

Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

Sept/Oct 2008

What do you get if you mix up some rats, wellies, a large number of cakes, the odd football and a little sunshine. The simple but somewhat surprising answer is a lot of smiling faces, because these are just a few of the ingredients that



Free in the Park

came together to create 'Free in the Park' at Green Oak Park, one Sunday in July.

The idea for 'Free in the Park' came out of the plans for Hope 08 and quickly turned into a joint event between Totley Rise and All Saints Church. After months of preparation including the construction of games, the baking of many cakes and the odd risk assessment, Sunday July 13 dawned bright and sunny (a somewhat unique event given the track record of the summer up to that point). On the day a team of over 50 helpers drawn from both churches were involved in the setting up and running of 'Free in the Park'. Cars and trailers were marshalled, tables and chairs stacked and the mammoth activity of transforming the park commenced. After much lifting, carrying, hammering of stakes and the assembly of gazeboes the park was ready.

Well before the start time of 2 pm people were starting to gather in the park, with a stream of new arrivals joining them throughout the afternoon. A variety of side show stalls provided entertainment for young and old including the earlier mentioned rats being splatted and wellies being wanged. David Beckham wannabes were able to test their penalty shoot out skills, while those of lesser years could enjoy the toys in the toddler area or create a rattle in the craft tent. A menagerie of animals and comic book characters could soon be seen walking round the park thanks to the face painters. In the centre of the park a variety of children's races took place throughout the afternoon, while contented adults looked on consuming the fantastic selection of cakes. Balloon models were created with the twist of a wrist, while the bouncy castle and slide proved as popular as ever. And all this activity took place without a single penny changing hands!

As the afternoon drew to a close the lasting memory was of happy smiling faces from those running the event and attending. All in all the best value Sunday afternoon in Totley all Summer!



Moving on with God

This time last year, I wrote about looking ahead to a new church year and I offered up this challenge, 'The challenge for us...is to make sure that this time next year we have all moved on in the right direction'. As we find ourselves at the start of yet another church year, have we moved on and have our lives counted for God's Kingdom and for the lives of others? (Answers on a postcard.)

During this last year we have spent some time developing our understanding of who and what as a church God has called us to be:

A church that **hosts the Presence of God**

A church that **displays the Power of God**

A church that **feels/shares the Passion of God**

A church that **lives out the Purpose of God**

The Christian life is essentially about movement and progression. I believe as we live out the 'four P's' individually and corporately we will find ourselves in

a place where we continuously move on with God and where our lives will count for His Kingdom and the lives of others. I believe if we do this, then this time next year, we will have many testimonies of people coming to know Jesus for themselves, of lives healed and transformed by the lovely Presence and awesome Power of God and still others discovering God's Purpose for themselves.

The early church was characterised by what we call the 'four P's' and it changed the world. A church today committed to the same vision can change the community, the city, the nation, the world. So, Topley Rise, we are here for such a time as this; let us be agents of change for our community, city, nation and world together – Arise and shine, your light (time) has come!

With love and every blessing,

Garry Dawson-Jones

Church Review

In our last issue we reported that the local group of Methodist churches which includes TRM (called our circuit) was under review. Since then we have held three special prayer meetings, had a meeting after a Sunday morning service where the proposals were outlined by circuit officials and had two special meetings of the Church Council to discuss our response.

In our response we have emphasised that TRM is very much a community church working in the areas of Topley, Bradway and Dore; that we seek to work with other churches in this area and that we are concerned with encouraging ourselves and others to be true followers and disciples of Jesus. A full copy of TRM's response is available in the church entrance. We were the first of the churches in the circuit to make our response – with those from the other churches it will be considered in the Autumn by a group chaired by the new Superintendent, Rev Robert Lewis.

'All Together Now'

Praise Party and Gathering In Sunday

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September

This year, our **Gathering In Sunday** will be on **Sunday 21 September at 10.30 am**. Our Sunday morning service will follow on from a fun packed Saturday afternoon.

On **Saturday**, we will start at 4.30 pm with a **Family Barbecue** followed by a **Family Praise Party** from 5.00 - 6.00 pm. As a church family, we will have fun being part of God's great big family.

Our weekend together will be led by Phil and Janna who lead "Destiny Kids". Phil and Janna travel the country working with churches. They are fun, lively, energetic and dynamic, yet meaningful in the way they help people meet with God. In recent years, they have led children's work and All Age Celebrations at New Wine family conferences in Shepton Mallet and Newark. So, why not make that a date on your family calendar '**All Together Now**', **Gathering in Weekend: Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September** at TRM. Looking forward to seeing you., *Garry*.

Phone a Friend

Thanks to those of you who responded to the Phone a Friend article in the last ALIVE!. It was good to hear of folk who are already undertaking this pastoral role, quietly and effectively. Thank you so much for what you are doing. Two or three members have offered their names as future 'phoners' - so thanks to you, too. There will never be a deadline for adding your names to a group of folk who can help in this way, or indeed of asking for phone support, so please do continue to give Lynne your name if you can offer, or find you would appreciate, phone support.



Christmas - in August!

In the spirit of Hope 08, sixteen Belarusian children from Chernobyl Children's Lifeline enjoyed TRM hospitality, as the Team TRM once again sprang into action to produce "Christmas In August". Friends old and new came from other churches to help. Thank you to everybody who helped to make it all happen.

As ever, afterwards, memories are a jumbled mix of highlights and impressions, amid a sea of smiling faces. I see them now:

- The decorating team who put up the crib, ballroom steps stage backdrop and Christmas trees and who so admired the brilliant decorations already done by Alex Wilson.
- The "oohs" and "aahs" and "brrs" as the corridor was transformed into a white and silver ice cavern thanks to the genius of Geraldine and Peter Brown.

- Helpers from URC and All Saints who helped the children to be so creative with their sweet and card making.
- Those who supervised and played with the children in a variety of indoor and outdoor games - some English and others Belarusian.
- The cooks from URC and TRM who emerged from kitchens all over Totley to produce a delicious traditional Christmas Lunch and a vast array of puddings and pies.
- If the children had said grace before, it certainly hadn't been Garry's version of stand up - sit down "Praise Thee the Lord Hallelujah".
- The novelty of the food, crackers, hats and wands and the arrival of Santa in his red robes caused confusion - their Father Frost wears blue. One boy was so thrilled with his

truck and trailer and pack of playing cards he has not been separated from them since. Thanks to all who gave gifts.

- English children joined them for the mayhem that is Sparky Marky. Noise, fun, tricks, screams and laughter need no translation and the finale began with the Hokey Cokey. Thanks to all who gave money.
- For most, the highlight was the end and the blissful faces of the children as they played with silver balloons, as snowflakes fell on them. Pure magic! Priceless!

Finally our thanks go to Chernobyl Children's Lifeline who gave us the opportunity to share Christmas with these delightful children. For those with time and love to share as host, support or fund-raiser for Chernobyl Children's Lifeline, please contact Louise on 07908 324459.

Yo Ho Ho for JYC

If you caught sight of a discarded eye patch, cutlass or parrot reciting pieces of eight around Totley Rise over the last few months, then you may have wondered what was going on. Junior Youth Club or JYC is the answer, a new activity for 5 to 11 year olds which launched in May with a Pirate theme.

JYC has been meeting once a month on a Wednesday night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm attracting around 20 kids each time.

Each member of JYC has a Personal Club Card, which is stamped on arrival, and a Club Badge.

Once signed in, the evening kicks off with circle games and songs. Group activities then form the main session, which involves the kids in quizzes, more games and craft activities based around the Bible theme for the evening. After this action packed time, the kids enjoy refreshments during 'Silent Seats' when they are introduced to the Bible story and memory verse.

They are then ready for a few more songs before going home.

The feed back from parents whose kids have

attended so far has been positive and we keep seeing new faces each time.

The majority have been between the ages of 6 and 9. We are building up a good team of helpers but we would always

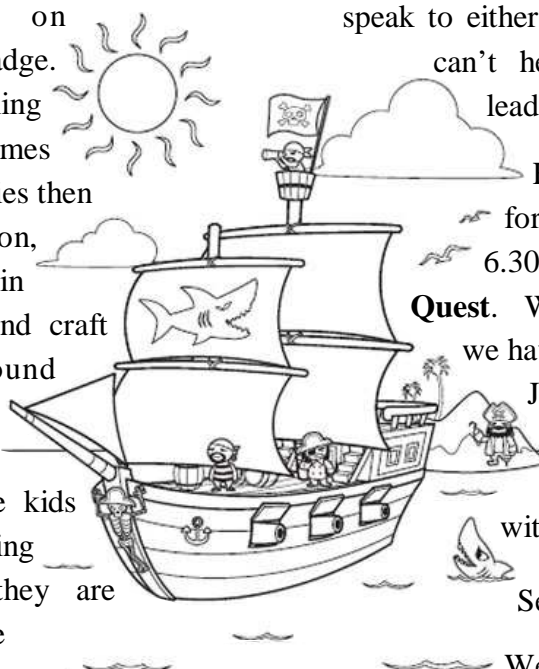
welcome more. If you feel you would like to get involved, especially with the 9 – 11 year olds, then speak to either Garry or Liz Hinch. Even if you can't help directly, please pray for the leaders, children and their families.

From September the club will meet fortnightly on Wednesdays from 5.30 - 6.30 pm and will go under the heading,

Quest. Why *Quest*? Because, as Christians, we have a God-given quest to get to know Jesus better and to follow Him in all our lives. This can start when we are young and is best done together with friends.

September 10 will be Games Night.

We will be running under the parachute, playing games like newspaper stick hockey and *Horse and Jockey* and much, much more. Watch this space for an exciting programme for 2008-2009.



Race for Life

The *Race for Life* team all successfully completed the distance in the Tesco Race for Life on Sunday June 15 at Don Valley Stadium.

The weather was kind and not too hot, and the atmosphere was, as usual, inspiring.

Congratulations to Moira and Olivia Newman, Alison and Ellie Burbeary, Maureen Fletcher, and the Koszalinski family.

They would all like to thank all who sponsored and supported them - and paid up cheerfully and promptly!



Cakes for Totley

Sunday 22 June was a very windy day. The sort of blustery day that took Piglet and Winnie the Pooh off their feet and demolished Owl's tree house in 100 acre wood. It was also the day of the Totley Festival on Green Oak Park.

The Totley Festival this year had the theme of *Don't Juggle With The Planet*, encouraging us to be friendly to the environment, and featuring many local groups and organisations who were promoting environmental awareness. Of course all this concentration on being an eco-friendly human requires nourishment for the body (and hopefully the soul as well!) The plan was that TRM should have an elegant gazebo and under it, in the summer sunshine, sell cakes. The gazebo never made it. In spite of the skills and efforts of the TRM erectors the wind was too much. Supports were starting to twist – so the gallant helpers braved the wind and set up the cake stall in the open. Fortunately the wind kept the rain away, many people came to the festival and a steady stream of customers were served cakes throughout the day. Many and varied were both the cakes and the volunteers, but each played a very important part in raising the sum of £210 from the cake stall. (200 cakes were donated by Tesco; others came from members of



the Totley Residents' Association as well as members of TRM). Angela Bly is TRM's representative for TRA events and she organized the cake donations and rota as well as assembling all the bits and pieces necessary for running a stall - so thanks, Angela. All money raised from the day is going towards refurbishing facilities in Green Oak Park and to Transport 17.

We were able to invite many young families to the HOPE 08 event of *Free in the Park* to take place three weeks later and it was a successful day. TRM is now also known in the community as a church which makes a wide variety of excellent cakes and makes them available at a good price.

Hospitality - Hope 08



July was the month we were encouraged to invite friends and neighbours to share hospitality. A lucky break in the summer rains was the ideal opportunity for Margaret and Terry Birch to say thank you to their neighbours for help in moving two tons of gravel earlier in the week. The delivery of gravel was the latest phase in their gardening projects, and they were delighted and amazed when as soon as they got started, encouragement and help appeared as neighbours stopped to see what was going on! Tea and cakes in the garden was an excellent way to get to know neighbours better, and to replace some of those calories burnt off earlier in the week!

What Harvest Means to Me

Continuing in our series of *What ... means to me*, we asked Anne Capper to write about harvest.

I thoroughly enjoy singing harvest hymns, old and new, full of meaningful lines and painting such vivid pictures. *All is safely gathered in; We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land; Bright robes of gold the fields adorn, the hills with joy are singing; Jesus is Lord, creation's voice proclaims it, for by His power each tree and flower was planned and made* – I could go on.

I also love village 'harvest adorned' churches with their traditional displays; the smell of the sheaves of corn, bread and gifts of fruit and vegetables. My own 'harvesting' is spending a delightful time with my grandchildren picking fruit from the hedgerows around Totley – some of these fruits actually make it back home to be used in pie and jam making!

In sharp contrast, however, I am reminded especially of the deprived children of our world –

undernourished, receiving one meal a day if they are lucky. So I find I ask God questions of myself. Am I doing enough to help change this situation, Lord? Is my level of giving dictated by you? Do I write letters of protest? Do I share what I have been given? Please, Lord, help me to get it right.

Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts to us at harvest time and throughout the year. Help us lovingly to share these gifts with your people throughout the world. Amen.

Youth Church Harvest Project

'Miracles' in Mali

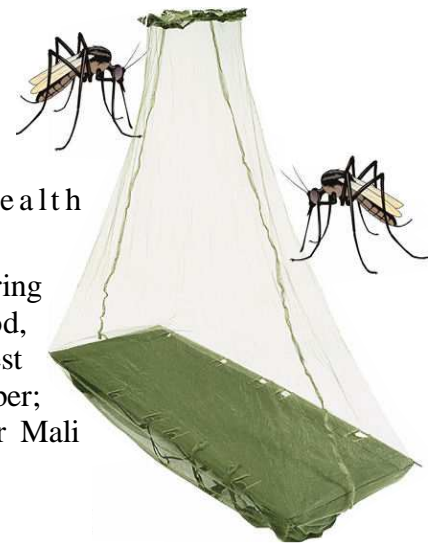
Two in ten children die in Mali, West Africa, before they reach the age of five – a mortality rate 35 times that in the UK. Mothers are at enormous risk in childbirth with a 1 in 16 chance of dying during or just after pregnancy. With only 1000 professional doctors, midwives and nurses in the whole country, and much of the population living in inaccessible villages, few people have access to medical help or attention.

TRM is supporting a Methodist Relief & Development Fund (MRDF) project that brings simple and affordable health care to the southern part of the country. MRDF works through its partner organisation Jeunesse et Development (J&D) to train local people in health care and promote health education. The results have been dramatic, with mother and child mortality having

decreased and the community's health awareness improved.

So please do not bring traditional gifts of food, tins, etc. to the Harvest Festival on 5 October; instead donate to our Mali Project. Fund raising will start in September –

watch out for the mosquito nets. For £5 we can provide a mosquito net for a child and for £18 we can train an educator to go to the villages. Donations go directly to J&D. There will also be exciting games and activities for the children – making an enormous mosquito net, catching giant mosquitos, spreading diseases (!) – all good fun. Let US make a difference.



Family News

Congratulations to **Barbara and Dave Harvey** who have a new granddaughter, Rihannah Lily, born to **Jonathan and Sally** on 22 July. Rihannah is a sister for Joseph.

Congratulations also to **John and Margaret Stone** on becoming first-time grandparents on 4 August on the birth of **Oliver**, a son for **Jeremy and**

Abbey.

On the same day, **Rachel**, one of the crèche pushchair club mums, and her partner **Ian**, had a baby boy, **Sonny**, a brother for Louis.

We are also pleased to report that on 22 June **Olivia and Ben Grundy** were baptised at TRM. Olivia and Ben are sons of **Ian and Nicky**, and grandchildren of Ed and Hilary.

Adam Richard Wroth, son of **Julia and Richard**

and brother of Oliver and Thomas was also baptised on 6 July.

Any TRM theatre-goers must watch out for the production of *Oliver* at the Lyceum in November, where they may recognize one of the workhouse boys in the form of **Matthew Hinch**.

We've celebrated lots of big birthdays at TRM over the past few months, **Tim Hinchliffe**, 50, **Anne Capper**, 70, **Sheila Cooper**, 70 and **Mary Hodder** and **Audrey Buchan** both 80. Our congratulations to each of these, and thanks for all the cake!

Congratulations also to **Pat and Stuart Barlow** who celebrated their Ruby Wedding in August.

90 Years of Marriage

Yes, people do live to a good age at TRM – but not that long. Two couples combined their wedding celebrations

this July to make a total of 90 years. **Ed and Hilary Grundy** celebrated their Golden Wedding (50 years) and **Graham and Barbara Baldry** their Ruby Wedding (40 years) – congratulations to both couples. The joint celebration was a Barn Dance in TRM church hall – in the middle of which there was a hog roast supper and a great choice of delicious desserts. So it was cakes all round – 50:50 red and golden iced cake on the evening of the Barn Dance; a ruby red cake for the Baldrys after the morning service on Sunday 27 July and a golden cake after the morning service on Sunday 3 August. Great for the taste buds – not so good for the figure but something good to celebrate.

Grace Ratheram has recently moved into Twelvetrees Residential Care Home, and all at TRM send their best wishes to her, and hope that she will soon feel very much at home there.

Don't miss these!

If you enjoyed listening to the Celebration Choir on its visits to TRM and other local venues, you will be sure to feel uplifted by the Choir of **United Christian Voices** as they present a



here at TRM on **Saturday 20 September at 7.00 pm**. Tickets at a cost of £3.50 each are still available from Sheila Cooper, (tel 07964 780941), or from Tim Hinchliffe and Margaret Birch. The proceeds raised will go to help the work of the Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM.

Have Fun and FOIL AIDS

FOIL AIDS has two major events at TRM in the next few of months.

The regular *Quiz Nights* are becoming so popular with those who come that they continue this Autumn.

On **Thursday 16 October at 7.30 pm** there will be a wide variety of questions organised and presented by Dave Harvey. You can form teams of four beforehand and register as a team, or you can turn up on the night and become part of an ad hoc team. The entry fee is £3 per person for an entertaining evening. Bead and other work from Ikhaya Lobomi in South Africa will be on sale, as will second hand books and cd's.

TRM members will also be appearing in the **Totley Talents Evening** on **Saturday 15 November at 7.30 pm**. Each year we find new and entertaining talent. Contributions include sketches, monologues, humorous and serious music and songs. If you have anything to offer please contact Phyl Holmes (2351897). Come anyway to enjoy a really good entertaining evening. Tickets are £5 available beforehand and on the door and include refreshments. All proceeds go to FOIL AIDS.

Events

<i>September 2008</i>			<i>October 2008</i>		
Tue 2	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting	Wed 1	7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship, 'The Changing Face of the Countryside', <i>Catherine Mackay</i>
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of Leonard Cheshire Homes' 60th Anniversary	Thu 2	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM		7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club
Thu 4	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club	Sun 5	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sun 7	9.00 am	Holy Communion		10.30 am	Harvest Festival
Tue 9	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting	Mon 6	8.00 pm	Messianic Dance
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Tue 7	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM		10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
	8.00 pm	Tuesday Ladies, 'Many aspects of air travel', <i>Dr Murray Wilson</i>		10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Wed 10	5.30 - 6.30 pm	Quest	Wed 8	5.30 - 6.30 pm	Quest
Thu 11	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club	Thu 9	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club		7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club
Fri 12	9.15 am	LEGO Walk - meet at Church	Fri 10	9.15 am	LEGO Walk - meet at Church
Sun 14	6.30 pm	'Open to God' Evening Service at All Saints	Sun 12	9.30 am	Toddler Praise
Mon 15	8.00 pm	Messianic Dance		6.30 am	'Open to God' Evening Service at TRM
Tue 16	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting	Tue 14	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning		10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM		10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Wed 17	7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship, 'My Day at the Zoo', <i>Janet Savage</i>		8.00 pm	Tuesday Ladies, A 'dirty' night out, <i>Roger Hart</i>
Thu 18	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club	Wed 15	7.30 pm	Wednesday Friendship joint meeting with UNA to mark One World Week
	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club	Thu 16	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
Sat 20	4.30 pm	Family Barbecue and Praise Party		7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club
	7.00 pm	Praise Evening presented by Choir of United Christian Voices		7.30 pm	Foil Aids Quiz Night
Sun 21	10.30 am	Gathering In Sunday	Sun 19	10.30 am	Joint service at King Egbert School, not at TRM.
Tue 23	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting	Mon 20	8.00 pm	Messianic Dance
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Tue 21	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM		10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
	8.00 pm	Tuesday Ladies, 'Life and Times of George Cunningham', <i>Roy Newman</i>		10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Wed 24	5.30 - 6.30 pm	Quest	Wed 22	5.30 - 6.30 pm	Quest
Thu 25	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club	Thu 23	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club		7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club
Fri 26	10.30 - 11.30	Luncheon Club Macmillan Coffee Morning	Tue 28	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting
Tue 30	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting		10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning		10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM		8.00 pm	Tuesday Ladies, 'Local follies and curious buildings', <i>John Taylor</i>
			Thu 30	1.30 - 3.00 pm	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