

intouch

What the Angels Carry With Them...



Leeds Street Angels Stories, page 32

As we celebrate our harvest services and an autumn chill is in the air, the theme of “change” runs through this month’s magazine. Irene sends a last “Postcard from North Africa” as she returns to the UK (page 16), and Paul Rockley says farewell and begins a new stage of ministry up the road at Blenheim Baptist Church (page 10). Richard Sykes looks back over a thirty-year spiritual journey in the Step of Faith column (page 28), and Nathan Shipley (page 3) reflects on his first five years at South Parade, reminding us that we serve a God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. And as the church begins to prepare for the future, Peter Morden outlines some of his thoughts on where the church is heading on page 14.

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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From the Ministry Team

Changing Places

Monday 14 October 2013 is probably not a significant date for many people, however that was the day that I officially started at South Parade. (We sneaked in to a service the day before!)

A lot has changed during the last five years!

We are now a family of three, Amy worked at CAP before

returning to music therapy, Grace is at school and the more observant of you will have noticed that I have a few more grey hairs than before! I hasten to add that the latter have not been caused by any of the former.



South Parade has also seen a fair bit of change. Since I started at the church there have been several personnel changes on the Ministry Team, Mission Communities have

said, “Hello!” and “Goodbye!” to various people and initiatives, and those that have remained have sought to continually build community in Christ.

Nationally and globally there have been significant changes in almost every sphere of public life too. At times it can feel like change is the only constant! Although, there is



some truth in that last statement, it is not the whole truth.

As we enter in to a new season in the life of South Parade, we should endeavour to hold on to the truths revealed to us about God in the Bible

Malachi and James both state that God does not change (Malachi 3.6 and James 1.17). Hebrews 13.8 reminds us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" and Jesus himself promised that God would give us the Holy Spirit to be with us for ever! (John 14.16)

As we enter in to a new season in the life of South Parade, we should endeavour to hold on to these three truths – as well as the countless others revealed to us about God in the Bible.

Change will generate all kinds of

emotions in each of us, depending on our experience, personality and view on the developments. During this time, the Devil will seek to play on these feelings, sticking wedges between those for and against, the excited and the fearful, the changers and the consolidators.

In Matthew 16.18, Jesus asserts "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Satan's schemes for sabotage will not succeed – Jesus will build His church!

On Saturday 14 October 2023, South Parade Baptist Church is likely to look significantly different. Some of the changes will have worked, some of them will have failed, others it will be too soon to tell! Let's make it our prayer to ensure that all of them are done for the glory and the fame of our Saviour and Masterbuilder.

Nathan

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

Thomas Chisholm

Around the Church

Summer at Sent

During the summer months, we had a series looking at *God In My*. Each week, we explored how faith underpins and informs a particular passion. We had sermons on mountains, arts and crafts, science and film. Each of these is still available on the church website and we would encourage you to listen again!

*Sermons on mountains,
arts and crafts, science
and film are still available
on the church website*

In September, we began a series exploring the nine Baptist distinctives. Our aim for this series is to give us confidence and courage in evangelism as we become more convinced of the foundations of our faith.

As a Leadership Team, we have been considering our engagement

with the Headingley Festival of Ideas 2019. The Headingley building will be the venue for the main festival celebration, however we would like to host an additional event exploring the festival's theme of *Border*. Please pray for creativity and discernment with this endeavour.



Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to Ruth Hughes, who has taken a step back from the Leadership Team. THANK YOU! Ruth's love for God, faithful commitment and insightful reflections have been an example to us all!

Nathan Shipley

Associate Pastor

Summer at Headingley

It was really good to have a Leadership meeting on 10 September and to welcome Nelly Dumenu onto the team. Paul was present for his final time as

Associate Pastor. Scott and I, and past members of the Leadership Team, thank him most sincerely for his time, effort and contribution to the life of Headingley Mission Community and we pray God's blessing on his work with Blenheim Baptist Church. It was also good to have Peter with us, to share his thoughts and prepare us for new and exciting times at South Parade.

Summer often seems like a quiet time in many areas of life. If we are able, it is nice to have a week or more away from home and to escape the daily cycle of unwelcome interruptions to our daily cycle! With Headingley being a student area, the numbers attending the service on a Sunday morning are reduced by those in education either returning home or using the summer break for other activities,

as well as the usual holiday season of folks having time away.

Inevitably this makes for what seems like a lull in church life too, although we have enjoyed a total of three bring and share picnics in good weather, the final one of which took place on 2 September. Peter was a shining example in that having nothing to bring doesn't

(Continued on page 8)



Headingley Summer Picnics

8 Things I Learnt At Soul Survivor

- 1 **Tent packaging lies!**
Gideon's tent claimed that it would take 2 people 90 seconds to pitch up. In reality, it took 5 of us close to 10 minutes to get the tent up.
- 2 **Mike Pilavachi pays!** During one of the main meetings, Mike revealed that he regularly secretly pays for other diners' meals at restaurants.
- 3 **#HASHTAG** Tom Whitman loves hashtags – ironically using them on social media, talking in them, designing t-shirts with them on, to name but three of his hashtag pastimes.
- 4 **Freedom!** While speaking on the subject of shame, Laura Hancock from YFC shared that, "True freedom is not having to hide." Amen, sister!
- 5 **Look out!** Grace is lethal with a Swingball racquet.
- 6 **Gen Z.** At a seminar unpacking some of their research, YFC explained five key characteristics of this emerging generation. Gen Z are cynical, empowered, connected, ethical and value authenticity.
- 7 **LOL!** Heather thinks that she laughs like Muttley from Wacky Races. Levi thinks that Heather laughs like the Bearded Lady from The Greatest Showman.



Soul Survivor

8 **Songs!** As well as new numbers from Bethel and Hillsong, I was particularly struck by the lyrics of Everyday by Soul Survivor's very own Tom Smith. The chorus goes, "Everyday I need you Jesus! You are the Saviour, You are the Healer, You'll always be!"

Nathan Shipley

Associate Pastor, Youth and Young Adults

exclude you from the sharing, and there was still spare food taken home at the end.

