

The bible's wonderful promise is that all those who accept God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life can have certain confidence that death is not the end,. As Christians we know it's just the beginning of a perfect new life beyond the grave. A life that Jesus' resurrection from the dead guarantees for us.

### **YOUR HOPE AND MINE**

The good news of the Christian faith is that this can be your hope and mine. Not a wishy-washy fairy-tale hope, but a hope founded on the certainty of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. This is our faith. It's a faith we love to share with others, and an eternal hope we long to be yours as well.

### **A WELCOMING CHURCH FAMILY**

As your local church we have a number of groups that offer a place to meet with others, an informal drop-in space for those who are looking for friendship and companions in life.

As well as this, our Sunday and mid-week services focus on learning more about the God of the Bible, His Son Jesus Christ, and how his offer is so relevant and life-changing today.

**Whenever and however you can join us, you'll receive a very warm welcome. We'd love to see you.**

*If you would like to speak to someone  
please contact our vicar Tom Brown or one of the  
pastoral care team, and we'd be delighted to meet for  
an informal conversation*



**The Church of the  
Good Shepherd**  
Kirk Sandall & Edenthorpe



**The Church of the Good Shepherd**  
Church Balk, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. DN3 2PP

WhatsApp: 07733 461 301 // Landline 01302 882 861  
Email: [tom.beakondoncaster@gmail.com](mailto:tom.beakondoncaster@gmail.com)  
[www.beakondoncaster.co.uk/cogs](http://www.beakondoncaster.co.uk/cogs)



# **YOUR HOPE AND MINE**

*some reflections on hope,  
bereavement and loss*

## MIXED UP EMOTIONS

For some the death of a loved one comes as a huge sudden shock. For others there's something of a sense of relief from the pain and suffering of a long illness. Yet for those left behind death will always be troubling. It doesn't seem right; it doesn't seem fair.

Our emotions can also change suddenly. We can be overwhelmed at the love and kindness of family, friends and well-wishers, and we can burst into tears for no apparent reason. Some feel a mix of guilt or anger, others just seem numb. One thing is certain: life will never be the same again.

## HOPE OR HOPELESS?

As we gaze down into a grave or watch as the curtains close at the crematorium, we experience for ourselves the horrible pain of separation. The intensity of that moment can be almost overwhelming, as we say goodbye to our loved-one for the last time. It can seem so hopeless. A life is over, and nothing can bring them back.

But the Christian hope is that this isn't the end.

The Christian hope is that there *is* life beyond the grave.

Is this just wishful thinking or a fanciful dream? Is it a psychological crutch to get us through the grief we all face? Or could there be something in it?

## IS THIS THE END?

The night before Jesus died he had a meal with his friends where he talked about life beyond the grave. Jesus knew he was going to die, but he was also confident that death was not the end. In fact, he explained that he was going back to his Father's house, a place with many rooms and space for all his followers.

### ***"DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED"***

Jesus knew his death would not be easy for those left behind so he comforted them with words of hope. He told them, '*Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in me.*' As far as Jesus was concerned life after death was a certainty, but it wasn't something that could be proven but something to believe in. That's why Jesus asks, 'will you trust me on this one?'

### ***"I AM THE WAY"***

Jesus wants his followers to be clear: the way back to His Father's house is through his death for us on the cross. He said, '*I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.*' Through his death, Jesus was going before

us, dealing with our sins as he went. In his death for us, he opens up the way to heaven. He tells the truth about heaven and is the key to life in heaven for all eternity.

## A GREAT NEW FUTURE

Jesus didn't just talk the talk, he walked the walk. That first Good Friday he walked the lonely path to the cross, died for our sins, and was buried in the tomb. But come Sunday morning, that same tomb was empty! His body had been raised to life, and he appeared again and again to prove that the resurrection is not a hoax but history.

The living, walking, talking Lord Jesus was the proof they needed. It showed that their sins had been forgiven and death had been defeated. His work now complete, Jesus then went back to his Father's house in heaven. A place where '*there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.*'

Here on earth it's hard for us to imagine such a home. But Jesus assures us heaven is a real place, and will be the eternal home for all those who believe and trust in what he's done on the cross. But here's the thing: getting to heaven isn't an automatic right.

**It's a gift God offers, but a gift we each need to accept.**