

# The Link



# April 2026



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

# View From Number 10



## Raised with Christ

Paul begins the third chapter of his letter to the Colossians with these extraordinary words – ***“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ...”*** He’s writing to ordinary church people who were still grappling with the tough challenges of human existence, but he wants to get across that their lives have been utterly transformed by believing in the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

That same thing can be true to us today. As we repent of our sins and trust in the power of the cross, our old life has died – Paul says in Galatians 2:20 – *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

In some mysterious way, we begin a whole new existence, reborn as God’s children, when we open our hearts to receive what he offers through his Son. The Easter message about new life in Jesus is powerful and transformative; his blood poured out in one final sacrifice on the cross made all this possible, but the empty tomb sealed the deal for us. Something has changed and a new creation has begun as sin and death are defeated.

As people of the risen king, we are now united with the Lord – *“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”* (Colossians 3:3). It’s not visible and obvious, but there is a deep and secret new



status for us in God’s family, one that is lasting and permanent. We are welcomed into the family of God and are held in a secure place of love. One day he’ll return and all will be revealed (v4).

This is such great news. Yes, we still have the daily demands and struggles of this mortal

life and sometimes face awful situations, but we have fresh resources to handle the challenges and pressures as his Spirit comes to live inside us. We are encouraged by Paul not to dwell in earthly things but to set our minds on things above. Jesus is on the throne. In our studies of the Sermon on the Mount on Tuesdays, we've been reminded of Jesus' words about storing up treasures in heaven. May our hearts and focus be on the reign and rule of God – His kingdom come; His will be done. Seeking His kingdom as a priority puts everything else in context and things then begin to fall into place.

The message we declare in this season is that Jesus was raised to life again on the third day. This truth is at the centre of the Christian faith. We can't prove it scientifically but then it would not be a matter of faith – which is about having *“confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”* (Hebrews 1:11).

May we have fresh confidence in the Gospel, which is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16). What happened in the garden tomb has consequences for us all. When we put our trust in him, our life is then bound to his – and his life is grave-busting life. We who believe are somehow raised with him. Ephesians 2:6 says: *“God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”* This is not a future thing but a present reality. We are lifted beyond the limitations of our mortal existence and something of the glory of heaven is in our hearts.

The best is yet to come, and we will one day truly be raised with him and given a new resurrection body – imperishable and immortal (1 Corinthians 15: 53). For now, we live in the good of all that Jesus has done.

Romans 8:11 tells us: *“if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”*

May we have confidence to live in the light of such great promises,

With very best wishes for this awesome season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

# Prayer



**Monday Prayer at 13:00** – a weekly meeting **in church**. This is especially to pray about our priorities for us as God's people going forward and seeking kingdom growth.

**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) or use the Zoom app and click on 'Join a meeting'. The Meeting ID you will need is 324 266 5584, and the Password is: 936536.

**Text Prayer Network** - 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 at 14:00. Ask Brian for details if you are interested in going along. **Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Next Sabbath of Prayer** – reflecting on *Leading Our Church into Growth*.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

An evening of praise is planned for the Friday and feedback and prayers around *Leading Our Church into Growth* on the Saturday. See [page 10](#).

**Bless the Island** – Pentecost Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 16:00

Another united prayer event for Island Christians – look out for details soon.



# SURC April 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

Wed 1	The Well - volunteers, regulars and visitors	Sat 18	Church tech team - and for the tech used
Thu 2	Outreach over Easter	Sun 19	The editor of our church magazine as he works on the next issue
Fri 3	Those affected by violence and conflicts around the world	Mon 20	The Persecuted Church
Sat 4	Churches in The Bay	Tue 21	Organisations supporting the Persecuted Church
Sun 5	Today's Communion service	Wed 22	Christian youth work in The Bay
Mon 6	The Monday prayer meetings in church	Thu 23	Those who aren't well enough to get to church
Tue 7	Bible Bite	Fri 24	Churches on the IoW spreading God's Word
Wed 8	Shanklin Town Council and Isle of Wight Council	Sat 25	The text prayer network, & for Lou who organises it
Thu 9	UK Government	Sun 26	The church Property Team and their important work
Fri 10	European Union	Mon 27	IoW Youth for Christ
Sat 11	United Nations	Tue 28	The NHS; staff, patients and services
Sun 12	World peace	Wed 29	The care homes on the Island; for the staff and residents/patients
Mon 13	Local schools and for outreach to them	Thu 30	Our Church Elders
Tue 14	Our Tuesday Prayer meetings on Zoom		
Wed 15	The Evangelical Alliance		
Thu 16	The Christian Institute		
Fri 17	CARE		

## Thy Kingdom Come 2026



2026 sees the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Thy Kingdom Come, a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians worldwide to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC into a movement which unites over a million Christians in prayer (in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions), ***"So that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ."***

Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come (14<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> May) in their own way ~ it is hoped that everyone taking part will:

- Deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit to be effective in our witness

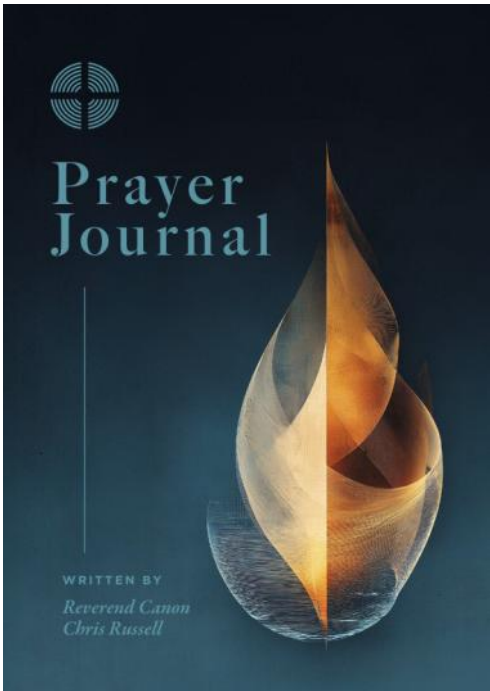
We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and our networks. It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

We are again invited to join this initiative to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call. Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, please set aside time each day during this period to take part with us.

**The theme for Thy Kingdom Come 2026 is...**

## **God With Us**

**Both a Prayer Journal to guide you through each day and a Novena, which goes a little deeper, have been produced. Copies of these will be available in the church from early May, or you can access them online at the link below.**



**Please do join in with this global initiative, when Christians around the world will be praying for people they know to come to Christ.**

Please visit the website for information, a wide variety of resources, news of events, videos and much more...