The aim of the shared lunches is for all to feel welcome and to build relationships across the mission community. Please come and join in!

We will be continuing the lunches on roughly a six-week cycle, but using space inside the church during the winter months. We are hoping to maintain the relaxed atmosphere of the picnics through the simplicity of cold food and drinks. We will trial having the eating and chatting in the youth room, leaving the space in the hall for more lively activities for the young in age and young at heart. The most important aspect of these lunches is for all to feel welcome and for us to build



relationships across the mission community. Please do come and join in.

In contrast to the summer months, life may seem more hectic as we impose Christmas and The New Year as deadlines for projects and milestones for activities going on for us, ramping up pressure to get stuff done. Likewise, the Christmas period will be busy for us as a church, with lots of activities going on and offering opportunities to get involved. Look out for Samaritan's Purse and the Craft Fair, to name but two things to draw your attention to.

With forward planning in mind, please make a note of Thursday 25 October, for the next scheduled Mission Community meeting. Please see Scott, Nelly or me if you would like anything bringing to the notice of the wider community, or if you have any questions.

Richard Sykes

Headingley MC Leadership Team

Goodbye to one of our oldest members

Gwen Scottorn moved with her family to Leeds in 1940 and was baptised at South Parade in 1942. She married Rowland Scottorn and together they served in many areas of the church's life.

Rowland died some years ago and eventually it became too difficult for Gwen to get to services but she has been able, with help, to get to some of the Retired People's Fellowship lunches. She has now moved to Filey to live close to one of her daughters Ruth and husband David.

We do wish Gwen every happiness as she settles by the seaside and thank her for all that she has been in the church. She will keep in touch with the church through our *Intouch* magazine.

Val Dooks

Headingley Morning MC

Traidcraft Update

Earlier this year many of you contributed to the Traidcraft "Hidden Entrepreneur" appeal, for funds to support people across developing countries to improve their skills, be part of a network of like-minded people who can work together to leave poverty behind and change the future for their families and communities.

The appeal raised over £540,000, which will be doubled by the government, a total of over £1 million! Many thanks to everyone who helped



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

towards this great total.

Most retailers are facing difficult times with some stores closing and others merging. Traidcraft is also in trouble and is currently in consultation about how they can change their model of working.

*I urge all of you to
support the church
Traidcraft stall over the
next couple of months*

A recent press release says:

Traidcraft plc, the Fairtrade pioneers whose church-based retailers have transformed shopping in the UK, subject to consultation, could cease trading by the end of 2018 unless a solution can be found in the coming month. The plc, which generates £10m in annual sales was founded by six people in Newcastle in 1979. It's now in formal consultation with staff and other stakeholders following recent poor trading figures. The business has experienced shocks caused by the decision to leave the EU, and along with other retailers, sales have been hit by economic uncertainty and stagnating wages.

Chief Executive Robin Roth said:
“We are the sort of business that
pays up front – that’s in our
nature as an ethical business. So
when the pound fell after the
Brexit referendum, we took a hit.
We also stand by our published
prices, so unlike other retailers we
stood by our customers, absorbed
a lot of the additional cost, and
kept price rises to a minimum.”

I would like to urge all of you to
support the church stall over the
next couple of months. The
Christmas catalogue will be out
soon and order forms will be
available. If you don’t normally
buy anything, perhaps a couple of
packs of cards might come in
handy? The next stall will be at
Headingley morning on 21
October.

Pam Roe

Traidcraft rep

“Parting is such sweet sorrow”

So wrote William Shakespeare,
and those sentiments resonate
strongly with me as I leave SPBC
after five and a half years of
ministry here. “Sweet” because of
so many good memories, warm
fellowship, encouragement, prayer
and support, not just for me but
for us all as a family. “Sorrow”
because I will miss so many people



***Paul at his final service at
Headingley and in the afternoon
farewell party on 30 September.***

who I've had the privilege to get to know and serve alongside, especially my colleagues in the Ministry Team.

*I pray that you would
keep on running the race
marked out for you*

The consolation for me is that I am staying in Leeds and so will have opportunities to keep in touch with brothers and sisters in SPBC as well as those at Harehills Lane Baptist Church where I was for 16 years

previously. I feel in such a uniquely privileged position to be part of an extended church family in one city.

My prayer for you all as I move on to pastures new 1.9 miles away is that you would keep on keeping on "running with perseverance the race marked out for you and fixing your eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of your faith" (Hebrews 12.1-2).

In Christ

Paul Rockley

...informed...

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



...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

Celebrate God all day, every day!
Philippians 4.4 (The Message)

A Privilege to Serve

ABC Coffee Shop 1999-2018

As a difficult decision to close the ABC Coffee Shop is taken, Harold Jevons looks back at all the good things the shop achieved over 19 years.

In 1999 the Adel Congregation felt it needed to relate to the local community. A survey was carried out in the area around Asda. It soon became clear that people wanted somewhere to go and socialise. A café was suggested. Asda was approached and we obtained the tenancy of Unit 11 at a peppercorn rental.

The then team at Adel got together and with their efforts a Coffee Shop was opened. This has been staffed by volunteers with only a very short period of paid staff, this being the wage of a missionary home on leave for three months who worked between 15 and 20 hours per week managing the shop.

Over the years we have been a place of “refuge” for many who just wanted a quiet place (and a nice cup of filter coffee). We have served drinks and snacks including a variety of homemade cakes at very

reasonable prices. The customers have been very wide ranging with a variety of needs that we have tried to meet.

The staff have certainly been international, multicultural and interdenominational covering countries such as Costa Rica, USA, France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, and Moldova.

The staff has also included Anglicans, Methodists and



The ABC Coffee Shop closed for the last time on 4 October

Brethren alongside others who have retired and wanted to help in the community. Not forgetting Baptists from various churches in Leeds. The profits of the shop have, over the years, been distributed to SPBC and many other charities at home and abroad totalling over £115,000. We feel that the shop has made some impact in the locality and other places.

*God has blessed this work.
It has been a privilege
to serve.*

We have used the shop for evening meetings including an Alpha course, Footsteps to the Cross, and My Work and My Faith. An afternoon

bible study was meeting regularly until last year and Café Church which started about 7 or 8 years ago meets there. This was born out of a meeting in the High Farm Pub when we were looking to expand the work in the area.

