

intouch

How It All Began



John Lockwood looks at the history of Cragg: Page 24

When we started the *Step of Faith* section of the magazine a few years ago, presenting stories of God's goodness and faithfulness from "ordinary" church members, Stari Gunarathne was one of the first to contribute. In this edition we pay tribute to her remarkable life of witness as Brian retells her story, and we read Stari's own words from her final blog post as she reflected on God's work in her life. The *Step of Faith* column continues as Becks Bayana, one of South Parade's newest members, tells his own story. If you'd like to encourage the whole church by sharing something about your walk with God and how he's made a difference in your life, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch on the email address below.

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

Contributions to: magazine@spbc.org.uk or to the Church Office
Deadline for contributions: 21 March 2014
Next edition published: 6 April 2014
Front Cover: Cragg Hill Baptist Church, from a photo by John Lockwood

From the Ministry Team

How Effective is Your Faith?

The little letter of James is tucked away quietly in the back streets of the New Testament.

It struggled to gain acceptance into the Biblical canon and received little support from some of the leading Christian scholars, including Martin Luther who declared it to be “an epistle of straw”. James’ problem seems to be that he is too straightforward. He uses none of the complex sentences favoured by Paul. He employs few words to describe the major doctrines of our Faith, so much so that it’s possible to think that he omits their mention at all. He demands the highest standards of discipleship, but expresses them in such a matter of fact way that they seem almost ordinary.



In the autumn we talked a lot about our vision for 2013/14, using the phrase “Going Deeper”. It’s touched a chord as individuals and groups have wrestled with prayer and gone on a quest for greater spiritual intimacy. All good stuff... but.

The first “but” is that for some people the repeated emphasis on spiritual growth has left them feeling guilt-ridden and inadequate and lacking assurance of salvation. The hope of knowing God has become less and less accessible. As one long-time believer put it, “I frequently leave worship feeling that I’ve been beaten up yet again”. This is not what Jesus intends for us. His desire is that we might know eternal life... that we might know him and the one who sent him (John 17.3). We

are invited to enter into the joy of salvation.

James provides an important and accessible corrective. The wisdom that comes from heaven is not ethereal, mystical and ultimately excluding of us, but “*first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere*” (James 3.17). Practical, loving service is the key stepping stone to knowing God more. It is not about some Gnostic super-spirituality, but the faithful copying of Jesus’ life, attitudes and behaviour.

*If we consider ourselves
“religious”, that will
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honest behaviour*

The second “but” is that problem we’ve all encountered of people who become so heavenly minded that they are no earthly use. James is clear. If we consider ourselves “religious” then that will be expressed in humble acts of practical kindness and straightforward and honest

behaviour, starting with the way we use our tongues.

Where did James get this stuff? It seems so obvious, yet comes with a powerful freshness. Many scholars believe he was a brother of Jesus – the oldest of a whole clutch of naturally born children to Mary and Joseph. If this is true, then it gives us the clue. He is relaying what he has seen and heard directly from the Master who has had to live it out in the obscurity of home and business before ever he hit the streets of Galilee in his public ministry.

James didn’t come to this easily. In fact Jesus’ family were quite hostile to and sceptical of Jesus’ ministry for some time. But James then had a private audience with the risen Christ (1 Corinthians 15.7) and for the next 30 years set about bringing the wisdom he learned from Jesus to bear on the emerging Jerusalem church – a brand of genuine, warm, loving discipleship which created a community of “*peacemakers who sow in peace (and) raise a harvest of righteousness*” (James 3.18).

Effective faith.

Be encouraged

Brian

Around the Church

Adel News

At the beginning of this new year it's good to reflect on the year that's ended. 2013 saw many changes for us at Adel both for us as a community and for individual families.

In the spring we welcomed Paul Rockley as the member of the ministry team with responsibility for Adel Mission Community and have been both challenged and blessed through these early days of his ministry amongst us.

There were also significant changes



*We have some thoughts
as to what 2014 will
bring for us at Adel*

for a number of our families covering the whole range of family changes from the arrival of grandchildren, to graduations, marriage, moving home to be nearer relatives or into care homes, to bereavement. Through all these changes we've been aware of God's presence alongside us supporting and guiding each member.

Throughout the year we've had various activities to which we've invited friends and family members. These have included a quiz evening, summer outings, a weekend away together and a full programme of activities over the Christmas season.

And so to 2014. What will it bring

for us at Adel? We don't yet know, we have some thoughts and ideas. But as we step out we know that God is with us, that he will lead and guide us in the paths that he has prepared for us and we pray that we will be open to follow where he leads.

Margaret Greer

Adel Leadership Team

House of Hope

My name is Chris Renshaw. I started attending South Parade Baptist Church in August 2013 following a year's sabbatical to Bethlehem, Palestine. During my year away, I volunteered at the House of Hope, a Christian organisation supporting blind and disabled children and adults from across the West Bank.

I am going back to Bethlehem from 10-20 February to visit the House of Hope (see their website at www.hohbethlehem.org for more information). During my stay, I and my friend Sami (Palestinian Christian) will be visiting poor Muslim families providing them with groceries and to tell them the gospel (if God opens

doors for us to do that). It costs just under £50 to buy groceries for one family (usually between 5-10 people) and this may last a couple of weeks. If you feel you would like to support either the House of Hope or buy some groceries for families or do both(!), please contact me. I usually attend either the Headingley morning service or SENT.

Below is a picture of me visiting one of the Muslim families back in 2013. 4-5 years ago, this family would not allow Christians into their home. Through perseverance, my friend Sami was able to continue providing them with support each year and has established a good relationship so that they are now willing to listen to his and others views about Christianity.

Thanks

Chris Renshaw

Headingley Morning/SENT



Chris visiting a family in Palestine

Is Christ Divided?

