

Sunday 24th May 2020



'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.'
John 14:1

Today

We give everyone a virtual warm welcome. Help yourself to tea/coffee/drinks at any point and make yourself comfy on your sofa.

10.30am **Josh Kindness** will be speaking on **Following as He Shapes Us – Thessalonians 4:6-8** and, during the week, will deliver a series of bite-size videos.

11.30am **Lazers via Zoom**

Activities this week

MONDAY	6.00am – 7.00am	Discover Bible Group via Zoom
WEDNESDAY	8.00pm – 9.00pm	Ladies' Lectio Divina via Zoom (see separate notice)
THURSDAY	8.05pm – 9.00pm	Youth Group (Children in school Years 9-13) via Zoom (see separate notice)
FRIDAY	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Prayer Evening (see separate notice)

Next Sunday, 31st May

10.30am **Keith Foster** will be speaking on **Following through God's Love – Thessalonians 4:9-10** and, during the week, will deliver a series of bite-size videos.

11.30am **Lazers via Zoom**

Pastor's Desk

As the lockdown continues and life is still interrupted, how have you been coping? Where have you seen God at work and where have you felt the challenge of life? It would be great if you could record a short video and send it in to be included in our online services.

Our Saved to Follow series in 1 Thessalonians has been so fitting for what we are all facing every day in these unprecedented times and this week we continue by looking at Following as He Shapes Us. Today and Wednesday we are considering what it means to live differently and to live in His likeness. Paul uses a specific issue to demonstrate how the church should be different, how following the King leads to different priorities and a visibly different life.

We're called to imitate Jesus, who was just about as different as anyone with skin on, has ever been. We have everything we need with Scripture, the Holy Spirit and each other to live a life that exudes the presence of Jesus in every circumstance. Culture though is most often at odds with the way of Jesus, and we need to be careful not to interpret following the King through the lens of our surrounding culture, rather the opposite.

How do we begin to live in His likeness? Where do I start? The unpopular answer is; there is no magic bullet, no six week course to enrol in, no ten step programme. We begin by learning obedience from the One who showed ultimate obedience to the Father in the garden through the power of His Spirit. Learning in the every day, anonymous, sometimes mundane activity of life, through the hardships and the blessings.

Every blessing,
Josh

Weekly messages:

We are livestreaming our Sunday morning service each week at 10.30am. This can be accessed via the Bethel Church Facebook page (you don't need a Facebook account to access it. The message is broken down over the week into three short videos (Sunday morning 'live', Wednesday and Friday recorded). Additionally, there will be other live events/meetings that folk can access too - look out for the info chain and online notices. Please see separate notice with regards to how we can encourage those not online/connected.

Upcoming services during May & June:

31st May: Following through God's Love – Thessalonians 4:9-10

7th June: Following in the "everyday" – Thessalonians 4:11-12

14th June: Following in the Light of the Lord's Return – Thessalonians 4:13-18

21st June: Following through Watchfulness – Thessalonians 5:1-11

28th June: Following with "each other" in mind – Thessalonians 5:12-15

Bethel Online & Beyond:

These challenging days cause us (like the Thessalonians) to be inventive in the ways we gather and communicate. Please be on the lookout for various ways and means you can stay connected and help others to connect too:

- If you are on social media, sign up to the church Facebook page where regular updates and videos/messages will appear;
- Sign up to our daily info/prayer chain to receive email updates and links to videos etc. Email Lou Peet on: lou.peet@bethelcoventry.org.uk;
- If you are a Life Group leader, keep connecting with your group members. Maybe form a WhatsApp group to exchange encouragements and ideas, or simply telephone or send a card to those without technology;
- Visit the church website to see ways in which you can carry on giving to the work amongst us: www.bethelcoventry.org.uk
- The Bethel News appears on the church website each week; keep checking in each week. If you know someone who would like a paper copy, let us know;
- Please adhere to the government guidelines for self-isolation and social distancing;
- If you feel unwell and are symptomatic, check the guidelines on the NHS website.

