

trio

Parish Magazine of Abbeydale and
Millhouses

Christmas 2020



The Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses

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Caring for His world

Holy Trinity, Millhouses, S7 2GY and St. John the Evangelist, Abbeydale, S17 3LE

Parish Priest: The Revd Canon Peter Ingram 80 Millhouses Lane 236 2838
Associate Priest: The Revd Dr Angie Lauener 236 2188

At this moment due to the Covid-19 restrictions, all places for services have to be pre-booked at the latest by midday on the Wednesday prior to the service,

please contact: the Parish Office on 0114 249 0377

or email htmillhousesoffice@yahoo.co.uk



All services could be subject to change – please visit the website: www.amchurchsheffield.co.uk

Details of services currently planned for September and October are on p27, i.e. the inside back cover.



Also, sadly, there are currently no plans to open other church premises for community use, as we are unable to guarantee being able to maintain the strict hygiene regulations between groups.

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For baptisms, weddings and funerals please contact the Parish Priest

For future bookings of Churches, Church Halls and Parish Centre

**Enquiries to: Bev Ramsey 249 0377
htmillhousesoffice@yahoo.co.uk**

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Editor: Pat Jackson 0114 281 7557 e-mail: pat.jackson@blueyonder.co.uk

Advertising Manager: Peter Quarrell 0114 255 0977 e-mail: peter.quarrell@btinternet.com

From the vicarage.....

I write this newsletter on the 11th November, Armistice Day, the day the guns fell silent after World War 1 – the war to end all wars. We know that there have been many conflicts since and they all end with an outpouring of hope, hope for peace, the hope of a better world.

Obviously, I'm also writing during the time of the second lockdown, on the days after the announcement that a Covid-19 vaccine has been developed, that progress towards it being available and the plans needed to its delivery are being prepared, a moment of hope in the midst of the pandemic crisis.



Christmas Party

As you receive your copy of Trio we will be in the season of Advent, the season of hope. We look forward to Christmas, not only, (we hope!), the family gatherings and the presents, but the remembrance that God loves us enough to come to earth for us and to be born as a baby in a stable. In Advent we also look forward in hope to the joys of heaven, when we shall live for ever in one great Christmas party with Jesus, and with those who have died.

So are you full of hope and expectations at Christmas? God's gift fulfils our hopes, and exceeds them. You won't be disappointed. But in what ways do you expect God to act? We wish each other a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Ideally, in the perfect world, the whole family will be together at home, unwrapping presents they've given each other. For many families that hope will be literally fulfilled. But for others the happiness will be limited by the absence of some faces around the table: people who are sick or too far away, or who may, sadly, have died since last Christmas. Many people have to spend Christmas alone. But there is no perfect world – we usually have to be content with second best. Yet a second best Christmas is still something to rejoice about, if we recognise that God often gives us better gifts than we had ever dreamed of.

We are all aware that this Christmas will be different and it is certainly different for our churches as we try to plan our Christmas services. As we are uncertain what will happen this period of lockdown we can only at this time look at what might be possible for our Christmas worship. Because of this uncertainty please visit our website, www.amchurchsheffield.co.uk, to keep up to date.

I pray that you all have a peaceful Christmas looking to the future with hope, a hope brought to us in the form of a baby, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God is with us.

Peter




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"I hope that I get a real unicorn for my birthday, one that dances and sings, and teaches



you dance moves!" (my niece, aged 5)

I think that children and young people often have a far greater capacity for hope than adults – perhaps because life hasn't yet taught them to manage their expectations, and hasn't limited their imagination and belief in what is possible.

"I hope they make me king one day" – my nephew is still annoyed with his mum for explaining why this hope is almost certainly impossible.

This capacity for hope in unlikely situations can show up as tantrum-inducing determination, ("we've played this game or watched this video five times in a row now...why can't we have a sixth go?"), or as the sweet optimism that – just maybe – this situation will get better and it'll all be OK in the end.

Like everyone over the last eight months, my job has looked rather different to before: no mornings in the church hall with toddlers and their parents; or playing dodgeball and drinking hot chocolate with the youth group. We haven't been able to gather on Saturday afternoons to make crafts, or on Sunday mornings for stories, games and prayers together. However – like everyone else – we have done our best to adapt. We all got to grips with Zoom: learning how to run Sunday services (even All Age ones) online, discovering breakout rooms for Junior Church – just like if we were in the building. Replacing our usual post-service catch up over coffee in the church hall, the families all gathered online, (cup of coffee still in hand), each Sunday morning to hear what each other had been doing in the week, sharing the triumphs, challenges and sadnesses of lockdown. It's been a joy to see photos and videos of Easter gardens, refurbished go-karts, newly-hatched chicks and all sorts of other creativity, while the teenagers and I have all got better at using video-editing software to share them with the rest of the congregation. The youth group even managed to attend a youth festival, camping in their respective gardens (or living room-based dens) and sharing a movie night on Netflix, each with our hot chocolate and popcorn, pre-delivered as part of our "camping kit" for the weekend.

As restrictions eased over the summer, we were able to meet for Bible studies in the garden and even meet in church fortnightly for Café Church services which almost felt normal (apart from the masks, and bringing our own drinks). It was a joy to bump into local families in Millhouses Park and hear the voices of toddlers who'd learned to talk during the summer, or to meet new younger siblings who'd been a bump when we'd last seen them in February.

Writing this at the start of November, just two days into the latest lockdown, it seems hard to imagine what Christmas is going to look like this year: certainly nothing like the usual flurry of packed nativities and carol services with mulled wine and mince pies. However, we continue to adapt. As we quickly rethink and work out what might be possible with each new set of laws and guidelines, we still warmly welcome you to celebrate with us this Christmas. Usually I'd be inviting you to one of our Christingle services, (Advent Sunday at Holy Trinity or Christmas Eve at St John's), and obviously that won't be possible this year. Instead, you are welcome to take part in our DIY Christingle: we will provide a paper bag with everything you need, (orange, candle, ribbon, etc and a sheet of instructions and prayers), that you can use to hold your own mini-Christingle at home, perhaps in return for a donation to the Children's Society* if you are able. You don't need to be a child to take part – all are most welcome, and we can deliver bags to anyone who is isolating or otherwise unable to get to church.

While we may not be able to gather together in church, we would love you to join us separately, (but together), as we hold onto this symbol of hope and light in the midst of the darkness.

DIY Christingle bags will be available for collection or delivery on the weekend of 19-20th December. If you would like to take part, or for more details, please contact Philippa on

philippa@wilsondand.co.uk

**or via the church office
0114 249 0377.**

*** See p. 22 for details
about the Children's
Society.**



This year our usual Christingle Services, (Advent Sunday in Holy Trinity and Christmas Eve at St. John's), will be greatly missed by many adults as well as lots of children. Although we cannot meet together WE CAN still celebrate Christ as the light of the world and share this with others.

Our challenge is for you to make a Christingle at home and, SAFELY, place it where it can be seen by those passing your house!

Firstly — why do we make Christingles?

Christingle means 'Christ's light' and it possibly came from a German word 'Christkindl', meaning little Christ child.

The practice of making Christingles started with John de Watteville in Germany. He wanted to get children thinking about Jesus and started the tradition in 1747 in his Moravian church. At first it was just a candle with a red ribbon given to each child. It didn't involve an orange or sweets on cocktail sticks!

It wasn't made popular in the UK until 1968 when John Pensom, (described in his Church Times Obituary as "Mr. Christingle"), used it as a fund raising event for the Children's Society. Children would bring money and in return receive an orange pierced with a candle. It is unclear where the orange part comes from — maybe from the scented pomander, which can be an orange studded with cloves.

Over 40 years later, the Children's Society estimates more than 5,000 fund raising Christingle events were held in 2019. BUT Christingles have done more — in Northern Ireland events have been used to bring denominations together.

Recent changes mean glowsticks are being used instead of candles, (for health and safety reasons!), but the meaning stays the same!!

The orange symbolises the world; the red ribbon Christ's blood shed in love for us; the cocktail sticks are the four seasons laden with food, (usually 12 pieces for the months of the year), to show God's provision for us; and of course the candle as Christ, the light of the world, giving us direction and meaning in our lives.



Here's how to make your Christingle.

You need:

- 1 orange
2. enough red tape or ribbon to go round the orange
3. a candle (or glow-stick!)
4. 4 cocktail sticks
5. 12 small soft sweets, (e.g. dolly mixtures, jelly tots), or sultanas.

To make:

Cut a cross in the top of the orange — (tinfoil can be gently pushed into the cross to catch wax from the candle).

1. Push the candle firmly into the cross.
2. Wrap the red tape round the middle of the orange and stick or secure with a pin.
3. Spear 3 sweets onto each cocktail stick.
4. Poke the cocktail sticks into the top half of the orange, equally spaced out.

N.B. We are offering to deliver 'Christingle Kits' to families and vulnerable folk. If you would like one see previous page and p.22 for more about the Children's Society

CRY FOR HOPE

Cry for Hope: a Call to Decisive Action is an important new document from Christians in the Holy Land addressed to the worldwide church. It has already been endorsed by many Christian leaders from every continent. Its subtitle is “*We cannot serve God and the Oppression of the Palestinian People.*” You can read it in full at www.cryforhope.org and add your signature if you wish to support it.

Cry for Hope declares that in the light of recent developments in the Middle East, which it spells out in detail, “*It is time for the international community to recognise Israel... as an apartheid state in terms of international law*”. These are strong words, which will undoubtedly cause controversy, but our brothers and sisters ask us to look at the facts which are detailed in the full text.

Cry for Hope goes on to say: “...it is incumbent on us as followers of Jesus to take decisive action. The very being of the church, the integrity of the Christian faith, and the credibility of the Gospel is at stake. We declare that support for the oppression of the Palestinian people, whether passive or active, through silence, word or deed, is a sin. We assert that Christian support for Zionism as a theology and an ideology that legitimize the right of one people to deny the human rights of another is incompatible with the Christian faith and a grave misuse of the Bible.”

At the September national conference of Sabeel Kairos UK, Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, a Lutheran pastor and theologian in Bethlehem spoke about how the *Cry for Hope* begins from a place of lament: lament for the misuse of the Bible to justify the oppression of Palestinian people; lament for the silencing of Palestinian Christians, who have been excluded or disinvited from mission conferences because of their nationality; lament for the silence of the church and its apathy.

However from the place of lament, Dr. Isaac finds grounds for hope because God is just: the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. Hope because Christ is risen: Good Friday might last long, but Easter Sunday is coming. Hope because there are good people on both sides. Hope because there are brave courageous people in the church.

Some people say: “*There will never be peace in the Holy Land until Christ returns!*” but Munther Isaac says: “*I live in Bethlehem: the divine intervention has already taken place! God calls us now to take action, to work for what we hope for.*”

The *Cry for Hope* asks Christians around the world to commit to the following actions:

Initiate processes at local, denominational and ecumenical levels that lead to decisive action regarding the denial of Palestinian rights and injustice wherever it is found.

Engage in study and discernment with respect to theologies and understandings of the Bible that have been used to justify the oppression of the Palestinian people. Offer theologies that prophetically call for an inclusive vision of the land for Israelis and Palestinians.

Affirm the Palestinians’ right to resist the occupation, and join in their creative and non-violent resistance including Boycott Divestment and Sanctions, not to punish or isolate Israel, but to exert pressure on her to comply with international law.

Demand that governments and world bodies employ political, diplomatic and economic means to stop Israel’s violations of human rights and international law.

Oppose anti-Semitism, working for justice against anti-Judaism, racism and xenophobia and oppose equating criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism.

Support initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians and interfaith partnerships that create opportunities to work together for a common future of mutual respect and dignity.

Come and see the reality in the Holy Land with compassionate eyes for the suffering of Palestinians, and stand in solidarity with grassroots initiatives for a just peace.

