

## FREEDOM IN CHRIST COURSE

This is a fantastic course which has helped many Christians to discover the freedom that God wants us all to enjoy in him. Many of us carry baggage from the past which holds us back, or we feel ourselves constantly pulled back into old sinful patterns of behaviour. Sometimes we feel that things can never change.

This course will help you to understand who you are in Christ, what happened when you became a Christian, the truth of God's unconditional love, why there is no condemnation, and why you don't have to languish in cycles of sin, negative thinking and hopelessness.

Sound good? Here's what a member of our church said about a previous course they attended:

*"Doing the Freedom in Christ course has stopped me from feeling guilty that I'm not good enough for God to love me. Knowing that nothing I do will make God love me less is really liberating. I know other people have said this, but I now feel in my heart what I've known in my head for years and it's amazing!"*

You might have done Freedom in Christ before but it's great to repeat it – rather like a spiritual MOT! We start in the new year on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**January at 7.30pm** and the course will run on Monday evenings in St Matthews for seven weeks. If you would like to take part, please speak to Tom.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note these dates, more details to follow:

- Ladies' Weekend away - 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017
- Baptism and Confirmation service – 10.30am 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017
- Men's Weekend away - 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017



Holy Trinity Church Corporation Street Stalybridge SK15 2JS [www.holytrinity.stalybridge.org](http://www.holytrinity.stalybridge.org)

Stephen Abel	0161 312 5229	<a href="mailto:stephen@holytrinity.stalybridge.org">stephen@holytrinity.stalybridge.org</a>
Will Drain	0161 312 5229	<a href="mailto:will@holytrinity.stalybridge.org">will@holytrinity.stalybridge.org</a>
Jonny Hirst	0161 312 5229	<a href="mailto:jonny@holytrinity.stalybridge.org">jonny@holytrinity.stalybridge.org</a>
Tom Parker	0161 303 1984	<a href="mailto:tom@holytrinity.stalybridge.org">tom@holytrinity.stalybridge.org</a>
Georgia Stokes	0161 304 9308	<a href="mailto:georgia@holytrinity.stalybridge.org">georgia@holytrinity.stalybridge.org</a>
Cris Trueman	0161 304 9308	<a href="mailto:admin@holytrinity.stalybridge.org">admin@holytrinity.stalybridge.org</a>



The church office is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9.00am to 3.00pm and Wednesday 10.00am to 3.00pm



December 11th 2016

### Sunday 11th December

9.15am and 11.15am Communion and Children's groups

'Get Ready' Luke 3: 1-18

4.00pm and 7.00pm Carol Services

### Monday 12th December

9.15am Family Forum  
7.30pm Alpha Course

### Tuesday 13th December

7.30pm West Hill Carol Service

### Wednesday 14th December

9.00am Prayer meeting  
10.00am Bridge Coffee  
7.00 Youth Engage  
7.30pm West Hill Carol service

### Thursday 15th December

1.30pm Gorse Hall Carol Service  
5.00pm Carol Singing at the station  
7.15pm Youth Encounter  
7.30pm Worship Group

### Friday 16th December

12noon Carers Connect in St Matthews

### Saturday 17th December

10.00am Prayer Walk  
11.00am to 4.00pm Christmas Family Day on Melbourne Street

### Sunday 18th December

9.15am and 11.15am  
Nativity from Scratch

'May it be to me as you have said'

2.00pm to 3.00pm Gospel Choir singing at Tameside Hospital

## WELCOME

We are delighted that you have joined us for our services this morning.

If you are visiting or new to Holy Trinity it's great to have you with us - we hope that you feel at home. Please make yourself known to one of the welcome team (wearing white badges) after the service - they would love to get you a cup of coffee and tell you a bit about the church.



Third Sunday of Advent

WORSHIPPING GOD BUILDING COMMUNITY SERVING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

## THANK YOU!

Thanks for all your support with shoeboxes for Romania, toys for Wood Street Mission and food collections at Tesco over the last few weeks.

Update re shoeboxes:

*The shoebox truck started its journey yesterday and there were 2122 shoeboxes (120 more than last year), plus 100 boxes of clothes and a quantity of furniture. The UK team fly out early on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and return on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. Your prayers would be appreciated over the next couple of weeks that all these gifts of love can make a difference in the lives of all those receiving them.*

Update from foodbank:

*A staggering 2970.96kg of food was collected over three days in Tesco. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way!*

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY

Next Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a Christmas Family Day on Melbourne Street featuring Stalybridge Choir from 11.00am – 1.00pm and Stalybridge Brass Band from 1.00pm – 2.00pm. We have also been invited to read part of the Christmas story and say a few words at 12.30pm so come and support us and join in the fun!



## CHRISTMAS DAY MEAL

The Church of the Nazarene in Ashton are once again putting on a Christmas Day meal for any who would otherwise be alone and would enjoy being with others. There is a full turkey dinner, entertainment, carol singing and good conversation but people do need to book in advance. Contact Kat on 07557 344067 for more information.



## PRAYER WALK

We will be praying for the town next Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December starting in St Matthews at 10.00am. We believe that prayer changes things and want to see God at work in our town and for people to know his peace and love this Christmastime, so please come and be part of this – you're free to stay in St Matthews to pray, to walk around the town on your own or with others and to pray silently or out loud. Come and join us!



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Don't forget our Carol Services tonight – why not give a last minute invitation to a neighbour or friend?**

**CAROL SERVICES** - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 4.00 and 7.00pm. Soak up the atmosphere at these candlelit services with traditional carols, readings and the Gospel Choir, followed by mince pies and refreshments.

**COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 5.00 – 7.00pm by the station Buffet Bar.

**NATIVITY FROM SCRATCH** - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 9.15am and 11.15am. For all the family – everyone is invited to come dressed as a character from the nativity story (adults and children) as we retell the Christmas story with readings and carols. (You don't have to dress up, but it's more fun if you do!)

**CRIB SERVICE** - Christmas Eve 4.00pm. In the midst of a very exciting night come and remember the true meaning of Christmas in this short service especially for children set around the nativity scene with readings and carols.

**CAROL SINGING AT THE HOSPITAL** - meet at the reception area of Hartshead South at 6.15pm on Christmas Eve. Patients who have to be in hospital over Christmas really appreciate the love and care shown to them by this simple act of sharing our joy. Refreshments afterwards in the restaurant at about 7.30pm.

**MIDNIGHT COMMUNION** - Christmas Eve 11.30pm. Welcome Jesus into our world and reflect with awe on his coming in the stillness of the night through this wonderful service with traditional carols, readings and communion.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY PRAISE** - Christmas Day 10.30am. A time for all the family - put your lunch on hold and bring your guests as we sing carols and celebrate together!

## GIVE AS YOU LIVE

If you shop online at Amazon, Comet, Tesco and over 4000 other stores then every purchase you make using 'Give as you live' results in a small donation going to Holy Trinity church. It doesn't cost you a penny extra.



To register go to [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com), click 'Sign up for free', search for 'Holy Trinity Stalybridge', click on 'Select this cause' and then enter your name, email address and a password.

That's it. Every time you shop, go through 'Give as you live' and a donation will go to Holy Trinity. Thank you!

## CHESTER DIOCESAN LAY CONFERENCE

**Mission Impossible?**

Your chance to make a difference!

Every three years Chester Diocese has a conference for lay people in the parishes. The next one is from 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2017 at The Hayes Conference centre in Swanwick and there is a free place reserved for Holy Trinity. Would you like to go to represent us? Speak to Tom asap for more information.

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## DISCRETIONARY FUND

Holy Trinity has a small Discretionary Fund which is used to help refugees with whom we have contact and others in need and also to support asylum appeals. If you would like to make a specific contribution to this fund at any time apart from your regular giving, please use one of the envelopes at the back and mark it clearly 'Discretionary Fund'.

## PASTORAL CARE AND VISITING

If you know of someone who is unwell, in hospital or would like a visit because they cannot get to church, please let Cris know through the church office or speak directly to Beryl Pickersgill 01457 762020 who coordinates our Visiting Team.



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## COLLECTION

We do not pass a collection plate during our services - instead we have a basket near the church entrance where we ask people to place their gifts towards God's work. The work of the church depends upon the regular faithful giving of God's people and we encourage all who consider themselves members of Holy Trinity to give using envelopes or by standing order so that we can reclaim Gift Aid on their donations.



If you don't already give in this way, please speak to Jamie Shepherd or Mark Wilde for more information or pick up a finance information pack from the back of church.

If you do not give regularly but would like to make a donation today, please use one of the envelopes on the cupboards at the back and place it in the basket before or after the service. Thank you!

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