



Rother Valley Rainbow

Newsletter

June - July 2020

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Happy Retirement!

As Phil and Ollie step down from their leadership roles, we wanted to say a massive thank you to them and formally recognise the immense contribution that they have made to Swallownest Baptist Church since 1975.



Phil over the years, has fulfilled so many different positions within the church - a preacher, a worship leader, a band member, church Secretary, church Treasurer and from the mid 1980s, an Elder. He has overseen so many changes within the leadership team and was instrumental in shaping the shared eldership structure we know today. Importantly, Phil has been a consistent presence over the years, as other Elders have come and gone. When Malcolm retired in 2012, Phil almost single-handedly ran the church from an Eldership point of view, and this is something that the church family will never forget or fail to appreciate. The whole leadership team will miss his kind wisdom and gentle perceptiveness. He will be missed.

"Phil and Ollie" is a recognised double-act. As Phil retires, it's no surprise that Ollie is also taking this opportunity to stand down from her role in leading Junior Church. Ollie's dedication, organisation and passion for children's ministry have served the church and our children so well over so many years.

The fact that their true hearts have always been for the people of the church, rather than position, means that we are lucky to count them both as friends, as well as a brother and sister in Christ.

The whole church extends its thanks and gratitude to them both for all they have done for so long, and everyone wishes them both every happiness in their second retirements.

"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

A Whole New World

As I write, I'm acutely aware of the many changes and the ongoing challenges to health and life since COVID-19 was defined a pandemic.

It seems a life time since those of us in the UK were asked to change our ways of working and living, following many other countries asking for the same.

I recall the sadness in my heart as I placed signs on the church doors telling the outside world that the building was closed. Yet the church is alive and strong.

I am greatly encouraged by the number of people we have been able to reach out to via our online services and for the recent surveys showing increasing numbers of people turning to prayer and online services.

We hear of amazing testimonies, where God is at work as he breathes new life and transformation in those who have turned and given their lives to Jesus.

This is a challenging time in many ways, a time when it is easy to think and fear for others. I worry about the children in my life, my wife and our families who are frontline workers. I worry for friends who suffer with anxiety or are needing treatment for

illnesses. I think about our brothers and sisters in Christ and many friends working in healthcare as doctors, nurses, health-workers, as well as those in the service industry or in policy roles who are forced to face this pandemic head on. I think about our amazing team and for the many members who provide much needed pastoral care.

Yet I'm also reminded of what Paul says to the church of Philippi in Philippians Chapter 4:6 –

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

We all have worries whether it's our families, homes, jobs or health. But Paul's advice is to turn our worries into prayers. We are seeing more and more people turn to prayer and so I want to encourage us to continue to pray for and with one another. To seek God and ask ourselves these two questions: (1) What is God calling me to do? (2) What has God called the church to do?

Many of us may be asking ourselves how we are best placed to help. Can we be doing more, and doing it more directly? How should we be utilising the collective knowledge of our incredible network of members and friends? What difficult questions should we be asking, and attempting to answer?

Our vision is to live Faith, bring Hope and share the Love of Jesus. We need to ensure the learnings from this crisis help put us in a stronger position to do that.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes and we will update you as we go. For now, may I thank you again for all you are doing, keep praying, stay safe and be encouraged.

Grace and Peace



David Skeet is our Church Team Leader



For more information, news on upcoming events, copies of the newsletter, and to listen to the Bible talks from our Sunday services and weekly devotional, visit our **website**: www.swallownestbaptist.org.uk or email swallownestbaptist@gmail.com Also check out our **Facebook** page.

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 On?

Our **Sunday Services** will continue to take place every Sunday at 10:30 am via our YouTube Channel. The first and third Sunday of each month will include communion.



June

7th Rob Joyce (Communion)

14th David Skeet

21st David Skeet (Communion)

28th Rob Joyce

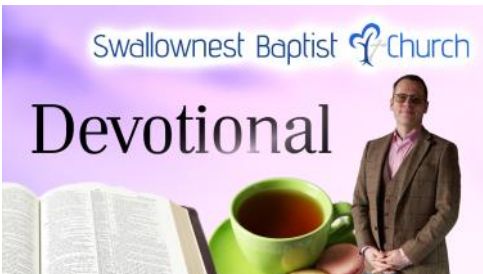
July

5th David Skeet (Communion)

12th Rob Joyce

19th David Skeet (Communion)

26th Rob Joyce



Each Monday, there is a **weekly Devotional** released on our YouTube channel, which includes a Bible reading, a few thoughts on the reading and a time of prayer.