Unfortunately we have been unable to get the necessary staff to run the shop and at the start of 2018 we had to close on Fridays. This has not been sustainable and consequently we are closing for the last time on Thursday 4 October.

We feel that God has blessed this work and it has been a privilege to serve him in the community.

Harold Jevons



WHERE DO WE
GROW FROM HERE?

www.wheredowegrowfromhere.org



@kenlenben



www.facebook.com/kenlenben

Ken Benjamin's sermon at South Parade Together on 23/9/18 is available on the church website

Moving Forward with Vision

Thoughts from the Church Meeting

The Church Meeting on 27 September centred around discussions about “where we are” as a church. In groups we considered our strengths and weaknesses, together with the opportunities we have and the threats we face.

I am very grateful to everyone who took part in the discussions. Much feedback was collected. This will be collated, considered by the elders and others, and drawn upon as we seek to move forward together.

I also shared a number of things which are on my heart for the church.

A Renewal of Purpose

During October and November we will consider the statement **“Passion for God; Love for People; Heart for Mission”**. There will be preaching on this at Cragg and Headingley, and opportunity for Home Groups to

reflect too. At the church meeting in November we’ll discuss this, and I hope we can adopt it as a church.

Structures

We need our structures to be right for the next phase of our life together. Over the next few months we will review these.

We are so grateful for all that Paul and Heather have given to the church

Staffing

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Paul as he moves to Blenheim, and Heather will leave the staff team next year when she retires. We are so grateful for all they have given to the church and I am personally grateful for all the support they have given me. Thank you! As they have both been clear with me, this does give us a chance to review our staffing. A priority will be working

with Connect to think through what they need to move them onto the next level.

Headingley

We need to review what we do on our

Headingley site. We need to make links between some of the different things

we already do and “get on the front foot”

much more. I have a vision of our Headingley building

increasingly full of life, during the week and on Sundays:

more students, young families, people of all ages, and increasingly multicultural. Over the next few

months I aim to paint a picture of what I think could happen and then ask the question: “If this resonates, what do we need to get there?”

What changes do we need to make and what resources do we need to deploy?

This may sound a bit Headingley focused. I am hugely committed to both Cragg and Connect which I think are both wonderful! I really look forward to working with them in the years ahead. There are exciting possibilities across our whole church! Yet I have a

conviction that a strong Headingley means a strong church. Growth there will give us the ability to resource what we do in Bramley and Horsforth, as well as elsewhere.

Staffing again

The church meeting made one concrete change, increasing Kate Burkett’s hours by four to twenty-

four hours a week. This will enable her to co-ordinate the under 5s work at Headingley Sunday morning, in addition to the groups she leads during the week. We believe this could make a real difference and will especially help us to connect up the fantastic work that goes on midweek with what happens on a Sunday morning in LS6.

Prayer

Finally, please do pray. The notice sheet gives details of some of the regular prayer meetings that we have and I do commend these to you. But there are so many other opportunities, in small groups and, of course, personally and privately.

Who knows how God will work?

Peter Morden

Senior Minister / Team Leader



Final Postcard from North Africa

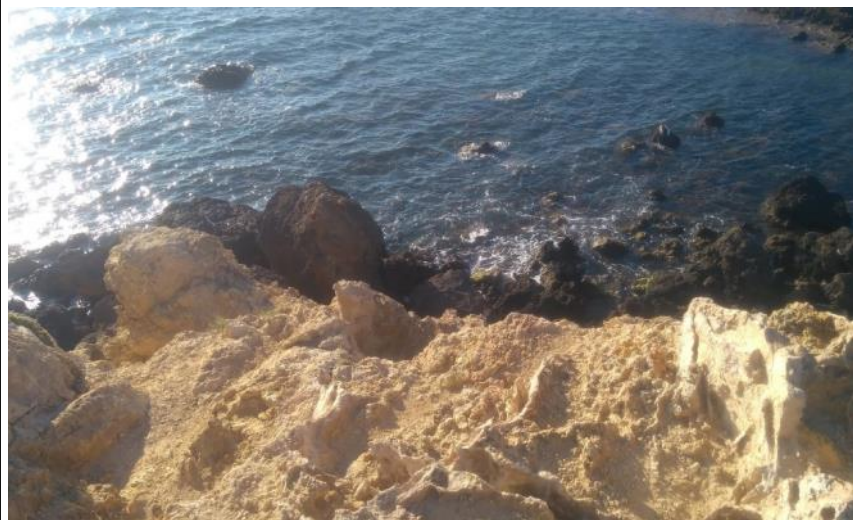
*All the lovely folks at South Parade,
Cragg, Barnabas, Connect, NFG 3
and SENT (in no particular order!)*

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



AIRMAIL

Greetings!



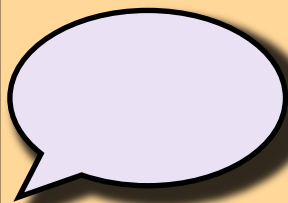
Just like so many postcards, this one arrives long after I returned home!

A huge thank you for your prayers, emails, crazy (and oh so welcome) parcels, and warm welcome whenever I was back in Leeds over the past 6 years.

Please keep praying for the believers in North Africa to grow in numbers, maturity and unity; and for palliative care to be practised more widely. Prayer works!

With love and thanks

“Mary”



Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

Ephesians 6.19 (NIV)

Getting to Know You

Val Dooks & Sue Walker

This month we meet two long-term members of the church who have been involved with lots of different aspects of South Parade for many years: Val Dooks and Sue Walker.

Val Dooks

What role do you have in the life of South Parade?

I haven't got a specific role but I try to cover areas where help is needed particularly in the Headingley MC. I visit members who are now housebound or need a bit of support. Friday morning is when I run off the weekly notice sheet, and

bi-monthly the *Intouch* magazine after Matthew has prepared it. About 15 of these are posted to friends who have moved away and like to keep in touch.

I'm always on the look out for people to keep some of the rotas going – the welcome one, the after church coffee rota and the communion preparation one.

