

The Link

August 2026



Shanklin United Reformed Church



View From Number 10



A change is as good as a rest!

This month is marked by the school holidays and often by the return of rainy and cooler weather, just in time for my holiday break!

Many of our number are not directly affected by the schools being off but we all suffer the heavier traffic at peak times on the Island when everyone heads out for the day, or back to base camp. We must be thankful for the way they keep the Island economy going!

Whether we are away or not, August tends to bring a change of pattern with a number of activities on hold with often a bit more time and space to switch off and relax. It's good for us to have a change of routine at times and perhaps to explore a few different things. God built in a pattern of Sabbath for his people to ensure they were not victims of the eternal rat race. Someone once quipped – *the problem with winning the rat race is that you are still a rat!*

May we all take time to pause, take stock of our lives and celebrate that, as followers of Jesus, we are not rats but children of God, born of the Spirit, as Paul reminds us in Romans 8. Our Heavenly Father delights in us and wants us to learn to delight in him. Maybe we can all take a little extra time for dipping into God's word and for prayer and reflection... to be still and know (Psalm 46:10).



This month, I am away for a chunk of time – a precious time to relax and refuel in readiness for the next term. Our family holiday in North Devon is quickly followed by another short trip to USA from 18th - 24th. I'd value your prayers as I connect with the board of PRMI once again, with just one more year of service to go. I will be around to speak on 16th while home briefly and will be back in good

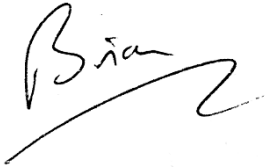
time to lead our Saturday prayer time on 29th and both Encounter and Rylstone worship on the final Sunday.

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Sheilagh will be leading a special series of four more informal meetings on Tuesdays at 14:00 during August, while there is a break from the regular Bible Bite - see below. These won't be livestreamed as they'll be more interactive.

I pray that we will all have a refreshing time in different ways over what is left of the summer – I do hope we've not had it all!

Grace and peace,

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

PS: Please see details of The Alpha Course in September on page 6 and let me know if you can help with hosting or with the afternoon teas, starting with the taster session on 6th September. Do consider coming along if you think it would be helpful in building the foundations of your faith and pray about anyone you could invite along. People tend to come if they are with a friend to journey with them.

Tuesdays in August - something a bit different...

Bible Bite is taking a break this month while Brian is away. He plans to recommence studies in Matthew's Gospel in September starting on 1st. He'll pick up in chapter 8 where he left off before Easter when he completed The Sermon on the Mount series.

As in many previous years, we are offering a more informal style of meeting during this break for those who'd value some on-going spiritual food and fellowship through the summer when many things stop. Sheilagh has kindly offered to do a four-part series following on from her message in June around the theme - When God interrupts. She we will explore a different Bible story each week at 14:00 in a more relaxed interactive style, and this won't be livestreamed on YouTube - apologies to those who like to watch online but our faithful tech guy, Christopher, also appreciates a break.

Refreshments will be served from 13:30 as usual - everyone is most welcome - the series starts on 4th August.

Prayer



Prayer - always at the heart of our life

Praise, Prayer and Share – Saturday 29th August from 11:00

A time to meet and praise God together and to seek him in prayer

- combined with a **Bring-and-Share Lunch** around 12:30

Do please try to get along as we begin to prepare for the new term of activity including the Alpha Course.

*"I will sing the **Lord's** praise, for he has been good to me"* Psalm 13:6

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?pwd=ZTlXZzBLWnkrWTNB.Y2JBK1o0K2ZXdz09> 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: 6th August**

SURC August Prayer Diary

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

Sat 1	Those who aren't well enough to get to church	Sun 16	Church tech team - and for the tech used
Sun 2	Today's Communion service	Mon 17	The Church Property Team
Mon 3	The prayer life of the church	Tue 18	Churches on the IoW spreading God's Word
Tue 4	Rise & Shine (see page 19 for info)	Wed 19	Elam – ministry in Iran
Wed 5	The Well - volunteers, regulars and visitors	Thu 20	The NHS; staff, patients and services
Thu 6	Churches in The Bay	Fri 21	Persecuted Church
Fri 7	Those affected by violence and conflicts around the world	Sat 22	Organisations supporting the Persecuted Church
Sat 8	People suffering from dementia & their loved ones	Sun 23	Vulnerable adults and their carers
Sun 9	Shanklin Town Council and Isle of Wight Council	Mon 24	Text prayer network, & Lou who organises it
Mon 10	UK Government	Tue 25	Safety of children
Tue 11	European Union	Wed 26	The RNLI
Wed 12	United Nations	Thu 27	Our minister, Brian
Thu 13	World peace	Fri 28	IoW Youth for Christ
Fri 14	Home groups	Sat 29	Care homes on IoW
Say 15	Those affected by natural disasters	Sun 30	The Island's emergency services
		Mon 31	Our Church Elders

Coming soon....

Make sense of life

Explore some of the big questions

The Alpha Course



Sundays at 17:00

**Taster session on 6th September
starting with afternoon tea**

Please bring guests

**Weekly course begins on Sunday 20th
September, also at 17:00**

**These are interactive informal sessions to
discuss the Christian faith and ask questions**

Can you help host this, or help with the teas...?

Coming up next month...

Men's Breakfast



at Viv's Cooking in Sandown High Street:

Saturday 19th September at 09:00

Look out for invitation cards and sign-up sheet.

Jesus once said to his friends – *“Come and have breakfast”*

Thank you

I would like to pass on my grateful thanks for your prayers recently when I contracted pneumonia. I am very much stronger now & have felt a real peace in the Lord during this time of recovery.

I look forward to meeting many of you in a few weeks time when we come over.

God bless you all.

Ruth (Miriam's sister)

Connection Quiz

1. Who wrote and recorded a song about Warren Beattie's vanity?
2. A member of which 1980s group had a yacht called drum?
3. Which singer, who first appeared in Esther Rantzen's 'big time' was working 9 to 5 in 1980?
4. Who was 'On a Midnight Train to Georgia' in 1976?
5. Which group claimed, '*The Sun Always Shines on TV*'?
6. So, what is the **connection** between the answers to questions 1 - 5?
7. The cover photo was taken in Normandie, but do you know where it is?

