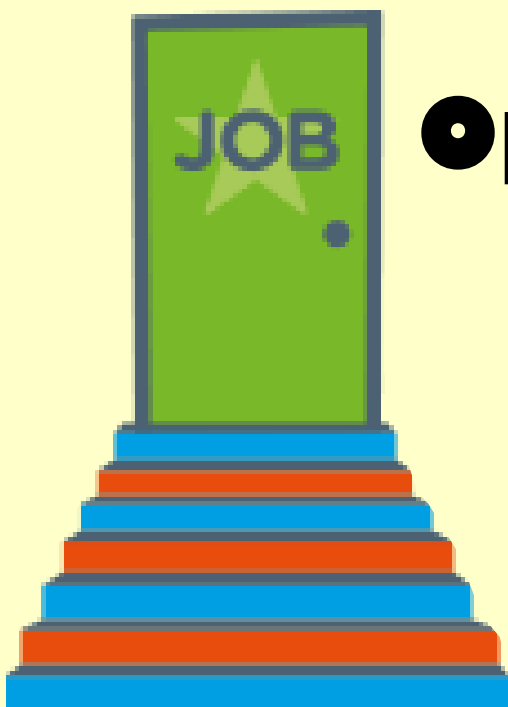


# intouch



## Opening Doors

*How you can help  
the South Parade  
Job Club, page 24*

*Online special:  
photos from Brian's  
Farewell , pages 41-45*

There's an inevitable sense of "looking back" in the first *Intouch* of 2016, as the church enters the PB-era (post-Brian), with memories of Brian and Elsie's final weekend fresh in our minds, as well as reports on what the Mission Communities were up to at Christmas. Adrian Howe's recent report to the church meeting on the 2016 budget reminded us to look ahead and capture the vision for the future of the church. He encouraged us to continue to tell stories of what God was doing through us: if you have a story to share, or news from a project that you're involved in that hasn't featured in these pages, please get in touch on the email address below, so that the whole church can be informed as to what's going on, get involved practically and be inspired to pray with you.

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**Matthew Newman** Editor

## Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

Contributions to: [magazine@spbc.org.uk](mailto:magazine@spbc.org.uk) or to the church office

Deadline for contributions: 11 March 2016

Next edition published: 27 March 2016

Photo on page 14 of Shirland church by Nikki Mahadevan, Wikipedia

Photo on page 29 of Kirkstall Flood by Samlukeheathcote on Instagram

# From the Ministry Team

## *Big Shoes, a Big Fish and a Big Promise*

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**O**ur current situation at South Parade has changed over this past month quite dramatically, we are now living in a post-Brian era and this period of time in church life will be both interesting and challenging as everyone pulls together to fill some very big shoes left by both Brian and Elsie.

I commenced my own personal journey of transition slightly earlier, as I took on the role (alongside my job share companion Steve Cooper) as Church Administrator for Hannah Preston's maternity cover. I have been in the role since late

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November and feel this is now an appropriate time for reflection.

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*I am more like Jonah than Noah, taking the route via the big fish to eventually end up where God wants me to be*

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It has been interesting to view the church which I have loved and belonged to for the past six years, from a different perspective, the privilege to see it from the inside out through joining the Ministry Team, rather than glimpses of the wider work through occasional participation with the children and young people's work, leading a few times at Sent and volunteering for a month with the church office.

This has however come with a price of sacrifice to home life (I was previously with little Lucy every day at home and now have the challenge of adapting to childcare provision, fostering a working



relationship built on trust with our childminder to care for and nurture Lucy).

In this I have had to rely on Jesus' leading in my life, walking with him and trusting that this is the right path. Especially as my career has always revolved around secular Youth Services and now I find myself in the uncharted territory of church administration. I would have laughed loudly in my familiar Essex girl laugh had you told me a year ago this is where I would be, and that I would believe it is the perfect fit would have been even funnier to me. However God's call was very strong and loud and undeniable when it came.

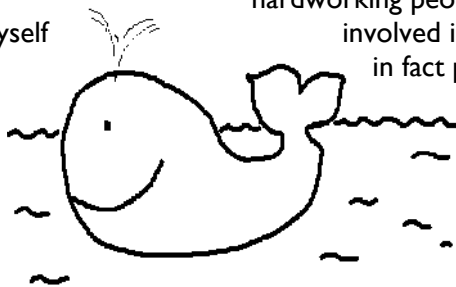
**T**o close friends I have previously described myself as someone who is more like Jonah than Noah. I admire Noah's character and his determination to keep building that ark, even in the sunshine whilst facing adversity and ridicule, all the while knowing that God's purpose for him was clear. I am not at all like this, instead I chose to be disobedient and conceited, to say no not me God, I have a different calling and take the

route via the big fish to eventually end up where God wants me to be.

When I first knew Hannah's role would need covering, I felt a sense that I should apply for it, but I made terrible excuses about not wanting to work in the place where I worship and that I lacked the skills for the role. Truthfully I was terrified of failure, either in securing the role or being inadequate and thus both leading to rejection.

**E**ventually after a slightly painful rebuking period I came to the realisation that as church members and regular attenders, we all in fact should be working where we worship and actually the longer I am in this role, the more I realise that some of the most diligent and hardworking people we have involved in South Parade are in fact providing their time on a voluntary basis and juggling their other priorities to further God's kingdom in this place.

As for the skills I rely on God to provide what I need and the support of those around me and it seems to be going really well. I am still enjoying church life as a member and being involved has only



increased my love for South Parade rather than as I once feared diminished it.

Joshua 1.9 says *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

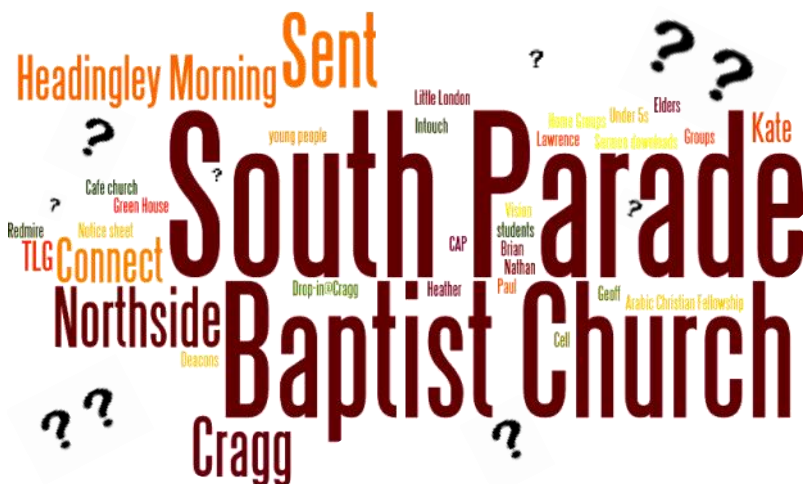
I have printed this out and put it on my desk at work and I am trying to live faithfully in the knowledge of

this. I encourage you, in this time of transition and uncertainty in the future, be strong and courageous in our Lord as he seeks to use you for his purposes. It might be slightly unnerving and you are sure to be out of your comfort zone, but together through prayer and drawing close to our Lord and Saviour we will work it out.

