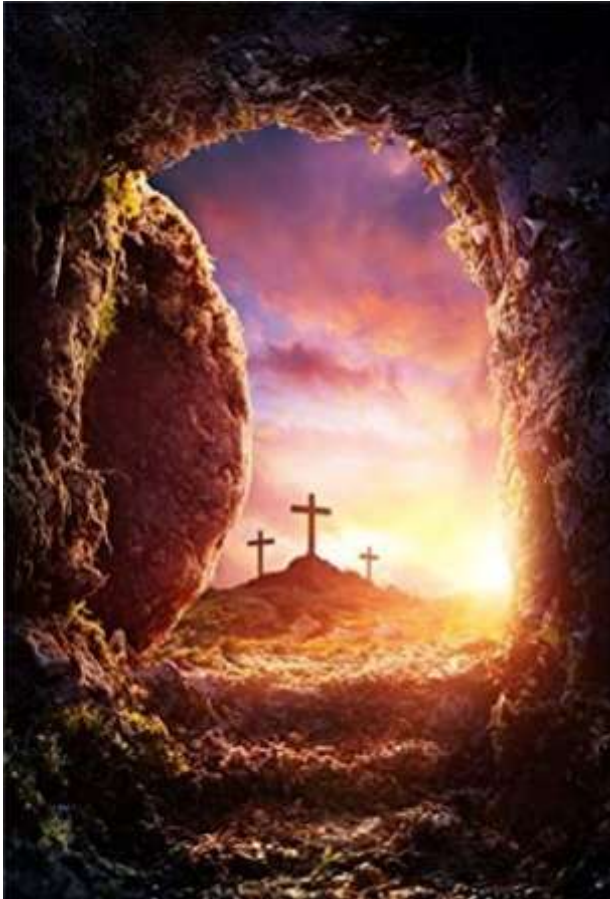


Family News

April 2026



Craft and Chatter

1st & 3rd Fridays monthly, 10am -12 noon
at Southwell Baptist Church



Card making, knitting, adult colouring,
& crochet, plus magazines to browse
and occasional workshops on varied
crafts.

Free to all
Light refreshments
available



Reflections on Church Leadership Elections

Once again this month our church family gathers to do something that might look simple on the surface: we vote. We mark a box, raise a hand, or affirm a name. But beneath that ordinary action lies something profoundly spiritual. Choosing leaders is not just an administrative task—it is one of the ways we listen together for the voice of God.

In a world where voting often feels divisive, the church has the opportunity to model something different: a community where discernment is shared, where unity is cherished, and where leadership is understood as service rather than status.

In the book of Acts, the early church faced decisions that shaped its future. When leaders were chosen, the community prayed, listened, and trusted that the Holy Spirit was guiding them. Their process wasn't about popularity or personal preference—it was about seeking God's direction as one body.

When we vote today, we step into that same tradition. We pause. We pray. We ask God to show us who will serve with humility, wisdom, and grace. This is why our voting matters. It is an act of shared discernment—an expression of our belief that God works through the whole community, not just a few.

So, what do we look for in a church leader? Church leadership is not about titles or authority. It is about character, calling, and a willingness to serve. Qualities worth reflecting on include: a heart shaped by prayer, a commitment to Scripture, a spirit of humility, a willingness to listen, and a desire to build up the whole church. When we vote, we are not choosing representatives for our personal preferences. We are affirming those we believe God has gifted for this season of our church's life.

Even in a loving church, we won't always agree. We may have different instincts, different experiences, or different hopes for the future. But unity is not the same as uniformity. Unity is the commitment to walk together

even when we see things differently.

After the vote is cast and the results are announced, our calling is the same: to support those who have been chosen, to encourage them in prayer, to offer our gifts alongside theirs, to trust that God is at work through the whole body. We are also called to support anyone not chosen, to give them reassurance, and to thank them for their willingness to serve. Disappointment is natural if the outcome isn't what we hoped for. But unity grows when we choose grace over grumbling, encouragement over criticism, and shared mission over personal preference.

Leadership is important, but it is not everything. The health of a church is never carried by leaders alone. It is carried by the whole community—by those who pray, serve, give, welcome, teach, sing, visit, and quietly bless others in ways that are never seen. SBC can rightly claim to be such a community with 'every person ministry' at the forefront of all we do.

Voting is one moment in our life together. Unity is the daily work of love, patience, forgiveness, and shared purpose. I think I can speak for the current ISG membership when I say that this describes our time together over the last two years, and I am sure it will define the leadership team going forward, whoever they may be. I believe that this definition of unity also applies to our wider church, just as it does to any family, and that these principles of love, patience, forgiveness and shared purpose are what have enabled us to carry on so successfully in our period of interregnum. (I may add that a sense of humour also helps...)

As we gather together at the church meeting on April 9th, then, may we do so with open hearts and loving spirits. May we remember that this is not a political exercise but a spiritual one. And may our unity be a witness to the world—a sign that Christ is at the centre of all we do.

Every blessing

Sue H.

