

intouch



Generous Kingdom People

Outreach to Asian Nationals (OTAN) - planting churches and supporting pastors in restricted countries
renewing churches across the UK • Training Midwives in Uganda • Christians Against Poverty - Debt
Charity Education for Refugees in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria • Care for Elderly Support in Horsforth • Supporting Levi Booth in Mission Work in
Japan • Youth Mentoring • Leeds Youth Cell Network • Candy Floss machine for Christian Union Freshers' Week • Evangelism with
students in Montenegro • Churches Together in Headingley • Practical Support to Eritrean and Ethiopian asylum seekers in Leeds •
Joanna Project working with vulnerable women in Leeds • Crypt working with homeless people in Leeds • Project working with vulnerable women
in Montenegro • Planting churches and supporting pastors in restricted countries in Asia • Home Mission: planting and renewing churches across the UK • Train-
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angelism with students in Montenegro • Churches Together in Headingley • Practical Support to E



Donation Budget Update: page 24

In the ten years that I've been editing this magazine, I've overseen sixty editions, had contributions from dozens of church members and produced about 2,500 pages of copy. I've enjoyed working with three church secretaries, three church administrators, and three ministers, and seen Mission Communities grow and develop over this time. But in all this time we've had just one Senior Minister. As we prepare for Brian's departure in January, we all know how much he's given to South Parade over the years, and how much we have to thank him and Elsie. It's vitally important that all we continue to pray and seek God's guidance as a church as we think about the future of the Ministry Team, and look for new people to help us fulfil his mission among us.

Contents

- Page 3 From the Ministry Team: *Jesus: Treasure Without Measure*
- Page 5 Around the Church
- Page 11 Frontline Europe: *MacFarlane Update*
- Page 14 Notes from Keswick: *The Whole of Life for Christ*
- Page 17 Prayer Diary
- Page 21 Ford's Focus: *John's Gospel Part Five: Changed Lives*
- Page 24 What Do the Deacons Do? *The Donations Budget*
- Page 27 Step of Faith: *With All My Heart*
- Page 28 Gnanakan News: *Missional Praying*
- Page 32 Church Noticeboard
- Page 34 Come Prepared: *Preaching Themes and Readings*

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

Jesus: Treasure Without Measure

Every now and then a phrase in the Bible seems to grip me and dominate my thoughts. Here's the one that has got me at the moment. It's found in Ephesians 3 verse 8 where the Apostle Paul writes:

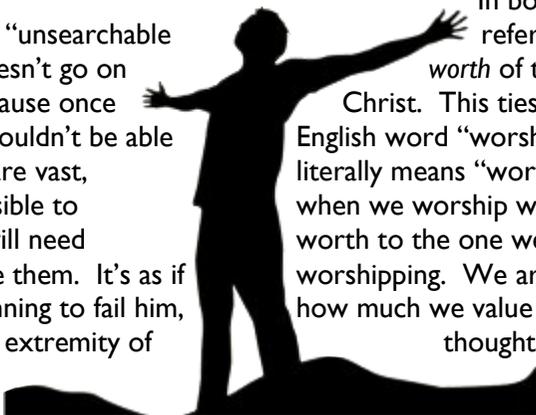
“Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me – to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...”

What are these “unsearchable riches”? He doesn't go on to list them because once he started he wouldn't be able to stop! They are vast, limitless, impossible to quantify. We will need eternity to mine them. It's as if words are beginning to fail him, as if he is at the extremity of language to convey the idea.

There is something similar in Philippians 3 verse 8 when he is trying to find a word to describe what it means to know Jesus. He uses a superlative that isn't found

anywhere else in the New Testament. It seems for Paul there just isn't any other word that comes close. So the various Bible translations go for different shades of meaning. “Surpassing greatness” says one. “Priceless privilege” says another. Then there's “Supreme advantage”, “Overwhelming preciousness”, “Excellency” and “Infinite value”.

In both places Paul is referring to the *worth* of the Lord Jesus Christ. This ties in with our English word “worship” which literally means “worth-ship”. So when we worship we are attributing worth to the one we are worshipping. We are expressing how much we value them in our thoughts and affections.



The unsearchable riches of Christ are impossible to quantify. We will need eternity to mine them.

