

intouch

**We have
seen the
Lord!**

Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.

**Peace be
with you!**

Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.

My Lord and my God!

Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

John 20.24-29

Gaynor Hammond, page 3

April sees a shuffling of chairs in the Ministry Team as we say a fond farewell to Gaynor and give her our thanks for all she has done for the whole church and for Cragg in particular over the last few years. And as one minister leaves, another appears, and we look forward eagerly to Paul Rockley's arrival at South Parade. Read Gaynor's "final words" to the church on page 8, and meet Paul on page 14. South Parade: never standing still!

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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From the Ministry Team

Believing the Word

But Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Writing near the end of the first century John addressed a people who had never seen or heard Jesus in the flesh. Most of them had been born after he died, so the stories became second or third hand. There were probably some eyewitnesses but a child who was 6 years old on that first Easter morning would have been close to seventy when John wrote his gospel.

John’s problem, which is a continuing problem for the church, was how to encourage people in the faith when Jesus was no longer around to be seen or touched. The story of Thomas gave him a way to do that.

Poor Thomas, perhaps he didn’t want his scepticism to be written down for all to see forever and ever! But by telling Thomas story in such detail – warts and all, he has given each of us an opportunity to think about how difficult it can be for some people to believe.

Thomas was not there the first time Jesus appeared to his disciples, in fact he was the only one of the eleven who was not there. Those who were there that first Easter evening were so

My Lord and my God!

convinced it was Jesus that afterwards they told Thomas he could take their word for it. Jesus was back, still wounded, but very much alive! “We have seen the Lord!” they shouted in perfect unison, and the right response from Thomas should have been: “All ten of you saw him at the same time? Well that’s good enough for me. I believe you! What do we do next?”

But that is of course, not what he said. What he said was. “Unless I see...I will not believe” which makes Thomas a “stand in” for all of us who want to see or understand for ourselves before we believe it to be true.

In those moments he spoke personally to each one of us. “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

John understood that, why else would he have told us about Thomas? And Jesus understood it. He did not dismiss Thomas from his circle of friends for failing to trust, on the contrary, Jesus made sure Thomas understood, holding out his scarred hands he offered them to Thomas, “touch them” he said, “stop doubting and believe.” Thomas must have fallen to his knees as he spoke “My Lord and my God.” And Jesus said: “You have seen me and believed.”

Then Jesus did something even more wonderful. It was as if he was looking over Thomas’s shoulder to the rest of us – those of us who were not there, those of us who

will never have the chance to lay our hands on the flesh of Jesus, those of us who are outside the circle of this story by thousands of years. And in those moments he spoke personally to each one of us. “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” That means US!

Those who have never seen him in the flesh, who only have the testimony of others to rely on, people who were there, and though they are long gone, still they beg us to take their word that what they saw was true.

For our sakes, they collected all the stories they could remember, they wrote them down with all the power given to them. Scripture is the message our ancestors rolled up and put in a jar for us because they wanted us to experience the person of Jesus – if not in the flesh, then in the word.

Only a few actually saw him in the flesh, either before or after his resurrection. Millions more have discovered him in the stories, which have a way of jumping off the page – because Jesus is still alive in them, with power to make us rejoice, weep, hope and act. Jesus IS The Word. It is written in the first chapter of John. “In the beginning was the Word, and the

Word was with God, and The Word was God.” The Bible is known as the Living Word of God. It speaks to us in way no other book can – if we open ourselves up to it.

The story is already alive, with or without us but God wants us to be part of it. To be part of Jesus risen life on earth – so that his testimony carries on being heard. “We have seen the Lord!” In the flesh? No. In the story, in our lives

together, in our own testimonies? Absolutely.

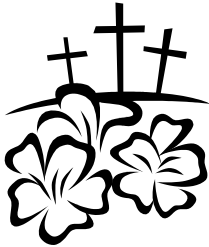
Have a wonderful Easter, and as I now look towards a future, no longer part of the Ministry Team, I pray that God will continue to speak to you and to me through His word, through His Spirit and through each other.

Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

Gaynor

On behalf of the whole Ministry Team

*If there were no resurrection
We ourselves could not be raised,
But the Son of God is living,
So our hope is not in vain.
He has risen!*



Gerald Coates, Noel & Tricia Richards

...informed...



For details of service times, locations, Mission Communities, small groups, children’s work, student events, our vision and structure, sermon downloads, the church blog, the weekly notice sheet, this magazine and much much more, go to the church website:

www.spbc.org.uk

Around the Church

Adel Looks to the Future

It's 20 years since Adel became a congregation. In real terms it started way back when South Parade felt the call to move into another community. With much prayer the conviction came to go to Adel. At the same time Tile Lane School in Adel was opening with only a few children and they welcomed us as part of the community.

