

Dear friends of Southcourt Baptist Church,

Welcome to our monthly news email for Southcourt Baptist Church!




## Christmas 2021

Date	Time	Event	Details
Monday 6th December	5.40pm - 8pm	Father Christmas Float	The Rotary Club of Aylesbury have kindly let us use their Father Christmas Float for one night. We will then get a share of the overall Christmas collections. We aim to meet at church at 5.40pm with aim to move out by 6pm latest. We will be covering Southcourt, route to be confirmed. If anyone would like to help with this event please let Sam know by 28th November. <a href="mailto:genoffice@southcourt.org">genoffice@southcourt.org</a>
Saturday 11th December	12 - 2pm	Bridge the Gap Extra	Welcome back Christmas special. Once a month we will be having a Saturday lunchtime event. Each one will be themed differently. Our first event is our Christmas Special, where we will be providing a light finger-food lunch and festive crafts for anyone who wishes to participate. It will be great to catch up with everyone. Please note, there is no food bank at this event but all the refreshments etc will still be free.
Saturday 18th December	3 - 4.30pm	All Age Christmas Event	A wonderful opportunity to bring the family together, Children, Parents, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles as we prepare for Christmas with crafts, activities, drama, carols and Christingles. More information to follow.  If you would like to come, please email our Children's Pastor, Iain, <a href="mailto:iain@southcourt.org">iain@southcourt.org</a> by Thursday 11 December.
Sunday 19th December	7pm	Carols by candlelight	All are welcome to this seasonal event. We will be singing carols with a contemporary feel.  Come and get some Christmas Spirit in the community together!  We are hoping to serve refreshments with mince pies.

Friday 24th December	11.45pm	Communion service online	<p>Join us online for a time of reflection &amp; 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 and share in communion (via Zoom) as we celebrate Jesus' birth.</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:  <b>Meeting ID: 889 6491 6364</b>  <b>Password: 165584</b></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>
Saturday 25th December	10am	Christmas Day service	Looking forward to celebrating Christmas Day actually in person this year. 😄
Christmas Offering	<p>Our Christmas offering this year is for one project in Myanmar and a project at the Treehouse Pre-school. More details to follow soon.</p> <p>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 or a cheque, 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) or in the Offering basket at a church service (on the side at Bertha's cafe). 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
All Sundays in December Except the 26th (Boxing Day)	10.30am	Sunday Service in the building	<p>Sunday services continue to be in person in the building although if you are at home you can still join us via Youtube.</p> <p>Please join us via the YouTube link <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=911111111111">Southcourt Baptist Church</a></p> <p>or via the website <a href="https://southcourtbaptist.org.uk/">https://southcourtbaptist.org.uk/</a></p> <p>- just click on  when you are on the website</p> <p>As a Central Leadership Team, we are trying to balance the risk when it comes to COVID restrictions especially now that the weather has turned colder and ventilation is more difficult. With that in mind, windows will not be open throughout the service but will be opened at intervals during the morning. This will ensure it does not get too cold but also allows some circulation of the air. The wearing of masks is a personal choice but we would still encourage them.</p> <p>Children &amp; young people's work is happening each week although the Sunday youth and Little Lifekidz children will be starting off in the church initially to join us in worship.</p>
All Mondays and Fridays in December except the 24th, 27th and 31st	9am to 12.30 pm	Bridge the Gap	<p>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. If you can donate, here is our current list of stock needed : <i>Washing powder, Baby Wipes, Coffee and decaf coffee, Sugar, Fruit Juice, Dog food, Sugar, Washing up liquid, Plastic bags and empty egg boxes.</i></p>
All Mondays and Fridays in December Except 24th,27th and 31st	9.30am to 12.30pm	Bertha's cafe	<p>Good drinks, good cakes, everyone Welcome. The place to be on a Monday or Friday morning! Note that the second Friday of every month will now include a Games morning. So for this month, it will be December 10th.</p>

