

Sunday 29th May 2022



Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

John 20:21

Today

10.30am Josh Kindness will be continuing our series on **A New Kingdom!**

Activities this week

MONDAY	3.00pm – 4.00pm	Prayer Team (Prayer room – see separate notice)
TUESDAY	10.00am – 3.00pm	Oasis café (Board Games Club 10am-12pm)
WEDNESDAY	10.00am – 3.00pm	Oasis café
THURSDAY	10.00am – 3.00pm	Oasis café (Activity TBC from 10am-12pm)
	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Thursday Afternoon Club (Oasis Café – see separate notice)
FRIDAY	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Prayer Team (Prayer room – see separate notice)

Next Sunday, 5th June 2022

10.30am Josh Kindness will be continuing our series on **A New Kingdom!**

Pastor's Desk

This week we get stuck into Matthew 5 and the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, looking at one of the most familiar passages of Scripture in what has become known as the ‘Beatitudes’

Over the years these nine blessings have been used as a way to live, a list to achieve (not unlike the Fruit of the Spirit) and something to avoid! The reality is that Jesus was talking to people on the top of the mountain who already fitted into each of these categories. He was speaking directly to them, to their hearts, to their real-life situations. Surrounded by the outcasts of society, those unable to worship God because of their uncleanness, Jesus reaches out and says – the Kingdom of God comes to you first!

This is the start of the upside-down Kingdom of Jesus, the one that reaches out to the lonely, the marginalised, the hurting, the lost. We need to soak all of this in deep prayer with an open heart and mind, to what God has in store for us.

Rediscovering Jesus Bible Study:

A few weeks ago, in the service, we introduced the concept of Discovery Bible Study as a launchpad for us to journey through the Gospels together, to rediscover the words and ways of Jesus and adopt them into our own rhythms of life. This will be an interactive, slow journey through the Gospels for you to do in your Life Group or at home, creating space to listen to the Spirit and ultimately lead lives in harmony with Him.

Full details were sent around the prayer chain this week – but for a quick overview see our new video that explains it more... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOQ7J9ifDZs&t=3s>



James – So What?:

God has been speaking to us powerfully over the last few months through His Word in the book of James. The problem is we have become professional at hearing God speak and challenge and then ignoring it and moving on. We can't do this anymore. The Spirit of God wants us to act, to move and change so we reflect more of Jesus in our community and in our own lives. **We have a feedback form and also an online survey for you to fill in, to say what the Holy Spirit has challenged you about through our studies in James – please do fill it in when you can.**

Research project:

If you haven't yet filled in or received Josh's survey on Biblical Justice, please can you complete it online? <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YCKPLGH> Our hope is that this will also act as a guide for us as we seek to know more of what God has for us here at Bethel. You should have already received an email with an invitation to complete the survey, if not just let Josh know at josh@bethelcoventry.org.uk

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 24 months+! Whilst you no longer need to wear a face covering, you are welcome to wear one when attending church, should you wish. We can still sing and worship in the usual way and 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:

- Please pray for our Bethel leadership team as they seek to lead us into realising the Kingdom of God where we are.
- Please uplift Oasis café and the staff and volunteers there as they work among some of the most vulnerable in our community every day and look to bringing Jesus into the café.
- Continue to pray for those among us who are struggling with ongoing health concerns; Lindsey Pearce, Rosemary Sparkes, Paul & Ruth Longhurst, Frank & Merci Pryor, and others in our fellowship who are struggling with ongoing health problems.
- We serve a miraculous God who longs to bless so please pray for healing, pray for their families who are suffering alongside them and please pray that they would know the presence of the Spirit of Jesus in a new and powerful way.
- As we begin to come back to the words and ways of Jesus through the Gospels, please pray for the Holy Spirit to move and challenge and to give us the strength and courage to follow Him more closely.

New Series – A New Kingdom!

Please begin to pray and read through the passages in Matthew chapters 5-7. As participants in His new upside-down Kingdom we are called to be different, to have different priorities and a new Master. It will be challenging as the words of Jesus cut through all of the noise, all of the barriers we put up and get us to see our following in a new way. Are you up for the challenge?



A call to Prayer...

We are organising a **NEW Prayer Team**, who plan to meet in the Prayer Room each week on **Mondays at 3pm and Fridays at 7pm**. Speak to Paul & Ruth Longhurst if you'd like to be involved and for more details.

Ladies' Bible Study

The ladies' Bible study takes place each week on Mondays from 1pm - 3pm at the Oasis Community Hub and Café. **Our next session will be on Monday 6th June.**

The Bible studies will follow the Sunday sermons on 'A New Kingdom!' The first 45 minutes or so will be a time to eat lunch together (packed lunch from home), chat and then pray. For more information, please speak to Jeanette Fowler, Jane Magan or Karen Sprouse.

Thursday Afternoon Club – Oasis Café

In addition to the Oasis café opening times and activities, the **Thursday Afternoon Club** is up and running from 2pm - 4pm. The club is aimed at over 55s who would like to meet up for a cup of coffee/tea, a slice of cake and, if they are in the mood, a board game or a game of dominoes. The session includes a short and simple Bible message to inspire questions and sow seeds and is open to anyone over 55, Christian or not. There is a charge of £1 per person. Our aim is to make Oasis Community Hub and Café an enjoyable and creative community space. For more information, please speak with Paul and Ruth Longhurst.

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.

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
Ladies' Bible Study	Karen, Jane & Jeanette	Oasis Café	Mondays	1.00 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
Dave & Jenny	Dave & Jenny	Whoberley	Alt Wednesdays	6.00 pm
Gordon & Karen	Gordon & Karen	Tile Hill	Thursdays	7.30 pm
Gareth & Yolande	Gareth & Yolande	Whitmore Park	Alt Thursdays	7.30 pm
Young adult group	Joshua Kindness	Church Lounge	Alt Sundays	6.30 pm

Bethel podcasts!

We are starting to upload our sermons to Spotify!

We will be adding the other sermons from 2021 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>

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.