

intouch



When I was a child there was a fun TV programme on every morning during the summer holidays called *Why Don't You Just Switch Off Your Television Set and Go Out and Do Something Less Boring Instead?* In the same spirit, this month's *Intouch* could be entitled *Why Don't You Just Put Down This Magazine and Go and Read Something Less Boring Instead?* Inside you'll find plenty of recommendations for inspiring summer reading, with lots more suggestions in the church library. Do let us know what you've been reading and pass on your recommendations by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk for future editions. And make sure you put your book down on the afternoon of Saturday 2 September as the whole church meets at 2pm to formally welcome Peter Morden as our new Senior Minister at his (long-awaited) induction service.

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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

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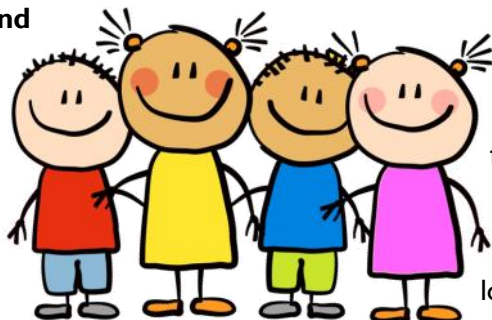
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From the Ministry Team

Let the Little Children Come to Me

Nothing makes me smile more on a busy, lively Sunday morning at Headingley than when I look around and see the church buzzing with young children. I love it when they feel free to brum their cars, wriggle, shake and jiggle to the music and join in with the all-age talk.

I feel blessed that I belong to a multi-congregational, all-age church that welcomes kids as an integral and participatory part of our community and our worship.



This is what we are commanded to do. Jesus said: *“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”* Matthew 19.14 (NIV)

Children are part of our church now and (cue Whitney Houston song) part of our future. The Church in the UK needs to continue (and look at new ways of) reaching out to families if it's going to survive. There's a well-known saying: “If you don't hear crying, the church is dying”. A church without children is potentially a dying church.

I recently saw an online post on Mumsnet, in a thread about babies and small children in church, that made me giggle: “God loves children, children do make noise, I guess then that He doesn't mind the noise they make. If He does, then He should have created them differently.”



You may have noticed that there's a new dedicated Tots Zone at the side of the church at Headingley – a safe, contained space that the tots can call their own if they get restless in the period before they go out to Sunday Crèche, or during Outburst services or Sent. It's also a very visual sign to newcomers that we're a family-friendly church. If you've got little ones please do feel free to use this new area and let us know your feedback – we want it to work for you the best it can. We're also blessed at Headingley with a foyer and a long back corridor for parents and carers to retreat to with any screaming / crying / tantruming tots. (Been there with both of mine!)

Children are relational, so get to know the kids in our church by name. When you see a family struggling with a toddler please offer them a kind smile and a helping hand (particularly if they're juggling more than one child). Maybe you could point newcomers in the direction of the new Tots Zone at Headingley or tell them about Sunday Crèche or our Baby

and Toddler Groups that run in the week or about Teddy Praise & Play or the Dads & Tots Group run by Colin Holton.

*The church in the UK
needs to look at new ways
of reaching out to families
if it's going to survive*

As many of you will know, parenting little ones is rewarding but very tough and it's likely that those parents and carers that do make it to church will be tired at best and probably pretty sleep deprived. So let's continue to make families with young children feel as welcome and comfortable as possible while they are with us.

Let's welcome Peter, Anne, Rachel and Joe Morden into our church in September with love, warmth, and the happy jingling, shaking and wriggling of the littlest ones in our congregations!

Blessings!

Kate

*Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;
toddlers shout the songs
that drown out enemy talk,
and silence atheist babble.*

Psalm 8.2 (The Message)

Around the Church

Headingley News

This time last year we were reporting on how we'd used the International Triathlon event coming right past our door as an opportunity to open our doors to the community. There were some positive aspects to the day and some lessons learned for next time. Unfortunately, the next time didn't present the same opportunities and we just had to negotiate the local road closures on our way to church that morning. There have been a few other athletic events in recent months that encircle South Parade with road closures, so a big "thank you" for those who make the extra effort to maintain fellowship and join in worship on those Sunday mornings.

*The first Church Weekend
at Church can be
hailed as a great success*

Talking of fellowship, I think that the first CWAC (Church Weekend

at Church) can be hailed as a success. I know that scientifically, the outcome of any experiment can be judged as successful, but the Leadership Team have had lots of positive comments about the weekend and it was great to see so many people in and around throughout the duration. The hard work of preparation by those involved is acknowledged and appreciated.

The evening of praise kicked off proceedings with a selection of songs, readings, declarations of "we praise you Lord because...", thoughts on the theme of Prayer, Adventure, Growth and Encouragement and an outline of the weekend.

After a soggy week, the sun shone for the picnic at Kirkstall Abbey on the Saturday lunchtime. Is there enough sunny summer left to squeeze in the annual Sunday lunchtime picnic this year as well? Look out for updates in the weekly notice sheet.

A good number picnickers burned off their calorie intake by way of a canal-side cycle ride. Others of us made our way back to the Green House for the bake-off tasting and judging instead. Some folks were determined to sample some of each cake, to give a thorough assessment. The returning cyclists, both from the canal and the hard core road-going bunch, were able to refuel when they got back. In any event, votes were counted, with winners announced and prizes given out on the Sunday morning.

Check out the photos on the South Parade Facebook page for more of the events. If you have any feedback or comments about the weekend, please feel free to contact any of the Leadership Team.

