

The Link



September 2025



Shanklin United Reformed Church www.shanklinurc.co.uk

View From the High Street



The view from Number 4

“Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this,” 2 Timothy 2:7

As we come to the end of the summer and Brian's sabbatical, it is a time to both reflect and look ahead.

I want to start by saying a **huge** thank you to Robin for keeping us all on track over the summer. In his words, “He didn't know the minister covered so much.”

We have been fortunate in the speakers we have had, giving us insight into so many things in the Bible.

We have covered so many subjects, such as ‘Coming Soon’, ‘Growing Church’, ‘The Master's Touch’, ‘Escape to Reality’, ‘Jesus on the Frontline’, ‘Power to the People’, ‘At the Heart of the Matter’ and from our Synod Moderator, Michael Hopkins, ‘God Sends, God Invites, God Sends’. So many of the services have aligned with the a given as background as to the season ahead.

As a church, we have had so much to be grateful and thankful for, we have so many talented people in the congregation,

Our regular activities include Bible Bite, Prayer Meeting, The Well, CatURpillars, home groups, Sunday worship and over the summer other activities have included Open Air Worship in Rylstone Gardens, Prayer for The Bay, weekly Sunday Evening Prayer and Worship, Free the Wight Prayer, Prayer for Shanklin, Messy Church, and ladies and men's breakfasts. We have certainly kept ourselves busy over the summer.

From September, a series of weekly talks on a Sunday will look at the subject of **‘Leading Our Church Into Growth’**, leading to our church awayday in Ryde on 27th September.

1. Create a prayerful culture of growth
Mustard seed - Matthew 13:31
2. Implementing an annual rhythm of growth
Kingdom come - Matthew 6:10

3. Practice fruitful evangelism
Catching fish - Matthew 1:17
4. Develop engaging worship
Holy ground - Exodus 3:5
5. Become an inviting and welcoming church
Banquet - Luke 14:21
6. Make a pathway for seekers to become disciples
Make Disciples - Matthew 28:19

Looking forward to this is exciting but let us also reflect on what we already do, the good work and ministry that we have in place, yes we can expand on this, but we need to be thankful for what we have as well.

Stepping Forward

To the God who makes things grow
In the name of Paul who planted
Of Apostles who watered
Of Peter who was the rock
The disciples who make disciples
And the apostles who went and apostled.

May we keep the growth of our church central and urgent,
May we take good steps,
Pray good prayers,
And forge a good plan

To the God who makes things grow,
May You be with us,
Amen

God Bless

Yvonne



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?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3242665584?pwd=ZTIXZzBLWnkrWTNBY2JBK1o0K2ZXdz09)

[pwd=ZTIXZzBLWnkrWTNBY2JBK1o0K2ZXdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3242665584?pwd=ZTIXZzBLWnkrWTNBY2JBK1o0K2ZXdz09)

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 Jupe 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. **The next meeting will be on Thursday 4th September @ 14:00.**

Prayer Walk on Saturday 6th September @ 11:00

After our summer of praying for our community in Shanklin, we will come together as a fellowship on Saturday, 6th September, meeting at the church at 11:00 for a prayer walk around our community to pray.

The church will remain open for those who prefer to pray inside, and we will gather together back at the church from 12:00 for a bring-and-share fellowship lunch.

SURC September Prayer Diary

We have once again included this month a prayer diary for you to use daily throughout the month, covering a wide range of topics to be prayed for as the Spirit leads you.

Happy praying

Mon 1	Teachers preparing to go back to school	Wed 17	St Mary's Hospital & the IoW Ambulance Service
Tue 2	Brian as he returns from his Sabbatical	Thu 18	The Persecuted Church
Wed 3	Children starting or going back to school	Fri 19	Organisations supporting the Persecuted Church
Thu 4	The Bay	Sat 20	Churches Working Together in the Bay
Fri 5	The work of CARE	Sun 21	Visitors to the Island and the tourism industry
Sat 6	Shanklin and today's prayer walk	Mon 22	All Churches on the Island
Sun 7	Today's Communion service	Tue 23	Mountbatten Hospice
Mon 8	The work of the Evangelical Alliance	Wed 24	Our church's Tech Team
Tue 9	Bible Bite	Thu 25	This evening's Church Meeting
Wed 10	The Well; volunteers, regulars and visitors	Fri 26	For SURC - as we Lead Our Church Into Growth
Thu 11	YMCA Mother & Baby Unit	Sat 27	Shanklin Town Council
Fri 12	IoW Foodbank	Sun 28	IoW Council
Sat 13	Our children and young people	Mon 29	HM Government
Sun 14	The Elders	Tue 30	Our Christian Bookshop, including for more volunteers
Mon 15	Battle of Britain day		
Tue 16	Local care homes, incl. staff and residents		

Minister's Sabbatical

After his recent trip to the USA for the board meeting of PRMI, Brian will be back on duty on **Tuesday 2nd September**.

May I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support and prayers for me over the last few months. It has been a real encouragement, and during this time, I have been greatly privileged to serve you all.

*Thank you,
Robin*

Fairtrade Fortnight 22nd September to 5th October 2025

Fairtrade Fortnight 2025 will run from 22nd September – 5th October. It's been 31 years since Fairtrade products first hit the shelves. Once again, the UK will be celebrating the difference we can all make when we choose Fairtrade and campaign as part of the global Fairtrade movement.

Our goal is more than people just being aware; it's about them encouraging an active choice to support over 2 million Fairtrade farmers and workers across 58 countries, wherever possible, to ensure they can earn a fairer wage.

When you choose Fairtrade, you contribute to a fairer, more sustainable future for food production. When you choose Fairtrade, you help ensure farmers receive a fairer price for what they grow. When you choose Fairtrade, you help rebalance power in supply chains.



*Be The Change,
Choose Fairtrade.*

National Week of Prayer

6th - 14th September 2025

Gather. Remember. Return.

A week to remember the good things God has done, and is doing in this country, with thanksgiving, worship & praise, as we return to him.

Whoever you are, wherever you are and wherever your influence, NWOP is an opportunity to pray for our leaders, our nation and the nations. Go to www.nationalweekofprayer.uk for more details.

NWOP is a partnership of Christian ministries brought together by the Holy Spirit with a united vision, committing to pray for the nations and let faith rise.

As part of this national initiative, there will be a gathering in Ventnor on Saturday 13th...



Time & Location

13 Sept 2025, 09:30 – 11:00

At Ventnor Paddling Pool, Ventnor PO38 1SZ

About the event

As part of the National Week of Prayer, join us in Ventnor at the Paddling Pool by the map of the Isle of Wight for a united time of prayer for the town.

