

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #1



Q: Now that Jonathan is retired, when will we get a new Senior Pastor?

A: We believe God has clearly said two things: “*What do you have in your hand?*” and “*Be patient*”. We have begun to explore what we have in our hand and we are trying to be patient. We do not envisage ever putting an ad for a new Senior Pastor in Christianity Today magazine – we are such a relational church that we don’t think this would work. The leadership team and wider church family have many relational links to other churches and networks and God may choose to bring someone to us through one of these. This is likely to take time. We have also been advised by wise leaders outside 3CC (including Pete Gilbert) to be open to different shapes of leadership: this could be a traditional full time Senior Pastor, a couple operating together as Senior Pastors or a different team-based model.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the leadership team below or email office@3countieschurch.org.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Welcome to edition three of Transition times. How time has flown! Over the past few months we have been busy focusing on **finishing well** with Jonathan as senior pastor: celebrating his time with us, remembering all God has done through him and Hazel and sending them off on the next stage of their journey. I think the team have done a stunning job on this. If you joined the leaving party at Prestwick Farm or Jonathan and Hazel’s last service with us, I hope you agree!

We also delivered our **transition plan**: which covered prayer and input, planning gathered church until Christmas 2018, delegating Jonathan’s tasks, exploring our culture and communicating with the church.

We **kicked off** the next phase of our journey on Sunday 1st July, focusing on God’s good future for us, as well as for Jonathan and Hazel. If you didn’t catch the sermon, do take the opportunity to listen to it online. It was then wonderful to be out in the community and with other churches on Sunday 8th at the Fringe and have Pete Gilbert with us last weekend bringing his usual mix of challenge and encouragement. We are aware that the **summer** might be a difficult and/or disconnected time, so we have a programme of social events (picnics, walks, etc) led by different people on Sundays after the service. Please pick up a summer bookmark with details and engage with these if you can.

I expect **this phase** of our journey to have ups and downs – we will all need to learn how this new shape works and adjust to sustainable rhythms – but overall I believe we are exactly in the place God wants us to be. I’m excited about what He will do over the next year, particularly as we all step up, in faith, to what He is calling us to be and do.

With much love,

on behalf of the leadership team

TEAM CHANGES



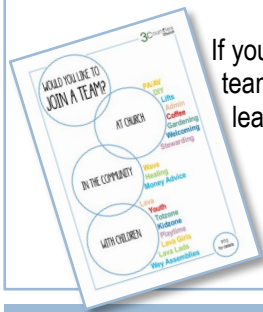
Ian Britton is heading up The Wave team which helps those in need with gardening jobs fortnightly on Saturdays throughout the year. If you'd like to join the team, contact ianbritton@gmail.com



Ingrid Collins will now oversee Sunday Hospitality teams, church lunches and other seasonal events. Contact her if you're interested in getting involved: 76mcrd@gmail.com



Trevor and Mollie Roff have taken over Early Morning Prayers which runs the first and third Friday of each month at 6.30am in the Church lounge.



If you feel called to join a team, please pick up a leaflet to find out more.

We need more lift-givers!



Contact Sonya in the office if you think you could help once in a while.

PRAYER

Prayer Updates

If you would like prayer updates contact Dave and he will put you on the prayer list: dwright@deloitte.co.uk

First Friday Fasting

The first Friday of every month is a time for prayer and fasting for the transition. This isn't a request to fast from food completely - you might choose one thing to fast from and set aside some time for prayer. Do join in if you are able wherever you may be on these days. The next one is *Friday 3rd August*.

Leadership Team Meetings

If you'd like to pray specifically on the days when the leadership team meets, their next meetings are on *Thursday 16th August* and *Sunday 2nd September (evenings)*.

PRAYER POINTS

- ◇ Pray for a seamless house move for the Carters and that they would settle well into their new environment.
- ◇ Pray that the summer would be a time of rest, rejuvenation and refocus for the whole church family.
- ◇ Pray that we would stay connected as a fellowship over the summer and that existing relationships would be strengthened and new ones formed.
- ◇ Pray for a real impact on our community and our young people at events like the Wave, Soul Survivor and any other camps or events you know people are attending.

A MESSAGE TO US received through our website from an old friend

3rd July 2018

Hi Guys

Three Counties Church holds some dear memories for my family and myself. As it was here, that was my home for 23 years having been saved in April 1973. Many of my dearest friends still attend here. In July 1996 we as a family were called to Scotland, which was a big move for us as we had never been further north than Yorkshire at that time. We had so many words of confirmation at that time, that we knew it was right.

Although I have made my home in Scotland I will never forget what Three Counties fed into my life, and because of this I have continued to pray for you over the years and will continue to. The walk with God is not always an easy one for many reasons, and there are seasons which as individuals and as a church we have to go through. We as a Church need to stand together in this for in this and in God we find our strength. The reason I write this e-mail is because I know in times like this, with Jonathan standing down the Church needs our prayers, so I want to support you in this.

My love in Christ to you all.

Graham Blades