



SBC News

Apr / May 2021

Swallownest
Baptist
Church 

Inside this issue

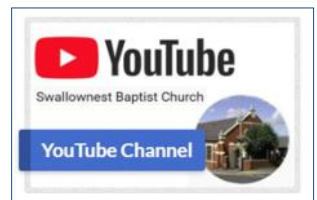
Prayer & Meditation in the Psalms

Easter Quiz

Easter Events

CAP Money Course

Follow Us



There is Hope

As I sit down to write this, it's obvious that there is change in the air. After what has seemed, for many of us, to have been a very long, bleak and dark winter, there are definite signs of spring if we look for them. The days are noticeably longer, trees and plants are starting to grow, and the sun's rays even have some warmth to them. These small, yet significant changes remind me that new life is on its unstoppable way.

Looking back over the last twelve months, we can reflect that we have been living through momentous, historic times. While there has undeniably been much suffering and hardship, as spring arrives this year it seems as if it is bringing life, hope and optimism along with it. As I write, infection rates are dropping while vaccination rates are soaring. Our country's schools are, once again, filled with the sound of children learning.

As Easter approaches, I am struck once again by God's promise of new life, and the certain hope that it can give us. After the darkness of the cross, where Christ breathed His last, Easter Sunday sees Jesus rising from the tomb, defeating death

and sin forever. And this moment in history gives us hope - not only for tomorrow, but forever. The new life surrounding us this Easter signposts us to the new life that awaits us if we accept Christ's forgiveness, mercy and grace.

This "hope" I have mentioned is strange. Normally, when people say the word "hope", it is used to indicate a dreamy desire for better days. For the Christian, "hope" is the confident belief that God is faithful and that He will complete what He has begun. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that "*those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*" Looking back over the difficulties of last year, how many of us can see that God has given us the strength to bring us through some very dark days?

So, as we wait in certain hope for a brighter tomorrow and as we celebrate the risen Light of the World, let's be joyful. Let's joyfully thank God that He loved us first, and loved us enough to send His son Jesus to die in our place. As we emerge from lockdown, blinking in the light, let's joyfully reflect the hope we feel to others who need it.

Contact Us



swallownestbaptist@gmail.com

My prayer for us all is that we know our hope in God to be an anchor for our souls, firm and secure. And, through whatever lies ahead, that this hope gives us the strength to keep going. Whatever the rest of this year brings, may we all be filled with hope, peace and love. Because He is risen.



Rob Joyce is one of our Church Elders

"We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll, Fastened to the Rock which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love"

Taken from the Hymn, "Will Your Anchor Hold?", Priscilla Jane Owens 1882.

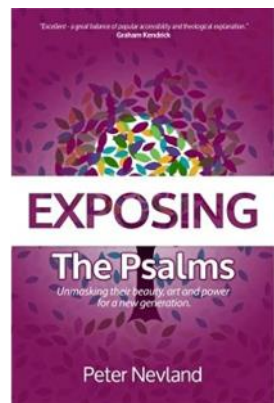


Every other Monday, at 9:30am, there is a time of prayer and meditation, reflecting upon the Psalms. We are working through the book 'Exposing the Psalms, written by Peter Nevland. (For those of you with good memories, you may recall that Peter actually visited our church back in 2014 as part of his tour to launch the book!)

We start our time together with a chat, we then pray and read through the book. We then continue in prayer, reflecting on the Psalm we have read.

The meeting lasts about 30 minutes and takes place on Zoom. Everyone is welcome, and you can come along and just listen, or join in the prayers if you would like to.

If you would like to find out more information please email swallownestbaptist@gmail.com





Each set of initials represents the name of an Easter Hymn. Can you solve them all?

Example: ICA = In Christ Alone

1. TIAGHFA
2. SWAM
3. JCIRT
4. TBTG
5. TORC
6. WISTWC
7. OPTN (A)
8. UFTGHA
9. CTLIRT

Can you identify who from the Bible the clues are describing?

1. When Jesus was on the cross, He asked me to take care of His mother.
2. I was the High Priest who accused Jesus and wanted Him dead.
3. I anointed Jesus with expensive perfume.
4. They brought Jesus to me for trial, but I found no guilt in Him.
5. I cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant.
6. I went early to the tomb and saw the stone rolled away.
7. I was the High Priest's servant who had his ear cut off.
8. I went with Joseph to bury Jesus in the tomb.
9. I saw Jesus after His resurrection on the road to Emmaus.
10. I carried the cross for Jesus when He could no longer.

The answers can be found here: www.swallownestbaptist.org.uk/easter-quiz



Good Friday, 2nd April

Reflective service @ 10:00am

Join us at 10am, Friday 2nd April, via Zoom or live on Facebook, as we reflect on the final part of Jesus' journey at the cross. This is a reflective service, all microphones will be muted throughout the service and the service will come to a natural end, there will also be periods of silence. Come sit and reflect in the presence of God at the great cost of Jesus' sacrifice.



Easter Sunday, 4th April

Sunrise service @ 8:00am

For the early birds amongst us, we have a pre-recorded video service, via our YouTube channel. Come and celebrate the greatest day in history as we pray, sing, hear a message and worship the greatest day in history in and through the risen Lord Jesus.



Easter morning breakfast @ 9:00am

We would usually move from the sunrise service at Ulley to the church building for breakfast before our main service. Let's not let COVID stop us! Instead, in the safety and comfort of our homes, via Zoom, we can still catch up with each other and continue in our celebrations.



Easter morning service @ 10:30am

Join us as we continue in our time of worship together. We will be livestreaming the service via our YouTube channel and have the added bonus of returning to our building. Please remember that you must book a place on 07536992946 as spaces are limited! We will also have communion during the service. Please remember to bring your own bread and wine.



What's On

We are really pleased and excited to announce, that from 29th March we will be reopening the church building for meetings and services to take place in person. It seems apt that our first Sunday service in person will be Easter Sunday!

Please remember to book a place by calling 07536992946 as numbers will be limited due to social distancing measures that are in place.

Some meetings will continue to be held via Zoom or YouTube.



Our Sunday services take place each week at 10:30am in our church building. We will also continue to livestream the services 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.

Apr

4th David Skeet (Communion)

11th Rob Joyce

18th David Skeet (Communion)

25th Rob Joyce

May

2nd David Skeet (Communion)

9th Rob Joyce

16th David Skeet (Communion)

23rd Guest Speaker

30th David Skeet

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



The **Prayer Meeting** takes place via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00am.

- 3rd and 17th April
- 1st and 15th May



The **Midweek Communion Service** takes place via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Note there will not be a service in April.

- 5th May



A time of **Prayer & Meditation** takes place fortnightly on a Monday via Zoom at 9:30am.

- 5th and 19th April
- 3rd, 17th and 31st May



The Ladies meeting will meet in church fortnightly on a Monday at 1:30pm.

- 12th & 26th April
- 10th & 24th May.



The pandemic has caused chaos, it also saw many people's finances hit hard. The vision was to engage with CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and lead a CAP money course, to reach out to those in need and help with good money management skills. Many of us were praying that God would encourage people to sign up for the 3-week course. By the end of the first week of publicising the course we had 8 people sign up. Kriszta and I were so excited, Monday 8th February saw the launch of the first online CAP money course at SBC.

There were some worried and stressed faces when we got together, I guess some were nervous and anxious. After all money is one of the main causes of stress in people's lives. However, that soon disappeared as we had a time of prayer and got stuck into the course. The delegates were soon relaxing and sharing their experience's along with some helpful tips for each other.

The following sessions flew by and we came to the end of the course. The delegate's made great progress and took some valuable lessons away with them as they continue to work on their finances. We received some great feedback and had some wonderful messages of appreciation:

One delegate wrote *"Thank you, I've really found the course to be so helpful & have made a few changes to my budgeting"*. Another delegate said *"I just wanted to say a big thank you to you and Kriszta for hosting the CAP program. I actually missed the coming together on Monday"*.

We were so grateful for the God given opportunity to run this course and we pray that there may be more opportunities to launch another course later this year! We also would like to thank all of you who have prayed and supported us in this new venture.

To learn more about the Christians Against Poverty charity and the support services that they offer, visit their website: capuk.org