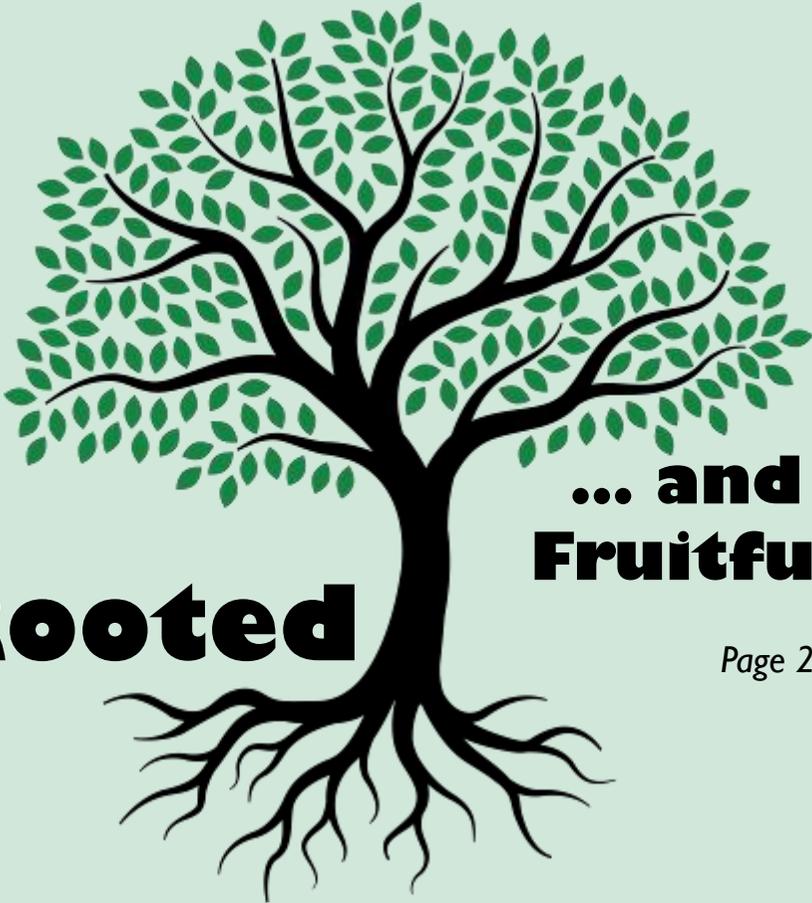
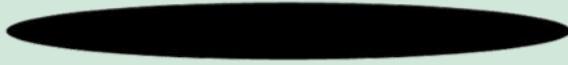


intouch



**... and
Fruitful**

Rooted

Page 28

The Prayer Diary is deliberately placed at the centre of *Intouch*, as it's supposed to be the heart of the magazine, and the main reason for producing it. This isn't a magazine to read and discard - please remember to take out the middle pages and use the Prayer Diary to help you pray daily for the work of the church. At the back of it you'll see pictures of some of our members who serve abroad, to help us remember them in prayer. This month's magazine also includes a postcard from Tim Jackson in Austria (page 30) and extracts from the prayer letters of Jane Waites (page 26) and Levi Booth (page 14). Tim and Levi have also recommended books to read (page 32)!

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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

Change From the Inside Out

As we approach Pentecost we celebrate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in a new and fresh way on God's people (Acts 2). This is an exciting time of the year for us as we praise God for this gracious gift and resolve once more to depend on the power of the Spirit in all we do.



but because we are moving forward together. We have made some changes to our structure so we are “one church, three sites, many gatherings”. We have adopted a new purpose statement, “Passion for God, love for people, heart for mission”. And we are working on some values together, currently expressed as “following Jesus, the centrality of the Bible, engaging in mission, embracing adventure and faithful in prayer”.

I do believe these are exciting times for us as a church, not just because it's Pentecost

We look forward to welcoming Matt Wright when he joins us



Personnel wise, we have called a new minister, Matt Wright, who will be inducted as a pastor of South Parade on Saturday 20 July. He will lead on mission to Headingley, have a role in children's

and family ministry, and head up our small group work. We look forward to welcoming Matt and his wife Rachel when they join us.

The changes we're making are with the aim of seeing lives transformed for Jesus. We long and pray for more.

We also have two full-time interns, Hannah Childs and Gideon Fairhall, starting in June. We hope that an internship programme will be something we run on a regular basis year on year and are excited to see how this will unfold.

Alongside these changes we are developing our work on the ground. The Connect Partnership Agreement is now in place and we have seen some hugely positive evenings for Rooted, which we hope to launch as a fully-fledged Gathering of South Parade this summer.

There were two baptisms at Cragg on Easter Sunday and we are beginning baptismal classes in June at Headingley. Conversions and baptisms are especially encouraging. All the changes we make are with the aim of seeing lives transformed for Jesus. We long and pray for more.

We will only continue to move forward if we do so together. I discern that two things are especially important at the moment.

Firstly, we need to develop a culture of service across the life of the church. So many are serving already, and it's great to see. Thank you for all you do! And of course, we recognise that people are following Jesus in the workplace, the home and the wider community as we seek to be whole-life disciples. This is vital but serving in the gathered church as we are able is important as well. Because of this we're having a special Sunday on 23 June where we share the opportunities available and encourage people to sign up. There will be more information on this in coming weeks.

The second thing we need is, of course, God's Spirit. Which brings us back to Pentecost. The Holy Spirit made all the difference in the world to the first disciples. They were empowered and emboldened to live and proclaim the good news of Jesus. It was still tough for them. They had to deal with much opposition and regular disappointment. But, through God's transforming Spirit, they were able to engage in God's work God's way. As a result, the first-century

world was turned upside down.

The same power is available to us. It's exciting to read about and celebrate Pentecost. It's even more exciting to experience God's power in our own lives, changing us from the inside out for ministry and

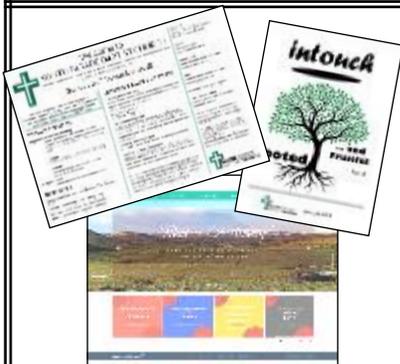
mission.

May God work in us and enable us to touch many others with his amazing love in this new chapter of our life together.

Peter

That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe - all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Acts 2.41-47 (The Message)



...informed...

For service times, locations, gatherings, 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

Around the Church

Is the Grass Growing Under our Feet at Cragg?

We have the world's most informal rota at Cragg for cutting the grass.

It's not clear who is on it (although I could name some of the people who have done it) and there's no specified time for cutting!

The other day it was looking a bit long and I wondered what would happen.

