

Issue 1 August 2023



HOPE

CHURCH SHAW

Building Faith Sharing Love



NEWSLETTER

**30 Eastway, Shaw,
Oldham OL2 8NY**

ELDER'S MESSAGE

Hello and welcome to the first issue of newsletter. We are looking to prepare this every month to not only keep you up to date with what is going on during the month but also to share with your testimonies and articles that will encourage you in your walk with Jesus.

We live in a world that is increasingly at odds with the Kingdom of God and whilst we shouldn't be surprised about this (2 Timothy 3 v13), we do still live in it. But together we are called to spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10 v24). So, we pray that this monthly newsletter will encourage you.

God is building us as living stones - the body of Christ in Shaw that we might declare the truth of the gospel into the lives and hearts of those who need to come in faith and trust their lives to Jesus.

May God bless you.

Dave



LOVE IN ACTION

Love one another with brotherly affection, outdo one another in showing honour – Romans 12 v 10.

If you can give a lift on a Sunday or to any midweek meetings, hospital appointments, shopping for those who are too unwell to get out. This is a very important ministry and you be blessed in so many ways. Please also look out on WhatsApp Chat with what people share and offer help if you can. If you can help in any way for those who are struggling, then please speak to Brian McDaid who is co-ordinating this.



PROPHECY

I have set an open door before you that no one can shut. If someone were to tell you the things, I have prepared for you, you would not believe it.

You will be like a well-watered garden and like springs in the desert to the people amongst whom I have set you down.

I will set myself between you and those who would oppose you, and they will not come near you. No arrow formed against you will prosper.

I have brought you through the river of salvation and you have made camp on the other bank – this will not be your permanent dwelling.

I will lead you up from here by a way you have not known before, but I will guide you into a large place where you will delight yourselves in my love and goodness towards you.

Only be strong and very courageous.

Set yourselves to seek my face and I will reveal my will to you – as you journey you will hear my voice behind you saying this is the way, walk in it.

You have much to learn but I will teach you if you pay heed and obey my voice. My spirit, who is, in the midst of you, will be your guide and you will glorify me in all you do.

Only be strong and very courageous! 15th August 2022



TESTIMONIES

SPRING HARVEST 2023 – Skegness

By Marie Sutcliffe

This was a lovely experience and a joy to be with like-minded people in the Lord. There was a variety of different things to do. I very much enjoyed the pastor called Malcolm who unpacked part of the gospel of Matthew, this was very interesting. I also met Terry Waite who was being interviewed, also very interesting. There was also a good array of Christian books to suit all ages. It was such a blessing to worship with so many Christians. I pray these meetings continue for many years to come and would definitely go again.

I'M A CHRISTIAN

When I say ... "I am a Christian" I'm not shouting, "I'm clean livin'." I'm whispering, "I was lost, Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect; my flaws are far too visible But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say ... "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, So I call upon His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian" I'm not holier than thou, I'm just a simple sinner Who received God's good grace, somehow.

BAPTISM by Cirsty Waller

As I child I think I always believed in God, but had he done anything for me.... No. My father never wanted anything to do with me and my Grandad told me at 4 years old that no one wanted me anyway. I believed him, I spent years believing him sadly. My childhood wasn't exactly conventional but that's a story for another day. Growing and attending a CofE primary and Junior school. Church assemblies at school and visits to Oldham Parish Church were a regular occurrence. Rev, John Sykes was the minister, I went because I had to, did I believe. I believed in something, didn't know what it was, maybe it was God. Maybe that was a myth, and they were trying to brainwash me.

Funny though, years later, when my daughter was stillborn, the first thing I asked for was a priest. And also asked if Rev John Sykes could perform her funeral for me but had retired.

I didn't know what to think and not being from a religious household I kept my feelings like a lot of things from back then to myself, but anyway I had no choice in going or sitting and being quiet because I got in trouble if I didn't. Think my mum will probably agree if I was quiet other than that I was poorly. I was the kid who was always in trouble for something, yes sometimes I deserved it, like the time I stole a pair of scissors from primary school and cut chunks out of my own hair and gave all of my dolls Mohicans, or the time twice id graffitied all over my bedroom walls, once when I was very young. Mum had just finished painting my room pink and fell asleep and when she woke up id drawn all over it with her black eyeliner. The second time, they said they were going to redecorate my room, so I went ahead and went to town with a thick black permanent marker, then they said it would be a good few month though.... Not anymore.

The more I grew the more I experimented, didn't apply myself at school, hung around with the smokers, the dropouts, and the wild kids. At college I wasn't much better alcohol, drugs and "adult wrestling", it was a party life for me. If I could smoke it, snort it or swallow it I was game. Fast and loose, I didn't care about myself, although I did about the people around me. My family. I changed when I felt I had no choice, I'd done something really stupid, put myself in a dangerous situation and it backfired.

I grew up, sort of. I cleaned up. Finally got into a relationship longer than a couple months, a couple of weeks or even worse a night. I'm not proud, I never have been, but I turned my life around. I went back to college, fell into accounting. Took to it like a duck to water. Gave birth to my son. Became single, that became the norm for me, and This was my life, and I was happy with it. Me and Kieran against the world.

All that changed on the 9th August 2021 at 4.30 ish in the afternoon I had a headache, and it was kind of headache that knocked me for six, and I told Kieran I was going to bed.... I remember he woke me up shouting at his computer playing video games at 3 o'clock in the morning, I told him to be quiet and get to bed, the next morning getting up for work I couldn't see straight I couldn't walk straight. For the next 2 days I tried to carry on, even doing a shift at my second job at Ladbrokes, but I was still hoping it was a migraine and it would pass. Worked, slept, barely ate, finally with Keirans help I got in touch with 111. The response was "Can you get to AnE now, I think you've had a stroke". Doctors, even the stroke specialists were convinced id had the rare brain stem stroke. 2 weeks in Fairfield hospital on the acute stroke ward, test after test. Scan after scan. X-rays, Multiple MRIs, some just to satisfy the machine wasn't faulty, lumbar puncture and at least a hundred blood tests. I was black and blue and still not much change. They finally said it may be multiple sclerosis. Scared and alone, in the time of no visitors allowed at the hospitals. Then they said I could be waiting years; neurologists don't rush with any kind of diagnosis. I got sent home. 6 weeks later I was rushed in again, this time being sick every time I ate, couldn't lift myself and couldn't walk. In Oldham this time for 8 days but the diagnosis was confirmed on day 1 by the neurologists at Salford after the doctors demanded it to be able to treat me.

My life had been flipped upside down, shook up, kicked to the curb and left. and everything id worked for. Gone. People id formed friendships with treated me like I was a pariah. Like the disease I had was catching. I worked hard to try to get back to some sort of normality with the help of my family, my mum and Norman, especially. I moved to Shaw when my house was ready and thought it would be a new start for me and Kieran. The more I tried the more I plunged deeper into depression and anxiety, afraid of going out, afraid of my own shadow. Back to feeling like that scared child who nobody wanted again. I know that it wasn't true then, just like it's not true now. But once the thoughts are in your head it can take a lifetime to remove them. Diseased, depressed, discouraged and desperate.

March 26th, 2022. The day I met Brian and Emmanuel at the tram stop I wasn't going to turn around I was just going carry on and do my shopping in Asda, but God shakes us up and I turned that tract over.

HOPE

Hope, it hit me like a brick, I knew at that point I was missing something from my life from my life, I needed hope.

I still tried to fight it, I asked where the church was and said I might come in the future and went on my way with all intentions to go shopping. Instead,

while walking the pull to come here was niggling and it got the better of me, I had to see for myself. Deep down I knew if I didn't come know I probably never would. By the time Brian & Emmanuel got back I was sat in the cafe area having a cuppa with Christine and I think Pat.

God shakes us up!

That was what Dave said one Sunday when he used the analogy of the orange juice bottle when it settles in the bottom you have to give it a good shake to get it all mixed again. I know I was still on the fence then but see Dave I was still listening. I was settled in thinking that this life was my life and I had to find hope myself, but no. God stepped in and here I am today.