The theme of this year's *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, "Is Christ Divided", ran through events in Headingley over the week, and most notably in our United Service on Sunday 19 January, held here at South Parade. Represented at the service were Anglicans, Methodists, United Reformed, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, the Vineyard Church, Focolare – and even a few Baptists. The pattern for the international Week of Prayer worship was drawn up by French Canadian Christians and included an Iriquois prayer (see page 22).

Brian led a superb time of worship, reflecting on our solid, stable, "sorted" God and his children in disarray, and reflected on I Corinthians 1.10: *"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."*

Included in the service were contributions from three individuals on their vision for Headingley: the vicar of St Michael's, our own Megan Dyson, and the leader of Vineyard Church, newly moved to

Headingley. We all then shared with each other our own thoughts on this.

After the service, in a packed Green House over coffee, many people from other church traditions expressed their appreciation of the service, which in the way it was led had made them feel comfortable in worship and "at home" with us.

We do urge South Paraders to take full advantage on other occasions to join in with Churches Together and get to know the folk in other churches, so that we can present a truly united Christian front in Headingley.

Is Christ divided?... No!

Pam Roe

Headingley Morning Mission Community

MacPac News

David and Ann Macfarlane, our link missionaries with BMS World Mission in Italy, recently sent this update:

Christmas-time remains the period most busy for us, as every year we have a concert just after Christmas, where the choir were rehearsing five songs, the youth group six



*The church was packed,
there were many visitors,
and the Gospel message
was preached*

songs, the Sunday school two songs and two dances, and the puppet team (which Ann leads) two items. Between rehearsals and the normal church activities we hardly had a night free.

In the end it was all worth it. It was a great success. The church was packed and there were many visitors. The title of the concert was "One Way Jesus". There were testimonies between songs, a clip from the film *Jesus of Nazareth*, and I spoke at the end. I can say that the Gospel message was thoroughly preached through all events.

Our work at Rosarno has started and I will be sending you more info shortly.

David and Ann Macfarlane



ABC Coffee Shop in 2013

As we start our fifteenth year we are drawn back to the reason for our existence: to bring the church and Christ into the community in a practical way. We do this by providing food and drink at a reasonable cost to the people of the Holt Park area. In a warm, friendly and pleasant environment we provide Christian literature and music and are aware of our customers' needs and pray with them when it's appropriate.

We have also been able to help many charities over the years by giving away our profits. To date we have given away almost £100,000: not bad when profit is not our main motive!

We continue to work closely with Café Church in a variety of outreach events. We have close links with the community and host some local church groups as well as a study and prayer group from SPBC which meets on Monday after the shop has closed. Adel Mission Community run a craft class in the upstairs room.

*Ignore any rumours
that we are closing!*

BMS World News

The Rubbish Dump Kids

On the Thai-Burma border, hundreds of Burmese refugee families live in and survive on rubbish.

“If you can think of hell then I can imagine that hell’s probably a little bit better,” says BMS World Mission worker Charmaine Trendell. “This is a huge area of mounds and mounds of filth and dirt and refuse – and the stench, especially in the summer time with the flies, is just unbelievable.”

This “hell” is Mae Sot’s rubbish dump, home to several hundred families who, having fled to Thailand to escape their lives in Burma, spend their days sorting through rubbish to make a living, and their nights sleeping in it.

Twice a week, the Trendells and others from the team visit the people living on Mae Sot’s dump. While

the Burmese staff go from shack to shack to identify problems and see how they can help, Bob and others less fluent in Burmese spend quality time with the rubbish dump’s children – playing games with them, colouring in and painting their faces.

Living in unimaginable poverty, the children and families of the rubbish dump are not self-pitying. “Here are people living in conditions that no human being should be living in,” says Charmaine. “And yet, when they see us there are huge smiles of delight – they’re so grateful that we come to see them and bring them some help.”

Their stories and smiles have won the hearts of Bob, Charmaine and the Compasio team who are doing all they can to help them. But while these families are literally living in rubbish, at risk of disease and exploitation, we know there’s still so much more to do.

...inspired...

Pray for the people living in the Mae Sot rubbish dump as they work to feed their families and have better lives. Donate today and help some of the poorest communities in the world: bmsworldmission.org/donate



Stari Gunarathne

It was autumn 2007 and a young medical student began to attend South Parade. It soon became clear that this was a remarkable young woman whose radiant smile and wide eyes could light up any room. Her infectious laughter punctuated even the most serious of discussions and as we got to know her it became clear that God had given us a remarkable gift.

She was born in Leicester of Sri Lankan parents, and when her Dad Gunti became Reader in Electronics and Instrumentation at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen the family moved with him to Portlethen, south of the city; family being her Mum Kanthi and elder brother Tharaka. Although the family background was Buddhist, her parents introduced the children to Christian worship, and when she was 15 Stari had her first real encounter with Jesus during a

service at Gerrard Street Baptist Church.

She did modestly well at school (Robert Gordon College), but was probably more enthusiastic about sport and other activities. She became a Black Belt in Karate, and an instructor, and began to develop her trampolining skills - which may explain why she seemed to bounce everywhere she went! She went on to St



Stari

Andrew's University to study psychology and biology and after two years had done well enough to gain an HND qualification and obtain an open offer to study medicine in Leeds which she took up in 2007.

For years she had seen herself as a loser - in her own words, "an ugly

duckling, a fat under-achiever". In an attempt to turn into a swan, at least in other people's eyes, she drove herself, sometimes to exhaustion - again in her own words, "a human doing, not a human being".

Like many people in such a mindset she struggled to find secure relationships - it was all or nothing for her, and almost inevitably this led her into some intense periods of depression. Her first months in Leeds were not easy because of this underlying insecurity, and when she suffered an ankle injury which halted her sporting career this was a major blow. In 2010 she was told she had Hodgkin's Lymphoma - even though the treatment was successful this was another blow to her self confidence.

