# intouch

# **Christmas Questions**



Angels saw the baby born and oh how they did sing.

A hundred questions they did ask about this tiny thing...

Poetry to Ponder, page 26



December 2017 & January 2018



# December 2017 & January 2018

In the busy-ness of the Christmas season with presents to buy, food to cook, places to go and so many things to prepare, it's important to take time to "ponder" as Mary did (back cover) on what God is saying to us. Use the poetry in this month's magazine (page 24 & 28) and Geoff's reflection (page 3) as inspiration for prayer. Remember to pray for Colin and Jill Jones (page 9), Tim Jackson (page 16), Jane Waites (page 12) and others connected to the church who work to spread the Good News at the heart of our Christmas celebrations. And if it all gets too busy, escape somewhere quiet and try to tackle our fiendish prize puzzle (page 40). Happy Christmas!

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# Matthew Newman Editor

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

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

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# From the Ministry Team

# Born of David's Line

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the

father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Amminadab Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother

father of Saimon, Saimon are father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab[...]



Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of

> Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. (Matthew 1.1-16)

he shortest sermon in history was

preached from this text. After completing the reading, the preacher said, "All you children should consider yourselves lucky that your parents didn't call you by any of these names." He then introduced the next hymn.

But he could have said more.

Of course today tracing your ancestry is an industry all of its own, was Matthew ahead of his time? Was it just meant to impress or be a curiosity and the preacher was



right to have nothing to say?

he preacher could have explained that Matthew included four women in the genealogy that represented what could be called "irregular arrangements". If any of the neighbours were inclined to dismiss lesus by pointing the finger at the timing of Mary's pregnancy, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth (the Moabites) and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba) were also part of their royal family! In fact the royal blood had some colourful contributors; people you wouldn't expect were in the list and playing a prominent part.

The preacher should have offered an explanation for those mysterious names in the list by talking about the exile, after which the royal house of David went into decline. It didn't fail or disappear but there are a few of the names that appear, and nobody's heard of them. Those 400 years of quiet between the close of the Old Testament and the opening of the new also represent a time when the royal family downsized and had their budget cut! A bit like the Greek royal family - it still is about but you wouldn't spot them in a crowd, they look like anyone else.

In fact if you met Mary and Joseph in the street you would have said,

Matthew's Gospel carefully demonstrates that this was no ordinary baby but the long awaited Messiah, God's son, Saviour of the world

they seem like a nice couple, I hope they find somewhere before she has her baby!

astly the preacher could have explained that although interesting enough, this is not the real point.

This was the opening salvo in Matthew's Gospel where he would carefully demonstrate that this was no ordinary baby but the long awaited Messiah, God's son, Saviour of the world. Like this list of His ancestry, all the unfolding events were evidence pointing to the true identity of Jesus. The circumstances of His birth were the start - but look at His life and teaching, His death and His glorious resurrection.

The preacher should have rounded of by encouraging us all to see these proofs afresh and be spurred on to following such a Saviour.

Geoff

# **Around the Church**

# News from Headingley

At the risk of repeating what I wrote this time last year, I am amazed that we're almost at the end of another year! A lot of things have happened, in the personal lives of us all as well as in our collective life as a church and, more specifically, as a Mission Community. It may be because of such a busy and seemingly overcrowded life, that I find it difficult to reflect usefully on events that have punctuated the passage of time since the last Intouch magazine report was submitted.

However, a scan down the South Parade Baptist Church Facebook posts reveals a good number of items worthy of mention. Many spill over into the sphere of whole church or at least another mission community, so I apologise if there is any overlap with news from elsewhere.

An afternoon of classical music from Johann Sebastian Bach to

Ravel played by Joschka Althoff and Hilary Kemp was enjoyed on Saturday 30 September, as a fund raiser for Transformations Leeds. Making a positive impact on the lives of visiting international students is something that the Leadership Team feels Headingley MC would do well to embrace and Transformations Leeds is a charity dedicated to helping those students from other countries during their stay in Leeds.

"Wow! Talk about inspirational."

The weekend running up to the prayer week had an unusual twist. If you had anticipated a mood of calmness to gather our thoughts then think again. It was Andy Kind weekend in Headingley, with an event organised by Sent on the Saturday evening and Andy preaching for us on Sunday 8 October. I have never before



returned from being involved with Sunday School to be greeted with a

chorus of, "Wow! Talk about inspirational" from my son (14 years of age) and my wife. It's never quite the same, listening to a recording of a talk, but I was compelled to do it twice. If you've not heard it, please do find it on the resources section of SPBC website



Andy Kind

The week of prayer began on Monday 9 October for almost five days and a midweek all-nighter. The Headingley building was taken over with several prayer stations and, for those unable to call in, there was a prayer week engagement sheet to enable more far reaching participation. Feedback has been positive and that it was a worthwhile event for the whole church.



There was more International student focus for the Ceilidh this

year, on Friday 13
October, to begin the
Harvest celebration
weekend. It was noted
with some disappointment that very
few foreign students
attended, so there is
some rethinking being
done on how to
encourage them to
come to South Parade

events. On the positive side, the evening was enjoyed by those who attended.

During the end of October and early part of November, The Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box appeal has been running again. 12 November was the final drop off date and it's a pleasure to report that 50 shoe boxes have been collected. It is well worth visiting the website: shoeboxonline. samaritans-purse.org.uk. It is easy to pack and pay for a shoe box online, if you didn't get chance to pack your own this year, and there are lots of other ways to be informed and get involved with this great work.

Richard Sykes
Headingley Leadership Team



24 Hours of Prayer

From 7pm on Friday
17 November to
7pm on Saturday 18 November,
Pray for Leeds hosted twenty-four
hours of continuous prayer for our
city.

The event took place at Gateway Church and saw people from churches across the city join together to pray for the different spheres of life, including arts and media, business, education, politics and many more.

The day of prayer wasn't just confined to the building either. Partway through the event, a dozen people - including our very own Tim Cook - went on campus at the University of Leeds to share God's

love and pray for people on the streets.

