



In House

Thornbury Baptist Church

November/
December 2009



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Bethan Perry

Bethan Perry has joined TBC as a student youth worker. In House wanted to get to know her so we asked some probing questions, and this is how she responded.

What brings you to TBC?

I felt that I wanted a change or rather a challenge from working within a different denomination to where I worked last year (Anglican), however I wanted also to return to a type of church from which I am used to at home - in terms of teaching and practices, hence I came to a Baptist church. Yet furthermore I liked the ethos of TBC and all that is going on and on offer for people of all ages to get involved with.



What are you most looking forward to here?

I think probably working as a student youth worker, so being able to learn from the experience of other youth workers that have had plenty. And also being able to settle in a place and giving 3 years of life to the work here.

What is your favourite memory?

Probably when I got baptised just over 3 years ago. I had invited quite a number of non Christian friends, and one of my best friends invited his girlfriend at the time, and she became a Christian that night after basically no church experience at all. Since then she has grown to be one of my closest friends, especially at my home church and even did the foundation year with SWYM that I did last year too, so it will always be a memory that is with me every day!

A classic, if you were in a burning house what would be the one thing that you would make sure was saved?

I think I would have to say my photos, or my laptop with all my thousands of photos on, I wouldn't want to lose them!

If you ruled the world what would be the first thing you would do?

I would probably go home and just see my mum, because we are very close, and she would probably question me as to why I'm doing such a ludicrous thing as ruling the world!

Food figures highly in Youth events, what is your favourite?

Sausage, chips and gravy...

Why I don't go to football matches.

I have made up my mind never to go to another football match again. I have had enough. Here are my reasons why.

1. I was taken to too many matches by my parents when I was growing up.
2. The matches are always played when I want to do something else.
3. Every time I go to a match someone asks me for money.
4. Although I go to a lot of matches not many people speak to me.
5. The seats are uncomfortable, and I often have to sit in a place I don't want to.
6. The referee says and does things that I don't agree with.
7. The band usually plays too loud and plays tunes I have never heard before.
8. Some games are boring nil nil draws.
9. Some matches go on too long, making me get home late.

Anon

You had your reasons

I was hungry and you blamed it on the politicians,
 I was hungry and you sent men to the moon,
 I was hungry and you told me to wait,
 I was hungry and you set up a board of enquiry,
 I was hungry and you said 'so were my ancestors',
 I was hungry and you said 'we don't employ people over 45',
 I was hungry and you said 'God helps those who help themselves',
 I was hungry and you told me I shouldn't t be,
 I was hungry and you told me computers do my work now,
 I was hungry and you had to pay your defence budget,
 I was hungry and you said ' the poor are always with us'.
 Lord,
 When did we see you hungry?

Iona Community

In the Summer time

Remember the summer? Many thanks to Lottie, Rachel, Emily and Jonathan for taking us back there.

This August Daisy and Billy Byrne, William and Charlotte Ferguson, William Fox and Tom Higginson went to a Scripture Union camp - called Extreme. The camp was near Bridgewater, Somerset and it was near a wooded area.



We were there for four days. On the first day when we got there we went to our cabins which had names of chocolate bars, Daisy and I stayed in a cabin called Caramel and the four boys were in Fudge.

We went into the meeting room everyday at about 8:30 and we watched plays about different people in the bible. We then had a different play as well but it was with the Extreme leaders. We also had cabin time and had a book, which we used and it was all about Christian things.

We also had lots of fun activities. We went on a night walk in the woods and it was beautiful and a car stopped (not the police) and wondered why we were walking through the woods at night-time. We had a swimming pool and we were allowed to jump in when there was a sign that said, "No jumping in please". We also had a rope course and when I was going over it I slipped and banged my eye and cried. My camp leader took me to the juggling games. I played with a new friend called Jessica who was very nice.

All of us from Thornbury had a really great time on Scripture Union camp, we all hope we can go again in 2010. If any of your children would like to go I would encourage them to do it! Don't sit there chatting, find out more on www.ScriptureUnion.org.uk

On the 2nd August my family and two other families from church went camping at New Wine 2009. This was my 7th year at New Wine and I was really looking forward to it! In the morning and the evening I went to my youth group where we prayed and worshipped God through a series of fun and exciting activities, such as arts and craft and song writing and different ways to express yourself in a way that suits you. We sang some reflective and some extremely energetic and lively songs. We listened to speakers and learnt more about God and Christianity through prayer and experiences such as visions and pictures.



It was exciting to see the Holy Spirit working in young people this way. In the afternoons we had free time and were free to wander

round the marketplace, a large hall filled with stalls and cafés, or go off site to explore, or just to hang out with friends. I really enjoy my youth groups every year because I learn so much and meet so many lovely people that I am still in contact with now. [Note from Dad: a group from TBC are planning to go to New Wine next year in a combined group with other churches from Thornbury. If you are interested please get in touch with Dave Ling.]

Last August, my brother Jonathan, David Dukes and I, went on a 'Sports Plus' Camp for one week at Christ College, Brecon in Wales. 'Sports Plus' is run by 'Christians In Sport' and is aimed at young people who are passionate about playing sport and who want to find out about Jesus and what it means to live for him. Their motto is: **PRAY** - for friends who don't know Jesus; **PLAY** - in a way that honours Jesus; **SAY** - something of the good news of Jesus

At first, when Mum mentioned the idea of going on a Christian camp, I was extremely apprehensive. However, during the months before we were due to go, I prayed that God would really touch us. I also prayed for peace and asked God to take away any feelings of anxiety. I do believe that this prayer in particular, was answered, because when we arrived at the college, I really felt that God was with me and for the first time, I felt no fear about the week ahead.

Straight away we were welcomed with such warmth and love that I was really comforted and reassured during the first couple of hours, whilst getting to know everyone else. We were put into groups of about 6 to 8, with young people of a similar age and each group was called a specific country. Mine was 'Slovakia' and by the end of the week, I really felt like we were a family and that God was the centre of all our lives.

My group played a vital part in my experience at 'Sports Plus', as every morning we had a quick, 'thought for the day' before breakfast, not forgetting the early morning run! However, even though we played 4 hours of our chosen sport each morning, another sport in the afternoon, with team challenges every evening, the part of the day that I most looked forward to was the group dis-

cussion. This involved a team leader teaching from the Bible, this year the topic was the story of creation and it really hit me, how awesome God is.

As a group we often got into deep discussion about Christianity. On a number of occasions, we talked for hours into the night and at times the atmosphere got quite emotional. I strongly believe that God put all of us together for a reason, because I felt comfortable opening up to others, even though I had only known the members of my group for a couple of days.

Before the camp, I sometimes felt alone in my faith and love for God and didn't really appreciate how many young people also believed that Jesus Christ is Lord. Apart from church, I had never had the opportunity to discuss my faith with other young people and so going on this camp has really been a revelation for me. I now know that there are many young people in the world that love God as much as I do, and that knowledge, has given me the confidence to share my faith with my non-Christian friends. I am so thankful to Mum for persuading me to go on this camp as I really feel that my relationship with God has become stronger and also my love for God has increased as a result of Christians In Sport.



Jonathan adds: Sports Plus was the first Christian camp I have ever been on. It was great for many reasons; it wasn't too 'in your face', the Christian teaching was aimed at youngsters, they went through situations which I was facing or was about to face and the sport was great. I would recommend this camp for anyone wanting to know more about Christianity or wanting to develop their relationship with God. I went from thinking I was a Christian to being a Christian. The only thing bad about the camp is; it's only once a year!

Sports Plus is for young people aged 11-17. See www.christiansinsport.org.uk for next year's dates and venues.

As announced at the recent Family Forum it is emphasised that the bookshop will remain open and part of the ministry of this church.

There is, however, a large backlog of stock, much of which has remained unsold for many years and which is, therefore, not in very good condition and so a rationalisation of stock is under way.

Church Calendar : Nov 2009 to Jan 2010

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st

11am: Community service, baptism & meal
Lis Pearce: The importance of remembering
6.30pm: Communion and prayer for healing

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday

9.15/11am: Michael Wood - ROPE
6.30pm: Ian Taylor

Monday 9th

11am: Inside Out - Cadbury garden centre

Saturday 14th

7.30am: Men's breakfast
9.30am: Christian Dance Fellowship day

Sunday 15th

9.15/11am: Lis Pearce: The Determining Word
6.30pm: Mike Levy: Noah

Tuesday 17th

7pm: Thornbury Christmas lights evening

Thursday 19th

8pm: Prayer evening

Friday 20th

2.30pm: Holiday at Home reunion

Sunday 22nd

9.15/11am: Var Smallwood: Faith's carelessness
6.30pm: Terry Wicks

Tuesday 24th

7pm: Service of remembering

Sunday 29th Advent 1

9.15/11am: David Lawrence: The God who comes
4.30pm: Dance workshop
6.30am: Celebration service. Ernest Lucas & Tim Walsh

DECEMBER

Sunday 6th Advent 2

11am: Community service & meal
Mark Baker: The God who speaks
6.30pm: Sally Heath

Saturday 12th

7.30am: Men's breakfast

Sunday 13th Advent 3

9.15/11am: Lis Pearce: The Forerunner
6.30pm: John Mosley

Monday 14th

2.30pm: Inside Out - A Christmas afternoon

Thursday 17th

8pm: Prayer evening

Saturday 19th

11am: Carol singing in the shopping centre

Sunday 20th Advent 4

9.15/11am: All Age Service
Paul Ferguson: Mary's faith
6pm: Carols in the community

Thursday 24th Christmas Eve

6pm: Carol service

Friday 25th: Christmas Day

10am: Christmas Day service

Sunday 27th

10am: All Age Service: Mike Levy
6.30pm: Dave Finney

Thursday 31st: New Year's Eve

11.30pm: Watchnight service

JANUARY

Sunday 3rd

11am: Community service, no meal
Paul Ferguson: Worshipping a useless God
6.30pm: Communion

Saturday 9th

7.30am: Men's breakfast

Sunday 10th

9.15/11am: Lis Pearce: The silver thread
6.30pm: Mary Groves

Monday 11th

2.30pm: Inside Out - A Swiss afternoon