

Whitfield Parish  
St James' and St Luke's



Reaching and transforming  
our town with the  
love of Jesus



WHITFIELD PARISH  
St James' | St Luke's

Loving Jesus Loving each other Loving our town

Whitfield Parish

Spring 2017



# The Parish Post

## WHAT IS THIS NEW PUBLICATION?

Welcome to our first publication of Whitfield Parish Post. This is in response to people wanting to know a bit more about what is happening across our Parish.

The Website is a good source of what we are all about. There is a **What's On** page detailing the Sunday morning teaching programmes and things happening across the Parish. **Catch Up** lets you read a Grapevine or listen to a sermon you may have missed. Take a look at **www.whitfieldparish.org**. The home page will navigate you to more information about who we are and what we are doing as a parish in Glossop and further afield.

I know that there have been really successful newsletters in the past. I am hoping to produce these Newsletters each term and include things that you would like to know more about. This term we have included; what is happening with our building projects, what the MATs are up to, the 'weekend away' and a PCC update. A few people have asked about what happens at PCC and how they get to know? PCC agendas and minutes are posted on notice boards at the back of both churches and will continue to be there. In the newsletters we will give a brief overview of decisions that have been made.

This Newsletter is for you about things you want to hear more about. To do this, I need you to let me know what these are. Got a question for the leadership team? Want to know more about something? Email me, [jane@whitfieldparish.org](mailto:jane@whitfieldparish.org) and I will let you know where you can find more information that is out there or include something in future editions. Want to write an article that you think would be of interest to the church family? Please get in touch.

Jane Higginbottom  
Parish Operations Manager

*The Prayer Course "Great opportunity to explore the bible together"*

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*This week I am giving thanks for....."Thank you for God ...Thank you for homework....."*

## BUILDINGS UPDATE

We have made fantastic progress with our building projects during 2016/17. At St Luke's, phase one (the roof) has been completed and the building has been much warmer over the winter. With phase two (removal of the pews, carpeting, chairs, new pa/av system) we have £87k of the £100k (inc. rent until the end of 2017) needed to complete this project. We have targeted seven grant fund providers and are currently applying for these. The faculty (which we need to complete any works on our churches) has been considered by Derby Diocese and we have received a favourable response and are just answering a few last questions. Detailed specifications for the work will be drawn up by Mike Ashworth our architect and will go out to tender in June. The hope is to start the work in late summer. This should take about 12 weeks. Our faith target for phase three (the upper room at the back of the church) is £87k with a faith start date of Spring 18.



### Vision for our buildings

The Vineyard target is to start in the autumn. Before this year's Vision and Commitment over £100k has been pledged to this project towards a total of £250k. We have been successful in one of our grant bids for £4k and have another nine grant bids pending so please do pray over our applications and giving for both projects.

Updates on the building projects can be found at the back of both churches on the large notice boards. The Vineyard project will take about nine months to complete and we are currently investigating homes for all of the activities that take place in the Vineyard during the period we will need to vacate the building.

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*This week I am giving thanks to God for my family, my extended family, our home, my job, my health, God's protection and guidance, God's word*

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*Prayer Course "lovely to all get together in the mixed-up groups- chatting to people you've seen before, but never spoken to."*

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## MATS' UPDATE

What a year we have had and the MATs have been up to lots. Flame has continued to host family events in the community with Dads and Kids exploding custard and the Light party amongst a vast array. Gamesley have continued to see Café Church reach the community as well as events such as Neighbours day, outdoor Nativity, and Shrove Tuesday. High Street MAT have been out weekly through Street Pastors and started some new traditions with Community Carol singing in Norfolk Square and monthly Prayer on the Square. St Luke's MAT are supporting Ruben's Retreat and have hosted Messy Easter and Christingle for St Luke's school and local children. Whitfield Breeze's Thursday

café has expanded into a discipleship group after the weekly café with people who attend. The partnership work at the Children's Centre has seen successful Easter Egg and Bauble appeals and the Fun Day has become a date on the Parish and local community's calendar.

There is lots coming up in the next few months, please pray into all the activities of reaching out to our town with the love of Jesus. If you can help in any way please get in touch with the MAT leaders (their details can be found on the Website)



**Messy Easter with St Luke's MAT—St Luke's Church – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 3.45pm**

**FLAME Easter Peg Hunt – Howard Park Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 3-5pm**

**Prayer on the Square – Norfolk Square First Saturday of every month 12-2pm**

**Easter Egg Appeal – Whitfield MAT—see boards at the back of church**

**Whitfield Fun Day – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May Whitfield Rec 12-4pm**



### Discipleship

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising .....Matthew 28:19-20



### Our Buildings

Build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured ....Haggai 1:7-8



### Growth

We shall tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:4



### Community and Changing Culture

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you Psalm 32:8

Our primary vehicle to 'Reach and transform our town with the love of Jesus' are our **Mission Area Teams (MATs)**

- High Street
- FLAME
- Gamesley
- Whitfield Breeze
- St Luke's Area



### Youth, Children and Families

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord, for the display of his splendour. Isaiah 61:3

### MATS

The Lord appointed 72 to every town and place....Go! I am sending you out Luke 10:1-3

## Parish Development Plan

Loving Jesus      Loving each other      Loving our town

## PCC UPDATE

The PCC meet every two months and is made up of clergy, wardens and elected members to Deanery Synod and PCC. Over the last six months the main items for discussion has been the two buildings projects, review of our five mission partners and the creation of our Parish Development Plan. For more information about our five mission partners see the Website [www.whitfieldparish.org/our-partners/mission-area-partners](http://www.whitfieldparish.org/our-partners/mission-area-partners). Current updates can also be found in this year's Annual Report, out next week.

