

# intouch



## **Six Reasons Why the Wise Men Were Wise**

*Chris Gnanakan: page 15*

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# **intouch** December 2015 & January 2016

By setting off on a difficult and dangerous journey on a bit of a whim, after a touch of dubious astrology, with no obvious end in sight, blurting out their mission to a curious and suspicious Herod, and arriving at Bethlehem with gifts the significance of which they may not have appreciated fully, the wise men have always seemed fairly foolish to me. Chris Gnanakan's cover article puts me straight, and reminds us all to seek the Saviour with all our hearts this Christmas. Christmas is as busy as ever at South Parade: take time out from the shopping and wrapping to reflect on your own journey of faith; and think about family and friends who need to make that journey too, and invite them to the services on page 38.

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**Matthew Newman** Editor

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

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

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# From the Ministry Team

## *The Way Forward*

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**W**hat a jumble of thoughts! Christmas, New Year, saying “Goodbye”, dismantling one home and setting up another, sorting out pension, and all the normal stuff of church and ministry.

And Paris, Beirut, Baghdad and the peace of the world! What to write?

“Thank you” seems to be a good place to start. Elsie and I have had a great life serving God’s people over the years. There have been difficult moments, but mostly the privilege and joy has been ours. While all our ministry settings have been good, South Parade has particularly been a good place to be, full of energy and vision, with a steady stream of new believers, scores of baptisms and many opportunities to walk alongside people as they work out God’s calling on their lives. Working in teams has been a further privilege. We’ve learned so much from the various combinations of people who collaborate in leadership, and

especially from colleagues on the Ministry Team. Thank you all! There are some basic questions that can be answered now. Our last Sunday will be 10 January and we’ll move to Alfreton in the week that



follows. And, no, we don’t know where we are going to worship yet, and no, God hasn’t revealed what the next few years will bring and no, the house is not built on a flood plain or a mine shaft.

There are more important matters. We are living through what is arguably a time of unprecedented global upheaval. Terror on the streets, refugee migration on a scale too large to comprehend fully, unrelenting warfare and continuing economic struggle together threaten to overwhelm us. What are we to believe and how are we to live?

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*Jesus’ message is about  
deep healing for society  
and for the soul*

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2,000 years ago it wasn't suicide bombing or sophisticated drone strikes or global corporations that dictated the course of life. But there were fundamentalist religious and political zealots, unstable rulers and greed-soaked materialists, poverty, injustice and disease. God took up residence in the middle of all that and in the person of Jesus gave us some massive clues as to the way forward.

First, human beings can live differently. Jesus is called "Emmanuel" – God with us. His message and his actions are about wholeness, the completeness of peace. Not just the absence of fighting, but profound and deep healing for society and for the soul. In the aftermath of recent terrorist attacks we have seen many signs of ordinary people longing for and ready to offer messages and actions for peace. In Christ let's graciously join the dots. God is able to bring the difference we long for.

Second, there is real, profound and eternal forgiveness because of Jesus. So much of the turmoil that surrounded his life on earth and ours is because people are striving for acceptance and status. Much religious activity is about trying to eradicate sin and guilt. The clear message of the Bible is that when we were helpless,

sinner and even enemies of God, Christ died for us. The world doesn't know which way to turn – competing faith claims (including atheism) offer muddled possibilities of hope. Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free". "I have come to give you life, life in all its fullness".

Third, Jesus taught us about priorities. What will it profit us if we gain the whole world and lose our souls in the process? What would last? Herod's temple, Rome's Empire or the Pharisees' tightly woven religious systems? None of these. "Seek first the Kingdom of God". That's what he said.

Finally he gave us ultimate solutions. His task in coming into our world was to reconcile all things to God. The promise is that one day we will see that happen. At the moment we do not see everything in order. Often it appears that evil is winning the day, but it won't because it can't! In the end there is God and all things find their proper place in him.

Be encouraged to live boldly and bravely in the light of Christ, subject to his rule so that God may be all in all.

Every blessing

*Brian and Elsie*

# Around the Church

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## Greetings From Northside

On 8 November we held our Remembrance Sunday service led by Gaynor. It was a time for remembering all those who sacrificed their lives in times of conflict but also a time when we could remember with thanks our loved ones who have gone before us. Interwoven into the service was an opportunity to thank each other for all they do for us and all they mean to us. It raises the question: "How often do we thank others for the parts they play in our lives?"

Just five days later came the atrocities in Paris – senseless slaughter and suffering and our hearts go out to those caught up in the tragedy.

Gaynor brought a prayer to her home group that would be good for all of

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*Let us pray that this Christmas will truly be a time of peace and goodwill for the whole world*

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us to pray at this time and over the coming months.



*Compassionate God and Father of all,  
We are horrified at the violence in so many parts of the world, especially in Paris. It seems that none are safe, and some are terrified. Hold back the hands that kill and maim; turn around the hearts that hate. Grant us your strong Spirit of Peace – peace that passes our understanding but changes lives.*

Northside

*Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

As we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas let us pray that it will truly be a time of peace and goodwill for the whole world.

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests before God.”*

Philippians 3.9

**Rosemary Stirk**

Northside Leadership Team

## **An Evening with Jamie Jones-Buchanan**

On Sunday 15 November at South Parade Together we hosted *An Evening with Jamie Jones-Buchanan* of the Leeds Rhinos.

The event began with JJB sharing his story, which touched on growing up in Bramley, hearing about Christianity from his team mate Ali Lauitiiti, coming to faith at City Evangelical Church and being part of arguably Super League’s greatest ever side.

Having been part of a treble-winning season, JJB shared about how the journey and the people you share it with are of more importance than the trophies but that ultimately not even they last forever.

*“Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” - 1 Corinthians 9.25*

JJB also threw in some tales from the changing room, Jewish philosophy and Dr Seuss for good measure!



After a break for refreshments, our resident quizmaster and Leeds Rhino fan, Tim Cook hosted a quick quiz. Fortunately, everyone had listened well and made some educated guesses, which resulted in almost full marks.

The event finished with an extended Q&A that swung from the sublime (“What do you pray before a match?”) to the ridiculous (“What grooming

products do you use on that lush beard?”) and everywhere in between (“Who is the best coach you have worked with?”)

It was great to see people from across our Mission Communities, the local neighbourhood, other churches and further afield connect with an evening full of humour, realism and spiritual insight!

*Nathan Shipley*

Associate Pastor

## **Stepping Forward**

### **Nine years of “baby steps” working with Nyakabale neonatal nursery and delivery suite in rural Uganda**

A message from Mission Direct popped into my mailbox on 13 November.

I was a bit overwhelmed at this moment but wanted to share this letter to show how, with determination, and commitment, little “baby steps” eventually grow into something amazing.

