

Sunday 2nd May 2021



*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21

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 Josh Kindness will be speaking on **Modelling Behaviour Part 2 - Philippians 3:15-21.**

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's Discipleship Ministry Book Club via Zoom (see separate notice and details in prayer chain emails)
THURSDAY	7.30pm – 9.00pm	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, 9th May **In Church (pre-booked) and on-line**

10.30am **Families' Service**

11.30am **Lazers via Zoom**

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

Pastor's Desk

What do we spend most of our time on? What do we spend most of our money on? What really is important to us? Whose kingdom are we building? As we continue in our 'What Really Matters' series this morning, we see Paul giving a contrast to the Philippian believers between those whose '...mind is set on earthly things...' and those who look to Jesus.

Jesus said on many occasions what following Him was all about, what it meant and what it would cost. Our problem however is that we feel uncomfortable at the thought of Jesus asking us to change our lives

or give something up. What we need to understand is that only through giving Him our everything can we find true peace, joy, and freedom that He promises. The rich young man went away sad because although he was outwardly righteous, he wasn't willing to part with his wealth. His mind was set on earthly things.

We read passages in the Gospels that talk about the cost of following and we shift in our seats hoping that He won't expect me to pay the cost and clinging onto my low cost high reward version of the Gospel. With this mindset we are diminishing the value of the Gospel, making light of what Jesus has achieved and planting our feet firmly on terra firma. When Jesus challenges what really matters to us it's because He can see the hold it has on us, how it gets in the way of our following and is blocking the life of peace, joy and freedom He promised us.

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 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 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 wisdom for our government and local leaders as they plan to ease restrictions on our lives.
- Pray for the elderly and vulnerable members of our congregation and keep in touch with them as well.
- Pray for wisdom and a heart to listen as we look to increase what we're able to do in line with the lightening of restrictions on our everyday lives.
- We have a team hoping to be able to go to Portugal on mission this summer. Last years planned mission trip had to be cancelled so is rescheduled again this year. Pray for wisdom and for God to make a way for them to go if it is His will this year and if they do go for Him to use them mightily over there as well!
- Please pray for Esme, Gordon and Karen's great niece. Esme is now on the last but longest phase of her chemotherapy and the good news is that her brain tumour is shrinking. Esme is having eye surgery to her right eyeball on 11th May - a delicate and scary operation for her and for the family. Thank you for your continued prayers.
- 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 have 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. This is your last chance to give as you feel led to, we plan to pass on your generous gifts this week!

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 is open 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 continues on Monday at 7.45pm, via Zoom.

Join us for three more 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.

Women of Titus Two group is back!

What is WOTT?

We meet together on a fortnightly basis 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 online for our next session.

When: **Monday 10th May** 10.00am – 11.30am

Where: **Online via Zoom**

Bring: Your Bible

Zoom details will be sent out via prayer chain email.

For further details please contact Karen Sprouse or Emma Hopkins.

May services

9th May: Families' Service

16th May: Strength to Follow- Philippians 4:10-23

23rd May: Philippians Summary

30th 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

Bethel Online & beyond!

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	The Hill	Thursdays	7.45 pm

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