

## How's the role going so far?



"We got to know Duncan as part of the Hope in Horsforth planning team. His strong Christian faith, enthusiasm and energy were very obvious, and his positive input through the months helped us work towards a very successful & well attended fortnight." Rozel Daltrey, St Margaret's

"Duncan's availability in the community and role with the school was a major influence in my journey to becoming Christian and beyond. Whether it be digging gardens for AIDS orphans in South Africa, or giving that extra bit of time to the teenager who needs it, he has helped me to see that God blesses us to be blessing to others" Dave Maud medical student.



"Duncan's impact on the schools spiritual development is invaluable, as he contributes in so many areas. His delivery is challenging as well as humorous which the students respond positively to." Graeme Collins, Horsforth school key stage 4 progress leader.

## The Future?

The challenge is clear. The role is proving effective. There are exciting plans ahead.

All that's needed is prayer, support & resources

You can help - keep alert and join in as the possibilities for the Church in Horsforth start to emerge

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Horsforth Churches Together:

[www.horsforthchurchestogether.btck](http://www.horsforthchurchestogether.btck)



## "Sharing Christ's Love In Horsforth"

*Hi, let me introduce myself in case we haven't met. My name is Duncan Stow, I'm married to Jo and we have two beautiful children. I have lived and worked in Horsforth for 18 years. Recently I felt called to work across Horsforth churches asking 3 questions and encouraging a response.*



## Can the church be more visibly present in our community?



*A start has been made,*

*Carols In the Park,  
Hope in the Park,  
Harvesting Hope*

*With 600 plus at each event*



## Can connections be made to unlock the potential of the church by working as one?



*So far we've established*

*A primary school team now working in five schools.  
A Farmers Market run by the church for the community.  
A Foodbank about to launch.*



## How do we support young people towards Christian maturity?



*This year we've seen*

*25 young people went away on cell residential.  
Horsforth School CU & Leeds Trinity students engaging in mission*

*A 6th Form R.E. Day planned*



## Our Challenge: God – a distant and disappearing reality

In 1996 I volunteered in Horsforth School and was soon invited, as a Christian, to teach a year 7 RE lesson entitled, 'What is God like?'



It started with the simplest of ice breakers: close your eyes, when I say a word write the first five things that come to mind. The word was 'God'.

A full range of images would fly back; some positive, some funny and some just outright weird. But everyone had something to say! The lesson proved a hit that I was able to teach for the next ten years. That was until I realised that the simple ice breaker was starting to draw a different response.

In fact the problem was that there was no response at all. Half the students in each class were repeatedly drawing a complete blank, with no concept, no image of God whatsoever.

**Our God has become distant to the point of disappearing!**

## Called to tackle the challenge here in Horsforth

In May 2011 one late questioning-night, as I weighed up my future, I heard a whisper that brought clarity, "I want you to be in Horsforth." Horsforth is my home, a place I'd come to love and where so much of previous youth ministry had taken place

A deep conviction followed, that God wanted me to work in three defined ways:

- To be present in Horsforth High School.
- To support Horsforth Churches Together in their shared mission.
- To map out the churches' witness, seeing the gaps and discovering where there is shared heart and energy to act.



Two years on so much has happened, but much remains to be achieved, and the possibilities are so exciting. It is time for the role to become full time.

## **Exciting achievable possibilities**

In the immediate future the Church in Horsforth can be empowered to organise:

### **Christmas and Easter Primary School Initiative:**

180 students from four schools to visit a local church and spend 90 minutes revisiting the time and entering the stories of Christmas and Easter



### **Horsforth and AIDS South Africa Orphans Link :**

Micah 6 v 8 says What does the Lord require of us "To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God." This coming year, a 20 strong team will travel to South Africa, whilst Horsforth School, Ducklings Nursery will be learning about and raising money so we will be able to demonstrate the love, help and offer of friendship of this community towards those less fortunate.



### **Café of Hope:**

Out of Café of Hope, sprung the vision for a Foodbank. It is on course to be launched soon with sixty people from local churches offering to support it, primary schools have been collecting for it.



### **Youth and Students conversation:**

Horsforth School has 1400 pupils, Leeds Trinity 3800 on role. How can the church making an impression on their lives with the good news of Jesus Christ?

Over the next year, Duncan will seek to bring people together to pray, discuss and act on how we can helpfully network and work together to bring the good news most effectively. He will also introduce a 6th Form RE Day to Horsforth School for the first time in years.