Church Meeting

Thursday 9th April

7.15pm for 7.30pm



A Quiet Mission in our Midst

For many years now we have been fortunate enough to have employed a conscientious and trustworthy cleaner, Jeanne, who comes in on Thursdays and does a thorough job without needing supervision. Our paths cross as our times in church overlap but, as Jeanne is a native French speaker with limited English, and my schoolgirl knowledge of the French language is from a (very) long time ago, our conversations have been somewhat limited.

In recent times, as Jeanne's English has improved, I have got to know her better. For example, I know that she is Catholic because, when I offered prayer for her injured shoulder, she was very moved and surprised as she thought that we wouldn't want to pray for someone from another denomination! However, she wasn't as surprised as I was following a recent conversation.

Stephen, Jeanne's husband, occasionally accompanies her and helps to clean if she needs to complete her work early for any reason. A casual conversation with them both as I was leaving revealed that they were heading down to London and, in response to my query as to their plans there, it transpired that they were delivering donated items to be delivered to Togo, where Jeanne originates from.

Jeanne told me that the people there have nothing; in her words (and, hilariously, with our usual charades style of communication) 'not even a pair of pants to pull on'. She therefore collects donated items and sends them to her sons, who deliver them to local churches for distribution to orphans and families in desperate need. Subsequent conversations revealed that, although she cannot send food because of expiry



dates etc. she pays for food supplies to be bought in Togo and similarly distributed, and also pays for hospital bills from her own purse when people desperately need treatment that they cannot afford.

I couldn't believe that Jeanne had worked here all this time and I never knew that she did this. She says, very simply, that she likes to help people and make them happy.

Wanting to do my bit, I went home and sorted through my wardrobe and airing cupboard, bringing in bags of clothes, bedding and towels to donate. I asked Jeanne to let me have some information that I could share with you all, and any photographs she may have, as I felt that others would be similarly moved. This is the message I received from her:



Dear Sue

Thank you for your items that you have given to me.

Just to explain my background. From a very young age, I saw my parents helping people in need and those who had very little. As a result, I then started helping in the same way by giving clothes to those who needed them, food and even assisted with hospital expenses.

Consequently, I asked to my friends not to throw away their clothes and

other items which they no longer required and to pass onto me. If needed, I would arrange to collect them to sort and distribute accordingly. After which I would then pass onto those who had need. Those who I gave to were pleased and content upon receiving the items. As a result, this also gave me pleasure and satisfaction. When I arrived in the UK in 2014 and due not understanding English well, I unfortunately stopped. It wasn't again until 2024 that I began asking people I worked for to give me their unwanted items e.g. clothes, shoes, towels, bedding etc. to then pass onto those in need. From time to time, I have also found items in various charity shops.

Previously, when I have been in Togo, I have forwarded items to nuns and priests throughout the country. When I am not present in Togo my sons take care of this. In time, I plan to create an association with my husband in order that we can continue to send and help to those in need.

Jeanne.

If you would like to support Jeanne too and help in this small mission, please bring in any suitable unwanted items you have that are in good condition and I will pass them on. Some of you have already been kind enough to donate after I made an appeal from the front of church, and Jeanne was so very grateful for this. Barry has offered to clear a space that we can designate as a collection point so that we can make this an ongoing venture so watch the notices for further details.

With love and thanks

Sue H



EASTER WORD SEARCH

T	H	E	K	A	U	Q	H	T	R	A	E	U	S	I	T	I	S	W	R	I
G	S	T	R	E	V	L	I	S	F	O	S	E	C	E	I	P	T	O	M	B
N	E	T	A	L	I	P	I	E	R	C	E	D	T	E	N	T	R	H	A	T
I	V	E	T	H	E	H	S	J	R	R	B	N	A	I	L	S	A	C	H	C
K	E	M	R	I	L	R	I	U	E	O	O	S	T	P	S	H	E	O	R	A
U	I	P	L	D	E	A	C	G	S	S	R	U	S	F	O	F	P	E	E	L
R	H	L	A	I	N	I	Y	D	H	S	U	N	O	A	N	S	S	T	T	V
H	T	E	D	H	F	L	S	A	E	P	R	S	N	T	H	I	T	R	S	A
D	D	L	T	I	A	S	O	A	R	O	R	G	C	Y	R	R	J	L	A	R
I	O	A	X	M	D	N	N	S	H	T	E	I	S	H	E	E	U	F	E	Y
S	E	I	B	R	A	A	O	T	A	L	E	O	E	S	R	M	D	T	H	S
D	O	E	D	E	R	M	F	O	S	C	S	B	U	S	A	I	A	D	A	R
N	N	D	T	H	K	O	G	N	A	Y	R	R	L	T	T	R	S	E	P	E
E	N	T	A	N	N	R	O	E	A	C	R	I	E	O	A	N	I	T	D	V
F	O	R	G	W	E	I	D	D	J	E	V	E	F	N	O	E	S	S	S	O
O	F	S	O	I	S	N	E	O	C	S	S	H	O	I	U	D	C	L	D	S
B	E	R	P	R	S	E	S	T	O	C	L	A	I	M	C	E	A	D	I	S
M	C	N	H	I	R	E	I	A	H	T	O	G	L	O	G	E	R	S	N	A
A	A	M	E	H	P	O	T	O	A	L	L	N	A	T	I	O	I	N	S	P
B	E	R	T	H	N	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	F	R	O	M	O	J	E	R
U	S	A	Y	S	I	M	O	N	O	F	C	Y	R	E	N	E	T	L	E	M

ANGELS	EARTHQUAKE	NAILS	SIMON OF CYRENE
APOSTLES	EASTER	PASSOVER	SOLDIERS
BETRAYAL	GOLGOTHA	PIECES OF SILVER	SON OF GOD
BLOOD	HIGH PRIEST	PIERCED	SPEAR
CALVARY	JESUS CHRIST	PILATE	STONE
CROSS	JOSEPH	RESURRECTION	TEMPLE
CROWN OF THORNS	JUDAS ISCARIOT	ROBE	THIEVES
CRUCIFIXION	KING	ROMANS	THREE DAYS
DARKNESS	LAMB	SACRIFICE	TOMB
DEATH	MARY		



THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY
AMONG JEWISH PEOPLE

Exploring Israel with Jesus

Experience *the land of the Book*
without the need of a passport
or five-hour flight!

Using photos, maps, and charts, we will discover
the importance of understanding first-century culture,
geography, history and language as we dig deeply into the gospel texts.



Saturday 18th April
Welcome from 9.30am,
10.00am start,
finishing at 4.00pm.

Mansfield Baptist Church,
Rosemary Street,
Mansfield,
Notts. NG19 6AB

Please bring your own packed lunch, refreshments will be provided.

£15 per ticket, please scan the QR code: Or contact CMJ UK:

office@cmj.org.uk or telephone: 01623 883960

We look forward to seeing you there.



Dates for the Diary

Apr 3rd	Good Friday Service
Apr 9th	Church Meeting
Apr 11th	SBC Work Morning
May 14th-23rd	Lighthouse Prayer Room
May 23rd	Womens' Breakfast
May 24th	CTiS Pentecost Praise Service (no service at SBC)

Regular Church Activities

Renew Wellbeing	Every Monday 1pm-3pm (except Bank Hols)
Craft & Chatter	1st & 3rd Fridays Monthly
Dwelling Place	1st Friday Monthly
Southwell Court Services	1st Tuesday Monthly

If you have something you'd like to share that would be suitable to include in the magazine please do send it via info@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk. The cut-off date for each issue is the 15th of the previous month. Don't worry if you're not confident with writing - tell me what you want to say and I'm happy to help. *Sue*.

Renew Southwell

at Southwell Baptist Church

A quiet shared space where it's ok not to be ok.

Join us
every Monday
at 1.00pm
for chat, shared
hobbies, and company.



www.renewwellbeing.org.uk
charity no: 1173963

It's easy to get in touch and
a warm welcome awaits you.
Just drop in on a Monday or
for more info:

email info@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk

Renew Wellbeing

A quiet shared space
where it's ok not to be ok.

Bite Sized Gospel

Lessons from the Gospel of Luke

Don't make an agony of your religion.

Joy is a primary Christian characteristic.



It is a mistake to despise the new wine, for the day will come when it has matured and it will be best of all.

When we read scripture we must say "Speak, Lord, for thy servant is listening."

There is an ever-present danger of setting loyalty to a system above loyalty to God.

If we really love him, we will also love each other.

The joy of heaven will amply compensate for the trouble of earth.

Christian conduct consists, not in refraining from bad things, but in actively doing good things.

Always our speech betrays us.

The only true foundation is obedience to the teaching of Jesus. He came with that perfect confidence which looks up and says "Lord, I know you can do this."

Trisch

Weekly Programme

Sun	10.00am	Prayer Meeting (Upstairs Room)
Sun	10.30am	Sunday Worship & Children's Church
Mon	1.00 pm 07.30pm	Renew Wellbeing Home Group - Southwell
Tue	10.30am 07.30pm	Home Group at SBC Home Group via Zoom
Weds	7.30 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Prayer Meeting via Zoom Home Group - location varies Bible Study Home Group - Farnsfield & Southwell
1st Tues Monthly	02.30pm	Service at Southwell Court Care Home
1st Fri monthly	10.00am	Dwelling Place Tea Room (inc Craft & Chatter from 10am-12 noon)
3rd Fri monthly	10.00-12noon	Craft & Chatter

Contact Details:

Steering Group:	Iain Dalziel, Sue Hartley, Sue Mullis & Barry Westbury isg@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk
Administrator:	Sue Hartley (church office) 07866 617463 info@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk
Treasurer:	Iain Dalziel 07834 814217 idalziel@btinternet.com

Child Protection & Vulnerable Adult Representatives:

Designated Person for Safeguarding:	Janet Kneen 07719 203566 janet_kneen@hotmail.com
Safeguarding Trustee:	Sue Mullis 07802 288959 suefmullis@gmail.com

Please contact Janet Kneen in the first instance to raise concerns.

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Christian Aid Rep	Arderne Gillies 01636 815762 rev.arderne@btinternet.com



Good Friday Service
at
Southwell Baptist Church

April 3rd 10.30am