

Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

Nov 05 - Jan 06

Bethlehem Comes to Totley

Can't get to Bethlehem this Christmas? Never mind – Bethlehem is coming to TRM Church. Over the weekend of 10 and 11 December the Church buildings get transformed into the Bethlehem of Jesus' time for the Church's *Journey to Bethlehem*.

Come and be escorted by a Roman centurion through scenes leading up to the very first Christmas 2000 years ago. See the effect on Mary of hearing the angel speak to her. Spend time in the market place seeing townsfolk demonstrate the crafts and tastes of the time. Meet with the prophet Isaiah, the innkeeper and census taker, and finish the tour at the stable where a real baby 'Jesus' is cared for by Mary and Joseph. It's Christmas like you've never experienced it elsewhere.

The tour is free and takes about half an hour. Come as a party, a family group or on your own. Come warmly dressed as your tour includes a visit to the shepherds and their sheep. It is essential to book in advance – it is very popular. Over 750 people 'journeyed' last year.



When? 10 and 11 December.
Tours start every 10 minutes
from 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

Booking? Please phone Gill
to reserve a place, on (0114)
2361635.

'Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in'

The theme of 'welcome' is weaved throughout the Christmas story. We have the picture of Mary and Joseph wandering around Bethlehem at a very busy time trying to find somewhere to stay and with Mary about to give birth any day. As Jesus was born, His birth was announced to shepherds who, after their initial fright, welcomed the news that had been announced to them and made their way to where Jesus was. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see Jesus for themselves and welcomed Him. As they went on their way we are told, 'they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child'. The shepherds welcomed Jesus into their lives.

Later, the magi (kings/wise men) came to find Jesus, and the gifts they brought and the offering of their worship as they bowed down and worshipped Jesus showed that they welcomed Jesus into their lives.

Of course, not all who heard about the birth of Jesus welcomed His arrival into the world. King Herod went out of his way to show Jesus that He was not at all welcome.

In a few weeks time the Church calendar will turn its attention to the season of Advent and Christmas. Already the shops are stocking up with their

Christmas season wares. Is that a welcome sight to you, or does it fill you with dread?

Philip Brooks in his carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' puts it well when he writes, "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in".

In all your preparations and celebrations for Christmas will Jesus find a 'welcome' with you?

Have a fun filled and joyful Christmas.

Every blessing, Garry.

Rev-ing Up



Hi, I'm Garry and I'm the new Rev at TRM. I hope you enjoy this edition of Alive!

I wonder if you have ever had the experience of buying a product and the product does not do what it says on the packet? It is disappointing, isn't it? Maybe some people have even been so disappointed that they have turned to litigation, although that's perhaps a little extreme. But if you have been assured and reassured by the sales assistant and by the instructions on the box, you expect some kind of satisfactory result, and when we don't get it we all feel a little ticked off. Let me tell you about a place that really does do what it says on the packaging.

'Welcome', is a word splashed all over Totley Rise Methodist Church. It's splashed across the web site 'www.totletrise.co.uk', it's splashed across the welcome packs available in the Church, it's weaved through the issues of ALIVE! The message on the packet is very clear, 'WELCOME!' And it does do what it says on the packet.

I have lost count of the number of people who have told me about their first encounter with Totley Rise Methodist Church; the story has been oft repeated, 'we were made to feel so welcome that we are still here'. Some of those people have been here for a very long time. Some of those people with the same

story have been around for a few years, others for only months. What they all have in common is the genuine sense of welcome they received when they first came through the doors at TRM.

That same sense of Welcome has also been the experience that we have had as a family since coming to Totley Rise at the beginning of September. Victor Kiam said of Remington shavers, 'I liked it so much I bought the company'. Well, for us as a family, a similar sentiment comes to mind, 'we were made to feel so welcome I became the minister'.

So, whether it's the pushchair club, the luncheon club, youth church or youth groups, the coffee morning, or a special family event like a Baptism service, you will always be assured of a very sincere and warm WELCOME! So, why not come along and see for yourself Totley Rise Methodist Church does exactly what it says on the packet. I look forward to seeing you soon and offering you a very warm welcome.

