

# The Link



# July 2024



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

# View From Number 10



## It's time to step up...

I wrote in last month's edition about being witnesses to Jesus in our day, and I pointed to the training opportunity that was coming up in July on the Island with *Christ for All Nations* who are partnering with the Lionheart Festival. I would really encourage you to come along to one or more of the afternoon sessions from 24<sup>th</sup> July to gain confidence and skills in sharing your faith. It's for everyone!

They use a simple tool to engage with people in the community using the 'Jesus at the Door' card to open up a conversation with people. Details of the proposed sessions are on [pages 4 and 5](#) – we are one of six venues on the Island where this training is being offered over the three days.

We may prefer to leave evangelism to others, but every one of us needs to be ready to witness to those around us about what it means to know and serve Jesus today. Do please pray about this and consider getting involved – it may be life-changing as you begin to overcome fears and find confidence in speaking about your faith.

Please do support the Lionheart Festival on 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> July at the County Show Ground and consider offering as a volunteer in one of the many important roles where help is needed... Car parking, stewarding, registration etc. This time, they are running till 17:30 on the Sunday so congregations are encouraged to come along from 13:30 for the main programme – there will be a service on site. Hold all this in your prayers and do give to support if you can.

And let's keep praying for our local community in our town and across Sandown Bay as we move into the busy summer season.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian'.

# Prayer



## Tuesday Prayer at 19:30

Continues each week via Zoom using the same account as for other activities and groups :

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3242665584?  
pwd=ZTlXZzBLWnkrWTNBY2JBK1o0K2ZXdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3242665584?pwd=ZTlXZzBLWnkrWTNBY2JBK1o0K2ZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 324 266 5584 Password: 936536.

## Text Prayer Network

This has proved a really efficient method of getting prayer needs around. So, if you have an urgent and important issue that needs immediate cover, please text Lou on **07474 273119** (or, as a back-up, Jean Cunningham on: 07854 324809) with your prayer request and she will mobilise a team of over 30 intercessors by forwarding the message to the group. Each of the team will pray and then delete the message.

If you'd like to be added to this network, please get in touch with Lou and she will brief you on the protocols.

## Prayer for Israel

Is held each Monday at 14:30 at Roy, Melodie and Carol's home in the Old Village.

Should you wish to know more details about the prayer meeting, please contact Melodie or Roy on ☎ 866912 or [melodieroywilson@gmail.com](mailto:melodieroywilson@gmail.com).



## Prayer Breakfast

We plan to hold another one of these on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 09:00 – please note it in your diary and come along for fellowship and prayer.

## **Lionheart Outreach**



Lionheart Festival are delighted to be partnering with Christ for All Nations, and churches across the Island for Lionheart Outreach. There are six bases across the Island where CFAN will be holding evangelistic workshops at the same time and then will be heading on to the streets to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

These workshops will take place in the run up to Lionheart Festival Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July - and Shanklin URC is one of the host venues on the Island.

You can come to one session or come each day as they'll be distinct and different,

### ***Approximate Timings For The Training Days***

13:00 - 13:30 Arrival, Registration

13:30 - 14:20 CFAN Welcome/ Evangelism Inspiration

14:20 - 14:30 Comfort Break

14:30 - 16:00: 'Jesus at the Door' training

Including 30mins Roleplay and Q&A session

16:00 - 16:15: Break

16:15 - 17:15: Outreach

17:15 - 17:30 regroup and share testimonies from the streets

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### ***Topics To Be Covered During The 3 Training Days:***

#### **Day 1 – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

- Challenging traditional thoughts of Evangelism
- Jesus at the door basic training
- Workshop – practicing in pairs.
- Arming yourself with the right attitude

## Day 2 – Thursday 25th July

- Sowing and reaping
- Jesus at the door basic training
- Workshop – practicing in pairs.
- Discipleship and the importance of follow up.

## Day 3 – Friday 26th July

- Partnering with the Holy Spirit
- Jesus at the door basic training
- Workshop – practicing in pairs.
- Growing in your giftings

\*Topics given as a rough guide and subject to change

You can just turn up – but it would be helpful to know who is interested in taking part... see the sign up sheet.

## Good News from Uganda

Warm greetings to you dear Brian and to all Shanklin and Ryde Church members.

I am most grateful for your love toward my family, Kalasa ministries, your unlimited generosity and your valuable prayers. I am so happy to inform you that when I went for my last review, my PSA was down to 2.6ng/ml. Now I am feeling pretty well and have resumed my pastoral duties. This weekend, we are going out for outreach evangelism "Look for the lost one ministry."

How are our dear friends Julie, Sue and Ron doing? Have they recovered yet? Our Kalasa Church intercession group have never ceased to (PUSH) **Pray Until Something Happens.**

Today 19<sup>th</sup> June, Gertrude and I mark our 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary. We shall celebrate it together with Kalasa church members on Sunday so please, we humbly request you to rejoice and celebrate with us prayerfully.

Blessings, Martin Sebbugo

*We have passed on good news for answered prayer here and our thanks to them for standing with us*

# ENCOUNTER

**Usually on the last Sunday of each month  
at 10:30**

**A café style meeting place to drop in  
and enjoy some refreshments**



**...a relaxed time of Friendship, Fun, Food  
and exploring Faith...  
with craft, songs, challenges, prayers...**

**EVERYONE is welcome  
– why not bring a friend?**

**The next café service will be led by Brian on  
28<sup>th</sup> July – before we head out to Lionheart for  
the afternoon**

**Café serving from 10.15**

**CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE BAY**  
warmly invite you to join us for

# ***Worship in the Open Air***



**Each Sunday 19:30  
at Rylstone Gardens**  
(turn left just past the Old Village)



**An informal service for everyone led  
from the bandstand by local Churches**

**Until 25<sup>th</sup> August**



## Thank You

My grateful thanks to our church family for the cards, good wishes and gifts received for my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the 'Bring and Share Lunch'.

I give thanks daily to God for sparing me for so many years. I never cease to be amazed by His continual Love and Mercy to me and to family, friends and neighbours - all answers to Prayer.

May our dear Father God bless you all and keep you safe in His comforting arms.

With love, Heather Pettinger

## Welcome team

Do you appreciate the welcome you receive when you arrive at church?

We need more people to get involved with the welcome team - at the moment it consists of just George and Viv.

Being on the welcome team is actually a two way thing, not only do you give pleasure from the welcome you give but you also get pleasure back.

If you are interested in joining the team, please speak to George or Viv, after the service. If you would like to give it a try with no commitment, again please come and speak to us.

## Connection Quiz

1. What was the name of the British group that included Mike Rutherford and Phil Collins?
2. What was Bob Marley's 9th studio album?
3. 1, 2, 3, 4, for example?
4. Who is the English singer-songwriter and guitarist, who released the single 'Budapest'?
5. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 4?
6. And where was the cover photo taken? Hint, it was taken at a heritage railway in Southern England



Answers are on [page 43](#)



**Come to  
'The Well'**

*a place for*

# Living Well Together

**A safe place for friendship, support and a  
refreshing time – here at Shanklin URC:**

**Wednesdays 11:00 – 13:00**

**Free refreshments and craft activities**

**Just drop in at any point**



## **YMCA Mother and Baby Care Centre**

Having decorated the office/pram room, we are looking for two simple small tub chairs. They need to be compact as the room is small - but when we have meetings we don't have enough seating and just had to get rid of a big bulky chair as it was broken, sharp and took over the room!

We are also on the look out for some sunshades for the gardens - a parasol would be great but not many people dispose of these in this heat!

Thank you

Jo McGrath  
Mother and Baby Support Manager

☎ 861076 or 07980 955532

💻 [jo.mcgrath@ymca-fg.org](mailto:jo.mcgrath@ymca-fg.org)

## **Help!**

### **We need your help with Messy Church**

**We need (by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July):**

- Items for junk modelling to make houses
- Small cereal size boxes or smaller
- Kitchen towel inner tubes  
(but NOT toilet rolls)
- Small pieces of cellophane

Please could you bring items to church or call me and I will collect

Many thanks,

Yvonne

☎ 07725 845956

**Coming this month...**



**Summer Special...**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

***Great family fun***

**15:30 – 17:30**

**Please let Yvonne know if you can help in any way – even with clearing up!**

**Pick up an invite to encourage people you know to come along.**

## Mercy Ships

Brian and Janet's eldest daughter Sarah is heading out to Madagascar this month to serve as a nurse on a hospital ship.

She spent two months in Senegal in 2022 but now has a career break of 12 months so she can spend longer sharing in this amazing international ministry. She flies out on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

After Sarah shared at our service in April, several people asked about how to support her financially over the year.


Please go to the website: [www.mercyships.org.uk/donate](http://www.mercyships.org.uk/donate)

After you put in your card details it gives you an option to say who the money is for – enter: **Sarah Harley 6779**

The money will go into Sarah's ship account.

*Please note that you are only asked if you wish to support a particular person after you have completed the payment.*

If you'd like to get prayer updates, please message her on - [sarah.harley@mercyships.org](mailto:sarah.harley@mercyships.org)



Pray for Sarah Harley as she serves on the Africa Mercy

Heading to Madagascar July 2024

Pray for her...

As she prepares - for her travel arrangements and packing, wrapping up everything at home

On the ship - for good relationships, rapid language learning, opportunities to witness, a balance of time with others and time alone and good devotional times

For her work - for stamina and good pacing

"Be strong, be bold, don't be afraid or frightened of them, for ADONAI your God is going with you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."



## Testimony

As many of you know I had pneumonia earlier this year and I know God wants me to give a testimony about those weeks in hospital and rehab. I had intended to talk to Brian about it and give my prewritten testimony for him to read and then arrange for me to do it one Sunday. I was feeling nervous about this as I am not good at speaking in front of large groups of people.

However, God had other plans, he usually does: At the service on 9<sup>th</sup> June when Kelvin preached, I knew I had to get up and speak. I said to Rob, towards the end of the service I need to say something, so he said, 'Go on then' and there I was at the front of the church speaking. I didn't feel at all nervous and what I said I think made sense. Not everyone would have heard it, so I am putting it in the Link for those who missed it. This is not because I want everyone to know but because God wants everyone to know because without the prayers of you all I know I wouldn't be here now. So, this is to give Glory to God and thank Him for healing and all of you for being so obedient and faithful in prayer.

In February, I was feeling quite unwell with what seemed to be a tummy bug, I don't remember a lot of those first few days but on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> after a sleepless night God was urging Rob and me separately to go immediately to A&E - we just had to look at each other to know that this was the right thing to do. Not knowing how long an ambulance would take Rob asked Dave White if he could drive us to St Mary's. I think this was around 8 am. I remember going into A&E, which was thankfully empty, and I went straight into triage. I have no memory from that point until I woke up from an induced coma in the ICU over a week later, although Rob tells me I was conscious in A&E and talking to him and the staff.

It turns out I had severe pneumonia in my right lung and part of my left lung and was put in a coma to allow my body to rest. The following day Rob spoke to the ICU consultant who gave the impression that had we left things for another 24 hours, there could have been a very different outcome - Praise Be To God!! During that time, I remember hearing a radio, the station was Radio Solent, so I thought I was not far from home, and also Christian songs, many of which were my favourites. At that point, I thought I was in heaven and rather than being happy about this I was heartbroken as I didn't

want to lose Rob or my family. Not the reaction I would have imagined!

I remember pleading with God that it was too soon, I wanted to see our grandchildren grow up, couldn't leave Rob yet, couldn't leave our children, and wanted to see them all come to know Him. This wrestling seemed to go on forever. Then there were creatures of some sort dragging me down by my feet. I felt exhausted and said to God, if you want me take me, I can't fight anymore, just be with Rob and all the family. Then I saw a golden light in the corner and knew I had to go to it. As I did, I thought 'I've lost them all' and was crying. Voices were calling my name and then I was awake and surrounded by nurses and doctors in ICU telling me I was O.K. and doing well. I spent another 3 weeks in intensive care, again I don't remember much of it, but I remember some of you visiting me there.

I then moved on to Appley a specialist respiratory ward, where I stayed for another 4 weeks. I was feeling quite ill in the early days there and was given a new drug to help disperse the blockages in my right lung. These were quite strong and left me with dreams that were very strange made worse by the fact I didn't recognise them as dreams but thought they had really happened, this amused Rob!

Gradually though, I grew stronger and was able to get in and out of bed, sit in a chair, and eventually walk a few steps with a walking frame. By this stage, the infection hadn't quite gone but the medical staff said I was well enough to go to rehab for which I was so grateful. During the last 2/3 weeks on the ward, I had really missed being at home and couldn't wait to get back there.

During my time in the hospital, I had so many comments from staff, patients and visitors about how well I was doing. I was able to share a little of my faith including the fact that without prayer the outcome would have been very different. This met with varying responses, but one family asked for prayer for their mother who was very ill and Rob put her on the prayer chain; also some members of the staff told me they were Christians and we had interesting conversations.

In April I was moved to Springfield, where I learnt how to walk with a stick and climb stairs. It was a fairly peaceful time and great to be nearer home; looking back a good bridge between hospital and home.

Being home has been great and gradually getting back to a 'normal'

life again - my original leg pain remains. At the moment I am still quite breathless and coughing a fair bit, but I have been told it may take many months to recover completely. So, for the moment I am taking things slowly.

Rob and I would like to thank you all for the overwhelming, love, support and care for us both, and for everyone that came to visit me, it certainly kept me grounded, especially during the times I was having odd dreams. For those who sent cards and best wishes, which often arrived during times I felt down - the Bible verses were often appropriate to how I was feeling and definitely helped me to focus on God. For those who provided transport for our family to and from ferries and home and hospital visits – ensuring that Rob always had a lift to the hospital - he never had to use public transport or miss a day visiting!!

