

Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday	Prayer Meeting Morning Worship* Key Club (Children aged 4-11) Evening Worship	8.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm
	Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month *A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.	
Monday	Followers (Young people of secondary school age)	7.30PM
Tuesday	Second Tuesday (monthly) Ladies' Prayer Group (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) venue as announced	10.15AM 7.30PM
Wednesday	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly) Tots' Club (term-time) Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	7.45PM 1.30 - 3.00PM 7.45PM
Thursday	Thursday at Two (senior citizens – fortnightly) Followers' Prayer Group (fortnightly) at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	2.00PM 7.30PM
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11) Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	6.00PM 7.45PM

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

HOLLY AVENUE, LEEDS LS16 6PL

Registered Charity No. 511933

website: <http://www.TinshillFreeChurch.org.uk/>

Pastor:

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THE MAGAZINE

Nº 275



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

DECEMBER 2009 –
JANUARY 2010

Week ending

Cleaning

December 5	Ruth Holder	Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
12	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
19	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
26	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
Jan '10	2 Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Katy Sellens
9	Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Ruth Barugh
16	Ruth Holder	Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
23	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
30	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton

For Sunday

Flowers

December 6	Yvonne Chell	13	Kathryn Hibbard
20	Rosemary Hilton	27	Mavis Mathers
Jan '10	3 Deborah Williams	10	Anne Sellens
17	Ruth Holder	24	Mabel Simpson
31	Jenny Leng		

Library

	Morning	Evening
December 6	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard	Angela Mathers
13	Phil Leng	Christine Crossley
20	Paul Crossley	Jack/Ruth Rozday
27	Rosemary Hilton	Mavis Mathers
January 3	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
10	Phil Leng	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard
17	Paul Crossley	Jack/Ruth Rozday
24	Christine Crossley	Rosemary Hilton
31	Angela Mathers	Mavis Mathers

New Starts

On Sunday evening 22nd November I was privileged to attend the launch of a new evangelical church for Ilkley, planted by our friends at Bethel Evangelical Church, Otley. The whole church will worship in Otley in the morning, and in Ilkley in the evening – a brave venture indeed! Their description as “a church for people who don’t go to church” describes well the aim to welcome people for whom this will be a new start to attend any church.

There were about 70 people at the launch, which took place at the Ilkley Playhouse. This will be the normal venue for the church on Sunday evenings. Pastor Martin Woodier (a member at Tinshill more than 23 years ago) led the service and gave the address. He began by saying that, as a church, we must start where Jesus started, as described in Mark 1: 14-15 – “*Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and saying ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’*”.

Martin pointed out that this was (and I give just a summary):-

1) A crucial message

John the Baptist was the forerunner, and Christ kept on giving this message. “The time is fulfilled” means that everything is ready, much like dinner is ready for the family. The gospel was prophesied 700 years before Christ, and was subject to God’s plan before the foundation of the world. People must repent and believe in the gospel.

2) A challenging message

Modern policy is that a medical doctor makes you decide things concerning your treatment. But here Jesus commands us to repent ie. change our mind or purpose; go in the opposite direction from the current one. It is a challenge to everybody – it is not your will and option, but God’s option for you. To repent and believe in the gospel means to follow Christ. This is not a blind faith, but based on what you can see as good evidence.

We wish all our readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas – joy at the birth of our Saviour and peace through His death, resurrection and presence in our lives.

3) A controversial message

The gospel means 'good news', but the angel said to Joseph "*...you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*". This is uncomfortable. Sin is all wrong things which offend God. We all need saving from sin. That famous verse John 3: 16 indicates that no belief in Jesus means you are under judgement. The alternative is to go from death to life. John 14: 6 tells us that Jesus is the only way to Heaven – that's controversial. Why did Christ suffer and die unless there's something big about sin?

So we must start where Jesus started. We love the message and want to share it.

We wish the church at Otley/Ilkley every blessing from God.

