

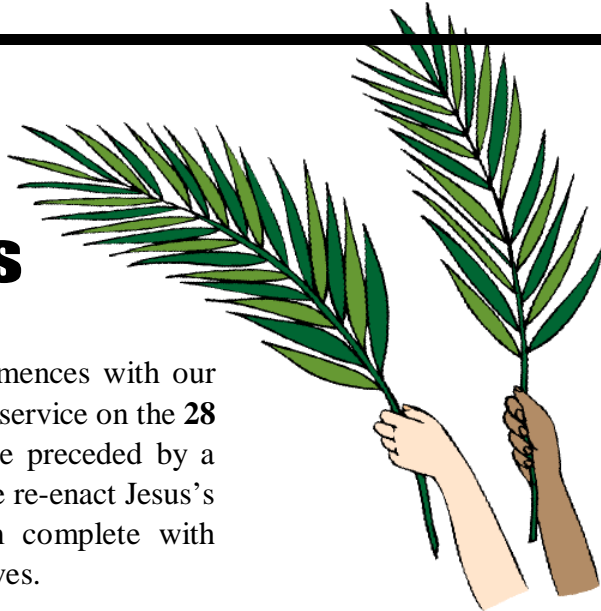
Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

April/May 2010

Easter Services

Holy Week commences with our **Palm Sunday** service on the **28 March**. This will be preceded by a walk of witness as we re-enact Jesus's entry into Jerusalem complete with donkey and palm leaves.

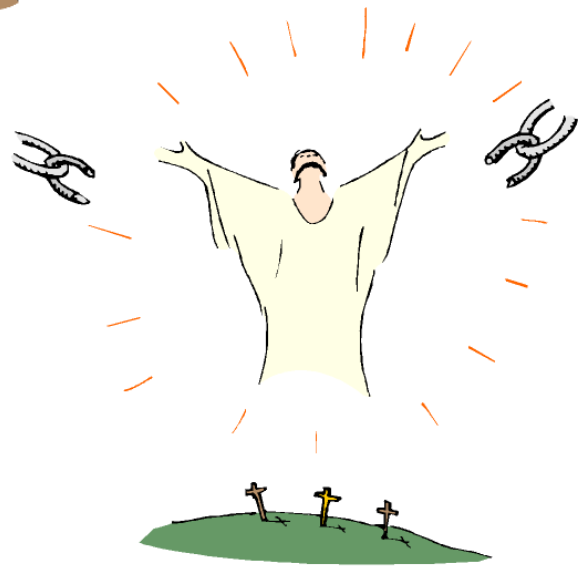


Easter Sunday (4 April) celebrations start at **8:00 am** with an early communion service followed by Easter breakfast at **8:30 am** in the school rooms. Garry Dawson-Jones will then lead our **Easter Celebration** service at **10:30 am** which includes Holy Communion. During that service we shall be welcoming some people into membership at TRM.

Finally we draw Holy Week to an end with **Easter Praise** on **Sunday** evening at **6:30 pm**.



On **Good Friday (2 April)** morning we will follow a similar route down Baslow Road carrying a cross before holding an open air service at **10:30 am** in the church car park.



Changed by Jesus

Nothing stays the same in the Christian life; we are continually being changed by Jesus as we keep our lives open to Him. This was the theme of a series of services at TRM in January and February. By looking at how Peter, Paul, John and Mary (the mother of Jesus) were changed, we saw how Jesus can change us over time. The changes in all these people's lives were huge but, although there were dramatic moments, the deep changes took place over periods of time. So Peter changed from the bluff fisherman to the one who recognised Jesus as the Christ, fell into denying knowing Jesus at the time of the crucifixion, and was restored to become the leader of the church. All this as Jesus gave him more responsibility, encouraged him and made him face up to himself. Mary, John and Paul experienced similar long term changes. If you want to experience Jesus' changing power in your life come to our Easter services and meet Him there.

Easter Mathematics

1 cross
+ 3 nails
= 4given

Be a Blessing!

God Bless!

In the Bible, more specifically in the book of Genesis, we are introduced to Abram (Genesis 12:1-3) who is later referred to as Abraham. God speaks to Abraham and makes a covenant with him. A part of that covenant was that God blessed Abraham and said that Abraham would be a blessing to others.

I really like that line of thought about being blessed by God and being a blessing to others. Would you ever consider yourself to be a blessing to others? One of the ways we can be a blessing to others is to speak words of blessing over the lives of the people around us. A good place to start would be in the home. Start with your immediate family, moving out to your colleagues at work and onto all of the other people that God brings into your lives day by day.

Just imagine the change of atmosphere in most homes, schools, universities and work places if we were to speak words of blessing about others and over others instead of speaking words of complaining. I think it would make for much happier friendships and relationships in the places where we live our lives.

Every time I send a text message, an email or write a letter, I conclude with 'Every Blessing'. I want people to know and receive every blessing that God has made available to us all through His son Jesus Christ.

So let me share these words of blessing with you that have so blessed me on many occasions:

"I bless your ears to hear the lovely, the uplifting, and the encouraging, and to shut out the demeaning and the negative. May your feet walk in holiness and your steps be ordered by the Lord. May your hands be tender, helping hands to those in need, hands that bless. May your heart be humble and receptive to one another, and to the things of God, and not to the world. May your mind be strong, disciplined, balanced and faith-filled."

With love and every blessing

Garry Dawson-Jones



Chocolate is a subject close to my heart and judging from the activities taking place on a Sunday in February, that love of chocolate is shared by many at Totley Rise. Now chocolate may not appear to be a natural choice for the theme of a service but, for the last few years, the congregation at TRM have enjoyed the annual delight of a cocoa themed worship. The rich sweet smell of melting chocolate greeted everyone entering the church and the chocolate theme was soon emphasised as Garry tested our knowledge of confectionary ads. The Cadbury gorilla wins every time for me, but then I am slightly biased! After showing a video clip of the 'Vicar of Dibley' diving into a chocolate fountain, the congregation were given the opportunity to create their own chocolate creations using somewhat smaller chocolate fountains. Young and old returned to their seats with smears of sticky brown chocolate across their smiling faces. A clip from Oliver Twist (Food, Glorious Food) posed the question, what is your favourite food? With answers from fish and chips to a Flake, it was clear that tastes differ quite a bit. Reading from Isaiah Garry described the riches of heaven that have been prepared for us and that unlike that craving for chocolate, which starts pretty much 15 minutes after you finish the bar, God is able to satisfy our hunger forever. So while a bar of Dairy Milk will delight your taste buds, real soul food only comes from God.

Alistair Hinch

Prayers in the Pub

Local pubs seem to be changing managers as quickly as unsuccessful football teams change managers. One result of this is that the *Prayers in the Pub* initiative from TRM and Totley All Saints churches will no longer be taking place in the Fleur de Lys pub. The manager, Rachel, has moved from there and is now manager at *The Crown* but, at the time of writing the Crown is closed. This means that, at the moment, there are no sessions of *Prayers in the Pub*. We are talking to all landlords and looking for ways forward.

The purpose of these sessions is to pray with people who have various needs and who would not feel comfortable coming to church to be prayed with. If you know of people like this, when we start again please encourage them to come.

He loves you yeah, yeah, yeah!

There was dancing in the aisles at the end of the 2010 church family party as the Totley Rise version of The Beatles inspired everyone to twist again (like we did last summer). Actually it was quite a few summers ago – the hall decoration, excellent as usual, made it clear from the start that we were back in the 1960s. The theme ran through the whole of the fun event and several of the organisers and guests were dressed accordingly.

The stewards had arranged an interesting and varied programme. The first half was more cerebral and participative, with quizzes including Ian Thompson's anagrams of Sheffield districts and John Stone's songs from the 60s. A scavenger hunt had party goers rifling through their pockets and turning handbags upside down.

After the now traditional pie and peas supper from Liberty Foods, the second half of the evening was pure entertainment, beginning with an infestation of 60 scrambling 'mice' as Phil George sang 'A Windmill in Old Amsterdam'. James and Grace Hadabora sang beautifully, as did Lewis Newman who gave a rendition of the song which recently saw him as runner up in a Sheffield talent contest.

After some monkey business with Peter Dibben, James Hadabora returned, this time with Matthew Hinch as a granny, rapping at breakneck speed. Then finally The Beatles (well nearly) took to the stage. John, Paul, Garry, Ken and Deano belted out a medley of golden oldies, and the floor was soon filled with oldies and youngsters alike, grooving to the beat.



Youth Club

The weeks following Seb's departure were trying to say the least. Two weeks cancelled due to snow and ice, the students were late getting back to Cliff College and then rumours that our older members were considering not coming back. Then the sun came out (or was it just prayer being answered)! Youth Club has gone from strength to strength. As one mother said to me, word about it has got round at school and we are suddenly the place to be on Thursday evenings. Our older members came back and we have had 20 new Y7 members join. We now have 3 students from Cliff College - James, Nathan and Chris, and they are absolutely wonderful. Fortunately they feel the same about Thursday evenings. There is a feeling of excitement about the place and Seb's legacy lives on.

Ann Oles

We don't have room to print it here in Alive!, but you can read Seb Allwright's highly graphic description of his life in Uganda on the church notice board.

Christians Against Poverty

Many of us will remember Keith Tondeur's challenging address to the Churches in S17 at King Ecgbert's School in March last year, when he encouraged us to carefully consider our response to the needs of the poor. He reminded us that the "poor" were all around us and not simply confined to the continent of Africa (although this was the most extreme poverty). The "poor" could be our next door neighbours struggling to make ends meet and burdened with credit card debt.

Keith is one of the vocal supporters of Christians Against Poverty (CAP), a nationwide service to help those struggling with money problems, working through a network of centres based in local Churches. It is a widely recognised not-for-profit organisation, which has been quoted in the Financial Times and Sunday Times, and recently visited by HRH Prince Charles.

The scale of the debt problem in Britain is massive. In August 2009 UK personal debt stood at £58,320 per household, which is now much higher as a result of the recession of 2008/2009. Easy availability of money through the credit card system has added to the family debt burden with massive interest rates. Some 20.8 million plastic card purchases will be made today with a total value of £1.03 billion! Debt causes relationship breakdowns, evictions and even suicides.

CAP starts to meet people's problems of debt by organising local short-courses, teaching:

- the basics of budgeting
- living on cash not credit
- problem solving

The first CAP short-course at TRM will run on 3 consecutive Monday evenings commencing on 12 April 2010. More details were given on the CAP Sunday morning service on 7 March. CAP does not attempt to hide its Christian foundation during the courses, and relies on the short-courses being run by trained Money Coaches from local churches.

People with seemingly unmanageable debt problems, highlighted during their attendance at the short-course, have the offer of the support of a personal counsellor drawn from the CAP team of experts linked by computer to their base in Bradford.

TRM hosts and supports a Tuesday session of the Woodseats Advisory Centre, which also offers a debt counselling service. This is ideal for those with significant debt problems requiring local support on a face-to-face basis.

For a place on the CAP short-course or for more information call Stuart Barlow on 0114 2366018. Places are open to all, whether a member of the Church or not.

For advice about . . .

Press 1

For all other advice, visit one of the weekly drop-in outreach sessions of Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM. Sessions are on Tuesdays between 10 and 12 noon, and anyone living in S17 can drop in - no appointment is necessary.

In these days of automated push-button telephones and the internet, it is easy to have information overload, and no clear answer to your problem. What most people want when in difficulty is someone to listen to their problem and then provide help and accurate information, backed up by good advice based on up-to-date facts. This is precisely what you get at the advice sessions, and the advice and support is free.

Sai Lee is the duty advisor at TRM and he is fully trained and qualified to give practical assistance on a wide range of issues. Many problems can be sorted out at a single visit - others might need considerable follow-up, possibly involving lengthy correspondence, negotiations and, if necessary, representation at tribunals or in court.

