

Get Cracking!

Welcome to the August/September issue of “Crosstalk”! It’s that special double edition when our minds are turning to August. I really want to encourage you all to take a break and a rest, but then, looking to September, we really need to get cracking!

Rest is as vital to effort as warmth, dryness and sun are to camping! You can go in the rain, but the contrast is “night and day” compared with a week in the sun. The more we try and do without a break, without time to refuel, without time to get a different perspective, the less we’ll achieve. I know this all too well and yet, after 6 years in ministry, I still haven’t quite learnt it!

Mark chapter 6, verses 30-31 remind us of Jesus’ care for His team and concern for their rest: “The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, ‘Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’ I know many of you hit that moment all too regularly - “When are we even going to eat?” So please invest in your rest.

The start of the academic year is often a time for new beginnings and fresh commitment. Our building project is the most obvious. This autumn, we will finally be able to answer the question, “When’s it going to start?” I’ve also given an update on the project on page 2, so read on! “Messy Church” continues to develop its own community of worshippers - even when we think it’s going to be really quiet, new faces appear and it’s an enormous encouragement for us all.

Lastly, whilst encouraging rest and preparation for September, please do hold in your prayers the Holiday Special and BB Camps that those weeks might see people coming to see and experience God in unexpectedly new ways.

Have a great summer!

Andy Hall