

# Alive!

News from  
Totley Rise  
Methodist Church

April/May 2008

## Easter at Totley Rise

### From a Trickle to a Stream

The trickle had its source at the Cross Scythes. As we followed *Spirit* the donkey down Baslow Road, waving our palms, the trickle started to grow. Others joined in the walk. Past TRM with another tributary joining at the URC Church in Totley Brook Road, we streamed up Furniss Avenue. More joined from Dore Parish Church and other churches in S17 and the stream became a river flowing into the sea of King Ecgbert's school hall. All the seats were full and people were standing at the back. It's not often that it is standing room only for a church service, but that was the case at the joint Palm Sunday Service on 16 March. The worship was joyfully led by the worship team from Dore and Totley Christian Fellowship. Quite a crowd. Just like there had been on the first Palm Sunday – and just as mixed as we were reminded by Sue Hope, our speaker. Some realised that they were not his followers at all; to

them He said, as He does to us, *Follow Me*. Others felt their lives were empty; yet others felt their lives too full and stressful. To them He said, as He says to us, *Come to me all who are empty or heavy laden and I will give you rest (purpose and peace)*. If you want to know more about what this means in practice, talk to Garry or one of TRM's local preachers – or to anyone you know at TRM who does know what is meant.

### Good Friday

For the last 7 or 8 years the events of Good Friday have been marked with an open air service in the car park of the Church. As Good Friday 2008 approached though, the weather forecast grew increasingly dark with predictions ranging from heavy showers and wind, to snow. However, as has been the case in previous years, Friday dawned with a clear blue sky, albeit with a cold wind.

Members of the church carried a cross from Totley Library down to the Church, stopping at various points to sing and hand out hot cross buns. The open air service was led by Garry who preached on how the fact that Jesus had touched wood meant that we did not have to. We don't need to trust in superstition because by his death we know that Jesus is with us throughout our lives, and we have his assurance of eternal



life if we accept him as our saviour. The service finished with a wooden door being transformed into a cross to symbolise how Jesus has opened the door to God for us all, if we are only prepared to step through it.

### Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday saw many of us waking up to a white Easter. Thankfully the Easter morning service was planned for inside the church building! The front of the Church was adorned by the 'door become Cross' from the Good Friday service and commenced with a Halleluiah from the whole congregation to celebrate the news that Jesus is risen. There followed a service of celebration which included a quiz and Easter egg hunt. Garry preached on the fact that for Christians Easter changes everything. Jesus' death and resurrection are fundamental to our faith. Jesus has paid the price for our wrongs and that through him we can be united with God.



# HOPE 2008 at TRM

In the last edition of Alive! we introduced the HOPE 08 project and mentioned some of the activities taking place throughout the year under its banner.

In February we held a month of prayer with prayer bookmarks to prompt us to focus on HOPE 08 in our daily prayers and to consider individual or group prayer walks. The month culminated in a weekend of prayer, which saw a 48 hour period being completely covered in prayer. The crèche was transformed into a Prayer Room to help people to focus on praying for activities already planned and to think about what else God is asking us to do.

Here are some of the activities currently being planned. Keep checking the HOPE 08 notice board and sign up for anything you feel you may like to get involved in. The HOPE 08 team can't do it alone. Please think about the part that God wants you to play in spreading the love of Jesus to those around us.

- Junior Youth Club. We will be setting up a mid-week youth club for primary age children.
- Angel fortnight. Within the church first and then within the community.
- Hospitality month. Building on something that we are already good at at TRM, invite a few neighbours (or even the whole street) round for a meal.
- Challenge Totley. Challenge small teams to carry out DIY tasks for the residents of Totley.
- Family fun in the park. Hold a fun day for Totley in Green Oak park.
- Local Information Pack. Provide a pack of useful numbers and contacts for people moving into the area.

