



## Easter Hope

Christian hope is Easter hope. And it is different to the hope we normally encounter in the world today. It is not based on my circumstances and prospects; it comes through Jesus' resurrection, and is therefore independent of those things. It is therefore a living hope.

It has a life of its own that can endure even the worst experiences of life in this world. It is grounded in what God has done in raising Jesus from the dead. It is hope that is totally dependent on a particular event. And because that event has happened our hope is secure. Not wishful-thinking hope, but guaranteed hope.

We need to see how this is so, how Peter is able to connect the resurrection of Jesus two millennia ago with a future hope for Christians today.

What has happened in the past shows us what will happen in the future.

Like Jesus, we are to be raised physically from the dead. Through faith we are united to him. His Spirit dwells within us, "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (Rom. 8:11). The Spirit within us is the spirit of resurrection.

### [How do we live this resurrection Hope?](#)

It took Jesus' disciple's time to work out the truth of who Jesus truly was. Even after he died they were still working things out just as we do today. Some may feel they have lost hope, particularly after the announcement of another general election. Our living faith is a living Hope, which, lived through us, through our participation in the world around us – we can share the light of Christ.

We may not all agree politically, but there is a need to live together with our differences. As we all strive for a fairer world, where justice and truth is put before power and greed. Where helping those not able to help themselves are put before our own wants and desires.

In the last few years there have been so many issues that have divided people opinions in families and communities around the country. There is no one single right answer, we all stand in different places with different perspectives - just as can be seen in the gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. There is a need now more than ever to pray – to pray for our country, our community and the wider world. A prayer of Hope back into our world as we find ways to live together with our differences. To live rooted in Christ's resurrection Hope.

### [God of Justice and Peace,](#)

we desire the justice on earth known already in heaven.

We pray for the coming elections and referendum.

It is a privilege and a duty to play our part in the democratic process.

May we use our votes wisely.

We pray for all who stand for election, that they may seek to unite rather than divide, to build up rather than break down, and that they may have in their hearts that same desire for justice which you sustain eternally.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen

(Prayer written by the Joint Public Issues Team, JPIT)

Blessings

Jo

(Rev Joanna Brown)

'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

1st Helen McClintock  
5<sup>th</sup> Janette Lloyd  
14th Jenny Coupland  
18<sup>th</sup> Liam Johnson  
19th Sheila Armitage

### **URGENT NOTE**

Golcar Lily Day Saturday 10-4.  
Needed filled jam jars and Bric a Brac for stalls, and help both at Townend and Parkwood.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

The next church council meeting will also be our General Church Meeting and will be held on 17 May 2017 7.30pm at Parkwood. Everyone is invited to attend so please be encouraged to come along. Don't let difficulty in getting there put you off, have a word with one of the stewards who will be happy to arrange lifts. Written reports can be given or emailed to Sandra ps.mcsweeney@btinternet.com

### **Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2017**

20th May  
17<sup>th</sup> June  
15<sup>th</sup> July

**Easter Offering envelopes need to be in now Please!.**

### **DIARY FOR MAY/JUNE 2017**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> L V G Coffee Morning@ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service led by Rev Jo Brown  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Parkwood Golcar Lily Day: Stalls, Hot Food, Entertainment 10.00 'till 4.00pm  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 10.45 Golcar Lily Service led by Mr John Oldham  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Easter Offering Dedication Service 3.00pm @ Holmfirth  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30am – 12.00 noon  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 10.45 Holy Communion Service led by Rev Jo Brown  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 10.45 Service led by Miss Janice Leam  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome

### **JUNE**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> L V G Coffee Morning@ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 10.45 Service led by Mrs Beth Richardson  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30am – 12.00 noon  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 10.45 Holy Communion Service led by Rev Jo Brown  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.45 Service led by Mr Granville Dews  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome