

intouch



*Letting the quiet people
have their say in church*

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intouch

August & September 2013

In a church the size of South Parade, it can be difficult finding your way at times. Many people have found a home group or small group the best way to meet people, make friends, and find support and encouragement in their daily walk with Jesus. Val Dooks introduces us to her home group on page 29. If you're not in a home group, maybe a new term is the time to join one. If you're already in one, why not tell us about it for the next edition of the magazine?

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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

Tomorrow's World

Three cheers for George Alexander Louis Cambridge!

Whether you are a royalist or a republican you have to hand it to the little chap – making his Mum wait until he was ready to pop out, sleeping through his first media moment, succumbing to his Dad's clumsy fingers changing those challenging first nappies and with his whole life already charted in detail by the royal correspondents and gossip columnists. Third in line to the throne – is that code for the fact that there is always a queue for the loo in the Cambridge household?

And yet he's just like you and me and all of us when we are first born, vulnerable, thoroughly dependent on the adults around us, brimful of potential, with every hair numbered and every day counted by God...

and like all of us, needing to know the Saviour. We must pray for him.

The hopeful news is that from his earliest days he will be exposed to the Gospel message. It's part of being in that line of succession that one day will require him to be Defender of the Faith. Most British children who will grow up at the same time will have no meaningful contact with the Church, and will make life choices based on partial world views that have marginalised or even excluded God.

Some of our own young people are making some big life choices as they

We must pray for our young people and take every opportunity to help them discover the joy of discipleship

go through the transitions of summer – from primary to secondary school, from school to further or higher education or the world of work. For some, with those choices will go decisions to abandon childhood faith positions. Some will go on to develop a mature personal faith in Christ. Sadly others will simply give up. We must pray for them and talk with them and take every opportunity to help them discover the joy of discipleship. We won't be able to do that if we are not seeking to follow Christ ourselves.

This is why South Parade invests heavily in children's and youth work through paid staff and scores of volunteers. It's why we try hard to be inclusive in worship. It's why we visit schools and welcome them to our premises. It's why we support TLG and take part in their mentoring scheme.

Of course there is always more to be done. Pray for those who lead in this area – for Kate and her team in Under 5s, for Heather and her team with children and families and in Little London, for Lawrence working with students and among the Leeds Christian Fellowship Church children, and for Dave with years of service among teenagers and at Connect, and especially as he moves on to new ministry this autumn, and for Nathan as he prepares to join us in October.

I'm reminded of our strap line from the last Vision Sunday – "Inspire the Generations". This is our responsibility and privilege as we pray for and serve the younger members of our church family and beyond.

Be encouraged

Brian

When I preach, I sink myself deep down. I regard neither doctors nor magistrates, of whom are here in this church above forty; but I have an eye to the multitude of young people, children, and servants, of whom are more than two thousand.

Martin Luther

"These children are at the very centre of life in the kingdom."

Mark 10.14 (The Message)

Around the Church

Cragg: A Load of Rubbish

Is the picture confirmation of that?

Quite the opposite: it's a shot taken on our latest Kingdom Day on 13 July (or are we going to call it our community day?) when we hired a skip and visited the streets closest to Cragg offering to clear rubbish from people's gardens. As you can see there was no shortage of takers.



Kingdom Day

It was an opportunity to talk to people and invite them to join us for the morning, we had some children's crafts, tea and coffee

(with cake!), work to do on the allotments, a bouncy castle and it was rounded off with a BBQ.

In fact it turned into a mini church weekend. Cragg's women met for a BBQ

on the Friday evening, Kingdom day on the Saturday morning, worship Sunday morning, an impromptu picnic and game of rounders in Hall Park Sunday afternoon, and meeting for Disciple on Sunday evening, all carefully planned! (Hem, hem).

Just in case it sounds like this branch of SPBC is really a social club we are trying to cultivate our spiritual lives as well: a prayer meeting has been established on Friday lunchtimes (after Drop-in) to pray for individual needs but also the life of the church and its place in Horsforth. We are also going to see how a “no frills” Bible study can serve our need to be familiar with the Bible. Disciple one Sunday evening a month is aimed at helping people to go further in their faith.

*Join with us in praying that
God will use us to build
up His Kingdom here*

We continue to learn how to worship together with the help of some excellent musicians and worship leaders and we benefit from being part of a very active Churches Together in Horsforth. Cragg, a load of rubbish? Oh no, please join with us in praying that



God will use us to build up His Kingdom here in Horsforth.

Geoff King
Church Worker

Bobbing, Baptism and Buzz: Redmire 2013

As we get older, and the years fly by at an ever increasing rate of speed, there is one time of year that seems to hurtle towards us. That special time of year when we're allowed to stay up late, play games, chow down on more food than we're capable of eating, and find ourselves up to our eyeballs in sprouts and gravy.

Yes, you guessed it: REDMIRE!

And no, I'm not being metaphorical. This year, some of our leaders really were up to their eyeballs - in an apple bobbing game that features sprouts floating temptingly in a sea of gravy. Yum, yum!

A scorching weekend at the end of May saw another action-packed weekend at the Jonas Centre in Wensleydale. A weekend that saw 39 kids from all over Leeds come together with leaders Heather McLeen and Andy Jones to hear and experience the truth about Jesus Christ amidst the chaos and fun of



Emma's Baptism

SPBC's Children's Weekend Away.

One of the highlights of the Redmire weekend is always the Saturday night prayer event. You know that "prayer event" you're imagining right now? Well, it's nothing like that - I can assure you! Playdough, newspapers, butterfly nets and Post-it notes on giant bubble tubes; not to mention the full body of armour that could be used! The children learned to pray in ways they could scarcely have imagined, and as you observed that oasis of prayer and silence in an

Emma shared her heartfelt and emotional testimony and followed Christ's example in being baptised

otherwise manic weekend, you witnessed God meeting with kids in a quite extraordinary way.

And if there was ever any doubt over the impact of Redmire, just ask Emma Hall. She'll tell you otherwise. She was the subject of the very first Redmire baptism! Sharing her heartfelt and emotional testimony with the rest of the children and leaders at the camp, she testified to God's healing work in her life, and followed Christ's example in being baptised. (Though I'm not sure Christ himself used a 6 inch deep paddling pool and was welcomed out with party poppers. The Bible is unclear on this point.)

All in all, an incredible weekend where the buzz around the games and (frankly ridiculous) challenges was matched only by the buzz for what God is doing getting involved

in this world! And now, finally, a chance to rest and recover. Until the Redmire Reunion sleepover in November, that is. Why DO we do this to ourselves...?!

James Clarke

Adel News

As we bask in this summer's glorious weather we ask "Will it last till 10 August?" Why? Because that is when some of our fellowship and some of the Café Church members are planning to have a day out at Burton Agnes Hall, Bridlington. This is just one of the events we are looking forward to over the coming months.



leading the weekend and we are delighted that a few of the Café Church folk will be coming along too. We ask you to pray for our outreach in all areas of Leeds 16 – a challenging time for us as new houses spring up all over Adel and controversy abounds about the proposed trolley bus and park and ride schemes.

We also have cause for celebration. Two of the younger members of our fellowship have gained degrees from university – Vanessa Forbes and Jessica Hellawell. We congratulate them for all their hard work and pray that they will soon be able to find work in their chosen fields. Sarah Hellawell has also been given a place at Newcastle University to study for a PhD on the place of women in history. Esther Hellawell is waiting for her A level results and then plans to go to university in September – we pray for her at this time. Times of waiting are always difficult (for parents as well!)

Pray for our outreach at a challenging time for the area of Leeds 16

On 22 September we will be holding our annual harvest and Big Welcome service followed by a bring and share lunch. On 11-13 October we are tripping off again – this time to Thornleigh Hotel, Grange-over-Sands. Paul will be

It is also a time of sadness as we say farewell to Derek Sutton. We hold Betty, Jane, Alex, John and Barbara Cooke in our prayers and are comforted that Derek is now at peace in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

We pray for Paul and thank God that he has sent him to us, helping and encouraging us to become a “spirit -filled people, passionate about sharing the gospel”.

Rosemary Stirk
Elder

Mattress Project

Here’s an update on my “mattresses and protectors” project for Uganda. I recently received this email from Rukungiri Modern Primary:

Hallo Liz

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus, we are so glad you’re coming back to help and support us back here in Uganda and we are so grateful of all that you have done for us. in the last donation we managed to get 25 mattress covers (mackintosh) made for the boys dormitory at Rukungiri modern primary school and thank you so very much for your support. I have failed to attach pictures but you will see them and a much better boys dorm at the school. Thank you so

much. We still have close to 20 boys who still need these mattress covers and some girls as well but what you did for us made such a big improvement in the boys dorm. We are very thankful.

lots of love
Claire Peace

I am off to Uganda on 27 July for two weeks and will sort out the other needs when I get there - thank you to all who have supported this endeavour - I feel truly blessed to be supported in this way.

Liz Crathern

Under 5s: Help needed!

We need some help from September with the toddler groups on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you enjoy chatting to families and helping make people feel welcome contact me to find out more.

Kate Burkett

Under 5s co-ordinator

...informed...

Share news from Around the Church, from your Mission Community, homegroup, cell group, project or meeting by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk.



BMS World News

“The lame walk”: rehabilitation in Nepal

Paralysed at 19, Maya has spent nine years lying on the same bed in the same room in the same small house in Nepal. Doctors told her she would never walk again, but a clinic which specialises in rehabilitation for spinal injuries has proved them wrong.

When Maya was 19 she fell from a tree whilst cutting leaves to feed goats. Her family were poor and sold their land and animals to take Maya to various hospitals - but all the doctors told them the same thing: “your daughter’s spinal cord is completely severed and she will never walk again.”

So Maya lay on her bed, unable to move her arms or legs, hopeless.

But then, in June, everything changed.

After nine years Maya heard about the International Nepal Fellowship Surkhet Clinic where BMS worker Megan Barker serves as an occupational therapist. It’s the only clinic in Nepal that provides a full rehabilitation service for spinal injury patients.

“When Maya got here she wasn’t engaged with what we were doing at all,” says Megan.

Through rehabilitation sessions, Megan and the staff gradually built up Maya’s muscle strength. After a week they tried sitting her up and then they got her standing. On Tuesday, 18 June, Maya walked for the first time in almost a decade!

Suddenly Maya has a future that she thought had been lost. She and her mum have started looking towards

the future and she’s dreaming of studying.

“Seeing her mum this morning, it made me cry. She is just so happy,” says Megan.



One thing is certain: the depressed, hopeless young woman who Megan first saw has been transformed. Maya is 28 and she has her life.

A glorious day in prison
Prisoners in Mozambique are given Bibles and a second chance of redemption.



Life is tough for the women of Chissue Prison in central Mozambique. Most of the inmates are in prison for murdering their husbands and spend their days locked in a dormitory. They have been excluded from society. Forgotten.

Annet and her team embraced every woman, telling her that Jesus loves her

28 May 2013 was a day the women of Chissue Prison will remember for many years to come. Allowed out of the dormitory to sit in the fresh air under a tent, the women received visitors bearing a precious

gift. A team from the Mozambique Christian Lawyers Association (AMAC), including BMS World Mission worker Annet Ttendo, had travelled over 200km from Beira to be with them.

Annet and her team carried caplanas, metre-long strips of material that are a traditional covering for Mozambique women. The giving of a caplana is a special event. It is the ultimate demonstration of love.

Could these caplanas be for them?

Each woman had a caplana tied around her waist and had a Bible given to her. Annet and her team embraced every woman, telling her that Jesus loves her. For Annet, the moment was incredibly moving: "It was so emotional for me," says Annet. "It is hard to explain what went into my heart, but there was a warmth I can't explain. Every woman I hugged in there needed God's love."

It was special for the women, too. In the prison grounds they sang and danced for joy. For a few minutes they were free, they felt valued, they felt loved.

...involved...

Pray for the work of BMS, AMAC and Baptist churches in Mozambique. And pray for those the work helps: the offenders, victims, families and children in prison with their mothers.

Geoff's Jottings

David Morris's Retirement Event

Over 70 past and present South Paraders gathered with others in Cambridge on 15 June to mark the retirement of David Morris. David had been Senior Minister at South Parade from 1984 to 2003: a significant time of development and growth in the church.

The number three had always played a big part in David's life; he and Judy had three daughters, they ministered at three churches and

David was Senior Minister at South Parade during a significant time of growth in the church

(thirdly – sic) David was noted for his sermons always having three points – something alluded to many times in the retirement service, most notably in an amazing poem written and read by Colin Jones suggesting that David's life had com-



Geoff Greer with David Morris

prised a quest for that elusive fourth point!