Our community day was approaching we had put out a leaflet. Cragg would

have lunch together and had made the invitation. Come and join us and enjoy:

- Indoor games
- Teas and coffee
- Bouncy castle
- Street clean up

(Grass cutting was not on the list but a free dementia Awareness session run by Dementia Friendly Horsforth was)



We hoped some people from the streets around would call in.

May 19 came and the weather was good and the grass was lush.



Michael Jackson preached for us that morning from Luke 15, The Prodigal Son and was well received by all; meanwhile the local farmers were preparing to make silage from our grass.

Another church locally has plans to have a bouncy castle at one of their events but don't have a suitable site,

their car park is too rough and their pieces of grass are not level and would be unsafe. At Cragg we have the perfect spot, but you could lose a small child in the grass!

1.30 came and there was Wiggy with the mower, cutting the grass as he helped to set up the bouncy castle, perfect timing!

We had two or three families from the area call in and made some new friends. 10 people remembered to come to the Dementia Friends session, some from outside of Cragg, and on Monday morning the grass looked wonderful.

Geoff King

Pastor

Headingley

The work on the Headingley site continues to develop. Many things could be mentioned. The new leadership team is functioning really well. It is currently Scott Halligan, Chris Dyson, Megan Hobbs, Nellie Dumenu, Joe Walsh and Peter Morden. Please do pray for us as we discern what God is saying to us and as we work together on various projects.

One real cause of celebration was the tremendous gospel choir evening on Palm Sunday. It was so exciting to see people coming for

such a great event. Hopefully, this can become a regular feature of our year.

Our new church structure, with three leadership teams covering each of our three sites (Bramley, Cragg Hill and Headingley) makes it easier to launch new Gatherings.

We hope to launch Rooted as a Gathering over the summer. This is in recognition of the fantastic work that's already going on every Tuesday night in the Green House. We have a deep desire to grow Rooted as a place where men and women can discover Jesus, follow him and feel they have a spiritual home. The Headingley Leadership Team will seek to raise Rooted's profile and provide accountability. The overarching aim is to support and develop what is already happening. Please do pray for this (NB. If you want to pray for Rooted on a regular basis then email Geoff King geoff.king@spbc.org.uk and he will add you to the regular prayer email list. I guarantee you'll be really encouraged by all that's going on).

You'll be aware that we are actively exploring having a café in the Green House. Through a regular café we hope to plug into what's already going on in our building, as well as reaching more people with the wonderful good news of Jesus. The

café working group has formed and is pressing forward with some outline plans. Once again, please pray and watch this space!

Now is the time to get serious about mission and put principles into practice. This is scary but exciting!

As always, there are plenty of opportunities to serve across the life of Headingley. These include Junior Church on a Sunday morning and our under-fives ministry during the week. Please consider if you are able to help with either of these. It may only be once a month (especially for junior church) and this is fine. Our ministry fair on 23 June will showcase these and many other opportunities for involvement. Engaging in ministry in different ways can be, as many of you know, a great joy. As we get alongside others and help, whether it's in stewarding, going on the sound and projector rotas or whatever it may be, we grow as disciples and we learn the dynamic Jesus talked about when he said, "it is more blessed to give than receive" (Acts 20.35).

A further new development is our involvement in the Beckett's Park picnic this year, which is on Sunday

7 July. This gives us an opportunity to speak about what we do and reach out into the community.

We have very special gatherings in Headingley. My prayer is that we would grow in knowledge and love of God and of one another, caring for and supporting each other. And that we would focus outwards in love and mission – not in word only but in deed. We talk about mission to our community in Headingley, and to the communities where we all live and work. Now is the time for us to get really serious about this and put principles into practice. This is scary but also exciting! Together we can encourage each other. Who knows what God will do through us?

Peter Morden

Senior Minister

Meet the Intern
South Parade's two new interns, Hannah Childs and Gideon Fairhall start working with the church in June.
Hannah answers some questions about herself and the role:

Who are you?

I am Hannah, a 23 year old from Horsforth. I am your new Intern for Prayer and Mission!

Easter at Headingley



Top: Headingley Churches Together Good Friday service

Middle: Easter Morning

Below: Colin Jones conducts the New Headingley Gospel Choir on Palm Sunday

I became a Christian when I was about 7 after hearing something about God at school which made me want to go to church. I made my mum take me and the rest is a story of God capturing my heart again and again, knowing that I am blessed to be a blessing to others.

What have you been doing?

I have just finished a degree in Primary Education at Nottingham Trent University.



Hannah Childs

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and seeing the Kingdom grow through our relationships.

What are you looking forward to about the internship?

There are so many things that I am excited about! I am really excited to get stuck in at Connect and Headingley. To see God move in

ways we haven't seen yet and understand more of who we are in

Jesus and the freedom that this brings us. Mostly, I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and seeing the Kingdom grow through our relationships.

How can we pray for you as you start this adventure?

Please pray for my transition back to Leeds: there is going to be lots of change and I

am leaving a small church in Nottingham so please pray God will provide the right people to fill the places where I used to serve.

Please also pray for that I will trust in God throughout all the uncertainties that lie ahead. That I will lean not on my own understanding but recognise that God has it under control and through this I would grow deeper in my love for Him.

Hannah Childs

SPBC Intern

...informed...

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



BMS World News

Mozambique: The relief response begins

The Cyclone Idai relief response has begun. But Mozambique still needs your prayers and support.

After our initial call for prayer and support, BMS World Mission supporters donated over £50,000 towards relief efforts in Mozambique. Thank you so much for your generosity. You've helped us kickstart the relief response in Beira. But since a second cyclone hit Northern Mozambique in late April, people are still in desperate need.

"I have conveyed your prayers, support and encouragement to all those I've met from the Baptist Convention of Mozambique (CBM) and they have been extremely grateful to know the world is standing with them," says Rachel Conway-Doel, BMS Relief Facilitator.

Rachel flew to Beira in March to help CBM assess the need created

by Cyclone Idai: 200,000 homes had been destroyed, and over 1,000 cases of cholera had been recorded, with at least two reported deaths. Cholera vaccination programmes have since begun across cities in Mozambique, with over 900,000 vaccines being shipped to Beira alone. Mosquito nets have also been provided to many people, to help combat a rise in malaria cases.



BMS' long-term relief response in Beira will take the form of reconstruction of infrastructure, agricultural recovery and legal education support. As the devastation caused by Cyclones

Idai and Kenneth inevitably shifts out of the media spotlight, we know you won't forget about the people of Mozambique. Please continue to pray and give, so people there can rebuild their lives.

"I have lived nearly 30 years in Beira and have never seen anything like this," says BMS worker Carlos Tique Jone, who was in Beira when Cyclone Idai struck. He and his family are safe, and he is working with CBM to help facilitate the Christian relief response.