If Christ has “unsearchable riches” then there can be nothing in this world that could compare with what we have in Him. That’s the sentiment in one of the verses of that ancient Irish hymn which was written as long ago as the 6th Century but amazingly is still so popular today: “Be Thou my vision”:

*Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty
praise,
Thou my inheritance now and
always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my
heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure
Thou art.*

Fast forward to the 21st Century and Irish Christian band Rend Collective are saying something very similar in their songs:

*Jesus, take my all, take my
everything
I’ve counted up the cost and you’re
worth everything*

are some of the lyrics in “The

Cost”, and “All that I am” contains the words:

*You’re the pearl beyond price,
greater than life,
All that I am for all that You are.*

Ephesians 3 verse 8 obviously inspired one of America’s greatest hymn writers, Frances Crosby. Let her words wash over your soul and warm your heart:

*Oh, the unsearchable riches of
Christ,
Wealth that can never be told!
Riches exhaustless of mercy and
grace,
Precious, more precious than gold!*

*Oh, the unsearchable riches of
Christ!
Who shall their greatness declare?
Jewels whose lustre our lives may
adorn,
Pearls that the poorest may wear!*

Paul

And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

Ephesians 3.8-10 (The Message)

Around the Church

News from Northside

Northside is one year old. Our first anniversary kicked off on Saturday 19 September, with a special Harvest Supper at the ABC Coffee Shop. This included items from the Headingley Music Group and a message from Gaynor Hammond. On the following day, we celebrated our Harvest Outburst Service with cake!

Recently, we were amazed to learn that a resident near the school (we worship in Adel Primary School) did not know there was a school in their road! We realised that the likelihood was, even after 20 years, local people may still not know about us. So reaching out to the community has taken on a more visible approach.

So, in August, we took the whole service, with Communion, to Golden Acre Park. This event was greatly enhanced by the musical

Northside



It's a huge challenge, but underpinning Northside is a structure of prayer

accomplishments of our Senior Pastor.

Many new houses are being built in Adel, not only at Centurion Fields but at Bodington Manor. We have visited these and plan to follow this up on a regular basis.

It's a huge challenge, but underpinning the whole of Northside is a structure of prayer. We are very glad that Sam MacCunn is able to head up our Pastoral Team in this valuable work.

They encourage us as we, in our turn, commit our financial and prayer support to others, not only in the UK but overseas.

As South Parade moves into a

time of change next year, let's wear out our knees, as we kneel to pray. A quote from Joseph Scriven:

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry everything to
God in prayer.*

Janet Jackson

Northside Leadership Team

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Drop In @ Cragg held a very successful Coffee Morning at Cragg on Friday 25 September in aid of Macmillan Nurses. The morning raised £143 and this has been donated to Macmillan Cancer Care. Here are three photographs of the event.

John Lockwood

Cragg Mission Community

How Does Your Garden Grow?

For many years now I have enjoyed looking after the garden at the front of the church building in Headingley. This is the small garden area directly in front of church – the one in which the notice board is situated.

I now find that increasing family commitments mean that I cannot give the garden the attention that it



Coffee Morning at Cragg

needs. So I have asked the deacons to seek another volunteer or perhaps to arrange a more formal way to care for this area.

Incidentally, whenever I have worked on the garden, I would find that one or two passers-by would stop to engage me in conversation. Most would talk about the garden – perhaps saying that they appreciated having it there, or even pointing weeds that I had missed (I tried to receive these latter contributions with true Christian gratitude!) Just occasionally someone would stop to talk about church or touch on their ideas about faith.



one at All Hallows Church (Regent Terrace, Hyde Park) it's worth a visit – open lunchtimes Tuesdays and Fridays.

- involvement in the Headingley neighbourhood plan.
- an idea to run evenings open to the public on the subject of death. This may not seem an obvious topic, but they have run elsewhere with some interest. How to help others facing death; how to prepare yourself; dealing with loss; spiritual feelings towards the end of life; your fears, your hopes; and much more.
- a plan to host groups of asylum seekers for short periods over this winter – more of this later.

Sally Howe

Headingley Morning Mission Community

If you think this is something you can help with, talk to Sally or contact the church office.

Churches Together in Headingley

Discussion at the last meeting of CTH in September covered:

- plans for the coming year.
- involvement in Food Banks.
- the JunkFood cafes. If you've not tried the



We would love to have some new members on this group – we are especially short of South Parade representatives. If you think you might be interested, please speak to Brian Nicholls or Pam Roe.

Just a reminder of the churches involved:

- Headingley Methodist
- St Urban's Roman Catholic
 - Headingley St Columba URC
 - Our Lady of Lourdes RC
 - St Chad's Anglican

- South Parade Baptist
- St Michael's Anglican
- Vineyard Church
- St Luke's Lutheran
- Focolare Group

Pam Roe

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Church Meeting Notes

At the church meeting on 24 September:

The elders reported back on discussions about whether or how we could make it easier for people with “busy modern lifestyles” to join in public worship

The church secretary said that there will be elections for elders and deacons (2 posts each) at the meeting on 26 November. Three new Mission Community leaders also need to be appointed for Connect, Headingley and Northside.

Graham Ensor, Regional Minister with the Yorkshire Baptist Association, led part of the meeting dealing with the profile for seeking a new senior minister. Written reports were received from various groups and discussions were held in small groups to try to identify the common themes and priorities

which then fed back to the whole meeting.

