

intouch



Christmas

UNWRAPPED



SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2018 - January 2019

With the church already busy preparing for Christmas, I'd really encourage you to use the special Advent Prayer Diary each day over the next four weeks to help you remember the different groups and activities across South Parade. Also in this issue are two special stories about remarkable acts of giving. Liz Crathern (page 16) reports on many years of work in Uganda and the transformational effect her efforts have had on one particular neonatal unit. And Joe Walsh (page 27) explains how he's preparing to give a very special personal gift to a stranger in 2019. Use the Christmas notices on page 40 to plan which services you'll be coming (and inviting your friends) to, to help you celebrate God's wonderful gift to us all.

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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

Christmas Unwrapped

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6.23.

This is Christmas Unwrapped, the real meaning of Christmas and the reason for the season.

I used to find it very vexing that the shops prepare for Christmas far too early as they seem to be filled with festive gifts as soon as the schools go back after the summer holidays. I

used to feel that this focus on materialism detracted from the real meaning of Christmas and

celebration of Jesus’ birth.

This year I have felt quite differently, instead of allowing this to irritate me, I have used it as a prompt to focus on God’s amazing gift to us.



I love Advent and the preparation for Christmas, selecting presents for those I love most and helping to plan Christmas services,

organising flyers and posters, putting up and decorating the tree at home with the children. I really like birthdays too, not least because they usually involve cake, they are a chance to celebrate successes and reflect on what could be improved upon.

I think it is important to look at achievements from the previous year. I have recently celebrated my “South Parade Birthday”: I have



been in my role as Church Administrator for three years now and much has changed and will change. But of course the only reason I have the concept of celebrating my actual birthday or church based one is because we have the example of Jesus and Christmas.

We need to keep reminding people that although the gifts, tinsel and baubles can be lovely, it is the birth of Jesus that really matters

If I am not intentional about celebrating Christmas it is easy for each year to roll into the next and for them to be indistinguishable from one another or worse still for us to become jaded and cynical about it. We need to be the poster

people for celebrating Christmas, to keep reminding people that although the gifts, tinsel, baubles, songs and food can all be genuinely lovely, it is the birth of Jesus that really matters.

My favourite carol has always been *O Come All Ye Faithful*, I really appreciate the way it builds up towards the descant, but mostly as it beseeches us to come and adore him. We sometimes over complicate things, particularly Christmas, but all that we need to do is come and adore him, to bask in his glory.

My aim for this year is to relish and appreciate each opportunity to celebrate the incredible love of God, the sacrifice of his son Jesus and come and adore him.

Kate Churchill

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee
Born that happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!
**O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!***

Around the Church

Headingley

I must start this news from Headingley Morning Mission Community with an apology. I promoted a Mission Community meeting last time, which we intended to have taken place on 25 October. Thank you to those who asked about it and we apologise to all for it not taking place. There will be one in the near future, so please look out for it being properly promoted. There will be lots of positive activity in and around the Headingley site to plan for and get involved with as we head into 2019.

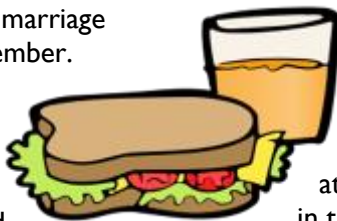
On behalf of all of Headingley Morning Mission Community, may I pass on our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Robyn and Dieter for their marriage that took place on 17 November.

It feels like I mostly report on the recurring bring and share lunches. As these are being arranged as an intentional aid to increase

integration across the multi-cultural elements of our congregation, it is important to maintain their prominent position in the attention of us all.

*I look forward to
reporting back on the
success of the next
bring and share lunch!*

With the transition from outside dining in the summer months to sheltering indoors from the less hospitable weather, we are trying to make the best use of space in the Headingley building. The youth room proved to be very cosy, with what I suspect to be the best attended lunch so far. The show of hands during the morning service only indicated about half the number who did attend. The activities in the hall were reported to be a success and will



remain a feature. If there are any suggestions for activities on future dates, please see Scott, Nelly or me. To avoid the potential of the lunches becoming a significant catering exercise, it is important to uphold the simplicity of the picnic mindset – simple food and drink to accompany good conversation, with minimal clearing away or washing up. I look forward to reporting back on the success of the next lunch, at which you may be reading this magazine!

We continue to pray for the recovery of Heather to full health and fitness, especially with the prospect of the “Rewind to Christmas” sessions that will be taking place over the coming next few weeks. If you are not familiar with the initiative, several primary schools from around the local area bring children to South Parade to engage in Christmas activities and to hear the Christmas message. This is so important, as our society becomes increasingly secularised and the Gospel message is less frequently heard and even less understood. If you are at all able to volunteer for any of the sessions, either to be involved with the children directly or to help set up / tidy away, I would really encourage you to come along.

It is a pleasure to be able to report

that 55 shoe boxes were filled and collected at the Headingley site this year, for the Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Appeal. We pray that they will each be a blessing to the children who receive them and that they will be received as a gift of God’s love from those who prepared them.

As this magazine is being prepared and sent to print, what now seems to be an annual event, the Headingley charity Christmas fair will have taken place. If you haven’t heard already, please do make a point of finding out how well it went and how much money has been raised for the causes represented. I am sure that Liz Crathern and the team will still be happy to receive donations.

Richard Sykes

Headingley MC Leadership Team

Alpha at Cragg

In the spring of 2016 the Cragg Community joined with the other local Baptist Church, Lister Hill, to obey the Lord in the great commission. We first met to begin to develop relationships and discover the experiences each had in reaching out to people in the local area. Each church has their own strengths and weaknesses in outreach and have different skills

and personalities that can be used to spread the gospel locally. Lister Hill had experience in delivering the Alpha Course in their church and Cragg were eager and willing to learn.

The Alpha course is a tried and tested resource that is described by the founders as:

A series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes - you name it.

