

Dear friends of Southcourt Baptist Church,

Welcome to the latest news email for Southcourt Baptist Church.

Christmas 2020



Since we are now in Tier 4 under the government Covid rules, we have decided to cancel ALL our Christmas events in person to keep everyone safe. However, please find below ways that we can meet up "virtually".

Date	Time	Event	Details
Thursday December 24th	11.45pm to 12.15am	Online Midnight Reflection	<p>Join us online for a time of reflection & communion together. Everyone is welcome to join Mark and Jenny for a short service at 11.45pm on Christmas Eve, lasting about half an hour. It's an opportunity to join together virtually via Zoom and share in communion</p> <p>Once you've joined the Zoom meeting, please mute yourself and Jenny and Mark will lead the time of reflection, prayer and communion. We encourage you to take time to listen, reflect and pray. Just remember to bring your bread and wine. Christmas jumpers are optional!</p> <p>Here are the zoom details:</p> <p>Meeting ID: 869 546 2067 Password: 405060</p> <p>We will open the meeting at 11.40 to allow people to gather so we can start promptly at 11.45pm. Hope to see you there!</p> <p>If you've got any questions about how it will work, please get in touch with Mark or Jenny.</p>
Friday December 25th	10am	Christmas Day Service	<p>Please join us via the You Tube link Southcourt Baptist Church</p> <p>or via the website https://www.southcourtbaptist.org.uk/index.html</p> <p>- just click on  when you are in the website.</p> <p>On Christmas Eve, Iain and Michelle will be sending out information for a WhatsApp event for the Lifekidz and Little Lifekidz children to engage with on Christmas morning. Watch out for this!</p>
Sunday December 27th	10.30am	<i>Zoom coffee plus</i>	<p>Zoom coffee plus - you are very welcome to join Mark and Jenny for a short Bible focus, prayer and worship</p>

		<p>song, together with an opportunity to share and listen to one another's news and encouragements. It'll last about an hour. All are welcome! Get in touch if you have any questions.</p> <p>Here are the log on details.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74928740165?pwd=WEx4U1BkbFFlUXBzUmhyUU5Db1NKQT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 749 2874 0165 Passcode: 870RmE</p>
Christmas Offering	<p>Our Christmas offering this year is for Pete Griffith (Chaplaincy training) and BMS Operation Chad Appeal.</p> <p>Please see the Sunday morning talks on December 6th and 13th for more information. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NY8OwRzIBeE Since we are very unlikely to be together in the near future, here are the ways that we can give:</p> <p>Please give directly via BACs - put <i>Christmas Offering</i> in the description. See our website or ask the office for our bank details.</p> <p>Alternatively, if you would like to give cash, just put your money in an envelope with a note in it and post it through the letterbox of the church (at the side entrance). This is a secured locked box.</p> <p>We will be keeping our Christmas offering open to the end of January so that we will all have time to contribute whenever and however we can.</p>	



Church Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Details
Sunday January 3rd	10.30am	Sunday Service	<p>Please join us via the You Tube link Southcourt Baptist Church</p> <p>or via the website https://southcourtbaptist.org.uk/</p> <p> - just click on  when you are in the website. Youth and Children's work will also be on-line. For more information, contact Michelle, Iain or James.</p>
Monday January 4th	9am to 12.30 pm	Bridge the Gap	<p>Our food bank is open on a Monday and Friday each week. Please ring or email the office first if you are able to donate food to the church or would like to help in other ways. Please also contact the church office if you are struggling and would appreciate some food.</p>
Tuesday January 5th	7 - 9pm	Ignite	<p>Please contact James@southcourt.org re this event. It will be going on-line given the current Tier 4 restrictions.</p>

Covid and other church admin



Test and Trace Covid 19 App	When visiting the church, if you can, please “check-in” via the App. The QR code is on the side, Jubilee Hall and front doors.
Coronavirus advice	In case you've missed the latest advice, here's a link to the government site Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support . We are now in the high risk Tier 4.
Access to the office	Please note that all essential visitors to the office must wear face-masks.
Access to the building	If you are a volunteer or heading up a particular group, please ensure that you sign in and out at the desk at the bottom of the office stairs. This is for fire procedure purposes. Please also wear a mask and keep a 2m distance from anyone else in the building.
PAT testing	Our annual PAT testing will be taking place in the church building on Wednesday January 6th, government rules allowing. If you have any electrical equipment with you at home that you regularly use in the church, please contact Liz or Graham to arrange how this will work.

