



THE WELL

Winter Newsletter

Welcome to our second Women's Ministry newsletter. A lot has been happening since the last one. We have now had three Women's Walks, where 20-30 women have met together on a Saturday morning for around a one-hour walk followed by a coffee and chat. These have been lots of fun and a great opportunity for women to get to know each other, whilst also doing some exercise and getting some fresh air (and cake)! A big thank you to Marian Potts for organising these. We're always looking for new ideas of where to walk, so please feel free to share these with Marian or Deb. We aim to continue to have these on a bimonthly basis so watch out for future dates! We also had our first evening event together back in September. We had an amazing turn out, where 70 women came together for fun (with prizes to be won), great food and fellowship together. This was an opportunity for us to launch and share the vision for the women's ministry here at Bethany. Here's a recap for those who were there, and an overview for those who weren't. After lots of behind the scenes prayer and discussion, a small group of us came to the conclusion that our women's ministry should be called 'The Well'.

The place where:

- * women come together for community;
- * every woman is welcome - no matter what her age or stage of life, no matter what her background or current situation;
- * women come to meet Jesus, who gives us the living water.

Why The Well?

'The Well' was inspired by John Ch 4 when Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. Just like Jesus saw the Samaritan woman despite all her faults, he sees us too and can use us even when we may not feel good enough. At the Well, we want women to know how loved and valuable they are and we want to encourage women to step out and use the gifts that God has given them. We want to see women transformed through spending time in Jesus' presence, just like the Samaritan woman, she immediately left her jar and went to share the good news, are we willing to do that too? Jesus wants to speak to you too, you don't have to come to him and be perfect he wants to speak to you just as you are, He is waiting for you just as you are. The woman in the bible went to the well to get water which they needed for day to day life and was offered living water by Jesus. We too need the living water Jesus is offering us. We need to keep coming to Jesus to be refreshed and have our buckets filled regularly. We need to return to the well to be filled, refreshed and revived and to grow in our faith and relationship with God. We would love for every woman at Bethany to have a place at The Well. Please come and speak to Deb if you would like to find out more or like to be part of 'The Well'



The idea is that 'The Well' is not just an event that might take place a couple of times a year (although we will have those too), but that this is a whole community of women who are **continually** supporting and encouraging each other in their relationships with each other and in their relationship with Jesus. We have several ways in which we hope to do that. We aim to have a number of teams where people can access support but can also serve. These will include:



Small groups – more small groups for women in the church.

One to ones – connect women together on a one-to-one basis, either through prayer partners or a mentor/mentee system.

Events – a variety of different events to suit different people. We would love to build a team of people to help us do this.

Well-Being – to meet the practical needs of the women in the Church (such as meals, lifts, babysitting, home or hospital visits). Therefore, we aim to build a team of people who can help us to co-ordinate and to provide this support.

Hospitality – building a team of people who are able to serve in this way (e.g. inviting people into their homes, or helping with catering for events etc).

Communications – initially we aim to send out a newsletter a few times in the year. We would love to build a team of people to co-ordinate this, gathering testimonies and book reviews from others. We eventually aim to have a social media account where we can share encouragements and advertise up and coming events.

We realise this a big vision and it is going to take some time. Please be patient with us as we journey through this, trying to prioritise, and making sure we get it right. There will be tweaks and changes along the way we're sure. Thank you to those who signed up to some of these teams on the evening in September....we haven't forgotten you and have been working out the next steps to take this forward and will be in touch in the New Year. We hope to have many others who will want to get involved too! If you would like to discuss this further please see Deb or Nicola. We'll be available to chat at the welcome desk after the service over the next couple of weeks or send us a message via the church office.

Dates for your diary

27th January 2024 The Well Breakfast and Walk (more details to follow)

1st March 2024 An Evening at The Well (more details to follow)

23rd March 2024 The Well Walk (more details to follow)

Women's Conference

The Northern Women's Convention is taking place at Stockton Baptist Church on 3rd February 2024 10am -3:30pm. The theme is Greater Persevering because of Jesus. If you would like more information there are fliers at the information desk or visit www.christianconventions.org.uk/nwc.