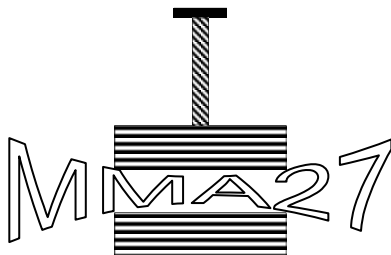


# WINEPRESS



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**November 2009**

# Changing Seasons

*‘Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness’*  
(John Keats in *To Autumn.*)

*“I find your lack of faith - disturbing”*  
(Darth Vader in *Star Wars*, quoted at the beginning  
of Tim Keller’s *The reason for God.*)

In Keller’s excellent book, he seeks to get Christians and non-Christians alike to examine the doubts that they may have about their faith position, pointing out that non-Christians hold just as much a faith position as Christians do. As G.K. Chesterton once famously wrote, *‘When people stop believing in God, they don’t believe in nothing, they believe in anything’*. If people don’t believe in the God of the Bible as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ (...Immanuel means *God with us*), then they *will* believe (an act of faith) in something else, whether it is a ‘lucky’ charm or the National Lottery. Non-Christians should be encouraged to explore the doubts that they have about their existing faith AND about the claims of Jesus. Christians should also be encouraged to examine any doubts that they have about their faith, not thinking that to do so is somehow wrong or that it will bring their whole faith tumbling down. God and his promises can cope with serious scrutiny! And the best way to do that is through prayerfully returning to the eye-witness accounts of the Gospel writers: Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. In preparing for Christmas this autumn and advent, is it time for you to think and pray afresh about that niggling doubt that has been on a back-burner for so many years?

Even with global warming, the changing seasons give us new perspectives on the world around us, and also remind us that

things do change. God stays the same but our lives and his Kingdom are dynamic and ever moving on. When Job (in the Old Testament book of the same name) perceived that his world was falling apart, he still praised God and said *“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.”* Changes in our lives, and in our church family, may not all be as drastic as those experienced by Job, nevertheless change is always a challenge.

As I prepare to leave Whitfield Parish in January, to begin work as Team Rector of Deane Parish in Bolton, I don’t know exactly what the future holds, but I do know that God is with me all the way, and indeed is going ahead of me to prepare the way. After nine and a half years on the staff of Whitfield Parish, I have gained many new friends (and some new God-children!) here and I have had the privilege of being alongside so many people as pastor and fellow Christ-follower in their highs and lows. I have also seen God at work in the lives of hundreds of people, adults, teens and children, gradually leading them towards maturity in Christ. Having had particular responsibility for St Luke’s these past five years, I have been especially encouraged by the growth, numerically and in spiritual maturity, within that congregation. This gospel fruit must not now be allowed to wither on the branch. Future staffing and parish organisation are key, as is allowing congregations to develop in the way that God wants them to develop. There is no one, God-ordained way of ‘doing church’. There never was! St Luke’s is more conservative-evangelical. St James’ is more charismatic-evangelical. There is nothing wrong with that and the two can compliment each other.



When the leaves are falling off the trees and the nights are drawing in, things can seem bleak, and yet it is also the season of mellow fruitfulness!

TERRY CLARK

# Tribute to Terry



Terry Clark has been in Whitfield Parish for nine years, since 2000. During his three years as curate he brought about growth both in numbers and faith, particularly at St Luke's. Such was his impact, that at the end of his curacy he was asked by the PCC to stay on as Associate Minister with responsibility for St Luke's. Sadly for us, God has now called Terry to move on to be Team Rector in Deane Parish in the Manchester Diocese.

During his time with us, Terry has inspired many people through his sound Bible-based teaching and discipleship. He has formed good relationships with all ages; I think that most of us will keep a picture in our minds of him moving on his knees along the communion rail to give each young person a blessing! He has become a friend to large numbers of people who warm to his gentleness, kindness and his (often a bit strange) sense of humour.

Until 2008, Terry was co-ordinator of LIFE groups, always making himself available to leaders for pastoral matters. At St Luke's he has been the force behind setting up various groups - Karibuni, Messy Church and FUSION, to name just a few. He has chaired three missions to the parish involving teams from Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Further outreach has been achieved through his strengthening of links with St Luke's School, where he has been made welcome for assemblies and the I.C.T. club he runs with Tom Rank. Pupils, staff and parents attend services in church and the children enjoy seeing him.

Terry has contributed much to the fabric of St Luke's Church. He has been responsible for creating the audio/visual desk; when opening up the desks we always wonder what changes/improvements we are likely to find - a monitor added or taken away - he likes to keep us on our toes! He improved the facilities in crèche, increasing the area to accommodate the

growing number of youngsters. When new carpet had been put down and I asked him who had fitted it, he replied, “I did - I did a week’s course on carpet fitting at vicar school”! He and a small team created a very useful space in the old boiler room where BIG now meets on Sunday mornings and other groups during the week. There are many other facilities that Terry has created or improved - the list is endless.

