

JANUARY 2023

Contact

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

Family Worship
10.30am

Toddler Sundays
10am – 11.30am

Wednesday

Scoffs
12 noon
(2nd Wednesday only)

Thursday

Rainbows Baby & Toddler
Group
9.30am

Friday

Badminton
7pm



SECRETARY

Liz Hill
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TREASURER

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Dear Friends,

So, the presents have been opened, the chocolates eaten and lots of TV has been watched - and now it feels like Christmas has been and gone for another year!

But 6th January marks an important date for many people in the Christmas calendar – it is the Christian festival of Epiphany.

The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and the final event in the Christmas calendar. It is a special date in the Christmas story and is significant in a number of ways. In the East, where it originated, the Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It also celebrates Jesus' birth.

The Western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the three wise men, or kings, to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus. 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

The kings are important because their visit illustrates that Jesus was the king of all kings who came for the Jews and the Gentiles. According to the Gospel of Matthew, the three wise men — Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar — followed the star of Bethlehem across the desert to meet the baby Jesus. They famously gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh; the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

Epiphany celebrations vary widely around the world. Greek Orthodox youth take an icy swim. In New Orleans, it is the start of

Carnival, which ends with Mardi Gras. In Russia, any water poured on Epiphany is regarded as holy. In Latin America, children receive gifts. In Shakespeare's England, it was the last day of a series of wild parties!

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from 6th January until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter.

The date of Epiphany also happens around the time of Twelfth Night too. Twelfth Night marks the end of Christmas and falls exactly 12 nights after Christmas.

Twelfth Night is important to a lot of people as, according to tradition, all of the Christmas decorations must come down by the time the clock strikes midnight at the end of the day. It is said to be bad luck if they stay up beyond this date, so you may be busy taking down your tinsel if you haven't done it already!

However, amidst the diversity of celebrations throughout the world, Epiphany celebrates man's realisation that Christ is the son of God – as Christmas ends and the New Year begins. So may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year – Liz

Scoffs lunch club will return after the Christmas break at 12 noon on Wednesday 11th January, when a two course meal and entertainment will be available.

Everyone is very welcome!

The Congregational Café has now closed for the foreseeable future. Many thanks to everyone who has helped out and supported us over the years.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals by arrangement

OFFERTORIES

4th December - £158.10

11th December - £134.15

18th December - £95.95

25th December - £80.00

Standing orders - £595.00

Total £1,063.20

Other Income

Disco - £287.55

Cong Fed Mini Grant - £100.00

Christmas Eve Social - £200.00

Christingle Service

Sunday 8th January at
10.30am followed by
a church meeting.
We hope to see you
there!



**WE ARE STILL
COLLECTING USED
POSTAGE STAMPS IN
AID OF THE LEPROSY
MISSION. PLEASE LEAVE
IN THE BOX AT THE
BACK OF CHURCH**

FLOWER ROTA 2023

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.



Faith Lunches

During 2023 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.

As we start on a new year, it's time to say a big thank to everyone who helps in any way; without your contribution we would not be the church we are.

Our thanks to all the people who helped with services, events, music, meetings, preparing church, providing flowers, decorating the tree and contributing to the hundred and one jobs over the festive period. All this helps to make the Nativity, Carol service, Christmas Eve Social, Christmas Day service and the Christingle service such happy and meaningful occasions for both the congregation and the community.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out and supported our fantastic Christmas Fayre! It was lovely to see so many people enjoying the day and thanks to your generosity, we raised the massive total of £2,569.44.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held after morning service on Sunday 12th February.

We currently have three members of the Diaconate who are willing to be considered for re-election, as well as the current Church Secretary. If anyone wishes to propose or second them, please pop your name on the nomination form on the church noticeboard in the hall.

Your support at this meeting would be appreciated.

Upcoming Events – January 2023

Friday 6th January	7.30pm	Annual trip to the Pantomime
Sunday 8th January	10am – 11.30am 10.30am	Toddler Sundays Christingle Service Church Meeting Deacons Meeting
Monday 9th January	7pm	Scoffs
Wednesday 11th January	12 noon	Toddler Sundays
Sunday 15th January	10am – 11.30am 10.30am 4pm	Family Service led by Liz Dean Churches Together Service for Christian Unity at St Edward's
Sunday 22nd January	10am – 11.30am 10.30am	Toddler Sundays Family Service featuring Saddleworth Drama
Sunday 29th January	10am – 11.30am 10.30am	Toddler Sundays Family Service led by Alan Kennedy

Springhead Congregational Church
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