

intouch



**SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

December 2019 - January 2020

Looking forward to Christmas? As we light the first Advent Candle, the words of Bernadette Farrell's song on the candle on the cover of the magazine remind us that we're looking forward to the arrival of Jesus as the Light of the World, and we pray that his wonderful light will shine through us. As the 2010s draw to a close we look back at 11 years of medical work in Africa (page 25) and the last 14 years of this magazine (page 16). On page 3 Geoff King is in election mode thinking about his encounters with politicians, but reminds that Advent is also about looking forward. Be sure not to miss the opportunities to meet with others to celebrate the wonderful Christmas story (page 38) and invite others to come too. Happy Christmas!

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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

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From the Ministry Team

The Unfolding Story

While on holiday this September we spent a day in Carlisle: Clare and I know how to live it up you know!

We noticed an advert for a lecture by Tim Farron the former leader of the Liberal Democrats. It was part of a book launch - his biography, *A Better Ambition*, is worth a read. We attended the lecture and spoke to him afterwards. It was the first time I had met a national political figure.

Just recently Jeremy Corbyn visited Horsforth and spoke from the

bandstand in Hall Park to a sizable and enthusiastic crowd, unfortunately I didn't find out until after the event. Since Tony Blair's days I've been mildly ambitious to see or meet some of our political leaders to assess them and "make a judgement". I say mildly because I've never done much about it until that wet afternoon in Carlisle.

So in 20+ years I've met one ex-leader and had one near miss, not very good so far.

As a Christian I might be defined as someone waiting for the arrival of a notable person. Or does my faith only apply to the past - Jesus has arrived and we are just people who look back?

Recently I'm aware of giving more time to looking forward. It could just be my age but I don't think so, looking forward is very important for Christians.



But, if Jesus is on his way, is there any sense of anticipation, what will it be like, what will my part in it be and what if I die before he arrives?

The big question is, has the Christian story been completed with the resurrection and ascension of Jesus into heaven or is there more of God's story to unfold? And do I have a role, does it matter what I do?

I suspect similar conversations took place at the synagogue in Bethlehem after the service in the year zero.

Over tea and cake, once they had dealt with the latest misbehaviour of Herod or decided who is likely to win the next Gymnastics event (that's what Greeks did instead of football), they might have got on to the subject of the coming Messiah and how it would all work out.

What would it look like, would I be

expected to do anything, is there a response I should make, what's this it says in Isaiah and will it ever happen?

*Advent is as good a time
as any to start out afresh*

At Cragg recently we looked at John 15 and the words of Jesus:

*"I am the vine; you are the
branches. If you remain in me and I
in you, you will
bear much fruit;
apart from me
you can do
nothing."*

I can't just leave my abiding in Jesus to chance. I haven't had a very good strike rate with politicians - I must be intentional and this season of Advent is as good a time as any to start out afresh.

Geoff



*O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
Come ye, o come ye to
Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!*

Around the Church

Baptism at Cragg

Cragg and Connect enjoyed a wonderful joint service on 10 November celebrating Hannah Child's baptism. The church was packed with every seat in the church taken. The service included a dramatic reading of Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan women, prayers from members of Connect and Cragg for Hannah and a very powerful and honest testimony of



Duncan Stow baptising Hannah at Cragg on Remembrance Sunday

God's work in Hannah's life in the good times and the tough times.

Duncan Stow

Cragg Gathering

Interns Update

The last two months have been really busy for Gideon and me as it has been our mission to get the prayer room ready for the start of



our Week of Prayer on 10 November. It was a team effort with church members from across our sites utilising their skills to create what has turned out to be a beautiful and serene space for prayer and reflection. Many thanks to all who have been involved and offered resources and/or their time. We couldn't have done it without you.



The Prayer Room

*We've created a beautiful
and serene space for
prayer and reflection*

During our week of prayer, we have seen the room get lots of use, with many small groups and both of our youth cells using the space as part of their meeting. We also had events at each of our three sites which included the first ever prayer and worship event at Connect@ Copper Beech. It was great to gather in Bramley to praise God and consider what he is saying to us.

At Cragg, Geoff led us in an encouraging conversation about the

difficulties of prayer and how we might overcome them. And at Headingley we had a three hour prayer-a-thon and also held a prayer breakfast on the Saturday morning. It's been great to meet with so many of you across the week and worship God in different and exciting ways.

My prayer is that this week those involved will have discovered that prayer isn't as scary or daunting than we first might think and that the week has encouraged you to pray more than you would have done usually.

This week has given both Gideon and me lots of food for thought and we look forward to leading another week of prayer where we can grow

even further in relationship with God. If you have any feedback on how we could make our next prayer week even better, please email me at: hannah.childs@spbc.org.uk



The prayer room will be open during office hours and will be the new home for our prayer meetings on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Please feel free to come and use the room when you want and are able.

Prayer points for Gideon and Hannah:

- Please pray that we will both gain some rest before the madness of Christmas begins.
- Please pray also as we discern what the next part of our internships will look like.

Hannah Childs

SPBC Intern

Leeds School of Theology

Congratulations to South Parade members Meenakshi, Megan, Patti and Tim for graduating from

Leeds School of Theology Graduates



**LEEDS SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY**

Foundations in Christian Theology with Leeds School of Theology, pictured above with the other graduates. Two years well spent! Will you start the LSOT adventure in 2020? Find out more at leeds-school-of-theology.org

Nathan Shipley

Associate Pastor, Youth and Young Adults

Cragg Weekend Away

Around 40 Craggies went to enjoy a weekend near Scarborough together in the Emmaus Centre. The weekend was an opportunity to relax together and deepen relationships. The teaching theme was "Growing in our worship as a whole church."

After our shared times of worship it



Highlights of the Cragg Weekend Away

*The theme of the weekend
was “Growing in
our worship as
a whole church”*

was the adults who were asked to leave for their groups and the children to stay in the nicer and more comfortable room, a small statement of our intention that children’s worship and teaching be considered every bit as important as the adults. Naomi led the children’s teachings, unpacking an understanding of worship drawn from Doug Horley’s song Glory and Honour. This included learning the “signing” of the words which was later shared in our communion service on the Sunday morning. At Cragg we have noticed a greater ease across the whole gathering using “signing” as opposed to say “action” songs in our shared worship.

