



February & March 2015



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In a large church we often wrongly assume that there's nothing we need to do to contribute to all that goes on, as there are plenty of other people around to do the jobs that need doing. Throughout this month's magazine you'll find lots of encouragement to get more involved in all the things that South Parade does - a challenge for all of us to consider the gifts and skills that we have, and to see how God can use us in new ways, even when they might be just outside our comfort zone. So as you read, keep thinking. Then turn those thoughts into prayers, and those prayers into actions that will bless God's people and build His Kingdom.

Contents

- Page 3 From the Ministry Team: Some Offering
- Page 5 Around the Church
- Page 12 Postcard from Africa
- Page 14 Here I Am Lord: Meet the New Church Secretary
- Page 16 Another Door Opens: Kidz in Kampz Takes a Leap of Faith
- Page 18 BMS World News
- Page 21 Prayer Diary
- Page 25 Is It I Lord? Who'd Be a Deacon?
- Page 26 Nothing Wasted: The Real Junk Food Project Cafe
- Page 29 Gnanakan News: Taking Everything to God in Prayer
- Page 32 Faith in Dark Places: Conference on Poverty
- Page 34 Ford's Focus John's Gospel Part One: Who Are You?
- Page 36 Questions: If I Ascend into Heaven
- Page 38 Come Prepared: Preaching Themes and Readings
- Page 40 Church Noticeboard
- Page 42 South Parade in Numbers: The 2015 Church Budget

Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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From the Ministry Team

Some Offering

Jesus used a number of strategies to draw his followers to him. Some he approached directly – "Follow me!" he said, in an uncompromising way.

hat motivated them to respond is hard to tell. For some it was probably a hunger for change. For others perhaps it was the way he asked. Was he exceptionally persuasive or deeply attractive or both? Judas's motives seem widely different

from Peter's. Simon the Zealot's nickname suggests what his motives were. Those who said "yes" left everything to follow.

Sometimes Jesus left a question hanging in the air. As he looked at the crowds he had compassion on them, and spoke about how the fields were ripe but the harvesters few, and how we should pray to the Lord of harvest to send workers into the fields. I assume this meant that those around him should be ready to answer that prayer themselves. It seems that other people just tagged along and became involved almost by accident: the boy with the loaves and fish, the apostleship candidates who were lined up to replace Judas and so on.

> However it happened, people were ready to volunteer and it was only when the going got really tough that they dropped away. l

wonder why we are in such a contrasting situation with a growing volunteer deficit in the church. The same Lord calls us and draws us into his Kingdom opportunities. Yet at every level of church life we find ourselves short of people.

Of course, they say, all organisations are struggling to recruit and hold on to volunteers. Apparently there is something



Imagine Jesus is directly approaching you! The options are wide-ranging and rewarding.

about living in the 21st century that muffles the core values of faithfulness and generosity. Some say it's the curse of consumerism. We give nothing away unless we get a good deal out of it. We choose according to personal whim. We avoid the inconvenient as we reach for the comfortable. There is no doubt in my mind that this sinful approach infects church life as well as the secular realm. Others believe that our problem is with Health and Safety, or Safeguarding, or some other piece of legislation that deters people from offering for service.

agging doesn't help. At best it falls on deaf ears and at worst it discourages those many disciples who do serve sacrificially. Some organisations simply close down for lack of support – even churches. Others throw money at the problem, but that often increases the sense of non-engagement that people have. Yet others drive their willing people into the ground, while the rest shake their heads from the sidelines. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote movingly about this sort of thing in his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*. It's not an easy read – basically it tells us that if Jesus bids us follow him, he bids us come and die with him. Read Mark 8.34-38 if you have any doubts about the rightness of this position. The American Victorian, Sylvanus Dryden Phelps, a Baptist Pastor, put it this way:

Saviour, Thy dying love Thou gavest me

Nor should I aught withhold dear Lord from Thee In love my soul would bow; my heart fulfil its vow, Some offering bring Thee now, something for Thee.

So, starting again... imagine Jesus is directly approaching you! The options are wideranging and rewarding – eldership, serving as a deacon, belong to a Mission Community Leadership Team, kids work, youth work, music leading, Rooted, Street Angels, catering, ecumenism... I could go on. The secret is to assume that God is asking you to volunteer unless he tells you otherwise and not the other way round.

I'll step aside while you all rush at once.

Brian

Around the Church

Cragg: Techno, Boosters and a Facelift

A New Year and things have got off to a good start at Cragg. We are now "techno" due to the capabilities of Nathan Dwyer and so all sermons will now be recorded and uploaded to the South Parade resources section of the website. We also have access to wifi in rooms that were black spots before due to the installation of boosters (again Mr Dwyer) and we have been using image software to enhance our worship (no prizes for guessing who has organised that!)

We have had some great preaching kicking off the New Year with Dave Bartram and an especially spirit-led Sunday when we were focusing on Luke 3.1-20 and then we had Godfrey Nicholson from Woodside last week as part of the pulpit exchange. Not only was he very good but it was also great to celebrate the unity we share with the other churches in Horsforth. It was great to celebrate the unity we share with the other churches in Horsforth

We have had a few new people come and bob in and out over the last few weeks and have some great things planned over the coming months including community days and the chance to be involved with the Horsforth Walk of Art. The building is also getting a facelift in the next week or so as some students are coming from the building academy to give their time up to paint the office and kitchen for free, so as they say "its all good".

Sam Newby-Wright Cragg Leadership Team

ABC Coffee Shop Report

The ethos of the ABC Coffee Shop is to bring the Church and Christ

into the community in a practical way by

- providing food and drink at a reasonable cost to the people of the Holt Park,
- making the shop a warm, friendly and pleasant environment,
- providing Christian literature and music and
- being aware of customers needs and where appropriate talking and praying with people.

The coffee shop has given away over £100,000 to date

As we start our 16th year as the ABC Coffee Shop we are drawn back to the reasons for its existence as stated in our Ethos. Our main aim is to bring Christ to the community. In doing this we have also been able to help many charities over the years by giving away our profits. To date we have given away over £100,000: not bad when "profit is not our 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 and in fact have a study and prayer group from SPBC which meets on Monday after the shop has closed. Northside also run a craft class in the

upstairs room.

APTIST

GATTO

The City Council are preparing plans to redevelop the area possibly with other retail units, sheltered housing and general housing. Asda have yet to indicate their preferences. Takings and profits have increased in the year and we have been able to give more away.

Staffing continues to be a problem but we carry on. We are very grateful to all who work in the shop, those from within the church and those from outside SPBC.

We thank all the staff for their efforts during the year and the customers for their support.

Rosemary Jevons Coffee Shop Manager

Christmas Fair

In November we had our first all-church charity table-top craft fair in the Green

House at Headingley.

The hot chocolate and

marshmallows went down well as did the "coffee shop" area - coffee table and seating area! People stayed and had a good natter. Although we agree there are a few "tweaks" we need to make for the next event, overall we think it was a success both as a fundraiser for individual stalls and to a lesser extent also for outreach.

Perhaps one reason outreach is a challenge for such events is the position of the building - the SPBC site is on the edge of Headingley. Any tips on how to open doors more widely are much needed.

We are planning an early summer event with stalls and a barbecue, so do seriously consider this event to bring non-Christian friends and family to. We will be looking for volunteers to join us and help on the day.

Look out for details of our next event nearer the time and consider if you have a charity that meets mission aims such as supporting the less able, those in need and more vulnerable in society both locally and globally and that you are involved in. Consider if you would like to book a table top space. Date to follow once the planning team meet up again.

For me (Liz) I am off to Rukungiri

Uganda in September with my friend Denise. We hope to work with a school for children with disabilities, catch up with our sponsor family and continue mandatory skills training on the midwifery unit. Funds raised at the craft event will go towards local needs in hospital and the school.

With thanks again to those who came out in the rain, the other stall holders and the Savage family for the busy drinks and cakes stall: well done!

Liz Crathern, Arja Copperwheat and Pam Roe

Connect

We have had many things to celebrate since our last report.

On 18 December we held our first "Carols at Hollybush" in the school hall. Based on the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, our celebration of Christ's birth was well attended by Connect regulars and some others from SP. Our singing was wonderfully supported by "West Yorkshire Brass" who provided their services for free!

We have seen an amazing answer to prayer in the last few weeks as a number of South Paraders have committed to helping us on a regular basis which has given us the confidence to be more secure in pursuing our vision. This is real confirmation of God's plans for Connect in Bramley. Thank you to all who have offered their help. We also love having visitors from the wider church and you're assured of a very warm welcome!

Following on from our first CAP Job Club in the autumn, a second course will be starting in March with the support of a couple of Bramley Connect volunteers. Please pray for a really good response to the invitations to attend the course.

We pray that the baptism at Connect will be the first of many

Our best news yet! On 15 February, Brian will be baptising Joshua Perry who has been a faithful Connector for a number of years. We are joining with Bramley Baptist



Church to celebrate this milestone for Connect. We pray that this baptism will be the first of many. What an amazing encouragement for us all.

If you feel moved to help us in any way, or want any information about Connect and our work in Bramley, please get in touch with me.

Sian Wrangles

Connect Leadership Team

Container News

Jill Karlik sends news from Africa of the container of donated items being sent to the church in Guinea Bissau (see the August 2014 Intouch still available online).

Hooray! The container has finally cleared customs after being stuck in Bissau port for a month. The customs charges and port dues were no worse than anticipated, (except for an unexpected 340 euros Spanish customs fee in transit.) It will be hauled up to the church destination straight away. Thanks to all who gave goods and helped pack or raise money for the payments.

Blessings

Jill Karlik Northside Mission Community







Christmas Day at Headingley

Northside is Cool

Northside is developing well. We're still in a settling in process to our new format, even though it's been six months - already!

First Sunday is Café Church which is well attend by the congregation. We meet and greet everyone with coffee, tea and biscuits and choose our seats early. When Paul preaches he brings Matt, his guitar and an amp which is broadening our music group endeavours and adding volume to the voices. It must be noted here that Brian too brings his guitar along and we respond heartily to the hymn choices. I'm learning lots of new ones which is great.

At other times Katherine and I lead worship with an electric piano and my vocal efforts. Sitting at the coffee shop tables imbues the service with a more relaxed but attentive feel. Through the worship the delicious aromas of lunch assail the senses and afterwards we sit down for food and fellowship together. They are quite a few members of the community who join us every Sunday. This is an important part of their week and we enjoying getting to know them

The following Sunday is Communion at Tile Lane which is a more traditional form of worship, again well attend for the size of congregation we are currently. We greet Goldie the resident goldfish and read the name of his/her? carer for the week on our way in. This week Sue Brady was our preacher taking us through Luke 4, "The Temptation of Jesus" and how the devil makes life difficult for us. This was very appropriate given all the technical hitches that occurred that morning (missing cables, Mission Praise books at the Coffee Shop,



sinking lecterns, words and songs disparate and me and the piano player singing the wrong song). So we sang the right one afterwards and had two

for the price of one! However we didn't let it dampen our spirits and the morning ended on a high note (no pun intended).

> Northside has a new energy flowing into it and a new sense of purpose

Third Sunday is Outburst Sunday when Heather and Nathan and a whole gang of young people of all ages arrive. It's lively, fun, creative and informative. We don't forget the serious side of why we are there though. I have met lots of new young people who are fun and caring and kind and interesting - and talented too. We also welcome other members from South Parade and Cragg and some I know personally but haven't seen for a while so it was wonderful to catch up with them.

So Northside has a new energy flowing into it and a new sense of purpose. As we strengthen our mission church the community is beginning to respond. We have had one new family join us at Outburst and occasional old friends revisit. Thank you for your prayers and

brinside hard work and encouragement you give us. Please do come and join us in

worship when you can.