**Kate Churchill**

Church Administrator

## Confused?



For service times, locations, Mission Communities, small groups, children's work, student events, our vision and structure, the weekly notice sheet, the Annual Report, sermon downloads and back copies of this magazine and much more go to the church website:

**[www.spbc.org.uk](http://www.spbc.org.uk)**

# Around the Church

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## Headingley Mission Community

First of all, recent weeks and months have been somewhat overshadowed by the departure of Brian and Elsie. It seems fitting then, to join the whole church in thanking everyone who was involved in the celebration of their contribution to South Parade for the past 10 years. It was an absolute pleasure to experience the generosity of spirit in so many ways: the expressions of gratitude, the singing and comedy items, the love of their children, the food, etc, etc. Colin did a great job of appearing to keep it all together and on track.

We should continue to thank, support and pray for those who are involved in finding a Senior Minister to come and join us at South Parade.

Brian's departure also left a significant hole in the small groups aspect of South Parade, with Midweek Track attendees being directed and encouraged by him in

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*Midweek Track will  
continue to meet each  
Wednesday*

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his office, here at Headingley. I've been coming along since June 2014 and am pleased to confirm that the group will continue to meet in the Minister's office at 8pm each Wednesday. Everyone is encouraged, but not forced, to contribute to the exchange of thoughts, ideas and understanding of how to grow in Christ and apply his grace in our lives. If you'd like to pop in, you'd be more than welcome. We continue with Brian's discipline of finishing promptly at 9.30.

On behalf of Headingley Mission Community, I'd like to thank Barbara Crosse for her work as the Mission Community Leader over recent years. Last November saw a few changes to the make-up of Headingley's Leadership Team, with Barbara leaving and two new

members joining: Scott Halligan and I. The team now consists of Michelle Furber, Paul Rockley, Diane Hume, Robyn Savage, Joan Spivey, Sue Ricketts, Scott Halligan, Tim Rowe and Richard Sykes. The next Headingley Mission Community Meeting is due to take place on Thursday 25 February.

Finally, we have continued to collect donations of non-perishable food items since the initial Harvest Appeal earlier in the autumn. Sue Ricketts has periodically transported the boxes to the food bank, for distribution to those in need.

**Richard Sykes**

Headingley Mission Community

## Sent

Sent finished 2015 with the alternative Christmas service, exploring some of the traditions surrounding Christmas. The service was a good opportunity to rediscover the great message of Christmas and to invite friends and neighbours.



### **From the Sent walk on Ilkley Moor in January**

*"Lovely sunny, cold walk on Ilkley Moor finished with a pub meal at The Cow and Calf and a walk back in the snow."* **Georgina Drew** (Sent)

*"Wonderful walk, despite it being icy and absolutely freezing."* **Shaili Rao** (Headingley / Sent)

*"It was a brilliant opportunity for me. It was nice to talk to people along the way."* **Carol Richardson** (Cragg / Sent)

Sent Lounge, our monthly social gathering, started 2016 with a walk on Ilkley Moor. As you can see from the photos on the previous page it was a great day out! Join us for the next Sent Lounge in March.

We're looking forward to the Sent weekend away in February (5th-7th) at the Westwood Centre, with teaching from Tom Thrower on how to "Live the Gospel Life Together on Mission". Please pray for our time away together, that God will speak to and challenge us individually and as a community.

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*It has been really exciting  
to have baptisms and new  
members within the  
mission community*

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As a mission community we're blessed to have people with a lot of wonderful gifts and talents, but please pray for our musicians and



worship leaders who play on a Sunday evening. New musicians and leaders are always welcome – get in touch! Please join with us as we continue to pray for the streets in the surrounding neighbourhood each week and for Levi Booth in his work in Japan. It has also been really exciting and encouraging to have a few baptisms and new members within the mission community, please pray for the new members.

It's exciting to look back and see where God has been at work over the past year and what a privilege it is to explore what God has in store for the coming year.

**Ruth Hughes**

Elder

## **Northside**

On Friday 18 December, Northside held their Annual Christmas Dinner at the Headingley Golf Club. About 50 of us gathered for a Christmas Meal followed by a conjuror who gave a Gospel message intertwined with conjuring tricks. It was a very successful evening. On the following Sunday our Outburst Christmas Service was ably led by Nathan and Heather, to whom we are very grateful.

**Northside**

On Wednesday 23  
December, which  
was the last day that



the coffee shop was open before Christmas, we held a Carol service which was not very well attended but was very enjoyable and a very nice way to finish the year for the coffee shop.

On Christmas Eve we held our traditional Christingle service which was attended by 60 people including three retired couples who had never attended Northside before.

As we begin a New Year, at Northside we continue to try and reach out into the community through the ABC coffee shop and Café Church services once a month and through the monthly Outburst Sunday. Why not come and visit us on a Sunday morning? You can be sure of a warm welcome.

*Andrew Bedingham*

Northside Leadership Team

## **Church Meeting Notes**

Members met in the Green House on 28 January and Paul Rockley led a time of worship and prayer, and chaired the meeting.

Church Treasure(r) Adrian Howe presented members with information on the 2016

budget. With fancy diagrams ("the grey quadrilateral", multiple coloured heptagons and a fuel-gauge indicator) he explained that giving would have to increase by 7% for the budget to balance over the course of the year, and increase further when a new Senior Minister is in post.

Members were challenged to communicate the vision of the church, and to share stories of all that God was doing through the Mission Communities, the Ministry Team and all the activities of the church. A legacy left by a church member who died last year will be an addition to church funds. The shortfall of the Baptist Pension Scheme (for retired ministers) is also a consideration for the future.

The church affirmed its commitment to its Safeguarding policy. Heather McLeen outlined the purpose behind Safe to Grow in protecting and nurturing the children the church has contact with, and she explained the new Safe to Belong policy which extends safeguarding to Adults at Risk. Extra DBS checks for some people will need to be done to meet this policy.

