

Alive!

News from
Totley Rise
Methodist Church

Sept/Oct 2007

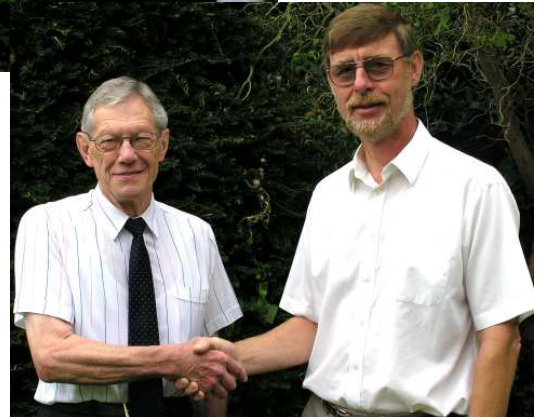
New Faces



After many years of conscientious work in charge originally of covenants and more recently of Gift Aid, Don Buchan has handed over to **Alistair Hinch**



Paul Birtwisle has handed over the job of Treasurer to **Gail Daniels**



Dennis Hodder hands over to **Graham Baldry** as Resources Secretary after nearly 30 years in office



Hilary Grundy and Shirley Smith have handed over the work of Missions Secretary to **Christina Fitzsimmons**

**Watch out
for new
people
taking over
jobs at TRM!**

Our thanks go to Paul, Don, Eddie, Dennis, Hilary and Shirley for all their years of hard work, and our best wishes go to Gail, Alistair, Lynne, Graham and Christina as they take up their new roles.



The job of Pastoral Secretary has passed from Eddie Grundy to **Lynne Capewell**

Back to . . .

September sees us Back to... Back to School, Back to Uni, Back to work, Back to Church!

Amidst all these back to... times there will be many anxieties from finding your way around a new university, city, school, classroom or workplace. As well as the many anxieties, I'm sure there will be much excitement about the opportunities ahead for new friendships, learning opportunities and experiences.

As a family its 'back to...' for us! Our older son aged 4½ goes to school for the first time. We are filled with equal excitement for him as worry and upset for ourselves that our son is in this time of transition. This important milestone/right of passage in his young life is now upon us - HELP!

We find ourselves making a determined effort to accentuate the positives in the many new opportunities and experiences awaiting him. In many ways it would be good for everything to stay the same, but alas, we know that life isn't like that.

September also sees the beginning of a new church year.

The challenge for us in all of our 'back to...' times is to make sure that this same time next year we have all moved on in the right direction. The way to ensure success is to be determined from the outset that this new term is going to count for something and that it *will* make a difference.

God wants our lives to count for something far more than just ourselves. He wants our lives to count for His kingdom. At this 'Back To...' time, we have an opportunity to say to God that we don't want this to be just another term, just another church year, but we want to make it count for something lasting and life transforming.

Whatever you are 'back to...' or beginning anew I pray that your life will make a real difference to all those around you.

Love and every blessing

Garry Dawson-Jones

Combating Slavery in Sheffield Today

The film *Amazing Grace* entered the cinema recently. It told the amazing story of William Wilberforce and his successful fight for the abolition of the use of black slaves. This prompted the question of whether or not slavery has been completely abolished and the sad answer is **NO**.

On Wednesday 20 June between 50 and 60 people gathered at Topley Rise to hear our own Matt Jukes (Chief Superintendent of Rotherham Police) together with Ron Craigy (a Victim Care Co-ordinator) tell us about the Human Trafficking problems that exist in the UK today.

Matt told us about the problems of sexual trafficking that existed in Sheffield a few years ago. Young girls from poorer economic countries (the Baltic States in particular) were being brought into England illegally and then sold as prostitutes. These girls were promised homes, food, clothing and money that they could send back home if they came to the UK to sell ice creams. On arrival though they found themselves being sold several times as prostitutes and guarded constantly. They had no means of escape and no one to help them. Fortunately due to the amazing work that Matt became involved in, these cases are now very few and far between in our city.

There are, however, other forms of exploitation that are now becoming more prevalent. As the

police and the legal system have virtually closed the door on sexual trafficking the exploiters are finding other ways to make their money. We have all heard of the case of the cockle pickers at Morecambe Bay who sadly lost their lives. They were working for next to nothing and lived in very poor conditions.

