

intouch

At 7pm
on 6 May 2019,
*I walked into an empty
ward in the Lincoln Wing of
St James's hospital with my wife,
child and two kidneys. By God's grace
I felt fearless and calmly said my goodbyes,
before settling down. I was asked to come in the
evening prior to my operation to stake my claim to a
bed. I spent my evening familiarising myself with the
controls for my hospital bed, eating snacks, reading
my Bible. Later in the evening I had the most
painful experience of the whole process: an
attempt to put a cannula in my hand.
For whatever reason, it*

My Experience of Giving a Kidney

Joe Walsh, page 24

Several years ago I suggested to Steve Ford that his regular Bible study column become a feature in the magazine with its own title. I wanted to call it *Ford's Focus*, mostly because I liked the wordplay and the alliteration, but also because I knew that Steve's detailed examination of the Bible and its meaning for us today would be well worth highlighting. Steve graciously accepted the title. His study of John's gospel which began in the February 2015 edition of *Intouch* concludes this month. If you search hard on the church website you can find magazines going back several years, and you can read more of Steve's studies at blog.steveford.org. We look forward to reading the subject of his next insightful focus in future editions - thanks Steve!

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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

Serving with a Smile

As we enjoy the summer, hopefully we'll all be able to carve out a bit more time for rest, time with family, prayer and reflection. We have so much to look forward to across our church gatherings including Matt Wright starting his ministry with us, forthcoming baptisms and the beginnings of a recruitment process to appoint a Café Manager at our Headingley site.

The Under 5s Team are also looking ahead to September, with opportunities to meet new families and to explore with them God's amazing and abundant provision for

his world through a story-time and craft focus on autumn and harvest. We also have our first toddler group mum being baptised at Headingley Morning in September which is really exciting!

We have so much to look forward to across our church gatherings

Over the last year, relationships with toddler group families have been deepened, with some of those families now attending Headingley Morning and Sunday Tots. We had a quiet start to the year, with the number of families coming to our toddler groups substantially increasing by the summer term. Our superhero summer parties went down well and we said an emotional goodbye to ten of our leavers who are starting school in September. The recent Beckett's Park Picnic was a great way to connect (and reconnect) with past, present and potential toddler group families.



We have a fantastic, dedicated small team of volunteers who do a great job of showing Jesus' love to our local community on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at the toddler groups and also at Teddy Praise & Play and Sunday Tots, yet despite this the following well-known Bible verse springs to mind:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10.2)

The toddler groups continue to be blessed in many ways, but, as with other ministries across our church, the struggle continues to be a lack of volunteers. I often find myself unable to get around all of the families for a chat, despite my best efforts. As one of our primary objectives is to make sure everyone who attends feels welcome and valued, this can be frustrating at times. I pray that even if I don't get round to chat to everyone individually, that the general vibe of the toddler groups will be warm and encouraging and

will reflect the love and servant heart of Christ.

As well as toddler group welcomers to chat to families in the hall, we also need kitchen volunteers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in term-time to serve tea, coffee and the toddler snack and to operate the dishwasher.

God always provides and there have been times when volunteers have been ill, or unable to help at short notice, when it has looked likely that we will need to cancel a toddler group session. In those times I've prayed and God has always provided the right person at the right moment and we've been able to run as planned. I'll never forget the time when, in an Under 5s planning meeting, we were praying for more toddler group volunteers and suddenly there was a knock on the door of the room while we were praying, and a new volunteer was standing there - offering her help! Wow - sometimes God works really fast! Maybe next time the person God wants to provide is ... YOU!



Serving in a ministry can be the most rewarding way to get involved at South Parade. Volunteers use their skills to serve and connect and they often make great friends in the process. Serving can be a great joy and it's how we honour God and express the life of Christ to others in love as we grow as disciples. Jesus can do amazing things through us when we put ourselves forward in this way. It was particularly encouraging to see people signing up to help in different areas of church life during Headingley's recent Ministry Fair.

*There are many
opportunities to serve
in the life and ministries
of South Parade*

In addition to our ministry to young families, the work of our whole church is made possible by the dedicated work of dozens of volunteers who steward on the doors of our gatherings, help teach our children and young people, set up tea, coffee and refreshments, help with outreach events, operate the sound desk and projector, play in the music group, serve at Rooted, help with building maintenance, create and publish communications, offer pastoral support through visiting and create beautiful floral

arrangements, to name but a few. So many are serving already – thank you so much for all you do! Our whole church always needs more willing volunteers and there are many opportunities to serve in the life and ministries of South Parade - this is not an exhaustive list! Or maybe God is calling you to serve in the new café when it opens or to pray regularly and earnestly for one of the many ministries within our whole church.

I believe that God is “doing a new thing” (Isaiah 43.19) and he wants to galvanise our church to bring the Gospel to our local communities in a deeper and more effective way. To do this we need more workers to bring in the harvest. If you're interested in serving young families please contact me: tots@spbc.org.uk. If there's another area of the church's life and ministry where you feel God is calling you to serve, please email info@spbc.org.uk. The Ministry Team would love to hear from you!

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms”.
1 Peter 4.10

Kate Burkett

Young Families Co-ordinator

Around the Church

Beckett Park Picnic

On the next page are a couple of pictures of our plot at the Beckett Park picnic on 7 July. These were during the “picnic” phase of the event, before the locals descended and started to circulate.

Kate Burkett did a fantastic job of providing a wide range of activities for young (around 5 years and under) children including toys, a Bible story and puppet zone under our gazebo, a card lolly craft and parachute games. Dilly, the purple caterpillar tunnel also proved a great success with the kids!



*It was good to make
new connections with
the families in our
surrounding area*

The whole event went down very well, with weather just right to encourage the neighbourhood into the park and enjoy the broad selection of attractions on offer.

It was good for us to reconnect with youngsters and parents who had been regular attendees of the tots groups in the past, and for us to make new connections with the growing number of families in our surrounding area.

In addition to the activities we had on our stand, we gave out goody bags that contained a simple book of significant Bible stories to which we added some chocolate buttons and a bottle of bubbles. The bags and books were sourced from Great Commission (<https://greatcommission.co.uk/act/bag-of->



hope), and they are currently promoting their Halloween bag, which is an interesting idea to read about and follow up on.

It is fully expected that the event will run next year and build on the significant increase in its size compared to last year. I hope that those of you who attended can see the potential for it to be part of our regular calendar of events and a golden opportunity for us to be involved with our local community

and neighbours.

A couple of ideas to bear in mind next year:

- Have advertised bible story times throughout the afternoon, to intentionally engage with the children.
- Arm ourselves with some conversation starters to use with the adults, and boldly talk with them about our faith and the gospel message.

In the meantime, please do continue to come along to the bring and share picnics/lunches. It seems appropriate that we adopt Beckett Park for our outdoor venue, rather than driving down to Kirkstall Abbey.

I would also encourage everyone to maintain a picnic mindset, even when we are confined to the Green House. I think that I can safely say that on 7 July, no plates, cups or cutlery etc were used from the Green House kitchen. There should be no reason for that to change when we are indoors; it just creates unnecessary work to wash up and clear away.

Richard Sykes

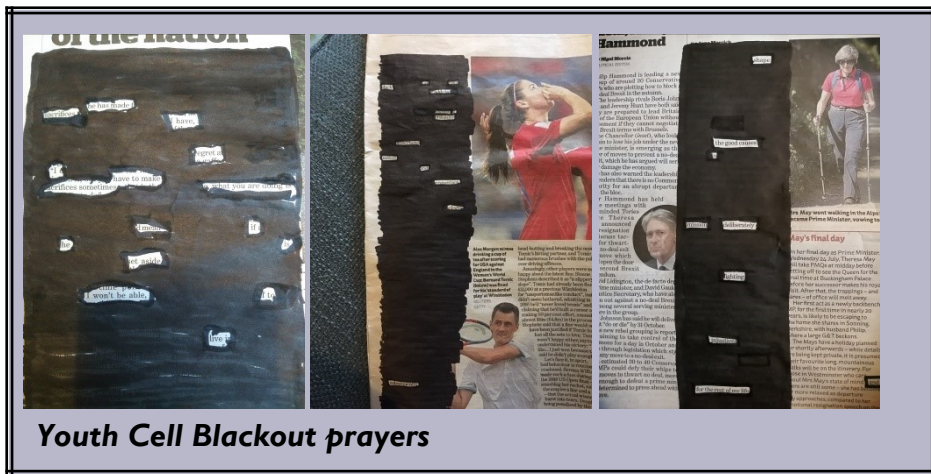
Headingley Morning Gathering

Youth Cell

For the last half term of the academic year, Youth Cell have been studying *The Rebel's Guide To The Good News*. This series explored how we can be, say and do the gospel, so that others experience the deep and beautiful news that is truly good.

During the last session, we took articles from a newspaper and created the following blackout prayers:

- He has made sacrifices. I have regret. I have to make sacrifices sometimes. What you are doing is mean. If He is set aside, I won't be able to live.
- I cut stars slack it adds to your display of brilliance, underhand is useless and unrepentant apologise subsequently.
- Shape the good causes and



Youth Cell Blackout prayers

**Outdoor
Service at
Headingley
on
Pentecost
Sunday in
June**



Connect Family Fun Day

John Pelham writes:

"The Connect@CopperBeech Free Family Fun Day on 6 July was a real triumph for the Kingdom! We had over 800 people through the gates in the afternoon and we all had a great time of simple family fun and games. Thanks to all SP folks who were able to be there on the day and to help make it such a success. The photo shows the queue for the BBQ!"

mission deliberately lighting
injustice for the rest of my life.

Nathan Shipley

Associate Pastor
Youth and Young Adults

Meet the Intern (Part 2)

Who are you?

I'm Gideon, a 22-year-old who lives in Adel. A lot of people from Headingley morning will know me as I have been attending consistently for a bit over a year now, and before this came to Headingley morning with my family from the age of 2 through to 16.

*Soul Survivor is one of the
great opportunities over
this summer period to
make a real difference*

What have you been doing?

In May I finished a degree at York St John University, and am now a month into the internship at South Parade.

What are you looking forward to about the internship?

From the short time I have spent in the internship currently, I have seen many exciting opportunities coming up over the next year that will give me as well as Hannah chances to get involved and hopefully make a longstanding difference to the benefit of the church. There are great opportunities over this summer period to make a real difference, one of which is Soul Survivor. This is an event I'm very passionate about as it made a real difference in my journey to faith.

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

Please pray for the right opportunities to come forward within the church for me to serve in the best way that I can, as well as for me to make the most of these opportunities.

Also, please pray for the church, with the new additions to the team and the continued progression of the new vision.

Gideon Fairhall

SPBC Intern

...informed...

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



Back to Japan

Levi Booth Prayer Update

I have officially received financial clearance to return to Japan! やった! (Your Japanese Word of the Week: Yatta! -“(We) did it!”)

Thank you so much for all your support and prayers in bringing me this far, and praise God for His abundant grace and kindness.

Now I am preparing to return to Japan in September and realising that there is a fair amount of stuff in what is now just over 6 weeks. So if you were at Keswick and expecting to find me at the OMF stall, then I'm sorry but I decided that I needed to stay in Leeds to focus on preparing talks for the kids camps I'm speaking at next week (and to manage to meet up with some of my church small groups to discuss what our ongoing two-way support relationships will look like).



Please pray for me as I balance prep for returning to Japan with speaking engagements, time with family and friends, and holiday/retreat times. And also please pray for Max and Reiko as they look at potential apartments in Tokyo for me. (I have a room at the OMF guesthouse booked for my first few weeks, but it'd be nice to have somewhere to move to soon after that.)

I also have some phone calls to set up with folk who are involved in Sports ministry in Europe to discuss ways in which we can work together, resources we can share etc. Please pray for fruitful conversations. I have received enquiries from a couple of UK teams who are interested in short-term missions opportunities during the Tokyo Olympics next summer. Please pray for wisdom as I consider these.

Levi Booth

Getting to Know You

Caroline Heward

This month we meet Caroline Heward, Salvation Army captain in Bramley.

What role do you have in the life of SPBC?

I am the Salvation Army Officer (minister) for the Copper Beech site in Bramley. Bramley Salvation Army has recently gone into formal partnership with Connect, and we have become Connect@ CopperBeech - exciting times!

My role incorporates all aspectS of the work done here at Copper

Beech, from running activities at the Hub, providing support to the Salvation Army nursery, working alongside the housing officer for the 84 homes we have onsite, and providing pastoral support for all those who are involved in the Copper Beech community.

Bramley Salvation Army has recently gone into formal partnership with Connect - exciting times!



When not involved in church life what do you do the rest of the week?

My real passion is running. I am a member of the Bramley Breezers running club and also have an active role in the life of Bramley Parkrun. So on a couple of nights a week I can be seen running the streets of Bramley.

Who supports you as you live out your faith?

In 2004 I entered Salvation Army training college, and while at college I struck up a friendship with a lady called Paula who was in the same year as myself. When we were commissioned (ordained) in 2006 we both went on to lead Salvation Army churches in Yorkshire, and we now both find ourselves in pioneer ministry settings in Yorkshire.

With a friendship that has lasted over 15 years, Paula is the person who encourages me in my ministry, who supports me in prayer, will ask me the tough questions about life and work, and I support her in the same way. Some people would describe this type of relationship as a “soul friend” or an “accountability partner”. I would always encourage people to find and nurture a relationship like this as it really does develop you in your faith and walk with Jesus.



Caroline Heward

How could the church family cherish you better?

When looking at the APEST model of church and ministry that Paul speaks of in Ephesians 4 I would naturally fit the Apostle role - the person who has been sent from the church, to live life with those who do not yet know Jesus, and who are not yet part of church. I love nothing more than being in the company of people who are not

“churched” (my love for my “Breezer family” extends beyond loving the running, but loving the people who make up the club).

So for the church to support its apostles in prayer would be good, to commission them to go out and make disciples - which in today’s world probably means more than asking them to come to us!

Caroline Heward

Mission Development Officer and Chaplain,
Copper Beech



The Glorious 21st

French Music Festival

Colin Jones explains why 21 June is a very special day in France.

It is designated as La Fête de la Musique (the Music Festival).

Every year, in towns and villages all over France, it seems that in the evening the whole population turns out to enjoy every sort of band or choir that you can imagine as they set up outside cafés and restaurants and on street corners everywhere. This year the 21st fell on Friday which is obviously one of the best days because people are not constrained by thoughts of school or work the following morning and Lisieux, where we have served the Baptist Church since 2012, was no exception. In fact the church decided to seize the opportunity to make its presence felt as strongly as possible where, under the laws of the secular state, it is not easily able to evangelise on the streets at other times.

Jill and I have experienced the festival once before when it was last on a Sunday (weekdays are not

really worth the effort) and this year we were able to help as the church fielded four different groups: a contemporary worship band, a multicultural worship band (songs in six different languages and styles) and a gospel choir, with the addition of a band from Liberty Christian University in the USA (which by chance is the university where Chris Gnanakan is a professor). What was particularly exciting this year, though, was the fact that four members of South Parade – Jennie Lewis, Diane Hume, Helen Capocci and Barbara Crosse – generously flew out to bolster the numbers in the gospel choir, as well as taking the opportunity to see other aspects of the churches out there and something of wonderful Normandy. Thank you so much.

As many of you know, the church has a café in another area of the town, so we warmed up on the previous evening with a concert outside the café - a first for this particular act of witness - and then we tackled the main event. Having negotiated a good

spot on a corner outside a shoe shop and close to the main square (thank you Monsieur 100% Shoes for the generous link to your electricity) each group took two slots in the evening. Boy, do the French love their gospel music! Although every group was well received, both times the choir appeared we gathered a huge crowd from the many of



The team at Lisieux

hundreds of people milling around enjoying the evening. People stopped to talk and ask us where we came from (yes, a well-meaning drunk joined the choir for a little while too) but the atmosphere was exhilarating. Church members were in and among with invitations and information and we finished about 11pm with a sense that many of our prayers had been answered.

At the church service on Sunday six new people arrived. Two requested prayer after the service.

And had they? Well at the café-style service at the church on Sunday afternoon when the groups performed again (very sadly after

our friends from SP had already had to fly home) six new people arrived, and at least two requested prayer after the service. One lady who had suffered much tragedy including the loss of her son in the dance hall terrorist attack in Paris said that, after searching for the right place to be, she now knew she had found it.

The ways in which the Devil tried to prevent the choir from taking part, including a crashed hard disk with backing tracks on it, are a whole other story, but did the Lord honour the efforts of this small Christian community when they stepped out in faith? You bet He did.

Colin Jones

Headingley Morning Gathering

Parables for Today

Lessons to be Learned

Mark Roques shares another story that challenges us in the way we share our faith.

Years ago when I lived in Bristol I was chatting to Susan in church after the service. Susan is a delightful person, warm, friendly, and brilliant with the teenagers. I began to probe her about her job as a French teacher. I asked her how her Christian faith impacted the way she taught her subject. She looked at me with thinly disguised disdain. "It has nothing to do with my faith. I just teach French. Church is in the religious box and French is in the secular box." I thought I needed to challenge this popular but unhelpful dualism. Call

me old-fashioned if you like.

"Susan have you ever thought about the hidden messages that are often being communicated in the way we teach French?" Susan looked at me as if I had just told her I had decided to become a Buddhist. I launched into my patter.

"In my view the dominant way of teaching Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) is caught up in an individualist and materialist story. It's all about me and my consumption. It's 'I shop therefore I am' or in Latin 'Tesco ergo sum'."

Susan grimaced at my feeble Latin joke and began to look slightly desperate and forlorn. "Why are you saying this? French teaching has nothing to do with faith!"

"But just look at a typical French lesson, Susan. Often the focus is upon self-governing individuals buying ice creams, making complaints about hotels and enquiring about where to go shopping. I call this the self-centred tourist worldview. "I

Parables for Today



want a Fudge ripple ice cream now.”
“I want to make a complaint about the mini-bar.” “I am very unhappy with the second-rate croissants.”
“Where is my malt whisky, garçon?”
“Why is this caviar so salty?”

Susan relaxed slightly and murmured.

“I think I see what you’re getting at Mark. Most of my lessons begin with phrases like that. Do go on.”

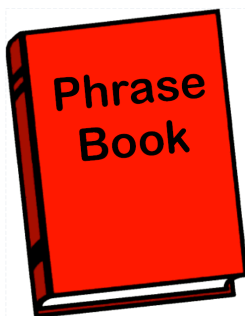
“Brainy boffins have studied MFL textbooks and they are struck by how the dominant story of our western world, consumerism, is the hidden, pulsating theme. Textbooks present people as egocentric and materialistic. They live as if there is no God and everything is just physical...so shop till you drop and grab that bargain before Denise beats you to it.”

Susan was now beginning to soften and the disdain was ebbing away. She was beginning to appreciate my insights into the voracious and aggressive nature of consumerism. I steamed ahead.

“Here’s a cute, little story to make my point. You’re on a coach in China, surrounded by jocular and flamboyant tourists. Suddenly there is a jolt, the coach stops suddenly and the Chinese driver looks irate. The atten-

tive tourists notice that an elderly Chinese lady has been knocked over and is lying on the road. They exit the coach and begin to parlay with the distressed lady who is recovering from the shock. ‘Here’s my phrase book and let’s apologise to her’, urges

Doris from Barnsley. They whip through the phrase book and they cannot find the Mandarin for - “We would like to apologise for this incident.” The entire phrase book is focused on self-centred tourists who crave constant consumerist activity and apologising to locals is just not part of this egocentric and myopic lifestyle.”



*Surely saying “I’m sorry”
is part of life. It should be
if we are Christians.*

Susan was now warming to my theme. “But that’s awful. Surely saying ‘I’m sorry’ is part of life. It should be if we are Christians.”

“I apologise unreservedly to you if this sounds batty but boffins have also discovered that the only mention of ‘religion’ in MFL textbooks are horoscopes.” Susan was shocked when I said this and opined - “So these textbooks are presenting humans as either secular consumerists or pagan astrologers.” I decided to be blunt.

“In a word - yes!”

“So given all this, how can I serve Jesus as a French Teacher?”

“Well a very simple thing you can do is to tell your students stories about people who are busy loving their neighbours rather than scheming their next trip to Homebase. Consider this story.

“Sheelah Ryan was living in Florida in a caravan with her two cats, Shannon and Buffy when she won \$55.2 million in the Florida lottery. When she found out about the windfall she went to see her friend Nancy and asked her to pray with her for God’s help to use the money wisely.

“When the news got out, consumerists from around the world were busy phoning in investment tips and even marriage proposals. Sheelah refused to splurge; she treated herself to a modest house but, unlike so many lottery winners, she did not wallow in inane nonsense consumption. She dedicated the bonanza to building up her community and loving her neighbours.

“In 1989 she said in an interview “I think it was the grace of God I won. I realised there must have been a reason, He gave me the money, so I decided to give some of it to senior

citizens and the homeless.” She then established a foundation to fund:

- A shelter programme for vulnerable women and children
- Meals on wheels for the elderly
- Medical aid for the elderly
- A programme to help poor people repair and improve their homes
- Job training programmes
- Scholarships and bursaries for young adults.
- A programme for stray cats.

*Teachers can serve God
by talking about inspiring
people*

“Susan, French teachers like you can serve God by challenging the consumerist faith by talking about inspiring people like Sheelah Ryan who really love their neighbours and spurn the militant shopping gods.”

Susan was appreciative of my comments but she did mention with delightful irony that she had to dash off to Homebase to meet her husband, Duncan!

Mark Roques

Cragg Gathering

Prayer Diary



**SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

August - September 2019

AUGUST

Sun	11	Services across the gatherings today
Mon	12	The church office
Tue	13	The Arabic Christian Fellowship
Wed	14	Your Gathering's Leadership Team
Thu	15	Matt and Rachel Wright
Fri	16	Levi Booth
Sat	17	Your homegroup, small group or cell group leader
Sun	18	Irene's commissioning service today
Mon	19	People on holiday
Tue	20	Rooted
Wed	21	Teddy Praise
Thu	22	Your friends and family who don't know Jesus
Fri	23	Your neighbours
Sat	24	Pray for Leeds
Sun	25	Those leading worship today

Pull out and use!

Mon	26	The Deacons
Tue	27	Colin & Jill Jones and their work with the church in Normandy
Wed	28	Geoff King
Thu	29	All those who look after our church buildings
Fri	30	Jane Waites
Sat	31	Nathan Shipley
SEPTEMBER		
Sun	1	People who've been married over the summer
Mon	2	Gideon Fairhall & Hannah Childs
Tue	3	Sam and Katie
Wed	4	Barnabas Bunch
Thu	5	The Elders
Fri	6	Paul Rockley at Blenheim Baptist Church
Sat	7	People recently baptized or thinking about baptism
Sun	8	Chris Gnanakan
Mon	9	Young People meeting in Cell Groups
Tue	10	Kate Churchill
Wed	11	Greg McLeen, Church Secretary
Thu	12	Peter Morden
Fri	13	Ina and Malte von Blumroder in Germany
Sat	14	Joe Walsh
Sun	15	Connect@Copperbeech Gathering
Mon	16	Steve Fairhall, Tim Rowe and the work of the CAP centre
Tue	17	Missionaries with BMS World Mission
Wed	18	Connect Bible Club
Thu	19	St George's Crypt
Fri	20	Caring for Life

Sat	21	Katharine Widdowson, Church Treasurer
Sun	22	Headingley Morning Gathering
Mon	23	Retired people in the church
Tue	24	Cragg Gathering
Wed	25	Work with children and young people across the church
Thu	26	Headingley evening Gathering
Fri	27	Drop-in at Cragg today
Sat	28	The Ministry Team
Sun	29	You and your place in South Parade
Mon	30	Students in Leeds
OCTOBER		
Tue	1	Tim Jackson
Wed	2	Kate Burkett
Thu	3	Junior Church leaders and helpers
Fri	4	Transformations Leeds
Sat	5	Joanna Project

A prayer for the beginning of term

Lord God,

At the beginning of this new term teach us to

be your hands and feet where we are

At the beginning of this new term teach us to

love as you love us

At the beginning of this new term teach us to

pray for those in need

So that You are honoured and glorified

Amen

Annie Barnsdale

Pray For Chris Gnanakan

Chris popped in to South Parade earlier in the summer to catch up with the church. His sermon from Sunday evening 21 July is available on the resources section of the church website. Chris is now Director of Leadership Development with Christar.



"The vision of Christar is to cultivate Christ-honouring transformation in communities where He is yet to be worshipped. Christ-honouring transformation speaks to the process as well as the outcome. In the establishment of indigenous churches, we pursue a Christ-honouring influence on the community at large. As workers who partner with God in His work, we are a part of the transformation process that God is bringing about. God's promise in Revelation 5.9 is clear. People from every tongue, tribe, people and nation will worship God in eternity. Our vision is to go to those people who are not accounted for in the eternal roll call of nations!"

Find out more about Christar at www.christar.org. You can follow Chris on Twitter at [@DrChrisGnanakan](https://twitter.com/DrChrisGnanakan) and remember to keep praying for Chris, his family, and his work around the world.



Chris, Dorothy and the girls

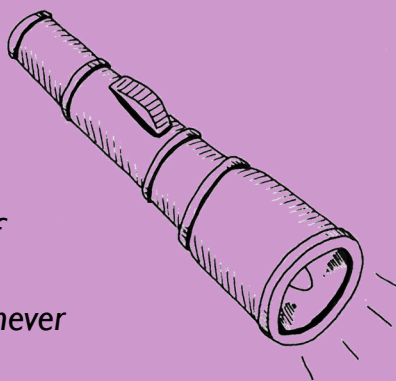
"You really experience England over Afternoon Tea in a proper Tea House like Betty's"

A Meditation for Protection and Deliverance

*Thank You Father for all-round angelic protection
Up above You're the great High Priest
Underneath are the everlasting arms
Your love surrounds me like the sea
You're a lamp unto my
feet*

*And a light unto my path
You chart the way ahead
And show me where to
stop and rest*

*In green pastures by pools of
life-giving water
And I come to the well that never
runs dry*



*You're like the Ol' Man River
You keep flowing along
You're like a bridge over troubled waters
And I thank You for your two sheepdogs, Goodness and
Mercy
That never stop chasing me*

Mark Raven

Headingley Gathering

Step of Faith

My Experience of Giving a Kidney

In *Intouch* in November 2018, Joe Walsh wrote about why he wanted to give a kidney. It wasn't just a radical attempt at weight loss or for a 6 week holiday but an expression of his belief that we should all be generous with everything we have, in whatever form that takes, for God's glory. Here Joe explains what happened next.

At 7pm on 6 May 2019, I walked into an empty ward in the Lincoln Wing of St James's hospital with my wife, child

and two kidneys. By God's grace I felt fearless and calmly said my goodbyes, before settling down. I was asked to come in the evening prior to my operation to stake my claim to a bed. I spent my evening familiarising myself with the controls for my hospital bed, eating snacks, reading my Bible. Later in the evening I had the most painful experience of the whole process: an attempt to put a cannula in my hand. For whatever reason, it was very uncomfortable and after tolerating a lot of cannula wiggling, I asked tentatively if he could put it in my arm.

The surgeon drew a large arrow on my abdomen to avoid any unfortunate mishaps

The day of my operation was perhaps one of the most stressful days of my wife's life. She was adamant that after dropping Myah



at nursery she would come to see me before the operation, which was first thing in the morning. On the way to hospital she got stuck in traffic and then struggled to find a parking space. Bless her. Meanwhile I had a nice lay-in whilst I awaited instruction. Various professionals came to visit me including nurses, the transplant co-

ordinators, the anaesthetist and finally the surgeon. Disconcertingly he didn't seem to be sure which kidney he was taking. Once we were doubly sure, he drew a large arrow on my abdomen to avoid any unfortunate mishaps.

When asked if I had, as instructed, not eaten since last night, it occurred to me that I had chewed gum in the morning (I had read that I was supposed to chew gum before and after the operation). After a tense few minutes in which the nurse consulted some other medical staff, I was given a telling off, but was told that considering the other operations in the chain,

the surgery would go ahead and would be within safe parameters. The chain basically means that I am giving to person A and their family

member is giving to person B and so on and so forth. I was wheeled into the surgery room where they were listening to a 70's playlist. Thankfully they put me to sleep quickly.



Joe in hospital after the operation

I woke up in the “recovery room” though my memory of this is very hazy. I wasn't in pain or having any particular awareness of my wounds. I had a morphine drip with a button I could press for an extra dose. I remember asking rather dozily how it had gone, and someone replied affirmatively.

Later on Rio brought Myah to see me and she enjoyed climbing on the hospital bed and Myah talked about “doctors cutting open daddy's tummy”. After Rio and Myah left, I had a surprise visit from Matt Wright who thoughtfully brought me some very fine kidney beans. He was a real encouragement and prayed with me. Later that evening,

since the signal in the ward was very poor, I walked out into the hospital foyer a couple of times to ring Rio who ironically was in much more discomfort than I was with a bad headache.

Unfortunately my first night in hospital wasn't great, as I had to go to the toilet very frequently as a side effect of the operation and the constant fluids I had on drip. This was also arduous because of the various equipment on my IV stand that I needed to take with me. This improved in the following days.

On Thursday morning, I had breakfast in bed for the first time since my daughter arrived. I personally enjoyed hospital food very much. I was visited by the transplant co-ordinators who told me the other three operations in the chain had been a success which was really encouraging news. I saw the surgeon as well who told me I could go home.