To find out more about Pray for Leeds, find them on Facebook and Twitter @prayforleeds.

Nathan Shipley
Associate Pastor

# Headingley Churches Together

We will be **carol singing** at the Arndale Centre on Saturday 9
December from 11.00 to 12.00 (or 12.30 if there are lots of people to sing!) Come along at any time, for however long you can stay. Coffee and cakes are available at the Methodist Church opposite to revive you. Proceeds will go to Wheatfields Hospice. The leaflet we give out to invite people to our Christmas services is being prepared this year by the Vineyard Church.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from 18-25 January, with the theme of "That All May be"

Free" prepared by churches of the Caribbean. The united service will be at St Chad's on Sunday 21 January, at 3.00pm. Ecumenical gettogethers are being arranged for the week - more news of these



later in the weekly notice sheets. A coffee morning to get to know our friends in the other churches will be on Saturday 20 January at Headingley Methodists.

### Pam Roe

SP Rep with Headingley Churches Together

### **Church Meeting**

At the church meeting on 23 November:

 Ruth Hughes, Charles Fletcher and Joe Walsh were elected as Elders.



- Diane Hume and Pete Briggs were elected as Deacons.
- Duncan Stow (Cragg) and Chris Dyson (Sent) were confirmed in their roles of Mission Community Leaders.
- Hannah Preston was thanked for her work as Church Administrator. Kate Churchill's hours have been increased.
- Geoff King has been invited to continue his role as Associate Pastor.
- The Ministry Team and Elders have begun reviewing the Vision and Values of the church and will be looking for input into this from the church,

and will start creating a "road map" to put the Vision into practice. The aim is to launch the renewed Vision at Pentecost next year.

MN

## Why Hadn't I Heard?

South Parade has in the recent past used emails to communicate notice of meetings and elections to members. To do so will be illegal

General Data Protection Regulation from May next year. Under recent legislation (General Data Protection Regulations 2016)

such emails will be regarded as "Direct Marketing" and as such can only be legally sent to individuals who have expressed **explicit prior consent**. The legislation provides for penalties of up to 20 million euros or 4% of the organisation's turnover (ie church income), so we will stay within the law.

Should you wish South Parade to be able to communicate with you by email in the future please send an email to the church secretary secretary@spbc.org.uk with "Email opt in" as the subject line.

# Charles Fletcher

Church Secretary



# **Know and Be Known**

# The Joneses in Normandy

Colin and Jill Jones have been working with a church in Lisieux in France regularly for several years. Jill writes with news from their recent stay in Normandy with an appeal to help a particular family.

hankfully the Brexit
negotiations have made no
difference to the warmth of
our acceptance by the five mission
communities which constitute the
network of mission communities

radiating from Lisieux in Normandy. Quite the reverse. "You're just part of the family now" were the words of welcome when we arrived for a service in one of them one Sunday morning. We have been overwhelmed and humbled by the love and trust shown to us wherever we have been involved.

Our schedule for the four Sundays we are there is organised by the senior pastor, Francis Dognon, who has now taken on more of what we would understand as a regional minister role, or for those of us with a Methodist background, a Circuit superintendent. The difference is the geography. Three of the communities are about 40 miles away from Lisieux and the nearest is about 20 miles! This visit Colin was leading worship every Sunday at Lisieux, which is an afternoon service at 3.00pm and I was down to preach on all four Sundays, at Le Neubourg, Honfleur and twice at Lisieux. Sunday was not exactly a day of rest and I think

that was the first time we were involved on all four, but we received as much if not more than we gave out.

This time Colin took the decision not to run the gospel choir as we knew

several of the regulars would not be around for the period of our visit, and that included the very talented lady who sings the solos. It was missed and it will definitely restart during our next visit. The prayer needs to be that they will get the idea that they need to invite their non-believing friends to come as well,



# because it was always hoped it would be a means of outreach.

The French love singing gospel songs in English. They did struggle though with Colin's arrangement of "This is the day the Lord has made" (zis is ze day....)

The pastoral challenge in Lisieux was to "know and be known". We continue to make time to be with people, and to help and encourage in whatever way presents itself.

Café duty featured most days for one or other of us, or both, and it was really encouraging to see so many people who were new to us but who are obviously now regularly in the café. Conversations produced comments such as "This café is good for the area", and "I've been looking for a nice place like this [un bon coin] to chat to people. I spend a lot of time on my own." One young man came several times to chat with Colin about his desire to live and work in England, and he did speak English quite competently, but somehow the conversation took a direction which opened up the possibility of his saying "I am not a believer, but I would like to be." We are praying that this lovely

little café so placed in the heart of this underprivileged area will become a place of worship as well as service. Please pray for Tim and Philippe as they seek God's leading and direction for the café.

A pastoral role was the original challenge by Francis when we first started to go to Lisieux in September 2012. "Know and be known". We continue to make time to be with people, and to help and encourage in whatever way presents itself. One unexpected way this time was to be the main house removal service for a Mauritian couple moving from one side of Lisieux to the other. The hire of a trailer, and the dedication of two young men for the heavy stuff, saw a successful move. Life is nothing but surprising at times.

refugee family has just been allowed to live in the space at the church usually reserved for people who come for short stays to help, and they moved in only two or three days after we arrived. The circumstances that have led this little family to flee from their country (European) are not the usual ones you might expect. E (26), his wife J (22) and their gorgeous daughter N (3) fled because they were in danger of their lives at the hands of the mafia

in their country. After E's sister was abducted (apparently a common occurrence there) and E denounced the people responsible publicly, he was badly beaten up, and was given to understand that his life was now in danger. The family managed to get into France where they were granted asylum-seeker status and ended up in Lisieux.

They have a strong faith in Christ, which gave E the courage to do what he did, but now they face a very different future. In October this year their second appeal against the rejection of their asylum claim failed. They are struggling against the fact that that there are many economic refugees in France at the moment and like many countries there is the beginning of a crackdown on how many people will be allowed in.

The Lisieux Baptist group have installed them on the church site in two rooms and a bathroom. They use the church kitchen and have access to food banks. They have been amazingly supported by the small church family (which itself has quite a number unemployed people), both by gifts of money and of food and clothes. The reality is that they need to survive in France for another three years at which point the state is obliged to give them legal papers and documents.

Three years doesn't sound a long time, but when you are facing each day with such uncertainties and unknowns, it must seem a very long time.

They are a lovely Christian family. J now cleans the church and its premises, and E is very handy at DIY so he has a list which will keep him busy for some time! He is also offering his help free of charge to those in the church who might need it, and to customers up at the café. What an opportunity to witness!

ut they will need help that endures for the three years. If from time to time anyone feels like sending them even a very modest sum of money, Colin and I will get it to them. Having just lived side by side with one situation of crisis, and shared a kitchen and conversation and hugs and laughter with one family in great need, who now have to live in totally changed circumstances, perhaps this is one way of offering a life-line to one family who had the courage to stand up against injustice and who now have to pay the price. Please pray for them.

Jill Jones

Headingley Morning Mission Community

# Jane's Journeys

# New Adventures for Jane Waites

South Parade member Jane Waites returned from Albania last year after long-term service in a school there with BMS World Mission. Here she looks forward to what God has in store next.

am thankful to God for so many blessings given in the last twelve

months since finishing with BMS World Mission. My first blessing is the memories of support, encouragement, and prayer from you all over the years. Your continued friendship is very precious to me. I truly believe that we are all part of God's plan, playing our strategic part like pieces of a puzzle; without them all, the picture cannot be completed.

I have to admit, as expected, the last year has been hard. Returning to a home that hasn't been home, so much uprooted change. Never any doubts that I made the right decision, however right doesn't always mean easy. I very much appreciate the time and care everyone has given me to adjust and find my feet thus far.

Earlier in the year I had the privilege of going down to Penhurst, near Battle, for a Re-entry Retreat. This was a lovely gift from BMS World Mission, very positive and helpful. It was lovely to connect with others in similar situations and great to meet up with other BMS finishers, Alex and Hugh Anderson, Debbie and Dug Benn.

**Iane Waites** 

I am very excited to let you know that I will be joining the work of SHARE Education Services. I will be working as a consultant, supporting families, both in transition and while living overseas, with educational issues they face when trying to provide the best educa-

tion possible for their children while on the field. This position will begin officially in January 2018.

I face a number of challenges ahead, gathering a prayer support team, raising the finance (being based in the UK, my target is £28,000), working from home, alone – a huge challenge as I have always worked from a communal base in school. Re-establishing my place in church,



I am very grateful for your continued prayers and interest in my new ventures. I need prayer partners, encouragers, friends and supporters.

home group and discovering where I fit as part of my church's outreach.

I know some of you have walked this very path, having others around who understand without words has been another great support.

am now working on gathering my new support team. I am very grateful for your continued prayers and interest in my new ventures. While I am seeking financial support, just as importantly, I need prayer partners, encouragers, friends and supporters.

Those I can come and share with and who will partner with me through the ups and downs of life. To other personal news, I am not sure if you have picked up about my new job. I was working at the local coffee shop, but that unfortunately closed. I quickly found a new job and now work part-time at Caring For Life.

hat a wonderful answer to prayer it has been. I am so grateful to God for his provision. The new environment has filled a hole in my life I hadn't realised was there and was a deep one. I am now engaged in a Christian work environment, that suits my personality so well. This job will also continue when I start with the new work in January, though I will only be doing ten hours a week. While helping financially, the biggest support will be in giving me social contact each week in what could be a very solitary position.

Looking forward to new adventures together,

In His Hands and with Christ's Love

Jane Waites

### ...involved...

If you would like to continue to support Jane please contact her directly: Find out more about Share at www.shareeducation.org
Find our more about Caring for Life at www.caringforlife.co.uk

# **Thoroughly Equipped**

# Leeds School of Theology

Throughout this year we've been meeting participants on the Leeds School of Theology course. Nathan Shipley asked Rio Walsh how the course was going.

Name: Rio Walsh

Age: 23

Occupation: Administrator for Leeds Faith in Schools 3 days a week and SPBC intern I day a week.

Mission Community: Headingley

Morning and Sent

Why have you embarked on the Leeds School Of Theology?

I really enjoy learning, and I wanted to understand the Bible better and grow in my relationship with God. It was a great opportunity for me as I've been able to do it as part of my internship at SPBC, so I've had a chance to process and follow up outside the monthly sessions.

What are you enjoying about the adventure so far? Year One has been brilliant in lots of ways. I've loved getting to know other people from South Parade doing LSOT a lot better. I've found it so valuable to engage with some tough questions and tough parts of the Bible. For me, one of the best things is the intention of the course to inspire and equip you to work through questions raised and explore the Bible, for yourself. I believe this is really important.

It's a great space to think things through, be equipped and inspired, and give God the opportunity to change you

How do you hope to grow through the experience?

I think and hope LSOT will have a long-term impact for me because

the things we discuss relate to real life and our relationships with God – so it's natural to continue working out our thoughts and learning from God. I really feel doing LSOT has changed my relationship with



God. One example would be that I feel more comfortable and secure in having questions now than I did before I started.

What would you say to encourage people to start in 2018?

f you can find a way to spare a day a month – do it! I really think they've done a good job of pitching it to work well for everyone, regardless of your prior knowledge or church tradition. It's a great space to think things through, be equipped and inspired, and give God the opportunity to change you. It can be a really valua-

ble investment in your relationship with God – a great way to spend your time and money!

How can we pray for you as you continue with the LSOT adventure?
As I hope to start Year Two please pray that I would continue to engage with the course and commit even more fully to processing my thoughts, sharing with others, growing closer to God and just making the most of it. Thank you!

# Rio Walsh

SPBC Intern

### ...inspired...

Find out more about the Leeds School of Theology by speaking to Nathan or Rio or by visiting leeds-school-of-theology.org.





Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour, All for love's sake becamest poor; Thrones for a manger didst surrender, Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.

