

Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

April/May 2009

HOLY WEEK AT TRM

What's Holy Week?

Two thousand years ago a man called Jesus entered into Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday. The events leading toward Jesus' crucifixion began to unfold. The Church calls this time Holy Week. On Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week we recall how Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem to teach the people for the last time.

As Holy Week progresses Jesus turns his attention from the establishment and spends more time teaching his disciples, and the crowds who were following him, about what would happen in the days to come.

On Thursday (Maundy Thursday) we remember how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples before sharing a meal with them. After the meal, Jesus goes to the garden of Gethsemane and agonises in prayer with his Father about what was to come. And then his arrest and Friday came, and with it a sense of desolation that Jesus cried out from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" As you look closely at the events of Holy Week what do you see? You see the religious establishment plotting with the Roman authorities to get rid of Jesus whom they saw as a trouble maker. You see, in the schemes of men's planning, the purposes of God unfold as He who came into the world was offered up for the world that we might once again know God. You also see how, through the very real human emotion that Jesus experiences, God identifies with us in the midst of our doubt and suffering – for Jesus is the suffering servant. This is especially poignant at this time as so many face very real uncertainties.

With Friday and the suffering of the cross behind us we wait in anticipation of Easter Sunday, where the uncertainty, the doubt, the sorrow, the suffering and the desolation are overcome as on the third day he rose again, the schemes of the authorities are thwarted and God's purpose is fulfilled and we declare 'Christ is Alive... In every insult, rift and war, where colour, scorn or wealth divide, He suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives though ever crucified'.

May you know God's presence with you daily, sustaining and strengthening you.

Every blessing,

Garry Dawson-Jones

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



PALM SUNDAY 5 April

Procession from Cross Scythes with the donkey and All Age Service at **10.30 am** at TRM including a drama presented by the Youth Church.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 9 April

At the Cross. This is a meditation with drama and music and is in TRM church at **7.30 pm**.

GOOD FRIDAY 10 April

Walk of Witness with the Cross starting at the Co-op at **10.00 am** followed by an open air service on the car park at TRM at **10.30 am**.

EASTER SUNDAY 12 April

8.00 am

Easter Morning Holy Communion:
Rev Garry Dawson-Jones

10.30 am

Celebration and Holy Communion:
Rev Gordon Wilson

6.30 pm

Easter Praise and Open to God
at Totley All Saints

What's happening in local Methodist churches ?

Over the last year we have reported on how our group of local Methodist churches (the Ecclesall Circuit) has been engaged in a wide ranging review of its activities to ensure that the eight churches within the Circuit are as effective as possible in carrying out our mission of making disciples.

There have been three main developments.

1. A special Circuit meeting on 22 October 2008 discussed the progress to date and noted a number of proposals from the Circuit Leadership Team on issues still needing to be addressed. The meeting agreed actions with regard to administrative support and discipleship, two of the key issues raised by the review.
2. The Circuit has engaged the services of a Church Consultant to examine how the Circuit and churches currently operate, and to advise on ways that support could be provided to churches and ministers to free up more time

for our main task of spreading the good news. He has met all the ministers and representatives of all the churches and will be reporting to the Circuit Leadership Team at the end of March.

3. In response to a widespread request for more discipleship training the Circuit has agreed to study *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. By the time you read this, all church households should have received a book and we will be well on with the series of services in Lent. We hope that by studying the five practices - Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission & Service and Extravagant Generosity - we will each understand a little better how the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ fits into our lives and churches in a practical way.

If you would like more information I will do my best to help.

John Lashmar



Finding God in Walking

it was 180 miles! And so I walked the first of what I hope will lead to be many of Britain's National Trails, the Thames Footpath, to be followed by the West Highland Way (95 miles) in 2008 and plans for The Yorkshire Wolds way in 2009.

I love walking these trails - you can't really get lost, and you can choose when to chat to your walking companions and when to enjoy time for meditation as you follow the trail; you are with your group of fellow walkers for several days, so everyone has time for both chatting and walking alone.

Yet we never fail to appreciate the fantastic splendour of Derbyshire which we are so lucky to have on our doorstep, and we are so blessed with our own LEGO walking group at TRM. Freedom from working

allowed us to join the group, and appreciate not only the glory of God in the scenery, but also in the wonderful company of the other group members. Everyone feels really welcome, thoughts and opinions are shared and many calories burned off. (And restored at lunch time!) It's also good to have friends from other churches in LEGO, and friends for whom LEGO is their only church connection.

