

October 2025

Dear praying friends,

Will is the dad of some kids at Wellfield Church. Their mum was baptised a couple of years ago, and quite transformed from her self-destructive past. She and Will became quite civil towards one another again. Though living in Burnley, he came on our church weekend away (the kids were thrilled). He came on our Big Week Out in August (kids thrilled again). He came to church once or twice. But a couple of weeks ago, tragedy struck: he had a big heart attack in Boots and died.

His 14-year-old son, Connor,* was still living with him - never adequately dressed or fed. He has relocated to Leyland, to live with his mum and three sisters, in their two-bedroom house. Poor lad. I suspect this was all in God's providence, to bring the boy into church and a better life. But pretty tough. I spent an hour the day after he died with the kids at the hospital morgue. Grim. The wider family refuse to pay for a funeral, and his house has been emptied of his few meagre belongings. The kids are left with nothing, and the ex-partner is left with parking fines. Praise God that he works through pain to bring his children to glory.



It's lovely to see the kids loving enjoying youth group. There's a fair crowd these days, though (like most churches) we're short of leaders. They went curling last week. Last time the youth group went curling, three years ago, was Jade's* first contact with church; she's now serving, evangelising, wanting a full-immersion baptism in the car park at Christmas(!).

A couple of the other older teenagers, who have grown up at Wellfield Church, have gone off to Capernwray Bible School - one in Vancouver, one up the road near Lancaster. Our church feels like it's coming of age. In fact, we had our Wellfield 18th Birthday AGM last week. Someone said, 'We're old enough to drink now!' Well, yes, we're trying to take appropriate responsibility. Our leadership team are weighing up whether we should buy a house, while they are still fairly reasonably priced in Leyland, for a future minister - or employ a women's worker. The treasurer says we can't do both; please pray we'd be wise as we take these big decisions.

Such encouragements come in little statements. Jude* is on the second year of the Northwest Gospel Partnership Ministry Training Course. She struggles as a single mum with her handful of a daughter, complicated by the awful dad's family, court orders and

custody battles. But at the women's Bible Study, she said something you're welcome to quote: 'I had to leave my old life after I turned to Jesus; and this is so much better, there is *nothing* in my old life I'd rather go back to. Nothing.' Well, the Lord is so very, very good, isn't he?

We still have several people who come to church who don't know the new life yet, and are still flailing in the swamp of the old ways. Lucy* came to see me the other day. This wasn't the drama she'd come to tell me about, but she'd spent last night in A&E because she'd cut her fingers on the cheese grater. She's always in A&E for something. But to her credit on this occasion, her fingers on both hands were each bandaged with blood-stained bandages. Don't know how she managed that. Didn't ask. Anyway, someone had donated her a walker, since she keeps falling over. It had been at our church building for weeks, and she was thrilled to potter off with it. I could hear her saying to herself all up the road, 'This is great! This is fantastic!' Like, I know Job teaches us that physical suffering can't all be linked neatly to spiritual causes; but Lucy is a typical example of a sordid, chaotic life being physically manifest in every way. It's sad to see, and it's all around us. We pray that the Lord would keep reaching down into the mire of human mess and bring salvation and healing.

He is doing that - and it's wonderful to see. But sin affects deeply, and change is generally slow. Please pray for a couple more 'stable' families to join us, so the balance doesn't tip too far into the 'unstable' direction that people can't see what to aspire to.

While we have said goodbye to a couple of our teenagers, we will be saying hello to another. Rachel will be visiting for a month from our wonderful partner church in New Zealand. Please pray she'd have a great time with us, as she arrives on Wednesday (15th October), and we with her. Part of her visit will include an outreach evening.

With our love, and many thanks for your support and prayers,

Mark Simpson

**From the land of
Hakas and Hobbits**

One Kiwi girl's story

Come and meet Rachel, our visitor from New Zealand. Hear about the life of a teenager near the Southern Alps, guard dogs on the farm, and what it means to be part of a church just like ours!

Hosted by Wellfield Church, at Northbrook Barn, PR25 2XS.
Friday 24th October, 7pm. Enjoy a nice meal. No charge, but let us know if you're interested for catering purposes, or get in touch for more info:
WhatsApp/text 07538 752098 email wellfieldchurch@yahoo.com