

intouch

A large, light grey graphic of a church steeple with three crosses on top, serving as a background for the text in the central box.

Christ *is* **Risen He** *is* **Risen**
Hallelujah!
Indeed

Alongside the focus on Easter and Pentecost, and the usual news from the Mission Communities, another theme runs through this month's magazine: the richness and value in God's Word to us in scripture. Read the unusual description of the Bible spotted by Pat Dalgleish on page 32. See the value Catriona Mossop sees in true Biblical teachers on page 24. Read Tim Jackson's review of a book looking at Jesus's view of the Bible on page 30. Think about Tim Hobbs' studies at the Leeds School of Theology, bringing new joy to interpreting scripture on page 12. Follow Richard Sykes' recommendation of films that bring the Bible to life on page 27. Plenty to read and consider this Easter.

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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

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From the Ministry Team

He is Risen Indeed!

Following the Russian Revolution of 1917, the communist authorities sought to stamp out Christian faith in the hearts of the people.

There was widespread fear as followers of Jesus were interrogated, tortured and killed. In one town, in Easter week, a meeting was called to “discuss religion”. Different communist speakers confidently and eloquently argued their case: Christianity was a nonsense and the resurrection was nothing more than a “myth”. Belief in this and other Christian “superstitions” would not be

tolerated in the new era of scientific atheism.

After the speeches had been given an elderly Russian Orthodox Priest rose bravely to his feet. He walked slowly to the front of the meeting and turned to face the crowd. What would he say? The Priest simply gave out the traditional Russian Orthodox Easter greeting, “Christ is risen!” The crowd replied with the response they all knew, “He is risen indeed!” Again, the Priest gave the greeting, and again they replied. When he said for the third time, “Christ is risen!” the response was thunderous. “What more is there to say?” the Priest declared as the noise died down. “Let us go to our homes.” The people had passed from fear to courageous faith. And it was the resurrection of Jesus that enabled them to make the transition.

In John 20.19-23 we see the first disciples making a similar journey. They begin in fear but through an encounter with the risen Lord they

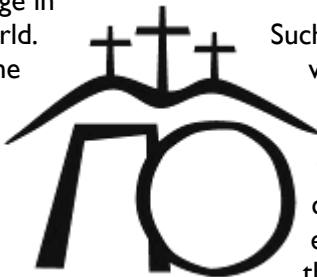


experience joy and peace in believing. Then they are commissioned for service and promised power to engage in God's mission to the world. At the end of verse 23 the disciples are still physically present in the locked room, but it is hard to overstate the significance of the "journey" they have taken in their minds and hearts. The resurrection has changed everything.

If we know that Jesus is "Risen Indeed", hear his commission and experience the power, then we will be transformed for mission

These disciples are now ready to respond to Jesus' commission and "follow Jesus" in a new way. A new chapter of their lives is about to begin. Jesus will not be present with them physically, but in the power of the Holy Spirit they will go out to

share the gospel of Christ in a dangerous world, doing so with great boldness.



Such freedom from fear is vital for our own practice of discipleship. If we truly know that Jesus is "risen indeed", hear his commission and experience the power, then we too will be transformed for gospel mission.

This Easter time we celebrate across our church the glorious message that Jesus is alive – he is risen indeed! This reality delivers us from fear and enables us to face the future with confidence. It also releases us for bold, compassionate disciple-making mission in the power of the Spirit. It is this that God is calling us to prioritise in this new season in the life of South Parade. Because of the resurrection we can step out in faith, following our risen Lord.

Peter

*Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.*

Around the Church

Connect's Bible Club

Munchies Café, in the shopping centre at Bramley, was the original meeting place for Connect's Bible Club which started three years ago in 2015.

It's a busy place with an open kitchen, where people go for breakfast, and accessible to the local community. We'd meet in the windowless basement which accommodated an odd assortment of chairs and tables as well as the store room and toilet. Occasionally folk who came to Connect on Sundays would drop in, mostly for a chat and sometimes money, although one woman came every week and shared the Bible with us.

As part of the planned refurbishment of the café large items of catering equipment started to fill up the room, so space for sitting down gradually reduced to one small corner. And the carpet

was very old and sticky so in June 2016 we looked for a new meeting place.



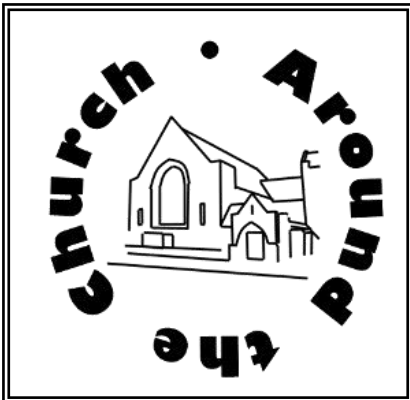
In September 2016 we found a home at the Friday morning café at Trinity Methodist Church which is just across the road from Bramley's shopping centre. A welcome team provided tea,

coffee and free biscuits in a conservatory style foyer at the front of their church – they even have their own Val!

We had three regular attenders as well as Sue Walker, Ann Pelham and myself. These women were all believers who were not currently attending a church. In February last year (Trinity) Val introduced us to Captain Caroline Heward of the Salvation Army, who happened to pop in that Friday, because she had run a church similar to Connect in Bradford.

The really exciting thing about Bible Club is how God enlarges our faith through those we have met there

Following that meeting, and after discussion with Connect Leaders, in April 2017 Caroline invited the Bible Club to use the facility at Copperbeech Hub. It is situated on Broad Lane, which runs right through Connect's heartland, only 50 yards from Hollybush School where Connect used to meet on Sundays. Caroline and her family occasionally joined us at the school and since October 2017, through our relationship with Caroline, Connect have found a



(temporary) home at Copperbeech.

The Bible Club once again has a regular attender from the Sunday gathering and has also grown as people from the surrounding flats have become part of the group. But the really exciting thing about the Club is how God enlarges our faith and understanding every week through those we have met there.

Gemma Eastwood

Connect

Headingley

How would you like to give a helping hand at Headingley Mission Community? We would welcome your contributions in any of the following areas:

- Sound desk
- Welcome
- Refreshments
- Passing an offering bag around
- Kids area set up/put away
- Communion preparation
- Student lunches
- Flower arranging



Welcome
To Our
Church

If you could serve the Mission Community please speak to a member of the Leadership Team

- Picking up the litter outside to clear the area for Sunday morning.

