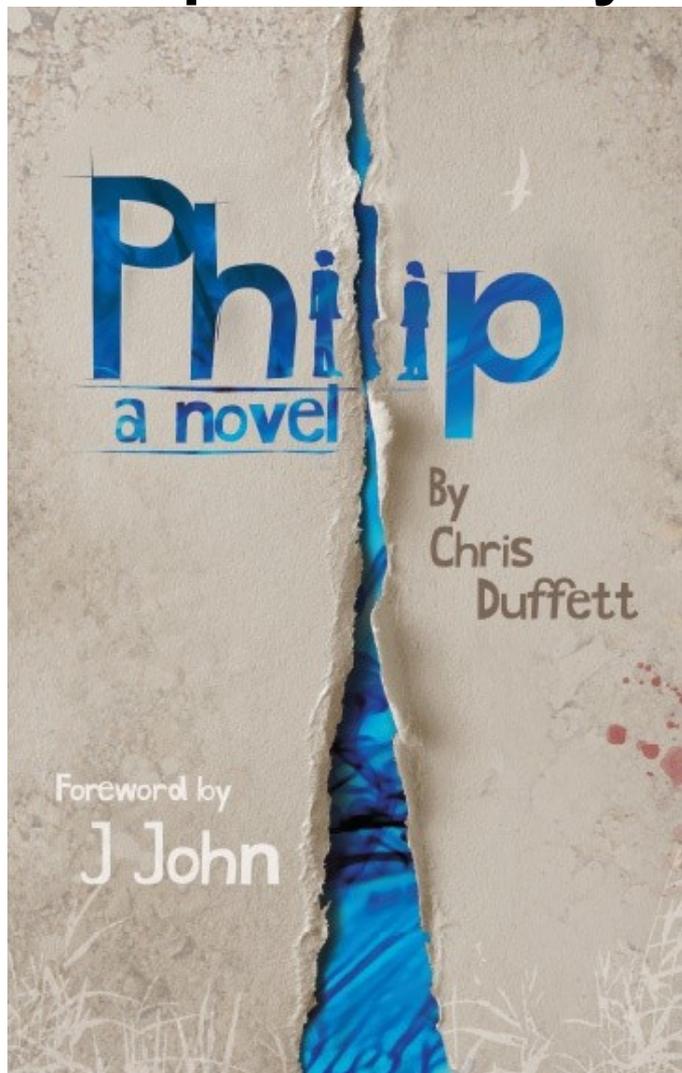


News from



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'Philip' book ready for launch!



We asked Chris about his experience of writing the book. He said "There were many challenges, not least finishing it and knowing how to wrap the story up, especially when my writing mojo went on a long holiday! Keeping historical accuracy was also a bit tricky - for a few months my office walls were plastered with timelines, showing ages of characters, key biblical stories, who was ruling at the time and contemporary historical events. I particularly struggled with researching what and how a 1st-century family would have eaten, but I had some amazing historical books that enabled me to build up an idea of 'a day in the life' of the various characters.

(Continued overleaf)

It's here at last! More than 10 years ago Light Project Evangelist Chris Duffett read Jonny Cash's 'Man in White' and began to ponder ways of writing that could challenge and inspire people to engage with the Bible - and the result is his first novel, based on the life of one of his heroes, early evangelist Philip.



Philip waits for his Dad—by Chris Duffett

The Light Project (Registered charity no. 1084941) is a diverse group of people with a big heart to let others have a real experience of Jesus. We train people to share the good news through the Chester University-accredited Foundation Degree in Theology and Evangelism, and we work with churches and other groups on a variety of creative outreach projects. We'd love to hear from you—our contact details are on page 4.

‘Philip’ book ready to launch *(continued from page 1)*

"There were plenty of times when I didn't have a clue what to write but then a thought would wander into my mind that was pure inspiration - the Holy Spirit is a genius at inspiring creative thoughts! Writing about Philip's face-to-face encounters with Jesus taught me a lot - I must admit there were times when I had to stop typing because I was crying so much, overwhelmed by the lavish love that Jesus has for me. Writing those conversations felt like Jesus speaking directly to my heart.

"The key message of Philip's life is obedience, whatever the cost. I want to be like the Philip I've written about! His faith and obedience are inspiring, and he ran the race to the end. My prayer is that, through the book, people will be inspired to follow Jesus and to change the world for his glory."

‘Philip—a novel’ is available from Gilead Books, price £7.99. There will also be an e-book with some added extras... You can pre-order either of these from Gilead Books by post from Corner Farm, West Knapton, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 8JB, online at <http://www.gileadbookspublishing.com/philip.html> or you can ask your local bookshop to order a copy (or two!) for you.



Evangelist and author Chris Duffett

An invitation...

We'd love to see you at one (or more) of the celebratory launches planned for 'Philip'.

They are:

- Oct. 20, Lighthouse Cafe, Great Gransden, 8-10pm
- Oct. 29, Costa Coffee, 41 High Street, Huntington, 7-8.30pm
- Nov. 2, Streetlight, Wimborne, Dorset, 8-10pm
- Nov. 6, St. Peters Church, Chester, 8-10pm
- Nov. 9, Husk Cafe, Limehouse, London, 8-10pm
- Nov. 19, The Drapers Arms, Peterborough, 8-10pm
- Nov. 23rd, Chipping Camden Baptist Church, 8-10pm

To be confirmed:

- Nov. 5, The Tron, Glasgow, 7-9pm

For details of this or any other of the ‘Philip’ launch events, please contact Chris Duffett on 07775 901855 or email chris.duffett@lightproject.org.uk



Students old and new gather for first Learning Weekend of the year



This year's cohort of new students meet at Foxhill and get to know each other

Ali Boston reports on the first Learning Weekend of the year:

We had a wonderful induction at Foxhill in September, with 11 new students joining us, then going on to join our returning students for the first Learning Weekend of the year in Chester.

God spoke very clearly about being rooted in him, and the experience of being pruned. I see this as a being a year when the things that are good but don't bear much fruit will be pruned, and as we all go deeper in our relationship with Jesus, being rooted and grounded in him, we will see more fruit for his Kingdom. The year has got off to a great start, and I am really excited about how God is going to change us this year!

To pray for:

- **New and returning students - for concentration and energy and good health as they pursue their studies, and energy and inspiration for their practical outworking**
- **Staff members Chris Duffett and Glyn Jones have both said goodbye to close family members over the summer. Please give thanks for lives well lived, and support Chris, Glyn and their families in their journeys of grief.**

Welcome to The Light Community—this year’s vision

Gaz Thomas, Co-Leader of The Light Project (Chester), introduces his vision for our work in the city this year...

Historically, the Light Project team in Chester has been known for various pioneering projects in the city. In this season we feel especially called to see how 'Revealing Jesus' happens through the growth and sharing of deep and honest community, and in the formation of individual and community ways of living shaped by Christ. It is through this that we seek to share the Good News passionately, clearly and naturally with those around us, most particularly with the people of Chester.



The Light Community, 2017-18

Our students, therefore, are part of The Light Community, Chester - a community of people (students, staff and volunteers) who are seeking to learn together how to follow Jesus and share his life with others in the city of Chester. Through fellowship, worship and prayer, mission and evangelism we aim to find and live the simple heart of the Gospel in close community.

We have 6 wonderful full-time students here this year: Aaron, Amy, Matt, Andaluca, Dave and Rhi. Together we will be focusing on regular engagement in creative city-centre evangelism, as well as city-centre chaplaincy (in collaboration with St. Peter's Church, Chester). In addition to our own evangelism and outreach as a community, our students will also be placed in local churches and projects working with children and young people, with homeless people, in theatre and cafe ministries, with the sick (through hospital chaplaincy), and in the night-time economy. As we begin our new academic year, then, and as ever, we'd like to convey our deep gratitude for the support of our Friends and partners and collaborators in the Gospel as we seek to 'Reveal Jesus' in our city - thank you!

