



Dore Methodist Church



The Church on the High Street

Nov/Dec 2020

They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning
We will remember them.



Harvest Gifts

Thank you for all your donations for the Grace Food Bank as part of our Harvest festival this year. See page 6 for an update on the food bank.

£210 was also gratefully received for 'All We Can' who work with the very poorest communities, and have developed a reputation for doing development differently: pioneering sustainable, locally-owned solutions in response to John Wesley's call to, 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.'



Christmas is coming ...

We are joining the Dore Village Society Advent Calendar. Windows around the village will be decorated and each day until 24th December a new window will be revealed and by the end there will be a trail of Advent Calendar windows through the village for residents to find and follow. We're looking forward to getting involved.



Advent

The Advent candle shines so bright
And choirs sing "O Holy Night"
Prophets foretold your humble birth
A Babe, our Saviour, came to earth.
Echo now the angel's voice
Halleluiah, sing, rejoice.
A miracle on earth that night
Our Saviour came to shine his light
On all the corners of the earth
And still, we celebrate His birth.

Joy Depledge

From our minister:

Dear friends

I am writing this as we are about to move into the month of November. The clocks have changed and the nights are drawing in, however the longer evenings do give us the opportunity to make the most of the various lights, lamps and candles we may have to create a different ambiances in our homes.

As Christmas approaches, even more lights come out as we decorate our houses and put up the tree. Light of course is a very powerful image for Christians as St John reminds us in the opening of his Gospel: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Those words are even more poignant I think this Christmas given the current pandemic and rumours of cancelled festivities. But Christmas can never be cancelled, because the light will always shines, we will just celebrate it differently this year.

"Light looked down and saw darkness; I will go there said light.

Peace looked down and saw war; I will go there said peace.

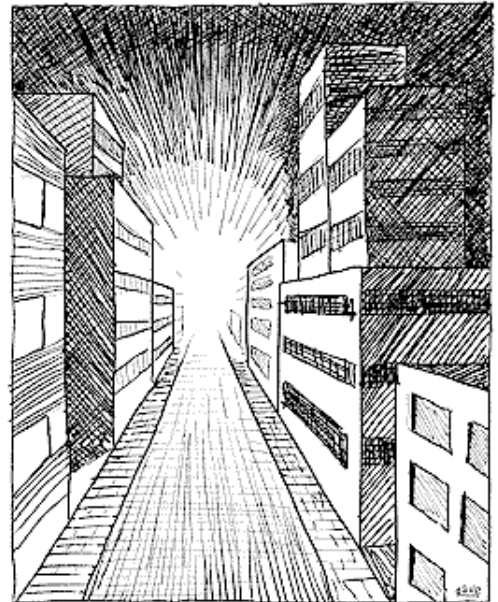
Love looked down and saw hatred; I will go there said love.

So the Lord of light, the prince of peace and the King of love came and crept in beside us. (From Cloth for the cradle - Wild goose worship)

I pray the light which entered the world on that first Christmas will carry you through the darker nights of these come weeks. May its cast its intensity onto the shadow created by the corona virus. And as you turn on a light in your home, be that one or the many more on the Christmas tree, may that action be a reminder of the light of Christ who brings brightness, hope, peace and love in our world.

Shalom, Gail

in the dark streets



Shines the everlasting light



Christmas Quiz

The answers are in your Bible!



- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1) What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel", mean? | <i>Matthew 1:23</i> |
| 2.) When Joseph first discovered that Mary was pregnant, he: | <i>Matthew 1:18-2</i> |
| 3.) What did the angel tell the shepherds? | <i>Luke 2:10-12</i> |
| 4.) Who diligently asked the wise men about baby Jesus? | <i>Matthew 2:7</i> |
| 5.) What was Jesus' approximate age when the wise men presented Him with gifts? | <i>Matthew 2:16</i> |
| 6.) Why did Jesus' family flee Bethlehem? | <i>Matthew 2:12-13</i> |
| 7.) To where did Jesus' family flee from Bethlehem? | <i>Matthew 2:12-15</i> |
| 8.) When they returned, where did Jesus and His family dwell? | <i>Matthew 2:23</i> |

A Statement from the Leadership Team

We know that some of you are disappointed that Dore Methodist Church is not as yet open for worship, but there are also others who do not feel it is appropriate for them to consider returning at the present time. We thought it might be helpful to explain what the Leadership Team has had to undertake during the last eight months, and this might help people understand the decisions that have been taken. At the heart of our deliberations and decisions has been the health and well being of our members, to whom we have a duty of care.

The Leadership Team have met regularly by Zoom (video conferencing). Three members of the team have visited the building weekly to perform certain tasks to satisfy the requirements of our Insurance company. In July the Government and Methodist Church issued guidelines for re-opening churches and we started to plan what we were required to do to make our building Covid secure. The Methodist Church asked that we consult with our members to gauge their views on returning to worship and we sent out our questionnaire to everyone. The responses did not indicate an overwhelming desire to return to worship as soon as possible, and this view influenced the speed our future actions.

Our first major task was to prepare a comprehensive Risk Assessment, following the strict guidelines set out by the Methodist Church. This resulted in a 12-page document which needed to be approved by both the Circuit and our Church Council, which met on 10th September specifically for this purpose. At this time we were working towards two trial mid-week services at the end of October. We had already planned for the Hall to be redecorated and this was completed by the second week in September. Following on from this work we arranged for the carpet in the Hall to be cleaned early in October. At the same time we were sourcing all the necessary personal protection equipment and consumables that we would need to meet the requirements of our risk assessment. Obviously following the redecoration, and the fact that the building had not been cleaned since March, a “Deep Clean” was required. Due to personal circumstances our Cleaner had been granted compassionate leave, so we needed to employ a Cleaning Company to undertake this work. We also needed to carry out checks on our fire alarm system and unexpectedly these failed, and we have needed to undertake extensive and expensive work to rectify the defects.

As we were getting near to the planned dates of our first trial services and being able to issue details of the practicalities of these, the coronavirus situation locally deteriorated and Sheffield moved into Tier 3. In the light of this, and the fact that we had not already opened for worship, we felt that it would be inappropriate to continue with these plans. A few days after we had made this decision both the Circuit and District asked churches to seriously review their situations and the Chair of the Sheffield District, Rev Gill Newton, specifically said *“For those parts of the District that find yourselves under Tier 3 restrictions, I urge you to think very carefully about whether it is now appropriate for churches to remain open, given the rising infection rates your communities are experiencing. We have a duty of care to one another and to those alongside whom we live and work.”* Subsequently we have moved into a further period of national lockdown with all places of worship now closed for corporate worship.

We hope that this statement outlines the efforts that have been taken to enable worship to restart in our building. These preparations will not be in vain and as soon as some restrictions are lifted and we feel that it would be appropriate to organise acts of worship we will do so, in accordance with the guidance appropriate at that time. We hope and pray that it will be possible for us to celebrate Advent and Christmas by worshipping together in our building, even if not quite in the same way as we have done in previous years. We will, of course also continue to supply to all our congregation a weekly act of worship, as we have done since the first Sunday of lockdown in March.

Margaret Vaughan

We were all sorry to hear about the death of one of our faithful members; Margaret Vaughan.

Margaret was born on 30th May 1930 to Eliza and Wilfred Carrier, their third child. Her sister, Nellie, was 10 years old, her brother Wilfred 15 years old.

When the war came, she was evacuated to Syston, near Leicester for a while. She returned with Toby, a tortoise she care for, for 50 years, making sorties into the surrounding gardens for his favourite herbs.

Margaret was an active lively-minded person with many interests. She enjoyed reading the newspapers and to the end she knew what was going on around her in the world and locally. She and her father loved to discuss politics and put the world to rights.

The heart of Margaret's life though, was the church. She went to Peter Street Methodist Church until it was closed. On Sundays her mother made sure she went to church three times, one being an afternoon Sunday school. She enjoyed bring in the Girls' Life Brigade where she made several very good lifelong friends and was part of the team that went to dance on the stage at the Royal Albert Hall when they were in the finals of an all England country dance team.

Her next church was Trinity Methodist at Page Hall where she and George were married. Once again here she was an active member before finally moving to Dore.

After retirement Margaret was able to pursue some of her many interests at leisure. Travelling had always been a favourite and she and George enjoyed many cruises and holidays. They also enjoyed closer to home many walks in her beloved Peak District and were often joined by friends Barry and Shirley. Another of her enjoyments was attending the philharmonic concerts at the City Hall and it was only a couple of years ago she stopped going when she gave up night time outings.

The garden was a great source of joy to Margaret and her family, marvelled at the wonderful display that blossomed in her border each autumn and it was in her garden, that she and Mary celebrated their 80th birthdays with a sit down meal with friends.

