

Swallownest Baptist Church



Newsletter

April - May 2020

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“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

As I write, we face an unprecedented situation. We may be worrying as we are faced with an uncertain future over the Coronavirus. In these difficult times, prayer connects us to God and energises us to navigate anxiety with God. We may feel unable or even know what or how to pray. The Lord's Prayer anchors us to Jesus' own petition for provision and protection. These familiar words will encourage you to prayerfully journey through this troublesome worry with confident hope.

Jesus said *"Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil'"* (Matthew 6:9-13).

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' own prayer of hope as well as a prayer of confidence. When the worries of life close in, these well-known words serve as a compass to guide us in truth and teach us to pray with confident expectation.

When we pray we draw near to our Father God, the one who cares, provides, protects, and remains deeply interested in our concerns and his purposes for us and his Church. Our worries prompt us to pray for

provision, deliverance, and safety in the middle of it all. It all begins with the hopefulness of drawing near to God in prayer as 'our Father' and ends with the confidence of his kingdom, power, and glory forever.

We pray the Lord's Prayer in faith, knowing that we are not helpless. Real and lasting change is possible by the Holy Spirit's power. We must declare that the work that Jesus has begun in our lives and in the world will continue, even when things are gloomy or uncertain.

We stand together in this situation and everyone must play their part. Let's keep praying and communicating with each other. Help in any way we can. Above all follow the guidelines and remain safe. Finally let me finish by declaring that we have a strong and certain hope, faith and assurance from our God who is able to immeasurably more than we can ever ask. May we find rest and renewal today as we draw closer to our Lord and his prayer. Amen

Grace and Peace



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Skeet is our Church Team Leader

Important Update

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have sadly had to cancel all meetings and events for the foreseeable future.

However, the work of Swallownest Baptist Church does not stop and although we cannot meet together physically, we are continuing to meet virtually through our YouTube channel.

We are having a Sunday morning service each week at 10:30am which includes a time of worship and prayer and we will be continuing our sermon series on the Last Words of Jesus on the Cross. The first and third Sundays will also include communion.

We are also having a midweek bible study every Wednesday at 7pm. We will be exploring the main themes out of the book, 'The Crucified is My Love', which we have been reading as a church during the period of Lent. There will be opportunities for you to post questions and suggestions. We will look at these at the start of the next session the following week and hope to provide some answers for you.

To attend our online meetings, simply click the link below to access our YouTube Channel. Don't worry if you miss a meeting at the published time, as it will stay there for you to catch up when you are ready.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCxVeRxWnEITocXBE6KPeaRw

You can also access it via the front page of the church's website by clicking on the YouTube channel box.

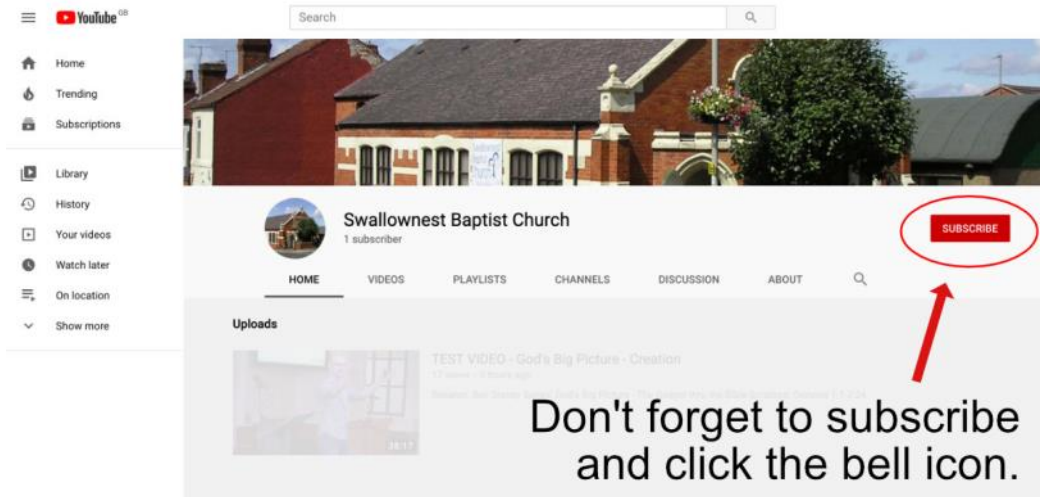
www.swallownestbaptist.org.uk



we are live!
Find us on YouTube
Sunday Morning
@ 10:30

Swallownest Baptist Church
Midweek Bible Study
Every Wednesday at 7pm

Swallownest Baptist Church YouTube Channel



The YouTube channel can be accessed from a computer, mobile phone, tablet or Smart TV. All of the meeting recordings will be on there. You might also find it helpful to click the 'Subscribe' button and the bell icon. That way you will get notified every time we put something new up.

The audio from the meetings are also available in the same way as our Sunday morning sermons - on our website under Bible Talks, and through our Podcast.

Leave a comment.

It would be great to use the comments box as a way of communicating live with each other and giving the feeling of us all being together.

YouTube has two ways of doing this. The 'chat' box is for instant temporary communication. This box only exists while the video is live and can be a great way to share thoughts or just say hello to everyone watching.

If you want your comment to be permanent for someone to be able to come back to, for example any questions you have that you would like us to pick up and come back to you with, these are best left in the 'comments' box below the video.

A Decade of Real Easter Eggs

The Real Easter Egg campaign has been running since 2010 and involves thousands of churches, schools and groups. It crosses all denominations and offers individuals a simple way to share the Easter Story while supporting Fairtrade and charitable projects.

The idea began in 2008 when David Marshall was given a chocolate Easter Egg. David explained: "On the side of the box it read: 'Easter is the festival of chocolate and loveliness'. I began to wonder – was it right for the manufacturer of an Easter egg to change the meaning of a religious festival in this way? Imagine the outcry if this had been done to Christmas. I searched for an Easter egg which mentioned the Christian story of Easter. It became clear that out of the 80 million eggs on sale there was not a single manufacturer who was willing to mention the religious aspects of the festival. So I started The Meaningful Chocolate Company to manufacture the UK's first 'Real Easter Egg'. For it to be a 'Real Easter Egg' it had to reflect the Easter themes of hope and new life and do three things – have a copy of the Easter story in the box, be made from Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable causes."



Ten years on, more than a million eggs have been sold with over 750,000 sent through the post directly to customers. The rest have been sold through retailers and supermarkets. Nearly £275,000 has been donated to charitable projects with Fairtrade Premium fees paid to farmers allowing them to buy everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

For Easter 2020, there are five types of Real Easter Eggs available all with new content. Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. There is a new 24 page version in the Original and Dark eggs with activities, biblical text and a prize competition worth £200. Both the Original and Dark 2020 eggs are plastic free and all their chocolate is Palm Oil free.

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

For more information, visit meaningfulchocolate.co.uk

Reading through the Gospels with The 'Lumo Project'

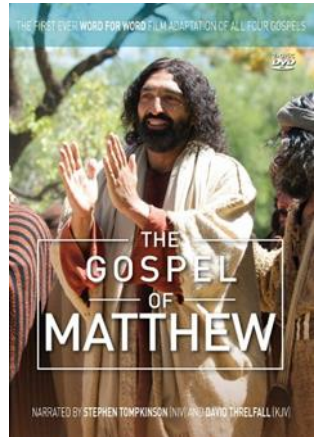
In our recent Sunday morning talk by David Skeet on 'L for Learn' in our 'BELLS' series we were encouraged to read right the way through one of the gospel books of the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) in one sitting. David explained that, when we go through a whole gospel, we get to see the themes and rhythms running through it and learn what Jesus is saying and doing - a great way to get to know Jesus. Jesus himself told us in John's gospel: *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14 v16)

David suggested that we should take some time out to do this, maybe finding the time by missing out on watching our favourite soaps, shows or sporting events on TV. Well one way to achieve this, without having to turn off the TV at all, comes thanks to the 'Lumo Project'!

"The Lumo Project goal was to film all four of the gospels in the most realistic and authentic way possible and share the gospels for a visual age. For the first time, four full length feature films tell the story of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, told from the different perspectives of the gospel writers, word for word, unabridged. This project was shot throughout 2013 on Moroccan locations, bringing a really authentic feel yet contemporary style to these first century texts."

The most significant difference between this and previous gospel films is that instead of dialogue, each film has a narration consisting of the full, word for word, text of the gospel. So, if you want, you can switch on the subtitles and/or follow along with your bible open in front of you. Another great thing about these films are that they help with experiencing the natural flow of the text of

the gospels, without the distraction of the chapter and verse structure. A choice of King James or NIV versions of the bible is currently available.



They are also a great resource for homegroups, and in the Tuesday evening homegroup we have been working through the gospel of John, using the 'Lumo Project' DVD as a focus for each passage we study. We have found them particularly helpful in visualising more clearly the people and places featured in the Bible.

How much time you have may determine which gospel you choose to look at! Running times are as follows: Matthew – 190 mins, Mark – 103 mins, Luke – 207 mins, John – 160 mins.

The DVDs are available through Amazon and all Christian retailers. There are lots of clips available online, and you can find out much more by simply searching for 'Lumo Project' on YouTube.

Chris Davey

Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the soup and roll lunch on 8th March and donated to Christian Aid. We managed to raise £77.



Accessing the Newsletter

The newsletter is now available on our website:

swallownestbaptist.org.uk/resources/newsletter/

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter via email, or if you have any ideas for items that you would like to see in future editions, please email newsletter@swallownestbaptist.org.uk

Coronavirus Updates

For all the latest church communications, please visit our dedicated page

www.swallownestbaptist.org.uk/coronavirus-updates



Don't forget, the best place for up-to-date general information about Coronavirus is the official government site

www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

Or a reputable news site like www.bbc.co.uk or news.sky.com/uk.

For the most up-to-date medical advice, visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

At this time, please join with us in praying that our national leaders make wise decisions, praying for the safety of those on the front line in the NHS, Care Workers and all Key Workers, praying for peace in our souls during this time of worry, and in praying for God's protection over our most vulnerable.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6



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