

Christward

The magazine of



September – October
2021

~ A Day in the Life of Rachel & Joshua ~

5.50am

Eeeeeeeee

Joshua is awake and staring animatedly at the strip of light peeking between the curtains.

He looks at me bright eyed with the most enormous smile on his face.

I have decided this is an evolutionary adaptation. Babies definitely look their cutest in the morning when their parents wake up from a night of broken sleep.

8.30am

Massive achievement I have showered and dressed- Joshua is dressed and we are just off out the door to get the tram to Sale. I have remembered the change bag and the carrier! Joshua is in need of a nap so I'm hoping he sleeps in the pram on the way.



8.45am

I have forgotten the travel changing mat.

9.15am

Hmm Joshua has not slept on the tram- why would you- it is so incredibly exciting and there is this manic beeping that takes place every few minutes alongside a disembodied voice. This could make for a very interesting art class...

9.30am

We arrive at art class and the class leader Claire is reassuring all the parents that the paint they use is non toxic. This is excellent news as Joshua has eaten most of the orange paint that has been placed before him. The canvas that we are creating together seems to have turned to that shade of poo brown that inevitably happens when all the colours of paints are mixed together. Still he is having lots of fun.



10.30am

Joshua has miraculously gotten through art class despite missing out on his nap and has had a pretty wonderful time.



There is another mum lingering around after class - we sat next to each other last week and I pluck up the courage to ask her if she is free for a coffee. A metaphorical coffee of course. I am not mad enough to drink caffeine. Finding the time and opportunity to sleep is hard enough as it is without that sort of self-sabotage.

12.30

Have just had a lovely toasted tea cake and hot chocolate with new mum friend and her little boy. Making mum friends is hard. You think oh you have a baby and I have a baby we should be friends. And then realise this does not actually always work. This mummy though feels like someone I could really get on with. Joshua slept in the pram and then woke up AFTER I had finished my hot drink-absolute result. He was fascinated by the industrial lighting in the coffee shop.

13.00

What a palaver I've had. The lift at Sale is broken so I had to go a stop further out on the tram to come back again. What a pain.

14.00

Arrive home- think will give Joshua a bath- baby wipes are not so great at removing what seems to be a litres worth of paint. Joshua has a great time in the bath but his toe nails still look quite red... surely if it's non toxic it will be ok? I also seem to have dyed the bath a fetching shade of orange. Except it's that shade of orange that matches the mould that grows in the shower when you leave it too long between cleaning...

15.00 I've had lunch- mums cannot live on toasted tea cakes and hot chocolate alone- and Joshua is now awake from his 4th nap of the day. Time to try some food... The carrot has gone down very well today! He is bringing the spoon to his mouth and wanting to feed himself- most of the time it goes in although he has also given himself slightly orange eyebrows.



17.30

I've just put Mr Tumble on- Joshua seems to be enjoying it he is smiling but also making his very frustrated noise... not sure what to make of this. Hopefully will be ok just while I put tea on.

18.00

Mr Tumble has gone and been replaced by Mamma Mia while Matt and I have tea. Joshua adores this. Each time a song finishes he looks over to me reminding me I need to fast forward it to the next song.

18.15

Bath time- again- another chance to get that red paint off. Things are going swimmingly and then I realise I've not emptied the dryer- this means no pyjamas or sleeping bags... I sniff last night's sleeping bag- hmm that will do I can always change him later tonight.

19.30

I've just finished feeding Joshua and put him to bed. I head downstairs after switching on the baby monitor and Matt and I turn on Million Dollar Beach House- mindless but filled with pretty scenery and stunning houses. It doesn't matter how much you pause it and go back to it there is so little plot you can't get lost. This is ideal. Since having Joshua I can't watch anything that is a) too sad b) too complex. I used to be the keeper of the plots in the house explaining all the inferences and keeping track of a multitude of complex intertwining stories.. not so much now.

20.39

After several attempts at feeding and settling Joshua has now gone to sleep in the big bed. Never mind the cot still looks very pretty even if it's actual purpose at the moment is a bit redundant.

21.00

Bedtime. Climb into bed and out like a light.

21.50

Awake first feed of the night. Currently listening to Terry Pratchett's The Wintersmith- it is very good but I don't remember getting to this point- perhaps I need to go back a chapter...

Rachel Eeckelaers

~ Snippets of Hebrew ~

One of the characteristics Hebrew shares with other languages, is that the way words are spelled does not conform to any definitive standard. This is just what we might expect, precisely because it almost certainly happens in all languages. Our own language has been through a rolling experience of spelling change. Changes in pronunciation may have accompanied the spelling variations.