Mention there of the angel's message to Joseph reminds us that Christmas was in one sense a new start for the Lord Jesus Christ. He is of course eternal and unchanging in His Godhead, in His love, and in all His divine attributes. Nevertheless, can you imagine the change in experience of coming from Heaven's glory to earth as a child, to grow up as a Man and with the purpose, from the start, of dying an horrendous death on our behalf.

"Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake becamest poor:
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor"

*(Hymn 217, New Christian Hymns,
by Frank Houghton).*

He was not in proximity to sin in Heaven, and yet came and walked/talked with sinners, loving them to save their souls by dying and paying their penalty for sin. It is hard to imagine that the One who knew no sin should actually become sin for us (2 Corinthians 5: 21). Yet that is what happened. For those 33 years or so He experienced all our feelings and temptations, remaining entirely pure.

That new start at Christmas for the Lord Jesus, again in one sense, has no

January

Sun 3 am Matthew Hibbard received into membership in morning service

Wed 6 1.30pm Tots Club restarts

Thu 7 7.30pm Followers Prayer Group

Fri 8 4pm Asda Chaplaincy

6pm Good News Club Restarts

7.45pm Elders/Deacons meet at 68 Moseley Wood Walk

Mon 11 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 87 Tinshill Road

Tue 12 7.30pm Ladies Prayer Group at 10 Woodhill Crescent

Thu 14 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Ken Link

Fri 15 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount

Sat 16 9am Annual Trustees Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road

Tue 19 7.45pm Men's Fellowship

Thu 21 11am Asda Chaplaincy

7.40pm Followers Prayer Group

Fri 22 7.45pm Members Prayer Meeting for new Pastor

Tue 26 7.30pm Ladies Prayer Group at 10 Woodhill Crescent

Thu 28 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Martin Sellens

Advance Notice

Steve and Rachel Peat (SIM) will be coming on Wednesday February 3rd to take a deputation meeting about their work in Peru.

Magazine Deadline

The next magazine (Feb/March edition) is due to be out for Sunday 31st January so all contributions to Martin Sellens by Wednesday 20th January please.

Thought of the Season

"God's presence with us
is one of His greatest presents to us."

DIARY

December

Mon 7	7pm	Leeds City Mission Christmas Praise at St Georges Centre
Tues 8	7.45pm	Christmas Crafts Evening for Ladies
Wed 9	1.20pm	Tots Club Christmas Party (last meeting before Christmas)
	7.45pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Speaker: Roger Norris
Fri 11	6pm	Good News Nativity (last meeting before Christmas)
Sat 12	3.30pm	Key Club Christmas Party
Sun 13	2.30pm	Carol Service at Cookridge Court
Tue 15	7.30pm	Ladies Prayer Group at 14 Bedford Drive
	7.45pm	Men's Christmas Fellowship
Wed 16	7.30pm	Carol singing at Bedford Court and in the district
Thu 17	10am	Asda Chaplaincy
	1pm	Thursday at Two Christmas Special Speaker: Paddy Flynn
Fri 18	8pm	Elders meet at 87 Tinshill Road
Sat 19	7.30pm	Afterchurch Christmas Party
Mon 21	7pm	Followers Christmas Party
Wed 23	7.45pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study at 87 Tinshill Road Speaker: Martin Sellens
Fri 25	10.30am	Christmas Morning Service Speaker: Glyn Williams
Wed 30	7.45pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Speaker: Alan Brearley
Thu 31	2pm	Thursday at Two Speaker: Paul Crossley
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service Speaker: Martin Sellens

end, because He remains a Man in Heaven for us interceding for His people. We can approach Him in prayer knowing that He, being human and divine, understands us fully.

This magazine covers both Christmas and the New Year. For those who receive Christ as Saviour and Lord at this period, it will certainly be a new start. They will sing a new song, and they will enter new life. But for all of us the new year could be a new start in an increased desire to follow the Lord Jesus Christ closely; to put behind us the old, and trust in Christ Who is ever new. New Year's resolutions mean nothing unless they are based on love for Christ and a reliance on His power.