We were not as ambitious as some great missionaries who travelled the globe but we started nearer to home in Horsforth at the local Costa Coffee. The choice of venue, we felt, was neutral and an unthreatening place to invite people to enjoy coffee, cake and friendship. This is particularly important for those who were not comfortable meeting in church buildings. Costa has two venues in Horsforth: in Town Street and New Road Side, both popular with the locals. In 2016 we met at Town Street and in 2017 and 2018 we used New Road Side, using invites designed by Alpha to distribute to as many local

people as we could reach.



The venue was divided into groups at tables which had members of both churches discussing the topic with the guests who did not know which church the table leaders attended, they just saw them working in unity to

support them in this journey. We had a new topic each week which we explored through the experiences of a different member of the team.

Then we watched an Alpha video on the same topic before a discussion on the tables. It has been an encouragement to the team, as well as the guests, to hear testimony from each other; it strengthens our faith and begins to take our relationship deeper as we learn how the Lord has been working in each of our lives.

It is encouraging to hear testimonies that strengthen our faith and to learn how the Lord has been working in each of our lives

We have a group from both churches dedicated to praying

during the sessions together and individually through the week. We are able to seek the Lord collectively for everyone during the sessions including the staff at Costa, the guests and the table leaders. We feel this is an important part of the course, to be able cover everyone in prayer before, during and after each session.

In all the Alpha courses we have had small but significant numbers attending. Some have made commitments to become Christians and now attend local churches but some are still exploring their faith. A few have even attended all three courses. It has been a struggle for some to commit to every week but the Lord has been at work in all their lives and we continue to pray for all who attended and have faith that they will find their way to salvation.

Alpha has been fruitful for those



who have come to salvation and for the team who have become closer across both churches. The Lord continues to bless us in Horsforth and we will continue this journey together as Christians in obedience to God.

Prayer points

- For those who attended and are still seeking the Lord, that they will find salvation.
- For those who have made a commitment to follow Jesus, that they will continue to grow in faith and serve in their churches.
- For those who have been distracted by what life has thrown at them, that they will find their way to know Jesus.
- For the team as they prepare for next year.
- For those that will be invited, that their heart will be ready to accept the gospel.
- For the staff at Costa, that they will hear the good news.

Liz Chennels

Cragg MC

Treasurer's Report

As we approach the end of 2018, I can give a pretty good estimate of how the finances for the year will pan out. Up to the end of October, income was over budget but so was

expenditure. There was significant expenditure in August and September which had been delayed from earlier in the year.

	Budget	Actual
Income	324,000	357,700
Expenditure	330,500	338,700
Net Result: Budget deficit	6,500	
Actual surplus		19,000

In December we have extra costs related to the celebration of Christmas, but unless we have a catastrophe I expect the result for the year to be a surplus of about £17,600.

There has been a real turnaround this year as a result of members in all Mission Communities who responded to the appeal and dug deep

This is a real turnaround from when we were setting the budget. The increased income is the result of the discussion at Church meeting when the budget was presented last

January, and the Giving Sunday in April, and all the members in all our Mission Communities who responded to the appeal and dug deep. My grateful thanks to all of you.

And as we approach the end of the year, I start to think about the South Parade financial budget for the next year. I will be taking a first draft budget to Deacons in December. If you hold or control a budget for any area of church life, please reply to my emails asking you what you would like to spend next year.

The 2019 budget is likely to be tight. Peter set out his vision for the church at the November Church meeting. There is much that is exciting, but from a budget point of view the main point is instead of replacing Paul with another ordained minister, he would like several part-time people covering particular areas, some geographical and others age-related, but all involving a mixture of church and community. The telephone system needs replacing as BT will no longer carry spares to fix faults; the lift has reached the end of its useful life; in some parts of the Headingley sanctuary the sound does not work reliably; we want to support our members on the mission field, whether in Horsforth or Chad, to a

greater extent than at present; and I am aware that we have spent relatively little on repairs in 2018, so expenditure will have to increase in 2019.

Several committed givers have moved to other churches or out of Leeds entirely during 2018. I know that we cannot rely on as much money coming in regularly as we had early in the summer. If you wish to start giving regularly, or increase your giving, you can email or talk to me, or one of the leaders will pass a message on. If you pay tax and just put cash in the offertory bag, you are throwing away the opportunity for us to recover 25% of your donation from HM Treasury. If you pay tax please give by standing order, cheque or use the envelopes, and talk to me or a Deacon.

As your part of the 2019 budget preparation, will you pray about how you will support the work and witness of South Parade in Headingley, Horsforth, Bramley and to the ends of the earth in 2019?

Katharine Widdowson

Church Treasurer
treasurer@spbc.org.uk



The Church Flowers

Worshippers at Headingley are blessed to have a new flower display in the Sanctuary every week. The blooms are purchased by Margaret Gale, with assistance from Ruth Hughes, and are arranged by Margaret and a team of volunteers. After the service the flowers are made up into bouquets and taken out to folk who are not well or who may be on their own.

Val Dooks and others help Margaret with these visits and the flowers remind the recipients that they are not forgotten.

If you know of someone who is poorly or lonely or if indeed you yourself are struggling and would appreciate a visit, please speak to Margaret, Val or Ruth.

Some people give money for the

flowers in memory of someone, or as thanks for something or to celebrate an anniversary: donations are gratefully accepted and can be left with the church office.

Please pray for the team who make up the flower arrangements, those who take them on their visits and for those who receive them: that they will all be encouraged by this ministry.

Margaret Gale

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Church Meeting

At the church meeting on 22 November Peter Morden presented

a paper with details for the future vision of the church, under the headings of Purpose/Values/Vision, Structure, Concrete Changes and Staffing. The meeting had an initial discussion of these proposals which will continue to be discussed and explored at meetings over the coming weeks.

The church agreed to adopt the Purpose Statement: **Passion for God - Love for people - Heart for mission.**

Steve Burras and Barbara Crosse were elected as elders and James Ricketts as deacon.

MN

...informed...

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



...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

Thank you and Goodbye

Geoff and Margaret Greer

Sunday 4 November was a sad day for the church as we said farewell to Geoff and Margaret Greer, two of the longest serving members of the church. Val Dooks looks back at their long involvement with South Parade.

They met when they arrived in Leeds to study and, having tried out a few other places of worship, settled at South Parade. That was a good day for the church because together they have served God for over 80 years using their many gifts with great love and generosity.