Many of you know me and how my faith guides all I that I do and I feel truly blessed to have been a part of

something so important for the families who rely on their local hospital in Rukungiri Uganda. The maternity unit having this accolade means that local pregnant women will trust their local hospital and use their services in a more timely way and importantly midwives will want to work there. I am hopeful that the government department responsible for health will provide more incubators.



Dear Liz and Denise,

Congratulations !

*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!*

*Mission Direct*

Why are we showing this? Not to be proud, we just want to take this

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*Your donations and prayers have helped us to help the maternity unit develop their skills in saving newborn babies*

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opportunity to thank all our friends and family, church family and work colleagues who stuck with us over all the years - and to show how your donations and prayers helped us to help the maternity unit develop their skills in saving newborn babies.

We always had a sense of God's care for us in times of joy and challenges when so far away from home - we thank God for all his care and grace.

*Liz Crathern*

and Denise Evans

Headingley Morning Mission Community

## **Headingley Churches Together**

A week's night shelter for destitute refugees and asylum seekers is being run in Headingley as part of a West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network project, backed by Churches Together in Headingley. It will be hosted at St Chad's Parish Centre week commencing 4 January. They would be grateful for support from the other Headingley churches: volunteers are needed to

welcome the guests,  
cook an evening





## **South Parade Baptist Church, Leeds**

*South Parade is an evangelical, Bible-based church, which belongs to the BUGB, the YBA and the EA. Our vision is of “a world populated by Spirit-filled people, passionate in following*



*Jesus Christ and wholehearted in their commitment to build community in him, so that all whom the Lord our God calls can belong, believe and become all that he wants them to be”, summarised in the strap-line, “Building Community in Christ”.*

*The membership is about 350 and covers the full age-range and is ethnically quite diverse. The church is made up of five congregations or “Mission Communities”, each with its own ethos and mission opportunities. These include a very busy Under 5s, children's work such as Outburst, youth work at Cragg and Connect, the ABC Coffee Shop, “Rooted” reaching out to those on the margins of society and the Barnabas group connecting with older members of the congregations.*

*We are seeking a Senior Minister who is a Spirit-filled, mission-hearted, prayerful, and passionate follower of Jesus who can be visionary, and inspire and encourage the whole church and enable each member to be salt and light where they live and work, and to pastor and lead the ministry team.*

**SPBC “Church Profile” drawn up by the Elders to assist in the appointment of a new Senior Minister/Team Leader**

meal or breakfast, stay overnight at the Parish Centre or make donations of food or money. There are several other needs, but these give you an idea. (Churches in other areas are covering other weeks.)

If you are able to offer help, please contact Jenny Willison at St Chad's, as soon as possible, or see me.

**Pam Roe**

Headingley Morning Mission Community

## From the Elders

The main news from the elders is that the process of seeking for a new Senior Minister has now been launched - the “mini-profile” (see page 9) will be published by the YBA and the BU. The full church profile and the “Senior Minister Profile” will be taken to the Baptist Union Ministerial Settlement Committee in due course.

Also elders have also taken note of the need to better provide pastoral care, and also the need to bring the church membership roll up to date.

*Charles Fletcher*

Church Secretary

## International Evening at Headingley

On Saturday 14 November we were treated to an amazing feast of food, fellowship and fun led by members of our church from many parts of the world.

We began in the hall where we were treated to a fantastic spread of food. People had prepared traditional dishes from their own countries and there was the opportunity to enjoy familiar food as well as trying out new dishes.

This was also a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

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*An amazing feast of food,  
fellowship and fun*

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Full of food we went down to the sanctuary for a memorable time of worship and celebration. The evening included music and dance from an African group, the Arabic Christian fellowship and City of David Church, as well as a Taize hymn, some unforgettable testimonies, and people sharing favourite Bible verses. There were so many highlights that it's impossible to pick out one item.

It was great to gather together to celebrate that God is Lord of the whole world, to be challenged by the different, encouraged by the familiar and to have a real sense of being family together.

A really big thank you to all the people who put so much work into making the evening so special in so many ways, especially Michelle Furber who organised it all.

*Hazel Randall*

Headingley Morning Mission Community



## Church Meeting Notes

Brian opened his last church meeting at South Parade by encouraging us to share stories about God's faithfulness and the exciting things that God is doing in his church.



Church members elected John Pelham as Elder, James Ricketts as Deacon and Sian Wrangles as Mission Community Leader and prayed for them as they take up these important responsibilities. There are still vacancies for all these roles, and we had a discussion about why we still have gaps for leadership positions within the church. The elders will consider the points raised. If anyone still wants to nominate any church member for a vacant position please contact Charles Fletcher, church secretary (secretary@spbc.org.uk).

An update was given on recent applications for church membership and baptism and some reports were given and approved for people joining the church. Some of the people will be baptised at services on 6 December and 3 January.

Under the heading "does the Headingley building need a New Back Door?", we looked at a plan to create a new entrance to the Headingley site on Derwentwater Grove. Among many benefits from the proposal would be greater inclusivity and access to the church hall particularly for wheelchair users, and those with walking difficulties. It would also improve the appearance of the church from that side of the building. The main reason against the proposal is the cost, though there is a possibility of extra funding being available. The Ministry Team have agreed how their offices could be reordered in the event that the plans go ahead. The meeting was largely enthusiastic about the plans and gave approval for more detailed proposals to be drawn up.

After Brian and Elsie left the meeting plans were discussed for the celebration and services to mark Brian's retirement from full-time paid ministry and their departure from South Parade over the weekend of 9-10 January.

*Matthew Newman*

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

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



# BMS World News

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## **Agroforestry in the Amazon!**

**BMS World Mission workers are embarking on a new agroforestry project to encourage people to care about the environment and to combat food insecurity in Peru.**

**T**hanks to the service of BMS workers in the Nauta Integral Mission Training Centre (NIMTC) in Peru's Amazon rainforest, pastors are discovering another way to use their land.

By selectively cutting down trees, and planting a wide variety of crops and plants, a huge selection of fruit and veg can be grown. Seeing just how much food is produced will

help the pastors visiting the centre for theological training understand the importance of sustainable food production.

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*BMS workers are able to show that creation care is an important part of the kingdom of God*

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With 30% of Peru's population living below the national poverty line, sustainable food production is much needed. Agroforestry combats poverty by increasing food security – in other words, it increases the amount and variety of food that can be produced each year. This means that instead of an entire community being dependent on one crop that could fail, communities will always reap a good harvest because of the variety grown. "It's not about bringing in money, it's about helping people understand how they can make the most of what's already around," says Mark Greenwood, BMS Regional Team Leader for



South America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

**T**his year, BMS environmentalist Laura-Lee Lovering and BMS plant propagator Sarah McArthur have been able to help create a model agroforestry area at NIMTC. Pastors from remote areas of Peru come to the centre to learn about leadership and community development. They will use the model area to also learn agroforestry skills that they can take back to their communities.

Traditionally in South America, caring for the environment has not automatically been seen as a part of a relationship with God, but through agroforestry BMS mission workers are able to show that creation care is very much an important part of the kingdom of God.

Please pray that sustainable food production in Peru is achieved through the agroforestry project.



## Meeting the refugee crisis at its source

**Can you help BMS World Mission respond where it matters most?**

**H**earthbreaking images of suffering and heartwarming scenes of welcome have dominated our news. Amidst the debates over our own Government's response to the refugee crisis, many Christians are asking: what can we do?

We'd love to say that the answer is simple, but it isn't. Responding to the needs we now see on our doorstep is important, but we must not forget the humanitarian disasters that are driving people towards Europe.

It is in these areas, at the source of the suffering, that BMS is responding. Within Syria itself, BMS has provided food relief to people displaced by the violence, and our main focus has been in Lebanon, where there are 1.1 million registered refugees from the Syrian crisis.

"Continuing to help people where the scale of the crisis is overwhelming is the best way we can respond,"

says Steve Sanderson, BMS Manager for Mission. "We are so grateful to all the British Christians who are standing alongside the victims of violence in Syria and Iraq."

BMS disaster recovery work is, of course, not limited to refugees. We are also responding to refugee situations beyond the current headlines.

On the Thai-Burma border, BMS workers are providing help and

hope to at-risk children, many of them refugees from persecution in Burma. In Iraq, BMS has helped to support a camp near Mosul, between Kurdish and ISIS front lines.

Every time you give to BMS, you are helping to support this work. From our immediate or long-term disaster recovery work to our established projects around the world, BMS is responding to the global crisis. And you can help.

## **BMS Disaster Recovery**

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

- **Nepal earthquake: £37,180** Providing psychosocial support, access to water, education, infrastructure, livelihoods, and disaster preparedness training as a part of earthquake recovery projects.
- **Myanmar flooding: £15,000** Providing emergency food relief for families affected by flooding.
- **India (Mizoram) hailstorm relief: £9,303** Supporting 500 households to repair their homes and recover their livelihoods through the Baptist Convention of Mizoram.
- **Ukraine conflict: £21,500** For conflict-affected families and 1,200 households through the European Baptist Aid.

*BMS raises money before disasters occur so that they can respond effectively when they happen. Help them be prepared: visit [bmsworldmission.org/disaster](http://bmsworldmission.org/disaster)*

## **...inspired...**

*Find out more about the work of BMS World Mission and how you can support the work financially and in prayer by visiting [bmsworldmission.org](http://bmsworldmission.org)*



# Gnanakan News

## *Why the Wise Men were Wise*

**Chris Gnanakan writes from Boston: Think, of all the ways God could have come to us, he chose to by being born into a human family! And of all the people to whom he could have announced his Son's coming, he shared it with lowly shepherds! Why? God always shares his heart with those who are still enough to listen and yielded enough to obey. This busy Christmas season, may we have a quiet family-time to reflect on God's goodness and be refreshed by his grace!**

**W**ho do you think put in the most preparations and efforts toward

### **Gnanakan News**



Christmas? Matthew, in stressing Jesus' kingship, records (Chapter 2) how some Magi – scholarly astrologers and kingmakers from the Orient – came “bearing gifts and traveling afar”. At all costs, these wise men sought a Saviour “in whom are hid” all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2.3, 9). They offered the baby Jesus the most significant gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh that depicted His kingly messiahship, priestly service and redemptive mission. There are essential insights we can learn as we journey with these men in search of truth.

### **I. They Saw God's Messenger (Matthew 2.2)**

There has been much debate as to what exactly was the Star of Bethlehem. Some suggest it was Halley's Comet that appeared at that time, others a meteorite shower or a shooting star. Whatever the scientific explanation, the Bible is clear: for these non-Jewish wise men this special light was a heavenly messenger! Not blinded by their own wisdom or “light”, these brilliant schol-

ars were in fact students and were led by the pursuit of “truth”.

## 2. They Started out on a Mission (verse 2)

The Stargazers from the East were observer-participants. They were moved by faith to act upon the light God had revealed. Desperate to know truth, they embarked on a distant, difficult and dangerous journey. They set out on a mission that humanly speaking seemed impossible but were propelled by a clear goal – to find a new king born. They did not know it was the Christ-child Yahweh promised to the nation of Israel since its formation.

## 3. They Seemingly made a Mistake (verse 3)

During the last stint in their star search could it be that these wise men relied more on their human judgment. In all their calculations could they have for a moment taken their eyes off God’s guiding light – the Star? On reaching the capital Jerusalem, they reasoned: “Where would a king be born?” Of course, in a palace! Going to king Herod was indeed a big mistake. It cost the lives of hundreds of innocent baby boys under two years who were massa-

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*They were moved by faith to act upon the light God had revealed. Desperate to know truth, they embarked on a distant, difficult and dangerous journey.*

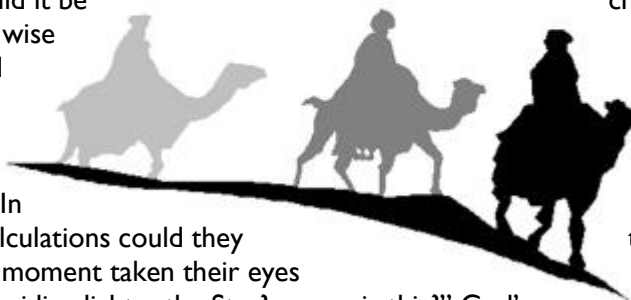
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cred. Believers are exhorted not to lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3.5).

## 4. They Soon found God’s Messiah (verses 10-11a)

After being interviewed by Herod, looking into the Scriptures and on leaving the palace, the Star reappeared to lead them to Bethlehem. It finally rested on the house where the child (not baby) was with Mary and Joseph. “Surprised by joy” they must have thought: “What Child is this?” God’s yet profound wisdom! Their long search ended as the Star light shone brighter unto this perfect day! All who sincerely seek Truth find Jesus as the interpretive key. Those who find Jesus pay homage to His incomparable glory.





## 5. They Shared in Christ's Majesty (verse 11b).

Some say these men of high position came from Parthia near Babylon and others say they were from different nations, but they certainly find Jesus – the Light to the Gentiles (Isaiah 49.6; Luke 2.42). The wise men fulfilled the purpose for which they had come – to worship King Jesus and, in a sense, represent the entire world bowing before Him. Theology's goal is doxology and worship involves giving; of one's self, service and substance. These astrologers gave expensive gifts not because they found a weak or poor child but in recognition of Christ's deity and future mission; they honoured Him who is perfect, just and worthy of their best.

## 6. They were Sent with God's Mercy (verse 12)

God in his grace had directed these wise men in many ways: with the Star, through the Scriptures (Micah 5.2) but ultimately to Christ. He now warns each of them through the same dream not to go back to wicked Herod but to their own land another way. True, no-one comes

and meets Christ and goes back the same way; it's always a "new" (His) way! The fear of the Lord is indeed the beginning of all wisdom. When we trust in Christ and acknowledge Him in all our ways, God promises to (re)direct our paths (Proverbs 9.10; 3.6)

**W**e learn much from these men who sought Jesus and found him to be the Way, Truth and their Life! Through their quest, they came to know "in Christ" something about the gracious ways and so great a salvation of their Creator, Father God. Divine guidance comes to those who, with prepared and receptive hearts, faithfully follow God's instructions. Of course, when we give our best, our all, to Jesus, his Spirit will "lead us into all truth" – truth that sets us free, that delivers us from all our sins, Satan and even ourselves! Wise men and women still seek Jesus!

## Chris Gnanakan

Director, OTAN  
[chrisgnanakan.com](http://chrisgnanakan.com)

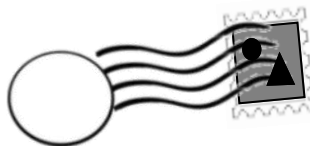
*But you, Bethlehem, David's country, the runt of the litter - from you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule Israel. He'll be no upstart, no pretender. His family tree is ancient and distinguished.*

**Micah 5.2 (The Message)**



# Postcard from France

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



**AIRMAIL**



*If you had asked me even four years ago what I might be doing in November 2015, I am sure my answer would not have touched the reality at any point. So what am I doing? Today I'm sitting in our caravan in the courtyard of La Source Baptist Church in Lisieux, Normandy, France. I've been preparing to lead worship at the church's Alpha Away Day tomorrow and for Sunday worship at the church here and, in the morning, at one of its linked congregations in Le Neubourg, about 30 miles to the west. The buildings here are not all that "churchy" though they are very pleasant. They started life as a coal merchant's in the late 1900's, then they were a wine merchant's and nine years or so ago the small congregation, which had started only a year before with eleven adults and five children, bought them and set about converting them. Would you believe that God actually told them to look for a wine merchant's place for sale and there was one which the owner was prepared to sell at a reasonable price?*

*And this gang in the photo? It's all the people who attended the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday weekend in September for the network of congregations linked with La Source. The network, including more than 100 people now, functions a bit like South Parade with its mission communities (so what a surprise that God brought us here to serve in a set-up which we understand!) We're now coming to the end of our thirteenth 3-4 week visit since 2012 and the pastor says he has us planned in till 2020! What has been very special this time is the fact that, having spent many hours with people here over the years, often over meals in our caravan, people have started to drop in unannounced – not actually a very French thing to do. One just to share time together after the awful business of the Paris attacks a week ago, another to share the burden of elderly relatives nearing the end of their lives but needing a lot of care and love. Although we are kept pretty busy there are times when we are just here and available.*

*Continued on page 20*

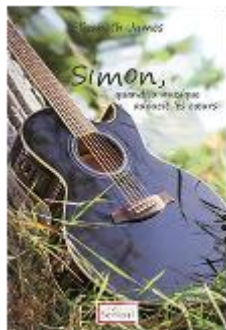
And what is Jill doing this afternoon? She's teaching some women to do patchwork. In the first place it was just something to share, and to chat over, but now she has linked in with one of the women out at Combon and she is planning to continue to meet and invite others as a means of friendship evangelism. It's amazing how God will use the interests and talents he has given us. You will understand why the Freelanders had to be bought when you consider that we have to carry a keyboard, amplifier, printer, computer, and now a sewing machine quite apart from towing our home and a month's clothes etc. But it's fun. God gives us wonderful moments of pleasure. One which I shall treasure for ever was in the Gospel choir which I run when we are here, when we tried to teach our French friends to sing "This is the day that the Lord has made" when they haven't got a "th" sound to be found anywhere. Bad choice, Colin, but it's fun when the tears of laughter are flowing freely and God's people can share the joy of worshipping Him.

Thank you for your prayerful support.



**Colin and Jill Jones,** Lisieux, Normandy

**Elizabeth James**, friend of many at South Parade, writes from Paris: At long last my debut novel about Simon, a young musician, will be published this month - in French. The title is **Simon, quand la musique adoucit les cœurs** ("Simon, when music softens hearts"). It has yet to be published in English. The book is available from La Maison de la Bible [www.maisonbible.net](http://www.maisonbible.net) click: Livres, then on sidebar: Romans/Histoires. It is available in paperback. You can also find details on my website: [www.elizabethjameswriter.com](http://www.elizabethjameswriter.com) (Note: Elizabeth James is a popular name! My site is that of Elizabeth James Christian Writer.)



For those who are hoping for the English version, pray the French editor will facilitate this very soon. Pray too for the Lord to use this French edition to bring people to Him.

# Prayer Diary



*December 2015 & January 2016*

*"I am the light for the world! Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life."*

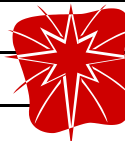
**John 8.12 (CEV)**

## DECEMBER

Sun	6	The people being baptised this evening
Mon	7	Cragg Mission Community
Tue	8	Chris Renshaw
Wed	9	Brian Nicholls
Thu	10	Jane Waites in Albania
Fri	11	Our friend in North Africa
Sat	12	Churches Together events in Horsforth and Headingley
Sun	13	Northside Mission Community
Mon	14	Under 5s work, and the Christmas parties this week
Tue	15	Families with new babies
Wed	16	Your Home Group leader
Thu	17	The search for a new Senior Minister in 2016
Fri	18	The church office
Sat	19	Kate Burkett

*Pull out and use!*

Sun	20	The nativity service at Cragg and Outburst at Northside
Mon	21	Chris Gnanakan
Tue	22	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre
Wed	23	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Thu	24	Everyone at the Christingle Service at Northside
Fri	25	Rejoice in the celebration of our Saviour's birth
Sat	26	Lawrence Cockrill
Sun	27	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Mon	28	Jayne Godfrey in Slovakia
Tue	29	Caroline Brown at Dewsbury Baptist Church
Wed	30	The Elders
Thu	31	Yourself and your place in South Parade
<b>JANUARY 2016</b>		
Fri	1	The Ministry Team
Sat	2	Caring for Life
Sun	3	People being baptised at services today
Mon	4	Steve & Ismay Green
Tue	5	Steve Cooper and Kate Churchill
Wed	6	Members and friends who are sick, or in hospital
Thu	7	The Youth Band
Fri	8	ABC Coffee Shop
Sat	9	Heather McLeen
Sun	10	Church @ Little London
Mon	11	Brian and Elsie Nicholls as they move this week
Tue	12	Faith in Scholarship
Wed	13	Hazel Randall and the TLG mentors working with children in schools