A significant development took place as we were asked to share our vision with a home group of Moortown Baptist Church that met in the area. Their minister Stephen Ibbotson had had a similar vision and therefore encouraged those from their home group who felt led to join us in this venture. Adel Mission Community became a joint venture between South Parade and Moortown Baptist Churches. So

with Geoff Greer, Nigel Hooper and my husband Martin we started with 30 others.

20 years on, we've seen lots of changes. We have built people up in the faith and sent them out to continue God's work in other places including Albania and Tajikistan. Those that have stayed have seen the emergence of the Coffee Shop at Holt Park. It reaches out and ministers mostly to those living in the area. From that came Café Church where folks find a real spiritual home.



At our anniversary service Brian preached on "The Light of the World", which has its own implications for us. Adel is divided by the main road and it could become a barrier. Outreach work seems to be flourishing on the Holt Park (West) side of the road, but involvement with Adel on the East side is more difficult. Some



Adel's Birthday Celebrations

time ago we had a vision of two lighthouses, each with their own area of influence and we recognise that, but Brian reminded us that if we line up the two lighthouses we have a safe passage into the harbour. If we keep our eyes focussed on Jesus and not get side-tracked, there will be our future.

In recent years we have seen a number of baptisms and a strengthening of commitment to God. Looking ahead, we are due to have regular prayer meetings and feel challenged to embrace the future.

Our vision is still to witness to all the community of Adel, keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus and anticipating where He's going to lead us over the next 20 years.

Cassie Julian

Adel Leadership Team



Headingley in Brief

The following is a snap shot of recent happenings in Headingley presented as a puzzle. You can rearrange the words in almost any order that you like, and you will still find reasons to be very thankful.

New deacons Liz and Lauren, prayer breakfast, Henry Olonga (with special thanks to Chris Marsden), daffodils, children's work, cricket in church, Mothering



Sunday, new drummer,
 prayers for healing,
 new members,
 Colin and Jill's
 work in France,
 ceilidh, pie and
 peas, and, as
 we turn our
 thoughts towards Easter,
 great teaching, Jesus the
 gate, the good (and lovely)
 shepherd, the Resurrection
 and the Life.

Barbara Crosse

Mission Community Leader

Message to Cragg

Six months ago I made the very difficult decision to retire from South Parade. At the time it didn't seem too bad, six months is after all half a year, so it was ages away.

The autumn came and with it "Hope in Horsforth", then Christmas and all the busyness of the celebrations, and then the New Year. All of a sudden the dreaded



day was no longer six months away, it was "this year!" Still, there were still three months to go and lots to do, but it has flown! And everyone who has mentioned "the day" has been rewarded with me sobbing all over them.

The questions I have been asking myself over the past few weeks are quite simply: Why did I do it? Was I mad? What will become of me? How will I cope no longer being "mother" to Cragg? Sorry Craggies but that is how I see myself – I am your mum, and now I must leave you.

Someone said we were not like churches they had been to before – we seemed normal! OK, they don't really know us yet...

The good news is that I am leaving you in very safe hands. Geoff is going to be brilliant for you; therefore it is right that I go – yes I will come back and see you, of course I will, but it will be different. But just look at you! How you have grown and developed. I am so PROUD of you.

Look how well you just get on with things, and because you have honoured God and done your very

best, Cragg has now been blessed with a brilliant worship group that come in several variations and you are so GOOD.

Not only that, you are so welcoming to all who come through the doors – I have never experienced a welcome like you give – people have said that when they have walked through the doors they have felt such peace and healing.

Do you remember what God said to us a while ago? He said, “You have become a place of peace, a sanctuary for my people.” That means that God knows he can send his broken ones to you and they will be cared for – isn’t that wonderful?

And he is doing isn’t he? Look at Kingdom Day the other Saturday, could any of us have imagined in our wildest dreams, that so many people from the community around us would be so happy to just come through our doors and sit and chat with us and get to know us? What was it that one of them said? We were not like churches they had been to before – we seemed normal! OK, they don’t really know us yet so they will soon find

out we are far from “normal” but we think we know what they meant.



Gaynor Hammond

And those who called in who were new to the area, they had heard about us from their neighbours, who had told them that we were a church who did some good stuff and cared about the community! This is from people who don’t come – but I believe they will soon. God is so pleased with you – you are His good and faithful servants.

I just wanted you to know how proud I am of you, how much I love you and that I will miss you dreadfully.

All my love

Gaynor x

Church Meeting Notes

The meeting on 21 March included the Annual Meeting and a look back at God’s faithfulness over the last 12 months:

- Gemma reflected on the refurbishments that the good ship “SS South Parade” has had

recently to get it looking shipshape and ready to sail on the open waters of mission. She talked about the changes to the compliment of the senior crew, before handing the microphone back to “Captain Brian” (you had to be there...)