Literacy, or the lack thereof has played its own part. People had to be able to read before they could write, although that may not necessarily have applied to scribes, since all they had to do was copy exactly what was already there when making copies.

Writing might be done phonetically “wich wud prodews its one problums”! But if people had learned to read first, at least they would tend to spell words as they remembered them from the texts they had learned to read.

In later years, many countries have had immigrants arriving without paperwork, especially in America, and the immigration officers would just write their names as they thought they had heard them spoken. So for example the English surname Crowcroft can be found in America spelled Cracraft.

In Hebrew, there are so called defective spellings. These defective spellings are not uniformly distributed. Some are only to be found in the Pentateuch, commonly thought to have been penned by Moses. Some variants are like the English spoon spelled spune. Other spellings are just a bit more confusing than that. For example the word for “I”, especially when it is God speaking, is more like his Sunday name. This is why Gods words are sometimes translated “Behold; I even I, will do”. It may even be “me myself”.

There are some imported words, and 15 of these are to be found in the book of Job. Since they are only used once in the entire Bible, no one has any idea whatsoever what they mean. Scholars have turned to other languages of the region and of the time, and have in

some cases found extremely plausible meanings. This resulted in a rush of what became called parallelism mania, where many words were checked in other languages. It seemed to promise so much, but resulted in less than hoped for, and it is now considered to have been a disappointment.

Grammar and vocabulary have also been modified over the lifetime of the composition of the Bible. This makes it possible to date some writings. And no stones have been left unturned in this endeavour. Other interesting clues are the writings in Aramaic, a sister language. Almost half of the book of Daniel has been written in Aramaic, but the division doesn't quite line up with the division between the narrative and the visionary sections.

Historically, the understanding of Hebrew appears to have been fairly consistent. The notes left by the translation committee of the King James or Authorised version of the Bible, are still in existence, and it seems they struggled with exactly the same points of grammar which we still struggle with today.

Geoff Walker

~ News of the Family and the Wider Union Chapel Community September 2021 ~

Joshua Bradley Eeckelaers: apologies to this young man (now nearly 6 months old), for getting his middle name wrong in the Spring magazine- it is Bradley.

Sam Jones (now 13 months) brought his parents **Owen and Anna** to the church weekend in the Lakes at the end of June. David and Margaret accompanied them round Rydal water and into Rydal cave before the Jones moved further uphill with their packed lunches and David and Margaret returned to Rydal Hall for a hot

meal. Sam could then perform a fast commando crawl as far down the drawing room as he could get before being retrieved and was also perfecting his clapping skills during the weekend. This news is two months old: who knows what he is achieving now?!

Hannah, Phil and Sam Jones (different Sam Jones) welcomed a baby girl into their family on 20th August (we think), Cecilia Marion. We understand all are well and look forward to hearing more.

Ted Land is approaching the end of self-isolation in his Nottingham rest home and will have reached it by the time you read this. He tested positive for Covid but fortunately has remained well throughout the isolation period and is able to speak through his first-floor window to family below when they visit. He has also been sustained by some interesting cricket matches on television, though it isn't quite as appealing as attending the Trent Bridge grounds which are very close by.

Congratulations are due:

The recent wedding of **Fergus Walker and Rachel** in Buxton (See below)

Jonathan Roberts, on completing his first year at Oxford with the handing in of his dissertation. Now he moves to Leeds...

Jess, on getting a place at Leicester University for a 4-year integrated masters in paediatric and mental health nursing with leadership.

Fran, Jess's sister: going to study Politics and History at Newcastle University

Ed, Jess's brother: GCSEs completed and off to Trafford College to do Electrical Installation

Other friends: groups returning to church

September marks a new start for some groups at church as well as a return by others.

Anne Finnegan's Ballet School has been back in the large hall on their usual days as guidelines have allowed since last autumn and

the **Drumroots** group returned early on, as did several of the **'Twelve steps'** groups.

Over the last few months, we have been discussing arrangements with several of the tutors who previously worked with O and A and who are now arranging their own sessions directly with the church (through David and me as members of the Covid Lettings Team). **Gentle Exercise, Alexander and T'ai chi** are back in action as well as some art classes.

Music is back in the building, with the **Manchester Music Makers** orchestra on Wednesday and the **Jazz Group** on Thursday. We have also been able to welcome another jazz group, **'Swingin' Affair**.

The Humpty Dumpty preschool playgroup restarted last term and Opanka are now back dancing in the large hall on Sunday evenings.

