

SEPTEMBER 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,

Welcome to our bumper edition of Contact with lots of news and upcoming events for your diary. It's great that we can look forward to church life returning as activities and events are gradually reopened and reintroduced and a couple of new ventures are beginning. But most of all, we look forward to seeing many more of you back and joining together with us again soon. The seats are back in church and singing is back on the agenda once more!

Well, can you believe that it's almost September already?! I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and many thanks to Sue and Simon and everyone who attended the barbecue in July. It was a really good occasion and great to share fellowship once more.

Earlier in the summer we held our first 'in person' deacons meeting for sixteen months when we were able to meet again to discuss the business of the church and plan for the future.

We have one further event planned for Sunday 5th September to celebrate the end of the summer holidays and the return to school, so we hope you can join us for Ice Cream Sunday after the service.

During the summer, one of the books I read was 'The Power of Hope' by TV and radio presenter, Kate Garraway, whose husband Derek Draper contracted Covid-19 at the beginning of the pandemic last year. The book outlines the raw and emotional story of the devastating impact that Covid-19 has had on her family and how they are finding strength in hope, even during the darkest of times.

It also reminded me of something else I read recently 'You can survive without food for three weeks, without water for three days and without air for three minutes. But you cannot survive without HOPE.'

Most people understand hope as someone's wishes or desires, as in 'I hope something will happen.' This is not what the Bible means by hope. The biblical definition of hope is 'confident expectation' and this real hope rests in the power and promises of God – what God says, he will do.

Hope is one of the three main elements of Christian character, along with faith and love, and it is an essential, enduring and fundamental component of Christian life.

In the Bible, hope is never a static or passive thing. It is dynamic, active, directive and life sustaining. It is a firm assurance regarding things that are unclear and unknown.

These days, it's easy to be worn down by hopelessness. People lose hope when they experience overwhelming loss, repeated failures, impossible situations, or when they're hurt by people they trust. We will all battle hopelessness at some point in our lives. And no matter who we are or what our situation, hope is the one thing we all desperately need.

Hope is a positive expectation that something good is going to happen to us because of God's great goodness. It is not vague or unsure but an action that we must choose to take purposely each day.

Regardless of who we are or what condition our life is in, we can't function successfully without hope in God. It often takes courage to journey in hope, but this is often what God calls us to do. We've got to have hope. Hope for tomorrow. Hope for the future.

We are still living in difficult times but in God we have hope and with God we can carry that hope into a world that desperately needs it. Can we now begin to hope again, that after a great and generous sacrifice, we will soon be free once more to enjoy the blessings of normal life?

As Kate sums up at the end of her book, 'Hope is real, and it is the best way forward.'

With all good wishes - Liz

Baptisms, weddings and funerals by arrangement with the Minister

OFFERTORIES

4th July - £57.19

11th July - £55.61

18th July - £71.01

25th July - £95.02

1st August - £87.45

8th August - £113.50

15th August - £93.24

Standing Orders - £1,174.00

Total £1,747.02

Other Income

Barbecue - £138.80

Royton Trust - £355.83



CHURCH MEETINGS

The bi-monthly Church meetings will resume after the service on Sunday 12th September and continue on the second Sunday of the month as before.

COMMUNION

Communion will take place on the third Sunday of every month starting on Sunday 19th September.

DEACONS' MEETINGS

Deacons' meetings will continue to be held on the first Monday of each month from Monday 6th September at 7pm.

A relaxed and informal house group to explore life and scripture is starting on Monday 27th September at 7pm.

It will be held at Jonathan's house,
17 Radcliffe Street,
Springhead.

For further details please see Jonathan.

CONGREGATIONAL CAFE

Just a reminder that the café will be reopening on Wednesday 1st September from 11am until 1pm.

We will be serving a selection of snacks and light lunches as before.

Scoffs will resume at 12 noon on Wednesday 8th December when Christmas lunch will be served followed by entertainment.

We look forward to seeing you again and your support would be much appreciated.

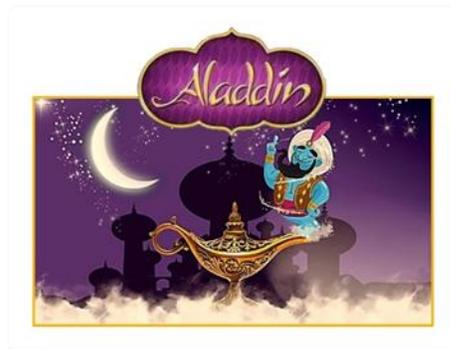
HARVEST APPEAL 2021

This year we will be supporting our new Baby Bank initiative in conjunction with Rainbows Baby and Toddler Group by donating baby and toddler supplies during the service on Sunday 3rd October to help new parents and young families in the local area.

A list of specific items required will be available shortly.

The service will be followed by a Harvest Faith Lunch where soup and rolls will be available for a small donation.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Tickets are now available to reserve for the pantomime at Oldham Coliseum Theatre on Friday 7th January 2022 at 7.30pm.

Ticket Prices:
Adult £15.50
Seniors £13.50
Children £11.50

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



HARVEST FAITH LUNCH

*Sunday 3rd
October*

JUMBLE SALE

*Friday 15th
October at 7pm*

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

*Saturday 4th
December
11am – 2pm*

SCOFFS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

*Wednesday 8th
December at
12 noon*

JUNIOR DISCO

*Friday 10th
December at 7pm*



Further details of these events to be announced soon

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be on Monday 20th September at 7pm. All welcome.

Ice Cream Sunday

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 5TH

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CAFÉ ON WEDNESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER WILL BE DONATED TO MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT IN LIEU OF A COFFEE MORNING.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME SO PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR A LIGHT LUNCH OR JUST A COFFEE AND A CHAT!

Any jumble can now be brought up to church and left on the stage.



Springhead Congregational & Rainbows Baby/ Toddler Group



THE BABY BANK

We are seeking to support new parents & young families in the local area by collecting baby/ toddler supplies to help meet their needs.

Shopping List:

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- Baby/ toddler clothing (new/ pre-loved in good condition).
- Baby wipes/ nappies etc.
- Baby food (jars)/snacks (with good shelf life)
- Baby/ toddler bedding.
- Small items of equipment in good condition , (not electrical one) i.e. baby chairs etc.

If you know anyone who could benefit from this initiative, they can contact the church directly or drop by on a Thursday morning 9.30-11.30am for a brew and chat! (Radcliffe St, Springhead or contact 07927495583 for more details).



Lifts to Church

We are looking to set up a way of providing lifts to church for people who would love to come to the service or activities and events but need a lift to get here.

This would be a very valuable part of our support and hospitality as a church.

If you have a car and think you could occasionally give someone else a lift to church, it might make a big difference to them and we would love to hear from you.

Or if you are someone who needs a lift, please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan to arrange.



Christmas Fayre 2021

Saturday 4th December

11am – 2pm



The Christmas Fayre is back this year, bigger and better than ever! And it's never too early to start collecting items.

These include: raffle and tombola prizes, new toys (or in excellent condition), men's toiletries, candles, chocolate for the chocolate tombola and any festive items for the Christmas stall.

Any donations can be left at the back of church or given to Gill or Cath.

As you are aware, the Christmas Fayre is our biggest fundraiser of the year but its success depends on your support, contributions and donations, in whatever capacity. Gill and Cath will shortly be speaking to members of the congregation and all help will be much appreciated. Many thanks.

FAITH LUNCHESES

Faith lunches will resume with a Harvest lunch after the service on Sunday 5th October and continue on the first Sunday of the month as before. From October until the end of the year, a 'themed' lunch will be available for a small donation each month.

From January 2022, we will once more begin to alternate each month between a traditional faith lunch (where you bring a dish for everyone to share and enjoy) and a themed lunch which is provided for a small donation. If there are any volunteers to provide, prepare and serve food, please get in touch.

Upcoming Events – September 2021

Wednesday 1st September	11am – 1pm	Congregational Cafe
Sunday 5th September	10.30am	Family Worship Ice Cream Sunday
Monday 6th September	7pm	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday 8th September	11am – 1pm	Congregational Café
Sunday 12th September	10.30am	Family Worship Church Meeting
Wednesday 15th September	11am – 1pm	Congregational Café
Sunday 19th September	10.30am	Family Worship Communion
Monday 20th September	7pm	Social Committee
Wednesday 22nd September	11am – 1pm	Congregational Café
Sunday 26th September	10.30am	Family Worship
Monday 27th September	7pm	House Group at 17 Radcliffe Street
Wednesday 29th September	11am – 1pm	Congregational Café
Sunday 3rd October	10.30am	Harvest Service Faith Lunch

Springhead Congregational Church
A Member of the Congregational Federation
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