

# The Link



**March  
2025**



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

# View From Number 10



## A positive growth mindset

Yvonne, Alan and I have just attended the last of the three Saturday training days in Salisbury exploring **Leading your Church into Growth** - I wrote about this really useful resource last month.

One question we were asked was - *“on a scale of 1 to 10, how strong is your desire to see your church grow?”* Of course, one wants to put down 10, but then that challenges you to think about how much you are committed to trying to make that actually happen!

We do need to be reminded that **“the church exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members”** - as former Archbishop William Temple once famously said. Mission must be our priority - not just so we survive as a local congregation, but so that more people come to experience the saving love of God in Christ and that the world becomes a better place, shaped more by God’s design!

It’s not just about numbers of course - there needs to be proper consideration of how people might also grow deeper in spiritual commitment and in service - as the LYCIG prayer puts it (see >>>).

This month we have a great opportunity to invite people along to taste something of the Good News. Our **Encounter Café Service** falls on **Mothering Sunday this year on 30<sup>th</sup> March**. This is one of the times in the year when people can be more open to an invitation. Our focus will be around being part of God’s family and I want to get across how Jesus has opened the way for us all to come to know God and be welcomed into his household.

Please be praying about who you might invite along. We’ll soon have invitation cards ready to pass around the community. Experience shows that the more invitations one makes, the more people one is likely to see at special events and services like this. Dare we be courageous and take the odd risk? It’s not about “bums on seats” but of caring that our friends and neighbours come to encounter our



wonderful Lord and Saviour.

LYCIG is not a programme; there is no formula for growth, but we all have to play our part. As the apostle Paul reminds us: *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."* (1 Corinthians 3:6). We must constantly look to him for guidance and direction and for his Spirit to be at work in people's lives, but also seek to be outward-looking and believing for things we do in his name to bear fruit. Those who expect nothing are usually rewarded with just that!

With all good wishes for a year of growth and development. Bring it on Lord! - and inspire us to reach out more and more.

Blessings,

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.

*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.*



Leading your Church  
into Growth

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

Meeting ID: 324 266 5584

Password: 936536.

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## Text Prayer Network

This has proved a really efficient method of getting prayer needs around. So, if you have an urgent and important issue that needs immediate cover, please text Lou on:

**07514 766798 - note new number**

(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.

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## 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: **6<sup>th</sup> March & 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

# 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?**

**The next café service will be on Mothering Sunday  
– 30<sup>th</sup> March – a great day to invite friends along as we  
explore being **Part of God's Family****

**– café serving from 10.15**

## **Thought for the month**

It is said that the greatest thing a man can do is lay down his life for another.

The greatest thing the survivor can do is to live the life the one who gave his life for him would have led.

Whose life should we be living?

Our next Church Meeting...

# Annual Church Meeting

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
at 19:30



**Teas and Coffees will be served from 19:00**

All members and regular worshippers are encouraged to come along as we reflect on the last year and seek to plan ahead. This will include the election of Elders. We really want as many as possible to be involved in our church family business so please do try and get along.

The Book of Reports, the Annual Accounts and Agenda will be available ahead of the meeting so we can all come prepared.

As usual, a Zoom link will be available for those who cannot make it in person via the regular meeting space. Please tell Robin if you want to vote in the Elders' election so he can arrange that.

## Connection Quiz

1. Where is the National Railway Museum in England?.
2. What was the name of the Anglo-Irish Antarctic explorer who led three British expeditions in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century?
3. Which insect spreads malaria?
4. What is the name of the Orion constellation?
5. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 4?
6. And bonus question... where was the cover photo taken? I don't think you need a hint this month!!



Answers are on [page 43](#)



# *Shared Worship in The Bay*



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

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Mar</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>Sandown Baptist Church</b> Station Avenue
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>URC</b> High Street, Shanklin
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>St Blasius Church</b> Church Road, Shanklin
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Mar</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>Church of the Good Shepherd</b> Sandown Road, Lake
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>Lake Methodist Church</b> Sandown Road, Lake

**Prayer Focus**

## **Bible Bite - Ephesians**

Brian has recently begun to look at Ephesians during Tuesday's Bible Bite... here is the 'story' so far ...

