

# SWANBANK



## January Newsletter

### Message from the Ministers...

Dear Friends,

The nation is preparing to celebrate the Queen's amazing achievement in serving this country for 70 years. She, in a month's time, will be the second longest serving monarch ever recorded in history, only being beaten to the top spot by Louis XIV of France, but since he became monarch when he was only 4, I'm not sure it's truly a fair comparison!

In attempting to explain what a jubilee is, I've ended up talking about birthdays and anniversaries; markers where we celebrate where we have been and where we find ourselves today. It's wonderful to look back and see that journey, but equally it's vital that we don't stop there. Rather, we should look forward. Of course we could always look at the Biblical idea of Jubilee, which was a moment of reset and sabbath. Whilst there is little evidence that it actually happened, the model was that every 50th year, Hebrew slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and people would return to their 'family' land.

We are fortunate to have a reigning monarch who openly professes her living faith, and has led by example as a servant of Jesus Christ. As a church we are encouraging each of you to honour that throughout the jubilee celebrations. We recognise that many of our church family don't live in Burslem, and so, following on from the biblical model of returning home, we encourage you to live out your faith where you live (even if that's not where you are originally from!). To engage in your local community, wherever that is, to be the presence of Jesus at your local events and to use the example of the Queen to speak of faith as we recognise the way she has served throughout her 70 years.

As a SwanBank community, we will be hosting some invitational events over the Summer months, so that as you build relationships within your community, you may wish to invite those you encounter to meet your church family and to share in some fellowship and fun together!

Keep an eye out for our programme of events!

With love,

*Ruth Jeffries*

#### SwanBank Church

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Office Opening Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-4pm

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### SwanBank Summer

We are in the process of putting together a great programme of events through June, July & August that are designed to be really easy invites to friends, family & colleagues. You can find all the details of events at [swanbank.org.uk/summer](http://swanbank.org.uk/summer).

Coming up in June;

#### **Sunday 5th June**

Church Picnic following the 10.30am service

#### **Saturday 11th June**

Messy Church - 10am-12.30pm

#### **Thursday 23rd June**

Men's Ministry BBQ (more details to follow)

### Colour Splash

Colour Splash is our summer holiday club for kids who have just finished in school years Reception - Year 6. It's a brilliant week of fun, crafts, games, worship and learning more about Jesus, each day runs 9am-1pm.

It costs just £25 for the week, or you can book in for a few days at £5 per day.

If you want to know any more information, then please speak to Alice Mashanga. You can book your kids in by visiting

[www.swanbank.org.uk/coloursplash](http://www.swanbank.org.uk/coloursplash).

### Get Lost

Get Lost 2022 is three days of day trips and activities for young people in Year 6-9, from Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd August (daytime only).

Final details are yet to be confirmed, however there will be a beach day at Formby, and a trip to Lud's Church, an afternoon at Ninja Warrior UK, and Nerf Wars, amongst other activities.

To register your interest, please head to [swanbank.org.uk/getlost](http://swanbank.org.uk/getlost) or contact Rachel Cooper for more details.

### Network of Care

Each month, we want to highlight a particular area of the life of SwanBank so that we can be praying for it and give people the opportunity to get involved. This month, we want to highlight the work of our Network of Care which seeks to ensure that everyone in our church family is cared for.

On Sunday 15th May, we'll be spending some time sharing some information about this work in our services - and that information will be available online afterwards.

We want to encourage you to think about the role you might play in our network of care, and there are two key ways that you can do that right now!

Firstly, we're looking for 5 more link people who will visit and phone members of our congregation who are in our 'At Home' group.

Secondly, we are looking ahead to Christmas and have a plan to bless our community of Burslem with knitted angels. This is a project that we're hoping the whole church will get on board with, so if you're someone who loves to knit then get in touch and we'd love to pass on the knitting pattern so you can get started!

Over the rest of this month, we would encourage you to pray for the Pastoral Steering Group who are overseeing all this really important work. If you want to get more involved in this area of church life, then you can visit [www.swanbank.org.uk/team](http://www.swanbank.org.uk/team) and tick the box that says 'Pastoral Care'.

### Men's Ministry

We have our next Men's gathering coming up on Wednesday 25th May. Join us from 7pm in the church for a time of worship, conversation and testimony.

It would be great to see you there!