Over the past 18 months, The PCC and Ministry Leaders have spent time together during a number of sessions, praying and discussing what people saw as key focus areas for our future. From these a Parish Development Plan has been created. The objective of this is to focus and develop what is needed to further the vision and values of the parish.

The six key focus areas are:

- Discipleship**
- Growth**
- MATs**
- Buildings**
- Community and Changing Culture**
- Youth, Children and Families**

The PDP will be continuously reviewed by The PCC. In each Newsletter we will focus on one area in more detail, looking at the parish action plan and what is happening. Copies of the PDP are available at the back of church to take away.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20*

## Discipleship

### Actions

- Encouraging bible based 1-2-1s within the parish community
- Encouraging every member of the parish to be in a MAT or LIFE group
- Encouraging every member to engage in service of some kind within the body of the church
- Encourage spiritual gifts in and outside of the church building
- Encouraging personal and corporate reading of the bible and development of prayer life
- Encouraging everybody to get involved with intentional mission and evangelism

Over the last few weeks, the Alpha Prayer Course has seen over 100 of us come together as family to go deeper in our prayer life and look at our relationship with Jesus. Have a look at some of the feedback in the Newsletter.

If anybody would like to know more about 1-2-1 bible sessions, MATs or LIFE groups please get in touch with Dan Leathers.

Vision and Commitment Sundays and the accompanying booklets are the great opportunity to see all the different areas to serve and to sign up or recommit to a ministry area. Want to know more? Give Jane Higginbottom a call.

MAT activities are a great opportunity to have a go at intentional mission and evangelism – never done anything like it before, feel at bit apprehensive? Have a go with a group of people and it is never as scary as it seems. Anything made your heart leap at where you think God may want to use you? prayer, talking about Jesus over a coffee or craft (or just making the coffee), even erecting a marquee! There is something for everyone, just speak to the MAT leader or Jane in the Parish Office.

*The Prayer Course "Great to be together as a parish all praying and learning together . Would like to see this continue once a month xx"*

# WEEKEND 'AWAY' JUNE 16-18

Coming to a field near you SOON is the Parish Weekend 'AWAY'. On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 3.30pm you can pitch your tent and look forward to a weekend filled with fun, fellowship and the Holy Spirit. Don't worry if the thought of camping does not appeal, you can 'pitch' yourself each day and go home to all your comforts. The theme for the weekend is 'The Father's Love'. We have an outside speaker and leaders for our children and youth breakout groups. Friday will be an evening of worship and games followed by a campfire. During Saturday there will be teaching time together (with children and youth groups), worship, prayer, and some fun filled afternoon activities. The evening will end in a Whitfield Parish's Got Talent night so get practicing. Sunday will be our baptism service, followed by a BBQ. Please see Andrew if you, or one of your children would like to be baptised at this service. Full details of all of this coming very soon.....



*Prayer Course, "Really good this week with everyone praying out loud at the same time - God could hear us, but you didn't have to worry about finding the right words..... Informative and enjoyable."*

## QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

In each edition, I thought it would be nice to get to know each other a bit more so I posed the same three questions to two people in the parish, one from our younger congregation and one who isn't!!

My questions:

- \* What was the last book you read and would you recommend it?
- \* What question would you like to ask God?
- \* What do you love about Whitfield Parish?



Daniel Jones is my first interviewee. Daniel is St James' Church Warden.

Book called AMBITION: why it's good to want more and how to get it

I picked it up whilst passing through an airport and was a good read if you have some goals you want to reach. As long as God is at the centre of our hopes and dreams then we have a great potential to serve Him through the talents He has given us. I have already recommended and shared it with Jo Galvin and she enjoyed it as well!

Tough one. I suppose it would be to ask why some of my prayers are answered and why some of them have not yet been answered. In some ways I know the answer, I'd just like to understand His perfect wisdom and timing on specif-

ic situations so I can say....oh I see why now! The people of course! God brings us into His family and we are all different, however God has put so many gifts in our Parish from the youngest to oldest. It is a blessing to be a part of that!

Henry Higginbottom, is 10 and has been part of WP all his life. He goes to St Luke's school and enjoys playing rugby for Glossop and skiing (a bit too fast!!!)

Book—DC Encyclopaedia; I would recommend if you like super-heroes. Also reading The Minecraft Bible, which is great.

Would ask God; Why are we here? What's the point of life on Earth? Why can't donkeys rule the world?

Love the great snacks in Kingdom Kids and that Holly lets me help out.

Henry's joke of the week—What do you call a cow with no legs? *Ground Beef!!!*

Got any good questions (or jokes) .....send me an email and we will use some in future editions.....

*Prayer Course, "It's so lovely to meet up as a parish, get to know people I didn't know very well and to pray with them" "*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIS TERM

**APCM – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 7.30pm at St James' Church**

**Whitfield Fun Day – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 12-4pm Whitfield Rec** see Tracey

**Big Church Day Out – 2-3 June** see Jane for details

**TOGA day out – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June** see Denise for details

**Parish Weekend Away – 16-18 June**



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