

## **Light in the Darkness**

I hope you've all been enjoying stepping into the newly-decorated rooms of our Burnage Church. Do you know that we actually had the decorator move the walls back 10cm? It was expensive but, I'm sure you'll agree, definitely worth it! I'm joking, of course, but the church certainly looks bigger on coming in through the doors!

Light makes such a difference to our surroundings. I'm even beginning to wonder if it's not the warmth of summer that I miss as much as the amount of light that was being thrown around. Everything was brighter and perhaps bigger?

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, we'll be holding our second "Light Party", an alternative to the festivities of Hallowe'en. Rather than scaring people out of their chocolate supplies, we're going to be celebrating light. It's just a party, but I hope it's an opportunity for light to overcome dark, for light to help people see how much bigger life can be when they choose it over darkness.

Light is not always the easy choice and we'll see this strongly on Remembrance Sunday as we explore the book of Esther. During our series on the presence of God in the Old Testament, this is the one book where God makes no appearance at all. How do we make the big decisions when God doesn't appear in a cloud or a burning bush?

Whether we're making maximum noise with young people in an evening of slightly chaotic fun or standing in silence remembering those lost through war and praying for peace, let us all be aware that God's light shines through us. He's chosen **us** to deliver His message of hope, chosen **us** to minister to a world far too attracted to, and often completely lost in, darkness.

So, I pray that we may shine as brightly as ever.

**Andy Hall**