

Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

Feb/March 2007

Meeting with Jesus in Social Work

We asked Margaret Webb to write about her work.

Here is her story.

Jesus said "I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes; naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison and you visited me... . When you did these things to these my brothers you were doing it to me." (Matthew 25:35, 40) He also said "Any of you who welcomes a little child like this because you are mine is welcoming me and caring for me." (Matthew 18:5)

These are two key texts which form the basis of my belief that being a Christian Social Worker is a privileged way of being paid for work which God wants me to do.

I was a "hands on" social worker with the Sheffield Family Service Unit for 15 years, supporting families with young children where the children were at risk of harm or neglect, and where the parents, often single mothers, had few good experiences in their own upbringing. We worked together to try to keep the children at home as long as it

was safe to do so. We fed them at times, clothed them, provided toys and safety equipment and visited them in their homes to give parenting advice and assistance, often over a long period of time.

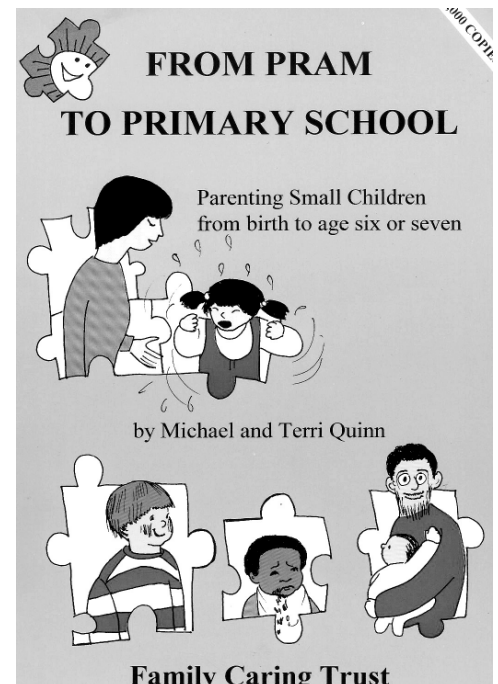
I am now a specialist social worker advising the Courts on the best outcomes for children when Social Services want to remove children from their families. It is demanding, challenging, sometimes stressful work in which I am supported by prayer by Christian friends and in which I have seen God intervene in situations which appear too difficult to find a solution.

Jesus had a heart for children. My work is all about making decisions which will enhance children's lives. As I communicate with Judges, solicitors, professionals and families I try to do so in a way which is honouring to God. In particular every parent and every child, whatever his or her circumstances, is listened to and receives respect and encouragement. I really do believe that as I meet with these different people each day I am meeting with Jesus. Without Him I could not do my job.

We don't need *Supernanny* but . .

We all know how difficult it can be bringing up children, especially the under sixes. Not many of us have the problems shown on the *Supernanny* type programmes, but we could do with some help and someone to talk through issues with.

To try to help with this TRM is putting on a course for parents of children under 6. It is based on the material from the *Family Caring Trust*. Topics include *Behaviour you don't like*; *Encouraging your child*; *Listening means paying attention*; *Talking with your child*; *Discipline*; and *Quality Time*.



The course will be held in TRM church on Monday evenings for 6 weeks starting on 26th of February at 8 pm. If you would like to join us for this course please contact Garry Dawson-Jones (2363157).

Chocolate Sunday

Christmas is now a few weeks behind us and the last of the Christmas lights are now well and truly out of sight. For many people, 'winter blues' sets in.

This is the time of year when many people put their heads down and press on through the remainder of the gloomy winter nights. A survey conducted by MIND suggests that nearly half the population finds the onset of winter gets them down.

The report says "... more than 1,000 members of the public were quizzed about how they felt about the cold, dark days. The results show that 45% of them said they 'felt like hibernating'. A third said winter weather made them feel more depressed or anxious."

Yet not too far in the distance is a glimmer of hope when lighter nights and spring bulbs eventually announce the arrival of Spring. Until then we press on! What better way to lighten the mood of

long winter days than to spend some time enjoying some of the lighter things in life?

At TRM Church on Sunday 4th February at 10.30 we invite you to our *Chocolate Service*. Yes! Time for just a little bit of a spoil! During the service many things chocolate will be eaten and drunk - why? - to lighten the winter mood.

You may have an altogether different view of church; you know the sort of things - dull, boring irrelevant, etc. Our *Chocolate Service* will not be any of these things. It promises to be fun and tasty! I know coming to something a bit different is not always to our



liking. My oldest son (aged 4 in February) is very sure about what he does and does not like. I see so much of myself in him when I was young when I hear him say, "No! I don't like that!" even though the offending food has never been near his lips before!

