

Sunday 12th September 2021



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

Today

10.30am Josh Kindness will be speaking on **The Church Has a Model to Follow (1) - Acts 2:42-47.**

6.15pm Bethel Prayer Evening (see separate notice)

Activities this week

Activities will soon resume in the autumn term

Next Sunday, 19th September

10.30am Josh Kindness will be speaking on **The Church Has a Model to Follow (2) - Acts 2:42-47.**

6.15pm Bethel Prayer Evening (see separate notice)

Pastor's Desk

As we come towards the end of our current series based on the church, we have been considering what it means to be God's people. What is the local expression of His family supposed to look like? What are the distinctive qualities that we are to possess that make us so different from the world around us? What does it mean to lay down our lives for one another?

My prayer is that as we continue to wrestle with these questions and more, that we become more and more the community of faithful followers of the King that we are called to be. Not an insular group that never engages with others but a people who by their love to one another, driven by the love of Jesus are so incredibly different, from anything else that the world has to offer.

Today and the next two weeks we will be looking at a familiar passage from Acts 2:42-49 starting with the focus that the early believers had towards God's words and prayer. They were devoted - faithful, committed, dedicated, loyal and true to both, and this drove their early discipleship, their fellowship and shaped their community together.

This is where we must start, God's Word and prayer – real, meaningful engagement with both – not just surface level box ticking but a deep commitment to be willing to be changed through both to become the local expression of God's family that we were always intended to be.

Easing of Restrictions:

A huge thanks to our teams who have worked tirelessly to keep us all safe at our in-person gatherings and to livestream everything over the past 18 months! From now on, face coverings will be optional to attend our services but we are keeping some social distancing between rows of chairs etc.

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:

"But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me." Psalm 13:5-6

- Please pray for Lindsey Pearce and Joshua Manley who are both in hospital now in Walsgrave. Unfortunately, visiting is not allowed but please uplift them, their families and encourage them when you can.
- Tom Owen's father, Alfred, passed away peacefully in the early hours of Saturday morning aged 96. Please can we pray for Tom and the family that they would know Jesus ever more closely and the peace of the Holy Spirit as they mourn and make funeral arrangements.
- Continue to pray and keep in touch with some of our elderly congregation especially Derek Simpson and Janet Allen.
- Please uplift our Bethel Elders and Core Leaders as they seek wisdom from the Lord as to what this next season looks like for us as a church.

Annual General Meeting – 11th October

We have our next AGM planned for Monday 11th October at 7.30pm and will send out the AGM packs in the coming weeks. Our AGM is a chance to come together and celebrate what God has been doing over the past year – please do plan to attend if you are a member. If you aren't a member then you are also welcome to join us!

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.

New – Bethel podcasts!

We are starting to upload our sermons to Spotify!

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.

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 |