Frank Houghton



# **Relay Blog**

# Working with Leeds Christian Unions

Tim Jackson writes: Around this time last year, I was considering doing the Relay programme and subsequently applied for a place. By the grace of God, I now find myself two months in to the programme and writing the Blog update.

elay had appealed to me as a student. The combination of being invested in and having opportunities to invest in others was attractive. Having regular, scheduled time to study about God in more depth through the programme stood out to me in particular. This was certainly influenced by having received wonderful teaching and training at UCCF conferences as a student, leaving me wanting to know and love Christ more for myself, as well as desiring to tell others about Him. I figured that Relay would give me the opportunity to receive this kind of teaching in an even more focussed way.

Relay would also allow me to

continue to be involved with sharing the gospel among students, which I had enjoyed being a part of as a member of the Leeds University Union Christian Union (LUUCU).

With this in mind, I was keen to apply for Relay.

And it hasn't disappointed.

During the last month, I have received teaching and training in a variety of ways. At the start of the month, I attended apologetics training across two days with fellow Relay Workers from the region. This was a great chance to practice giving talks tackling common objections to the Christian faith, in a safe and encouraging

I enjoy being able to meet regularly with students who are keen to look at God's Word together and consider how we can live and speak for Him

looked to sharpen one another up in these skills. Near the end of the month, the whole of the UCCF team across Yorkshire and the North East – that is the Staff Workers, Team Leader, Head of Creative Evangelism as well as the Relay Workers – got together for Team Days, where we received fantastic teaching on Mark's gospel, which enthused me for God and His Word once again.

environment, where we

The weekly study programme and regular supervisions have also been inspiring and helpful as I grow in my faith. It has been a privilege to spend time developing skills like apologetics, in addition to growing in knowledge and love of God.

It is a further privilege to be able to dedicate time to pass on what I have been learning into the context of Christian Unions. I enjoy being able to meet regularly with students who are keen to look at God's Word together, have our hearts warmed to Christ and consider how we can live and speak for Him.



LUUCU singing praise to God at the Weekend Away

t "Forum North East +" (a training day for CU leaders in the region) and at the LUUCU Weekend Away this month, I, under God and His Word, also had the pleasure of leading seminars helping to equip students in their evangelism.

It has been an honour to be involved with the Relay programme so far – I am glad that I applied this time a year ago, and look forward to how God will lead and use me during the rest of the programme and beyond.

# Tim Jackson

Relay Worker in Leeds with the Uni of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University

### ...informed...

Find out more and how to continue to support Tim this year at www.uccf.org.uk/our-team/north-east/tim-jackson



# **News from Zimbabwe**

Steve Ford spent some time in Zimbabwe on a mission farm with a primary school and Bible school back in 1990 before coming to Leeds. He receives regular updates from Zimbabwe and has recently received this one.

Dear Steve & Caroline,

e were able to give another bike to Rev Godfrey Nyarongwe. A few years ago he was the vicar of Chegutu. During the split in the Anglican Church here he came under a lot of persecution and once had to hide in our house. Anglican ministers in Zimbabwe are moved round every eight years. He was lately ministering at Glendale but has now been moved to St John's Mission Chikwaka tribal lands. His wife is a teacher supplementing their income, and remains at Glendale with two children until she can get a transfer.

Here is what Godfrey wrote to me.

"I am doing well with the bike especially home visits around the school, thank you indeed. My problem is with the out stations of St Johns Mission District. They are far and I need a vehicle since they are far away from the mission.

- St Bernards is 10km from the mission.
- St Judes is 35km from the mission.
- St Stephen is 60km from the mission.
- St Gabriel is 80km from the mission.
- St Barnabas Rusike 40km.
- St Francis 35km
- St Johns is 30m from mission rectory.
- St Johns High School is 200m from the rectory.
- Shearley Cripps Orphanage 100m from the rectory.
- Sisters Convent 100m from the rectory.

To cover all the stations I have to do three Missal services every Sunday. I have one Missal service every Friday at



7am. I give one Missal service every Monday at the orphanage at 5pm. I go to Harare every Wednesday with Shearley Cripps orphanage administrator to get bread, milk, meat and any tablets for sick children.

Apart from these services, there are undiarised funeral services, memorial services, and meetings. Thus on Mondays I have Primary and Secondary school assembly services. On the first Thursday of the month I offer Missal Service to the Mothers Union Members at St Johns station. So thus my

monthly work."

While at Glendale, Godfrey managed to raise money for a parish car but his present parish is too poor. He is on WhatsApp and if anyone wishes to partner with him I can provide his number. He is a dear man, has been to our pastors' conference, and is an example of "a life laid down".

Celia & John

### ...informed...

To find out more about the Mission work, please speak to Steve Ford at Headingley Morning Mission Community.



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

www.spbc.org.uk



# A New Climate For Peace

A New Climate for Peace

# A Call for Prayer and Action

John Lockwood suggests that a major new report is an urgent matter for Christians to act on and pray about.

his is an independent report commissioned by the G7 countries meeting recently in Bonn under German Presidency to consider this problem. For those interested I have a digital copy of this massive report. The report was part-

Climate change constitutes a major global threat in the 21st century.
Climate impacts know no bounda-

ly financed by the UK Foreign and

Commonwealth Office.

ries. They cross boundaries, whether of nation, sector or agency. In 2017 we have seen several examples of major climatic impacts, many

in relatively poor regions. The greatest risks emerge when the impacts of climate change overburden weak states. Climate change is the "ultimate threat multiplier" generating many very dangerous situations.

I would like to suggest that it is a topic for both action on our part and also prayer.

# John Lockwood

Cragg Mission Community

### ...informed...

Visit www.newclimateforpeace.org for more information

The world and all that is in it belong to the LORD; the earth and all who live on it are his.

He built it on the deep waters beneath the earth and laid its foundations in the ocean depths.



