

intouch

**The empty cross and the
empty grave, life eternal,
You have won the day ...**



**... Shout it out
Jesus is alive!**

As we celebrate Easter, we remember Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for us all. Any list of favourite, familiar or famous passages of the Bible always includes “The Lord is My Shepherd” and Psalm 23 quite high in the list: its timeless assurance of God’s presence with us in all circumstances provides comfort for each new generation. I was delighted to receive an anonymous collection of new re-writings of the Psalm by years 7 and 8 of Headingley Junior Church. You’ll find them scattered through the magazine (each next to a small sheep). It’s good to see the Psalm reaching another generation. Remember to keep praying for the youngest in our community, that they would know the leading of the Good Shepherd in their lives.

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Matthew Newman Editor

Informed, Involved, Inspired... Intouch!

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Cover text from *The Greatest Day In History*, Tim Hughes

From the Ministry Team

Why Did Jesus Pray?

We don't have to look very far in the Gospels to find examples of Jesus praying. From the brief-but-to-the-point observation of Luke "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5.16), to the extended "High Priestly prayer" of John chapter 17 there are plenty of references that show us Jesus as a man of prayer.

But why did He pray? After all He's fully God as well as fully human so why didn't He just get on with what He needed to do? I think there are two principal reasons Jesus prayed.



Jesus prayed because He *delighted* in His Father

It's clear from Jesus' example in prayer and His teaching on prayer that for Him prayer was essentially about relationship.

We get to experience the wonder of fellowship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit: the "Ultimate Privilege"

Just look at the language He uses in John 17. Notice the number of times He says "Father". Look at how He uses personal pronouns. Count all the possessive pronouns. The language is overwhelmingly relational. That's why when Jesus teaches His disciples a pattern prayer He begins with "Our Father..." Jesus didn't pray because it was a duty, He prayed primarily because it was a delight for Him to be spending time communing with His Father. He wanted to be alone

with Him, enjoying time with Him without any distractions.

Jesus prayed because He depended on His Father

Yes, Jesus is fully God but in obeying His Father's will He chose to live in complete dependence on Him.

Listen to His words in John 5.19 "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can only do what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." And a few verses later He adds "By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me." (John 5.30)

This dependence on the Father is implicit in Jesus' teaching on prayer when He tells His disciples to pray "Give us each day our daily bread" – we are dependent on God for our sustenance and survival. Jesus life

shows us that He needed the Father constantly and relied on Him totally.

So what about us as 21st century disciples of Jesus? If we are going to follow our Master we must see prayer as He saw it - in the context of relationship. Not so much that we've got to pray but that we get to pray. We get to experience the wonder of fellowship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In other words prayer is the "Ultimate Privilege" as one writer has described it.

Secondly we must recognise our complete dependence on God. As Jesus put it in John 15.5 "I am the vine; you are the branches...apart from me you can do nothing." What does a branch need the vine for? Everything! How often does a branch need the vine? Always!

"Lord, teach us to pray."

Paul



While it was still night, way before dawn, Jesus got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed

Mark 1.35 (The Message)

Around the Church

Sent weekend away: Living the gospel together on mission

On a windswept Friday evening in February a group of us from SENT congregated at Westwood Centre just near Huddersfield. It is a Christian centre in a converted chapel organised into a series of flats with a central large hall where people can congregate with access to a prayer room and garden.

The weekend got off to a great start with a number of different team activities varying from making the longest straw to the tallest tower.

Our teaching time was organised into different sessions with a guest speaker from Redeemer Church in Leeds looking at Romans 12 and the question of “Living the gospel together on mission”.

We were challenged to look at whether our lifestyle choices are really based on biblical teaching, maybe raising more questions than

We were challenged to look at whether our lifestyle choices are really based on biblical teaching

answers which will hopefully be discussed further.

There was a good balance of structured sessions and free time. People braved the elements to visit the local farm shop and café or go for a walk along the canalside.

We were blessed to have Claire Ginn as our resident chef who cooked one amazing meal after another for us including a delicious roast on the Sunday.

It was a great opportunity to get to know one another more through fellowship, sharing meals and teaching.

Georgina Drew
Sent Mission Community

Quick Quiz from Headingley

The leadership team have been looking at the Headingley Mission Community (MC) mission strategy recently – how does it fit in with the overall South Parade mission statement and how does it guide what we do?

Perhaps a reasonable place to start to answer these types of questions is to look at our mission field – the community around where we're based, and our missionary workers – the people in our church.

