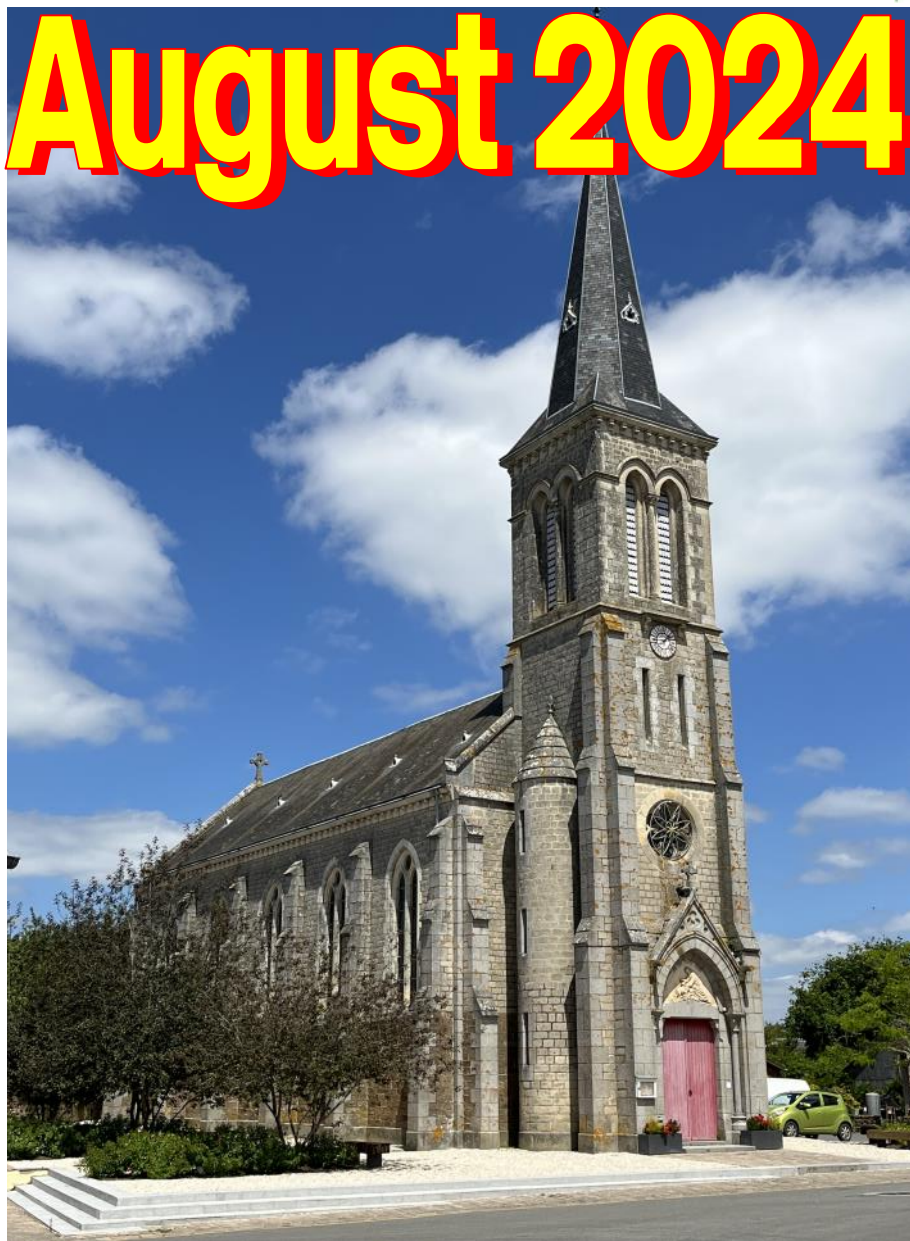


# The Link



# August 2024



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

# View From Number 10



## The government will be on his shoulders

August is a month when the sun often disappears as the kids are off school, but this year I think we are still due some proper summer weather. The Island is busy and buzzing and we must now remember not to go through Lake traffic lights in the late afternoon when all the holidaymakers are heading back to base!

It's also a fresh season as we have two new MPs! We must pray for our new members of Parliament; do remember that a few of our number live in the West constituency. Paul says to Timothy that we must pray for those in authority: *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

We may often be quick to point the finger when we feel things are not right, but how much do we get behind our nation's leaders in heartfelt prayer? As I thought about this subject, I was reminded of those beautiful words from Isaiah 9 that we hear read at Christmas about the coming of God's anointed:

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end."*

May our new Government be upheld upon his strong shoulders. How much we need such firm foundations to be re-established in our modern world. Our society had been largely built upon Christian principles, but much has been watered down and eroded in my lifetime. We must pray and take an active interest in all that is going on locally, nationally and beyond. Significant things have been happening in France and we watch with interest, and some incredulity, the developments across the pond!

I was encouraged to read a post by Andy Flanagan, Executive Director of Christians in Politics (and a co-author of the recent new hymn *We seek your Kingdom*) after the election – he said: “26 of those entering the House of Commons for the first time today are Jesus-followers... and probably more that I don't know.”

This is very positive news. Do please hold these sisters and brothers in your prayers. In recent times, some like Tim Farron (Lib Dem) and Kate Forbes (SNP) have taken a bashing for holding to their Christian perspective. May God's people stand strong in the corridors of power and have a positive influence in the way things shape up in the coming years.

It has been good to be praying for local business as folk from several The Bay churches have spoken blessings over some 80 establishments right along the seafront from Yaverland to the Fisherman's Cottage - and dropped in to tell them. We also had *Free the Wight* in May and our midsummer prayer walk which was a wonderful time of intercession for our community. Do join us for a Prayer Breakfast on 17<sup>th</sup> August - and with folk from Bay churches who will join us for a bring-and-share tea at 17:00 on 1<sup>st</sup> September to prayerfully consider our united work and witness.

Let's be fully engaged in the culture around us and be good news people in what can often be a bad news world. Prayer must be the starting point, but it often leads to God's direction for us to get directly involved in action. Be careful what you pray!

Janet joins me in thanking you for your ongoing love and support,

With very best wishes, .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Please note: - I am on leave from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> August – and then fly to the USA on 20<sup>th</sup>



**PRMI**

**Presbyterian-Reformed  
Ministries International**

I would really value your prayers as I once again fly to North Carolina on 20<sup>th</sup> August for the next Board meeting of PRMI which is from 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

We meet twice a year with a few Zoom meetings in between. I now chair the Nominations Group which seeks potential new Board members, as people can only serve for up to six years, and also lead the monthly Zoom prayer calls.

