



SBC News

Dec / Jan 2021

Swallownest
Baptist
Church 

Inside this issue

It's all for Charity

What's On

My View of Things

Carols with Compassion

New Hope Food Bank Drive

As Advent gets underway can you believe how quickly 2020 has gone? Although if you would have asked me earlier in the year, I would have said it was dragging!

Yet here we are longing and expectant, maybe for different reasons. Not least for the year to be over ASAP! For many it has brought misery and pain.

Time is a strange concept and it is fair to say that we are going through a very difficult year. The pandemic swept through the world, it has taken many lives, left others frail and still others lonely.

There have been some positives though! I recall hearing some statistics where people were turning to prayer, reaching out because all that they once knew was suddenly taken away or radically changed. Hopelessness spurred many people to search for help beyond themselves. This cry for help directed them to hopeful living, scarred, but now healed by the light. God answering many cries for help as people came to the one who gave it all, for all – Jesus Christ.

A recent article spoke of Advent being a season of waiting. A season of preparation. A season to be inspired. In the waiting we have hope as Jeremiah reminds us, *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope”*. (Jeremiah 29:11). As we draw closer to God we are inspired and are able to

have God’s peace upon our hearts regardless of whether all around is falling down. We can become a non-anxious presence and share the Good news with those we journey with.

So as we wait expectantly for change and celebrate the arrival of the new born King, let us do so with a renewed joy and love for each other as Christ first loved us. Let us give thanks to God for sending his one and only son Jesus Christ. Give thanks that He again interrupts our day to day lives, as we look with great expectancy towards the greatest arrival the world has ever bore witness to, Immanuel, God with us.

My prayer for you all is that in our journeying we find God in the unexpected places. *“Abba Father, we seek you in our doubts as well as our certainties, in our fears as well as our courage, in our questions as well as our wonder, and in our turning to others to care. Help us to journey on, looking expectantly to find you. Amen”*.

Whatever your Christmas looks like this year, may it be filled with hope, joy, peace and love. Let us faithfully declare aloud, joyfully and triumphantly, *“Come and behold Him - Christ the Lord”*.

May the closeness of your loved ones, family, and friends fill your heart with joy. May this advent season shine brightly upon you all!



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

Contact Us



swallownestbaptist@gmail.com



A big thank you to everyone who donated a shoe box and cash donations for Samaritans purse this year, we have 24 boxes and £65, that's a great total in these difficult times. Thanks also to Mark Potter for his donation of stationery. There will be lots of smiling faces when the children receive their gifts! It's lovely for us to be able to do this and I'm sure you all had pleasure, as I did, filling your boxes.

As we're not at Mum's and Tots, I'll still be sending our usual donations of £25 to Children in Need and to Bluebell Wood instead of sending Christmas cards.

We also had our collection box and raised money for Rotherham Hospital mums and babies lounge, where we have bought a claret fleece and two grey fleece cushions for the sofa.

I've sent £25 to Sheffield Children's hospital from Mums n Tots.

Hope you will all stay safe and well, missing everyone.

Many thanks again

God bless

love

Hazel Manship x



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.

Dec

6th Rob Joyce (Communion)

13th David Skeet

20th Rob Joyce

27th David Skeet



Jan

3rd David Skeet (Communion)

10th Rob Joyce

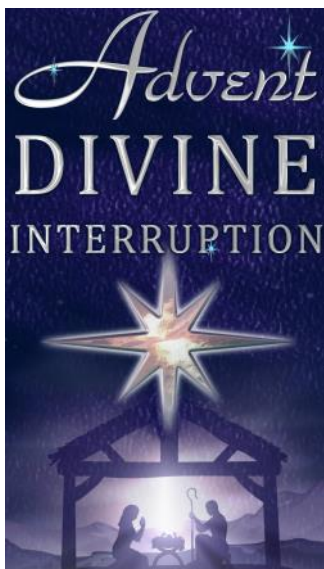
17th David Skeet (Communion)

24th* Rob Joyce

31st David Skeet

See the next page for details of our additional Christmas services.

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



On 29th Nov, the start of advent, we started our new series 'Divine interruption'.

In this Advent/Christmas Series, we draw alongside those ordinary people who signpost the coming of an extra ordinary person - Jesus. You are invited to anticipate and to embrace, to meditate and to welcome, the divine interruption that is worth laying aside all other things to contemplate.

You can subscribe to our YouTube channel and click on the little bell to get notifications when we post something new. Head over to YouTube and search for Swallownest Baptist Church.



Come and celebrate Christmas with us

Sunday 20th December: Christmas
Carol Service with Nativity @
4:00pm



Friday 25th December: Christmas
Day Family Service @ 10:00 am



We will continue to hold a number of meetings via zoom:

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

- 5th and 19th December
- 2nd and 16th January

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

- 2nd December
- 6th January

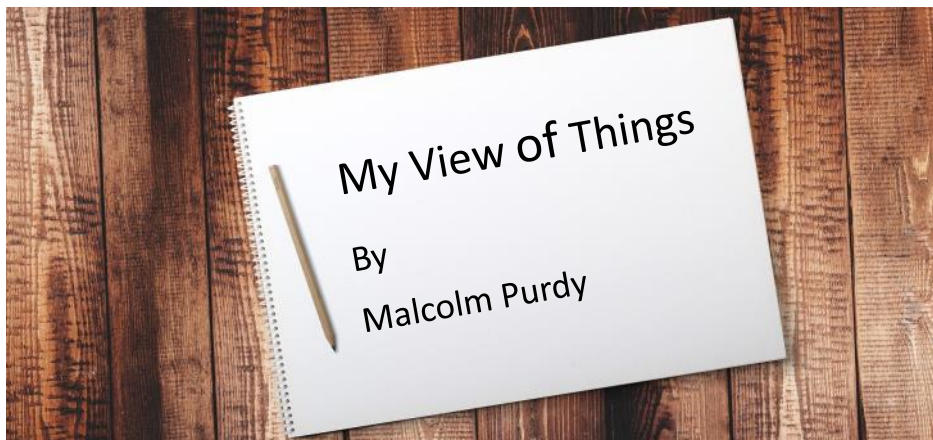
Church Members' Meeting will be held on Sunday 13th December after the morning service.



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.

If you wish to speak to the leadership team, or if you have any items of news or prayer requests that you would like the church to know about, then please contact:

07536 992946



I recently gave a short talk at the ladies meeting. The Lord gave me a word concerning “The Big Picture” - God’s purpose / destiny that we need to keep in view. I feel that it is of great help to us to be aware in these days, that God our Father in Heaven is working out a glorious purpose, to which He has called those that are “in Christ” throughout the world.

To grasp this can help us make some sense of how God will use the present challenges to shape His true Church. The oyster has an organ that produces a chemical and uses this to turn the stuff that “gets under its skin” into a beautiful pearl. I wonder what’s getting under your skin at this time? I want you to know that, if you trust Him, God can use hard times to make you who He’s fashioning you to be.

This brings me to “The Big Picture”. I like to think of God loving His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, so greatly that He longs for many more like Him. Hebrews 2:10 speaks of God “bringing many sons to glory”. Romans 8:29 similarly speaks of God’s purpose that we be “conformed to the likeness of His Son”.

In the ladies meeting I sought to bring encouragement that what God has begun in us He WILL complete. As in Philippians 1:6, God is at work in you, and will finish the job! This can involve His loving discipline. God will use, and is using, I believe, life’s challenges to refine our faith, to develop our patience, to strengthen our endurance, and so to develop our character as true disciples of Jesus Christ. (The Apostle Paul addresses this in Romans 5:1-5 and 1 Peter 1:1-9).

Who said being a true Christian is easy? In fact it is impossible to live up to, except that He gives His helper, the Holy Spirit, to those who ask Him. Surely this is the key.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.



At a time when we're not sure how Christmas will look, and the fact that it will be highly unlikely to be able to have 'normal' carol services in church, this is an exciting free virtual carol concert which we can all join from the comfort of our own homes.

This hour-long carol service will be uplifting and faith-building. Together we'll celebrate the hope of the Christmas message with heart-warming Christmas carol singing and Bible readings in a traditional church setting with a contemporary twist.

Carols with Compassion will premiere on Wednesday 2nd December, 7:30pm on TBN UK (Freeview channel 65). It will then be shared on Compassion UK's social media channels on Sunday 6 December, 8pm. Visit Compassion UK's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

There are a host of famous names involved including Philippa Hanna, Noel Robinson, Graham Kendrick, the London Community Gospel Choir, Hillsong London, Lurine Cato MBE, Martin Smith and Elle Limebear.

For more information, visit: compassionuk.org/news/carol-service

New Hope Food Bank *DRIVE*

We will be holding our annual food bank drive, in support of New Hope Food Bank, on Saturday 12th December, 10:00am to 4:00pm. We will again be at the Co-op in Swallownest. This is a fantastic opportunity to help support such a good cause, and every year we are blown away by the generosity of the local community. We need volunteers to support for a 30 minute timeslot throughout the day, by manning the collection point. We will of course have to do things slightly differently this year to keep everyone safe, so we will be limiting the number of volunteers at any one time to ensure social distancing, only having 30 minute rather than 1 hour volunteering slots to reduce the amount of time in the store, and we won't be able to hand out fliers. If you are interested in helping, please contact David Skeet to find out more.

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the New Hope Food Bank at our Harvest service in October. We received an amazing amount of food. Thanks to all who donate cash and food to the Food Bank throughout the year.



Follow Us

