

# Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020



*And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.*

**2 John 1:6**

Today **\*\*In Church (pre-booked) and on-line\*\***

We give everyone a warm welcome, whether in person at Church today or virtually within the comfort of your own home.

**10.30am** Josh Kindness will be speaking on **Seeing God's Providence – Ruth 2:1-16.**

## Activities this week

Other activities will resume after the half term break

MONDAY	6.00am – 7.00am	Discover Bible Group
--------	-----------------	----------------------

Next Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November **\*\*In Church (pre-booked) and on-line\*\***

**10.30am** Josh Kindness will be speaking on **Our Redeemer Lives – 2:17-23.**

## Pastor's Desk

### Seeing God's Providence – Ruth 2:1-16:

It's easy to feel dejected, forgotten or left behind, when we have come to the end of ourselves, our own resources, our own energy and we're out of ideas. Often the truth is that we have to come to the end of ourselves for God to be able to work and we see that He was there all along waiting for us to get out of the way! Our lives would be so much easier, freer from heartache and pain, if we just allowed God to work, if we made fewer demands of Him and trusted more that He actually knows what He's doing. God wants to bless us, His heart is to bless, and He really does have good planned for you.

Continuing in the book of Ruth we see how God is at work to redeem the story (and lives) of Ruth and Naomi who have lost everything. In this passage the characters of Ruth and Boaz stand out, how they are seeking the benefit of others before themselves and how they went beyond obligation to share the chesed love of God with others.

We need to change the questions we ask one another. We need to change the way we measure faithfulness. No longer is it enough to ask; “how is your relationship with Jesus?” but we need to move towards a deeper more challenging question “how are you loving those around you?” This challenges us on so many levels, it speaks to the outpouring of the love we have received and makes us uncomfortable when we’re not doing it so well. Taking the example of these Biblical characters we need to be willing to go beyond what is convenient (in time or money) and begin to love like Jesus did.

### **Service for Families – Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

Since the Coronavirus epidemic began back in March, we have been unable to have any regular activities for our children. A big thanks to those of you who recorded slots during lockdown and kept in touch with some of our families as well. As the current situation continues it is still very difficult for us to have our usual Sunday Junior Church.

We are planning a Service for Families on Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the usual time of 10.30am. This will be an interactive service aimed at primary age children and their families and priority will be given to them for this Sunday. Children will need to stay with their families in the building, but the team are looking at creative ways to get everyone involved! The service won’t be streamed live as it will be different from a normal Sunday so please do consider coming along if you have children.

Watch this space for more details as we have them!

### **Hands On:**

Our next Hands On session is Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> looking at other faiths and cults. We would like to open this session out to the wider church and so you are welcome to come along (numbers dependent) and join the other students. Please speak to Josh for more details if you’re interested.

### **Weekly messages:**

We are still currently livestreaming our Sunday morning service each week at 10.30am. This can be accessed via the Bethel Church Facebook page. **It’s easy to join in with any online sessions simply go to [www.facebook.com/bethelchurchcoventry](https://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.** 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.

### **Church Gatherings:**

We are now into our third month of gathering in person as a church and it has been great to see so many of you able to join us. Please do make sure you book your place via our website [www.bethelcoventry.org.uk](https://www.bethelcoventry.org.uk) every week. Following government guidance we are still able to gather as church together, please do ensure that you are wearing a mask indoors and try to leave as promptly as possible afterwards.

Church will look different for some time, with all the restrictions that we have had to put in place due to Coronavirus. Please bear with us as we try to make everything as accessible as possible. If you are unable to come along or feel more comfortable staying at home, then please do continue to engage with us online – everything we do will be live on Facebook. Here are the current restrictions that we have to adhere to in line with advice from the government at the time of writing this.

- If you feel unwell or have been in contact with anyone in the last seven days who has been unwell please stay at home and engage with the online services;
- Due to reduced capacity if you wish to come along you must book a space online or notify one of the team if you cannot access online;
- We must maintain the 2-metre distancing;
- Masks or face coverings must always be worn while inside the church building;
- There are hand sanitising stations located around the building, please make use of these regularly or use your own;
- The church will be thoroughly cleaned in between gatherings;
- Congregational singing is not allowed at this time;
- There are separate entrance and exit doors and a one-way system;
- Refreshments will not be served;
- We can have preaching, plus someone singing to us - but any projected singing must be behind a screen with a mic - preachers can speak at normal conversational levels with a microphone;
- Toilet sanitisation facilities must be provided for individuals to use before and after they have used any facility;
- Chairs will be arranged in clusters of households - some 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's, 6's et al;
- Stewards will guide people to their seats;
- There will be an offering box near to the exit doors - but no baskets/plates will be 'passed round';
- The service will be somewhat shorter than we have been used to - 45-60 mins;
- All who attend will need to understand and adhere to social distancing rules;
- The service is being live streamed for those who still prefer to stay at home for the time being;
- There are personalised activity packs for children - that they can use each week and we are trying to have smaller chairs and tables for our younger children as well.

