Holiday Churches Guide 2022

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Landmark US abortion case is set to spark global debate

By Mike Judge, Editor

Abortion law in the US looks set to change dramatically, according to a draft ruling which has been leaked from the US Supreme Court.

It would send shock waves across the world and likely cause an increase in activity from both pro-life and pro-abortion campaigners.

Judges are set to rule on a case from Mississippi which challenges the 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade that legalised abortion across the US.

The leaked document, first published by Politico, shows that a majority of judges are in favour of overturning the ruling.

If the court strikes down the Roe v. Wade ruling, individual states would be allowed to decide for themselves whether to ban abortion.

It is believed almost half of all states would introduce some kind of ban to protect the life of unborn babies.

The Supreme Court has expressed its frustration that its draft document was leaked, but has confirmed the document is authentic.

In a statement to the media, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr said, 'To the extent this betrayal of the confidences of the Court was intended to undermine the integrity of our operations, it will not succeed. The work of the Court will not be affected in any way.'

He said the leak was 'a singular and egregious breach of that trust that is an affront to the Court and the community of public servants who work here. I have directed the Marshal of the Court to launch an investigation into the source of the leak.'

An official judgment is expected to be handed down in late June or early July, after this edition of ET went to print.

The Supreme Court has been reshaped by three appointments under former President Donald Trump, giving it a conservative-leaning majority.

Politico reports that five judges are in favour of overturning the Roe v. Wade ruling: Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett.

According to the leaked document, Justice Alito called the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision 'egregiously wrong from the start'.

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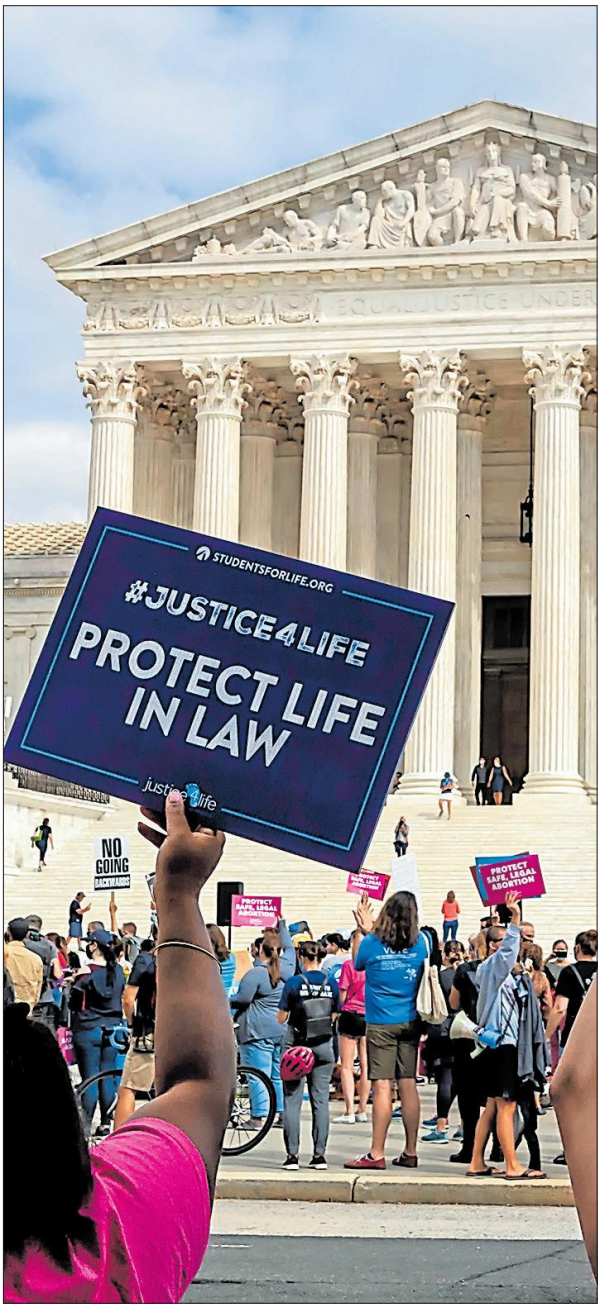


Protestors at the Supreme Court *(Credit: Shutterstock)*

Hounded pastor who warned against gay pride events wins his discrimination tribunal case

A pastor who was hounded out of his part-time job as a school caretaker because he told Christians not to attend a gay pride event has won his case at an employment tribunal.

The tribunal ruled that the Isle of Ely primary school discriminated against Keith Waters, aged 55.

The ruling upholds Mr Waters's freedom to express his biblical beliefs on human identity and sexual morality.

It means that Christian pastors who have other employment alongside their church ministries are free to express their biblical faith online without fear of losing other jobs.

Responding to the outcome Mr Waters said, 'I am relieved and pleased with the outcome. This is a victory, not just for me, but for Christian evangelical leaders across the country.

'I pray that this ruling will help protect pastors in the future that have to work part time in other jobs to make up their income.

'This is an important win for our freedom to speak the truth of the gospel without fear of losing our jobs.'

Mr Waters was supported by the Christian Legal Centre. Chief Executive Andrea Williams said, 'We are happy that Keith has finally received justice in this crucial case for Christian freedom.'

National News

Conversion therapy ban and other proposals confirmed at the state opening of Parliament

A ban on so-called 'conversion therapy' has been confirmed by the government in the Queen's Speech at the state opening of Parliament.

Making 'conversion therapy' a criminal offence could limit the freedom of evangelical Christians to preach, pray, pastor, or parent in keeping with their biblical beliefs.

Prince Charles deputised for the Queen, who was unable to attend the annual constitutional ceremony for the first time since 1963.

The 'Queen's Speech' – as it is known – sets out the government's legislative agenda for the forthcoming parliamentary session.

This year's speech, read aloud in the House of Lords by Prince Charles, said, 'Legislation will also be introduced to ban conversion therapy.'

Back in March, the government looked set to drop the idea altogether, but a backlash from LGBT campaigners – including sympathetic journalists in the mainstream media – forced Boris Johnson to backtrack.

Prince Charles *(Source: Copyright House of Lords 2022 / Photography by Annabel Moeller)*

A ban could make it unlawful to advocate traditional biblical beliefs about marriage and sexual ethics with people from an LGBT background.

The 'Let Us Pray' campaign has told the government this would be 'a kind of LGBT blasphemy law – to criminalise those who express the "wrong" opinions'.

Four other legislative proposals that evangelicals need to watch

Online Safety Bill
A mixed bag of good and troubling measures to regulate the internet. Plans to protect children from pornography are to be welcomed, but other measures could see church sermons banned online, or evangelical beliefs silenced on social media platforms.

Bill of Rights
The government has proposed to amend the Human Rights Act to give a stronger presumption in favour of free speech. While that intention is to be welcomed, evangelicals will be wary of other potential amendments which could undermine good court rulings which rely on the current wording of the Human Rights Act – such as the Ashers Bakery case.

Higher Education Bill
The government also plans to introduce a Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill which will seek to tackle the unhelpful 'cancel culture' on university and college campuses. There have been many instances of Christian Unions being forced off campus simply because of their biblical beliefs.

Schools Bill
A new Schools Bill could force home-schooling parents to register with the local authority. This would undermine the legal principle that parents, and not the state, have the ultimate responsibility for educating children. At present the law rightly recognises that this decision is up to parents.

Police given confusing and contradictory orders over gender identity and how to use pronouns

British police forces are being given contradictory and confusing messages over gender identity, with the Home Office backtracking on initial guidance over recording offences and local forces being given guides over how to use pronouns.

In April, the Home Office soft-launched new data standards which required police officers to record the legal sex for crime victims and suspects, rather than their self-declared gender identity.

This was initially on a voluntary basis, but is now the official guidance. It follows a High Court case by groups such as Fair Play for Women and Terry Stock, the women's rights campaigner, who said basic demographic information should be recorded based on questions included in the 2021 Census in England and Wales.

According to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, at least 16 police forces shared data with the Home Office in 2021 in which they had recorded offences on the basis of the offenders' 'gender identity' instead of their actual sex.

The Home Office stated, 'We would ask forces to record the sex (of both victims and suspects) based on what was recorded on an individual's birth certificate or their gender recognition certificate.

'Separately, we intend to request forces to ask for an individual's gender identity if it differs from their legal sex status.'

Welcoming the news, Fair Play for Women said, 'This means for the first time we will know how many male offenders appear in the female crime stats.'

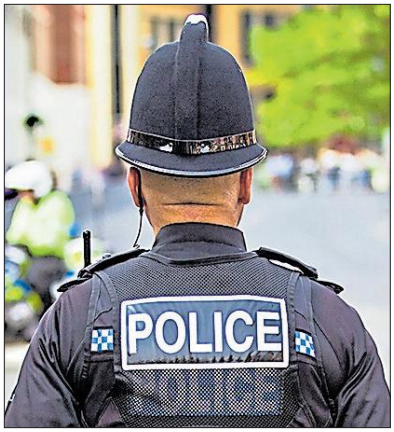
In 2021, the High Court told the Office for National Statistics it must only allow people to enter their legal sex in the census rather than being able to choose their 'preferred option'.

But despite the Home Office's latest guidance, local forces are still being given misleading guidance about gender and sexual identities.

Earlier this year, Norfolk Police started to issue a radical LGBT guide to staff on 37 'gender and sexual identities'.

According to The Christian Institute, the guide – called 'The + in LGBT' – lists 37 terms on gender identity and sexual orientation and features the discredited 'Genderbread Person' diagram, which claims gender identity and biological sex are on a spectrum.

The force declined to comment on whether it had created the guide or obtained it from elsewhere, but according to reports in the *Mail on Sunday*, some staff who were confused by the definitions were referred to the 'Genderbread Person' diagram.



(Source: King's Church International/Unsplash)

This came as Bristol University issued a 'Using pronouns at work' document to encourage staff to create a culture where 'neopronouns' based on emojis and people self-identifying as cats – Catgender people – are accepted as normal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sunday schools register halted

Sunday schools will not be subject to state registration, the government has finally confirmed. Back in 2015 there were proposals for Ofsted to inspect church youth work as part of misguided attempt to combat 'extremism'. Under the original plans, church holiday Bible clubs, beach missions, and summer camps were also in the firing line.

New Christian schools open

Christian Concern has been working with more than 20 different groups developing initiatives for new Christian schools in the UK. According to Christian Concern, 'The next of this new wave of schools announcing its opening from this September is Immanuel Online School, having agreed a merger with a well-established and respected Christian online provider, NSWLearning.'

CARE warning on euthanasia

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon must oppose assisted suicide to protect people with disabilities, Christian charity CARE has said. The First Minister has signalled that she may support plans to legalise the controversial practice. In an interview with the *Daily Record* in May, she said she was 'more open' to a law change.

Teenage trans appeal denied

A legal appeal which attempts to protect children from being prescribed experimental transgender drugs has been rejected by the UK Supreme Court. Keira Bell was prescribed puberty blockers at 16 years of age, but she believes she was too young to make such a life-altering decision. However, the UK Supreme Court says her appeal raises 'no arguable point of law'.

Church of Scotland 'takes its cue from culture rather than Christ' and approves gay weddings

The Church of Scotland has been accused of taking its cue from culture rather than Christ, as a majority of presbyteries vote in favour of allowing same-sex weddings in the church.

A report to the 2022 General Assembly shows that 29 of them approved the plan, with 12 voting against.

The General Assembly was set to vote on the matter at the end of May, after this edition of ET went to print.

The Kirk says it will respect freedom of conscience and no one will be forced to participate in a same-sex wedding.

But Revd Mike Goss of Barry Parish Church in the Angus presbytery said, 'There's still a continued struggle within the Church of Scotland', adding that there are still 'folk who stand by the Bible'.

The Church of Scotland says it recognises there are a range of views, and says debates should be gracious and respectful.

Civil partnerships were introduced in Scotland for same-sex couples in 2005 and full gay marriage in 2014.

The Church of Scotland allowed its clergy to engage in same-sex relationships as far back as 2009. But until now it has not allowed gay wedding ceremonies to take place in its churches.

The increasing acceptance of liberal moral values within mainline churches has been matched with a decline in attendance.

Back in 2002, 12 per cent of the Scottish population attended Church of Scotland services. But by 2016, it was 7 per cent, according to the Scottish Church Census by UK-based Brierley Consultancy.

The Christian Institute's Scotland Officer Nigel Kenny commented, 'This is a very sad development in the life of the National Kirk, which has in its constitution a commitment to the Bible as the supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice.

'The Bible is crystal clear that true, God-honouring marriage is only between one man and one woman. Jesus' own teaching on this in Matthew 19 could not be clearer.

'But it seems that the majority of [the Kirk's] presbyteries are more interested in taking their cue from culture rather than Christ.'

Nigel Kenny

Evangelical presbyterian churches, including The Free Church of Scotland and The Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), are holding to the Bible's definition of marriage.

Liverpool Mayor calls for 'God Loves You' bus ads to be banned

Bus ads for Franklin Graham's 'God Loves You' tour should be taken down and banned, the Metro Mayor of Liverpool has said.

Labour's Steve Rotheram said the ads would leave bus passengers feeling 'uncomfortable' and 'unsafe'; he also thinks Franklin Graham is a 'hate preacher'.

Last year, Blackpool Council was ordered to pay out over £100,000 for discriminating against Christians, after it removed bus adverts for Lancashire Festival of Hope at which Mr Graham was speaking.

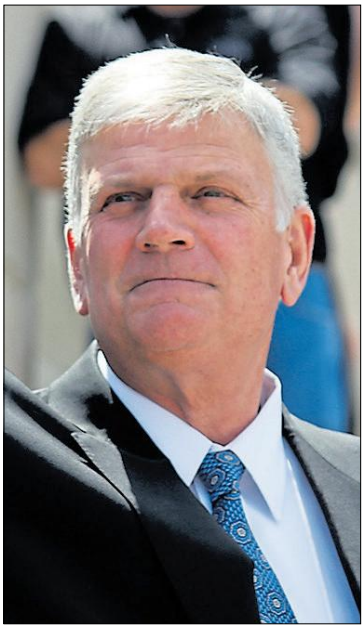
The latest Liverpool advertisements display the slogan 'Looking for something more?', but Rotheram wrote to bus companies Stagecoach and Arriva insisting they be scrapped.

In his letter, Rotheram said it was 'inexcusable' for the companies to promote 'the views of a known hate preacher'.

He claimed that the appearance of posters on public transport advertising Mr Graham's event exposed passengers to 'bigotry and bile'.

He added, 'There is no place for discrimination of any form in a civil society – and that should include your buses. I would ask that you remove these advertisements with immediate effect.'

In response to the accusations, Franklin Graham said, 'There is nothing offensive in these adverts.'



***Franklin Graham** (Credit: Matt A.J.)*

'The objection is to Reverend Franklin Graham and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association based on our Christian beliefs. Unfortunately, this opposition is familiar and predictable.'

He also described it as 'deeply concerning' that 'certain public officials are attempting to interfere with our contracted advertising in the Liverpool area based on opposition to our religious beliefs'.

Abortions continue to rise despite pro-life evidence sent to politicians

All 929 British politicians have been presented with 'unambiguous and alarming factual evidence' that abortion is the act of killing an innocent human life.

A painstaking 'Abort Abortion' campaign, organised by Donald Morrison, saw packages delivered by hand to parliamentary postmasters throughout 2021.

The package included several items, including the 28-minute film 'The Silent Scream', a booklet called 'Abortion: Open Your Mouth for the Dumb', and a tract written by Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

According to Mr Morrison, the campaigners even travelled to Edinburgh and personally handed over 129 packages to postmasters at the Scottish Parliament.

But Mr Morrison said he had been disappointed by the lack of response; of the few letters he received from the MPs, none were willing to take a stand against abortion.

One MSP, Emma Roddick of the SNP, said, 'After careful consideration, I have taken the decision to not support the aims of the Abort Abortion Campaign. My reason being that it would feel wrong to do so as a pro-choice MSP.'

This comes as government figures have estimated 9,900,961 unborn babies have been aborted in England, Wales, and Scotland since the 1967 Abortion Act came in.

In 2020, at least one baby was lost every two and a half minutes – or 25 lives every hour – while more than a quarter of pregnancies in England and Wales now end in abortion.

Donald Morrison

During the pandemic, abortions reached a record high with 210,860 taking place in 2020. The number of abortions that took place in Scotland in 2020 was 13,815.

Catherine Robinson, spokeswoman for Right to Life, said, 'The UK's abortion law is failing both women and unborn babies.'

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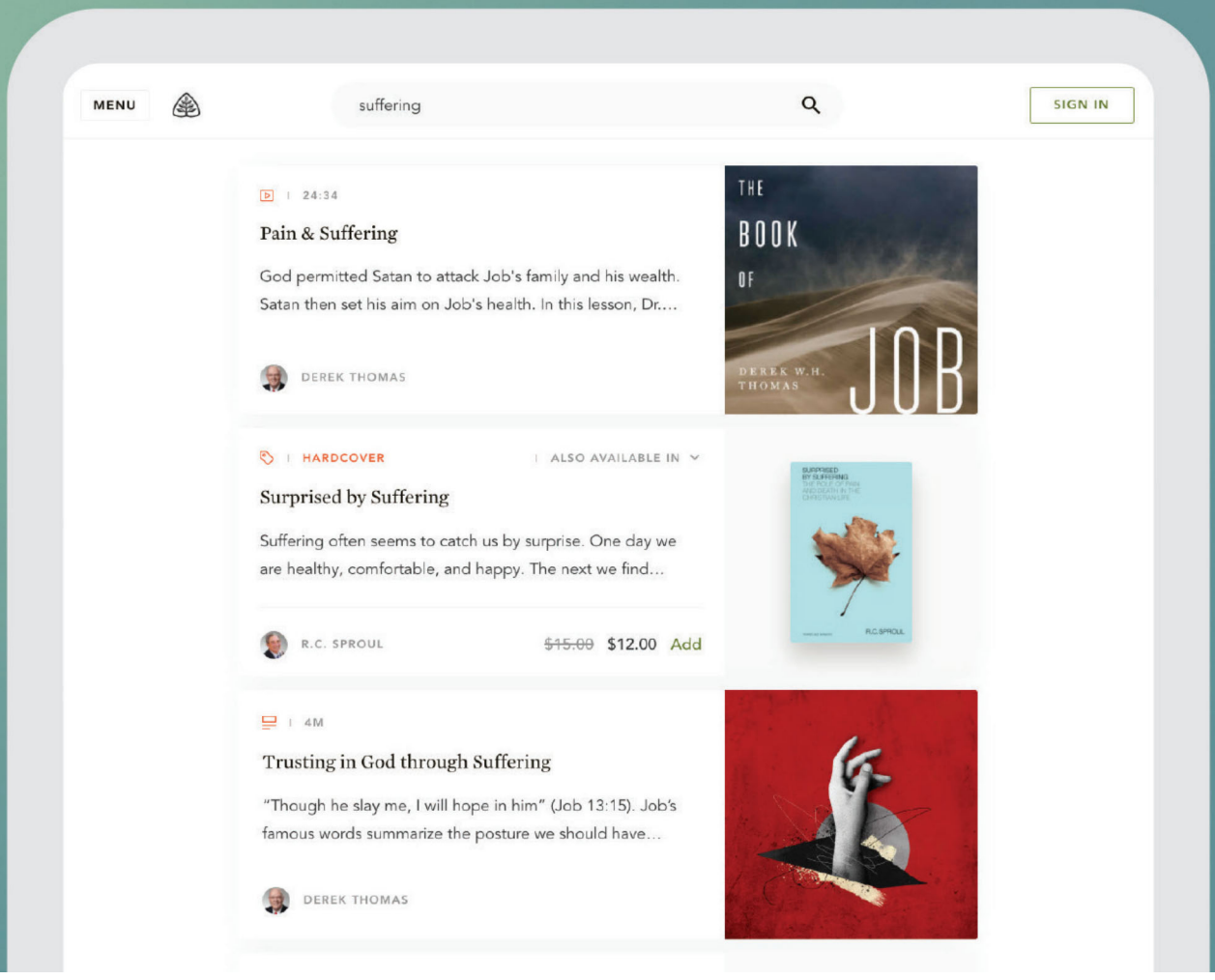


‘Stand against downgrade’ pastors told at Birmingham Conference

Malcolm Watts

By Roland Burrows

Organised by the Christian Worship Trust, the Birmingham Conference held its first post-lockdown gathering in March at Ebenezer Chapel in Old Hill, Birmingham. It is a two-day event for pastors, their wives, and church workers.

Attendance levels were encouraging, and a wide range of ages came. At the Friday night gospel rally the chapel was almost full.

This year’s ministry was ably provided by Malcolm Watts, Neil Pfeiffer, and David Kay.

Neil Pfeiffer’s first lecture addressed the need to make a stand against present-day downward trends. He traced the history of present downgrade to 18th and 19th century attacks on biblical inerrancy.

Mr Pfeiffer’s second session focused on reverence in worship, again countering modern trends of downgrading worship through informality and abandonment of the regulative principle.

The Friday afternoon discussion session was led by Dewi Higham from Cardiff. He spoke on ‘Spirit-filled preaching’.

During this time of discussion, the ladies held a separate meeting ably led by Mrs Ruth Kay.

Malcolm Watts then spoke on the theme of ‘Walking with God’, emphasising the need for experiential heart religion.

His second session was entitled, ‘Christian assurance, ordinary and extra-ordinary’. Mr Watts powerfully delivered the essential Puritan understanding of the doctrine of assurance.

At the Friday evening gospel rally, David Kay of Barnstaple preached a clear gospel message based on Psalm 126: ‘The Lord, the deliverer of his people from the bondage of sin and death’.

The Christian Institute, the Bible League, the King Alfred School, the Christian Heritage Centre, and the Christian Worship Trust were represented by displays and the provision of literature.

The Trust wishes to express sincere thanks to Pastor Tom Hayward and the members of Ebenezer Baptist Chapel for once again willingly hosting our conference.

Next year’s gathering is scheduled to take place, God willing, on 24–25 March 2023.

Scottish youth conference is hailed as a ‘roaring success’

By Free Church of Scotland

In March, the annual Free Church Youth Conference was hosted at Lendrick Muir, near Kinross.

The weekend saw over 100 youngsters assemble for three days of teaching, worship, and fellowship.

The main talks this year were delivered by Andy Robertson (Charleston Community Church, Dundee).

Andy took the delegates through the book of Habakkuk. His three sessions (‘How long oh Lord’, ‘Waiting for God in hard times’, ‘Joyful confident praise’) equipped listeners to remain secure in the promises of God.

During the weekend, delegates also had opportunity to attend a range of seminars: ‘Living with loss’, ‘Rural ministry’, ‘Christians in public life’, and ‘Loving others well’.

We were also privileged to be joined by Joe Barnard on Sunday. He spoke from Romans 6 about discipleship, sanctification, and what it means to be fighting sin.

Over the weekend, delegates were both equipped to serve Christ personally and as part of the body of believers.

Overall, the weekend was a roaring success, but we don’t want it to end there. Our prayer is that delegates will return to their local churches equipped to serve, encouraged in their faith, and strengthened in the joy of the Lord.

We look forward to 2023! Please pray for next year’s convener Euan MacDonald, along with the rest of the committee, as preparations for the next conference begin.

A new resource base is launched for confessional Baptist churches

By John Tredgett

In January, Broken Wharfe launched as a distinctly confessional Baptist resource centre for the UK and Europe.

General Manager Darrin Gilchrist said, ‘Broken Wharfe exists to glorify Christ and edify his church in the UK and Europe through the production, republication and dissemination of confessional Baptist resources.’

Resources include an online bookshop and weekly blog posts. Darrin intends to introduce other media, including videos and interactive study tools.

The name ‘Broken Wharfe’ comes from the location of a meeting-house on the River Thames where, in September 1689, messengers from more than 100 churches gathered to formally confess the Second London Baptist Confession.

‘For several years,’ says Darrin, ‘many have noted the lack of distinctly confessional Baptist material available in Britain and the continent. Broken Wharfe seeks to address this need.

‘We have a spiritual and moral responsibility to encourage the faith and life of those who confess to believe the Scriptures summarised in the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith.

‘Our prayer is that Christ would be pleased to use our meagre efforts to recover lost ground in our churches.’

Since launching, Broken Wharfe has published two UK editions of titles by

Darrin Gilchrist

Samuel Renihan: *Deity & Decree* and *The Mystery of Christ, his covenant and his kingdom*.

Further publications by authors including Oliver Allmand-Smith, James Renihan, and Jason Montgomery are also in the pipeline. More information is at www.brokenwharfe.com.

Church News

Fifteen ministers meet together in Loughborough to discuss a new confessional Baptist association

By Brett Shaw

Fifteen men representing nine churches across the UK met in March to discuss establishing a national association of confessional reformed Baptist churches.

The men gathered at Christ Church Loughborough, and all shared the conviction that the unity of the body of Christ should be visible among churches, particularly through a common confession of faith.

The day began with a briefing from the host church, delivered by Nick Pollock. What is needed for our churches, Nick explained, is not value-driven or project-driven fellowship, but an association of churches driven by a sound theology and confessional ecclesiology.

Oliver Allmand-Smith (Trinity Grace Church) also spoke, warning of 'seven dangers of this age' which are combated by a robust confessionalism.

We live in an age where (1) hyper-individualism and (2) the cult of personality has seeped into our churches. We are easily

Oliver Allmand-Smith

driven by men and the 'wow factor' of success.

(3) Pragmatism tends to be our default setting in ministry which elevates *ends* above *means*, and (4) sound-bite 'short-termism' makes us shallow and superficial, always looking for the immediate result.

(5) Chronological and historical ignorance make us only concerned for the present, forgetting the great tradition that went before us, and (6) sentimentalism and (7) selfishness cause us to navel gaze and lose our compassion towards others.

Too often our churches divide primary truth from so-called 'secondary truth', flattening out a robust faith into a mere ten-point statement, casting off everything else as non-essential.

Discussion followed as we considered how our spiritual forefathers maintained a good balance in the 1689 Confession. It leaves room for a broader associational unity on some aspects of the faith, while also comprising a comprehensive document upholding catholic and reformed orthodoxy, along with our baptistic tradition.

Robert Strivens (Bradford on Avon Baptist Church) then spoke on the necessity for our churches to reform their worship according to the Word of God. The goal of worship, Robert maintained, is not to attract outsiders, nor to induce an experience or therapy, but to worship the Father, through the Son, by his Spirit, and according to his Word alone.

Our final discussion worked through the practical outworking of associationalism.

It was established that we desire to move towards a national association of churches which fully subscribes to the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith.

We invite others of like mind to consider supporting us. Our next association meeting will be held at Countesthorpe Baptist Church, Leicester, on Tuesday 21 June. All are welcome to attend. Please email brett.andrew.shaw@gmail.com for more information.

Melvyn Bragg celebrates the life of reformer and Bible translator, William Tyndale, at Carlisle talk

By Alan Pallister

In March, Lord Melvyn Bragg spoke to a large audience in Carlisle Cathedral as part of its 900th anniversary celebrations.

Having encountered this writer and broadcaster – a Cumbrian lad like myself – many years ago through reading *For want of a Nail* (1965) and other locally-set novels, I was fascinated to know that Bragg was now to speak on the Reformer and Bible translator, William Tyndale. It was a theme far removed from his interests in earlier works.

With Bragg's knowledge of Reformation history and his oratorical gifts, I was certainly not disappointed.

He showed us how the translation of God's Word into accessible English, such as a ploughboy might someday understand, was a crucial issue in Tyndale's time. This was a period when religion was controlled by Rome and administered by priests from a Latin Bible that many even among the clergy barely understood.

Lord Bragg depicted graphically the awful power struggles of the time, including under the Pope and the brutal King Henry VIII. True men of God were despised, tortured, and put to death, as Tyndale himself was in 1536. Their only crime was to translate the Bible into the language of the common people.

Bragg's admiration for Tyndale's English was great indeed. His translation of Scripture was written in simple language but based on an excellent knowledge of Hebrew and Greek.

There was no distinction at that time between the Bible and God's Word such as was made later in liberal, neo-orthodox theology.

God's Word, available to the people, could transform the life of the nation. Tyndale himself lived and breathed true Christian freedom – even when in a dungeon for 16 months and in dire need, he wrote pleading that some basic necessities be sent to him, including a Hebrew Bible and a grammar.

Many new terms and idioms entered and remained in the English language thanks to Tyndale's translation. 'The powers that be', 'scapegoat', and 'signs of the times' being a few.

93% of the subsequent King James Version (1611) – vital to the spiritual rebirth of millions of English-speakers in the centuries to come – came from Tyndale's earlier version, even though many other English translations had already appeared.

Lord Melvyn Bragg *(Wikipedia Commons)*

In 2011, Lord Bragg described himself as a 'believing unbeliever', 'unable to cross the River of Jordan, which would lead me to the crucial belief in a godly eternity'.

It is my hope and prayer that since then he may have come to find that crucial belief.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Inky finger reformers'

Edinburgh Theological Seminary's annual lecture in church history was recently given by Dr Zachary Purvis. Entitled 'Reformers with inky fingers', the lecture emphasised the role of letters, pamphlets, and books during the Reformation. Discussion points ranged from Luther's marginal (often scathing) handwritten notes in copies of Erasmus's works, to the 550,000-word minutes taken at the Westminster Assembly.

Stobbs preaches at Ripon rally

On Easter Monday, congregations from Zion Evangelical Baptist Church, Ripon, and Hambleton Evangelical Church, Carlton Miniott (North Yorkshire) enjoyed the ministry of Jonathan Stobbs (Penzance Baptist Church). About 100 were present for each of the two meetings. Mr Stobbs spoke from Isaiah 40 on God strengthening his people, and from John 14 on assurance in Christ.

Grant award for SASRA

The Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association has been awarded a grant of £41,000 by Benefact Trust. The money has been used in the recruitment and training of four new Scripture Readers: Mike Blackstock, Josh Fortune, Jacinta Lyons, and Scott Witherick. As Scripture Readers they will take the gospel into the barracks of the UK Armed Forces.

Dr Williams Scottish tour

Dr Peter Williams, the noted author and principal of Tyndale House, Cambridge, recently spent a weekend teaching at churches in northern Scotland. Travelling between Inverness, Gardenstown, and Aberdeen, Dr Williams spoke on the reliability of Scripture, Jesus as a master teacher, and Jesus calming the storm. Dr Williams previously taught New Testament at the University of Aberdeen.

Robert Yerby inducted in La Villiaze, Guernsey

By John Tredgett

Robert Yerby was inducted to the pastorate of La Villiaze Evangelical Congregational Church, Guernsey, in March.

He is the fourth pastor of the church since the end of the Second World War and the German occupation of the island.

Robert was already an elder in the church, and his appointment has allowed the fellowship to continue its work without interruption following the departure to England of its previous pastor, Tim Berry.

Robert joined the church at La Villiaze in 1987, having previously been a member of Child's Hill Baptist Church in London. When deacons first approached Robert about the pastorate, they were concerned that they might be asking too much of a man of retirement age.

Robert Yerby (centre)

However, Robert says that he operates by the motto of perhaps Guernsey's best-known son, John Blanchard: 'As much as I can, as well as I can, for as long as I can.'

'While the Lord Jesus gives me breath and ability, I will do whatever I can for the glory of his name and the good of his people,' says Robert.

He stated that his calling to the pastorate was as unexpected as his conversion had been. Looking back however, he could trace the steps that led to him gladly taking up the position: 'If God has given us certain gifts, we can hardly refuse to use them.'

The charge to Mr Yerby and the church was given by Peter Girard (Bethesda Strict Baptist Church, Guernsey).

The account of the call extended to Robert was given by Roger Mahy, deacon and member of La Villiaze for 61 years.

Gary Brady (Child's Hill Baptist Church, London) preached from 2 Timothy 4, and urged Robert to preach, prepare, pastor, persevere, practise, proselytise, and not panic.

Michael Ridout

Home-schooling skills explored in online conference hosted by CViE

By Tim Wills

In April, Christian Values in Education hosted an online conference entitled 'Home education: staying the course'. Over 60 participants joined via Zoom.

Chaired by Michael Ridout (chairman of CViE), the meeting was intended to help all those considering home education.

Jane Dunlop, a home educator with over 20 years' experience, addressed attendees.

Her experience has taught her that parents must be convicted and committed, relying on the truth of 2 Corinthians 12:9, 'My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.'

She noted that everyone's journey is very different; no two home educating families are alike, and home educators should be relieved from comparing themselves to others.

The important place of social relationships was recognised, and friendships among home educating families were encouraged.

Children often grow in maturity as they develop friendships across a range of ages rather than just among their peers. In addition, it was noted that home education can open a way to more diverse social experiences, such as befriending elderly couples from whom children can learn much (including experiencing how to serve).

Many questions and contributions were offered, and these reminded those present that the challenges faced are unique to each situation. Home schooling does not seek to simply replicate school at home.

At the close, CViE invited attendees to provide their contact details in order to be added to the new CViE Home Education Network. More information is available at www.cvie.org.uk.

North Wales churches gather for 'loggerheads park' outdoor hike

By David Walker

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in March, a group drawn from several evangelical churches across northeast Wales enjoyed the stunning views at Loggerheads Country Park during a fellowship walk.

This was the first of what is hoped to be a semi-regular event, aimed at encouraging informal fellowship between like-minded churches in the area.

North Wales has a significant number of small churches, often in rural locations and many without pastors. There is a great need for opportunities to meet, share, and support one another.

In the summer of 2021, professor and author Julian Evans led a 'God's trees' walk at Chirk Castle, followed by an illustrated talk at Glanrafon Evangelical Church, Llangollen.

A number of those attending felt there would be benefit in arranging further events – primarily walks – for members of local evangelical churches to enjoy time together for mutual fellowship and encouragement.

Two couples met to discuss what could be done, believing that it would still be worthwhile even if the group only comprised their own families. As it was, the first walk attracted over 30 participants!

The walks are not being organised by any particular church, and are open to all. A programme for 2022 has been planned, including a return visit of Professor Evans in September.

We hope to meet on Saturday afternoons, approximately every two months between March and October.

Anyone who is interested in participating in future events can find out more by contacting: churchwalknorthwales@gmail.com or viewing the Facebook page (Church Walk North Wales).

Finland: Prosecutors confirm they will appeal to overturn Päivi Räsänen free speech victory, demanding large fines

Paul Coleman and Päivi Räsänen *(Source: ADF International)*

Prosecutors in Finland have officially lodged an appeal in a bid to overturn an important free speech victory involving two Christians.

In March, a court dismissed all criminal charges against a Christian Parliamentarian, Päivi Räsänen, and a church leader, Bishop Pohjola.

The pair were both taken to court and accused of committing 'hate crimes' for expressing their biblical beliefs about marriage and sexual ethics.

But despite the unanimous ruling of the Helsinki District Court to dismiss the charges, the prosecution has decided to appeal the ruling.

The prosecution is demanding tens of thousands of euros in fines and insisting that Räsänen's and Pohjola's publications be censored.

Police investigations against Räsänen started in June 2019. As an active member of the Finnish Lutheran church, she had addressed the leadership of her church on Twitter.

She questioned the church's official sponsorship of the LGBT event 'Pride 2019', and she accompanied her comments with an image of Bible verses from the New Testament book of Romans.

Following this tweet, further investigations against Räsänen were launched, going back to a church pamphlet Räsänen wrote almost 20 years ago.

Päivi Räsänen said, 'After my full exoneration in court, I am dismayed that the prosecutor will not let this campaign against me drop.

'And yet, the prosecutor's decision to appeal may lead to the case going all the way to the Supreme Court, offering the possibility of securing a positive precedent for freedom of speech and religion for all Finnish people.

'Also, I am happy that this decision will lead to the discussion of the Bible's teachings in society. I am ready to defend freedom of speech and religion in all necessary courts. As far as the European Court of Human rights, if necessary.'

She is being supported by lawyers from ADF International, a religious liberty group. Spokesman Paul Coleman said the appeal was 'alarming'.

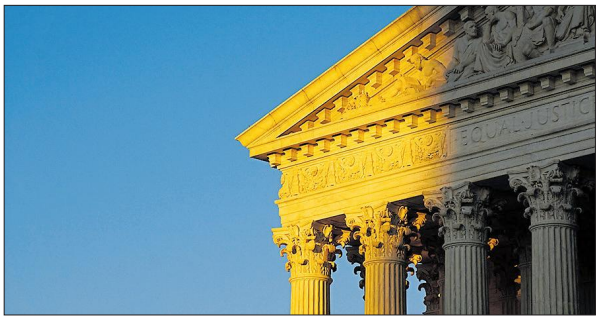
He said, 'The state's insistence on continuing this prosecution despite such a clear and unanimous ruling by the Helsinki District Court is alarming.

'Dragging people through the courts for years, subjecting them to hour-long police interrogations, and wasting taxpayer money in order to police people's deeply held beliefs has no place in a democratic society.

'As is so often the case in "hate speech" trials, the process has become part of the punishment.'

Landmark US abortion case is set to spark global debate

Continued from page 1



In expectation of the court's ruling, Democrats have tried – and have failed – to pass a federal law giving women the right to abortion. A bill was passed in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, but failed to pass the Senate.

Pro-abortion activists have been protesting outside the homes of the US Supreme Court judges, and the US Marshals Service has had to tighten security.

A pro-life centre was firebombed. A message was spray-painted outside the building of Wisconsin Family Action: 'If abortions aren't safe then you aren't either,' and a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the building.

The White House press secretary, Jen Psaki, said, '[President Biden] strongly believes in the constitutional right to protest. But that should never include violence, threats, or vandalism.'

Conservative commentators in the United States have suggested that the draft decision may have been leaked by a member of one of the more liberal Justices' offices.

Here in the UK, *Daily Telegraph* columnist Tim Stanley said, 'Overturning Roe does not ban abortion, it hands the matter back to the states, and the point of the leak, one suspects, is to expose justices to so much threat and intimidation that they change their minds.'

Recent polling shows that a majority of American women believe that there should be significant restrictions on abortion.

The polling found that 69 per cent of women believe that abortion should be available, at most, during the first three months of pregnancy; allowed only in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother; or never permitted.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the American pro-life organisation the Susan B. Anthony List, has said that if the draft decision becomes the final decision from the Court, they will welcome it.

She said, 'If Roe is indeed overturned, our job will be to build consensus for the strongest protections possible for unborn children and women in every legislature.'

Right To Life UK spokesperson Catherine Robinson said this is 'an opportunity to overturn an unjust law that has led to the deaths of over 62 million babies since 1973'.

'If Roe v. Wade were to be overturned, it would be the beginning of the legislative battle over abortion, certainly not the end.

'It is important to note that this law change would not actually ban abortion or prevent anyone from having an abortion. Rather, it makes abortion law a matter for states to decide.

'Some states will allow abortion without restriction and others will likely provide robust legal protection for unborn children throughout pregnancy.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish regret prostitution law

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has vowed to overturn the law that legalised prostitution. Mr Sánchez said that the practice 'enslaves' women. Prostitution was decriminalised in Spain in 1995, making it the third biggest centre for prostitution in the world, behind Thailand and Puerto Rico. Around 300,000 women are believed to work as prostitutes in Spain.

Evangelical is jailed in Iran

Iranian Christians have called for prayer as a Christian woman begins a two-year prison sentence for her involvement with an evangelical church. Fariba Dalir was found guilty of 'acting against national security' because of her church membership. The 51-year-old woman spent a month in solitary confinement, and is one of six converts arrested in Tehran in July last year.

Ukrainian trafficking

Ukrainian women are at risk from trafficking as they seek refuge in neighbouring countries, the head of a Christian charity has warned. After a visit to Romania, James Vaughton, chief executive of Transform Europe Network, cited the vulnerability of women to human trafficking, and the levels of anxiety among teenagers over their futures, as two big challenges.

Christian wins pronoun case

A Christian professor in Ohio has been awarded $400,000 (£326,831) after his university punished him for refusing to refer to a man using female pronouns. Professor Nicholas Meriwether, a philosophy lecturer at Shawnee State University in Ohio, launched legal action after the university demanded he refer to a male student, who claimed to be a woman, as female.

Source: Shutterstock

Guest column:
The evangelical idol of niceness

By Paul Smith
Full-time elder at Grace Baptist Church, Broadstairs, Kent.

Sometimes an idol only becomes apparent when it is threatened. Evangelicals have long sought to be described as 'nice'. But what happens when the world's definition of nice or loving is the opposite of the Bible's? Should we abandon our aim or continue to pursue niceness, adopting the new rules of the game?

Gospel concerns have driven the quest for niceness. Evangelicals know that the Bible's message has long been seen as outdated and irrelevant. They have sought to be as normal, friendly, and likeable as possible to gain a hearing.

Niceness is advanced on church websites. Church leader bios highlight interests in football or film; cookery or camping. Photos of smiling, clean-cut families reinforce the message: nice people here with normal interests.

Nice people are requested in prayer meetings. Ageing churches eagerly desire a nice young couple. Judging from evangelical-approved traits, this means a man's man (with appropriate 21st century cultural sensitivities); his wife should win friends easily, whether in the workplace or at the school gate. Both should be without any significant pastoral needs and able to attract others to the church!

The pervading assumption is that there is a reasonably level playing field, that nice Christians will be liked by the world. But that assumption is being challenged. We no longer live in a culture of moral relativity where the Bible's truth claims are one of many. Rather we face a culture of moral absolutes where Christians are seen as bad people for believing the Bible's teachings.

However winsome your attitude, you've still got to decide which pronouns to use and whether to don the latest rainbow-emblazoned badge at work. Slogans like 'silence is violence' arise in a culture that expects conformity and demands affirmation of its virtues.

The pressure on the young is acute. Some of today's most rigid conformists are teenagers seeking safe passage through British secondary schools. Social media means vicious bullying can occur 24/7.

The stated aim for some Christian parents is that their children 'fit in': accepted by their peers as nice people or, at the very least, not bullied by them. But nice behaviour no longer cuts it if your beliefs make you a 'hater' – even when you are not verbalising them.

Clearly, believers must not court unpopularity. You may have heard a prayer request from someone being 'persecuted' at work and shared the thought of the room: you've not got difficulties because of your faith – it's because you're an awkward customer!

But, angular characters aside, are evangelicals surprised to read 1 John 4:13 'Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you'?

Evangelicals are increasingly polarised over the best response to the world's hatred.

Some evangelicals attempt to be seen as nice people by loudly affirming as many of our culture's values as they can. These believers seek to be as woke as biblically possible, especially regarding race and women's issues. The inevitable problem is that if you cuddle up to a culture drifting away from God, you are liable to drift with it.

Other evangelicals eschew likeability and instead embrace our culture's strident condemnations of those who disagree. The inevitable problem is that if you embrace the rhetoric of the reactionary right you are liable to drift away from the gospel to political solutions.

Many evangelicals uneasily embrace one group simply because they don't want to be linked to the other. There is another way. Are we too obsessed with the culture of this passing world? Would we not be better served as citizens of heaven in building attractive fellowships with a different culture?

In God's providence, is the current cultural climate liberating evangelicals from the tyranny of man-pleasing? Instead, we can make it our aim to please Christ (2 Corinthians 5:9). We can emulate our Saviour in seeking to hear from the Father that he is 'well-pleased' with us.

ET Comment

Overturning Roe v. Wade shows us we should never give up

At the time of this edition of ET going to print, the US Supreme Court has yet to officially announce its ruling in the Mississippi case that could overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision that effectively legalised abortion throughout the US. A reversal of Roe wouldn't ban abortion in America, but it would allow each individual state to have their own laws on the matter.

All this assumes that the pro-abortion activists haven't managed to change the Supreme Court's mind using violence and intimidation. They call themselves the 'pro-choice' movement, but not when it comes to individual states or individual judges choosing to protect the innocent lives of unborn children. Freedom of choice goes right out the window at that point.

If the Court does overturn Roe, it will be a significant moment in US history – and it is bound to spark a wider debate across the world. And it will be a moment to celebrate for generations of US evangelicals who have never given up the fight to protect life in the womb. It shows us – here on this side of the Atlantic – that we should not grow weary of declaring the Bible's truth.

The Bible says that Elizabeth was six months pregnant when Mary was told that she would conceive Jesus. When Mary visited Elizabeth, Mary was in her first trimester. Elizabeth's baby leaped for joy in her womb, because he was in the presence of the *living* Christ. The book of Hebrews tells us that he was made like us in every way. Christ was incarnated at the moment of his conception in Mary's womb, not when he was laid in a manger in Bethlehem. Every human life begins at conception.

Whatever decision is made by the US Supreme Court, it will not be the end of the political debate, not by a long chalk. But it does show what can be achieved if we are willing to stand firm, and speak with boldness and compassion. The abortion debate is not an isolated one. It is tied to feminism, which is tied sexual liberation, which is tied to the gay rights movement, which is tied to the trans movement, and on and on in a tangled web of liberal morality. But we must never give up standing for God's truth.

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ET cover price to increase by 20p from July

From the next edition (July), the cover price of *Evangelical Times* is set to increase by 20p, from £1.30 to £1.50. This is the first cover price increase in eight years and reflects rising costs in print and distribution.

An individual annual subscription will increase from £19.95 to £22.95. A bulk subscription of three or more copies sent to one address (popular with many churches) will increase from £15.60 to £18.00.

The annual online subscription, giving full access to the ET website and digital content, remains the same at £10 per year. A combined digital and print subscription is available – check the ET website for details.

We hope you recognise the investments we have made in the quality of our output, and – more importantly – our commitment to orthodox biblical Christianity.

This is an increasingly challenging time for newspapers and magazines. But now, more than ever, we need a clear voice for evangelical Christians who are coming under more pressure from our culture.

We value the loyalty of our existing readership, and we are encouraged to see signs that we are reaching a new generation of readers. But in the final analysis, we look to the Lord for his blessing and his sustaining hand.

'He is before all things, and in him all things consist' (Colossians 1:17).

Mike Judge
Editor

Source: Shutterstock

Letters to the Editor

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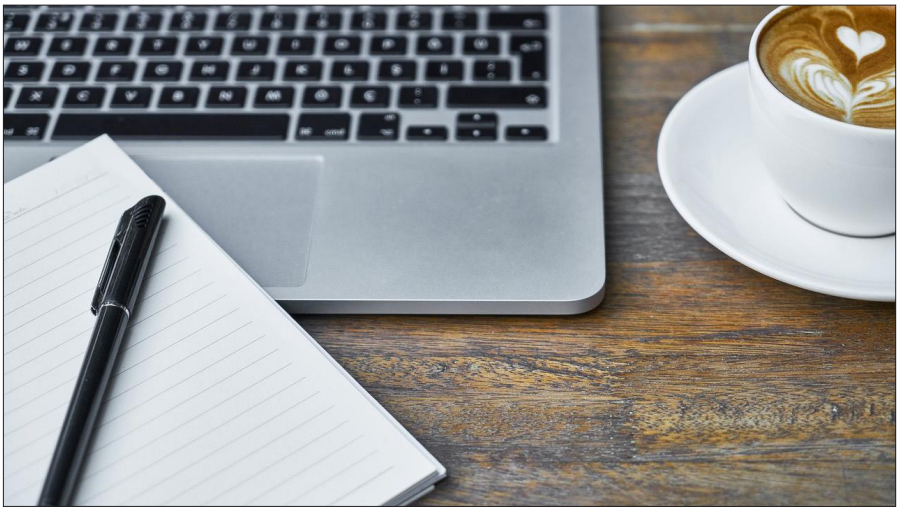

Two kingdoms

SIR – David VanDrunen rightly says that Christians should avoid the pitfalls of both 'quietism' and 'triumphalism' (May ET). However, 'two kingdoms' is not a solution to the problem of politics.

Calvin followed Roman Catholic thinking in providing for a 'Christian' polity where church and state each held leadership roles in a society where all citizens were deemed members of the one 'church'.

Which authority had the final say? This rivalry went back to the Holy Roman Empire. 'Two kingdoms' set out the 'terms of trade' between the two sources of authority.

The separation of church and state, an idea developed particularly by Roger Williams in the first half of the 17th century, settles this for us.

The church is entitled to its own purity. The state has no business interfering in the faith of citizens, and is simply one social institution among many, albeit with compulsory rather than voluntary association. The kingdom of Jesus is unique and has no rival on earth.

Paul Lusk
Whitstable

Giving to charity

SIR – I would like to thank Stephen Rees for his relevant and well-researched article on Giving to Charities (May ET). As usual with Stephen, the article was fair, balanced, and instructive.

Our giving of the Lord's money is so important and we should do all we can to make sure it goes to the Lord's work. His personal illustrations of how to direct Christian giving will surely be helpful to many.

Margaret McNabb
Great Bridgeford

Ukraine war

SIR – Who among us can hear and see the images coming out of Ukraine without shedding tears of sadness. How much more does our Lord look down upon this stricken, torn country (and others who are perpetually in conflict) and weep, as he did over Jerusalem!

The Comment in April's ET spoke of the war and its effects in Ukraine and about the 'battle' here in the UK. I have little disagreement here, but where is the battle-plan? Where is the church?

We have a message of hope, but the church in the UK, as it was throughout the pandemic, was and is largely silent about the hope and support that God's people (church) can and should offer.

Where are the leaders, both nationally and locally? It is possible that most areas will receive several refugees who will be seeking hope, support, and the message of salvation that we as Christians should be giving.

We should be exhorting our church both locally and nationally to persist in prayer; to make contact with local Ukrainian churches and communities (if we live near any); to offer the support and love of Christ's church.

The outside of many church buildings do not offer a welcome and do little to tell others that we worship a God of love and hope.

Michael Owen
Bolton

Burger King blasphemy

SIR – The global chain Burger King got caught up in controversy over Easter with its latest marketing. Billboards promoting a new vegetarian burger featured Jesus at the Last Supper saying, 'Take all of you and eat it.' Had such mockery been applied to Islam, there would have been wholesale rioting!

It was Roman Catholics in Spain who stated their offence at what they saw as desecration of the Eucharist and Jesus Christ. The Protestant Church of England in decadent modern Britain was predictably quiet on this, in contrast to taking views on subjects such as climate change.

Galatians 6:7 reads, 'Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.'

David Fleming
Downham Market

Thinking it through:

All things to all men – using and abusing Paul's rule

By Stephen Rees
Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Stockport.

Source: Shutterstock

What is the most misused text in the New Testament? There are quite a few candidates. But high on the list must be 1 Corinthians 9:22. Paul writes there, 'I have become all things to all people, that by all means, I may save some.' How many times have I heard that text quoted in recent years by preachers, missiologists, church-growth experts, worship leaders! It's brought out with a flourish to settle debates on all sorts of questions. But often, as I listen, I'm left wondering what Paul would make of the ways his words are used.

Let me list out three ways in which this verse is regularly used. First, on the basis of this verse we're often told that we must be willing to adapt the **message** that we preach to fit with the people we're preaching to. We're told that we must present a message that will resonate with the society around us.

Let me give you a typical example. I've taken this from a web page written by an esteemed brother. He writes, 'It was Paul's proud boast: I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some... If we follow Paul's example we shall be accommodating to different age groups, cultures and life styles. For instance I read that the Japanese find it difficult to relate to the fatherhood of God because fathers are rather remote figures in many Japanese families. It is very much the mother who takes responsibility for children. So it might be better to talk about the motherhood of God to Japanese...' You see? In order to be 'all things to all men' we must be prepared to adapt our message.

Second, we're told that we must adapt our evangelistic **methods** in order to reach folk from a particular culture. Here's Mark Driscoll's take on this verse: 'If he was alive today, Paul would say to the indie rockers, "I did indie rock!" To the hip-hoppers, "I did hip-hop!" To the tech guys, "I had a blog!" "For the families, I talked about marriage, and kids, and parenting. For the business guys, I did financial seminars and connected it back to God... I tried to figure out how to articulate Jesus in as many ways as I possibly could, to as many people as I possibly can, to win as many people as are possible."' I've heard many others make the same claim. If we're to be 'all things to all men' we must adapt our evangelistic methods.

Third, many Christian leaders are keen to add that we must also apply this principle to **the structures and the worship of our churches**. This is Derek Tidball: 'Paul's principle... is as much a statement about Paul's pastoral practice as his evangelistic technique... Instead of becoming all things to all men we expect all men to become one thing, that is, just like us. Our converts have to fit into our mould – to learn our language, adopt our culture... it is precisely here that Paul's statement needs to be heard afresh... Do they have to dress in a certain way? Does it mean worship at 11.00 and 6.30? Do they have to have a leather-bound Bible? Have they got to learn to like certain types of church music and choirs which seem very foreign to them? Can they worship without flowers at the front of the church...it is a pastoral necessity that we learn again to become "all things to all men".'

> ***'In the end, taking Paul's words seriously is going to affect every part of our life.'***

You see, he's arguing that this verse applies as much to our church practice as it does to our evangelism. When a church is considering matters of organisation and worship, it should not ask, 'What are we comfortable with?' or 'What is the church's tradition?' Rather it should ask, 'What will outsiders be comfortable with; what will match their culture?'

Notice, I'm not commenting on any of the specific things that these different writers are suggesting may be necessary. I've not said whether I think we should present God as Mother when we're talking to Japanese folk. I've not said whether I think we should use hip hop or drama as evangelistic methods. I've not said whether churches should jettison their floral displays. I'm not saying whether I agree with these writers about any of the changes they want to see.

But there's one thing on which I have to disagree with them all. I disagree with their use of 1 Corinthians 9:22. Because when I read that verse in its context, the one thing that's blatantly obvious is that it's not about adapting the message we preach; nor is it about changing our evangelistic methods; nor is it about a church reforming its practices. When you look at the context of this verse, Paul is talking about one thing alone – his personal lifestyle.

When people try to use this verse to discuss the content of our preaching, or the evangelistic methods we use, or the way that church life should be structured, they are *misusing* the passage.

I'd suggest that you get out your Bible now and work out Paul's declaration in its context. Start with chapter 8. What is it all about? It's about believers living in a pagan society. Paul had two questions especially in mind. Could they eat meat that had been offered to idols? Could they join in the feasts that were held in pagan temples?

Questions of lifestyle

These were questions of *personal lifestyle*. Paul was not discussing what message Christians should preach to the unconverted, or what evangelistic methods should be used, or what were appropriate practices for the church to adapt.

Nobody was suggesting that the church should adapt its evangelistic message to the culture of Corinth, say, by picturing Christ as if he were a Greek god. No one was proposing that eating meat offered to idols could somehow be adopted as an evangelistic method. Nor were they arguing that the meetings of the church should include holding feasts in honour of idols.

The issues Paul was dealing with were *lifestyle* issues: questions of what you can and can't do as an individual Christian living your life from day to day.

The Corinthian Christians – or some of them – were saying, 'We, as individual believers, are free to buy food that's being sold in the market after being offered to idols'. Some even said, 'We're free, as individual believers, to go into the pagan temples and join in the feasts there. We have the right to do these things.' But were they right? That's the question that Paul is answering in chapters 8 and 9.

Paul concedes that there is some truth in their arguments. An idol is just a block of wood that can't harm anyone (vv. 4–6). Meat offered to idols is still just meat – wholesome food. If you buy a joint of meat in the market from a sacrificed animal, and eat it, it isn't going to bring a curse on you (v. 8). To that extent, these Corinthian believers were right. Eating meat that had been previously offered to idols is in itself a legitimate thing to do.

But it is right for the Corinthians to do it? That's another question. And Paul's answer is plain. Not if it's going to harm others. Not if it's going to be a stumbling block to other Christians. Not if it's going to send out a false signal to unbelievers. You may have the right to do it, but that doesn't make it right to do. In such matters of personal lifestyle, Christians have to be prepared to forego their rights for the sake of others (vv. 9–13).

Paul: an example of sacrificial living

And then in chapter 9, Paul reminds the Corinthians that that's how he lives all the time. There were all sorts of things that he had a perfect right to do but which he was willing to forego. Why? For the sake of others – whether fellow-believers (8:13) or unbelievers whom he was trying to reach with the gospel (9:22).

Source: Shutterstock

Paul had the right to eat and drink (9:4, 12–14). In other words, he had the right to expect the churches to provide him with his livelihood. But instead he chose to do a manual job and support himself. He had the right to get married and take his wife with him wherever he went. But he didn't claim that right (9:5). Why not? Because (v. 12) we are willing to 'endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ'.

For the sake of the people he was trying to reach with the gospel, Paul was prepared to forego his rights when it came to matters of personal lifestyle. That's what he means when he says in verse 19, 'Though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.' He was free from all – no one had the right either to force him to work at his own expense or to forbid him to do so. No one could tell him that he must get married or that he mustn't. No one, Christian or non-Christian, could dictate to him in matters of personal lifestyle. And yet, he had acted as a servant, a slave, to all. Instead of saying, 'I'm free to do what will suit me best,' he asked at every point, 'How can I serve other people – and especially the people I'm trying to reach with the gospel?'