The *Cry for Hope* concludes: “..., we embrace our membership in the community of the broken bread, the church fulfilling its mission to bring the good news of God’s gift of love, mercy, compassion, and abundant life for all.”

As we celebrate this Christmas, let us remember our Christian brothers and sisters celebrating in Bethlehem and throughout the Holy Land, and make it our New Year Resolution to read and respond to their *Cry for Hope*. **Jenny Bywaters**



Christmas Tree on the separation wall in Bethlehem



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The Bishop of Doncaster, (Assistant Bishop of Sheffield), sends us a message of hope

The Revd. Dr. Angie Lauener



It is now one year since Canon Sophie Jelley was announced as the new bishop of Doncaster - the first female bishop in our Diocese of Sheffield. Formerly, Sophie was Diocesan Director of Mission, Discipleship and Ministry, and Residentiary Canon Missioner at Durham Cathedral. This extract from our diocesan website tells us more:

"Sophie is married to Chris and they have three children together. Sophie plays the violin and viola and is a soprano singer and has been a keen runner for many years. Speaking about her appointment at the time, Sophie said:

"I am delighted to have been invited to become the next Bishop of Doncaster in the Diocese of Sheffield. I so look forward to getting to know the people of South Yorkshire and East Riding and to working with Bishop Pete and his team. I have sensed a strong call from God to this role in this particular place at this time with all the challenges and opportunities it brings. I have loved my years in Durham and will greatly miss the people of the North East in both Diocese and Cathedral. The Northern province has become 'home' and it will be a great privilege to continue to minister here and serve God through his church and wider community.""

Sophie took up her post in the Spring and has played a full role in the Diocese since then. Little did we all know that the Covid pandemic would mean that her consecration in York Minster and Installation in Sheffield Cathedral would be delayed until September this year. But now it has happened and we are all delighted that she is now officially our Bishop of Doncaster. She recently spoke at a Zoom event for Ecclesall Deanery and we heard her again at a Diocesan Development Day in October speaking on **'Sharing our hope with others'**. This is one thing we hope to do with our special Christmas issue TRIO, as we share once more the joy of the Christmas story and all that means for the world.

Here are a few words from Bishop Sophie to our parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses.

"I am so glad to have the opportunity to send you my best wishes as we come towards the end of this difficult year. For me, I am sorry that many introductory meetings have had to be remote or postponed. For all of us there will have been similar disappointments as a result of Covid 19. Whatever the continuing uncertainties we face this Christmas, we are reminded that Jesus was also born into a situation of great uncertainty. His birth took place so that we would be able to know him as Immanuel 'God with us', so may you find hope and comfort in his company this season and into the new year too."



In The Bleak Midwinter

So goes the Christmas carol.....but when is the bleak midwinter? During the pandemic we have had plenty of time to think and it has become obvious that the bleak midwinter can come at any time, to anyone, for many different reasons. During the winter months....whatever and whenever they are, the thing that keeps us going is the **HOPE** for the spring to come. Without the **HOPE** for the future the bleakness endures for ever but with **HOPE** the thought of the coming of the lighter days is something to strive for. The carol, **Mary's Child**, by Geoffrey Ainger, gives us very much the same feeling. C.B.



Born in the night, Mary's child,
A long way from your home;
Coming in need, Mary's child,
Born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's child,
Your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's child'
Dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's child,
You tell us God is good;
Prove it is true, Mary's child.
Go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's child.
You're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's child,
Walk in our streets again.

'The Leaves of the Trees'



Above: Exeter Cathedral
Left: Sheffield Cathedral.

This exhibition was created to honour those who have passed away during the pandemic, while also giving us all an opportunity to reflect on our collective experience. Designed to be a reflective memorial to the pandemic, the installation was made up of 5,000 steel leaves

which were laid out on the steps of St George's Chapel in Sheffield Cathedral and down into the Nave, like fallen autumn leaves during October. Appearing as though naturally scattered by the wind, the leaves symbolised the past and what has happened.

As a way of also symbolising the future, the leaves are shaped as sycamore/maple leaves and each leaf has the word HOPE written upon it. The shape has been chosen

as it symbolises strength, protection, eternity and clarity. Sculptor Peter Walker, who is part of the team that brought *'The Angels are Coming'* and *'The Observatory'* to Sheffield Cathedral, chose steel as the material of the leaves to remind us all of our resilience and collective strength. He also said that he was delighted that the artwork of 5000 steel leaves was exhibited in the 'Steel City', as well as several other cathedrals around the country, *'creating an extra level of meaning and poignancy'*.

Another of our younger members, Beth McDonough, who master minded the community rainbow quilt during the first lockdown, recently started university. This is her story.....

A student in lockdown

I'm doing Social and Political Sciences at York, which essentially is a mix of sociology, social policy and politics. It's a really interesting course so far, and we have a whole module focused on contemporary issues within politics which I really enjoy. York is a campus university which is arranged into colleges, so sport and some events are organised by them – most of them online this year. York set up a venue called The Forest this year which is a big tent on central campus doing live music and selling food which meant we were allowed to go somewhere as a household. It was open until the start of November, but they've had to close it because of the second lockdown – it was also becoming impossible to stay for very long without turning into an icicle!

The university's student union has been doing it's best to put on events but most of them were cancelled because they couldn't find a way to keep everyone distanced. There have been a few quizzes and games nights on Zoom but because all our lectures are pre-recorded and most of our seminars are online it's not much fun to go back on the laptop. I live in a flat of 10 which has been really good as we haven't been able to meet many other people. We found out that most sports societies do a free first session, so we took full advantage of that and went to as many as possible as a flat! On second thoughts, that may have been the reason we ended up locked in for 2 weeks in October...

Everyone is hopeful that we will be able to do more next year, which may or not actually happen. For now, we're keeping our fingers crossed that we'll be allowed back to uni after Christmas.



Lord of All Hopefulness

by Jan Struther

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could
destroy:

Be there at our waking, and give us, we
pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break
of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the
plane and the lathe:

Be there at our labours, and give us we
pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the
noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms
to embrace:

Be there at our homing, and give us, we
pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of
the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose
presence is balm:

Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we
pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end
of the day.

**In the uncertainty and strangeness of
2020 the beauty of the words of this
hymn, which I recall singing in school
assemblies, have given me reassurance
and hope for the future. May they give
you hope too in 2021.**

Astrid Logan



Prince's Trust

Since 1976, the Prince's Trust has operated as a U.K. based charity to support disadvantaged and vulnerable young people aged 11-30. Irrespective of background, ethnicity or faith, the Trust offers education, training and help to gain employment. It offers hope, where often there is none.

The idea came from the founder and patron, His Royal Highness, Prince Charles. He wanted to establish a framework to empower and enable young people to find the tools and confidence to try free courses and start careers.

Almost a million young people have been helped so far. There is a network of offices and centres throughout England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, employing around 1100 staff with almost 9000 volunteers. Structured programmes help to build confidence and skill, working alongside partners in retail, industry and services to train young people to start work. There is a Coronavirus Support Hub which offers additional guidance and support from a team of youth workers and volunteers.

In recent years, governments and agencies around the world have become involved. From 2018 The Prince's Trust Group started to work with charities in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and America. This programme has been extended to India, Pakistan, Jordan, Ghana, Malaysia, Rwanda, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Malta and Greece, where currently support is being given to young people to access education and employment. The Trust now operates on a global scale.

The Prince's Trust Group's mission is to 'transform lives and to build sustained communities across the world', giving hope for all.

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Meet the clergy

Ian Hunter's final article about the clergy team who lead our services

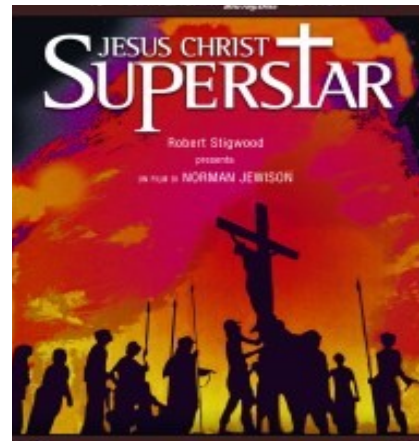
In this edition at last we meet our vicar, The Reverend Canon Peter Ingram.

Personally speaking, and I know most will agree, Peter manages to somehow achieve the very difficult task of bringing together congregations for the task in hand, from funerals and memorial services to weddings and baptisms. I recall the Christingle service in St. John's last year when a very nervous teenager, who didn't like crowds or noise, was persuaded by his father to "stand at the back and just have a look". I think I counted at that service in excess of 220 in the congregation. By the end Peter had managed to create a children's percussion band, which included the teenager parading around church with a tambourine! It was a magical, heart-warming sight and a wonderful start to Christmas.

Appropriately as this is the Christmas edition, Peter was born on 25th December at Hamilton Lodge in Doncaster. His dad was farming at the time at Balne, which was part of the parish of Great Snaith where Peter, coincidentally, was later to become Team Vicar.

Peter attended Kingfisher Junior & Infants School, followed by Wheatley Hills High School for Boys in Doncaster. Peter was both a cub and scout which introduced him to what has been a life-long love of camping, hill walking, and rock climbing which linked into the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award which he achieved at school and was presented with by Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace.

Peter was a keen musician and was taught violin at school which became his main musical instrument for life. He states his choice of music is somewhat eclectic but perhaps his favourite piece of music is the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. Peter also played bass guitar and sang in various bands on the club circuit and was residency for a year in the local country club. As we know Peter has a lovely voice so it is no surprise that he was involved in musicals, playing the lead role in many shows, for example, Jesus in both Godspell and Jesus Christ Super Star.



On leaving school Peter worked for Crompton Parkinson and went to college to take Business Studies. He soon realised that he was not really cut out for business and left Crompton Parkinson. He moved to Doncaster Royal Infirmary where he worked briefly as a porter, he moved into the operating theatres where he qualified as an Operating Department Practitioner. It was while working in the operating theatres that he met Joan. Peter and Joan were married in 1989 and have two children Stephanie and Timothy.

Peter's Journey of faith

Peter was brought up in a Christian family. One of his grandads was an organist and Peter has vivid memories of going with him on a Sunday evening to pump the organ. His other grandad was a bell-ringer and churchwarden, also treasurer at St Aidan's, Wheatley Hills which was Peter's home church. Peter was a choir boy and a server there for many years.

It was during his time at Doncaster Royal Infirmary that Peter began to feel a call to ministry which he suppressed for quite some time. Eventually he knocked on the vicarage door and Roger Ellis, the vicar at the time, who was a great influence on him, answered the door. When Peter told him about his thoughts he said, "about time, I've known something was going on for a while now!" Peter went through the selection process, and went on to study in both Birmingham and Manchester. It was at Manchester that Peter met Ian Draffan and actually attended the service at Holy Trinity when Ian was licensed – who would have thought?! Following ordination Peter became curate in the Maltby team ministry.

He joked that his dad was a 'lapsed Methodist' but, during his curacy, there was a wonderful moment when his dad asked if he could join a confirmation class which Peter was running. Peter says he was a very proud son when his dad was confirmed.

Concluded on next page

Concluding 'Meet the clergy'

After three great years in Maltby, with two brilliant priest colleagues, (one went on to be an archdeacon and the other is now Bishop of Manchester). Maltby was a steep learning curve on the back of the miners' strike. Peter then moved to Snaith for three years, he was team vicar in a rural parish with five churches. After Snaith, Peter became rector of Adwick-le-Street in Doncaster where he spent thirteen years, including being the Area Dean. In 2005 Bishop Jack suggested he move to Sheffield and he became the vicar of the Parish of Holy Trinity, Millhouses. Peter can still remember the 'gruelling' interview with the churchwardens!

