

# The Link



# May 2025

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



# View From Number 10



## New Life in Jesus

We have had an awesome Easter season. It has been a time of much encouragement after some stormy times over the last six months. Many have commented on how the Spirit has been moving.

It has been so good to focus on the great things that God has done for us in and through Christ Jesus our Lord. The message of new birth into a living hope pours out of the New Testament like a refreshing stream, as those first disciples were transformed by this extraordinary event that changed history. They were simply bursting to pass on the good news!

May this sense of great expectation continue to inspire us today as we press on through 2025. The weeks have flown by this year, and I will soon be stepping back from responsibilities for three and a half months. Please be praying for and supporting the elders and other leaders as they carry extra duties over the summer, and will no doubt feel some added pressure while I take a break. We have a great line up of speakers over these months – both in-house and invited guests. My prayer is that this will prove to be a refreshing time of change for everyone, not just for me.

We have a great team here at Shanklin and many of you are involved in wonderful service in various aspects of the Lord's work. I pray that more gifts will emerge over these months and that the church family will grow in all kinds of ways while I am out of the picture. I look forward to an exciting Autumn on my return...

With love and best wishes to you all. Janet and I really do appreciate our amazing church family.

Blessings,

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

## Minister's Sabbatical

Brian will be away from 14<sup>th</sup> May (at two Dunamis events) and then begins his Sabbatical on 20<sup>th</sup> May. His last Sunday morning with us will be on 4<sup>th</sup> May and then Sunday evening on 11<sup>th</sup> May - also Bible Bite on Tuesdays 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May, concluding the series on Ephesians.

He is away from all duties for three months, though he will be around at home for much of the time. Please don't contact him but refer matters to one of the Elders.

Rev Mark Evans from Newport Congregational Church is available as a back-up - telephone: 01983 522187 or email: [revmarkevans@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revmarkevans@yahoo.co.uk)

He plans to visit Uganda and Madagascar flying out on 30<sup>th</sup> May with his daughter Rachel. He'll be preaching at Kalasa Reformed Presbyterian Church on 1<sup>st</sup> June and after a short safari trip they are flying on to meet up with Sarah for a week.

After a few days retreat at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre in July, family holiday in August and another working trip to North Carolina, Brian will be back on duty on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**.

## Gift Day - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Regular worshippers will be receiving a personal letter about this opportunity to give. Please pray about making a special thank-offering to God so that we have a stronger financial base as we serve the Lord over the coming months and years. Those at Church Meeting in March will be aware of the needs.

We are grateful that giving has increased again over the last year but so have expenses, and we don't have reserves to fall back on.

**Can you release some spare resources for kingdom work...?**

***"...God loves a cheerful giver"*** 2 Corinthians 9:7  
(NIVUK)

# 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=ZTIXZzBLWnkrWTNBZ2JBK1o0K2ZXdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3242665584?pwd=ZTIXZzBLWnkrWTNBZ2JBK1o0K2ZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 324 266 5584

Password: 936536.

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**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:

**07514 766798**

(or, as a back-up - Jean Cunningham on: 07854 324809)

with your prayer request and she will mobilise a team of 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.

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**Pray for The Bay** - Grace Mckenzie from Christ Church hosts this gathering, normally on the first Thursday of each month, at her home in Lake at 14:00. Ask Brian for details if you are interested in going along. Next meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> May.

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**Wight Church Prayer – Pentecost Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 16:00**

Many of us took part in last year's united prayer event when we all prayed simultaneously around the coast. This is being repeated – so look out for details.

# ENCOUNTER

**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 – do bring a friend along**

**The next café service will be on 25<sup>th</sup> May  
– led by our good friend Andy Hough from Bembridge**

**a great day to invite friends along**

**– café serving from 10.15**

## **Thought for the month**

If Jesus died **because** of our sins, that would be **disgrace**.  
But Jesus died **for** our sins, that is Grace

## Jesus Walks Beside Me

I recently had to visit my dear husband in the QA hospital, Portsmouth. I haven't travelled to Portsmouth via the Fast Cat for many years.

Having had a slightly anxious night, I was feeling quite apprehensive about my journey on the day of travel. I'm very nervous about travelling in a taxi on my own, which meant I had to catch a bus when leaving the ferry.

The Island train wasn't travelling from Ryde Esplanade to the Pier Head, and I was unsure where to go for the mini bus to take me there. I met a friend of Viv and Paul's (the Sandown Caribbean restaurant) his name is Paul and he showed me the way. When I got off of the Fast Cat at Portsmouth a gentleman approached me, can I help you he asked. I told him I wanted to go by bus to QA hospital. "I'm going there myself," he said. We travelled together, he told me where the bus stop was for my return journey, and even took me to the hospital reception. His name is Ron, a Christian from Gosport.

Praise be to God.

Pat

### **Connection Quiz**

1. What is the nickname of Chelsea FC?
2. Who was Captain Scarlet's nemesis?
3. For which party was Caroline Lucas an MP?
4. What colour are Ferrari F1 cars predominantly?
5. What colour is 'crème anglaise'?
6. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 4?
7. And bonus question... the cover photo was taken in Caen, Normandie, but what is the building in the background?



Answers are on [page 47](#)

# *Shared Worship in The Bay*



**Share Sunday evenings with friends from  
various local congregations across The Bay**

- |                            |              |   |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>18:30</b> | <b>Lake Methodist Church</b><br>Sandown Road, Lake        |
| <b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>18:30</b> | <b>URC</b><br>High Street, Shanklin                       |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>18:30</b> | <b>St Blasius Church</b><br>Church Road, Shanklin         |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>19:30</b> | <b>Rylstone Gardens</b><br><b>Worship in the Open Air</b> |

**We hope to run each Sunday until 31<sup>st</sup> August**

**How good and pleasant it is when  
God's people live together in unity**



# **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**





# Community

## ASPIRE *Pantry*

Welcoming Belonging Supportive Safe

Join us every Monday 10:30 - 12:00 at  
Shanklin United Reformed Church

Come along for your weekly shop.

Register as a member for free and receive  
£15 of food for only £5.

Enjoy free tea and coffee while you're here  
too.

Shanklin pantry is run in partnership with

Shanklin United Reformed Church

High Street, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, PO37 6LA

A member of the Evangelical Alliance

[www.shanklinurc.co.uk](http://www.shanklinurc.co.uk)



Funded by  
UK Government



Isle of Wight  
Council



Living Well  
and Early  
Help Service

## **A Chance Meeting**

I am a puppy raiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind. It basically means that I have the joy of caring for a beautiful labrador until he is old enough to go for his proper training to hopefully become a guide dog.