I've always taken great comfort in books, my house no matter where I've lived has been filled with them and the more, I get rid of, the more come out of the woodwork. The written word to me is like fresh air is to you, 2 of my favourite authors were stout Christians. Tolkien & Lewis. Tolkien especially as you can probably gather from my ink. Firm friends, Tolkien and his talks on faith and religion were the turning point for Lewis and he became a Christian thereafter, they then formed a prayer group together. Lewis said and I quote "The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because he loves us". I have turned a corner. I see things in a different light. Aragorn's poem from The Lord of The Rings (the books, not the films) says.

"All that is gold does not glitter, Not all those who wander are lost.
The old that is strong does not wither, Deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken, A light from the shadows shall spring.
Renewed shall be blade that was broken, The crownless again shall be king".

This is me now my Lord, I have a higher purpose, you know the way ahead and I will trust you as my guide. This life you have given me, the deep roots, my family, I am thankful for. You have stirred the fire inside me oh Lord, the darkness has light once more. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will truly be the Return of the King, my King.

I am the daughter of Janet, my beautiful and amazing mum and stepdaughter of the wonderful Norman, but you're going to have to share me from here on out because I am a child of God.

I confess El Shaddai Abba Father. I am a sinner. I am sorry. Please forgive me., I am ready to follow the Lord Jesus Christ into the waters of baptism and follow him for the rest of my days until my eternal resting place with him and you in the heavens. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our good friends George and Damaris in Romania have welcomed a beautiful baby girl. Welcome to the world Mirium Elana (Ela). Born 15th July 2023, weighing a very healthy 7lb 3oz and 50cm in length.



If you have any announcements you would like to share, testimonies or answered prayers, we would love to hear your story, please get in touch with us.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Thanking God for answered prayers regarding Tony (Daryl's Dad) and his now un-needed stent on his heart.



WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Our Sunday Services start each week with Prayer in the office at 9.45 am. All Welcome to this very important time before our service which then starts at 10.30 am. There is also opportunity for prayer during the service. We serve refreshments in the Cafe area after the service. Creche facilities available.

Monday 8 am to 12 noon. The Church is open for prayer. Come when you can between these times and stay for as long, or as little as you can. Come and seek God together as He calls us to commit everything, we do to Him. Philippians 4 v5-7

Tuesday Evening at 8 pm on Zoom is the Elders Meeting. Please pray for them as they lead us Spiritually. Also, once a month is a combined Elders and Deacons meeting where the more practical things are discussed.

Wednesday is our life Groups. We start at 7.30 pm with refreshments and then move into a time of discussion about the biblical teaching that was brought on the Sunday before, and we then pray together. Please speak to Dave or Emmanuel if you'd like more details or if you'd like to be a part of a group.

Thursday is Coffee Morning that starts at 10 am till 12noon, there is prayer available after the coffee time.

Friday is our Youth Fellowship. This will be held at church starting at 7.30pm and finish by 9pm. More details to follow.

Saturday once a fortnight (monthly during winter) is our Outreach Event into Shaw. We meet at 1.30pm for worship and prayer. At 3pm we meet up again for coffee (or tea), cake and a chat. See Noticeboard for dates.

KIDS PAGE

LETTER QUIZ

Think of something beginning with the letter “A” for each of the following: -

Something you wear

A Fruit or Veg

A Song

Bible character

A Job

An Animal

Reflect on something that made you happy!
in the last 24 hours



“If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and give all my money to the Church, would that get me into Heaven?” I asked the children in my Sunday School Class. “NO!” the children all answered. “If I cleaned the Church every day, moved the grass, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?” Again, the answer was, “NO!” Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, would that get me into Heaven?” Again, they all answered “NO!” Well, I continued, “then how can I get into Heaven?” A five-year-old boy shouted out, “YOU GOTTA BE DEAD !!”

Which of the 7 dwarves best describes you?

Happy

Dopey

Doc

Grumpy

Sneezy

Sleepy

Bashful

WHO'S WHO

ELDERS –

Dave Collins, Emmanuel Oyowe, John Warner

DEACONS –



Nahum Evans, Worship Leader

Karen Monks, Sunday School

Brian McDaid, Love in Action



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Karen Monks and Comfort Oyowe

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Contact@Hopechurchshaw.org