

# SBC News

Dec / Jan 2023

Swallownest  
Baptist  
Church 



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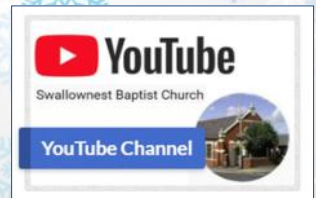
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## A WORLD IN NEED OF HOPE, JOY & PEACE

“Permacrisis” has been selected by the Collins Dictionary as its word of the year for 2022. The definition of Permacrisis is: “an extended period of instability and insecurity, especially one resulting from a series of catastrophic events”.

([collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/permacrisis](https://collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/permacrisis))

This is one of several other words used to highlight the many ongoing situations that our nation and indeed the world is facing. We have the ongoing war in Ukraine, the chaos of our government - through to the price hikes and cost of living crisis. We have food bank usage increases and now warm banks.

I think it’s fair to say that some of us may be glad to see the back of 2022 as it has again been troublesome to say the least. The news is often full of tragedies and with it brings heightened anxiety and fear. It has also brought rage and disbelief as we try to keep our heads above the water. Therefore, it’s no wonder that the Collins Dictionary has selected “Permacrisis” as its word of the year!

However, as followers of Jesus Christ we have hope. Even if everything around us is falling, we hold to the promise that God gave – that He would never leave us or forsake us if we remain faithful in Him. We have the assurance that one day all will be made perfect.

We can also hold to the truths that were foretold long ago. In fact, some 2,700 years ago God spoke to Isaiah of His salvation through the Messiah. Isaiah prophesies that: *‘the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel’* (Is.7:14). People may be walking around in darkness but a great light will shine on those living in a land of deep darkness (adapted from Is.9:2).

This hope has come in faith and brings great joy to our hearts with an everlasting peace through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us rejoice with all God’s people with expectant hearts at His arrival. O come; O come Emmanuel.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas. Here's to 2023 and for the plans God has for us.

May I also thank all of you who in various ways help lead, support and enable us to do the work of God. It may not be easy at times but by God's guiding hand we will see great things as we reach out to those living in a land of darkness.

Also, to my leadership team – be blessed, be a blessing and may God continue to anoint you to do good works in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



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

*David Skeet is our Church Team Leader*

Contact Us



swallownestbaptist@gmail.com



Thank  
You!



Many thanks to everyone who has participated in the Operation Christmas Child campaign this year. Whether you have packed a box, made a donation or helped to get the boxes to a pick up point, it is much appreciated. It will certainly mean the world to the children who receive a box - it may be the only present that they receive.

Please pray for Samaritan's Purse as they seek to safely distribute the boxes. The goal is to send two-thirds of shoeboxes from the UK to Ukraine or the neighbouring countries that are hosting many Ukrainian refugee families.

Please also pray for the children as they will be offered the opportunity to enrol on 'The Greatest Journey' – 12 fun and interactive Bible lessons, where they get the chance to discover who Jesus is and how to begin their own journey of faith. It is taught by local volunteers who have been trained to deliver the programme and is offered free of charge, without obligation and with the consent of the child's parent or guardian.



## Christmas Events

*Come and Celebrate Christmas with us*



### **Christmas Coffee Morning**

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec @ 10:00am**

Join us at our Christmas coffee morning for frothy coffee, tea, & bacon butties. All proceeds will go to Cancer Research. All welcome, please pop in!



### **Ladies Fellowship Candlelight Service**

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 1:00pm**

Join us for Carols and Bible readings by candlelight, as we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



### **Aston Churches Together Crib Blessing**

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 6pm, Swallownest roundabout**

A short outdoor gathering, at the start of the Christmas season, to mark the arrival of the annual community Christmas Crib.



### **Family Christmas Service**

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 10:30am**

Join us for our Junior Church Sunday service followed by a bring & share lunch, games and a quiz.



## Carol Service

Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec @ 6:30pm

Join us for an evening of Carols and Bible readings. Followed by refreshments and mince pies.



## Christmas Morning Service

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 10:30am

Join us for a short family service to celebrate this special day. Don't forget to bring along a present you have received to show to everyone!



Swallownest Baptist Church



YouTube have recently introduced a feature called 'handles'. It's a new way to find and connect on YouTube. Every channel on YouTube now has a unique identifying 'handle'. YouTube has assigned a 'handle' to our own church YouTube channel and unsurprisingly it is **@SwallownestBaptistChurch**

**Your handle is @SwallownestBaptistChurch**

We also now have a new unique YouTube URL that matches our handle. It will make it easier for people to discover and connect with us on YouTube, without the need to search around or type in complicated URLs:

[youtube.com/@SwallownestBaptistChurch](https://youtube.com/@SwallownestBaptistChurch)

There's no change at all to anything we actually do on YouTube, it just makes it easier to share our channel with others. So next time you want to share our church YouTube channel with someone just tell them our 'handle'!

**@SwallownestBaptistChurch**

# Meet Jan Dean: Children & Families Worker



Hi everyone

I've been asked to write a little bit about my new role serving God, the community and the people of SBC. For those of you who aren't aware, my new role is as the Children and Families Worker which is a new role for our church. I want to start by saying I'm so privileged to be able to serve in this way and feel humbled to have been chosen. I've felt for a while that God was leading me to a different phase of my Christian life. I'm excited to be given a new challenge and was so grateful to everyone who gave me encouragement and pledged their support.

I hope to be able to journey alongside people, both those who attend SBC and the wider community, and to help in any way I can and ultimately share the love of Jesus both practically and spiritually. I have a few ideas for forming new groups, and hope to enthuse and encourage my church family to get involved. I also hope to form contacts with local forums and committees to find where the local needs are as well as serving our amazing church family.

If I could ask for prayer please, it would be that the people with whom I make contact are open to hearing about Jesus and the love that God has for them. Also, that I can discern the will of God in my new role and in my personal life. I feel prayer, whenever possible, should be coupled with action, so please pray that God will guide my footsteps and walk alongside me and the people I meet along the way.

My favourite Bible verse since becoming a Christian is Philippians 4v13; '*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*'. This has been a verse that has carried me through many situations in my life, both good and bad, and I look forward with anticipation of what God has for me in the future.

God bless

Jan



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.

Dec		Jan	
4 <sup>th</sup>	David Skeet (Communion)	1 <sup>st</sup>	No service
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Joyce	8 <sup>th</sup>	David Skeet (Communion)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service - Junior Church - <i>followed by Bring &amp; Share lunch</i>	15 <sup>th</sup>	TBC
		22 <sup>nd</sup>	TBC
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carol Service @ 6:30pm (Thursday)	29 <sup>th</sup>	Café Church
25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day Service - 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 on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30am.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> December
- 7<sup>th</sup> January



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

- 12<sup>th</sup> December
- 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January



The **Men's Breakfast** takes place in church on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30am

- No breakfast in December
- 14<sup>th</sup> January



Saturday @ 8:30am  
£4

All men welcome – any background, any faith, any age, any postcode.



The **Ladies Meeting** takes place in church on a Monday

- 5<sup>th</sup> December - Candlelight Service at 1:00pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January at 1:30pm



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

- 18<sup>th</sup> December
- 15<sup>th</sup> January

