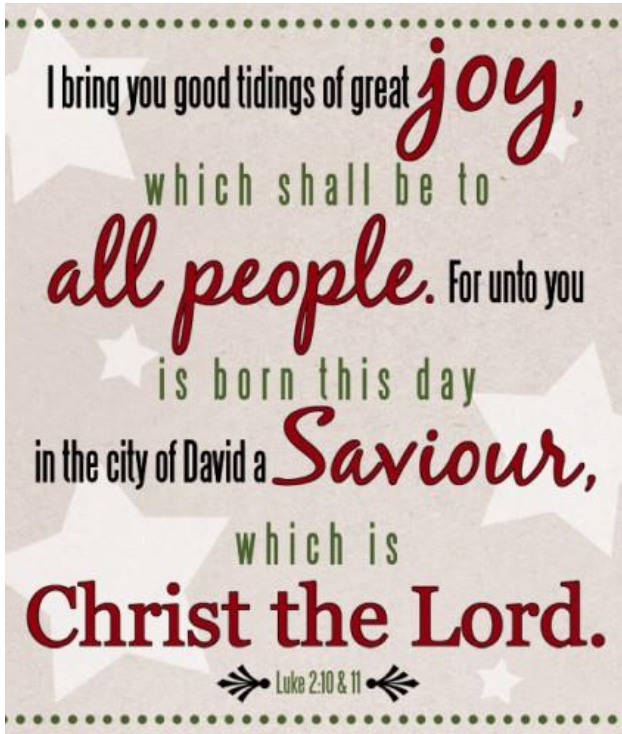


Swallownest Baptist Church



Newsletter

Dec - Jan 2019



“... my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory
in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19



What does Christmas mean to you?

Some years ago celebrities were invited to sum up Christmas in three words.

Their responses were many and varied:

“Eating too much”,
“The Queen’s speech”,
“Morecambe and Wise”,
“Lots of presents”,
“Tinsel and Turkey”

What would you say?

Of course, many of us would immediately think in terms of three words that would reflect the nativity;

“Christ is born”
“Peace on Earth”
“Joy to’t world” (if, like me, you’re from the north)

Vaughan Roberts wrote a little booklet entitled “Christmas in Three words” which poses this same question.

He makes the observation that if we take Christ out of Christmas we are left with MAS - not so far removed from M&S.

This might trigger another suggestion: “Too much commercialism”.

It’s probably true that at some point we all feel we have become somewhat distracted from the real message of Christmas in making sure we have the cards, presents, decorations and, of course, the food in place in time for the ‘big day’.

In this season of advent we need to set

aside times in the midst of all the busyness to reflect on what “Christ is born” really means.

In the midst of so much of what has become attached to Christmas, sadly many dismiss Jesus as just a part of a myth. However, in his booklet, Vaughan Roberts firstly points out the historical evidence of Jesus’ life.

He goes on to speak of the joy that the story brings and the importance of considering it carefully, as it is not something we can afford to ignore.

The shepherds and the Magi heard and they immediately went to find out more.

This Christmas, it is my prayer that we all discover more of this incredible event and with the angels declare “Glory to God”.

Phil.

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

Janet Davey or email
newsletter@swallownestbaptist.org.uk

LIFEWORDS

Lifeworlds exists because the Bible is for everyone.

We want people everywhere to experience it as good news for their lives, and for the world.

In 2006 I had the privilege of travelling to Sao Paulo and Rio De Janeiro to see the wonderful impact of good Christian literature being used on the raw edge of life – the poor street children of these cities. **Lifeworlds** (Scripture Gift Mission) has produced its “Pavement Project” booklets, to tell the story of Jesus to children who have experienced rejection, homelessness and abuse. In the hands of trained compassionate street workers I saw His story “take on flesh”. Desperate children’s lives touched by Christ’s acceptance; and in its wake acceptance and hope.

I have recently found that Lifeworlds have ventured into the world of digital resources and would like to make readers aware of these...

VerseFirst is a community of people exploring the Bible and how it speaks to our everyday experience. It can be followed on Facebook and Instagram. It “meets young people where they are at on social media, with words to live by.” This Words app provides a daily connection with the Bible with all its comfort, challenge and encouragement. Words that can seriously be a life-changing reality. For more information visit www.versefirst.com

Laura who mentors young people with anxiety and depression (all too prevalent today in our own communities) finds that VerseFirst has been helpful to many of her young people.