Over the five years since the TRM sessions started, hundreds of Dore and Totley residents have attended and received help. Issues have ranged from gas, electric and telephone account queries; negotiations with unsatisfactory builders or shops selling faulty goods; dealing with neighbour disputes; Local Authority and private housing issues, to advice on employment issues such as sick leave, maternity leave and holiday entitlements etc.

The largest number of enquiries each year relate to financial help in the form of benefits, e.g. What help is available? Am I eligible? How do I apply? Can you help me fill in the forms? Increasingly, issues of debt form a major area of concern and can involve considerable negotiations on behalf of those needing help. Hopefully the Christians Against Poverty Sessions being run by TRM members (see opposite) will help some people deal with their debt problems before they get into serious difficulties.

So . . . if you, a friend, a neighbour or acquaintance need help on any issue (not just those listed above), then Sai will be delighted to help. If you can't drop in, you can ring WAC on 0114 2584384, and get advice over the phone.



Sai Lee

Finding God in flower arranging



In this article as part of our series on 'Finding or Serving God in . . .', Mary Wilson writes about how, amongst other things, she does this in flower arranging.

My love of flowers is inherited from my mother who, when I was a child, would identify all the wild flowers that we found, and from my father who always had a garden full of flowers.

When I am putting flowers in church it is a wonderful opportunity, in the quietness, to be still and realize what an amazing God we have.

Each flower is different and yet each is made with the same components to ensure that the life of the plant continues. I never cease to marvel at how beautiful flowers can grow from a seed as small as a grain of sand.

As we meet in church for worship, I pray that the flowers will enhance our awareness of the presence of God – our wonderful Creator God!

Exchange to the Deep South of the USA

Towards the end of June, Garry, Dawn, Joel and Mikey will be going on an exchange to the United Methodist Church USA and specifically to Medina First United Methodist Church, Tennessee. They will be exchanging with the Cox family (Rev Wade Cox, his wife

Invisible love

It walks through storms.
Through the deepest seas, the sharpest thorns.
The hottest deserts, the longest rivers, confident
bodies turn into weak shivers.
My heart. Burning like fire.
Your love. The most important thing I choose to
desire.

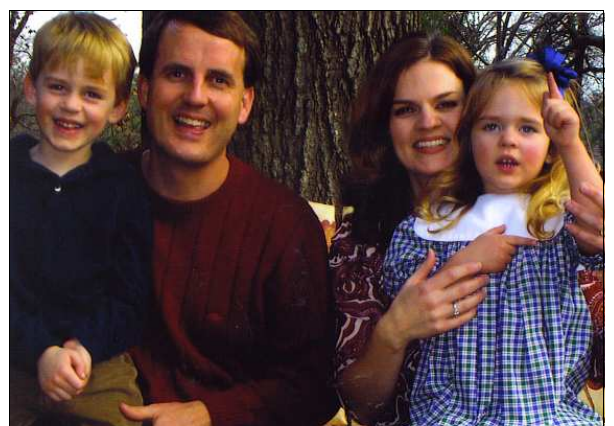
It sings in the wind and journeys to my ear.
Your soulful voice whispers, "I am here."
Your love tells the stars to shine.
The beauty, the talent. Almost too divine.

It smells too intelligent to label on flowers,
It's far more refreshing than a waterfall of
showers.
Your thin, crystal breath cools my fire to ice.
Your depth proves far too expensive to price.

My body so delicate, too fragile to break.
Your strength, your power.
You make earthquakes shake.
Invisible love. I know it's there.
It tastes so strong. Yet nothing could compare.

Rachael Koszalinski

Susan, their 6 year old son Davis and their 3 year old daughter Brooke). Wade will be



working here with TRM and Dore Methodist Churches from 20 June – 25 July, while Garry and Dawn will be living and working in Medina, Tennessee.

From our own Correspondent

Wayne and Susan Hoover worshipped at TRM a few years ago; they have now returned after some time in their native USA. We asked them to write a few words about what it is like for them to be a Christian in the United States.

What a challenging assignment this has been – to write about what it's like to be a Christian in the United States. Being a Christian is so much a part of our lives that we have found that it is difficult to put it into words.

