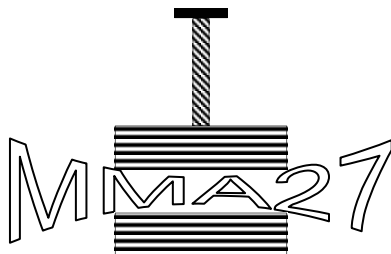


# WINEPRESS



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**March 2010**

# The Start of Another Season

One of the great things about living in Britain is the changing of the seasons; one never gets bored of them. Just as we get used to the colours and coldness of winter, along comes spring with its bird song and green shoots, and so the changes go on throughout the year. Yet each season depends on another. Vegetation could not burst into life each spring if it had not rested during the previous winter.

Church life should be like this too. God is always on the move and, although the content of the Christian faith never changes, the way we communicate and celebrate it will change according to the place and time we live. As God moves a church on, it's as though the life of the church is going from one season to another, yet the season to come depends on the season before. That is exciting as it demonstrates that we are serving a living God who is aware of and understands our circumstances and cares for us.



We said farewell to Kizzy Darashah, our youth worker, last autumn. We then said goodbye to Terry Clark, our Associate Minister, in January. In between, our Parish Administrator, Hilary Collard, has started an exciting new job in Manchester. So now we look forward, mindful of and thankful for their contributions, to the new thing God has in store for us next.

Whatever that may be, it will be built on the work of last season but it will not be the same and it will certainly be new, like new green spring shoots. I view 2010 as the start of another season in the life of Whitfield Parish.



The 'Way Ahead' paper is the structure for this new season. If you have not yet read it, copies are available in our buildings (St James', St Luke's, The Vineyard) or from me. Two of the main themes of this vision paper are:

- Firstly, the need for us all to work together, owning the ministry of each congregation or organisation and cheering each other on.
- Secondly, the importance of a strong Leadership Team made up of the paid staff.

Could I ask for prayer as the process of appointing a new Associate Minister has now begun? Advertisements for the post were published from 19th February and ran for three weeks. The closing date for applications has now passed and a team is considering each application prior to interviews taking place.

Whatever the future holds, it is my personal belief that God is calling us to a season of mission. I feel increasingly sure that he wants us to look up to Him and reach out to our community. We look up to receive His power to enable us to reach out with the love and good news of Jesus. We have good news. Let's share it! My prayer is that our next season will be a season of harvest.

COLIN COOPER

## Input needed from YOU!

News items and articles of genuine interest are required on a regular basis to make Winepress interesting and stimulating. Could you report on an event which your interest group has staged? How about sharing with others what it means to you to be a member of our church? Would you like to let people know of new developments in the parish? If so, please let us know. We want the magazine to reflect the fact that Whitfield Parish is a vibrant and exciting place to be.



# New Mums and Babies Venture

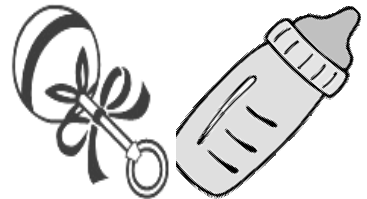


How many families on your street can you think of who have pre-school aged children? And how many with new babies? There are so many families with young children and babies in our community, and families need friendship and support and encouragement... which is why there are so many toddler groups around!

Being a new mum can be the best and scariest time in equal measure. I don't think anything can fully prepare you for the experience of being a mum. It can be a really exciting, but challenging and difficult time of adjustment. A new mum can feel all sorts of emotions; it really can be a roller coaster (and some people like roller coasters a whole lot more than others!).

## How did the new mums and babies group get started?

We were prompted to start a group for new mums and their babies by a series of events and conversations which fitted together like puzzle pieces, and really seemed to point us quite clearly towards serving the community in this way:



- A group of seven new mums with their babies came to the See and Know group, but really just wanted a place to meet up regularly for friendship and support rather than a toddler group.
- We heard that Health Visitors in the town were no longer able to provide postnatal groups for any new mums.
- The Vineyard was free on a Thursday afternoon.

## What is the idea for the group?

The idea is to provide a place to meet with other new mums and babies, to form friendships and support which are so vital when you have a new baby. It isn't a toddler group, but we do have toys out, for babies and for older siblings. We provide a friendly, welcoming venue to meet, the kettle is permanently on, and there are refreshments.

## When did the group start?

We started the group in November 2009. I am very pleased to have Fiona Harrison and Mel Quinn helping, and a number of others who have expressed an interest in being involved. At present, we have had a slow start in terms of numbers attending, but we have been supported by church mums with new babies. It's early days.



## What about the future?

I think we have to be patient, keep praying for God to show us His way for this group, let people know about the group, and not give up, even if numbers are low.

KATHY LEASON

*For more information contact Kathy (tel. 863586, email [bandkleason@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bandkleason@tiscali.co.uk)) or pop into the Vineyard on a Thursday between 12.45 - 2.45pm during term time.*

Jesus took the little children in his arms,  
put his hands on them and blessed them.

*Mark 10:16*

# Don't Read These Bible Notes!

Last Winepress, Tom Rank mentioned notes written by the Englands to aid Bible reading. We asked Richard to tell us more ...

As you may know, Kathryn and I write notes for Scripture Union, a Christian publishing company. You'll find a week or two written by one of us maybe twice a year in the *Closer to God* series.

And... I don't want you to read them.

Kathryn and I put a lot of effort into these little Bible notes. We try to listen to God about what to draw out of each day's Bible reading (not an easy thing in only 290 words) and often try to link the week's reading to a larger theme which we draw out in the *Going Deeper* and *Looking Outwards* sections at the end of the week.

Yet... I still don't want you to read them.

The reason I don't want you to read them is that I want you to build a relationship with the Bible for yourself. I don't want you to have a second-hand relationship with the Bible where you read a passage and then turn to notes like *Closer to God* to hear what someone else thinks about it. If Bible notes ever become a substitute for an individual wrestling with the Bible itself, we should chuck them out.

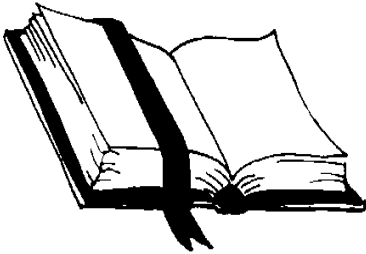
So, how can you use Bible notes like *Closer to God* to the best effect? Let me suggest a way. Find a series that seems to scratch where you itch (there are plenty of good ones out there). Then give yourself an extra five minutes between reading the Bible passage and reading the notes. In those five minutes, quietly mull over what you've just read and what jumps out at you. Write it down. Only then turn to the notes and see how similar or different the writer's comments are. This way, you build your own history with the Bible, as well as learning from someone else's.

Now... I **DO** want you to read them!

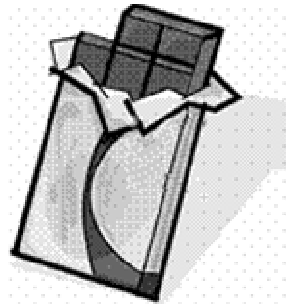
RICHARD ENGLAND

# Fusion Cell

In the last few months before Terry left, he set up a new fusion cell group for 14-18 year olds, consisting of just four lads meeting on a Wednesday night for an hour or so, reading the bible and praying. Since he left, we have carried on meeting and even without him, the essential ingredients are still there. We have St Luke's gospel, six enquiring minds, a large set of instant retorts and responses for the banter, several running jokes and a decent chocolate supply.



We also have a theme. With one eye on the road ahead and the other on the basic facts of the world about us, our theme is 'Life isn't fair'. We illustrate this regularly during the evening with increasingly uneven distributions of biscuit, cake and chocolate. These give the happy recipient ample opportunity to demonstrate practical love and sharing - and his three colleagues an opportunity to practice forgiveness when he just scoffs the lot.



We learn a lot. *I've* discovered that what we need is extra supplies of supper and a secure safe to hide the remaining chocolate as four hungry teenagers mill around the kitchen afterwards, scavenging all available resources. They tend to concentrate first on my tea, and then on the bread I need for tomorrow's sandwiches, citing our theme at me as it disappears. *My girls* (4 and 6 years old) have learnt that all the rules about kitchen behaviour that they thought were inviolate, are, in fact, not. Already, 'being a teenager' is associated in their minds with happy episodes of law-breaking and havoc-causing, all of which seem to get rewarded with chocolate.

continued over

Debris cleared aside, what I enjoy and remember most each evening is getting into the Bible, learning, slowly, to pray and discover God. Listening to young people take the Bible seriously is wonderful and so is seeing what it does to their lives.

As Colin often says - more is possible. I don't mean more chocolate or injustice in this instance, but more wonderful, God-centered times. We hope to be getting these in August when some of us go to Colwyn Bay in North Wales. If you are 14-18 years old then check out this exciting Venture Camp and consider coming along with us. You can find out all about it at [www.colwynbay4.org.uk](http://www.colwynbay4.org.uk), or by talking to myself or others who have attended in previous years.

DAN BROCKINGTON

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## Alternative Singing Group

Ever had a thought and wondered if anyone else had been thinking the same thing? Or ever had an idea and wondered how on earth it could get off the ground? This was exactly what happened on the Growing Leaders Course run at St Luke's in 2009.

It wasn't planned or predicted. Sharing a lift to the first meeting in South Derbyshire was an opportunity to chat with people I wouldn't normally have had the chance to spend time with. As the course developed, discussions, prayer and friendships evolved and ideas around potential opportunities for alternative music formats to complement and co-exist alongside the existing group already established at St Luke's began to crystallise.



As time progressed, a couple of people from the course came forward to say they would like to take part in any future developments. This was a great encouragement. I spent time in the late summer sourcing some modern but highly congregational, easy to learn pieces of music. I borrowed from St James' music

collection as well as searching the internet and meeting with people who came forward with music they had heard and liked.

The group has so far been run on a very low key basis for a number of reasons:

- We all have other commitments to balance alongside this group - practises are scheduled when all are free and a venue available; there isn't a regular rehearsal night;
- We needed to see how the group would gel and understand our capabilities to see how viable the group could be;
- The initial idea was to be small enough to enable fellowship amongst the group - an ongoing development.
- I needed to understand if the types of music identified matched the expectations that we'd talked about.

We sang our first songs in church on the Sunday of Terry's leaving service. The group serves the purpose of offering different, flexible music and audio-visual worship-leading opportunities. Hopefully, it will inspire anyone who does not sing currently in the existing group, but has a passion for praise and worship, to express an interest and join us. We're still learning, building a repertoire, and building confidence in leading worship. But we're up and running!



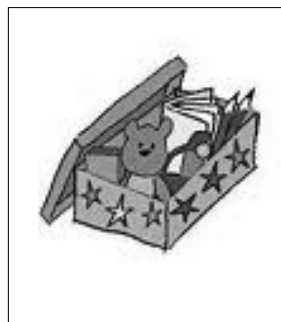
The existing music group leaders and musicians have been highly supportive. I've contacted BIG - all the young ones are so busy and some of their commitments clash on days when we have rehearsed - but there could be opportunities to sing, or help on the sound deck with support from trained technicians, or join in with different percussion instruments.

I have no idea how the group will develop in the future. I'm sure God knows. If it's right for St Luke's you may see (and hear) a bit more of us.

CAROLE HALLAM

# Operation Christmas Child

Last November, members of the Whitfield Parish congregations rose to the 'credit crunch' challenge of donating over a hundred shoe boxes to Samaritans' Purse for their Operation Christmas Child project. Each box, wrapped in Christmas paper, contained toys, items of clothing, stationery and other gifts for children living in difficult circumstances. The boxes were collected for transportation to Eastern Europe and Africa. These Christmas gifts brought some of the joy of the season to children who would otherwise have received nothing.



For many years, the Guides and local schools and churches have enjoyed the pleasure of making up these boxes. Members of St James and St Lukes' were keen to be involved, and adults as well as children supported the project. The final total was about 120 boxes, which is our best effort yet. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this tremendous result.

JUDITH WOODWARD



Please keep this project in mind throughout the year. Save shoe boxes and store them in readiness, as most shoe shops are inundated with requests for boxes in October and they can be hard to come by. Also, in the busy run-up to Christmas, it can be difficult to find time to pack and wrap the boxes, so prepare early. Let's see if we can break our own impressive record next time!

(Ed.)

*For more information, visit [www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk](http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk)*



# Notice Board

## BAPTISMS

### At St James'

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> Abigale Willcock  
Mar 14<sup>th</sup> Annabella Lena  
Ellis  
Mar 14<sup>th</sup> Skye Hayla Wood

### At St Luke's

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Thomas Charles  
Davies  
Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Rory Goddard  
Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> Lillie Rose Tagg

## WEDDING

### At St Luke's

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> Craig Goddard & Helen Katherine Parsons

## FUNERALS

### At St James'

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Marjorie Roberts  
Nov 20<sup>th</sup> Mary Elizabeth  
Patterson  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Sybil Jeacott  
Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> Peggy Birchenough  
Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Margery Elizabeth  
Taylor  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Christine Fallows  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Colin Arrowsmith  
Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth May  
Osbaldeston  
Mar 11<sup>th</sup> Brenda Clinton

### At St Luke's

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Olive Phyllis  
Cuthbert  
Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Frances Elizabeth  
Williams  
Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Christine Hall  
Mar 8<sup>th</sup> Doris Bowden



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

Please take only **1** copy per household.



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