On one of our regular walks, we came across a man who was walking in the woods.

The puppy who is now 10 months old and the size of a large dog, wanted to play with the man. Whilst this is not always appropriate (as people don't always like dogs or become concerned with a dog jumping up at them), on this occasion the man was pleased to play with the puppy.

He went on to say that he used to have a dog and missed him greatly and how dogs can help with your mental health.

I said that I was sorry that he no longer had his beloved companion.

He continued saying that he had needed to leave the dog in China with a friend as he was not able to bring the dog with him, he welled up with tears as he related this story.

He also stated that he lived in rented accommodation and although he was permitted to have a dog he was unable to afford one.

I went on to explain that the puppy belonged to the Guide Dogs for the Blind and I was socialising him and raising him until he was ready for his proper training. I also explained about the Ability Dogs for Young People on the Island and the Cinnamon Trust.

All of these organisations deal with dogs/puppies and if you care for a dog/puppy their food and vets fees are paid for by the organisation and you can volunteer to walk a dog for the Cinnamon Trust for someone who was unable to do so for a variety of reasons. The man thanked me for the information and put details on his phone. He walked away with a spring in his step.

As I walked away, I smiled to myself and was so grateful that I had been guided to walk that particular path at that time. God knows and cares about us all.

Carol T

## Mother & Baby Unit Update

Jo and Tessa have asked us to express their heartfelt gratitude, thanks and appreciation to all the URC Church members and also their thanks to Pam Dana for all her help and to the St Blasius Congregation for all the ongoing contributions, donations and support. Enormous thanks especially to the Shanklin Town Brass Band for their amazing gift and support and a superb evening!

With the donations received they have been able to redesign the whole fireplace area under the TV in the communal lounge area by installing cupboard units right across the fireplace making it safer for babies and toddlers by blocking off the fire and the high step in front of the fireplace and of course, gaining much needed additional storage space in the process.

We spent some time visiting at the Baby Unit on Good Friday as Jo had just started annual leave and Tessa had the public holiday time at home with her family, so we stepped in and catered for them for their lunch as an Easter gift over this period.

We asked Jo to let us have a list of their immediate needs in addition to their everyday needs such as toiletries and baby toiletries, wet wipes, nappies, creams, ointments, powders etc. Below is the list she sent to us before going on leave:

*We are seeking a good condition 2-seater sofa and a small chair ideally for the Lodge flat. We would also appreciate a garden parasol for shade.*

*We may have use for a small dining table with 2-3 chairs but need them in good condition and not leaf drop or glass (we do have a table but it's not in good condition, plus it's quite bulky). Many thanks.*

*Jo and Tessa*

They are slowly putting together their small garden/yard at the back as a place to relax and de-stress (hence their request for a garden parasol) and for that they would love a couple of lavender plants and large plants in large pots for greenery and decoration.

Love and Blessings

Rodney and Ann



# **Wessex Synod**

120 Alma Road, Southampton, SO14 6UW

**Synod Moderator:** *The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins*

**Moderator's PA:** *Mrs Deborah Walker*

16 April 2025

## **A message for Easter 2025**

Dear Friends,

As we emerge from the wilderness journey of Lent and stand once again at the empty tomb, we proclaim that God is still in the business of bringing new life out of death. The resurrection was not a return to the past, not a resuscitation of the old, but something completely new. That is the daring promise of Easter - that even when all seems lost, God can and does do something unimaginably new.

The women who came to the tomb expected to care for a broken body. Instead, they encountered a broken world transformed by love and hope. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the grave is still moving in our world today, quietly and courageously bringing life where death seemed to have the final word.

In a world marked by war, division, and deep injustice, it is easy to be overwhelmed by despair. But Easter reminds us that God does not abandon us to the tomb. God is already ahead of us, calling us into new possibilities, new hope, and new beginnings. Resurrection does not ignore the pain of Good Friday: it holds it, honours it, and yet refuses to let it be the end of the story.

In our churches, some of us may feel the weight of decline, the pressure of limited resources, or the grief of what has been lost. But the message of Easter is not to cling to what is dying, but to trust in what God is bringing to birth. This season, may we have the courage to let go where we must - and the eyes to see where resurrection is already unfolding among us.

Let us be people of Easter hope - not wishful thinking, but rooted, resurrection hope. Let us tell the stories of new life in our communities. Let us name the places where God is at work. Let

us celebrate not only what has been, but what is becoming.

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you, and may this Easter season be filled with grace, renewal, and joy.

With prayers for the joy of resurrection this Easter,

Michael Hopkins

Wessex Synod Moderator

## **Rylstone Gardens May 2025**

As well as Open Air Worship starting for the summer on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, the following concerts will be taking place on the bandstand in Rylstone Gardens during May, weather permitting of course.

- 18<sup>th</sup> May - Shanklin Town Brass Band
- 25<sup>th</sup> May - Cowes Concert Band

There is a set of posters in the lobby detailing all the concerts that are planned to take place this summer.

## **Ron on TV**

Some of you wished to be told when the recording of Ron's cardiac arrest on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in London was to be shown on television.

It will be shown as part of the programme 'BBC Ambulance', on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 21:00 on BBC 1.

They will ring me the day before to confirm this. It will only change if the top people at the BBC decide to rearrange the schedule.

Meryl

## **Did You Know...**

...that the 17<sup>th</sup> of April was **International Bat Appreciation Day?**

Spearheaded by Bat Conservation International — a global organisation of scientists and researchers — the day promotes conservation efforts for the species



2025 sees the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians worldwide to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC into a movement which unites over a million Christians in prayer (in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions), ***“so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ”***

*Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come in their own way ~ it is hoped that everyone taking part will:*

- *Deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit to be effective in our witness*

*We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and our networks. It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.*

**We are again invited to join this initiative to pray that God’s Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their ‘Yes’ to God’s call. Whether you have**



joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, please set aside time each day during this period to take part with us.

The theme for Thy Kingdom Come 2025 is THE LORD'S PRAYER. Both a Prayer Journal to guide you through each day and a Novena, which goes a little deeper, have been produced. Copies of these will be available in the church from mid-May, or you can access them online at:

[www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0)



Please do join in with this global initiative, when Christians around the world will be praying for people they know to come to Christ.

*Robin*

## Prayer Ministry

The prayer ministry team provide an essential service at the end of our main Sunday gatherings ... please do feel free to make use of this. The privilege we have of being able to speak directly with our Creator is of vital importance to our daily lives.

