

Trinity News

April 2007

Look at the evidence

In Brief

Easter services

Thursday 5 April (Maundy Thursday)

7.30pm: Celebration of the Last Supper.

Good Friday 6 April.

10.30am: Watch this space?????????

2pm: Last hour at the cross

Easter Sunday 8 April.

8am: Holy Communion.

10.30am: Family service with Communion.

Parish Away Day

Don't miss out! Put it in your diary now! Its going to be good so come along....! To what? The Heworth Parish Away Day, of course, on Saturday 19 May at the Quiet Garden, Sherriff Hutton. Everyone is welcome – more details to come soon.

A small boy was in the car with his parents and, to pass the time, suggested that they all sing something. When asked what he would like to sing he said: "The gravy song!"

Both parents racked their brains but could not think what song he could mean. When they asked him to sing it to them he sang, at the top of his voice, his version of a famous Easter Hymn: "Up from the grave arose."

Hardly has Christmas finished before Easter Eggs appear in the

shops. Easter is celebrated with great enthusiasm by most households yet many, like the little boy, will enjoy the trappings and miss the heart of the message: that Christ is risen from the dead.

The resurrection of Jesus is at the very heart of the Christian faith.

St Paul wrote: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men."

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Holy Trinity Services

First Sunday of the month

8am: BCP Holy Communion
10.30am: Morning Prayer
4pm: Sunday Plus meeting in Holy Trinity Church Hall

Second Sunday

9.15am: Morning Prayer
10.30am: Trinity Praise

Third Sunday

8am: BCP Holy Communion
10.30am: Morning Prayer

Fourth Sunday

10.30am: Communion

Fifth Sunday

10.30am: BCP Holy Communion
6.30pm: Heworth Churches Together - rotating around the member churches

Wednesdays

9.30am: Holy Communion

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What sets Christianity apart from all other religions and philosophies is the death and resurrection of Jesus.

If this is an historical event then God really has dealt with sin, forgiveness is a reality, and we can be sure that death is not a final destination but a gateway to the richness of sharing Resurrection Life with Jesus.

St Paul continued with: "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead". He was so confident in the resurrection that he was prepared to sacrifice all to share the news. But can we be so confident?

As a teenager, impressed with the Christians I had met but a long way from being convinced they were right, I decided to look at the evidence for the resurrection myself.

My first question was: "Is there any reason for believing the accounts of Jesus' life, death and supposed resurrection?"

I was amazed to find that his life, death and the proclamation of the

early Church that He had risen, was recorded by non-Christian historians.

The obvious question to follow was, "What happened to the body?" What if, I thought, the women had been so upset that they had gone to

" Like many wiser people before and since, I came to the realisation that the only explanation is that Jesus really was raised from the dead. "

the wrong tomb on that first Easter Sunday?

But that does not explain how the disciples ran to the same tomb, nor why no-one went to the right tomb later, nor why the guards had also been at that tomb.

I then looked at several possible candidates who might have taken the

body, but none of them made any sense of the overpowered guards, the failure of any opponents to produce the body, and the willingness of the Disciples to die in order to proclaim the resurrection.

Similarly the suggestion that Jesus was not dead after all, but somehow revived in the tomb, is just incompatible with the evidence.

Like many wiser people before and since, I came to the realisation that the only explanation is that Jesus really was raised from the dead.

If he has power over death then all his claims to be the Son of God who forgives sins and calls us to give our lives to him also make sense.

This Easter take the time to examine the evidence for yourself and then come and join in as we proclaim:

"Christ is risen,
He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!"

*Yours sincerely
Michael*

Annual meeting

The DCC annual meeting will be held this Monday 26 March, 8pm, in Holy Trinity Church.

Annual meetings may not be your normal cup of tea but this year everyone is being encouraged to make it a priority because of the importance of some of the items being discussed.

On the agenda will be:

- Reports from church organisations
- Voting for members of the Church Council

- Discussion about service times following the new 9.15am and Trinity praise on the 2nd Sundays. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion before a decision is taken.

- Update on exciting building plans
- Discussion about possible new appointments and their financial implications.

If you want to know what is happening and have your say, you really cannot afford to miss it.

It makes you think ...