The growth in attendance and number of groups meeting in church highlighted the need for more space and improved facilities. Terry headed up a team to think about the best way to achieve this. Building project plans have been drawn and money has started to be given or pledged. Unfortunately, he won’t be around to see the completion of the work.

Deane Parish is very fortunate to be acquiring Terry as their Team Rector and it is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to him in January. I’m sure Whitfield Parish wishes him well and I know that Terry would welcome prayer for his move and new ministry. His D.I.Y. skills in a 15<sup>th</sup> century church building will be put to good use, I’m sure! So goodbye Terry and thank you for everything you have done for us.

GILL DAWSON

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## Drama Group

A small group of acting enthusiasts now meets in St Luke's Room on Wednesdays at 7.45pm to rehearse sketches for performance in services. Drama enables us to take an alternative look at aspects of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian. Jesus used many visual illustrations to make his teaching accessible to everyone or to make people think; that will be our aim also.

All are welcome. whether experienced or not. If acting is not your forte, you might be able to help with costumes, props or special effects. Perhaps you have a gift for scriptwriting. Why not come along and give it a try?

DOROTHY RANK

# God Given

'God Given' is the monthly parish leaflet which provides a place for church members to communicate the needs of ourselves and those known to us and for us to be able to respond to those needs directly, in line with our God-given gifts and abilities.

Since its launch in October 2007, it has been amazing to see how God's faithfulness and that of His people have provided help, services and material goods to those in our church and community. People have given help with house moves and all the extra hard work which goes along with that; decorating, putting shelves up, gardening etc. Some have helped those needing assistance with shopping, ironing, cooking, cleaning, lifts to hospital etc.

The 'Freely Given' section has been the busiest part of the leaflet, where people have offered items which they no longer need. Items pass very quickly through this section. Giving is a blessing because God delights in a joyful giver and the following

"I received offers from two people of bread makers and two others of George Forman grills... it was just on the off-chance I put the appeal in for my daughter. I was able to give one lady my ice-cream maker in return for her bread maker!"

*One man gives freely, yet gains even more. (Pr 11:24)*

"I've been advertising items for my parents who have down-sized from a four-bed to a two-bed bungalow. They aren't regular church-goers and don't readily think to give things away. They've now been blessed with an electric wheelchair for Dad that originally belonged to a church member's late parents!"

testimonies speak of His goodness.

For some people, receiving free help can feel uncomfortable, but sharing joyfully is pleasing to our Lord and the more we do it, the more we find pleasure in it. I would like to encourage everyone to enjoy the blessings of giving and receiving freely.

# Revelation Live at Harleys

'Revelation Live' is a youth service run by Whitfield parish for young people in school years 9 and above. It is an engaging, interactive service that includes a worship session, an inspirational talk and a ministry and prayer time. The talk is usually related to issues young Christians today face in their day to day lives. This youth service is normally held once a month at St. James Church, but on the 18th of October, Revelation Live went to Harleys Bar in Glossop.

This took Revelation Live into the community to a new, exciting venue. We had a hip-hop workshop before the service, run by Leon from 'thebandwithnoname', in which young people could express their praise to God in new, inventive ways by writing and performing a rap. The different groups then performed their raps to each other and then again in the youth service.



The service had young people from four different churches in the area attending: St James', St Luke's, Carmel Hadfield and Carmel Denton. It was an opportunity for young people from different churches to meet together and enjoy worshipping and praising God. Leon gave an inspirational testimony which was followed by a talk about God's purposes in life. The youth band, made up of young people from St James', played a new worship song as well as some old favourites, enabling everyone to engage in worship. The service showed that you don't have to be in a church to praise God.

I found the Revelation Live service very inspirational and beneficial to me as a young Christian and feel that it had a great impact on those present. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and enabled the youth to have fun, make new friends and learn about God.

RACHEL RYAN

# Is it Good to Do Things out of Habit?

I suppose that depends on the habit. If I have to dash out without cleaning my teeth, I feel conscious of my neglect, even if no one else knows. It's the same when I miss my Bible reading - and, like tooth-brushing, this goes back to a habit learnt whilst young. The example of my parents and encouragement at Crusader Bible class and holidays have made me a life-long follower of the Scripture Union method. The daily reading and commentary provide me with a framework that keeps me in touch with God's word.



The Bible offers some of the best commentary on itself - my readings in Proverbs shed valuable light on our recent Life Group studies in James, for example. "Keep the passage open so you can check what I'm saying," our preachers say. Regular personal Bible reading provides us with additional context, whether on Sunday, at a mid-week group or in casual conversation.

What works for me won't suit everyone. I use Scripture Union's *Encounter with God* and enjoy working through a whole book, along with contrasting passages and a psalm at weekends. You might prefer *Word for Today*, which uses different parts of the Bible each day - free copies are at the back of church. There are other aids for readers of all ages; Kathryn and Richard England write for *Closer to God*, for those wanting a fresh look at how God speaks to us. Parents will find guidance to get children started on the Bible in the leaflet *My Child, the Bible and Me* (at the back of church). And what about teenagers who 'don't like reading'? Is listening to the Bible on an iPod an adequate alternative? I personally prefer a real book, but it's what's effective that matters. After all, I now use an electric toothbrush!