The adults were very grateful for Peter Morden’s input as he gave us lots to discuss in small groups and inspired us with stories from both the scriptures and more modern-

day worshippers. One favourite story was of a boy who requested the offering plate being lowered, then lowered again, then once more until finally it was placed on the floor in front of him. At this point the boy stepped onto the plate as to offer himself fully in worship.

Saturday afternoon was a time to go for a cliff walk organised by Mark Pennington or to the beach for a game of rounders, where Beth Thirkhill discovered her gift scoring three consecutive rounders. Finally we 26 of us took over the Crazy Golf Course where the Craggies all looked very much at home!

The evening talent event was lots of fun with plenty of dancing, poetry and prose and four grumpy Yorkshiremen, but the moment which got everyone out of their seats (well most definitely Tim Helliwell) was when we were graced by a special visit from South Africa’s, Kwa Zulu Natal’s King Shaka. I shall leave you to ask Tim about that!

Duncan Stow

Cragg Gathering

...informed...

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



From the Treasurer's Computer

Gift Aid Declarations

Church Treasurer Katharine Widdowson reminds us of an important part of the Gift Aid regulations when giving to the church.

A Gift Aid Declaration (GAD) asks a charity to reclaim from HM Revenue & Customs the income tax you have paid on your donation. If you have not paid as much income tax as a charity claims in Gift Aid, HMRC will ask you to pay the extra tax. This is not an empty threat, and applies to everyone, not just those who have to complete tax returns. I

have been asked to point this out by someone in church.

How do you know if you have paid enough tax?

- The personal allowance for 2019/20 is £12,500. If your income including your state pension is less than this, you will not pay tax. Tell me so I stop claiming Gift Aid!
- If you are employed or have an occupational pension you can check on your payslip. Find the figure for PAYE YTD – this is the income tax you have paid since 6 April 2019.
- You can broadly assume that your salary less the personal allowance is taxable at 20%. There are various other allowances and higher rates but this will cover most people. So if you earn £30,000, taxable pay is £30,000 less £12,500 = £17,500, and tax is 20% of this = £3,500.
- Work out how much you give SP in the year. If you have a monthly standing order,



multiply that by 12. We will claim the tax you paid, which is 25% of the donation. If you give £140 per month, we will claim £35 Gift Aid, which is £420 for the whole year.

- If the tax you have paid is less than the Gift Aid we have claimed, you need to tell me so I stop claiming Gift Aid.

How does HMRC know I have not paid enough tax?

- Every employer, including pension schemes but excluding state pensions, has to tell HMRC every pay day how much they have paid each employee and how much PAYE and NI they have deducted. They also have to include the name and address of each employee.
- I have to list all the people on whose donations I am claiming Gift Aid on every claim. I have

to show title, initials or forenames, surname, house number or name and postcode.

- HMRC therefore has all the information to be able to check one list against another.



**Katharine
Widdowson**

I do not have NI numbers so to correctly identify you HMRC needs your address. It is therefore very important that I have your up to date address. If you have moved house recently, or not so recently but since you completed a GAD, please let me have your current

address.

Please do not stop your giving if you are not paying tax, just tell me that you want me to stop claiming Gift Aid. Talk to me at Headingley on a Sunday or email me if you want to know more.

Katharine Widdowson

Church Treasurer
treasurer@spbc.org.uk

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing*
Isaac Watts

The Grubby World of Commerce?

TFN Business Conference

Mark Roques reports back from the conference he attended on 9 November entitled “Business and the Kingdom: The Big Picture” organised by Bradford Cathedral and Thinking Faith Network (TFN).

David Hanson of TFN reminded us that the Kingdom of God is the central theme of the New Testament. This kingdom is focused on the redemption of all things and this includes business and economic life.

Cal Bailey of TFN has worked as the Sustainability Director at N G Bailey, the UK’s leading independent engineering business. Cal talked movingly about the shame and guilt he experienced as

someone who felt called by God to work in business. Some church leaders were appalled by this decision and they urged Cal to shun the “grubby” world of commerce and enter a more “spiritual” arena of service. Cal explained that this tension between business and serving Jesus betrays an impoverished understanding of the Bible.

Cal outlined a theology of business that can be summarised in terms of Creation/Fall/Christ and the Kingdom of God. Cal pointed out that this world belongs to God and this creation is very good.

Humans image God by faithfully unfolding and serving the good creation. This includes making, selling and buying manufactured goods and services.



ThinkingFaithNetwork

*The apparent tension
between business and
serving Jesus betrays an
impooverished
understanding of the Bible*

Tragically humans have rebelled against God and the poison of sin has corrupted all areas of life. We know that business can be greedy and destructive but it doesn't have to be like this!

The antidote to the impact of sin is not to ignore business as a distraction (pietism) but to locate economic life within God's kingdom. God, through Jesus, is in the business of redeeming and rescuing business from human rebellion.

To illustrate how business can be redeemed, Cal told a delightful story about a director at Unilever who was challenged to design a single use shampoo sachet that would

biodegrade within six months. This commission brought the director so much joy that he decided to postpone his retirement!

In the afternoon Matthew Frost, the former CEO of Tearfund, developed many of Cal's insights in very concrete ways. Matthew focused on how a company can embrace God's kingdom. Matthew shared with us "Ten imperatives to redeem our organisations".#

He suggested that metaphors are key to the redemption of business. Too often businesses are spoken of as efficient machines and this is reductionist. He urged us to reimagine economic life in terms of "living systems".

This was an inspiring conference and as an employee of TFN I would like to thank Karen Williams for her hard work and administrative gifts in making the conference so good.

Mark Roques

Thinking Faith Network

...involved...

Involved find out more about TFN at their website www.thinkfaith.net or talk to Mark. See page 37 for information about Mark's workshops equipping you to talk confidently about the Christian faith.

Introducing Boaz

Matt and Rachel Wright's baby was still-born earlier in the summer. Here they write with painful honesty about their experiences.

Nothing can prepare you for the arrival of a baby. Many people told us that. We read all the books, we attended antenatal classes, we made sure we had everything we needed to keep baby safe once they arrived, but we accepted the advice offered to us that nothing could prepare you for the arrival of a baby.

Nothing can prepare you for the loss of a baby! We know that death is inevitable, it is coming to all of us, but you don't expect to lose the newest member of the family before they are even born. We have discovered that there is

something inherently wrong about planning your own child's funeral. We didn't get to introduce our baby to people and laugh about the fact that they were right...nothing could prepare us for the arrival of our baby.

Boaz Emrys Wright was born on 29 August 2019. He weighed 6lbs and

was 20 inches long. He was perfect. He had a full head of hair that curled by his ears, his feet were small and wrinkly, but he had long toes (like his dad). His hands were really square with stocky fingers and amazingly formed little fingernails. He had a soft nose and really red lips. He was perfect but his

heart wasn't beating. We found out a few days before he was born that sadly he had already died. He was in Jesus' arms before he was in ours.



Boaz isn't just a sad thing that happened though. He is our beautiful son (Matt thinks all new-born babies look like Winston Churchill, but even he admits Boaz was beautiful)! We thank God that He created the deepest parts of Boaz's being. He knit Boaz together in Rachel's womb. How God made Boaz is wonderful and amazing. We MUST praise Him for that (some of that may be plagiarised from Psalm 139). Boaz is a vital and very much-loved part of our family!

We have found navigating the last few months difficult, but it has been made slightly easier by the love and support of friends, family and the church! We have been making our way back into church life in ways that are manageable for us at the moment. You may see Matt around a bit more at the front and both of us at church at the Headingley gatherings.

*Thank you to all who
continue to pray for us -
we definitely need it*

Thank you for respecting our need for space and not overwhelming us. We found early on that we wanted to be part of the church body, worshipping and hearing God's word opened up to us through

teaching, but conversations felt like a step too far. Thank you for allowing us to just be a part of the congregation and not disturbing us during the services. Thank you for not taking offence when we have not known how to answer that age-old British question... "How are you?" Thank you to all who have, and continue, to pray for us - we definitely need it.

We are amazed that so many of you cooked for us and kept us going with lovely food; we massively appreciate the fact we didn't need to think about what was for tea, but also we didn't need to venture to the terrifying place that is the supermarket!

We are sad that you will not get to meet Boaz in this world but we "fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4.18). We cling to the promises that "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15.54), that one day "God will wipe away every tear from our eyes..." (Revelation 21.4), and that "our...troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2 Corinthians 4.17).

Matt & Rachel Wright

Final Word

This is my 85th and last edition as editor of *Intouch*.

After producing hundreds of articles on thousands of pages over 14 years, I wonder if it was all worth it. The core mission of the church to make Jesus known can seem very remote when sweating over a Publisher document long into the night trying to find the right bit of clipart to illustrate a report about the success of a recent church barbecue. It can feel very insular and self-serving.

But I've always been clear that a well-produced magazine can enhance the mission of the church and help encourage and strengthen our faith and the bonds between us. When I started the role with Kleos Cesar helping me with the layout, it was in the first few months of Brian Nicholls' time at South Parade, when Betty Potts was church secretary: they both gave sound advice and support. We were clear that we wanted a magazine that looked attractive and

was easy to read. We tried to add more pictures (when the church photocopier allowed us to print something that was clear). We also moved the Prayer Diary to the centre of the magazine (for people to pull out and use), and refined the focus of what we were trying to do.

Intouch is not supposed to be something you read, throw away and forget about!

Informed

South Parade can be big and confusing, for newcomers especially, and we aim to keep all parts of the church informed about what's going on, and how we can support each other practically and in prayer. Over the years Mission Communities have changed and developed (and the term "Mission Communities" has come and gone too), but together we've celebrated what God has been able to do through us. The

“Congregation Reports”/ “Around the Church” pages constantly feature the many and varied activities and groups that the church runs, and is always the bit I look forward to reading. Looking back through the magazine archive I notice that we’ve also marked the deaths of key individuals who have all made their mark on the church – people such as Carolyn Green, Stari Gunarathne, John Nicholson, Joan Spivey and Ann Morden. It’s important that we remember these people who’ve helped to shape our community.

intouch

Involved

The magazine encourages everyone to get involved in church life – whether that’s by signing up to the Leeds School of Theology, praying for an overseas Mission worker, setting up a standing order, joining the Leeds Street Angels, clicking on the BMS website or whatever. I’ve been really encouraged when people have stood up at the front of church to report on an outreach activity they’re doing and say “I started doing this after reading an article in *Intouch*”. The magazine is not supposed to be something you read, throw away and forget about!

Inspired

We also want to inspire people to

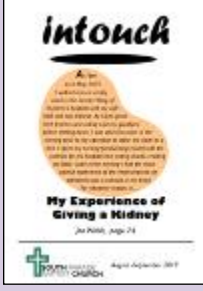
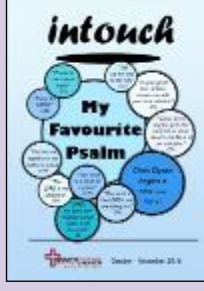
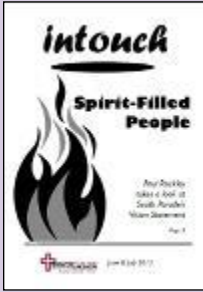
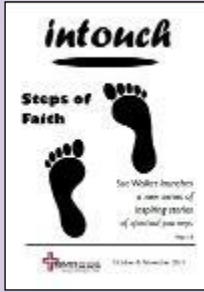
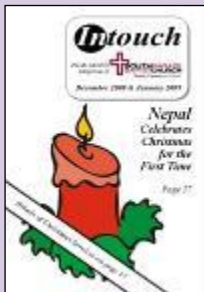
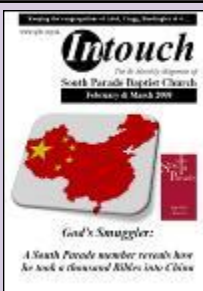
grow and develop in their walk of faith. At one point the magazine felt very “corporate” with most contributions coming from the Ministry Team and Elders or Deacons, with the only additional features coming from the missionaries we support! I wanted to make clear that God uses all of

us, and tried to hear from “ordinary” church members. So features such as “Step of Faith” and “Getting to Know You” were introduced

so we can find out about each other and share testimonies about God’s faithfulness in our lives.

