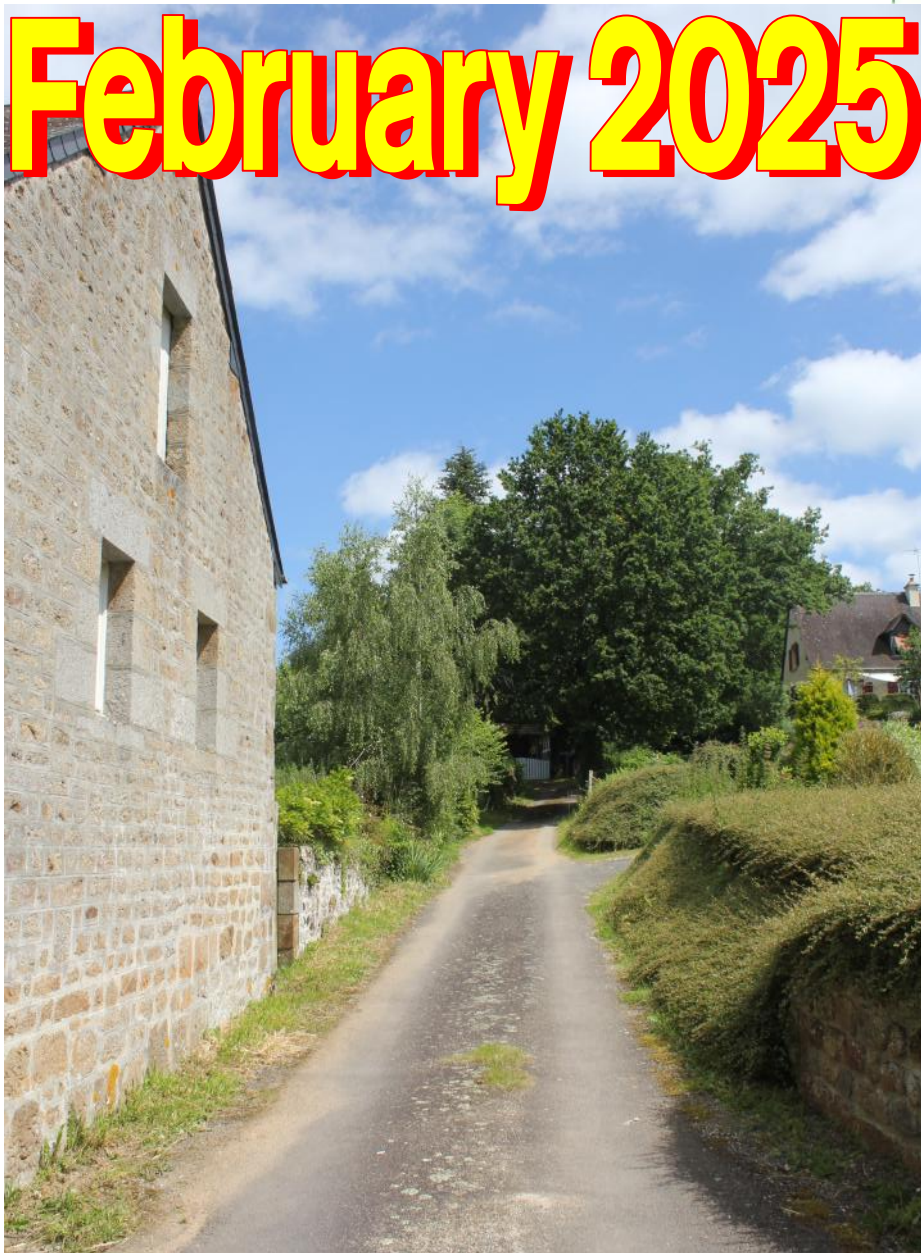


# The Link



# February 2025



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

# View From Number 10



## A growth mindset

The URC Wessex Synod has generously sponsored three Saturday events for local congregations to explore the resource - **Leading your Church into Growth** (LYCIG for short!). This is because they want churches to think actively about strategies for growth rather than simply managing decline!

This has been developed over a number of years in Anglican circles but one of my GEAR friends in Yorkshire has been pioneering it among URC congregations, mainly in the north. This has received much support and Rev Ashley Evans has recently led a dedicated URC residential gathering and has adapted the manual to better suit our context (removing parish language, etc).

This thought-provoking programme is in seven sections

- Creating a Prayerful Culture of Growth
- Implementing the 4Ps - prayer, presence, proclamation and persuasion (this needs explaining!)
- Practising Fruitful Evangelism
- Developing Engaging Worship
- Becoming an Inviting and Welcoming Church
- Make a Pathway for Seekers to become Disciples
- Begin a Planned Journey of Growth

About 40 people, comprised of small groups from a number of congregations in our synod, packed into a hotel conference room in Salisbury led by two facilitators from up country. Yvonne and Ann F came with me to the first day in September and Alan joined myself and Yvonne for the second one in late November. We all got a lot from these sessions - spending time together working through some of the material and questions and chatting on the journeys. It was also good to connect with others from around the wider area.

The last of the three Saturdays is coming up on 8<sup>th</sup> February. Do pray for us as we travel over again and look at the last few topics.

It has been good to recognise the things that we do quite well, while taking seriously the challenge of seeing how we can do better in some areas. The prayer below, which I have introduced in both Island congregations, is an intentional way of embracing the mindset of positivity. It all depends on God, so we should always remember that we must seek the Lord who alone is the one who makes things grow (1 Corinthians 3:7).

As the series ends, we must pray about how we might use some of the ideas in this great material to help us move forward in this new year of opportunity. Do begin by praying the prayer regularly.

With all good wishes for a year of growth and development,



## Leading your Church into Growth

*God of Mission*

*Who alone brings growth to your Church,*

*Send your Holy Spirit to give*

- Vision to our planning,*
- Wisdom to our actions,*
- And power to our witness.*

*Help our church to grow in numbers,*

*In spiritual commitment to you,*

*And in service to our local community,*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

# Prayer



## In His Presence - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 11:00

Another opportunity to come together and seek the Lord in an extended time of open worship and prayer followed by a

### **Bring-and-share lunch at around 12:30**

*This is deliberately on the weekend of Encounter - providing extra room for worship when the main Sunday service is geared more towards those seeking faith. Come with great expectations*

\*\*\*

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

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 intercessors by forwarding the message to the group. Each of the team will pray and then delete the message.

