

Magazine & Newsletter



Morley Community Church February - March 2021

Morley Community Church - a mission church for Morley

**A warm welcome every Sunday at 10.00 am
Currently meeting at Zion Chapel, Merlyn Rees Avenue, off Wesley
Street, Morley, LS27 9SZ
(at bottom corner of Morrison's Car Park)**

Worship Services in February & March

<u>Sun 7 Feb</u>	Cllr Andy Dalton
<u>Sun 14 Feb</u>	Cllr Andy Dalton
<u>Sun 21 Feb</u>	<i>To be arranged</i>
<u>Sun 28 Feb</u>	<i>To be arranged</i>
<u>Sun 7 March</u>	<i>To be arranged</i>
<u>Sun 14 March</u>	<i>To be arranged</i>
<u>Sun 21 March</u>	<i>To be arranged</i>
<u>Sun 28 March</u> <i>British Summer Time begins</i>	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
<u>Sun 4 April</u>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>

Church website: www.morleycommunitychurch.org.uk

***This magazine is a cooperative edition between Morley and Birstall Community
Churches***

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

WAITING IN HOPE

In the movie '*Hachi: A Dog's Tale*' a college professor befriended a stray Akita puppy named Hachi. The dog expressed his loyalty by waiting at the train station each day for the professor to return from work.

One day, the professor suffered a fatal stroke. Hachi waited hours at the train station, and for the next ten years he returned each day—awaiting His loving master.

Luke recounts the story of a man named Simeon who patiently waited for the coming of his Master (Luke chapter 2 verses 25 - 35). The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would not see death until he saw the Messiah. As a result, Simeon kept waiting for the One who would provide "*salvation*" for God's people. When Mary and Joseph entered the temple with the recently -born Jesus, the Holy Spirit whispered to Simeon that He was the One! The wait was finally over! Simeon held Christ in his arms—the hope, salvation, and comfort for all people.

We find ourselves in a season of waiting. We wait for the pandemic to end; we wait for better days. Of course, we wait for the glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ when He will return to this world at his Second Advent. As we wait may we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah with fresh ears: "*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint*" (Isaiah chapter 40 verse 31). As we await Jesus' return, He provides the hope and strength we need for each new day.

A Bible verse: "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope" (Psalm 130 verse 5)

A prayer: "*Jesus, I will wait for You. Through pain, tears, and uncertainty, help me to not become weary but to rest in Your provision. Give me your hope in the storms of life*"

Morley Matters

As with every organisation - especially churches - Morley Community Church continues to be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown regulations. It is like being on a roller coaster. We were able to meet at our normal venue (Newlands Chapel) in December and the first Sunday in January. Then came Lockdown Number 3. While church congregations are still permitted to meet, nevertheless the lockdown announcement resulted in the Morley & North Kirklees Methodist Circuit (from whom we rent the chapel premises) deciding to close all its premises to all services and user groups for the foreseeable future. We do not anticipate any change in circumstances - perhaps until Easter. This decision has left us without a base to meet. However the trustees of Zion Chapel in the centre of the town hearing of our plight very quickly made their premises available to us. We are truly grateful to them for this. While our worship services continue to be streamed on Zoom over the internet, for those who are able - there is a continuing opportunity to meet for a Sunday morning service together. So please note the new location. Obviously we have to observe the standard protocols (eg wear a mask, sanitise hands, no singing etc etc). We expect to use Zion Chapel for the time being and also continue to stream services over the internet.

In our Sunday morning services we have been following a series on the first half of the Apostles Creed. This creed is one of the oldest and well known of the Christian church. You will enjoy listening to the phrases of the creed being unpacked and explained - whether you attend in person or connect over zoom.

It is proving difficult to do much forward planning at all for anything. We all pray that the advent of the vaccine, lockdown restrictions, and wise living will see the virus recede so that life can resume some normality.

One of the other casualties of the pandemic and lockdown is that the annual visit of the students from Capernwray Bible College for an Outreach Week at the end of February will not be happening. This will be the first time in sixteen years that we will not be blessed by a team of enthusiastic bible students joining us for an extended period of outreach. We trust we will be able to resume in 2022.

