



XOXO

HOPE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 - February 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. For the immediate future we will be meeting together at church at 7.30pm for worship and prayer. Come and join with us as the body of Christ joins together in prayer.

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 isn't every week, the dates will be issued every month.

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

How often do we hear people say, "I'll believe it when I see it", but is this always true? Or isn't it more accurate to say at times "I'll see what I believe ". In other words - do we believe what we see, or do we see what we believe? Let me explain in case the difference escapes us. One is spoken by a person with an open mind, the other by a person with a closed mind.

In Johns gospel Ch20v24 we read the story of Thomas refusing to believe the other disciples when they told him that they had seen the Lord Jesus after He had risen from the dead. Thomas said he would not believe unless he could put his finger into the print of the nails and put his hand into His side. Eight days later Jesus appeared to the disciples, and Thomas was with them, and Jesus invited him to reach out his finger and see the print of the nails and the hole in His side. Thomas believed because he saw. He was willing to change His mind because of the evidence, he demonstrated an open mind and a teachable spirit.

The Pharisees on the other hand witnessed a steady stream of the miraculous performed by the Lord Jesus, even the raising of the dead, but refused to believe that here was the long-awaited Messiah. Here they saw but did not believe because what they saw did not fall within the bounds of their own belief system. They had closed minds, unwilling to believe even when faced with undeniable facts.

Thinking about ourselves: - Isn't it true that we can quite easily be inclined to remain true to our own ideas about a particular person for example, irrespective of what facts are evident, we interpret all that they do according to our idea of that person. In other words, we see only what we believe about that person whatever they do because our belief system has already decided what sort of person they are with scant regard to the facts - we are slaves to a closed mind and pay no attention to the revealed truth about them.

The example used is relating to people, but can be applied to any situation, including our attitude to Divine Truth as we see it, even though the facts may not support it. Let us keep our minds open to the entrance of Truth so that God can operate within us by the power of the Holy Spirit, and mould us into the image of His Son. Whatever belief systems grip our lives formed by previous cultures we have experienced, let us be willing to amend them in the face of plain evidence from the word of truth, where we find ourselves in error. Let us be people who "believe what we see/hear" rather than "seeing what we believe"

John

PROPHECY

By Elaine Sykes

When I was praying recently, I received a picture of two equine animals. One was a mule and the other a thoroughbred horse. The mule was a bit frayed around the edges and, as the saying goes, as stubborn as a mule. It had dug its hooves in the ground and was rejecting any enticement to move forward. The thoroughbred, by contrast, was champing at the bit, glossy and sleek, eager to get to the starting line for its race.



Whilst I was thinking about these images I received a picture of another horse, a beautiful, stately shire horse; it looked steadfast and faithful, totally reliable. All these creatures are from the same family of animals, all created by God but all having very different characteristics. This got me wondering about our family here at Hope.

We are all created by God, but we all have our own characteristics and personalities. We all bring something different to this body of Christ Jesus.

I ask myself, which horse am I, which horse are you, in this new season?

A mule, stubbornly sticking to its old ways, a sleek racehorse, raring to streak ahead, or stately shire horse, constant and reliable, ready to take



to the reins and move forward in a planned and measured way?

Thank you, Father God, that you made us all so different but so special to you and each other.

TESTIMONY

By Cirsty Waller

Back in March 2018, I needed a new car, mine was on its last legs and giving up the ghost. Driving back and forth to Fulwood in Preston from Oldham every day had pushed it to its limits. Doing a trip like that I needed a reliable car and easy on the fuel too. Through an acquaintance who worked at Bristol Street Motors, I found it. So we arranged for it to be brought up from another one of their forecourts and in April I took the train over to Bolton and signed all the paperwork. And drove my new car off the lot. At just under 3 years old with only 5000 miles on the clock, my Vauxhall Corsa 5-door eco Flex in burnt orange ticked all the right boxes. I very quickly fell in love with my new car. Kieran even named it Reddington after Raymond Reddington from the Blacklist.