Don't be discouraged by not knowing what to do at first, or the potential for things to go wrong. We're all just friends, helping each other to worship and praise God.

If you could serve in any of the above (or something else you've thought of), please speak to a member of the Ministry Team or Leadership Team.

Matthew Newman sent an encouraging email to people on the worship leading list recently in which he said, "You'll have noticed that we have a number of new people singing and playing with us since Christmas, which is a real answer to prayer. Please encourage them! And if you know anyone else who could help sing or play, encourage them to talk to one of us." We really are blessed with an enthusiastic and varied music group, so thank you to all those involved, on behalf of the Headingley Mission Community.

The Headingley MC meeting on 15 February was attended by about 20 people, and started with a non-agenda item of acknowledging the Chinese New Year by way of authentic Chinese food, generously

provided by Jun Zao.

We were very pleased to accept the recommendation for Pete Fenske to become a member of Headingley Mission Community, and he was welcomed formally on Sunday 4 March. Pete is taking an active role in the music group, playing (handmade?) guitar. He and Beckie Grimshaw are to be married in August.

There were some challenging topics up for discussion during the evening and we thank everyone for their participation. Here is some feedback, both for those not present and to stimulate further thoughts:

Alternative Expressions – was generally well received and people seemed positive. There is lots of scope for activities to engage non-churched friends at alternative venues. Some churches have received benefit from sport themed events, but the possibilities are almost endless. Peter and Scott are to discuss the idea in more detail in due course.

Youth Group – again generally well received. We were made aware of other youth focused initiatives taking place in the Headingley area. More thought and planning will have to take place,

with increased involvement from appropriate Ministry Team members, assessing potential frequency, take-up, resources required, etc.

Scott floated the idea of pre-service refreshments and increased engagement with prayer before Sunday morning services, based on a recent positive experience he had encountered at a church in Manchester. Response was favourable in relation to focused prayer, probably starting around 15 minutes before the service and visible in the sanctuary. However, there were significant reservations with practicalities of having refreshments during the same period. Having said that, pre-service hot drinks were a welcome change for those who braved the icy conditions to attend the morning service on 18 March!

Following on from increased activity and thought around our engagement with international students / visitors to Leeds from other countries, Richard talked about re-launching our bring-and-share lunches. It was proposed that there are far greater benefits for the whole mission community, as there are many cross-cultural divides besides the more obvious international differences (e.g. socio-economic, educational, “class”, age

and even faith background). A pitfall of cultural integration is starting from a predominantly white / British foundation. We should all aim to become integrated into a Christ-like culture.

We are increasing our interaction with international students, through initiatives with Transformations Leeds. If you would like to get involved in this area of church life, please speak to any of the Leadership Team – Scott Halligan, Paul Rockley, Sue Ricketts, Robyn Savage, Rachel Geinda, Richard Sykes or Peter Morden.

Richard Sykes

Headingley MC Leadership Team

Sent

Since the new year, we have been delivering postcards to our Street of the Week. Recently, we received our first response:

“I just wanted to thank you for your prayers this week! It's reassuring to know there are still people in the world that are kind and thoughtful. You will be in my prayers as well!”

We praise God for this encouragement and are expectant that He will do more as we continue to pray for our neighbourhood.

At the beginning of March, we had the delight of hosting the baptism of Mustafa Andrew for our friends at the Arabic Christian Fellowship. Andrew gave a powerful testimony which included a dream in which a figure asked, "Who do you say I am?" Please pray for Andrew that he would continue to grow in his faith as he adventures with Jesus.

*We are expectant that
God will do more as we
continue to pray for our
neighbourhood*

On Saturday 17 March, we started the church's Easter programme of events with a film screening. Twenty people braved the snow to see *Son*

of Man, followed by a short film from Moving Works (www.movingworks.org).

Both films were enjoyed and provided a natural springboard in to conversations about Christ. If you would like to watch *Son of Man*, the DVD is now available to borrow from the Church library.

We were encouraged to see a few guests at the screening and are hopeful to see more friends, neighbours and colleagues join us in the future. Please pray for sensitivity and wisdom to ensure our community, services and events are inclusive.

Nathan Shipley

...informed...

What's going on in your Mission Community, your homegroup or with something you're involved in at SPBC? Share news from your corner of the church. We'd love to hear about your latest events and plans so the whole church can pray for you. Email magazine@spbc.org.uk



Alleluia

*Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!*

Our Offering to God's Work

The Church Budget

Pete Briggs, on behalf of the Elders and Deacons, looks at the latest church financial situation.

As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21:1-4, see also Mark 12:41-44)

Do we give first, give everything, even if it means going without something that we treasure?

How do you respond when you read this story and you hear Jesus' words? Just as in Jesus' day, God's people need to cover the cost of

ministry but what is our starting point? Do we pick a percentage point of our income and stick at that? How do we define our income? Do we make sure that we have enough money to pay for all our outgoings, including the luxuries, and only give from what's left over? Or do we try to follow the poor widow's example and give first, give everything, even if it means going without something that we treasure?

One of the things that currently concerns the Elders and Deacons is that, despite the many positive signs that God is at work amongst us, in recent years the level of giving from members and regular attenders has dropped year-on-year and total giving in 2017 was nearly 8% lower than our total income in 2013.

Such levels of giving, if continued, mean that we will be unable to sustain our current activities.

Apart from the modest level of

lettings income that we derive from outside use of our facilities, the Church gets no income apart from member/regular attender giving (including Gift Aid that we are able to reclaim where we have a completed Gift Aid form).

At the January Church Meeting our Church Treasurer, Katharine Widdowson, presented a draft budget for 2018, which shows that ideally we need to spend £425k in 2018, if we are to continue resourcing all the things that are currently happening across the whole of South Parade. If we are to achieve this goal and finish with at least a balanced budget at the end of 2018 then we need to raise a further £39k above the current level of giving from members and regular attenders. If income does not increase, then we will be forced to consider ways in which we can reduce expenditure to balance the

budget, but such action is likely to mean that we will have to stop some of our current activities.

We will be having a special focus on giving on Sunday 15 April.

We'll be circulating a letter to all members and regular attenders, there will be teaching, guidance and study materials on giving and we'll be giving everyone the chance to respond.

In the meantime, can I ask you to remember the example of the poor widow's attitude and to spend some time reflecting on what more you can do to support the cost of ministry at South Parade, in all its forms, so that you are ready to respond positively on 15 April?

Pete Briggs

For the Elders and Deacons



...informed...

