



DORE METHODIST CHURCH



DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

The Magazine of the Church on the High Street.

Christmas Services.



Our Carol Service will be held
on SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER
at 4-00 p.m.

This will be led by Rev Gail Hunt
and members of the congregation.

Hot drinks and mince pies will be
served after the service in the
Church Hall.

Worship for Christmas Day will
be at 11-00 a.m. and the service
will be led by Rev Gail Hunt.

There will be no service on
Sunday 26th December.



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A seasonal message from Gail.



Dear Friends,

This magazine is published as we move further towards the festivals of Christmas and New Year, both celebrating new beginnings.

When we turn our Bible pages from the Old Testament to the New we do so with great ease but in historic terms, that turn of the page represents 400 years. 400 years of waiting with no great signs and no loud prophetic voices saying: "Thus said the Lord."

But then the day came for God to break the silence and he chose to break it not with the greatest auditory speech that human kind had ever heard! No, he chose a baby's cry. There is no greater sound which announces a new beginning than that of a new born baby. "*Unto us a child is born, to us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.*" (Isaiah 9: 6) And the child grew up turning tears to laughter, and despair to hope.

So as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas and move into a new year, 2022 AD, we do so knowing that that our Lord goes with us. The Gregorian calendar is the most widely used calendar in the world today and calculates each year in terms of *anno Domini* (AD) the Medieval Latin, which means "In the year of our Lord." As God has travelled with the people of the past, so He continues to travel with us today, and as dawn breaks on each new day, there is within it the cry of Christmas hope and the joy of the resurrection day.

Happy Christmas to you all and a blessed New Year

Shalom

Gail



THE GIFT

The greatest gift to all mankind was sent from heaven above.
This gift was wrapped in swaddling bands and labelled "With Gods' love".

Delivered by obedience, a quality so rare.
Mary's child was sent that we would know his love and care.

Oh tiny babe of Bethlehem, no wealth, no palace wall.
Your humble birth was meant to show Gods gift was meant for all.

So we must cherish gratefully and tend with loving care
Showing lifelong faithfulness and give our gift of prayer.

The sparrow asked the robin why it was only he
Whose picture was on all the cards around the Christmas tree.
It's because I have a coat of red, remembering how our Saviour
bled

Although Christmas is His birthday, I know he died for me.

Joy Depledge

How well do you know your carols?

Can you give the first line of the carols that contain the following words in one of the verses:

...pure, and free from sin's alloy...
...still through the cloven skies they come...
...wise men journey, led to worship by a star...
...walk in our streets again...
...is born of David's line...
...A prince, he said, in Jewry...
...seek the great desire of nations...
...son of God, O how bright...
...but his mother only...
...but wherewith for sacred sign?...
...we too will thither...
...sing that Beth'hem's little baby can...
...and his cradle was a stall...
...risen with healing in his wings...
...make a Christmas in my heart...



All these appear in "Singing the Faith".

Answers in the next edition!

Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who gave to this year's appeal by packing a shoe box themselves, also those who filled boxes on line. Thirty four boxes were brought to the church.

Over the years the church has been very generous in giving to this charity. I am sure they will have brought joy to the children who have received them, for many the only presents they receive.

As the charity has grown world wide, like so many organisations it has also become more centralised. At first if we filled fifty boxes they were collected from the church. Then the number was increased to 100 boxes. For a few years boxes collected from Christ Church were added to ours to make up the numbers. Alan, the person who collected the boxes from both churches, retired a few years ago so we were responsible for taking the boxes to a drop off centre. These are also being reduced. This year to take them to a centre that would accept more than a few boxes required a twenty mile round trip.

Because of the situation which gets worse each year I am no longer willing to continue organising the shoe box appeal. I am sure there are other causes nearer to us that we could support which will not get as much publicity as a world wide one. For instance this year there has been an appeal for toys for vulnerable families in the Gleadless area. Obviously it is up to the members of the church to decide if and what charity they wish to support in future.

Daphne.

COP26 and Climate Change



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) met in Glasgow for two weeks at the beginning of November. In his address to the conference, Sir David Attenborough had called on leaders to be “motivated by hope rather than fear” to avoid climate catastrophe. He urged leaders to “turn tragedy into triumph”.

Temperature

1.5°C was the agreed limit for the temperature to rise to avoid climate catastrophe but it was recognised that current national plans on cutting emissions by 2030 were inadequate and would lead to a disastrous 2.4°C of heating. Despite some resistance the argument was firmly won in favour of 1.5°C.

