



There are a variety of jobs that will need to be done, including ones that Jonathan and Hazel have done behind the scenes. We will share these with you as we think of them but for now, take a look at the list below and, if you feel you could step into one of the roles, contact anyone in the leadership team.

Flowers

- Look after the large flower pot outside the church main entrance
- Arrange flowers on Sunday morning

Hospitality

- Oversee the coffee team
- Join a team that could be involved in various hospitality events such as open lunches on Sundays
- Decorating for special services - Easter, Christmas, Harvest

The Leadership Team

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Welcome to the May edition of Transition Times.

When we first discussed writing this newsletter on a monthly basis I wondered whether we would have enough to say. Well, as you can see from this edition – there is plenty ☺! We have had some excellent messages on Sunday mornings which have touched on transition. On page 2 we outline some of the key points from the excellent sermon Peter Jackson gave on Sunday 29th April. We have also had a very powerful message from Jonathan on Boundaries on Sunday 6th May. Do listen to it on www.3countieschurch.org/media if you didn't hear it or want to refresh your memory.

The phrase that has stuck with me from Jonathan's message was this: "We will set ourselves up for exhaustion and breakdown if we try to do everything." He was not saying that there is no capacity, that we can't grow or that we should be cautious or safe. But he exhorted us to be realistic. We shouldn't just do things we think need to be done – Jesus didn't respond to every need or opportunity. But we can (and should ☺) step up to carry weight when called to do so by Jesus and when operating from the foundation of his unconditional love.

This week I have been worshipping to a song titled 'River in the Rock' which asks God to 'Open my eyes to see the river in the rock'. As we go into this period of transition, my prayer is that we follow His leading into ALL He has for us – and that we see His supernatural provision just like the people of Israel saw the river open up from a rock, overflowing with generosity and meeting their needs.

With much love,

Dave
On behalf of the leadership team

Peter Jackson gave us three words in his Sunday sermon on 29th April.

CONTINUITY

As you move into this new phase, keep hold of the promises God has made to you, the vision he's given to you as a church - he's given it through Jonathan but not just to Jonathan, to you as a church. There may be a slight change of vision, or direction, it may not be identical to how it's been but fundamentally God's got you on a path that he is wanting to *continue*. God is committed to ministry, to mission, to his kingdom - not to an organisation, not to a leader, not to a structure. It's important to grieve Jonathan leaving, face the loss but don't settle in that grief, don't make disappointment your permanent domain. There will need to be adjustment to what is new, a new way perhaps for you of doing church, different but *continuing*. The new phase requires that you move on, you leave some things behind, you make new plans built on what has been. Everything today will have had value and purpose in the past, give thanks for those things, they are all part of God's continuing work which is now going to move into a new phase.

COURAGE

Courage is based not on feelings or circumstance but on the character of God and the testimony we have of his faithfulness. The things he's done, promises he's kept, let them feed your faith about the future so you're able to step out and discover God's strength. It's in the stepping out that we receive the courage.

COMMITMENT - A three way commitment to:

1. **God's word.** Jonathan has led and taught you well in God's word. Continue to keep God's word central, do not deviate from it. *Do* what it says, don't just hear it. Ask yourselves what do we have to *do* to follow through what God is saying.
2. **One another.** In this time, God calls you to unity, mutual help and concern for one another. This is not a time for individualism or selfishness. We need a sense of body. This becomes a more important commitment when there isn't an overall leader in the church. We surrender to God as we surrender to one another. When it's uncertain, or perhaps there isn't quite the same consistency, when the direction seems less clear, it's easy for people to start to drift off, to find pastures new but you need to stick together, ride the waves and step up to take responsibility.
3. **Leadership.** Until you get a new leader, you need to commit to those who have the responsibility in leading you. It's a difficult time for leaders, they have never been in this position before. Church, your leaders need your love, your care, your support, your loyalty and your encouragement – make it easy for them. Pray for them.

To listen to the full sermon go to www.3countieschurch.org/media

PRAYER

- If you would like prayer updates contact Dave and he will put you on the prayer list: dwright@deloitte.co.uk
- The first Friday of every month is a time for prayer and fasting for the transition. This isn't a request to fast completely from food - you might choose one thing to fast from during the day and set aside some time for prayer. Do join in if you are able wherever you may be on these days. The next one will be Friday 1st June.
- Here are the leadership team meetings coming up if you'd like to pray specifically on these days (meetings take place in the evenings): 20th May, 25th May, 10th June, 15th June and 22nd June.

PRAYER POINTS

- ⇒ Continue to pray for God's presence to go with us, for wisdom and unity.
- ⇒ Thank God for provision of a house in Petworth for Jonathan and Hazel and how 'right' this feels for them at this time.
- ⇒ Thank God for the fresh start at Liquid (now *Sundays at Jack's Flat*) and pray for our teens to go deeper in their faith and draw others into faith and community.
- ⇒ Pray into the hopes and dreams, as well as the concerns, that were shared by people round the tables at our AGM. (If you weren't there, these will be sent out soon.)
- ⇒ Pray that during transition we would remain focused on our vision and what God has called us to do.

If you feel God is saying anything in particular, please do let one of the leadership team know.