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# tvcc.mag

the magazine of Tees Valley Community Church

FREE ISSUE

Issue Seven | May 2010

## CHILDREN'S WORK

Leanne Chilton  
on exciting times  
for TVCC children



Are you **new to TVCC**? See the tear-off panel on the back page...



## Leading Today Martin & Lynda Dunkley



## Issue Highlights

### LEAD ARTICLE

#### RAY MILLS

With the General Election looming in just a few days, Ray Mills looks at what it means to be in spiritual Government, and how it applies to us all.



## Speaking Today Peter Conroy

Please note that copies of all sermons can be downloaded free of charge at [www.tvccchurch.org.uk](http://www.tvccchurch.org.uk)



### UKRAINE

#### TONY GRAY

After receiving a warm welcome in the cold Ukranian winter, Tony Gray reports back on his trip to our sister Church in the Ukraine this March, and tells of a country of great contrasts, and a nation in need of Christ.

# Dates for your Diary



### SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

Join in with the Costa Coffee Experience at Teesside Park on the first Sunday of the month. Doors open at 7pm with entertainment for all & free cakes for some!



### EVERGREENS

A time of fellowship, friendship and fun at The Oakwood Centre. Why not come along and find out what Evergreens is all about?



### EVENING CAFE

The doors to our ever popular cafe are open to all this evening. Have you tried the deluxe hot chocolate? Drop in and join us for an hour.



### MUSTARD SEED

Join us in the Oakwood Lounge to relax with friends, enjoy coffee and refreshments and sample the TVCC welcome.



### CONNECTED FOR PRAYER & WORSHIP

Our monthly time of unhurried worship and prayer returns to The Oakwood Centre this month. Join us for a rewarding Sunday evening.



### SOCIAL MINISTRY

#### ANDREW BROWN

The internet has grown up, and it now offers valuable tools for Ministry, Fellowship and Support to Christians worldwide. Andrew Brown looks at some amazing statistics, and how some churches are making the web work.



### FAMILY FUN

#### JANE WATSON

The Young Families team are keeping themselves busy with new activities for church and non-church children and their parents. Jane Watson updates on recent developments, and is blown away by the Good Friday Fun Day.



### PRAYER WATCH REFLECTION

#### MANDY DIXON

Now that we can all eat chocolate and spend time on Facebook again, Mandy Dixon looks back on the forty days of prayer and fasting, and the Easter Prayer Watch, with the thoughts of church members on how it all went.



### CHILDREN'S WORK

#### LEANNE CHILTON

This month Leanne Chilton introduces the team in charge of the successful Children's work which is taking place at TVCC. There is news of upcoming activities and a call to action for more volunteers as the work grows.

## about tvcc.mag



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## about tvcc

At TVCC, we aim to follow Jesus, His example and teaching. Our church is a community of ordinary people, meeting regularly in small groups, whose lives have been changed by His power, and we seek to share this miracle of transformation across the whole of The Tees Valley.

We believe that God has provided clear guidelines on how to live, particularly important in a world of ever-increasing challenges & uncertainty. We believe and teach His Word, the Bible in our main Sunday meetings and elsewhere, and seek to follow its truth in our church life.

Beyond this, we believe that our faith is not simply based on historic events and books, but on a dynamic, supernatural interaction with The Holy Spirit. As a church we have seen God's power at work in many real and miraculous ways.

Our deep desire is to know God more, celebrate His goodness to mankind, and make Him known across the Tees Valley.



# Who is Called to Govern?

Ray Mills



The month of May sees the final stages of our nation's General Election process. Thousands of men and women put themselves forward to be elected as Members of Parliament in our House of Commons at Westminster. Of these, only 650 are given the opportunity to join in that level of government of our country. Some will be returning to their posts, others will be there for the first time. Some will feel well-qualified, others will feel either excited or fearful. They all are charged with the weighty responsibility of governing our country with integrity and justice.

