth to gladden all
mankind.*

My Favourite Psalm

Psalm 73: Holding Fast in the Storm

Geoff Greer has reworked for this magazine the notes from which he spoke last August in Sent's series on favourite Psalms.

The Bible is a very honest book. In the Psalms especially we see the writers agonising over the difficulties they have with life and indeed faith. "All human life is there".

In this Psalm we see a reverse of the prosperity gospel; far from faith bringing health and material prosperity, the writer (Asaph) laments how "the wicked" are prospering

whilst he struggles to honour God in his life. Life seemed so unfair to him...and maybe it does to us as well.

Asaph began to come to terms with all this when he "entered the sanctuary of God and understood their final destiny" (verse 17). He (and we) needed to draw near to God and gain an eternal perspective.

So much then for the wicked; but what of us? In verse 23-24 there are four things to remember and they all concern God and what He will do. The psalmist says "Yet..."

Presence (verse 23a)

"*I am always with You*" – God is **with** each one of His people. True well-being is found in a personal relationship with God. It is "good to be near God" – verse 28a. Look also at Exodus 33.14, Isaiah 43.2/5a and Matthew 28.20b.

*Do you need to know again that in your trying circumstances **He is with you?***



Protection (verse 23b)

“You hold me by my right hand” – our security is to be found in God. See also Deuteronomy 33.27 and Psalm 73.28.

“Our security rests not on our feeble hold on Him but on His mighty grip on us”. Think of the illustration of helping a young child cross the road: we would let them hold our hand, we would grip around theirs. Chris Gnanakan often signs his emails “In His Grip”.

In John 10.28-9, referring to our eternal salvation, Jesus says no-one can snatch us from His hand... or the Father’s hand.



us through His word and through His people, when we open ourselves up to Him. Margaret and I found that when we were serious about this and made time for God to speak in Northumbria, we heard very clearly from Him.

*Do you need to know again that God will not leave us floundering, that **He will point the way for us?***

Prospect (verse 24b)

“...And afterwards You will take me into glory”. See Psalm 49.15 – He will take us to **Himself**.

See also Psalm 16.9-11 and Psalm 23.6. Here is a real long-term perspective! Also 2 Corinthians 4.17-18.

*Do you need to know again that **you are held by His mighty right hand?***

Pointing the way (verse 24a)

“You guide me with Your counsel” – He wants to lead us through life’s tangled pathway. Look at Isaiah 40.11 and Psalm 25.9.

Jesus specifically promised His followers an ongoing counsellor – John 14.16-17a.

God knows we often don’t know which way to turn, so He speaks to

We need an eternal perspective to deal with the unfairnesses and troubles of this life. God’s purposes for us cover everything.

Christian joy and peace are not just about “pie in the sky when we die” (three of the four points here concern our life here on earth) but heaven is part of the deal! We need an eter-

nal perspective to deal with the unfairnesses and troubles of this life, but also to know that God's purposes for us cover everything. We can know forgiveness and power now and a future more fully in His presence.

Summing up

- For now we have His presence, His protection and His pointing of the way ahead.
- For eternity we have the sure hope of sharing in His glory.
- May we all experience afresh all He has for us.

May the words of this song minister to all our hearts:

*Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast*

*He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast*

(Ada Habershon)

Geoff Greer

Northside Mission Community

*Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.*

*You guide me with your counsel,
and afterwards you will take me into glory.*

*Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.*

*My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion for ever.*

Psalm 73.23-26 (NIV)

Joy to the World

Christmas Away From Home

Intouch asked two South Parade members serving God overseas about Christmas in their adopted countries.

“Mary” is working in North Africa and Levi Booth is working with OMF in Japan.

Mary, how is Christmas celebrated by other people where you are?

Not at all in theory locally! But, what I call Christmas trees and decorations come in some of the shops to celebrate the New Year - and my hairdresser amongst others was decorated up last year!

What’s your favourite thing about Christmas where you are?

No commercial distractions so we can celebrate Jesus. I moan (still!) about leaving Yorkshire for a while, Jesus left glory to forever become one of us. Amazing!

How do you celebrate Christmas where you are?

A meal together sharing different

traditions from our worldwide team here; and loads of gaudy lights, tinsel etc at home!

What do you miss most about Christmas in the UK?

Carol services, getting together with friends, sparkly lights outdoors, mince pies and Christmas cake!



Mary’s local hypermarket last Christmas

How can we pray for you this Christmas?

Like many people even at home, it can be a time when loneliness and homesickness are felt more than usual.

Thank you and Christmas greetings to all!

“Mary”

Levi, how is Christmas celebrated by other people in Japan?

Most churches will have some kind of special Christmas events in December, but Christmas Day is not usually a special event, unless you're a foreigner. New Year is a much bigger celebration.



Levi in a Nativity play with students last Christmas

What's your favourite thing about Christmas in Japan?

How KFC have convinced Japan that fried chicken is traditional food to eat at Christmas time!

How do you celebrate Christmas in Japan?

So far I've always been invited to the home of missionaries for food and fun.

Pray that I would be filled with joy contemplating the meaning of Christmas, and that I'd have courage to share this with my friends

What do you miss most about Christmas in the UK?

Family. Especially playing games together and our traditional Boxing Day walk.

How can we pray for you this Christmas?

That I'd be filled with joy as I contemplate afresh the meaning of Christmas, and that I'd have wisdom and courage to share this hope with my friends.

Levi Booth

Gnanakan News

Mary, Be Encouraged!

Chris Gnanakan, our Mission Partner with OTAN (Outreach to Asian Nationals), based in the US, sent the church his best wishes, and these reflections on the Christmas story.

Have you ever wondered what Christmas meant to Mary who was “expecting Jesus”? Before she had a relationship with her fiancé Joseph, an angel announces her pregnancy! Her wedding plans shattered, and gripped with fear, this poor, peasant teenager exclaims: “How can this be?” Our ministry can become messy and high expectations can lead to deep disappointments. Like

Mary let us recognise how God works in ordinary people, in extraordinary ways and... be encouraged!

*Mary needed
God’s reassurance,
providence, strength,
and encouragement*

Focusing on the hopes the Christ-child brought, we forget the anxiety that crippled Mary’s soul in her cultural context. Today, sadly, her pregnancy could be a justifiable case for abortion. She literally delivered Jesus in a parking lot where travellers kept their animals. To bring forth what God sent forth and bring up the One she knew was her “Saviour” was no easy task. Mary had to flee with Jesus into Egypt as an asylum seeker. In all of this, did Mary lose heart? At each stage, what she needed was God’s reassurance, providence, strength, and encouragement.

Mary found enabling grace as God strategically used some unexpected people to encourage her. Imagine



her trying to explain the angel's visit and her pregnancy to Joseph! She must have wondered if he would reject her, scorn her in public, or demand she be stoned as an adulteress!

Yet Joseph as a "righteous man", committed to do God's will, shows kindness

and takes her to be his wife. Moreover, Mary needed someone to confide with who could understand the changes taking place in her. God had prepared Elizabeth, her Spirit-filled cousin, who herself in old age was carrying a "miracle" child. She reassures Mary that her child was their "Lord" and without judgment, welcomes and cares for Mary during her first trimester. How encouraging!

As Mary laid Jesus in a feeding trough, an angelic host announces His birth to lowly shepherds in Bethlehem. These first visitors to the manger received a "sign" that both helped them identify Mary's child and clarify that her baby was God's Davidic King and Saviour, "Christ the Lord!" As was customary, Mary and Joseph go to the temple where the prophet Simeon and Anna confirm her child to be the long-awaited Messiah and hope of all the nations. Two years

later, Gentile wise men come with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and worship this Christ child.

Did you notice the cross-section of society represented in this diverse group, each who turn up at different stages of Jesus' development to encourage Mary?

Even before Jesus' birth, God uses a close family member, Elizabeth to emotionally encourage her.

