

7th December 2008

**Our Church exists:**

To introduce people to Jesus Christ, equip people with a faith that works in real life and encourage people to make an impact wherever God sends us.

If you would like to come along to one of our weekly Life Groups, please speak to Julie.

**Before Service Prayer Time**

Please feel free to join those who pray before the service at 10:15 am in the coffee lounge.

**After Service Prayer**

The Prayer team are available to pray individually with people after the service, so please go to the back at the end of the service.

**Contact Info**

If you have any articles, stories or any other item that you wish to include in Breakthrough, please contact me, Matt, either by snail-mail, e-mail, telephone, or find me in church.

**Deadline Thursday noon**

Mail: 29 Lambs Farm Road  
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Phone: 01403 262660

Our website can be found at:

[www.life-baptist.org.uk](http://www.life-baptist.org.uk)

Spread the word!  
Tell your Friends!

A very warm welcome to our service today which is when our Life groups come together for worship.

If you're visiting us for the first time, you are invited to fill in a visitors card, which you'll find in the reception area. If you have children under 3, you're invited to take them to our parent & baby room when the other children leave. Please ask someone from the welcome team to show you where this room is. After the service, please feel free to stay behind and join us for a coffee.

Today's Service

Today Maureen is leading and Julie completes our series on The Life of David with 'Leaving a legacy'

**Life Latest...**

Special Church Members Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December

There will be a brief church members meeting after the service next week to discuss and vote on the proposal that we allow the House Deacons to consider purchase offers less than £200,000 but in accordance with the Market Value as indicated by a qualified Surveyor, approved by BUC and a willingness to sell from the Carrs. There are no buyers at the moment and we are seeking to let the property but if there is a buyer interested in the meantime it would be helpful to be able to act quickly and not have to arrange and wait for another special church meeting to agree the price.

Men's Christmas Do Update

Calling all Life Men! - Today is your last chance to sign up for the Men's Christmas Do, on Thursday 11th December at the Hornbrook.

Could those that have registered an interest, please let Simon have their £5 deposits today if they have not done so already. Many thanks.

Service Recording

We have recently started to record our Sunday Service digitally to mp3. It is available via our website at [www.life-baptist.org.uk/mp3](http://www.life-baptist.org.uk/mp3). Here you can listen to the whole service, or just the sermon.

Due to the constraints of the site, we only have enough space to store one service at a time.

The initial recordings we have made so far have proven to be very successful, and I would value your comments and feedback.

Thanks, Matt

Online Calendar

Our website now has an online calendar showing upcoming events in the life of our church.

This can be viewed by visiting [www.life-baptist.org.uk/calendar.html](http://www.life-baptist.org.uk/calendar.html)



Christmas Events for your diaries

21<sup>st</sup> December SING LIKE AN ANGEL THIS CHRISTMAS Our All age Christmas Family service.

This is an opportunity service to invite people, families, children...so please pray and do so.

24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve Communion at BRBC at 11.15 pm Julie will help lead this.

An opportunity to reflect quietly on Jesus.

**N.B** It has been Life's general practice not to send Christmas cards to each other rather give the money to the Christmas Special Offering which will be Spurgeon's children's homes this year. So please don't be upset if you don't get one!

Welcome Team

Please consider if this small, but valuable role is something you could help with.

All it requires is arriving at 10 am, approximately every 3 weeks, and a friendly face!

The new rota starts in January and we would love to have extra help in the New Year.

Please see Kay Morrish after the service or phone 731065.

Life Prayer Day Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>

We have booked to use the chapel at BRBC for the whole day to pray for our church for 2009. The day will be divided in sections reflecting different aspects of the life of the church. Please come to at least one session. In between there will be opportunities for silent prayer and also opportunities for people to be prayed for to be refreshed and filled with the Spirit for the coming year. The day will end with a time of communion altogether from 7-8 pm. More details in due course but please make a note of this in your diaries.

The Prayer Day will conclude our 40 days of prayer for this church.

Please keep faithful in prayer over these 40 days.

It's in Christ we find out who we are and what we're living for

### Ladies Event in London

#### 7 March 2009 Westminster Central Hall, London

'Do you have a longing to bring God's love into the world around you? To see lives changed by the transforming power of his Spirit? Come and be inspired, challenged and encouraged to step out of your comfort zone! A day of worship, teaching and ministry especially for women, hosted by Anne Coles - with Nadine Parkinson in Harrogate and Lindsay Melluish in London.' It's not quite Mandate, but if anyone would like to go up to this as a group of Life Ladies, please speak to Julie

I will be setting up a table with books supplied by Crown Books for sale at our December 7th service, so please factor this into your Xmas shopping plans. By participating in this we provide valuable support for the bookshop as well as securing our 10% discount. Any questions please ask me. *Eric*

The people who visited Malawi this autumn returned with a message of thanks and prayers for blessing from the Pastors in Malawi. These leaders wanted them passed on to everyone who have helped FiA in anyway.

### Beginners Pilates Course

A new 12 week introductory course will be starting on 9th January at Trafalgar Road Baptist Church. The sessions will be held on Fridays 12.30-1.30 pm. Places are limited and bookings are already being taken. Pilates is a floor mat based exercise method which offers: improved posture, flexibility and balance; strong toned muscles; relief and recovery from injury. For more information or to book a place please contact Frances on 01403 261735 or [fjfray@btopenworld.com](mailto:fjfray@btopenworld.com) or 07973 285913

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th January - United Reformed Church  
19th January - St Johns the Evangelist, Roman Catholic  
20th January - London Road Methodist Church  
21st January - St. Leonards Anglican Church  
22nd January - Brighton Road Baptist Church  
23rd January - Trafalgar Road Baptist Church  
24th January - St Johns Anglican Church, Broadbridge Heath.  
All of these meetings will be from 7 pm - 8 pm, you may come and go as you please. Material will be provided and can be downloaded free from [www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer)  
25TH JANUARY - UNITED SERVICE AT ST.MARYS CHURCH. 6.30PM.  
*Horsham Churches Together*

### Faith in Action packing dates

After half term we shall be packing from 7-9 pm some evenings as follows:  
December: Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 17th and 9.30-11.30 am on December 19th  
Do please come and join us for all or part of a session in the packing room above the garage at 76 Hurst Road.  
If you'd like to know more speak to Frances H261735

Please remember to pray for the Ready Assembled team (Sue Hollywell, Peter Hellyer, Fiona Page and Frances Fry) this week as they continue their run of Christmas assemblies as follows:

Tuesday 9th December - Castlewood Primary School  
10.15 am whole school  
Wednesday 10th December - Holbrook Primary School  
9.30 am Infants 10 am Juniors  
Thursday 11th December - Northolmes Junior School  
3 pm whole school  
Friday 12th December - Rusper Primary School  
10.30 am whole school

### The House - Latest update

Unfortunately, the purchase chain has fallen through which has meant that the sale cannot proceed. Additionally, the other couple who were interested in the property have also withdrawn. It's now inevitable that we will have to pursue letting of the property. If we are able to introduce a tenant to the letting agency then there will be a possibility of better fee terms. If you know anyone looking for rental accommodation then please speak to John Milborrow. Your continued prayers will be appreciated, especially for Scott, Fliss and their family.

The latest Faith in Action newsletter (Sept) is pinned on the notice board along with the statement of financial activities for the past year. If you'd like one of my spare copies please ask. *Frances*

### Book Review: The Shack

Currently making a big sensation in the Christian media is a book called *The Shack* by William Young. On display up and down the land not only in Christian venues and bookshops but even in secular chain-stores, it has attracted glowing comments from a number of prominent Christian leaders - though by no means all. My curiosity piqued by these rapturous plaudits, I thought I had better read it and find out what all the fuss is about.

The book is a novel centring on an American man called Mack. Embittered by his childhood experiences of an alcoholic father, and further fuelled by the awful disappearance and murder of his own young daughter, he becomes distant from God and his heart is swamped with despair. How could God have let it all happen?

Then one day he is called by God to spend a weekend alone with Him in the very shack where his daughter met her death. Harrowing it might seem, but there he meets with God in a powerful way. His mind is opened up to understand God's ways with a new and astonished comprehension. He covers some of the soul's most anguished questions and tackles such difficult issues as pain, suffering, sin, death and abandonment. With candour and warmth the author unwraps the layers, exposes the core beliefs, and gives some thought-provoking answers. Mack comes away with much of his heart-pain healed, his confidence in God restored, and a new faith and reliance on the goodness of God.

And there it should all end well, and if it did I would give the book high marks indeed. But unfortunately all is not well. Scattered through the book are a number of things that give me cause for deep concern. Mixed in with some good and heart-warming theology on some difficult issues, there is also some theology that is distinctly less than good.

The author has God show up as a woman called Papa who is not averse to using crass and vulgar phraseology. Jesus is portrayed as inept and clumsy. The Trinity is represented as two women and a man, and the author claims that God portrays Himself as a father only because the Creation is broken. The author really ought to read his Bible more carefully. Scripture reveals God as holy; He would never speak in a vulgar and silly way. Jesus finished His work skilfully, carefully following and fulfilling all that the Father wanted Him to do. There was no ineptitude or clumsiness in Him! The Bible never portrays the Trinity as being of mixed gender, but clearly states that God is an *eternal* Father, not just for the limited time that the Creation has been in existence.

Further worrying examples of distorted theology occur where the author says that the Red Indian "Great Spirit" is equivalent to God the Father; that Jesus has no desire to make people Christians; and that there is no hierarchy in the Trinity. One wonders why it is that he has seemingly not heard of Jesus' description of the way of salvation as a narrow path; of John's declaration that he who does not have the Son of God does not have life; and of Paul's indication of the hierarchy of God in 1 Corinthians 15: 24-28.

I came away feeling that this book reminded me very much of the axiomatic curate's egg: good in some parts, such as the author's ability to deal with some of the more painful issues of human existence, but not in other parts, where in my view he strays rather far from the inerrancy of scripture.

*Kevin*

**Horsham Healing Rooms every Sunday 4 - 5:30 pm (except bank holidays) at the Y Centre**

### **Church Family Life...**

*This section of the Breakthrough is a place where you can place prayer requests, house moves, phone number changes and general information and news. Please contact the editor with entries.*

Please pray for Marilyn White who is in a lot of pain again. Please pray for God to heal and in the meantime swift medical attention.

### **The Life Leadership Team**

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