



SBC News

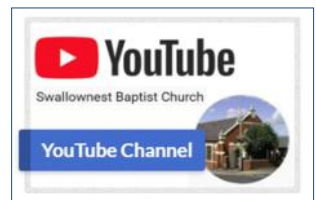
Aug / Sept 2020

Swallownest
Baptist
Church 

Inside this issue



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Moving Forward?

Well, who would have thought we would spend nearly half of 2020 in lockdown? Using new terms such as: 'unprecedented times', furlough, R rate, COVID – 19 or 'the new normal'. Not being able to greet others in our usual way or to hug and embrace our loved ones has been extremely difficult for us all. We have had many updates and changes to life as we knew it, guidelines to follow and new ways of venturing out to places we once frequented. Yet there has been the glimmer of hope as the restrictions have eased and we can once again meet up with people, albeit not in the same way as we are used to. For now though I'm sure there are those who are taking full advantage of getting away from the four walls that have surrounded them for so long.

As I looked back at last year's newsletter, you were all preparing for our arrival. I can't quite believe where this year has gone! It has been a mix of emotions and certainly not a year I'd like to repeat as we go through this pandemic. I guess no minister would expect to be leading a church from their home or be unable to visit people. However, we have hope that this will one day come to pass and I'm extremely grateful to have a great team on board who have often stepped out of their comfort zones to tackle some challenging situations during this pandemic. I'm also grateful for the support and prayers from many people within the fellowship of SBC and beyond.

As we wait to see what the future holds I'm reminded of the promise of God through Isaiah where in chapter 43:18-19 God says *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"*.

This passage refers to a people who are once again oppressed and call out to God who hears them. The past miracles are nothing compared to what God would do for his people in the future. So I wonder, as we wait to fully resume life in whatever shape that takes, what is God going to show us? Where is He leading us and how will he work through us as He blesses his people? Let us continue to seek God through Jesus together as we share the good news and bring His light and hope into those who may only see darkness and hopelessness.

I pray that you all find rest and peace in these difficult and stressful times. Stay safe and take great care of yourselves and each other.

Grace and Peace



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Skeet is our Church Team Leader

Contact Us



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“ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1 v8 ”



Reach out to everyone
Let Jesus' Name be heard
Believe in Him who forgives sin
And read His holy word
Reach out reach up reach in

Reach up to Father God
The maker of us all
Who's always there to hear our prayer
And answers when we call
Reach out reach up reach in

Reach in to us O Lord
And everything we do
So all our days are filled with praise
And thankfulness to you
Reach out reach up reach in

Words & Music by
Peter Lewis 7/6/2020

Inspired by our recent Bible talk series – Reach Out, Reach Up, Reach In - Peter Lewis has written a hymn. The words so accurately sum up what we have been hearing about:

- 1) Reaching out to others to share the good news of Jesus.
- 2) Reaching up to God to learn more about him, strengthen our relationship with Him, and to allow him to work in our lives.
- 3) Reaching in to our church family to encourage and help one another grow in our faith.

If you would like to hear any of the talks, then you can either watch them on our [YouTube channel](#), or listen to them via our [website](#) (Church Online > Bible Talks Audio).

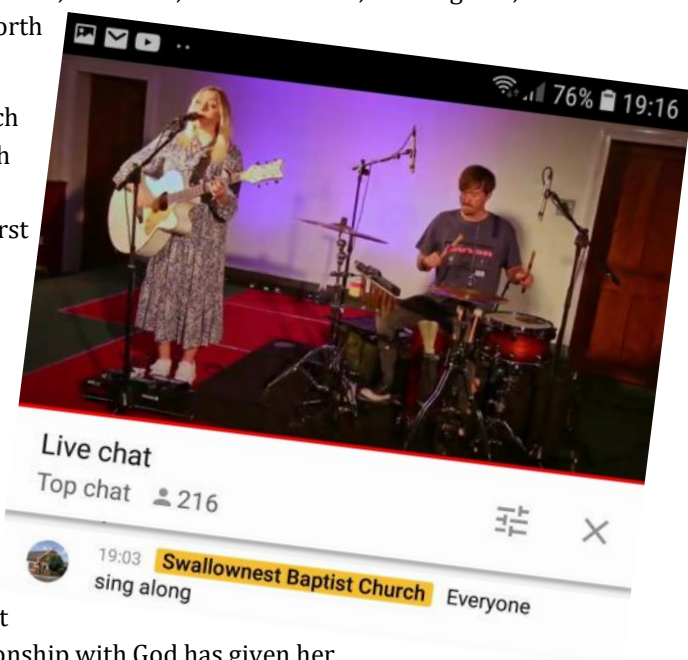
On Friday 3rd July, we hosted an online concert with Philippa Hanna. It was a great evening with over 200 people on the chat and over 1,500 views on YouTube. We had people attending from all over Sheffield and Rotherham, and also further afield from Scotland, Somerset, Stoke On Trent, Birmingham, Bedford, Derbyshire and North Wales.

Philippa played 2 sets, which included old favourites such as 'I Am Amazing' and 'Raggedy Doll', in fact the first time Philippa ever played 'Raggedy Doll' live was at our church! We were also treated to some brand new songs from her soon to be released new album.

During the interval, we heard a bit more about what has been happening in Philippa's life over recent months and how her relationship with God has given her strength. Despite these unprecedented, uncertain and difficult times, Philippa explained that her anthem has become the title of one her new songs- 'You're Still God'. God doesn't change or falter or make bad choices, he is perfect and has still got everything under his control. This is the perfect time to draw near to God if you have never known his presence with you—just ask Jesus to meet you where you are at.

If you missed the event, or would like to watch it again, it is still available on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf2q0IyJ88s

Many thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this such a successful event.



Philippa's new album, 'Stained Glass Stories' is out on the 31st July. It is her first ever worship album. It was inspired by a visit Philippa made to a very old and beautiful church, which was flooded with rainbow light as the sun shone through the stained glass windows. The caretaker explained how stained glass was used to tell stories about Jesus to those who couldn't read. This reminded Philippa of how songs are really stories and how when God shines his light through our lives and situations, it just becomes something beautiful, and a story which can help others. So every song on the album has a story. If you want to hear more about the album, why Philippa wrote the songs, and a look behind the scenes of the



making of the album, Philippa has put together a short video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBl-gA5g2X8&feature=youtu.be

The album will be available from her online store, philippahanna.com/store, iTunes, Amazon, Eden, and CLC Book shops.

Website Update: Church Online

During this period, where we are unable to meet together in our church building, you can access information on everything that's happening on our church website. There is now a new 'Church Online' menu which you can access from the main blue top menu bar. Here you can find lots of new website pages covering everything that is now available online. Why not check it out, and make sure you haven't missed anything!

Swallownest Baptist Church



What's On?

Our **Sunday Services** will continue to take place every Sunday at 10:30am via our YouTube Channel. The leadership team are currently considering plans for September so please look out for further information in due course. The first and third Sunday of each month will include communion.



Aug

- 2nd Rob Joyce (Communion)
- 9th Clive Burnard
- 16th David Skeet (Communion)
- 23rd Olivia Egan
- 30th* David Skeet

Sept

- 6th Rob Joyce (Communion)
- 13th David Skeet
- 20th David Harvey (Communion)
- 27th* David Skeet

*Coffee and chat via Zoom after the service at 11:45am.

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

www.youtube.com/channel/UCxVeRxWnEITocXBE6KPeaRw



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



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

- 1st and 15th August
- 5th and 19th September

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

- 5th August
- 2nd September

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.



15th August 2020 is the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War.

Let's take the time to remember all those that served and gave their lives in this and all other conflicts and to thank them for their service and sacrifice.

A Prayer for VJ Day

God our Father,
in the dying and rising of your Son Jesus
Christ,
you have brought life and salvation out
of cruelty and death.

We mark Victory in Japan
in gratitude for the courage of the Allied
forces

who suffered for freedom in the Far East
campaign

and in sorrow for all that hinders the
coming of your kingdom of peace.
Give us wisdom to learn from the bitter
memories of war,
and hearts that long for the unity of all
nations.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus,
in whom there is no east or west, no
north or south,
but one fellowship of love across the
whole earth.

Amen.

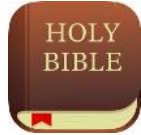


We're living in an unprecedented time because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Where do we find hope and "good news" in the middle of a continual stream of bad news? For followers of Jesus, there is always Good News.

"A Bible study for this moment, I'm finding it both encouraging and challenging x " Olivia Egan

If you are looking for some Bible study material that is particularly relevant to the current situation we are in, then why not try this 7-day plan provided by YouVersion. It dives into some of the promises we find in our good God and the faith we'll need to stand on them. Each study includes a short devotional with a collection of Bible verses which are filled with hope and encouragement to meditate on throughout the day.

You can access the plan on your mobile phone through the YouVersion Bible App, just search for 'Good News: Encouragement for a World in Crisis' or access via their website: www.bible.com/en-GB/reading-plans/19374-good-news-encouragement-for-a-world-in-crisis



Bible Verse for 2020

"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