These priorities were suggested:

- Gospel of Jesus Christ that we learn about in the Bible
- Going where God leads us, and searching for unity as we go
- Discipleship – building up people in the faith
 - Mission-shaped church
 - To build on our strengths as God sees them, not as we see them
- To understand what SPBC needs we need to understand what we already have in the present ministry team
- We need to be proactive, use what we already have to encourage and build each other up and lead by example



Further issues such as the structure of the church, the role of social media and the qualities expected of a new leader were discussed.

The meeting cheered at the news that Geoff King, having completed all the requirements for accreditation, is now a Regionally Recognised Minister in the Yorkshire Baptist Association. As such his proper title is Pastor Geoff King.

It was announced that Hannah Preston, the church administrator,

will soon be taking maternity leave and a post of temporary administrator will be advertised shortly within South Parade and on Network Leeds.

Matthew Newman

Traidcraft Goes Beyond Fair Trade

This autumn/winter everything Traidcraft does – the buying and selling, the new catalogue, the campaigning, the contact with Government and big business – will sit under the banner of Show You Care.

Traidcraft's work is important – and different. Not only does it sell excellent fair trade products, it continually campaigns and lobbies on behalf of the world's most under-privileged people (often calling UK companies to account for their actions in some of the world's poorest countries), it runs life-changing development projects in several countries, and helps small communities who struggle to produce the volume of goods

required by big business. The work benefits 600,000 people every year, helping them build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Traidcraft does not benefit from fair trade goods sold in supermarkets. And supermarket chains of course do nothing of the support work. Traidcraft urgently needs our sales because despite the growth of total fair trade sales, Traidcraft sales have declined because people are buying from supermarkets. This puts their pioneering work under serious threat.



So, please, Show You Care. Buy your chocolate, biscuits, honey, marmalade, buy the excellent value greetings cards, order your Christmas cards.

Pam Roe

Headingley Morning Mission Community
The new Traidcraft catalogue is available now. A reference copy is on the desk of the foyer at Headingley. Or ask Pam for your own copy. The next stall is at Headingley on Sunday 18 October. See also the Chilli Grandmas on page 23.

...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



Frontline Europe

MacFarlane Update

Ann and David MacFarlane are our link missionaries with BMS World Mission in Reggio, Italy. Here is their latest prayer letter.

It's newsletter time again and for the first time this year I have a good bit of free time to write it.

It's the middle of July here and the temperature is already soaring in the forties. The church activities like youth fellowship, Sunday school, bible

study, English lessons have all stopped until September. In August, Italy, as I believe I tell you every year, shuts down for the month. Unfortunately the plight of the immigrants continues and even gets worse with the good weather for crossing the seas with their small but full to overflowing boats.

At the moment there are two or three boats arriving weekly. You can have at times 300-400 on them. Recently there has been a lot of women and children on them and



Syrians being lined up and processed.

many of the children are without parents. There have been 17,000 landing in Italy so far this year and thousands from Syria. When they come into Reggio they are processed and then bussed around to various places.

Volunteers meet the refugees and give them fruit juices, water and various snacks. Many come barefooted.

We are involved with other volunteers who meet them and give them fruit juices, water and various snacks. There are also doctors and other medical volunteers who Ann and the other volunteers help in feeding and helping bath and clean up the refugees who need it, especially the babies and children. We have already as a church given 600 euro for these items and more importantly flip flops because a good number of them come barefooted.



David and Ann MacFarlane

We have not been to Rosarno since our last newsletter but we will be

going soon with clothes and the various things we collect.

Our food bank situation as shared in our last newsletter has still not changed. We are not sure if it is because a lot of the food is going to feed the immigrants in the various sites where they are taken to around Italy. We are still subsidizing it with 200 euro a month with the monies we receive from donations.

We had a great time on our home assignment this year sharing about the things written above and we are hoping to get to the other churches who support us next May. In our next newsletter we will have the dates so if you want us you will have to book us quickly.

Our church continues to thrive but this year I am detecting a bit of tiredness and complacency due to us not having our summer evangelism. We thought that by having three groups

last year that we would give them a rest. We had the sad loss of one of the most prominent members of our congregation. Francesca Canale, our church treasurer died, when we

were on home assignment. It was sudden and I would ask you to pray for her daughter Ester who is a member of our pastoral team. Ester suffers from depression and is not coping very well.

Prayer points.

- Praise God for the continual spiritual and numerical growth in the church.
- 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 and the new advice centre that has recently been set up by the Catholic Church. Ann goes along most Wednesdays to help, especially with translation.

*David and Ann
MacFarlane*

...inspired...

If you would like more information or news from the MacFarlanes speak to Pat Dalgleish at the Headingley Morning Mission Community or visit bmsworldmission.org/admacfarlane

BMS Disaster Recovery

Thanks to your gifts, BMS World Mission has helped to alleviate the suffering of people caught in disasters across the world. In the last six months your gifts have supported people in the following ways.

Nepal earthquake: £37,180 Providing psychosocial support, access to water, education, infrastructure, livelihoods, and disaster preparedness training as a part of earthquake recovery projects.

Myanmar flooding: £15,000 Providing emergency food relief for families affected by flooding.

India (Mizoram) hailstorm relief: £9,303 Supporting 500 households to repair their homes and recover their livelihoods through the Baptist Convention of Mizoram.

Ukraine conflict: £21,500 For conflict-affected families and 1,200 households through the European Baptist Aid.



bmsworldmission.org/disaster

Notes from Keswick

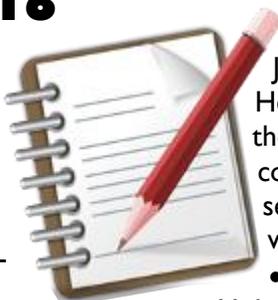
The Whole of Life for Christ

Jill Jones attended the Keswick Convention earlier in the year and was impressed by the talks from Liam Goligher, Senior Minister of Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. In the next few editions of *Intouch* she shares the notes she took in the sessions on the Sermon on the Mount.

Session 1 Matthew 5.1-16

The Sermon on the Mount was crucial to Matthew's thesis that Jesus was the Son of God.

- Builds up from Genealogy back to Israel (Chosen People), to birth of the Son, to the crushing of Satan (temptations), to the start of His preaching in Galilee (land of Gentiles).
- Jesus lives His life according to the script written by the Holy



Spirit and agreed by the Father and the Son before His birth in Bethlehem.

- Jesus preaches this sermon to the remnant, the Disciples, gathered on a mountainside.
- Moses addressed the Chosen People on a mountain with words received from God's lips.
- Jesus speaks to the remnant on a mountainside with His own words as Son of God.
 - The Old Covenant becomes the New and Jesus' theme is (5.17) that He is both the fulfilment of the OT prophecies and has come to fulfil the Law Himself, not change it in any way.
 - He will live out the Holy Spirit's script. (see Isaiah 40, 42, 49-66).

The Definition of a Believer (3-12)

He is speaking to Israel's remnant, restating the Old Covenant. And He knows they are "poor in

*Jesus was opposed
and rejected.
We will be opposed
and rejected.
This is an inevitable
part of the life of
the church.*

spirit” (5.3) This remnant is the seed of the New Covenant who understand their dependence on God, having nothing to bargain with. They are meek people who know they need the grace of God. Covenant blessings come to the radically meek.

The themes Jesus covers in 5.3-12 reflect themes covered by Isaiah (see above references): meekness, repentance, those who mourn because they know they are sinners, the seekers of justice, those who desire righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peace-makers and those persecuted for the gospel.



Liam Goligher

Jesus addresses not different sets of believers but ALL the Beatitudes together are the profile of God’s people. This is what God wants of

us as a believer. It is God who declares us righteous, (made right with Him) but who then sets about making us righteous.

In the Old Covenant communication with God was only via the Temple. Now the “pure in heart” will have direct access to the Father. (The veil was torn in two and Psalm 24). This is the inheritance for those in the Kingdom of God.

The Experience of a Believer (5.10-12)

Jesus was opposed and rejected.
We will be opposed and rejected.
This is an inevitable part of the life of the church. So were the prophets.

Will we keep His word?
Will we stay faithful to His word?

A warning and a choice: if we surrender chunks of the Bible, we will not be assaulted. If we don’t, then we are seen as a threat.

An Influence for Jesus

- The Salt and Light images contain evidence of both potentially positive and negative influences, continuing the warning and the choice theme.
- Salt is a preservative of good-

ness. The world is rotting; the church has to be salt. We will be an influence for restraint just by being in the church.

- Only you, (Christians) have the Light, the Name by which others must be saved. We don't make a difference by becoming like the world (hiding our light by dimming it to blend with the rest of the attractive lights around us, distorting and modifying Scripture). If we are not for Scripture, the Word as we have received it in the Bible,

then we are against it. We can't be selective.

- You ARE salt and you ARE light by virtue of your relationship with God. These are statements not imperatives.
- The very presence of the church both condemns the world and invites the world back to God.

Jill Jones

Headingley Morning Mission Community

...inspired...

You can download these talks for free by registering at the Keswick Convention website: keswickministries.org/resources

God blesses those people who depend only on him.

They belong to the kingdom of heaven!

God blesses those people who grieve.

They will find comfort!

God blesses those people who are humble.

The earth will belong to them!

God blesses those people who want to obey him more than to eat or drink.

They will be given what they want!

God blesses those people who are merciful.

They will be treated with mercy!

God blesses those people whose hearts are pure.

They will see him!

God blesses those people who make peace.

They will be called his children!

God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right.

They belong to the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.3-10 (CEV)

Prayer Diary



October & November 2015

*"You are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings."*
Psalm 63.7 (NIV)

OCTOBER

Sun	11	Cragg Mission Community
Mon	12	Those at the Alpha course this evening
Tue	13	St George's Crypt
Wed	14	The Ministry Team
Thu	15	Under 5s work
Fri	16	Our friend in North Africa
Sat	17	Nathan Shipley
Sun	18	Northside Mission Community
Mon	19	Jane Waites in Albania
Tue	20	Leeds Faith in Schools
Wed	21	Your Home Group leader
Thu	22	The search for a new Senior Minister in 2016
Fri	23	The church office
Sat	24	Kate Burkett

Pull out and use!

Sun	25	Headingley Morning Mission Community
Mon	26	Chris Gnanakan
Tue	27	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre
Wed	28	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Thu	29	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Fri	30	Worship leaders at services in all Mission Communities
Sat	31	Lawrence Cockrill
NOVEMBER		
Sun	1	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Mon	2	Jayne Godfrey in Slovakia
Tue	3	Caroline Brown at Dewsbury Baptist Church
Wed	4	The Elders
Thu	5	Teddy Praise and Play
Fri	6	Geoff King
Sat	7	Brian Nicholls
Sun	8	Sent Mission Community
Mon	9	Steve & Ismay Green
Tue	10	Caring for Life
Wed	11	Members and friends who are sick, or in hospital
Thu	12	The Youth Band
Fri	13	ABC Coffee Shop
Sat	14	Heather McLeen
Sun	15	Church @ Little London
Mon	16	The Alpha Course this evening
Tue	17	Christians Against Poverty
Wed	18	Hazel Randall and the TLG mentors working with children in schools

Thu	19	The Joanna Project
Fri	20	Work with children and young people across the church
Sat	21	Paul Rockley
Sun	22	Connect Mission Community
Mon	23	Becky North in Chad
Tue	24	Levi Booth in Japan
Wed	25	Adrian Howe, church treasurer
Thu	26	The church meeting tonight
Fri	27	Preachers at services in all Mission Communities this week
Sat	28	Hannah Preston
Sun	29	The Sent Alternative Christmas service tonight
Mon	30	David and Ann MacFarlane in Italy
DECEMBER		
Tue	1	The Deacons
Wed	2	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Thu	3	New church members
Fri	4	Yourself and your place in South Parade
Sat	5	Rooted

Advent Prayer

*Advent God, we journey with you to Bethlehem's stable
and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of
angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.*

*Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the
tempting offers of this world.*

*Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and
the promise of a Saviour. Amen*

A Prayer for the Refugee Crisis

*Gracious God,
For every tear-streaked child
For every voiceless mother
For every desperate father
For every homeless and stateless family
We cry out to you*



*Lord have mercy
For those slumped in despair
For those on their knees unable to take another step
For those who look and feel hunted and hopeless
For those who live in the desperate captivity of fear*

*Lord have mercy
Soften our hearts
Move us to action
Fill us with compassion
Let us be channels of your love*

*Lord have mercy
Lord whose family had to flee a country
Lord who had nowhere to lay your head
Lord who weeps over the city
Lord have mercy*

*Move us to make a difference
To act with love and understanding
To offer hope and strengthen the weak
To put the needs of the broken above our own*

Lord have mercy

Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part Five: Changed Lives

Steve Ford's study in John reaches Chapter 4, where Jesus stops by a well and has a discussion with a woman who has a less than straightforward past.

The first thing to note is that Jesus does not consider it inappropriate or unacceptable, despite her reputation and the fact that she was from Samaria, to ask this woman for a drink.

The second thing is that Jesus turns a simple, natural question, "give me a drink", into a searching spiritual discourse.



Jesus had insight into this woman's situation and recognised that she needed refreshing spiritually as much as he need refreshing physically. We so often separate our physical wellbeing from our spiritual wellbeing when in fact they are so often intertwined.

Jesus' mission was that everyone should be re-instated to a rightful place with God

When asked for a drink are we able to draw refreshing water from the wells of salvation or do we struggle to connect the natural with the spiritual or the spiritual with the natural? We need to be able to provide what is required when engaged in conversations, we need to be able to be life-enhancing and not life-inhibiting.

What Jesus does in this account is take the everyday thing and spin out

the spiritual truth. Jesus was concerned for this Samaritan woman, after all His mission was that **all** should be re-instated to a rightful place with God.

What Jesus indicated here in this encounter was that there is something that we can have here and now that will be like a fountain of water springing up in us to everlasting life (verse 14). The question is have we got it?

The story continues with the woman stating the obvious, “the well is deep and you have nothing to draw with so where do you get this living water” (verse 11). What a great leading question for Jesus to be able to be “life-enhancing”, moving from the natural thirst to the spiritual truth.

Jesus invites this woman to come and partake of what he has to offer, life-giving, life-transforming Grace that flows abundantly from the very heart of God. Jesus suggests that there is something far more important than quenching your thirst. The spiritual thirst had been awakened and God had started the work of salvation in this Samaritan woman.

The spiritual thirst needs to be awakened in all of us and we all need to be honest when we are asked the searching questions. Jesus says, “go and call your husband”. Oops, “well I don’t have one”. There is nowhere to hide from truth.

Jesus, being God knew all about this woman, just as He knows all about you and me. There is nowhere to hide so when asked the probing questions let us answer with all honesty knowing that God does not condemn us but wants us to be real so that we can be effective for him.



What we then find is that this woman was so excited by her encounter with Jesus that she left her water pot and went into the city and said to the men “come see a

Man, not just any man but a Man who told me everything that I ever did, could this be the Christ?” (verse 29). They then went to see for themselves.

The encounter with Almighty that created a spiritual thirst has now generated an enthusiasm in others to find out for themselves. The great thing about this story is that one simple question “give me a drink” led to many people in a city

believing that Jesus was indeed the Christ, because one woman was ready and willing to be honest about her situation. She went back and testified that she had met a man “who told me all that I ever did”. Notice it is past tense, “did”. God is in the business of forgiving and forgetting.

Changed lives is what it is all about. If our encounter with the Holy One does

not continue to change our lives, if it does not cause us to continue to evaluate ourselves in the light of our conversations with God through Jesus then we need to re-evaluate our encounter.

The gospel is better caught than taught. It is contagious. Have we caught it and are we contagious Christians?

Steve Ford



*They're amazingly inspirational, and you may already have heard of them! They're the **Chilli Grandmas** - a group of ladies growing some of the best tasting chillies in Swaziland and then selling them to one of Traidcraft's suppliers Black Mamba. They spend virtually everyday working in their smallholding, earning just enough money to care for their grandchildren. Take a few minutes to watch their story and Show You Care by helping Traidcraft and Black Mamba continue to support these amazing people. The video is on YouTube: search "Show you care Chilli Grandmas".*

What Do the Deacons Do?

The Donations Budget

Diane Hume explains another part of the work of the Deacons in serving the whole church.

For those of you who wonder, “What do deacons do all day?”, one aspect of it is deciding how to respond to ad-hoc or repeat requests for donations during the year. These are typically for modest amounts (up to around £200) and a record of them will ultimately appear on our published accounts on the Charity Commission website.

For many years, we have been committed to donating a significant percentage of our income to ministry beyond South Parade and its mission communities. However the majority of us probably seldom ponder the details of specific donations, so the deacons thought it would be useful at this point in the year to highlight some of the donations that have been made this year. This is as an encouragement and a reminder that we aim to be “generous Kingdom people”. Although the particular words are not found in our current mission statement, they will be familiar to many of us, and surely are an aspect of the “become” part of the mission statement that we have recently looked at on Vision Sunday.

Our budget sets aside a pot of money for members to request support for individual mission activities or to suggest donations to other agencies. At a Church Meeting a year ago we agreed to encourage people planning a trip or ven-



If someone you know is planning a venture that falls under the heading of “doing exciting things for God”, please approach the deacons to request support.

ture to do exciting things for God, to request donations from this source. This is as an alternative to setting up fundraising activities for specific projects.

Some examples of donations approved by the deacons this year are...

- The Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development, via “JustAct Middle East”, the organisation that Gareth Iball is involved with, which he shared about at recent services. This is to provide practical aid as well as education and training to refugees in Lebanon and others remaining in Syria and Iraq.
- A local church providing practical support and counselling to asylum seekers, mainly from

Ethiopian and Eritrean backgrounds, recently arrived in West Yorkshire.

- Church members taking part in mission trips. This included one member’s visit to Rukungiri, Uganda, involving training of student midwives and nurses, and another’s summer trip with UCCF to Montenegro, engaging in evangelism alongside the local church and Christian students (we heard about this trip at the morning service on Vision Sunday).
- Leeds Beckett University Christian Union to help with their Freshers’ week activities (including helping provide a candy floss machine!)



These are examples of some of the smaller donations, but just as important are the larger regular donations that we make and that are agreed as part of our budget. A brief article like this couldn’t possibly do justice to all these causes, so I’ll just mention Baptist Union Home Mission, which amongst other things provides grants to local churches and supports the ministry of Baptist congregations who wouldn’t otherwise be able to con-

tinue their witness in the community. We aim for 5% of our “unrestricted income” to go to Home Mission, although in practice the budgeted amount doesn’t quite meet that target at the moment.

If you, or someone you know is planning a trip or venture that falls

under the heading of what I’ve called “doing exciting things for God”, please be encouraged to approach the deacons to request support. You’ll need to provide some basic details, and there is a short form to fill out but it’s not too onerous!

Diane Hume

...informed...

South Parade’s published accounts are available on the charity commission website - see the final page for a summary of last year’s donations. Go to www.tinyurl.com/SPBCreport for last year’s annual report

For more information about Home Mission visit www.baptist.org.uk/HomeMission

Wordsearch Winner



We received many correct answers to the wordsearch competition in the August issue of *Intouch*. The answer was Amminadab and Zerubbabel. Congratulations to the winner, Natalie Johnson, who receives her reward in chocolate form. More competitions soon!

