



# DORE METHODIST CHURCH



**January/February 2021.**

**The Magazine of the church on the High Street.**

## **Jottings from the Minister.**

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how those less fortunate than him lived. They spent a couple of days and nights on a farm of what was considered to be a deprived family. On their return from the trip the father asked his son; "How was the trip"? "It was great dad" came the reply. "Did you see how the poor people lived?" The father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. "So tell me," asked the father, "what did you learn from your experience?" The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of the garden and they have a river that has no end. We have imported lanterns in the garden and they have stars at night. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food but they grow theirs. We have walls round our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them." The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added. "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are."



Isn't perspective a wonderful thing! There is much that seems to have been taken away from us during this pandemic, but when I look back there is so much we have gained too. For me, here are a few of the things I have gained. There is: an appreciation of the seasons and nature; new opportunities to witness; an awareness of the many ways to worship outside a building; an insight into the incredible resilience of human nature and a greater ability to work remotely. Hebrews 12v2 says: Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.

Blessings

*Gail*

## **Included inside this edition...**

**Page 2-3** We opened...briefly

**Page 4- 5** Shirley Rowan and Joan Thorpe

**Page 6** Lockdown Library & Advent Window

**Page 8** Baby Basics

## We opened....briefly!

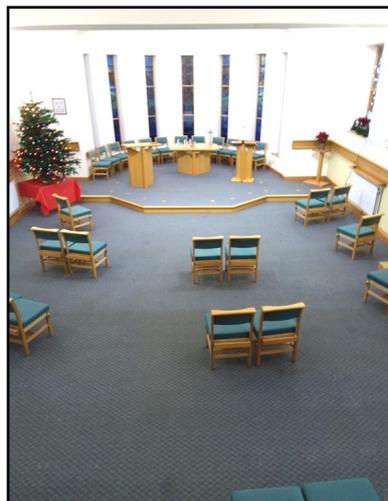
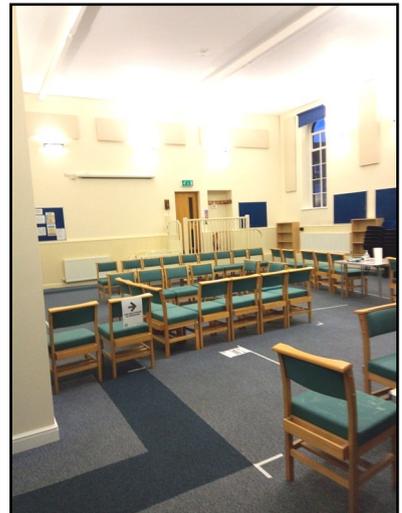
After a lot of hard work and effort we finally managed to re-open our church for three services during Advent, complying fully with all the covid-19 requirements contained in the Risk Assessment approved by the Church Council and Circuit.

There were a number of practical differences. Firstly there was a "one-way" route through the building with everyone coming in via the door from the car park to the hall. Initially on entry we checked that everyone was wearing a face covering and for "Track and Trace" purposes we confirmed that we had the correct contact details. Then, maintaining 2 metres social distancing, people moved on to the hand sanitisation station where everyone had to sanitise their hands. Moving on further through the hall to the bottom of the steps, a Steward then took everyone to their seat in church.

In church there was a capacity of only 20 and the chairs were arranged to respect social distancing. Sadly there was no singing allowed, but in all the services there was "live" organ music played. On Wednesday 16th December we held an Advent Communion Service, with everyone being given a sealed wafer and cup of wine for use at the appropriate point in the service. The following Sunday we held two services, the morning led by Gail and the afternoon by David Willie. Both services followed a similar pattern and included Christmas readings, reflections and organ improvisations on carols.

Between 10 and 15 people attended each service and we received very favourable comments after each one. During the planning stage we knew that for very understandable reasons many of our congregation felt it was too early to return to worship, but others felt that with appropriate precautions in place they would feel comfortable.

We had also planned a Christmas Morning service, but as we



got closer to Christmas the covid-19 situation had deteriorated and some peoples' Christmas plans had also changed due to reduced opportunities to mix with families. So we decided not to continue with this service.

We were also planning two services in January, but again after reconsidering the situation at the beginning of the month the Leadership Team decided not to continue with these. The following day the current "lockdown" was announced, and whilst within the rules churches can open for worship the strong recommendation of the Methodist Church at national and Circuit level is that this does not happen.

So for the foreseeable future our building will, sadly, remain closed. Our weekly "Update" and material for worship at home will continue to be produced and circulated both on line and in paper format for those without access to a computer. We are also trialling 2 services via "Zoom" on Sundays 17th and 31st January. Details in our Weekly Update.

As soon as the current restrictions are eased the Leadership Team will reconsider the position and, if possible, reintroduce worship in our building, bearing in mind, of course, any remaining restrictions that are applicable.

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Another year in, another year out  
How time flies by we all say.  
The old year has gone, a new year begins  
A new celebration day.

We all really mean it and hope it comes true  
"Happy New Year" we all say  
Good health and happiness we wish for you  
This day and every day.

Our wish is for peace all over the world  
For the children, our love and our care  
Praying that they will all grow and know  
That God's love is everywhere.

So, "Happy New Year", let's all play a part  
And all join, one with the other  
Wishing God's peace to our fellowmen  
Showing our love for each other.

**Joy Depledge**

## **Sad news.**

We have been saddened by the recent deaths of two members of our congregation, Shirley Rowan and Joan Thorpe. We express our condolences to their families and friends. Their funerals have been held at Hutcliffe Wood and in accordance with the current guidelines on a handful of people were able to attend. The eulogies given by Gail at Shirley's service and David Willie at Joan's service, are shared below:

### **Constance Shirley Rowan.**

Shirley was born in Bradford on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1934. The middle daughter of Bill & Freda Barraclough, sister to the late Ralph and Gill. She lived a long, happy and fulfilled 86 years of life and passed away very peacefully and suddenly at home, seemingly whilst writing Christmas cards. She was fit & alert to the very last day, and the family are so grateful for that. Lisa & Steve had been having daily phone calls and regular visits with her right until the last day, and indeed Shirley spoke happily to Gill on the morning she died.

Before the 2020 lockdown Shirley enjoyed regular lunches at the Dore Garden Centre café, meals out with Steve and they were often joined by Lisa & family too. She enjoyed completing the daily crossword in the Daily Telegraph, and it was not unknown for her to make up a word if it conveniently fitted!

Shirley was looking forward to a Christmas at Lisa's and to a better 2021. She had managed lockdown very well with a lovely house and garden to walk around and good neighbours & friends.

Family was very important to Shirley and she was very proud of her children and their achievements. Always a very supportive and interested Mum. She was also a proud grandmother of Christo, Olivia and James and followed all their progress with close interest and much love.

Let me just take you back for a moment to Shirley's childhood where she attended Bradford Girls Grammar School and was described as a model pupil. She moved to Sheffield to become an optician, initially living in the YWCA where she met lifelong friends like Monica Ward. It was in October 1959 that she married Jack and they shared a long and happy marriage until Jack passed away 27 August 2008

Shirley was very active in a number of organisations including the Round Table/41 Club, Ladies Circle and President of the Sheffield Ladies Circle in the early 1970s. She was Treasurer in The House of Help (a house for women in distress/at risk of domestic abuse) A Supporter of young riders, and very was active in the Dore Methodist Church for many years, especially supporting "Soul roots" a Christian youth organisation

By accident more than design, sister Gill and (late) husband Mike moved to Sheffield not long after Shirley and Jack and they enjoyed living close to one another and enjoying the magnificent Peak District views on the doorstep. She was also blessed to have great neighbours over many years, including Peter & Jennifer Fox, Brenda Keeling, Jean Henderson, Barbara Mangles

In summary all of the family say they are left with happy memories of their Mum, Grandmother, sister and aunt. There is a sadness that she left them too early, but their memories bring a smile.

