

4 Ancaster Road

Leeds

16th March 2026

Dear Friends

Here are a few encouragements and prayer requests for Christ Church Central, Leeds. We're grateful as ever for all your support!

Recent encouragements

- Earlier in the month we took in about 20 new members, representing several different nationalities.

- We've also had high numbers at our Adult Sunday School, likely due to the topic: the Spiritual Realm. Angels, demons, spiritual warfare: for better or worse it got people out of bed more easily than a series on church history!



Sunday School in action!

- We've also had three adult professions of faith. Interestingly all three had been baptised as infants in the Roman Catholic Church, two in South America and one here in England. None attended church much since their baptisms, but all have now come to faith in their early twenties. One young woman, Naomi, was prompted into getting hold of a bible and reading it after thinking 'religion' seems to start so many wars, she ought to see what people were so worked up about! She's been attending CCCL for about 10 months, and made her public profession of faith last Sunday.

Prayer Requests

- We've a ruling elder candidate, Michael, being examined by presbytery this month. IPC is, I think, somewhat unusual, in that a commission or presbytery rather than just the local session, examine REs. Please pray he'd acquit himself well and be called to serve!
- An evangelistic course, 'Encounters with Jesus' is currently running with four folk attending. It's led by a young couple in our church, Jake and Natasha. Please pray for conversions, and for Jake and Natasha as they lead.
- As ever we covet prayer for a long term home for CCCL. We're bursting the capacity of our current Sunday morning hire, and will have to leave at some point in the next 9 months probably, due to building works. We have no alternative at all at the moment! Please pray for a short term solution, and the funds to buy our own place.
- CCCL and in particular Jonty and Brett (one of our REs) largely run a new IPC event called The Spring Getaway. Meeting in Keswick, in the Lake District, it's a conference open to anyone across the denomination or outside. We started two years ago and had 200 along. Last year we had 400. And this year we've over 650. It'll be the week after Easter. Please pray for smooth running, David Meredith from the Free Church of Scotland who's preaching Esther, plus all the kids and youth work. We hope in part it will help give people in IPC churches, many of which are small plants, a feel for the wider denomination.

Sabbatical

Finally, I (Jonty), am going on sabbatical in May for three months. I've been ordained 19 years now, but not done this before so I'm entering it with both excitement and some trepidation! Please pray it would be a refreshing time, not least for Georgina and the children. We've had some amazing provision that means we'll spend a couple of months in the USA, in Florida to begin with, then a road trip through some of the National Parks in Utah, and then finally some time in Denver, where a friend has kindly let us stay in his house while he's away. We're excited, as are the kids: we've four girls and a boy, aged 12 down to 4, so it feels like it's come at a 'good' time – old enough they'll remember it, not so old it's interrupting major exams or schooling. One of the big hopes is that it'll be a refreshing time for George and the family: she's in the middle of homeschooling all five so deserves a sabbatical more than I do!

I'm currently the only Minister at CCCL, so please pray for the elders and Zac, our trainee minister, as they pick up lots more work, both on Sundays and pastorally during the week.