

The Link

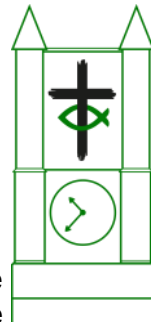


August 2025



Shanklin United Reformed Church www.shanklinurc.co.uk

View From the High Street



The View from No. 25:

A message from God!

One evening last week we were watching an action movie based on the legend of Robin Hood of which there are numerous different versions of the story, but this one starring Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett seems to me the most authentic based on the period in history. At one point Robin remembers the violent death of his father and a message he left inscribed in stone and also on a sword saying: "Rise and rise again until Lambs become Lions." One of Robin's fellow archers asked him, "What does that mean?" to which Robin replied, "Never give up."

For some reason I felt it had a spiritual connection and after some research found in Proverbs 24:16, "for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes."

So what does that mean? Generally speaking it means Get Up! Do not give up! Don't wallow in your failure for the Lord is on your side!

Lambs become Lions – where does that come from? Lamb of God and Lion of Judah came to my mind so after further research I found in John 1:29 that when John the Baptist saw Jesus walking towards him he said: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Jesus is the Lamb of God - again in victory over death and offering us hope for eternal life!

Finally, Jesus the Messiah, who will also descend from this tribe (Micah 5:2), will carry the title of the Lion of Judah. Revelation 5:5 says this about Him: "The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered, and he is able to open the scrolls and the seven seals.. This is speaking about Jesus Christ – the Lion of Judah and his second coming.

So where am I going with all this? We are all living in extremely difficult times and there are places in the Holy Bible where God

warns us of wars, rumour of wars, famines, earthquakes and deception by false prophets. (Matthew 24)

Timothy 3: 1-5 describes a time of moral decay and social unrest where people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, etc and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. These passages and others paint a picture of a world increasingly marked by conflict, moral decline and natural disasters as the time of Jesus' return approaches – but take heart! We need to Look Up!!

Luke 21:28 And when these things come to pass then look up and lift up your heads for your redemption draweth nigh! Look forward with hope and expectation in anticipation of the return of Jesus Christ.

Open your Bible and seek God. Look to Him in prayer and when you don't know what to say let the Holy Spirit intercede for you.

Ask and it will be yours. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7)

Remember the song written by Leeland Mooring where the words of the chorus are:

*Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before You
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb*

*Brenton Brown, Brian Mark Johnson, Leeland Mooring
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Music Ltd; Bethel Music Publishing*

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Ann Foster

Prayer



Tuesday Prayer at 19:30 - Continues each week via Zoom using the same account as for other activities and groups :

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

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

Meeting ID: 324 266 5584 Password: 936536.

Text Prayer Network - This has proved a really efficient method of getting prayer needs around. So, if you have an urgent and important issue that needs immediate cover, please text Lou on **07514 766798** (or, as a back-up, Jean Cunningham on: 07854 324809) with your prayer request and she will mobilise a team of intercessors by forwarding the message to the group. Each of the team will pray and then delete the message.

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

Pray for The Bay - Grace McKenzie from Christ Church hosts this gathering, normally on the first Thursday of each month, at her home in Lake. **However, there is no meeting in August, the next meeting will be on Thursday 4th September @ 14:00**

Let Us Pray for Shanklin: June to September

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

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

SURC August Prayer Diary

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

Happy praying

Fri 1	Holidaymakers on the Island	Mon 18	Brian as he flies out to the USA (see page 6)
Sat 2	Brian, with one month left of his sabbatical	Tue 19	The persecuted church
Sun 3	Sheilagh leading the Communion service	Wed 20	Organisations who support the persecuted church
Mon 4	Our text prayer network	Thu 21	The health of our members and adherents
Tue 5	Other churches	Fri 22	URC General Synod
Wed 6	The Well: helpers, regulars and visitors	Sat 23	The editor of 'The Link' preparing the next issue
Thu 7	The family of Ceci White on the day of her funeral	Sun 24	Michael Hopkins speaking
Fri 8	SURC's Elders	Mon 25	The property team
Sat 9	Christians Working Together in the Bay	Tue 26	Our weekly Tuesday Zoom prayer meeting
Sun 10	Sheilagh speaking at our morning service	Wed 27	The church's Tech Team
Mon 11	The people of Shanklin	Thu 28	Shanklin Methodist Church, which is closing in September
Tue 12	Shanklin's businesses	Fri 29	Teachers preparing to go back to school
Wed 13	Shanklin Town Council	Sat 30	Children preparing to go back to school
Thu 14	Isle of Wight Council	Sun 31	Encounter service with Andy Hough
Fri 15	Our Island's two MPs		
Sat 16	The Island		
Sun 17	Kelvin Burke speaking		

Minister's Sabbatical

Brian and family will be holidaying together during the first half of the month before Brian leaves for the USA on 18th August for the board meeting of PRMI. Brian will be back on duty on **Tuesday 2nd September**.

He is away from all duties for these three months, although he will be around at home for much of the time, please don't contact him **but refer matters to ME or one of the elders ...**

Rev Mark Evans from Newport Congregational Church is available as a back-up - phone: 522187 or email: revmarkevans@yahoo.co.uk

We have received a lovely letter of thanks from Martin & Gertrude in Kalasa:

Dear Brian,

Greetings in Jesus' mighty name.

Though I have missed catching up with you for unavoidable circumstances, you are always on my mind. Welcome back from Madagascar, and I believe you are now settled and everything is going well.



Gertrude, Kalasa Ministries and I extend our heartfelt appreciation to you and to the congregation at Shanklin URC for the banner gifted to Kalasa Church and the various items for Kalasa School. The valuable time members spent to make the banner, significantly shows that you have Kalasa at heart. It is our prayer always that

our Lord Jesus keep us bound, united together with cords of love which the enemy cannot break.

We shall always be praying for abundant heavenly blessings upon you, your family and the entire congregation at Shanklin URC.

Martin (12/07/25)

Robin

National Week of Prayer

6th - 14th September 2025

Gather. Remember. Return.

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

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

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

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



Time & Location

13 Sept 2025, 09:30 – 11:00

At Ventnor Paddling Pool, Ventnor PO38 1SZ

About the event

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

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

Mrs Cecilia White

The funeral of our dear Ceci will take place here at the URC on Thursday, 7th August at 13:30 with Rev Mark Evans leading the service ~ all are welcome to attend. This will be followed by a family burial at Springwood Cemetery and a gathering from 14:30 at The Pointers, Newchurch, to which everyone is invited.

Ceci's family ask that, rather than bringing flowers, you donate to Macmillan Cancer Support, which can be done directly or through the funeral directors, William Hall.

Growing the Church of Jesus Christ in Shanklin

During September, Brian is planning a series of talks based on the recent URC course entitled "Leading Your Church into Growth", which he and some of the Elders attended. This will include a talk from Mary Thomas, our Synod Development & Support Officer.

