

The Link



Dec 2022//Jan 2023



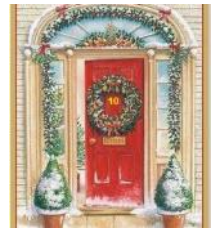
His Birth Gives Us

H O P E

in our villages, towns & Island

Shanklin United Reformed Church www.shanklinurc.co.uk

View From Number 10



A Winter Wonderland

As the temperatures begin to drop and the streets start to light up, we are drifting into a new season which causes mixed feelings. For many the winter brings great worries with shorter days and long dark evenings with added concerns over rising fuel and food prices.

A lot of people can ride this storm quite comfortably and will carry on with extravagant Christmas celebrations, but it brings a real crisis for many - sadly for some it may be a choice of eat or heat; plans and presents may need to be trimmed back or cancelled completely. Local shops will of course be hoping that many folk will still be in a mood for reckless spending as this is generally a critical time to boost income and help balance the books.

Much of all this can often seem so artificial and shallow and far removed from the proper focus of the season. Some gaze in awe at all the amazing lights and extravagant, tempting shop window displays while many others look on with incredulity asking what this has to do with the birth of Jesus. A line of reindeer singing, "We Wish you a Merry Christmas," seems rather absurd and surreal (but think for a moment - where did the idea of a beast talking first appear?).

The glitz and glamour of the perfect family Christmas and peace on earth for all seems for most people an empty dream in the current turmoil. Those who are sitting comfortably may be tempted to draw the curtains and shut out all the troubles, but that is not the kind of response that Jesus requires of his followers.

The Son of God came to bring God's presence among us with good news for the poor and freedom for the oppressed. As his people today, we must seek ways of being his ambassadors and bearing this good news not just in our words but also in actions - acts of loving service. Shoe boxes have been prepared and dispatched from the Island for children in other parts of the world and for Ukrainian soldiers in dangerous and lonely places. We now invite you to make

generous gifts to the work of Operation Mobilisation bringing aid to those suffering in Ukraine, many of whom are fellow believers - and so are members of our church family.

There is so much to wonder about this winter. We may well ponder and reflect on the global economic crisis, the conflicts raging in many parts of the world or the critical issue of global warming. We may be wondering if we can pay all the bills before Spring breaks forth and things warm up again. We may be wondering how, and who, we can help... do please take this to the Lord in prayer.

As a Church we are opening the doors a few times this month to offer a warm welcome – see [pages 8 & 9](#). Do speak to Sheilagh, Carole or one of the Elders if you could help with this. We will see how this develops and trust the Lord to lead us forward into 2023.

In the midst of all the busyness and mental clutter of the season, may our eyes lift beyond the immediate worries and look upwards and be filled with wonder at the message of hope that flows to us from God's throne. Let's recall Paul's words that, "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:19)

This is the heart of the Christmas story – the Word becoming flesh and making his home among us – making the invisible God known (John 1:14&18). He draws alongside and opens up to us the very meaning of life - and offers us fullness (John 10:10 and Colossians 2:10).

In the bleak midwinter, let's pause to gaze in wonder – and to offer our hearts, hands and voices to the one who is the greatest wonder of all... may you experience the joy of Christ's presence this Christmas time and as we enter a New Year of opportunity.

With very best wishes,



Prayer



Advent Day of Prayer – Tuesday 29th November

09:00 Prayer Meeting at Church

14:00 Bible Bite Prayer Special

19:30 Prayer Meeting on Zoom (as each week)

Do please make a special effort to join in one of these gatherings as we seek the Lord together as a church family and prepare for our celebrations of the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Tuesday Prayer at 19:30

Is still being held via Zoom using the same account as for other activities and groups :

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

Meeting ID: 324 266 5584

Password: 936536.

These have been really encouraging and powerful times. Do please join us if you are able when you have a free evening – you can even ring in from an ordinary phone, which is a normal landline charge; please dial: 02034 815240.

Details are also in the weekly Newsheet

Prayer Chain

Do continue to use this if there are urgent and important issues that need prayer. Phone Hazel on 865181 or Jean on 863850 - and do please consider joining if you are mostly around at home. It is very important to be able to mobilise an army of prayer warriors at short

notice.

Text Prayer Network

This is now operational as an addition to our telephone chain. Please text Lou on the number below with your prayer request and she will mobilise a team of intercessors. Again, this is for urgent and important issues that need immediate cover:


Lou Jupe - 07474 273119

Prayer for Israel

Is held each Monday from 10:00 - 11:00 using the church Zoom. Please contact Roy & Melodie if you would be interested in joining:

☎ 866912 or melodieroywilson@gmail.com

Christmas Activities & Services at Shanklin URC

Saturday 10 th	19:30	Shanklin Town Brass Band Christmas Concert (see page 29)	
Sunday 11 th	16:00	Light Up a Life	
Saturday 17 th	15:30	Messy Christmas	
Sunday 18 th	10:30	Carol Service & Nativity	
Wednesday 21 st	18:30	Why the Nativity? – film (see page 30)	
Christmas Eve	23:00 23:30	Carols on the Steps Christmas Communion	
Christmas Day	10:30	Christmas Day Service	

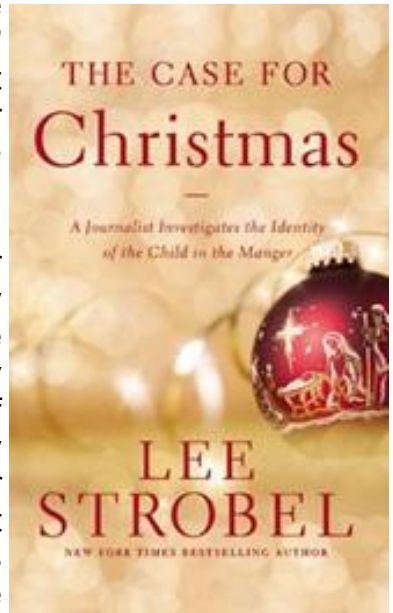
Shanklin URC Bookshop News

“The Chicago Tribune newsroom was eerily quiet on the day before Christmas. As I sat at my desk with little to do, my mind kept wandering back to a family I had encountered a month earlier while I was working on a series of articles about Chicago’s neediest people.”

These are the opening words of the introduction in ‘**The Case for Christmas**’ by Lee Strobel (£3.99). As he thought about this family (a grandmother and her two granddaughters) he decided he would go and visit them again that day. He was amazed at what he found when he arrived at their home. The newspaper readers had responded to his article by giving many gifts including money. He was even more amazed that this family was preparing to give away many of these gifts so he asked them why they were doing this. They replied “Our neighbours are still in need. We cannot have plenty while they have nothing. This is what Jesus would want us to do”. The grandmother went on to say that the next

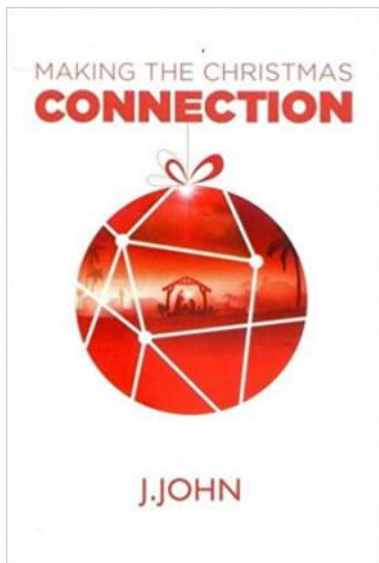
day they would be celebrating an even greater gift from God – the gift of Jesus. This family considered the child in the manger to be an undeserved gift that meant everything to them – more than material possessions, comfort or security. Lee Strobel says that at that moment something inside him wanted desperately to know this Jesus. He goes on to say that he could see that, despite their poverty, they had peace while he had plenty but experienced anxiety.

Some time later, prompted by his intriguing memories of this family and his wife’s conversion to Christianity, he decided to get to the bottom of what he considered to be a crucial issue; Who was in the

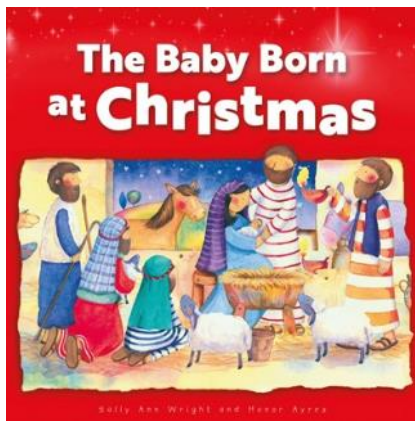


manger on that first Christmas morning? Using excerpts from another of his books, 'The Case for Christ', he retraces and expands on his original investigations to look at this issue. He looks at evidence available from experts on the Bible, archaeology and messianic prophecy as he investigates the true identity of the child in the manger.