I am again travelling with my good friend Rev Paul Stokes, who works for PRMI from his home in Plymouth; he hires a car and chauffeurs me around, which is nice! We fly into Charlotte and then drive a couple of hours, and then come back overnight on 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>. It is great to be involved with supporting and giving oversight to this wonderful global ministry – it can be hard work, but always a delight to be among such a great bunch of people doing amazing work.



*The current PRMI Board Members at last summer's meeting*



# Prayer



## Prayer Breakfast

We are holding another one of these informal gatherings on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 09:00** – please come along for fellowship and prayer.



## Tuesday Prayer at 19:30

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

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3242665584?pwd=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 on **07474 273119** (or, as a back-up, Jean Cunningham on: 07854 324809) with your prayer request and she will mobilise a team of over 30 intercessors by forwarding the message to the group. Each of the team will pray and then delete the message.

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

## Prayer for Israel

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

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





# Harvest Supper



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September @ 18:00

Once again we are arranging with Paramount Café to supply us with a "fish & chip" supper as part of our harvest celebrations.

Dave W and Sue W have agreed to organise this and will put up a sign-up sheet during September and will coordinate our food order from the Paramount Café, which will be delivered to the church. This will consist of four choices (with prices) including a vegetarian option. Unfortunately, Paramount cannot provide a gluten-free option but please do come and join in with us and "bring your own". Please look out for further details. The price will cover the cost of the food and refreshments will be provided.

We hope to see as many faces as possible so do consider inviting a friend along. If cost is an issue, please still sign up to come and speak to Brian who will make the necessary arrangements.

All monies will be collected on the day ~ please hand these to Dave/Sue, thanks.

It would be good to have some "cakes" after the meal ~ if you can provide some of these please speak to Dave or Sue.

This is very much a social time so we may plan a welcome activity and could perhaps have a few items of home-spun entertainment to round things off. Please speak to Brian if you have ideas or offers for that.

## Hi Church Family

Sorry it's taken me so long to thank you for my beautiful flowers (pictured below).

My birthday celebrations lasted a month. First of all three of my four brothers came down to stay, with their wives, for four days before my birthday and had a great time.

Then Howard, our youngest son, came for a weekend with our granddaughter.

Then for my birthday, Graham and I went out for a meal. By that time it was the end of May.

In June we went back to Royston, where three of my brothers live. Richard went up to Yorkshire to pick up my fourth brother who had a heart op - another four days of laughter and eating.

Then we came back to the Island for the Bring and Share lunch.

So thank you once again for your love

Sue B x



## **To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**



Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you for all your contributions to your local church in 2023. This includes your financial contribution which plays an important part in the life of the whole church through the Ministries & Mission Fund.

As officers of the denomination, it's good for us to be rooted in a local URC (or LEP) congregation and to work out our faith in the local context, as well as across the entire United Reformed Church. On the other hand, it is good for you in local churches to know that those who serve you nationally understand the local church financial issues as well. And there have been some big issues over the last 12-18 months: inflation, a "cost of living crisis" for many, with energy costs rising unprecedented levels etc. Churches and ministers have had the same challenges as so many others.

The M&M Fund of the URC pays for ministers' stipends, training, Assembly costs and all the central support functions for ministry in the URC across three nations. The M&M Fund's main income is contributions from the churches with some top-up from synods, together with investment income and grants etc.

In 2023 the churches continued to support the M&M Fund to a wonderful level, but there also was significant and generous synod support. Overall, the giving to M&M Fund was slightly ahead of budget at £16.3 million. It was also only 2% down on 2022's result. However, we should note that these figures include the synods' extra contributions this year which amounted to £1.9 million, an increased amount compared to 2022.

The full M&M account for 2023 in summary:

Income: £18.2m

– of which 16.3m was from churches and synods contributions

Expenditure: £19.3m

Deficit: £1.1m



2024 is not going to be an easy year either and we are again budgeting for a deficit. We have a commitment from synods to continue their support on top of church contributions and a plan for balancing the M&M budget over the next 5-7 years, including budget reductions of central costs of 3 to 5% p.a.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2023 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

Stewardship of our resources, personally, as local churches and as a denomination is rarely easy, but it is one of the challenges we are called to in making our faith real. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more continue to respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Alan Yates (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

## Connection Quiz

1. By what pen name is Samuel Langhorne Clemens known?
2. What were the names of the two male cousins in the Dukes of Hazard?
3. Who wrote the book 'Of Mice and Men'?
4. Who wrote the poem 'Dover Beach', first published in 1867?
5. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 4?
6. And do you know where the cover photo was taken? Hint, it was taken recently in Normandie..



Answers are on [page 47](#)

# ENCOUNTER

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

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



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

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

**The next café service will be on  
25<sup>th</sup> August and led by Andy Hough (from  
Bembridge)**

**Café serving from 10.15**

**CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE BAY**

warmly invite you to join us for

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



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



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

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

# 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**



# Church Open Morning

10<sup>th</sup> August

10:00 - 12:00

*With*

- Crafts & Games  
(for children and  
adults)



- Refreshments  
Drinks, Cake,  
etc...

A place to meet up on a  
Saturday morning and have  
some fun  
(and a chat of course)



## *Celebrations*

*In the coming weeks we will be celebrating and giving thanks on two special occasions...*

*On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, Beryl Jeffrey will reach the age of 90! Together with Beryl's family we are planning a birthday tea for her in the church during the afternoon.*

*On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, Brian and Janet will be celebrating 30 years of their ministry to Shanklin URC. On the Sunday before (15<sup>th</sup>) we shall be including a time of thanksgiving and prayer into our service - and there will be cake afterwards!*

*Ann Foster is organising a card for each of these occasions for the fellowship to include their own messages to Beryl and to Brian and Janet. Please do look her out and sign the cards.*

*You are all welcome to come along on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September and join in with these events*

*Thanks*

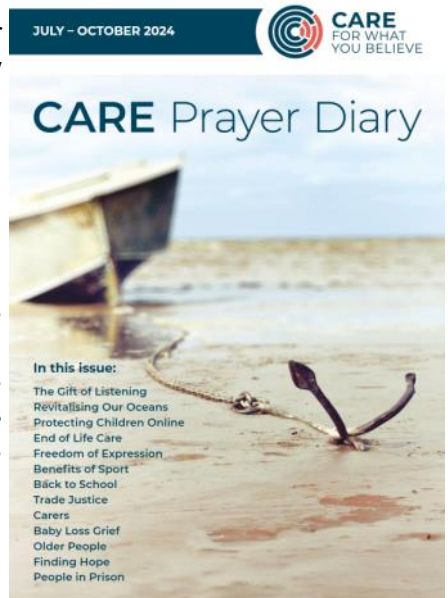
*Robin*

## **Resources to look out for!**

The excellent **CARE Prayer Diary** for 21<sup>st</sup> July – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 is now available in the lobby at church.