Sam MacCunn Northside Leadership Team

SENT

During Advent, we hosted the Alternative Christmas Service, made chocolate truffles at SENT lounge and made way for Carols by Candlelight. It's always encouraging to see new people come through our doors - the challenge remains helping them to belong, believe and become all that God wants them to be.

Since the turn of the year, we have gone back to the beginning with a sermon series on Genesis. Chris Renshaw and Rachel Williams have taken on organising the worship rota and hope to encourage more of our musically gifted members to get involved.

In the Leadership Team we have said "goodbye" to Becks and "hello" to Chris Renshaw. Becks and Mary have decided to join Vineyard, however they will be back at South Parade on Saturday 25 April for their wedding day.



Please pray as final preparations are made for our weekend away (13-15 February) and for the next SENT Lounge (Friday 13 March) where we will be hosting an evening around a series of short films from Moving Works.

Nathan Shipley Associate Pastor

TLG update

We currently have five volunteers working with seven children at Little London and Hollybush schools.

The children we are working with are struggling in different ways: some are anxious and withdrawn, some find it difficult to behave in class, and others are struggling with difficult circumstances at home. All the children have built up good relationships with their coaches and are making good progress.

The schools are very grateful for the commitment of the team who go in to school each work to do this work.

We would be delighted to have more volunteers, so please contact me via the church office if you think you might be able to do this and would like to find out more.

Hazel Randall TLG Co-ordinator

Church Meeting

On an icy evening on 29 January, church members met in the warmth of the Green House and:

- Elected **Ruth Hughes** as a new Elder
- Heard from **Dave Bartram** about his continuing call to ministry and commended him for ministerial training
- Noted that there are still vacancies for two elders, two deacons and two Mission Community Leaders and were encouraged to pray about the need for people to fill these positions
- Heard from Charles Fletcher about matters from the elders' meeting, including a review of the admin and paperwork in membership procedures
- Agreed the **budget** for 2015 (see page 42).

The next church meeting (including the AGM) is on 26 March.

Matthew Newman

...informed...

Share news from Around the Church by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk.



Postcard from Africa





Aslema!

Outside the sky is a particularly beautiful shade of blue today. My neighbours have their blankets and rugs hanging over the walls and wire washing lines, carefully positioned to catch the warmth from the sun but avoiding the bitterly cold (and often sandy!) wind.

Inside it's chilly as I'm working on the laptop to prepare some teaching in French on palliative care (PC) for the staff at the hospital across the road, wondering how the work at the PC support centre will continue as we gradually reduce the time we spend there, wanting the local staff to catch the vision that they really can make a difference for people with a life-shortening illness...

It seems a "wintery" time for the work here, not knowing when and where growth and life will come. But in only a few years my two colleagues from Cragg have, by God's help, seen huge strides from no provision to more competent practice and an increased awareness that something can still be done when no cure is possible. And after winter comes spring...

Please pray that we will know which contacts to follow up - hospital? local voluntary groups? other towns? government? - and how to encourage growth in providing palliative care here.

With thanks and warm greetings from North Africa (thanks to five layers of clothing and a blanket!) xxx



Here I Am Lord

Meet the New Church Secretary

At the November church meeting, Charles Fletcher was voted in as an Elder and our new church secretary. *Intouch* caught up with him and asked some pertinent questions.

church meeting elected me as an elder, then as secretary. And somebody has to do the job.

But why did you accept the nomination?

In the autumn I was visiting my daughter and family in Australia. My daily bible readings had been focusing on leadership and how those who would be great in the kingdom must be the servant of all. "Very good, but hardly relevant to me" I thought. I'd no aspiration to be a leader. Then Adrian Howe emailed and

asked if I'd be willing to stand as a deacon again. Back home and still undecided, another "coincidence", we had been discussing who'd replace Geoff Greer as church secretary when he rang in the middle of home group to ask if I would. So I guess I had to be willing.

Who are you?

y name is Charles, I first came to SPBC the Sunday a team was being commissioned to go and plant a new congregation in Adel, and I've worshipped at Headingley ever since



Charles Fletcher

Why are you church secretary? Because somebody asked me, two people nominated me and the

> We stand with all those who have gone before, and seek to serve those who will come after.



What qualifies you for this job? othing really, except that being retired I have the time. Technically, having been baptised as a believer is the only requirement, and I was baptised at Lister Hill years ago. I have served in the past as a deacon in SPBC, but then we moved house and my late wife was ill, so I was really committed in other ways and not involved in church work for some years.

Favourite hymn?

One among many is *Be thou my* vision, O Lord of my heart. Wonderful words, coming (in translation) possibly from the 6th century Irish monastic tradition. We stand with all those who have gone before, and seek to serve those who will come after. To God be the glory.

Charles Fletcher

HRISTIANS·IN·SCIENCE

Church Secretary

Christians in Science

The next meeting of the Leeds branch of Christians in Science is on Tuesday 10 March at South Parade, Headingley (7.30 for 8pm) when the speaker will be Rev Dr John Weaver on "When science becomes controversial: fracking and fuel security; GM crops and feeding the world."

John Weaver is the former Principal of the South Wales Baptist College, Cardiff and a former Dean of the Faculty of Theology at Cardiff University. He has lectured in Practical Theology and the dialogue between Science and Faith at both Oxford and Cardiff universities. He was President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain 2008-2009; he is currently chair of the John Ray Initiative, connecting Environment, Science and Christianity, and chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Amsterdam.

Everyone is welcome, for further information please contact me

John Lockwood Christians in Science, Leeds



Another Door Opens

Kidz in Kampz Takes a Leap of Faith

Kidz in Kampz supports the educational and welfare needs of children living in camps for displaced people along the Thai/Burmese borders. The shop in the Holt Park Shopping Centre raises money and awareness for the charity, but manager Madge Davey recently took a leap of faith as it faced questions about its future.

any things happen in our lives that we are unable to explain. Opportunities appear without explanation. Is it co-incidence – or God-incidence?



I need not have worried. Without warning we were offered another shop.

improve their lives. You will understand that there is no way we could take food out of these vulnerable

> children's mouths. I need not have worried: I should have had stronger faith and "trusted in His timing". The wonder of it is that without warning, we were offered another shop in Leeds 16! I believe that this is God's way of showing us that He approves and that we should con-

tinue helping these children.

am delighted to say that our new shop is OPEN now; we are on Raynel Approach, near St Pauls Church, Leeds 16.

If we are to continue helping the suffering Christians who are strug-

I had been worrying for many months about the insecurity of tenure at our current premises in Holt Park. No way can we afford a privately rented property in Leeds 16. How could we turn our backs on the vulnerable children we support? I have been privileged to spend the last 14 years of my life working to gling to survive in the harsh conditions of camps for the displaced, particularly now that we are trying to manage two shops, we need your help more than ever.

Please continue to support us by donating your unwanted goods to both shops. However, until we are better established - we are very short of donations at Raynel Approach, especially bric-a-brac.

Many thanks to all our loyal supporters,

Madge Davey

Charity Manager, Kidz in Kampz

...involved...

If you want to donate to the shop or you have a few hours a week spare and could help, contact them directly on 0113 261 3878 (Raynel Approach), or 0113 267 6800 (Holt Park).





Looking for a Christian internship? A gap year or year out? ooking for Christian Leadership training?

Whatever you're after in God we want to meet with you.

DNA is an exciting 11 month journey of churchbased discipleship in the context of mission. It is for those who recognise their desire to be useful and fruitful in the kingdom of God but who are also humble enough to recognise their need for development. It is for you if you want to be in for the long haul. This isn't about a short sharp burst – this is foundations for life.





Ask Paul Rockley or Nathan Shipley about Internship opportunities at South Parade coming up soon, see the flyer available in church, visit www.dna-uk.org or email paul@spbc.org.uk

BMS World News

The Ovendens' unbelievable year

Joe and Lois Ovenden have had a tumultuous year but are now looking forward to a brighter future serving with BMS World Mission in Uganda.

n October 2013, the Ovendens were told that their Zimbabwe work visas had been denied and they had ten days to leave the country. Then, Lois found out that her brother Jonny had bowel cancer. And finally, after trying for



The Ovendens

ishing well and we were able to say goodbye properly," says Joe.

After returning to the UK in March, Joe and Lois saw Jonny, who was in remission and appeared to be re-

> covering well. Days after their visit, however, he died of an undetected gallbladder infection.

Their daughter Connie's arrival was a needed blessing for the couple. "Connie is incredible and she has been such a part of our healing process," says Lois. Follow-

some time, the couple found out that they were having a baby.

Joe and Lois spent November to March wrapping up their work in Zimbabwe, which included Christian development initiatives, speech and language therapy and the Alpha course they ran together. "The wrap-up time made a big difference and made us feel like we were fining the birth, Lois haemorrhaged over five and a half pints of blood; something that would have been fatal had they still been in Zimbabwe. "The doctors told us I would not have survived if I hadn't been home," says Lois.

Now the family of three are in Kampala, Uganda starting a new period of service with BMS, and



they will soon be moving to Gulu. Once there, Joe will oversee the management of BMS' work in Uganda while Lois will look after Connie and search for whatever opportunities God has for her as a speech therapist. "I am looking forward to moving to Gulu and having a home," says Lois, "somewhere where we can establish and build friendships and relationships."

Rekindled relationships in **C**hina

A 125-year-old partnership in Qingzhou, China, is flourishing.

I 25 years ago, BMS worker Dr James Russell Watson and his wife started a hospital in Qingzhou, Shandong Province, China. Then, sometime later, Dr Watson and a nurse, Margaret Falconer Logan, started a nursing college. Now,

over a century later, another BMS husband and wife are serving there. This time they're meeting the needs of their community through teaching English at Weifang Nursing Vocational College, the institution that Watson and Logan started over a century ago. eanie Herbert, BMS Regional Team Leader for East Asia, and our Director for Mission, Peter Dunn, paid a visit to the college in September to sign an agreement with Weifang Nursing Vocational College to renew our partnership for another four years. They greatly appreciated the warm welcome they received and were very impressed with the college's excellent facilities and high teaching standards.

> BMS has been able to rekindle an old and valued partnership in Qingzhou and the relationship is thriving

The institution has grown hugely from its small beginnings. There are now 15,000 students studying there.



intouch

"It was great to visit," says Jeanie. "The directors and staff were so hospitable and thoughtful as they hosted us. It was clear that they take such good care of our workers and I am glad that the relationship will continue and grow."

avid and Jenny Mewes, the first long-term BMS workers in China for over 60 years, arrived in 2011 and have just extended their contracts at the college, agreeing to remain there for at least another five years. We are also looking to send another couple to join them, teaching English to the nursing students and their teachers.

BMS has been able to rekindle an old and valued partnership in Qingzhou through Weifang Nursing Vocational College, and we are pleased to report that the relationship is thriving.

"It's a privilege for BMS to be once again partnered with this college, with which we have such a rich history," says Jeanie.

Italy Update

From David and Ann MacFarlane, our BMS link missionaries in Italy The African immigrants are still coming into Reggio and more and more are begging in the streets for money in order that they can get up north. As I said in our last newsletter, we have been helping them here and have not had much opportunity to get to Rosarno. We will be going there in the next few days with clothes, beds and mattresses, and with money that we have raised and have been given by our churches.

The concert the youth had just after Christmas was a great success and they are already preparing another one.

Ann is in Scotland at the moment and things are not so good there at the moment. Both her Mum's and stepdad's health is deteriorating and she would value your prayers for the situation.

We had our two baptisms as we said in our newsletter and there were tears in every eye as Mary Grace the young Filipino girl gave her testimony.

We praise God that the church is going well.

David MacFarlane

www.bmsworldmission.org.uk/admacfarlane







February - March 2015

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."