From the Treasurer's Computer

Three Meetings in One

By the time you read this, the three church meetings planned for Thursday 23 May will have become a distant memory. As I write, however, I have prepared a PowerPoint for one and am about to prepare for the others.

First will be the **Annual General Meeting** of members (the AGM). This is an annual opportunity provided by the constitution to look back at the previous calendar year as presented by the Annual Report and Accounts. This 22 page document is prepared in compliance with legislation and Fi-

nancial Reporting Standards relating to charities. The intention is to report to trustees, funders, potential donors, beneficiaries, employees, volunteers and any other interested parties, including the Charity Commission, what South Parade Baptist Church did in 2018, its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities. It is not, to be honest, light reading.

The Annual Report has been written by the Church Secretary, Charles Fletcher, and the Accounts prepared by me as Church Treasurer. The whole document is then examined by Garbutt & Elliott to check the church kept reasonable accounting records, the accounts are fairly prepared from the accounting records, the accounts disclose the many and varied bits of information charity accounts have to disclose, and that the Annual Report does not contradict the view shown by the accounts. The accounts are not audited, because only charities with income over £1m need an audit, so the Garbutt & Elliott report does not say the



accounts are right, only that they have not discovered anything which shows the accounts are wrong.

The Annual Report and Accounts were approved by the Elders and will be presented to the AGM for information. At the AGM I hope to explain a few points about pages 9 and 10, the SOFA and Balance Sheet, and answer questions from anyone who has read the accounts. We will file them at the Charity Commission and send a copy to our insurers, the Baptist Pension Scheme and possibly the bank.

The second meeting is a **Special Church Meeting** to consider the purchase of a manse for the use of Matt and Rachel Wright. Our constitution requires any property matters to be agreed by a Special Church Meeting. The Accounts page 10 show that we have sufficient money in the bank to spend £200-£220k on a manse. You may recall however that when the budget for 2019 was prepared, we looked ahead to the next three years to see if we would be able to continue to

pay for a second minister in 2022. The conclusion was that we could if giving increased every year by 10% to 15%, and if giving did not increase we could use our reserves.

If we spend our reserves on a manse, we will save the rent included in the budget, but we will lose the bank interest. The main issue is that the reserves will be so much lower that giving will **have** to increase by 10% to 15% pa because we will not have the reserves to fall back on. You will know by now what was decided.

The final **normal church meeting** will probably be shorter than usual. The main piece of business is the agreement between South Parade and the Salvation Army putting Connect on a formal footing. The Church Treasurer may comment on the financial picture four months into 2019; it is looking good – income is on budget and expenditure is so far below budget.

Katharine Widdowson

Treasurer
treasurer@spbc.org.uk

...informed...

A small reminder from the Treasurer and Deacons!

Last year many of you completed pink forms pledging your giving for 2018 and estimating it for 2019 and 2020. It is now time to increase your giving as you set out on the pink form. If you have forgotten what that was, drop me an email. I have all the forms here and can remind you of your pledge.

Here For A Bit Longer

Levi Booth

Here's an extract from Levi Booth's latest prayer letter.

「急げば回れ」
**“If you're in a hurry,
go around!”**

I've been thinking over that Japanese proverb these last few weeks. When I met with my pastor and OMF regional director we all had the sense that I had slipped into the mindset of “get back to Japan as soon as possible!” rather than aiming to return with a strong, established support base and as fully prepared as possible for another four years of ministry in the country that is sometimes called, “the missionary graveyard” due to the high rate of attrition – ie folk leaving early.

And so we have extended my home

It is more important that I am in Japan as long as I can be, rather than that I get there as soon as I can

assignment by three months. My recommissioning service will be on 8 September at South Parade, and you'd be most welcome to attend if you can.



Levi Booth

As I said in my previous update, the clock is ticking on the church in Japan. We need to raise up the next generation of church leaders, and it needs to happen within the next 15 years (probably 10). I feel the urgency, and increasingly so as I hear news of Japanese pastors retiring.

And therefore I'm happy to take a bit more time – truly, I am. Because I know that for the work I feel called to, it is more important that I



This is what I used to share at a church recently about my ministry in Japan

am in Japan as long as I can be, rather than that I get there as soon as I can.

So after a brief visit to Japan next month to renew my visa, I will spend the summer visiting churches, pray-

ing, and generally preparing towards the next four years.

Please pray for me as I plan out my summer schedule and organise travel arrangements, etc.

And yes, if you're wondering, I am still a bit below the financial support I need to get clearance to return to the field. So please pray for my support level to reach 80% and also for wisdom as I discuss a possible source of funding with the OMF Japan finance manager.

Above all else, please pray for my heart to overflow with good-works-producing hope in the risen Lord Jesus.

Levi Booth

...inspired...

Pray with Levi for Japan, for God to pour out his grace on...

- *The work of Link: omf-link.tokyo*
- *Japan International Sports Partnership: facebook.com/jispnetwork*
- *Connect Yokohama (the church plant that he was involved with last term): connect-yokohama.com*
- *The work of OMF in Japan: pray.omf.org/japan (gets updated every three days with requests from OMF Japan folk, so bookmark this!)*



Getting to Know You

Sharon Thresher

This month we meet Sharon Thresher, part of the Connect gathering.

I've been in the South Parade family for 18 years now - nearly half my life! I first attended in 2001 as a new student at Leeds Uni. Over the years I've been at Headingley, Sent, Four and for the last nine years I've been part of the Connect team. I also attend the Tuesday morning toddler group with my younger son. I'm married to Andy and we have two sons - Daniel, 8, and Adam, who's nearly 4.

Being part of Connect has been a



passion, a conviction and a way of life for me. On Sundays I'm part of the preschool, children's and preaching teams - wherever I'm needed! It's a joy to see people who are often totally unchurched coming in and becoming part of our community - this has brought its challenges over the years but it's definitely worth it.

We've made some great friendships, seen people changed by God, met plenty of obstacles which God has helped us with, and have learnt so much along the way. I especially enjoy preaching, it's a huge privilege to be allowed to teach, to share God's word and my perspective on it, and to explore together how we can get to know God better.

I'm currently a stay at home parent - I've done this for three years and it's going to feel very strange when Adam starts school in September! It's been tough in some ways to work out who I am without reference to employment, and to

try not to define myself solely in reference to my role as a parent. I have, however, found many opportunities to build relationship with other parents - some Christian, some not - and it's been exciting to see God working in and through these friendships.

*Being part of Connect
is a passion, a conviction
and a way of life*

I've recently started studying at Leeds School of Theology and I'm absolutely loving it, so I'm thinking about continuing this with studying for a degree afterwards. I used to think theology was dry and dull - I was SO wrong! The more I learn, the more I find the Bible, and

my prayer life, coming alive and feeling more relevant.