Coal

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and it was proposed to “phase out” coal-fired power generation but India insisted that the wording should be changed to “phase down” despite pleas from other developing countries. Australia, India, China and the US are some of the most coal-dependent countries.

Trees

There were promises to tackle deforestation.

Methane

There were also promises to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

Money

Rich countries had agreed in 2009 that poor countries should receive \$100bn (£75bn) a year from 2020 to help them cut emissions and cope with the impacts of the climate crisis. So far only \$80bn has been offered. Developing countries have been understandably angered by this so have been promised that \$500bn will be made available in the next five years.

Future Targets

Countries were asked to submit new plans to reduce their emissions for next year's conference in Egypt rather than leave it to 2030, which was the original proposal.

Our Response

What does all this mean for us here at Dore? We have to play our part, even though our contribution may seem insignificant compared to the responses expected of national governments. A number of churches in the Sheffield Circuit are Eco Churches, which means they have looked at their church premises to see what steps they could take to reduce their carbon footprint. A questionnaire assists in this survey by asking about heating, lighting and insulation. Another questionnaire asks questions about the worship and teaching of the church on caring for God's earth. There are short term goals and longer term considerations, work that has to be done on our premises as a matter of priority and work that ought to be done at a future date to make our premises more environmentally friendly. We need to draw up an action plan. At a meeting last month we were helped in our thinking by insights from the Porter Brook Community on the theme: “Caring for God's Creation – That Includes You!” We had a display of 12 informative boards, each dealing with a particular topic. We are grateful to Peter Kennett, a retired local geologist, for the loan of these boards.

David Willie.

Highlights from the last Church Council Meeting.

The Church Council met on 20th October - the first time for over a year that it had been able to meet other than by Zoom. Julia Stevens, a Church Warden at Christ Church, was welcomed as their representative. 11 members of the Church Council were present.

Items discussed included:-

- ◆ **Finance:** Eric presented the accounts for the year September 2020 to August 2021. These showed that we had ended the year with a deficit of £11,000. This was due to the loss in revenue from Offerings, Donations and Rental Income and unforeseen problems which made the replacement of the hall boiler and installation of a new fire alarm system necessary for us to be able to re-open the building. It was agreed to make a donation of £1000 to the appeal to support the Methodist Ministers Pension Reserve Fund, which is currently in deficit.
- ◆ **Property:** The Quinquennial Inspection of the building had been carried out by a Surveyor and John outlined the main points in the report. Whilst the building is generally well maintained there are some significant issues which will require costly attention within the next few years. The current concerns relate to roof repairs and investigation into the damp problem in the hall. More information on these items will be available shortly. A revised policy for letting our rooms was presented and accepted.
- ◆ **Pastoral:** Margaret reported that there had been 14 deaths in the last 18 months and two members had recently moved out of the area. Our membership is now 46.
- ◆ **Worship:** The Circuit Plan is now operational again. There will be at least one Local Arrangement service each quarter. It is hoped that we can continue to offer coffee after worship fortnightly. A Service of Remembrance for those who have lost family or friends during the last 18 months will be held on October 24th. For the foreseeable future we will need to administer Communion using the small pods which contain a wafer and wine.
- ◆ **Safeguarding:** Gail reminded the meeting that we currently did not have a Safeguarding Officer and it was the collective duty of the Trustees to ensure that our safeguarding policy is followed and upheld.
- ◆ **Mapping the Way Forward:** There are tough decisions and challenges to be made as we begin to reconnect with each other. The Monday Fellowship and Tuesday Group have merged and now meet monthly on a Tuesday afternoon. Sadly the 4T's Toddler Group has not been able to recommence and the Lunch Club is now operating as a Coffee Club. Thanks were expressed to Peter and Ann Smith for all their work for the Grace Food Bank during the pandemic. There have been formative discussions with Topley Rise about closer working relationships and it is hoped that better Ecumenical links will be made with Christ Church in the coming months.
- ◆ **Stationing Process:** Jackie outlined the process then underway by the Sheffield Circuit to appoint a Minister to replace Gail when she retires in Summer 2022. *[Subsequently the Circuit have invited Rev Mike Jones to be in pastoral charge of Dore, Topley Rise and Wesley Hall churches.]*
- ◆ **Next Meeting:** This has been arranged for Wednesday 3rd March 2022 at 2-00 p.m.

Membership of the Church Council.