Ron Craigy is the Victim Care Co-ordinator for the **UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC)**. He spoke about how human trafficking is the fastest growing area of organised crime and how the church should be seen as a sanctuary for the victims. The question is **what can we do to help?**

We can **pray** for an end to this situation and protection for those who have found themselves involved.

We can **donate** to the Victim Support Fund (visit www.ukhtc.org). Money is needed to upkeep the safe houses, provide clothing, toiletries etc.

Above all, though, we were urged to **be vigilant and to communicate what we have heard to other people we meet**. Behind many incredible shopping offers is a cheap labour story. We can do something or we can do nothing. If we just tell one other person about what we have heard we can dramatically alter someone's life. As Matt said **'It's global but it's local and we can make a difference'**.

Race for Life

The afternoon of Sunday June 3 was hot and sultry as we made our way to Don Valley Stadium for the start of the event.

Judy Gunner had already finished her race, as she was scheduled for the morning session.

Maureen Fletcher, Moira Newman and I, with more of Moira's friends, stood in the queue to have a pink bow, the emblem of Cancer Research, painted on our cheek, and then sat together and relaxed as we watched more and more women arrive.

Everyone wears their race number on the front, and a statement on their back stating for whom they are running. Many of these messages move you to tears, like "I run for my lovely daughter, who died in March, aged 17 years." We were shocked how many said, "For my mum and dad". Many messages were positive, as people were thankful for friends and family who had overcome cancer. My own daughter's read, "For my mum who has beaten cancer and for all those who haven't."

A young woman addressed the crowd to thank everyone personally. "I would not be here now," she said, "were it not for you and your sponsors. I am still fighting to beat my cancer." If you hadn't thought the effort was worthwhile, that convinced you!

After an energetic aerobic session to warm us up, everyone joined in the countdown to 3.00 pm, and we were off to sample the panoramic delights of Attercliffe on our 5km race! - a race not against each other, but a race to beat cancer.

What an amazing sight! 5,000 women of all ages, from an 80 year old, to 5 year old Ellie Burbeary from TRM, all shapes and sizes - everyone with a different reason, but all with a common purpose. It's a great feeling and privilege to be part of it.



We all finished in a quicker time than last year – don't quite know what that signifies! We collected our medals and "goody bags" of free samples from Nivea and Tesco. The proudest person to collect her medal was, I am sure, Ellie! She finished the race and her face, as she wore her medal, was a picture!

We would all like to say a very big thank you to everyone who sponsored us. 10,000 women took part in the two races in Sheffield and it is hoped to raise £760,000 for the charity.

Sheila Cooper

Being a Disciple

In June and July the Sunday morning services mainly followed the theme of discipleship – what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Each topic in the series was followed up by discussion in the Fellowship Groups. "It was useful to have a reminder of the basics of our faith." "I felt challenged to pray more regularly for our church" "Before the series started, I felt rather distant from God, but in one service in particular, God spoke to me and told me how much he loves me, how important I am to Him. Since then that positive feeling has stayed with me - and my husband has noticed the change." Just a few of the comments from people who have shared the Discipleship course.

Since the course we have realised more fully that being a disciple is an ongoing commitment and at the heart of being a Christian. We all are trying to put into practice what it means to be a follower of Jesus and to become more like him.

Improve your Marriage

The Marriage Course will be running again on consecutive Wednesday Evenings starting 10 October at TRM church. Each meeting starts at 8.00 pm The cost is £20 per couple.

The course provides a fine opportunity to explore ways of turning a good marriage into a GREAT one. Come yourselves and bring your neighbours.

More information from Margaret and Roger Hoyle (telephone: 236 3844)

And it rained!



Getting wet is always a key part of the Totley Rise Family Fun Day. Normally this is achieved through jumping in and out of swimming pools or being targeted by a water pistol! This year however there was no need for the provision of such toys or indeed the use of a hose pipe; a free soaking was provided courtesy of the torrential rain which persisted for most of the day (and in fact most of the summer, at the time of writing this article). It takes more than a monsoon to deter the youth church though, and they even carried on in defiance of the elements.

A gazebo was rapidly erected to enable Nick to continue with the barbeque, the bouncy castle was moved inside and the location of the picnic was moved from the lawn to the coffee lounge. Judging by the amount of noise generated on the bouncy castle the spirits were definitely not dampened.



Water, water!



Yes - I know we've had far too much of it this summer, but this crisis has made us realise just how lucky we are to have safe water on tap.

For our Harvest Appeal this year we are supporting the Methodist Relief and Development Fund in supplying clean water to three villages in Madhya Pradesh in India. With our help they will be creating access to a water supply for the three villages, providing 135 latrines for homes, as well as training the communities to manage their water for agriculture and sanitation.

As usual we shall distribute MRDF envelopes and all the money collected will be specifically for this appeal.

If you would like to give flowers fruit or vegetables to decorate the church and distribute here in Totley this would be most welcome.

(N.B. We shall not be collecting canned food this year.)

The Junior Church have been following a 'water theme' and have seen that lives are changed when women and children no longer have to trek for miles to fetch water for the family. All our youth organisations are constructing a 'Stream of Silver' around the church to represent water running from us to the villages in India. Please save your 5p and 10p coins to help them.

Family News

Mackya Benjamin Young was welcomed into the church family after his baptism on Sunday 5 August. He is the son of **Kelly and Jamie Young**, and was born 22 June 2006.

Alive! sends congratulations to **Christopher and Becs Hoyle** on the birth on 13 June of **Archie**, their first child, a fifth grandson for Roger and Margaret.

Congratulations also to **Paula Mountford and Andy Pawson** on their recent engagement.

Bill Alder celebrated a big birthday (his 70th) in May, and congratulations to him! The *Alive!* team are also pleased to hear he has since survived a trip on the ultimate rollercoaster!

On Sunday 26 August, TRM were delighted to share a cake in celebration of the 90th birthday of **Eileen Blake**.

Congratulations to both **Josie and Ian Dunsmore**, and **Joan and Derek Cox**, as they celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversaries in early September.

Danny Bergara sadly died on 25 July, and those who attended his funeral at TRM on 9 August will understand that there is not enough room in *Alive!* to describe his lifetime achievements as a professional football player and coach. We pray for Jan and the family that they will be surrounded by the love and comfort of the Lord at this sad time.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Ann and Bob Oles after the death on 6 August of Bob's mother, **Helen Oles**.

We remember too Cliff Job and family after the recent death of Cliff's wife, **Annette Job**.

On the Trail of John Wesley

John Wesley visited Montgomery County several times between 1747 and 1769. In August, a group of Totley Risers took part in a 30 mile sponsored walk to commemorate Wesley's visits. They joined Stan and Gaynor Mountford (ex-TRM) and many other members of



their local Methodist Circuit, including two ladies on their shopping scooters. A latter day John Wesley on his horse joined the walkers for the last part of the walk which included a short service in the timbered market hall of Llanidloes.

The TRM walkers thank you for your sponsorship which goes to the Mid Wales Air Ambulance and 'Dial-a-Ride' community mini-bus.

The walk will be held again next year on August 9 and 10.

Local Churches in Action

From 7 to 14 October all the churches in S17 will be doing different things. At TRM we will be serving coffee/juice and pastries to commuters at Dore Station. We are arranging for Roly Bain to come and share in some schools work and encouraging our own people to share their story with others.

At the end of the week on Sunday 14 October everyone is invited to join us and the churches in S17 at King Egbert's School at 10.30 for a morning of celebration. The emphasis will be on getting to know more about Jesus in a non threatening, exciting and relevant way.

West Highland Way Completed

STAN CHANDLER has completed the West Highland Way. The 95 mile route from Milngavie has over 13000 ft of ascent. It passes Loch Lomond, through Glen Falloch, follows the railway to Bridge of Orchy, across Rannoch Moor, the Devil's Staircase, finishing over the Lairig Mor to Nevis Bridge, Fort William.

Having covered the 72 miles to the *Kingshouse* in two weekends, including Rannoch Moor in perfect weather, he obtained sponsorship for Christian Aid for the last 23 miles. On this tough, but popular trail one is rarely alone; people's emotions were high as they queued to take photographs at the end!