All are welcome from 09:30 until 11:00 as we join with our other hubs in praying for the UK. Led by Neil McCarthy.

Growing the Church of Jesus Christ in Shanklin

After the excellent talk from Grace McKenzie recently, Sheilagh asked for those who wished to see our ministry expand further into the community to stand ... **and very nearly everyone** (who was able to) **stood!**

Elders felt led to arrange a meeting for the fellowship to move this forward on Saturday, 2nd August, between 10:30 and 11:30. Thank you to all those who were able to attend this "Growth" meeting.



Sheilagh led us, and Yvonne spoke about the "Leading Your Church into Growth" initiative, showing a short introductory video. This was interspersed with much prayer and sharing of views on how we might approach this.

During September, Brian is planning a series of talks based on the "Leading Your Church into Growth" course. This will include a talk from Mary Thomas, our Synod Development & Support Officer. The plan is for this to culminate with a church "away day" on Saturday, 27th September at Ryde URC, as we seek God's will for our fellowship in the coming years.

The meeting felt that before this (and into the future), the most important areas of preparation for us all were Prayer and Praise. It was mentioned that in the past, we often had worship singing leading into our 10:30 service and, before Covid, we had an in-person prayer meeting for the whole fellowship during the week. We do have an excellent opportunity to "seek the Lord" during our Zoom prayer meetings on Tuesday evenings, which will certainly continue.

It was agreed that we would seek to be better prepared to enter the presence of our Lord in reverence ~ *"a prayer before and chat after approach"*. Whilst not wanting to deter friendships, Elders suggest

that from 10:15 onwards, we have worship songs with words on the screen for us to join in with, in preparation for the service to come.

Prayer is currently taking place in the prayer room from 10:00 on Sundays, and all are welcome to join in. Brian and the Elders will look into restarting a weekday daytime prayer meeting. Without wishing to limit our worship to God, one suggestion is that the church could be “Open for Prayer” for perhaps two hours, one day a week, on a “drop-in” basis.

Please do let Brian or any one of the Elders know if you have any thoughts on this.

*“Give thanks to the **Lord**, for he is good; his love endures forever. Cry out, ‘Save us, God our Saviour; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.’ Praise be to the **Lord**, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Then all the people said ‘Amen’ and ‘Praise the **Lord**’.” 1 Chronicles 16: 34-36*

Leading Our Church into Growth Prayer

God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Rod and Ann

We are just letting everyone know that as from the 20th August until Sunday 19th October we may not be around as normal and possibly will miss several Sundays at Church.

In particular we will miss the SURC General Church Meeting but in emergencies, or if any information is required at any time, we will still be available on our mobile phones to assist in any way we can.

So our apologies and Blessings to all.

Please stay safe, stay healthy and take care out there.

Rod and Ann Foster

Peace I Leave With You

The world – and indeed our personal lives – can seem at times to be lacking this precious gift – peace of heart and mind.

Our Daily Bread Ministries have produced a lovely booklet, 'He Hears – Prayers for Peace', and a leaflet, 'The Hope of Inner Peace'.

Do you know of someone who would be helped by both or either of these- may we take the opportunity to be pro-active in sharing these and other brilliant publications from this ministry – if we feel we do not have the words to bring comfort and peace to those we meet who are troubled and in need, such a gift can bring solace.

Do look out for these on the tables at church – and do ask about their Daily Reading Notes (free) if you do not have any.

Alternatively, do go online to www.odbm.org/en-gb where you can also feel prepared and inspired as you explore short introductions to the books of the Bible. Also, you can discover the story of the Bible, why it matters, and how it connects to your life.

Blessings

Jane H



Our Daily Bread
Ministries®

UK & EUROPE

A Big Thank You!

- to our lovely church family when I had a recent '0' birthday! I was overwhelmed by all the love shown – gifts, flowers, cards and treats out – such a blessing and so appreciated.

One of the entries in my **big** card from the church expressed the opinion that my '0' birthday was the new 21! Now there's a thought! But also praying that there is still more to come in the work of the Kingdom. After all, Moses was 80 when God called him to rescue the children of Israel – we are never too old to be used in the service of the King – how amazing is that!

Blessings in abundance to our dear church family – you are so special!

With so much love in our dear Lord's Name.

Jane H

Connection Quiz

1. Sleeping Beauty, as well as being known as Briar Rose, is known by which other name?
2. What is placed on the head of a reigning monarch at their coronation?
3. Which UK monarch reigned from 1837 to 1901?
4. What does the French word 'ciel' translate into English?
5. Who appeared on the reverse side of the 50 pence coin from 1997 to 2008?
6. Which So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 5?
7. And bonus question... where was the cover photo taken?



Answers are on [page 49](#)

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 the 28th September,
themed for Harvest, and led by Brian**

a great day to invite friends along

café serving from 10:15

**At the July Church Meeting, we agreed to support the
Tearfund “Transforming Communities” project as our
Harvest Charity. There are printed details of this project in
the church. Please do pick one up and have a look or visit
the Tearfund website at:**

www.tearfund.org/about-us/what-we-do/transforming-communities.

In a couple of weeks, envelopes will be available in the church where you can give financial support to this work. Just drop them into the green bucket, thanks.

On Sunday 28th we will also be collecting our usual practical gifts for the Isle of Wight Foodbank; there will be an opportunity to bring these forward during the service.

Details of the particular needs of the Foodbank in September will be displayed in the church.

Sunday Evening Shared Worship

Our regular Sunday Evening Shared Worship will begin again (after Brian's return) on 14th September at 17:00, with a bring & share tea, prayer and worship gathering of Bay churches, here at the URC

All are welcome to come along and join in with Christians from around the Bay and those visiting our beautiful Island!

Bible Bite

Bible Bite will return on Tuesday, 2nd September, when Brian will lead us @ 14:00

Refreshments and fellowship from 13:30



Rylstone Gardens September 2025

The following concerts will be taking place on the bandstand in Rylstone Gardens, weather and roadworks permitting of course.

Date	Time	Band
Wed 03-Sep-2025		Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Sun 07-Sep-2025		Cowes Concert Band
Sun 14-Sep-2025		Shanklin Town Brass Band.

And that's it for this year, we hope to see you again next year for Open Air Worship, and more great concerts.

Ephesians Chapter 6:10-24

(some thoughts on Brian's Bible Bite exposition)

The final part of Paul's letter includes one of the most well-known passages in all his writings: *The Armour of God*. Paul has been telling us how we must live as "Children of Light" and speaks now of the opposition we will inevitably face and what we need to do to protect ourselves. In verse 10, he says, ***"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power"*** and tells us how in verses 11 to 13:

"Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand"

We Need To Be Aware Of Our Enemy And The Battle We Are In

We Are Soldiers Of Christ ~ Called To Hold Our Ground

We Need To Be Ready For When The Day Of Evil Comes

Paul is telling us that we are in a spiritual battle, and we will experience spiritual attack, and we must be ready. In verses 14 to 17, he expounds on what the full armour of God is:

The **Belt of Truth** holding everything together as we stand against the father of lies! Jesus said, ***"I am the way and the Truth and the Life"*** (John 14:6).

The **Breastplate of Righteousness**, with hearts protected by what Christ has done for us. We have been made right with God.

The **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace**, we have footwear for the journey, bringing God's peace into the battle!

The **Shield of Faith** keeps us focused on Jesus, holding back the devil's flaming arrows and his forces. We can resist the temptations, accusations, deflections and distractions of Satan, this dark world

and our own flesh.

The **Helmet of Salvation** protects our minds, not allowing Satan to sow seeds of doubt. In Christ, our salvation is assured!

The **Sword of the Spirit** is our one offensive weapon ~ the Word of God ... the Good News ... Jesus, the Word made flesh.

It Is The Good News That Wins The Battle For All People!

“The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’” (Luke 2:10)

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” (Isaiah 52:7)

It is interesting to note that the armour does not extend to our backs ~ we are not to turn around but to watch each other's backs.

Locking Shields Against The Foe ~ We Are All In This Together

Sometimes overlooked, verse 18 speaks of our final weapon ... **Prayer! We** must remain prayerful in all things, at all times. Allowing the Spirit to guide and lead us ...

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people”

Without Prayer We Can Do Nothing Are We Earnest In Our Prayer Lives?

The final greeting in the letter reminds us that Paul had a real bond with the people he encountered and a real affection for them. In verses 23 & 24, he ends with ...

“Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love”



“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)

The Will of God

Last time we looked at The Law of God, and now we go a bit deeper ...Do you sometimes struggle with knowing what God's will for you is?

I know I do! Here, Neil explains that it is vital that we submit to His will, and if we do, His will will be done!

“Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, ‘He is a good man.’ Others replied, ‘No, he deceives the people.’” John 7:12

“Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.” John 7:16&17

Knowing the will of God is not just a twenty-first century problem. People were struggling at the time of Christ. Some people were saying of Him, "He's a good man". Others were saying, "He leads the multitude astray". How could these people know whether He was leading them into truth?

Seizing the opportunity, Jesus set forth standards of divine guidance. His first admonition in verse 16 was, ***“My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”*** The essential prerequisite to know the will of God, according to Jesus, is a willingness to do it!

What is the will of God?

God's will for those who believe in Him is to be alive in Christ for the

purpose of establishing His kingdom by overcoming the evil one and becoming fully the people He has called us to be. Notice the opening words of the Lord's Prayer:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:9&10

When praying this prayer, we are asking for God's will to be accomplished on earth as it presently is in heaven. God's will is being perfectly executed in heaven, but not on earth.

Are you totally committed to doing God's will without knowing for sure what it is?

Do you hold any reservations about turning your will over to God?

Do you really believe that God's will for you is good, acceptable and perfect?

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

If God is God and you call Him Lord, doesn't He have the right to exercise His will in your life?

Father may Your will be accomplished in my thoughts, words and deeds today as it is being accomplished in heaven..

Neil Anderson
Freedom in Christ Ministries
Daily Devotionals
Used by permission

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths***

straight.” Proverbs 3:5&6

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

The first verse of the song “Trust and Obey” from 1887 comes to my mind:

*“When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey”*

Lyrics: John H Sammis (1846 – 1919)

Music: Daniel B Towner (1850 - 1919)

Public Domain

CCLI Song Number: 22094

CCL Licence number: 40715

In exercising God’s will, Neil explains elsewhere that it is vital that we know who we are ... we will look at this next time ...

Lord, help us to be always willing to submit to You and to do Your will ... make your will known on earth and Your Salvation known among all the nations. May all the people submit to their Creator and praise Your holy name.

Amen.

Robin

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**16th August
2025
BBQ**

Additionally supporting a local Isle of Wight Charity

Ability Dogs 4 Young People IoW

On the day, you raised an amazing £922.49, and it was a lot better weather than last year!

On the Sunday after, our wonderful church family raised a further £214.04

Due to the generosity of other donations, we had an amazing grand total of £1,260.35 which will be given to the above charities.

Thank you so much from our family for your support and generosity and a special thanks to Kt's friend Helen and Kt's work colleagues (Aaron and Courtney) who helped us in running the event

Praise be to God for his amazing provision.

Malc & Miriam

Thank you all

CARE Prayer Diary and Leaflet Resources

We now have more copies of the **CARE Prayer Diary** (20th July – 18th Oct 2025). It was great that our original supply of 40 had been taken and now hoping this fresh supply will be used by any who missed out first time around!

Another of CARE's resources are leaflets on individual subjects. Have you ever felt you would like to pray in more depth into some of the critical issues that face our nation – and indeed the world as a whole? Then hopefully these leaflets, 'Seven Ways to Pray About...' will be helpful.

Topics covered so far are:

- Online Safety
- Gambling
- Abortion
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Freedom of Speech

These are to be found in the lobby, on the table by the refreshment counter and online at care.org.uk/seven-ways-to-pray. There will be others as time goes on and the leaflet that was very helpful, and continues to be so, is over the ongoing passage in parliament of the Assisted Dying Bill, some copies of which are still available at church (and available online) and about which we need to keep praying, along with the recent deeply concerning changes to the Abortion Bill.

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful'
Colossians 4:2 (NIVUK).

Thank you, dear Lord, for those who are standing up for righteousness in our parliament. May Your church be a beacon of light in these days and by God's mercy may our nation return to our Judeo-Christian roots that have been a bedrock for our country in times past.

Blessings in our dear Lord's Name

Jane H

Source: CARE

Ancient Paths, New Journeys (No. 19)

The new issue of 'Iran and Beyond' from **Elam Ministries** has recently been published.

The situation of our brothers and sisters, both in Iran and other parts of the world where there is much persecution of believers very rarely reaches the world's media. However, the good news is that even in the most extreme suffering, God is building His Church and many are coming to faith and out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Do look out for 'Iran and Beyond' or go online at www.elam.com/magazine. In it you will find stories of lives transformed by the power of God. **Please pray** for them as many are isolated and need to be grounded in God's Word and finding the '...ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it..' – Jeremiah 6:16 (NIVUK).