On a monthly basis I help with the retired people's lunches and the Barnabas group and I also attend the elders' meetings to take the minutes for them. I feel that the more you are able to give in the church the more you receive so if anyone is looking to be more involved have a word with me – it's definitely worth it!

What do you do in the rest of the week?

Being retired I'm supposed to have a lot of spare time but there's always something to do. During the summer I'm supporting Yorkshire



County Cricket Club as often as possible which is usually a joy but sometimes a frustration. I meet up with a group of friends there who come from all over Yorkshire and are a lot of fun.

My family live quite a distance away but I have a lot of friends around who are always ready to share some fun. I love to be up in the dales at every opportunity and am a member of several conservation groups whose work I value - the Woodland Trust, the RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the National Trust and I also support the Dogs' Trust because I really miss having a dog now.

*Knowing so many people
who are living out their
faith is a great
encouragement to me.*

Who supports you as you live out your faith?

I've been in the church a long time and for many years have been a member of a small group. These days that is Mid-week Track where I value the freedom we have to share together in good relationships. Working alongside other people in different areas of church life also brings us closer and builds good friendships. Knowing so many

people who are so obviously living out their faith is a great encouragement and strength to me.

How can the church family cherish you better?

I receive so much from being a part of the church family where the gospel is preached faithfully and we are encouraged and challenged. I would love to see others who are still on the fringe of the church becoming more involved and knowing these blessings for themselves. Seeing this happen would be a great encouragement to me and to all of us.

Val Dooks

Sue Walker

What role do you have in the life of South Parade?

I'm part of Connect Mission Community where I slot in wherever I'm needed – last week I was responsible for food and this week I'll be helping with the children. I'm a keen Connect Bible Clubber every Friday morning. As part of the wider South Parade I share responsibility for the Barnabas Bunch – a friendship and fellowship group primarily but not exclusively for retired people.

Additionally, I take my turn at leading Tuesday morning prayer and co-ordinate the quarterly "Project

Cyrus” prayer group (if you want to know what this is – just ask me). Sunday evening you’ll find me at Sent where I thoroughly enjoy the Bible teaching.

I am Chair of Trustees for Transformations Leeds - our work is to share the gospel with international students

What do you do in the rest of the week?

It’s a split between “home work” and “Kingdom work”. I have a love/hate relationship with my garden, provide hospitality for friends from near and far and, when possible, enjoy visiting interesting places. Being Chair of Trustees for Christian charity Transformations Leeds keeps me busy – although my work

is often “unseen” it is all part of our work to share the gospel with international students who may otherwise have little opportunity to hear about the love of Jesus.

Who supports you as you live out your faith?

Support comes from a few very close friends; I’m also part of a small group.

How can the church family cherish you better?

Without close family nearby (mine is in Australia), it is important to know people are genuinely interested in me; that they take time to not only ask how things are but to listen to the answer and, where appropriate, follow it up.

Sue Walker

Recommended Apps

As mentioned by Malte von Blumroder at Headingley on 7 October



Joshua Project
“Unreached of the Day”
joshuaproject.net



Operation World
Daily Prayer App
www.operationworld.org/prayer-app/

Prayer Diary



October - November 2018

OCTOBER

Sun	14	Caring for Life and the Harvest donations today
Mon	15	The Morden Family
Tue	16	Heather McLeen
Wed	17	Those affected by the tsunami in Indonesia
Thu	18	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Fri	19	Your neighbours
Sat	20	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Sun	21	Preachers and worship leaders in all Mission Communities
Mon	22	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Tue	23	Rooted
Wed	24	Your friends and family who don't know Jesus
Thu	25	The church office
Fri	26	Street Angels in Leeds tonight
Sat	27	Charles Fletcher, Church Secretary
Sun	28	All of South Parade's Mission Communities

Pull out and use!

Mon	29	Discipleship Explored courses across the church
Tue	30	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Wed	31	Geoff King
NOVEMBER		
Thu	1	People who have been baptised recently
Fri	2	The Deacons
Sat	3	Nathan Shipley
Sun	4	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Mon	5	Kate Burkett
Tue	6	Sam and Katie
Wed	7	Jane Waites
Thu	8	The Elders
Fri	9	Paul Rockley at Blenheim Baptist Church
Sat	10	Levi Booth
Sun	11	Services to mark Remembrance Sunday
Mon	12	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Tue	13	Kate Churchill
Wed	14	Students in Leeds
Thu	15	Peter Morden
Fri	16	Someone you know who doesn't know Jesus
Sat	17	Transformations Leeds
Sun	18	Connect Mission Community
Mon	19	Steve Fairhall, Tim Rowe and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	20	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	21	TLG mentors working with children in schools



Thu	22	St George's Crypt
Fri	23	Chris Gnanakan
Sat	24	Katharine Widdowson, Church Treasurer
Sun	25	Headingley Morning Mission Community
Mon	26	Retired people in the church
Tue	27	Cragg Mission Community
Wed	28	Work with children and young people across the church
Thu	29	Sent Mission Community
Fri	30	People who've been married this year
DECEMBER		
Sat	1	The Ministry Team

Prayer for those affected by the Indonesian Earthquake and Tsunami

*O God, hold those who are hurting
comfort those who are in mourning
calm those who are panicking
surround with safety those who are traumatised
shelter those who are homeless
be a beacon of wisdom and guidance
for those directing rescue operations.*

*As you entered into the blood, sweat and tears of life
help us to enter into lament, love and solidarity
with our sisters and brothers in Indonesia
standing together with those you love
in their time of deepest need.
May they know they are not alone.
In Jesus name, Amen.*

www.christianaid.org

A Child's Prayer for Bedtime



I have been doing a lot of decluttering lately and found this little prayer stored away somewhere. To be totally honest, on hearing my girls pray these words at bedtime it was always a gentle reminder to self! I do hope any young parents out there will find it a gentle reminder too! We know too well that parenting is a challenge at times! I have always been thankful that I have had my church family, to support me in times of “tough” parenting or when parenting gets tough! – you know who you are.

