

**JUNE 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 – 11.30am

### Friday

Badminton  
7.30pm

## MINISTER

Rev Jonathan  
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## SECRETARY

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## TREASURER

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Dear Friends,

Father's Day is about honouring all of the special male role models in our life and it is traditionally celebrated on the third Sunday in June. But how did it all start?

The history of Father's Day has a couple of different origins but was thought to have begun 4,000 years ago when a Babylonian boy called Elmesu carved a message in clay wishing his father a long life. Many Catholic countries, including Spain, Italy and Croatia, have celebrated Father's Day on 19th March, which is St Joseph's Day, since 1508.

The modern concept started in the USA in 1909 when Sonora Smart Dodd, inspired by her Civil War veteran dad, who raised six children alone after his wife died, made it her mission to set up a national Father's Day, as a way of honouring him. She was upset by the fact that there was a Mother's Day, but no corresponding day for fathers.

Washington state celebrated its first Father's Day in June 1910 and the concept slowly spread to other states, although it wasn't very popular at first. That all seemed to change during World War II, when advertisers used the opportunity of Father's Day to promote the troops out on the field. By the time the war was over, Father's Day was a national institution.

Father's Day is also an opportunity for us to remember that beyond our physical father figures, we also have a spiritual father in heaven, who is worthy of even greater honour, praise and thanks.

God is our ultimate father and he is the greatest example set for fathers everywhere: He loves us, listens to us, protects us and strengthens us.

First and above all, God loves us and through that depth of love, he shows that he is a loving father who wants the best for his children. You are his child; he is your Father.

In a world full of darkness and despair, it may often seem that we are all alone to face our

troubles, but we know that God is there to listen to us and to help us through prayer. Just as sons and daughters have family rights that guarantee them access to their father, we also don't need an appointment to see our Heavenly Father. Even in the midst of running the entire universe and while he oversees six billion people with all their troubles, cares, worries, fears, problems and difficulties, our God still has time for us. He listens to us as if he had no one else to listen to.

There is nothing in this universe that is stronger than God, and he stands ready to protect us and give us strength when we need it. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, no temptation that we face is greater than anything God can handle, and the temptation is meant as a way to give us strength and confidence as we move forward.

One of the most well-known prayers of the Christian faith is the Lord's Prayer, which begins with the words 'Our Father who art in heaven' and it is a common theme in many other prayers of the Christian faith to address God as our Father. And indeed, the first step in prayer is to learn to call God 'Father.' When you call God 'Father,' you are saying there is one in heaven who hears and knows and understands and cares. Whatever a good father on earth would do for his children, that's what God in heaven will do for his children.

No matter what our experience has been concerning our own father, God is available to each one of us as a good and loving father. His desire is for each of us to know what it truly means to be his child and to know him as father.

He is a God who never lets his children go. He loves his children with an everlasting love that is faithful and loyal no matter what happens. That's the father's love for his children.

This Father's Day, celebrate your faith in God our father and thank him for being your ultimate father now, and for all of eternity, and never forget the blessings that God gives you in your life.

With all good wishes - Liz

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

## OFFERTORIES

2nd May - £131.89  
9th May - £112.50  
16th May - £69.50  
23rd May - £157.50  
Other envelopes - £470.00  
Standing Orders - £647.00

**Total**      **£1,588.39**

### Donations

Covid Grant from NW Area –  
£1,000.00



We are taking tentative steps forwards this month by organising a family picnic after the service on Sunday 27th June.

The event is free of charge and will be held outdoors (weather permitting) and socially distant if necessary.

Everyone is welcome to join us, so please stay and enjoy this first step towards the return to normal life within our church fellowship.

Badminton is returning on Friday 4th June from 7pm - 8pm for children aged 7 to 16.

The Toddlers Group is also reopening on Thursday 1st July at 9.30am and any mums, dads, grandparents and carers will be very welcome.



We have some exciting news to share with you!



We are returning & we would love you to join us

From Thursday 1st July @ 9.30am-11.30am

Rainbows is a Relaxed Baby and Toddler Group which runs at Springhead Congregational Church (Radcliffe St) on a Thursday morning.

Come along and have a cuppa and a chat at our relaxed and welcoming toddler group. There's an array of toys for all ages, the children can enjoy a variety of snacks. £2.00 for the first child and £1 for any further children. All money raised goes to Springhead Congregational Church.

### Face Masks

Just a reminder that there is now a supply of disposable face masks at the back of church in case anyone arrives without one (or leaves it in the car!)

An update on the mountain situation from last month's newsletter ... Apparently our group only made it half way up Snowdon – with the exception of David Openshaw, who made it all the way to the summit! Many thanks to Karen Stuttard (Pat Mill's daughter) for her excellent recollection of events and for clearly having a much better memory than me!

### Christian Aid Week

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this worthwhile cause by returning envelopes or donating online to help raise a total of £144.62. Your donations are appreciated and will help to fight poverty and injustice around the world.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee will resume on Monday 7th June at 7pm.

Although the committee currently consists of a very dedicated group of six or seven people, membership is open to anyone in our fellowship who can spare an hour to attend the meeting.



To be held after the service on Sunday 27th June 2021



Please stay and join with us ...  
Everyone welcome

Springhead Congregational Church  
A Member of the Congregational Federation  
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