Church Secretary Charles Fletcher gave details of new members who



have joined the church recently. He is currently reviewing the membership list, and the meeting agreed to remove members from the list who we have not had contact with for some time. Others who we are in contact with but have moved away or are no longer in regular fellowship with us will be sent letters to see if they wish their membership of the church to continue.



**Connect** Mission Community have seen two baptisms this year - Josh and Kirsty. We met both of these amazing people through the very first contact we had with the Women's Refuge about six years ago. We feel that there are many more individuals who we pray will also take the step to be Baptised in 2016! However, the verse that says "The fields are white with harvest but the workers are few" seems very poignant to us! Please do pray for Connect Mission community - praise God for the many children and adults who are hearing about Jesus and join us in praying that God would strengthen the Connect team and therefore our ability to connect with the individuals that are beginning to belong to our church!

The church's position on baptism and church membership was explained with the help of a document Brian had prepared. Friends and attenders who are not currently members of the church will be given the opportunity to join the email distribution list to receive updates about meetings and other

church news. We were reminded that church meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend (though only church members are allowed to vote). The proposed meeting dates for the rest of the year are on page 36.

*Matthew Newman*

### **...involved...**

Share news from Around the Church by sending reports, photos and updates from your Mission Community, home group or meeting to [magazine@spbc.org.uk](mailto:magazine@spbc.org.uk)



# Farewell Brian and Elsie

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**After ten years of faithful, fruitful and unforgettable ministry the time had come for Brian and Elsie to move on to a well deserved retirement. It wasn't going to be easy. Even up to the final days Brian was doing all he could to leave us in good heart, well organised and ready to carry on.**

**H**ow could we adequately thank them for all that they had done for us? We couldn't but we had a good try. The Saturday evening began with a rousing chorus of *Happy Birthday To You* as we remembered that the week-end of 9-10 January not only marked the end of Brian and Elsie's ten years at South Parade, and the formal end of Brian's full-time ministry, but also the occasion of his 65th birthday.

The church was packed out with people ready to enjoy food and fun but with some tears. How many to cater for? No idea. There had been mutterings about bringing in pizzas but no, under the brilliant organisa-

tion of John and Ann Pelham, South Parade rose to the occasion and with a lot of help from all five corners of the church a feast was laid out for all to enjoy. We couldn't let Elsie go with anything less after all the wonderful catering she had done for us. The instructions for queuing for food were soon abandoned as more and more friends poured through the doors and the room filled up.

The rest of the evening was given over to showing our appreciation of their ministry with us. The highlights of the evening included a delightful African worship song led by friends from New City of David; a fiendish quiz on the history of Connect/Four with a suitable prize; and a presentation from the Ministry Team, who all happened to come from the various areas in which Brian has lived, trained or worked and were able to translate well known phrases into their different dialects.

A big thank you goes to Colin Jones as Master of Ceremonies who man-

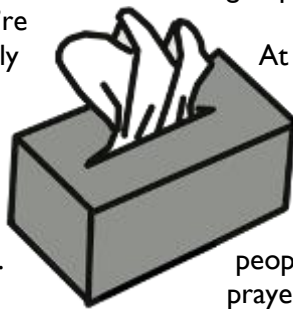
aged to persuade or hijack people into taking part, even with Christmas coming in the middle of the preparations. He also penned a re-working of *When I'm 64* poking fun at Brian's leading style ("loos to the right there - your right, my left - drinks are served after"), his magical skill with calming babies at dedications, as well as his love of certain four-wheel-drive vehicles ("don't run us over in your Land Rover just 'cause you're retired") (you probably had to be there).

Each mission community expressed its thanks in its own way. Geoff Parks quizzed Brian on how he would be spending his retirement. It seems that he will be happily walking around the Derbyshire countryside and getting into the DIY jobs, but it looks as though the gardening will be left to Elsie. Whether they get a dog or not remains to be seen. It was good to hear from Brian and Elsie's family about what it was like growing up as children of the "manse". Brian said the evening was like being present at his own funeral tea.

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*"Thank you Brian, you have been a god pastor"*

---



Church Secretary Charles Fletcher brought gifts from the whole church including a cheque, flowers and advice on retirement. A scrap book containing thanks from individuals, children, small groups and church organisations together with photos will, hopefully, be a tangible way of remembering us. One child perhaps summed it all up when he wrote "Thank you Brian, you have been a god pastor".

At Brian's final service at Headingley Morning on the following day tissues were freely available at the front of the church for all those needing them. Children and young people from Junior Church read prayers for Brian and Elsie that they had written, and a verse of *It's Not the Roof* was rewritten to say "We say goodbye Brian and Elsie/God Bless you both, we all agree/From South Parade in Headingley". In traditional South Parade style Brian and Elsie stood in the middle of the church as they were prayed for.

In the evening service friends from Brian's previous churches, and other churches in Headingley joined the worship. During an "open mic" session, many people spoke about how Brian had helped them to grow and strengthen their faith in Jesus. Dorothy Gazey, representing Headingley Churches

Together spoke of Brian's contribution to that group and how his ideas and energy will be missed, particularly in the Good Friday united witness event. Graham Ensor talked about Brian's contribution to the Yorkshire Baptist Association and the wider Baptist family.

Brian preached on Paul's farewell to the Ephesians in Acts 20: both sermons from the day are available to download from the church website. As a surprise to Brian and Elsie a specially convened SP choir sang John Rutter's exquisite setting of the blessing *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*: it was a fitting end to a long and emotional weekend.

**A**s we continue the process of seeking a new Senior Minister, we thank God for the legacy of Brian's ministry amongst us: lives changed through the Holy Spirit; Mission Communities emboldened to seek and serve the lost, the last and the least; and a church united in its desire to build community in Christ.

We continue to Be Encouraged

## *Val Dooks and Matthew Newman*

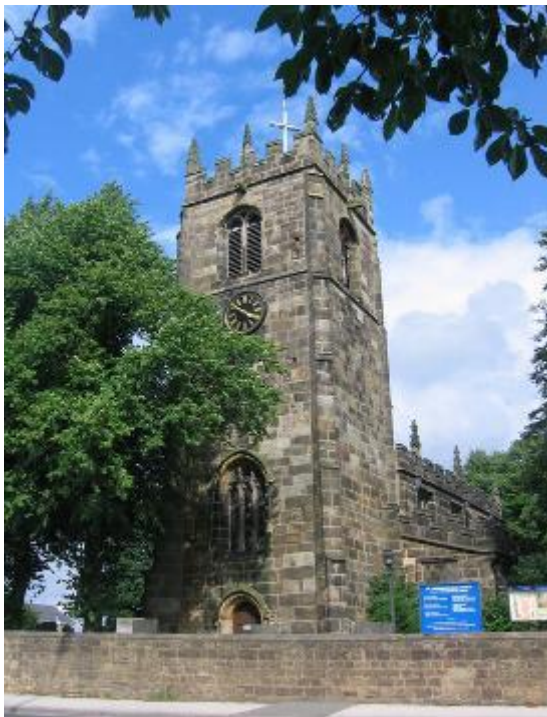
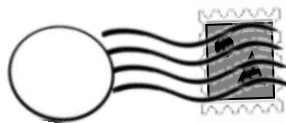
Photos from the weekend are on page 18 with extra photos in the online edition of this magazine at [www.spbc.org.uk](http://www.spbc.org.uk).