Liz Crathern

*Dearest loving Jesus, please help me to be good
Help me do and say the things that all good children should
But if sometimes I slip a bit and do get out of hand
Then dearest loving Jesus make the grown ups understand
That it isn't always easy to be good as good can be
But that I'm getting better Lord because you are helping me.
Amen*

The 5 Finger Prayer

- *Thumb: pray for those closest to you, your family*
- *Pointer: pray for people who point you in the right direction - teachers, Sunday School leaders, ministers*
- *Index (tallest): pray for people who lead us, in the Government and Parliament, for guidance and wisdom*
- *Ring (weakest): remember those that are weak, in trouble or in pain*
- *Little Finger: finally, our prayers for our own needs*



10 Reasons to Study with Leeds School of Theology

- 1 **You love God** – you love God and you want to invest in your relationship with him. Leeds School of Theology fuels your walk with God and equips you to serve with your whole life.
- 2 **You want to go deeper in Scripture** – you love God and you want to understand what He has revealed to us through the Bible. Leeds School of Theology helps you read Scripture in a healthy and accessible way and go deeper than you've gone before.
- 3 **You want to hear from experts in their field** – our team of teachers have studied their topics for years and bring you some of the best teaching available.
- 4 **You want to study theology but you don't want a degree** – Leeds School of Theology allows you to get a high-quality theological education without needing to go to a university or theological college.
- 5 **You want to figure out what you think** – our aim is teach you how to think theologically not what to think. We teach you to read Scripture in a healthy way and to come to your own rigorous conclusions. You can ask all the questions you have along the way.
- 6 **You want to learn alongside others** – at Leeds School of Theology you'll study alongside students from over 45 different churches. This is a unique and diverse community of people who love Jesus and want to draw closer to him.
- 7 **You want something you can afford** – we work extremely hard to keep costs down to make the school affordable and accessible.
- 8 **You love theology** – we look at some of the best topics in theology and ask the big questions of our faith.
- 9 **You love the local church** – Great! So do we. We love serving people to minister in local churches and to see God's kingdom brought into our towns, cities, workplaces and neighbourhoods.
- 10 **You don't have loads of time** – we know how busy life gets and we've made it as easy as possible to study with us. The school runs over 10 Saturday sessions in a year and if you have to miss a session we record them so you can catch up.

If you are interested in finding out more about the school email: enquires@leeds-school-of-theology.org



A Calling to Lead

As we enter a new chapter of our life together, we believe God will call many to leadership within the church.

This is essential if we are to grow. Our prayer is for a new generation of dynamic leaders who will serve the church well and enable it to move forward.

We want to identify potential leaders, but we also believe this is a task for the whole church. What should we be looking for in our leaders, both present and future?

Key passages are 1 Timothy 3.1-13 and Titus 1.5-9. Important material is also found in many other places, for example, 2 Timothy 2.1-15, Acts 6.1-6, John 13.1-17 and Exodus 18.21-22. We do commend these passages for reflection and prayer.

Giftedness and character are both important in these Scriptures, but it is godly character that is absolutely essential. Overall, the Bible sets high standards of God-honouring,

Christ-focused, Spirit-inspired leadership.

We see in the Bible that unlikely people are called as leaders: they are far from perfect

Set alongside this, we see throughout the Bible that unlikely people are called as leaders, and that leaders are far from perfect. Potential and a readiness to be teachable and accountable are really important, but someone does not need to be the finished article. Indeed, all leaders however mature depend day-by-day on God's grace.

Six characteristics can be identified. These are listed in no particular order.

- A love for God and a love for others
- Seeking to live by God's standards in public and private (family) life

- Seeking to grow in personal holiness
- A giftedness which fits them for a particular leadership role, or evidence that God is developing the necessary gifts
- A hunger to serve
- A willingness to be accountable and a teachable spirit

There is much more that can be said. But this is offered as a starting point so we can identify, nurture and release more leaders into the life of South Parade.

Charles Fletcher

Church Secretary

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

2 Timothy 2.1-7 (NIV)



Holy means set apart. Not like a set of cutlery that only comes out on Sundays. More like a Swiss Army knife - remove a splinter, cut a rope, open a bottle, anytime anywhere. Whatever the Boss needs.

Milton Jones

Step of Faith

Notes to My Teenage Self

After the death of his father, Richard Sykes reflects back over his own spiritual journey, and tells the story of how he came to South Parade.

I think that I have lived most of the last 30 years of my life under the casual influence of being 30 years junior to my Dad. The last 6 months or so have ignited a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel, in that through declining health his years have recently reached their end, so now I am catching him up!

I don't mean these thoughts to have any kind of morbid undertone. It's just been interesting to occasionally

project backwards or forwards by a 30 year period, in a *Back to the Future* style, and see the world from different perspectives. It is startling to see how the world has changed in the last 30 years, when my Dad was the age I am now, and to anticipate how the world may change in the next 30 years. In some ways that period of time seems to have flown by; in other ways my 20 year-old self lived figuratively almost on another planet. My 20 year-old Dad must have lived in an entirely different universe altogether – 1957, imagine that!

I think that my perception as a young adult was that I wanted to be a solid character of integrity and consistency, and not overly concerned about changes that would affect the world around me. Perhaps the influence of being the youngest of four children and having to fit in with five older people, two dogs and a cat lent itself to my developing a “go with flow” kind of attitude. If I had been any more laid back I would have been horizontal, as my brother was fond of stating.



*I wondered at what point
in life a person becomes
their adult self, looking out
for signs for that to
happen to me*

I saw my Dad as being intelligent, astute and able to work things out, weighing up options and choosing well. I wanted to be like that and wondered at what point in life a person becomes their adult self, looking out for signs for that to happen to me.

Was it inevitable then that I remained on the spiritual path that my parents had started me on? Sarah (my then wife to be) and I were both baptised in July 1988, in the context of the Christadelphian denomination, although we were both quite clear at the time; we were not being baptised as Christadelphians but as Christians within that movement. Maintaining that distinction was a challenge for the quarter of a century that I remained in the denomination and this piece of writing is in no way meant to represent a negative view of that community. Having said that, their general position is that they are right and everyone

else is in error to a greater or lesser extent. A great deal of emphasis is placed on having a technically correct understanding of the Bible. I agree that this is important for understanding what God is saying to us through his word, but it can also become an introverted view from which to judge others.

