

The Link

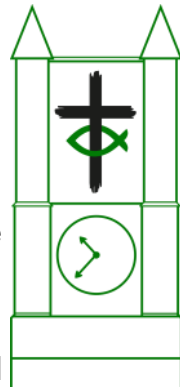


June 2025



Shanklin United Reformed Church www.shanklinurc.co.uk

View From the High Street



From Up the Lane

As Brian heads off on his Sabbatical, it falls on the Elders to shoulder the responsibility of Safeguarding our Church and its members, that is you!

Please pray for Brian that he receives by God's Will and Grace the rest and recuperation he needs and has earned.

Prayers also please for Rob and the Elders as we accept these responsibilities. We are here for You! Please look at the board as you enter the Church and familiarise yourselves with the faces of the Eldership team. These are the people who be endeavouring, with God's help, to lead Shanklin URC until Brian returns in September.

From Tuesday 20th May and for the next four Tuesdays we will have Nigel Cox bringing us Bible bites followed by Jonathan Snell.

We also have various guest speakers lined up for our Sunday Services (see the Dates for Your Diary on [page 38](#), at the back of this and subsequent Links), again give your prayers for each and all these speakers as they bring God's Word to us.

At the end of June, the 29th, our own Sheilagh is giving herself to our Rylstone open air worship at 19:30. A blessed time to spend with the Lord in open air at the end of the day. Please pray and be there if you can, to support Sheilagh.

Please support us all in the weeks ahead by praying for us and the whole Church

Thank You and bless you!

Alan

Minister's Sabbatical

Brian began his Sabbatical on 20th May.

He plans to visit Uganda and Madagascar, flying out on 30th May with his daughter Rachel. He'll be preaching at Kalasa Reformed Presbyterian Church on 1st June, and after a short safari trip, they are flying on to meet up with Sarah for a week, returning home on 15th June.

Later in June, Brian will be at the Isle of Wight Festival... you may spot him there!

Brian will be back on duty on **Tuesday 2nd September.**

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

Rev Mark Evans from Newport Congregational Church is available as a back-up

Phone 522187 or e-mail revmarkevans@yahoo.co.uk

Robin

Brian is taking this in his suitcase to Kalasa!

(The banner that is, not Ron & Meryl - or perhaps he is...)



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>

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 **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.

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. Next meeting: 5th June @ 15:00

Thy Kingdom Come - a worldwide prayer initiative, see [page 30](#) for details .

Wight Church Prayer - Many of us took part in last year's United Prayer Event when we all prayed simultaneously around the Island. This is being repeated this year: **Free the Wight 2 - Pentecost Sunday, 8th June 16:00 – 17:00**, please speak to Lou for more information.

Let us Pray for Shanklin: June to September - Please do join with us as we plan to spend the summer months individually walking and praying for our community and coming together as a fellowship on Saturday 6th September to pray for Shanklin. Look out for details and prayer sheets coming soon...

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 café service in June will be on the 29th
led by Paul, with Peter Wells speaking**

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

Ron on TV

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

It will be shown as part of the programme 'BBC Ambulance', on Thursday 12th 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...

The Battle of Dettingen took place on 27th June 1743

Part of the War of the Austrian Succession, King George II of Britain personally led Allied troops to victory in the Battle of Dettingen in Bavaria.

It was the last time a British monarch commanded troops in the field.

Connection Quiz

1. Which underground line is coloured yellow on the Tube map?
2. What (British) cars were used in the original *Italian Job* film?
3. What breed of dog can come in toy, miniature and standard sizes?
4. What type of writing/drawing implement is made from graphite?
5. What is supposedly used by a witch for transport?
6. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 5?
7. And bonus question... where was the cover photo taken? I don't think you need a hint this month!



Answers are on [page 39](#)

CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE BAY

Worship in the Open Air



**Last Sunday
of each month**



19:30 at

Rylstone Gardens

(turn left just past the Old Village)

**An informal service for everyone
led from the bandstand**

by folk from local Churches

25 May, 29 June, 27 July & 31 Aug

Ephesians Chapter 4: 1-16

(some thoughts on Brian's Bible Bite exposition)

Paul has ended the more theological section of his letter by confirming three things:

Spending Time in The Word and God's Presence Expands Our Horizons

Worship And Prayer Are Cornerstones of Effective Service To God

God Can Do More Than We Could Ever Imagine!

In Chapter 4, Paul begins to look at the more practical aspects of our Christian life. In this section, there are 3 main themes: the Ephesians (**and our**) Calling, Unity and the Gifts given by God's grace.

Looking at verses 7 to 10 first, Paul explains that Christ, having won a great victory, has ascended to Heaven from where He apportions God's Gifts of Grace (undeserved) to each of us individually. Although we are **one body**, we are not all the same, and all of us have something to bring to the Body...

We Need Each Other ~ None of Us Can Do It on Our Own!

In verses 1 to 3 Paul tells his readers that we, followers of Christ, must be worthy of this Calling ~ to be humble, gentle, patient and bearing with one another in love ~ **just as Jesus himself was...** we are to, "*make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*"

In A Nutshell, Paul Tells Us All To Be Christlike!