Walking is now an important part of my life: it's helped me lose weight (hurrah!), it's helped me get fitter, I've got to know folk better, and more than anything, it's given me a real feeling of being close to God out on the hills and surrounded by His creation.

Just the fear of fields of cows to sort out now, then it's best foot forward for me for hopefully years to come!

Lynne Capewell

Scientists recently announced that walking for the over 50's is a real life enhancer, but it's always been important in the Capewell family. Initially for Dave, who regularly spent weekends walking the hills and dales with friends, but with my gradual reduction in working hours all that changed. When I finally left full time teaching, my leaving gift was a pair of hiking boots and a daysack. Both have been well used in the 4 or so years since. It began with my brother asking if I fancied a long walk, all downhill! Music to my ears, so having replied in the affirmative, he then informed us

Have an ABBA Do!



The planners of this year's church family party were clearly 'smarter than the average', and more than 80 of our church clan were well exercised (mentally), fed, and entertained in the school room at the end of January. Slightly adapting last year's successful format the first half of the evening consisted of a series of challenges. This included a fiendishly difficult set of cryptic clues to place names, Lynne Capewell's list of nursery rhymes (initials only) and a race to find 20 pieces of information from an edition of the Metro.

After a hearty supper of Liberty Foods' famous pie and peas followed by TRM's famous selection of puddings, it was cabaret time, compèred by Nick Whitworth.

Matthew Hinch and Jake Hadabora enthralled everyone with an adaptation of Food Glorious Food - which they had last sung to a full house at the Lyceum! John Stone introduced party goers to the ugliest man in the world (not Pete Dibben!) and later delivered as Ernieeee (who drove the fastest milk-cart in the west). Dairy do it again?

Phil George stood on his own three feet for 'Jake the Peg' - so realistically that it upset small children - but Dean Duke's stirring 'Amarillo' had them marching in the aisles. For the grand finale Dean joined the Freemans and Pauline Dibben in the ABBA tribute group Yabba Abba Doo, complete with wigs and 70s outfits. A great time was had by all, and the stewards are to be congratulated for a real success.

A Time to Laugh Comedy Night

TRM and All Saints Totley are hosting a comedy night which will be held at the Fleur De Lys, Totley Hall Lane on Friday 26 June at 8.00 pm.

Andy Kind and Tony Vino run the Isaac Project which is a national Christian Comedy Movement. Andy is from Stoke-on-Trent. In 2005, he won the prestigious 'Anything for laughs' award in Manchester. Tony is from Manchester and he was a finalist in the 2006 'Funny Bones Comedian of the Year' competition and runs various Fair Trade comedy nights across the north of England.

Andy and Tony are two alternative comedians who are using their comic talents bringing laughter to the four corners of the UK. Come along, sit back and relax into an evening of wholesome comedy entertainment.

Alpha - the Journey

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

Everyone it seems these days is on a journey, especially those on so-called reality shows like "Britain's Strictly Got a Celebrity Chef on Ice Factor in the Jungle". They describe their progress (or lack of it!) through the programme as a journey. As Christians we've been using that metaphor, quite rightly for some time, to describe our walk with God.

The ten people on our current Alpha course are on a journey which started at the end of January. Ten different travellers; some had already started their walk with God, others were just beginning. Some are younger, some are older. We walk together and share our different and varied experiences enjoying fellowship together, graciously laughing at the weekly (or weakly?) joke. We have one thing in common. We all believe it's where God wants us to be now.

Snow interrupted our journey on one occasion which means we have an extra week to enjoy the sumptuous food served by the task force who help us on our way each week, cooking, serving, meeting and greeting. We're extremely grateful to them.

This part of our journey finishes just before Easter, appropriately, at the foot of the cross.

Healing in the Pub

This work of praying for people outside the confines of the Church grew out of a vision of how we might break through the natural resistance of the general public towards the gospel. At that time the *Healing Rooms* at the Big Tree Public House in Woodseats was not known about; however the work at Woodseats has been an inspiration and the principles applied there have featured in our training programmes.

The basic principle has been to see Jesus as a model for ministry and to appropriate his power. Jesus went into the public places to preach, to heal and to save.

We started as a combined church initiative in November 2008 and a team of people was trained in preparing to minister. The training consisted primarily of Christians coming to repentance, faith and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, together with practical hands-on experiences.