In my spare time (what little there is when you're a parent of young children!) I like to read, play board games (we have many and are always happy to teach people how to play them) and cook/bake. I also enjoy going to housegroup - apart from Andy and my best friend, they are the greatest source of support in my spiritual life. It's great to have a group of people to share life with, who you can be honest with, be challenged by and ride life's ups and downs together. I've been both blessed and forgiven by my housegroup friends more times than I can count and they're really important to me.

Sharon Thresher

Connect

I am learning from Jesus how to lead my life, my whole life, my real life. Note, please, I am not learning from him how to lead his life. His life on earth was a transcendently wonderful one. But it has now been led. Neither I nor anyone else, even himself, will ever lead it again. And he is, in any case, interested in my life, the very existence that is me. There lies my need. I need to be able to lead my life as he would lead it if he were me.

Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Parables for Today

Sumo Wrestling and the Book of Colossians

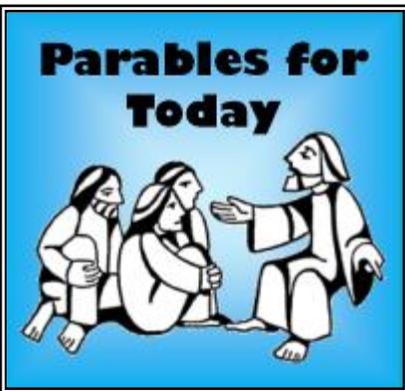
Sumo wrestling is a Japanese form of wrestling that challenges many aspects of Christian discipleship. Here are some of the reasons why I could never become a rikishi (sumo wrestler).

Firstly I am not fat enough. Good friends tell me that I am potbellied but you have to be gargantuan and weigh about 400 pounds to be a proper sumo wrestler. Secondly I am not good at wrestling. At school my mate Otto Chan easily beat me in a wrestling bout when I was 14. Thirdly I went

to an independent school in Hertfordshire where sumo wrestling was never mentioned.

Fourthly, and most importantly, sumo is infused with the Shinto faith which is focused on the appeasement of the “kami”. The best English translation of kami is spirits and the Shinto tradition declares that there are eight million kami. There are river gods, mountain gods and even boil and smallpox deities. Shinto unfolded as a religion to appease and propitiate the spirits in order to ensure bountiful harvests and divine protection.

For the Shinto faithful, the Japanese emperor was worshipped because he is descended from Amaterasu, the goddess of the sun. In the Shinto faith it is believed that when people die tragically, they might spitefully cause harm in the real world. To mitigate this, these unhappy spirits are worshipped as gods. Deceased Japanese heroes can also be worshipped.



There is also a dark side to the Shinto faith that is seldom mentioned - human sacrifice. In 323 AD, there was serious flooding in Japan and the emperor Nintoku had a divine revelation in a dream that there was a man named Kowakubi who should be sacrificed to the river god. Kowakubi was subsequently thrown into the Kitakawa river and the flooding stopped.

Sumo wrestlers are required to follow the Shinto faith. They spend several minutes before a match lifting their legs high in the air and stomping them down in a vigorous and dramatic manner. They also throw salt into the fighting ring as a Shinto ritual. This faith in stomping and salt is believed to purify the fighting zone and to drive away evil spirits. In addition to this sumo wrestlers, as part of Shinto rituals, deliberately make babies cry in order to ward off evil spirits. Granted violence isn't used but Shinto referees wearing terrifying masks glare at the infants if they refuse to sob.

As a Christian I refuse to put my faith in the magical powers of salt, stomping and screaming babies. Colossians 2.15 tells us this: *“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a*

public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

*I have no desire to appease
and placate false gods
and worthless idols.
Jesus died for me. He has
forgiven all my sins.*

It is Christ who, by his death, has conquered evil spirits and it seems foolish to trust in salt, stomping or screaming babies to defeat the powers of darkness. I am fully aware that many Buddhists, Shintoists and diverse pagans and heathens believe that throwing salt over your shoulder can defeat the powers of darkness

but I do not share this faith. I apologise if this sounds bigoted and intolerant but I have no desire to appease and placate false gods and worthless idols. Jesus died for me. He has forgiven all my sins. He has purified me by his blood and he has defeated sin, death and



all the malign powers of darkness. Why would I put my faith in salt, stomping and sobbing babies and spurn such a great salvation?

It is certainly true that having rejected sumo wrestling I could become a rich, pampered professional football-

er but the beautiful game also throws down the gauntlet to a follower of Jesus. Truth be told I am too old and porcine for the Premier League. Without doubt I lack skill, spatial awareness and fitness. I am also cognisant of the stark spiritual realities; I would be confronted by a different set of gods - the Unholy Trinity - Money, Sex and Power. A story to ponder.

In 2008 Marlon King, a professional footballer, was relaxing in a fashionable nightclub in Soho, London. Overwhelmed by carnal cravings, he began touching a young woman inappropriately. King, a Wigan Athletic striker at the time, was disappointed and irate when the young 20 year-old student resisted his salacious advances. He spoke to the woman forcefully: "Don't you know who I am? I'm a millionaire. You're not even in my league." When she pushed him away, he punched her, leaving her with a broken nose, split lip and

blood pouring down her dress. As security staff intervened and led him away, the player allegedly remarked: "Why? I've done nothing wrong."

In my view Marlon King is enslaved to false gods as much as the sumo wrestlers but his gods are far more subtle, deceptive and popular than the kami. So which are worse? The Japanese Shinto gods or the secular gods of the western world?

To be honest I am not sure but as a Christian I am zealous to avoid the worship of all false gods and idols whether secular, Shinto, or pagan (1 John 5.21). Following and serving false gods will not only ruin my life now but ruin my life in the age to come.

Mark Roques

Mark Roques preaches at Cragg and Headingley. He is the director of RealityBites which is part of the Thinking Faith Network based in Leeds. Find out more at <https://thinkfaith.net/realitybites>

"We tend to draw a line between sacred and secular; but if we really know what Christianity means we will know that there is no part of life when the master is away. We are working and living forever in our great task-master's eye."

William Barclay

Prayer Diary



**SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

June - July 2019

JUNE

Sun	2	South Parade Together meeting this morning
Mon	3	The church office
Tue	4	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Wed	5	Your Gathering's Leadership Team
Thu	6	Matt and Rachel Wright
Fri	7	Levi Booth travelling to Japan for a short stay
Sat	8	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Sun	9	The Outdoor Service at Headingley today
Mon	10	June Project working in LS6 this week
Tue	11	Rooted
Wed	12	Teddy Praise
Thu	13	Your friends and family who don't know Jesus
Fri	14	Your neighbours
Sat	15	Your local MP and councillors
Sun	16	Breakthrough Prayer tonight

Pull out and use!