But above all a huge thank you to those who prayed for me, we had a sign outside the church that said '**Prayer Works**'. It definitely does and I think I'm living proof of that!!

Sue Wightman

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## **A day in the life of an Open Doors partner**

What is meant by an 'Open Doors partner' and how do they respond to the needs of persecuted Christians? You're invited behind the scenes to see how Open Doors partners like Cho serve the persecuted church – thanks to your prayers and support.

Across the world, Open Doors partners take great risks to visit persecuted believers – with emergency aid, trauma care, presence ministry or vital training. Sometimes that means getting on a motorbike.

Cho\* is undeterred by long distances, dramatic weather conditions or terrible roads. He's determined to get to brothers and sisters who need his help. "There are times I need to cross rivers without a bridge, even at night," he says. "Even though the journey is hard, there is joy."

"Even though the journey is hard, there is joy."

### **Cho**

What does Cho do? As a local Open Doors partner, he sets off on dangerous, 12-hour journeys to support vulnerable Christian



communities in remote places. In his luggage is a precious box of Open Doors materials to equip his church family with persecution survival training.

## **Counting the cost**

Sometimes whole churches or organisations act as Open Doors partners – and sometimes it's people like Cho, travelling alone or in small groups. For each, ministry comes with cost. For Cho, leaving his wife and five children is always tough.

“When we are preparing for the journey, my wife is always worried about me,” Cho shares. “She advises me to be careful about how I speak when I preach the gospel. I must be careful how I act. She says, ‘Leave fast, and reach them fast’, and she’s praying for me all the time. She urges our children, ‘You have to pray for your father.’ She worries about me facing dangers like persecution. She says, ‘You don’t know what will come to you, so you need to be careful.’”

The caution is understandable. The civil war in Myanmar has increased dangers for everyone, and it’s also exacerbated the persecution Christians face. Cho has to pass through checkpoints almost every kilometre – some of them manned by the military, while others are under the control of civilian rebels. Young men with guns, some as young as 16, check for identification and take tolls. It’s a tense experience. But the journey is worth the cost.

## **Daily risk of persecution**

Even before the coup, Christians in Myanmar faced daily persecution. “On our identity card, it’s written that our tribe is Chin and our religion is Christian,” he says. “When people in Myanmar see it, we are discriminated against. This is the first thing we experience in Myanmar. They do not care about us.”

The Myanmar military also has a long history of oppressing Cho’s Chin Christian tribe. It’s been going on for decades, long before the recent coup. Chin churches have been forcibly closed and believers are beaten and threatened constantly. Cho says, “When the military comes to our village, they make us carry heavy loads day and night without pay. We need to follow them everywhere and obey them. We don’t have a choice.”

Cho’s transformation after Open Doors persecution survival training

“What really struck me was the teaching to not take revenge, and to

love our enemy.”

Even though Cho’s heart was filled with anger, the Lord transformed him when he attended Open Doors persecution survival training. “What really struck me was the teaching to not take revenge, and to love our enemy. Especially towards the military who persecute us, whom we hate very much in our heart and mind,” he says. “When I see from the Bible that persecution is part of a believer’s life, I learned that we need to accept whatever happens to us. So, that’s why I can forgive them.” Since then, he has committed to share what he has learned and teach the Word of God to others.

Many Open Doors partners choose to connect with the organisation because they know how persecution feels. They aren’t outsiders to these vulnerable communities – rather, they have a knowledge of the context, needs and lives of the persecuted church. They can truly empathise with those who count a heavy cost for following Jesus. Cho wants to help people facing what he faces.

### **“Your prayers are our protection”**

That’s what makes these risky journeys worthwhile. He is taking valuable training to vulnerable Christian communities – and he is bringing encouragement and joy too. “After traveling 10-12 hours, when we finally meet each other, we are so very happy!” he says. “When we see the people smiling and eagerly waiting for us, it strengthens me to be able to teach. We love our people, so the things we know, we want to share with them. I don’t consider it a problem because it is our burden to share what we have learned from the Word of God, and when we do it – when we obey – the burden becomes light.”

Like all Open Doors partners, Cho is sustained by your prayers. “Though we do not know [Open Doors supporters], though they do not know us, they are praying for us and they are supporting us. We are encouraged by them. We are in the body of Christ, united with each other.

“Your prayers are our protection and we feel your presence. Prayers back us up, push us during the journey, and encourage us to go on.”

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

*Source: Open Doors*

## Precious Memories

“Back in the day,” (as they say!), I was invited to join a Lydia Prayer Group, on the Island. I count this as one of the most privileged and blessed times in my life, fellowshiping and praying with wonderful women of God who had been on their journey with the Lord for much longer than I and from whom I learnt so much.



On a recent visit to The Priory at Carisbrooke, I was delighted to see some copies of the Lydia Fellowship International – England Newsletter for Spring 2024, on the resources table in the entrance lobby.

As well as the many years of being in a local Lydia Prayer Group, there were also several times a year meeting together with all the Island Lydia Groups for teaching and prayer. There were also wonderful times with conferences held for the Southern UK Region at Ashburnham Place in Sussex. This had been in its history a school and it was fun to be in dormitories with bunk beds and washing stations with a sink in the adjacent corridor! Some, I think, were in more up-to-date accommodation – maybe the speakers!! I think there have probably been changes since! However, it was always a wonderful place to be with huge grounds, so peaceful and away from all distractions.

UK Fellowship – International, also held annual conferences in Derbyshire at Swanwick Christian Conference Centre – again these were brilliant times of fellowship and prayer, with many wonderful international speakers (as well as at Ashburnham), many with prophetic insights into God’s eternal covenant with Israel (so relevant for today) and wonderful Bible teaching.

What also drew my attention to this Lydia Newsletter was the heading: “Wake Up, Wake Up, Deborah” (Judges 5:12)

(Deborah was a judge at a time when the nation of Israel had no king and, “Everyone did what was right in their own eyes.” Judges 21:25)

Also in the leaflet were articles on:

- “Lydia – Who are we?”
- “Prayer for parliament,” giving information on various Christian groupings that support MPs and those working within the Civil Service.
- “Praying for the young ones,” (so vital)

The call to, “Wake Up,” has been coming from many different quarters and as we are facing a general election on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, this call seems particularly pertinent as to the need to, “Watch and pray,” when as a nation we are so divided and how vital that our wonderful Judea-Christian foundations are not eroded any further.

For some time, the Lydia movement on the Island seemed to decline (although not nationally or internationally), so it was a particular joy to learn that Lydia is again active here, meeting up at the Priory.

Do take a copy of the newsletter, it's an inspiring read and I do pray it will encourage you in your prayer journey, “For such a time as this,” (Esther 4:14).

*The vision of Lydia was born out of Acts Chapter 16. Lydia was a worshipper of God. She opened her heart and her home to the work of the Lord.*

For those interested, Lydia Fellowship England has a website, which can be accessed at [www.lydiafellowship.org/england.html](http://www.lydiafellowship.org/england.html).

