

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

As always, Jan Richardson is happy to receive prayer requests by phone to either her mobile or land-line numbers. If you would prefer, e-mail or text message are fine too.

She is hoping to get away in her camper van this summer and may occasionally have no signal for a short while.

If you can't reach Jan, Elly and Remco are both happy to circulate your prayers to the prayer chain for you, especially if you are concerned that your prayer request is urgent.

Rev Dr Andrew Prasad has retired after almost 13 years as Moderator of URC Thames North Synod. He previously served the Church of North India (1778 -1989) and the Council for World Mission (CWM) (1989-99). After this he served at Streatham Asian Christian Fellowship before transferring to the URC, where he served at Dulwich Grove, Camberwell Green (2002-2008) and was then appointed Moderator of Thames North. We wish him well in his retirement.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please send in news and details of special celebrations to Christine Wright candgxwright@msn.com
01296 624084
Next month's deadline will be Monday 21st June.

A letter from Aylesbury Women's Aid

'Thank you to you all for the Easter eggs, blankets and household items that you recently donated to the refuge. We are incredibly grateful. Thank you for thinking of us.'



NEWSLETTER NO. 189

Wendover Free Church

June 2021

OPENING UP AGAIN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is great that we can start doing things again and the Coronavirus restrictions are being lifted. It would be brilliant if things continue to go according to plan and we as church can restart many of our activities again soon. At Council and Church Meetings we agreed that it would be good to review our weekday activities before we restart them, and we will do this soon so that we are ready when all restrictions are lifted.

We will meet on Zoom on **Saturday 12th June at 2pm** to talk and pray about our activities and to refocus them around our purposes as a church.

As church together we long to see God's Kingdom come and his will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. We long for the lost to know God's love for them, for captives to be set free of whatever is holding them back, for the lonely

to be set in families. We want all our activities to reflect God's love and hospitality and his heart for the lost. We would love to hear your views and insights even if you were not able to attend any or many activities before.

It's important that those who used to lead and attend activities join the discussion, but it would also be good to hear everyone's view. If you used to lead an activity but no longer want to do so, please do make time to join us so that you can pass on your wisdom.

(Meeting ID: 899 6195 2390
Passcode: coffee)

A link will be sent out to join the meeting if you prefer to click!

If you have any questions or comments about the meeting or our activities, please do get in touch with me.

Grace and peace to you all, **Remco**



ATTENTIVE TO THE RHYTHMS OF GRACE

At the Baptist Assembly in May, Geoff Colmer was inducted as President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Geoff is known to our church as he is also Regional Minister for the Central Baptist Association of which we are a part.



His theme for his year as President is 'Attentive to the Rhythms of Grace'. He likens this awareness of what God is doing in the here and now to looking out for a kingfisher on his walks - all the time watching and waiting for a momentary glimpse of fluorescent blue and orange.

Geoff quotes Eugene Peterson's interpretation of Matthew 6:34 in *The Message*: 'Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now.'

This may not be easy! In an age characterised by anxiety, distractions, noise and busyness, many things clamour for our attention. Giving our entire attention to what God is doing right now, being attentive to the rhythms of grace, requires an orientation, a disposition, an attitude. For this to happen, we require habits which, rather than becoming a to-do list, are based on

the expectation that God is to be found in the very ordinary parts of life. One tradition speaks of 'finding God in all things'.

Becoming still, keeping silence, taking moments to stop, look and listen

(contemplation) is intentionally being aware of the rhythms of grace.

Connection with people can be a powerful way that we experience those rhythms. Rowan Williams has remarked that when he meets someone he asks: 'What is God already doing in this person's life? And how can I help?' Our engagement in mission must always be one where we join in what God is already doing and this requires giving our full attention to God.

Geoff invites us to join him in this daily prayer:

Gracious Lord, by your Spirit,
turn my whole being to you
that I may live this day
'attentive to the rhythms of grace'
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You can read the full article in Baptist Together magazine:
https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/609711/Baptists_Together_magazine.aspx

MISSION PRAYERS FOR JUNE

It is just over a year since Workaid first closed its doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, Workaid has re-opened and closed a further two times and has just opened for a third time. There is an online rota system so only a certain number of volunteers and staff can safely be on the premises at any one time.



So what are Workaid's plans for 2021 and beyond?

- To continue sending much-needed tools and equipment to Africa so that people will have the opportunity to learn the skills needed to earn a living.
- To send seven containers over the next year: three to Zambia, two to Tanzania, one to Uganda and one to Sierra Leone.

Please pray that the items donated to Workaid will be used wisely to eliminate poverty in those countries to which the containers are sent.



CHURCH MEETINGS

The next Church Meeting takes place on **Sunday 27th July**. Please note that the date of the following meeting has been changed to **Sunday 3rd October** (not now 26th September). We hope to hold both these meetings in person!