



## ***AUGUST 2021 Newsletter***

Hello friends! It's lovely to be back after a week away. It can be hard to actually 'rest' if you stay at home for holidays – there are always things to do in the house or garden, so despite all the driving around, it was good to go away and spend time with friends and beside the sea.



God knows we can get very tired in mind and body and laid down rules about not working without a break. This is where Sabbath comes from – a weekly pattern of work and rest. Ancient Israel also had quite a large number of festivals (including three different harvest festivals!) when people were expected to stop work and worship, usually with family. This ensured regular holy days (holidays) throughout the year.

Perhaps for many at Green Lane, going away is not possible, for physical or financial reasons. I would encourage you all, though, to try to develop a pattern of work and rest, including breaks to celebrate festivals and special days. This is not lazy or self-indulgent, but necessary for our wellbeing. When Elijah was worn out and depressed, God first gave him rest, food and more rest before calling him out to the wilderness to deal with the underlying spiritual weariness. God does expect us to offer ourselves the same level of care we would offer to others.

In the passage from Isaiah with which we start our August preaching series, God promises, **“Do not be afraid—I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine.**

**2 When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you.”**

We may be feeling daunted or dismayed by the uncertainty of the next six months and more, but can trust that God is faithful; He will bring us through, though perhaps in unexpected ways. We must all pray for discernment and ask for eyes to see what new thing God is doing.

If you can't get away for a break, perhaps you could walk in places you do not often visit, or keep your eyes open for beauty in unexpected places – take time to see the flowers and smell them too!



Before I went away, we finally held my brother's memorial service, with family and friends from North and South. Whilst we were sorrowful at his death at a relatively young age, it was good to share stories of every stage of his life. It was also the day we heard Gretel had died, so please continue to pray for Ezra and the wider family.

*God bless, Sarah*



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### Autumn Fayre

We are planning to hold a mini Autumn Fayre on **Saturday, 11th. September, from 11-00 a.m. To 2-00 p.m.** and we look for a good financial result to give the Boiler Fund a good boost.

At the time of writing we anticipate some of the usual stalls comprising: gifts, tombola, toys, refreshments, etc. If the weather is pleasant we are hoping to have the stalls outside on the car park.

For this venture to be successful **we need your support** by donating items for the stalls and bringing your friends and relatives to attend the event on the day. If you would like to assist on one of the stalls please let me know.

Please advertise the Fayre by telling your friends and acquaintances and if you are able to display a poster at home or in a shop window, etc. we would be very grateful.

John Jenkinson



### **\*Help Green Lane Baptist Church pay for new boiler\***

#### **GoFundMe campaign**

Jessica and John Kirby are passionate about climbing and we are passionate about the community work that our local church provides.

#### **Twam News Update – by Fred Stainthorpe**

Twam sent 8 full containers of tools last year to Africa

#### **Monday lunch time prayer group:**

The prayer group is a Waatsaap video call at 1pm for approx 20-30 mins every Monday

If you wish to join Contact Jessica Kirby or Debbie Hardiman and they will add you into the WhatsApp group

#### **Back to walking in the Garden of Eden**

Willenhall Memorial Park at the Dartmouth Avenue entrance at 11am. We meet every two weeks.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021

To join contact Contact Jessica Kirby or Fred Stainthorpe

#### **Walking is a man's best medicine: Walking group**

#### **Venue:**

TBC but past walks have included the Wrekin, Malvern Hills, Sutton Park.

The dates and times are confirmed by the group and they average around once every two months.

**Interested Contact Jessica Kirby or Leyone Sylvester to express your interest and suggestions.**