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

\*\*\*

## Pray for The Bay

Grace Mckenzie from Christ Church hosts this gathering, normally on the first Thursday of each month, at her home in Lake at 14:00. Ask Brian for details if you are interested in going along.

Next meetings are **6<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March**

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## Wight Church Network 24-hour Prayer Event

**From 20:00 Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February – 20:00 Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
on Zoom**

The last Island-wide Prayer gathering “Revive the Wight” in October, with believers from between 20 - 30 churches from across the Island attending over the day, and leaders of prayers and worship from 14 different churches, shows the appetite for collective prayer.

To continue the momentum, and to keep a variety in how we all engage in prayer together, the **Wight Church Network** is planning an Island-wide prayer event to be conducted partly in person and partly on Zoom, so that people across the Island can participate in, as and when they were available, throughout its duration.

Half hour slots will be led by various folk from around the Island - through the day and night.

Plans are taking shape - please look out for more details and the Zoom link...

The meeting code and password will be published for those who wish to join by phone



## Thought for the month 1

**To be a Christian is not a claim  
it is a commission.**

## Prayer Ministry

As most of you are aware we have a Prayer Ministry Team who offer prayer to those who wish it after every service. We have become depleted in numbers over the last few months, so we are struggling to have 2 people on duty each week. This is really an appeal for anybody who would like to be part of this team to come forward and volunteer. It may seem a daunting thing to do - I thought it wasn't anything I would ever be involved in! Let me tell you a little of my journey to this point, to maybe encourage you but also to give Glory to God and show how I believe He has led me here.

Just before Covid, Jean Cunningham asked me to join the team, and I found myself being led to say yes. There were to be a few new members, so we had a meeting with Brian to go through all the aims, protocols and practicalities. We were then put on the rota and about once a month had our turn. Then Covid struck..... I think I may have had one duty before that. Once the church reopened and things slowly went back to 'normal' I felt quite sad and a bit indignant that the Prayer Ministry Team hadn't restarted. I spoke to Jean, and she felt she would like to be part of the team but felt it was time to step down as leader. I found myself offering to take over, God was certainly on my case!!

So, over the past year or so I have been leading it and have been surprised at how much I've enjoyed it. I've lost count of the times that people have come forward for prayer and I've had a very similar situation in my life, not only has this helped me to know what to ask or pray for but has also been healing for me!! God is **amazing**.

It has also helped me to see how we can ALL be involved in prayer ministry. If you are chatting with anyone over coffee and feel they need prayer please offer to pray with them or bring them forward to the team. Sometimes people just need that nudge. For those listening at home you can do two things, pray for those in church who need prayer or if you need prayer please contact our Text Prayer Network (via Lou on 07474 273119). This isn't just a work for the 'team' you can all be involved.

Please come and chat to me if this something you would like to be a part of. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Sue Wightman

## KEYS TO HEALTH WHOLENESS & FRUITFULNESS

## New Course at Shanklin URC

**Fridays at 14:00**  
**From 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Do join us as we explore how we can enjoy life in all its fullness as followers of Jesus as we take seriously the links between our spiritual life and our physical and mental wellbeing.

Come and discover true shalom and find new freedom to become the person God made you to be...

This will run for 8 weeks, and all are welcome to take part. Please pray for fruitful outcomes!

A new resource from Freedom in Christ Ministries



### **Connection Quiz**

1. What is the fourth largest river in the world by discharge of volume of water? (Hint: it's in South America)
2. What is the capital of the Isle of Mull?
3. Which European country has Sofia as its capital?
4. What is the capital of New Zealand?
5. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 4?
6. And bonus question... where was the cover photo taken? Hint: it was taken in Normandie, France



Answers are on [page 42](#)

## **Christians Against Poverty**

The team met again in January and have agreed to go forward and apply to set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the five church leaders as Trustees, along with Nigel Cox who has done much of the leg work.

This will allow the project to develop rather than being rooted in one church. Sadly, the lady who was going to become Debt Centre Manager was offered full time by her employer. We are now prayerfully seeing a suitable team leader to fulfil that key role but the other person from Apex Church, Linda, has completed her training and will begin work as a debt coach.

Do please pray about whether you could become a CAP befriender to accompany her on home visits and to build local relationships. Pray too for the project as it takes fresh shape.



## **Thanks from Mountbatten**

We recently received a letter from Nigel Hartley thanking us for the £141.60 raised at our **Light up a Life** service in December.



This was another meaningful time of prayer and reflection for all who grieve at Christmas, at which one of the trustees gave a brief report.

Please do pray for all involved in this great work, supporting Island people, as they are hit by a funding shortage with increased National Insurance contributions.

## **A date for your diaries**

**Annual Spring Clean Working Party**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March from 10:00 – 12:00.**

We had a great team last year and ended with a soup lunch. Come and join the fun - odd jobs for all abilities.



# 'Pop-Up' Community Food Pantry in Shanklin



## What is it?

Aspire Ryde and the Living Well and Early Help Service currently run around 9 such pantries across the Island (some are pop-up and some permanent) and are currently trialling a pop-up in the church.

Elders have given approval to this, and we have agreed to 'host' them on Monday mornings ~ these will begin on 27<sup>th</sup> January and will run weekly. We have agreed to open the church from 10:00 on Mondays... Abi & Charity (the pantry team) will park on the frontage and then set up 'crates' of non-perishable food and other household items on our tables inside the church.

All local residents and those from the surrounding areas may use the facility that will be open to clients between 10:30 and 12:00.

## How it works

Folks who wish to use the pantry have to register (no fee) and may use one of the Island pantries once a week where, for a fee of £5, they get "15 points" to spend (roughly equivalent to £15) on whatever they choose (donated items are also available free of charge).

The scheme itself is funded by the HM Government Household Support fund which provides an additional £10 towards the individual cost for each person using the pantry.

## What we need

**Volunteers** to open the building up for the pantry team by 10:00 and to provide teas and coffee for their clients between 10:30 am and 12:00, before closing the church at 12:30.

**If you can help out on a rota, please speak to Brian, Robin or Tracy** (or just turn up on a Monday!)

You can also help by not parking on our frontage on Mondays, thanks.

Robin

## Testimony

My husband Ron and I have been together for forty-five years now, but it could have been so different last year if Father God had not been in our hearts and provided such amazing medics to look after him.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 he collapsed in London, while out for a walk, from a cardiac arrest, pulling me down with him. A man stopped to help us backup but it was clear Ron needed an ambulance. once on my knees I thought, "I've got to try CPR," but it's one of those things you keep meaning to learn (please take a course).

I started opening his coat then I found myself on my feet but still can't remember getting up. Father God just took over because at that point I realised a new man had taken over from the other and was giving extremely good CPR, he broke thirteen of Ron's ribs. A lady was stood by me and I remember saying, "Thank you," and she said, "That's what we do." They were talking Spanish to each other. I have since found out that he was a paramedic from Scotland. God was in charge.

Police and ambulance arrived at some point and Peter our son and I were moved away to a police car and were looked after extremely well. I do remember looking over to the team with Ron and seeing them using the 'paddles', which meant it was serious. I don't remember praying at this point, I was in shock and trying to reassure Peter. I look back now and realise that once you have accepted God into your heart then He is always with you and doesn't let you go.

After approximately one hour Ron was taken to St Thomas' Hospital and he stayed there for a month. The first week was critical, there were tubes everywhere and white boxing gloves that looked like cats paws on his hands to stop him pulling the tubes out. He wasn't aware of the family who were coming and going.

We have three boys who were marvellous in bringing me clothes sorting out the money and taking notes when the doctor gave us information. The doctors were very patient with all our questions. I was given six free nights accommodation by the Critical Care team then I had to pay.

Ron gradually came out of sedation but was very confused. The

doctors seemed pleased with how he was responding. He had two stents and a defibrillator implanted, and he is still monitored at St Thomas'.

I found it very hard to pray at the time but Brian and Janet were a marvellous support and our prayer team were all praying, which was very comforting.

Father God provided all these trained people in everything that Ron needed for him to survive. We must trust Him and give Him the glory.

Meryl

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# ENCOUNTER

**On the last Sunday of each month at 10:30**

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



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

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

**Join us on 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Many Happy Returns - God blesses generous people!**

**– café serving from 10.15**

# **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**



# *Shared Worship in The Bay*



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

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	<b>17:00</b>	<b>Church of the Good Shepherd</b> Sandown Road, Lake
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>17:00</b>	<b>Lake Methodist Church</b> Sandown Road, Lake
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>17:00</b>	<b>Christ Church</b> Broadway Sandown
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	<b>17:00</b>	<b>Church of the Sacred Heart</b> Atherley Road, Shanklin

**Prayer Focus**

## **Shanklin URC Bookshop**

It is planned that the church bookshop will reopen for 2025 sometime around mid-February (probably during school half-term week) but the date has still to be finalised. When the bookshop is open it provides an open door at times when the church building may be closed.

The bookshop stocks a selection of new books and bibles including some large print gospels and bibles. Previously owned books, which have been donated to us, are available at prices well below the original new price.

The bookshop also stocks a selection of greeting cards for special occasions, birthdays, anniversaries etc but also categories such as 'praying for you' and 'God's blessing'. All our cards include a scripture verse and most of our greetings cards also support a Christian charity. Income from bookshop sales enables a transfer of funds to be made to the church at the end of each year.

As well as people coming into the bookshop to browse and perhaps buy something they sometimes call in just for a chat. People who come into the bookshop sometimes enquire about the church building next door so it can provide opportunities to let them know about the activities and services that are held in the church. Holidaymakers often say that they are pleased to find a Christian bookshop as they no longer have one in their home area.

The bookshop relies on a team of volunteers. Volunteers can serve on the team in a variety of ways; by doing a three hour session in the bookshop on a weekly basis or less frequently, e.g. once a month or by helping to provide occasional back-up cover to help ensure regular opening hours. If you would be interested in contributing to this aspect of the church ministry, by possibly joining the bookshop team, and would like to know more about what is involved, then please speak to John or Joan Dunkley (either at church or initially by e-mailing [johndfrend@aol.com](mailto:johndfrend@aol.com)).

Thank you

## **Refreshments**

After a long period of following the lockdown rules we were finally able to offer refreshments again and many people commented that it was a blessing.

If you would like this blessing to continue we urgently need more people to offer to help us provide them. We are now in a position that if someone is away or not well we have no one to cover.

Please consider if you could possibly help us out either occasionally or regularly.

Many thanks.

Debbie

## **Testimony Postscript**

After giving part of my testimony on 12<sup>th</sup> January, I had these after thoughts whenever The Lord leads me into healing freedom seasons.

Whilst I struggled with speaking things out, the Lord simply said to me, "The enemy has my Glory, Lou. What are you going to do about it!" This led me to speak out everything and not be embarrassed or ashamed!

The thing is, only the enemy wants it hidden and wants to make it so much bigger than it is!! The Truth is In God's presence. It is nothing that God cannot handle, He already knows everything.

Confession leads to repentance, to renounces if needed forgiveness whatever is needed to receive Freedom in Christ, which leads to peace confidence strength in Christ which I'm sure we all seek.

Another lesson I had as God showed me the trauma, He then showed me how I dealt with it, and then how He was going to set me free again, using repentance, forgiveness, etc, forgiving yourself always seems to be tougher.

All The Glory in our Life belongs to the Lord, don't let the enemy lie any longer. Receive Freedom in Christ.

Blessings Lou

PS I'm always free for a chat if needed.



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

## **Already Accepted**

Do you sometimes find it hard to be honest with God? I know I do! In this devotional Neil explores what it means as Christians, to have been **Already Accepted** and how we should respond...

*Robin*

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***“<sup>7</sup>If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness ” (1 John 1: 7-9)***

Fellowship with God is not an abstract theological concept, but a living relationship. Living in continuous agreement with God is to walk in the light (1 John 1:7). Satan can't accuse me if I live in the light, but walking in the light is not moral perfection (1 John 1:8). We are not sinless, but confession (1 John 1:9) brings us into agreement with God about our present moral condition before Him. What makes it possible to be this open with God about our condition is the fact that we are already His children. Our eternal state is not at stake, only our daily victory.

We don't have to pretend with God in the hope that He will accept us. As His children we're already accepted, so we are free to be honest with Him. We have no relationship to lose, only fellowship to gain. Knowing that we're secure in Christ, we can express ourselves honestly to Him. He already knows the thoughts and intentions of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12). Knowing that we are forgiven, let's come before His presence with thanksgiving.

God is our Father, and like any parent He doesn't appreciate



grumbling, complaining children, especially since this Father sacrificed His only begotten Son for us. He will not be very interested in our list of demands if we haven't been obedient to Him. I also don't think He is going to be very interested in helping us develop our own kingdoms when we are to work at establishing the only one that will last His!

