

9<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**H**ello and welcome to Jubilee Church.

This week Stephen Morris is going to be speaking on what Jesus had to say about poverty.

The subject of poverty is of incredible importance right now and immensely challenging. I've been reading a provoking book called **The myth of the undeserving poor** by Martin Charlesworth & Natalie Williams who lead **Jubilee+**. (There's more information about **Jubilee+** further down.)



They challenge the perception of the easy stereotypes when it comes to the subject of poverty. That we can often find ourselves shaped and influenced by the media into a 'them' and 'us' view of the 'deserving' vs 'undeserving' poor. They ask the question... *"When you think of poverty in Britain today, do you picture innocent children going without food or scroungers lounging on the sofa all day watching TV and cheating on benefits claims?"*

We are living through an unprecedented crisis. In the UK, since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, nearly two million people have applied for universal credit benefits, that's in addition to the existing 2.6 million people who receive universal credit as of October 2019 - just six months earlier. Unemployment levels are forecast to rise as we read of sweeping redundancies across job sectors, as an example, one Manchester restaurant received 1000 applications for a receptionist job.

*"According to the British Government's definition of poverty – households living with an income below 60% of the median household income – and its own statistics released in 2014, almost a quarter of working-age adults in the UK are living in absolute poverty and over 20 million people are in poverty as a whole."* **The myth of the underserving poor**

Those numbers are only likely to worsen over the coming years and it is becoming evidently clearer that as Christians we have a responsibility to act to help those in need.

Stephen Morris is going to unpack this challenging subject further by sharing what instructions Jesus had for us on how to support the poor and perhaps, providing us with practical suggestions of how we can respond now.

**Tim Cowles**  
**Elder**

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### **BAGS OF FOOD**

[jubileechurchshepperton.org/bagsoffood](http://jubileechurchshepperton.org/bagsoffood)



Thank you to the vegetable growers at the allotments in Grove Road for bringing their delicious fresh vegetables along for our families on Mondays. Some of the families we've been supporting have been able to return to work, we received a lovely message from one of these family.

*I just wanted to take the time to thank you for all your help over the previous couple of months. You have helped us so much, and your generosity and kindness will always be remembered.*

Please continue to pray for Bags of Food and the families being supported.

#### **We continue to need:**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| • Squash         | • Cleaning products |
| • Long life milk | • Laundry products  |
| • Biscuits       | • Shampoo           |
| • Toothpaste     | • Shower gel        |

*We have plenty of baked beans, tinned tomatoes, soup and pasta at the moment. Thank you for your generosity.*

The Jubilee Centre remains open **(9.00am-4.00pm)** but in the event that no one is there we have a box in the porch where donations can be placed.

## DEBTSCAPE SHEPPERTON

Debtscape started in 2005 as 3 churches working together. In 2012 the single debt centre became two debt centres while the third church created a foodbank. Jubilee Church Shepperton continued with the debt centre and it was renamed Debtscape Shepperton.



We work with people in Spelthorne and parts of Elmbridge. Debtscape Shepperton is affiliated to Community Money Advice who provide training and expertise. There are 3 advisers, John and Diana who have been there from the beginning and Ray who joined us a few years later.

We are currently helping 25 households, who are at various stages of becoming debt free as each household has different needs and solutions. The pandemic has made it difficult for them depending on their employment status and family circumstances. It's also made it harder for us to visit them to help and get documents signed.

Those we have helped are recommending family and friends which is great because debt is one of the hardest things to admit to. In the past couple of years we have also seen or heard how some are joining different churches.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that the team build good relationships with those they're supporting
- Pray for those being supported that they will see God's love for them personally
- Pray for more advisers to join the team

## JUBILEE+

**Jubilee+** exists to equip churches to engage more effectively with their communities and, particularly, to help them increase their capacity to serve the poor.

The Jubilee+ logo is a blue speech bubble shape with the text "Jubilee+" in white. It is positioned to the right of the Jubilee+ text paragraph.

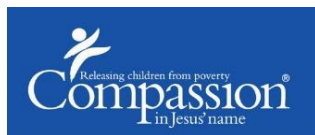
Jubilee+

Many of the talks from last years conference **Churches that Change Communities 2019** are available on the **Jubilee+** website. The 2 keynote ones are particularly worth listening to. [www.jubilee-plus.org/media](http://www.jubilee-plus.org/media)

This years conference is being held online on Saturday 7 November, do get in touch with Diana if you'd like to know more about **Jubilee+** or are interested in joining the conference this year.

## COMPASSION

Back in February we celebrated our partnership with Compassion and began supporting a project in Rwanda. Thank you to everyone who committed to sponsoring a child!



Since then COVID-19 has greatly increased the need among the countries and communities where Compassion church partners work. For those who live in extreme poverty, everything about COVID-19 is magnified: the risk, the fear, the uncertainty, the life-and-death realities. Children and families living in poverty are the most vulnerable in every way. They have no safety net. Hygiene is a luxury for many. If parents can't go out and work due to mandatory isolation, families can't eat. Through Compassions COVID-19 Emergency Appeal they're empowering church partners to extend their care further by providing children, families and wider communities with health and stability through hygiene, food and housing security.

To find out more about Compassion and support their COVID-19 response visit their website: [www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org) If you already sponsor a child through Compassion you can find the latest updates about the impact on the country they live in here: [www.compassionuk.org/news/corona-virus-update](http://www.compassionuk.org/news/corona-virus-update)

Please continue to keep Compassion in your prayers - especially the staff, church partners, communities and children in those countries hardest hit by this global pandemic.



## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August

**10.30am:** Morning worship (on YouTube)

**Preacher:** Stephen Morris

**Theme:** Jesus on... Poverty

This Sunday's message and worship can be found on our [YouTube channel](#) the message will premiere at 10:30am. Previous weeks are also available for you to catch up or watch again.

### This week's diary

Most groups are currently meeting online, although some are meeting in person in line with current guidance. Contact us if you'd like to join any of our groups.

#### Monday 10 August

8.00pm Prayer Meeting  
Home groups

#### Thursday 13 August

8.00pm FAITH - youth home group  
Home Groups

#### Tuesday 11 August

8.00pm Focus Bible Study  
Home Groups

#### Friday 14 August

#### Wednesday 12 August

Oak Tree Café  
Home Groups

#### Saturday 15 August

Addiction Recovery Group

Apologies if any groups have been missed off this week's diary, do get in touch if you'd like to be included in future.

## Next week: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August

**10.30am:** Morning worship (on YouTube)

**Preacher:** Dave Webb-Peploe

**Theme:** Jesus on... Possessions

### JUBILEE CHURCH DIARY DATES

30 August 7-8pm Commission Together @ Home (online)

**STAFF DAYS OFF:** Jo Jones: Friday; Dave Webb-Peploe: Wednesday

**WORKING DAYS:** Jenny Wilsher: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Jubilee Church Shepperton is the working name of Shepperton Community Church (Registered charity number 1023505). We are part of Commission, and a member of the Evangelical Alliance.



**Commission**

Commission is an international family of churches united by a shared passion for Jesus and his mission, and a clear vision to see 'thousands of lives transformed through hundreds of churches in tens of nations'. Commission is led by Guy Miller with teams of leaders and is enthusiastically part of the wider Newfrontiers family of churches.