This is one of Paul's 'prison' letters, written in Rome in about 60 AD. These letters were meant to be distributed widely between the growing churches at the time. Paul had briefly visited Ephesus on his 2<sup>nd</sup> journey and then spent 18 months there on his third and finally met with the church's elders in Miletus to say farewell on his return home.

The book is a wonderful overview of what Christian living should look like, with the first three chapters tend to the theological and the last three to the practicalities of daily living in Christ.

### **Chapter 1**

In verses 1 & 2 Paul introduces himself as an apostle to the saints (believing Christians) and brings grace and peace (undeserved riches and Shalom) from our Father God and Jesus Christ.

Verses 3 to 6 begin his wonderful prayer for the believers, giving a birds-eye view of God's great salvation plan, beginning with praise to the Father who has blessed them in every way and calls them to live lives which are **Holy & Blameless** in His sight. They (and we) have been **Pre-Destined** to be **Adopted to Sonship** (a mystery over which many have fallen out!). Roman adopted children had the same rights as biological children. Paul uses this term to show how strong our relationship with God is! He speaks of this grace being offered to everyone, "**For the Praise of God's Glorious Grace.**"

In Verses 7 to 10, the cross comes into view as Paul explains that they have **redemption** through the blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of sins; they have been **liberated** and may therefore become the people they were always meant to be! The ancient promises to Abraham find new fulfilment in King Jesus ...these are lavished on God's people with wisdom and grace, and the "mystery" of His will is made known (see also Ephesians 3:6).

God's purpose will be completed in God's appointed time bringing **unity** to all things **under Christ's rule**. FF Bruce sums up verse 10 writing "*When all the times and seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority have run their course, God's age-long purpose*



*which he planned in Christ will attain its full fruition.”*

Continuing his prayer in verses 11-13 Paul tells us that God is restoring and redeeming all things to His plans and purposes ~ Jews first and then Gentiles. This is the message of the Gospel ~ **all are included in Christ!** Our Saviour has come to set all things right. It is God who has purposed this, but we have to receive the gift (“when you believe”). We are marked with a seal (a personal sign of ownership), the Holy Spirit coming to dwell within us... God says, “You are mine,” (the presence of the Holy Spirit is also an outward sign to those who we encounter). Verse 14 explains that the Holy Spirit is a deposit which guarantees our inheritance, a sure and certain hope. **For the praise of His glory.**

***“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”*** (2 Corinthians 1:20-22)

In the final section of chapter 1 (vv15-23), Paul continues in prayer for the church in Ephesus. He is persistent in prayer, **are we?** He prioritises prayer, **do we?** Paul is “keeping on keeping on”, asking the God of Israel and the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Glorious Father, to give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know God better and have an ever-closer relationship with Him. He asks that the “eyes of our hearts” be enlightened (by the light of Christ) so that we may know:

The **hope** to which we have been called

The **riches** of His glorious inheritance for all who have been called

The incomparably great **power** given to those of us who believe

***“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”*** (Ephesians 3:20-21)

This power is the same as the mighty strength God exerted in the resurrection of Christ and it is available to **us all** (both then and now). As Jesus told the disciples:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you

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will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

This “Dunamis” power is potent (dynamite) and in the Book of Acts, we see its miraculous effects in the lives of the Apostles. Do we believe that we have access to that same power? If so, as Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

As we worship with Paul and read his wonderful prayer - we retell the story of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We are adopted into his family and are richly blessed in ways we don't deserve!

**We Must Embrace These Promises Of God In Our Daily Lives,  
We Must Keep On Celebrating And Retelling...**

**Only Then Can Jesus Work Through Us... We Are His  
Embodiment In The World Today And We Must Let Him!**

**May We All Sing, “Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me”**

### **Jack's Song**

This was written by my great nephew for his brother, who is non-verbal and severely autistic.

By Jack Brian, aged 10, to his brother Conor, aged 5.

*He don't speak, but I feel it in the air,  
A love song so deep, stronger than a prayer.  
His eyes light up when I walk through the door  
I don't need words to know what it's for.*

*His silence says more than words ever could  
I see the way he looks, man, I know it's all good,  
He don't need to talk, his loves understood  
It's in the little things, like the touch of his hood.*

*I know he loves me, even without a sound,  
In every glance, every moment we're around,  
No words to say, but I feel it every day  
His love is a language that's don't fade away.*

From Sue Wightman.

## **Wight Church Network 24-hour prayer event - From 20:00 Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – 20:00 Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March - on Zoom.**

The last Island-wide prayer gathering “Revive the Wight” was 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.

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 24-hour prayer event to be conducted partly in person and partly on Zoom, that people across the Island can participate in, as and when they are available, throughout its duration.

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

Please look out for the Zoom link...

**And coming soon...**



**LICC Vision Event**

***Everyday Matters***

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**19:30**

**Newport Minster**

**Also on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 09:00  
Leaders' Breakfast at Carisbrooke Priory**

**licc.**

The London Institute for  
Contemporary Christianity



A free event - book your place at:

[www.licc.org.uk/events/vision-tour](http://www.licc.org.uk/events/vision-tour)

## Healthy Half Hour Group

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

Our Healthy Half Hour started just over eighteen months ago and it's an absolute joy to see a steadily growing number of people steadily growing in strength and fitness! After a fun warm up we do a circuit of simple functional exercises that are aimed to give us a good level of everyday fitness for everyday life.

Our body is a temple for the Holy Spirit and we have a responsibility to look after it well. So, if you fancy joining us - come along on Wednesdays at 10:30. You'll love it!

Ellen (07804 029311)



## Annual Spring Clean Working Party

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 10:00 - 12:00**

We will end with soup and bread together sometime after 12:00.

We had a great team last year - come and join the fun. There are odd jobs for all abilities.

Please bring cloths, buckets steps etc... .



# 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/viewlatesteditionpage.htm](http://www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionpage.htm)) has several great articles, including the headline article '**Concorde Captain's Flight to God** - How high-achieving pilot's life took off with Jesus'.

Other contributions include:

- **Denzel Washington** - Oscar winner becomes a Christian minister
- **Dancing on Ice Star's Comfort** - Ferne McCann tells why she turned to God
- **Eddie Stobart** - The founder of the famous lorry company was driven by faith
- **Managing The Pressure** - Port Vale manager reveals how he copes with football's ups and downs
- **World War Two Spy** - New movie Bonhoeffer tells story of the hero who opposed Hitler
- **Evolutionist Converts To Design** - How evidence led fossil expert to abandon Darwinism



## **Jacob's Sons**

I had a calendar at one time giving details, each month, of one of Jacob's sons so thought it might be helpful to pass on the insights I gained, using my own words to do so. To set the scene, Jacob had worked for his uncle for seven years in order to marry his daughter Rachel, whom he loved. He was tricked by his uncle into marrying her sister Leah as well and he had to work another seven years for Rachel.

Although unloved, Leah ultimately became the mother of six of Jacob's sons. The first son born to Leah was Reuben whose name means "behold" or "See the son". God looked upon Leah, who was not loved, in giving her a son. He gave His Son, who was not loved, to Israel. He is saying to the world today, "Look to My Son, Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Simeon was the second son born to Leah and his name was composed of two Hebrew words meaning "to hear" and "hated." Leah felt that she was hated, so her son's name means "Hear the hated one." The Scriptures state that Jesus was hated without cause. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus was revealed in His glory when God called out "This is my Son whom I love. Listen to Him." Likewise, the Scriptures remind us that we, through belief in Jesus, will also be hated by the world.

The third son born to Jacob & Leah was named Levi which means "to adhere to" or "To be joined closely". Leah was expressing her feelings effectively saying "Now at last my husband will become attached to me because I have borne him three sons." She was hoping that Jacob would become more attached to her rather than her sister Rachel. The tribe of Levi would ultimately become responsible for ministering in the Tabernacle and Temple. Just as Israel has been joined to the Lord in an everlasting covenant, we as believers are joined to the Lord "one spirit with Him."

To be continued

Eileen

# 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)



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Council



Living Well  
and Early  
Help Service



## Open the Book - March Invisible Helpers



When presenting Bible stories in assembly, Open the Book dresses the team and some children in costume. These children are chosen by their teacher immediately before we start and have no idea what will be required of them. Whenever we ask for '8 volunteers from Year 5' a forest of arms shoot up. Sometimes we have people all in



black who are 'invisible' – like Bill on the right (in the picture above) as people are baptised at Pentecost. These people activate props and lead those watching with Makaton signs, or counting things, such as the loaves and fish. Others accompany the children, whispering instructions so that



each child knows what to do. 'David' is being encouraged to pretend that King Saul's helmet and chain mail are really heavy.

The story of Jesus walking on the water only required 4 actors – Jesus, Peter and 2 (child) disciples. How could we involve more children? In the script, the disciples wondered what it was 'moving towards them on the water. Was it a wave? Was it a sea creature? Was it a bit of mist?' So we decided to have these three things go across the hall, one at a time, each carried by a storyteller and an



invisible child. When Jesus called out to the disciples, they realised that He wasn't a wave, a sea creature or mist, and the items went back the other way.

Those watching loved it, and also seeing Peter sink beneath the waves before being helped up by Jesus. How do we know this? Because the children said so. One put up his hand and told

the teacher "I enjoyed that", those sitting around him agreed whilst a girl leaned over and whispered to the narrator "I love your stories."



Another teacher informed us that Open the Book was mentioned in the school newsletter. During a lesson about Bible stories, a class had been really excited because they knew them from assembly. When Julie referred to this, a child from that class gave her a huge smile and a very positive 'thumbs up'. With 'World Book Day' approaching, we suggested the schools ask the children to choose their favourite Bible story. From the resultant long list, we were able to select one to be presented during March which fits perfectly with those already scheduled.

In early February, a bill to replace mandatory daily Christian collective worship in schools in England without a religious character with inclusive assemblies passed its second reading in the House of Lords. Let us take advantage of the current opening to present God's Word to precious children Jesus warned us: "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work." (John 9:4)



***“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)

## **In God’s Power**

In this devotional Neil speaks of how we should prioritise aspects of our busy lives. It’s a useful reminder that we need to be mindful of the need to include God in all our decisions.

*Robin*

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***“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”*** (Romans 8:14)

Two significant events in my life brought into clear focus the priority of relationship over achievement. Before being called into the ministry, I worked as an aerospace engineer on the Apollo program. I will never forget the day the lunar lander touched down on the moon. This bold headline dominated the front page of the Minneapolis Star: 'Neil Armstrong Lands on the Moon'. It was an achievement I was proud to be part of.

But the really big news came months earlier on page 7 in the third section: 'Heidi Jo Anderson, born to Mr and Mrs Neil Anderson, Northwestern Hospital, 12 March, 1969'. That may not sound like big news to you, but it was to her mother and me. Heidi totally took over my den and captured an entire shelf in the refrigerator. She altered our sleeping pattern and restricted our social calendar. But she was ours to hold, to hug and to care for.

What does God care about moon shots? They are deeds to be outdone. Somebody will always come along and do it better, faster and higher. What God cares about is little people like Heidi Jo Anderson because they will be with Him forever.

The second significant event in my life was receiving my first

doctoral degree. But it turned out to be one of the most anticlimactic days of my life. I heard no applause from heaven, and I don't believe my achievement added so much as an asterisk to my name in the Lamb's Book of Life. I was a child of God before that day and I was still a child of God afterward.

But what happens in heaven when one sinner repents? Applause! Why? Because a relationship with God is eternal, while earthly achievements last only for time. Have you sacrificed the eternal to gain the temporal? Have you ignored personal and spiritual relationships in your pursuit of human achievements? Relationships must always have a higher priority than temporal achievements.

**Lord, amidst the busyness of my schedule and clutter of my possessions, help me cherish and nurture my relationships today.**

*Neil Anderson*  
***Freedom in Christ Ministries***  
*Used by permission*

I am reminded of what Jesus said to his disciples in Matthew 16 (26-27)

***“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? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”***

It is very easy to become distracted by the cares and worries of this world (I know I can and do!) ~ we must continually ask God to guide us by his Holy Spirit.

*Robin*

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# FOCUS

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

***Three escapes, two imprisonments and a heritage of faith  
– meet Jung Jik from North Korea***

When Jung Jik from North Korea eventually decided to follow Jesus, the unusual activities of his grandmother when he was a child took on a whole new perspective...

“My grandmother was a Christian, but I never knew,” says Jung Jik\*. “Every morning, when she cooked rice, she would mumble. Before she went to sleep, she sat down and mumbled. I thought she believed in some superstition, but looking back, I now know that it was prayer.”

She couldn’t talk about her faith – even children were known to tell the authorities about their relatives’ secret Christianity, and it would lead to her imprisonment or execution. But Jung Jik’s grandmother could pray. And that would have a profound impact.

## **A message from prison**

The authorities knew that his father had become a Christian and that’s why he was sent to prison. Jung Jik was unable to visit him, but his siblings did – and, before he died whilst still detained, he had a message for them. “He wrote on their hands that he was a follower of Jesus,” says Jung Jik.

Jung Jik’s was born in the 1960s. From an early age, indoctrination from the regime was quick and effective – he was told that Kim Il-sung (founder and first leader of North Korea) was the only god, and he even thanked him when buying sweets from the shop.

When his father fled North Korea during the devastating Arduous March – a famine that led to the starvation of three million people – Jung Jik was angry. “I thought that he only wanted food for himself, so he would survive,” says Jung Jik.

But his father went on to discover far more than just food. “In this foreign land, my father found out that his grandfather was a famous Korean martyr who was murdered by North Korean soldiers during the Korean War,” continues Jung Jik. “My father became a Christian himself. After some time, he was arrested and deported back to North Korea.”

“Today, I think that because my father devoted himself to Jesus, the rest of my family could follow suit – we could go out of the country and be survivors there, come out from North Korea, and believe in Jesus. In the Bible, one seed buried on the ground can become a big tree. I’d like to believe this is what happened with my father’s faith.”

### **Nameless and numbered**

Like his father when he escaped, Jung Jik was also captured after fleeing North Korea. Whilst he wasn’t tortured as harshly as his father was (he wasn’t a Christian at the time), the experience was still an horrific one.

“In prison, you are no longer considered human,” says Jung Jik. “They never called me by name, but by a number. There was hardly any food. The husks of corn had no salt in them, otherwise prisoners would have energy to escape. The prison cell was very small. We were cramped, with 30 people inside. I couldn’t even lie down. If you wanted to sleep, you had to lean against the prisoner next to you.”

After 20 days in prison, Jung Jik managed to escape over a wall overlaid with electric wires. “I found a hook and threw it against the wires,” he says. “No sparks. I knew that, because of the blackouts, there was no electricity. I walked into the corner and, when the guard turned away, I climbed over the wall.”

### **Escaping guard and encountering God**

After crossing the border a second time, Jung Jik was cared for by a church. It’s where, for the first time, he learned Bible verses, discovered about prayer and even experienced the Holy Spirit – all of which helped him when he was captured again and taken back to the prison he had previously escaped from. “For the first time in my life, I really prayed to God: ‘Holy God, if You exist, please let me live!’ I left as a traitor, but now, I was determined to return as an evangelist”

## **Jung Jik**

Jung Jik's heart sunk when, one day, he saw the guard on whose duty he had earlier escaped from. "I prayed to God that he wouldn't recognise me. He pointed at me. But thankfully, it wasn't because he knew I was the prisoner who escaped from his clutches; he was just selecting me to do some work outside the prison."

That evening in his prison cell, Jung Jik thanked God for saving him and said, "If You open the way, I will study the Bible." He heard a voice reply, "Alright." The next day, a prison guard told Jung Jik to go to his house to fetch him alcohol. He gave him an hour to get it. Jung Jik left and didn't return.

### **A familiar song**

Leaving North Korea for the third time, Jung Jik returned to the church where he was earlier cared for – but this time he was a believer. He studied the Bible for a few years and his passion to tell others about Jesus grew. Eventually, he sensed a calling to return to his homeland. "I left as a traitor, but now, I was determined to return as an evangelist."

"I prepared myself to go back that winter," he continues. "The border river is usually frozen around that time. That was the case when I crossed the border. However, the ice was very thin. I had to lie on my stomach and crawl over the ice like a snake to avoid breaking the ice."

Across the border, Jung Jik met a family and, after staying them for two days, he recognised the song hummed by the 73-year-old grandmother. It was 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so'. Jung Jik asked her how she knew the song, and she said that, before the Korean War, her mother took her to church. Jung Jik shared his faith and the family gave their lives to Jesus!

Because of the dangers for him and the family, Jung Jik could stay only a few days, but with the winter almost over, the ice was melting, making it difficult for Jung Jik to escape.

"We prayed together the whole night. The very next day, there was a very heavy snow and very cold wind, and all the streams and the rivers froze! The family came to me and said: 'Uncle, God is really alive!' I asked them, 'How so?' They replied, 'We were praying, and it happened! A few days ago, the ice melted. Now, the river is fully



frozen!’

“When I came to North Korea, I crossed the river like a snake, but when I left, I crossed the river dancing!”

### **“God uses your prayers”**

Jung Jik now lives in South Korea with his second wife and their child. His first wife divorced him when he fled the country. They have a child together who is in North Korea. “Pray that I will see my child again and I can tell them about Jesus myself,” he says.

“Thanks to your faithful support and prayers, the doors of North Korea will open”

### **Jung Jik**

“Don’t be disappointed when you pray,” says Jung Jik. “God uses your prayers. There still is a large underground church. Because you pray, many people are miraculously healed, and they experience God’s power. They come to faith. The seed of the gospel never dries up. Thanks to your faithful support and prayers, the doors of North Korea will open so that more people will get to know God. Because of your prayers, the underground church in North Korea is expanding.

“If I had only walked an easy path, I don’t think I will believe in God so much. Suffering is beneficial. This is why I’m believing in God. In those sufferings and those difficult times, in these trials, I experience how God answers my prayers, and this is how I now believe that God is a living God. I want to follow Him until the end.”

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

### **Please Pray**

- Give thanks for Jung Jik and all that the Holy Spirit has done in and through him
- That he will be reunited with his child and he will have the opportunity to talk to them about Jesus
- For the Holy Spirit to draw more and more people to North Korea to Jesus..

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

# **Come to 'The Well'**

*a place for*

# **Living Well Together**

**A safe place for friendship, support and a refreshing time – here at Shanklin URC:**

**Wednesdays 11:00 – 13:00**

**Free refreshments and craft activities**

**Just drop in at any point**



# 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> Mar	18:30	Shared Worship at Sandown Baptist Church
Thu	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	14:00	Pray for the Bay (see <a href="#">page 4</a> )
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:30 18:30	Sheilagh speaking Shared Worship at URC
Sat	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:00	Spring Clean (see <a href="#">page 12</a> )
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	18:30	Shared Worship at St Blasius
Thu	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	19:30	Annual Church Meeting <i>Refreshments from 19:00</i>
Sat	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	19:30	Charity concert in aid of Mother & Baby Unit See <a href="#">page 25</a>
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10:30 18:30	Encounter Café - for Mothering Sunday Shared Worship at Lake Methodist Church
Thu	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	14:00	Pray for the Bay (see <a href="#">page 4</a> )
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	15:30	Messy Church
Thu	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	19:00	Maundy Supper and Communion
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10:00 11:15	Good Friday Reflective Service Procession of Witness
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	05:45 10:30 18:30	Easter Sunrise Service Morning Communion Easter Café
Fri-Sat	25 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> Apr		Sabbath of Prayer



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
**15:30 - 17:30**

**Free fun for all the family**

- no unaccompanied children please

Come and explore Easter through a Messy Church experience at Shanklin URC - a fun way of learning for all ages in a hands-on way.

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

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

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

*And please let Yvonne know if you can help in any way – even with clearing up!*

***Pick up an invite to encourage people you know.***

### **Connection Quiz Answers**

1. York
2. Shackleton.
3. Mosquito.
4. Hunter.
5. Connection: they are all former RAF aeroplanes, i.e. Avro York, Avro Shackleton, De Havilland Mosquito and Hawker Hunter.
6. This issue's cover photo is from: Sandown Airport (photo courtesy of Ryan Jones, used by permission).



**The Puzzle Pages**

# Sudoku

*A numerical placement puzzle!*

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

**A medium one this month.**

**Enjoy!**

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

1		2		3		4	5		6		7		8
						9							
10													
							11	12		13		14	
15	16				17	18							
19				20			21				22		
23			24							25			
													26
27	28					29				30	31		
									32				
					33								
34									35				

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

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

## Across

- 1 Capital of NZ, or a Womble (10)
- 7 Buzzing stinging insect (3)
- 9 To -, or not to - (2)
- 10 Sweet made with sugar or honey and roasted nuts (6)
- 11 Thanks, slang (2)
- 13 Head, en français (4)
- 15 On the way (7)
- 19 Fish eggs (3)
- 20 Opposite of northern (8)
- 23 Mr Sheeran, singer (2)
- 25 Male sheep (3)
- 27 *Down, down* rock group (6 3)
- 30 He phoned home in 1982 (2)
- 32 Dairy product, can be single or double (5)
- 33 Small and elegant (5)
- 34 Commenced (7)

35 Not late (5)

## Down

- 1 People who travel aimlessly. (9)
- 2 Paris art gallery/museum (6)
- 3 Son of Daedalus, he flew too close to the sun (6)
- 4 England, Scotland & Wales (2)
- 5 People camp in this (4)
- 6 Not old (3)
- 7 Soft French cheese (4)
- 8 Central European river (4)
- 12 Remnants of a fire (3)
- 13 Dog breed, e.g. Yorkshire (7)
- 14 You, en français (2)
- 16 - off, fall asleep (3)
- 17 Friends with Dick and Harry (3)
- 18 Group of 27 nations *initials* (2)
- 21 Hole, en français (4)
- 22 Not Applicable *initials* (2)
- 24 For this or worse? (6)
- 26 Informal term for mother (5)
- 28 An open pastry case (4)
- 29 Slang for a pound containing a sweet or savoury filling (4)
- 31 Drop of clear salty liquid from an eye (4)
- 32 Used in snooker to hit a ball (3)
- 33 *Let it -*, Beatles song (2)



## Can You Guess The Year?

- The Queen opens the NEC Birmingham.
- Southampton win the FA Cup.
- Production of the Hillman Imp ends
- And UK No. 1s included:
  - Pussycat with '*Mississippi*'
  - ABBA with '*Fernando*'
  - Four Seasons with '*December 63 (Oh What a Night)*'
  - Showaddywaddy with '*Under the Moon of Love*'

*Answer next issue*

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

1. Who was the English monarch before Mary I?
2. What was the currency in Spain before the Euro?
3. When did the Battle of Agincourt take place?
4. What's the capital of Romania?
5. Where was the coronation of King William I?
6. Who founded the '*Abbaye aux Hommes*' in Caen?
7. Who wrote the '*Mayor of Casterbridge*'?
8. Who wrote the '*Can-Can*'?
9. What's the name of Dennis the Menace's dog?
10. Who designed the WW2 aeroplane the Hawker Hurricane?

*Answers next issue*

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

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

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 **1961**

- Last issue's crossword ↓

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

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

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. King William IV                | 6. Mathilde de Flandre            |
| 2. Franc                          | 7. Charles Dickens                |
| 3. Azincourt                      | 8. René Goscinny, & Albert Uderzo |
| 4. Tallinn                        | 9. Argon                          |
| 5. 25 <sup>th</sup> December 1066 | 10. Reginald J Mitchell           |

## 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 service** on last Sunday of each month

## Weekday Activities

- Monday**      10:30      **Pop Up Pantry**
- 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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[brianharley58@gmail.com](mailto:brianharley58@gmail.com)

*Day off: Monday*

**Secretary: Robin Wightman**



[robinwightman@aol.com](mailto:robinwightman@aol.com)

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

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

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