On behalf of Dawn, Joel and myself, I want to say a big THANK YOU to you all for the tremendous welcome we have received from our new Church family at Totley Rise. Your welcome has helped us enormously to settle into our new home and Church. Love and every blessing

Garry Dawson-Jones

Family News

Here at Alive! we do our best to find out everything that is going on and celebrate TRM family news within the Church through the newsletter. If you have any news you would like to share, please let the editorial team know – contact details on the base of the back page.

Welcome to all the children who have been baptised at TRM in September and October:-

Madelaine Hannah Milnes, daughter of Jamie and Kay

Jasmine Florence Westnedge, daughter of John and Jayne

Harry and brother George Middleton, sons of Gary and Fiona.

We say bon voyage and bon chance to **Kate and Ian Dunn and their daughter Mollie** as they start a new life in France.

Congratulations to **Ruth and Keith Dungey** who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 26th September.

Congratulations also to **Kate (née Harvey) and Steve Tidmarsh** on the birth of **Charlie** on 17 October, a grandson for Barbara and Dave, and great-grandson for Brenda Ainsbury.

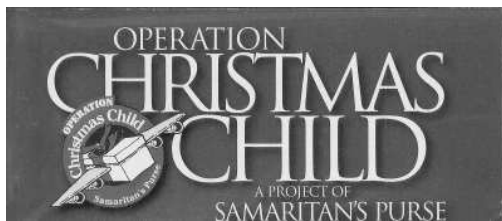
Earlier this year we reported that **Nick Whitworth** was running in the London Marathon to raise money for MENCAP. Thanks to all the local support, he was one of the top six fund raisers this year for that charity and was invited to meet the chairman, Brian Rix, for a reception at the House of Lords on Tue 18 Oct.

My – but they're good!

So said the advertising literature, and it was not exaggerating. An audience of 63 thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the concert given by the Abbeydale Singers on Saturday 24 September at TRM. The items were entertainingly introduced by the choir's conductor, Kevin Houghton and the pieces ranged from McCartney's popular *Let it be* through the swinging *Rhythm of life*, the classical *My spirit sang all day*, to the traditional *My love is like a red, red rose*. There were madrigals, folk songs, chansons and songs from musicals; something for everyone. It was the performance of *When I'm 64* that really got my toes tapping, but the whole concert was greatly appreciated.

The Abbeydale Singers gave their services at their own expense to help the TRM supported **FOIL AIDS** charity. The free refreshments at the interval were followed by a short presentation of the current work of this charity. The collection and later donations, together with recoverable Gift Aid, raised just over £500 to go to help AIDS victims in South Africa.





Sorry to remind you that Christmas is looming. I know just how busy the season is. As you get ready for Christmas could I please ask you once again to spare a thought for a very disadvantaged child somewhere in the world and pack a shoebox of small gifts. This year, lorries will be taking shoeboxes from the Sheffield warehouse to children of all religions in Bosnia and Northern India, and we hope to beat last year's total of 34,000 boxes.

Many of you have helped before and I am very grateful indeed. For those of you who have made pencil cases and done loads of knitting, passed on innumerable carrier bags of goodies throughout the year, thank you so much. I know first hand now just how much these little things mean to the children who receive them.

On the small table by the entrance to the Church lounge I have put shoebox leaflets giving you ideas for gifts to send, and explaining what items are not suitable for the children. (Alternatively, look on www.samaritanpurse.uk.com). Don't worry if there are things on the list of gift items that you haven't got – just put in what you can and we'll do the rest. The leaflet also contains a label for your shoebox and an envelope for the £2 donation towards the cost of transportation. (Please gift aid if you can, and if you can pay online, we receive an extra 9 pence – not much 'til you multiply by the 7.4 million shoeboxes given by the charity each year!)

Please leave your filled shoeboxes in the back of the Church for collection by **1st December**.

