



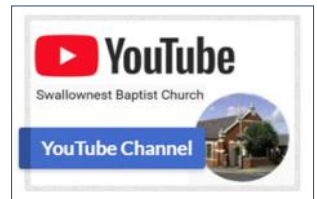
SBC News

Feb / Mar 2023

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THE FOUNDATION OF PRAYER

Here we are at the start of another year. We began the year by looking at the 'Unanswered Prayer course' written by Pete Greig and the 24/7 Prayer Movement

(unanswered.prayercourse.org). It is so important to build upon the foundation of prayer. This course is just one way to do that. As you know, the foundation of prayer, in a Christian context, is rooted in the belief that God is always present and listening to the prayers of his followers. This belief is supported by numerous passages in scripture. One that springs to mind is 1 John 5:14, *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."*

This verse, and many others in the Bible, serves as a reminder that God is always present, and He hears the prayers of his followers. We often find it hard when we don't hear back from God. Although, I believe the unanswered prayer course is helping us through this theological conundrum. Furthermore, scripture also reminds us of the power of prayer in our daily life - in confessing sins, in healing, and in granting us strength to overcome temptations, as we approach God with humility, faith,

and a willingness to align our will with His.

We are reminded of how Jesus himself prayed

often and taught his disciples to pray. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his followers to pray for God's will to be done, for daily bread, for forgiveness of sins, and for protection from evil. Prayer is not only a way to communicate with God, but it is also a way to deepen our relationship with him. In this way, prayer also serves as a means of spiritual growth and transformation. I would also say that prayer is not only an individual act but also a communal one. I've always encouraged you to pray for one another and to support each other in your spiritual journey and I'm grateful for those that do.

We can also build upon this foundation of prayer in many ways. You may want to start with a consistent daily routine. Just like building any habit, consistency is key. It's important to set aside time each day to pray. This could be first thing in the morning, during lunch, or before bed. Find a time that works best for you and stick to it. We have



been suggesting morning and evening prayers with some prayer points. You can also use different forms of prayer such as meditative prayer, contemplative prayer or journaling your prayers. Experiment and find what works best for you.

One of the most important aspects of prayer is building a relationship with God. Treat prayer as a conversation with God, not just a one-sided monologue. Listen for God's voice in your life and take time to reflect on the answers to your prayers. Therefore, pray for others. Pray for your family, friends, and community. Pray for those in need, for peace in the world and for the Church. Remember to take time to thank God for the blessings in your life. Reflect on the things you are grateful for and give thanks to God. This will help you to see the good in your life and to appreciate the small things. Let us also never forget that scripture is an essential tool for building on the foundation of prayer. It will help you understand the nature

of God and his plan for your life.

Reading scripture will also give you a deeper understanding of the prayers you're saying.

As I close, allow me to encourage you and share from many years of experience by saying that, building on the foundation of prayer takes time and effort, but it is worth it. A strong prayer life will deepen your relationship with God, bring peace and comfort to your life and help you to see the world in a new light. Remember to be patient, persistent and to approach prayer with an open heart and a willing spirit. In doing so you'll come to know God more, grow in Christ Jesus and your life will overflow through the power of the Holy Spirit. Be blessed.



David

David Skeet is our Church Team Leader



At our Prospects service in January our theme was, "The Star Gazers." Three Kings who were led by a special star to find the birth place of a long-awaited

King. So our three characters dressed in robes and 'riding' their camels found the infant Jesus. Our lesson posed the question - "who or what helps us to find Jesus?" Answers included : reading The Gospel story, hearing the Christian message, talking to others who are Jesus' followers and observing their lives.





Happy new year to you all. Hope you had a great Christmas. Mums & Tots had a lovely and very busy party on the 6th December. Father Christmas had left a sack of presents which I gave out to all the children and our team. I love to do this.

Olivia started telling the Christmas story in November, leading up to the birth of Jesus on Christmas day. Everyone loved it - thanks Livi.

Also, thanks to Pauline and George for all their help during the year and for my lifts.

We've continued to raise money for various charities. We sent £35 to Children in Need. Our charity box from September to December was for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice and we sent a donation of £30. Our Christmas card, which we all signed, was for Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity and we sent a donation of £40 from us all. Many thanks to everyone who donated.

We started back on 10th January so are in full swing as you are reading this!

Hope you enjoy looking at our Christmas party pictures.

Take care everyone, God bless,

Love

Hazel & the team.



Prayer Opportunities

By Suzanne Shelley



As we build upon the foundation of prayer and as we seek God for opportunities to share His love with people we know in our localities, let us also remember and pray for Christian Missionaries. Those who come alongside others, all around the world, to share the gospel message in practical ways. Let's pray:

- That God will strengthen and protect the people He calls to work and serve Him in different countries.
- That the basic needs of people in some of these countries will be met.
- That people will come to Christ as their Lord and Saviour as they are nurtured and disciplined.
- That Bibles in all languages will be available and reach the people God intends them for.

The below article is from BMS (Baptist Missionary Society) who, as a church, we support spiritually and financially. The article can be found here:

www.bmsworldmission.org/about-us/most-marginalised/

HOPE FOR THE WORLD THE FLOURISHING OF THE FURTHEST BEHIND

We tackle the injustice and suffering of deeply disadvantaged people living in desperate places. We work to see the flourishing of those with the fewest opportunities, who are furthest behind and are the most excluded.

We tackle injustice and suffering through the sending of contextually-skilled mission workers to places and partners in the world's poorest countries. As surgeons at an understaffed, underfunded hospital in Bardai, a remote region in the north of Chad, BMS World Mission workers [Andrea and Mark Hotchkin](#) are a great example of this type of work.



Livelihoods are being transformed across the world thanks to your support.

We also work with local churches who are best placed to bring to life and long-term community transformation. In Bangladesh, mission workers [Louise and Peter Lynch](#) partner with the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha to respond in communities where the need is greatest. They create programmes designed to help both now and in the future, such as providing waterproof bags to schoolchildren in monsoon-hit Rangpur District.

Through partnerships with established and trusted local agencies, we can do more together than we ever could alone. In Nepal, we work alongside the Multipurpose Community Development Service, who come alongside villages to improve all aspects of life, including health, sanitation, water management and education.

Thank you!



Thank you to all who filled a shoe box or donated money to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child appeal. Some happy children will get so much joy from these gifts. Thanks also to Mark Potter for his donation of stationery and pencil cases and to David Skeet for taking the shoe boxes to the collection point. We raised an amazing £55 and sent 37 shoeboxes in total.

We raised a grand total of £205.58 for Cancer Research from the church Christmas card and from the Christmas coffee morning. Many thanks to everyone who donated.



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK



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.



On Sun 12th February, we will be having Café Church. Join us for drinks and a bite to eat. A taste of church but not as you know it! A breakfast is provided by our wonderful catering team 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.

On Tuesday 21st February, we will be holding a special Lent Event from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Please invite along family and friends.





The **Prayer Meeting** takes place in church on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30am.

- 4th February
- 4th March



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

- 6th and 20th February
- 6th and 20th March



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

Saturday @ 8:30am
£4



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

- 11th February
- 11th March



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

- 13th and 27th February
- 13th and 27th March



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

- 19th February
- 19th March