Not 6 months later I would see my car for the last time as it passed me on the motorway on the back of a pickup truck while I was sitting in the back of a police car being taken to Rivington Services southbound to wait for collection.

You see, something had caught my eye, and I took them off the road for a split second. But a split second while doing 80mph in the overtaking lane is a long time. I bounced off the central reservation. In a panic, I tried to correct my course but over steered then tried to correct that but overcompensated. I bounced again. This time the car was doing whatever it

wanted I finally managed to bring it to a stop but it had already thrown me over onto the hard shoulder.

I could see a guy in front coming towards me from the truck that had just pulled up but even to this day I swear they must have been doing something shady because a woman followed and not a well-to-do woman if you get my meaning but she ran after him and grabbed him, shouted something at him and they ran back to the truck and off they went. By this time a man had appeared at my side from behind. He opened the passenger door and asked if I was ok. I said I was, but I tried opening my door it wouldn't budge. I clambered over to the passenger side and got out of the car.

Reality only hit me when I looked at the driver's side of my car. I didn't have a front end, all the side was smashed in, the back end was all pushed in on itself and the back rear end wheel was at around a 70-degree angle to the car. Apart from a dodgy arm where I couldn't move it properly for a couple of weeks and pain now and then, I walked away from it without a scratch. I'd bounced off the central reservation twice went through 3 lanes of traffic and landed in the hard shoulder, I was fine and No one else was injured either, although, they did have to do extensive repairs to the motorway that night.



I always said someone was watching over me that day, always said it was my daughter. Now I know who it was, and I thank him every day for saving me from that wreck, for still being here to share this testimony with others.

For God so Lo**V**ed the world

That he g**A**ve

His On**L**y

Begott**E**n

So**N**

That whosoever

Believes **I**n Him

Should **N**ot perish

But have **E**verlasting Life

John 3:16



MY FAVOURITE HYMN

by Alison Kennedy

"It is well with my soul" by Horatio G. Spafford

As a child I was familiar with the "Old" Hymns both from church and school. However, since I became a Christian (in 1977), the words have meant so much more to me. I have many favourites but *"It is well with my soul"* resonates deep within my heart.

The author of this popular hymn was a lawyer. He was good friends with the well-known preachers Dwight L. Moody and Ira Sankey. Spafford was considered a successful businessman and life treated his family kindly. However, the Spafford's lives abruptly changed course when a series of tragedies occurred. The Great Chicago Fire in 1871 damaged their home and business investments, reducing them to considerable hardships.

Horatio made plans for the family, (which consisted of his wife Anna and four daughters), to sail across the Atlantic to Europe where they would help Moody and Sankey on a preaching tour. A business crisis caused Horatio to stay a little longer in Chicago whilst Anna and the girls sailed on ahead on the *SS Ville Du Havre* without him.

In November 1873 tragedy struck the family again as their ship collided with another great ship the *Loch Earn* - sinking within minutes with the loss of 226 of the 307 on board. Sadly, the four Spafford girls were amongst them.



Anna sent a telegram from Wales to her beloved husband saying, "Saved Alone". The bereaved parents had lost their four precious daughters - Annie, Maggie, Bessie, and Tanetta. Horatio sailed at once to bring Anna home from Wales.

The captain of the ship on which he sailed pointed out the spot where the *Ville Du Havre* sank. Horatio went alone to his cabin, pouring out his thoughts as he composed the words of the hymn *"It is well with my soul"*. He wrote in his diary that *"We passed over the spot where she went down, mid - ocean, the waters three miles deep. But I do not think of our dear ones there, they are safe, folded, the dear lambs"*. Anna's friends were deeply concerned for her following her immense loss. However, later she spoke of hearing a voice *"You were saved for a purpose"*, and she remembered that a friend once said, *"It's easy to be grateful and good when you have so much but take care you are not a fair-weather friend to God"*.



