

What follows is an expanded version of the original Weekly Sermon column written by Ian in which he talks about the whole experience of praying for his grandson, and those prayers being answered, in more detail ...

Henry was born on 25th April 2017 at the Countess of Chester Hospital to Keren and Ben Franks. Keren is our eldest daughter. They also have an older son, George. The last few weeks before delivery the hospital staff knew something wasn't right as Henry had stopped growing and didn't move much.

In the end they had to deliver him by Caesarean section and he needed oxygen at birth and was in an incubator as his temperature was not stabilising.

When they first sent him home, his temperature dropped rapidly again and he was re-admitted in an almost hypothermic state. The heart was struggling as some valves hadn't closed at birth that should have done. When Henry came home for the second time at about three weeks old he was severely jaundiced and they wanted to run further blood tests including something called a 'bilirubin' as his jaundice was prolonged and wasn't getting better.

It was at this point that my wife Fiona and I went to stay with Keren and Ben at their home in Tarporley, Cheshire, near one of my former parishes.

Henry was at home when we saw him and I was alone in the living room with him. I had never seen anyone look so yellow, and I was so concerned that I just started praying over him asking Jesus to restore his colour and end his jaundice.

I stood with my hand above Henry as I prayed over him and he suddenly flooded with normal colour from his feet to his head.

I was stunned as I can't say I actually expected an immediate answer to prayer. I was thinking it might take a few days. It was only when Fiona came in a few minutes later and commented that he looked a different colour that I started to realise his jaundice really had gone.

It was when Henry went back in to the Countess hospital for the blood test that they said they didn't feel they needed to do any further tests on him as he had had so many tests already and he was clearly no longer jaundiced.

The consultant who had called for the tests saw Henry later in the week but was surprised that the requested tests had not been done.

They then looked at Henry and realised that the jaundice had completely gone and that test wasn't needed. They had taken some blood for genetic testing around this time – but it was June before Keren and Ben were given the results. This showed that Henry has a specific chromosome deletion.

It is not a hereditary condition, but it is a very rare condition that has only a few similar cases known world-wide.

The condition means Henry will continue to fight further complications as he gets older.

When Henry's condition was diagnosed Keren and Ben were put in touch with Unique – the rare chromosome disorder support group (www.rarechromo.org).

They received plenty of advice about what to expect with Henry and were put in touch with other parents who have children with similar chromosome deletions.

They were a lifeline for Keren and Ben as they sought to come to terms with the reality of Henry's condition. Keren is full of praise for the hospital staff as their enquiries led to a speedy diagnosis for Henry, and their swift actions saved his life on more than one occasion.

The heart condition that presented after birth did eventually correct itself naturally without surgical intervention, although there is still a strong possibility of other heart problems developing.

Keren has now realised that many parents with children with chromosome deletions have not been so fortunate and can struggle for years to get a diagnosis.



The specific problems that Henry faced at birth are also now being recorded against his chromosome deletion and his experience will help to build up a better picture of this specific deletion which will help others in turn.

Unique has been such a help to Keren and Ben that she asked if I would consider running a marathon to raise money for the charity.

I have been running for about 8 years now, and I am a regular at the Burnley 'parkrun'. My longest run so far has been a half-marathon in 2013.

I also took part in Running Down Dementia in 2017, setting myself a target of 500km over a few months to raise £500 for Alzheimer's Research UK.

By the end of the campaign I had raised more than £1100. I contacted Unique last year to find out about running in the London Marathon and I was told I had secured one of their charity places at the end of October 2018. I had to pledge to raise £2000 in order to have a place, but I have set my target a bit higher at £3000. I have an online giving page at

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/lanEnticott>

This year's London Marathon is on April 28, 2019. I am really thrilled to be one of nine people running for Unique – and in the capital city. I grew up in Harrow Weald in the north-west of Greater London, so it is a bit of a return home for me.

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