I was given paracetamol, as well as something a little stronger if necessary, as well as blood thinning injections to have daily for several days which Rio gleefully administered. Finally I was also served with 6 weeks sick leave, or my "kidney holiday".

The next three days at home were the worst, as the paracetamol was less powerful than morphine, sleeping on my bed was difficult and uncomfortable (I could barely lift myself up from lying down), and I felt very bloated (during the operation they inflate you with air). Nonetheless I was able to do ordinary things day-to-day though I must have been complaining at some point though because Myah memorably told me to stop whining.

Within a week I was very comfortable and sleeping fine, just avoiding heavy lifting. After two weeks, Rio allowed me to drive the car again. After this my activities were back to normal. I probably could have gone back to work after 3 or 4 weeks and was doing equally or more strenuous activities at home, much to the frustration of those who felt I should be taking it easy.

I was able to share a little with my recipient about my motivation as a Christian

At 6 weeks I had a review with the surgeon who said I could go back to


work. I asked him if I should do anything differently now I only have one kidney? The answer was no, not really, just avoid smoking, being overweight or drinking more than the recommended weekly amount. That shouldn't be too hard. It really amazes me that having one kidney makes no significant difference at all, except for my underwhelming scars.

The whole process was an adventure and brought me great satisfaction, especially knowing that others received life-saving operations from it. I have heard from my recipient by letter and she has expressed her gratitude and excitement about being able to play with her grandchildren, go abroad, and have quality time with her partner. I was able to share a little with her about my motivation: "because of my outlook as a Christian, having been blessed by God, and wanting to share that love with others".

All together, giving a kidney was one of the best things I've ever done and God blessed me so much through it. I am now very eager to share my story and raise the profile of Christian kidney donation which is something I have begun exploring in a number of settings. I believe passionately that the church aggregately can eliminate the kidney waiting list if only we are aware of the problem, and following Christ.

Please pray for me that God will guide me and be at the centre of everything I do. Likewise I pray that God will help us as a church to each follow Christ with abandon, using our talents, resources and passions. Please come and ask me any questions about my experience, I'm always happy to share.

Joe Walsh
Elder



...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

Ford's Focus

John's Gospel Part 25: Back to the Day Job

John 21

Steve Ford's detailed examination of the purpose and meaning of John's gospel now concludes with a look at the final chapter. He ends as he began.

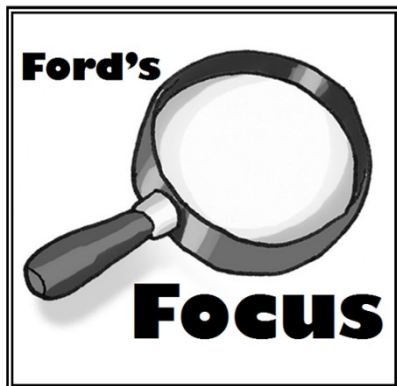
Here in John 21 we have an account of some men who, after three years of following Jesus, appear to think their journey and experience of the revolution that they thought was going to change the world is over and so they revert back to the day job.

Peter, in John 21.3 says "I am going

fishing". You can imagine the scene: "what else am I supposed to do now? All hope is gone".

If we wind back to where it all began in John 1.40-41, we find that Peter was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew, whose words to Peter were "we have found the Messiah". It appears that both Peter and Andrew were expecting to find this saviour. They had grown up with the Torah and the words of the prophets, which consistently talk about the coming "saviour of the world", that is the Saviour that would liberate humanity and fully restore Israel and release them, the Jews, from their oppressors. What they weren't expecting was a deliverer who would open up the way so that all humanity could fully know, experience and understand what it means to be fully human.

For any of us to fully know who this Christ is, this man who claimed and proved that he was God in man ("who did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, who humbled himself



to death” Philippians 2.5-11) we have to have seen Him spiritually and to have experienced the risen Christ. We must have an encounter.

In this final chapter John is showing his readers that the risen Christ is concerned and interested in the physical wellbeing of those he came to save. Peter and some of the other disciples have given up hope and have gone back to the day job. Their inspiration has just been crucified. Yes, they had seen him risen, but it appears that they are completely lost and rudderless and so revert to the familiarity and security of what they know, fishing.

Sometimes we might be fishing on the wrong side!

I wonder at this point if Peter remembered the words that Jesus spoke to him and his brother Andrew “follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4.19), and I wonder if he was thinking “this is not what I thought I would be doing three years ago, life appears to have gone backwards to

how it was, life is hopeless, all is lost, let’s go fishing - at least we can do that”.

I think this can be true for all of us. We have an encounter with “the Christ” and for some reason we lose hope, we lose sight of the risen Christ and we appear lost and rudderless in a world that we know needs a fresh vision, a world that desperately needs “fishers of men”, men and women who are prepared to count the cost, leave all and follow Christ. Then the risen Jesus appears on the shoreline of our experience and calls out for food, a very practical but profound thing to say.



Jesus knows that everything is spiritual, and he is calling us to be practical, honest and attentive. He asks for food (practical), they answer No (honestly), he tells them to cast on the right side (attentive).

Being spiritual is also about being practical. God is in life and life is in God which is why Jesus asks for food. Just as our bodies require food for survival so does our spirit. To be a partaker with the divine Creator we need to live here and now which requires that we eat food. To live in the spirit here and

now requires that we partake of the Spirit.

Life is full of choices and following Christ is one of those choices. Christ died in order that you and I could be set free from our oppressor, he died so you and I could live. He rose again and comes to meet us on the shores of our experience and invites us to share food with him.

Are we willing to be a partaker, despite our doubts, despite our hopelessness, despite the feeling of being rudderless?

In our story here, these disciples were first honest in their answer, they were then obedient and attentive to the request of Jesus to try again and cast on the right side. Sometimes we might be fishing on the wrong side!

There is more we could say and we could look at many of these stories and encounters of Jesus in John's

gospel and get much more or a different perspective than what I have recorded in this series on John's gospel. The key is to keep reading the scripture, keep asking God for a fresh revelation of himself and He will not disappoint.

