

Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

June/July/August 2007

Keep on running!



Despite weather that felt more like mid summer than early spring and pushed temperatures to a record high, our three intrepid runners managed to overcome all obstacles and complete all 26 miles of the London Marathon on the 22 April.

All three finished in good time with Adrian finishing well under 4½ hours and Nick and Seb arriving at the finishing line shortly after 5 hours. As reported in the last issue of Alive the three had been training hard, spurred on by each other even when it was cold, wet and windy. The organisation on the day was fantastic, once the competitors managed to overcome the over enthusiastic hospitality of their hotel accommodation and the vagaries of the London transport system. The force was definitely with Adrian as he managed to beat a competitor dressed as Darth Vader to the line.

So time for the trio to have a rest and to deposit their trainers at the back of the wardrobe! Well, not quite - plans are already in place for the next challenge with the Sheffield Marathon, the Great North Run and the Dublin Marathon all in their sights.



Gift Day

17 June 2007

Apparently you should never bring up money, politics or religion at a dinner party, and sometimes we think the same rules apply to when we are in church! Religion is obviously the first exception to the rule, but money should be as well; and as for politics, let's leave that for another issue! As Christians we should be able to discuss how we spend and give our money; after all, the Bible has a lot to say about money and how we should use it. God wants to be in every part of our life and that includes our wallets!

The idea of a Gift Day is to provide an opportunity to support the work of God through Totley Rise in our community. Over the weeks leading up to the Gift Day there will be a chance for Garry to talk about the vision for the church, and the Gift Day itself gives a chance to invest in that vision. The day will provide us all with the focus to consider our regular giving, as well as to give an additional gift to support that vision. So, in the weeks leading up to 17 June, think about God's good gifts to you and come prepared to give in thanks for His goodness.

Over the years God has performed mighty acts through the way He has used our money and time at TRM. So don't think about your donation as a gift, but as an investment in building God's kingdom in this community.

HAVE YOU FOUND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR?

On their album, 'Joshua Tree', U2 sing of the searching that goes on inside the heart and soul of each one of us – *'I still haven't found what I'm looking for'*. That people are searching for 'something' is evidenced in the many articles and adverts carried in lifestyle magazines for men and women. That people are searching is seen in the way that people turn to the use of crystals for healing and peace; in the way that people search out readers of tarot and psychic mediums; and by the way that some people will never let the day go by without checking things out with their horoscopes in the daily papers.

In my own experience, there is only one way to have that hunger

filled and that thirst quenched. Through being connected to someone who is a higher power than ourselves, who understands life and the design of the universe and what we are here on earth for, **we can at last leave aside the cry** *'I still haven't found what I'm looking for'*. God is that someone, that higher power, and He has made Himself known to us through His one and only Son, Jesus, who took on flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. Through Him, we can know the longing and searching filled, for He came, as the bible reminds us, that we may have life and have life abundantly. Later in May, the church celebrates Pentecost. At Pentecost we celebrate the greatest outpouring of

spiritual power ever – a spiritual power that enables us to know that sense of connectedness to the God who made us in His image.

I really like U2's *'I still haven't found what I'm looking for'*. But at the same time, it is not my heart's cry, because God by His grace has allowed me to know in person that what I was looking for is only found in a relationship with the one true and living God seen and known through Jesus. You can have and know that for yourself too, and it is God's desire and intention for you to be eternally connected with Him.

Love and every blessing,

Garry.

The Life of a Church Steward

Our church is a body of people, and each part of the body has a specific role or, in some cases, lots of roles. Over the next few issues of *Alive!* we will be looking at the different roles in the church, what's involved, and how it happens. For the first of these articles we are going to look at the role of a Steward.

Like many roles within the church, the Stewards are elected to their role by the members of the church. Thankfully no long debates or campaigns are normally involved. The process is one of prayerful consideration by the current Stewards and those who are asked to consider the role, followed by an endorsement by the church as a whole.

Stewards serve in their role for 4 years, each year running from May to April. At Totley Rise we have 8 Stewards. Each year 2 stand down and a further 2 are appointed to the role. The only hierarchy within the role of Steward is that in your third year you become a Senior Steward, which denotes some additional responsibilities.

The activities of a Steward are many and varied but basically fall into 3 areas:

- ◆ Day to day tasks which keep the church working; for example, sending invite letters to preachers, unlocking the church, counting of the collection.
- ◆ Managing the work of the church by meeting regularly with the Minister and ensuring that the life of the church is healthy, making decisions about the running of the church and planning future events.
- ◆ Making things happen. Yes, it's easy to forget that behind every social event or special service there has to be somebody to co-ordinate the large, and the small, items that ensure it's a success, from checking the building is available to sticking chocolate on invitation cards!

In summary, being a Steward involves you in every aspect of the life of the church. It's hard work but is a fantastic way to see just what goes on in the church and is extremely rewarding. So next time you see a Steward, say thank you for the love and dedication that goes into completing all those jobs that you never see and pray that they will have both wisdom and stamina!

What kind of King is this?



the church car park focused on the first Good Friday – and what the death of Jesus means to us. As on Palm Sunday, many on the first Good Friday, and since, look for the wrong things in Jesus and so miss what He offers. As the symbols of Jesus’ death were put upon the large cross in the car park, a vapour trail in the sky made a huge celestial cross over us. The red ribbons we tied on our cross symbolised the sins we were leaving with Jesus to deal with. In Isaiah, God says, “though your sins be as scarlet they shall become white as snow.”

When we entered church on Easter Sunday we saw the same cross and all the ribbons tied on it were white – not a miracle, but a hard working sign to us all that that is what Good Friday is all about. But Easter is about more than forgiven sins. It is about new life. Jesus rose from the dead and gives new life to those who believe in Him. The symbols in the morning service included live chicks. In the evening service we remembered that *Christ is risen* – a great truth about God, but also *Jesus is alive* in our personal experience of Him. We are now His people on earth to do His will and bring glory to God.



Over 50 people follow a donkey from the Cross Scythes to TRM church. Why? It’s Palm Sunday and we remember how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was acclaimed as Messiah by the crowd. But what sort of king is this? In the service, Viv Thomas showed us pictures of several kings from history. All of them came on horses, wearing crowns and swords, riding in pomp in front of their supporting crowd to kill their enemies. Jesus came in humility to die for his people. We sang *Crown him with many crowns*, but the crown He wore was of thorns and His many crowns were of things like love, peace, righteousness and holiness.

More people were walking on Good Friday. From the Co-op in Totley down to TRM Church following the minister carrying a large cross. The open-air service in



Abolish Slavery then and now



It is two hundred years since the British Parliament legislated to abolish slavery. The film *Amazing Grace* showed the role that William Wilberforce played in this; it also showed how much his stamina and determination in doing this were based on his Christian faith.

On a damp evening at the end of March, twelve of us from TRM met in the church car park to go to Chesterfield to see the film. It was a very moving occasion and we all left feeling great that someone with our faith had done something so good.

But slavery has not stopped, and now takes different forms – particularly in today’s Britain. Matt Jukes, a TRM member, has been involved in trying to stop

people-trafficking and its associations with prostitution in the Sheffield/Rotherham area. He will be speaking at an open meeting at TRM on Wednesday 20 June, at 7.30 pm.

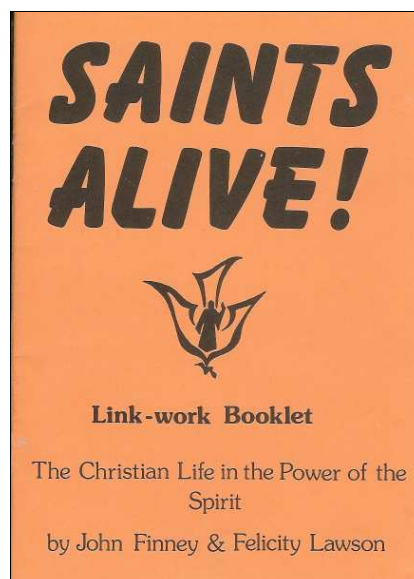
The aim is to raise awareness of current issues and to see what we can do as present-day Christians to follow in Wilberforce’s footsteps.

Fellowship Groups

In the run up to the summer holiday season our fellowship group studies will once again allow us to join together as a church, both physically and virtually. The physical element will take place courtesy of a series of morning sermons in June and July based around the study material. The virtual aspect will be through the fact that each fellowship group will be studying the same material each week, so although not physically together we will all be on the same page, so to speak!

The series of study sessions will be based around a book called ‘Saints Alive’ which will allow us to explore our calling to ‘Discipleship’ both at an individual and church level. Whether your knowledge of discipleship is non-existent, basic or advanced, over the course of the study there will be elements that refresh old knowledge, build new learning and challenge us all to be more discipleship focused.

If you are not a member of a fellowship then now is a great time to join. Talk to any Steward or Garry and they will put you in touch with a group. If you talk to anyone who is already a member of a group they will be happy to share their experience of how fellowships help to strengthen faith and friendships.



Summer Sermon Series on *Discipleship*

Starting on 20 May the morning services at TRM will be based on the theme of Discipleship. Jesus’ last words to His disciples, recorded in Matthew’s gospel were that they should go and make disciples of all nations. The titles of the sermons are:

- **20 May** *What is a Christian?*
- **3 June** *The Person and Work of Christ*
- **10 June** *The Significance of the Resurrection*
- **17 June** *Pentecost, Then and Now (This is also the Gift Day)*
- **24 June** *Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit*
- **1 July** *Knowing Christ in the Power of the Spirit*
- **8 July** *Christian Growth*
- **15 July** *Membership of the Church – the Body of Christ*

God is Good

Even in the Bad Times

Being a Christian does not remove you from life's difficulties. *Ian Hardy's* contribution continues our series of articles on how being a Christian makes a difference.

It was two weeks before Christmas 2005, when I was told that the Company I worked for was to close down in June 2006. That dreaded phrase 'being made redundant'. It was happening again five years on.

It is said that most people can expect to be made redundant at least three times in their working life, but only those who have been through redundancy can really know what it is like. Queuing at the job centre, signing on, filling in lots of forms, an interview every two weeks. In the four months I was unemployed I applied for over a hundred jobs. I received eight replies, and had five interviews. It's not easy especially when you are sixty-one years old. You feel that nobody wants you, and that you are too old anyway. You become very careful with your finances, which isn't a bad thing;

you only buy what you really need.

In those months, I prayed much to God to find me a job, and others prayed also, but God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we expect. His timing is different to ours. I admit it is hard to trust when everything seems hopeless. There are times when things look like they are getting worse instead of better. There is a verse in the Bible that says, "And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him".

I went for interview number five; I was required to take a maths test and then an interview. After all this the manager said I had got the job! Then he said another job had just become available which would suit me better looking at my employment history, and I was offered that instead.

Notice God's timing, you see He is always on time. I was asked "When can you start?" And the rest is history. You really can turn to God in times of trouble, as well as in the good times. You can be sure that **God is good even when times are bad.**

COMPASSION

TRM Church has been sponsoring a child through the charity *Compassion*. That child, Yuri, is no longer in the system. We are continuing to support the work of *Compassion* by sponsoring another child, Limber, who lives in Bolivia and will be nine on 14 June. Our sponsorship costs £18 a month, which we raise from the Tuesday coffee mornings. It would be a lovely blessing to Limber if as many people as possible could send him a birthday card. If you wish, you can give the cards to Hilary Grundy, and she will send them all off together. It takes about two to three months for mail to reach its destination, so the sooner we write the better.

More information about Limber and Bolivia can be found in the church lounge and the foyer. Hilary thanks everyone for their support.



Coffee, Cakes and Cash

Several church outreach organisations use coffee mornings to raise money for their good causes.

On 21 April a coffee morning in the church hall for **Overseas Missions** raised £360.

The **FOIL AIDS** coffee morning held at Peter and Phyl Holmes's house on 12 May (including donations given immediately after the event) raised just over £900. The latest newsletter about **FOIL AIDS** is available from Peter Holmes (2351897) or pick one up from TRM church entrance.

The organisers thank everyone for their contributions, which will go to people in need.

It's Great to be Young!

Alton Towers

On Saturday 5 May, very early in the morning, I and six young people from TRM youth club met with Banner Cross youth and went off to Alton Towers for the day! Come 9.30 am we had reached Alton Towers, along with thousands of other young people from around the country, all set for a great day of fun and laughter, thrills and spills and fish and chips! (one of my favourites).



The big rides were a favourite amongst all of us with Oblivion (the one with the vertical drop) and Air (where you feel like you're flying!) the top two favourites.

I would have settled for going on the slow boats and having a cup of coffee, but there was no chance that this was going to happen (having said that I sort of enjoyed most of the rides!). This wasn't all we went for though. In the evening there was a concert with some great Christian bands playing including *Delirious* and *Toby Mac* (for those who aren't up with the Christian music scene, they're both very good!). *Delirious* were the favourites with plenty of dancing around and singing along to some great new songs. Andy Hawthorne, a very good speaker, challenged us all on acting out our faith and beliefs by loving the poor and helping those who are not so fortunate as we are. It was a message that was applicable and challenging for everybody there, urging us to act on these beliefs that we hold to; the belief that it can't be right for some to have

everything and others nothing.

A great day was had by all and many young people (and I) are already looking forward to the same event next year!

Youth Service at TRM

Sunday 29 April saw a different kind of evening service at TRM. A Circuit Youth Service was held with several young people and adults meeting together from different churches in the circuit. This was a service aimed at the young people and led by some of the young people. The theme was the Road to Emmaus, and included a funny telling of the story and prayers by throwing around balloons. We were challenged on how we can recognise God being at work in all our lives, through both good and bad times, in the big and mediocre tasks that we face in life. Following the service we shared some pizza and cakes together, and this gave us all the chance to get to know different people as well as enjoying some good food!

Another Circuit Youth Service (but open to all ages!) will be held at Banner Cross Methodist Church on Sunday 24 June; details are still being decided, so look out for these details coming soon. It will be great to see you there!

Soul Survivor

On August 18, approx 25 young people and several adults from Dore and Totley will be packing their tents and heading off to Soul Survivor for 5 days. Soul Survivor is a big (approx 15,000) Christian youth event, with great worship and teaching, seminars, cafes, skate parks, concerts etc, etc. It will be a fantastic week for all, so look out after the summer for plenty of great stories of what happened during the week.

Seb Allwright

Family News

Birth

Congratulations to **Barbara and Graham Baldry** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Elizabeth Rose**, to **Sarah & David Hale** on 23 March.

Death

Mary Joby, a member of TRM for many years, died in April. Mary was the mother of June Monks, and she and her family are in our thoughts at this time.

Special Birthdays

Peter Holmes and **Pauline Mann** have celebrated their 70th birthdays, Peter in April, and Pauline in May. Congratulations to them both!

Forthcoming Marriage

Rachel Slegg is to marry **Mark Whittaker** on Friday 15 June at 1.00 pm at TRM.

Lynda and David invite all friends to join with them at the service.

Congratulations

Zaina Elliott, a teenager in our Youth Church, recently won a 'Child of Courage Award' for her courage in adversity, and we are all very proud of her!

Well Done!

After successfully attending two auditions, **Lewis Newman** has been offered a part in the production of *High School Musical*. This will be staged at the Crucible Theatre on Friday 20, and Saturday 21 July 2007.

RACE FOR LIFE 2007

Tesco are again the national sponsors of Cancer Research UK's Race for Life 2007. Judy Gunner, Maureen Fletcher, Moira Newman and Sheila Cooper from TRM will be joining about 800,000 other women nationally to run, walk or jog in the event to raise money to help beat cancer. There will be other events all across the country.

Last year £50M was raised for Cancer Research UK into three most common cancers, breast cancer, lung cancer and bowel cancer. This year the target is £60M.

Sheffield's event is on 3 June at Don Valley Stadium where our four will join others to cover 5k from the stadium, round the district and finish back at the stadium (we hope!). Please support them with your sponsorship and help to smash the fundraising target. If they don't get to you, please come to find them.

