

intouch

A Plate of Poppadoms and the Parable of Prince Philip and the Prince of Peace



Sharing Jesus Through Storytelling
Mark Roques, page 16

In a large church like South Parade, it can be hard to find a place and to get to know other people. Small groups can really help with this - find out more about these in your Mission Community. This month in *Intouch* we meet two church members and find out about their life in and outside of South Parade in the new "Getting to Know You" feature (page 30). If you're asked to take part in this column in future months, be prepared to share, to help everyone feel part of our Community in Christ. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Contents

Page 3	From the Ministry Team: <i>When You've Just Had Enough</i>
Page 5	Around the Church
Page 11	Debt Centre News: <i>Opportunity Knocks</i>
Page 14	Jane's Journeys: <i>Re-entry Cycle</i>
Page 16	From Prince Philip to Jesus: <i>Joy in Evangelism</i>
Page 19	Prayer Diary
Page 23	In Touch - Really?
Page 24	Postcard from Africa
Page 26	Guiding the Ship: <i>Church Administrators Network</i>
Page 28	One to One: <i>A Man of Integrity</i>
Page 30	Getting to Know You: <i>Ruth Moody & Ruth Hughes</i>
Page 33	Ford's Focus: <i>John's Gospel: The Vine and the Branches</i>
Page 36	Poetry to Ponder: <i>Cleaning House</i>
Page 37	Church Noticeboard
Page 38	CartoonChurch & Christianity Exploded

Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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

Deadline for contributions: 21 September 2018

Next edition published: 7 October 2018

From the Ministry Team

When You've Just Had Enough

**I've just begun to read
2 Corinthians.**

It's not the New Testament's most popular read but it's just as well it's not the letter that may have been between 1 and 2 Corinthians, which is variously referred to as the angry, painful or sad letter.

What on earth had happened to the Apostle Paul that he writes he despaired of life itself? We must take this at face value: Paul had

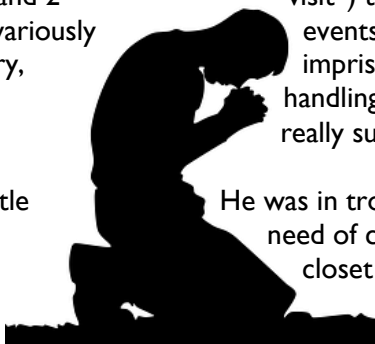
had enough!

Some speculate that he had a nervous breakdown and if the exchange of letters with the Corinthians (and maybe a "painful visit") took place during the events of Acts 19, Paul's imprisonment and rough handling at Ephesus, are we really surprised?

He was in trouble, in anguish and in need of comfort. Was Paul a closet Yorkshireman, so honest and direct? (Well no,

Yorkshiremen don't talk about their feelings do they?) To top it all off he was receiving criticism for not being able to make his mind up... was he going to visit them or not?!

So how are you finding life as a Christian today? In your place of work or on your street? How do you feel about the church, its stance on some matters, its leadership. How do you feel about



the prospect of change in the future and the difficulties of the recent past? Have you like Paul, had enough?

It was so encouraging to attend the celebration of Anne Morden's life, to hear how many people could say that she had pointed them to Jesus and set an example to them. But even this is in the context of the loss that the Morden family (and all of us) feel. Others have also recently lost close family.

What was Paul's approach? Be more organised? Let's pull together! Look on the bright side of life?

It seems that the sufferings of Christ will overflow into our lives (2 Corinthians 1 verse 5) but so will the comfort that comes by being united with Him (verse 4). Mmm, what does that mean?

*I for one need to
learn more about
how to rely on God*

Paul tells us it's all in the context of learning to rely on God and not on ourselves (verse 9).

This is perhaps the biggest test for the Church in the West. We rely on our bank balance, the car on our drive, our education, our methods, our holidays and even the people around us rather than rely on God!

I for one need to learn more about how to rely on God then I may know a bit more of His comfort!

How about you?

Geoff

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all
comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that
we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort
we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share
abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our
comfort abounds through Christ.*

2 Corinthians 1.3-5 (NIV)

Around the Church

South Africa Trip

Taking love from Horsforth to children in South Africa

A team from Horsforth will make their fifth biannual trip to the Valley of a Thousand Hills, South Africa this August. They will go to work with a project called Sethani which seeks to empower a community and relieve orphan poverty in KwaNgcolosi, a semi-rural tribal area of KwaZulu-Natal just north of Durban. Duncan Stow, trip organiser, said “Horsforth has shown itself to be a very generous community. As we have talked about the children we go to support, lots of people have wanted to be generous.”

Students at Horsforth school made dresses as part of their year 9 work, Featherbank school children are giving their school uniforms, and students at St Mary’s school took time to make friendship pompoms to send out to the children in South Africa. Horsforth Junk Food Café have given us a grant to run a

cooking project with the children and on top of that the team will take £8,000 raised during a Three Peaks challenge. That money will help the team with practical projects but also support children who are in acute need either with food parcels or with school uniforms without which they cannot go to school.

“The children we meet are amazing and always greet us with a giant smile”

The team which includes a wide range from 5 to 68 years will organise a Bible holiday club and run lots of fun play activities. Under the supervision of DT teacher Graeme Collins they will undertake practical jobs. On their last visit they built a couple of small playgrounds on the site and make a sheltered astro-turf area for children to eat their lunch on.

Hannah, a former student from Horsforth School who will be going back for a third time, says “the children we meet are amazing, they have very little, almost nothing in terms of material possessions but they always greet us with a giant smile.”

We go to go to give, ready to do whatever is helpful but we always end up being the ones who receive. It is a special thing that the children remember us from the last visit and they are as pleased to see us as we are to see them.