***At his last Teddy Praise and Play! in December Brian was given his own bear to say thank you and goodbye.***

# Postcard from Derbyshire

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



*Greetings from Shirland*

*Thank you so much for your kind and generous farewell to us. We are overwhelmed by the scores of messages and the many gifts you have given us. In particular the cheque from the whole church will enable us to buy a new piano once the last few boxes have been unpacked or stored. Forgive us if we fail to write individually to all who sent gifts or greetings.*

*The new house is beginning to feel like home - a few more evenings curled up in front a blazing fire should do it! Any time you're travelling south you'll be welcome to break your*

*journey; we're about 10 minutes from Junction 29 on the M1.*

*We went to the parish church on our first Sunday - lovely people, an invitation to preach and signing up for a lent group all conspire to make us feel at home.*

*Brian and Elsie*

*Continued on page 20*

# Mission Team Needed

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**Do you want to see your faith grow this year?**

**D**o you want to work out how you can use your skills even more to see God's Kingdom grow? Are you willing to take a risk for God?

Would you give up 10 days in 2016 to help give people the opportunity to hear about Jesus who have never had the chance before?

We are looking to put together a mission team of 18 people who will give just 10 days on a mission trip with a difference.

Many of us at SPBC have spent time with a "mission team" at some point. Each time I've done mission I've been forced to rely on God more and to step out of my comfort zone but in the process have discovered I had gifts I didn't realise I had. Each time I have received back so much more than I've given out! My experience of mission is

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*We are looking for a team of people who will give ten days on a mission trip with a difference*

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that people are far more open to Jesus than I expect.

**M**y trips taught me that when I offer God my time and energy - He equips me with the confidence, skills and words I need. I have also learnt that

God goes ahead - He's at work - I've just had the privilege of going along on the ride! I've

also learnt that whilst I didn't go on mission as a confident evangelist, I also didn't need to be. For me, my skills of loving people, loving to talk (!), enjoying serving cups of tea and being willing to "have a go" have been enough!

Imagine having the opportunity to join a team who will experience all of this in 2016. The great news is





that you don't need to raise money for a flight. You don't need to leave your home comforts or endure "bucket baths"! You don't need to have immunisations or work out who will look after the kids (they can come too).

**W**e're looking for a team of people who would be willing to join our mission team in Bramley. Yes - Bramley, Leeds! Could you give up 2-3 hours, one Sunday every month (excluding August!) to come and be part of a team that is seeing God at work big time? Our challenge is that there are more people coming who are 'new to church' than we can

currently connect with!

**Skills needed:** tea makers, ability to chat/welcome, kids work helpers, kids/youth/preschool leaders, people able to do practical things (like move furniture or decorate a room), people able to play board games, people willing to prepare a craft activity, "people" people. (pampering/beauty skills also sought for weeknight event!)

**Location:** Hollybush School, Bramley

**Time:** Sundays 10.30am - 12.30pm

## Sian Wrangles

Connect Mission Community Leader

### ...involved...

*If you have any of the skills above or are willing to have a go and find out, then you can apply\* by contacting Sian Wrangles, Lawrence Cockrill or John Pelham via the church office.*

*\* First date in February is soon, so please get in touch ASAP to find out more.*

## Competition Winner

*Congratulations to **Katharine Widdowson** from Northside who correctly computed the cunning Christmas Calculation Competition from the December issue (the answer was 30) and wins a prize from the Intouch Chocolate cupboard.*

*Many thanks to all those who took part. More puzzles soon!*



$$\frac{a-b}{\sqrt{(c+d+e)}} - \frac{f}{g^h+i-j-k} = x$$



More pictures on pages 41-45

***Images from the weekend of 9-10 January including Helen Vipán's fabulous cake, the SP Choir, the Ministry Team and Colin Jones.***

Photos by John Pelham and Steve Randall. See more photos of the weekend in the pdf edition of this magazine in the "Resources" on the church website, and on the church Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SPBaptistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/SPBaptistChurch)

# Prayer Diary



*February & March 2016*

*"Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the Lord."*  
**Psalms 31.24 (NIV)**

FEBRUARY		
Sun	7	Cragg Mission Community
Mon	8	The ongoing search for a new Senior Minister
Tue	9	Pat Dagleish, Barbara Cook
Wed	10	The Joanna Project
Thu	11	Jane Waites in Albania
Fri	12	Our friend in North Africa
Sat	13	Rio Walsh being baptised tomorrow
Sun	14	Northside Mission Community
Mon	15	Under 5s work
Tue	16	The Alpha Course
Wed	17	Your Home Group leader
Thu	18	Leeds Faith in Schools
Fri	19	The church office
Sat	20	Kate Burkett

*Pull out and use!*

Sun	21	Geoff King
Mon	22	Chris Gnanakan
Tue	23	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre
Wed	24	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Thu	25	The Deacons
Fri	26	Nathan Shipley
Sat	27	Lawrence Cockrill
Sun	28	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Mon	29	Fairtrade Fortnight
<b>MARCH</b>		
Tue	1	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Wed	2	The Elders
Thu	3	Teddy Praise and Play
Fri	4	The Ministry Team
Sat	5	Caring for Life
Sun	6	Headingley Morning Mission Community
Mon	7	Sam and Katie _____
Tue	8	Steve Cooper and Kate Churchill
Wed	9	Members and friends who are sick, or in hospital
Thu	10	The Youth Band
Fri	11	ABC Coffee Shop
Sat	12	Heather McLeen
Sun	13	Church @ Little London
Mon	14	Jayne Godfrey in Slovakia
Tue	15	Rooted
Wed	16	Hazel Randall and the TLG mentors working with children in schools