This Is Our Calling ... To One Hope ~ Eternal Life

Verses 4 to 6 speak of this Unity ~ "*One body and one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of All.*" Paul goes on to tell us what the church should look like, where we should be aiming for and how God has provided all we need to achieve His goals for our lives. Christ gave His church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (the 5-fold ministries of the church). Each of these roles is important not just for the early church but for the body of Christ today to function properly. As Paul stated in Chapter 2: 19-22, "*Consequently, you are no longer*

foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

And our aim should always be to know Jesus better and to grow together in the Faith. In the final 2 verses of this section (15-16), Paul speaks of not being infants but, *"speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

Unity Is At The Heart Of Becoming Mature, Let's Celebrate It!

Our Foundation Must Be Sound, Founded On Christ Alone

It's All About Jesus, And It's All About Love, And We Have A Part To Play!

The United Reformed Church Podcast

The URC Podcast is brought to you by the dynamic Reform team! This fortnightly series dives into conversations with the movers and shakers of the United Reformed Church, giving you a front-row seat to the latest in spiritual life and church happenings.



Join hosts Stephen Tomkins, Editor of *Reform* magazine, and Ann-Marie Nye, URC Communications Officer and *Digest* Editor, as they guide you through thought-provoking discussions that are as insightful as they are entertaining. Whether you're a longtime member of the URC or just curious, this podcast is the perfect way to stay connected.

Now in its third series, *The URC Podcast* is a must-listen for anyone wanting to keep their finger on the pulse of spiritual life – or just looking for some good, uplifting entertainment.

Catch the latest episode at urc.org.uk/urc-podcast/, and don't forget to head over to our Spotify channel at open.spotify.com/show/2q6LmnaOIQPjAcEDbqyCgA to hit 'follow' so you never miss an episode!

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



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) has several great articles, including the headline article, 'Rescued From 'The Devil's Playground' - British woman's call to save street kids in Brazil.

Other contributions include:

- **Bono Talks Faith** - U2's lead singer opens up in new documentary
- **Love Island Star** - Liberty Poole tells how God lifted her out of depression
- **Bond Actor Plays Pilate** - Pierce Brosnan helps tell story of 'our Lord' in new movie
- **Liverpool Striker's Jesus T-Shirt** - Cody Gakpo gets into hot water for publicising his faith
- **Our Tribute To George Foreman** - The boxer who became a preacher
- **From Atheist To Pastor** - Teenage sceptic transformed by encounter with God

Good News... for a change



Bible a Month Club

This wonderful ministry of the Bible Society has as its focus this month the nation of Iran. To quote from the Bible Society's latest newsletter:

It's a criminal offence in Iran to convert from Islam to Christianity. The intended effect is to confine Christianity to the traditional churches of Iran's ethnic minorities, like the Armenians and Assyrians. It isn't working. The country's rapidly growing evangelical churches, illegally holding services in Farsi, are packed.

Here at home, the charity Welcome Churches, a Bible Society partner that now has more than 1,300 member congregations, has been working since 2018 to see every refugee welcomed by a church. Many are Iranian migrants who have fled persecution. Others are nonbelievers looking for a community to belong to. Many give their lives to Jesus.

'We work with churches and detention centres to make sure that Bibles are supplied, free of charge, to those who need them,' says Bible Society's Chantelle Baker.

'I have been given a free Bible in Farsi,' said one Iranian migrant. 'My favourite verse is 1 John 4.16. God is love. Jesus said forgive your enemies. He sacrificed himself. I used to chant, "Death to America," but now I pray for peace.'

June Prayers for Iran

Pray for the underground churches in Iran, that the eyes of the authorities will not see them, and that they will continue to flourish.

Pray for Iranians who have fled Iran. As refugees they're extremely vulnerable and could be returned to Iran at any time. Pray that exile is an opportunity for them, both to build a new life and to find God.

Do read of this ministry in the current Bible a Month newsletter (for May/June 2005) at the back of church or at www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-a-month (The Link editor has a pdf copy to share if you would like one) and learn more of how God is touching many Iranian lives. To quote:

“When life is good, you can forget God, but pain draws you to God. Many young Iranians want to know Jesus.!”

This vital ministry is always very grateful to receive more members for Bible a Month Club – or for donations for all their opportunities to spread the Word of God to those who have not yet had the blessing of even a part of Scriptures.

I would be glad to share more with you of how you can support the Bible Society or go to www.biblesociety.org.uk/ and find out more for yourself.

You can also receive a ‘gift’ from them as follows:

Your free Pentecost devotionals

To celebrate Pentecost Sunday on 8th June, we’re offering a week of free devotionals from 8th–15th June.

Join us as we open the Bible, learn about the Holy Spirit, and get inspired by the early church.

The devotionals focus on the birth of the Church in Acts and how the Holy Spirit empowered and enabled the spread of the gospel to Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and beyond.

Each day there’ll be the opportunity to respond by praying for the global Church. Devotionals will be delivered to your inbox to read or listen to and there’ll also be a study guide available for small groups.

