

# Family News

June 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





The word ‘welcome’ has been on my mind lately. We often describe ourselves as a welcoming church, and I’m aware that nearly every Facebook post I make on the church page includes the word somewhere, but what does this mean in practice?

Welcome must surely be more than a friendly smile at the door? It is a ministry—an expression of God’s heart. Throughout Scripture, we see a God who moves toward people, not away from them. Jesus welcomed children, strangers, the weary, the curious, and the overlooked. His welcome was never a half-hearted nod, but was always sincere, inclusive and meaningful interaction.

Our ministry of welcome starts with remembering that we ourselves have been welcomed by **God**. Paul writes, *“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”* When we grasp the depth of God’s embrace toward us—undeserved, unearned, unconditional—it becomes natural to extend that same grace to others. Welcome is not a strategy, then. It is a response to grace.

Church doors matter. They are often the first threshold someone crosses when they are searching for hope, community, or simply a place to belong. A warm greeting, a genuine smile, a sense that someone is glad you’re here—these small gestures can soften anxieties and open hearts.

But opening our doors also means making space for newcomers in our conversations, being attentive to those who stand alone, and creating an

atmosphere where it is safe to ask questions and share experiences. A church that welcomes well is a church that sees people.

True welcome goes deeper than hospitality on a Sunday. It is the willingness to open our lives—to share time, friendship, and even vulnerability. This kind of welcome is slower, quieter, and often more costly. It means noticing the person who needs a listening ear. It means inviting someone for a cup of tea, even when the house isn't perfect. It means choosing connection over convenience. When we open our lives, we create space for God to work in ways we cannot predict. Friendships form. Faith grows. Loneliness lifts. The church becomes not just a place people attend, but a family they belong to.

Our aim and aspiration is to be a church where every person, long-standing member or first-time visitor, feels seen, valued, and loved. A church where welcome is not the job of a few, but the calling of all. A church where the warmth of Christ is felt not only in the sanctuary, but in homes, gardens, cafés, and everyday encounters. This is the kind of community that reflects the Kingdom of God.

As we welcome summer (there's that word again), the days get longer, the air gets warmer, and our calendars fill with gatherings, celebrations, and opportunities to connect, the month of June offers us a gentle invitation to open our doors a little wider and our lives a little deeper. To practise the ministry of welcome not as a task, but as a joy. To be a church, whether gathering inside our building or elsewhere, where people encounter the love of Christ in the shape of His people.

My prayer is that our welcome be generous, our hearts be open, and that those who cross our path find a place where they can truly belong within this family we call Southwell Baptist Church.

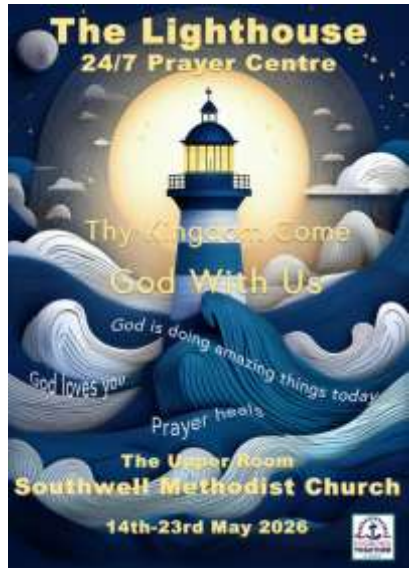
Every blessing

*Sue*

## The Lighthouse, and the CTiS

### Pentecost Service

Many thanks to all involved in The Lighthouse prayer initiative 2026. CTiS volunteers manned the market stall on both Saturdays, directing people to the Riverside centre for prayer directly and also handing out prayer request cards for people to complete and return to be prayed for during our upper room sessions. We started with 50 request cards thinking that would be enough, but ended up needing 200! We thank God for moving people to trust us with their concerns, knowing that we would bring them back to Him.



On Sunday we ended our 10 days of prayer with a joint service in Southwell Minster, with representatives from all seven churches taking part. We followed this with refreshments and a sociable time together in the Bishop's walled garden.

A lot of people worked hard behind the scenes to make this all happen, and we are thankful that so many are willing to give up their time and use their skills in God's service.









## **Bite Sized Gospel**

### **Lessons from the Letters to the Corinthians**



The giving which does not give itself is always a poor thing.

The Church is a fellowship in which the watchword is not independent isolation but interdependent togetherness.

There comes a time when trouble must be faced.

Discipline must always be aimed to lift a man up and not to knock him down.

There can be no standing still in the Christian life. The man who is not advancing is slipping back.

It takes a big man to listen to hard advice.

