

# THE MAGAZINE

Nº 286



TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011



Pastoral Letter — October/November 2011

## Making a fool of Einstein?

Any look at a photograph of Albert Einstein, with his doleful eyes and huge untidy mass of grey/white hair, is likely to evoke a certain compassion and huge respect for him as a ‘boffin’ of the highest order. But no-one would treat him as a fool in the area of Physics – or would they? Recent experiments in the CERN laboratory near Geneva have seemed to show that a very small particle – called a neutrino – can travel faster than light in a vacuum. Most of modern Physics relies on the principle that nothing can exceed the speed of light (186,282 miles per second, which is fast enough), which Einstein established in 1905.

If these experiments are confirmed, most of the Physics text books will have to be ripped up and re-written. The darlings of radio and television – Professors Richard Dawkins and Brian Cox – are very sceptical about the new findings. That is not surprising. The brightest scientists don’t like the idea that their beliefs can be overturned by new research – but that’s exactly how science works. Perhaps they are worried that more research will discover that the idea of a young earth (according to the Bible) is true after all; that the evidence for a worldwide flood becomes absolutely undeniable; that evolution according to Darwin will be proven to be false! The pride of man doesn’t like discoveries which challenge scientists’ theories which they claim to be proven!

But then God is in the habit of surprising people. He is the author of all the rules in Physics and the universe. We see our sun as the author of our light, but God made it – one of millions of suns, but special for His human creation. It takes roughly seven and a half minutes for the light of the sun to reach the earth – an amazing fact in itself. We know that the shortest day – when the sun will shine for the minimum period in a day this winter – will be on Thursday December 22nd. We can calculate facts like that because God is a God of order; He has made everything fit perfectly for life on earth. And yet we are discovering more and more about the rules of

Physics and the expanse of the universe. We are discovering bit by bit the wonders and glory of Creation, but we will never catch up with God, or His understanding of the things He has made.

We have spoken about physical light. What about spiritual light? God reveals Himself by spiritual light which shines in our otherwise dark hearts.

“And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it” (John 1:5). The light of God comes through reading the Bible, made alive to us by the power of God’s Holy Spirit. And sometimes, the speed of that light – that insight about God – seems to be instantaneous like the speed of light. The brilliant seventeenth century scientist Blaise Pascal had exactly this experience. He understood God and Jesus Christ “The Light of the World”, for the first time. Before long, he had given up all his scientific experiments (which in some ways is quite a shame for us), in order to follow a separated, holy life for Christ.

The new discovery about this light from God centres mainly about His love. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” (John 3:16). The measure of a person’s closeness to Christ can be assessed by that person’s discovery about the love of God for him personally. How can God love me, a tiny member of the world’s society? How can God love me, who ignored Him and rebelled against Him for so long and so often? How can the love of Christ make Him willing to die on a cross for me? – and yet He did. How can the sum of all my sins and offences, multiplied by those of so many more people over the years, be paid for by one sacrifice of Jesus? And yet those offences were indeed dealt with.

God surprises us by these new scientific discoveries which happen from time to time. May God surprise you with the discovery of His love for you in giving you a way back to Him through faith in Jesus Christ, and may the discoveries of His love continue.

In the love of Christ.

*Glyn Williams*

# Mongolia

On Monday 27th June, I set out for Mongolia in a team of five lads. With me were Ben and Pete, friends from the Christian Union at Bristol University, Ben's brother Tom, and David, a pharmacist from Ireland who we met through our sending organization, Serving In Mission (SIM). It was to be four of the most physically draining and spiritually rewarding weeks of my life so far. As a team, we were keen to be an encouragement to and be encouraged by the local church, to grow more in dependence on the Lord, and to gain some first hand knowledge of what it looks like to be a full-time missionary in a foreign country.