All three of David and Judy's daughters took part in the service. They gave bible readings, presented the "great David Morris quiz" and Helen preached the sermon, attempting to do so in the style of her father!



Colin Jones

All three of the churches at which David and Judy had ministered were well represented. It was a mark of the respect and affection in which they are held that so many travelled from Barnet and Leeds. No less than four ex-South Paraders now in full-time ministry were among the

congregation.

Current news of the three churches was shared and each church was prayed for by someone from one of the others. A particularly poignant aspect was how the offering all went to the Barnet church to help with some emergency repairs to one of their walls.

David and Judy are moving back to God's own county (and the hills!) when they come to the Sheffield area to be nearer their daughters and we continue to pray for them during this time of change.

Geoff Greer
Church Secretary

...inspired...

See page 30 for a review of David Morris's book "The Drama Unfolds: Unveiling the Curtain of Revelation".

...informed...

For details of service times, locations, Mission Communities, small groups, children's work, student events, sermon downloads, the weekly notice sheet and much more, go to the church website:

www.spbc.org.uk



Derek Sutton

1927-2013

Derek was a Bradford lad. From his earliest years he attended Tetley Street Memorial Baptist Church and there he became a Christian and was baptised, beginning a lifelong commitment to the Baptist denomination and developing a strong faith that would carry him through military service and on into civilian life.

His army career had a huge impact on the man he became and a part of his life that he frequently talked about. He was a Sergeant in the Royal Corp of Signals and served particularly as a Signals Intelligence Radio Operator trained in Morse code. This job unfortunately had a damaging effect on his hearing and he became totally deaf in one ear and had only partial hearing in the other. In civilian life he went on to work as an engineer in the aircraft industry.

He loved sport, playing Rugby League for Bradford as a winger – he often boasted about how fast he was – unfortunately his playing days

were ended when he crushed his knee cap, but he remained proud of the fact he had suffered such an injury all in the name of sport. He played tennis for most of his adult life, and this is how he came to meet Betty, on the courts at Wibsey Park in Bradford – Betty always said she fell in love with him because of his legs!

Derek developed a strong faith that would carry him through military service and on into civilian life

They were later married in Bath 60 years ago. He was accomplished in skiing which he learnt in the army whilst based in Cortina D'Ampezzo in Italy, continuing well into his late 70s, and also played ice hockey. In athletics he was a competent sprinter, emulating his heroes of the 1924 Summer Olympics, Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams - the Scottish Christian who ran for the glory of

God, and the English Jew who ran to make a stand against prejudice.

When he and Betty returned as a married couple to their roots in Bradford they were encouraged in 1958 to form part of a church planting team, helping to establish the newly emerging Buttershaw Baptist church in the Wibsey area of the city. It was a tough call in what was designated an Initial Pastorate supported by the Association and the Baptist Union, and it needed people like them to pitch in – in fact, without people like them it may not have survived.

Derek eventually became the church secretary, and at the same time was increasingly drawn into Yorkshire Baptist Association life. He was particularly passionate about Home Mission, deeply appreciative of the support that had come from the fund to enable Buttershaw to have its own pastor. He was actively involved in YBA life at many levels, including

accompanying Betty as she served as YBA president.

His passion for the church and its mission came with him when they joined South Parade and particularly our Adel Mission Community. Together with Betty they pitched into all aspects of church life, including being active members of the ABC Coffee Shop team.

Derek loved to sing, and at his thanksgiving service on 22 July the congregation gave full voice as we praised God for this lovely man's life and witness. A family member summed him up in these words: "A Yorkshire man of the old school. An engineer and a sportsman. Erudite, opinionated, forthright, but compassionate and charitable. A Christian proud of his country and its history. A family man. A loud and jovial companion and a dinner table raconteur. Reliable and honest to the point of bluntness. An all-round good egg to be taken as found".

Brian Nicholls

*"Christianity is not about religion.
It's about faith, about being held,
about being forgiven.
It's about finding joy
and finding home."*

Bear Grylls

Speak Up?

Don't Judge Me Because I'm Quiet

Liz Crathern reflects on an article written by Dawn Daniels in the Christian magazine *Woman Alive* in July 2013 and wonders how we respond to the silent introverts amongst us.

At a recent church meeting we discussed the practicalities of conducting prayer within small groups during a church service in a way that would ensure the process was inclusive. We went on to consider “outsiders” within a prayer group. An outsider was identified as someone who was reticent to pray within a small group, and as expected, an insider was someone who was comfortable in such a situation.

I struggled with the label “outsider” from the outset. Perhaps it was just another innocuous word, not meant to offend our upset - was it my over-sensitivity? I could remember incidents in church where I felt uncomfortable in such a situation and felt too nervous to add my humble and ineffectual prayer. Everything had already been said

that needed to be prayed for and much more eloquently, I thought at the time. I thank the Lord I am not like that now: embracing the spirit of Christ living in me has helped me overcome those obstacles to some extent. However, it has taken years in spiritual growth to accept that my prayers, however humble, are presented in awe - not to those around me - but to a loving and non-judgmental God who hears what we want to say before we say it. How amazing is that?

My prayers are not presented to those around me, but to a loving God who hears what we want to say before we say it

During the debate at church I was reminded of a Bible verse that helped me in those early days of becoming a Christian: “*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly*”. Matthew 6.6 (KJV)

It was liberating to know that I could pray on my way to work or sitting on a bus (silently I might add) and that God rejoices when we converse with him, wherever that may be, whether shouting, singing, or a whisper. Another amazing fact! I have learnt that “doing” prayer is not something to be over-analysed. At its simplest it is responding and turning our hearts towards God in a relationship. Importantly, there are no special words to utter, no special way to sit, kneel or stand.



The article by Dawn Daniels caused me to pause and reflect: how do we as a church view those who keep silent in a prayer group?

We cannot all be extroverts, imagine a whole church full of them! Would anything ever be agreed or completed? I say “us” instead of “them”: some of you who know me may regard me as an extrovert. On the face of it I can appear that way, but when put in a challenging situation I can clam up too and in some situations in church I am happy to sit back and ponder a while! I have learnt that I am at my most comfortable in public prayer when in Uganda, away

from my home, but where I can feel closest to God. There is a lot to be said for retreating from the trappings of the western world and freeing your soul to not only receive God’s blessings, but to be forever reliant on God.

According to Daniels an introvert is someone who is sometimes taking time to think and reflect about what has just been said before they speak. They hold many qualities needed within the body of the church

such as “independence, deep sensitivity, good listening skills, and the need for solitude and a rich inner world”. Importantly they can feel undervalued in a group situation. I would add some people have not had an opportunity in their non-church life to speak publicly, or may have had a bad experience that has caused them to shy away from speaking in public. South Parade is gifted with people who have an amazing bunch of varied talents, including some that engage in public speaking on a daily basis and it can be all too easy to forget what our earlier experiences of that were like.

Two examples presented by Daniels are worthy of reflection:

- Rebecca, a self-confessed introvert (not her real name) said her priest doubted her commitment to God and was told she was too reserved and unenthusiastic. She no longer attends church as she felt judged.
- Jenna (again, not her real name) – “I am not one for sharing my feelings with people I don’t know well. It just isn’t me”.

How can we help those in our church family who may feel self-conscious about praying in public?

Daniels suggests that one-to-one activity can be less intimidating and allow for the use of the gift of concentrated listening skills, and that people be encouraged to be involved in tasks that require periods of deeper concentration. I would add that we also could have opportunities to have a mixture of open and written prayer in a prayer group session. Above all, she reminds us we are all created in God’s image. I am always blown away by the awesome fact that God knew me in my mother’s womb (Psalm 139) - and if I am okay for God, because he made me that way then I am okay for anybody else.

How can we become more confident praying in a group (if that is what we desire)?

Anyone self-conscious about praying in small groups can take solace in a loving God, who loves us for who we are with a purpose He has designed for our individual personality. Do not let your fears or insecurities take years to overcome - seek God’s help and a good prayer partner.

Anybody can pray, anytime, anywhere: you will sense when the Spirit moves you to pray. This is prayer: *“Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going to work and walking around life – and place it before God as an offering”* Romans 12.1 (The Message).

Finally Daniels states “we live in a world where the pressure to conform in terms of personality, body image and so on is incessant. Let’s celebrate diversity in our church family and be sensitive to our brothers and sisters who are different to us.” Amen!

Liz Crathern

Headingley Morning Mission Community

“Never stop praying”
I Thessalonians 5.17

Prayer Focus



August-September 2013

“Never stop praying”

I Thessalonians 5.17

Tearfund: Syria

Loving heavenly Father,
With heavy hearts we lift before you the people of Syria.
We pray that you will be a refuge for the homeless and
vulnerable, bring strength to the hungry and weary and show
your ever-present help and comfort to those in trouble.
Almighty God, who breaks the bow and shatters the spear, we
ask that you raise up peacemakers who will lead wisely
towards an end to the conflict.
God our fortress,
We pray for your protection for all who are bringing relief to
the people of Syria.
Help us to stand faithfully in prayer with our brothers and
sisters,
until peace returns.
The Lord Almighty is with us;
The God of Jacob is our fortress.
Amen

www.tearfund.org/praying

*Tearfund is a Christian international aid and
development agency working globally to end
poverty and injustice, and to restore dignity
and hope in some of the world's poorest communities.*

YBA: Yorkshire

A colourful tree helped keep the focus on growth at the 2013 YBA Assembly. The theme was “Going For Growth - Reframing the Association Story” and the tree took pride of place at the front of the worship area at Huddersfield Methodist Mission. Everyone was invited to decorate the tree with leaves bearing good stories from their churches, stories they hoped to tell next year, prayers and words from God. Here are some of the requests on the leaves:



- Lord thank you for all that you are doing in the life of Mexborough Baptist Church. To You be all the glory, Amen.
- While we give God the glory for growing churches, please pray for those which are not able to grow.
- Give thanks for the first baptism in many years at Hope Baptist Church.
- Thanks for a new minister for Lockwood Baptist Church, a new era as we move forward in faith.
- Thank God for the success of the Community Café at Oakes Baptist Church, Huddersfield. Making genuine contact with the locality.
- West Craven Baptist Fellowship – three becoming one, Barnoldswick, Earby and Salterforth.
- Maltby Baptist Church – outreach to Queen’s Nursing Home.
- May God guide us in helping us to know how to build harmonious community and share his love and good news with people in Todmorden.
- Food Bank starting soon in Horsforth, Leeds, with Lister Hill working with Horsforth Churches Together.
- Reach asylum seekers group at New North Road, Huddersfield.
- Maltby Baptist Church – trying to reach out to all ages. Maybe mother and child coffee morning.
- Skipton Food Bank – The privilege of working together with other agencies to serve the hungry and the needy in our community and to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those on the margins and those who serve them day by day.
- We run Little Fishes, a mother, baby and toddler group, on Tuesday at Milnsbridge Baptist Church. Two of the mums have given birth just lately and they are very appreciative of our prayers for them.

www.yba.org.uk

BMS World Mission: Tunisia

Pray for Tunisia for:

- Tunisia's political leaders: that they will act on their promises to uphold the freedom and rights of women and give rights to minority religious groups, despite pressure from Islamists.
- The Tunisian Church, whose goals for 2013 are to see more discipleship, to reach into more of the rural areas and to have a bigger influence on society.
- The impact of the New Testament in Tunisia, as it has recently been recorded in Tunisian dialect (in audio format) and is currently being distributed.
- Anne, as she settles into a new location. Anne has been supporting special needs educators and enabling local organisations to provide better quality care.
- Steve and Ismay, who are encouraging the development of a community palliative care service in the south of the country.
- Mary, a palliative care nurse, who arrived in country in May and is currently studying Arabic and learning about Tunisian culture and life.
- Ian and Andrea, producing Christian TV programmes for broadcast into North Africa. Pray that believers will be built up and that others will come to faith in Christ.

From BMS Prayer Guide July-September 2013

www.bmsworldmission.org/prayer

BMS World Mission is a Christian mission organisation, working in around 35 countries on four continents. BMS personnel are mainly involved in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health, and media and advocacy.



Around the World

Pray for all those from South Parade currently serving with mission organisations around the world. Pray that they would know God's presence, His love, His guidance and His peace each day.