To us it has meant the comfort of having been reared in Christian families and so each of us came to our faith early on.

We have lived in several different areas of the US – east, middle, west, and south. Each area has its own culture and way of expression, and that applies to faith communities as well. Nonetheless in each of these unique places it has meant finding a church

and being involved in various ways.

It has meant that we try to treat people as we would like to be treated, making every effort to live our lives according to the Golden Rule.

Being a Christian means that each day we make every effort to remember the dictates of the Ten Commandments, acknowledging that that is generally easier said than done.

Yet, time and again, especially as we have met new people in new places, we find that we are drawn to and befriended by others who live by the same Christian principles: The Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments.

And so it is here in Totley, and we thank you for welcoming us into Totley Rise Methodist Church.

Wayne and Susan Hoover

FOILED Again

No matter how hard we try we can not answer all the questions set by quizmaster David Harvey for the FOIL AIDS Quiz evening. Even though we are in teams he still seems to find some questions that none of us can answer. Mind you, the winning team did well with Ian and Josie Dunsmore and partners getting a great total of 58 out of 77.5 (75%). As usual the prize box of chocolates was shared amongst all attending with first choice going to the winning team

The fun is not so much in getting the right answers as in conferring about your ignorance and occasionally coming up with a burst of brilliance. It's also good to know that in our fun we are supporting the very needy AIDS victims and families in South Africa. Thanks to the generosity of those at the Quiz a total of £233 was raised to send to the Hillcrest AIDS Centre near Durban.

To get you thinking here are two questions of the standard that you might expect on a FOIL Quiz evening.

1. What is the only town in Great Britain to have an exclamation mark as part of its name?
2. What is the chemical formula for sodium bicarbonate? – you might need it if you win and eat too many chocolates!

Family News

BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to **Barbara Harvey**, who celebrated her 60th birthday in February.

MARRIAGES

Suzanne Tudor is to marry **Richard Johnson** on 10 April at the Registry Office, and the church family send their very best wishes to them both.

The marriage of **Rachel Thomas** to **Ken Bryant** will take place at 12 noon on Saturday 22nd May at TRM. The Thomas family say everyone is welcome.

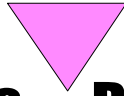
DEATHS

We were sorry to learn that **Jim Williams** has died, his funeral being on 5 March. He and Mary would have celebrated their golden wedding on 25 March, and we particularly remember Mary and family in our prayers.

We also wish to remember in our prayers **Peter Dibben** whose brother died suddenly, **Linda George** whose father also died suddenly, and **Matt Currie** whose father has died after an illness. We send our condolences to them.

PLAYGROUPO has closed after 40 years. There was a short presentation in Church on 7 March; a dramatized bear hunt story with audience participation and action song; also a cake after the service, and a special reunion tea on Saturday March 13 for all past playgroup helpers.

Don't miss these!



High Tea and Tall Stories

27 March 5.00 pm in the church building

Fund Raising Event for World Church Mission

High tea for the family (any number from 1 person upwards) from toddler to centenarian. This will be followed by children's stories such as *The Gruffalo*, *Tiddler* and *Freddie Freckle*, then by a variety of adults' stories from books, monologues and personal anecdotes by talented performers, and original poems by creative artistes.

Flyers have been placed all over Totley. Please come to show love and support to the performers, and TRM love and hospitality to our visitors.

It is essential that numbers are known beforehand, because of catering, so please book in advance by calling Christina on 0114 236412.

There is no charge for the tickets, but afterwards a collection will be made for the World Church Fund.

According to the minutes of some meetings "Christina Fitzsimmons and friends" are doing this event so please be her friend and come along!

Lunch Break

Monday 29 March, 12 noon to 2.00 pm

with Nadine Parkinson

Nadine is the Associate Pastor of All Saint's Church Marple, working alongside her husband, Ian, the vicar. She oversees Discipleship of people in the church, encouraging them to apply their faith in every area of life, and to discover how and where they should be ministering. She enjoys teaching both at her own church and at special events at other churches.

Nadine is also on the leadership team of New Wine; she and Ian lead the work in the North and East of England, including the running of a summer conference and various other events through the year. Nadine and Ian have three grown children.



Prayer Evening at TRM church

Wednesday 31 March, 7.00 to 9.00 pm

Please join us for prayer for God's continued blessing on our church. Come for all of the two hours or just part of the time.

Duck Race

29 April, 6.30 pm at TRM

Thursday Youth Club - The Great Escape

We shall be holding a "Duck Race" on Thursday 29 April. This will take place on Totley Brook, start to be decided, and finish at the church garden side of the bridge on Baslow Road. Ducks will be charged £1 to enter. You may use your own plastic duck or you can buy one from us for 25p (ducks may be customised). All ducks will be allocated a number on receipt of entry fee. Refreshments will be available on the night (all with a duck theme). Only authorised adults will be allowed in the water! All proceeds are to be donated to Abigail Honnor's Uganda Fund. Abigail has been a valued member of the Youth Club since it started almost 5 years ago. A pupil at King Egbert School, she is going on an extended trip to Uganda in the summer of 2011 to do voluntary work at an orphanage.

Toy Swap

Saturday 8 May 10.00 to 12.30 am

Swap Shop provided children in the 1980's with the chance to exchange toys that they had grown out of, or with which they had lost interest, for something more exciting. Totley Rise has decided that it is time that this opportunity should be made available to children of the 21st century (but this time without the multi-coloured jumpers of Noel Edmunds or the squeaky voice of Keith Chegwin). On **Saturday 8 May** you can bring your toys to church and exchange them for something different. In addition to the toy swap adults will also be able to have their cars washed whilst enjoying a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. Anybody swapping a toy is asked to make a donation, which along with the proceeds from the car wash and cake stall will go to support the work of Iris Ministries in Mozambique.

Plants, Coffee, Cakes and Books

All these will be available at the FOIL Coffee morning on **Saturday 15 May**. Come along to Peter and Phyl's house (*87 Furniss Ave*) between **10.00 and 12.00** and restock your garden after the hard winter. Enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits with others, stock up your cake bin, get your books for the summer holidays and support the FOIL AIDS charity. Admission is 50p.

Events

<i>April 2010</i>			<i>May 2010</i>		
Thu 1	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club No Youth Club	Sun 2	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Fri 2	10.00 am 10.30 am	Good Friday Walk of Witness and Open Air Service in TRM car park	Mon 3		Christian Aid May Day Trek
Sun 4	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion, followed by breakfast Easter Celebration with Holy Communion Easter Praise	Tue 4	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Tue 6	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning No Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Thu 6	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
Thu 8	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club No Youth Club	Sat 8	10.00 - 12.30	Toy Swap, Car Wash, and Cake Stall at TRM
Fri 9	9.15 am	LEGO Walk	Sun 9	9.30 am 12 noon	Toddler Praise Hunger Lunch after morning service, at the start of Christian Aid Week
Tue 13	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies, 'Indo-China Experience', <i>Sheila Cooper</i>	Tue 11	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies, "The Rise and Fall of Workhouses", <i>Suzanne Bingham</i>
Thu 15	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club No Youth Club	Thu 13	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
Sun 18		Church AGM after the 10.30 am service	Fri 14	9.15 am	LEGO Walk
Mon 19	8.00 pm	Messianic Dance	Sat 15	10 - 12 noon	FOIL Coffee Morning (at 87 Furniss Ave)
Tue 20	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Sun 16	10.30 am	Churches Together at King Ecgbert's School
Thu 22	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club	Tue 18	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Tue 27	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies, Beetle Drive (postponed from February because of bad weather)	Thu 20	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
Thu 29	1.30 - 3.00 pm 6.30 pm	Pushchair Club Duck Race, organised by Youth Club	Mon 24	12 - 2.00 pm	Lunch Break, with Jane Chapman
			Tue 25	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
			Thu 27	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club

Sundays at TRM

Sunday Services are at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm
The first Sunday of each month is All Age Worship at 10.30 am
The Toddler Praise Services are usually monthly, at 9.30 am.