

# Alive!

News from  
Totley Rise  
Methodist Church

April/May 2007

## God's Presence in Practice

Continuing our theme of asking some of TRM members to describe their experiences – here is an incident from Gordon Wilson's life as an Industrial Chaplain.

It was my final day after over ten years working in one of the major steel companies in Sheffield before moving to Forgemasters. I was standing outside the main office block with a middle manager when suddenly a van screeched to a halt and the driver leaned out of the window and shouted, "Hey you! Come here!" Not the way to speak to his boss! But as the manager went over to speak him, the man yelled, "Not you! - Gordon!" I went across and said "Hi Johnny! What do you want?" He was

excited and said, "I want to tell you I have become a Christian! - last week I saw you in Pat's office and realised I had to do something about my life, so I went to my vicar and I've become a Christian - look here's my bible!" and he drove off.

Two years later at Sheffield station I met the company chauffeur, who as we talked, asked me "What happened to Johnny? He used to use the foulest language and had the most violent temper. Everyone hated him, but now he is kind, courteous and helpful. What happened?" I hadn't really done anything except be there. To me it was a confirmation of the ministry to which I had been directed. Not preaching, as I had done, in city

halls or large cathedrals and small churches and in the open air, but just being a presence where people lived and worked.

This is something everyone can do. Twice I had seen children packed into the small front room of council houses and by their enthusiasm be the start of new vibrant congregations. It was not by preaching in the church, but by simple loving pastoral care in their homes and community and their daily work by every member that people were attracted to the presence of Jesus amongst them. We must simply continue to do the same. That is the mission to which Jesus calls every one of us day by day. What we do in church comes second.

## Taste and See



The Family Service in February became a very practical tasting event. Chocolate was everywhere – including round the faces of many of the younger members of the congregation. Not all the answers to the chocolate quiz were known to everyone –

did you know that chocolate spread into France (because of a Royal marriage) from Spain. During a mid-service break there were two chocolate fountains where the children could dip in marshmallows and strawberries to eat. *Most* of the chocolate went into the mouths.

The two chocolate tasting teams could tell Dairy Milk and Galaxy, but were stumped by Lindt and Green and Blacks. A final brand was also not recognised – Divine chocolate. And this took us to the serious point of the service. The Christian life is about tasting and seeing that the Lord is good. In Jesus, God became one of us and showed us that God cares for us. Just like eating chocolate, we only know the joys of being a Christian if we taste and see. How do you know what you are missing if you have never tried?

# 'Easter' - We shall Overcome

Many of us today enjoy listening to stories about overcoming weaknesses and areas of difficulty. We love it when the underdog comes out on top. If Accrington Stanley were to play the likes of Liverpool, most neutrals would get behind Accrington Stanley. Quite a number of us would love to see such a giant killing venture. Why? Not because everyone has such a dislike for Liverpool, although some probably dislike them with a passion. It is more because it would be a story of overcoming. We all love a good story of overcoming.

The Easter Message is, likewise, a story of overcoming. It is about the power of love overcoming hatred, it is obedience overcoming rebellion, it is self-sacrifice overcoming self-centredness. As Holy Week unfolds

we see how Jesus overcomes. On Good Friday, though it hardly seems like it, he overcomes because he is pitching the power of love and self-sacrifice against the worst the world can do. Through his life of perfect obedience, Jesus overcomes Sin. Through his healing ministry Jesus overcomes Sickness. Through his resurrection Jesus overcomes Death. These three areas, Sin (although not all of us like to recognise it), Sickness and Death deeply affect all our lives. As Jesus was talking to the disciples about his forthcoming departure from them, he encouraged them by reminding them in spite of how hard it may well be for him and them, *'But take heart, I have overcome the world'* John 16:33. In overcoming the

world, what has Jesus overcome? He has overcome those things which deeply affect our lives in this world - Sin, Sickness and Death. There is always something good awaiting those who prevail and overcome, *'To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God'*. Revelation 2:7 How do we overcome? By putting our faith and our trust in Jesus and holding on to Jesus like our life depends on him - because it does! What situations are you facing in your life which you need to overcome and who will you look to for help and support?

Have a Holy and Joyful Easter.

Love and every blessing,

Garry Dawson-Jones

## In the Spotlight



### The Crèche

As you sit in Church on Sunday mornings you may hear a bit of background noise - a bump, a squeak or an occasional cry. The Crèche is on the go!

The home of the Crèche is behind the semi-sound proof screen at the back of the Church extension. This area has all mod cons - colourful toys, puzzles, rich tea biscuits, playdough, etc., and even its own little heater and sun blinds to ensure that the children (and helpers) are kept at the right temperature. The wonderful

facility of having the service played through means that adults have the option of leaving their children or remaining in the Crèche room but still being part of the Church family.

There is a regular core of Crèche helpers with an extra honorary carer each week. At present there are seven regular under-3's, but numbers are often swelled by visiting families and Christening parties (19 adults and children being the current highest number on one Sunday).

The Crèche is also used after the service by older children as a safe



place to play away from hot drinks, while their parents enjoy a coffee and chat. The Crèche is manned by loving (police checked) carers from 10.15 a.m. throughout the Sunday morning service and warmly welcomes children and their families. More information from Josie 2369546.

## 3 Men on a Mission

It seems that Nick has discovered perpetual motion or at least the fact that once you start running you can't stop! Not content with running both the London and New York Marathons last year, he will soon be on the starting line in Hyde Park again. This year however he will not be alone. Through either inspiration or blackmail (the Jury is still out) he has persuaded Adrian and Seb to join him in this Herculean challenge.

Nick will be running for Mencap, Adrian for Traidcraft and Seb for the Oasis Trust.

The trio are organising a number of events in the run up to the marathon as part of their preparation and fundraising activity. Good times were achieved in the Sleaford half Marathon at the end of February and respectable performances delivered in training running up to the Dronfield

10K run on 11 March. Fundraising started with a mammoth car wash on 10 March. Aided by the Youth Church some 30 cars were washed and a considerable number of cakes consumed.



The final preparation run will be the Silverstone half

Marathon on 18 March followed on Monday 19 March by a Charity Dinner for 50 people at the Takapuna Restaurant.

Nick is also running market stalls in Ashbourne on Saturday 5 May and Bakewell on Monday 11 June to raise more money. Please support him by giving stuff to sell or by going along on the day.

The London Marathon takes place on 22 April with all three men looking for sub 4 hour 30 minute times! Please give them your support in the form of sponsorship and prayer.

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## Keep on Walking ... for Air Ambulance

People who learn to walk in TRM often continue their walking when they move elsewhere. Ex-TRM member Stan Mountford is organising a two-day walk – to see the delights of mid-Wales where he now lives. The walk, on 9 and 10 August, will follow the route that John Wesley took, and is followed by a barbecue organised by the local Methodist churches. Walkers are asked to try to get sponsorship for the Air Ambulance charity and Stan will arrange B & B for those who want it. Further details from Graham and Barbara Baldry (01246 418207).

## The Kingdom , Power and Authority

These were the key words used by Reverend Chris Woods in his seminar on Developing a Healing Ministry at TRM, on Saturday 3 March. Chris introduced himself as an ordinary Anglican vicar running an ordinary parish. This led perfectly into his opening session where he stated that learning to minister as Jesus did was very much part of our discipleship and the sharing of God's love with others.

The day was divided into looking at:

*The Foundations of the Healing Ministry* - The Kingdom of God and the importance Jesus put on the rule of God in all his teaching. (Mark 1 : 15) Recognising the kingdom of darkness and putting Satan's power into perspective. Realising the authority we have from God for our ministry and the power that we receive via the Holy Spirit to carry out our ministry.

*Releasing the Ministry* - Chris said that 'Healing Events' were about creating an environment and opportunity for God to work his wonders and allowing heaven to break through. He presented a healing model to work to and illustrated this, sensitively and very effectively, using a volunteer.

*Specific Types of Ministry* - This section dealt with the specific types of ministry such as *Forgiveness* (Foundational to all ministries), *Deliverance* ( 1 John 4:4 ), and *Filling with the Holy Spirit* (Breaking down barriers).

I am sure all who attended felt the day well spent and blessed by what Chris had to say and the fellowship we enjoyed. There was much food for thought. If anyone would like more information please see either John Freeman or Garry.

# Graceful Disciples

During Autumn all our Fellowship Groups studied *What's so Amazing about Grace?* and tried to apply it to our own lives. Many people said that they appreciated the themed morning sermons that went with this course. Although some found the book repetitive we all found the ideas, and particularly some of the examples, challenging to live up to. We all appreciated more the grace of God shown to us in Jesus. Here is how one of TRM's members sums up the effect on her.

"I had often wondered what the word 'grace' really meant in a spiritual sense, and thanks to Philip Yancey's book, video and the challenging discussions that followed at the Mums' Monday group (thanks to all of you), I feel closer to understanding the magnitude of God's love, forgiveness and compassion for all of us, and how that can really turn many of our attitudes to others on their head in quite a shocking way. It's easy to arrange sins into some kind of order, from those that everyone commits and that we can begin to wrongly regard as acceptable, to those extreme crimes that we hear of that we would really struggle to forgive. But this course has highlighted for me that God loves every single

person, no matter what they have done, and that I stand alongside the murderer and rapist as a sinner who needs God's grace. I, as a Christian, am called to mirror that grace, and it will certainly not be easy, but what an amazing difference it would make if we could all strive for it."



In the summer the Fellowship Groups will be studying *Discipleship*. Almost the last words that Jesus said to his disciples was *Go into all the world and make disciples ... teaching them to do all that I have told you*. Part of that discipling is to disciple ourselves and we shall be considering the implications of this in June and July. There will be preaching on this theme from 3 June to 8 July

inclusive. More details in our next issue. In the meantime – as background reading you might like to read *Discipleship* by David Watson or *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

## Some Like it Hot!



It's not all beer and skittles at TRM Church (not even all Coke and dominoes either). The men decided to have an evening out on their own and went to the Dilshad Indian Restaurant in Woodseats. Those in the know ordered their madras and vindaloo dishes – whilst those new to the Indian experience were asking, "What are popadoms?". Eventually everyone found something they wanted and it turned into a great evening together.

Not to be outdone, on the same evening, some of the wives had their own girls night out at the pictures. They saw Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett in *Notes on a Scandal* on a trip to Chesterfield.

## 24 Hour Famine

Come 9 am on Monday 12 February, there were 25 very hungry young people! Why? Because for the previous 24 hours we hadn't eaten anything! We did this 24 hour fast to make a difference. To make a difference to those people who don't have food and drink, who face a daily battle just to survive. It was the weekend of the World Vision famine for Zambia, where thousands of young people from around the world were fasting at the same time for those not so fortunate.

Over the 24 hours we had a great time playing various silly games, filming ourselves around Totley doing silly things such as seeing how many people we can fit into a phone box and making a human snowman as well as many other crazy things! The final result, some very funny videos! In the evening we spent some time reflecting on why we were not eating, and God's call for us to love justice. After some time of relaxing together we went for a midnight walk. Come 9 am the following morning the tables were set and the toast was cooking ready for some well earned food!

A great time was had by all, and a big difference was made to the people in Zambia. Thanks to all of you who sponsored us; you too have made a difference. I'm sure that the people in Zambia will also be saying a big thank you.

# Party Time

Too late for Christmas and the New Year – TRM’s annual party took place at the end of January. Over 70 people were well fed and entertained. Meat pie and mushy peas obviously helped brains work as three of the five groups got full marks for the *Pantomime Anagram* game. After wallowing in *Mud* Phil George recalled how *The Gas man came to call* (courtesy of Flanders and Swann). Was he trying to heat the water for a bath when the boiler went?

The *Motley Players* performed (?) *Cinderella*. Who can forget Cinderella’s reaction to the proposal of marriage by Prince Charming. A deadpan “Awright”. Phyl Holmes tried to sell maple to Noah at *three ha’pence a foot*; Roger Hoyle preached(?) a sermon which finished with woe to everyone and a quick exit to himself, and Len Capper entertained with song and tales. It was all good fun – how are we going to beat that next year?

# FAMILY NEWS

## Birth

Congratulations to **Jenny and Ian Hardy** on the birth of their grandson, **Max Jenson**, to **Sara and Graham**. Max was born on Monday 19 March and is Jenny and Ian’s fourth grandchild, but their first grandson.

## Obituary

We are sorry to report the death of **Kathleen Pilling**.

## Bluebell Wood, Children’s Hospice

The Rotary Club of Sheffield Vulcan invites you to an evening at Abbeydale Sports Club to hear about the good work being done for very sick children by the Hospice. The event is on **Wednesday 25 April at 7.00 pm** in the pavilion. Beverages and biscuits will be provided. Please telephone Roger Hart on 2367034 or e-mail. [roger@rogerhart.co.uk](mailto:roger@rogerhart.co.uk) if coming.

# Don’t miss these!

## Easter

For Christians, Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter Sunday) is a week of mixed emotions as we remember Jesus’ last meal with his disciples, his betrayal, the sadness of his crucifixion on Good Friday, followed by the joy of Easter Sunday. Throughout the week there will be a series of services to help focus on the events of the Easter story. One of the most inspiring and moving services is the Good Friday service held in the open air within the Church car park and preceded by a walk following a wooden cross from Totley to the Church. Over the last few years the service has provided many inspiring testimonies and provided a real understanding of what Jesus’ death on the cross means to each one of us.

Easter week is a time for us to focus again on how Jesus died to set us free from our sin, so make a note of the services below and join together to witness and worship.

### **Palm Sunday, 1 April**

A procession will be leaving the Cross Scythes at 10 am complete with donkey, flags, palm branches and musical instruments. Join in en route to TRM for service in Church.

### **Good Friday, 6 April**

Walk of witness with the cross starting at the Co-op at 10.00 am with a service at 10.30 am in the Church car park.

### **Easter Sunday, 8 April**

8 am—Holy Communion followed by breakfast  
10.30 am—Service with Holy Communion  
6.30 pm—Worship led by Worship Group

### **Saturday 21 April**

**Overseas Missions Coffee Morning at TRM**  
10 am to 12 noon

Please come and support this event.

### **Sunday 29 April**

**Evening Youth Service at TRM**  
7.00 pm

This will be a circuit youth service led by the young people for the young people, but people of any age will be most welcome. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a great evening.

### **Saturday 5 May**

**Trip to Alton Towers**

Seb will be taking a group of young people to Alton Towers. The day finishes with a Christian concert in the grounds. Anyone wishing to go should contact him. (07917800488).

### **Saturday 12 May**

**FOIL AIDS Bring and Buy**  
10 am—12.30 pm

There will be a Bring and Buy stall and Coffee Morning at 87 Furniss Avenue. Amongst other things for sale will be items made by Zulus being supported by the Ikhaya Lobomi group in South Africa. Come ready to buy and bring your items to sell, as well as enjoying coffee and cakes.

# Events

<i>April 2007</i>			<i>May 2007</i>		
<b>Sun 1</b>	10 am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Procession from Cross Sythes—See 'Don't Miss These' for details	<b>Tue 1</b>	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
<b>Mon 2</b>	8.00 pm 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting Messianic Dance	<b>Wed 2</b>	7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship Reg Hobson, <i>The Great Sheffield Flood</i>
<b>Tue 3</b>	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning No Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	<b>Thu 3</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7- 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
<b>Thu 5</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club No Youth Club	<b>Tue 8</b>	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies
<b>Fri 6</b>	10 am	<b>Good Friday</b> Walk of Witness and Service See 'Don't Miss These' for details	<b>Thu 10</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7- 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
<b>Sun 8</b>		<b>Easter Sunday</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion followed by breakfast 10.30 am Service with Holy Communion 6.30 pm Worship led by Worship Group	<b>Fri 11</b>	9.15 am	LEGO Walk
<b>Tue 10</b>		No Prayer Meeting No Coffee Morning No Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	<b>Sat 12</b>	10 am - 12.30	FOIL AIDS Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at 87 Furniss Avenue (see 'Don't Miss These' for details)
<b>Thu 12</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club No Youth Club	<b>Sun 13</b>	9.30 am After am service	Toddler Praise - " <i>I Spy</i> " Hunger Lunch at TRM. Christian Aid Week commences (13—19 May), with the theme of <i>Climate Change Costs Lives</i> .
<b>Fri 13</b>	9.15 am	LEGO Walk	<b>Wed 16</b>	7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship Prof Brian Underdown, <i>The Rotary Movement, Making a Difference</i>
<b>Mon 16</b>	8.00 pm	Messianic Dance	<b>Thu 17</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7- 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
<b>Tue 17</b>	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies	<b>Tue 22</b>	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 -12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
<b>Thu 19</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7- 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club	<b>Thu 24</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7- 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
<b>Sat 21</b>	10 am - noon	Coffee Morning on behalf of Overseas Missions	<b>Tue 29</b>		No Prayer Meeting No Coffee Morning No Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
<b>Tue 24</b>	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 -12 noon 8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies	<b>Thu 31</b>		No Pushchair Club No Youth Club
<b>Thu 26</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7- 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club			
<b>Sun 29</b>	6.30 pm	Evening Youth Service (see 'Don't Miss These' for details)			

## *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  
There will be no monthly Toddler Praise Service in April, but on May 13 at 9.30 am there will be one entitled, 'I Spy' (all welcome).