[www.thykingdomcome.global/thy-kingdom-come-2026](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/thy-kingdom-come-2026)

## Easter at Shanklin URC - new life in Jesus

**Palm Sunday**      **10:30**    **Encounter Café Service**

- All Hail to the King

**Maundy Thursday**    **19:00**    **Supper and Communion**

A shared event at Ryde URC remembering the Last Supper – please sign the list

**Good Friday**      **10:00**    **Short reflective service**

**11:15**    **Procession of Witness**

Starting at St Blasius Church  
See opposite page for timings

**Easter Day**      **06:15**    **Open Air Sunrise Celebration**

on the seafront at the bottom of Hope Road

- followed by breakfast at the beach café



**10:30**    **Easter Communion for all ages**

– led by Sheilagh and Malc  
– with Rev Kelvin Burke

**18:30**    **Easter Café with songs, videos etc**

A relaxed evening to end this special day

### URC Learning Hub

Did you know that the United Reformed Church has a **Learning Hub**?

It's the home of all the URC online learning and self-access courses, including Stepwise. It can be found at...

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

Why not visit it and take a look.



**(CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN SHANKLIN**

## **Good Friday**

### **Procession of Witness**

**Commencing at 11:15 at St Blasius Church**



**11:45 St Saviour on the Cliff**

**11:55 United Reformed Church**

**12:05 Methodist Church**

**12:20 Sacred Heart Church**

**12:30 St Paul's**

*You are warmly invited for refreshments at the end*

## **Easter Sunday Morning**

### **Open Air Sunrise Celebration**

**06:15**

**on the seafront**

**(at the bottom of Hope Road)**

**Followed by Breakfast**

**The South East Beach Café  
is opening especially for us**

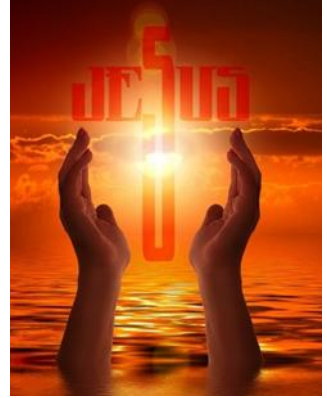


**Please join us for another dedicated period  
engaging with the Lord...**



## **A Sabbath of Prayer...**

**from 18:30 on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
to  
18:30 on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
24 hours dedicated to God**



**The church will be open at these times:**

**Friday 18:30 – 20:30 - Praise & Prayer**

**Saturday 10:00 – 12:00 - Coffee etc on arrival**

**15:30 – 17:30 - Ending with the Breaking  
of Bread at 17:00**

**This time, we'll follow a slightly different pattern as we  
seek the Lord together as to how he wants to lead us  
into growth:**

Friday evening will be dedicated to prayer and praise as we seek to draw closer to the Lord. Saturday morning will be more of a time of waiting in God's presence and listening for his voice. You are invited to write things down or draw a picture and post them on the board.

As we gather again in the afternoon, we'll try and draw things together and discern what God has been saying – closing with a short informal celebration of The Lord's Supper.

## Mary's Poem - Spring Time

*It's Easter time and spring is here,  
the flowers are budding and spreading their cheer.*

*The daffodils making it a colourful display,  
lovely and bright like the sunray.*

*It also reminds me of the first Easter  
time,  
when some people committed a terrible  
crime*

*Jesus was crucified to save us from sin,  
not just for you and me, but all of our  
kin.*

*On the third day he rose from the  
grave,  
triumphant in glory to bless and to save.*

*If you hear Him knocking welcome Him in.  
Once in your heart your life will begin.*



Mary F

*Poem used by permission*

### Connection Quiz

1. Who was UK Prime Minister from 10<sup>th</sup> May 1940 until July 1945?
2. Who wrote *Pride and Prejudice*?
3. Who painted the *Fighting Temeraire*?
4. Who led Hut 8 at Bletchley Park during WW2?
5. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 4?
6. And bonus question... the cover photo was taken on a beach in Normandie, but do you know where it is?



Answers are on [page 43](#)

# The Well

*a place for*

## Living Well

## Together

Drop in at any point

**Wednesdays 11:00 – 13:00**

A safe place for friendship, a chat,  
support and refreshments



*And sausage rolls!*



# ENCOUNTER

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

**A café style meeting place to drop in and enjoy  
time together with God**



**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 26<sup>th</sup> April – do  
please invite friends to join you for this more  
informal service**

**– café serving from 10.15**

**Website of the month:**

**[www.opendoorsuk.org/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/)**

*Helping Christians in over 70 countries, from training  
leaders to raising awareness about global persecution*

## Resources to encourage and inform

The Christian Institute ([www.christian.org.uk/](http://www.christian.org.uk/)) is a ministry that exists to inform the Church and support believers seeking to live Godly lives in a secular society.

The Spring Newsletter (available online at [www.christian.org.uk/resource/newsletter-spring-2026/](http://www.christian.org.uk/resource/newsletter-spring-2026/)) brings news of what is happening in our nation and government and ways in which to pray into concerning issues. Linked in with this is the Spring 2026 Week of Prayer Leaflet ([www.christian.org.uk/resource/week-of-prayer-spring-2026/](http://www.christian.org.uk/resource/week-of-prayer-spring-2026/)).

Please join in with the Christian Institute for these days of prayer from 29<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April. Each day there are prayer pointers helping us to pray in our homes into the life of our nation.

Do take both of these leaflets, learn more of the Institute's important work and as scripture says:

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful,”*  
Colossians 4:2.

Another important ministry is Intercessors for Britain ([www.intercessorsforbritain.co.uk/](http://www.intercessorsforbritain.co.uk/)) who publish bi-monthly prayer bulletins with up-to-date information of the spiritual state of our nation. Do ask if you would like to know more.

We have just received a new publication from them: 'Repentance and Revival' (available online at [www.intercessorsforbritain.co.uk/resources](http://www.intercessorsforbritain.co.uk/resources)).

Many of you will remember how our dear 'sister in the Lord', Eileen (and don't we miss her) would speak of the need for repentance for believers and those as yet outside of God's Kingdom.

I'm sure we long for revival in our nation and this booklet is so helpful in examining the link between repentance and a move of God in revival.

Copies of this very helpful booklet are available in the lobby – do take one and be inspired.