On a personal level, Mary is encouraged as Joseph courageously steps up as her life partner to physically help bring up her boy. At Jesus' birth, shepherds, socially from a lower class, come to reassure Mary with a sign from heaven. At her baby's dedication, Simeon and Anna give her the spiritual assurance that she is a vital part of God fulfilling his promises to the Jews and Gentiles. Magi, rich philosophers, visit Jesus as a toddler and provided Mary with the financial resources needed to raise Jesus.

At this "most wonderful time of the year" let us, with Mary, ponder the many ways that God has provided for us, and thank Him for those people he uses to strengthen us as we serve Him!

Be encouraged!

Chris Gnanakan



Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part 10: Knowing Jesus

Steve Ford's study in John's gospel reaches chapter 7 - many people are now questioning Jesus' authority

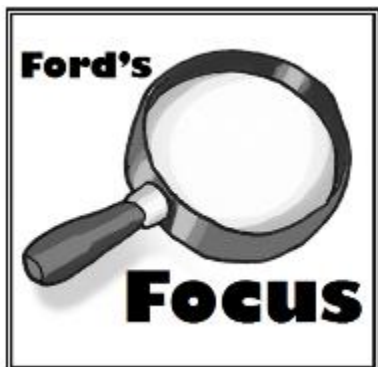
In John 7.25-27 we see the inhabitants of Jerusalem questioning among themselves that maybe, just maybe, their leaders know or even have a hunch that this man could be the Christ. The Authorised Version puts it like this: *"Do the rulers know indeed that this is very Christ?"*, drawing attention to the fact that the Jews thought they knew what "very Christ" meant.

The Jews had been taught about the living God and His rescue package for centuries and now that it was here under their noses very few recognised it. I suppose the ques-

tion for us today is do we recognise and know the Messiah or are we conditioned to think that He will appear in a certain way or do we just think He has arrived and that we do not need to do anything else?

Many people were divided as to who Jesus was. There were those who thought that he was demon possessed (verse 20). Some thought he was the Messiah but doubted because they had fixed ideas that the Messiah would come in a certain way and they would not know where he came from (verse 27).

The real problem that people had was that the establishment, the leaders, the Pharisees, did not believe and therefore cast doubt on the whole question. The Pharisees believed that they had the answers - after all they had studied intently, the trouble was they listened to men and not to God. They couldn't even get it right when it came to the tradition of circumcision, believing that it was Moses who instigated it when in fact it was God through Abraham (verses 21-24) that was the archi-



tect of the act, in order to seal the covenant between himself and Man-kind. It was Moses who declared, through spiritual insight, that this act was indeed an act that needed to be accomplished in the heart not in the flesh.

The key to knowing Jesus lies in verse 17

where Jesus says *“If any is willing to do his will (God’s) he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself.”* Here we have Jesus pointing out spiritual truth.

Many believed because of what Jesus had done. Why do some people take more convincing than others?

The original Greek for “will” has the present continuous tense and the word “do” has the infinitive mood so when put together there is a sense of urgency, it is a constant continuous action, one that changes our direction and understanding. It is in the “will do” that we know whether the doctrine is of God. The “will do” is quickened by faith. As everything is spiritual the “will do” has to be a spiritual action. Spirit communes only with spirit.

Jesus points out that the people can

know who he is and where he is from, that is physically, yet he says *“the one who sent me is true and you don’t know him”* (verse 28), that is they did not know him in the now, in the present, spiritually. Do we know him and where he is from in the now, spiritually?

In verse 31 it is recorded that many believed because of what Jesus had already done. Why is it that some people take more convincing than others?

In all of this confusion and muddle at the end of the feast Jesus stood up and said *“if any thirst let him come to me and drink”* (verse 37). He also says that belief in him will result with a flow of Living Water, a baptism that had not yet been witnessed but would come at Pentecost.

Have we heard the cry “If any thirst”? Are we witnesses to the Living Water flowing out of our depths that not only changes us but changes and enthuses those around us? Do we still doubt who Jesus is even though we have had him pointed out to us? Or are we those who have said “Yes, I see him, believe in him and will follow him whatever the cost”?

