

in the face of uncertainty, despair and death. Pushing through thick snow there are snowdrops; from small dark conkers come horse chestnut trees, and better still from the dead body of Jesus came life. He died and was buried, but three days later He beat

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what beats us, and rose from the dead. The risen Jesus can forgive your past, be with you in the present, and take you through each step of the future, into eternity.

When the vaccine against Covid-19 first came through, I was asked by many if I would take it. But, is this our only hope? Certain hope can only be found in Jesus. So a bigger question

is, what will you do with Jesus? He is not just 95% successful, but has never failed anyone. He commands us to repent – turn from our own way – and believe in Him. Ask Him to become your Lord and Saviour, to be in charge of your life. He will give you certainty whatever life throws at you. Put your trust, your hope, in Him. He is never a disappointment!

The Bible says 'there is a place reserved in heaven' for those who trust in Christ. Hell is for those who reject Him, but heaven is for all who receive and follow Him. Will you do that now? The Bible says about Jesus, and all who trust Him, 'Though You have made me see troubles, many and bitter, You will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth You will again bring me up.'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 71:20

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a division of 10 of those.com  
[www.10ofthose.com](http://www.10ofthose.com)

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*Real  
hope*

Roger Carswell



*Once in a while,  
something happens  
that makes the  
world stop and take  
note, even stand still.*

There are moments in history that are so striking that we never forget them. Moments when we heard of Princess Diana's untimely death, or of the attack on the Twin Towers, or heard the news of a family member being diagnosed with cancer.

2020 will be remembered as the year that the world was shaken by an invisible virus. Nobody could miss its effect.



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I am old enough to remember the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill. He had planned it himself. After the final prayer in the service, a bugler positioned high up in the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral intoned the sound of 'Taps', the universal signal that says the day is over.



But then came a dramatic turn. Another bugler, on the other side of the great dome, sounded the 'Reveille' signalling 'It's time to get up. It's time to get up in the morning.' That was hope mingling with sadness.

Easter is a time of hope; a time of resurrection. For thirty years Jesus had lived a perfect life. All He had said and done was good. He had healed the sick, fed the hungry, raised the dead back to life and spread an air of kindness and goodness. And for all that He was hated. The religious establishment wanted Him out of their way, and political leaders found Him an inconvenience. Jesus was not politically correct – especially as He said He was God clothed in humanity, come to search for and save the lost.

It is hard to imagine a darker day in history than when Jesus was crucified. Those who were following Him had not grasped that God knew exactly what He was doing. And that's what gives us great hope! True, the people who schemed to have Him put to death were guilty, but it was also God's plan that He should suffer and die as He did. He had come into the world for this.

Jesus was dying as the Substitute, the Saviour. He was taking on Himself the sin of the guilty world. The Bible says that He died, the 'Righteous One', for us, who are far from righteous.

It would have been easy to give up all hope at the moment when Jesus cried, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' But actually, it is because of this that we all may have hope. Jesus paid the penalty of our wrong so that we could be forgiven and brought to know God individually. He paid a debt we could not pay as He carried our sins on Himself on the cross.

The Daily Mirror had a point in its last edition of 2020. With all that we have gone through in the past, hope need not be a delusion. You can have real hope