Sign up at www.biblesociety.org.uk/pentecost-bam/

“The Lord is righteous in all he does, merciful in all his acts. He is near to those who call to Him, who call to Him with sincerity.”
Psalm 145:17-18 (GNB)

When we read the Bible we find out more about God, more about ourselves and more about the world. That’s why the Bible Society invites people to discover it for themselves. – Bible Society

Blessings in Jesus’ Name

Jane H

Source: [Bible Society](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/)

Finding Peace Today

The message from Lou Hall of Sandown Baptist Church on Sunday 18th May was very uplifting and helpful – do watch it on YouTube if you missed it (or want to see it again)!

She spoke on Philippians 4:4-7 with the theme of, 'Be anxious for nothing.'

We are living in days when peace can seem in short supply. However, what a comfort it is to know that God's peace will keep our hearts and minds as we come before Him to bring our prayers with thanksgiving and praise. This last aspect of the scripture Lou drew our attention to in a helpful way.

As we come to pray, thank God that He will hear and He will answer according to what is best for the situation we are interceding for.

Lou left us with the following points to remember:

1. I do not need to worry about anything.
2. Instead of worrying, I'm going to pray about everything.
3. When coming to prayer about everything, I remember to thank God beforehand, for His perfect answer is on the way.
4. I choose to claim the Peace of Jesus in everything.

'Our Daily Bread ' Ministries have published a very helpful Prayer Journal booklet: 'Finding Peace for Today'.

In it there are helpful scriptures and stories of people's experiences of finding God's peace in the midst of challenging circumstances and plenty of blank pages to write words of praise and prayers to God and any answers to record.

Many people have found keeping a journal to be a great blessing – so perhaps this is a journey to start on that will be a blessing and encouragement in your walk with the Lord.

Copies of the Prayer Journal can be found on the various resource tables at church, as well as other helpful booklets on prayer and other aspects of our Christian walk.

A helpful leaflet on 'The Lord's Prayer' – 'How to pray. How to live' from the Archbishop of York is also available during this time leading up to Pentecost.

Lots of good 'helps' for the journey of life.

Blessings in Jesus' Name

Jane H

'Now may the Lord of Peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way.' 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Sue Wightman story from BRF Ministries

Sue Wightman contacted us recently to say how much a series of reflections in *Day by Day with God* had meant to her. Sue found 'The gift of creativity' by Catherine Larner 'so inspiring and encouraging.' Sue is a retired hospital administrator and lives with her husband on the Isle of Wight, where they're both very involved in a 'wonderful United Reformed Church.'

Sue's mum taught her to knit and by the age of seven she was knitting mittens, scarves and dolls clothes. She's always found it relaxing – 'you go to another place when you're knitting' – but later in life it became something more: 'I was probably in my 50s when it became more spiritual. Grandchildren started arriving and as I was making blankets and clothes for them, I would find myself praying for them, even before they were born. I'd be knitting for an hour and just talking to God, it became my "thing": I knit and pray.'

But sometimes Sue felt a little 'judged' for her habit, as if knitting was a bit trivial, and that's why 'The gift of creativity' helped her so much: 'It was as if it gave me permission to say what I was doing – knitting and praying – was all right. I no longer feel I have to justify myself. I knit and pray, and it's my time with God. I think that's a gift God has given me, and it just shows that as you get older and you can't do as much, you can still mentally spend time with God and do beautiful things for him.'

Sue organises other knitters to make squares which she then stitches into baby blankets for teenage mums and colourful, cosy throws both for the older members of the church who can't get out and for people who come to the church's warm space, 'The Well', but who aren't coming to church at the moment.

BRF Ministries is the home of Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith. As a Christian charity, we inspire, equip and support people of all ages to grow in faith.

Used by permission of BRF Ministries – www.brf.org.uk/



“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)

My Father God (Part One)

The Freedom In Christ course looks at some of the common deceptive thoughts that Christians who have not achieved Freedom in Christ can be led to entertain. At times, we all suffer these attacks of Satan, and I thought it would be good for us all to look at these and check that we are following the Truth.

This is Part 1 of 2 articles in which Neil guides us...

I renounce the lie that You, Father God, are distant and uninterested in me. Your word says: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’* **Jeremiah 29:11** (see also Psalm 139:1-4, Matthew 28:20 & Ephesians 2:10)

I choose to believe the truth that You, Father God, are always personally present with me, have plans to give me a hope and a future and have prepared works in advance specifically for me to do.

I renounce the lie that You, Father God, are insensitive and don’t know me or care for me. Your word says: *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”* **1 John 3:1** (see also Hebrews 4:12-13 & Psalm 103:8-12)

I choose to believe the truth that You, Father God, are kind and compassionate and know every single thing about me.

I renounce the lie that You, Father God, are stern and have

placed unrealistic expectations on me. Your word says:

"If the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many" **Romans 5:15** (see also verses 9 and 17)

I choose to believe the truth that You, Father God, have accepted me and are joyfully supportive of me.

I renounce the lie that You, Father God, are passive and cold towards me. Your word says:

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young." **Isaiah 40:11**

I choose to believe the truth that You, Father God, are warm and affectionate towards me.

I renounce the lie that You, Father God, are absent or too busy for me. Your word says:

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" **Philippians 1:6**, and *"God has said 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"* **Hebrews 13:5**

I choose to believe the truth that You, Father God, are always present and eager to be with me and enable me to be all that You created me to be.