There are always challenges in ministry and Peter states that it is a privilege to meet many wonderful people and share in the joys and sadness in people's lives. Since being in Sheffield, Peter has been Ecclesall Area Dean and chaired a Diocesan Committee; which allowed him to indulge in his love of church architecture. He is also an Honorary Canon of Sheffield Cathedral. Whilst at Adwick he successfully merged two parishes to form the new Parish of Adwick-le-Street with Skelbrooke, so he was well prepared for the huge challenge of bringing together Holy Trinity and St. John's to create the new of Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses.

It is evident that Peter has always had a gift of working well with colleagues, including being a 'Training Incumbent'. Through this he has helped numerous clergy in their early ministry. In conclusion Peter says, "As a parish priest there is no greater privilege than that of presiding at the Eucharist and placing communion into the hands of the faithful."



Thank you, Peter. We in Abbeydale and Millhouses are very privileged to have you as our vicar!

As we approach a new year may this inspirational poem by

Edgar Albert Guest

bring you peace and

'Hope'



*Mine is a song of hope
For the days that lie before;
For the grander things
The morrow brings
When the struggle days are o'er.
Dark be the clouds to-day,
Bitter the winds that blow,
But falter nor fail,
Through the howling gale-
Comes peace in the afterglow.*

*Mine is the song of hope,
A song for the mother here,
Who lulls to rest
The babe at breast,
And hopes for a brighter year.
Hope is the song she sings,
Hope is the prayer she prays;
As she rocks her boy,
She dreams of the joy
He'll bring in the future days.*

*Mine is the song of hope,
A song for the father, too,
Whose right arm swings,
While his anvil sings
A song of the journey through.
Hope is the star that guides,
Hope is the father's sun;
Far ahead he sees,
Through the waving trees,
Sweet peace when his work is done.*

*Mine is the song of hope,
Of hope that sustains us all;
Be we young or old,
Be we weak or bold,
Do we falter or even fall,
Brightly the star of hope
From the distance is shining still;
And with courage new
We rise to do,
For hope is the God of Will.*



Thanks to Covid-19, no Christmas concert this year so, we have re-released our CD of our full 2014 Christmas concert.

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Hopes and Dreams

*'Hope' is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without words
And never sleeps at all.*

Emily Dickinson

It is nice to think that we have a little feathered being deep in us that sings unceasingly.

So often, we believe that we have come to a place that is void of possibilities, only to find that it is the very hopelessness that allows us to hit bottom, give up our illusions of control, turn it over and ask for help. Out of the ashes of our hopelessness comes the fire of our hope.

To be without hopes and dreams is a place of loss..... Loss of our birth-right as a human being. Hope does spring and sing eternal, even when we have wax in our ears.

By recognising and affirming my feelings of hopelessness I open the possibility of something else.

From “ **Meditations for women who do too much**” Harper Collins 1990 by Anne Wilson Schaef,



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2020 reflections from life at school and home

Two days ago.... I'm teaching an A Level class, with 17 students in front of me and four students isolating at home. A few days earlier I'd had to work out if they'd been close enough to a positive covid case, by re-enacting their positions one lunchtime in the canteen. Telling students that they need to go home for two weeks is a really difficult job – it's the last thing they want to do, and they glumly but speedily disappear. Now, with the class in front of me, I've got them on my laptop, zoomed into the lesson. They wave to the class and the class waves back. They contribute to the lesson and, when the class goes into discussion, the four on zoom are able to work together as a team. We send documents from the classroom to them and vice-versa in an instant. It's an astonishing change from where we were last year.

The magical thing is seeing their faces at home when I put the laptop in front of a friend in class - so they can work together. Or at the end of the lesson they can have a chat with the people they are missing. I have rarely seen bigger smiles as they see each other and chat. It confirms the importance of social connections, which are obvious but, prior to 2020, might have been taken for granted.

There have been challenges and difficulties since March but there have also been many positives. Our school attendance has been significantly up. Student volunteering, which used to include going to primary schools and residential homes, has become more creative – with students recording videos of story-telling from the woods, or preparing Christmas party boxes for the homes we used to visit every December.

Some of the experiences have been odd – like broadcasting assemblies to eight form groups, each represented by a black zoom screen. I have to pinch myself to start the occasion and trust that someone really is listening, but other experiences are hopeful. Our normal *Children in Need Day* tends to involve some fairly raucous activities which are quite entertaining. This year, those high energy games were not on the menu and we had to look for some sufficiently distanced options. So students played a digital

version of *Escape Rooms*, competing against other classrooms. It wouldn't really have cut the mustard in a normal year, but at the moment, people seem satisfied with less.

Back at home, we've had a year of trying things which we may never have done without the restrictions. Home schooling is one of them. A partial success. We have a new gratitude for Dobcroft schools, but many others have been a lot more fun: building a 'boat' that could transport a six year old down the River Sheaf in Millhouses Park; making fishing rods which 'got a tug' from something in a murky pond in Ecclesall Woods;



and reading bedtime stories with grandparents hundreds (and sometimes thousands) of miles away.

The occasional times that we have spent with other families seem to have been all the more enjoyable, and valued, rather than taken for granted. This morning we played 'the floor is lava' by converting the front room into a fairly good adventure circuit. On a normal Saturday we'd have been swimming at that point, but somehow this felt a lot more fun. This afternoon our children have had a Christmas Cake-making Masterclass on zoom, from an eminent local cook with the initials 'PM' – we like Nigella, but this was different class.

In some ways we're looking forward to Christmas, where there will be fewer 'busy' things to do, and more time to concentrate on what really matters. We are trying to think of creative ways of making connections, and we'll value them all the more whatever they turn out to be. After all, Christmas started off as a connection made in improbable circumstances.

Martin Flett



NEWS FROM MILLHOUSES METHODIST CHURCH



Season's Greetings to all our friends in the Millhouses community!

It was a joy to be able to come together again for worship during September and October. Our team of preachers planned a series of thoughtful and inspiring themes relevant to the current times, with monthly COVID-adapted Holy Communion. Our risk assessment team put in place stringent health and safety measures so that we could worship safely. Sadly, however, at the time of going to press, four week's lockdown has been announced.