Editors edit. Over the years I’ve had to reject some submissions that were too contentious for a magazine that is available to the whole world via the web (another early decision we made when I first started as editor). Some things I’ve printed and then had to apologise for afterwards.

Some contributions require more editing than others in order to make them shorter or more readable (naming no names). Generally articles have to be really inspiring to go over my three page limit! But we’ve had some brilliant writers in these pages over the years: Brian Nicholls would always



Intouch through the last 14 years

turn in a Minister's Letter that was exquisitely crafted, thought-provoking, a joy to read, and required no editing whatsoever. It was also received on time. Other contributors have shared Douglas Adams' approach to deadlines ("I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by"). But somehow the magazine always appears on time and on publication day its brightly-coloured cover can be seen fluttering around the church as people have a quick peek before the service starts (or maybe during a lull in the sermon).

Of course producing the magazine is a team effort and I'm immensely grateful to everyone who's helped over the years: to Kleos who continued to set the layout after moving back to Brazil for a while. Thanks also to my indefatigable indefatigable proofreaders, the late Donald MacCallum and his successor Sarah

Newman, for carefully combing through early drafts looking for spelling errors, misprints, libels and heresies. The magazine relies on regular contributors (some no longer with us) who all deserve a mention: John Nicholson, John Holmes, Maureen Spearing, "Church Mouse", Cyril Snell, John Lockwood, Gemma Eastwood and Steve Ford.

And a particular thanks to Val Dooks and everyone in the church office who's helped her print, fold, staple and distribute the magazine six times a year with such speed and skill.

My hope and prayer is that the magazine will continue to inform, involve and inspire the church, for His glory.

Matthew Newman

Editor, *Intouch*, 2005-2019



"I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Saviour has just been born in David's town, a Saviour who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger"

Luke 2.12 (The Message)

Reflections

Why I Love Advent

Speaking festively, Advent is my favourite time of the year.

There are so many reasons for this: Christmas shopping for cards and presents, letters to write, carol singing both indoors and outdoors. I sing with local groups outdoors, shaking the tins, collecting money for our local Wheatfields hospice, and in town for Amnesty International. There's money out there and people are more generous during the festive season!

I sometimes do readings at carol services and I always go to a panto. I enjoy pre-Christmas lunches at the

*Advent is my favourite
time of the year*

luncheon clubs I go to. Nowadays I spend Christmas in hotels. I love the run-up to

Christmas, but it always seems to me that when I go to bed of Christmas night it's all over.

Mark Raven

Headingley Gathering



Advent



Prayer Diary



December 2019 - January 2020

DECEMBER

Sun	1	Carol Singing in the courtyard at Headingley this evening
Mon	2	Matt and Rachel Wright
Tue	3	Christmas events with CUs in Leeds
Wed	4	Your Gathering's Leadership Team
Thu	5	The Church office
Fri	6	Levi Booth
Sat	7	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Sun	8	Christmas Service at Connect@Copper Beech today
Mon	9	Irene
Tue	10	Rooted
Wed	11	Christmas parties with different groups within the church
Thu	12	The election today
Fri	13	The UK government
Sat	14	Carol singing at the Arndale Centre in Headingley today
Sun	15	People attending the Carol Service this evening

Pull out and use!

Mon	16	The Deacons
Tue	17	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Wed	18	Geoff King
Thu	19	All those who look after our church buildings
Fri	20	Jane Waites
Sat	21	Christmas service at Cragg Hill today
Sun	22	Connect@Copperbeech Gathering
Mon	23	Gideon Fairhall
Tue	24	Sam and Katie
Wed	25	Celebrate the birth of our Saviour
Thu	26	Pray for Leeds
Fri	27	Paul Rockley at Blenheim Baptist Church
Sat	28	People recently baptised or thinking about baptism
Sun	29	Chris Gnanakan
Mon	30	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Tue	31	Kate Churchill
JANUARY 2020		
Wed	1	You and your place in South Parade
Thu	2	Peter Morden
Fri	3	Ina and Malte von Blumroder in Germany
Sat	4	The Elders
Sun	5	Hannah Childs
Mon	6	Steve Fairhall, Tim Rowe and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	7	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	8	Connect Bible Club
Thu	9	St George's Crypt
Fri	10	Caring for Life

Sat	11	Katharine Widdowson, Church Treasurer
Sun	12	Headingley Morning Gathering
Mon	13	Retired people in the church
Tue	14	Cragg Gathering
Wed	15	Work with children and young people across the church
Thu	16	Headingley evening Gathering
Fri	17	Drop-in at Cragg
Sat	18	The Ministry Team
Sun	19	Another local church
Mon	20	Students in Leeds
Tue	21	Tim Jackson
Wed	22	Christian Unity events this week
Thu	23	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Fri	24	Transformations Leeds
Sat	25	Joanna Project
Sun	26	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Mon	27	Barnabas Bunch
Tue	28	Your neighbours
Wed	29	Greg McLeen, Church Secretary
Thu	30	Nathan Shipley
Fri	31	Kate Burkett
FEBRUARY		
Sat	1	The new editor of <i>Intouch</i>



A Prayer for the 2019 General Election

*God of grace and truth,
send your Spirit to guide us
as we discover Your will for our country.
Help us to discuss the issues before us
with courtesy, truth and mutual respect,
and grant that all who stand for parliament
will seek to serve the common good,
through Him who came not to be served
but to serve,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



www.churchofengland.org

A Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January 2020

*God, giver of life,
we thank You for the gift of Your compassionate love
which soothes and strengthens us.
We pray that our churches
may be always open to receive Your gifts from one another.
Grant us a spirit of generosity to all
as we journey together in the path of Christian unity.
We ask this in the name of Your Son
who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

From *Unusual Kindness: Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity 2020*, www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

**churches
together** 
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Step of Faith

11 Years of Baby Steps

Liz Crathern looks back over 11 years of trips to rural Uganda with Denise Evans to assist with neonatal work in hospitals there, and remembers how it all started.

As I look back at my very first trip to Uganda with my daughter Rosie in 2007, who had already been to Sierra Leone with Vineyard youth group, little did I know then how God was using her as my initial catalyst for this work. When I thought that we could not raise enough funds for

both of us for the trip to Uganda she told me to step out in faith as I had told her to do for the prior Sierra Leone trip fundraising! Oh how your own children are good at this sort of thing.

I pray that the babies we had a hand in saving and caring for will go on and lead purposeful lives in their communities



I remember that first Mission Direct trip back in 2007 sitting by the two tiny babies in the wooden box, wet from their own urine and cold in a tiny cupboard in Nyakabale Maternity unit. It imprinted on my mind so much I could not erase it as I worked with my students in NICU.

This is the thing, when a student nurse in 1975 I had a notion of doing some VSO work but it petered

out and part of me always regretted that. I think I was impressed by the nun in our student nursing group who was already equipped for such work and indeed went on to spend time out in Africa working in disaster areas. Then, decades later here I am a mum, a wife, and a lecturer and in the middle of my doctoral studies - and God calls me to work overseas.

The fact that God also put Denise in my path yet again, and that we go back over 40 years with a history of paths crossing in educational and national settings, was no surprise on that conference day when I presented my experiences of neonatal care in rural Uganda. Little did we know then how great God's plans were for us! That was a surprise! We called His plans "baby steps" knowing that if we had been given a vision of the bigger picture we would have felt ill-equipped and not up to the task. Oh how amazing our God is and knows exactly what we are able to do in His name.

I do hope and pray that the babies we had a hand in saving

and caring for will go on and lead purposeful lives in their communities. I also pray that the doctors, student nurses and pupil midwives will continue to practise what we taught them and to teach others what they have learnt.

I conclude that we know not when God will call upon us and for how long but we have to answer His call. We have seen God's hand in our work over the past 11 years in terms of protection, guidance and other amazing servants put before us, such as Sister Beatrice from the hospital convent who was there for us at times of real challenge.

I am a bit emotional and slightly im-



From Liz's Album

patient (one of my character faults)
 as we wait to find out what other
 doors may open for us - but I am safe
 in the knowledge as one season ends
 He is telling us to slow down a bit
 and smell the
 flowers as we
 recuperate
 from various
 illnesses in
 this next season of our lives.



Mission Direct
 Building hope, bringing change

These are the verses that travelled
 with Rosie and I to Uganda and be-
 came words of encouragement for
 mine and Denise's travels too:

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you,
 whatever you did for one of the least
 of these brothers and sisters of mine,
 you did for me.'*

*"Then he will say to those on his left,
 'Depart from me, you who are curs-
 ed, into the eternal fire prepared for
 the devil and his angels. For I was
 hungry and you gave me nothing to
 eat, I was thirsty and you gave me
 nothing to drink, I was a stranger
 and you did not invite me in, I need-*

*ed clothes and you did not clothe me,
 I was sick and in prison and you did
 not look after me.'*

*"They also will answer, 'Lord, when
 did we see you
 hungry or thirsty
 or a stranger or
 needing clothes
 or sick or in
 prison, and did not help you?'*

*"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, what-
 ever you did not do for one of the
 least of these, you did not do for me.'*

Matthew 25.40-45 (NIV)

May God bless all those who
 have crossed our paths,
 prayed and supported us -
 you too have been instrumental in
 heeding God's prompting to support
 your sisters and brothers here in the
 UK and Uganda.

Liz Crathern

Headingley Gathering

*Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee,
 Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Ford's Focus

Abraham: A Man Who Found God

Steve Ford looks at the life of Abraham who was determined to find God.

Let's start our journey in Acts 7.2-5. This chapter in Acts is the great defence of Stephen who, the writer says, was "a man full of faith and power". This is the chapter that really shows us how to defend our faith, it shows us that Stephen knew the scripture, had experienced the divine, that he knew God and that he was prepared to publicly display what he found to be true.

Stephen starts his defence by giving a potted history of the Jewish people to the high priests of the Jewish

synagogue, as if they did not know! What this tells us is that Stephen knew his history and more importantly he knew the scripture. If any of us want to find God then scripture is where we must go as it is the only place where we will find personal stories and encounters that point us to the divine and spiritual nature that is God. We learn just as much about God in the white space as in the black letters.

Stephen defends what he is doing by demonstrating to the high priests that he is a man full of Spirit (Holy) and that his story is rooted in the experience of the great men of scripture down through the ages. He points out that God was the instigator of everything in Abraham's life: "God appeared to Abraham", "God spoke Get out of your country and into a land I will show you". God was the instigator not Abraham, Abraham listened and was obedient.

What was it that made Abram receptive to, and engage with God? What was it that caused this man to "look for a city which has founda-



tions, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11.10)? This passage demonstrates something of the heart and desire of the man, he was not prepared to settle until he had found the reality of God and not just the hearsay of God. He wanted to find the spirituality at the heart of the world he lived in. He was not prepared to settle on a promise unless he had confirmation. We read in Genesis 15.8 KJV “whereby shall I know” or “how can I be sure” (NLT).

*Abraham was not
prepared to settle until
he had found the reality
of God*

We are not told how old Abram was when he was taken by his father Terah from Ur to Haran but what we are told is that “the Lord had said to Abram get out...” Genesis 12.1. This indicates that God and Abram had some kind of understanding and communication prior to him living in Haran. We are told that Abram was 75 years old when he acted on what God had said. I wonder what those intervening years were like between when God had originally spoken and when Abram actually acted on the command? I would expect there to have been a lot of questions and at times

doubt and even loneliness as he wrestled with God and the meaning of life. Remember Abram was a restless soul, always looking and searching “for a city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God”. We need a restlessness in our spirit which is always looking and searching for revealed truth straight from the heart of God.

Abram packed up his belongings and set out from Haran to continue on this journey of promise, a promise from almighty God. We read “And the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared” (Genesis 12.6-7). At this point, what do we see? Do we see a hopeless situation? Do we begin to doubt the word of the Lord? Or do we take heart because in that place of absolute despondency we find that the all-sufficient Jehovah appears and reassures us that all we can see is for our possession by the grace and mercy of God. Just because the land we pass through in life is occupied by people who do not know or who have never encountered our creative God does not mean we cannot claim it. We are told that Abram came into the land of Canaan and even passed through it and settled in Shechem, the place of decision. We all have to come to this place in our lives, the place where we encounter God, the place where God says this is yours,

I am giving it to you and your descendants.

*We all need cities of
refuge, places we can go
in time of need for
protection and immunity*

It is at the point we see that Abram's immediate response is to build an altar. An altar is a marker that something special has happened: we all need these places where we meet God and where we lay down a memorial. The altar was built at Shechem, this was a place of decision for Abram and later in Israel's history became a city of refuge. We all need cities of refuge, places we can go in time of need for protection and immunity. Places where God says you are safe, the place that becomes the place of remembrance, restoration and renewal.

Even after this encounter with God who promised Abram all he surveyed, he was still restless and we find him moving from Shechem still searching for the "city that has foundation" to the mountains east of Bethel. In Genesis 12.8 we read that Abram settled between Bethel on the west and Ai on the east and

there he built another altar, another memorial to a God who Abram had come to know and trust. What is significant about this choice of dwelling, this place where Abram pitched his tent, was that Bethel means "House of bread" and Ai means "ruin". So Abram was midway between a free abundant life and a place of ruin. His life depended on a choice, choosing life, substance and security or choosing ruin. If he chose to go East he faced certain destruction.



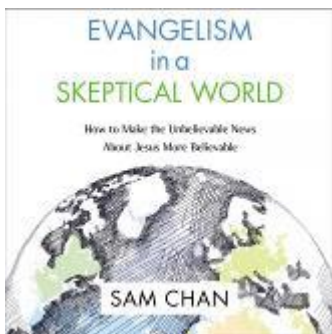
Interestingly as far back as the story of Cain and Abel we find Cain going east after he had committed the murder of his brother and the scripture says in Genesis 4.16 "Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden". Any place East of Eden, Eden being the place that God chooses for you to pitch your tent in life here on earth, is a place that is not in or with the presence of God.

Abram pitched his tent in a place where he was fully reliant on God for his survival. Where have we pitched our tent?

Steve Ford

Recommended Reads

Evangelism in a Skeptical World by Sam Chan



I first heard about this book during a meal-time with the UCCF's Head of Creative Evangelism,

while I was doing the Relay programme. He was full of enthusiasm for this new resource, appreciating its insights for contextualising the gospel in evangelism, and looking forward to getting it in to the hands of others. I (finally!) read the book this year, and also found it worthy of recommendation...

This book helps its readers with the ongoing task of sharing the timeless gospel in culturally relevant ways. This seems to stem from recognising that many of our evangelistic methods have not kept pace with changes in society in recent years – particularly acknowledging a tendency to hold to evangelistic methods that may have led to our conversions (or the conversions of our parents and grandparents).

The book wonderfully marries theory – including a theology of evangelism, insights to contextualising the gospel in evangelism, and understanding of our current post-modern age – with practice – in-



*This book helps with
the ongoing task of
sharing the timeless gospel
in culturally relevant ways*

cluding suggestions of simple strategies for everyday evangelism, a section on storytelling the gospel, as well as detailed guidance for giving evangelistic talks, with a chapter devoted to topical talks, and a separate one to expository talks.

These insights help to provide convictions and competencies for sharing the gospel in meaningful and appropriate ways in our current context. I found theoretical sections accessible and well-explained for non-specialists to the subject, whilst the many examples fleshed out the application of these ideas.

I particularly recommend this book for preachers and leaders within the church.

It could be a useful resource for preachers, for help and guidance for communicating how Jesus relates to our deep longings, which is valuable even in settings which are not so explicitly evangelistic.

Similarly, some of the insights to our post-Christian culture could help Jun-

ior Church leaders to share Christ in engaging ways with young people. Home group leaders, gathering leaders, worship service leaders, leaders with the Tots groups, among others, might also benefit from insights to some of the holistic ways in which we can live and speak the gospel as a church, and hopefully be inspired that it's not just preachers who play a significant role in the church sharing the gospel.

The Trellis and the Vine By Colin Marshall and Tony Payne



I recommend this book for its encouragement to focus on and persevere with sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, in the power of God's Spirit, trusting that it is by the gospel that disciples are made and grown. I like its emphasis on making disciples who make disciples. I think this is an exciting aspiration, though perhaps also daunting as it compels all disciples to recognise our calling and responsibility to help make disciples of

Jesus, and not simply to dismiss it as one of the pastor's tasks. I appreciate the various contexts in which I've seen and been a part of this lived out, so I'm grateful to know a resource which I can use and recommend to encourage this further, though I acknowledge that a book is not as good as experiencing the principles lived out first-hand.

This book encourages us to persevere with sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, in the power of God's Spirit

This encouragement to disciple-making comes with the simultaneous encouragement not to focus on the structures of the church. I appreciate the way that structures for ministry are not dismissed by the authors, rather they are acknowledged as important and helpful. Though I think the authors helpfully warn of how this work can take over, and how this can be a lot more tempting as it can look more impressive, require less sacrifice and

demand less reliance on God.

I like the biblical convictions of the book, and its call - not to a new fad for church growth - but rather to return to and persevere in sharing the gospel by God's Word, in the power of the Holy Spirit, trusting that to bear gospel fruit and help make disciples. I recognise ways in which I need to return to this focus, and anticipate it being a message which I'll do well to come back to again and again.

