

Update From
The Kings

July 2009

Churches Together

The Challenge Bradford Away Day with the five churches I have been working with in the city went very well. Some said it was an example of what 'church' should be and everyone was very keen to do it again. Others were surprised by the city centre (the location or our venue) since it was something they would tend to avoid because of its diversity and inner city feel. More than 60 people came out for the event. Many people were involved in planning and facilitating the day.



Officially, my work with Challenge Bradford has ended, but we're still considering our involvement in the future. There is still much to be done in deepening relationships, cooperation and developing a long-term vision for worship and mission. Through my involvement with the churches I've had the opportunity to preach eight times since January. It has been enjoyable, but stretching at the same time.



(Left) Shirley and Eileen helping in the kitchen. (Right) Madeline and Shirley #2 working on a banner at the Away Day.

Citizenship Ceremony

Allison was officially inducted as a UK citizen along with more than 50 others at a ceremony in the Bradford City Hall. It gave us a little window into the lives of immigrants to a new country. It was a simple but moving ceremony. The group was welcomed on



Tom, Adam, Mr and Mrs Singh with Allison displaying her certificate of citizenship.

behalf of the government and the Queen by Mr Singh and his wife who were themselves immigrants to the UK 50 year ago.

Other Bradford Events

The Bradford Burn in May was 50 hours of continuous worship and prayer before God for revival in the city. Participants came from around the city, America, and Turkey to take part. Tom led a two hour slot. There are many examples in the Bible where worship was a part of changing situations or winning battles. We often see the disciples in Acts worshipping and then the ground shakes and people come to faith. We believe that worship changes the heavenlies and prepares the way for change and revelation.

Allison and I were part of the worship team for the Yorkshire Baptist Assembly. This was our first time at the assembly. The more than 300 people in attendance had a chance to focus on telling the Jesus story. Allison was a key part of the playing piano and clarinet. It was fun being part of a team.

Connecting the Dots

Have you ever thought about your church culture? Our church cultures are made up of a million different aspects that might include how people dress, the types of music sung, expectations for members, how information is communicated, how decisions are made and even who cleans the toilets. Church culture, at its best, develops as tools that help us connect to God and each other. At its worst, it just another form of control. But even with good intentions those same helps can quickly become hindrances. If we assume the basics of church are corporate worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching, how many ways can we imagine 'church' happening without losing the integrity of the gospel. Maybe it happens in homes, maybe in pubs, or around a camp fire.

I hope you get a sense of the change in worship and mission emerging in the churches. We are trying to get our minds around the change and trying to communicate it to others. Through the Away Day people saw what different patterns of fellowship, worship and teaching could look like. Through the Bradford Burn we've seen a focus on worship that included not only music, but activities, meditation on scripture and prayer inspired images of the city or people scribbling graffiti on a wall. In our own church, we're considering new ways of thinking about church.

It's very exciting, but very tenuous. Our work for the past 10 years has included imagining the form that churches might take in places where there is no church. It is another thing to deconstruct existing church forms and imagine the new at the same time. Many churches in England are going through this process.

Some Family Vacation

Sometimes you don't know how much you're ready for a vacation until you actually take one. Except for a few days here and there usually at the beginning or end of trips or conferences, it's been a long time since we got away from it all with just our family. So our time in St David's on the Pembrokeshire Coast in Wales in early June was very special. We all enjoyed the beach and walks on the coastal path. Not to mention it was one of the sunniest weeks of weather so far this year!

Hope you're enjoying your summer!

Tom & Allison

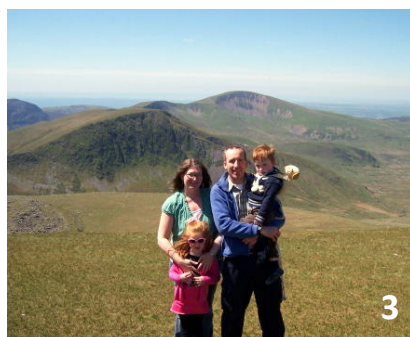
Madeline Adam



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- 1) Adam & Madeline enjoying an ice cream in Snowdonia, Wales.
- 2) At the beach in St David's in the evening.
- 3) On Snowdon with views of the Isle of Anglesey and the Irish Sea.

Staff members are funded by tax-deductible contributions from individuals and churches. **Donations can be made to Pioneers, and designated to "King:111-110".**

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