Church Family

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” Romans 12.15 (NIV)



- Pray for **John Gannon and Rachel Nelson**, and others in the church who have celebrated weddings in the last few weeks, as they begin married life together. Pray for those preparing to get married later in the year.
- Pray for **Charles Fletcher and Betty Sutton**, and others in the church who are mourning the loss of family and loved ones.
- Pray for **Stari Gunarathne, Val Dooks** and others in the church who are sick, awaiting treatment in hospital, or recovering from recent operations.
- Pray for those who are seeking work, starting new jobs, or moving away from Leeds. Pray for students returning or coming to Leeds for the first time.
- Pray for **Esther Hellowell** and other young people in the church receiving exam results in August as they plan for their futures. Pray for those starting at university or other courses of study in the autumn.

Ministry Team



Pray for the Ministry Team, that the summer would be a good time of rest and refreshment for all of them. Remember **Paul** and **Brian** and the special leadership responsibilities they have. Pray for **Laurence** as he plans for his future and for **Dave** in his last few months at South Parade. Pray for **Nathan Shipley** as he prepares to move to Leeds and join the Ministry Team in the autumn.

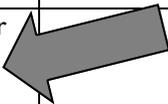
Intouch



As you read this magazine, pray for the people and situations described. Pray for the work of **BMS**; for **Emma Hall** and the young people who went to Redmire; for **Connect** as they plan their Community Fun Day; for the **Big Welcome Sunday** event in September; for the Mission Community at **Cragg**; for **David Morris** in his retirement; for the **Christians in Science** lectures; for the **Wednesday afternoon home group**; for Liz Crathern's project in **Uganda**... And keep praying!

Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings

Date	Morning Services	Evening Service
18 August	Psalm 46 The cry of confidence: even when the earth shakes	Psalm 63 The cry of the thirsty soul
25 August	Psalm 84 The cry of humility: Let me hold the door open for you	Psalm 139 The cry for integrity: search me O God
PURSUING GOD'S VISION FOR US – NEHEMIAH		
1 September	Nehemiah 1 Someone's got to go back into the ruins	Nehemiah 2 Show us what to do to see prayer answered
8 September	Nehemiah 3 Building, gate by gate	Nehemiah 4 The battle belongs to the Lord
15 September	Nehemiah 5 So that everyone can join in	Nehemiah 6 No gaps left
22 September BIG WELCOME	Luke 12.13-34 God hears your questions	John 3.1-17 God hears your questions
29 September VISION SUNDAY		Ephesians 3:14-21 Going Deeper with God

“Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.”

Nehemiah 1.5-6 (NIV) (1 September)

Home Truths

Science, Global Warming and Ethics

John Lockwood outlines the background to upcoming lectures at the Christians in Science meetings at South Parade.

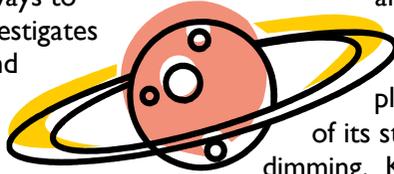
Both science and religion seek after truth, but offer two different pathways to reach it. Science investigates the external world and how it works, while religion is concerned with what may be described as the “why” of what is being observed, and the ethics of the pathway to truth. Developments now take place very rapidly in many branches of modern science, often giving rise to fundamental ethical questions.

Exoplanets - or extra solar planets - are planets outside of our solar system. Twenty or so years ago, the idea that there could be other planets orbiting stars other than our Sun was regarded as pure speculation. But in the early 1990s, the first detections happened. Thanks to improvements in technology, over the past two or

three years the discovery rate has exploded.

At the time of writing, NASA’s Kepler observatory - one of their space telescopes - is staring at more than 150,000 stars in a very small section of space in our galaxy. The aim is to see how many of them show periodic dimming. A planet passing in front of its star causes such dimming. Kepler observations also allow us to estimate the orbits and temperatures of detected planets. Kepler has detected with certainty some 1,000 exoplanets and around 3,000 candidate systems that need follow-up study. For the first time in human history, we can do statistical studies on how common various kinds of planets are in the galaxy. What questions would be asked by finding a planet suitable for life?

Our home planet the Earth is also undergoing major changes that give rise to deep ethical questions. Air trapped in the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets indicates that



*Science does not normally
ask ethical questions,
but...*

the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide did not exceed 300 parts per million (ppm) for the 650,000 years before the beginning of the industrial era in 1750. The Industrial Revolution disturbed this balance, with fossil fuel burning providing the main cause of the increase. Much of western prosperity is fossil fuel based, and is thus responsible for increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide and global warming. The annual atmospheric growth rate was larger during the last ten years than it has been since the beginning of continuous direct atmospheric measurements.

Atmospheric carbon dioxide shows a small annual variation, due to the annual growth of vegetation on the northern continents, reaching a peak in May. During the week of 21 April 2013, atmospheric carbon

dioxide concentration reached 398.68 ppm at Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii. Two instruments at Mauna Loa showed carbon dioxide at 400.03 ppm on 9 May. The global average of atmospheric carbon dioxide could therefore break the 400 ppm barrier in the next year or so. This will be the first time this has happened in human history.

Science does not normally ask ethical questions about such recent developments, but these questions are often of great importance and do need asking. This is particularly so for such questions as fossil fuel use and climate change. These ethical questions are frequently left to Christians to ask.

Meric Srokosz touched on some of these problems in his June lecture at SPBC. Both Denis Alexander and Colin Bell from the Faraday Institute, University of Cambridge, will take the subject further in their talks this coming autumn.

John Lockwood

Cragg Hill Mission Community

...informed...

The next CiS Leeds meetings at South Parade are:

- *Denis Alexander, October 8*
- *Colin Bell, November 12*

Further details from John Lockwood or at www.cis.org.uk/groups/leeds

Ruth: Rescued, Redeemed, Restored

Part One

Steve Ford begins a new Bible Study on the book of Ruth.

In a society where women were owned and where their status was measured by how much dowry was paid we have a story that demonstrates tenacity against the odds by women in a man's world. This is also a story about redemption and restoration, a story where honour, value and self-worth are rekindled and where hope and new life are born. Our story begins with a man who has taken his wife and family away from security and famine in search of food and a better life. For a while this appears to work, the two sons marry, but then disaster strikes. The man dies, then his two sons, leaving three women alone, vulnerable and without a provider in a man's world.

The matriarch among them is called Naomi and she decides that she would have a better chance of

survival in her own home town of Bethlehem. She says to her daughters-in-law, "you go back to your families and your people and find security there". One daughter-in-law returns and one demonstrates a whole-hearted commitment, dedication and determination to stay with Naomi, indicating that throughout the time they had known each other Naomi had demonstrated something worth pursuing.

Most of us start our "faith journeys" because of what others share with us, or show us. The young girl, Ruth by name, utters words that we ourselves would find hard to utter, she says "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Where you go I will go, wherever you live I will

Are we determined to seek our Redeemer like Ruth did?

live, your people will be my people and your God will be my God. Wherever you die I will die and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us.” Ruth had recognised something in Naomi that she wanted, needed or was prepared to commit to.

Do our lives demonstrate qualities that others want or need? Do people say “Oh I wish I was like you”? We could draw a parallel here and say that this is often the first step of discipleship and commitment to God through Jesus by the Spirit. Our story continues as Naomi reluctantly agrees to Ruth accompanying her back to her home town, back to a life of possible uncertainties yet potentially a life of new opportunities.

The story of Ruth is very specific, it tells us that Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem in late spring, at the beginning of the barley harvest. In chapter 2 we are introduced to a wealthy and influential man, the “kinsman redeemer”. This near relative of Naomi’s husband is able to offer a new life for Ruth - a life

free from her past, a life that would present new opportunities and a life of security for her and Naomi. The kinsman redeemer was basically a male who had the responsibility or privilege of acting on behalf of a relative who was in trouble, danger or need. The Hebrew term (*go el*) for kinsman redeemer designates one who delivers or rescues.

In a spiritual sense we all need to have someone who is able to offer us new life, a life that frees us from our past. We know that Jesus is our redeemer who was willing to pay the ultimate price for our redemption.



Ruth at this point is still demonstrating dedication, commitment and service to Naomi. She shows a willingness

to seek food and provide for Naomi, so she sets out to gather grain. This leads her to find a field of the wealthy and influential man, the man she has been told about by Naomi, the man who she will come to know and who eventually will provide for her and give her security. This willingness to seek, serve and ultimately find is found in all disciples of Jesus. It is in our seeking and in our service that we

find our provision and security that only Jesus can provide.

What do we know about this man Boaz (Ruth 2.5-17)?

- He notices her and gives her permission to gather grain in his field.
- He encourages her to follow his workers.
- He gives protection and offers water that others have drawn.
- He knows all about her, her unreserved commitment to Naomi.
- He invites her to dine with him and provides more than she is able to eat.
- He is so generous he issues an instruction to his young men to allow her to stay and gather.

So he is generous, loving, fair, reliable, secure, wise and without prejudice. This story gives us two different scenarios. On the one hand it tells us about a man who is able to save, protect and provide and on the other hand it tells us about a man who is committed to the development and support of others through his workers. Ruth the Moabitess, a girl in a foreign land, determines to seek out the “kinsman redeemer”. I wonder if we are determined to seek out our Redeemer like Ruth did?

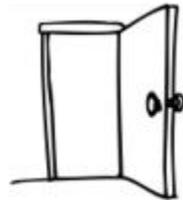
In the next issue we will look at the approach that Ruth made to Boaz and see the difference it made together with Boaz’s response and his commitment to Ruth.

Steve Ford

...inspired...

Read more of Steve’s thoughts and studies at blog.steveford.me.uk

“We cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities when so many people are waiting for the Gospel! It’s not enough simply to open the door in welcome, but we must go out through that door to seek and meet the people.”



Pope Francis, 27 July 2013

My Home Group

Older and Wiser

The Wednesday Afternoon home group is possibly the oldest small group in more ways than one. We started back in 1990ish when groups were formed geographically and we have been going ever since.

The group originally met in the evenings like most others but since its members were all retired we changed to afternoons fortnightly and now monthly. Our meetings are usually based around Bible study and prayer, fortified by tea and cakes in various homes. In better weather we enjoy outings to gardens, places of interest or restaurants for a meal together. For many years we enjoyed an annual break away in the Lake District and we remember those with great joy as we do the “wild” parties at Christmas.



We also as individuals or together support some of our missionaries around the world. Being an older group we have lost many members over the years and we remember them with great affection and gratitude.

Having known one another for so long we are a closely knit group who support one another in any way that we can and even though we are retired we are busy people and most of us are still active in and around the church and supporting the vision of the church.

So – our meetings are normally on the second Wednesday of the month linking with the Barnabas group and the other Wednesday group both of which meet on the church premises. Our venues are in the weekly notice sheet and anyone who is free is very welcome to join us whatever the age. Have a word with John Lockwood, Val Dooks or Hazel Holmes.

Val Dooks

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Book Review

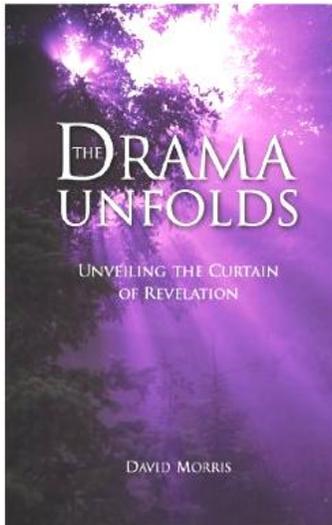
The Drama Unfolds: Unveiling the Curtain of Revelation by David Morris

I am told by one member of SPBC that the Book of Revelation has no place in the Bible, and I would guess that many people would agree with him. It is a difficult book full of strange images and numbers. Why then is an ex-minister (now retired) of South Parade wasting his time writing a book about Revelation?

It was most likely written by the aged apostle John in around 95 AD, at a time when the Roman authorities were beginning to enforce the cult of emperor worship. Christians - who held that Christ, not Caesar, was Lord - were facing great hostility. That great Biblical scholar William Barclay wrote, "Revelation comes from one of the most heroic ages in all history of the Christian Church... it contains the blazing faith of the church in the days when life was an agony". David Morris considers that these words powerfully and

concisely sum up what Revelation is all about.

It is written to people facing the realities of life and intended to bless



them as they realise that the inspiring author is God - Father, Son and Spirit - and that they, the audience and participants, are people who are immensely valuable and important. Agreed that it contains many strange images, but these come from the Old Testament and would be readily understood by early Christians. We find

them difficult because we do not know our Old Testament.

What about the numbers?

Revelation comes from an age when numbers were considered to be good or evil. Seven (prime) was considered to be a good number, Six (nonprime 3×2) a bad one. We still have seven days in a week. Much meteorological or geophysical

data is now collected for five or ten day periods, since these are more scientific time periods!