For service times, locations, Mission Communities, children's and student work, the weekly notice sheet, sermon downloads, this magazine and much more, go to the church website!

www.spbc.org.uk

Thoroughly Equipped

Leeds School of Theology

Throughout the last year we've been meeting participants on the Leeds School of Theology course. Nathan Shipley asked Tim Hobbs about his experience of the course.

Name: Tim Hobbs

Age: 28

Occupation: Finance Admin Assistant and self-employed videographer

Mission Community: Sent and Connect

Why have you embarked on the Leeds School Of Theology?

To know Jesus more deeply by becoming more rounded in my ability to read and understand scripture under good teachers in a structured group setting.

It's been helpful working together on how we can interpret scripture in a way that brings a new joy to studying God's word

What are you enjoying about the adventure so far?

It's been encouraging worshipping and learning with people from 40 churches around Leeds. It's been helpful working together through good teaching on how we can interpret scripture in such a way that brings a new joy to studying God's word.



How do you hope to grow through the experience?

I hope I will become more confident in my understanding and sharing of scripture, specifically the old testament, the Trinity, God's intentions for the Church and the Character of God. But I also want to know more about the other people in the Bible and their encounters with each other and Jesus that help shape our faith.

What would you say to encourage people to start in 2019?

Theology means the study of God, so really it's for everyone, the LST team work hard to make it accessible for everyone and you'll be in a welcoming room of people in the same boat as you. Be expectant that

God will encourage you, He will challenge you and through His love He will change you.

God's word and commit myself to sharing my faith boldly as a result of understanding Him more.

*How can we pray for you as you continue with the LSOT adventure?
That I would immerse myself in*

Tim Hobbs

Sent and Connect Mission Communities

...inspired...

Find out more about the Leeds School of Theology by visiting leeds-school-of-theology.org.



Horsforth Walk of Art

On Saturday 7 July and Sunday 8 July Horsforth Walk of Art is expected to be a great community weekend where Horsforth is buzzing with people walking the streets enjoying art of all descriptions exhibited in churches, community halls, homes and people's gardens.

WALK OF ART

7-8 JULY 2018 LS18

The experience of 2015 and 2016 was that Horsforth opened their homes and their hearts to each other to have fun and make friendships together. Churches opened up to host art work, to serve food and offer a warm welcome, becoming a thoroughfare of people who would not normally traverse their buildings. "It provides a great opportunity for the church to be involved, engaging with its community, making friendships whilst celebrating creativity as people who worship the ultimate creator" says Duncan Stow.

This year's planning team are now encouraging people to offer their homes as a venue or volunteer their artistic talents. If you are interested please consider applying on the website horsforth-woa.org. The deadline for applications is 15 April.

Duncan Stow

Cragg



Communicating Consent

GDPR at SPBC

“GDPR at SPBC” - what gibberish is that?

A very fair question. I’m sure the SPBC bit doesn’t need further explanation but you may not have heard of GDPR or, to use its “Sunday-name”, the General Data Protection Regulation 2016.

This is an EU regulation and yes it will apply post-Brexit so please don’t move on just yet. It means that if any organisation holds personal data, either on a computer or in a paper-based filing system, it must follow the rules set out in the Data Protection Act 1998, and from 25 May 2018, the new General Data Protection Regulation 2016.

So, what does that mean?

Well it’s really a tightening-up of existing principles of data protection with a change of emphasis that means organisations cannot automatically assume that they can use your data unless they have clear

grounds for doing so. You may already have received communications from charities or other organisations seeking your consent to continue communicating with you.

And what’s the impact?

To you, hopefully not a lot! To the Trustees (aka Elders) it means that misuse of personal data could lead to them being fined up to €20 million (yes million) and for the Deacons it has generated a certain amount of extra work to ensure that we will be compliant by the May deadline.

Isn’t this all a bit tedious?

I just don’t know how you could possibly say something like that! Well, on reflection I suppose it is, but unfortunately that’s the law of the land with which we must comply and perhaps if it stops us getting unrequested PPI or Accident Claim calls it will be worth it!



You will shortly receive an email describing how we process personal data and asking whether you want to remain in contact

So why are you boring us with this?

Well there's a small amount of preparation work that we'd like you to help with – if we have your email contact details you will shortly be receiving an email with a notice describing how we process personal data and asking whether you want to remain in contact. There may be follow-up requests to people for whom we have no email address or from whom we do not get a response.

And then there will be some ongoing changes particularly for those who attend, or have young family who attend, church events asking you to complete relevant consent forms. Also, we may have to tweak text of notice sheet, magazine, or website content to ensure that per-

sonal contact details are not inadvertently published.

Why bother, it seems a lot of effort?

Members have long bemoaned the demise of a Members' Address Book. However, now it is possible to give each member an individual username on the church server. This will enable members who agree to share addresses with all the others, thus creating an online members' address book. It will also enable sharing of other relevant information such as rotas, new events etc online, and by email.

How can I find out more?

I thought you'd never ask! Any relevant questions or comments can be made to James Ricketts, Mark Vipan, Adrian Howe or Charles Fletcher or you can email dpo@spbc.org.uk. Those aren't just random letters but recognise the role of a Data Protection Officer.

James Ricketts

Deacon

...informed...

Email dpo@spbc.org.uk with all your questions about how GDPR relates to SPBC.

Discouragement, Distraction and Disunity

Spiritual Warfare in Japan

South Parade member Levi Booth reports from Japan on his experiences of a very real issue.

I expected to encounter a general atmosphere of opposition in Japan rather than specific spiritual battles.

Of the various lessons I've learnt during the three years I've been in Japan, the biggest one has been about spiritual warfare. In particular, I have been surprised by how real and how normal it is.



During my mission's orientation, people who had worked in remote tribal villages in countries like Thailand and the Philippines shared stories of how real the spiritual battle can be. But the battle in Japan seemed much less obvious, much more behind the scenes, and much more vague - people saying they found the gospel difficult to believe or family pressure against those wanting to be baptised.

But after only a few years of missionary work in Japan, I am convinced spiritual warfare is as real here as it is in any shaman-led village in the jungle. By "real", I mean there are specific battles, not just a

Levi Booth general war. I can look back on some experiences and say, "That was a spiritual attack." I'm not talking about apparitions or nightmares. I have felt the struggle against my spirit rather than my body.

The warfare is real, but it is also normal. Let me explain in terms of three domains: discouragement, distraction, and disunity.

