

# Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021



*He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth".*  
**Psalm 46:10**

**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 **Running to the King - Philippians 3:10-14.**

**6.15pm**      **Bethel Prayer Evening** (see separate notice)

## Activities this week

MONDAY	6.00am – 7.00am	Discover Bible Group <b>via Zoom</b> (see details in prayer chain emails)
	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Core Leaders' meeting
	7.45pm – 8.45pm	Women's Discipleship Ministry Book Club <b>via Zoom</b> (see separate notice and details in prayer chain emails)
THURSDAY	7.30pm – 9.00pm	Youth Group <b>via Zoom</b> (see YG Facebook group for latest information)
FRIDAY	8.00pm – 9.00pm	Bethel Men Online <b>via Zoom</b> (see details in prayer chain emails)

**Next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April \*\*In Church (pre-booked) and on-line\*\***

**10.30am**      **Josh Kindness** will be speaking on **Modelling Behaviour - Philippians 3:15-21.**

**6.15pm**      **Bethel Prayer Evening** (see separate notice)

## Pastor's Desk

With the latest relaxation of restrictions, life slowly seems to be returning to "normal". Whether it's being able to go for a meal or a drink with friends outside, whether it's being able to go to the gym or whether it's something we've taken for granted like getting a hair cut, we've learnt to appreciate the small freedoms we have in life that bring us together. One thing we should never take for granted or forget to appreciate is the love God showed through His son Jesus Christ.

In today's passage in Philippians, we see Paul remind the church in Philippi what their goal in life should be; Paul desires to know Christ not just as a familiar face in the crowd but as his personal Lord and saviour. This should be our desire as well; to know Christ better and to have faith in what God has ahead of us rather than focusing on the past.

The great Martin Luther King Jr. once said to "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step". Our faith in the Lord's plan sometimes requires us to take that first step of faith without knowing what the destination is, but we know the Lord will never lead us down a path we can't handle. Let us then begin to ask the Lord to guide our lives and make us active in perusing Him.

### **Church Gatherings:**

Even though restrictions are beginning to ease across the country, please do make sure you book your place via our website [www.bethelcoventry.org.uk](http://www.bethelcoventry.org.uk) every week. Following government guidance, we are 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 current 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](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.** Please see separate notice with regards to how we can encourage those not online/connected.

### Prayer & Praise:

- Praise that Derek Simpson is now home with a package of care, but please do continue to pray for his ongoing recovery.
- Restrictions on our everyday lives seem to be easing; please continue to pray and connect with those in our fellowship who are vulnerable.
- Pray for wisdom as your Bethel ministry leaders look to see how the easing of restrictions impacts what we are allowed to do and what we have the capacity to do.
- Pray for our Portugal Mission Team! Their trip last year was postponed due to Covid and they have planned to go again this summer. Pray for wisdom and a God to make a way for them to go if it is His will this year.
- Uplift those who work tirelessly in our frontline services; our NHS staff who have heroically worked through the last twelve months, care home staff, paramedics, police, fire service and others who often put their lives on the line to keep us safe.
- Please pray for Esme, Gordon and Karen's great niece. Esme requires two operations on her right eye, which was damaged by her tumour and surgery, although her vision is not affected.
- 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.
- Let us begin to bring prayers to God that challenge us, take us out of our comfort zone, that bring impossible things before our God. He has promised to "...do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine..." so why not take Him at His Word this week and imagine great things!

### Samara's Aid

During our Easter Sunday service, we heard from Samara Levy sharing the amazing work that is going on in Syria with Samara's Aid. A huge thanks to everyone who gave towards their work during the service and has given online so far as well. You are still able to contribute for another couple of weeks through PayPal (you don't need a PayPal account) here <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8y1P8YNwHv> Please don't add any comment when doing so as PayPal's algorithm flags up certain words and blocks the account. To find out more about what they do you can visit <https://www.samarasaidappeal.org/> where you can sign up for their regular newsletter as well.

### 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.

## Oasis Hub and Community Café - update

With Government guidelines relaxing slightly, Oasis café will be re-opening for **outdoor seating and takeaway only**. We are open **four** days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), with our new cooks. We open at 10.30am until 2.00pm, serving our ever-popular menu. Come along to collect an all-day breakfast, bacon batch, omelette, jacket potato, homemade soup and a roll or toastie plus much more. If you don't fancy a large lunch, why not order a piece of homemade cake and a hot or cold drink? Orders can be phoned through in advance to avoid delays, if required: 07563 857 199. We look forward to seeing you – in a socially distanced manner, of course.

## Women's Discipleship Ministry - Book Club

The Calvary Road book club starts on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45pm, via Zoom.

Join us for five Monday evenings when we'll spend an hour a week with The Calvary Road by Roy Hession, digging deep into what it means to follow Jesus. Here is a video from Emma to tell you more - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/k52hBdrUKtRWwobHA>

NB. Please buy The Calvary Road and not My Calvary Road!

If you have any questions about any of the above, please talk to Emma Hopkins, Holly Kindness, or Kerry Williams.

## April & May services

**25<sup>th</sup> April:** Modelling Behaviour - Philippians 3:15-21

**2<sup>nd</sup> May:** Unfathomable Shalom - Philippians 4:1-9

**9<sup>th</sup> May:** Families' Service

**16<sup>th</sup> May:** Strength to Follow- Philippians 4:10-23

**23<sup>rd</sup> May:** Philippians Summary

**30<sup>th</sup> May:** Guest Service

## 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)

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](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	<del>Church Lounge</del>	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.