I renounce the lie that You, Father God, are impatient or angry with me, or have rejected me. Your word says:

"And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness'" **Exodus 13:6** (see also Romans 2:4 and Hebrews 12: 5-11)

I choose to believe the truth that You, Father God, are patient and slow to anger and that when You discipline me, it is proof of Your love, and not rejection.

I choose to believe the truth that You, Father God, are patient towards me and cleanse me when I fall.

Neil Anderson

Freedom in Christ Ministries

Daily Devotionals

Used by permission

When Satan seeks to deceive us, the Bible leads us in all Truth. When we are weighed down, prayer lifts us up. Use these statements of truth to combat Satan's deceptions ~ our sure and certain defence against him is in knowing God's Word, regularly turning to it and in praying to our Lord.

Always remember that:

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

Father God, thank You that You love and care for us at all times and in all circumstances. Thank You that we are Your chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, Your special possession.

Help us to be ever more aware of Your presence daily and to walk the way that Your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has shown us. Help us to declare Your praises, with Your Word fixed in our hearts.

Robin

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**FREEDOM
IN CHRIST**

Rylstone Gardens June 2025

As well as Open Air Worship continuing during June, the following concerts will be taking place on the bandstand in Rylstone Gardens during June, weather permitting of course.

Date	Time	Band
Sun 01 Jun	15:00	Shanklin Town Brass Band
Tue 03 Jun	20:00	Wight Diamonds
Wed 04 Jun	20:00	Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 05 Jun	20:00	Vectis Brass Band
Sun 08 Jun	15:00	Brighton & Hove City Brass
Mon 09 Jun	19:45	Cowes Concert Band
Tue 10 Jun	19:45	Bob Howarth Big Band
Wed 11 Jun	20:00	Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 12 Jun	20:00	Vectis Brass Band
Sun 15 Jun	15:00	Shanklin Town Brass Band
Mon 16 Jun	19:45	Cowes Concert Band
Tue 17 Jun	20:00	Abbey Brass
Wed 18 Jun	20:00	Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 19 Jun	20:00	Vectis Brass Band
Sun 22 Jun	15:00	Martin Hoy
Tue 24 Jun	19:45	Bob Howarth Big Band
Wed 25 Jun	20:00	Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 26 Jun	20:00	Vectis Brass Band
Sun 29 Jun	15:00	Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra
Mon 30 Jun	19:45	Cowes Concert Band

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

Christians in earthquake-hit Myanmar see God's presence through your support

Following the devastating earthquakes that hit Myanmar in March, gifts and prayers are a shining reminder of God's presence with them!

"We see the hands of God in the midst of natural disaster through Open Doors partners," says Daw Sun*, a widow with two children whose house was severely damaged by the earthquake in Myanmar earlier this year. "May God bless the givers and the distributors more and more abundantly." Daw Sun pastors a local house church, and her congregation join together in gratitude.

Your gifts and prayers are continuing to support believers like Daw Sun. Thanks to you, Open Doors partners could repair her house. It's just the tip of the iceberg of the help you're ensuring: more than 800 families in Myanmar have already received urgent relief (such as groceries, medicine and shelter), and Open Doors local partners are providing long-term support as people rebuild and heal from their experiences. Another challenge faced by believers in Myanmar was bathroom facilities – so local partners provided temporary toilets made of bamboo and wood.

"Halleluiah, Praise the Lord!" says Hla Shwe*, a widow who received support, including a solar lamp – crucial during the post-earthquake power cuts. "We thank God because of you who are helping us in our time of need. May God bless you all!"

"God has not abandoned us"

Your prayers and gifts aren't just making sure that communities in Myanmar get physical aid – you are demonstrating your love. "We are thankful that God provided for our needs," shares another believer. "God has not abandoned us in our difficult times."

When Mimi's* damaged house was repaired by Open Doors partners, it was a witness to her non-believing husband. He could see the love of Christ in the actions of people who don't know his family but still care for them. "Thank you for the help," says Mimi with gratitude.

"Because of your donations, help and prayers, we are also able to reach out to an orphanage, where children affected by the civil war are taking shelter," shares Pastor Chan*, a local church leader. "There are many kids who do not have parents. But we are trying to support them with some rice bags, snacks and toys."

Listening to their trauma

Multiple aftershocks continued even as the partners visited these areas. “We experienced many aftershocks,” shares Daisy Htun*, a local Open Doors partner. “We had no other option but to stay at a hotel that was slightly damaged. We were scared to sleep inside our hotel rooms, looking at the cracked walls of the hotel. We wondered how much more difficult it must have been for the people when the 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit their homes. All the people that we met appeared so traumatised by what had happened.”

In addition to practical aid, Open Doors partners also conducted a trauma debriefing course for believers affected by the earthquake, giving believers an opportunity to share their experiences and help begin the healing process. Spending time sitting with earthquake victims, hearing their stories and their pain, is a crucial part of the support offered by Open Doors partners.

Fears and hopes

Many believers are still living in fear. Some houses and church buildings are fully destroyed while others are partially damaged. Local partners have been able to provide rent for some who have been left homeless, so they can find houses rather than living in makeshift tents.

“It is extremely difficult, but we will continue to journey with the believers,” Daisy says. “Our family in Jesus in Myanmar were happy and feel blessed by the provisions they received.”

Thank you so much for your prayers and care for your family in Myanmar. You have changed lives and helped believers who lost everything – because of your support, they know they aren’t alone but have faithful family members in the global body of Christ. Thank you, and please keep praying for all those who are recovering from their experiences, mourning loved ones and starting to rebuild their lives.

Please pray

- For the people of Myanmar as they continue to reel from the aftermath of the earthquakes
- That relief aid will quickly and effectively reach all those in need
- That believers will be strengthened in their faith, and that their witness will draw others to Jesus.

Source: [Open Doors](#)

Ascension and Pentecost

After Jesus rose from the dead, he suddenly appeared in the locked room where His disciples were hiding. Thomas was not there and, when he returned, he refused to believe what his friends said.



A week later, Jesus appeared again and, this time, Thomas acknowledged Jesus as “My Lord and my God.”

Jesus replied: “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” This is the truth that Open the Book presents to the children every week – God loves them and longs for them to believe in Jesus.



Before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He instructed His disciples to wait for the gift of His Holy Spirit which would empower them to take His message to the whole world.

The disciples did as Jesus said. Ten days later, as they prayed in the Upper Room, tongues of fire appeared over their heads. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they were able to tell the wonderful news of Jesus to the foreign Jews who had come to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost.



It's such a pity we can't show you the children, dressed in various costumes with the flags of their countries listening to Peter's sermon. We could only photograph the Egyptian lady, cut to the heart and asking what she should do.



After being baptised, she and all the others were filled with the Holy Spirit. The assembly following this told of Peter being sent to the house of the Roman Centurion, Cornelius.



When all those listening to Peter were filled the Holy Spirit in the same way as had happened on the Day of Pentecost, the Jewish believers realised that salvation is for the gentiles (that's you and me) as well.

The watching children really enjoy participating in the story. They count



whenever possible: Peter denying Jesus three times, then Jesus asking Peter whether he loved Him three times, Eight days between Jesus appearing to the disciples and appearing to Thomas, ten days from Ascension to Pentecost. We also show them Makaton signs, such as 'people' which they used as we all chanted about those who came for the feast: People from the north and people from the south, people from the east and people from the west, people from all around the world.

The story of Thomas was the perfect time to show them the Makaton sign for Jesus, which is placing one finger into the palm of the opposite hand to show the nail marks.

When this was explained before the story started, several children gasped as they realised what

Jesus went through for us. From that point onwards, every time Peter mentioned the name of Jesus when preaching to the crowds in Jerusalem and to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, the storyteller dressed as Peter did the Makaton sign. How wonderful that the children will always connect the name of Jesus with the crucifixion and resurrection. Hallelujah!



Shanklin United Reformed Church

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 5th July
09:00 – 10:30

at Viv's Cooking
9 High Street, Sandown,
PO36 8DA

Full English with unlimited
toast and drinks @ £10



Sabbath of Prayer



Setting aside 24 hours, from roughly sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday, is a precious time. People gathered in the church building on Friday evening, Saturday morning for breakfast and Saturday afternoon. These sessions focused on the truths that we are Loved, Chosen and Sent. After a short time of worship and teaching, we meditated, wrote or drew, with some items being posted on the graffiti wall.

Paintings around the building, helped us to focus our thoughts. Janet wrote:

At one point in the prayer day, I was sat looking at one of Sheila's beautiful paintings.

It was of a path with a sign pointing the way through some fields and the verse on it was "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Prov3:6



The picture had a slight purple colour to it and as I meditated on those words and the painting, I realised it wasn't clear if the scene was one of daybreak or dusk. It struck me that sometimes in life God directs us into a situation whereas at daybreak things get clearer and lighter and at other times he leads us into situations where things seem to be getting darker and less clear to see your way ahead as at dusk.

However, the promise in that verse still stands, if we acknowledge Him, He will direct our paths whether it is an improving situation or a harder one. The verse before says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" We must trust God even if we don't understand where he is leading us, whether it seems in our mind to be positive or negative and the promise is He will direct our paths.



Our time together ended with communion in front of the empty tomb.
Hallelujah!

Baptised

*When I was a baby my parents took me to be christened
But to Jesus words they never listened
I'm just a baby and a word it did not utter
I couldn't care less if you baptised me in peanut butter
Jesus said be born again give your life to Him
Believed that He died for you to take away your sin
Believe and be baptised was the command He gave
So now you rise to new life from your watery grave
Now you have been born again walk with Him all the way
On the straight and narrow path evermore to stay*

Mary Fryatt
Used by permission

Pray for the Medical Sector

Jesus said, “Those who are healthy have no need of a physician, but only those who are sick,” (Mark 2:17). He then went on to say He calls those who know they need a Saviour and seek repentance.

Pray for the NHS

- Staff shortages and low morale in St Mary’s and health centres
- For compassionate care of patients in hospital
- For waiting times for appointments to be reduced
- Improvement of mental healthcare
- Improvement of dental care
- Upgrade of technology and infrastructure – replacement of old equipment and good maintenance
- Improvement of patient safety and accessibility of services and resources
- Wisdom for national funding and allocation.