'Making the Christmas Connection' by J John looks at two questions; How can we know God? and How can we know what he is like? He explores these questions in six short sections. Each section begins with a few words from different well known Christmas carols such as Joy to the World, O Little Town of Bethlehem and Once in Royal David's City. This small book costs £1.99.



Two inexpensive children's books are **'The Baby Born at Christmas'** and **'The Wonder of Christmas'** (£1.99 each). Both of these little books have colourful illustrations on each page and cover the main events in the story of Christmas; the journey to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men bringing their gifts.



Our Christian Bookshop is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 – 13:00 and sometimes for a shorter time on Fridays. It will be closed between Christmas and New Year and for the month of January.

***** We wish all bookshop customers a blessed Christmas *****

The Well

– A Place of Support, Refreshing & Friendship

A few weeks ago, some of you may remember that I spoke around the problems of mental ill health and how, as a church, we should be in a position to meet these needs amongst our church family and also in the community. Mental ill-health is something that is often swept under the carpet, avoided due to wrong thinking, misunderstandings and stigma, yet there are so many crying out for help and not getting it.

After that talk, the feedback received, highlighted a gaping hole and it soon became apparent that there was a very definite need for support for those struggling with mental health problems, the lonely, the vulnerable. As well as that, feedback came from folks further afield, who had been watching online and over the next couple of weeks following, I believe that the Holy Spirit continued to highlight the absolute requirement for something to be put in place.

Myself and Brian had an informal chat around the possibility of having a drop in 'support café/hub' at the church in the future. We agreed that there was definitely a need for something like this not only for the church but also that it would make a great community outreach. Brian then referred me to the 'Wellbeing Journey' booklet (you may have seen them scattered around the church) suggesting that as a starting point.

Having looked into that and also having spent some time seeking the Lord, I took the next step and purchased a licence from HOPE Together, in order to be able to use the Wellbeing Journey learning program at the church. This particular licence covers adult, youth and schools (trying to think very far into the future!). The licence is valid for two groups and allows access to all training videos, PDFs, leader's notes and participant's notes.

The idea is that anyone who might be interested in taking a role in the café would go through this training, in order to be better equipped to support those who come through our doors. The course has been devised by Dr Dave Smith and is Christian based. It is presented along similar lines as the Alpha Course and Freedom in

Christ. It explores mental health wellness holistically; helping people to examine the physical, emotional, relational, financial and vocational parts of their lives and seeks to educate people in managing their lives and their mental wellness, more effectively and efficiently.

Our first café will be opening in the church on the 3rd December 2022 from 10:00 – 12:00, as well as on the 7th, 14th and 21st December respectively.

We will be offering a 'warm space' for folks, as well as refreshments. There will be no charge for refreshments but there will be the opportunity to 'pay it forward,' so that people can donate funds if they wish in order to support the provision of food and warm drinks.

We wish to provide a safe space for folks to simply come and chat, relax and have fun, build relationships and make friends, over a cuppa and a bite to eat; receive support by offering a listening ear, a place for those who might want prayer, or for those who may need signposting to other support groups such as CAP, NHS Mental Health Team, local council services and so on. As well as that, there will be space for others who might wish to try their hand at creating something; perhaps a reading corner and play area for children? The possibilities are endless!

If you feel that this is something you would like to be involved in, please do pray about it and get in touch with me. We will be starting off small but we are trusting that the Lord will give the increase, as we seek to be His hands and feet in the local community. There is a need that we simply cannot afford to ignore and as the outlook for so many looks more and more bleak and frightening, we need to be the light in the darkness.

I am deeply thankful to the Lord for His inspiration and guidance in this and also to Brian and the Elders for their encouragement and amazing support.

Blessings,

Sheilagh

Christmas Appeal for 2022

**Will you
Live out love
This Christmas?**



**Operation
Mobilisation**

This year we are supporting the work of OM among the people of Ukraine, where Samuel Hughes from IW has been working among poor communities for several years.

Once again, we encourage you to send just one Christmas card to the whole church family and post it on the noticeboard - and give what you may have saved to OM to bless the people of Ukraine. Last year we raised over £1,000 for Mercy Ships.

Please give as you are able.

Harvest Charities

Last month we published a letter from Food Bank about our recent donations which included our Harvest gifts...

...just to let you know that our Harvest appeal also raised £264 for Tearfund working in Nepal (with at least another £70 given directly)

Thank you all for your generosity, particularly in these challenging times!

Robin

Bible Bite – Christmas Special

Tuesday 13th December



Please come along at 13:30 for coffee and mince pies before our last meeting of the year at 14:00

We are praying about re-introducing a time of refreshment and fellowship... let us know if you could help...

After a short break we plan to resume on 3rd January.



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Part 1 - Thurs 16 March 2023

Part 2 - Thurs 23 March 2023

Part 3 - Thurs 30 March 2023

Virtual sessions on Zoom

16:00 - 17:30

A full day's training for all individuals working with children, young people and adults at risk. Also important for Ministers and Elders of the Church. The course covers:

- **Policy and Programme**
- **Premises** (risk assessments, security, accidents and first aid, fire safety, Transport)
- **People** (recruitment, working together culture, communication online & phones)
- **Protecting Children and Adults at Risk** (forms of abuse, recognising signs of abuse, responding to concern or disclosures, reporting structures)
- **Paper Trails** (forms, records, registers,)
- **Safer Church Culture**

Certificates are presented to those completing this training course.

Trainers - Phil Ray and Ruth White, Children's & Youth Development Officers

**For more information and to book your place please contact:
bookings@urcwessex.org.uk / 023 8067 4513**

Good News for All!

At this time of year when we remember the coming of our Lord Jesus as a babe into this world and as believers, we also look to His coming again in glory, what better time to give 'good news of great joy' to family, friends and neighbours!

This month's edition of the excellent monthly paper 'Good News' (available to read online at www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionpage.htm) has several great articles relating to Christmas, including the headline article 'Real Nativity is Good News' about the school nativity musical writers who always put Jesus centre stage.



Other contributions include:

- **Christmas Miracles** - Two young atheists find Christ at Christmas and receive healing
- **Aled Jones** - Why the 'Walking in the Air' singer has turned Christmas author
- **Forest Striker** - Nottingham Forest's Emmanuel Dennis believes in his namesake Emmanuel - 'God with us'
- **Anne Hegerty's Favourite Carol** - The Chase star explains why she loves O Little Town of Bethlehem
- **First Christmas With Jesus** - Hallmark Channel actress gets to know Jesus for the first time
- **Coping With Christmas** - For those who find Christmas difficult, we show where they can find hope

Do take a copy to pop in with your Christmas greetings! News of the **Greatest Gift Ever!**

God's blessings to you for Christmas and the New Year.

Christians Working Together in The Bay

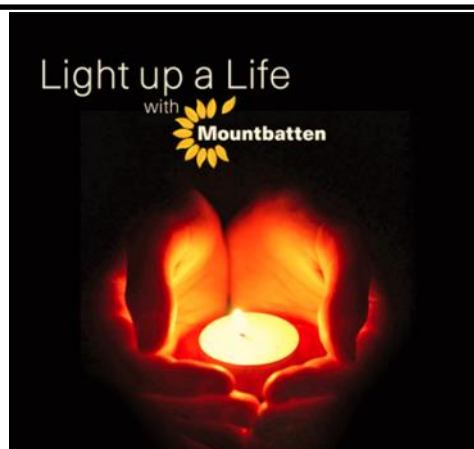
Shared Afternoon Worship continues each Sunday at 16:00 moving around various churches. The venues are as follows:

4th December – Shanklin Methodist Church, Regent Street

11th December – United Reformed Church High St, Shanklin
Light up a Life with Mountbatten

No meetings on 18th and 25th December or 1st January

Look out for details of venues from 8th January



Sunday 11th December

16:00 at the URC

Remembering our loved ones this Christmas

Please pick up a flyer to invite friends along

Connection Quiz

1. Which fictional bear came from darkest Peru?
2. Under what name did Arsenal join the Football League in 1893?
3. Which station on the standard UK Monopoly board is situated between Oxford Street and Chance?
4. What John Betjeman poem about a Berkshire town was published in 1937?
5. And so, what is the connection between the answers to questions 1 - 4?

Answers are on [page 48](#)



Thy Kingdom Come... Pentecost 31st May/1st June 2022 ... (Days 6&7)

We are continuing to look at Peter's first letter during the devotionals associated with Thy Kingdom Come (2022) ~ a global initiative that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.



These reflections were delivered through a voice recording, try to imagine as you read them that you are listening and respondingwe are looking at two days this time, one for both months of this issue!

The overall purpose is to ask God to empower us to become effective witnesses for Jesus each day.

P, pausing to be still...

R, rejoicing with a Psalm and reflecting on the early church...

A, asking God to help us and others...

Y, yielding to His will in our lives, come what may...

-----ooo-----

The Chosen (Carla Harding)

As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly, to re-centre my scattered senses upon the presence of God.

Creator God, who formed humanity from dust, breathe in me again. Revive me and sanctify me by the power of Your Spirit. Set my heart on fire with the good news of Your gospel.

I choose to rejoice in God's presence today, joining with the ancient praises of all God's people in the words of Psalm 134:

**Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord
who minister by night in the house of the Lord.**

**Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and praise the Lord.**

May the Lord bless you from Zion,

he who is the Maker of heaven and earth.
(Psalm 134)

Today I return to the Apostle Peter's first letter and reflect on his description of the Church...

"But 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. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:9&10)

Archbishop Justin Welby comments on the passage as follows: "*I find these verses in 1 Peter to be some of the most compelling passages in scripture. A people once excluded are now embraced. Those who were exiled, are chosen. The reviled have been made holy, the rejected are loved...*

*...Here we are called ~ perhaps challenged ~ to see ourselves not as the world sees us, but as God sees us. We are called to judge ourselves not according to the values which seem to matter most to the world (status, wealth, power) but according to God's boundless love in Christ. Because of God's work for us in Christ we are called worthy, loved, chosen. You are called worthy, loved, and chosen in the eyes of God." **

I imagine myself standing in front of a mirror or, if I can, I find one now. How do I see myself? How do I measure my worth?

God, help me to see myself through Your eyes. Worthy. Loved. Chosen.

I think of one of the people I've been praying for ...someone who hasn't yet experienced God's love for themselves. How do they see and define themselves?

God, help me to show them how You see them, and just how much You love them. Invite them to take their place among Your chosen people.

As I return to the passage I listen for a particular word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting to me today...

“But 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. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”
(1 Peter 2:9&10)

What word or phrase did I notice in this passage?

I was struck by the command to, ‘declare the praises of him who called you’.

I am chosen for a purpose. As Psalm 134 puts it, I am made to bless God. How can I praise and bless Him today?

Jesus, because of You I am welcomed into God’s people. I am imperfect. I make mistakes. You love me just as I am, but You promise not to leave me the way I am. You’ve chosen me and You’re changing me, bringing out Your image in me, a little clearer each day. Thank you!

And now, as I prepare to take this time of prayer into the coming day, the Lord who loves me says in Hebrews:

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
(Hebrews 4:16)

*Father,
help me to live this day to the full,
being true to You in every way.*

*Jesus,
help me to give myself away to others,
being kind to everyone I meet.*

*Spirit,
help me to love the lost,
proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.*

Amen.

-----ooo-----

Unfading Beauty (Brian Heasley)

As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly, to re-centre my scattered senses upon the presence of God.

Creator God, who formed humanity from dust, breathe in me again. Revive me and sanctify me by the power of Your Spirit. Set my heart on fire with the good news of Your gospel.

I choose to rejoice in God's love today, joining with the ancient praises of all God's people in the words of Psalm 42:

*Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers have swept over me.
By day the LORD directs his love,
at night his song is with me ~ a prayer to the God of my life.
(Psalm 42:7&8)*

I return to the Apostle Peter's letter and read his words as if they were written for me today...

*"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."
(1 Peter 3:3&4)*

Archbishop Justin Welby comments on the passage as follows: *"The women Peter is addressing have little social status. They were often objectified, often seen as something to be 'owned', rather than as individual humans seen and loved by God. Yet Peter recognises that they have a rich inner life – one that is subversive to the expectations of the time – a life lived not for others but for Jesus. Peter affirms that neither men nor masters are the supreme authority, but the God who makes us in His own image. Christ Jesus – the one in whom God is made visible – calls us to see people for who they really are. It's a call to really and truly hear and know people properly, to work with God's Spirit who encounters us and opens us up in our deepest places. ... Today we reflect on the true beauty we will surely encounter if we put our trust in God's abundant love, rather than our own fear of not being enough. Only God can enable this" **

Is there someone I am struggling to get on with right now?

Lord, I don't truly see; I make snap judgements about people. I allow past mistakes to define them. Forgive me for not looking beyond this and help me to see people as they truly are.

I think of someone I know who is struggling with insecurity,

Lord, would You meet them in their deepest places, invoking in them a deep sense of Your love.

As I return to the passage I listen out for any particular word or phrase that the Holy Spirit seems to be highlighting for me personally.

“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.”
(1 Peter 3:3&4)

What word or phrase did the Holy Spirit highlight? What did it make me think of?

I'm thinking about what I clothe myself in, the image that I portray to others. So often what I am projecting externally is not what I am feeling internally. I'm sometimes struck by the thought, 'if people really knew what I was like...' and this fills me with fear. Then I realise that God does know what I am really like, and that fills me with peace.

Lord, Your acceptance overwhelms me. I yield to You today, Father, feeling deep joy because I know that I am seen for who I truly am and that You love me deeply.

And now, as I prepare to take this time of prayer into the coming day, the Lord who loves me says in Romans:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
(Romans 8:1)

Father,
help me to live this day to the full,
being true to You in every way.

**Jesus,
help me to give myself away to others,
being kind to everyone I meet.**

**Spirit,
help me to love the lost,
proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.**

Amen

**These are extracts from the thoughts of the Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, from the Thy Kingdom Come Novena 2022 (pages 14 & 16), which can be downloaded and read in full at:*

www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/new-2022

These Thy Kingdom Come devotionals were included in a much wider prayer initiative ~ 24/7 Prayer (Peter Grieg) ~ which provides Bible reflection and prayer twice daily (morning and evening). You can access these through an app, **Lectio 365** ~ for more details go to:

www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional

Robin

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Prayer Webinar Christmas Special 1st December 20:00

Join a Christmas special of the Open Doors prayer webinar to hear about the children of the persecuted church. Around the world, Christmas is a joyful time – but also a time when these children are particularly vulnerable. Our young brothers and sisters love when we join in prayer for them – hope you can join in!

Find out more and register today at www.opendoorsuk.org

Open the Book in The Bay

The Bay Primary school has put a picture of our first Open the Book (OTB) assembly presentation in their monthly magazine. They wrote: "We were very fortunate this week to welcome a new group of volunteers into school this week to lead worship for us. Open the Book is a project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear the major stories of the Bible, from a team of



Christians from local churches, who present the stories during assemblies/acts of Collective Worship." The non-copyrighted picture of this would have been great to share with you since it included the 'child participants', but, unfortunately, it is very unclear.

Previously, as part of the Ryde 'Open the Book' team, Roy and I had been in the group presenting Bible Stories at Dover Park Primary School on Wednesdays since 15 September 2021 until fairly recently. As it happened, the Bay Primary school in Sandown had been requesting a team to visit them from 2019, but there were not enough storytellers to form a team at that time. When more storytellers joined the Ryde team recently, the Croydons felt that Roy and I should form the basis of a 'Bay Team'. A training day was held at the beginning of September, which was attended by 5 people. Some of them are now part of the Cowes, Newport and West Wight teams, and Claire G joined the Bay Team. Julie and Bill tirelessly assist both teams with all the planning, props and input – we thank them for making a new team possible by being part of that too!

Having been used to presenting Open the Book every week, the response to our offer to come to the Bay Primary School as from October, took us by surprise – they would like us to come in on a Tuesday, but **only** once each half-term! However, Bill had the idea of reaching out to Godshill Primary, where there had been a team attending the school on alternate Tuesdays prior to Covid. The former team leader, Penny, contacted the school on our behalf. The

response was immediate – ‘Could we come in the following week for the Harvest Assembly and continue to visit every two weeks?!’ As always, God had worked everything out perfectly. So, we joined the Dover Park team in practicing the story of Ruth and Boaz for their Harvest assembly – sharing props, costumes and a sheaf of ornamental grass to represent barley!



