

# Alive!

News from  
Totley Rise  
Methodist Church

February/March 2008

## HOPE 2008 at TRM

Over the last few weeks or months you will have hopefully (pun intended) heard the words HOPE 08 mentioned and you may have even seen the video. Here is the Alive! quick guide to HOPE 08 at TRM.

### What is it?

HOPE 08 is a national project which aims to inspire local churches to reach out into their local community through a variety of different events and activities across the whole of 2008 and beyond. HOPE 08 is not about a one off nationally organised mission event; it is about local churches organising activities which meet the needs of their community and will show God at work in their area.

### Who is involved?

A team was set up at the end of 2007 to start working on ideas for a programme of events and activities that would make up TRM HOPE 08. The team consists of: Garry Dawson-Jones, Peter Holmes, Margaret Hoyle, Anne Oles, Barry Thomas, Alistair and Liz Hinch and Adrian and Catherine Shipley.

The team are there to build and co-ordinate the HOPE 08 project but the vision is that every member of the Church will be involved in one or more events throughout the year. If you have any ideas for a HOPE 08 event then please speak to any of the team members.

### What will be happening here?

At the time of going to press not all of our plans have been confirmed but here is a list of events that will form the core of HOPE 08:

- **February is a month of prayer:** We want to start the year with a solid foundation of prayer.
- **Family fun in the park:** A chance to invite our community to the annual TRM family fun day.
- **Challenge TRM:** Get your paintbrush or spade out to meet a challenge set to help our local community.
- **School Team:** Leading assemblies and helping out in local schools.
- **Junior youth club:** A mid-week meeting for primary age children, fun and the bible.
- **Hospitality month:** Hold a barbecue, coffee morning, etc. for one of your neighbours or the whole street!

As dates are firmed up these will be communicated via the church notices.

If you would like to get involved with any of the above, or have a great idea of your own then speak to any of the HOPE 08 team.

### When does it start?

As the name implies it already has! The launch of HOPE 08 at TRM took place at the morning service on the 27 January.



***TRM at Christmas***

(see pages 4/5)

# A Declaration of



With God's help:

I affirm that in 2008, I intend to bring:

**H**armony in place of discord;  
**O**pportunities out of challenges;  
**P**raise instead of criticism;  
**E**ncouragement to replace despair.

We pray that, for our community, 2008 will be a year of:

**H**ealing for those who are broken;  
**O**rders where there is chaos;  
**P**rotection for the vulnerable;  
**E**nterprise for all.

**A**t Totley Rise Methodist Church we are joining in with a nationwide initiative called HOPE 2008. The above declaration is a small part of our desire and commitment to bring Hope to people of all ages in our part of Sheffield.

The centre of our recent Christmas celebrations has been the news that God is with us – Immanuel! This is the source of the Hope we have, the knowledge that in all things and through life, God is with us to

heal, sustain and strengthen us.

Four weeks into a New Year and economic forecasters are predicting a bleak year ahead. Experts on climate change are talking of unpredictable weather conditions warning of more floods. There are shootings and stabbings because of the increasing gang culture which threatens the security of our streets. Health experts talk about the dangers to our children's health because of changes in diet and lifestyle. It sounds very

apocalyptic and all too hopeless.

In the midst of life, it is good to remember that God is a God of Hope as these words from the Bible remind us and these words are my prayer and greeting for you: 'May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'.

With love and every blessing

*Rev'd Garry Dawson-Jones*

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## Children's Prayers

For her Remembrance Day Service, Margaret Webb had the young children in the church write their own prayers. Here are some of them.

*Dear God,  
Please help the children in countries where there is war. Help them by getting enough food and water and help their parents in war. Help the children to keep safe and to have some peace. Protect their schools from bombs.  
Thank you God*

*Dear God,*

*Look after the children whose fathers have to go to war. Look after the children in other countries who can't go to school because of war. Help them to keep on learning even though they can't go to school. Bless the women and look after the animals too.*

*Dear God,*

*Please help children to learn and to keep going to school even though people are getting hurt.*

*Dear God,*

*Please make sure that children have houses to live in, that they have enough food and cuddles.*

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## Family News

**Ian and Jenny Hardy** are moving to help with a *New Life* church in Chesterfield. This is a church with a growing congregation and a lot of new Christians. They have been invited to go to help as mature Christians and part of the leadership in this exciting

situation. We wish them well and thank them for all that they have contributed to TRM.