Discouragement

By discouragement, I don't just mean that disappointing things happen, but rather the way these events affect our hearts. The enemy can make us feel helplessly weak and so rob us of courage (ie *discourage* us). Sometimes when I've gathered with my team before an outreach event, we have all been uncharacteristically pessimistic about whether anyone would come to it. Though nobody dared say it, the unspoken consensus was that we shouldn't expect too much to happen. In some prayer meetings, it is a struggle to gather the faith to ask God for anything more than that maybe someone might take just a small step towards knowing him more.

Distraction

Things will always be occurring around us that can take our eyes off the goal, but the battle happens when we become side-tracked by things that are unimportant or are important but not the main task at hand. I know I'm facing spiritual opposition when I find myself unable to focus on a task that needs immediate attention because I'm overly concerned about something coming up - often something I have no control over. Similarly, spiritual attacks can come during times of prayer and devotion, which I know are crucial for my

soul and ministry, through constant whispers of "I wonder what's happened with..." or "Maybe I should check my email again, just in case..."

*We need to take a stand
against the most powerful
form of spiritual warfare*

Disunity

Perhaps disunity is the most overt indication of spiritual warfare. Of course, it is normal to disagree with team-mates on various things. But we lose our unity when we succumb to the negative, accusatory thoughts that arise in our hearts such as "They did that on purpose" or "They always say that, but I know they mean..." In this way, Satan can use simple misunderstandings - or even just mishearing - to incite jealousy, bitterness, rivalry, or whatever he can use to set us against each other. He then feeds the self-righteousness in our hearts until both parties are convinced that there's no point seeking reconciliation because they're sure the other person is too proud to admit to being wrong.

The underlying connection

The common factor with all these attacks is their link to Satan's character. He is the father of lies, who has been a murderer from the be-

ginning (John 8.44). He lies and makes us believe our work is useless, and so he destroys our dreams. He lies and tells us that something else is more important, or that our work is so important we should leave it till tomorrow when we're rested, and so he destroys our dreams again. He lies and makes us believe we are in competition with our co-workers, and so he destroys teams. In this normal spiritual warfare, demons aim to take from us what we need to get our work done: courage, traction, unity, and anything else we allow them to steal.

C S Lewis put it well in *The Screwtape Letters* when he showed that the work of demons is to make us believe the thoughts in our head originate with us. For we fight

against these thoughts when we recognise they are from the enemy. Normal spiritual warfare can be the most powerful form of spiritual warfare, so we need to take a stand against it.

How do we fight? Of course, prayer is crucial. But I am learning that preaching is too - preaching the gospel to myself and allowing others to preach it to me. The gospel grants us true, unshakable courage, keeps us focused on the goal, and gives us unity with those who may even have become our enemies.

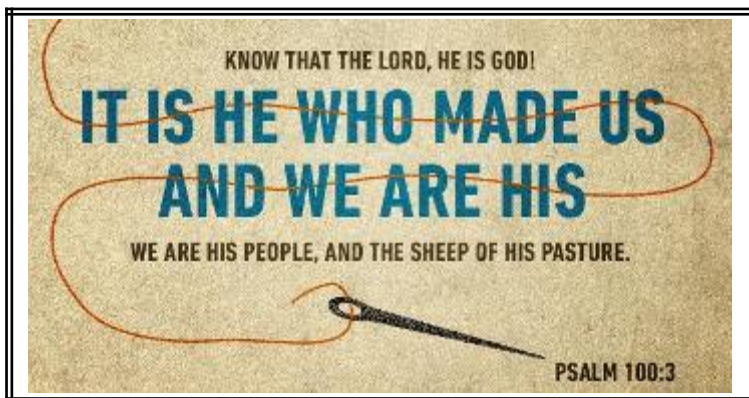
Levi Booth

OMF

Taken from <http://www.japanharvest.org/spiritual-warfare-in-japan/>

...informed...

Find out more about the work of OMF in Japan by visiting omf.org/asia/japan/



Prayer Diary



April - May 2018

APRIL

Sun	1	The Ministry Team
Mon	2	Anne Morden
Tue	3	Heather McLeen
Wed	4	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Thu	5	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Fri	6	Your neighbours
Sat	7	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Sun	8	Preachers and worship leaders in all Mission Communities
Mon	9	People who recently went on the Life Explored course
Tue	10	Rooted
Wed	11	Your friends and family who don't know Jesus
Thu	12	Local and National leaders
Fri	13	The church office
Sat	14	Our friend in North Africa
Sun	15	All of South Parade's Mission Communities

Pull out and use!

Mon	16	Your response to the church financial situation
Tue	17	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Wed	18	Geoff King
Thu	19	People who have been baptised recently
Fri	20	The Deacons
Sat	21	Nathan Shipley
Sun	22	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Mon	23	Kate Burkett
Tue	24	Sam and Katie
Wed	25	Jane Waites
Thu	26	The Elders
Fri	27	Paul Rockley
Sat	28	The YBA Assembly today
Sun	29	Levi Booth in Japan
Mon	30	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
MAY		
Tue	1	Kate Churchill
Wed	2	Tim Jackson and his role as UCCF Relay Worker
Thu	3	Teddy Praise and Play
Fri	4	ABC Coffee Shop
Sat	5	Transformations Leeds
Sun	6	Connect Mission Community
Mon	7	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	8	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	9	TLG mentors working with children in schools

Thu	10	St George's Crypt
Fri	11	The Joanna Project
Sat	12	Those in hospital or waiting for treatment
Sun	13	Headingley Morning Mission Community
Mon	14	Retired people in the church
Tue	15	Cragg Mission Community
Wed	16	Work with children and young people across the church
Thu	17	Sent Mission Community
Fri	18	Connect Bible Club (<i>page 5</i>)
Sat	19	Megan Hobbs
Sun	20	Witness events for Pentecost Sunday
Mon	21	Peter Morden
Tue	22	Katharine Widdowson, church treasurer
Wed	23	Chris Gnanakan
Thu	24	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Fri	25	Your Mission Community
Sat	26	All those who've lost loved ones recently
Sun	27	St George's Crypt
Mon	28	Tim Hobbs (<i>Page 12</i>)
Tue	29	Leeds Faith in Schools
Wed	30	Preparations for the Horsforth Walk of Art in July
JUNE		
Thu	31	The June Project in LS6 next week
Fri	1	Caring for Life
Sat	2	The Ministry Team

A Pentecost Commission

Spirit of Truth - Guide us in your ways

Spirit of Freedom - Release our hearts and imaginations

Spirit of Wisdom - Inhabit our thoughts and conversations

Spirit of Healing - Restore and anoint us for your service

Spirit of Forgiveness - Pour out your grace upon us

Spirit of Hope - Open us to new possibilities

Spirit of Power - Accomplish your purpose through us

Spirit of Unity - Bind us in love and common endeavour

Spirit of Life - Inspire and enable us to fulfil your calling

Spirit of Christ - Mould us in your likeness

North West Baptist Association



Rainbow Babies

Do you know a young child who doesn't have a special toy?