Freda Harpham

Return from Al Cabana

In a previous edition of Alive!, we heard from **Maddie Stones** as she prepared for a Girl Guide trip to Mexico. Maddie was one of 10 girl guides to represent North East England and, in order to make the trip, had to undertake months of frantic fundraising. Safely back home again, Maddie tells us of her travels.....

Our first week was spent in Tiscali Guide House practising Spanish, sight seeing, overcoming homesickness and getting accustomed to the food! The highlight of the first week was climbing the Pyramid of the Sun, the second tallest pyramid in the world. Our next stop was Al Cabana to the south of Mexico City. Here we were divided into dormitories, and

sharing with a group of Venezuelan guides meant our Spanish rapidly improved. My favourite day was the Service Project day, when children from local communities came on huge buses, packed three to a seat, to come and spend the day where they were safe, and could eat, drink and play as much as they liked. Spanish skills were needed, but a smile went a long way. It was sad when they left because we didn't know where they were going, and because we knew that the things they were taking with them wouldn't necessarily be used by them. What we did know was that they had had one fantastic day, and that we had made a tiny difference on each of their lives, and that's something I'll never forget.

Frog Bakes Cake in Church A Recipe for Success

Does this look more like a headline from one of the more lurid tabloids? Well it really happened when Steve Wild came to TRM church on 4 September. He brought his arm puppet frog and a microwave cooker with him. Now Steve admits that he is not the best cook (nor the best ventriloquist!) but, by following the recipe book and with the help of a few children from the congregation, they made a cake mix, cooked it and served chocolate cake at the end of the service.

Now what has all this to do with being a Christian? Steve pointed out that if we want to make our lives a success then we need a recipe book. We can find the recipe for life in the Bible. But that was only one aspect of cooking. Cakes come with parties and banquets - and one of the descriptions Jesus gives of heaven is of a banquet to which we are invited. Don't miss out on this invitation.

Who knows what little Madelaine Milnes made of this, her first service at TRM. She was there for her baptism and was very alert to all that was happening. She was a great hit with the congregation. As part of the baptism service, the congregation has to affirm that they will do all they can to help Madelaine and welcomed her into the church by applauding. To the delight of everyone, Madelaine, being carried by Garry Dawson-Jones for the baptism, responded by clapping back. It can't be often that Steve Wild and his frog are so beautifully upstaged. Welcome Madelaine!

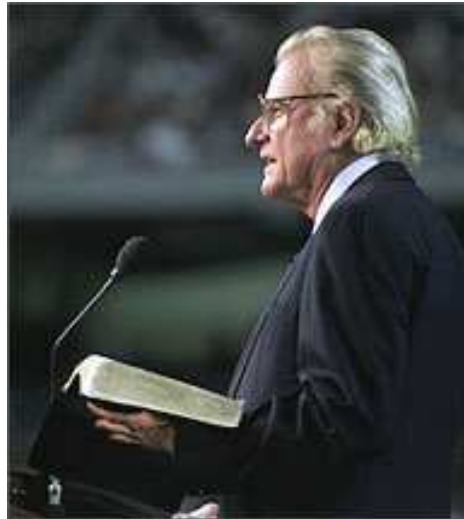
20 Years On - Not a Flash in the Pan

Twenty years ago Billy Graham came to Bramall Lane to conduct one of his crusades. At the time many people said that it was all emotion and that nothing lasting would come out of it. Many people from TRM Church went along to the meetings. We asked two of them to say how they or their families were affected and what has happened since.

Hilary Grundy says “I had high expectations of the Billy Graham Mission to Sheffield in 1985 and, although I was not moved spiritually at the meetings, the nurture group at Phyl and Peter’s home that arose from the mission was a turning point in my life. “

“At that nurture group I did indeed experience the life changing touch of the Holy Spirit. I had been under a lot of pressure at home and at work, but the Holy Spirit changed my attitude to people and problems completely. I was given a copy of *Every Day with Jesus for New Christians* which encouraged me to make time to read the Bible daily.”