Duncan Stow

Cragg

Headingley

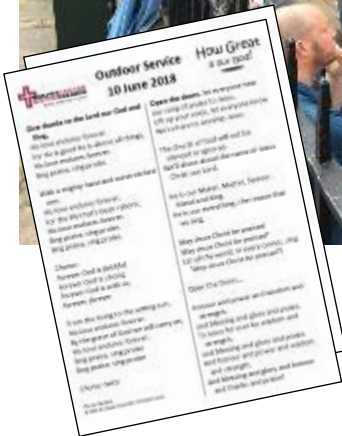
In the last issue of *Intouch* it was highlighted that the Headingley Morning Leadership Team had recently and significantly reduced in number, effectively leaving Scott and me to share the workload. We are happy to report that we will soon be joined by Nelly Dumenu, having been unanimously voted for at the MC Meeting on 12 July.

Before I report further on the MC Meeting, it seems proper to mention some highlights from the summer, beginning with the outdoor service that took place on Sunday 10 June. Pretty much all the credit must go to Sarah Newman for spotting the opportunity and for



Pictures from previous Cragg South Africa trips





Outdoor Service at Headingley on 10 June

making the whole thing happened.

For those not fortunate to have been able to attend, we set up some sound equipment and a few chairs in the courtyard. Refreshments were available in the Green House and an even more relaxed attitude than usual was adopted for the start time of the service. This allowed for people to mingle and chat to others, with whom they may not ordinarily be engaged. Traffic noise should have been much reduced compared to a normal Sunday, although the vehicles involved in installing the

traffic control measures were themselves quite noisy! We have had feedback, and I can add my personal feeling, that there was a positive atmosphere of affirming the gospel message to the local community and passers-by, compared to worshipping within the confines of the church building. Paul Rockley delivered an effective message based on John 3.16, broken up into short sections with songs in between.

The following Sunday was another chance to mingle and enjoy fellowship, this time at our post-

service bring and share picnic. As advertised on several occasions, both in print and on Sunday mornings, these events are being arranged with the intention that everybody involved with Headingley MC (not just members, or regular attendees, or those in well established cliques) should make an effort to engage

with these opportunities. The book of Acts describes the early church being involved with each

other "...and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God..." Being church together is in itself an act of worship.

An opportunity arose on 15 July, in which we could help the under 5's group set up for their summer parties and enabled us to join in with the annual Friends and residents of Beckett Park picnic (see photo below). Again it was promoted for all the Mission Community to get involved. On both picnic occasions, it seemed that new friendships were started, games were played, food was enjoyed and it was good to see people outside the usual environs of the church building. The next event of this type is

planned for around 1 September. Keep an eye on the notice sheet and announcements on a Sunday, confirming the details. It would be really great to see people there from right across the cultural spectrum of Headingley morning congregation, building community in Christ.



It's Your Move is an initiative run by Heather for schools around the local area. It is intended to be part of the

transitional process as the pupils leave primary school and move up to high school. Heather reports:

It was great this year with 120 kids coming along from 4 schools. Sadly 2 schools had to pull out at the last minute because of other things going on at school. For the first time we paired up with the Gideons, co-

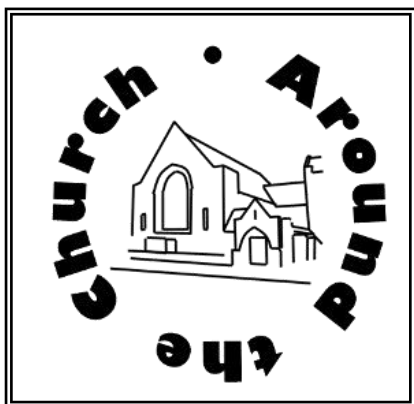


Picnic at Becketts Park on 15 July

ordained through Tim and Hazel Rowe, and gave all the children a New Testament and Psalms. The schools were very grateful and one school emailed after and said the children were very excited about receiving them. It's great to see a real mix of people helping out at these events, I think this really adds to what we deliver to the schools. We are always open to new people helping out.

Redmire Sundays will emulate the atmosphere of the residential weekend within the timeslot of the normal Sunday session

At the end of the Spring half-term break, Heather and a group of leaders organise a residential weekend, called Redmire. It is often reported how beneficial the time is



for children, the junior leaders and for the adults involved. For some children, this weekend is the only contact they have with church, and some children from church invite their friends to come along too.

The idea behind Redmire Sundays is for them to be run monthly on the first Sunday of the month from September, and to emulate the atmosphere of the residential weekend, but within the timeslot of the “normal” Sunday session. These will give the kids a different kind of session, fast moving with up front teaching, music, quiz and then age appropriate groups for craft/ discussion. This gives the Junior Church leaders a week off from planning and we’ll need fewer leaders, as we’re all in the same room. We will also be involving the junior leaders we have at Redmire and getting them involved in helping at junior church.

This initiative does not really alleviate the need for more support in running our valuable Junior Church sessions, which has seen a steady but significant decline over the last year or more. If you are able to help, (and why would you not be able?) please speak to either Heather or Greg for the opportunity to see our children develop their personalities and to engage with their spiritual growth.

On Thursday 12 July we held our most recent Mission Community meeting. 11 people were present.

- As mentioned above, we unanimously voted in favour of Nelly Dumenu joining the Leadership Team.
- We discussed the idea of having a service centred around supporting people who have experienced significant life change, such as grief. It was positively received, with some thoughtful suggestions on content and links to established resources.
- We got feedback on recent preaching subjects / preachers / service content etc, and gathered some suggestions that may be incorporated into the autumn preaching schedule.
- The potential to reach out to the new student intake in the local area was given some time, with group discussions and feedback generating some useful and interesting ideas. Following the success of the open air service in June, it was suggested to have a similar event in September.



- A proposal received by email that we discussed as a Leadership Team and thought would benefit from further consideration at the MC meeting was the potential to run an “English café”. It is a simple idea, using resources already present at Headingley during the week and would require just a few more volunteers to help out. There are refugees and asylum seekers in the Leeds area who would benefit greatly from being able to engage in conversational English. If we could run a session each week, to provide refreshments and access to willing volunteers for the conversation element, it would be helpful to those in need.

Please do get in touch if you have any suggestions about the content above, if you would like further information, or to get more involved with the wider work of our Mission Community. Scott and I can be contacted directly or through the church office.

Richard Sykes

Headingley MC Leadership Team

...informed...

Share news from your corner of the church by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk



Debt Centre News

Opportunity Knocks

Bethany Cowling introduces the next update from South Parade's CAP Debt Centre.

In the month of June alone, our CAP Debt Centre met with 6 new individuals and families who are in unmanageable debt and approached us for help. In addition to these new contacts, our volunteers carried out follow up visits with a further 4 clients.

In a month, our church has had the opportunity to take the Gospel into 10 homes that we otherwise had no contact with. What a privilege and

chance to build community in Christ!

Steve Fairhall, our Centre Manager, and a befriender (more on that later) have first visited these homes to find out more about their situations and explain how CAP can help, before arranging further visits to get into the nitty gritty of the debts that need dealing with. They have also introduced South Parade Baptist Church as a place where everyone will receive a warm welcome, spoken about the God that we worship and offered prayer.

Last time, I promised to share some real-life stories from our Debt Centre, so here are the stories of 2 of the new households we're now working with:

- Client 1 is a single Mum with two school-aged children and a baby. She suffers from mental health issues and has been a victim of domestic violence. Isolated and with no family close by to help out, she has a 12 mile



round bus journey to her children's school each morning, and again to collect in the afternoon. Before she started receiving our help, she was living in fear as she was being aggressively pursued for repayment of her debts. She would ask the children to be quiet every time the doorbell rang so that it would appear that no-one was home. We pray that through our CAP Debt Centre, Client 1 can become debt-free, and find a loving, Christ-centred community at South Parade who will welcome her and her children in, provide friendship and practical support, and tell her about the God who loves her.

- Client 2 is middle-aged man who, through his financial difficulties, has lost his home and is staying with various friends to avoid living on the streets. We have met with him in our church building as he has no home we can visit. How brilliant that we can invite him to join our Rooted group and use this as another way to demonstrate God's love for him.

Whilst these are only two examples, I hope you can see that

there really is no "typical" CAP client. There are many reasons why someone may be in debt. There are families, couples, single people, old and young, employed, unemployed – I could go on. But a common theme is that debt is frightening, isolating and impoverishing.

*Thank you for praying
for our Debt Centre.
Could you provide
practical help too?*

And, of course, all of these people need Jesus, their only Saviour and hope. We can show him to them. *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11.23-30)

Thank you for praying for our Debt Centre. Please could you prayerfully consider whether you can provide practical help too? Every visit that we make to a client needs a befriender for safeguarding reasons, and also so that there are more faithful members of South Parade building relationships with the people we meet.

We currently have a very small pool of volunteers who generously give their time to attend these visits, but, if we want to continue reaching 6 new households a month (or more!) then we desperately need more people to help out. Please come and speak to me, or email me at bethanycowling@capuk.org with any questions you may have.

Our CAP Debt Centre doesn't only throw open the doors of the church for new people to come in –

it sees our church stepping out of its comfort zone and into the homes of some of the most marginalised in our local community.

It's in these faith-stretching activities that God loves to show us his power at work. Join us and come and see for yourself!

Bethany Cowling

Christians Against Poverty
Headingley Morning Mission Community

...involved...

If you would like to receive regular prayer updates from the CAP Debt Centre, please email bethanycowling@capuk.org



...informed...

For service times, locations, Mission Communities, children's and student work, the weekly notice sheet, sermon downloads, this magazine and much more, go to the church website!

www.spbc.org.uk

*If Thou art my Shield and my Sun,
the night is no darkness to me;
and fast as my moments roll on,
they bring me but nearer to Thee.*



Augustus Toplady

Jane's Journeys

Re-entry Cycle

As Jane Waites further develops her role with Teach Beyond and SHARE, here are some highlights from her latest newsletter.

Wow! Phew, a... n...d rest! What a full few months, since I last wrote. Working at Caring For Life, Christmas, Easter, a conference, a 70th birthday, one team and one operational planning meeting, plus a couple of revolutions further through the washing cycle Re-entry.

Huge thanks go to Caring for Life, who have been fantastic in facilitating my new work by supporting my requests for days off, switching and then offering extra shifts when I'm back. I very much feel in partnership with the work there. Not to mention the interest, encouragement and support they give. I love the opportunity to work in a community setting again, having regular contact with the

public, hoping to bring a smile and sunshine into their day.

The end of February found me in Budapest for my first taste of a Family Education Conference (FEC) with SHARE. What an absolute privilege to both see this endeavour in action alongside my new colleagues and be a part of supporting the families we work with. I had the chance to observe each part of the conference: children's work, seminars, the all-together meetings and testing. It was an

honour to be allowed to sit in on some educational testing and family consultancy sessions.

This gift of time helped determine where I will fit within SHARE and the teams I will be joining. I am therefore pleased to let you know I have joined the Education Testing Team and the Staff Development/Member Care Team. My head is still



Jane Waites

spinning from all I have to learn and get my brain around.

At the end of April, I joined the testing team for training in Serbia, (for my birthday, with gorgeous weather, I might add, what a treat!).

The time spent with my new colleagues was very precious and hugely beneficial. I now feel much more connected

From Serbia, it was on to Budapest, for Operational Planning meetings, with the core of SHARE Staff. More information to process and dots to connect! A lot of work was focused on the new GDPRs and the effect they have on the data protocols SHARE already have in place and how they need adapting or increasing, and on dates and initial thoughts for planning next years meetings and FECs.

The time spent with my new colleagues was very precious and hugely beneficial. I now feel much more connected and part of an organisation that only meets four or five times a year, connecting over the internet in

between. Remote working is a new experience for me and one I have not found easy. Hearing the voice of a colleague in my head and picturing them speaking as I read an email or Skype without video makes all the difference.