Steve Ford

Headingley Morning Mission Community

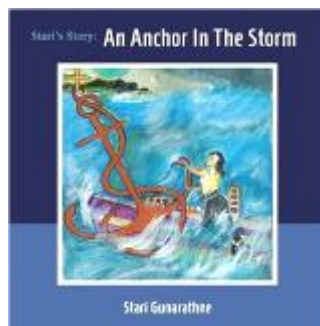


Church Noticeboard

“An Anchor in the Storm”

On Saturday 10 December 7.30- 9pm at South Parade we are hosting the book launch for *Stari's Story: An Anchor In The Storm*.

Please join us as we remember Stari's life and celebrate the publishing of her book! There will be light refreshments, a panel sharing reflections on the book and an opportunity to buy a copy .



“The story of one woman’s struggle with cancer, told through the blog she wrote in the last year of her life. This is a touching, powerful and challenging book that deals with issues of faith, love and life.”

Christmas at South Parade

See pages 16-17, the weekly noticesheet or check out the church website www.spbc.org.uk



Vision Sunday



Christmas Day Offerings

The Christmas Day offerings will be given to St George's Crypt and the Joanna project.

Visit www.stgeorgescrypt.org.uk and joannaproject.co.uk to find out more about their work with homeless and vulnerable people in our city.



Thank you!



We've collected 65 shoeboxes! A huge thank you to all who got involved with the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal. Your generous gifts will help make a difference in the lives of children, their families and communities all over the world.



Sabina Grahek

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Fair Trade for Christmas



There will be a few more opportunities in December to get your Traidcraft Christmas cards, everyday foodstuff & some special seasonal goodies, and the presents you still need.

Come and do your shopping with us at Headingley Morning on selected Sundays and make a real difference to producers' lives.

Pam Roe

Truth in Science

The scientific evidence for evolution is astonishingly weak. Any Christian who is serious about the gospel may welcome this talk by scientific and intellectual heavyweight professor Andy Mackintosh.

Saturday 14 January 2017, 7.30pm Airedale at Gospel Hall, Castleford, "Creation or Evolution?"

Mike Burkett

Headingley Morning Mission Community



truthinscience

ADVENT

WE LOOK FORWARD



WE PREPARE



WE WAIT

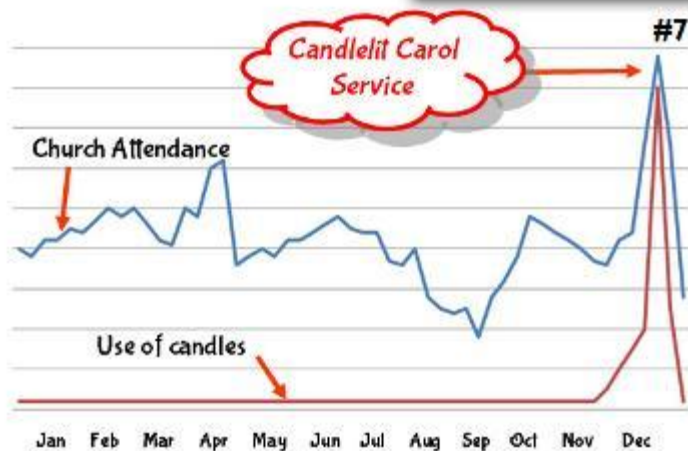


CartoonChurch.com

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"Set Your Church on Fire"

CHRISTIANITY EXPLODED



christianityexploded.tumblr.com



South Parade meets as five 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. **Northside** meets at the ABC Coffee Shop in Holt Park. We're involved with Church@Little London, run a CAP Debt Centre 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
Associate Pastor
Under 5s Co-ordinator

Nathan Shipley
Heather McLeen
Geoff King
Hannah Preston & Kate Churchill
Lawrence Cockrill (to 31/12/16)
Kate Burkett

Elders

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

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“

*Today in the town of David
a Saviour has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

”

Luke 2.11 (NIV)

intouch

SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Building Community in Christ