After a long, tiring and frustrating journey, we arrived at last to the dusty, polluted streets of Ulaanbaatar. After a missed flight and having to travel via a different route, we weren't too surprised to find that our luggage had not arrived. We were met at the airport by Sam Biro, a Canadian missionary who heads up Joint Christian Services (JCS), the umbrella missionary organization in Mongolia which is responsible for the majority of the work that goes on in the country. JCS has established a number of projects, predominantly in the capital but also reaching into more distant regions of the country, including medical aid work, youth cafés and sports ministries – anything that brings Christians into contact with the lost so that they have an opportunity to share the gospel. Our first few days were spent falling asleep in language classes, getting to know Ulaanbaatar, hunting down our luggage and settling into accommodation (dorms at the Bible school) and meeting with missionaries who were glad to tell us a bit about what they were doing and what life is like for them there.

Friday 1st July saw us embarking on our first assignment – a 6 hour coach ride to the semi-nomadic countryside town of Hojurt. We were accompanied by our translator, Nasaa, who we were to become good friends with, and so I took the opportunity on the long journey to get to know him and learn a bit more Mongolian. Hojurt is home to 1600 Mongolians, although the town is spread out across a valley over both sides of the river and so it looks much bigger. There is a small church there, established by an American missionary called Yvonne Robinsons who has

been there for the past 5 years. She's an elderly woman with a youthful passion for the Lord's work, and she provided our accommodation (a simple, single-room hut with a small fire in the corner; no running water) and cooked for us during our stay.



The Christian community in Hojurt is very female dominant. One of the things we were keen to do whilst we were there was to encourage some of the teenage boys to go to the church (they were all aware of its existence) and to get rid of the idea that Christianity was only for the women, and so on the Sunday we played a large role in the church meeting – I gave my testimony, Tom preached from 1 Corinthians 2 and we played guitars and taught them some English songs. The other large part of our ministry involved playing basketball with the young Mongolians each evening, something that they do almost every night. They were very welcoming, and by the second night we were able to suggest through Nasaa that we all take a break at half-time so we could talk to them about who we were and why we were in Hojurt, providing us with a natural way to share a testimony and the gospel message. This carried on almost every night, and so by the end of the week each of us had given a short talk, always finishing by pointing them to the church. We were very conscious of the brevity of our stay in the town. What possible long-term difference could we make? So our prayer now is that, when the people of Hojurt think back to our week with them, they would not remember us as the guys that came to play

basketball but as the guys that came to tell them something much more important. Who knows what seeds the Lord may have planted?

Nine days and two sulphur-smelling showers later, we returned to Ulaanbaatar. We visited a few different churches on the Sunday, and then accompanied Bill and Kwai-Lin Stephens, a missionary couple with JCS, on their family holiday for a night to spend some time experiencing more Mongolian culture – horse and camel riding, and staying a night in a ger (traditional Mongolian tent) camp.

We took a night train on Thursday 14th July to Erdenet, Mongolia's second largest city, along with the UB United Football Team and their coach – Chuka. The football club is a JCS project, begun by a missionary some years ago, and the current team are the national under-17 champions – you can imagine our dismay when we found this out, and realized that they were expecting us to be athletes from the UK coming to teach them football! Nevertheless, we just about managed to keep the illusion alive on the football pitch, and were encouraged to find that the trip was as much a Bible camp as it was a football training camp. As well as joining in with the training, we gave a testimony each morning and a talk from Mark's gospel each night – a short Christianity Explored course that explained to them all who Jesus is, and then looking at the significance of the cross.

Chuka was a unique character – one minute a strict coach, the next just a big kid playing with the rest of the lads – which I felt made his Christian witness to them particularly effective. The boys could relate to him, but also respected his leadership. One of my most memorable moments of the trip was on the final night in Erdenet. A pipe to the sink in our room burst at 2 in the morning, and before I knew it I was standing in my pyjamas with several other half-naked Mongolian kids, shoveling water into buckets as fast as we possibly could. Several hours later, once everything was cleared up, Chuka gathered everyone around in the corridor. I was quite fed up by this point, but asked Nas to translate for me anyway. “He's teaching the boys,” said Nasaa, “that Jesus said that He is coming back like a thief in the night. He's telling them that it will be as sudden and unexpected as the pipe burst tonight, and challenging them to make sure that they are ready

by trusting in Him.” I couldn’t believe it, amazed by the way Chuka had grasped the opportunity to teach the boys an important lesson, when all I could do was think of going back to bed!

