



Pastoral Update 5.03.2021

Dear friends,

We continue with our 21 days in 2021 prayer initiative, and today launch a survey for reviewing how we might balance online and in person services post-Easter.

Please do read through the update, not just for information (and engagement for example through the survey) but also for prayer.

1. This Sunday...

1.1. Online Sunday Service

Chris Dyson is leading this Sunday. Ed and Sophie Borrett are leading sung worship, Scott Halligan the all-age talk. It's Mothering Sunday, and Megan Dyson and Amy Shipley are leading some special reflections and prayers for the day. Meenakshi Rau is reading from God's word. There are further prayers from Sue Walker and Jane Waites. The reading is Matthew 6.5-14 and we'll be looking at the first clauses of the Lord's Prayer. This obviously fits our 21 days of prayer. Two points: firstly, we are encouraged to pray 'Our Father'. We are in a close, loving relationship with the living God through faith in Jesus! A child can bring any request to his or her parent (if the relationship is working as it should do). So we have the 'privilege' of bringing 'everything to God in prayer' as the songs says ('What a Friend we Have in Jesus'). I've found this a great encouragement personally over the last few weeks. But, secondly, we're also encouraged to pray 'Kingdom Prayers'. We are to pray for God's rule and reign to come all over the world. What's more, we can know God hears us! What a privilege indeed it is to do this.

All being well I'll be preaching live (the DVD service is already recorded).

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 broadcasting 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. As befits our 21 days of prayer we'll spend some good time praying together. We'll split into site specific rooms, and certainly with Headingley we'll use breakout rooms for some of the time.

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

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. 21 Days of Prayer

21 Days of Prayer Continues. Do engage through the prayer diary, Facebook, and the website. The focus this coming week is praying for our nation. The prayer diary will arrive with church members and those who have contracted in to receive such emails tomorrow (Saturday).

4. Survey: The Future

As we follow the Government's roadmap out of lockdown, we are continuing to prayerfully discuss and make decisions around services and activities - both in person and online.

It would be helpful if you could complete the following short survey (it should only take 3 minutes) by Sunday 21st March:

As strange as this sounds, we ask you to be selfish with your answers - a better knowledge of what people will engage with will be incredibly helpful for our discernment process.

Please e-mail info@cbcl.org.uk if you have any questions about the survey or would like to give fuller answers.

Please note, those who do not engage online will have a paper copy of the survey sent to them.

5. Easter

Some advance Easter notice...

We'll have an online, Good Friday Reflective Service (2 April).

All being well in respect of guidelines / risk assessments, they'll be an in-person service at Cragg (10.30 a.m.) on Easter Sunday, with Duncan Stow leading.

Similarly, they'll be an in-person service at Headingley, led by Kate Burkett and myself. This will be all age and involve making an Easter Garden. This will also be at 10.30 am.

Watch this space for news from Connect.

There will be an online service as well, at 10.30 am.

Please be praying that we have a great Sunday, with Christians encouraged and new people reached.

6. Staffing

Kate Burkett continues to lead Tots Online, Bedtime Stories, and work pastorally in different ways in the life of the church. She is now also working towards Easter Sunday which will involve significant forward planning and developing a risk assessment. She can't fit this in her limited 'flexible furlough' hours, and so will be coming back up to her regular, contracted hours from Monday 15 March. It's great to welcome her back fully.

Please pray for all our staff as they continue to work creatively and faithfully through this time of pandemic. Pray for Tracy Praties who continues on furlough whilst our café is closed. Pray for Matt, Rachel and Zoe Wright, as they prepare to move to Chesterfield and begin a new chapter working for the Inspire Movement.

7. Podcasts

Nearly there! Episode 307 of 313 is released today (Friday). 313 will be released on Friday 19 March: a shorter reflection with an Ed and Sophie song. There's been a spike in downloads with over 15,000 now. Thanks you to all who have listened, and engaged, and commented. It's been lovely to share this journey with you.

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

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

[Cornerstone Baptist Church Leeds : Podcast](#)

May you know continuing grace and the peace that passes all understanding,

Peter

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