The picture on the front is of a rowing boat, anchored securely on the seashore.

Anchors, although small in comparison are vital to hold ships safely, keeping them from being wrecked on rocks, buffeted by storms and drifting with currents. Sometimes boats come to land and sometimes carries the anchor up the beach to a strong fixed place so the vessel doesn't float back out to sea (as on



the cover picture).

Many of us will be familiar with the hymn, 'We have an anchor, that keeps the soul...' and the words of Scripture from Hebrews 6:18-20 maybe were an inspiration for this:

'We who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, it leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. Jesus has already gone in there for us.' NLT

Thank you, dear Lord, that you have made a way for us, that you are our anchor, our refuge and strength and that in all the different seasons of our lives, whether through calm or stormy seas, You will 'hold us fast'.

Do help yourselves to this valuable resource (or go online at <https://care.org.uk/prayer-diary>) – at a time when there are so many uncertainties in our nation and in the world, how important that we bring these to the Lord in prayer and The Prayer Guide help[s us to pray into many areas of our national life with more understanding.

The following topics are covered in this edition:

- The Gift of Listening
- Revitalising Our Oceans
- Protecting Children Online
- End of Life Care
- Freedom of Expression
- Benefits of Sport
- Back to School
- Trade Justice
- Carers
- Baby Loss Grief
- Older People
- Finding Hope
- People in Prison

The Rev Lyndon Bowring, co-founder of CARE, who publish this

## ***The Link*** - August 2024

very helpful prayer booklet has written a very insightful letter entitled, 'Who We Are... Whose we are', which addresses many of the issues facing Christians in our society today, with the continuing advance of secular liberal thinking in British politics and society and how we are called to be God's 'light and salt' in our nation.

Along with the letter is a helpful card giving a prayer for the House of Commons and also information on new resources to look out for over the coming months.

\*\*\*

We are also very blessed with the resources we can access to keep us informed and another very important ministry is The Christian Institute. Their Summer 2024 Newsletter has just been published (available at <https://www.christian.org.uk/resource/>) and brings news of the new government and their thinking on moral issues, together with other important news of what is happening in society and the need for standing firm on Christian values.

Please pray for the Christian Institute (and other Christian ministries, for example Evangelical Alliance, CARE, Christian Concern and others) as they seek to engage with the new government, with their new policy initiatives and priorities. Please pray that MPs and Peers would pass laws that restrain evil and promote good, whether they personally are Christians or not.

Do take a copy of the Summer Newsletter to keep informed and to uphold in prayer those who are seeking to stand for Godly values in our secular world, and for Christian MPs especially whether new to the House of Commons or not.

Finally, our regular resources encouraging us to pray for the Persecuted Church from Open Doors and Release International are available at the back of church and online, together with other encouraging publications, which tell stories of the courage and faith of our brothers and sisters going through times of much testing, but who are holding on firmly to the one who alone can 'hold them fast'.

Blessings in Jesus' Name – and do ask if you'd like to know more about any of the above.

Jane H

*Sources: Care/Christian Institute*

# Shanklin Town Community & Youth Brass Bands



are holding a...

**Charity Concert**

*on*

***Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September***

19:30

St Boniface Church, Bonchurch

Admission Free

**Retiring Collection in aid of  
Bonchurch**



## Follow the Leader ~ Part 2

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

Last time I asked the question “If we have chosen to follow Jesus, what should our walk be based upon?” and we began by looking at the power that Christ bestows on us as we choose to follow our Leader... now we turn to the practicalities of demonstrating our faith in a world which so desperately needs to hear the Good News. Here is Neil Anderson on the subject:

\*\*\*

### **Demonstrating What We Believe**

***“In the same way, faith by itself if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:17)***

Faith is an *action* word. We cannot passively respond to God.

You may have heard the story of the circus performer who strung a wire over a river and proceeded to ride across it on a unicycle. When he returned, everyone applauded. Then he asked, "Who believes I can do that with a man on my shoulders?" Everyone responded in affirmation. He said, "All right, who will hop on?" The person who hops on is the person who really believes. Faith is not



just giving credence to something or someone. Faith is demonstrated reliance upon something or someone.

Faith has the same operating dynamic as *agape* love. When we refer to love as a noun, we're talking about character: patience, kindness, etc. When we say that God is love, we are describing His character. Paul says the goal of our instruction is love; therefore, the goal of Christian education is character transformation.

However, when love is used as a verb, it is expressed by action:

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son....” (John 3:16)***

If we say we love someone and do nothing on their behalf, it's only sentimentality and not *agape* love. True love is expressed by meeting the needs of others.

Faith has a similar dynamic. When using faith as a noun, we're talking about what we believe. But if we're talking about faith as a verb, then it is expressed in the way we live. James says it like this:

***“faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say ‘You have faith; I have deeds’. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds” (James 2:17&18)***

We demonstrate what we believe by how we live our lives. If we believe it, we will do it. If we don't, then what we believe is just wishful thinking.

**Lord, help me put feet to my faith every day and not rely on past accomplishments. I rejoice in Your eternal promises, Lord. You are my Rock which never crumbles.**

\*\*\*

## Confessing What We Believe

***“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved” (Romans 10:9&10)***

One primary means by which we express our belief is confession - verbally expressing what we believe. God requires us to take our stand in this world. Jesus made this plain:

***“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38)***

***“For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matthew 12:37)***

***“Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them” (Mark 11:23)***

Jesus does not say we shall have whatever we believe, but we shall have whatever we believe and confess. Confession gives expression to what is believed. The confession of the mouth must accurately express the belief of the heart. To defeat Satan, we must speak forth the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6).

In our English translations, two different words are used for the Word of God. The most common is *logos* and it indicates the whole revealed Word of God (John 1:1). The other word is *rhema*. There is only one Word of God, but the emphasis of *rhema* is in its expression. We are to hide the whole Word (*logos*) in our hearts, and when Satan attacks, we stand against him by confessing God's Word (*rhema*).

Confessing what we believe gives proof to our faith. Confession doesn't create faith; faith makes true confession possible. Confession is agreeing with God. It is living in the light by letting our life and our mouth demonstrate what we believe in our heart.

**Father, I desire that what my heart believes and what my mouth confesses today line up with the truth of Your Word.**

*Neil Anderson*

**Freedom in Christ Ministries**

**Daily Devotionals**

*Used by permission*

Our aim, as Christians, as followers of Christ, must be to do the Father's will, to follow our leader, the Lord Jesus Christ, and to show the world, in our actions and words, what we believe.

In the words of Graham Kendrick and Isaac Watts ~ *let's learn how to serve Him, to enthrone Him, to put each other's needs before our own ~ for His Love, so amazing, so divine, demands our souls, our lives, our all!*

**Father God, help me to seek out Your will for my life,**

**Help me to allow Your Son to lead me,**

**Help me by Your Spirit's leading, to demonstrate what I believe in the way I live my life and give me the strength to speak out Your Word to a world in desperate need of the Hope that it brings.**

*Robin*

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

## **Street Pastor News**

First, I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone that donated, hosted and prayed for the Street Pastors at the IoW Festival. The mainland volunteers have said how lovely their hosts were and greatly appreciated a bed after each of their patrols.



We had an amazing time, albeit very tiring. I personally worked between 16-18hrs a day from the Thursday to the Monday of the festival. The average step count the volunteers had was 20,000 steps each patrol, I walked miles just trying to find the festival radio hut the first day. The volunteers went home with some impressive blisters and aching legs.

Some stats for you from the festival patrols: -

- Number of patrols/teams over four days = 29
- Amount of man hours whilst on patrol = 995hrs
- Water Bottles given out = 472
- Foil Blankets = 56
- Flipflops = 10
- Conversations = Hundreds

### **What we have been doing since the festival**

Since the festival, we have been carrying out our normal patrols in Ryde and Newport.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of July we launched a Safe Space at Newport Bus Station in partnership with Southern Vectis and Hampshire & IoW Constabulary. This is currently in the Southern Vectis Travel Shop, which we have sole access to for the Safe Space. We would love for this to be open every Friday and Saturday night but unfortunately, we currently do not have the volunteers for this to happen, especially during the summer when we have so many other events we are covering. Currently this will be open two nights a month and on particular nights when the bus station could be busier

than usual.

On the launch night we had two significant incidents, one involving a reported missing 12 year old who we found and kept safe in the Safe Space until his mum came to collect him and the other was a vulnerable female who didn't feel safe going on the bus home as her boyfriend had told her he was going to beat her up. We kept her safe with us until her bus came, spoke to the driver who was not going to let anyone on that matched the description of the boyfriend and make sure she only got off at her stop when the person who was meeting her was present.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, we also had a stand at the County Show for the first time, where we could inform people about Street Pastors, the Safe Space and the work we are doing to tackle the anti-social behaviour around Newport and Ryde.

We carried out two patrols on the Friday and Saturday for the pride weekend in Ryde, which was alongside the security company that we work with on our regular patrols, lots of conversations had and lots of sweets given out.

We also have a stand at the Lionheart festival on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July, which we will then go straight into patrolling at Cowes Week after. We also have patrols out on Scooter Rally Weekend.

The other project I am working on is called 'Isle Be'. This is a new initiative between the IoW Council, Street Pastors, Aspire and Revive.

This initiative is to help tackle the anti-social behaviour in Newport and Ryde. We will be patrolling at earlier times of around 17:00-20:00, 2-3 times a week, when the youth are generally causing more issues in the towns.

We really need more volunteers so we can extend the patrols, open the Safe Space more often and do more events.

If you feel like you would want to volunteer, then please get in touch. If you feel you cannot walk around on patrols, then the Safe Space would be perfect for you.

Suzanne

[uzanne@iowstreetpastors.org.uk](mailto:uzanne@iowstreetpastors.org.uk)





**NEWPORT  
BUS  
STATION**

**SAFE  
SPACE**



**A safe place to...**



**WAIT  
FOR FRIENDS**



**RECEIVE  
FIRST AID**



**GET ADVICE  
& SUPPORT**



**HELP GETTING  
HOME**



**REPORT ASB  
OR ANY CONCERNS**

**Pop in & talk to us!**

In partnership with



# Sovereign Dying

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

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

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

"I will not leave you comfortless. I **will** come to you." John14:18 (emphasis mine) "and lo, I am with you **always** even to the end of the world. Always (remaining with you

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

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

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

Richard Ash-Lameer

*(Quote used with permission)*

## Open the Book Update - 'Come Over and Help Us'

The children of Broadlea school in Lake loved watching and taking part in 'Daniel in the Lions' Den'. This was a one-off presentation to show how Open the Book works. As a result, we have been invited to take regular assemblies there beginning in September. How amazing to have non-faith schools asking Christians to come in and present God's truth to them.



Schools are required by law to hold 'a daily act of collective worship which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. But, within days of the new government taking office, humanists again asked for this requirement to be scrapped. We need to grasp every opportunity while the schools are still open to us.

The government-funded 'Avanti Secondary School' in London is on

the short list for a prize in the 'World's Best Schools' awards. Children participate in yoga and worship Hindu gods before lessons. The story of 'The Fiery Furnace' began with Nebuchadnezzar





demanding that everyone must bow down to his statue whenever the instruments sounded.



Neither the exiled Jews nor Jean (our 91 year old storyteller) did so. Only Shadrach is shown being tied up ready to be thrown into the flames. The parts of Meshach, Abednego and the angel were played by children.

The good folk of St Saviour on the Cliff welcomed Open the Book during the morning service on July 7<sup>th</sup>, and some joyously participated in following Moses through the wilderness.

Praise God that we now have the nucleus of a team, but more volunteers are still needed before we can commit to serving Broadlea.



It's sad when some people criticise Open the Book because we *only* tell Bible stories without any interpretation. This wonderful testimony comes from a team on the mainland who were presenting the story of Martha criticising Mary for sitting at the feet of Jesus:

The hush upon the assembly was tangible, and after the conclusion, the teacher in charge - a lovely young woman - began to weep visibly. She took a moment to regain her composure and we were concerned in case something was wrong. However, as she stood in front of the children, with tears still pouring down her cheeks, she said, "Oh children, I have had a moment! We are all so busy, we never have time just to sit and listen to one another. And we never find time to listen to Jesus."

