

AUGUST 2022

Contact

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

Family Worship
10.30am

Wednesday

Congregational Café
11am – 1pm

Scoffs

12 noon

(2nd Wednesday only)

Thursday

Rainbows Baby & Toddler
Group
9.30am

Friday

Badminton
7.30pm

MINISTER

Rev Jonathan
Abernethy-Barkley
07927 495583
abernethysmile@
hotmail.com

SECRETARY

Liz Hill
0161 900 1437
07932 750436
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TREASURER

Justine Lewis
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Hello Friends,

Three years ago this month, I first ventured down to Springhead from Scotland. I was picked up from Manchester Piccadilly by Justine, our church treasurer, and we nattered all through the journey. That conversation flowed again when Liz and Allan joined us for dinner, and we could have chatted all night. The following morning, I conducted worship and truly fell in love with the place and people that make Springhead so special and unique! Following your decision to invite me back to preach with a view to being your next minister, I returned in October and, following the service, gratefully accepted the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Liz Dean as your minister and friend.

Little did we know that 2020 would bring a pandemic and churches would have to close their doors to help in controlling the spread of Covid-19. Services quickly moved online and every day during the first national lockdown we made daily 'thought for the day' videos which saw us joined virtually by people from around the globe and on the doorstep. We tried to keep a sense of community through fundraising online and showed that we cared for the community around us by encouraging the local Co-Op store to set up a food bank drop off point. In addition, we worked with local churches in the area to provide virtual services for special community occasions and even managed to arrange an 'Easter Egg Hunt' for kids.

As we returned to a new normal, I got to sample the famous Springhead hospitality at the weekly church cafe and SCOFF's, and got to witness the legendary Christmas Fayre in action alongside the Christmas Eve social (complete with turkey butties).

Thursdays always provide fun and laughter and allowed us to make new friends with the return of Rainbows Baby and Toddler group.

Of course, there have been moments of sadness - we lost some longstanding members, we grieved together and supported one another through those difficult moments. Whilst they may no longer be here, we are grateful for the moments that our paths crossed with theirs and we know that we have been changed for good because we knew them.

The ministry of a church is so much more than just a minister. To that end, I am indebted to all of you from deacons, to social committee, to church attenders and friends of the congregation for rolling up your sleeves and making dreams a reality as we sought to put John 10:10 into practise, ensuring everyone is 'living life to the full'.

As I leave, it has been wonderful to leave behind a lasting legacy in the shape of a renovated church sanctuary meaning that whoever comes next will begin with a space that is fresh, modern, appealing and contemporary. Whilst Springhead will no longer be home, it will always hold a special place in my heart and I hope that it will be somewhere I can visit in the future and continue to be part of the church family, even if at a little bit of distance geographically. Thank you for opening your hearts to me and I wish you all every blessing and success for the future.

Blessings JAB

DEACONS

There will be no deacons meeting in August. The next meeting is on Monday 5th September at 7pm.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals by arrangement with the Minister

OFFERTORIES

3rd July - £206.20

10th July - £54.05

17th July - £133.55

24th July - £130.04

Standing orders - £617.00

Total **£1,140.84**

Other Income

Harmony Vibe - £414.50

FAITH LUNCHES

SUNDAY 7th AUGUST

Themed Faith Lunch

Pizza and garlic bread
will be available for a
small donation

Everyone is welcome to
stay and join us

SCOFFS

Just a reminder that
the lunch club is
taking a break over
the summer and will
be closed in August.
It will be back on
Wednesday 14th
September.

We have also taken
the decision to close
the café during
August. It will reopen
on Wednesday 7th
September at the
new time of 12noon -
1.30pm. We look
forward to seeing you
then!



Thank you to Jonathan for writing the letter and reflection this month.

I'm sure we were all rather surprised to hear the news of Jonathan moving on but we are very grateful for the time he has spent with us here at Springhead and we appreciate all that he has done. He will be greatly missed by all but we wish him every blessing in his new post at Kings College, London and hope that he will keep in touch!

Jonathan's last service will be on Sunday 14th August and this will be followed by lunch to which everyone is invited.

Jonathan's vacancy has now been advertised on the Congregational Federation website, so I trust that you will continue to pray that God will guide us and help us to find the right person to lead and shape our church for the future.

In the meantime, we are working really hard to secure pulpit supply preachers for the foreseeable future and looking at different and interesting ways to worship and enjoy fellowship together each Sunday morning and indeed, to continue the work of our church as far as possible. We might be losing our minister but please be assured that church is still very much open for business as usual!

I'm sure that the Deacons, Justine and myself will have your full support and encouragement over the coming weeks and months as we begin this time of interregnum and navigate the journey ahead.

As I remember writing in a previous newsletter at the beginning of lockdown, our strength at Springhead is our fellowship and if we continue to work and pray together, then we will get through this challenging time together.

With all good wishes - Liz

We are excited to announce that we are starting a new venture on Sunday 11th September!

Toddler Sundays will run every Sunday morning from 10am to 11.30am, in conjunction with our regular worship, when a variety of toys, activities, Sunday school songs and stories will be on offer to babies, toddlers and pre-school children accompanied by an adult.

Everyone is welcome so please spread the word amongst your family and friends. Flyers and further information are available from Joan or Allan.

Upcoming Events – August 2022

Sunday 7th August	10.30am	Family Service Themed Faith Lunch
Sunday 14th August	10.30am	Family Service Lunch
Sunday 21st August	10.30am	Family Service Communion
Sunday 28th August	10.30am	Café Church

Flower Rota August 2022

7th - Jean Voss

14th -

21st - Karen Stuttard

28th - Nan Parkinson

Springhead Congregational Church
A Member of the Congregational Federation
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