

# TEC: News - Dec 2013

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Produced bi-monthly - Since 2013

**TEC: Film Club** 28 Days Later all began in a living room when it suddenly occurred to us that a lot about God and the Bible could be found in The Matrix. We weren't sure of where the idea would end up, but we knew that we loved films, that we loved being a collective who talked about faith, that we loved popcorn. So we got to work. I arranged a group on Facebook which was to become the centre of all the activities we planned. We printed business cards, made flyers and shamelessly plugged the night at every church group we went to. It wasn't long before a small group would find their way into my friend's living room where we would classic films that are not only loved as films, but touched on ideas of faith that are relatable to young people.

What amazed us more that though people would come and go, 28 Days Later grew as it gained new members and introduced them to the church in a more dynamic and personable way. While our base of operations was in

the church itself, we eventually came across a brilliant venue which tailored to the group's needs in a massive way. It was the screening room, a cafeteria and its modern vibe that appealed to all of us and gave our film nights the noir image that we were looking for. Suddenly we felt like a community with a very specific purpose – to discuss aspects of God and the church in our own independent and valuable way as well as model the idea that God is in all things.

The group grew more still as time went on and further innovations were made to the group, as we added more ideas to the mix. We started competitions, encouraging people to engage in films, beyond the film, creating memes and discussing them openly outside of screening nights. On a weekly basis, we

would contribute film clips to the site in the hope that we could broaden people's film tastes and naturally, we went to the cinema to catch the latest releases and gauge what they might say about faith and the universe. Overall, I strongly believe it does so much for the young ministry and I also know that it has done so much for me. What can I say? I'm proud to be a part of it!

By Adam Morris

**Whit Moor Christmas Play** For over 60 years now there has been a midnight nativity service at Whittington Moor – at the current Methodist church for the past 32 years and previous to that at Sheffield Road – the building it replaced, and it has always been the role of the young people of the Church to lead the service. Undoubtedly over the years, the content has changed and developed, but the underlying story is as constant,

as the effort and passion put into the performance by the cast. In an age of diminishing numbers of congregations in general and young people in particular, we are continually blessed by a great bunch of youngsters wanting to return each year to play their part in putting over the Christmas message in their own way. Gone are the days of traditional Mary, Joseph, and Shepherds tales to be replaced by broken down buses, neighbourly wars over Christmas decorations, misfiring choirs, bumbling hotel managers and alien invasions. This year sees Christmas from a viewpoint that many of us have had experience of, the old folk's home and is entitled 'Christmas at the Rock of Aged'. Although each performance is flavoured with

humour, the message remains the same and every year sees a full house turn up to witness the dawn of Christmas Day in a way that many folk now see as a vital part of their Christmas celebrations. The congregation is probably the widest range of attendees of the year, from local regulars, though members of other churches - not necessarily Methodists – to ones for whom this is their one and only visit of the year to a place of worship. No one group is more important than another and each person present needs to take home the Christmas message in their own way and the format of the service hopefully promotes that. Thirty minutes, or thereabouts, the duration of the service, doesn't seem long enough to portray the importance of the whole proceedings, but from experience, the young people always manage to make sure that everyone present goes home with a little more Christmas in their hearts – and long may it continue!

Don't forget – Whittington Moor  
December 24<sup>th</sup> 11:30pm 'Christmas at the  
Rock of Aged' by Kevin Barsby