B	Z	W	D	T	H	O	M	A	S	E	A
A	T	E	O	E	R	U	N	B	T	S	H
R	S	H	R	B	A	N	N	A	A	A	T
T	A	T	E	J	A	B	L	Y	I	B	R
H	P	T	H	O	S	I	J	R	R	B	A
O	O	A	J	H	P	I	A	U	E	A	M
L	E	M	L	N	N	H	M	A	D	R	M
O	L	M	M	O	C	I	E	N	A	A	
M	C	D	M	E	I	V	E	L	O	B	S
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	U	N	A
W	S	U	E	A	H	C	C	A	Z	S	B



“It’s easier for a rich man to ride that camel through the eye of a needle directly into the Kingdom of Heaven, than for some of us to give up our cell phone.”

Vera Nazarian

Step of Faith

With All My Heart

At his baptism service in August at a morning service at Headingley, Andrew Harrop told his journey of faith.

My name is Andrew. I joined the Armed Forces in 1975. My first overseas tour was Hong Kong. I served in the Falklands with 5 Infantry Brigade in 1982 and later left the service to become a school teacher. I taught for several years at a school in Grimsby. Then I became a Research Fellow at Leeds University and obtained my PhD in 2000.



With all my heart I trust in Christ as my Saviour and my Lord

I have been a Christian for many years. Throughout my working life I have always felt close to Jesus. In particular, people have crossed my path who needed my help - the latest person being Lilli. Only two days ago I mentioned to my carer that I am to be baptised, and immediately I could smell burning which I took as a sign from the Lord that he is with me. I therefore feel so blessed to have such a wonderful relationship and with all my heart I trust in Christ as my Saviour and my Lord.

The following Bible passage means so much to me. Joshua Chapter 1, Verse 5: *"I will be with you, I will never leave nor forsake you."*

Andrew Harrop

Gnanakan News

Missional Praying

Chris Gnanakan, friend of South Parade, is working with churches in restricted access countries across Asia through OTAN. He recently sent this study on Philippians and his thoughts on praying for those involved in mission on our behalf.

The believers at Philippi partnered with the Apostle Paul in what may be termed “missional prayer”, which relates directly to getting Jesus’ Great Commission done. It’s missional insofar as it is supplication for those sent to share God’s saving message

(the Gospel) to those who haven’t yet heard it. The Philippians prayed for Paul, their missionary, who had been imprisoned explicitly for contending for the Gospel - the good news about Jesus that is God’s power to save all who believed. Through such prayers, the Philippians developed intimate fellowship with each other and enhanced their mutual outreach.

We can reach our world, if we will. The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer. (Wesley Duewel)

Jesus pointed his followers to “fields ripe unto harvest” as the solution to the shortage of missionaries. He also commanded them to pray (Matthew 9.35-38). The first and best way a believer can engage in evangelism and missions is through prayer. Our intercession is directly proportionate to the Lord’s sending.

Missional prayer is divinely mandated - not as optional for the few



who are burdened for the lost, but as operational and an obligation for all Jesus' disciples. Prayer is not preparation for the work, it is the work. When we work, we work; when we pray, God works - and He always does a better job! AB Simpson called prayer "the mighty engine that moves missionary work".

We never know how God will answer prayers, but we can expect that he will get us involved in his plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray.
(Corrie Ten Boom)

There are some unique features about this letter that Paul wrote to the church at Philippi. This was the first church he had planted in Europe on his second missionary journey, and he had cultivated a special relationship with them (Acts 16). Unlike his other letters, this is the only one filled with rejoicing that has no major doctrinal issue to set right! Paul didn't need to prove his apostleship to these beloved friends, so he presents himself as their "servant!" Of all the churches he started, this was the only one who put their money where their mouths were when it came to missions!

We will only advance in our evan-

True missionaries care enough to leave comfort zones, crossing boundaries in order to go to the ends of the earth. They represent us where Christ is not known.

gelistic work as fast as and as far as we advance on our knees. Prayer opens the channel between the soul and God; prayerlessness closes it. Prayer releases the grip of Satan's power; prayerlessness increases it. That is why prayer is so exhausting and vital. (Alan Redpath)

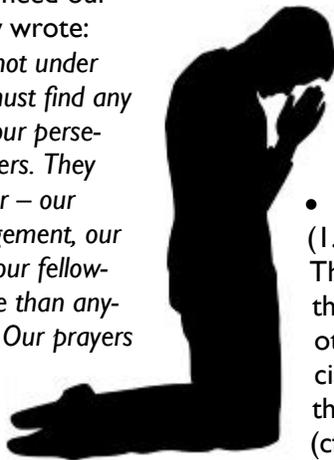
Missional prayer goes beyond "God bless and help our missionaries". It acutely focuses on the progress or advancement of the Gospel (underline Paul's many references to "the Gospel" in Philippians 1). Such prayer offers the beautiful feet of an evangelist or "apostle" to God, as they are the ones sent to bear glad tidings of so great a salvation to the lost, at any cost (Romans 10.15-17).

