

LAWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Monthly Update

Making Jesus Known in Lawn and beyond.....



www.lawncommunitychurch.org.uk

JULY 2023

Sunday Services are held every week at 10.30am

At Lawn Community Centre, Guilford Avenue, Lawn, Swindon, SN3 1JL

July

2 nd	Sun	10.30am	Communion Service, Selina and John will be visiting Bring and Share Lunch.
9 th	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service
13 th	Thurs	7.30pm	Soaking Prayer Meeting in Room 1
			Cream Tea at Lawn Centre our very own Dr Stephen Brooke will be playing live piano music, with his baritone voice. The music will include some of the award-winning entries in the recent Swindon Music Festival. Come and enjoy friendship with members of our local community and other church members.
15 th	Sat	2– 4pm	
16 th	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service
23 rd	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service ----- Closing date for MU & CFN -----
27 th	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting in Room 1
30 th	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service

August

6 th	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service, Bring and Share Lunch
10 th	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting in Room 1
13 th	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service
20 th	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service ----- Closing date for MU & CFN -----
24 th	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting Room 1
27 th	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service

September

28th Thurs 8pm **AGM in Room 1**

December

10th Sun 10.30 Sunday Service followed by Bring and Share Lunch

Notice board

Nurture Hub Breakfast Service Many thanks to Sue Tredget and everyone who helped to support this initiative. It's something that Lawn Primary School have now ceased - at least, for the foreseeable future - because the initiative has been completely successful! Back in the spring, the school decided to offer free breakfasts, every morning between Monday - Friday in term-time, as part of efforts to carefully bring around half-a-dozen absentee pupils back into lessons. The school staff were going to pay for the free breakfasts out of their own pockets...until our church stepped in. Since then, weekly donations of breakfast things by yourselves have been taken up and it's been instrumental in those children coming back to school.

Food-parcels Many thanks to everyone who has made donations of food and drink, or financial donations, to the church food-parcels. Over thirteen weeks recently, the church has delivered a weekly, balanced, healthy food-parcel to three households referred to us, by Lawn Primary School - along with two or three emergency parcels, as one-offs. This assistance has now helped those three households get themselves back on their feet. We've now had a new family referred to us, but if you know of anyone else who may require some help during this cost-of-living crisis, please see John. Our thanks go to Fiona, Sue and Keith Tredget, Jenny Garth and Christine and Stephen for their help with the deliveries.

Gardening There are a number of individuals in the Lawn area, now known to John, who need help with basic, practical things at home, not least in the garden. Several of you have already expressed a desire to help them. If you're interested in assisting some senior citizens with getting their gardens back into shape - perhaps on a Saturday - please see John. Free tea, coffee and other refreshments guaranteed!

Prayer Walking We have plans to cover the whole area of Lawn, in active prayer - and to bless and engage with the residents in each road, as we go. Will you help? We need volunteers who will pray, and others who will put leaflets through letterboxes, explaining to residents what the church is doing. Please see John if you can.

Bring 'n' share lunches These will take place following the morning service on the first Sunday of every month. Please bring some lunch for you and some lunch to share!

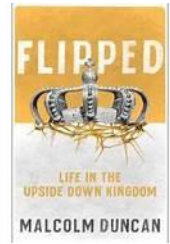
Finance: Offering Box Although many people make a regular offering to the church by Standing Order, we have a box on the table at the back, if you kindly wish to (discreetly) make a cash offering to the work of Lawn Community Church. Thank you.

THE LCC ROTA

July	Facilitator	Preach	Music	PA	Laptop	Set Up	Refreshments
2	John	John Fanai	Susan	Matthew	Howard	Susan Keith S	Jenny & Crispian
9	John	John	Stephen	Crispian	Jenny	Jenny & Crispian	Frank & Rachel
16	Keith S & Susan	Keith S	Susan	Keith T	Howard	Keith T Howard	Keith & Sue
23	John	John	Susan	Crispian	Jenny	Jenny & Crispian	Jenny & Crispian
30	Stephen	Stephen	Stephen	Matthew	Ruth	Stephen & Christine	Stephen & Christine

Flipped: Life in the Upside Down Kingdom by Malcolm Duncan

This is the book that accompanied the theme of Spring Harvest 2023 - 'Flipped: Life in the Upside-Down Kingdom'. The upside-down kingdom being the Kingdom of God. Which fits in really nicely with it being the year of the Coronation of King Charles III - and the earthly United Kingdom.