The book is largely aimed at church leaders, and people working in vocational ministry. But I would like to recommend it to other leaders within the church, and other mature believers.

I hope it could encourage appreciation of the work of the church leaders, perhaps ignite ideas for enhancing their ministries, as well as provide inspiration for disciple-making in each of our lives as disciples.

Tim Jackson

...inspired...

If you have a recommendation of a book you've recently read or something else you want others to see email magazine@spbc.org.uk

Joe's Bible Link Quiz

#3

Questions from the August edition

- 1) For the wages of _____ is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord – Romans 6.23 NIV **Sin**
- 2) Let the _____ of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to - _____. And be thankful – Colossians 3.15 NIV **Peace**
- 3) or Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the Lord Almighty, though their land is full of _____ before the Holy One of Israel. Jeremiah 51.5 NIV **Guilt**
- 4) When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened

the ship by throwing the --
_____ into the sea. Acts 27.38
NIV **Grain**

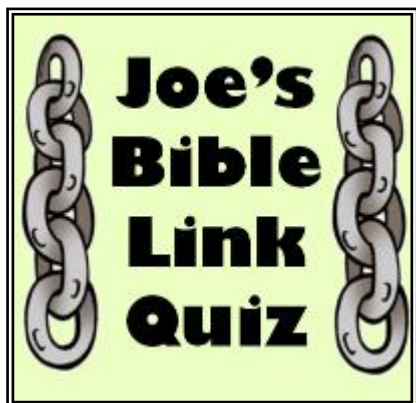
The link

So what's the link? The link was offerings. Throughout the bible, even before the Mosaic covenant, God's people would bring Him offerings to worship and make amends for their sin.

*God has always wanted us:
our whole selves, not just a
legally defined portion.*

Whilst the sacrificial system can be hard to understand to a modern audience, it points profoundly towards the way in which Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice that would reconcile us to him, praise God! Interestingly the sacrificial system is invoked in Romans 12.1 where Paul says:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship."



In other words, there is a deeper principle at work, and it is not new. God wants, and has always wanted, us: our whole selves, not just a legally defined portion. In view of God's mercy we readily lay down our rights and surrender them to God so that He can live in us.

I wonder what living a sacrificial life means for you individually? Is there anything that we need to surrender to God?

This edition's challenge:

- 1) In which city was it said "I'll become even more undignified than this"?
- 2) In which city was it said "Go,

for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake"?

- 3) In which city was an altar found with an inscription to an unknown God?
- 4) In which city was it penned: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"?

Let me know if you can get the link!
magazine@spbc.org.uk

Joe Walsh
Elder

*If you look for me at Christmas
You won't need a special star
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem
I'm right there where you are
You may not be aware of me
Amid the celebrations
But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do
And list to your heart you'll find
I'm waiting there for you
You're the one I want to be with
You're the reason that I came
And you'll find me in the stillness
As I'm whispering your name.
Love, Jesus*



With thanks to Pat Dalglish for forwarding this

Nativity

*Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb,
Now leaves His well-belov'd imprisonment,
There He hath made Himself to His intent
Weak enough, now into the world to come;
But O, for thee, for Him, hath the inn no room?
Yet lay Him in this stall, and from the Orient,
Stars and wise men will travel to prevent
The effect of Herod's jealous general doom.
Seest thou, my soul, with thy faith's eyes, how He
Which fills all place, yet none holds Him, doth lie?
Was not His pity towards thee wondrous high,
That would have need to be pitied by thee?
Kiss Him, and with Him into Egypt go,
With His kind mother, who partakes thy woe.*

John Donne



Church Noticeboard

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Equipping you to talk confidently
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"In my work as an evangelist on London's roughest estates, Mark's stories have been brilliant."

Craig Dowling, Church
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Mark Roques

Six workshops, January to March 2020

www.thinkfaith.net/evangelism20



Thinking**Faith**Network

Christmas

AT SOUTH PARADE BAPTIST CHURCH

HEADINGLEY

KIRKSTALL LANE, HEADINGLEY,
LS6 3LF

*15 December 6.30pm
Carols by Candlelight*

*25 December 10.30am
Christmas Day Service*

CRAGG HILL

18 CRAGG AVENUE, HORSFORTH,
LS18 4NU

*21 December 4.30pm
Carol Service*

*25 December 11am
Christmas Day Service*

CONNECT@COPPERBEECH

COPPER BEECH HUB, BRAMLEY,
LS13 2BE

*8 December 2.30pm
The Salvation Army Brass
Band*

**For more details
and news of
other events at
South Parade this
Christmas visit
www.spbc.org.uk
or contact the
church office on
0113 275 4989**





OPENING 21 JAN '20

Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays
for breakfasts and lunches.
Child-friendly, all welcome.

To find out more about this exciting new
community café and for information on
volunteering, contact cafe@spbc.org.uk.



For service times, locations,
gatherings, 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

Churches Together in Headingley

Carol Singing

We will be carol singing at the Arndale Centre on **Saturday 14 December** from 10.30 to 11.45ish. Come along, for however long you can stay. Coffee and cakes are available at the Methodist Church opposite to warm up after the singing! Proceeds will go to Wheatfields Hospice.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This is being celebrated worldwide from **18 - 25 January 2020**. The theme of "Unusual Kindness" has been prepared by the churches of Malta. The Headingley united service will be hosted by us, at South Parade on Sunday 19 January at 3pm. Ecumenical get-togethers (this year looking mainly at passages from Acts and the Psalms) are being arranged on 20th (pm), 21st (am) and 22nd (evening) - more news of these later in the weekly notice sheets. A coffee morning to meet up and chat with our friends in the other churches will be on Saturday 18 January at St Michael's Parish Hall, 10.00-12.00.

Opportunity Knocks

Could you be the next editor of *Intouch*? The current editor is stepping down from the position from the end of this year. If you are interested email magazine@spbc.org.uk or have a chat with Matthew Newman at Headingley or Kate in the church office.