*Stari achieved far more
than most of us will ever
manage however long we
are on this earth*

The irony is that in many ways this beautiful, young woman was a winner - a genuine swan: someone who achieved far more than most of us will ever manage however long we are on this earth. Emerging out of those darker periods of her life she began to hold more

confidently on to Christ, being baptised on 19 October 2008 - our Vision Sunday. The Bible passage was from 2 Corinthians - "if anyone is in Christ, they are a brand new creation inside. The old has gone and the new has come." She described the change in her life as coming about because she was learning to see and know Jesus differently. This new start became substantial when on Christmas Day 2009, worshipping at her brother's church, City of Joy in Aberdeen, she "heard the word being preached and experienced a radical conviction, repentance and new life!"

Alongside her wide range of abilities - a musician, a comedienne, a children's worker, a counsellor, she began to focus her attention on evangelism, and on equipping others to grow in Christian leadership. One of her sayings was that "you can't piggy back on someone else's faith" - you need to know it for yourself. Her desire as she prayed for recovery from her last illness was that she might prepare herself not for medicine, but for a life of sharing the Good News with others.

One of the things the Elders were discussing with her, and we hope to bring to fruition during this year, is a thoroughgoing intern scheme that

will equip people to be effective ambassadors for Christ, hopefully becoming the emerging missional leaders that are so desperately needed in our broken world.

We have lost an inspirational young woman who trusted Christ, our hope.

The diagnosis of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia in January 2013 was a bitter blow. The odds were difficult, but following intensive chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant the future began to look brighter. She started to write her blog during this treatment: a stunning, honest and deep reflection on what it meant to walk in the valley of the shadow of death. A terrible bout of tonsillitis meant a return to hospital, and the discovery that the cancer was back and this time was not treatable. It was clear that she would not be able to complete her medical

training, but the University were pleased to grant her a BSc in Human Life Sciences, something she was immensely proud of. She began to prepare her funeral service and with remarkable courage included all who were willing to travel with her in her journey of faith. Her death at the age of 26 on 18 December came peacefully, with family and friends nearby.

Over 300 people were able to attend the Thanksgiving Service at South Parade on 8 January, with many more sending greetings and apologies because of unavoidable work commitments. Another 100 people were present two days later at the committal service in Aberdeen.

We have lost an inspirational young woman who trusted Christ who is our hope, an anchor for the soul, sure and steadfast, and by whose grace she and we will not be found wanting.

Brian Nicholls

Senior Minister

We are careful not to judge people by what they seem to be, though we once judged Christ in that way. Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new. God has done it all!

2 Corinthians 5.16-18 (CEV)

The Anchor in the Storm

Stari's Last Post

I've been thinking about this last year and how God has transformed me. If I had the chance to restart 2013 without all this rubbish stuff, would I do it? Would I pay the price? Would I sacrifice my relationship with the God of the Bible? No. The work that God has done in my life is more precious than silver, gold, or any earthly treasures this world has to offer. I know it sounds crazy, but it's true. Once you know Jesus, everything changes.

But it has been a great source of frustration in the process. I was sure that God had been building me up for something, giving me invaluable tools to serve in His Kingdom, to help people, to show God's love for people.

I started to think about the story in the Bible where God has promised that Abraham will have a son called Isaac and Isaac would become a great nation. Then, God tells Abraham to go travel for three days up a mountain and kill his beloved son! Abraham doesn't even

question God, nor does he explain his thoughts and feelings. At the very last moment, God speaks to Abraham and tells Him not to harm the child. But then, what was the point in that?

There are many reasons, but there is one that has struck a nerve with me. God already knew the outcome of the situation. Was it Abraham's, Isaac's, or both their faiths that were being tested? I think it shows to Isaac the extent of trust and faith that Abraham has for God. It shows that strength of the link between God and Abraham; you can't piggyback on someone else's faith.

Jesus must have thought that there was so much more he could do if He had longer on this earth. But He knew of a deeper, greater truth...

Abraham knew that even if he did have to plunge the knife into Isaac's

heart, somehow God would make it all right. I feel like I'm on that three-day journey up the mountain, trusting in God's promise of salvation and knowing that He will make it all right.

But then came the clincher. It occurred to me that when Jesus was born, He would have spent the first thirty of years of his life learning to be, well, human. His mission only lasted three years. He must have been so frustrated! I bet He must have thought that there was so much more he could do if He had a little bit longer time on this earth. But He knew of a deeper, greater truth. He knew, that in order for everyone in the world to meet Him, He had to leave His physical form and send the Holy Spirit to continue on the work, because the Holy Spirit is not bound by time or space.

Thinking about these stories in the Bible has completely changed my perspective on my life, once again. I don't feel short changed any more. I feel like God is telling me that we are still on a mission. The mission He gave me was to live my life in a way that shows how much Jesus loves other people. Not by beating them over the head, or using scare tactics of Hell, but by offering them a free gift, no strings attached. That is my primary mission. There are so many more things I want to do for God's Kingdom, but that is not the task God has set me to do. Everything else will fall into place with or without me. Nothing is impossible with God.

Stari Gunarathne

This is an edited extract from the final post on Stari's blog *Finding the Anchor in the Storm* at iwontbewanting.blogspot.co.uk, posted two days before she died.

Saturday Morning Prayer



Since November a small group of us representing all the Mission Communities have met together for prayer on a **Saturday mornings in the Green House between 8am and 11am**. This privilege of spending time waiting on God in the quiet and hearing Him speak through His word or a song has been so encouraging.

Can I ask you to consider joining with us, even if only for a short time or once a month, so together we can seek His face for our church, our city, our land and the nations.