### Birthdays

Congratulations on special birthdays to **Phyl Holmes** who was 65 in November, **Dennis Hodder** who was 80 also in November, and **Ann Gray** and **Gordon Wilson** who both celebrated their 70th birthdays in December.

# What Easter Means to Me

I have always thought how fortunate we are in this country that Easter is in Spring – and this year Good Friday is actually on Spring Day. This, to me, is what Easter is all about – renewal of life. It may not be life exactly as we know it now, but it certainly will embrace all the things we really value most – love, joy, hope and, above all, fulfillment and a closer relationship with God. Nowhere has this been so dramatically revealed as on the Day of Resurrection after the darkness, sorrow and despair of Good Friday.

Paul wrote: *Behold, I tell you a mystery, we shall not all die but we shall all be changed.* Easter helps me to live with mystery. We live in an age when many people feel insecure when there is no logical or scientific explanation for everything. Easter cannot be fully explained in facts, figures and equations. Somehow over the year I have been granted a deep inner certainty about the true meaning of Easter. This has emerged

from, and been enriched by, so many things – the Bible teachings, music and poetry, the wonders of creation, the bonds of family, friends and Church, through silent meditation – and yes, through challenges, doubts and difficulties – but above all, by the ways in which Jesus reveals God's love and purpose for us all.

*'Behold,  
I tell you a  
mystery, we shall  
not all die  
but we shall all  
be changed.'*

In the preface to her book *Approaching Easter* Jane Williams writes 'Easter is the great celebration of life. It is not an attempt to deny the reality of death, but simply to say that we don't live to die. We live to share and make life possible for others and Christians believe that God's life is shared so powerfully and with such love that nothing can end what God gives us. Even beyond our death God has still more to give and share'.

*Marion Jepson*

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## Life as: The Pastoral Secretary

Before I say how I see my role as Pastoral Secretary, can I just pay tribute to all the work done by Eddie Grundy, the outgoing Pastoral Secretary who is a fount of knowledge about the TRM folk, and a very caring person, with vision to know what is going on all around in our church. I hope I can keep up his standards as I take over the job!! Can I also thank the Pastoral Visitors (PVs) and Fellowship Group leaders (FGLs) who are the foundation of our Pastoral work at TRM, spending time and love to ensure that all of us, whatever our links with our church, feel cared for.

Communication is always difficult in a large organisation, be it school, work, community or church, and I see my role as Pastoral Secretary in being the 'link' between the PVs/FGLs, who will have close knowledge of what is going on in their group members' lives, and the church Leadership, Garry and the Stewards. With the best will in the world it isn't possible for one person to know everything about everyone, so passing on of information is so important, to ensure everyone gets care, support and congratulations when

appropriate! Can I encourage us all to let information be known, when appropriate, to PVs and FGLs, who will then share it with me if necessary, then there can be no chance of anyone feeling they are struggling or rejoicing alone!!

Finally, if anyone feels they are without pastoral care for whatever reason, for example, nominally in a fellowship group, but unable to attend and would prefer a pastoral visitor, or wanting to join a fellowship group, please let me know as soon as possible, and definitely before the next Pastoral Committee meeting at the beginning of February, so alternative arrangements can be made. My phone number is in the Directory - the 2008 version will be ready very soon: this is the last call for any further amendments!!

I appreciate very much all your prayers and support, as well as any suggestions of other aspects I might bring to the job.

*Lynne Capewell*

# Christmas at TRM



You can tell when it is Christmas at TRM – the mince pies come out. At every meeting and service from the first Christmas Service to the last there are mince pies available. It's hard being a mince pie at Christmas. They and the turkeys must think of Christmas as National Suicide Day.



TRM's Christmas started with the traditional *Carols by Candlelight*. This mid-week service at the beginning of December was rather special this year. It was the last performance the choir did with Joe Bowring as the choirmaster, and at the end Joe was publicly thanked for all his contributions to church life over many years and given an original Len Capper painting of Grindleford Cricket Ground. The choir were joined by friends from Grindleford and the service was a mixture of congregational and choir carol singing with a non-traditional version of the traditional Christmas readings.