Thu	14	The Joanna Project
Fri	15	Work with children and young people across the church
Sat	16	Paul Rockley
Sun	17	Connect Mission Community
Mon	18	Other local churches in the week of prayer for Christian unity
Tue	19	Levi Booth in Japan
Wed	20	Adrian Howe, church treasurer
Thu	21	Sent Mission Community
Fri	22	Preachers at services in all Mission Communities this week
Sat	23	Hannah Preston
Sun	24	Becky North in Chad
Mon	25	David and Ann MacFarlane in Italy
Tue	26	The Deacons
Wed	27	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Thu	28	New church members
Fri	29	Geoff King
Sat	30	Rooted
Sun	31	Headingley Morning Mission Community
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Mon	1	Nathan Shipley
Tue	2	Leeds Faith in Schools
Wed	3	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Thu	4	Teddy Praise and Play
Fri	5	Worship leaders at services in all Mission Communities
Sat	6	St George's Crypt

## **Pray for Brian and Elsie Nicholls**



*Thank God for all that he has done through Brian and Elsie's ministry at South Parade over the last ten years, and in many different churches and locations in the years before they came to Leeds. Thank God for their commitment and witness, their energy, enthusiasm, encouragement and friendship, and for their love of Jesus.*

*Pray for them in their last few weeks with us as Brian leads services over Christmas and the New Year before his retirement, and as they make practical preparations to move to Derbyshire in January.*

*Remember them in your prayers as they begin a new phase of their life there, that they would know the presence of the Lord with them at all times and in all places, and that they would find new opportunities to serve God there.*



# How Can Hats Help?

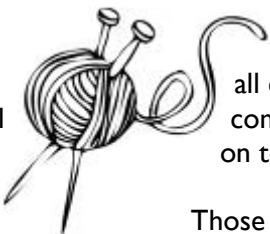
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**When a stockroom clear unearthed a small hill of wool, I wondered what I could possibly do with it.**

**P**acks and cones went to a charity shop, but I was still left with a quantity - maybe 90 balls. I then heard Sabina's shoebox plea and had a thought. Could I encourage some of my older ladies to form a Knit and Natter group and make some hats for the shoeboxes? I thought I could, so I downloaded patterns, and we got started.

I work as a chaplain for Methodist Homes. Our training manual list the three plagues of old age as loneliness, helplessness and boredom. All of these are difficult to counter, but let me tell you that hats help. The weekly knitting group has helped some to feel happy to leave their flats, to meet and chat with others. It's meant that a very new resident already feels at home with us. Two ladies who have been widowed recently have begun to support each other.

Some ladies have not knitted for



years and weren't sure if they still could (they found that the skill soon returns!) They really enjoyed looking at the ever-growing number of hats and the different yarns, patterns and styles that they all created. They began to get competitive, spurring each other on to fill each bag I brought!

Those whose arthritis or eyesight have stopped them knitting could still natter (!) and they enjoyed coming to the group.

The last group was on 13 November, and the hats were dropped off at the depot the following week (thank you, Charles), but some of the ladies are still meeting to knit... three have bought themselves yarn for their own projects.

**E**veryone has been blessed! Including me! There were 100 hats made (72 from Martin Grange and 28 from SP). I'm thinking about doing blankets next year.

Has anyone got any spare DK wool?

*Judith Briggs*

Cragg Mission Community

# University and Beyond

## *Faith in Scholarship: Dynamic Christian Thinking*

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**Richard Gunton, Co-ordinator of Faith-in-Scholarship recently came to a morning service at Headingley to explain the work of the organisation.**

**F**aith-in-Scholarship is a network of fellowship and support for Christian thinkers. It was set up in 2012 to help Christian postgraduate students explore what Jesus Christ's lordship might mean for their studies – in whatever subject. We have a website and blog, annual conferences for leaders of postgrads' groups and are now starting research projects.

FiSch started supporting Christian PhD and masters students because no national organisation seemed to do so – and because WYSOCS' team believed that Christians who take academic study seriously are following a calling of God. All of us go through education as children, and we encounter God's wisdom as we learn about the world: how it works and how we fit in. Isaiah 28 has a wonderful passage about a farmer's practical know-how actually being taught by God – implying

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*We investigate problems,  
create opportunities and  
find solutions to the  
challenges of our time*

---

that this is true even for farmers who don't know God.

Now, some of us are called on to university, and a few become postgraduate students or even academics. Here too, God's wisdom seems accessible to unbelievers as well as the faithful – at least if the best products of science and technology, history and art are to be received with thankfulness. But don't we also know of Christians who lose their faith while at university, of popular anti-Christian philosophies, and of professors proclaiming atheism in the name of science? Can we really have faith in scholarship?

This is where FiSch comes in. It's not enough for someone to start university with a strong faith; it's not even enough if they remain committed to a church. Ideas are powerful! The academic traditions that invent medical treatments, de-

velop computing systems, discover amazing creatures and unearth lost cultures – these are, sadly, often in the business of misconstruing God’s world: elevating human reason as the source of truth, positing a material reality that “just is”, celebrating human power as an end in itself.

**S**urrounded by such impressive traditions, Christians in the university need help to think with equal power under the inspiration of God’s word – that word of creational wisdom, the word of Scripture and supremely the Word made flesh. FiSch isn’t here to give easy answers, but to share the wisdom of those who have made some progress in rethinking academic disciplines in faithful ways. That’s why we now have a team of Fellows who support the leaders of local discussion groups, and a mentoring scheme.

We don’t just want to keep students from losing their faith. Many who complete masters or PhDs go on to positions of leadership in places around the world with little Christian vision. With postgraduates, therefore, we have tremen-

dous potential for bringing redemptive influence into every field of culture: politics, media, business, finance, science and law as well as academia. We see how secularist agendas eventually threaten people’s freedom and well-being. So we want more Christians to get into such fields – but we really want Christians with wise insights into the ideological forces at play, baptised imaginations for seeking God’s kingdom, and spiritual power to make a difference. It’s a tall order – and one reason why we need research projects of our own (see [tinyurl.com/fischresearch](http://tinyurl.com/fischresearch)).

**L**et me summarise with a passage from our “About” page. We love the rich diversity of God’s world and we find that knowing Jesus as Creator, Redeemer and Lord transforms the way we understand it. We also share a passion to see ideas bearing good fruit as we investigate problems, create opportunities and find solutions to the challenges of our time. May God’s kingdom advance!