May you know His love and greater power in the coming year.

In the love of Christ

Glyn Williams

New Elder

I am delighted to report that, at a members' meeting on Friday 13th November, the church fellowship agreed with my proposal that Martin Sellens be recognised as an elder of the church with immediate effect. Martin has served the church for 28 years, many of them as a deacon, but has increasingly taken on duties which one would recognise as associated with an elder.

We are sure that God will bless Martin as he takes on his new role and makes adjustments.

There will be public recognition of Martin's eldership on Sunday February 21st, when one of the Holding Trustees of the church, Pastor Mick Lockwood of Haworth, will be able to take part and preach.

Glyn Williams

The blessing of a baptismal service

A baptismal service is always a time of excitement, encouragement and

challenge. As we see God moving in the lives of others, and listen to the commitment from the questions which are answered in the water before the baptism takes place, we are reminded of our own miraculous living faith and our own standing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A few months ago we had a lovely baptismal service when three young ladies were baptised, and on 8th November we held another service when two of our young men were baptised – Bruce Gregg and Matthew Hibbard. Both had been given much

Christian teaching at home as they grew up, but it was lovely again to see the individual love and calling of the Lord in their lives as they gave their testimonies on the night. At the end of their individual pilgrimages, Bruce had been greatly influenced by the



witnessing of a friend, and Matthew by reading a book he had been given at the Afterchurch. We give great thanks for their professions of faith in the Lord Jesus, and must pray much that they will have a consistent, powerful walk with the Saviour, and that He will bless them at university and school where it can be difficult to stand as a Christian.

Margaret Williams

From darkness to light

My story – by Helen Young

I had quite a difficult childhood, both at home and at school. The house we lived in was quite dark, even in the day time, and I was frightened and longed for the day when we could have a different house with sunshine coming in through the windows. My mum worked hard to make ends meet and she always made sure there was



It was great to be able to communicate with Christine by mobile phone from Nigeria. God was very much in control of the visit. Both Ani Ekpo and Adamu Maga were able to help me luggage wise when flying internally. KLM gave me 46kg allowance to fly to Nigeria but internally Virgin gave me 20kg and Arik only 15kg!

I thought that I might not be going next year but Christine thinks that I should, so I have notified some of my Nigerian friends that they have the strange white man coming yet again! Pray for them!

Paul Crossley

PREACHING PLAN

	Morning	Evening
Dec 6	Nigel Westhead	Glyn Williams
13	Glyn Williams	Jonathan Chell
20	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams (Carol Service)
27	Malcolm Peters	Malcolm Peters
Jan 3	Glyn Williams	Errol Hulse
10	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams
17	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
24	Bill Dyer	Bill Dyer
31	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Do pray for our men as they minister outside the church in the coming months:-

Pastor Glyn Williams

Sun Dec 6 am Bethel, Armley
 Mon Dec 7 7pm Leeds City Mission Committee
 Sun Jan 10 am Birstall

Martin Sellens

Sat Dec 19 7pm Bethel, Armley Carol Service

It was good to renew fellowship with Joe Jacowitz (California), Stan Murrel (Florida), Tony Okoroh (Lagos), Ani Ekpo (Port Harcourt), Chris Buss (London), Adamu Maga (Jos) and many more.

I took 12 Study Bibles out for Pastors, Bible College Students, a Sunday School Teacher and the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State. I was enabled to pay a courtesy visit to the Deputy Governor and I am hoping to meet him and my former student when I go again next year. We are so blessed with Study Bibles and other resources here. I was pleased that Stan Murrel had brought out some CDs with over a thousand resources on them. For those who can get access to a computer they will be invaluable.