Sunday 3 February saw a packed house at TRM. It was the day of the *Chocolate Service* and all the chocaholics, young and old, had come to the feast. The service included a drinking chocolate tasting for the youngsters, a clip from the *Vicar of Dibley* where Geraldine is swamped by a cupboard full of *Crunchie* bars, and a short quiz. Did you know that the largest chocolate fountain in the world is in Las Vegas and it holds 2100 lb of chocolate? There was a break during the service for the youngsters to taste chocolate on strawberries and marshmallows from their own two chocolate fountains.



## THE BIG CHOC CANDY FOUNTAIN

What has all this to do with our relationship to God? Well, one of the many reasons that people eat chocolate is for comfort – but the only true comfort comes from the God and Father of Jesus Christ who is called the God of all comfort. This comfort satisfies, lasts, is deep – and does not have excess calories.

# What Pentecost Means to Me

*But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit whom the father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of all I have said to you*

John 14:26

Jesus told His disciples to wait, and on the day of Pentecost the waiting was over. The Holy Spirit came and God's power was present and moving amongst them. The disciples were completely changed from their fearful former selves into witnesses for the Lord, full of life and power. The church was born!

Pentecost means to me the coming of the Holy Spirit, not only on the first disciples but also on every generation of God's faithful people. How wonderful to think that the same Spirit is available today to all who put their trust in Jesus.

Over the past six months I have been more aware of the Holy Spirit moving in my life than at any other time. He has comforted me and given me strength when my own has failed. He has guided me and given me a strong sense of the Lord's presence when I have needed reassurance. He has made real for me the verse in 2 Corinthians, *My grace is all you need*

*for my power is greatest when you are weak, and the words from the Footprints poem ... when you see only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you.*

In us the Spirit makes his home  
That we in him may overcome  
Christ's risen life, in all its power,  
Its all-prevailing strength is ours.

The Holy Spirit is God's free gift to all His faithful people. He comes to comfort and strengthen us, to lead us into the truth, and to guide us as we serve the Lord. He comes to produce Christ-like qualities in our lives, to make us more like Jesus and to empower us to carry on the work of Jesus in the present day.

*... and how very great is his power at work in us who believe. This power working in us is the same as the mighty strength which he used when he raised Christ from the dead.* Ephesians 1:19-20

Only the Spirit's power  
Can fit us for this hour.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Anne Wiles

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## Life as: Overseas Mission Secretary

At the beginning of Hope 08, I reflected on 2 Corinthians 9: 6b: *Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.* As my one hour of prayer lasted from 11 pm - 2 am, you will understand why Ann Birtwisle is the Treasurer, and I am the Secretary of the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission. It is hard to follow Hilary Grundy and Shirley Smith who have successfully carried out their work with loving dedication over many years.

The World Mission does great work all over the world, and we are very grateful to all of you for your generosity and continuing support through the collection boxes, greeting cards and fund-raising events. We are fortunate to receive love and encouragement from our minister Garry and his wife Dawn.

Christian hope is securely based upon the words and actions of God. Many of our church family are sharing this Christian hope with others here and

overseas. In the last edition, Lynne Capewell wrote about her role in the community. I am aware of the work of the Holmeses', the Dibbens' and others for FOIL AIDS; the Harphams' work in Belarus; Seb's youth evangelising in Sheffield and Uganda; the Cockings' for Albania and Africa, and the Thomases' involvement with Leprosy Projects. Please let me know of any other overseas projects in which the congregation are actively involved.

I intend to hold events that raise funds to be shared between the Church Overseas Mission and all the projects mentioned above. There may be the chance to give some the opportunity to visit their projects. To keep us all motivated to actively support the missionaries, I hope to find time in the main Sunday services for them to tell us all of their recent adventures.

