

SBC News

Dec / Jan
2025

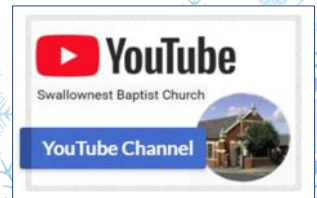
Swallownest
Baptist
Church 



Inside this issue

From Darkness into Light
Operation Christmas Child
Christmas Events
Christmas Wordsearch

Follow Us



From Darkness Into Light

As November leaves us and December comes round we find ourselves moving from autumn to winter. November is, for the church, a time of remembrance and for me personally it has been a season of loss as we have had a family bereavement. It makes you very aware of how precious life is and has been a time when I have been drawn closer to God. Particularly the God depicted in the Footprints poem. If you haven't read it, Google it (other search engines are available!), it's a good read.

But now we turn from that and begin to look forward to Christmas. During advent we remember that there is new life coming. We celebrate the birth of a baby who, even if you don't believe He was the Son of God, unarguably changed the world. I personally do believe that He was God and Man and that He died for us. And, at this time of year, we therefore celebrate coming out of darkness into light, from death to life and from sin to salvation.

I am looking forward to the lights and I hope that they will serve as a comfort

and a reminder of why Jesus came. In the Bible, the book of John chapter 3, verse 17 says:

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Or, in the words of a poem written by some teenagers I grew up with:

*"Coming through the worlds deep
darkness,
Coming down to seek his own
Coming as a tiny baby
Jesus made this earth His home."*

You are very welcome to come and celebrate with us this year, we'd love to have you!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olivia Egan'.

Olivia Egan (on behalf of the leadership team)

If you wish to contact the leadership team or would like to share any news or prayer requests with the church, then please contact:



07536 992946



swallownestbaptist@gmail.com



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 each week during the service.

Dec		Jan	
1 st	Olivia Egan (Communion)	5 th	TBC (Communion)
8 th	Suzanne Charles	12 th	Suzanne Charles
15 th	Rob Joyce (Communion)	19 th	TBC (Communion)
22 nd	Christmas Family Service - Junior Church	26 th	TBC
29 th	Praise & Prayer Service		



A great big thank you to everyone who supported this years Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child appeal.

We've raised an amazing £70 in money donations, sent 29 shoe boxes and also sent 1 big bag of pencil cases filled with stationery.

Thanks to George and Pauline for taking them to the drop off centre.

Lots of children will enjoy their gifts and will know the love of God through the little books that are put in every shoe box. Please pray for them all. Thanks again

Love and God bless Hazel Manship x



Sunday



Prospects meets in the church schoolroom on the third Sunday of each month @ **3pm**.

- 15th December
- 19th January



TeenMeet meets on the first Sunday of each month in the late afternoon / early evening and is for those of secondary school age.

- 1st December
 - 5th January
-

Monday



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

- 9th & 23rd December
- 6th and 20th January



The **Ladies Meeting** takes place in the church schoolroom fortnightly on a Monday.

- 2nd December @1:00pm
 - 13th January @1:00pm (lunch)
 - 27th January @1:30pm
-

Tuesday



The **ARK Play Group** takes place every Tuesday during term time. There are 2 sessions: **10am-11:30 am and 1:00pm-2:30pm**. £1.50 per family plus 50p per extra child.



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

- 3rd December
- 7th January

Wednesday



There will be a Prayer meeting taking place every week in the church schoolroom on a Wednesday morning @ **11:00am**. The litter picking is pausing until the Spring!

Thursday



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

Saturday



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

- No breakfast in December
- 11th January



The **Prayer Meeting** takes place in church twice per month on the first and third Saturday @ **9:30am**.

- 7th & 21st December
- 4th & 18th January



Hymn singing at Treeton Grange Care Home takes place on the third Saturday of each month @ **11:00am**.

- 21st December
- 18th January



Come and Celebrate Christmas with us



Ladies Fellowship Candlelight Service

Mon 2nd 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 4th Dec @ 6:00pm, Swallownest

A short outdoor gathering to mark the arrival of the annual community Christmas Crib. Refreshments afterwards at Bethesda church.



Christingle Making

Thu 19th Dec @ 6:00pm

Have a go at making your own Christingle!



Carols by Candlelight

Thu 19th Dec @ 7:00pm

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



Family Nativity Service

Sun 22nd Dec @ 10:30am

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



Christmas Morning Service

Wed 25th 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!



Many thanks to everyone who joined in the quiz and to all who donated. A special thanks to Jan Dean for organising the event. We have raised an amazing £175 which the church will match.

Many congratulations to Thomas and Emily who won the quiz!

Tearfund is a Christian charity which works with churches and organisations in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They aim to tackle poverty and injustice through sustainable development, by responding to disasters and challenging injustice. They believe an end to extreme poverty is possible. To find out more, visit their website tearfund.org



Christmas Wordsearch

Can you find all of the words in the grid below? Once you have found all of the words, read the unused letters to reveal the message spoken by the Angels.

R	E	G	N	A	M	T	N	O	D	A
Y	I	D	O	N	K	E	Y	N	T	H
E	T	O	W	N	M	O	J	M	F	D
Y	A	V	I	E	S	L	E	G	N	A
R	D	A	S	S	A	H	S	V	I	O
A	U	I	R	H	E	A	U	S	B	E
M	W	E	N	L	B	O	S	R	N	T
O	Y	O	H	U	H	E	D	I	S	T
H	S	T	A	B	L	E	E	L	M	E
S	E	S	I	A	H	T	H	E	O	L
B	O	H	P	E	S	O	J	R	D	G

Angels	Gold	Manger	Wise Men
Bethlehem	Jesus	Mary	
Donkey	Joseph	Stable	