

# The Link

## February 2012



Shanklin United Reformed Church [www.shanklinurc.co.uk](http://www.shanklinurc.co.uk)



SURC receives a 'Child Friendly Church' award  
- see page 5

# View From Number 10



## Before Abraham was, I AM

What an audacious claim from the lips of Jesus. Surely blasphemy – unless it was true?!!

As we explore the famous I AM sayings in John's Gospel we get to realise just how controversial Jesus was in his day. His claims were simply outrageous. After all, he was just another working man from up north in Galilee, wasn't he? Or maybe a prophet of the Lord - but nothing more?

In John, there are seven very important sayings beginning with the words "I am" and each is followed by some key truth that we will be exploring over these couple of months. Why is this phrase so significant you may ask? I sought to explain this in the first of the series on 15th January – why not have a listen to the CD if you want to catch up. In brief.....

We must turn to Exodus Chapter 3 to see the origin of this simple yet profound phrase. There we find the call of Moses in the desert where the Lord speaks to him out of a burning bush. He grabs this shepherd's attention and then calls him by name – twice. This great God wants Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt. It was a holy place of encounter:

*"Do not come any closer, God said. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is Holy ground. Then He said, I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."* v5-6

He goes on to say that he has seen the sufferings of his people and is ready to rescue them and take them to a new

land – and Moses is to lead them. Moses wriggles and squirms! What could he possibly say to the people? – they won't believe him! He responds - if they ask for your name, what shall I tell them? And God answers him in v 14:

***"I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites:***

***'I am has sent me to you.'***....

God's name is quite simply the verb "to be" – he just is! He has always been, and will always be! He is the very essence of life – as St Paul said *"In him we live and move and have our being."* In Hebrew the name is YAHWEH. The Lord goes on to say: *"This is my name for ever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation".* (v15)

So the Jews had remembered and honoured that great name - so special and holy that they never dared utter it! The use of "I am" by Jesus is drawing out a deep theological point in John's Gospel. The whole issue is pretty explicit at the end of chapter 8. Jesus is in debate with the Jewish leaders about his authority and ends up saying this incredible thing:

***"I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am."***

They picked up stones to kill him. This was surely blasphemy. Jesus dares to say – I am greater than Abraham and Moses; I was around long before them and I am the very one you have been waiting for. Look no further – I am all that you are looking for; the answer to life's questions.

But- **there is only one I AM** – and that is the most Holy God Almighty.

This great name is reemphasised by the prophet Isaiah also:

- "Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD— with the first of them and with the last— **I am he.**" 41:4
- "**I, even I, am the LORD,** and apart from me there is no saviour....
- **I am God.** Yes, and from ancient days **I am he**" 43:13
- I, even **I, am he** who comforts you." 51:12

Let's be clear that Jesus is not just another prophet nor is he one choice in the market place of religious options. He clearly and boldly says – come to me, follow me, believe in me. **I am it** - the Bread of Life, the Light, the Gate, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the True Vine –

**the Way, the Truth and the Life.**

He is God among us, full of grace and truth – The Great I Am. Grasp that, dear friends! And respond to his invitation – to life in all its fullness



## **Carisbrooke Priory**

It is such good news that the Priory was selected for the 2012 Charity Challenge. Please pray for the trustees as this has come at a challenging time for them. Many of you know that the chaplain director Rev Chris Lane is unwell and is now retiring at the end of the month. Our love and prayers are with him and Ann as they face an uncertain time ahead.

# Child Friendly Church Award

Last month Ruth White, URC Synod Children and Youth Development Officer came to our service and presented us with the plaque for this national award.



**Youth Worker, James Alder, proudly holds the plaque which will soon be on the wall by the main doors.**

Ruth said to the whole congregation that this has a double message: It tells the community that here is a church that welcomes children, young people and their parents. It also reminds all of us that we must be on our toes to offer a warm welcome and to keep up the good work that we have achieved! It was a special moment to celebrate and we also took the opportunity to hold our annual rededication of the whole team.

# Church Family News



We are delighted to welcome two baby boys into the church family -

George was born to Shannon & Ainslie on 3rd January and Francis was born to Matt, Dyan, Albert & Tristan on 11th January. Congratulations!