Open Heaven Coventry

Open Heaven is a unique month-long event to encourage believers from all across Coventry to prayer walk their streets, for the whole month of June. The aim is to see every street covered in prayer! Visit their website www.openheavencoventry.org for more details and importantly to download the app, so you can claim your street for prayer.

Prayer Evening – Friday 29th May 6pm

Join us online for a special one-off prayer event with contributions from across the fellowship as we pray for our city, our key workers, our nation and each other. This promises to be a great event and a start of more regular prayer together. This event will be on Facebook and further details will follow in the week via the prayer chain.

Stay connected!

While we are unable to meet even in small groups, we can still all be connected to one another. A number of folk are using video calling to keep in touch and even hold their usual life groups as well. For smaller numbers, FaceTime, Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp work well; if there are more than three or four then quite a few of us have been using Zoom. Check out www.zoom.us where you can sign up for a free account and have a 40 minute video call with as many people as you want for free (after the free period you can just click back in again to start a new session).

It's easy to join in with any online sessions simply go to www.facebook.com/bethelchurchcoventry you don't even need a Facebook account. If you're unable to join in the live sessions then don't worry just go to the 'Videos' section of the Bethel Facebook page and they are all saved there.

Stay encouraged even during this difficult time – God is still in control and most definitely still at work!

Every blessing,

Josh

Weekly Ladies' Lectio Divina via Zoom

Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) is an ancient method of listening prayer, using Scripture, the living word of God. During the four stages, we read, meditate, pray and contemplate. It's a beautiful time of communication with God. All ladies are welcome to join us on **Wednesdays at 8pm**.

Zoom details will be sent out nearer the time. Please contact Emma Hopkins directly if you would like more information.

Discovery Bible Group – Mondays 6am

Our early Monday morning group is continuing, via Zoom video conferencing! As we delve into God's Word each week – you're welcome to join us, just let Josh know! This is a powerful way to start your week and if you can't make an early Monday please speak to Josh to learn more about DBG and wider opportunities across the fellowship to get involved.

Pastoral Disciple Making team

Whilst we are living through the Coronavirus restrictions and not able to meet as a community on Sundays or at our life groups, Bethel has created a Pastoral Disciple Making team in order to maintain contact with those who do not attend a life group and therefore may not be in regular contact with others. From next week, a member of the PDM team will make regular contact with non-life group members either by phone, email or postcard to keep them up to date with what is going on in the Bethel community and to offer help and support where it is needed. This will continue during the restrictions and beyond where necessary so that no-one feels isolated or forgotten. Stay safe and well. If you know of anyone who may benefit from this and who church may not be aware of, please do let Karen Sprouse know:

karen.sprouse@btopenworld.com

Life Group List

Please note the updated life group list. If you notice anything that's not right, please advise Gordon or Karen Sprouse and we will update it as soon as possible.

****Please do check with your life group leaders as to whether groups are continuing in a virtual setting during the current situation.****

If you are not part of a life group, please feel free to speak to Keith, Gordon, Karen or any of the house group leaders to find one that is right for you.

Group	Host / Leader	Where	When	Time
Discovery Bible group	Josh	Church Lounge	Mondays	6.00 am
Young adult group	Rachel F & Tom H	Oasis café	Tuesdays	7.30 pm
Derek Seedhouse	Manohar & Derek	Coundon	Alt Tuesdays	7.45 pm
Liz & Dave	Liz & Dave	Allesley Park	Tuesdays	8.00 pm
Eric & Jane	Eric & Jane	Chapelfields	Alt Tuesdays	8.00 pm
Ladies' Lectio Divina	Emma, Holly & Kerry	Church Lounge	Wednesdays	8.00 pm
Keith & Lesley	Keith & Lesley	Binley	Alt Thursday	7.45 pm
Gordon & Karen	Gordon	Tile Hill	Thursdays	7.45 pm

Other study options available – Porterbrook Learning, Purple Book – see Chris Page for details.