

## **A Breath of Fresh Air!**

It's nearly that time of the year again. It is, in fact, one of my favourite times – the Boys' Brigade camp! I'm not sure if it's the amazing team that run it, the good spirits and excellent behaviour of the boys who go, the quality of the food, the guarantee of a good crumble, the constant fresh air, or the calming tones of the morning and evening bugle, but it's a great week. Please do be praying for the team as they make their preparations for this year's camp.

What's often a strange experience, though, is coming home, sitting on a sofa and sensing that everything feels a little stuffy. The urge to open every window in the house is quite strong. It is quite a big change!

I think we're due for a similar changing, and perhaps a little unsettling, experience with church. I don't have a formal opening date to give you but I do want you all to start thinking about "coming home". Church will be in church again in the Parrs Wood Road building a lot sooner than we think. The elders and others think it would be great to have some opening and welcoming events, as well as some ongoing Open Church-type events. We hope you'll bring your best ideas to the next church meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We've been in the 'camping out and making things work' mode for quite a while now, and in a planning and debating one before that! Now we need to prepare ourselves for a new mode entirely. It's time to focus ourselves and our efforts into outreach, invitation and welcome. We've got good news to share and we will have some great premises to share, too. We'll just need to adjust from camping in the hall to new life in the church building!

I'm hoping it'll be a little like Pentecost, a transition from a prayerful, but relatively hidden, gathering to a community, whose reputation with all around grew and grew.

I rather hope it'll be the reverse of my camping experience, in that we'll go from feeling a little confined and stuffy to a glorious celebration of all the fresh air!

**Andy Hall**