If you are a member of the Methodist Church, and willing to serve on the Church Council for the next twelve months, please speak to Nigel, Jackie or Gail. This would be an opportunity for you to be involved in mapping the way forward for our Mission and Ministry, to be part of the decision making and act as a Trustee.

Rosemary Memory Café.

The first group to resume meeting in our church hall was the Rosemary Memory Café, which returned in July. Through the latter months of lockdown members and volunteers were able to “meet” via Zoom. This helped to maintain regular contact with members and their carers.

From July it has been good to meet together, in person. Old friends have been re-united and new people have been welcomed. A variety of activities are available, for example word searches, crosswords, and books about Sheffield to stimulate memories and conversation. Each time we meet there is a different focus to the afternoon - maybe musical, craft, or gentle exercise. At the meeting before Bonfire Night a session was led on creative writing, just asking for words associated with memories of bonfire nights past. This was very insightful and certainly got people talking! All this enabled the session leader to write a brief story using everyone’s words. This was a most interesting time for all.



The café is run in partnership with Age UK Sheffield and ably led by Eliza, one of their Community Development Workers. There is certainly a buzz about the hall when the group is meeting. In addition to others from Age UK Sheffield there are volunteers from the local community together with people from Christ Church and our church. Volunteers provide valuable input and support to the sessions.

We want to encourage people experiencing some memory loss, mild to moderate dementia and their carers to come along and join us for tea, coffee, cake, and conversation at our café. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 2pm - 4pm. All we ask that you let us know that you're coming simply by calling Eliza on 07384 833594.



Jackie Bailey.

New Group starting in January - CHAIR AEROBICS.

In partnership with Community Wellness Services a new Chair aerobics group will be starting in the hall on Mondays at 1-00 p.m. from 10th January. This will be a fun and friendly low intensity workout with coffee and refreshments afterwards. The cost will be £3 per session. For more information or to book a place telephone Community Wellness Services on (0114) 5537807.



Covenant Service - 2nd January 2022.

We will hold our annual Covenant Service on Sunday 2nd January. But what is the Covenant Service and when did it start?

Methodists hold an annual Covenant Service – a celebration of all that God has done and an affirmation that we give our lives and choices to God. It is an invitation for people to renew their covenant relationship with God.

Most churches hold the service at the beginning of the New Year, but some hold them in September at the start of the Methodist Year.

The Covenant Service goes back to John Wesley's time. He wanted a form of worship which would help people open themselves to God more fully. In 1755 Wesley created such a service, using material from the writings of the seventeenth-century puritans divines, Joseph and Richard Alleine. Over succeeding generations the Methodist Church has made changes to the service so that it continues to be relevant to congregations using it.

The aim of the service is to help people hear God's offer and God's challenge; to provide space for God to prompt and for people to respond. Yet, more than this, for the Covenant Service is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, it is an act of the whole faith community.

Both the Covenant Prayer and Service are regarded as jewels of Methodism and one of the most distinctive contributions of Methodism to the liturgy of the Church in general. Other churches are now discovering it and making use of it in their worshipping life.

The current Methodist Worship Book contains two different versions of the Covenant Prayer:

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom
you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for
you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it
be ratified in heaven. Amen

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I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
Wherever you may place me,
In all that I do and in all that I may endure;
When there is work for me and when there is
none;
When I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done when I am valued and when
I am disregarded;
When I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
When I have all things and when I have
nothing.
I willingly offer all that I have and am to serve
you, as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth be
fulfilled in heaven. Amen

Perhaps in the days immediately before our Covenant Service you may like to prayerfully consider the words of this prayer, and the commitments you are being asked to make.



We are now open for worship every Sunday Morning at 10-30 a.m. We have re-arranged the chairs with more space between them. We ask everyone to sanitise their hands on entering the building and, as a courtesy, we still recommend the wearing of face coverings.

We are using hymnbooks again and singing with our masks in place.

A number of our User Groups have returned and some new ones joined us.

For enquires about using our Hall please phone (0114) 235 1085.



This magazine can also be found in the pages of our church website along with our “Weekly Update” which contains all our notices.

Visit us at www.doremethodist.org.uk

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.

Minister:

Rev. Gail Hunt

Tel: 0114 236 0772



Church Stewards:

Nigel Thomas
Jackie Bailey

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

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this edition of our magazine.

Our “Weekly Update” includes our news and notices.

Contributions for each should be sent to John Bailey by email at john.bailey23a@btinternet.com or by phoning (0114) 2351085.

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