Malcolm Duncan is a regular speaker at Spring Harvest, as well as being an Elim pastor. Here he introduces the idea of God's Kingdom being 'flipped' around from worldly kingdoms and dominions. Malcolm Duncan narrates this through the Beatitudes as found in Matthew's Gospel. So, the whole notion of the first will be last and the last will be first is central to this book. Though he does sometimes use the phrases 'the Kingdom of Heaven' and 'the Kingdom of God' interchangeably as he digs through the meanings of God's Kingdom in Matthew. In the introductory chapters, Malcolm Duncan takes us through Kingdom theology in an easy reading and informative way, demonstrating that he writes in a way that is inclusive for many - you don't need a theology degree to understand the gist of the position he writes from (Malcolm Duncan is Spring Harvest's 'theologian in residence').

The book is layered in ideas of the Kingdom of God - beginning with looking at the kingly attributes of Jesus and exploring the Old Testament prophets writing on the coming King, and also the Gospel narrative of the King of Kings (especially in Matthew, where the Gospel is written with a Jewish audience in mind, and tells that Jesus is the Messiah). Malcolm Duncan then takes the reader to ponder on being a person of the Kingdom. In this section of the book, there are some good inspirational stories from across the world of people who have begun to embody what it is to live in the Kingdom of God above other kingdoms and dominions. We are reminded of the Sermon on the Mount and what it is to act on Jesus' teachings today. A further chapter discusses the purpose of God's Kingdom - which in a time where parts of the UK church are enveloped in varying degrees of safeguarding concerns, Malcolm Duncan reminds us that the purpose is to point people to Jesus, rather than to become Jesus. The reader is challenged to look at the perspective - the angle - of God's Kingdom through the Beatitudes. There are challenges of looking at a fuller meaning of love, grace and freedom in Christ and how these can be antithesis of what the world sees in love, grace and freedom amongst other things. Finally, the reader is reminded that we can continue to receive the promise of God's Kingdom here on earth, and points the way to the first Apostles in Acts and the 'flipped' way of life that they took on, through the power of King Jesus who reigns in heaven and on earth.

This is an accessible read, with opportunities to pray at the end of each chapter (it's partly designed for reading in small groups). There are some good case studies from near and far (including from the time that Malcolm was minister at Gold Hill Baptist Church in Chalfont).

A book for ordinary people to learn how to live in an extraordinary Kingdom.

Available online from Spring Harvest, SPCK, eden.co.uk, St Andrews Bookshop and other outlets. It is also available to order via Kingsway CLC at Seekers Light Trust, Highworth and the Mustard Seed bookshop in Faringdon.

Written by *Fiona Cheek*

† BE INSPIRED WITH QUOTES †

I don't want to play with marbles, when God told me to move mountains!

Reinhard Bonnke

The Holy Spirit is a healing spirit. When the Holy Spirit is present, anything is possible.

Reinhard Bonnke

God is here right now on planet earth again, IN YOU. You are His living, breathing image. You have value beyond compare and He desires that you would shine and thrive in life! Your union with Jesus is your strength. In the arms of His indwelling Presence, you are home. **Liz Wright**

Today, Jesus stands ready to hear your cry and to answer prayer for you. He is interested in every detail of your life. He knows you better than you know yourself. **Kathryn Kuhlman**

“Worry and worship cannot exist in the same space. One always displaces the other. Choose worship.” **Louie Giglio**