The following Sunday was the *Toy Service*. Many people brought new toys which were passed on to the children at the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice and a total of £85 was sent to the Family Welfare Association. In the service 12 volunteers wore t-shirts illustrated with the 12 days of Christmas – the secular version of the song was followed by a Christian version to help remind us of the major aspects of the Christian faith. Mathematically inclined members of the congregation were seen to be calculating how many presents the true love obtained altogether (364) and which s/he gained most of (swans swimming and geese laying).



The *Youth Service* was a highlight of the Christmas services. With all the youngsters taking part, the scene was set in the television studios of Israel MTV. The studio link introduced the live music (congregational singing) and passed over to the roving reporter (Lewis Newman) for outside interviews. In typical 21<sup>st</sup> century interviewing style, Lewis interviewed an angel, the innkeeper's wife, shepherds, wise men and Herod to get their take on what was happening.



On 23 December, the special morning *Christmas Celebration* service was followed in the evening by a more *reflective service* on the deeper meaning and our response. On Christmas Eve there was the *Crib Service* for families with younger children, which was very popular and over 40 children and their parents participated in a re-enactment of the nativity story. The *Christmas Day Service* was a big family get together with the children opening parcels and a reminder that the trimmings on which we focus so much attention are not the real heart of Christmas. We celebrate Emmanuel - God is with us and wants to give us a full life and fill us with His love.

# Operation Christmas Child

We and those at the Sheffield warehouse would like to say a massive thank you to Totley Risers for your contribution to 37850 shoeboxes (another record). Almost 100 shoeboxes, many fillers and over 800 filled pencil cases (another record) came from Totley Rise. Behind the shoeboxes and their contents is a story I would like to share.

First the *knitted hats and mittens*, not just garments but an essential in extreme weather which can be 30 degrees below freezing. *Soap and toothpaste*, believe it or not, the children love them; the toothpaste can save them from extractions without anaesthetic (scary). *Games* e.g. chess, dominoes, a tennis ball

and a skipping rope for play - not much of that in most poor countries, so greatly prized. *Writing materials*, plain and lined paper, pencils, pens etc., in some countries these are a means of admission to school - so important for thousands of children.

Any other kind of toy of course is welcome along with hair bobbles, socks etc. but the most important is the *cuddly toy*, and here I feel many people wonder why.

To a sick child, the cuddly toy brings a little comfort; to a terminally ill child, it helps through the trauma. In an orphanage of 800 or more children there are just not enough

mother substitutes, so to an orphan with no mother to cuddle him, read him a bedtime story or give him a goodnight kiss, a cuddly toy isn't the real thing but it is important for the child.

So thank you for your shoeboxes, knitwear, pencil cases, soap, toothpaste, toys and cuddly toys, for Barbie dresses and a host of other things too. Thank you for helping children in difficult situations, e.g. poverty, Aids/HIV, illnesses of various kinds, many disabilities, and orphans, to have the pleasure of a simple shoebox.

God bless you all; somehow thank you seems so inadequate, but thank you all so much.

*Freda and Brian*

## A Wise Woman Travels To Bethlehem

The Journey to Bethlehem experience has now become a fixed part of our Advent build-up. My friend and I feel that Christmas has really begun when we sit enjoying the dancing whilst waiting for our Centurion to call us. This year was my third 'journey' and each year I feel it afresh as we become a living part of the Nativity story. At times it is easy for this tale to be over familiar to us, but as we wander we can't help but feel very close to the reality of 2000 years ago. We listen to the eager anticipation of the prophecies and take refreshments at the Inn. We experiment with the various activities in the hustle and bustle of the marketplace. We feel the cold night air with the shepherds and finally we experience the awe of the miracle of a small baby in the stable.

A number of friends came for the first time this year. Their reaction was that it was a truly memorable experience that appealed to all ages. They felt that it is a good gentle way into church for those who don't normally attend. 'Journey to Bethlehem' has certainly become a part of our Christmas, a tradition that we and the children look forward to each year.

Many thanks to everyone who made a contribution to this wonderful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

*Alison Burbeary*

## FOIL Feeds Families



The picture shows one of an extra 200 AIDS affected families that received Christmas food parcels thanks largely to the generosity of TRM members. The organisers in South Africa send their heartfelt thanks.

Carols by Candlelight was this year a happy and poignant occasion as it was Joe Bowring's and the choir's final presentation. Joe has been choirmaster at TRM for the past 20 years and for most of that time was ably supported by his organist/pianist wife, Betty. Over the past 18 months Joe has become more frail and has not experienced good health so he took the decision to retire at this particular evening. Many church members and friends came to give their support. Joe was presented with a painting from the choir and was thanked for his leadership, faithfulness and service to the church, and for his musical expertise, diligence and patience with the choir. Most of all, he was thanked for the fun, fellowship and happy times he had shared with the choir in church based activities, and in the wider community as part of the choir's outreach.



## Totley Talents 2007

Once more, on November 10, Totley Rise glitterati flocked to the second annual Totley Talents show. Excited chatter filled the foyer as people caught a glimpse of their own personal favourites - "Hey, that's Ann Capper!", "...and there's Sheila Cooper!". "Is that John Freeman? I can't believe it, and he's with Nick Whitworth, I'm going to faint". The stars did not disappoint, and their audience supported them magnificently.

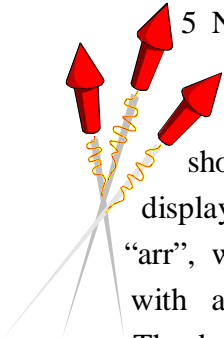
Sheila Cooper and Anne Capper gave us an interesting perspective on modern retail methods with their sketch "The Supermarket Checkout", and Nick Whitworth, John Freeman and Julie Gascoyne introduced us to "The Menu" and all its variations. Judith Slack gave us Joyce Grenfell's "The Nativity Play" - ("don't do that please Garry, it's not nice"). And Lewis Newman told us of "A Thoroughly Modern Granny" (later denying it was based on any contemporary figure). "Young Love" was the

theme explored, via Victoria Wood, by Margaret Stone and Phil George, who also Swanned in later with the song "Ill Wind". Further musical items were Fantasia and Fugue on Bach by Liszt, performed with aplomb by Paul Birtwisle, and Linda Wareham followed with a marvellous piece by Sibelius. Stan Chandler sang a song based on Psalm 121 with a delightful Scottish tune. A change of mood brought us "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Can't Help Loving That Man of Mine" expertly sung by Trish Dearden.

More comedy followed with Peter Holmes bringing us "Los Olividados" (The Olive Festival) from Andorra (via Flanders), and E L Wistey (aka John Stone) reflecting on a thwarted legal career, not having the Latin for the judging. Finally The Inimitable Len Capper brought the evening to a conclusion with his unique blend of humour and song.

An excellent, and worthwhile, evening - book your tickets and start rehearsing for next year!

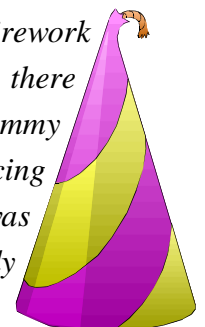
## Fireworks



5 November saw the now annual Totley Rise Fireworks display. The crowd of young and old showed their appreciation of the display with the inevitable "oo" and "arr", while sustenance was provided with a good supply of hot dogs. Thanks goes to the self confessed pyromaniacs of the church who yet again put on a great display.

## Alive! asked one of the children what they thought of the LIGHT PARTY ...

"When you walked into the youth church building there were curtains on the doors and lights on the wall. In the big hall there were activities to do. There was how to make a pointy hat, lantern, mask or firework picture. Then in the 6-13 room there was a film. The food was yummy scummy. To finish there was dancing with disco lights. I thought it was fantastic and so did everybody else."



# Don't miss these!

## Easter Services

### 16 March — Palm Sunday

Churches in S17 at King Ecgbert's School, 10.30 am  
Palm Sunday procession from Cross Scythes to the school.

### 21 March — Good Friday

Walk with the cross starting at the Co-op at 10 am with an open air service at 10.30 am in the church car park.

### 23 March — Easter Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Easter Celebration, Holy Communion

6.30 pm Easter Praise

## Chocolate Sunday

3 February 10.30 am

## Mothering Sunday

2 March 10.30 am

(All age service)

## Quiz Night

Friday 14 March at

7.30 pm at TRM

## George Palmer to lead TRM Away Day



TRM's Away Day is on Saturday 26 April. Put the date in your diary now. It is a 'must go' event for all the church family. It will be from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at

Christ Church Fulwood, using their extensive premises. Sessions will be led by George Palmer who will be breaking his retirement to be with us. We shall be following up on the implications of being a church that:

- hosts the presence of God
- shares the passion of God
- displays the power of God and
- carries out the purpose of God.

Watch out for further details in the next issue of *Alive!* and in the weekly church notices.

## Quiz Night for *Foil Aids*

### Friday 14 March

Banish the winter blues and get into Spring by coming to the FOIL AIDS Quiz Night. These nights are always great fun. You can book in teams of four or come on your own and be put in a team on the night. Tickets are £3 per person and can be obtained from Peter and Phyl Holmes, Dave Harvey, Adrian Shipley or Peter and Pauline Dibben – or pay on the night. You can also take the opportunity of picking up your reading for Easter and the holidays from the bookstall. All proceeds go to the FOIL AIDS charity.

Important dates –

### 16 - 21 August

Steelroots goes to Soul Survivor! 5 days of camping, great teaching, worship and lots and lots of fun!

### 27 - 31 October

The Steelroots 2008 Houseparty! 5 days of God centred fun! You will be mad to miss out. Year 8 and over.... Peak Centre in Edale.

For more info on any of these and much more speak to Seb Tel - 07917800488.

## Youth Update

This term there is plenty going on with the youth. The theme for the term at youth club is honour and respect, so as part of this the youth will be preparing and cooking a good meal for the parents; this promises to be a wonderful evening. Later in the term we will also be going on a night walk back from Grindleford. These two special evenings will be mixed in with the usual fun and games on a Thursday evening.

# Events

<i>February 2008</i>		<i>March 2008</i>	
<b>Sun 3</b>	9.15 am Communion 10.30 am Chocolate Sunday	<b>Sun 2</b>	10.30 am Mothering Sunday (All Age Worship)
<b>Mon 4</b>	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	<b>Mon 3</b>	8.00 pm Messianic Dance
<b>Tue 5</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	<b>Tue 4</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning NO Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
<b>Thu 7</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	<b>Thu 6</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
<b>Fri 8</b>	9.15 am LEGO Walk - Meet at Church	<b>Fri 7</b>	10.30 am Women's World Day of Prayer at the English Martyrs' Church, Totley, led by Dr Christine Dodd.
<b>Tue 12</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning NO Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, 'The Romantic Road', a historic route through Bavaria to the Alps - <i>Robert Maxwell.</i>	<b>Tue 11</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
<b>Thu 14</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	<b>Wed 12</b>	8.00 pm Wednesday Friendship, Easter Meditation, <i>Marion Jepson</i>
<b>Sun 17</b>	9.30 am Toddler Praise	<b>Thu 13</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
<b>Mon 18</b>	8.00 pm Messianic Dance	<b>Fri 14</b>	9.15 am LEGO Walk - Meet at Church 7.30 pm Foil Aids Quiz Night (see Don't Miss These)
<b>Tue 19</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM	<b>Sun 16</b>	10.00 am Palm Sunday Procession from Cross Scythes to King Ecgbert's School for 10.30 am Service
<b>Thu 21</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	<b>Mon 17</b>	8.00 pm Messianic Dance
<b>Tue 26</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM 8.00 pm Tuesday Ladies, Broad Yorkshire, a humorous insight into our dialect - <i>Margaret Maxfield</i>	<b>Tue 18</b>	9.30 - 10 am Prayer Meeting 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning 10 - 12 noon Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
<b>Thu 28</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club	<b>Thu 20</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club 7.00 - 8.30 pm Youth Club
		<b>Fri 21</b>	10.00 am Good Friday Walk of Witness to Church for service at 10.30 am
		<b>Sun 23</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Easter Celebration, Holy Communion 6.30 pm Easter Praise
		<b>Tue 25</b>	NO Prayer Meeting or Coffee Morning NO Woodseats Advice Centre at TRM
		<b>Thu 27</b>	1.30 - 3.00 pm Pushchair Club No Youth Club

## *Sundays at TRM*

Sunday Services are at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm  
The first Sunday of each month is All Age Worship at 10.30 am

Please Note: The next edition of Alive! covering April/May 2008 will be available on Sunday 13 April, a little later than usual owing to the timing of Easter this year.