Which Bible reading methods work for you? Where would you like more help? Why not discuss this at a Life Group meeting?

TOM RANK

For a range of notes see [scriptureunion.org.uk](http://scriptureunion.org.uk) or [ucb.co.uk](http://ucb.co.uk)

# Looking Outwards

'Outlook' was the brainchild of Rhena Taylor. She had been a missionary in Kenya and her whole desire as a Christian had been to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. When she came to the end of her time of service overseas, she directed her energies towards setting up an organisation to reach seniors. After many setbacks, Outlook was born. We were privileged to have Rhena visit us in Whitfield for a few days. She was a real character and fired us with her enthusiasm. Her play, *Good Heavens*, includes real-life testimonies from seniors; she roped us in to perform it in St James', Top Chapel, New Mills, Macclesfield and Southall.

A group of Outlook members from various denominations of churches in Greater Manchester meets twice every year at different venues. In October it was Whitfield's turn to organise and host the meeting. We held a time of worship and then had opportunity to share the variety of ways ministry to the elderly happens in each church. Through discussion we learn from, and are encouraged by, each other. Afterwards, we ate together and chatted (the modern term is 'networking'). Rob and Judith had been to the annual Outlook conference, so in the afternoon Judith entertained us with an amusing but thoughtful résumé of Bishop Gavin Reid's conference talks.\*



We thank God for the ministry to the elderly in Whitfield Parish; visits to nursing homes and Toga activities have been going on for many years, led by dedicated teams. Outlook has helped us and many others to encourage, develop and deepen this ministry. Through being part of the organization, we are talking and praying with those who have been, like us, called to share our Christian faith with the elderly, and together we have lots of fun doing it.

THE OUTLOOK TEAM

\* Available from Judith & Rob on DVD

# Our Little Book Club

Learning to read can be a struggle, but what freedom it gives us when we master it. As a child I loved books and couldn't get enough. My mother was always trying to get me to go outside to play; I preferred to stay in and read. A torch under the bed sheet did not go down well either!

Now I am able to share my love of reading with others as four of us get together once a month at Connie's to discuss the Christian books we have been reading. Connie's hospitality is five-star; we begin with a cup of tea, scrumptious piece of cake, or scones with clotted cream and jam, all home-made of course.

Last month we met in the Parish Library. This a wonderful resource, for which we have Beverley and Paul Woolley to thank. They must have spent hundreds of hours cataloguing the books, tapes, videos, music cds etc. I'm sure we could use it more.

Over the last few months we have read *The Shack* (Wm. Paul Young), *Redeeming Love* (Francine Rivers), *God on Mute* (Pete Greig), *Vicar of Baghdad* (Canon Andrew White), Four of John Ortberg's books, and now we are looking at *My Donkey Body* (Revd Chris Wenham) and *Child of the Covenant* (Michele Guinness).

We share a little précis of each book, then talk about how it was written and whether any parts were difficult to understand. We discuss whether it has been helpful in any practical or spiritual way and whether there are lessons which could be applied in our own lives.

I love our time together. It's not only the books we discuss; the content opens up areas we enjoy sharing and chatting about. Through it we have laughed a lot, got to know each other,

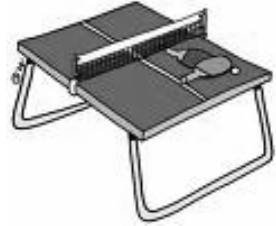
*Thank you, Lord, for the wonderful gift of reading.*

prayed and helped each other on our Christian way.

# Accelerate

'Accelerate' is our brand new group for young people in school years 7 to 9. It meets from 6.30 to 7.45pm on Monday nights every week during term time.

It's a place to meet God, make friends and have fun (especially the last bit!) We start with games and fun right across both floors of the Vineyard, including table tennis, Scalextric, arts and crafts, Nintendo Wii, and lots more.



From 7.15pm we have a time of excellent Bible teaching followed by the chance to catch up with each other in cell group time. This term we're looking at the fundamentals of being a Christian, based on John 3.16: *God Loved, God Gave, We Believe, We Receive.*

If you or someone in your family is in Y7-9, why not check out Accelerate? This is not life standing still ...

RICHARD ENGLAND



## Notice Board

### FUNERALS

At St James'

Oct 13th Leah Georgia Cope

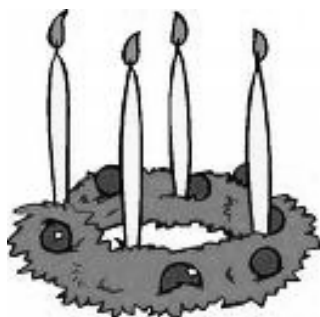
At St Luke's

Oct 7th Peter Stuart Miller  
Oct 23rd Joan Parkin.

**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.

*During this Advent*



*Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus*

It can be difficult to keep track of all the different interest groups within our parish. The aim of this publication is to keep everyone up to date with who's doing what, where.

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?

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