



Hi Friends,

Amidst the sweltering heat and stormy weather, I really hope that during August you've had an opportunity for a change of pace, staycation or holiday for some, or, perhaps like us, you have that prospect soon.

We're all aware that as we move towards the Autumn the wider national journey post-lockdown and pre-vaccine still holds many uncertainties. It's so important that we are praying as schools' return, and continue to have our eyes open to and support those who are most vulnerable and isolated, and encourage each other in patience and keeping our eyes on the LORD.

An update on a number of key areas:

- **Sunday Services** - people are greatly valuing the opportunity to come to our 'live' service at 10.00am each Sunday. Even with all the understandable restrictions, there is a tangible sense of the Holy Spirit's presence and, even though congregational singing isn't permissible yet, it is a special blessing that a small worship band can lead our worship and sing. Do book through [ChurchSuite](#) or by phoning the church office.
- **Upcoming Series** - from Sunday September 13 for four weeks, as part of a 'Season of Creation', we'll be looking at *New Rhythms, New Hope - Rejoicing, Repenting, Repairing, Restoring*.
- **SML Kids' Sunday Groups** - we're aware that many of you are greatly appreciating Emily and her team's creative online provision. Our tentative hope is that from early October there might be the opportunity for children to begin to gather again for their Sunday groups; we are conscious that so many children are longing for their groups again. However, as I'm sure you'll be aware, this is very dependent on the wider picture and we are keen to offer this in the best way we possibly can, so we'll keep you updated.

- **Staff** - having served for a second time on our pastoral team, with such wisdom and sacrificial love, Angie J has felt that now is the time to step into a well-earned retirement and will be finishing at the end of September. We'll be thanking her and will miss her hugely, but very grateful she will still remain very involved in SML. In other news, as you'll see from e-notices we are looking to recruit a 'Facilities Assistant' which is a crucial post as activity in the church centre increases markedly again from early September, please be praying for that. And from early October until the end of June 2021 we'll be welcoming David Reed on to our staff. David will be working for 2 days a week, bringing a unique blend of skills and insights, overseeing a project for us, *'Re-Imagining a New Future'*.
- **APCM - Mon 19 October** – please put that date in your diary and by mid-late September we should be clearer about exactly what format it can take.
- **The Recovery Course - begins on Thurs 17 Sept** - Rachel and her team are preparing to run this for a second time, let's be praying for the Lord's transforming work in each guest's life.
- **Lee Abbey** – like so many Christian centres and communities, Lee Abbey is looking to move forward again after lockdown and is recruiting new community members. As part of a recent message they sent out – 'Here are links to explore it to see if this is where God is leading. We are praying that those God is calling will respond - we need the right people to come and join us - those who have a heart to love and serve'.

Devon: <https://leeabbeydevon.org.uk/community/current-vacancies/>

London: <https://www.leeabbeylondon.com/working/>

Small Missional Communities: <https://leeabbey.org.uk/smc/get-involved/join-community/>

*'May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit...'* - Romans 15:13

Fi joins me in sending our love.

Blessings,



**Andy Perry**

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