

**JANUARY 2021**

# 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  
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## TREASURER

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I trust this edition of Contact finds you well and I hope you all enjoyed the best Christmas possible under these ever changing and challenging circumstances.

New Year, new beginnings, the time for reflection, for change, for making plans. It's the time of year when everyone is thinking about changes for the year ahead. Statistics tell us that January is the month where people attempt to make more changes in their lives than any other time of the year.

Each new year brings with it all sorts of good intentions for changing this or that in our lives, starting new things and achieving goals. We resolve to eat healthier, save more money, exercise, take up a new hobby, get rid of a bad habit... the list goes on and on.

But why? Why do we make these resolutions? Because we want to be better, that's why. We see the beginning of each year as the opportunity for a fresh start and a new beginning. This year, more than ever, we long for a new beginning after the highs and lows of 2020. It was not the year anyone planned or predicted. For many, it has been a year to forget but at the same time it is probably a year that will live long in our memories and we still have much to be thankful and hopeful for.

A common new year's expression is "out with the old, in with the new." And the new year is indeed a great time to take stock, make changes, and resolve to do better in our lives. Since God specialises in new beginnings in the Bible, he has support, encouragement, and strength for any new beginning we are contemplating whether that means a new job, a move to a new city, a new relationship, or even a new phase of life.

Scripture is full of stories and verses about beginning again or new beginnings, which are filled with such hope and hope does

not disappoint. We can witness new beginnings as far back as creation and Adam and Eve and these continue throughout the Old Testament with Noah and the flood, the story of Job's faithfulness to God and the new beginning granted to Joseph and his brothers, amongst many others. In the New Testament we know that Jesus experienced times of new beginnings in His life too. One of those times was when He was baptised in the River Jordan.

God knows that we are living in a messy world, often full of failures and disappointments. He understands that sometimes we give up and fall down and long to begin again. God is aware more than anyone that we all need new beginnings and He granted that for us in Jesus.

So whilst the new year is traditionally the time for new beginnings, the truth is that with God anytime is a time for a new beginning. With God, we don't have to wait for another New Year to roll around. His mercy is new every morning and any day we choose to start again is a day that God will grant us a new beginning. He provides us with encouragement and hope through His word.

So, what do new beginnings mean? When we put all of this together, we can come away with one word: Hope.

This is a new year. A year of new beginnings and a year of hope and positive change. And things will change. We can trust that better times are to come and look forward with confidence to a much better year.

God continues to give us opportunities for new beginnings. New beginnings are crucial for survival so let us make the most of them as we live a new life in Christ through the power of His Holy Spirit.

*Cont'd*

**Baptisms, weddings and funerals by arrangement with the Minister**

## OFFERTORIES

Dec Offertories - £1,320.00

Standing Orders - £560.00

**Total £1,880.00**

### Donations

In memory of Joan Radcliffe  
- £92.00

### FESTIVE FUNDRAISING

*A huge thank you to everyone who supported our online fundraising efforts during the festive season and congratulations to all our lucky winners!*  
*As a result of your generosity, we have raised a massive £1,487.00 for church funds.*  
*Thanks also to everyone who has continued to send in envelopes and donations – your contributions have meant everything to us in a year when we were not able to be together in the same way or hold our usual activities or events.*

As we start on a new year it's also time to say a big thank to everyone who has once again held positions of office and served our fellowship in a year like no other, albeit behind the scenes or remotely!

We have achieved more than we ever thought possible this year and we couldn't have done it without your support.



It is hoped that the Covid-19 vaccine will mark the beginning of the end of the pandemic. And let's hope that 2021 is a new beginning for our church fellowship and we will soon be able to pick up the pieces, reconnect with people and move forward. It will be good to have Jonathan back home early in the new year and church will be reopening with 'Relaunch Sunday' and a Christingle service on Sunday 3rd January 2021. Everyone is welcome to join with us at 10.30am and we look forward to seeing you for worship and reflection. The service will also be live streamed on the church Facebook page.

**(Please note that reopening is subject to any further government announcements or restrictions. We will, of course, keep you fully informed of any changes).**

Whatever we face this year, God is with us and we can trust Him because He knows our beginning and our end and everything in between.

"You can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending."

Happy New Year and happy new beginnings!

Liz

## The God of New Beginnings in the Bible

*"See, I am doing a new thing!"*  
Isaiah 43:19

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At this time of year our thoughts turn to the church members' AGM which this year is on Sunday 7th February. However, as we are unable to hold an actual meeting at the current time, this AGM will look slightly different.

As to be expected, there will be little to report this year, but the business of the church continues and we are still required to present financial information and elect deacons and representatives to serve our fellowship. We will endeavour to email or post out all the necessary information and reports prior to the AGM.

This year we have two vacancies on the Diaconate, so if anyone is interested please contact either myself or Jonathan for further information. Anyone who has been a Church Member for at least a year is eligible to be nominated for election to the Diaconate.

### Church Membership

We are always happy to welcome new church members into our fellowship.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a church member, please speak to me or Jonathan.

### Christingle



2020 is a year none of us will forget  
We learnt a lot about what matters & the preciousness of life, love and friendships

So on the 1st Sunday of 2021 we are inviting you to  
**Relaunch Sunday**  
**3/1/2021@ 10.30am**

**New beginnings & New Starts**

A service open to all whether you have been a regular Springheader in the past, present or wish to dip your toe in the water of the family here and give faith a chance

**we would love to see you!**

Springhead Congregational Church  
A Member of the Congregational Federation  
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