We regret that our annual Christmas Tree Festival cannot take place in the usual way this year but we hope to provide some focus for the community in our front forecourt in the run-up to Christmas.

Two Christmas services have been planned:
Thursday 24th December 4.00pm Crib Service
(led by Mr Richard Wilshaw)
Christmas Day 10.00am Family Service
(led by Rev Graham Wassell)

For up to date details please see our noticeboards and website, www.methodistmethodistchurch.org.uk.

Knowing that the theme of this issue of TRIO is 'Hope', our thoughts turned to the last words of Methodism's founder, John Wesley, which are embroidered on a lovely banner currently hanging in the gallery of our church:

THE BEST OF ALL - GOD IS WITH US

Margaret Maxfield bears these words in mind, while reflecting on recent months

Well - this has been a funny old year. I started it full of hope - This would be a year of celebrations. Among my friends there would be five - yes five - 90th birthday parties, including my own. They would all be so different - and there would be a lovely holiday with my son Andrew in Cornwall in June.

But then things went pear shaped. June actually made it to her 90th but she was so ill that her party had to be cancelled. Then Peter lost the fight and his party became a Wake. Maggie came next but she had a massive stroke and spent her birthday in hospital. That just left Mary and me.

Things were going ahead when the scourge of the pandemic arrived. Our two party sessions had to be postponed indefinitely - and at 90 years old it's no time to plan too far in the future

I knew Mary would be feeling sad on her birthday as her daughter lived down south and could not be with her, so I rang her and she was ecstatic.

She had woken up sad, but dressed and had breakfast when there was a knock at her door.

When she opened it she found that everyone in her cul-de-sac was standing outside, (suitably distanced), singing Happy Birthday. They then produced a birthday cake and glasses of bubbly, which they passed around, and handed her a lovely bunch of flowers and a box of chocolates. This really made her day.

As the shutdown continued it became difficult to remain happy and bubbly all the time, but when I felt down I would look out of my window and remind myself how lucky I am to have such lovely views and a nice place at the Hollis to walk around safely, and I could thank God for his goodness.

My holiday and birthday party had to be postponed until next year and on 3rd July, I was thinking of staying in bed and moping, but I took myself in hand. I had made it to 90 - the oldest ever achieved in my family. I showered and put on my best dress and make-up, read all my cards and started to enjoy my day. Then - surprise, surprise. One of the people here came to fetch me and escort me to the Hollis Board Room where the other residents were waiting, all suitably distanced. There was a lovely birthday cake and one of those balloons that last for several weeks and we had a nice time together.

Then that evening, Andrew arrived with a Take-Away meal from the Dore Grill - it was lovely. Everyone is so very kind and it does help to stop one feeling old and lonely.

When the sadness comes, I have several guideposts to lead me through.

In the hell of Dachau a Jewish prisoner asked Pastor Martin Niemoller "Where is God in all this?" Niemoller replied, "He is here, suffering with us."

And, in his speech the day before he was assassinated, Martin Luther King said, "I've looked over and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you but I want you to know tonight that we, as a people will get to the promised land. So I am happy tonight - I'm not worried about anything.

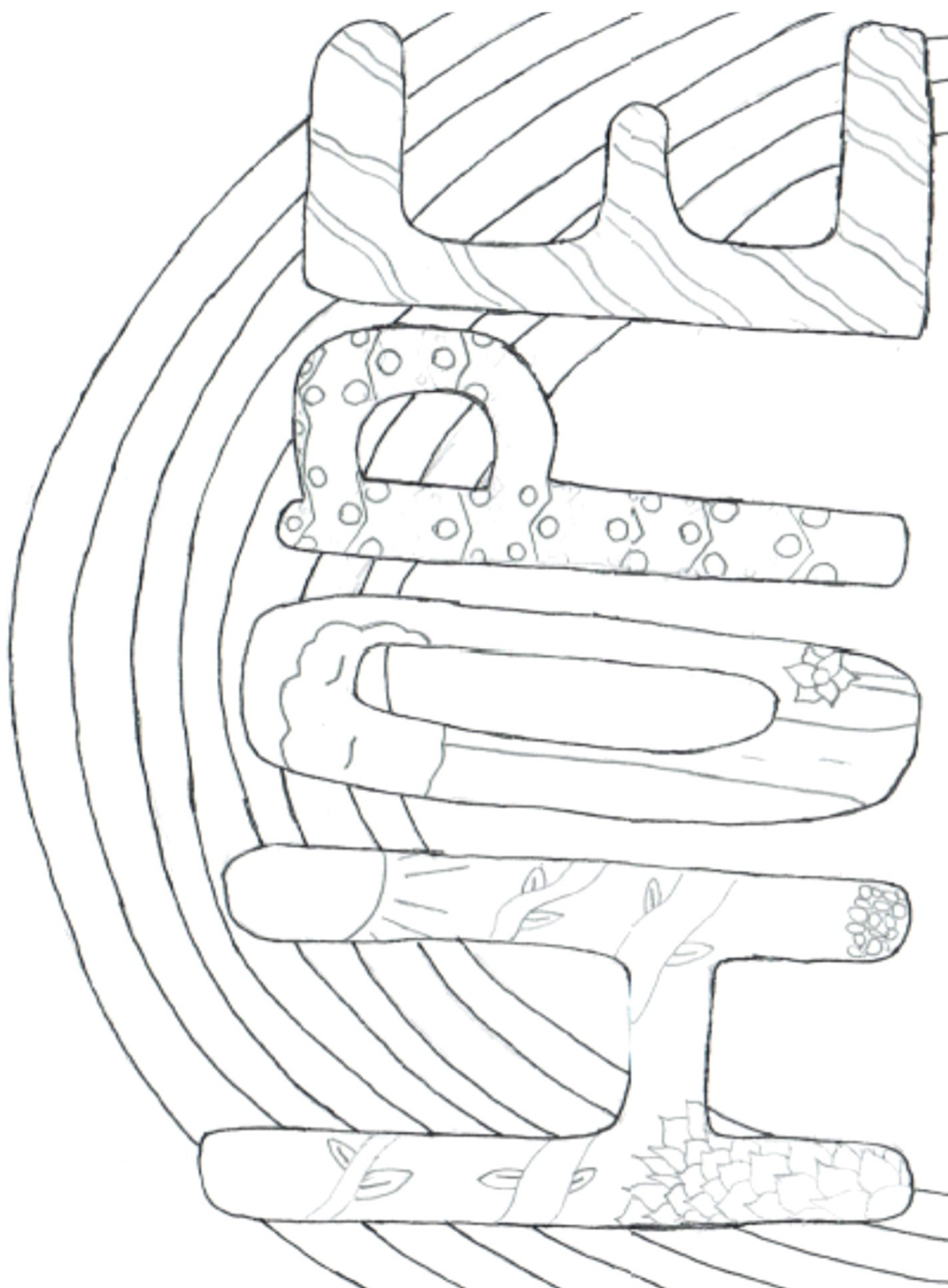
But then I have the best guide post of all when I remember John Wesley's last words on his death bed, "THE BEST OF ALL - GOD IS WITH US". With that in mind, how can I be dismayed?