Answers are on page 43



The Power Of Prayer

About 18 months ago my granddaughter Sarah heard about an elderly cat about 8 years old that lived outdoors with just a box for shelter and found food wherever she could get it. Sarah was able to bring the cat home. Very quickly she took the cat to the local vet and was informed of the many ailments the cat had. Since then the cat now named Eleanor has received regular treatment including all her teeth removed and daily medication.

Eleanor now has a very comfortable life of luxury and has the best of everything; she likes Waitrose gammon ham best of all! All her food is finely chopped or pureed. Eleanor is an indoor cat and doesn't like even being in the garden. (Too many years living outdoors I expect). I've never been particularly interested in pets but have taken a great interest in Eleanor's weekly progress and wellbeing which I receive from Sarah on a weekly basis by e-mail.

On Saturday 4th July about 20:00 I received a distressing email from Sarah saying her beloved cat was missing and could I pray for her safe return. Her and her husband had taken turns for hours looking for the



cat. I was quite shocked at myself for feeling so upset about the cat!... the cat has no sense of direction, and of her being frightened etc. Along with Sarah we prayed during the evening and night for Eleanor's safe return. Sarah left the back door open all night. About 04:30 the next morning Sarah came downstairs and there was her dear cat Eleanor sat in the kitchen and probably grateful to be home after her day/nighttime adventure. A miracle from **Jesus** how Eleanor navigated her way back home from wherever she had been for all those hours.

Praise the Lord.

Pat Blair.

What happened when a teenager in China prayed for her broken scooter?

The authorities in China don't want young people engaging in Christianity. However, with your support, the gospel is getting through – and that includes a 14-year-old who saw God respond after she prayed for her broken scooter.

In China, it's getting increasingly difficult to engage in church activities with children, with a ban on engaging with under-18s enforced to varying degrees across the country. However, it's not stopped one 14-year-old from encountering Jesus – helped by a beautiful answer to prayer.

Jason* and his wife Zhi* are Open Doors local partners. They have faithfully served God for many years in a Muslim region in north west China, where Christian activities are closely monitored and restricted. Despite this, they have found creative ways to communicate the Christian faith, strengthening the faith of local believers and even seeing children's lives transformed.

This includes a reading club for local children, where they provide engaging and spiritual books for them to read, share and chat about. Using a biblical perspective, they help the children reflect on the stories and their deeper meaning, ultimately pointing them to Jesus.

Their ministry is having quite the impact – as the remarkable story of Xiaogu shows.

Following several visits by Jason and Zhi to her family – converts who had grown weary in their faith given communal and government pressures – Xiaogu noticed a transformation in her parents' lives and decided to follow Jesus, too. She went to secret youth camps and got involved with the reading club.

“Recently, Xiaogu finished reading some books I lent her, and wrote a book review, and even wrote me a letter excitedly sharing her testimony,” explains Jason. “She has grown to love reading the Bible more and more, and has learned to rely on God through prayer.”

The unbreakable scooter

This is the letter Xiaogu wrote...

“Now I prefer the Bible over my phone and TV. I realise how important the Bible is for Christians. Reading God’s Word is changing me little by little. Before, when I had problems, I tried to fix things myself. Now, I pray to Jesus and ask Him to help me.

“One day recently, the tire on my electric scooter broke on the way to school. It was shaking and wobbling when I rode it. I prayed, ‘Lord, please help me get to school safely. I don’t want to be late.’ And I did get there safely, right on time. Even though the scooter was broken, it kept moving and didn’t stop halfway. I was so happy.

“That night after school, I prayed again: ‘Lord, the scooter looks really bad. I’m afraid it won’t make it.’ In my heart I prayed again, ‘Lord, please help me get to the repair shop safely.’ And I did! I reached the shop, left the scooter there, and later my dad came with me to get the fixed scooter, and we went home safely. I was so thankful the scooter didn’t stop on the road. If it had, I would’ve had to walk a long way and figure things out myself. But it didn’t. Jesus is everywhere. He watches over me, helps me and never leaves me.

“I’m really thankful He chose me. I’m just an ordinary kid. My grades aren’t good, sometimes I’m a bit slow. When I was younger, I was invisible in class, not smart, not one of the good students. But Jesus never gave up on me. He comforted me, listened and answered my prayers. I’m thankful He chose me. I’m thankful He helps me grow day by day and lets me hear more testimonies. And I’m thankful to you (Jason) for giving me books with testimonies. They make me happy. My heart feels full of Jesus’ love.”

Under pressure but encouraged

The testimony had greatly moved Jason and Zhi, providing an enormous encouragement as they seek to serve Jesus in an environment where believers are coming under increasing pressure, with many forced further underground.

“Seeing the fruit of the ministry, my wife and I are both grateful and excited,” says Jason. “Xiaogu continues to grow spiritually, and she often shares the love of Jesus with others.”

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On one occasion, she was telling a boy about Jesus when his gaze turned fierce. Xiaogu was deeply troubled and later learnt that the boy's uncle was heavily involved in witchcraft and spirit conjuring, which held a significant influence over the boy's family. Jason and Zhi later prayed with Xiaogu, releasing her from fear and giving her peace. "Now I know that no matter the circumstances, God is always in control. There is no fear in love," she said.

"I am so blessed to witness first-hand how God works amid hardship in my ministry – transforming hearts, restoring families and calling young souls like Xiaogu to His truth. Every testimony encourages me, even as I serve in an area where Christianity is strictly controlled and opposed. Truly, there is no fear in love. God is love," says Jason.

Thank you for the role you play in the testimonies of people like Xiaogu. Because of your generosity and prayers, local partners like Jason and Zhi are empowered to come alongside people to lead them to Jesus and help them stand strong in their faith, even as hostility circles. The kingdom of God is growing in China – helped by you.

****Names changed for security reasons***

For information, China is No. 17 on Open Doors' World Watch List

- Christianity is seen as a threat by the Chinese authorities, so Christians here face close monitoring and tight controls.
- There are registered churches in China, falling under either the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPA) or the Catholic Patriotic Association (CPA), but these are closely overseen by the State who monitor what is preached and who is there.
- Many churches decide not to register and instead meet underground as house churches. But these churches face raids, fines, arrests, imprisonments and the confiscation of materials.
- Under 18s are not permitted to attend church.
- In areas that are traditionally Muslim or Buddhist, new Christians can face threats and even physical harm from their family and community, on top of persecution from the state.