Mon	17	The Deacons
Tue	18	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Wed	19	Geoff King
Thu	20	All those who look after our church buildings
Fri	21	Colin and Jill and the team from SP singing in Lisieux today
Sat	22	Nathan Shipley
Sun	23	Ministry Fair today
Mon	24	Gideon Fairhall & Hannah Childs as they begin their internship
Tue	25	Sam and Katie
Wed	26	Barnabas Bunch
Thu	27	The Elders
Fri	28	Paul Rockley at Blenheim Baptist Church
Sat	29	People recently baptized or thinking about baptism
Sun	30	Chris Gnanakan
JULY		
Mon	1	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Tue	2	Kate Churchill
Wed	3	Charles Fletcher, Church Secretary
Thu	4	Peter Morden
Fri	5	Ina and Malte von Blumroder in Germany
Sat	6	Connect@Copperbeech Free Family Fun Day
Sun	7	Headingley at the Beckett Park picnic today
Mon	8	Steve Fairhall, Tim Rowe and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	9	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	10	Connect Bible Club
Thu	11	St George's Crypt
Fri	12	Caring for Life

Sat	13	Katharine Widdowson, Church Treasurer
Sun	14	Headingley Morning Gathering
Mon	15	Retired people in the church
Tue	16	Cragg Gathering
Wed	17	Work with children and young people across the church
Thu	18	Headingley evening Gathering
Fri	19	Drop-in at Cragg today
Sat	20	Matt Wright at his Induction Service today
Sun	21	Breakthrough Prayer tonight
Mon	22	Students in Leeds
Tue	23	Tim Jackson in Austria
Wed	24	Kate Burkett
Thu	25	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Fri	26	For those who lead our nation
Sat	27	Levi Booth
Sun	28	Connect@Copperbeech Gathering
Mon	29	Adrian Howe and his work with YBA and South Parade
Tue	30	Transformations Leeds
Wed	31	Jane Waites
AUGUST		
Thu	1	Joanna Project
Fri	2	The Ministry Team
Sat	3	Horsforth Farmers' Market and Horsforth Churches Together
Sun	4	You and your place in South Parade
5-10		Pray for the missionaries on the next page and other people that you support serving abroad.

Pray For Us



Tim
Working in Austria
with ÖSM



Chris
Working in Asia
with OTAN



Jane
Working with
Teach Beyond



Colin and Jill
Working in Lisieux, France
in June



Levi
Returning to Japan with
OMF in September



Sam and Katie

*“Pray for us, too, that God may open
a door for our message, so that we
may proclaim the mystery of Christ.”*

Colossians 4.3

The Cricketer's Parable

*The Kingdom of God is like a cricket match
The batsman is Jesus and the bowler the Devil
The Devil is like a versatile bowler
He bowls plenty of full tosses, bouncers, nasty balls, spinners
But does not bowl any no balls
However Jesus is a much more versatile batsman
He knows how to hook, late cut, cover drive, and clear the
boundary fence*

Mark Raven

Headingley Gathering

PS I can think of two Biblical cricketing examples:

- Peter stood before the eleven and was bold
- Philip was caught away by the Holy Spirit



The Cricketer's Song?

*All heaven declares
The glory of the risen Lord.
Who can compare
With the beauty of the Lord?

Forever He will be
The Lamb upon the throne.
I gladly bow the knee
And worship Him alone.*

Noel Richards & Tricia Richards

© Kingsway's Thankyou Music ccli 1730

Jane's Journeys

Here's an extract from Jane Waites' latest prayer letter.

Dear Friends and Family,

Time for some news! Life has been and is busy, busy, busy, as seen in my prayer diary, with all my travels and working at Caring For Life. Between visiting friends and supporters, holiday and company work, I am travelling every month this year, with 10/12 being to another country, Bonny Scotland being one of them!

While a seasoned traveller in many ways, these monthly trips have taken packing and organisation to a whole new level. How many outfits does a girl need and can she finally learn not to drip sauces down her front? I'm working on this, may need to be added to my SHARE training programme!

January: Children's programme in Birmingham. A small but uniquely formed group and I loved being

involved with the kids again in such a real way. A blessing to catch up with friends from my previous company while being able to help them out. Please be sparing a thought for the gathering in July as I begin to prepare the programme in more detail.

I am travelling every month this year - usually to another country

February & April: Family Education Conferences (FEC) in Hungary, then in Greece, respectively. "Bowled over" by the conference team's managing of logistics, travel accommodation, planning, speakers, workshops, technical support and more... Wow!



Jane Waites

Both conferences, to my eyes, ran very smoothly. Parents, children and teens all actively engaged, and so thankful to be in a supportive

group, with others in similar situations. There was time to speak and be heard by the education advisors, speakers and consultants from SHARE.

The SHARE Testing Team was similar at both events and a good friend, the co-ordinator for Greece, wrote her synopsis very well:

“We were blessed with a great, multi-disciplinary testing team that worked tirelessly to test 49 children in 4 and a ½ days. 18 pitched in - some administering intense psychological exams, another dyslexia screenings, one doing occupational therapy evaluations and another speech and language assessments, a further two wearing the Child Protection and Safety Monitor

hat... 25 testing consultations happened with one to four consultants helping explain the testing outcomes to the families.”

So richly blessed. This was just one conference!

With another three FEC's to go and a further nine company conferences so far for SHARE Staff to attend, there is much work ahead. There are also “incidental” trips colleagues make to support one or more families within our coverage area. What a blessing and challenge to be part of a relatively small team with such a BIG impact on work across Europe and further East.

Jane Waites

...inspired...

If you are interested in hearing more, supporting Jane in prayer and encouragement or financially please contact her at jwaites@teachbeyond.org or visit <https://give.teachbeyond.org.uk/>



“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

St Catherine of Siena

The Need to be Firmly Planted

The Work of Rooted

Clare King describes the work of Rooted, who meet weekly in the Green House at Headingley, and encourages all of us to get involved in this vital ministry.

Each Tuesday evening the Green House door is opened to welcome a group of men and women who find themselves on the edge of society. They come with their varied problems, many of which originate from a dysfunctional family life. The name “Rooted” evolved over several years as we developed good relationships and began to understand that the solution to these many and varied problems was the need to be firmly planted in a good society but, more importantly, to be “rooted” in Christ.

We never know who will turn up. There are a few “regulars” who we worry about if they are missing but people generally come and go over the weeks depending on their needs

and, probably, whether there is a better offer somewhere else! Recently the numbers have been more unpredictable with a definite link being found between folk who are now connected with Badminton (at South Parade on Monday evenings) and The Lighthouse (a ministry of St George’s in the city centre).

Help preparing food for Rooted would be appreciated.

We are looking for apprentices to join the team and work with us!

As an army marches on its stomach so the success of Rooted is based on its food. This is prepared by various people. One person regularly books the kitchen at South Parade, employs the skills and willingness of friends, and prepares vast quantities of food all portioned

into an evenings'-worth, labelled and frozen ready for use. Amazing! Thank you Church for the facilities, skills, time, care and support you provide behind the scenes. The food is always very much appreciated. A couple of other people do it differently preparing a meal from scratch on the night.