So on the next page is a quick survey and a quick quiz – answers by email please to

Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church* has a chapter on developing a church strategy, in which he uses the analogy of fishing. Jesus made Peter and Andrew fishers of men, so it's a valid idea. Rick draws out that



Is Headingley a barrel or a fast flowing river: what will we find under the surface?

different fishing techniques are adopted for different types of fish and different environments. Is Headingley a barrel or a fast flowing river, and what will we find under the surface?

In the last *Intouch* we mentioned that our Harvest season inspired donations of food to local food banks. After the last donations were made at Christmas time, there was still a quantity of food left and another charity came to our attention so the food was donated to them. The charity is Upbeat Communities and more information can be found at:

[www.upbeatcommunities.org/
project/welcome-boxes/](http://www.upbeatcommunities.org/project/welcome-boxes/)

They say, "Upbeat is a charity which exists to help vulnerable refugees and migrants settle and begin to thrive in a new community. We educate and mobilise the settled community to welcome and support people to rebuild their lives. We have a vision to see

Headingley Survey

1. In what year and at what age did you become involved with South Parade in general / Headingley MC?
2. What things about the church attracted you then and what do you find attractive about the church now?
3. Where do you travel from to get to church?

Quiz



1. Of the 20,533 people living in Headingley, what percentages do you think are aged a) under 15, b) 16-29, c) 30-65 and d) over 65?
2. a) What percentage of the population identify themselves as Christian? b) How does this compare to the city average? and c) How has (a) changed since the previous census?
3. What percentage of occupied houses are a) owner occupied and b) rented? How do these figures compare to the Leeds average?
4. Of the adults in Headingley, what percentage are single?
5. What percentage of households are occupied exclusively by full-time students?
6. What percentage of households have access to a van or car?
7. What percentage of residents identify themselves to be Jedi Knights?

Answers by email please to Richard Sykes c/o the church office.

community built between people of different cultures, with everyone able to grow and make a contribution.”

Part of their work involves the collection and distribution of Welcome boxes, similar to the Christmas box initiative we were involved with, and we think that it's

something very relevant to South Parade's overall mission statement. If you would like more information on how we're supporting this ministry, please feel free to contact anyone on the Leadership Team.

Richard Sykes
Headingley Mission Community
Leadership Team

Sit Down for Breakfast, Stand up for Farmers



Over 40 of us sat down to a Fairtrade breakfast in the Green House on the last day of Fairtrade Fortnight, 13 March, a glorious sunny Sunday morning.

On the menu was fruit juice, a range of cereals, lots of dried and fresh fruit, followed by toast with marmalade, jam and honey and Chris's delicious muffins. Thank you to the wonderful young people who were our waiters/waitresses/toast-makers (and who managed an 8.30am start to set up! – well done).

The generous donations resulted in

£276.00 being sent to Traidcraft towards their newest project in Myanmar (Burma). With recent regime change, the country is opening up to outside trade and Traidcraft is involved in renewing rice production in two rural, extremely poor communities.

Pam Roe & Chris Whitman

Headingley Morning Mission Community



Youth Work Gathering

At the end of January, we had the second gathering of youth work volunteers from across South Parade. The get-togethers provide an opportunity for our volunteers to stop, collaborate and listen to God and one another.

As we met in the Upper Room at Cragg we focused on the question, What is God's dream for the youth work in your Mission Community?

In the weeks beforehand, we had encouraged one another to listen to all of the voices in our Mission Communities. As we gathered, we took time to listen to God. We then shared with one another the impressions from our time of prayer. Hopefully, some of these dreams have been shared with Mission Communities.

I would encourage everyone to ask Nathan D from Cragg about the Olympics, Ruth G from Connect about being greedy and Joe W from Headingly about a blimp.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you would like more information about our gatherings.

Nathan Shipley

Associate Pastor, Youth and Young Adults
nathan@spbc.org.uk

From the Greens

On Sunday 6 March Steve and Ismay Green were given gifts from the church during their visit to Cragg Mission Community. This was their last official visit as missionaries before they retire. They sent a card with this message to the whole church to say thanks:

We just wanted to thank you so much for your lovely gifts. So generous! The picture of Robin Hood's Bay is already up, the



Steve and Ismay Green

beautiful rose is waiting for a place in our garden, and we are looking forward to consuming (and sharing) the wonderful simnel cake!

But most importantly, thank you for all your support, friendship, prayers and love over the years. You have blessed us more than you can imagine and we have been held in the Body of Christ by you.