Psalm 24.1-2 (GNT)



# Prayer Diary



December 2017 & January 2018



DECEMBER			
Sun	3	The Ministry Team	
Mon	4	Anne Morden	
Tue	5	Children who attended recent Rewind to Christmas events	
Wed	6	Your Mission Community Leadership Team	
Thu	7	Kate Burkett & Teddy Praise Christingle service today	
Fri	8	Hannah Preston	
Sat	9	Headingley Churches Together carol singing today	
Sun	10	Preachers and worship leaders in all Mission Communities	
Mon	Π	Christians working in science	
Tue	12	Rooted	
Wed	13	Our friend in North Africa	
Thu	14	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader	
Fri	15	The church office	
Sat	16	Cragg Hill's carol service	
Sun	17	Visitors to Christmas services today	

Mon	18	Geoff King			
Tue	19	Local government councillors and leaders			
Wed	20	Ann and David MacFarlane as they settle back in the UK			
Thu	21	ABC Coffee Shop carol singing today			
Fri	22	The Deacons			
Sat	23	Nathan Shipley			
Sun	24	Junior Church leaders and helpers			
Mon	25	Celebrate the birth of Immanuel			
Tue	26	Caring for Life			
Wed	27	Jane Waites			
Thu	28	The Elders			
Fri	29	Overseas students in Leeds over the holidays			
Sat	30	Levi Booth in Japan			
Sun	31	Your place within South Parade			
		JANUARY 2018			
Mon	I	Someone you know who doesn't know Jesus			
Tue	2	Kate Churchill			
Wed	3	Tim Jackson and his role as UCCF Relay Worker			
Thu	4	Young People meeting in Cell Groups			
Fri	5	ABC Coffee Shop			
Sat	6	Transformations Leeds			
Sun	7	Connect Mission Community			
Mon	8	Andrew Bedingham and the work of the CAP centre			
Tue	9	Missionaries with BMS World Mission			
Wed	10	TLG mentors working with children in schools			

Thu	П	St George's Crypt	
Fri	12	Work with children and young people across the church	
Sat	13	The Men's Prayer Breakfast	
Sun	14	Sam and Katie at their commissioning service today	
Mon	15	Those in hospital or waiting for treatment	
Tue	16	Cragg Mission Community	
Wed	17	The Barnabas Bunch	
Thu	18	Sent Mission Community	
Fri	19	Drop-in @ Cragg	
Sat	20	Christian Unity events this week	
Sun	21	Your Mission Community	
Mon	22	Peter Morden	
Tue	23	Katharine Widdowson, church treasurer	
Wed	24	Chris Gnanakan	
Thu	25	Charles Fletcher, church secretary	
Fri	26	Students at the Leeds School of Theology	
Sat	27	Pray for another local church	
Sun	28	The Arabic Christian Fellowship	
Mon	29	Under 5s work across the church	
Tue	30	Heather McLeen	
Wed	31	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy	
FEBRUARY			
Thu	I	The Joanna Project	
Fri	2	Headingley Morning Mission Community	
Sat	3	Paul Rockley	

# An Hymn on the Nativity Of My Saviour

I sing the birth was born tonight,
The author both of life and light;
The Angels so did sound it.
And like the ravish'd shepherds said,
Who saw the light, and were afraid,
Yet search'd, and true they found it.

The Son of God, the Eternal King,
That did us all salvation bring,
And freed the soul from danger;
He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,
Was now laid in a manger.

The Father's wisdom will'd it so,
The Son's obedience knew no No,
Both wills were in one stature;
And as that wisdom had decreed,
The Word was now made Flesh indeed,
And took on him our nature.

What comfort by him do we win,
Who made himself the price of sin,
To make us heirs of glory!
To see this Babe, all innocence,
A martyr born in our defence;
Can man forget this story?

**Ben Jonson** 

# Free from Depression

Kamala's Story

Following the 2015 Nepal earthquakes, your giving to BMS World Mission is helping people rebuild their lives.

undreds of thousands of pounds were given to the BMS Nepal earthquake appeal. £100,000 of that has gone to Gorkha district, one of the areas hardest hit by the earthquake. Here, we're helping around 12,000 people by rebuilding homes, provid-

ing healthcare services, and empowering people through self-help groups and advocacy.

One of those you're helping is 28-year-old Kamala. "I had depression," she says. "Because of this, I couldn't work to support my family. I had to quit my teacher training." As a girl, Kamala suffered with bone problems in her legs. At 12 she had surgery, which initially worked. But six years later her condition came back, worse than before. The problems led to an infection and made it extremely painful to move.

"I would just lie in bed all day," says Kamala. "It was awful." Her physical pain massively impacted her mental health, too. She stopped speaking to her friends and family. She started to lose hope.

Things got even more difficult for Kamala when she lost her home following the earthquakes. But she wasn't ready to give up. She joined a self-help group, which BMS helped set up to aid people's recovery. People in the group encouraged her to see a doctor and they prayed for her.

Kamala met a BMS partner and got financial help. She was able to go to a

hospital, where she finally got the right medications to treat her depression and legs. Along the way, she became a Christian.

"I feel much better now," says Kamala, with the biggest grin. "My dream is still to be a teacher someday."

Kamala is just one of the people your giving is helping in Gorkha. Empowering people to chase fullness of life in Nepal – that's what your giving to BMS enables. Thank you.



# **Poetry to Ponder**

# **Christmas Questions**

Catriona Mossop introduces another poem, and asks us to get involved with issues that affect the vulnerable in our midst.

t is Christmas. Time for baby talk? So here is a poem by the lovely Herbert Brokering (page 28). He was a child psychologist, Lutheran minister, composer, author and poet. After World War II he worked with Germany refugees. He promoted healing, justice and peace, leading more than 100 pilgrimages. He wrote about babies, angels, cats and dogs, stars and sky



and wonderful things. He even looks like a bearded character that appears at this time of year.

Is this poem about Jesus? What does a tiny baby need? It is my job to assess what babies need. So here is a quick assessment of Baby Jesus. Vulnerable, poor and on the run? Maybe? Mary, a teenager? Yes but she wasn't brought up in our stretched care system. She has parents and at least one significant female figure (Elizabeth?) Joseph, not the biological father? But he seems committed and reliable. He has a trade so competent migrants? The baby is swaddled (thanks Luke for the info) so loving and attentive parents? Maybe a quick check that the hay is dry and I would be out of that stable door. No major concerns?

Was Jesus vulnerable? Yes, of course. All babies are vulnerable. But was he poor? Probably but not destitute? Destitution is poverty so acute that those afflicted can't afford to eat properly, stay warm and dry, and keep clean. Do we expect to see destitution in our wealthy

country? Surely we have a welfare system designed to prevent destitution? A complicated welfare system that someone felt needed to be simplified, hence Universal Credit.

The plan is for Universal Credit to replace six benefits with one. It has been gradually rolled out throughout the country. My sister-in-law works in a Primary School in an area where Universal Credit has already been rolled out. She tells me that the food banks in the area are empty and the Citizen's Advice Bureau is overwhelmed. The parents wait over six weeks for their benefits to be re-instated and the children always go back for seconds during school mealtime, there may be no other food that day.

Hopefully we won't see an increased number of cold and hungry children.

niversal Credit is coming to West Yorkshire, it will be rolled out fully in Bradford in March 2018 and Leeds in June 2018. Hopefully by then the system will be running more efficiently. Hopefully I won't see an increased number of cold and hungry children. Hopefully all the reports on the poor getting poorer are wrong. Hopefully the budget has meant a

change to the plan by the time this is printed.

Just in case, can you please, please give generously to the food banks. But more importantly can you please be aware and maybe get involved if you aren't already. You know about Christians Against Poverty, have you read about the "Churches campaign for Universal credit change"? Maybe revisit "Leeds Poverty Truth" or read Graham Brownlee's blog, "Universal Credit - Really?" (moortownbaptistchurch.org). Google the "Equality Trust" between mince pies?

I will be eternally grateful for baby Jesus and his gift to me. What would he think of me if I don't tell you what I witness? I see the poor getting poorer and I see destitute families. I would like to see his kingdom come but until then some questions from Herbert Brokering's poem.

What did the baby want to see? What did tiny baby pray?

I am almost certain it wasn't just pasta, baked beans and UHT milk.

Merry Christmas

# Catriona Mossop

Headingley Morning Mission Community



# **God's Love Will Never End**

Angels saw the baby born and oh how they did sing. A hundred questions they did ask about this tiny thing.

Where does tiny baby live before it comes to earth? Is there life the baby has before the baby birth?

What does baby want to see before the baby's born? Is there sight as pretty as a sunrise in the morn?

How does tiny baby love before it makes a cry? Is there light or sound it knows as stars inside the sky?

What does tiny baby sing before it comes to earth? Does it dance and does it hum before the baby birth?

What does tiny baby pray before it bows its head? Does baby feel the love of God and stories God has said?

What does tiny baby need I asked my angel friend? All that baby needs is love, God's love that will not end.

# The Rev Dr Herbert Brokering

Thank you to Wheat Ridge Ministries for allowing us to reprint this poem. Find more poems at www.wheatridge.org/resources/devotional-resources/the-best-of-brokering/



# Ford's Focus

# John's Gospel Part 16: God in the Midst

Steve Ford's in-depth study of John's gospel reaches Chapter 12.

esus has just arrived back in Bethany, the place where he had raised Lazarus from the dead. and back with his friends, Martha. Mary and Lazarus. He is attending a meal that has been prepared in his honour. John, the writer, takes great care in telling us exactly what each of his hosts are doing. Martha is busy making sure that everyone of the guests are fed and watered, ensuring that everything is happening, she is so preoccupied with service, appearance and protocol that she misses out on the presence of lesus.



Lazarus was reclining at the table that Martha was busy waiting at: this was quite normal and not out of place at this time in history, but shows how steeped in tradition he was and therefore blind to the real person of Jesus, that of "God in their midst".

Mary, on the other hand, was preoccupied with lesus, to the extent that she took an expensive oil and anointed the feet of Jesus. Mary had recognised that Jesus was both Saviour and Lord and was worth making this sacrifice for. It appears she was oblivious to the fact that this ointment could have been sold and the money donated to feeding the poor. Judas Iscariot makes this point and revealed his heart; he was more inclined to appearance and self-pretence rather than worship. We read that he stole from the money purse for his own ends: he was living a lie, a lie that ultimately cost his sanity, peace and his life.

The point is that before any of us can serve the poor, who will always be there, we first have to fall at the feet of Jesus and recognise Him in our midst.

Mary went straight to the heart of the matter and demonstrated her reverence for a man who she realised was the Messiah

Martha was preoccupied with serving, Lazarus was content to recline and eat what was served, but Mary went straight to the heart of the matter and anointed the feet of Jesus and demonstrated her love, respect and reverence for a man who she realised was the Messiah, the "God in the midst" whose life was sent to demonstrate another way.

In verses 9-11 we read that many

Jews knew he was in the house with Lazarus and so dropped by in order to observe Lazarus, a man raised from the dead, a phenomenon worth seeing.

We read that many people believed in Jesus on account of Lazarus and this angered the chief priests, those in authority in the synagogue. How sad it is when one great act of mercy on a fellow human becomes the object of division and destruction. In this story it results in a plot to even kill Lazarus. Surely the answer is to explore and accept that "God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform" and to acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah and has come to save us all and requires us to bear witness to who he is.

Then we encounter a very familiar story, the account of Jesus making a triumphal entry on a donkey's colt, a colt that had never been ridden before.

ethany is two miles outside Jerusalem, word had spread that Jesus was coming, the man who could raise dead men from their tombs. We see from this

section that those people who had witnessed the miracle of Lazarus were the ones who bore witness (verse 17): that is what each and everyone of us has to

do, "bear witness" to the goodness and greatness of "God in the midst". When we do that many will



follow Jesus just like it is reported in verse 19, causing the Pharisees to question what they were actually doing, who came to the conclusion that they were doing nothing and acknowledged that the "world had gone after Him".