We must consider such missionaries as an extension of our local church's pastoral, "paid" staff. They

can't "go" unless we "send", and the only other option is to disobey! True missionaries care enough to leave comfort zones, crossing boundaries and penetrating barriers in order to go to the ends of the earth. They represent us where Christ is not known.

Consequently, like Paul, they suffer and are persecuted for proclaiming Christ. They desperately need our prayers. Brother Andrew wrote:

As Christians who are not under such persecution, we must find any way that we can help our persecuted brothers and sisters. They need us more than ever – our presence, our encouragement, our support, our teaching, our fellowship, and perhaps more than anything else, our prayers. Our prayers are crucial because our best praying will move us into our best action.



Having considered the "what" and "why", let us consider "how", as a local church, each of us can meaningfully engage with our missionaries. Paul's relationship with the Philippians can inspire and instruct us. Notice that they saw themselves as co-workers or partners and how they had each other:

- On their **minds** (Philippians 1.3). We get so preoccupied

with the urgent or what we want for the moment that we neglect what is important or what we desire most. Our busy lifestyles consume our attention and eventually rob us of making missional praying a priority!

- In their **prayers** (1.4). Note how readily thoughts turn into prayers. They understood their struggles "from the first day until now", so daily offered one another to God in prayer.

- Upon their **hearts** (1.7; 2 Corinthians 7.3). This was natural because they treasured one another within and sacrificially expressed love through selfless service (cf. Timothy, Epaphroditus; Philippians 2.19-30).

- Through their **pens** (1.1, 8). They proved their care in a practical way by sending financial support. Paul then puts everything aside to make the time to write them a letter, which we still read today!

Missional prayer connects people with the God of all resources who supplies all our needs (4.19). This is particularly true when we partner in

taking the Gospel to the lost within a hostile society. Such supplication drew Paul and the Philippians to God's throne of grace. It removed anxiety and generated a peace that

made them thankful and joyful, even amidst trials (4.6-7)!

Chris Gnanakan

Director, OTAN

...involved...

Find out more about Chris's work by going to his blog at www.chrisgnanakan.com or to OTAN's website www.outreachtoasianationals.org



The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want.

He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.

He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my source and not my job.

He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that I might honour Him in all that I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of emails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body that doesn't co-operate every morning, I still will not stop - for He is with me! His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.

He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.

He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go. His Faithfulness and love is better than any bonus cheque.

His retirement plan beats any there is!

When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer and for that, I bless His name!

Psalm 23 for Today at chrisgnanakan.com

Church Noticeboard

It's Shoebox Time!



Get involved with **Operation Christmas Child**, the world's largest children's Christmas project, and transform the lives of children and their

families around the world through a simple gift. Every gift-filled box is a powerful demonstration of God's love in a tangible way. For more information grab a leaflet in the church lobby or go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ, and start packing your shoeboxes! Collections will take place at Headingley on 8 and 15 November.

Got Questions - Try Alpha

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. Mondays from October, 7.30pm in the Green House, Headingley.



The Elders and Ministry Team invite you to join them for a **prayer gathering** on Thursday 15 October from 7.30-9pm in the Green House. We will be praying specifically for the whole church as we prepare for future ministry.

Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings

We are rounding off our Vision series with “Believe” on Sunday 4 October, followed by “Become” on 11 October with the morning preaching based on John 15.1-11 and the evening on 2 Peter 3.10-18. This is Harvest Sunday for the Headingley Mission Community and starting on the day and for the following few weeks we are encouraging people to bring contributions of food for the Leeds Foodbanks.

Morning meetings return to Luke’s Gospel for 18 October to 22 November and will explore Luke chapters 16 to 19. Sent at 6.30pm is addressing some topical issues around everyday Christian formation. The titles are as follows. Biblical material will be drawn from a number of passages:



- 18 October – *God and money* (This is CAP Sunday)
- 25 October – *God, work and unemployment*
- 1 November – *God and sex*
- 8 November – *God and power* (This is also Remembrance Sunday)
- 15 November – *God and leisure* (Jamie Jones Buchanan from Leeds Rhinos is sharing in the service)
- 22 November – *God and social media*
- 29 November is Advent Sunday. In the morning the reading is Psalm 25 – *A secure hope*. Sent will be celebrating their “Alternative Christmas” event in the evening.

Throughout this period midweek material will be based on the theme of renewal and will help us to continue reflecting on what it means to be a passionate church growing stronger in belonging, more confident in belief and more intentional in becoming all that God wants us to be.

Brian Nicholls

Senior Pastor



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.

Senior Minister
Minister

Brian Nicholls
Paul Rockley

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

Nathan Shipley
Heather McLeen
Geoff King
Hannah Preston
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

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“

God loves people who love to give.

”

2 Corinthians 9.7 (CEV)

intouch

SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Building Community in Christ