

Pastoral Update 16.01.2021

Welcome to this week's pastoral update.

The Service this Sunday

Tim Rowe (Headingley) is leading our service; Paul Scholey (Cragg) is leading sung worship; Kate Burkett (and I think Spike) are giving the all age talk; John and Ann Pelham (Connect@Copperbeech) are leading prayers; Hazel Rowe (Headingley) is reading from God's word. I will be speaking on 1 Samuel 1 under the heading 'True Prayer' although, as I say in the message, an alternative title might be 'How to cope with anxiety'. In preparing and delivering the message I have felt God's presence in an especially clear way. The passage has certainly helped me and I hope and pray it will help you as well.

To engage, go

to <http://www.cbcl.org.uk/onlineservice> or <https://www.facebook.com/CBCLeeds/> for the WatchParty.

The service begins at 10.30 a.m.

Please do join for the Zoom after Party. The Zoom Room details are <https://zoom.us/j/9947430435> The password remains

We will split into breakout rooms to share and pray. In the Headingley room this week we'll give more time to prayer and less to sharing on this occasion, and focus outwards as well as (quite properly) praying for ourselves.

New Series

The message on Sunday marks the beginning of a new series that should, God willing, take us through to just before Easter. We will be looking at selected passages from the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Samuel. The series is entitled 'Living as the People of God in Challenging Times'. The first three messages are on the first three chapters of 1 Samuel. As well as True Prayer we'll consider 'True Praise' (1 Samuel 2) and 'True Faith' (1 Samuel 3). I'm really excited by this series. The people of God were facing all manner of difficulties, and faith in the nation was at a low ebb. Passage after passage brings us teaching which points forward to Jesus and helps us live creatively and faithfully as gospel people in 'such a time as this'.

Next Sunday (24 February) Jill Jones will be preaching as we continue the series, and we'll also be aiming to have some live prayers. So, for those who engage with the service in real time on a Sunday morning the prayers won't be pre-recorded but given at the moment. This is a trial to see if we can make this work. More details will be forthcoming in the pastoral update next week.

Church Meeting

This Thursday (21 Jan) at 7.30 pm we have our church meeting, via Zoom. The log in details are the same as for the Sunday Zoom after party. Church members will already have had notification of this meeting from Greg McLeen. I warmly encourage you to attend. If you're not a church member you can still come although you can't vote. Why not drop in and see what happens?

Bedtime Stories

A reminder that Kate Burkett and Spike have started up Bedtime Stories again on Zoom and will be there again this Sunday (17th January) from 6.45pm - 7pm. The Zoom

session will also be open slightly earlier from 6.30pm for any families who would like to chat together beforehand. Although the Bible story will be aimed primarily at CBCL tots aged under 5 across our Gatherings, Key Stage 1 children are welcome to join in the fun too! Please contact Kate B for the Zoom details and to join the Bedtime Stories

WhatsApp group: kate.burkett@cbcl.org.uk

Pastoral

Mike and Kate Burkett would like to personally thank all at CBCL for the prayers, support and kindness shown to their family from across our Gatherings, following the death of Mike's mum, Beryl, from cancer and Covid in early December. Amidst all the sadness, they have felt God's powerfully but gently guiding over the last few months and they feel at peace in the knowledge that Beryl is now forever with Christ in glory.

I'm aware of a range of people facing pastoral struggles at the moment. May God be with you as you face some deep challenges, and may God be with all of us as we seek to engage for God on our frontlines, wherever these may be.

Stories of Hope

News of a forthcoming event entitled 'Stories of Hope'. It's a free online event, which will feature stories from several organisations we partner with or have an interest in, including Home for Good, TLG, and Leeds Faith in Schools. It's on 4 February and you can find out more by going to <https://homeforgood.org.uk/events/stories-of-hope-leeds>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (17-24 Jan)

This coming week is the annual week of prayer for Christian Unity. A service and other material are available from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. They won't be distributed in printed form this year, but they are all available for download on the website - <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/> - The simplified order of service prepared for home or small group use by Roots is very accessible.

Podcasts

The podcasts continue. I'm so encouraged by the personal messages I receive about these. As some of you will recall, there are a number of episodes on 1 and 2 Samuel. These begin with episode 213, 'My heart rejoices in the Lord', which is on Hannah's declaration of praise in 1 Samuel 2. They end with episode 219, entitled 'Catastrophe!' on 2 Samuel 11 and David and Bathsheba. The podcast on Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 1, the topic for the online service this Sunday comes slightly later, as episode 244. You could engage with these as a supplement to the Sunday messages if you haven't heard them already. To listen, go to

[Discipleship In Challenging Times | Podcast on Spotify](#)

[Discipleship In Challenging Times on Apple Podcasts](#)

[Cornerstone Baptist Church Leeds : Podcast](#)

Warm best wishes, and prayers,

Peter

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