From November to early February, thirteen people have been ministered to. One of these has specifically asked Jesus into her life, one had her prayers answered concerning a dangerous operation on her sister and one person has started to attend church.

These are good beginnings and may appear small but it is a question of learning how to retain faith in our hearts believing that we have received, not doubting, until the miracle is evident. We ask not so much "Lord increase our faith" as "Lord help our unbelief."

We intend to press on into June 2009 and then review our practices.

Brian Nettleton – All Saints Church, Totle

Quest

As part of our Hope 08 commitment at TRM we piloted a kids club for primary age children. The first few monthly sessions started in May 2008 and went under the heading JYC. In September 2008 we started to meet every other Wednesday 5.30-6.30 bringing kids together using games, crafts, quizzes, songs and story and memory verses as we embark on the ultimate quest of having a life-shaping relationship with our awesome and amazing God who loves us.

During this last couple of terms we have been learning about how important it is to tell the truth, about living at peace with one another, encouraging one another, being changed on the inside by thinking differently, not being ashamed of Jesus, trusting in God, how God makes us all into winners, God loves us and that nothing is impossible for God.

We've made valentine cards, made and consumed over 40 pancakes (it's amazing how girls can eat more pancakes than boys). We've made badges, had foam sword fights, relay races, cracker and jelly eating contests though not at the same time. We did the customary pancake tossing, except it was on Ash Wednesday.

It's been so moving to see how naturally and easily children pray such simple, bold and beautiful prayers. No wonder Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these".

In April and May we will be meeting on:
Wednesday 1 April, 22 April,
Wednesday 6 May, 13 May



"In Quest we play really fun games. We remember verses that go on an activity sheet, which we colour in at home. On Ash Wednesday we made pancakes and had a race. I like going to Quest because it's a kind place to be." Grace Perring, age 8.

God & Youth in S17

A couple of weeks ago a group of young people, who don't normally come, arrived at *Goldmine* (the fortnightly youth worship event). Not malicious, not threatening, just a bit disruptive. We questioned ourselves. What brought them along? How do we respond? Do we need to cater things for them instead of the 'Christian' young people? And the cliché, What Would Jesus Do? We're still battling with these questions. We always will. There are no clear answers. After all, they're people in need of a saviour as we all are, and they should be able to find Him in our churches and events. One thing we're certain of: God is working in the lives of many young people across S17. We thank Him for that and seek Him as to what He wants us to do next.

As I write we're in the middle of *Steelroots on Tour*. We have been to three of the churches across S17, including TRM, with the next four to come in the following weeks. These have been brilliant times of being family as part of the body of Christ, the Church. Young and older have joined together for worship led by the Steelroots band, sharing *Steelroots'* vision for God's words and fellowship between all ages.

FRESH, the fortnightly fun and worship event for year 6 to year 8's has started very successfully, with many young people coming from churches and schools across S17. In March we will be taking about 15 of these young people away for a weekend mainly aimed at strengthening the community of this age group.

Please pray for this to happen during the weekend and for the young people to meet with God in a new way.

In the last two months *Cell Groups* have started on different evenings at different people's homes all over S17. It has been wonderful to see young people passionate about having these times together; many of the groups are led by the young people themselves. In January we had a cell launch day, a day when Paul Hopkins from Cell Church UK came to share the vision of cells and show us how they are run. It was encouraging to see young people prophesy over each other and be comfortable in praying for each other. We are hoping to begin a cell group with Thursday's *Great Escape*; these will be times of laughing, eating, discussing and sharing with one another. We'd love to start this as soon as possible, however we need a female leader before we can, so if you feel you can be involved in this then please let me know.

So that's what's been happening and what's coming up in a nutshell. There's so much more I could write, but, as John said about Jesus, we can't write all that God is doing across S17. It's an exciting time for which we thank God as well as seek Him for the future. As we continue in Lent, please pray for the youth work across S17.

Seb Allwright

Watch, Pray and Watch

Thank you for your response to our request for addresses in your road where there are families with young children. The good news is that at our February *Toddler Praise* service we had three new families come (nine children in all) despite the atrocious snowy weather.

On March 8 we had our faith severely tested when, at 9.28 am two minutes before *Toddler Praise* was due to begin, not a single child was present. However, God is good and rewarded our faithfulness as, en masse, seven families arrived with a total of 14 children (all boys).

We praise God for this wonderful answer to prayer and ask that you will keep watching and praying as there is still plenty of room for more!

What reading

Every Day with Jesus

means to me

I began taking *Every Day with Jesus* a few years ago and, as I read it each day, I found God's messages very encouraging. So many times the passages of scripture shaped my day and I feel that God was really speaking to me. The readings taught me of God's love and that through His strength worries and fears can go away, and that He is there in every situation. So many times I have experienced His peace through what I have read as He applies the reading to my heart.

Sylvia Ayres

Family News

BIRTHS

On 11 February **James Edward Dungey** was born, a son for **Jen and Phillip** and a brother for Ella. Ruth and Keith are of course the proud grandparents!

On 12 February, Maggie and Andrew Couldwell were delighted to become second-time grandparents. **Alison and Jon King** produced a boy, **Nathaniel**, and *Alive!* sends congratulations to them all!

Congratulations also to **Adrian and Catherine Shipley** who on March 1 produced **Phoebe Grace**, a sister for Jacob and Samuel.

Just in time for inclusion in this edition of *Alive!* **Kate and Steve Tidmarsh** gave birth to **Oliver** on 16 March, a brother for Charlie, and another grandchild for Barbara and Dave, and great-grandson for Brenda Ainsbury!

ENGAGEMENT

We are delighted to hear of the engagement of **Suzanne Tudor** to **Richard Johnson**. Best wishes

to you both!

WEDDING

Congratulations and love to **Julia Milnes** and **James Dixon** on their marriage at TRM on 20 March, and to their daughters Olivia and Chloe.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Freda and Brian Harpham have been given the Gold Award of the *2009 Community Pride Award* by the city of Sheffield in recognition of outstanding charitable work at home and abroad, which was presented to them by the Lord Mayor on 28 January.

DEATHS

All at TRM were saddened to hear of the death from cancer in January of **Edna Thompson**.

We also learned of the death in February of **Joan Green**, for many years a member of this church before taking up residence in 'The Moorlands', Hathersage.

From Our Own Correspondent – *Across the Pond*

This June it will be 2 years since we moved to south Florida, since God brought us to Palm Harbor United Methodist church and since we bought our first home. We're no longer surprised by restaurants with swimming pools (watch where you park!) and are fortunate to spend long hours outdoors, enjoying beaches (and Disney World is only 77.6 miles away). But it's prudent to retreat indoors from the intolerable summer heat and humidity. And Heather has had an unpleasant encounter with a hostile stingray!

Heather works 2 days a week in our local hospital ICU and takes a leading role in our Small Group ministry, launched this year. She facilitates a lunchtime small group with seven other young moms. Ethan is 6 this October and has largely retained his English accent, though much to his father's chagrin he insists on calling the beautiful game 'soccer'.

The USA fervently celebrates every noteworthy date (and some others!) Our admiration is mixed with concern. For example for Ethan the message of Easter appeared drowned under a kaleidoscopic onslaught of Easter Bunnies and egg hunts. But fears proved unfounded. On Easter Sunday he toured our cul-de-sac giving gifts (because God gave His only

son). The items, from his bedroom, notably included a tub of Play-Doh for our Harley Davidson biker neighbour!

We're now in the throes of Lent; following a *40 Day Revolution* campaign. Every participant

receives a daily email with devotion, scripture and task for the day. We wear a fluorescent green no complaints wrist band, intending to refrain from complaining for 40 days. Right now I can't recall where I put mine!

Our three consecutive worship services begin 8:15 Sunday morning, with bagels and donuts between and nary a chocolate digestive in sight. I am especially involved in our midweek contemporary praise service. On average I know 1 in 6 of the songs but such is the Lord's leading that this isn't an issue. One I suggested was welcomed, but for inclusion on their next 'oldie' night!

We continue to think of you all at TRM with great fondness. In June we'll be visiting the UK for 2 weeks and hope to visit Sheffield. Perhaps see you then. Love and God bless.

Chris, Heather and Ethan



Open to God

In the spring of last year a group of people from All Saints, along with vicar David Rhodes, attended the *New Wine* week and arrived back inspired and enthusiastic about the future, both in their personal lives and planning for their church. In conversation with Garry, who had also attended *New Wine*, it was agreed that it would be an excellent opportunity for our two churches to work together in trying to establish a special time of listening, praying, worshipping God and allowing the Holy Spirit to do His work among his people.

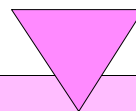
The outcome has been monthly *Open to God* evening services alternating between the two churches. These are very meaningful, inspirational times of worship, listening, reflecting and sharing stories of God at work in our lives, as well as praying in groups or all together. Each service has a different theme and it is really exciting experiencing God working in different ways. There is a wonderful spirit of harmony and togetherness among the two congregations, and the services are times of opportunity to grow in faith as well as times of great blessing not to be missed.

Space does not permit me to describe details of all the lovely experiences we have had of God at work in these services, but I would be happy to share with anyone who wants to know more.

“Come taste and see that the Lord is good.”

Anne Capper

Don't miss these!



Saturday 16 May between 10.00 and 12.00 **Coffee, Cakes, Plants and Books**

All these will be available at the FOIL AIDS Coffee morning. Come along to Peter & Phyl's house (87 *Furniss Ave*) between **10.00 and 12.00** and restock your garden, enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits with others, stock up your cake tin, get your books for the summer holidays and support the FOIL AIDS charity. Admission is 50p.

Sunday 17 May at 10.30 am **S17 Churches Together at King Egbert's**

The next S17 Churches Service is entitled *Your Money and Your Life*, and Goldmine will be leading the worship for us on that morning.

The speaker will be **Mr Keith Tondeur** who is the **National Director of Credit Action**. Keith founded Credit Action and has a heart for people to handle their finances in a godly way. Keith's expertise and advice is often called upon by Government and Opposition Ministers and he works alongside other Christian organisations like '**Care for the Family**', '**New Wine**', '**Christians Against Poverty**', to name but a few. Do come along and worship God with us and receive what I am sure will be helpful and practical teaching on money, debt and how the church can respond to the increasing challenge heightened by the current economic crisis.

On **Sunday 28 June**, we will be welcoming Keith Tondeur to TRM, when he will be speaking at the morning service at **10.30**.

Friday 26 June at 8.00 pm

TRM and All Saints Totley are hosting a comedy night which will be held at the Fleur De Lys, Totley Hall Lane on Friday 26 June at 8.00 pm. (See article on page 3 for further details).

Events

<i>April 2009</i>		<i>May 2009</i>	
Wed 1	5.30 - 6.30 pm Quest 7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship - Easter Meditation	Sun 3	9.00 am Holy Communion
Thu 2	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club No Youth Club	Tue 5	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 4.30 - 6.30 pm Prayers in the Pub, at Fleur de Lys
Fri 3	9.15 am LEGO Walk	Wed 6	5.30 - 6.30 pm Quest 7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship - National Parks of the American West, <i>Shirley Ellins</i>
Mon 6	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	Thu 7	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Tue 7	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 4.30 - 6.30 pm Prayers in the Pub, at Fleur de Lys	Fri 8	9.15 am LEGO Walk
Thu 9	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club No Youth Club 7.30 pm "At the Cross", meditation with drama and music, at TRM	Sun 10	9.30 am Toddler Praise
Fri 10	10.00 am Good Friday Walk of Witness, and service in car park at TRM at 10.30 am	Tues 12	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 4.30 - 6.30 pm Prayers in the Pub, at Fleur de Lys 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies—Britain's Long Distance Trails, <i>Lynne Capewell</i>
Sun 12	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Easter Celebration and Holy Communion 6.30 pm Open to God at Totley All Saints	Wed 13	5.30 - 6.30 pm Quest
Tue 14	No Prayer Meeting or Coffee Morning No Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 4.30 - 6.30 pm Prayers in the Pub, at Fleur de Lys	Thu 14	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Thu 16	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club No Youth Club	Sat 16	10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning at 87 Furniss Avenue for <i>FOIL AIDS</i>
Mon 20	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	Sun 17	10.30 am S17 Churches Together at King Ecgbert's School - Speaker Mr Keith Tondeur
Tue 21	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 4.30 - 6.30 pm Prayers in the Pub, at Fleur de Lys	Mon 18	8.00 pm Messianic Dance
Wed 22	5.30 - 6.30 pm Quest	Tue 19	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 4.30 - 6.30 pm Prayers in the Pub, at Fleur de Lys
Thu 23	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Wed 20	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship - Following St Paul, <i>Julia Hatfield</i>
Tue 28	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 4.30 - 6.30 pm Prayers in the Pub, at Fleur de Lys 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies - Nigeria, <i>Tina Tomlinson</i>	Thu 21	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Thu 30	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Tue 26	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning No Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 4.30 - 6.30 pm Prayers in the Pub, at Fleur de Lys
		Thu 28	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 Toddler Praise Services are at 9.30 am.