Margaret Maxfield



Banner from church. The reverse shows 1876 as the inaugural date for Millhouses Methodist Fellow-

One of our young church members, **Jess**, has drawn this poster for you to cut out, colour in and keep as a reminder that things **will** get better.





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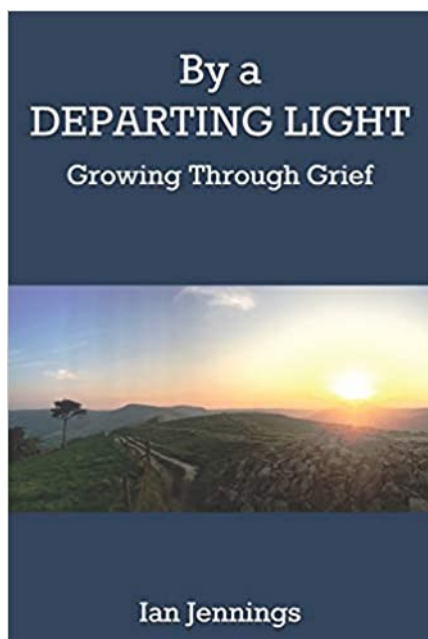
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'By A Departing Light - Growing Through Grief'

by Ian Jennings



Ian Jennings is a retired Anglican priest, who was Rector of Aston All Saints. Following the death of his wife in St. Luke's Hospice in 2018, Ian wrote this book and has raised £2000 from the sales for St. Luke's.

In this very short book, which I found difficult to put down, Ian manages to bring a message of hope and joy in the midst of challenge and sorrow. Something we all need at this time.

The five messages on the back cover alone make you want to read it... here are a couple of them.

Sue Mellor, Headteacher of All Saints School in Aston says: *"By a Departing Light will move you you tears and make you smile but above all will provide comfort and hope to all who read it."*

Dr. Andrew Davies, Birmingham University: *" 'By a Departing Light' tells of a family's tragedy with immense warmth, faith and ultimately hope."*

Ian Jennings himself writes:

I tell the story of my wife's illness and death vividly, but heart warmingly too. I identify the life lessons through the experience and how we both drew upon the grace of God. Chapters include 'Hanging on to Hope'. We were all set to retire and our plans were fully formed. We were in retirement mode and excited about the future when suddenly this vicious disease changed everything in a moment. None of those well honed plans would be fulfilled. What is the point of prayer in the face of death? Are miracles possible? What to do in the heartbreak of brain cancer. These are some of the questions I try to answer with honesty and sensitivity in the light of my own experience. St. Jerome said. 'The glory of God is the human person fully alive.' That echoes the words of Jesus in John 10:10. My wife Barbara was always full of life. Even when life was leaching away she awoke every morning and chose life. She lived as fully as she could for as long as she could and left a radiance behind. For the bereaved—when you say 'yes' to life, life will say 'yes' to you.'

'By a Departing Light' is available from the Sheffield CLC Bookshop and Amazon.

P.M.J

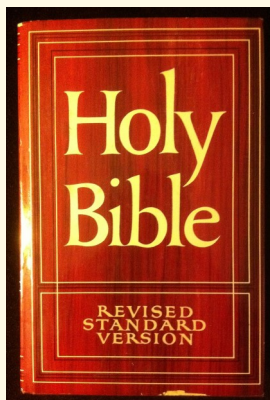


What's in a name?

Hope

Many of us will know, or have heard of someone called 'Hope', but what are its origins? It is thought that the name 'Hope' is Old English, based on Biblical references meaning confident expectation, or a firm belief in things that are unclear or unknown.

Hope is one of the three main elements of the Christian character, the other two being charity and faith, both of which were quite common girl's names in earlier times.



There are many references to hope in the Bible, both in the Old Testament and the New..... e.g.

The book of Job: 4:6, 6:11, 7:6, 11:18. *Psalms:* 22, 31, 33, 39, 42, 71, 78, 130, 131, 146.

Proverbs: 13:12.

Jeremiah: 17:7, 31:17.

Lamentations: 3:24,26. *Ezekiel:* 37:11.

Hosea: 2:15 *Joel:* 3:16 *Zechariah:* 9:12

Luke: 6:34 *Acts:* 24:15, 26:6, 27:20.

Romans: 5:2,5, 8:24,25, 12:12, 15: 4,13.

1 Corinthians: 13:13, 15:19.

2 Corinthians: 1:7, 10:15. *Galatians:* 5:5

Ephesians: 4:4. *Philippians:* 1:20

Colossians: 1:5,23,27. *1 Thessalonians:* 1:3,

5:8. *2 Thessalonians:* 2:16. *1 Timothy:* 1:1.

