

Swallownest Baptist Church



Newsletter

February - March 2020

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Seeking God

Happy New Year! May 2020 be a prosperous New Year for us all as we look forward to seeing the signs and wonders of God's kingdom moving in our community.

And so it starts, with great encouragement we saw additional numbers in our services and testimonies of God's work transforming lives. This was evident over the advent period as we were joined by some old familiar faces and some new ones, an affirmation of God's crazy love spilling out into the fringes of our society.

As we reflected upon 2019 and all that it brought, we heard stories of celebration and of mourning. We left 2019 with a world in crisis and entered with more sorrow and sadness. Yet as we enter 2020 we are seeing green shoots of hope. We are eager to seek God in Jesus with a fresh passion. God's name 'Yahweh' is a verb of being. The importance of being drawn to God and seeking His presence. When we seek this we can concentrate on being with God and the doing will naturally flow.

Jesus said 'When I am lifted up I will draw all people to me'. (John 12:32) 'Lifted up' - on the cross but also in

worship. We'll see healing, revelation and conversion happen in worship. Picture an old-fashioned square lamp with panels on each side. Lifting one lamp gives a beam (direction - 'a lamp to your feet') but lifting all four lamps gives 360 degree light. God is about so much more than just guidance. As we live in His presence He becomes a source of light in us, radiating out to others. What we do is the overflow of living in His presence.

Holding up the name of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit gives direction. This is so in the church but also with regard to people in society, wandering aimlessly in a spiritual wilderness.

My prayer for 2020 is that we seek 'those things that are above' (Col.3:1) – being prepared to lay aside our own ways and willing to seek God's way, encouraging each other and honouring different gifts.

Where is God calling you to be, how can we draw closer together and seek to serve Him? For when we do the Holy Spirit is at work.

Grace and Peace



David

Leadership Engine

Starting in the autumn of 2017, the church kindly paid for Ben and me to enrol on Groundlevel's *Leadership Engine*. The lengthy training programme aimed to allow us to develop in our leadership and become leaders sound in theology, strong in character and secure in our gifting. The course was made up of group modules, self-study modules and mentoring meetings.



The course started with a very intensive, demanding two-days at Mattersey Hall Bible College, and over the year we were also hosted by churches in Doncaster, Chesterfield, Grantham, Sleaford and Coventry. Over these seven full days, we experienced amazingly challenging and inspirational teaching on theology, church history and leadership. We were also encouraged to reflect on this teaching and develop through homework tasks and mentoring meetings.

Ben and I both feel extremely privileged to have been supported by our church family to participate in the training. We certainly both feel that we benefited hugely from it, learning more about God and therefore loving Him more deeply. I was also challenged to think about how Swallownest Baptist Church can fit into the global church's great commission, with 1Peter 4:10 in mind: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Rob Joyce

Thanks

Here I am at Wentworth Garden Centre enjoying afternoon tea, the gift from the church for my 80th birthday.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and the food was delicious. Thank you church for your generosity.

I can't wait for my next significant birthday!!

Jeff Chapman



Church Bible Verse for 2020

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" John 14:2

There are few verses in scripture that describe eternal life, but these verses are rich with promises. Here Jesus says "I am going to prepare a place for you" and "I will come back". We can look forward to eternal life because Jesus has promised it to all who believe in him. Eternity is unknown, but we need not fear as Jesus is preparing for us and will spend eternity with us.

John is writing from the perspective of death and resurrection in the later parts of the gospel. Here we have the offer of eternal life. We are invited to begin living in a personal, eternal relationship with him now. Although we must grow old and die, by trusting him we can have a new life that lasts forever.

This may fit with the text from last year that we are not ashamed of the gospel. Therefore if we stand by this we should be moved to do something i.e. go out and share that good news. Believing is active, a living and continuous trust in Jesus. When we believe we receive that power to follow him and to tell others of that good news. But we must respond to him by believing.

David Skeet

This verse reminded Marbeth Purdy of something which happened in her mother's family some years ago.

"In my mother's home (the family farm) there were some very old valuable ornaments. My mother was the youngest of five children – she had one sister and three brothers. Her parents promised that when they died the ornaments would be passed on to my mother.

One brother remained on the family farm. Another brother emigrated to Canada when he retired. My mother's sister and another brother died.

When eventually the brother on the farm died my mother assumed that the ornaments would come to her. She was very disappointed when my uncle stated in his will that the ornaments were to go to his brother in Canada. My mother was devastated, but as a Christian she put a brave face on it.

We prayed for her to have peace about it all and this is the verse the Lord gave for her. It helped her a lot to know that God had better things for her in heaven."

NewHope FoodBank

On 21st December, we held our annual food bank drive at the Swallownest Co-op in aid of the New Hope Food bank. Once again, we were overwhelmed with the generosity of the local community. We collected 2 car loads of food and £116 in cash. Many thanks to everyone who donated, those who volunteered on the day and handed out leaflets, and to the Co-op for their continued support.

On the run up to Christmas, we also had food donations from Swallownest Primary, Aughton early Years, Aston TARA and Lodge Lane Junior and Infants.

The food bank continues to play an important role in our community. It delivered 33,952 meals during 2019, and has delivered a total of 174,606 meals since it first opened in 2013.

As well as at the Swallownest Co-op, there is also a donation point at our church and at Early Years in Aughton.



Many thanks to the Co-op for their donation of a dozen packs of buns.



Many thanks to everyone who came along to the Christmas Coffee Morning. We were able to raise a fantastic £330.30 for the Teenage Cancer Trust charity.

Many thanks to everyone who signed the church Christmas card and made a donation. We raised £54 in total for the Children's Hospital Charity.



Church Family Meal

The first Sunday of the new year, saw us meeting together for a church family meal at the Phoenix Sports & Social club in Brinsworth, as has become our church tradition! Yet again we were treated to a fabulous time of fellowship and fantastic food! Thanks to all who came along, and many thanks to Carol Cooke for organising, and to the team at the Phoenix.



Ladies Fellowship Christmas Outing

On 25th November, 9 members of our Ladies Fellowship spent an afternoon at Dobbies Garden Centre in Barlborough. They enjoyed welcome tea/coffee and some even had a cream cake! A good time was had by all.

The Ladies Fellowship meets fortnightly on a Monday afternoon at church. For more information, please speak to Jean Thompson or Marbeth Purdy.



Dates for your diary

We offer an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us at any of our events.

Regular Events

Monday

Ladies Fellowship 1:30pm (fortnightly - 3rd & 17th Feb, 2nd, 16th & 30th Mar)

Tuesday

Mums & Tots 10:00-11:30am (Term time)
Please note: there is currently a waiting list

Craft Club 1:30pm (Term time)

Wednesday

Midweek Communion Service 7:30pm (1st Wednesday of each month)

Saturday

Prayer Meeting 9:45am (1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month)

Other Events

Sun 8th Mar 'Bread and Soup' Lent lunch - after morning service, in support of Christian Aid

Sat 14th Mar Men's breakfast @ 10:00am
To book a space contact us at swallownestbaptist.org.uk/contact

Sun 15th Mar AGM Celebration @ 6:00pm

Sun 16th Feb & Sun 15th Mar (3rd Sunday of each month) Prospects@Central @ 3:30 - 4:00pm
An inclusive service for those with learning disabilities. Held at Central Methodist, Lodge Lane.

Sunday Services @ 10:30am

February

2 nd	Ben Stacey (Communion)
9 th	David Skeet
16 th	David Skeet (Communion)
23 rd	Messy Church - Family Service

March

1 st	David Skeet (Communion)
8 th	Rob Joyce
15 th	TBC (Communion)
22 nd	Junior Church - Family Service
29 th	David Skeet

- ◆ Tea & coffee is available before the service
- ◆ Junior church, for children of all ages, takes place during the service
- ◆ All family services are followed by a bring & share lunch



For more information, news on upcoming events, copies of the newsletter, and to listen to the Bible talks from our Sunday services, visit our **website**:
www.swallownestbaptist.org.uk

Newsletter by Email



If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter via email, or have any ideas for items that you would like to see in future editions, please speak to

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