

Bearfield Church

Rev David Jewell, Email - pastor@bearfield.org

OWORSHIP THE LORD
IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS.

Sunday 2nd May

'Hope - 4' - Romans 8 v 18 - 25

Morning service 10.30am - with David Jewell preaching

All are invited to attend at Bearfield, however spaces are limited so please book a space if you would like to come.

Everyone is welcome to join on Zoom
(link available from secretary@bearfield.org)

Lighthouses ,JAM and TGI will only be happening physically at Bearfield. If your child would like to attend please book them a space as spaces are limited.

Pre-booking *essential* to attend physically by emailing secretary@bearfield.org

This Week

Tuesday 5th May

10.30am - morning homegroup

8pm - evening homegroup

Wednesday 6th May

8pm - evening homegroup

Thursday 7th May

2 pm - Craft and Chat

Weekly wonderings ...

Recently, I have found myself having conversations with individuals and groups about giving. This obviously entailed discussion about money, but by no means was absolutely exclusively about financial giving. We have examples in the Bible of those who gave radically or were encouraged to do so. We read that Jesus observed a poor widow giving her last two coins to the Temple and we read also that the Rich Young Ruler was exhorted to do the same by Jesus but walked away from His challenge. We read throughout Scripture of God's reminder to us that everything we have is really His and that to live lives of radical giving demonstrates our love for Him and our trust in Him. Money is definitely for most of us 'where the rubber hits the road' in that we can say nice things about ourselves and others, but are we prepared to demonstrate our faith in God by giving away far more than we should do? The Bible recommends tithing your income, but some wealthier Christians decide on a sum which they can get by on and then proceed to give the remainder away, some reaching over ninety percent of their income! We are told in the Bible that 'God loves a cheerful giver', but that also we should assess our situation before we give (2 Corinthians 9 v 7) and this does not just mean our money. It may well also involve our time, our use of our gifts, our willingness to stick with people during difficult times. Someone told me the other day that they do not like hospitals, I haven't met a person yet who does, but sometimes we may be called to visit someone in hospital or in a hospice.

What I recommended to those who discussed the issue with me was that they should assign ten percent of their income each month to various places, but to commit to that giving long term. However, when some sudden need arose, to be happy to give to either individuals or charities that were struggling. One such situation has arisen with the vaccine distribution. Because of the NHS, we receive ours for free, whereas people in other countries have to pay and cannot always afford it. A Christian couple have set up a means to donate, go to: <https://giveavaccine.com>

God bless, *David*



How can we bring hope to others?

<https://www.vaccinaid.org/about-us>

Reflect and review

The review meetings have been followed up with 2 further meetings, attended by Robert, David, Sue, James, Tim and Jane.

6 themes from the review comments and meetings had been allocated to be taken forward:

- The building – Trustees
- Prayer & leading worship – Sue
- Sunday services – David
- Pastoral Care, Outreach & Mission – Robert
- Discipleship & spiritual growth – James
- Tech' developments – Warren, Tim & Jez

The congregation should expect these people to ask for comments and would welcome comments to help them in moving forward these areas of church life. All this with a view to having some new things in place from September.

The group also discussed how to move forward the leadership of the church.

The Trustees would be meeting with David to discuss his work, as they usually do on a 3 monthly basis and seeing what changes there might be from the review group suggestions.

The church would be asked to pray and wait on God, personally and in specific opportunities to work towards a possible new structure for the church leadership. At the moment, we have a figurehead minister and an additional 2 people as a spiritual leadership team. Many members and attendees of the church contribute their gifts and skills to ministries of the church. Much of the practical burden of the church is managed by 5 Trustees. There is overlap in these groups. We want to ask the question, *could doing things differently mean that we do things better?*

In w/b 21st June, there will be an opportunity to everyone at Bearfield to come together to ask questions and make comments. It is suggested that this is on

Bible Apps

I am continuing to review Daily Bible Reading and Prayer apps like last week. Once again I could not review every app around so I have selected a few apps that can be downloaded free from Google Play Store that I had been recommended by friends.

