

October		Saturday 5	
Sunday 2		10.30am	Beanies dance group
9.15&11.00am	Community service, baptism & meal Paul Ferguson	Sunday 6	
6.30pm	Dave Finney, You can tell by the way they walk	11.00am	Community service, baptism & meal, Philip Jinadu, Beware of the scribes
		6.30pm	Dave Ling, Heart trouble
Wednesday 5		Wednesday 9	
8.00pm	Reflective service	8.00pm	Reflective service
Saturday 8		Sunday 13	
8.00am	Men's breakfast	9.15&11.00am	Michael Wood, Remembrance Sunday
10.30am	Beanies dance group	6.30pm	Paul Ferguson, Fearless love
Sunday 9		Monday 14	Inside out
9.15&11.00am	David Lawrence, Whose face is on the money?	Wednesday 16	
6.30pm	John Moseley, Which one will you love?	8.00pm	Reflective service
Monday 9		Thursday 17	
2.00pm	Inside out, Film: Miss Potter	8.00pm	Prayer evening
Wednesday 12		Sunday 20	
8.00pm	Reflective service	9.15&11.00am	Mary Groves, A penny's worth of love
Sunday 16		6.30pm	Terry Wicks, The testimony of God
9.15&11.00am	Paul Ferguson, Scripture & the power of God	Wednesday 23	
6.30pm	Sally Heath, Who is the liar?	8.00pm	Reflective service
Wednesday 19		Sunday 27	
8.00pm	Family forum: No reflective service	9.15&11.00am	Dave Day, Advent Sunday
Thursday 20		6.30pm	Ian Taylor, In conclusion
8.00pm	Prayer evening	Wednesday 30	
Sunday 23		8.00pm	Reflective service
9.15am	All age service	December	
11.00am	Morning worship, Greatest commandment	Saturday 3	
6.30pm	Terry Wicks, Paternity test	10.30am	Beanies dance group
Wednesday 26		Sunday 4	
8.00pm	Reflective service	11.00am	Community service & meal, Paul Ferguson & Mark Baker, 2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday 30		6.30pm	Sally Heath
9.15&11.00am	Ken Payne, Son of David?	Wednesday 7	
6.30pm	Ed Stuart, Cain or Christ?	8.00pm	Reflective service
November		Saturday 10	
Wednesday 2		8.00am	Men's breakfast
8.00pm	Reflective service		

Go MAD!!! - Go Make a Difference

MUSOMA Tanzania visit

IT HAS COME to that point which I find quite challenging, sitting down and writing about a trip that's been crammed full of the "doing". I went to Africa in April to spend 3 months working in Tanzania with the vision that God would help me to make a real difference to the lives of the local people. There were 19 others in the team, who all had the same vision. We all applied last autumn to the charity "Go MAD" (Go Make a Difference) about a year ago now, under the umbrella of Tear fund. The charity has been building water tanks and toilets in Tanzania for over 15 years, and has established good friendships with the locals and members of the Anglican Diocese. I went to get involved, and once there, it's very hard not to.



Two babies from the orphanage drinking their porridge

One of my first vivid memories, (apart from the erratic driving by the locals and the welcoming cockroach roommates) was when our charity leader came out of a church service and immediately asked the Pastor where he wanted his water tank to be built. In the next few days, the hole had been dug and the tank frame was concreted in. A definite highlight of this trip was how efficiently decisions were made. The local villages needed

their water tanks built before the wet season ended for them to actually fulfil their purpose and collect the rain. Now this was the type of practical living that we could learn a lot from.

Over the next 12 weeks, the locals and the friends we made unknowingly taught us a lot about prioritising. We lived in the Anglican Diocese compound in a town no bigger than Thornbury – yet Musoma served as the capital for a region of Tanzania larger than Wales. The group was split



Stella (in pink) and her family outside her finished water tank

into 2 teams of 10, each team involved in their own construction projects. The other team built a church roof and tank for a village while our team built 4 water tanks and 2 toilets in 4 villages. We learnt a lot about construction as we made the concrete tanks from all the raw materials ourselves. Everyone in our team particularly loved working for an elderly woman called Stella. Whenever our truck arrived at her home, Stella would come out and greet us with the inevitable Swahili phrase "Bwana Asifiwe" – Praise the Lord! She was a lady of inspiration and surprising strength for a 12 year sufferer of HIV. God has been so faithful to her and her family and although she lives in a mud house with hardly any material possessions, I didn't meet another Tanzanian with such a huge smile – and that's



Our team and some villagers after building our first concrete lintel (which makes the base of a toilet)

intense competition!

The physical work was one part of the trip and I really enjoyed seeing the tanks and toilets being built up, because they do help dramatically with improving basic hygiene. But another realm was the daily prayers and devotions that we shared together.

Over the whole trip God has been so good to our team. It has been a time full of His joy and a time to really reflect on His word and what is important in life, which is really Him! Everything that we achieved, was through Him and He has really

taught me and everyone in our team, how to fall in love with Jesus. It's so hard not to when you're working for His people and experiencing their desperate need. One generous man, called Pastor Francis, was so encouraging to us. He was an extremely enthusiastic man and always wanted to come and meet, greet and eat with us whenever we saw him. After one of his services on a Sunday, our team cooked for his church congregation, yet he still insisted that we ate first. Afterwards, I saw one of his 8 children scraping the burnt grains of rice out of a pot, because the children ate last and consequently the least. Although he had a big family (and more on the way) to feed and protect, Francis relied on God and you could definitely see God working through him. I would definitely recommend spending time with those who are

poor in the world's eyes to experience more of God's abundant grace. Because one major thing we learnt and have come back with, is how to rely on God, the ultimate faithful provider

Sarah Baker-Falkner

Fun Factory Report

IT'S JUST ONE HOOT FROM START TO FINISH' is how Christine described her week helping at 'The Big Sail' Fun Factory recently. At the front of the church there was big model of Noah's ark filled with stuffed animals. Every morning there was singing, a video to watch, time to talk and join in with activities, colouring, craftwork and playing in the church garden. The parents could stay and have a coffee with their preschoolers too.

'I love it because we have about 60 children – no fights or squabbles, the children were eager to join in with the questions after the video on the story of Noah and some of the questions were quite difficult to answer. We iced biscuits



The FUN FACTORY big sail cake

together, but I am not sure many biscuits made it home as I am sure they were eaten well before then! Not having any grandchildren of my own it gives me the chance to be a big kid again and enjoy the company of the young children.

'Roll on the next Fun Factory' says Christine 'I will be there'.

What's so special about KIDZ? ROADSHOW

AS A BOY I went to Sunday School and my teacher was a wonderful woman who became like a grandmother to me. She taught me to love Bible stories and led me to Jesus. Because of her love for me, I realise now that the age group from 8 to 11 is so important. These are impressionable years and vital for being open to receive Gospel truth from those who care about them.

During community week we had the opportunity to reach out into our local area on the grassy fields at Streamleaze, near the children's



The Gypsy church

Afterwards we were even treated to drinks at one of the church leaders houses, or should I say palace! My overwhelming memory is of how warm, friendly and welcoming they were to us"

A couple of times in the week we also joined the church in its meetings. On the Thursday there was a Bible study, on Friday a youth group and two services on Sunday. Robert the pastor actually led three churches in the surrounding area, as there is a desperate lack of pastors in Romania after the fall of communism. The congregation was fairly small, but all were committed to coming to the meetings and learning more about God and Jesus. Everybody was also very friendly, and an amazing amount of them spoke a bit of English. We also loved to get to know a girl called Kate, who spoke excellent English. She wanted to learn all about us, our lives and our Christian walk. Kate and her friends also took us to the poshest cake and ice cream shop in Udvarhely!

There is so much more I would love to mention – Andrew who under former communism rule had set up the static Christian camp called Hargita which we visited and loved, the salt lake and caves we went to on our day off and painting many 'pillangós!' (butterflies!) with our face paints with the Kids outreach work. We had a fantastic time, everyone was so open and friendly, and we feel that God was moving in many peoples' lives, and I hope we had a small part to play in that. God definitely blessed, humbled and taught us all through our mission trip to Romania.

Reflective evening service

A weekly reflective service. now takes place in the bookshop lounge every Wednesday evening. This is a short service, lasting about thirty minutes, which consists of simple prayers, short scripture readings and a time of quiet reflection.

Our hope is that it will become an oasis of calm in the middle of the busyness of the week when we can be still, connect with God in a meaningful way and be restored.

Each meeting follows a printed order of service which may be taken home and used for further reflection during the rest of the week. We are hoping that this form of service will be a safe place where you could bring friends (both with and without Christian beliefs) who are looking for a spiritual dimension to their lives. It is not evangelistic as such, but our intention is to inform people via the words of the prayers and scripture readings that there is a God in heaven who loves and cares for them

Ask at the office for more information or come along and see what you think.

School work in Kenya

In July, we went with 30 others to Kenya to work in a school in Kibera, the biggest and most densely populated slum in Africa for one week, taking lessons and running a kids club for the students. One thing that everyone did at some point throughout the week was a home visit- we went with three other team members and a student in our class to see where they lived. This took us closer to the heart of the slum, and we discovered first hand the horrific situation they face as part of daily life. Most live in small houses with lots of family members, and everything costs for them- even using the toilet and getting water. This, on the whole, was what affected us the most- seeing how these beautiful children we had each grown to love suffered every day from the harsh reality of slum life. It's safe to say that the trip has affected if not changed our lives, and it's something we won't forget. Thank you for all your support and prayers before and during the trip.

The Harrisons

Missionary visit to Romania

AFTER A DAY'S TRAVEL, our group of ten arrived at Székelyudvarhely, Transylvania, Romania. The group was led by Philip Ashford and Helen Smedley and then eight seventeen year's olds – Harry Collin, Dylan Lopes, Will James, Ed Ashford, Sarah James, Emma Barnes, Lisa Quarrel and Rachel Osborne. We were warmly greeted by Pastor Robert, his wife and their three children. We had been preparing for our trip for about ten months and were excited and expectant of the things God would do to and through us during our trip. We were not to be disappointed!

During our week we spent three mornings working with local children, playing games, teaching them songs and performing puppet-style Bible stories. Around half of the children were not from the church so it was an amazing outreach as well as great fun for all involved! Many of the kids lived in tall flats in the town, but they were able to play safely together and learn a bit about Jesus through our teachings and puppet shows. The parachute games also went down very well!

One thing that personally really touched me was visiting a gypsy village called Fiatfalva. Harry, Philip and I went to the adult church service organised by a gypsy missionary and Robert, our pastor. At first, I felt very uncomfortable, as in gypsy culture men shake hands and greet each other, whilst the women are quieter and don't get spoken to by the men. It was odd to walk down a crowded street yet be basically ignored by everyone there! However, I felt more at ease when we got to the place where we were meeting – just a bit

Soul Survivor takes place every year and is a brilliant opportunity to meet with God through worship, teaching and prayer



The Romania team members

of wasteland between two houses, flies were everywhere, yet long benches covered with carpets and blankets were neatly laid out. Robert translated and introduced us, and Harry and I told our favourite Bible verses and each shared a short testimony. Philip then preached about freedom in Christ and addictions like smoking and alcoholism, as in the gypsy village this can be a huge problem. I felt really welcomed when I sang 'In Christ Alone' for them, they were so eager to hear more about God.

The main thing that struck me was the gypsy's simple acceptance of their, and human-kinds, great need for God. We heard a testimony from a young man at the meeting, about how he had become a Christian the week before, and had apologised to his family for the sins he had committed against them. He said it with tears in his eyes, but the joy of his new faith shone through in his words. During our talks they praised God at every opportunity, sharing stories about how He had worked in their lives. They were all so willing to also pray over me and Harry. I really felt Gods presence at

that meeting, in the squalid conditions, the dusty roads and the difficult life, here were people desperate to hear the good news about Jesus.

I also have to mention Will – who preached his first sermon to a gypsy church in Korund! Helen, Will, Lisa and Dylan went to the Sunday morning meeting there. Helen said about the church "we were warmly received and it seems it was a honour for us to take photos of them. There was a round of applause when we did a puppet sketch then explained that Lisa had painted a backdrop we were going to give to them for the children to retell Bible stories. Furthermore, there were lots of smiles and 'amens' through the testimonies and Wills talk.

The congregation was fairly small, but all were committed to coming to the meetings and learning more about God and Jesus

playground. The purpose is for people from local churches to entertain children aged 8 to 11 with fun things to do and to let them know Somebody [up there] represented by someone [down here] cares for them. Activities include free face-painting, nail-painting, cricket and football, balloon animals and more. The first day about 50 children registered – this rose to about

The children were eager to join in with the questions ... and some were quite difficult to answer.

100 for the last day. What an opportunity! The volunteers who turn out for this event are an inspiration. Their willingness to be seen to be witnesses for Christ – to stand up for Jesus – is wonderful. OK, they are not preaching, but they are relating to the children and their carers in a practical way. The young people of our churches are special because of their willingness to publicly minister to their community in this way. We should really be proud of them. Their witness encourages those of us who do not participate in youth outreach to do so.

The future of our churches depends on how successful we are in attracting the children of our community to come into our churches. The major youth challenge facing TBC is in getting adults – especially men- to work with Dan in the vital process of transforming the Streamleaze children into Adventurers. See Helen if you want to help in this vital role. Ed Cole

Holiday at Home

THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR I have attended Holiday at Home. I heard about it through the Quakers in Thornbury, which I attend, although I live in Charfield. Everything has been wonderful and I'm sure everyone has enjoyed it – I have heard no complaints! The meals have been wonderful and well appreciated especially as we have not had to prepare our own. I took part in exercise, had my nails painted and my hands massaged, I have arranged flowers and had lots of fun doing curling. The company has

been particularly good and I have met up with people I haven't seen for years. Other feedback comments from Holiday Makers: I don't think you could improve on it. It is a wonderful holiday. What a wonderful church and wonderful helpers - they will all need a holiday of their own to recover.

Very good value – everyone was very helpful. Everything was good. It was entertaining and helpful. The food was excellent – couldn't fault anything. Full marks for all the helpers. Very well done with a lot of thought for our enjoyment and a lot of care. I appreciated all the friendliness and help. Everyone was very kind. Rosa Gunning

Soul Survivor

FROM THE 14TH TO THE 19TH OF AUGUST this year a group of around 30 young people went to



The SOUL SURVIVORS

spend the week at Soul Survivor. Soul Survivor takes place every year and is a brilliant opportunity to meet with God through worship,

teaching and prayer and roughly 10,000 youth attend each year with numbers still rising. A typical day at Soul Survivor starts with an optional seminar in the morning on specific topics which aim to help you look deeper into certain areas of faith. There are two more optional seminars in the afternoon and each morning and evening we had a main celebration which everyone came to. Each person who came with us to Soul Survivor had individual experiences and amazing encounters with God. As we camped together for a week, we also bonded as a group and many relationships grew stronger and we explored our faith with each other and generally had a fantastic time!

Rachel Ling