For healthcare workers

- Salvation for workers in healthcare
- Christian healthcare workers to witness effectively to patients and colleagues
- Good management in all departments in St Marys and medical centres
- Healthcare workers can also be sick!! So we can pray for healing for all healthcare workers with health problems and for financial provision for those with financial struggles and those struggling with addictions.
- Effective training and mentoring
- Pray for your own doctor and nurses with whom you come into contact.



2025 sees the 10th 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 are available in church, do pick up a copy of each for your personal use

Alternatively, you can access them online at:

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



Pop-Up Pantry Thank You

We have received this lovely thank-you card from Abbi, the lady who ran the pop-up pantry.

Focus

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

***Christian mother and children forced
from their home in Vietnam***

Please pray for Trinh and her children after they were forced from their home for their faith and Trinh had to take her children to another village after her husband forced them to leave

When Trinh* became a Christian, along with her husband and children, it seemed like everything was coming together. But family pressures took their toll and tore Trinh's family apart.

Trinh comes from an ethnic minority group – the H're tribe – in a remote region of Vietnam. She came to know Jesus through the ministry of Pastor Dong*, another member of the H're tribe, who is passionately sharing God's love and message of salvation with his community.

Not long after becoming a Christian, Trinh married Manh* and gradually introduced him and their children to God. With support from Pastor Dong, the family grew in their faith.

However, Manh's parents and the local authorities began to suspect his family of worshipping God.

Family threats come to a head

Manh is from a revolutionary family – his ancestors helped to win the war against the US and unite Vietnam in 1975, a victory that is commemorated every April. Revolutionary families often receive government subsidies, including free school tuition for their children.

When the local authorities confirmed the truth of Trinh and Manh's Christian faith, they threatened Manh's parents, warning, "If your son's family continues to believe in God, they will lose their subsidies. The grandchildren won't have free tuition and finding jobs will be difficult."

Sadly, Manh took this threat seriously, and he turned away from his faith.

In March last year, the situation escalated. Manh physically assaulted Trinh and forced her out of the house. “If you renounce God, you can stay. If not, leave,” he told her. Resolute in her faith, Trinh left with her two children, uncertain of where to go. Since that day, Manh has cut off all contact with his wife and children.

Trinh’s church help her find a home

When Pastor Dong heard about her situation, he, along with other church members, promptly visited Trinh to pray and offer assistance.

A local man whose grandmother had recently died was moved by Trinh’s difficult situation and offered his grandmother’s house to Trinh as temporary accommodation. It also came with a small piece of land that Trinh could cultivate for her livelihood. Pastor Dong and the church worked hard to clean the house and get it ready to live in.

The local church has continued to support Trinh’s family by providing essential supplies, including food, blankets and clothes, and covering school fees.

Despite all she’s been through, Trinh remains committed to Jesus, and continues to work tirelessly to provide for her family, with her children helping through casual labour. Her eldest daughter is determined to finish high school and, together, they face each challenge with unwavering faith and resilience.

