

BROOKSIDE WEEKLY

UPDATE

Sunday Meetings:

Sunday 31st July: Meeting led by Lynn Chetcuti with a short talk from Steve Prince

Sunday 7th August: Week 1 format led by Lynn

Sunday 14th August: Informal social morning followed by Barbeque

Sunday 21st: Week 3 morning led by Andy Morris

Brookside Church official opening Saturday 10th September 2-4pm



As Stuart mentioned on Sunday we are planning an official opening day for the new building. This is open to everyone, friends family and the community and an opportunity to invite people to find out about the groups and activities that take place here. Please put the date in your diary. More details to follow.

Groups at Brookside.

Most of our weekly groups have now finished for the summer, but Open Door will continue to meet throughout the summer.



If you're over 60 come and join us for a cuppa, some cake and a chat.
018 261991 www.brooksidechurch.org.uk
Brookside Church, Brookside Close, Earley, RG2 7HG

Covid Latest

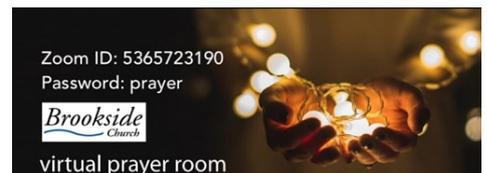
As a church we recognise that Covid is not completely behind us and that there have been an increase in cases again recently. We wanted to reassure you all that we'll continue to do all we can to ensure our public meetings are safe and we still have relevant precautions in place. If we have a Sunday morning where tables and small groups are being used, we shall still keep tables and chairs towards the far end of the church specifically designated for those who would prefer to wear masks whilst in the meeting. If you are happy to be mask-free, please do not sit in this area. Additionally we shall continue to keep the building as well ventilated as possible, with windows and the fire door remaining open where necessary. In the meantime, please continue to be vigilant and sensitive towards the needs and preferences of others. If you have any concerns, please do speak with one of us.

Thanks so much. Lynn, Becci, Chris & Andy

Virtual Prayer Room

The virtual prayer room meets to pray on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays 8– 8:30pm. Do join in if you're able.

Zoom ID 5365723190 Password: prayer



Update on Holly Baxter

For the latest updates and prayer requests for Holly, please go to Steve's blog by following this link: <https://hollyb24.weebly.com/>



Family update from the Bradleys

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT)

This verse might be familiar to many of us. It feels particularly relevant as we share the news some of you will already know – that we (Ali and Liz, and our sons Nathan and Luke) are moving to Southampton this summer.

God willing.

The book of James reminds us to caveat all our plans with the phrase: “If it is the Lord’s will”. James keeps us humble: *“...you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”* (James 4:13 NIV).

It’s a good question: what is your life?

For us, as a family, our answer is that our life is an offering. A response to the goodness of God expressed to us in Jesus. Right from the early days of our relationship – meeting in church aged 19 – the call found in Romans 12 to be living sacrifices has had particular resonance for us. It’s a universal invitation. We are all asked by God to give Him our everything, in everything. And, by doing so, we are all invited into a bigger adventure than our minds can envisage.

That adventure takes different forms for all of us, in different seasons.

Sometimes, it might not feel adventurous at all – we live and work and love faithfully in the same place. But that is still an adventure: daring to believe God is at work in our commitment; having the Holy Spirit expand our imagination to notice the Kingdom coming in our everyday lives.

That kind of stable adventuring has been our experience in Reading for the last six years – living near family, steadily progressing in our professional lives, raising our boys, making friends in our neighbourhood, serving at Brookside. Essentially, putting down roots we assumed would last for decades.

At the same time, we’ve also tried to stay faithful to gifts and dreams from other life-seasons. Ali took a leap of faith and became self-employed. Liz wrote a novel for young adults. Little seeds. And in November 2021, we recognised God speaking to us about where He’s chosen for those seeds to grow – reconnecting us with relationships from our past, and calling us to move to Southampton.

We’ve received encouragement from all angles – through prophetic words; through the prayerful support of the Brookside Leadership Team and others; through the type of “co-incidences” that only happen when God is at work.

It reminds us of the Old Testament Exodus – the pillar of cloud and fire is on the move. So, we are trying to follow. And we do say trying: it hasn’t been an easy path.

We’re surrendering a source of income; the security of having family on-hand to help with childcare; the predictability of knowing what school and nursery looks like for the boys in this locality; the relationships we’ve formed in Reading. And we don’t fully understand what we’re moving into. The opportunities are crystallising but nothing is finalised yet. It’s been a rollercoaster getting this far – working through sadness, delays and unexpected obstacles.

Even so, we share this news confidently – full of joyful hope and completely unreasonable peace, giving God our anxieties and hearing Paul’s words to us *“that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 1:6 NIV)

We know that the same is true of the good work God is doing here at Brookside, even in the midst of struggle and hardship.

Accommodation required

We have had a request from a lady, who is friends with previous members of Brookside, who is looking for accommodation in Reading due to relocating from Germany. She is looking for a double room, available from August for 6-12 months with access to public transport. The lady is happy to pay for the room and utility bills, excluding food. She can supply references and a DBs check. She is friendly, clean and tidy and respectful of people. She is a Christian, non smoker and enjoys reading and being outdoors. If you think you might be able to help please can you contact her on kate_reeves@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you

That’s all for this week, God Bless

Liz