The main reason for the visit was to take part in the Conferences and to preach in the churches. Lagos was a new experience. I stayed at the Bible Society Guest House and all the plumbing and electricity worked! Average attendance at th conference of about 150 for each of the two days. One message on General Principles of Witnessing and another on a Character Study. Port Harcourt went smoothly and I ended up doing 3 talks there all on the general theme of witnessing. I also preached on the Sunday about “Too bad to be saved?” (King Manasseh). Pastor Chris Buss (Metropolitan Tabernacle) and I visited a rural church where the leaders are making a real stand for the Truth. We are both hoping that we might speak there some time in the future. Some students graduated from the Seminary this year. It was a bit of a surprise to see them in cap and gown!

The Kaduna Conference was a mixture but basically the next time that I go we are hoping to have 5 evening meetings and perhaps a Day Conference for Ministers. I spoke at least 8 times at the Conference on Witnessing and again preached on Manasseh at a Sunday Service at a church in the middle of a Muslim area. Translation can be a problem according to some people.

Jonathan and I are now hoping that The Dorcas Evangelical Women’s Trust of Nigeria is a reality. Three brethren in the North of Nigeria, and three in the South will oversee the interest free Grant Loan Scheme. The need was brought home to me even more when I met Mrs Obadiah whose husband died last November (2008). She has not received the lump sum and pension from the Government yet!

food on the table and that the bills were paid. My dad went out to work – he made malt for beer at Tetley’s Brewery in Leeds, (he was called a maltster), but unfortunately he drank heavily and was always drunk when he came home from the pub or the club. Sometimes men had to help him home, and when I was little I thought my dad must be ill. He also drank in the house and me and my mum had to buy tins from the supermarket for him. On the rare occasions when he was not drunk he was nice, and had a good sense of humour and made us laugh. I wanted him to stop drinking, but he didn’t and I watched him grow old. The drinking killed him.

I suffered physically but mentally also, with difficult mental health problems. I was deeply depressed, everything seemed dark and glum and I would stay in bed most of the time. At night I had horrible nightmares and would wake up screaming and sometimes my mum had to stay with me all night. She used to tell me about Jesus and said that people were praying for me. I remembered that I had been a Brownie and a Guide and that my happiest times had been when I went to church with these groups. Things were so dark mentally and I tried to take my own life several times. I also had to have part of my lung removed and had to give up smoking.

When my mum had a heart attack and almost died I began to think more and more about the Lord. I asked for bible lessons and Margaret Williams began bible studies with me and my mum together in my mum’s flat. The more I learned about Jesus the more I knew I needed a Saviour. He was the light that I had been looking for all my life. I confessed my sins and asked Jesus to forgive me and make me a true Christian. I was baptised and now I am a disciple of the Lord. My flat and my mum’s flat often have sunshine pouring in through the windows. I am so happy and I know that when it is my mum’s time and my time to go, we will be in Heaven together with the Lord.

I still have to take quite a lot of medication, and continue to have some health problems, but I am not depressed. I have lots of new friends, especially Christine Crossley and I am very happy. I love coming to church and to the different meetings in the week and hearing more and more about the Lord.

Life can be like a tunnel, dark at one end and then at the other end there is light. Everyone makes mistakes, only our Lord is perfect, but I know how much Jesus loves me because He says so in the bible. I gave my life to the Lord and so much changed. I now have hobbies like reading, knitting, drawing and board games.

Before I became a Christian my mind was in the dark for many years and my heart was dark and cold. I felt dirty inside and out. Then the Lord performed the miracle—I asked him into my life and my eyes opened, my brain seemed to come alive and my heart became soft and I became alive again. Being a Christian is wonderful and although you still have problems in your life we do have the Lord on our side and He will help us through. Jesus hears and answers our prayers and has given us the best book in the world—the bible. The Lord died a terrible death on the cross for us—there is no greater gift than the love of God. He rose and is alive and is in my mind and heart. He died as a substitute for me and anyone who truly believes.

I hope my testimony helps other people to find the Lord Jesus as their Saviour too.

Jesus said *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life”* (John 8: 12).

Harvest Supper

On the 3rd October we held a Harvest Supper at the church which was very well attended with many visitors coming in. We enjoyed a quiz with prizes, an excellent meal beautifully presented, friendship and fellowship as we ate and a thought provoking and helpful talk given by Rev Bill Dyer from Pontefract.

One of those present on the evening has written a summary of what she gleaned from Mr Dyer’s talk.

* * *

Mr Dyer addressed those assembled at the Harvest Supper saying that

New Hope Charity Shop

The New hope charity shop opened its doors to the public on Monday 2nd November after two months of hard work converting it from a funeral parlour into a charity shop.

The shop is located in the District Centre on Beeston Town Street (round the corner from the Co-op).

Items sold in the shop include clothes, jewellery, videos, CDs, DVDs, books, bric-a-brac, household items, and small electrical goods. If you have anything to donate please contact me on 2679410.

Please pray for Geoff Alker as he manages the shop and for those who volunteer during the week. Pray also that the shop will generate money for New Hope, but, more importantly, that it will be salt and light in the community and reach many people with God’s love.

Christine Crossley

Another Nigerian Visit

November 4th-22nd

Another great trip to Nigeria with many highlights and some concerns, as well. My friends, James and Rhoda Yayok, are now seeing their retirement home really taking shape and one day I am looking forward to staying with them in it, God willing. Their grandson, Jephunneh, now wants to be Marshall of the Nigerian Airforce! I wonder if it has anything to do with the aeroplanes I gave him and his friend? They also loved the recorders, mouth organs, and colouring books. It made me realise how spoilt some UK children really are!



African countries are produced in several languages at a production unit in Malawi.

Local Torch Fellowship Groups (about 130 in UK) meet monthly – usually on a Saturday afternoon – for a fairly informal service where visually impaired and sighted people join together to worship and hear a short Gospel message.

The Leeds group meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at City Evangelical Church (CEC) in Beeston. We cover the whole of Leeds, the majority of the visually impaired being brought by volunteer drivers. If anyone can spare an occasional Saturday afternoon to help with lifts or just to be a listening ear in the fellowship time afterwards, please ask me for further details. We have a particular need when Leeds United are playing at home (CEC is about ½ mile from the football ground), because the normal bus route is altered, so making it virtually impossible for folk dependant on public transport to attend.

If you do not live in the Leeds area, there may be a Fellowship Group near you who would value help.

To help the work in Malawi, where there are about 80 Fellowship Groups, the “Aid Africa” fund was set up. To help in this, we in Leeds collect aluminium drink cans and foil food containers, which are then sold to the scrap metal merchant. Receipts from this fell dramatically last year, but have now recovered.

We also collect used C60 & C90 cassettes which are recycled by Torch and used to record magazines, music etc for those living abroad. This means money isn't spent on buying new ones (not easy anyway now) and if the cassette gets stolen en-route money has not been wasted.

I also collect used postage stamps (UK & foreign) which are given to “Stamps for Evangelism”. They are sold to dealers and the money raised given to Missions at home and abroad.

Thank you to those who already supply me with their “recyclables”

Ruth Holder

Harvest always reminded him of his youth. Mr Dyer grew up on a farm and he remembered his Dad bringing the harvest in with Shire horses and a cart. Sometimes he used an old car and people would come from miles around just to watch.

Most of us have a romantic idea about farming without realising that there is a lot of hard work involved. It is the same with being a Christian. Some people have a romantic view of the Church, full of nice people doing nice things, without realising that there are times when the Christian life is hard.

Mr Dyer remembered an evacuee mother and two children coming out into the country during the War. There was fresh air and fresh food but the Mother was uncomfortable. She was unable to cope and soon went back to the bombed out, dust laden, rationed life of London. There are those who feel that the Christian life is not for them. They prefer the sin laden darkness of a life without Christ and soon scurry back to their old ways.