I referred earlier to the washing cycle I've renamed Re-entry. It's 19 months since I left my last company and place of work. Reflecting, I can liken the process to "living in a washing machine cycle". The programme starts with a couple of gentle tumbles and then all is still, calm, for a while as the water fills up and I start to feel a little soggy! Then the tumbling begins... there is a lull for draining, moments later the world begins to spin! Then a pause for refilling, and on we go. I think I am about three-quarters of the way through, but I'm not sure about the final spin. I

am hoping I'm in the woollens cycle, so the spin is gentle!

Thank you so much for all your continued encouragement and support. I can't do this alone.



With Love

Jane Waites

From Prince Philip to Jesus

Joy in Evangelism

Mark Roques explains how a story-telling approach, aware of secular mindsets, is in keeping with how Jesus communicated 2,000 years ago.

It was the worst of times. It was the best of times. Years ago I tried to tell a non-Christian friend, Derek about my Christian faith. I was walking along a road in Bishopston, Bristol talking football and suddenly I blurted out: "Derek, you need Jesus." Derek said nothing. He just gave me a withering look. We went back to our conversation about Bristol Rovers and their bitter rivalry with Bristol City.

I've spent a lot of time since then pondering my abject failure to communicate my faith to my friend. How could I witness in such a way that the conversation would flow naturally and engagingly? Without evoking that cold contempt.

Fast forward to last November. I am at a family do, scoffing sandwiches, sipping tea and I am talking to an old friend, Elke from Sweden and I have never talked to her about Jesus before. I told her a parable that I had crafted for anyone who enjoys talking about the royal family. Elke

loves chatting about the Windsors so I said: "Did you know that there are people on the island of Tanna in the South Pacific Ocean who worship the Duke of Edinburgh as a god?"



Elke looked intrigued and her body language encouraged me to continue: "The islanders used to be committed cannibals and they ate the first two missionaries who came to their island. More missionaries arrived, told them about Jesus and many of the locals became Christians and stopped eating each other. Now they have exchanged the Prince of Peace for Prince Philip. What do you make of that?"

Elke started to giggle. "That's a fascinating story. It can't be true?" "It is true", I replied. "There are four ways of looking at the Prince Philip religion."

"Go on, tell me more", she said as she nibbled on her cupcake.

"Well, atheists would say that both faith in Jesus and faith in Prince Philip is superstitious nonsense. Only physical things exist!" Others say that there are no right or wrong answers; just go with whatever works for you. Prince Philip worshippers would proclaim - "Worship the Duke of Edinburgh. He answers our prayers and when he returns to Tanna, the fish in the sea will dance with joy." The Christian faith has a different take on the story: Christians believe that Jesus is Lord! He can forgive sins because He is the Son of God and He died on the cross for us. Prince Philip cannot forgive sins, nor can his wife."

Elke smiled warmly and before you knew it, she, her husband and I were sitting in an Indian restaurant chatting about the royal family, Frank Sinatra, Mafia hit-men and the Christian faith for several hours as we munched on the pop-padoms. At the end of the evening they both thanked me for a great time together. I felt joyful and

thankful as I took the train home. I had sowed gospel seeds in their lives.

*I adopted a storytelling
approach to sharing faith;
something I had learned
from Jesus*

It's helpful to compare and contrast these two encounters. With Derek it was awful. There was nothing natural or inviting about my God-talk; it was clumsy and inappropriate. I didn't engage with Derek at all. In my conversation with Elke I had adopted a storytelling approach to sharing faith; something I had learned from Jesus. First I asked her a question about the Duke of Edinburgh; something that she already knew about and found interesting. Then I told her a story which she enjoyed. I then invited her to look at the story from four different angles.

The tone and style of this approach is invitational and non-threatening. I was comparing and contrasting different ways of understanding the Prince Philip religion. To do this it's vital to understand two very popular secular mindsets. Secular people live as if there is no God. Some are materialists and others are relativists.

Materialists believe that physical stuff is all there is. There is no immaterial realm beyond physical detection (no spirit, soul, angels, God). There is no intelligence, design or purpose behind, or at work in the universe. American professor Marvin Minsky put it like this: “A human-being is a computer made of meat.”

Relativists believe that there is no absolute truth. There are only individual preferences that are subjective. Individual choice is sacred. American artist Tom Friedman hired a witch in 1992 to curse a space above a white block. His comments were relativist: “If you believed it, it exists. If you didn’t, it didn’t exist.”

I helped Elke and her husband to understand these secular mindsets before unpacking faith in Prince

Philip and contrasting it with faith in Jesus. Traditional evangelism often ignores secular mindsets and that is one reason why it fails to engage. The storytelling compare and contrast method allowed me to spend two hours talking to Elke and her husband about repentance, the cross and resurrection hope. There was no disdain. No withering looks.

In conclusion I believe that this storytelling way of communication is exactly what Jesus did 2,000 years ago. He got a crowd around him and told parables and asked questions about God’s kingdom. Why aren’t we doing this today?

Mark Roques

Mark Roques preaches at Cragg Hill Baptist church in Horsforth. He is the director of RealityBites which is part of the Thinking Faith Network based in Leeds. Find out more at <https://thinkfaith.net/realitybites>

...inspired...

If you would like to know more about this creative, storytelling approach to evangelism read Mark’s new book The Spy, the Rat and the Bed of Nails: Creative Ways of Talking about Christian Faith.