Thu	17	St George's Crypt
Fri	18	Work with children and young people across the church
Sat	19	Paul Rockley
Sun	20	Connect Mission Community
Mon	21	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Tue	22	Levi Booth in Japan
Wed	23	Adrian Howe, church treasurer
Thu	24	Sent Mission Community
Fri	25	Good Friday witness events happening today
Sat	26	Brian and Elsie Nicholls

### *Lenten God*

*You knew the hardship of waiting in the desert  
Be with all those who are away from their homeland  
as they seek to make a new life and wait for news from home.*

### *Lenten God*

*You knew the temptation to turn stones into bread  
Be with all those who know the gnawing pain of hunger  
as they struggle to survive in a world that does not share.*

### *Lenten God*

*You knew the temptation to throw yourself off the pinnacle  
Be with all those who know illness and despair  
as they struggle to go on living as life passes them by.*

### *Lenten God,*

*You knew the temptation to seize power for yourself  
Be with all those who hold and exercise power  
may they seek to make decisions that will bring justice  
and peace.*

## Italy Update

Our last newsletter of the year always seems sad as it has that finality feeling of yet another year gone. However, that is the only sad part because we have had together with you a wonderful year here at Reggio.



The church continues to grow slowly - spiritually and numerically. Our work with the immigrants here at Reggio and at Rosarno goes on but because of a terrorist threat here, the boats that arrive here with the immigrants are being

blocked. In addition, we have to take into consideration that the sea in the winter is not so easy to navigate for the small boats that most of them come in. Unfortunately, many are still taking the risk.

Our food bank situation has still not changed and we are not getting a lot of food to give out. Thanks to donations, we have been able to add three or four items to what they get from the EU food bank. This Christmas we hope to double those four items to eight due to the generosity of our donors.

We thank God for you all who continually pray and support us through BMS. We will be coming for our home assignment as usual in May and we may be able to see you then.

Prayer points:

- Praise God for the continual spiritual and numerical growth in the church.
- Pray for our new project (four house groups) who will meet once a month for prayer, study and evangelism.
- Pray for Rosarno and all the other refugees who are here and who pass by.
- The Food Bank. The food runs on the Monday and Friday to the homeless.
- The advice centre.

*David and Ann McFarlane*

BMS World Mission workers in Reggio di Calabria, Italy



# Come Prepared

## *Preaching Themes and Readings*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Morning Services</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>
7 February	1 Peter 4.1-11 <i>Living for God</i>	Acts 4.23-36 <i>The whole church, filled again with the Holy Spirit</i>
14 February	1 Peter 4.12-19 <i>Suffering for being a Christian</i>	Acts 5.1-11 <i>When trust is broken</i>
21 February	1 Peter 5 <i>Leadership, submission and God's grace</i>	Acts 5.12-42 <i>God first</i>
28 February	John 17 <i>The real Lord's Prayer</i>	John 18.1-11 <i>The arrest of Jesus</i>
6 March <b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>	Ruth 1 <i>Where you go I will go...</i>	John 18.12-27 <i>Denial</i>
13 March	John 18.28-40 <i>Give us Barabbas</i>	John 19.1-16 <i>The sentence is death by crucifixion!</i>
20 March <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	John 19.16-27 <i>The Crucifixion</i>	John 19.28-42 <i>The death of Jesus</i>
27 MARCH <b>EASTER DAY</b>	John 20.1-18 <i>Easter Morning</i>	John 20.19-31 <i>My Lord and my God</i>

# If the CAP Fits

## *Job Club at South Parade*

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**South Parade has quite close connections with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), the debt management and support charity based in Bradford. One of the complementary activities for the charity is helping people to get back into employment, through CAP Job Clubs. Richard Sykes explains how he's been helping with the South Parade Job Club and how we can all support the work.**

**T**here are four CAP Job Clubs in the Leeds area and Lawrence Cockrill is the Job Coach for the club closest to us, at Bramley. There is a six week course, delivered over a couple of hours each week, designed to increase the participants' confidence and improve the skills that they will find useful to successfully navigate the steps to a new job.

I've been going to the Bramley Job Club since October last year, to help

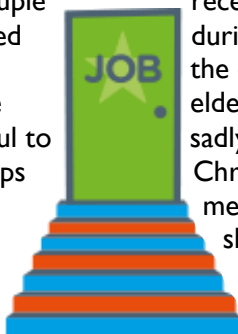
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*CAP and Job Club are real applications of practical Christianity*

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Lawrence deliver the course. From my experience, I would say that it's much more than just a teaching / learning process about getting a job. The kinds of people who require this type of help are also more likely to have challenges in other areas of life.

One particular member and reliable attendee worked in the warehouse of an engineering firm for 29 years. He was made redundant soon after the company changed ownership in recent years. His job searching during last year was impacted by the demands of caring for his elderly and unwell mother, who sadly passed away just before Christmas. He feels that his numeracy, literacy and computer skills are below average and sees the increasing trend of on-line application processes for jobs to be a real





challenge. Against this background, he has really appreciated the support of the group, without which it could have been much more difficult to face life after the loss of his mother.

CAP and Job Club are real applications of practical Christianity. Jesus was sometimes described as being moved with compassion for the people because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus was able to meet the needs of the people he had dealings with. The members of Job Club may have come in need of a job but, together, find their needs are quite different and have shifting priorities to be dealt with. So Lawrence may start

by wearing his Job Coach cap and find he has to change it for a bereavement counsellor cap, a relationship coach cap, an IT / WIFI expert cap, etc, etc.

**P**lease look out for details of the semi-regular CAP related meetings that take place at South Parade. They are at least an opportunity to hear the moving stories of people who find themselves in situations of crippling debt and to be able to engage in prayer for them. They're also a chance to see if CAP have a cap that would fit you nicely.

**Richard Sykes**

Headingley Morning Mission Community

### **...involved...**

*The new course will be starting again soon. South Parade CAP Job Club could always do with more volunteers. If you could help on a fortnightly basis contact Lawrence via the church office. They would particularly welcome anyone who has a business background, maybe with experience of recruiting people, who could help advise people or who could offer work experience.*

*There's also more information on CAP's website at [capjobclubs.org](http://capjobclubs.org)*

christians  
against  
poverty

**CAP**

*"I was feeling down and my confidence was very low. At my CAP Job Club, I was comfortable and came to realise that I wasn't actually in isolation - there are others in the same situation. I know my Job Coach will give me ongoing support. I definitely recommend CAP Job Clubs. You can only gain by going."*

**Audrey, CAP Job Club member**

# BMS World News

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## **Chad: Look at what you've done!**

**Thanks to your generous giving, the new maternal health centre at Guinebor II Hospital (G2) is built and looks set not only to save lives but to transform a desert community.**

**I**n summer 2014, we asked you to help us build a maternal health centre at G2 in Chad so that the staff could provide a better service of care to mothers and babies in a country with one of the worst infant and maternal mortality rates in the world. You gave gifts and fundraised to help us reach our target. And we did! UK Christians raised £165,000, which not only paid for the centre but also paid for equipment and furniture to set up the centre, and personnel costs too.

We are pleased to announce that the maternity centre opened in November. BMS World Mission workers Malc and Sue White saw the maternal health centre rise up from nothing in March 2015 to its completion five months later in August. Malc, as the hospital's Chief Operating

Officer, was instrumental in organising the building's construction and agreeing a contract with local Christian builder Aaron.

Different people, around 100 in all, were picked from nearby villages, many of them with specialist skills like plumbing, installing solar panels and making bricks and cement. All helped to build the new centre.

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## *One hospital is making a huge impact*

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G2 has been increasing its health education efforts in the community while building the centre. Two midwives have gone out to local villages and have taught women about the importance of good antenatal care, getting their vaccinations, having regular check-ups and ultimately giving birth at the hospital in a safe



environment. One hospital is making a huge impact. G2 was once just desert. Look what it has become, thanks to your giving.

## **Top Five Tips for Surviving in the Amazon**

**Think you have what it takes to do mission in Peru's Amazon rainforest?**

**B**MS World Mission workers Laura-Lee Lovering and Sarah McArthur have found that living in Nauta in the Peruvian Amazon is full of opportunities to enjoy the beauty of creation and to share the love of Jesus. But it's not without challenges. Here are Laura and Sarah's top five survival tips:

- **Learn Spanish.** If you can't speak Spanish (and you are not exceptionally good at mime) no one will understand you. So get practising, ¿sí?
- **Expect to eat the unexpected.** Monkey brain, grubs,

guinea pig, and fish soup for breakfast are just a few of the delicacies you will be sampling in Peru's Amazon rainforest.

- **Cultivate your extrovert qualities.** Don't think you have what it takes to be a solo singer? In Peru it doesn't matter. People like to hear English songs and will almost definitely ask you to sing one. So rehearse one before you go and be ready to sing your little heart out.
- **Embrace losing your personal space and privacy.** Visits at six in the morning, a warm "buenos dias" with a kiss, and hand-holding when having a conversation – just a few of the things you can expect from your friends and from strangers in Peru.
- **Be ready for your 5 am wake-up call.** And if possible, develop your love of 90s power ballads. They, along with the chickens, will be playing at full blast from dawn.

Laura and Sarah are part of a team at the Nauta Integral Mission Training Centre in the Loreto region of Peru. Alongside their Peruvian colleagues, they are working to provide training and hospitality to pastors from rural river communities. Please pray for Laura and Sarah as they share God's love and care for creation in Peru.



# Climate Change, Floods and Famine

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**John Lockwood looks at the Biblical history of calamitous famines and floods, and invites us to examine our own lives in the light of our responsibility to care for God's earth.**

**L**ast year marked the first time in history that average land and sea surface temperatures surged one full degree Celsius beyond those of the 19th century. World leaders agreed in December at an international conference in Paris to keep the temperature rise above 19th century levels at the end of this century to 2 degrees Celsius. We are already half way to this target. Associated with increasing temperatures are rising sea levels, so many small island states thought that the temperature rise should be 1.5 degrees C.

Floods affect more people than all other natural disasters combined. Warm air holds more moisture than cold, and therefore is associated with more intense rainfall. This winter we have seen across Northern England the flooding

caused by record rainfall amounts. Bangladesh is particularly prone to flooding. It is estimated that a 1 metre rise in sea level, which is likely to be reached by the end of this century, due to the effects of global warming, would inundate between 14,000 to 30,000 square kilometres of the coastal regions making up to 15 million people homeless. On 12 November 1970 half a million people died in a night from a flood in Bangladesh (then known as East Pakistan) when Cyclone Bhola hit the coast. It wasn't unexpected, but there were no adequate ways to warn the population.

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*As with floods, global  
climate change feeds into  
the problem of famines*

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Famines caused an estimated 70 million deaths during the twentieth century. Starvation is the characteristic of some people not having enough food to eat. It is not the characteristic of there being not



### ***Flooding in Kirkstall on 27 December***

enough food to eat. As with floods, global climate change also feeds into the problem of famines. At present an astonishing one-third of all the primary crops grown in fields is lost or wasted and not consumed. In high-income countries, retailers or consumers who throw out surplus food before it is eaten waste most. Have you visited Real Junk Food Project (TRJFP) cafe at All

Hallows' church, Hyde Park?

**T**here are over 100 instances of the Hebrew word for "famine" in scripture. Famines are among the most significant natural events reported in the Bible, and have major impacts on many Biblical families. Famines are often, though of course not always, caused by drought: an instance is in the time of Elijah, when three years without rain led to famine (1 Kings 17.1 - 18.45).

Famines are often a factor in causing migrations to places where there is more food. Abraham (Genesis 12.10) and Jacob (Genesis 46.5-7) both moved their families to Egypt to avoid famine in Canaan. Ruth 1.1-2 records that Elimelek and Naomi moved to Moab in Transjordan to escape a famine.

***John Lockwood***

Cragg Mission Community



*The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord;  
the earth and all who live on it are his.  
He built it on the deep waters beneath the earth  
and laid its foundations in the ocean depths.*

**Psalm 24.1-2 (GNT)**

# Yorkshire Baptist Association

## *Letter from our Regional Ministers*

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**South Parade is a member of the YBA (the Yorkshire Baptist Association), a worshipping community of more than 100 churches. Our two Regional Ministers, Graham Ensor and Mary Taylor recently sent this letter to all churches across the region.**

**G**reetings to you all in our family of Yorkshire Baptists. Our prayers for 2016 are for the presence of Jesus to be known in every part of your lives - as individuals and as gathered and committed fellowships.

### **Lebanon**

First of all we thank you for the love and interest you have shown towards our brothers and sisters in Lebanon. Many of you prayed and gave to the work of supporting refugees who the Lebanese Baptist Society are faithfully serving.