God is doing awesome things in this nation, do be inspired and encouraged by this. Before the Islamic revolution of 1979, there were fewer than 500 Christians from a Muslim background in Iran. In 2020, many estimate there are a million or more. Despite severe persecution, the church is growing rapidly.

At present, one of Elam's donors has pledged to double monies given for the ministry – do please ask if you'd like to know more.

Blessings in Jesus

Jane H

Source: Elam

Subscribe to URC News Updates

News Update is a monthly e-newsletter that keeps you informed about the latest news and events.

To receive this popular newsletter, go to urc.org.uk/news-updates-sign-up-form/

Enter your e-mail address and hit the 'Subscribe' button.

You can read recent editions of the e-newsletter by visiting, urc.org.uk/urc-news-update/.



Shoebox Appeal

Now is a good time to start collecting items for the Samaritan's Purse ministry of

Operation Christmas Child

Do look out for the leaflets that give details of what to collect, as well of what is not allowed by customs.

Please include a special item (new, not used) that will capture a child's attention as soon as they open the box, such as

- a cuddly toy,
- football and pump,
- toy truck,
- doll
- or a musical instrument.

Items that can also be included are:

- toys
- school supplies
- personal care items, and accessories.

Please go online to samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox#gift-suggestions for a more detailed list of what to include.

However, **please do not include**

- used or damaged items
- toothpaste
- sweets
- lotions and liquids
- war related items (e.g. toy guns, model soldiers, military vehicles etc.)
- seeds
- gum
- chocolate or food items
- religious or political literature
- medicines
- aerosol cans

- knives
- sharp or fragile items.

Through Samaritan's Purse Gift Catalogue one can donate £5 towards transportation and supply of a flat pack box or you can give towards a pre-packed shoebox for £25, full of fun and high-quality gifts that will be sent to a child in need on your behalf, sharing good news and great joy around the globe. Each child also receives a simple but powerful presentation of the Gospel – '**The Greatest Journey**' – where appropriate.

Or alternatively you can do it all online at samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/shoebox-online (like the editor does, each year, as it's so easy!).

Do ask if you'd like to know more. Countless children from many countries have come to know Jesus as their Saviour and Friend through this wonderful ministry - you can watch a range of inspiring Operation Christmas Child videos at samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child-videos.

**The national collection week this year will be
10th – 17th November.**

Blessings and love in the Name of Jesus, who loved and affirmed the little ones.

Jane H

Source: Samaritan's Purse



Lake of Tears

We have been very blessed by the many speakers arranged for the church during Brian's sabbatical by him, both on Sundays and at Bible Bite on Tuesdays.

One recent one was the visit of Rev Kelvin Burke and his wife Jennie – good friends of the church – and their daughter and son-in-law. We were blessed and challenged with Kelvin's message about the Good Samaritan – do take the opportunity to listen to his message through the church's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@shanklinunitedreformedchur8970/streams 17th August 2025).

Kelvin very generously donated several copies of his recent book – a haring of his powerful testimony of his life before and after a life-changing car accident and God's leading and provision for him.

The money raised from the books he brought he gifted so generously to our church. Such was the demand that books flew off the table!

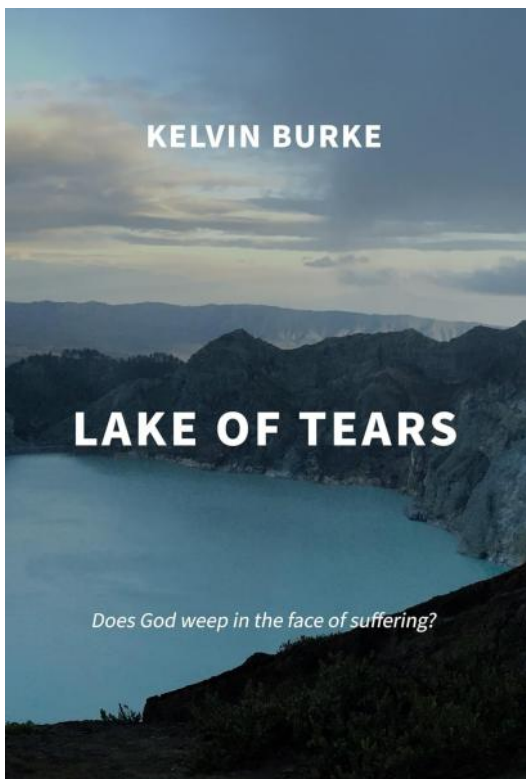
Kelvin has given us another couple – perhaps if you were disappointed on the day and wanted a copy, do ask us – or perhaps we might use at least one as a resource for the church to be passed around? Or maybe we need to get some more from Kelvin?!

Thoughts please!

Blessings

Jane H

For information, Kelvin's book is available from [Amazon UK](#), either as a Kindle eBook (£5.00) or paperback (£8.00) – Editor.



Bible a Month Club – Ukraine

From the latest Bible a Month Newsletter

Thanks to Bible a Month members, we had enough funds to immediately send thousands of Bibles to soldiers on the front lines when Ukraine was first invaded. Many gave their lives to the Lord as they defended their country. Many of them are now in Heaven.

And now, thanks to your support, the Ukrainian Bible Society is running a Scripture-based programme called Healing the Wounds of the Soul.

Trauma healing facilitator Tetiana shares a story about Olha – a woman who had lost everything: her home in Luhansk, her husband who died from illness, and her son, sent to the front.

When I first met Olha, her pain seemed unbearable. But with each session, she changed – she began to smile, to find peace in her heart, to accept her past, and to look ahead,’ Tetiana shared.

At the end of the programme, Olha said words that remain etched in the heart: ‘Do you remember what I was like when I first came to you? I am a completely different person now,’ she told Tetiana.

September Prayers

Pray that the bombing of civilians will stop, that the fighting will cease.

Thank the Lord that so many Ukrainians have come to know the hope and peace found only in Jesus during this terrible conflict. Pray that more will find the truth, helped by the Scriptures they have been given, and through the trauma healing groups they attend.

Ask God to bless the trauma healing programme and ask him to give strength, courage and wisdom to Victoria and her teams of facilitators.

Bible a Month Club – a wonderful way to provide Bibles for those who need them. For more details see the leaflets at church or go online at www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-a-month.

By regularly giving, you can put the Bible in someone’s hands every month.

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

The ‘unimaginable joy’ of a believer in Iran

Bitā* was broken by life when an invitation to a house church introduced her to Jesus. She's since been on a journey of healing “For 53 years, I forgot what it meant to smile,” she says in Iran. “I knew nothing of joy.”

