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Dear Friends,

'Deliver us from evil'.

Why does Jesus give us this prayer to pray?

Most of the time, our lives go on with a fairly easy balance. We experience difficulties, unpleasantness, disagreeable events, but to use the word 'evil' for those seems a bit melodramatic.

Lucky us. Because all over the world, believers are in a struggle, where words like 'evil', 'wicked' and 'devilish' are only too fitting. I learnt this morning that ISIS militants have massacred more than 3,400 Nigerian Christians in the last few months. Lord Alton raised it in parliament, and you can read it [here](#). The Evil One lies behind that.

If you know your C S Lewis he would remind us that that same evil force is at work to destroy us too - maybe the lure of money, or things, or pleasure that he will use.

Here's the thing - we cannot fight this enemy in our own strength. We are too small, too compromised, too stuck-in-the-mess to rescue ourselves. All we can do, is to cry for help.

And it turns out that that is the wisest thing to do. Our Father is perfect, powerful and good. Rescuing his trapped and defeated children is his love.

So, don't deny the battle, and don't fear it either. At times you'll collapse under the pressure of it, but don't just lie there. Cry for the help you need.

Because one day, our Father will rescue us finally, forever. And every help he gives us now is just a little taste of that victory.

So let's pray that prayer for our sisters and brothers in Nigeria today. And pray for those militants to find Christ, too.

Chris

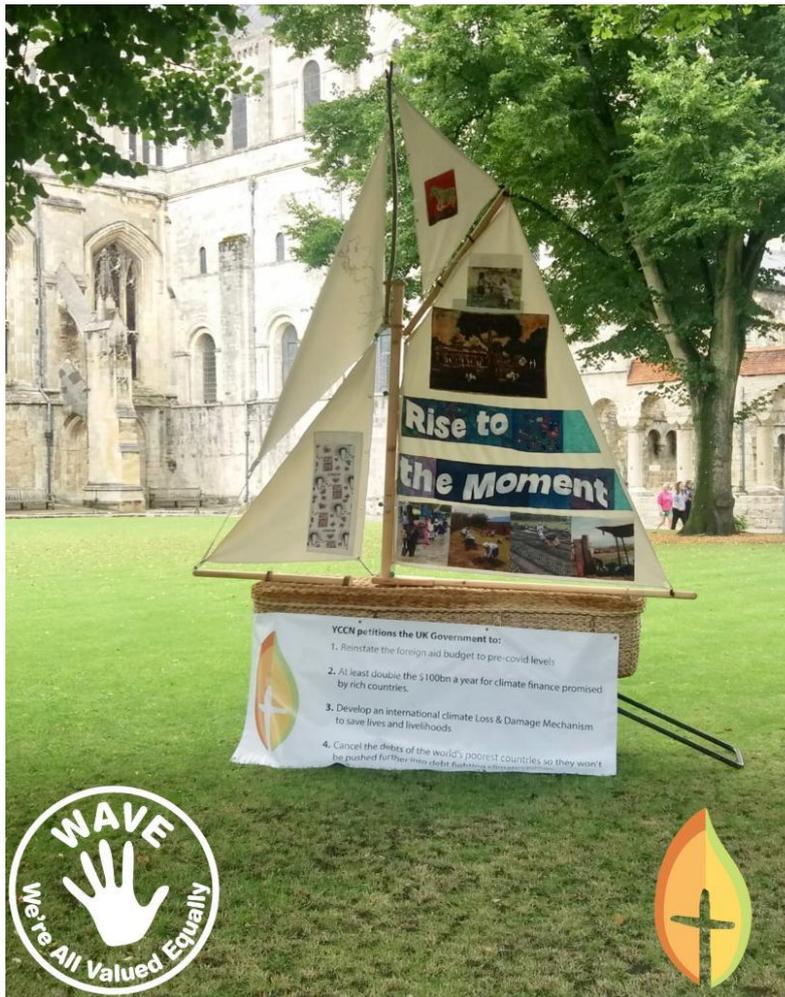
### **THIS SUNDAY**

The reading this Sunday will be 2 Timothy 1:13 – 2:7

### **ZOOM COFFEE OVER THE SUMMER – PLEASE GET IN TOUCH**

If you would like to receive an invitation to zoom coffee over the summer, can you **please email Alex so that he can email you the link**? Over the summer we will not be sending out a church wide email each Sunday morning, and the zoom coffee room will only be open to those with the link, so please get in touch with him by Saturday evening:

Alex.Williams@st-james.org.uk



## HE MADE, HE CARES

You are invited to a short service on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August**. It will focus on how God cares for what He has made - the earth and everyone in it - and how He wants us to care too.

Wave Church will lead the service, joined by a group from the Young Christian Climate Network. They are campaigning because the change in climate around the world is affecting everyone, but especially those in poorer countries. ([www.yccn.uk](http://www.yccn.uk))

The service will be in accessible Wave style and everyone is welcome. Do join us!

- **St James Church**
- **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August**
- **6pm**

<https://stjamesmuswellhill.churchsuite.co.uk/events/u5lfubdu>

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### **ALEX WILLIAMS**

Alex Williams is moving on from his role as ministry intern to embark on ordination training at Oak Hill College from September. If you're keen to keep up-to-date with his future plans, email Alex on alex.williams@st-james.org.uk by 19 August. Thanks so much for your prayers and encouragement thus far.

### **CHILDREN'S BAKE-OFF**

Could the winner of last year's children's bake-off please contact Leona or Hannah?

### **ASHLEY NICHOLS MOVING TO PATHWAY**

As you know, Ashley is leaving us in August to take up a new role leading Pathway, based at their office in North Finchley and working with schools and churches across Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. We are sad to see him go but delighted he will be working for one of our Mission Partners and that we will, therefore, continue to see him. In making this move, Ashley and Annie will need somewhere to live for them and their four children in North London and trust God that he will provide for them. If you want to support or continue to support Ash and/or Pathway in prayer, financially or otherwise, please email ashley.nichols@st-james.org.uk for more details.

### **LEAVING GIFT FOR ASHLEY**

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift from the church family for the Nichols family, the easiest way is via electronic banking. See <https://st-james.org.uk/about-us/giving> for bank info and use Initial and Surname/ASH for the reference. Otherwise, if you need help please email anand.achuthan@st-james.org.uk for alternative methods. Thank you for your kindness!