It has recently become apparent that, on occasions, the private and confidential nature of this prayer time can become compromised, and so we are making a change...

From now on, we will be removing the first 2 rows of chairs at the end of the service to accommodate a more private space. Please do try to respect those taking part by moving away from the area and by not standing within earshot. Unless it is essential, please avoid walking directly past the area.

I thank you for your cooperation.

*Robin*

## **Ephesians Chapter 3**

(some thoughts on Brian's Bible Bite exposition)

Paul ended Chapter 2 by confirming that there are NO BARRIERS and that we are EQUAL CITIZENS in the Kingdom of God. In Chapter 3 verse 1 Paul begins his theme ... but seems to be distracted (prompted by God?) and instead speaks of his ministry. Verses 2 to 13 expand on this, and he resumes his original thoughts in verse 14.

Paul is clear about his role, given to him by God, to bring the Good News to the Gentiles ~ the mystery which has been revealed to him and which he now passes onto us ~ that we are ALL ONE IN CHRIST. In verses 3 to 6, Paul repeats what he said earlier ... he wants to be sure that the Ephesians (and us) get it!

### **Jew and Gentile united into one new body in and through the Messiah - Christ Jesus**

In verses 10 to 12, Paul explains God's purpose in all this:

***"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence"***

The writer of Hebrews puts it like this:

***"Brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water"*** (Hebrews 10:19-22)

### **As The Church Of Christ It Is Our Role To Make This Mystery Known To The Whole World**

Having confirmed our calling, Paul returns to his original thought in verse 14, he says again, "for this reason".

We might ask what reason? We find the answer in what Paul has

said so far, it is because of God's amazing grace bringing life to those dead in their sins, and the incredible way he has now united Jews and Gentiles through Jesus. So he kneels before the Father and speaks a wonderful prayer over the Ephesians; we see how Paul recognised all three aspects of God's personal nature at work together. He prays to **the Father** - that **Christ** (his Messiah) may dwell in their hearts - and that they'd be strengthened **with power through his Spirit** in their inner being.

***“For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”***

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians (and us) is that we would be:

- Strengthened with power (Dunamis) through his Spirit in our inner being
- Rooted and established in love
- Have the power to grasp the full extent of Christ's love for us

Paul's ministry was highly effective because it was grounded in his relationship with God and in his prayer life.

## **Spending Time In The Word And God's Presence Expands Our Horizons**

### **Worship And Prayer Are Cornerstones Of Effective Service To God**

The chapter ends with a well-known doxology:

***“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”***

## **GOD CAN DO MORE THAN WE COULD EVER IMAGINE!**

This ends the first half of Paul's letter to the Ephesians; he now turns his thoughts to the more practical aspects of living for God ...

## The Fragrance of Jesus

I was walking home after church a few Sundays ago and there was a young couple walking hand in hand a little way ahead of me. I could smell this lovely aroma and wondered if it was some flowers nearby. As I got closer to the couple, I realised it was possibly coming from the girl. I walked behind then for a little way and absolutely loved what I was smelling. I'm not one to normally wear perfume because most smells I'm not keen on but this was lovely. I decided I had to find out what it was so I caught up with them, caught their attention and said, "I know this is a really random question, but I've been walking behind you and I can smell something lovely, do you have some perfume on." She said she did and told me where I could get it from. We had a laugh, I said that I bet you've not been stopped in the road by a random stranger before to ask such a question!!

The following Tuesday evening we were praying in the Zoom prayer meeting and found ourselves praying that the fragrance of Jesus would fill our church and the lives of those who enter it. I remembered my experience a few days before as I walked home from church and it struck me, that is what we should be like as Christians. The fragrance of Jesus should be so evident in our lives that people can't help but come up to us, stop us in our tracks and ask us what it is that they can "smell". Wouldn't that be so exciting if people were coming up to us in the street, in our workplace, in the queue in a shop, on the bus, in our homes, in fact wherever we go, and enquiring about what it is that is different about us, what it is that gives us that hope, that peace, that joy, that patience, that gentleness, that love, that kindness, that self-control in our lives, then we could share with them the difference God has made in our lives and how that free gift can be for them too.

Let's take every opportunity we have to soak in the fragrance of Jesus, whether it's listening to worship music, engaging with the bible, praying on our own or with others, listening to podcasts from other Christians we respect, as we go about our daily lives and let's look forward to those who don't know Jesus yet stopping us and asking what they can "smell". I love the quote by St Francis of Assisi, **"Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words."** Let's let our fragrance do the talking.

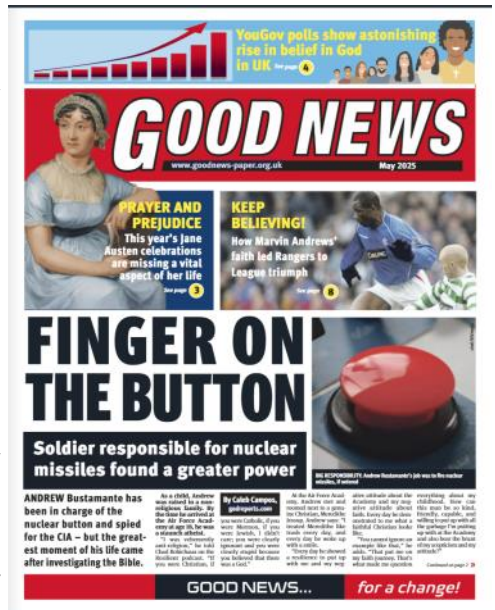
Janet

# 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 to read online at [www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionspage.htm](http://www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionspage.htm)) has several great articles, including the headline article, 'Finger on the Button - Soldier responsible for nuclear missiles finds a greater power'.

Other contributions include:

- **Prayer and Prejudice** - This year's Jane Austen celebrations miss out a vital part: her faith
- **World's Greatest Tenor** - Andre Bocelli's faith in God is at the heart of his family and music
- **Dolly's Hope** - Recently widowed Dolly Parton believes she'll see her husband again
- **UK Polls Show Rise In Faith** - YouGov reports belief in God has doubled among the young
- **80 Years Since Ve Day** - Anniversary book recalls four stories of faith in World War Two

## Good News... for a change

## **Shanklin United Reformed Church**

### **Pre-Sabbatical Fellowship Meal**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Viv's Cooking, Sandown  
@ 18:00**



To give Brian a good send-off we will be holding a fellowship meal on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Numbers are limited to 50 (first come first served) at a cost of £15.00 per head (plus £2.00 if you would like a pudding).