I Chronicles 16.11 (NIV)

FEBRUARY				
Sun	8	Brian Nicholls		
Mon	9	The work of Under 5s		
Tue	10	Kate Churchill, Maureen Spearing, Tom Pelham		
Wed		Joan Spivey, Gaynor Hammond		
Thu	12	TLG mentors working in local schools		
Fri	13	SENT Mission Community on their weekend away		
Sat	14	Hannah Preston		
Sun	15	Joshua Perry being baptised today		
Mon	16	Adrian Howe, Church Treasurer, and the Finance Team		
Tue	17	David and Ann MacFarlane in Italy		
Wed	18	Pray for yourself and your own spiritual journey this Lent		
Thu	19	Headingley Morning Mission Community		
Fri	20	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP Centre		
Sat	21	The city of Leeds		

Pull out and use!

Sun	22	Delessa Gugsa		
Mon	23	Church @ Little London		
Tue	24	The work of Rooted		
Wed	25	Northside Mission Community		
Thu	26	Those who can't get to church on a Sunday any more		
Fri	27	St George's Crypt		
Sat	28	Caroline Brown at her induction at Dewsbury BC today		
MARCH				
Sun	Ι	Geoff King		
Mon	2	Steve and Ismay Green		
Tue	3	ABC Coffee Shop		
Wed	4	Our friend working in palliative care in North Africa		
Thu	5	The Elders		
Fri	6	Churches Together in Headingley and the Lent lunch today		
Sat	7	Duncan Stow working in Horsforth		
Sun	8	Nathan Shipley		
Mon	9	Jane Waites in Albania		
Tue	10	Christians in Science meeting this evening		
Wed	П	The Arabic Christian Fellowship		
Thu	12	Home Group leaders		
Fri	13	SENT lounge this evening		
Sat	14	The Deacons		
Sun	15	Outburst Sunday at Northside		
Mon	16	Chris and Dorothy Gnanakan		
Tue	17	Lawrence Cockrill		
Wed	18	Jayne Godfrey in Slovakia		

Thu	19	Christians Against Poverty		
Fri	20	The volunteers in the church office		
Sat	21	Becky North in Chad		
Sun	22	Kate Burkett		
Mon	23	Other local churches		
Tue	24	Paul Rockley		
Wed	25	Connect Mission Community		
Thu	26	The Church Meeting tonight		
Fri	27	Drop-in at Cragg		
Sat	28	Concert and Tearfund presentation at Headingley this evening		
Sun	29	Heather McLeen		
Mon	30	Charles Fletcher, Church Secretary		
Tue	31	Work with children and young people across the church		
APRIL				
Wed	Ι	Cragg Mission Community		
Thu	2	Levi Booth in Japan		
Fri	3	Witness events this Good Friday		
Sat	4	Jill and Colin Jones and their work in Normandy		

House of Prayer Every Saturday 8-11 am in the Green House, Headingley

"When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles, When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy."

Corrie Ten Boom

Prayer of Devotion

Lord Jesus Christ you have walked where we walk and now you help us in our weakness: blessed be your name. Lord Jesus Christ, you have been tempted as we have and now you come to help us in our danger: blessed be your name. Lord Jesus Christ, you have suffered for us and now you help us when we reach our wits' end: blessed be your name.

> Lord Jesus Christ, you were deserted and betrayed, and now you are with us when all others have gone: blessed be your name. Lord Jesus Christ, companion Christ, friend and saviour, we adore you, we love you, we need you: help us to follow.

> > © Gathering for Worship, BUGB Publications 2005

Is It I Lord?

Who'd Be a Deacon?

decided to apply to become a deacon following a discussion with a church elder who could see me in that role. Becoming a deacon has given me so much more insight into the day-to-day running of the church. It has given me insight into how the church needs its people to help keep the church moving forward in order to serve Christ. The task is harder for the few when others do not feel able to respond to this need.

I come to the role only in obedience to serve God and with a willingness to learn from others in leadership roles. For example, serving communion was initially a bit daunting but the other elders and deacons guide you. I felt both humbled and privileged to serve God and our church in such a way.

A recent *Daily Bread* reading entitled "Where can I help?" paused me to ponder on another question. The church needs its people to keep the church moving forward

Sometime ago now Claire Hall, when baptised, challenged the congregation by asking "If not now, when?" and it resonated with me and not so long after I took the plunge (quite literally) and was baptised.

I would prompt those who read this to call - If not now, when? Take the plunge, and ask **"Where can I help?"** Talk with an Elder or Deacon; reading scripture may also help, such as Galatians 6.10: As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Liz Crathern

Headingley Morning Mission Community

...inspired...

Talk to an Elder or any member of the Ministry Team (see inside back page) about how you can be more involved in leadership roles at South Parade.





Nothing Wasted

The Real Junk Food Project Cafe

As the cafe that she manages receives national TV publicity Emma Mawer describes how the work of the Real Junk Food Project reflects her faith.

n Tuesday 20 January the BBC's Songs of Praise went along to The Real lunk Food Project (TRJFP) cafe at All Hallows' church, Hyde Park, Leeds. As part of TRIFP network. the cafe has three aims: to reduce waste, to reduce food poverty and to build community.

All of the food used in the cafe is "waste" food that would have ended up in the bin had it not been The Real Junk Food Project "intercepted" by the @ All Hallows' project. In Britain up to 20 million tonnes of food waste is created each year. Very often this food is still perfectly edible, it has just gone past its sell by date, or best before date. Alternatively it can be surplus to requirement or the wrong shape or size to

be sold in the supermarkets. TRJFP proves that the vast majority of this food can be used. By smelling, observing, touching and tasting the food, the cafe staff decide which foods they are going to cook in order to create tasty nutritious meals

The project has a unique "pay as you feel" policy. This means that there are no prices in the cafe at All Hallows', people make a donation or volunteer in the cafe. By inviting

> people to do this, volunteering becomes a valid currency. People's time and skills are valued above how much money they have. So if someone in food poverty walks through the door, they don't get a "hand out" as they would receive at a food

bank. Instead they can maintain their dignity by paying for the food through volunteering.

