

Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

June/July/Aug 2006

And then there were four ...

A couple of weeks before Easter saw a very happy event in the life of Totley Rise with the arrival of a new baby in the Dawson-Jones household. Micaiah Nathan Dawson-Jones was born on 27 March to our minister Garry and his wife Dawn. Joel, Garry and Dawn's elder son (the grand old age of 3), is really pleased to have a brother in the house and can't wait till he is ready to join in playing Thunderbirds!

Garry and Dawn say,

"We want to say a huge thank you to you all, for the wonderful kindness you have shown to us since Micaiah's birth. We have been so blessed by your prayers, love, care and support.

We have been overwhelmed by your many wonderful cards, gifts and beautiful flowers and we have been so spoiled by the delicious meals you provided for us and for the kind offers of help.

You have been a tremendous New Testament Church to us and, although we have not been with you for long, you have



embraced us as part of your church family, and so we want to say a huge thank you, to you all.

With love and every blessing"

Dawn, Garry, Joel & Micaiah Dawson-Jones



Captain Andy Blake will be bringing his plane to TRM on **Sunday 2 July**. You will be able to see the Cessna plane that he flies and talk to him about his work with the Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

All this is part of a **Family Day** organised by TRM's Youth Church. It starts immediately after the 10.30 morning service. There will be a slide (imagine an emergency exit from an aircraft) and other fun, games and competitions. Make a family day of it - some food will be provided, but bring your own as well. Andy wrote about his work in the February issue of *Alive!* this year.

SOCCER SPECIAL World Cup at TRM

TRM will be showing England's first three World Cup Games on a big screen. Come and join us to cheer and groan together.



On **Saturday 10 June** (kick off 2 o'clock) **England** play **Paraguay**. This continues as a **Family Fun** afternoon. Bring your own food to have a party on the church lawn after the game. Drinks will be provided.

On **Thursday 15 June** (kick off 5 o'clock) **England** play **Trinidad and Tobago**. All are welcome to come to see this. The younger ones can then go on to a special **Youth Focus** linked with TRM's youth group.

On **Tuesday 20 June** (kick off 8 o'clock) **England** play **Sweden**. Come early for a **Quiz** starting at **7 o'clock** and stay on to watch the match. Bring nibbles, etc, to share at half time - drinks provided.

If England win through further then we could show their later games as well.

Faith and Football

"Some people believe football is a matter of life and death. I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that." These are the famous and oft quoted/misquoted words of the legendary Liverpool FC manager Bill Shankly.

In our football crazy country I remember watching a documentary about football supporters. One Portsmouth FC fan said he lived for Portsmouth FC. His love for his team has led to his home being overtaken with Portsmouth FC memorabilia. He is covered in tattoos declaring his undying loyalty and support for his club and he even allowed his love for Portsmouth FC to ruin his marriage. (Rather a heavy price for a game of football.)



Yes, we are a nation in love with the beautiful game. You only have to see how city centres are filled with thousands of supporters as their teams display newly collected silverware or as the players are treated to Civic Receptions because of newly won promotion.

As much as football is about the highs of winning championships, FA Cup finals or even - dare we hope - World Cup competitions, it is also about the weekly bump and grind of turning out to watch your team win, lose or draw whatever the weather. However, after years of playing football and years of watching from the terraces, I find just watching football difficult. As I watch, I'm kicking and chasing every ball. I don't just want to watch from the side lines, I want to be involved. If I could miraculously be transported onto the field

of play, then I could deliver the perfect cross to be headed home for the winning goal as the last touch of the game. The urgency to be involved and not just watch is overwhelming.