Source: [Open Doors](#)

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 30th August – do
please invite friends to join you for this more
informal service**

– café serving from 10.15

Website of the month:

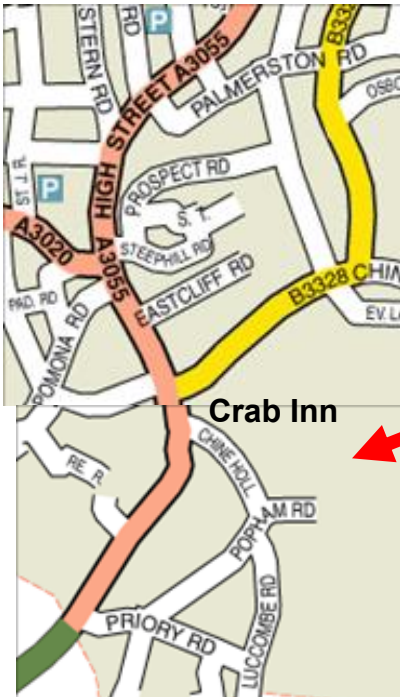
[Evangelical Alliance](#)

*Making Jesus known. We are an alliance of evangelicals
sharing the gospel, lifting voices of hope, and building unity.
We exist to serve and strengthen the UK church.*

CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE BAY

warmly invite you to join us for

Worship in the Open Air



**Each Sunday 19:00
at Rylstone Gardens**
(turn left just past the Old Village)

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

Each Sunday until 30th August



So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir." (Galatians 4:7)

**FREEDOM
IN CHRIST**

"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)

Our Security (Part 2)

Last time, Neil focused on our **Spiritual Identity** and how we might **Reprogramme** our worldly mindset. We cannot do these things alone: we need help. Neil now explains how **The Spirit of Truth** will guide us. Leading us to know that our **Security is in Eternity**

The Spirit Of Truth

It's not hard to know the truth if you are the truth, and speaking with authority would come quite naturally if you're God! Discernment is also easier if you know, as Jesus does, what's in the hearts of men:

"But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person." (John 2: 24&25)

Though we don't possess those attributes, we do have the Holy Spirit. If we are going to continue the work of Jesus, we must yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to control and guide us. Then we can know the truth, speak with authority, and discern good and evil.

We have as our guide the Spirit of Truth. Jesus said:

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you." (John 16:13&14)

This promise has primary reference to the apostles, but its application extends to all Spirit-filled believers (see 1 John 2:20-27). The Holy

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Spirit is first and foremost the Spirit of Truth, and He will lead us into all truth.

Jesus prayed: ***“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”*** (John 17: 15&17)

Truth is what keeps us from the evil one. John wrote: ***“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”*** (1 John 5:19) and, in Revelation: ***“Satan, who leads the whole world astray”*** (Revelation 12:9)

The only way to overcome the father of lies is by revelation, not research or reasoning. Many in higher education lean on their own understanding and believe only in what can be validated by research.

Truth is God's will made known through His Word.

The Holy Spirit's role is to enable us to understand the Word of God from God's perspective. Jesus said: ***“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*** (John 8:32)

Father, forgive me for leaning on my own understanding. Fill me with Your Spirit and lead me into all truth today.

Security In Eternity

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” (Psalm 18:2)

The key to experiencing security in your life is to depend on things that are eternal, not temporal. Christians often feel insecure because they are depending on temporal things, which they have no right or ability to control. For example, some people rely on their money for material security instead of relying on God's promise to supply all our needs. The safest place to keep money a few years ago was a savings and loan institution. But many have failed, and the security people had placed in them has been shattered. Only eternal investments are secure.

I believe God is shaking the foundations of the world. Natural disasters are on the increase, kingdoms are being toppled, political

boundaries are being redrawn, and anarchy reigns in many poor countries. Scripture warns us that such conditions would precede the second coming of Christ (see Matthew 24). This shouldn't alarm us; we should be excited! Christ's return will be the day of the church for those who have stored up treasures in heaven:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Security only comes from relating to that which is anchored in eternity.

Jesus said: ***“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10:27-30)***

Paul declared: ***“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35 & 37-39)***

And also: ***“You also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13,14)***

How much more secure can you get than that? When your ultimate trust is in temporal values and relationships, you are always subject to insecurity because these things are subject to failure and can be

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lost. The greatest sense of security you can experience is the by-product of taking a firm grip on values and relationships that will endure as long as God Himself.

Lord, my Rock, thank You for the peace and security that comes from trusting in You instead of temporal values.

Neil Anderson

Freedom in Christ Ministries

Used by permission

It is worth noting that Neil links his thoughts closely to Biblical Truth, quoting directly from God's Word ~ a sound test as to the efficacy of what he is saying to us!

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5)

Father God, thank you that you have made yourself known to us through your Son and Your Word. Help us to love Your Word in the Bible ~ help us to make it central to our thoughts and actions each day, so that we may have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

The Freedom in Christ course shows us that in Christ we are Secure, Significant and Accepted. In the New Year, we are planning to run this course in the church (probably on Friday afternoons). Nearer the time, we will look at some Biblical Truths which help us to know **Who we are in Christ**.

Thank you, Lord, that in Christ we are Secure, Significant and Accepted.

Robin

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Update: Rise and Shine Outreach

On Monday, 6th July, we opened the doors of our church for our new "Rise and Shine" Breakfast Outreach. We started this to offer a safe, warm space and a simple breakfast to local people facing homelessness, trauma, and addiction.

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you! The donations, prayers, and support from our church family and community have been amazing. Thanks to you, we are giving people a friendly welcome and a place where they feel seen and cared for.

We have had a slow start, yet unexpectedly, the outreach has grown quicker than we thought it would. This is largely due to the hard work and effort by Steve and Baz, in getting the word out far and wide, including reaching out to our local known individuals as they pass the church. This has resulted in some of them being able to come into the church without fear of judgement. We are being supported by local charity shops (including one in Newport) to provide free practical items, like sleeping bags and clothes, to our guests. This will be especially important as winter comes on. Soon, we also hope to start giving out simple food parcels.

The biggest lesson from the last few weeks is how much it matters to open our doors and step outside our comfort zones. We've kept things simple - no lectures, no rigid rules, just a hot meal, a warm smile and much needed chats—we've begun to connect with people who would have stayed invisible if we hadn't taken that first step of faith. We are reaching our neighbours – those who are much maligned and who are largely invisible; those who never would have walked into a formal 'program,' or a church, showing them that they matter; that they're valued.

Here is a reminder of simple food items that are needed:

- **Juice boxes and bottled water**
- **Soft granola bars and breakfast bakes** (soft foods are best for those with dental issues)
- **Fruit cups and pouches** with peel-back lids or squeeze tops (no cans)
- **Individual oatmeal servings or cereal bars**

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- **Bread, rolls, sausages, and bacon**

Donations can be brought to the URC on **Wednesday mornings (11:00 – 12:30)** or **Sunday mornings before the service.**

- **Dried Goods:** Pop these in the marked box near the table trolley.
- **Fresh Food:** Please hand bread, sausages, bacon and any other fresh foods, directly to the team so that they can be correctly stored.

Thank you for your incredible kindness. Please keep our team and guests in your prayers!

Matthew 25:35-36

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”



Isle of Wight CAP Debt Centre

Celebration Service

Sunday 13th September at 17:30

at Gunville Methodist Church

Gunville Rd, Newport, PO30 5LS

We are one of five congregations that support the Island CAP project. The leadership group plan to gather us together again to celebrate how things have been progressing and to commission the two new team members – Val Taylor and Rhoda MacLeod.

Do please come and share in this special service as we celebrate lives transformed through freedom from debt, worship together and pray for the ministry's future.

Light refreshments will follow.

Please offer lifts if you are able...

Our Christian Heritage

At a time when much of our Judeo-Christian heritage has either been dismantled or is under threat, how important it is that we heed the words of Scripture in Paul's letter to Timothy:

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

The new edition of the **CARE Prayer Diary** has 'Our Christian Heritage' as its' first week's subject (to be found in the lobby and church and online at <https://care.org.uk/>). With the current change of Prime Minister and government ministers and officials, the following prayer for Sunday 26th July seems very appropriate.

'King of kings, grant that the hearts and minds of all who go out as leaders before us may be filled with 'the love of Your laws' and that which is righteous and life-giving. May they be worthy stewards of Your good and perfect gifts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen' (From 700-year-old prayer of the chivalric Knights of the Garter led by the Sovereign that still exists today.)

Inside the front cover of the Prayer Diary is a picture of the Palace of Westminster with the following information:

'At the heart of Parliament, inscribed in the floor of the central lobby are the words in Latin of Psalm 127:1, *'Except the Lord build the House, they labour in vain that build it.'*

Soaring above are huge mosaic panels depicting the UK's four patron saints: George, Patrick, Andrew and David, and statues of past kings and queens fill the surrounding arches.

Among many magnificent pieces of art depicting Biblical stories and illustrating Christian themes throughout the Palace, over the entrance to Westminster Hall, there hangs a painting of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. And twenty-

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six massive wooden angels support the ancient roof, a reminder of God's spiritual authority above all monarchy and government.'

How amazing and special that is!

Also of interest is news of a recent survey on our Christian heritage:

'In a recent survey of 2,095 adults, 52% believed Britain risks moral decline if its Christian roots are ignored, 58% said Christianity has something positive to offer in how the UK is governed. This reflects an interest in 'cultural Christianity – principles such as moral equality, protection of the vulnerable and freedom of conscience are ideas rooted in continue to shape public life and historically influenced institutions including hospitals, schools and universities.' (Andrew Hawkins, CEO Whitestone Insight.)

How important that we retain our distinctiveness as a Christian nation – and how diligent we need to be as believers in maintaining the faith handed down to us and to contend in prayer for our nation:

'Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.' Hebrews 10:23.

Other very relevant items in the CARE Prayer Diary are:

- Social Care
- Summer Activities
- Human Dignity
- The Gift of Music
- Education Matters
- Rescuers
- International Security
- Plastic Pollution
- Sharing God's Word
- Online Protections
- Tackling Inequality
- 'Gen Z'

Do take a copy of this excellent resource and be blessed and informed by using it.

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As well as CARE, there are many other Christian ministries that give valuable information for prayer – do help yourselves to these, e.g. Christian Institute, Evangelical Alliance, GEAR, to name but a few that are available in church.

If you wished to pray in more depth, 'Intercessors for Britain' also publish a bi-monthly leaflet with detailed information covering many areas of our nation's life.

Do ask me if you would like to know more about this ministry.

Above all, **thank you for praying** – may we stand together for our nation and for the honour of our dear Lord's Name.

Blessing in Him

Jane H

Source: [CARE](#)

Church Opening for Families

The church will be open for meeting up, refreshments, snacks and games for any family who wishes to come in.

**Friday 7th August and
Friday 21st August 2026 13:30 – 16:30**



We will have the ball pond out, play dough, as well as a couple of craft activities.

Tea, coffee, squash and snacks will also be available.

If anyone is able to help, please let me know.

Yvonne

The Well

a place for

Living Well Together

Drop in at any point

Wednesdays 11:00 – 12:30

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



And sausage rolls!



God With Us: Thy Kingdom Come 2026 Reprise

Last time we looked at *The Spirit Brooding over Creation* from both the TKC Novena (by Archbishop Sarah Mullally) and the Prayer Journal (by Rev Canon Chris Russell). Now we turn to ...

The Spirit of Grace

Ruth 1:16-18 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.' ¹⁸ When Naomi realised that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

It was not easy, I imagine, for Ruth to say these words. It meant leaving her home in Moab, her extended family, everything she had known in her life so far.

In her love for Naomi, we can see something of God's unconditional love for us. Through Jesus Christ, God demonstrated His commitment to humankind, telling us, *'Where you go, I will go; where you die, I will die'*. And He is with us today, wherever we go, from the beginning to the end of our lives, through His Holy Spirit.

Yet day by day, we continue to turn away from Him, through what we think and say, what we do and fail to do – far surpassing Naomi's turning away from Ruth – but every day He commits Himself to us through the Holy Spirit. And that is what grace is: unmerited, unconditional favour.