Soaking Prayer Meeting

In Room 1 at 7.30pm, Thursday, 13th July

A few years ago, in Lawn Community Church some Thursday evening prayer meetings were held in a style of ‘soaking’ prayer meetings. This gave an opportunity to spend quality time with the Lord, listening and receiving. We were encouraged to make ourselves as comfortable as possible for the sessions, to lie down if we wished - to take appropriate things to make this comfortable such as cushions, padding to lie on, exercise mat, pillow, a blanket to keep warm in cooler months. A lot of people opted to lie down, while others remained seated. We listened to a meditation and scripture at the start, then a period of quiet followed sometimes with music to listen to the Lord. Sometimes people were refreshed by sleep. In these meetings people received words, pictures, peace, a sense of being released and blessed by the Lord. Following the quiet time, we shared what happened if we chose to. The meetings started with five people: Susan & Keith S, Rachel, Frank & Ruth attending regularly, whom found them beneficial and inspiring. Over the months more people started regularly attending, who also found these Soaking Prayer meetings, special times. It became a valued opportunity to be refreshed by the Lord.

If you would like to find out more about soaking meetings do ask one of the people mentioned above. Ruth has volunteered to lead the next prayer meeting ‘soaking’ style, she will be reading a meditation she has written.



Soaking in the Word - John 8 v 12 - TPT



Jesus the Light of the World



Then Jesus said “I am light to the world, and those who embrace me will experience life-giving light, and they will never walk in darkness”



Ministers Letter

As someone who regards himself as a bit of an evangelist, I was once asked why I wanted to share the good news of Jesus with others. As I began to reply, I remembered how, on several occasions, I have prayed for God to fill me with a real love for other people.

Not long after one such occasion, I reflected upon how, as a Christian, my main love, the subject of all my devotion, is Jesus Christ. I'm not alone in that - I'm sure that many of you reading this will feel the same about Him. I reflected upon whom Jesus loves and is devoted to. That was easy - as part of the Three, it's the Heavenly Father and the Spirit together. As one party in this divine relationship, Jesus is close to the others: close, to the point where all Three are One-and-the-same.

Yet, as I continued with this train-of-thought, I considered that this divine relationship is no 'closed-shop', no 'only angels are allowed to join in', arrangement. I reflected upon how God loves every human being, made in his image. So much so, that God came to earth, to redeem us and save us.

If we have since accepted Jesus into our lives, we have also accepted His grace, His forgiveness, His love, His eternal life into our lives, too. What more could we ever ask for...only, for Him to give our lives meaning and purpose, whilst on this earth, perhaps?

Whatever else He has planned for us, I believe that God wants us glimpse His great love for people. It may be risky, but I invite you to pray for God to gradually give you a heart for others, when He does, other people will start to become so important to you. Good news!

God Bless, John Cheek

Lawn Community Church (LCC)

CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Minister: John Cheek

Tel: 01793 420507 **Day off:** Friday

Deacons: Keith Tredget

Howard Patterson

Crispian Garth

Pastoral Mentor: Dr Stephen Brooke

SAFE GUARDING

Although we are a small fellowship it is important that we continue to remember our responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

If you have any concerns, please contact Keith Tredget: Mobile: 07810 860568 Email keith@tredget.com

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Minutes secretary, gift aid administrator, etc: Jenny Garth

Church news co-ordinator: Ruth French

BMS birthday scheme: Lillieth Patterson

Role vacant from September

Designated person for safeguarding: Keith Tredget

LCC email: admin@lawncommunitychurch.org.uk

Organisation for focus – Safe Families

Support. Hope. Belonging.



Facing life alone is hard, and when you feel there is no one there to support you it is a scary place to be. Therefore, at Safe Families we offer support, hope and belonging to improve the lives of those in our communities. We link children, young people and families with local volunteers who can offer them help and support.

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Safe Families recognises that people in varying circumstances and stages of life will want to support isolated families in different ways. There are three ways you can get involved:



We have been supporting families in Swindon for the last 4 years, supporting up to 120 families a year. This year we thought we'd lost our contract but thankfully have been given another year in which to support 50 more families.

Please Pray with us:

To build a great relationship with a very new team in Swindon Borough Council.

For another new contract so we can continue supporting in Swindon next year.

That we can make perfect matches between families and volunteers.

If you would like to get involved, visit safefamilies.uk/getinvolved or email Helen Howarth at helenhowarth@safefamilies.uk if you'd like to find out more.