Our process of appointing MP's is a democratic process but the bible is clear that actually "the authorities that exist have been established by God" (Romans 13:1). Daniel proclaimed that it is God who "sets up Kings and deposes them". Jesus even said to Pontius Pilate at the point of what seemed like the Governor's weakest decision: "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above". In other words, a position in government is a gift from God to men and women and is a privilege that carries great responsibility.

Clear messages resonate throughout the bible about God's desire to see justice and mercy. Rulers and authorities have the responsibility of ruling in such a way as to bring that justice and mercy to bear at every opportunity.

In order to successfully carry out the task of government, these men and women need help. They may well be gifted, knowledgeable and able, but they are not super-heroes! They face complex, difficult to resolve issues. They will be working under a range of pressures and will face many obstacles.

The New Testament gives a clear call to Christians to pray for those in authority so that they might rule in such a way as to allow "peaceful and quiet lives in all Godliness and holiness". (1 Timothy 2: 1) As Christians, we have "hotline" access to the one who puts men and women into those places of authority and there are opportunities every day to ask God to give them wisdom in the decisions they are called to make.

We are also called to submit to the governing authorities and to pay our taxes (Romans 13). The freedom we have in Christ is not a licence to do as we please. If anything

it increases our responsibility to serve others and to do all we can to "live in peace with all men". Of course, there may be times when authorities pursue a course of action which contradicts our sense of what God requires. At this point, we have a responsibility before God to do what we can to point to the truth and to take the necessary action to see justice and mercy.

But just as our newly appointed MP's are called to their task, there is also a sense in which we are all called to govern. We are all responsible for the decisions which we make on a daily basis – whether these be apparently insignificant decisions or whether they are more important decisions which affect our children, our colleagues, our neighbours, our communities.

Just as our national governing bodies are called to make the decisions that affect millions, so we are called to stand firm on moral and ethical issues, to take financial decisions, and to respond to the needs of people around us. These choices may affect a smaller number of people, but collectively they reflect our decisions about what we see as important.

Tony Campolo, an American pastor and author, writes:

*"Whether our country rises or falls depends more on the character and spirituality of our people than on which political party holds governmental power".*

Just as those in government have been called by God, so have the rest of us. We are all called to be our "brother's keeper". We are all called to respond to those who are "hungry or thirsty, or a stranger, or needing clothes or sick or in prison". We are all called to "make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy". In short, we are all called to govern over the areas of our lives where we can have influence.

And the guiding principles we will bring to these decisions? Well, the word of God is as relevant now as it ever was. Next time you see the Prime Minister in the House of Commons leaning forward on the Dispatch Box, remember that in that box is a bible – the word of God. And we will do well to lean on the same wisdom.

Welcome to government !

***"We are called to stand firm on moral and ethical issues, to take financial decisions, and to respond to the needs of people around us."***



# Ukraine

## *Country of Contrasts*

### Tony Gray

In March, Tony Gray went with a Salt & Light team to visit Ordjonikidze Baptist Church, part of our wider Family in Europe. Here Tony tells us something about the trip.

Ukraine gained independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It is Europe's second largest country, a land of wide, fertile agricultural plains, once the 'bread basket' of the USSR, and where Stalin's programme of enforced agricultural collectivisation in the 1930's brought famine and death to millions. In the east there are large areas of heavy industry. It was here in the east that we were headed after landing at Kiev. An overnight journey on a Sleeper-Train (my first experience of this!) brought us to the town of Ordjonikidze – a rather dreary place built to serve the nearby Manganese Mines.

It was cold; there was snow on the ground and the surroundings bleak and barren. But our welcome was warm and heartfelt. In the few days we were there Spring began to come; a few green shoots appeared on the ground and trees, and the women came out with their hoes to begin to cultivate any scrap of ground to grow vegetables to supplement their meagre diets. Life is a constant struggle; people are poor and the economy is depressed.

However our time with the believers was precious.



It was a privilege to teach and pray with folk and experience God's grace together. There was a group of eager young people (who also doubled as the Worship Band) and some of the team spent time with them. Others of us interacted with leaders and people in various ways. The Church building is a redundant 'Palace of Culture' – Communist Community Centre – which they are gradually restoring.

All too soon our time was over. We returned to Kiev – again on the overnight Sleeper. Then we had a day to explore Kiev. What a contrast! Standing in the central square facing MacDonald's we could have been in any major city in the world – sleek cars, fashion shops, hundreds of young people grasping their mobile phones; the blue and gold domes of the Orthodox Cathedrals bright against a blue sky.

*"Here is  
a country  
uncertain of  
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How it  
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Kingdom  
of God"*

We visited the Chernobyl Museum which tells the story of the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station which contaminated large areas of Ukraine and affected many parts of the northern world. Millions of people suffered the effects of radiation and the area around is now a wasteland. 86,000 people were evacuated from their homes and had to be resettled, losing everything. This visit was a moving experience.

Here is a country of great contrasts emerging from the shadow of the past, but uncertain of its future. How it needs the Kingdom of God!

# Social Ministry

Andrew Brown

In little more than a decade, the internet has grown into something that most of us use as part of our everyday lives. For the past three years, I have worked from home, and cannot imagine how my job would have been possible without the benefits and convenience of the world wide web.

What has been truly amazing is the explosion of *Social Media*, and in particular the way in which it has been adopted by Christian ministries worldwide to build fellowships, deliver evangelism and open up what can, to outsiders, seem like closed communities.

At the heart of this Social Media explosion are the likes of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. I know from my own Facebook page that the TVCC community is already active on Facebook, and increasingly present on Twitter. Here are a few statistics, to give a sense of scale:

- 50 million tweets posted every day on Twitter
- 300,000 new users sign up to Twitter every day
- Google processes over one billion MB of data daily
- 87 billion Google searches every month.
- 20 hours of video added to YouTube every minute
- 500 billion minutes spent on Facebook monthly
- 300 million photos uploaded to Facebook daily

These services have moved from fad to mainstream in the blink of an eye, and it's a shame that a sense of fear can prevent many people from making the most of them, and the value they can add.

TVCC leader Colin Naisbitt says: "I am increasingly encouraged to see how Christians are putting the internet to good use, and taking advantage of some of the sites on the internet."

Colin has been particularly impressed by YouTube, the free (all Social Media services discussed in this article are entirely free to use) video sharing service: "I have realised that there are many genuinely edifying clips to watch on YouTube. When I was researching a talk recently, I came across a sketch for *the Woman at the Well* which was really powerful and moving. Claire



Harrison uses YouTube to point the Worship Team in the direction of songs to be learned, so they can pick them up quickly and then teach them to us as a church."

Many churches and ministries at home and abroad are creating new avenues to participation and engagement for the church and non-church alike with Social Media. The opportunities for a vibrant and active church, such as ours, to engage more conveniently with people by using these services are huge. But as an individual church member I have also found there is much to gain. My own Twitter stream brings me daily contact with individual Christians on all sides of the world, renowned Church leaders, daily readings, teaching and fellowship. No matter who it is, contact is just a click away – and the benefits are real!



Twitter is great for pointing to resources of interest elsewhere on the internet too, not least blogs created using services such as Wordpress. Once you have chosen your favourite blogs (I recommend [www.stuffchristianslike.net](http://www.stuffchristianslike.net) and [www.thinkchristian.net](http://www.thinkchristian.net) among many other great reads) you can even have them delivered directly to you each day by RSS, so there's no need to go searching all the time.



Colin is convinced of the possibilities afforded by these services, and encourages the rest of us to take a look: "The opportunities afforded to Christians by YouTube and other internet sites are probably not news to some of you. To those of you who are perhaps not so sure, however, please give it a go. It can be edifying, encouraging and a real blessing."

Just a thought, you never know how God could use it to touch you or inspire you...

If all of this sounds a little technical, help is soon at hand. There will be a feature online soon about making the most of social media, including explanations and eventually some tutorials for getting involved.

Andrew has recently taken over operation of the TVCC website from Ian Chilton, who has looked after it so well for so long. If you have any ideas or thoughts about the website, please get in touch with him at [mail@abrown.net](mailto:mail@abrown.net).