There are many parables and parallels that Jesus told, in the Bible, in which he referred to the shepherd and his sheep. Mr Dyer comes from a shepherding family and he made the point that looking after sheep is not something you can do from a distance. You have to be close up and hands on. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd and we are his sheep. He is not a long distance God but is close to us and takes care of us.

Sheep are marked with a special dye to show who they belong to. Christians are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus with the blood that He shed for us on the cross.

Sheep know the voice of the one who cares for them and feel safe with him. We know when our Shepherd speaks to us and are assured of His love and protection when He is with us.

Angela C Mathers

Autumn Mixture

On Monday 26th October a small Followers group went on a Followers Special to Thorp Perrow Arboretum, Bedale. It was mid-term so some were

away and missed a lovely trip. We caught the rich variety of autumn colour before it gave way to on-coming winter and the weather was very kind to us. It wasn't just the shades and hues of all the autumn colour range that was wonderful, it was the splendour of so many different trees – tall, small, densely branched, sparse, new and spindly, old and gnarled, and so many different shapes and sizes of leaves and cones. Trees are always beautiful, but when you see so many different ones growing together you marvel again at the fact that this is just one species out of thousands that God has created. We had expected it to be quite muddy so took our wellies, but in fact it was good underfoot, but the wellies enabled us to kick through deep piles of leaves as we followed the different tracks through the arboretum.

There was a large open area with picnic tables where we had lunch and we also enjoyed time in the animal section, especially the wallabies and meercats, but the highlight of the day was the afternoon performance of the birds of prey. The arboretum has a wonderful selection of owls and many birds of prey, and the performance was exciting and very amusing. We were able to get really close to the birds, which included a golden eagle, snowy and barn owls and various falcons.

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.”
(Genesis 1.31)

We do thank the Lord for these opportunities to get out into the countryside and see the beauties of nature, and again we thank all who faithfully pray for Followers.

Martin Sellens/Margaret Williams

New books for the church library

Below is a list of books recently added to the church library. I am sure you will be helped, encouraged and blessed by reading them, as I have been.

Biography

Robert Murray McCheyne: in the footsteps of a godly Scottish pastor by Derek Prime. This is another book in the 'Travel with' series which includes

lots of pictures and up-to-date information of the places mentioned.

Eyes turned skyward by Max Meyer. In this book the author shares exciting glimpses of his 37 years with MAF. These remarkable true stories will grip your imagination, stir your heart and strengthen your faith in the God who fills the whole earth with His power and love.

Creation / Science

Darwin: the voyage that shook the world. In this 52 minute DVD, produced by Creation Ministries, HMS Beagle once again sets sail as it retraces Charles Darwin's voyage and examines his findings and remarkable conclusions – and their implications – in the light of modern knowledge.

Refuting compromise: a biblical and scientific refutation of “progressive creationism” (billions of years) as popularised by astronomer Hugh Ross by Jonathan Sarfati. With brilliant clarity the author has produced a comprehensive and biblically-based refutation of progressive creationism, addressing such issues as “Noah's flood was only a local event” and “six days or six years: what does the Bible actually say”.

Who made God? by Edgar Andrews. This is a gently humorous, highly readable and deeply serious book written by an internationally respected scientist. It dismantles the arguments and pretensions of scientific atheism and presents a robust biblical theism as a positive, and altogether convincing, alternative.

Commentaries, scripture reading and study

The expectant prophet: Habakkuk simply explained by John D Currid. This is the latest publication in the Welwyn Commentary Series.

Christine Crossley

THE TORCH TRUST

The Torch Trust, which produces Christian literature for those with a visual impairment, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Stella Heath, who with her husband, started the work, passed away recently.

Besides the production unit in Market Harborough, Bibles for the blind in