Getting Involved



Green Team	It is unlikely that we will be able to meet in January. Watch this space for another date once things are safer. In the meantime, keep watching my creation care hints below.
Lifegroups	If you are not already part of a small group, which is where we do real life together and support each other as church, please contact Mark or Jenny for more information.
Mark on Finances	<p>Did you know that Amazon will donate money to the church when you order your Christmas presents? So, whether buying socks for your Dad or a games console for your daughter use www.smile.amazon.co.uk and set 'Southcourt Baptist Church Trust' as your chosen charity. Let me know if you need a hand setting it up.</p> <p>Between January and March the church will be making use of the Government's flexible Job Retention Scheme and fuloughing our staff for one day a week. If you have any questions about this, I would be happy to help.</p> <p>If you would like to give financially to the work of the church, visit the website for more information - https://www.southcourtbaptist.org.uk/SBC_DONATE.htm</p>

Inspiration



Music choice	As mentioned last time, I am sharing the most popular carol here which is <i>Joy to the World</i> . Click on the link for a lovely version. David Archuleta - Joy to the World (Lyrics)
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	Thanks to all those people who put in a nomination for their favourite carol.
Quote	<p>As we are together but apart this Christmas, I thought this wonderful Thomas Merton prayer says it all:</p> <p><i>“Oh, God, we are one with You. You have made us one with You. You have taught us that if we are open to one another, You dwell in us. Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts. Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection. Oh God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept You, and we thank You, and we adore You, and we love You with our whole being, because our being is in Your being, our spirit is rooted in Your spirit. Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes You present in the world, and which makes You witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome. Love is victorious. Amen”.</i></p>
Good News	My good news for this Christmas is that, with our God, anything is possible and nothing is impossible. He is born in the poverty of our hearts. He does His best work in the darkness of our suffering and our inner world. I am so grateful that nothing, neither Covid, death, sickness, being on our own at Christmas, not seeing our family, not having enough to make ends meet, absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. May we all know Christ born in our hearts this Christmas whatever our circumstances.
Prayer Resource	UNITE 714 - https://www.unite714.com/weekly-prayer
Creation Care	This is a shout out to <i>Fruity Tooty</i> who, not only provide fantastic fruit and veg to BTG food bank, not only provide a safe space to shop with good parking, but also provide paper bags so that you can get your fruit and veg without any plastic. <i>(They are located where Office Outlet used to be right next to Pets at Home in the Vale Retail Park).</i>



Church Contact Information

Name	Area of work	Email
James Henson	Youth	james@southcourt.org
Lou Clarke	Bridge the Gap & Pastoral Care	lou@southcourt.org
David Graham	Lead Pastor	david@southcourt.org
Liz Zealey	Operations/Office	liz@southcourt.org
Iain Nash	Children and Pre-school	iain@southcourt.org
Michelle Geering	Little Lifekidz and Bertha's cafe	michelleg@southcourt.org
Graham Clarke	Buildings	graham@southcourt.org
Jenny Rogers	Leadership & Lifegroups	jenny@southcourt.org
Mark Rogers	Leadership, Finance Leader, Lifegroups, Health and Safety, Sunday tech, Safeguarding	mark@southcourt.org

Viv B	Finance Admin	sbcfinance@southcourt.org
Chris B	Leadership	chris@southcourt.org
Tim and Jean H	Something Better and Friday Prayers	somethingbetter@southcourt.org friday.prayers@southcourt.org
Church office	Church administration	office@southcourt.org or ring 01296 480080
Treehouse Pre-school		rachel@southcourt.org or ring 01296 434541 Welcome Rachel Neal, our new Pre-school Leader who started on December 14th.
Website		https://www.southcourtbaptist.org.uk/index.html
Twitter Account		Click here Southcourt Baptist (@SouthcourtBC) for a link to our account. Our username is @SouthcourtBC.
Facebook groups/pages		https://www.facebook.com/southcourtbaptistchurch https://www.facebook.com/groups/bridgethegapaylesbury https://www.facebook.com/BerthasSBC https://www.facebook.com/groups/messychurchaylesbury For SBC Children and SBC Youth, you will need to contact Iain or James.
Global Mission		Contact Lydia, Our Global Links Coordinator at gmission@southcourt.org
Aylesbury Churches		If you would like to get any emails that we receive into the office, please let me know and I will add you to the list.
Baptist Union		If you would like to get any emails that we receive into the office, please let me know and I will add you to the list.

The next news email will be produced on **January 6th**.

Blessings and peace to you all, 