Geoff served as secretary, treasurer, elder and in preaching and leading worship across South Parade and outside.



Margaret and Geoff Greer

They have served God using their many gifts with great love and generosity

They were married in the church and their three children were very much a part of church life and have all committed their lives to Christ.

Margaret's love for children was evident in the many areas of young people's work with which she was involved, from under fives to teenagers and she also served as a deacon.

When the church felt called to plant another congregation in 1993, Geoff and

Margaret headed up the new work in Adel where their heart for mission led them to reach out to

the area in which they lived. Many have appreciated their warm hospitality and pastoral care.

Together Geoff and Margaret have been used by God to reach many people through small groups, Alpha courses, evangelistic events and holiday clubs. They have given themselves willingly whether heading up the work or serving behind the scenes. We are grateful

to God for their friendship and example of loving Christian living.

As Margaret and Geoff move to Bakewell we commit them to God and pray that they will be led to a fellowship where they will be loved and will find new areas of service.

Val Dooks

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Update from Traidcraft

You may know of the trading difficulties facing Traidcraft, compounded by the Brexit shock to the pound. During the legal consultation period, a rescue plan, suggested by a group of the staff with external advisers, has been accepted. In the New Year, the company will shed 80% of its 67 staff, it will concentrate on a simpler range of products – core grocery lines and fewer craft lines – and will encourage communities to buy co-operatively in bulk.

The CEO of Traidcraft, Robin Roth, said “*We want our members to be co-conspirators in changing how trade is understood and practised. We want to tell consumers who gets what from the products they buy. We want to annoy and irritate those who profit unduly through the non-transparency of their trading activities... Traidcraft has transformed shopping in the UK and now you can find fair trade everywhere. But as times change, so must we. When new markets are searching for goods that are ethical, vegan and organic as well as fair trade, we need to be there. As younger people demand co-operative models of doing business, we need to strive for that too.*”

Thank you to everyone who has supported Traidcraft up till now; I hope we can continue to do so.

Pam Roe

SPBC Traidcraft rep



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Hallo aus Linz

Tim Jackson in Austria

After his year working with students in Leeds as part of the UCCF Relay Programme, Tim Jackson is now working in Austria and sent this update on his work there.

Thank you for your prayers and support, as I am in Austria. At the time of writing, I am coming up for three months in Linz, where I am working with ÖSM: Christen an der Uni – the Austrian IFES student movement (like UCCF: The Christian Unions, in the UK). On the whole it is enjoyable to be here. It is a pleasure to be able to dedicate my time to helping people to grow in knowing and loving Jesus – both believers and unbelievers.

For example, it was good to be able to do the first Uncover John study with a friend from Iraq. It was really refreshing to see his amazement at Jesus' miracle of turning vast quantities of water into the equivalent of hundreds of bottles of

wine. It can, however, sometimes be challenging for us to communicate, because of language and cultural differences – which I can find frustrating. Therefore, it is especially nice that he has been able to get to know an Arabic-speaking believer through Grace International Fellowship, the local church I am a part of here.

*It is a pleasure to dedicate
my time to helping people
to grow in knowing and
loving Jesus*

I am enjoying the opportunities that being an international brings to getting to know other internationals. It is encouraging to be a part of such a diverse community through the church – with members from Austria to Australia.



Tim and his ÖSM colleagues

I have also been able to mix with international students through a football group, some board games evenings and some Bible discussion groups I am leading as part of my role in the student ministry here. The Bible discussion groups are relatively small – as is student ministry here in general, with approximately 0.1% of the students in the city involved with the ÖSM group in Linz – but are a source of encouragement too.

Just last week, during the lunchtime discussion group at the performing

arts university, we had a mix of: a believer delighting in the truth of Christ “becoming a curse for us” (Galatians 3.13) as our substitute, and us becoming righteous through faith; a friend of hers, who seems to continue to wrestle with questions about faith, after some years and time with different churches; another lad, who silently listened to the

end of the study, before sharing his position as an unbeliever and some of his difficulties with faith; and one of his classmates, who was later able to discuss further with him about some of his questions.

Thanks again for your partnership in the gospel. May God bless you during this Christmas season, and into 2019.

Tim Jackson

IFES InterAction worker with ÖSM: Christen an der Uni

...informed...

Uncover John is a set of seeker-friendly studies from John's gospel – check out www.uncover.org.uk

Nine Years of Baby Steps

Neonatal Care in Rural Uganda

At the recent Christmas fair Liz Crathern and Denise Evans raised money for a neonatal unit in Rukungiri in rural Uganda. For those new to the church or unfamiliar with the work, Liz explains the background to this project.

About ten years ago I joined my daughter on a mission trip to Uganda as part of a Mission Direct team, having been encouraged by her to “step out in faith” as I had indeed asked her to do the year before.

I travelled prepared to get “stuck in” with all the building work for the local school but my back was causing me problems. One of the team leaders asked me my background and on finding out I was a neonatal nurse teacher organised for a visit to the local hospital and school of nursing. For a reason to this day I cannot explain, except that with God at the helm nothing happens by coincidence, I had packed a USB on basic neonatal care. When I had an opportunity to visit the local midwifery unit at

At my first visit I was overwhelmed to see how poor resources for neonatal care were

Nyakabale hospital I was overwhelmed to see how poor resources for midwifery and neonatal care were. I remember seeing two tiny infants, unrelated, in a wooden box heated by a single light bulb, lying in a cloth rag soaking wet from their own urine. The two incubators on the shelf were broken. I took the evening to think over what I had seen and decided to contact the school again to organise some neonatal teaching which thankfully was gratefully received.

On return to the UK I presented my experiences at a local neonatal conference in Yorkshire. It was here that Denise told me she would join me the following year.

