

Donations to Immanuel Church, Bethlehem

Thank you to those who have already made a donation to Immanuel Church, your generosity is hugely appreciated. The donations will be being sent in the next week, so if you would still like to give, the easiest way to do this is via our online giving portal at www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/giving



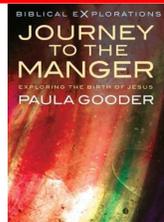
Discipleship and Journeying with God into the New Year:

We are pleased to announce the different ways we can share our journey of discipleship during this time. Please see below:

Daily Blog – What’s happening this week?

This week we will be continuing to look at the Story of Christmas in greater depth through the Paula Gooder book “Journey to the Manger”.

If you would like to follow the Daily Blog as part of your journey of faith, you can access via the “New Creation Facebook Page” : <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/>, via the New Creation website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or New Creation YouTube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXn34qIXIXBeOAmOIM1KbBw/>



NEW Living Faith—The Chosen, Monday 11th Jan at 7.30pm

We will be looking at the new ‘phenomenon’ which is the world crowd funded TV adaptation of the Life of Jesus called “The Chosen.” We will be starting with the screening of the Story of Christmas, “The Shepherds,”



The “Living Faith” group is a great opportunity for anyone who perhaps wishes to explore faith for the first time or who would like to revisit the foundations of their faith to join in, ask questions, or who simply wants to listen as we share what this remarkable piece of Christian television can say to us about the person of Jesus at the centre of our faith.

If you would prefer to watch “The Chosen” in your own time it can be obtained for free, via an App, which can be downloaded to your Smartphone or Tablet or at the Chosen YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheChosenSeries/videos>

For further details of how to join the group please visit the website and Facebook pages: website: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/> or our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches/> PLEASE contact Kirsty Bowles (Lay Pioneer Minister) email: kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk or 07871 513151 to get the code for the Zoom meeting to join in (needed for Safeguarding purposes).

NEW Rule of Life, Tuesday 12th January 7.30pm

The Rule of Life Bible Study Group returns with Series 2 starting on Tuesday 12th January from 7:30 pm until 9pm via Zoom

The plan is to journey with Jesus by studying various episodes and bible passages from His early ministry to learn how we can love Him more deeply and follow Him more closely as His apprentices and disciples. Our journey of six Tuesday evenings starts with the Epiphany celebration of Christ coming in flesh as our light and salvation.

This is a stand-alone set of sessions and you are very welcome, whether or not you attended Series One, the key thing is to get us all opening the Bible together, sharing and praying as we go deeper into the heart of God while renewing our own.

If you would like to attend, please indicate your interest to Nick and Sarah (nick@jarrett-kerr.com or 07768 921166) so they can send you joining instructions and Zoom details.

SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY, 2021 BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Continuing to be a Happy New Year for 2021:

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to this second New Creation Pew News for 2021. Let us keep “Happy” as we move deeper into 2021.



Thought for the week: *“The importance and value of goals, New Year resolutions, and aspirations.”*

There is a wonderful quote that my son has tattooed on his arm, “a man’s reach should exceed his grasp, otherwise what is a heaven for.”



Robert Browning
(Poet - 1889)

It comes from a poem by Robert Browning called “Andrea del Sarto” who was a great but forgotten artist of the period of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael. Andrea del Sarto, unlike his peers, was an artist that no one can remember and the poem is all about him reflecting on his life and, although full of regrets, not least wrestling passionately with his beautiful wife’s infidelity and still loving her, he still holds out for what he calls, “new chances, in the four great walls of the New Jerusalem” (in other words heaven).



Andrea del Sarto
(Artist - 1530)

This is not a poem of defeat or resignation. It is a poem that, whilst recognising that this life may not necessarily been particularly kind or fortuitous to him, still holds out not in bitterness but in hope for a bigger vision, a greater hope and against all the odds; never giving up on dreams, or in believing that things can change, not just for when he gets to heaven but here on earth.

For me, this ‘earthing’ of hope goes to the heart of what it means to be pray in the Lord’s prayer “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” It means having a certain restlessness and refusal to resign in one’s spirit because our eyes are fixed not just on accepting the status quo, but dreaming, hoping and believing in something more – heaven on earth.

We may have had our knocks, things may be tough at the moment, we may feel as if we too have been ‘passed over’ for someone else or by life itself, all things Browning identifies with in his poem. And yet, and yet, he still has Andrea hold out in hope.

Brilliant. And what gives Browning such surety and hope?

I turn to another one of his poems, “The last ride together,” for although it talks about the closeness and intimacy of a human relationship between two partners in the sunset of life in the most romantic and tender of terms, it could so easily also describe the essence of a spiritual life where one has come to discover the strength of not just knowing ‘about’ God, and ‘about’ Jesus but of coming to know Him by wanting to spend time with Him, to walk with Him, talk with Him, look to Him, laugh with Him, cry



“Madonna and child” (Andrea del Sarto) with Jesus and Mary looking out to the world in love together – one of the first times this had been painted

