

Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

April/May 2006

Fighting AIDS through FOIL

The FOIL AIDS charity was started last April. From its beginning TRM Church has supported its work and, thanks to the gifts of many of *Alive!* Readers, we have been able to send nearly £10,000 to Ikhaya Lobomi.

Peter and Phyl Holmes recently visited South Africa and spent some time at the hospice with Patience (the founder) and Zimele, her husband. The new hospice, being built by the Durban municipality, is now at the stage of being roofed.



There will be 45 beds, including a much needed children's ward. Although Durban is paying for the building, there is no promise of equipment, so Patience will be applying to all and sundry - including FOIL AIDS - for funds.

Peter and Phyl report wonderful news of one young woman with AIDS, whose treatment had been paid for by FOIL, who had a baby two months ago and the baby was HIV negative.

Patience has been unwell for the past few months, and her husband, Zimele, has nearly died twice, so they need a lot of support prayer and encouragement.

Nick Whitworth is running in the London marathon again this year and he will be raising funds partly for Mencap and partly for FOIL AIDS. Please support him. Please also come to the coffee morning at 87 Furniss Ave on Saturday May 13 from 10 am to 12.30 pm.



Make your Marriage Work

Margaret and Roger Hoyle will be offering *The Marriage Course* at TRM this summer. Devised by Nicky and Sila Lee of Holy Trinity Brompton (the *Alpha Course* people), it is intended for any married couple wanting to build a strong and lasting relationship. It's a very practical course, covering such topics as: recognising each other's needs, learning how to communicate effectively, resolving conflict, healing past hurt, good sex, making time for each other, and having fun together.

Eight evenings spent together give couples the opportunity to talk about issues that can often be swept under

the carpet. The setting is welcoming, relaxed and unthreatening - there is no group discussion work. A task is followed by an opportunity to discuss the topic together as a couple. The course, while based on Christian principles, is very helpful for any couple with or without a Christian faith or church background.

The course runs at Totley Rise Methodist Church on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 starting on 19 April. Please complete a registration form, available from Margaret and Roger (telephone 2363844) or any church steward. There is a charge of £20 per couple towards the cost of materials and administration.

School Alpha

TRM's youth worker, Seb Allwright, has been joining Matt and Joel, other church youth workers in Dore & Totley in running a *Youth Alpha* course at King Egbert's School. Seb writes: This has proved to be a big success, with an average of 55 young people from across all ages at the school coming along to eat doughnuts and drink pop whilst learning more about Christianity. They take the opportunity to ask questions about the faith and what it means to be a Christian. Topics we have covered include:

Why did Jesus die? Who is Jesus?

Why should I pray and read the bible?

How does God guide us today?

The sessions begin with a time to eat and drink together, then there is a short talk on the topic followed by discussions in small groups.

Seb, Matt and Joel hope there will be more *Youth Alpha* at the school in the future.



It's Friday . . . but Sunday's Coming!

This year Good Friday will be celebrated on April 14. Leading up to Good Friday the church will sharpen its focus on the events which led to the arrest of Jesus, and then onto His trial on trumped up charges before His barbaric execution nailed to a cross.

The narrative of Holy Week is one of love, struggle, friendship, betrayal, loneliness, disappointment, courage and eventually when all seemed lost – “Triumph!” It is no wonder that every year the Bible is the world's best seller, for best sellers are made of such ingredients as above.

With our attention on Good Friday we home in on the betrayal. Jesus is given up, handed over to the authorities by a close friend. His remaining friends, the disciples, flee and Peter, who promised he would never let Jesus down or betray him, denies that he ever even knew Jesus, let alone followed Him. All this, Jesus had already foretold!