Sarah-Ann

'Lectio 365' by 24-7 Prayer

- Simple app with daily reflections based around a short Bible passage
 - Since the start of April there is a morning and evening devotional
 - Each devotional is about 10 minutes long
 - Morning devotional has a very short commentary and then a number of prayers, while the evening devotional is more reflective
 - There is audio of each devotional that can be jumped through or paused
 - You can view the whole week's devotionals or use the calendar to access previous weeks devotionals if you want to catch any missed
- ⇒ Overall a simple app but a great way to help structure quiet times around the Bible

'PrayerMate' by Discipleship Tech

- Designed to help with organising your prayer life; as Andy Geers, the creator, puts it, 'This is just an app to help people pray more'
 - You can create 'lists' of areas you want to pray for, e.g. 'My family', and then add specifics to each list, e.g. names of people in your family
 - Each day you are then given a subsection of each list to pray through
 - You can add prayer points for each item on a list or enter in key events
 - There are 'prayer packs' that can be downloaded to help when you don't know what to pray
 - There is now a way to privately share prayer requests within a small group
- ⇒ Overall a great app for those wanting to structure their prayer time

To read more about the thinking behind PrayerMate look at <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/stories/how-technology-shapes-us>

An update from Paul Eaton

I just wanted to send an update of how things are going here in Manchester with my ministry alongside Fusion, The Journey Church, Manchester House of Prayer and Prayerstorm.

As you can see, I've been spending some more time praying and singing on some livestreams (click the picture above to watch my

most recent Prayerstorm set alongside Anna Tran based at Manchester Chinese Christian Church).

Manchester has many wonderful ministries/Churches and I see a large component of my ministry to be dedication to prayer and worship. Both personally and corporately. I love the thought that first we get to minister to God because he saved us. Then we go to our neighbours, students, those in need, to the lost. I've been really blessed recently by prayer walking with my close friend (and pastor) Alan Taylor as well as Maral Assadzadeh who I lead the student ministry with.



A story from yesterday's prayer walking...

Yesterday we started speaking with two students studying at the arts college. Maria and Liusaidh.

They both opened up and shared their interest in religion, politics, art and culture. They both



described themselves as 'spiritual' people and had read the Bible and been to Church. They believed in 'forces of nature' and 'energies' but were also warm to the idea of a living saviour in Jesus Christ. Maral shared the gospel with them and her testimony. It was really encouraging to see how open they were. Pray God would draw them close to him and they would know him as Father. We're praying we would be able to see them again.

Reaching out to students on instagram...

Part of my ministry over the past few months has been creating, filming and editing engaging content for students. I'm convinced the online space is more exciting than ever in how the gospel can go forth. We recently heard a story of a student coming to faith through instagram after watching a devotional produced by New Community Church in Sidcup.

More locally, we had the privilege to connect to a Nigerian student called Yeni through instagram. He arrived from Nigeria in December to study a masters in Engineering. On his own, in a flat in Salford with a Bible, he reached out online and begin to join us for online services. He's been sharing powerful stories of what the Lord has been showing him as a student and we've asked him to share some of his writing online to form part of our ministry as the Journey Church Manchester. Please join in prayer for Yeni as he shares the gospel with his housemate Charles and other course mates.

Something a little different...

As a part of my work with Fusion, I've started a people leadership programme with Multiverse. It's a 15 month programme of webinars, reading, coaching and reflection to grow in my role as a manager. As Emma and Roscoe have joined the team and I look to grow in my leadership within my Fusion role and student worker role in the Church, it's been a lot of fun so far. So much of ministry is being part of teams and getting to know the people you're working with and reaching so I hope this programme will go beyond just performing a role but bear fruit in God's kingdom agenda!!

Blessings *Paul*



St Laurence prayer meeting

The new Head, Tim Farrer, is happy for the 'Pray for St Laurence' meetings to continue. **Thursday 20th May at 7:30pm** is proposed as the next meeting. As restrictions are still lifting slowly this will be on zoom. If interested please see David who can send you the link and prayer point nearer the time.



Happy Birthday

to
Libby and
Tom

who have their birthdays this week.