We hope to see as many faces as possible, so, if cost is an issue, please still sign up to come and speak to Robin who will make the necessary arrangements.

Viv intends to offer a 'help yourself' carvery of lamb, beef, or chicken, accompanied by roast potatoes, vegetables, or rice (plus some small "Caribbean bites" to taste), along with a pudding of Apple Crumble or Pineapple Upside-down Cake followed by tea and coffee.

The vegetarian option will be a choice of two of the following: lasagne, chickpea curry, vegetable casserole, stew peas, stir fry veg.

Please sign up on the list in church (indicating if you would like the vegetarian option).

## **The Quiet Revival: Gen Z leads massive rise in church attendance**

Church decline in England and Wales has not only stopped, but the Church is growing, as Gen Z leads an exciting turnaround in church attendance.

Church attendance has risen by 50 per cent over the last six years. The findings come in The Quiet Revival, a survey commissioned by Bible Society and conducted by YouGov.

- Over 2 million more people go to church than six years ago
- 16% of 18–24-year-olds are attending church
- More men go to church than women

Source: Bible Society [www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival)



## **Thank you to churches who gave to the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar appeal**

We sent a gift of £500 to this appeal at the end of 2024 – as part of our outward giving. Here is a thank you that we have received from Church House:

*Dear all*

*We would like to express our very sincere thanks to all those who responded to our appeal last year for the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar (PCM). The mission team at Church House is enormously moved by this response.*

*The appeal in total raised £32,000 (164,610,544 kyats).*

*Since our appeal ended a large area of the country has been devastated by a catastrophic earthquake. This is not a part of the country where the PCM is particularly present, but even so the Church is responding strongly, including working in cooperation with NGOs to provide emergency aid to the victims in Sagaing and Mandalay city and by opening a PCM Centre in Mandalay for affected people to stay at night, including providing water-pumping machines and toiletries*

*Message from Rev Pek Muan Cuang, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar:*

*“We have no words to express our heartfelt thanks to URC. It was so great to receive and see your wonderful work and ministry. I am sure God would use it to make a great significance in the lives of the people of Myanmar and for the members of PCM.”*

*Message from Rev Dr Jooseop Keum, General Secretary of the Council for World Mission:*

*“I profoundly appreciate the URC's donation to the PCM. It is particularly meaningful because the local churches fundraised with solidarity and prayers.”*

*With grateful thanks once again for both prayer and gifts*

*Lindsey Brown*

*Evangelism and Ecumenical Officer, United Reformed Church*

## **A dream of Jesus in Brunei leads to 30 years of women's ministry**

Sara faithfully ministers to the women in her church, helping them to build strong relationships with their spouses. And it's all because of a dream she had when she was 12...

Sara\* is not from Brunei, but it's where she grew up. She also didn't come from a Christian home. But there was a mural of Jesus that someone had painted on the walls of a church – a church that Sara would pass every day on her way to and from school. As she passed it, she would slow her steps. One day, she even stopped to sketch the mural.

When she was 12 years old, she had a vivid dream of a man in white. "In my dream, I heard a voice call me 'My child', and I thought, who would call me that?" says Sara. "But when I turned around and looked at that man, I knew He was Jesus.

"He put his arms around my shoulders, and I remember having a conversation with Him. He showed me the family home I grew up in, and then He said something so peculiar. He said, 'I will save them too.' I had no idea what that meant. I was only 12 years old."

"In my dream, I heard a voice call me 'My child'"

### **Sara**

When she woke up, Sara rummaged through her things to find the drawing she made of Jesus and was amazed to find that it was the same person.

### **Ministering to married women**

God continued to speak to Sara in dreams. She began attending church and got baptised when she was 17.

The night before her baptism, she had another dream, where she saw a dove. "This time, I felt like the dove brought me out of earth," she says. "I was in outer space, and I saw the earth in front of me. Then I heard a voice saying, 'You do not belong to this earth, I will bring you home to paradise.' During this time, I didn't know much about the Holy Spirit, but that's what God showed me."

Year after year, Sara continued to grow in her faith. She got married – but sadly, it ended in divorce. Her husband did not share her faith

and was unfaithful to her. The pain of the divorce is still strong, but Sara believes that God has a plan and a purpose for her life.

“I believe that God has placed me here to help women build strong marriages”

## **Sara**

Sara has lived in Brunei for 27 years, continuously serving the people in her church. Despite the tragic ending to her own marriage, she feels called to minister to married women. “I realised there are many women who are struggling in their marriages, and I believe that God has placed me here to help women build strong marriages and strong relationships with their loved ones,” she says.

## **Forgiving is ‘a daily choice’**

Brunei is currently [number 48](#) on Open Doors’ World Watch List. The country fully implemented Sharia (Islamic law) in 2019, but it seems to have had little effect on Christians in the country so far.

When local partners met Sara recently, she asked for prayers, saying, “Please continue to pray for me as I make the choice to forgive my ex-husband for all his wrongdoings every day. It really is a daily choice.”

Local partners are looking into more opportunities to fellowship and disciple Sara so she can stand firm in her faith in Jesus.

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

## **Please Pray**

- Give thanks to God for Sara’s faithful ministry to the women in her church these last 27 years
- That God will help Sara to heal from her divorce and give her the strength to forgive her ex-husband
- For Open Doors partners as they continue to serve believers in Brunei like Sara.

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

55,600 (12.2%) - converts from Islam face considerable pressure as conversion is punishable by law and everything will be done to bring converts back to their original faith.

Source: [Open Doors](#)



***“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery”***  
(Galatians 5:1)

## **Live Responsibly Today**

Whatever “media” we read, watch or listen to today, the world seems full of cares and worries but Scripture calls us not to worry, not to be consumed by worldly fears, nor to be overly concerned about tomorrow... Neil speaks to this ...

***“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself”*** (Matthew 6:34a)

Trusting God for tomorrow is a question of our worth. In Matthew 6:26 Jesus says, ***“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”*** Birds are not created in the image of God. We are! Birds will not inherit the kingdom of God, but we shall. Birds are mortal; mankind is immortal. If God takes care of the birds, so much more will He take care of us. That's why the apostle Paul could write, ***“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus”*** (Philippines 4:19).

Matthew 6:30/31 states: ***“If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? So do not worry ...”***

God lays His own reputation on the line. If we trust and obey, He will provide for us. This is a question of God's integrity. ***“Your heavenly Father knows that you need these things ... Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own”*** (Matthew 6:32/34).