Bitā's childhood was immensely turbulent. Her father – a former military officer who was imprisoned during the early days of the Iranian Revolution – was a drug addict. Her mother, overwhelmed by the pressures of life and a broken marriage, left the family when Bitā was very young. “She didn't know how to love us. Eventually, she just disappeared from our lives.”

Unable to care for her alone, Bitā's father sent her to live with her aunt, but life there was no better. “I wasn't treated like family,” says Bitā, who was forced to cook, clean and care for the household. “I was their servant... a slave.” She even endured emotional and physical abuse.

Bitā had one escape – school, a place where she excelled and dared to envision a different life as a teacher – but her aunt crushed her hopes. “She constantly told me that education was a waste of time for someone like me. She even made me quit school and stay home to serve the family.”

Aged 14, she was forcibly married to a man who at first seemed kind, but later turned to drug addiction and adultery. “When I thought I'd escaped one prison, I had stepped into another one,” says Bitā.

This continued even with the arrival of a child. “He treated me like I wasn't a human being – like I didn't exist. My nights were often spent alone, crying, while my husband disappeared for days.”

Seen by Jesus

Years later, Bitā reached breaking point and went to take her own life, only for a friend to find her just in time and rush her to hospital. “I didn't understand why I survived that night,” says Bitā. “I literally had nothing left to live for.”

Another friend then invited Bitā to a secret house church. “It was a risky decision to attend that meeting, especially in a country like mine. However, it was a chance to find and experience something new.”

As Bitā sat in the meeting, listening to stories about Jesus and His love for the broken-hearted, a light began to emerge in her heart.

“When I heard His name, Jesus, it was like something in my soul woke up,” she says. “For the first time in my life, I felt seen!”

That night, Bitá prayed, giving her shattered life to Jesus and since that day, Bitá’s life has been transformed. “My children were the first to notice the change,” she remembers. “My son told me: ‘Mama, you’re different. It’s like you’re lighter, you’re different.’” She stayed connected to the house church, growing in faith with the other believers.

Smiling for the first time

Bitá later went to a conference hosted by Open Doors local partners in a neighbouring country, aimed at women affected by trauma, shame and rejection. “For the first time in my life, I could truly smile,” she shares. “It felt like God Himself wiped away the bitterness and gave me joy – unimaginable joy.”

Bitá’s is one of countless women in Iran trapped in cycles of abuse, rejection and despair. Like her, many long for freedom, but are faced with social pressure, family rejection and the ever-present threat of persecution for their faith.

Conferences like the one Bitá attended are vital for Iranian Christian women, many of whom are forced to follow Jesus undercover. They provide spiritual guidance, discipleship training and trauma care, and a safe space to grow, ask questions and have open and meaningful conversations.

“There are so many women like me, and I know this,” adds Bitá. “They need to know they are loved. They need to know they are not forgotten. They need to meet Jesus.”

Today, Bitá’s strong faith sustains her through ongoing challenges. Like so many undercover believers worldwide, she still hides her Bible at home and prays in secret, but her spirit is unshaken.

A Bible verse that especially means a lot to Bitá is Isaiah 61:3: “To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”

Bitá now dreams of helping other women find the freedom she discovered. “If God could save someone like me, He can save anyone,” she says. “He wants to save everyone!”

**Name changed for security reasons*

Source: [Open Doors](#)

Healthy Half Hour

is 2 Years Old !

Healthy Half Hour began as a spin-off to a Falls Prevention Course in June 2023. There were just 5 or 6 of us to begin with but the group has steadily grown and we have seen real changes in health, strength and fitness in 2 years. Here are a few of our stories:



- Ellen's upbeat exercise programme is an all-round wonderful experience - invigorating and fun but also very spiritual. Ellen has got everybody so well motivated. At times you arrive feeling a bit down, but by the time we are finished you feel uplifted and ready to face the day! (Ann and Rod)
- I joined after suffering with pelvis and back problems. It's fun and friendly and each exercise has its own challenge. It has helped me greatly and I continue to improve. (Julie P)



Alan and Graham now use bigger weights for the bicep curl exercise.

A few weeks ago Graham told me, "I'm lifting 3kg (6.6lbs) more than when we first started!"

Alan is regaining the strength he had when he worked in the Fire

Service. Real and visible results. Well done lads! Good job!

- Happy Healthy Half Hour... we love it! Talk about a

serotonin and dopamine injection! Roy struggles with tiredness and weakness but joins in and does what he can. (Roy and Melodie)

- We are all getting fit and agile with laughter and enjoying friendships old and new. We end up with a cuppa and a



good old chat after! Here's to another 2 years! (Sue and Graham)

- To begin with my neck was stiff and difficult to move from side to side. Also my legs felt wobbly and unsteady, but with Ellen's help and guidance both are immensely improved. My overall condition is now much better. (Lyn)

We are 'wonderfully made' by God (Psalm 139:14) and we should care for the body He has given us. Healthy Half Hour is fun, friendly and it works!

Everyday fitness for everyday life!

Ellen Robinson



YMCA Mother & Baby Unit



Greetings to everyone in the Shanklin URC world and all our visiting friends who have assisted in the past with the charity for the Mother & Baby Unit in Shanklin.

We think it's appropriate now, because of the speculation you may have heard, read about or know about of the pending closure of the Shanklin YMCA which possibly means that the Foodbank may have to move, Men in Sheds may have to move and possibly any other groups using the facility.

This of course worried Ann and I tremendously as we are very involved through the SURC as their representatives to what is happening with them. So, we arranged a meeting with Jo and Tessa and after a lengthy discussion, the following points were noted - although these are still only possibilities to be aware of:

The Mother & Baby Unit is secure and will not be moving at this stage but due to the fact that their offices and the lounge/kitchen they use for meetings etc are in the YMCA space they will have to vacate those spaces and think of and come up with alternative ideas for an office and meeting space.

They do have several ideas, one of which being, if they can get permission, is to build a couple of nice garden 'sheds' for this purpose. They are also looking at other options which may require some internal work to open up and enlarge small areas. None of this has been agreed or verified as yet but as you can imagine, the upheaval and working around all the things that possibly need to be done now is not only time consuming but stressful and disruptive on top of the daily work Jo and Tessa have to deal with under normal circumstances.

Therefore we have thought and come to the conclusion that we personally feel they need a little extra help. As you are aware they always need things like disposable nappies, wet wipes, creams, powders, shampoo and soap, toiletries etc let alone the normal baby linen required for a large cot.

There is also a need currently for a small TV and a chest of drawers.