**Richard Gunton**

Faith In Scholarship

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

*If you’d like to find out more or get involved, please contact [richard@faithinscholarship.org.uk](mailto:richard@faithinscholarship.org.uk) or visit [www.faithinscholarship.org.uk](http://www.faithinscholarship.org.uk)*



# Ford's Focus

## *John's Gospel Part Six: What are you waiting for?*

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**Steve Ford's detailed discussion on John's gospel has now reached chapter 5.**

**F**or some reason Jesus had gone to the sheep gate and more specifically to the pool named Bethesda. Was it by chance that he went to the pool or was it on purpose because he knew that this is where the weak, the poor and the sick people would be? Bethesda means "house of mercy" and mercy is defined as "compassion which causes one to help the weak, the sick or the poor". I think Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda because mercy compelled him to.

The passage homes in on one man,



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*Jesus does not just leave  
this man in ignorance.*

*He finds him and  
extends Grace for the  
forgiveness of Sin.*

---

a man who had been at the pool side for 38 years, a man who had lost all hope of being healed, a man who had given up trying. Even when asked the question by Jesus in John 5.6 "Do you want to be made well?" he couldn't even answer a resounding yes; he came up with an excuse, "I don't have anyone to help me, someone else always gets there before me."

When Jesus enters into our lives and our life space, he has no time for excuses. Jesus cuts to the chase and says "Rise, take up your bed and walk". When Jesus speaks faith is imparted. What we see in John verse 5 is that the man immediately takes up his bed and walks. It does not appear that this man debated the theory or questioned how this was possible. The faith imparted by

the spoken word of God quickened this man physically so he was able to get up and walk.

The passage continues to tell us that this man had no idea who had healed him. He was put on the spot and needed to testify to how he had been healed (verses 10-13). It is possible for us all to be in that situation, we can experience God in wonderful ways and yet still go on blindly living, not knowing who has intervened by mercy.

**T**he great thing is that we read in verse 14 that Jesus found him: Jesus does not just leave this man to flounder in his ignorance. He finds him and extends Grace for the forgiveness of Sin. Notice that Jesus says “Sin no more”, not sins. Jesus died to abolish Sin not sins, He died for the cause not the result, the root not the fruit. He died for the rebellion and disobedience to God our creator. Having our Sin forgiven puts God in His rightful place in our lives

and re-establishes a right relationship to God.

The passage brings together God’s great Mercy and Grace. For men and women to be lifted out of their despair to be given hope, they need to be shown compassion. Compassion in itself does not get us into a right relationship with God. Grace on the other hand does.

Paul, when writing to the Ephesian church in Ephesians 2.4-5, combines both Mercy and Grace and says “*But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)*”

So what are we waiting for? God has shown Mercy, let’s receive His Grace and live and move forward into all that God has for us.

**Steve Ford**

*Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the powers of hell to vanquish  
As the darkness clears away.*

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Gerard Moultrie**



# Creation Care

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**Cragg Mission Community has had close links with South Africa over many years. John Lockwood urges us to pray about the disturbing effects of climate change in the region, and also describes the biblical mandate for caring for creation as outlined in a recent meeting of Christians in Science,**

**D**uring the 2014/2015 southern hemisphere summer southern Africa suffered one of the worst ever droughts. This severely affected the agricultural sector as well as the economies of the countries in the region. In addition, the drought seriously depleted water reserves.

There is a 50% chance of a drought occurring this summer that could have an impact on the whole region which still bears the effect of last year's drought. Any new drought will have a compounding effect.

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*Over the last century,  
southern Africa has  
suffered from dramatic  
changes in climate*

---

The current drought in the region is a result of a powerful El Niño event. El Niño is a natural and periodic phenomenon that comes back every 3 to 5 years and can last for up to two years. It increases temperatures in the Pacific and Indian Oceans that in turn can cause drought conditions. During 2015 the Pacific became even warmer leading to one of the strongest El Niño events ever observed. The effect of El Niño on droughts has been exacerbated over the past 50 years. This has been because continental and oceanic temperatures have risen globally but not uniformly due to the increase in carbon dioxide.

**O**ver the last century, southern Africa has suffered from dramatic year-on-year changes in climate leading to severe droughts and disturbance in the marine or terrestrial ecosystems. Such variability of climate affects the agricultural industry, water reserves, fisheries and as a result the broader economy. It also affects the flow of water in streams, vegetation and the fluxes of nutrients into the ocean. It has a particularly

detrimental effect on: rural subsistence farmers and fishermen, the health of people in rural areas, and the management of a sustainable natural environment.

## John Lockwood

Cragg Mission Community

Based on an article by Caradee Yael Wright,  
Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems  
Science, Mathieu Rouault, South African Medical  
Research Council and Neville Sweijd, University  
of Cape Town

**Creation Care: Gospel Mandate or Irritating Irrelevance? was the subject of Professor Sam Berry's talk to the Christians in Science meeting on 11 November. Sam was a biologist at University College London, is now retired and is still a deeply committed Christian. A few of the important points from his talk are below.**

To proclaim the gospel that says "Jesus is Lord" is to proclaim the gospel that includes the Earth, since Christ's Lordship is over all creation. Creation care is thus a gospel issue within the Lordship of Christ.

### **The Earth belongs to God (Psalm 24.1):**

- By creation (Genesis 1.1; Psalm 104.24; Hebrews 1.2; Revelation 4.11)
- By redemption (Ephesians 1.10; Colossians 1.20)
- By ordering (Genesis 2.1-3; Psalm 132) and sustaining (Psalm 65: 9 onwards; Matthew 6.26,30; Mark 4.41; Colossians 1.17)

### **God has committed his world to us (Genesis 1.28):**

- To be cared for (Genesis 2.18) with his covenantal support (Genesis 9.8 onwards. Psalm 111.5 onwards; Jeremiah 33.25)

**God's purpose is that all creation should praise him:** (Psalm 96.9-13, Psalm 103.22, Psalm 148, Psalm 150.6)

**Christ's redeeming work reconciled all things to the Father:**  
Colossians 1.15-20 - all things repeated six times.

One simple message: We all without exception have a God-given privilege/trust/mandate/responsibility/obligation for environmental (=Creation) care. This is not simply one choice among many for enthusiasts or one option for a minority of committed greens.

As the major climate conference continues in Paris into December please pray for it: the outcome will be of importance to many people across the third world and many children in the first world who will live with the results.

# Questions

## *Good News for All*

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**We are approaching the time when the Church celebrates that momentous event, the birth of the Messiah.**

**D**o we recognise the miracle that after two millennia, we have such vivid pictures of Christ's birth and the following half century?

Men and women took the good news to the world outside Judea, but it is to four men, three of whom were disciples, that we owe the written word. Schools of Theology, following German studies, regarded the Gospels as secondary and unreliable. Oxford taught that they emanated from communities to meet local needs or fashion. Bishop Robinson with a greater un-

derstanding of first century Judaism places them in the first half. He showed that there is no evidence that requires a later date. Matthew, Mark and Luke were known to the early Fathers and always referred to in that order. Tom Wright has written that it was very unfortunate that the Reformation gave the Epistles prior attention, but we clearly see the writers as real people.

Matthew writes initially of the way in which the Old Testament forms the basis of his knowledge of the coming of the Messiah, before describing the structure and content of Jesus' teaching, but by then he was an eyewitness. Since he was a tax collector for the Romans, his Jewish faith had little in common with that of the Pharisees. From him we can understand Jesus' claim that he had come to fulfil the Law and seal the covenant of Grace through his life and blood.

Mark in Rome is known to have circulated copies of Peter's preaching. It is not known when they were collated and edited. There is





an interesting suggestion that they were produced to fill the space when Peter was away in Asia. They are episodic with a sense of urgency and the language is direct. In reading Mark 7.18, I feel that I am there listening to Peter preach or with Peter listening to Jesus speak with such direction and authority. And the sense of power continues to verse

23. Through Mark, we have Peter's eyewitness account. Matthew and Luke knew of Mark and used part of his account. Scrolls are fragile and those which have survived will be copies of copies. Some have added explanatory notes as in Mark 7.19.

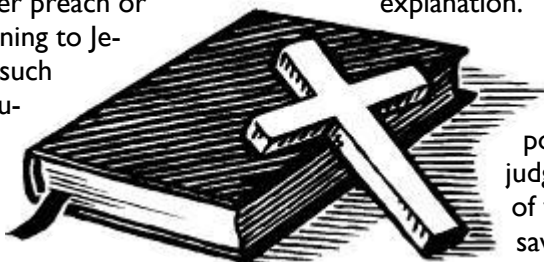
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*Good news of the  
covenant of grace through  
Jesus is a gospel that  
all Christians have to  
proclaim by word  
and deed*

---

As an outsider, Luke is not an eyewitness until halfway through Acts. There is every reason to accept his claim in the opening verses of both Luke and Acts. As a physician, he would be educated in Greek concepts and probably had connections

with powerful figures in Rome. The work is dedicated to Theophilus about whom nothing is known. A patron from Rome who would arrange for the labour and cost of multiple copies seems a probable explanation.



Luke asserts that the report is a carefully judged collection of what people saw, heard or believed, checked as

far as possible for accuracy. It reflects a Greek philosophy, not a Jewish faith, but has a clear understanding of contemporary Jewish beliefs.

In what used to be called the Synoptic Gospels, we have reports from three different people with three very different cultures and concerns. There is no single eye. Yes, Matthew and Luke use Mark and have some sources in common and yes, they all lead to one gospel of Redemption. We believe by faith, but it is good to have such solid evidence.

**T**he fourth Gospel has been the subject of considerable controversy in theological circles. It was said to be of second century origin. Assumptions were made about the speed at which

Greek philosophy spread through the Roman world and the rate at which printed books developed. Both assumptions were founded on a lack of knowledge and are now known to be false. In his last two books, Bishop Robinson showed that there is nothing in John's Gospel which requires a date after AD 60. Schools of philosophy have not responded to this challenge.

**A**rchbishop Temple wrote that in reading the New Testament, reaching John's Gospel was like coming home. Events are told in sequence over three years with a clear understanding of Jewish culture, the political tensions between Rome and the Jewish Council, and of the simmering revolt. It is a highly personal account with a minimum of carefully chosen miracles. These stand in stark contrast to the detailed re-

port and comment on Holy Week.

There are indications leading to the suggestion that John is telling his local church "This is what it was like" and someone wrote it all down. It is more about why we should believe rather than what we believe. The phrase "gospel according to" is no longer used, but it did recognise that the good news of the covenant of grace through Jesus is a gospel that all Christians have to proclaim by word and deed.

This astonishing story of people raised up by God continues in Acts, where we meet figures who seem too large for life, then on to Paul and a return to Peter. Now we are the story.

**Cyril Snell**

Headingley Morning Mission Community

## **A Prayer for Paris**

*Compassionate God and Father of all, we are horrified at violence in so many parts of the world. It seems that none are safe, and some are terrified. Hold back the hands that kill and maim, turn around the hearts that hate. Grant instead your strong Spirit of Peace - peace that passes our understanding but changes lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



**Church of England**

# The Xmas Factor

## A Computational Christmas Conundrum

**S**olve the clues to reveal the numbers to fit into the formula below. Send the value of  $x$  to [magazine@spbc.org.uk](mailto:magazine@spbc.org.uk) before 22 January for a chance of winning Christmas confectionery. In case of mathematical disagreement, the Editor's decision is final...

- a The year Slade's *Merry Xmas Everybody* was Christmas number one in the UK \_\_\_\_
- b *Silent Night* was first performed in the year \_\_\_\_
- c The date of the Headingley Candlelit Carol Service \_\_\_\_ December
- d (Traditionally) the number of wise men in the Christmas story: \_\_\_\_

e The number of times the word "glory" appears in the carol *While Shepherds Watched* \_\_\_\_

f The number of years Brian's been at South Parade \_\_\_\_

g Number of Sundays in Advent \_\_\_\_

h The story of the wise men is found in Matthew chapter \_\_\_\_

i "\_\_\_\_ maids a-milking"

j "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born". Luke 2, verse \_\_\_\_

k The time of the Queen's Christmas Day broadcast \_\_\_\_ pm



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

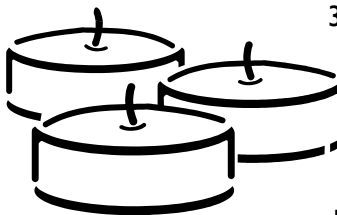
# Come Prepared

## *Preaching Themes and Readings*

**A**dvent begins on 29 November and our Sunday morning worship picks up the theme as follows: 29 November, Psalm 25 – a secure hope; 6 December, Malachi 2 & 3 – a solemn warning, 13 December, Zephaniah 3.14-20 – a sound salvation (Headingley has its Junior Church Nativity service on this date), and 20 December, Luke 1.39-46 – a mighty Saviour (Northside has its Outburst Nativity on this date).

Sent begins the season with an Alternative Christmas event on 29

November, and follows that with a Baptismal service on 6 December. 13 December looks at 1 John 2.28-3.10 – He came to conquer evil, and then our **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT** celebration bursts into flame on the 20 December at 6.30pm.



After Christmas our morning gatherings begin to work their way through the first letter of Peter, thought by many scholars to be a teaching book for those beginning their journey into faith, baptism and responsible church membership. The passages and themes are:

- 27 December, 1 Peter 1.1-12 - Praise to God for a living hope
- 3 January, 1 Peter 1.13-25 – Be holy
- 10 January, 1 Peter 2.1-12 – The living stone and a chosen people
- 17 January, 1 Peter 2.13-25 – Christlike submission
- 24 January, 1 Peter 3.1-7 – Wives, husbands and the truth



- about inner beauty
- 31 January, 1 Peter 3.8-22 – Suffering for doing good

Sent topics are:

- 27 December, Isaiah 43.16-21 – And now for something completely different
- 3 January, Matthew 28.16-20 – The Great Commission, 2016 style

- 10 January, Acts 20.13-28 – Goodbye (Brian's last service at SPBC).