I find it hard to think of any child being without this source of comfort and reassurance, remembering how my children used to carry theirs everywhere with them, but sadly there are many such children the world over.

In the summer a team of 25 of us from Cragg are going to Sethani, in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, and



Judith's Rainbow babies

we hope to be able to take each of the children there a special toy, a "Rainbow Baby" to carry about and cuddle.

I've already got 50 "Rainbow Babies" waiting for a child to belong to, but I need more.

Lots more!

If you can knit, please go to this web address:

www.jeangreenhowe.com/patterns
download a pattern, and get busy! No pink faces or anything that could be a choking hazard such as sew-on eyes. I need to have the dolls with me by the end of July. Perhaps Kate would look after them in the office until I can collect?

I hope it'll remind the children of our love and friendship offered in Jesus' name long after we've gone home.

Judith Briggs

Cragg

Poetry to Ponder

The Easter Alligator and the Lamb of God

Catriona Mossop looks closely at an Easter poem that is not all it seems to be on first reading, and reflects on the importance of Biblical teaching.

“When you are surrounded by alligators it is difficult to remember that the original plan was to drain the swamp”

My first real job was on a busy hospital ward and this was the motto pinned to the notice board in the sister’s office. I thought it was funny, but it is so easy to forget the original plan. I work in the community now and I get to meet people from all over the world.



Can you imagine that I might visit a Christian family originally from Africa? (Their birth country may border on Chad). I know that with such a family I will be greeted warmly. A room full of smiling faces all focused on a new baby boy. I would do my health bit and at the end someone might ask me about male circumcision. I am aware that the family are Christians, no longer under the law, so circumcision is not required?

If I questioned the need for this ritual it would cause confusion and suddenly the room would be full of worried faces. As kind, gentle Christians they would not want to disrespect their honoured visitor, but male circumcision is traditional in their world. I would signpost the family to the required medical services because sometimes you just have to let it go.

Easter Morn

*A Truth that has long lain buried
At Superstition’s door,
I see, in the dawn uprising,
In all its strength once more.*

Hidden away in the darkness,

*By Ignorance crucified,
Crushed under stones of dogmas -
Yet lo! it has not died.*

*It stands in the light transfigured,
It speaks from the heights above,
"Each soul is its own redeemer
There is no law but Love."*

*And the spirits of men are gladdened
As they welcome this Truth re-born.
With its feet on the grave of Error
And its eyes to the Easter Morn.*

Ella Wheeler Wilcox,
Poems of Sentiment

When I first read the poem *Easter Morn* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, I liked it. When I read it again I felt uncomfortable. Third time I tried to work out why - there was something I couldn't let go. I could make it all right by changing a few words, but it is not my poem and as you know you can't pick and choose words to support what you want to convey. (That would be "naughty"!)

But it is a good poem to ponder. What do you think?

Ella Wheeler Wilcox was a woman of her time - she wasn't critically acclaimed but she was universally loved.

*"Laugh and the world laughs with you;
Weep and you weep alone"*

By Shakespeare? Nope, it's from *Solitude* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

*"To sin by silence, when we should
protest, makes cowards out of men"*
Often attributed to Abraham Lincoln but it was another poem by Ella called "Protest". (This is quoted a lot at the moment.)

So why didn't I like *Easter Morn*? Well... I am not going to tell you - mainly because I don't think I have the skills to explain properly. I will tell you that I picked up my basket and went on an Easter hunt. I found new thoughts, positive thinking and the promise of prosperity, health, wealth and happiness.

*I am thankful that I
continue to hear the
gospel from preachers
who hold the whole Bible*

The expression of the poem *Easter Morn* is not new, (didn't Paul warn Timothy?) but interestingly it seems to be current. I am thankful that I have heard and continue to hear the gospel from preachers who hold the whole Bible.

Billy Graham died recently aged 99. I was taken to see him speak at Roker Park, Sunderland in 1984. It rained, but I can't remember feeling

uncomfortable about the words he used. Billy Graham preached the gospel I know. One of his most famous quotes is this:

*“When wealth is lost, nothing is lost;
when health is lost, something is lost;
when character is lost, all is lost”.*

I wonder what he meant by character?

Ella Wheeler Wilcox was a good person, her words are everywhere, her poems promoted prohibition and gave a voice to the rights of animals. As for this poem, is it a beautiful Easter

Alligator? Did you know that as a young man Billy Graham preached to the alligators in the Florida swamps? He was practising!

Sorry, I am guilty of mixed metaphors. But I do love an Easter animal. What’s your favourite? You might think of the Lamb of God, and think of the song sung at Billy Graham’s events when he asked people to come forward to commit themselves to Christ:

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid’st me come to
Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee whose blood can cleanse
each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

Billy Graham converted to Christianity in 1934 in a revival meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, hearing this altar call song. He used it as the title of his 1997 book - *Just As I Am: The Autobiography of Billy Graham*.



But I think my favourite Easter animal is the Donkey because it carries other people’s burdens and a donkey once carried my Redeemer. I like Eeyore too. Sometimes it is OK to be sad.

So what have Eeyore and Ella Wheeler Wilcox in common?

They both loved weeds:

Eeyore: *“Weeds are flowers too once you get to know them”.*

“A weed is but an unloved flower”: Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Catriona Mossop

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Film Preview

Mary Magdalene and Paul, Apostle of Christ

Richard Sykes looks at two forthcoming releases.

Having recently been encouraged by my father-in-law to watch *Exodus: Gods & Kings*, I was inspired to submit a review of it for this edition of *Intouch*. However, there is a new Christian themed film out on general release recently, which I thought may be a more positive contribution.

Mary Magdalene

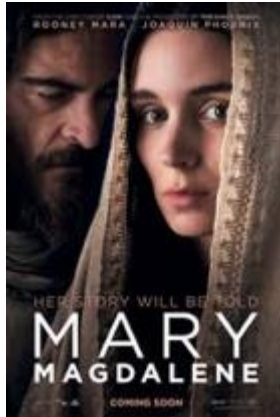
As the film had yet to be released at the time of going to press and not being blessed with preview tickets enjoyed by media critics and one Catholic reviewer, I can only offer a summary of reviews already on the 'net.