My early career was intertwined with church life, on account of my being employed in the family business of my brother-in-law, Drakes of Armley (Pork Butchers). That family were influential in the Christadelphian churches in the West

Yorkshire area, and other members of staff were drawn from that fraternity too, although not exclusively so. That arrangement continuing for six and half years

may have contributed to the acceptance that what happens in church stays in church and what happens in work stays in work.

Throughout various career moves I was hard-working and honest, but I am pretty sure that I didn't stand out particularly as being a Christian. Looking back, it seems that the vague notions of wanting to be funny and cool were more attractive. Within a church context I enjoyed



exploring the Bible to find out what was technically correct, I was active in teaching Sunday school, church leadership, preparing and delivering exhortations, public lectures and Bible study papers, I frequently led services and was the Preaching Team Co-ordinator for a few years too.

This period of about 15 to 20 years was peppered with occasional frustrations that the Christadelphian movement was stuck somehow in the eras of the late 1800s and between 1950 and 1970, and that it was losing any real world relevance that it may once have had. *The Purpose Driven Church* by Rick Warren was recommended to me by my Dad in the late 1990s. It inspired me to deliver a talk at the mid-week Bible Class about some of the ideas it contained, which received a dour response of, “We don’t do things like that,” from one significant member.

The cracks between what I thought about Christianity and those of Christadelphia really started to open up once Daniel began attending both “big school” and Sunday school. The differences between Daniel’s primary education and my own were tremendous; barely standing comparison. Sunday school, however, was becoming almost a carbon copy.

*I read through the Bible
from start to finish.
The peaks and troughs of
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Around about this time, I read through a chronological study Bible, from start to finish in about 18 months, more like a novel. It occurred to me that the Bible is less of a technical piece of work and more of a love story. The peaks and troughs of joy and heartbreak are often breath-taking and occasionally tear-inducing.

Looking at examples of other churches that are bucking the trend of dwindling attendance inspired ideas for my own church but they were received with a lukewarm welcome at best. This opposition was not insignificant and I even started to question whether it was possible to be a critical thinking person and a committed Christian at the same time? Does the modern scientific view of the universe fit comfortably with faith in the Creator found in the Genesis account and His plans that stretch into eternity?

Another recommendation from my

Dad, *The Case for the Creator* by Lee Strobel dispelled the small doubts that I had entertained briefly on the subject and other books on psychology helped to explain the complexities of how such doubts arise and how choices are made.

Whether it was just my own mind or through some other inspiration, I awoke in the early hours of one late October morning in 2013 with the urgent thought, “you have to leave the Christadelphians”. Unhelpfully it didn’t continue with instructions of anywhere specific to go to, or how to handle the situation as a family unit.

Sarah suggested the Baptists and the internet revealed Brian Nicholls’ cheery face and the intention to “build community in Christ”. Almost five years further on and we’re still muddling through the situation and I am still wondering at what point in life a person becomes their adult self!

The differences I have experienced through being involved with South Parade have been tremendous. I appreciate that this comparison is relative to my previous experience and some of you may think church life is not that great at all. All churches have their quirks and frustrations, and South Parade is no

exception. However, there is a huge difference between working out your salvation with trembling and fear and having palpable confidence in the resurrection through grace. There is a huge difference between a black and white view of technical correctness and having an acceptance of paradoxes and conundrums. There is a huge difference between meeting together to be correct and meeting together to experience the love of the Creator and our Saviour.

*If only I'd known then
what I know now...*

30 years ago I would have found it hard to imagine what it is like to be a father. I would have found it hard to imagine what it is like to be without my father. If I live for another 30 years, I'll be the same age as my Dad at the end of his life. In the end he was without fear of death, confident in the resurrection. It's been an inspiration that I hope won't diminish as time goes by. It's a lesson that I would have wanted to understand more fully much earlier, but I suppose that's life! If only I'd known then what I know now, and I may still be saying the same thing in 30 years time.

Richard Sykes

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Comfort in the Darkness

Street Angel Stories

Helen Capocci reports on the fabulous work of the Leeds Street Angels and encourages us to get involved in this mission opportunity.

About midnight near the Grand Theatre a man approaches the street angels and says “I can’t find my son. I arranged to pick him up but he’s not here and not answering his phone. This is really unlikely, but I don’t suppose you’ve seen him?” and he gives us a description. “Yes” we reply, “we saw him not long ago”. Standing on the packed pavement he can’t quite believe it and describes his son again! We set off with him towards the Headrow where we spot the son walking away ahead of us and his dad runs to catch him up.

We pray before every street angel patrol. We ask God to guide our footsteps and many times we’ve found ourselves at the right place at just the right moment. Perhaps the worried dad uttered “God help me” before he met us and will tell a story of answered prayer. But even if not, we trust that God is leading us.



We always carry radios which allow us to communicate with the CCTV control centre and the bouncers. At least a couple of times a night we’ll get a call. “Are there any street angels available? Can you get to Boar Lane?”.

It’s I am and a drunk man is walking haphazardly along the pavement. He’s shouting and swearing at passers by. We walk alongside him, ask his name and find a bus stop to sit

in. He gradually tells us about himself, shows us scars on his arms, says he doesn't want to go home. We listen, tell him we're Christians, ask if we can pray for him. We spend an hour with him by which time he's more sober, we've found out where he lives and that he can walk himself home. It seems good to have shown him some care that evening. We're only alongside each person for a short time, but perhaps we can be a comfort in a moment of darkness.

We're asked "Why are you doing this?" over and over again. Pray that we seize these opportunities to talk about Jesus.

Some encounters are more eventful. We've come across broken ankles and noses, someone having a seizure, someone being robbed... but usually we spend the evening with people who are upset, lost or who've ended up drunk and on their own. We often walk people back to hotels, tend to grazes and sore feet, or wait with someone for their taxi. We get to answer the question "What's a street angel?" and "Why are you doing this?" over and over again. Please pray that we seize these op-

portunities to talk about Jesus.

The street angels have been in Leeds city centre for nearly six years and the bouncers are those we've got to know best, some of whom we've been able to share our faith with. We also welcome non-believers as volunteers, who have included a bouncer who's volunteered with us on his non-working evenings and a PhD student researching citizen patrols. Please pray that the seeds God has planted through us will be watered and bear fruit.

Street angel patrols happen every Friday and the last Saturday of the month from 10pm until 3am. Having more volunteers would allow us to patrol more Saturdays so if you're a night owl and would like to give it a try, new volunteers are welcome at any time. Come along for a taster one night to see if it's for you!

Next Friday at 10pm when your TV programme is coming to an end and you're thinking about going to bed, there will be a few street angels buttoning up their coats and heading into the city. Please pray for us!

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead

they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in

heaven.” (Matthew 5.14-16)

Helen Capocci

Sent

...involved...

It costs £15k a year to run Leeds Street Angels, which is spent on patrol supplies (bottled water, flip flops, first aid kit) and

a part-time co-ordinator. Half of this money is provided each year by the bars and shops themselves through the Business Against Crime In Leeds (BACIL) fund, the rest comes from other grants and donations. If you'd like to support Street Angels financially, you can give online at cnnetwork.org. Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) is their umbrella organisation - mention Leeds Street Angels if you want to support them specifically.

To find out more visit www.leedsstreetangels.org.uk



What the Angels Carry With Them

- Spikey - a top to go in your bottles that stops people dropping unwanted substances in your drink.
- Water - helping keep you hydrated!
- Flip-Flops - for when the high heels won't do!
- Lollipops - believe it or not calm people down, stop aggression and boost sugar levels!
- Foil Blanket - to stop people freezing (helpful in the Yorkshire winters!)
- Taxi Numbers - to help you get home safe!
- We are also linked to CCTV via a radio which also connects us with the emergency services.
- Some of the Street Angel volunteers are first aid trained and so are able to offer low level first aid to people on the street.



www.leedsstreetangels.org.uk/what-we-carry

Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part 20: The Advocate

John 16

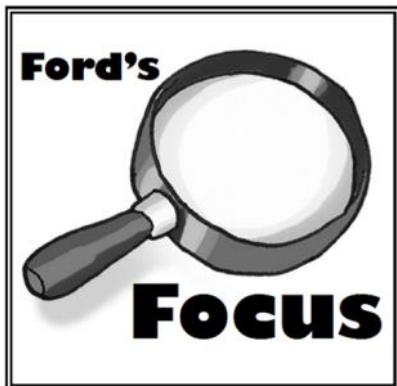
This chapter is a continuation of the previous chapter where Jesus is still preparing His disciples for life on earth without Him and He starts with some stark words. If we cast our thoughts back to John 15.27 Jesus told his disciples that they “must testify” or in the NKJV “bear witness” to Him as they have been with Him from the beginning of His ministry.

Jesus affirmed to His disciples in John 16.1 that He had told them these things so that they wouldn't abandon their faith or in NKJV “be made to stumble”. I prefer this

translation as the NLT translation of “abandon your faith” seems a little more final. I am sure some did abandon their faith just as some people do today but the NKJV suggests that it is possible to get up and carry on.

Our Christian life is like that. At times we think we can't go on or we feel we have lost our way, but in the words of Paul in Philippians 1.6 “God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished.” It is God's work in and for us, not our work in and for God, that matters. The witness and testimony that we live and deliver is all because God is working out His plan of salvation for all the world, a plan that has been ongoing from generation to generation from the outset of creation.

Jesus said plainly to His disciples in John 16.2 that their lives would be in danger and they would be expelled from the synagogue or even killed, all because they aligned themselves to Him. I wonder if any of us today would be prepared to stay the course if we knew that fol-



lowing Christ and making him known in our generation would cost us our security in our churches or even cost us our lives? The reality is that there are places around the world where if you are a Christian that is exactly what is happening and the truth is that in those places, because of this kind of persecution, “God’s church”, “His people”, “His called out ones”, “those set apart for the gospel”, is thriving.

We in the modern, comfortable west need to re-examine our lives and repent and return to a God who heals and pardons.

In John 16.7-8 and John 16.13 and also in John 15.26-27 Jesus tells his disciples, who He is preparing for life on earth without him, about a Helper, or an Advocate, or if we use the Greek word, “Paraclete” which when translated means “The one who comes alongside”.

To fully understand this idea of a “Paraclete” and its relevance to our lives we need to cast our thoughts back to the creation story in Genesis 1.3.

Right at the outset of life, God created human beings in His image (Genesis 1.27 and Genesis 2.7) and breathed life into them. In that moment man (the Hebrew word used here is Enosh, and is not gender

specific) became a living being, a complete person in the image of God. As we know, human beings then disobeyed God and were banished from the garden and God’s presence.

It is with this backdrop that Jesus is clearly saying to His disciples that He alone is the promised saviour and that it is necessary for Him to depart from them in order for them and all future generations to be able to be reconciled to the Father in perfect unity as was the intention at the outset of creation.

The Advocate, “the one who comes alongside”, will make us complete again

In John 14.16-17 Jesus says He will ask the Father who will give another comforter and then went on to explain who this Advocate is and who will receive it.

The Advocate, “the one who comes alongside”, will make us complete again and restore us to the place of completeness in God, this place of unity described in Genesis 1 and 2. This Advocate is hugely important to our own personal wellbeing and our wholeness as it is He who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. All the things that enable us to find and believe in

Jesus as God's redemptive Son (John 14.17) tell us that this Advocate is the Holy Spirit who will be in us.

Notice here in this verse that Jesus first says that the Holy Spirit "lives with you now" and then says "later will be in you". This is because Jesus has not yet died and been raised as part of the great plan of salvation, but now that Jesus has risen and as-

cended into glory the Holy Spirit will be in us. Unless we accept and believe that Jesus has died, risen and ascended into glory then we cannot know the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit as promised here. If that is not the case then we will abandon our faith in the time of any trouble or persecution because we are not in Christ and He is not in us.

As we observed in John 15 it is all about abiding in Christ.