*“All Jesus did that day was tell stories -
a long storytelling afternoon.”*

Matthew 13.34 (The Message)

Prayer Diary



August - September 2018

AUGUST

Sun	5	The Ministry Team
Mon	6	The Morden Family
Tue	7	Heather McLeen
Wed	8	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Thu	9	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Fri	10	Your neighbours
Sat	11	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Sun	12	Preachers and worship leaders in all Mission Communities
Mon	13	The Cragg trip to South Africa
Tue	14	Rooted
Wed	15	Your friends and family who don't know Jesus
Thu	16	Students getting A level results
Fri	17	The church office
Sat	18	People getting married this summer
Sun	19	All of South Parade's Mission Communities

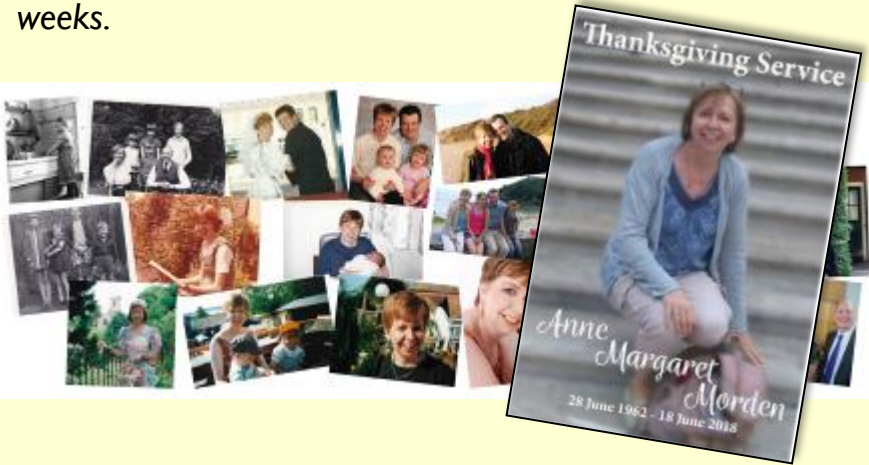
Pull out and use!

Mon	20	Irene West
Tue	21	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Wed	22	Geoff King
Thu	23	People who have been baptised recently
Fri	24	The Deacons
Sat	25	Nathan Shipley
Sun	26	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Mon	27	Kate Burkett
Tue	28	Sam and Katie
Wed	29	Jane Waites
Thu	30	The Elders
Fri	31	Paul Rockley
SEPTEMBER		
Sat	1	Levi Booth
Sun	2	Redmire Sunday
Mon	3	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Tue	4	Kate Churchill
Wed	5	New and returning students to Leeds
Thu	6	Teddy Praise and Play
Fri	7	ABC Coffee Shop
Sat	8	Transformations Leeds
Sun	9	Connect Mission Community
Mon	10	Steve Fairhall and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	11	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	12	TLG mentors working with children in schools

Thu	13	George's Crypt
Fri	14	Joanna Project
Sat	15	Those in hospital or waiting for treatment
Sun	16	Headingley Morning Mission Community
Mon	17	Retired people in the church
Tue	18	Cragg Mission Community
Wed	19	Work with children and young people across the church
Thu	20	Sent Mission Community
Fri	21	BMS working with children around the world.
Sat	22	Megan Hobbs
Sun	23	Everyone who works to keep the church clean and maintained
Mon	24	Peter Morden
Tue	25	Katharine Widdowson, church treasurer
Wed	26	Chris Gnanakan
Thu	27	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Fri	28	Your Mission Community
Sat	29	All those who've lost loved ones recently
Sun	30	St George's Crypt
OCTOBER		
Mon	1	Tim Jackson in his new role in Austria
Tue	2	Leeds Faith in Schools
Wed	3	Ruth Moody & Ruth Hughes
Thu	4	CAP Debt Centre volunteers
Fri	5	Caring for Life
Sat	6	The Ministry Team

Anne Morden

At Anne Morden's Thanksgiving Service at South Parade on 4 July the church came together with her family and friends to remember her, to thank God for her life, and to support the family in their time of grief. We continue to pray for Peter, Joe and Rachel and the wider family over the coming weeks.



There is a higher throne than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from every tongue will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace - salvation comes.

And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne;
We'll honour Him in perfect song, where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die,
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King; we'll reign with Him.

*Hear heaven's voices sing; their thunderous anthem rings
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies, their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power, strength, thanks, and honour are
To God our King, who reigns on high, forevermore.*

Keith & Kristyn Getty

© 2003 Thankyou Music CCLI 1730

In Touch - Really?

This magazine will give you some information about what is going on, but for members and friends there is lots more.

Sunday worship, and a small group during the week, usually in someone's home. Prayer meetings and the bi-monthly Church Meeting for seeking God's will for his church. And occasional emails to inform and update you. And online access to church documents etc.

To have online access to the various church documents you need a user name and a password, and to log in with these to read and acknowledge our "Privacy and Data Protection Policy" online. If you have received an email with a user name and initial password but for any reason did not use it, or failed to log in please contact me, secretary@spbc.org.uk for a fresh initial password.

If you did not receive an email in May with a user name and initial password it could be that we don't have a correct email address for you. Please contact me at secretary@spbc.org.uk



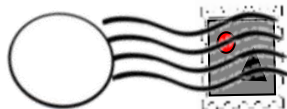
We know that some have had difficulty with logging in to read the privacy policy. We now know that this can occur due to internet browser programs "remembering" incorrect, inappropriate or outdated information. There is a simple fix, telling your browser to forget "history", but if this applies to you then you will first need to ask me for a new initial password, as these are time-limited and expire after 30 days whether used or not. Further help will be given individually as necessary.

Charles Fletcher

Church Secretary
secretary@spbc.org.uk

Postcard from Africa

*Everyone at South Parade
c/o Intouch Magazine
South Parade Baptist Church
Kirkstall Lane
Headingley
Leeds LS6 3LF
UK*



AIRMAIL



Dear friends

A glass of tea... It's interesting how so much of life gets lived around such a small thing. From the highest to the lowest, the richest to the poorest, it is a joy that everybody here shares.

For us it has been a means of connecting with people, learning to make tea that our friends and neighbours

appreciate, and the gentle tease when they say yet again that it isn't sweet enough.

We have been here for 6 months now and are starting to adapt to the language and culture around us. We have already been blessed with opportunities to share something of the Hope that we have.

Lots of love and many blessings,

S & K

Guiding the Ship

Church Administrators Network

Ministry Team member Kate Churchill reflects on her role after the church recently hosted the UK Church Administrators Network (UCAN) for their area training day.