Little did we know then that our journey would become 12 visits in 9 years and a journey that would at times test and reaffirm our faith in

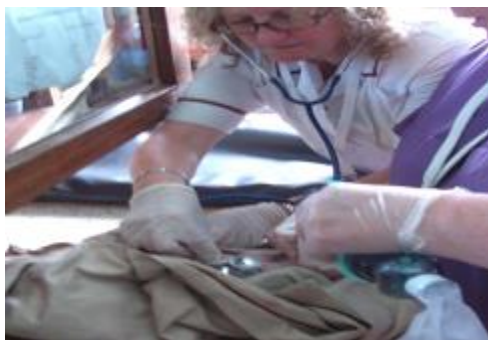
equal measure. Sometimes in the night hours we would have a real sense of God's plan in all of this. Our devotions, so well planned in Leeds, would become something altogether different once out in the mission field. On one visit I felt despondent at the lack of attention to care some of the nurses and midwives delivered to the babies and the way breastfeeding mothers of prems were treated by the nurses. Late one evening reading my bible I

"came across" the passage on the non-thriving vine: "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig round it and fertilise it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down." (Luke 13.8)

I rushed to Denise's room and told her we would give it another year and keep a prayer focus on that need. Our morning group devotion reflected on this story and how we had interpreted it as a message to



2007 - Neonatal care at Nyakabale Hospital Neonatal Nursery



2010 - a weak preterm infant left for dead on the side of the room, now responding to basic neonatal resuscitation. He survived intact and was later discharged home



2013 Cup feeding in the nursery - an infant too weak to suckle

help us during a difficult time working out there. It gave us hope. On return the following year we found a more enthused local team of doctors and nurses who were adhering to the guidelines we taught and the packages of care instructions we had left in the nursery and on the walls.

In summary what have we, and the local staff, achieved in that time?

- We have delivered a neonatal and child health module in the school for a number of years and continued to provide sex education and health hygiene in the local school where we both have sponsored children.
- We have taught the pupils, teaching staff and maternity staff a programme focusing on neonatal asphyxia and neonatal resuscitation and aftercare.
- We have bartered for a classroom to be extended to create a larger nursery.
- We have worked with the local craftsmen to redesign the neonatal nursery.
- Denise has walked the hospital corridors and theatres with her resuscitation dolly teaching everyone who needed it, which was interesting as the doctors were the most reticent!
- I have taught the pupils and

Our church café funded a water tank for the nursery

student midwives clinical care on the neonatal nursery and we both stressed the need for hand hygiene and keeping incubators clean and for the factual recording of observations.

- Our church café funded a water tank for the nursery. Other support enabled Denise and I to get neonatal life support (NLS) equipment and provide funds to redesign the new nursery.
- We have returned yearly to complete the mandatory training and built up a trust with the Nyakabale staff, the school of nursing and hospital administration team.
- Eventually, the number of babies admitted to the nursery was creating overcrowding in the unit.

In 2014 we were delighted to hear that the maternity unit was to be rebuilt on its original footprint by a Dutch NGO. We had a hand in the alterations of the design to suit local need – in particular an open plan nursery and increased privacy for the women giving birth by separating each bay with a fixed

divider. Tim Martindale, director of overseas operations at the unit, emailed in 2015 to say:

Did you know that the baby unit where you have been training the nursing staff is now the safest place to have your baby in the whole of Uganda! The Senior Medical Officer has praised the training you have done which he says was fundamental to this achievement. This must translate directly to many lives saved as the death rate at birth has reduced. I hope to get some more statistics from him which can show the numbers. I still remember your first medical mission when you found a “discarded” baby in a heap of rags which you saved. The first of many, but now it’s the nurses that you have trained that are saving the babies. What a brilliant job you have done !

Denise and I have included this letter to inspire others to do the same. As Christians we know we did not need nor expect accolades but it is important that the materni-

ty unit is recognised for its improvement in maternity services as pregnant women are now coming to the labour ward sooner, when intervention in their pregnancy can be more successful. They are beginning to trust their local maternity unit. Our 2016 visit was testimony to that and it was a joy to see how the nurses, midwives and doctors were delivery neonatal care.



Liz & colleagues in 2010

- We have now provided the training school with a detailed teaching plan on neonatal and child health care.
- We have a paediatrician locally with an interest in neonatal care.
- We continue to raise funds for the neonatal unit via Mission Direct.
- A visit last year by a midwife on the medical trip confirmed that the nursery and midwifery unit are thriving and continue to practise what they have been taught.

The photos on page 17 trace some of our journey but what they cannot show is the love and respect we have built up for each other over those years. Nyakabale Hospital and school will continue to hold a spe-

cial place in our hearts and minds. We will always think about the support from the administrative team, the bursar, the medical director, the senior teaching team and the nuns (for their pastoral support) and many more.

K eep praying for us, for Nyakabale hospital, for Kariakole Lwanga

nursing school, for the babies and their families that they will thrive in a challenging environment, and that new staff will be found in the UK to continue this important work.

**Liz Crathern
& Denise Evans**

Headingley Morning Mission Community

...involved...

Liz adds: We have had an enquiry from two neonatal nurses who may be interested to carry on our work there and would like to travel with us to see if they will be suited to the task. We are very keen to talk to any nurses, midwives or doctors with expertise in care of the newborn who may be interested to chat with us. We believe we are part of God's plan to find medics who will continue what we started 12 years ago as sustainability is a big part of the success of this work. For that reason we are planning to accompany a medical trip next year – do talk to us if you are interested in medical and nursing care across all specialisms or contact www.missiondirect.org directly.



Mission Direct
Building hope, bringing change

*Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed lives at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds Thy glory hide.*



W Chatterton Dix

Remembering Billy Graham

Mark Raven looks back on the life of evangelist Billy Graham who died earlier this year.

Billy Graham's first visit to these shores was in 1954. I was only 7 and have no recollection of his mission that began at Harringay arena. My first memory of him was in 1966. He led meetings at Earls Court for a month. A fortnight of the campaign was transmitted to Queens Hall and I was present at several of these meetings.

During that month my father paid a brief visit to London on a business trip. The night he went to Earls Court was the one when Cliff Richard spoke and sang. The date was unforgettable (6/6/66)!

*I remember Billy
appearing in a small boat
which he used as his pulpit*

I only went to the Keswick Convention once. It was in its centenary year of 1975. Billy Graham was invited to preach, and I

heard him speak in a tent. One afternoon they wanted volunteers to assist at a tea party. I volunteered and at one point I was only yards away from the great evangelist.

