



## SBC News

Oct / Nov 2020

Swallownest  
Baptist  
Church 

### Inside this issue

The New World

Our building may be closed but our church is still open

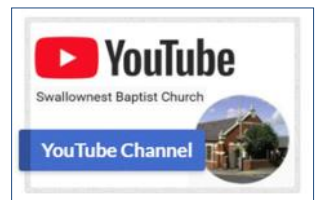
What's On

Dream Home

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## Where are you God?

“God often feels distant” is a recent topic of discussion with people lately. These conversations are hard, yet as we pray, we are left with the sense of God’s presence and a lift within our spiritual wellness. It’s all too easy to let those famous passages of scripture roll off our tongues, “where two or three are gathered...” Matt. 18:20 or some of the Psalms that tell of God’s presence in our times of need. These are the absolute truths of God, He is with us even though we may not realise it. Yet times are hard for many right now.

We have spoken of this in our recent sermon series. We saw how God speaks to us in various ways and through various means. Some of you have taken comfort in the knowledge of God being with you through difficult times, when reading scripture or listening to a favourite song. I’ve had 3 separate conversations with people recently where each person told me that they had been feeling low, yet had a lift in their spirit when they sang the hymn ‘Great is thy faithfulness’. They immediately felt secure and at peace when they remembered and sang the lyrics.

The hymn was written by Thomas Obadiah Chisolm (1866-1960) who had a difficult early adult life. His health was so fragile that there were periods of time when he was confined to bed, unable to work. After coming to Christ at age 27, Thomas found great comfort in the Scriptures, and in the fact that God was faithful and his strength in time of illness and

weakness, and provided for his needs. Lamentations 3:22-23 was one of his favourite scriptures: *“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.”*

You’ll agree that life is difficult at the moment. Many people are unable to spend time with family, others continue to mourn the loss of loved ones that have died recently. There is no doubt that life has changed. We may need to take time to reflect on those changes, take stock of where we are in life and seek what the future may hold for us. Harvest and Remembrance Sunday may be such times where people take time to stop and reflect on life. Who knows how we’ll mark these occasions this year if restrictions continue to remain in place! Yet when we consider why Jeremiah wrote the book of Lamentations, we begin to see that God suffers when His people suffer and that there is hope in the midst of affliction and conflict.


We will all face tragedy in our life. But in the midst of our afflictions, there is hope in God. Without Him there is no comfort or hope for the future. Because of Christ’s death for us and his promise to return, we have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto us! Amen.



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Contact Us





“ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.

Mark 2:22 ”

Don't attach a new patch to old clothing  
Don't attach a new patch to old clothing  
Don't attach a new patch to old clothing  
It'll tear and leave a bigger hole

Verse 2

Don't try to pour new wine in old wine skins  
Don't try to pour new wine in old wine skins  
Don't try to pour new wine in old wine skins  
It'll burst them and will drain away

Verse 3

Don't adapt your past life for your future  
Don't adapt your past life for your future  
Don't adapt your past life for your future  
It's a fresh start that you need to day

Verse 4

Jesus said to live in God's new kingdom  
Jesus said to live in God's new kingdom  
Jesus said to live in God's new kingdom  
You must pray to him and change your ways

Instead of trying to patch up old quarrels  
Instead of trying to patch up old quarrels  
Instead of trying to patch up old quarrels  
Better to mend your ways altogether

*New cloth, new wine, new life*  
*Words and music - Peter Lewis*

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## The New World

On 23rd August, we heard a Sunday talk from Olivia Egan, about this verse. We were challenged to think about how our recent experiences during lockdown might shape the future in terms of:

- our lives
- our faith
- our church

Will we strive to go back to exactly how things were before lockdown, or are there things we have learned during this time which will change how we approach things going forwards?

If you missed the talk or 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).



This year, during lockdown and the ongoing coronavirus situation, we've become very aware that our church is much more than just a building on Worksop Road in Swallownest. Our church is a group of Christian people. We are a gathering of believers living in the local area around Swallownest, but also we are a tiny part of the much larger worldwide church of believers.

Although we haven't been able to meet together physically in our church, spiritually we have been able to continue to join together as a community of God's people. We've met and shared in many new and unexpected ways thanks, for example, to the online wonders of YouTube & Zoom & Facebook & WhatsApp! As the noticeboard outside our church has boldly stated in recent times: ***"Our building may be closed but our church is still open!"*** Many thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this such a successful event.

As lockdown has eased, we've been able to see our Sunday morning YouTube service being filmed from within the church. However, in case you thought that filming at the church was something very new, recently some wonderful old silent film footage from 1958 appeared on Facebook entitled ***"The Demolition and Rebuilding of the Swallownest Baptist Church Schoolroom"***!



It appears to have been filmed on an old 8mm Cine Film camera, and shows the old school room building, that sits alongside our main church building, being demolished (apparently by hand, brick by brick, by the church members, with little sign of any health and safety risk assessments!).

The footage goes on to show the architects plans for the new schoolroom, the new building emerging with the roof still to be completed, and the church members gathering together outside for a commissioning service as the foundation stone is laid.



The Apostle Peter wrote about all this in one of his two letters to the early church, recorded for us in the Bible. He described how every Christian is a 'living stone' and together we as his people make up the church, with Christ himself as the foundation or 'cornerstone'.

*"...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 1 Peter 2 v 5&6*

Let's thank God for those who have gone before us to provide us with the blessing of our church building which, in time, we will be able to enjoy and benefit from again. In the meantime, let's pray that God will continue to use us, in these unusual times, as he builds his church of 'living stones'!

**Chris Davey**

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*\* If you want to watch the old film footage it was posted on the "Aspects of Aston Swallowneast and local villages" Facebook group, by Andy Sutherland, on the 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020. This is a private Facebook group, for sharing historical images of our local area, but is open to anyone to request to join.*

## What's On

Our **Sunday Services** will continue to take place every Sunday at 10:30am via our YouTube Channel. The first and third Sunday of each month will include communion. The audio from the Sunday Service is also available on our website under Bible Talks, and through our Podcast.

### Oct

- 4<sup>th</sup> David Skeet (Communion)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Rob Joyce
- 18<sup>th</sup> David Skeet (Communion)
- 25<sup>th</sup>\* Rob Joyce

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



### Nov

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Skeet (Communion)
- 8<sup>th</sup> David Harvey
- 15<sup>th</sup> David Skeet (Communion)
- 22<sup>nd</sup>\* Rob Joyce & Debbie Clowes
- 29<sup>th</sup> David Skeet



# New Hope Food Bank

Sunday Oct 4th will be our Harvest Service. All donations will be going to the New Hope Food Bank. Many thanks to everyone who continues to support this work. For details of the most needed items, please click here:

[newhopefoodbank.org.uk/shoppinglist.html](http://newhopefoodbank.org.uk/shoppinglist.html)

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](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxVeRxWnEITocXBE6KPeaRw)





The **Prayer Meeting** takes place on the 1st and 3rd Saturday morning of each month via Zoom.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November

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

- 7<sup>th</sup> October
- 4<sup>th</sup> November

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

It is time again already for us to start filling shoe boxes in support of Operation Christmas Child. Please help this great cause. Your simple gift of a shoe box can provide a child on the other side of the world with great joy and excitement, as this may be the only Christmas present that they receive.

You can head to the charities website for the latest information:

[samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/)

Shoe boxes are available from the church. We will let you know when we are collecting them back in later (the deadline is around 11th November for drop off with the charity). The charity ask that no toothpaste or sweets are added to the boxes this year.

If you don't feel able to fill a shoe box this year then any donations would be gratefully received. It is even possible to fill a box virtually online!



Please note that the church now has a new mobile number  
07536 992946

Please use this number if you wish to speak to the leadership team, or if you have items of news or prayer requests that you would like the church to know about.

## Dream Home



“What’s your dream house like? How many rooms does it have? Is it contemporary and new, or old, with lots of history? Does it have a garden? It can be fun to imagine our dream house, and maybe some of us will have the chance to live in a house that comes close to it. But when we’re children of God, it doesn’t matter how beautiful our dream house might be; our place in heaven is even better.” \*

UCB’s Daily Bible Reading “Word for Today” has recently done a mini series (4 parts) looking at what the Bible has to say about the home in Heaven that awaits all believers. This ties in well with the church’s bible verse for the year. If you would like to look at this as part of your daily bible reading, it can be found here: [ucb.co.uk/wordforyou/57059](http://ucb.co.uk/wordforyou/57059)

## 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

*\*©2020: Readings taken from the UCB Word For Today, written by Bob and Debby Gass. The UCB Word For Today is a devotional produced by UCB, free of charge through the generosity of our supporters.*

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