To sit in the presence of my Father who loves me, who has made an incredible sacrifice so I can be there, doesn't have to be a dismal, failing experience. He invites us into His presence just as we are, because in Christ our weakness and sin have been covered: "Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience" (Hebrews 10:22).

**Thank You, God the Creator, that You have opened up the way for me to approach You and enjoy fellowship with You.**

*Neil Anderson*

***Freedom in Christ Ministries Daily Devotionals***

*Used by permission*

As I mentioned last time, in his New Year devotion for 2024, Neil Anderson spoke of our hope in the Holy Spirit's guidance and our need to live responsibly for today...

I have recently acquired copies of "The Fruit of the Spirit" pamphlet by Rose Publishing. which are available in the church lobby. Please do pick up your free copy... there are enough for everyone to have one (one per couple please)... so don't be shy and may this short pamphlet bless you in the year ahead.

*Robin*

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## **Thought for the month 2**

**Humility** isn't thinking less of ourself,  
it's thinking of ourselves **less**.

## **Open Doors World Watch List 2025**

### **- The Highlights**

#### **➤ North Korea again number one**

Since the first World Watch List in 1983, North Korea has been number one 23 times – that’s almost 70% of the time. The persecution of our North Korean family has worsened in the last year following a rise in reported incidents of violence. It coincides with stricter regulations announced by the North Korean authorities in early 2024.

#### **➤ 4,476 Christians killed worldwide**

Last year, 4,476 believers worldwide were killed for their faith. Most were from Nigeria, with 3,100, which is fewer than 2023. However, other countries in sub-Saharan Africa have seen rising numbers of Christian deaths, including Burkina Faso, where 201 believers lost their lives – that’s more than a fivefold increase on 2023.

#### **➤ Kyrgyzstan biggest riser, jumping 14 places**

There’s been a rise in violence elsewhere in the world, including Central Asia, where churches and believers have been increasingly targeted as authoritarian governments seek to further repress religious freedom. No country rose further in this year’s rankings than Kyrgyzstan, jumping 14 places to 47.

#### **➤ 210,000 Christians driven from home**

The last year has seen at least 209,771 Christians forced from their homes to go into hiding or exile because of the faith, almost half of whom are from Nigeria – and that’s despite around half of all Nigerians being Christian. It reinforces the escalating dangers facing believers across sub-Saharan Africa because of rising extremism.

#### **➤ Protestant churches targeted in Algeria**

In 2023, almost all of Algeria’s Protestant churches had been ordered to close. Last year, all remaining churches were closed or forced to stop regular services. Like other countries, such as Afghanistan and China, believers are having to be increasingly creative and courageous in how they gather – if at all.

#### **➤ Heightened violence in Mexico**

Mexico is number 31 – the highest it's been since 2005 and the only country in Latin America to rise in the latest rankings. Organised crime is rampant in many areas, and churches and believers who seek to counter it make themselves targets. There has been a jump in the number of believers killed and abducted.

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## - Trends

### ➤ **Rising violence, from Burkina Faso to Kazakhstan**

The most violent region is sub-Saharan Africa, where weak government and political tensions allow Islamic extremism to flourish. Persecution is rising in countries such as **Burkina Faso** (20) and **Mali** (14), as well as **Chad** (49), which enters the top 50 for the first time. Open Doors' ongoing *Arise Africa* campaign is a call to the church and the world to respond to this crisis.

Violence grows in situations of anarchy and internal conflict. Trapped in the chaos of civil war, Christians in **Yemen** (3), **Sudan** (5) and **Myanmar** (13) are easy targets.

But strong, authoritarian regimes are also places of officially sanctioned violence. In both **Kyrgyzstan** (47) – back in the top 50 for the first time since 2013 – and **Kazakhstan** (up nine places to 38), churches and believers have been attacked by police and security services, or through locally orchestrated mobs.

### ➤ **Displaced church**

The persecuted church is, increasingly, a displaced church, exiled to refugee or IDP (internally displaced people) camps. **Sudan** (5) is facing the largest displacement crisis in the world: in a country of 49 million people, the number of IDPs by mid-2024 had surpassed 7.7 million. For already vulnerable Christians, the loss of home and community makes them even more of an easy target. In **Nigeria** (7), radicalised Islamic Fulani militants continue to drive Christian communities from their lands. Conflict in the Manipur region in **India** (11) forced tens of thousands of Christians to flee for their lives – often with little more than the clothes on their back.

### ➤ **Christians forced into the shadows**

More and more Christians are having to worship undercover.

In **Afghanistan** (10), it is effectively impossible to publicly express your faith. In **Algeria** (19), all Protestant churches have been forced to close and the number of Christians awaiting trial and sentencing is at an all-time high. In **China** (15), the era of relative tolerance is over. Unregistered churches are now illegal. Ideological pressure and official indoctrination are used to direct church teaching. Religious education for children is banned. Many congregations are taking their fellowships underground, into isolated home groups. Meanwhile, in **Libya** (4), the small Christian community is extremely careful to avoid a repeat of the March 2023 crackdown that swept up numerous Christians for arrest.

➤ **Brave Christians increasingly targeted in Mexico**

Despite most of the country's population being Christian, many believers in Mexico have faced heightened levels of violence. In many parts, the presence of criminal groups is growing, and Christians who bravely speak out against are deemed a threat. The number of abductions, attacks on Christian properties and even deaths have risen in the past year. This deeply troubling trend coincides with what was a more of violent year, in general, for Mexico, following deadly protests in the run-up to the general election in the summer.

➤ **What does the future hold for Syria?**

During the World Watch List recording period, the main problem in Syria (18) was crime and corruption, which continued to drive Christian emigration. As this year's list was going to print, the Assad regime fell to rebel forces, leaving Christians in the church's ancient heartlands facing renewed anxiety and threat.

➤ **An active and growing church**

Despite destruction and displacement, tyranny and terror, the church is active and alive. Even in **North Korea** (1), the worst of all countries to be a Christian, some 400,000 believers still witness to the life and light of Jesus. As Lydia\*, a secret Open Doors fieldworker who supports North Korean believers outside the country says, "Despite persecution, nothing and no one can stop the church from growing."

Source: [Open Doors](#)

# Good News for All!

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

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

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

This month's edition (available to read online at [www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionspage.htm](http://www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionspage.htm)) has several great articles, including the headline article '**Love Conquers All** - How God's love led a Mafia gangster to quit crime'.

Other contributions include:

- **Stabbed Vicar Forgives** - Minister shows God's love by forgiving woman who nearly killed him
- **Love Sparks U-Turn** - Anti-religion professor's heart melted by Christian's love
- **Six Nations Stars** - The faith of players in the England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland teams
- **Netflix Actor's Higher Power** - David Gyasi knows where real power lies
- **West End Star's Gratitude** - Olivier-nominated actress thanks God for church upbringing

## Good News... for a change





## **IoW Street Pastors & Safe Space**

IoW Street Pastors are recruiting for more Street Pastors and Safe Space volunteers.

What we do:

- **Care for people**

Street Pastors provide care, support, and listen to people on the streets. They often help people who are homeless or at risk.

- **Respond to crime**

Street Pastors work to help with crime and safety issues. They may also help with situations that the police can't prioritize.

- **Build relationships**

Street Pastors get to know people in the community and build relationships with local businesses & door staff.

- **Work with partners**

Street Pastors work with other partners to make communities safer. We work at events such as the IoW Festival, Pride, Scooter Rally, Cowes Week and Carnivals working alongside other partnerships like police, security and staff.

Eight months ago, we opened a Safe Space in Newport Bus Station in partnership with the police and Southern Vectis. The safe space is a place where people can wait for friends, get help with getting home, receive first aid, get advice and support or report Anti-Social Behaviour or any other concerns they have around feeling unsafe on a night out. This has been used very well by members of the public with an average of 14 plus people coming into the safe space every night it is open and there has been a noticeable reduction in crime and incidents in the bus station when the safe space is open.

We are recruiting for volunteers to be Street Pastors and/or to help man the Safe Space on a Friday or Saturday night between 21:00 –

01:00 (approx.) so it can open more regularly. We would require you to commit to at least one night a month but more is welcome. The Safe Space is manned by two people, at least one person would be a fully trained Street Pastor.

- We offer unconditional love and support, and don't judge or preach.
- We may answer questions about the Bible or God if asked, which we do on occasions.
- We show people how we care about the community to make it a safer and more desirable place to live and to be Jesus on the streets.

We would require a current DBS certificate, or we can apply for one if you do not have a transferrable one, and any training can be arranged. If you're only working in the Safe Space, you do not need to do the full Street Pastor training, we would just require Safeguarding and if you are First Aid trained then that is a bonus, or we can arrange this.

Street Pastors and the Safe Space is in great demand, with other areas of the Island needing Street Pastor patrols, currently we do Newport and Ryde. We are having to say 'no' to adding in any more patrols, events or nights the safe space is open until we increase the number of our volunteers.

If you feel you can help in either being a Street Pastor or to volunteer in the Safe Space, then please get in contact either on 07511 163632 or [suzanne@iowstreetpastors.org.uk](mailto:suzanne@iowstreetpastors.org.uk) for more information.

God Bless

Suzanne (IoW Street Pastor Coordinator)





**A big thank you** to all at **The Well** who contributed knitted squares to our “warmer winter project” ~ we were able to supply 6 blankets to those in the fellowship who we don't see often ~ these were Hazel Dawson, Cecilia Clements, Heather Lewis, Ceci White, Pauline Osbourne and Jenny Grange. I'm happy to keep on making these, so keep the squares coming! All colours ~ pastel for the Mother & Baby Unit and darker shades for our fellowship or local care homes.

*Sue Wightman*





# Community

# ASPIRE *Pantry*

Welcoming Belonging Supportive Safe

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

Come along for your weekly shop.

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

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

Shanklin pantry is run in partnership with

Shanklin United Reformed Church

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

A member of the Evangelical Alliance

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



Funded by  
UK Government



Isle of Wight  
Council



Living Well  
and Early  
Help Service

## What Happened Next?

After the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph stayed in Bethlehem. It was a 7 mile walk to Jerusalem, and that's where they went to present Jesus at the temple, with a sacrifice of: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."



The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon, that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When Joseph and Mary brought in the

child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God



Unknown to the parents, God had also revealed the birth of Jesus to some wise men far away. A star had told them that a new King of the Jews would be born, so, off they went to the obvious

place to find a royal prince – the palace of King Herod. Herod, who was not a Jew, was a puppet king, placed there by Caesar. The history books tell us that Herod killed numerous people, including several members of his own family, to hang on to his power.



When the Wise Men asked where the baby was to be born, Herod's Jewish advisors had no difficulty in finding the prophecy of Micah which said that 'out of Bethlehem shall come one who will rule over Israel.'

Herod sent the Wise Men to find the child, then come back and tell him where he was. Herod claimed that he



also wanted to worship the new King, but God warned the Wise Men to go straight back home a different way. When Herod found out, he was furious. Based on the time the Wise Men had first seen the star, Herod ordered all boys in Bethlehem aged 2 and under to be killed. In a small village, this would have been about 20 children.



During his lifetime, Herod ordered the deaths of thousands of people, but Jesus escaped. In a dream, God sent an angel who warned Joseph, to wake Mary and immediately flee to Egypt.



It's amazing how many times God spoke to Joseph in dreams, and also how many prophecies were fulfilled through the actions of those who had no intention of serving God!

Thanks to Caesar Augustus, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Herod's threats resulted in Hosea 11:1 being fulfilled: 'Out of Egypt I called my son'. And when Joseph feared returning to Bethlehem because Judea was ruled by Herod's awful son, Archelaus, God guided Joseph to Nazareth, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 9, that to Galilee of the Gentiles - the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."



Master Carpenter  
Nazareth



# Jo McGrath honoured at YMCA Awards

*From 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024*



Jo McGrath, Mother and Baby Support Manager, leads the care at The Lodge with support from a part-time Advanced Early Years Practitioner. Together, they provide tailored services, including weekly support plans, employment and skills training, and guidance to help young mothers build their confidence and independence.

**She inspires confidence and self-belief** CEO Phillipa Spicer praised Jo's contributions, stating, "Jo engages with young mums with compassion, ensuring they feel supported in parenthood."

"She inspires confidence and self-belief, handling sensitive issues with care, and maintaining the YMCA's standards."

"Jo's balanced approach of being supportive and positive fosters a long-lasting impact on the lives of young mums and their children."

**A shining example** Jo has been living on the Isle of Wight with her family for almost 25 years and working in the Island's education system for over ten years. She has been a shining example for our YMCA's Mother and Baby facility for over two years.



## **Wessex Synod**

*120 Alma Road, Southampton, SO14 6UW*

*Synod Moderator: The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins*

*Moderator's PA: Mrs Deborah Walker*

### **New Year message 2025**

Dear Friends,

First, let me express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication and hard work over the Christmas season. Whether through community events, activities, or leading worship - often including special and extra services - you have gone above and beyond. In doing so, you have not only shared the story of Jesus but also made Christ visible in the world today. There is no greater calling, and your commitment is deeply appreciated.