Talking of the Leadership Team, we would like to recruit at least one more person onto the team. Obviously, Joan Spivey's passing has left a significant gap, and we were thinking of adding a member even when Joan was still around. We meet on a monthly basis to discuss activities, initiatives, direction, witness, responsibilities etc. Scott Halligan is the Leader, with Rachel Geinda, Robyn Savage and Richard Sykes as members. Also participating in the meetings are Sue Ricketts (from the Elders) and Paul Rockley (from the Ministry Team).

Please prayerfully consider whether you could encourage the Headingley MC through membership of the Leadership Team. If you would like to talk to any of the current team, or suggest a potential new member, please see any of us or contact us through the office.

Richard Sykes

Headingley MC Leadership Team

Connect in Numbers

The body of Christ at Connect is made up of 22 workers, of whom 19 are members of SPBC, together with 7 others from Headingley all of whom are fully occupied running Sundays.

Attendance

There are roughly the same numbers of adults as children every Sunday. These are the average number of adults and children this year:

- January: 36
- February: 46
- March: 44
- April: 36
- May: 42
- June: 30

Children

There are 30 children who currently attend Connect fairly regularly on Sundays of whom 18 are from non-church families - as follows:



**Headingley Church
Weekend At Church**

- Crèche (new-borns to 4 years) there are 12: of which 9 are church children and 3 are from Bramley
- Junior Church (5-11 years) there are 14: only 3 are church children and 11 are local, and 3 of these come without a carer
- and of those over 11 years (youth) there are 4 regular attenders of whom all are unaccompanied local kids.

Adults

There are 35 adults who attend regularly of whom 83% are believers.

- Connect core team comprises 6 leaders and 16 others - a total of 22 and we are very grateful for the 7 regular volunteers who come from Headingley.
- The core team looks strong but this masks the fact that 10 of them are parents of young

children and not free to run Sundays, and not all the volunteers from Headingley are there every week.

- 15 of the Core Team have full-time jobs - the other 7 are retired or are looking after young children.

Discipleship

Individuals in the core team are responsible for their own spiritual health, ie ensuring they belong to a home group or attend a different service (not necessarily SPBC) etc. Some core team members now regularly miss a Sunday in order not to "burn out". Discipleship is provided through monthly Team Time meetings.

189 children have heard about Jesus through play and stories in the last two years



Outreach

SPBC support Connect in running monthly Outburst events and 189 children, 17 new in 2017, have heard about Jesus through play and stories in the last two years. In addition, the Bible Club meets on Friday mornings and has recently moved to Mount Cross, where Connect started. For regular

attenders, the Club is their church as they don't worship anywhere else on Sundays and it has recently been enlivened through the addition of two believers with a strong faith. Finally, building work at Hollybush School has meant we were not able to hold the annual Fun Day but, as Connect celebrates its seventh birthday, we have decided to take this as a fallow year particularly as John and Ann Pelham normally organise this and we are also awaiting the appointment of our new Ministry Team worker.

Gemma Eastwood

Connect

New Clergy For Headingley

Over the summer months several new clergy have joined or will be joining churches in Headingley, as well as our own Peter Morden (induction details on the Church Noticeboard on page 37).

In July, **Rev Dr Angela Birkin** joined the ministry team at St Michael's. Although based at St Michael's, she will be serving the three Anglican churches in the Headingley Team Ministry, which also includes St Chads, Far Headingley, and All Hallows, Hyde

Park. Angela came to Leeds as a GP trainee. Now retired, she has undertaken theological training at St Hild College and was ordained on 1 July this year. Her husband, Mark, is a Professor in the School of Geography at the University of Leeds.

Also in July, **Rev Clare Davison** was inducted to the pastorate of Headingley St Columba United Reformed Church, half-time, and half-time as Leeds Ministry & Mission Enabler of the URC Mission & Care Partnership. She has come to Leeds from a pastorate in Halifax. Her husband, Brian, is a Baptist minister with two churches, in Burnley and Rochdale.

In September, **Fr Gerard Kearney** is coming as the new priest at St Urban's Roman Catholic Church. His previous ministry was at St Benedict's in Garforth.

We welcome them all and look forward to getting to know them.

Pam Roe

Churches Together in Headingley rep for SPBC

Please see Pam if you feel moved to join her on the Churches Together committee.



Sent

At Sent we have been working through a series exploring the book of Judges, looking at better known characters such as Gideon and less well studied judges including Jephthah.

*We've been reminded of
God's loving faithfulness
and the promise of the
one who was to come
to save: Jesus*

The different preachers have all brought challenges and insights from these potentially difficult passages. In the cycles of Israel's disobedience and desperation that runs throughout Judges, God used flawed, faltering but willing people in His plan to save Israel. Over-arching this series has been the reminder of God's loving faithfulness and the promise of the one who was to come, to save once and for all, Jesus.

Kate Churchill has stepped down from the leadership team at Sent. We thank God for her and all that she has contributed to the team and pray for her as she continues to be a blessing at Sent and serve the church as church administrator.

It has been nice in the past few weeks to see a couple of new faces at Sent, who have moved into the area and are looking for a church. Please pray that they would find a place to worship God and feel at home.

We're looking forward to hosting a comedy night on Saturday 7 October, 7.30pm for 8pm start at the Original Oak, with Christian comedian Andy Kind (all welcome). Please be praying for opportunities to invite friends and our neighbours from the surrounding streets in

Headingley that they might have an opportunity to hear the good news about Jesus.

Ruth Hughes

Elder for Sent



100th Celebration

Barbara Parkins (also known as Jill Jones' mother) is a regular attender at Headingley on Sunday mornings and recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She sent a photo of her with her birthday card from the Queen. Barbara wrote to the church to say:

I would like to thank everyone at South Parade who sent me cards and a really lovely bouquet on the occasion of my 100th birthday. It



Barbara Parkins

was a very special day with all my family arriving - many from long distances - and a great deal of preparation had gone into it.

