



Newsletter

**HOPE
CHURCH**

ISSUE 5 - DECEMBER 2023

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 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 9 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. Philipians 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 in church 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.

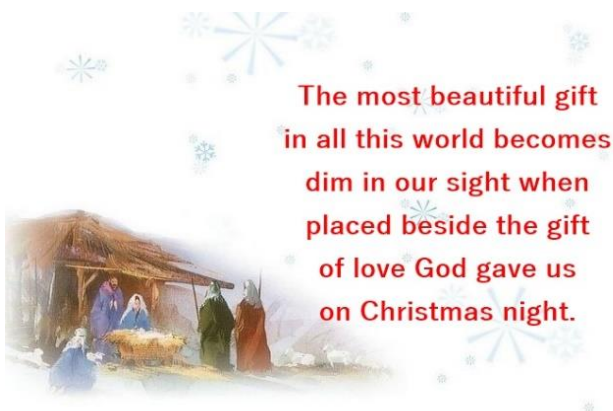
ELDER'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this we will be well into the Advent period (the days leading up to Christmas). For each of us it will mean different things, producing its own kind of emotions and stress, depending upon our personal situation. The things each of us long for, search for and worry about may for a short time remain buried in our hearts, but will surface again after the holiday period has passed, and life goes on as before.

Some of us will attend nativity plays at school and look at the wise men, the shepherds, and a little baby Jesus in His manger. We will see the same sort of scenes on many Christmas cards, but for most that will be the nearest we get to the Christ child for much of our lives. It will mean that we miss out on the greatest gift ever given, and for many it will be the only Christmas gift that will remain unopened year after year.

Wise men sought for the newborn King and found Him - wise men still seek him! Shepherds looked for, and found, the Saviour King announced to them by angels. Many have searched for Him down the centuries and found in Him an answer to life's deepest needs, a love for each individual that is unconditional, unchanging and everlasting, and His Spirit to fill our lives and walk alongside us for ever.

How can this be, you may ask? It is because He took our sins and our guilt and shame and laid His life down as a sacrifice to atone for our sins and provide a basis for our forgiveness in the face of a Holy God. How do we get all this, its breathtakingly simple - we just ask Him to come and forgive us for our sins and give our lives into His hands. I promise you, He will make a far better job of our lives than any of us could ever do.



**The most beautiful gift
in all this world becomes
dim in our sight when
placed beside the gift
of love God gave us
on Christmas night.**

I invite you to come and join us on Sunday morning the 24th December at 10.30am for a short Carol service where we will rejoice over His unspeakable love for us. You will be so welcome.



HOPE CHURCH

Carol Service

24TH DECEMBER 2023
10.30AM



HOPE
CHURCH SHAW
Building Faith Sharing Love

30 EASTWAY, SHAW,
OLDHAM, OL2 8NY

WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME

By Jan Collins

What Christmas means to me - Christmas has always been a very special time of the year with happy childhood memories of the wonder and excitement of it all. Jesus was part of the wonder but not centre stage at all. The gifts, food and fun together with family was all the focus. That all changed when at the age of 18, I met the most amazing person who ever lived on this earth. Jesus Christ. How it happened I really can't say in detail but all I know is that the Bible stories I had learned as a child became alive they were real and not just fairy stories. The Holy Spirit brought life to me.

Christmas now is all about Jesus and how he left heaven to come to earth, not just to show us how to live but to change us from the inside out. It's a continual process to live for him day to day and to give him all that he deserves for giving his all for us. This Christmas don't just see him as a Christmas Carol - the baby in a manger, but as the One and only Saviour of the world.



WHAT'S IN A CANDY CANE?

LETTER 'J' =
FOR JESUS

SHAPE = OF
A SHEPARD'S
STAFF

COLOR RED =
HIS BLOOD
SHED FOR US

COLOR WHITE =
HE WASHED OUR
SINS AWAY AND
MADE US WHITE
AS SNOW

STRIPES =
BY HIS STRIPES
WE ARE HEALED

CANDY = HIS LOVE
GROWS SWEETER
EACH DAY



WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME

By Caleb Evans

I love Christmas because it's the day Jesus was born, and we can remember the true Christmas story. Setting up the nativity scene is also fun. We put up lights to remember Jesus as the light of the world. I like giving and receiving presents because it shows how we love each other.



REMEMBER THE TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY!

If you look for Me at Christmas

**You won't need a special star -
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.**

**You may not be aware of Me,
Amid the celebrations -
You'll have to look beyond the stores,
And all the decorations.**

**But if you take a moment,
From your list of things to do,
And listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.**

**You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came.
And you'll find me in the stillness,
As I'm whispering your name.**

Love Jesus



Why this new ministry? For some time now we have been seeking to connect with the people of Shaw and to make the church building a hub for them to meet in. At the moment, we don't have the church building open very often and for the most part it is closed. Right from the start, when the church was first purchased, we have wanted to have a coffee shop as part of the church. Now we have felt God leading us to open up the church and to use a coffee and book shop to do this.

