

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

Nov 08 - Jan 09



Alive!



Journey to BETHLEHEM

Good Things Come in Small Packages

We live in an age of miniaturisation; whether it's the size of the keys on our mobile phone or the size of the latest bottle of concentrated washing liquid; everything is getting smaller. Impressive as these technological breakthroughs no doubt are, they pale into insignificance when compared to the feat achieved by Totley Rise each Christmas as the whole of Bethlehem (including hillsides

populated by shepherds watching their sheep) is squeezed into the church buildings and garden!

Yes, *Journey to Bethlehem* or J2B, for those of a texting nature, will be returning to Totley Rise on December 13 and 14. This will be the sixth year for *Journey to Bethlehem* and yet again it promises to build on the success of previous years.

Preparations for the staging of this spectacular event have already started with the dusting off of props and scenery, the learning of parts, and the rolling into action of the J2B publicity

machine. Activity will continue to gain momentum as the event approaches and the Herculean task of compressing Bethlehem and the story of Jesus' birth into the church takes place, with the building of a market place and inn in the school rooms and the construction of a stable in the crèche.

Each tour last about 30 minutes and you will be guided by a Roman Centurion through the story of Jesus' birth, starting with Isaiah's prophecy, experiencing the Bethlehem market place, seeing the shepherds tending their sheep and finally arriving at the stable to find Mary and the newly born Jesus.

So if you thought the iphone was the ultimate example of miniaturisation think again. Experience the real story of Christmas, wrapped up in a 30 minute package at TRM.

Journey to Bethlehem

will be running between the following times:

Saturday 13 December 4:15 pm to approximately 7:30 pm.

Sunday 14 December 4:30 pm to approximately 7:30 pm.

Come and experience the wonder of the birth of Jesus by phoning Gaynor Wilkinson on 0114 2368726 to book your tour in advance.

All tours are FREE.



Gathering in Weekend



September marks the end of the summer and the beginning of the new church year. To mark this event Totley Rise held a 'Gathering in Weekend', a chance to come back together as a church family. After a summer which at best could be described as on the damp side, the prospect of a barbecue towards the end of September seemed optimistic at best. However, the summer finally arrived and we were blessed with a beautiful warm sunny afternoon. Young and old gathered in the church garden on the Saturday afternoon for a fantastic barbecue followed by a lively praise and worship party led by Janna and Phil from *Destiny Kids*.

On Sunday morning the church family joined together again for all-age worship led by Janna. The theme of the service was Heartbeat. The story of the young David being anointed as King was told using an impromptu cast pulled

together from the congregation, and Janna used this along with some new songs and actions to explain that 'We look on the outside, but God looks at our Heart!' A lively and exciting morning was enjoyed by everybody with, at its heart, an important message that God cares about the real us under our skin, not the mask we sometimes put on to the rest of the world.



Good News!

Most would agree that the current economic crises we face are indeed troubled times. As financial institutions collapse, we wait for news from governments to see if a rescue package or some kind of guarantee to safeguard our hard earned assets will be forthcoming.

2000 years ago some other people were facing troubled times. They were oppressed by an occupying Roman army and for many years there had been talk amongst their religious leaders of a time when God would send someone to rescue them from their oppression. This 'someone' had been spoken of for hundreds of years before his birth. One man said of him that he would be called 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' and that 'the increase of his government and peace would never end'.

A group of shepherds, sleeping rough and working



in troubled times

through the night, were the first to hear the news of the Saviour's arrival. The angel told them, 'I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David (Bethlehem) a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord'.

All those who have looked to this Saviour during the last 2000 or so years will speak of His government and peace in their lives and how that has given them hope and strength through troubled times. As we approach Christmas and look ahead to a new year, we can all know in our troubled times the same good news that God is for us – that is good; God is with us – that is better; God is in us – that is best!

Garry Dawson-Jones

What Christmas means to me

When I was a child, Christmas was snow (hopefully) and presents and food.

After once getting up at 3 am and starting on the present-opening on my own, my parents invented a new system, which our family still uses, of putting the presents together in the middle of the floor, covering them with a sheet and all the family sitting around. One person picks a gift and passes it to the named recipient and we all sit and enjoy the unwrapping and excitement of that gift. Then the recipient is the next to dig around blindly under the sheet and pass the next gift along. If you pick out a present for yourself you must put it back and try again. This whole performance can last for hours if you have a large family gathering, and of course calls for occasional refreshment breaks. It is a big improvement on just opening your own gifts and not seeing what anyone else receives, and certainly taught me the joy of anticipation, the waiting for the moment when the first gift is

pulled from under the sheet. In these times of instant gratification, I think we lose much of the pleasure of waiting in eager anticipation for things, and somehow they are so much more enjoyable after the wait.

When I went to Bermuda in 1977, the idea of Christmas in the warmth of their Decembers, and without any snow or ice, seemed very strange, and the first year I really don't remember much about it at all. As I was an agnostic then, Christmas was merely a holiday and party time. Christmas in Bermuda has some of the things we are used to here – turkey and ham, but you had to have "Chow-Chow" pickle (Piccalilli) with the Ham, and the Bermudians make Cassava or Farine Pie which is eaten with the main course, and could either be plain or contain chicken or beef pieces. Christmas cake is also popular over there, and Egg Nog, with or without Rum, is a popular, if fattening, drink for the season.



*Centenary United Methodist Church
Bermuda*

When I found Jesus as my personal Saviour in October 1978, it was a whole new process of learning what Christmas really was all about, and each year it became more and more important to me, as I learned more about being a Christian, and more about what God had done for me. Now I rejoice at Christmas and Easter, to think that God came down to live with us, as Jesus, Emmanuel (God with us), to teach us what He is all about and to show us how much He loves us, before giving up His life so that we could live, eternally, bountifully and joyfully! *Gail Daniels*

Events

<i>November 2008</i>		<i>December 2008</i>	
Tue 4	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Tue 2	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Wed 5	5.30-6.30 pm Quest 6.30 pm Firework Party	Wed 3	5.30-6.30 pm Quest 8.00 pm Carols by Candlelight
Thu 6	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Thu 4	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Sun 9	9.30 am Toddler Praise 6.30 pm Open to God service at All Saints, Totley	Tue 9	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies Christmas Buffet
Mon 10	10 - 12 noon Toybox Swap	Thu 11	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club (in church)
Tue 11	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies night out at Ecclesall Theatre Group production	Fri 12	9.15 am LEGO Walk and Christmas Lunch
Thu 13	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Sat 13	From 4.15 pm Journey to Bethlehem
Fri 14	9.15 am LEGO Walk	Sun 14	10.30 am Toy Service From 4.30 pm Journey to Bethlehem
Sat 15	7.30 pm Totley Talents Evening	Wed 17	5.30-6.30 pm Quest
Tue 18	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Thu 18	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club Christmas Party No Youth Club
Wed 19	5.30-6.30 pm Quest	Sun 21	10.30 am Youth Church Christmas Service 6.30 pm Candlelit Carol Service
Thu 20	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Wed 24	4.00 pm Crib Service
Tue 25	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, "Canyons in South West USA", <i>Robert Maxwell</i>	Thu 25	10.00 am Christmas Morning Service
Thu 27	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm 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

Youth Club

The Junior Youth Club (Quest) continues to meet fortnightly on a Wednesday night in the school building from 5.30 to 6.30 pm. The theme running up to Christmas is Pirates. All primary children are welcome (see Events Diary for November and December dates).

January 2009

Tue 6	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
	7.30 pm	Film & Fellowship Evening at Fred and Shirley Cocking's home
Thu 8	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club
Tue 13	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
		Tuesday Ladies—New Year Meal out
Thu 15	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club
Tue 20	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Thu 22	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club
Sat 24	5.30-8.00 pm	Church Family Party
Mon 26	7.30 pm	Start of Alpha Course
Tue 27	9.30 - 10 am	Prayer Meeting
	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning
	10 - 12 noon	Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
	8.00 pm	Tuesday Ladies, "The Changing Face of the English Countryside", Catherine McKay
Thu 29	1.30 - 3.00 pm	Pushchair Club
	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Youth Club

Praying for Alpha

TRM will be running the Alpha Course in January 2009 (see back page). It is really exciting that so many people from the church have volunteered to help practically but we also need a lot of prayer support. It would be good to have a dedicated team of people praying for the main Alpha team and for those who will be coming on the course. If you can help in this way please let John Freeman know (tel. 2366819).

Circuit Review Update

Since the Review was presented to the Circuit on Saturday 12 April the eight Circuit Churches have been discussing and praying about how they wished to respond to the issues raised. As requested all eight Churches responded by 15 September and a booklet with each response has been produced and is available for anyone who wishes to read it.

As would be expected there is a divergence of views on the best way forward, five of the Circuit Churches believing strongly that their "mission" can best be fulfilled on their current site and three Circuit Churches wishing to explore further the possibilities of more radical action.

There was agreement on three basic issues: -

- A widely held view that many members across most Churches would welcome some help in learning how we can be better disciples.
- A clear desire from most Churches that we need to get to know each other better and a need for more Circuit-wide events.
- A clear desire from all Churches for more support on "admin" type issues.

The Circuit Leadership Team is currently considering how best to advance the various issues, and will be putting suggestions to a special Circuit Meeting on Wednesday 22 October.

John Lashmar, September 2008

Family News

On Sunday 28 September, **Dillan and Tia**, children of **Paul and Beckie Grayson** were baptised and welcomed into the church family. They first came to church in February last year for the Chocolate Service, and Beckie also goes to pushchair club with Tia and Dillan.

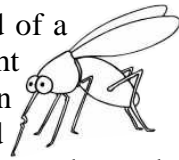
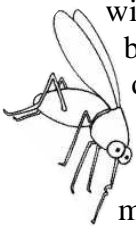
On September 10 **Sharon**, a mum who regularly comes to Toddler Praise and Pushchair Club, and her partner **Jason**, had a baby boy, **Alex**, a brother for Henry, perhaps a 'baby Jesus' for Journey to Bethlehem in December!

The church family was delighted to hear that **Helen (née Alder) and Andy Ames** have produced a grandson for Bill Alder, **Alfie**, born on Tuesday 7 October (7lb 5oz).

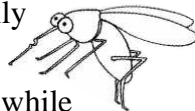
Congratulations to both these families.

Harvest with a difference

If just the thought of the high pitched sound of a mosquito circling round the bedroom at night is enough to bring you out in a cold sweat, then the Harvest Festival service would have had you running for a towel. Upon entering the church for the Sunday morning service people were greeted not just with the usual display of fruit, vegetables and flowers but also with the sight of multi-coloured discs depicting mosquitoes hanging from the ceiling!



The Youth Church had been thinking about Mali in the run up to Harvest with the aim of raising money to support development work including the provision of mosquito nets and simple health education. To emphasise this, during the service we were treated to a game of catch the mosquito (afore mentioned coloured discs hanging from the ceiling), spread the infection (passing coloured dye from hand to hand) and finally medicine delivery involving a cargo net.



Much fun was had by young and old alike while bringing home that it is our responsibility to use what gifts we have to help others.

United in Praise

On the evening of 20 September members of the former *Celebration Choir*, now known as *United Christian Voices*, came to TRM. It was not a concert – more like a time of praise and worship, with thought provoking readings, a humorous sketch based on the ten commandments, soloist spots, and congregational hymns. Four TRM members are part of the choir – Sheila, Gail, Maureen and Tim. The choir meets fortnightly at the Methodist church in Dronfield. The £357 raised from the sale of tickets went to the Woodseats Advice Centre to assist the work they carry out at TRM. We look forward to a return visit by the choir in the not too distant future.

FOIL AIDS Quiz Night

What is the capital of Estonia? (OK – got that one)
Who scored the goal for Sheffield Wednesday when they beat Manchester United in the ?? cup (What cup was that? How many years ago? Well the question setter is an Owls fan. Good job this is the only question on this theme)

Howls of mirth from Phyl Holmes's group when she knows where the 2010 Soccer World Cup will be held. Well, she did go past a stadium being built in Durban only two weeks ago.

The usual mixture of easy and difficult questions; the usual fun and hilarity and the usual generosity of giving were all present at

A Painter's Progress

In what we hope will be the first of many similar articles from different people, we asked Len Capper to write about how he finds God in his hobby of painting.

When I contemplated retirement back in 1993, I thought it might be wise to have another hobby, in addition to that of entertaining with my guitar—a second string to my bow as it were!

As a schoolboy in the thirties and forties I had always enjoyed drawing and painting, but had done virtually nothing since I was about sixteen. I'd always thought I might become a draughtsman on leaving school, but it being wartime this ambition was side-tracked. So, as retirement approached, I thought I would take up painting again from where I left it all those years ago.

I was encouraged to do so by a colleague I worked with who was a member of Chesterfield Art Group and was an excellent watercolour artist. He didn't drive, and so I often took him to 'out of the way' locations in my car, where to my amazement he would sketch and paint the entire scene in a couple of hours, and make it look so easy!! I soon found out how wrong one can be!

However I do find it a challenging hobby, and whilst I can't claim to paint for the Lord, I'm quite certain he has a tremendous input into what I'm trying to do in both my painting and entertaining sessions. Often, if a picture has turned out as well as I'd hoped for, I'll say to Anne (my wife) 'You know I can't believe I painted that. I'm sure the Lord did!'

To conclude, I believe that the Lord has given us all talents of different sorts, and which we should use to the best of our ability. 'To God by the Glory'.

the FOIL AIDS Quiz Night on 16 October. In all a total of £123.50 was raised for the charity. Don't miss FOIL AIDS' next great event. This is the *Totlely Talents* evening on **Saturday 15 November**. There will be the usual array of talent – if you can contribute in this way please contact Phyl Holmes. Tickets are £5 and the evening starts at 7.30.

Cardboard Box Night

Gandhi once said, “You must be the change you want to see in the world”. This thought has challenged us recently at Youth Club, as we embarked on a ‘sleeping in a cardboard box’ night to raise awareness of homelessness, not only in places like Africa, but on our doorsteps in Sheffield. Why do this? Because we believe that everyone deserves a fair chance, that every single person, whether homeless or not, is made in the image of God, because we want to make a difference in this world, and this little act can make a difference.

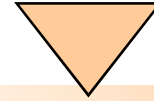
So on October 10, the young people arrived, laden with cardboard boxes and full of excitement and no doubt a little trepidation. The cardboard box ‘houses’ were made and after some fun games and a time to pause and reflect on why we were doing this, and some nice warm soup, we climbed into our boxes for the night. This was it, there we were, getting a little taste of what it might be like to be homeless.



So as I write this at 5:45 am the following morning, the young people are asleep, no doubt cold and a little wet as the rain spits down, but as they wake they will be filled with the realisation that what they have experienced has opened their hearts and minds to the awareness of how other people live, not just for one night but night in, night out. The young people, and all of us, have cosy beds and nice warm showers to go home to, but maybe, when we jump into our beds and have our showers, we might remember how fortunate we are and dare to pray that God would help us to be the change, not only what we want, but what God wants in this world.

Seb Allwright

Don't Miss These!



Wednesday 5 November, 6.30 pm

Fireworks evening, with refreshments

Monday 10 November, 10 am to 12 noon

Toy Box Swap at TRM

Saturday 15 November, 7.30 pm

Totley Talents Evening

Wednesday 3 December 8.00 pm in Church

Wednesday Friendship: *Carols by Candlelight*

Saturday and Sunday 13 & 14 December, start at 4.15 and 4.30 pm respectively

Journey to Bethlehem

Christmas Services

Sunday 21 December, 10.30 am

Youth Church Christmas Service



Sunday 21 December, 6.30 pm

Candlelit Carol Service



Wednesday 24 December, 4.00 pm

Crib Service



Thursday 25 December, 10.00 am

Christmas Morning Service



In the New Year

Fred and Shirley Cocking hope to share their *Film and Fellowship* evenings in 2009, the first Tuesday of the winter months, starting **6 January** in aid of charities.

The first film will be ‘Magnificent Obsession’ with Jane Wyman and Rock Hudson—about one man’s devotion to a woman whose blindness he caused.

Saturday 24 January, 5.30 - 8.00 pm

Church Family Christmas Party

“WHAT AM I
DOING
HERE?”



What's it all about - Alpha

(Is it just for the moment we live?)

“IS
THIS
IT?”

Alpha is an introduction to the Christian Faith and it is about providing a place where people can ask **the** questions, e.g *Why is there so much suffering in the world?* Also where you can delve into issues, be listened to, be valued and find answers.

TRM has in the past run very successful Alpha courses, and Alpha has since grown into a worldwide outreach in prisons, the Armed Services, pubs, workplaces and many other places. In 2007 more than one and a half million people completed Alpha in the world. Once again TRM has captured the vision and will be embarking on a series of Alpha courses commencing 26 January 09.

The course will be open to both church members and non church members – so if you have never been on an Alpha course, please give it some thought.

The course consists of 10 weekly sessions, which are as follows :

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Who is Jesus? | 6 How does God guide us? |
| 2 Why did Jesus die? | 7 How can I resist evil? |
| 3 How can we have faith? | 8 Why and how should I tell others? |
| 4 Why and how should I pray? | 9 Does God heal today? |
| 5 Why and how should I read the bible? | 10 What about the church? |

Each session will include a meal, teaching and discussions in a very relaxed atmosphere. They will aim to start at 7.00 and finish at 9.30 pm.

There will also be an away day which will look at the role and work of the Holy Spirit.

There is no charge for the course but contributions towards the meals would be gladly received from those able to do so.

So, what's it all about, Alpha? It's about telling people the good news of Jesus and that we can all have a special relationship with him - “Not a lotta people know that.”

We hope and pray they soon will.

John Freeman

If you would like to come to the next Alpha Course, starting 26 January 09, ring John Freeman on (0114) 2366819.

“SO WHAT
HAPPENS
NEXT?”