

Sunday 20th June 2021



*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself
intercedes for us through wordless groans. **Romans 8:26***

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 **The Church – 2 Chronicles 5:12-6:2; 7:1-3.**

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)
THURSDAY	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Youth Group (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, 27th June **In Church (pre-booked) and on-line**

10.30am Josh Kindness will be speaking on **The Church Should Point to Christ - Revelation 4:1-11.**

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

Pastor's Desk

What is church to you?

Somewhere to meet friends? Somewhere to learn about or hear from God? Somewhere to go on a Sunday because you've always gone?

Have you ever thought that to God, church might be sacred? Not just the physical gathering for 90 minutes on a Sunday but His idea of church might just deserve our reverence and respect? Scripture tells us that Christ died for the church, that it is made clean by His blood and is His bride – all pretty strong indicators of how important He views church.

In one way we should be jealous of Muslims. They go to the mosque regularly, view it as an important and essential part of who they are and treat it with reverence even taking their shoes off before they enter. While we no longer are bound by ritual, often I think we take our freedom in Christ too far and

forget the church is His plan to redeem the world, not something to meet our needs and give us a spiritual fix. This is really a mirror of our spiritual lives, we don't approach God with reverence and holy awe as the writer of Hebrews suggests we do but rather all too often we are flippant and even apathetic towards Him and His desires.

Church was God's great idea and plan from before the foundation of the world. Let's begin to have a healthy dose of holy awe for His bride and metaphorically (or actually!) start taking our shoes off!

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 continues to look different 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!

Book Your Space:

Please continue to book your space to attend in-person services preferably online at least a couple of days in advance. For those of you who can't access the internet please message Josh Kindness if you wish to book your space for 27th June as Derek will be away.

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 can we continue to uplift Frank & Merci Pryor and Merci's family in the Philippines? Merci's sister, Suecia, sadly recently died and her brother Margarito is still ill.
- Please continue to pray for little Esme. She is doing so well considering everything she has been through and continues to amaze her parents and Karen and Gordon with her attitude and joy. Her latest brain scan reveals a further shrinking of her tumour and she continues with her chemotherapy; please pray that the Lord would do a work of healing in Esme but also that He would draw the rest of her family to Himself in the process.
- With so much uncertainty still prevalent around us, pray that the peace of God which transcends all understanding would manifest itself in our lives and those around us.
- Pray for wisdom as we look to open ministries in the coming weeks and months and that ultimately all we do would be focussed on making disciples of the King.
- Continue to uplift those in our fellowship who are elderly and have ongoing health struggles; please do keep in touch with folk who have been unable to come along in person.

New series – The Church!

Starting today, we are entering a new preaching series entitled The Church! We will be looking at Scripture together, both in the Old Testament and New to explore what church is and what it was meant to be. As God's people who are we and who should we be?

It is looking like it will be exciting and challenging as we seek to strip back the layers and discover what God's original plan and intention was for His bride.

Sunday morning drinks are back!

But with a difference!

Starting on Sunday 27th June, teas, coffees and cold drinks will be served from 10.00 am until the start of the service. You need to bring your own cup; disposable cups will not be available. No cup, no drink!

At all times please observe social distancing.

At the start of the service the drinks will be covered over and no further drinks will be served. Sadly, no biscuits will be served and there won't be drinks at the end of the service. It's not quite back to as it was but we hope you enjoy a drink and they will still be served along with a warm welcome and a smile.

Al Fresco Church Family Gathering – cancelled

With restrictions not being eased as initially expected we are having to cancel our planned Al Fresco church gathering for now. We will plan to hold it very soon so please watch this space!

JH & GH – Sunday 1st August

J & G will be joining us and sharing their ministry in the Middle East with us on Sunday 1st August. This will be a special time to hear what God has been doing through them.

We are also hoping to join them for a picnic afterwards to give you the opportunity to say “Hello” and catch up with them as well – look out for more details soon!

Oasis Hub and Community Café - update

Oasis café is closed for the time being due to staffing. We will keep you posted as and when things are up and running again. Thank you.

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 Titus Two

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 online for our next session.

When: **Monday 5th July** 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.

New – Bethel podcasts!

We are starting to upload our sermons to Spotify!

The first one up is our motto service for the year and is available to listen to right now. You can also follow the podcast to get notifications when new sermons are uploaded.

We will be adding the other sermons from this year onto Spotify, YouTube and other streaming platforms (give Bethel Church Coventry a search on your chosen podcast service) so keep an eye out for those in the coming weeks. We hope you will enjoy them and that they will provide you with encouragement – go to your spotify account and search or click here to listen -

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6hBbiCYgT3ppj41XybSfcG> or to visit our YouTube page click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIYmHZLNbo6PLC2Y2ejFoHA>

Cov365 – a year of prayer!

Worshipping and praying non-stop from the start to the end of Coventry City of Culture Year - every hour of the day, every day from May 15 2021 to May 14 2022! 24-7/365.

Whilst we're praying for lives, churches, the city etc. to be changed, our number one focus is the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

We believe the Holy Spirit is the initiator, the project manager, the organiser and the one who can piece together our humble offerings into something worthy of the Lord Jesus.

Hourly slots can be booked for private worship and prayer or open to others to join. Individuals, families, churches, prayer groups, life groups, friendship groups, Christian charities etc. all welcome. Different expressions lined up in a chain of unbroken offering to Jesus!

Book yours, your life group, your ministry team or family's prayer slot at the Cov365 website...

www.cov365.co.uk It would be wonderful if we were able to join in with this great initiative.

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@bopenworld.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	Tile Hill	Thursdays	7.45 pm

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