

Swallownest Baptist Church



Newsletter

December - January 2020

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



He came without ribbons. He came without tags. He came without packages, boxes or bags.

What is Christmas all about? A UK survey asked people to state three things that Christmas meant to them, 66% failed to mention religion or Christ's birth. Two-thirds made no immediate connection between Christ and Christmas!

The songs we sing and the readings that we hear tell of the time when God came into the world in Human form and how that came about. From the prophecy foretold in Isaiah to the delivery of Jesus, a refugee born in a manger.

Is this what Christmas is all about, the story of a baby being born?

For so many Christmas is a time to celebrate, prepare for a feast, give and receive gifts, the warmth of family and friends.

Others will say it is the celebration of Jesus' birth that has something to do with Christmas. But the full meaning of Christmas is something bigger – bigger than the family or good will toward humanity, even bigger than remembering the birthday of Jesus.

For when we celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating one of the greatest truths of our time – the incarnation, Emmanuel, God with us. We are not just celebrating the fact that some 2,000 years ago Jesus of Nazareth was born; we are celebrating the far greater fact that in Jesus of Nazareth God himself became human.

This gift that keeps on giving. That came without ribbons, without tags, packages, boxes or bags. His love for us and love for one another cannot be forged or created, it is in our DNA.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son" (John 3:16)

Peace on earth and good will to all is possible because of His love. My prayer is that we share that love with one another, as Christ first loved us, as we celebrate this advent – Emmanuel – God with us.

On behalf of the leadership team, have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Grace and peace



David

Meet the Skeets

In August we welcomed David, and his wife Julie, into our church family as David joined the church leadership team as Team Leader. We therefore thought that it was a good time to find out a little bit more about them, and how we could be praying for them.



“Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude for the warm welcome we have received and to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts and time that you have given to get everything ready for us joining Swallownest Baptist Church. It was good to be joined by so many friends, old and new at David’s induction and ordination.

Now a little more about us.

Julie:

I am a primary school teacher, who works in Leeds. I feel very much that this is where my ministry lies. The work is immensely rewarding with many of the children and staff asking me about my faith, which opens up opportunities for me to build relationships and share the gospel with others. I am also in my final year of a masters degree, where I am researching the mental health needs of children. In my spare time I enjoy long walks with David and our dog Whizz and spending time with my grandchildren and children.

David:

God has great plans ahead, we are yet to see them revealed but they are encouraging words as I take up this new post.

I enjoy regular exercise and generally keeping fit, spending time with my family and getting to know more about the area.

Prayers are important especially as we continue to seek God at work in this community. Prayers for safety when travelling and for peace and protection.”

If you would like to find out more about how David became a Christian, you can listen to his story on our website (search David Skeet under Speakers, date 13/10/2019):

<http://www.swallownestbaptist.org.uk/resources/bibletalks/>

It's For Charity

A number of people in our church family have done some amazing things for charity this year. We want to say a big thank you for all your efforts and also to those who supported them and donated. Here are just a few things that people did.

Olivia Egan raised over £500 for the Cathedral Archer project by abseiling down the 13 storey Owen Building in Sheffield.



Jennie, Thomas and Alex Joyce raised £2270 (with a few donations still to collect) for Teenage Cancer Trust. Thomas and Jennie ran 1.5km and Alex ran 2.5km (down Fargate from the Crucible to St Mary's Gate and back).

Julia Moore and Megan James raised £55 for Macmillan by baking cupcakes for Messy Church.



In David Skeet's previous role as a Community liaison coordinator, he set up a number of events to raise £25,000 for 25 charities. One of those events saw David, with 8 of his colleagues, take on a 75 mile cycle challenge that took them 'up and down t'dale'. They added £2000 to the pot which was all going towards: Cancer research; Royal British Legion; Harrogate Homeless Project; Army Benevolent Fund; Marie Curie; Candlelighters; Yorkshire Air Ambulance; Woodland Trust + many more!



Many thanks to everyone who donated a shoebox and / or money. We were able to send off 35 shoeboxes and raise £105.

A big thank you to everyone who gave to the BMS Conflict Survivors South Sudan Harvest Appeal. We raised £300.20!



Many thanks 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.



Current shortages are: Tinned cold meats, hot meats/curries, peas, carrots, and tinned puddings. Also coffee & sugar.

We will be running the food bank drive again this year on Saturday 21st 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

MEANINGFUL FEATURES

- Free 24 page Christmas story-activity book
- A line of the Christmas story behind each window
- Foil sealed for freshness
- Made from quality Fairtrade milk chocolate: 35% cocoa
- Palm oil free
- 25 festive chocolate shapes
- Charitable donation
- Recyclable box & tray



Available from: Tesco, the CLC Christian bookshop in Sheffield or online at eden.co.uk. For more information visit www.realadvent.co.uk

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 9th December @ 1:00pm, 6th Jan & 20th Jan @ 1:30pm

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 21st Dec New Hope Food Bank Drive @ 9:00am - 4:00pm, Swallownest Co-op

Sun 5th Jan Church Meal @ The Phoenix, Brinsworth

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

Sun 15th Dec & Sun 19th Jan (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.



Christmas Events

- Mon 9th December Ladies Candlelight Carol Service @ 1:00pm
- Thu 12th Dec Crib Blessing @ 6.00pm, Swallownest
- Tue 17th December Mums & Tots Carol Service, 10:00am for 10:30am
- Sat 14th Dec Church Christmas Coffee Morning @ 10:00am-12:00
All proceeds raised will go to the Teenage Cancer Trust charity
- Sat 21st Dec Aston Churches Together Carol Singing at Del's @ 11:00am - 12:00
- Sun 22nd Dec Christmas Family Service with Nativity @ 10:30am followed by Bring & Share Lunch and 'Fun & Games'
- Carol Service @ 4:00pm



Christmas Carol Quiz

Each set of initials represents the name of a Christmas Carol. Can you solve them all? Answers at: swallownestbaptist.org.uk/christmasquizzesanswers

1	AFTROG
2	OLTOB
3	JCTAT
4	GRYMG
5	OCA YF
6	AIAM
7	OHN
8	CC
9	HTHAS
10	OCOCE

11	ICUTMC
12	OIRDC
13	JTTW
14	THATI
15	DDMOH
16	IDJ
17	AWGMOO
18	GCMR
19	LD
20	WSWTF

Sunday Services @ 10:30am

December

1 st	David Skeet (Communion)
8 th	Ben Stacey
15 th	David Skeet (Communion)
22 nd	Junior Church - Nativity Service @ 10:30am Carols by Candlelight @ 4:00pm
25 th	Christmas Day Family Service <i>(Bring along one of your gifts to show us!)</i>
29 th	Review 2019

January

5 th	David Skeet (Communion)
12 th	David Skeet
19 th	Rob Joyce (Communion)
26 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



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