

Church Without Walls

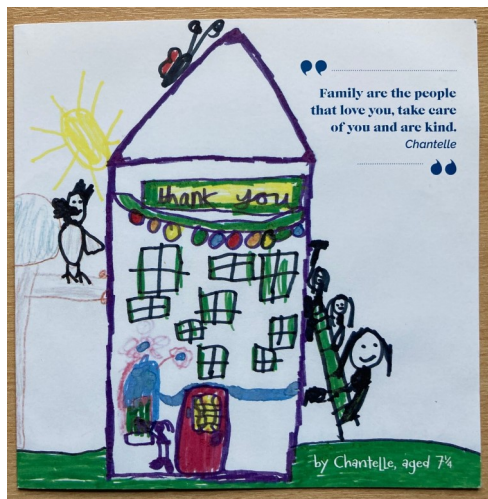
Issue 44 February 21st 2021



Preston Churches in Prayer

On Tuesday mornings at 7.30
join Christians from around
Preston for prayer on zoom
email Andy Pratt:
andrewpratt1@btinternet.com
for an invitation

Don't forget to join us for coffee after the morning service. The zoom link will be the same each week & will be sent out in the email you get with this newsletter.



We had a focus a few weeks ago on supporting vulnerable children.

We have sent a gift to both Home for Good & Safe families & one person has started training as a volunteer for Safe Families.

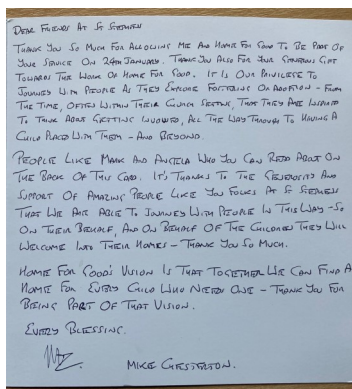
We've received a thank you card from Mike Chesterton. He says:

Dear friends at St Stephen's,
Thank you so much for allowing me and Home For Good to be part of your service on 24th January. Thank you also for your generous gift towards the work

of Home For Good. It is our privilege to journey with people as they explore fostering or adoption – from the time, often within their church setting, that they are inspired to think about getting involved, all the way through to having a child placed with them – and beyond....

It's thanks to the generosity and support of amazing people like you folks at St Stephen's that we are able to journey with people in this way - so on their behalf, and on behalf of the children they will welcome into their homes - thank you so much. Home for good's vision is that together we can find a home for every child who needs one - thank you for being part of that vision.

Every blessing
Mike Chesterton



A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honour your Father and your Mother", she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "You shall not murder."



One Sunday morning Bill's mother came into her son's room and said, "Bill, time to get up and go to church!"

From under the covers came mumbles, "I don't want to go!"

"What do you mean?" she said. "That's silly! Now get up and get dressed and go to church!"

"No!" he shot back. "I'll give you two reasons. I don't like them and they don't like me!"

"Nonsense," she told him. "I'll give YOU two reasons to go. First, you are 42 years old, and second, you are the PASTOR!"



DON'T PASS IT ON.

Help us stop the spread of coronavirus in Preston.

 **St Stephen's**
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES

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'God can work through anyone!'

Hello, my name is Helen Fisher. I am from Chesterfield in Derbyshire, and I have lived and worked in Nigeria for three years.

I had previously visited Africa on two short-term trips and felt that I wanted to come for longer, and I came across Wycliffe on the internet. Before being in Nigeria I was a children's Speech and Language Therapist working in the NHS, and so my initial thought when I applied to work with Wycliffe was that I could be a linguist. However, during the interview process, it was found that 'Bible impact' was a better fit, and now that I am here, I can see that this was the right decision for me.

Bible impact is about helping individuals and communities to engage with the translated Scriptures in ways that are relevant and best for them so that God's word is life-transforming!

Our team (based in Jos) currently consists of six people (two men, four women), including two Nigerians, two British, one Irish and one American. There are a number of services that we can offer, and as we seek to be guided by God, our work is still developing and we continue to learn.

My favourite activity that I do is a weekly Scripture Listening and Reading Group (SLRG) with the ladies at Jos prison.

Often in Nigerian Bible studies, the leader teaches and preaches the message and the group members listen. The SLRG is different in that it is interactive. Each group member can share what the Holy Spirit is saying to them and the leader doesn't need to know all the answers. One of the ladies in the prison is the leader, asking the questions, and it is wonderful to hear the ladies share as we answer the questions together.

Each week, I look forward to learning more about God with - and through - these ladies.



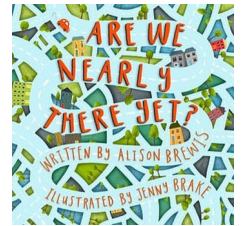
Helen (centre right) with 3 colleagues.

[You can read more of Helen's story here](#)

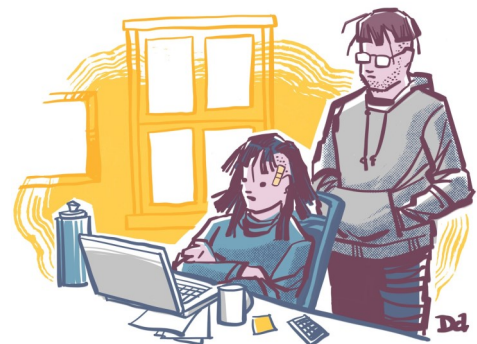
Book review by Rachel Ridler

Great resource for Easter evangelism

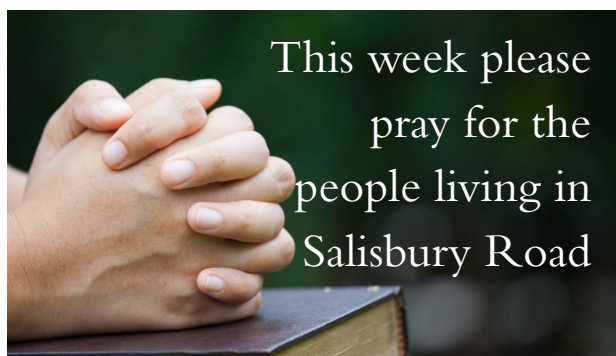
"Are we nearly there yet?" is a short booklet style book, but with a strong card cover so it doesn't just feel like a throw away pamphlet as some books like this can. The front cover design is modern and eye catching, and because the title isn't really "in your face" Christian, I think it would work really well as a giveaway in non-Christian environments, such as schools. The story itself follows a narrative of a family in a car, and the familiar question of "Are we nearly there yet?". Whilst they are waiting to get to Granny's for Easter, their parents tell them the Easter story, and all the way through they see the disciples asking the similar question of "Are we nearly there yet? When will you be king?". The pages go through the familiar Easter sequences - palm Sunday, Garden of Gethsemane, the crucifixion and the stone rolled away at the tomb, but not just in a plain story telling way which the kids will be all too familiar with. The illustrations and use of speech bubbles throughout the book is very good and engaging for kids. I would probably say that this book would be useable for 2 years up to mid primary age (maybe 8) as it could be read to children, or they can read by themselves. At the end of the book, there are included some ideas for taking it further, discussion with the children and playing through the story too. These would be useful for parents, toddler group leaders or teachers if they wanted to include it in their pre-Easter activities. All in all, this a very well thought out book, and one that will work well as a giveaway instead of chocolate this Easter (who needs more chocolate!!).



[Buy it here for £3.50](#)



"Webcams were unflattering even before we all had to start cutting our own hair."



This week please
pray for the
people living in
Salisbury Road

 **St Stephen's**
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES