

JANUARY 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 – 11.30am

Friday

Badminton
7.30pm

MINISTER

Rev Jonathan
Abernethy-Barkley
07927 495583
abernethysmile@
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SECRETARY

Liz Hill
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TREASURER

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Dear Friends,

May I begin this edition of Contact by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I trust you all had a lovely Christmas and managed to attend some or all of the events and services at church during the festive season.

One of the highlights was definitely our fantastic Christmas Fayre! It was lovely to see so many people enjoying the day and a huge thank you to everyone who helped out and supported the event. It was great to be back and thanks to your generosity, we raised the massive total of £2,629.96.

During lockdown, one of the festive services I missed the most was the Christingle service. In recent years, this service, held on the first Sunday in January, has become very popular with young and not so young alike, joining in with the readings and the lighting and distribution of candles.

This year, our Christingle service will be held on Sunday 2nd January, and will be followed by a traditional faith lunch where you are welcome to bring food for everyone to share and enjoy. I hope you are able to join with us for this special service.

Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of the Christian faith. Every year, thousands of churches hold special Christingle services between Advent and Epiphany, to remind them that Christ is the light who came into the world at Christmas and to spread the message of bringing hope to people in darkness.

The custom of the Christingle began in the Moravian Church in Germany in 1747 but it wasn't introduced to the Anglican Church in England until 1968.

No one knows for certain when the word 'Christingle' was first used or from what it derived so it could, in fact, have come from several sources.

It might be an English version of 'Christkindl' meaning little Christ child, who was the present bringer in some European countries or

it could be the merging of the words 'Christmas' and 'ingle'. Ingle is an old Scottish word for fire so that would mean the 'Christ Light'. However, as Christingles originated in Germany, the first theory is more likely.

During the Christingle service each person is presented with a Christingle - an orange decorated with a candle, red ribbon, fruit and sweets. At the end of the service, in the magical moment of the darkened church, the visual symbol tells the truth of the Christmas story - that in the darkness of the world there has shined a great light.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to remind us of the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world.
- The red ribbon which goes all round the 'world' and is the colour of blood, reminds us that Jesus died for us.
- The four cocktail sticks could have either of two meanings; the four seasons or the four corners of the world.
- The sweets and dried fruit remind us of God's gifts to the world including kindness and love.
- The lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange represents Christ, the light of the world.

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.' (John 8 v 12).

With all good wishes - Liz

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held after morning service on Sunday 13th February.

We currently have two vacancies on the Diaconate, so if anyone is interested, please contact either myself or Jonathan for further information, or pop your name on the nomination form on the church noticeboard in the hall. Anyone who has been a church member for at least a year is eligible to be nominated for election to the Diaconate.

Your support at this meeting would be appreciated.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals by arrangement with the Minister

OFFERTORIES

28th November - £52.92
5th December - £59.77
12th December - £64.47
19th December - £145.19

Standing orders - £592.00
Total £914.35

Other Income

Christmas Fayre - £2629.96
Faith Lunch - £29.12
Christmas Day - £109.60
Cong Café - £150.00
Solar Panels - £12.09
Donation - £400.00

CHURCH MEETING

The next church meeting is after the service on Sunday 9th January and we would love to see you there.
Unfortunately our last meeting in November was cancelled so there is lots of news to catch up on!

FLOWER ROTA 2022

There is a new list on the noticeboard in the hall. If you wish to provide flowers, please add your name against a suitable date.
Many thanks.

**Christingle Service
Sunday 2nd January
at 10.30am
followed by a
traditional faith
lunch**



 Find us on
Facebook

The more observant of you will have noticed a new CF logo at the bottom of our newsletter. This year, the CF is marking 50 years with a series of celebrations that will take place throughout the year.

The Congregational Federation is a charity set up in 1972 to provide support and advise to Congregational churches. The Federation also supports the independence of each local church, encourages the responsibility of church members to manage the church business and believes in the power of the Holy Spirit within the church meeting.

Springhead Congregational Church takes an active interest in the Congregational Federation at national, area and local levels.

The Congregational Café will reopen after the Christmas break on Wednesday 5th January, and will be serving a variety of snacks, light lunches and specials between 11am and 1pm.

And following on from the success of the Christmas lunch, Scoffs will continue to meet at 12 noon on the second Wednesday of every month, where a two course meal and entertainment is available.

Next meeting – Wednesday 12th January 2022.

Everyone is very welcome!

Faith Lunches

During 2022 we will be continuing with our lunches after the service on the first Sunday of each month. These will alternate between a traditional faith lunch and a themed lunch.

Please add your name to the list on the noticeboard in the hall if you are able to provide food for any of the themed lunches.

And please remember that everyone is welcome to stay and join us, regardless of whether you have brought food or not.

Upcoming Events – January 2022

Sunday 2nd January	10.30am	Christingle Service Traditional Faith Lunch
Monday 3rd January	7pm	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday 5th January	11am – 1pm	Congregational Cafe
Friday 7th January	7.30pm	Pantomime at Oldham Coliseum Theatre
Sunday 9th January	10.30am	Family Service Church Meeting
Wednesday 12th January	12 noon	Scoffs
Sunday 16th January	10.30am	Family Service led by Luke Wathen from the Smiles Foundation Communion
Wednesday 19th January	11am – 1pm	Congregational Café
Sunday 23rd January	10.30am	Family Service
Wednesday 26th January	4pm	Week of Christian Unity Service at Springhead
Sunday 30th January	11am – 1pm	Congregational Café
Monday 31st January	10.30am	Family Service
	7pm	House Group at 17 Radcliffe Street

Springhead Congregational Church
A Member of the Congregational Federation
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at 50
Congregational
Federation