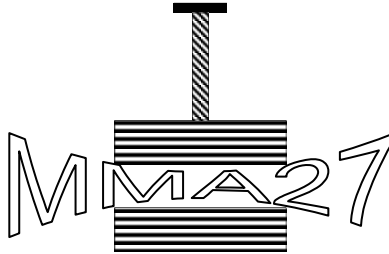


# Winepress



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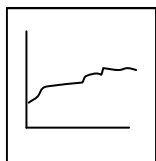
Notice Board

February 2009

# Making Sense of the Numbers

I wonder what you think of attendance at our churches. I'm told that, compared to the national average, our congregations are quite large. Certainly, it is encouraging to see new people in our churches week in and week out - a sure sign of progress.

The late Alan Buckley used to tell me he 'counted everything that moved' on a Sunday - 'even the mouse!' He contended that increased numbers were an indication of spiritual health. It seems numbers were also important on the Day of Pentecost as Luke tells us in Acts 2 verse 41 that 'three thousand were added to their number that day'. Someone was counting.



However, a simple head count doesn't tell the whole story. I think a better indication of health is to measure our congregations as a proportion of the population of the town; then it seems we have a lot more to do! I don't mean to be discouraging because, yes, there is much to thank God for in our churches, but there is still much to do.

In the task of sharing the good news about Jesus we need to support and love one other. Ephesians 4 verse 3 says this: 'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.' 'Make every effort' could suggest that unity is not an easy thing to achieve.

We are a Parish of multiple congregations and it is easy to become absorbed with our own interests, our own groups of people or organisations. Let's self-consciously find out what's going on elsewhere in the Parish and cheer one another on. This will make us more effective in growth and stronger to face the challenges ahead.

COLIN COOPER

# Wheels for the World

Recently, with a friend, I watched a DVD showing the work of 'Wheels for the World', a Christian organisation which is a branch of 'Through the Roof' which was set up by Joni Erickson. It collects wheelchairs, sends them to Parkhurst (where they are reconditioned and repaired by the prisoners) and then transports them to one of the developing countries. A team of volunteer therapists and technicians makes sure they are distributed to those with mobility needs. Sadly, there are never enough children's chairs to meet the need so I decided to try and get some!



The idea came to me that I could re-launch the soup kitchen that some of us oldies used to do when we were young mums. Thursdays used to find saucepans of soup arriving at our house and I would make bread rolls and then an assortment of people would arrive for lunch. Everyone made a contribution to whatever charity was uppermost on our minds. We used to feel that we had really achieved something each week and had a good time in the process. Well, what goes around, comes around.

I asked around and people responded positively to the idea. Because I don't have the stamina that I had in my thirties, I decided to try a monthly lunch. To date we have had three and, just as before, they are providing a chance to meet with old friends, to get to know others better and to make new ones. Again, just as happened then, others are offering to try out their soup recipes and seem to want to share in the enterprise.

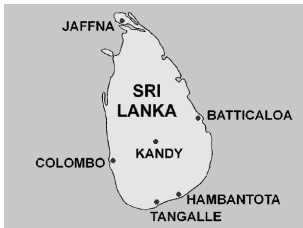
If you would like to support 'Wheels for the World', you would be most welcome to join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 28 Talbot Street between 11.30am and 2pm. There are two tables and several sittings!

SUE EDWARDS

# Who is Dasun Liyanage?

None of us have ever spoken to him, yet some of us feel that we know him. Most of us have never been to the country in which he lives, nor are likely to do so. He doesn't speak our language. And most of us, perhaps all of us, will never ever meet him in our own lifetimes.

Yet Dasun is our brother in Christ. He may be only eight years old, but listens to Bible stories with interest and is eager to please God. He is growing in Christ and at home is kind, loving and obedient. He enjoys learning and reads books to improve his knowledge. His favourite subjects at school are Maths and Environmental Studies.



In May 2007 it was agreed that some money from the weekly Thursday morning 'Coffee Pot' should be set aside to support a needy child living in poverty in a developing country. Through the organisation 'International Needs' we have now been sponsoring Dasun from Sri Lanka for over 18 months.

He attends a school which teaches him Christian values as well as other subjects and life skills. This Christian education is providing him with hope and promise for the future. A special person in the school serves as a link between the children in the school, their families, the local church and the community.

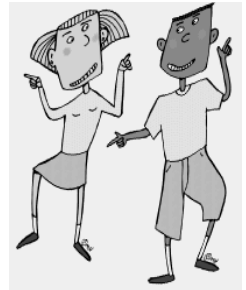
Photos of Dasun, school reports, letters from his teachers and information about 'International Needs' are all available in a file held in the back room of St Luke's where Coffee Pot meets every Thursday between 9am and 12 noon. Why not come along one week and, while enjoying a coffee and slice of homemade cake, know that you are helping invest in the life of this child of God.

PHILIP HARRIS

# Transforming Urban Beats into Gospel Truth

I'm a member of the 'NXT Generation' dance group at church. It started off as the 'Dance Revelation' group a few years ago, consisting of a few girls and boys aged around 12 who were dancing to some of their fave bands like thebandwithnoname and LZ7. They danced at the KiDstuf show and I remember watching them and thinking "Wow! These guys are really good; I want to be like them."

I first danced with the KiDstuf dancers and then moved on to 'Dance Revelation'. Since then I've been hooked. I love the music we dance to and think the dance moves are amazing. Beth did all the choreography at the beginning, and then Jess joined her to help coordinate the training.



In 2008 there was a big increase in the number of people coming along of both boys and girls aged 11-15, so we had to start a new group in September. That was the start of 'NXT Generation'. Our aim now is to train up the 'NXT Generation' dancers to perform the original dances, while 'Dance Revelation' develops new ones. Eventually we will perform together again.

I think that both dance groups are great because they are sociable and lively clubs that have attracted new people from within and outside of the church family, bringing us all closer to the word of God through music. We meet at 6.30pm on Wednesday evenings in the Vineyard. Kizzy supports us and helps us with ideas.

The main show that we perform in is KiDstuf but we have danced in church a few times and even danced in Manor Park. When we do a show together it's great because seeing everyone enjoying it is encouraging and makes us feel appreciated.

EMMA PETERS

# Alpha Changing Lives

For many years our parish has run Alpha courses, which provide an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions. We asked a couple of people who had taken part what they thought of the experience ...

When I booked onto an Alpha Course about four years ago, I did so for all the wrong reasons. Arrogantly, I went along with my own agenda; I was absolutely convinced that Christians were deluded people and I was going to do them all a favour by setting them straight! Needless to say, things didn't turn out as I'd planned.

At the first session, after a meal and some 'getting to know one another' chat, Terry Clark stood up to speak to us and I prepared for my attack. He began to explain the Bible's reliability as a historical document and as he continued his talk, I amazingly found myself disarmed.

Over the following weeks, each meeting introduced me to such interesting concepts that I was motivated to go away and investigate the topics more thoroughly. I also had several chats with Terry between sessions. I got to know the people in the group and developed friendships with them.

I'd always imagined that conversion would come as a sudden blinding flash of revelation. The flash just didn't happen for me; instead there was a much slower, gradual change in my attitude. By the end of the course, I still wasn't completely convinced, but was keen to explore the Christian faith further. For me, Alpha was the beginning of a process of transformation.



# *Alpha*

The process was to reach completion a few months later. My sight failed quite suddenly in one eye and within days I found myself diagnosed with a tumour. At the diagnosis, panic set in. With only a few days to prepare for an operation I was terrified. I couldn't sleep and I hit the bottle hard.

That Sunday I felt strongly compelled to go to church in the evening. I went, though wasn't particularly moved by the service. Afterwards, however, I was asked if I would like prayer. When I agreed, I found myself surrounded by caring people and sensed an overwhelming feeling of love. Miraculously, I was able to sleep well for the next two nights before my operation.

The experience sealed my faith in God. Without him I wouldn't have been able to sail through the operation so easily - I just wasn't strong enough in myself. The Alpha Course had laid the foundations and led me to a position where I had finally been able to put my trust in God completely.

CRAIG HERBERT

In my heart, I was a Christian. I believed in God and that he was the Creator, but I had a problem with the basic questions we ask ourselves like "Why do the good suffer?" and "Will evil people go to heaven if they repent?" etc. It wasn't until my father passed away that I started to go to church on a regular basis.

I was welcomed into the church family and got the opportunity to do the Alpha Course. I jumped at the chance to go because I needed answers to the questions. So, for 12 weeks, Colin, Linda, my fellow course members and me took part. It was a great experience, not only because I have made new friends, but I have gained a greater understanding of what it means to be a Christian, and look forward to doing the 'Start' course so I can continue to learn, grow and help carry on the great work within the church.

IAN WILKINSON

# Goings On at Eden

We have a new addition to our team in the form of a baby daughter, Neve, born 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2008; a true delight. Last year Amy was on maternity leave and then only worked two days a week. Now she's returned to work and Ben is full time team leader.

We have seven team members and a couple of other volunteers, one being Tim Thomas. He and Abi are now fully a part of St Brides' (they've just run our first Alpha Course) and live a stone's throw from our house. They are a blessing to us.

The youth club is thriving; we have about 25 regular young people. We've run a discovery course called 'roadtrip' which ended with a weekend away. Our mentoring course has just started firing as have our homework club and new youth service which we're trying to encourage the young people to run.

Last year, Ben was invited to the Houses of Parliament to be involved in a meeting about the gang and gun crime which is so prevalent in inner south Manchester, with funding we received from the home office for our youth club.

Through your giving we have blessed many people with things they wouldn't normally have: young people have been to Soul Survivor; the team went away to get refreshed spiritually; we took some time out ourselves; we took two families out for the evening (they said they felt like they'd been on holiday!); hampers were sent to two families and a foster carer was given some well-earned pampering time.

As always, a huge thank you for the support you so willingly give us through prayer and finance; it really does make a difference to lots of people's lives.

BEN and AMY WOODFIELD

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£1,500 was collected in 2008 from the monthly lunches in the Vineyard in aid of Ben and Amy's ministry.

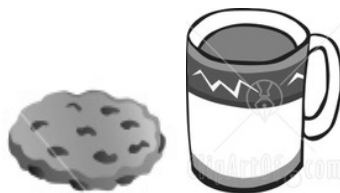
# Meeting Point

Meeting Point started up a couple of years ago when my friendship with Sally Harris was rekindled. I had known Sally and her children some 25 years ago, when I lived in Simmondley. I moved, we lost touch and then Sally and Philip came back to worship at St James'.

Catching up, I was full of admiration for the path their daughter Frances had taken - living in San Francisco helping the street kids, working with the Christian organisation Y.W.A.M. I felt a real warmth and overwhelming desire to help this young woman in the Godly work she was undertaking.

We meet on the fourth Wednesday each month from 10am to midday in my house - Furdal, North Road (01457-863874). Occasionally this is extended and we serve a lunch. There is no charge; we just ask for a donation. Hopefully people will be generous and Frances will be able to continue her work.

We share good fellowship, a decent cup of tea or coffee and juice for the children, who are more than welcome. Sally provides homemade scones and I make a cake or my 'infamous flapjack' (forgive me for my modesty!)



In the beginning we raised quite a bit of money but, of late, numbers have declined, as have the donations. God bless and thank you to the faithful few who turn up month after month. It would be encouraging to have more people join us if only for a short time; you are not expected to stay the full two hours if timing is a problem. Please try and support this very worthwhile cause.

You can find out more about Frances' work by logging onto her webpage: [www.ywamconnect.com/sites/frances](http://www.ywamconnect.com/sites/frances)

# Safeguarding

In 1996 the parish looked at the Home Office document 'Safe from Harm' and the House of Bishops' 'Policy on Child Abuse' to produce our 'Policy Statement and Guidelines' which is now revised annually. In 2002 the Diocese produced 'Child Protection Procedures Safeguarding Children and Young People', which was in line with our comprehensive document. In 2008 they produced a further document containing much from the previous ones, but with one or two amendments. Those with which we need concern ourselves immediately are as follows:

- 1) Everyone must, as in the past, complete a declaration form, but now must also provide two referees.
- 2) CRBs must be obtained and renewed if still working with children and young people. No-one will be allowed to undertake such work until a clear CRB has been returned. Anyone with a CRB for working in any of the professions can submit that for clearance, but not one for working or volunteering elsewhere. The Diocese will pay for all CRBs and renewals.
- 3) The flow chart has changed. This is the procedure we follow if we have a child protection issue that needs investigating.
- 4) The Diocese is requesting that each group leader carry out a risk assessment of the venue in which their group is to meet. These will need to be updated annually or if any new equipment is introduced which could pose a risk in line with 'Health and Safety Procedures'. (Peter Leighton at St Luke's and Jim Wildgoose and Gareth Wood at St James' have offered to help anyone who is unclear what this includes.)
- 5) Groups will be required to keep a register of attendance and a very brief note of what is done, e.g. teaching or activity.
- 6) The Diocese is also requesting that a list of all keyholders is kept, and that they be prepared to be CRB checked as they have access to areas where there could be young people.

The remainder of the procedures are unchanged.

Because of the growth within our churches, Sue Leighton has kindly offered to take on the role of Child Protection Co-ordinator at St Luke's; I will continue at St James'.

I would like to thank everyone who works with our children and young people, not only for the wonderful work that they do, but also for their cheerful co-operation in completing these forms. Thanks are also due to Hilary who so faithfully sends out the reminders to all groups to review our policies and procedures, and updates our document as required.

JAN WILSON

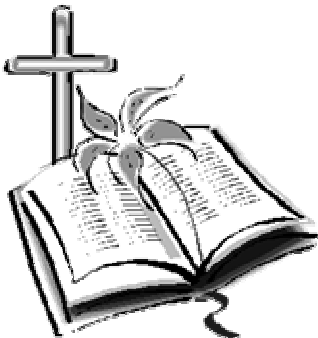


## Notice Board

### BAPTISM

#### At St Luke's

25th Jan Charlotte Ashton



### FUNERALS

#### At St James'

27th Nov Sarah Sidebottom

29th Dec James Jones

30th Jan Kenneth Harrison

#### At St Luke's

6th Jan Grace Wrigley

#### At the Crematorium

6th Jan Maureen Christina  
Scully

winepress... is a magazine serving the Christian congregations in Whitfield Parish, Glossop (MMA 27).

Please take only **1** copy per household to keep down wastage.



We rejoice that our local church has experienced so much growth in recent years. A multitude of groups has sprung up to cater for every aspect of Christian life, all age ranges and interests.

With so much growth, it can be difficult to keep track of what's happening. The aim of this publication is to transmit information between congregations and to keep everyone up to date with who's doing what, and where. Each issue will spotlight different groups, report on events and bring a roundup of news.

Do you have newsworthy items from your congregation for inclusion in winepress? Would you like to report on what your group is doing, or would you like to recommend it to others? Have you an inspiring story to tell?

<sup>1</sup>Please submit articles to [winepress@glossop.org](mailto:winepress@glossop.org)  
or phone Beverley on 862105.