The plan so far is for this to culminate with a church "away day" on Saturday 27th September at Ryde URC, as we seek God's will for our fellowship in the coming years.

After the excellent talk from Grace McKenzie recently, Sheilagh asked for those who wished to see our ministry expand further into the community to stand...

and very nearly everyone
(who was able to) **stood!**

Elders have discussed how we might, "strike whilst the iron is hot," and have decided to invite you all to a short time of prayer and discussion about the way forward on Saturday, 2nd August, between 10:30 and 11:30.

See you there!



Bible Bite



Bible Bite takes a break during August, but will return on Tuesday, 2nd September, when Brian will lead us @ 14:00 (refreshments from 13:30).

Church Meeting

25th September 2025 @ 19:30

All members and regular worshippers are encouraged to come along & be involved in our church family business. Refreshments from 19:00



Don't just go to church – be the church!

Connection Quiz

1. What is the name for a ladies bag, most commonly used during the evening, which has no handles and is rectangular in shape?
2. What headwear is commonly worn by women and girls during Easter?
3. The Humber Bridge is an example of what type of bridge?
4. Which 1982 Human League song starts '*The water shines, A pebble skips across the face*'?
5. Which English word translates into French as '*botte*'?
6. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 5?
7. And bonus question... where was the cover photo taken? Hint... Do you actually need a hint?



Answers are on [page 45](#)

ENCOUNTER

On the last Sunday of each month at 10:30

A café style meeting place to drop in and enjoy



some refreshments

A relaxed time of Friendship, Fun, Food and exploring Faith...

with craft, songs, challenges, prayers...

EVERYONE is welcome – do bring a friend along

The next café service will be on the 31st August, entitled 'Feed, Weed & Seed', and led by Andy Hough

a great day to invite friends along

– café serving from 10:15

Thought for the month

Be strong and courageous, all you who have hope in the Lord. *Based on Psalm 31:24*



CHARITY NO
1120920

FUNDRAISING IN SUPPORT OF **HELP** *for* **BBQ** **HEROES**

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

This year, we will again be additionally supporting a local Isle of Wight Charity - Ability Dogs 4 Young People IoW

When: 16th August 2025
Time 15:00 - 18:00 (Food from 16:00)

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

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

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

A suggested price list will be available for food.

All proceeds go directly to the above charities



Ephesians Chapter 5:8 – 6:

(some thoughts on Brian's Bible Bite exposition)

Last time, we looked at the beginning of the passage entitled "Living as Children of Light". In this second part, Paul states in verse 8, ***"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."*** And he begins to expand on what this should look like, telling us that the fruit of the light is all goodness, righteousness and truth.

We Are Called To Be A People Who Please The Lord

By contrast, the deeds of darkness are fruitless, and we expose them by the reflected light of Christ in our lives. This is how things work in God's economy. We are not to be contaminated by darkness, but rather we are to bring light to it. Paul calls on the Ephesians (and us) to:

Wake Up ~ Be focused on the things of God

Rise ~ Made alive in Christ

Shine ~ A people of Light, a new dawn

and suggests how we should seek to live as:

Wise people, making **wise** choices (v15)

Not wasting a minute, using every **opportunity** (v16)

Seeking the Lord's will ~ that is what **pleases** Him (v17)

Being sober and continually **filled** with the Holy Spirit (v18)

Being joyful in the **presence** of the Lord ~ singing songs! (v19)

Being thankful to God, for **everything** (v20)

Verse 21 can be seen as a headline for the rest of this section, ***"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ"*** and goes on to provide examples of how we should manage our Christian relationships.

a) Wives & Husbands

Marriage is God ordained and is intended to be the base from which both we and future generations flourish. A relationship of co-dependence, a deep sharing ~ committed, respectful, yielding, giving, submitting ...

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united

to his wife, and they become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24)

Paul calls on wives to submit to their husbands, but he then calls on husbands to love their wives as He loved us (dying on the Cross) ~ an unconditional, self-sacrificial love (**Agape**) ~ a lot is asked of each party in a marriage!

b) Children & Parents

“Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12)

Paul calls for children to obey their parents and for fathers not to exasperate their children (positive parenting) ~ this will happen if both “*submit to one another*”, see verse 21 above.

c) Slaves & Masters

“Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother” (Philemon v15&16a)

Paul suggests that irrespective of our status, we **all** serve the same **master**. (note that slaves played a significant part in this society, and the relationship was not like that of those in the sugar plantations of the West Indies.)

Paul is telling all Christian household members to submit to one another because

With God There Is No Favouritism

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28)

We Are All Equal Before God

(remember that God saw to it that women were first at the tomb!)

In Paul’s day, much of his thinking was counter-cultural, as it is in today’s world, where boundaries have been blurred and many folk are floundering ...

It Is Our Job To Show That In Christ There Is A Better Way ~

That God's Plan For His Creation Is Perfect!

God Sees Our Relationship With Him As A Marriage ~ We Are Partners, Heirs Together In God's Kingdom

In summary, Paul commends servanthood to Christ as our motivation in all areas of our lives and relationships.

Whatever our role, whatever we do, we are doing it for the Lord. Don't hold back, always give of your best to bring honour to God.

Whoever we are, wherever we find ourselves, we must be wholeheartedly following the teachings of the Word of God, for the Glory of God!

"Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13: 7&8)

Sunday Evening Worship & Prayer @ SURC:



As open air worship at Rylstone Gardens is only taking place on the last Sunday of the month over the summer, Lou and Jane will lead a time of worship and prayer @ 18:30 here at the URC on the other Sundays.

If you are happy to help with this, please speak to Lou or Jane... all are welcome to come along and join in with Christians from around the Bay and those visiting our beautiful Island!

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

CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE BAY
warmly invite you to join us for

Worship in the Open Air



**Last Sunday of the
month at 19:30**
in Rylstone Gardens
(turn left just past
the Old Village)



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

Being held on 27th July & 31st Aug



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

The Laws of God

We see Jesus in the New Testament often rebuking the Jewish authorities for their “rule keeping”, which led them away from God. In today’s world, we too can be deflected from the path our Lord wishes us to follow. In this devotional, Neil shows us what is of paramount importance...

“Then the Lord said to him, ‘Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But now, as for what is inside you, be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.’” **Luke 11:39-41**

The Talmud, a collection of ancient rabbinic writings, relates the story of Rabbi Akiba, who was imprisoned. Rabbi Joshua brought him some water, but the guard spilt half of the container. There was too little water to both wash and drink, and Rabbi Akiba faced the possibility of death for lack of water if he chose to use the water for ceremonial washing. He reasoned, "He who eats with unwashed hands perpetuates a crime that ought to be punished by death. Better for me to die of thirst than to transgress the traditions of my ancestors!"

Jesus responded harshly to such reasoning:

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practised the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.” **Matthew 23:23&24**

The Lord cautions that the weightier matters of the law (such as justice and mercy) are overlooked when attention focuses on strict observances of religious practices. This leads to a corresponding negligence of the eternal laws of God. Jesus told people to pay more attention to cleansing their hearts and not to be like their leaders, who cleanse only their hands.

The laws of God are liberating and protective. They are restrictive only when they protect us from the evil one. The rules of any institution should ensure the freedom of each individual to reach his or her God-given potential. They should serve as a guide so we don't stray from our purpose, and they should protect us from those who abuse the system.

The principle that Jesus modelled could be stated as follows: If people are commanded to follow a traditional practice that makes life more difficult and no longer contributes to the purpose of the organisation, then we must not participate as a matter of religious conscience. Jesus simply didn't observe such traditions, and He defended His disciples for not observing them as well.

Thank You for reminding me, Lord, that the law kills but the Spirit gives life. Help me walk in that freedom today and always

Neil Anderson
Freedom in Christ Ministries
Daily Devotionals
Used by permission

Jesus stated: **“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.” Matthew 5:17**

I believe Jesus is telling us that He is the embodiment of the true intent and purpose of the law. Let us all be sure that we fix our eyes on Jesus, walking His way every day of our lives, seeking first His Kingdom. This all hangs on the “greatest commandments” ...

“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the

first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22: 34-40

Father God, may Your Holy Spirit guide us in our daily walk with Your Son. May we seek to obey these commandments as we seek first Your Kingdom.

Lord, be gracious to us, bless us and make Your face shine upon us, we pray. Make your ways known on earth and Your Salvation known among all the nations. May all the people praise Your holy name.

Robin

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Hope in the Psalms

Our minister, Brian, has arranged some excellent speakers who have brought God’s word to us during his sabbatical.

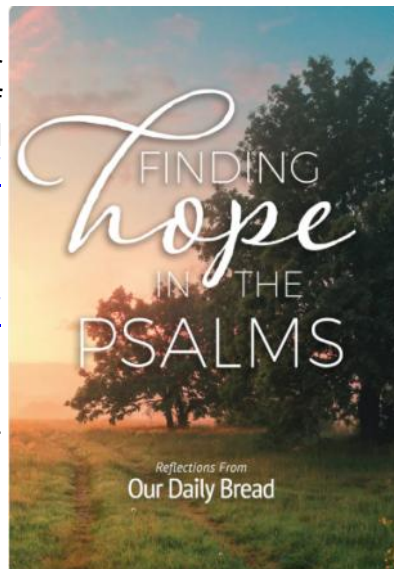
During Bible Bite, the Rev Nigel Cox shared with us from the Psalms and Pastor Jonathan Snell from the Parables of Jesus, each over the course of four weeks, with Nigel returning for the final session before the summer break to share with us a concluding message summing up his previous four with, ‘Reflections on God’s Blessings (Psalm 145)’.

Some notes of their talks are available – on the table in church or alternatively, videos of the messages can be accessed via the church’s YouTube channel - just go to www.youtube.com/@shanklinunitedreformedchur8970, or just go to YouTube and enter Shanklin URC in the search box.

Do ask me, however, if you’d like any of the above, or see our tech team if you’d like help with YouTube.

Also to mention that an excellent booklet from ‘Our Daily Bread Ministries’ (www.odbm.org/en-GB) – ‘Finding Hope in the Psalms’ is

also available at church and is so good to read oneself and to give to other people who might be in need of encouragement. It can also be ordered free from <https://shop.odbm.org.uk/products/finding-hope-in-the-psalms-reflections-from-our-daily-bread?variant=50449325228333>. Alternatively, go to <https://shop.odbm.org.uk/pages/bookshop> and enter Finding Hope in the Psalms in the search box.



Just to give a flavour of what is inside – there are ten names of God in Scripture:

1. The God who sees me (Genesis 6:13)
2. God Almighty (Genesis 17:1)
3. I Am (Exodus 3:14)
4. Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9)
5. God Most High (Psalm 57:2)
6. Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 1:1)
7. Immanuel ‘God With Us’ (Matthew 1:23)
8. The Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
9. Abba Father (Romans 8:15)
10. The Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13)

There are many more wonderful Names of our God, but these are just a few to ponder on and look into.

Psalm 9:10 says, “Those who know Your Name trust in You.”

As we look more into God’s Names, may we also grow in our understanding of Him and His love and mercy towards us.

Blessings in Jesus’ Name

Jane H

Source: [Our Daily Bread Ministries](#)

Celebrating 70 years of Open Doors: Brother Andrew in his own words

Remember Brother Andrew (1928-2022) in his own words. You can revisit this interview, as part of celebrations of 70 years of Open Doors.

It has been 70 years since Brother Andrew made his first trip behind the Iron Curtain, into Communist Eastern Europe. That courageous mission – on 15 July 1955 – was the beginning of the ministry of Open Doors. It was the first time Brother Andrew had met anybody from the persecuted church. His trips smuggling Bibles ultimately led to untold millions of persecuted believers receiving support, encouragement and prayer over the decades since. Millions of our brothers and sisters are still being supported each year.

Brother Andrew went to glory on 27 September 2022. A few years earlier, he shared his story and his perspective in a couple of interviews, which are combined below. As we celebrate 70 years of Open Doors, you can remember Brother Andrew in his own words – and continue his legacy with your prayers.

What helped motivate your mission?

Brother Andrew: At the end of my missionary training at the WEC College in Glasgow, I came across a glossy magazine in the basement of the college that explained the glories of Socialism – they didn't use the word 'Communism'. They were advertising a big youth festival in Warsaw. Anyone was invited. It was one of those moments when you don't need a prayer meeting. I wrote to them and I asked if I could come – I told them "I'm a Christian and if I come I will behave like a Christian." They said yes.

So I packed my suitcase with Scriptures and made my way to Poland and there I discovered suffering churches, churches without young people, churches without adequate leadership. I discovered that Bibles were being smuggled into the Soviet Union by unbelievers in order to make a LOT of money. That said something.

How have you decided where to direct your ministry?

Brother Andrew: You don't have to go by what circumstances seem to dictate. There's a large part of your life that you make, and a large part that you don't. I believe that the part that you don't control is

provided from above, based on your vigour and your faith. If opportunities arise, you must seize them. That is what made Open Doors strong.

Once, I was sitting at a table with my wife, Corry. I was planning on going to Yugoslavia by car. We put our money on the table: 40 euros. I wanted to travel for three weeks. We already had a couple of children. I remember Corry telling me: "You take 25 euros, because you're going to unknown countries, and I'll take 15 euros." The first place I stopped was Darmstadt, since I knew some people there. I entered the home of that old lady, and she said: "Hey, there you are. This morning, the Lord told me that you'd come." She had also saved up and gave me money for the rest of the trip.

We can be way too pious with these things. You don't pray for a lot of things. An opportunity arises, and you have to seize it. You have to be ready at all times.

Is there a moment in your ministry you felt particularly scared?