A lovely lady who kept active & fit and was chatty right to the end.



## JOAN THORPE

We are here today to remember Joan, an extraordinary person in so many ways. Mum to Sue, John, Jill, Mark and Peter. Granny to James, Kitty, Sarah, Harry and Will. Sister-in-law to Anne, Michael and Anne. A loyal friend to so many people, some of whom will be watching this service from home.

Joan was born and brought up in Beauchief and, on marriage to Graham, she moved to Dore where she lived until the last few years of her life. Joan and Graham were very active members of Dore Methodist Church, making many friendships that lasted a lifetime.

Joan and Graham created a very happy, stable home for Sue and John, firstly in a newly built house on Old Hay Close and then building their own home at Overdale. Happy times were spent walking in Derbyshire, holidays camping in the south of France and, of course, attending Hillsborough regularly.

Joan loved to travel with Graham, visiting so many countries and making friends with people wherever they went. The family joked it was lucky they lived close to the airport and Dover so Granny and Grandpa could visit on their way to a new adventure. The family were so lucky that, after Graham's untimely death, Joan continued to travel with her friend, June, gaining the nickname of "gap year granny".

All the family remember how much Joan loved life despite the terrible sorrow the death of her beloved son, John, and adored husband, Graham, brought her. She faced each of these terrible times with bravery helped by her faith.

She got on with life again, supporting Sue and Jill and their families, loving being involved in what the grandchildren were doing, never missing a celebration in any of the families' lives. She joined Instagram to make sure she didn't miss out on what the younger generation were up to, although it would be fair to say she didn't quite understand just how it worked, leading to the odd moment of hilarity for some.

Joan moved to Broomgrove nursing home where she adapted to a new way of living with her usual pragmatic and stoical response. She made the most of all the new opportunities, joining in with the activities, continuing to go to the theatre, out to coffee or lunch and involving herself with the Residents' meetings.

The way the care staff at Broomgrove looked after Joan in the last few days of her life showed how much she was loved by so many and how many lives she had touched. She will be missed more than she would ever have imagined.

Joan's caring nature was shown in her role as a Pastoral Visitor and in her support for W.O.R.K, a charity providing life skills and occupational training for people with learning disabilities.

Joan would have been thrilled to hear this morning's news that Joe Root had scored 228 in the Sri Lanka Test Match. She and Graham had watched his progress since watching him play at Abbeydale.



We give thanks for the lives of Shirley and Joan and continue to remember their family and friends at this time.

## Lockdown Library.

We imagine many of us have spent time catching up on reading during lockdown. Here are a few we have read or are reading since Christmas.



*A Promised Land.* Here we have Barack Obama's first volume of his presidential memoirs, described as 'A riveting, deeply personal account of history in the making - from the President who inspired us to believe in the power of democracy'. It runs to over 700 pages and is not cheap. We bought it for half price thanks to an offer in our daily newspaper. As he reflects on his time in office, Barack Obama reveals the difficulties of balancing the expectations of a nation looking for change and the challenges of high risk decision making. He states that democracy is not a gift from on high but something founded on empathy and common understanding. It is a good read.

*Morgan's Men.* This was a Christmas present and is the inside story of England's rise from cricket World Cup humiliation to glory. Eoin Morgan was England's captain in the embarrassing failure at the 2015 World Cup and in their heart-stopping victory four years later, perhaps the greatest one-day match of all time.

*One August Night.* Victoria Hislop has written this sequel to *The Island*. It is set in Greece and based on facts. The island of Spinalonga closed its leper colony on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1957. We have the story of a family racked by jealousy and insecurity. There are really two stories running through it, a love story and a whodunnit, providing interesting character studies.

*Lockdown: Lexicon & Legacy.* There are various contributors to this book. Through experience, observation and reflection they provide a snapshot of coping with life, under the Coronavirus Lockdown, during the Spring and Summer of 2020. Bob Davies, a Methodist Minister and a former colleague, has published over 200 books on a variety of subjects in the last thirty years through his non-profit-making venture, Church in the Market Place Publications. The contributions include history, theology, memoirs, novels, poetry and sport - ranging from DIY dentistry to cuddlesticks! Please contact us if you would like to borrow it.



*Daphne and David*

## Dore Village Society - Living Advent Window - and Light of the World.

Last November we became aware of the initiative of the Dore Village Society to organise "Living Advent Windows" around the village, inviting businesses and householders to take part and decorate their windows and unveil them on a given day. We applied and were asked to have our window ready for Saturday 5th December. Thanks to efforts by Bridget, Jackie and John we were able to meet the challenge and the picture on the following page illustrates our contribution.

The windows showed various aspects of the Nativity scene, surrounded by small fairy lights. Above the scenes there was a host of “starry lights” to complete the display. During darkness the windows were particularly attractive to passers by.

We received a number of complimentary comments on our display.

Elsewhere in the village many windows were very colourfully decorated, which helped in what was a very unusual Christmas period.

Although the building was not open for the usual Christmas celebrations we did ensure that the real story of Christmas was told in the centre of the village.



Tuesday 2nd February is Candlemas Day - a traditional Christian festival that commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of Jesus. In the past this was also the day that church candles were blessed. Perhaps a day that we don't celebrate nowadays, but the poem below, written by Jan Sutch Pickard a member of the Iona Community, may sum up our thinking at this time of year:

**A flame that cannot be put out.**

In the dark days: under rain-heavy clouds,  
Among broken branches, on sodden earth,  
The snowdrops light their candles.

A flame that cannot be put out by darkness or gale or doubt.

In the salt wind, rooks buckle like broken umbrellas:  
As the bare trees heave a great sigh, the snowdrops tremble.  
But their flame cannot be put out by darkness or gales or doubt.

Perfect, as though carved in green-veined marble,  
Life pulsing through tissue delicate as the eyelids of a sleeping child,  
Curved like small fingers, holding on.

Their flame is steadfast: it is full of hope and new beginnings.  
Darkness or gales or doubt cannot put it out.

© Jan Sutch Pickard. Taken from “Hay and Stardust” produced by Wild Goose Publications.  
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## Baby Basics.

Baby Basics, the charity formed in Sheffield in 2009, was previously supported by our Tuesday Group as their charity of the year. A recent news item on BBC's "Look North" highlighted the increased need during the pandemic for the services provided by Baby Basics. They rely on donations so if you are able to help out by buying or passing on any of the items listed for the Moses basket starter packs they, and all the new mums; would be extremely grateful.

Maternity pads

Sanitary towels

Hand soap

Baby soap

Baby shampoo

Mum shampoo

Newborn nappies

Baby wipes

or either new or good second hand new born clothing, bedding and towels would also be appreciated. For more information and how to get any gifts to Baby Basics please phone (0114) 2787262.

## 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!

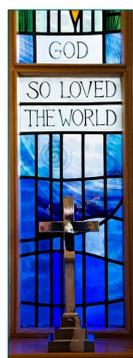
Visit us at [www.doremethodist.org.uk](http://www.doremethodist.org.uk)



**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 also remains closed for all activities**

**Church Stewards:**

Nigel Thomas

Jackie Bailey

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We hope that you have enjoyed reading this edition of our magazine. The next edition is planned for **March 2021**. We issue a "Weekly Update" which also includes worship material for the forthcoming Sunday.

Contributions for each should be sent to John Bailey by email at [john.bailey23a@btinternet.com](mailto:john.bailey23a@btinternet.com) or by phoning (0114) 235 1085.

Any items for the "Weekly Update" are needed by **TUESDAY** evenings.