The following Sunday evenings will explore the early days of the church by following through a series based on Acts 3, 4 and 5.

**Brian Nicholls**

Senior Minister

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

*Missed a Sunday? The talks given at Headingley based services are normally uploaded to the website very soon after they are preached. Go to [www.spbc.org.uk](http://www.spbc.org.uk) and click on the "Resources" section*

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***



**12th Century Latin, translated by J M Neale**

# Christmas at South Parade

## Connect

*Hollybush Primary School, Broad Lane, Bramley, LS13 2JJ*

### **Christmas Outburst (School Years 1 to 6)**

6.30pm Tuesday 1 December

### **Christmas Crafts and Coffee Morning**

11.00am - 1.00pm Sunday 6 December

No meeting on Christmas Day or 27 December so the Mission Community will be joining Headingley



## Cragg

*Cragg Hill Baptist Church, Cragg Avenue, Horsforth, LS18 4LX*

### **Carols in Horsforth Park**

4.00pm Saturday 12 December (see page 41)

### **Carol Service**

4.00pm Saturday 19 December

### **Nativity / Family Service**

10.30am Sunday 20 December



## Under 5s

### **Christmas Parties in the Sanctuary, Headingley**

10.00am Monday 14 December (under 2s)

10.00am Tuesday 15 December (over 2s)

10.00am Wednesday 16 December (under 5s)

## Headingley

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

### **Churches Together Carol Singing at the Arndale Centre**

10.30am Saturday 12 December (see page 40)

### **Nativity / Family Service**

10.30am Sunday 13 December

### **Christmas Eve Communion**

11.30pm Thursday 24 December

### **Christmas Celebration for all ages**

10.30am Friday 25 December

For details and more events this Christmas see the noticesheet at [www.spbc.org.uk](http://www.spbc.org.uk) or contact the church office on 0113 275 4989



## Northside

*Adel Primary School, Tile Lane, Adel, LS16 8DY*

### **Christmas Outburst Sunday**

10.30am Sunday 20 December

### **Christingle Service**

5.00pm Thursday 24 December

No meeting on Christmas Day so the Mission Community will be joining Headingley



## South Parade Together

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



### **Carols by Candlelight**

6.30pm Sunday 20 December

# Church Noticeboard

## Thank you!



We've collected  
83 shoeboxes!

A huge thank you to all who got involved with the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal. Your generous gifts will help make a difference in the lives of children, their families and communities all over the world.

*Sabina Grahek*

## Brian's Farewell

Goodbye!

The whole church meets together to say Goodbye to Brian and Elsie on  
**Saturday 9 January at 7.30pm at Headingley.**

Brian's final services at SPBC will be on Sunday 10 January.

## Headingley Churches Together Carol Singing



Join us for 20 minutes for our carol singing at the Arndale Centre any time between 10.30 and 11.30am on Saturday 12 December. It would be great if lots of you could come for a short while at the beginning of that time, to get us off to a good start. Not only singers; also people to give out our Christmas card to shoppers and to rattle tins (collecting for Wheatfields Hospice).



## **Carols in Horsforth Park**

**Saturday 12 December 4pm**

"What a wonderful way to enter into Christmas," one woman said as she handed back her carol sheet after spending thirty minutes around the fairy light-covered Hall Park bandstand, huddled together with friends and family, singing carols, eating free mince pies and holding a much-needed warm cuppa.

Carols in the Park is a simple, family-friendly event organised by the churches in Horsforth and attracts several hundred to sing along to carols accompanied by Horsforth Leeds City Brass Band. Children are invited to come dressed up as kings, angels, shepherds, Mary or Joseph and have their photographs taken by their parents around the crib.

The event starts at dusk allowing people to arrive in the light but to leave in the darkness except for the twinkling of the fairy lit bandstand and the glimmer from the glow sticks each child is given to help them read the carol sheets or to just simply wave around happily.



Carols in the Park takes place in Horsforth Hall Park on Saturday 12 December at 4pm and is a free event aimed at bringing the community together to enjoy the Christmas story in the Christmas spirit - with company, a warm cuppa and a mince pie.



**[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/SPBaptistChurch)  
[SPBaptistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/SPBaptistChurch)**



***intouch* [magazine@spbc.org.uk](mailto:magazine@spbc.org.uk)**

# CLERGY ADVERTISEMENTS

## UNDERSTANDING THE HIDDEN SYMBOLISM

SIGNS LIKE THIS MEAN THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT IS MORE LIKELY TO BE GENUINE, RATHER THAN ONE SUBMITTED BY A PRANKSTER

"WE LOOKED AT ALL OF THE OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS AND COPIED WHAT THEY HAD WRITTEN"

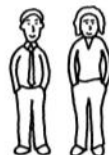
"YOU CAN GO TO THE PUB IF YOU LIKE"



⊕ DIOCESE OF ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
THE PARISH OF ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ AND  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ WITH ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ AND ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

- WE ARE LOOKING FOR A PERSON OF PRAYER WITH GOOD PREACHING AND PASTORAL SKILLS
- THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION NETWORKING
- THERE IS SCOPE FOR ENCOURAGING LAY PARTICIPATION
- WE NEED A VISIONARY LEADER WHO IS ENERGETIC, ENTHUSIASTIC AND PRACTICAL

WE HAVE BLOCKED OUT THESE DETAILS FOR OBVIOUS REASONS



"NO-ONE ELSE WILL DO ANYTHING"



"YOU WILL HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING"

CartoonChurch.com

## Give Us Today...

In November a group of cinema distributors announced that they would not be showing the Church of England's Christmas advert featuring several people saying and singing the words of the Lord's Prayer to promote the website [justpray.uk](http://justpray.uk). One online commenter on the news story added their own version of the Lord's Prayer:

Our concession who is in the lobby  
Lowered please be your price  
Your king drink sizes come  
Your popcorn is spilled  
On carpet or is it on tile  
Give us today our movie nachos  
And forgive us our cheeses  
As we forgive excess cheeses before  
us

Lead us not into people's knees  
But deliver us to our seats  
For this is the cinema  
And the ticket price and  
the cushioned seats  
For 120 minutes  
That can seem like  
forever and ever  
Ah, me





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

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

Senior Minister  
Minister

Brian Nicholls  
Paul Rockley

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

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

Elders

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

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*When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.*

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**Matthew 2.10 (NIV)**

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**SOUTHPARADE**  
**BAPTISTCHURCH**  
*Building Community in Christ*