As an Association we are delighted to be able to send £5,750 which has been given from our churches from their Christmas offerings and events. This will be used for relief

and education work amongst Syrian refugees. The Lebanese Baptists offer care especially to children, to give them respite and normality away from the devastating impact of war in their homeland from which they are seeking safety. There are others in the refugee camps who would recruit these children for terrorism and death. Our brothers and sisters in Lebanon offer the love of Christ to all in many practical ways but they are also able to share the Gospel and see many respond in commitment to follow Jesus, who is light and life. Please don't stop praying for this work and if you wish to continue to give directly there is a link with bank details on their website:  
[www.lsesd.org](http://www.lsesd.org)

### **Pioneering**

Coming up soon in Yorkshire will be an opportunity to learn about pioneering mission and church planting through the Incarnate Network. The network is offering an Incarnate encounter weekend in Bradford and Leeds on 4-6 March. This is part of our ongoing pioneer work in Bradford with Ur-

ban Expression and Threads. We want to encourage everybody involved in some form of Pioneer/Fresh Expression/church planting to come along and engage together. Find out more and book: [buytickets.at/incarnatenetwork](http://buytickets.at/incarnatenetwork)

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*What are you planning to do this year to share the Good News with people and invite them to follow Jesus?*

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### **Assembly**

Our Assembly this year will be on Saturday 11 June and we welcome Roy Searle, Baptist minister and one of the leaders of the Northumbria Community, to stimulate our thinking and practice of bringing people from the outside to the centre of discipleship and of our communities of faith. Please put the date in your diary and encourage key people to come along. More details will follow in due course.

### **40 Days of Good News**

Finally, what is your church planning to do this year to share the Good News with people and invite them

to follow Jesus? Baptists Together will be taking part in a national period of calling people to faith in the 40 days from Easter to Pentecost. What is happening in our Association? The Tour de Yorkshire will be threading past some of our churches in April and they plan to be part of the action and take the opportunity of witness. Beverley BC will be inviting their friends and neighbours to meet God by taking part in "Try Praying" after Easter ([www.trypraying.org](http://www.trypraying.org))

**W**hat about you? We'd love to hear what Baptists are doing across Yorkshire and as your Regional Team we'd especially like to join in and support one another as we reach out with the call of Jesus on every human life.

With blessings on all you are doing and prayers for the presence of Jesus in our lives together,

*Mary, Graham  
and the Team*

Mary Taylor - Regional Minister  
Graham Ensor - Regional Minister and Team Leader

### **...informed...**

Find out more about what the YBA does at their website [www.yba.org.uk](http://www.yba.org.uk)

yorkshirebaptist  
● ● ● association

# Ford's Focus

## *John's Gospel Part Seven: The Great Question*

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**This month, Steve Ford's regular Bible Study in John's Gospel reaches chapter 5, verses 24 - 47.**

**W**hat we have seen and focused on in the previous chapters is Jesus. We saw John always pointing Jesus out to those around him, Mary pointing Jesus out as the answer to no wine, Nicodemus's enquiring spirit that was searching for truth, the Samaritan women who was so excited when she met Jesus that she told all around her to "come see a man who told me everything I ever did", to the man here in John 5

whose encounter with Jesus gave him legs.

---

*What are we going to  
do with Jesus?  
Are we going to  
embrace him and his  
teachings and believe?*

---

Here in John 5 verses 24 - 47 we find Jesus in the spotlight, Jesus declaring that he is in fact God in man. Well, this really angered those religious leaders so much that they wanted to kill him. The question we have to ask here is, what do I do with Jesus? Do I want to continue in my ignorance and let him just carry on teaching people and hope it doesn't get out of hand or do I want to embrace and enjoy what he is doing: changing lives?

This is the great question and challenge that Jesus lays down here in John 5 to the religious leaders of the day. They were so wrapped up in "religion" that it had paralysed





their spiritual senses and understanding, so much so that they saw Jesus as a threat and failed to see and accept him as the one sent from God that they had read and taught about.

**J**esus sums the situation up with the following words in verses 38-40 (NKJV) “But you do not have his word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. You search the scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life: and these are they which testify of me. But you are not willing to come to me that you may have life.”

So before we move on with our study in John let us just pause for a



moment and consider this man Jesus, this man who came into our sinful world with the sole aim of changing lives. What are we going to do with him? Are we going to embrace him and all his radical teachings and believe, by faith, that he is the answer and point him out in the crowd? Or are we going to be like the religious leaders of the day and intellectually and physically reject him, to the point that we condemn him to death in our lives as not relevant and thereby separate ourselves from all that God has for us as individuals and as communities?

**Steve Ford**

Headingley Morning Mission Community  
[blog.stevelford.me.uk](http://blog.stevelford.me.uk)

*God didn't promise days without pain  
Laughter without sorrow  
Or sun without rain  
But He did promise  
strength for the day  
Comfort for the tears  
And light for the way*

*If God brings you to it  
He will bring you through it*



**Unknown**

# Questions

## *Warming Warning*

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**It is reported that eleven top scientists have described the Paris agreement as offering a false hope. One of them has said that the prospects for global warming are now dire.**

**W**hen the universe was created and God said “let there be light”, a set of natural forces were formed that obey laws capable of mathematical expression. Among these are the much neglected laws of all forms of mechanics and of thermodynamics. These confirm the conclusions of the eleven signatories from their separate specialist studies. All forms of energy entering the earth’s surface degrade to heat through the end use, human activity.



Some heat is returned to the upper atmosphere by convection and blue green light is radiated into space. Atmospheric pollution decreases this energy loss.

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*This problem causes  
so much misery.  
Is there a Christian  
response?*

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Increasing use of energy leads inevitably to a slow increase in the average temperature at the earth’s surface. This increase is small compared with short term variations from several other causes, but is dominant in the longer term. It is important because a small increase in temperature produces a large response to the heat generated motion and composition of the world climate. Storms, floods, droughts and wild fires become more severe. This has now become apparent.

It is difficult to see more than two possible solutions. We need to

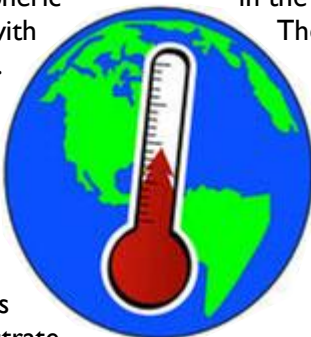
reduce energy consumption and increase outward radiation. Green energy is helpful only if it results in a reduced use of fossil energy. It seems unlikely that atmospheric pollution can be reduced with an increased use of energy.

Is there a Christian response to a problem that causes so much misery? We assert that it is God's universe. We are to care for his creation. In Genesis we have images to demonstrate the challenging theology of The Fall. A people walking with God living in the Garden of Eden who chose to eat of the tree of knowledge and had their eyes on the tree of life, are expelled from the garden.

