



Link Up!

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26

For the rest of June

On Sunday 21st June we will look at Daniel 4 – Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation

And on Sunday 28th June we have a very special visit from this year's Baptist Union President – Revd Alex Afriyie.

Also, on Sunday 28th June we will be holding our Church Member's Meeting after the service. Please bring lunch and we will provide drinks.

Coming up in July

On Sunday 5th July we will be continuing our series in Daniel with Chapter 5—The writing's on the wall

Then on Sunday 12th July we will look at chapter 6—The plot against Daniel.

On Sunday 19th July we have a visit from our Regional Minister Revd Simon Gray.

And on Sunday 26th July we will look at Daniel's visions.

Tempus fugit, time flies. It didn't feel like that 2 years ago when our granddaughter Hannah was preparing to go to university in the US where she had been offered a scholarship to study for a Masters degree. This would enable her to also take advantage of their athletics training programme at the same time. Two years seemed like forever, and I have a photo of her waiting for her flight to be called at Heathrow.

As I write this, I am sitting in the garden, in the shade, trying to keep away from the extreme heat which has arrived for the Bank Holiday week. I let my mind wander over the past 24 years of Hannah's life. I have a photo of her on the day she started school and now she is finishing her formal education. Like so many grandparents we have a good number of photos which tell Hannah's story. There is the one in her England shirt when she represented English Schools, and one when she became Southern Champion at 800 metres.

Does this make me seem like a proud grandmother? I expect so but Hannah's story goes back to some difficult days and some quite different photos. When she was 2 ½ years old Hannah was diagnosed with leukaemia. There are some heartbreaking photos from those days. Probably the most touching, are those where she has lost her hair but still manages to smile through. To see her parents cope with a sick child and keep smiling was awesome, and a great witness to their faith.

The 2 years in US have passed and Hannah will

Other Notices:

On Saturday 18th July from 1 – 4pm we will be holding our own garden fair in the church garden, hall, church and lounge. We will need people to help set up the event in the morning. We will need cakes to be made for the refreshments. During the event there will be games and a bouncy castle to run, refreshments to be served, people needed to welcome those attending at the doors and give directions to various activities. A list will be up in the entrance of the church at the beginning of June for you to offer help with any of these as well as a list for people to offer cakes. Publicity will be available for you to use to invite your friends, neighbours and family members as well.

shortly be returning to the UK. As my mind drifts back over those times, I am so thankful to the Lord, because he walked every step of the way with us. I have often thought about the verses given to Hannah at her dedication. **Isaiah 43:2. ‘When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.’** At the time I admit I was surprised that they should have been chosen for a baby, but as we went through those dark days as a family, I was moved by the promise and its fulfilment happening before our eyes.

It wasn't all dark days. There were some lighter days involved. The time we went to Legoland and were able to jump the queues because she had no immune system. Her family enjoyed a special Charity Event where private aircraft owners gave free rides, and “Daddy was allowed to take over the controls” of a light aircraft.....briefly.

Yes, 2 years have flown by and now that period is nearly gone and Hannah due to return to the UK from University, but I remember holding that poorly little girl in my arms and, faced with the possibility of losing her, cuddling her so tightly as though not to let her go.

PRAYER? Oh yes, there was a lot of prayer offered on her behalf, much of it by people who had only heard her story. What do you pray when your heart is too heavy to form words. “Help” is the one thing on your mind, “Lord Help” and this is why I love that verse in **Romans 8:26 ‘We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.’** because when words fail us, the HOLY SPIRIT knows our hearts and will bring our petitions before the Throne of Grace.

Barbara