



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Green Lane  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## January 2023 Newsletter

### IF I RULED THE CHURCH

“Every day would be the first day in Spring”, sang Harry Secombe. He would have done a lot of good but his intentions were never realised. If I ruled the Church, (an unlikely possibility) we would never sing Christmas carols until Christmas Eve. We would make much more of the traditional Twelve Days. It is hardly likely that my wishes would come to pass either. The Church has almost equalled the world in advancing the dates for the first Carol Service of the year. On Dec 25<sup>th</sup> we have exhausted our hymn books’ contents (and almost ourselves). In the process we have neglected an important aspect of the Gospel, namely Advent. Even if average church members knew the meaning of the word, they might wonder how we could fill the five Sundays. Their hymnals would give us scant help. Christmas hymns outnumber advent hymns by a ratio of three to one generally.

One of the key texts which should redress the balance is Paul’s word to the Corinthian church that Christ died for our sins, “*according to the scriptures*”. The Old Testament is more than a random collection of stories with some proof texts included here and there. Its 39 books form a spiritual lava stream flowing continuously from the beginning and its theme is God’s coming to mankind.

God always takes the initiative. When the couple He created rebel against Him and hide, He comes in search for them. In pronouncing judgement on them, He leaves some hope (Gen. 3:15) and the rest of the story relates how He eventually finds them or rather how He finally comes back into our fallen race.

From that moment He seems to remain remote and judgemental. He appears again in Genesis 12, calling on Abram to become a nomadic believer in the one true God. The various events in Abram’s life, though apparently not very religious.

Rev Fred

### January pulpit schedule

1st: Rev. Mike Buck, our moderator,  
(from Londonderry Baptist Church, Oldbury).

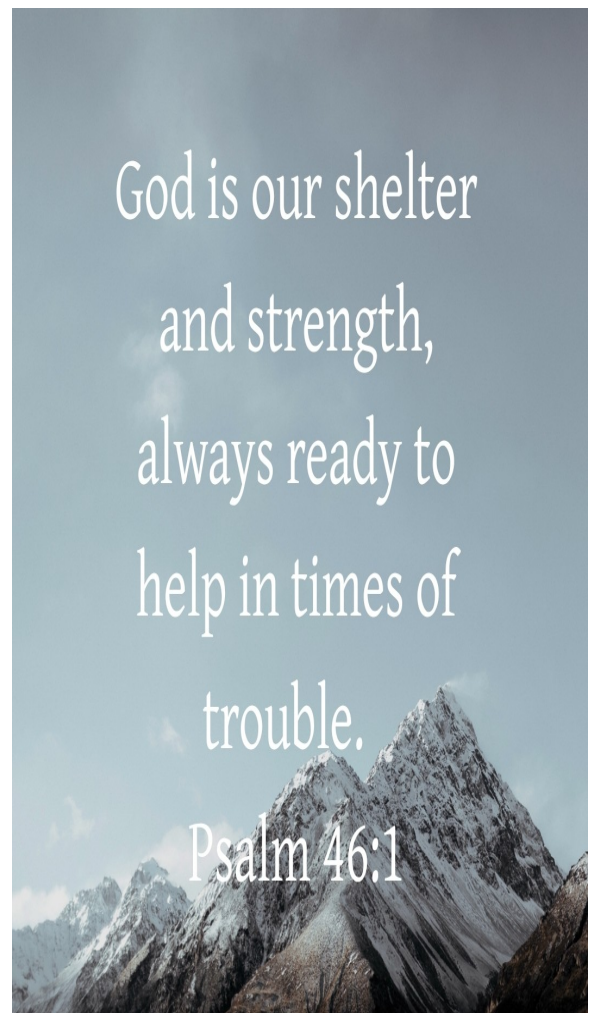
8th: Jackie Humphries  
(from the Tipton Christian Church).

15th: Siimon Bhardwaj  
from the Bilston Resource Centre).

22nd: Adam Bhardwaj  
(from the Bilston Resource Centre).

29th: Jackie Humphries  
(from the Tipton Christian Church).

GLBC Verse for the Year 2023.



God is our shelter  
and strength,  
always ready to  
help in times of  
trouble.

Psalm 46:1