What will it look like? We want to create a coffee and bookshop that will draw both Christians and non-Christians into the church. It will be a place where we can meet over great coffee and cakes and share the good news of Jesus. The main café area in the church will be changed and upgraded to create a book shop and coffee shop area. This will be a welcoming, comfortable, warm, and friendly place that serves excellent coffee and plays Christian music videos. It will require redecoration of this area, which will include new tables and chairs and bookcases and display cases for the bookshop. There will need to be an upgrade to the kitchen area and the purchase of an espresso machine. You can't make great coffee with instant coffee!!

What has already been done? One of the first things that has been done is to seek permission from the Council Planning Team. We have a Certificate of Lawfulness which allows us to operate a not-for-profit Coffee and bookshop under the umbrella of the Hope Church Charity. One of the considerations has been the need to keep this area as multi-use as Sunday School and Age UK will continue to use this space. As a consequence, some of the furniture and displays will be on lockable castors to make them easier to move.

What is needed from the body? Your physical help, your prayers, and your financial support. We need the whole body of Hope Church behind this new ministry. We need you to pray that God will bring people in so that they may take the first steps of finding Jesus. We need your help to run the place. We intend opening initially on a Wednesday and Thursday, but the more people we have helping the more days we can open. Long term vision is to see it open every weekday. But we also need funds. We have estimated that these changes will cost about £5000 (this doesn't include the espresso machine which has been promised separately). We have prepared some envelopes for you to use to give funds specifically to this new venture and we are trusting that God will stir you all to give generously.

How can I help? If you would like to help in any way then please speak with any of the Elders or Deacons. If you would like to get involved then please join us at our next meeting which we will be planning shortly.



SHAW LIGHTS





SWITCH ON



WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME

By Cirsty Waller

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV

This verse has meant so much for me this past year, because my life has turned itself on its axis and now I walk by faith, not by sight.

As we go into the Christmas season I'm thinking ahead for if what it will mean for me, maybe I will actually truly enjoy a Christmas for the first time in 17 years because I don't think it's for the children anymore, it's not one day for the kids, seeing their faces light up with the wonder of what Santa has brought them.

Christmas Day represents the Birth of Jesus Christ, the man who gave me my life, and all of mankind. My rock and my redeemer, Jesus came to earth and lived his life pure, unfailing in his faith of his Father. He dedicated his life to do Gods work, to resist all temptation, stay pure, and to sacrifice his life so that I may be forgiven for my sins and have a place with him and my daughter who I always miss extremely on Christmas. Now I know that Gracie is with him and is looked after until I am returned home.

It's a season of goodwill to all men, let them see me in the light God wanted me to be. Who God wanted me to be, a good example for them as well as light in a dark world.

Thats what I'm thinking right now, I will walk by faith and not by sight, as I have done this past year, what a year it's been.
I'm looking forward now



How Christmas Can Change Your Life

Sweet and mild, gentle and easy-going – what is there not to like about "Baby Jesus"?

On the other hand, what sort of difference can Baby Jesus really make in your life? And why should you care about him in particular? At Christmastime people are more aware of the difficulties in their lives, yet they have a feeling that everyone else's life is perfect. Because of that, Christmas is bittersweet.

The truth is that Christmas is not a message about how to prosper financially, or have emotional happiness, or "live the dream." Christmas is a message about how all of us can find help from Jesus to handle our problems and live in a way that honours God and is eternally satisfying.

The story of Christmas in God's book for humanity, the Bible, is so much more than Baby Jesus. God's Son, Jesus, did more. He said more. He lived more. He died on a cross like a criminal, then he rose from the grave. Yet he is presented at Christmas in stunning humility. The God of the whole universe condescended to be born in a stable, surrounded by poverty and immense indignity.

We should care about this baby because of all he did for us. He died on a cross like a criminal, even though he was absolutely sinless. Then he rose from the grave three days later, which proved that the punishment for our sins had been accepted by God the Father in full. Later, when he returns to earth, he will come as the King in glory and in judgment. And what will matter then is whether people have rejected him by viewing him as "nothing but a baby." Christmas is not sentimental; it is **instrumental**. That's why we should care about Baby Jesus. Certainly, the traditional songs, the trees, and the lights are all fine in their place. But Christmas is not a sentimental feeling; it's an instrument of change. It all starts with humility-the humility to recognize that the instrument that God uses to change your life is found in a manger, in a stable, in the middle of nowhere.

Change comes by embracing the truth that there is nothing you can do to satisfy God's justice other than to believe that the Lord of heaven and earth became Baby Jesus in order to be your Savior. How will you respond to him this Christmas?

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas is a time of Hope

Many people, many countries, many cultures and many religions as a whole take part in some way.

They buy presents for people to enjoy in the future, therefore they must hope for a future.

They buy turkeys or hams in advance, why, because of the hope to be able to celebrate Christmas with family.

They decorate a tree and windows and even the house not just for themselves, for friends, family, neighbours, people just driving past.



Some open their homes to look at the grotto they have created, all donations to charity welcome.