Please do speak to either Josh, or any of the leadership team or stewards, with your questions and ideas or comments - thank you for your understanding and patience during this difficult time!

#### **Prayer & Praise:**

- Charles Windridge has been in hospital and they are looking at getting him back home soon. Please pray for recovery and the wider family.
- Continue to pray for the Regan family as they battle with health issues and also for Paul as he brings grace and the love of Jesus into difficult situations.
- Please continue to pray for the elderly or vulnerable in our congregation, Derek Simpson, Bert and many others who are still shielding.
- Gordon and Karen's niece's young daughter Esme is continuing her chemotherapy which comes with lots of ups and downs for her and the wider family. Pray for her healing and comfort but also that the Lord would work in and through her family for his glory.
- Our national and local leaders need wisdom as they make decisions that affect us all. Please pray for harmony amongst those God has placed in positions of power, for wisdom as they make decisions and ultimately pray for their salvation!

#### **November services**

**1<sup>st</sup> November:** Our Redeemer Lives – 2:17-23

**8<sup>th</sup> November:** Listening to Instructions – 3:1-9

**15<sup>th</sup> November:** Following with Honour - 3:10-18

**22<sup>nd</sup> November:** Following in Faithfulness – 4:1-12

**29<sup>th</sup> November:** Blessing in Following – 4:13-17

## New! Women of Titus Two group

What is WOTT?

We meet together to study the Bible and find out how we can encourage one another as women following Jesus. What does it look like to be a Woman Of Titus Two in the 21st century? What is our role right now in the pandemic?

All ladies are welcome to join us.

When: **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November** 10.00am – 11.30am

Where: in person at church or online via Zoom

Bring: your Bible, your own refreshments as we can't serve them at this time, your mask.

For further details please contact Karen Sprouse or Emma Hopkins.

## Oasis Hub and Community Café - updates

From Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> (Government restrictions permitting) we are going to be open **five** days a week (Monday - Friday), with our new cooks. We open at 10.30am until 2.00pm, serving our ever-popular menu. Come along for an all-day breakfast, bacon batch, omelette, jacket potato, homemade soup and a roll, toastie plus much more. If you don't fancy a large lunch, why not come in for just a piece of homemade cake and a hot or cold drink?

We look forward to seeing you.

Do you have just under four hours a week to spare? As Oasis opens its door once again, we are looking to increase the team as well. We have cooks and so we need 'front of house' staff. We will need a 'people person' to take orders and talk to the customers and we also need a runner who will carry orders from the kitchen to the customers, clean tables and keep the café clean. We need someone who doesn't mind a bit of washing up etc. Most important of all is that we need people who are willing to share the hope that is within them to those around them. We don't bash people over the head with the gospel, but we share it when required. Could you help us out? Many hands make light work. Contact Lindsey if you think you might be able to help us out: [lindsey.pearce@bethelcoventry.org.uk](mailto:lindsey.pearce@bethelcoventry.org.uk)

## Amazon smile

As Christmas approaches and, as people are buying more items online since lockdown, we would like to remind everyone that if you have an Amazon account and if you order via

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) using your existing login details, Amazon will donate 0.05% of all your annual sales to Bethel - it all adds up! When you first use [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) you will be asked to nominate the charity you want to support, so look for Bethel Evangelical Church, Coventry on the drop down menu or type it in and select. You only have to do this once as all your future purchases, if ordered through [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), will automatically benefit Bethel Church.

Thank you.



## Pastoral Disciple Making team

Whilst we are living through the Coronavirus restrictions and not all 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. 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](mailto:karen.sprouse@btopenworld.com)

## 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 the prayer chain team on: [prayerchain@bethelcoventry.org.uk](mailto:prayerchain@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](http://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.

## 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 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	<del>Oasis café</del>	Tuesdays	7.30 pm
Derek Seedhouse	Manohar & Derek	<del>Coundon</del>	Alt Tuesdays	7.45 pm
Liz & Dave	Liz & Dave	<del>Allesley Park</del>	Tuesdays	8.00 pm
Eric & Jane	Eric & Jane	<del>Chapelfields</del>	Alt Tuesdays	8.00 pm
Gordon & Karen	Gordon & Karen	<del>Tile Hill</del>	Thursdays	7.45 pm

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