

Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed how most of the conversations we have or join in are concerned with the here and now, with the immediate present and I think most of us feel that is natural. Sometimes we do go on a bit but very rarely do we mention the worries of the past. Today's worries tend to occupy much of our thoughts and energies and stop us from using our unique ability to look into the future where hope is to be found.

As you read this, we will be entering the time of year when hope will be in many people's hearts, Spring has returned and we will soon be celebrating Easter. It is a joyful time when we look forward to renewal and new life. Many of the cards and pictures depict Spring and there are lots of eggs (mainly chocolate) on offer, both are great symbols of the message that Easter brings. Symbols can only remind and guide us to the truth. Above all else Easter is about the long term, about the promise of life which has no end, a future that is filled with hope.

As Christians most of us do not reflect the Easter message very well, sadly our lives, our attitudes and our conversations do not readily convey this message of hope. We are so rooted in the present and the short term that we give the impression to those around us that there is no long term future. We seldom speak of our future hope and so our lives become a reflection of that state of mind.

Yet the truth is so very different, Jesus came into this world to give us life. Born into a working family, growing up to be a carpenter, he then spent 3 years teaching and healing many people until he was arrested and executed on a wooden cross and buried on the Friday. On the following Sunday morning Jesus rose from death to life, giving hope to all. It is the greatest hope, the certain hope of eternal life when we choose to follow him.

That is the Easter message, so will you follow Him?

Yours

Bob Stevens

THIS AND THAT

Our New Rector

The Collation and Induction of The Reverend Tony Sophianou will take place on Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm in Church followed by a faith meal. Everyone is welcome.

Christian Aid Appeal 2011

This year the annual appeal is during the week 15-21 May. Last year for various reasons, areas in the village were without a collector - in fact several districts that were usually covered were not. This seems such a pity, as the people of Sprotbrough are so willing to support the appeal and are generous in their giving. If anyone feels they are able to help with collecting, you could contact us by telephone on Doncaster 851503 or by e-mail on gordonandpamhair@blueyonder.co.uk.

You do not need to be a Church Member to help with the collection.

Many thanks,

Gordon & Pam Hair.

An evening with the brass players



Appearing at:
St. Mary's Church, Sprotbrough.
Wednesday April 27th 2011
at 7.30pm
Tickets £6.00

available from Bill Cavill 852293
Betty Brockman 852046
Wendy Taylor



Sprotbrough WI Spring Fayre

It's spring again so do come to support our annual Spring Fayre

Saturday, April 16th 2011

10.00 am - 12 noon

in St. Mary's Church Hall

There will be something for everyone including Raffle, Tombola, Cakes, Children's Stall, 'Blue Stall', Scents and Soaps, Jewellery and more.

Admission £1 including refreshment

This year the donation will be made to 'Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice'

St. Mary's Church Roof

We are delighted at the support many of you have given to re-roof our church and we raised £168,000 pounds to do this. Unfortunately when the work started it was realised that the problem was much worse than expected. The death watch beetle, that was treated some years ago, had eaten away at the rafters to such an extent that they crumbled away. All the money was used to complete the first phase, the chancel roof and tower but we now have the rest of the roof to do and English Heritage identified other essential work to be done in the church.

As many of you will have heard English Heritage have given us a grant for £103,00 to be matched by a similar amount from us, to do this next phase. When we were told about this grant we were asked to wait until English Heritage made a big public launch before we were to say anything so we kept quiet! Then they launched it without letting us know and we were caught on the hop. We are however delighted to accept this grant and now the hard work of raising the equivalent amount starts all over again. Watch this space!

MOTHERS UNION

Thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning in February. It was a lovely atmosphere and we raised the fantastic sum of £463.00 for Mothers' Union "Away from it all" This project provides a caravan holiday for families who live in the Sheffield Diocese. The families are referred to the Mothers' Union by local Clergy and social services and they are families who may not have had a holiday for several years and are in desperate need of a break. The holidays are much appreciated and we receive wonderful letters of thanks from all the families concerned.

At our meeting on the 18th April at 7.30pm in the Stable block we are having a talk on 'Mercy Ships' by Arthur Francis. Mercy Ships are state of the art hospital ships that respond to crises around the world, as well as providing hospital treatment for the poor in developing countries.

Please come along to our open meeting to find out more. Everyone will be very welcome.

Helen Harwood
Branch Leader

HOLY HUMOUR

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly,

"I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth'".

9th ANNUAL SPROTBROUGH VILLAGE QUIZ

SATURDAY 14 MAY at 7.30pm



Once again it's time to enter a team to compete for the prestigious trophy in St Mary's Church Hall. As usual, there will be eight rounds of ten questions each. If you have not received an invitation, please contact Barbara Perry on ☎853031. Team members (maximum of six) can be family, friends or colleagues – all we ask is that there is a demonstrable connection with Sprotbrough.

The entry fee is £5 per person, with supper included in the price, to be paid by 20 April. Make sure of your place now!



Doncaster Christian Aid Committee
invite you to

An evening for Christian Aid collectors & supporters.

Hear from Christian Aid worker just returned from Cambodia.
Learn about this year's Christian Aid Week theme.
Hints & tips on collecting.
A chance to chat with other collectors.
Refreshments & Fair Trade stall.

at 7.30pm.
on Thursday 7th April 2011
in St Aidan's Church,
Wheatley Hills

(corner of Central Boulevard
& Sandall Rise. DN2 5PE)

"Street Party" for Royal Wedding

St Mary's Church Hall and Grounds
5 pm until 11.30pm

Entrance by ticket only -

Adults £6 and Children £4.

Includes Entertainment, Food and Disco.

*Children's fancy Dress (red/white/ Blue) and
adult Fancy Hat welcome. Arts and crafts,*

Face Painting, Games and quizzes

- prizes for all.

Tickets available from:

J Graves (853932),
Betty Brockman (852046) and
Sue Erskine (850890)

PLEASE BE QUICK AS TICKETS ARE LIMITED!

The Bishop's Letter

The most beautiful classic car I ever owned was a 1959 Triumph TR3A. It was dark blue and had been extensively restored. It had a fast road cam, twin Webber carbs, a sports exhaust and was tuned on a rolling road. For a 52 year old car, the engine of which was designed for tractors WW2, it was perfectly capable of holding its own in modern traffic and had, on occasions, surprised many a BMW, Porches, and over-confident boy racers. The car had an interesting history. It was found completely derelict bricked up in a disused factory. The story is that it was owned by an old man who was very fond of it and intended one day to restore it. Unfortunately, he died and the car was forgotten only to be discovered when the factory was re-developed. By then it was a sorry sight. The bodywork had rusted beyond repair, the engine had seized and the leather interior had disintegrated. However, an enthusiast spotted it and saw what it could become. He bought it and spend years restoring it to show condition, scouring Europe to find replacement parts.

This movement from dereliction to restoration, for me, is a parable. We are entering the Easter season when we engage with the most profound Christian truth; the death and resurrection of Jesus. Death and resurrection is a theme woven into the Christian story and is a fundamental fact of life. "Unless a seed fall into the ground and die....." Death is not the opposite of life; it is the opposite of birth. Death is therefore a continuation of life and is the movement from dereliction to restoration, or in the language of the New Testament - resurrection.

"I believe... in the resurrection of the body". This is the claim we make whenever we say the creed. But what does it mean? Tom Wright in his excellent book 'Surprised by Hope', claims that the early church believed that the purpose of this new body is to enable us to rule wisely over God's new world. Forget those images we all seem to have of lounging on fluffy white clouds playing a harp, or gazing beatifically into one another's eyes, there will be work to do caring for the new creation, and we shall enjoy doing it. All the gifts and graces we have now will be enriched and given back to us to serve one another and to glorify Christ. This creaking collection of bone, brain, muscle, hair and cells which we cart around the face of the earth now, will be taken and made new before being handed back. The eye of the master carpenter has already seen the beauty and glorious potential in each one of us. Hard to believe I know, but even the occasionally grumpy St Paul admits that we will be given new bodies.

John Betjeman sums it up brilliantly in the poem, 'The Lenten Season'

I'd hate to think that I exist
Because some nuclear physicist
Has not, as yet, blown up the earth
And done away with life and birth.
I'd hate to think our final fate
Was at the mercy of the State,
That love and joy and all ambitions
Were made for us by politicians.
There must, there must be something more.
Roll back the stone! The tomb explore.

New Project to Help Homeless Into Stable Accommodation



22nd February 2011

Staff at Doncaster YMCA are celebrating the award of a grant of £40,000 from Crisis to enable them to work more closely with the town's landlords and help young homeless people find and sustain good quality accommodation in the private rented sector.

This local grant is part of England-wide Crisis funding awards of £2 million for 29 new projects that will help single homeless people find new homes and lasting independence.

The Doncaster programme will target individuals who often struggle to find accommodation, including those living in temporary homeless hostels. Workers will assist the participants to overcome financial barriers to renting and match them with landlords. The ultimate aim is long-lasting independence for young people in homes they can call their own.

Those taking part in the programme will receive support with developing independent living skills, and will have access to help with the costs of taking on a new tenancy. The YMCA is now recruiting a specialist worker to take the programme forward, and expects to have things up and running by April.

Chief Executive, Louise Roffey, commented "This is a great boost for the YMCA's work with young homeless people. The programme will enable us to help more young people with overcoming the barriers they encounter when moving into their own place. We'll be able to use the funds to provide real, practical help where it's most needed."

Notes about Doncaster YMCA

- Doncaster YMCA is an independent registered charity, creating places and programmes where all young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.
- The YMCA's Hostel provides supported accommodation for 26 young people.
- The YMCA's Community Centre provides activities and volunteering opportunities for organisations.
- For further information about other aspects of YMCA work, please see www.doncasterymca.org.uk

For details, please contact the Olivia Burton, Deputy Chief Executive at the YMCA, on 01302 342148. olivia.burton@doncasterymca.org.uk

Copy for the magazine's May edition should be handed to the Editor, Betty Brockman, Copley House, Park Drive, Tel: 852046, NO LATER THAN Monday 11th April 2011 please.

Enquiries about advertising should be made to Vivien Jenkinson, Tel: 859453.

MR SPROT'S PAGE

Put the missing words into the story and colour the pictures

The first Easter

Thursday evening: Jesus had his last _____ with his _____



Thursday night: Jesus went to a _____ to pray. He was very _____ because he knew he was going to go through a terrible ordeal



Early hours Friday morning: Jesus was _____ and put on trial
9am Friday: Jesus was nailed to a _____

3pm Friday: Jesus died. His body was taken and put in a _____

Early Sunday morning: Some of the women went to the tomb to put _____ on Jesus body but the tomb was _____!
Mary Magdalene was crying by the tomb when someone spoke to her. It was _____! He was _____ again

WORD LIST

ALIVE
ARRESTED
CROSS
EMPTY
FRIENDS
GARDEN
JESUS
MEAL
SAD
SPICES
TOMB



Churches Together in Sprotbrough - Lent 2011

Joint Lent Study (starting in the week beginning 14 March 2011)

We are using a course called Love for the Future, which will be held in weekly sessions at the locations listed below. The material concentrates on issues of social compassion, simplicity, active justice, repentance and hope. There is a 15 minute DVD for each session, also group discussion suggestions, bible study notes, prayers and pointers to other resources.

We hope that you will be able to select a convenient time and place. As we are all following the same course, you can of course drop into another group in a week when you can't attend at your usual time.

HOST	VENUE	DAY & TIME	LEADER
Philip & Mary Parkin	4 Kendal Close	7.30pm on Tuesdays	Victor Hext
Victor Hext	40 Riverhead	2.30pm on Wednesdays	Barry Parker
Sprotbrough Park Methodist Church		7.30pm on Wednesdays	Frank Okai-Sam
Betty Brockman	Copley House	2.00pm on Fridays	Maralyn Graneek

Easter Services

St. Mary's

Maunday Thursday	9.15am	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	Passover meal with Holy Communion
Good Friday	10.00am	Morning Prayer
	11.00am-2.00pm	There will be opportunity for guided reflection and Individual meditation
	2.00-3.00pm	The Cross
Easter Sunday	7.30am	Sonrise service at Cusworth
	10.15am	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	United Service at Park Drive Methodist Church

Methodist

Good Friday	10.00am	Service
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Churches Together - Maundy Thursday

7.00pm in the St. Mary's Church Hall

Passover meal with Holy Communion

Tickets £5.00 available from
Betty Brockman 852046
Lydia Beasley 788705

Any profits will go to Water Aid

Sunday t-Time

Sunday t-Time is a time when families, especially those with young children, can meet together for worship in an informal way. At each of the monthly meetings there is a story linked to a parable or theme from the bible followed by a time of activities. These take place in St Mary's Church or Church Hall allowing everyone to choose how they spend their time.

In April there will be no meeting on the 3rd April but there will be one on Sunday 17th.

The Sunday t-Time Team
