

# HOPE



## *Newsletter*

**Issue 6 - January 2024**

# 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

January is a time when we often think about New Year's resolutions. A time when we take stock and reflect on the year that is past and how that has impacted us and how well we have or have not responded to things. As we come to the end of 2023, we can reflect on a year that for many has been difficult and challenging but one in which each of us can sing that we have lived in the goodness of God. God has been good to us, His body at Hope, and we have seen the Holy Spirit at work. But we look forward to seeing Him move in a greater overflow as we all commit together to seeking after Jesus. The writer to the Hebrews wrote this:

Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another---and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

If we are simply relying on our own effort and strength to live a godly righteous life then we know from bitter experience we won't get very far. We will barely get to the end of January before all our resolutions lie in tatters. We can only change as we allow the Holy Spirit to be at work in our hearts and wills. So, as we begin 2024 let each of us take hold of this imperative to spur one another on in our walk and service for Jesus and to each other, and look to see God move, through the Holy Spirit, in ways we have not yet known.

God bless you  
all in 2024.

Dave



# Happy New Year

Throughout the New Year,  
And each step of the way,  
May Christ be your portion,  
Your joy, and your stay.  
With God's precious precepts  
Your daily delight,  
To lead and encourage  
In paths that are right.

"The Lord is my Shepherd,"  
How precious the word!  
He'll lead in green pastures,  
His promise we've heard.  
"Beside the still waters,"  
What comfort and rest!  
What peace there is found  
Leaning on Jesus' breast!

His goodness and mercy  
Each day may you prove,  
His comforting presence,  
His infinite love!  
With richest compassions,  
Each morning anew,  
May multiplied mercies  
Be showered on you.

"My cup runneth over,"  
His grace so abounds,  
That fullest enjoyment  
In Jesus is found.  
"The Lord is my portion,"  
This may your soul say,  
And you will be happy  
Each step of the way.

Lois Beckwith (1896-1958)

# TESTIMONY

By Ken Barton

At the age of 16 I started work as an apprentice at BRITISH RAILWAYS ENGINEERING LTD steam locomotive works, a large company in HORWICH, near BOLTON. After 4½ years the Company closed down and everyone from Managers, tradesmen, clerical staff and apprentices were made redundant. The year was 1965.

I was able to obtain new new employment elsewhere quite quickly, however in 2000 (aged 56) after several jobs in the U.K. and abroad I had occasions of spasms of asthmatic attacks. I was eventually diagnosed having PLEURAL PLAQUES (an ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE) and was directed to an Asbestos advice helpline for legal advice. The health problem was confirmed by consultants in BOLTON and LONDON involving Lung function tests, X-Rays, High Resolution C.T. Scans etc. These confirmed the diagnosis. Liability was accepted by B.R.E.L and a compensation claim in 2003. I was requested to catalogue all the facts history of the situation and I have kept a file in this respect.

In June 2003 I went to a PASSION FOR JESUS Conference held in Bolton led by Mark Curtis, the founder of P.F.J. At the conference a brother from America - MIGUEL ESCOBAR, was the visiting speaker. I was late arriving to the Conference and sat at the back. Miguel at the end of the meeting called me forward. He said "THAT YOUNG MAN OVER THERE (ME) COME OUT HERE" I went forward but I fell in the spirit as I reached the front. He spoke over me "YOUR HEALING IS COMPLETE!" He knew nothing about me I believed this in FAITH and had further "PRIVATE" X-Rays" done to verify the healing.

They came back quote "NO EVIDENCE OF PLEURAL PLAQUES, THICKENING OR ASBESTOSIS, LUNGS NORMAL!"

Therefore MR. Barton does "NOT HAVE ANY ASBESTOS DISORDER"

Subsequently, in correspondence communicated between consultant / solicitors and me the following statements were made.

"These things just don't happen" (consultant)

"Quite a surprise!" (solicitors)

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS HEALING.

His word says:

I am the Lord that healeth thee. (Exodus 15:26)

By His (Jesus) stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Thank you, LORD!

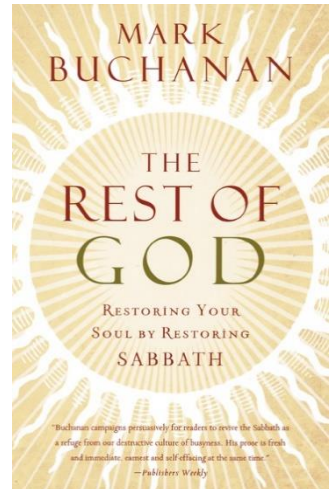
Ken



# BOOK NOOK

## BOOK REVIEW by David Collins

In the intensity of our daily lives, I was struck by the title of this book which was referenced as part of a daily devotional I was reading. Mark Buchanan writes colourfully but very challengingly about Sabbath. The purpose of his book is to declare that Sabbath is so much more than just stopping work and it certainly has nothing to do with rules about things we can and cannot do. He sets out early in the book that our limited understanding of Sabbath as rest is only partly true. We know that humanly we can't do without sleep and eventually we will need to, and if necessary, collapse into it. He says "sleep eventually waylays all fugitives but sabbath won't do that. Resisted it backs off. Spurned it flees. It's easy to skirt or defy Sabbath, to manufacture cheap substitutes in its place - and to do all that, initially, without noticeable damage. It's easy, in other words to spend most of your life breaking Sabbath and never figure out that this is part of the reason why your work is unsatisfying, your friendships patchy, your leisure threadbare, your vacations exhausting."



He says that Sabbath is more than just not doing things though he recognises that we are all driven by the necessities of life. Instead, he uses the rest of the book to challenge us that Sabbath is all about having a Godward focus and to practice the presence of God, "until you are utterly convinced of his goodness and sovereignty, until he is bigger, and you find your rest in him alone. Sabbath is turning over to God all those things - our money, our work, our status, our reputations, our plans, and our projects that we're otherwise tempted to hold tight in own closed fists." We are to cease from what is necessary and embrace that which gives life. Take time to reflect and take stock of your spiritual state.

In our rest from 'work' and the necessary things we need to do, we must take time to stop and listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Towards the end of the book, he writes: "Practice a deeper listening during Sabbath. Most other days, by necessity as much as by choice, we live amid a clatter of noise. But Sabbath is when we stop. We slow down. We play, we rest, we dream, we wonder. We cease from that which is necessary and turn to that which gives life. And in the hush that descends, we listen. Are you listening?"





# Ladies Afternoon Tea







# Coffee Morning



## NEWS FROM ROMANIA

Its been busy over here as we get ready for the winter holidays, we have many activities planned at the Church including holiday services, carol services, but our main purpose as always is sharing the Good News of Christ.

We continue to serve in the 2 churches from Craiova and Segarcea and we want to thank you for your support monthly that is a great blessing for us. We have been initiating more evangelism and trying to help the poor from around our churches.

At the same time we have been sharing the Good News with the old people from the nursing home from Craiova, the biggest and the poorest, bring them some food or a small gift if we can manage it as we did last year. For most of them that was the only gift they received. They live in very poor conditions so we help as much as we can, we are having a special service to get some presents.

The girls are waiting for the winter holiday and maybe we will have some snow. For the moment during the day we have 3-4 C and during the night -4-5C.

In Craiova we have the second most beautiful Christmas Market from Europe. It is huge and of course extremely busy but very nice and full of lights.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrated our national day and we took the girls to see the parade. Full of soldiers, tanks from all the EU countries and NATO. Everyone came at the parade. For the children it was so much fun to see and have pictures taken with the soldiers and tanks, but the do not understand the severity of war.

Let's hope and pray God will keep our country safe and our world as well.

God bless you!

Happy Holidays!

Damaris and George





**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 held on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm at Church.**

# Happy New Year



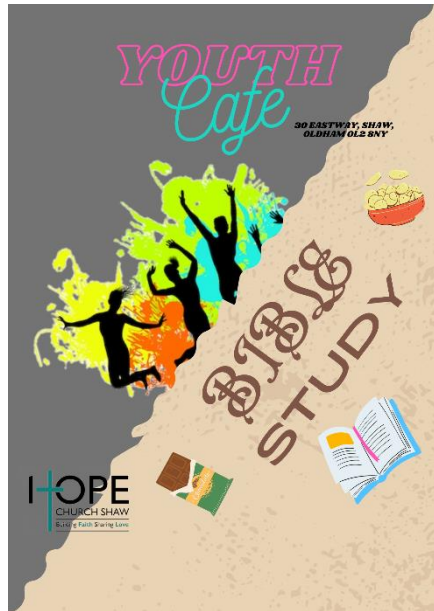
FROM YOUR EDITORS

## DATES IN THIS CYCLE

**26<sup>th</sup> January**  
Youth Cafe

**28<sup>th</sup> January**  
Bible Study  
with Jan

**11<sup>th</sup> February**  
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

## ROTAS

The rotas are now on the website, and always available to view. You will find them on the Members Calendar.

The website [www.hopechurchshaw.org](http://www.hopechurchshaw.org)

They will also be sent out with the advance notices on Sunday to the WhatsApp Noticeboard Group.

If you have any problems or issues with either of these, or you're not on our Noticeboard Group, please contact Cirsty

**\*\*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**

## WHATSAPP GROUPS

In order to keep everyone involved and updated about what we have going on, we have a number of both fun and informative groups which you can be a part of

**NOTICEBOARD** – get updated about what's going on at the church.

**CHAT** – general chat, daily scripture & devotionals, prayer requests, music

**WOMEN OF HOPE** – ladies only, (sorry gents), chat, music, prayers, devotionals, daily facts

**EVANGELISM** – everything to do with church evangelism.

**PRAYER** – agree to 15 minutes of daily prayer on a specific subject.



# 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



FACEBOOK – Hope Church Shaw



INSTAGRAM – Hopechurchshaw

WEBSITE – [www.hopechurchshaw.org](http://www.hopechurchshaw.org)

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: -  
Contact@Hopechurchshaw.org

# KIDS PAGE

**What types of boats do believers want to go on?**

*Discipleship and worship*

**Where was Solomon's Temple located?**

On the side of his head.

## WORDSEARCH

COMMANDMENTS

FEAR

GOD

KING

MOUTH

OBEY

SWEAR

POWER

SUBJECT

WORD

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