Pat Dagleish

Angels Rush In

Leeds Street Angels

The Street Angels are a group of people who, one weekend a month... stay in bed until at

least 11am on a Saturday morning! Not because they're a slovenly lot, but because they've been walking the streets of the city centre until 3am the night before carrying bottles of water, flip flops, foil blankets and plasters to serve the revellers in our city centre. Above all, the essential piece of kit are the radios we carry, which are used by Police, CCTV operators and bouncers as well as ourselves. We use the radio to speak to the Police if we need to, and the bouncers will ask for Angels to head to their bar or club if someone needs our help.

Teams made up of two or three Angels head out onto the streets at 10pm wearing our hi-vis jackets and receive a warm welcome from the door staff who we've got to know well over the years. We've become friends with the crew of the static ambulance too, which is usually at the Corn Exchange until 3am, known to many city centre staff as the Pam-bulance because of the wonderful paramedic Pam who

calmly tends to the patients who we bring to her.

Over the past two years, the Angels have had an impact on hundreds of individuals. Many of the people we come across aren't able to get home because the taxi drivers will refuse to take very drunk passengers, so we'll offer water and sit with them until they've sobered up a little. Often we'll help people to reach a taxi rank or take them to the "Safe Space" at Leeds train station. Or if we find someone who's looking vulnerable, perhaps a girl who's drunk and on her own, we'll wait with them until their taxi or friends arrive.

We have opportunities to explain who we are and why we do this, and sometimes pray with people on the pavement!

Police Officers and PCSOs will often call us over to help someone who needs looking

after, so that they're freed up to deal with other matters. With most of these encounters we have an opportunity to explain something about who we are and why we do this, and have sometimes prayed with people on the pavement!

One of the girls who we met sent us this message.:

"I was helped by two street angels last week after I'd gone into Leeds to meet my boyfriend. However when I met him it was apparent he'd had far too much to drink already. The street angels approached me to see if I was ok. I was extremely distressed and my boyfriend almost non

-responsive, members of the public were walking past just laughing at me. I had no idea how much he'd had to drink since he'd been out since 4pm without me, and no idea how I was going to get him home or even whether he may need hospital. The street angels reassured me and got my boyfriend to drink a bottle of water. They got him up walking and waited with us whilst I called a taxi. All in all it was an awful night but it could have been so much worse if you guys hadn't been there. Thank you so much again for all the good work you do."

Helen Capocci

...involved...

There are Street Angels on patrol every Friday night and volunteers are asked to commit to around one Friday per month.

They'd love to have enough Angels to be able to patrol the streets of Headingley again and to expand to Saturdays. If this sounds like something you could do, you're welcome to join the team to get a taster of what it's like, or come to one of the regular training evenings. (If staying up until 3am sounds like too much, you're welcome to be part of the team just up until the 12.30am tea break.) Check out www.leedsstreetangels.org.uk or speak to Lawrence Cockrill or Helen Capocci if you'd like to know more.




...informed...

Unity Post, the annual newspaper of West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council, has now transformed into an online news-sheet, which will come out three or four times a year. You can read it at www.wyec.co.uk. The first edition is also available as a paper copy - see noticeboard at Headingley or ask Pam Roe for a copy. Interesting news from church groups around West Yorkshire.

12 Things You Might Not Know...

..About Christians Against Poverty

-
-
- CAP helps approximately 11,000 families each year.
 - As well as across the UK, CAP operates in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.
 - More than 1000 churches have run the CAP Money Course, which teaches people to budget, save and spend through a revolutionary cash-based system.
 - An old fire bell is rung in the CAP Head Office in Bradford every time news is received of a client becoming a Christian.
 - CAP handles over £73m of clients' debts.
 - Before asking CAP for help 21% of clients said they regularly missed meals.
 - 75% of clients said that debt had previously affected their relationships.
 - On a visit to CAP in 2010 Prince Charles said "CAP is fantastic. What they have done is staggering in sorting out the difficulties it's so easy to get into. I'm hugely impressed"
 - The quantity of people calling for help with their debts during the first full working week of 2014 has broken all records at CAP. Their helpline, which books new clients in for a home visit, has seen the number of inquiries rocket by 40% on last year. Statistically, the second Monday in February is their busiest day.
 - CAP won the Contribution to the Credit Industry Award at the 2013 CCR Credit Excellence Awards
 - **Andrew Bedingham is now centre manager of South Parade's brand new CAP centre.**
 - **He needs volunteers to befriend the clients he's visiting and to support him in the work - contact him via the church office for more details.**
- 
- The logo for Christians Against Poverty (CAP) features the text "christians against poverty" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a green rectangular background. Below this, the letters "CAP" are written in a large, white, stylized, uppercase font.

Prayer Diary



February - March 2014

*“But you are my shield, and you give me victory
and great honour. I pray to you, and you answer
from your sacred hill.”*

Psalm 3.3-4 (CEV)

February		
Sunday	2	Paul Rockley
Monday	3	Val Dooks
Tuesday	4	Rooted
Wednesday	5	Stari's family in Aberdeen
Thursday	6	Teddy Praise today
Friday	7	Jayne Godfrey
Saturday	8	Members of Cragg planning to go to South Africa
Sunday	9	Brian Nicholls
Monday	10	Becks Bayana and other new members of SP
Tuesday	11	Adel Mission Community
Wednesday	12	Other Baptist churches in Yorkshire and the work of the YBA
Thursday	13	The Elders
Friday	14	Nathan Shipley
Saturday	15	Church @ Little London

Pull out and use!

February		
Sunday	16	People leading worship today
Monday	17	Chris Renshaw in Bethlehem
Tuesday	18	Volunteers in the church office
Wednesday	19	Cell Groups that meet this week
Thursday	20	Headingley Mission Community
Friday	21	Leeds Uni CU mission this week
Saturday	22	Geoff Greer, Church Secretary
Sunday	23	Those who can't get to church on a Sunday any more
Monday	24	Adrian Howe, Church Treasurer
Tuesday	25	Lawrence Cockrill
Wednesday	26	"Jane" in North Africa
Thursday	27	Local churches of other denominations
Friday	28	Heather McLeen
March		
Saturday	1	TLG volunteers in local schools
Sunday	2	Cafe Church at Holt Park meeting today
Monday	3	Steve and Ismay Green
Tuesday	4	The Deacons
Wednesday	5	Ash Wednesday - pray for a closer walk with Jesus throughout Lent
Thursday	6	The work of Christians Against Poverty
Friday	7	The Outtakes Drama Group
Saturday	8	All the activities that happen in the Green House
Sunday	9	Those in hospital or waiting for treatment
Monday	10	The work with Under 5s
Tuesday	11	David and Ann Macfarlane in Italy
Wednesday	12	The work of the Baptist Union

Thursday	13	Gemma Eastwood
Friday	14	Tim and Delphine Minard
Saturday	15	SENT Mission Community
Sunday	16	Jane Waites
Monday	17	The CAP centre based at South Parade and Andrew Bedingham
Tuesday	18	Barnabas Bunch
Wednesday	19	Joanna Project
Thursday	20	Cragg Mission Community
Friday	21	Ed Preston and his work with UCCF
Saturday	22	Chris and Dorothy Gnanakan
Sunday	23	The work of St George's Crypt
Monday	24	Your small group leader
Tuesday	25	Becky North
Wednesday	26	Kate Burkett
Thursday	27	The Retired People's Fellowship
Friday	28	Jill and Colin Jones and their work in Normandy
Saturday	29	The work of the church office
Sunday	30	Pray for mothers everywhere
Monday	31	Connect Mission Community
April		
Tuesday	1	Someone you know who doesn't know Jesus
Wednesday	2	Mission Community Leaders
Thursday	3	Geoff King
Friday	4	Levi Booth
Saturday	5	ABC Coffee Shop and its volunteers

We Are Grateful

The United Service at Headingley on 19 January included this prayer prepared by Christians in Canada. The indigenous peoples of Canada honour an ancient ritual of praying while facing in different directions.

Facing East

From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Facing South

From the South comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Facing West

From the West comes the rain, purifying waters, to sustain all living things.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Facing North

From the North comes the cold and mighty wind and the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Turning towards the front, and facing upward

From the heavens we receive darkness and light and the air of your breath.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Facing downward

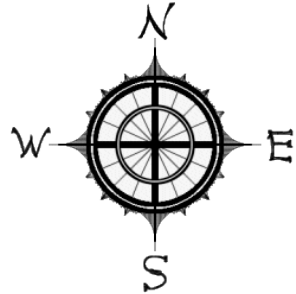
From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

We are grateful, O God, for your good creation, our earthly home.

May we walk good paths, blessed God, living on this earth as brothers and sisters should; rejoicing in one another's blessing, sympathising in one another's sorrows, and together with you, in the name of Jesus, and with the Spirit's awakening breath, renewing the face of the earth.

Amen

www.ctbi.org.uk



Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings

Date	Morning Services	Evening Service
2 February	Matthew 5.1-12 <i>The Good Disciple</i>	tba
9 February	Matthew 5.13-16 <i>Salt and Light</i>	James 3.1-12 <i>Shut your mouth!</i>
16 February	Matthew 5.17-20 <i>How righteous do you have to be?</i>	James 3.13-18 <i>Wise up!</i>
23 February	Matthew 5.21-26 <i>Settle your differences</i>	James 4.1-12 <i>God first</i>
2 March	Matthew 5.27-32 <i>Risking an eye</i>	James 4.13-18 <i>God willing</i>
9 March	Matthew 5.33-37 <i>Let your "yes" be "yes"</i>	James 5.1-6 <i>The ears of God</i>
16 March	Matthew 5.38-48 <i>Don't get your own back</i>	James 5.7-12 <i>Patience</i>
23 March	Matthew 6.1-4 <i>Secret giving</i>	James 5.13-19 <i>Bringing back the prodigals</i>
30 March MOTHERING SUNDAY	Matthew 6.5-18 <i>Secret prayer</i>	1 John 4.7-21 <i>The cross – the heart of love</i>

Friends, wait patiently for the Master's Arrival. You see farmers do this all the time, waiting for their valuable crops to mature, patiently letting the rain do its slow but sure work. Be patient like that. Stay steady and strong. The Master could arrive at any time.



James 5.7-8 (The Message) (16 March)

The Early Craggies

A Short History of Zion Baptist Church, Cragg Hill, Horsforth

As the members at Cragg Hill prepare for another mission to Africa, John Lockwood looks back at more than 200 years of the church's history, a story of faithfulness and fruitfulness.

This is an account of God's dealings with a group of people trying to serve him in Horsforth. Very few individuals are mentioned because many people were part of this group and contributed to it. For some we have names, many are just unknown servants of the Lord.

The Baptist Church at Horsforth appears to have started in about 1788 when the church at Farsley split and around 15 members separated and started to meet in a house, or large room in Broadgate Lane. They formed themselves in June 1801, into a church with Mr Ashforth as pastor. The congregation increased beyond the accommodation provided and the thoughts of a few members turned to building a chapel. The result was that a plot of land, basically the

present site, was purchased for a chapel and associated burial ground. The chapel, with a seating capacity for about 250 persons, was opened for public worship in June 1803. The first person was buried in 1809; the last in 1951 when the burial ground was closed. The ground can still be seen, just beyond the old church building, from the left hand windows of the present hall.

The chapel did not have a baptistery until 1849, since the original chapel did not have piped water. Living was somewhat primitive in the early 1800s, there was no public water supply, people had to depend on rain water and wells, superior drinking water being conveyed in a barrel drawn by a donkey, at 1d a bucket. Baptisms were held in the

*These early Craggies
felt that God was
calling them to undertake
a massive project, to
provide education
for the local poor.*

River Aire at the ford crossing between Horsforth and Bramley.

In 1814, about the time of the battle of Waterloo, the church started a great undertaking: it set up a Sunday School! At this time education for the bulk of the population was not provided by the state. Instead of just singing and reading scripture, these early Craggies felt that God was calling them to undertake a massive project, to provide some education for the local poor. It is likely that this was among the first schools in Horsforth, if not the first, and followed a trend among many nonconformist churches across the country.

The Sunday School was originally in a house adjoining the chapel and gave instruction in writing, arithmetic and scripture. It had an average attendance of over 200 scholars, with school times from 9 to 10.30am and from 1.30 to

3.30pm with compulsory attendance at morning service in the Chapel. The house has since been demolished, but was probably near the present home of Mark and Hannah. On 16 and 17 November 1901 the church celebrated the centenary of Baptist worship in Horsforth. At this time the church had 134 members, 39 Sunday School teachers with 232 scholars. On 11 and 12 September 1915, the Sunday school celebrated its centenary with 28 teachers and 140 scholars in the senior department.

The geography of Horsforth changed greatly with the coming of the railways, in particular the Leeds/Harrogate line with a station at Horsforth during 1847. By the early twentieth century the original church site was becoming far from satisfactory. Thus in 1912, the church entered upon a scheme for the erection of a new sanctuary and Sunday school,



Allotments at Cragg, and the front of the original church



as it was thought at the time that the old church was out of date, lacking in modern conveniences, and most important far from the growing population of Horsforth. In view of this land was purchased, and paid for in full, in Sunnybank Avenue. Unfortunately in 1914 the world was overtaken by the First World War and it was January 1927 before the church could return to this subject.

At a large meeting of the congregation in January 1927, it was unanimously decided to build, as soon as possible, a modern sanctuary in Sunnybank Avenue. It was felt that Cragg Hill Baptist church was no longer able to meet the spiritual requirements of its local district. The estimated cost of the project was at least £8,000 with building to commence when £5,000 had been raised. This sum was almost raised, but building never commenced and in May 1947 the land in Sunnybank Avenue was released.

What happened to the church is not clear, but it is likely that it was overwhelmed firstly by the economic depression and unemployment of the late 1920s and 1930s, and secondly by the Second World War. The Second World War cast a long shadow; nearly everything was rationed until

the early 1950s. There were strict building regulations for many years that prohibited all but the most essential projects.

Church membership had fallen by 1966 to 48, but there were meetings every day of the week including men's and women's groups, Brownies, Christian Endeavour society, drama group etc. At this time there was a Baptist Ministerial Training College at Rawdon and student pastors provided much support to Cragg. Rawdon College closed in 1962/64 when it was combined with the college at Manchester to form the Northern Baptist College. This meant that Cragg lost the support of Student pastors. The college buildings were sold to the Roman Catholic College of Trinity and All Saints in Horsforth as a hostel. This has since become Leeds Trinity University with some of its students joining Cragg for Sunday worship.

By the early 1990s church membership had fallen to the low 30s, with about 15 people regularly attending Sunday worship and taking part in church life. Clearly major changes were required and these were the subject of much prayer and investigation. The old church building was sold and is now used as a nursery. The congregation joined the South Parade family as a



Cragg Hill today

Mission Community, and after much hard work by many people now has an all age congregation of about 60. The remaining building has been extensively modernised with double-glazing and a new heating system. Of particular importance is the conversion of the derelict land alongside the building into allotments and the creation of a lovely garden. This has transformed the local area and the congregation's relationship with the local people. Part of one allotment is used by a charity for people who have learning difficulties, who also join the Friday morning drop-in.

The early Craggies in 1814 started to teach local children in a Sunday School. Are modern Craggies doing

anything similar? The answer is yes. Horsforth School, among other organisations, is associated with a South African charity called Sethani, who work with orphans and vulnerable children. As part of this project, 17 people are going to South Africa from Horsforth this summer, 14 from Cragg and 3 from other churches, to work with the children. Sethanic also provides school uniforms, food parcels and toiletries to the most needy children. Among other outreach projects is Cragg's membership of the Horsforth churches food bank project.

John Lockwood

Cragg Hill Mission Community.

...inspired...

Be part of the history of Cragg Hill Baptist Church and join the modern Craggies for worship every Sunday at Cragg Avenue, Horsforth LS18 4LX

Step of Faith

Not Just Holy Indigestion

At the Church Meeting in November Bhekizulu Bayana (“Becks”) became one of the newest members of South Parade. Intouch invited him to share some of his story of faith.

God loves to use the weak, inglorious things of this world to proclaim His glorious worth - the goodness of God in the life of Becks.

And so I look back and think about the past few years - how did I get here? A doctor, musician, boyfriend... Once upon a time there was a young man, who had parents who took him to

church weekly, like all the other parents, in a nation of mostly Christian people, in a world where most people believed in God, eternal damnation and the evil spiritual forces. He enjoyed listening to the piano player during the services from an early age and missed them when they, for some reason or another, were absent on Sunday.

One such Sunday that 10 year-old felt a strange burning in his belly (was it indigestion?) which wouldn't go away. He felt he should go and sit with the worship team and play along. Being afraid of excommunication from church (obviously), he reasoned with God that in order to be obedient to the burning unction, he would play only during the final song, which he did.

Dramatic pause.

And so, surprisingly, he wasn't excommunicated but was invited to play in the worship team.



Ridiculous! But that's how it started... and he continues to run off and play at the front of churches today, not always because of "holy indigestion".

Last year, to the best of my memory was the darkest of my life. Having got as far as finishing medical school, completely on the wings of God's mercy, and two years of junior doctor doctoring, I looked forward to starting my core training as a hospital medical specialist. (It's easier to explain some of these terms in person, honest...). I began work full of hope and excitement and it went well, initially.

