

# The Jonas Centre

DAY OF PRAYER

Saturday 21st January 2017



**We celebrate and give thanks to God for all the work He has chosen to do through the faithful ministry of His people here at The Jonas Centre since it began in 1996.**



## **DAY OF PRAYER 10.30am – 12.30pm**

**Welcome Simon Eastwood, Centre Director**

### **10.30am Background Information**

Initially The Jonas Charitable Trust was set up in 1996 to provide training for youth leaders as well as provide a centre for churches, schools and other groups to stay.

It was also seen that the beauty and tranquillity of the Yorkshire Dales would provide many with respite space, particularly for carers.

Over the years the focus of the Centre's work has changed. Churches still come, along with university Christian Unions and charities. There are some youth groups and children's holidays but we now offer, as part of our charitable status, subsidised holidays for families or individuals in need of a respite break from many challenging situations (these will have been nominated by churches, social services or other charity groups).

We have also provided support for refugee and asylum families and most recently supporting the homeless in Richmondshire as well as breaks for families affected by the winter flooding in the north west of England.

We also have a small number of daily visitors who use the centre for meetings, conferences, training events and the occasional wedding reception. It also remains a popular holiday centre for those who want to explore the Yorkshire Dales for its history, creative activities, and recreation.

Last January supporters gathered in the Granary Barn, along with many other prayer partners around the country. The day began with low lying cloud with the whole of Penhill (the view from the Centre) obscured by persistent, thick cloud. But after an uplifting morning of prayer, thanks, fellowship and petition to our Provider God (Jehovah Jireh) the clouds had lifted and a clear view of the hill which dominates Wensleydale was revealed.

***Psalm 121:1-2 - 'I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.'* (NIV)**



The majority of those gathered took this as an indication that God had heard our praises, prayers of thanksgiving and cries to Him to guide the future of the Centre: - A promise of clarity, vision and provision as we moved forward into the next phase of the Centre's mission and ministry, trusting Him unreservedly and pledging obedience and love.

10.45am Purpose of the Day

Praise and thanksgiving for 2016 achievements

Seek God's guidance for the coming year

**SCRIPTURE** Jeremiah 29 v 11-13

<sup>11</sup> “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

11.00am Worship time (quiet reflection)

### **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

***My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, amazing grace***

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures, He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

***My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, amazing grace***

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, Who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

## “Jesus, Be The Centre”

Jesus, be the centre, Be my source, be my light  
Jesus

Jesus, be the centre, Be my hope, be my song  
Jesus

*(Chorus)*

***Be the fire in my heart, Be the wind in these sails,  
Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus***

Jesus, be my vision, Be my path, be my guide  
Jesus

*(Chorus)*

***Be the fire in my heart, Be the wind in these sails  
Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus***

(Instrumental)

Be the fire, Yes, Be the fire

*(Chorus)*

***Be the fire in my heart, Be the wind in these sails  
Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus***

Jesus, be the centre, Be my source, be my light  
Jesus

Be my source, be my light  
Jesus

11.20am Looking back over 2016

45 group visits over the last year  
Family group celebrations  
Men’s & ladies retreats  
Student conferences  
The vicar from Gogglebox  
Walking & rambling groups  
Our 4th wedding reception



One church working party  
International students  
Business conferences  
Corporate away days  
Church groups including families & youth  
Fundraising cycle ride produced £5500

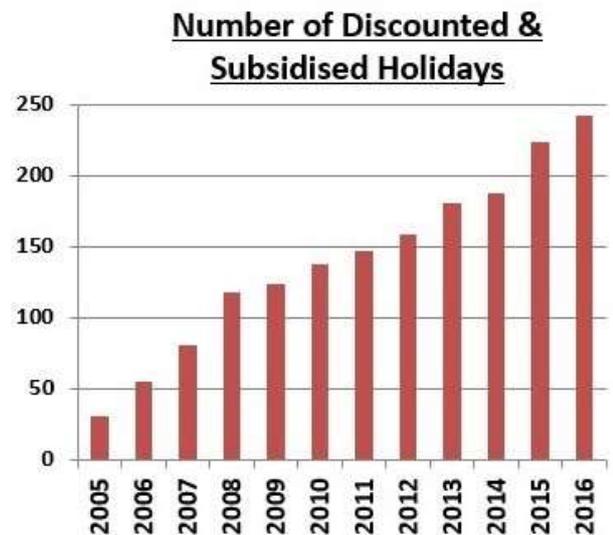
New bunk beds and mattresses  
Wi-Fi now available on the whole site

Retirement of Liz & Matt, long serving members of the staff team

Review of our subsidised holiday's scheme

**Since 2004 we have provided over 1600 subsidised holidays to over 3000 adults and over 2000 children. This has enabled them to experience a break from the strains and stresses of their everyday lives.**

**In 2016 we saw a further increase in requests for these breaks and we expect to see this rise further in view of the economic conditions in the North East. The subsidised holidays attract discounts ranging from 50-80% on our normal holiday rates which last year equated to a cost to The Jonas Centre of around £21,000.**



11.30am Praise and thanks for 2016

### **Prayers of thanks**

- for The Jonas Centre
- for the natural location in Wensleydale
- for the original team who established the centre
- for the current team of staff – led by Simon, along with Lucy, Joy, Robin, Neil, Ash, Geraldine, & Andrea
- for **our chaplain** Rev Vera Sinton as she supports the staff on her visits to the Centre

- for the individuals, families and groups who have benefitted from their stay at the Centre
- for those who help to subsidise respite breaks for those in need
- for the thousands of visitors who have been through our doors since we began on 1st October 1996
- for lives transformed, healed and refreshed as people came to get away from the strains and stresses of everyday life
- for the growth of our subsidised holidays from 25 in 2005 to 242 in 2016
- for God's provision of the financial resources to cope with "Foot and Mouth" in 2001 and the recession in 2009
- for the many different groups who have benefitted from time away together
- for **our current trustees**, Ian Coombs (Chair), John Henson MBE, Peter Eastwood, Jonny Wooldridge, Jamie & Shonagh Avis
- for **our legal consultant** Hilary Disney

11.50am Present & Future – NOAH

## **The Future**

Since our last prayer day, lots has happened to move our development plans forward but we are still not there yet!

We have appointed a new architect, held pre-planning application talks with the local authority to ensure that our requests will be viewed sympathetically.

We have had meetings with our newly appointed solicitor to review our land ownership and take advice on covenant issues that need resolving as well as undertaking site, traffic and noise surveys.

Arrangements are being made to plant trees so that the development cannot be seen from the main road. All being well the application will be submitted before Easter after the trustees meet in February.

As you will appreciate all these things can be subject to change but we still have the fundamental problem of not knowing how we

are going to fund the shortfall between the total cost of the project and any sale price of the bottom site. We are approaching potential funders to identify if the project would be supported, by how much and whether we need to phase the development over time.

12.00pm Prayers for 2017

### **Prayers of supplication**

- for people of faith in the Wensleydale area
- for the churches, Christian organisations and other groups who have made use of the centre
- for practical issues surrounding the existing set up: health and safety of the site, repair and maintenance, relationships with our neighbours
- for financial provision at this time of development
- for the troubled families and people who stay that need support and comfort with their problems
- for quality relationships with guests using the Centre that they will know the love of God through words and practical actions
- for relationships within the team working at The Jonas Centre
- for the trustees as they consider the future of the Centre next month and for wisdom as they look to discern God's will
- to **thank God**, that despite the challenges of the economic climate, we covered our costs over the last twelve months
- That **planning permission will be approved** before the summer

- That **the optimum sale price is achieved** for the sale of our lower land
- That **sufficient funds** will be also be available to fund the shortfall between the cost of the project and the sale price of the land
- That **God will continue to provide** the people and resources to enable the Centre to expand further in 2017
- For **the new trustees** we continue to seek, recognising the need to bring different skills to the table for the next chapter in the life of The Jonas Centre
- For **God's blessing** on the many groups and private guests using The Jonas Centre over the forthcoming year

## **BLESSING**

May the strength of God pilot us

May the power of God preserve us

May the wisdom of God instruct us

May the hand of God protect us

May the way of God direct us

May the shield of God defend us

May Christ be with us

Christ above us

Christ in us

Christ before us

This day and evermore

**AMEN**

12.30pm Lunch

### Psalm 25 Of David.

<sup>1</sup> In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.

<sup>2</sup> I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup> No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

<sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

<sup>9</sup> He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

<sup>10</sup> All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

<sup>11</sup> For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

<sup>12</sup> Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>13</sup> They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.

<sup>15</sup> My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

<sup>17</sup> Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish.

<sup>18</sup> Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

<sup>19</sup> See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me!

<sup>20</sup> Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

<sup>21</sup> May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, LORD, is in you.

<sup>22</sup> Deliver Israel, O God, from all their troubles!