With our love & deepest

thanksgiving for you all,

Ismay & Steve

Please continue to pray for Ismay and Steve in their retirement at Great Ayton, and remember those in North Africa, including one from our fellowship, who continue to build on their work there (see page 14).

Val Dooks

Headingley Morning Mission Community

...informed...

Share news from Around the Church by sending reports, photos and updates from your Mission Community, home group, cell group or meeting to magazine@spbc.org.uk



Confused?



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

www.spbc.org.uk

Receive Children, Receive Me

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer is a world-wide movement led by Christian women of many traditions who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Sue Brady led South Parade's prayer service and describes the aims of the day.

More than 170 countries participate in an annual day of celebration which brings together people of various races, cultures and traditions sharing together in God's word and worship. Each year a different country volunteers to put together the annual service and prepare the resource materials needed, this year it was the people of Cuba.

Through Women's World Day of Prayer, Christians around the world:

- Affirm their faith in Jesus;
- Share their hopes, fears, joys,

sorrows, opportunities and needs.

Through Women's World Day of Prayer we are encouraged to:

- Be enriched by the faith of Christians of other cultures;
- Take up the burdens of other people and pray for them;
- Become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation.



South Parade held this year's Women's World Day of Prayer service on 4 March and despite the weather there were approximately 50 people in attendance. The worship service has a special

annual theme and through preparation and participation in this, we can come to know how people of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them.

This year the first service was held in Samoa as the sun was rising, thereafter followed a great wave of prayer that continued to encircle the earth until the last service was held in American Samoa as the sun set. It was estimated that 3 million women, men and young people in 170 countries and islands, will have prayed with and for the people of Cuba.

*Jesus showed that
God's love is available to
everyone. We are called to
accept every human being
as equally worthy to God.*

The theme for this year was: "Receive children, Receive Me". The Bible readings used were, Isaiah 11.1-10 and Mark 10.13-16. In short, the message of the service was not particularly just about children although the scripture from Mark 10 did illustrate the importance that Jesus put both on children, and on those who brought

them to Him.

The society in which Jesus lived was very male-dominated and both children and women were thought of as chattels and were expected to stay in the background, having very few or no rights. Jesus overturned the social norms of the time by accepting women and welcoming children. By receiving children and their mothers or Grandmothers he was showing them honour. He was showing by this act that God's love is available to everyone irrespective of their place in society, thus showing us that we are called to accept every human being as unique and equally worthy to God - young and old, rich and poor, just and unjust - whoever they are.

Children are important, they are part of the church now and of the church of the future. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." (Mark 10.15) We can learn a great deal from children. Small children are honest and



straightforward, and accepting of other people. They do not discriminate nor judge. This is how we should be in our response to God and his love, and in our attitudes to others.

So, what was the service really about? I believe that Jesus was showing us as Christians the importance of being united with others

from all walks of life and differing cultures in being mindful of need, locally, nationally and internationally and more importantly active in prayer.

Every Blessing

Sue Brady

Headingley Morning Mission Community

...involved...

Parts of this article are drawn from the Women's World Day of Prayer Booklet. More information is on the website at www.wwdp.org.uk



If there are any other women in South Parade who would be willing to join the WWDP please speak to Sue about it.

New Creation Care Initiative

BMS World Mission is excited about a new initiative that will help you to play a part in caring for God's creation.



God calls humanity to care for his creation. As we face challenges like climate change, natural disasters and pollution, we need to become active participants in caring for the world. That's what Worth Saving is all about.

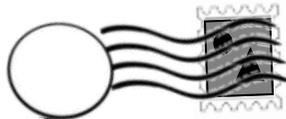
All you need to do is sign up today (for free!) and they will do the rest, sending you a monthly email that will equip you with knowledge and inspire you to care for creation. You will receive beautiful computer desktop backgrounds by an award-winning photographer, something to read on the subject of creation care, an action for you to undertake, prayer points, and links to other organisations that focus on caring for the earth.



Sign up to Worth Saving today at bmsworldmission.org/worthsaving

Postcard from North Africa

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



AIRMAIL



Dear friends

Thank you for your emails and news. Here in North Africa we had a mild winter until just over a week ago, when the temperatures dropped (by our standards!) the winds roared and the rain pelted down! – great for the farmers and umbrella sellers!

Having moved up north at the end of last year, I really notice how much greener it is here – or so it seems until I visit home and am reminded what green really looks like! Living in the capital now means there are more foreigners

around, more varied food available, and lots of time spent commuting in this much bigger, busier city.

Work is now based mainly around the national cancer hospital, but it also involves building links to local GPs and health centres, and visits to the Centre in the south of the country where I used to live. My new nurse colleague is settling in well and attacking and mastering Arabic (one of us had to!) during the first half of this year.

I hope to see you in July!

xxx

Gnanakan News

In the Midst

Chris writes: greetings from Bhutan, on my way to Nepal. We're now looking forward to the visit of some familiar faces from South Parade over the next few months. We miss Brian and Elsie now they have stepped down. Though my work has become crazy busy, I would like to be encouraged, as always, and share our missionary blessings with you all via *Intouch*. Here's an article that expresses my thoughts this Easter to bless you all.

Jesus must be the centre and source of the Christian faith and life. The Good Friday and Easter



Sunday events show Jesus dying “in the midst” of two thieves, then manifesting himself “in the midst” of his followers as the resurrected Lord.

What was He doing amidst these people? Studying the significance of these occasions will help us understand the reality of Jesus’ oft-quoted promise: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them” (Matthew 18.20).

It’s intriguing that Jesus had little time for the religious crowd or righteous elite but was commonly known as a “friend of sinners.” In his crucifixion we see Jesus brutally executed between two other criminals (John 19.18). A closer look reveals that the authorities did not take Jesus’ life; rather he was purposefully laying it down.

The cross reminds all generations of the reason Jesus died and what it still offers: pardon from sin and guilt. This is best understood as we listen to the

two dying thieves on either side of Jesus.

*His resurrection was
God's "Yes" to what Jesus
offers through his death*

Both criminals made choices and the difference determined their destiny. One hurled insults at Jesus and challenged him to deliver them. The other simply prays, "Lord, remember me." Jesus forgave his sins, giving him hope and a home in paradise that very day! Observe the three men on the three crosses: one dies **in** his sins, the other dies **to** his sins and receives salvation through faith in Christ, and the Man on the middle cross dies **for** all the

sins of the world!

If the cross was the human "No" to who Jesus claimed he was, his resurrection was God's "Yes" to what Jesus offers through his death. The empty tomb is God's receipt for Christ's payment; God's "Amen" to Jesus' "It is finished."

Yet afterwards we notice his disciples, disheartened and hiding behind closed doors, when suddenly Jesus appeared and stood "in their midst." Having made peace on the cross, henceforth Jesus is Peace and greets them by saying, "Peace be with you" (John 20.19). His empowering presence turns their sorrows into joy and replaces fear with fresh faith and courage (Philippians 4.6).

Chris Gnanakan



The Lord is my provider, I shall not wish for more. He makes me lie in the holy house. He leads me down the tight paths of life, I will trust in him. Even though fear surrounds me, I shall not be frightened for you are with me, your love and light, they comfort me.

"A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian."

Pope Francis, February 2016

Temples Compared

Solomon

*And a time of peace.
Prophecy fulfilled.*

*Thirty thousand to labour
Seventy thousand to carry
Eighty thousand to cut stone*

*Courts, doors, altars,
And gold,
Beaten gold.
Pine and olive,
Cedar from Lebanon.*

*A place of cherubim and palm trees,
And flowers open.
A Holy of Holies
And a veil.*

*A Temple of stone,
In seven years.*

Jesus

*And a time of occupation.
Prophecy fulfilled.*

*One to betray
One to pass sentence
One to carry the cross*

*Whips, a robe,
And an inscription,
And a body beaten.
Ropes and nails,
Wood from Calvary.*

*A place of skulls,
And palms open.
A heart that was broken
And a veil, torn in two.*

*A living Temple,
In three days.*



Jill Jones

Prayer Diary



April & May 2016

MARCH

Sun	27	Celebrate our Risen Saviour
Mon	28	The ongoing search for a new Senior Minister
Tue	29	Your Mission Community Leaders
Wed	30	The Joanna Project
Thu	31	The church meeting tonight

APRIL

Fri	1	Our friend in North Africa
Sat	2	Caring for Life
Sun	3	Northside Mission Community
Mon	4	Under 5s work
Tue	5	The Alpha Course
Wed	6	Steve and Ismay Green in their retirement
Thu	7	Leeds Faith in Schools
Fri	8	The church office
Sat	9	Kate Burkett
Sun	10	Cragg Mission Community