The Apostle John invites his readers to imagine that they are in a theatre and are about to watch a magnificent drama. The author is God Almighty and the resulting book will bless those who read, hear it and take it to heart.

David Morris takes us carefully through Revelation in short easily read chapters, where he explains clearly what is taking place. His purpose is to make Revelation accessible to any Christian who

wants to receive the blessing that it has to offer. His hope is that it will be a gateway into Revelation and will enable the reader to understand and to apply its teaching to their lives. In this he is largely successful. Each chapter is provided with a series of questions for discussion or further reflection. There is a bibliography at the end of the book.

David Morris has done us a great service by writing this book. I strongly recommend it.

John Lockwood

Cragg Mission Community

...inspired...

If you would like a copy of the book for £10 please write your name, Mission Community and the number of copies required on the outside of an envelope and put the correct sum inside and place it in the offering bag. The counting team will then pass the order on to the Church Office who will get your copy delivered to you.

“Over the last 40 years I have ministered in three very different Baptist churches... In all of them I have tried to open up the entire Bible in ways that have been accessible to each person within these communities. In each church it was very exciting to see the way in which, once they began to understand it, people became very excited about the Book of Revelation and recognised what an amazing and relevant message it has for today.”

David Morris, Introduction to *The Drama Unfolds*

Questions

What of God's Wrath?

In an exposition on Paul's Letter to the Romans, Brian made a brief reference to the concept of "Wrath" commenting that he had observed that a number of the congregation would not sing "The wrath of God was satisfied". Perhaps we can examine the meaning of this divisive word with a willingness to agree to differ.

Pagan belief not excluding Greek and Roman portrays an assortment of arbitrary gods, where the boundary between God, humans and other created objects is somewhat flexible. In stark contrast we have the revelation from almost eight thousand years ago "In the beginning, God". What follows is man's attempt to understand what God reveals about his nature. The nineteenth century

concept of natural theology held firmly to the view that we can understand that nature by revelation only, although we can see his power and generosity in nature, as did the Psalmists (Psalm 19.1-3 or 145.13). But what of God's anger, punishment and wrath?

These words occur very often in the Old Testament, very rarely in the Gospels and predominantly in Paul's Letters in the New. The flood of the Euphrates Basin is portrayed as punishment for pagan beliefs. The failure of the Tower at Babel was seen as punishment for man's arrogance towards God. There is little evidence that Abraham saw God as wrathful, but with the Kingdom of David, God's wrath is portrayed in famines, plagues and enemy empires exacting punishment for sins and apostasy.

In sharp contrast, Nehemiah writing for the returned exiles stresses that "But thou art a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (9.17). With the failure of the



state of Judah, the people of Judea began to look for the Messiah who would restore Israel with an awful punishment for those who had sinned. Avoidance of sin by careful rules and the sin offering for inevitable breaches of Pharisaic law are set against a world shattering wrath.

*We can see God's power
and generosity in nature,
but what of His anger
and wrath?*

Here I follow what has been called the New Theology. Tom Wright has said that if sixteenth century theologians had started with the Gospels followed by the letters, they would have reached a very different understanding. It is certain that they had no opportunity for studying Jewish and Palestinian culture in the first centuries before and after Christ.

For the readers of the Epistles, whether Jews or Greek speakers,

the options were the minutiae of the law or wrath. Paul reaches out in terms they understood. Explicitly, Christ is the Messiah. You choose to live in the fear of the wrath to come or you live by faith in the atonement offered in Christ by grace. Judgement is by a generous and forgiving God, not an angry tyrant.

It took three years and Christ's Resurrection for Jesus' followers to break their cultural dependence. John the Baptist warned the Pharisees and spoke of the wrath to come (Matthew 3.7-8). Did they want a ritual purification from a prophet in the expectation of apocalyptic destruction?

This is written in the hope that it may encourage discussion. The essentials for a Christian are to worship God and walk in obedience, but if challenged, we should be able to explain what we believe.

Cyril Snell

Headingley Morning Mission Community

"His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice."

John Stott

Church Noticeboard

Chill Zone

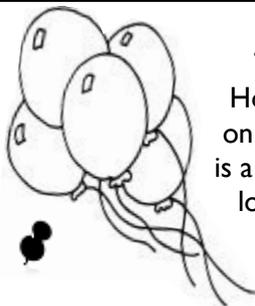
Chill Zone is a Youth group which meets at Little London Primary School from 5.30-7.30pm every Friday during term time. It's run by Scott Halligan and his team.

This year has been based around sharing fellowship with the boys in a way that suits their high energy levels. Mostly focused on sports and activities such as skittle ball, football and dodgeball: the first half of the evening is spent tiring the boys out! The second half consists of topical discussions, problem solving activities and Bible-related quizzes. There is a real sense of togetherness in the group to be able to come and share with each other the problems and successes of the week at the same time as having fun and enjoying the tuck shop. If you can help out next term or want more information, speak to Scott or contact the church office.



Connect Fun Day

The annual Community Fun Day is at Hollybush School on Broad Lane, Bramley on Saturday 31 August. This exciting event is a great opportunity to demonstrate God's love to the local community. If you could help on the day please contact Sian Wrangles via the church office.



In Headingley on a Tuesday Morning?

Morning Prayer every week 11.15-11.45am - all welcome. Prayer requests can be left in the box in the foyer or email brian@spbc.org.uk

Our Hope for God's Creation

Commissioned by the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, this 20-minute film features examples from around Yorkshire and the North East of how churches are taking action on climate change and creation care. From the insulation of a draughty church building in Sheffield, to the creation of a wildlife-friendly and educational churchyard in Calverley, this film features churches from many different contexts and traditions.

You can watch the film on the Diocesan website: www.riponleeds.anglican.org/environment1.html



On this page you will also find suggested outlines for an "Environment Sunday" service, and a set of small-group bible studies on the subject of sustainability, called "Renewing God's Earth". If you have trouble watching the video on the Diocese page, it is also available on YouTube (search for "Our Hope for God's Creation"), where it may play more easily.



John Lockwood

A-Z of South Parade



The *Complete A-Z of South Parade* is now (at last!) available in pdf format and can be emailed to you on request in return for a promise of a donation to the church. The 20-page booklet includes all the original entries from *Intouch* and 30+ new entries. Email magazine@spbc.org.uk for your copy. (Printed copies available from Gemma in the church office while stocks last.)

Your group featured here!

To add something to the October *Intouch* Church Noticeboard email magazine@spbc.org.uk

Don't Forget!

Vision Sunday:
29 September

South Parade in Numbers

Part Three

96

The number of different people who contribute to Headingley morning services by stewarding, communion, coffee, reading, playing music and giving all age talks.

29

volunteers help in the ABC coffee shop each week.



They'd like at least

4

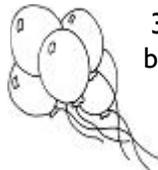
more!

500+

People who came to the Bramley Fun Day last year.

This year's event on 31 August could be bigger - and Connect need your help.

Contact Sian Wrangles via the church office.



60

minutes (or more): the time Kate Burkett's asking people to

volunteer to clean toys for the under 5s on the morning of 4 September. Contact Kate via the church office, and bring rubber gloves on the day!



0113 275 4989

The church office phone number (you knew that didn't you?)



8

Psalms preached on at services in August
(Psalms **18, 32, 34, 40, 46, 63, 84 & 139**).

Catch up now by downloading the sermons from the church website.
Making the unmissable (sermon) unmissable.

£31,572

The amount that BMS has sent from its Disaster Recovery Fund this year to Sri Lanka, Brazil, Mozambique, Israel/ Palestine, Haiti and Bangladesh.



When disasters happen they are only able to respond quickly with your support. Help them continue to make a difference. Visit bmsworldmission.org/disaster

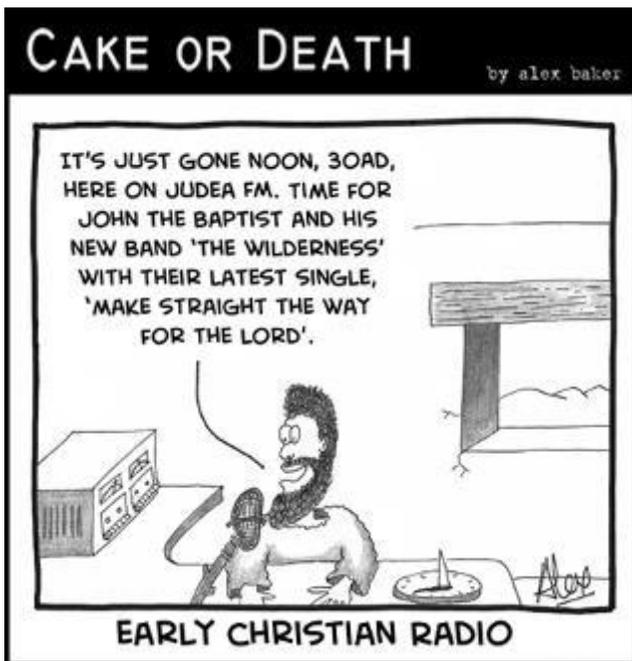
1030

The number of payments made by the church last year

to **212**

different people and organisations

If you have a number for *South Parade in Numbers* email magazine@spbc.org.uk



For more "Cake or Death" cartoons
by Alex Baker visit:
cakeordeathcartoon.wordpress.com

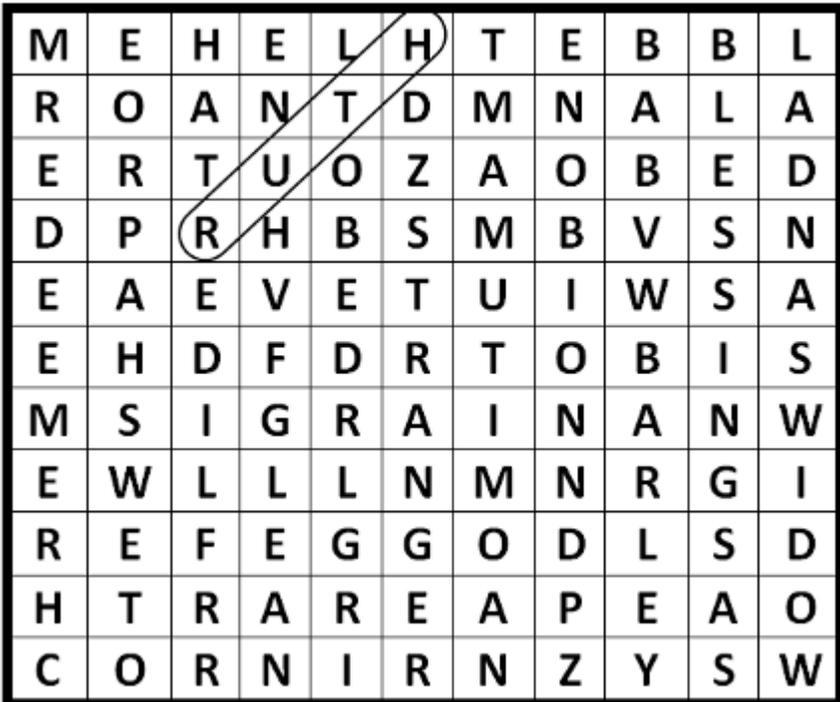
Wordsearch

Book of Ruth

Find all these words in the grid below:

BARLEY
BETHLEHEM
BLESSINGS
BOAZ
CORN
GLEAN
GOD
GRAIN
MOAB

MOTHERINLAW
NAOMI
OBED
ORPAH
REAP
REDEEMER
RELATIVE
~~RUTH~~
SANDAL
STRANGER
WIDOW
WIFE





South Parade meets as five distinctive Mission Communities across Leeds: in **Headingley, Adel and Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and as **SENT** at Headingley on Sunday evenings. **Connect** meets at different locations in the community in Bramley. We also have projects in Little London and Holt Park. To find out more, visit the website or contact the church office.

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

Senior Minister
Minister

Brian Nicholls
Paul Rockley

Associate Pastor
Children's Worker
Church Worker
Administration Manager
Student Worker
Under 5s Co-ordinator

David Bartram
Heather McLeen
Geoff King
Gemma Eastwood
Lawrence Cockrill
Kate Burkett

Elders

Andrew Bedingham, Judith Briggs
Adam Clayton, Claire Ginn,
Geoff Greer (Church Secretary),
Adrian Howe (Church Treasurer)
John Pelham, Rosemary Stirik

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

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

“



*Now go; I will help you speak and
will teach you what to say.*

”

Exodus 4.12 (NIV)

intouch

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