The couple returned to Chicago - Anna gave birth to another son, Horatio in 1875, followed by a daughter, Bertha in 1878. Young Horatio died from scarlet fever aged four. Another daughter Grace was born in 1881. The following year the Staffords with several of their friends left for Israel, living in the old part of Jerusalem. They served the Lord there, helping the sick and destitute.

Knowing all they endured they could still confidently say *"It is well with my soul"*. May this moving account challenge us all, whatever trials we experience in this life, and may we echo with the same 'blest assurance' as Horatio Spafford those words *"It is well, it is well with my soul"*.

POETS

A faith as small as a mustard seed.

By Danielle Evans

A faith as small as a mustard seed will make you grow from deep
beneath

A flicker of hope

A snippet of light but yet the mustard seed shines so bright.

Shines a little dimly as we nurture it to grow, that flame of
hopelessness to a pessimist but as bright as it will glow.

We ask our father to protect its delicate flow.

Let us remember our goal in life to nurture and cherish our fathers
might.

For is it not he who told us so....

Through God all things are possible.

Jesus said to those struggling with belief, "Because of the littleness of
your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard
seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it
will move; and nothing will be impossible to you"

Mathew 17:20



CORNER

Have You ever wondered?

By Sue Warburton

Have you ever wondered where you are with God,
Full of doubt that you may never meet the mark.
Have you ever thought, you never get it right,
That your life has lost its focus and lost its spark.
Have you ever longed to praise and worship Him.
To be revived, restored, and so alive in Christ.
Or been tossed amidst a storm, alone, bereft.
And never known the power of His love, His precious gift.
Well, Rest assured.....Reconsider, It's just a thought....
For if you give your life to Him....you've made your mark,
And you'll never have to strive to put it right.
That you'll always have a focus in your life,
And His holy spirit power will dwell within
For you'll cherish every moment and worship Him,
You will long to sit beside Him, and be blessed.
That His Peace and Healing word will calm your storm,
And you'll know His awesome love...His precious gift.



What a blessed and Spirit filled fellowship we are. As we move into the New Season God is leading us into, may our prayer be that the great love and devotion we have for each other will be shared with all who enter into our Café ... Love, seeds sown, testimony, joy and blessings to the people of Shaw.

Thankyou my special family for the love and support you have given me. X



WAITING

By Jan Collins

Waiting is so hard for us.

I've come to realise that there are two types of 'waiting'. There is impatient, toe tapping, let's get going type of waiting. The other is to 'stop, stay still, to linger & listen.

There are many voices clamoring for our attention, so we need to be 'still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him - Psalm 37:7. The call to be still is a call to surrender. It means giving up the myth that we have control & choosing to depend wholly on God. To be still doesn't mean to give up & sit still. It Doesn't mean either to quit doing the last thing God called you to do. Very often it's God drawing our attention to focus us on something in particular.

Here are some ways we can practice stillness in God's presence: -

1. Journal things God is speaking to you about or record prayers when you have felt close to God.
2. Listen & sing praise and worship songs.
3. Follow a daily reading plan, perhaps on a particular subject that speaks to you in the season you are in.
4. Take a prayer walk.
5. Write a psalm out and meditate on it.
6. Listen to the Bible on audio.
7. Meditate on a Scripture that has spoken to you recently.

The goal in this is to allow the peace of God to rule our minds & hearts by submitting all we are to Him. Being refreshed as we walk through this busy life that clamours for our attention constantly.

**This Valentine's Day as you
remember your loved ones,
remember this;**



**We love
because
He first
loved
us.**



1 John 4:19



I am sure that many of you will have seen the work that has started on the changes in the kitchen and refreshment area of the Church. This is the start of the transformation into the Coffee & Book shop ministry that God has been leading us into. Thank you everyone who joined with us for our meeting about this back in January – it was such a blessing to see so many of you ‘signing’ up to help us in this. As we explained in the meeting God has already brought us a long way down the track and we will continue to press in to all that He has spoken to us.

I want to thank all of you who have given so generously to this project. We have already been able to buy the tables, chairs and comfy chairs and we are now looking to buy the necessary kitchen equipment.

We have also been able to connect with CLO in Leeds who are a Christian organisation who import and roast coffee on their premises and have strong connections with growers in Uganda and South America. We will be partnering with them to supply us with the coffee and teas that we will be using in the Coffee Shop. This has been a God connection.

As we continue to work through all the things we need to do before we can open, including sign up and inspection by Environmental Health, please continue to pray that God will continue to open doors for us. We look forward to the day when we open. We don’t yet have a date set, but we would hope to be opening around Easter.

Dave

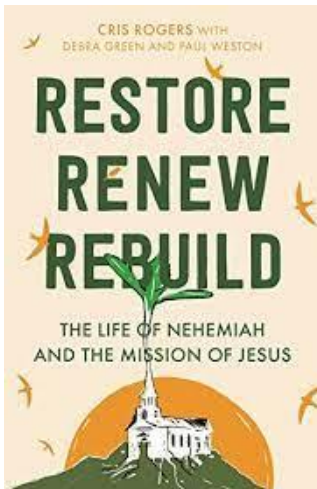


BOOK NOOK

BOOK REVIEW by Elaine Sykes

Restore, renew, rebuild: the life of Nehemiah and the mission of Jesus.

by Cris Rogers



A brilliant book investigating the banks of Nehemiah and its relevance to the church today. Nehemiah was so close to God that he received a vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, praying about everything beforehand.

He shared his vision & encouraged others to be involved. Whilst Nehemiah looked back to rebuild what had gone, we are encouraged to look forward to being God's presence in a changing world.

We are the Nehemiah's of this generation & working together, hopefully bring into fruition the visions that have been received from God. By we can the power of the Spirit we can lead lives. which fully display God's goodness.

Are we willing to be involved and step up and take our place?

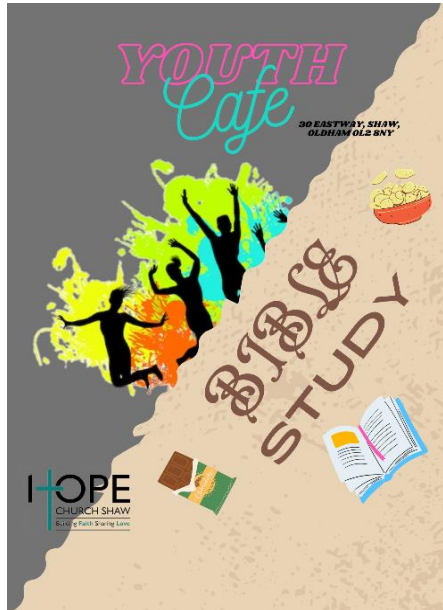
DATES IN THIS CYCLE

23rd February

Youth Café with a twist.
Open to children and young
people of all ages and their
families.

3rd March

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



**YOUTH
CAFE**

**LET'S
PLAY**

FUN

MUSIC

GAMES NIGHT

**BRING
SNACKS**

LAUGHTER



**SPECIAL EVENT
FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY
OPEN TO CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE OF ALL
AGES AND THEIR FAMILIES
6.30pm - 8.30pm**

ROTAS

The rotas are now on the website, and always available to view. You will find them on the Members Calendar if you are a member of the Church.

The website www.hopechurchshaw.org

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

They are also on the wall in the cafeteria area for welcome & tea & coffee.

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, 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

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: -

Contact@Hopechurchshaw.org

KIDS PAGE

1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Z W D U E M K O L L
T F D L D C C N B O
Z H A X N H Z H U F
Z G R E A T E S T B
I S R E M A I N Z M
L N K H E U Y S J P
I O L O V E Z A T Z
P W V P F A I T H Z
N T H E S E N M E Y
T H E C B B J D S P
U A N D X J W M E P