How are we doing financially? At the last DCC meeting we realised that we are not doing as well as we could financially and that church progress is considerably hampered as a result.

Only extraordinary situations prevented us spending £4,000 more than we received. An average increase in giving of £6 per adult per month would cover that shortfall – and if that was increased to an increase of £21 per adult per month we could afford to employ a part time Personal Assistant and half a Youth and children's worker.

Some people need to hear from God that they are already giving all they should but maybe others could afford to give not only the increase for themselves but to also cover the increase of those who cannot afford it. It makes you think!

In Brief

School service

Heworth Primary School's Easter Service will take place this Friday 30 March, 9.30am. Coffee will be served from 9am.

Crafty ideas

Would you like to have a dabble at trying a craft or two? Then join Ann Bowes in the church hall 10am – 3.30pm on Saturday 21 April and help raise church funds. Lots of crafts will be available for you to try (eg quilling, rubber stamping, egg decorating, cross stitch and lots more) There will be a charge of £3 for the day (or £1.50 a session) including drinks (bring your own pack up!) Donations to cover the cost of materials will be requested, but all profits will go to church funds. If you are interested, please contact Ann Bowes, Pauline Clarke or a church warden.

Grass cutting

The grass cutting season is now upon us. Holy Trinity relies on volunteers to cut the grass around the church. If you could offer to cut the grass for a couple of weeks, then please sign on the list at the back of church. Many thanks.

Goodbye and thank you

Helen, Neil Rachel and Hannah have been part of the church family for around two years but have recently moved on to Cambridgeshire. Neil has been re-located with British Sugar.

Helen wrote the following by way of a goodbye to all the family's friends at Holy Trinity.

"To all our friends at Holy Trinity. As many of you know we will be moving from Heworth to Cambridgeshire in mid-February. This is due to York British Sugar factory closing and Neil being relocated to another site.

We would like to thank you for your kindness and friendship since we started attending Holy Trinity. The 'Forty days of purpose' last year really changed my (Helen) relationship with God and helped me to find the courage to go to a house group, which I have found so fulfilling.

Hannah's christening was a day to cherish and we have so many other fond memories of Holy Trinity. I can only



hope and pray that we will find another church as welcoming as yours.

Wishing you all the best for the future.

*Helen, Neil, Rachel and
Hannah*

Giles and Annie Roberts – A New Chapter

Berega Hospital has its first Tanzanian Director! We are excited about this development in the hospital's history but not naïve enough to think it will solve everything!

After years of having Missionaries in charge this change has left many of our Tanzanian colleagues and neighbours feeling very insecure and uncertain.

Giles was offered the post by the Bishop but we felt from a mission/development point of view this would not be progress. Also as a family we are aware that our time here is limited and for Giles to take on such a key role for a short time would be a 'sticking plaster' solution.

Pastor Mgego has been appointed by Bishop Mageni to the position. He has recently finished studying Theology in Kenya. His wife and three young children are still there while she completes her degree in communications.

Today we said goodbye to Noj and Mary Northway and family. Noj was Medical Officer in Charge of the Hospital, and Mary, when not at home with their boys, was involved with the community health programme and the TB Ward. This is the closing of a 10 year chapter for them.

A New Challenge....

For Giles as he agreed to temporarily manage the hospital, in addition to his normal workload, until Pastor Mgego takes up his post in April. There are huge challenges to meet, perhaps the two most pressing are large scale theft and severe understaffing. Both need great wisdom.

For Pastor Mgego this is also a new challenge. Quite understandably he is nervous about the dramatic change in his 'career' from Bible teacher to Hospital Manager. He has never managed an institution of this size before. But he has a heart to serve God wherever and is aware that it is in God's strength he will serve here. A good foundation for all he will have to deal with.

When Pastor Mgego arrives Giles will continue as "Financial Controller" working alongside the existing accountant and in an advisory capacity.

Praise

- For the work and impact of the Northway family over ten years in Berega
- For the appointment of a Tanzanian to lead the hospital
- For Pastor Mgego's heart to serve
- That we don't face these challenges alone!