This is where any help at Rooted would be most appreciated. We are looking for apprentices to join the team and work with us! Cooking for 30 can be a bit over-facing. To help with that we have recently begun a recipe book which includes the quantities and timings. Not everyone feels able to cope with our friends and their problems face-to-face but most wish there was some way they could help. Preparing food, one step away from dealing with them personally, is equally valuable. Perhaps it's something you could do? There is a budget to cover the cost.

Throughout the evening we endeavour to make time to sit and

chat with one another. Getting to know friends is the best way to identify need, provide help and advice and just have a laugh together. Many other agencies provide food but, we were informed by one regular, only at Rooted does the team sit alongside and talk.



Once the food has been served it's time for the "God Slot". Last Tuesday it was getting a bit late and one person was overheard to say disappointedly "what, no story tonight?"

Over the last few weeks we have been looking at Old Testament stories from Rahab to Samuel. Sometimes drama is used to tell the tale, employing visitors as well as the team to act. Hilariously entertaining, it's great to see folk comfortable and safe enough with one another to "have a go" at acting out a bible story. It seems to make the application easier to get across and is certainly memorable!

Clare King

...involved...

To find out more about Rooted and how to get more involved practically or through prayer email geoff.king@spbc.org.uk

Postcard from Austria

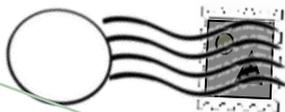
Everyone at South Parade
c/o Intouch Magazine
South Parade Baptist Church

Kirkstall Lane

Headingley

Leeds LS6 3LF

UK



AIRMAIL



Greetings from Austria!

Dear friends, I hope you're well.

Instead of sending a "postcard" of Linz, Austria - where I am currently living and working with student ministry - here's a picture of Schloss Klaus. This is a castle among the mountains in central Austria. It's far prettier than Linz! I also stayed there on three different occasions during April.

Firstly, I was there for an international churches youth weekend. We remembered the Return of the King, as we looked at 2 Peter together – we encouraged and were encouraged to "be on your guard" from the error of false teaching; and to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord" (2 Peter 3.17-18), in the light of knowing that Jesus will return.

A week later, I was back there for Forum 2019, the national conference organised by the ÖSM: Christians at Uni movement across Austria. The conference helps to encourage and equip students for mission at their universities. Highlights of this time included: seeing students from across Austria grow in motivation for mission; spending time with a couple of international

unbelieving students, from playing table tennis to discussing Acts 17.16-34 together; and enjoying leading a seminar on "using questions in evangelism" in German, despite being a bit apprehensive about this beforehand.

My third trip to Schloss Klaus was for a "Langham Austria" national conference. This conference helps to train people to teach from the Bible relevantly, clearly and faithfully. It is only the fourth time that this conference has taken place. This is still fairly ground-breaking for Austria, as it helps - under God - to develop Bible teaching here. Personally, I appreciated it as a time to meet with Christ in Scripture again - particularly with the supreme and sufficient Christ of Colossians - as guest speaker Andrew Page pointed us to Christ through sermons on this letter.

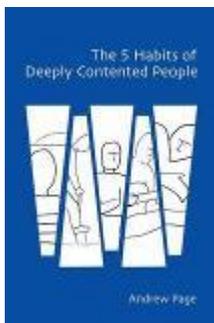
Life in Linz ticks along, and presents the opportunity to live out what we learned, experienced and prayed at these times away.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

Tim Jackson



Recommended Reads



The 5 Habits of Deeply Contented People by **Andrew Page**

This book is written for people looking for contentment.

Basing what he writes on the second chapter of the Bible, Andrew Page invites readers to experience a deeper level of

contentment through habits which express the image of God in us.

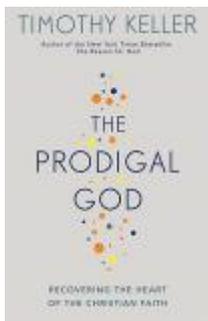
This is a short book – divided up in to bite-size parts. The emphasis is on living out the habits and being more contented, rather than spending lots of time on the theory.

It is accessible to unbelievers, as the author writes with the conviction that everyone is made in the image of God, and so the habits are relevant to all people. I appreciate this inclusiveness, but also the fact that the author points readers to Jesus and a relationship with him in the later parts of the book.



With “Something to do” application questions throughout, and an appendix of discussion questions for the different habits, this resource (along with a Bible) is well geared for use in small groups, two friends meeting up to talk through the habits together, or a mentoring/discipleship relationship.

Tim Jackson



The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith by Tim Keller

The first time I shared the story of the prodigal son with a Japanese friend I asked him, “So, what do you think?” He paused and reflected for a moment before responding, “Yes. I agree with the older brother.” I didn’t know how to respond at the time. I mean, we’re not meant to relate to the older brother! The story isn’t even about him: it’s about the younger brother, the prodigal son.

Except of course that it’s not. The story Jesus tells in Luke chapter 15 is about two sons, or rather it’s about a father who goes out to both of his children - each lost in their own way - to call them home.

It’s been quite a few years since my friend expressed his approval of the older son’s confused and angry outburst at the father’s forgiveness. I’ve since spoken with many other Japanese people who likewise value

hard work, filial piety, faithfulness... and yet who desperately need God’s grace.

Over that time I’ve become increasingly convinced that if we are to share the gospel with Japanese people in a way that is clear and compelling to them, then we need to understand the fullness of the gospel as contained in this famous, but often misunderstood, parable of Jesus.

So I recommend this book to you. Because although Keller doesn’t explicitly set out to give guidance on how to explain the good news to Japanese people, that’s one of the things this book does brilliantly, as Keller, with his trademark warmth, winsomeness, and wit, unpacks what the gospel means for those who are like the older brother.

“The elder brother is not losing the father’s love in spite of his goodness, but because of it. It is not his sins that create the barrier between him and his father, it’s the pride he has in his moral record; it’s not his wrongdoing but his righteousness that is keeping him from sharing in the feast of the father.”

Levi Booth

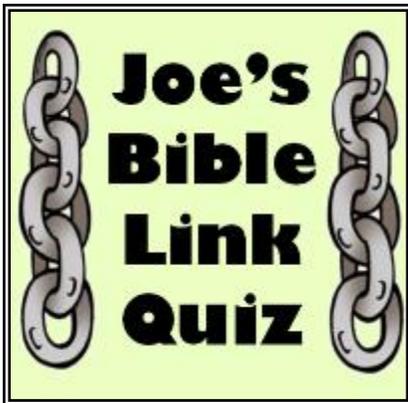
Joe's Bible Link Quiz

#1

This month Joe Walsh begins a new series of Bible Quizzes. He will ask a number of unrelated questions, linked by a theme. If you can guess the link, let him know and he will congratulate you in the next edition.