Brother Andrew: Once I travelled to a country where I spoke at about 80 meetings, and I didn't even know anyone in that country. When I had arrived, the news spread like wildfire. Everything works out, as long as you don't worry about it. And on those moments when you are worried, because of course I have felt that too, you simply stop for a while.

There was one time when I was at the border of Hungary, by myself, in a car packed with Bibles, and I was extremely scared. I turned the car around; six miles back, there was a small hotel. I went there to pray and fast until my fear was gone. Of course, you're still afraid when you get on the road. But courage requires persevering, despite your fear. There's no courage without fear.

How did you come to write *God's Smuggler*?

Brother Andrew: On one of my early trips to America I met John Sherrill, who had written a book: *The Cross and the Switchblade*. I had read it with tears. He asked me to tell my story and wrote it up for *Guideposts* magazine. That generated so much interest that out of it came the proposal to write a book.

I spent six weeks with John and his wife Elizabeth and they wrote a book that, to my surprise, became a bestseller in America. But the price was very high because I could not go back to Russia or any

Communist country. But, because of its success, others could and did go.

Where did you go instead?

Brother Andrew: When *God's Smuggler* came out, I went to the Middle East. That was the opening of a new field. I soon became convinced that the evil system of Communism would disappear but would be replaced by the world of Islam. It is my hope that Open Doors supporters will accept the challenge to pray with more faith and understanding for God's work in Muslim countries and with real, genuine compassion. Jesus gave His life for them and that should be our attitude for Muslims.

There is hope for the church in Iraq and Syria, as long as we don't give up on it. We need to stay there. Witness.

As persecution continues to increase around the world, what helps you persevere in your ministry?

Brother Andrew: My continuous prayer for persecuted Christians. I try to look at them with the eyes of Jesus, with compassion, and I try to help. But everything an individual can do is so limited. Everything an organisation can do is so limited, compared to the need. I want to reach out over all the man-made barriers and say, 'Let's come together'. In Luke 5, the disciples go fishing with Jesus and the boats are so full of fish that they beckon the other boats to help them. That's what we should do – share our success and not just our needs.

What drives you when you get up each morning?

Brother Andrew: The vision, the burden that the task is not finished yet. Therefore my task is not finished. As long as we are not finished, I am not finished. There is always need around you. Where there is a need there is also the open door to apply the solution of Jesus Christ, the Saviour, the Son of God. So there is plenty of scope to continue that work.

It is the task of every Christian to do what they can. I don't believe in retirement. You can retire from your official job but never from your mission in life.

Looking back, is there anything you wish you had done differently?

Brother Andrew: If I could do it over, I would be more radical. I compromised too much. I fought too much. I contemplated when I should have taken action. I have made many mistakes, but I don't apologise for that because the greatest mistake is if you do nothing. That I didn't want to do! So in doing lots of things I have made many mistakes. But you learn.

Looking ahead, what do you think is the greatest challenge facing the global church?

Brother Andrew: To be faithful. We have substituted the word 'faithful' with success and prosperity. We've gone astray on that line. The churches that make the most impact on the world were the 'poor churches'. We don't need a lot of technology or money. We need people whose hearts are beating for Jesus Christ. That's my longing.

I have faith in the fact that in countries where the church is now being heavily persecuted, the church will emerge the strongest and will put us to shame. Because we did so little with our freedom and our wealth. I think that the church will emerge stronger than in our countries.

What are your hopes for the future of Open Doors?

Brother Andrew: My hope is that we will continue to keep up with the negative developments in the world in relation to persecution and that we will not shy away from controversial areas – be they political, ideological or religious. I pray that we will find a way to get into situations where people say the doors are closed. We still say categorically there are no doors closed! Our eyes may be closed, our hearts may be closed, but the doors are open.

How do you want people to remember you?

Brother Andrew: I don't want them to remember me! Like the donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem – why should we remember the donkey? Not one of his grey hairs turned white because he carried Jesus. Whom do we carry in? Jesus should have all the attention. We don't have to be remembered.

*Brother Andrew started by smuggling Bibles into Communist Eastern Europe in 1955, thus starting the work of **Open Doors**.*

Source: [Open Doors](#)

Open the Book, which takes assemblies in Primary Schools, is part of the Bible Society.

The Ryde team serves the 600 children of Dover Park and Haylands every week. The children enjoy taking part – some of them are dressed in costume and act together with the team. Everyone else is invited to join the interactions, such as this one when David was looking out of the cave and saw Saul coming towards him.



Bible Society Interview of the month

This month we have been chatting to Julie Croydon, an Open the Book Storyteller on the Isle of Wight.

Tell us a little bit about yourself

I lived in Nigeria for 13 years, during which time I was employed as a Headmistress, despite having no teaching qualification. I only took my PGCE after returning to the UK. I have four sons from my first marriage, and I am now married to a gorgeous man called Bill. We live on the beautiful Isle of Wight. We both love making things, with the result that our sitting room is overrun by props and costumes. Thankfully, God has blessed us with a large house, so we relax in the study.

How long have you been an OtB Storyteller?

As soon as I retired ten years ago, I looked for regular weekly voluntary work. I heard about OtB when visiting a church on the mainland and immediately joined a team on the island. After three years I started up a team in Ryde.

Tell us a surprising fact about yourself

Bill and I sometimes turn up at Osborne House and wander around

the grounds dressed as John Brown and Queen Victoria.

What do you remember about school assemblies when you were a pupil?

My friends grinning at me whenever we sang 'My hope to follow duly'.

Who first told you Bible stories?

Churches in the 1950s didn't have a crèche! I have no memory of a time when I didn't know Bible stories.

Who is your favourite biblical character and why?

Esther. In a world where women were effectively dolls, God inspired her. Not asking for what she wanted until the third time was absolutely brilliant.

Why do you love OtB?

It's such great fun, plus it provides an outlet for the skills God has made available in his Church through me. OtB also produced deep and lasting friendships with team members from other congregations when I was going through a tremendously difficult time in my former fellowship.

Have you a funny or poignant OtB story?

During Covid, island Storytellers filmed 50 videos which were used by schools all over the UK. This not only saved our sanity (being able to do something challenging and worthwhile) but reached more children than normal. When lockdown meant only six people could gather in a garden, our narrator braved next door's very inquisitive dog and read to us from the other side of the chain-link fence.

What advice would you give your ten-year-old self?

Don't worry, one day you'll get glasses that are not round and pink.

What are you thankful for regarding OtB?

I'm so grateful to God for the tremendous privilege of being able to present His word to precious children. Thanks to OtB, I'm being used more now for is kingdom than at any previous time in my life.



Source: Bible Society - used by permission

Memories of Ceci White *(who passed away recently)*

I first met Ceci at the beginning of 2016, not long after we moved to the Island. I met her in church and chatted a bit, then found she attended the same house group as us. Before long we became quite friendly, and I would pop around for a cuppa with her about once a week. We got on really well and had a lot in common with each other. Shortly after we moved here my mum had passed away so perhaps she helped fill that gap in my life. She would sometimes walk into town to do some shopping and pop into our house for a cup of tea before continuing home.

I could share lots of tales about Ceci, but this is the lasting one I have of her. One day we were chatting over a cuppa when she told me this amazing story. She couldn't say whether it was dream or a vision, but she thought she'd nodded off to sleep one afternoon when she found herself in an amazing garden, she described it as out of this world the colours were really vivid, and the aromas were like nothing she could have imagined. As she bent down to look at them a man stood beside her and explained in great detail what each one was and how they needed to be looked after. She said he took so much time to explain each one, answered questions she had about them. I think her expression was 'He had all the time in the world'

Afterwards she said to me 'Do you think that was God's Garden? I replied that I did. She said that's what I'll be doing then.

Thank you Ceci for your love and friendship, see you again in God's Garden for a cuppa and catch up.

Sue Wightman

I met Ceci about 15 years ago at Springfield nursing home where my mother was a resident.

Brian our minister held a service there once a month that my mother and I enjoyed going to. A short time before mum died the service was taking place and I decided to go on my own and left my mum in bed. I very rarely cry but during the service I started quietly weeping. Ceci came and sat with me and offered such comforting words that I

will always remember.

Pat B.



Ceci, on the right, on her 91st birthday, pictured here with Sue Wightman

Isaiah's Vision

Our last assembly of the year at Hayland's began with a summary of God's dealings with the family of Abraham. 8 children from year 6 were dressed in costume. We cannot take photos in school, so, when their Mum came to preach, Mufaro and Munashe happily agreed to recreate the scenes for us. Look out for Dad, Tapiwa, in the temple.



God led the people of Israel to a land flowing with milk and honey. When there was a famine in the land, they went to Egypt where they grew strong. Pharaoh turned them into slaves, so God saved them and took them back to the Promised Land. When they demanded a king, God agreed. Some kings were good, but others encouraged the people to worship idols. God sent prophets to bring them back to Himself.



One of the most famous prophets was Isaiah. One day, Isaiah was in the temple when he saw God, high and lifted up, and the train of God's robe filled the temple.

Seraphim called to each other: "Holy, Holy, Holy



is the Lord of heaven's army. The whole world is filled with his glory!" Their voices were so loud that the foundations of the temple shook and smoke filled the temple.

Isaiah was terrified. He knew he was not worthy to be in God's presence and said: "I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips."



Then a seraph flew to the altar and, with tongs, took a burning coal from the fire.



Isaiah must have been really scared when the Seraph came towards him and touched the coal to his lips – but it didn't hurt, not at all.

The Link - August 2025

The seraph said: "Look, the coal has touched your lips. Your sin has been taken away. You are no longer guilty."

And with that, a voice came from the lips of God himself. The voice asked: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

Isaiah answered: "Here am I, send me."

From that moment, and for many years after, Isaiah spoke God's message to kings and people alike. For he had become God's prophet.



The teacher in charge was very happy with the story. The previous day, the children had been taken to their new classrooms to meet the teachers who will be teaching them from September. Year 6 are preparing to go to Secondary School. For some, this may be scary. Now they were being told that God would help them in the next stage of their lives.

We did wonder how the children would react to the story of Isaiah's vision. We needn't have worried. A lad in the front row commented: 'That was cool'.

Because our storytellers mime, Open the Book is great fun. There is no fear of forgetting lines – we just listen to what it being read, so we know what we must do. God is still asking "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Do you know anyone who might be able to give one morning a week to present cool Bible stories to our precious children?

The Parable of the Sower

This was one of the parables that Jonathan Snell spoke about last month, from Matthew 13:1-23.

It reminded me of a time some years ago when we were plagued with a honeysuckle shrub that choked all else around it, including a lovely Montana Clematis that had flowered faithfully and profusely year after year.

The culprit honeysuckle we had bought in a local supermarket – it was very reasonably priced but turned out to be costly in terms of its destructive behaviour and literally days needed to eventually remove it, especially as the roots had spread far and wide and were very reluctant to be pulled out!

And to cap it all, the plant itself was not at all spectacular, having no scent and tiny flowers! Why buy it in the first place, you may ask!!

Well, it looked pretty on the label, with no hint of its' destructive powers! In the parable, some of the seed that the sower had spread fell among thorns which choked out the seed – Jesus' interpretation being a person who hears the Word but the cares of the world and deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

What a challenging thought! The rogue honeysuckle turned out to be like the thorns, choking everything around it.

May we be like the sower whose seed fell on good ground – that is like the man who hears the Word and understands it, producing sixty or thirty times what was sown.

May we be such people sowing good seed for eternity and bringing in a harvest of souls for God's Kingdom and may we also root out anything in our lives that hinders us.

Just to conclude, Jonathan also shared during a conversation with me this verse from Leviticus 6:13 (an instruction to the priests in the temple): "Remember the fire shall be kept burning on the altar at all times. It must never go out."

This greatly challenged me – may I keep the fire of faith burning with a passion for our dear Lord, for His Word and for His people and may the fire never go out.

Many blessings and love in Jesus, Jane H

Care Prayer Diary

We now have the new edition of this excellent booklet (from 20th July – 18th October 2025).

As well as prayers for each day, each page has a Scripture verse, plus relevant information about the topic being prayed for.

The first one is entitled, 'Listening With Compassion'. It is a very sad fact that the numbers of adults and young people suffering with mental health issues and those taking their own lives are continuing to grow (see the Prayer Diary).

The 24th July is marked as 'Samaritan's Awareness Day'. 23,000 Samaritan volunteers across the UK & Ireland give of their time to listen to those who call in to them in distress.

May your church also be a source of comfort, strength and wise council for those who are struggling.

Linked in with the theme of wellness, the 5th – 11th October entry is on **Health and Healing** and it is amazing to see that in just one week alone, there are four different special dates with an emphasis on Health and Healing:

- **2nd – 8th October Public Health Workforce Week**
- **9th – 15th October Baby Loss Awareness Week**
- **10th October World Mental Health Day**
- **11th October World Hospice and Palliative Care Day**

Each are having an appropriate and helpful prayer.

If you have not used the Care Prayer Diary before, I do hope you will take a copy (or visit <https://care.org.uk/prayer-diary> to download one) and find it both a blessing and informative in your prayer life.

Other issues covered include:

- **Care for Creation**
- **Social Media**
- **Rising Generations**
- **Humanitarian Initiatives**
- **Finding Freedom**

- **The Gift of Prayer**
- **Back to School**
- **Christians and Culture**
- **Peace and Unity**
- **Justice for Vulnerable People**
- **Relieving Poverty**

If you would like to receive not only the Prayer Diary but also regular updates from CARE with regard their vital ministry in upholding Christian values in our land, do contact them (details inside the front cover of the Prayer Diary or go online).

Blessings in Jesus' Name

Jane H

Source : [CARE](#)

Celia Clements

Dear Church family.

Many of you will remember Celia Clements, who celebrated her 95th birthday in July.

Celila has been a member of the church for many years but sadly is now unable to get there. She still takes a great interest in all that's going on and enjoys receiving a monthly copy of The Link.

Several of the ladies from church visit her regularly and find her such good company and she is still as bright as a button! Celia lives independently and carries out all her household chores, **She even irons her tea towels!**

Celia so appreciates her loving supportive family.

We are truly blessed to have our elderly folk in our lives.

May God bless you dear Celia.

Lots of love from all your friends. X

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

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

This month's edition (available to read online at www.goodnews-paper.org.uk/viewlatesteditionspage.htm) has several great articles, including the headline article, **'Wrestler's Toughest Bout - How Gaz Thompson found strength to forgive his abuser.**

Other contributions include:

- **Tamsin Greig** - Accomplished British actress believes in a personal God
- **Khloé Kardashian** - Reality TV star says she wouldn't have survived without Jesus
- **Winners Give Thanks** - Winners of FA Cup thank God
- **Uk's Youngest Mayor** - 29-year-old mayor has a mature faith that guides her decisions
- **Blind Girl Sees Again** - South Asian girl healed after prayer to Jesus
- **Scientist Turns Theologian** - Astrophysicist says the heavens declare God's Glory

Good News... for a change



Rylstone Gardens August/September 2025

As well as Open Air Worship taking place once a month, the following concerts will also be taking place on the bandstand in Rylstone Gardens, weather permitting of course.

Date	Time	Band
Sun 03-Aug-2025		STBB
Tue 05-Aug-2025		Bob Howarth Big Band
Thu 07-Aug-2025		Vectis Brass Band
Sat 09-Aug-2025		Martin Hoy
Tue 12-Aug-2025		Wight Sax
Wed 13-Aug-2025		Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 14-Aug-2025		Vectis Brass Band
Sat 16-Aug-2025		Brading Community Choir
Sun 17-Aug-2025		Vectis Brass Band
Mon 18-Aug-2025		Cowes Concert Band
Tue 19-Aug-2025		Bob Howarth Big Band
Wed 20-Aug-2025		Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 21-Aug-2025		Vectis Brass Band
Sun 24-Aug-2025		Trident Concert Band
Tue 26-Aug-2025		Wight Diamonds
Wed 27-Aug-2025		Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 28-Aug-2025		Vectis Brass Band
Sun 31-Aug-2025		Abbey Brass
Wed 03-Sep-2025		Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Sun 07-Sep-2025		Cowes Concert Band
Sun 14-Sep-2025		STBB

There is a set of posters in the lobby detailing all the concerts that are planned to take place this summer.

Bible quizzing lifts teenagers out of their depression in The Gambia

Joseph reaches his hand into a basket and draws out a small, folded piece of paper. He reads it aloud, 'Matthew 8'. There is a pool of 30 questions on Matthew 8 and the 15-year-old randomly picks question five. The quizmaster reads into the microphone: 'In which city did a Roman officer come and beg Jesus to heal his servant?'

A moment of silence, and then the chatter of over a hundred students who, along with me and the local Bible Society team, are seated in a large hall in The Gambia Methodist Academy in Bakau, The Gambia. Fans swirl overhead as all the other students flip through their new Bibles to find the answer to the question. It's a Saturday afternoon and we're all here for one reason: the Bible.

Thanks to your faithful support, Bible Marathon is thriving in schools and churches across The Gambia, a country that is 96.4 per cent Muslim and just 3.5 per cent Christian. It's a programme that invites people of all ages to study and be quizzed on the Bible and it's also been successful in other African countries like Gabon and Nigeria.

For today's quiz, students in years 1–7 from three local schools have gathered to compete. They were given a free copy of the New Testament (with Psalms and Proverbs) and one month to study Matthew's Gospel. Twelve of them were chosen at random on the day of the competition to be quizzers.

After a few seconds of thought, Joseph answers, 'Capernaum.' He's got it right, and his peers break into a big applause. As Joseph sits down and the next quizzer reaches to draw from the basket, suspense fills the room again.

I took part in a similar Bible quizzing programme as a kid, and it helped me to develop a love for the Bible. I could see that same love growing in the kids I spoke with after the quiz. 'Before, I found the Bible boring and didn't want to open it. But since I started reading it with my classmates, it's been different,' Angel, another one of the quizzers, says.

She's 15 and tells me that she's struggled with depression and being able to forgive others. 'I read Matthew 5 where Jesus talks about loving your enemies, and at first I was angry,' she says.

Angel spoke with a leader about it, and the importance of forgiveness resonated with her for the first time. 'Imagine crying all the time, feeling like you're never good enough,' she says. 'The Bible has helped me to overcome that depression, and I now thank God for my life.'

Esther, another student, tells me that a verse she learned during Bible Marathon helped her to deal with fear. 'I've always been shy, and I stammer,' she says. She read Matthew 10.19–20 where Jesus tells his disciples that if they are put on trial the Holy Spirit will give them the words to say. 'I felt renewed when I learned Jesus will always be with me,' she says. 'I'm not shy anymore, I'm bold, and I'm so happy I have this scripture to talk about.'

Support through Bible a Month has made Bible Marathon possible, and now because of the incredible amount of positive feedback on the quiz, there's hope for it to expand regionally, and even nationally. That means that your generosity will be helping more teenagers like Esther draw closer to Jesus.

Moses, an electrician who works parttime for Bible Society in The Gambia wrote the questions for today's quiz. He tells me, 'I've been a Christian for many years and most of the time we only hear the Bible from the pulpit. It's time for us to know God for ourselves. How do we know God? The Bible.'

Throughout the afternoon the twelve quizzers answer Bible questions. One by one, they're eliminated for a wrong answer, until only one quizzers remains: Shaun.

'For a long time I was reading the Bible like a novel,' he tells me after his win. 'But through the Holy Spirit I've been able to understand scriptures that have helped me to grow in my faith.'

The question he won on was 'What food did John the Baptist eat?' Do you know the answer?

Source: The Bible Society



Focus

on our Christian Brothers and Sisters being persecuted for their faith

How Yasin in Iraq risks his life to share the gospel

Yasin is an undercover believer in Iraq – he has to be very cautious about who he tells about his faith. But he is determined to keep defying threats to share the gospel.

When Yasin* first took a Bible home, he covered the title in tape. He had to go undercover. He knew how dangerous it was for an Iraqi Muslim to own a Bible. How dangerous it would be if his secret were revealed. But he was soon to take an even riskier step: deciding to become a Christian.

Peace from Jesus

The first time Yasin read the Bible, he wept. “The first thing I read in this Bible in my own language was Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount,” he remembers. “I cried because of the beautiful words in it. The words of Jesus gave me peace in my heart.”

