



## It's Time To Build

**1 Corinthians 3 v 10** Paul describes the church as being like a building, with its foundation being Jesus Christ. However, Paul, as an apostle, was conscious of the grace of God given to him to lay individual church foundations upon which others could carefully build. I am grateful for those who, with courageous faith, laid the initial foundation of the Free Methodist Church in the UK.

Jesus as the architect is committed to building His church and promises that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. Paul describes all of us as God's fellow workers, so we are extremely privileged to work alongside Almighty God!

Paul laid good foundations and fathered spiritual children who assisted him and continued the building work. Apollos built on these foundations by exercising the powerful teaching gift God gave him. Paul insisted that he was no greater a person than Apollos. Likewise, Pastor Barrie Walton was no greater than any of the other founding members of the Free Methodist Church in the UK, but God used him to lay foundations and father spiritual children to continue the work into the future.

The Free Methodist Church will grow, if we have this powerful combination of apostles and teachers, without neglecting prophets, evangelists and pastors (Ephesians 4 v 11).

On a building site, a wise project manager is needed to co-ordinate the plumbers, brick-layers, carpenters and many other workers to complete a great building. You get the picture! It's the same with growing the FM Church in the UK. We need wise leaders to co-ordinate and encourage the many people whose gifts all flow

from the grace of God, as He builds us together to become a 'holy temple.'

Our vision is: *"to be a healthy, Biblical community of holy people, multiplying disciples, leaders, groups and congregations."*

There are two parts to the message of holiness; firstly, a pure heart without sin. Paul's survey of the church in Corinth reveals envy, strife, division, brothers taking one another to court and sexual immorality. Paul highlights these so that the people might repent and correct this situation. Secondly, a pure heart full of perfect love as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13. Free Methodist communities around the world are displaying love that accepts, serves, motivates and embraces others. We all long to be filled with the very same passion John Wesley had, as he spread this scriptural holiness throughout the land.

I believe it's time to build loving communities that are pure in heart and that move in the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to start by taking honest surveys of existing churches, repenting where required, so with faith and courage we can build on the good foundations that already



exist. I also believe God is calling us to a new season of church planting. Twelve months ago I could not have told you where the next church plant would be, but now there is a clear vision for eight specific church plants; five in Cornwall (St Just, Pool, Falmouth, Bodmin and Liskeard), one in Leominster, Herefordshire, one in Wigan and one in Killyleagh, N.Ireland.

The same level of courage, faith and sacrificial giving displayed by the founders of the FM Church in the UK is required by us all, to see this vision become a reality and my prayer is that this next wave of church planting would be followed by many more waves throughout the UK.

John Townley, July 2012

# Our National Leadership Team



**On 26th May 2012, John Townley, Rob Williams and Andrew Gardner were appointed to the National Leadership Team (NLT) of the Free Methodist Church in the UK.**

John hails from a farming background in Yorkshire and Lancashire. He has been a pastor in Cornwall since 1994 and since then, God has used John to initiate a new church planting movement in the South West. John started his ministry in Helston, on the Lizard. From here, new thriving churches have been planted in Penzance, Truro, Hayle and St Austell, with plans that church plants will begin in Falmouth, Poole, St Just, Liskeard and Bodmin.

John is now the leader of the FM Church in the UK. His role will be to spearhead **vision and church planting**, not only in the South West, but in each Free Methodist region and beyond! John has four adult children and is married to Becky.

Rob Williams is a long-serving Free Methodist elder at the Renewal church, Solihull. As a professional in finance, Rob led 300 people in the West Bromwich Building Society for 25 years. He took early retirement and comes to his role on the NLT as a **spiritual administrator**. Rob will be the nuts and bolts man to make sure we get where John is leading us!

Rob is married to Sue, with three adult sons, one of whom serves in the Hillsongs Church in London; the other two serve in the tech ministry at Renewal Church. Rob is involved in ministry at Renewal FM Church,

Solihull, where he has helped make challenging assessments of their satellite ministry and the overall shape of their future vision. Rob will work with our churches to help us form realistic assessments and advise us when we need it.

Andrew Gardner is a Pastor at the Fulwood FM Church in Preston in the North West. He is married to Katharine, with three adult daughters. His main role will be to chair our Ministry Board. He will be responsible to work with churches which are in leadership transition, also to ensure that serving pastors are encouraged and cared for and to oversee the development and training of our ministerial candidates. (This year there are five new candidates across FM UK).

John, Rob and Andrew will continue to work in their local churches and serve on the NLT.

Andrew says, "Please pray for us. We are moving into exciting times under John's leadership and we are glad to be serving God alongside him. There is plenty of work to do and our call is to GO with the Good News about Jesus. We are confident in God, who equips us with everything we need through His Holy Spirit."

*Andrew Gardner*

## Chaplaincy

Hospitals, prisons and our armed forces all need chaplains. Pastor Gordon Wardman has served as a prison chaplain for six years, but recently we have formally recognised the effective ministry that Free Methodist chaplains can offer to those in need.

Pastor Geoff Williams now serves as a chaplain for the NHS in Perthshire.

Martyn Van Jinks, who was welcomed as a ministerial candidate at our annual conference 2012 serves as a chaplain in the Midlands. Here is his story:-

*The words "You did not choose me, I chose you" (Jn 15:16) describe the beginnings of my journey with the Lord, as I was baptised a Catholic as an infant in Birmingham. Those early days were formative and helped me to continue following the Lord as a member of the Renewal Christian Centre, Solihull.*

*As a child I took an active part in worship assisting the priest at the altar, which probably gave me a taste for pastoral leadership. Knowing that the church exists for those not yet in it, it seemed natural to me that I would try to serve the Lord by caring particularly for those who suffer in mind and spirit. My work with the Black Country Mental Health Trust has helped me to see Christ crucified on a daily basis. I receive more from them than I can possibly give in return and each encounter helps to me to keep rooted.*

*Pastor Dr David Carr helped me to see how my hospital ministry could be used by the Lord. His wisdom and careful mentoring have further moulded me into a servant of the needy. I hope that my gentle care of the mentally ill is for them a sign of the healing balm of Christ and that in some small way they see the Lord in me.*

*I am very busy as I also work as a Senior Chaplain and Bereavement Lead too! Weekends are time to relax, watching the Leicester Tigers with my wife Kate, or playing golf with clergy friends.*

*For what has been, I can only thank the Lord, for what is to come I say, yes!*

*Martyn Vanham-Jinks*

## **Dave Scholes is one of our five new ministerial candidates.**

Most people are shocked when I tell them what I do, aged 25. Oftentimes I am equally shocked! All I can say is that God is SO good! My life's journey so far has been through tough times and easy times, and although I've made some good choices, I don't see how I would have made them if not for the Grace of God.

I'm a P.K. (pastor's kid) and an M.K. (missionary kid) and so, although the price has sometimes been high in terms of not seeing family as much as I'd like and constantly relocating through my childhood and youth, I can honestly say that I can't imagine having a more blessed experience.

Once my family settled in Preston, I got stuck into the local youth ministry at Fulwood FMC and over a few years, God developed in me a love and passion for the local church. I went to Hillsong Australia to study, where my passion grew and now I get the privilege of serving at Ribble Valley Church (recently renamed Valley Church). I am married to Mel, my spirited, extremely good-looking German wife!

In my spare time I like to chill out with books and the occasional fishing trip, but my passion is and always will be His Church.

This Autumn, I am working with Valley Church to re-launch the Free Methodist work in the Wigan area.

This Free Methodist church was originally planted in Winstanley, Wigan, in the early 1970's. By September 2012, Sunday afternoon services will have started and a Saturday night Connect Group (home group). So far the support we've received has been fantastic.

We now have a building in a great location, close to the motorway and the town. There are over 300,000 people in the Wigan area and we want to reach them all! We launched a radio advertising campaign this August through Wish FM, the biggest local station in the area. More than 130,000 will hear the advert ten times by the beginning of 2013.

God has been opening doors for us, so we are full of faith for the future. We are already working with the council, local news and several churches and seeing some great results.

The first six months of Valley Church, Wigan, will be spent preaching on vision and about our church culture, laying a foundation for what we hope will be a long-lasting work.

*You can follow the progress of Valley Church Wigan by signing up for email updates at [valleychurch.eu/wigan](http://valleychurch.eu/wigan) or following us on Twitter at [@valley\\_wigan](https://twitter.com/valley_wigan)*



## **LISKEARD CHURCH PLANT**

**Four months ago we knew no-one in Liskeard, but had a strong sense of call that God was prompting us to plant a church there. Believing that God provides the people and resources to fulfil his plans and purposes we prayed for a 'person of peace' and a 'house of peace' and waited.**

On 1st April two couples (Mark and Bronwen and Pete and Angie) from Liskeard 'happened' to decide to come to worship at Light and Life, St Austell. This started a series of conversations that, in turn, led to a mid-week group at Mark and Bronwen's home. We are about 15 in number, all living in Liskeard apart from the Townleys or other leaders from Light and Life who help out when the Townleys are away.

Pete and Angie's daughters, aged 11 and 14, have led worship in two of the six meetings so far, singing and

playing guitar. We have a couple of ladies who haven't attended church for years and it's been fantastic to watch them relax and start smiling. This week there were three new people.

There is a real sense of excitement at how Jesus is building his church. We have started to form a 'loving community'; a family, where people feel safe and where everyone is encouraged to contribute. When we pray there is a passion for God to bring breakthrough.



# Killyleagh Cross Centre Ministry - Northern Ireland

God used a baby dedication service to open the door for people from Killyleagh to come to Christ and for the Spirit of God to lead us to start a work in the town. God soon unfolded His vision for our ministry there.

Light 'n' Life Free Methodist Churches in Dundonald and Dungannon worked together to share Christ with the Killyleagh community through evangelism; including sketch-board ministry in the streets. We have been meeting regularly in the community centre and many people who do not yet know Jesus, have been welcomed in.

After eighteen months of seeking God, He has provided us with a building in the town centre. Soon we will open the newly refurbished Cross Centre, where we will meet, as well as begin some outreach ministries, such as a tea room and a food store from which we will give 'bags of blessing' to people who need to experience the love of Jesus!

We praise God for the awesome things He has done, is doing and for what He is going to do in Killyleagh!

*Pastors Pat Herron & Raul Arana Light 'n' Life Network*



## Personal testimony – Phil Jensen – age 41 ¼

**I have been the pastor of Penzance (Penwith) Light and Life for a year, which is a great privilege. When I'm not busy with church life, I love to play badminton or cook, and I'm a lifelong Liverpool supporter; a tough calling!**

Going into the ministry was never my plan. I was brought up in a Christian home and became a Christian at the age of 11, but it was not until my university days in Edinburgh that I really 'got it.' I also 'got' my future wife Christine at the same church (churches are handy for that kind of thing). My first career was in architecture and I eventually ended up working for a multi-national company for 9 years. Throughout this time, both Christine and I were serving in our local churches.



The company I worked for was fantastic. However, I reached a point in my career when I had to decide to either pursue a call to minister in the workplace or go full-time in ministry in the church. God made it clear that I was to leave the workplace in a way that even I, with all my skepticism, could not deny. That then led us with our children (Sam and Eve) to head out to the USA to study for 4 years but always with the intention of returning to the UK...but where? How?

As much as I did not plan to go into ministry I did not plan on joining Free Methodism or going to Penzance either! We had a connection through Heysham FMC but that was from 12 years ago. Yet, the more we talked with the leadership the more we felt a strong resonance with its emphasis on Word and Spirit, holy living, and a life of radical obedience to Christ. So here we are in Penzance! We are delighted to be part of this family of churches.

*Phil now reports on the Penwith church plant into St Just.*

### **St Just – "To the ends of the earth."**

Over the last four years, Penwith Light and Life Church, which is based in Penzance, have had a clear sense of God's calling to reach out to the neighbouring town of St Just. Nestling on the stunning North Cornwall coastline and only 4 miles from Land's End, it is an area of great natural beauty but also great need. It has some of the highest deprivation levels in the country. It is also an area with tremendous spiritual need. The glory days of the Wesleyan revival in the area are long gone and now it is better known for paganism and New Age religions. There is virtually no relevant Christian witness in the area.

Despite having this sense of calling, and the evident need, it never quite seemed to be the right time, until now that is! 9 months ago, completely out of the blue, we were approached by a church from St Just. Their pastor was leaving. Would we be interested in partnering with them? After prayer and discussion we believe this is God's provision. We need to be obedient and step forwards in faith. The challenges in planting in St Just are great, but so are God's resources for his work. We are trusting that He will provide the right people and the finances we need. So far we have been amazed at how the Lord has clearly led us and we trust He will continue to do so.

**STOP PRESS:** On 2nd September 2012 Sunday services began and over fifty people worshipped together as a new beginning. Please pray; an old well is being re-dug. Praise God!

## SIGNONLINE

**FMtogether** is a twice yearly magazine to keep you informed of the wider Free Methodist Church family. What is happening in our churches across the UK? How are we fulfilling our vision and living our values? How can we support one another? Sign up online to receive regular news.

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