Thank you to everyone involved in the preparation of such a good time.

Barbara Parkins

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Church Meeting

At the church meeting on 20 July, church members prayed for **Jane Waites** and for **Sam and Katie** after agreeing to formally support them in missionary work. Jane is looking for opportunities to support missionary families in the education of their children. Sam and Katie are planning to go to Africa with a missionary organisation.

We heard about plans for **Peter and Anne Morden** to move to Leeds in early August, and the hard work done by Charles Fletcher, Clare Ginn and the team of volunteers in getting the manse ready for them. The **induction** service is at 2pm on Saturday 2 September. Peter has planned an autumn teaching programme on the theme of discipleship.

At **Headingley** the installation of the new AV system in the sanctuary and Green House went well. The plumbing for the new heating system at Headingley is completed, with a little more work and final testing to be done. MN

...informed...

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



Arrivederci!

Ann and David MacFarlane's Final Prayer Letter

For the last time, David and Ann MacFarlane, our friends and link missionaries write from Reggio Calabria in Italy, after serving there with BMS for 24 years.

Here is our last newsletter. We are in the middle of a heat wave now with temperatures as high as 40 degrees. I have two electric fans on as I write this.

We have been talking about our leaving here for over a year now and suddenly it has become a reality. We will be leaving here at the end of October and then be available for our home assignment visits.

Ann at this very moment is preparing the food parcels for our

food bank. It will be the last time, as it will be handed over to others in September. There has been an increase of food in the last two months and this month we did not need to subsidise it.

It has worked out quite well as our monies donated has all but run out.



Ann and David MacFarlane

We have 200 Euro left for the month of September if we need it. It has been thanks to the generosity of our churches that we have been able to sustain it over these last two years.

The ships with the immigrants are coming in to our port fast and furious. There has been 4-5,000 arrivals since May.

They are running out of places to take them. The last couple of arrivals had to spend a few nights sleeping under the gazebos on the ground at the port.

We have so much to tell you of how God has been ever present in many of the situations and how his goodness endures forever

Keep praying for all the wonderful volunteers that welcome and care for them. We greatly miss our action team Sarah, Jessica, Finlay and Laura with this work and with their participation at the help centre and church work.

The church continues to grow numerically and spiritually especially with the immigrants who are staying

here at Reggio. We have about 12 Africans attending regularly with us at the moment. John and Franca from Nigeria have just celebrated the birth of their daughter Ann. Yes, you have guessed it right. They have named her after Ann.

We have so much to tell you of how God has been ever present in many of the situations and how his goodness endures forever. We hope to get the chance to visit you all and to share with you all with what will be our last visit. It has been a wonderful 24 years that the majority of our churches have supported us and we will never forget the wonderful, prayerful and financial support you have given to us.

*David and Ann
MacFarlane*

...informed...

Find out more about the work of BMS, how to support the work in prayer and financially, and how to subscribe to the regular Engage newsletter by visiting www.bmsworldmission.org



*We humans make plans,
but the LORD has the final word.*

Proverbs 16.1 (CEV)

Thoroughly Equipped

Leeds School of Theology

Nathan Shipley introduces another South Parade member taking the Leeds School of Theology course, and asks them how it's going.

Name: Stephen Burras

Age: 59

Occupation: Building Designer

Mission Community: Cragg

Why have you embarked on the LSOT?

To gain a greater understanding of Scripture and deepen my relationship with God.

Take the risk that an old dog can learn new tricks.

What are you enjoying about the adventure so far?

Changing some of my "set in stone" ideas about how God works through history. The session on the Old Testament was particularly challenging to some of my comfort

If you want to deepen your relationship with God and feel ready for a challenge, then I would recommend this course

zones around God's character and his eternal view of creation and us. I am not giving much away am I?!

How do you hope to grow through the experience?



Scripture is God's nourishment and without it I will not grow. I hope to increase my hunger for His life giving Word. I also want to invest what I am learning in other people.

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

If you want to deepen your relationship with God and feel ready for

a challenge, then LSOT is the course I would recommend. It is refreshing, stimulating and interactive and you get to spend a day with some wonderful, Jesus loving teachers and “like” students. Now I am a “student” again I can say “like” and it’s cool.

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

More brain cells! The ability to evaluate what I am learning with what I already know. What to receive that is new, keep that is old and let go what is not helpful.

**Nathan Shipley &
Steve Burras**

...inspired...

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



New BMS General Director

BMS World Mission has revealed that Dr Kang-San Tan will take up the role of BMS General Director after David Kerrigan’s retirement.



Kang-San is from Malaysia, and has also lived in Canada, the USA, Singapore and the UK. He speaks four languages and holds two doctorates, with a focus on dialogue with and understanding Islam and Buddhism. Kang-San’s professional, cultural and academic insights will play a crucial role in helping UK Baptists to reach out to a world in need of Christ’s love through BMS.



He joins BMS with unanimous approval from the Trustees and his predecessor. Kang-San will be moving back to the UK in the summer, with his wife Loun Ling Lee and daughter Chara, to take up the post in October. Please pray for them and for Kang-San’s vision for BMS.

Pass It On

Tim Jackson, UCCF Relay Worker

From this August to June 2018 Tim Jackson from the Sent Mission Community will be volunteering with UCCF: The Christian Unions as a Relay Worker in Leeds. Here he explains what he'll be doing.

The Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, commonly known as UCCF: The Christian Unions, is a fellowship of students, staff and supporters working together to give every student in Great Britain an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Founded in 1928, the fellowship has been making disciples of Jesus in the student world ever since.

Christian Unions are missional communities functioning within the

heart of the student community, which live for Jesus and speak for Jesus. Led by students, resourced by Staff Workers and Relay Workers, and in partnership with local churches, Christian Unions are uniquely placed to share the gospel on campuses across Great Britain.

This happens through a combination of public proclamation events, small group discussions and personal friendships. Public proclamation, at events such as lunchbars, allow common objections to Christianity to be tackled and the truth of the gospel to be defended in front of lots of students at one time. The gospel is gossiped in the meantime through small groups and personal friendships in halls of residence, faculties, and societies, as students live alongside each other day by day.



Having been involved with the Christian Union during my time as a student, my personal involvement with UCCF will transition to becoming one of their Relay Workers from late August 2017, here in Leeds. Relay is a 10-month mission and discipleship training programme in a Christian Union context which equips recent graduates to know and love Jesus better and to live out and pass on His gospel of grace for the rest of their lives. I am very much looking forward to what I will learn during the programme, through studying essential doctrine and theology; attending conferences; time with my supervisor; and using and developing skills through the Christian Union's ministry among students.

I'm looking forward to helping encourage and equip students as they share the gospel with their fellow students

As a student, I learnt a lot more about Jesus and the gospel through the work of UCCF – in particular about what it means to be “motivated by grace” and “confident in the truth”, which are two of UCCF's key values. This

happened through conferences, meeting with the Staff Worker in Leeds, and some of the resources on their website bethinking.org – so I think it is great that through the Relay programme I can continue to grow in an even more focused way.

During my time as a student, it has also been clear to see the great need and opportunity for sharing the gospel with students. Many students know very little about who Jesus really is, and some international students have never heard of Jesus at all. Yet, students are often thinking a lot about their understanding of the world and what is important to them, as they have often left home or are living in a different country for the first time, as well as being at an age of making a lot of influential decisions for the rest of their lives.

As a Relay Worker, I look forward to helping encourage and equip students as they share the gospel with their fellow students. I am convinced that students are the best placed people to reach other students for Christ, while I also believe that Christian Unions are a great opportunity for students to cut their teeth in Christian leadership, so I look forward to playing my role in helping them to be effective in sharing Christ with the campus, by passing on what I have learnt so far

and what I will be learning during the programme.

Another reason why I have chosen to do the Relay programme is that there will hopefully be opportunities for me, as a recent graduate, to join in with the students in sharing the gospel with students who do not yet know Jesus. While I am convinced that students are the best placed people to reach other students for Jesus, there are lots of students to reach. There are approximately 100,000 students in Leeds alone!

The Relay programme will allow me to spend time with students who are interested in learning more about Jesus, so I hope to be able to go through some seeker Bible studies with these students. I have been privileged to have opportunities to do this as a student, and although being very nervous the first time, I enjoyed going through the studies with friends very much. It will be exciting to see what opportunities

arise and how they develop as I do the Relay programme.

As mentioned above, the work of UCCF: The Christian Unions is done in partnership with the local church, and the Relay programme is no different. That means each member of the church can play a role in helping to reach students for Jesus. This could be through personally partnering with me in prayer and financially to enable my work as I do the Relay programme. Please do let me know if this is something that would interest you. I am grateful for the way that South Parade as a whole church has partnered with UCCF over the years, and am excited to continue to be a part of this as a Relay Worker over the next academic year.

Tim Jackson

Sent Mission Community

...informed...

Find out more about the work of UCCF: The Christian Unions at www.uccf.org.uk

uccf:thechristianunions
making disciples of Jesus Christ in the student world

Prayer Diary



August & September 2017

AUGUST

Sun	6	The Ministry Team
Mon	7	Steve and Hazel Randall moving to Norfolk (<i>page 26</i>)
Tue	8	Our friend on home assignment from North Africa
Wed	9	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Thu	10	The new BMS General Director (<i>page 15</i>)
Fri	11	Peter and Anne Morden as they move to Leeds
Sat	12	Kate Burkett
Sun	13	Preachers and worship leaders in all Mission Communities
Mon	14	Christians working in science
Tue	15	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Wed	16	Your own place within South Parade
Thu	17	Young people receiving A level results
Fri	18	The church office
Sat	19	The Joanna Project
Sun	20	South Parade Together

Pull out and use!

Mon	21	Geoff King
Tue	22	Local government councillors and leaders
Wed	23	Ann and David MacFarlane in Italy (<i>page 12</i>)
Thu	24	Young People receiving GSCE results
Fri	25	The Deacons
Sat	26	Nathan Shipley
Sun	27	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Mon	28	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Tue	29	Under 5s as they picnic at Meanwood Park
Wed	30	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Thu	31	The Elders
SEPTEMBER		
Fri	1	New clergy at Headingley churches (<i>page 9</i>)
Sat	2	Peter Morden and his Induction today
Sun	3	Headingley Morning Mission Community
Mon	4	Sam and Katie
Tue	5	Hannah Preston and Kate Churchill
Wed	6	Tim Jackson and his role as UCCF Relay Worker (<i>page 16</i>)
Thu	7	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Fri	8	ABC Coffee Shop
Sat	9	Heather McLeen
Sun	10	Connect Mission Community
Mon	11	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	12	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	13	TLG mentors working with children in schools