Blessings in our Dear Lord Jesus,

Jane H

Andrew Hough would value your support at:

***You've read the book -  
now meet the author!***

**MELLOW DRAMA**

*presents*

# TO TIMOTHY

*THE LAST TESTAMENT*

*(of St Paul - a "Miracle" Play)*

90 minutes of  
comedy and tragedy

**15:00**

**Wed 24; Thu 25 & Fri 26 July**

at Ventnor Baptist

aka the "Pier Street Playhouse"

(part of the Ventnor Fringe Festival 2024)



Tickets £5 available online: [bit.ly/44CS4uA](https://bit.ly/44CS4uA)



***Come and join  
the party!***

## **BBQ and Garden Party**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024 from 12:30 - 15:00**

Please come and Join us in the church garden on the corner of Corbett Road and Upton Road - P033 3LE

**BBQ, salads, gateaux, ice creams, soft drinks, games & activities**

We want the event to be a celebration with the local community, so:

**Tickets are only £2.00    Family Ticket (up to 5) only £5.00**

Available from:

Kevin Fraser 07561 854642    [kevinfraser58@gmail.com](mailto:kevinfraser58@gmail.com)

## **A bit more info...**

We are inviting our neighbours along with those who use our facilities and other friends to share in a celebration of when two congregations united on the present site in 1974. Please bring garden chairs or a rug to relax and enjoy some time with us.

*If the weather is poor. we will move inside - but it will happen!*

## **A bit of background ...**

Ryde Congregational Church in George Street and Haylands Chapel came together to form one congregation and a new building was erected in the garden of Beechgrove. The newly formed church has been at the heart of the local community ever since and there is much to give thanks for. So, let's party!

**Sunday Services at 10:30**

**yoUR Cafe Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

**Coffee mornings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month**



*Speak to Brian if you'd like to know more*

*Do please pray for this special event and for fresh connections*

## Good News for All!

'Good News' is a contemporary outreach newspaper used by churches and missions to take the good news about Jesus Christ into communities across the UK.

Every month, Good News reaches thousands of readers with true stories of how God is changing the lives of those who put their trust in his Son, Jesus. Using jargon-free language, it also explains how everyone can find a personal relationship with Jesus.

This such a great resource for people to read and then share with others!!

This month's edition (available in church and to read online at [www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionspage.htm](http://www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionspage.htm)) has a focus on the Paris Olympics and several great articles, including the headline article '**Loser Finds Life** - former violent criminal now helps save addicts and prisoners'.

Other contributions include:

- **Paris Olympics** - Testimonies of past & present Olympians, incl. Adam Peaty & Eric Liddell
- **Election Feature** - Three Christian politicians whose faith inspires their politics
- **Brand Baptised** - Russell Brand takes the plunge and commits to Christian faith
- **Singing For The King** - Actress sings for King Charles and the King of kings
- **Open-Air Jesus Play** - 100 volunteer actors tell story of Jesus in Surrey countryside near Guildford
- **Give Me 3 Good Reasons** - The Editor starts new series on good reasons to believe

## Good News... for a change





## Resources to Inform

General Election 2024 – 4<sup>th</sup> July – the Christian Institute has published a very helpful booklet: ‘Election Briefing 2024’, which is an analysis of ‘Party policies on key issues of importance to Christians’.

So helpful and informative on matters of great concern to us as believers (copies available at the back of the church).

Many people are so disillusioned with politics, and a helpful leaflet to read and share is from CARE, ‘Why Should I Vote?’

To be able to vote is such a privilege, one of the many freedoms we have been blessed with (along with many others that were fought for during World War II).

Another helpful resource that has come into our hands is a book entitled, ‘Israel, Gaza and Hamas – What You Need to Know’ (published 2024) by Gordon Pettie, who with his wife is part of the leadership team of Revelation TV.

At a time when there is much confusion about the current conflict between Israel and Hamas about who really owns the land, and most importantly, ‘What does the Bible say about peace in the Middle East?’ This is such an informative and helpful book.

May we be praying always that ‘God’s Will be done and God’s Kingdome come’, and for His glory to be revealed in these challenging days of the world being shaken.

Please ask if you’d like to know more about these resources.

Blessings

Jane H



## Work While It Is Day



*(Jesse gives bread and cheese to David to take to the army)*

For the past 25 years, Open the Book has had the tremendous privilege of being able to present Bible stories to precious children in primary schools. We do not know how much longer this will continue. Jesus warned: 'the night is coming when nobody can work'. Several mainland teams have recently been asked to leave out anything negative that might upset the children. As one team presented 'The Good Samaritan', a child left the hall in tears at the mere suggestion that the traveller might be attacked. Another team has been asked to pause taking assembly in two schools until further notice because they had presented the healing of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate, and Ananias restoring Saul's sight. It was thought that these would lead the children to think that they only have to pray and they will be healed.

Other issues included the Philippian jailor who almost killed himself and the crucifixion. How do we demonstrate God's saving power if

we're not allowed to show from what people need saving? How do we show the resurrection without the crucifixion?

When Jesus sent his disciples to preach, he told them to be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.

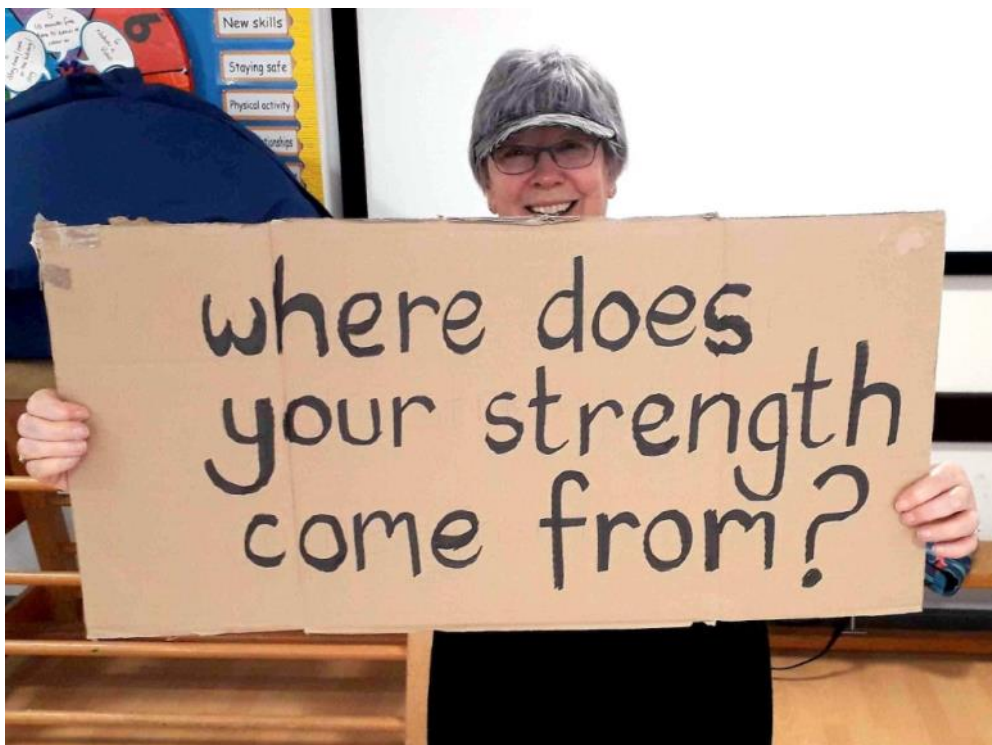
The Bible Society has pointed out that, in Arabic, the words 'Philistine' and 'Palestine' sound the same. We therefore referred only to 'enemies' in stories such as Samson (leaving out any mention of him being blinded) and David and Goliath. Please pray for both storytellers and schools as they navigate these difficult waters.