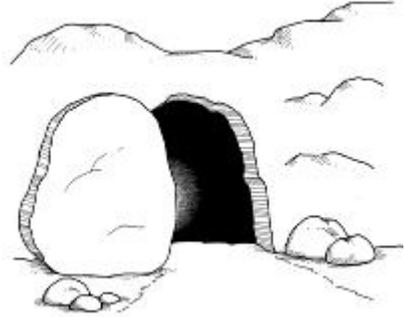
Mon	11	Geoff King
Tue	12	Chris Gnanakan
Wed	13	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre
Thu	14	Charles Fletcher, church secretary
Fri	15	The Deacons
Sat	16	Nathan Shipley
Sun	17	Lawrence Cockrill
Mon	18	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Tue	19	Your neighbours
Wed	20	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Thu	21	The first session of the Alpha course in Horsforth
Fri	22	The Elders
Sat	23	The Ministry Team
Sun	24	Churches Together groups in Headingley and Horsforth
Mon	25	Headingley Morning Mission Community
Tue	26	Sam and Katie _____
Wed	27	Steve Cooper and Kate Churchill
Thu	28	Members and friends who are sick, or in hospital
Fri	29	The Youth Band
Sat	30	ABC Coffee Shop
MAY		
Sun	1	Heather McLeen
Mon	2	Church @ Little London
Tue	3	Jayne Godfrey in Slovakia
Wed	4	Teddy Praise and Play
Thu	5	Hazel Randall and the TLG mentors working with children in schools

Fri	6	St George's Crypt
Sat	7	Work with children and young people across the church
Sun	8	Paul Rockley
Mon	9	Connect Mission Community
Tue	10	Your Mission Community Leadership Team
Wed	11	Levi Booth in Japan
Thu	12	The continuing Alpha course in Horsforth
Fri	13	Sent Mission Community
Sat	14	The success of the Macpac evening at Headingley tonight
Sun	15	Pentecost witness events happening today
Mon	16	People who can't get to church any more
Tue	17	Someone you know who doesn't know Jesus
Wed	18	Your Home Group leader
Thu	19	Adrian Howe, church treasurer
Fri	20	The Barnabas Bunch
Sat	21	Jane Waites in Albania
Sun	22	Pray for another local church
Mon	23	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Tue	24	Rooted
Wed	25	John Lockwood and Christians in Science
Thu	26	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Fri	27	All those going on the Redmire Weekend
Sat	28	Brian and Elsie Nicholls
Sun	29	Preachers at services this week
Mon	30	Those preparing for holiday camps this summer
Tue	31	You and your place within South Parade

Easter Prayer with Children

Dear Father, this is the best day of the year – the best day of all time.

For on Easter Day we find that Jesus, who was dead, is alive again: and we see his promise that those who put their trust in him will not be swept away by death, but shall have eternal life.



On this day of light and gladness, help us to put darkness out of our lives.

Make us willing and able to change our ways of thinking and speaking and doing into Easter ways: so that how we behave may bear out what we believe, and so that Christ's new creation may become in us not just a hope but a fact; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

© Gathering for Worship
www.baptist.org.uk

*Christ is risen! Henceforth never
death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever
we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection
of our trembling hearts have ceased;
'Tis his day of resurrection!
Let us rise and keep the feast.*

John Monsell

Come Prepared

Preaching Themes and Readings for Morning Services

Date	Theme	Reading
27 March EASTER DAY	Easter Morning	John 20.1-18
3 April	Meeting the Risen Jesus 1	John 21.1-14
10 April	Meeting the Risen Jesus 2	John 21.15-25
17 April	Meeting the Risen Jesus 3	Matthew 28.16-20
24 April	Meeting the Risen Jesus 4	Luke 24.13-35
1 May	Meeting the Risen Jesus 5	Luke 24.6-49
8 May	Jesus: Ascended	Luke 24.50-53; Acts 1.1-11
15 May PENTECOST	Pentecost 1	Acts 2.1-13
22 May	Pentecost 2	Acts 2.14-41
29 May	Prayer & Praise	

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force - no-one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

Acts 2.1-4 (The Message) (15 May)

Christians in Science

Many of you have probably attended talks at South Parade given by Christian speakers invited by Christians in Science (CiS). Many of them have been outstanding workers in their particular fields. Local organiser and South Parade member John Lockwood outlines some important developments in CiS.

The main aims of CiS are these:

- Exploring God's work in creation....
- Encouraging concern for the environment...
- Applying biblical principles in science and technology

Last spring CiS was awarded a generous grant over a period of three years from the Templeton Religion Trust entitled "Equipping and supporting the next generation of Christians in science". The overall aim of this new grant is to facilitate the development of a new generation of Christians in the sciences, including the future writers, speakers and policy makers on issues involving the interface between science and religious faith.

It is critical that issues of science and faith issues are addressed effectively during the formative years at University

To achieve this aim it is critical that science / faith issues are addressed effectively during the formative time at University and early career years. CiS believes that it has an important role to play in supporting, equipping and training Christian students and scientists through their formative years often spent in an environment that is becoming increasingly antagonistic, if not hostile, to religion.

Some of the key proposals are briefly described below.

- Place student CiS groups in major university cities (these already exist in some places). They will work closely with student Christian bodies such as Christian Unions and student-focused churches. People such

as our own Ed Preston (Leeds and Bradford CU Staff Worker) and Nathan Shipley (Associate Pastor, Youth and Young Adults) will hopefully be involved. Hosting a lunch to which all leaders of University Christian Unions and other Christian



CHRISTIANS · IN · SCIENCE

organisations will be invited, together with local Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) staff workers and leaders of student-oriented churches will launch these groups.

- Sponsor attendance of students and early career scientists at science / faith conferences, workshops and training courses and at an annual student conference.

- Provide practical opportunities to develop writing and communication skills including producing a student CiS magazine, enhancing the CiS annual essay competition for students and early career scientists, and en-

couraging and facilitating students and early

career scientists in writing journal articles and book reviews, giving talks and presenting conference papers.

- Explore and commission new ways of communicating science.

Can I please ask for your prayers about this important proposal.

John Lockwood

Local Organiser, Leeds CiS Local Group
Cragg Mission Community



The Lord is my guide, who provides everything I need. He gives me peace, he helps me to be calm. He gives me talents that I never knew I had. His light guides me in the right direction, even when I am walking through the dark woods, I will not be scared as he is with me. You give me food to eat, in front of enemies. You pour oil on my head and fill my cup to the brim.

Ford's Focus

Choices

“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3.23)

I want to take you back to the foot of the cross. Imagine you are the soldier standing opposite the cross that Jesus is hanging on and you witness the following dialogue, a dialogue that has two different perspectives and two different outcomes by two people in exactly the same situation.

Thief 1: “Who are you? You are the Christ aren't you? Ha, what nonsense, you are no different to us otherwise you wouldn't be here hanging on a cross like me. I tell you what, here's a challenge, get yourself off that cross, save yourself if

you are who you say you are. Oh, and while you at it, saving yourself, save me as well.”

*There are two choices.
What will our choice
be this Easter?*

Thief 2: “Will you just be quiet. We're here for a reason. We did wrong and we are getting what we deserve. Don't you fear God? This man has done nothing wrong. Jesus will you remember me when you come into your own?”

Jesus: “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

You then witness the cry from Jesus' lips “It is finished” and then total silence. You whisper to yourself “This man really was the Son of God”.

It is recorded that Jesus said in John 10.9-10 “I am the door and the person who enters through me will be saved and will be able to come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I come to give life, life in all its full-



ness.” And in Matthew 10.38-39 Jesus says “*whoever is not willing to carry the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who try to hold onto their lives will give up true life. Those who give up their lives for me will hold onto true life.*”

There were two thieves and there are two choices.

Are we going to be like the first criminal, only wanting to be saved for our own benefit? All he wanted was to get down from the cross and continue doing the same things he had been put on a cross for. There was no repentance only regret that he had been caught. Jesus never responded to this man.

Or are we going to be like the second criminal who saw Jesus for who he really was, not just a man on a cross, but the son of God. This man realised that there was no hope and having made the public declaration of rebuking the other criminal he

asks Jesus to remember him. He felt that it was too late to ask for forgiveness, after all he was going to die anyway. Jesus responds to this man with the words “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

That response still comes today to all those who recognise that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God and the one who gave His life for us all.

The first criminal went to his death full of anger and bitterness, hurling abuse, kicking and screaming all the way to hell. The other criminal went in peace, knowing forgiveness all the way to heaven.

What will our choice be today as we celebrate and remember this Easter time the death and resurrection of a saviour who is Christ the Lord?

Steve Ford

Steve’s studies in John’s gospel continue in *Intouch* later in the year.



The Lord is strength. I will not want. He made me rest in peace. He leads me to the right path, he strengthens me for his name’s sake. Even when I come against evil I won’t be afraid. Surely he will continue to remember me all the days of my life forever.

What Are You Doing This Summer?

Holiday Camps 2016

This summer, various South Paraders will be attending and helping run various summer camps, houseparties and beach missions. Chris Dyson encourages us to pray and get involved further.

Whether up a mountain, in a canoe, or chilling on the beach, it's all about young people getting to know Jesus better and having a fun holiday with Christian friends.

If any young people or potential leaders are interested, the details of the camps and missions with links to South Parade are below, and the details of the people to speak to if you want more information.

We want God to be doing His work through all of these, so please be keeping these in your prayers. In particular for the young people at-

Pray that those attending camps will meet Jesus and choose to follow him

tending camps, especially those from South Parade, pray that:

- they will meet with Jesus, choose to follow Him and grow in their faith;
- they will meet great Christian friends that can encourage them in faith;
- they will return to Leeds excited about Jesus, and that we at SPBC will help them continue to grow for the rest of the year too;
- they will have a fun, safe and brilliant time.



For the leaders who are planning, running, helping with and catering for camps, pray that:

- they will keep Jesus at the centre of all of it;
- they will be great teachers, en-

- couragers and examples;
- they will be safe and have the energy they need;
- it will be time of growth in faith for them too.

We look forward to letting you know how they all go.

Chris Dyson

Sent Mission Community

CPAS Ventures - Dallam 1

Two full days of activities in the Lake District plus a range of on-site activities, Gospel-focused teaching and life-issue workshops.

Dates 7-14 August

Location Cumbria

Age Range 13-18 years

Cost £237

Looking for

Still spaces for 13-18 year-olds. Seeking 18-20 year-olds to be Helper Leaders.



Contact at SPBC

Claire Ginn John and Rachel Gannon

More information www.ventures.org.uk/venture-holidays/details/2618

CPAS Ventures - Colwyn Bay 4

Outdoor activities in Snowdonia. Solid Bible teaching. Gospel-focused community and worship. Meet other Christians from around the country (and world). A Christian family that aims to support each other the rest of the year too.

Dates 6-13 August

Location North Wales / Snowdonia

Age Range 14-18 years

Cost £250 (but bursaries available if you haven't been before)

Looking for

Spaces for 13-18 year-olds. Seeking 18-21 year-olds to be Junior Leaders. Happy to discuss with anyone >20 years old about coming as a leader if you're interested.

Contact at SPBC

Chris and Megan Dyson

More information www.ventures.org.uk/venture-holidays/details/2641

Scripture Union - Spot the Difference

Spot the Difference is brilliant, exhausting and beautiful! It's a great holiday, particularly for children who haven't been away from home much before. There's bible stories, activities, trips out, wide games, swimming - and the vegetable game...!

Dates 7-13 August

Location Rugby

Age Range 8-11 years

Cost £215

Looking for

“We'd always love more helpers and volunteers! Whatever your skills, it always feels to me like a family, where everyone chips in and does their bit to give the children and young people the best opportunity at meeting Jesus and deepening their faith.”

Contact at SPBC

Ruth Hughes



More information

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/ScriptureUnionHolidays/HolidaysFolder/SpottheDifference/23604.id
www.spotthedifference.org.uk

Scripture Union - Make the Difference

This is a holiday, there's fun, games and a trip to a theme park, but it's also an opportunity to explore what Christian leadership is like. We look at biblical examples and by working as a team try to put what we learn into practice in leading some activities for the 8-11's on Spot The Difference. It's a great chance to challenge yourself and see what, with God's help, you're really capable of!

Dates 7-13 August

Location Rugby

Age Range 15-17 years

Cost £215

Contact at SPBC

Ruth Hughes

More information www.scriptureunion.org.uk/ScriptureUnionHolidays/HolidaysFolder/MaketheDifference/3521393.id

Scripture Union - Nefyn Beach Mission

The mission is based primarily in the town of Nefyn with a satellite team working in the village of Tudweiliog. Our aim is to see the kingdom of God break into all areas of life in Nefyn and Tudweiliog. The mission meets both local people and holidaymakers, running activities for young people aged 4-18 years each day and also a number of family activities, in order to see lives changed and nurtured through an encounter with Jesus.

Dates 30 July-3 August

Location North Wales, on the beach!

Age Range 4-18 years

Cost £60 waged, £30 unwaged,
but negotiable

Looking for



Our team is made up of a wide variety of people, spanning the generations (the youngest being 16 years; the oldest being 70+ years!). Welsh-speakers are especially welcome. A servant heart is a must, as is a desire to see Jesus made known in a fun and relevant way.

Contact at SPBC

Sam Newby-Wright, Luke Dyer

More information www.facebook.com/nefynmission

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/HelpingyougetintotheBible/SummerMissions/Nefyn/1583.id

NCYH Summer Camp

NCYH events are small enough to create lasting friendships, yet big enough to produce unforgettable memories! Summer Camp has a full and varied programme of indoor and outdoor activities, day trips, crafts and plenty of time to relax with friends. We aim to provide a place for young people to enjoy a great holiday and be introduced to the Christian faith.



Dates 30 July – 6 August

Location Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Age Range 10-16 years

Cost £100

Looking for

Any young people who are interested in attending

Contact at SPBC Nathan Shipley

More information www.ncyh.co.uk

Christian Adventure Holidays

Based at Bassenfell Manor in the Lake District all sorts of outdoor activities are on offer including sailing, canoeing, mountain walking and all sorts of fun and games. The aim is to give the kids a good time and show how Jesus is relevant to them.

Dates Single weeks in August **Location** Lake District
Age Range 12-17 years **Cost** £225

Looking for

Leaders with qualifications are required in the different activities (see above and also the website) so if you would enjoy helping but need to gain qualifications a training week is held 9-15 July.

Contact at SPBC
Sue and James Ricketts

CHRISTIAN Adventure
HOLIDAYS

More information www.christian-adventure-holidays.org.uk

...involved...

For more information on any of these activities, and about joining in as a participant or volunteer, email via the church office any of the named SPBC contacts listed or visit the individual websites. Send your reports on how you got on at the Summer Camps to magazine@spbc.org.uk



The Lord is my Father who provides me with everything that is needed. He allows me to rest on my own. The Lord sorts out problems I have, he shows me talents I never knew I had. He shows me the correct choices to make for he is my Father. I will not be afraid in the stickiest of situations as I know my Father is with me. Your power comforts me.

Church Noticeboard



ALL INCLUSIVE?

Working with Children and Young People
with Special or Additional Needs



7:30pm to 9:30pm

Thursday 19th May

South Parade Baptist Church

An evening for all who work with and
care for children and young people with
special or additional needs.

Tickets cost £3

Please contact Nathan on
nathan@spbc.org.uk for more
information and tickets.



House of Prayer

Every Saturday 8-11am, Green House, Headingley

Italian Evening Pizza and Pud!



Saturday 14 May 2016, 6 -10pm
South Parade Baptist Church Headingley,
Upper Hall, (entrance at the side)



**Fundraiser for the asylum seekers/migrants and
the food bank in Reggio Calabria, southern Italy,
with our guest speakers David and Ann Macfarlane
(affectionately known as the Macpac)**

*This could be David and Ann's last visit,
as they retire from the work in June 2017
after serving the people of Italy since 1993.*

*So please come and make this a
memorable occasion for them as we not
only celebrate with them all that God has
done in and through them but give thanks
for this dear couple who so tirelessly give of
themselves to this work.*



- Minimum donation £6 (unwaged/children please contact me).
- Pay at the door, cash, cheques to Pat Dalglish please.
- Any practical help with serving or setting up and clearing away, and even making puddings would be appreciated!
- We will need final numbers by 7 May. Please sign the sheets at your mission community, see your mission community leader or contact the church office.

Pat Dalglish

Headingley Morning Mission Community

PS David likes rhubarb crumble and custard and Ann anything chocolatey...!

Cragg will be running an Alpha starting from Thursday 21 April in partnership with Lister Hill Baptist Church and St George's Church. Please pray for those attending and leading the course. If anyone across the church would like to bring a friend please get in touch with Sam Newby-Wright for more details.



Starts Thursday 21 April 7.30-9pm
Costa Coffee, Town Street, Horsforth

Welcome to all new arrivals in the church recently, including these at the Headingley Mission Community:

- **Nolan James Joseph Page-Martin**, a brother for Nathan & Alyssa
- **Sadie Leah Cowling**
- **Samuel Max Barker** (Sammy), a brother for Jack, Sophia and Oliver
- **Jesse Elisha Preston**

Congratulations to all their parents!



THE SOUND DESK OPERATOR

RESPONSIBILITIES

MOVING THE SLIDER
UP A BIT

MOVING THE SLIDER
DOWN A BIT

MOVING THE SLIDER
BACK UP A BIT

EVERY NOW AND THEN PRESSING THE
'SUDDEN UNEXPECTED FEEDBACK' BUTTON

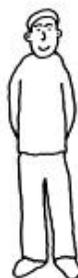


PERKS OF THE JOB

BEING ABLE TO
HAVE MINTS
DURING THE
SERMON



HAVING SOLE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE
'WIRES AND CABLES'
BOX



This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times and is used with permission.



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

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

Minister

Paul Rockley

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

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

Elders

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

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

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



“

*Christ has been raised to life!
And he makes us certain that
others will also be raised to life.*

”

I Corinthians 15.20 (CEV)

intouch

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