Above: The practice, together with the Ryde team, of the story of Ruth and Boaz.

On arrival at Godshill school, and getting ready for our first assembly at 08:45, we set up the scene, prayed and rehearsed. Then, fortuitously, more than a dozen parents arrived and sat at the back of the hall. Julie primed them to call out “That’s not barley,” when she pointed at the ornamental grass, and said that the story was set at the time of the barley harvest in Bethlehem. She could then explain that, because barley is too small to be seen by those at the back of the hall, we were using ornamental grass instead. More than 150 children arrived in their classes. Three were invited to dress up and join in reaping the harvest. Another child was to be Boaz’s relative, so needed to be able to hop after ‘he gave away his sandal’ in accordance with the Biblical story. The watching children were primed to join in with various actions and phrases as the story progressed. Our contact within Godshill said that they had wanted to bring the children from Chillerton school to attend, but had not been able to arrange transportation in time. Instead, she videoed that assembly and passed it on to them.

Thereafter, during our first assembly at The Bay, the children were very responsive! We presented the story “Be like me,” which is

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based on the supposed reminiscences of ‘Jannai,’ who would never forget the day Jesus used him as an example of childlike humility for the squabbling adults (Matthew 18:1-5). After all, if our lives are not simple enough for children to understand, then they are just too complicated!

Normally, the narrator does not dress in costume, but George wore a headdress to show that he was an older version of the child playing the part of ‘Jannai’.

Having tasted it, the Bay have already asked us to take two assemblies in the run up to Christmas. These will slot in between the Godshill assemblies.



Another snippet to report is the ‘The Two Sons’ presented at Godshill school. We thank the Lord that their response showed that the message came across very clearly to the children – the message being about those who said, “No” at first and felt they wouldn’t be able to please, but ended up obeying (represented by Nathan on the left of the father) and those who proudly said, “Yes” since they always knew “How to do right,” yet they ended up not obeying (represented by Luke on the right of the father). Jesus (to the far right-hand side) is the best storyteller in the world!



After Julie asked Roy and myself to relocate from the Ryde team and be part of the new Bay team, I had a dream (despite not being one to have memorable dreams!) in which I saw a baby that had been left in a rock crevice, and was suckling on a sort of stalactite – and as I came closer, the baby fell out! In the dream there was nothing else to do but to go and pick it up.

This dream seems to speak to me of a great need/hunger in the young generation for the 'Rock', Jesus (the Word of God). Who will see to pick them up? Maybe there is someone else feeling the call to 'pick up the baby' with this open door being presented to us in the Bay area? Open the Book is incredibly rewarding and great fun! It takes up one morning a week and is not difficult. We mime the actions as the story is told, so there are no lines to learn.

Roy and I will be away during January so, if you feel the Lord prompting you to be a part of this wonderful ministry, please speak to any of the team as soon as possible. We are also praying for another man to join the team on a long-term basis. Do pass this information on to anyone you know who may be interested.

Melodie Wilson

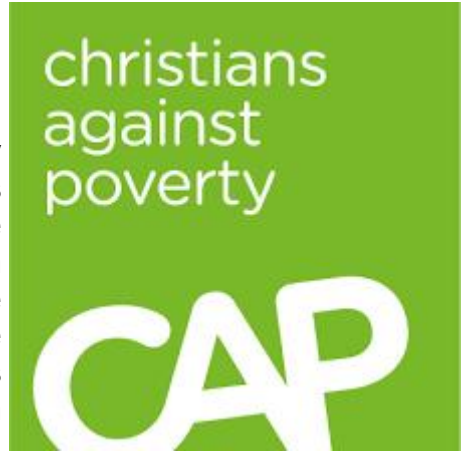
A CAP Debt Centre for the Island

A brief introduction to the work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

CAP was founded 25 years ago by John Kirby. With a marriage in ruins and his finances in chaos, the love and care of a local church introduced him to Jesus and his life was transformed. God then gave him a vision of how he could use his financial abilities to help others in debt and poverty and CAP was born.

Since then over 290 Debt Centres have been established along with churches partnering in running money management courses, life skills courses and jobs clubs.

If you want to know more about this exciting ministry why not visit their website capuk.org.



Exciting plans for the Island

For a number of years Sandra Snell ran a debt centre here on the Island but since Jonathan's retirement the Island has been without a CAP Debt centre. At a time of increasing financial challenges, it is with a real sense of God's timing, that 5 churches;

- Castlehold Baptist Church, Newport,
- Apex Church, Cowes,
- Kerith Fellowship, West Wight,
- Shanklin URC and
- Christchurch C of E, Sandown

have formed a partnership to re-establish a Debt Centre for the whole Island.

The office will be located at Castlehold Baptist Church and the partnership have identified John Bastin, the church administrator as

the potential manager working on a volunteer basis.

Once John has gone through the CAP accreditation process, the plan is for the new centre to be in operation from January.

Introducing John Bastin

My name is John Bastin and I moved to the Isle of Wight with my wife Carole 3 years ago from Leigh-on-Sea in Essex, where we attended Leigh Road Baptist Church. We have both been Christians for over 50 years and both have a passion for helping others.

I worked with the Southend YMCA on a project that was there to help others who were in need, I spent 15 years working on the streets in the evenings 19:00 to 04:00 in the morning and this really highlights how bad debt can change your life by drinking and taking drugs and living on the street with what the homeless thought of as no hope.

But **we** have hope.

While at Leigh Road we had a visit from a CAP Money speaker and showed a way that we can help people to address their debt. So I signed up to CAP Money and went to London to be trained as a CAP Money Coach with 6 others from Leigh Road.

Why do I want to be involved with CAP Money and a Debt Centre? Well I want us to show God's Love by helping those in need, I really want others to know our God and how he can change their lives, it also gives us a chance to share our relationship with God with others.

We have a great God who can help change lives.

What part can you play?

Pray

Become a befriender; These are people who go with the debt centre manager when he visits clients to support him and be an ongoing contact with a local church.

Nigel Cox

FOCUS

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

**Ten-year-old Apo from Syria
Meets Jesus in a Dream**

Syria is number 15 in Open Doors' 2022 World Watch List.

Jina's husband, Rober, was kidnapped over ten years ago and the family have been supported by local Open Doors partners through a Centre of Hope. Thanks to you – and a supernatural dream – Jina and Apo are thriving in new ways!

In 2019, Open Doors introduced us to Jina and her son, Apo, from Syria. Jina's husband, Rober, was kidnapped in 2013 by Islamic extremists while on a work trip because he was a Christian.

Thanks to your continued prayers and support, and help from a local Centre of Hope, Jina and Apo (now ten years old) are flourishing. Jina is being trained as a beautician in a local beauty salon – something she loves.

“A lot of things have changed in my life since the last time you came here,” Jina says. “The organisation (Open Doors) helped me a lot to find this work.

“I love make-up. I have loved make-up ever since I was a child. Now whenever I see one of my friends, I say, ‘Come, let me do your make-up!’ Now I'm doing



their make-up and practising, thanks to the organisation. I want to develop my skills to make this an income source – you know how expensive it is nowadays, everything is expensive – for me and for my son to be able to survive and live decently.”

Apo spends a lot of time with other children at the Centre of Hope, playing games and attending classes. “What I like most at school is the sports class,” he says. “I play basketball and sometimes the coach trains me and we play against another team. I also have swimming class and play football.”

Jesus meets Apo in a dream to encourage Jina

Jina struggled bringing Apo up on her own. He used to misbehave a lot – but he’s found a place to channel all of his energy through the sports he plays.



Initially, she wasn’t sure if she should begin the training at the salon. But God spoke to Apo in a dream! “One morning my son said, ‘Mum, I saw Jesus’,” Jina remembers. “He said, ‘Jesus asked me to be a good son to you and not to give you a hard time. And to be good in my school.’ He continued with, ‘Mum, you should go work. I will listen to what you say and be a good son to you, I am okay with whatever you want.’”

Life has not been easy for Jina and Apo. So many years have now

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passed since Rober's disappearance that the authorities officially designate Jina as a widow. "We still don't know about him," Jina says. "It's been ten years and we haven't heard of him. Nothing. My son looks at the picture and cries. I ask him why he's crying, and he says, "When will my dad come back? They all have fathers and mothers and I only have a mother. I don't have a father."

But through the help she and Apo are receiving through the Centre of Hope, Jina is optimistic about the future. "If I continue this path, my future is good, my income will be good. I thank you who supported me from the bottom of my heart. I pray that God will bless you and will open new doors for you to continue to help us in Syria."

Please Pray

- That Jina will go from strength to strength in her new job and be a blessing to her customers
- That God will bless Apo through sports and the classes he attends
- For Open Doors partners in Syria as they continue to reach out to families in need this Christmas.

Also for Prayer

- Islamic extremists want a Christian family to flee the Nineveh Plain of Iraq. They are staying.
- Prayers urgently needed for Christians in Yemen shaken by arrest and torture.
- Three church leaders in Vietnam falsely arrested, their children excluded from school and their homes destroyed.
- Church in China raided by 20 police officers, with the pastor interrogated for over two hours afterwards.
- Christians in Qatar are expectant at what God might do during the World Cup, despite the threat of persecution, and are inviting the global church to join with them in praying for a move of the Holy Spirit.

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

Shanklin Town Brass Band



Christmas Concert

*A mix of festive, traditional and modern
melodies by the town's brass band*

Saturday 10th December

19:30

Shanklin United Reformed Church

Admission Free

Retiring Collection

~~~~~

[www.shanklintownbrassband.org.uk](http://www.shanklintownbrassband.org.uk)

# WHY THE NATIVITY?

A NEW FEATURE FILM FROM TURNING POINT

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10:00 at Cineworld**

Order your **free tickets** online or call 0800 058 2856

Or - come to our screening at church on

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 18:30**

Look out for more details soon and please consider who you could invite along to this special evening a few days before Christmas.

## Christmas Hope Magazines

We now have copies of the excellent new magazine from Hope Together...

Do please get it into people's hands as it is an inspiring read.



## A Life of Grace

We have already shifted 200 copies of this wonderful new tribute to Her Majesty the Queen which celebrates her Christian faith.

More have now arrived – please pray about who you might give copies to...

Gifts are welcome towards the costs





**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**15:30 - 17:30**

**Free fun for all the family**

**- no unaccompanied children please**

Do come along and explore the story of Christmas through a Messy Church experience at Shanklin URC. This is a fun way of learning for all ages - in a hands-on way.

There will be several craft activities to choose from followed by a short celebration with songs, prayers and the chance to join in telling the Nativity story - and some delicious food all together.



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

*For more information - please speak to Yvonne Sparks or Brian and Janet Harley*

## **Acts: The Second Missionary Journey**

We left Paul and Silas going through Syria and Cilicia strengthening the fledgling churches, as the second missionary journey begins and we see the gospel spreading towards Rome ... Paul's original intention was to revisit the churches he had begun to establish but God's vision for him was much wider...

*For reference, I have reproduced a map of this journey (by permission) at the end. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to include this in the online version but you can see the journey on the back cover of the Church Bibles. I do have a copy of the publication which you are welcome to view at any time.*

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### **Acts 16: 1-5 Timothy joins Paul and Silas**

In Lystra, Paul and Silas meet Timothy and having had good reports Paul decides to take him along on the journey. Although Paul understands that circumcision is not necessary for salvation, he decides to have Timothy circumcised (his father was Greek) for the sake of the mission. Paul is seeking to avoid any obstacle which might hinder the message he is bringing. He explains his thinking in 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23.

*“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”*

#### **We Too Must Be Flexible In Our Approach**

#### **Building Bridges For The Sake Of The Gospel**

and *“the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.” (Acts 16:5)*



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## **Acts 16: 6-10 Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia**

As doors are both closed and opened we find Paul and his party being led by the Spirit to Troas, a journey of 2 to 3 weeks, from where they will cross the Aegean Sea to Greece. They had been prevented from taking the route they had planned and they must have been perplexed and frustrated when suddenly Paul has a vision from God ~ the stop sign has changed to a beckoning hand:

*“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” (Acts 16:9-10)*

*(In verse 10 Luke says “we”, it seems he is with them on the journey at this point)*

### **Are We Ready To Act On God's Prompting?**

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## **Acts 16: 11-15 Lydia's conversion in Philippi**

Paul and his fellow disciples arrive in Greece and stay in Philippi for several days. This is a leading city in the area and a Roman colony. Unusually they don't find a synagogue but instead, begin preaching to some woman gathered by the river. Among them we find

Lydia, a gentile from Thyatira; she is a person of considerable means and is clearly a “God seeker”. Thyatira is back in Asia where Paul had been prevented from visiting ~ perhaps because Lydia was not there? The Lord opens her heart to respond to Paul and she and her family are baptised.

### **Only God Can Open Hearts**

### **Our Job Is To Get The Message Out There Prayerfully & Faithfully**

It is likely that the Philippian church is established in Lydia's home. Paul followed the

Spirit's leading, instead of his own thoughts, and a church is born...

## **We Must Trust God's Leading Whether It's A Yes Or A No!**

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### **Acts 16: 16-40 Paul and Silas in prison**

We encounter persecution breaking out once again and we hear 2 stories whilst Paul's party is staying with Lydia, one about a slave girl and one about a jailer. The Book of Acts has (and will continue to be) a roller-coaster ride of both mission and opposition!

Ancient Greece had a pantheon of gods from which advice was sought and we should remember that these ungodly spirits have power ~ as in Exodus 7:10-12:

**“So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned the wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.”**

Evil power works but is overcome by the Power of God.

#### **The Slave girl**

She is trapped both as a slave and as one possessed. Although her outburst speaks truth her listeners would not have understood, they might have imagined “God Most High” to be Zeus and would have wondered “salvation from who or what?” Eventually, Paul confronts the spirit in her and it leaves “in the name of Jesus Christ”.

The girl is “freed” spiritually but an economic problem arises ~ her owners were making considerable sums of money from her ability, which has been removed! Backed by the crowd, they take Paul and Silas before the magistrates who orders them to be flogged and imprisoned.

#### **The Jailer**

He has been ordered to “guard them with his life” and so he puts them in stocks in an inner cell. Paul and Silas respond with prayer and hymn singing and God responds by sending an earthquake! The

jailer is about to kill himself as he thinks they have escaped, but they haven't and instead cry out to him "don't harm yourself"! The jailer responds:

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.' Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised." (Acts 16:30-33)

### **We All Need To Be Rescued From Disorder Jesus Is Always The Answer**

Later the magistrates decide to release them "quietly" but Paul has no intention of going quietly. He and Silas are both Roman citizens and call for their judges to release them personally. The magistrates are alarmed ~ an incident many years before had resulted in a governor being exiled for treating Roman citizens inappropriately ~ so they escort them from the prison and Paul and Silas visit Lydia's house to encourage the brothers and sisters before leaving the city.

We might ask why God allows his ambassadors to suffer so ~ perhaps to give us a great story to learn from! Back in chapter 14, Paul explained that, "*We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,*" (v22) and in Romans 8:17 he says, "*Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*"

### **There Is No Crown Without The Cross God Is Not Absent In The Midst Of Our Pain**

Paul and Silas are not fearful, they trust in God and so should we in times of trouble. In the darkest valleys, Jesus is alongside us and we learn from these stories that,

### **Salvation Comes To All Who Will Receive It We Must Not Be Deflected**

**We Must Stick To The Gospel Message And Many Will Hear**

\*\*\*

## **Acts 17: 1-15 In Thessalonica and Berea**

Paul and Silas arrive in Thessalonica, a large port city. It is quite a short visit (2 to 3 weeks) and as is his usual approach Paul begins in the synagogue:

*“On three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. ‘This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,’ he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.” (Acts 17:2-4)*

This is a significant movement of God, something exciting is going on and quite a large number of people have come to faith (Paul probably wrote his letters to the Thessalonians shortly after leaving the city (in a hurry) and they show us that the church was quickly famed for being a faithful church of God).

Some of the Jews are jealous of Paul’s success and they stir up some “bad characters” to stir up the people and throw the city into turmoil. As a result, Paul and Silas are sent on their way by the believers ... we see in this passage that Paul’s approach is to **reason, explain, prove and proclaim** the Word of God which results in folk being **persuaded**. He really does engage with the people he meets...

**Our Ministry Should Be Courageous ... Boldly Proclaiming That Jesus Is Lord**

**Sometimes Folk Will React Badly To This Good News**

**When Trouble Comes We Must Be Prepared And Remember To Look Beyond The “Faces” To The Root Causes ~ Satan!**

They travel on to Berea, a small town 45 miles south-west of Thessalonica, where they meet a more receptive group of Jews:

*“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.” (Acts 17:11&12)*

*(The term Berean has come to mean folk who study scripture with impartiality and care.)*

However, word gets back to Thessalonica that Paul is preaching successfully again and they try once again to silence him; they are determined to prevent the message from spreading but we see again that they will not succeed for long... Paul leaves town quickly and is escorted by some of the new believers to Athens, a 300-mile journey by sea! Silas and Timothy stay behind to encourage the fledgling church and will join Paul later.

We see here Paul's approach to evangelism. He doesn't "Bible-bash" but he first reasons with his audience, explaining the word to them and trying to persuade them to,

- Listen carefully and weigh the evidence and
- Grapple with the Word before deciding

**We Must Handle The Word Of God Carefully Seeking A Deep Reflective Engagement With God's Word**

**This Must Be Done Prayerfully And With The Help Of The Holy Spirit Authentic Followers Of Jesus Need To Stand Out So Let Us Hold On Tight To Our Faith And Press On Together**

As Paul writes:

*Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God." (2 Corinthians 4:1-2)*

\*\*\*

## **Acts 17: 16-34 In Athens**

Paul is amongst people he doesn't know in a great city of learning & thinking ~ Athens was the capital city of the ancient world and, at that time, was the intellectual capital of the world!

Nevertheless, Paul finds a way to communicate his message, meeting them where they are and declaring a far bigger picture to

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them. The speech that Luke gives us (vv22-31) is a summary of what Paul said (it would take only 2 minutes to deliver as written).

We begin with Paul waiting for Silas and Timothy to join him and he is distressed to find a city “full of idols” ~ in his usual manner he takes action, going to both the synagogue and the market place and we find him, *“Preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.” (Acts 17:18)*

The marketplace was not only a place of commerce but one of debate and discussion and he finds himself speaking to 2 disparate groups of philosophers:

**The Epicureans** believed that the gods were distant and not interested in human beings and therefore decided to make the most of their lives by seeking pleasure where they could. **The Stoics** believed that god was present in everything ~ the principle of “logos”, a concept of something powerful at the heart of creation. However, they held that humans should seek to connect with this power on the inside, rather than an eternal loving god who sought them. At the time there was another school of thought ~ **The Academics** who stemmed from Plato’s ideas that there was not enough evidence to prove that gods exist.

A type of agnosticism that included a “waiting for the evidence” openness.

Various responses follow from his preaching:

- “what is this babbling trying to say?” (literally a word-scatterer)
- “he seems to be advocating foreign gods”
- “bringing some strange ideas to our ears, we would like to know what they mean”

### **We Will Experience A Mixed Response To Our Message Today**

Paul is taken to a meeting of the Areopagus ~ the highest court in the land, standing on a rock overlooking the city. It was believed to have been founded by their god Apollo, holding to a belief that there was no resurrection (death was final).

Paul begins by flattering them but challenges all these various

beliefs in his speech:

*“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **To An Unknown God**. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.’” (Acts 17:22&23)*

He speaks of the **One True Creator God** who made all things. This God is not

distant and doesn't live in human temples. God makes himself known so that we may seek and find Him. Paul injects immediacy into his argument:

*“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:30)*

This was a huge challenge to their many ways of thinking and the reactions are varied:

- some people sneered at Paul
- some wanted to hear more
- some became followers of Jesus

### **These Are Reactions We Too Will Encounter**

(Luke does not mention the name of Jesus here, but certainly, Paul will have done as he pressed home the message of resurrection)

We live in a pluralistic society today, how can we share our radical (and somewhat exclusive) message of our Saviour Jesus Christ? We certainly need wisdom, grace and confidence that only our Lord can give us ~ we must remember:

### **Our God Is A God Of Love And Justice**

**He Is The Only God ~ Who Can Sort Out The Mess We Make He Really Is A Great Big God**

God is not far from us, let us ask Him how we might present Him to those around us today. He used Paul and He can use us in the same way!

## **Acts 18: 1-17 In Corinth**

The scene changes from Athens to Corinth, an important port city which was the capital of the Roman province of Achaia. However, we see similar themes arising ...

Paul meets a couple of fellow tent makers, Aquila and Priscilla, who open their home to him. They are Jews from Pontus in Turkey and have recently been expelled from Rome under an edict from the emperor Claudius. Paul gets to work...

*“Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.” (Acts 18:4&5)*

As usual, we see opposition arising and Paul is, perhaps uncharacteristically, firm and clear with them:

*“But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” (Acts 18:6)*

Paul wastes no time, he goes to a gentile God worshipper “next door” and the synagogue leader joins them! The result is that many Corinthians come to believe and are baptised. The Lord encourages him in a vision and he remains in Corinth for 18 months, teaching the Word of God.

### **Our God Has Many Plans, Sometimes We Need To Move On Quickly At Other Times God Wants Us To Stay Where We Are!**

Paul’s continued preaching is a massive challenge to the Jewish authorities and they attack him through the courts. However, the Roman pro-consul, Gallio, will have nothing to do with a “Jewish matter”. God, through Gallio, has quietened the threat and Paul is free to carry on.

(it was usual for the Romans to insist on those they conquered adopting Roman practices; however, under Julius Caesar, the Jews had been permitted to practise their own religion)



We see from this story that Paul's mission:

- is focused on Jesus, the Messiah
- involves nurturing believers in the Word of God
- takes place in partnership with others
- is always open to God's voice
- is persistent, showing "stickability"

What can we learn from this today?

We Must Try To Be Like Paul In The Mission God Has Given Us We Must Trust In Him So That We May Do His Will

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## **Acts 18: 18-28 Pricilla, Aquila and Apollos**

The last section of chapter 18 finds Paul on his way back to Jerusalem at the end of his second missionary journey and after reporting back and taking a "furlough" in Antioch, he

begins the third journey! On the way to Jerusalem, he visits Ephesus and leaves Pricilla and Aquila there but we read at the beginning of chapter 19 that he has returned. Luke doesn't give much detail about this transitional time but concentrates on what happens in Ephesus in Paul's absence, preparing the ground for Paul's amazing ministry there in Chapter 19.

Meanwhile, we are introduced to a new character:

*"A Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervour and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately."*

*(Alexandria was a large port city on the western edge of the Nile delta, regarded as a "university" city of learning. In about 200BC the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures ~ the Septuagint ~ was completed there)*

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Having been shown “*the Way*” and with the approval of “*the brothers and sisters*”, he makes his way to Achaia (probably Corinth) and is a great help to the young church there and he also continued to refute the assertions of his Jewish opponents: “*Proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.*” (*Acts 18:28b*)

**Pricilla, Aquila And Apollos Are Great Encouragers We Can All Help Those In Need**

**Let Us Always Seek To Give A Helping Hand**

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*Robin* (thanks Brian)

# Christmas Blessings

Our church recently held a service for the **Persecuted Church** for the **International Day of Prayer** and we do thank our Minister, Brian, for such a sensitive and helpful presentation and message.

As we now approach the season of Advent and Christmas, for many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world, these are times of increased danger, as well as at the New Year and at Easter.

In spite of this, our persecuted family still desire to mark these times in a special way and especially dear children, who as well as being among the most vulnerable, love this time of Christmas as they celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

The current magazine from **Open Doors** (November/December 2022) majors on the situation of children and how we can support and pray for them. Particularly moving is the letter in the magazine from Henrietta Blyth, **CEO of Open Doors UK and Ireland**, some of which follows:

Letter from Henrietta.

## **Christmas Blessings.**

*“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold.”  
Psalm 8:2.*

*In recent weeks, we at Open Doors have been grieving the death of our founder, Brother Andrew. I know that many of you were also very impacted by his life and work.*

*Brother Andrew lived into his 90s – but the same courageous faith is clear in children eight decades younger. I was recently asked why I believe it’s so important to support the children of the persecuted church. There’s an obvious answer – that they’re the future of the*



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*church. That, without our support, Christian communities might not survive in some of the most difficult places to follow Jesus. And while that's absolutely true, I don't think it's the whole answer.*

*While I was thinking about my answer, I was really struck by Psalm 8:2: "Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." That's not about children becoming powerful warriors for Christ in the future – it's about right now. Children like Valentina in Colombia (see p6) know what it means to suffer for their faith, but can boldly say "I know that, in the middle of persecution, God is faithful and merciful."*

*Christmas is a time when the children of the persecuted church are particularly vulnerable to alienation or attack. But whatever we are facing – whether changes in government and Head of State, economic challenges here in the UK and Ireland, or the everyday persecution and discrimination experienced by Valentina and millions of other vulnerable Christian children, men and women – the answer is still to fix our eyes on Jesus. It's a lesson we never stop learning. I'm grateful to be reminded of it by Valentina, by Brother Andrew and by so many others.*

*Thank you so much for your support this year, it makes such a difference. Every blessing to you and your loved ones this Christmas.*



*Henrietta*

**Valentina** (see Henrietta's letter above) loves going home for Christmas... but she knows it would not be safe to live there.

The most important thing for her is to be with her family and Christmas is one of the only times when she gets to spend time with them. It's not that her parents do not want her at home, but rather being a Christian in her town is really dangerous and children are

particularly at risk. Valentina is now in a children's centre in a much safer place, run by Open Doors Partners and is receiving an education and emotional support.

**Please pray** that more children vulnerable to persecution would know God as their “Refuge in times of trouble.” (Psalm 59:16).

**Please pray** for the Children's Centre in Colombia, for continued strength, wisdom and joy for the teachers, tutors and psychologists who serve at the centre. It takes a lot of wisdom and knowledge to help these children overcome their traumas and see a better future. **Pray** that all who serve at the centre would pass on God's plans for, “Hope and a future to the children,” (Jeremiah. 29:11).

**Do please** take a copy of the **November/ December magazine** and the **Prayer Diary** to read the full story of Valentina and other children like her.

**Also**, we now have copies of the commemorative booklet about the extraordinary life of service of **Brother Andrew**, which also is offering a **free copy** of his inspirational book ‘**God's Smuggler**’. These resource’s are available at the back of the church or in the lobby and do look out for the ones that will be coming in the New Year from **Open Doors** and **Release International**.

Thank you for your prayers and support - so appreciated - blessings in Jesus’ name.

Jane H (on behalf of the Prayer Group).

## Open Doors

PRAYER DIARY | November/December 2022



Source: [Open Doors](#).



## Truth

As we come to the end of our latest Freedom In Christ course, for this 2-month issue of the magazine, I have chosen 12 affirmations of the **Truth** contained in **God's Word**, together with passages which reflect the **Truth** of our status as **Secure, Significant and Accepted** members of **God's Family**.

The Freedom in Christ course shows us that, as God's children, we are called to be saints. Perhaps we do not always feel and act like that, but it is important to acknowledge what God has done for us ~ to take hold of the freedom He gives us and therefore to see who we really are in Christ. To achieve freedom, we have only to accept that which we know is already true ~ God's Word!

Neil (and the Freedom team) presented these devotionals, firstly focusing on **Twelve Affirmations of the Truth** given to us in God's Word. These affirmations help each of us to renew our minds and to stand firm in the truth. Secondly, focussing on **Who we are in Christ** and some of the Biblical truths in respect of our Security, our Significance and our Acceptance in Christ.

Neil recommends reading these Scriptural truths regularly, perhaps reading them out aloud, and contemplating God's truth, using them to guide our steps as we walk with Christ Jesus.

\*\*\*

### Twelve Affirmations Of The Truth

*I am the LORD your God. You shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:2-3)*

*I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)*

- *I recognize that there is only one true and living God (Exodus 20:2-3), who exists as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that He is worthy of all honour, praise and worship as the Creator, Sustainer, Beginning and End of all things (Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10; Isaiah 43:1,7,21).*
- *I recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1,14). I believe that He came to destroy the works of Satan (1 John 3:8) and that He disarmed the rulers and authorities, having triumphed over them (Colossians 2:15).*
- *I believe that God has proven His love for me, because when I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (Romans 5:8). I believe that He delivered me from the domain of darkness and transferred me to His kingdom, and in Him I have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:13-14). I believe that I am now a child of God (1 John 3:1-3). I believe that I was saved by the grace of God through faith, that it was a gift and not the result of any works on my part (Ephesians 2:8).*
- *I choose to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might (Ephesians 6:10). I put no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3), for the weapons of my warfare are not of the flesh (2 Corinthians 10:4). I put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-17), and I resolve to stand firm in my faith and resist the evil one.*
- *I believe that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18) and that He is the head over all rule and authority (Colossians 2:10).*
- *I believe that Satan and his demons are subject to me in Christ because I am a member of Christ's body (Ephesians 1:19-23). I therefore obey the command to resist the devil (James 4:7), and I command him in the name of Christ to leave my presence. I announce to Satan that Jesus is my Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3), and I reject any counterfeit gifts or works of Satan in my life.*
- *I believe that apart from Christ I can do nothing (John 15:5), so I declare my dependence on Him. I choose to abide in Christ in order to bear much fruit and glorify the Lord (John 15:8).*
- *I believe that the truth will set me free (John 8:32), and that*

## **The Link** - December 2022/January 2023

*walking in the light is the only path of fellowship (1 John 1:7). Therefore, I stand against Satan's deception by taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).*

- *I declare that the Bible is the only authoritative standard (2 Timothy 3:15-17).*
- *I choose to speak God's truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).*
- *I choose to present my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living and holy sacrifice, and I renew my mind by the living Word of God so that I may prove that the will of God is good, acceptable and perfect (Romans 6:13; 12:1-2).*

**Lord, inscribe on my heart the truth of who You are and what You have done to secure my eternal salvation. I affirm that my life and sustenance come from You, and apart from You I can do nothing**

\*\*\*

### **Who I Am In Christ**

*“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs ~ heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Romans 8:14-17)*

#### **I am Secure because ...**

##### **I am free from condemnation**

*“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1-2)*

##### **I cannot be separated from the love of God**

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:*



*‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)*

### **I am hidden with Christ in God**

*“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:3-4)*

### **I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected**

*“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)*

### **I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a self-control**

*“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)*

### **I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me**

*“We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.” (1 John 5:18)*

### **I am Significant because ...**

#### **I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world**

*“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:13-14)*

#### **I am a branch of the true vine, Jesus, a channel of His life**

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener’... ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:1-5)*

**I am a fellow worker with God**

*“As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.”* (2 Corinthians 6:1)

**I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms**

*“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”* (Ephesians 2:6)

**I may approach God with freedom and confidence**

*“In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”* (Ephesians 3:12)

**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**

*“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”* (Philippians 4:13)

**I am Accepted because ...**

**I am Christ’s friend**

*“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”* (John 15:15)

**I have been justified**

*“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Romans 5:1)

**I have been bought with a price; I belong to God**

*“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies.”* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

**I have been adopted as God’s child**

*“He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”* (Ephesians 1:5)

**I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins**

*“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”* (Colossians 1:13-14)

## **I am complete in Christ**

*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.* (Colossians 2:9-10)

Loving heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to die for my sin so I may have eternal life. And thank You that in Christ my need for identity, significance, security and a sense of belonging is met.

*Neil Anderson*

***Freedom in Christ Ministries***

*Used by permission*

I have included six of each of Neil’s **Who I Am in Christ** biblical truths above; for the full version from Neil, see the December/January edition of the Link from last year ~ or just ask me to let you have them!

Lord, May Your Word guide me in all things, may I immerse myself in it daily.

Thank You that You have adopted me into Your family. Help me to know each day that I am Secure, Significant and Accepted by You.

May I persevere in doing Your Will today, and in all my days to come.

I ask this in the name of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

*Robin*

## Freedom in Christ - *Postscript*



The series at church concludes at the end of November. Fourteen of us went over to Ryde URC to have a quiet day going through the **Steps to Freedom in Christ** on 12<sup>th</sup> November. This is a crucial part of the process and helps implement things learned in the evening sessions. This was a brilliant day of worship and personal reflection, and we pray that we'll see the fruit of this in our lives and in the life of the church family over the coming months and years.

### **A Big 'Thank You' and Update**

It has been good to again support **Operation Christmas Child** as a church and the good news is that Sandra Snell now has a total of 112 boxes ready to be collected.

These have come from Altitude Church, Sandown Baptist and our own fellowship.

A wonderful amount of money was also given, which has been used for transport costs, for making up more boxes and some towards helping towards providing, "**The Greatest Journey**" booklet's, a lovely publication from **Samaritans Purse** that goes into the boxes, where appropriate. Also, many have given items towards making up more boxes - **everything** given has been used to bless countless dear children who often are in extreme poverty and for whom a shoebox gift is **so** very special.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this wonderful venture - do please pray for the boxes as they wend their way across the world, that all will arrive safely and for dear children also to receive the good news of Jesus, which can be life transforming for them.

If you are able to access Samaritans Purse on their website ([www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)) you can get up to date news and also access very moving videos of children receiving their shoe boxes - and how to donate more if one wants to.

Blessings and love on behalf of those dear children.

Jane H.

## New Year All Island Worship Event



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February @ 19:15

at Christ the King College,  
Wellington Road, Carisbrooke



**Guest Speaker – Rachel Jordan-Wolf**

CEO, Hope Together

...the focus is on the church's response to the cost-of-living crisis and seeking to reach out in practical ways in Jesus' name

Do save the date so you can get along.



**14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

## County Show Ground Northwood

The Lionheart Team are pleased to announce that, following the success of the 2022 Festival and the massive encouragement they have received, they shall gather again in 2023 with a wonderful line-up of Worship Bands and Speakers to be announced in due course.

Plans are also afoot to liaise with Island congregations as we encourage them towards gathering the whole Island Church family on the Sunday morning.

# The Link - December 2022/January 2023

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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|    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  | ■  |    | ■  | ■  | ■  | *  |
| 7  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 8  |    |    |
|    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  | 9  |    | 10 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  | ■  |    | ■  |    |
| 11 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 12 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    | ■  | ■  | ■  |    | ■  | 13 |    |    | ■  | ■  | ■  | ■  | ■  |
| 14 | 15 |    | 16 | ■  | 17 | ■  | ■  | 18 | 19 |    |    |    |    |
| ■  |    | ■  | 20 |    |    |    | ■  |    |    | ■  |    | ■  | ■  |
| 21 |    |    |    | ■  |    | ■  | 22 |    |    |    |    |    | 23 |
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| 25 |    | 26 | ■  | ■  |    | ■  | 27 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|    | ■  | 28 |    |    |    | 29 |    | ■  |    |    | 30 |    |    |
| 31 |    |    | ■  | ■  | ■  |    | ■  | 32 |    | 33 | ■  | ■  |    |
|    | ■  | 34 |    | 35 |    |    |    |    | ■  | 36 |    | 37 |    |
|    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  |    | ■  | 38 |    |
| 39 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    | ■  | ■  | ■  | 41 | 42 |    | ■  | ■  | ■  |    | ■  | ■  |    |
| 43 |    |    |    |    |    | ■  | 44 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

## Across

- 1 - Contest, held annually - we came 2<sup>nd</sup> this year (10, 4)  
7 Port City in NE Italy on the Adriatic (7)  
9 These are given at Christmas (8)  
11 Reason for which something is done (7)  
12 European Sea near Greece (6)  
13 French for *our* (3)  
14 It has branches and leaves (4)  
18 Sea water moving away from the land (6)  
20 First Biblical man (4)  
21 Beware these in March (4)  
22 Person who moves from one country to another (7)  
24 US electric car company (5)  
25 A constrictor snake (3)  
27 This Chris is 'Driving Home for Christmas' (3)  
28 Ibsen's country (6)  
30 Georg – German physicist (3)  
31 French for *south* (3)  
32 North or Mediterranean, for example, (3)  
34 Something becoming popular again (7)  
36 Little sleeps (4)  
38 Oldest active British car manufacturer (2)  
39 Ranges of 'North' and 'South' hills in SE England (5)  
40 Any of 26 small oblong pieces from a game (6)

- 41 Very young child (3)  
43 US stock car racing body (6)  
44 MS email software (7)

## Down

- 1 10<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris (8)  
2 German for *horseman* (6)  
3 A person coming somewhere socially or as a tourist (7)  
4 Saint whose feast day is 26<sup>th</sup> December (7)  
5 French for *we* (4)  
6 Guy - VC, Dambuster (6)  
8 Mayor of Paris (4, 7)  
10 Rub out (5)  
15 - *Ga Ga*, Queen song (5)  
16 Opposite of West (4)  
17 Capital of Poland (6)  
19 Suitcases and bags packed for travelling (7)  
22 Jesus' mum (4)  
23 Travel agent that went bust in 2019 but is now online, (6, 4)  
25 Essex town & borough (8)  
26 One of the disciples (from Scotland?) (6)  
29 Starts 1<sup>st</sup> December (6)  
32 Used in the snow (4)  
33 He played the drums in The Muppets (6)  
35 Roman goddess that 'curried favour'? (5)  
37 Newport housing estate (3)  
42 Either (2)

## Have Fun!

# 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.

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

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

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



## Connection Quiz

### Answers

1. Paddington.
2. Woolwich Arsenal.
3. Liverpool Street Station.
4. Slough.
5. Connection: They are all stations on the recently opened Elizabeth Line.





## The (annual) Christmas Trivia Quiz

1. Which country gives a Christmas tree to the people of Britain each year?
2. Who was crowned King of England on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1066?
3. The carol 'Joy to the World' is based on which Psalm?
4. How many days do we have between Christmas and Epiphany?
5. Whose eyes are all aglow in '*The Christmas Song*'?
6. In the '*Muppets' Christmas Carol*' how many ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge?
7. In '*The 12 Days of Christmas*' how many *Pipers Piping* are there?
8. If there are 366 days in a year. what number day is Christmas Day?
9. Which part of Rudolph's body glows?
10. In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born in?
11. What is 'Happy Christmas' in French?
12. In the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang?
13. Stollen is a cake with fruit and marzipan, traditionally eaten at Christmas and originating from which country?
14. Why did Mary & Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
15. Which main ingredient did Tudor cooks use in mince pies?
16. What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?
17. Does Tuvalu celebrate Christmas Day before or after the UK?
18. When was the first Christmas card sent?
19. Which was the first country to issue a Christmas postage stamp, and when?
20. What Christmas decoration is made from a parasitic plant?

## Can You Guess The Year?

- The Terracotta Army of Qin Shi Huang is discovered in China
- The film *The Man With the Golden Gun* was released in the UK.
- The Carnation Revolution takes place in Portugal.
- And UK No. 1s included:
  - Mud with 'Lonely This Christmas'
  - The Osmonds with 'Love Me For a Reason'
  - Ray Stevens with 'The Streak'
  - Abba with 'Waterloo'

Answer next issue

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

1. Which team won the men's Football World Cup in 1998?
2. In what year was Lake Station on the IoW opened?
3. What is the capital of Luxembourg?
4. What did the Romans call Chichester?
5. Who was King William II's wife?
6. Where is the fresco *The Last Supper* by da Vinci to be found?
7. When was the film 'Mary Poppins' released in the UK?
8. Who wrote the book 'Anna Karenina'?
9. On the periodic table, which element is Ba?
10. Which English brewery makes the beer *London Pride*?

Answers next issue



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

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

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

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

# Last Issue's Solutions

- Guess the year: it was **1982**

- Last month's crossword ↓

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | N | G | U | I | N | S |   | B | O | N | I | O |
| E |   | O |   | H |   | A |   |   | O |   | A |   | U |
| T | R | U | S | T |   | T | H | R | U | S | T |   | I |
| E |   | G |   |   | P | I |   |   | L |   | T |   | S |
| R | E | A | D | Y |   | O | S | L | O |   | I | S | T |
| B |   | T |   | A |   | N |   | E | G |   | E |   | R |
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| G |   |   |   | T | R | E | E |   | A |   | R |   |   |
| H | E | A | T | H |   | D | R | E | A | M | I | E | S |

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

- Nicole with the song 'Ein bißchen Frieden'
- Arsenal
- Andorra la Vella
- Abona
- Steven Sasson (in 1975)
- Accademia Gallery, Florence
- Tottenham Hotspur, in 1901
- Gold, Sword, Juno, Omaha and Utah
- Silver
- René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo

## Sunday Service

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

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

## Weekday Activities

**Monday** 10:00 **Prayer for Israel** on the Church Zoom

**Tuesday** 14:00 **Bible Bite** ministry in church  
*Broadcast live on YouTube*  
19:30 **Prayer Meeting** on Zoom

**Friday** 10:00 **CatURpillars**

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

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

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

**Minister: Rev Brian Harley**



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*Day off: Monday*

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

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