“For me, making time to be with God before the frenetic events of the



day begin has been the most wonderful, creative and inspiring result of the Billy Graham Mission, for which I shall be ever thankful.”

Anne Capper writes “I was brought up in a house where, to me, God was a backdrop but not a reality in our daily lives and I was content with activities in and around the church until my late thirties. This was when I felt something was missing in my life - a sort of emptiness deep within. I was unsure about even calling myself a Christian. A Lent inter-church fellowship sounded interesting – it was! I met people who had a *glow*

about them and did things like pray and read their bibles every day.”

“ At this time I had become friendly with someone who, like me, was searching for some answers, so we made the decision to go to listen to Billy Graham in 1985 – a wonderful man of God. We did not feel the urge to go forward at the meetings but they were another step on our way. We decided we must move forward. A nurture group under the leadership of Liz Mackay was the right way forward. Our lives changed. My friend’s response – instant conversion; mine was a slow but sure growing in relationship with the Lord. The emptiness disappeared, supplanted by the knowledge that I indeed loved the Lord and that this was the beginning of a new journey with Him.”

God can and does use many ways to meet people. 20 years ago in Sheffield he used Billy Graham greatly, and we at TRM Church are still feeling the benefits.

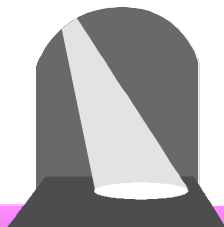
Music for a Winter’s Evening



Over 30 people gathered on a dark October evening for the annual concert given by TRM Church choir. Joe Bowring and the choir, augmented by some friends from the Bamford Singers, had worked hard to put together an interesting and entertaining mix of the sacred and the secular interspersed with humorous anecdotes, poems and stories. Val Hardy’s reading of *It’s tough to be an alto* and Len Capper’s telling of *The Yorkshire Messiah* were particularly appreciated. We all joined in singing the three hymns and we forgot about the darkness outside. The collection raised £156 for the FOIL AIDS charity.

THE NEXT EDITION OF ALIVE! WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE END OF JANUARY, AND WILL COVER THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

In the Spotlight



Tuesday Ladies

“Tuesday Ladies” is a group that meets regularly in the Church lounge to listen to speakers on a wide range of subjects. Talks often have a practical focus, such as the demonstration that accompanied the session on holistic therapy presented by Lisa Ryalls of Synergy. The group also take frequent trips to theatre productions or local places of interest – recently these have included a trip to the Old Hall Museum in Bakewell, and a behind-the-scenes tour of Chatsworth Farm Shop, which received rave reviews from the ladies.

Anne Capper, known to many at TRM, delivered one recent talk. Anne entertained and informed the group with tales of her recent trip to Kosova with the Christian charity SMILE (Sharing Ministry In Lands Everywhere). Anne interwove details of the scale and horror of the Balkan conflict with stories from her week spent with Kosovan families. Anne’s observations of Kosova were made all the more real by the contributions of Blerta, who fled Kosova aged 17 with her family in 1999 and who has made Sheffield her home whilst she completes her nursing degree. Her account of the work of the SMILE charity was hugely inspiring, and Anne’s slides of the days she spent doing craft and, yes, playing football with the children, illustrated the hope the charity brings to the people it touches.

Evenings are open to all, and ladies are welcome to drop in to the sessions which start at 8.00 p.m. and take place in the church lounge. Annual subs of £10 are asked from those who regularly attend to contribute towards costs. The programme for November and December can be found in the Events calendar on page 6.

Harvest Praise!

To celebrate this year’s Harvest Festival, Youth Church sang “Praise him with a pasta shaker”. Primary children made their own shakers using yoghurt pots and filled them with pasta. They then decorated their shakers with harvest fruit and vegetables. The older children created drum kits out of pots, pans and anything that would make



a loud bang, and instead of drumsticks they used spoons and ladles. John Freeman ran the “band” practice for 2 weeks until the children were ready to perform in church. We had children taking part from all ages and the song was an enjoyable part of the service.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all took part in the service, reading from Psalms and taking the collection.

Phil presented a slide show which included photos of plants, animals, scenery and people from around the world, reflecting the diversity of God’s creation.

Lots of fresh and tinned produce was contributed and a lovely display was set up. The donations and contributions were sent to the Family Service Unit.

Lalisse Biana, Youth Church

Harvest Tea

If you saw cars driving round Totley picking up older people on the afternoon of Sunday 2 October, it was to take them to TRM’s Harvest tea. 49 pensioners enjoyed a free tea provided by the church and then went on afterwards to the evening Harvest service which was geared to their tastes. If you are of state pensionable age and would like to join us in future for this, or for the free summer outing, please contact Richard Lamb on 2362807. TRM’s drivers will be pleased to collect you from home and return you afterwards.

Events

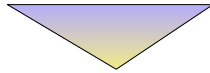
<i>November 2005</i>		<i>December 2005</i>	
Tue 1	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Church	Thu 1	1.30 - 3 pm Pushchair Club 6.30 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Thu 3	1.30 - 3 pm Pushchair Club 6.30 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Sun 4	9.30 am Toddler Praise Service 10.30 am Toy Service (see 'Don't Miss These')
Mon 7	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	Mon 5	8.00 pm Messianic Dance
Tue 8	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Church 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, Gordon Edwards and Sarah Green, 'Be a Magistrate for an Hour'	Tue 6	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Church
Thu 10	1.30 - 3 pm Pushchair Club 6.30 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Wed 7	8.00 pm Carols by Candlelight in the Church
Fri 11	9.15 am LEGO's Walk. Meet at TRM.	Thu 8	1.30 - 3 pm Pushchair Club 6.30 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Sat 12	10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning at TRM for NCH	Sat 10	4.30 - 7.30 pm Journey to Bethlehem (see front page)
Sun 13	9.30 am Toddler Praise, 'David and Goliath'	Sun 11	4.30 - 7.30 pm Journey to Bethlehem (see front page)
Tue 15	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Church. 7.30 pm Tuesday Ladies, going to see 'The Odd Couple' at Ecclesall Parish Church	Tue 13	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Church 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, DIY Christmas Buffet
Thu 17	1.30 - 3 pm Pushchair Club 6.30 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Thu 15	1.00 - 3 pm Pushchair Club Christmas Party 6.30 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Mon 21	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	Fri 16	9.15 am LEGO's Walk. Meet at TRM. (Please note change of date).
Tue 22	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Church 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, Julia Hatfield, 'The History of Mousehole Forge, Malin Bridge'	Sun 18	10.30 am 'Stable Story, Christmas Glory' 6.00 pm Christmas Celebration Service
Thu 24	1.30 - 3 pm Pushchair Club 6.30 - 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 Church
Tue 29	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Church	Thu 22	<i>There will be no Pushchair Club this week</i> 6.30 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
		Sat 24	4 - 4.30 pm Crib Service
		Sun 25	10.00 am Christmas Morning Service
		Tue 27	<i>There will be no Prayer Meeting, Coffee Morning or Woodseats Advice Centre Meeting today.</i>
		Thu 29	<i>There will be no Pushchair Club this week</i>

January 2006

Dates to note in January 2006 are:-

- **Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM** will recommence on Tuesday 3 January.
- **Pushchair Club** recommences Thursday 5 January.
- The **Prayer Meeting**, and also **Coffee Morning**, usually held at 10 to 12 noon on Tuesdays, will both recommence on Tuesday 10 January.
- The **Church Family Party** will be on Saturday 28 January.

Don't Miss These!