Men must love each other before their love for God has any reality.

Here ends the Letters to the Corinthians

*Trisch*

# Chance Meeting on the Road

## Frockthought for 19 4 26

Being on a journey these days is not a usual place for human interaction. Most of my miles are passed inside a metal box. When I come alongside other travellers in their own metal boxes, I may even speak words or make gestures towards them, such (of course) as a thank you wave, but there is no real interaction. They cannot hear me, and my gestures may be open to misinterpretation. It was not always like this. People used to make journeys on foot, and there was much more scope for encountering other folk. Old stories and folk songs are full of chance meetings on the road, meetings that have consequences, sometimes meetings where the travellers are unaware of the real identity of people they meet... like the American tourists who met the late Queen when she was out for a stroll. They asked her if she had ever met the Queen. 'No, but this man has" she replied, turning to her equerry, 'ask him'...

We talk of meeting angels unaware, but there can be a darker side to these chance meetings as well. A famous traditional song , 'The False Knight on the Road' tells of a child who meets a mysterious stranger who was actually the devil. The devil sets him riddles, and the child defeats him by giving the right answers.

But the classic chance-meeting-on-the-road story is in Scripture and happens to be the subject of this week's Lectionary reading, tucked away at the end of St Luke's Gospel. It is a memorable tale with a ring of authenticity. It concerns two travellers, only one of whom is named, Cleopas. If there were any degree of fabrication surely two names would have been provided. Modern opinion is that the second traveller was Cleopas' wife, probably the Mary 'wife of Clopas' mentioned in John's Gospel as being present at the crucifixion.. The story portrays the two of them as deep in conversation trying to make sense of what has happened. They had witnessed the death of Jesus, who they had hoped was the Messiah, and then heard the seemingly wild stories of his tomb being empty. Then they became aware of a stranger walking alongside, who asked what they were discussing. They poured out the whole story. He heard them out, and then gently chided them, Wasn't this what they would have expected? He clearly knew his Scriptures and took his time explaining. It all

began to make sense, but then they arrived at their home. The stranger seemed intent on going further, but they persuaded him to stay for a meal. They sit at the table, and then comes the culmination of the story. He breaks the bread, and in that moment they realise that the stranger is Jesus himself, and at the same moment he is gone. Maybe he acknowledges their recognition, we are not told, but they are overjoyed, and excited enough to head straight back to Jerusalem to share their story with the other disciples.

Hardly as seismic an encounter as Paul being struck blind on the road to Damascus, but perhaps a more normative model for the way we encounter Christ today. We can see the encounter as being in two parts. The first was the meeting on the road, where the incognito stranger took them through Scriptures that they thought they already knew, but showed them how they fitted together, in a way that they had never thought of. It was a case of resonance, things clicking into place. He did not demand any response from them, simply told them a story that made sense. What had once been opaque became clear...

What happened next was significant as well. The stranger never said who he was, and made as if to go on. Part two of the story hinged on Cleopas' asking him to stay. That was important. Even God depends on our invitation.

And then they are seated at the table doing something very simple and traditional and symbolic of human fellowship. Eating a meal together. Just as Jesus and his disciples had a few days before, not many miles away but in a different world. Their guest broke the bread and gave it to them. His words are not recorded, but in that moment, as Luke says 'he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread'.

Two thousand years later we re-enact that moment, and through that re-enaction he is made known to us as well. Christian worship traditionally has two focii. The Word, where our minds are engaged - which is what happened for Cleopas and his companion on the road - and the Sacrament, which happened at the meal table, where the beyond became real. Christians have argued endlessly and even killed each other over what exactly

happens in that breaking-of-bread moment. That is shameful, but the majority of us still do it, in a ritualistic and stylised form. The command was to do this in remembrance of me, not define this moment in sound theological terms or claim that you understand it. The church talks about the Holy Mysteries. I suspect theologians sometimes trespass into ground that they should not be in. Way back in the Eden story there was a tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and its fruit was forbidden. OK it is a strange story open to different interpretations, but it could well be relevant to those today who think they can fit God inside their heads.

Another thing worth thinking about is the fact that only at the end of the story did Cleopas and his companion recognise Jesus, when he was someone they must have seen at least a few times. He had the gift of incognito. Whether it was something in his appearance or in the minds of those meeting him we don't know, but it seems he could assume anonymity. His preferred title for himself was 'Son of Man', which can be read as simply 'human being'. After the Resurrection he was no longer tied by space and time (although taking pains to show he was not a ghost). The implications are endless. We might meet him anywhere....