If anyone feels they can help with any of these items or would like to make a personal financial donation which would be of enormous help and benefit to the Mother & Baby Unit to help them get over this difficult transition period it would be very welcome.

This can be done by putting your financial donation in a sealed envelope and address it on the front for Attention of Jo McGrath - Manager of Mother & Baby Unit at The Lodge, Winchester House Shanklin OR for those who know, pop the envelope in the Green Donation Bucket at the SURC or hand your donations in at The Well at SURC to Sheilagh, Carol or Yvonne who are normally on duty at the tea counter on a Wednesday morning from 11:00 to 13:00 at The Well at Shanklin URC.

Alternatively, if you feel getting around is difficult then please call Ann on 07481 596 958 and she will be happy to collect your sealed envelope or donation from you personally.

Jo and Tessa are always so very pleased, grateful and appreciative of everything that the SURC and it's members do for this local charity. In doing this, we are helping 12 young mothers to enhance their parental skills not only in baby care but also with cooking and various other life skills plus the very daunting task of completing documentation and forms for all sorts of local departments and areas. And so, on behalf of them both, Jo and Tessa thank you very, very much.

Rod and Ann



Saturday 4th October
15:30 - 17:30

Free fun for all the family
- no unaccompanied children please

Come & enjoy a Messy Church experience at Shanklin URC - a fun way of learning for all ages.

There will be several craft activities to choose from followed by a short celebration with songs, prayers – and some delicious food.

Come as a family; bring the grandchildren along – any combination is fine! Enjoy it together.

For more information, please speak to Yvonne Sparks or Janet Harley, and please let Yvonne know if you can help in any way – even with the clearing up!

Let's Open the Book to The Shepherd Song.

The last Open the Book assembly of the academic year at Dover Park was Psalm 23.



Julie showed the children how to sign a complete sentence in Makaton – 'God is like a shepherd'. This was repeated 9 times during the presentation.

There were gasps from the children as we brought out an enormous wooden Bible. It was opened, to show the 66 books inside, and put on display as part of God's 'banquet of life'.





Whilst the narrator stood beneath the God banner, reading the story, a shepherd and his sheep (Sean, plus 1 adult and 2 children) acted out the imagery.



when I wander away from him, as sheep often do, he brings me back and forgives me.

And, yes, life gets scary sometimes. Sheep



have to worry about wolves and thieves and people who want to eat them. And I worry, too, when people I love get sick and die, or when they are in danger.

God is like a shepherd. So, just as a shepherd fights a wolf with his big stick, or pulls a sheep out of trouble with a hook, God is there, with me, whatever comes along.

At relevant points in the story were sung verses of 'The Lord's My Shepherd (I will trust). This included: 'He anoints my head with oil' during which the narrator was 'anointed'. Don't worry, the beautiful container, which was also used during the story of Samuel anointing young David as



The Link - September 2025

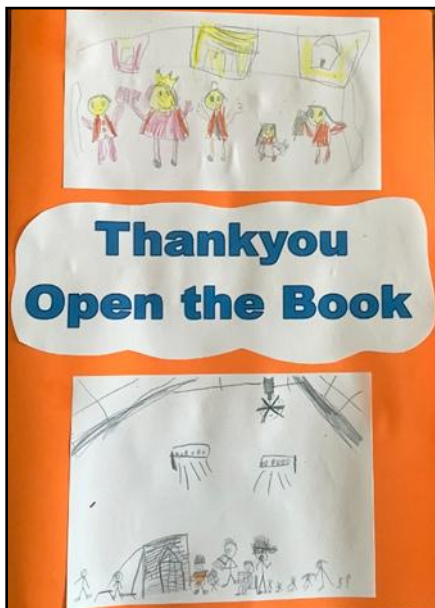
the future King of Israel, does not contain anything.

The final sentence was: I can trust that God's goodness will guide me, and that his mercy will forgive me, every single day. And that I will live my life, with God himself as my friend now and for ever more! At which all the children shouted 'Hooray'.



They then presented the team with biscuits and a beautiful card.

As they left the hall, a child in Year 1 said 'I love your Book'.



Dear Open The Book,

Thank you for all your wonderful stories this last academic year. We have loved listening to them and joining in with the acting. We hope you have a great summer break!

See you in September,

From all the children at
Dover Park Primary School

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, 'Farm Transforms Lives - Salvation Army farm helps thousands find work'.

Other contributions include:

- **Harvest Of Hope** - This month's editorial looks at why an attitude of gratitude is healthy
- **Faith Of A Lioness** - England's Euros hero Michelle Agyemang trusts in God
- **Bear And The Biggest Story** - Bear Grylls rewrites the life of Jesus for today's readers
- **Lions Captain Tackles Bible** - British and Irish Lions' Maro Itoje gets stuck into the Bible
- **Chimp/Human Similarity Myth Exposed** - Top science journal tells truth on chimp DNA
- **Ordinary People's Answered Prayers** - Five answers to prayer that feature in giant memorial

Good News... for a change



Focus

on our Christian Brothers and Sisters being persecuted for their faith

Khada's brave faith in Afghanistan four years after Taliban takeover

Friday 15th August marks four years since the Taliban took back power in Afghanistan. Since then, Christians have been forced even further underground in a country that was already incredibly dangerous for them. It's a desperate situation, yet believers like Khada are still seeing God at work.

But brave believers like Khada* are continuing to live out their faith. She gave the following interview about what life is like in Afghanistan now, and how she is still seeing God at work.

"Just knowing that someone, somewhere, is praying with a bright heart for us means that we are seen," says Khada

My life as a widow in my country is a blend of deep suffering and precious spiritual experiences. Losing my husband left a deep wound in my heart, yet my faith in Christ, prayer and God's presence within me brought meaning and peace in the midst of hardship.

Today, I run a small business and can support myself and my children. All my hope is in Jesus Christ.

Q: What changes have you seen in the country over the last year?

Khada: Compared to last year, the situation in the country has become somewhat calmer. Perhaps we've become accustomed to the presence of the Taliban, but this 'habit' does not mean acceptance. For me, it was a year of bitter experiences under difficult conditions, where women were not allowed to work outside the home, girls were not permitted to attend school, and universities were closed to females.

Yet at the same time, I tasted the sweetness of God's presence in my heart. I learned that God is not just a distant observer. He is a constant companion. In nights full of tears, He was with me; and in

dark days, He lit up hope in my heart. I was not a weak woman, just a broken hearted one. But now I continue on, stronger, more independent, and with a deeper faith.

Q: Have you noticed any change in people's attitudes towards women and government policies?

Khada: The policies have become more restrictive, but the minds of some people are waking up. Some still see women only in traditional roles, but a group of young people, especially educated girls, are seeking change.

We widows have been hurt by the loss of our husbands and by increased social pressure. Yet I've come to understand that God created us with dignity, and I am not just surviving, I am truly living.

Q: Have people accepted this situation or are they resisting it?

Khada: Some have remained silent out of fear, but their hearts are full of protest. On the other hand, many brave women in the country are raising their voices through protests, underground education and social media.

I believe that although danger exists, silence in the face of oppression is the same as siding with it. We must, cautiously but firmly, keep our voices alive.

Q: What's the current situation for women?

Khada: Women have been practically erased from public life. Girls beyond the sixth grade cannot attend school, and only families with financial means can afford private tutors. Without a male guardian (*mahram*), women are not allowed to enter markets or travel. Parks, public baths and gyms are all off-limits to women. This is not just restriction, it's a gradual erasure of women from society.

Q: How are women coping with these restrictions?

Khada: Afghan women are creative, brave and resilient. They use many ways to survive the restrictions placed on them. They write poems, memoirs and articles to record their voices.

Q: Do you have any stories of people coming to faith?

Khada: Coming to faith in this land is always accompanied by suffering. Many people, from the depths of doubt and despair, move towards true faith. When their prayers in their former religion go unanswered, they search for a light that leads to Jesus Christ. I have

witnessed sceptics become beacons of faith after experiencing the love and protection of the Holy Spirit.

I met Maryam* a few months ago. She was a woman marked by deep pain. After I shared my story with her, she grew close to me and began to open up about her own life. Maryam has several children. Her husband was killed in a war. He had been a cruel man who oppressed many people, and because of that, Maryam suffered deeply. After his death, she often wondered if God would forgive her, since she had been the wife of a cruel man.

After she shared this, I prayed for her. I spoke about God's forgiveness from the Holy Bible. When she heard this, Maryam wept deeply, hugged me tightly and said, "When I heard that God could forgive me, I felt free." Today, Maryam is a strong believer. Faith finds its way in, even in the darkest times.

Q: How can we pray for you?

Khada: We truly need your prayers. Please remember us in the following areas:

- The reopening of schools for our daughters
- The safety and lives of our children
- The breaking down of fear and oppression
- The return of hope to our hearts
- The achievement of social and legal justice
- Patience, comfort and peace for our minds and souls.

Whenever you pray for us, know that a new flame of hope is kindled in our hearts. In a world that often forgets us, just knowing that someone, somewhere, is praying with a bright heart for us means that we are seen. And to us, that means everything.

**Names changed for security reasons*

Please Pray

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are still working powerfully among Christians in Afghanistan. We give thanks for Khada's courage and for believers like her. Please strengthen them today and renew their hope. We pray for leniency – that the grip of the Taliban would lessen, and that women and girls especially would be given greater freedom. Build Your kingdom in Afghanistan. Amen . .

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

**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



Carisbrooke Priory

Carisbrooke Priory on the Isle of Wight is a House of Prayer and Christian Healing.

The Priory's vision is to offer to anyone a place to find peace of mind, to relieve and prevent sickness and distress, through listening and prayer, and to advance the Christian faith.

Open Door Service

On the first Thursday of the month, at noon, a service of worship is held in the Priory Chapel.

Free Tea and Coffee is available in the Priory Tea Room from 11:00. Unfortunately we are currently unable to serve lunch on a Thursday, but please feel free to bring a packed lunch so that we can continue in fellowship after the service.

The Priory closes at 15:00 on service days.

- 4th September - Bob White
- 2nd October - Rev Hugh Wright
- 6th November - Rev Chris Bradish
- 4th December - Chris & Maggie Jagger

Other Items

- We also have a Quiet Day on 13th September (see the poster on [page 50](#) for details)
- Our Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday, 22nd November.

For more information, please go to carisbrookepriory.org.uk/ or e-mail admin@carisbrookepriory.org.uk





NOEL ROBINSON

CHANGE THE ATMOSPHERE UK TOUR 2025

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER
6:30PM (DOORS 5:30PM)

HOSTED BY:
CHRIST CHURCH SANDOWN
VENUE: THE BAY CE SCHOOL
(SECONDARY SITE) THE FAIRWAY
SANDOWN, IOW, PO36 9JH

TICKETS £15 + FEE
UNDER 18 £10 + FEE
VIA EVENTBRITE



MORE INFO / TICKETS / VENUES
WWW.NOELROBINSON.COM



UCB

UNITED CHURCH
BROTHERHOOD

mission
worship





**Plod the Prom with Age Concern
to raise money for Mouth Cancer**

- Fancy a challenge in a good cause?
- Walk 10km along Shanklin Prom to raise money for Mouth Cancer
- Split it up into 5 separate 2km walks
- Meet at East Beach Cafe, Shanklin, at 10:00 on 5 Saturdays to walk 2km together
- Saturdays 20th and 27th September and 4th, 11th and 18th October.
- Back to Age Concern for a cuppa and cake or even breakfast! (Great value - 50p per item)
- After you have walked 10km they will send you a medal!
- Sign up to enter at Age Concern Shanklin - suggested donation £10.00
- OR - Take a sponsor form and raise as much as you can!



Extra Information

- If you can't make your own way down to the Esplanade, the Age Concern Bus will be leaving from Age Concern at 09:45.
- Sign the bus chart in Age Concern if you want a lift down and back.
- Refreshments at Age Concern are not included in your donation, all of which will go to Mouth Cancer Awareness, but they are very cheap and it will be nice to relax with a cuppa afterwards!
- If you want to walk 10km (approximately 6.2 miles) all in one go or in 2 lots of 5km that's fine! Let Age Concern know your planned date and time and you will need to record it on a phone app or sports watch (Fitbit or Garmin, etc).
- Any questions, see Age Concern, Shanklin for more details.





Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Time	Details
Sun	31 st Aug	10:30 19:30	Encounter Café with Andy Hough - <i>'Use Your Loaf'</i> Open Air Worship at Rylstone Gardens led by St Paul's/Christchurch
Tue	2 nd Sep	14:00	Brian returns from his sabbatical Bible Bite resumes after summer break
Sat	6 th Sep	11:00	Prayer Walk followed by a Bring & Share Lunch at the church at 12:00
	6-14 Sep		National week of prayer
Sun	14 th Sep	10:30 15:00 17:00	Rev Mary Thomas speaking STBB in concert at Rylstone Gardens Bring & Share Tea, Worship and Prayer for all Bay churches, here at the URC
	22 Sep-5 Oct		Fairtrade Fortnight
Thu	25th Sep	19:30	Church Meeting
Sat	27 th Sep	10:00	Church Away Day at Ryde URC ~ Leading Our Church into Growth
Sun	28 th Sep	10:30	Harvest Encounter
Sat	4 th Oct	15:30	Messy Church
Sat	18 th Oct	18:30	'Late' Harvest Chip Supper
Fri	31 st Oct	17:30	A Light Alternative
Sat	15 th Nov	TBC	The Big Quiz Night

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. **Aurora**
2. **Crown**
3. **Queen Victoria**
4. **Sky**
5. **Britannia.**
6. Connection: they are all **cruise ships in the Carnival Group**, i.e. Aurora - P&O, Crown Princess - Princess., Queen Victoria - Cunard, Sky Princess - Princess and Britannia - P&O.
7. This issue's cover photo is of: Brian presenting a new banner to Martin Sebuggo, in Kalasa, Uganda.



A Quiet Day at Carisbrooke Priory

A day of silence and reflection
in the company of Julian of Norwich



Saturday 13th September

10.00 – 16.00

Book by 5th September by contacting

Carisbrooke Priory 01983 523354

or email: admin@carisbrookepriory.org.uk

- Bring a picnic lunch
- Free hot and cold drinks available
- Guided meditations led by Rosie Deedes
- Bring paper and pen

Suggested donation - £15 per person

Eulogy for Steven (25/8/63 - 15/6/2025) - 1 July 2025

Steven: not a bad bone in his body. Make him laugh and he would chuckle to himself for a good five minutes afterwards.

He liked to tell a joke, and he never tired of this one: A man walks into a bar and sees another man with a dog next to him. 'Does your dog bite,' he asks. 'No mate, my dog is very friendly.' So he pats the dog and is immediately bitten. 'I thought you said your dog didn't bite?' 'That's not my dog,' said the man.

Steven wasn't materialistic. He wouldn't have had any problem giving you the coat off his own back. But he drew the line at champagne, which he loved. In social gatherings, when he knew a top-up was in the offing, he would always try to ensure his glass was as empty as possible. It wasn't greed: his tastebuds were dancing, and he didn't want them to miss the next waltz.

Ask him to do a household chore and he unfailingly answered 'Yes'. He could have been out all morning, looking forward to a cup of tea on his return home - but ask him to run an errand and it was no sooner done. That was his selflessness in action, day in day out. Steven was inherently good, there were no pretences with him, he never nursed grievances, he was authentic, with the kindest of dispositions.

He enjoyed music and would sit for hours listening to his favourite songs. He also loved his daily walks and was a well-known face in his locality, always on the ready to wave if at a distance, or, if closer, offer a cheery hello. He had the ability to live in the moment: no need to rush. He gave others his attention easily because what was important was always in front of him. Given that he enjoyed his walkabouts so much, his nemesis was rain. When it rained, he'd be up and down looking through the window to see if was abating. As soon as there was a break in the clouds, he'd be away.

Steven: he gave more than he took; he claimed few needs and even fewer wants - and while those who loved him raged against 'the dying of the light', his steady temperament never faltered, even in diminished and failing health. A truly lovely individual, his passing will forever resonate in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. Steven: an eternally loved and cherished son and brother.

Carol T

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!

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

Last month's Sudoku - how did you do?

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

Across

- 1 Main loWSR Station (11)
 8 Not loud (5)
 9 Scottish city, famed for its cake popular at Christmas (6)
 10 Jack met one up a beanstalk (5)
 13 Black aquatic bird of the rail family (4)
 15 Long fish (3)
 16 You make this whilst the sun shines (3)
 17 Ridge of coral (4)
 20 Capital of Germany (6)
 21 Birthplace of King William I (7)
 24 Not odd (4)
 25 Paul Simon's former singing partner's surname (9)
 29 Sunbathe (3)
 30 René -, French philosopher (9)

31 Very, en français (4)

Down

- 1 Football club, nickname 'The Terriers' (12)
 2 Italian city famed for its canals and gondolas (6)
 3 Tiny tube placed into a hollow structure in your body (5)
 4 French for red (5)
 5 Being the same (5)
 6 Sainsbury's clothing range (2)
 7 Moving away aimlessly (8)
 11 Id Est *initials* (2)
 12 'Le Lien' en anglais (3, 4)
 14 German word 'Von' in English (2)
 18 1 (3)
 19 3.142 (2)
 20 Yellowish-beige colour; to polish something (4)
 22 Yorkshire city that might be 'united' (5)
 23 Sweet stuff (5)
 26 Small insect (3)
 27 Fruit with a hard or tough shell around an edible kernel (3)
 28 French for 'the', plural (3)
 29 Slang for 'thanks' (2)

Can You Guess The Year?

- Age of majority reduced from 21 to 18.
- The first Boeing 747 lands at London Heathrow Airport
- British Leyland launches its luxury Range Rover, .
- Chelsea win the men's FA Cup, beating Leeds United after a replay.
- And UK No. 1s included:
 - Lee Marvin with '*Wandrin' Star*'
 - Dana with '*All Kinds of Everything*'
 - Christie with '*Yellow River*'
 - Freda Payne with '*Band of Gold*'

Answer next issue

Name the Sweets - *unravel the clues to find 10 sweets*

1. High class thoroughfare
2. Sly giggles
3. Mothers local
4. Clever folk
5. Good children (or dogs) get these
6. Big feline drinking place
7. Garden flowers
8. Dairy holder
9. Arrange marriage partners
10. Edible fasteners

Answers next issue

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

Sunday 28th September

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 1971

- Last issue's crossword ↓

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

Last Issue's 'Movie Anagrams' Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Young Guns | 7. Men in Black |
| 2. The Sting | 8. Rain Man |
| 3. Carousel | 9. Patton |
| 4. Unforgiven | 10. Moonraker |
| 5. The Sixth Sense | |
| 6. Titanic | |

Sunday Service

Morning

10:30 Morning Worship in church
Broadcast live on YouTube

➔ **Holy Communion**

on 1st Sunday of each month

➔ **All Age Encounter 'café style' service**
on last Sunday of each month

Weekday Activities

Tuesday 14:00 Bible Bite ministry in church
Refreshments & fellowship from 13:30
19:30 Prayer Meeting on Zoom (see [page 4](#))

Wednesday 11:00 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**



10 Dracaena Gardens, Shanklin PO37 7JQ



01983 862485



brianharley58@gmail.com

Day off: Monday

Secretary: **Robin Wightman**



robinwightman@aol.com

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Registered Charity No. 1130459