The first of these fundraising events will be held in TRM Church Hall on **Saturday 17 May** and it will be a tea-

dance from 2 pm - 5 pm. Please make a date in your diaries and invite your friends and neighbours. Some members of the Sheffield University Student Dance Team are coming to give a ballroom dancing demonstration, followed by a lesson, followed by a free for all. Non-dancers can come to enjoy the high tea and perhaps give dancing a try. No false promises - but one of the students is a dead ringer for Prince William. Local hairdressing businesses have kindly donated gift vouchers as prizes - so you can see that as we reach out to help others, so others are reaching out to help us.

There are other plans in the pipeline and, be warned, I shall be asking for help. Hope 08 is the opportunity for the people of TRM to reach out to our local and overseas neighbours and share God's love.

Christina Fitzsimmons

# Stepping out in Faith

# Personal Reflections

**P**rayer walking is an act of confidence in God's power. You are acting out everything that you hoped, believed, prayed and petitioned for in that place.

On Sunday 27 January '08, as part of our morning service, six small groups from the congregation set out to cover most of our neighbourhood by praying as we walked. Occasionally each group paused to pray together. Those who participated testified how close they felt to God and how they were prompted to intercede in situations and for people in need in our community. Several walkers I spoke to afterwards said they felt blessed by the experience. Some of us visited Green Oak Park, where the presence of God and the work of the Holy Spirit had been so powerfully manifest in the past. As we prayed

there, I gave thanks to God for his faithfulness to us and confessed how little I had done for his kingdom as the years had slipped away. Though I believe God uses TRM in what we do and that it is his love in us that so many people recognise, do you think we should be more effective channels for sharing God's love with our neighbours as a natural response to all we have received? Green Oak Park seems to be a fairly ordinary place, yet while praying there, I was so aware of how God had transformed it into an extraordinary place when his people had come in faith with his work at the top of the agenda.

The kind of prayer walk we shared

in January was intended to be just the first steps. Here are some other prayer walking ideas. How about pairing up with a close friend to target a situation for regular strategic prayer walks? Would you like to join a group which 'beats the bounds' claiming ground for the Lord? (Joshua 1:3) Could you combine 'quiet time' with 'fell walking' to spend time wandering with God? (Luke 5:16). A pilgrimage may be helpful as an act of repentance and recommitment to God's purpose. On similar lines, the Hope 08 Day of Prayer at the NEC might be for you. There are plenty more ideas about prayer walking in 'Awaking our Cities for God' by Steve Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick.

*Barry Thomas*

## Christmas in Uganda!

**L**ast Christmas was different. I went to Uganda for a month. There was no snow, but plenty of sun and very dusty roads; no Christmas trees or flashing lights just flickering candles; very few presents, but plenty of joy, happiness, love, celebration and peace. A wonderful and very timely reminder of what Christmas is about instead of the chaos that surrounds Christmas in this country?

During my time there I researched for my dissertation on working with youth in Uganda, carried out youth discipleship programmes and youth leader training and had a wonderful time just being with the people and sharing this special time of year with them.

Christmas day started with a gorgeous sunrise and the sound of cockerels and cows all around. After a quick breakfast of fruit it was off to church for the first service of the day, a service especially for refugees from Congo, a time of joy and a reminder to me that we have so much to learn about being joyful from the poorest of the poor.

Then in the same church for the main morning service, I and two other people preached; there was plenty of dancing and singing for 5 hours! It was a simple wholehearted celebration.

Christmas lunch was a reminder of how God provides.

I turned up at Pastor Martin's house; the



fires were blazing with cooking pots on and some girls were busy preparing. We sat down, the food was brought to the table and Martin said, "All of this food is a miracle. Yesterday, we had none of this, no money and no way of eating today." He continued, "I just prayed, God if you want me to feed Seb and my family, provide." Then all afternoon people were going to him with food, here have this, it's a gift etc! Not once did he ask anyone; no one knew he needed it. But God worked in the hearts and minds of these people and He provided... abundantly. We ate, and laughed and enjoyed God's goodness and provision to us and there was some left!

It was a Christmas I will never ever forget. This year, not only at Christmas, but all year round, let's be joyful and celebrate what a wonderful God we have. Never lose sight in the midst of our busy lives of the greatness of our God who provides. *Seb.*

# Making Decisions

We all have to make decisions practically every day of our lives, but some decisions are more important than others.

Over 70 years ago, on 22nd April 1936, I was baptised by immersion at Conisbrough Baptist Church, witnessing to the fact that I had decided to follow Jesus as my Saviour and guide and special FRIEND. I was 16 years old. I consider this to be the greatest and most important decision of my life. It has affected all my years since.

One person at the Grammar School gave me a hard time and ridiculed me for the stand I had taken but, on the whole, I enjoyed my school days and looked forward to further education to become a teacher. Little did I anticipate the testing time that was to follow. I discovered that the couple who acted as my parents were not my birth parents and I had not been officially adopted. That was a dreadful night for me. Suddenly I was a NOBODY. I didn't know the story that lay behind it, but on a cold dark wintry night, feeling lost, forsaken, shattered, cheated and even suicidal, I walked around Conisbrough for about a couple of hours, with only Jesus as my companion.

At first I planned to 'have it out' with my parents, but it would have been in anger because I felt deceived and uncontrolled. Then Jesus, who I had accepted as my guide, brought to my mind the hymn *In heavenly love abiding*. I felt I was being told to wait, which for me was a very difficult decision. I thought perhaps I would be told the full facts on my coming 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, but the day came without any information.

Then one evening I sensed that something was going

to happen before I went on holiday. At home a special meal was prepared; I sat enjoying my favourite food, but my parents, who normally had good appetites, would not eat. When my plate was empty and theirs scarcely touched, they – who were in floods of tears – began the story of my life. They were so upset, so I felt that this was the end of my waiting time. I sensed they loved me so much but were afraid that I would return to my real parents. With a renewed love for them, I was able to speak calmly of what I had discovered more than a year before and they were able to add to my limited knowledge. (That's another long story).

Since this event, God has been my guide when making important decisions. As a result my bridesmaid often said to me that my marriage to Arthur was *made in heaven*, and I feel that my youth work and teaching career were certainly directed by God. Now, in my old age, I see my family as God's special blessing.

I recommend Jesus to all who will decide to trust and obey Him in this year of HOPE. He is the best of all guides.

*Lorna C (Nancy) Brown*

*The storm may roar without me,  
My heart may low be laid;  
But God is round about me,  
How can I be dismayed?*

*Wherever He may guide me,  
No want shall turn me back;  
My Shepherd is beside me,  
And nothing can I lack.*

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## A Quizzical Evening

*What was the Beatles first hit record?*

*In the USA – what state is Tupelo in?*

(No, the answer is NOT- a mess!).

*What are the ten events in the Olympic decathlon?*

(All ten and no errors, for the mark)



If those questions did not catch you out, then how would you cope having to identify 15 Asian countries represented by their flags?

On Friday 14 March about 40 people met in TRM lounge to pit their wits against the quizmaster – Adrian Shipley. Teams of four or five consulted together and the winning team got 76 correct out of 105. Since the questions included all the above, this was no mean feat. Ask Alex and Mary Wilson or Graham Baldry if you want to know the answers. They were part of the winning team.

All the fun was to raise funds for FOIL AIDS and support those in need in the valley of 100 hills in South Africa. A total of £243 was raised.

# Race for Life

Incredibly, time has galloped by, and it's time to enrol again for the Tesco *Race for Life*. I really feel it is of little use tut-tutting and saying we should try to eliminate the scourge of cancer and then doing nothing to help speed the process. The *Race for Life* is a way of actually DOING something.

The usual *Totley Risers* will be involved again; Alison Burbeary, Ellie Burbeary (age 6 years) Maureen Fletcher, Moira Newman and myself. This year we have a new recruit. Olivia Newman, inspired by Ellie's effort last year, is determined to take part. She too is 6 years old.

Last year, 665,000 women took part, raising £40 million. Thanks to this effort more and more people are beating cancer each year. It is hoped this figure will be surpassed and this year's race will be bigger than ever.

It would be great to have more women from TRM taking part. The distance is only 5 kilometres. You don't have to race to finish first (unless that is your ambition!); you don't even have to run or jog the entire route - Maureen and I aim for a brisk walk!

The entry fee is £12.50 to enrol and the date is, Sunday, **25 June** at Don Valley Stadium. The number to ring to enrol is 08716412282

The sobering thought for me is that each year I have a new name on my back label which says for which cancer sufferer you race. This year I hope to race for Karen Bryant. Karen is a friend of Meredith and Bruce Sage from Colorado Springs. This is the couple with whom Chris and Heather, "exchanged," and Bruce became our temporary pastor for several weeks. Their friend also visited and came to TRM on several occasions. Last year, Karen was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer. She has undergone chemotherapy and radiation treatment, a double mastectomy and has just begun further chemo and drug treatment.

If you feel you are unable to join us in the race, we would be most grateful for your sponsorship nearer the time.

*Sheila Cooper*

P. S. Come on LEGO ladies; it will be a mere stroll for you!

# Family News

On 9th February, **Lucas Dunn**, son of Kate and Ian Dunn and brother of Mollie, was baptised at TRM. The family were formerly resident in Bradway, but now live in France.

Alive! would like to wish **Barbara and Graham Baldry** many happy hours of babysitting on the birth of another grandchild. **Chloe Rachel**, a sister for Emily, was born to their son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Mary, on 24 March.

We congratulate **Leonie Andrews** on the occasion of her 21st birthday on 27 February.

We understand **Margaret Barlow** is to be 80 on 31 May, and the church family send her many congratulations and hope she has a wonderful day.

Since Alive! last went to print, **Paula Mountford** has married **Andy Pawson** at Bamford Parish Church on 8th March, and we wish them every blessing in their life together.

**Bruce Dunsmore** and **Jenny Davies** are to be married at TRM at 1.30 pm on 31 May. They invite any of the church family who would like to join them at the wedding service, and Alive! would also like to wish them both every happiness.

We hear that **Peter and Pauline Dibben** celebrated their Silver Wedding in January - congratulations!

**Margaret and Bob Nash** remembered their Golden Wedding on 22 March, with a family celebration, and we congratulate them too.

**Mary and Dennis Hodder** celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Easter Sunday, 23 March. The church family joined in congratulating them on this wonderful achievement!

A faithful member of TRM over many years, **Marjorie Thurley** died on 22 February, and on 29 February many of her friends attended a service of thanksgiving for Marjorie's life.

**Ann Birtwisle's** father died suddenly on 9 March, and we remember Ann and Paul in our prayers at this sad time.

# New Year Dance Party

People attending the Church Family Party in January had been told to expect a Strictly Come Dancing theme, but this could not have prepared them for the feast of entertainment which was delivered as the evening progressed. The party commenced with a chance for young and old to participate in quizzes to identify famous dances and dancers. Following this, the evening continued with a short barn dancing session lead by Lynne Capewell, before refreshments were provided in the form of a pie and pea supper.

The second half of the evening kicked off with the Strictly Come Dancing panel making an appearance in Totley (or at least some very good impressionists!).

Some star dancers from the church (young and old) took to the floor before being judged by Craig, Arlene, Len and Bruno, with Bruce trying to keep order.

The audience were also treated to a display of ballet performed by members of the RTBC (Royal Totley Ballet Company), consisting of some very brave men from the church dressed in tutus, angelic haloes and walking boots!

The evening concluded with a final session of barn dancing and needless to say a great evening was had by all.

Speculation is now sweeping the church about how Dancing on Ice will be performed next year. So until next year as Bruce would say....."Keep Dancing".

## Don't miss these!

### Friday 18 April

#### EVENING OUT FOR YOUNG COUPLES

This is an opportunity for young couples to go out to a restaurant and share a meal and time together free of family commitments! If this sounds appealing to you, why not contact Adrian Dearden on 2368247, or speak to any of the church stewards for more details.

### Saturday 26 April

#### AWAY DAY

As this issue is published there is less than two weeks to go to our Away Day at Christ Church Fulwood. If you have not already booked please see Roger Hoyle or Peter Holmes immediately. It promises to be a great time, with George Palmer coming back to TRM to lead the day and preach on the Sunday. For adults the cost of the day is £7.50; children of school age and under are free.



### Saturday 17 May at TRM, 2 pm

#### GRAND TEA DANCE

Ballroom Dancing, jive, or just relax in good company to the music of George Gershwin, Frank Sinatra, Chuck Berry and all your favourites. Refreshments include HIGH TEA, with guest appearance of Earl Grey.

Also included: Dance Demonstrations by the Sheffield University Dance Team - Free dance lesson. Price is £6 - all proceeds to Methodist and Overseas Missions.

### Saturday 10 May, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

#### FOIL AIDS COFFEE MORNING

Come and enjoy coffee and refreshments at 87 Furniss Avenue. Meet old and new friends. There will also be a plant stall, a book stall and cakes for sale. Stock up your garden and books for your summer reading - as well as your larder for the family and friends.



### Date for your Diary:

Angela Bly is representing TRM on the Totley Festival Committee. The date has been confirmed as 22 July 2008.

# Events

<i>April 2008</i>		<i>May 2008</i>	
<b>Tue 1</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning	<b>Thu 1</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
<b>Thu 3</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club No Youth Club	<b>Sat 3</b>	10 - 12 noon Car Wash and Coffee Morning at TRM to support London & Paris Marathon runners, Nick Whitworth, Matt Jukes, Adrian Shipley
<b>Mon 7</b>	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	<b>Mon 5</b>	Christian Aid May Day Trek
<b>Tue 8</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, <i>Yorkshire Air Ambulance</i>	<b>Tue 6</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning
<b>Thu 10</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	<b>Wed 7</b>	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship, " <i>Work and Play in the Steel City</i> ", Martin Olive
<b>Fri 11</b>	9.15 am LEGO Walk - Meet at Church	<b>Thu 8</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
<b>Sun 13</b>	9.30 am Toddler Praise	<b>Fri 9</b>	9.15 am LEGO Walk - Meet at Church
<b>Tue 15</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning	<b>Sat 10</b>	10.00-12.30 pm Foil Aids Coffee Morning at 87 Furniss Avenue
<b>Thu 17</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	<b>Sun 11</b>	9.30 am Toddler Praise Christian Aid Week - 11 to 18 May
<b>Fri 18</b>	Evening out for young couples (see Don't Miss These)	<b>Tue 13</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, " <i>Life in Victorian England</i> ", Fred Cocking
<b>Mon 21</b>	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	<b>Thu 15</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
<b>Tue 22</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, " <i>New England in the Fall</i> ", John Doorkamp	<b>Sat 17</b>	2.00 pm Grand Tea Dance (see Don't Miss These)
<b>Thu 24</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	<b>Sun 18</b>	9.00 am Holy Communion 12.30 pm Hunger Lunch for Christian Aid after the service
<b>Sat 26</b>	10.00-4.00 pm TRM Away Day at Fulwood Church Centre	<b>Mon 19</b>	8.00 pm Messianic Dance
<b>Tue 29</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning	<b>Tue 20</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning
		<b>Wed 21</b>	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship, " <i>Prince of Scandal</i> ", Kenneth Loxley
		<b>Thu 22</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
		<b>Tue 27</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies
		<b>Thu 29</b>	No Pushchair Club No 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 monthly Toddler Praise Services are at 9.30 am.