As we step into a new year, I wish you a Happy New Year. For many, 2024 brought its share of challenges and a mix of sadness and joy. While some achieved much, for others, simply making it through was an accomplishment in itself. As we look to 2025, our hopes are renewed.

2025 also marks a significant milestone: the 1,700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a defining moment in the formation of our faith. At our Synod meeting on 11 October, we will be privileged to welcome the Rev Dr Susan Durber, President of the World Council of Churches and a familiar figure to many in Wessex. She will guide us in reflecting on this important anniversary. Such moments remind us that our hope is not in the turning of the calendar but in Christ, who makes all things new.

You may have noticed the popular refrain of "New Year, New You." Yet this idea, rooted in both self-criticism and consumerism, can feel harsh. We are not disposable objects to be replaced annually, nor should we discard ourselves like outdated electronic devices. Instead, I encourage you to reclaim the "old you." Refine, evolve, and improve if you can, but move toward your true self, not away from it. Be kind to yourself and your mind.

This brings me to an alternative approach for the start of the year: Gentle January. In a season where many feel the weight of

exhaustion rather than refreshment, let's embrace gentleness:

- Gentle with ourselves,
- Gentle with each other,
- Gentle with our to-do lists and plans,
- Gentle with our creation,
- Gentle tones of voice to accompany gentle footsteps and gentle thoughts, all of which can be gently brought into our pauses and prayers.

Gentle January sounds inviting to me: a soothing, restorative alternative to the hurried resolutions and relentless pace of the world. May it bring you peace, renewal, and grace as we journey together into this new year.

With every blessing for 2025,

*Michael Hopkins  
New Year, 2025*

## **IoW Foodbank - Items most needed**

If you can, please donate one item or more:

### **Food**

- Soup Puddings
- Jams
- Baked Beans
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Dry Rice
- Tinned Meat Meals

### **Toiletries**

- Washing up liquid
- Male / Female deodorant
- Toilet rolls

For a full list of places to donate, please scan QR Code with your phone to download Bank the Food App or visit our website: [isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk](https://isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk)



# FOCUS

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

***Smuggling God's love to North Korean women***

Your prayers and support make it possible for Open Doors fieldworkers to reach out and minister to North Korean refugees, many of whom have been trafficked into forced marriages. .

It must be incredibly disorientating to find yourself alone in a foreign country, separated from loved ones, and then suddenly sold into marriage to someone you don't know and whose language you don't understand. How do you re-orient yourself?

This is the reality for many women who fall victim to people smugglers as they escape across the North Korean border. It's a desperate situation to be in – but thanks to your prayers and gifts, some of these women find themselves at an Open Doors safehouse, where they are welcomed, and given practical aid and pastoral care. They are also introduced to Jesus, who re-orient them. He becomes their refuge. Thanks to you, these women know that they are no longer alone.

Ha-Joon\* is an Open Doors fieldworker who meets with these women for food, prayer and fellowship. The journey to the safehouse is fraught with danger, as she doesn't know if she's being watched.

## **The risks of meeting together**

At first, some of the North Korean women are distrustful. But as they come together, they start to share their stories. "We came here for the food," one woman jokes. "We have to eat!" Another woman shares that she has lost her sister, who had also escaped North Korea. But she hasn't heard from her and has no idea what's happened to her.

Amidst the sadness, there's room for joy too – and a palpable sense of God's presence. "We worshipped together, which was really special," Ha-Joon says. There was singing and dancing, and one



woman had even memorised 50 Bible verses which she recited for the group.

Then suddenly, a woman's face appeared at the window, and everyone went quiet. Who was she? Would she report them to the secret police? "We all stopped breathing for a moment," Ha-Joon says. "The owner of the place immediately went outside to talk to the woman. I don't know what she said to her, but after she came back, she said everything was alright and we could continue with our programme.

"This ministry is only possible thanks to the prayers and generous support of our donors," adds Ha-Joon. "On behalf of the North Korean women and our local field workers, we thank you for your love, care and support."

\*Name changed for security reasons

### **Please Pray**

- For field workers like Ha-Joon, who risk their lives to care for North Korean refugee women
- That the Lord will continue to protect, heal and bless these women as they grow in the love of Christ
- For protection for Open Doors safehouses outside of North Korea, and all who find shelter there. .

\*\*\*

**How many Christians are there in North Korea?** Approximately 400,00 (1%)

### **How are Christians persecuted in North Korea?**

- If your Christian faith is discovered in North Korea, you could be killed on the spot.
- If you aren't killed, you will be sent to a horrendous labour camp and treated as a political criminal. You will be punished with years of hard labour that few survive.
- North Korean authorities are also likely to round up your extended family and punish them too, even if your family members aren't Christians themselves.

## **The Link** - February 2025

- North Korean refugees in other countries, particularly China, are at risk of being rounded up and sent back to appalling punishments. If it is discovered that a North Korean has become a Christian, or even simply heard the gospel or came into contact with Christians, then they will be singled out for severe punishment.
- Any Christian connection in your family history means that party membership is withheld, and you are consigned to the worst jobs and lowest positions.

### **Why are Christians persecuted in North Korea?**

- The Kims demand total worship of themselves, and there is no freedom of religion in North Korea. Recognising any deity outside of the Kim family is considered a threat to the country's leadership. It's impossible to gather for worship or prayer, and even secret worship and prayer is an enormous risk.
- Christians face monitoring by official spies, but can also be reported by neighbours or teachers.
- 'Anti-reactionary thought laws' were enacted in December 2020 and made even clearer that being a Christian or owning a Bible is a serious crime and will be severely punished.

### **What has changed in North Korea in the past year?**

- North Korea remains number one on the World Watch List – a position it has held almost every year since 2002. The persecution score has risen two places in the past year, as there have been more reports of violence against Christians.
- In early 2024, the government announced stricter regulations and increased crackdowns. It has been officially reported that North Korean authorities publicly executed about 30 young teenagers for watching a South Korean drama on a USB drive, and several 17-year-olds were sentenced to life imprisonment or death for similar reasons in June and July 2024.
- Several citizens were sentenced to labour camps for picking up plastic bottles filled with cooking rice, which had been thrown from bordering South Korea.