On another afternoon many there flocked to Crowe Park, an idyllic spot. Up above was Skiddaw with Derwentwater beneath. Shortly afterwards Billy appeared in a small boat which he used as his pulpit. He reminded us of Jesus in the gospels.

Earlier this year I saw his memorial service live on Christian TV. One of the speakers was his son Franklin who was to take his father's mantle. He said Billy could be summed up with the letters "FAT": Faithful, Approachable, Teachable.

And finally – I would love to be a fly on the wall in heaven. I can well imagine Billy Graham having fascinating conversations with his 18th century counterpart John Wesley.

Mark Raven

Headingley Morning Mission Community

Prayer Diary



SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH

2-24 December

Pull out and use the separate **Advent Prayer Diary** to pray for different groups around the church.



Christmas Day

*Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*



26-30 December

Pray for the **Ministry Team** after this busy Christmas season. Pray for: Peter, Heather, Geoff, Nathan, Kate C, Kate B.

31 December-5 January 2019

Passion for God - Love for People - Heart for Mission

As the New Year begins reflect on your own relationship with Jesus, and your place within South Parade.

6-12 January

Pray for **missionaries** who have gone from this church to serve the Lord around the world, and others you know who are working with overseas mission organisations, those on home assignment, or recently completed a term of service. Pray for Sam and Katie, Tim Jackson, Jane Waites, Levi Booth, Colin and Jill Jones and for BMS World Mission and the other mission agencies they represent.

13-19 January

Pray for other **local organisations** the church is partnered with or has links to. Pray for TLG and CAP and the work they do. Remember those who work with people in particular need such as St George's Crypt, Caring for Life and Joanna Project. Pray for organisations who work with young people in our city such as Leeds Faith in Schools. Read Helen Capocci's article in the October *Intouch* again and pray for the Street Angels as they go out again at the end of the month. Remember the ministry of the Arabic Christian Fellowship as they meet on Sunday afternoons in the Green House.

20-26 January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Pray for the life and witness of other local churches and their leaders. Pray for unity in mission and service as we worship God together in special events this week.

27 January-2 February

Pray particularly for people in your **mission community** and small group and those closest to you at South Parade. Thank God for the mutual support and encouragement they provide. Pray for any who are unwell, in hospital or grieving. Pray for members of the church who can't attend regularly on Sundays any more.

Getting to Know You

Sabina Grahek

What role do you have in the life of South Parade?

I'm a member of South Parade, but I don't have a specific role. I'm part of the Headingley Morning mission community, where I'm involved with the music group and for the last four years I have co-ordinated the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal. If you were at Headingley Morning in the last month or so, you could see me giving notices about it.

I'm also part of a home group, which meets during the week. Besides having Bible studies with occa-

sional socials, we also visit Headingley Hall, a care home on Shire Oak Road, and lead a short service for the residents three times a year. On our next visit we'll have a Christmas service and we would welcome anyone from South Parade who might wish to join us.

What do you do in the rest of the week?

I work in a language learning resource centre called the Language Zone at the University of Leeds. We provide support for teachers and students, mostly for international students learning English. One of my responsibilities is organisation and promotion of workshops and other events which help students develop their speaking skills. I enjoy working with students in general, and with international students in particular. Having been an international student myself, I understand how important it is that they feel welcomed, supported and encouraged right from the start.



After I had reduced my work hours a few years ago, I started volunteering with the Living Room, an international student cafe run by Transformations Leeds. This is a charity that is very close to my heart and which I have supported since I came to Leeds, even while I was a “poor” PhD student.



The Living Room is a place where international students can meet local people, make friends, learn more about the British people and culture, and most importantly, a place where they can find out about the Christian faith and hear about Jesus and the Bible. From my own experience I know how being away from home in a different culture makes people a lot more open to the gospel, which is why it is important that international students get a chance to hear about Jesus and experience God’s love while they’re here.

In addition, volunteering with the Living Room gives me a great opportunity to work with Christians from different churches across Leeds. It’s really encouraging to work in a team where everybody is so passionate about bringing the gospel to the nations, and it’s especially exciting to see young people

develop as leaders and grow in confidence and faith.

Who supports you as you live out your faith?

At South Parade we’re very lucky that we have such excellent teaching at Sunday services. I never take this for granted, because I come from a country where good

Bible-based and Jesus-centred teaching can be difficult to find.

My home group is more than just a Bible study group – it’s a safe space to grow and share, and provides support through prayer and practical help

However, in a big church like South Parade it’s not always easy to get to know people well and develop meaningful relationships, which is why being part of a small group is very important for me. For instance, my home group is more than just a Bible study group – it’s a safe space to grow and share, and provides support through prayer and practical help. It’s very encouraging to hear about answered prayers and see God working in people’s lives.

And although the primary role of a music group is not to offer pastoral support, the Headingley Morning music group that I'm part of has nevertheless provided help and encouragement in some very difficult times over the years.

I don't have any family in the UK, so my small groups and other close friends from South Parade are a vital support network. My church is also my family here in the UK, and it has always been there for me.

I feel that I already receive a lot more from the church than I give. However, I would really feel encouraged if more people from South Parade could help with the Living Room. It takes place every Tuesday during term-time from 7-10pm, and you don't need to be a regular volunteer to get involved. You can just come along a few times to see if it's for you, or you can offer to host a meal at your home for a couple of international students once or twice a year.

How could the church family cherish you better?

Sabina Grahek

Headingley Morning Mission Community

...involved...

If you'd like to be interviewed for the "Getting to Know You" page, email magazine@spbc.org.uk

*O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind.
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss
From the poor manger to the bitter cross,
Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,
Till our first heavenly state again takes place.*



John Byrom

Why I'm Giving My Kidney

Joe Walsh explains his decision to donate his kidney to a stranger who needs it.

I first heard about kidney donation late last year when listening to an interview on a Christian radio station. Immediately I was interested, and after discussion with my wife Rio, we agreed to take it further. It seemed like an obvious thing to do, I was no doubt influenced by my upbringing and experiences. My parents invited me to start giving blood when I was 17. Moreover through my work with homeless men in Bradford I have seen men gradually dying from intractable health problems, and also the really positive work by health

professionals in the NHS.

