

Pastor's News – Prologue from Oly



Dear Church Family,

As we commence 2026, I always liken any new year starting to school days and the joy of a brand-new exercise book. Let me make a confession; I have always had terrible handwriting! However, I would always try extra hard with a brand-new exercise book, with my neatest handwriting hoping to keep it up for the whole book! But sadly, by page 2 or 3 my writing was typically back to normal.

The reality being, that we do not know what this year 2026 will bring - both good or bad. But God's promise is that, even in the challenges of life, He will never leave us or forsake us.

We will start the year 2026, no doubt, with good intentions like my neater handwriting effort from school days. Maybe a gym membership or a New Year's resolution? It will very likely feel that, at times, we've messed it up again! But know this - we are not alone and that the Holy Spirit is our eraser and enabler. Thank you, Lord, that your word says. "You will remember my sin no more."

I recently did a series on "Waiting on the Lord"

Psalm 40:1-3

**I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.**

Rock Church 2026

Can I encourage you to lean in and commit afresh in 2026 and really be purposeful in your commitment to God and indeed here at the life of The Rock Church! We start the year with 21 days of prayer & fasting, where we get an opportunity to really lean in, wait patiently and pray and seek the Lord's face. Then, I believe God will fulfil His word. We have the opportunity to spend time resting in His presence:

2026

**He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.**

God bless saints

Oliver

JANUARY



Jan 11th - 31st - 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

We will start the year looking at Alignment and how can we get closer to Jesus?

Alongside this we will challenge ourselves to walk in gratitude and humility before the Lord. Our key focus for the month will be 21 days of prayer and fasting. Do get involved!

We are going to meet every night in the building between 6:30pm-7:30pm. We are looking at a different theme each night of the week. Some folks are fasting throughout the day and then breaking the fast after the evening meeting.

Others are fasting from social media and some are going to try to fast food for the whole 21 days. The key thing is that the 21 days bring us into alignment with God and His plans and purposes for our lives.

FEBRUARY



We had a great time over Christmas celebrating together over food. At the Rock Church it is fantastic that we come and gather from so many different nations from around the globe. We see this as an answer to our prayers over many years.

On Sunday 8th February we have our inaugural "International Sunday". So please come along dressed in something from your national dress. Could you share a song or testimony? Whether you come from Scotland or Sierra Leone, do make every effort to be with us on this special Sunday! Kilts or African dress. All are welcome. Invite a friend!

Please see Mary or Carol (Simon or Tracey) - we ideally would love to share fellowship over food.

Conference Season

Every quarter we host a conference at Rock Church. This is so vital for our spiritual growth. We host two conferences in Bradford and two in Walsall. We call this the Rock Network. Have you ever been to Rock Walsall?

We also have the Green Room conference on Feb 27th - 28th at Rock Walsall. So do get booking your hotel early for the Friday night. We have Joe Benjamin as our keynote speaker.



- Feb. 6th - Rock Coffee Shop. Pray with Pastor
- Feb. 6th - Awaken Youth – Please See Dan
- Feb. 8th - International "Taste of the World" Sunday
- Feb. 27th - 28th - Green Room Conference - Walsall

MARCH

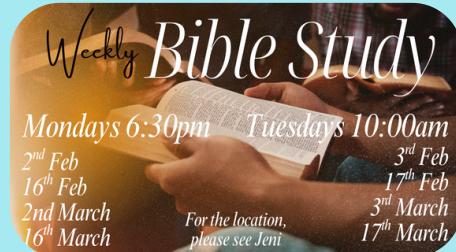


It is always fantastic when anyone decides to take the next step in their faith. Believers' baptism is such an important step. If you are interested in this vital next step in your faith, then please do speak with Neil & Sheila Pearson.

In March, we also have our Rock Church AGM which is open to anyone who considers Rock Church to be their home church. We have a time of worship as well as sharing about the vision and where the finances have been allocated throughout 2025. If you have any questions, then please let Louise Hattersley or Oliver have them in advance.

- Mar. 6th - Pray with Pastor - Rock Coffee Shop
- Mar. 6th - Youth Meet - (11-16 age group)
- Mar. 8th - Baptism Sunday - please consider this.
- Mar. 15th - Mother's Day Service & Guest Speaker - Andy and Janine Goggins From HCF
- Mar. 18th - Rock AGM
- Mar. 22nd - Youth Takeover Service
- Mar. 29th - HCF Band - Easter Special

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS



The theme for February and March is Holiness. Monday evening sessions start at 6:30pm with food. The bible study starts at 7:00pm. The Tuesday morning sessions start at 10:00am on the first and third Tuesday of the month, with the Bible Study and food (coffee and cakes) is provided after the study. There is no set time for the end of the sessions, people generally go home around 9:30-10:00pm on Mondays and by 1:00pm on Tuesdays.



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SAVE THE DATES



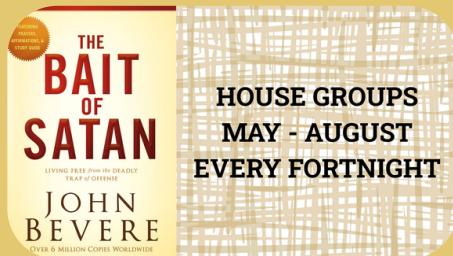
- April 3rd - Good Friday. Amazing news we have the Watoto Children's Choir. This promises to be a powerful weekend.



- April 5th - Easter Sunday. Interested in joining our very own Rock Church Choir? Do speak with Fiona or Helena.



- April 24th /25th /26th - The Send - Youth Weekend followed by "The Send" taking our Rock Church Sunday service.



- May-Aug - Would you be interested in attending or hosting a fortnightly house group? From May-Aug we will be running with mid-week house groups studying a book by John Bevere. "The Bait of Satan". Please see David Wilford for further details. Sign-up sheets will be coming shortly.



- Walking Group - Please see Diana Wilford for further details.



- June - Youth Weekend away age 11-18 @ Keswick. See Dan



- July 3rd /4th - Beloved Ladies Conference - save the date! With Rachel and Steve Mawson - Soul Church.