Tuesday December 7th	2 to 3.30pm	Tea Break	<p>Come and join us for our monthly afternoon tea. You are very welcome to come for the whole time or just pop in for a shorter time. It will be a time to chill and enjoy a chat, read a magazine, do a jigsaw or a board game. We will be serving tea, coffee and cake. This will be in the Jubilee Hall.</p> <p>Jeanette Hulcoop and Jean Finn</p>
All Tuesdays in December Except the 28th	7 to 9pm	Ignite Youth Group	<p>Ignite is our weekly youth group for young people in school years 7-13 meeting in the hut.</p> <p>We like to spend time hanging out together, playing a few games and discussing questions about life, God, the Bible and the Christian faith.</p>
All Wednesdays in December Last session before Christmas will be the 8th	10 to 11am	The Ark	<p>The Ark provides an opportunity for parents and carers to share and relax together whilst the children enjoy games, craft, singing and stories. We are pleased to say we will be able to offer refreshments during the morning. This will <i>NOT</i> be self service, but ordered from our cafe area. We will be offering tea/coffee/squash/water and biscuits.</p> <p>This is a term time only gathering in the main church hall. Free admission, but we are currently following social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>For more information, please email <a href="mailto:lain@southcourt.org">lain@southcourt.org</a></p>
All Wednesdays in December Last session before Christmas will be the 15th	9.45 to 11.15am	Yada	<p>Meeting in the hut, this is for women to gather together, read the Bible, pray together and just support one another in real life. If you would like more information, please contact Joy B - <a href="mailto:joy.barnes2@btinternet.com">joy.barnes2@btinternet.com</a></p>
Wednesday December 8th	7.30pm	Church Members' Meeting	<p>An important church members' meeting in the main church hall. Please let Liz know if you are a church member and are unable to attend.</p>
All Wednesdays in December except the 22nd and 29th	7-8.30m	Open House	<p>A lifegroup for young adults (school leavers and those in years 11+) meeting weekly to explore faith, read the bible and pray together. Please contact Matt Burridge for more information (<a href="mailto:matt@southcourt.org">matt@southcourt.org</a>)</p>
All Mondays in December except	9.30 to 10.30am	English Conversation	<p>Would you like to improve your spoken English? If so, join us in school term time at Bertha's cafe for friendly conversation.</p>

the 27th			For more information email <a href="mailto:engconv@southcourt.org">engconv@southcourt.org</a>
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## Covid and other church admin

Test and Trace Covid 19 App	When visiting the church, if you can, please continue to “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 <a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support</a> . Most restrictions have been lifted across the country although individual venues, public transport, workplaces etc are keeping their own controls where applicable. We have a supply of lateral flow testing kits in the office so please ask Liz if you need/want one. There will be a supply available on Sunday mornings too.
Access to the office	Please note that all essential visitors to the office must wear face-masks although in meetings and whilst sitting down you are welcome to remove them.
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 whilst walking around.

## Getting Involved

Volunteering	We would love more volunteers to get involved on a Sunday morning or at other times during the week. There are vacancies for Stewards, Refreshments (when we start having them), Little Lifekidz, Lifekidz and Youth work volunteers. In addition, now that the room bookings are starting to pick up again, if you can help in any way, such as tech, unlocking or locking up, or just being in the building at the time, I would be so grateful. Just grab one of the stewards on a Sunday morning to ask for more details or to sign up for a monthly team.
Prayer	If you would like to be able to send out prayer requests to our people and also to receive requests to pray for, please let Liz know and she can add you to the mailing list - <a href="mailto:prayer@southcourt.org">prayer@southcourt.org</a> .

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 <a href="mailto:liz@southcourt.org">liz@southcourt.org</a> or ring the church office for more information.
Mark on Finances	<p>I want to thank you for your continued support towards the work of God here at Southcourt Baptist Church.</p> <p>If you are new to the church and wonder how you can get involved financially, we have a donate page on our website which tells you how you can give which includes a new 'Donate' button to make it even easier. If you wish to give regularly to the church please set up a standing order. All the details you need to donate to the work of the church, whether as a one off or a regular donation, can be found at <a href="#">Donate</a>. If you would like to make a cash donation to the work of the church, there is a basket on the café bar on a Sunday morning. If you have any questions about the church finances please feel free to contact me at <a href="mailto:mark@southcourt.org">mark@southcourt.org</a>.</p>



