

# LAWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



## Monthly Update

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



[www.lawncommunitychurch.org.uk](http://www.lawncommunitychurch.org.uk)

**JULY 2024**

### *Sunday Services are held every week at 10.30am*

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

Prayer gathering in Room 1 every Sunday before the service at 10.15am

#### *July*

5 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	7.30pm – 10pm	Worship Evening at Stephen & Christine's bring your instruments and favourite worship songs on CD
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	9am – 10am	Borough and Ward Councillors Surgery
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	10am – 12 noon	Coffee Shop
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.30am	Communion Service - Bring and Share Lunch If bringing something homemade, please write a note of the ingredients.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tues	2 – 5pm	Board games at Lawn Community Centre
11 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting in Room 1
14 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service
21 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service ----- Closing date for MU & CFN -----
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tues	2 – 5pm	Board games at Lawn Community Centre
25 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting in Room 1
27 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	10am - 12noon	Short Mat Bowls and Coffee Shop
28 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service

#### *August*

4 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.30am	Communion Service - Bring and Share Lunch If bringing something homemade, please write a note of the ingredients.
8 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting in Room 1
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service
13 <sup>th</sup>	Tues	2 – 5pm	Board games at Lawn Community Centre
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service ----- Closing date for MU & CFN -----
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting in Room 1
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tues	2 – 5pm	Board games at Lawn Community Centre

#### *Regular events at Lawn Community Centre*

Every Thursday	2pm - 4pm	Coffee Shop
Fridays during school terms	9.45am – 11.15am	Blossom and Bloom stay and play for 0 - 4 year olds and their carers

## *Lawn Community Church*

**Prayer Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evenings of the month starting at 7.30pm, in Room 1, at Lawn Community Centre. Time is spent listening to God and praying for our church and each other. Everyone is welcome to come and join in to hear God speak.**

### *Rota*

July	Facilitator	Preach	Music	PA	Laptop	Set Up	Refreshments
7 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Keith S	Keith S	Susan	Crispian	Jenny	Susan Keith S	Frank & Rachel
14 <sup>th</sup>	Stephen Christine	Stephen	Stephen	Keith T	Howard	Stephen Christine	Stephen Christine
21 <sup>st</sup>	Susan Keith S	<b>Safe Families Helen Howarth</b>	Susan	Keith T	Howard	Keith T Howard	Keith T & Sue
28 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Rachel	Frank	Stephen	Matthew	Ruth	Jenny Crispian	Jenny & Crispian

## *Lawn Community Church Contacts*

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

#### LCC email:

[admin@lawncommunitychurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@lawncommunitychurch.org.uk)

**Deacons:** Keith Tredget

Howard Patterson

Crispian Garth

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Minutes secretary, gift aid administrator, etc: Jenny Garth

**Church news co-ordinator:** Ruth French

Email: [lcnewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:lcnewseditor@gmail.com)

**BMS birthday scheme:** Role vacant

**SAFEGUARDING** *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:*

**Designated person for safeguarding:**

Keith Tredget **Mobile** 07810 860568

**Deputy designated person for safeguarding:**

Rachel Hudd **Mobile** 07740 190629

Email [safeguarding@lawncommunitychurch.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@lawncommunitychurch.org.uk)

## *Finances Lawn Community Church*

Our thanks goes to everyone who gives regularly.

We are reliant upon God and the giving of our Members / Congregation, for the ongoing work of the church. Each month, the money received goes towards giving to specific causes – locally and abroad and our various admin expenses.

If you feel prompted to give regularly, please speak to our Treasurer Howard Patterson or to Jenny Garth for Gift Aid. Please use the Offering Box if you are unable to give regularly or prefer to give a cash offering.

### **Gifts received in May 2024.**

Regular & one of Gifts:	£1,210.00
Offering Box Gifts:	£319.07
Home Mission Grant:	£333.34
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,529.88</b>

### **Payments / Expenses for the month: £6,596.88.**

The payment / expenses include the payment to Educacion Plus.

The deficit payment is being met from our reserves.

## ✠ BE INSPIRED WITH QUOTES ✠

Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you. - **Corrie Ten Boom**

The work of the Spirit is to impart life, to implant hope, to give liberty, to testify of Christ, to guide us into all truth, to teach us all things, to comfort the believer, and to convict the world of sin. - **Dwight L Moody**

I don't want the world to define God for me. I want the Holy Spirit to reveal God to me. - **Aiden Wilson Tozer**

The Holy Spirit is a healing spirit. When the Holy Spirit is present, anything is possible - **Reinhard Bonke**

Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless – **Charles Spurgeon**

The cross grants us position, the Holy Spirit gives us experience – **Watchman Nee**

### *Soaking in the Word*

*Galatians 5 v 22-26 - The Living Translation*

22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws.

24 Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there. 25 If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Then we won't need to look for honours and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings.



## **WORSHIP EVENING – LETS PRAISE GOD**

At Stephen & Christine's

Time to worship, to spend with our maker,  
drawing closer to God our Father to hear his voice.  
Bring your instruments, favourite worship songs on CD,  
*and nibbles if you wish.*

## *Book Review of "Practicing the Way"*

by John Mark Comer GEORGE P WOOD ON JANUARY 16, 2024

The Greek word for Christian appears three times in the New Testament, while the Greek word for disciple appears 261 times. And though Christian seems to have been coined by outsiders (Acts 11:26), insiders used disciple to describe themselves. Indeed, according to Jesus, the mission of the Church is simply to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19, which uses a verb rather than a noun).

In principle, there's no distinction between a Christian and a disciple. A Christian is a "little Christ." A disciple is a person who follows Christ (Mark 8:34). Whatever the term, end result should be the same: Christlikeness. But in practice, as John Mark Comer points out, "To many in the West, a Christian is just someone who mentally ascribes to the bare bones of Christianity (a word never used in Scripture) and may or may not occasionally attend church."

It is possible to be a Christian in this sense and at the same time not to be a disciple in any biblical sense. Consequently, the Church needs to reclaim the practices of being disciples — Comer prefers the word apprentices — of Jesus Christ.

What is an apprentice of Jesus? According to Comer, the word describes "anyone whose ultimate aim is to be with Jesus in order to become like him and live the way Jesus would live if he were in their shoes." This definition includes what we believe, but it doesn't stop there. It includes how we feel and how we behave too.

Comer wrote *Practicing the Way* in order to help readers move toward greater Christlikeness from their current spiritual location.

He summarizes the goals of an apprentice of Jesus under three headings:

1. Be with Jesus.
2. Become like Jesus.
3. Do what Jesus did.

Being with Jesus means putting into practice what He taught when He said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me" (John 15:4, ESV). Later, Brother Lawrence called this "the practice of the presence of God." Comer calls it "turning God into a habit." To be with Jesus is simply to cultivate an awareness of Jesus' presence with us throughout the day.

Apprenticeship to Jesus is desirable because the benefits — in this life and the next — outweigh any costs.

Becoming like Jesus, as Comer defines it, is "the process of being formed into people of love in Christ." The primary driver of this process is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit uses teaching, spiritual practices, and community to form us in Christlike love over time, and suffering is often the crucible in which the deepest change takes place.

Doing what Jesus did, according to Comer, involves flowing in the rhythms of “making space for the gospel” (hospitality), “preaching” it (evangelism), and “demonstrating” it (healing, deliverance, prophecy, and justice).

How do we get from where we are spiritually to where apprentices of Jesus need to be?

It’s important to remember that the Holy Spirit is the driver of the process of spiritual formation, not us. Nevertheless, Comer recommends making “a plan for our spiritual lives,” quoting Peter Scazzero. Doing so requires developing a “rule of life” or set of habits that governs how we use our time, talents, and treasures.

Comer writes, “We must arrange our days — our morning routines, our daily habits, our schedules and budgets and relationships, the entire webs of our lives — so that we are deeply enjoying everyday life with God.”

This sounds like a chore, but the reality is that we are following a rule already. It’s just not one that is making us more like Jesus. Consequently, we need to unlearn spiritually deformative habits and learn spiritually formative ones.

These habits include, but are not limited to, traditional spiritual disciplines such as sabbath, solitude, prayer, fasting, Bible study, Christian community, generosity, service, and evangelism. These disciplines are means by which we become more like Jesus in thought, feeling, and action — not ends in and of themselves.

Comer closes *Practicing the Way* by talking about the Cross. Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Emphasizing the cost of discipleship may seem like a weird way to recommend discipleship.

But Jesus immediately went on to say, “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it” (verse 24).

Discipleship has a cost, but so does non-discipleship. As Comer writes:

“Not following Jesus will cost you even more. It will cost you, life with God, the very purpose for which you were created. It will cost you access to the inner life of the

Trinity, the ‘peace ... which transcends all understanding’ and the ‘joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory’ [Philippians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:8, ESV]. It will cost you freedom from the bondage of sin, healing from the wounding of sin, forgiveness from the guilt and shame of sin, and adoption into the family of God out of the isolation of sin.”

Apprenticeship to Jesus is desirable, then, because the benefits — in this life and the next — outweigh any costs.

I recommend *Practicing the Way* as an accessible, engaging introduction to spiritual formation for all readers. Pastors and other church leaders might consider it as a text in Sunday School classes, small groups, and discipleship classes. The back of the book lists several additional resources produced by Comer’s ministry, also called *Practicing the Way*.

John Mark Comer, *Practicing the Way: Be With Jesus, Become Like Him, Do as He Did* (Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook, 2023).