Playback Theatre have been back enjoying their Saturday sessions in the church for several months and **Megastitchers** are looking forward to starting in September. They are now a separate part of Embroiderers' Guild, and we wish them well. **Fallowfield Loop** are back in action with their alternate month meetings

Odile has decided to keep her **French classes** on Zoom and then perhaps take them face-to face in a venue closer to her home in January. Odile has been a regular presence at the church for many years and we said goodbye with sadness.

The **Hebron Church** has recently been able to reopen and worship as before in the large hall on Sundays.

Another church has been worshipping regularly in the chapel but has now vacated to allow us to return on Sundays to the chapel.

It is good to see so many friends able to return to activities that they enjoy, and we are also exploring possibilities with several other new groups.

Margaret Garner

~ Cake Lounge ~

Cake lounge is resuming on Saturday afternoon 11th September at church, 4.30- 6pm, outside if sunny and inside if not!

We will have the opportunity to catch up with each other and eat cake... and also plums from the tree we were given to plant a few years ago, which is now fruitfully established in the garden behind the large hall.

All are welcome.

~ At Last ~

At last Fergus and Rachel have got married! Having had to postpone their wedding for a year, we were all very relieved to be able to get together this August, just after lockdown ended. We enjoyed the wedding day itself and also a family holiday in a farm/ converted barn on the (often) misty hilltops beyond Buxton :)

Fergus married Rachel at a lovely service on the band-stand of Buxton Pavilion Gardens. It was a real treat!



Their friends are other musicians and artists and so it was a lively "service," with harp and flute filling in the gap during the signing of the register. Then Catherine took photos, after which we wandered down into the park and had a twice-round-the-track ride on the miniature railway.....with many whoops and cheers under the tunnel.



The meal and speeches were in the Pavilion round hall, and later in the evening there was dancing to an English Folk dance band, with the first dance being solely Ferg and Rachel.

Staying altogether in holiday accommodation afterwards really was "the icing on the cake"!



All the children and their parents appreciated the swimming pool, and Stuart and Ferg excelled at organising barbecues. I loved wandering around the narrow woodland behind the house, which houses a set of badgers and some invading foxes. But the highlight for me was a climb up MamTor, with the exhilarating view from the top.

Hopefully some of you will recognise some of our grown-up children.



Carole Walker

~ Minutes of Church Meeting held on Sunday 18th of July 2021 at 11.15am ~ (Zoom)

Present: Steve and Gwyneth, Andy, Margaret and Alan, Margaret and David, Gwen, Carole and Geoff, Margaret E., Lorna, Nicola.

1. Apologies – Enid and Brenda.

2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting, matters arising not on the agenda. Minutes accepted. Thanks to Nicola for sending out, and to Gwyn for taking them. Worship group will

be convened shortly to consider the practicalities and details. At the moment, Covid pending, 12th September is proposed first meeting in church – a service of celebratory greeting.

Date of next meeting: 26th September.

3. Notification of AOB: None arising.

4. Deacon's election: Nicola announced that Lorna has been duly elected as deacon. Expression of delight all around.

Closed with Hallelujah which, under Margaret's direction, went better than last week,.

~ The Sam Sharpe Lecture 2021 ~

Sam Sharpe Lectures in conjunction with the House of Commons announced that this year's lecture entitled

***'Setting the Captives Free
- forging the paths to freedom'***

will be delivered by Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, CEO of Christian Aid on Thursday 21st October at 19.00 online

(See flyer below)



Sam Sharpe **Project**

for education, research and community building

Sam Sharpe Lectures in conjunction with the House of Commons
present

The Annual Sam Sharpe Lecture - 2021

'Setting The Captives Free – forging the paths to freedom'

delivered online by

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi

CEO of Christian Aid

Thursday 21 October at 19:00

Register at: www.baptist.org.uk/samsharpe

A sepia-toned historical illustration of a group of enslaved people, including men, women, and children, in a state of distress or resistance.

*"I would rather die upon yonder gallows,
than live in slavery."*

~ Meanwhile back at the Chapel ...

the flowers blossom in our grounds.....



the plums ripen on the trees



and music is heard once more in our land.



Christward Number 512. Published 5th September 2021
The magazine of Union Chapel Fallowfield(Baptist),
2b Wellington Road, Fallowfield Manchester, M14 6EQ

Web Site: www.unionchapelbaptist.org.uk

Church Office: ☎ 225-4226

Editor: Alan Redhouse: ☎ 445-0020;
email: alan.redhouse@virgin.net

Secretary: Nicola Hamilton ☎ 270 0087

Treasurer: David Garner ☎ 434 4984

Deacons: David Garner, Nicola Hamilton, Andy Howes, Lorna Richardson, Steve Roberts.