I have also been challenged by Christ's expectations of disciples. Through reading books like *radical*, and through memorising the words of Jesus when I acted in the Mark drama, I have reflected on Jesus' repeated calls for his disciples to abandon everything: money, status, property, jobs, family: everything. He invites them to take up their cross daily and follow him with all the extreme costs implied.

Shockingly, Jesus says we are not his disciples unless we follow him in this sacrificial way. Needless to say I find sacrifice difficult, but I try nonetheless. Having a rather logical mind, I loved the idea of kidney donation as efficient. What I give is surpassed massively by the benefits produced, this really appeals to the lazy side of me. Where else in life can you drastically help others by doing practically nothing? The discomfort and inconvenience is significant but I can't deny I'm looking

Jesus invites his disciples to take up their cross daily. Needless to say I find sacrifice difficult, but I try nonetheless.

forward to a slower pace of life whilst I'm on sick leave (please send me your book/film recommendations!)

The hospital sent me an information pack. I eventually progressed to have numerous tests at hospital including X-rays, MRIs, blood tests, and injections of nuclear substances (still awaiting my superpowers). I even had to be interviewed by a psychiatrist and by the Human tissues authority to check I am aware of the risks and mentally stable, the jury is still out.

*Thousands of people
are dying because of
kidney failure*

Through the process this is what I have discovered (more stats and information are easily available online). Thousands of people are dying because of kidney failure and there is a shortage of kidneys. Deceased kidneys are rarely suitable for transplant, and those that are transplanted underperform kidneys from living donors. Most of us have two kidneys but can live healthily with one (altruistic kidney donors have a 0.5% chance of developing significant kidney disease post-donation, much lower than the general population).

Having a kidney removed is a routine operation with risks similar to having your appendix removed. Most importantly, without a functioning kidney a person will live on average 5 years on dialysis. With a transplant the average is between 12 and 20 years (before another transplant is required). And that's not all. One donated kidney saves the NHS up to £200,000 (or half SPBC's annual income). Crucially, by giving as an altruistic donor, you can enable up to three kidney transplants! It's a bit like a chain when buying a house. There are many friends and family who want to give a kidney to a loved one but are not a blood/tissue-type match. The sharing scheme works because an altruistic donor gives to patient A, and their family member will give to patient B, their family member will then give to patient C.

I have encountered mixed views about kidney donation from Christians, which I respect. However, I am personally convinced that for me, it is neither irresponsible nor heroic. I see kidney donation (and blood/organ donation generally) as one of many practical ways of living out the gospel. Of course, donation is not for everyone, nor is it better than any other way of serving.

I've been inspired by Sam and Katie

serving as a family overseas, by those who faithfully serve the young people at Connect, and by those who are really committed to mission within their workplaces. All these various acts have a cost, true worship of God always does. At the end of the day, it is desirable that we all contribute differently both within church and within society. However wouldn't it be an amazing witness if the church collectively had a reputation for life-saving altruistic giving? Isn't kidney donation a great parallel of Christ's sacrifice and his unmerited love? And won't people ask questions?

Regardless of how we serve individually, our church culture must acknowledge God as the loving maker of our bodies, and that disciples are called to give back their bodies to His service. This is true worship. As it says in 1 John 3.16-18:

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love

with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

I would love to have conversations with anyone, whether sceptical or supportive, and I'd gladly share a meal with anyone looking into giving a kidney. All being well, I will be donating mine in February or March. I hope it will lead to more opportunities to speak into people's greatest need, not for a kidney, but for Christ. I also hope everyone reading this article will feel encouraged, both in what they do already for Christ that costs them, and in taking their next step to serve Christ unreservedly.

I can recommend a symbolic step for everyone: to sign up to the organ donor register so that your organs can be donated when you die. It's easily done online and aggregately will save and improve lives. Remember to also let your family know your decision as they will often have the final say about your organs. Registering is easy but can be a powerful symbol of surrendering everything, even our bodies, to God.

Joe Walsh

Elder

...informed...

Sign up for the organ donation register at www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-to-donate/

BMS World News

The Christian future of the Middle East and how you're supporting it

Four future leaders of the Church in Muslim countries have finished another year of education and formation, thanks to you.

Yaccoub lost his faith when he saw a bomb fall on a school bus in Syria, his home country, killing children as young as four. Now, he's just finished a year of theological education at one of the best seminaries in the Muslim majority world – a BMS World Mission partner that is preparing Christians to lead the Church in the region.

Yaccoub came back to faith thanks to the witness of a family member and the profound questions the Syrian conflict raised in him. "When I was intellectually searching for God I also had the life example of my aunt with me and that was the main reason that I decided to follow Jesus," he says. And today he has a vision to take both the intellectual

and the loving, life example to his generation back in Syria. The generosity of UK Christians like you is enabling him to fulfil his vision.

Your giving has enabled BMS to provide four full scholarships to students studying at the seminary this year – covering their tuition, accommodation, food and books. "We need leaders in our churches and our ministries," Yaccoub says, "and people supporting us in this seminary are helping us to send out these leaders to areas where they are needed."



Yaccoub

Each scholarship of \$10,000 (about £7,500) has helped to prepare women and men from the Muslim majority world (some of them from countries too sensitive to publish here) to serve God in their home countries or other places where the Church is small, and you have paid for these scholarships.

“I want to thank the people who give without knowing us,” Yaccoub says. “I would like to thank them for the opportunity they are giving us to study here, to let them know that we are being transformed at many levels, theologically, spiritually and in our characters. They are sending prepared leaders.”

Your support for BMS leadership ministries will transform far more than just Yaccoub's life. You can read more of his story at www.bmsworldmission.org/yaccoub

Bananas and chillies: a recipe for success

Ugandan farmers can now fund



medical bills and school fees thanks to agricultural training. And it's all down to your support for BMS World Mission.

In Gulu, Uganda, BMS workers have trained 100 families to start farming chillies and bananas. Each household received in-depth training, including land preparation and how to plant the bananas and chillies. Once they were ready, the farmers used their new skills and knowledge to grow the crops.