The general consensus of opinion is that the film is long and lacking in pace. Some thought the gentle tone is a positive attribute; others indicating that it detracted from their

enjoyment. Another common theme was complimentary about the cinematography, saying how good it looked on the big screen.

Where opinions become particularly divided is in how the lead characters are portrayed, some saying that Jesus seems to be introspective and that details about Mary don't conform to the image so readily trotted out, perhaps for centuries. The premise of the film follows Mary's interaction with Jesus, starting with her non-conforming attitude to home life, and how she becomes increasingly involved with the Christ and his message of love and forgiveness.

I mentioned in my review of the film *Risen*, that a more serious view of Mary Magdalene is almost universally regarded among scholars that she was not a fallen woman. Whether this revised ren-



dition satisfies a wider audience remains to be seen. Some Christian reviewers certainly considered it to at least be interesting and thought provoking, while the main-stream press appeared to bemoan the change. The Catholic review just didn't like it, giving the impression that a film with this subject matter should be a chapter and verse depiction of the Gospel narrative.

Mary Magdalene appears to bring the pages of the Bible to life with some integrity and credibility

Given the title, it may be unsurprising to make an observation that there is quite a strong feminist flavour to the film, creating some conflict and tension between Mary and the men among Jesus' followers. It is quoted in several reviews that *Mary Magdalene* is named in the gospel narratives more than any other of the disciples, so it may be that there is a good foundation for making this point.

In relation to the male characters, it has been noted that Judas is treated with sympathy. I know of other people who share this sympathy,

me included, although it seems to differ from the corporate stance of "the church" as Judas being the fly in the ointment of Jesus' close followers.

Unlike *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, the film *Mary Magdalene* appears to use the medium of cinema to bring pages of the Bible to life with some integrity and credibility, not pandering to clichés or introducing significant elements, for cinematic effect or otherwise, that just don't appear in the text.

The director is Garth Davis, who brought us *Lion* and *Top of the Lake*. The cast includes: Rooney Mara (*Lion* and *The Girl With the Dragon*

Tattoo) as Mary Magdalene, Joaquin Phoenix (*Walk the Line* and *Rwanda*) as Jesus and Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave* and *Salt*) as Peter; some big names and production values. The certificate is 12A, running time is approximately 120 minutes.

Paul, Apostle of Christ

Another film to look out for is *Paul, Apostle of Christ*. It has been produced by Affirm Films and will be distributed through Columbia Pictures, although its appearance in UK cinemas is not certain. There are reports of



an Easter weekend release for the big screen or it may come to us on DVD later on, in the summer.



Bound in chains, Paul's struggle is internal. He has survived so much - floggings, shipwreck, starva-

IMDb gives the storyline:

"The story of two men. Luke, as a friend and physician, risks his life when he ventures into the city of Rome to visit Paul, who is held captive in Nero's darkest, bleakest prison cell. But Nero is determined to rid Rome of Christians, and does not flinch from executing them in the grisliest ways possible. Before Paul's death sentence can be enacted, Luke resolves to write another book, one that details the beginnings of "The Way" and the birth of what will come to be known as the church.

tion, stoning, hunger and thirst, cold and exposure - yet as he waits for his appointment with death, he is haunted by the shadows of his past misdeeds. Alone in the dark, he wonders if he has been forgotten... and if he has the strength to finish well. Two men struggle against a determined emperor and the frailties of the human spirit in order to live out the Gospel of Jesus..."

Richard Sykes

Headingley Morning Mission Community

"The YBA Staff Team can now confirm further details of the programme for our 2018 YBA Assembly on Saturday 28 April at Wakefield Baptist Church," writes Association Administrator Debbie Gamble. "Refreshments will be available from 9.30am and our opening session will include a time of worship and keynote speech from Ruth Rice. Ruth is the founder of Renew Wellbeing, which helps churches open spaces of welcome and inclusion in partnership with mental health teams to improve mental and emotional wellbeing. The afternoon sessions will include seminars and opportunities to share stories with either the Regional Ministers or Roy Searle, BUGB Northern Pioneer Co-ordinator."

Recommended Reads



Unbreakable: What the Son of God Said About the Word of God by Andrew Wilson

The premise of this book is “I don’t trust in Jesus because I trust the Bible; I trust the Bible because I trust in Jesus”.

The author addresses big questions posed of Scripture regarding its authority, its clarity, its sufficiency - amongst others - by drawing out

some wonderful examples of the way Jesus regards the Scriptures.

*The Bible contains
puzzling details, upsetting
stories, dramatic miracles
and unpopular teachings*

Here’s how the introduction starts:

Books and talks on the Bible, in general, start from one of three places.

Some begin with the questions and problems people have with the Scriptures, and go through them one by one, explaining how to best think about them. I get that. The Bible contains puzzling details (swapping sandals in the middle of a love story), and upsetting stories (destroying Canaanite cities), and dramatic miracles (parting the Red Sea, really?), and factual difficulties (how did Judas die, again?), and unpopular teachings (sex is only meant for one man and one woman in marriage), and a con-



fusing canon (what on earth is the apocrypha?), and so on.

Therefore most of us have questions about the Bible – big, difficult, sticky questions – and engaging carefully with them is very important. But if we start from there, we risk putting ourselves immediately on the defensive and implying that our questions (which are different, as it happens, from the questions many cultures have asked) are the most important thing on the table. The chances are they're not. So that's not where this book begins.

Others begin with what the Bible says about the Bible. As circular as that might sound, it's actually quite sensible, because all sets of beliefs have to start somewhere; you trust reason because it's rational, you trust experience because it fits with your experience, you trust the Bible because it's biblical, and so on. Personally, though, I don't tend to do that, mainly because it looks suspiciously random (as in, why didn't we start with the Qur'an as our ultimate authority, or the Bhagavad Gita, for

that matter the Daily Mail?). So that's not where this book will start, either.

Instead, this book will use Jesus as the starting point. (That's controversial, I know.) Ultimately, you see, our trust in the Bible stems from our trust in Jesus Christ: the man who is God, the King of the world, crucified, risen and exalted rescuer. I don't trust in Jesus because I trust the Bible; I trust the Bible because I trust in Jesus. I love him, and I've decided to follow him, so if he talks and acts as if the Bible is trustworthy, authoritative, good, helpful and powerful, I will too.

This is a high-quality, very short book from a series edited by theologian Mike Reeves. Particularly recommended for those seeking concise but robust answers to their questions of Scripture, or those looking for inspiration for reading the Bible.

Tim Jackson

UCCF Relay Worker



There are so many other things Jesus did. If they were all written down, each of them, one by one, I can't imagine a world big enough to hold such a library of books.

John 21.25 (The Message)

A Beautiful Palace

Pat Dagleish sent in this wonderful description of the Bible that she read in her daily reading notes which she wanted to share with the whole church.

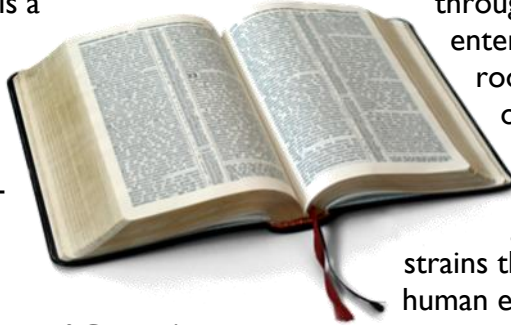
The Bible is a beautiful palace built up out of sixty-six blocks of solid marble - the sixty-six books.

In the first chapter of **Genesis** we enter the vestibule, which is filled with the mighty acts of creation. The vestibule gives access to the law courts (**the five books of Moses**) passing through which we come to the picture gallery of the **historical books**. Here we find hung upon the walls scenes of battlefields, representations of heroic deeds,

and portraits of eminent men and women belonging to the early days of the world's history.

Beyond the picture gallery we find the philosopher's chamber (the book of **Job**), passing through which we enter the music-room (the book of **Psalms**) where we listen to the grandest strains that ever fell on human ears. Then we come to the business office (the book of **Proverbs**) where, right in the centre of the room, stands facing us the motto, "*Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*"

From the business office we pass into the chapel (**Ecclesiastes**), or the preacher in his pulpit, and



thence into the conservatory (the **Song of Solomon**) with the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley, and all manner of fine perfumes and fruit and flowers and singing birds. Finally we reach the observatory (the **Prophets**), with their telescopes fixed on near and distant stars, and all directed toward “the Bright and Morning Star” that was soon to arise.

*In the Gospels we find
four vivid life-like portraits
of the King Himself*

Crossing the court we come to the audience chamber of the King (the **Gospels**) where we find four vivid life-like portraits of the King Himself.

Next we enter the work-room of the Holy Spirit (the **Acts of the Apostles**) and beyond that the correspondence-room (the **Epistles**) where we see Paul and Peter and James and John and Jude busy at their desks, and if you would know what they are writing about, their epistles are open for all to study.

Before leaving we stand for a moment in the outside gallery (the **Revelation**) where we look upon some striking pictures of the judgments to come, and the glories to be revealed, concluding with an awe-inspiring picture of the throne-room of the King.

Rev Martin Anstey

“How to Master the Bible”
Thanks to Pat Dalgleish

The Six Songs Sung at Billy Graham’s Funeral 2 March 2018

Until Then (Stuart Hamblen,)

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name (Edward Perronet)

Above All (Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche)

Because He Lives (Bill and Gloria Gaither)

To God Be the Glory (Fanny Crosby/William Howard Doane)

Amazing Grace (John Newton)

Oscar's Story

Trust and Service

Oscar the camel has written stories for *Intouch* before. This time Oscar's grandfather recounts a story which took place at the beginning of his employment with Abram, starting in a place called Haran.

This is my Grandfather's story:

Haran was on a trading route from Ur to the Mediterranean, east to west, and the people shared the same deity, the moon god nanna or sin. For some reason my master's family had moved from Ur to Haran and on the death of Abram's father, Terah, Abram decided to move on. I say "decided" but he says he was told by God to leave all that was familiar "and go to a land that I will show you."

It seemed strange why Abram found it necessary to break with the tradition of worshipping this ancient moon god and start to explore a creator God. It would appear that Abram was not gaining a lot of "spiritual refreshment" from the popular and accepted worship to

nanna but was increasingly seeking and developing a deeper understanding of one true God, a creator God who required His subjects to worship Him in "Spirit and Truth." So our master Abram began to live by faith and not by sight, something that would stand him in good stead in the years that would follow.

I was acquired as a young working camel to join Abram's team as he obeyed God's voice which had said to him "get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land I will show you." A journey that was going to be life-changing and transforming, not only for Abram and his closest companions but also for me, one of his trusted workers.

It was a task and a half I tell you, packing up all the possessions accumulated by Abram in Haran. It took us days to organise, Abram you see, was rich and successful. This creator God that Abram had started to believe and trust in appeared to have really blessed him with possessions and servants. It was an honour to work for such a

man, a man who trusted God and lived a righteous life.

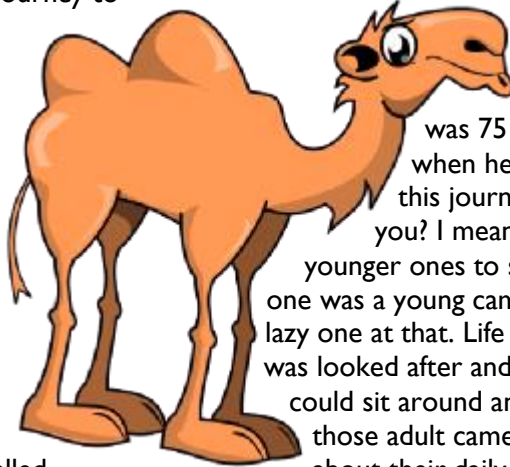
There was much excitement amongst us all as we heard that we were preparing for a journey to a land of green fields and plenty of water. What more could a camel ask for?

There I go again, off on a prattle that deters me away from my recollections, memory and age just don't go together, where was I? Ah yes, packing up the caravan (that's what we called our group of camels) ready for our journey heading who knows where.

Abram's belief in God was the thing that set him apart from everyone else around him. He believed and trusted in one true God and was prepared to set out on a journey, not knowing where he was going, other than "a word from God" which said "get up and go, leave all you know and trust me and I will bless you." Not many people did it then and I guess not many people will do it in the future. I suppose you have to be pretty simple or pretty stupid?

To us it appeared a bit of a whim,

yet to Abram it was obedience, he had no idea what was before him, if he did he may never have started this journey, but hey, you know what? I am so glad he did.



