

## **A time for...**

This Sunday we will be gathering for our Commissioning Weekend. This is a time when, following the summer break - and as the beginning of another academic year is marked - we take the opportunity to give thanks to God for all that the last year has held and pray expectantly for the coming season.

It is an occasion in the life of the church where we get to see something of a snapshot in terms of all that goes on. The exhibition from 10am is a chance to chat to those who are involved in different areas, finding out what goes on and exploring how we each might play our part. Enjoying a BBQ together (as I write the forecast is looking absolutely glorious), we have the chance to relax together and to continue to grow as a community. Finally, from 2pm the short all-age service is a moment when we're able to thank God for his goodness and pray with a sense of anticipation for all He has ahead of us.

As well as collectively commissioning the ministry of the church that outworks itself in a whole variety of ways, we will also be officially marking the start of an exciting new chapter as we commission both Tim Fudge and Caroline Dyer into their new roles as Youth, Children's and Families Worker and Youth and Children's Worker. When we first began exploring a role to work within these areas, it was with a real sense that if God is in this it will happen; if He isn't, then it won't. This view came about not least because many churches are looking to fill such roles at this time, there isn't a plethora of individuals simply sitting about waiting to take them up and our own self-imposed timeframe was exceedingly tight to say the least. One regional minister aware of our situation, has since commented to me that to not only find a suitable candidate, but to find two was 'miraculous'. And indeed it is, but then that's what God is all about, so it shouldn't surprise us.

The words of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 and the first 8 verses speak of there being *a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens*. The words in those verses are such a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness through all things. Life brings its challenges, its ups and its downs. I pray for us as a church that through them all we will keep our eyes fixed on Him and our feet firmly following where He leads.

Whatever the coming months hold, may we commit again to all that God is asking of us as His people. May we celebrate together the wide and varied ministry we are privileged to be involved in. May we take a moment to pause, thanking God for His continued provision, guidance and challenge as we seek to serve Him with all we are - 'Being Transformed Together' - and seeing this community impacted eternally for him!

Be blessed

Ed Jones