Titus: 1:2, 2:13. *Hebrews:* 6:11, 7:19.

1 Peter: 1:13,21, 3:15. *1 John:* 3:3.

According to the Bible, the righteous who put their faith in God will be helped and protected, and made free from fear and anxiety. How much this is needed today!!

Research by Ian Hunter.



The article on page ** mentions the importance of **Christingle Events** for raising money for the **Children's Society**

Their website states:

Now, more than ever, we must shine the light for those living in the darkest situations. Together, we can rekindle the hope for children and young people across the country. We are a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. We support them through their most serious life challenges and campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. We've been doing this for 140 years and won't stop until they've built a society where hope is alive in every child.

We walk towards the young people that society crosses the road to avoid. We see something in these children, that something is:

Hope

Hope for a happier home life, hope of getting a job, of getting away from the people who exploit and hurt them.

Hope of overcoming the obstacles modern life puts in front of them and hope that tomorrow can be better than today.

It's right there in the centre of every young person in Britain. Even those who have it toughest of all, those who are exploited, neglected, unsafe.

We see it.

And we fight for it.

As usual our Christmas appeal is for the Children's Society and donations can easily be made through their website:

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

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Living in Hope

by Peter Quarrell

During the planning of this edition, it was suggested I write an article on either *Famous people called Hope or Living in Hope*. Google was set in desert mode, as 24 of its 'Hopes' were from the USA, and the only one I had heard of was Miley Cyrus, an American singer born as Destiny Hope Cyrus.

My only hope was *Living in Hope*. Back to Google, which made clear that the Hope Valley's history has nearly all been very quiet. The most eminent name was William Peveril, a knight who helped William the Conqueror invade Britain in 1066, and was granted 162 manors in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, ruling them from Peveril Castle in Castleton. The Domesday Book recorded that his property at Castleton, (three households, two ploughlands, five plough teams, and eight acres of meadow), was worth £2 in 1066 and £2.50 in 1086.

Then I thought I had struck gold. Hope meant Hope Valley which meant Hathersage and therefore the Eyres.. Their surname occurs frequently in North Derbyshire, and many of Hathersage Church's vicars since 1281 have been the Eyres family who lived at Offerton, Padley, and many other halls around the Hope Valley.



Charlotte Brontë
by George Richmond

Charlotte Brontë, (*author of Jane Eyre*), often visited Hathersage with a friend, whose brother was vicar of St. Michael's Church there. The ideal subject would be Hathersage and her.

However, none of these really addressed the topic of *Living in Hope*. We go back to the words of St Paul, when he was writing the first of his epistles to the Christians in Corinth. "*And now these three remain: faith, hope and charity. But the greatest of these is charity*". Very few would disagree with his opinion, but he was emphasising the importance of all three.

Faith and Charity are both essential to our belief, but *Hope* has an extra importance. It is an essential motivator. It is likely that the swings and roundabouts of good people's lives in the early centuries of the Christian Era were no less difficult than ours are today. The Church's message had (and has) to encourage all its members and possible new recruits to take an optimistic view of their present state and their future.

Hope has always been the basis of that need. A Greek scholar called Hesiod, who lived 800 years before Jesus, told the story of Pandora. She was given a box, with strict instructions not to open it. It contained sickness, death and other evils. These were released into the world when she succumbed to temptation and opened the box.. She tried to close the box, but only one thing was left behind – *Hope*.

When times are bad we need all sorts of things, and can't always arrange to have them. *Hope* is the ingredient that helps us be patient — to wait for the solutions which may eventually appear and turn out to be effective.

If you are desperate for the Corona virus to be conquered and disappear from our world, hope — and pray, which should help too.

Once upon a time a baby was born.....



The Gospel according to Jeffrey Archer – in just 346 words !

'He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance, and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education. And yet, as a teenager, He was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers.

He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven, and living off bread and water and the occasional fish, while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen.

He became the manager of a football team known as 'The Disciples', not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition. The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the son of God.

They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they'd hear of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain claimed on more than one occasion that he'd never been a member of His team.

When he died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy, and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, he'd never relied on focus groups to advice him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his brand, or spin doctors to sharpen His image, and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you can be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So how can one explain that over two thousand years later, Jesus Christ is still the best known celebrity on earth?

Could it just be that He was the Son of God?

Jeffrey, who had prostate cancer in 2013, donated this article to Cancer Research UK and it was printed on the inside of their 2018 Christmas cards.

Taken from the *Daily Mail* 24th November 2018



Worship at Holy Trinity and St. John's

As we go to print, due to Covid-19 restrictions, churches are only open for private prayer. It is hoped to reopen after 2nd December, but places for services *may* have to be pre-booked and ***all services could be subject to change.***

For up-to-date information please contact:

the Parish Office on 0114 249 0377 / or email htmillhousesoffice@yahoo.co.uk

Or visit the website: www.amchurchsheffield.co.uk

December

- Sun 6th Second Sunday of Advent**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St John's
10.00 am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
- Sun 13th Third Sunday of Advent**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St John's
- Sun 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent**
10.00 am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity



O holy
night
✱

- Thurs 24th Christmas Eve**
11.30 pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity
11.30 pm Midnight Mass at St John's



- Fri 25th Christmas Day**
9.30 am Holy Communion at St John's
10.00 am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity



- Sun 27th John, Apostle and Evangelist**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St John's

January

- Sun 3rd Second Sunday of Christmas**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St John's
10.00 am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
- Sun 10th Baptism of Christ**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St John's
- Sun 17th Second Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
- Sun 24th Third Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St John's
- Sun 31st Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St John's

February

- Sun 7th Second Sunday before Lent**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St John's
10.00 am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
- Sun 14th Sunday next before Lent**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St John's
- Wed 17th Ash Wednesday**
Service to be confirmed
- Sun 21st The first Sunday of Lent**
10.00 am Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
- Sun 28th The Second Sunday of Lent**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St John's



March

- Sun 7th Third Sunday of Lent**
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St John's
10.00 am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity



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