Celebration Choir

Several members of TRM Church have been part of the *Celebration Choir* since it was founded. Sheila Cooper writes about her experiences.

On Monday, November 12 the Celebration Choir will give the last concert before disbanding. The choir began in 1985, following the Billy Graham visit to Sheffield. Many in the campaign choir did not want to stop singing as a choir when the campaign finished. Jackie Williams agreed to become the musical director of a new choir, *The Celebration Choir*, and 800 people dutifully paid their subs to become members.

We rehearsed in the Salvation Army Citadel in the centre of town with members coming from churches in and around the city and from as far away as Derby! Unfortunately, only two venues could house the choir for a concert; the City Hall and later, the Octagon. We were receiving many requests to sing at various churches which we could not accept, and it was felt we were not fulfilling our mission to evangelise by singing God's praises. So in 1996 it was decided to form also a smaller choir of about 70-80 who could take the Gospel into smaller churches where people could invite friends and neighbours.

We have made 11 tapes/CDs and approximately 6 recordings of events in the 1980s. Our latest double CD, *Sing for Joy*, is a compilation and is only obtainable from the choir - and on sale in Australia!! We have 120 members now, representing 64 different churches of many denominations.

Why are we finishing, even though the demand from churches for us to sing is as strong as ever? Well, none of us is getting any younger! We find new young female voices wish to join, but like many choirs, there are few young males who want to sing. This means the choir becomes musically unbalanced, so, sadly, we are to call it a day.

It has been a fantastic experience to be part of the choir. The members are so supportive of each other, and their love of the Lord, so sincere and obvious, has been a great help to me.

It's been hard work too! Jackie is an inspirational leader, but a hard task master too! She insists our faces, looking out at our audience, convey our message as effectively as the words; we aren't allowed copies so we learn the words and the music!

There are at present 5 Toley Risers in the choir. I have always been proud of the support our church members have always given. Join us at our last concert. You have the date, put it in your diary. It's at the Octagon.

Soul Survivor

It is a rainy day on 18 August, and thirty leaders and young people are arriving at a very wet, very muddy showground in Shepton Mallett to set up camp. We are here for five days of camping, worship, great teaching, cafés, seminars and loads and loads of fun! This is *Soul Survivor*, 12,000 young people have come together to worship our God.

The theme for the week was, "Becoming more like Jesus". The worship was great, the teaching excellent and the food good, but to become more like Jesus both individually and as a community was the highlight.

We had late night conversations over hot chocolate (often until 2 am), tried to rescue tents and gazebos flying away in the wind (often early in the morning!) listened to bands play, ate, and drank plenty of hot chocolate and coffee together. By sharing all this and through worshipping our glorious saviour together we all took a step, both individually and as a community, in becoming more like Him. How can we stay the same after meeting with our creator God and Glorious Saviour Jesus Christ?

It is likely that we will be going again next year! If you're young, you'll be mad to miss out on it, if you're a bit older you'll be mad not to encourage young people to come to it!

Seb Allwright

Gift Day

Our Gift Day on 17 June provided TRM members with an opportunity to reflect on their giving to the work of God through the church and into the community and to act accordingly. As a result £3,300 (including Gift Aid) was given directly on the day, and pledges mean that an extra £540 was received by the end of August 2007, and a further extra £3,530 will be forthcoming by August 2008.

FOIL the Quizmaster and get entertained

FOIL AIDS has two major events at TRM in the next couple of months.

Last year's *Quiz Night* was so popular with those who came that the event is being repeated this year. On **Friday 12 October at 7.30 pm** there will be a wide variety of questions organised and presented by Dave Harvey. You can form teams of four beforehand and register as a team, or you can turn up on the night and become part of an ad hoc team. The entry fee is £3 per person for an entertaining evening. Bead and other work from Ikhaya Lobomi in South Africa will be on sale, as will second hand books and cd's.