To pray for:

- **Our new initiative, a pop-up 'Mobile Faith Space' we're hoping to operate in various parts of the city, offering hospitality, prayer, conversation and friendship.**
- **Our students, who have requested prayer for their ongoing relationship with God, growth in spirituality and faith, balance, sound minds, and good health.**

Another Light Project alumnus called to ministry!



Sue Hensby and her husband Arnie

Light Project alumnus Sue Hensby tells her story:

Just over 5 years ago (aged 52) I tentatively applied to The Light Project to join the FdA in Theology and Evangelism as a distance learner. I distinctly remember putting in my application form that I did not see myself as ever wanting to be ordained or wanting to lead a church, but I felt that God was calling me to study and to seek more of him so that he could reveal what he wanted of me.

My 3 years as a distance learner completely transformed my life; it enabled me to spend quality time with God surrounded by a group of amazing people from different backgrounds and of different ages – my Light Project family.

As my studies developed, my journey continued and God opened doors and created opportunities for me to serve in ways I would never have thought possible, including sharing my faith on the streets of Peterborough and pioneering a Winter Night Shelter for homeless people. With every step of the way my faith has deepened and my passion for wanting to share the Good News of Jesus has grown.

But our God also has a sense of humour: 18 months ago I felt God was calling me to pursue the ordination route as a Baptist Evangelist! As I spent time discerning this calling God opened up the most amazing opportunity for Arnie and me to build community in the village just 2 miles from our home...

As I write this I am preparing to start 3 years of Ministerial Formation Training to become an accredited Baptist Minister and on 8 October I will be commissioned as the Church leader of Sutton St James Baptist Church (congregation of 3!) Our heart is to replant the church in a culturally relevant way so that it becomes the hub of the village with Jesus at the centre of community life.



Sutton St. James Baptist Church

• To pray for:

- Sue and Arnie as they start this new adventure**
- Sue's return to studies**
- The work and growth of Sutton St. James' church family - for God to draw others to himself.**

How does our garden grow?

A couple of years ago, gifted archaeologist-cum-gardener **James Cox** began working on a community garden which the Cathedral have kindly shared with The Light Project. The vision is a restored space where people can come and experience the healing and transformation of God in their own lives. As we head into Autumn he shares what has been going on recently:

"Over summer 2017 the garden has seen several significant changes. The herb garden has been planted up thanks to our volunteer Pam, who kindly donated the herbs!

Another volunteer, Ian, has been helping to mulch other vegetable beds with compost from the Chester Cathedral compost heaps and has been helping us to link up with some of the work they are doing in the cathedral grounds. Finally our old shed has received some much needed sprucing up from Rob Peto - we finally have a lockable door, new window panes and some smart re-pointing. Thanks to all who have been down to visit us, or prayed for us!"



Our garden and shed

Stop Press: Light Project Day of Prayer

When? Tuesday 7 November, 9am-9pm

Where? Abbey House, Abbey Green, Chester, CH1 2JH

ALL WELCOME for all or part of the day!



Gaz Thomas writes:

"Over the years we have been incredibly blessed to have many people and groups alongside us as we have sought to reveal Jesus throughout the UK and beyond. As such, we are delighted to extend a warm invitation to our Supporters - actually, we call you Friends - and those who who have been our partners and collaborators in the Gospel to join us for an evening of thanksgiving and celebration on **Thursday 25 January 2018** at **St. Peter's Church, Chester, 7pm (for 7.30) - 9pm.**

There will be cakes and refreshments, fellowship, music, worship and an update on the work of The Light Project. This is simply an occasion when we express our thanks to God and our fellow pilgrims in the Gospel, so please do come and join us!"

For more details, or to let us know you are coming, please contact Tonya Chirgwin by **12 January 2018** (details in the box below)

To find out more about anything mentioned in this issue, contact us by phone: 01244 400221 or mail: The Light Project, Abbey House, Abbey Green, Chester, CH1 2JH, or email: tonya.chirgwin@lightproject.org.uk. Do get in touch!