- Brian talked about the vision of the church and went through the letters O, P, E and N and the progress that the Ministry Team and Mission Communities had made in inviting outsiders into the fellowship, in people becoming active participants in the life of the church, of encouraging emerging leaders and the nurturing of disciples for the long haul.
- Adrian presented a draft of the church accounts for 2012, showing a decrease in giving of 6% and increased expenditure of 14%, resulting in a deficit of £76,946 for the year.

We prayed together and thanked the Lord for his goodness and guidance.

In the rest of the meeting we heard about exciting plans to launch a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre in partnership with another local church. We'll shortly be in a position to recruit befrienders and debt advisers to run the centre. The centre will need support in prayer and finances from the whole church.

The meeting broke into small groups to consider the future vision of South Parade and what priorities we want to focus on in the future. We fed back a number of points for the Ministry Team and leadership teams to consider over the next few months.

Adrian presented some excitingly coloured graphs showing how the church's financial balance sheet is expected to look for the rest of the year. Though recent one-off gifts have improved the situation, we need some commitments of long-term increased giving in order for the church to confidently plan for all the mission activities that we want to do this year.

Matthew Newman

...informed...

Share news from Around the Church, from your Mission Community, homegroup, cell group, project or meeting by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk.



Les Missionnaires

Keeping up with the Joneses

Colin and Jill Jones regularly disappear from the Headingley Morning Mission Community for several weeks at a time to work with a growing church in northern France. From their caravan in the church car park Colin emailed to explain how and why they came to be there.

So why are we sitting in our caravan in February, with the temperature outside at minus several, on the parking space between two typical Normandy buildings in Lisieux? Actually, before you start packing up food parcels and spare candles there was a bit of poetic licence there. The cold and snow were last week: it is actually quite a pleasant day today, our touring caravan is modern and spacious and has very effective central heating, and we are able to plug into mains electric in the church meeting rooms which constitute one of the buildings. But the question is still valid.

We have no hesitation in saying we are here because God brought us to this place, but just how He did that may be of interest. Since we first came to France together in 1966 we have been in love with the country and its people. We have visited it together and as a family most years. Colin has conducted concerts in some of the most beautiful chateaux, cathedrals and churches in the country and Jill has brought school parties to Rouen numerous times.

Over the years we have been more and more saddened by the low level of active Christian presence in this precious country (in spite of all those wonderful churches) and we longed to be able to give something back. However, circumstances have never allowed us to work abroad and we were inclined to think that such an opportunity would not now arise. Not so! God is always full of surprises.

At the Keswick Convention in 2011 we found ourselves drawn to the

WEC stall (World Evangelisation for Christ is a large, long-standing mission organisation with the strapline “Reaching the Unreached”). To be honest, we had never heard of them! Nevertheless, after a long conversation we knew that a) they were working in various parts of France, b) yes, they could use us for repeated periods of three weeks at a time c) yes, they understood that we needed to be able to get back to the UK in hours rather than days and d) yes, they really could see a need for our particular giftings. Oh crumbs!



Francis and Diane Dognon, the pastor and his wife, about seven years ago and has grown from seven to about 50 members. It is also the centre of a network of small Christian groups meeting in other places in the area (Calvados).

There is a strong anticipation that there is to be a real Christian awakening in Normandy and that this will spread southwards. An exciting place to be! Many of the people in the church are only young in their faith and it seems that we were the answer to their prayer for God to send them some support from people with a longer experience of walking with the Lord. Quite a challenge and an immense privilege.

There is a strong anticipation of a real Christian awakening in Normandy. An exciting place to be!

To cut a long story short, we allowed our details to be sent out to the workers in France and immediately a reply came from Lisieux. So we find ourselves serving this small but growing Baptist church in Lisieux, about 30 miles south of Le Havre for (currently) four blocks of three weeks a year. The church was founded here under the vision of

So what do we do? This morning Jill is serving in their community cafe up on the large housing estate on the edge of Lisieux. We shall both be there this afternoon and on several other days this week. It is half term and without our replacing some of the normal volunteers who are on holiday it would be closed. I have been cleaning the church. On Sunday I led worship for the service here and we would have led the worship for the meeting of a small group of Christians in Caen on Sunday morning had the snow not descended and caused them to



The church cafe at Lisieux

cancel (quite a lot of people travel up to 30 miles or more to join in worship). Caen is about 30 miles to the west.

Yesterday evening Jill did the teaching input to an Alpha Course (How does God guide us?) at a group in a small village about 34 miles to the east. We have been quite heavily involved in Alpha and tonight we shall drive to Caen again to share in the group's Alpha+ (Philippians) course. All this demands quite a bit of preparation because we are

working in French all the time. There are compensations. Yesterday was the first time Jill had been thanked for doing an Alpha talk with a gift of a bottle of Normandy Cider! We are also able to help with quite a bit of pastoral work, continuing our contacts by email when we are back in England, and our caravan provides a

totally independent base in which we can entertain people to meals or just chat.

