



8 June 2016

News:

An ordination in a...

Is this a first? A minister-in-training was ordained not in a church building, but an addiction recovery centre

Jayne is one of the ministers of Church Without Walls in Manchester, a fresh expression of church that is part of Urban Expression. She has a multi-layered ministry. As well as helping to lead the church she works part time as a custody nurse with Greater Manchester Police. She also serves GMP as one of their divisional chaplains.

As if that wasn't enough, for the past three years Jayne has been training for ministry at Northern Baptist College (NBC) whilst completing an MA in Mission Studies with the Nazarene Theological College, also in Manchester.

The service was led by Jayne's co-minister Gary Serra di Migni and the ordination was conducted by Phil Jump, North Western Baptist Association's regional minister, team leader. Jayne and Gary decided to hold the service at Betel UK's Centre in Chorlton because they work closely with the charity supporting people recovering from alcohol and drug addiction.

According to Jayne, 'Church Without Walls is all about enabling people who won't set foot in a church building to be church in a way that's relevant and authentic to them. It made sense therefore for us to hold the service amongst the people with whom we work.'

Glen Marshall, co-principal of NBC commented, 'Some people might think that it's a bit out there to hold an ordination in a rehab centre, but this was no gimmick. After all out there is surely where the church is meant to be.'

Queen's Award for Baptist church-based drop-in

Those behind a drop-in for the vulnerable and homeless have been recognised with the highest award a voluntary group can receive

Manna House, based at Hanley Baptist Church in Stoke-on-Trent, is one of this year's recipients of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Described as 'the MBE for voluntary groups', the award recognises outstanding work.

Manna House opened its doors just over 11 years ago when volunteers recognised a need to support the homeless and vulnerable within the Stoke-on-Trent area.

From its first two visitors, who walked in on that cold night in March 2005, it now supports in excess of 150 guests every week by providing hot and cold food, shower facilities, and other essentials like toiletries, underwear and clean, dry clothing.

Many of the visitors have become involved themselves as an act of giving something back to the community that has supported them. The trustees are exceptionally proud of this award as it recognises the effort and commitment of all who freely give their time, energy and finances to support this valuable work.

'We are absolutely delighted to have received such a prestigious award,' said Trevor Nicklin, Pastor of Hanley Baptist Church and Chair of the Manna House (Hanley) Trustees, who also emphasised the gospel imperative behind the work.

'We have never courted publicity or sought recognition for what we do because it has always been our objective to live out the instruction in Matthew 25 and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

'Remember that anyone you meet could be facing some sort of difficulty, so speak kindly; support simply; care deeply; love generously; then leave the rest to God. I would invite anyone who would like to know more, or be involved in any way, to please get in touch.'

There was also praise from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire, Prakash Samani, who said, 'I am really thrilled that Manna House, a drop in for homeless and vulnerable people within the Stoke on Trent area has been recognised as worthy winners of the 2016 Queens Award for Voluntary Services.

'I have personally seen this work in action and I congratulate all its hard working silent volunteers, who have finally been recognised for their work since its launch in 2005. What a fantastic achievement for Manna House and for Staffordshire.'

Doreen English and Ann Nicklin from Manna House (Hanley) were very proud to have attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace on 24 May where they met the Queen and other winners of this year's award.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the MBE for voluntary groups. The awards were created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

Manna House (Hanley) is one of 193 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups, throughout the UK, and one of only nine in Staffordshire, to receive the prestigious award this year.

The number of awards given to groups this year is slightly higher than last year, showing that the voluntary sector is thriving and full of innovative ideas to tackle community challenges.

'Growing spiritual hunger' across Middle East and North Africa

The broadcaster SAT-7, founded by a Baptist church member, has celebrated its 20th anniversary. It reports that viewer responses to its Christian broadcasts have risen threefold in just five years

SAT-7 broadcasts five channels from four Middle Eastern studios in three languages - Arabic, Farsi (Persian) and Turkish. The number of calls, emails and social media contacts went from an average of 270 a day in 2010 to well over 800 a day in 2015. It expects these responses will reach 2,000 a day by 2020.

The common theme is that people across the MENA are 'crying out for worth, meaning and peace,' it said.

SAT-7's founder is Dr Terence Ascott, a member of Crofton Baptist Church.

He said, 'In the past two decades, many conflicts have overtaken or drawn in more than half the countries SAT-7 serves, Iraq and Syria in particular. But these conflicts, and extremism in the name of religion, have only increased the profound spiritual hunger for our programming.

'SAT-7 is enabling the Church to be salt and light in society, to be a prophetic voice and show a different way forward. This is a prime time for us as a ministry and it comes at a time when political Islam has been discredited and people are looking for answers to man's inhumanity to man.

'It is a fantastic time for us to be available in millions of homes that are totally inaccessible to other forms of witness, with a Gospel of love, peace, hope and reconciliation.'

SAT-7's programmes encourage isolated and persecuted believers and introduce the Gospel to people who have never heard it before. Of the 500 million people who live

in MENA, fewer than 10 per cent have ever met a Christian, but more than 90 per cent have access to satellite television. From just two hours a week, it now broadcasts 840 hours a week.

Its first programme aired on 31 May 1996, and SAT-7 celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special event in Egypt.

Dr Ascott remembered his research and early SAT-7 years as an uphill battle. The quest before him seemed “unthinkable”, continuously met with scepticism and objection: “Arab Christians will not risk showing their faces on camera”; “It would be an impossible project to fund”; “Governments will not permit such a thing”.

'One by one, objections and obstacles were overcome,' Dr Ascott explained. 'Amazingly, too, Christians from the region were and are willing to be seen on-screen.' He recalled the bravery of the early presenters who nervously appeared on camera, unsure of how regional governments would react to such broadcasts.

'Perhaps the bravest people we've had on air are the Algerian and Tunisian presenters,' he continued, 'who, in the last few years, have boldly gone on screen to publicly testify to their faith.'

SAT-7 has launched a new campaign called Answer the Cry. It focuses on four particular areas and asks UK Christians to help answer those cries. Visit www.answerthecry.org

Global increase in modern slavery

Nearly 46 million people around the world are thought to be trapped in modern slavery, according to the latest global slavery index

The research, conducted by Australian based group Walk Free Foundation, looked at the prevalence of modern slavery in 167 countries. It increased the global estimate to 45.8 million, up from 35.8 million in the last global survey.

India is the country with the greatest number of people forced to live in some form of slavery with an estimated 18.3million thought to be in slavery there. Meanwhile 58 per cent of those living in slavery across the globe are in five countries: India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.

The global index also estimated 11,700 are trapped in slavery in the United Kingdom, which is 0.02 per cent of the UK population.

Britain was one of a number of countries who was commended in the survey for its response to modern slavery with particular praise reserved for the anti-trafficking laws now in place in the UK.

Last year, the Modern Slavery Act was passed by MPs, representing the first dedicated piece of anti-slavery legislation to be passed into law in the UK for nearly 200 years.

Responding to the findings, Louise Gleich, Human Trafficking expert at the charity CARE (Christian Action Education and Research) said: 'These figures show a shocking number of people are still trapped in some form of modern slavery all across the globe. The equivalent of roughly two thirds of the entire UK population are being held in some form of slavery across the world, which is a global disgrace.

'This should serve as a serious wake-up call to people everywhere, highlighting that modern slavery exists and that it is rife.

'Even here in the UK, more than 11,000 people are currently thought to be trapped in slavery and I suspect many people will be staggered this is happening on our doorstep.

'In Britain, we have dedicated anti-trafficking legislation in all parts of the country and it is critical local authorities, the police and other agencies co-operate to ensure the new laws are properly implemented.

'All of us also have a responsibility to keep vigilant for signs of this vile trade happening on our doorsteps.

'Modern slavery is a horrible and malicious trade that thrives on secrecy and ignorance. We must work with our international partners to do all we can to end this dehumanising trade.'

The Sanctuary

What happened when a Baptist church made the brave decision to sell its building

Most people who have visited Watchet know it as a pretty 'picture postcard' town but, like many of our coastal communities, a lack of employment and services has led to it now falling within the top 10% most social deprived communities in the UK. As a result, missional ministry at Watchet Baptist Church has been supported by Home Mission grants for many, many years.

About ten years ago the then small church had a difficult decision to make. Their church building needed some major and expensive renovations. Rather than attempt to find the necessary funds to keep the old building open, they made the brave decision to sell it and instead use other local community halls to meet on Sundays; weekly gatherings are now held in the local school.

The church continued to serve the local community and seven years ago a Vision process began to discover how God wanted the proceeds from the sale of the old building to be used. After six months of seeking God, listening to the local community and discussing the way ahead, the decision was made to buy a new building. The priority was not to create a new space for Sunday gatherings but rather for church-through-the-week, 'a place to 'be' as well as to 'do', right in the heart of the community'.

An old, run-down former newsagent's shop became available on the town's main street and the then twenty or so members decided to buy it in the knowledge that God's provision always follows his vision. The renovations proved to be extremely expensive – over £150,000 more than the church had from the proceeds of the sale of the old building – but God provided all the funds in some amazing ways. There are no outstanding debts – praise God!

The new building opened three years ago and was named 'The Sanctuary' to reflect the church's desire to create a place of safety and community, just as the town's harbour had been for hundreds of years. Now about 300 people each week from the local community come along to the various activities that run in The Sanctuary. There is a weekly Community Meal, a Youth Café, two Coffee & Cake sessions, an Art Group, a Community Employment Hub, a Family Brunch, a counselling service and, most importantly, at the heart of the building is the Prayer Room which is used by those from the local community and the church alike.

Over the last seven years the church has baptised over 30 people, attendance at Sunday gatherings is now around 80 and this year, for the first time in a very long time, the church is able to support full-time ministry without the support of a Home Mission grant – God is very good!

Praise God:

for this evidence that he is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

for a growing realisation within the community of Watchet that God is good.

for those who have begun journeys of faith with Jesus.

for a church community that continues to seek to share their faith in word and deed.

Please pray:

that God will continue to make his mission known and give us the courage to follow him in it.

that the communities of West Somerset will be transformed as they encounter and experience the Kingdom of God.

that many more people will begin journeys of faith with Jesus

that Watchet Baptist Church will know God's continued blessing, particularly as they now enter a period of Pastoral Vacancy.

Baptisms and other notices

Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Sheffield: Fatemah, Atena, Asal, Fatemeh, Mercy, Morteza, Jabbar, Heider

Durham Road Baptist Church, Gateshead: 1

Earls Hall Baptist Church, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex: Liam Miles

Fleet Baptist Church, Hampshire: Anna Norton and Ben Morris

Lawrence Saunders Road Baptist Church, Coventry: Tony, Georgia, Sammy, Ben and Barbara

Limbrick Wood Baptist Church, Coventry: Jazmine and Poppy Bovis-Coulter

London Network Church: John Oluwabi, Lanre Oluwabi, Nas Abraham, Rebecca Keates, Grace Lourie

Lyndhurst Baptist Church, Hampshire: Rachael Wyeth

Stockport Baptist Church, Cheshire: Saman, Reza, Mostafa, Saeed, Milad, Mohammad & Majid

West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church, London: Matt Prior

Weymouth Baptist Church, Dorset: Eli, Harriet, Hari and Lucy, Jamie Wrightson, John

Bushey Baptist Church, Chalk Hill, Oxhey Herts is off-site due to a re-build and is currently using St. Matthews' Church, Eastbury Road, Oxhey. The Baptist Service follows the Anglican one and on Sunday, 26 June there is to be a baptism, in a pop-up pool, on the Vicar's front lawn followed by a church picnic in the park opposite. Three candidates are preparing for Baptism:--Elizabeth Holland, Azeezat and Baba Ogonkanmi. (Hazel Durant, secretary)

Pastor Darren Bovis-Coulter, **Limbrick Wood Baptist Church**, was privileged to baptise his daughters, Jazmine and Poppy, on the morning of Sunday 8 May. The church hall was packed to overflowing with members, friends and family, all of whom had been invited to stay for lunch together after the service. Praise the Lord for the witness of these young ladies and His wonderful provision and encouragement to us all (Sue Best, secretary)

News from **Fleet Baptist**: We held what might be the last baptismal service at our current site in Clarence Road on 22nd May. As from 5th June we have taken a step of faith and are holding our morning services in our local Church of England Primary

school. There were 2 baptisms on the day - Anna Norton and Ben Morris. (Rosalyn Einchcomb, administrator)

Ministerial engagement: Congratulations to Naomi Adams and Jon Dickerson who recently got engaged. Nai is the minister of Ararat Baptist Church, Whitchurch, Cardiff; Jon is the minister at Griffithstown Baptist Church, Pontypool. They both met through their ministerial studies at South Wales Baptist College.

Jobs

Discipleship Pastor, Merton Park Baptist Church

Associate Pastor, Southall Baptist Church

For more information on these positions visit www.baptist.org.uk/jobs

Events/resources

Survey - Baptists and the Lord's Supper

Ashley Lovett and Andy Goodliff are asking Baptist ministers (or those who may preside at the Lord's Supper) to fill in a survey every time they celebrate the Lord's Supper during June and July. It only takes about 5-10mins to complete.

We are doing some research into what Baptists do when it comes to the Lord's Supper. This follows on from an MA dissertation thesis that Ashley wrote looking at the various patterns for the Lord's Supper in Gathering for Worship. We hope in the Autumn to share some of our findings.

You can find the survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KYQN9XY>

Germinate Leadership programme

Applications are being taken for the fourth national Germinate Leadership programme starting on 5 October.

Germinate is an exciting programme on leadership in the rural church to help lay and ordained leaders from all denominations to develop creative, entrepreneurial skills for effective rural church leadership.

The Arthur Rank Centre is especially encouraging Baptist participation, for whom a 50% bursary is available. Details are at www.germinate.net and a video of the talk and the speaker notes are being made available on the website.

Free, official resources for Miracles from Heaven are now available, including a downloadable Leader's Guide with activities and discussion questions to start conversations and help enrich relationships in your community. The film (in UK cinemas 10 June) tells the moving true story of Christy Beam (Jennifer Garner), a devoted mother who finds hope in the midst of struggle when her daughter Anna (Kylie Rogers) is diagnosed with a rare, incurable disease.