Grace was what Naomi needed. It's what humankind needs. And it's what our friends and those people we come into contact with each day most need!

Friendship makes our lives. Commitment to others, through thick and thin, no matter what, makes the difference. To these friends and neighbours, your gracious love to them is God's gift of grace. It is a sign of God's own commitment to them. The evangelist J. John came

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to faith because, 'My friend Andy built a bridge from him to me and Christ Jesus walked over it.' Our prayers for others are the mortar holding the bridge together.

Let us pray that the Spirit of grace would show us – even when (or especially when) it's difficult – how to be graceful to those around us, how to commit ourselves to their wellbeing, and bear witness to God's unconditional love for us all.

'O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son our God, give us that love which can never cease, that will kindle our lamps but not extinguish them,

that they may burn in us and enlighten others. Amen.'

[6th century Celtic prayer]

And once again we pray:

Father, prompt us to be aware of those around us who need a touch of Your Spirit. To be ever watchful of the needs of others and always be ready to respond in love.

Robin

Our Next Church Meeting

24th September 2026 @ 19:30

Refreshments from 19:00

All members and regular worshippers are encouraged to come along as we seek to plan ahead.

Copies of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting will be available ahead of the meeting so we can all come prepared.

As usual, a Zoom link will be provided for those who cannot make it in person via the regular meeting space.

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





Healthy Half Hour! 3 Years Old and Still Going Strong!

Healthy Half Hour is fun, everyday fitness for everyday life! It began as a spin-off to a Falls Prevention Course in June 2023. There were just a few of us back then, but today we are a thriving island-wide group with friends joining us from Cowes and Ryde as well as locally from Sandown and Shanklin.



Last October, we used our strength and fitness to raise money for charity. Some of the group joined Ellen's other fitness classes to do the 10km Mouth Cancer Awareness Walk and altogether we raised £950 for this charity. What an achievement! Here they are with their medals!

In December we put on our Christmas jumpers and silly hats for a Festive Fun Fitness Session!

Keeping fit can be and should be **fun**!



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In June we celebrated our 3rd birthday with cakes and medals! These warriors have gone 'from strength to strength' (Psalm 84:7) and have kept their fitness training going for 3 years! Such perseverance deserves to be rewarded. The medals say, 'Get Fit, Stay Fit, Feel Great' which is exactly what they are doing!



And here we are on a very hot day in July! As well as getting fit and strong, we are looking after each other and new ones joining us are gathered in and cared for. We are helping each other to have healthy hearts and minds as well as healthy bodies which is surely God's plan and purpose for us. "I pray that you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers." (3 John 2).

Ellen Robinson

Open The Book to Genesis

Whilst Leah had lots of sons, Rachel had only two. Jacob gave Joseph a wonderful coat.



His 10 older brothers were not happy. They had to look after the sheep so they were always dirty.



To make it worse, Joseph told them of his dreams. “Your sheaves bowed down to mine.”



“The sun, moon and 11 stars bowed down to me.” Even Jacob was angry about that one!



Jacob sent Joseph to take his brothers their lunch. But they saw him coming & attacked him.



They tore off his coat, threw him in a pit then sat down to eat their lunch. They intended to let him die. Reuben, the eldest, protested.



He went away, intending to come back and rescue Joseph. But the others saw some slave traders. They said: “We can make money by selling Joseph.”



When Reuben came back he was horrified. “What will we tell Father?” he cried. They killed a lamb, soaked Joseph’s coat in the blood, and took it back to Jacob.



Jacob was heartbroken.



Joseph was taken to Egypt and bought by Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh’s guard.



Joseph worked so well that Potiphar put him in charge of all the other slaves.



Potiphar’s wife fancied Joseph, but he refused

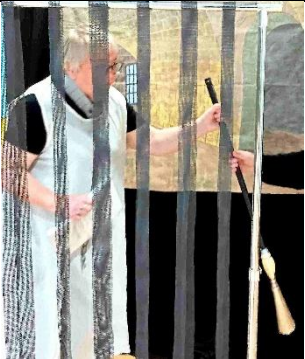


her advances. When he ran away, she grabbed his coat.



She screamed:
“Joseph attacked me.”
Potiphar called the jailor and sent Joseph to

prison.



Even in prison. Joseph worked hard. The jailor was pleased and put Joseph in charge of

all the other prisoners..

Joseph organised them to do the work. The prison had never been so clean!
Then two new prisoners were jailed.



The first was the cup bearer and the other was the chief baker of Pharaoh.



One night they both had dreams. The cup bearer dreamt of three bunches of grapes which he



squeezed into Pharaoh’s cup.

Joseph said: “That means, in three days you will go back to working for Pharaoh. When you do, please tell him about me. I did nothing wrong, but I am in prison.” The cup bearer was



very happy.

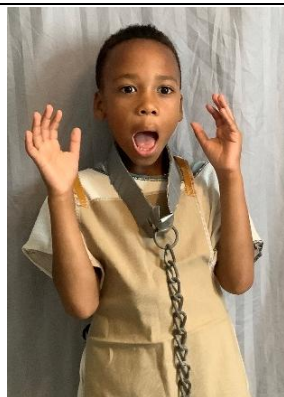
Then the baker told his dream: “ I was carrying three baskets on my head, filled with cakes.



Suddenly, birds flew down, snatched the cakes from the top basket, and ate them!

“I’m sorry,” said Joseph, It means that, in three days you will be executed.

Three days later, on Pharaoh’s birthday, both dreams came true.



The cupbearer went back to working for Pharaoh, tasting the wine to check it was not poisoned. He completely forgot his promise to tell Pharaoh about Joseph.

Poor Joseph waited day after day for more than a year, hoping to be freed from prison.

At least you will only have to wait one month to find out what happened next!

Leading OUR Church into Growth

A couple of weeks ago, our Ladies Home Group (Thursday mornings @ Church) were looking at a study in Haggai Chapter 1. In verses 1 to 5, we read:

¹ In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest:

² This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘These people say, “The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord’s house.”’

³ Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai:

⁴ ‘Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?’

⁵ Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways.’

Part of the study involved answering the question, “If Haggai were to talk to you about your involvement in building up the Lord’s house (i.e. the fellowship of believers and ourselves as we are a temple of the Holy Spirit), what do you think he would say?”

This is what those present felt led to express:

- Acknowledge what God has done in the past.
- Have no fear.
- Be willing to trust and get out of your comfort zone.
- Obedience, listen to God, and he will supply the ways and means.
- Trust in God and he will enable you.
- Nothing is too small to bring to God (loaves and fishes).
- You can do it because I am with you.
- Have a heart for me like David.

As we seek to lead OUR church into growth, I believe that God is asking each one of us to consider this question ~ what might Haggai be saying to you?

General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR)

A notice to all church members and regular attendees whose data is collected by Shanklin URC.

May I begin by saying thank you all for helping us provide appropriate services within the church by allowing us to maintain the data you have supplied. This data is managed by our Elders in compliance with the GDPR mentioned above.

Since 2018, we have had a “Data Privacy” Statement on display in the church office detailing how this data is managed and your rights under current legislation (which has not changed since 2018). Elders have recently updated this statement, which has replaced the original and is on display as before.

The statement largely remains the same, but a few points have been clarified. A checklist is now included, which will enable Elders to regularly review how data is being managed.

SURC’s approach has not changed. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information.

Thanks again

Robin

Leading Our Church into Growth Prayer

God of Mission
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Advance Notice!

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal will soon be upon us! (Your editor has already received an e-mail regarding the 2026 appeal.)

Now is a great time to get items towards assembling a box.

A full list of suggestions by Samaritan's Purse can be found at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox#gift-suggestions and some of them are:

- Cuddly toy/Doll
- Toy cars
- Animal figures
- Small puzzles etc.
- Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons, felt tip pens
- Ruler, rubber
- Writing pads or notebook, colouring books
- Solar calculators
- Comb, hairbrush, toothbrush
- Flannel
- Hat, gloves, sunglasses, cap, T-shirt, socks
- Stickers

This is not an exhaustive list, for more details please go to the above website. However, do not include soap, toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items (e.g. toy guns, model soldiers, military vehicles etc.); seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, knives, sharp or fragile items.

Hopefully there will be leaflets available shortly detailing in print the list of acceptable things (due to customs) to make up a lovely selection of items to bless countless children.

If you've taken part before **Thank You So Much** and we hope you will again! If you have not done so, maybe this year?!

Do ask if you'd like to know more!

Blessings in Jesus' Name, Jane H

Médecins Sans Frontières

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is a leading independent humanitarian organisation for emergency medical aid. In more



than 70 countries worldwide, MSF provides relief to the victims of war, natural disasters and epidemics, irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. MSF was awarded the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.

About MSF

Their magazine, *Dispatches*, is written by MSF staff and sent out quarterly to our supporters to keep you informed about our medical work around the world, all of which is funded by supporters. *Dispatches* gives our patients and staff a platform to speak out about the conflicts, emergencies and epidemics in which MSF works. It costs £0.72 to produce, package and send using the cheapest form of post. It is an important source of income for MSF and raises three times what it costs to produce.

We always welcome feedback. Please contact us using the methods listed, or e-mail: dispatches.uk@london.msf.org

Patient names are changed throughout *Dispatches* to protect anonymity.

☎ 020 7404 6600

📍 Médecins Sans Frontières UK

Level 5, Unit 12–13,
9 Prescott Street,
London E1 8PR

Charity Registration Number 1026588

Sign up to email - get the latest MSF news delivered to your inbox. Sign up at msf.org.uk/signup

Make a donation - by phone, online or by post. If possible, please quote your supporter number and name and address.

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) has several great articles, including the headline article 'Near Death Experience - Heart patient 'dies' yet sees his pastor by his body - and lives to tell of God's love.

Other contributions include:

- **Lawyers wins v Meta and Google** - Christian lawyer beat tech giants to protect children
- **Clannad star sings for the King** - Moya Brennan joins heaven's choir
- **TV comic gets serious** - Tim Vine explains there's only one way to heaven
- **British sprinter shaped by faith** - Olympian Jeremiah Azu wants God's will for his life
- **The story of everything** - Amazon Prime science documentary shows science points to Creator
- **Sailor's miracle** - Dave Weatherly recalls how God saved him from a fatal accident

Good News... for a change



Rylstone Gardens Concerts - August 2026

Date	Time	Who's Playing
Sun 2 nd	15:00	Shanklin Town Brass Band
Mon 3 rd	19:45	Cowes Concert Band
Tue 4 th	19:45	Bob Howarth Big Band
Thu 6 th	20:00	Vectis Brass Band
Sun 19 th	15:00	Wight Diamonds
Mon 10 th	19:45	Cowes Concert Band
Tue 11 th	20:00	Solent Swing
Wed 12 th	20:00	Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 13 th	20:00	Vectis Brass Band
Sat 15 th	20:00	Martin Hoy
Sun 16 th	15:00	Sea Gels Shanty Band
Tue 18 th	19:45	Bob Howarth Big Band
Wed 19 th	20:00	Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 20 th	20:00	Vectis Brass Band
Sun 23 rd	15:00	Trident Concert Band
Mon 24 th	19:45	Cowes Concert Band
Tue 25 th	20:00	Abbey Brass
Wed 26 th	20:00	Sandown & Shanklin Military Band
Thu 27 th	20:00	Vectis Brass Band
Sun 30 th	15:00	Vectis Brass Band

FOCUS

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

***How Dorcas in Kenya is healing after her
husband's murder***

7 July 2026

Dorcas' husband was kidnapped and killed in an attack on her village in Kenya. Trauma care from Open Doors partners is helping her heal.

Dorcas lives in a clearing in the bush in the north east of Kenya, far away from tarmacked roads. A few dozen very basic houses, built from rough-cut timbers and other leftover planks and iron sheets, simmer in the sun. Every house has small fields around it where maize, beans and greens are growing.

It's here that Dorcas and her husband were at their happiest, raising their young family. But it's also here that Dorcas's worst nightmare became reality when her husband was murdered in 2022.

Kidnapped in broad daylight

"My husband was the first one to be attacked," she remembers. "That attackers found him working in our fields, which are about 20 minutes' walk from our house. They must have forced him to join them in the bush."

Dorcas and other villagers searched the area, but couldn't find him. That night, the attackers came back to the village, bringing Dorcas's husband with them. His hands were tied behind his back. They forced him to lure other villagers to come outside their houses – when men heard his voice and came out, they were killed.

