

Sunday morning text and Sermon

Restoration work - Nehemiah - chapters 2 & 3 Following God's lead.

Nehemiah 2

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."

I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. So I went to the governors of Trans-euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work. (Questions for further study on this passage are on the church website www.testwoodbaptist.org)

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We value your feedback – please use this tear off slip.

Feedback/comments/prayer requests



Sun 31st Jan

Welcome to Testwood Baptist Church

This morning

Welcome to Testwood as we meet to worship God today. Refreshments will be served after both services. This morning Leigh Barnard will be speaking from Nehemiah 2 & 3. There is crèche provision & children & young people's groups for 3 – 14s. Please let us know if there are specific needs we can help with (e.g. a large print version of this newsletter.) A Welcome Pack is available at the Welcome Desk if you're new to church, and someone will be there to answer any questions.

This evening

This evening, in our service at 6 p.m, Gordon Tuck will be introducing the new theme we'll be following through on Sunday evening – "Uncovering truth".

Uncovering truth (New Sunday evening series)

It's all too easy to veer away from the truth God has shown us in the Bible. Coming back to these truths can be a major way God restores our faith & our zeal to serve Him. We'll be using five 16th century slogans to challenge ourselves to look at our own lives – individually and as a church – and uncover the awesome power of God, the gospel of His grace.

- Faith alone (Jan 31 – Gordon Tuck),
- Scripture alone (Feb 14 – Dave Parry),
- Christ alone (Feb 21 – Gordon),
- Grace alone (Feb 28 – Gordon),
- Glory to God alone (Mar 14 – Leigh Barnard).

Please pray for

- The elders as they meet on Monday evening,
- Healing on the Streets by Asda over Saturday lunch time
- And for the on-going work of the church right through this week.

www.testwoodbaptist.org

023 80860320

Next Saturday Worn Again – Sat Feb 6th

We regularly hold these events where clothes & household textiles that are no longer needed can find new homes with people who need them. So start clearing out ... however, it would help if you didn't bring the goods to the church yet! There's a list at the Welcome Desk to sign up if you can help on the day. It's always great to be part of this team! Any questions? ask Brigitte Kemish or Janice Tuck

Journeys Course

A five week course examining the Christian faith, through real people, amazing stories and changed lives. If you would like to attend please register at the welcome desk or if you would like to invite someone else please take a card from the welcome desk. The course starts on Tuesday 2nd March 8-9.30pm.

Bob Pearce

Tickets for this concert on Sat Feb 20th are now going fast. Do not miss out on this excellent opportunity to invite your friends and neighbours to hear an excellent musician and his talented band. Tickets available from the welcome desk.

“Created”

Di, Claire and Kelly would like to thank everyone who supported Created (formerly known as Tearcraft) over Christmas. Di was really excited to hear that between Testwood and Highfield Church sales, she was one of the top 10 sellers! This means that a lot of people living in some of the world's poorest communities benefited from valuable employment, a fair price and a better future. Thank you!

YFM Coffee Morning

The YFM Coffee Morning runs every Thursday morning (term time only), 9.30 - 11.30, in room 6 at the back of the church. There is a programme set up for each term and a leaflet detailing this, which can be picked up in reception. Everyone welcome!

SPOT Course (Supporting Parents of Teenagers)

YFM will be running a SPOT course starting on Tuesday 23rd February, 10am - 12noon, for 6 weeks. If you're interested, please speak to Kelly Price or contact the YFM office on 023 80860320.

Deacons

At the church members meeting last Tuesday, Dave Brider and Jim Green were voted on to the Leadership Team as deacons. Please pray for them both in their service for God.

Dates for your diary

February

Sat 6th Prayer breakfast
Sat 6th Worn again
Sat 20th Bob Pearce concert
Fri 26th Card making night

March

Tues 2nd Journeys course starts
Sat 6th Prayer breakfast

Also

- Fun Day on the Testwood Rec – Saturday, June 12th (see Dave Brider or Steve Reynolds)
- Church picnic – Sun June 27th after church
- Church camping weekend - July 2nd – 4th (see Fiona & Simon Cowlard) (new site this year)

Request

Could you help support the life of the church? Are you able to give an hour to cleaning the church? If so, please contact Sheila Bevin or Steve Reynolds to join the cleaning team. Some people clean an area every week, others are on a rota. Any time would be greatly appreciated. Thankyou.

Managing Angry Feelings Group

YFM will be running a Managing Angry Feelings Group for children aged between 8 and 10 years, and their parents after half term. If you would like more information please speak to Kelly Price or contact the YFM office on 023 8086 0320.

Request

Are you a graphic designer? If so please speak to Leigh or Hayley Barnard or email hayley@debrasearle.com.

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Your response

If you are a visitor and would like to know more please fill in, tick as appropriate, tear off & place in the offering bags or take to the Welcome Desk.

Name
Address

Telephone
Email

- More about what this church is all about
- Children's or youth activities
- Small groups that meet midweek
- Courses that explore the Christian faith (Alpha/Journeys)