And they were hugely successful. All the bananas are being sold in local markets in Gulu, and the dried chillies are now being bought by a wholesaler in the capital city, Kampala, that exports them all over the world.

This is having an amazing impact in the lives of these families. One of the challenges for many farmers in the area was not being able to pay for big medical bills or having to pull their children out of school if fees were raised. But now, this is no longer the case.

You're helping farmers learn new skills, provide for their families, and live healthier lives. Thank you. Discover more about the farming work you support, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/recipeforsuccess

Recommended Reads

A Meal with Jesus by Tim Chester

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking.” (Luke 7.34)

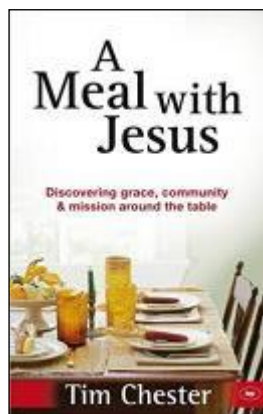
That is a key theme for this book by Tim Chester, as he focuses on the significance of meals in Jesus’ life and ministry. I found this to be an encouraging read – as it helped me to appreciate more of who Jesus is, from different parts of Luke’s gospel.

It has also inspired me, as the author links theological insights to day-to-day living – including ideas like

“I’m not suggesting adding something new to your all too busy schedule. You already eat three meals a day – that’s twenty-one ready-made opportunities each week to do mission and community...”

*I found this to be
an encouraging and
inspiring read*

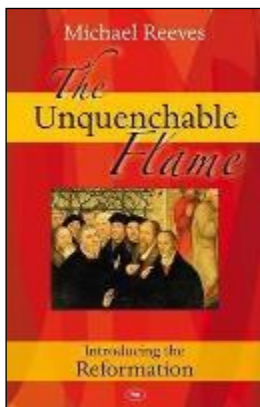
I can understand critique saying that the author puts too much emphasis on meals – there is more to Jesus’ life and ministry in Luke’s gospel than just mealtimes. However, given the title of the book, I think it is fair that he focuses on these, which do seem to be



an important feature of Luke's account.

I particularly recommend this as an accompaniment to Luke's gospel.

The Unquenchable Flame **by Michael Reeves**



This introduction to the Reformation tells of key aspects of the Reformation, and includes some historical context for the events, as well as some thoughts of

its relevance for us today. I appreciate how the author communicates in a gripping and accessible way – making this a good read for the “layman” (which, I suppose, the Reformers would appreciate). The conviction of the Reformers to stand for biblical truth is inspiring. It is engaging to read how people grappled with the Bible's teaching, and also applied it to the way they lived.

If this book isn't in the church library, you can find similar, relevant material by the same author, as well as other authors (including some of the works by the Reformers themselves) at www.theologynetwork.org

Tim Jackson



*“A Christian should resemble
a fruit tree with real fruit,
not a Christmas tree
with decorations tied on.”*

John Stott

*All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen”*

Luke Wadding

Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part 21: Jesus Prays

John 17

This chapter is often described as the “real Lord’s prayer” because it sees Jesus change from speaking to his disciples, preparing them for life on earth without him, to speaking directly to God.

As we move through this chapter we find Jesus focusing on himself and his relationship with God and later on in the chapter Jesus focusing on those he came to save.

We see right from the outset of this passage that Jesus is clearly identifying himself with God and in John 17.5 he states that he was with

God before the world was. Jesus is clearly saying that he is eternal, that the life lived here on earth is but a passing phase and his sole purpose was to declare and make known, through word and deed, that he was with and is God. He revealed Himself in human flesh so that humanity could be redeemed and restored to walk again in harmony with its creator.

*Are we prepared
to know God?*

*Are we prepared to stand
out from the crowd?*

Verse 3 says life eternal is knowing “the only true God” and “knowing Jesus Christ who the only true God sent.” This statement should really make us ask some deep questions about ourselves. Do we really know God? Do we really know Jesus? Do we dedicate our lives and hearts to discovering the hidden depths of the magnitude of this awesome creator who brought life into this barren, formless world and created us out of dust so that we



could know and interact with this divine power we call God?

Do we know God? Are we prepared to know God? Are we prepared to stand out from the crowd? Unless we are then we will never experience freedom and life eternal.

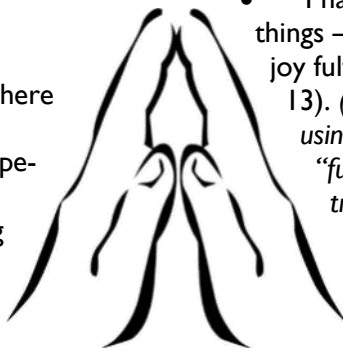
Life eternal is not somewhere we go when we die, it is something we live and experience every day we are alive. It's all about aligning ourselves to God and His infinite wisdom and not being caught up in the mundane trappings of the mechanics of this world, its politics and power struggles, its bitterness and wars. God, through Jesus, has called us into a different space, a space where we are free to show another way.

What is striking in these few verses is that Jesus is continually pointing to the Father and in verse 6 he says "I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world." He goes on to acknowledge that these men were always people who the creator set apart for the ministry of being with His Son. As we read on we find that Jesus' prayer includes some very specific statements concerning his followers:

- "My prayer is not for the world

but for those you have given me, because they belong to you." (verse 9)

- "They have been given to me to show my glory." (verse 10)
- "Protect or Keep them – so they will be united." (verse 11)
- "I have told them many things – so they may have my joy fulfilled in them" (verse 13). (Notice here that I am using the NKJV word "fulfilled" and not the NLT translation "filled" as there is a sense that this joy is ongoing, a continuous filling, not just a once for all filled. This joy has to be received from the bountiful outpouring of the life giving Spirit of God.)
- "I have given them your word and the world hates them because they do not belong to the world." (verse 14)



This verse is key in that it says that once we are God's, once we have chosen to live our lives in this different space, this life eternal space, made possible through Jesus, then our lives will be the polar opposite to those who have not chosen, or chosen another way. What is interesting is that Jesus then prays that they will be kept from evil and in verse 17 he asks for them "to be made holy by your (God's) truth."