On our final day, we all tried, with Nasaa’s help, to talk to each of the boys more personally. Pete had a particularly fruitful conversation with a boy called Gana, who made a commitment as a Christian for the first time. We also gathered off the back of some of the chats that it would be great if we were able to provide each boy with a Bible so that they would begin reading God’s word for themselves – they were so open to hearing about it through us and Chuka, it seemed a natural step to get them some for themselves. God’s providence was amazing – Ben made a phone call to Sam, and within an hour a guy called Jeremiah had turned up at the sports complex with a stack of Mongolian New Testaments. He said that he’d only been able to get hold of fifteen – exactly the number of boys there were there with us! We gave the Bibles to the boys individually, and urged them to treasure them as the precious words of God – please be praying that Chuka and the JCS team see eternal fruit in those boys.

It has been a trip to remember, full of God’s grace and blessings in every situation. Thank you to all of you for your support in prayer, and for all the financial support given which made it possible for me to go. Please be praying for His continuing work in a country desperately in need of the gospel, and for the fruit of our time there.

*Chen Ng*

## **KENYAN BIBLES**

Following requests from our brothers at Kiatuni in Kenya for Bibles for members of their congregations the fellowship at Tinshill decided to establish a Bible fund back in June this year. There was a generous response so that I was able to send £1,000 out in early August. Recent emails from Pastor Joseph Mutua confirm that Bibles have now been purchased and distributed in several places – see the photographs below. Joseph thanks the church who have “stood with us in the Word of God”. The Bibles have met many needs and been a great answer to prayer.

We have still a little way to go to meet our target of £1,200 – if you want to contribute put a cheque or cash in an envelope marked “Kenya Bible” and pop it in the offertory box.

*Martin Sellens*

### **Bethesda Baptist Church Kiatuni.**

New converts say they have been praying to have God’s word in their hands to read in their homes with children and family. Their prayer have been answered Joshua 1:8-9, Psalm 119:81



One convert says to have the word of God on the table that the Bibles will be enough even without the physical food. 28th August 2011

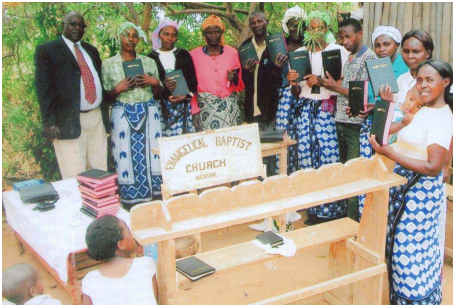
### **Tasia**

Tasia in Nairobi slums. Where Michael Otienois starting new ministry under Bethesda Baptist Church.



New converts at Tasia

New life starts of new convent of sister church Evangelical Baptist church Nguuni under the oversight of Bethesda Baptist Church-Kiatuni 17th August 2011



Glory be To God.  
Acts 17:10-15

*Joseph Mutua*

## News from East Africa

In July, South Sudan became independent from the north. Not long after, the UN officially declared a famine in parts of Somalia. Across the whole region of East Africa, drought and hunger have escalated to such a scale that millions are starving and in need of aid in what is the worst drought in 60 years.

MAF has been responding to the growing needs across East Africa since 1950, and continues to fly to support the new nation of South Sudan as well as the growing crisis in East Africa.

Every day, thousands of refugees are pouring into Dadaab refugee camp on the Kenyan/Somali border. Aid agencies are struggling to cope as the camp numbers reach 400,000 and people set up makeshift tents on any available land.

Our team has been flying in support of aid agencies, missions and government officials travelling to and from the camp to find out how best they can support those seeking to help the thousands of people in desperate

need. Flights have also been taking a number of people from aid organisations including Concern Worldwide to survey other parts of northern Kenya where drought has caused crops to fail and food shortages. We've also carried food supplies to these areas.

Meanwhile in South Sudan, there has been an increase in requests for flights for our partners. Along with existing intertribal unrest and border conflict, the newly independent nation is also experiencing poor rainy seasons, and consequently crops have failed. Many are hungry.

'South Sudanese children are among the poorest in the world,' says Steve Morgan, Save the Children's Country Director. Their research suggests that 45% of young children suffer from malnutrition, and they are involved in several projects to reach the most vulnerable children.