You may wish to look up www.lifeworlds.global. There may be something there for you or a friend. It also tells more about Pavement Project and other valuable links.

Malcolm Purdy

Harvest Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the BMS Harvest appeal - Life's First Cry. We were able to raise £330 which is absolutely brilliant.



One in ten babies born in Afghanistan will die before their first birthday. This is due to many factors including poor diet, lack of access to medical services, and lack of knowledge around hygiene and sanitation. BMS are providing much needed training and education to provide people with the skills that they need to prevent common birth problems, and how to deal with them when they do happen, as well as knowing when they need to seek help from a medical professional. Already, this is saving lives of mothers and babies and your donations will support this much needed ongoing work.

Many thanks also to everyone who donated to the New Hope Food Bank at our Harvest service in October. Thanks to all who donate cash and food to the Food Bank throughout the year.



We will be running the food bank drive on Saturday 15th December at Swallownest Co-op. If you could spare an hour to help out during the day it would be much appreciated. It just involves handing out fliers about the food bank to people as they enter the store. If you are interested, please speak to Bryan Cook, or sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

Many thanks to the staff and management at the Co-op for their ongoing support in this worthwhile venture.



The Real Advent Calendar

A great way to share the Christmas story

You may have heard of the Real Easter Egg, well there is now the Real Advent Calendar. This is an Advent calendar which aims to share the Christmas story. Behind each window is a line of the Christmas story, as well as a chocolate! Also included is a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book, which has a page for each day of Advent and some fun challenges along the way.



The Real Advent Calendar was created in 2013 following surveys which showed that 36% of 5-7 year olds did not know whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas. In the same year 51% of adults said that the birth of Jesus was irrelevant to their Christmas. The calendar aims to try and reverse this and put Christ back into the hearts of those who no longer know the Christmas story in full.

The calendars can be purchased from Tesco, the CLC Christian bookshop in Sheffield or online at eden.co.uk. Donations from the sales of this calendar will help the Funzi and Bodo Trust provide more than 600,000 eggs a year to feed children in Kenya, buy books for schools and supply medicines.

For more information about the campaign, please visit www.realadvent.co.uk



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

Christmas Carol Dingbats

Solve each set of 3 dingbats which should lead you to the title of a Christmas carol. Answers can be found at: <https://www.kensquiz.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/XCDA.pdf>

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<p>Name of carol</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UU + Everyone</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Davuuuid's</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shone of glory</p>
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<p>Name of carol</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rthmetee Night Night</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gathered all</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sirius Venus</p>
<p>4(a)</p>	<p>(b)</p>	<p>(c)</p>
<p>Name of carol</p>		
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<p>5(a)</p>	<p>(b)</p>	<p>(c)</p>
<p>Name of carol</p>		

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 2:00pm (fortnightly)

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

Sat 1st Dec Church Christmas Coffee Morning @ 10:00am-12:00

Thu 13th Dec Crib Blessing @ 6.00pm, Birdcage Walk, Aston

Sat 15th Dec Aston Churches Together Carol Singing at Del's @
11:00am - 12:00

New Hope Food Bank Drive @ 9:00am - 4:00pm,
Swallownest Co-op

Sun 16th Dec Christmas Family Service with Nativity @ 10:30am
followed by Bring & Share Lunch and 'Fun & Games'
Carols by Candlelight @ 4:00pm

Tues 18th Dec Mums & Tots Carol Service, 10:00am for 10:30am

Sun 6th Jan Church Meal @ The Phoenix, Brinsworth

Sunday Services @ 10:30am

December

2 nd	Ben Stacey (Communion)
9 th	David Skeet
16 th	Junior Church - Nativity Service @ 10:30am Carols by Candlelight @ 4:00pm
23 rd	Rob Joyce - Family Celebration
25 th	Phil Clowes - Christmas Day Family Service <i>(Bring along one of your gifts to show us!)</i>
30 th	Phil Clowes

January

6 th	Rob Joyce (Communion)
13 th	TBC
20 th	Ben Stacey (Communion)
27 th	Rob Joyce & Debbie Clowes- Family Service

- ◆ 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
- ◆ If you need help with transport to/from church on any Sunday, please contact Phil Clowes