Could you be the next Church Treasurer? Katharine Widdowson will be giving up this role next year. If you think you could help fulfil this role in future email treasurer@spbc.org.uk to find out more.

Toddler group volunteer needed on Wednesday mornings in term-time from 9.45 - 11.45am to help in the kitchen and in the hall. Could be on a rota basis. Please speak to Kate Burkett.

Café Volunteer? Could you be part of this exciting new outreach based at our Headingley site. Could you spare some time to assist with Breakfast or Lunch shifts on Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 8am and 2.30pm. Please contact Tracy for more information: café@spbc.org.uk

safenightout.party

Ouch



Ladies - carry a pair of slip-on shoes in your handbag so that when your high-heels are no longer comfortable you don't need to walk bare-foot.



'Ker Ching'

Keep your taxi money in another part of your handbag/wallet so you don't spend it. Always sit in the back of a taxi if you're travelling by yourself. Take a photo of your taxi drivers ID and text it a friend

Ooops



Pick a venue right for you - If you feel out of place, leave! Most fights start over something minor - someone knock you, spill your drink - apologise! Don't get involved in breaking up a fight - that's the job of the door-staff! Someone pestering you - try and ignore them and if that doesn't work ask the bar or door staff to help you.



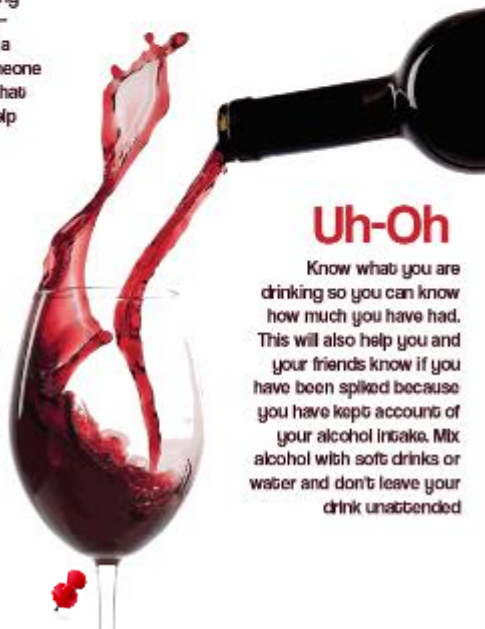
Aarrgghh

Always stay with your friends, don't go off alone, have their contact information on you somewhere other than your phone and over a big dinner beforehand try to think about your drinking limits for the night and stick to them!

Fill Up



Always eat before a night out - never drink on an empty stomach. Get a takeaway before you go home - don't start cooking once you get home especially in a chip pan!



Uh-Oh

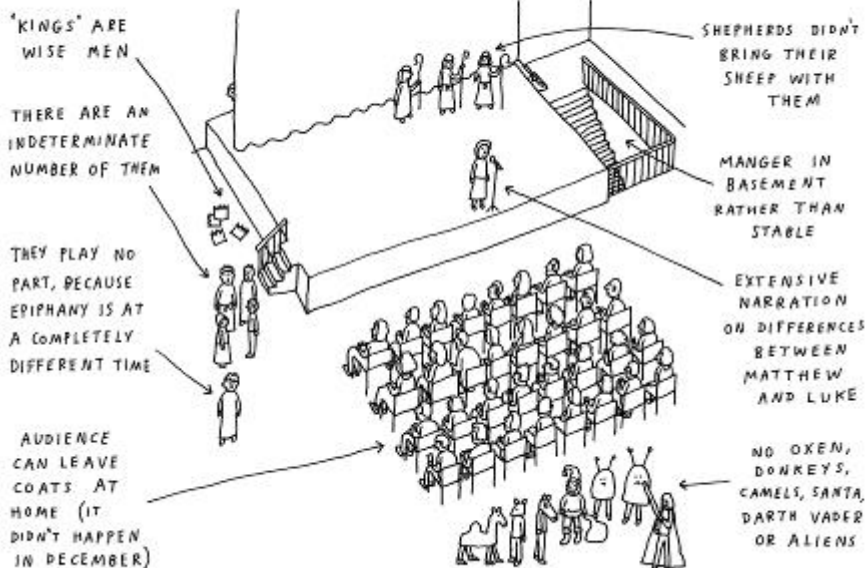
Know what you are drinking so you can know how much you have had. This will also help you and your friends know if you have been spiked because you have kept account of your alcohol intake. Mix alcohol with soft drinks or water and don't leave your drink unattended



This flyer has been designed by the CNI Network and is used by Street Angels.

THE NATIVITY PLAY

PEDANTIC / SCHOLARLY VERSION



CartoonChurch.com

Scrambled Christmas Carols

CHRISTIANITY
EXPLODED

#22

- A winey anagram (4, 2, 1, 6)
- Tinsel thing (6,5)
- Worthy Jolt Ode (3, 2, 3, 5)
- Regret lenders get my money (3, 4, 2, 5, 9)
- Fillet worst hen (3, 5, 6)
- Danger: shell shaking earth (4, 3, 6, 6, 4)
- Idiosyncratic envoy lad (5, 2, 5, 6, 4)
- When to seek refrigeration (2, 5, 5, 2, 6, 3)

christianityexploded.tumblr.com



One Church Three Sites • Many Gatherings

South Parade meets as different Gatherings across Leeds: in **Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and at **Headingley** on Sunday mornings and evenings. **Connect@Copperbeech** is a partnership with the Salvation Army meeting in the community in Bramley. We run a CAP Debt Centre and have a link with the Arabic Christian Fellowship. To find out more, visit the website or contact the church office.

Ministry Team

Senior Pastor / Team Leader
Ministers

Peter Morden
Geoff King
Matt Wright
Nathan Shipley
Kate Churchill
Kate Burkett

Associate Pastor
Operations Manager
Young Families Co-ordinator

Elders

Steve Burras, Barbara Crosse,
Freeman Dumenu,
Greg McLeen (Church Secretary),
John Pelham, 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



“

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*

”

Isaiah 60.1 (NIV)

intouch

 **SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**