God's will is that we live responsibly today and trust Him for tomorrow. Are we people of little faith, or do we really believe that

the fruit of the Spirit will satisfy us more than earthly possessions? Do we really believe that if we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we shall be satisfied? Do we really believe that if we seek to establish God's kingdom, God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory?

If we do, then we will **“seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”** (Matthew 6:33).

**Thank You, Lord, for so faithfully caring for me and for providing for all my needs. I gladly cast all of my cares about tomorrow to You.**

*Neil Anderson*

**Freedom in Christ Ministries**

*Used by permission*

I am reminded of some of the words to one of my favourite songs, which I think says it all ...

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace*

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes  
Jesus, our glory and our prize  
We adore You, behold You, our Saviour ever true  
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.*

*Turn Your Eyes lyrics: George Romanacce, Helen H. Lemmel, Kevin Winebarger, Nathan Stiff, Nic Trout © Capitol CMG Publishing, O/B/O DistroKid CCLI Licence 40715*

**Lord, thank You that You supply all our needs when we turn our eyes to Jesus, help us to continue to seek first Your Kingdom and glorify Your Holy name. Amen**

*Robin*

All Bible verses quoted are from the NIVUK (UK): Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicised, NIVUK® Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

## Exhausting & Exhilarating

What a mix of emotions there are in Holy Week. It begins with the excitement of Palm Sunday. Those who had seen and heard about Lazarus being raised from the dead welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as 'The Son of David', shouting "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."



Our Church commemorated the events beginning with a delicious meal on Maundy Thursday. Between the main course and dessert, we shared in communion.

The disciples must have been bewildered when Jesus declared that the bread was His

body, and the wine was His blood, then invited everyone to eat and drink them.

Good Friday began with a meditation on Christ's sacrifice. We hung ribbons on a cross, symbolising our sins and burdens that Jesus carried in His precious body for us.



This was followed by a Walk of Witness, when Roman soldiers accompanied people taking it in turns to carry the cross around Shanklin. Stopping at various churches, Matthew's account of the crucifixion was read out in dramatic form.



It was, quite literally, excruciating. Whilst we use that word to mean agonising, its exact meaning comes from crucifixion—a form of execution infamous for its prolonged and unbearable pain.



How fitting that, by Sunday morning, we were at the bottom of Hope Road. Around 60 people from all over The Bay braved the cold, gathering at 05:45.



As the sun's rays slanted through the clouds (but didn't warm poor Brian's fingers) we sang in exaltation of our Risen Lord.

During our 10:30 service, we continued reading from the gospel of Matthew. We watched as Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus down from the cross and laid it in Joseph's own tomb whilst the two Marys observed. Then the authorities, worried that the

disciples might steal the body, went to Pilate. Pilate ordered two huge soldiers with bulging muscles to seal the rock and guard the tomb. But, when a pint-sized angel flew down and moved the stone, the knees of those imposing soldiers shook, and they fainted.

The angel told the women that Jesus had risen. He invited them to look inside the tomb, where they discovered only the grave clothes. Then he sent them to tell the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee, but, before they got very far, Jesus Himself appeared to the women. Could anything exceed the joy of the morning?

Having woken around 04:30 was no excuse - many of us were back on the beach at 17:00. Jade and 15 year old Madisyn were to be



baptised, and learn the truth of God's promise that "when you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

Here are the before, during and after photos:



Extremely strong waves exacerbated the experience of the cold water. It was certainly exhilarating!





Finally, back to the church building for an extravagant café style service.

Despite the exhaustion, the entire day was truly excellent – and we didn't make a single pun using the word 'egg'.





## Violence in Schools

Presenting sad or serious Bible stories during assembly to children as young as 5 is difficult. This time of year is particularly challenging. The children have heard about Jesus for many months, hopefully they have grown to love Him. Now, to see him violently killed, could devastate them. The Last Supper is sombre, with lots of explanation. We had to say that the bread and wine 'represented' the body and blood of Jesus to prevent them taking it literally.



The story started with Peter and John being sent to follow a man carrying a water jar. We asked the teacher to provide 4 girls, all of whom were given costumes and water jars. We were delighted to see that one of those chosen was Eileen's granddaughter. In the time of Jesus, it was women who fetched water, and the girls milled around in the marketplace, chatting to each other. This meant that the disciples had to search for the man who was at the back of the scene.



The script ended on a sombre note. Judas, seen in the photo having his feet washed, left to betray Jesus. Before the others set off into the night, they sang a hymn. Here was the opportunity to finish with something positive. The storyteller who had been playing the part of 'Judas' removed her costume and, together with Julie, danced a

hora to the words of 'Evenu Shalom Alechem' – 'We come bringing you peace'. The children loved it, as many of them told us afterwards.



The following week was completely different to anything else we do. No children were involved in 'The Soldier's Story', which began with the warning: 'it begins really sadly, but don't worry, it has a brilliant ending'.

The trial and crucifixion were presented in silhouette, whilst the soldier looked on from the front.



The children gasped in horror as Jesus was hit, nailed to the cross, and laid in the tomb. This was done from behind the curtain, so that the children could

see the body being pushed in, then Joseph of Arimathea came round the front to roll the stone into place.



The body, now out of sight, was removed, leaving the tomb empty. When the angel came out to roll the stone away, another soldier ran away terrified, dropping the banner to the floor.

This lightened the mood for the watching children,



especially when a mannequin, lit up as an angel, moved around inside the formerly empty tomb.

The angel asked Mary Magdalene why she was crying, then she turned round. Seeing someone else in the garden, Mary thought it was the gardener, until Jesus

called her name.

When Mary went off to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen, the soldier believed that Jesus really was the Son of God. The cheers from the children reassured us that, far from being traumatised by the story, they were reassured and happy.

As you can imagine, setting up the scenery and rehearsing in the school takes a long time, so we do this the previous day after the children have left. It provides the perfect

opportunity to film the rehearsal. At Dover Park, one class was unable to attend the assembly. The Headteacher asked for the video of the rehearsal to be sent to him so it could be shown to those who had missed it. At Haylands, Year 6 had not been attending assemblies for several





weeks. Apparently the time is being used to prepare them for their SATS exams, but they were all there for 'The Soldier's Story'. The teacher in charge emphasised that this is the most important story in the Bible and what Easter is all about.



Do you know anyone who might be interested in joining us as we present the word of God to our precious children? Please speak to Julie to find out more.

## Visitor from Ukraine



It was lovely to have a visit from Magdalina Pautze from Ukraine when we had our Encounter Café on Mothering Sunday. Her daughter lives in Ryde.