Audrey Hall is now home from being with her daughter Daphne, having completed her course of treatment. Please pray for her as she settles back in and continues to regain strength. Bob Duncan is also convalescing at home after a spell in hospital and he and Louise are grateful for all the support and prayers.

Yvonne Sparks has had a major operation and will be out of action for many weeks now. Please pray for her and for Christopher, who will be at home to look after her for a while (his office closed recently). Sue White has had great news that she has an all clear from the hospital. Praise the Lord!

Please do remember Molly Kingswell and family on the anniversary of Gordon's death on 20<sup>th</sup>. Among our senior citizens both Bill Worner and Eve Rolfe clock up another year this month.

The Landahl family have moved to their own home just east of Newport, having been renting a house in Shanklin since they came from Germany. We are sorry to lose them from the locality but will remain good friends. Klaus had a lot of work to do to improve the house and also construct a workshop urgently for all his equipment for bee keeping. James Alder is also on the move – but only closer to the church! He and A-Jay Rye will be moving in to Shanklin Manor in early February – well actually a mews house just behind! Please pray for them as they set up a new home and get used to each other's company!

We have welcomed a number of new faces over recent months and you are encouraged to get to know those people that you are seeing regularly and haven't yet had a chance to speak to. Let's make people really welcome and help them settle into the church family.

# CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN SHANKLIN

Rev Len Wilkie gave a wonderful address at the United Service in January for the Week of prayer for Christian Unity. Do pick up a copy of the CD if you missed it.

The next **United Service** for the season will be on Sunday 12 February at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Atherley Road (though the venue may be changed).

## **Informal Shared Worship**

The dates for this month's meetings (held at 19:00) are:

- 5 Feb            at URC
- 19 Feb          at Sacred Heart
- 26 Feb          at Methodist

## **Foodbank**

Our joint project to open a distribution centre comes to fruition now with a Foodbank Cafe opening twice a week at the Methodist Church. See the separate article for more details

## **United Prayer Meetings**

Each Saturday, 9:00 at the United Reformed Church, in the downstairs rooms. Please come and join us for just under an hour as we pray for our work and witness together in the town. Entry is via the green door by the bookshop.

## **St Anthony's Covent**

Sadly this house of prayer and service will close this month after their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The few remaining sisters will relocate to the mainland. Please do remember them in prayer - Sister Gabriel has lived there 66 years! We will miss their hospitality - no bacon rolls there at Easter.

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year's Women's Day of Prayer is on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** and there will be a morning service at the Methodist Church.

# FOCUS

On our Christian brothers and sisters  
who are being persecuted for their faith

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### MOROCCO



Jamaa Ait Bakrim, a Moroccan Christian, has been in prison for his faith since 2005. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for 'proselytism' and 'destruction of the goods of others,' both allegedly trumped-up charges by the authorities.

Source: Release International

## ANSWER TO PRAYER:

### SUDAN

On 22 August 2011 we asked you to pray for Susan Ithungu (14), who was left hospitalised and unable to walk after her father tortured her for becoming a Christian.



Just two months later, Susan was discharged from hospital, had found a home with a Christian mother of four, was planning to go back to school and able to move around on crutches. Pastor Baluku whose Church members have been visiting Susan in hospital says she is spiritually strong, loves praying and enjoys singing hymns. "Every time I go to see Susan, I leave their place feeling greatly encouraged! She is truly an inspiration." *Thank you for praying:*

Source: *Open Doors*

**SEE BOARD AT BACK OF CHURCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

## Prayer Group For The Persecuted Church

Another year has begun and for our brothers and sisters in the suffering church the persecution continues and indeed is increasing.

You may have seen reports of many people being killed in recent attacks in Northern Nigeria and in one such attack in November 2011 over 150 people were killed in the Christian community of DAMATURU, please pray for an end to the violence that plagues this country and for the believers fearful of further attacks, forced to flee, who have lost loved ones in such terrible circumstances and whose homes, churches and businesses have been destroyed.

North Korea remains No. 1 on the Persecution List and with the recent death of Kim Jong Il and the installation of his son, Kim Jong Un, as successor there are very real concerns about the future for believers who are already the most persecuted in the world. But praise God, that in spite of this, the number of believers is growing,

Do please look at the board at the back of church on which there are many stories of our brothers and sisters and Global Trends in Persecution for this coming year. MUCH TO PRAY ABOUT,,,

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers & support during 2011 and to mention that the next **Prayer Meeting** is on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February** at 14:00 in the downstairs rooms at church - do come and join us as we pray into these situations and for our brothers & sisters. There is so much we learn from the suffering church and one such thing is the quality of their prayer life. Even though the so called 'Arab Spring' has already had concerning consequences for Christians in the various countries affected, a report has come out of an amazing prayer meeting of over 70,000 Christians that was recently held in one of those countries, where God's people came together across many denominations all calling out to God for their country - what a challenge this is to us. Do ask if you'd like to know more about this event. Lastly, just to say how thrilling it was to hear of the wonderful amount being sent to Barnabas from the church's Christmas Offerings - what a blessing this will be to believers who have had to flee their countries because of persecution and are now refugees, a situation our dear Lord Jesus

knew all about. We do thank God for the wonderful generosity of our church family which we believe reflects so much our dear Lord's heart for His Suffering Church.

Thank you for every expression of love

God bless you always

From the Prayer Group

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## **News from the Quiet Day at St Antony's Convent**

On Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> December the Thursday morning house group augmented by several others, swapped venues and had a quiet day at St Antony's Convent in Shanklin. Sadly this will be the last time we will be able to hold it there because the convent has been sold and the remaining nuns are moving to the mainland. However, we had a very special time that day; it is so important to take time out of busy schedules and listen to what is on God's heart.

Below are three "words" that came out of that day. We hope they will be a blessing to you and maybe speak into your situation.

### **1.From Ceci White:**

Father God melt my cold heart. Forgive my search for perfection walling me up in a dark cell of pride.

Guide my thoughts as they toss me about showing me truths and perceptions I'm afraid to know.

Inhabit my past. Help me to see what is good and to leave behind regrets that would drain me.

Help me to love myself as you do: no need to edit or to add. Today I'm newly reborn: no shell, as weak and vulnerable as any newborn baby.

Show me the way, stripped of myself, precious nucleus of your creating.

Dearest babe, grow with me. Walk with me through both dark and

light all lifelong.

Take my hand and bring me to the place of my hearts yearning our one true home.

## **2. From Tracy Barker**

I was not there at the beginning  
or possibly at the end  
There was no one to mop your brow  
or possibly hold your hand.

No words could describe the suffering,  
or possibly the pain  
you died, you rose, to save us all  
and you will come again.

## **3. From Janet Harley**

The picture I had was of someone being led into a dark windowless place a bit like an air raid shelter.

It seems God is leading you there so it seems fine to go with Him. Then He closes the door. It is pitch black and doesn't feel like a pleasant place to be. You want to get out. It feels like you are imprisoned with no escape, it feels like you are being punished. Then God speaks. This place is not for your punishment but for your protection. Like an air raid shelter, while the bombs fly around outside you are totally safe. You are too precious and God wants you protected. There will come a time when the siren will sound and the door will be opened and you will be able to step out into the daylight again but for now this is the place where God wants you to be for your protection even though it may feel uncomfortable and dark. When God shut the door to the room you felt alone and frightened. However, the reality was that when God shut the door of that room He was on the inside with you in that room.

"I will never leave you or forsake you"

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with my, your rod and staff they comfort me."

## **Update & SOS re Shoebox Appeal**

News has been received from Operation Christmas Child that although there has been a wonderful response again this year with thousands of shoeboxes received, there has been a shortfall in the money needed to transport the boxes.

This year around 130 temporary warehouses were set up across the UK & Ireland where the shoeboxes were checked before being sent off overseas. Samaritan's Purse who organise this amazing undertaking every year are so grateful for every box received & for the hundreds of volunteers who work so hard to ensure that over a million needy children will have received a gift at Christmas to bless them.

Six year old Daisy from Worcester was moved when she saw a film about Operation Christmas Child in her school assembly. When she came home that night she asked if her friends could make shoeboxes rather than buy presents for her forthcoming birthday. She told her parents, "It is better to give to children who have nothing than to have more things myself as I already have lots of things I like." She made her own birthday party invites with her request and sent them out with leaflets. Daisy's friends all brought a shoebox each and she collected 12 boxes. What a lovely thing for Daisy to have done!

In Stoke on Trent, businessman Adam, who had seen great poverty in Africa where he lived as a child, this year took his making up of shoeboxes to a new level. His aim was to make 1,000 gift filled boxes in his garage & raise the money for the transport donations to send them on their way. What an amazing achievement!!

12 boxes from Daisy and 1000 from Adam plus thousands of other boxes all lovingly & thoughtfully assembled. Vanya's story shows just how much these gifts mean.

*Little Vanya is just four years old. Sadly he has no mother or father. Home for Vanya is a tiny hospital ward deep in the chilly city of Mogilev in the country of Belarus.*

*Vanya has cerebral palsy which limits his movement and breathing and so he spends his days in a cot.*

*When the OCC Team delivered Vanya's shoebox the two children who share his room had their mothers with them but Vanya was alone. His eyes were empty and he was listless. A team member gave Vanya a friendly teddy bear (pictured) from his box and gently stroked his face. Though he is unable to speak his big brown eyes lit up with delight and his beaming smile spoke more than words ever could.*

*The team said: "We had the absolute joy of spending a little time with him, holding his hand, blowing some bubbles over his cot and watching him cuddle into the teddy bear!"*

Our own church family and Caturpillars have already been so generous with shoeboxes but if anyone felt able to donate £1 towards our transportation costs that would be so appreciated.

Lastly may we pray that the children who have received these boxes will experience the joy of knowing that there are adults & children who care about them and that they are loved by God.

Thank you fvor your support, love & prayers for those dear children.

With love in Jesus & God bless

Jane Hancock

## **Christianity Explored**

**Wednesday evenings**

**19:30 from 1<sup>st</sup> February**

*This series of meetings is for those interested in finding out more about the Christian Faith. It will run for seven weeks on Wednesday evenings plus a Saturday on 17<sup>th</sup> March.*

*The DVD material has been used and very much enjoyed by one of our House Groups. The new series is open to anyone who'd like to come along.*

*Speak to Ron Dallimore or Brian Harley if you are interested.*



## Shanklin URC Bookshop

Have you started 2012 resolving to read your Bible more? Are you wondering what could you help you with this aim? Well, there are lots of Bible reading resources available and we want to mention a few of them here. Many of you will be familiar with some of the printed materials available from various publishers but you may not be so aware of online resources. Scripture Union has an excellent free online resource called WordLive which can be accessed by going to [www.wordlive.org](http://www.wordlive.org) and clicking on the 'Get started today' button on that page or, alternatively, to go straight to the daily Bible reading sections go to [www.wordlive.org/session](http://www.wordlive.org/session) Each day has a new Bible passage with fresh resources to use in your quiet time with God. There is a choice of three formats and you can switch between them very easily;

WordLive classic aims to help you develop your relationship with God in a simple practical way with additional material if you want to go deeper and study the background to the Bible passage. There is an 'audio' option which gives an audio version of the reading, the 'main point' comment and the 'question for response' as well as worship songs for the day.

alt.wordLive uses sketches, animations, meditations, music, blogs, vlogs with social, topical, funny and serious elements

WordLive Lectio is, perhaps, a bit less easy to use.

There is also a free SU online resource for 11-14 year olds called SUBmerge which can be accessed at [www.submergebibleguide.wordpress.com](http://www.submergebibleguide.wordpress.com) or via facebook at [www.facebook.com/submergebibleguide](http://www.facebook.com/submergebibleguide)

To go back to printed materials .... here are some details of a selection from what's available.....

CWR publish several different Bible reading notes for daily use including .....

'Every Day With Jesus' - contains extra study questions

'Inspiring Women every day' - written by women for women

'Life every day - written by Jeff Lucas' - life application notes, often with a touch of humour and Jeff Lucas has further comments on each day's notes on facebook at [www.facebook.com/jefflucasuk](http://www.facebook.com/jefflucasuk)

'Cover to Cover every day' - daily teaching notes

The Scripture Union range of daily Bible reading notes includes 'Daily Bread' - from a wide range of authors

'Encounter with God' - aims to lead you to a deeper understanding about what God is saying to you and to his world today

'Closer to God' - a mixture of themed and systematic approaches to the Bible including 'going deeper' meditations and 'looking outward' articles offering practical suggestions to help you live out your faith. 'Closer to God' also uses a weekly format that gives more flexibility in how you approach each series so if you miss a day it may be easier to catch up without feeling guilty!

BRF also publish daily Bible reading notes. These include....

'New Daylight' - each day has a short Bible passage, comment and prayer or point for reflection

## ***The Link*** - February 2012

'Guidelines' - provides weekly units broken down into 6 sections plus an introduction giving the context of the passage and a final section of points for thought and prayer

'The Upper Room' - each daily meditation is written by a reader of 'The Upper Room' and includes a recommended Bible reading with a key verse, reflection and prayer

'Day by Day with God' is aimed at women so the Bible text comment is applied especially for women. It has suggested prayers, meditations and further readings to explore.

Not all daily Bible reading notes are available in large print but some of them are. Large print versions of 'Every day with Jesus' and 'Daily Bread' are readily available and 'The Upper Room' is available in a large print version through 'The Torch Trust' which is a Christian organisation that produces a range of Bible resources for those who are blind or visually impaired.

Some printed resources are available for children and teenagers. These include 'Topz' for 7-11 year olds (the Topz gang teach biblical truths through word games, puzzles, cartoons, simple prayers and Bible readings), YP's for 11-15 year olds and 'Mettle' for 14-18 year olds.

Printed daily Bible reading notes cover two to four months per issue and prices range from £2.85 to £3.99 per issue.

As you can see there are lots of things available but as they are 'dated' items we cannot hold a stock of these in the church bookshop for you to look through. However, if you would like to buy a single issue of anything to try, before making a decision on what suits you, we would be happy to help.

## **Isle of Wight Foodbank**



Would like to say a very big thank you for the tremendous support you have given us since we began in April last year and especially in the run up to Christmas. The good news is that we were able to feed approximately 500 adults and children in December alone. In the past 5 months since we opened our first centre we have distributed over 10 ½ tonnes of food to just over a total of 800 people who found themselves in crisis.

**The sad news is that this reflects the high level of need for a Foodbank here on the Island and we desperately need your help so we can continue to serve people in crisis.**

We currently have 6 Distribution Centres up and running and serving communities around the Island and are **opening our 7<sup>th</sup> centre this month, in Shanklin. This will be open on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons from early February at the Methodist Church.**

However, we still desperately need your help and support in a number of ways:

Financially... donations can be given directly on our website: [www.theisleofwightfoodbank.com](http://www.theisleofwightfoodbank.com)

- Non-perishable food can be donated at any of our 85 collection points which are located across the island - for more details please contact the office. (There is a crate at Shanklin URC and you can drop goods in any time the building is open).
- In person, at our warehouse which is on Somerton Business Park, Newport Road, Cowes - next door to the Steve Porter Transport depot. Opening times: Monday, Wednesday & Friday between 9:00 & 12:00.

For further information please contact the Foodbank team on:  
292040

**"Local people helping local people in crisis"**

## **A Christmas message with a New Year message!!**

What were you doing at 17:00 on Christmas Day? Sleeping off lunch? Trying to entertain over-tired children? Rather bizarrely I found myself on my knees with my hands in a bowl of hot water, washing the feet of a complete stranger.

We had travelled 100+ miles to stay with family for Christmas and had all arranged to spend a little time helping at a city centre Christmas refuge for homeless/lonely people. Our names had been taken in advance and we had volunteered to work in the kitchen.

On arrival during the afternoon of Christmas Eve we found that there were quite a few other volunteers and the kitchen was fully manned. We were shown around and the premises, a church centre, had a very large hall with a stage, and several other rooms of varying sizes. There was a vast quantity of food (and toiletries) in the hall and a large amount of clothing in one of the other rooms. In addition there were two "dormitories" and a recreation room with games etc and dining tables. The only facilities I didn't see were any showers.

To be frank, the overall organisation seemed a bit casual and we took it on ourselves to start getting some order into the storage of the food, so that all like items were together and that anything out of date (of which there was more than a little) could be discarded. In four hours, and with the help of about ten people in total, we made some progress but the job was not completed. When we left that evening there were about twenty or so "clients" on the premises.

We returned on Christmas afternoon at the same time, quite expecting to find that our help was not needed. I cannot speak for the rest of my family, but what happened next came as a bit of a shock to me. The lady who had shown us round previously said that there was "a job that needed doing". She led us to a row of chairs behind which was a sign saying something like "Let us pamper you" and in front of each chair there was a foot-spa. She asked if we would give foot-massages to those coming into the centre.

I don't know how you might have felt at that moment but I experienced a very odd reaction. Admittedly the thought of getting close to the feet of somebody who may not have taken their shoes/boots off for some time was not appealing, but this was not what really troubled me. I felt genuinely ill-at-ease at being asked to copy something that Jesus did as part of his ministry, almost as if I had no right; and yet doesn't He want us to be more like him.

In the event I actually only washed the feet of one person\* and it was not a difficult thing to do. However the symbolism has stayed with me and this has been reinforced several times since coming home. I have heard church members talking about "taking risks for God" and "getting out of our comfort zone".

God has challenged me. Is He challenging all of us to "get our hands dirty" for Him in 2012?

(\*You may be as amazed as I was to learn that this one person was local to the area but had only just returned there; until a few days previously he had been living with a friend in Shanklin. I wonder if God will send him back to the Island? Will you meet him next?)

A church member

## Island Events

***Pick up all the Island Christian news at:***

[www.wightchurch.net](http://www.wightchurch.net)



*Sign up for the free fortnightly e-newsletter.*

### **All Island Prayer Celebration in St Thomas Minster**

Come along and help fill the Minster in Newport with prayer on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February from 19:30 - 21:00**

*Join others from all around the Island .... It will make a difference!*

### **The Christian Institute**

Special Island meeting – Defending Family, faith and freedom

**Monday 6 February 19:00 at St James' Church**, Lind Street, Ryde

Alasdair Armour and Colin Hart will be speaking about freedom of speech, religious liberty and Homosexual Marriage.

### **J John**

International evangelist and the author of the Just 10 series, J John is on the Island twice this year...



**United Service** to share the vision for this major mission event –

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 18:30 at Ryde School.**

**Outreach Carol Service**

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> December 19:30 at Ryde Arena**

Please put this in your diary and plan to come along. Also in May and June there will be a training series on personal evangelism – ***Breaking News***. Look out for details soon.

# An Evening with Loretta Minghella OBE

Director of Christian Aid

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**19:30 till about 21:00  
at Carisbrooke College**



A special meeting planned by the Wight Church Action Team in partnership with Christian Aid to welcome one of the Minghella family back to the Island and hear something of her personal story and how that led her into her present work with all its challenges and opportunities.

Loretta is a lawyer by training who, after practising as a criminal litigator, began a career in financial regulation in 1990. In 2004, Loretta became Chief Executive of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, in which capacity she oversaw the payment of over £21bn in compensation to victims of bank and other financial failures. In recognition of her contribution in that role, she was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours 2010.

She was appointed Director of Christian Aid in 2010 and leads the organisation as well as representing Christian Aid in NGO groups worldwide.

She has stories of hope and inspiration from Christian Aid partners overseas and from our supporters and advocacy work here in the UK.

The event is free of charge but there will be an opportunity to give to the work of Christian Aid through a retiring offering.

# Pancake Night

## – Shrove Tuesday 21 February

Our basement rooms will be filled with the aroma of pancakes. Drop in some time after 19:00 up until 20:00 to join in the fun – or you'll find that the Rock Solid crew will have finished things off!



Donations welcome – and offers of help to Matt Northard.

*What's your favourite topping??*



### *A Very Happy Birthday To*

5 Deborah Landahl

7 Levi Dawson

16 Jake Lewis

21 Rio Penn-Grice

28 Megan Wood

*With Love From Us All*



### *Brain Teasers:*

1. How are Syboes more commonly known?
2. Which organ of the body is affected by Bright's Disease?
3. What is the name of the statue by Edvard Eriksen, unveiled on the 23rd August 1913?

*Answers on page 25*



## NEXT PRAYER MEETING

Special Times for Prayer

Tuesday 28 February

19:30

in the downstairs rooms



Please join us to seek the Lord together.

Prayer changes things!

## In This Month In History



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/>

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2003: Space shuttle disintegrated killing seven.** US space shuttle Columbia broke up as it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere killing all seven astronauts on board.

**11<sup>th</sup> February 1990: Freedom for Nelson Mandela.** Leading anti-apartheid campaigner Nelson Mandela was freed from prison in South Africa after 27 years. *Q. In what year did Nelson Mandela win the Nobel Peace prize? (Answer on page 25)*

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 1997: Dolly the sheep was cloned.** Scientists in Scotland announced the birth of the world's first successfully cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep.

## Food For Thought

"A church in the land without the Spirit is rather a curse than a blessing. If you have not the Spirit of God, Christian worker, remember that you stand in somebody else's way; you are a fruitless tree standing where a fruitful tree might grow."

*Charles Spurgeon*

# The Puzzle Pages

## Sudoku

**A numerical placement puzzle!**

To solve it you need to fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

			2		7			
7		5	3		1	4		2
1								8
		6	9		2	8		
8		7				2	5	9
	2	1				7	4	
	1		4		5		8	
			6		9			
	4						6	

A	T	H	G	I	W	F	O	E	L	S	I	C	N	A	W	F	H	R	I	Cheshire
E	J	L	C	M	B	V	B	H	X	J	U	O	I	S	V	S	H	E	I	Cornwall
M	G	V	H	M	D	H	W	H	U	Z	R	R	W	E	M	X	V	A	D	Devon
D	N	A	S	P	A	A	U	Q	U	F	S	N	E	S	O	F	R	P	Y	Dorset
Q	Z	G	U	R	H	M	C	U	O	S	M	W	S	S	W	N	O	Y	R	Essex
I	A	S	F	Z	U	P	T	L	F	U	D	A	S	E	X	U	P	W	R	Hampshire
H	C	Q	F	H	W	S	K	E	H	R	O	L	E	X	Y	E	E	G	E	Isle of Wight
O	M	H	O	E	P	H	T	T	C	R	B	L	X	B	C	U	U	J	P	Kent
L	T	M	L	I	V	I	V	D	C	E	B	B	F	R	F	O	G	J	V	Norfolk
I	I	R	K	R	X	R	I	M	H	Y	T	T	O	S	K	O	P	W	R	Oxfordshire
E	C	M	K	C	B	E	O	R	C	X	V	T	R	Y	H	S	T	M	R	Somerset
R	E	F	Y	J	D	Z	H	B	D	C	E	W	X	O	S	C	R	A	I	Suffolk
I	X	N	I	L	X	J	J	N	M	S	B	E	T	W	T	E	X	M	D	Surrey
H	X	K	F	T	U	P	A	C	R	Q	S	E	Y	O	I	L	F	E	R	Sussex
S	Z	Q	N	R	O	L	C	O	T	S	S	D	G	W	S	L	Z	E	B	<i>Plus there are two others!</i>
E	E	E	A	J	T	K	D	J	U	R	C	L	N	L	R	V	N	O	G	
H	K	J	P	U	W	P	G	S	E	S	O	W	J	J	Q	O	U	L	F	
C	S	V	R	T	X	E	U	M	G	H	S	L	Z	E	V	A	F	X	I	
W	T	Z	H	O	X	F	O	R	D	S	H	I	R	E	K	V	A	G	B	
N	K	A	D	S	I	S	K	O	G	D	H	B	D	S	I	U	R	O	X	

# Last Issue's Answers

The theme last issue was Christmas (of course) and the missing ones were... Jesus & Shanklin

Z	S	L	A	M	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	A	N	G	E	L	S	W	S
S	Q	K	A	R	S	A	S	L	K	O	N	V	Z	X	N	O	T	P	
I	X	V	R	B	Z	N	O	T	N	J	H	D	L	Q	N	A	A	E	L
X	W	M	C	A	C	Z	X	Q	J	E	H	E	R	O	D	B	E	N	G
G	S	A	V	E	N	P	Y	P	K	Q	R	X	J	W	L	C	P	P	C
M	D	R	B	W	A	K	Z	J	W	P	S	H	G	E	T	Y	T	V	T
K	E	Y	Q	W	W	J	I	N	R	T	Z	E	E	R	F	E	V	C	G
W	K	C	R	I	Z	Q	F	N	F	W	Q	I	R	R	E	B	C	Y	T
E	X	F	X	B	H	S	A	V	C	S	L	C	I	H	N	A	W	W	
Q	J	D	W	B	B	M	E	B	W	E	O	D	F	K	Z	S	C	X	K
D	W	X	J	M	Q	E	X	R	N	C	N	I	K	C	J	H	W	T	N
G	P	Q	S	G	F	H	F	E	V	D	G	S	B	R	Z	S	F	F	O
E	Y	N	U	P	S	E	Z	G	U	V	C	Q	E	I	Y	N	A	O	E
D	E	D	S	Z	G	L	I	N	E	W	Q	V	D	T	U	U	S	D	F
Y	K	V	E	N	K	H	H	A	K	V	Q	O	L	X	T	G	L	X	G
H	N	O	J	N	W	T	S	M	E	F	H	K	M	J	K	Y	R	B	B
T	O	X	E	I	L	E	X	G	U	G	I	W	E	B	S	A	X	O	K
G	D	D	T	E	B	B	I	D	S	H	A	N	K	L	I	N	Z	B	S
Y	O	O	V	H	O	A	C	N	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	J	L	T	F
G	H	R	I	T	S	J	A	H	B	Q	I	J	J	P	U	G	Z	I	I

2	1	6	3	5	7	8	9	4
7	9	3	8	6	4	2	5	1
8	5	4	2	9	1	6	3	7
6	3	5	9	4	2	7	1	8
4	2	1	7	8	3	9	6	5
9	8	7	5	1	6	3	4	2
3	6	8	1	2	5	4	7	9
5	4	2	6	7	9	1	8	3
1	7	9	4	3	8	5	2	6

## Website of The Month:

[www.christianityexplored.org](http://www.christianityexplored.org)



## Quiz Answers

- Nelson Mandela won the Nobel Peace prize (with F W De Klerk) in 1993.
- Syboes are more commonly known as Spring Onions.
- The kidney is affected by Bright's Disease.
- The name of the famous statue by Edvard Eriksen, unveiled on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1913, is The Little Mermaid (in Copenhagen)





# Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Time	Details
Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	19:30	Christianity Explored begins
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	19:00	Informal shared worship - downstairs
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:30	Worship at Greyfriars
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11:30	Worship at Tile House
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:30 18:30	Worship starts early United Service at Sacred Heart
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	14:00	Prayer Group for the Suffering Church
Tue	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	19:30	Elders Meeting
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11:00	James & the young people leading
Tue	21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	19:00	Pancake Night - downstairs
Wed	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	10:30	Worship at Greyfriars
Fri	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11:00	Worship at Springfield
Thu	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	19:30	Prayer Meeting - downstairs
Fri	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	15:00	Friday Fellowship

## **GEAR Conferences**

**Swanwick, Derbyshire** - The Hayes Conference Centre

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Jesus says: "Come to me..."**

Guest speaker - **Eric Delve**

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Please note that the **DEADLINE** for contributions for the next magazine is:

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

## Sunday Services

### Morning 11:00

#### **Worship for the whole church family**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – sung worship starts at 10:30*



- ➔ **Holy Communion** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month
- ➔ **All Age Worship** last Sunday of each month
- ➔ **Junior Church** except on the last Sunday of the month, with various age groups up to 13
- ➔ A **crèche** is available at the back of church

### Evening 19:00

- ➔ **Informal Shared Worship**
- ➔ **Sunday @ Seven** Contemporary interactive worship for youth and others

## Weekday Activities

**Check the weekly notice sheet for full details**

<b>Monday</b>	19:00	<b>Dunamis</b> youth group (13-18s)
<b>Tuesday</b>	12:00	Snack Lunch
	13:00	Bible Bite ministry, finishing at 13.45
	19:00	<b>Rock Solid</b> youth group (10-14s)
<b>Wednesday</b>	11:00	Fit For The King
<b>Thursday</b>	12:45-14:30	<b>Cat<sub>UR</sub>pillars</b> Parent & Child Activity Session
<b>Friday</b>	10:00-12:00	<b>Cat<sub>UR</sub>pillars</b> Parent & Child Activity Session
<b>Housegroups</b>	- Daytime and evening groups meet for Bible study, fellowship and prayer.	

*Please note: Monday is Brian Harley's day off  
Wednesday is James Alder's day off*

**Shanklin URC is a member of the Evangelical Alliance**

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