



## **Pastoral Update 5.03.2021**

**Dear friends,**

**Lots of information this week, as we gear up for our 21 days in 2021 prayer initiative, and think about reaching out more generally.**

**But before I plunge in I want to thank the elders for the email that went out from them to church members earlier today. They are the best group of leaders I have worked with in over 25 years of Ministry. Please pray for them at this time when there is much going on.**

### **1. This Sunday...**

#### **1.1. Online Sunday Service**

Cheryl and I are leading this Sunday, and we'll do this live as we continue to interweave pre-recorded elements and real-time contributions into our live stream. I've pre-recorded the leading for the DVD service myself. Paul Scholey is leading sung worship, Kate Burkett is giving the all age talk, John and Ann Pelham are leading prayers. The Bible passage is 1 Samuel 9 and will be read by Anna Sweeney. Levi Booth will be preaching, all the way from Japan. This is the final message in our series on 1 and 2 Samuel, with the title of this particular message being 'God's Kindness'. We look at how David, who is the Lord's anointed, deals with a member of King Saul's family, Mephibosheth (please pray for everyone involved in the service who will have to pronounce his name!). It's an extraordinary story, deeply moving and profoundly counter cultural, now as it was then. It points us forward to the kindness the Lord Jesus shows to us and encourages us to reflect his grace out to others.

#### **1.2 How to Engage with the Service**

The services are now streaming on YouTube. Go to [Cornerstone Baptist Church Leeds - YouTube](#)

The stream starts with Zoom into Church with Hannah and Gideon which is at 10.00 am. Hannah and Gideon continue to do great work with this and I

do encourage you to engage with them and point others, especially families, to this regular feature of our life together.

Our online service will follow Zoom into Church, with a welcome from Nathan from the Broom Cupboard and the service itself beginning at 10.30 am.

You can also engage via our website: go to <http://www.cbcl.org.uk/onlineservice>

### **1.3 Zoom After Party Communion**

We will meet on Zoom for sharing and prayer after the service at 11.40. This time we will share communion together as a whole church, with John and Ann Pelham (Connect@Copperbeech) leading us. You will need bread and wine / grape juice in your home. Please do join us as we remember Jesus in this way.

### **1.4 Bedtime Stories**

Bedtime Stories continues this Sunday for tots under 5 and KS1 children from 6.45pm – 7.00 pm. The Zoom session is open earlier from 6.30pm for any families who would like to chat together beforehand. Please contact Kate Burkett for the Zoom details and to join the Bedtime Stories WhatsApp group: [tots@cbcl.org.uk](mailto:tots@cbcl.org.uk)

### **1.5 Upper (Zoom) Room**

This takes place this Sunday at 7.30 pm running through till 8.30. Nathan Shipley plus Ed and Sophie Borrett will be leading us through as we prepare ourselves for 21 days of prayer for 2021.

I'm looking forward to this immensely and encourage you to plan to be there and take part.

The details to join are the same as for the morning service after party: (Church's Zoom room (<https://zoom.us/j/9947430435> · Passcode: 210414)  
During the evening we will be praying for our world, our nation, our city and one another. If you're not able to join us but would like to contribute a prayer, please e-mail Nathan on [nathan.shipley@cbcl.org.uk](mailto:nathan.shipley@cbcl.org.uk)

## **2. Tots Online**

Tots Online is once again on Wednesday at 10 am. This is going really well. Please click on the link below to register and to find out more information, and please continue to pray.

<http://www.cbcl.org.uk/totsonline>

### 3. Mission Update: TLG

It's a pleasure to provide an important update on what I hope will be a developing relationship with Transforming Lives for Good (TLG). As you may know, TLG work with pupils who have been excluded from mainstream education or are under threat of exclusion.

We have been exploring the possibility of having a TLG education unit in our Headingley premises. For those of you who know the building, this would be based in the area of the old Yorkshire Baptist Association offices.

Below is a link to a video telling 'Danny's story'. This gives just a taster of the transformative work TLG are involved in. <https://vimeo.com/222191606>

For those that have already watched Danny's inspiring testimony, there are numerous other stories of transformation you can watch

at <https://www.tlg.org.uk/connect/stories-of-transformation>

Developing our links with TLG in this way has now been discussed by both Headingley LT and the elders. It was brought to the recent Headingley site meeting. This was a really well attended and positive meeting which was enthusiastic about moving on to the next stage. We now want to bring this to a whole church meeting, and then take action.

This next stage is for TLG to conduct a feasibility study (is there demand for such a centre and are we as a church an appropriate partner?), and for us as a church to set up an Initial Action Group to push things forward. In the new model TLG are operating, they pay for and manage the centre staff. We will be given £6,000 so we can recruit a part-time Pupil and Family Support Worker, or similar.

This definitely opens up the possibility of working more closely with TLG, but it's vital we (especially at Headingley) get behind this and support it. One church leader has said this: 'Having a TLG education centre has been as important for the church as it has been for the young people it has helped to transform. It has been one of the hardest things we've ever done but it has also been the best thing we have ever done!'

Please do plan to be at our next whole church meeting on 25 March when we'll hear more and have the opportunity to vote on moving forward.

### 4. 21 Days of Prayer

**This weekend they'll be a separate mailing which encourages you to engage in a special 'season' of prayer, 21 Days of Prayer for 2021.**

**The Upper Zoom Room Worship Evening will be preparation for this, we will start fully on Monday 8 March, and conclude with a special Zoom service on 28 March (Palm Sunday) with lots of opportunity for interaction and prayer.**

**They'll be a prayer diary (which will also go to those who don't engage online) and they'll be regular Facebook posts etc. We aim to make use of meetings we already have, rather than add in lots of extra ones, but we will open Cragg, all being well, for private prayer on 27 March.**

**Please do engage with this as much as you can.**

## **5. Podcasts**

This morning (Friday 5 March) Ed and I made the last set of recordings! I do want to say a very big thank you to Ed for hours of tireless work recording, scheduling etc. The very final reflection concludes with a song of celebration from Ed and Sophie.

It's been a whole year since starting. Once complete there will be 313 episodes: 365 days in the year, minus 53 because there are no Sunday episodes, plus 1 which – if memory serves – was a 'special' for Easter Sunday. As I type there have been 14,596 downloads. It now seems the right time to stop, but the episodes will remain online, on the website, Spotify etc, and will be still be able to be accessed. The final series is on Philippians, a book that is full of life, colour and joy, before finishing with a one off reflection on Habakkuk 3 and two episodes on the closing chapters of Revelation. Whatever befalls we are secure because we are in Christ. Having this perspective is transformative. God has spoken to me about this in the past weeks. My hope and prayer is that he'll speak to you as well.

Here's how to listen:

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

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

[Cornerstone Baptist Church Leeds : Podcast](#)

**May you know God's grace and peace in abundance in the coming days,**

**Peter**

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Minister and Team Leader

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