Another ministry is that of CARE and their Prayer Diary is valued by many in our congregation. The prayer diary can be accessed online at [care.org.uk/resources/prayer-resources](http://care.org.uk/resources/prayer-resources). Do look out for the new

one, which will be from 26<sup>th</sup> April to July 2026.

Hopefully all these resources can help us to be relevant in our prayers for the times in which we live.

Again, if you would like to know more, I should be very happy to share with you.

Blessings and love in Jesus as you continue in your prayer journey.

Jane H

**Sources:** [Christian Institute](#), [IFB](#), [CARE](#)

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## **Standing with our Brothers and Sisters**

You will see elsewhere in ‘The Link’, [pages 30](#) and [36](#) news of the Church in Iran, highlighted by our editor.

As well as Open Doors, Release International and Barnabas, another ministry reaching Iranian people, both in the land and in the nations is Elam Ministries, [www.elam.com/](http://www.elam.com/). For 35 years, Elam has had the privilege of being part of the beautiful story God is writing for Iran and beyond.

Do look out for their current magazine – ‘Iran and Beyond’ (Issue 19), available online at [www.elam.com/magazine](http://www.elam.com/magazine) with the theme of “Ancient Paths, New Journeys”, with news and insight on the Persian-speaking world. Do take one of these inspiring publications and learn more of the personal stories of those who have become believers and how we can pray for and support this vital ministry.

You can pray with Iran — every day, in real time; by using an app on your mobile phone, you can access the live prayer hub with daily updates, requests, and testimonies - plus a guided 30-day prayer journey to help you pray faithfully and consistently. The app is available from the iPhone App Store and Google Play and is called ‘Pray for Iran: Iran 30’. It is released by Elam Ministries.

Secondly, we now have the new edition of Release International’s magazine ‘VOICE – Helping Oppressed Christians’.

Along with smaller items of news, there is a centerspread update on the situation for Christians in China where increased Government crackdowns on independent Churches are happening.

Heavy persecution of believers in over 50 nations sadly continues to

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grow, with a number of other nations having restrictions that can impact Christians to a lesser but nevertheless difficult degree.

If you did not get to see the Jan-March 2026 copy of VOICE, do ask – it was very helpful in highlighting persecution trends for 2026.

You can read the current magazine, and the previous twelve issues online at [releaseinternational.org/magazines/](http://releaseinternational.org/magazines/), as well as accessing the many other resources that they have, including podcasts and videos.

Thank you for praying for our brothers and sisters for whom living as believers in hostile nations/environments is an everyday occurrence.

May you know our Loving Heavenly Father's Presence with you as you uphold this part of the Body of Christ Worldwide,

Blessings in His Name

Jane H

### **A prayer from Release International for Easter**

*(from their April 2026 magazine)*

Heavenly Father

As we approach Easter, we remember that Jesus calls all who want to follow Him to deny themselves and take up their cross (Matthew 16:24-26).

As such we pray for the Holy Spirit's enabling (2 Timothy 1:7) for all those for whom being Christ's disciple means enduring hostility and oppression.

Grant them wisdom in how they celebrate His death and resurrection and help me also to focus on what is truly important, and to bear witness in my community to Easter's true significance.

In Jesus's precious name I pray

Amen

Source: [Release International](http://Release International)

# *Shared Worship in The Bay*



**At 17:00 Each Week**

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

**A shared service on the second Sunday of each month**

*The next two meetings are*

**12<sup>th</sup> April - St Blasius, Shanklin, past the Old Village**

**10<sup>th</sup> May - Sandown Baptist Church, Station Road**

**All other weeks - informal prayer and praise at Shanklin URC**

**All are welcome - please join us when you can**



***"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)

## **Choices (Part 2 of 4)**

Knowing who we are in Christ, focusing on who God is and having a sure and certain hope are crucial steps along *The Way of Christ*. Along the way, we still face choices and knowing how to confront them is very important.

Last time Neil looked at the essence of temptation and now moves on to the Spirit's Conviction...

### **The Spirit's Conviction**

***"I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God."***  
(2 Corinthians 7:9)

I'm often asked, "How can I tell the difference between the devil's accusations and the Holy Spirit's conviction?" Every Christian is faced with the choice of walking by the Spirit or by the flesh daily. The moment you choose to walk according to the flesh, the Holy Spirit brings conviction because what you have just chosen to do is not compatible with who you really are. If you continue in the flesh, you will feel the sorrow of conviction.

"How do I know which kind of sorrow I'm experiencing?" you may ask. "The devil's accusation and the Spirit's conviction both make me feel sorrowful." Determine whether your feelings reflect thoughts of truth or error, and you will identify their source. Do you feel guilty, worthless, stupid, or inept? That's a sorrow provoked by accusation because those feelings don't reflect the truth.

Judicially, you are no longer guilty; you have been justified through your faith in Christ, and there is no condemnation for those who are

in Christ. You are not worthless; Jesus gave His life for you. You are not stupid or inept; you can do all things through Christ. When you find lies lurking beneath your feelings of sorrow - especially if your feelings persistently drive you into the ground - you are being falsely accused. To disarm the sorrow of accusation, you must submit yourself to God and resist the devil and his lies.

But if you are sorrowful because your behaviour doesn't reflect your true identity in Christ, that's the sorrow according to the will of God, which is designed to produce repentance. It's the Holy Spirit calling you to admit, "Dear Lord, I was wrong."

***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."***  
(1 John 1:9)

As soon as you confess and repent, God says, "I'm glad you shared that with Me. You're cleansed; now get on with life." And you walk away from that confrontation free. The sorrow is gone, and you have a positive new resolve to obey God in the area of your failure.

**Thank You, Lord, for the 'tough love' of Your Holy Spirit in bringing me to repentance when I sin.**

*Neil Anderson*

***Freedom in Christ Ministries***

*Used by permission*

I recently read this definition... "The conviction of the Holy Spirit is not a punishment; it's a gift. His faithful and guiding voice obstructs the plans of the enemy over our lives. His corrective instructions free us from the snare of distraction, prevent destruction, and bring about the perfect will of God in our lives."

**In the words of a song we often sing, I ask you, Lord, to continue Your Spirit's Gift to us:**

*Spirit break out,  
Break our walls down;  
Spirit break out,  
Heaven come down*

Our Father all of heaven roars Your name,  
sing louder let this place erupt with praise

Can you hear it the sound of heaven touching earth  
The sound of heaven touching earth

King Jesus You're the name we're lifting high  
Your glory shaking up the earth and skies  
Revival we want to see Your kingdom here,  
we want to see Your kingdom here

*Spirit break out,  
Break our walls down;  
Spirit break out,  
Heaven come down*

*CCLI Song No. 6058450 CCLI Licence No. 40715  
Ben Bryant; Luke Hellebronth; Myles Dhillon; Tim Hughes  
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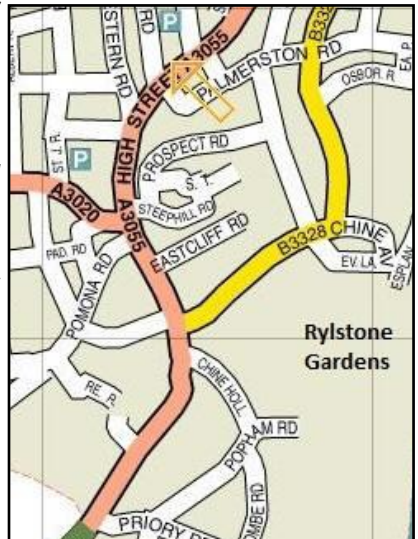
*Robin*

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## **Rylstone Gardens – Advance Notice**

The 2026 open air summer concert season in Rylstone Gardens starts on 17<sup>th</sup> May with a concert by Shanklin Town Brass Band (*weather permitting of course!!*).

A full list of all the 2026 Open Air Concerts taking place on the bandstand in the gardens will be posted on the noticeboard in the lobby once they are available.



# 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.

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 'Bear Grylls Relies On The Risen Christ - TV star talks about the presence of Jesus within him'.

Other contributions include:

- **Two Lives Saved by God at Easter** - Two testimonies of God's intervention
- **Easter Message** - The Editor explains why we all need our own personal Easter
- **Miracle** - Doctor's terminal cancer disappears after church prays
- **Baby Restored to Life** - Baby who 'died' saved by mother's prayer
- **Atheist Historian Finds God** - Cambridge historian convinced Jesus is alive today
- **Eddie Kadi** - TV comedian says there's no greater honour than to serve the Lord
- **Arsenal's 'Bible Brothers'** - The impact of faith on top team filled with Christians

## Good News... for a change

## **Where's Noma?**

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Julie and Bill were privileged to attend the induction of Noma Marambi to the pastorate of a group of URC congregations making up The Lancashire East Missional Partnership. There are currently 9 churches with Noma joining as the 2<sup>nd</sup> pastor. 3 more congregations are due to join shortly, and the Convenor hopes to then appoint a third minister. The service was held at the Westbury Gardens Church, which has a car park larger than the council one in Landguard Road!

3 years ago, ordained pastor, Noma Marambi, came from Zimbabwe to work in the care sector in Shanklin. The family was convinced God was leading them to the UK, and both parents really wanted to go into ministry but Noma could only get a visa as a support worker. Despite being subjected to modern slavery conditions, she was eventually able to bring husband, Tapiwa and sons, Mufaro and Munashe, to the Island, and they all attended our church until she got work on the mainland. They moved to Peterborough but her new employer was just as exploitative. With guidance and help from Brian, she applied to become a minister within the URC.

After being invited to 'preach with a view' in Blackburn, and spending the weekend getting to know people and the area, she and Tapiwa got in the car to drive back to Peterborough. Within 10 miles, messages were sent from church members saying how much they wanted her to be their minister.

Getting the requisite paperwork took a horrendous six months, which felt like forever. However, the Marambi family are now finally settled in Blackburn, near the weirdly named Oswaldtwistle! Tapiwa, is a care worker, thankfully within walking distance of their beautiful new home.

Unfortunately, neither of the nearby schools had space for Mufaro and Munashe, but they are both really happy in the ones they now attend. 7-year-old Munashe had been bullied when they lived in Peterborough, but he now loves his new school & what he likes best is Maths. His old class contained 38 children whereas he is now one of only 22.

Mufaro is in the first year of what used to be a private grammar school. It became a state school just weeks before he was accepted, having been required to pass an entrance exam under the previous regime. Although he misses his old friends, at least he can keep in

touch via the internet. When asked about their new situation Mufaro replied, "10 out of 10. It's very calm and peaceful. There are no random kids screaming on the streets like there were where we used to live."

His new school uniform cost more than three times what had been needed previously. Even the socks, swimming costumes and required goggles(!) had to be purchased from a specialised stockist - and there's no swap shop. Thankfully the church has been incredibly kind and generous, providing a grant which has saved the family from otherwise sinking into debt. Mufaro was keen to show his Mum's office, which is right by the front door.

After her dreadful experiences in the care sector, Noma said her mind was 'all over the place'. Although she officially started working with the partnership in February, she needed a month to recover and heal from all she had suffered. Everyone was really understanding so that she only started preaching on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Members of the various congregations have been incredibly supportive, visiting, giving cards and flowers. The family are overwhelmed to find themselves in a 4 bedroomed manse. Noma says that she is now ready to work hard, serving the congregations as she thanks God for His blessings and faithfulness.

In the words of the beautiful Matt Redmond song:

Standing on this mountaintop  
Looking just how far we've come  
Knowing that for every step  
You were with us

Scars and struggles on the way  
But with joy our hearts can say  
Yes our hearts can say.

Never once did we ever walk alone  
Never once did You leave us on our own  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful!

*CCLI Song No. 5997055 CCLI Licence No. 40715*

*Jason Ingram; Matt Redman; Tim Wanstall*

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Tunes; Thankyou Music Ltd*

*There are some photos from Bill & Julie's visit over the page...*





## Portraying Jesus

Some of us may remember the epic 'Ben Hur'. It was filmed at a time when an obscure law forbade seeing the face or hearing the voice of someone playing the part of Christ unless he's the central character. The film-makers used only shots of the actor's hands, filming 'over-the-shoulder'.



It wasn't until 1961 that Hollywood decided to show Jesus' face. Open the Book teams go into Primary schools and act out Bible stories, so how do they portray Jesus? In schools

containing lots of Muslim pupils, teams use banners for both Jesus and the prophets. The Ryde team has a banner, but it is only used for the story of Paul on the road to Damascus, where the risen Jesus speaks from a blinding light.



Many years ago, we were given dolls which portray Jesus as a baby and a toddler. Sadly, when we were presenting Open the Book in a church, someone queried the skin colour of the baby doll. In fact, having a Caucasian doll is as equally inaccurate as having a Negro one!

We always use the same costume whenever a storyteller plays the part of Jesus – a pale green robe with a blue sash and dark head covering, which are never used by any other character. He is also given a brown beard produced with face paint.

The child portraying Jesus as a 12 year old in the temple is dressed in a similar outfit, but without the head covering or beard!





The first time we planned to present the crucifixion, nobody wanted to be Jesus on the cross. That was when we came up with the idea of silhouette acting. This makes it much easier: the crown of thorns is actually made of brightly coloured plastic. The actor stands behind the cross, so can hold on to it which is much more comfortable. The light dims when the sky darkens, then is turned off as the body is taken down. The height of the cross dictates that the shortest storyteller has to take the part of Jesus – in other assemblies He is

always played by a man.



The body of Jesus is placed in the tomb from behind the curtain so that its length is not visible. Whenever this is done, it produces a gasp from the children.

The resurrection is presented in front of the silhouette. This, and the fact that Jesus asks to eat fish, makes it clear that Jesus

was not a ghost but had really risen again.

In Acts 11, Luke records that it was in Antioch that the disciples were called Christians for the first time. This was a perjorative nickname – their



enemies called them 'little Christs'. A minister once said *Be careful how you live; you may be the only Bible some people will ever read.* In 2 Corinthians 3:18, Paul wrote that we are being transformed, so

that we reflect the glory of the Lord, with the Spirit making us more and more like Jesus. May this indeed be true for each one of us. May we portray Jesus.



## **Bible a Month**

By regularly giving £10 or more, you can put the Bible in someone's hands every month.

**Your support brings the Bible to more people.**

More than that, your faithful support will provide the backbone for global Bible outreach. When people who love God's word pledge to share it each month, together you can build life-changing Bible ministries. That means rapid response during crises and the Bible reaching people who would never otherwise experience it as Bible-engagement programmes take God's word to new places.

To join the Bible a Month Club, go to:

[www.biblesociety.org.uk/giving/regular/bible-a-month-signup/](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/giving/regular/bible-a-month-signup/)

**The Bible can really change lives. Thanks to your generosity on a regular basis many more people would be able to experience it.**

**B** BIBLE  
SOCIETY

## Peak Performers

This June, as part of their special ministry theme in 2026 – Light in the Darkest Places – Paul Robinson (CEO of Release International) and a team of about 20 Release International supporters will be carrying a large wooden cross to the summit of Scafell Pike.

Having trekked up the peak during the night, they will plant the cross at the top to welcome in the dawn's light – a powerful reminder of Christ's victory over the darkness.

Please do support them in prayer, and through sponsorship if you are inclined, as they highlight the courage of persecuted believers who display the light of Christ in the darkest of circumstances.

See page 20 of Release International's April 2026 magazine for details. You can pick up a copy in church or read it online at [releaseinternational.org/magazines/](https://releaseinternational.org/magazines/)

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

our island  
walks  
the walk

Isle of  
Wight

ISLE OF WIGHT  
SPRING WALKING FESTIVAL

9-17 May  
2026

sponsored by  
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## **Latest prayer requests from Iran** (16<sup>th</sup> March 2026)

Please pray for Iran and the wider region as the impact of war intensifies – and believers hope for the future.

“This pain is like childbirth, it comes with distress, but we pray for it to bring life and freedom soon,” shares Sahar\*, a Christian woman from southern Iran. “Please keep praying, people here need hope. They need to know that there is a Saviour.”

As violence and fear continue in Iran, there have been some recent glimpses of hope. After a prolonged time of total communication blackout, some Iranians are now managing to speak with their relatives and friends. “It was such a relief to finally hear the voices of our sisters and brothers after nine days of silence,” shares an Open Doors partner who recently managed to have brief calls with some people in Iran. “Praise the Lord, they are safe.”

Others are still desperate for answers. Another Open Doors partner shares about a Christian family in Iran who haven’t seen their eldest son since January, when he went missing during the protests.

“The family has searched desperately for answers, visiting prisons and even mortuaries, yet they have received no information about his whereabouts,” says the partner. “Please pray for protection over their son, wherever he may be, and for comfort for his parents as they wait for any clue or news about their son. The silence and uncertainty have been incredibly heavy for them.”

### **Worsening conditions in prison**

Recent reports indicate that conditions in Evin Prison – the notorious jail in Tehran where many Christians and political prisoners are held – have deteriorated. Food distribution and communications have been cut off, there’s a heavy security presence, and prisoners are being moved to undisclosed locations.

“One of my family friends who is currently imprisoned there managed to pass on a message saying that they’re basically surviving on bread and water, and even that has become very expensive,” says a local Open Doors partner. “He said in some cases the guards refuse to give prisoners water unless they pay for it.”

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, the Israeli military issued an evacuation warning for all civilians in the area of Tehran around Evin Prison. During the last 12-day war between Israel and Iran in June, an Israeli missile destroyed

the main gate of Evin Prison. Right now, there are around 43 Christian prisoners in Iran today, all arrested because of their faith in Jesus. Although not all are present in Evin Prison, many are incarcerated there, and a strike on the prison puts them all in danger.

Economic hardship is affecting Iranians across the country. Even before the current conflict, many families were already struggling with inflation and poverty. For years, believers have tried to respond to these needs in practical ways, helping families find work and providing essentials such as food, clothing, school materials for children and medical support. But the protests and the harsh crackdown that followed have made the situation far worse. Many people have lost their livelihoods, and in some families the main provider has been arrested or killed.

“Please pray that God Himself would provide the needs, protect them from harm and allow the church to continue being a refuge for many,” shares a local Open Doors partner.

### **Ongoing prayers**

Iranian Christians have been praying and fasting since long before the war escalated, grieving oppression from government and its crackdowns on civilian protestors that left thousands dead. And now, those prayers have taken on an even greater urgency as they live in a warzone and grapple with uncertain futures. Believers are asking God for freedom, justice, courage, peace and salvation for their nation.

“As I was driving, I thought I imagined a scene in my mind, but then I saw it with my own two eyes,” shares Maryam\*, a Christian sister from southern Iran, remembering God’s promises and His faithfulness. “Water flowing through dry valleys just like the Lord’s promise. That same hope lives in my heart: God acts and His promises are not forgotten. Iran’s salvation will surely happen. Our Lord is alive.”

While many Christians are hopeful, they’re also anxious and afraid for what is to come.

“The atmosphere here is very heavy, and the security is too tight,” Sahar says. “I’m stressed from taking my mobile phone with me when I exit my house because of arrests. But I know that God is at work.”

Ahmad\*, a Christian man from a port city echoes this hope. “He strengthens us,” Ahmad says. “In these days, Psalm 94 has been my comforting passage. It acknowledges despair and injustice,

yet declares that God sees, judges and acts.”

## **Salt and light**

Christians are finding ways to be salt and light in the current chaos and pain. One Christian family heard that another Christian family's house had been severely damaged by the impact of a nearby explosion. Despite their own limited space and financial challenges, they immediately opened their home and decided to host them in their small flat. They gather each evening to pray, read the Bible and encourage one another. In the midst of loss, they have discovered a deeper fellowship and unity in Christ. They thank God not only for safety, but for the blessing of sharing a faith-based life together. Even in war, their hearts are filled with praise, trusting that God is present and faithful.

Our vision has always been to empower the church in Iran so that they can support one another with what they have, stand independently and experience God's work among them,” shares an Open Doors partner. “Even though the situation in the country remains very difficult and unstable, I praise the Lord to see that the very vision we have prayed for is becoming a reality.”

These testimonies remind us that, despite fear and uncertainty, the church in Iran remains united in prayer, expecting God's mighty work for a future where Iranian believers can finally practice their faith freely. “We trust that the birth of a new future for Iran is coming, in His perfect timing and will,” shares Behzad\*.

## **“I hope we can one day return“**

Of course, the pain and fear of this moment is not just carried by those inside Iran. Iranians around the world, especially believers who fled because of their faith, are also deeply affected by the news, the uncertainty and the hope for change. The Islamic Republic Attorney General's Office has now issued a statement saying that the property and assets of Iranians living abroad can be confiscated if they ‘collaborate with the enemy’ – and that they would also be subject to other ‘punishments in accordance with the Islamic Penal Code, including the death penalty’.

Mary\* is a Christian woman who fled Iran and now lives as a refugee. “My brother lived with me in a neighbouring country where he accepted Jesus as his Saviour,” she says. “He later returned to Iran and is now working in the navy. He is currently on the front line.

Please pray for his wisdom, protection and safety during this time.”

Christian converts inside Iran, especially those serving in military environments, cannot openly speak about their faith. “Please pray for his protection, for his faith to be strong and to fix his eyes on Jesus in this time of conflict and fear,” Mary asks.

Another young Christian woman, Arina\*, recently fled Iran with her family and now lives abroad. She expresses the emotional weight carried by many in the Iranian diaspora. “It was very difficult for me to leave home, and I was already dealing with the emotional toll of leaving my life behind,” Arina says. “As soon as we heard about the protests, I yearned to be with my people, protesting and chanting on the streets, and I missed that. Even right now, I know it’s a difficult and dangerous time, but I still wish I was inside my country. I hope we can one day return, and I hope it is soon. I’m devastated that I couldn’t be in my country during these days.”

These voices remind us that this war and unrest is not only shaping the future of a nation, but also touches families across borders, separates loved ones, stirs longing and keeps many awake at night in prayer for Iran. But the prayers of Iranian believers can help inform how we pray with them as well – and remind us that God is ultimately in control.

### **Please pray**

- Pray for the children of Iran. Pray for protection from violence, from fear and from being used in any way that puts them in harm’s path.
- Pray for protection over Christians in detention, where conditions are worsening. Ask God to protect them physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- Pray for wisdom and courage for believers facing fear, displacement and uncertainty in their daily life.
- Pray for healing for the nation, for an end to violence & for peace.
- Pray for the country’s leadership. May God raise just, compassionate leaders and protect the country from further harm and bloodshed, along with the entire Middle East region.
- Pray that the light of Christ would shine through the darkness, bringing hope and transformation to Iranian communities.

*\*Names changed for security reasons*

*Source: Open Doors*

## **URC stands in prayerful solidarity after arson attack on ambulances**

**The Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly has expressed deep alarm and concern following the unacceptable arson attack on ambulances operated by Hatzola, a non-profit charity providing free medical transportation to the North London community.**

Catriona Wheeler said that the United Reformed Church stands in prayerful solidarity with UK Jewish communities at this distressing time.

Any act of violence or intimidation directed toward a faith community is an affront to the dignity of all people. It is a direct contradiction of the values of justice, compassion, and peace to which we are all called. As a Church committed to reconciliation, peace, justice, and to the flourishing of all communities, we unequivocally oppose such acts.

Through our ongoing interfaith relationships and partnerships, we have come to value deeply the trust, friendship, and shared witness we hold with our Jewish neighbours. When one community is targeted, all of us are diminished. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to stand alongside the Jewish community in both word and action.

We also recognise the confusion and speculation that can arise in the aftermath of such incidents. In light of this, we call on the police and relevant authorities to conduct a full, transparent, and thorough investigation.

It is essential that the truth is established clearly, both to ensure accountability and to counter harmful narratives or misinformation. Such clarity is vital in offering reassurance, restoring trust, and safeguarding community cohesion.

We pray for those affected, for the safety and wellbeing of all faith communities across the country and call for a renewed commitment across society to reject hatred in all its forms. May we continue to work together for a future marked not by fear, but by mutual respect, understanding, and peace.

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

## **URC donates nearly £45,000 to help Jamaica rebuild after Hurricane Melissa**

**The United Reformed Church (URC) has donated £44,610 to help churches in Jamaica rebuild after the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa.**

The funds, raised through a denomination-wide appeal, were presented to the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) during a visit by URC representatives.

Karen Campbell, the URC's Head of Global and Intercultural Church, and the Rev Dr Kevin Snyman, Head of World Justice, travelled to Jamaica on 15 February with ecumenical colleagues to witness the impact of the storm and strengthen church partnerships.

More than 50 churches were badly damaged when Hurricane Melissa struck, with roofs torn away and eight buildings completely destroyed. The UCJCI is coordinating repairs while also supporting the wider needs of affected communities.

Rose Wedderburn, General Secretary of the UCJCI, thanked the URC for its support. "We truly appreciate our partnership with the United Reformed Church and the fact that you have reached out to support us at this time," she said. "Please pass our thanks to all the congregations and individuals who have so generously contributed for Jamaica and her people."

Recovery efforts are expected to take years. Church leaders say rebuilding homes and restoring stability for families remains the immediate priority before damaged church buildings can be repaired.

Rev Norbert Stephens, UCJCI Director for Special Projects, said: "Melissa was like nothing we have ever seen before. Recovery is going to be a very long process down a long road, and we need partners to journey with us."

Karen Campbell said the hurricane had exposed deeper social challenges. "Hurricane Melissa has affected every sphere of life," she said. "It has also exposed pre-existing injustices - poverty, food insecurity, unemployment and substandard housing."

She added that the support from the URC had come at a critical time as churches begin the long process of rebuilding communities.

# FOCUS

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

***The ripple effect of following Jesus in Iran***

10 March 2026

As conflict in Iran continues and the church hopes for a better future, you can read an update from Simin, an Iranian Christian woman living outside the country.

*Written by Bahar\*, an Iranian Christian living outside the country*

Two years have passed since many people first heard [the testimony of Simin\\*](#), an Iranian Christian woman who faced arrest and persecution because of her faith. Today, she continues to live in exile with her husband and their young child. Though they are now physically safe, the pressures on their lives have not ended.

Simin closely follows the news of protests, violence and the escalating war, while at the same time struggling with long periods of silence when communication is cut off. “Days without news from your family is a very painful,” she says. “When the internet is cut off, you don’t know what is happening to them.”

During the protests there were more than two weeks with no connection, and once the conflict escalated communication was again blocked. “When the war started, again there was no internet,” she explains. “No connection, no way to hear from my loved ones.”

## **A spiritual war**

During the brief windows when communication was possible, Simin was able to speak with believers inside the country. What they shared deeply affected her. “They told me how boldly they joined the protests,” she says. “Many Christians were helping injured people and trying to support others but emotionally and mentally they were under huge pressure as well.”

For Simin, the crisis unfolding in Iran is not only political. “This is not only a physical war,” she says. “It is also a spiritual war.”

While watching events unfold from outside the country is painful, the persecution her family faces began long before the current conflict. “Persecution did not end with my case; it later affected different members of my family as well,” Simin remembers. The pressure first intensified when her sister tried to leave Iran. “She had planned to leave the country,” Simin says. “But just a few days before her flight, she was arrested.”

Her sister was taken into custody and spent an entire month in detention. “She was interrogated many times during that month,” Simin explains.

Eventually she was released on bail while waiting for the court decision. At that point, lawyers warned her that the outcome would likely be severe. Many Christians arrested in similar cases had received sentences of up to ten years in prison. “They encouraged her to leave the country before the court decision came,” Simin says.

Her sister followed that advice and managed to leave Iran. But soon after, the verdict arrived. “The court sentenced her to more than five years in prison,” Simin shares. “There was also a large fine and more than five years of being denied social services.”

### **Further arrests**

Her sister is now safe after fleeing, but the authorities continue to target those who remain inside Iran. “My mother was taken for interrogation too,” Simin says. “The government knows about our ministry, and they are still asking questions about us.”

Even Simin’s father has been caught in the net of oppression. He is now trying to pay the heavy fines imposed on the family due to their faith in Jesus. “My father is trying to pay the money, but the amount is very high,” she says.

Additionally, Simin’s brother and his wife were not spared. After Simin and her husband fled Iran, they too were arrested. “They were taken to prison,” she says. “But they decided to stay in Iran and endure it. And after spending several years in prison, they were eventually released, yet their situation remains difficult. They are constantly monitored,” Simin explains. “The government keeps threatening them, yet they are sure of their calling to not only stay but to continue serving.”

## **Hardships and hopes**

Authorities frequently question all the remaining family members about Simin and her husband. “Whenever the government sees our activities outside Iran, they ask my brother if he is in contact with us,” she says. “They are still after us!”

The build-up of stress is affecting Simin’s health. “The stress and pressure lower the immune system,” she says. “When your heart and mind are under constant worry, the body also becomes weak.” She’s developed a serious illness in the weeks since conflict erupted in Iran, leaving her exhausted and with breathing difficulties.

Living as a refugee, Simin experiences significant financial hardship – particularly after her husband lost his job last year. At the same time, Simin continues to carry deep concern for the people of Iran as shortages and instability grow worse. “There is no internet, and people don’t have access to food or basic needs.”

Yet, despite the fear and uncertainty, Simin refuses to lose hope. “I believe that after all these years of oppression, God is at work in Iran.” she boldly shares.

She acknowledges that the current days are filled with fear and suffering, but she also senses the possibility of change. “These days are very difficult, but there is hope that something positive can happen, something that brings justice and freedom for everyone.”

Her hope is also for the chance to return home. “I am more than ready to go back to Iran if the situation allows,” Simin says. After years of displacement, her heart still longs for the land where she was born and where she grew.

“Thank you for your prayers,” Simin shares with a smile on her face. “Your prayers have supported us through many dark days.”

### **Please keep praying**

For protection and strength for Simin’s family members in Iran who continue to face persecution and pressure from the authorities

For Simin’s sister who fled Iran, that she will be able to begin a new and safer life

For Simin, her husband and their child as they continue to live in displacement, facing uncertainty while longing for their home

That Iran would one day open up so that people like Simin can safely return and live with freedom of belief

For healing across Iran for those who have experienced trauma, violence and the loss of loved ones

That God's justice would cover Iran and the entire Middle East, bringing justice, freedom and hope for the future.

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

### **Please Pray**

Lord God, we lift up our sister Simin and her whole family. Thank You for saving them and being in beautiful relationship with them. Please protect each member of the family from attack, surveillance and opposition – and we ask the same for all our church family from Iran. Show Your tender comfort and powerful strength to them at this time. In Jesus' name, amen.

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

Most people in Iran are Muslims, and it is illegal for a Muslim to leave Islam. Those who decide to leave Islam to follow Jesus can face severe persecution.

Christians from Muslim backgrounds must meet together secretly, in house churches. However, house churches are commonly raided, often followed by arrests, interrogations, pressure to inform on other believers and long-term imprisonments, typically under charges of breaching 'national security'.

The conditions in prison are dire and bail sums can be extortionately high, financially paralysing families. If believers are released, it typically comes with strict conditions, like exile in another part of Iran or self-censorship.

Each year, thousands of converts flee Iran to escape persecution. Despite the intense persecution, many believers are bravely standing strong. S, a believer who was arrested, shares, "A blank paper was brought in front of me, and a deep voice said, 'If you write here that you regret becoming a Christian, that you want to return to Islam, then we can help you avoid court.' I kept silent for a moment, then said calmly: 'That's not a confession, that's a forced lie. I won't write down something I don't believe.'"

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



**NEWPORT  
BUS  
STATION**

**SAFE  
SPACE**



**A safe place to...**



**WAIT  
FOR FRIENDS**



**RECEIVE  
FIRST AID**



**GET ADVICE  
& SUPPORT**



**HELP GETTING  
HOME**



**REPORT ASB  
OR ANY CONCERNS**

**Pop in & talk to us!**

In partnership with



# Shanklin Town Brass Band



is holding a...

## Charity Concert 'At the Movies'

on

*Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May*

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
Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	14:00 19:00	Pray for the Bay (see <a href="#">page 4</a> ) Maundy Supper and Communion @ Ryde
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	10:00 11:15	Good Friday Reflective Service Procession of Witness
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	06:15 10:30 18:30	Easter Sunrise Service Rev Kelvin Burke speaking Easter Café at SURC
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10:30 17:00	Sheilagh speaking Shared worship at St Blasius
Fri-Sat	17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr		Sabbath of Prayer (see <a href="#">pages 4</a> & <a href="#">10</a> )
Tue	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	14:00	Daniel Tan speaking at Bible Bite
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10:30	Encounter Café service
Fri	1 <sup>st</sup> May	19:30	Shanklin Town Brass Band Concert <i>in aid of YMCA Mother &amp; Baby Unit</i> see <a href="#">page 41</a>
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10:30	Ordination of Elders/welcome new members
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup> May	17:00	Shared Worship at Sandown Baptist Church
Thu	14 <sup>th</sup> May		Start of 'Thy Kingdom Come' (see <a href="#">page 6</a> )
Thu	21 <sup>st</sup> May	19:30	Church Meeting
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup> May	16:00	Pentecost Sunday – Prayer event

# All this Beauty is of God



Experience the truth of the Island's motto during the Spring Walking Festival. This takes place from 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May and includes walks of various lengths and grades, most of which are free to join.

The gentlest walk, suitable for mobility aids, is led by Julie in Victorian costume. You will stroll around Ryde, hearing tales of the founding families.

**The Lost Crypt History Walk** costs £5 per person, payable at time of booking, with the whole amount going to **AspireRyde**.



Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 15:00

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 15:00

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00

*A maximum of 10 people can participate in any one event so pre booking is mandatory at:*

<https://isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk>

## Connection Quiz Answers

1. Winston Churchill
2. Jane Austen
3. Joseph M W Turner
4. Alan Turing
5. Connection: they are all people featured on the reverse of current Bank of England banknotes.
6. This issue's cover photo is of: La Plage du Butin, Honfleur, Normandie (photo © C P Sparks).



**The Puzzle Pages**

# Sudoku

*A numerical placement puzzle!*

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

**A medium one this month.**

**Enjoy!**

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

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

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

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

- that takes place in Epsom (5)
- 23 Something marked by decay and declining standards (8)
- 27 Official diplomatic mission (7)
- 29 Day before today (9)
- 30 Get rid of unwanted hair (5)

## Down

- 1 Comic with Dennis the Menace (5)
- 2 Retake an exam (5)
- 3 We in Romanian (3)
- 4 'O - of little faith' (2)

## Across

- 1 Eastern French wine region, capital Dijon (8)
- 5 Sooty's canine friend (5)
- 7 River that flows through Exeter and on to Exmouth (3)
- 8 English name for Österreich (7)
- 11 Wakes you up in the morning (5)
- 13 Leak slowly in small amounts (4)
- 14 Bird that lays the largest egg (7)
- 16 Seven in Roman numerals (3)
- 17 Thank you, informally (2)
- 18 Covered or flooded by water (5)
- 19 City in Normandy, burial place of William I (4)
- 20 Exclamation used to express laughter (2)
- 21 English city, or a horse trace

- 5 Aircraft that takes off and lands on water (8)
- 6 'Passport to -' 1949 film (7)
- 9 German state (5)
- 10 Fire residue (3)
- 12 Word that modifies or provides more detail about a verb (6)
- 15 Use needle and thread (3)
- 17 Short name for Edward (3)
- 18 Rev who wrote The Railway Stories (5)
- 19 Metal receptacle for a drink (3)
- 20 Small edible fruit (5)
- 22 Stretch to touch something (5)
- 24 Pocket of tissue, fluid filled (4)
- 25 There's no I in this (4)
- 26 Unit of digital information (4)
- 28 1<sup>st</sup> person singular possessive determiner used to indicate ownership (2)

## Can You Guess The Year?

- Pirate radio station Radio Caroline begins regular broadcasting.
- France and Britain agree to build a Channel Tunnel.
- West Ham win the FA Cup, beating Preston North End 3-2.
- Top of the Pops starts on BBC TV.
- And UK No. 1s include:
  - Dave Clark 5 with 'Glad All Over'
  - The Beatles with 'Can't But Me Love'
  - The Honeycombs with 'Have I The Right'
  - The Kinks with 'You Really Got Me'
  - The Supremes with 'Baby Love'

Answer next issue

## This Issue's General Knowledge Questions

1. What bridge links Le Havre to Honfleur in Normandie?
2. Who won the first FA Cup final, in 1872?
3. Who directed the 1969 film *Battle of Britain*?
4. What is the capital of Brazil?
5. In what country was Joanna Lumley born?
6. Rochester in Kent is a city, true or false?
7. In computer terms, what does FTP stand for?
8. Who wrote the UK National Anthem?
9. What's different about the Spanish National Anthem?
10. What was the previous name of the country Burkina Faso?

Answers next issue

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

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

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 2005

- Last issue's crossword ↓

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

## Last Issue's General Knowledge Quiz Answers

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Alton & Alresford                            | 6. False                       |
| 2. Mary I, or Mary Queen of Scots (two stories) | 7. Hypertext Markup Language   |
| 3. 1946   | 8. The Chain, by Fleetwood Mac |
| 4. Chişinău                                     | 9. Alexandre Dumas             |
| 5. India  | 10. Edward, engine number 2    |

## 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
- Evening**      **17:00 Worship and Prayer** in church  
*Except on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*

## Weekday Activities

- Monday**      13:00      **Prayer Meeting** in church (see [page 4](#))
- 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      **The Well** (aka 'Living Well Together')
- Friday**      10:00      **CatURpillars Toddler Group** (term time)

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

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

**Minister: Rev Brian Harley**



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*Day off: Monday*

**Secretary: Robin Wightman**



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