You can subscribe to our channel and click on the little bell to get notifications when we post something new.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxVeRxWnEITocXBE6KPeaRw>



The audio from the Sunday Service and the weekly Devotional is also available (in the same way as our Sunday morning sermons were previously) on our website under Bible Talks, and through our Podcast.

**No Internet,
No problem!**

**0114
478 2697**



Swallownest
Baptist
Church

We have set up a dedicated telephone service for those who have no internet connection and are unable to watch our YouTube videos or access our online recordings. This plays the same audio recordings that are made available each week through our website.

Simply dial our dedicated local number **0114 478 2697** on a telephone, listen to the short introductory message and then

press 1 for our latest Sunday Service, or press 2 for our latest Weekly Devotional. Calls are charged at standard UK local rate. If you have free minutes on your phone package it may be included, but if in doubt please check first with your phone service provider. Please note that we aim to update the audio files, on both our website and this telephone service, within 24 hours of their original release on YouTube each Sunday and Monday.

Do please pass this on to any family, friends or neighbours that this might help.

The **Prayer Meeting** takes place on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month at 9:45am via Zoom.

- 7th and 21st June
- 5th and 19th July

The **Midweek Communion Service** takes place on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm via Zoom.

- 3rd June
- 1st July



We offer an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us at any of our events. Email swallownestbaptist@gmail.com for further information.

My Top 3 Things.....

We asked people what the top three things were that they felt especially grateful for during this lockdown period and why.

Margaret & Jeff Chapman

- 1) Modern technology which enables us to keep in touch with family, including church family and friends via phones, iPads, computers etc.
- 2) The church prayer line which lets us know of people who need prayer for illnesses they have or for someone else. A truly good source of comfort.
- 3) Our freedom to walk each day. We have had some really good weather recently to enjoy the outdoors. We appreciate our garden which we have been able to sit and relax in.

Alan Turner

- 1) My home and being able to share it with Paul
- 2) A loving church fellowship
- 3) Kind neighbours

Derek & Anthea Smith

- 1) God's goodness, faithfulness and steadfast love. He is our Rock and on Him we stand firm. We are leaning on him very much as we go through these uncertain times.
- 2) All that our church leaders are doing for us week by week with the Sunday services, weekly devotional and monthly communion service. They are a real blessing to us and we're grateful for all the preparation and work behind the scenes to produce them. Now the added blessing of Zoom so that the twice monthly prayer meeting can continue too.
- 3) That we have each other as we go through this time together. Also for all our family. Those close by who are always willing to help where they can. Those further away who are frequently in touch with us by text, phone, skype etc. God bless them all for their care and concern.

Paul Turner

- 1) This special time with dad
- 2) Peace as I lead the Latin Link community
- 3) Feeling close to Ruth even though we're apart physically



*Rejoice always,
pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Janet Davey

- 1) Technology has made it possible for me to continue to work from home, for us to meet together virtually as a church, and for me to do my daily PE lessons with Joe Wicks!
- 2) The open spaces around where we live which has meant that I have been able to do some lovely "socially distanced" walks and bike rides.
- 3) Everyone involved in the food supply chain. The shortages we saw a few months ago have made me very grateful to be able to go into a supermarket and get all the food we need.

Annee Longley

- 1) The time I have had available to read the Bible, listen to online preachings and pray. My prayer life and my relationship with the Lord has vastly improved since the lockdown. My automatic response now to everything I hear or see about people with respect to the pandemic, whether I know them personally or not, is to pray for hope and for their salvation.
- 2) My friends. As soon as I returned back to the UK my friends were ringing me asking me what shopping I needed. They have been doing this for me since the lockdown. Once a friend brought me exotic fruit just in case I miss eating them.
- 3) My health. God has given me a strong mind and a healthy body. I just fitted in to the lockdown as if it has always been there. I am coping well. I don't feel bored, I am content & I am happy.

Carol Cooke

- 1) Support of friends & family. Regular contact, phone calls, video calls. Just keeping in touch & having a laugh!
- 2) Springtime & glorious sunshine. Makes a difficult time easier to cope with. Would have been so much harder in Winter.
- 3) Technology (Never thought I would say this!) It's been a God send and maybe even a life saver.

Roy Shaw

- 1) Ability to communicate by telephone with family & friends
- 2) Having to learn that you can use a computer for more than 1 thing
- 3) Online shopping!!