



SBC News

Aug / Sept 2021

Inside this issue

Times of Change

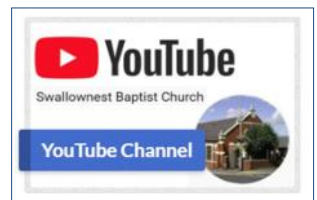
What's On

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Times of Change

We have faced a multitude of challenges recently and, as I write, we may be looking forward to what 19th July brings (This newsletter comes out the following week!) So, what has changed and where are we with it all? Lynn Green (General Secretary of the Baptist Union) recently wrote *“At the start of this pandemic, we talked about us being caught up in it for the long haul, but I don’t think that we ever imagined that we would still be in the thick of things 18 months later!”*

As a congregation, I think we have managed well with all the challenges and changes that we were faced with. We have done so because we pulled together, people stepped up into new roles and we kept our eyes on Jesus.

I personally want to thank you all for your prayers and support in various ways. You have done such an amazing job in hugely challenging circumstances. I’ve no doubt that there have been times when we have felt completely exhausted and emotionally wrung out, yet the love and power of Christ has flowed through our weakness in amazing ways. This has demonstrated perseverance and enormous adaptability in an ever changing and

uncertain environment. I have also been encouraged to see a deeper commitment to prayer and seeking the Lord unfold as we have all had to learn what it means to depend on God in new ways.

One thing that may remain unchanged for a while is that anxiety remains high and resilience can still be low! I would not be surprised to hear that some of you still bear anxiety; maybe about your own health and wellbeing or maybe for loved ones. So, what I really want to say at this point, whether we are at the end of ourselves or beginning to feel ready to seize the opportunities that lie ahead, is to encourage us to move forward in sustainable ways.

I believe that we need to deepen our attentiveness to God and ourselves and others around us. We will need to keep an eye on things in order to make sure that everything and everyone is ok. Whether that is checking on the spiritual; emotional; physical; intellectual or relational. In effect we may need to ask: what is true about my relationship with the Lord now? How am I feeling and reacting? What is my body telling me? Am I getting adequate rest? What is nourishing my thinking and reflection? How are my relationships

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with those closest to me? With my wider community?

What areas are fine and which need attention. Take time to reflect, rest and review over the summer period.

Well, as we move forward into the Autumn and whatever that means for you, I believe that it is a time to renew our confidence in the Lord. Not because we are feeling super-charged after the summer break necessarily but continuing to be in the flow of God's love, grace and strength in our weakness. God has been incredibly faithful, and he will continue to be so. He has called and gifted us as a body of believers. We may not feel like we would pick us for such a challenge, but God knows what he is doing and **he has called us and he is for us**. Philippians 1:6 reminds us that what the Lord has started in us, he will bring to completion. Can we trust in that as we move forward? And, thankfully, it is not all about us anyway! We are part of the Body of Christ and I believe that God is calling

us and encouraging the Body of Christ to rise and be released in new ways at this time.

So, thank you again for all that you have given of yourself so far through this enormously demanding period. Have confidence in the Lord and trust in his call and equipping and encourage others to do the same. For this is what the Apostle Paul states:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6



David

David Skeet is our Church Team Leader

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

What's On



Our **Sunday services** take place each week at 10:30am in our church building. Due to the removal of Government restrictions, on 19th July, it is no longer necessary to book a place and we will be able to sing again! We continue to strongly advise that face coverings are worn in the building throughout the service. To read the full statement from our Trustees relating to this, please visit our website: swallownestbaptist.org.uk/coronavirus-updates

We will also continue to livestream the services via our YouTube Channel. The first and third Sunday of each month will include communion.

All our previous live streamed services are available to watch again on our YouTube channel. The audio from the Sunday Service is also available on our website under Bible Talks, and through our Podcast.

Aug

1 st	Olivia Egan (Communion)
8 th	David Skeet (Baptismal service)
15 th	Peter Barton (Communion)
22 nd	David Skeet
29 th	David Skeet

Sept

5 th	Rob Joyce (Communion)
12 th	David Skeet
19 th	David Skeet (Communion)
26 th	Messy Church– Harvest

Our **Church Members' meeting** will take place on Sunday 12th September at 12:00 noon after the morning service.



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

- No meetings in Aug
- 4th and 18th Sep



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

- No meetings in Aug
- 1st Sep



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

- No meetings in Aug
- 6th and 20th Sep



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

- No meetings in Aug
- 13th and 27th Sep

The **One Event 2021** will take place on **28th August** from 10am to 10pm at the Lincolnshire showground. Tickets need to be purchased in advance by 13th August. They will also be live streaming the whole event so you can join in from home! For more information, visit the One Event page on Facebook or their website: one-event.org.uk



At long last, the frothy coffee will be back as we hold a Coffee Morning for Harvest in Church on Saturday 25th September. It will take place from 10:00am to 12:00 noon and all proceeds raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

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 email newsletter@swallownestbaptist.org.uk



For more information, news on upcoming events, copies of the newsletter, and to watch our Sunday services on YouTube, visit our **website**: www.swallownestbaptist.org.uk

Also check out our **Facebook** page.



As a church we have recently started to support the Mahon family, BMS Missionaries working in Peru. Former members of our church, Alan and Eva Turner, worked as BMS Missionaries in Peru for many years and therefore we thought it would be apt to continue supporting the work here.

Based in Iquitos, the Mahon family are working alongside the Loreto Association of Baptist Churches as they look to implement a sustainability plan over the coming years. Iquitos is a port city, in the North of Peru, and gateway to the jungle lodges and tribal villages of the northern Amazon.

They are involved in teaching and curriculum development at the Nauta Integral Mission Training Centre, and also support the running of the centre. Dave and Michele are both Baptist ministers, and have served at Brockley Baptist Church in south-east London for four years. They have three children: Jonathan, Ruth and Phoebe.

The Mahons are currently on home assignment in the UK and will be returning to Peru in mid August. Pray that they would feel rested and refreshed and ready for their return to Peru. Pray for safe travels, and readjustment back to Peruvian life for the whole family.

Pray for Peru, as it continues to battle the Covid pandemic and for a peaceful resolution following the appointment of a new Peruvian president.

And pray for the churches in Peru. Whilst the Mahons have been in the UK, there has been the launch of a community football project, combining sport with bible study and prayer. There have also been evangelism training sessions taking place to equip the church and encourage the sharing of testimonies and the setting up of discipleship groups.

Thank and praise God that they are already starting to see positive results from these ventures and people coming to know Jesus as their Saviour. Following the last training event they received news that *“6 Teams of 2 went out and shared the gospel 41 times yesterday. They only met 2 Christians and were rejected 4 times but, 21 people were interested and wanted to hear more about Jesus. 14 people’s eternities were changed, as they received Christ as their Lord and Saviour.”*

For all the latest updates from the Mahon family, including their latest newsletter, please visit bmsworldmission.org/people/dave-and-michele-mahon

