



## December 2023 Newsletter

### Message of hope will help us in hard times

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick...” This statement from Proverbs 12:13 in the Bible may describe how we have felt when things do not go as we had hoped. The people of Israel had more reason to feel this way. They had hoped for centuries that God would send a Deliverer.

They did not realise that when he seemed to be silent he was preparing the way in world history, ordering the affairs of mankind among the great nations so that when Jesus came conditions were just right for the easy expansion of the gospel throughout the world.

See Paul’s letter in Galatians 4:4-6 which explains it a bit more.

It took many centuries, but the writer of Proverbs 12:13 was right “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life”. It pays to read the whole verse.

At GLBC we have shared the sentiments in the beginning of this verse for some time. We feel it, even if we do not say it out loud, “how long oh Lord? How long?”

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of Jesus and the hope he has brought to the whole world. Yet January 2024 stretches before us and we ask, “when will the fortunes of the church change?” We do not and cannot know. It is best for us to do as the famed poem Man at the Gate by Louise Haskins says, “Put your hand into the hand of God. This will be to you better than light and safer than a known way”. Or as a famed hymn says “...for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus than to....”

Every Blessing, Fred S

### GLBC VERSE FOR 2024

" I am the Lord your God; I strengthen you and say, do not be afraid; I will help you."

Isaiah 41:13

### Road to Renewal Service Themes

Following the well received preaching themes that we have enjoyed in 2023 looking at the Book of Revelation and the angelic messages to the early church then the recent Alpha course, we'll be looking at life-style themes in the new year. Topics include marriage, relationships, managing money, and identity among others.

### Advent & Christmas at Green Lane

**Fri 1st Dec:** Youth Games & Pizza Night, 7pm

**1st or 2nd Dec:** Decorating the Sanctuary, time TBA

**Sun 3rd Dec:** Pastor Mike Buck & missionary Lena, with communion

**Sun 3rd Dec:** Bible Study - Last in 'Everyday Supernatural' series online, 6.30pm

**Fri 8th Dec:** 'Movement' youth prayer outing

**Sat 9th Dec:** Prayer Breakfast, 10.30am

**Sun 10th Dec:** Pastor Simon Bhardwaj

**Sat 16th Dec:** Carol singing at the Green Lane Shops, 11am

**Sat 16th Dec:** Carols & Crafts with special guest appearance 1pm

**Sun 17th Dec:** Jackie Humphries

**Sun 24th Dec:** Christmas Eve - Carol Service, 10.30am

**Sun 24th Dec:** Community Christmas Party 4pm - 8pm

**Mon 25th Dec:** Christmas Day Service with 'Scratch Nativity' - Maxine Chamberlain

**Sun 31st Dec:** Jackie Humphries

### Guest Preachers - January

**Sun 7th Jan:** Maxine Chamberlain with communion

**Sun 14th Jan:** Pastor Simon Bhardwaj

**Sun 14th Jan:** Bible Study new theme, online, 6.30pm

**Sat 20th Jan:** New Year Prayer Breakfast, 10.30am

**Sun 21st Jan:** Jackie Humphries

**Sun 28th Jan:** Pastor Mike Buck

\* Sunday Service 10.30am