So to conclude a rather challenging section of John's gospel let me summarise:

- We are informed by Jesus that being a follower of Christ will involve a cost.
- Jesus says that some will abandon their faith, or stumble.
- We are given hope because of

the promised in-dwelling of the Advocate, the "Paraclete", the one who comes alongside and dwells in us because of the power of the resurrection.

- We need to take heart because God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are working together in perfect

unity to overcome the world and its sinfulness in order to bring us, His people, into the safety of Himself as

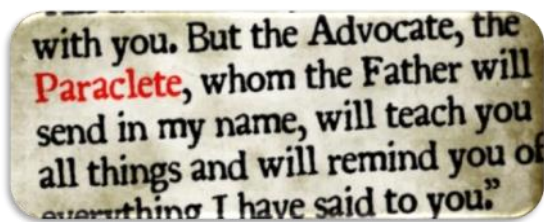
depicted at the outset of creation. We are made in the image and likeness of God, worked out in humanity for the good of all.

Are we up for the challenge?

Steve Ford

Headingley Morning Mission Community
blog.steveford.org

Steve writes: "I am in the process of revamping my blog site. At the new site blog.steveford.org new articles are now being posted. There is a link to the old site for reference. I have also added a pdf download page where I have wrapped some of the posts into a pdf for easier access and reading. Please feel free to check it out, download as required and use as a resource, it is all free. You are also able to add comments on any post. Enjoy and be blessed."



Poetry to Ponder

"I'm Fine"

I have been walking a lot: the first part of the south west coastal path (Devon) in the hottest July weather ever and then at the Scargill community, Kettlewell, a few weeks ago in what we call in Cumbria... mist. Very wet mist.

Helen Brocklehurst (that has to be a poet's name!) led the walks. She used to be part of the Scargill community and now she is planning to be a writer. I keep on bumping into poets... physically and metaphorically but Helen is the first one I really like. I told her about this magazine and she was very happy to

share her poems. Check out the link at the end to find them.

I like the poem "I'm Fine". Helen says "I wrote it a couple of years ago for a friend who challenged me to write something about the common experience of pain. Sometimes we are not very good at being honest about our pain, with ourselves or with each other."

Catriona Mossop

"I'm Fine"

*You ask, I say I'm fine,
truth concealed behind this
mask of mine.
Your question is off-hand, your
tone is brisk.
Before I dare to take an
honest risk
you've moved on.
Our opportunity is gone
if it was an opportunity,*



not just thoughtless, superficial
nicety.

Did you really want to know?
Is my world a place you want
to go?

Would you risk involvement in
my mess?

Face my fears and chaos and
distress?

You never would have asked if
you had known,
you're carrying enough pain of
your own.

Sometimes I'm glad that no-
body can see
what it really feels like to be
me.

Defensive walls conceal
fragility,
hiding all my vulnerability,
mask of respectability in place,
no trace of true emotion on
my face,
making sure that nobody can
see
what it really feels like to be
me.

But if you knew
what would you do?

I fear misunderstanding, pity,
blame,

platitudes, dismissal, gossip,
shame,

I fear that you won't love me if
you see

what it really feels like to be
me.

I fear I'll have to face my own
pain too

if I'm going to tell the truth to
you

but I've worn this mask so
long,

appeared so capable and
strong,

kept my real self confined,
forgotten, lost, resigned:

I never will be free.

Sometimes I wish that some-
body could see

what it really feels like to be
me.

Helen Brocklehurst

helenbrocklehurstpoetry.wordpress.com

Church Noticeboard

Men Behaving Godly

This autumn we will be relaunching "Men Behaving Godly". It is important for all of us to be able to come together to share fellowship, friendship and the all-important breakfast. We will be endeavouring to make these get-togethers a place where we can encourage each other in our walk with Christ. These spaces will be a place where we can build friendships and explore God through shared discussions and experiences so that we build each other up: *"But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit"* Jude 1.20 (NLT).

If you are interested in being kept informed regarding dates and events please will you speak to Steve Ford, Scott Halligan or Peter Morden or email your details to menbgs@steveford.org.

The Debt Saviours

Across Britain more than four million people have debts considered unsustainable. Responsibility for advising and helping these vulnerable people is increasingly falling to charities.

One of the biggest is Christians Against Poverty (CAP), led by its charismatic founder, Dr John Kirkby CBE, pictured. In this access-all-areas documentary, director Phillip Wood follows Dr Kirkby and some of the charity's debt coaches. CAP has more than 6,000 staff and volunteers around the country providing help to people who often face losing their homes. The film shows how the home visits often include an offer to pray with clients and asks whether the real motivation is debt relief or bringing people to Jesus, or both.

The programme was broadcast on BBC2 on 5 October and is available on BBC iPlayer till 3 November.





It's Shoebox Time!

Get involved with Operation Christmas Child,

the world's largest children's Christmas project, and transform the lives of needy children and their families all over the world through a simple gift. Every gift-filled box is a powerful demonstration of God's love in a tangible way. For more information pick up a leaflet in the church foyer or go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ>, and start packing your shoeboxes! Collections will take place at Headingley on 4 & 11 November.



Amélie Addison
Baroque Cello
&
Asuka Sumi
Baroque Violin



Baroque Cafe Vol. 2
Bach in Italy
Bach Cello Suites,
Vivaldi Autumn
Corelli and more.



10 November Saturday
1st stage: 3 - 4 pm
2nd stage: 5 - 6pm
Cafe Casa Vitae
(16-18 Market Pl, Otley LS21 3AQ)

Only £5 at the door
free for children
free hot drink included
Please book your seat via
01943 462226
otleybaroque@gmail.com

*All the profit will be donated to the homeless shelter, St. George Crypt in Leeds.
*Both stages are the same thr program, though, the 1st stage is toddler/baby friendly.



The church office is now open from 10am to 12.30pm from Monday to Friday. If you're unable to drop in at these times please email info@spbc.org.uk and arrange a time so we can ensure that someone will be here to help you!

www.facebook.com/spbaptistchurch

CHRISTIANITY EXPLODED



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 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

Peter Morden

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



“

*God will command his angels
to protect you
wherever you go.*

”

Psalm 91.11 (CEV)

intouch

SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Building Community in Christ