

16th July 2021

MINISTRY, MUSINGS AND MUCH MORE!

As I enter my ninth year of ministry at Ararat I have been reflecting on how much has changed in that time not least because of the current circumstances. However, with the 7th August approaching and another big shift in what we will be able to do, we look forward to more of us being able to meet together at one time and the return of refreshments and fellowship after services.

As a leadership team we are taking time to consider and pray about the future and we'd love you to join us in praying about God's ongoing vision for Ararat so that at our next church meeting in September we can discern together the challenges, the opportunities and where we feel He is leading us.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The Summer Holidays are starting next week, and we just wanted to let you know about some of our plans.

Get OWT!

Get OWT! has been created to help families experience the benefits of nature through fun and creative activities. Each family will be given a pack to use to explore Whitchurch Common before coming back to the church for some outdoor and parachute play (Suitable for all ages) These sessions will run on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons.

Baby & Toddler group

We know that this year has been difficult for everyone, especially first time mums/dads. We are going to continue our Baby & Toddler group for first time mums/dads with children under 1. It will take place across the two rooms upstairs and some of the older toys will be put away and replaced with more suitable baby toys. These sessions will run on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings.

Park meet ups

We are going to be meeting at a local park on a Wednesday during the holidays. I will take a pop up gazebo and some outdoor toys to play with. We'll meet from 11am so bring a blanket/chairs and a picnic and come and join us! (Suitable for all ages) The first one will be at Hailey Park on Wednesday 28th July.

It would be great if there are any church families who would like to join us for any of these sessions. They are all available to book on Eventbrite if you search 'Ararat Baptist Church'.

RENEW WELLBEING CAFÉ

Our Renew wellbeing café is back meeting in person on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4pm. All are welcome. This is a quiet safe space where it's ok not to be okay or just to come and tend to your wellbeing. There are people to chat to if you want to or you can bring along a hobby to do or maybe even learn a new one. We currently have a group who are learning to paint together and starting this week we are hoping to have a little gardening group to help tend to a small patch of land by the side of the pod seating area. Tea and coffee are available and we share a time of prayer at 2.14 and 3.45 for anyone who wants to join in.

MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Sunday 18th July

10am indoor worship service

11am outdoor all age worship service

Tickets for both services are available via the following link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/ararat-baptist-church-31223331009>

If you are attending the outdoor service please bring a chair or blanket to sit on if you can. It would also be helpful if you are able to download onto a phone or tablet the lyrics for our songs which will be: There is a higher throne, Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer and You shall go out with joy. Sheets with the words will be available for those who are unable to do this.

6pm Join us on zoom for evening communion (please bring bread and wine or equivalent with you)

Tuesday 20th July

7pm Midweek service led by Misha

And finally...

Welcome back Gethin, great to have you back!

Rachel is having a much deserved break from tomorrow, we hope you have a lovely week and a time of real rest and refreshment.

Be blessed and be a blessing

Naomi, Rachel, Sarah, Aly and Gethin