

NETWORK

DECEMBER 2023



A thrill of
hope



What's on top of your Christmas tree?

Strangely, in my childhood home we used to put a fairy on top of the Christmas tree. Actually, we had two fairies. Stranger still, one of the fairies only had one leg! I was never told what had happened to her other leg. But every year she would go on top of the Christmas tree, the lack of leg being well hidden by a strategically placed bauble!

In my adult home we have been much more “Christian” and every year we have put a star on our tree, the children taking it in turns to be the one to climb up on the furniture to affix it to the top of said tree.

As I look back on these family “traditions,” three thoughts come to mind.

First, there is sometimes pressure to keep a Christmas tradition going. Another one of ours - that I did not enjoy - was going to cut our own Christmas tree down. What must you have at Christmas otherwise “it’s not Christmas”?

Second, I look back with fondness and gratitude. The traditions remind me of special times, significant relationships, and tremendous blessing.

Third, there are also traditions that we miss. Not the “cutting the Christmas tree down” sort of traditions. But the memories of people, families grown up, and loved ones who are no longer with us.

So where is all this reminiscing going? Well, gratitude is a good place to start. May our thankfulness for Christmases past include thankfulness to God. Next, may any 'have to' traditions remind us that God didn't *have* to come, but his love meant he *chose* to come. Finally, in loss and lack may we know the day-by-day reality of Emmanuel, God with us.



Mark Pickett, Rector

Growing in God

When I attended church on Sunday the 19th of November, I was inspired by the sermon to write about my journey with God. I would like to share about my relationship so far.

Since my bereavement and attending church at St James regularly, I find I'm a much better person. It has been a difficult time, but rekindling my faith has I feel strengthened me.

In Ruth's sermon, she mentioned about prayer and I do pray now, especially at those times when I feel lonely. I can confess that God has helped me. I look around at all I have and give thanks for my lovely family and now more recently my church family. I am not quite there yet, but with God's help I should make it!

Jennifer Rowe xx

From the register

Baptisms: Marie Kivlichan

Funerals: John Hoyle-Wood



Dreaming Big: feedback from 24/7 prayer for St James' Yard

On the night of 19th November, we started 24 hours of prayer, seeking God for what he wants us to do with St James Yard.

Mark told us the story of the land. Back in 1949, the land was allotments – and probably had been for several decades before that. When the council wanted to sell the land, they approached St James first. The asking price back then was £400, but the church felt they couldn't afford it.

The land was purchased by a local builder, who built his workshop (which was also used as a garage), and built two houses along Brownlow Street. At various points over the following decades - when his business ended, when he died and left the land to his wife – conversations have been had between the Rector at the time and the owner, but to no fruition.

Finally, in 2020, St James was offered first refusal on the land. Would we like to buy it? Yes if we could! Like many of you, I felt that if we didn't buy it now, we never would. Permission had been granted to build four homes on that land, but the corresponding price would likely be much more than we would be able to pay.

So in a pandemic, and with a lot of back and forth, gradually increased offers and a final prophetic gift, we purchased the land and the sale went through in 2022.

Over the past year, we've cleared the land and had the workshop

demolished. The time for dreaming and discerning what would go on the land had begun!

After 24 hours of praying individually, we came back together on Monday evening and shared what we felt God was saying. We had been asked, over the 24 hours, to 'dream big, ask expectantly and pray fervently to the God who gives generously.' We also knew that our ideas had to fit into the criteria of helping people connect to God, be changed by God and transform our community for God.

So here's what was shared (in rough categories, and no particular order)

Community and outreach space

Outreach

Community Centre

Transit vans for mobile outreach

Going out rather than inviting people in

Focus on reaching out

Community usage

Community Hub

Community building for all

Centre for all generations – healing for families

Multi-functional space – children and youth friendly

Multi-purpose use

Benefits all ages

Multifunctional space

A very versatile building – start at the beginning. Discern – discover – dream – understand the needs of our community

Young and old, side by side, together

Future proof

A youth safe space

Youth Mental Health Space

Space for youth band

Buses for youth outreach

Engaging disaffected young people
Drop in sport space for local youth
Dedicated youth space
Isaiah 49:20 – This place is too small for us [children]

Elderly services
Homeless services – food, practical help, emergency accommodation
Emergency Accommodation
Overnight accommodation
Providing services and opportunities e.g. cookery lessons

Accessible Community café
Coffee shop with signposting upstairs
Bigger area for tea and coffee
New kitchen

Connected building but separate entrance
A building that is mirrored – meaning that it reflects the inside, with light reflecting out to the town
Purpose built spaces
Modular
Homely space for meetings/Alpha/CAP etc
Space to relax
Space for lounging
Space for sport and art
Think about the site as a whole
Aligned to the use of the current building
2 storey connection
Space
Different to Garden Room and Oasis Room
Bigger office

Some garden space – sensory, water, beauty, prayer space
Ezekiel 47:12 – Fruit trees for food and healing
Herb wall
Psalms 30 – Mourning to dancing and graves into gardens
Community Gardens

Outdoor prayer space

Green space

Eco – Net Zero – Sustainable

Allotment – a place for people to grow in community

Trees

Community Garden

Community garden/meditation/quiet space

Buildings to include Green Space

Community garden/meditation/quiet space

Eco principles – solar etc

Making disciples – art, prophetic, healing and dreams

Filling station – a place to be filled with God's love and hope and peace

Place of blessing

Active space not a passive space – a place to engage



Boundary – more open? Inviting? Security?

Improve access to church on foot

Car parking spaces (underground?)

Investigate temporary use e.g. Car Park, Community Garden

Too good just for a car park

All weather pitch?

*Whatever we do there, is to some extent what we'll be known for
Caution – we have to maintain what we have, people and facilities
Christian identity but welcoming and modern
Outstandingly different to elsewhere in community
If you don't know – ask
Research others who have been before us*

So, a pretty comprehensive list! It was amazing how often the same themes came out, particularly of a community garden, eco principles, a place of healing and dedicated space for children and youth.

It's exciting to dream and imagine what could be. Betty Pollard shared a wonderful image from Zechariah 8:4-5, which is helpful as we continue to discern what God is saying:

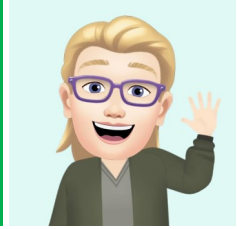
This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age. The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there."

This vision of a place where young and old are in community, side by side, growing in faith, is compelling and exciting – and certainly one I can hold in my heart when praying for the yard. It's both hopeful and thrilling. And although it's not very Christmassy, it's an exciting dream to take into the New Year.

Naomi Lynas, Operations Manager



The thrill of hope



***"You thrill me, LORD, with all you have done for me!
I sing for joy because of what you have done."*** (Psalm 92:4)

What thrills me and gives me hope? Well the next generation of course!

Joel 2:28 says

***"And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.***

During the 24 hours of prayer for St James yard our kids heard the story of how God had blessed our church family with the yard, told to them by Mark. They were then encouraged by their leaders, to ask God what he wants to say to them about the land and they were encouraged to dream big! Their responses thrill me and fill me with hope.

They were thinking of others and not themselves. They were seeking to connect with God and to be in his presence. How wonderful that their hearts were seeking what God wanted and not what they wanted. How thrilling!

The overriding themes were of peace, calm and safety for all people (and their pets). They nearly all drew gardens.

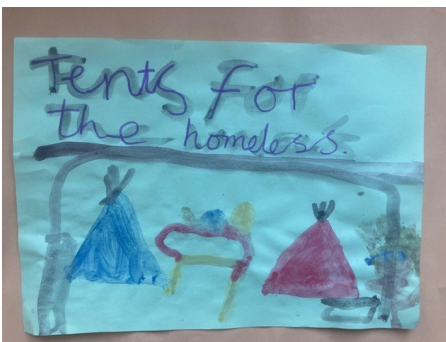
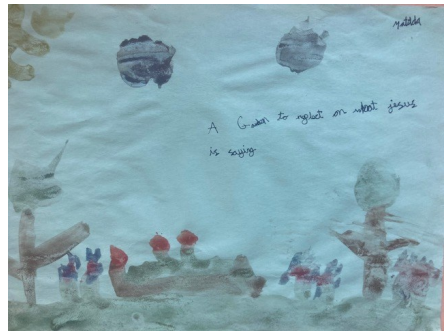
Here is what they said and drew:

- Coming home
- A place where Jesus speaks through us in a warm, quiet and undercover space, with flowers surrounding us, to give calm and peace.



- A place where you can feel any feelings. Where you can go if you are worried and people will help you out.
- A place to relax from everything.
- A place where everything is in one place for all ages.

- A place where you can come if you are homeless and you can get a home, clothes and food.
- A place to go into at any time.
- Where a band can play and practise.

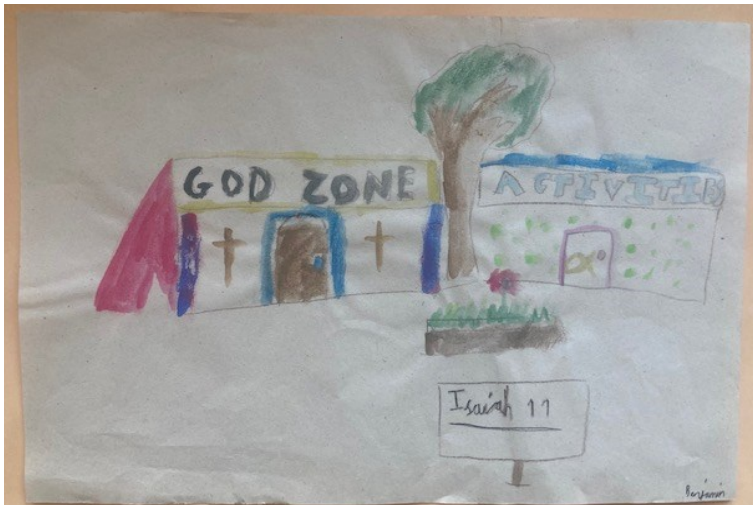


- A park, a flower garden, an allotment, a play area and a garden.
- A place with love and flowers.
- A church toy shop.
- An art gallery of all our paintings/
- A white building that people can draw on.

- A big house where people can live together.
- A place with different rooms for different things.
- A safe place.
- Where people are supported.
- A warm room.

One picture was of a building with a tree near its centre. With the Bible verses of Isaiah 11:1-3:

***A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.***



What a wonderful vision of how St. James' Yard can be for the community. Jesus at its centre, with His spirit resting on us as we act as his Kingdom bearers, reflecting Him to our community.

Helen Potts, Children and Families Minister

WELCOME

What's on each week?

Sunday 9.15am	Morning Worship In person only; St James Church
Sunday 11.15am	Morning Worship St James Church and YouTube
Wednesday 10.30am	Wednesday Communion St James Church
Kids and Families	Baby Fishes: Monday 10.30-12 Babies 0-12 months Little Fishes: Monday 1.30-3pm Under 5s Rockin: Tuesday 6pm-7.30pm Years 2-6 Kingdom Kids: Sundays 9.15am and 11.15am 0-11 years Forest Church: 17th December 9.15am and 28th January 11.15am Popcorn 15th December and 26th January, 3.30pm
Youth	Youth 412: Wednesdays 7pm-9pm Discussion, Bible Study and Worship Youth Club: Fridays 6.30pm-8.30pm Games, snacks and fun Sunday Youth: 11.15am Service only

What's on this Christmas at St James?

Christmas Popcorn

Exploring Christmas with craft and a story

Friday 15th December 3.30pm

Christmas Carol Service

A creative worship service followed by refreshments

Sunday 17th December 7pm

A Christmas Pantomime

by St James Youth and Kids

Friday 22nd December, 6.30pm

Christingle

A short family service

Christmas Eve 4pm

Midnight Communion

A traditional service

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

Christmas Day Celebration

A family worship service

Christmas Day, 10.30am

For more details, please visit
www.stjamesclitheroe.co.uk



CAP News



Hope at this time of year can mean lots of different things to different people. As followers of Jesus, there are reasons for hope that we have. A part of what CAP values, as an organisation generally and at local ministry level, is how stories of hope are shared amongst communities.

In this edition of Network, CAP has a couple of stories of hope to share. Firstly, an account from an individual that is part of our St James' community, who has engaged with a couple of the types of support that CAP offers:

Money and hope are not necessarily two words that are used in the same sentence, but through the CAP centre here, I am happy to report that I can now see hope financially.

I first approached CAP to help me with some debt issues that had finally caught up with me. Previous attempts to deal with this issue had led to judgement and shame, meaning nothing got dealt with.

From my first call to CAP head office, through to meeting with Matt and Janet (as a befriender), I was treated with nothing but dignity and respect. In the initial meeting with Matt, I was given really clear information, provided in an easy to access format. As I had already started to deal with my creditors, it was actually going to be more complicated for me to use CAP to navigate out of debt. But it is so reassuring to know that I can go down that route if I need to. We prayed together and it was such a relief to know that instead of condemnation there were people who would stand with me. I then did the CAP Money Management course. This was an excellent day which I would recommend to anyone. And I do mean anyone. The material seemed to effectively span all kinds of demographic groups. The content is

proven, well thought out and realistic, with input from different people and using a variety of learning tools so it doesn't get stale. It was also a fun day with great coffee and cake ... what's not to like!

I will definitely be using the budgeting tool and CAP course principles to help me get a better grip on my finances. But the team also let us know they are available for help and advice at any time. I wish I had spoken about this years ago. As shame and condemnation are replaced with hope and positive action, it's like a weight really has been lifted.

In short, CAP have developed some incredible resources, and they are delivered with dignity, respect, care and prayer. (And good coffee - which clearly, I now have to cut back on!!!) And all for free!

Alleluia! The CAP team are so blessed to share in the Joy and Hope of this journey. As a team of coaches, befrienders, and volunteers, we aim to be alongside people who have accessed any type of support on an ongoing basis. Financial situations are rarely set in stone for long periods of time, so remaining available and approachable is something we aim to keep at the heart of how CAP offers its services and support.

The second account of Hope that CAP would like to share is the news that a client that registered with CAP in March 2019 is due to become debt free any time now. Through bravely sticking with a long-term plan since then, she has cleared a significant amount of debt. A department at head office is waiting for some final pieces of admin to come through, so please pray for that. (sometimes it's the boring bits that are pivotal).

This means that a celebration during our Sunday services is on the cards. We are still deciding what we can do to mark the occasion in Church, but something loud, silly and inclusive will be coming our way soon!

Sharing in Hope and Joy this time of year can be hard in the busy-ness of the lead up to Christmas, keeping our heads down and getting through it can sometimes feel like the best approach. I believe that part of God's purpose for this world is for us to share in community, Hope, Joy, and the Glory of Jesus. This does include the tough times too, as mentioned in the contributed account above.

As Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians, *'He called you to this through our Gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ'*.

Matthew Wood, Clitheroe CAP Debt Centre Manager

The CAP Money Management course materials have been totally rewritten and relaunched this year.

CAP Money Management

The course is now structured into five Core sessions, and four optional sessions, which we can present in a variety of accessible ways for church and community groups.

We piloted the course over three sessions with the Belong small group (thanks to those who participated enthusiastically) and then held a one-day public course on a Saturday in November, which attracted 6 participants. We plan to hold further courses over two Saturday mornings in February, then a full course in the summer term. We're also hoping to run the course for community groups and charities.

If you are interested in joining a future course yourself, or running it in your small group, please contact:

capmoney1@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk

Graham Haldane for the CAP Money Team

What is Guided Prayer Ministry?



We are currently re-launching this vital ministry opportunity in St James' Church. The main aim of a session is to receive a fresh connection with God (Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit), through a facilitated conversation with Him.

What happens during a Guided Prayer Ministry session?

Together we will ask God questions with an expectancy of God giving His perspective directly to you. Each session is different according to individual needs. Deep within, we often believe things about ourselves and about God that are not the same as how God sees things. Bringing God's light and love into areas of pain and damage can often bring change and freedom to our lives and relationships. This is normally a one-off session, to deal with a specific need you may have. But this can also be used to have a spiritual "MOT" or "Spiritual Health Check". Team members are trained and released within St James' Church and help you to discern God's voice and explore his path to enhanced spiritual freedom.

This ministry is different to, but works well with, other areas of Discipleship and personal growth including mentoring, the Freedom in Christ Course, small groups, counselling and personal reflection and Bible study.

Here is a testimony from a recent Guided Prayer Ministry session:

"Thank you both for yesterday - it was VERY special for me. The Holy Spirit ministered to me in a wonderful way. It has left me with a lot to reflect on, flagged up a lot, and I pray for God's help in the continuing circumstances. Bless you in this important ministry."

Janet White, Guided Prayer Ministry team leader



Charis Mozambique Trip 9 Oct—11 Nov 2023



'Not by might, nor by power but my Spirit,' says the Lord.

We arrived safe and well after a smooth journey, with no issues with visas or missed flights (unlike this time last year!), but our bags were not so fortunate – they remained in South Africa until the following day². Patience is a virtue they say and in life we get many opportunities to test the quality of it! It was very hot and humid and so we invested in a couple of T-shirts, and I found an old 'missionary not very stylish bush skirt' whilst Mandy stuck with her leggings, not the best in 90 degree heat. But hey ho, we were back!

It was great to reconnect in person with our team: Sergio, Orlando, Bento and Ezekiel, our Centre caretaker and gardener, and family with whom we invested much of our time this visit. We spent time studying Galatians and then looking at Moses and the Exodus, learning from each other and encouraging the team to share their thoughts and ideas and how God was speaking to them through God's Word. We were very encouraged listening to them and loved their testimonies of how God has been leading them.



We are particularly excited to see Orlando's developing call to worship and training the next generation in music and sung worship. In the last few months, he has started classes at our Charis Centre in



Vilanculos and has 22 students who come 3 x a week to learn how to play the keyboard, guitar, and lead in worship. He is receiving so many calls from local churches to train their youth and is having to urge them to be patient and wait, as well as local teenagers seeking him out independently. We attended some of his classes and they were a joy and the Praise & Worship Evening he put on was so exciting. A young man led on

the keyboard whom Orlando has been training and many young folk came and worshipped from the heart.

Charis has been facilitating this developing ministry providing musical instruments for the classes, but we were delighted to hear that 2 local churches are themselves investing in keyboards.

Alongside the worship the students also receive teaching in discipleship from Sergio using a booklet we prepared on Transformational Mission.



We are also continuing to invest in teaching the bible to the poorly resourced church leaders in the surrounding villages. Presently the training takes place in our humble classroom, but God willing our **Life Centre** will be built in 2024, which will be a training hub and a place of prayer and God's presence. Our vision is that people will come from the north, east, south, and west to be equipped and prepared and then go out to the north, east, south, and west carrying God's good news and Spirit of love and truth to be holistic transformers in their communities and reach the next generation with the good news of Jesus.



We also visited the villages where we work and encouraged them with God's word and Mandy saw the sick. The villagers are very poor and pleaded with us to help with seeds this year as the farms have yielded little. Thanks to our faithful supporters we are presently helping 50 families in 5 villages with seeds and are joining with them in praying for rain. They can only plant when it rains and of course they need both sun and rain to grow.

And it was a joy to connect with old friends, whom we have helped over the years. Sadia is a young woman, whose parents died and because she cannot have children has not been able to find a husband. We have helped her with a micro business which is doing well, and we have seen her faith grow and her involvement in her church grow over the years.



We have so many stories we could share but space does not allow here, but God knows who they are. Our heart is to continue to identify with the poorest of the poor in Mozambique and Ethiopia and to see holistic transformation of lives by the power of God's Spirit and in Jesus' name.

Mel and Mandy



Youth News

The Youth Ministry in and through St James' Church continues to grow.

Discipleship group: We have around 30 each week attending our Wednesday evening youth discipleship group. This term, in addition to our normal worship and Bible study time, we have also been rehearsing for the kids and youth Christmas extravaganza which is a nativity pantomime and will be taking place at 6:30pm on Friday 22nd December. They rehearse on a Wednesday evening and do set, scenery and prop making on a Tuesday evening.

Sunday mornings: We have regularly 20+ young people attending the youth teaching time with additional young people choosing to stay in for the sermon. We have also had some of our young people who started off in our school and youth club attending Wednesday evening and now attending each week on a Sunday as well.

The Alton Towers trip was a great success. We took 38 young people and they all had a great day out facing their fears, making friends and learning to pray while hurtling around rollercoasters. We have even had one of the young people who came (who we know through one of the school clubs) choose to start coming to the Wednesday evening group.

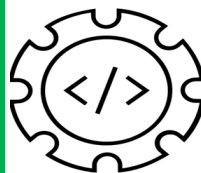
Friday Youth Club: This continues to go really well and the team do a fantastic job at engaging the young people with the stories of Jesus and how they make a difference to us. We have given out quite a few invites to Satellites 2024 to young people who have asked for them at the end of the group discussion time.

School clubs: I am now running 4 clubs each week—one at Bowland High, two at Ribblesdale and one at CRGS. Over the course of the week, I see between 40-60 young people just in schools, and some young people up to 6 times in the week at different activities.



Connecting

*Watch out for these
discipleship opportunities
coming in 2024*



Changing



We're aiming to
start the following
courses in January
2024.

Watch out for
further details.



**FREEDOM
IN CHRIST**

OUR DNA

Who's Who?

Rector	Mark Pickett	markwlpickett@gmail.com 07872 550 230
Operations Manager	Naomi Lynas	naomilynas@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk 07563 584 658
Admin Assistant	Sue Clark	sueclark@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk
CAP Centre Manager	Matt Wood	matthewwood@capuk.org 07860 617992
Children and Families Minister	Helen Potts	helenpotts@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk
Youth Minister	Lucy Skelton	lucyskelton@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk
Church Wardens	Graham Haldane Andrew Stevens	grahamhaldane@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk 07922-610300 (Andrew)
Safeguarding Officer	Nick Shelley	
Discipleship Coordinator (incl. Small Groups)	Ruth Haldane	ruthhaldane@gmail.com 07454 022950
Pastoral Coordinator	Peter Williams	homeofhobart@btinternet.com 07792 481373
Social Justice Co-ordinator	Graham Haldane	grahamhaldane@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk
Worship Co-ordinator	Jonathan Berry	jonathan.s.berry@gmail.com
PCC		
Jonathan Frank (Treasurer)	Ali Campbell	Janet Sanderson
Naomi Lynas (Secretary)	Sue Clark	Nick Shelley
Mark Pickett (Chair)	Ali Groves	Lucy Skelton
	Ruth Haldane	Clive Watson
	Debi Hardie	Janet White
	Helen Potts	Will Weston

Future issues of Network

If you would like to submit an item to be included in a future issue, please submit it direct by e-mail to grahamhaldane@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk

as a Word attachment (.doc), or a plain text (.txt) file. Don't worry about formatting, as we will have to adjust items to fit the page.

Deadline for Network

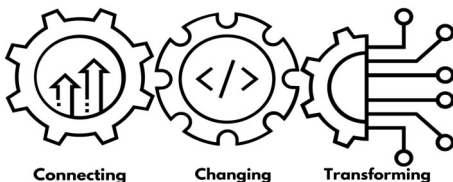
February 2024: Friday 26th

January

THANK YOU

We love our **small groups** in St James Church. They are great for discipleship, fellowship and prayer.

Please head to www.stjamesclitheroe.co.uk/smallgroups to sign up and find out more.



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St James' Church
St James' Street
Clitheroe
Lancashire, BB7 1HH
Tel No : 01200 423608

e: admin@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk
w: www.stjamesclitheroe.co.uk

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