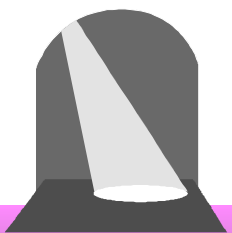
So, may I encourage you to embrace something different and join with us for our *Chocolate Service*! You may be surprised to enjoy it. All will be made very welcome and there will be something for everyone, and before you decide you don't like it, why not taste it first?

I look forward to welcoming you soon.

Every blessing,

Rev Garry Dawson-Jones

In the Spotlight



Monday Prayer Group

This prayer meeting was birthed out of the Prayer Ministry Team feeling there was a need for people to come together and pray regularly for the church. More importantly there was a need to listen to what God was saying to the church.

The prayer meeting is informal and

relaxed, with a sharing of needs, and requests, a time of worship, and time to listen. This structure is based on 1 Corinthians 14:26.

When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All this must be done for the strengthening of the church.

Does prayer work? Yes. Two people without jobs are now working, babies have been delivered safely and people strengthened through difficult times.

Through listening to God, we have received messages for the church. Specifically God will be doing new

things among us and the church will be shaken. He has also challenged us in our personal lives.

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

This verse has been given to us as a church many times. We all need to respond if we are to receive God's blessing.

The prayer group meets in the church at 8.00 pm on alternate Mondays. All are welcome.

Operation Christmas Child



At the end of December Freda Harpham happily waved off another container load of shoe boxes from the Sheffield warehouse of *Operation Christmas Child* (OCC). She breathed a sigh of relief and sat down for the first time in 4 weeks! OCC is part of the work of the Samaritans Purse organisation and every year sends countless shoe box size parcels, filled with presents, to children all around the world. These bring smiles to those who would otherwise receive nothing.

TRM has supported OCC since 1998, when, spurred on by the collection of knitted hats, Freda started to organise the collection of shoe boxes. It's difficult to say how many people are involved in OCC at Topley Rise, since numerous parcels mysteriously appear throughout the year, but it is certainly more than 50. People's involvement ranges from making complete shoeboxes for children and the girls in prison, to knitting, sewing, or providing fillers for those which are a bit 'lightweight'. Items range from hats, mittens, soap, toothpaste and small toys, to wonderful pencil cases (this year TRM made over 700 which were filled with coloured pencils, pens and sharpeners). At the sharp end are those who give their time checking and packing shoe boxes in the freezing warehouse.

TRM's involvement is also in spreading the news of OCC and involving friends, family and complete strangers! This included dispatching soft toys from New

York, after a presentation to the Topley Rise Luncheon Club, and receiving a large quantity of items for shoe boxes as a result of a Topley Rise member being spotted knitting a hat for OCC on holiday.

This year over 36,300 boxes were sent from Sheffield to Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Kosovo and Serbia, with many other destinations being served from other warehouses in both this country and abroad. In addition to the shoe boxes many cartons of aid were sent including baby items, clothing, toiletries and nursery type toys for orphanages plus cartons of clothing for Serbia.

Operation Christmas Child is not just a Christmas activity but involves the dedication and hard work of many members of the church throughout the year. We are especially fortunate to have Freda leading this work and thank her for this. Remember it's never too early to start knitting a hat for this year's shoe box!

Foil AIDS with *FOIL AIDS*

Friends of Ikhaya Lobomi (known as *FOIL AIDS*) is an independent charity founded by two members of TRM Church to help a local group in Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa, fight AIDS and its consequences in their community. Although independent it draws much of its support from TRM members and, thanks largely to their generosity, we have been able to send £9500 during 2006.

TRM members have organised and supported a *Quiz Night*, a *Talents Evening*, coffee mornings, etc to raise money. Others have sold produce or done sponsored activities to raise funds – all this because Jesus calls us to heal the sick and have mercy on the needy.

During the year a new hospice has been built for *Ikhaya Lobomi* and this expands both their work and their needs. Currently the hospice needs blankets (100 @ £8), sheets (200 @ £5), waterproof bed covers (100 @ £3), and pillows (100 @ £5) as well as continuing costs for their medication, food and education programmes.

A free newsletter is available in TRM Church or from Peter & Phyl Holmes (2351897). If you would like to

make donations to the work, have ideas for fund-raising events, would like to carry out a sponsored activity or help the charity in any other way, please also contact them.



Recalling Christmas

By the time you read this, Christmas will be a long gone, distant memory, and your thoughts will have turned to the arrival of Spring; but cast your mind back a few weeks to December and remember the joy of the preparation for Christmas. As usual the services at Totley Rise through the season of Advent and the Christmas period itself, provided a variety of both the traditional and modern, with the celebration of Jesus' birth at the centre of each.

Early on in Advent we were treated to a traditional evening of carols and readings by the choir, all taking place in the flickering light of candles.

The Youth Church gave us an excellent service in the week before Christmas which involved a huge Present as well as the Shepherds, Wise Men, Mary,

Joseph and of course the baby Jesus. It helped to remind us that Jesus is God's gift to us, as well as showing the excellent thespian skills of the younger members of the Church.

In a shuffling round of the normal order of services on the last Sunday of Advent, the morning service was led by a specially



formed choir. The service included both modern and traditional music with a number of pieces of drama. These included an appearance of Joseph in the census taker's office and the contribution of some Welsh shepherds with somewhat questionable accents! In his sermon Garry continued the theme from the Youth Church service, reminding us that Jesus is the first gift given to us all and that it is not gifts that we need to offer to God but ourselves.

Our preparations for Christmas were completed with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. This was again extremely popular and proved an excellent way for the whole family to be involved in the telling of the Christmas story. Finally the Christmas Day service provided a chance to greet the arrival of Jesus with heartfelt singing and the smiling faces of children clutching new arrivals from Santa.

Totley Talents

In November TRM staged its own X Factor. There was no sign of Simon Cowell and co., nor was there a recording contract for the winners - the contestants used their talents to raise money for FOIL AIDS. An appreciative audience enjoyed some of the wealth of our local home grown talent. Len Capper entertained us with impressions of wartime comedians, and the comedy continued with sketches from John Freeman and Peter Eyre, and an amusing, accurate portrayal of Joyce Grenfell from Judith Slack. Ann Capper and Margaret Stone were air hostesses on a *Flight to Paradise*, and Stan Chandler took us on a musical journey along *The West Highland Way*. Roger Hoyle delivered an interesting 'alternative' Sermon in his usual inimitable style. Musical contributions came from Linda Wareham on the piano and Paul Birtwisle on the oboe and the organ. The finale was a fine performance by Peter Holmes and John Stone as the two Ronnies (no prizes for guessing which one was which!) in a sketch

entitled, *It's Good Night from Him*. Indeed it was a good night for everyone, including FOIL AIDS who benefited from the generosity of the audience to the tune of £450.

No voting was required as everyone was a winner!



FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to **Maggie and Andy Couldwell** who became first-time grandparents on 8 December, on the birth of their granddaughter **Maisie** to **Malcolm and Kate**, in Southampton.

As the last issue of Alive! went to print in October, we heard the good news of the birth of **Daniel Christopher**, grandson for **Gordon Wilson**.

On the 17 December **Liz and Chris Harris** and big sister **Abigail** brought **Seth James Harris** and his brother **Elliot Paul Harris** to be baptised. We welcome them into our church family.

Birthday congratulations to **Mary Wilson** (70 years young on 12 December) and **Pat Kirk** and **Barry Thomas**, both 60 in early January.

We are delighted to report the wedding of **Judith and Harold Slack's son, Kevin**, to **Jane Kirton** on 6 January at St Matthew's Church, Boughton, Nr Ollerton, where Jane's father is the Rev Canon Kirton.

The church family congratulate **Anne and Len Capper** on their 40th wedding anniversary on 28 January.

We are sad to report the loss of three valued members of our congregation. **Tom Boyne** who died suddenly in December, **Ruth Winsor**, also in December, and **Ivy Donohoe** who died in January. All three will be greatly missed by the church family.

Youth Club lives it up!

Youth Club finished for Christmas with a bang! On 14 December we had our annual (obviously!) Christmas bash. Two DJ's came with all their gear; the young girls queued up in their party outfits whilst the boys waited in their best shirts all ready to dance the night away. With a mixture of music for both young and old (mainly young but with a couple of old classics for the slightly older leaders) everyone was happy. In the other, slightly quieter, room we had some great party food to give us all some much needed energy! It was a great finish to a great year at Youth Club and left us all looking forward to this coming year.

We have a lot of exciting things planned for 2007. There is an opportunity for young people to come to Soul Survivor (a week camping with thousands of other young people!); a trip ice skating; girls' and boys' nights and an array of craft activities. We are also looking at opportunities to apply for funding so we can carry out even more activities for the young people to enjoy.

If you have any ideas for Youth Club or wish to be involved in any way at all please call me on 07917800488.

Seb Allwright

Don't miss these!

MEN'S CURRY NIGHT

Friday 23 February

Men, are you tired of always slaving over a hot stove for you and your family? Need some fresh culinary ideas? Do you fancy a night off?

Well then, 'tikka' break and join us for our curry night on Friday 23rd February. This promises to be a great night of fellowship together at a local curry house.

Interested? Great. Just give your details to Adrian Dearden (2368247) or Matt Jukes (2368013) to reserve your place and then 'popadom' down to TRM at 7.30 pm for a great night out !

UNITED UNDER GOD'S TENT

Friday 2 March at 10.30 am

This is the theme for the Women's World Day of Prayer for 2007. All women are invited to come the meeting on Friday 2 March at 10.30 am in Dore Methodist Church. The speaker is Mrs Dell Cook and the service will be one prepared by Christian women in Paraguay (don't worry – it is in English). Refreshments will be served afterwards.

A NEW WINE HEALING MINISTRY TRAINING DAY

Saturday 3 March

This will be held at TRM Church and the guest speaker is Rev Chris Woods.

The day runs from 9.15 - 4.30 and includes worship, teaching and ministry.

Drinks will be available throughout the day but please bring a packed lunch.

For more details contact: Rev Garry Dawson-Jones (0114 2363157) or email: gazndawn@talktalk.net

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

Saturday 10 March

TRM's Barn Dance and Supper is on 10 March at 7.00 pm. Come and join us to music by Andy Couldwell and David Latham with Maggie Couldwell calling. Tickets available from any of the Church Stewards - £5 includes supper.

MUMS' MEAL

Saturday 17 March

Are you a Mum? Then set aside the evening before Mothers' Day to come to TRM and have a free meal served to you. On Saturday 17 March at 7.30 pm our doors are open to all Mums who would like to join us for a meal in general thanks for all you do as Mums. The meal will be served by the men (having been cooked by people who know what they are doing!!). If you would like to join us for this please phone Phyl Holmes (2351897) to book your place.

A FUN SING & PLAY WORSHIP SESSION

Saturday 31 March, 10—12 noon

At TRM. All welcome - any voice or instrument. If you enjoy singing or playing, whatever your age, do come! The worship team is looking for more members.

There will be refreshments.

Events

<i>February 2007</i>		<i>March 2007</i>	
Thu 1	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7- 8.30 pm Youth Club	Thu 1	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7- 8.30 pm Youth Club
Sun 4	10.30 am Chocolate Sunday (see article by Garry)	Fri 2	10.30 am Women's World Day of Prayer at Dore Methodist Church
Mon 5	8.00 pm Prayer Meeting 8.00 pm Hebrew Dance	Sat 3	9.15 - 4.30 pm New Wine Healing Ministry Training Day, guest speaker <i>Rev Chris Woods</i>
Tue 6	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Mon 5	8.00 pm Parenting Course
Thu 8	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7- 8.30 pm Youth Club	Tue 6	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Fri 9	9.15 am LEGO Walk	Thu 8	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7- 8.30 pm Youth Club
Sun 11	9.30 am Toddler Praise, "Through the Eye of a Needle"	Fri 9	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, "Machu Picchu - The Inca City", <i>Roger Hart</i>	Sat 10	7.00 pm TRM's Barn Dance and Supper
Thu 15	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club No Youth Club	Mon 12	8.00 pm Parenting Course
Mon 19	8.00 pm Prayer Meeting 8.00 pm Hebrew Dance	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 - Living a Greener Life, Heeley City Farm, <i>David Gray</i>
Tue 20	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Thu 15	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7- 8.30 pm Youth Club
Thu 22	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7- 8.30 pm Youth Club	Sat 17	7.30 pm Mum's Meal - (see 'Don't Miss These')
Fri 23	7.30 pm Men's Curry Night (see 'Don't Miss These')	Mon 19	8.00 pm Parenting Course 8.00 pm Prayer Meeting 8.00 pm Hebrew Dance
Sun 25	6.30 pm Taizé Service led by Garry Dawson-Jones	Tue 20	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Mon 26	8.00 pm Start of Parenting Course	Thu 22	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7- 8.30 pm Youth Club
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, "All things bright and beautiful", (RSPB) <i>Norman Crowson</i>	Sun 25	11.45 am Church General Meeting
		Mon 26	8.00 pm Parenting 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, AGM & Ploughmans Supper
		Wed 28	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship - Easter Meditation
		Thu 29	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7- 8.30 pm Youth Club
		Sat 31	10 - 12 noon A Fun Sing & Play Worship Session (see 'Don't Miss These')

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 monthly Toddler Praise Services are at 9.30 am.



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