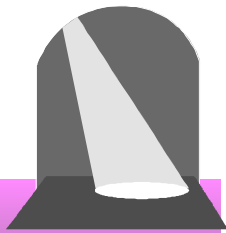
It is right that there is a sense of solemnity about Good Friday, but it is equally right that as we focus on the Cross we do so with a sense of awe, wonder and amazement at

the fact that “thou my God should'st die for me”. 2000 years on, our lives are still amazingly affected and changed by the death of Jesus who, deserted by His closest friends, hung on a cross for 6 hours. While His life drained slowly away and the sky turned dark, Jesus breathed His last as He cried, ‘It is finished!’ On Good Friday, I will have a real sense that - It's Friday, but Sunday is coming...!

When Easter Sunday comes, it brings the reminder of a start of a new era for desperate disciples whose hopes had been dashed as their Lord died on that cross. It wasn't meant to be that way, but there was no alternative, for without the cross there would be no glorious resurrection and triumph over evil, sin, sickness and death. The day of the resurrection signals mission accomplished! God has done His part. Now He waits for you and me to do ours, to respond to His unflinching love which endured the shame and suffering of the cross that we may share in the glory of His Resurrection. May you know the hope and new life that Jesus brings.

Every blessing, Garry Dawson-Jones

In the Spotlight



Wednesday Friendship

In the early 80's Duran Duran were at number 1 in the charts and Britain was at the start of the Thatcher years. Meanwhile at TRM an idea was hatching along the lines of, ‘wouldn't it be good to have a meeting in the middle of the week, where members of the church could get together for a couple of hours and listen to and question a speaker’ or something along those lines. Hence the Wednesday Friendship was born and has been going strong ever since.

The group meets on a Wednesday every fortnight in the lounge at TRM Church. The format roughly follows the pattern

of a presentation from a speaker followed by refreshments and a chance to ask questions. Over the years the speakers have covered a variety of topics including: art, the Church Army and broadcasting.

From time to time the group also organises outings which have included the Cutlers Arms and Botanical Gardens here in Sheffield, and further afield to York and Epworth. A highlight was two trips to the passion play in Oberammergau in 1990 and 2000.

The up and coming programme includes talks on Uganda, the air ambulance service and a number of local Sheffield topics. A full programme is available in the church porch, or contact Richard or Ruth Lamb.

So why not come along on a Wednesday at 7.30 pm to learn more about an interesting topic and of course share in fellowship. The meetings are open to all and you can come along every fortnight or to just one meeting—see diary dates on the back cover of *Alive!* for more details.

The Great Escape

Imagine it's 6.30 pm on a cold Thursday evening at TRM. Youth leaders are arriving; the young people are waiting in the car park all ready for *Thursday's Great Escape*. (Thanks Adi for what has now become the title of the new youth group). The youngsters are excited (so are the leaders), all ready for fun, games and laughter. That's the start of what happens on Thursdays at TRM. On average 45 young people attend each week to ‘escape’.

The Youth Club has proved to be a hit amongst the 9 to 14-year olds and their leaders. Yes, even older people can enjoy a game of footy or table tennis, with the occasional scribble on the *graffiti wall*. (Want to know who loves whom? Read the wall.) At Youth Club we have a tuck shop with sweets and drinks, a chill-out room with DVD's playing (the Simpsons is a favourite), a room for table tennis and pool, and a hall where we play football or basketball. There are occasional special evenings with things such as a talent competition or making valentine cards.

So what is next in TRM's youth work? The plan is to begin a smaller group where you can come to eat toast, drink hot chocolate or squash, play some fun board games and discuss things that matter to young people. The aim is to start this as soon as possible, so keep an eye and an ear out for developments. If you are in this age group and would like to be part of these activities, come along on a Thursday or contact the youth worker – Seb Allwright.

Don't miss these!



**Saturday 1 April
10 - 12 noon
Car Wash and Coffee Morning**

The youth church will be ‘washing’ cars. The proceeds will be towards Nick Whitworth's sponsorship as he will be running the London Marathon for Mencap and Foil Aids.

TRM's Family Day Out

Saturday 25 February saw over 50 of the TRM church family make the short trip to Whirlow Hall for the eagerly awaited 'Away Day'. Opting to take a break from shopping, gardening, playing or watching sport or however they normally spent their Saturday afternoons, they went to spend a few hours together with God.

