



SBC News

Oct / Nov 2021

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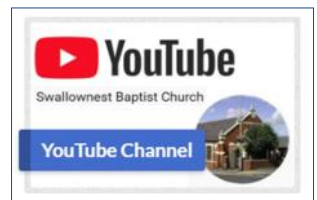
Operation Christmas Child

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Contact Us



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David Skeet, Team Leader & Elder

How come there are only 3 months of the year left? Where has 2021 gone? I guess we have all been so busy and reflecting a lot over the last 19 months. We have come such a long way, through so many twists and turns in life. As we emerge out of this global pandemic, we may be wondering what next. As leaders of Swallownest Baptist Church, we are truly thankful for your support and heartfelt prayers. None of this has been easy for anyone, let alone for the team who have had to make quick decisions, spend more time meeting and sacrificing many things. However, as Rob writes we have felt God's presence throughout. It has enabled us to unite more and be all the stronger for it, all glory and praise to God. As we move into a new season and as we continue to discern God's call for our community, we also look forward to many great opportunities - as we reach into the community with some new initiatives, new style of services and plenty of opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those we journey with. It's been quite a journey, but the best is yet to come!



Rob Joyce, Elder



At the start of the pandemic, when the school's first shut, I told my two children "you're living through history". I suppose we don't yet know the full, long-term implications of the last 19 months on our own lives, on our society or on the life of our church, but we certainly can look back with thankfulness about the faithful way that God has guided Swallownest Baptist Church through the storm. Since March 2020, we've had to learn

and adapt: how to record and build a service in isolation (I remember preaching behind my dining room table, wearing a shirt and pyjama bottoms); how to live stream; how to lead a "hybrid" service for YouTube and an in-person congregation. The technical side has been such a huge learning curve, and we have been so blessed that more and more people are willing to serve God by pressing buttons, tweaking faders and clicking mice - as well as those more visible volunteers taking on new roles singing, preaching, tinkling ivories and leading communion. I remember starting the series on Haggai, back in April, by reflecting on us re-building in the ruins of what had once stood and, looking back now, we can see that God was faithful when he spoke to us through those verses: *"I am with you, declares the Lord."* (Haggai 1:13b)

Carol Cooke, Deacon & Secretary

Well, it's been a 'Year and a half' hasn't it? Lots of challenges and changes for all of us. I've been privileged to be part of an amazing 'Sunday Streaming' team who have worked their socks off to bring Swallownest Baptist Church into many homes via YouTube over the past 18 months. The challenge for me has been bringing the notices each week and trying to help keep communication open and everyone connected. It was very scary at first and I was so nervous. I was way out of my comfort zone, but as the weeks went on, I began to relax and my confidence started to grow. I am totally convinced that this was the work of the Holy Spirit. I could not have done this on my own. It just goes to show what we can do if we 'step out of the boat' and have a bit of faith! *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13)



George Davis, Deacon



I want to take the time to look forward to what is to come. I know that covid has not gone away but we are starting to "open" the church to "normal activities" like the first communion (it was such a joy to be able to join together around the Lord's table) and by the time you read this the ladies fellowship and the Mum's & Tot's will have restarted their meetings. I'm also going to restart the men's breakfast soon, please contact me if you are interested in attending.

I want to thank the Lord for his protection and strength during this unprecedented crisis, I know that I for one would not have been able to cope. One of my favourite illustrations of this is 'Footsteps', I'm sure that when I look back, I will find that there are more times where there are only one set of footprints than when there are two sets. So I would like to leave you with this passage from Exodus 15:2 *"The Lord is my Strength and my Defence, He has become my Salvation. He is my God and I will praise Him, my father's God and I will exalt Him."*

Olivia Egan, Deacon

As a deacon at Swallownest Baptist Church I have been very involved in the nuts and bolts of keeping the services going through the pandemic. From four techies, fully masked up, with just one person at the front to now - an almost full church - the change has been a joy to watch. My role at church is mostly in the sung worship and tech on a Sunday morning, so one of the most emotional moments for me was when the congregation were once more allowed to join in and sing with us.



The impossible balancing act of trying to open as much as possible, whilst keeping people both actually safe and feeling comfortable has been a real

challenge for us. I hope that we've walked the line more or less down the middle, we have certainly worked and prayed hard to do so.

I'm really grateful to those who have stepped up to run the technical side of the services and play in the band. Both the new members of the team and the stalwarts who have been there without fail every week are very much appreciated. We would not have been able to provide the services that we have without you, so thank you. On that note, we're always looking for people to bolster our team and have a wide range of jobs from the very simple to the really challenging, training provided. Many hands make light work, so do get in touch if you think you can help.

From Matthew chapter 8, in the storm Jesus says ' "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" and he rose and rebuked the wind and sea and there was a great calm.'

Father God, help us to lean on you in the storm, knowing that you are a God of miracles and love. We pray that your spirit will be with us as we move into the calm, be in our decision making, our daily conversations and our homes. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

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

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 charity's website for the latest information:

samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-Christmas-child/

Shoe boxes are available from the church and will be collected early November.

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



**SAT 16TH OCT
10AM-12 NOON**

THE BIG COVID DEBRIEF

TALK | CREATE | REFLECT

The Big Covid Debrief takes place Saturday 16th October, 10am – 12pm. What's the big idea? It's about Creating space in the community to process the impact of Covid-19. Let's Talk – Allow people to process their story to others. Get Creative – Express how Covid has impacted you through various creative activities. Pause to Reflect – Spend time listening to your inner world through reflection, prayer and stillness. The project is being hosted in Swallownest Baptist Church, in collaboration with other community partners.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 24th October
6-7pm

The last couple of years have been like no other. Join us Sunday 24th October at 6-7pm as we remember those we love but no longer see. We'll take time to reflect, pray, hear poems and music as we gather together.



**Sunday 31st October
5-7pm**



This year, we will again be holding a Light Party as a Christian alternative to Halloween. A Light Party provides an opportunity to reach out to our local community with the good news of Jesus, replacing the fear and darkness associated with Halloween, with light and life.

During the evening there will be party games, food, and plenty of fun to be had for people of all ages.

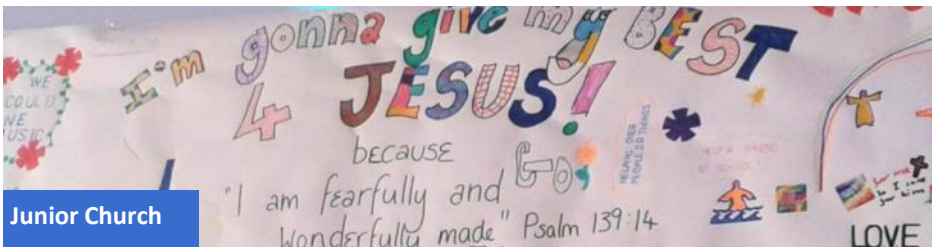
All welcome, free entry.



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.

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.

Oct	Nov
3 rd David Skeet (Communion)	7 th Olivia Egan (Communion)
10 th Duncan Moynihan	14 th Rob Joyce
17 th David Skeet (Communion)	21 st David Skeet (Communion)
24 th Café Church	28 th Rob Joyce
31 st David Skeet	



We are very excited to have **Junior Church re-starting on 26th September** with the Messy Church service for Harvest.

Junior Church is for school-age children and meets every Sunday. The children and young people stay in the main building at the start of the service for the time of sung worship, and then go out to our School Room building for their age-specific groups, where they engage with songs, bible teaching, crafts and other fun. The School Room is attached to the right-hand side of the main church. If you are visiting us with children, then they are very welcome to join in.



About six times a year, we have a very relaxed Family Service, where everyone stays together for the whole service. If you're feeling nervous about coming to church, Family Services are a great opportunity to come along for the first time. Family Services include Messy Church and Café Church on a number of Sundays during the year. The upcoming Family Services for 2021 are:

Sunday 24th October: Café Church (sit, chat, have breakfast and do some activities if you feel like it).

Sunday 19th December: Christmas Celebration



Café Church is a very informal church service for all ages. If you've not been before, it's rather different to what you might imagine "church" is. It's aimed at everyone, of all ages, whether you normally attend a church or not.

At Café Church you'll find the chairs set out around tables – much like in a "normal" café. There might be a quiz, or some craft – but there's no pressure to do it. A breakfast is provided by our wonderful catering team (usually we have bacon or sausage butties, pastries and drinks) but most of all, it's a fantastic opportunity to sit and chat. Towards the end of the service, there will be a very short talk from one of our church leaders.

We hold Café Church on two Sundays during the year. The next one will be Sunday 24th October.



The **Prayer Meeting** takes place in church and via Zoom on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30am.

- 2nd Oct
- 6th Nov



The Midweek Communion

Service takes place in church and via Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

- 6th Oct
- 3rd Nov



A time of **Prayer & Meditation**

takes place fortnightly on a Monday via Zoom only at 9:30am.

- 4th and 18th Oct
- 1st, 15th and 29th Nov



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

- 11th & 25th Oct
- 8th and 22nd Nov



Prospects meets once a month in the church school room at 3pm.

- 17th Oct
- 21st Nov