Exciting? Very. Challenging? Very. Fun? Absolutely. Tiring? Often. Worthwhile? We believe so.

Praise God for all his amazing goodness, and please pray for the Christians of Normandy as they witness in what is often a remarkably difficult environment for evangelical Christians.

Colin Jones

...involved...

Colin and Jill thank everyone for their prayers for the mission in Normandy. Ask them about the latest news from Lisieux and continue to pray for them as they return for their next stay in April. To find out more about WEC visit www.wec-int.org.uk.

Meet Paul Rockley

Paul Rockley officially joins the Ministry Team on 1 April, with his induction at the evening service on 21 April. *Intouch* asked him some questions to introduce himself.

How did you become a Christian?

I can't remember a specific time or place when I became a Christian. My parents were both Christians, so I was clearly influenced by their faith and always accepted that what they told me about God loving the world so much that He sent Jesus was true. However I can remember times when I felt I needed to make sure I was personally committed to following Jesus for myself, regardless of my family or anyone else.

When did you feel called to be a minister?

It was when I was about 23 years old. I was one of the youth leaders in my home church and we had gone away for the weekend to Llandudno with our youth group.

On the Sunday we went to a service in one of the local churches and the person leading prayed that God would set apart people to "proclaim His Word to this generation". As he said that I had a strong sense that somehow God was calling me to that task of proclamation. That event has shaped and informed everything I have done since.

*Pray for the continuous
filling of God's Spirit to
equip me for everything
He wants me to do here*

What are you most looking forward to about joining the Ministry Team at South Parade?

I think the answer lies in the question - being part of a team. Being in a team means you recognise that you can't do everything; that there are others who have gifts that you don't; and that you have your own distinctive contribution to make. So being in a

Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings

Date	Morning Services	Evening Service
7 April	Romans 1.1-17 The heart of the message	Mark 1 The beginning of the Gospel
14 April	Romans 1.18 - 2.29 The state of society	Mark 2 New wine, new wineskins
21 April	Romans 3 God's faithfulness	Mark 3 A new family
28 April	Romans 4 Believing like Abraham	Mark 4 Indiscriminate sowing
5 May	Romans 5 Adam re-booted	Mark 5 Touching the edges
12 May	Romans 6 Living the baptised life	Mark 6 Too big a job
19 May PENTECOST	Romans 7 If only it were that easy	Mark 7 Clean and unclean
26 May TRINITY	Romans 8 The world, groaning for release	Mark 8 Taking up the cross
2 June	Romans 9 In the Potter's hands	Mark 9 A troubling vision of glory

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5.8 (NIV) (5 May)

Weekly Prayer Diary



April - May 2013

"Pray continually."

I Thessalonians 5.17

31 March

Brian Nicholls
Heather McLeen
Children's and Youth work
Steve and Ismay in Tunisia
Rosemary Stirk
David Morris (Cambridge)
Cafe Church

7 April

SENT Mission Community
Claire Ginn
Work among students
Adrian Howe, Church Treasurer
and the Finance Team
The persecuted church
throughout the world
Your neighbours

14 April

Headingley Morning
Mission Community
Geoff King
The Retired Persons' Fellowship
Those who can't get to
church on a Sunday any more
Caroline Brown (Bristol)

Pull out and use!

21 April

Paul Rockley
Cragg Mission Community
People baptized recently
The Under 5s work
Kate Burkett
Your small group and its leader
Chris and Dorothy Gnanakan
and the work of OTAN
Karl Martin (Edinburgh)
Andrew Goldsmith (Ruislip)

28 April

Connect Mission Community
Dave Bartram
Colin and Jill Jones in Lisieux
St George's Crypt
CAP and our plans for a Debt
Centre
Jane Waites in Albania
Levi Booth
Ed Preston, UCCF and local
Christian Unions

Lord God, author of all life and of each life, we praise you for this sacred world in which you have called us to be your people.

We thank you for the love we have known, the comfort we have enjoyed, the happiness we have tasted.

And we pray now for those who feel themselves without love, comfort or happiness.

For those whose relationships have made them less human, who find it hard to trust and to be trustworthy. For those who have been abused or neglected... May they know the reality of your loving presence, may your Holy Spirit flood into their lives to bring healing. Make us willing to be your means of answering our prayer.

For those who go days without food, for those who have fled their homes, for those without future and without hope. Bring justice and peace, and a comfort that can come only from you. But make us willing to be your means of answering our prayer.

For your church, when it has lost its joy. When joy is battered by hardship, persecution or grief... When joy is mistaken for entertainment, fake smiles or superficial thrills. Bring the gift of joy, that your church on earth might be a colony of heaven.

5 May

Adel Mission Community
Geoff Greer, Church Secretary
Roy Starling
Someone you know
who doesn't know Jesus
The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Richard Pollard (Bristol)
Matthew Wright
David and Ann Macfarlane

12 May

Gemma Eastwood
Church Office
Irene West
The deacons
Other local churches
The Baptist Union, and Jonathan
Edwards (General Secretary)
The Green House
Those in hospital
Street Angels in Headingley
Matthew Rowe

19 May

Nicholas Muttonji
The Monday meeting
Joanna Project
Diane Horsley
The work of TLG and the Early
Intervention Centres
ABC Coffee Shop
John Gleghorn (Bingley)
Nick Cook (Market Harborough)

26 May

Cafe Church at Holt Park
Gaynor Hammond
Church@LittleLondon
Lawrence Cockrill
Judith Briggs
Rooted
Leeds City Mission
Jayne Godfrey in Bratislava
Dan Mcleod (Surrey)

Because

Because the sun rises,
the day dawns,
dependable, consistent, patiently
radiating new light, new hope,
new reason for living.

Because the sun rises,
darkness fades, vision clears
to embrace all those things
that evaded yesterday:
words rehearsed but left unsaid;
thoughts challenged, yet still a challenge;
deeds intended left undone.

Although the sun rises,
clouds still dim my sight,
configure doubt, excuses
gliding from secret corners
of a mind and heart untamed.

Yet because the Son has risen,
there is a Light
that chases doubt;
there is a Day
that lasts for ever,
a Presence to be known,
no longer filtered through the rays
of a dying sun,
but through the witness of an
empty cross.

Jill Jones

BMS World News

Phone chargers and the sunshine gospel

Does your church struggle to reach out to its community? Take inspiration from Kahokya Baptist Church, in western Uganda, which has found a practical way to meet the needs of its community, with support from BMS.

Seeking to have a positive impact in Kahokya, the church has identified a gift it can give – the gift of light.

A lack of electricity makes the daily struggle for those who live in Kahokya – a remote village in the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains in Kasese District – far more challenging.



“Children return from school after sunset and struggle to do their homework with kerosene lamps which are expensive, dim, unhealthy and dangerous,” says BMS worker in Uganda, Gareth Shrubsole.

But now things are different.

The church has utilised solar power to provide lit rooms for study six evenings a week, through a thoroughly researched project led by Gareth. “It was a real privilege to be able to physically bring light to a community that lacked it,” he says.

A sustainable phone-charging business is also being run using the solar-powered electricity. As well as generating

income to keep the project running, the church hopes that the business

will eventually fund a much-needed rainwater collection tank, enabling villagers to access safe water without making a two-hour round-trip.

The project has led to opportunities to build relationships with local people and draw them into the church

By meeting a practical need of the community, Kahokya Baptist Church has gained opportunities to build relationships with local people, and through this to draw them into the church. Pastor Baluku Mbalizwa says six adult members have joined the church through the phone charging project already, two of whom are new believers.

This pilot project, though small in scale, is a great example of the impact the local church can have in its community.

Don't forget Syria

Violence in Syria continues to displace thousands but, as the situation deteriorates, UK

Christians are providing a lifeline for those affected by enabling the distribution of critical aid.

While countless families remain in Syria, unsure of their future, many others are forced into exile – with over 300,000 Syrian refugees fleeing to Jordan in a state of shock.

A relief worker with BMS partners on the ground tells of his experience delivering aid. “We enter the block of flats and are immediately struck by the lack of heat. Looking down the hall, we see

numerous men, women, and children sitting on the cold concrete floor, looking to us for help.”

Adad’s life has been transformed by the work of BMS partners and the local Syrian church. Living in poverty and reliant on monthly food relief packages, Adad and his family experienced the generosity of Christians

and started attending church. When Adad’s pastor gave him some chicken to take home, Adad remembered his neighbours who were also struggling to survive, and felt compelled to give the chicken to them. Having personally experienced God’s love, Adad



extended that love to others.

BMS has given over £26,000 to Syrian refugee partner projects in Jordan and Lebanon since the conflict began – but the humanitarian emergency in Syria is still growing.

Steve Sanderson, BMS Manager for Mission Projects, says, “With all war, the innocent, particularly the

vulnerable, bear an unacceptably high burden. It is good to be able to demonstrate how BMS, through trusted partners, has been meeting the needs of these displaced people for the past two years.

“However, the human impact of the Syrian conflict is only set to deteriorate and it is important that our response remains informed, loving, practical and prayerful.”

...informed...

To find out more about the work of BMS across the world visit www.bmsworldmission.org. There you can subscribe to Engage magazine and have it sent to your home free four times a year.