Thu	14	St George's Crypt
Fri	15	Work with children and young people across the church
Sat	16	Paul Rockley
Sun	17	South Parade Together
Mon	18	Those in hospital or waiting for treatment
Tue	19	Levi Booth in Japan
Wed	20	The Barnabas Bunch
Thu	21	Sent Mission Community
Fri	22	Drop-in @ Cragg
Sat	23	Students starting University for the first time
Sun	24	Your Mission Community
Mon	25	Someone you know who doesn't know Jesus
Tue	26	Katharine Widdowson, church treasurer
Wed	27	Chris Gnanakan
Thu	28	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Fri	29	Students at the Leeds School of Theology (<i>page 14</i>)
Sat	30	Pray for another local church
OCTOBER		
Sun	1	Cragg Mission Community
Mon	2	JustAct Middle East
Tue	3	Rooted
Wed	4	Caring for Life
Thu	5	Transformations Leeds
Fri	6	Under 5s work across the church
Sat	7	The Sent comedy night (<i>page 10</i>)

Pray for the Sila Region of Chad

In partnership with other agencies and the local church, SIM is seeking to recruit a multi-national, multi-skilled, multi-faceted team to reach the neglected tribes of the Sila Region. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send people who will be willing to serve the local community, eager to share the good news in relationship, committed to working as a team and to discipling others until we see multiplying disciples of Jesus amongst every people group of the Region.



Creation Care Deforestation and soil degradation are significant environmental issues affecting the subsistence farmers of the Sila Region. Environmental and agricultural consultants will be helpful.

Sports and Recreation Sports ministries can have a very significant impact on the lives of children, youth and their families. Sports ministers are needed who will help the local church develop this ministry to the youth.

Social Justice After the trauma suffered by refugees of the Darfur crisis, there is a need for workers to develop programmes to foster peace and reconciliation, and to assist communities recover from trauma.

Community Health In a region with significant healthcare challenges, workers are needed to help provide basic services and teach preventative care and basic hygiene in the community and in church-run clinics.

Skills Training There is great demand in the towns and refugee camps for skills training in literacy, English, French, communications technology and other vocational training. Teachers wanted.

Christian Worldview Educators The majority of students in the local church-run school are from Muslim families. The church has recognised a need to train their teachers in Christian Worldview Education so that they can better impact the minds of the many Muslim students they teach. Teachers are wanted for the public school too.

Serving In Mission

www.sim.co.uk



Summer Reads is Here!

Summer has arrived! And what better way to spend your relaxation time than being encouraged, challenged, and inspired in your faith whilst enjoying God's creation (weather-permitting!)

I've been challenged recently to cut back the time I spend watching TV and films. Although this has not been easy, I've felt free to spend my time in other ways and enjoyed being more creative with my evenings. Reading has been one of the most enjoyable uses of my time. I'm a reader anyway, but I've found reading a book together with someone else (my husband Joe) has made it more fun, and helped me to process what it means for me, or what the challenge is.

There are so many different kinds of books in the church library at Headingley; from fast-paced stories of missionaries, to in-depth ethical, theological and scientific works, as well as heart-warming reminders that we are children of God.

There are books for the young and the not-so-young, and as Ruth

Moody mentioned at Sent recently, if it's not in the library but you've found it helpful, you can donate it! If you're not a big reader, then please be encouraged to take a look - some of the most useful books are very short but can have a big impact eg *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness* by Tim Keller (48 pages).

There are many different kinds of books in the church library from fast-paced stories to in-depth theological works

The new foyer bookcase will be there at Headingley throughout the summer, and we'll continue to add and promote new books. So please have a browse over tea and coffee to see if there's a book to equip you, as we grow, pray, encourage and embark on adventures together.

Rio Walsh

SPBC Intern



Recommended Reads

Searching for God

John Lockwood recommends this accessible book by an eminent climatologist and Christian.

***The Search for God: Can Science Help?* by John Houghton**



the search for God as the creator of the Universe. But the situation is not straight forward, because God is also searching for us through Jesus!

In his introduction to this book, Sir John Houghton comments that from the earliest creation stories to the big bang scenarios of modern science, the basic urge to seek the truth has remained unchanged. But the search for truth can lead us beyond the present to questions of ultimate causes - to

Science and faith should not be held in separate compartments but should support and illuminate each other

Sir John comments that a common experience of those who pursue this search is the discovery that God is quietly but intently searching for them. Equally it can be argued that the purpose of creation is to hide God, because we could not withstand the intolerable impact of total reality.

In the preface to his book Sir John writes that it is important to him that his science and his faith should not be held in separate compartments but should support and illu-

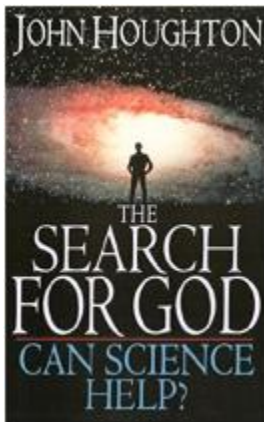


minate each other. He also writes that since he is a Christian, much of what he writes is from the standpoint of the Christian faith: he is referring almost exclusively to God as understood in the Judaeo-Christian tradition: the God presented to us in the Bible.

Sir John began his scientific career at Oxford University where he was Professor of Atmospheric Physics from 1976 to 1983 when he moved to be Chief Executive of the UK Meteorological Office until his retirement in 1991. He was co-chair of the Science Assessment for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1988-2002. Sir John has a vast experience of working with environmental problems and government committees. I have heard him say that he found it helpful to pray before chairing a high-powered meeting.

In this book, adapted from his Oxford Templeton Lectures given in 1992, Sir John explores the overlap between the concerns of science

and religion. The book is divided into six parts, and a reader may find it useful to read just one or two of the later parts if they are pressed for time.



1. Our place in the Universe. (The Big Bang and all That)
 2. Where can we find God? (A God Who Hides)
 3. How can we describe God. (Space and Time)
 4. The nature of God. (A Personal God)
 5. God in action. (What Happens when We Pray?)
 6. Science and faith. (Stewards in God's World)
- Appendix: Quantum mechanics.

Sir John carefully points out the two revelations of God - the revelation in nature and the revelation in the person of Jesus. Including God's self-revelation in Jesus in the scientific picture is like the inclusion of perspective.

John Lockwood

Cragg Mission Community

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Proverbs 9.10 (NIV)

View from the Piano

Farewell to Steve and Hazel Randall

We send all our best wishes to Steve and Hazel Randall who are moving to Norfolk over the summer. Here they reflect on their time at South Parade, as seen by Steve from the piano keyboard at Headingley.

It is with mixed feelings that we are saying farewell to South Parade, the church which has been part of our lives since 1985. We are grateful for the fellowship, the teaching and for the friends at church who have been there for us when we've needed it. We have learnt so many lessons through the excellent teaching and from examples of generosity and faithfulness.

We moved to Becketts Park Drive in 1985. On our very first day in our new house, Geoff Greer (a stranger at that time) knocked on

our door and invited us to South Parade followed by Sunday lunch at his home. At South Parade, Tony Fox almost immediately invited us to join the Music Group - and the rest is history. In those days, David Morris had just begun his time here. This was before Adel, Cragg Hill, and Connect congregations were part of South Parade, and long before the re-modelling of the sanctuary in 1998.



Steve and Hazel

The music group became a large part of our lives and we have had the pleasure of singing and playing with many talented and friendly people over the years. We have many

memories of both playing week by week (morning and evening in the old days), and being able to serve in other ways. Supporting Trevor Daykin (Leeds City Mission) at the LGL, Christmas carols in shopping centres, and most memorably at

Armley Jail where our first visit was the very moving baptism service of two of the inmates. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve God in so many ways, visiting old people's homes with some seasonal entertainment and the Christmas message, playing at weddings and funerals, and performing for specials: a CD of home-written songs (actually a cassette), and even a proper concert (with a programme!). And lots of socials - with lots of food...

We also remember with affection and amusement the times when things haven't gone smoothly. When I played *Be Bold, Be Strong* in the wrong key, and everyone had to sing a top A! When I misunderstood the minister's gesture encouraging the congregation to stand, and went up a key. When I was so glad that someone else was playing the piano during a Christmas service when a child was sick over the keyboard. (The pianist had to move down an octave while mopping up took place around him.)

I apologise for the times when I have played too fast, or too slow, or too loud. I apologise for not always playing in time with your clapping. I apologise for the wrong

notes and fluffed introductions. You have been very patient. Thank you.

Our homegroup (still quaintly named Neighbourhood Fellowship Group 3) has been great fun too. Good fellowship, more socials and more food! Our friends there have been more support and encouragement than they will ever know.

In 2011 South Parade was also the sending church when Hazel went to China with the BMS. This was a great adventure for Hazel who greatly appreciated those who prayed for her and took an active interest in the work there. Steve was also glad to have friends in Leeds who ensured that he wasn't lonely and remained well fed!

We are now moving to Sheringham, but we expect to be regular visitors to South Parade - and hope that Steve will help with the music from time to time. As South Parade enters an exciting new stage with Peter Morden, we're sorry that we won't be part of it, but wish you every blessing for the future. You will always have a special place in our hearts.

Steve & Hazel Randall

Headingley Morning Mission Community



Poetry to Ponder

Inspired by the recent Summer Reads initiative, Catriona Mossop introduces us to a poet with attitude.

My good friend, Angus Paul Young will be six years old in August. He is in the middle of intensive training. The “sitting still” training. During the “all age talk” he has to sit still and listen. Me too. As Encouragement. So I really heard Nathan’s call to read. Summer read – an Adventure – yippee!

I have a house full of neglected books and it is usually my iPad you will find glued to my sticky little paws. After reflection, the Summer read became the big clear out of 2017. Books on Health and health promotion – gone. Psychology books and self help books – gone. Novels, recipe books, lonely planets gone, gone, gone.



And my dusty poetry books? I still can’t quite part with them. The world has moved on and the medium has changed. But a poem can say so much with so few words. So as part of Summer Reads I would like to share a clever poem (printed on the next page). A poem that was shared with me on the island of Iona. It is by a man called Brian Bilston. It’s important that you read down then up the poem.

My colleagues and I visit refugees. The refugees we see are all younger than Angus. They sit very still, too still. And the help they need? Their families need friends and good neighbours.

Angus’ favourite read? *Father Christmas Needs a Wee!* (At time of printing).

Catriona Mossop

...inspired...

See the Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network at lassn.org.uk if you want an adventure.
Brian Bilston’s poem is reproduced with permission.
See brianbilston.com for more fun thoughtful poems.



Refugees

*They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way.*

Brian Bilston

(Then read the poem from the bottom up)

The Three Conversions

Study on Acts 16

Mark Raven from Moortown Baptist Church sent in this study of Acts 16. This chapter of scripture highlights three individuals with three different stories of conversion.

Lydia was a widow. Utterly respectable. Her conversion was a quiet affair. When I think of Lydia I think of John Wesley. One

morning, he opened his Bible at random. It fell open at Mark's gospel. His eyes were drawn to a certain verse: "You are not far from the Kingdom of God". And of course what followed is Methodist history.

L Lydia's conversion happened by a river. She committed herself to the one who is "living water personified". At that time most women spent their days mainly involved in domestic tasks. However, Lydia was a business

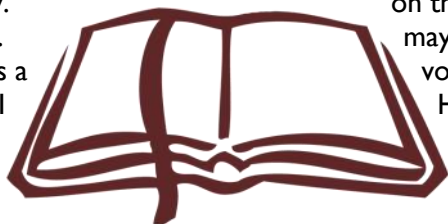
woman. She would feel at home in today's world and amongst the Christian women of today.

And now to the **fortune teller**. I see this woman as being one of easy virtue. She may have spent time

"on the streets". She may have been both volatile and insecure. Her job possessed not one ounce of credibility. The only thing it could

do to anyone was to drag people down. I once had my fortune told at a garden party when I was fifteen. It was all rubbish. The fortune teller in Acts 16 reminds me of Mary Magdalene (who was also delivered from evil spirits). The result of this was that she got the sack. Her boss was amoral and worshipped Mammon (money). But she had gone from the depths to the heights.

The **jailer** was a type of civil servant. He was staggered to see



*The jailer was staggered to
see prison doors opening
and how praise had
produced such power*

prison doors opening and how praise had produced such power. He would have been worried about losing his job and maybe his life. He was determined to have what Jesus' disciples had. When I think of the jailer my mind goes back to a story about a 98 year-old man giving his testimony. He said that on his eighth birthday he was at a meeting and when the appeal was given he jumped over eight benches to get saved. Figuratively speaking, the

jailer would have done something similar to gain his pearl of great price.

And finally, I wonder if these three people were involved in any way in the early church? I would imagine Lydia being a highly efficient and practical member of the church. The former fortune teller may well have had a similar ministry to the woman at the well, in telling people how much Jesus had changed her life. And as for the jailer, he could have been a Bible teacher emphasising "the power of praise".

Mark Raven

Moortown Baptist Church



Forgive you
Respect you
Inspire you
Encourage you
Nourish you
Defend you
Support you

Nicky Gumbell
@nickygumbell

*You use steel to sharpen steel,
and one friend sharpens another.*

Proverbs 27.17 (The Message)

Recommended Reads

Shining Like Stars

In his new role as UCCF Relay Worker (see page 16) Tim Jackson will be reading some insightful books through the study part of the programme. He will be sharing some thoughts about these through the Recommended Reads column over the coming months. He starts by recommending an inspiring book which he read during the last academic year: *Shining Like Stars* by Lindsay Brown.



In this book, Lindsay Brown recalls stories of great faith, courage and perseverance from students and graduates across generations and across the world.

The stories date back to four international students in ancient Babylon in the fifth century BC (check out Daniel !!), and include a case for the Reformation being a work of the Holy Spirit amongst students in Europe. That being said, the book mostly focuses on the power of the gospel in the world's universities during the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

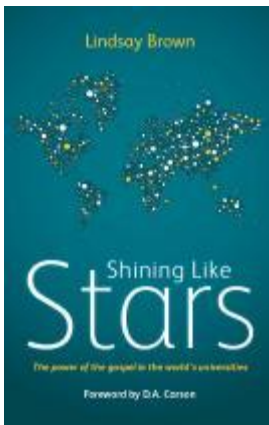


The pages are brimming with remarkable stories of the way God has used willing people to great effect in giving Him glory

The pages are brimming with remarkable stories of the way God has used willing people to great ef-

fect in giving Him glory. One amazing account recalls the incredible impact of international student outreach – a student originally from Zambia was led to faith in Christ as he studied in England, and went on to form a student ministry as he returned to his home country. This ministry had such a significant impact that the then President invited him to the palace asking, “What is this message you are preaching which is turning the university upside down?” (You’ll have to read the book for a full account of this story!)

For me, such stories are really inspiring, as they highlight the potential for mission in general, and student mission in particular. At the same time, some accounts are challenging as they recall the great boldness, perseverance and sacrifice shown by people in trials and persecution.



The book also offers valuable insights in to evangelism strategies and biblical thinking. These are given in the context of student mission, but can be applied to the church in general. Examples include the importance of working in teams as we share the gospel.

The author, Lindsay Brown, was General Secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) from 1991 to 2007, and has been involved in student mission for approximately the last 40 years. His wealth of experience and knowledge makes the book a fascinating read. It is also a great encouragement to read of his enthusiasm for reaching students, and consequently many others, for the gospel.

Tim Jackson

Sent Mission Community

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.



Philippians 2.14-16 (NIV)

Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part 14: The Good Shepherd

Steve Ford brings his farming knowledge into his study in John's gospel.

Jesus continues in John 10.1 by telling a story in answer to the Pharisees' question in the previous chapter, "Are we blind also?" The story goes like this "if you haven't entered into the sheepfold by using the door then you are a thief and a robber and you have no chance of discerning the shepherd's voice when the gatekeeper opens the gate of the fold to the shepherd who then calls His own sheep by name in order to lead them out to pasture."



What Jesus is saying is the sheepfold is a place of safety and the way out is through the gate or door. The door is only opened to the shepherd because he is known by the gatekeeper and when the door is opened the shepherd calls his sheep out in order that he can lead them to pasture in order that they can get food.

*There is complete safety
when the shepherd is
there leading the sheep*

What I like about this section is that Jesus wants us all to have the freedom to go out and come in to the sheepfold in the knowledge that there is complete safety when the shepherd is there leading the sheep. Those sheep that know the shepherd have nothing to fear as they graze freely in open pasture, content in the security that is provided by the presence of the shepherd.

As a farmer at heart I can really appreciate this story. What we know about sheep is that they are quite stupid and nervous by nature, they are not like cattle which generally, by nature are far more inquisitive and less nervous.