You know that Abram was 75 years old when he set out on this journey don't you? I mean it put us younger ones to shame. I for one was a young camel and a lazy one at that. Life was easy, I was looked after and fed well. I could sit around and watch all those adult camels going about their daily grind and all the young camels playing their games. What a life!

Little did I know that my adolescent life was about to change, I was going to enter the grownup world which I should have entered when I was weaned from my mother some 10 years earlier. What a shock, suddenly I found myself having to do back-breaking work, carry loads meant for experienced camels and go days without water.

Well, off we set and after what seemed like days we arrived at Shechem, a place in the hill country of Ephraim. It was here that we witnessed some kind of "spiritual

awakening”, well Abram did anyway. Abram became so certain that “The Lord” had promised him all he could see. He appeared to be grateful and offered a sacrifice, yet still seemed to be restless, as off we set again to make our camp between Bethel and Ai.

*I began to realise that this
God of Abram was
someone who wanted to
care for those who obeyed
and put their trust in Him.*

Well I ask you, who would camp in no man’s land between the house of God (Bethel) and ruin (Ai), but, you know this is exactly where God wanted Abram, a place where he would have to trust Him implicitly for his very survival. You see, there were Canaanites living here as well, they could have overrun us at any time. I began to realise that this God of Abram was someone who wanted to care for those who obeyed and put their trust in Him.

It is difficult to say how long we were there but we were getting rather hungry, a famine was taking hold so my master decided, right or wrong, to pull out and take control, so off we set, heading south to-

wards food, towards Egypt.

It was as we were getting close I overheard Abram talking with his wife, Sarai. Well what I heard nearly made me want to vomit. Here was a man I had grown to love and respect and who had looked after me well, telling his wife that she had to tell the authorities that she was his sister just so he did not get killed because of her beauty. How selfish, I thought, think of number one why don’t you? What is it about this God of Abram’s that just wants to go on loving and forgiving those who put their trust in Him despite their obvious failings? I don’t think I ever did come to a satisfactory answer other than I am glad He does for Abram’s sake and for all of us who were fortunate enough to be called his servants.

The little trip down to Egypt made a big impression on me as I saw that this mighty God cared for Abram and his family in a way that seemed unjustified and undeserved.

We were ticked off by the Pharaoh for misleading him, who then instructed his guards and footmen to release Abram and his family together with all - yes all - his possessions. I mean usually the top brass would retain something for themselves, but no Abram was yet again being protected by the Almighty.

What Abram did next just demonstrated that he knew that God had kept and sustained him and that taking matters into your own hands just does not work. He set out from Egypt and headed straight back to the place where God had settled him in the first place, the place of security between Bethel and Ai, the place that God had promised to Abram, that He would give him all the land. Abram did the only thing that can be done when Almighty God steps into our disasters, he built an altar and worshipped. He gave thanks for all that had been entrusted to him from above.

*My master served a
greater master
who even cared for me*

What I saw in this man, my master was someone who believed God

...informed...

Steve has written about this on his blog site. Read more by visiting blog.steveford.me.uk and clicking on Lessons From Joshua or Oscar on the right-hand side of the page.

By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home... Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations - the City designed and built by God.

Hebrews 11.8-10 (The Message)

and God counted him righteous because of his faith. It gave me, one of his trusted camels, a sense of security knowing that my master served a greater master who even cared for me.

My grandfather concluded his story with some interesting words, words I later learnt were written down and would make their way into the Christian Bible. They are words that I found, when applied to one's life, give tremendous freedom and enable me to trust in a magnificent creator God. The words can be found in Genesis 13.17 and read "Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you."

It would be many years later before this promise would become a reality.

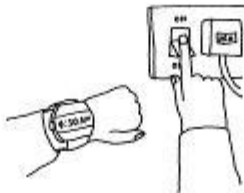
Oscar

As told to Steve Ford

THANKLESS TASKS



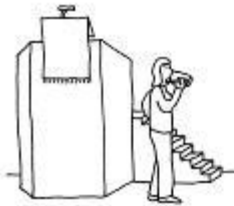
ANSWERING THE DOOR AT ALL HOURS AND FOR VARIOUS REASONS



TURNING ON THE URN



PICKING UP PIECES OF GLITTER ONE BY ONE



TESTING THE WATER IN THE PREACHERS' GLASS



ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND A DIFFERENT WALL TO KICK A FOOTBALL AGAINST



DISPOSING OF THINGS DISCOVERED IN THE CHURCHYARD

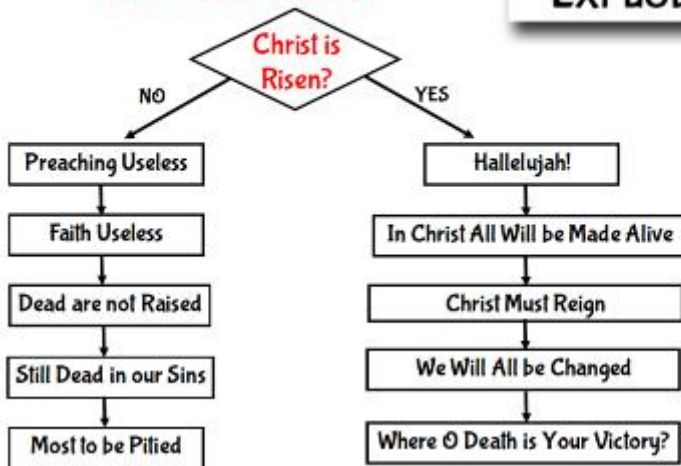
Cartoonchurch.com

"I want to remind you"

1 Corinthians 15 in brief

**CHRISTIANITY
EXPLODED**

#12





South Parade meets as four distinctive Mission Communities across Leeds: in **Headingley** and **Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and as **Sent** at Headingley on Sunday evenings. **Connect** meets in the community in Bramley. We run a CAP Debt Centre and run the ABC Coffee Shop in Holt Park, 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

Peter Morden
Paul Rockley

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

Nathan Shipley
Heather McLeen
Geoff King
Kate Churchill
Kate Burkett

Elders

Andrew Bedingham,
Freeman Dumenu,
Charles Fletcher (Church Secretary),
Ruth Hughes, John Pelham,
Sue Ricketts, Tim Rowe, Joe Walsh

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“

*“ He is not here;
he has risen,
just as he said.”*

”

Matthew 28.6 (NIV)

intouch

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