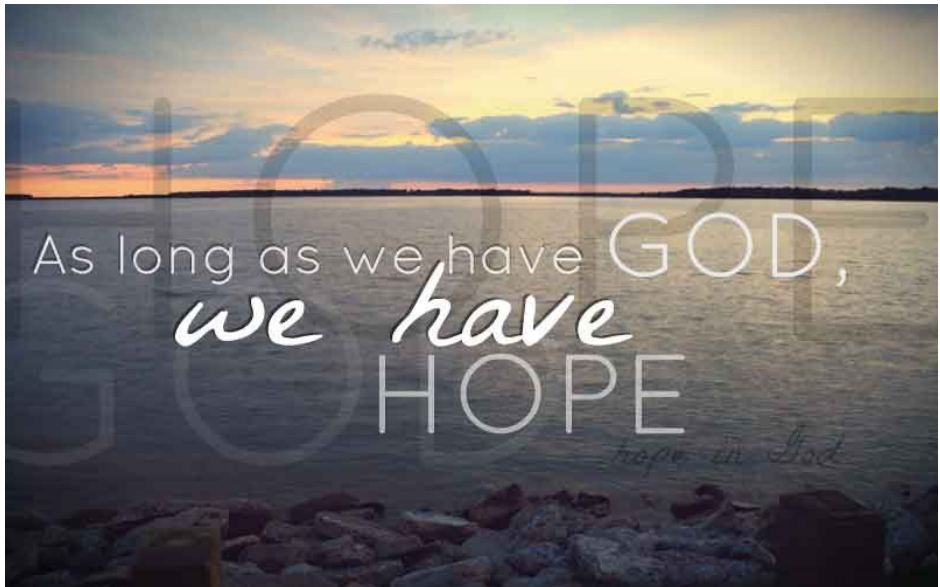


ASPIRE



May 2020

Christ Church Haydock URC

www.christchurchhaydock.co.uk

We are now a few weeks into the lockdown and there may be a few more weeks ahead of us yet. However, in all of this we can take heart knowing that God has a plan, a perfect plan for each and every one of us. Through our faith and our trust, God will lift up our heads, hearts, and hands and empower us, through the Holy Spirit, to build positive Christian hope in this difficult time.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11 v 1

If you have anything you would like to share, please give us a ring (Brian 07840 173990) or send a message to the church magazine email address (haydockurcmagazine@gmail.com).

Remember, you are not on your own, we are all there for each other. Don't forget, if there is anything you need, ring Becky Taylor's number (07788 279286).

Thank you and God Bless.

*"Turn your
worry into
Prayers."
Phil 4:6*

Watch our Church Services

For those of you who may not know, although our church building is not open, church still is! Malcolm and other members of the church have been working hard on putting together digital services each week. These include God's Word, worship songs, sermons, kids slots etc. Each of these are filmed separately and put together into a mini movie which can be viewed on either our Facebook page or our church website.

Facebook: Christ Church Haydock URC

or

www.christchurchhaydock.co.uk

For those of you who don't use the internet, the service is also available on dvd which will be delivered to your own front door. If you would like one of these dvds, please contact Brian on 01744 608826 or 07840 173990.



Girl's Brigade Food Parcels

Girl's Brigade would like to thank everyone who has donated towards their food parcel project; it really is making a difference. It's an ongoing project so if you would like to donate, or if you know anyone who would benefit from a food parcel, please contact Becky on 07788 279286.

10 Reasons to Hope (When All Seems Hopeless)

When discouraging and depressing news threatens to flood the nation, the church, and the soul, we need God's help to lift up our heads, hearts, and hands. Things like this encourage us not to fear. But once fear is cast out, we then have to build positive Christian hope in its place, a beautiful virtue and life-transforming grace that yields multiple benefits:

1. Hope moves us forwards: Christian hope is a realistic expectation of and joyful longing for future good and glory based upon the reliable word of God. The more we long for the future, the less we will yearn for the past. Hope deletes regrets and underlines expectation. It diminishes drag and increases momentum.



2. Hope energizes the present: It is worth living today because the eternal tomorrow is so much brighter. What's doomsday for most, is coronation day for us. What most dread, we desire.

3. Hope lightens our darkness: Hope does not deny nor remove the reality of dark and painful providences. However, it does shine a bright light into these valleys and points to the sunrise at the end of them. "...*the stone had been removed from the tomb*".

4. Hope increases faith: Faith fuels hope but hope also fuels faith. As Hebrews 11 makes very clear, hope and faith are very closely tied together, the one enlivening the other. Without faith we cannot soar in hope, but without hope faith will limp home. The greatest believers are the greatest hoppers...and vice versa.

5. Hope is infectious: Just as we can drag others down by our recriminations and moping, so we can inspire and motivate through our inspiring hoping. It not only encourages other sagging Christians, but it also impacts depressed unbelievers who cannot but ask a reason for the hope they see in us (*1 Pet. 3:15*).

6. Hope is healing: When counselling depressed people, one of the first things to do is try to give them hope. By definition, depression is a sense of hopelessness. Things cannot and will not get better. That's why we want to give them the hope that in the vast majority of cases, they will get better, there is a way out, and there are things that they can do to help themselves in their felt helplessness. That hope itself is a huge step towards healing.



7. Hope is practical: Hope does not mean we just sit and wait for Utopia to appear. Not at all! Hope motivates action. When we hope for better days for the church, we serve the church. When we hope for the conversion of our children, we are motivated to share the Gospel with them. When we hope for God's blessing on His Word, we listen to it much more avidly. Hope produces action.

8. Hope purifies: Whatever persecution we experience in this world, the day is coming when we will not be just called sons of God, we will be like the Son of God. This is what inspires and motivates the apostle to persevere to the end and to persevere in holiness. *"And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:1-3).*

9. Hope stabilizes in the storm: There are sixty-six drawings of anchors in the catacombs, the caves and tunnels that persecuted Christians hid in during the Roman persecutions. Hope was their anchor during those dark and stormy days. Like the anchor, hope grabs what is out of sight. As one puritan put it: *"The cable of faith casts out the anchor of hope and lays hold of the steadfast rock of God's promises."*

10. Hope defends: Paul also depicts hope as a defensive helmet (*Eph. 6:17; 1 Thess. 5:8*) that must not be taken off and laid aside until the battle is over. The helmet also points us to the area of greatest vulnerability and danger – our mind or thoughts. That's where Satan usually works to present reasons to doubt and despair. **And that's why we need our minds daily renewed by the power of hope.**

Sunday 3rd May 2020
Show Compassion

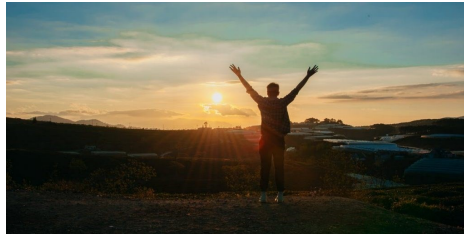


There is a lot of selfless giving going on in the world today. People are donating their time and resources to those who are down and destitute. It warms your heart to see all of the acts of kindness going on. One famous chef provided over three million meals in one week to those who have lost their jobs and are struggling. Jesus told us to show compassion to those who need it. Don't just go through the motions. Show you care.

Matthew 9:13

“But go and learn what this means: ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Sunday 10th May 2020
Live the Redeemed Life



Do you ever feel like you can't get ahead? No matter what you do, something is always pulling you back to a dark place? You read the promises of the Bible and wonder why they don't happen in your life? The disconnect may be that you don't live the redeemed life. The mistakes of your past are holding you back when Christ has already done the work to set you free.

Galatians 4:4-5

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

Sunday 17th May 2020
Pour Out Your Heart



There are people who are really suffering right now. You could name a whole list of reasons why but the pain is still the same. They are laying awake at night wondering how they are going to feed their family or if a loved one is going to recover from sickness. It is leaving them destitute and with the feeling there is nowhere to turn. Jeremiah tells us to pour out your heart to the Lord.

Lamentations 2:19

“Arise, cry aloud in the night, at the beginning of the night watches; Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord; Lift up your hands to Him for the life of your little ones who are faint because of hunger at the head of every street.”

Sunday 24th May 2020
We Are All One in Christ



There have been a lot of benefit concerts lately for all kinds of causes. They all have the same theme, “We are in this together.” I get what they are saying, but it seems strange to say it to people who are secluded in their homes. Yeah, we are all going through it, but we aren’t together. That is what makes the church unique. We have the Holy Spirit to unite us and that happens because we are all one in Christ. The world doesn’t have that.

Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Sunday 31st May 2020
Remember the Golden Rule



Were you taught the Golden Rule as a child? It always took the form of “Treat others like you want to be treated” or “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” Whatever form you were taught, the premise remained the same. It’s how you treat others that matters. This “rule” finds its basis in Jesus’ teaching at the Sermon on the Mount. We need to remember the Golden Rule.

Matthew 7:12

In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Start with Looking Inside Yourself

How we treat others should start with the understanding that we are all sinners in need of the grace of Jesus Christ. That perspective should begin with us, not the other person. Instead of looking at ourselves as a good person with some flaws, we need to look at ourselves as helpless without the atoning work of the cross. This way, when someone offers a suggestion or help in an area where we are weak, we listen to it instead of resisting. Sure, people can be mean-spirited and say cruel things, but real friends say things in love.