THE APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into Hell,
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
The holy Catholic Church,
The Communion of Saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
*Amen.***

The **Apostles' Creed** is one of the earliest statement of Christian belief. As the church grew and spread throughout Asia Minor and the Mediterranean region it had to answer the questions - what does the church believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the church and the life to come? Early heresies made the need for creeds even more important. Later creeds such as the Nicene, Athanasian, and Chalcedon creeds addressed particular deviations from mainline Christian doctrine and expanded the various statements we find in the Apostles Creed.

On Sunday mornings we are taking a sentence from the Apostles Creed each week, unpacking its meaning and seeking to understand the vital truths of Scripture it is trying to convey. We hope to complete half of the Creed by early February and then will return to the remainder later in the year.

You may have memorised the Apostles Creed as a child or when you came to personal faith in Jesus for yourself. Make sure you don't miss the remainder of these soul-enriching expositions!

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND 2021

Like many people, my regular routines were swept away in 2020. Weekends blended into weekdays with just the pale substitute of zoom church as we hungered for 'real' fellowship' in a real room with real people. Virtual church really did feel virtual most of the time.

It underlined for me the vital importance of regular, consistent bible reading - not just as a 'holy habit' but as a way of forcing myself to be grounded in the unseen realities of the world when life took on an unreal haze of lockdown fog. At the very moment when the future seemed more uncertain than ever, I needed the reassurance that God was in control, that He had plans for my good and the growth of the gospel - even though it was hidden from my eyes. I needed to have repeated to me daily these truths, and be encouraged to live a life for Christ now, rather than just putting everything on hold for 2021.

And it seems I am not alone. A recent survey discovered that more than 50% of respondents had been reading the Bible more this year - mainly as a function of simply having more time, with routines being less pressured. Of the 10% who reported reading the Bible less this year, the main reason given was anxiety, stress and depression leading to a lack of focus and motivation.

My guess, as we come out of lockdown, is that we will need to cultivate the practice of time with God each day even more. Having spent a year or more in frustrated isolation, the temptation will be to fill our lives with activity again, to throw ourselves into doing all the stuff that we have been prevented from achieving for the last year. And surely it will be a relief to be able to gather at church, invite friends and neighbours into our homes and meet up for coffee with asks or mitigation. But each of these activities is fruitless if it is faithless. We need to remind ourselves to see the world with the eyes of faith, to speak with God's wisdom and to walk in his ways. This is what it means to follow Christ in this world. And anchoring our lives in His word day by day is the way to do that and to please our Saviour.

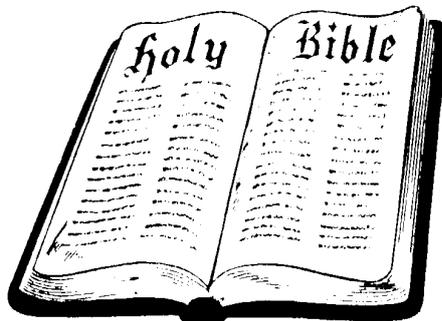
As C S Lewis said "The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists of shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life coming flowing in".

This practice of spiritual 'recalibration' each day should not be seen as just as a solo effort. Changing habits is hard. That's why people sign up to dieting clubs and join gyms - because we need the mutual support and encouragement of others. And that's why God calls us to walk with others in the christian life, not to walk on our

own. So this new year, why not refresh your daily walk with God by encouraging others to join with you - a friend, another family member, or people you are close to at church. And take the opportunity to continue that encouragement throughout the year. In 2021, we will need it more than ever.

Tim Thornborough (From the Good Book Hub Jan/Feb 21)

Regular Activities Midweek Over Zoom



TUESDAY 7.30 pm Zoom Prayer Session

A short prayer session over Zoom interceding for the needs of Morley and the wider world.

WEDNESDAY 11.00 am Zoom Coffee Morning

Join others over the internet or on the telephone for coffee, chat and quiz.

THURSDAY 7.30– 8.45 pm Zoom Prayer & Bible Hour

Studying Scripture together over the internet

Zoom ID- 9638133406 passcode –R0mans08

Please note the '0' in Romans is the numeral zero

GIGGLE IN THE MIDDLE

- 1. Why did the man get heartburn after eating birthday cake?**
He forgot to take off the candles!
- 2. How do you throw a space party?**
You planet!
- 3. Did you hear that Morrison's are giving away batteries?**
They are free of charge!
- 4. What do you call a bunch of chess masters bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?**
Chess nuts in an open foyer!
- 5. Why do scuba divers fall backwards out of the boat?**
Because if they fell forwards they'd still be in the boat.
- 6. Why did the old woman fall into the well?**
Because she couldn't see that well.
- 7. How old was the cave man on his birthday?**
Stone Age.
- 8. A thief broke into the police headquarters during the night and took all the toilets.**
Cops say they have nothing to go on.
- 9. What does every birthday end with?**
The letter Y
- 10. It's always hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they're always taking things literally**

Amazon Shopping

Are you an internet shopper? Do you shop on line with Amazon? If so why not support Leeds City Mission as you make your purchases?

Go on the internet first to smile.amazon.co.uk. Customers are prompted to select a charitable organisation. Amazon will give 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT and other shipping fees) of eligible *AmazonSmile* purchases to the charitable organisations selected by their customers ie Leeds City Mission. You then progress to making your purchases and the percentage donated is allocated to Leeds City Mission. Amazon then transfer accumulated amounts at various points in the year.



THE REAL EASTER EGG

The idea for a Real Easter Egg began in 2008 when David Marshall, who founded Meaningful Chocolate, was given an Easter egg.

On the side of the box it read: 'Easter is the festival of chocolate and loveliness'. He searched for an Easter egg which mentioned the Christian story of Easter.

It became clear that out of the 80 million eggs on sale there was not a single manufacturer who was willing to mention the christian aspects of the festival. They had evacuated completely any reference to the Christian faith and its festival on which easter eggs are based! So he asked churches and schools to help crowd fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company to manufacture the UK's first 'Real Easter Egg'.

For it to be a 'Real Easter Egg' it had to reflect the Easter themes of hope and new life and do three things - have a copy of the Easter story in the box, be made from Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable causes.

Eleven years on more than a million eggs have been sold with over 750,000 sent through the post. The rest have been sold through retailers and

supermarkets. Nearly £275,000 has been donated to charitable projects with Fairtrade Premium fees paid to farmers allowing them to buy everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

As such, The Real Easter Egg campaign is one of the biggest evangelism initiatives in the UK. It crosses all denominations and offers a simple way to share the Easter Story.

This year the supermarkets aren't selling any Real Easter Eggs due to the impact of the pandemic - they had a disastrous easter last year with lockdown. So the Meaningful Chocolate Company are depending even more on direct sales as well as church schools and small traders such as cathedrals and Christian bookshops etc.

The free 24 page Easter book drawings are beautiful and will delight children and adults. It is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso. The book contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities. Over its pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is a beautiful way to share the story of Easter with family and friends.

This year there are eight eggs/bars:

Original Rainbow egg- 2021 design (150g) RRP £4.50

This includes a large 24 page Easter story-activity book, a prize competition and a super thick milk chocolate egg (150g) with a lovely creamy taste.

Dark Chocolate Egg - 2021 design (180g) RRP: £5.50

Inside this plastic free dark chocolate edition of The Real Easter Egg you will find a simple Easter guide and an Easter sharing book, 3 dark chocolate Mini Squares (3x5g) and a luxury smooth dark chocolate egg (165g).

White Chocolate Edition 2021 design (280g) £4.50

The 2021 White edition includes a large 24 page Easter story-activity book, a prize competition and a white Fairtrade chocolate egg (125g) with a lovely creamy taste. 29% cocoa - Palm Oil & plastic free.

Special Edition 2021 design (280g) £9.99

Inside this specially crafted edition of The Real Easter Egg you will find a simple guide to Easter, a limited edition A5 Easter Card, a Fairtrade orange milk chocolate bar (80g), and Fairtrade milk chocolate egg (200g) with a lovely creamy taste. a limited edition A5 Easter Card

Fun Pack - 2021 (120g) £5

Have fun with enclosed Easter story and activities poster, then hide and hunt the eggs. Includes an A3 Easter story-activity booklet, and six Fairtrade milk chocolate eggs with a lovely creamy taste. Palm Oil free. (Colour of eggs may vary).

Sharing Box 2021 design - all new content (£30)

Contains 30 high quality midi Fairtrade Belgian chocolate eggs and 30 Easter story-activity booklets. Foil reads 'Christ is Risen'. 600g (20g x 30 midi eggs). 35% cocoa - Palm Oil free.

Fairtrade Easter Blessings Bar (milk and dark)

The bar carries a unique illustration and is made in the UK using Fairtrade certified milk chocolate (35% Cocoa). Also available in dark chocolate (70% Cocoa). Sold in singles and cases of 12 RRP £3

Mug of Real Easter Eggs (£10.80)

Each box contains a mug with an exclusive Easter design. Inside the mug there is a fold out Easter story and 3 foiled midi eggs (3*20g) made from Fairtrade milk chocolate. The mug design includes the greeting *Happy Easter* and a quote from Mark: *'The angel said... He is risen'*.

If you are buying an easter egg this year why not make the Real Easter Egg your first choice. You can order your egg by phone or e-mail from:

The Meaningful Chocolate Company

Tel: 01948 831 043

e-mail: info@meaningfulchocolate.co.uk

Website: www.realeasteregg.co.uk

‘My Times Are in His Hands’

An appreciation for the life of

IAN DRING

13 October 1946 – 30 December 2020

Our friend and Christian brother Ian Dring was “*promoted to glory*” on the 30 December. He had been diagnosed with leukaemia and went into hospital for a blood transfusion. He contracted Covid-19 whilst in hospital and his body found it difficult to cope. He was taken after a short time into the presence of the Lord and away from his earthly labours.

Ian Dring was always a welcome visitor at our church. He first came to preach at Morley Community Church in 2009. He was the treasurer of the International Miners Mission and made almost annual visits to our church to update us about their worldwide work. Ian’s ministry was always bible based, full of spiritual content, interesting and engaging.

All of us looked forward to him visiting Morley (usually accompanied by his wife Ronna) and hearing updates on the work of the International Miners Mission and his visits to IMM fields of work around the world. Many of us felt a kinship had developed between our church congregation and Ian and thus IMM. He was always good with people one-to-one and our fellowship with him was always rich and deep.

Ian was a valued member of the UK IMM Council for nearly 20 years. He was an extremely competent, ever helpful and reliable treasurer. His business experience stood him in good stead for this role. His role in local church leadership (at Measham Baptist Church in North Leicestershire) and extensive preaching were other valuable assets which were put to good use in IMM. A peace-loving man of great humility who always looked for ways forward that would honour his Lord and Master yet with total generosity of heart towards those IMM tries to support across the world.

Perhaps the highlight of all his visits to Morley was the underground memorial service for the Morley Mining Disaster held at Caphouse Colliery Museum in 2012. This was something completely different for everyone – but Ian rose to the occasion faithfully presenting the gospel message to the assembled ‘congregation’ of

Morley Community Church - a mission church for Morley

local people/dignitaries/descendants deep underground. In the 20 year life of our church this occasion was most probably the most important event and most worthwhile outreach opportunity we have ever organised.



Ian was always 'game' to having his photograph taken in unusual places with a mining connection. He was always most cooperative to requests from Andy Dalton to take multifarious photographs from various angles. The Morley Miner sculpture outside Morley Town Hall, the Coal Tub on the Fountain Street roundabout, standing underneath the 'Miners Arms' pub sign, the sculpture of miners hacking coal in a gallery near the old Gomersal Pit at Birstall, the Lofthouse Pit Disaster memorial at Wrenthorpe etc. All these provided excellent photographs and articles subsequently published in the local newspapers and also in the IMM 'Safety Lamp' magazine. Without his willing cooperation these articles would not have been possible.

Andy Dalton had planned for Ian's next visit for the picture to be in front of the second largest 'walking' dragline machine in the world at nearby Swillington. It weighs 1220 tons and was used to mine surface coal ('open cast mining') from the area now occupied by a Country Park. The machine is bigger than a block of flats. Alas this photo opportunity is not to be.

Ian's wife Ronna wrote to ourselves at Morley Community Church to let us know that Ian had died. She said "*He was very peaceful at the end because he obviously knew where he was going*".

Psalm 116 verse 15 states "*Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*"

What a difference personal faith in Jesus makes when it comes to crossing that great river at the end of our lives! Ian had found a Saviour earlier in his life who made all the difference. He faithfully served his Lord in his church and through IMM.

Our condolences and prayers are with Ronna and her family. We and many others will miss him greatly.

Ian was interred at Packington Cemetery, North Leicestershire in the afternoon of Monday 25 January. This was followed by a Thanksgiving Service for his life at Measham Baptist Church later in the afternoon.

You can watch this service on the internet. Here is the internet link:

<https://www.meashambaptistchurch.com/inlovingmemory>

Scroll down the page and then click on the Youtube link

Birstall News

JOINT SERVICES were held with our friends at Birstall Community Church on Christmas Day and Sunday 27 December (both at Birstall). On Christmas Day our own Andy Dalton took the service preaching on the announcement and acclamation of the angels to the shepherds in Luke chapter 2. Pastor Ben Hutton from Thornhill Baptist Church preached at the service after Boxing Day on the theme of pondering based on the text *“But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.”* (Luke chapter 2 verse 19). At a time when some members of our respective congregations were away on holiday or isolating/shielding in the current pandemic it was good to worship together.

Birstall stalwarts Sheila Stone (now resident in the Priestley Care Home) and Mary Smith are both unable to come out to services at the moment due to health and restriction issues. We were recently able to take each of them a bunch of flowers from our church to encourage them. Mick Pearce slipped on the ice just after Christmas and bruised/cut himself. Now recovered he is at home with wife Eunice. Birstall Church suspended services during January due to bad weather conditions and the advanced age of a number of their congregation. However they are resuming services in February.

BIRSTALL
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
*Smithies
Lane*

*Morley & Birstall
Community Churches are
both affiliated to the EFCC
– Evangelical Fellowship
of Congregational Churches*

SUNDAY	10.30 am	Worship Service
MONDAY	2.00 pm	Crafts Group
MONDAY	4.00 pm	Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

All activities apart from the Sunday morning service are temporarily on hold until the coronavirus pandemic recedes and normal programmes can be resumed. The Sunday morning worship service is held at the chapel in Smithies Lane observing social distancing and other related safety protocols.

MORLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Below are the current regular weekly activities of the church. During the next two months physical worship services are taking place at Zion Chapel, Merlyn Rees Avenue, off Wesley Street, Morley, LS27 9SZ (at bottom corner of Morrison's Car Park) All of these are streamed on Zoom over the internet for the duration of the coronavirus outbreak. Normal services and activities will be resumed as soon as possible!

SUNDAY	10.00 am	Worship Service <i>During the current coronavirus lockdown a worship service is held at Zion Chapel observing social distancing and other related safety protocols. The service is also streamed on Zoom for those unable to attend the normal service</i>
TUESDAY	7.30 pm	Zoom Prayer Session <i>A short prayer session over Zoom interceding for the needs of Morley and the wider world.</i>
WEDNESDAY	11.00 am	Zoom Coffee Morning <i>Join others over the internet or on the telephone for coffee, chat and quiz.</i>
THURSDAY	7.30– 8.45 pm	Zoom Prayer & Bible Hour <i>Studying Scripture together over the internet</i>

Further Details:

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