It was fantastic to meet other church administrators from the local area and interesting to discover that we had as many commonalities as differences in our experiences. I hope to get involved in a local group, meeting others about once a term to share best practice, encourage each other and pray for our respective churches.

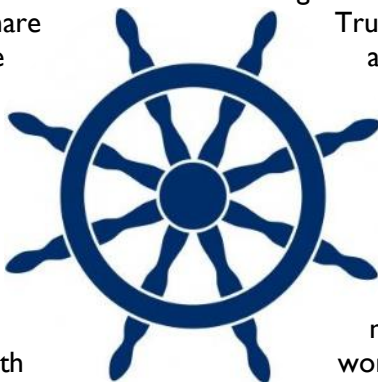
Megan Hobbs came along with me: she has been supporting the activities of the church office as part of her South Parade Internship, particularly thinking about ways we can develop a communication strategy. Claire Ginn was also there as she provided

us with a lovely lunch, seen as something of a highlight by the other churches present.

This image of steering and guiding the ship is of great encouragement to me

The theme was “Administration: biblical and creative” and the training was delivered by John

Truscott. He is an amazing and inspirational speaker who founded UCAN and works as a church consultant. One of the things he talked about was the gift of administration. The word for administration in the original Greek is *kubernēsis*, which comes from a verb meaning to steer or guide a ship. This was such an interesting way of



looking at my role and gifting at South Parade in the church office, a place I have now called home for nearly three years.

I have sometimes wondered how my administration tasks fitted with being in the Ministry Team, especially when I need to talk to them about GDPR, health and safety, and calendars while they talk about much more exciting topics like Alpha courses, Christianity Explored, Barnabas Bunch, CAP and children, youth and student work. At other times, I have said that I feel like I am the Church Mum, trying to get everyone sorted and out of the door on time for school. This image of steering and guiding the ship is of great encouragement to me, it felt like it married my two experiences of this role, giving me permission to bring people's attention to our legal obligations and commitments but doing so creatively and in God's strength.

The summertime is a great opportunity for reflection and to seize the

opportunity to do some planning for future development. Last year, we were all encouraged through Rio's Internship to use the Church Library in the Summer Reads initiative and this was brought back into focus this week in the Sent Weekly News email. I will be attempting to read, reflect and consider what I should do next.

Last year, I was fortunate to attend the monthly School of Theology sessions which were brilliant at improving my confidence and biblical knowledge. One of my options for more formal development would be to undertake a distance learning course in church administration, run in collaboration with UCAN and St John's College, Nottingham. Please keep praying with me for our Ministry Team's professional and spiritual development.

Kate Churchill

Church Administrator

...informed...

Discover more on the UK Church Administrators Network at www.churchadministrators.net

Find more about speaker John Truscott at www.john-truscott.co.uk



One to One

A Man of Integrity

If you could have a “one-to-one” with anyone in the world, dead or alive, who would you choose?

Can you guess my choice from the following clues? Chocolate for anyone who gets it before clue 3.

He was a man of personal integrity who “walked the talk” every day of his life

crusades, became a household name.

- He was the son of a dairy farmer, milking cows twice a day.
- He was converted, aged 16, through the ministry of Dr Mor-decai Ham.
- He preached to 215 million people all over the world.
- He preached to our Queen at Windsor and Sandringham.
- He counselled 9 presidents of the USA.
- He was voted one of the “ten most admired men in the world”, 51 times.
- He died in February this year, aged 99.



Ordained, aged 21, at Florida Bible Institute, he went on to further study at Wheaton College, where he met his future wife, Ruth. They married in 1943 and went on to have five children and 19 grandchildren. In 1950 he founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Organisation, which sponsored his many crusades around the world.

This organisation encouraged churches to be proactive in prayer and witness before the crusade so that the ground was well prepared. Likewise, they expected nurture groups to be ready and waiting for new converts; and this was the responsibility of local churches.

The guy was Dr Billy Graham who, through radio, TV and international

In 1992, aged 74, he was diagnosed with an illness related to Parkinson's disease and Franklin, his son took over the reins. His wife, Ruth, predeceased him. His death, this year, was broadcast by the BBC and, indeed, all over the world.

Personally, if I had had the chance to speak to him "one-to-one", I would have thanked him for the inspiration he has been in my life. I first heard him in 1966 at the Earl's Court Stadium in London. Together with a crowd from my college Christian Union, we piled into a coach travelling down from Bromsgrove. Two of my special friends were converted and still hold firm to their faith to this day. At Mission England 1989, in the Crystal Palace Stadium, I was able to train as a counsellor and witness our own son, Ed, walk forward to give his life to Christ.

Someone else at South Parade has been similarly influenced. After much soul-searching, Owen Carey Jones visited Yeadon Town Hall to hear a relay of the 1985 Crusade. His heart was moved and he walked forward to give his life to Christ.

Billy Graham was a man of personal integrity who "walked the talk" every day of his life. I suppose you could say his mantra was "the Cross". He declared "Christ died on the Cross and the Cross becomes the door which becomes the gate to eternal life". "Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5.17).

Janet Jackson

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Better Than The Beach

*One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship,
beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches.*

*I'd rather scrub floors in the house of my God
than be honoured as a guest in the palace of sin.*

*All sunshine and sovereign is God, generous in gifts and glory.
He doesn't scrimp with his travelling companions.*

It's smooth sailing all the way with God-of-the-Angel-Armies.

Psalms 84.10-12 (The Message)

Getting to Know You

Ruth Moody & Ruth Hughes

This month we meet two people called Ruth in two different South Parade Mission Communities.

Ruth Moody

What role do you have in the life of SPBC?

Although I don't have a named role at Cragg, as a member of the mission community, I help out in different ways when needed. I occasionally do the Bible reading or sing in the worship group during the services. I also steward at Headingley for Sent

and provide support to the Treasurer.

What do you do the rest of the week?
I work part-time as the Financial Controller for a charity, Harrogate International Festivals, which puts on Literature and Music Festivals. Some of you may have seen recent coverage on local TV. Which is also how I spend my spare time, going to concerts and literature events with my friends.

I am also a member of the Art Fund and the National Trust and like visiting Galleries, Museums and Stately Homes. And I volunteer once a month with Torch at their Leeds meeting. Torch is Christian fellowship where blind and sighted people meet on equal terms. Some 110 Torch Fellowship Groups meet informally on a monthly basis across the UK, with many more internationally.

Who supports you as you live out your faith?

My house group and friends are my



main support as I live out my faith, because they are the people who know me.

It is easier to get to know people at Cragg than in a bigger congregation

How can the church family cherish you better?

I like Cragg mission community as it is smaller and it is easier to get to know people than in a bigger congregation. Also, quite a number of the congregation live nearby which means that I can meet people outside of church as well and Cragg also puts on social events for everybody.

I feel as a single person without any family in Leeds that Cragg suits me best but sometimes feel my church family could encourage me better by listening to me and remembering what I say.

Ruth Moody

Ruth Hughes

What role do you have in the life of SPBC?

I'm an Elder, with particular focus for Sent and have the privilege to be a part of the Sent leadership team, serving alongside the ministry

team (Nathan), mission community leader (Chris Dyson) and Megan Hobbs.

What do you do the rest of the week?
A large part of my week is spent at the university where I work as a support scientist, helping people design experiments and image their samples on the microscopes as well as developing new microscopy techniques. I'm very privileged to have such a varied and interesting job, and thank God for the opportunity, and the chances it brings to share my faith.

Outside of work I enjoy going for walks and watching (too much) TV!

I'm fortunate to be a part of a supportive homegroup, where we model to each other living out our faith

Who supports you as you live out your faith?

I'm very fortunate to be a part of a supportive homegroup, where we explore together and try to model to each other living out our faith, even in the messy bits of life, through Bible study, prayer and building relationships. Being a part of the Eldership and the Sent LT is also a great encouragement. Having

so many people around who are generous enough to share from their own experiences is a great support.

How can the church family cherish you better?

The thing that always makes my heart glad is when I see God working in people's lives and them stepping out to try and explore more of what God's call on their life looks like. Just see-

ing that, or hearing people share what they think God might be saying to them or doing in their lives, is such an encouragement - so feel free to stop me and share, whether you think its exciting or unsettling, it would be wonderful to have a better sense of where God is leading and working.

Ruth Hughes

BMS World News

The children we meet need your prayers

Please pray and help to transform the lives of children in countries all over the world. God moves in prayer. Please take a moment to join us.



- Pray for refugee children in Lebanon who are now getting an education thanks to you. Pray that they will feel safe in their environment.
- Preschools across Bangladesh are being supported by you. Pray for the children, that they can concentrate on learning.
- BMS is working to transform the lives of children by improving teaching in Nepal. Pray for Nepali teachers that are receiving training, that they will continue to transform the lives of their students.

For more prayer requests, head here:
www.bmsworldmission.org/prayforchildren



Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part 19: The Vine and the Branches

John 15

This chapter is a continuation of chapter 14 and so is therefore part of the same discourse that Jesus is giving to his disciples.

Whilst he is saying to his disciples in John 14.30 "I do not have much time to talk to you" he reassures them that he and the father know what they are doing and in John 15.1 he says "I am the vine and my father is the gardener" immediately taking his disciples into a place of security where the gardener is in

control and his disciples, along with us, the reader in the 21st century, can rest assured that God knows what he is doing.

Jesus then says that the gardener prunes the vine by removing the dead branches and cutting back those that do produce fruit in order that the vine will produce more fruit.

Jesus is saying is that we all need pruning in order for us to produce fruit



It is the gardener's job to ensure that the vine produces fruit, the job of the gardener is never-ending, he is required to prune, weed, water, care for and monitor the plants within the garden to ensure that the place is kept in a manner that pleases and provides a place of solace and encouragement for the owner and onlookers.

Pruning of a vine is a necessary part

of vineyard husbandry and is required in order for the vine to produce a good quality and quantity of grape, and also to ensure that adequate young shoots are being encouraged for next season's growth. Vines only produce fruit from shoots that are one year old and so require removing once fruiting has finished.

So what Jesus is saying is that we all need pruning continually in order for us to produce fruit and for us to be prepared for fruiting year on year.

A vine has a stock and branches but essentially they appear to be indistinguishable from each other, so when Jesus says in verse 5 "I am the vine and you are the branches" what he is saying is I am the vine, you are the vine, I am the branch, you are the branch. Essentially Jesus and me are one and the gardener does not distinguish between them, he selects the unhealthy branches and the branches that have already fruited he cuts off from the vine so that the vine will continue to be fruitful year on year.

This pruning process is a continual process that is applied to our lives to make us fit for purpose, the purpose of producing fruit for the vine-

dresser who Jesus tells us in verse 1 is his Father.

In verse 3 Jesus begins to piece the picture together by saying "you have already been pruned" (or in the KJV "you are already clean")

"because of the word or message

I have already spoken to you". Jesus is speaking here to the converted, his disciples. He is comforting and preparing his disciples for life on earth without him. He has already made it clear that he is the vine and that every branch of his that is unprofitable is taken out by the father

and destroyed and every fruitful branch is pruned in order to produce more fruit. So here he assumes a point in time where the pruning process has taken place and he makes it very clear that in order for us to be fruitful we must remain in the vine and the vine must remain in us.

As I have already pointed out a vine and its branch are virtually indistinguishable and Jesus is saying that one must remain in the other to produce fruit, which is obvious, but probably overlooked by most of us at some point in our lives. One without the other renders both useless for the



purpose it was intended, that of producing fruit.

