



Newsletter

April - May 2019

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Philippa Hanna

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16

New Life!

Whether we are using the meteorological or astronomical definition of the seasons, we are now officially into Spring. With the unseasonable bouts of warm weather, our gardens and countryside are now bursting forth with evidence of new life. We are also now in the period of Lent.

Ollie and I recently visited Manchester Cathedral where, throughout Lent, a huge drape displays a verse from Genesis Chapter 3:

"Remember: thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return."

It serves as a timely reminder of our mortality and, in view of recent events around the world, of the fragility of life.

Of course, the season of Lent culminates in our celebration of Easter.

Often, the first reminder that Easter is on the horizon is the appearance of Easter eggs on the shelves of our supermarkets.

I have heard different explanations of the significance of eggs at Easter.

Perhaps the most obvious, alongside images of cute fluffy chicks, is that it is simply a symbol of new life.

Less obvious, however, is the suggestion that the egg is a reminder

of the stone which sealed the tomb of Jesus.

However, in my favourite, the egg symbolises the tomb itself, from which the resurrected Jesus burst forth.

Jesus' tortuous journey to the cross and ultimate death paved the way to new life for all who will receive His forgiveness, mercy and grace. His resurrection demonstrates His victory over death for us all.

As you give and receive eggs this year, let them remind you of the full message of Easter. The message, about our amazing God who showed His love for us in sending His son, Jesus, to die in our place and His power in bringing Him back from the dead.

CHRIST IS RISEN, HALLELUJAH!

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

What's Good about Good Friday?

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday when Christians remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus on a cruel Roman cross.

So why would this day be called 'good' when it resulted in the tragic and painful death of an innocent man?

The reason is that Jesus' death was for all of mankind and was part of God's eternal plan for good. When Jesus died on the cross, he took our place, taking upon himself all the wrong things we have done, and taking the punishment on our behalf. Through his sacrifice he has provided the means by which we can be forgiven and have a relationship with God. On the third day, he rose again, defeating death, and providing us with the hope of eternal life.

So in fact Good Friday is not only 'good' but in the words of the songwriter Tim Hughes, it's "the greatest day in history".

This is the Good News of Good Friday, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).



Sunflower Seeds

In our February family service, we all received a sunflower seed to remind us of the truth of John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die".



So what better time to plant your seed than at Easter.

Please send any photos of your fully grown sunflowers to newsletter@swallownestbaptist.org.uk and the best ones will feature in a future edition of this newsletter. Let's see who can grow the tallest!

God for Kids

God for Kids is a fun, Bible based app for primary age children exploring who God is and what God is like in 4 fun adventures. It can be downloaded for free from the App Store, Google play, Amazon and from www.Godforkidsapp.com.

Step by step explore God's character with interactive puzzles, games and thought provoking questions based around one Bible verse, one personality trait at a time. The app is ideal for children and grown ups to explore spiritual questions about God together and is also safe for children to play on the app on their own.

The graphic is a promotional poster for the 'God for Kids' app. At the top left is the logo 'God for Kids' with a smiling face icon. To its right, it says 'download the app at www.Godforkidsapp.com'. Below the logo are four small square icons representing different app features: 'God is Real' (a landscape with a sun and trees), 'God is Big' (a rocket launching into space), 'God is Jesus' (two fish and a sun), and 'God is Spirit' (a blue fish and an octopus). A large white speech bubble with a blue smiley face icon inside says 'Let's play!'. Below these elements is a testimonial in white text on a blue background: '"Seeing the look of amazement on my daughter's face as she learned just how BIG God really is, gave me such a thrill! It's a thrill I want to share with every parent and caregiver."' followed by 'JOANNE GILCHRIST, MOTHER OF 2, PRODUCER OF GOD FOR KIDS'. At the bottom, there are cartoon illustrations of a boy, a girl, a cow, a bird, and a bear. A blue banner at the very bottom contains the text 'Find out more @Godforkids | facebook.com/GodforKidsapp'.

"This is only the beginning... may you never stop learning about God and growing in your relationship with God. To truly know God, is to love and trust God with all your heart, mind and strength."

Joanne Gilchrist, creator of God for Kids app

To find out more, find them on Facebook or on their website, www.Godforkidsapp.com

The Real Easter Egg

What better way to share the Easter story than through chocolate!

The Real Easter Egg campaign is one of the biggest evangelism initiatives in the UK. It crosses all denominations and offers a simple way to share the Easter Story while supporting Fairtrade and charitable projects.

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to share the Easter story. Included with each egg is an Easter story activity book. Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010. It was a real struggle as all the supermarkets turned it down at first. It was left to churches and church schools to place orders and fund

The Meaningful Chocolate Company to begin making The Real Easter Egg. To date, they have sold more than one million eggs with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools. The rest have been sold through independent retailers and supermarkets.

Not only has there been an increase in Fairtrade chocolate sales, but nearly £275,000 has been donated to charitable projects. Also, Fairtrade premium fees are paid to farmers allowing them to invest in their community buying everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

You can purchase the egg from Morrisons, Tesco, Asda, Waitrose, the CLC Bookshop in Sheffield, as well as online from Eden and Traidcraft.

Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the soup and roll lunch on 10th March and donated to Christian Aid. We managed to raise £102.42. This, along with a donation from the church, meant that we were able to donate £300 in total.



Philippa Hanna

On Sunday 21st January, we had the privilege of hosting Philippa Hanna as part of her 365 Live Tour. Tickets sold out quickly and it was great to see the church full. Thank you to everyone who came, and a special thanks to everyone who helped organise the event.

Philippa's Dad, Pat, was the warm up act, and Philippa's husband, Joel, accompanied her on percussion. We were treated to a number of songs, both old and new, and many in the congregation were clearly Philippa fans, knowing the songs off by heart! Philippa also announced that she is embarking on a new venture writing worship songs, so we may well be singing her songs in the Sunday service in the future! She has performed her first worship song "Now to Jesus" on Songs of Praise.

Philippa was also publicising her latest book, 'Amazing You' which features a year of uplifting, two-minute devotions to remind us of our identity, potential, and value in God. Each day includes a Scripture, inspirational reading, moment of reflection, and prayer.

To keep up on the latest news, you can follow Philippa on Facebook , Twitter, or see her website www.philippahanna.com



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 - 1st, 15th & 29th Apr, 13th & 27th May)

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

Fri 19th Apr ACT Walk of Witness @ 12:00pm from church
Prayer & Praise @ 5:00 - 6:00pm

Sun 21st Apr Easter Morning Sunrise Service at Ulley
Country Park @ 8:00am
Breakfast at church @ 9:00am
Easter Sunday Service @ 10:30am
ACT Celebration at Swallownest crossroads @
12:30pm

Tues 30th Apr Members' Meeting @ 7:30pm

Sat 11th May Men's breakfast @ 10:00am

Sunday Services @ 10:30am

April

- 7th Malcolm Purdy (Communion)
- 14th Palm Sunday - Ben Stacey
- 21st Easter Sunday - Phil Clowes (Communion)
- 28th Junior Church & Ollie Clowes - Family Service

May

- 5th David Harvey (Communion)
- 12th Ian Jennings
- 19th Clive Burnard (Communion)
- 26th Messy Church - 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



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