We need to change our heart and attitude and discern with spiritual wisdom "God in the midst"

The Pharisees, who were supposed to be able to bring people to God, had recognised their failing in being able to "show the way" mainly because they had not witnessed or encountered "God in the midst" and had hardened their hearts to what God was doing in their vicinity. We all have to acknowledge what God is doing in our vicinity, it may not be to our liking, but we need to change our heart and attitude and discern with spiritual wisdom "God in the midst" and then give support and become a witness to the great outpouring of God's grace and mercy.

In verses 20-26 we are presented with some Greeks who want to see Jesus. They are in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They would have been Jews or of Jewish descent who had been scattered at some

point in Israel's history and were now Greek. They would not have been in Jerusalem celebrating Passover unless they knew what Passover was and its significance to them as lews.

They approached Philip with the question "sir we want to meet lesus?" These Greeks had heard about lesus, His fame had spread as far as Greece. Notice what Philip does: he goes to find Andrew, another disciple, and together they go and ask lesus if these Greeks can have an audience with him. Jesus answer appears somewhat strange, rather than say "yes no problem" he replied with "now the time has come for the Son of Man to come into his glory". In other words it's not me the man you need to seek, it is God my Father who you really should be seeking.

This is true for us all, in the absence of the physical man Jesus we all need to seek the spiritual man God the Father. Jesus recognised and knew that everything is spiritual and true life comes from the source, God the Father, "God in the midst". We will continue to explore this theme of the reality of "God in our Midst" in the next instalment.

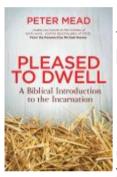
# Steve Ford

Headingley Morning Mission Community blog.steveford.me.uk



# **Recommended Reads**

Three more recommendations of inspiring reads from across the Mission Communities, plus a listening suggestion too.



# Pleased to Dwell by Peter Mead

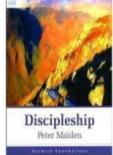
recently started reading a book I was recommended years ago, which

looks at Christ (and Christmas) through the lens of the Old Testament. So far I'm learning about who God is, I'm getting my head around the Bible AND it's exciting.

The book is called *Pleased to Dwell* and it's written by Peter Mead. It says on the back that it's good as a Christmas gift, and I very much agree. This is a great gift for a Christian because it will help them grow. The truth is that the best thing we have is our relationship with God, and if we're honest we

don't need any more stuff. Let's give gifts that have real value this Christmas: telling people about Jesus and helping each other love Him more.

Rio Walsh SPBC Intern



# Discipleship by Peter Maiden

great accompaniment to our own Peter (Morden's) series

on discipleship – this book helps us to look more closely at what whole life discipleship means for every believer. Sharing his own struggles and experiences as a disciple, the writer gives a clear Biblical understanding of what discipleship looks like in the 21st Century. He says "The only response to the call of Jesus open to us is the response of submission to him as the Lord of our lives, a submission that can only

be expressed in whole life discipleship".

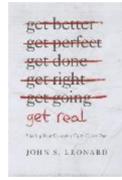
> This book helps us to look more closely at what whole life discipleship means for every believer.

In five easy to read sections – "Principles", "Whole life discipleship", "The tools of the trade", "What is it all for?" and "It's impossible!" we learn that it is possible to follow lesus in this way because the life of a disciple is a life of relationship between us and lesus. No area of life is excluded: our time, money, work, spiritual gifts and spiritual disciplines and much more is covered. At the end of each chapter there are questions to think about either on our own or with others. plus recommended books if we want to go deeper into the topic. Being a former Trustee of Keswick



Ministries and International Director of Operation Mobilisation, Peter Maiden is well qualified to share his reflections on this important issue. A book to study and go back to from time to time; whether you're a new believer or have been "on the road" for some time it is well worth taking the time to consider carefully what it has to say.

# Susan Walker



# Get Real: Sharing Your Everyday Faith Every Day by John S Leonard

et Real is a book which sets out to demonstrate that evangelism can be radically different to what we might traditionally understand it to be. The book dispels the idea that evangelism is a task for the kind of people that can sell snow to Eskimos. Instead, John S Leonard sets out a range of ideas and techniques that can help any Christian to share about Jesus naturally in everyday situations.

I have enjoyed reading and discussing the chapters of this book in my supervisions through the Relay programme. Pete, Lowri and I have all been spurred on by the book as we have realised that evangelism is a lot less daunting than we often imagine. Simple principles and relatable examples have helped show us that sharing about Jesus can be so much more natural, and therefore easier. than we might typically think. We have also been encouraged as we have put some of the techniques into practice, and seen God work through them.

I recommend this book for anyone who seeks to sharpen up their evangelism for Jesus, and especially for those who feel daunted by the idea of it in the first place.

# Tim Jackson



# Ghost of a King by The Gray Havens

ne of the advantages to being a self-employed tradesman is that there is often opportunity to listen to the radio while I work. UCB2 is sometimes my station of choice and a couple of weeks ago there was a pleasant change from the usual lightweight contemporary gospel fodder they are prone to broadcast. I didn't catch the name of the band or the track but was able to look it up on the play list when I got home. Spotify was then engaged to supply the whole album in question, released in 2016 and their previous debut release – Fire and Stone.

The Gray Havens are a husband and wife duo David and Licia Radford. If the name David Radford is familiar then it could be because he was one of the stars of American Idol series 5, he got knocked out from the top 20. Far away from the "fame" of American Idol and the character that was portrayed through that series. David is all about the music and communicating God through the interweaving of musical storytelling. There is a distinct departure from the trend of American evangelical singer / song writers, with their breathy intonation and exaggerated pronunciation of words like "savioouuurrrhhh", if you see what I mean! David Radford has almost a British folk style to his delivery of the lyrics, complimented by Licia highlighting occasional phrases with her harmonies.

It was the title track, Ghost of a King, that I had heard on the radio and it

appears at number three on a track listing of ten songs in total. There are some complex rhythms in it (to my ear anyway), which is the reason that it registered with me earlier in the day.