*God did raise me out from
the mud, slowly but surely.
I saw His mercy in people
who were supportive.*

Then as was the custom a new senior person came along on rotation to my ward who liked to do things differently, including (I'll spare you the gory details) bullying. Thinking to myself, you're supposed to stand up to those folk, I did; but it did not turn out well initially. I ended up spending the next half of my year trying to prove that I wasn't the guilty one or an evil person, which I was accused of.

At one stage I had decided to concentrate on work, which meant stepping down from all church responsibilities, but it only led to me being alone at home, unchurched and barely talking to God, being somewhat sustained by listening to a passionate random American preacher Louie Giglio. As time went on, crazy thoughts ensued: "You're not good enough to worship with anyone..." "You're not wanted anywhere, church, work or otherwise..." And so on... the tone was low. But God did raise me out from that mud, slowly but surely. I saw His mercy in those who treated me evenhandedly, a boss who was kind and a team who were supportive.

In travelling back into community I realised how we can become easy pickings for the enemy when we are alone. At the end of that year I had not accomplished or passed any of my royal college exams. Now, four or five months down the line I've passed two-thirds of the required exams - God is merciful. I've learnt how it's not by my power or might or my trying to make things better that the world turns, but when God's purposes roll forward by His methods, they are unstoppable. Praise be to God!

Bhekizulu Bayana

SENT Mission Community

One Sows and Another Reaps

How do we keep on sharing what we know about Jesus, without being discouraged when the outcomes we hope and pray for don't seem to come about? Andrew Bedingham considers the words of Jesus and applies them to our witness today.

When Jesus met with the Samaritan women at the well and asked for a drink of water she began a journey with him that resulted in her placing her faith in him and encouraged loads of people in her village to do the same. What is interesting to note is that it wasn't that Jesus took her from a completely secular point in her life with no interest in spiritual matters at all to faith. In John 4.25 it says: *"The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes he will explain everything to us'"*.



Although her life was not as it should have been, it wasn't that she had no interest in spiritual matters - she was waiting for the Messiah to come! She was waiting, ready to believe, and Jesus simply reveals that he is the Messiah to her and she believes.

Later, in explanation to his disciples, Jesus points out that one person sows but another reaps the harvest. In the case of the Samaritan woman the sowing had already been done, Jesus does the reaping.

I think that we are sometimes reluctant to speak of our faith to other people, to invite them to church and so on because in the past we have done so and it hasn't resulted in the way in which we had hoped. Maybe they became interested, maybe even came to church for a while - but they didn't come to faith. And we feel as if we failed and don't want to fail again.

*God expects us to help
people, where we can and
in the way that we can, to
move one step closer in
their journey*

For someone to come to believe in Jesus they have to go on a journey to faith. It doesn't all happen in five minutes. A person doesn't go from having no interest at all in spiritual matters to placing their trust in Jesus in five minutes. There are different stages that everyone goes through on their journey.

If you help a person to move from one stage to just the next stage in their journey, that is effective evangelism. If because you have shared

something about your faith to someone, they begin asking questions – then maybe they have gone from having no interest or awareness of spiritual things to being aware of and having an interest in spiritual matters and you don't know how God is going to be able to use that in the future.

It's not that God expects us to take people all of the way in their journey to faith. "One sows and another reaps". What God does expect us to do is to help people, where we can and in the way that we can, to move one step closer in their journey.

That, I feel, I can do. Don't you?

Andrew Bedingham

Andrew is manager of the new CAP Centre at South Parade

*The grass is not greener on the
other side of the fence,
it is greenest where we water it the most.
Therefore be careful what you cultivate.
If we sow to our fleshly appetites
they will overtake and consume us.
If we feed on the word of God
and spend time in the presence of God
our hunger for him will increase.
Only the bread of life our precious
Lord Jesus can truly satisfy the soul.*

Anon (submitted by Mike Burkett)

Questions

Lighten Our Darkness

The phrase “lighten our darkness” can be found in 2 Samuel 22 & 29 of the Authorised Version of the Bible in a challenging context. It is also to be found in Ezra 9.8, where the AV has “that our God might lighten our eyes.”

In August we were invited to study Nehemiah and Philipians. The contrast is so striking that I was reminded of the BBC Home Service theme, “Lighten our Darkness we beseech Thee oh Lord”. We have just celebrated the coming of the Light of the World. Philipians celebrates that light. Nehemiah records something very different.

The Persian Empire was more than tolerant of the faiths and beliefs of

the people of its many provinces, but intolerant of rebellion. The Jewish faith was free to flourish. The return of exiles is a drama spread over 114 years, or could it be 140, over the reigns of Cyrus, Cambyses, Darius, Xerxes and Ataxerxes. These names were shared by more than one emperor, hence the doubt. They uniformly gave financial and military support to the settlement of Jerusalem. Cyrus occupied Babylon in 539BC and the proclamation recorded in Ezra 1.1 followed a year later. The first settlers were probably influenced by the vision of Isaiah, but were comparatively weak.

After Cyrus died, there were years of turmoil. His son Cambyses had his brother Bardiya killed as a precaution. An imposter Gaumata triggered a widespread rebellion and chaos. It seems probable that Haggai and Zechariah saw this unrest as the coming of the end times. Judaea’s time of greatness was coming firmly located in Jerusalem and the exiles responded in greater strength, but the vision



was no longer that of Isaiah. There is a progressive emphasis on ethnicity, worship and ritual from what was remembered from the time of David and Solomon 500 years before.

*Do we care enough about
and brothers and sisters in
the world wide church?
What would we mean if
we prayed that God would
lighten our darkness?*

In another 500 years it had developed to the formalism so thoroughly rebuked by Jesus. The “all peoples” vision of Abraham and Isaiah barely survived. But God did not abandon them. Jesus was able to use the teachings that had been preserved in the Torah, sent to Jerusalem from Babylon with the consent of Darius. A reverence for God’s Creation was maintained against pagan cultures.