*So everything that Jesus
has prayed for his disciples
at that time now includes
you and me.*

What I find compelling about this passage is that Jesus' prayer up till this point has been about, and for, his disciples, the twelve. He has prayed specifically for them but in verse 20 he introduces the idea that this prayer transcends time and he says "I am not only praying for these disciples, but for all who will ever believe." So everything that Jesus has prayed for his disciples at that time now includes you and me.

So if Jesus is praying for all humanity, then all the things he prayed for his disciples holds true for us now. So let's recap and summarise what Jesus prayed:

- We belong to the Father (verse 9).
- We belong to the Father in order to bring Glory to Jesus (verse 10).
- We are kept through the name of the Father in order that we may be one (verse 11).
- We have joy fulfilled in us, a joy unspeakable, a joy overflowing because Jesus came and showed a different way, a way that leads us into a different

space (verse 13).

- The world will hate us because we are not of the world. We have moved into God's space, a spiritual place, a place where the almighty power of God by His Spirit works to transform us into His glorious likeness (verse 14).

So as we finish looking at this great prayer of Jesus let us ask ourselves the questions:

- Do we know God?
- Do we know Jesus?

Are we prepared to give God and His Son a chance so we can bring glory to the Father and the Son, knowing with all certainty that we are kept by the Father in order to display and live life in unity so that the world experiences the only true creative being we call God?

Life in God is a creative expression of the uncreated being, kept and sustained by the unity of the Godhead. Let's rejoice and be glad for all that God has done through Jesus and all that Jesus is doing through the Spirit in our lives.

Steve Ford

Headingley Morning Mission Community
blog.stevelford.org

The Inner Chamber

*The House of the Lord has many chambers,
Large and lofty, or low and small,
And some who turn from the world's broad highways
And find the door to the entrance hall,*

*Are satisfied with its shade and coolness,
To know they have come to the House of a Friend,
And resting there in the peace and quiet
They think they have fared to their journey's end.*

*And some are content with the ante-chamber
That opens out of the entrance hall,
With the winds that blow from the spicy gardens,
The musical plash of the fountain's fall;*

*They feast on the fruits of the Spirit's giving,
And muse on the thought of joys to come,
And resting there in the peace and quiet
Are glad that the Lord has brought them home.*

*But those who have heeded His invitation
To come up higher and enter in,
To the upper room of the Master's dwelling,
To stores of treasures their way shall win.*

*What eye hath seen them? What mind conceived them?
What heart hath dreamed of the things concealed,
The joys prepared for the Lord's beloved,
To those who seek them alone revealed?*

*Clothed with His glory they leave His presence,
Girt with His power they walk abroad,
Who find the door to the inner chamber,
The secret place of the Most High God.*

Annie Johnson Flint

Thanks to Pat Dagleish for this suggestion

Church Noticeboard

Christmas: the Season for Giving!

Please come and join us any time between **10 and 4 at 6 Hollin View LS16 5NQ on Saturday 8 December** for our pre-Christmas fundraiser on behalf of cancer care in the UK.

Enjoy tea, coffee, soft drinks, mince pies, cakes and relaxing company.

We invite a donation of £1 per drink with cake, and there will be lots of homemade jams, marmalades, chutneys, pickles, Christmas mincemeat and more cake to buy.

All proceeds will be shared between Pilgrims Hospices and the NET Patient Foundation. See www.pilgrimshospices.org and www.netpatientfoundation.org for more information.



Ann and John Pelham

Passion for God - Love for People - Heart for Mission



Don't forget that Peter Morden's sermons on the three themes from the church's new purpose statement are available to download from the church website. Go to www.spbc.org.uk/resources and click on "Sermon Recordings".

www.facebook.com/spbaptistchurch



Thank you!

We've collected 55 shoeboxes! A huge thank you to all who got involved with the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal. Your generous gifts will help bring Good News and great joy to children around the world.



Churches Together in Headingley

We will be **carol singing at the Arndale Centre** on Saturday 8 December, from 10.45 till 12.00. Come and join in at any time, for as long as you can. We'd love to see a big group from South Parade. We'll be handing out Christmas greetings cards to the shoppers, so even if you don't want to sing, there'll be a job for you!



The world-wide **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is being marked on 18-25 January. The theme this year has been prepared by the churches of Indonesia and is based on Deuteronomy 16.18-20, "Justice and only justice you shall pursue" There will be a united service at St Urban's RC on 20 January, a coffee morning at St Michael's on 19 January, and a series of ecumenical get-togethers on Tuesday 22 (evening), Wednesday 23 (morning) and Thursday 24 (afternoon). Watch out for full details later.



Christmas

UNWRAPPED



Cragg

Carol Service

Saturday 15 December 4.30pm +
45 minute service followed by refreshments

Nativity Service

Sunday 16 December 10.30am

Alternative Christmas Service

Sunday 23 December 10.30am

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday 25 December 11am

Headingley

Nativity Service

Sunday 16 December 10.30am

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 16 December 6.30pm

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday 25 December 10.30am

Connect

Family Celebration

at Copper Beech Hub

Sunday 9 December 11am

*Discover the Christmas Story, join us for
refreshments, arts & crafts and games*

Carols on Copper Beech Avenue

Sunday 23 December 2.30pm

*Carols with the Salvation Army band
followed by festive refreshments in Copper Beech Hub*

Buffet, Christingles and Carols

in Copper Beech Hub

Sunday 16 December 12 – 2pm

*Everyone is welcome,
reserve your space by contacting the Hub*

*For more details visit www.spbc.org.uk,
call 0113 275 4989 or email info@spbc.org.uk*

**“Come and worship
Christ, the new-born King**

**Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King”**



**SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**



*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 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

Peter Morden

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

Steve Burras, Barbara Crosse,
Freeman Dumenu,
Charles Fletcher (Church Secretary),
John Pelham, Tim Rowe, Joe Walsh

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

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



“

*God's gift is eternal life
given by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

”

Romans 6.23 (CEV)

intouch

 **SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**