We, the team, would have broken the rules had we gone that far, but this teacher had been visibly moved by God as the story unfolded. She had been challenged about her own life, and the next time we went to the School (not a faith school) the Head Teacher came to

## ***The Link*** - August 2024

see us to tell us that this teacher had shared her testimony in the staff room afterwards and they could all see how impacted she had been. The Head Teacher gave each of us a hug and thanked us. That teacher who was so moved, still loves our assemblies, and I smile to see how God can water the seeds of His Word that we scatter, even though our own hands are tied when it comes to sharing anything beyond the story. The Bible does tell us that, "His Word is active and alive, sharper than any two edged sword...." Hebrews 4:12



You need to weather the storms of life, to appreciate the beauty of a rainbow.



# FOCUS

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

***Iran's new president unlikely to help Christian converts***

Iran's new president, Masoud Pezeshkian, is relatively moderate – but an Open Doors expert doesn't think this will easily lead to religious freedom for Iranian Christians.

Iran's new president is unlikely to bring greater freedoms to the country's Christian minority, says an Open Doors analyst. That includes eight Christian converts who were recently sent to prison, facing a total sentence of up to 45 years.

## **A moderate president might not help religious freedom**

Two rounds of voting resulted in a majority for the Reformist Masoud Pezeshkian, who beat the ultraconservative Saeed Jalili last week. The turnout for voting was below 50%.

“His election won't bring any radical change, simply because the power is in unelected hands, not the elected ones.”

## **Michael Bosch, Open Doors**

“The fact that Pezeshkian, a rather unknown Reformist lawmaker, was able to beat the hardline candidates shows how low the support is for the hardliners among the Iranian population,” says Michael Bosch, persecution analyst with Open Doors' World Watch Research unit. “However, his election won't bring any radical change, simply because the power is in unelected hands, not the elected ones.”

During the leadership of a previous moderate president, Hassan Rouhani (2013-2021), religious freedoms for Christians and other religious minorities did not improve. “Protests were still bloodily suppressed, and Christians kept receiving high prison sentences during Rouhani's term,” says Bosch. “So, we will see a continuation of the arrests and heavy prison sentences, especially since the regime knows it doesn't have much support and therefore has to

crack down hard on all dissent. This affects Christians as well as other minority groups.”

### **Prison, fines and floggings**

In recent months, Iranian authorities have intensified their crackdown on Christian converts and those active in sharing the gospel, with many receiving harsh prison sentences.

In June, the Ahvaz Revolutionary Court found eight Christians guilty after they had been arrested over the Christmas period in the western city of Izeh, reports Article 18.

While not all members of the group can be identified, it was Yasin Mousavi who reportedly received the highest sentence of 15 years in prison for ‘membership in a group intent on disrupting national security’ and ‘propaganda against the regime’.

“The worry about staying anonymous is a sign of the rising pressure on Christians, as part of the general increase in oppression in Iran.”

### **Michael Bosch, Open Doors**

Other converts who received prison sentences include Hamid Afzali, who received 10 years, while Nasrullah Mousavi, Bijan Qolizadeh and Iman Salehi were each given five years. Another two people, whose names are not yet known, were given two years each, while Zahrab Shahbazi was sentenced to nine months in prison. A few weeks earlier, another member of the group who was arrested at the same time, Esmail Narimanpour, was sentenced to five years.

This is on top of many other believers who were arrested last year, who have chosen not to reveal their identities. “It is worrying that almost all Christians detained during the two main waves of arrests in 2023 want to remain anonymous, out of fear of being exposed to reprisals from the Iranian authorities,” Bosch says. “Several were sentenced to months or years in prison, while others had to pay fines or were flogged, but the worry about staying anonymous is a sign of the rising pressure on Christians, as part of the general increase in oppression in Iran.”

### **No sign of improvement in Iran**

Despite being a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which enshrines religious freedoms, Iran is ranked number 9 on the Open Doors World Watch List of countries

where Christians face the most persecution for their faith.

While the constitution guarantees religious freedom for the ethnic Christian minorities such as Armenians, Iranian converts to Christianity face high levels of pressure involving social and legal discrimination, including prison sentences.

Despite these concerns, Christians in Iran know that all things are possible with God. Please join them in praying for religious freedom in the country, and for the men and women who are currently in prison for loving Jesus.

## **Please Pray**

- For God to minister to His children in prison with love, mercy and comfort
- For religious freedom to improve during the new presidential term
- That the gospel should spread in Iran, and more Iranians hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

\*\*\*

## **How many Christians are there in Iran**

Almost everyone in Iran is Muslim – there are believed to be about 1.2 million Christians in a population of almost 87 million.

## **How are Christians persecuted in Iran**

Conversion from Islam to Christianity is illegal in Iran, and anyone caught as a convert can be arrested and imprisoned. The authorities view conversion as an attempt by the West to undermine Islam and the Islamic government of Iran.

This means that anyone who is discovered to be a member of a house church can be charged with a crime against national security, which can lead to long prison sentences.

Anyone arrested or detained can be tortured and abused while in jail. Some Christians are released and monitored – and know a second arrest would mean a long prison sentence.

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



CHARITY NO  
1120920

# FUNDRAISING IN SUPPORT OF HELP *for* BBQ HEROES

We are holding another BBQ on the date below. Please come and support our armed forces and local charities, thank you.

When: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Time 16:00 - 19:00 (Food from 17:00)

Also new this year, we will be additionally supporting a local Isle of Wight Charity decided by the use of a local poll on Miriam's Facebook events page

Venue: 93 Lushington Hill, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4NR (next to Wootton Bridge Car Boot Field)

*Huge variety of homemade cakes for sale, crafts for sale, children's lucky dip, sweets stall, guess the weight of the cake, tombola, etc.*

RSVP (for catering): Miriam or Malc: 07891 935221 or 883811

A suggested price list will be available for food.

All proceeds go directly to the above charities



## Afternoon Cream Tea at Carisbrooke Priory

One Saturday, back in July 2019, we had an enjoyable afternoon at Carisbrooke Priory with a delicious cream tea. Sylvia L-F is thinking that as this was five years ago, and pre-Covid, perhaps it's time we should do it again.