## Inspiration

Music choice	<p>This is an opportunity to share a single piece of music from any genre that's had a significant impact on us. I would love to hear from you so that I can share from across the church community. Another way of helping us remember that we are one.</p> <p>This month it's from Sam N, who now works in the office : <a href="#">Bruno Mars - Talking To The Moon (Lyrics)</a> "This song I like to listen to when I'm relaxing or need to reflect on things, it's very calming when I need a break from my hectic life :)"</p>
Quote	"Love is the physical structure of the universe" - Teilhard de Chardin
Good News	The good news for December is the growth in a number of our groups that run here at SBC - The English Conversation group, Bertha's cafe and The Ark are all blossoming. I also love to see the connections between groups - for instance a mother from the Ark brought her children to Lifekidz on Sunday. It's wonderful to see how God is at work!
Prayer Resource	<p>Since we are only producing a monthly email, we have changed the prayer resource to be the monthly prayer diary from the Baptist Union. Please click on this link for the December diary. <a href="https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/622746/BU_Prayer_Diary.aspx">https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/622746/BU_Prayer_Diary.aspx</a></p>
Creation Care Tip	In addition to the big Tescos on the Bicester road, the Co-op at Bedgrove now has a crate just inside the entrance on the left hand side to recycle soft plastics (that can't go into our normal plastic recycling) like crisp packets, cling film, plastic bags etc. The church office is still collecting soft plastics if you need to bring them here instead.



## Church Contact Information

Name	Area of work	Email
James Henson	Youth and Central Leadership Team (CLT)	<a href="mailto:james@southcourt.org">james@southcourt.org</a>
Lou Clarke	Bridge the Gap, Pastoral Care & CLT	<a href="mailto:lou@southcourt.org">lou@southcourt.org</a>
David Graham	Lead Pastor	<a href="mailto:david@southcourt.org">david@southcourt.org</a>
Liz Zealey	Operations/Office & CLT	<a href="mailto:liz@southcourt.org">liz@southcourt.org</a> or <a href="mailto:office@southcourt.org">office@southcourt.org</a>
Iain Nash	Children, Pre-school and CLT	<a href="mailto:iain@southcourt.org">iain@southcourt.org</a>

Michelle Geering	Little Lifekidz, Bertha's cafe and CLT	<a href="mailto:michelleg@southcourt.org">michelleg@southcourt.org</a>
Graham Clarke	Buildings, CLT and BTG Leader	<a href="mailto:graham@southcourt.org">graham@southcourt.org</a>
Jenny Rogers	CLT	<a href="mailto:jenny@southcourt.org">jenny@southcourt.org</a> - on sabbatical for the autumn term.
Mark Rogers	CLT, Finance Vision Leader, Health and Safety, Sunday tech, Safeguarding	<a href="mailto:mark@southcourt.org">mark@southcourt.org</a>
Viv B	Finance Admin	<a href="mailto:sbcfinance@southcourt.org">sbcfinance@southcourt.org</a>
Chris B	CLT	<a href="mailto:chris@southcourt.org">chris@southcourt.org</a>
Matt B	Young Adults and Open House	<a href="mailto:matt@southcourt.org">matt@southcourt.org</a>
Sam Nursey	Church Administration	<a href="mailto:genoffice@southcourt.org">genoffice@southcourt.org</a> or ring 01296 480080
Howard James	English Conversation	<a href="mailto:engconv@southcourt.org">engconv@southcourt.org</a>
Treehouse Pre-school		<a href="mailto:rachel.neal@thetreehousepre-school.org">rachel.neal@thetreehousepre-school.org</a> or ring 01296 434541

Website	<a href="https://www.southcourtbaptist.org.uk/index.html">https://www.southcourtbaptist.org.uk/index.html</a>
Twitter Account	Click here <a href="#">Southcourt Baptist (@SouthcourtBC)</a> for a link to our account. Our username is @SouthcourtBC.
Facebook groups/pages	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/southcourtbaptistchurch">https://www.facebook.com/southcourtbaptistchurch</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/bridgethegapaylesbury">https://www.facebook.com/groups/bridgethegapaylesbury</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BerthasSBCh">https://www.facebook.com/BerthasSBCh</a> <a href="https://instagram.com/southcourtbaptist?utm_medium=copy_link">https://instagram.com/southcourtbaptist?utm_medium=copy_link</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/messychurchaylesbury">https://www.facebook.com/groups/messychurchaylesbury</a> For SBC Children and SBC Youth, you will need to contact Iain or James.
Global Mission	Contact Lydia, Our Global Links Coordinator at <a href="mailto:gmission@southcourt.org">gmission@southcourt.org</a> .

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 **December 16th** for the month of January. Blessings and peace to you all,