With the little ones enjoying the organised crèche we settled down to listen to our Guest Speaker, the Rev Philip Hacking. Whilst he is the retired vicar of Fulwood Parish Church, judging by the commitments he has (three sermons in Grimsby the day after), he obviously has no intention of retiring from spreading God's word! Those of us who were fortunate enough to hear Philip at Fulwood were not disappointed to hear, and see, that he has not lost any of his celebrated zeal and clarity.

In three powerful and inspiring sessions, interspersed with tea, biscuits and fellowship, Philip took us through three W's. The WORD of the Father, the WORK of the Son and the WITNESS of the Spirit, leavened with some amusing and entirely pertinent anecdotes. We were reminded as Christians that we can be sure of God's acceptance, and of our duty to share the joy and truth of God's word in an increasingly hostile world. We were also reminded of the perils facing the youth of today, through the temptations of alcohol, drugs and the attendant peer pressures. This brought to mind the excellent work being done by Seb, TRM's youth worker, whose activities are reported elsewhere in this issue.

We closed with hymns and prayers, led by Garry, in Whirlow Hall's Chapel. Following an excellent 3 course meal to round off a wonderful 'family' afternoon, we left spiritually and physically refreshed. Don't miss out, join us for our away day next year!



Hands Free!

Walk into any mobile phone shop and the words *hands free* will jump out at you from all directions, trying to sell you a product which will facilitate the use of your phone without removing it from your pocket, while at the same time enabling you to resemble a sci-fi character with a small blue light protruding from your ear.

In January TRM upgraded its version of 'hands free', but in this case we are talking about hands free worship (no hymn books!). For some time we have projected words of hymns onto a screen, but the quality of the projection had started to deteriorate.

While replacing the existing equipment we added a whole host of new ways to enhance our worship to God. The projection is now much brighter, so there is no frantic switching of lights to try to optimise lighting conditions. Because the lights can now be left on, those who still need to use a hymn book can see it better. Lighting has also been enhanced at the front of the Church with the addition of 4 spot lights.

As well as providing the words to all the worship hymns and songs you could ever want, we can now put suitable images behind the words and also illustrate the sermon. Video is also much easier to show and see, thanks to the new projector and some nifty wiring.

We are still exploring the many ways to use this equipment to enable us to worship and learn in different ways. In the mean time it is great to be able to worship hands free!

Family News

Jack York recently celebrated his 80th birthday and the Sunday morning congregation was treated to a special birthday cake.

Ruth and Keith Dungey are delighted to announce they have a third grand-daughter, Eleanor. Phil and Jen, now living in London, are the happy parents!

Jenny and Ian Hardy are also grandparents again, their daughter Ruth and son-in-law Andrew, producing a sister for Chloe, who is to be called Ella Hope.

As *Alive!* is about to go to press, we hear the news that Janet and Mick Savage have become grandparents, David and Viv having had a baby girl, Daisy. Paul is now a proud uncle! Congratulations to all these families!

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday - 9 April

Churches Together in Totley & Dore - a united service at King Ecgbert's School. Prior to the service, a walk of witness will start at the Cross Scythes at 9.30 am, with others joining at TRM to process together to King Ecgbert's School, where the service starts at 10.30 am.

Those who feel unable to walk are encouraged to drive or seek a lift from someone else who will be driving.

Good Friday - 14 April

Walk of witness with the cross starting at the Co-op at 10.00 with a service at 10.30 in the church car park.

Easter Day - 16 April

8.00 am Holy Communion and breakfast
10.30 am All Age Service with Holy Communion
6.30 pm Service led by Worship Group.

Saturday 13 May

10 am—12.30 pm

FOIL AIDS Bring and Buy

There will be a Bring and Buy stall and Coffee Morning at 87 Furniss Avenue. Amongst other things for sale will be items made by Zulus being supported by the Ikhaya Lobomi group in South Africa.

