



SBC News

Aug / Sept 2023

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REFLECTIONS

As I sit down to reflect on the last seven months of our church life together, I am filled with a sense of awe and gratitude. The journey we've embarked upon as a congregation has been nothing short of transformative, both individually and collectively. Through the highs and lows, joys and challenges, our faith has been tested, strengthened, and ultimately, grown.

One of the most remarkable aspects of our church life in these months has been our sense of community. We have developed new groups, extended the playgroup with an additional session and found innovative ways to connect and support one another. Our virtual gatherings, prayer meetings, and digital outreach efforts keeps us united when physical proximity for some is not possible. It is incredible how technology can bridge the gap and bring the body of Christ together, no matter the circumstances.

The trials we have faced as a church community also brought to light the resilience of our faith. Many among us grappled with personal challenges, financial difficulties, health concerns and the loss of loved ones. Yet, in the face of adversity, our faith in God remained a beacon of hope. We prayed together, shared our burdens, and saw God's hand at work in providing for our needs. It was a beautiful testament to the power of a community standing firm in their trust in the Lord.

During these months, we have continued to implement our church's

mission and vision. We have overcome some of the physical limitations as we sought to think creatively about how to better serve our congregation and the surrounding community. We adjusted our outreach programs and we discovered unique ways to be a light in the darkness.

Moreover, the last seven months have seen incredible spiritual growth within our congregation. Our House Group Bible studies and devotionals brought us closer to the Word of God. We engaged in various sermon series tackling deep theological issues, which have been challenging our beliefs, whilst taking time to learn from one another. We are looking at ways to cultivate an environment of openness and understanding, as we want to respect differing perspectives while holding fast to the unifying core of our faith in Jesus Christ.

However, we also experienced moments of tension and disagreement. It is only natural for a diverse group of individuals to have different viewpoints and preferences. We will continue to walk and work together as we seek gracious and generous conversations, maintaining a Christ-like attitude even amidst disagreements. Our church life will be enriched by these challenges, reminding us that true growth often comes as we work through difficulties together.

As I look back over these seven months, I am filled with hope for the future of our church. Our collective journey will enable us to deepen our faith and strengthen our unity through the power of love that binds

us together. We have weathered storms and danced in moments of joy, always with Christ as our anchor.

As we move forward, let us cherish the fellowship we share as a church family. May we continue to be innovative in our outreach, never losing sight of the hurting world around us. Most importantly, let us remain steadfast in our faith, trusting that God will lead us through any challenges that lie ahead.

Together, as a church family, we will face the unknown with courage, knowing that the Lord has faithfully led us thus far and will continue to do

so. As we journey onward, let us embrace change, celebrate growth, and hold fast to the unchanging truth of God's word. Our story as a church is still being written, and I am excited to see how God will use us in the days, months, and years to come.

Grace and Peace



David

David Skeet is our Church Team Leader

Lego Church

Many thanks to Jan Dean and Junior Church for our first ever Lego family service. Whilst we thought about the topic of 'building the church', there were songs, refreshments, food, colouring, a quiz, opportunity to chat, prayers, and of course time for Lego building. Alex also shared the good news of the Christian faith with us. A fantastic service, well done to all involved.





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

- No meetings in August
- 2nd Sept



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

- No meetings in August
- 4th and 18th Sept



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

- No meetings in August
- 11th and 25th September



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

- No meeting in August
- 17th September



The **Prayer Walk** takes place every week on a Wednesday at 10:00am. Note there will be no prayer walks in August but they will recommence in September.



The **Lunch Club** takes place in the church schoolroom every week on a Thursday, with lunch being served at 12:00. Come and join us for food and a chance to chat. We just ask for a small donation of £2 per person.



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

- No meeting in August
- 9th September



We will be having a **Harvest Coffee Morning** on Saturday 2nd September from 10:00am to 12:00. Join us for our famous frothy coffee! There will also be a book stall.

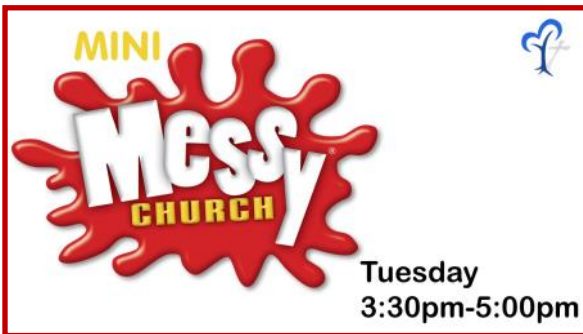
We offer an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us at any of our events. Email swallownestbaptist@gmail.com for further information.



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.

Aug	Sept
6 th David Skeet (Communion)	3 rd Harvest Service - Malcolm Purdy (Communion)
13 th David Taylor	10 th Rob Joyce
20 th Carol Cooke (Communion)	17 th David Skeet (Communion)
27 th Messy Church	24 th David Skeet



Mini Messy Church takes place in church on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:30pm.

- 1st August
- 5th September




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

New website 'Sunday Service Recordings' page

We now have a new look 'Sunday Service Recordings' page on the church website: swallownestbaptist.org.uk/sermons

Previously the page only included the weekly Sunday service audio recordings in MP3 format, but the new page now has additional content. In particular it includes our YouTube livestream recordings embedded alongside the audio recordings. It also features our sermon series images, and mini pictures of our speakers.

 <p>February 19, 2023 Series: 2023 - Lent: Confidence</p> <p>Lent 2023, Confidence - Part 1: Confidence through being convinced</p> <p>Speaker: Rob Joyce Book: Romans</p> <p>Scripture: Romans 8:1-39 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither read more..."</p>	 <p>February 12, 2023 Series: Café Church</p> <p>Café Church - What is Love?</p> <p>Speaker: Rob Joyce</p> <p>Café Church is a very informal church service for all ages. This relaxed service provides read more...</p>	 <p>February 5, 2023 Series: 2023 - Unanswered Prayer Course</p> <p>Unanswered Prayer Course - Session 5: When Will My Prayers Be Answered?</p> <p>A series written by Peter Greig and 24-7 Prayer (an international prayer movement) which explores read more...</p>
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There is an easy feature for filtering by 'Series', 'Speaker' or 'Book' of the bible, back to December 2021:

Desc All Series All Speakers All Books **Filter**

It's worth pointing out that our YouTube page doesn't have any search feature other than the date of the recording. So this is a useful place to come, instead of going directly to YouTube, if you want to locate a particular past YouTube livestream, or everything from a particular sermon series.

Our weekly podcast of the Sunday morning services also continues to be available but has moved to a new address. It's a great resource for listening 'on the move'. The podcast includes all spoken parts of the service but times of sung worship are edited out for copyright reasons.

Much more detail on everything above can be found at:

swallownestbaptist.org.uk/resources/sunday-service-recordings

Do take a look and benefit from our archive of recordings!

Swallownest Baptist  Church

SUMMER CLUB

Every Tuesday in August

1 - 2.30pm

0 to Year 6

50p per child

ACTIVITIES

CRAFTS

GAMES

SNACKS



Throughout August, we are going to be running a summer club in church every Tuesday from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. It is for children aged 0-11.

There will be loads of activities for the children to get stuck into including games and crafts, and there will also be snacks available. There is a small charge of 50p per child. There is no need to book in advance.

Please think about who you could invite along. If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer to help out, please speak to Jan Dean, our Children & Families worker.