



SBC News

Feb / Mar 2024

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EMBRACING HOPE AND FAITH IN 2024

As we leap into another new year, it is with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation that we welcome all that 2024 has for us. The journey of the past year, with its triumphs and challenges, has shaped us, strengthened our faith, and deepened our connection with one another. Now, as we embark on a new chapter, let us rejoice in the blessings of community, love, and unwavering faith that bind us together.

Some of you may be anxious as I look to move onto pastures new in the Spring. Believe me, stepping down was not an easy decision to make. However, I want to assure you that in times of uncertainty, our faith becomes a guiding light, illuminating the path ahead. Therefore, let us carry the lessons of the past with us into the future, remembering that God's love and grace have sustained us through every season. We only have to look back to the outbreak of COVID in 2020 and how we all managed to come through, stronger, bigger and better! As we face the unknown of 2024, let us do so with confidence, knowing that we are not alone.

This year, let your focus be on spiritual growth and a renewed commitment to living out the teachings of Christ. Together, may you strive to deepen your prayer lives, delve into the scriptures with open hearts, and actively seek opportunities to serve and uplift those around you. In doing so, you'll strengthen the bonds of church family and become beacons of hope throughout the community.

As we embark on this new year, we are reminded of the words found in Jeremiah 29:11: "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*" Let us hold fast to this promise, trusting that God's plan for each of us is filled with hope, purpose, and abundance.

In the year ahead, we anticipate the continuation of fellowship, worship, and outreach initiatives that have become the heart of our community. We eagerly look forward to the growth of our, continuing and new, ministries and the deepening of relationships within our church family.

May the love of Christ guide our steps, and may the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with wisdom and discernment in the year 2024. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to one another and to the mission of spreading God's love in our community.

In Christ's love,



David

David Skeet is our Church Team Leader



The Thursday Lunch Club has been meeting weekly since March 2023. It began as a continuation of the Warm Space project that the church was involved in to help with the energy crisis and has proved to be hugely successful. We serve food from 12pm and there are about 18 – 20 of us who attend each week, many who attend regularly but also those who pop in from time to time. It's a great way to meet and enjoy the company of others while enjoying a simple lunch of soup, sandwiches, cake, and a drink, all for a donation of just £2.

We had a special lunch to celebrate the coronation of King Charles and a Christmas party. Needless to say, there will be more to follow! Everyone is welcome so please spread the word and come and join us. We look forward to seeing you!

Carol Cooke





Thank you!

Thank you to all who filled a shoe box or donated money to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child appeal. Thanks also to Mark Potter for his donation of stationery and pencil cases, David Skeet for taking the shoe boxes to the collection point and Hazel Manship for organising and coordinating. We raised an amazing £85 and sent 34 shoeboxes in total. This is such a good cause which this story sent to us from the charity shows:

"Amira longed for a baby doll to play with, but her parents couldn't afford to buy her one. When she attended an Operation Christmas Child festive outreach event in her remote Middle Eastern village, she was overjoyed when she opened her shoebox and discovered the exact doll she wanted. "I was so surprised and picked up the doll and hugged it tight to my chest," she said. Amira then participated in The Greatest Journey and invited Christ to be her Saviour and Lord. Now, three years later, she teaches other boys and girls about Jesus using the Gospel materials she received."



We raised a grand total of £148 for the Archer project from the church Christmas card and from the coffee morning. Many thanks to everyone who donated. The Archer project is a Sheffield based charity supporting the homeless: archerproject.org.uk

The Ark Playgroup has donated to many charities throughout the year: Comic Relief (£25), Rotherham Hospital and community (£50), Children in Need (£45), Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice (£46). A big thank you to everyone who donated.



Maundy Thursday, 28th March

Service of Reflection @ 6:00pm

Join us as we share a meal and communion together.

Good Friday, 29th March

Reflective service @ 10:30am

Join us in church, as we reflect on the final part of Jesus' journey at the cross. Come sit and reflect in the presence of God at the great cost of Jesus' sacrifice.

Walk of Witness @ 11:00am

Join with Aston Churches Together, as we walk from the church, following the cross, to Swallownest crossroads for a short outdoor service of reflection.

Easter Sunday, 31st March

Sunrise service @ 8:00am Ulley Country Park

Join us for a short outdoor early morning service, at the waters of Ulley reservoir. Come and celebrate the greatest day in history, Jesus' resurrection, as we pray, sing, and hear a message.

Easter morning breakfast @ 9:00am

Join us for fellowship over a cooked breakfast at church before the service.

Easter morning service @ 10:30am

Join us as we continue in our time of worship together at our special Easter Sunday celebration service.

Outdoor service @ 12:00pm

Join us on Easter Sunday as we gather round the cross, as part of Aston Churches Together, at Swallownest crossroads for a short outdoor service.



Prayer Meeting
Saturday @ 9:30am



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

- 3rd February
- 2nd March



*Prayer &
Meditation*



Monday @ 9:30am



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

- 5th and 19th February
- 4th and 18th March



Ladies Meeting

Fortnightly on Monday @ 1:30pm

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

- 12th and 26th February
- 11th and 25th March



Sunday @ 3:00pm



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

- 18th February
- 17th March



**THE ARK
PLAY GROUP**
TOYS AND CRAFTS
BIBLE-BASED STORIES
MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTS
£1.50 PER FAMILY PLUS 50P
PER EXTRA CHILD

**Tuesdays
10am-11:30am
&
1pm-2:30pm**

The **ARK Play Group** takes place every Tuesday during term time. This is a friendly group welcoming parents/carers with babies and toddlers. There are 2 sessions: 10am-11:30 am and 1:00pm-2:30pm. No need to book. It is £1.50 per family plus 50p per extra child.



Lunch Club
Thursday
11:30am – 2:00pm
£2 donation per person

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.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday @ 8:30am
£4

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

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

- 10th February
- 9th March



Lent Supper
Tuesday 13th Feb @ 6:00pm
Donation: £3 adults, £1 children

We will be holding a **Lent Supper** on Tuesday 13th February at 6:00pm. It will have an Italian theme and there will be pasta, pizza and puddings! We just ask for a small donation to cover the cost of food: £3 adults, £1 children.

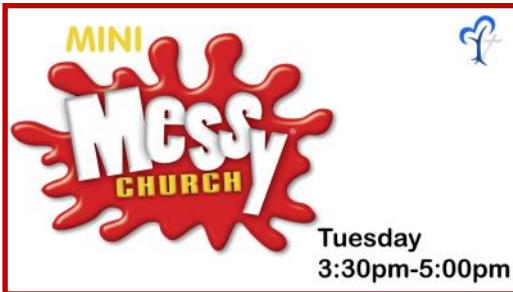
We offer an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us at any of our events. Email swallownestbaptist@gmail.com for further information.



Our **Sunday services** take place each week at 10:30am in our church building. We also 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 during the service. There are age-specific groups, where they engage with songs, bible teaching, crafts and other fun.

Feb		Mar	
4 th	David Skeet (Communion)	3 rd	David Skeet (Communion)
11 th	Café Church	10 th	Rob Joyce
18 th	Rob Joyce (Communion)	17 th	David Skeet (Communion)
25 th	David Skeet	24 th	Rob Joyce
		31 st	David Skeet



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

- 6th February
- 5th March

Café Church takes place on Sunday 11th February at 10:30am. Join us for drinks and a bite to eat. It's a great opportunity to sit and chat. Towards the end of the service, there will be a short talk from one of our church leaders.



There will be a **church members' meeting** on Sunday 4th February at 12:00pm following the morning service. We would also like to invite non-members, who see SBC as their home church.