



September 2023 Newsletter

Isaiah 43 verse 18-19 says,

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Rolling out of lockdown our Baptist Union General Secretary Lynn Green published her reflection based on these verses. To me it seemed to connect with our own situation at GLBC. Well over a year has passed since our minister vacancy and we are faced with doing some things differently, letting some rest until the right time to reinstate them, but leaving other things firmly behind us in the past. Lynn says: "Things will never go back to how they were; the world has changed. I believe that the place we find ourselves in now is a transitional space, an in-between place where we have left behind the former things and are venturing towards the new that we cannot yet see. This is not a space to 'get through', but a call from the Lord inviting us to dwell in the present moment with Him, embracing all that is at the moment and perceiving what he is doing in this season. "My sense is that as we dwell in the present moment, and as we perceive what the Lord is doing and join him in that, we will find ourselves venturing towards that future that we so long for. Not in one mighty, clearly defined leap from A to B, but as an unfolding adventure that will take us beyond what we can know and lead us into a future that we cannot yet imagine."

This month will be the start of new things for some, eg school, college or even jobs. Here we will be having a go at whole church Alpha services and a prayer breakfast initiative to aid our progress. Mike will be leading our new monthly breakfast from Saturday September 23rd at 10.30am. All are welcome.

Kitchen Refurbishment

The kitchen revamp is complete. Thanks to Robert S and team for organising the refit works and to everyone for the contributions whether through financial donations or lending a hand in cleaning or packing up and unpacking the crocks. Gifts received to offset the shortfall were approx £1,350. There are plans afoot for a dedication event in the near future.



Alpha – Stay Curious?

The Alpha series is being run at Green Lane during our Sunday morning worship to follow up our 'Road to Renewal' themed services organised by the deacons, with the support of our Moderator Mike Buck. The route has so far seen us learn a bit more about the roots of the early church from the books of Acts and Revelation 1-3.

Some folks may already be familiar with the interactive Alpha sessions devised by Nicky Gumbel to help everyone discuss life and the Christian faith in an informal, fun and friendly setting. We have run it previously, although many years ago, as a midweek course to help those exploring the faith.

It is back and happening from Sept 3rd as part of our worship time over the next months with intermittent breaks for the traditional Harvest and Remembrance services. Each session is being led by familiar faces and we hope all of us will benefit in some way from this new exciting season as we journey together on the Road to Renewal, while learning more about our faith and hope in Jesus. Free copies of the Alpha reflection book will be available for everyone to keep. In keeping with the course, hot refreshments will be served after each session to allow for plenty of fellowship time and for folks, whether visiting or from the regular congregation to ask questions about the themes.

Every blessing, Maxine

Guest Preachers

3rd September: Maxine Chamberlain

From: GLBC

10th September: Simon Bhardwaj

From: Bilston Resource Centre

17th. September: Adam Bhardwaj

From: Bilston Resource Centre

24th. September: Mike Buck (Our Moderator)

From: Londonderry Baptist Church, Oldbury