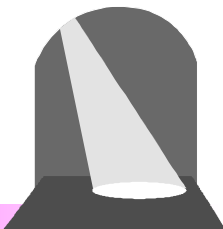
I think there is a parallel here with a God who cannot just sit on the sidelines, watching the game of our lives go to waste. God is a God who has miraculously been transported from the sidelines onto the field of play. 2000 years ago God became flesh. He pulled on our team strip and became one of us. Because Jesus came into the world He is in a position to turn the game of our lives around. You may be having difficulty with health, relationships, direction and purpose for your life. Whatever your situation God wants to be counted in and allowed on the field of play of your life - not as a referee, but as a team player. In Jesus we see a God who draws alongside us to help us play the game of our lives.

As you get caught up in World Cup Mania between 9 June - 9 July, I hope you may find some time to think about how the game of your life is going. If you need help or support to get you back in winning form then God is never more than a hair's breadth away.

At TRM church we are not short of a few football enthusiasts who will be getting together to watch England's matches on a big screen. Details of the games are printed in this newsletter, so why not come and cheer England on in a friendly and fun environment?

Every blessing, Garry Dawson-Jones

In the Spotlight



Hebrew Dance Group

Dance has been used as worship, praise, thanksgiving and as part of spiritual worship since early times. Psalm 149 encourages us to praise God's name with the dance, and there are many instances in the Old Testament of people singing and dancing as they worshipped God. As Christians we are called to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds and with all our strength. So in worship we want to give our all to God;

movement and dance can help us worship more fully and move into a deeper sense of worship.

joyfully through the congregation. They were also an integral part of TRM's *Journey to Bethlehem* by



setting the atmosphere before the groups went on their tours. They find a real joy in their dance. One member said, "I love it, I really love it. I feel so spiritually uplifted when I dance, and really know the Lord is there with us when we praise Him in this way."

The Hebrew Dance Group aims to follow in this tradition of using dance in worship. This ecumenical group was part of the worship at the Palm Sunday Service this year at King Ecgbert's school. As part of this they were able to get others to join them in dancing

The group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month (see *Events* dates on back page for details) from 8.00 to 9.30 pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sheila Eke on (0114) 2367457.

The God of Surprises

There I was, minding my own business, enjoying a comfortable (maybe too comfortable) job in the NHS, expecting to finish with a gold watch after doing my 40 years (I started when I was very young!). The God of surprises, however, had other ideas.

Suddenly changes at work meant there was no obvious place for me, and redundancy loomed. I worked through the resulting disappointment, rejection and anger with



John "blessing" a fire engine

God and with Sue, my wife, and eventually saw it as an opportunity. 12 months previously I had heard Roy Newell, Industrial Chaplain, say at Methodist Synod that you did not need to be an ordained person to be a volunteer chaplain. I remembered thinking, that sounds interesting, but I was happily in full time employment. Little did I know.

I eventually agreed to take redundancy and managed to obtain a part-time job in a Veterinary Hospital. I also enquired about chaplaincy. At that time the Industrial Mission only took ordained ministers, local preachers or lay readers, so it was a great surprise when I was accepted to work with the South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.

I had spent 26 years working for Telephone Samaritans which had taught me much about life being so unfair to some people, how fortunate I was and how important it was to listen. I imagined the experience of listening would help in chaplaincy, which it does, but I was

shocked to find I had to do some talking first to gain trust. The God of surprises had surprised me again and there was more! I had suggested it would be good to have a carol service, not thinking that I would be asked to lead it. I was also expected to attend other ceremonies (and speak!) such as blessing fire appliances and commendations for firefighters and members of the public.

God's surprises were beginning to concern me as I was getting involved in things I had no desire for or felt I was any good at. God, however, never left me stranded; he always gave me something to say and the strength to say it.

I now see these as opportunities to mention the gospel to people who otherwise may not

hear it. These sort of opportunities also arise naturally in chaplaincy visits as we carry out the pastoral side of our work.

More chaplains are needed, there is a great demand in the world of work, but sadly we cannot recruit enough chaplains to cover that demand. The Industrial Mission in South Yorkshire is now actively seeking Christians outside ordained ministry and local preaching to be trained as Industrial Chaplains. Maybe God is challenging you with these words; if so please talk to me and find more about it; allow God to surprise you.