Building community is a key part of the project. The volunteer staff at

Cafe

God asks us to look after His world and steward resources wisely. This involves tackling the huge problem of waste in our society.

All Hallows' cafe take time to talk to customers and get to know them. They also encourage the customers to get to know one another. This is particularly important for those who have become socially isolated for whatever reason. It means that there is a real buzz as you enter the cafe, as people chat, laugh and share with one another. We have seen many individuals who have grown in confidence through visiting the cafe.

s the manager of the cafe, I feel that TRIFP reflects my Christian faith. God asks us to look after His world and steward resources wisely. This involves tackling the huge problem of waste in our society. In addition, lesus met people in their everyday life and encouraged them to come as they were. He mixed with all sectors of society and shared His love and compassion with them all. lesus has a particular heart for the poor and longs to see people restored and living life to the full in relationship with Him. The cafe at All Hallows'





John Lockwood's photos of Josie D'Arby and the Songs of Praise crew filming at the cafe

February & March 2015



is not a "church cafe", it is a community cafe that is part of The Real Junk Food Project Network. It is only by being such that we get so many people coming through the doors (both volunteers and customers) who have previously had no association with the church.

As a Christian managing the cafe, I aim to do as Jesus did and witness

through my actions and when appropriate my words.

We hope and pray that Songs of Praise will have captured something of the above in their filming on Tuesday. It was a real privilege to have them come and advertise our cafe!

Emma Mawer

...informed...

Visit Cafe.allhallowsleeds.org.uk or Facebook/TRJFP at All Hallows for more details about the cafe. The Songs of Praise broadcast was on BBC 1 on Sunday 25 January, and the programme is available to watch on the BBC iPlayer till 23 February.

The truth is that poverty is an injustice crying out for correction and cannot be explained away as the problem of individual families. Responding with charity can help to break down the barriers in society and is a partial solution, but we all have a moral responsibility to build a more just and more understanding society. As Christians we believe that the infinitely loving creator, shared by us all, demands no less of us.

From the report The Lies We Tell Ourselves: Ending the Comfortable Myths about Poverty (see page 32)

When justice rules a nation, everyone is glad; when injustice rules, everyone groans.

Proverbs 29.2 (CEV)



Gnanakan News

Taking Everything to God in Prayer

Chris Gnanakan, our Mission Partner with OTAN (Outreach to Asia Nationals) writes from Boston: Warm Greetings this New Year. I'm including a very simple article that I wrote on "Prayer" for our missionaries to teach nationals and want to pass it on to South Parade, with some exciting news. I hope to call on you soon. I am planning to come to the UK this summer (along with Dorothy and the girls if possible)! I need to briefly visit Oxford in July regarding Ravi's Apologetics School. Importantly, as we did two years ago, we long



to visit you all at SPBC for a week to serve our missional communities in any way you see needful.

ommunication is the building block for any relationship, certainly the believer's with God as "Father". Prayer is two-way communication. Normally when we read God's Word, God speaks to us and we talk to God in prayer. We won't find the time to pray, we must *make* and *take time to be holy and talk oft with our God*. Jesus taught his followers to "ask, and keep on asking!"

ASK

Jesus on "Asking"... (Matthew 6.5-8)

Jesus, in fine Jewish tradition, stressed the need for and demonstrated what asking God is all about. Since prayer is proportionate to spiritual *power*, He wanted his followers to always pray and not faint (Luke 8.1; 18.1). He questioned *pharisaical* motives in



"saying prayers" and condemned pagan methods of meaningless babblings directed to impress people rather than to get through to God!

We have the Spirit's assistance to ask according to His will. We must be careful not to take this awesome privilege for granted!

James notes that believers "have not" because they "ask not". They ask, yet do not receive because they ask with selfish motives and not according to God's will (James 4.2-3). Jesus taught his followers how to pray and understood this exercise as a "means of grace" here the Spirit enables us to know and do God's will and develop our relationship with our heavenly Father!

WHY ASK? The Disciple's Prayer

Christian prayer is not giving God our wish-list or downloading personal needs. Yet asking is essential and there is ample motivation for believers to do so. First, our association with God as "our Father" is a way that no other religion dares

to address God! (Romans 8.15) This

endearing title encourages us as children of *Abba* God to share our heart's desires with Him. We must remember that he knows our need (and greed) even before we ask (6.8)!

Second, we have free *access* to his throne of grace because of Jesus who is now our High Priest! (Hebrews 4.16).

Third, when we don't know what to say, we have the Spirit's *assistance* to ask according to His will. We must be careful to cultivate intimacy and not take this awesome privilege for granted!

WHAT to ASK? Sharing our needs with God

Notice in the way Jesus taught us to pray, the first three petitions are all about God: His name, His kingdom and His will (Matthew 6.9-10). The next three requests flow out of this and are about human needs for:

Food – we need God's day-byday providence. Again we know that our heavenly Father knows and will give His children only good gifts, richly to enjoy.

Second, Forgiveness – we are prone to wander from God and often fall into sin. This affects our ability to share with God as our holy



(hallowed) Father and subsequently the way we treat others. A debtor is someone who has offended another and owes them mercy, not just money.

hird, asking for Future guidance – we commit ourselves and whatever lies ahead to our sovereign God who does not tempt us but leads us in right paths and keeps us from falling.

What a Father we have in heaven! What a Friend we have in Jesus! What a Future we have in the Spirit!

So, let's pray when we feel like it, when we don't feel like it and until we feel like it!

Chris Gnanakan

...involved...

Find out more about Chris's work with OTAN by visiting www.outreachtoasianationals.org

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ's body - that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

I Corinthians 12.25-27 (The Message)

Faith in Dark Places

Conference on Poverty

Pam Roe passed on news of a conference this month challenging our ideas about poverty in our city.

The idea for this Lenten conference came from two friends having a cup of tea on a cold January morning.

his informal meeting resulted in a further meeting of likeminded people, who prayed together for guidance and discernment for the way forward. The group discussed the report, The Lies We Tell Ourselves: Ending the Com-

fortable Myths about Poverty produced by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland.



nearly 60% "agrees that the poor could cope if only they handled their money properly". The Church needs to recognise when we are complicit in perpetuating such convenient myths. After prayerful thought an ecumenical working group was set up to organise a conference.

To provoke thought about poverty, it is timed to be during Lent and before the General Election. The conference aims to be informative about the true nature of poverty. The hope is to engage with people

who are not frequent conference goers, and to invite them to bring a friend to find out the truth about poverty in the UK today.

Research from this very challenging report shows that over 80% of the population believe that "large numbers falsely claim benefits" and that

A Methodist, Dr Paul Morrison, author of the above report has agreed to be a key speaker, as has

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David Rhodes, author of Faith in Dark Places and other books. Ann Morisy, a community lecturer and theologian, has also agreed to open the conference, reflect back at the end of the day's proceedings and give suggestions for future work on issues raised.

The conference aims to be informative about the true nature of poverty and engage with people to find out the truth about poverty in the UK today

veryone present will have the opportunity to join two workshops. The workshops planned are about Homelessness in Leeds, Asylum Seekers, Debt, Food Banks (are they enough?), the Living Wage, and Work and Welfare. The workshops will have input for 15/20 minutes from a practitioner/ specialist in the field. In addition we hope to have one or two people who can testify from personal experience. There will be ample time for questions and discussion.

The conference will be free (any donations will of course be welcome). Tea, coffee and a light lunch will be provided free. The venue is St Edmund's Church, Roundhay on Saturday 21 February from 10am to 3pm. A warm church and welcome awaits you!

The cost of the conference in travelling expenses for speakers, publicity, food etc. will be covered by grants and donations. At present we still need to raise another £150.00.

Please pray for the working group and importantly bring some folk along to support us. For best impact a wide range of people of different ages, male and female are needed to share their experiences at the conference. Put the date in your diary now.

...informed...

For more information contact the Rev Jackie Treetops

To promote the conference we are happy to come along to your group and speak for just 3 minutes or Jackie Treetops will be happy to come and promote the conference by preaching one Sunday.



Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part One: Who Are You?

Over the next few months Steve Ford's regular Bible study takes us on a journey through John's gospel starting in Chapter I, verses 19-34.

Who are you?

he question, "who are you?" was presented to John the Baptist by Priests and Levites in John 1.19. Is he able to give an answer?

John's life up to this point had been causing a bit of a stir. He was a man who got under your skin, a man you would probably cross the street to avoid, but we read here that Priests and Levites where sent from Jerusalem to find out who he was.



John, it would appear, was a problem. He was upsetting the establishment, he was drawing people out of their comfort zones and getting to the heart of the matter. John recognised and knew that unless the heart was changed the life would be the same. Change the heart, challenge the life, create the thirst. "Who are you?" The reply from John was, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness" and there we have the answer for us all - a voice crying in the wilderness of life, standing above the crowd.

God needs voices crying in the wilderness. We are not the Christ but we can prepare the way in the wilderness and make straight paths for him. That is we can live our lives as examples of God's grace and mercy in such a manner that it marks out the way for others to follow.

John the Baptist declares in John 1.26 "there is one among you who you do not know". I hope we are not so blind?

The great thing is that when Jesus came out of the crowd John speaks up, "Behold the lamb of God who



takes away the sin of the world" (John 1.29), and points people to Jesus. This is true mission, it is not about me but all about Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Do the things that I say point people to Jesus?

verything that John did pointed to Jesus. John had a testimony, he saw the Spirit descending and remaining on Jesus and in that instance knew that this

man was the Messiah. No man or woman can dispute the power of personal testimony. We all have to have a testimony of what we have seen and witnessed concerning Jesus. John saw and recognised Jesus

because of this testimony. He said "he who comes after me is preferred before me. His shoe strap I am not worthy to even stoop down and unloose."

Next we read that John was standing with two of his disciples and looked and said "Behold the Lamb of God" then the passage says "they heard him speak" (that is, John), "and they followed Jesus". Do the things that I say point people to Jesus? John was prepared to let go his own followers for the greater cause. Discipleship requires that I equip those that God has given me and point out Jesus the Messiah.

What these two disciples of John heard was a truth that this man Jesus was someone worth following and he was someone worth finding out about. I believe there was an urgency, a determined spiritual cry that said I know this man to be the Christ, I can testify to the fact that I saw heaven opened and the spirit of God descending and remaining on

this man: for sure he is the Christ.

t was as a result of that urgent cry "look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world", that these two disciples of John left him to follow

Jesus. The urgent cry created a thirst in these two people so that they had no choice but to follow this man that John was pointing out.

Do the things I do and say create a thirst in others so that they follow Christ and not me? Or am I only interested in them hanging onto my every word?

Steve Ford

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Questions

If I Ascend into Heaven

project scientist writing just before disaster struck the Rosetta spacecraft's mission said "We did this... and it's got science...It's going to tell us how a comet works, why they are there, and get an idea of how the planets are where they are and how the sun became [sic] and ultimately why we are here." Other more modest scientists are content to claim that it will explain the existence of life on earth.

To have navigated from a point on earth to the edge of the solar system rests on improvements in communication data handling and control processes that are truly astonishing. They depend on the work of the scientific giants of previous centuries. But supposing we had a complete description of the geology



God reveals himself to those who humble themselves and believe without risk of scientific contradiction

and chemistry of Comet 67P, what would we know of serious import about it or its place in the solar system? Since it is in the solar system, why is it from space?

here is an atheist subplot to the comment on space probes. Many are not satisfied with the theory of an origin to life on earth by chance. They question the existence of sufficient water and seem able to ignore progress in physical chemistry. There are Nobel prizes for the authors who have described the development of the periodic table to produce all the necessary chemicals in large quantities.

In contrast, Christians can assert that God said "Let there be light

February & March 2015

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and there was light." God reveals himself to those who humble themselves and believe without risk of scientific contradiction. Christians should claim the intellectual high ground. The evidence of a universe caused to be what it was and is by forces given at the beginning is overwhelming. As Charles Darwin wrote "with limited knowledge, we may never discover all the causes." That is the challenge for scientists. For now we can rejoice that God revealed to a set of migrants in the Garden of Eden almost 8,000 years ago, an understanding of His power well beyond their knowledge and reasoning.

Cyril Snell

Headingley Morning Mission Community



February & March 2015



Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings

n Sunday mornings preachers will be continuing to work their way through Luke's Gospel, covering chapters 4 to 7. Luke takes us from what's often called Jesus' manifesto ("The Spirit of the Lord is upon me") through questions about healing, Sabbath observance, the kind of life which pleases God and ending this section with John the Baptist's question to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?"

On Palm Sunday we will take a glimpse into the journey of Jesus towards the cross, drawn from Luke 13. The plan is to continue



The plan is to continue through Luke's Gospel so that we get an overview of the complete ministry of Jesus

through this Gospel at least to the end of August so that we get a good overview of the complete ministry of Jesus.

In the evening we will complete our look at the early chapters of Genesis with the story of Noah (I February), the making and breaking of our covenant with God (8 and 22 February) and the strange story of the Tower of Babel (15 February). March takes us into a chapter by chapter look at Paul's letter to the Galatians, thought by many to be a shorter version of what Paul later writes to the Romans.

On Palm Sunday the SENT Mission Community will lead us in an alternative look at the Passion and Easter story. The series culminates at the end of April with an exploration of what it means to carry the marks of Jesus, from chapter 6.

he season of Lent runs from Ash Wednesday, 18 February until Maundy Thursday, 2 April and this will be reflected in Sunday worship. As an individual you may wish to follow a personal journey of spiritual discipline during this period. If you need some suggestions as to how to do this don't hesitate to ask one of the Ministry Team and we'll try to point you in the right direction.

Midweek material is based on a series called "Christ in all the Scriptures" and takes seriously the understanding that the written word of the Bible points to the Living Word who is our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are not in a Home or Cell Group, or your group has chosen not to use this material you can still receive a copy – email paul@spbc.org.uk.

Brian Nicholls

Senior Minister



Listen Again

Sermons still available on the church website:

- Paul Stephens on Luke I
- Dave Bartram on Luke 2
- Gaynor Hammond on Luke 3
- Godfrey Nicholson on Luke 4
- Geoff Greer on Genesis I
- Paul Rockley on Genesis 3

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Brian Nicholls on Genesis 4

Latest News

Don't forget that if you miss the weekly notice sheet you can download the latest one from the church website **www.spbc.org.uk** - click on the "resources" section



Church Noticeboard

June Project

June Project is a community outreach project that's now in its third year. We seek to serve the community of Hyde Park and share the love of Jesus. The dates for June Project 2015 are

6 -13 June so save the date and we'd love for as many of you to be involved as possible. More information will be released nearer the time or contact Tim Jackson.



Churches Together in Headingley

Lent Lunches

Five Fridays from 27 February to 27 March, 12.30 - 1.30 at Headingley Methodist Church Hall. The theme is "Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land". As usual we have an excellent set of speakers. Do come along if you can. South Parade is responsible for the catering on

Friday 6 March. Please let me know if you can help (0113 2781955, roe47@btinternet.com).

Holy Week

Tuesday 31 March A united service at St Luke's Lutheran Church (Alma Road) at 7.00pm.



Thursday 2 April We are invited to share in a Tenebrae Service at Headingley St Columba URC, starting at 9.00pm. A quiet reflective service preparing for Good Friday.

Good Friday morning. A Walk of Witness followed by worship at the Arc/Rose Garden. Watch out for further details.

Pam Roe



West End Stars At South Parade



West End Has Faith was founded by Katy Traherne and fellow London West End performer David Birch in order to support Christians working in the industry in their faith, and to perform concerts in support of good causes. Tearfund has recently partnered with them to produce a performance tour of England. Over 5 days in March 2015 performers will be

delivering the best of West End entertainment interwoven with emotive stories from Tearfund's keynote speakers. Through a high quality event *Speechless* will take an audience on a journey of transformation; sharing stories of Tearfund's anti-trafficking work. The combination is sure to inspire, encourage and enlighten all who have the opportunity to attend.

The purpose of the evening is for Tearfund to engage an audience and encourage them to support their work. It is also a fantastic opportunity to invite the church and non-church going community to enjoy fabulous entertainment together.

West End Has Faith is a growing number of West End performers who have a faith and a passion to use their gifts to support the wider community. At this point we cannot confirm a list of performers but we can say it includes performers from: Phantom of the Opera, Les



eart

Miserables, Lion King and many more. See www.facebook.com/WestEndHasFaith for updates and information about this community of performers.

> Tickets for an event at South Parade on 28 March will go on sale shortly - watch out for information.

Magazine Deadline The next edition of *Intouch* is out on 5 April. Please send contributions to magazine@spbc.org.uk by 20 March.



intouch

South Parade in Numbers

The 2015 Church Budget



February & March 2015



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

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

Senior Minister Minister	Brian Nicholls Paul Rockley			
Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults	Nathan Shipley			
Children's Worker	Heather McLeen			
Associate Pastor	Geoff King			
Administration Manager	Hannah Preston			
Associate Pastor	Lawrence Cockrill			
Under 5s Co-ordinator	Kate Burkett			
Elders	Andrew Bedingham, Steve Burras, Neil Cowling, Charles Fletcher (Church Secretary), Adrian Howe (Church Treasurer), Ruth Hughes, John Pelham			
South Parade Baptist Church0113 275 498Kirkstall Lane, Headingleywww.spbc.org.ulLEEDS LS6 3LFhannah@spbc.org.ul				





After this, I heard the Lord ask, "Is there anyone I can send? Will someone go for us?" "I'll go," I answered. "Send me!"

99

Isaiah 6.8 (CEV)