So if you are interested, please speak to Sylvia, who will liaise with The Priory etc. Please let her know if you are able to provide transport

## The Donkey

When i lived on a farm many years ago

Helped look after the animals and they kept me on the go

Ducks and geese and chickens waiting for their food

Rabbits, cats and dogs there was really a brood

Up early in the morning for milking to begin

The cows in the barn were making quite a din

Of all the animals on the farm my favourite one of all

Was the little donkey, oh so small

He's longsuffering, faithful and true

All his life he'll give good service to you

It's no wonder Jesus chose a donkey when he rode to victory

For when you look upon a donkey's back the **cross** you will see

Mary Fryatt

## **Ablaze Arts Festival**

**This will be taking place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at two venues: The Priory in Carisbrooke and Aspire in Ryde.**

I believe it is significant for this time as The Spirit moves through His Church in power and direction. This will be a free ticketed event so be sure to put it into your diaries.

It was last held at Aspire in 2019, a celebration of the creativity that Father God has given His children, one that overflows with His love, ability and mercy for all.

Now we have another great opportunity, to offer Him praise through what we create, whether it be poetry, prayer, painting, drama, sewing, cooking or music. The list is endless. Put simply, whatever creative gift we have received from The Lord and would like to share with others.

This event will be a great opportunity to both demonstrate these gifts and to discover new ones. It is also an invitation from the Church family on the Isle of Wight to everyone in the community. It will be free of charge in every way.

There will be living workshops to help rediscover any hidden talents that have been buried by life's difficult journey and a chance to participate and to grow and become the people we were designed to be.

We believe that our Heavenly Father is passionate about reaching out to us all, bringing healing and transformation through the Arts.

Our prayer is that you will join us on these exciting two days and see that this is an invitation to participate by sharing your gifts, and also to receive the blessings by experiencing the light of His presence, newfound freedom and healing through the Arts. Jesus encourages us to let our lights shine and not keep them hidden.

*"In the same way let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father"* **Matthew 5:16 NLT**

*"The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognise our good work among you"* **2 Corinthians 3:2.**

If you feel and know that you are able to contribute through your gifting, then please speak to your church leaders or connect with me on [suezi@mail.com](mailto:suezi@mail.com). Let's set the Island Ablaze with His Glory

Blessing and love in Jesus Name,  
**Suzi Anderson & the Ablaze Team**



## Shoebox Appeal – Samaritan's Purse

This can be a good time of year to look out for items to fill our shoeboxes, with summer also providing an opportunity to gather items together in preparation for the coming autumn appeal.

The shoeboxes are such a blessing to the children who receive them.

Hopefully we shall have some leaflets shortly at church, and one can also go online at [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox) to see the kind of things that will be suitable for the children. Items you can include: cuddly toy, football and pump, toy car, doll, etc

Do ask if you'd like to know more.

Blessings in Jesus' Name

Jane H





## **The Untold Story**

*by Lindsay Greaves*

Nothing's new!

Jude always did command most of the attention at home.

When he actually left, I have to admit there was quite a bit of relief in the household.

He and I were different from the word go. He just couldn't accept anything without questioning it.

I just got on with life and had few expectations.

We lived on a farm that was one of the few that actually made money. Dad was hard working and intelligent. He expected us boys to pull our weight but always told us of the rewards. He said frequently,

'All this is actually yours – so everything you give to it you will get back and more'

That made so much sense to me – but clearly not to Jude

My brother's heart was often elsewhere .... longing and dreaming of a better life as he put it.

He had friends in the city who he visited about twice a year and when he returned the last time, I knew something had changed. He began to dress differently and seemed even more distant than usual. His daily jobs were left half done and he even began to criticise Dad for the lack of new innovations on the farm. He seemed to be looking down on Dad.

It shocked me to hear his superior critical tone.

Dad was firm but patient with him .... which annoyed me. I thought he needed a good beating and there were times I got close to it. But it was not my place and I knew Dad was not one for that kind of reaction.

So, I just seethed silently much of the time and went back out to the fields.

Some of the farm labourers had become my friends. They worked hard and appreciated the generous wages that the farm provided.

Dad even gave them accommodation in one of the barns. It was basic but met their needs. Sometimes they felt more like my family and I often used the barn to relax after work and eat with them.

They were uncomplicated and sometimes I was even envious of their responsibility-free lives as hired hands.

One summer evening I heard a commotion from the house.

Jude was shouting at Dad.... something about money and freedom .... then it went very quiet.

I walked over to make sure Dad was OK.

As I walked in the kitchen, he was handing over a leather pouch full of money to Jude who was red faced and breathing fast.

It was horribly tense and Dad was clearly upset.

Through his tears he said to Jude

'Take it – it's yours anyway. I hoped that you would plough it back in to our home – but you are an adult and you are free to do with this inheritance whatever you want'

And that was it. He was gone without a backward glance.

Clutching the pouch and a bag of clothes he disappeared down the path and through the gate. Dad even followed him to watch his fading form head towards the city.

I was in shock at Jude's audacity at taking off like this. And angry. So angry at his selfish greed and his rejection of us. I knew he would waste the money and I hated him for his lazy lack of principles and the advantage he had taken of Dad and me. We, his own family who were working so hard all our days. Never a word of appreciation from him ever .... even when I had to do his jobs for him.

I saw Dad leaning sadly on the gate much later that evening. Had he even moved I wondered? Though I knew him to be a man of great generosity and integrity.... I could not help judging him at that moment.... as weak and somewhat foolish.

It became a familiar sight. The back of an old man leaning on the gate peering into the distance. In the evenings he often came to find me. All he wanted was to talk about Jude – showing me photos of when we were young and recounting stories of our escapades. But I

## **The Link** - August 2024

honestly couldn't be bothered with it and began to avoid him and spent more time with my own friends outside.

There was more work than ever on the farm and I couldn't help the growing resentment in my heart.

I just didn't feel the loss. To be honest I felt like I just had to keep working so that I could somehow guarantee my share of the inheritance.... and prove to Dad that I was worthy of it.

In the back of my mind, I wondered if my brother's actions might affect what I was due.

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Months passed.

Seasons came and went.

Every evening Dad waited by the gate.

One chilly autumn evening I heard Dad shouting my name outside in the yard. I was in the barn and rushed out in time to see Dad hitching up his robe and running out of the gate. He was shouting to a ragged figure toiling up the road. I stopped in my tracks – and watched with a sinking in my stomach as I saw them embrace.... dad wrapping his big old arms around what looked like a vagabond.