The point that Jesus is also making about the importance of remaining in the vine is that he knows that his ministry on earth has been divisive because he knows that essentially “everything is spiritual” and when a person starts from that perspective their life will be at odds with the world because it is so fundamentally different to the selfish, sinful nature of human desire that has been brought about by the fallen state of humanity, the state that Jesus came to restore to a right relationship to God the Father and creator of all. It is in the remaining or abiding in the vine that we find the true meaning of life.

*Life will work if we
abide in the vine and
the vine abides in us*

By ensuring that we remain in the vine, and as Jesus promises to remain in us by the power of the indwelling Spirit that has been given by the Father, we will produce fruit, fruit that will remain.

So Jesus is saying here, to his disciples and to anyone through the expanse of time,

to those who have been made clean by Jesus, that life will work if we **abide in the vine and the vine abides in us**: it is together that we work life out.

This producing of fruit is all about remaining spiritual, it is not about how many souls we have influenced into accepting Christ or how many people have joined our church or how many missionaries we support. It is all about knowing Christ and him crucified and the power of his risen life intertwined and immersed into our innermost spiritual parts so that we are able to stand firm in a turbulent and unstable world, knowing that life is safe and secure because the vine dresser is fully committed to tending his vine so that it produces good fruit for his table.

Jesus' call to action in this chapter is not that we strive to produce fruit but that we abide in the vine and remain indistinguishably joined to the root so that we can testify to the ministry of Jesus and can know a place of security in a topsy-turvy world.

Steve Ford

Headingley Morning Mission Community
blog.steveford.me.uk

Poetry to Ponder

Cleaning House

Pat Dagleish finds another poem to inspire and encourage us.

This anonymous poem has been widely shared on social media and encourages us to look at our lives, and in the spirit of Hebrews 12.1 urges us to “throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and... run with perseverance the race marked out for us”.

If you have found inspiration or comfort in a poem or short piece of prose please send it to the magazine

so we can share it with the whole church.

Cleaning House

*Last week I threw out Worrying,
it was getting old and in the way.
It kept me from being me;
I couldn't do things God's way.*

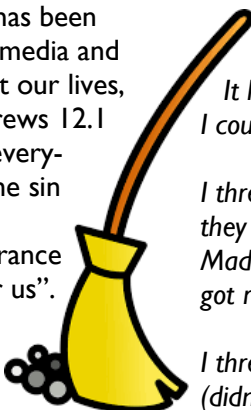
*I threw out those Inhibitions;
they were just crowding me out.
Made room for my New Growth,
got rid of my old dreams and doubts.*

*I threw out a book on MY PAST
(didn't have time to read it anyway).
Replaced it with New Goals,
started reading it today.*

*I threw out hate and bad memories,
(remember how I treasured them so)?
Got me a NEW PHILOSOPHY too,
threw out the one from long ago.*

*Brought in some new books too,
called I CAN, I WILL, and I MUST.
Threw out I might, I think and I ought.
WOW, You should've seen the dust.*

*I ran across an OLD FRIEND,
haven't seen him in a while.*



*I believe his name is GOD,
Yes, I really like His style.*

*He helped me to do some cleaning
and added some things Himself.
Like PRAYER, HOPE and FAITH,
Yes, I placed them right on the shelf.*

*I picked up this special thing
and placed it at the front door.
I FOUND IT - it's called PEACE.
Nothing gets me down anymore.*

*Yes, I've got my house looking nice.
Looks good around the place.
For things like Worry and Trouble
there just isn't any place.*

*It's good to do a little house cleaning,
get rid of the old things on the shelf.
It sure makes things brighter;
maybe you should TRY IT YOURSELF.*

Author Unknown

Church Noticeboard

Festival of Hope

sponsored by Billy Graham
Evangelistic Association UK

- Winter Gardens, Blackpool
- 21-23 September 2018
- Speaker: Franklin Graham
- Details from www.lancshirfestivalofhope.co.uk

LANCASHIRE
**FESTIVAL
OF HOPE**
WITH FRANKLIN GRAHAM

Prayer Meetings

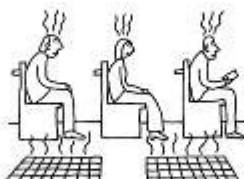
- **Tuesdays** 10.30am-11.15am, Headingley, normally in the Green House
- **Fridays** noon-1pm, Cragg Hill upper room
- **Fridays** 8pm - 9pm, Headingley, normally in the Green House
- **Saturdays** 8am - 11am, Headingley, normally in the Green House



THE SUMMER



EARLY MORNING SERVICES
BECOME POPULAR



THE HEATING FINALLY
STARTS WORKING



A RELIEF CONGREGATION IS
BROUGHT IN TO COVER ABSENTEES



PARISH PICNICS
TAKE PLACE



THERE ARE NOT AS
MANY E-MAILS



MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
SEND POSTCARDS

CartoonChurch.com

Having the Bible on my Phone

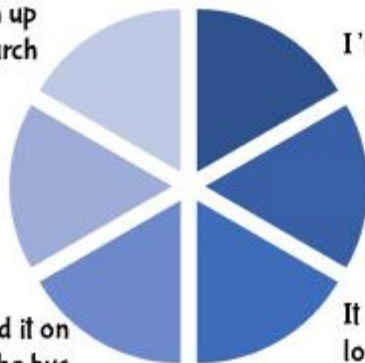
CHRISTIANITY EXPLODED

#14

I can secretly catch up
on Facebook in church

It's always
with me

I can read it on
the bus



I'm so trendy

It's really
convenient

It's easy to
look things up



*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 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
Paul Rockley

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

Nathan Shipley
Heather McLeen
Geoff King
Kate Churchill
Kate Burkett

Elders

Andrew Bedingham,
Freeman Dumenu,
Charles Fletcher (Church Secretary),
Ruth Hughes, John Pelham,
Sue Ricketts, Tim Rowe, Joe Walsh

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

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



“

*Jesus spoke all these things to
the crowd in parables;
he did not say anything to them
without using a parable.*

”

Matthew 13.34 (NIV)

intouch

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