Let's wrap this series up with some questions:

- Have we sought this man Jesus like Nicodemus, who had many questions?
- When we have found Him do we point Him out in a crowd like John the Baptist?
- When we encounter Jesus on the shores of our experience do we answer honestly and act obediently to His requests?

May God bless you and give you hope and may we all find our security in Him.

Steve Ford

Headingley Gathering
blog.stevelford.org

*Is there a thing beneath the sun
That strives with Thee my heart to share?
Ah! tear it thence, and reign alone,
The Lord of every motion there.
Then shall my heart from earth be free,
When it has found repose in Thee.*

Thou hidden love of God Gerhard Tersteegen

Into His Marvellous Light

*Out of disaster and ruin complete,
Out of the struggle and dreary defeat,
Out of my sorrow, and burden, and shame,
Out of the evils too fearful to name,
Out of my guilt and the criminal's doom,
Out of the dreading, and terror, and gloom;*

*Into the sense of forgiveness and rest,
Into inheritance with all the blest,
Into a righteous and permanent peace,
Into the grandest and fullest release,
Into the comfort without an alloy,
Into a perfect and permanent joy.*

*Wonderful love that hath wrought all for me!
Wonderful work that hath thus set me free!
Wonderful ground upon which I have come!
Wonderful tenderness, welcoming home!*



Anonymous

Submitted by Pat Dalglish

Poetry .. Ponder

Recommended Reads



A Christian's Pocket Guide to Loving the Old Testament by Alec Motyer

The author clearly delighted in seeing His Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, throughout Scripture. His prayer day-by-day was: "Teach me to love your sacred Word, and view my Saviour there."

This is also his prayer for readers of this short book.

The author writes with the conviction that this short prayer applies equally to the Old Testament as the New. A core section of this book is giving an introduction to some of the great unities between the Old and New Testaments, under headings: "One Book, One Covenant", "One God", "One Way of Salvation", "One Story, One Messiah". I particularly value these sections, as they helped me to better understand how truth is built layer upon layer throughout Scripture.



I recommend this as inspiration and encouragement for anyone who wants to enjoy reading Scripture more, and I particularly recommend this if the Old Testament seems daunting, confusing or irrelevant to you.

Tim Jackson

Before They Were Famous

John Craven

This month's edition of *The Dalesman* magazine features an interview with the *Countryfile* and *Newsround* presenter John Craven in the "Talking Yorkshire" section. John is asked who is his favourite Yorkshire singer:

"It has to be David Whitfield from Hull who had a string of Top Twenty ballads in the early 1950s before rock and roll took over. When I was about sixteen and writing articles for the magazine of South Parade Baptist Church in Headingley I plucked up courage and asked him

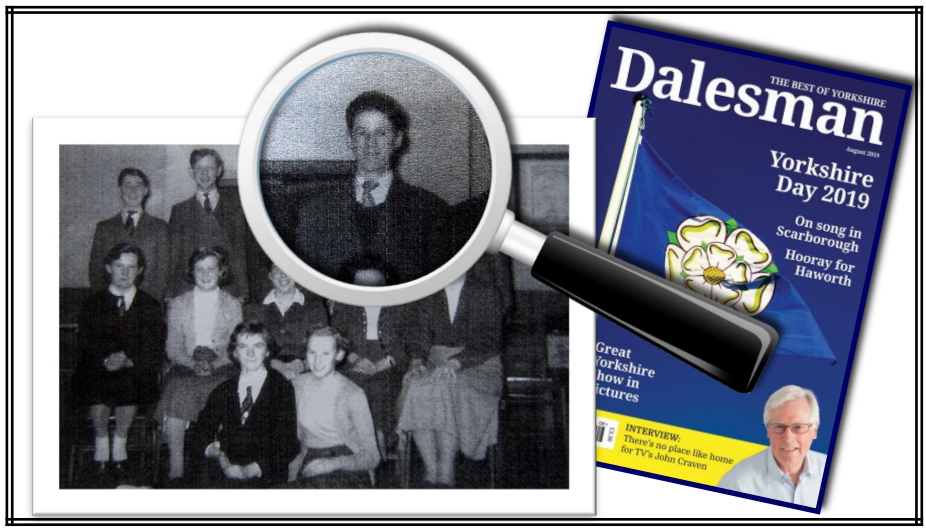
for an interview. Amazingly he agreed and treated me like a proper journalist.

I'll never forget him for that – he set me on my way and I've always wished I could sing like him."

The photo from the church archives below shows John in an SP youth group sometime in the 1950s. John's original article on David Whitfield is still to be unearthed...

Val Dooks

Headingley Morning Gathering



Joe's Bible Link Quiz

#2

Questions from the last edition

- 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"

Moses

- 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"?

James

- 3) Some Christians believe Enoch entered heaven without dying. What other biblical man is

believed to have done this?

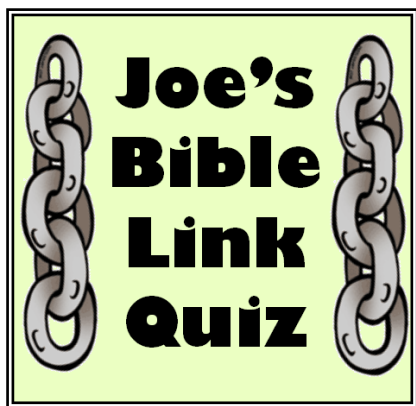
Elijah

- 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"? **John** (the Baptist)

The link

So what's the link? Well done to those who correctly got the answer as I know several of you did! The link was, people physically present at the transfiguration of Jesus. The transfiguration is a highly symbolic event, demonstrating that Jesus is the fulfilment of the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah). God himself affirms Jesus as his divine son: "*This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased*".

Meanwhile the disciples James, John and Peter don't fully understand. Much later Peter writes that, although he physically witnessed the



glory of God, such an experience is only an equal or lesser source of authority than scripture itself (2 Peter 1.19).