The charity called on MAF to deliver food to isolated communities in the north-east of the country.

MAF's short-term relief pilot Bryan Pill did three days of flights from Juba to these villages, delivering five tons of food and supplies, including boxes of Plumpy'nut, a peanut-based food used in famine relief. This will be distributed by Save the Children.

To cope with the increased demand for flights in Sudan and Kenya, we have temporarily moved one of our aircraft from South Africa and positioned extra pilots in Kenya to help.

Pilot Ryan Cuthel describes the situation on the ground in Dadaab refugee camp as leaving him feeling helpless.

Perhaps you too feel helpless? Perhaps you've been watching the news and reading the papers and wondering what you can do to help?

We have set up an East Africa Prayer Movement to pray for the people of East Africa who are affected by drought, conflict and famine. Join the movement and share with your friends – [www.maf-uk.org/eastafrica](http://www.maf-uk.org/eastafrica)

*Supplied by MAF*

## Fellowship News

It was lovely to witness the marriage of Matthew Sellens to Natalie Walker at the church on 3rd September. Despite a gloomy weather forecast the rain held off and it was a joyful homely wedding. After a honeymoon in Malta the happy couple are settling well in their new home in Carlisle and attending Grace Evangelical Church.

We also bade farewell to Andrew and Jill Lolley in the last month as they moved to London – Andrew to start a 2 year course at London Theological Seminary and Jill who has been transferred to a job in the capital. They are settling into their new flat at Childs Hill Baptist Church.



Tim Hilton began his year as an Associate at Christ Church, Southampton at the start of September and is enjoying it – do pray for him.

We welcome Amric and Joanne McGrace into membership at the communion service on October 9th and are pleased they have settled happily with us with Joel and Aimie.

If you have been in the centre of Leeds in recent days you cannot have failed to notice the great crowds of new students as they begin a new academic year. Do pray for those starting or returning to University/College:

Chen Ng – Bristol; Katy Sellens – University of Cumbria, Lancaster; Timothy Rozday – York; Samuel Rozday – Leeds; Matthew Hibbard –

Warwick; Matthew Sellens – University of Cumbria, Carlisle; Carl Atkinson – Leeds College of Building; and Paul Donoghue – Park Lane College, Horsforth.

Finally do pray for Daniel Rozday who has started his training in his new job with Network Rail after graduating from York.

## Playing a part

In the AGM Departmental Report, we did mention that we would write a magazine article on the Followers Group which had its last meeting in the Spring of this year.

We do want to say a heartfelt thankyou to those far and near who have prayed for many years for Followers. It has been one of life's greatest privileges to work for over thirty years in such a group. It was never a chore or a duty. It has been a great joy to have good groups of young people coming through in 'waves', many of them having six or more years with us, and more if they were also in the Followers Prayer Group.

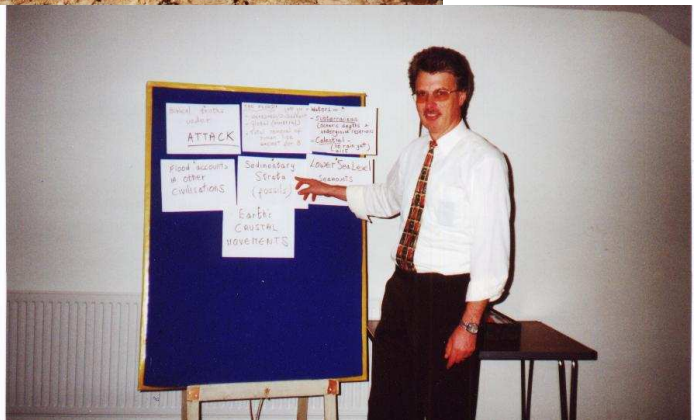
That teaching slot after refreshments in the 'upper room' was one of the most special times in the week for us. The 'listening' over the years was mostly excellent, and to have the freedom to share the gospel and teach about the Lord Jesus Christ has been truly wonderful. We have lovely memories of teaching on hot summer evenings and in the darkness of a winter evening with snow falling silently outside. (As well as summer programmes, annual trips and Christmas parties with patiently made outfits!)