- ★ **Sunday November 13, 9.30 - 10.00 am**
Toddler Praise, "David & Goliath"
- ★ **Sunday December 4, 9.30 - 10.00 am**
There will also be a special **Toddler Praise Service** on this Sunday morning, which will be a Do it Yourself nativity. Children always like dressing up and we hope this will be no exception. Bring your children as we tell the traditional nativity story with lots of easy songs and carols. It should be magic!
- ★ Also on **Sunday December 4 at 10.30 am** is the **Toy Service** -Toys will be donated to the Sheffield Family Service Unit. The age group we are supporting this year will be 6 to 8 years, and new toys would be preferred. This service will not be All Age Worship
- ★ **Wednesday December 7, 8.00 pm**
Carols by Candlelight, in the Church
- ★ **Thursday December 15, 1.00 - 3.00 pm**
Pushchair Club Christmas Party, with Father Christmas and Bouncy Castle
- ★ **Sunday December 18**
Our two main **Christmas Celebration Services** this year are on this day.
The **10.30 am** service, entitled "Stable Story, Christmas Glory", is a modern retelling of the Christmas story with songs, sketches and tableaux, and is a joint event from the Youth Church, uniformed organisations, and the choir.
- ★ The evening celebration starts half an hour earlier than usual at **6.00 pm**. In it there will be all types of cultural activity to enhance worship and enable us to appreciate more fully the meaning of Christmas. There will be dance, drama, poetry and music as well as more traditional activities.
Come and join us at one or both of these services.
- ★ **Saturday December 24, 4.30 pm**
Crib Service. A new venture at TRM, and a perfect way to start Christmas. Bring your children and join us around the crib.

Sundays at TRM

Sunday Services are at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm, unless otherwise stated.
The first Sunday of each month is All Age Worship at 10.30 am.
There are monthly Toddler Praise Services at 9.30 am (see Events page for details).

Advance Notice: TRM Away-Day is on 25 February 2006 at Whirlow Grange,
with Philip Hacking - make a note in your diary!

A Big Welcome!

How do you make a new minister and his family welcome at a new church? At TRM you give them a cooked Sunday lunch and make sure that a large number of people are there. The Church hall was absolutely packed to overflowing on 18 September; 110 people crammed into the hall for Sunday lunch. And it was worth it - roast beef or lasagne and then a choice of sweets. Many of the men



were heard to say that this was better than they would have got at home - apple crumble was a treat that many wives denied them because of the effect on waistlines. Phil George, one of the senior stewards, welcomed Garry, Dawn and Joel on

behalf of the Church - but the real welcome was in the warmth of the reception by all those there.

The meal was at the end of the first full service that Garry had taken at TRM (though he had been part of Steve Wild's service the previous week). Some of his theme was that we are all part of the church and have the presence of the Holy Spirit to grow together in the love

of Jesus. We all have different aptitudes and gifts to use; an example of this was shown in the number of different people who had come together to make this welcome meal such a success.

October 31
from 5.30 to 7.00 pm
Light Party
at TRM
aimed at 5 to 11 year olds We have organised a Planetarium and other associated 'starry' activities. There will be two showings, the second one at 6.00 pm will be open to all adults.

Seb Steps In

The new Youth Group has a new young person in the leadership team. Seb Allwright has come from Hampshire on a 3-year contract to help with youth work in south-west Sheffield – specifically at TRM for the Thursday and Sunday youth activities.

Seb will be very busy. Not only does he have his youth work commitment, he is also doing an Honours BA in Youth and Community Work with Applied Theology. That is quite a mouthful, but usefully the course requires 15 hours per week of youth work – half of which must be face to face. So his activities at TRM Church will be part of his qualification and means he will be recognised by the Joint National Committee (JNC) as a professionally qualified youth worker. For his academic studies he has to travel every other week to St John's College, Nottingham.

How did Seb get to this point in his career? He comes from a Christian family who worship regularly at Tadley United Reformed Church in Hampshire. The reality of Jesus clicked for him at the age of 14 when he was on a Christian youth camp. He was baptised at the age of 16, which he says “was my declaration to God in public that I was going to follow Him. This is IT”. When 18, with others, he had a vision to start a dynamic youth church in his home town – largely aimed at teenagers who would not usually come to church. This grew and became very popular.

He hopes to help young people reach their full potential. He wants to get to know them and support them in their different needs. God can be as relevant to them as He is to Seb.

Meet Seb at the new Youth Club on Thursday evenings and at Youth Church on Sunday mornings.