At the second house, a five-year-old boy managed to escape and warn other villagers. The attackers decided to leave – and, as they were going, murdered Dorcas's husband.

Dorcas only found out about the attack the next morning. "I was told

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that my husband had been killed. It was a very tough moment. I held the hands of my children when I went to see what had happened. It was so painful when we saw him. Our youngest child was just six years old. He kept on asking, 'Mummy, what did they do to daddy?' I didn't know what to tell him."

The attackers have never been found, and Dorcas still doesn't know which group is responsible or why they killed her husband. "I wish that they had allowed him to call me, to at least say a last word," she says. "Whenever I wake up in the night, I think about it. It never ends."

Rising tensions

In Lamu County, where Dorcas lives, there have been rising tensions between Christians and Muslims. This escalated into attacks by radicalised Islamists in 2014, in which more than 70 people were killed.

Since then, there have been various smaller-scale attacks in this region of Kenya – like the one in Dorcas's village. On top of that, radicalisation and recruitment to the terrorist group al-Shabaab still continues in Kenya, which is number 54 on the World Watch List.

"When they come, they do not kill Muslims," says Dorcas. "This group that attacks people here targets Christians." She hasn't had confirmation of exactly who killed her husband, and it has left her confused and fearful. "Nobody told me why these men, including my husband, were murdered," she says. "I didn't know if I was safe in my village. If the violence would happen again. And I wondered why it had to be me. Why was my husband killed? What would happen to our children? Who would take care of us? So many questions in my head. I did not have the energy to support my children."

Support from Open Doors

That's when Open Doors local partners stepped in to offer practical help – thanks to the prayers and gifts of supporters like you.

"You brought food to the house of my parents where we were living," says Dorcas. "You paid school fees for my eldest daughter to continue to go to secondary school. It was so encouraging. It even strengthened me enough to start farming again."

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This food and financial support was much cherished, but it didn't answer all of Dorcas's needs. Despite the necessities being covered, and her church community also providing seeds and other things she needed to get back to farming, Dorcas felt empty.

"I couldn't stop overthinking," she shares. "I didn't even understand why I was so confused. Why was my life not the same as it was before? It felt like I was sick all day. But I wasn't sick. I was traumatised."

Trauma care and forgiveness

Open Doors local partners invited Dorcas to receive trauma care. She had the opportunity to speak openly about the terrible things she had experienced, and process them – as well as understanding God's presence and guidance in her sorrow.

"I did not understand forgiveness," says Dorcas. "How could I forgive those people who did wrong to me? I refused to understand it. I wanted the attackers to be badly punished. But now I understand that God forgives me what I do wrong and that I can forgive others. I understood that my situation of confusion and hatred blocked me from proceeding with my life. That I had to let go of my hatred, to be able to be a mother again for my children.

"Even now, when the daily troubles are overwhelming, I remember these trainings and feel that God is there. The trainings have helped me to open my heart for happiness again."

Dorcas is continuing to heal. There are many, many other traumatised believers across Kenya and sub-Saharan Africa who also need your prayers and support.

Please pray

- For Dorcas and her children to continue to know God's healing power as they persevere in faith
- That Open Doors local partners in Kenya would have the Holy Spirit's guidance as they seek to serve persecuted believers
- For peace, justice and restoration for all persecuted Christians in sub-Saharan Africa.

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

I've left my camera bag behind!

Your editor and his wife recently went on a 10-day cruise around Northern European cities. However, once we were on our way back to the Island, I realised that I had left my camera bag in our cabin.

A quick prayer was said by me whilst on the Red Jet on our way home for its safe and speedy return.

Yes, it was entirely my fault, and I explained this when I telephoned Carnival plc's offices in Southampton. The helpful young lady I spoke to explained that there was a form that needed to be completed. I then said that although I lived on the IoW, I was going to be in Southampton a couple of days later for the day, and asked if I could pick up the bag from either the port or from Carnival's offices itself.

I was amazed when she said, "Hold on and I'll ask." After a couple of minutes, she said that by chance Carnival had a team on the ship, which they didn't always do, and that they would ask them to retrieve it.

Well, I had a call back from the young lady a little while later to say that the bag was sitting on her desk in front of her and that I could indeed collect it from Carnival's reception a couple of days later, taking ID with me.

I thanked her very much and thought 'great, thank you Lord!', but that wasn't the end of it. A short while later, I had another phone call, from a different young lady at Carnival who explained that she had been talking to her colleague who explained what had happened, and she then told me that my bag was now in front of her and asked if she could return it to me in Shanklin that evening. It turned out that although she works for Carnival in Southampton, she lived in Ventnor and could drop it off on her way home!

We arranged a time and place to meet up, and I got my camera bag back the same day I had left it behind. Needless to say, both young ladies got some flowers from me.

Thank you Lord for answering my prayer, and for returning everything to me so quickly!! *I certainly have learnt my lesson about ensuring I take everything with me when leaving a cruise ship!*



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

BBQ

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: 22nd August 2026

Time 15:30 - 19:00 (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

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



Poem by Lou

Lord, I look at all the different faces,
and wonder where they hide all the different stages
of their different lives.

I wonder how many different places
there is in your body and soul,
and how we decide to fill that empty hole.

Is it with greed, lust or guilt,
or with the dreams we never built.
Where does the hurt, the pain, and even the tears
go for all those many years?

Is it the pain in my back,
or the energy I seem to lack,
is it the twinge in my neck,
or the fact I'm a nervous wreck.

How do they get this freedom people ask,
is it some heavy dutiful task.
No, we say it's as easy as ABC,
all you do is bend your knee.

That's a bit easy is all they say,
so we help them to sit and pray.
After we pray, they feel some release,
then all of a sudden, a calming peace.

They thank us for showing them time and reply,
if only I had known this God could be mine.
I thank you Lord Jesus, for mending broken pieces.
It's amazing what happens,
when you show some compassion.

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



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.

