



# Green Lane

BAPTIST CHURCH

## JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

### BIG DOORS, LITTLE HINGES

One day Bobenga Ratisbonne, a teacher in our primary school at Bolobo, came to see me. "I have found these cards in my cupboard", he told me. "May I borrow them to teach my little boy how to read?" He showed me some cards with syllables such as "Ba, Bi, Bo" on them. "Of course", I said but as he left I remembered how well-off our two little children, Helen and John, were compared to his. We used to read to them every night from a children's Bible story book. A friend from Gateshead sent them a comic paper each week. They had other books. Bobenga was satisfied with a few pieces of card! This incident sparked in me a desire to try to bridge the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots", I have tried to do this in different ways, principally through the work of Book Aid and the Bible Societies, Green Lane another churches have helped a great deal with some success but there is still a long way to go. Bobenga never knew the result of his visit to me that day but the Lord brought more good out of it than he intended. He often works in this way. Church history records many times in which God has worked through the casual word or unintended meeting. They are proof, of His sovereignty. Perhaps some of us could relate similar incidents in our own lives. Few of us are given the chance to do something great for God. The vast majority of us live on a lower plane. Do not be discouraged. This is God's normal way of working. Let us go on doing small things for the Lord and leave the result to Him. It will surprise you what the Lord will do.

Rev. Fred

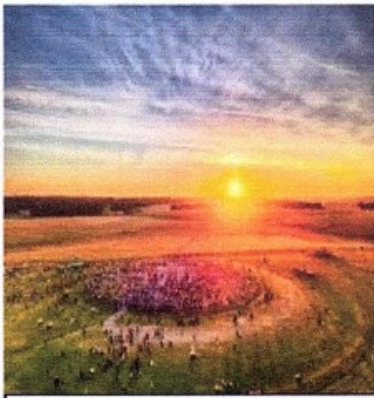
### GIFT DAY FOR KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT

Most of the fellowship are aware that we set up a committee before Covid19 to plan a new layout for our church kitchen to update it, bringing it up to a commercial standard (i.e. use of stainless steel, etc.) and to start fundraising. Fundraising activities were organised and things were going along nicely until the pandemic. Earlier this year we had a generous grant from the Victor Street Almshouses Fund which meant that we could get things moving again. The proposed plans have been approved by the church members and having sought several quotes to undertake the work C. J. Property Services was chosen. They will be starting to install our new kitchen on **Monday, 14th. August 2023.** However, the total cost of the project is about **£15,000** and, unfortunately, we anticipate a shortfall in the region of **£3,000.** In order to reduce the extra burden on the church's finances the deacons have approved the committee's suggestion to have a gift day specifically to ease the burden. This will be on **SUNDAY, 16th. JULY 2023.**

We know that this is not the best possible time for raising funds owing to the cost of living crisis, but we are going ahead in faith. If you are able to contribute to our fundraising effort, no matter how small amount, we will be very grateful. Please put your donation into an envelope, mark it "kitchen fund" and put it into the offertory basket or hand it on to the Church Treasurer, **R Timmis**

### Fellowship News

The Funeral for Stephen George Minto will take place on Friday 7th July 2023 10am at Green Lane Baptist Church, Burial service Willenhal Lawn Cemetery Bentley Lane and Reception at Walsall Community Association (Afro Centre) Wolverhampton Road



### Baptism Thanks

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who celebrated with me on my baptism and for leaving me with lovely memories to cherish.

Bless you all, Liv

\* If anyone would like to know more about what it means to be baptised and about becoming a church member there is support and information available from the deacons. The normal pathway includes attending a series of baptismal classes usually led by a minister. We would also encourage more folks to consider attending the Bible Study sessions as these are a way of getting to know each other better, informative and help to develop faith in Jesus as well as provide insight to Baptist beliefs. If you have burning questions we'll endeavour to answer those as best as we can.

### Guest Preachers for July:

2nd. July : Maxine Chamberlain

9th. July : Maxine Chamberlain

16th. July : Jackie Humphries

23rd. July : Jackie Humphries

30th. July : Simon Bhardwaj  
from the Bilston Resource Centre



### Churches outing Together Festival July 8<sup>th</sup> 2pm-7pm

The second Together Festival for the Black Country area is next week at Himley Hall & Park just down the hill from Sedgley, in Dudley. If you're going, carry a picnic. Last year it was fabulous with workshops, worship, big stage and live bands, stalls, food, children's & teen activities, nice to see friends and acquaintances from other churches. Flyers are in the lobby. Tickets are adults £5, children aged three upwards £3, family ticket £15.

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/together-festival-2023-tickets-476413945937](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/together-festival-2023-tickets-476413945937)



### Appeal for Handicrafts & Activities leader's

It would be great to increase activities in the autumn. The sewing machines have been serviced and are ready for use, but we need volunteers to organise any sessions that we hope to run. Training in leading a group can be given. More information is available. Ask the deacons if you have suggestions/new ideas about the way forward.