*(Samson taking honey from the carcass of the lion he killed earlier)*

Praise God that, for now, we still have the opportunity and our service is valued. The year 6 children at Haylands were discussing putting on a show with their teacher. They suggested asking to borrow props from Open the Book. The recently appointed Head Teacher of yet another school; in The Bay would love us to regularly take assemblies from September – but we don't have enough storytellers.

Jesus encouraged us to 'Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.' Send actually means 'thrust out'. Maybe God is pushing us to do things outside of our comfort zone because the need is so desperate. Thankfully, it is His harvest field and He provides all that we need. The children watching the story of Samson repeatedly asked:



David said to King Saul: 'In the same way as God helped me to fight against the lion and bear, so He will help me defeat this giant'.

Open the Book looks spectacular but is surprisingly easy. Storytellers mime to narration, so there are no lines to learn. It's great fun and is so rewarding. A forest of arms shoot up when we ask for volunteers, and children greet us excitedly outside of school. Do speak to Melodie or Julie if you know anyone who might feel called to this ministry.

Our help comes from the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth. Hallelujah.





### **Stop Press: Open Church Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

As Brian was outside the front porch, he saw a lady reading one of our posters. He invited her in, where she said she was a retired music teacher who used to love taking assemblies. Julie showed her photos of Open the Book. The lady became really enthusiastic and said she would like to watch the assembly at St Blasius on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>. then join the team and act.

As soon as Julie got home, she contacted the minister of St Saviour's on the Cliff, which the lady attends. He immediately agreed to set the Safe Recruitment process in motion in order to obtain a DBS certificate, and invited the team to present OtB during a morning service on the 7<sup>th</sup> July. Is this the fastest answer to prayer ever? Melodie contacted the school on Monday and they agreed that the lady could observe Tuesday's assembly. She will receive training over the summer ready to join Melodie's team in September.

Double Hallelujah!

## St Blasius Academy OTB – Upside-down Kingdom

Below are some glimpses from our practice for the presentation we are doing on Tues 25<sup>th</sup> June. We are one team member down for this week, so Bill, thankfully, was able to step in, but **please heed the call** (if you are feeling the Lord's nudge) to get involved.

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“So, what is the kingdom of God that Jesus talked so much about? It's wherever God is free to do all the good things he wants to do. And one of the things he wants to do is to turn things **upside-down!**” (This highlighted phrase occurs 6 times in the story and we anticipate that the children will enjoy participating by holding out their hands, palms up, then turning one hand over and slapping it down on the other hand!)

“Jesus' mother, Mary, spoke out a poem of praise to God.... 'The proud?' she said. 'God scatters them like they were nothing... Kings? He brings them down... The hungry? He feeds them.'”



... “and when the disciples (Chris plus 2 children) told off the parents (two taller children) for bringing their children (two shorter children) to Jesus, Jesus said: “I want you to let the children come to me. I don't want you to stand in their way and keep them at a distance! Don't you see? The kingdom of God belongs to them! And anyone who wants to be a part of that kingdom needs to accept it in the trusting way that a little child would.”



“If the disciples were surprised by that, they were even more surprised by what happened next. A young man came to visit Jesus. He was powerful and he was rich. And in those days, people thought that being rich meant that you were specially blessed by God.” ...

“What do I need to do to live for ever with God?” he asked Jesus.”...  
“I do know (the commandments) and I have obeyed them my whole life!” ....

“The rich man was very rich indeed. And he was shocked and upset by the suggestion that he should give up all he thought God had blessed him with. So, shaking his head sadly, he walked away.”

“So that's why they (the disciples) asked. 'If a rich man struggles to get into God's kingdom, then how can anyone else?' And Jesus just smiled. 'With God everything is possible,' he said. Even the most **upside-down** things!”





## **Eric Liddell Olympic gold centenary celebrated**

**The life of Eric Liddell, the runner nicknamed “The Flying Scotsman” and immortalised in the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*, was celebrated during a service at St Giles’ Cathedral in Edinburgh on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.**

The service was part of “The Eric Liddell 100” commemorations to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Liddell winning gold in the 400 metres at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris.

In the run-up to the Olympics, Liddell had discovered that the heats for the 100 metres, his chosen event, were scheduled to take place on a Sunday and he believed God didn’t want him to run on the Lord’s Day.

Instead, he began training for the 200 metres and the 400 metres, taking bronze in the former and gold in the latter, breaking the Olympic record in the process.

The sermon at the service was delivered by the Rev Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator of the United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland.

In an engaging and accessible sermon, Lindsey celebrated Liddell’s roots as a Scottish Congregationalist.

## A family on a mission

Liddell's father, James, served as a deacon at Morningside Congregational Church in Edinburgh, and trained for the ministry at the Evangelical Union Theological Hall between 1894 and 1898.

He was ordained as a minister in 1898, just two years after the Evangelical Union and the Congregational Union joined together, and served with the London Missionary Society in first Mongolia and then Northern China, where Liddell was born in 1902.

Although he was born in China and educated at boarding school in England, Liddell retained strong family links to Edinburgh, and spent time with his family at Morningside when they visited the UK.

During his time studying science at the University of Edinburgh, Liddell also played rugby for Scotland, winning seven caps and scoring four tries.

Following his Olympic triumph, Liddell trained at the Scottish Congregational College during 1924 and 1925 before returning to China as a missionary.

He was ordained by the Congregational Union of Scotland in 1932 and continued his missionary work in China, where he was imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp in 1943, and died in 1945, five months before the camp was liberated.

BBC Radio 4 will record a special service of hymns and choral music at Morningside United Church between 18:15 and 19:30 on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August – all singers welcome – which will be broadcast at 08:15 on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August to mark the close of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

The Eric Liddell Peace Garden, which has been created behind Morningside United Church's building, will mark its formal opening at 14:00 - 16:00 on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August with a garden party.

"Spirit Justice", an exhibition of 11 paintings by the Rev Elizabeth Gray King, a retired United Reformed Church minister, will also be on display at Morningside United Church on 1<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> August, following its time in Aberdeen.

Source [unc.org.uk/eric-liddell-olympic-gold-centenary-celebrated-at-st-giles-cathedral/](https://www.unc.org.uk/eric-liddell-olympic-gold-centenary-celebrated-at-st-giles-cathedral/)



FREEDOM  
IN CHRIST

## Follow The Leader

(Part 1)

***“Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?’” (Matthew 16:24-26)***

Over the last couple of months, we have looked at what Jesus wants us to understand from these words. Last Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> June), during his series on *discipleship* Brian spoke of the need for followers of Jesus to be resilient and to develop endurance as we walk His way. If we have chosen to follow Him, what should our walk be based upon?

The essence of following Jesus, “*is to do the will of Him who sends us and to accomplish His work*”, as He himself did. If we are obedient to God’s will, we can accomplish everything He wants us to. Jesus will guide us along the way, we do not need to race ahead (or lag behind) nor should we go our own way ~ as followers, we must submit to Jesus’ leading.

However, as James tells us, faith without action is dead. We must not be passive; we must show the world what we believe by the way we live. In particular, let us profess our faith to a world which desperately needs to hear the Good News! Over the next 2 months we’ll look at how Neil Anderson expresses the process:

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## **If He Wills**

***“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work,” (John 4:34)***

I'm sometimes impressed by how much people can accomplish when they believe in themselves. When I worked on the Apollo space program in the 1960s, we bid on a contract for the space shuttle. The technology to build the type of rocket it would take to boost that size of payload into space had not yet been developed, but NASA believed that given enough time and resources, it could be done. Ten years later it was.

Some who believe only in science exhibit greater faith than Christians. How much more should we be able to accomplish if the object of our faith is God? Every commandment of God comes with a promise:

***“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ,” (2 Corinthians 1:20)***

God will never command us to do something that He will not empower us to do. It is never a question of whether God can, but if He wills. If He wills, then we can, if we believe. Those predisposed to do His will understand what it is, and by the grace of God will do it. Jesus said:

***“Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him,” (John 7:17&18)***

It is critical to realize that God is under no obligation to man. God is only under obligation to Himself and to the covenants He has made with us. We don't need God jumping around in heaven catering to our every whim! There will never be a day when we say something, and God has to do it because we said it. We cannot box God in.

There was a woman in my pastorate who wouldn't let me pray for her dying husband if I concluded my prayer with, "Be it done according to Thy will." I will never apologise for bowing to a higher authority. We are told to pray, "Thy will be done." Any other way

would put us in the position of the Lord. The independent use of God's Word and divine attributes is precisely how Satan tempted Jesus. Jesus withstood the temptation to act independently of God the Father and declared that His food was to do the will of His Father who sent Him. That is our food as well.

**Thank You, Lord, that You have all the power I need to accomplish Your will for my life today. Help me to tap into Your vast power source by faith to accomplish great things for You. May the Holy Spirit guide me daily.**

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## **Following Our Shepherd**

***“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God,” (Romans 8:14)***

I had the privilege of feeding and caring for the sheep on the farm where I was raised. I discovered that sheep aren't the smartest animals on the farm. Sheep need to be shepherded. Left to themselves in a lush pasture, they will keep eating until it kills them. They need a shepherd to make them lie down in green pastures, so they don't eat themselves to death!

The Lord often pictured our relationship with Him in Scripture like that of a shepherd and his sheep. Those of us who live in the West don't have a correct picture of what it means to be led like sheep. Western shepherds drive their sheep from behind the flock, often using dogs to bark at their heels. Eastern shepherds, like those in Biblical times, lead their sheep from in front.

I watched a shepherd lead his flock on a hillside outside Bethlehem during a visit to the Holy Land. The shepherd sat on a rock while the sheep grazed. After a time he stood up, said a few words to the sheep, and walked away. The sheep looked up and followed him. It was fascinating! The words of Jesus suddenly took on new meaning to me:

***“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me,” (John 10:27)***

Sheep without a shepherd become disoriented and scatter. Rams arise from the flock and butt heads to determine who will lead. The ones with the hardest heads win. Without a shepherd, we too are left to the mercy of hard-headed, driven people or we wander around directionless, eating ourselves to death.

The Spirit-walk is one of being led, not driven. God won't make you walk in the Spirit, and the devil can't make you walk in the flesh, although he will certainly try to draw you in that direction. You are free to choose to follow the leading of the Spirit or the desires of the flesh.

**Gentle Shepherd, thank You for searching for me when I was lost and for comforting me when I am hurt. Help me to follow You today and always.**

*Neil Anderson*

***Freedom in Christ Ministries***

*Used by permission*

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Next time we'll look at how we are to both demonstrate and confess what we believe.

**Father God, thank You for the many blessings You shower upon Your creation each day. Thank You that You supply all our needs in Your perfect timing. Help us to recognise Your promptings and use the gifts You have given to us as we seek Your Kingdom each and every day.**

*Robin*

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# Focus

**on our Christian Brothers and Sisters being persecuted for their faith**

***“Thank you for all your support for Manipur”  
– three believers share how you’re making a difference***

It’s been over a year since violence broke out in Manipur, India, displacing thousands of people. Even today, the violence continues and many people, including Christians from both Kuki and Meitei peoples, are afraid to return home. But they are not without hope, thanks to your ongoing prayers and support – as Pastor Lian, Boipu and Istuti can testify.

Pastor Lian prays with believers in Manipur. Thanks to you, local Open Doors partners are providing displaced Christians with vital food aid and spiritual support

“Just because the attacks have stopped doesn’t mean there is peace. Peace in the land is still a far cry,” says Pastor Lian Haokip\*. He’s a church leader from Manipur and is helping care for and coordinate relief efforts for those who have been displaced.

“Since 3<sup>rd</sup> May [2023], I have encountered victims and their families holding on and struggling. We have been sheltering a pastor and his relatives in our church. They all have lost their properties and the only thing that they could bring is their own life,” he told Open Doors partners. “Thousands of people were evacuated here and brought no extra clothes. They lack food and shelter, searching for places to stay, but it’s always overcrowded. They sleep on the ground, even on pebbles.”

## **Spiritual counsel is vital**

As a church leader, Pastor Lian knows that prayers and spiritual support go hand-in-hand with physical relief aid. “For pastors, this was the most critical and difficult phase to spiritually counsel and



minister to the victims,” he says. “It was very hard to ask them to forgive the people who were afflicting them with such pain.”

“Only Jesus gives me the consolation and the comfort that I really need.”

## **Believer in Manipur**

But he also encountered those who could only go on because of their hope in Jesus. “On the night of the attacks, a woman came to my home and told me, ‘If I had not met Jesus, if I had not received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour, I would either go mad or go nowhere at this time. Everything that I have has been turned into pieces, burned and looted. Only Jesus gives me the consolation and the comfort that I really need.’”

In the midst of the violence, Pastor Lian has witnessed how the crisis has brought groups together. “Our community was divided in many ways, with disunity among us. However, this crisis provides a great opportunity for us to unite. Our unity was admired by the other ethnic tribes. We are now coming together, praying together; of course, we have been doing this prior to the conflict, but then the bond was not as strong as now.”

## **Open Doors partners are providing vital supplies**

Pastor Lian continues, “We keep praying for both Kukis and Meiteis and for peace in Manipur. We pray that God in his mercy will give us the heart to forgive our assaulters. And we are praying as God helped Job to regain all that he lost, double fold, He would lift us up too when we approach Him in all humility.”

One of the ways that God is answering these prayers is through Open Doors local partners. Thanks to your prayers and gifts, Pastor Lian is being supported by Open Doors partners to help survivors of the conflict find refuge and provide supplies for them, including vital food aid. “This is like serving God for me, as I serve my fellow brothers and sisters in the camps,” he says. “The goods your organisation provided are the best in terms of quality and quantity.”

He also leads a congregation of 200-300 displaced believers, with four to five services a week. “Please pray that I would be able to keep the church moving forward with the help of God so that my seeds will not go astray, and that they will fall into God’s kingdom.”

## **Boipu: ‘Every day looks the same’ in camps**

Boipu\* (32) is one of the 41,500 Christians displaced from their villages in the riots. He worked as a teacher in a nearby school, where he taught maths. After losing the home he lived in for over 20 years, he now lives in a refugee camp with his elderly parents, who are in their late 60s.

According to local partners, 414 churches have been burned down, both Kuki and Meitei. Boipu’s church, where he ministered as a youth leader for six years, is one of them.

In Boipu’s camp, the common kitchen is in an open area, made of bamboo and a thatched roof, which serves as a cooking place for 250-300 people. Twice a day, children and women stand in queues with plates and bowls to collect food for themselves and their family members. Women take turns cooking rice and lentil soup, which is their meal, every day, since May last year. One resident says, “The day we get potatoes or other vegetables, it’s a feast!”

With just 2-4 washrooms for more than 50 families, hygiene is a major concern. When water is scarce, they don’t shower or wash clothes.

“Every day looks the same,” says Boipu. “Same food and same dress every day. I only have two pairs of trousers, two T-shirts and a sweater. It is cold during the night-time.”

## **Families are praying together every night**

Days are turning into months for them with an uncertain future. But every night, families gather to pray with each other. “Every night there are seven or eight families praying together in each room,” Boipu shares. “Each night, I’ve prayed that non-believing Meiteis will know and accept Christ.”

Boipu is strengthened by God’s Word, and in particular, John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Why does he love this verse? “Because the Bible taught us to just love,” he says. “If God loved the world, then He also loves me. If God saved the world, He would also save me.”

Through your support, Open Doors partners have been able to provide urgent relief aid items such as groceries, mattresses,

blankets and medicines to Boipu's camp. Local Open Doors partners have also helped reimburse hospital bills for four believers who needed surgery after being injured during the riots.

### **Istuti: “My own family carried out attacks”**

When the violence broke out in Manipur, Istuti\*, an Open Doors partner, was in a neighbouring city conducting discipleship training with other believers.

“There was lots of tension that night,” Istuti remembers. “The people were struggling... Our volunteers and believers kept on calling me all night. They couldn't sleep! I was on the phone all through the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May... ‘They are going with guns!’ they would tell me. They were even beating women and children.”

What made it worse for Istuti is that members of her own extended family helped carry out these attacks: “That hurt me the most,” she says, her voice breaking. “They burned my church. After they burned the church, they forced the Meitei Christians to reconvert... All my relatives, they are the ones who destroyed my church. They feel that Meitei Christians support the [Christian majority] Kukis, so they want to erase all the Meitei Christians and they want to destroy Meitei churches.”

### **Remembering God's Word in suffering**

Istuti was torn and deeply troubled. She longed to help her fellow believers, no matter the tribe. “I wanted to go to help the Kukis, but I cannot go because I belong to the Meitei. I cannot go and hold our believers who are still struggling... I was lost, I just prayed, ‘Lord, please heal our people, heal our people.’”

Tragically, the stress of the situation took its toll on Istuti, and she suffered a miscarriage. Many months later, Istuti continues to grieve the loss of her baby, and the continued hostilities amongst her people. Yet, she continues to hold on to who God is.

“I remember the Word of God says in Isaiah 40, ‘Do not be afraid, I'm with you’ (Isaiah 41:10). That word encouraged me a lot and I know He strengthens me until now. He's always with me.”

She also hasn't stopped praying for her family. “I love them so much; I'm still praying for them. I believe the Lord will save them. My prayer is that one day, they will testify that Jesus is their Lord.”

## **Istuti knows she is not alone, thanks to you**

As a local Open Doors partner, Istuti continues to reach out to Kuki and Meitei believers affected by the ongoing ethno-religious violence in Manipur with food aid, presence ministry, and other practical support. She continues to pray for peace.

“Thank you so much for listening to my stories and praying with me,” she says. “When you spent time with me, I felt that I am not alone, I am able to pour out my heart. Thank you for your encouragement from the Word of God. Thank you for remembering the persecuted church and supporting them through your constant prayers and help, indeed we are one body of Christ. Thank you for all your prayer support for Manipur.”

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

## **Please Pray**

- For Boipu and all believers who have lost their homes, been injured or lost loved ones, that God will heal, restore and provide
- For Pastor Lian, Istuti and Open Doors partners in Manipur, that God will strengthen them and bless their ministry
- That the peace of God ‘which transcends all understanding’ (Philippians 4:7) will be poured out upon Manipur and bring an end to the violence.

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## **World Watch List Number: 11**

### **How many Christians are there in India?**

There are a large number of Christians in India – more than 71 million – but it’s still only five per cent of the country’s Hindu-majority population.

Source: [Open Doors](#) - used by permission

**“Only Jesus gives me the consolation and the  
comfort that I really need,”  
– a believer in Manipur**

# Sovereign Dying

I was reading recently a book (Prince by Rory Clements) and one particular passage leapt out at me.

"A man can offer loyalty to a captain-general and receive no loyalty in return. Many have died for their sovereign. How many sovereigns have died for their subjects?" While in human terms this may be true, we hear of soldiers dying "For King and Country", in Gods economy it is different. The bible is loaded with promises from Jesus telling us of His loyalty.

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am with them," Matthew 18:20"

"I will not leave you comfortless. I **will** come to you." John 14:18 (emphasis mine) "and lo, I am with you **always** even to the end of the world. Always (remaining with you

perpetually regardless of circumstance and on **every occasion** even to the end of the age," Matthew 28:20

As if having Jesus with us always isn't enough, He goes even further and also promises that God will send the Holy Spirit. "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to those that ask Him!" Luke 11:13

How many sovereigns have died for their subjects? I can't think of one except our sovereign Jesus. Yes Jesus died for His subjects, but more He died for those who are not His subjects, even more than this, His death would encompass even those who never choose to become His subjects.

Richard Ash-Lameer

*(Quote used with permission)*

# LIONHEART 2024

FESTIVAL

JULY 27TH-28TH

COUNTY SHOWGROUND, NEWPORT ROAD, COWES

Lionheart Festival is a Christian Festival for all ages. We gather to worship the King of kings to inspire, to edify and to celebrate what God is doing among his people.

Lionheart Festival provides a space for believers to be refreshed, restored and revived as well as a place where 'not yet believers' can experience God and 'the church' as a united body in celebration in the great outdoors.

The festival programme includes worship, christian speakers and kids' ministry



[WWW.LIONHEARTFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.LIONHEARTFESTIVAL.CO.UK)

**Saturday** 11:00 – 22:30 (times to be confirmed)

**Sunday** 10:30 – 17:30

**Get your tickets now please from the website:**

Weekend	£45	Teens/OAP	£35	Child 4-12	£20
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Saturday only	£30		£25		£12
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Sunday only	£25		£17.50		£10
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Only £5 to bring a not yet Christian friend along.

*Note - these prices do not cover the full cost of putting the event on so please consider also making a donation to Lionheart.*

**Youth and children's** activity tent

**Volunteers** are still needed – go to the website and see how you can help – and get a discounted ticket and join in on Friday evening.



# Dates For Your Diary



Day	Date	Time	Details
Tue	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	14:00	Bible Bite - Sheilagh Speaking ☺
Fri	5 <sup>th</sup> July	19:00	Elders Meeting
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup> July	10:30	Welcome new members at communion
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup> July	10:30	Bob White Speaking
Thu	18 <sup>th</sup> May	19:30	Church Meeting
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup> July	15:30	Messy Church
Wed	24 - 26 <sup>th</sup> July	13:30	Evangelism Training with CFAN - 3 afternoons
Fri	26 <sup>th</sup> July	10:00	CatURpillars Teddy Bear's Picnic at Rylstone
Sat	27-28 <sup>th</sup> July		Lionheart Festival at County Show Ground
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup> July	10:30	Encounter Café Service

## Connection Quiz Answers

1. **Genesis.**
2. **Exodus.**
3. **Numbers.**
4. **George Ezra.**
5. **Connection: they are all books in the Old Testament.**
6. **This issue's cover photo was taken at: Swanage Station in Dorset - part of the Swanage Railway.**  
(© C Sparks)



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 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Enjoy!

Difficulty level: medium

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

1		2				3		4	5			6	7
							8						
9				10							11		
							12		13				
				14	15		16						
17	18			19				20					
				21		22							
23		24						25		26			
27					28								29
30										31			

## Last month's Sudoku - how did you do?

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

### Across

- 1 US female country singer, wrote and sang 9 - 5 (5 6)  
 6 Exempli Gratia *initials* (2)  
 8 Top-level internet domain for Australia (2)  
 9 Gas that makes up the major portion of the atmosphere (8)  
 11 Brian's title (3)  
 12 Medically looks after animals, both domestic and farm (3)  
 14 100cm (5)  
 17 Name of several rivers in England & Scotland (3)  
 19 First part of the Bible *initials* (2)  
 20 Normandie city where Jeanne d'Arc was killed (5)  
 21 The -, one of the Isle of Wight's most iconic sights (7)  
 23 Rate of movement (5)

25 Past participle of see (4)

27 Last Stuart monarch (4)

28 1,000 of 14 across (9)

30 Capital of Scotland (9)

31 City where William I is buried (4)

### Down

1 Delicious cake named after a Scottish city (6)

2 Not early (4)

3 Used to chop wood (3)

4 Thanks, slang (2)

5 York river, longest to flow in one county (4)

7 Claude Monet's famous residence and garden (7)

10 US singing family, had a hit with *Crazy Horses* in 1972 (7)

12 8<sup>th</sup> May, - Day *initials* (2)

13 Plural form of that (5)

15 French for summer (3)

16 Colour of Ferrari F1 team (3)

18 Blood of a tree (3)

20 Short CV (6)

22 Not as difficult (6)

23 Remove hair from face or legs using a razor (5)

24 A feeling of listlessness (5)

26 Additional (5)

29 Indefinitely long period of time (3)

## Can You Guess The Year?

- Chichester Festival Theatre is opened.
- The last trolleybuses in London are run.
- Ipswich Town win the Football League First Division title.
- Z Cars is first broadcast on BBC TV.
- And UK No. 1s included:
  - Tornadoes with '*Telstar*'
  - Elvis Presley with '*Return to Sender*'
  - Cliff Richard and The Shadows with '*The Young Ones*'
  - The Shadows with '*Wonderful Land*'

*Answer next issue*

## This Issue's 'Pot Luck' Quiz Questions

1. Who won the 1985 World Snooker Championship?
2. What is the official march of the Royal Air Force?
3. What's the capital of Latvia?
4. Who was the first Tudor monarch?
5. What was the Spanish currency before the Euro?
6. What is the motto of the BBC?
7. Who was first to fly across the Atlantic?
8. Who wrote the book Reach for the Sky?
9. On the periodic table, which element is W?
10. Who was the first to win the women's Football World Cup?

*Answers next issue*

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

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

However, contributions can be emailed at anytime up to the deadline day to the editor at:

[surc.thelink@btinternet.com](mailto:surc.thelink@btinternet.com)

# Last Issue's Solutions

- Guess the year: it was 1998
- Last issue's crossword ↓

D	A	N	C	I	N	G	Q	U	E	E	N		A
A		I			A			S			E	G	G
N	I	C	A	R	A	G	U	A			U		I
G		E			F				O		F	U	N
E			G		I	S	L	A	N	D			G
R	O	M	E	O		I		L		I		T	
M		A	N			T		E	X	O	D	U	S
O	X	F	O	R	D		I	N		N			A
U			V		O	R		C		Y	E	T	I
S	T	R	A	N	G	E		O		S			L
E	U			I		S	I	N		U			O
	M	U	P	P	E	T	S		O	S	C	A	R

## Last Issue's 'Pot Luck' Quiz Answers

- |                                      |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Richard Burns                     | 6. Who Dares Wins    |
| 2. 1 <sup>st</sup> April 1918        | 7. Louis Blériot     |
| 3. Chişinău                          | 8. Frederick E Smith |
| 4. James I (or James VI of Scotland) | 9. Zirconium         |
| 5. Deutschmark                       | 10. Southampton      |

## Sunday Service

### Morning

**10:30 Morning Worship** in church  
*Broadcast live on YouTube*

- ➔ **Holy Communion** on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month
- ➔ **All Age Café service** on last Sunday of each month

## Weekday Activities

**Monday 14:30 Prayer for Israel** (see [page 3](#))

**Tuesday 14:00 Bible Bite** ministry in church  
*Broadcast live on YouTube*  
*Refreshments from 13:30*  
**19:30 Prayer Meeting** on Zoom (see [page 3](#))

**Wednesday 11:00 Living Well Together** (aka 'The Well')

**Friday 10:00 CatURpillars**

**Saturday 10:30 Coffee Morning** on Zoom  
– a chance to catch up and have a chat

Details of any other services/activities that we hold will be posted:

- ➔ **inside the church**
- ➔ **on our Facebook page**
- ➔ **and on our website**

### Minister: **Rev Brian Harley**



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01983 862485



[brianharley58@gmail.com](mailto:brianharley58@gmail.com)

*Day off: Monday*

### Secretary: **Robin Wightman**



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