

Poetry Please returns to its new Friday slot on Friday 3rd September at 10.30am.

Brush down your poetry books and join us if you can! Our theme will be:

'Uplifting Poems of Hope'

Coffee will be served, but bring your own if you prefer.

Ephesians 1:18-19

"I ask that your minds may be opened to see his light, so that you will know the **HOPE** to which he has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people, and how very great is his power at work in us who believe."

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 20th September.

NEWSLETTER

If we were to judge by the response to July's request regarding receiving the monthly newsletter in print or digitally, it seems that very few people read it in either form!

Thanks to the small minority who did respond, both of whom prefer a printed version. Perhaps, since the response was so poor, it is time to stop producing the newsletter altogether. Or maybe the paper copy is more accessible. Please let me know your views Contact details are on the left of this box.

Christine Wright



Wendover Free Church

September 2021

REOPENING ACTIVITIES

It has been a delight to see some of our regular activities re-open - carefully and safely, of course, but there has been a real sense of joy that we can meet with each other again.

Poetry Please has its first meeting in its new Friday slot at 10.30am on September 3rd and drinks will be served, though you may wish to bring your own.

Book Club met in July and August and will do so again on Saturday 18th September at 10.30am. We were delighted to find so many wanting to come along, including three new members.



Prayer Breakfast will resume on Saturday 4th at 8.30am. Do come along if you can. A simple breakfast will be provided, but if you feel anxious about sharing food, do bring your own or eat beforehand.

Sunday Morning Worship has also resumed in church at 10.45pm with everyone suitably distanced and wearing masks. And we have been able to sing together! Thought is being given to how to organise coffee and fellowship time after the services and this should resume soon.

Craft Group is set to begin on Wednesday 22nd September from 10am to 12 noon, and we look forward to welcoming back everyone who enjoys any kind of craft.

The church's aim is to keep everyone safe, but we must all go at our own pace. Do join in if you feel able.

PRAYERS FOR 'EMBRACE'

Dr Alia Abboud serves as Chief Development Officer for 'Embrace' partner organisation, LSESD. Alia and her team provide assistance to many vulnerable and displaced families in Lebanon and Syria, many of whom have lost their families, homes and communities as a result of the conflict in Syria. Alia explains how the Church provides a safety net for those who have lost everything as they work to plant seeds of hope where despair prevails. She writes:

'I miss my visits to Syria. The last one was in February 2020, before the pandemic spread in Lebanon and Syria.

'A highlight of these trips is time spent with our partners and the people we serve through our relief and development arm, **MERATH**. My heart always misses a beat at the sparkle in the eyes of vulnerable children enjoying interactive games within the safe environment of the three Child Friendly Spaces, including the one in Homs, that serves children with disabilities who otherwise would be locked up



between four walls. These children are so often forgotten by all but their own families, who struggle to make ends meet while at the same time attempting to cater to their children's special needs. It is an impossible task.

'On the one hand my heart is always heavy on such trips as I see the volume of needs. Yet, at the same time, I rejoice in the hope that I see rekindled in lives that have been touched by the ministry of compassion led by our partner churches.

'Our ministry involves faithful partner organisations like Embrace and others who share our belief in the need to stand by and equip the local Church, that it may be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community.'

Please pray for this vital work in Syria partnered by 'Embrace'.

Dr Alia Abboud will be speaking at Embrace Day on the 25th September. If you'd like to hear from her, alongside other partners, staff and 'Embrace' CEO Tim Livesey, book your free online place now at <https://embraceme.org/>

OPEN A WINDOW AND PRAY...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
There is rarely any month in any year in this world when we don't hear news of wars, violence and upheaval but in recent weeks there has been so much bad news.

The tragedy unfolding in Afghanistan, the earthquakes and storms in Haiti, the floods in Germany and Belgium, not to mention all the ongoing conflicts and increasing effects of climate change. As Christians we know we need to pray for our world, but we easily become overwhelmed by the sheer volume of bad news which can leave us struggling to know how or what to pray.

The good news for us is we don't need to know how to pray "the Spirit prays for us in sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). We don't need to feel overwhelmed or hopeless because our God is always ready to listen and we can turn all our worries and concerns over to him, trusting that in his wisdom and in his time, he will use what we offer to help to bring his love and his ways into this world.

We don't always (or even often) see instant answers but because we know God and we trust him we

understand that our prayers are valuable to him.

We may never understand the mechanics of intercessory prayer, but our prayers have great value, because they build our relationship with God and our trust in him.

In our prayers for our world, we pray essentially for his kingdom and his ways to be known on earth, a prayer that we know will be answered because it is his promise to us, and our God keeps his promises.

May Grace and Peace be with you all,

Remco



Please find a Gerard Kelly poem: 'When the Walls...' in a separate document.