It was a peace he’d been lacking for a long time. Though Yasin was brought up in a Muslim home, he wasn’t content in his faith. “Until I became an adult, I followed Islamic law and went to the mosque, but I was not comfortable with it,” he says. “I went to the mosque and did all my religious duties, but I was doing it for my friends’ sake. It wasn’t because I believed in it. I did not have much faith in Islam. It was a habit – but not true worship.”

He had lots of things he wanted to ask. “I argued with God a lot,” Yasin remembers. “I said, ‘God if you exist, I don’t want to sin; I want to live with you. I am asking you to show yourself to me.’” But no response came to Yasin’s desperate questions.

He stopped going to the mosque as regularly, fending off enquiries from friends with the excuse that work was too busy. He kept praying for answers. And eventually an answer came from an unexpected source: a dream.

A miraculous dream

“I was sleeping, and I saw someone coming towards me,” says Yasin. “I cannot describe how beautiful He was. His hair was long, he wore a scarf on his head. He was so beautiful, I could not stop looking at Him. He put his hand on my head and said, ‘You are my beloved child; this is the way, follow me.’”

A Muslim friend told him the dream was from the devil, and not to think about it any more – but Yasin couldn’t believe the devil was responsible. He decided to ask a Christian friend in the village. The friend told him: “This is God showing Himself to you.”

Yasin was taken to a local pastor, who was a convert from Islam. That was when Yasin read the Bible for the first time – and had a transformative encounter with the words of Jesus. After asking more questions and going to a conference organised by Open Doors local partners, Yasin made the life-changing decision to follow Christ.

Yasin’s transformation

Yasin read the Bible in secret and it was safer to keep his new faith undercover. At first, Yasin didn’t reveal the truth to his wife, Nara*, about his conversion to Christianity. After five months, he shared his secret – and Nara was horrified. “How could you bring such a book into our house?” she asked, when she saw his Bible. She urged him to return to Islam, but he had a question for her: “What do you prefer – the violent man I was before, or the servant I’ve become because of my new faith?” In the months since Yasin found Jesus, he had transformed. “Before, I was really violent towards my family,” he says. “But Jesus says we should be servants. I started serving my family.”

Nara and their children had seen this enormous change in Yasin, and they decided not to interfere when he read the Bible. That wasn’t true with everyone, though. Increasingly, Yasin couldn’t keep his extraordinary discovery to himself. He had to reveal the good news to people he thought would be receptive. It proved to be a risky decision.

Violence and death threats

“Most people from my village still did not know about me being a Christian. But the people I evangelised, they knew,” Yasin says. “One day, my brother came to visit me. The mullah [Islamic leader] told him I was distributing Bibles and that he should try to stop me.”

Yasin's brother violently attacked him – more than once. “He tried to kill me several times,” says Yasin. “One time, he broke my nose.”

Other people in the community started persecuting him too. “I received a threatening letter,” he says. “In short, it said, ‘If you don't leave Christianity, we will kill you.’” This threat almost came true when somebody threw a firebomb at his house – thankfully, the house didn't burn down. Through all this persecution, Yasin's faith remained strong. He was paying a huge price for his faith, and his determination to share it with others, but he was sure the price was worth it.

Family finds faith

Over time, and much prayer, Yasin's wife and children also chose to follow Jesus. “My daughter is a master's student and now evangelises to people and is also preaching the gospel, like me and my son,” Yasin says proudly. “God has blessed our family.”

Yasin is delighted that his family share his faith – but their decision, like his, hasn't come without a cost. His son and daughter are both unmarried, as the family are considered ‘infidels’ when people learn of their new faith. “Many times I have cried for my children; the persecution really affects them,” he says. “But thank God my children are both content. I believe that whoever endures trials faithfully will have a great place in God's Kingdom.”

Conversion has also affected the family financially. Yasin had to close his shop, as people refused to buy from an ‘infidel’. Nobody will employ him in a steady job, because of his faith; Yasin now does occasional work as a shepherd, taking care of other people's sheep for a daily wage.

Converts like Yasin are always balancing the dangers that come when their faith is known with the desire to share the gospel. “The persecution is continuous,” he says, “but there is no other way; I want to give everything to God. Jesus offered Himself for me. He was insulted, He died on the cross. He did this all to redeem me. I will not deny or leave Him.” He pauses for a moment and adds: “Of course, it was and is very difficult. I feel like a sheep among wolves, because people don't treat us well.”

God's mission

The help of other Christians has been crucial in Yasin's journey.

“They are very supporting, loving and respectful,” he says. Yasin is able to participate in seminars and conferences run by Open Doors partners through his local church, which have helped develop his faith and equip his evangelism. Despite the risks from his brother and from others in the village, Yasin knows God has called him to stay in the community and tell people the secret of new life.

“I tried many times to leave the village, but God put it in my heart to remain here,” he says. “I know God wants to use me here. I know that God has a mission for me, to bring the good news to my village.”

Yasin has seen fruit from his evangelism – even from those who have persecuted him. “Two people from my village recently became believers and now go with me to church,” he says. “These two insulted me before.”

Stand with Yasin

Yasin stands in a long line of believers who take extraordinary risks because they know the worth of the gospel. This courageous faith is a hallmark of Open Doors’ history, ever since Brother Andrew started smuggling Bibles into Communist Eastern Europe in 1955. Seventy years later, Bibles are still transforming the lives of people like Yasin, and those he ministers to, in places where God’s Word is dangerous to pass on.

Today, you can stand with undercover believers like Yasin. You can help precious Bibles get to those who must urgently need them, and help deliver the kind of training that equips Christians like Yasin to keep spreading the Word in risky regions.

And you can stand with him in prayer. Yasin knows what a difference it makes: “I ask you to pray for me, because I believe in the power of prayer,” he says. “I ask you to pray that God gives me strength to evangelise to as many people as possible.” Today, will you help Christians like Yasin reveal hope?

Please Pray

- For Yasin and other undercover believers to be strengthened and bold as they take risks to share the gospel
- For Open Doors partners in Iraq to know God’s guidance as they serve the persecuted church. .

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



Hello

I'm Wendy, relatively new to Shanklin URC, you may know me as Mary's daughter-in-law.

Following the talk by the rep from Seafarers Christian Friends Society I wondered if anyone at Shanklin URC would like to join me in making 'woolly hats' for these missionaries to take on-board and give away to the crew members they meet? You don't need to be a knitting or crochet expert, just willing to join in.

I have lots of yarn, needles and hooks to get us started. I'd like to propose meeting at my home in Sandown for an hour or so once a month, we can always change things as we go along.

If your interested please get in touch: 07736 205166 or wendyfryatt@gmail.com.

There was an article in 'Helmsman', the Seafarers Christian Friend Society's Spring 2024 Magazine about Project Woolly Hat. For copyright reasons this cannot be reproduced here, but if you are interested in reading it then please see Christopher, Editor of The Link, and he will gladly let you have a pdf copy.