Prayer

- Please we would ask specifically that you commit (daily? weekly?) to pray for Pastor Mgego. In March he will be in Kenya for the first of three short courses on Hospital Management. He will leave his family there. He needs huge wisdom and faces a difficult job and opposition.
- Please pray for Giles as he carries the extra responsibility of the hospital. For wisdom in knowing what to tackle and what to leave.
- Understaffing is crippling the hospital. Giles will be working on local recruitment with the management team but also needs to fill the two key positions of doctor and Assistant Matron/Nurse tutor. Do you know anyone or a mission organisation which maybe able to help?
- For the Northway family as they 'grieve' leaving Berega and all it meant to them and move on into new jobs.
- For us as a family as we explore possibilities for the future. Giles' building contract should be finished by April and Home School is not a long term option.

Thank you for all your love, support and prayers.

*Love
Giles, Annie, Tom & Jake*

Book reviews

Baby Prayers – Sarah Toulmin & Kristina Stephenson.
Lion Children's – ISBN 978 07459 60135

What makes these two books stand out from other children's bible and prayer books is their adorable and charming illustrations.

Kristina Stephenson's cheerful artwork will delight baby and adult alike. Look out for the dancing teddy bear and playful toys as the babies play with their food and help with the laundry. The artwork complements the prayers so well.

It is clear that Sarah Toulmin draws on her experience as a busy mother to offer heart-warming prayers about all the things in a baby's life, using simple words and ideas that even the youngest of children can grasp.

I loved the features that offer gentle and reassuring advice for parents who want to

learn to say prayers with and for their baby. It makes an ideal gift for friends and relatives who are getting their child christened or baptized.

Baby Prayers comes from the same author/illustrator team as the Baby Bible and is the perfect companion volume.

Baby Bible – Sarah Toulmin & Kristina Stephenson.
ISBN 978 07459 49949

Also available as gift editions.

Baby Boy Bible 978 07459 49710
Baby Girl Bible 978 07459 49734

Letters From Home
Our Father's Message of Love
By Neil Goodman
Monarch ISBN 978 185424 8039

This is a fantastic little book and only £4.99 too!

Neil Goodman has brought together about 1,000 bible verses to write this book.

The letters are intensely moving, expressing the Father's love for his people and, in particular me, the reader. Every line of every letter is taken from a verse of scripture and each letter is on a basic Christian theme – God's character, His nature, our forgiveness and eternal life. I highly recommend this book – it sheds much light on our beliefs and shows exactly what the Bible says and where it says it.

It's a fresh new exciting look at the very essence of faith both passionate and heart-warming.

A brilliant book to reaffirm who we are in God and a great gift for anyone who needs encouraging.

Julian Sandell

All the books featured are available from SPCK or Waterstone's.

Contacts

The Rev Michael Woodmansey
Heworth Rectory
Melrosegate
Heworth
York
YO31 0RP

T: (01904) 422958
E: Michael@mwoodmansey.freeseerve.co.uk

Kate Wiley
Evangelism Facilitator

T: (01904) 421775
E: Kate.Wiley@btinternet.com

Trinity News

The next editions of the newsletter will be as follows:

Distributed: Sunday 27th May

Submission deadline:

Friday 18 May

Please send all submissions to:
Emma Edmunds
9 Kings Acre
York
YO31 0PH
E: emma.edmunds@fsmail.net
T: (01904) 415431

Monday Fellowship

The programme for the Monday Fellowship Group is as follows:

9 April: Holy week meditation – committee

23 April: Karen Hill Tribes Trust – News from Thailand

14 May: Day in the life of the Head Verger at the Minster – Mr Carbery

28 May: To be announced

11 June: Flying with the North Yorks Air Ambulance

25 June: Summer outing – venue to be announced.

New members are always welcome, male or female, of any age. For further information, please contact Judy Gill on 01904 656876.

Mid week events in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Melrosegate

Monday (2nd & 4th): **Monday Fellowship:** 2.30pm-4pm

Tuesday: **Play and Praise:** 1.30pm-3pm (term time only)
(worship and play for all pre-school children and parents/carers)

Kids Plus: 5.30pm-6.30pm (term time only)
(6-11-year-olds)

Wednesday: **Brownies** 5.45pm-7.15pm (term time only)

Thursday: **Mothers Union:** 2pm-4pm (1st only)
Guides: 7pm – 9pm (term time only)