TRM members will also be appearing in the *Totley Talents Evening* on **Saturday 10 November at 7.30 pm**. Who can forget last year's evening with the stewardesses on *Flight to Paradise* showing us how to adopt the crash

position, our own two Ronnies, the beautifully played serious music, our own 'Joyce Grenfell' primary school teacher and so on! There will be more home grown talent this year – including new acts as well as old favourites. If you have anything to offer please contact Phyl Holmes (2351897). Come anyway to enjoy a really good entertaining evening. Tickets are £5, available beforehand and on the door, and include refreshments. All proceeds go to FOIL AIDS.

During the summer Alan Biggs ran a sponsored half marathon for FOIL AIDS. Thanks to the generosity of TRM members and others he raised a total of over £220 for the charity. This has been sent to the Ikhaya Lobomi (Home of Life) group in South Africa and arrived at a time when there was real need following storm damage to the homes of the AIDS victims and their families.

Charity Band Concert

TRM Church has invited the *Castleton Silver Band*, under their conductor Bryan Hazlehurst, to present an evening of popular band music in the church on Thursday 18 October at 7.30 pm.

The concert is in aid of the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice which was completed with the keys handed over in July. A collection for the hospice will be taken on the evening and refreshments will be served in the church lounge after the concert.



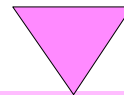
Holidays Over – Back Together

At this time of the year all the shops advertise *Back to School*. It's the time of year when many of us make a new start after the summer holidays – and didn't we need them this year! TRM invites you to a special all-age service to start this new year – apparently the Americans call it *Round Up Sunday* – with a special guest speaker.

The service will be led by the Rev Roly Bain who is from Bristol. He is known as the church's jester. Garry Dawson-Jones writes, "I have seen Roly turn some incredibly humorous moments into amazingly poignant challenges to think about our lives in relation to God. The service will be at TRM on **Sunday 9 September at 10.30 am**, and will be All Age with something for everyone."

After the service everyone is invited to bring some food and share it with others in a church family lunchtime. Those who can't bring food are equally welcome to share with us.

Don't miss these!



**SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER,
10.30 am**

Back Together Sunday,
with Rev Roly Bain
(see article below)

**WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER,
7.30 pm**

Marriage Course begins
(see page 3)

**FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER,
7.30 pm**

FOIL AIDS Quiz Night
(see article on this page)

**THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER,
7.30 pm**

**Castleton Silver Band at
TRM**
(see article on this page)

**SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER,
7.30 pm**

Totley Talents Evening
(see article on this page)

Events

<i>September 2007</i>		<i>October 2007</i>	
Tue 4	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Mon 1	8.00 pm Messianic Dance
Thu 6	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club	Tue 2	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Sun 9	10.30 am Roly the Clown visits TRM (see page 7)	Wed 3	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship, "Love in a Box", <i>Freda Harpham</i>
Mon 10	8.00 pm Church Prayer Meeting	Thu 4	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Tue 11	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies - Royal Horticultural Society Roundup - talk by <i>George Feltrup</i>	Sun 7	10.30 am Harvest Festival
Thu 13	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club commences with a Barbecue	Mon 8	8.00 pm Church Prayer Meeting
Fri 14	9.15 am LEGO walk	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—"What Makes us Unique" (the mystery of DNA) talk by <i>Adrian Eggleston</i>
Mon 17	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	Wed 10	8.00 pm Marriage Course begins at TRM
Tue 18	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	Thu 11	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
Wed 19	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship, "A History of Dore and Totley", <i>Fred Cocking</i>	Fri 12	9.15 am LEGO walk 7.30 pm <i>FOIL AIDS</i> Quiz Night
Thu 20	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Sun 14	9.30 am Toddler Praise at TRM 10.30 am Joint Service at King Ecgbert's School
Mon 24	8.00 pm Church Prayer Meeting	Mon 15	8.00 pm Messianic Dance
Tue 25	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies - "Mother's Little Helper" (history of baby feeding) <i>Susan Watts</i>	Tue 16	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
Thu 27	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	Wed 17	7.30 pm Wednesday Friendship Joint Meeting with UNA to mark One World Week
		Thu 18	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 8.30 pm Youth Club 7.30 pm Castleton Silver Band at TRM (see page 7)
		Tue 23	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies - "L for Lavender" Pennine Lavender Farm - <i>Barbara Poisson</i>
		Thu 25	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7 - 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

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



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