
Hope
Times



Feb/
Mar 08

Taking the higher road

John's talk on Sunday 20th January challenged us all to take the higher road, to answer God's second call on our lives. The time for being carried by the father is over. It's time to step out in faith.

Following on from this John spoke on fear (Sunday 27th January). Most people are resistant to change. Quite simply, most people would prefer to stay with the status quo (not the rock band) rather than venture out into something new, or something unknown.

So what are the characteristics of the higher road? Well, it's a less travelled highway, it's rocky and errr...higher. It is a harder road; the cost to us as individuals is much greater, the sacrifice of time and resources is what God requires of us.

There's also a higher level of danger and there is the risk of failure, but as Paul writing to Philippians says in chapter 1 v 21 – "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Richard Kay reminded us of this last Sunday).



Mount Tabor, the traditional site of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Copyright: Israel Image Bank

Part of taking the higher road is getting involved with Hope08 – now I’m not suggesting that any of us are going to perish as we commit to this initiative. But Paul goes on to say in v 22 – “if I am to go on living in this body, this will mean fruitful labour”.

So, Hope, this is what God requires of us – fruitful labour. Just a few projects started this year, but a few projects where all of us find that through our fruitful labour Heaven is established on earth.

In choosing the higher road, we get a glimpse of His plans for us, for our church and the world out there. Seek God for what He wants you to do, but don’t expect His answer to be constrained by your own personal limitations, lovingly He will push you on to a higher place.

It’s time to get involved!

Gavin Kibble

The Hope08 leaflet accompanying Hope Times gives more information about how Hope Church is getting involved in this brilliant national and local initiative.



Exodus 36: 2

‘Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work.’

Moses had come down from Mount Sinai following his encounter with God. He then called the entire Israelite community, encouraging them to get involved in building the tabernacle.

We need willing people in church to share in the work.

Eileen brought this to the church on Sunday 27th January.

One 'L of a preacher!



We are incredibly blessed at Hope by the wonderful preaching and teaching given by John and others.

Often at Hope, people respond by coming forward with a word from God, a prophecy, an interpretation a revelation or a scripture. This mirrors the way in which the early Christians worshipped (see 1Cor 14: 26).

If you want to share, through Hope Times, what God has put on your heart so that we can all be blessed, then please contact Amanda on 024 7626 4171.

Smile awhile...

At the end of the minister's pre-Lent sermon he suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent.



As they made their way out into the chilly Sunday air, the minister came up to one member of the congregation and asked her what she had decided to give up for Lent. 'Church,' she abruptly replied.

Reproduced by kind permission of Monarch Books. Copyright: Phil Mason 2005

Carbon Fast for Lent

The Rt Rev. James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool, is spearheading Tearfund's Carbon Fast initiative:

'Traditionally people have given up things for Lent. Last year in the Diocese of Liverpool many parishes took part in a Carbon Fast. Through it we focused on God's earth and its poorest people in whom, Jesus said, we were to find him. This year in Lent we invite you to join us in a Carbon Fast.'



Climate change is not an opinion or a contentious notion. It is a fact. Our treatment of the planet and its people reveals something about our respect for the world God has given us.

Join Tearfund in the Carbon Fast and bring a little bit more of God's Kingdom to earth. A catastrophically changed climate is not inevitable. Our actions can – and will – make the difference.

Tearfund's Carbon Fast will show you how.

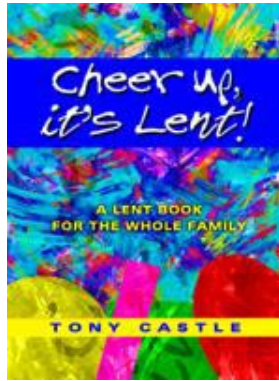


Visit www.tearfund.org/carbonfast for:

- further information
- resources to download – study guides, sermons, a powerpoint presentation and more
- the opportunity to sign up for Carbon Fast e-mails so that daily actions, facts and prayers can be directly e-mailed to you.

You can also order the Carbon Fast for Lent 2008 booklet which provides a daily diary throughout Lent and gives suggestions of how you can act in a practical way.

Reading for Lent 2008 : some ideas :



Cheer up, it's Lent

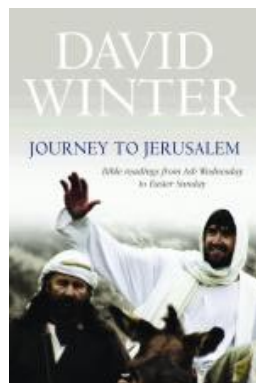
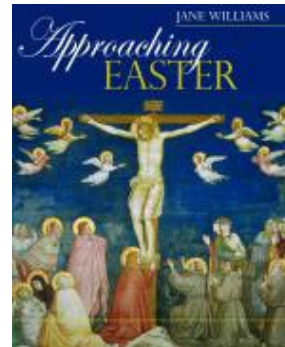
If Lent is to happen at all in the Christian family as a shared experience, it has its best hope for success at the family meal. With the help of this book – and a little organisation and determination to make it work – you can transform Lent into a true preparation for Easter for all of the family.

Price: £5.99

Approaching Easter

What gives meaning to our lives? How can we live a life shared with others? In each chapter, the author blends personal story, spiritual reflection and quotations from scripture or other sources to offer an imaginative and powerful way into the meaning of the season.

Price: £9.99



Journey To Jerusalem

Travel through Lent with Jesus and his disciples to Jerusalem, the cross and beyond. David Winter draws from all four Gospels and paints a vivid portrait of Jesus and his twelve followers as they travel to Jerusalem.

This is the Bible Reading Fellowship Lent book for 2008.