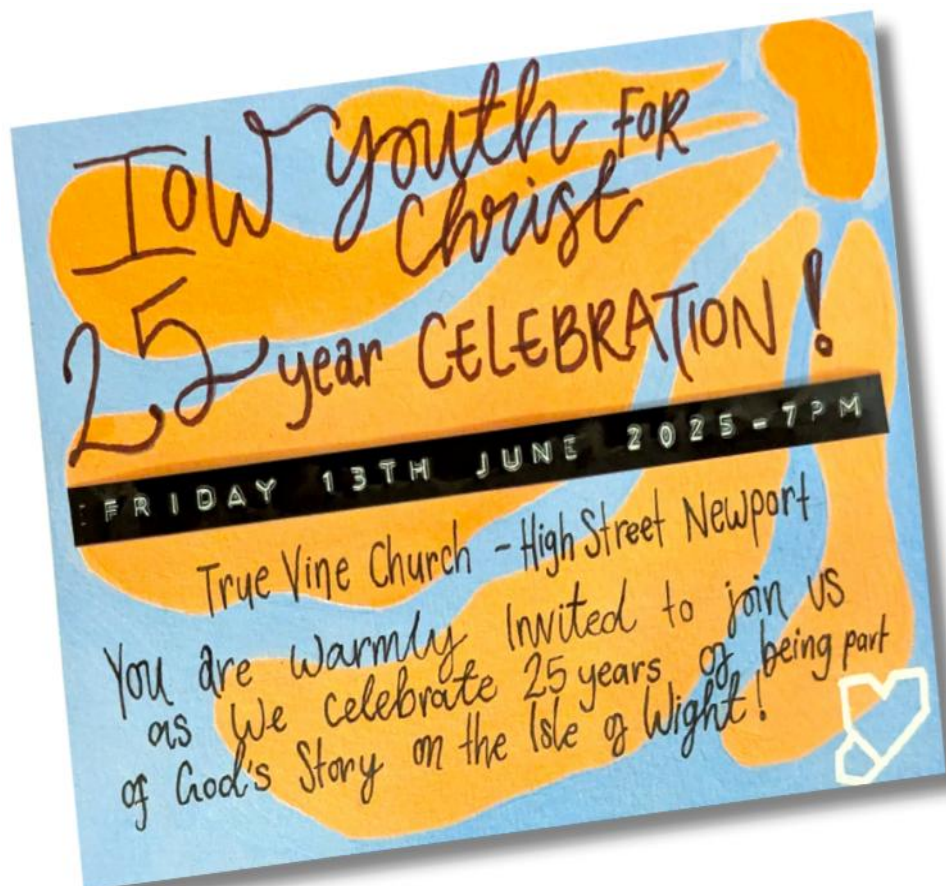
**Names changed for security reasons*

Please Pray

- That Trinh and her children will continue to grow in their faith, and experience God’s peace and joy
- For Pastor Dong and his church, that God will bless their ministry
- That Manh and his parents will encounter Jesus and Trinh’s family will be restored.

Vietnam is **number 44** in the Open Doors Worl Watch List Top 50

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



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



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:

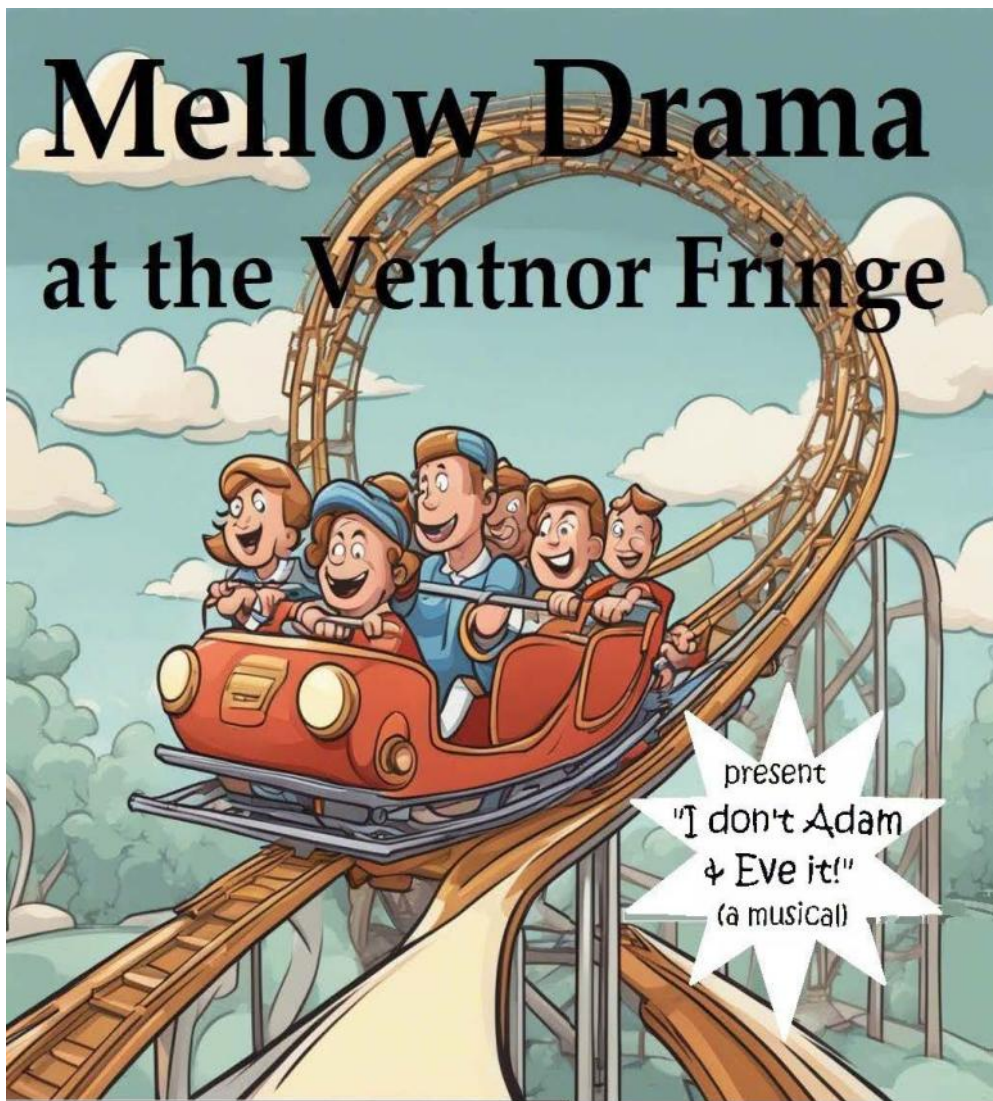
- Sweet's and/or lolly pop donations
- Bottled water donation
- Chocolate boxes or small chocolate's
- We are also raising funds towards kit and resources including a Defibrillator in case of emergency.

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



Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd July

18:30 at the Pier Street Playhouse

Tickets £6 Available from the Box Office on 01983
716767 or online: bit.ly/4lKwQTz

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
Tue	25 th May	19:30	Monthly Worship in the Open Air begins at Rylstone Gardens
Thu	29 th May	18:00	Thy Kingdom Come begins (ends at Pentecost)
Fri	30 th May	21:00	Brian and Rachel fly to Uganda
Sun	1 st Jun	10:30	Communion Service led by Sheilagh with guest speaker Rev Phil Dixon
		15:00	STBB in concert at Rylstone Gardens
Thu	5 th Jun	15:00	Pray for the Bay (see page 4)
Sun	8 th Jun		Pentecost Sunday, and Free the Wight Prayer @ 16:00
Fri	13 th May	19:00	Youth for Christ ~ 25 th anniversary Celebration @ True Vine Church
Sun	15 th Jun		Brian & Rachel return to the UK
		15:00	STBB in concert at Rylstone Gardens
Tue	17 th Jun	14:00	Peter Wells speaking at Bible Bite
	19 th - 22 nd Jun		Isle of Wight Festival
Tue	24 th Jun	14:00	Jonathan Snell begins a 4-part series at Bible Bite
Sun	29 th Jun	10:30	Encounter Café with Peter Wells
		19:30	Open Air Worship at Rylstone Gardens

Advance Notice...



**Saturday
15th November 2025**

For an evening of fun and entertainment

A date for your diary - more details nearer the time

Connection Quiz Answers

1. The **Circle** line
2. Austin **Mini**.
3. **Poodle**.
4. **Pencil**.
5. **Broomstick**.
6. Connection: they are all **types of skirt**.
7. This issue's cover photo is of: Shanklin coastline - as if you needed any hints!! (photo © Ryan Jones 2024 - used by kind permission).



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.

An easy one this month.
Enjoy!

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

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		
								33		34			
35													

Last month's Sudoku - how did you do?

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

Across

1 West Sussex seaside resort near Bognor Regis (13)

8 Immediately (3)

10 Region of Northern France where D-Day took place in June 1944 (8)

12 Gnomeo/Romeo's friend (6)

15 Type of deer (3)

16 Canadian D-Day beach (4)

17 Page in a web browser (3)

19 Guess based on intuition (5)

20 County in S England (6)

22 British D-Day beach (4)

23 Not right (4)

26 Other British D-Day beach (5)

29 Regal Ryde esplanade pub (3)

31 Or Near Offer *initials* (3)

32 Frozen H₂O (3)

33 Mother (4)

35 Triangular Swiss chocolate (9)

Down

1 French name for English capital city (7)

2 Between 2 & 4 (5)

3 Open area of grassy land (3)

4 First woman to fly solo from London to Australia (3 7)

5 Use force in drawing or dragging (7)

6 Not off (2)

7 Not yeas (2)

9 Toilet *initials* (2)

11 Welsh for 'or' (3)

13 African country (8)

14 Territorial Army *initials* (2)

16 Paino Man singer, Billy - (4)

18 Current presenter of Blankety Blank, - Walsh (7)

21 French verb 'utiliser' en anglais (3)

23 Not found (4)

24 Soft loose flesh or fat on a person's body (4)

25 French for 'you' - singular - or Sainsbury's clothing range (2)

27 Warrant Officer *initials* (2)

28 Capital of Italy (4)

30 A female deer (3)

Can You Guess The Year?

- Cherie Blair is fined for not having a valid train ticket.
- Ken Livingstone is the first directly elected Mayor of London
- Croydon Tramlink begins services.
- Chelsea win the men's FA Cup, beating Aston Villa 1-0.
- And UK No. 1s included:
 - Madonna with '*American Pie*'
 - Geri Halliwell with '*Bag it Up*'
 - Britney Spears with '*Oops! I Did it Again*'
 - The Corrs with '*Breathless*'

Answer next issue

This Issue's 'Pot Luck' Quiz Questions

1. Who was the English monarch after Edward the Confessor?
2. What is the currency in Uganda?
3. In what year did the Battle of Crecy take place?
4. Who was the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for D-Day?
5. In what year did ABBA win Eurovision?
6. When did the UK last win the Eurovision Song Contest?
7. What was the name of the miller in Camberwick Green?
8. Who composed the '*Radetzky March*'?
9. In what year was Asterix the Gaul first published?
10. In which English county is Stonehenge?

Answers next issue

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

Sunday 22nd June

Contributions can be emailed at anytime up to the deadline day to the editor at:

surc.thelink@btinternet.com

Last Issue's Solutions

- Guess the year: it was 1997

- Last issue's crossword ↓

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

Last Issue's 'Pot Luck' Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Harold II | 7. Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble and Grubb |
| 2. Euro | 8. Johann Strauss II |
| 3. 1415 | 9. Getafix (English) or Panaromix (French) |
| 4. When I'm 64 | 10. Norfolk |
| 5. 1973 - with Ring, Ring | |
| 6. Scooch | |

Sunday Service

Morning

10:30 Morning Worship in church
Broadcast live on YouTube

➔ **Holy Communion** on 1st Sunday of each month

➔ **All Age service** on last Sunday of each month

Weekday Activities

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
Brian is currently on sabbatical
- until 2nd September – see [page 3](#)

Secretary: Robin Wightman
 robinwightman@aol.com

Shanklin URC is a member of the Evangelical Alliance

www.shanklinurc.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1130459