One of the exciting joys has been to see boys who spent six or more years in Followers now in full-time Christian ministry (Graham Peel, Jonathan Chell, Warran Fawcett, Tim Hilton), and to see others, male and female, walking with the Lord in their lives. Followers always had a strong evangelistic ethos, but we also functioned as a secure Christian youth group where the 'church children' could come during the week through their teenage years and bring their friends (and they did!). To have played a small part in all these ways over the years is beyond price.

We are compiling a list, from all our old registers, and intend to keep praying through this list regularly that those who are Christians will be preserved and have committed, useful lives for the Lord, and that many others will come to living faith in the Saviour. The Lord says “My word will not return to me void” and many heard that word for six to ten years, so we pray and trust on.

The Followers prayer group continues and recently we have doubled in size so please do continue to pray for this group that the love of the Saviour and of prayer together will grow.

A few photos taken over the years give a flavour of our very happy groups and we give all the praise, honour and thanksgiving to our great and glorious God.





*Martin Sellens/Margaret Williams*



## Preaching Plan

|          |    | <b>Morning</b>  | <b>Evening</b>           |
|----------|----|-----------------|--------------------------|
| October  | 2  | Glyn Williams   | Nigel Westhead (Harvest) |
|          | 9  | Erroll Hulse    | Glyn Williams            |
|          | 16 | Glyn Williams   | Martin Sellens           |
|          | 23 | Stephen Emmott  | Stephen Emmott           |
|          | 30 | Glyn Williams   | Richard Myerscough       |
| November | 6  | Martin Sellens  | Glyn Williams            |
|          | 13 | Malcolm Peters  | Malcolm Peters           |
|          | 20 | Matthew Seymour | Matthew Seymour          |
|          | 27 | Glyn Williams   | Glyn Williams            |
| December | 4  | Bill Dyer       | Bill Dyer                |

## Outside Appointments

Do pray for our Elders as they minister outside the church in the coming months;

- Sun Oct 2 am Martin at Hambleton Evangelical  
Sun Oct 16 pm Glyn at Zion Baptist, Morley  
Sun Oct 23 am/pm Glyn at Salem Baptist, Ramsey  
Sun Nov 13 am Glyn at Birstall  
Sun Nov 20 pm Glyn at Roundhay  
Tue Nov 22 7.30pm Glyn/Martin at Leeds Elders Fraternal at Bethel, Armley  
Sun Nov 27 am Martin at Bethel, Armley  
Sun Dec 4 am/pm Glyn at Bethel, Armley

## DIARY

### October

- Sun 2 am/pm Harvest Services  
Thu 6 1pm Thursday at Two Harvest Special Speaker: Bill Scully  
Fri 7 10am Asda chaplaincy  
Sun 9 am Communion  
2.30pm Cookridge Court  
Tue 11 10.15am Second Tuesday "Who is God? – The Father"  
7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk  
Sat 15 7.30pm Harvest Supper Speaker: Ben Henry  
Tue 18 7.45pm Men's Fellowship Part 3 of series "Man of God"  
Wed 19 1.30pm Tots Club Harvest Thanks  
Thu 20 11am Asda chaplaincy  
2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Rosti Belibov  
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk  
Fri 21 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount

Sun 23 pm Communion  
 Mon 24 7.45pm Elders/Deacons Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road  
 Tue 25 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group  
 Mon 31 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 175 Tinshill Lane

**November**

Thu 3 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Rich Owen  
 7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group  
 Fri 4 4pm Asda chaplaincy  
 Sat 5 11am Revival prayer meeting at City Evangelical Church  
 Mon 7 7.45pm Members' Monitoring Meeting  
 Tue 8 10.15am Second Tuesday "Who is God? – The Holy Spirit"  
 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group  
 Sun 13 2.30pm Cookridge Court  
 Tue 15 7.45pm Men's Fellowship Part 4 of Series "Man of God"  
 Thu 17 11am Asda chaplaincy  
 2pm Thursday at Two  
 7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group  
 Fri 18 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group  
 Tue 22 7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group  
 Wed 23 7.45pm Deputation – SASRA Speaker: Paul Crossley

**December**

Thu 1 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: John Almond  
 7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group  
 Fri 2 4pm Asda chaplaincy  
 Sat 3 7.30pm Leeds City Mission Christmas Praise  
 Tue 6 8pm Carols by Candlelight

**Please Note**

Tots Club will not meet on October 26th and November 2nd due to the Half Term Holidays

## Next Magazine

Will be a combined December 2011/January 2012 edition due out Sunday December 4th – all items and contributions to Martin Sellens by Wednesday 23rd November, please.