Here's an illustration of how it works, with answers.

- 1) When challenged about paying taxes to Caesar, what does Jesus hold to illustrate his point? A **coin**.
- 2) David gives generous



hospitality to a disabled man called Mephibosheth, why is this surprising? His father was Saul's **son**.

- 3) What image does Jesus use to describe the people who listen to His voice? A **sheep**.

So what links these three answers? They're all "lost and found" parables of Jesus: the lost coin, the prodigal son and the lost sheep. These are radical stories that Jesus tells to describe God's love in coming to seek and save the lost, and his joy whenever a prodigal returns to him.

The gospel is such wonderful news, that God eagerly desires us and will go to great lengths to find us. So often Jesus teaches using stories or parables which communicate so much more than words alone.

Why not re-read a gospel and listen to what Jesus may be saying to you? And I wonder how we might be

How might we be able to use stories and narratives to provoke conversations with our non-Christian friends?

able to use stories and narratives to provoke conversations with our non-Christian friends? I would highly recommend listening to the sermon given by Mark Roques at Headingley that you can find on the church website called: *Examining our DNA – Engaging in Mission* (19/05/19), as gives some really helpful instruction on how to engage with non-Christian friends.



- 1) Which biblical character speaks to God and is commanded to perform a task, but tries to make the excuse “I am slow of speech and slow of tongue”?
- 2) In which book of the Bible is it written “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says”?
- 3) Some Christians believe Enoch entered heaven without dying. What other biblical man is believed to have done this?
- 4) About whose voice does Isaiah 40.3 refer: “A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God”?

Without further ado, here’s the quiz, with answers revealed in the next issue. Feel free to let me know if you think you’ve found the link by emailing magazine@spbc.org.uk or catch me in person at church!

Joe Walsh
Elder

...informed...

Many recent sermons and talks from South Parade are available in the “Resources” section of the church website at www.spbc.org.uk



Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part 24: The Eternal Voice

John 20

Now that we are entering the closing chapters of our journey through John's gospel, I want to remind you of how we started this jaunt more than 3 years ago. A lot of my observations and insights of John's gospel have been to focus on Jesus and what we do with him, how we interact with him and ultimately how we walk with him.

We started off with an observation that John the Baptist's whole purpose in life was to point Jesus out in

a crowd and that he was also willing to lose disciples in order that they could "go and tell" others that they had seen the Christ. We saw Mary point people to Jesus when the wine had run out in John 2, and we saw Nicodemus realising that Jesus was more than just a man and seeking him at night in John 3, and so I could go on.

As we enter into John 20 we have a story where Mary Magdalene has "come to see" and is told to "go and tell" in order that more can "come and see".

Let's set the scene. We are at the tomb early in the morning when it is still dark, this tells us that we are before 6am. The tomb is in a garden and we find the sealing stone rolled away and the tomb empty.

We are told in other gospel accounts of the resurrection that Mary did not come alone. Why John only records that Mary came is unclear. What we do know is that



she is surprised to see an empty tomb. Her first instinct is to go and tell the disciples that all is not as she had expected. It would appear that her first thought is that the governing body, the Romans or the Jewish leaders, have taken the body away and it appears that she is quite distraught. There seems to be an urgency and Peter and John run to the tomb and find it to be true, but I am guessing are rather confused.



In our next scene (John 20.14-15) we have Mary turning around and as she turns she sees someone she presumes to be the gardener. He asks her why she is weeping and who she is looking for. This person then speaks her name, “Mary”, and she immediately identifies him by his voice as Jesus, the Voice in the garden.

The eternal voice of the Spirit cries out calling us by name in order to restore us to God

I am reminded that this Voice in the garden has spoken before in another garden. At the outset of creation in Genesis 3.8-9 we read that “the

man and his wife heard the voice (KJV) or sound (NLT) of the Lord God walking in the garden... and they hid themselves”.

John, at the beginning of his gospel, identifies the spoken word of God, Yahweh (who will be - who is - who was) as becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us. There is much that we could say about

this act of God coming down and dwelling in our midst. Suffice to say that a significant part of the Jewish story is all about a belief that God would come down and rescue His people. One of the first references to this is in Exodus 3.7-8 where God speaks with Moses and says:

- I have seen their misery
- I have heard their cry
- I am aware of their sufferings
- I have come down to rescue them in order to bring them up to a new land.

John's gospel is all about this Voice that has become flesh, that has come down in order to give new life. He culminates his account of Jesus in a garden gently speaking a name just as he did to Adam and Eve. It is this same Voice that was calling Adam and Eve to Himself in

order that there could be restoration and regeneration, together with a realignment of all that was wrong as a result of their actions.

The same applies today as then. The eternal voice of the Spirit cries out calling us all by name in order to restore us to God Himself so that we have a story to tell and a voice that can “go and tell” and can compel others “to come and see”.

I am guessing that Mary left that garden a different person. She went with enthusiasm and excitement and told the other disciples, “I have seen the Lord”.

I wonder what our testimony is? Is it that I have seen the Lord? Is it

that we have heard the eternal cry, Adam - Where are you? Or, like Mary have we just heard the gentle voice that speaks our name?

The word that John refers to at the beginning of his gospel account has become flesh, it has come down, it does dwell amongst us, it has risen, it has ascended and is glorified in order that all humanity past, present and future can enter into a relationship that will impact our lives for ever, and all we can say is Praise the Lord (Praise be to Yahweh). He will be, He is being, He was. HALLELUJAH!

Steve Ford

Headingley Gathering
blog.steveford.org

Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

John 20.30-31 (GNT)

“I’m on a mission to make the world a better place. The gap between the rich and poor is getting much bigger and people hate it. I hate it. It gives good capitalists a bad name and makes it harder for them too because other people are taking short cuts.”

Julian Richer, business owner, *The Guardian* 18/5/19

Church Noticeboard

Open Air Service

Headingley
10.30am
Sunday 9 June

- ✓ Turn up and be friendly!
- ✓ Can you help with tea and coffee, or bring cake?
- ✓ Pray!

Sunday
June
9



🕒 **6pm to 8:30pm**

Global
Day of
Prayer



LEEDS AND THE NATIONS
'Thy Kingdom Come'

PENTECOST SUNDAY, 9TH JUNE 2019

HOSTED BY: Bridge Community Church, Rider Street, Leeds LS9 7BQ

Part of Thy Kingdom Come Initiative in Leeds

GDOP is run by Hope for the Nations AND

SUPPORTED BY: Pray For Leeds  AND Leeds TEAM 

Connect@Copperbee **Free Family Fun Day**

Saturday 6 July Hollybush Primary School 1pm to 4pm

Connect@Copperbee need **your** help to make our Free Family Fun Day a great and memorable event! We're really happy to once again be able to use the field at Hollybush Primary School and we will be setting-up from 9am with the gates open from 1-4pm then clearing up by 6pm.

We'll have a wide range of activities including circus skills demo and practice, bouncy castles, prayer tent, face-painting and many other fun things, and of course the BBQ! And there will be many ways that you could help where no particular skills are needed.

If you are able to commit to the whole day, that would be fantastic. If you're only able to be with us for part of the time that would also be fantastic! As at past FFDs, helpers will be fed lunch and will get to wear one of our fetching purple t-shirts!

If you are able to help in any way, please contact Ann or myself via the church office.



John Pelham



Induction Service for Matt Wright

Join us at Headingley at
2.30pm on Saturday 20 July
as we welcome Matt and Rachel
to South Parade!

More details in the
noticesheet nearer the time.

June Project Family Fun Day

Saturday 15 June 12pm to
4pm in Burley Park
(Cardigan Centre in the event of rain!)

An open invitation to all ages to
join June Project for a free
BBQ, bouncy castle, live music,
crafts, face painting and games.



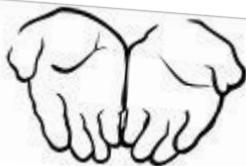
Picnic in the Park

With Headingley Gathering
Becketts Park Headingley
Sunday 7 July 1pm - 5pm



Breakthrough Prayer

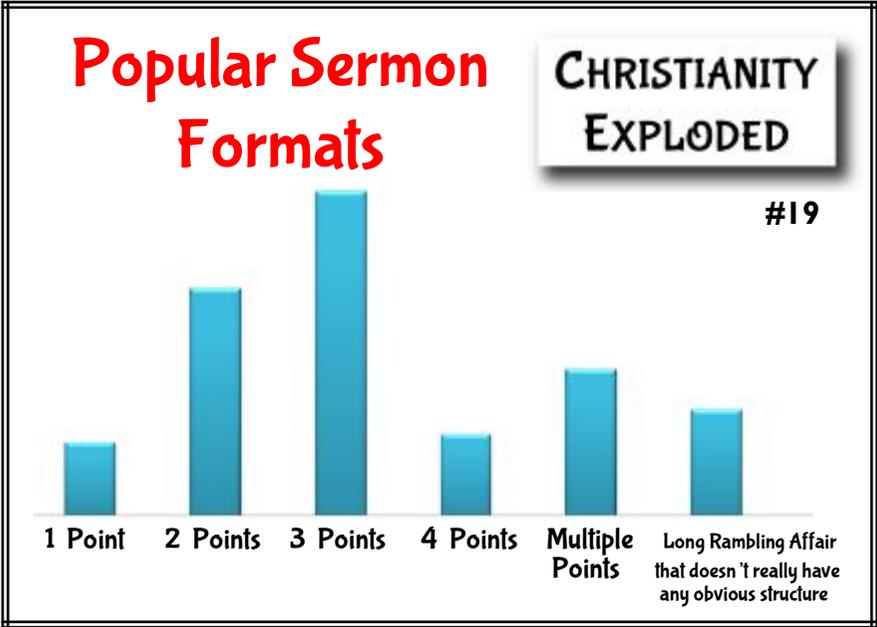
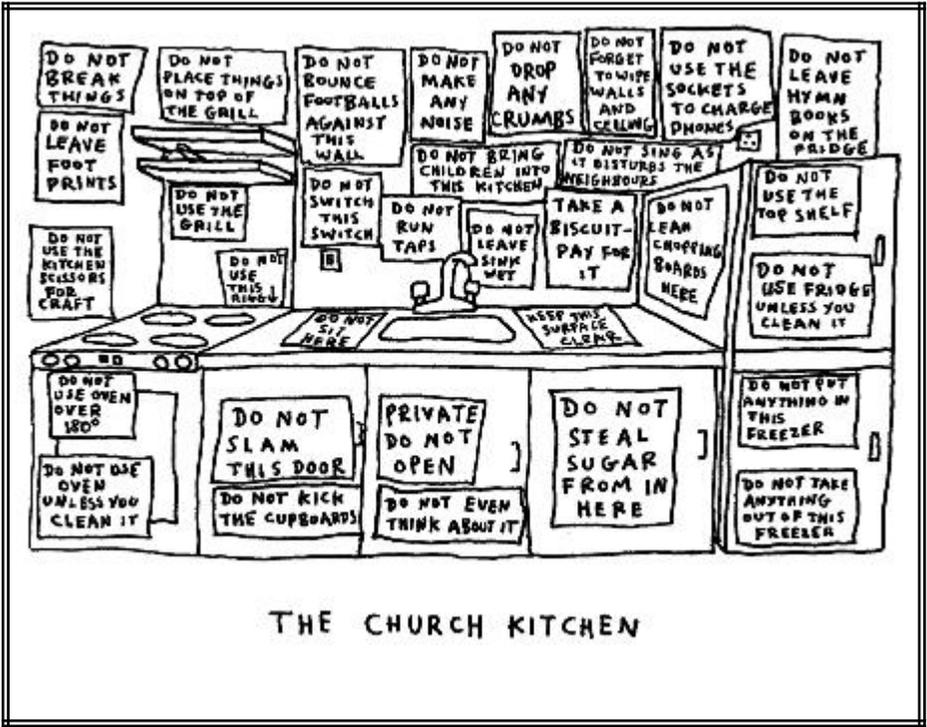
Sunday 16 June
&
Sunday 21 July
6.30pm
Headingley

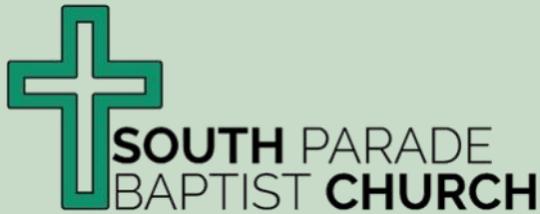


Church
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magazine@
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Passion for God

Love for People • Heart for Mission

*South Parade meets as different Gatherings across Leeds: in **Cragg** on a Sunday Morning, and at **Headingley** on Sunday mornings and evenings. **Connect@Copperbee** is a partnership with the Salvation Army meeting in the community in Bramley. We run a CAP Debt Centre and have a link with the Arabic Christian Fellowship. To find out more, visit the website or contact the church office.*

Senior Minister

Peter Morden

Associate Pastor for
Youth and Young Adults

Nathan Shipley

Associate Pastor
Church Administrator
Under 5s Co-ordinator

Geoff King
Kate Churchill
Kate Burkett

Elders

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

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LEEDS LS6 3LF

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info@spbc.org.uk



“

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,
continue to live your lives in him rooted and built up in him,
strengthened in the faith as you were taught,
and overflowing with thankfulness.*

”

Colossians 2.7 (NIV)

intouch

 **SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**