*Thank God we have both
the word and the spirit to
direct us in life, until the
day we are brought into
the presence of king Jesus*

One of the church's new values is "Word and Spirit", acknowledging that God is revealed both through the glory of his presence, and also through the bible. Thank God we have both the word and the spirit to direct us in life, until the day we too, in resurrected bodies are brought into the presence of king Jesus forever.

Why not make a concerted effort to discuss with friends the scripture that you are reading currently and what God is revealing to you through it? Or perhaps you could encourage a friend by sharing how the Holy Spirit is at work in your life?

This edition's challenge:

- 1) For the wages of _____ is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6.23 NIV)
- 2) Let the _____ of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to _____. And be thankful (Colossians 3.15 NIV)
- 3) For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the Lord Almighty, though their land is full of _____ before the Holy One of Israel. (Jeremiah 51.5 NIV)
- 4) When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the _____ into the sea. (Acts 27.38 NIV)

Let me know if you can get the link!
magazine@spbc.org.uk

Joe Walsh

Elder



"The smile is the beginning of love"

Mother Teresa

Church Noticeboard

CAP Debt Centre Manager



As was shared at the last Church Meeting, we are in need of a new CAP Debt Centre Manager. This is a voluntary role with a minimum time commitment of 16 hours per week. A full description can be found at <http://tiny.cc/CAPSouthParade>

Please speak to Peter Morden or Tim Rowe if you're interested.

Aiming for Zero Waste

Seagulls Refills zero waste shop is now open, 7 days a week, at 3-4 Aire Place Mills, off Kirkstall Road, Leeds.



The shop (adjoining the paint store) features an extensive range of sustainable, reusable and where possible locally sourced body and household products including: washing-up liquid, laundry liquid, fabric conditioner, surface cleaners, toilet cleaners



plus soaps, shower gels, shampoos and conditioners, also toothpaste and deodorants. Bring your empty bottles (or purchase their glass ones) and refill them.

Check the detailed price and stock list online. <https://seagullsreuse.org.uk/refills/>



Church Office:
0113 275 4989



magazine@spbc.org.uk



What's the Difference?

Gender & Sexuality

– understanding & responding to diversity
An overview of the different LGBT+ groups
and issues affecting them.



Sat 19 Oct 2019, 9.30 am – 4 pm



The Garden Room at Wellspring House,
78 High Street, Starbeck, HG2 7LW



£45 if booked by 12 Sept; £60 thereafter
10% discount for students or group
bookings of 3 places or more.



About the Trainer

Jay Pelp has managed the schools work for a youth
LGBT+ youth charity and spoken at Spring Harvest
about faith & LGBT+.

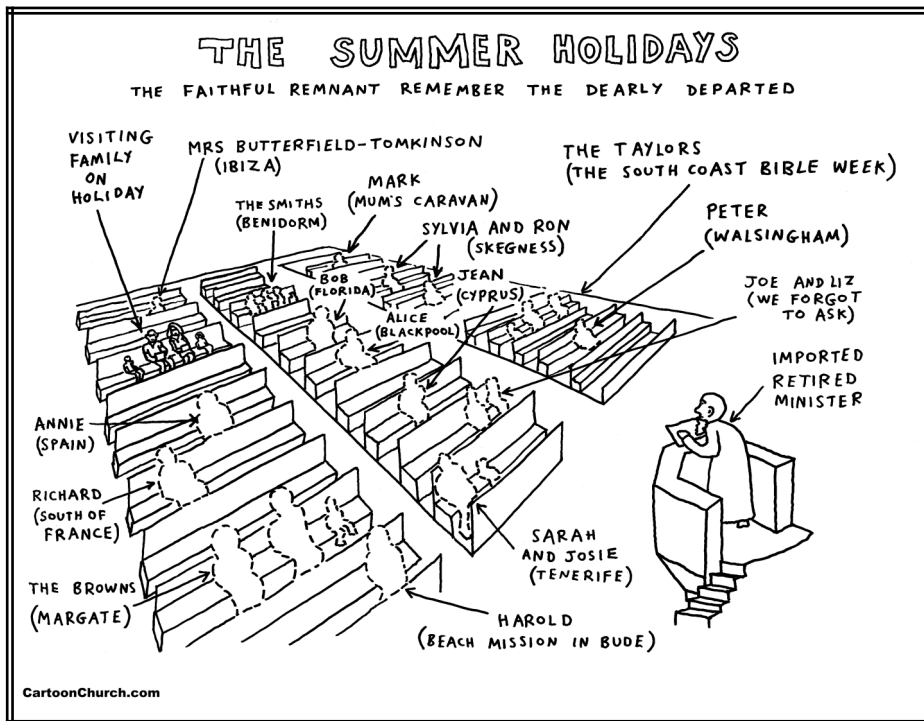
To book a place, please contact:



wellspring
therapy & training

Wellspring House,
78 High Street, Harrogate
North Yorkshire HG2 7LW

01423 881 881
office@wellspringtherapy.co.uk
wellspringtherapy.co.uk



"Is Like"

CHRISTIANITY EXPLODED

- Wisdom = honey (Proverbs 24:14)
- Path of the righteous = the morning sun (4:18)
- Starting a quarrel = breaching a dam (17:14)
- Club = sword = sharp arrow = one who gives false testimony (25:18)
- Honest answer = kiss on the lips (24:26)
- Cold water to a weary soul = good news from a distant land (25:25)
- One who takes away a garment on a cold day = vinegar poured on a wound = one who sings songs to a heavy heart (25:20)
- Apples of gold in settings of silver = a ruling rightly given (25:11)
- A snow-cooled drink at harvest = a trustworthy messenger (25:13)
- The useless legs of one who is lame = a proverb in the mouth of a fool (26:7)

#20



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@Copperbeech** 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
Minister

Peter Morden
Matt Wright

Associate Pastor for
Youth and Young Adults
Associate Pastor
Church Administrator
Under 5s Co-ordinator

Nathan Shipley

Geoff King
Kate Churchill
Kate Burkett

Elders

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

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

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“

*“If you have two coats, give one away,”
Jesus said.*

”

Luke 3.11 (The Message)

intouch

 **SOUTH PARADE
BAPTIST CHURCH**