News from Italy

David and Ann MacFarlane, our link missionaries with BMS in Italy, will be on home assignment in May. They will be speaking at an event on a Saturday in the Green House - watch the notice sheet for details. In the meantime please continue to pray for the following:

- Harvey who has been to see a brain specialist in Verona
- Lucia and the work in Rosarno with the Asylum seekers teaching Italian and co-ordinating the food, clothing and bedding that is given
- Recent converts, Antonio and his wife, Maria Grazia, and Roland a young Filipino boy
- The Food bank
- The chaos at the moment with the arrest of the whole local town council, which has resulted in the streets being filled with uncollected refuse
- David and Ann as they return to the UK for their home assignment, for times of rest and recuperation as well as the opportunity to share with folk what God is doing out in Calabria

Pat Dagleish

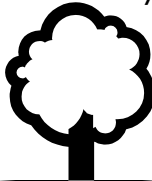
Gnanakan News

Roots and Wings: We Need Both

Our mission partner in America, Chris Gnanakan, is now director of OTAN (Outreach to Asia Nationals). He sends his greetings to all at South Parade, and passed on this Bible Study from his blog.

Psalm 1.3 and Isaiah 40.31

A tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit... has “roots!” Roots are *vital*, providing life-giving sustenance for the tree to grow and be productive. Roots are *underground*, not visible



yet without them the tree has no stability. Chaff, without roots, gets blown away by every wind of difficulty. Roots *strengthen*, provide stay during storms of adversity. OTAN is “planted” with deep “roots” that represent essential values that hold us up and together.

At least two values ingrain in who we are, and all we do at

OTAN. First, *a deep fervour to obey the Word of the Lord* that endures forever! Back in 1986, our founder Otis Goodwin started by taking Yu Study Bibles to Chinese nationals so that they could know God’s Way of salvation in Jesus. OTAN still thrives with this Biblical Mandate as our basis and marching orders.

Second, Otis had *a deep faith to rely on the God of the Word* who promises to meet our every need. Did you know OTAN was started with \$750 by the Goodwins who had less than 50% of their support raised? Today we belong to a rootless generation with so



much to live with yet so little to live for. Our great Jehovah will guide us as we trust and obey, and supply all our needs in Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever!

Asia, the largest, most religiously diverse, missionally challenged continent is a laboratory for persecuted nations

Over 27 years later... OTAN is *taking the Gospel into a global village*. Our world of over 7 billion has shrunk; science, technology, trade and commerce have wired us all together. Asia, the largest, most religiously diverse, missionally challenged continent houses most unreached peoples within the 10/40 window. It is a laboratory for

persecuted nations! With economic melt-down, fragmented families, violent societies and rising fundamentalisms, how are we *making disciples of all nations*? We can lose faith, have a crisis, get buried in it all.

Like the Psalmist (55.6) many want wings like a dove to fly away and be at rest. At OTAN we know “they that trust on the Lord shall renew their strength and mount up with... wings like eagles!” We need “wings” to fly not *from*, but *to* God, to refuel under the shadow of His wings! From this place, with renewed vision, mission and passion we rise up to reach out and change our world. As roots stand for *stability*, so wings represent *mobility* – a missionary movement that intentionally and strategically gets the Great Commission done, that’s OTAN!

Chris Gnanakan

...inspired...

For more details about Chris’s activities visit the OTAN site at www.outreachtoasianationals.org or go to Chris’s blog: chrisgnanakan.com

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40.31 (KJV)

Keeping it Real

South Parade's Vision

We have a vision as a church to “build community in Christ”. Ministry Team member Gemma Eastwood explains that this means the church values what you do during the week and not just that what you do when you turn up to do “church” on a Sunday.

In our church the responsibility of pastoral support lies within each mission community, there is no one person responsible for this. So if you are not receiving any pastoral support, and feel you need it, one option is to join a home group (Bible study group). Because for other members of the body to support you it helps if they know who you are.

If that's not for you then another way to make friends is to tag on to the Coffee Rota or the Welcome Team where you meet on Sunday. And if you classify yourself as retired, and even if you don't, then there are even more opportunities to meet others at the Wednesday Group, the

Barnabas Bunch and the Retired People's Fellowship lunches.

If we are thinking about those amongst us who are on the edge of the church, then the welcome and coffee rota teams are at the front line of pastoral care and in giving people a sense of belonging. This is where our hospitality begins and where we can carry out “pastoral reconnaissance” and spot the tell-tale signs of those who are struggling with life: either to alert one of the leaders, so they can have a private chat, or to meet that person face-to-face ourselves. The downcast eyes or too fixed smile could simply mean that someone's favourite team lost a big match

yesterday or it could indicate something more serious has happened in their life.