The song puts the birth of Jesus in the context of the Fall, the trials of Jesus and the world being redeemed from exile

t doesn't do it justice to describe it as background music, because there are so many elements of it that are striking and arresting, both lyrically and musically. I really like it when I listen to music and think, "ooh, those words are interesting. I wonder what they mean?", or the layering of instrumentation, or change of tempo show a depth of thought and sophistication without being complicated. This album has all that and a healthy dose of spiritual integrity too.

Those who are numbered among my Facebook associates may have seen my link to the YouTube video

performance of the penultimate track, At Last, The King. I prefer to listen to the album version for its broader use of instruments and more polished production, but the simple three piece rendition and emotional delivery of the words in the video is also something special. It has a hint of Christmas, with reference to the angels in the highest singing glory, but puts the birth of lesus in the context of the fall in the Garden of Eden, the trials of Jesus in the wilderness and the world being redeemed from exile. The repeated phrase on David's guitar starts off gently, builds strongly and then haunts the ending. The drums are played with brushes instead of sticks, another touch showing sophistication, and Licia harmonises the vocals whilst playing key accents on the xylophone. Nice!

If the coming festive season is likely to be occasionally too sickly sweet, you could do worse than cleanse your pallet and soul by letting this album wash over you for about 40 minutes.

# Richard Sykes

Headingley Mission Community

## ...inspired...

If you have a Recommended Read (or Listen!), share with others in the church by sending a review to magazine@spbc.org.uk.



# **Church Noticeboard**

# Thank you!

We've collected over 50 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.







# Men's Breakfast

Saturday 13 January 8.30am, upstairs at Sami's in Chapel Allerton.

We are at a very exciting time in the life of South Parade and its future evolution, and it would be great if we were a place within the wider network of churches where we made it a priority to sustain each other and build each other up as men of God.

Please come along and share in fellowship together. Bring any ideas you may have for future activities that we could enjoy together.

Any questions please email me

Scott Halligan

Headingley Morning Mission Community Leader







### Headingley

Thursday 7 December 10am Teddy Praise: Christingle Fun

Saturday 9 December I Iam Carol Singing at the Arndale Centre

Sunday 17 December 10.30am Festival Service led by the Junior Church

Sunday 17 December 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 23 December 4pm Christingle Service

Sunday 24 December 10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 24 December 6.30pm Christmas Eve Worship

Monday 25 December 10.30am Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday 31 December 10.30am Morning Service



**Café Church**, ABC Coffee Shop, Holt Park 21 December 2.30pm Carol Service

### Cragg Hill

Saturday 16 December 4pm Carol Service

Sunday 24 December 10.30am Nativity Service

Monday 25 December 10.30am Christmas Day Service



For more Christmas news and events visit see the latest church notice sheet, visit the church website or contact the church office.







Headingley 10.30am Sunday 14 January 2018



Equipping the local church to reach the nations in Leeds



# Seminars will include:

- Understanding Japanese students
- everyday
- · Integrating the nations into your church
- Sharing Jesus in the
   Discipling Chinese for returning to China

Where?

St George's Church Centre.

Leeds, LS1 3DL

Free parking available

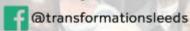
in Joseph's Well car

park: LS3 1AB

Saturday 6th January 2018 | 9.30am - 4pm

# Tickets:

£5 in advance £7.50 on the door **Including** Hot lunch



Book tickets through Facebook

More info: phil.thomas@transformationsleeds.org.uk





SOUTH PARADE BAPTIST CHURCH **Transformations** 







# Christmasudoku

here are two stages to this Christmas prize puzzle. First find the numbers indicated by the clues A to H. Then fit those numbers into the standard Sudoku

grid on the opposite page and complete the puzzle. We've done "A" for you to show you how it works.

When you've completed the puzzle, send the single number in the circled square to magazine@spbc.org.uk be-

fore 20 January 2018 for a chance of a prize.



**B** "And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night" Luke 2 verse \_\_\_\_ **MINUS** Number of Ministry Team members called "Kate"\_\_\_ = \_\_\_

C	The traditional number of
Santa'	s reindeer, including Rudolph
=	_

**D** "From The Ministry Team"

letter always starts in Intouch on page \_\_\_\_

E Number of Ministry Team members whose first name begins with "P"

F The time of Headingley's Christingle Service (23

Dec) \_\_\_\_ pm

**G** "The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was." Matthew 2 verse \_\_\_\_

H The time of Cragg's Carol Service (16 December) \_\_\_\_ pm
PLUS Number of verses usually sung to Away in a Manger \_\_\_=

	9			5			В	1
				1		9	5	
			D		2			
		7	G			5	E	4
9		2	<b>7</b> <sup>A</sup>		5	1		6
F	6	5			8	H		
			2		1			
	2	С		8				
5	1			3			4	

"Paul and Barnabas have been to Derbe and they go along the A50 to Lystra. I don't know if you know but most of the Book of Acts is set in the East Midlands."



## Andy Kind at South Parade Headingley 8/10/17

Andy's talk is available at the Resources section of the church website www.spbc.org.uk





# Possible Meanings of the Advent Candles

# CHRISTIANITY EXPLODED

The four Sundays of Advent

#10

- Hope, Love, Joy, Peace
- Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherds, Angels
- The four centuries between the Old and New Testaments
- God's People, the Prophets, John the Baptist, Mary
- Prophets, Angels, Shepherds, Magi
- · A fully insured and fire risk-assessed location-specific event (candles not to be lit)
- A recreation of a classic Two Ronnies sketch



christianityexploded.tumblr.com



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

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

Senior Minister Peter Morden
Minister Paul Rockley

Associate Pastor for Nathan Shipley Youth and Young Adults

Children's Worker Heather McLeen
Associate Pastor Geoff King
Church Administrator Kate Churchill
Under 5s Co-ordinator Kate Burkett

Elders Andrew Bedingham, Steve Burras,

Freeman Dumenu,

Charles Fletcher (Church Secretary),

Ruth Hughes, John Pelham, Sue Ricketts, Joe Walsh

South Parade Baptist Church Kirkstall Lane, Headingley LEEDS LS6 3LF 0113 275 4989 www.spbc.org.uk info@spbc.org.uk





Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.



Luke 2.19 (NIV)