Mags came from a catholic background but now worships at a Hungarian Reformed Church in western Ukraine in an area which was once part of Hungary, so she dropped in at both URC congregations and was so pleased to share fellowship with us all.

## Street Pastors Request

The reason for this is to ask if anyone would be able to donate any of the following items:-

- Lollipops (individually wrapped)
- Small bottles of water
- Individually wrapped sweets or chocolates (Celebrations, Heroes etc)
- Wipes, tissues, small bottles of hand sanitizer, ice packs, PPE gloves
- Money towards other resources for the festival and our defibrillator fund



This year we will once again be patrolling onsite and off site at the festival but in addition we are opening our Safe Space in Newport Bus Station in the evenings from the Thursday to the Sunday and we have also been allowed to have a gazebo up on site this year which will be operating alongside the same strategy as our Newport Bus station safe space. I have attached a poster of what we do in our safe space.

We are the only Christian organisation that is allowed to enter the festival site and assist with welfare and safeguarding issues.

To help support the Isle of Wight Street Pastors a national call has gone out to mainland initiatives for street pastor volunteers to come help us which has had a great response so far- prayer needed. Due to mainland Street Pastors coming over, we are also looking for accommodation. If you have a spare bedroom and are able to accommodate a Street Pastor, please let us know.

I am happy to collect any donations or any money can be donated by the following means:

<https://iowstreetpastors.org.uk/get-involved/donate-online/>

Whilst on patrol, Street Pastors will talk to people they meet, giving out Lollipops and chocolates to show God's love in action or to act as an icebreaker to start a conversation. They may also use lollipops

in reaction to a volatile or difficult situation where someone is in need of help or distraction.

We may respond to someone:

- Suffering the effects of having a lot to drink or taking other substances
- Being separated from their friends, or need help to get home,
- Or when there is some argument or altercation brewing.

Street Pastors cannot interrupt an ongoing fight- although they can call the police- but they can certainly avoid one starting.

As they patrol, Street Pastors pick up glass bottles and broken glass that might otherwise cause an injury or be used as a weapon. They give out flip flops to women who have found their high heels are no longer bearable after being on them for a while. Street Pastors also give out foil blankets to people who may be cold from not wearing the right clothing for the weather, saving them from hypothermia. Most patrols also involve helping people home, whether that's directing them to a bus station, taxis or ringing a friend or family member to pick them up

Basically Street Pastors are simply there to care, listen and help in the name of Jesus.

This is a fantastic opportunity to show potentially thousands of people the love of Jesus.

Please contact Suzanne (Street Coordinator) on 07511 163632 or [suzanne@iowstreetpastors.org.uk](mailto:suzanne@iowstreetpastors.org.uk) if you have any questions.

## Thank You

To everyone in our Church family who served and gave of their time over Holy Week to make it such a special time.

It was much appreciated.

Love and blessings

Jane & Mike



## **New Resources – available in church**

### **• Open Doors World Watch List 2025 and Prayer Map**

The World Watch List is Open Doors' annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution.

This is a valuable resource so you can explore the country profiles to find information, stories and prayers for each of the countries, along with ways to pray and stand with your persecuted church family.

Did you know that 4,476 Christians were murdered for their faith last year (that we know of)?

The World Watch List is available in the church lobby, and can be accessed online at [www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/)

### **• Open Doors magazine and prayer diary for May/June**

The latest editions are now available in church in print, they will be on the Open Doors website in due course at [www.opendoorsuk.org/magazine/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/magazine/) and [www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/prayer/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/prayer/). The prayer diary is a very good resource for praying for our brothers and sisters in the persecuted church.

### **• Care Prayer Diary April – July**

Will be available online soon at [care.org.uk/prayer-diary](http://care.org.uk/prayer-diary)

### **• Christian Institute Spring Newsletter**

The latest newsletter, available in church and online at [www.christian.org.uk/resource/newsletter-spring-2025/](http://www.christian.org.uk/resource/newsletter-spring-2025/), includes the subjects:

- New Bill requires home-ed parents to report Sunday school attendance
- CI backs pastor facing conviction for gospel preaching in censorship zone
- Govt-sanctioned Dublin heroin centre 'facilitating poisoning'
- And so much more...

**A chance to explore whole life discipleship:**

**LICC Vision Event**

***Everyday Matters***

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**19:30**

**Newport Minster**

**licc.**

The London Institute for  
Contemporary Christianity



**Also on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 09:00**  
**Leaders' Breakfast at Carisbrooke Priory**

We are delighted to welcome Paul Woolley and Ken Benjamin to the Island to encourage us in our work and witness. LICC have produced some great resources over the years such as Fruitfulness on the Frontline, which many of us have found so inspiring.

Everyone is most welcome - coffees etc from 19:00. A free event - book your place at: [www.licc.org.uk/events/vision-tour](http://www.licc.org.uk/events/vision-tour)

Paul Woolley from LICC will also be speaking at Shanklin on the Sunday morning.



**IOW Festival 2025**

**Hosts**



Would you like to help IOW Street Pastors?



Do you have a spare room?



Would you be willing to host a Street Pastor volunteer from the mainland?

**Speak to Suzanne or Miriam and Malc**

## **Setting free the hearts of prisoners**

*Published on: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

***“Prison bars don’t keep God out.” Rev Tim Wright, chaplain at HMP Stocken.***

Prisoners in England and Wales are coming to faith in Jesus. Support for the Bible Society is putting the Bible into their hands and growing their confidence in its healing power.

That means as a supporter you’re a key part of a Bible Society ministry that goes back to the beginning. In the early 1800s, Bible Society supporter and prison reformer Elizabeth Fry worked tirelessly to improve the lives of inmates. Today, you are getting more and more Bibles to prisoners and giving them a second chance, with Jesus.

“Prisoners are drowning, spiritually and morally,” said Rev Tim. “The waves are high and their heads are going under. But the Bible gives guidance, purpose and direction. Thank you. You are changing the lives of prisoners in remarkable ways.”

### **Prisoners hunger for God**

If you walked through the grey, featureless corridors of HMP Stocken, the sound of worship would meet you long before you arrived at the chapel. Deep, powerful and heartfelt, the voices of 60 men sing the worship song ‘How Great is our God’ – and the music echoes around the prison walls.

In the chapel itself, every seat is taken. Prison chaplain, Rev Tim Wright, opens God’s word and waits while everyone picks up their Bible and finds the right page. “Follow along, because God has something to say to you,” Rev Tim tells the prisoners, and you can hear a pin drop as he begins to speak.

This is the extraordinary picture of faith behind bars. In prisons right across England and Wales, chaplains say the Lord is at work and lives are being changed. And the amazing thing is, you are part of it – because your support is not only putting Bibles into these prisoners’ hands, but helping them engage with it.

“There’s a real hunger and thirst from the men,” says Rev Tim. “Imagine hosting a Bible study at your house, opening the door and

seeing 30 people standing there. That's happening in prison! I'm having to put men on the waiting list for Bible study groups."

## **Providing life-changing Bible resources**

Support for the Bible Society has delivered hundreds of Bibles to HMP Stocken, so every prisoner who attends Bible study receives a copy of their own. Rev Tim has also run *The Bible Course* three times.

But it's not enough. Even though the Bible Society helped provide more than 6,500 Bibles to 122 prisons in the last year, demand still outstrips supply. Chantelle Baker, who leads Bible Society's prisons ministry, said, "A prison chaplain might ask for 100 Bibles, but our budget means the most we can supply is half that, sometimes even less. I'd love to be able to provide more prisoners with Bibles."

Prison chaplains are often in touch to ask for ways to help prisoners engage more fully with their Bibles, whether that is starting *The Bible Course: Prisons Edition*, or using helpful Bible study materials. A way in, and a guide through, makes all the difference to someone's deeper understanding of the message of Scripture.

Chantelle added, 'My heart is to see prisoners reading the Bible and growing in the understanding of what it means for them, so that their lives are transformed and they share their faith with others.'

\*\*\*

If you'd like to get involved by supporting the work of the Bible Society, whether it be as a one-off donation, supporting the 'Share the Bible with a prisoner' appeal or by joining the Bible a Month Club, simply go to:

[www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate)

and help to put the Bible in someone's hands and heart today





# Focus

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

***“Vulnerable and unprotected” – Christian converts in Bangladesh attacked amidst rising persecution***

Please pray for Barun, his mother, and Akram – three Christian converts who were recently attacked and hospitalised.

In Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country, Christians make up only 0.5% of the total population. Converts from both Hindu and Muslim backgrounds experience the brunt of persecution, as these two recent attacks show.

Barun\* (13) is a Christian from a Hindu background. He lives in a small house along with his widowed mother and two younger brothers in the northern part of Bangladesh. The village is mostly occupied by other converts from Hinduism, but they're surrounded by a Muslim community who are angry that these believers didn't convert to Islam. The Christians are frequently harassed, with demands to leave and threats of forced eviction from the village.

“We do not create any problems for them, but still, they are making trouble for us... Without any reason, we are being persecuted”

## **Barun's mother**

After the local pastor visited Barun's village on 31 March, a group of local Muslims went to the village. They began questioning Barun and his mother, insulting and mocking them in various ways.

“Why have you converted to Christianity?” they demanded. “Why not to Islam? You are living in a Muslim country, but you have converted into Christianity. You can't do that here! We won't allow you!”

As tensions escalated, the group began threatening Barun's family, saying, “You can't stay here! This is a Muslim country. Go live in a Christian country – we will kick you out of this village!”

## **Barun taken to hospital after attack**

When the perpetrators started to insult his mother and push her, Barun tried to defend her. But the group turned on him instead and violently beat him, knocking him on the ground. The extent of Barun's injuries from this attack meant he had to go to hospital for treatment.

Barun's mother was shaken after the incident. "We are poor, and we do not have a place to go – that's why these people can easily persecute us," she says. "We do not create any problems for them, but still, they are making trouble for us. We have no business with them. Without any reason, we are being persecuted."

The local pastor says, "These people have been persecuted for long time. Recently, some miscreant tried to set this village on fire during the night. They ignited a haystack near one of the believer's homes, but fortunately someone saw the flames in time and quickly extinguished before it spread. Sadly, these people remain vulnerable and unprotected."

"These people have been persecuted for long time... Sadly, [they] remain vulnerable and unprotected."

### **Barun's pastor**

Open Doors local partners are helping Barun's mother with emergency needs and hospital expenses. They have also been praying and encouraging Barun and his mother not to lose heart but to hold on to hope, continually seeking and praying to the Lord.

### **Young boys attack an elderly man**

Just over a week earlier, on 22 March, Akram\* – a believer from a Muslim background living in western Bangladesh – was attacked by some Muslim boys while working in a maize field.

Akram, an elderly man and local house church leader, was in the middle of the field tending the maize plants. While he was busily working, he didn't notice a group of young Muslim boys approach and surround him. They began interrogating him, intentionally trying to find something to accuse him of. Failing to find anything, the boys started claiming that Akram was converting people and leading young Muslims to hell.

When Akram denied all their accusations, they became furious and attacked him, taking turns to beat, kick and punch him. They also used sticks and weapons. Akram eventually lost consciousness and

his leg in particular was severely injured.

“I forgive them and I pray that God will forgive them and will help them to find the truth and find salvation”

### **Akram**

Some other farmers working in the same field saw the commotion from afar and quickly rushed to Akram while the boys ran away. They took him to the local hospital for treatment.

### **“I know I will not get justice”**

When asked whether he wanted to file a case against the boys, he said, “I will not file any case against them because I know I will not get justice. After filing a case against them, I will suffer much. I do not blame them either, but I forgive them.”

He added, “My Lord Jesus Christ was persecuted the same way. He was beaten. He shed blood on the ground but still He forgave them and prayed for the persecutors. I forgive them and I pray that God will forgive them and will help them to find the truth and find salvation.”

Bangladesh has risen three places to number 24 on the World Watch List this year as persecution has increased. More Christians from Muslim backgrounds are being targeted – even by Muslim neighbours and friends who they’ve known for years.

Akram is now back at home, although he’s still being treated for his injuries. Local Open Doors partners are regularly in touch with him and are looking for other ways to help him. They are also connecting with the pastor of Akram’s local church. Please continue to pray for his recovery and protection.

*\*Names changed for security reasons*

### **Please Pray**

- For physical and emotional healing for Barun, his mother and Akram, that God will take away their fear
- For local Open Doors partners as they aid these believers in their recovery
- That the perpetrators of these attacks will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. .

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

**Quizaid**

**Do you have what it takes to  
be a smart Alec  
or a brainy Brenda?**

**Where:** Ryde United Reformed Church  
**When:** Saturday 17th May, 19:00.  
 teams of 4, minimum of £3 per person, £2 for under 18s  
Pre-book by Thursday 15th May.

**Contact:** Martin Stock. Tel. 613188,  
 Mob. 07789 602782 Email: [martinstock741@gmail.com](mailto:martinstock741@gmail.com).



# DONATIONS NEEDED!



The Isle of Wight Street Pastors initiative are looking for donations to aid our support within the IOW festival this year! We have for the second time been invited to run patrols inside the festival! From the 19th-22nd of June

**Here are just a few things you could help us with:**

- **Sweet's and/or lolly pop donations**
- **Bottled water donation**  
Chocolate boxes or small chocolate's
- **We are also raising funds towards kit and resources including a Defibrillator in case of emergency.**

We are also looking for Street Pastor volunteers to support and patrol with us at the Islands biggest event of the year!

*Pick up's and drop off's can be arranged to suit you as required!*



**Please contact - [sp@iowstreetpastors.org.uk](mailto:sp@iowstreetpastors.org.uk)**



# NEWPORT BUS STATION

# SAFE SPACE



A safe place to...



**WAIT  
FOR FRIENDS**



**RECEIVE  
FIRST AID**



**GET ADVICE  
& SUPPORT**



**HELP GETTING  
HOME**



**REPORT ASB  
OR ANY CONCERNS**

Pop in & talk to us!

In partnership with





# Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Time	Details
Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	18:00	Meal at Viv's Cooking (booking essential) (see <a href="#">page 20</a> )
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30	Communion Service and Gift Day – Induction of Lou as a serving Elder <i>Brian's last Sunday here before Sabbatical</i>
		18:30	Shared Worship at Lake Methodist Church
Thu	8 <sup>th</sup> May	14:00	Pray for the Bay (see <a href="#">page 4</a> )
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30	Paul Woolley of LICC speaking
		18:30	Shared Worship at URC
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup> May	15:00	STBB in concert at Rylstone Gardens (see <a href="#">page 13</a> )
		18:30	Shared Worship at St Blasius
Tue	20 <sup>th</sup> May	14:00	Nigel Cox begins a series at Bible Bite
Sat	17 <sup>th</sup> May	19:00	Quiz Aid at Ryde URC - for Christian Aid (see <a href="#">page 42</a> )
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30	Louise Hall speaking
<b>Thu</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>19:30</b>	<b>Church Meeting</b>
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30	Encounter Café Service with Andy Hough
		19:30	Open Air Worship in Rylstone Gardens





## Connection Quiz Answers

1. The **Blues**
2. Captain **Black**.
3. The **Green** Party.
4. **Red**.
5. **Yellow**, (crème anglaise is custard).
6. Connection: they are colours of the five Olympic rings.
7. The building in the background of this issue's cover photo is of: l'Abbaye aux Hommes, Caen - burial place of William I (photo © C P 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.

A medium one this month.

Enjoy!

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

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						
32													

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

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

### Across

- 1 Shanklin Gardens with a bandstand (8)  
 5 Largest city in the region of Centre-Val de Loire, or journeys for pleasure (5)  
 8 Male offspring (3)  
 9 High-level educational institution (10)  
 10 Joan of -, French saint (3)  
 12 Norfolk city, home to The Canaries (7)  
 15 Normandy port, site of disastrous 1942 raid (6)  
 18 Silly, foolish (4)  
 19 SE English county (4)  
 21 French verb 'to have' (5)  
 23 Opera by Verdi, set in Egypt (4)  
 26 Very large mammal with a trunk, African or Asian (8)

27 Cry (3)

30 En français, c'est mon *m* ou *ma f* (2)

31 The dog who found the world cup in 1966 (7)

32 Large water storage place (9)

### Down

1 Capital of Normandy (5)

2 Polynesian garland (3)

3 Long essay for a degree (6)

4 French for 'our', plural (3)

5 Something to play with (3)

6 Not off (2)

7 Paper packet of e.g. sugar (6)

8 Small earring (4)

11 Something you sleep in (3)

13 1 (3)

14 Hampshire station two stops after Hilsea (6)

16 French capital (5)

17 Dark Side of the Moon group *initials* (2)

19 Stops people scoring, goal- (6)

20 Do this through the tulips? (6)

22 Id Est *initials* (2)

24 London's Millennium -, now the O2 Arena (4)

25 Bottomless chasm (5)

28 What we breathe (3)

29 Do this on snow (3)

31 3.142 (2)

## Can You Guess The Year?

- BBC pre-school children's television series Teletubbies first airs.
- J K Rowling's first Harry Potter novel is published.
- Andy Green breaks the land speed record in Thrust SSC.
- Chelsea win the FA Cup, beating Middlesbrough 2-0.
- And UK No. 1s included:
  - Teletubbies with '*Teletubbies Say Eh-Oh*'
  - Gary Barlow with '*Love Won't Wait*'
  - Aqua with '*Barbie Girl*'
  - Hanson with '*Mmm Bop*'

*Answer next issue*

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

1. Who was the English monarch before William I?
2. What is the currency in Malta?
3. In what year did the Battle of Agincourt take place?
4. Which Beatles song mentions '*a cottage on the Isle of Wight*'?
5. In what year did ABBA first try to enter Eurovision?
6. Who were Flying the Flag for the UK at Eurovision in 2007?
7. What were the names of the six Trumpton fireman?
8. Who composed the waltz '*The Blue Danube*'?
9. What's the name of the druid, in the Asterix the Gaul stories?
10. In which English county is Sandringham?

*Answers next issue*

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

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

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 1988

- Last issue's crossword ↓

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

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

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Queen Anne                  | 6. Runnymede                             |
| 2. Leu                         | 7. The Coldstream Guards                 |
| 3. 16 <sup>th</sup> April 1746 | 8. Antonio Vivaldi                       |
| 4. Riga                        | 9. Dogmatix (English) or Idefix (French) |
| 5. 12 <sup>th</sup> May 1937   | 10. George Volkert                       |

## 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 service** on last Sunday of each month

## Weekday Activities

- Monday**      10:30      **Pop Up Pantry**
- Tuesday**      14:00      **Bible Bite** ministry in church  
                         (Refreshments from 13:30)  
                         *Broadcast live on YouTube*
- 19:30      **Prayer Meeting** on Zoom (see [page 4](#))
- Wednesday** 11:00      **Living Well Together (aka 'The Well')**
- Friday**      10:00      **CatURpillars Toddler Group**

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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*Day off:* Monday (& off for 3 months from 14<sup>th</sup> May)

### **Secretary:**      **Robin Wightman**



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

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Registered Charity No. 1130459