The Emmaus Road story bears frequent re-telling. I heard it of course in Sunday School but it assumed a new significance years later when I read a meditation on it by Malcolm Muggeridge, and I will leave you with a quote from that, which I cannot better...

'And I tell you that whatever the walk and whoever the wayfarers, there is always this third presence ready to emerge from the shadows and to fall in step along the dusty, stony way'.

*Pete Ryder*

## **Book Review**

### **Being Mortal: Illness, Medicine, and What Matters in the End, by Atul Gawande.**

*Atul Gawande is a surgeon in Boston, a writer for the New Yorker, and a professor at Harvard Medical School.*

This is a very thought provoking book about how we treat our elderly frail family members, and how we would like to be treated when we are elderly, frail, or terminally ill.

Frailty is inevitable, unless you die of a disease. The primary function of a nursing home is to keep you 'safe' and this inevitably involves you fitting into their manageable routine.

Gawande argues that what frail or terminally people don't want is to lose their autonomy. He says they have priorities beyond being safe and living longer. They want to take responsibility for their own life, be the author of their own fate, and shape the story of their life, even if that means taking a few risks. They want to have the discussions around what intensive treatment or surgery might achieve in terms of quality of life, and not just around trying to lengthen life at almost any cost. What they don't want is the boredom, loneliness and helplessness that a nursing home routine too often inflicts upon them, despite the genuinely well intentioned care of the staff.

When we are approaching the end, he says we need to ask ourselves, or our elderly relatives, what matters most to them, their fears, or their hopes? If they want to delay or decline major interventions in order to continue to do something they enjoy for a bit longer, even if that risks shortening their life, then that perhaps is the most important consideration of all.

*Chris Puddephatt*

# **SOUTHWELL BAPTIST CHURCH** Organisation 2026

Christ Centred, Community Focused

## **INTERIM STEERING GROUP (ISG)**



Janet  
Kneen

**Safeguarding**



Chris  
Puddephatt

**Pastoral Care Service Lead**



Jenny  
Harris

**Building / IT**



Barry  
Westbury

**Administrator**



Sue  
Hartley

**Treasurer**



Iain  
Daiziel

## **HOME GROUPS**



Trisch

**Monday  
Evening**



Sandy

**Tuesday  
Morning**



Janet & Mark

**Tuesday Evening**



Jenny

**Wednesday  
Afternoon**



Isobel

**Wednesday  
Evening**

## **COORDINATORS**



Richard  
**Welcome  
Rota**



Jan  
**Dwelling  
Place**



Joan  
**Prayer  
Rota**



Arderne  
**Care Home  
Ministry**



David  
**Men's  
Social**



Sandy  
**Women's  
Social**



Steve  
**Audio  
Visual**



Pauline  
**Flowers**



Sue  
**Women's  
Breakfast**



Jenny  
**Craft &  
Chatter**



Trisch  
**CTIS &  
Missionaries**

## Dates for the Diary

**June 28th**                      **Summer Picnic**

**Aug 9th**                        **BBQ Lunch**

### **Regular Church Activities**

**Renew Wellbeing**        **Every Monday 1pm-3pm (except Bank Hols)**

**Craft & Chatter**        **1st & 3rd Fridays Monthly**

**Dwelling Place**        **No Dwelling Place in May or June.**

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:info@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk)

## Renew Wellbeing

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

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH

SUMNSATHYIKTSNAISEHPEOWYK  
 NYVAXQEVHLAMENTATIONSEMAJ  
 AWKZTBQCYRJUDGESLBSDBUEA  
 IAOCRANEHHJRNOITALEVERGW  
 SHBEXLHTHCBVEMNJYEDFNESRY  
 SPWHAZEEZEKIELIOVPPOMESJO  
 OSGMMPCXWTHYNTYIMHSIOOGHY  
 LRUTHEKCSSHANUTHUEAANBZOA  
 OZEYGHANIEECIAAWPHLGLLDTA  
 CESHCEAVATIDCDNWQJOIPMHSY  
 ZPNAGMOTGGSYUUAADGFONHEKUL  
 LHAIOYRXGASRHJWBSDSHXPH EE  
 DAIRNHMPAIMUPSYOOENXNAOOI  
 SNHALTRHHSMUCMLZHUAMLC SMN  
 AITHJOELQEAEXODUSTIKAKEAA  
 MANCVMPHCLRFMQMYRENSTCAQD  
 UHIEKIEARCEOLEDEERONV NJWN  
 EBRZOTRIGCNRLMFZHOLAHANOJ  
 LBOXRHJANEHEMIAHTNAQEUSOB  
 SXCP TOGSBAMOSCVJSOSWMTICL  
 QJFISPHILIPPIANSEMSBNTTSC  
 FNTHSNAITALAGHQUTYECMLGIJ  
 CUUCIKRAMDV BHGRFMRHNCNJHA  
 SAKUKKABAHUTPECUSFTKISPGL  
 FYCHRONICLESZQUJXRXKEZRAU

<b>ACTS</b>	<b>EZRA</b>	<b>JOEL</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>PSALM</b>
<b>AMOS</b>	<b>GALATIANS</b>	<b>JOHN</b>	<b>MATTHEW</b>	<b>REVELATION</b>
<b>CHRONICLES</b>	<b>GENESIS</b>	<b>JONAH</b>	<b>MICAH</b>	<b>ROMANS</b>
<b>COLOSSIANS</b>	<b>HABAKKUK</b>	<b>JOSHUA</b>	<b>NAHUM</b>	<b>RUTH</b>
<b>CORINTHIANS</b>	<b>HAGGAI</b>	<b>JUDE</b>	<b>NEHEMIAH</b>	<b>SAMUEL</b>
<b>DANIEL</b>	<b>HEBREWS</b>	<b>JUDGES</b>	<b>NUMBERS</b>	<b>SONG OF SOLOMON</b>
<b>DEUTERONOMY</b>	<b>HOSEA</b>	<b>KINGS</b>	<b>OBADIAH</b>	<b>THESSALONIANS</b>
<b>ECCLESIASTES</b>	<b>ISAIAH</b>	<b>LAMENTATIONS</b>	<b>PETER</b>	<b>TIMOTHY</b>
<b>EPHESIANS</b>	<b>JAMES</b>	<b>LEVITICUS</b>	<b>PHILEMON</b>	<b>TITUS</b>
<b>ESTHER</b>	<b>JEREMIAH</b>	<b>LUKE</b>	<b>PHILIPPIANS</b>	<b>ZECHARIAH</b>
<b>EXODUS</b>	<b>JOB</b>	<b>MALACHI</b>	<b>PROVERBS</b>	<b>ZEPHANIAH</b>

## 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 Home Group - 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, Jenny Harris, Sue Hartley, Janet Kneen, Chris Puddephatt & Barry Westbury <a href="mailto:isg@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk">isg@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk</a>
Administrator:	Sue Hartley (church office) 07866 617463 <a href="mailto:info@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk">info@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk</a>
Treasurer:	Iain Dalziel 07834 814217 <a href="mailto:idalziel@btinternet.com">idalziel@btinternet.com</a>

## Child Protection & Vulnerable Adult Representatives:

Designated Person for Safeguarding:	Janet Kneen 07719 203566 <a href="mailto:janet_kneen@hotmail.com">janet_kneen@hotmail.com</a>
Safeguarding Trustee:	Jenny Harris 07802 288959 <a href="mailto:jennyaharris@hotmail.com">jennyaharris@hotmail.com</a>

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

## SBC Contacts

Preaching & Worship Service	Jenny Harris jennyaharris@hotmail.com
Service Leaders	Jenny Harris jennyaharris@hotmail.com
Prayer Ministry	Jenny Harris jennyaharris@hotmail.com
Worship Group	Jan Gillott jangillott@icloud.com 07747 040979
Missionaries	Trisch Thornton 07766 400620 trisch53@yahoo.com
Coffee	Trisch Thornton 07766 400620 trisch53@yahoo.com
Welcome Team	Richard Whall 01777 872201 rjhc.whall@btinternet.com
Computer	Barry Westbury & Steve Puddephatt barry_westbury@yahoo.com stepud@gmail.com
Sound Desk	Barry Westbury and Steve Puddephatt barry_westbury@yahoo.com stepud@gmail.com
Pastoral Care	Sue Hartley 07866 617463 suehartley1@me.com
Care Home Ministry	Arderne Gillies 01636 815762 rev.arderne@btinternet.com
Offering	Sue Hartley info@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk
Housekeeping	ISG isg@southwellbaptistchurch.co.uk
Flowers	Pauline Gilbey 01159 664269 robert.gilbey1@virginmedia.com
Christian Aid Rep	Arderne Gillies 01636 815762 rev.arderne@btinternet.com

A vibrant outdoor picnic scene. In the center, a large glass dispenser filled with red juice sits on a wooden stand. Two hands are clinking glasses of the same red juice. In the foreground, a basket of fresh fruit including peaches and purple grapes is visible. To the left, a small vase with pink flowers sits on a wooden tray. The background shows a grassy area with a picnic blanket.

**Summer Picnic at SBC**  
**June 28th following morning service**

**Bring a picnic lunch and we'll eat  
together in the church garden**