

# Bearfield Church

Rev David Jewell, Email - [pastor@bearfield.org](mailto:pastor@bearfield.org)

WORSHIP THE LORD  
IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS.

## ***Sunday 15th May***

‘The gifts of the Spirit 3: Words of knowledge and wisdom’

- 1 Cor. 2 v 6 - 16

**Morning service 10.30am -**

with Sue Glanville preaching

All are invited to attend at Bearfield. Alternatively everyone is welcome to join on Zoom (link available from [secretary@bearfield.org](mailto:secretary@bearfield.org))

## ***Next week - Sunday 22nd May***

‘The gifts of the Spirit 4: Faith and preaching’

- from 1 Cor. 12 v 8-10

**Morning service 10.30am -**

with David Jewell preaching

## Weekly wonderings ...

Many of you will know Ella as she grew up in Bradford on Avon and attended Bearfield for a few Sundays before moving to Greece to work with refugees. She has now been there for around nine months and has enjoyed it immensely. However, she has worked as a volunteer which entitles her to a small monthly allowance, but she has had to spend her savings as well. As she is now sensing God's guidance to stay in Greece doing the same work at least until the end of this year, but with the likelihood of remaining longer, I have told her that I will encourage you in the Bearfield congregation who feel moved so to do, to give financially to Ella. This could be a one-off gift or better still, a regular monthly commitment, so that she can continue to do this invaluable work and we can be a blessing through her to those who have nothing. She has given me permission to give out her bank details.

God has blessed you, so that you can be a blessing to others

David

## Update from Greece

Hi Bearfield.

Here is a little update from me 😊

I hope all of you are well at Bearfield and enjoying the beginning of the Summer! Here in Greece it has just started to get really warm, which is great - attendance in our classes has gone up as people are out and about more. With the end of Ramadan last week, we're also expecting more people from the camp to join English classes, so I'm hoping we're coming up to another busy but exciting time!

Another exciting bit of news is that this last week I started running a class to prepare 3 students for an official B1 level English exam! These are our highest-level students, and they have already had to pass a language test to be invited to

the class. The exam is run by an external company and will take place in mid-June in Thessaloniki, and it will give the students a qualification that lasts their whole lives, and is accepted all over the world by employers, universities, official organisations etc., so is incredibly useful. Your prayers would be very much appreciated in the run-up to the exam, that the students would have the time to dedicate to the classes, that I would be able to teach the students well (I've never taught an exam class before), and that they would be confident when the exam rolls around!

People in camp are still getting their documents and leaving for other places, but this has slowed down a bit recently, possibly due to upcoming elections. Please pray for wisdom for the voters, and that those who get into power would lead with compassion and humanity. The camp situation is still very much the same, with people often waiting for months for the decision on their asylum application to come - so they are left in a state of limbo for a long time.

Our teaching team has also changed a lot since my last update. We've had a few short-term volunteers, and I'm hopeful that we will get some more long-term teachers soon for the summer period. My flatmate who has been here many years and who led the English team before I took it on is leaving in 2 weeks, so I am sadly saying goodbye to a mentor and a friend. However, I have taken the decision to stay here in Greece volunteering for A Drop in the Ocean at Nea Kavala camp for the foreseeable future. At the moment I am thinking that that means at least until the end of the year, if not longer. I really feel that this is God leading me to stay and remain faithful to what he has called me here to do. Thank you so much for all of your prayer support over the last months - I would really appreciate your ongoing support in prayer.

As always, please feel free to get in touch with me, I would love to hear how you all are and how everything in Bradford is going!

Lots of love,

Ella

## Message from Simon and Alice

Following Stuart's excellent and thought-provoking sermon on 8th May, we (Simon and Alice) were moved to spontaneously share some recent news. For anyone who could not be at the service, here is a slightly less rambly version....

We often talk about moving just beyond our comfort zone to grow in God's love and increasingly emulate Jesus. However it struck me (Simon) that God often has a very different idea of what your "comfort zone" actually is. So often we limit ourselves to our own much smaller comfort zones, but this limits opportunity for growth. We're coming to realise that God's plans for our lives are much bigger and better than we dare imagine. We should say in what follows, that we feel we are very much operating beyond our comfort zones, at least!

After we get married at the end of July, I (Simon) will be relocating to Cardiff. So we will have an empty property in BoA, which we had planned to rent out. However, God had other plans! God had been speaking to us separately about how we could offer this home as part of the government's "Homes for Ukraine" scheme. But given this is a happily busy (and expensive) year for us, we were both quite anxious about how we would approach this with the other. It was amazing to discover that God was asking exactly the same of the other too!

We have also come to realise that this plan is much bigger than what we can achieve between the two of us. It is certainly not in my (Simon's) nature to ask for help, but we feel that could be one tangible opportunity for the Bearfield community to respond and help show Mr Putin in some small way, that LOVE always wins! We would love to invite each of you at Bearfield to prayerfully consider partnering with us in one or more of these ways:

**a) In prayer: that this whole process would be covered in prayer.**

- That God would help us connect and sponsor the right family who will get the maximum benefit of an empty furnished 3 bed house on the edge of our beautiful town.

-That God would provide exactly what is needed.

### **b) In practical help & support:**

We will be based in Cardiff from August onwards, so won't be able to be hands and feet in the local BoA community. Could you help our guests settle in? Set up bank accounts, register with GPs, local schools etc. orient them to other basic services, and if desired, offer them a welcoming, supportive and loving church community. This would of course need to be done in a safe and appropriate way, respecting safeguarding procedures.

### **c) To give financially: (via the church)**

We have another amazing God story (which we won't go into right now!), but which means that we can cover both mortgages. We will also receive a Government subsidy for up to 12 months to help towards the cost of bills, council tax etc. However, with energy bills going up and the cost of living rising, we don't want to have to say, "please don't put the heating on too much", when they have just had to flee their war-torn home country! We would love to be able to bless our guests, in covering all their bills and any other essentials that they might need. Please prayerfully consider whether this is something you feel able to do, individually lots of small contributions can go a long way.

### **d) To hold us accountable:**

As well as Bearfield receiving and keeping us accountable for any money donated to support the family, we are letting people know about this now to help make sure it still happens at a busy time for us! If it doesn't happen by September - please feel free to call us out on it, and then support us to make it happen!

Here's to knowing God's comfort zone, not ours!

Love *Simon & Alice*.

P.S. If you are interested in finding out more about this, or other ways to get involved locally there is a coffee morning at Holy Trinity at 10:30 on Saturday 14th May, and a Bearfield meeting at Paul and Joy's on Wednesday 18th May at 20:00.

Bearfield Church Youth Group

raised a grand total of

**£555**

for TEN Crisis Fund for Ukraine

A **BIG** thank you to all  
who donated,  
baked, served and  
supported us!



## **This Week**

### **Tuesday 17th May**

10.30am - Morning homegroup (*on Zoom*)

8pm - Evening homegroup *@ Kate's*

### **Wednesday 18th May**

10.30am - Oasis

1.30pm - Bearcubs Fun Time toddler Group

8pm - Evening homegroup *@ SA's*

### **Friday 20th May**

7pm - TGI *PJ's and pudding*