Price: £7.99

~ WHAT'S ON ~ WHAT'S ON ~ WHAT'S ON ~ WHAT'S ON ~ WHAT'S ON ~

Children & young people

Parent & toddlers

Every Monday
10 - 11.30am (Term time only)
@ Hope Centre
Contact: Heidi Davies

Creche @ Hope Church

for pre-school children

GLOW @ Hope Church

for primary age children

Every Sunday *except*
1st Sunday of the month
Contact: Marg Patterson (Creche)
or Mark Johnson (GLOW)

Youth Emmaus

for 11 - 16 year olds
Every Sunday after worship time
Contact: Michelle Williams
or Anna Cramp

Nooma Group

for 16 - 25 year olds
3rd Sunday of every month
6 - 8pm Hope Centre
Contact: John & Marg Patterson

Regular events

Hope Coffee Bar

13 February
Live music
7.30pm onwards
Everyone welcome!

2nd week of the month

Homegroups
Various venues

3rd Wednesday of the month

Holy Communion
with prayer for healing
8 - 9.30pm
Hope Church

4th week in the month

Homegroups
Various venues

5th week in the month

Other activities,
such as outreach

**If you wish to join a homegroup,
please contact John Patterson.**

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Prayer events

Intercessory Prayer
Mondays
7 - 8.30am
Hope Centre
Contact:
Michelle Williams

Turkey Prayer Group
Bi-monthly
Contact:
Mary Lindley

Men's prayer
1st Saturday of the month
8 - 10am
Hope Centre
A time for fellowship
and prayer.

**Contact details can be
found in the
Hope Church
Address Book or
by phoning
024 7663 3500.**

Hope Centre News

What has been happening?
Well I have been in post a month now and so much has happened I barely know where to start! I have met some brilliant people and have found so much good will and support for us that I am really optimistic about the future.



Here are just a few of the great moves forward that have happened or are on their way:

- We have a new layout in the upstairs Henley room creating more space whilst retaining 12 Internet enabled PC's. We also now have another small conference room to use and let when Henley is not using it.
- **An internet café is on its way that has a wireless hub. This will enable customers who are enjoying their coffee from Hope Café to surf the net for £1 per hour and catch up with their e-mail.**
- Free training will be available for volunteers in the café to gain an ITQ in use of a PC if they wish!
- **The nursery continues with its great work with the amazingly dedicated team under Linda's leadership.**



- **All centre staff, including volunteer staff for the café, have smart new badges.**
- Various bits and bobs have been mended, replaced and sorted.
- **Some funding bids are submitted and more are on their way and there are more opportunities popping up all the time.**

Best of all I want you to know that the staff team are brilliant and work really hard and I am looking forward to us forging our way along a bright new path together as Hope Centre embarks on the next leg of its journey.

Ros

Food for thought...

'All sunshine makes a desert.'



'Don't allow your activity for God become a substitute for your relationship with God.'

'God works through our brokenness, not our complacency.'



hope

hope café

is re-opening



need a good cup of coffee?
a light bite?
a place to chat?

Watch out for

Pancake Day Special

Shrove Tuesday 5th February
then

St Valentine's Eve

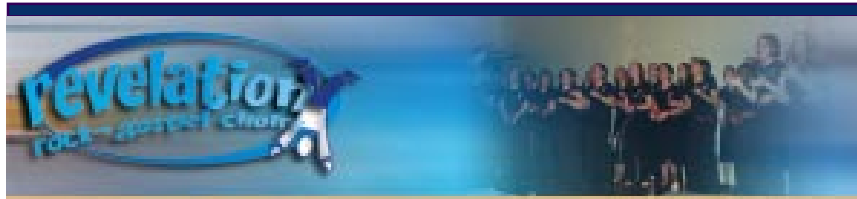
live music night with the Revelles
Wednesday 13th February 7.30pm
then

Official Grand Re-Opening

Thursday 14th February 9.30am

then open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm
(live music every Friday 12-1.30)

hope café ~ corner of Paynes Lane and Sparkbrook Street, Hillfields
tel: 024 7623 8325



Revelation Rock Gospel Choir Spring concert

Methodist Central Hall

Friday 7 March 2008 7.30pm

Tickets available from Roger & Mary
Lindley, who are choir members.



**Come along & have a fantastic time – it's an inspirational &
hugely enjoyable experience!**

Bible translation: is it really necessary?

One more word of encouragement for possibly weary Bible translators:

‘...while the message of Christ that missionaries brought has been of great significance, even more important has been the message they left in the shape of vernacular Scriptures... When people hear the Word of Life in their own languages ... salvation is no longer an offering from an alien culture but an offering from within the culture... For these reasons and more, the founding by William Cameron Townsend (1896-1982) ... of the Wycliffe Bible Translators may stand symbolically for one of the great Christian events of the age.’

Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity, Mark A.Noll, Baker Academic, 2000 p 310

Submitted by Keith and Lorraine Doust

~ NOTICEBOARD ~



Hope Church
Sparkbrook Street
Hillfields
CV1 5LB

Sunday services 10.30am

Details of Easter services and events at Hope will be available shortly.

1st Sunday:

Family communion service with prayer for healing

2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays:

Regular service

4th Sunday:

Seeker service

Taking care at Hope

As part of our 'safeguarding' policy can we ask everyone to be alert to any dangers for the children, young people and vulnerable adults of Hope Church.

This applies to all areas of the premises, but especially in the cafe, corridors and car park.

Parents, please be especially diligent concerning your own children.

Thank you

Disabled parking

We would also like to remind drivers not to park in the disabled parking bays outside Hope if you do not hold a blue badge certificate.

Thank you



Next newsletter

Please send any items, notices, testimonies, book reviews, etc for the next Hope Times to Amanda Kay – e-mail: amanda@copsewood.net.

The deadline for contributions is Monday, 24 March 2008.