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

# The Green Kingdom

God, Church and Environmental Stewardship

## A Morning with Ruth Valerio

Environmentalist and theologian, social activist and author  
[ruthvalerio.net](http://ruthvalerio.net)

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 09:30-12:30 (doors open 09:00)

Newport Methodist Church, Quay Street, PO30 5BA

Free entry, donations encouraged – an event for church and ministry  
leaders, existing activists and those who want to do more



Please book at [creationmattersx@gmail.com](mailto:creationmattersx@gmail.com)

Creation Matters!

Ruth, who has had roles with Tearfund and A Rocha UK, spearheading Eco Church at the latter, writes “I have a particular interest in climate and environmental issues and long to see the culture of the Church change so that caring for the earth becomes an integral part of church life, rather than an optional extra”.

## Help! What should we pray for – and how?

It is so **helpful** that there are lots of resources available to enable us to pray into a wide range of issues affecting God's church and His world in these often uncertain times.

Here are just a few to **help** us:

➤ **CARE Prayer Diary** – published four times a year, covering a great number of issues of concern, the current one (19<sup>th</sup> January – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025) as follows:

- Social Care
- Pursuing Peace
- Family Matters
- Praying For Schools
- Our Law Courts
- Artificial Intelligence
- Vulnerable People
- Integrity In Government
- Rural Life
- The Arts
- Emergency Services
- Compassion For People in Poverty
- Christianity and Culture

➤ **Another resource** from **CARE** are their small prayer leaflets entitled, '**Ten Ways to Pray About...**'

A recent addition to this series is focussing on '**Children and the Internet**', something which can be of great concern in this digital age.

To receive free copies of CARE's 'Way's to Pray' series online, and the Prayer Diary, go to <https://care.org.uk/resources/prayer-resources>.

➤ **Christian Institute - Winter 2024 Newsletter** is now available, at [www.christian.org.uk/resource/newsletter-winter-2024/](http://www.christian.org.uk/resource/newsletter-winter-2024/) giving valuable information with regard to moral issues affecting our nation.

Alongside many matters of concern is the ongoing Assisted Suicide Bill. Please pray urgently about this, as it goes through the committee stages in parliament, with further votes ahead in parliament to follow.

This leaflet is also a valuable resource for prayer, as are their Weeks of Prayer held regularly throughout the year (the last one was in October 2024).

## **Prayer for the Persecuted Church**

Our brothers and sisters living under regimes hostile to the Christian faith so value our prayers.

The resources we have from the ministries supporting these believers are available regularly, as are all of the other resources mentioned on the previous page – both in the lobby, in the church and online.

### **Please keep praying**

And finally, a prayer of commitment, from the latest Release International magazine, to pray for our persecuted church family:

*Heavenly Father,*

*As this new year begins help me to recommit in prayer for those who are oppressed for the sake of Your Son.*

*May my heart be moved to stand with them in prayer so that they, like the apostle Paul, will be able to testify: 'The Lord stood at my side and gave me strength so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed' (2 Timothy 4:17).*

*I pray in Jesus's name for their comfort and restoration, and the advance of Your kingdom even amid violent opposition.*

*Amen*

The magazine can be read in full online at [releaseinternational.org/magazines/](https://releaseinternational.org/magazines/).

Blessings in Jesus' Name,

Jane H

Source: [Release International](https://releaseinternational.org/)

## Inside the first issue of *Reform* magazine for 2025:

In the latest issue of *Reform*, Heather Moore reflects on her year as URC Youth President. She says the Church's Youth Executive, "epitomises how the URC values its young people."

We remember John Tinniswood, a former URC Elder who became the world's oldest man, and report on a global consultation on modern-day slavery attended by the Geoff Felton. Elsewhere, Geoff reflects broadly on slavery, past and present, and describes what he has learnt about justice, hope and humanity from recent encounters and studies. Addressing another pressing public issue, in the first of two *Reform* articles a survivor of church-based abuse responds to The Makin Report, which detailed abuse within the Church of England.

Malcolm Hanson talks to Stephen Tomkins about baptism in the Spirit, holding together diverse opinions in one Church, and what he believes the Group for Evangelism and Renewal (GEAR) offers into the United Reformed Church.

As well as *Top Gear*, other TV favourites have also been smuggled into *Reform* this month – the first dramatised life of Jesus in the UK and even one or two traitors. Will you be able to spot them?

The January *Reform* is available from 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Subscribe to *Reform* at [www.reform-magazine.co.uk/?campaignkw=reform%20magazine](http://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/?campaignkw=reform%20magazine) either digitally or in print. For any queries, please e-mail the *Reform* team at [reform@urc.org.uk](mailto:reform@urc.org.uk)

Source: [urc.org.uk/reform-magazine-2025-issue-one/](http://urc.org.uk/reform-magazine-2025-issue-one/)



## Support Recycling

Have you ever wondered what to do with the various plastic tubs containing chocolates, biscuits and sweets? Well, here is the answer!



Pub and brewery company Greene King is once again running 'Tub2Pub', a recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and to recycle plastics.

In 2024 Tub2Pub collected over 150,000 tubs, raising £12,600 for Macmillan Cancer support. With your help, that can be beaten in 2025.

We're all guilty of indulging in chocolate, sweets and biscuits over the festive period, and in the UK we are buying tens of millions of these plastic tubs every year!

Make sure your tubs don't go to waste so bring your clean, empty plastic confectionery, biscuit and cracker tubs to any Greene King managed site from 1<sup>st</sup> January – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to be recycled.

Simply leave your tubs with a Greene King staff member at the bar or welcome station within one of their locations (see below for details of Island locations).

After 16<sup>th</sup> February, all tubs will be collected and taken to a plastic reprocessing centre where they're shredded, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of virgin plastics. All money raised from the sale of Tub2Pub plastics will be given directly to Macmillan Cancer Support.

For more information, go to [www.tub2pub.co.uk/](http://www.tub2pub.co.uk/)

### **Drop your clean tubs at any of the following places on the IoW:**

- The Crab, 94 High Street, Shanklin (in the old village)
- Ryde Castle Hotel, Esplanade, Ryde
- Hare and Hounds, Downend Road, Newport (next to Robin Hill)
- The Folly, Folly Lane, Whippingham, East Cowes
- The Fountain Inn, High Street, Cowes



An Invite to the.....

# All Island Celebration

**With guest speaker  
Patrick Regan OBE  
Pioneer of Kintsugi Hope,  
Director of Brighter Days**



## A coming together for Worship and Celebration

Doors open from 7pm, with displays from various island ministries, with refreshments available.  
Come early to connect and chat if you can

**31st January 2025, 19:30  
Cowes Enterprise College**

**Together and United as one Church**



# Shanklin Town Community & Youth Brass Bands



are holding a...