SPBC's strategic objectives are intended to build stronger mission communities. This should be evidenced by the fact that individuals receive pastoral support when they need it. It also means

that people who attend each of our five mission communities are clear about what their mission field is and are taking part in it. For Cragg Hill a key element of their vision really is a field: the allotments! Our strength is recognising that each community's mission is unique to that part of the body.

We are blessed to be an outward-facing church

Our whole-church ministries are mostly centered around outreach activities. We are blessed to be an outward-facing church because some of us are helping others to meet Jesus at the ABC Cafe and Cafe Church at Holt Park, at Cragg Hill's Drop-In club, at Connect at Hollybush School, at Rooted and Under 5's at Headingley, at messy church at Little London, at Adel's services at Wayland Croft and also those services run at Headingley Hall and Primrose Court. And then (deep breath) there's Rewind to Easter (and Christmas) for school children at Headingley, Outburst at Adel, the Junior Church Parties,

holiday clubs, It's Your Move, lunchtime clubs and assemblies at schools, all of which give children who don't come to church a chance to hear about Jesus. So many opportunities to build community in Christ by getting out into the community!

Our vision statement also says that we'll "undertake focused mission projects" and examples of these are the Churches Together events run in Horsforth and Headingley or our occasional Kingdom Days.

And finally we have said "we'll maintain clear, relevant Biblical evangelism" and we can all be part of this element of our vision by supporting initiatives like Hope in the Park in Horsforth or the Alpha courses.

But perhaps you haven't got time to take part in any of the activities listed above? In which case, would you be willing to let a member of the Ministry Team come and visit you where you are during the week? The vision held by the church starts and ends with you.

Gemma Eastwood

Church Administrator

...involved...

To find out more about the vision of the church, contact Gemma at the church office, or speak to any member of the Ministry Team.

Questions

Confident Assertions?

Since the 1940s there has been an exponential growth in knowledge and understanding with a matching increase in the power of technology. The physicist, Paul Dirac, unkindly said that progress is not because scientists change their mind but because they retire and die. It is extremely difficult to rethink the assumptions of a working lifetime.

The philosopher Anthony Flew, following Plato and Socrates, knew the value of testing the evidence. Another philosopher, Karl Popper, recognised that trying to disprove a hypothesis was more likely to reveal truth than attempts to confirm it. But do Christians need to concern themselves with the

world of science and philosophy? We might consider the following to be a sufficient reason.

It is asserted that the Church is a club that exists for the benefit of non-members! Most people believe and act as though God is dead or irrelevant. Many would base that belief on the notion that science has buried God. But science follows the evidence. Where is the evidence?

Throughout the nineteenth century, natural theology, as it was called, asserted that the ordered complexity of the living and material world led to an inference of Design and to a Primary Being. Sir William Paley wrote very clearly that we can only understand the nature of a primary being by Revelation and that we call God. Design then illustrates the power and generosity of God. That view is still being misrepresented.

Richard Dawkins defines the options with the assertion that everything is the result of random



events without cause or purpose. These events produce variations within the descendants of forms of life with different abilities to survive. A well-funded group of respected Christian biologists, mostly retired, assent to this, believing that it was ordained by God but the system runs without external influence.

Do Christians need to concern themselves with the world of science and philosophy?

But there is no evidence of unbroken continuity and examples of wonderful complexity could not be formed bit by bit and still function. John Lennox and James Le Fanu have demonstrated clear evidence against the assertions attributed to Dawson which points to intelligent causation and hence to a primary agent or Being.

Sadly it seems impossible to obtain an open discussion on the evidence for the formation of complex

assemblies by a succession of random events both in the origin of life and in the alleged continuous increase in the complexity that it is claimed can be inferred from the fossil record. Is it the Copernicus syndrome that denied the evidence of astronomy?

Most scientists believe that science can neither prove nor disprove the existence of God and Christians would concur. We should confidently assert that God, the Creator of all things, is ever present – Omniscient and Omnipresent in the language of our great grandfathers or in the language of three thousand years ago (see Psalm 139.7–12).

Give yourself a treat. Read all of the Psalm and then reflect on the most amazing act in the redemption of the world soon to be commemorated through the resurrected Christ who was and is and ever will be with the Father and Holy Spirit, God for ever.

Cyril Snell

Headingley Morning Mission Community

*If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon,
You'd find me in a minute - you're already there waiting!*

Psalm 139.9-10 (The Message)

Church Noticeboard

Dads & Tots Group

Who is it for? Any Dads are welcome with kids of any age but usually pre-school aged kids (we have had the occasional Mum coming to offer support for the Dad on their first visit which is also fine)

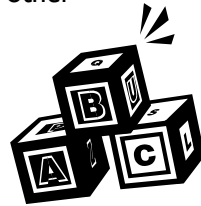
When do you meet? Once per month Saturday morning (usually the first Saturday of the month). 10:30 to Midday in the Church Hall at Headingley.

Why should people get involved?