## Rotas

### Week ending

|          |    |                   |                 |                    |
|----------|----|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| October  | 1  | Jenny Leng        | Eva Ng          | Anne Sellens       |
|          | 8  | Ruth Holder       | Beccy/Ben Henry | Carole Brearley    |
|          | 15 | Mavis Mathers     | Angela Mathers  | Christine Crossley |
|          | 22 | Margaret Williams | Colette Hickman | Ann Mountain       |
|          | 29 | Carol Getzels     | Kathryn Hibbard | Deborah Williams   |
| November | 5  | Jenny Leng        | Eva Ng          | Anne Sellens       |
|          | 12 | Ruth Holder       | Beccy/Ben Henry | Carole Brearley    |
|          | 19 | Mavis Mathers     | Angela Mathers  | Christine Crossley |
|          | 26 | Margaret Williams | Colette Hickman | Ann Mountain       |
| December | 3  | Carol Getzels     | Kathryn Hibbard | Deborah Williams   |

### Cleaning

### For Sunday

|         |    |                   |            |                   |
|---------|----|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| October | 2  | Jenny Leng        | 9          | Ruth Holder       |
|         | 16 | Mavis Mathers     | 23         | Margaret Williams |
|         | 30 | Christine Blayney | November 6 | Eva Ng            |
|         | 13 | Carole Brearley   | 20         | Angela Mathers    |
|         | 27 | Colette Hickman   | December 4 | Kathryn Hibbard   |

### Flowers

### Library

|          |    | Morning               |  | Evening               |
|----------|----|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| October  | 2  | Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard |  | Mavis Mathers         |
|          | 9  | Angela Mathers        |  | Rosemary Hilton       |
|          | 16 | Christine Crossley    |  | Jack/Ruth Rozday      |
|          | 23 | Paul Crossley         |  | Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard |
|          | 30 | Christine Crossley    |  | Mavis Mathers         |
| November | 6  | Angela Mathers        |  | Rosemary Hilton       |
|          | 13 | Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard |  | Paul Crossley         |
|          | 20 | Christine Crossley    |  | Jack/Ruth Rozday      |
|          | 27 | Angela Mathers        |  | Christine Crossley    |
| December | 4  | Rosemary Hilton       |  | Mavis Mathers         |

# Diary of Services and Activities

|   |   |               |
|---|---|---------------|
| Sunday  | Prayer Meeting                                  | 8.00am        |
|   | Morning Worship*                                | 10.30am       |
|   | Key Club (Children aged 4-11)                   | 10.30am       |
|   | Evening Worship                                 | 6.30pm        |
| <p>Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month</p> <p>*A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.</p> |   |               |
| Tuesday   | Second Tuesday (monthly)                        | 10.15am       |
|   | Ladies' Prayer Group (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)       | 7.30pm        |
|   | venue as announced                              |               |
|   | Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly)          | 7.45pm        |
| Wednesday   | Tots' Club (term-time)                          | 1.30 - 3.00pm |
|   | Prayer Meeting and Bible Study                  | 7.45pm        |
| Thursday  | Thursday at Two (senior citizens – fortnightly) | 2.00pm        |
|   | Followers' Prayer Group (fortnightly)           | 7.30pm        |
| <p>at 68 Moseley Wood Walk</p>  |   |               |
| Friday  | Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)             | 6.00pm        |
|   | Friday Youth Night (Ages 11-16)                 | 7.30pm        |
|   | Missionary Prayer Group (monthly)               | 7.45pm        |
| <p>at 1 Tinshill Mount</p>  |   |               |

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 Mr Nigel Hibbard, 26 Woodlands Avenue, Harrogate HG2 7SJ {01423 888246}  
 Mr Graham Leng, 383 Otley Old Road, Leeds LS16 6BX {267 2395}