I have found it a great privilege to be used in this ministry, one I never thought I would have. Last year I left the Veterinary Hospital to work part-time for the Industrial Mission itself. So here I am, minding my own business,

John Freeman

Dads and Kids ..

Are you looking after the kids on a Saturday morning? Why not let your wife have a well-earned rest and come and meet other men caring for their young children too? Bacon butties and children's toys provided. 9.30 - 11 am on **Saturday 3 June** in the Youth Church Hall at Totley Rise Methodist Church.

Soccer Special .. World Cup at TRM

England's first 3 world cup matches will be shown on the big screen at TRM, on **Saturday 10 June, Thursday 15 June, and Tuesday 20 June** - everyone's welcome to come (see front page for details)

Church Picnic

A post-Church picnic with games on **Sunday 11 June** to be held at Chatsworth (similar to last year). Bring your own food to share with others. This event is being organised by the churches in S17.

See the Plane, Meet the Pilot, Have Fun ..

at TRM's Family Day on **Sunday 2 July** after the Sunday morning service - Don't miss it! (see front page for details).

Musical Mornings

Last year it was pop songs, the year before it was films; this year the preachers in **July** will be seeing what insights the writers of *Musicals* have into human nature and how Christians can learn from these insights. So come and hear our preachers — Garry Dawson-Jones, Roger Hoyle, Pauline Mann, John Wilkins and Matt Hill preach on themes raised by musicals such as *West Side Story*, *The Lion King* and *The Sound of Music* (see *Events* on back page).

Events

<i>June 2006</i>		<i>July 2006</i>	
Thu 1	No Pushchair Club this week	Sun 2	10.30 am Musical Morning - <i>West Side Story</i> , Roger Hoyle After Church Family Day (see Don't Miss These)
Sat 3	9.30 - 11 am Dads and Kids (see Don't Miss These)	Mon 3	8 - 9.30 pm Hebrew Dance
Mon 5	8 - 9.30 pm Hebrew Dance	Tue 4	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Tue 6	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Wed 5	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship, Derek Glossop, "Cacti in my Hands"
Wed 7	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship, Doreen Cobain, "JG Graves, A Great Sheffield Benefactor"	Thu 6	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Thu 8	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Sun 9	10.30 am Musical Morning - <i>Musicals theme</i> , John Wilkins
Fri 9	9.15 am LEGO Walk	Tue 11	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Sat 10	2.00 pm Soccer Special (see front page)	Thu 13	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Sun 11	9.30 am Toddler Praise Service After church Church Picnic at Chatsworth (bring picnic)	Fri 14	9.15 am LEGO Walk
Tue 13	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies walk at Chatsworth	Sun 16	10.30 am Musical Morning - <i>The Lion King</i> , Garry Dawson-Jones 3 pm Praise in the Park at Endcliffe
Thu 15	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 5.00 pm Soccer Special (see front page) 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Tue 18	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Mon 19	8 - 9.30 pm Hebrew Dance	Wed 19	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship - Come and Meet our new Minister, Garry Dawson-Jones
Tue 20	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 7.00 pm Quiz and Soccer Special (see front page)	Thu 20	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Wed 21	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship, Bev Purcey, "Emmaus, Sheffield"	Sun 23	10.30 am Musical Morning - <i>The Sound of Music</i> , Pauline Mann
Thu 22	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Tue 25	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
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 to Mousehole Forge	Thu 27	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club
Thu 29	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club 7.00 pm Senior Citizens' Outing, Supper & Concert	Sun 30	10.30 am Musical Morning - <i>Musicals Theme</i> , Matt Hill

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.
There will be a Toddler Praise Service on 11 June at 9.30 am.

August 2006

Fri 11	9.15 am LEGO Walk
Tue 29	No Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM