



## SBC News

Feb / Mar 2022

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At the start of a New Year you may have heard many reflections about the year ahead and new beginnings; you may even have given some yourself.

Some of us begin 2022 feeling weary and in search of a way out of this pandemic. Many continue the search for God in their lives. My prayer for you at the start of 2022 is that you will be strengthened by God's Spirit in all you hope to be, that you will be filled with the knowledge of God's love and that you experience the peace God the Son has brought to us.

I often talk about journeying together, seeking God at work in our lives and how we can be a part of His mission. The theme of journeying is present throughout the Biblical narrative with many accounts of different journeys being taken. This is very much the case in the account of Jesus' life as he both led and leads others.

As we step forward on the journey set before us, we can be confident that we go with Christ. We are reminded in Matthew 11 that as we journey together, we are invited to be yoked to Christ, *'for I am gentle and humble in*

*heart and you will find rest for your souls.'*

Many of us carry too many burdens, whether its sin, excessive demands from others, depression and anxiety or weariness in search of God. Well, here is Good News for those seeking a new way. Jesus frees people from all these burdens. The rest that Jesus promises is love, healing and peace with God, but not the end of all labour. That's because there is still a work to do.

A relationship with God changes meaningless, wearisome toil into spiritual productivity and purpose. We have a great teacher, Jesus Christ, who partners with us in life's responsibilities, enabling us to be all that we are called to be and do.

Jesus said *'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'* (Matt. 11:28-30).

Jesus doesn't offer a life of luxury; the yoke is still a tool that enables the oxen to work hard. But it is a shared yoke, with weight falling on bigger shoulders than ours. Someone with more pulling power is up front helping.

So don't be afraid, do not think that you are in this alone. Let go and let God, see that He will do a new thing in your life when you earnestly seek Him. Move away from doors that will not open and do not hesitate to go through those that are opened to you. For

there, we will find God at work, we will be fruitful and we will see God's Kingdom grow throughout our community.

Grace and peace to you all in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*David Skeet is our Church Team Leader*

Contact Us



[swallownestbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:swallownestbaptist@gmail.com)

## Thank You!

Mum's and Tots and the church sent 26 shoe boxes, donations of a bag of supplies for the children and £50 in cash donations, to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child appeal. Thank you to all who donated to this very special cause, some happy children will get so much joy from these gifts. A big thank you to David for taking everything to the drop off point at Aston church. Our boxes made the grand total at Aston church top the 100 mark!



Our Christmas Coffee Morning, raised an amazing £246.60 for the Rotherham charity - Shiloh. Shiloh is a Christian based charity which helps those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Many thanks to everyone who attended and donated, and a special thanks to everyone who helped out to make the event possible.



## *Memories from Christmas 2021 By Malcolm Purdy*

The **first** memory of Christmas 2021 would have to be the Church Service taken by the Junior Church on December 19th - what a super Nativity (I shall long remember the camels heading to Bethlehem). "THANK YOU" on everyone's behalf to our young people and their devoted helpers.

Also, that same day - an afternoon selection of lovely carols and lessons, not to mention items from the Choir - "thank you" Olivia and Choir - the real Christmas!

**Second**, our Prospects get together (supporting folk who need extra help) was also on the 19th!. It was really special. Some of us enjoyed waving flags as part of our worship. The Christingle orange provided a visual aid to explain God's good gifts and Jesus as the light of the World. We were joined again by friends from Doncaster (Hexthorpe Methodist Church) whose support we really do value.

**Third**, would be the Carol Sing outside of Emerald Care - Philip's Care Home. Philip has been there for 12 years, but this was the first sing held outside, and probably the best. A big "thanks so much" to Pauline and George for their support, and to Elizabeth and Robert, who also help in the running of the monthly Prospects meeting held in our Church Hall.

## *Feasting at the Phoenix!*



For the past few years we've celebrated the New Year with a church family Sunday lunch at the Phoenix Sports & Social Club. Unfortunately we were not able to go in 2020, but we managed it this year! A small group of us recently met up and had a lovely time together.

It was good to relax and chat with each other and enjoy a really good meal! The staff at the Phoenix were, as usual, very friendly and obliging. They were also very understanding when there were Covid related last minute cancellations.

I think I can safely say that 'a good time was had by all!'



Hi everyone, hope your new year has gone well so far.

Last year Mum's and Tots were able to support a number of charities. Our "Pudsey Party" for Children In Need raised £40. The church matched it so we were able to send £80 in total. We contributed shoeboxes to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Appeal and also sent £50 to Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice.

The Christmas party was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. We all had a lovely morning, and all the families were able to come after a few of them had been ill over the previous few weeks. Thank you to the church for help with buying the books that we gave out and for helping us with buying the party food - very much appreciated. Olivia, as always, sorted crafts and colouring for the children to do before we had the food. Then she did the singing and told the story of the nativity using the knitted figures. Father Christmas left his sack of presents, this was my cue to come in to give them out to the music of "Jingle Bells"! Everyone had a great time.

Thank you to George, Pauline and Olivia for all their help in making Mums and Tots a joy to attend each week. Take care and God bless.

Hazel Manship

Mums and Tots is a friendly group welcoming parents/carers with babies and toddlers. There is a caring atmosphere and the opportunity to meet other local people whilst the children play.

It meets at the church each Tuesday morning, from 10:00 – 11:30am, during term time.

Please note that this group is very popular and there is currently a waiting list.

Registration is required prior to joining. Please [contact us](#) if you would like more details.



# CHRISTIANS AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

**Whatever you may understand to be the cause of climate change, climate change is happening and is causing harm to some of the poorest people around the world.**

Jesus commanded us to *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (Mark 12:31). This isn't just referring to the person who lives next door – it means neighbours in our community, our country and around the world. (Luke 10:25–37)

Love for our global neighbours, be they near or far away, takes many different forms. Reaching out to help “the least, the last, and the lost” by providing practical support to those in need, nearby or on the other side of the planet. This can be done in many different ways.

**Could you spend some of your time: -**

- Helping out in your community, visiting a neighbour, supporting someone who is housebound, volunteering with local charities, helping out at your local food bank.
- Writing to (or emailing) your MP, to highlight issues of concern locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Writing to (or emailing) national or multinational companies, raising concerns on ethical issues, or giving praise where positive actions have been taken.

**Where do you spend your money?**

- Does the retailer you shop at pay a living wage?
- What are the conditions like for those behind the scenes in the warehouse, or for the delivery drivers?
- Do they support charities or put back into the community?
- Are the products you purchase made or grown sustainably?
- Are products purchased that are made abroad using exploited labour, or lacking health and safety protections?
- Are they Fairtrade, Red Tractor, or other approved schemes?
- Are they recyclable?

**Where you spend your hard-earned cash sends a strong message about what is important to you. Your lifestyle choices are important.**



Our **Sunday services** take place each week at 10:30am in our church building. We also continue to livestream the services via our YouTube Channel. The first and third Sunday of each month includes communion.

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.

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.

Feb		Mar	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Olivia Egan (Communion)	6 <sup>th</sup>	David Skeet (Communion)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Joyce	13 <sup>th</sup>	David Skeet
20 <sup>th</sup>	David Skeet (Communion)	20 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Joyce (Communion)
27 <sup>th</sup>	Café Church - Rob Joyce	27 <sup>th</sup>	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 in church and via Zoom on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 9:30am.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Feb
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mar



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

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Feb
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Mar



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

- 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
- 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Mar



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

- 20<sup>th</sup> Feb
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mar

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.