For example if you entered a field of sheep they instinctively will head in the other direction and huddle together and try to escape from you whatever the cost, unless of course, you are the shepherd, who they know, and who has come into the field rattling a bucket of nuts and calling them to himself, they will come running towards you because they know you and have security in your presence.

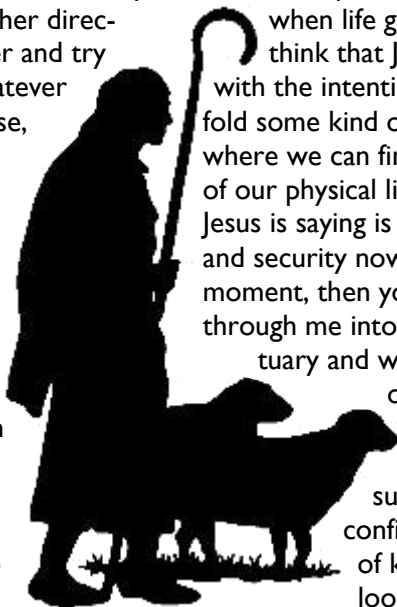
Jesus is saying that is what it is like, my sheep know my voice because they have been led into the fold, through the door by me and through me. It is I that have come to lead them out in the same way that they entered. Anyone else who tries to lead my sheep out by some other route is a thief and a robber.

Jesus says in John 10.16 "I have other sheep that are not of this fold, I must bring them also so they

can hear my voice..." The door is the way in and out of this fold which has one shepherd and Jesus plainly says is one fold and there is only one door, the door he became through his death and resurrection.

You may be asking at this point, "what is the fold, is it heaven or just a safe place for us to hole up when life gets tough?" I don't think that Jesus told this story with the intention of making the fold some kind of aspirational place where we can find safety at the end of our physical lives. I believe what Jesus is saying is "you want safety and security now, in this present moment, then you have to come through me into this place of sanctuary and we can walk in and out together, and find pasture that will enrich and sustain you in the confidence and security of knowing that I will look out for you."

Jesus is very clear with what he is saying. Remember he is still speaking to the religious leaders who are supposed to know God and who also claimed to understand scripture. They had just witnessed a blind man receive sight and yet when hearing this story they still fail to grasp the truth. In John 10.7 Jesus says "I am the door of the



sheep.” This fold is not some kind of place that is for the afterlife, it is not about fitting us or preparing us for a heaven somewhere else, it is all about enabling us to live freely and to confidently go in and out and find pasture in the safe knowledge that the “good shepherd” is here with us.

Abundant life means a life that knows the purpose for which it was created: to bring glory to God

Jesus says that he has come to give us life and not only give us life but enable us to have life in all its fullness, a life in abundance (verse 10). This is freedom now, oh what joy. It is only when we grasp this verse in all its reality that we begin to live a life of abundance. At this point I want to be clear that does not mean a life of health, wealth and prosperity. I believe abundant life means a life that knows the purpose for which it was created. Our created life has the sole purpose throughout eternity to bring glory to the non-created being we call God. We are given life in order for us to radiate God’s wonderful goodness and grace.

To live this “abundant life” we first must enter through the door that is Jesus, into the fold. That implies that there are other souls in the fold who have not entered through the “door”. We then need to find our security in a world that is volatile, selfish, ruthless and violent inside this sheepfold we call home. The only way to do that is to recognise that God in all His glory has come down and has made a way so that we can freely go out and into the fold in order to find pasture without the fear of getting lost.

There is no other way to an abundant, fruitful life than to give up the fight and scramble of trying to get into the fold by some other means but to accept Christ and enter through his wonderful provision of sacrificed life.

Isaiah 43.1 says “Jacob I have created but Israel I have formed.” Just like Jacob we are a project in formation, entering the door into the security of the fold, giving up our struggle to find happiness outside of Christ and His care is part of the formation.

Steve Ford

Headingley Morning Mission Community
blog.steveford.me.uk

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me” John 10.14 (NIV)

Church Noticeboard

Giving



Remember the 4 themes for 2017 at South Parade?

Adventure, Encouragement, Growth, Prayer

If you took the adventurous step of using our envelope scheme to give a small amount to South Parade each week, you would really encourage the Deacons who look after the church's money. With your help the church can grow in so many ways. Pray about it today and talk to David Rugg (who orders the envelopes) or Katharine Widdowson (the church treasurer) on Sunday.

Your giving is totally confidential, guaranteed. Only the Treasurer knows who gives and how much.

Katharine Widdowson

Church Treasurer treasurer@spbc.org.uk

Induction Service

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



(note this is earlier than previously announced)

THE WELCOMERS

IT IS THE
JOB OF THE
WELCOMERS
TO BE
WELCOMING
AND WEAR
A BADGE



THEY ARE
GIVEN
IN-DEPTH
TRAINING
TO EQUIP
THEM FOR
THIS ROLE



IN THE
EVENT
OF ANY
NEWCOMERS
ATTENDING
A SERVICE
A WELCOMER
WILL BE
SUMMONED
TO DEAL
WITH THE
SITUATION



THERE IS
A ROTA
SO THAT
THE SAME
PEOPLE
DO NOT
HAVE TO BE
WELCOMING
EVERY WEEK



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

The Ten People I Sit Near to in Church Every Week

CHRISTIANITY
EXPLODED

#8



--- Family ---

--- Friends ---



People I speak to every week but I'm
still not sure if I know their names

--- Not a clue ---

christianityexploded.tumblr.com



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

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

Senior Minister
Minister

Peter Morden (from September)
Paul Rockley

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

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

Elders

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

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

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



“

*Your word is a lamp to guide me
and a light for my path.*

”

Psalm 119.105 (GNT)

intouch

SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Building Community in Christ