

Pastoral Update 23.01.2021

Welcome to the pastoral update, which covers the next few weeks up to and including 7 February. It's later than normal, largely because we have been finalising details for the livestream element to this Sunday's service. The final rehearsal this morning (Saturday 23 Jan) went well and we believe we are good to go.

1. Online Service this Sunday

This Sunday Colin Jones is leading, Matthew and Sarah Newman are leading sung worship, Caroline Heward is bringing our all age talk, I am both praying and reading (on the pre-recorded service) and Jill Jones, one of our elders, is speaking. The passage is 1 Samuel 2.1-10 and the theme is 'true praise'.

Zoom into Church with Hannah and Gideon is back, and will begin at 10.00 am. There are some new features and I encourage you to join them.

There are various options for you to engage with Zoom into Church and the service.

This Sunday's service will include live prayers (me) and Bible reading (Cheryl Morden). Due to the complications around simultaneously broadcasting across multiple platforms, we have decided to only live stream on

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/7T1zUA16phg>

THIS MEANS THERE WILL NOT BE A FACEBOOK WATCHPARTY THIS COMING SUNDAY. But people with a Gmail account (including anyone with an Android phone) can login to YouTube when they follow the livestream link from this email or the website and can then comment there instead, just the same as on Facebook. Even if you don't have a Gmail account, you can still view the messages.

The live stream will start with Zoom Into Church at 10:00am, followed by our online service at 10:30.

The live stream will still be embedded on our website at <https://www.cbcl.org.uk/onlineservice> and a version of the service which does not include live prayers will be available to download - this version will be sent out to those who receive a CD or DVD too.

However you engage, please do join for the Zoom after Party. The Zoom Room details are <https://zoom.us/j/9947430435> The password remains

This Sunday, we'll share Communion / The Lord's Supper together. You'll need bread and wine / grape juice in your home.

2. Future Services

On Sunday 31 January, Nathan Shipley is leading, Ed and Sophie Borrett are leading sung worship, Hannah Childs is giving the all age talk, Ruth Goater is leading prayer, Pippa Eastwood is reading God's word and Lisa Holmes (Lead Pastor, Skipton Baptist Church and a Spring Harvest speaker) is bringing God's word. Lisa will speak on 1 Samuel 8.1-9 under the title 'True Obedience'.

On Sunday 7 February, Scott Halligan is leading, Paul Whitman is leading sung worship, Hannah Childs is giving the all age talk, Joe and Rio Walsh will be leading prayers,

Hannah Clayton will bring the Bible reading, and Nathan Shipley will be speaking. Nathan's passage will be 1 Samuel 8.1-9 and the title of the message is 'The King of my Heart'.

Some of the information given here may change as we aim to vary the format of our services over the coming weeks.

1 Samuel is such an exciting book and I believe that God has lots to say to us through the different passages.

3. From the Church Meeting

Staffing Update

The following statement was read to the meeting.

"The Elders and Peter have been aware for some while that Matt and Rachel have felt that the focus of their calling has been changing and they have now accepted a call to work full-time with the Inspire Movement with which they will start their service from 1st May. Matt's service with Cornerstone will end on 18th April and the Elders have agreed that we should free Matt from his Cornerstone duties with immediate effect to release him and Rachel to spend the time between now and the 18th April (the end of Matt's notice period) preparing themselves physically, emotionally and spiritually for the next stage of their journey of faith. We also feel that it is only right that they should remain in the manse during that time.

The Elders and Peter on behalf of the whole church do want to wish Matt and Rachel every success in their new ministry with the Inspire Movement. Many of us will have benefitted from the work Matt has done to establish Inspire bands but also his wider ministry within the church. We also hope that the next few months before Matt takes up his new responsibilities with the Inspire Movement will be a time of refreshing by the Spirit for both Matt and Rachel as they re-focus on their new calling."

I know you'll join with us in wishing Rachel, Matt and Zoe all the very best for the next three months and as they move on, and will join us in continuing to pray for them.

Leadership Elections

Scott Halligan was elected as an elder, and Chris Dyson and Duncan Stow were re-elected as Headingley site leader and Cragg Hill site leader respectively. Tim Hellawell joined the Cragg LT.

Joe Walsh and Liz Mitchell have agreed for their names to go forward for the Headingley LT (Joe is stepping down as an elder) and Liz Chennels for the Cragg LT. These will come to future site meetings.

It's really encouraging that people are stepping forward for leadership positions across the church at this time.

For your information, the elders now are Greg McLeen (Church Sec), Jill Jones, John Pelham, Steve Burras, Barbara Crosse, Scott Halligan, Tim Rowe, and myself as Minister.

Budget

Pete Briggs reported to the meeting on behalf of the finance team (as he does to the elders on a monthly basis). He reported a surplus of over £20,000 for the previous financial year, which is a great encouragement. We agreed a budget for the new financial year. More about this in future updates, but for now I want to thank everyone who has contributed financially to God's work through the church over the past year which has been so uncertain for many. I am deeply grateful.

Elders / Deacons

We agreed a proposal that the diaconate would cease as a separate group, with the elders (who are the trustees) and working groups picking up responsibilities for different areas of work. Again, more about this in future pastoral updates. This decision will be reviewed in five months' time.

4. Bedtime Stories

A reminder that Kate Burkett and Spike continue with Bedtime Stories on Zoom this Sunday (24th 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

5. Zoom Baby and Toddler Group

Kate Burkett and Spike would like to gauge interest from young families re: the possibility of setting up a weekly Zoom baby and toddler group. The session would be 30 minutes in length and would run from 10am - 10.30am, day of the week tbc. It's likely to include a fun story-time, singing, actions, a brief "show and share" and a prayer. Please contact Kate to register interest and indicate which morning (Mon, Tues or Weds) would work best for you: kate.burkett@cbcl.org.uk
If there's enough interest, it's anticipated that this session would run in addition to Bedtime Stories.

6. Podcasts

The current podcast series is on Matthew's gospel. I think it's the longest series I've done as we take at least one incident from each chapter of the gospel. I've been profoundly challenged by some of the passages I've been privileged to comment on.

To listen, go to

[Discipleship In Challenging Times | Podcast on Spotify](#)
[Discipleship In Challenging Times on Apple Podcasts](#)
[Cornerstone Baptist Church Leeds : Podcast](#)
Honeymoon (sort of)

I will be on leave for the next two weeks from Monday 25 Jan. Today (Saturday 23 Jan) was actually due to be our wedding day in the original plan. We're so glad we went ahead when we did over two months ago, but still sorry that more people couldn't be

physically present. I've kept the two weeks that were for a honeymoon booked off. Clearly, we won't be leaving Leeds but we do look forward to spending some quality time together. Thank you again for all your love and good wishes.

Warm best wishes and prayers to you,

Peter

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