Don't Miss These!

Wednesday 20 June

Slavery – in Sheffield? A talk by Matt Jukes at TRM at 7.30 pm (see Alive! article entitled *Abolish Slavery – Then and Now*)

Sunday 15 July

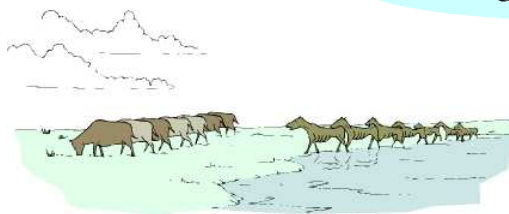
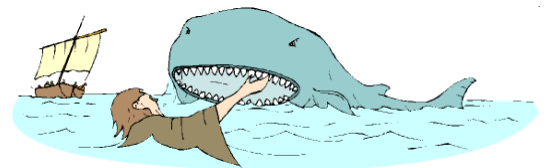
This is our church fun day for all the family and friends (see below)

Fun Day Fun Day Sunday 15 July

Don't miss TRM on 15 July! It is our Fun Day for all the family and friends. The main games and activities start immediately after the morning service (they really begin during the service!). There will be games based on stories from the Old Testament.

See Jonah's Whale

swallow your bean bags



Bowl out the seven fat and the seven lean cows from Joseph's Egypt

See the children do a David and Goliath act on their fathers by slinging wet sponges



Run with the 10 commandments – and don't drop them



Play games based on Daniel in the Lion's Den and other Old Testament themes.



There will be a bouncy castle and paddling pools. Drinks will be available but **bring your own picnic** and join us for this fun-filled day. The service starts at 10.30 am; main activities are after the service (about 12.00 noon) until late afternoon.

Events

<i>June 2007</i>			<i>July 2007 (cont)</i>		
Tue 5	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Wed 4	7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship, "St Cuthbert's Way, a walk from Melrose to Holy Island", <i>Dr Jim Headridge</i>
Wed 6	7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship, "My visit to Mozambique", <i>Madeleine McClintock</i>	Thu 5	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
Thu 7	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club	Sun 8		Gift Sunday for NCH
Fri 8	9.15 am	LEGO Walk	Mon 9	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting
Sun 10	9.30 am	Toddler Praise	Tue 10	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Mon 11	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Thu 12	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
Tue 12	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies (out for Brontë walk followed by supper)	Fri 13	9.15 am	LEGO Walk
Thu 14	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7 - 8.30 pm 7 pm onwards	Pushchair Club Youth Club Senior Citizens' Outing	Sun 15	Noon to late afternoon	Youth Church Fun Day (see details in 'Don't MissThese')
Sun 17		Church Gift Day (see article)	Mon 16	8.00 pm	Messianic Dance
Mon 18	8.00 pm	Messianic Dance	Tue 17	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Tue 19	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Wed 18	7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship, "John Wesley", <i>Shirley Ellins</i>
Wed 20	7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship, "Sri Lanka after the Tsunami", <i>Rev & Mrs David Willie</i> Talk by <i>Matt Jukes</i> , "Slavery - in Sheffield?"	Thu 19	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club
Thu 21	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club	Mon 23	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting
Mon 25	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Tue 24	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Tue 26	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Thu 26	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
Thu 28	1.30 - 3.00 pm 7 - 8.30 pm	Pushchair Club Youth Club	Tue 31	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
<i>July 2007</i>			<i>August 2007</i>		
Sun 1	1.00 pm	Totley Festival, in Green Oak Park	Tuesdays		Prayer Meetings, Coffee Mornings, and Woodseats Advice at TRM will continue during August except on Tuesday 28 August there will be no Woodseats Advice at TRM.
Mon 2	8.00 pm	Messianic Dance	Thursdays		Pushchair Club will continue to meet during August at the usual time, 1.30 to 3.00 pm
Tue 3	9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon	Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Mon 6	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting
			Fri 10	9.15 am	LEGO Walk
			Mon 20	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting

Sunday Services are at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm
Early Morning Communion, 9.15 am, 3 June, 1 July, 5 August