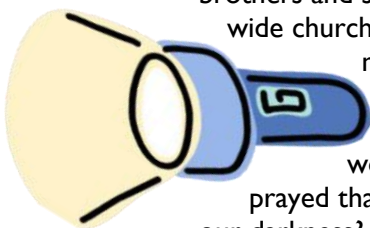
And at the right time Jesus came. “Why seek ye the living among the dead?” (Luke 24.5)

Philippi was the administrative centre of the Roman Province. Its culture was probably Greek. There

appears to be no influence from the Jewish diaspora and with one exception, the letter to the church is free from the burden of conflict with Judaisers. Acts 16.14 refers to a group of “worshippers of God” and indicates an openness to the concept of one Creator God.

The Gospel was received with joy and Paul can write that the hope of being with them encourages him to persevere in spite of pain and persecution. In the deeply felt simple language, one can feel his hope and joy in the resurrected Christ, even though it speaks of suffering past and future. That there is no escapism in this letter makes it so relevant today where in so many countries, Christians face persecution and death.

Do we care enough about and brothers and sisters in the world wide church? Do we lose the marvel of Advent in the pagan practices of Yule? What would we mean if we prayed that God would lighten our darkness? In the Song of Simeon, we find in Luke 2.23 the phrase “A light to lighten the Gentiles”.



Cyril Snell

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Church Noticeboard

Leeds University CU

During February Leeds University Union Christian Union will be hosting their annual events week. The theme for the week is **This is Freedom!** The CU will have a marquee opposite the Union, which they will run a café in during the day and host lunchbars from. In the evenings, the CU will be holding meals where there will be music and an evangelistic talk.



Please pray:

- That the Christian students would be bold when inviting friends to the events
- For Chris Frost (Gateway Church) who will be delivering the talks at the lunchbars
- For Gary Aston (Redeemer Church) who will be speaking at the evening events
- **That students would respond to the good news of the kingdom!**

More information from Nathan Shipley or Ed Preston

Scarborough Weekend, 11-13 July 2014

Headingley Morning Mission Community are organising a great weekend of fun, teaching and fellowship at Cober Hill near Scarborough. Places are limited and going fast! Cost is £145 per person, £70 for children 5-12, under 5s free. Booking forms are available from Val Dooks or Tim & Hazel Rowe. Deposits needed by 16 February please!

Lent with Churches Together in Headingley

Lent Lunches will be held every Friday during Lent, 7 March to 1 April, at Headingley Methodist Church Hall, 12.30–1.30pm. The theme of the talks is “Belonging”, and an excellent set of speakers has been arranged.



There will also be two study series, open to all:

- A 5-week bookclub, looking at “**Lent is for Loving**” by **Sheila Cassidy**. She asks “What is the point of Lent? If prayer and reading and self-denial are worth doing at this time of year, perhaps we should be doing them all year round! Christianity is not a blueprint for repression but for joy; for a life of fulfilment beyond our wildest dreams.” Sheila is a well-known writer on spiritual matters, very honest and upfront! Meetings are at St Michael’s Church on Mondays from 10 March 11.00am-12.00
- A look at paintings by the artist Stanley Spencer contained in Stephen Cotterell’s book “**Christ in the Wilderness**”. Stephen Cotterell is the Bishop of Chelmsford. Meet at St Chad’s Church, every Saturday in Lent starting 8 March, 11.00am-12.00.

News of Easter events in the next *Intouch*!

Pam Roe



*Café Church @
Holt Park*

Café Church at Holt Park

Sunday Lunch 1pm on 2 February, 2 March, 6 April
Plus! 16 February 3pm Valentine’s Tea and Poetry
16 March 3pm Question Time

Remember the weekly **noticesheet** is available on the church website www.spbc.org.uk

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

South Parade in Numbers

Part Six

6/2/14

Date of the next **Teddy Praise**.
All teddies and Under 5s welcome!



£145

Cost per adult of the **Weekend Away** organised by **Headingley Morning**. See page 34.



South Parade now has:



3 Fire Marshalls,
7 First Aiders and
13 Food-Safety-Trained People.

Good to know!

Andrew Bedingham has already had **9** referrals for South Parade's **CAP Centre**, and visited **5** clients.



545 invoices were processed by the church office for 2013. So far...



1128935

Our **Registered Charity Number**.
To find out more about this number visit www.all-numbers.com/1128935

Intouch owes **Nathan Shipley** **1** apology for inadvertently libelling him in the last part of *South Parade in Numbers* by confusing two people with the name Nathan. We are sorry for this error, but having listened to Nathan's excellent talk at the Candlelit Carol Service and his confessions of tampering with Christmas presents as a child, we feel we still need to keep an eye on him.



CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...JOSHUA?

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

"Jesus didn't hang out with hoity-toity, holier-than-thou religious people. He seemed much more at home with the sinners. At the end of the day, we are all sinners."

Rev Dave Tomlinson, conducting the funeral of the Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs, 3 January 2014

"A real Christian is a person who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip."

Billy Graham



One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village
The child of a peasant woman
He grew up in another obscure village
Where he worked in a carpenter shop
Until he was thirty

He never wrote a book
He never held an office
He never went to college
He never visited a big city
He never travelled more than two hundred miles
From the place where he was born
He did none of the things
Usually associated with greatness
He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three

His friends ran away
One of them denied him
He was turned over to his enemies
And went through the mockery of a trial
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing
The only property he had on earth

When he was dead
He was laid in a borrowed grave
Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life

James Allan

This poem was read by Paul Rockley at
Stari's Memorial Service in January



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

Nathan Shipley
Heather McLeen
Geoff King
Gemma Eastwood
Lawrence Cockrill
Kate Burkett

Elders

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

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“

“I will build my church”

”

Matthew 16.18 (NIV)

intouch

SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Building Community in Christ