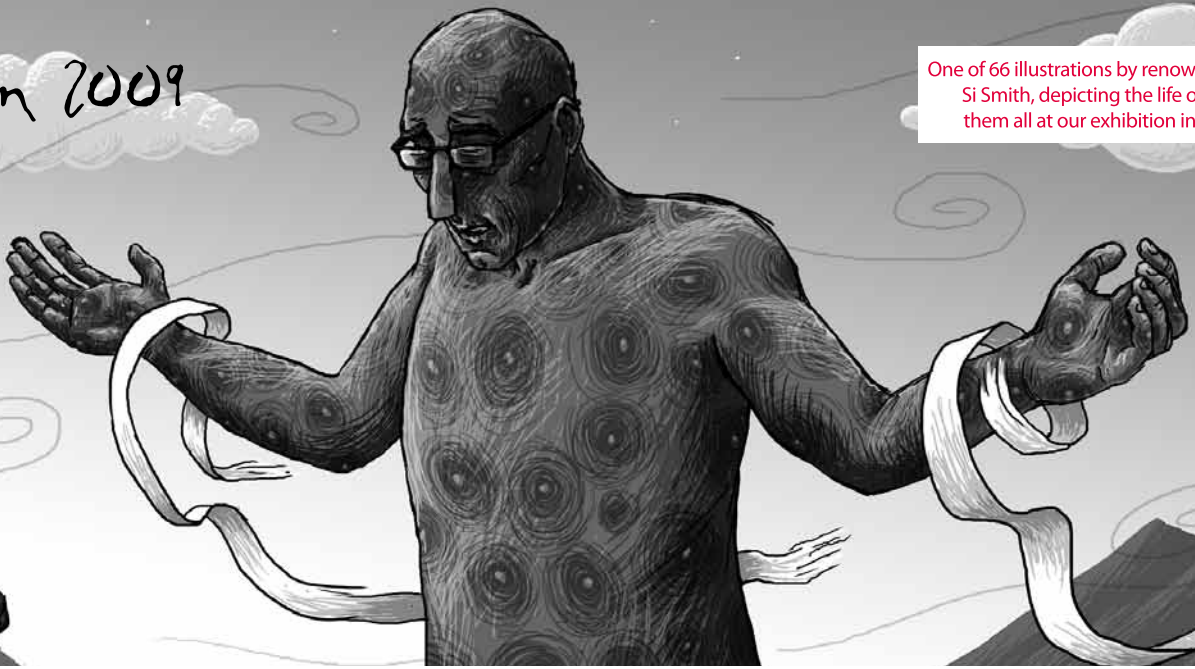



autumn 2009

One of 66 illustrations by renowned artist Si Smith, depicting the life of Job. See them all at our exhibition in February



LCET 
switch the light on

Finding God when it all goes **wrong**

JOB HAD IT BAD. Right before his eyes his life disappeared. Everything he loved, everything he owned, everything he knew... it was taken from him in a matter of moments. Where was God in all this? Was he forgotten or, worse, being punished?

In Luton, there are young people whose stories resonate all too closely with Job. The police and a social worker arrive at their door and they're taken into care. For others, the family they thought was secure gets broken up when dad suddenly leaves. Or the friends they trusted turn on them. Maybe it will surprise you to know that many of them ask the same questions as Job... is God to blame? Does he hate me? Will he help?

That's where our work takes on a renewed importance. LCET is all about helping young people discover a God who cares passionately for them right in the midst of their suffering. There are no easy answers as to why bad things happen in our world - and having a faith certainly doesn't make you immune - but God's right there when things get tough.

We'd love to tell you some stories about the young people we meet. Many are crushed by their experiences. Some have found hope in God in the midst of those struggles. We think these stories will inspire and challenge you, and perhaps help you to think about how you cope with adversity.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE LAUNCHING A NEW EXHIBITION IN FEBRUARY AND INVITING YOU TO COME AND HEAR THOSE STORIES FOR YOURSELF.

We've commissioned 66 drawings, bringing the story of Job to life as you've never experienced before. Alongside them will be some stories from young people that echo Job's experience. Come and be inspired by these stories of the past and present. You can find out more inside.

**WELCOME! MEET
THREE NEW
MEMBERS OF
THE LCET STAFF
TEAM....**



mustard tree

🔴 Five teenagers head off on a very different kind of residential

THIS YEAR, AT LCET, OUR FOCUS HAS BEEN TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR WORLD.

As part of this we organised **Mustard Seed**, a trip which took five 16 and 17 year olds and three leaders up to Manchester, to volunteer with a homeless project called Mustard Tree. We did everything from sorting out the tins from the harvest offering, to gardening, soup runs and meeting and talking with people who are homeless. The experience was both challenging and eye opening for leaders and young people alike and we were all impacted by the inspiring volunteers and the incredible stories of the people we met.

“The homeless people we worked with really believe that God cares for them and helps them.”

🔴 What was good about working with Mustard Tree?

Rachel It was really good to meet new people and to see the work going on with the homeless in Manchester. I tried to keep an open mind and was surprised by how different the homeless were to most peoples' opinions. They were friendly and so grateful. The soup run was my favourite thing, to be able to help in a really practical way.

David Being taken out of my comfort zone. The longer I worked in the soup kitchen - the more confident I felt! Seeing people with nothing really makes you appreciate what you have. My house is normal, but it's shelter and it's home.

Bryan Knowing I made a difference and helping people out was really good. The team at Mustard Tree are really supportive to the people they work with and treat them as normal people, with respect and dignity.

🔴 What was difficult?

David I was struck by the injustice... it made me feel upset.

Bryan We had to sort out a room full of cans, by type and sell-by-date. It was hard work and smelly... we found a carrier bag full of rotten veg!

Rachel The most difficult thing for me was feeling tired. It was hard work, but I'm really glad I did it.

🔴 What have you learned?

Rachel I've learned that love is quite powerful and that God cares about people. He uses Christians to help and be him to needy people. The homeless people we worked with are so grateful and believe that God cares for them and helps them.



LCET exhibition 2010



Monday 8th February 8pm (Launch Evening)

Tuesday 9th February 7-10pm

Wednesday 10th February 7-10pm

Thursday 11th February 7-10pm

Find out more on our website
at www.lcet.org

Bryan I felt more relaxed than usual and calmer being in a different situation than I expected to. Working with other people was a really positive experience.

David I have learned a lot from hearing different peoples' stories and have already had the chance to talk about my experiences in church and raise peoples' awareness. I would love to go back to Manchester in the future and see what has changed and what more can be done.

• What can other people do to help the homeless in Luton?

Rachel You can be more understanding, don't stereotype homeless people. Acknowledge them! It's really important that you treat them like human beings. And if they ask you for money, offer to give them some food or a drink instead, or you can donate to charities that help.

Bryan Donate food to charities that work with the homeless... (within date!!)

David Give what you can; money, food etc. Look for projects around that you can work with.

WHO ON EARTH ARE WE?

• LCET is a registered charity set up in 1993 by a group of 45 Luton churches. Our aim is to reconnect the Christian community with young people and to make a positive difference to their lives. We work principally within the town's secondary schools and colleges with young people from all backgrounds.

• Our Therapeutic Team provides support for the big issues young people sometimes face whilst growing up. We run small group programmes for young people who are in care, who self harm or have ADHD and for those who struggle with anger or low self esteem. There are also art projects, weekends away and lots of ongoing help.

• Our Chaplaincy Team provides inspiration and challenge for the spiritual side of young peoples' lives. We work in local secondary schools to help enhance spiritual development, through assemblies, RE lessons, art exhibitions and pastoral care. We want to give young people the opportunity to explore the deepest questions of life.

• We're based in Luton town centre, where we have converted an old hat factory into a cafe and arts centre for young people. Where they can drop in to have fun, meet friends or take part in one of our drama or arts projects. There are also a variety of outdoor activities, camps and events.

• LCET is overseen by a Board of Trustees, with expertise in relevant areas to our work, and who represent our stakeholders, including local churches. We have fifteen staff and eleven volunteers working with thousands of young people every year, and we're passionate about making a positive difference with every one of them!

switch the light on



Compass Project

 **Being there for the those who need help the most**

BACK IN SEPTEMBER WE LAUNCHED A BRAND NEW PROJECT AT LCET LED BY THREE NEW MEMBERS OF THE TEAM.

WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE THEM TO YOU...

This September LCET created a brand new department to oversee a pioneering project. It's about helping young people who aren't in a job or going to college, or who are in still in school but are in danger of ending up in that position when they leave at 16. For many of them, it's the pressures and struggles of their lives that hold them back. They need to find fresh confidence and hope about who they are and what they can achieve.

The new team are working flat out to make a difference to over 100 young people who find themselves struggling in this way. A group of 35 year 9 students will be visiting the LCET building once a fortnight to spend the day looking at some of these issues. Meanwhile the over 16's will be invited to special two day conference events.

The new team are all local to Luton and LCET. Jason has been working for Connexions and is based at St Mary's. Johnny is moving from working for the local Salvation Army Citadel, whilst Trudy is another ex-Connexions worker from Hitchin. It's a great team and a vital project, being funded through Campus Luton. And, of course, you can read more about what's being planned on the website.



Jason Royce:
Compass
Director



Johnny Scott:
Compass
Worker



Trudy Hankin:
Compass
Worker