The family described "Aunty" Margaret as a legend! She became both a great and a great, great aunt and they all have so many memories of her and stories to tell. She will be greatly missed.

Let us pray

Loving God, If we are ill, strengthen us. If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
 If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.
 Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
 Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
 Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.
 Help us always to hold fast to the good, See the good in others,
 And remember there is just one world, one hope,
 One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.
 In Jesus we make our prayer, The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
 In whom we trust these days and all days,
 Amen.

(The Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference)

Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everybody who filled a shoe box in person or on line. We can not under estimate how much joy these bring to children, and their family, living in difficult situations. They are often the only presents these children receive.

This year has been a challenging one for everyone, not least for the organisers of this appeal. You may have heard that the national collection week has been put back to December 5th to 9th. So there is still time to pack a box on line if you wish to. Just go the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal pack a box, the instructions are very easy to follow.

We were very grateful that St Paul's Church Centre Norton Lees remained open so we were able to drop ours off on Monday afternoon.

Daphne Willie

Shillito Wood

Last month Howard and I went to Shillito Wood just off the A621 Sheffield to Baslow road.

There is a small car park and access nearby to the Eastern Moors Estate.

Shillito Woods itself is adjacent to the car park, and in the centre of the wood is an old stone cross. Does anyone know the date of it?

There is another cross nearby marked on the Ordnance Survey map, so perhaps they are just old way markers.

At the car park there are picnic tables and a wooden bench inscribed with the following words:

Impressive hills and verdant vale

Your tranquil beauty we regale

Our thankful hearts and spirits lift

As we rest here to enjoy God's gift.

I am sure that everyone will agree that Autumn 2020 has been better than ever for gorgeous colours.

Not even Covid-19 can spoil that!

We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area with so many places to explore.

Val Edwards



Some Good News



The Baileys are pleased to announce the arrival of their second Grandchild, Isaac Monty Bailey, on 31st October.

Baby, Mother, Father, big sister Poppy and both sets of Grand Parents are doing well.

Just longing for the day when we will be able to travel to Cumbria to meet and cuddle our Grandson.

Thinking of you all and sending
Christmas Greetings
Pat Bullen

Happy Christmas, everyone!
John (Dunstan)

Greetings to everyone at Dore Methodist Church for Christmas and the New Year. Let us hope that it won't be too long before we can worship and socialise together.

Please stay safe. With every good wish
Janet Clitheroe



Grace Food Bank

A Summary of the 2019-2020 Annual Report

During the past year over 35 tonnes of food was donated to the food bank. The estimated value was £61,824. Food parcels were provided to feed 2124 adults and 1008 children, an increase of 5% over the previous year. 80% of people who were helped last year received 3 food parcels or fewer, 12% received 4-6 parcels (typically people making a new claim for Universal Credit) and a very small number received 10 or more parcels (people unable to claim benefits).

Clients usually receive parcels at weekly intervals (a single person may receive one parcel a fortnight). The standard set of food parcels will feed two people for one week and the size of parcels is adjusted to fit the size of the family. Other things like nappies and baby food are provided along with parcels that suit different medical or religious dietary needs (Halal, gluten free, lactose free etc).

Over the school holidays the food bank put on events that included food and children's activities. There were only 3 days across the 5-week summer holidays when nothing took place. At these events the food bank provided family friendly recipe packs for people to take home and prepare. Each pack made a meal to feed at least 4 people. Across the school holidays, 410 recipe packs were given out.

About 25 churches, several local schools, local mosques and a number of community groups, sports clubs and workplaces collect food to give to the food bank. Also, there are permanent collection points at Sainsbury's, Archer Road, Morrison's on Meadowhead, Tesco and Tesco Express.

Fortunately, during the COVID-19 pandemic the food bank continues to help those people most in need. Our contribution, however modest, is vitally important at this time.

Food Bank Christmas Appeal

The next two collections (November 16th and 30th) will be for the Christmas Wishlist. It is an opportunity to share our traditional Christmas food with others.



This Year's Christmas Wishlist

Boxes of Christmas biscuits, medium or small, not large tins

Small Christmas Cakes or packs of Christmas Mini rolls etc

Chocolates/sweets in medium sized boxes, anything that looks festive

Selection boxes/chocolate coins

Pringles, cheddars or similar crisps in a cardboard tube

Bottles of fizzy grape juice or similar

Tins of Salmon Tins of Ham

Sachets of instant custard

Small boxes of crackers/biscuits for cheese

Boxes of Mince Pies (without brandy). These often have a short shelf life

Everything should have a sell by date after 25th December 2020



If you would like me to collect from you please phone me on 0114 473 1998 (or email me at peter.ann.smith@gmail.com) and then leave a bag outside your front door for collection by 9 a.m. Although food donations are important and very much appreciated please do not put yourselves at risk of contracting COVID-19 by shopping for the Food Bank. Stay safe. Thank you.