And what happens with those charity donations, they go to pay for hope. Hope to better someone's life in the future. Advancements in medical fields, in science, all for the hope in a better future of curing or understanding diseases,

If you think about it almost everything in this life, maybe even in your life revolves around it.

Try to do well in your job in hope for recognition, promotion. A better job for a better house, quality of life.

Even as simple as hope I don't get stuck in traffic on the way home, off the cuff remarks make a big thing seem so small.

John 3:16 says For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Do you think now after reading that, that God was undecided on whether He had given up on us, or that he didn't have Hope that we could be redeemed?. Now, we have a choice, freewill on whether we choose to believe in the Hope that God bestowed upon us. Or whether we choose our own way.

Either way, we Hope for something.

I Hope, my brothers and sisters, you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

EACH OF US IS AN

Innkeeper

WHO DECIDES IF THERE
IS ROOM FOR

Jesus

NEAL A. MAXWELL



RECIPE

3 Ingredient Biscoff Truffles



Ingredients

250g Biscoff Biscuits
½ Cup Condensed Milk
225g White Chocolate

Makes 14

Method

1. In a food processor, blitz the biscuits into fine crumbs, saving one for garnish later. Add condensed milk and blitz to combine. Roll mixture into small balls and place on a tray. Refrigerate to firm up.
2. Break up chocolate and melt in short bursts in the microwave or in a small metal bowl placed over a saucepan of simmering water. Working one ball at a time dip it in the melted chocolate and coat completely. Allow excess chocolate to drip off, then place on a tray lined with baking paper. Crush the left over remaining biscuit. Sprinkle over a little of the crushed biscuit and refrigerate to set completely.

DATES IN THIS CYCLE

14th January
Bible Study
with Hannah



WE NEED YOU!

Get writing, you don't need skills to write, testimonies are truthful life events that have happened to you!



- Testimony from when you were saved.
- Testimony from something that you know was Godly input in your life recently.
 - Read a good Christian book recently – Write a review.
 - What's your favourite verse / hymn / song and why.
 - Feel a muse working, write some poetry, or a short story.
- The kids can even get involved with ideas for the Kids Page.

GET INVOLVED – ITS YOUR MAGAZINE

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 17th December

WELCOME TEAM – Cirsty & Cat
TEA & COFFEE – Alison & Ken
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Comfort & Pam

Sunday 24th December

WELCOME TEAM – Babs & Cirsty
TEA & COFFEE – Alison & Pat

Sunday 31st December

WELCOME TEAM – Cirsty & Pam
TEA & COFFEE – Pam & Pat
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Karen & Cirsty

Sunday 7th January

WELCOME TEAM – Alison & Graham (G)
TEA & COFFEE – Cirsty & Lacey
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Comfort & Pat

Sunday 14th January

WELCOME TEAM – Cirsty & Sue
TEA & COFFEE – Sue W & Hannah
SUNDAY SCHOOL – Karen & Pam

****Remember the Milk & Biscuits if you're on Tea & Coffee****

If you can't make what you've signed up for, swap directly with someone as early as you can and amend the sheet on the board in the kitchen, so the leadership team know that's who is always doing what.

Many Thanks for your continued devotion

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

CONTACT US OR FOLLOW US



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INSTAGRAM – Hopechurchshaw

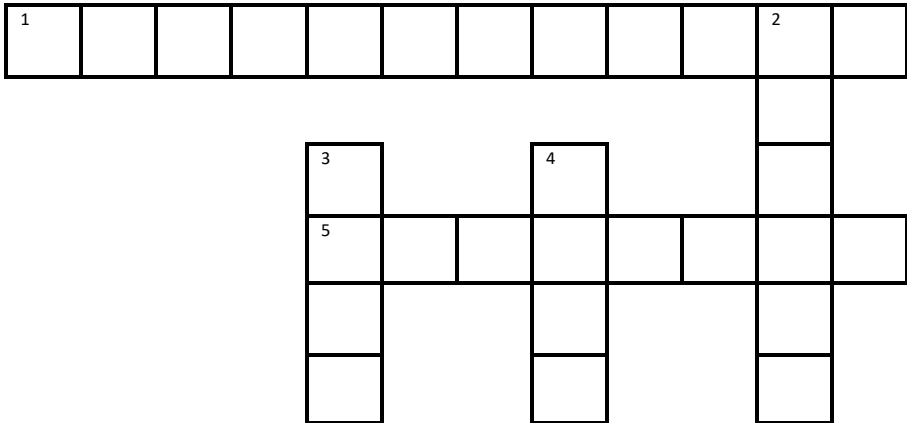
WEBSITE – www.hopechurchshaw.org

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: -
Contact@Hopechurchshaw.org

KIDS PAGE

Crossword

By Caleb Evans



ACROSS

- 1. A gift from a wise man. (12)
- 5. A name that means GOD with us. (8)

DOWN

- 2. God promised him that he would see Jesus before he died. (6)
- 3. The ruler of a place. (4)
- 4 Jesus' mother (4)



What's a parents favourite Christmas Carol? **Silent Night**

Knock Knock!

Who's there?

Snow!

Snow who?

Snow time to waste, Its almost Christmas!

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsilitus