



## **Hope Methodist Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Welcome to Hope Methodist Church!** The Church seeks to serve the towns of Rushden, Higham Ferrers and the surrounding villages. If you are here for the first time, or just visiting the area, you are very welcome. Please feel at home and if you would like to know more about the work of the Church, please ask. The service begins with a greeting from a steward. Do join us for refreshments after the service.

**Service for today**

**10.30 am** Mr D Hudson

**Service for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**10.30 am** Revd. M Alderson leading  
Holy Communion

Contact Details:

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**Our Calling** is the theme of the winter issue of **The Connexion**. Copies of the free magazine are available in church. Please feel free to take one to read, pass on or bring back for others to share.

### **Prayer for February**



O God our Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the blessings we have from you; that you have given us hands to work, feet to walk, eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to love. May we, as we sing our hymns, listen to your word and hear the message of our speaker, be more able to help each other and the people we meet day by day. May the influence of the activities in the Church go forth as a stream of living water for the healing of the neighbourhood. Help us all to walk in your light, to act in your strength, to speak in your truth and to live in your love. In Jesus' name we ask, Amen

**Please pray** for those slowly recovering from operations and illness, especially Shirley Baker, Charles Watts, Sue Moore, Simon Kendrick and Hazel Swailes; for the homeless, the food bank assistants and those who need their help and also the Hassan family in their daily struggles.

**Pastoral Visiting** – if anyone is ill from our congregation please let our Pastoral Secretary, Janet know (tel: 356501), so that their pastoral visitor may be informed. If anyone is in hospital, bereaved or would like to see the Minister, please contact Revd. Margaret.

### **Focus Group Sick Visitor for February**

- Please let Dot Porter, on 395532, know if anyone from the Group needs a visit of a phone call.

**Prayers for Newsletters** – I would be very pleased to receive Prayers, for inclusion in the Newsletters, for March onwards - thank you - Evelyn

**HELP NEEDED! to run coffee mornings please.** We ask you to consider holding a coffee morning which can be for your charity or church funds. This is a very worthwhile opportunity for outreach and we urge you to check the dates on the list attached to the cupboard in the entrance, and help to fill the year! For more information, please speak to any steward.

**Flowers** today are provided by Evelyn, for which we thank her.

## WEEKLY PROGRAMME

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### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

9.30 am Keep Fit

11.00 am Service at R.P.N.H. – Mr D. Hudson

### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

8.45 am – 9.30 am Pause for Prayer

9.15 am – 10.30 am – Hope's Tots

10.00 am Coffee and Chat in the Bede House

1.30 pm Short Mat Bowls in Wymington Memorial Hall

6.00 pm – 7.15 pm Girls Brigade Explorers

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm Juniors and Seniors

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

12.30 pm lunches – no need to book

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February

10.30 am -12.00 Coffee morning – contributions for the cake stall will be gratefully received.

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February

10.30 am – Revd. M Alderson leading

Holy Communion

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Please pass any notices to me by Wednesday pm –

Email address: [evelyn.fitch@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.fitch@btinternet.com)

## **NEWS, DIARY EVENTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Pause for Prayer** – the opportunity to come and pray at our Church, between 8.45 and 9.30 am on Thursdays, is open to everyone. Come for five minutes or forty-five, at the beginning or pop in later. If anyone would like to start a regular prayer group at the Church or in someone's home please speak to a steward if you need help to organise it. *"For where two or three gather together in my name, there I am with them."*  
*Matthew 18 v20*

**Saturday 20th January** - Thanks for a great Beetle Drive with lots of fun and laughter. Children, teenagers, teenager's plus and those 'one or two' years older than that had a most enjoyable time. Food was excellent and we thank those who cooked the sausages beautifully. Tremendous team work setting-up and clearing-up with a an added bonus of raising £155.90 towards the Redevelopment funds. Thank you to everyone.

**Focus Group** on 15<sup>th</sup> February - there will now be a presentation of classical music by Rob Gould.

**It has been proposed** that there be a lunchtime/early afternoon **Bible study** in church every Tuesday during Lent, starting on 20th February. It will be from 1-2pm. For those who wish to sit, eat and chat with others beforehand, there will be the opportunity to bring our own packed lunch from 12.30pm. Come to any or to all.

**Saturday 24th February at 4.00 pm. Afternoon tea and Sing-a-long** with Rachel. Tickets are now available priced £5.00 - please see Chris M, Margaret Haly and members of Events co-ordination group.

**HASSAN FAMILY:** Message from Terry. "I try to keep members updated about the Hassan family from Iraqi Kurdistan who are now living in Rushden and whom you all very generously helped support two years ago. In my last message I believe that I told you that after a number of delays, Roonak and her five sons were all granted refugee status in September. This was good and would have meant that they could obtain employment, become self-sufficient and move on in their lives. Apparently they had explored opportunities to do this, but in November, instead of getting a letter confirming the judge's decision, they got a letter saying that the Home Office is going to appeal the decision. Apparently the judge is less than happy about this and regards the appeal as frivolous. No date has been set for any hearing. So the family is back to square one and is surviving on an allowance of £5 per person per day. Fortunately they are getting help including from ourselves. The plan to move them to the Manse in Wellingborough was infeasible but 60% of the money from a private rental of the Manse is being made available to them. So we are still helping the family; in short we are paying the bills, council tax and utilities etc. as well as a contribution to the rent. They are also supported by the Food Bank. More sad news was that Roonak was diagnosed with cancer but she was at an early stage and apparently has now fully recovered. That is the only good news. As you may know, she has a degree in International Law and was a fighter with the Peshmerga who were fighting IS. Her husband is an officer in the Peshmerga and stayed in Iraq after the family left. However they have not heard from him for 18 months; he is missing. Clearly we need to keep the family in our prayers. I will enquire whether we can do anything else to help.

**Thank you** – to everyone - the sum of £250.06 was raised for Action for Children over the Christmas period. Andrew