Wendy

Nightjars

Have you ever heard a nightjar? You are unlikely to have seen one as they have almost perfect camouflage when nesting on the ground during the day, but they sound like a motor bike. They fly low over heathland at dawn and dusk with their large mouths open to scoop up insects.

Mottistone Down is one of their breeding grounds before they fly south for the winter.

9th August will be full moon, and the perfect time to listen to them with the Wight Christian Walkers. You can join us for a pub meal at 19:00 or just the 2.5 mile walk starting at 21:00. Don't expect to get home much before 23:00. Contact Julie.croydon@icloud.com or 405067 by 3rd August.





Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Time	Details
Sun	27 rd Jul	19:30	Open Air Worship at Rylstone Gardens
Sat	2 nd Aug	10:30	Informal gathering at SURC for all to discuss and pray about growing our church (doors open at 10:00, teas & coffees provided)
Sun	3 rd Aug	10:30 18:30	Rev Richard Buxton speaking Worship & Prayer at SURC
Sun	17 th Aug	10:30 18:30	Rev Kelvin Burke speaking Worship & Prayer at SURC
Sun	24 th Aug	10:30 18:30	Synod Moderator, Rev Michael Hopkins will be speaking Worship & Prayer at SURC
Sun	31 st Aug	10:30 19:30	Encounter Café with Andy Hough Open Air Worship at Rylstone Gardens
Tue	2 nd Sep	14:00	Brian returns from his sabbatical Bible Bite restarts after summer break
Sat	6 th Sep	11:00	Prayer Walk followed by a Bring & Share Lunch at the church at 12:00
	6-14 Sep		National week of prayer
Sun	14 th Sep	10:30 17:00	Rev Mary Thomas speaking Bring & Share Tea, Worship and Prayer for all Bay churches, here at the URC
	22 Sep-5 Oct		Fairtrade Fortnight
Thu	25 th Sep	19:30	Church Meeting
Sat	27 th Sep	10:00	Church Away Day at Ryde URC
Sun	28 th Sep	10:30	Harvest Encounter



Connection Quiz Answers

1. Clutch bag
2. Bonnet
3. Suspension bridge
4. Mirror Man
5. Boot.
6. Connection: they are all **parts of a car**.
7. This issue's cover photo is of: Shanklin War Memorial - 15th August is the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, when WW2 ended.



Pre-loved Clothing Sale

Saturday 2nd August 2025

Cowes Foodbank Hub 10am - 12pm



Fashion into food

Funds raised pay for food to support our local community.

Most items under £5 including named brands.

Tea, Cakes and Tombola.

Open to everyone.

turning #Fashionintofood

The Foodbank Hub, Love Lane, Cowes, PO31 7ET
isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk

 Isle of Wight
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

EMBRACING AGE
— ISLE OF WIGHT —
Later life in all its fullness



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers to befriend care home residents across the Island. This might involve having a chat, playing a board game, reading aloud, or any other activities that a resident would enjoy.

rebecca@embracingage.org.uk
embracingage.org.uk/isle-of-wight
07419 338066



Registered charity no. 1160400

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

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
									28				
29						30				31			

Last month's Sudoku - how did you do?

9	1	7	3	4	5	8	2	6	30 Capital of West Germany (1949 - 1990) (4)
2	4	8	9	6	1	7	3	5	31 The fifth capital city of Italy (4)
3	5	6	8	2	7	4	1	9	Down
4	6	3	5	7	8	1	9	2	1 Large town in North Lanarkshire (10)
8	9	5	2	1	3	6	7	4	2 Roman name for the current English capital (9)
1	7	2	6	9	4	3	5	8	3 Alternative (5)
7	8	1	4	5	2	9	6	3	4 Forever (6)
5	3	9	1	8	6	2	4	7	5 Your parents' daughter (6)
6	2	4	7	3	9	5	8	1	6 Flightless bird native to South America (4)
Across									
1 European country, capital Chişinău (7)									
5 Back of the neck (6)									
8 He went round Ireland with a fridge, & wrote a book about it (4,5)									
9 Bullet visible in flight (6)									
11 - Wallach, US actor (3)									
12 - Hodgson, former England football manager (3)									
13 London suburb, setting for the BBC sitcom <i>The Good Life</i> (8)									
16 Homeless person, esp child (4)									
18 - Patrese, former F1 driver (7)									
20 French city in Haute-Vienne, known for its porcelain (7)									
22 Opposite of don't (3)									
23 Birthplace of King William I (7)									
29 City in Normandy with two abbeys (4)									
7 Italian name for Florence (8)									
10 Type of ray tube (7)									
14 Our church is a part of this <i>initials</i> (3)									
15 Capital of Germany (6)									
17 Type of house, many were built after WW2 (6)									
19 Tax free savings account <i>initials</i> (3)									
21 West Scotland port, the gateway to the isles' (4)									
24 Mr Goodman, former Strictly judge (3)									
25 French for 'on' (3)									
26 Honey making insect that's 'Busy' near Ryde perhaps (3)									
27 Thanks, <i>slang</i> (2)									

Can You Guess The Year?

- BBC Open University broadcasts began.
- British Leyland launched the Morris Marina
- The Daily Mail was launched as a tabloid newspaper.
- Southampton won the women's FA Cup, beating Stewarton Thistle 4-1.
- And UK No. 1s included:
 - Dawn with 'Knock Three Times'
 - Rod Stewart with 'Maggie May'
 - Slade with 'Coz I Luv You'
 - T Rex with 'Get It On'

Answer next issue

Movie Anagrams - unravel the anagrams to find 10 films

1. Go nun guys
2. Gist then
3. Scare Lou
4. Vine for gun
5. Sheens his text
6. I cat nit
7. Ben kin clam
8. Naan rim
9. Tan top
10. Roman rook e

Answers next issue

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

Sunday 24th August

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

surc.thelink@btinternet.com

Last Issue's Solutions

- Guess the year: it was 2011

- Last issue's crossword ↓

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

Last Issue's 'Pot Luck' Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. William I | 7. Move It |
| 2. Shilling | 8. Wolfgang Mozart |
| 3. 2 nd July 1644 | 9. January 1929 |
| 4. Dwight D Eisenhower | 10. Cornwall |
| 5. 1976 | |
| 6. 25 th March 1957 | |

Sunday Service

Morning

10:30 Morning Worship in church
Broadcast live on YouTube

- ➔ **Holy Communion** on 1st Sunday of each month
- ➔ **All Age service** on last Sunday of each month

Weekday Activities

Tuesday

NO Bible Bite ministry in church
19:30 Prayer Meeting on Zoom (see [page 4](#))

Wednesday 11:00 The Well

Friday NO 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**
Brian is currently on sabbatical
- until 2nd September

Secretary: **Robin Wightman**
 robinwightman@aol.com

Shanklin URC is a member of the **Evangelical Alliance**
www.shanklinurc.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1130459