

## Surprises in prayer



Henry was a just a couple of weeks old and severely jaundiced.

The doctors already knew he had a leaky heart valve and were about to discover that he had a large chromosome deletion.

They wanted to bring him in for extensive tests to find out why he was jaundiced for so long.

When I visited my grandson the next day and saw how yellow he was I felt an overwhelming urge to pray for him: “Lord Jesus, please take away his jaundice and give him his colour back”.

I couldn’t believe it when instantly he changed colour from toe to head. My wife walked in a couple of minutes later and said that he looked a different colour. I sheepishly admitted that I had just prayed for him.

Then, a couple of days later, he went in to hospital only to be told that he no longer needed the tests as everything appeared normal.

Even the consultant couldn’t understand what had happened. It wasn’t long before the heart problem was no longer there either. Now Henry is nearly two years old.

His parents have received such a great amount of help and advice from Unique, the rare chromosome disorder charity, that they have persuaded me to run in the London Marathon this year to raise money for them.

Sometimes God can work in amazing ways.

I have never before had such an instant answer to prayer and maybe the sceptical will say that it was just coincidence. But I know that when I poured out my heart to God that day and held my hand over Henry something changed.

Maybe we shouldn’t be so surprised. After all Jesus commanded his followers to go and heal people, and told them: “whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (The Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 11, verse 24).

I don’t think that gives us the right to pray for that brand-new Porsche we long for and then ‘believe’ it will come but I do think that if we are following Jesus and seeking to do his will in our world today then we will know what we should be praying for.

Maybe the problem is that we just don’t expect God to do that sort of thing today and, like me, we are surprised when he does!

**Rev Ian Enticott**  
**Area Dean of Accrington**