# Family Fun, and

Jane Watson

Oh where, oh where to begin?! We have been a very busy bunch of people since the launch of the Young Families team. In February we had our third Film Night and to say that we were swamped would be an understatement. Many runs to Tesco later, we finally had enough hot dogs and chips to feed the masses; it took us so long to cook them all, the film was almost finished when the last portion was eaten! By the time you have read this, the next film night will have taken place on 24 April, so please feel free to ask any of the Young Families team how that one went!

Just a couple of days after the Film Night, we held an extended ABC's session; the usual toddler 'set up' in the sports hall plus (thanks to the Youth Team) the Games room and Arts and Crafts in the Brook Suite. It all went very smoothly and we had about 25-30 extra children and lots of extra people helping out that made it so much easier. We were very grateful for all their help and I think they had fun too, so if you ever feel like helping out at a 'one-off' event like this, just speak to us.

Then came Good Friday morning and the 'Big One'! I have to admit that this one event caused me the most stress in the planning. Though members of the team had organised and bought craft activities for the morning, for the advertising etc. I had opted to deal with myself,



*"Good Friday morning came and it was amazing; people just kept coming through the door!"*

thinking I had ample time ('Note to self' for future events; delegate more!!). The week before the event was spent telling lots of people via word of mouth, followed by taking over 400 leaflets to local primary schools. I then quizzed the children that I know personally that attend those schools whether they had received them or not; all said NO! So Maundy Thursday night's sleep for me was virtually non-existent but I did sleep only to wake at one point crying out "mini eggs"!

Good Friday morning came and it was amazing; people just kept coming through the door! I was keeping a tally chart of children and adults for fire regs and decided early on to separate on my list TVCC people from non-church guests to see what the ratio was; boy was I surprised by the end of the event! The morning consisted of Easter crafts, Easter egg hunt, toys and games in the sports hall and no one minded that there was only one ball for 2 table tennis tables at all! Plus copious amounts of tea, coffee and hot cross buns kept everyone amused for the whole 2 hours, though I did think toward the end of the morning that no one was going to leave!

But leave they did, with a leaflet of the next event in hand and a copy of '3 Days that Shook the World' and certainly knowing they were very welcome at the Easter Day Guest Service. You want to know the ratio mentioned earlier, don't you? You read it and said to



# More to Come...



***“God brought 53 TVCC people and 197 non-church guests through the door! Is that worthy of a WOW to God? I think so!”***

successfully kept the Easter Egg hunt chugging along nicely all morning, the Peacocks for supervising the sports hall and that one ping pong ball! And of course other members of the Young Families team! You were all stars. And I know it's not about numbers but God rewarded the Team's prayers and all the effort and hard work of the 17 volunteers by bringing 53 TVCC people and 197 non-church guests through the door! Is that worthy of a WOW to God? I think so!

So, what is next? By the time you read this, the next film night will have taken place with everyone leaving getting an invite to Alpha and the next Young Families events! The TVCC families swim session at Splash will have happened too, hopefully attracting those families on the Church 'fringes'. On the horizon is a family walk with the visiting Texan team, more film nights, our 3rd children's nearly new sale and summer picnics after the Sunday morning services. Listen out too for details of a 'Dads'n'Lads' weekend away in the autumn.

We are building, we are beginning to see the same people come to each event which is one of our aims but as every person comes and attends any of these Young Family events the teams heart is that they see Jesus in us, feel welcomed by His church and become hungry to begin searching for God themselves.

yourself “Well, is she not going to say”? And I am but first I want to say thank you to the volunteers who came and served into this young family event. From manning a craft table, to making all the tea and coffee and setting up and tidying after, we honestly could not have done it without you.

Thank you to those in the cell I belong to (Colin and Juliet's) for giving up your precious time. To Will and Adam (Daniel challenge chaps!), the Malbon's, who



***The team's heart is that people see Jesus in us, feel welcomed by His church and become hungry to begin searching for God themselves.”***



# What a Difference

Mandy Dixon

In the run up to Easter here at TVCC we began a forty day period of Prayer and Fasting which started on 22 February and ran through to the Easter Weekend. Over the six weeks of the fast as a church we used our "Prayer Bookmarks" that highlighted themes, circumstances, ministries, people – knowing we were all praying together each day.

Then on 2nd April – Good Friday - we held our Easter 36 Hour Prayer Watch – a weekend of continuous prayer right up to the start of the Easter Morning Service. The time was divided into hour-long slots and every one of them were covered by people praying at home or at church in the prayer room – which came into it's own for this event. The calm atmosphere and all the maps, posters and information made it a great place to pray. In addition to this – the Quiet Room was remarkably transformed into a Reflective Zone – a place of peace and reflection but also provoking response. The creative use of elements such as candles, rusty nails, chains, rocks and the rough wooden cross, married with the text of those final hours for Jesus drew the significance of Easter into sharp focus.

What follows are thoughts and responses from six people who took part in either the 40 day fast or the Prayer Watch or indeed both. Thank you to each of you sharing here and forgive anything "lost in translation". Your words may not be quite as many but they do give a flavour of your experiences.

**KAT BROUGHTON** I found this a time to focus and it allowed me to re-route myself into God. It was a chance to focus and check my direction and focus were in line with God. It was a period of listening and resting.

**GORDON SYMRELL** This period has been an intense personal journey, a deepening of relationship – where it's not about me but what God wants and what He wants to do. Some of the themes we were praying for worked their way out in prophecy. I felt during this time a call to get back to the centre of what Christianity is about. Towards the end of the fast I felt that God was speaking about the anointing – not about what you do but about what the Holy Spirit is doing. I did feel the anointing heightened on words of prophecy that I was bringing – that the words had a different character to them.

**ETTA SMITH** I thank God for the 40 days of Prayer and Fasting and the initiative taken by our Leaders at TVCC to this. I was blessed also by the challenge given by Gary Sharples to read "The Purpose Driven Life" by



Rick Warren each of the 40 days – which I did. I think the Holy Spirit is making a call to prayer and doing it globally. Look at the 3 days of prayer and fasting in the nation of Haiti but then in places like the House of Lords prayer meetings are being called to hear what God wants to say to us. This has been my greatest Easter – a time to meet with the crucified Christ and focus on Him.

**HELEN COE** Simon and I took a one hour prayer slot from 6am to 7 am on the Saturday morning on the 36 Hour Prayer Watch. As my parents were staying with us it meant that we could leave the kids sleeping and prayer walk around Yarm and Eaglescliffe. This was a really precious time of reflecting on what Jesus has done for us personally and for each individual lovingly created by our amazing God. It was a great opportunity to pray for our neighbours, friends, colleagues and the shops, pubs, workplaces and churches that we passed on our walk. Having that definite time slot really helped us stay focused and not let the Easter Weekend pass without reflecting on what it is we are celebrating.

**JANE WATSON: THE YOUNG FAMILIES PRAYER TIME** A lot of hard work went into preparing the Function Room for our two hour slot - thanks to Leanne and Marcie. The children that came put cress seeds into an egg cup with a friend's name on, so that as they watch the cress grow at home it would be a reminder for them to pray for that friend. They had a Prayer Den set up for reflective prayer and they decorated flowers and wrote their names on, then placed them on the cross to thank Jesus for dying on the cross for them. They also had the opportunity to place rocks in water to say sorry for anything they'd done wrong and watch as the rocks were washed clean.

The children who attended were, on the whole very young, and enjoyed the activities. The KFJ children also use the prayer tools the next day and enjoyed it too. Lydia (aged 9) said that both times she felt that she was getting to join in with the adults in church in prayer and she especially enjoyed seeing the reflective room all set out and realising, for probably the first time, what a sacrifice Jesus made for her.

**DORCAS HAMILTON** I would like to thank the prayer team for leading the 40 Days of prayer and fasting and the 36 hour Prayer Watch that led to Easter Day. This helped me make the journey to Easter and knowing we were all taking this journey was an encouragement to keep going through Lent.

The 40 days prayer list became part of my prayer time and like the monthly Prayer Guide, it helped pray

*"The forty days of prayer and fasting and the Prayer Watch opened up my prayer life, making it more informed and meaningful and more connected to the prayer life of the church"*

# 40 Days Can Make

about lots of different people, activities and situations because it covered many areas of our lives, the church, the nation and the world in prayer. Each day trying to keep to my chosen fast, I was encouraged at my cell group as we prayed together at this time.

On Good Friday the evening service was a time to remember what happened on that day when Jesus died on the cross for us – then the 36 hours of continuous prayer began – the Easter Prayer Watch. The Prayer Room and the Reflective Zone led me to pray about different things. In the Reflective Zone a large chain reminded me to pray for people who were prisoners for many different reasons and to remember them. It was a place I could have spent more time in.

On Easter Saturday, I was able to keep my hour of prayer that I had signed up for at home. The Prayer Guide for the Watch led me through the hour with

different Bible readings, something to think about and then to pray for. Then at the end of the hour, I knew someone else was continuing to pray for the next hour.

The 40 days of prayer and fasting and the Prayer Watch opened up my prayer life, making it more informed and meaningful and more connected to the prayer life of the church. It led me to the joy of Easter Day and the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. He is risen.

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*The Forty Days, together with the 36 hour Prayer Watch made the whole Easter period a very special time for many of us at TVCC. A big 'thank you' goes to all the Prayer Development Team for pulling this whole thing together.*

*There are further Prayer events planned, please look out for further announcements.*

## The Desert: Barren. Fruitful. Place of Growth

Rob Govier

We all go through "desert times". God took Israel through the desert. The start of Jesus' ministry was preceded by a time in the desert. These are important to God in the development of His People. Here are some (hopefully) helpful points on "desert survival".

**Such seasons are hard!** Maybe they are related to work, health, financial, family or work issues, but all share the same characteristics. God shuts off sources of comfort and security. We love to read of these times in the dealing of God with other Christians, but they are always written from a grandstand perspective. Our response is not sanctified analysis, but "Arrgghh!". A trial that is not really a trial, is not a real trial.

**They are "a season".** Israel eventually left the desert. There is A Godly End. Many years ago, I completed the London Marathon. The race was significantly mental. I had to start, keep running each mile, and then cross the finish line. This is how I ran the distance, one mile at a time. We need to face trials, desert times, with the same "mile by mile" mentality. There is a finish line.

**The Desert Drives Us Inward and Upward.** We consider who we are, who God is, and how we relate to Him. God gave the Ten Commandments in the desert. Jesus had his human/divine mettle tested in the desert. It's "do serious business" time.

**There's no Need to Be Hungry and Thirsty!** There is much comfort, fuel and refreshment available in the essentials of normal spiritual life. Prayer and the word remain. Fellowship can sustain us. The desert has many oases.

**Scarcity and Scariness.** Loss of job, health and family issues and other challenges are genuinely scary. If we take our eyes off God, the "threats" are very real. Such is the desert. Otherwise, it would be called "the beach", not the desert. It's a case of "don't look down – keep looking upwards". This is how Peter walked on the water. The Sea of Galilee was truly a place to drown; otherwise the miracle would not have been a true miracle. God is still God, able and sovereign.

**The Result is "Better-ness" Not "Barrenness".** God plays "a long game", as in the life of Joseph. However, His provision is alarmingly short-term. Hence the manna and quail, were provided daily, not by a Tesco van, to be put in a freezer as a safeguard. "Give us this day our daily bread" is a common desert prayer. And after all this, we emerge fuller of faith, deeper of foundation in The Eternal, better acquainted with His character, more able to navigate in divine grace, equipped to help those who may be in their own desert.

God's love is true, everlasting and tough, but such a loving father wants to build strong children, able to be divinely self-sufficient as they trust Him through hard, desert times.



*"God's love is true, everlasting and tough, but such a loving father wants to build strong children."*

# Children's Work

Leanne Chilton

Welcome to TVCC children's work - we cater for all children aged 0-11.

0-3 are in crèche with Cath Lloyd and the team. This offers a friendly atmosphere in a cozy environment where young children can feel safe and secure.

Tots Praise is for children aged 3-Y1 and is led by Olivia Mills. The Tots team is committed, enthusiastic and very organized. Children in this group learn about Jesus through songs, stories, crafts and play.

Finally, KFJ is led by Jon and Sam Broughton who use messy games, fun songs, drama and lessons to teach our Primary Children.

None of these teams would run without our team of volunteers that attend each week preparing and leading activities. I would like to say a personal Thank You to those teams.

We have had a really busy year making a number of small changes across the three age phases – such as improving our paperwork to a totally new curriculum in Tots Praise, we have been involved in the new play equipment for use in the café and are working closely with the "Young Families team" to meet all our children's spiritual and social needs.

However, it doesn't end there. We have loads of new ideas for this year including a trail of 'Good Morning



*"We want to see our children growing in Jesus, and many more visiting families!"*

the Oakwood' to begin in September guest services. Children in the Nursery - Y1 age range will have access to worship resources during the meeting and you may see some of our children as greeters along with the stewards over the coming weeks. These are just some of our new ideas.

We want to see our children growing in Jesus, and many more visiting families!

If you would like to be part of this exciting adventure – then we need you. There are always spaces on the rota in all age phases or maybe you would like to be involved in the setting up of crèche or helping at family events such as video night. No experience needed just enthusiasm.

If you have any other thoughts, questions or comments I would love to talk you.



# Help CAP

Colin Naisbitt

This is Katie's Story...

*"Before CAP got involved, my finances were in a right mess. At one stage, I was at risk of losing my home because I was in debt to the housing association. It caused me so much grief and upset that I started self-harming and overdosing; I took an overdose of 62 paracetamol at one point and self-harmed quite badly on my arms.*

*Since CAP have got involved, they have helped with my finances and got things back on track. My money goes out to CAP and they pay all my bills and help me save. I haven't self-harmed for over eight months now. I have a support worker who phones me up and if I feel low or anything, I can ring her and she will take me for a coffee or a walk. I wish to thank all the CAP staff for the help and support that I've had."*

*The above story is a great testimony to the work of CAP; Julie Parker has many similar stories of lives changed through God and CAP making a significant difference to individuals and families."*

Katie's story highlights the importance of the CAP team at any centre, and we have a great support team here at TVCC for Julie. Maybe you would love to do something to help, but aren't able to commit to a volunteer role, or don't have the financial capacity to support either Julie here at TVCC, or CAP Central in Bradford. Well there are other ways to help make a difference.

One of our recent magazine articles was a report from Paul Watson on two teams made up from members of TVCC and Middlesbrough Community Church, who raised money through running the Edinburgh Marathon. It was a great report, and emphasised the fun and friendship that doing these kinds of events engenders. But what if you are not a runner?

This year (and every year) CAP have several 'Life Changing Events' open to adventurous or determined people, who want to support the work of CAP through a one-off sponsored event. These include Walking Peaks, Sahara Treks, London to Paris or Scottish Cycle rides, Urban Adventures, as well as various marathons. If any of these sound as though they are kind of events you would like to use as a vehicle to raise money for CAP, then please see Julie Parker or log on to [www.capuk.org/events](http://www.capuk.org/events) for more details.

**Can You Help?** Go on, you know you want to...



***"Since CAP have got involved, they have helped with my finances and got things back on track. I haven't self-harmed for over eight months now."***

## cd.review

CD + DVD



Liz Parker reviews **We Cry Out** by Jesus Culture

I had this CD recommended to me, so I thought I'd give it a whirl. After listening to it a lot, I can see why. Jesus Culture are a young American Christian band.

The title track, sung by Kim Walker, is a great start to the album, a full on Worship song. Vocally on this particular track I think she sounds a bit like the singer Pink. The next song "Your Love Is Everything" is sung by another band member, Chris Quilala. The words are great on this track, the chorus says "You keep no record of my sin, You don't remember all my shame" How true that is.

On this album the band cover several songs written by other people, for example; "Rain Down" by Delirious, "See His Love" by Tim Hughes, "Fire Fall Down", "All I Need Is You" and "The Time Has Come" by Hillsong and Hillsong United. The band cover each song really well though, sometimes it's good to hear other people singing familiar songs.

There is a DVD with the CD. It shows the band singing the songs, which you can also watch on YouTube. One of the songs on the album, "See His Love" by Tim Hughes can also be seen on YouTube, if you watch the version by Tim, there is some footage from The Passion of the Christ running alongside the song and it is very moving. Worth a look.

My favourite song on the album is "How He Loves Us". The David Crowder band also cover this song, but personally I prefer Jesus Culture's version. One of the lines says "I realise just how beautiful you are and how great your affections are for me". It's just a song telling of how much we are loved, and I don't think we can ever get enough of that!

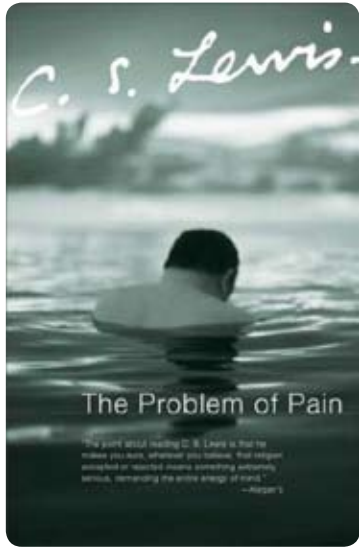
# The Good Book

Rebecca Brown

Book: **The Problem of Pain**

Author: **CS Lewis**

Available through **The Oakwood Bookshop**



The Problem of Pain is another classic work by C S Lewis. In it he attempts to deal with the question of human suffering, one of the most difficult issues for us to cope with. He does not attempt to say that pain is easy, and is honest right from the Foreword that talking about pain in an intellectual discussion is very much easier than coping with it in your own life.



***"If you want a book dealing with very difficult issues in an intelligent, lucid and sensitive way, this one must be at the top of your list."***

He goes on to deal with God's omnipotence and divine goodness in the next two chapters. The chapter on divine goodness is particularly thought-provoking: *"We want, in fact, not so much a Father in Heaven as a grandfather in heaven - a senile benevolence."*

Lewis goes on to show how God's love for us is worth more than that, and I found this quote particularly moving: *"He has paid us the intolerable compliment of loving us, in the deepest, most tragic, most inexorable sense...It is natural for us to wish that God had designed for us a less glorious and less arduous destiny; but then we are wishing not for more love but for less."*

The rest of the book covers different aspects of pain and suffering. Chapter Six (on Human Pain) is probably the most painful to read, but very worthwhile.

Despite the language being a little dated, Lewis' arguments are compelling and full of brilliant quotes. I can only say that if you want a book dealing with very difficult issues in an intelligent, lucid and sensitive way, this one must be at the top of your list.

*"Pain insists on being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world...it gives the only opportunity the bad man can have for amendment."*

The book follows a fairly classic C S Lewis pattern, with an introductory chapter giving background to the issue before more specific chapters dealing with separate aspects of the subject. In Chapter Two he sums up the problem scenario nicely: *"If God were good, He would wish to make His creatures perfectly happy, and if God were almighty He would be able to do what He wished. But the creatures are not happy. Therefore God lacks either goodness, or power, or both."*

*If you would like to review a book or CD for future editions of TVCC Mag, please contact Colin Naisbitt.*

## WELCOME TO TEES VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

It is a great delight having you join us today. We pray that you will have an enjoyable time of worship with us. We would like to make you feel welcome at TVCC. If you want to know more about us, please fill in the details below and give this tear-off slip to one of the stewards (in a red jacket). Someone will be in touch with you soon. Thank you.

Name:

Nationality:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Date:

Age: <17  17-30  31-44  45-55  55+

- I would like to:
- Know more about becoming a Christian
  - Know more about joining TVCC
  - Know more about joining a cell group
  - Know about the next Alpha/Marriage Course
  - Talk to one of the Leaders