**Charity Concert**

*on*

***Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March***

19:30

Shanklin United Reformed Church

Admission Free

**Retiring Collection in aid of  
YMCA Mother & Baby Unit**



# Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Time	Details
Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	10:30 17:00	Guest Speaker Patrick Regan Shared Worship at Church of the Good Shepherd
Fri	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	19:00	Elders Meeting
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:30 17:00	Ellen speaking Shared Worship at Lake Methodist Church
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	17:00	Shared Worship at Christ Church, Sandown
Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	11:00 12:30	In His Presence - worship and prayer Bring-and-Share Lunch
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	10:30 17:00	Encounter Café Service Shared Worship at Church of the Sacred Heart, Shanklin
Sat	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:00	Annual Spring Clean
Thu	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	19:30	Annual Church Meeting
Sat	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	19:30	Concert in aid of Mother and Baby Unit by Shanklin Community/Youth Brass Bands
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:30	Encounter Café – for Mothering Sunday

## Connection Quiz Answers

1. Orinoco.
2. Tobermory.
3. Bulgaria.
4. Wellington.
5. Connection: they are all characters in **The Wombles**, by Elisabeth Beresford.
6. This issue's cover photo is from: Le Bourg in Bréel in Normandie, France.



## Subscribe to URC News Updates

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

To receive this popular newsletter, in your 'inbox' just go to [urc.org.uk/news-updates-sign-up-form/](http://urc.org.uk/news-updates-sign-up-form/), enter your e-mail address and click on 'Subscribe'.

It's as easy as that!

You can read and print recent editions of the URC e-newsletter by visiting [urc.org.uk/urc-news-update/](http://urc.org.uk/urc-news-update/)

Source: [urc.org.uk/](http://urc.org.uk/)



## The (annual) Christmas Trivia Quiz - answers

- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Take part in a census            | 11. Presents                  |
| 2. Tiny tots                        | 12. Frohe Weihnachten         |
| 3. Dundee Cake                      | 13. Radishes                  |
| 4. Turkey                           | 14. 10                        |
| 5. Charlemagne                      | 15. Irving Berlin             |
| 6. Catalonia                        | 16. Merry Christmas Everybody |
| 7. Galette des Rois                 | 17. Spiders and webs          |
| 8. Isaac Newton                     | 18. 4 <sup>th</sup> century   |
| 9. Thanksgiving                     | 19. 1843                      |
| 10. An old woman who delivers gifts | 20. Germany                   |

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

- |            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ferrari | 6. Jersey          |
| 2. 1415    | 7. 1983            |
| 3. Tirana  | 8. Peter Mayle     |
| 4. Vectis  | 9. May 1840        |
| 5. Henry V | 10. Shepherd Neame |

**The Puzzle Pages**

# Sudoku

*A numerical placement puzzle!*

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

**An easy one this month.  
Enjoy!**

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

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							

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

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

## Across

- 1 Happy New Year, en français (5, 4)
- 6 Used by fishermen; shortened term for the internet (3)
- 8 Surrey town, near Redhill (7)
- 9 Paris art museum/gallery (6)
- 12 Cambridgeshire city (3)
- 13 Mr -, Wind in the Willows character(4)
- 14 Ornamental band worn on the front of a woman's hair.(5)
- 16 Fourth largest Dutch city (7)
- 20 Happy person; Last of the Summer Wine character (6)
- 22 Hello (2)
- 23 Mr Sheeran, singer (2)
- 24 'Of the', plural en français (3)
- 26 Years after the birth of Jesus *initials* (2)

- 27 West Wight port (8)
- 28 French for 'the' *f* (2)
- 29 Not full (5)
- 30 Food also known as bangers (8)

## Down

- 1 French wine region (8)
- 2 Not quiet (5)
- 3 Precise (5)
- 4 Indicates a woman's maiden name (3)
- 5 Snake like fish (3)
- 6 Short for the 11<sup>th</sup> month (3)
- 7 Resource that lists words in groups of synonyms (9)
- 10 Someone who is inclined to be hopeful (8)
- 11 Duck puppet from the 1990s CBBC broom cupboard (3)
- 15 Of, en français (2)
- 17 Mr Stewart, singer of 'Sailing' (3)
- 18 Yellow singing bird, often kept as pets; Spanish islands (6)
- 19 Engine No. 1 from Rev Awdry's Railway Stories (6)
- 21 Light Emitting Diode *initials* (3)
- 23 Cheese that's made backwards (4)
- 25 *The* -, U2 guitarist (4)
- 26 Beer other than lager, stout, or porter (3)

## Can You Guess The Year?

- The Farthing coin ceases to be legal tender.
- Tottenham Hotspur win the First Division title - and the FA Cup.
- UK applies for membership of the EEC
- And UK No. 1s included:
  - Elvis Presley with '*Wooden Heart*'
  - Floyd Kramer with '*On the Rebound*'
  - The Shadows with '*Kon Tiki*'
  - Helen Shapiro with '*Walking Back to Happiness*'

*Answer next issue*

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

1. Who was the UK monarch before Queen Victoria?
2. What was the currency in Belgium before the Euro?
3. Where did the Battle of Agincourt take place?
4. What's the capital of Estonia?
5. When was the coronation of King William I?
6. Who founded the '*Abbaye aux Dames*' in Caen?
7. Who wrote the '*Tale of Two Cities*'?
8. Who created '*Astérix the Gaul*'?
9. On the periodic table, which element is Ar?
10. Who designed the WW2 aeroplane the Supermarine Spitfire?

*Answers next issue*

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

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

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 **2004**

- Last issue's crossword ↓

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

## 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 Encounter 'café style' service**  
on last Sunday of each month

## Weekday Activities

- Monday**      10:30      **Community Pantry** (see [page 25](#))
- Tuesday**    14:00      **Bible Bite** ministry in church  
(Refreshments from 13:30)  
*Broadcast live on YouTube*
- 19:30      **Prayer Meeting** on Zoom (see [page 4](#))
- Wednesday** 11:00    **Living Well Together** (*aka 'The Well'*)
- Friday**      10:00      **CatURpillars Toddler Group**

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

- [inside the church](#)
- [on our Facebook page](#)
- [and on our website](#)

**Minister:**    **Rev Brian Harley**



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*Day off: Monday*

**Secretary:**    **Robin Wightman**



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

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