As they came through the gate into the farm, I hid behind a hedge so I didn't have to pretend to be happy. The conversation I overheard was one that threw me into a bitter turmoil.

Jude was saying,

'Dad I know I don't deserve any favours – I've really messed up my life but I'm penniless and hungry and don't know where else to turn. I'll gladly come and work for you as a labourer but I know I can't come back as a son because of what I've done'.

I was happy to hear him so down and out. It was entirely appropriate to expect the minimum mercy.

But what happened next shocked me to the core.

Dad called to the servants in the barn to go and get Jude a new robe, a ring and some sandals... and prepare a fatted calf so we could all celebrate his return.

I watched the bizarre scene unfold from my hiding place. Over his filthy stinking body Dad placed the robe and on his dirty hands he placed the ring and on the grimeiest feet he put on the sandals.

With tears of joy running down his face he made this shocking announcement to the household

'Let's eat and be merry for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again – he was lost and now he is found'

The sheer injustice of it hit me like a truck. Nausea rose in the pit of my stomach.

I fled and hid away in the back of the barn out of sight.

\*\*\*\*\*

Later I hear music and soon the door of the barn opens. One of the hired labourers is looking for me with a message from Dad to come join the party. Rage is consuming me and I can barely speak. Then Dad appears at the barn door and is entreating me to come to the celebration.

I cannot contain the flood of bitterness that spills out as I spit these words into his face.

'I've been slaving away for years for you and I've done everything you asked me and you've never even given me a small goat so I could have a party with my friends... but... but... this son of yours who squandered everything and has been with prostitutes – you've killed the fatted calf for him. You have been so grossly unfair!! ... So, **No No No** – I will not celebrate this homecoming... just leave me alone'

Silence falls in the barn as the words hang heavily in the air.

Dad moves towards me and puts his hand on my shoulder.

He shakes his head and says softly:

'My child... you are always with me and all that is mine is yours. But it is necessary for us to rejoice because this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live. He was lost and now is found'

I am rooted silently to the spot, my throat tightening and my breath rasping...

With a heavy heart I watch him leave.

## **The Link** - August 2024

Slumping heavily on to a hay bale I cry. Angry sad hot tears... wailing from somewhere deep in my belly like an abandoned child.

Still my feet refuse to carry me to the party.

\*\*\*\*\*

It's been a few months now. He's a lot different from the old Jude I have to admit.

He and Dad are closer and Jude seems content to help him run the farm and the business. They seem to spend hours talking and laughing and eating together.

I push it all to the back of my mind but every so often that fatted calf incident comes to mind and my blood still boils. When I see Jude in his robe and sandals and the ring flashing on his finger a cold mist covers my heart and bitter thoughts rise like bile.

'Why does he have to swan about in a robe all day? I don't wear mine... or my ring and sandals because I'm working hard all day and its not appropriate. I'd rather wear what the slaves are wearing. Yes, I am his son but I don't have to advertise it. I'm just as happy being with the servants in the barn...'

Come to think of it... I don't even know where my sandals are any more... it's such a long time since I wore them. My robe is wrapped up somewhere safe... and my ring is in my old bedroom in a box.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tomorrow is the one-year anniversary of Jude coming home and Dad wants us to eat together and have another celebration.

I make my excuses and decide to take the day off and get away. They are disappointed ...but not surprised. They both try to get close to me but something in me cannot make the move back.

I'm going to walk to a nearby river and have a swim and relax.....by myself.

I'm choosing solitude more these days.

As I get nearer to the river, I hear a noise coming from down the bank. Peering down there's a sheep with an unusually heavy fleece tangled up in some bushes.

She's making the occasional weak bleat so I climb down and with

my knife and begin to cut away the dirty overgrown fleece to free her. As I do, she slides down to the water's edge and eagerly drinks from the flowing water.

I watch as she slowly revives. It's a good feeling – to rescue life.

I wonder how she got in such a bad state.

Clearly the local shepherd is not doing his job.

Into the quiet of the countryside comes a repeating call. It's a man shouting out a strange name.

I scramble up the bank and see the local shepherd who I've actually known all my life.

'I think your lost sheep is down here near the water' I tell him. 'She was caught by her fleece but I managed to cut her free'

His face breaks out into a huge smile of relief as he thanks me profusely for rescuing his naughty Hepzibah as he calls her.

Hepzibah?

I ask him why her fleece is in such a mess and why she is straying so far from the flock.

He sighs deeply and sits down on a tree stump holding my gaze with his piercing eyes.

"I've been a shepherd all my life and, in every flock, there always is one – or two... who just seem to want to do their own thing. Hepzibah has been mine since a lamb but she is never content with the grass I lead her to. She always wants to go in the next field and gets stuck in hedges and fences all the time. She kicks up a fuss at fleecing time and runs off... she doesn't realise the cut will make her feel better. So, she's full of ticks and itchy bites and very uncomfortable. Quite often I have to leave the flock in the pen and come searching – like today."

"Why do you keep her?" I ask. "You have about a hundred others. You could save yourself a lot of trouble if you just left her to her own devices. She doesn't deserve your care. She's only a sheep after all."

The shepherd looks at me quizzically. Then at Hepzibah who is munching grass nearby.

## ***The Link*** - August 2024

“I am a good shepherd and I will always go looking for a lost sheep. Just like a father with a lost son I will never give up looking until they are home. This is MY Hepzibah – she was lost and now she is found. The other sheep have always been mine and have all the pasture they want – but every time Hepzibah wanders and is found... I always rejoice. And by the way thank you for being a part of her rescue this time”

I am pierced by his eyes but his words are cutting deep into my heart.

Because they are a repeat of my Dad's words in the barn that day.

And his eyes are full of the same look of love.

At this moment something is happening to me deep on the inside.

There's a veil being lifted from my eyes.

Like the dawn rising after an endless night.

I see.

I understand.

I'm waking up.

Although I was born into a family... I have never owned my heritage. Never really known my Dad. Or even wanted to.

Never owned my family's name or status.

Living on the outside looking in. Missing out on the very heart and purpose of being alive and belonging.

Never seeing the meaning or the full destiny of my life as part of an eternal plan.

Living in a barn when I could be fully at home in the house.

I am pierced to the heart by the realisation that I too have done what Jude has done... only worse. My heart and mind had left Dad years ago... but I had stayed nearby... using hard work to make sure I earned my inheritance.

The shepherd is staring at me and asking me if I'm okay. There are silent tears rolling down my face as I whisper out loud my Dad's words on the night of the homecoming celebration...



“But my child – you have always been with me – and everything I have is yours”

At that moment Hepzibah climbs out of the water, struggles up the bank and lays down at our feet.

\*\*\*\*\*

The walk back home is like being in a dream. I'm mourning for the lost years... then crying with joy at the prospect of restoration with my Dad... and Jude. I've witnessed the grace with which Jude was received back... I know I have nothing to fear.

That kind of grace from Dad.... I know it has no limits.

Jude has paved the way for me to see that first hand.

The music from the party reaches my ears from half a mile away. I'm nervous and excited to enter into what I know was going to be a whole new life.

I approach the farm door and catch my breath as I see something familiar on a chair next to the door.

It's my robe.

I lift it up and see that underneath are my sandals.

I put them on.

It's been so long but they still fit.

The robe is so beautiful and has lost none of its colour or richness.

I knock at the door.

I know I could go straight in..... but it feels right to have the door opened to me from the inside.

Dad and Jude are both standing there with arms wide open

'Only one thing missing' says Dad

As he slips the ring on to my finger

And they both hug me very tightly.

*Used by permission*

# Good News for All!

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

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

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



This month's edition (available in church and to read online at [www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionpage.htm](http://www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionpage.htm)) has several great articles, including the headline article 'Murder Halted - would-be murderer halted in his tracks by God's intervention'.

Other contributions include:

- **Eze Does It** - England footballer Eze at ease with life because of peace within
- **Dennis Quaid** - Star of the new Reagan movie shares the famous President's faith
- **Elvis's Bible** - Auctioned-off Bible shows the iconic singer's favourite verses
- **Biker Rev** - Harley-Davidson riding vicar says God never writes us off
- **Bible Was Right - Again** - Another discovery in Jerusalem proves the Bible right
- **Mentored By The Beatles** - Musician who knew The Beatles finds knowing Jesus is far better

## Good News... for a change



# Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Time	Details
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:30	Communion Service led by Malc and Ann
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:00	Church Open Morning
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:30	Sheilagh speaking
Thu	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	17:00	Elders' BBQ
Sat	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	09:00	Prayer Breakfast
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:30 19:30	Brian speaking Brian and team leading at Rylstone
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:30	Encounter Café Service led by Andy Hough
Sat	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	15:30	Celebration Tea for Beryl's 90 <sup>th</sup>
Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	17:00	Bay Churches bring-and-share tea at URC
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup> Sep	18:30	Shared Worship resumes – venues tbc
Fri	20 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	18:00	Fish and Chip Supper
Sat	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	12:00	Lorenne and Dave's Wedding
Thu	26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	19:30	Church Meeting
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10:30	Harvest Encounter Café

## Connection Quiz Answers

1. **Mark Twain.**
2. **Bo and Luke Duke.**
3. **John Steinbeck**
4. **Matthew Arnold.**
5. **Connection: they are the first four books in the New Testament.**
6. **This issue's cover photo was of l'Église Notre Dame, Meil-Hermei, Normandie, France (© C Sparks).**



The Puzzle Pages

# Sudoku

*A numerical placement puzzle!*

To solve it you need to fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

**Enjoy!**

*Difficulty level: medium*

	2		5				7	
5					7			8
		4					6	9
8	4							5
3			9		5		8	
2	9							3
		3					4	6
4					8			1
	5		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				32		33					34	
	35						36						

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

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

## Across

1 1970 men's FA Cup winners (7)

5 Nordic country (6)

8 A series of waterfalls in the Stelemark region of Austria (10)

10 Literary term for neither (3)

11 Organisation created by the 1957 Treaty of Rome *initials* (3)

13 Pronoun that refers to a female (3)

16 Cylinders on which materials can be wound (5)

17 Well known phrase from John 3:3 (4 5)

19 Level surface (4)

21 Port for Caen, Normandie (10)

25 North, Irish, Med, e.g. (3)

26 Used to unlock doors (4)

28 Owns, possesses (3)

30 He phoned home in 1982 (2)

31 Absence of difficulty/effort (4)

34 Marine mammal (5)

35 Land surrounded by water (6)

## Down

1 IoW castle near Newport (11)

2 City on the River Exe (6)

3 Object on runners for transportation on snow or ice (4)

4 Scottish Gaelic name for Scotland (4)

6 Further, additional (5)

7 Good king who looked out on the feast of Stephen (9)

8 Belgian city known in Dutch as Leper, home to the Menin Gate (5)

12 Mobile phone operator, owned by BT (2)

14 Santa usually says 3 of this (2)

15 C'est avec, en français (4)

18 Stern of a ship (3)

20 Bread exposed to heat (5)

22 Used in pens (3)

23 A vertical section between the treads of a staircase (5)

24 Dull pains (5)

27 French for east (3)

29 Health resort (3)

31 C'est à, en français (3)

33 Spanish for yes (2)

34 You now need this when voting *initials* (2)

## Can You Guess The Year?

- Ferry MS Herald of Free Enterprise capsizes leaving Zeebrugge
- Everton win the Football League First Division title
- British Rail renames Second class travel as Standard class
- The Channel Tunnel is given the go-ahead.
- And UK No. 1s included:
  - Ferry Aid with '*Let It Be*'
  - The Firm with '*Star Trekkin*'
  - The Bee Gees with '*So You Win Again*'
  - Starship with '*Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now*'

*Answer next issue*

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

1. Who won the 100<sup>th</sup> Men's FA Cup?
2. What is the official hymn of the Boy's Brigade?
3. What's the capital of Normandie, France?
4. Who was the first Plantagenet monarch?
5. What was the Greek currency before the Euro?
6. What is the motto of the RAF?
7. Who was first to fly across the Channel?
8. Who wrote the book the Great Escape?
9. On the periodic table, which element is Sb?
10. Which country was the latest to win the women's World Cup?

*Answers next issue*

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

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

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

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

# Last Issue's Solutions

- Guess the year: it was 1962

- Last issue's crossword ↓

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

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

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Dennis Taylor            | Unto Nation                               |
| 2. RAF March Past           | 7. John Alcock & Arthur Whitten<br>-Brown |
| 3. Riga                     | 8. Paul Brickhill                         |
| 4. Henry VII                | 9. Tungsten                               |
| 5. Peseta                   | 10. USA                                   |
| 6. Nation Shall Speak Peace |   |