Friendly relaxed environment for Dads to enjoy spending some time with their kid(s) whilst getting to meet other Dads. Maybe most importantly enjoying a bacon sandwich and drink on a Saturday morning!

How can they find out more?

Contact the church office



Colin Holton

Please help!

The Kidz in Kampz Charity Shop in Holt Park (near the ABC Coffee Shop) desperately needs new stock!

*Our Mission Community in Horsforth
We are **Renowned** for our hospitality
We are blessed with **All** age groups
Our love of **God** is evident
And we love to **Go** and tell others about Him*

**Sundays 10.30ish,
Cragg Avenue, Horsforth LS18 4LX**

**ENOUGH FOOD
FOR EVERYONE**



**Heard about
the IF
campaign?**

This year, many of the world's most powerful leaders will meet in the UK. They must change the future for millions of people who live with the day to day struggle against hunger. But that will only happen IF we get together and make them act.

There is Enough Food for Everyone....

IF... we force governments and investors to be honest and open about the deals they make in the poorest countries that stop people getting enough food.

IF... governments keep their promises on aid, invest to stop children dying from malnutrition and help the poorest people feed themselves through investment in small farmers.

IF... we stop poor farmers being forced off their land, and use the available agricultural land to grow food for people, not biofuels for cars.

IF... governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries, so that millions of people can free themselves from hunger.

Find out more and sign up at enoughfoodif.org

Don't Forget!

Paul Rockley's
induction service: Sunday
21 April 6.30pm at
Headingley

Don't Forget 2!

Irene West's
commissioning
service: 12 May
10.30am at
Headingley

A-Z of South Parade

The complete *A-Z of South Parade* will soon be available from the church office and includes the original entries from *Intouch* plus 30+ new entries not seen before. Get it while stocks last!

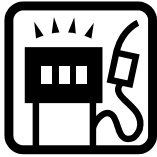


Your group featured here!

To add something to the June *Intouch* Church Noticeboard email magazine@spbc.org.uk

South Parade in Numbers

Part One



2

Petrol pumps
in Heather's
Office
(not real ones)

350

Cups of tea
served at the ABC
Coffee Shop in an
average week



80p

Price of a
cup of tea

giftaid it

16 Gift Aid claims made in 2012

Total claimed: **£78,720**

Ministers
called "Paul"
1779 - 2012:

0

Current
Elders called
"Geoff":

2

54

Children came to the
February half-term
Holiday Club



1219

Meetings held
at church
buildings in
2012



2142
metres

Total height of
the Yorkshire
Three Peaks.
Sponsored walk
is on 4 May!

South Parade is one of **28** Baptist churches in Leeds, and one of the **2100** churches that make up the Baptist Union of Great Britain



43

Sermons available to download from the church website
(the last time we checked)

44%

of them preached by Brian



£7,660

The weekly cost of running the church every week in 2013



92

Homemade pies served at the Ceilidh at Headingley in March

Unknown

The number of further trips to the bank the Treasurer will have to make before he manages to set up a new account

If you have a number for *South Parade in Numbers* email magazine@spbc.org.uk

CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker

WHY DID THE GOOD SAMARITAN CROSS THE ROAD?



Alex

NOTE: PUNCHLINE UNAVAILABLE DUE TO BUDGET CUTS

For more "Cake or Death" cartoons
by Alex Baker visit:
cakeordeathcartoon.wordpress.com

Welcome to All

We extend a special welcome to those who are married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying new-borns, those skinny as a rake or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Pavarotti or are like our vicar (who can't carry a note in a bucket). You're welcome here if you're "just browsing", just woke up or just out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been in church since little Jack's christening.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organised religion": we've been there too!

If you blew all your money on the horses, you're welcome here. We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid, or got lost in the one way system and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts... and you!

Sign on a church in Builth Wells

Thanks to Mike Burkett for forwarding this!





*South Parade meets as five distinctive Mission Communities across Leeds: in **Headingley, Adel and Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and as **SENT** at Headingley on Sunday evenings. **Connect** meets at different locations in the community in Bramley. We also have projects in Little London and Holt Park. 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.*

Senior Minister
Minister

Brian Nicholls
Paul Rockley

Associate Pastor
Children's Worker
Administration Manager
Student Worker
Under 5s Co-ordinator

David Bartram
Heather McLeen
Gemma Eastwood
Lawrence Cockrill
Kate Burkett

Elders

Judith Briggs
Adam Clayton, Claire Ginn,
Geoff Greer (Church Secretary),
Adrian Howe (Church Treasurer),
Geoff King, John Pelham,
Rosemary Stirk

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

0113 275 4989
www.spbc.org.uk
gemma@spbc.org.uk

My Lord and my God!

“

*“Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed.”*

”

John 20.29 (NIV)

intouch

**SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Building Community in Christ