

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

The apostles never realised that Jesus was going to send them all over the known world when He called them to follow Him. We can be glad that they and their successors obeyed Him. Some came to Britain long ago and preached the Gospel to our ancestors. Ultimately every church in this country owes its origin to foreign missionaries. We are their successors.

Jesus' command still applies to us. It is not merely a suggestion. If we neglect it we are dishonouring those who brought the Word to us and we are cutting off the branch we sit on.

It is a privilege to spread the Gospel abroad. It is good news and all of us are honoured to support missions. The Gospel does more than any other organisation can. It offers forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, the support of His Spirit, the transformation of societies and hope beyond the grave.

Compassion should also motivate us. Missions reach people in the poorest parts of the world where people know least about Jesus. They bring healing, feeding, literacy and justice to those worst off. Operation Agri and the Shoebox Appeal form part of this as does TWAM.

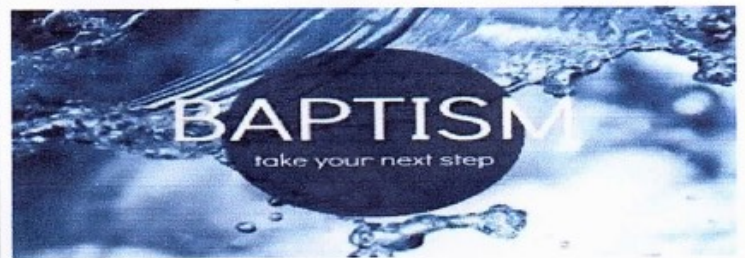
We are linked with Peter and Louise Lynch in Bangladesh, as well as David and Michele Mahon in Peru. Our role is to support them by prayer and giving. In addition let us not forget Graham Samson, Gemma Leadley and the Millns, who visited us on several occasions. They are still serving God elsewhere.

Paradoxically it is in our best interest to support missions. God rewards generosity. Oswald Smith, the great missionary pastor from Toronto, used to say, "The church which puts missions first will always prosper". The history of his church proves the truth of his words. We all want Green Lane to prosper. If you can think of a better way please let us know.

Rev Fred

Baptism & Membership

Join us for a special celebration on June 18th for a baptism service. This month we are also looking forward to welcoming a new family into church membership. Information about baptismal classes and applying for membership are available from the deacons. Please make yourself known.



Kitchen Improvement Project

After a five-year wait the time has come to press forward with the kitchen refurbishment scheme. We received a very generous grant of £10,000 from the Walsall based trust the Victor Street Almshouses Trust late last year, which has enabled the committee to organise quotes. At the present time it is estimated that the whole revamp will cost £15,000. We have £12,500 at the moment and discussions are continuing about how we can raise the remainder. A simple drawing with more details will be made available for viewing in time for our AGM. The aim is to get have the work carried out by builder/fitter CJ Properties in August, God willing. We are very grateful to the trustees for their generosity and a letter of thanks has been sent from the church to them. The improvements will provide a better catering style facility, a bit more space, some new and larger appliances and much needed TLC to the kitchen fabric.

We are also working in partnership with charity Foodcycle which is appealing for volunteers to help cook or greet the diners who come in on Wednesday evenings for a free three-course meal. If you are in a position to sign up please visit:

foodcycle.org.uk/volunteer-roles/



Rear View - a look at last recent highlights

What a bostin' bank holiday fun was had by all at the Green Lane Community Open Day in partnership with Burrowes Street Tenant Management Organisation(TMO). It was a good opportunity to get reconnected with the neighbourhood which has seen families move in and out in the coronavirus period during which we were forced to close the building for 15 months. It was pleasing to see so many people pop in to say "hello", families enjoying the children activities, listening to the band, and tucking into some free cake. Around 50 people went on the free vintage bus ride to the Barr Beacon area courtesy of Burrowes Street TMO and Aston Manor Transport Museum based in Aldridge. There was supposed to have been a 'Best Dressed' competition, but this was changed to a 'Best Crown' competition instead. The winning children's entry for the voucher prize went to Yu, aged nine for his fabulous effort. The prizes were due to be delivered to both Yu and the winning adult. See Green Lane Baptist Church Facebook for the pictures.

We are building a stock of new and second hand Bibles which will be given away. We are sometimes approached for copies by people from the neighbourhood and we also have a Bible bank which is well used. If you have copies that are no longer being read do bring them in. We are in touch with the Good News for Everyone team who helped to arrange our recent purchases.

Representatives have been making the most of the many Christian gatherings in the area. Groups have been out and about attending a Love Black Country evening service in Wolverhampton, and the Walsall Churches Pentecost Service at St Matthew's in the town. Congregations are being encouraged to grow in faith and love, and to work together in unity in the name of Jesus using our differences as strengths. Next month we can look forward to outdoor events such as the Together Festival at Himley Park near Dudley on July 8th and the Come-Unity Christian Festival on July 16th at Hickman Park in Bilston. For more details see the notice-boards.

Guest Preachers

Sunday 4th. June: Jackie Humphries.

Sunday 11th. June: Maxine Chamberlain (followed by Church A.G.M. and "Bring & Share" Lunch)

Sunday 18th. June:
Mike Buck & Stewart Prebble
(Baptismal Service)

Sunday 25th. June:
Simon Bhardwaj from the Bilston Resource Centre.