

# Contact

JANUARY 2024



Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and were able to attend some of the events and services held at church during the festive season.

Huge thanks to everyone who helped out and supported the Christmas Fayre and special thanks to Gill and Cath for organising the whole event and for making it such an enjoyable day.

And so here we are in January again, ready to embrace yet another year.

God gives us so many blessings each and every day but one of his great blessings is the gift of a new year.

Blessings from God are his promises to us that he will give us good things, such as fruitfulness, abundance, wealth, prosperity, protection and health. He also blesses us with salvation, forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit when we follow Jesus. God wants us to be happy by finding joy through him and to embrace and declare his blessings every day. God's gifts provide eternal security, hope, and joy - even when circumstances seem bleak.

God is the most generous giver of all. He has blessed us with so much, both material and spiritual, and we often don't even realise it. It can be something as simple as a beautiful morning or something so small that it might easily be overlooked.

Often as Christians we say we are blessed when there is an abundance of positivity in our lives, often in relation to success, health, family, wealth, or a job. We've even heard athletes say this after winning a big game. We all want to be under God's blessing. As the common understanding of what it means to be blessed by God is that he gives us good things, in this respect we can say that God's blessing is on everyone, believers and unbelievers alike.

Both in scripture and in the English dictionary, blessings are defined as a 'benefit.' God's blessings are his benefits towards us and the good things he does for us. To be blessed by God means having God's favour and goodness. We often think of blessings as riches, high position, health, and

happiness. However, Jesus' famous words about blessings show us that God has a different definition of being blessed and this can be seen in the famous bible story, the Sermon on the Mount.

Each of the eight blessings or beatitudes that come from the opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount are sayings of Jesus that speak of a blessing or 'divine favour' that will be bestowed on the person who possesses a certain character quality.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

There are many more blessings that God bestows upon us, so, as we welcome in 2024, let us choose to receive God's blessings freely, because in reality we have been given so many gifts by him who loves us unconditionally.

With all good wishes for a happy new year - Liz

## THANKS

As we begin the new year, it's time to say thank you to everyone who has once again held positions of office and served our fellowship during this time of interregnum and also all those who help in any other way.

Particular thanks to all those who support our church by helping behind the scenes and doing all the jobs and work that no one really thinks about! Without your contribution we would not be the church that we are.

# DIARY – January 2024

Sunday 7th January	10.30am	Christingle Service Lunch
Monday 8th January	7pm	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday 10th January	12 noon	Scoffs
Sunday 14th January	10.30am	Family service led by Yvonne Campbell Church Meeting
Sunday 21st January	10.30am	Family service led by Mary Jones Cake Sale
Sunday 28th January	10.30am	Family service led by Frank Wroe

## Regular Activities

### Sunday

Toddler Sundays 10am – 11.30am

### Wednesday

Scoffs 12 noon (2nd Wednesday)

### Thursday

Rainbows Toddler Group 9.30am

### Friday

Badminton 6.30pm

## Offertories

3rd December - £101.70

10th December - £58.76

17th December - £246.15

24th December - No service

31st December - No service

Standing orders - £767.00

**Total            £1,173.61**

### Other Income

Christmas Eve Social - £177.00

Christmas Day Offertory - £95.50

Christmas Cakes - £135.00

Gift Aid - £3,578.39

Disco - £215.74

Scoffs Donation - £300.00

Toddlers Donation - £50.00

Badminton Donation - £52.00

Donations in memory of Donald

Openshaw - £251.00

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held after morning service on Sunday 18th February.

We currently have three members of the Diaconate who are willing to be considered for re-election, as well as Justine, the current Church Treasurer.

If anyone wishes to propose or second them, please pop your name on the nomination form on the church noticeboard in the hall.

We also have one vacancy on the Diaconate, so if anyone is interested, please contact me 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.

## Flower Rota January 2024

7th – Sylvia

14th –

21st –

28th –

## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 7th January at 10.30am

The service will be followed by lunch, when pie and peas will be available for a small donation.

Please stay and join us.

## 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 either Justine or myself.

## CHURCH MEETING

The next church meeting is after the service on Sunday 14th January. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

## CAKE SALES

Cake sales will be held on a monthly basis during 2024 so any donations of cake would be gratefully received.

## FLOWER LIST

There are still some gaps on the flower list, so if you wish to provide flowers during 2024, please add your name to the list.

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