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



Registered charity no. 1160400

Dates For Your Diary



Day	Date	Time	Details
Sun	2 nd Aug	10:30	Communion Service –Sheilagh leading
Wed	5 th Aug	19:00	Shanklin Carnival Outreach
Thu	6 th Aug	14:00	Pray for the Bay (see page 4)
Sun	9 th Aug	10:30	Andy Hough from Bembridge speaking
Sun	16 th Aug	10:30	Worship for All Ages led by Brian
Sat	22 nd Aug	15:30	Help for Heroes BBQ at Malc & Miriam's home (see page 38)
Sun	23 rd Aug	10:30	Malc leading
Sat	29 th Aug	11:00	Praise, Prayer and Share
Sun	30 th Aug	10:30	Encounter Café Service
		19:00	Last open air meeting of 2026 at Rylstone - Brian leading
Sun	6 th Sep	17:00	Alpha taster session (see page 6)
Sun	13 th Sep	17:30	CAP Service at Gunville Methodist
Sat	19 th Sep	09:00	Men's breakfast at Viv's Cooking
Thu	24th Sep	19:30	Church Meeting
Sat	17 th Oct	15:30	Messy Church - Harvest

Don't forget, whilst Bible Bite itself will be taking a break during August, Sheilagh will be leading a more informal style of Bible Bite, which will not be live-streamed.



Advance Notice

**Saturday
17th October
15:30 - 17:30**

Free fun for all the family

- no unaccompanied children please

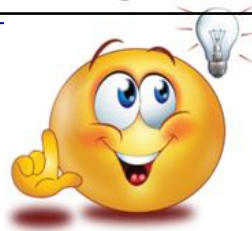
Come & enjoy a Harvest Messy Church experience at Shanklin URC - a fun way of learning for all ages.

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

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

For more information, please speak to Yvonne Sparks or Janet Harley, and please let Yvonne know if you can help in any way – even with the clearing up afterwards!

Connection Quiz Answers



1. Carly Simon
2. Duran Duran
3. Sheena Easton
4. Gladys Knight
5. A-Ha
6. Connection: they have all sung theme songs for James Bond films: Nobody Does it Better, A View to a Kill, For Your Eyes Only, Licence to Kill, The Living Daylights.
7. This issue's cover photo is from Falaise, Normandie - the church in the background is St Gervais (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!

6		2			9	4		
		9			2		5	
5				8				
2		4		9		6	8	1
1	6	3		4		9		7
				7				
	9		8			3		
		6	9			7		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								
27							28						

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Last month's Sudoku - how did you do?

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

Across

- 1 BBC 1 shipping line drama 1971-80 (6 4)
 4 UK breakdown company *initials* (3)
 6 Birthplace of William I (7)
 8 Nocturnal flying mammal (3)
 9 Latin for king (3)
 11 Completed a degree course (8)
 13 Hair colourant (3)
 14 Short for Emma (2)
 15 Not slow (4)
 16 Not yes (2)
 18 An inheritor of an estate (4)
 20 Winnie the... (4)
 21 Citrus fruit used to make a juice *pl* (7)
 23 Not common (4)

- 26 Natural mineral, mined (3)
 27 20 across' bouncing friend who's 'the only one' (6)
 28 City in Brittany (6)

Down

- 1 UK city of dreaming spires (6)
 2 Ideally, it's on the top of the cake (5)
 3 9 in Roman numerals (2)
 4 Roland was a puppet one on TV-AM (3)
 5 1972 Osmond's hit that's not about equines (5 6)
 7 A Benelux country (10)
 8 Alloy of copper and zinc (5)
 10 You see with one (3)
 12 Capital of Normandy, France (5)
 15 Very cold 2013 cartoon film (6)
 17 Football is an example of this activity (5)
 19 Concur (5)
 22 Anonymous *abbr* (4)
 24 Artificial Intelligence *initials* (2)
 25 Exempli Gratia *initials* (2)
 26 Either (2)

Can You Guess The Year?

- US singer Eddie Cochran killed in a car crash in the UK.
- The musical Oliver has its West End premiere.
- Wolves won the FA Cup, beating Blackburn Rovers.
- The Beatles perform in Hamburg for the first time.
- And UK No. 1s include:
 - Adam Faith with '*Poor Me*'
 - Lonnie Donnegan with '*My Old Man's a Dustman*'
 - The Shadows with '*Apache*'
 - Roy Orbison with '*Only the Lonely*'
 - Elvis Presley with '*It's Now or Never*'

Answer next issue

This Issue's General Knowledge Questions

1. Which team won the men's FA Cup in 2018?
2. How was the English monarch William II killed?
3. What was Olivia Newton-John's Eurovision song (in 1974)?
4. What is the capital of Peru?
5. What is the currency in Denmark?
6. Who was UK Prime Minister 1945-1951?
7. In computer terms, what does SSD stand for?
8. What is the capital of the Isle of Man?
9. When was the Battle of Agincourt?
10. What are the four tennis Grand Slams?

Answers next issue

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

Sunday 23rd 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 1963
- Last issue's crossword ↓

P	O	I	N	T	L	E	S	S			T		A
A		M		A		R		W	I	T	H	E	R
R	O	P	E			I		A			E		C
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S	O	S		O					O		H		
I		S		Y	E	S	T	E	R	D	A	Y	
A		I		A			E				S		
N	I	B	B	L	E		N			B	E	E	R
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Last Issue's General Knowledge Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Luftwaffe operation to destroy the RAF | 6. Thomas the Tank Engine |
| 2. William II | 7. Hypertext Transfer Protocol |
| 3. Power to All Our Friends | 8. God Save the King |
| 4. Riga | 9. Lerwick |
| 5. Metric system | 10. 1918 |

Sunday Service

<u>Morning</u>	10:30	Morning Worship in church <i>Broadcast live on YouTube</i>
		→ Holy Communion on 1 st Sunday of each month
		→ All Age service on last Sunday of each month
<u>Evening</u>	17:00	Worship and Prayer in church <i>Except on 2nd Sunday of the month</i>

Weekday Activities

Monday	09:00	Rise and Shine
	13:00	Prayer Meeting in church (see page 4)
Tuesday	09:00	Rise and Shine
	14:00	Informal Bible Bite ministry in church (Refreshments from 13:30) <i>Will NOT be livestreamed</i>
	19:30	Prayer Meeting on Zoom (see page 4)
Wednesday	11:00	The Well
Friday	10:00	CatURpillars Toddler Group (<i>term time</i>)

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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