Anthropology confirms that migrants from the west combining with people in the Garden of Eden finally moved east from Lake Van to spread over the Middle East.

The human race has chosen to decide what is right and what is wrong. It no longer regards life as the gift of God and few of us walk in the light of the Holy Spirit.

The scriptural input from past generations towards compassion in Britain is being replaced by consumerism.



**C**hristians are being driven to recognise that

it is God we trust. This requires us in duty and love to demonstrate in word and action that in Jesus we have the only hope for ourselves and our neighbours. On the practical level, do we not have a Christian duty to reduce our own energy use in heating, lighting and travel?

**Cyril Snell**

Headingley Morning Mission Community

*The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby was asked at the Davos World Economic Forum in January whether he thought God was in cyberspace. Welby replied: "I think he must be because every time I am on the underground or a bus I see people looking at their computer or mobile phone saying 'oh God, why won't this work'."*



# Church Noticeboard

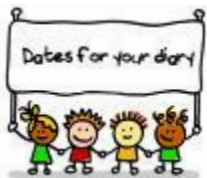
## Headingley Churches Together



*Lent and Easter events with our friends from other churches*

- **Lent Lunches** These are held over five Fridays during Lent, from 19 February to 18 March, at Headingley Methodist Church Hall, 12.30 – 1.30. The theme will be “The Earth is the Lord’s”, looking at a whole range of environmental issues. (South Parade is responsible for preparing the lunch on 18 March – offers of help please to Pam Roe).
- **Holy Week service** on Tuesday 22 March at St Luke’s Lutheran Church (Alma Road), 7.00pm.
- **Tenebrae service** on Thursday 24 March at Headingley St Columba URC, 9.00pm. A quiet reflective service leading to Good Friday.
- **Good Friday Walk of Witness** - details to follow later.

**Church Meetings** are scheduled for the following Thursday evenings:



- 31 March
- 26 May
- 28 July
- 22 September
- 24 November

It is possible that one or more additional meetings may be called; if so I intend that notice of at least three weeks will be given of any such meeting.

Charles Fletcher, Church Secretary

## Congratulations

to Hannah and Ed  
Preston on the birth of  
**Jesse Elisha** on  
13 January!



*"Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you have depended on more than half the world"* (Martin Luther King). **Fairtrade Fortnight** starts on 29 February and the theme is **Breakfasts**. Come to our own Fairtrade Breakfast on Sunday 13 March.



A vibrant poster for a Fairtrade Breakfast Event. At the top, a blue banner reads "JOIN OUR BIG FAIRTRADE BREAKFAST EVENT" with a pineapple and bananas. Below this, two white boxes with blue borders provide details: "WHERE The Green House South Parade Headingley" and "WHEN Sunday 13 March 9am". A large blue arrow points from the event title to the date box. The bottom section features a blue background with a breakfast spread including a pineapple, jam, juice, a teapot, bananas, a mug, and a cupcake. A circular logo on the right says "29 FEBRUARY - 13 MARCH 2016 FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT" with the website "FAIRTRADE.ORG.UK/BREAKFAST". At the bottom left, the slogan "SIT DOWN FOR BREAKFAST STAND UP FOR FARMERS" is written. The Fairtrade logo and "THE POWER OF YOU" slogan are at the bottom right.

**JOIN OUR BIG FAIRTRADE BREAKFAST EVENT**

**WHERE**  
The Green House  
South Parade  
Headingley

**WHEN**  
Sunday 13  
March  
9am

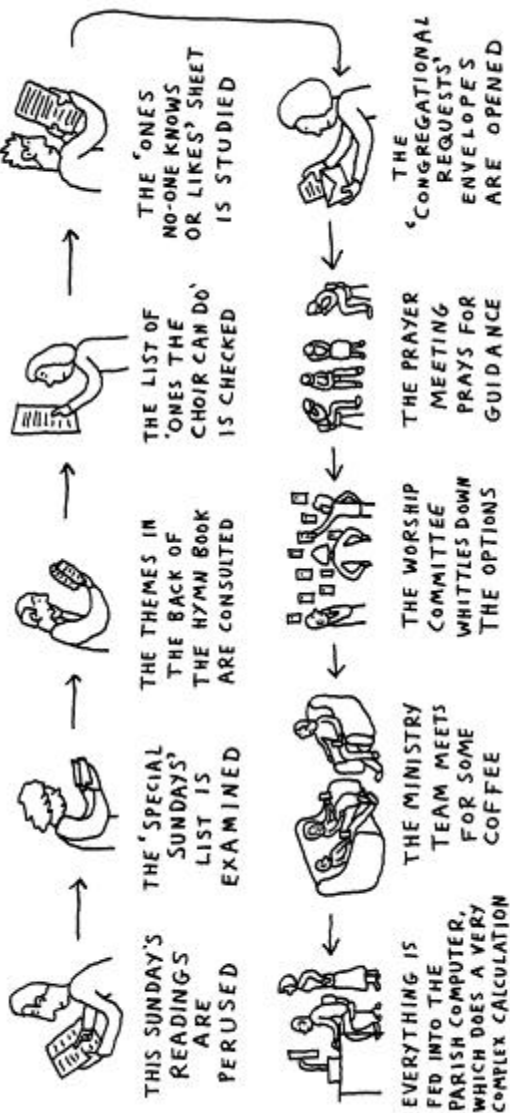
**SIT DOWN FOR BREAKFAST  
STAND UP FOR FARMERS**

**29 FEBRUARY - 13 MARCH 2016  
FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**  
FAIRTRADE.ORG.UK/BREAKFAST

**THE POWER OF YOU**

# THE HYMNS

HOW THEY ARE CHOSEN EVERY WEEK



MEANWHILE  
THE MUSIC DIRECTOR  
JUST PICKS A FEW  
OF HER FAVOURITES



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

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

Minister

Paul Rockley

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

Nathan Shipley  
Heather McLeen  
Geoff King  
Kate Churchill/Steve Cooper  
Lawrence Cockrill  
Kate Burkett

Elders

Andrew Bedingham, Steve Burras,  
Neil Cowling, Charles Fletcher  
(Church Secretary), Adrian Howe  
(Church Treasurer), Ruth Hughes,  
John Pelham, Sue Ricketts

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

**0113 275 4989**  
**[www.spbc.org.uk](http://www.spbc.org.uk)**  
**[info@spbc.org.uk](mailto:info@spbc.org.uk)**



“

*Let us not love with words or speech  
but with actions and in truth*

”

**1 John 3.18 (NIV)**

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**intouch**

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



# Farewell Brian and Elsie

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