

Sunday 24th January 2021



*And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. **1Peter 5:10***

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

We give everyone a warm welcome, either in person or virtually. If at home, help yourself to tea/coffee/drinks at any point and make yourself comfy on your sofa.

10.30am Tom Houston will be speaking on **Inconvenient Faith - Philippians 1:12-19.**

11.30am Lazars via Zoom

6.15pm Bethel Prayer Evening (see separate notice)

Activities this week

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|--|
| MONDAY | 6.00am – 7.00am | Discover Bible Group via Zoom (see details in prayer chain emails) |
| | 7.45pm – 8.45pm | Women of the Word via Zoom (see separate notice) |
| THURSDAY | 8.00pm – 9.30pm | Youth Group via Zoom (see YG Facebook group for latest information) |
| FRIDAY | 8.00pm – 9.00pm | Bethel Men Online via Zoom (see details in prayer chain emails) |

Next Sunday, 31st January ****In Church (pre-booked) and on-line****

10.30am Family Service

6.15pm Bethel Prayer Evening (see separate notice)

Pastor's Desk

How can we have faith in difficult and inconvenient times? We see in today's passage in Philippians that Paul had incredible faith in the most inconvenient place and how God used that faith to reach all those imprisoned around Paul. We also see how Paul's faith in such a dire situation encouraged the believers around him to become even more fearless in their mission to proclaim the gospel.

I believe one of the reasons that Paul was so faithful in his imprisonment is because he knew the cost he would have to endure to follow Christ and preach the gospel, so when he was in a situation of great cost and a situation of inconvenience he persevered and carried on without grumbling as it was what he expected to face. Christ never promised us an easy life; He made clear the cost of following Him by telling us that we are to carry our crosses daily and to deny ourselves daily. Thankfully though we have a loving God that doesn't let us face the cost alone and is always with us and cheering us on.

Church Gatherings:

As we continue to be in Tier 4/national lockdown, please do make sure you book your place via our website 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 Tier 4 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!

Weekly messages:

We are still 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 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.** Please see separate notice with regards to how we can encourage those not online/connected.

Prayer & Praise:

- Please pray for our leaders in this country and across the Atlantic – pray for peace and unity and ultimately that they all would be driven to their knees before God.
- Remember to pray for our teachers and students as they all navigate this challenging time together especially for those in their final years at school, college and university.
- Uplift those who work tirelessly in our frontline services; our NHS staff who have heroically worked through the last nine months, care home staff, paramedics, police, fire service and others who often put their lives on the line to keep us safe.
- Continue to pray for the family of Bert Preston who had been at Bethel for many years and sadly passed away in December, and for the ongoing funeral arrangements.
- There are a number in our fellowship who will be shielding again as per new government advice, continue to pray for them and keep in touch with them as well.
- Please pray for the Regan family. Paul has been with us at Bethel for around a year now and tragically his adult daughter died in December. Pray for comfort, wisdom and healing as he and the wider family come to terms with the situation.
- Please uplift Rosemary Sparkes who has recently been diagnosed with damage to the top and bottom nerves of her spine; she will need to see a consultant about possible surgery but in the meantime is receiving physiotherapy.
- Esme, Gordon and Karen's niece's daughter, has now started phase two of her chemotherapy which means her treatment is less frequent. Please pray for her family, that they would know the comfort of Jesus.
- Pray that in 2021 as a community of God's people, we would be listening and obeying what He is calling us to and that we would all continue with the vision of making disciples He has given us, in every sphere we find ourselves.

January & February services

31st January: Family Service

7th February: Life and Death - Philippians 1:20-26

14th February: Worthy of the Gospel - Philippians 1:27-30

21st February: United in Following - Philippians 2:1-5

28th February: Family Service

Oasis Hub and Community Café - update

Due to the current situation, we are staying shut and will remain so until the current restrictions are changed. We look forward to seeing you again when the time is right and restrictions allow.

Weekly Prayer Evening – Sundays 6.15pm

Every Sunday at 6.15pm, we meet on Zoom to pray together. This is a great opportunity to come together and pray to our amazing God. Please do come along if you are able. Zoom details are sent via the prayer chain emails.

Women of the Word – Bible Study

We all know it's important to study God's word, but sometimes it's hard to know where to start.

We are inviting you to join us to delve deeper in your studying of the Scriptures and engage in God's word in a way that trains your mind and transforms your heart.

Our remaining sessions (7:45pm-8:45pm) are:

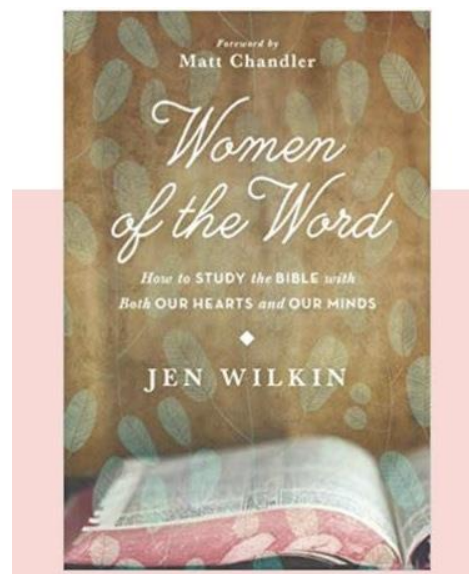
Monday 25th January

Monday 1st February

Monday 8th February

Just grab a copy of the book "Women of the Word", a Bible, pen and a cuppa.

For further details contact Holly, Emma or Kerry.



Amazon smile

We would like to remind everyone that if you have an Amazon account and if you order via 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 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, 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

These challenging days cause us 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;
- 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.

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 | 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 |
| Gordon & Karen | Gordon & Karen | Tile Hill | Thursdays | 7.45 pm |

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