Come ready to buy and bring your items to sell, as well as enjoying coffee and cakes.

Christmas Boxes

Many readers of *Alive!* Support the Christmas Box appeal that is part of *Operation Christmas*

Child. Some of you also helped at the Sheffield warehouse. Freda Harpham co-ordinates the efforts from TRM church and sends her thanks to all who contributed.

She reports: Sheffield warehouse was very busy, very cold, and a long way off (Ecclesfield), but I just want to say a very big thank you to those of you who did manage to come. Your help went a long way to getting the boxes out. To those who knitted and made and filled pencil cases, a big thank you, and

especially to Ruth who co-ordinated pencil cases. We made almost 1000, an excellent result!! I have had 2500 zips donated to me, so if you could possibly make some more, I can assure you that they will be very welcome. The volunteers in the warehouse constantly remarked on how lovely and useful they were in keeping the pencils and accessories all together. I've said it before and I'll say it again "Ee, yer a grand lot"

Some Statistics. Sheffield warehouse: 35200 shoeboxes (an increase yet again) and 24 cartons of aid (surplus goods left over).

United Kingdom: 1.18 million, an increase of 140 thousand.
World wide: 7.6 million, another increase.

| April 2006 | | Events | May 2006 | |
|---------------|---|---|---------------|---|
| Sat 1 | 10—12 noon | Youth Church car wash and coffee morning to support Nick, for Mencap and Foil Aids | May 1 | May Day Christian Aid Trek—details from Ann Oles (2362409) |
| Mon 3 | 8.00 pm | Messianic Dance | Tue 2 | 9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM |
| Tue 4 | 9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon | Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM | Wed 3 | 7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship - Seb Allwright speaking on "My visit to Uganda" |
| Thu 6 | 1.30 - 3.00 pm | Pushchair Club No Youth Club tonight | Thu 4 | 1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club |
| Fri 7 | 9.15 am | LEGO Walk. Meet at TRM | Mon 8 | 8.00 pm Messianic Dance |
| Sat 8 | 7.00 pm | An evening of musical entertainment in TRM Church (Tickets from Nick Whitworth) | 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 to Overdale Pottery |
| Sun 9 | 10.30 am | Palm Sunday , service at King Ecgbert School - see 'Don't Miss These' for details | Thu 11 | 1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club |
| Tue 11 | 9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon | Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM | Fri 12 | 9.15 am LEGO Walk. Meet at TRM |
| Thu 13 | 1.30 - 3.00 pm | Pushchair Club No Youth Club tonight | Sat 13 | 10 - 12.30 pm Foil Aids Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at 87 Furniss Avenue. |
| Fri 14 | 10.00 am | Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service See 'Don't Miss These' for details | Sun 14 | 9.30 am Toddler Praise. A Christian Aid Hunger Lunch will follow the morning service. |
| Sun 16 | | Easter Day - see 'Don't Miss These' for details and times of services | Tue 16 | 9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 -12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM |
| Mon 17 | 8.00 pm | Messianic Dance | Wed 17 | 7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship - Jenny Beard, "Transforming Weston Park Museum" |
| Tue 18 | 9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon | Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning No Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM today | Thu 18 | 1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club |
| Thu 20 | 1.30 - 3.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm | Pushchair Club Youth Club | Sat 20 | 10 -12 noon Coffee Morning for Christian Aid Week in Church lounge at TRM |
| Tue 25 | 9.30 - 10 am 10 - 12 noon 10 - 12 noon 8.00 pm | Prayer Meeting Coffee Morning Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM Tuesday Ladies (to be arranged) | Mon 22 | 8.00 pm Messianic Dance |
| Thu 27 | 1.30 - 3.00 pm 7.00 - 8.30 pm | Pushchair Club Youth Club | Tue 23 | 9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 -12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM |
| | | | Thu 25 | 1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club |
| | | | Tue 30 | 9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 -12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM |