



Dear friends

**Seasons** - A lot has been said over recent years (weeks!) about changes in the seasons and how unpredictable seasons have become due to climate change. Those of us who, shall we say, are more mature in years can probably point to a number of changes we have experienced in the seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter. In July we endured record breaking temperatures that saw some of us go into hiding and shops run out of fans! The word seasons is often used to describe facets of our lives such as in families: we experience different cycles of life as children grow from babies into adulthood. Work is another area where seasons can be used to describe people's experiences and journeys. My own work life has had many seasons, not only in my employment status, but also in the ways that the ministry has been moulded and shaped differently over time. Some aspects of the work and new initiatives can be relatively short-lived, 'for a season', whilst others might be longer lasting. Having frighteningly reached the grand old age of 60 last year it does feel like I am entering a new season; with the search for a new director, it's beginning to feel like a new season for GenR8 too. What this new season might look like is a little uncertain, but it does feel like God is shifting us to focus on some key aspects of the work, whilst at the same time letting go of others (if only for a time). Thank you for standing and praying with us as we potentially enter this new season. As with any change, transition can be difficult. I'm usually very late to wear shorts in the summer, but then also tend to carry on wearing them long into autumn! Of course, this may not be about seasons, but just a dereliction of duty when it comes to fashion sense!

**Summer Term** - It was fantastic to be able to participate in our assembly tour, Inspire Prayer Spaces, Cool Choices, as well as our It's Your Move week over the summer term. The busyness a stark reminder of the past two summers where activity was restricted. What a relief to see smiling faces, hear laughter and encouraging comments from pupils and staff, and on occasion be treated like a film star! I even got to sign some hats and pencil cases for one class of Year 6 students!

**Family** - Talking of seasons, there increasingly seems to be a change of seasons within our family. Megan is likely to be off to New Zealand soon - with her online business she can work from anywhere so why not New Zealand, seems to be Megan's idea! Millie is also planning to travel, something she wanted to do after university but could not due to the pandemic. She finished her work at school in July and hopes to travel from September; Australia here she comes! Ellen has bought a new build house in Soham and if all goes well come November that will just leave Alfie at home with mum and dad; if Rachel gets her way he will never leave! So many different seasons with family, some very unfamiliar, and all challenging, but all with lots of great memories and moments to celebrate, with hopefully lots more to come! Rachel continues to work at Cottenham library and is well recognised in the community; it used to be me who was recognised, now it's me asking 'who was that?' Another new season!

*It has been a real blessing to have GenR8 come to (our school) over this past year. Our pupils are blessed as you share the gospel message and Bible stories with them. Headteacher*

- 🌸 That we will know God with us as GenR8 potentially enters a new season.
- 🌸 For preparations for our Christmas presentation.
- 🌸 For more volunteers to join our assembly teams so that we can visit all schools who want us.
- 🌸 Give thanks that our dates for Cool Choices in Sept/Oct are fully booked with 20 workshops.
- 🌸 For bookings as we relaunch our Inspire Prayer Space days held in schools and churches.
- 🌸 Give thanks for a great summer term packed with lots of face-to-face activity in schools.
- 🌸 Pray for plans, preparations and recruiting team as we look to gear up for Xcellr8 2023.

"With the changing seasons comes new beginnings."