

14th 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**

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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

This week Rachel is leading and we will share a few Christmas thoughts together with Communion.

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' Isaiah 9:6*

**Life Latest...**

**Special Church Members Meeting 14th December**

There will be a brief church members meeting after the service today 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 helpful to be able to act quickly and not have to arrange and wait for another special church meeting to agree the price.

**Please note:** Julie is taking time out between Christmas and the New Year.



**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.

**Christmas greetings from the Carr family**

Hi all at Life. Just to let you know that as a family we seem fairly settled now. Thank you for all your prayers and gifts over these last months. We'd ask you to continue to pray for the house issue. For those of you that haven't had an email from us with our prayer letter and want an update - speak to Anna who should have some printed copies. Praying for you all - that this Christmas time would be one of Love, Joy, Peace and Hope. In Christ's love Scott, Fliss, Joshua and Simeon :)

**Faith in Action packing dates**

After half term we shall be packing from 7-9 pm on 17th, and 9.30-11.30 am on 19th December. 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

### TheBigChurchDay Out Sunday May 24 2.30-10 pm Advance notice

This will be an all age family initiative for all churches in the region. It is hoped there will be over 10,000 people there. 'TheBigChurchDayOut will be something special. It will be a great festival alternative; with one of the last ever UK appearances from Delirious as well as Graham Kendrick, YFriday, Lou Fellingham, Cathy Burton, and The Kings Chamber Orchestra with many more still to be added. And the location - the beautiful country home of Wiston House in West Sussex - the perfect backdrop for a perfect family day out.' We will not have a Sunday service at Forest that day and we would like for as many as possible of us to go as a church group. It is obviously going to cost the organizers (Tim Jupp from Delirious is heading it up) a great deal and there is a ticket price. However there are discounted tickets for church groups. This will take some organizing and we will want to know early in the year. If you'd like to know more at this stage see [www.thebigchurchdayout.com](http://www.thebigchurchdayout.com) More details about our group booking will follow in the new year.

### The Life Packers would be grateful for your assistance in the following ways

Please don't forget that good carrier bags (not the rusty type) are needed for Faith in Action. As they are helpful in the distribution process we are asked to put 10 in the top of each box we pack. We therefore need a constant supply. Please give them to Frances, Janine, Sue M or simply leave them on the doorstep of 76 Hurst Road when you are passing. We are also continuing to collect laddered nylon tights. These are used to fill the air gap at the top of the shipping container and once in Malawi become the filling for mattresses. Perhaps you would consider collecting them in from friends, family or your workplace. We would be grateful to know if anyone is regularly in Three Bridges and could drop off a bag of things to the homeless hostel in Stephenson Way, every so often. We usually have small sewing jobs that need doing and would appreciate help from others. The current tasks are mainly shortening trousers (that have damage to the knees) into shorts and splitting duvets into two sheets and hemming them. If you have a sewing machine, or even know of someone else who might like to help, please speak to Frances.

### 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

### 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.

### 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*

## **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.*

**Eric's New Personal Mobile no.** is 07833 207277. I will not be reachable on my old number after Friday 19th December, when I hand my old 'phone back to RSA. *Eric*

**Marilyn** is due to have a stomach operation on Tuesday. Please be much in prayer for her and Ray.

### Please remember to pray for the Ready Assembled team ( Sue Hollywell, Peter Hellyer, Fiona Page and Frances Fry) in this final week of their Christmas assemblies.

#### **Week 3**

Monday 8.55 am 15th December St Mary's Primary School  
Monday 2.30 pm 15th December North Heath Primary School  
Tuesday 10 am 16th December Trafalgar Infants School  
Tuesday pm 16th December Southwater Juniors  
Wednesday 10.15 am 17th December All Saints Primary School  
Thursday 9.15 am 18th December St Margarets Primary  
Thursday 2.15 pm 19th December Greenway Juniors

### 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 Melliush 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

### 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*

### **The Life Leadership Team**

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