Peter

Christmas Fun!

The Three Gifts

After the Christmas nativity play, I asked my 6-year-old grandson if he remembered the gifts that the kings brought to Jesus. He thought for a minute then said "gold, frankincense, and humour". We could all use that! Here's some more...



Pontius Who?

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures illustrating Biblical stories. The teacher walked by and noticed one little boy was drawing an airplane! "Oh, what Bible story are you drawing?" she asked. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy answered. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

God's Not Deaf

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The younger one began praying at the top of his lungs:

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE..."

"I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO..."

His older brother leaned over, nudged him and said, "Why are you shouting? God isn't deaf." to which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"

None of Them Are Toys!

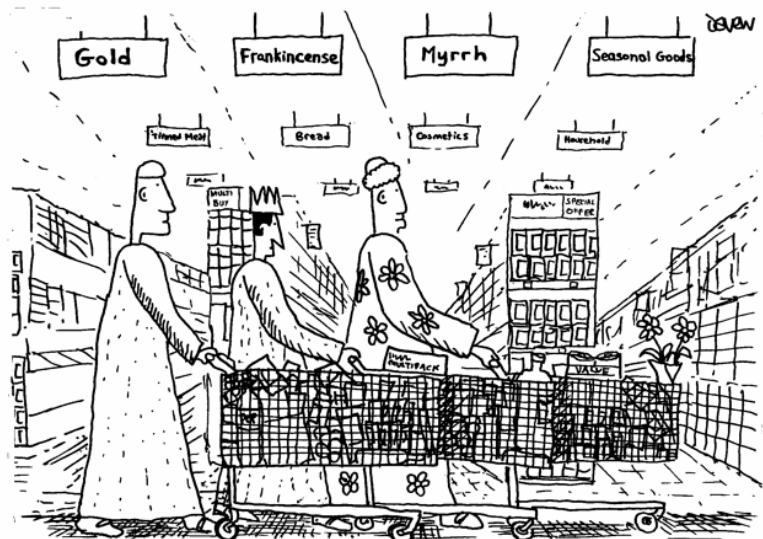
When my daughters were little I would always tell them around Christmas that this is Jesus' birthday and he only received 3 things so do not be disappointed in what lies under the tree. When it came time for worship on Christmas morning, I asked the children what they thought Jesus would think of Santa and all the hype. Would he ask Santa a question? My youngest daughter replied, "I think Jesus would ask how come I only got three things and none of them were toys?"

Didn't You Get My E-Mail?

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my e-mail?"

Who is the Real Virgin?

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"



DORE METHODIST CHURCH

You will find Dore Methodist Church a place of WELCOME, BELONGING and BELIEVING, ACCEPTANCE, SUPPORT, LOVE, FORGIVENESS and a place of COMMUNITY with caring people who will help you discover more of God's love and purpose for your own life.



This magazine can also be found in the pages of our church website alongside up to date information about our church services, weekly updates, events and lots more!

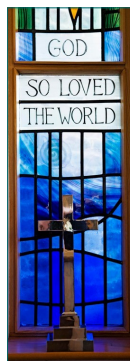
Visit us at www.doremethodist.org.uk



Minister:

Rev. Gail Hunt

Tel: 0114 236 0772



Due to Coronavirus Covid-19
we are currently closed for our usual
Morning Worship on Sunday mornings

Our building is closed for all activities

Church Stewards:

Nigel Thomas

Jackie Bailey

Peter Varley

Safeguarding

If you have safeguarding concerns please consult Rev. Gail Hunt, minister or Bridget Ball, safeguarding officer.



For security reasons the locks on all external doors to our church have been changed. Please do not attempt to use your old key.



Weekly Update Please

pass on any items for our weekly update to John Bailey by Tuesday evenings. Thank you.



We hope you enjoy reading our magazine.

The next edition will be in January 2021

If you would like to include any thing in a future magazine please contact John Bailey

email: john.bailey23a@btinternet.com

Dore Methodist Church, High Street, Dore, S17 3GU