So, he says, 'To the Jews, I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews' (v. 20). In what sense did he become a Jew? Is he saying that he adapted the message he preached so that it would not offend Jews? No, that's simply not what he's talking about here. Nor is he talking about evangelistic methods. Nor about the structures and activities of the churches he plants. He's talking about his *personal lifestyle*.

When Paul entered a Jewish home, he was prepared to go through the traditional ritual washings. As a Christian, he was free to abandon them, but he didn't. If he invited a Jew to eat with him, he served food that conformed to Jewish cultural norms. If he went into a synagogue, he dressed in a way that would seem appropriate to the people there.

He continues, 'To those under the law, I became as one under the law…' By the law, he means the commandments that were laid down by Moses as rules for Jewish people to keep, and then the Jewish traditions that had grown up around the commandments. Paul says, 'I'm not myself "under the law".'

Paul was not bound to keep all the rules about clean and unclean food, about clothes of mixed fibres, about ritual washings, about keeping Jewish festival days. But he chose to keep them when he was mixing with 'those under the law', if he thought that breaching the rules would make it harder to reach those people with the gospel.

And likewise, says Paul, 'To those outside the law – to Gentiles – I became as one outside the law' (v. 21). If Paul went into a Gentile home, his hosts might serve all sorts of food that the law prohibited for Jewish folk – food that Paul had been conditioned by his upbringing to think of as disgusting: prawns, pork, sweetbreads. He was free to refuse it. No one could tell him he had to eat such food. But in a Gentile home, trying to reach Gentiles with the gospel, he would forego his personal preferences and adapt to Gentile lifestyle.

Of course, that doesn't mean he could adopt *any* Jewish custom, or *any* Gentile practice. Yes, he was prepared to sacrifice all his personal preferences. But he draws a line. He emphasises that he is not 'outside the law of God' (v. 21). Paul would fall in line with all sorts of cultural norms, but he would not deviate from the unchanging law of God.

Would he have accepted an invitation from a Gentile to watch gladiators hacking one another to death in the arena? No, because the sixth commandment is not a matter of culture: it is part of God's unchanging law. Would he have abandoned sabbath-keeping when living in a Gentile city? No, because it was laid down at creation that a man must set aside one day in seven as holy. If he had been living in a polygamous community, would he have felt free to choose polygamy? No, the commandment stood: 'A man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife and the two shall become one flesh' (Genesis 3:20).

Paul never considered himself free to break God's law in the name of cultural adaptation. But beyond that, he considered himself to be under Christ's law (v. 21). Whatever lifestyle choices he had to make, he remembered that he had to love his neighbour – and even his enemies – as himself. That was Christ's law. When it came to personal lifestyle, he would do what was best for others, within the constraints of God's unchanging law. He would even become 'weak' to the weak (v. 22) that he might win them. He's referring to people with all sorts of unnecessary and perhaps neurotic scruples about all sorts of things. He would live as if he shared those scruples if that's what it took to win them.

So Paul brings out the overriding rule that governed his lifestyle choices: 'I have become all things to all people, that by all means, I might save some.' That was Paul's rule. And he wanted it to be the rule freely chosen by the Corinthian believers too.

A rule for every believer

Their situation was, of course, slightly different from Paul's. Most of them weren't missionaries like Paul travelling from one city to another, trying to reach all sorts of different communities. When Paul sacrificed his freedom for the sake of others, he was thinking more often than not of unbelievers. 'I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might *save some*. I do it all for the sake of the *gospel*.'

But when he told the Corinthians that they must sacrifice their freedom for the sake of others, the others they must consider especially were their fellow-Christians – their fellow church members. He tells them (8:12) that if they make selfish lifestyle choices they'll be sinning against their *brothers*, and wounding their conscience. He declares (8:13) that 'if food makes my *brother* stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my *brother* stumble.' Paul was willing to forego his rights in order to win outsiders; surely

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Thinking it through

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the Corinthians could at least forego their rights in order to protect their brothers in Christ.

What about ourselves? Well, most of the time we've got to keep both those objectives in view. In all our lifestyle choices, we have to ask (1) what impact will this have on our fellow church members? (2) what impact will this have on the unbelievers we're in contact with? Perhaps I should give some examples of the sort of lifestyle choices we have to think about.

Think first about the sorts of situations where our choices will affect our brothers or sisters in the church. They come in many forms. There are situations where the danger is that one Christian by his behaviour pressures another Christian into doing things that are against that Christian's conscience. That was particularly what troubled Paul about the Corinthians eating meat offered to idols.

And you can surely think of issues today where there's that danger. Maybe serving alcohol at a meal without checking first whether there are any believers among your guests for whom abstinence is a matter of conscience. Maybe inviting friends round and then suggesting that you watch a movie together, though some of them may have conscientious problems with any form of drama.

Then there are situations where the danger is that your lifestyle tempts other Christians to unhelpful reactions and feelings. Take money. Some wealthy Christians may have such a luxurious lifestyle that it invites less wealthy Christians – maybe in the same church – to feel envy and resentment. And equally some poorer Christians may talk so much about how hard up they are that it creates embarrassment for those who are better off. It may spoil their legitimate enjoyment of what the Lord has given to them. Both are failures to put Paul's rule into practice.

Again, there are those situations where your lifestyle choices drive a wedge between you and other Christians in a church and spoil the unity of the church. I might apply that especially to the realm of legitimate hobbies and enthusiasms which are shared by a group of folk in the church but which exclude others. I

Source: Shutterstock

listened recently to an older friend telling me of the real distress it causes when he discovers that others know more about his family than he does – because they've picked up things from Facebook. Isn't that tragic? A group of friends in a church may embrace the social media culture so enthusiastically that others who will never master that culture feel isolated and excluded. Some Christians need to say, 'For the non-Facebook users, I became a non-Facebook user.'

And then there are the situations that arise from the different backgrounds that church members come from. Real churches will bring together people from different national and social backgrounds. And those people have different sensitivities and different expectations. We know that such issues caused tension among believers many New Testament churches. Some of the things that some of the Jewish believers did – some of their habits and traditions – could make Gentile people feel excluded. And some of the things that the Gentiles believers did could make Jewish people feel uncomfortable. Believers from the two groups would have found it very difficult to sit down and enjoy a meal together. To follow Paul's counsel, they had to be prepared to abandon their cultural preferences so that they could genuinely relate to one another as a single family in the Lord.

For every believer there are all sorts of lifestyle issues where we need to think about the way our choices will affect our brothers or sisters in the church.

Relating to unbelievers

But then our choices also affect our relationships with outsiders, unbelievers. And obviously many of the same considerations apply. I've said we must sacrifice legitimate things if by doing them we're pressurising fellow-Christians to do things against their conscience. But equally we must sacrifice legitimate things if by doing them we might seem to be condoning the sinful lifestyles of our non-Christian friends.

So, for example, a particular hobby could be fine for you because you're not tempted to make it all-important. But it could be that your non-Christian friend cannot enjoy the same hobby without turning it into an idol. You have to ask yourself, am I encouraging my friend in his idol-worship?

Could my choices provoke sinful reactions and feelings among non-Christian folk? Could they drive unnecessary wedges between me and my non-Christian associates? Could they offend the cultural sensitivities of the non-Christians around me?

Paul tells us that if we're serious about reaching others with the gospel ('that I may save some') we'll be asking not 'What's best for me? What do I enjoy most?' but 'What will make it easiest for these folk to listen to the gospel and embrace it?' And that often involves adopting other people's cultural norms – providing that the norm you're adopting is in itself good and wholesome. At the very least it will involve showing that you understand and respect their culture.

Let me give just one example. Do you live in a neighbourhood where there are a lot of conservative Muslims? Do you want them to take the gospel seriously? Well then, it would probably be wise for the women of the household to dress very modestly when they're out and about. That may mean that they need to cover up more than Western Christians would usually consider necessary. Do we want to confirm the impression that Christianity takes female modesty and purity less seriously than Islam?

In the end, taking Paul's words seriously is going to affect every part of our life, and every lifestyle choice we make. Where we live, what sort of house we live in, how it's decorated, what we spend our money on, how we dress, what clubs we join, what hobbies we pursue. If you're a man, it may determine whether you shave or grow a beard. I used to wear a beard until I realised that it made it difficult for hard of hearing people to catch what I was saying. They couldn't lip-read me. I rather liked my beard. And a Christian is certainly free to grow a beard. But for me, becoming all things for all people meant getting out the scissors.

Paul calls himself an apostle in 1 Corinthians 9:1. But in 9:9 he calls himself a slave. He's Christ's slave. As Christ's slave, he's willing to serve everyone whom Christ brings across his path. And he's asking us whether we're prepared to do the same. Being all things to all men isn't about getting rid of our Victorian hymns. It isn't about organising Christian rock concerts to reach the unconverted. It's about becoming a slave, living for Christ and living our daily lives for the good of the people among whom he's placed us. Are we ready to do that?

I'll be writing more next month, God willing, on the subject of believers, churches, and how we respond to the society around us.

All Bible quotations in this article are taken from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version, published by HarperCollins Publishers © 2001.

The content of this article has been adapted from talks first given at the God's Glory Our Joy conference. Recordings of the original talks may be found at https://ggoj.org.uk/2012/2012-sermons

The futile ways of your forefathers

By Simon Arscott
Simon has been sent by the International Presbyterian Church to lead All Nations Church, Ilford.

What did the apostle Peter think of non-Christian 'culture'? He wasn't very complimentary. He didn't celebrate it or appreciate it. He doesn't seek to preserve it. He describes it as 'the futile ways inherited from your forefathers' (1 Peter 1:18).

What Christian converts inherited from their family wasn't valuable. He doesn't want them to continue to pass it on to their children and grandchildren. It's not a history to re-tell, but to forget. It's not just a mix, with good bits and bad bits.

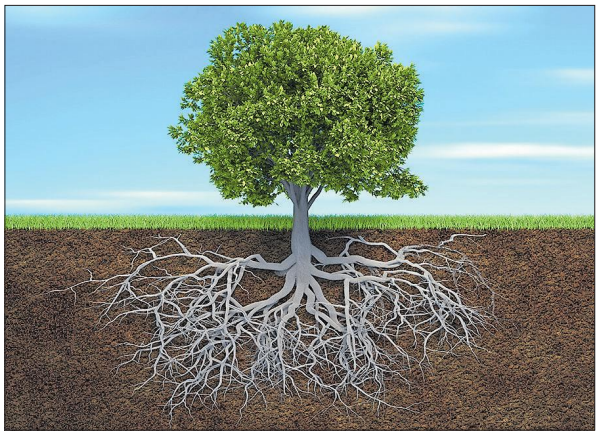
Nor is their culture neutral. He sums up their entire heritage in one shocking word: 'futile'. That word means *idle, empty, a waste of time*. Some of their families might have been top brass in the Roman army! Some of those converts might have had a top education! Some of their families might have been in the civil service! But they are 'futile ways'.

It's not that Peter was a Philistine. I don't think he means we shouldn't cheer for our country's football team or savour our homeland's dishes or enjoy traditional dress. Feeling a sense of attachment to a place or loyalty to ancestry is part of the fifth commandment to honour one's parents.

But Peter has tasted eternity. The inheritance Christ handed to him (1 Peter 1:4) turned all earthly inheritance to perishable rubbish. The gospel radically revises our attitude to the customs and culture we've inherited from our unbelieving families. Fundamentally, Christ's verdict on those 'ways' is: 'futile'. Instead, when we become Christians, we join a new group with a different ancestry and different habits and customs. It's called the church.

This group's inheritance isn't 'perishable' but 'imperishable' (1 Peter 1:4). We are a 'chosen race… a holy nation, a people for his own possession' (1 Peter 2:9). This nation isn't just local or in one particular place, but spread through the earth and through time. To become a Christian from outside the church is a massive act of 'cultural appropriation', and that's good!

If you're a Christian, the cultural history to celebrate isn't your English-ness, or your European-ness, or your Western-ness. It's not your Asian-ness, or your African-ness. There's plenty of futility in those ways. Christ has ransomed us from them. Now our cultural loyalty is tied to the 'holy nation' of the people of God, heading for our homeland in eternity (1 Peter 1:4).



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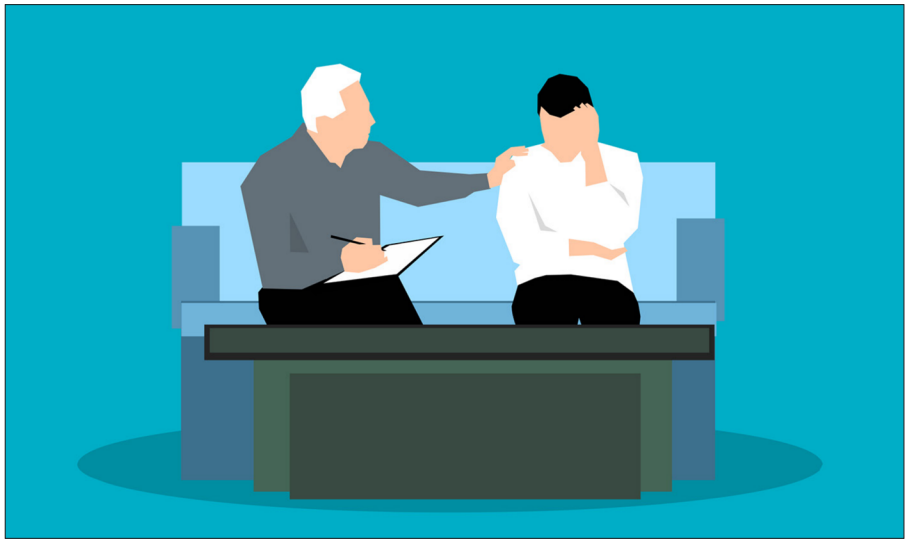


A walk with Mr O
Advice about giving advice

By Stuart Olyott
Stuart Olyott is an actively retired minister and conference speaker. He preaches most Sunday mornings at Caergwrle Evangelical Church.

Mr O, I need some advice about how to give advice!

What has brought this on?

It's like this: a friend recently came to see me about a very serious problem. I think I was able to help him, but it made me realise that I've never really thought about how to deal with people who ask for counsel.

You need to know that I have had no formal training in this area. But over the last sixty years I have spent a lot of time listening to people's problems, and I've now got to the stage where this is my principal occupation.

So what is your approach?

As far as possible, I let people choose the time when they will talk to me. Different people are comfortable at different times of the day. Lots of people open up best at the end of the evening. Are you prepared for some late nights – some very late nights?

There you go again, Mr O, asking me questions that I've never thought about!

As far as possible, I also let people choose where they will meet me. Some folk talk best at home, others away from home. I sit nearest the door, to be able to escape any threat of violence. Except for elderly ladies, I only meet women in places where other people are hovering about. And I never meet children without the permission of a parent or guardian, and then only in a room where the door is ajar.

I can see the need for all those precautions. But how do you begin?

I begin with a 'preamble'. I explain to the person that they must only tell me things that they are comfortable telling me; that I will not breathe a word about what they say; and that this promise of maintaining confidence does not apply if they have been breaking the law.

And then what do you do?

I let them talk and talk and talk – occasionally interrupting them to pass them a tissue or to offer them a cup of tea – but never interrupting their story. I don't take notes, because this distracts them. All the time I'm listening to them, I pray. I'm not a wise man. In almost all cases I haven't a clue about what they need to hear. But James 1:5 is still in the Bible and I believe it to be true. So they talk, and I pray.

So when they've got it all off their chest, what do you do next?

I ask them to tell me their story again. Sincere people need to know that they have been properly heard. Liars and time-wasters need to be given enough rope to hang themselves. And I need to be sure that I have really got hold of the issues.

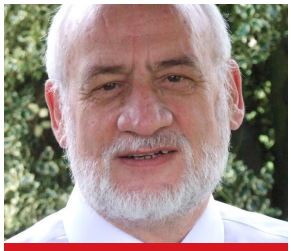
This is all very time-consuming, isn't it?

Yes, but the second time round, people tend to be briefer. They also tend to focus more on the main points. And as I continue to pray, everything becomes clearer. The second round usually finishes in an atmosphere of trust – unless, of course, the person is a liar or a time-waster. If this becomes apparent I dismiss the person and tell them that I won't be meeting them again.

I assume that you now move on to give your advice to the sincere person who remains.

Not yet! I encourage people to go over their story yet again, but this time I ask them questions as they do so. I ask them *what* and *where* and *when* and *how*, but never *why*. This is because I want facts, not opinions. *Why* is never a helpful question to ask someone in trouble. Once people have told their story three times, I find that they are always ready to listen to what I have to say. As trust has been growing throughout the session, I can be as blunt as I like. And because the Lord is faithful to his promise in James 1:5, I always have something to say. I also know whether further counselling is necessary. It is in a spirit of amazed gratitude that I am able to close the session in prayer.

Ukraine war: Faith in the fire



By John Birnie
Associate editor for Slavic Gospel Association.

Source: Shutterstock

The names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego arouse within us feelings of respect and admiration for young men who would trust and serve God come what may. They epitomise 'faith in the fire'!

The same feelings rise to the surface on receiving reports of the courage and strength of Christian leaders and believers who, in the heat of the flames of violence and war in the cities of Ukraine, are caring for others with Christ-like love and compassion.

Dark picture

It is hard to take in the appalling scale of destruction and cruel loss of life in towns and cities like Bucha, Kharkiv, and worst of all, Mariupol. It is a dark picture of the depths to which humanity will stoop to gain its ends.

The common story of the many Slavic Gospel Association-supported missionaries ministering there is of people suffering: half-starved, fearful, hiding in underground shelters, needing but not able to access medical care and attention.

Oksana and her son miraculously escaped from the city of Mariupol under fire. They had been sheltering in a basement, the safest place they could find.

The words of Psalm 90 were a source of encouragement as they prayed continually that God would stop the enemy's attacks and that he would be 'a wall of fire' around the basement where they stayed.

'One day our houses were shelled four times with multiple rocket launchers,' said Oksana, 'and we were ready for death. But the shells miraculously flew over our basement and exploded nearby.'

Unbelievably, a friend managed to reach them despite the shelling, then took them to an evacuation site from which they could escape the danger.

They could hardly believe it. They quickly gathered up a few belongings which were immediately to hand and abandoned their basement shelter.

All the way they continued to pray, asking God to help them, and were eventually led along a way of escape by strangers.

Oksana later said, 'When we arrived at the safe place at last, my son said, "Mom, it's a miracle. God has created so many miracles in our lives!" It was so true. I wept. The next day we learned that after leaving, a bomb had hit the basement where we were hiding. The Lord brought us out and took care of us through people we had never met.'

A different country

In Mykolaiv, a town near to Odessa and Khersin in the southeast, and also near the Black Sea, Ivan, one of 35 SGA-supported missionaries, writes of waking up on 24 February to a 'completely different country'.

'In faith and dependence upon God, his servants continue to minister the gospel and relieve the needs of the oppressed.'

The war changed everything. Almost at once Ivan was conscious of those who were in the greatest danger and need – the military personnel stationed in his region.

He writes, 'I clearly realized that I need to support people for whom this time is the hardest – the military! From the first day of the war, I began visiting checkpoints around Mykolayiv – there are about 15 of them.

'All I could do was to give our soldiers a hug and to pray with them. They are so open to prayers, encouragement, and support. We just stood in a circle putting our hands on each other's shoulders and prayed to God! I visited them daily. Always they were already waiting for me, inviting me to come again, to bring them tea, sweets or some hygiene items – and to pray again.'

Despite the danger, Ivan's wife was reluctant to leave, but being in the ninth month of her pregnancy, she was persuaded to go with other family members, friends, and neighbours to a safe place. They are presently in Germany, but Ivan remains in Mykolaiv to continue his ministry.

Under siege

The city of Chernihiv, northeast of Kyiv, was cut off from the rest of Ukraine when a bridge which had served as an important humanitarian corridor was bombed and destroyed.

Access to humanitarian aid became very difficult, almost impossible, and dangerous in the extreme. People could not leave the city; it was effectively besieged.

However, volunteers found an alternative way of getting food to people in the besieged city. They took to the river in boats, transporting food and other necessary relief aid to hungry, oppressed, and fearful people.

Churches have been working tirelessly there to relieve immediate needs. Now that the city has been liberated, they give what help they can as people try to readjust to the tragically altered circumstances in which they find themselves.

One church leader, Volodymyr, reports with joy that First Church Chernihiv has recommenced services in the churchyard, while they await repairs to their extensively damaged church building.

The people of Irpen, and particularly Bucha, have been exposed to extreme levels of violence and death, and their towns have suffered extensive damage from prolonged bombing and shelling. They have been right in the furnace of the war.

However, a team of volunteers from Irpen Bible Church remained in the city and carried on an intensive ministry of care and provision for the needy in Irpen and in nearby Bucha. They have commenced restoration work on buildings and homes, a hazardous undertaking, since the Russian forces laid land mines as they withdrew.

In faith and dependence upon God, his servants continue to minister the gospel and relieve the needs of the oppressed, despite the fiery trials they face on a daily basis. Pray for them.

More information is available at www.sga.org.uk/ukraine-crisis.

What would the end of Roe v. Wade mean in the UK?

By Dave Brennan
Director of Brephos, a ministry that helps churches to teach about abortion.

Source: Shutterstock

On 2 May, the news outlet Politico reported on a document it had 'obtained' from within the US Supreme Court. The draft opinion relates to Mississippi's challenge to Roe v. Wade, which the Court is due to decide on this summer. No such leak has ever occurred in modern history.

Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court ruling of 1973, has for decades been interpreted as giving women across the United States the legal right to have an abortion up till viability of the baby, considered to be around 24 weeks. It does not, however, as is often claimed, establish a 'constitutional right to abortion'. The American Constitution nowhere enshrines 'abortion rights'.

Thanks in large part to Donald Trump's appointments, the Supreme Court has a pro-life majority; the leaked document merely confirms what many were already hoping, or fearing. The Supreme Court has since confirmed the authenticity of the document, while deploring the leak and ordering an investigation. Unless the Justices change their mind, it looks like Roe is set to be overturned this summer.

What could this mean?

If Roe is overturned, it will not mean a complete and immediate ban of abortion across America. What it will do is to allow individual States to ban abortion should they choose to do so. It is expected that about half of the States will avail themselves of this opportunity, and some have already passed 'trigger' laws – bans that will immediately come into effect should Roe be struck down.

This could result in literally hundreds of thousands of babies' lives being saved every year in the United States alone. It is no overstatement to say that this would be the most significant – and of course the most positive – change in abortion law in the United States since 1973.

But it would stop short of enshrining constitutionally the rights of all human beings from conception across the United States, so the fight for the unborn would be far from over.

What does this mean for us in the UK?

First, we need to pray for our brothers and sisters in the States, for those in government, and for the babies and their mothers and fathers. This is a truly critical moment in the history of the nation, and it will have repercussions around the world.

We also need to pray specifically for those who serve in the Supreme Court. The leak was clearly intended to intimidate them into changing their mind. Politico, which 'obtained' the leak, said rather cynically that the 'unprecedented revelation is bound to intensify the debate' (read: 'we're releasing it to turn up the heat on these nasty pro-lifers'), and emphasised that the decision was not final and could still change.

They went on to name each Justice and explain where they stood on the issue. They stopped short of publishing their addresses, but clearly those weren't difficult to find. Within a short space of time, 'peaceful' protests were rallied outside the family homes of the Justices – so 'peaceful', in fact, that the Senate has made provision for round-the-clock security for the Justices and their families.

At time of writing, a pro-life centre in Wisconsin had just been firebombed by pro-abortion activists and a number of churches had also been targeted with disruptive and intimidating activities.

We need to pray for safety, rule of law, and that the Justices will stand firm in their decision and not be swayed by fear. Pray that righteousness and justice will prevail, that the leak, which was intended for evil, may actually be used by God for good. And we need to gird up our loins for the renewed debate that will certainly hit our shores as a result of all this.

Where are the UK churches?

It would be premature of me to say that we should be encouraged and press on in the fight to end abortion. That would assume that we are already moving in the right direction, that we are engaged in the battle at all.

In fact, the UK churches' response to abortion in recent years can be summed up in one word: silence. According to research undertaken by the Evangelical Alliance in 2011, abortion ranked 15th in terms of political issues most talked about in churches.

In more recent research due to be released this summer (not by the EA), fewer than 1 in 20 women from evangelical churches said they had ever heard thorough, head-on treatment of the issue from the front of church.

With such deafening silence from the pulpits, it is hardly surprising that not only do we lack courage and competence in our public witness on this issue, we lack clarity and conviction in private. Evangelicals don't know what to think about abortion.

Even laying aside operations to save the life of the mother, 4 out of 5 UK evangelicals still think that abortion can sometimes be justified. This means that a majority of evangelicals would probably keep Roe v. Wade in place, if it were up to them. The abortion debate is coming to Britain, and we are not even remotely ready for it.

What do we need to do?

If we are to be ready for this historic and unrepeatable opportunity, we urgently need to do two things in our churches.

First, we need to teach. We desperately need clear, thorough, gracious, courageous teaching from the Word of God on abortion. It is folly to assume that Christians are already pro-life. While churches are largely

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silent, Christians are being 'discipled' by the world in how to think about abortion.

I've been to dozens of churches to teach on abortion and even in the sharpest, most rigorous Bible-teaching churches I have found upon arrival that at least some have been swept along by the culture in supporting a 'woman's right to choose', because up till that point the church, while absolutely clear on the issue within the leadership team, had never really addressed it.

There is no substitute for head-on, biblical teaching on this issue – and you can go to brephos.org for resources to help with that.

Second, we need to equip. Good biblical teaching on abortion won't stop at merely proving the beauty and value of human life from conception and the wrongness of taking that innocent life. God's Word on child sacrifice isn't only to abstain from it, Leviticus 18:21. It is also to take proactive action to prevent it where it is happening, Leviticus 20:1-5.

The Bible is packed full of positive commands to defend the oppressed, look after the widow and the orphan, to confront injustice. The Parable of the Good Samaritan is perhaps the most striking example of where mere abstinence from acts of evil is portrayed as insufficient in fulfilling the command to 'love your neighbour'.

But if we are to be 'doers' of the word and not just 'listeners' on an issue like abortion, we will need some help as to how to be a 'voice for the voiceless' (Proverbs 31:8) most effectively. We need some training. Again, there's help for this at brephos.org, but allow me to sketch out one or two tips for starters here.

Just as not all Christians are pro-life (sadly), so people do not have to become Christians before they can become pro-life. There are many secular people who have been convinced by the pro-life message. All that to say, we mustn't throw our hands up in the air and say, 'What can you do, in such a post-Christian society?' People can be reached, and quickly, on the issue of abortion.

The key is helping people to see the unborn child as a human. The abortion lobby thrives on distraction and deception – keeping the attention away from the unborn child and denying their humanity and value. If we can put the unborn child back in the picture, and help people to see what abortion does to them, we are reframing the debate in a more constructive way.

Photographic evidence has always been very compelling in proving the humanity of the victims of injustice and exposing the horror of what is so often cloaked in euphemism ('healthcare', 'reproductive justice', 'termination'). Even before the invention of the Kodak, pictures were key (consider William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson and their use of graphic imagery in abolishing the slave trade).

Today we have astonishingly detailed and breathtakingly beautiful images of human life at early stages in the womb, as well as the more difficult but absolutely necessary visual evidence of what these babies suffer through the various 'abortion' procedures.

These are tools in our hand in helping people to see who is at the heart of this debate, and what's at stake. But words are also crucial, and we need to learn to make the case for life, and against abortion, graciously and compellingly.

The crux of the pro-life argument is very simple: If the unborn are human, shouldn't they get human rights? People will often retort with various, often extreme circumstances that in their eyes justify abortion, to which we can reply: 'Would we justify killing a toddler for such reasons? If not, why the same child when they are just a bit younger, in the womb?'

The fear factor

Elaborate theologies and methodologies have been constructed to justify staying out of 'political' issues – especially the more controversial ones – but biblically it seems inescapable that we are called to be voices for truth and justice and to interpose ourselves for the weak and helpless, as well as evangelising.

If we are to be honest, what is really holding us back most of the time – and what has given rise to our justifications for doing so – is fear. We don't want to get hurt.

If we can confront our fears and embrace the persecution and hatred that Jesus promises those who follow in his footsteps and stand for what's right, we can see the baby genocide ended in our lifetime to the glory of God.

Crunch Points

We all value biblical advice from our elders, the first ones to whom we turn for counsel. **Jeremy Walker** outlines the kind of answer he might give to a question received at the chapel door.

Should I take my child to Sunday sports clubs?

Most sports clubs and even some school sport is now on Sunday. Is it not good to take my children along, as long as it doesn't clash with church too much? I don't want them to be negative about church and surely they need to use the sporting gifts God has given.

By Jeremy Walker
Jeremy is the pastor of Maidenbower Baptist Church in Crawley.

I really feel for you on this one! I well remember the day I found out the county trials for rugby were on the Lord's day, and I knew what that meant for my progression in the sport. Many others have felt this pressure. It's not easy, but consider what is at stake. These kinds of decisions establish priorities and set precedents, sometimes for a lifetime, especially in a society where sports and sporting excellence have become something of an idol.

Think about how you are thinking. Listen to what you are saying. You don't want something to clash with church 'too much'. How much is too much? What is more important than the honour and glory of God? Giving the impression that sports are more important than being in God's presence under God's Word communicates to your children very thoroughly and precisely a significant negativity about church! It demotes God and his worship to something alongside or even beneath football, rugby, tennis or whatever it may be. After all, what would it profit them if they gained a few trophies and lost their own soul (Matthew 16:26)?

Remember, Sunday isn't about the Lord's hour. It is the Lord's day, and the whole of it is his gift to us. It's not meant to be a burden, but a blessing: man was not made for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath for man (Mark 2:27). So perhaps you want to think about how you as a family invest and delight in the Lord's day. Are you making the most of it, as a family, and among God's people, for his glory and your good? What example are you setting of eagerness to be in communion with God and his people?

You see, a high view of the whole Lord's day, with a scriptural sense of the privilege of gathered worship, turns the question right around. 'Can't I afford to miss it?' becomes, 'How can I afford to miss it!' 'Why do I have to be there?' becomes, 'Where else would I rather be?' 'When will it all be over?' becomes, 'How long can we make it last?' Here's that question of priorities and precedents: this is a chance to show your children that God comes first.

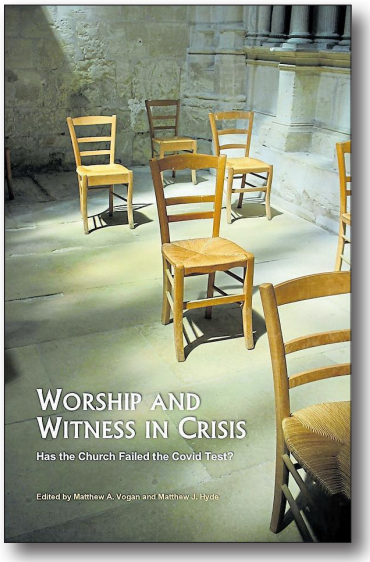
So by all means find other avenues to help them to glorify God in their bodies. By all means encourage them to pursue sporting excellence in other spheres; show you are committed with your time and energy on the other six days of the week. Maybe it would be a good opportunity to introduce your children to the story of Eric Liddell or others who have sacrificed not just sporting opportunity, but many other seeming blessings, in order to honour God.

And it may be that this is one of those small sacrifices (and it is small, especially when you consider how few kids actually achieve elite status) upon which God will smile. This is a life lesson about who and what matters most. Remember, 'Those who honour me I will honour, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed' (1 Samuel 2:30).

If you would like an answer to a crunch question, please email crunchpoints@evangelical-times.org. We cannot guarantee an answer to every question.

Book Reviews

Worship and Witness in Crisis: Has the church failed the Covid test?



Matthew A. Vogan & Matthew J. Hyde (editors)
Ettrick Press
296 pages; £10.95

This book critiques the compliant reaction on the part of churches to the various UK governments' instructions to 'lock down' their buildings and move their activities online.

It addresses two questions: Does Christ require his churches to meet physically for worship, witness, and 'one-another' ministry? And are there circumstances in which the state has God-given authority to instruct churches not to gather?

To present the answers, the authors (eight Presbyterians and two Gospel Standard Strict Baptists, with the two editors drawn from each constituency) mine two sources: the Bible and historical theology.

Their chapter headings are: How may the church preserve unity in the midst of disagreement? Should the church ever suspend public worship? How important is it for believers to gather together physically to worship God? How should church and state interact during a crisis? Exactly how much must the church render to Caesar? What does loving our neighbour look like in a pandemic? Is it ever unloving to go to church? How far has our culture impacted on the church's response to the pandemic? How can we move on from this crisis?

Why include these headings in full in this review? Because they are precisely the questions that we need to answer when formulating our response to government interference.

In a symposium such as this, it is not to be assumed that all authors agree on every topic – but there is a great deal of unity and overlap. To support their conclusions, the authors quote or allude to a very large number of respected (but perhaps insufficiently-known in these days) theologians and pastors.

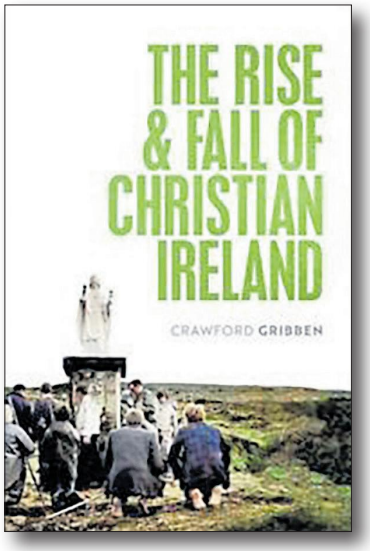
How are the two principal questions answered? Without exception, churches, as defined in Scripture, are physical, not virtual, gatherings of the saints. Churches rightly submit certain aspects of their life and activities to the state, when it comes to things like planning permission, fire regulations, and even hygiene requirements. But the when, where, and how of public worship and the carrying out the Great Commission, God has committed exclusively to those in authority in churches. To allow governments a role in these areas is to betray our own generation and those who follow us.

There are a couple of minor production errors that should be addressed in future editions.

Ian Jemmett
Pluckley, Kent

The Rise and Fall of Christian Ireland

Crawford Gribben
Oxford University Press
353 pages; £25.00



This fine volume, by a distinguished historian, meets a long-standing need for an overview of Christianity in Ireland from an evangelical standpoint. The author's sympathy for evangelicalism is not explicitly stated but the careful reader can detect it in the underlying tone of the book.

While one should not judge a book by its bibliography any more than one should judge it by its cover, the reading list (extending to some 30 pages) reveals the author's mastery of his subject. There are also over 50 pages of notes! But the general reader should not to be intimidated, for the book is written in a very accessible style.

Gribben surveys the history of Christianity from its arrival in Ireland to the dramatic decline experienced in recent decades. There isn't anything new in his treatment of the early centuries, but it is a competent survey of existing scholarship. The author is really in his element when he describes the reformations and revivals which Ireland experienced between the 16th and 19th centuries, these time periods being the main focus of his own scholarly research.

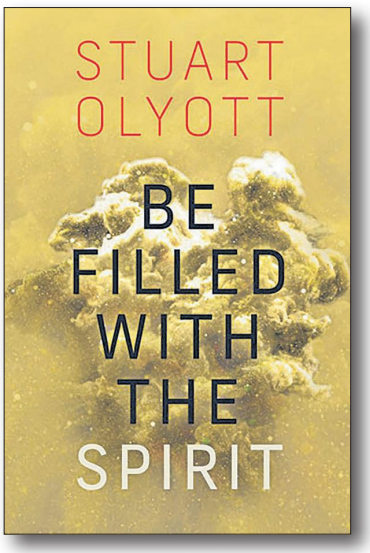
When dealing with the 20th century, the author portrays the triumphalist dominance of Roman Catholicism in the Republic of Ireland before unfolding the shameful reasons for its recent collapse. It is a vexing account, and the bleak picture is intensified by the depiction of Protestantism on the retreat in Northern Ireland.

Despite the doom and gloom, the book draws to a close on an optimistic note. The author writes of 'opportunities for new kinds of religious expression' and expresses the hope that 'new Patricks' may shape 'the rise of another Christian Ireland'. May it be so.

Raymond Blair
Limavady, Northern Ireland

Be Filled with the Spirit

Stuart Olyott
EP Books
84 pages; £3.99



For some of us, past experiences of charismatic misuse cause our alarm bells to ring when we read a book title like this one, from *Evangelical Times* columnist 'Mr O'. But as he points out, the command comes from Ephesians 5:18 and is issued to all believers. So ignoring it is not an option; and Olyott proves a careful and reassuring guide to the apprehensive follower.

He clears up much confusion by distinguishing this Spirit-filling from the Spirit-baptism mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament. To be filled with the Spirit, he shows, speaks of the settled character which the converted person must continually pursue: Christ-like, spiritually-minded, and plainly 'under the influence of their indwelling God' (p.38).

There is a happy recognition of the local church as the place where the means of grace are available for the believer to receive this filling, and as the place where the consequent blessings will be most keenly felt.

What joyful places our churches would be if we were all to heed this warm, inviting, and biblically-rooted book, and obey this oft-neglected command of Christ.

Matthew Cox
Bethersden, Kent

'What joyful places our churches would be if we all heeded this warm, inviting, and biblically-rooted book.'

DUDLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
(Priory Road)
Lord's Day: 10.30am and 6.30pm
Prayer/Bible study: Thursday 7.45pm
Pastor: **Conrad Pomeroy**
Tel: 0758 3161766
E-mail: enquiries@dudleybaptist.org.uk
Priory Road, Dudley DY1 4AD
www.dudleybaptist.org.uk
www.sermonsfortoday.org

ZION EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Blossomgate, Ripon, N. Yorks HG4 2AJ
Lord's Day: 10.30am & 6.30pm
Prayer/Bible study: Wednesday 7.30pm.
E-mail:jonathanandjo@hotmail.co.uk
www.zionripon.org.uk
(sermons on website)

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17 June	Ray Birch
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Heath Evangelical Church
Whitchurch Road Cardiff CF14 3LZ
T: 029 2061 7738
E: office@heath-church.org
W: www.heath-church.org
Pastor: ***Rev. Wyn Hughes***
Sunday Services: 10.45am & 6.00pm
Bible Study: Mon 7.30pm
Prayer Meeting: Wed 7.30pm

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Grace
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Sunday services at 11.00am & 6.00pm
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For further details contact: Chris Boyes, 01225 760124 or see our website
www.gracereformedbaptistchurch.org.uk

Coming to Southampton?
You are welcome to join us in Sholing at:
Spring Road Evangelical Church
- Reformed
- Evangelistic
- Non-ecumenical
- Non-charismatic
- Expository Ministry

Sunday services: 11.00am and 6.30pm
Pastor: Mark Stocker **(023) 80432850**
www.springroad.org.uk

THE OLD TEMPERANCE BOOKSHOP
Reeth, Richmond, DL11 6TE
Tel: (01748) 884185
Christian books, cards & crafts

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pastorjon.cbc@btinternet.com

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2022 *Summer Conference*
Conference Location:
Tabernacle Cardiff
Pen-y-wain Rd, Cardiff, CF24 4GG
Monday 25th July - Friday 29th July 2022
Conference Information:
07747 673130
tabernaclecardiff.org/conference-home
John Greer,
Timothy Nelson,
William Macleod

Sixth Annual Puritan International Conference
Dates: 27 – 29 October 2022
Venue: CHRIST CHURCH, Christchurch Avenue, TEDDINGTON, TW11 9AB
250 Years of Reformed and Puritan Theology: From Pierre Viret to Griffith Jones
Speakers:
Rev. Dr Ian Densham, Dr John J. Harding, Dr Geoff Thomas
For the full title of each lecture and more details please visit:
https://www.christ-church.org.uk/puritan-international-conference-2022

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HOLIDAY CHURCHES

PLEASE NOTE

Churches advertised in this list are included in good faith that they are genuinely evangelical. Their inclusion does not necessarily imply any more specific doctrinal position or church practice.

ABBREVIATIONS

BC: Bible class
BS: Bible study
PM: Prayer meeting
SS: Sunday school
HG: House group(s)

Mid-week meetings are combined PM/BS unless otherwise shown. Pastor/elder at the end of each entry.

V: Bible version used
AV Authorised Version
ESV English Standard Version
NASB New American Standard Bible
NIV New International Version
NKJV New King James Version

HB: Hymnbook
CH Christian Hymns
CW Christian Worship
GH Grace Hymns
HF Hymns of Faith
MP Mission Praise
NCH New Christian Hymns
PR Praise!
RH Redemption Hymnal
SF Songs of Fellowship

E: E-mail address

Unless shown otherwise, times between 8.30 and 11.30 are AM, and those between 1.00 and 8.00 are PM.

ENGLAND

BEDFORDSHIRE

BEDFORD. Providence Baptist Chapel (Bedford), Rothsay Road, MK40 3PT
11.00 & 6.30, SS 9.15; Bible Study or Prayer Meeting Thurs. 7.30
Pastor Oliver Wyncoll (Tel: 01234 340681)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: pastor@providencechapel.org.uk [or] info@providencechapel.org.uk
www.providencechapel.org.uk

Providence Baptist Church
Park Lane, Blunham, MK44 3NH
Park Lane is a right turning about halfway down the hill

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Sunday Club 9.30
Preaching Service/Prayer Meeting Fri. 7.00

David Green (Tel: 01767 682389 or 07917 113930)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns, Own selection

E-mail: david.j.green1949@gmail.com
www.blunhambaptist.org

Harrold and Carlton Grace Baptist Church
78 High Street, Harrold, MK43 7BH

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor: Robert Cordle (Tel: 01234 721406)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: robert.cordle@btinternet.com
www.harroldbaptistchurch.org

Westoning Baptist Church

Greenfield Road, Westoning, MK45 5JD

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Sunday School 9.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.15

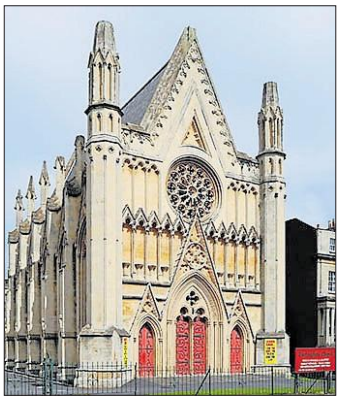
Martin Hare (Tel: 01525 719382)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship

E-mail: westoningbaptist@gmail.com
www.westoningbaptistchurch.org

BRISTOL

Buckingham Chapel



Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1LQ

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Sunday School 11.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor Oliver Gross (Tel: 0117 336 8711)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: oligross@btinternet.com
www.buckinghamchapel.org.uk

BRISTOL. Zetland Evangelical Church, 4 & 6 North Road, BS6 5AE
NB: One way road in front of church. Access travel south along North Rd – church car park on the left.
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
During lockdown restrictions the Sunday morning and Wednesday meetings are held online.
Eddie O'Brien (Tel: 0117 962 9868)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: zetlandevangelicalchurch@gmail.com [or] eddie.obrien@blueyonder.co.uk
www.zetlandchurch.org.uk

Philip Street Chapel
Philip Street, Bedminster, Bristol, BS3 4EA

Sundays 10.45 & 6.00
Sunday School 10.45
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.30

Revd R. G. H. Page (Tel: 01275 892847)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: Praise!, Songs of Fellowship

www.philipstreet.org.uk

YATE. Grace Church Yate, 250 Station Road, BS37 4AF
11.00 & 6.00; PM Weds. 7.30
The Elders (Tel: 07783 300862)
V: NIV. *HB:* GH, Other modern songs
www.gracechurchyate.org

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Newtown Baptist Church
Berkhampstead Road, Chesham, HP5 3AT

Sundays 10.00 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 8.00
The location of the midweek meeting varies.

Mark Richards (Tel: 01494 583790)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns, Praise!

E-mail: pastor@newtownbaptist.org.uk [or] secretary@newtownbaptist.org.uk
www.newtownbaptist.org.uk

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Chatteris Community Church
King Edward Centre, King Edward's Road, Chatteris, PE16 6NG

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Bible study Weds. 7.00
For the occasional Sunday evening services, about once a month, and the Midweek meeting (Weds 7.00) we meet in homes – ring for details.

Pastor Robert Read (Tel: 01354 694393)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Grace Hymns, Christian Hymns, New Christian Hymns

E-mail: mail@chatteriscommunitychurch.org.uk
www.chatteriscommunitychurch.org.uk

NEEDINGWORTH, ST IVES. Needingworth Baptist Church, High Street, PE27 4SB
10.30; Tues. 7.30
No Sunday evening services currently. The Tuesday evening prayer meeting and Bible study is by Zoom. Please contact us for log-in details & service times updates.
David Mann (Tel: 07948 809068)
V: NIV. *HB:* SF, GH
E: davidandjanemann@gmail.com [or] pmbjmbburton@btinternet.com
www.needingworthbaptist.org.uk

RAMSEY. Ramsey Baptist Church, High Street, PE26 1AB
10.45 & 6.00, SS 9.45; Tues. 7.30
Please check www.ramseybaptistchurch.org.uk for location of Sunday and midweek meetings.
Pastor Jonathan Chell (Tel: 01487 815568)
V: NKJV. *HB:* GH, MP, NCH
E: jonathan.chell@ramseybaptistchurch.org.uk

WARBOYS. Warboys Baptist Church, 73 High Street, PE28 2TA
10.45 & 6.00; Tues. 7.30
Pastor Nigel Graham (Tel: 01487 823405)
V: NIV. *HB:* NCH, MP
E: nigelkeithgraham@gmail.com
www.warboysbaptistchurch.org

Whittlesey Baptist Church

Gracious Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1AR

Sundays 10.30 & 5.30
Sunday School 9.30
Prayer Meeting Weds. 7.30
We meet in home groups on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

Pastor Paul Kosciecha (Tel: 01733 202236)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns, Grace Hymns

E-mail: info@whittleseybaptist.org.uk
www.whittleseybaptist.org.uk

Continued on page 22

CHESHIRE

CHESTER. Ebenezer Baptist Church, Chester, Francis Street, off City Road, CH1 3BW
10.30 & 6.00; Midweek service Weds. 7.30
Richard Inns (Tel: 01244 678906)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: richardinns47@gmail.com
www.ebenezerbaptistchester.org

Grace Church Sandbach
Sandbach Girls High School, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 3NT

Sundays 10.30
We meet at Sandbach Girls High School on Sunday mornings. We also meet on Sunday evenings at 6.00 in Sandbach Town Hall (CW11 1AX) except for 3rd Sunday in the month.

Paul Gibson (Tel: 07443 947637)

Bible: NIV

E-mail: info@grace-sandbach.co.uk
www.grace-sandbach.co.uk

WINTERLEY, SANDBACH. Wheelock Heath Baptist Church, Hassall Road, CW11 4RJ
10.30 & 6.00; HG Tues. 8.00
Sunday school and crèche are available during morning service. Tuesday House Groups are hosted in various homes across the local region.
Church Administrator (Tel: 01270 876072)
V: NIV. *HB:* PR
E: churchadmin@whbaptist.com [or]
djk.richardson@gmail.com
www.whbc.co.uk

CORNWALL

FALMOUTH. Carrick Free Baptist Church, Bosvale Community Centre (off Hillside Rd), TR11 4HQ
At bottom off Hillside Road turn right into private lane signposted to the Community Centre. Free parking & level access.
10.45 & 6.30; Weds. 7.00
Mike Lynch (Tel: 01209 862920)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: carrickfbc@gmail.com
www.carrickfbc.org.uk

Falmouth Evangelical Church

Killigrew Street, Falmouth, TR11 3PP
Just opposite Expressini – up the hill from Domino's pizza!

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30

Mike Coles (Tel: 07717 845652/01326 619722)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: mikeccoles@aim.com [or]
mikeccoles@outlook.com
www.fec.org.uk

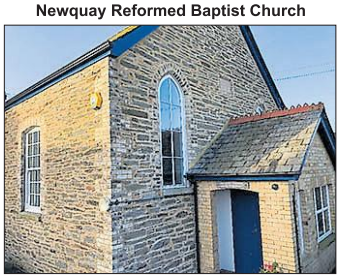
Haven Church (FIEC)
Off Church Street, Gorran Haven, PL26 6JN

Breaking of Bread Sun. 10.30
Afternoon worship Sun. 4.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Enquiries (Tel: 01726 842873)

E-mail: haven_gh@outlook.com
www.havenchurch.co

Newquay Reformed Baptist Church



Chapel Hill, Newquay, TR7 1ND
Behind the cinema and opposite to an old chapel (now housing). Look for a path between Numbers 7 & 8 Chapel Hill. The chapel is at the end of the pathway. There is a Scripture sign on the large gates at the start of the path.

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.30

Pastor Josh Williamson (Tel: 07580 485257)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@newquaybaptist.org.uk
www.newquaybaptist.org.uk

Penzance Baptist Church
Clarence Street, Penzance, TR18 2NU

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor Jonathan D. Stobbs (Tel: 07703 464971)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: pastor@penzancebaptistchurch.com
[or] contact@penzancebaptistchurch.com
www.penzancebaptistchurch.com

Emmanuel Full Gospel Church
Station Road, Pool, Redruth, TR15 3QJ
Opposite B&M – next to Pool Market.

Sundays 10.45

Pastor Alan and Lorraine Carlin
(Tel: 07783 448544)

Bible: AV, NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Worship

E-mail: lpcarlin@hotmail.co.uk [or]
efgiheartlands@outlook.com
www.efgi.co.uk

TRURO. Truro Evangelical Church, Tregolls School, Chellew Road (right at lights halfway up Tregolls Road), TR1 1LH
10.30 & 2.00; Tues. 7.30
Please check website or email/phone for up-to-date information regarding times and venue of meetings.
Nicholas Fuller (Tel: 07443 858227)
V: NIV. *HB:* PR
E: nicholasfuller73@gmail.com [or]
truro.evangelical.church@gmail.com
www.truroevangelical.org.uk

CUMBRIA

BRAMPTON. Bethesda Evangelical Church, Unit 10, Townfoot Industrial Estate, CA8 1SW
10.00 & 10.30; Mon. 2.00; Parent/Carer & Toddler Group Thurs. 10.00; HG Tues. 7.45
Huw Iley (Tel: 01697 742136)
V: NIV. *HB:* Songs of Victory, PR
E: info@bethesdachurch-brampton.org.uk
www.bethesdachurch-brampton.org.uk

CARLISLE. Edward Street Baptist Church, 26 Grey Street, CA1 2JB
10.30 & 6.00; Tues. 1.00
Jonathan Heaton (Tel: 07865 022003)
V: AV. *HB:* Songs of Victory
E: jmheaton20@gmail.com

CARLISLE. Grace Evangelical Church (Carlisle), Kingmoor Road, St Ann's, CA3 9PY
10.45 & 6.30; Tues. 7.30
Andrew Rowell (Tel: 01228 592825)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: pastor@gracecarlisle.org.uk
www.gracecarlisle.org.uk

KESWICK. Lake Road Chapel (Congregational), Lake Road, CA12 5BS
No vehicular access to chapel.
10.30 & 4.00; Thurs. 7.00
Secretary: Philip Helm (Tel: 01768 88797)
V: ESV. *HB:* PR
E: philip@lakeroadchapel.net [or]
pandmhelm@gmail.com
www.lakeroadchapel.net

LITTLE BROUGHTON. Broughton Evangelical Church, Little Broughton, nr Cockermouth, CA13 0XA
Off A66 towards Workington, right to Great Broughton, after bridge left then right into Little Broughton, church at top of hill.
3.00
Pastor Emeritus Tony Aubrey (Tel: 01900 825265)
HB: CH
E: tonyaubrey@talktalk.net

MARYPORT. Trinity Baptist Church, Curzon Street, CA15 6DA
11.00 & 6.00; Tues. 7.30
Pastor Garry C. Rowcroft (Tel: 01900 814690)
V: AV. *HB:* GH
E: tbcmaryport@googlemail.com
www.trinitybaptistchurch.co.uk

Grace Baptist Church

Quebec Street, Ulverston, LA12 9AD

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30
Please contact the church to confirm if there is an evening service on the Sunday you intend to visit.

Ole Hunt (Tel: 07412 613698)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Praise!

E-mail: olekhunt@gmail.com [or]
gbcu4408@gmail.com
www.gracechurch-ulverston.org.uk

Grace Baptist Church

Gray Street, Workington, CA14 2NT

Sundays 11.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 6.00
Prayer Meeting Fri. 6.00

Dale McAlpine (Tel: 01900 601428)

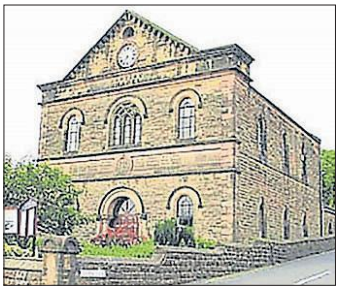
Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: dale.mcalpine@gmail.com [or]
dale.mcalpine@googlemail.com
www.gracebaptistworkington.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE

DERBY. Davenport Road Evangelical Church, Davenport Road, off Osmaston Road, DE24 8AX
11.00
Visitors are always welcome. Face masks are now optional and tea and coffee are served after the morning service. Check the church website for details of evening and midweek meetings. Messages are available on the website home page and on the church YouTube channel.
Andrew Knox (Tel: 07437 523536)
V: NIV. *HB:* CH, Praise & Worship, SongPro
E: dprchurch@gmail.com [or]
pcb160449@gmail.com
www.davenportroadchurch.org.uk

Crich Baptist Church



Market Place, Crich, near Matlock, DE4 5DD

Sundays 10.45 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting Tues. 7.30

Chris Hand (Tel: 01773 853180)

Bible: NKJV, AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@crichbaptist.org
www.crichbaptist.org

Castlefields Church
(meeting at Derby Conference Centre)
London Road, Derby, DE24 8UX

Sundays 10.00 & 4.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30
Sunday services – Derby Conference Centre, London Road, Derby, DE24 8UX.
Wednesday meeting – Castlefields Church, Traffic Street, Derby, DE1 2NL

David Fielding (Tel: 01332 550879)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@castlefieldschurch.org.uk
www.castlefieldschurch.org.uk

STANTON LEES. Stanton Lees Chapel, off A6 nr Darley Dale, DE4 2LQ
2.30 & 6.30; PM Mon. 7.30; BS Weds. 7.30
No Bible study July & August. Prayer meeting held on Wednesday during July & August.
Pastor Jonathan Bayes (Tel: 07712 080257)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: stantonlees.chapel@gmail.com
www.stantonleeschapel.org.uk

DEVON

BARNSTAPLE. Whiddon Valley Evangelical Church, Stoat Park, Whiddon Valley, EX32 8PT
11.00 & 6.30; BS Thurs. 10.30
D. W. Kay (Tel: 01271 269213)
V: AV. *HB:* CH, Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship
E: davidwvec@gmail.com [or]
steinwayjp68@gmail.com
www.wvec.org.uk

BIDEFORD. Bideford Town Mission, Lime Grove, EX39 3JW
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.15
Pastor J. Evans (Tel: 01237 472940)
V: AV. *HB:* HF

BIDEFORD. North Road Chapel Bideford (Evangelical), North Road, EX39 2NW
11.00 & 6.30, PM 10.30; BS Thurs. 8.00
David Wort (Tel: 01237 471233)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: nrcbideford@gmail.com
www.northroadchapel.org

DAWLISH. Dawlish Baptist Church, Park Road, EX7 9LH
10.45
David Landricombe (Tel: 01626 638556)

V: NKJV. *HB:* CW
E: david.landricombe@gmail.com
www.dawlishbaptistchurch.org

EXETER. Exeter Independent Evangelical Church, Fore Street, Heavitree, EX1 2RR
11.00 & 6.30; BS Thurs. 7.00
Tom Cook (Tel: 01392 811204)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: thomasfcook@btinternet.com
www.eiec.org.uk

EXMOUTH. Scott Drive Church, Scott Drive, off Pound Lane, EX8 3LF
10.30 & 6.30; Weds. 7.00
Sunday evening meetings may be at Scott Drive or at 'Church on the Green', Budleigh Salterton. Wednesday evening meetings alternate between prayer meetings and house groups. Please check before attending.
Lee Emerson (Tel: 01395 272537)
V: NIV. *HB:* On screen
E: leenemerson@hotmail.co.uk [or]
stpowen52@gmail.com
www.scottdrivechurch.org.uk

GALMPTON, BETWEEN PAIGNTON AND BRIXHAM. Flavel Chapel and Hall (Independent Evangelical, EFCC), Stoke Gabriel Road, TQ5 0NQ [Chapel]; TQ5 0NJ [Hall]
10.30 & 6.30. Thurs. 7.00
Thursday & Sunday evening services in Flavel Hall, TQ5 6NJ
Walford Catling (Tel: 01803 559040); John Young (Tel: 07779 169750)
V: AV, NKJV, ESV. *HB:* CH
E: walfordandelaine@hotmail.com [or]
jy4506@talktalk.net
www.flavelchapel.com

Beacon Park Baptist Church
Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4LR
Car park is accessed via Glendower Road.

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Richard Clarke (Tel: 01752 227009)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship

E-mail:
richard.clarke@beaconparkbaptistchurch.org [or]
colin.christopher@beaconparkbaptistchurch.org
www.beaconparkbaptistchurch.org

SIDMOUTH. Emmanuel Baptist Church Sidmouth, Manstone Lane, EX10 9TU
10.30; PM Tues. 7.00
Prayer meeting 1st Tuesday of month at 10.30am; 3rd Tuesday of month at 7.00pm.
V: NKJV. *HB:* MP
E: pastorebc.2022@gmail.com
www.emmanuelbaptistchurch.org.uk

SMEATHARPE. Newhouse Independent Baptist Church, Smeatharpe, nr Honiton, EX14 9RG
11.00; Tues. 7.00
Sunday morning service is live-streamed in addition to physical meeting; check church website for details.
John Woollam (Tel: 01404 861313)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: newhouse-church@hotmail.co.uk
www.newhouse-baptist.org.uk

TAVISTOCK. Free Presbyterian Church, The Guide Hall, Canal Road, PL19 8AR
11.00; Tues. 7.30
Phone for venue of Tuesday meeting.
J. Hamilton (Tel: 01822 832207)
V: AV. *HB:* FPCU hymnbook
www.freepresbyterian.org/church/tavistock

Sovereign Grace Reformed Church

81 King St, Tiverton, EX16 5JJ
We are in the main Heathcoat building that backs up to the large, beautiful park.

Sundays 11.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.00
Tuesday prayer meeting at 7.00pm,
Bible study at 7.45-8.00pm.

Lee Pallister (Tel: 01884 861209)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: gracetoseekers@gmail.com
www.sovereigngracereformedchurch.co.uk

DORSET

Howeth Road Evangelical Church
Howeth Road, Ensbury Park, Bournemouth, BH10 5EA
(On the corner of Howeth Road and Kingswell Road)

Sundays 10.30 & 5.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Chris Durrant (Tel: 01202 514703)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Mission Praise

E-mail:
admin@howethroadevangelicalchurch.org.uk
www.howethroadevangelicalchurch.org.uk

BOURNEMOUTH. Moordown Baptist Church, 92 The Avenue, Moordown, BH9 2UU
11.00 & 6.30, SS 11.00
Sunday school during morning service.
Jimmy Hill
V: NIV. *HB:* PR
E: jimmy.hill@moordownbaptist.org.uk
www.moordownbaptist.org.uk

BRIDPORT. Chardsmead Baptist Church (Independent), Victoria Grove (off West Street), DT6 3AD
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.00
Pastor Peter Bruce (Tel: 01308 281149)
V: AV, NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: peter@bridportbaptistchurch.org [or]
roy.symes@btinternet.com
www.bridportbaptistchurch.org

CHRISTCHURCH. Carmel Evangelical Church (Non-Ecumenical), Homelands Hall, King's Avenue, BH23 1NP
11.00 & 6.00; Thurs. 7.30
Robin Lewis (Tel: 01202 475650 or 01202 873952)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: robdot8@gmail.com

GILLINGHAM. Gillingham Baptist Church, Newbury (by the roundabout), SP8 4HZ
10.30 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
P. Wick [Secretary]; S. Chase [Pastor] (Tel: 01747 841430 or 01747 826187)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
www.gillinghambaptistchurch.org.uk

THREE LEGGED CROSS. Verwood Road Evangelical Chapel, Verwood Road, BH21 6RW
10.30 & 6.30; Tues. 7.30
Pastor Grant Spratley (Tel: 07557 402227)
V: NIV. *HB:* MP
E: grant.spratley@gmail.com [or]
admin@verwoodroadchapel.org
www.verwoodroadchapel.org

DURHAM

DARLINGTON. Geneva Road Evangelical Baptist Church, Geneva Road, DL1 4HS
10.45 & 6.00, SS 9.30; Thurs. 7.30
Pastor Mark Rowcroft / Secretary: Mr G. S. Friston (Tel: 01325 486426 / 01325 286104)
V: NIV. *HB:* NCH, Psalms
E: admin@genevaroad.org.uk [or]
jackieandgeoff@live.co.uk
www.genevaroad.org.uk

Langley Park Baptist Church
Linden Mews, Langley Park, DH7 9DZ
Linden Mews is located off Front Street directly opposite the Public Library. A signpost near the Library indicates the direction of the chapel building.

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.30

Chris Martin (Tel: 07936 036182)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@langleyparkbaptist.org.uk [or]
christopholous54@gmail.com
www.langleyparkbaptist.org.uk

NEWTON AYCLIFFE. Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Ladybower, off Meadowfield Way, DL5 7EU
10.30 & 6.30; Thurs. 7.30
We're also on Facebook /AycliffeEC
Alan Brunton (Tel: 0191 371 0296)
V: ESV, NIV. *HB:* PR, CH
E: alan@brunton.force9.co.uk
www.aycliffe.net

ESSEX

CHELMSFORD. Chelmsford Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church Building, Hall Street, CM2 0HG
11.30 & 6.00; Thurs. 8.00
Contact us for location of midweek meeting.
Revd Darren Moore (Tel: 01245 690559)
V: ESV. *HB:* Various
E: chelmsfordpres@epcew.org.uk
www.chelmsfordpres.org.uk

COLCHESTER. Artillery Street Evangelical Church, 12A Artillery Street, CO1 2JL
New Town, off Barrack Street. Top of Hythe Hill.
11.00 & 5.00; Weds. 7.30
Malcolm Lane (Tel: 07748 596513)
V: New Living Translation. *HB:* NCH, Church Supplement
E: mal58colm@gmail.com
www.artillery-street.org.uk

DAWS HEATH. Daws Heath Evangelical Church, Daws Heath Road, Benfleet, SS7 2UA
11.00 & 6.30; Thurs. 8.00
Mr C. Banks (Tel: 01268 775041 or 07950 992388)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: chris.ba@hotmail.co.uk

GREAT DUNMOW. Dunmow Baptist Church, The 'Ark' Baptist Chapel, Angel Lane, off High Street, CM6 1AQ
Car park available in Chequers Lane.
11.00 & 6.00; Tues. 7.30
Some Sunday morning services are held at Dunmow Day Centre, Chequers Lane, CM6 1EQ. It is very close to the church and directions will be on display at the church. Car parking arrangements are the same. Tuesday evenings: term time only mixture of in-person and online meetings.
Pastor: P. Knight. Secretary: J. Knight (Tel: 01245 258163)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH
www.dunmowbaptist.com

WICKFORD. Wickford Reformed Baptist Church, 42 Jersey Gardens, SS11 7AE
10.30 & 6.30, SS 3.30; Thurs. 7.45
Secretary N. Snailum or Pastor E. Cordle (Tel: 01268 735127 / 07983 403303)
V: AV. *HB:* GH
E: ecordle@gmail.com [or]
12nics12@gmail.com
www.wickfordreformedbaptistchurch.org.uk/

Kirby-le-Soken Evangelical Church
The Street, Kirby-le-Soken, CO13 0EE

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 3.00

Peter Law [Pastor] (Tel: 01255 851851)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: Praise!, Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@kirbyec.org.uk
www.kirbyec.org.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

CHELTENHAM. Naunton Lane Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 23 Naunton Lane, Leckampton, GL53 7BJ
10.30 & 6.00; Weds. 7.45
Revd Matt Faux (Tel: 07929 527631)
V: ESV.
www.cheltenhampres.org.uk

CHELTENHAM. Providence Baptist Chapel, Naunton Parade, GL53 7NP
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
Pooyan Mehrshahi (Tel: 07471 899498)
V: AV. *HB:* CW, CH
E: cheltpbc@gmail.com [or]
puritanmind@gmail.com
www.providencebaptistchapel.org.uk

GLOUCESTER. Coopers Edge Baptist Church, Coopers Edge Primary School, GL3 4DY
10.30 & 6.00; PM Weds. 7.30
Ring for details of Wednesday prayer meeting.
John Kerr (Tel: 07938 209407)
V: ESV. *HB:* CH, PR
E: john@coopersedgebaptist.org
www.coopersedgebaptist.org

GLOUCESTER. Trinity Baptist (Free Evangelical) Church, Finlay Road, Gloucester, GL4 6SE
Car park at back of church building.
10.30 & 6.00
Pastor Phil Jones & Pastor Matt Gamston (Tel: 01452 424733 or 07835 417188)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH, PR
E: phil@tbcgloucester.org [or]
matt@tbcgloucester.org
www.tbcgloucester.org

GREATER LONDON

BEXLEYHEATH. Grace Baptist Church, Albion Road, DA6 7LS
10.00 & 5.00; PM Weds. 1.00; BS Weds. 7.45
Sunday evening meetings are not held the 1st two Sundays of the month. The Wednesday evening Bible study is held over Zoom – contact the pastor for details.
Mr C. Mukanga [Pastor] / Mr A. Fuller [Church Secretary] (Tel: 07545 910456)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH
E: gbcbex@gmail.com
www.gracebaptistchurch-bexleyheath.co.uk

BRIXTON. Brixton Tabernacle, 216 Stockwell Road, SW9 9SU
Parking is free during the normal hours of worship, however on Wednesday evenings some residents' bays remain restricted until 8.30pm.
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 6.45
Usually the 1st Wednesday of each month is a preaching service.
Pastor Martin Humphrey (Tel: 020 8679 1262)
V: AV. *HB:* CH, A Selection of Hymns by James Wells
E: martinhumphrey@yahoo.co.uk
www.brixtontabernacle.wordpress.com

Childs Hill Baptist Church
Mortimer Close (off Cricklewood Lane, near Finchley Road), Childs Hill, London, NW2 2JY
See http://www.childshill.com/contact.html for directions

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 8.00
Join us online. See www.childshill.com/covid.html for details

Gary Brady (Tel: 020 8455 2275)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: gary.brady@childshill.com
www.childshill.com

Continued on page 24

CROYDON. Tamworth Road Baptist Chapel, Tamworth Road, CR0 1XW
10.30 & 6.30, SS 3.00; Thurs. 7.30
The timing of the Thursday service sometimes varies. Please check our website. Some services via Zoom at present. Please phone 07740 923175 for details.
Geoff Haddow (Tel: 07740 923175)
V: AV. *HB:* Gadsby's Hymns, CH, Metrical Psalms
E: geoff.haddow@gmail.com
www.tamworthroadbaptist.org.uk

Grove Chapel, SE5
98 Camberwell Grove, Greater London, SE5 8RF

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Sunday School 10.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 8.00

Paul Yeulett (Tel: 0207 703 3727)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: Praise!, New Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@grovechapel.org
www.grovechapel.org

Uxbridge Road Tabernacle Reformed Baptist Church
Bloemfontein Road, Shepherds Bush, Greater London, W12 7BX

Sundays 11.15 & 6.30
Sunday School 10.00
Bible Study on Zoom by invitation Thurs. 8.00
Sunday services also live-streamed.

Pastor Jeffery Avery (Tel: 0208 743 7770)
(Tel: 0208 746 1506 [church])

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

www.uxbridgeroadtabernacle.co.uk

HAYES. Hayes Town Chapel, St Mary's Road, Middlesex, UB3 2JP
Just a bus ride from the Brunel campus, and also from Heathrow T1-T3.
11.00 & 6.30; Tues. 7.45
Lakis Michael (Tel: 07310 045655)
V: NIV. *HB:* NCH
E: information@hayestownchapel.org.uk [or]
treasurer@hayestownchapel.org.uk
www.hayestownchapel.org.uk

HOUNSLOW. Hounslow West Evangelical Church, 22 Vicarage Farm Road, Hounslow, TW3 4NW
11.00 & 6.30, SS 11.00; Thurs. 7.30
Vic Pool (Tel: 07985 709016)
V: NIV. *HB:* PR
E: enquiries@hwec.org.uk [or]
ypickwick@gmail.com
www.hwec.org.uk

ILFORD. All Nations Church Ilford, 367 Ley Street, IG1 4AA
10.30 & 4.30
Simon Arscott
V: ESV.
E: simonarscott@ilfordipc.co.uk
www.ilfordipc.co.uk

STANMORE. Stanmore Chapel, Corner Nelson Road/Marsh Lane, HA7 4HP
10.30, SS 10.30; BS Weds. 10.00; BS Weds. 8.00
Chris Tapp (Tel: 07813 442569)
V: NIV.
E: chris.tapp@stanmorechapel.org.uk
www.stanmorechapel.org.uk

Christ Church
Christchurch Avenue, Station Road, Teddington, TW11 9AB
Turn off Station Road, down Christchurch Avenue and Christ Church is right in behind the old Victorian church building.

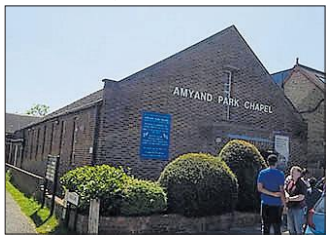
Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Bible study, Bible talk or prayer meeting on Tuesdays as arranged. Please contact for more details.

Revd Dominic Stockford (Tel: 0208 9776144)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns, Sing Psalms

E-mail: lutherkehrt@gmail.com
www.christ-church.org.uk

Amyand Park Chapel



174 Amyand Park Road, Twickenham, TW1 3HY

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor Gerard Hemmings (Tel: 020 8891 0386)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: amyandpark@gmail.com
www.amyand.com

WESTMINSTER, LONDON. Westminster Baptist Church, 100 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2EE
11.00 & 6.30, SS 11.00; Weds. 7.00; Thurs. 1.00
Pastor Jonathan Arnold (Tel: 07894 068385)
V: AV.
E: contact@westminsterbaptistchurch.co.uk
www.westminsterbaptistchurch.co.uk

WIMBLEDON. St Johns, Church of England (Continuing), Mill Road, SW19 2NE
Important. It is vital call for details as we do not have our own church building or a sign and the entrance is not where you might think! We are now meeting mainly at William Morris House, The Broadway, Wimbledon.
11.00 & 6.30; Thurs. 5.00
Please arrive 10 minutes early so we can welcome you in. Thursday meeting is liable to change time or day.
Revd Peter Ratcliff (Tel: 0208 417 0875 or 07946 465156)
V: AV. HB: Book of Common Prayer 1662, Metrical Psalms
E: englishchurchman@aol.com
www.wimbledonchurch.com

GREATER MANCHESTER

DROYLSDEN. Droylsden Independent Church, 28 Ashton Hill Lane, Droylsden, M43 7UB
10.45 & 6.30, SS 10.45; Tues. 7.15
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
www.droylsdenindchurch.co.uk

MANCHESTER. Chorlton Evangelical Church, Chorlton Green, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, M21 9FG
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.45
Mike Judge (Tel: 0161 881 4230)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH, Metrical Psalms
E: info@chorltonevangelical.org
www.chorltonevangelical.org

Milnrow Evangelical Church
22 New Street, off Newhey Road, Milnrow, Rochdale, OL16 3PQ

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 7.45

Julian Hurst (Tel: 01706 645300)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: julian@milnrow.org [or]
rhurst@talktalk.net
www.milnrow.org

HAMPSHIRE

ANDOVER. Koinonia Evangelical Church, Endeavour Primary School, The Kirk Site, Dairy Road, SP11 6YG
10.30 & 6.30, SS 10.30; BS Weds. 7.30
Mr Don Olden (Tel: 01264 352728)
V: NIV.
E: elder@koinonia-andover.com [or]
secretary@koinonia-andover.com
www.koinonia-andover.com

LISS. International Presbyterian Church Liss, Church Street, GU33 6JY
10.30
We meet in person and the service is live-streamed on YouTube.
Pastor James Buchanan (Tel: 01730 858722)
V: NIV.
E: office@ipc-liss.com [or] pastor@ipc-liss.com
www.ipc-liss.com

NEW MILTON. New Milton Evangelical Free Church, 24-26 Whitefield Road, BH25 6DF
10.30
Revd Simeon Woodcraft (Tel: 01425 627408)
V: NIV. *HB:* MP
E: pastor_sim@btinternet.com [or]
simpkinsclive@gmail.com
www.nmefc.com

PORTSMOUTH. Grace Baptist Church, 46 Copnor Road, PO3 5AH
11.00 & 6.30; Thurs. 7.00
Revd Evan Richards (Tel: 07922 179274)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH
E: EvanPTRichards@gmail.com
www.graceportsmouth.com

RINGWOOD, IBSLEY, MOCKBEGGAR. Crosslanes Chapel, Mockbeggar, Ibsley, BH24 3NQ
11.00 & 6.00, SS 9.45; Weds. 7.30
Steve Adamson (Tel: 07742 908314)
V: AV. *HB:* Metrical Psalms
E: steveadamson76@gmail.com

SOUTHAMPTON. Netley Christian Fellowship (Evangelical Church), Abbey Hall, Victoria Road, Netley Abbey, SO31 5FA
11.00 & 6.00, SS 10.00; Weds. 7.45
Please check website for Wednesday meeting venues.
Pastor Paul Oliver (Tel: 023 8056 0042)
V: ESV. *HB:* PR, CH
E: pastor@netleycf.org.uk [or]
admin@netleycf.org.uk
www.netleycf.org.uk

SOUTHAMPTON. Spring Road Evangelical Church (Reformed; evangelical; non-charismatic), Spring Road, Sholing, SO19 2NU
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.45
Mark Stocker (Tel: 07563 636102)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: info@springroad.org.uk
www.springroad.org.uk

Totton Evangelical Free Church
Ringwood Road/Bagber Road, Totton, SO40 8DZ

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 7.30

Pastor G. Marshall (Tel: 023 80 784539)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Worship

E-mail: TEFCContact@gmail.com
www.tottonevangelicalchurch.co.uk

Winchester Evangelical Church

St Catherine's Road, Highcliffe, Winchester, SO23 0PS
(Directions: Follow signs to Highcliffe Evangelical Church. The church is 67-68 St Catherine's Road. Ask in church for a parking permit.)

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 10.30
Services streamed on our YouTube channel.

Michael Denton (Tel: 07979 692773)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: office@winchesterec.co.uk
www.winchesterec.co.uk

Hyde Street Chapel
Hyde Street, Winchester, SO23 7DR
On-street parking is available in front of the chapel in Hyde Street and opposite in Silchester Place.

Sundays 10.00 & 5.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 7.30

Revd Richard Turner

Bible: NKJV, AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: hydestchapel@gmail.com
www.hydestreetchapel.org

HERTFORDSHIRE

Baldock Baptist Church
Community Centre, Simpson Drive, Baldock, SG7 6DH

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Sunday School 9.15
Bible Study Weds. 7.15

Pastor Jonathan Northern (Tel: 01462 834464)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship

E-mail: pastor@baldockbaptistchurch.org
www.baldockbaptistchurch.org

Christchurch Baldock
Knights Templar School, Park Street, Baldock, SG7 6DZ

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Our evening service is held at Letchworth Free Church Hall, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 1NX.

Revd Chris Jenkins (Tel: 01462 675607)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Songs of Fellowship

E-mail: chris@cc-b.uk [or] admin@cc-b.uk
www.christchurchbaldock.org.uk

BOREHAMWOOD. Cowley Hill Free Church (Baptist), Stanborough Close, WD6 5LU
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
(Tel: 020 8953 1867)
V: AV. *HB:* CH, Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship
E: cowleyhillfreechurch@gmail.com
www.cowleyhill.org.uk

HITCHIN. Grace Baptist Church, Queen Street, SG4 9TS
11.00 & 6.30; Tues. 7.45
Mr Tom Forryan / Mr Richard Lambert (Tel: 01462 232547 or 01462 637221)
V: ESV. *HB:* PR
E: tomforryan@yahoo.co.uk [or]
richard_lambert@mail2world.com
www.grace-baptist.org.uk

Campus Church (Independent Baptist)
33 Hyde Way, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3UQ

Sundays 11.00 & 5.30
Sunday School 11.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 10.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.45
NB: Wednesday morning and evening meetings are options covering same ground and are currently held in homes (phone for venue information).

Chris Davies [Pastor] (Tel: 01707 371294)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@campuschurch.org.uk
www.campuschurch.org.uk

WELWYN. Welwyn Evangelical Church, Fulling Mill Lane, AL6 9NH
11.00 & 6.30, BC 9.45; Weds. 7.30
Mostyn Roberts (Tel: 01438 715372)
V: ESV. *HB:* CH
E: pastor@welwyn-evangelical.org.uk [or]
nigel.pountney@btinternet.com
www.welwyn-evangelical.org.uk

ISLE OF WIGHT

SANDOWN. Avenue Road Evangelical Church, Avenue Road, PO36 8BN
11.00 & 6.30; Tues. 10.30
(Tel: 01983 403725)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: jrodgers586@btinternet.com

KENT

Ashford Reformed Baptist Fellowship

Repton Manor Primary School, Repton Avenue, Ashford, TN23 3RX.

Sundays 9.30 & 6.30
Sunday School 9.30
Bible class Sun. 9.30
Prayer Meeting Thurs. 7.45
Prayer meeting please email or phone for location (Tel: 07340 228446)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship

E-mail: arbfellowship@outlook.com
www.ashfordreformedbaptist.org.uk

Bethersden Baptist Church
(formerly Union Chapel)
Union Chapel, The Street, Bethersden, Ashford, TN26 3AD

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor: Matthew Cox (Tel: 01233 822166)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: bethersdenbaptistchurch@gmail.com
www.bethersdenbaptistchurch.org.uk

BIDDENDEN. Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Bounds Cross, TN27 8JZ
Chapel is on the A274 (close to junction with Bell Lane) about halfway between the villages of Headcorn & Biddenden.
11.00 & 2.30, SS 10.00; Weds. 7.15
Pastor Philip J. D. Hopkins (Tel: 01580 291645)
V: AV. *HB:* CW
E: office@boundscross.org.uk
www.boundscross.org.uk

Grace Baptist Church, Broadstairs

Meeting at The Portland Centre, Hopeville Ave, Broadstairs, CT10 2TP
(not for correspondence).

Sundays 10.45 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Paul Smith (Tel: 07713 622587)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: gracethanet@gmail.com
www.GraceThanet.org

CHATHAM. Enon Baptist Church, Skinner Street, ME4 5RF
11.15 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
Pastor Paul Relf (Tel: 01634 301499)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: paulrelf@blueyonder.co.uk
www.enonbaptistchatham.org.uk

CRANBROOK. Independent Gospel Cause, Golford Road, TN17 3NP
Golford Chapel continues to be closed; please contact the church website for further details on meeting times and locations.
Bible Exposition 2.30
Peter Michell (Tel: 01580 240642)
V: AV. *HB:* HF, CW
E: revpmichell@independentgospelcause.com
[or] revpmichell@gmail.com
www.independentgospelcause.com

St David's Bridge Strict Baptist Chapel

St David's Bridge, Cranbrook, TN17 3HN

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Gospel Service Thurs. 7.00
See website notice board for calendar and latest notices of services. Listen to services via telephone: 020 3695 0088, Meeting ID: 303 736 1156

Pastor Rowland Wheatley (Tel: 01580 713 212)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Gadsby's Hymns

E-mail: stdavidsbridge.chapel@gmail.com
www.cranbrookchapel.org

FOLKESTONE. Grace Independent Baptist Church, Grace Chapel, Grace Hill (next to Public Library), CT20 1HE
11.00 & 6.30, SS 9.00; BS Tues. 7.30
Pastor Andrew Saywell (Tel: 07792 587156)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CW
E: andrewsaywell@mac.com
www.goodnews4folkestone.com

HERNE BAY. Herne Bay Evangelical Free Church, 64 Sunnyhill Road, CT6 8LU
10.30 & 6.00, SS 10.30
Simon Buss (Tel: 01227 372483)
V: ESV. *HB:* PR
E: office@hbefc.org.uk
www.hbefc.org.uk

Higham Congregational Church

School Lane, Higham, ME3 7JE

Sundays 11.00

Peter Michell (Tel: 01580 240642)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Golden Bells

E-mail:
revpmichell@highamcongregationalchurch.org
[or] revpmichell@gmail.com
www.highamcongregationalchurch.org

MARGATE. St James' Church, Westgate and Garlinge, Canterbury Road, CT9 5JU
10.30
Prayer meeting 2nd Weds. of month; otherwise Growth Groups – phone for details.
(Tel: 01843 446832)
V: ESV. *HB:* Various
E: contact@stjameswestgate.church
www.stjameswestgate.church

RAINHAM. The Granary Evangelical Church, Oast Community Centre, Granary Close, ME8 7SG (next to train station)
10.30 & 6.30; PM Thurs. 7.15
Prayer meeting – please contact for venue.
Pastor Danny Hawkes (Tel: 07791 555721)
V: NIV, ESV. *HB:* NCH
E: pastor@granary-church.org.uk
www.granary-church.org.uk

RAINHAM. Wigmore Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road, ME8 0JN
11.00 & 6.30; Tues. 7.30
Timothy Wood (Tel: 01634 388187)
V: NIV. *HB:* CH, MP
E: timothywood@blueyonder.co.uk
www.wigmorefreechurch.org.uk

TENTERDEN. Trinity Baptist Church, Ashford Road, TN30 6LR
10.30 & 6.30; HG Thurs. 7.30
Sunday evening service time may vary – please see website for details.
Matthew Clay [Pastor] (Tel: 01580 764992)
V: NIV. *HB:* PR, SF
E: contact@tbctenterden.com
www.tbctenterden.com

TONBRIDGE. Pembury Road Baptist Chapel, Pembury Road, TN9 2HX
11.00 & 4.30, SS 9.45
Tuesday – preaching or prayer meeting (see website for details)
Stephen Wiffen [Church Secretary] (Tel: 01892 838731)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: s-h-wiffen@tiscali.co.uk
www.pemburyroadbaptist.org.uk

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. Pantiles Baptist Church, 73 Frant Road, TN2 5LH
10.30 & 6.30, SS 10.30; Weds. 7.30
Revd G. Jones (Tel: 01892 521903)
V: ESV. *HB:* PR
E: office@pantilesbaptist.org.uk
www.pantilesbaptist.org.uk

Walmer Chapel

Station Road, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7QS

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 6.30
The edition of the NIV we use is the original 1979 version, not the newer one. First Wednesday night of the month is dedicated to Missionary Prayer. First Sunday evening of the month is an open sharing service. Communion 1st Sunday am; 3rd Sunday pm.

Clive Lambden (Tel: 07951 877263)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Hymns of Faith, Mission Praise, Songs of Fellowship, Golden Bells

E-mail: cleverlamb@hotmail.com
www.walmerchapel.org

WHITSTABLE. Hamilton Road Evangelical Church, Hamilton Road, CT5 1JX
11.00 & 6.00, SS 11.00; Weds. 7.30
For further details please phone church secretary. A warm welcome to everyone.
Secretary (Tel: 01227 450596)
V: NIV. HB: CH
E: hrecct5@gmail.com
www.hamiltonroad.org.uk

LANCASHIRE

BARNOLDSWICK. Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, Kelbrook Road, BB18 5BX
11.00 & 6.00; PM Weds. 7.30
V: AV. *HB:* Metrical Psalms
www.fpchurch.org.uk/congregations/uk/England/Barnoldswick

BLACKPOOL. Bible Pattern Church, Shaw Road, South Shore, FY1 6HA
10.30, SS 10.30
Hope to start Sunday evening services in the near future. For information please telephone.
(Tel: 07831 217166)
V: AV. *HB:* MP, Making Melody

Blackpool Tabernacle Church
2 Springfield Road, Blackpool, FY1 1QL
(50yds off Promenade, nr Cenotaph & North Pier)

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Sunday School 11.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor Vincent P. Tracey &
Pastor Jonathan M. Wilson (Tel: 01253 394326)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: vptracey@msn.com
www.blackpooltabernacle.com

Bethel Evangelical Church

Clarence Street, Bolton, BL1 2DQ

Sundays 11.00
Prayer Meeting Sun. 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 11.00
Bible study Weds. 5.00
House Group(s) Fri. 10.30
Friday morning is a coffee morning, not a house group – all welcome.

Pastor Gordon Hall (Tel: 07561 421710)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Mission Praise

E-mail: church@bethelbolton.org
www.bethelbolton.org

Trinity Grace Church

9 Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, BL0 9AB

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.45

Oliver Allmand-Smith (Tel: 07947 805349)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns, Praise!

E-mail: otas@stormguard.co.uk
www.trinitygracechurch.net

Continued on page 26

Chorley Evangelical Free Church
St George's Street, Chorley, PR7 2AA

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 8.00

Mark Bassett. Bernard Gooderham
(Tel: 01257 273058)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail:
admin@chorleyevangelicalfreechurch.org.uk
www.chorleyevangelicalfreechurch.org.uk

Grace Baptist Church Lancaster
Lune Street, Lancaster, LA1 2AJ
See website for travel information.

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor Jeff Haskins (Tel: 01524 841133)

Bible: CSB
Hymnbook: Praise!

E-mail: gbclan@btconnect.com
www.gracebaptistlancaster.church

Bethany Evangelical Church
St Helen's Road (near Pennington Flash Entrance), Leigh, WN7 3PA

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.45

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: david.taylor@blueyonder.co.uk
www.bethanyleigh.org.uk

PARBOLD, WIGAN. Parbold Evangelical Church, Chorley Road, Hilldale, WN8 7AL
M6 Junction 27, take A5209 to Parbold, next right B5246 Lancaster Lane, continues into Chorley Road, after 200m PEC is on the right.
10.30 & 6.30; Thurs. 7.30
Seth Wrigglesworth (Tel: 01257 464704)
V: NIV. *HB:* NCH
E: seth.wrigglesworth@gmail.com [or]
arnolddixon49@gmail.com

Pemberton Free Grace Church

Rehoboth Chapel, Wardley Street, Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 8BU

Sundays 10.45 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.45
Some weekday activities take place at our second building: Chapel Street, Orrell, Wigan, WN5 0AG.

Richard Waller (Tel: 01942 375700)

Bible: NIV, NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns, Christian Hymns, Grace Hymns

E-mail: richard@pembertonfgc.org.uk [or]
info@pembertonfgc.org.uk
www.pembertonfgc.org.uk

PRESTON. Ashton Baptist Church, 6 Garden Walk, Ashton, PR2 1DP
Parking often difficult by the church. Usually Okay further down Garden Walk or in other nearby streets.
10.30 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Covid arrangements – Sunday evening service suspended, and Wednesday prayer meeting & Bible study held via Zoom.
Email for Zoom link.
Deacon: Bart Cline (Tel: 01772 860262)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH, NCH
E: rocco@copout.biz
www.ashtonbaptist.uk

PRESTON. Inskip Baptist Church, Preston Road, Inskip, PR4 0TT
10.30 & 6.30, SS 10.30; Midweek meeting Tues. 7.30
Secretary (Tel: 01772 690872 [answerphone])
V: NKJV.
E: secretary@inskipbaptistchurch.org.uk
www.inskipbaptistchurch.org.uk

PRESTON. North Preston Evangelical Church, Sherwood Way, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9GA
10.30 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Bill Price (Tel: 07904 677611)
V: ESV.*HB:* NCH
E: npec.enquiries@gmail.com
www.npec.org.uk

LEICESTERSHIRE

EVINGTON, LEICESTER. Evington Chapel, High Street, LE5 6FH
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Ruth Elizabeth Pollington (Tel: 07928 528251)
V: AV. *HB:* CW, Gadsby's Hymns
E: ruthpollington@yahoo.co.uk [or]
ruthpollington@yahoo.co.uk
www.evingtonchapel.org.uk

HINCKLEY. Mount Road Baptist Church, Hinckley, Mount Road, LE10 1AD
Public Leisure Centre car park accessible by St Mary's Road/Argents Mead entrance to Leisure Centre.
10.00 & 6.00; PM Mon. 7.30; BS Weds. 7.30
James McQueen (Tel: 01455 459577)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: admin@mountroadbaptistchurch.org
www.mountroadbaptistchurch.org

LEICESTER. Melbourne Hall Evangelical Free Church, St Peter's Road, LE2 1DB
10.45 & 6.00, SS 9.45; Weds. 7.30
Pastor Peter Mackenzie (Tel: 0116 288 8156)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: peterlmackenzie@btinternet.com
www.melbournehall.org

Shepshed Word of Life Church
Kirkhill, Shepshed, LE12 9PA

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 7.30

Simon Clarke (Tel: 01509 822524)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns, Word of Life Praise

E-mail: contact@shepshedwordoflife.org
www.shepshedwordoflife.org

LINCOLNSHIRE

BILLINGHAY. Bethel Baptist Church, Church Street, LN4 4HN
10.30 & 6.00; Tues. 7.00
Pastor Richard Hilliard (Tel: 07717 392628)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: pastor@billinghaybaptistchapel.co.uk
www.billinghaybaptistchapel.co.uk

DEEPING ST JAMES. Deeping Baptist Church, Bridge Street, Deeping St James, PE6 8HA
The church is set well back from the road. Look out for small finger post on riverbank opposite!
11.15 & 6.00; BS Thurs. 7.30
Chris Knight [Secretary] (Tel: 07549 033431)
V: NIV. *HB:* GH, MP
E: deeping_baptist@btinternet.com
www.deepingbaptistchurch.org

LINCOLN. Lincoln Evangelical Church, Uffington Close (off Skellingthorpe Road), Hartsholme, LN6 0AE
Drive to end of Uffington Avenue past garages or walk through from footpath on Skellingthorpe Road. NB: Using postcode in a Sat Nav will take you to Sixfields Close.
11.00 & 6.00; Thurs. 7.45
House groups 3rd Wednesdays and Thursdays every month (times vary).
Pastor Andrew Thomson (Tel: 07999 250789)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: a1thomson@aol.com [or]
phil_burgess@sky.com
www.lincolnevangelicalchurch.org.uk

LINCOLNSHIRE: NORTH

BARTON ON HUMBER. Barton Evangelical Free Church, off Market Place, DN18 5AE
10.30 & 6.00
Sunday morning services now held at Baysgarth School, 67 Barrow Road, Barton upon Humber DN18 6AE – Mid-week meetings at various locations, please ring for details.
D. Carr (Tel: 01652 635506)
V: NIV. *HB:* NCH
E: secretary@bartonec.org.uk [or]
terry.horscraft@sky.com
www.bartonec.org.uk

LOUTH. Louth Evangelical Church, 82 Monks Dyke Road, LN11 8DX
10.45; Weds. 10.30
Please check for any variation on our website.
Chris Sharp (Tel: 07708 454340)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: comdraft.t21@btinternet.com [or]
comdraft456@gmail.com
www.louthevangelicalchurch

NORFOLK

Cromer Baptist Church
East Runton Methodist Church Building, East Runton, NR27 9NZ

Sundays 10.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 4.00

Pastor J. Davies (Tel: 01263 576524)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: cromerbaptist@gmail.com
www.cromerbaptist.org.uk

GT ELLINGHAM. Great Ellingham Reformed Baptist Church, Long Street, Gt Ellingham, Attleborough, NR17 1LN
11.00 & 5.30, SS 10.00, PM 10.00; Weds. 7.30
Pastor H. Collier (Tel: 01953 453347)
V: NKJV. *HB:* GH
E: office@gerbc.org
www.Gerbc.org

NORWICH. Evangelical Free Church, 79 Prince of Wales Road, NR1 1DG
10.30 & 3.00; Weds. 7.30
Luther Chaplin (Tel: 01603 439288 or 07920 178524)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: luther.chaplin@hotmail.co.uk
www.efcnorwich.co.uk

NORWICH. Norwich Reformed Church, NR2 3PN
Please contact 01603 568391 to confirm current venue.
11.00
Revd Stephen M. Quinton (Tel: 07735 569901)
V: NKJV. *HB:* Book of Praise, CH
E: quintonsm@talktalk.net
www.nrchurch.co.nr

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

KETTERING. Pollard Evangelical Church, London Road, NN15 7QB
11.00; Thurs. 7.30
Sunday evening service on 1st Sunday of each month at 6.30pm.
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: secretary@pollardevangelicalchurch.org.uk
www.pollardevangelicalchurch.org.uk

NORTHAMPTON. Providence Baptist Chapel, The Headlands (corner of Thirlmere Ave & Headlands), NN3 2NU
10.45 & 6.00; Weds. 7.45
Richard Boyes [Deacon] (Tel: 01604 408895)
V: AV. *HB:* Gadsby's Hymns, Hymns for Worship
E: richardboyes856@btinternet.com
www.providencenorthampton.co.uk

TOWCESTER. Slapton & Wappenham Independent Evangelical Church, Wappenham Chapel, High Street, Wappenham, NN12
10.30 & 5.00, SS 10.30; Tues. 7.30
Sunday morning service available through livestream link. Contact Pastor Thomas for link to Tuesday's online service.
Pastor Trevor Thomas (Tel: 07950 434258)
V: ESV. *HB:* CH
www.towcesterevangelicalchurch.uk

WELLINGBOROUGH. Wellingborough Baptist Tabernacle, Great Park Street, NN8 4PG
10.45 & 6.00; Thurs. 7.00
Martyn Smith (Tel: 07754 124506)
V: AV. *HB:* GH
E: marty52.smi@outlook.com

NORTHUMBERLAND

HEXHAM. Hexham Presbyterian Church, Corbridge Road (across from the Hospital), NE46 1QS
We meet in the Torch Centre directly opposite Hexham General Hospital. There is free parking around the building.
10.00 & 5.00; Weds. 7.00
Please contact us for mid-week location.
Mr John Cook (Tel: 01434 609691)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH, Metrical Psalms
E: johncookatmca@hotmail.com [or]
cschroeder73@protonmail.com
www.hexhampres.uk

Longhorsley Mission Free Church (FIEC)
Drummonds Close, Longhorsley, Morpeth, NE65 8UR

Sundays 11.00
Prayer Meeting Sun. 5.30
Prayer Meeting Sun. 6.00
Evening worship can be Bible study or evening service. Creche available during morning service.

Dr Ian Neilly
(Tel: 01670 518202 or 01661 822546)

Bible: AV, ESV, NIV, NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns, Mission Praise, Praise!

E-mail: ineilly@aol.com
www.longhorsleymission.org.uk

WOOLER. Wooler Evangelical Church, 10 Cheviot Street, NE71 6LN
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Covid-19 note: Please check meetings on website.
Alistair Fairnington (Tel: 07437 425706)
V: ESV. *HB:* PR, MP
E: albefairnington@btinternet.com
www.wooler-evangelical.org.uk

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

NEWARK-ON-TRENT. Newark Evangelical Church, Pelham Street, NG24 4XD
10.30 & 6.00; Thurs. 7.45
Andrew Miller and Carl Meacham (Tel: 07546 114807)
V: NIV. *HB:* Various
E: church@newarkevangelical.org.uk
www.newarkevangelical.org.uk

OXFORDSHIRE

BANBURY. Banbury Evangelical Free Church, c/o Grange Road, OX16 9AS
10.30 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
For venues, please check the church website.
Pastor David Cooke (Tel: 01295 252607 / 07584 051915). Elder: David Umpleby (Tel: 01295 251169)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: pastor@befc.org.uk [or]
davidumpleby@hotmail.com
www.befc.org.uk

EAST HANNEY. Hanney Chapel, Main Street, OX12 0HX
10.30 & 5.30
Mark Fisher (Tel: 01235 867105)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH
E: mailmarkfisher@gmail.com [or]
jafrenchfam@talktalk.net
www.hanney-chapel.org.uk

SHROPSHIRE

WESTON RHYN, OSWESTRY. Quinta Independent Evangelical Church, Quinta Congregational Chapel, Bronygarth Road, SY10 7LP
On the corner of Bronygarth Road and Quinta Crescent. The entrance to the Quinta Conference Centre is 50 yards further up the road on the left.
11.00, HG 6.30; HG Thurs. 7.00
Venue varies for Thursday and Sunday evening meetings.
Dr Digby L. James (Tel: 01691 778659)
V: ESV. *HB:* CH
E: webinfo@quintapress.com [or]
quintapress@mac.com
www.quintapress.com

SOMERSET

Bethel Baptist Chapel
St John's Road, Bath, BA2 6PX

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Sunday School 3.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Bill Goodman (Tel: 01225 852708)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: pastor.bethel@btinternet.com
www.bethelbath.org.uk

Widcombe Baptist Church (FIEC)

Pulteney Road, Bath, BA2 4JR

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Sunday School 10.30
1st Weds. 7.45pm Prayer Night;
2nd & 4th Weds. 7.45pm Home Groups

Administrator:
Becky Thomas (Tel: 01225 976810)

Bible: NIV

E-mail:office@widcombe.org
www.widcombebaptist.org

FROME. Clink Evangelical Church, Junction of Forest Road and Clink Road, Clink, BA11 2EN
11.00 & 6.30, PM 10.15; BS Tues. 7.30
Mr J. Short (Tel: 01373 462183)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: info@clinkevangelical.co.uk
www.clinkevangelical.co.uk

Millbridge Evangelical Church
Parkhouse Road, Minehead, TA24 8AB

Sundays 10.30
Midweek meeting Tues. 7.00

Mrs Audrey Williams (Tel: 01643 708161)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Mission Praise, Praise!

E-mail: administrator@millbridgechurch.org.uk
www.millbridgechurch.org.uk

Saltford Community Church

Norman Road, Saltford, BS31 3BH

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Sunday School 11.00
Toddlers Tues. 9.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 8.00

Mike Leaves (Tel: 01225 874520)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Praise!, Mission Praise

E-mail: contact@saltfordcommunitychurch.org.uk
www.saltfordcommunitychurch.org.uk

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Bethesda Evangelical Church, Chaucer Road, Bournville, BS23 3UE
From Winterstoke Road, turn onto Byron Road. At crossroads, go straight on. At end of Byron Road, turn right onto Chaucer Road. Bethesda is 50m on right-hand side.
11.00 & 3.30; BS Mon. 7.30; PM Thurs. 7.30
P. Shortman (Tel: 01934 419735)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH, MP
E: paul@bournvillecarecentre.org.uk [or]
online@paulshortman.co.uk
www.john14v6.org.uk

STAFFORDSHIRE

Bethel Evangelical Free Church, Hanley

Newhall Street, Stoke on Trent, ST1 5HQ
The church is on the corner of Hope Street and Newhall Street, with the car park entrance on Hope Street in the one-way system.

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor Gervase Charmley (Tel: 01782 281300)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: pastorcharmley@gmail.com
www.bethelhanley.com

STAFFORD. Grace Church, Littleworth Community Centre, St. Thomas Street, ST16 3UU (not suitable for SATNAVs)
Access the community centre through a narrow side street off St. Thomas Street. Ample parking available.
10.30 & 4.00; Tues. 7.45
Pastor Matthew Richer (Tel: 07946 404119)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: lisaricher75.lr@gmail.com
www.gracechurchstafford.org.uk

STOCKTON-ON-TEES

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. Hardwick Baptist Church, Piper Knowle Road, Hardwick, TS19 8JQ
10.30 & 6.00, SS 10.30; HG Weds. 7.30; Weds. 7.30
Home Groups and midweek meetings are approximately on alternate Wednesdays. The midweek meeting can take a variety of forms.
Matthew Oliver [Minister] (Tel: 07736 838776)
V: NIV. *HB:* CH, SF
E: pastor@hardwickbaptistchurch.org
www.HardwickBaptistChurch.org

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. Presbyterian Reformed Church, The Bible Centre, Frederick Street, TS18 2BF
10.30 & 6.00; Tues. 7.30
Sabbath services are usually at the Bible Centre and also live-streamed. The Tuesday service is currently live-stream only. Please telephone to confirm.
Revd Roy Mohon (Tel: 01642 780002)
V: AV. *HB:* Metrical Psalms
E: roy@mohon.net

SUFFOLK

BURY ST EDMUNDS. Westgate Chapel, Hospital Road, IP33 3JT
10.30 & 6.30
Gareth Russell (Tel: 01284 767338)
V: NIV. *HB:* CH, MP
E: contact@westgatechapel.org.uk [or]
ed@lowis.co.uk
www.westgatechapel.org.uk

Downs Baptist Chapel

Upper Downs Slade, off Camps Road, Haverhill, CB9 8HF

Sundays 10.45 & 6.00
Sunday School 10.00
Prayer Fellowship Weds. 7.00
Car parking adjacent to chapel by Christmas Maltings Surgery.

D. A. Wiffen (Tel: 01440 702854)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Grace Hymns

E-mail: DavidAWiffen@aol.com [or]
dwiffen49@icloud.com

IPSWICH. Shepherd Drive Baptist Church, Laburnum Close, IP8 3SL
11.00
Simon Robinson [Pastor] (Tel: 01473 422965)
V: New Living Translation. *HB:* Selection of hymns & contemporary songs
E: simon.robinson40@ntlworld.com [or]
sheryl.brett71@gmail.com
www.sdbc.org.uk

Leiston Baptist Church

John Street, Leiston, IP16 4DR

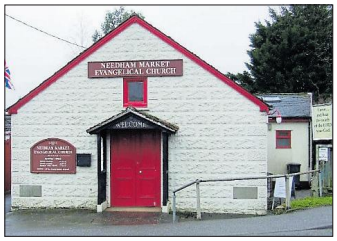
Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting Sun. 10.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.00
All Sunday services live on Skype from John Street at https://join.skype.com/a473QKlAfWTh

Paul Pontin (Tel: 01728 833732)

Bible: NIV, NKJV
Hymnbook: Mission Praise, Songs of Fellowship, Grace Hymns

E-mail: paulpontin56@gmail.com [or]
mark.oxborrow@outlook.com
www.leistonbaptist.co.uk

Needham Market Evangelical Church



Ipswich Road, Needham Market, IP6 8EH

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.00

Peter Kinley (Tel: 01394 271645 or 07570 558 072)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: peterkinley60@gmail.com
www.needhamchurch.org.uk

OTLEY. Otley Baptist Church, Chapel Road, IP6 9NU
10.45 & 2.00
Mr C. R. Munford (Tel: 01473 724947)
V: AV. *HB:* GH
www.otleybaptist.weebly.com

Grace Church Rendlesham
Rendlesham Primary School, Sycamore Drive, Rendlesham, IP12 2GF and The Common, Mill Lane, Tunstall, IP12 2JR

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Sunday School 10.50
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.45
Rendlesham Primary School 10.30 Sunday mornings; Tunstall 6.30 evening services (2nd and 4th Sundays). Check website for details.

Pastor David Rushbrook (Tel: 01394 809691)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Mission Praise

E-mail: pastor@gracerendlesham.org
www.gracerendlesham.org

SUDBURY. Grace Baptist Church, New Street, CO10 1JB
11.00 & 6.30, SS 11.00; Weds. 7.30
Catherine Cook [Church Secretary] (Tel: 01787 376634)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: cook785@btinternet.com
www.gracebaptistsudbury.co.uk

Walsham-le-Willows Evangelical Congregational Church
The Street, Walsham-Le-Willows, IP31 3AZ

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 7.45

Mr J. Landymore (Tel: 01359 258986)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Hymns of Faith

E-mail: j.landymore@btinternet.com
www.walsham-le-willows.org/explore/amenities/congregational-church

WATTISHAM. Wattisham Strict Baptist Chapel, Hitcham Road, IP7 7LD
10.45 & 6.30, SS 9.45; Weds. 7.30
John Lovell (Tel: 01449 612264)
V: AV. *HB:* Gospel Hymns & Scottish Psalms
E: john.rlovell@yahoo.com
www.wattishambaptist.org

WEST ROW. West Row Baptist Church, Chapel Road, IP28 8PA
10.45 & 6.30, SS 10.45; Weds. 7.30
Home Groups, monthly on Wednesdays.
Richard Taylor (Tel: 07796 616679)
V: ESV. *HB:* MP, CH
E: secretary@westrowbaptist.org.uk
www.westrowbaptist.org.uk

Continued on page 28

SURREY

EAST HORSLEY. Horsley Evangelical Church, Ockham Road North, KT24 6NU
10.45 & 6.30, SS 10.45; BS (Ladies) Mon. 2.00; PM Thurs. 7.30
Revd K. McIntosh (Tel: 01483 283453)
V: NIV. *HB:* GH, MP
www.horsleyec.org.uk

ENGLEFIELD GREEN. Bishopsgate Evangelical Church, King's Lane, TW20 0UE
Next to Sun Pub.
10.30; BS Thurs. 7.30; PM Thurs. 8.30
Thursday Bible study & prayer meeting is on Zoom.
Mr Roy Pease (Tel: 01784 431363 / 01784 435578)
V: NIV, NKJV, AV. *HB:* CH, MP
E: roypease@aol.com [or]
bishopsgatechurch@gmail.com
www.bishopsgatechurch.org.uk

EPSOM. Grace Baptist Church Epsom, 32 Dorking Road, KT18 7NH
11.00 & 6.30; PM Weds. 7.45
John Frey (Tel: 01372 728826)
V: NKJV, ESV. *HB:* MP, PR
E: info@gbce.org.uk
www.gbce.org.uk

GUILDFORD. Bethel Chapel, The Bars, GU1 4LP
11.00 & 6.00; Preaching / Prayer Meeting Weds. 7.15
James Taylor (Tel: 07843 256987)
V: AV. *HB:* Gadsby's Hymns, Metrical Psalms, Hymns for Worship
E: Pastor.BethelChapelGuildford@outlook.com
www.bethelchapelguildford.org

HORSELL. Horsell Evangelical Church, 88a High Street, GU21 4SZ
Off High Street Horsell, Woking
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
Revd Andrew Bents (Tel: 01483 767479)
V: NKJV, NIV. *HB:* MP, CH
E: pastor@horsellec.org.uk
www.horsellec.org.uk

KNAPHILL. Providence Baptist Church, Robin Hood Road, GU21 2LU
11.00 & 6.00; Tues. 7.30
Pastor Ben Short (Tel: 07940 756401)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: info@pbc-knaphill.org.uk
www.pbc-knaphill.org.uk

Pains Hill Chapel
Chapel Road, Limpsfield Common, Oxted, RH8 0SX

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.45

Jonathan Avery (Tel: 01883 382492 or 07986 436158)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: contact@painshillchapel.org.uk
www.painshillchapel.org.uk

REDHILL/REIGATE. Tollgate Evangelical Church, Woodhatch Road, South Earlswood, RH1 5HQ
10.30 & 6.30
Ian Cooper (Tel: 01737 762486)
V: NIV, ESV. *HB:* NCH, PR
E: ian@tollgate.org.uk
www.tollgatechurch.org

SUSSEX: EAST

BRIGHTON. Calvary Evangelical Church, 72 Viaduct Road, BN1 4ND
On-street parking – or use local multi-storey car park etc
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.45
Our Sunday morning prayer meeting starts at 9.30am (currently on Zoom only). Our main Sunday morning meeting is also live-streamed via YouTube ('Calvary Church Brighton'). If you can't come to our Sunday evening or Wednesday prayer meeting, you can join on Zoom – please email for details.
Ruth Muinde [Church Secretary] (Tel: 01273 682112)
V: NIV. *HB:* PR, Various additional songs
E: mail@calvary-brighton.org.uk
www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

BRIGHTON. Ebenezer Reformed Baptist Church, 9a Richmond Parade, BN2 9QD
11.00 & 6.30; Tues. 7.00
Pastor Bickley (Tel: 01273 674453)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: pastorbickley@hotmail.co.uk
www.ebenezer-brighton.co.uk

CROWBOROUGH. Forest Fold Baptist Chapel, London Road, TN6 1TD
About 1 mile from Crowborough town centre on road to Groombridge.
11.15 & 6.30; Thurs. 7.30
Pastor John Cowley (Tel: 01892 653675)
V: ESV. *HB:* CH
E: johnc@forestfold.org.uk
www.forestfold.org.uk

EASTBOURNE. Eastbourne Evangelical Free Church, 16 Victoria Drive (corner Okehurst Road), BN20 8JA
11.00 & 6.30; Tues. 7.30
Pastor Tom Allen (Tel: 07944 289889)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: eefc.pastor@gmail.com [or]
eefc.deacons@btinternet.com
www.eastbourne-efc.co.uk

EASTBOURNE. South Street Free Church, 21 South Street (100 yards from Town Hall), BN21 4UP
10.30 & 6.30; Tues. 7.30
David Batchelor (Tel: 01323 725487)
V: ESV. *HB:* MP
E: contact@southstreetfreechurch.org
www.southstreetfreechurch.org

FIVE ASH DOWN, UCKFIELD. Five Ash Down Independent Chapel, 2 miles north of Uckfield off A26, TN22 3AL
2 miles north of Uckfield off A26
11.00 & 2.30, SS 11.00
Midweek prayer meeting & Bible study – contact 07884 968241 or 01825 733391, for day & venue.
Pastor George Rabey (Tel: 07884 968241)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: george.rabey1@gmail.com
www.fiveashdownchapel.org.uk

FRANT, TUNBRIDGE WELLS. Bells Yew Green Chapel, Bayham Road, Bells Yew Green, TN3 9BJ
Car park off Rushlye Close.
10.30 & 3.00; Thurs. 7.00
Thursday prayer meeting and Bible study is currently being held on Zoom. Please contact us for further details of how to join.
Mr Peter Arrowsmith (Tel: 01892 610309)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: bellsyewgreenchapel@btinternet.com
www.bellsyewgreenchapel.weebly.com

Southern Cross Evangelical Church

103 Trafalgar Road, Portslade, near Brighton, BN41 1GU

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting Tues. 6.30
Tuesday evening meeting currently on Zoom

Pastor John Eaton [temporary Pastor]
(Tel: 01273 232815 [Office])

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns, Mission Praise

E-mail: southern.cross@ntlworld.com
www.southerncross.org.uk

HAILSHAM. Hailsham Baptist Church, Market Street, BN27 2AG
Almost opposite the cattle market.
11.00 & 6.30
See website for other meetings.
Bush Hogg (Tel: 01323 833501)
V: NKJV, AV. *HB:* CH
www.hailshambaptistchurch.co.uk

WIVELSFIELD. Bethel Baptist Chapel, Wivelsfield, Ditchling Road, B2112 (2 miles south of Haywards Heath), RH15 0SJ
11.15 & 6.30; Thurs. 7.00
Mr P. Taylor (Tel: 01444 452851)
V: AV. *HB:* Gospel Hymns
E: peterandbrenda.taylor@gmail.com

SUSSEX: WEST

Providence Chapel
Chapel Street, Chichester, PO19 1BU

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Pastor Jason Pallister (Tel: 07824 535482)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship

E-mail: providencechapelchichester@gmail.com
www.providencechapelchichester.com

CRAWLEY. Maidenbower Baptist Church, Maidenbower Square, Maidenbower, RH10 7QH
11.00 & 5.00, SS 10.00; PM Weds. 7.45
There are a variety of other meetings for those interested in learning more about the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as opportunities for fellowship among Christians. If you would like to know more, please get in touch.
Pastor Jeremy Walker (Tel: 01293 522489)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: contact@mabach.org
www.mabach.org

Storrington Chapel Evangelical Church
North Street, Storrington Pulborough, RH20 4DH

Sundays 10.30
Sunday School 10.45
Prayer Meeting Tues. 7.00
The prayer meeting is held at Lyndon and Jo's home, with fellowship from 7.00pm and the prayer meeting starting at 7.30pm (both in person and on Zoom).

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Mission Praise

E-mail: contacts@storringtonchapel.org.uk
www.storringtonchapel.org.uk

WORTHING. West Worthing Evangelical Church, Rugby Road, BN11 5NB
10.30 & 6.30; Weds. 10.30
(Tel: 01903 504432)
V: NIV. *HB:* MP, PR
E: wwech@rocketmail.com
www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

TYNE & WEAR

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE. All Saints Presbyterian Church, NE1 2ES
10.30 & 5.00; Weds. 8.00
Our midweek meetings are held at the home of our minister. Please contact us for directions.
Revd Benjamin Wontrop (Tel: 0191 2610526)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: contact@allsaintspres.org.uk
www.allsaintspres.org.uk

Elswick Parish Church
Clumber Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 7ST

Sundays 10.00 & 4.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

George Curry (Tel: 0191 273 4680)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns, Sing Psalms

E-mail: g.r.curry@btinternet.com
www.elswickchurch.org

Newcastle Reformed Evangelical Church
Hoylake Avenue, Longbenton, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE7 7UN

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

Revd Dan Peters (Tel: 0191 266 2422 or 0191 285 9757)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

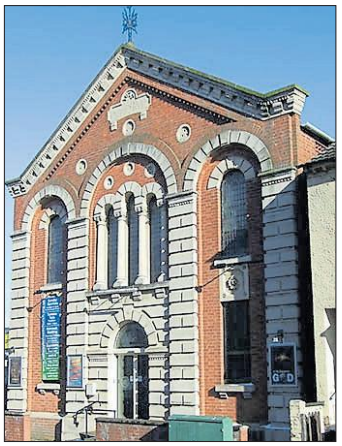
E-mail: admin@nrechurch.co.uk
www.nrechurch.co.uk

WARWICKSHIRE

BULKINGTON, NEAR NUNEATON. Bulkington Congregational Church, School Road, CV12 9JD
Located back from the road just past the Co-op.
10.30 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30; Good News Club for children Thurs. 6.00
See church website for diary confirmation and other mid-week meetings.
Andrzej Stelmasiak (Tel: 07438 912414)
V: ESV. *HB:* CH
E: pastor@bulkingtoncongregational.org
www.bulkingtoncongregational.org

LEAMINGTON SPA. Emmanuel Church, Leamington Spa, Heath Terrace, CV32 5LY
10.30 & 6.00; PM Weds. 8.00
Sunday morning: meet at North Leamington School, CV32 6RD; Sunday evening: meet at Heath Terrace, CV32 5LY; Weds. evening: 2nd to 4th Weds. Home Groups. Contact the office to find venues.
James Midwinter/Matthew Seymour (Tel: 01926 424584)
V: NIV. *HB:* PR
E: contact@emmanuel-church.org.uk [or]
admin@emmanuel-church.org.uk
www.emmanuel-church.org.uk

The Terrace Church
(Rugby Evangelical Free Church)



54 Railway Terrace, Rugby, CV21 3EX

Sundays 10.30 & 7.00
House Group(s) Thurs. 7.30
Services are being streamed online.

Peter Everett (Tel: 07947 773391)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: contactus@theterracechurch.org.uk
www.theterracechurch.org.uk

WEST MIDLANDS

Chelmsley Wood Reformed Baptist Church
Fordbridge Centre, Nineacres Drive, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham, B37 5DD

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 8.00

Keith Wrangles (Tel: 0121 779 2804)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Grace Hymns

E-mail: office@cwrbc.org.uk
www.cwrbc.org.uk

CRADLEY HEATH. Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Station Road, Old Hill, B64 6PA
10.30 & 6.00, SS 12.30, PM 10.00; PM Mon. 7.30; BS Weds. 7.30
Pastor Tom Hayward (Tel: 07458 302983)
V: AV. *HB:* CW, Gadsby's Hymns
E: contact@ebenezeroldhill.org.uk
www.ebenezeroldhill.org.uk

CRADLEY HEATH. Spring Meadow Baptist Church, Spring Meadow (off Halesowen Road), Old Hill, B64 6LB
10.30 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Evening service at 5.00pm on last Sunday of each month. Please check church website for further details.
E: info@spring-meadow.org
www.spring-meadow.org

DUDLEY. Dudley Baptist Church, Priory Road, DY1 4AD
10.30 & 6.30, SS 3.00; Thurs. 7.45
Pastor Conrad Pomeroy (Tel: 07583 161766)
V: AV, NKJV. *HB:* GH, CH
E: enquiries@dudleybaptist.org.uk
www.dudleybaptist.org.uk

WOLVERHAMPTON. St Silas Church of England (Continuing), Long Street/Fryer Street, WV1 1HU
Morning Prayer 11.00
Paul (Tel: 07477 704921)
V: AV. *HB:* Anglican Hymns, 1662 BCP Psalms, CH
E: fishersofmenuk@gmail.com
www.continuingcofe.org

West Park Church

Connaught Road (opposite West Park off A41), Wolverhampton, WV1 4PN

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.45

Andrew Whitehead (Tel: 01902 823504)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: mail@westparkchurch.co.uk
www.westparkchurch.co.uk

WILTSHIRE

Bradford on Avon Baptist Church
Old Baptist Chapel, St Margaret's Street, (opp. Station Approach), Bradford-On-Avon, BA15 1DA

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Bible class Sun. 9.45
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.30

Robert Strivens [Pastor].
Jeremy Jarvis [Elder] (Tel: 01225 865143)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns, Praise!

E-mail: jojar1956@gmail.com [or]
boa.baptistchurch@gmail.com
www.boabaptistchurch.org

COLERNE. Colerne Evangelical Church, Chapel Path, Chippenham, SN14 8DL
11.00
Revd Jonathan Sell (Tel: 01225 744463)
V: NIV. *HB:* PR, HF, MP
E: j.d.w.sell@googlemail.com

Emmanuel Church Chippenham

Goldney Avenue, Chippenham, SN15 1ND

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Sunday School 10.30
Prayer Meeting Thurs. 8.00
Our Sunday services are also live-streamed.

Pastor Spencer Shaw (Tel: 01249 460481)

Bible: NIV
E-mail: admin@emmanuelecc.org
www.emmanuelecc.org

Maryport Street Baptist Chapel

Maryport Street, Devizes, SN10 1AH

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Sunday School 2.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.30
Sunday school happens on the first Lord's Day of the month.

Pastor Thomas Yates (Tel: 07752 258177)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: pastor@maryportstreetbaptist.org.uk
www.maryportstreetbaptist.org.uk

HILPERTON, TROWBRIDGE. Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Hilperton C of E Primary School, Newleaze, BA14 7SB
11.00 & 6.00; Thurs. 7.30
Thursday evening meeting in the school.
Clive Richards (Tel: 01225 864534)
V: NKJV. *HB:* GH
E: cliverichards@talktalk.net
www.gracereformedbaptistchurch.org.uk

MELKSHAM. Ebenezer Baptist Church, Union Street, SN12 7PR
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Pastor James Alsop (Tel: 01225 768639)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH, PR
E: contact@ebenezerchurchmelksham.org
www.ebenezerchurchmelksham.org

Emmanuel Church (Evangelical & Reformed)
8 Wilton Road, Salisbury, SP2 7EE
Car park 100m west of church building at Grove House.

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Sunday School 9.45
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30
Wednesday prayer meeting and Bible study is held in Grove House, 18 Wilton Road, where we park our cars.

Richard Ward (Tel: 01722 742270)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Metrical Psalms

E-mail: richard.ward@cantab.net [or]
rjw46rmw@btinternet.com
www.salisburyemmanuel.org.uk

SWINDON. Swindon Evangelical Church, 17-19 Devizes Road, Old Town, SN1 4BH
10.30 & 6.30; Tues. 7.30
Sunday school during service. Bible study & prayer meeting alternate Tuesdays.
Paul Williams (Tel: 01793 525483)
V: NIV. *HB:* PR
E: office@swec.org.uk
www.swec.org.uk

WORCESTERSHIRE

Welcome Hall Evangelical Church

Woodrow Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove, B61 0PU

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00

Pastors Jeremy Brooks & Gordon Robbins
(Tel: 01527 758609)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: NCH

E-mail: office@welcomehallchurch.org
www.welcomehallchurch.org

DROITWICH. Witton Chapel (Evangelical, Reformed, Baptist), Tagwell Road, WR9 7BN
10.30 & 6.30; Thurs. 7.30
(Tel: 01684 567969 or 01905 794271)
V: AV. *HB:* GH
E: info@wittonchapel.org.uk
www.wittonchapel.org.uk

Pershore Evangelical Church
Abbey Park First & Nursery School,
Abbey Road, Pershore, WR10 1DF

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Sunday School 10.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30
All meetings are presently being held at Abbey Park First & Nursery School but the Sunday evening and Wednesday evening meetings are subject to change so please phone to check venue before attending.

Pastor Clive Bryant (Tel: 01386 556650)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@PEChurch.org.uk
www.PEChurch.org.uk

YORKSHIRE: EAST

BRIDLINGTON. Bridlington Baptist Church, Quay Road, YO16 4EW
10.45; PM Thurs. 7.00
V: NIV. *HB:* MP

HULL. East Hull Presbyterian Church, R/O 336 Holderness Road, HU9 3DQ
10.30 & 6.00; Weds. 10.30
Chris Lawson (Tel: 07527 319617)
V: AV, NKJV. *HB:* Book of Praise, Psalter
E: christophermlawson@hotmail.com

HULL. Kingston Evangelical Church, Park Grove, off Princes Avenue, HU5 2UR
10.30 & 6.30 & 10.30; Weds. 7.30
Revd Dennis Hill (Tel: 01482 845237)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: info@kingstonevangelicalchurch.co.uk
www.kingstonevangelicalchurch.co.uk

YORKSHIRE: NORTH

GUISBOROUGH. Guisborough Evangelical Church, 10-12 Fountain Street (opp. main car park), TS14 6PP
10.30 & 6.00, SS 10.30; Thurs. 7.00
Meetings in church building but also on Zoom; contact David Taylor by email or phone to ask for further information.
Pastor David Taylor (Tel: 07955 292298)
E: d.taylor@g-e-c.org.uk
www.g-e-c.org.uk

LEYBURN. Wensleydale Evangelical Church, High Street (near police station), DL8 5AQ
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Please ring 01969 624717 for details of Wednesday night venues.
Pastor Noel Ramsey (Tel: 01969 624717)
V: ESV. *HB:* CH
E: noelramsey1999@gmail.com
www.wechurch.org.uk

Northallerton Evangelical Church
31 High Street, (opposite Sainsbury's), Northallerton, DL7 8EE

Sundays 11.00

Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

www.necny.co.uk

PICKERING. Ryedale Evangelical Church, Middleton Chapel, Main Street, Middleton, YO18 8NX
Opposite the Post Office / tea parlour.
10.45 & 6.30; Thurs. 7.30; BS Tues. 1.30
William Horsburgh (Tel: 01751 476383)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: ryedaleevangelicalchurch@yahoo.co.uk [or]
whorsburgh@gmail.com
www.middletonchapel.com

Reeth Evangelical Congregational Church

The Green, Reeth (Swaledale), DL11 6TE

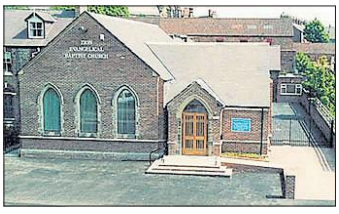
Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 7.00
See website for possible winter-time changes.

Revd D. Levell (Tel: 07582 575815)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns, RECC Supplement

E-mail: davidlevell70@gmail.com [or]
little@swaledale.org
www.reethecc.co.uk

Zion Evangelical Baptist Church



Blossomgate, Ripon, HG4 2AJ

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30
Check for midweek meeting, as can sometimes vary.

(Tel: 07771 132277)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: jonathanandjo@hotmail.co.uk
www.zionripon.org.uk

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STARBECK, HARROGATE. Starbeck Mission, Forest Avenue, HG2 7JJ
If coming from Knaresborough or Harrogate turn next to the Co-op and go along Forest Avenue. The church is situated next to the allotments.
10.30 & 6.30; Tues. 7.30
Steve (Tel: 07714 454880)
V: NKJV. *HB:* MP, Selection of extra hymns
www.starbeckmission.com

WHITBY. Whitby Evangelical Church, 12 Skinner Street, YO21 3AJ
10.45 & 6.00
During late July and August, the church does not always meet at 6.00pm because it holds an open-air service at 4.00pm if weather is fine.
Barry Davies (Tel: 01947 810873)
V: NIV. *HB:* NCH
E: b.g.davies141@gmail.com [or]
ffsjan@aol.com
www.whitbyec.com

YORKSHIRE: SOUTH

SHEFFIELD. Owlerton Evangelical Church, Borough Road, S6 2AY
10.30 & 6.30; Weds. 7.15
Mark Fenwick [Elder] (Tel: 07900 400060)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: markfenwick@sky.com
www.owlertonevangelicalchurch.org.uk

Wycliffe Independent Church
Hickmott Road, nr Hunter's Bar, Sheffield, S11 8QF

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Sunday School 11.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.45
Normally our Sunday morning service is held at King Edward VII Upper School at Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2PW at 10.30am and our evening service is held at the church building on Hickmott Road, Sheffield, S11 8QF at 6.00pm. But occasionally during some school holidays we hold both services at Hickmott Road. Please call in advance to confirm if you are unsure.

Pastor Ed Collier (Tel: 07513 077647)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@wycliffechurch.org.uk
www.wycliffechurch.org.uk

YORKSHIRE: WEST

BRADFORD. Christ Church Bradford, Leyton Drive, Idle, BD10 8RQ
10.30 & 5.00; Weds. 7.30
Pastor T. Mills (Tel: 01274 419052)
E: pastortimchristchurch@gmail.com
www.christchurchbradford.org.uk

LEEDS. Christ Church Free C of E, Manston Gardens, LS15 8EZ
10.30; Tues. 7.30
1st Sunday morning of month: All Age worship. 3rd Sunday morning: Holy Communion; Sunday school for junior school children during morning service. Tuesday Bible study in various homes – please call for venue.
Revd Grahame Wray (Tel: 0113 260 5812)
V: ESV. *HB:* MP
E: graydebs@aol.com [or]
grahame.wray@gmail.com
www.christchurchleeds.org.uk

Tinshill Free Church
Holly Avenue, Leeds, LS16 6PL

Sundays 10.30 & 6.30
Sunday School 10.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30

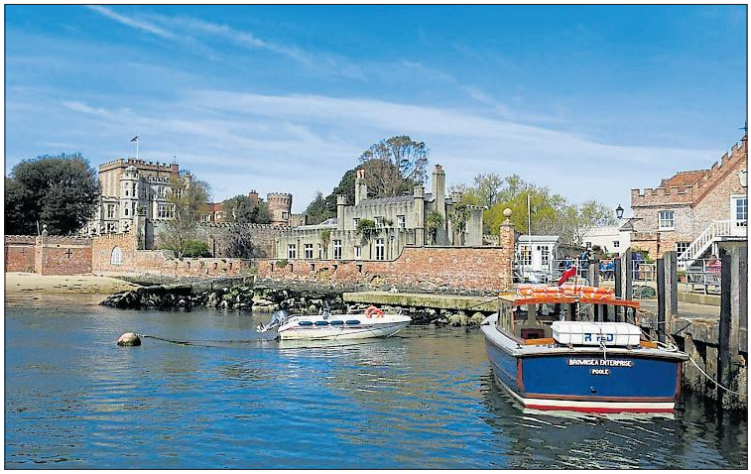
Martin Sellens (Tel: 0113 2679529)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: martin.sellens@gmail.com
www.tinshillfreechurch.org.uk

OTLEY. Beech Hill Church (formerly Bethel Evangelical Church), 20-24 Westgate, LS21 3AS
10.30 & 5.00
Sunday evening includes a meal and varies in format (see website for details).
Pastor Chris Haley (Tel: 01943 468876)
V: ESV.
E: hello@beechhillchurch.org.uk
www.beechhillchurch.org.uk

THORNHILL, near Dewsbury. Thornhill Baptist Chapel, Whitley Road, WF12 0LP
10.30 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Ben Hutton (Tel: 01924 609232)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: benandlucyhutton@yahoo.com [or]
jeanwhirst@btinternet.com
www.thornhillbaptistchurch.org.uk



CHANNEL ISLANDS

GUERNSEY

GUERNSEY. Bethesda Strict Baptist Church, Mont Marche, Forest, GY8 0HL
Past airport going away from St Peter Port take first left and the chapel is on the right just before crossroads.
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Bible study/prayer meeting occasionally on Tues. – please check.
Steve Bates (Tel: 07781 418361)
V: AV. *HB:* CH, Gadsby's Hymns
E: stevebatesseries1@gmail.com

GUERNSEY. La Villiaze Evangelical Congregational Church, St Andrews, GY6 8YN
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Pastor Robert Yerby (Tel: 01481 266068)
V: AV. *HB:* GH
E: lavilliazechurch@gmail.com
www.lavilliazechurch.net

ISLE OF MAN

PEEL. Grace Baptist Church, Market Street, IM5 1AD
11.00 & 6.30, SS 12.30; Weds. 7.30
Pastor Glenn Walters (Tel: 07624 335897)
V: AV. *HB:* GH, Metrical Psalms
E: gbc-peel@live.co.uk [or]
admin@gbc-peel.org.uk
www.gbc-peel.org.uk

Grace Baptist Church
Bridson Street, Port Erin, IM9 6AN

Sundays 11.00 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30
Sunday evening service 5.30pm
(November-March)

Phil Lobao (Tel: 01624 830488)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: lobao@manx.net
www.porterinbaptist.com

NORTHERN IRELAND

BALLYMONEY. Hebron Free Presbyterian Church, 55 Market Street, BT53 6ED
12.00 & 7.00; Thurs. 8.00
Revd David Park (Tel: 07725 207755)
V: AV. *E:* revdavidpark@gmail.com
Facebook.com/hebronfpc

BELFAST. Stranmillis Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 36 Stranmillis Road (opposite Ashby Building), BT9 5AA
11.30 & 6.30; Weds. 8.00
[Minister] Revd Gareth Burke or [Associate Minister] Revd John Roger (Tel: 07803 282489)
V: ESV. *HB:* Book of Praise, Metrical Psalms
E: gnburke@yahoo.co.uk
www.atstranmillis.com

BROOKEBOROUGH. Stonepark Baptist Church, 4-5 Stonepark Road, Eskeragh, BT94 4GW
11.00 & 7.00, SS 10.00; Tues. 8.00; PM Sat. 8.00
Pastor Harry Dowds (Tel: 028 895 31773)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: harrydowds@gmail.com
www.stoneparkbaptistchurch.org

CARRICKFERGUS. Carrickfergus Reformed Presbyterian Church, 48 North Road, BT38 8LR
11.00 & 7.00, PM 6.00
Mr R. Loughridge (Tel: 07719 484545)
V: NIV, ESV. *HB:* Psalms for Singing (The)
E: ralcontracts@tiscali.co.uk
www.carrickfergusrpf.org

ENNISKILLEN. Bethel Free Presbyterian Church, Chanterhill, BT74 4BG
12.00 & 7.00; PM Tues. 8.00
Revd James Porter (Tel: 028 6632 7491)
V: AV. *HB:* Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster Hymnbook
E: jamesportr@yahoo.co.uk
www.freepresbyterian.org/church/enniskillen

Enniskillen Reformed Presbyterian Church
153 Sligo Road, Enniskillen, BT74 5JN

Sundays 11.30 & 7.00

Revd Harry Coulter (Tel: 07523 344353)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: Book of Psalms

E-mail: enniskillenrpc@gmail.com
www.enniskillenrpc.com

GROOMSPORT. Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee Road, BT19 6LX
11.30 & 7.00; BS Tues. 8.00
[Interim Moderator] Revd John Roger (Tel: 07792 329247)
V: NKJV. *HB:* Book of Praise
www.groomsportepc.com

LARNE. Larne Evangelical Church, 90, Laharna Avenue, BT40 1NY
11.15 & 6.30; Weds. 8.00
We are a church adhering to the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith.
Pastors: Mervyn Darragh & Richard Rennie (Tel: 0282 587 8374 & 0282 827 3879)
V: R. *HB:* CH

Loughbrickland Reformed Presbyterian Church
Loughbrickland, nr Banbridge, Co. Down.
Centre of Loughbrickland village (off A1 – two miles south of Banbridge), Loughbrickland, BT32 3NQ

Sundays 11.30 & 7.00
Sunday School 10.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 8.00
No Sunday school in July and August

Stephen Finch (Tel: 028 3082 1186)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Metrical Psalms

E-mail: stephenjamesfinch@hotmail.com
www.loughbrickland.org

Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church
560 Doagh Road, Mossley, Newtownabbey, BT36 5BU

Sundays 11.30 & 6.30

Revd Warren Peel [Pastor] (Tel: 028 9578 8912)
Ken Nelson [Clerk of Session]
(Tel: 07803 270082)

Bible: ESV
Hymnbook: Metrical Psalms

E-mail: info@trinityrpc.com [or]
warrenpeel@trinityrpc.com
www.trinityrpc.com

PORTRUSH. Portrush Baptist Church, 11 Portstewart Road, BT56 8EG
11.00 & 7.00; Weds. 7.30
Pastor Alan Hoey (Tel: 07968 169155)
V: AV. *HB:* Songs of Victory
E: tandfgallagher@btopenworld.com
www.portrushbaptistchurch.org

Glenmanus Reformed Presbyterian Church

Portstewart Road, Portrush, BT56 8EH

Sundays 11.30 & 7.00

Revd Samuel McCollum (Tel: 028 7082 3794)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Psalms for Singing (The)

E-mail: samuelgmccollum@gmail.com
www.glenmanus.rpc.org

Templepatrick Reformed Church
25 Carnanee Road, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim, BT39 0BZ
GPS/Satnav N054.703850, W006.038750

Sundays 11.30 & 6.30
Prayer Meeting Weds. 7.30
Please check www.sermonaudio.com/trc for details of any changes to services.

Colin Meikle [Elder] (Tel: 07702 889718)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Metrical Psalms

E-mail: friendsgoodwill1717@live.co.uk
www.sermonaudio.com/trc

IRELAND

Fahan Presbyterian Church

Tooban, Burnfoot, Fahan, Donegal,
EIRCode F93 XY65 on Road R238
On R238 at Tooban between Derry
and Buncrana

Sundays 10.00
Sunday School 11.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 8.00
We would love you to call when in the Donegal area. Please give us a ring to confirm events and times. We could point you to churches in other parts of Donegal or Londonderry if required. Bible study/prayer meeting 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. May you have a relaxing time in Ireland.

James Lamberton (Tel: +447813673874)

Bible: NIV
Hymnbook: Multiple books and on screen

E-mail: j_lamberton@hotmail.com [or]
jamesalamberton@gmail.com
www.fahanchurch.org

SCOTLAND

ABERDEENSHIRE

ABERDEEN. Grace Reformed Church – Aberdeen congregation of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), Long Walk Road, AB16 5QQ
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 6.30
Revd Timothy J. McGlynn (Tel: 01224 865714)
V: AV. *HB:* Metrical Psalms
E: timothymcglynn@hotmail.com
www.grcaberdeen.org.uk

PETERHEAD. Peterhead Congregational Church, 94 Queen Street, AB42 1TT
11.00 & 6.00; BS Thurs. 7.00
Services and Bible study are also available on live-stream via Youtube.
James McMillan (Tel: 01779 476653)
V: NIV. *HB:* Mission Praise, Sankeys Sacred Songs and Solos
E: revjamesmcmillan@talktalk.net
www.peterheadcongregationalchurch.org.uk

ANGUS

KIRRIEMUIR. Kirriemuir Free Baptist Church, 10 Bank Street, DD8 4BE
11.15; Thurs. 7.00
Last Sunday of month is communion and at 4.00pm.
Jonathan Fagerson
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH
E: kirriemuirfbc@gmail.com

BORDERS

EYEMOUTH. Eyemouth Baptist Church, Houndlaw Park, TD14 5DD
Next to the Eyemouth Medical Practice.
11.00, SS 11.00; Weds. 7.30
Revd Stephen Bender (Tel: 01890 751778)
V: AV. *HB:* Songs of Victory
E: sbender65@gmail.com
www.eyemouthbaptistchurch.co.uk

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

DUMFRIES. Free Church of Scotland, 20 George Street, DG1 1EH
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.00
Norman Cumming (Tel: 01387 750376)
V: ESV. *HB:* Psalms & occasional hymn
E: nhcsec@hotmail.com
www.dumfriesfreechurch.wordpress.com

DUNDEE CITY

BROUGHTY FERRY. Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church, 343 Brook Street, DD5 2DS
10.30 & 6.30
Morning services in Baptist Church building, 86 St Vincent Street, DD5 2EZ. Evening services at 343 Brook Street, DD5 2DS.
Alan Woodley
V: ESV. *HB:* MP, Sing Psalms
E: BFPCseats@gmail.com
broughtyferrypresbyterianchurch.org

DUNDEE. Trinity Baptist Church, Fiveways Centre (Dundee Age Concern), Caird Avenue, DD3 8AW
11.00 & 6.00; PM Weds. 7.45
Prayer meetings held in homes. Phone or email for details.
Martin Bakker / Daniel Scott (Tel: 07407 725830)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: tbcdundee@gmail.com
www.tbcdundee.org.uk

EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH. Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, 63 Gilmore Place, EH3 9NU
11.00 & 6.00; PM Thurs. 7.30
Revd D. Campbell (Tel: 0131 312 8227)
V: AV. *HB:* Metrical Psalms
www.fpchurch.org.uk

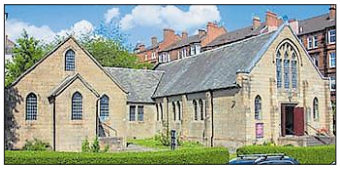
FIFE

KIRKCALDY. Pathhead Baptist Church, Anderson Street (nr Ravenscraig Park), KY1 2AQ
11.00
Dr David Greenaway (Tel: 01592 640439)
V: AV. *HB:* NCH
www.kirkcaldy-pathheadbaptist.co.uk

GLASGOW

GLASGOW. Reformed Baptist Church, 4 Herschell Street, Anniesland (hard by railway stn), G13 1HR
11.00 & 6.00; Tues. 7.30
Peter Logie (Tel: 0141 563 9040)
V: AV. *HB:* CH
E: inforeformedbaptistchurch@gmail.com [or]
peter.a.logie@gmail.com
www.rbcweb.org

Partick Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)



2-4 Thornwood Terrace, Glasgow, G11 7QZ
The church is located opposite Thornwood Primary School.

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting Weds. 7.30

Revd Andrew R. Allan (Tel: 0141 328 1707)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Metrical Psalms

E-mail: partickfree@gmail.com [or]
partick@fccontinuing.org
www.partickfreechurchcontinuing.org

GLASGOW. Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church of Scotland, 13 Kelvinhaugh Street, G3 8NU
11.00 & 6.30, SS 11.00; Weds. 7.30
A creche is also available at the morning service. (The Sunday school takes place during the morning service and children are accompanied from the main meeting room.) During coronavirus restrictions in Scotland all current meeting details will be found on the website www.sandyfordhenderson.net. (Please note that restrictions in Scotland may differ from other parts of the UK, check government websites for details.)
Revd Ben Thorp [Minister] (Tel: 0141 226 3696)
V: NIV. *HB:* Various projected hymns.
E: enquiries@sandyfordhenderson.net
www.sandyfordhenderson.net

HIGHLAND

DORES (INVERNESS). Dores Free Church Continuing, B862, IV2 6TR
400 yards up the brae from Dores Inn.
11.00 & 6.30, SS 12.15; Weds. 7.30
Bible Class for 11-16 year olds Sunday at 4.00pm via Zoom.
Revd Davide Ratti (Tel: 07599 298946)
V: AV. *HB:* Metrical Psalms
E: davideratti@icloud.com
www.freechurchcontinuing.org/find-us/congregations/item/duthil-dores

INVERNESS. Associated Presbyterian Church, Kingsview Christian Centre, Balnafettack Road, IV3 8TF
11.30 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Dr John C. A. Ferguson (Tel: 01463 716843)
V: ESV. *HB:* Metrical Psalms, Sing Psalms
www.apchurches.org/congregations/inverness/

INVERNESS. Reformed Baptist Church, Telford Road, IV3 8HN
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
A. McCloy
V: AV. *HB:* CW
E: admin@inverness-rbc.org
www.inverness-rbc.org

WICK. Wick Harbour Mission Baptist Church, Martha Terrace, KW1 5EL
11.00 & 6.30; PM Tues. 7.30
Pastor Gilbert McAdam (Tel: 01955 602942)
V: AV. *HB:* CW
E: gilbert1689@gmail.com

MIDLOTHIAN

PENICUIK. Penicuik Baptist Church, Loanburn, off John Street, just behind North Church of Scotland, EH26 8AQ
10.30 & 6.30; Weds. 7.30
David Shedden [Pastor] (Tel: 07813 548982);
B. Garth [Elder] (Tel: 01968 673565)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH
E: Barry@penicuikbaptistchurch.org.uk [or]
bgbg28@hotmail.com
www.penicuikbaptistchurch.org.uk

WALES

BRIDGEND

BRIDGEND. Freeschool Court Church, off Nolton Street, CF31 3AF
2 hours free parking in ASDA car park for customers. Church is through pedestrian exit at bottom of car park that opens onto Freeschool Court.
10.45 & 6.00; Tues. 7.30
Home groups – 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings alternating with prayer meetings.
James Sibley (Tel: 07485 654655)
V: NIV. *HB:* CH, Own supplement
E: freeschoolcourt@btinternet.com
www.freeschoolcourt.org.uk

CARDIFF

CARDIFF. Emmanuel Baptist Church, Gabalfa Avenue, Gabalfa, CF14 2SH
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Revd Paul Whiteley (Tel: 07807 995363)
E: info@emmanuelcardiff.org
www.emmanuelcardiff.org

CARDIFF. Heath Evangelical Church, Whitchurch Road, Heath, CF14 3LZ
10.45 & 6.00
(Tel: 02920 617738)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: office@heath-church.org
www.heath-church.org

CEREDIGION

LAMPETER. Lampeter Evangelical Church, 16, College Street, SA48 7DY
The church meets at our new church building next to The Mustard Seed Christian Centre.
10.30 & 5.00
Sunday school provision
Gareth Jones (Tel: 01570 423368/423344)
V: NIV, NKJV. *HB:* CH, MP
E: gareth.liz104@btinternet.com
www.lampeterevangelicalchurch.org

DENBIGHSHIRE

LLANGOLLEN. Glanrafon Evangelical Church, Princess Street, LL20 8RD
11.00 & 6.00; Weds. 7.30
Bible Bookshop: Saturday 10.30am - 3.00pm
Pastor James Cornford (Tel: 07863 706666)
V: ESV, AV. *HB:* NCH
E: glanrafonevangelicalchurch@gmail.com
www.glanrafon.org

FLINTSHIRE

CAERGWRLE, NEAR WREXHAM. Caergwrle Evangelical Church, Mold Road (near Petrol Station), LL12 9LP
10.30 & 6.00; Weds. 7.00
Mr Jeff Pugh [Secretary] (Tel: 07749 922096)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: jeff.sian@uwclub.net
www.caergwrleevangelicalchurch.org.uk

Holywell Evangelical Church
Halkyn Street, Holywell, CH8 7TX

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Sunday School 2.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 7.30
Prayer meeting before Sunday evening service 5.30pm.

Revd J. P. Thackway (Tel: 01352 714879)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Worship, Metrical Psalms

E-mail: pastor@holywellevangelicalchurch.org.uk
www.holywellevangelicalchurch.org.uk

FLINT. Flint Evangelical Church, Cornist Road, CH6 5HG
10.30, SS 10.30
Midweek Fellowship Groups
Pastor Ben Slater (Tel: 07399 974370)
V: NIV, NKJV. *HB:* CH, own supplement
E: pastorben@flintec.org.uk
www.flintec.org.uk

GWYNEDD

BALA. Bala Evangelical Church, Canolfan Bro Tegid (opp. Tom Ellis' statue), High Street, LL23 7LU
10.30
Please see website for evening services.
Gareth Williams / Gwydion Lewis (Tel: 01678 521527 / 520752)
E: williams.437@btinternet.com
www.balaevangelicalchurch.org

BANGOR (WALES). Ebenezer Evangelical Church, St Paul's Terrace, LL57 1LB
St Paul's Terrace is located within walking distance of Sackville Road and near ASDA supermarket, Bangor.
10.30 & 6.00, SS 11.00; Tues. 7.30
Advanced booking required (due to Covid restrictions) for Sunday services. Please see our website.
Wyn Thomas (Tel: 01248 351347)
V: NIV. *HB:* CH, NCH
E: w.thomas@bangor.ac.uk [or] dkjfinnie@aol.com
www.ebenezerbangor.org.uk

PENRHYNDEUDRAETH. Capel Fron, Neuadd Goffa, Park Road, LL48 6LR
The church is opposite the Ffestiniog railway station.
10.30 & 5.00, SS 10.30
Peter Campbell (Tel: 01766 770632)
HB: NCH
E: pete.fron@gmail.com
www.capelfron.org

Continued on page 32

MERTHYR TYDFIL

DOWLAIS, MERTHYR TYDFIL. Hebron Evangelical Church (Baptist), High Street, Caeharris, CF48 3PH
11.00 & 6.00, SS 10.00; PM Tues. 7.30
Sunday school all ages.
Eric Kelly (Tel: 01685 722526)
V: ESV, NKJV, NIV. *HB:* CH
E: mail@hebrondowlais.org.uk
www.hebrondowlais.org.uk

NEATH PORT TALBOT

NEATH ABBEY, NEAR NEATH. Ebenezer Evangelical Church, New Road, SA10 7NH
10.30 & 6.00; PM Tues. 7.30
Revd David Hails (Tel: 01639 790892)
V: ESV. *HB:* NCH
E: pastordavid.hails@gmail.com

PEMBROKESHIRE

Bethany Free Church

Clarbeston Road Village, SA63 4UX
5 miles north-east of Haverfordwest

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Sunday School 10.45
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.00

Mr Rowland Hicks (Tel: 01437 731538)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: rowland.hicks@btinternet.com
www.bethanyfreechurch.co.uk

COSHESTON, NEAR PEMBROKE. Cosheston Mission Church, Cosheston Village (opp. Woodfield Grove Housing Estate), SA72 4UD
10.45 & 6.00; Weds. 7.15
Pastor Norman Gilbert (Tel: 01646 687661)
V: NKJV. *HB:* GH, CH
www.coshmissionchurch.wixsite.com/home

Bethesda Church

Please see notes. Tenby Road (situated between Wooden and New Hedges), nr Tenby/ Saundersfoot area, SA69 9DS
Follow the A478 towards Tenby. Bethesda is on the left. Plenty of parking, follow car park signs. Please note, the church is being renovated, so please get in touch if you plan to visit, as we may have relocated temporarily.

Sundays 10.30 & 3.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Tues. 6.00

Pastor: Revd Martin Williams.
Contact: Jonathan Phillips. (Tel: 01834 814832)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: bethesdachurch@btinternet.com [or] bethesdasaundersfoot@gmail.com
www.bethesdatenbyroad.vpweb.co.uk

NARBERTH. Bethesda Baptist Church, High Street, SA67 7AS
The church is to be found on the left hand side of the one-way High Street (A478 next to the Spar supermarket and opposite Costcutter supermarket.)
10.45 & 5.30; PM Tues. 7.00; BS Thurs. 6.30
Sunday school 10.15am during school term times.
Minister: C. P. Rees (Tel: 01834 861929)
V: NKJV. *HB:* NCH
E: rees338@btinternet.com
www.bethesdachapel.co.uk

PEMBROKE. Westgate Evangelical Chapel, Commons Road (bottom of Westgate Hill Next to Pembroke Castle), SA71 4EA
10.45 & 5.00, SS 10.45; Tues. 7.30
Video recordings of services available on website: wecpembroke.org – click the YouTube link.
David Thomas [Elder] (Tel: 01646 681410) or Simon John [Elder] (Tel: 01646 686891)
V: NIV, NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: emails@wecpembroke.org
www.wecpembroke.org

POWYS

Llandrindod Evangelical Church
Middleton Lane, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5DG
Currently meeting at the Rock Baptist Church, Fron, Crossgates, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6SB

Sundays 11.00 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30
We warmly welcome all in our Saviour's name. All our services are currently held at the Rock Baptist Church just above Llandrindod. For visiting details, online sermons, or more, please visit our website or contact us.

Rory Johnson (Tel: 07548 263287)

Bible: AV, NKJV
Hymnbook: Christian Hymns

E-mail: info@llandrindodevangelical.co.uk
www.llandrindodevangelical.co.uk

RHONDDA CYNON TAFF

Tabor Baptist Church

High Street, Llantrisant, CF72 8BR
Opposite Cross Keys Hotel/Pub – up a ramp next door to number 43

Sundays 11.00 & 5.00
Sunday School 11.00
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 7.30
Disabled Access, Loop-T. and AV crèche link provided. Sermons on website. Livestream on YouTube, details on church website.

Revd Andrew Love (Tel: 07401 890848)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: alovebrazil@gmail.com [or] pastor@taborbaptistchurch.co.uk
www.taborbaptistchurch.co.uk

SWANSEA

GORSEINON. Bethel Evangelical Church, West Street, SA4 4AA
10.30 & 6.00; Tues. 7.30
Evening services may be online: please check our website.
Pastor John Williams (Tel: 07876 680533)
V: NIV. *HB:* NCH, SF
E: pastor@bethel-gorseinon.org.uk [or] secretary@bethel-gorseinon.org.uk
www.bethel-gorseinon.org.uk

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Walters Street, Manselton, Swansea, SA5 8PZ

Sundays 10.30 & 6.00
Prayer Meeting Tues. 7.00

Neil Pfeiffer (Tel: 01792 794388)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Christian Worship

E-mail: npfeiffer@hotmail.co.uk
www.swanseaevangelicalchurch.com

MUMBLES. Bethany Baptist Church, Bethany Lane, West Cross, SA3 5TL
11.00 & 6.30; Weds. 7.00
Wednesday evening on Zoom only.
James Scott (Tel: 01792 983721)
V: NIV. *HB:* CH
E: bethanybaptistswansea@gmail.com

WREXHAM

WREXHAM. Zion English Baptist Church, Hall Street, Penycae, LL14 2RU
On the corner of Hall Street and Groesfan.
11.00 & 6.00
Also on Facebook at facebook.com/zionpenycae.
Michael Webber (Tel: 07922 031126)
V: NKJV. *HB:* CH
E: michaelwebber007@btinternet.com
www.groes-zion.co.uk

AUSTRIA

MAYRHOFEN. Mayrhofen Christian Fellowship – Protestant Reformed Church, High School, Hauptstrasse 413, 6290
10.30 & 5.30; BS Fri. 7.00
Please call us under 0043 (0) 676 - 916 4289 before a Bible study as locations might vary.
Pastor Detlef Kohl (Tel: 0043 676 9164289)
V: NKJV, ESV, NIV. *HB:* Psalms & Hymns of Reformed Worship
E: kohl@teach-it.org
www.christliche-gemeinde-mayrhofen.at

CYPRUS

International Evangelical Church

Stylianou Lena St & Thoukidides St, Larnaca

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Bible study Thurs. 6.30

Revd Victor Atallah (Tel: +357 9968 2237 or +357 9927 5983)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: New Christian Hymns

E-mail: ieccyprus@gmail.com
www.ieccyprus.com

MALTA

Bible Baptist Church Malta

Triq Madonna tal-Gebla, Gzira, GZR 1560

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Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Thurs. 7.00
Wednesday 7.00pm Bible Study in Gozo (Hotel Calypso Argus Room, Marsalforn, Gozo).

Pastors Joe Mifsud and Joshua Burrill
(Tel: (356) 21322752)

Bible: AV
Hymnbook: Praise!

E-mail: biblebaptistchurchmalta@gmail.com
www.biblebaptistchurchmalta.org

Trinity Evangelical Church
Triq Misraħ il-Barrieri, L-Imsida, MSD 1101

Sundays 9.00
Worship service in Maltese. English translation via headphones. Welcome!

Joseph Mizzi (Tel: +356 79551446)

Bible: ESV

E-mail: knisjaevangelika@yahoo.com [or] guzimizzi@gmail.com
www.tecmalta.org

SWITZERLAND

Lausanne Free Church

Chemin des Fleurettes 36, Lausanne, 1007

Sundays 10.30
Sunday School 10.30
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Weds. 8.00
(Wednesday meeting currently online)

Pastor: Alan Hill (Tel: 00 41 (0) 77 412 17 91)

Bible: NKJV
Hymnbook: Trinity Hymnal

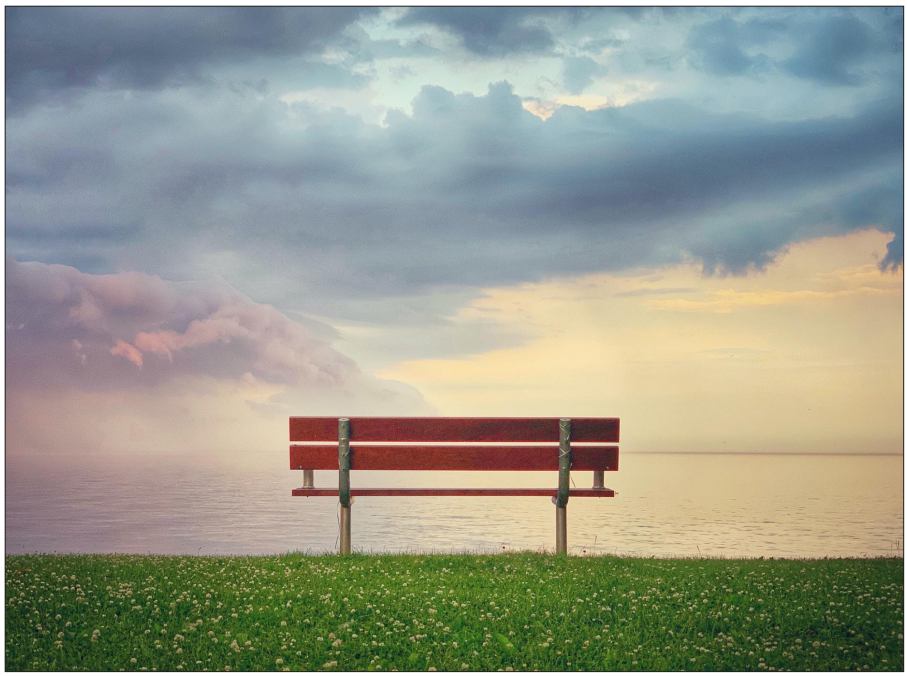
E-mail: lausannefreechurch@gmail.com
www.lausanne-english-church.com

UNTERSEEN-INTERLAKEN. Evangelical Fellowship (Gemeinde für Christus), Freihofstrasse 16, 3800
From the station 'Interlaken West', follow the signpost 'Beatenberg'. When entering 'Scheidgasse', 'Freihofstrasse' is the first road on your right.
10.00
New: Since January 2021 the 'Evangelical Fellowship' is being integrated into the local GfC church. The services take place at the same location, at 10.00am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Someone with a good command of English will welcome visitors and translate the whole service. In June, July, and August, when hopefully English-speaking tourists will again visit the Interlaken region, we will have again 'all English services' on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. You will find a summer programme on our website in time.
Peter Kunz (Tel: +41 33 671 3706)
V: NIV. *HB:* SF
E: peter.kunz@gfc.ch
www.englishservices.gfc.ch

A shrink thinks...

It is good to talk, even about suicide

By Alan Thomas
Professor and Consultant in Psychiatry. Elder at Newcastle Reformed Evangelical Church.



Suicide is a difficult topic, isn't it? It is difficult in two senses. It is tricky because of the emotional and sensitive nature of the subject, making people want to shy away from discussing it. Yet it is well established that talking about and discussing suicide, even with those who are mentally ill, does not increase the risk of people taking their lives. It is in fact helpful for understanding and supporting such individuals. It is good to talk, even about suicide with someone contemplating it.

Suicide is also difficult to discuss because of the lack of explicit biblical teaching on the subject. It is true we have several suicides recorded in the Bible, such as King Saul and his armour bearer, Ahithophel (David's counsellor), King Zimri, and Judas Iscariot. But in no case has the Spirit given us a clear evaluation of their actions. Certainly, Judas had sinned greatly in betraying our Lord, but the Gospel emphasis is on these wicked actions and not on the suicide per se.

Similarly, Ahithophel had betrayed his former master David by going over to Absalom. This absence of explicit teaching should caution us against the kind of vehement condemnation of suicide which has been too prevalent in the past. Suicide has long been cloaked in shame, a shame made tangible by the refusal of state churches to allow suicides to be buried on 'holy ground'. The families of people who have committed suicide have been tainted by association and forced to whisper and grieve in private. How awful!

Victim and perpetrator

When someone is murdered there is understandable and appropriate sympathy for the victim's family. Suicide has sometimes been termed 'self-murder'. While I think this is a harsh phrase to use, it does provide an illuminating comparison. In both cases someone has been put to death. But in the case of suicide, the killer is also the victim.

And if this is so, then surely the family of the suicide should be extended the same sympathy we extend to families of murder victims? They have suffered greatly already and so we should show compassion and seek to relieve their suffering rather than increase it.

Also, I think 'victim' is a fair term to use because suicide is carried out by people who are in great distress. Only a minority who kill themselves show evidence of mental illness. Most are unknown to psychiatric services. But the evidence suggests they all killed themselves when distressed. They were not acting when of sound mind.

We see this in the cases of Judas and Ahithophel, don't we? They killed themselves when in despair. Now we might find it difficult to feel much sympathy for these men. After all, it was their own actions which led to their despair, and so why should we feel sorry for them? We would do well to reflect on God's compassion. He has compassion even on the wicked.

'While we cannot help those who have committed suicide, we can help those who are struggling with thoughts of suicide.'

Consider Nineveh in the book of Jonah. The Ninevites were a barbaric people who were greatly sinning (1:2). Jonah knew that such is God's compassion he would want to show mercy, so he ran away. This action is condemned. God was compassionate to Nineveh. Showing compassion even to the wicked is divine.

But for many (perhaps most) people who commit suicide, their distress is not their own fault. Many have illnesses, usually physical and in a few mental, for which they bear no responsibility. Others suffer and are distressed because of the wicked behaviour of people around them: a faithless husband who humiliates his wife with his 'affairs'; the unemployed man rejected again and cast out of work; the bankrupt, a victim of other people's greed.

Our assumption should be that the suicide was genuine victim and, even if there is evidence to the contrary, we should still show compassion. The suicide is clearly beyond our help. But we can and should show kindness to the family left behind.

Can a Christian commit suicide?

Last month we read the testimony of a Christian struggling with suicidal ideas. People with such mental illnesses are distressed by terrifying experiences. Suicide can appear a reasonable choice, the best way out for themselves and for everyone they love. It can seem a good choice. People contemplating suicide should not be assumed to be selfish. The opposite is typical, as we saw with last month's example. The despair leads to a kind of passive drifting into suicide in which the mental barriers to protect us, which we take for granted, have been removed.

Some have claimed, bizarrely and unhelpfully, that suicide is the 'unforgiveable sin'. Well, however you understand this sin in the Gospels, it was not suicide about which Jesus spoke. It is better I think to take the view that there is no sin which a Christian is incapable of, including suicide (for yes, ultimately it is breaking the sixth commandment).

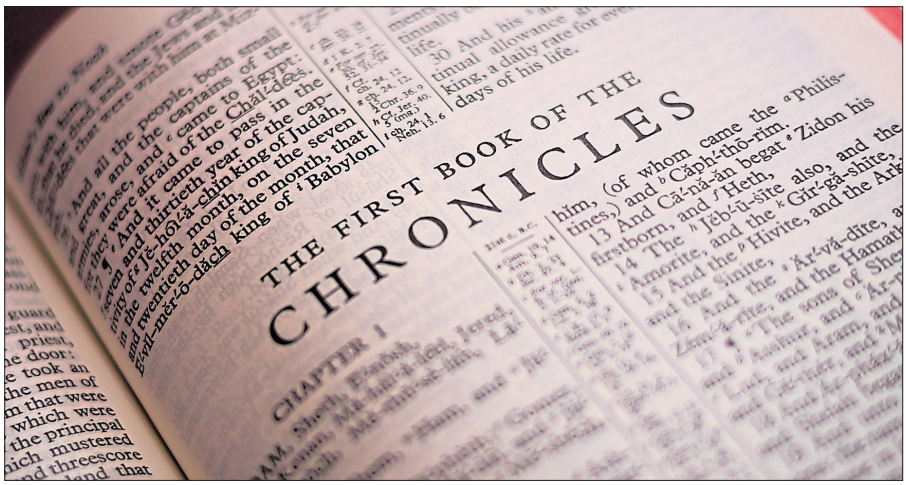
I have known and heard credible accounts of godly Christians struggling with thoughts about suicide. In the depths of despair with depression, suicide seems to their distorted thinking the only way out. If you want to try to understand how awful depression can be, then pause and think on that. Imagine a godly man who is in such emotional pain and anguish that suicide seems the best thing to do. Such people need support and sympathy to comfort them in the darkness of their suffering.

So, if you are seeking to help someone with depression (or any other severe mental illness in which someone is distressed), then ask about suicidal thinking. By asking you show you understand something of the severity of their mental pain. Just to be asked can be a relief. There is no magic form of words to use. Giving the opportunity to air thoughts of which they feel ashamed greatly helps. While we cannot help those who have committed suicide, we can help those who are struggling with thoughts of suicide.

Features

Scripture's hidden gems: 1 Chronicles

By Alan Hill
Pastor of Lausanne Free Church, Switzerland.



Source: joshimerbin/Shutterstock

In this series Alan Hill surveys some of the lesser-known books of Scripture.

By any standards 1 and 2 Chronicles are an important part of God's Word. Originally one book, they form a monumental history of God's people from the creation of the world to the year 539 BC. Yet 1 and 2 Chronicles are also a neglected part of the Bible, especially 1 Chronicles. I think the reasons for this are twofold.

First, a third of 1 Chronicles is just lists of names. Second, much of the history recorded in the twin books merely repeats what we find in 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. However, it would be a mistake to ignore these books. They contain unique material, and the chronicler arranges the material carefully and deliberately.

Purpose

1 Chronicles starts with Adam but soon zooms in on the descendants of Israel. The book focuses further on two family lines – the royal line and the priestly line. At the end of the book, the author centres attention on King David, the worship of God, and the preparations for building the temple.

Why is this? The answer is that the thrust of 1 Chronicles is theological rather than historical. The purpose is to bring us to the worship of God in his temple in Jerusalem. As one writer put it, in Kings we have royal history but in Chronicles we have temple history.

Why does the author do this? Remember that all of Old Testament worship points to Christ. It all points to the Son of David who would one day come to lay down his life for his people. The purpose of the writer of the two books of Chronicles is to prepare his readers for the coming Messiah.

It is significant that Chronicles is placed last in the Hebrew Bibles used by Jewish people. This positioning of Chronicles reminds me of the Gospel of John. John was the last Gospel to be written and it is different from the others, focusing on theology rather than history. John wrote not so much as to record an orderly history like Luke, but to explain who Christ is and why he came. John carefully chose all the incidents he recorded for this purpose.

Structure

The structure of 1 Chronicles is very simple. Chapters 1–9: The people of the Lord; chapters 10–12: The anointed of the Lord; chapters 13–16: The ark of the Lord; chapters 17–29: The temple of the Lord. The first section of nine chapters is almost completely made of genealogies (lists of names in a family tree).

The list begins with the first man – Adam – and ends with the first king of the Jews – Saul. In all there are 911 names! In this article I want to answer a question that may be puzzling you. Why do we find genealogies not just here in 1 Chronicles, but also all throughout the Bible? What possible reason can there be for God causing this to be in his Word? What can these genealogies teach us? There are three answers:

1 The Bible is history

The first and most obvious answer is that the genealogies emphasise that the Bible is not a book of myths, but history. Ask any writer of fiction what is one of the hardest jobs in their trade, and they will say that it is to think up names for all their characters. It is scarcely believable that the first thing the author of 1 Chronicles did was to sit down and *make up* the 911 names mentioned.

Most of the names are not repeated. The most common name listed, Azariah, is only used seven times. 1 Chronicles lists real people: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, down to King Saul and his successor, David. We do not rely on archaeological evidence to be certain that the Bible is not a book of myths but of real people. We can surely trust the words of Jesus.

A significant statement was made by Jesus that directly relates to our study of Chronicles. In Matthew 23:29-36, the Saviour says,

> *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.'*
>
> *Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?*
>
> *Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.*
>
> *Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*

Jesus is emphasising that the scribes and Pharisees are in a long line of people who have persecuted the righteous. In verse 35 Jesus mentions two men who died for being righteous. The first is Abel. He was of course one of the first two children ever born and the first to die for his faith. The second person is Zechariah. Who was he? He is the last recorded prophet to die for his faith in the Old Testament, and we find his story recorded only in 2 Chronicles 24.

In one statement, Jesus in effect verifies all of the Hebrew Scriptures as history, beginning with Genesis (Abel) and ending with 2 Chronicles. When you come to a list of names in the Bible, remember this: these lists are evidence to you that the Bible records real history.

2 The Bible is a history of individuals

These lists of names are names of individuals, and each person is known to God. The writer of Chronicles only knew in person a handful of the 911 listed. But God knew all about each one, and he inspired the author to record faithfully all 911 people.

The list of names emphasises that we are not just part of a general mass of humanity. Each of us is important to God. God is as concerned and involved in your life as he was in the life of Adam, Abraham, David, and all the others listed in 1 Chronicles. Each of us is known to God by name.

What David wrote in Psalm 139 about himself is true for all of us:

> *For you formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are your works, and that my soul knows very well.*
>
> *My frame was not hidden from you, when I was made in secret, and skilfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*
>
> *Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them* (vv. 13–16).

All our days are written in his book. Our history was written and known to the Lord before we were even born. This is a deep mystery. It does not mean that we are robots, not free to make choices and decisions. It does not mean that we are not fully responsible for our actions. But it does mean that God is sovereign over all and that he knows us all.

This should be a deep comfort to us. Nothing takes God by surprise. You may wake up one day and discover that you have a dangerous illness or that you have lost your job. You may receive an unexpected marriage proposal, or discover that you had a twin brother. But God knew what today would bring for you.

God knows us all, and so we can turn to him with confidence. We never have to explain all the

circumstances to God because he already knows them. God will never reply, 'Well, that's an unexpected development, you will need to give me a few days to think about that one.'

When you come to a list of names in the Bible, remember this: God caused each one to be recorded and God knows all about them. Your name and your life is also recorded. God knows and cares about you.

3 The Bible is *his* story

The vast majority of names listed in 1 Chronicles (and in other genealogies in the Bible) focus on God's people. 1 Chronicles begins with Adam, goes through Abraham, the twelve tribes of Israel and ends with the first king of Israel, Saul.

All through the Old Testament we find this selective focus. The censuses in Numbers are to count Israel, not Egypt. The lists of names in Nehemiah and Ezra are of Israelites who return from captivity, not of the other people from other nations who returned about the same time.

Why is this? It is for one very important reason which we can trace back to Genesis 3. Just after Adam and Eve sinned, God put a curse on the serpent that had deceived them. While doing so, God also made a wonderful promise to Adam and Eve that gives us the key reason for all these lists of names in the Bible.

God said, 'And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel' (Genesis 3:15). God is saying that a descendant of Adam and Eve will be born who will undo the damage that the serpent has wrought – one who will be born to destroy the effects of sin. This is the first prophecy of the Messiah, and it reveals that he will be a descendant of Adam and Eve.

Several thousand years after Adam, in around 2000 BC, God reveals to Abraham that the promised seed, the Messiah, will be one of his descendants. About one thousand years later, David is told that it will be one of his descendants. 300 years later (around 700 BC), the prophet Isaiah is told that this child will be born of a virgin, and the prophet Micah is told that he will be born in Bethlehem.

Then in around 5 BC, all the prophecies concerning the Messiah's first coming are fulfilled. Jesus Christ is born in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary, who is herself a direct descendant of Abraham and David. 33 years later, Jesus dies on a cross and then gloriously rises again, defeating sin, Satan, and death.

Notice how the apostle Matthew begins his account of the life of Jesus – with a genealogy! He gives the genealogy of Jesus Christ. You may ponder why this might be important, but we find the answer in Romans 5. Here Paul draws a parallel and a contrast between Adam and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul states that just as through one man's disobedience sin and death entered the world, so through one man's obedience life and forgiveness enter the world.

Listen to Paul's argument in verses 18–19: 'Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.'

Adam is our federal and representative head. We and Adam are members of one another like the root and branches of a tree. His one action affected us all and ruined us, and what a ruin! When he sinned, we all sinned. But the representative principle which is the cause of our ruin is also the means of our salvation.

Jesus Christ is the last Adam. Through his obedience, perfect life, and sacrificial death, we can receive forgiveness and righteousness. Just as Adam's sin was imputed to us, so Christ's righteousness can be imputed to us. All this depends upon one very important fact, namely that both Adam and Jesus Christ were historical persons.

If Adam did not exist and the events of Genesis 3 are a fiction, then Paul's argument falls to the ground and so does our salvation. In other words, to reject an historical Adam is to reject Christianity. If the first Adam did not exist then it is a waste of time to look to a second Adam to save us.

But the genealogies in 1 Chronicles and elsewhere confirm that Adam existed, that Abraham existed, that David existed, and that Jesus Christ descended from them as the one who can save us from our sins.

Friends, when you come in your daily Bible reading to such passages as the beginning of 1 Chronicles and those 911 names, do not sigh. Remember how it is all part of *his* story, the Son of God. It is all part of the story of the fall of the first Adam and the rise of the second Adam.

God keeps his promises. He promised that a descendant of Adam would crush Satan under his feet, conquering sin, death, and hell. Praise God that this is what happened! Through Adam, sin and death reigned, but through Christ, grace and life reigns!

As I close I want to give you one final reason to be thankful for these lists of names. If you are a Christian, then *your* name is recorded in a book as well; a list drawn up by God himself. In Revelation this book is called the book of life. Jesus said, 'Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven' (Luke 10:20).

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ALL ITEMS FOR THE EVENTS DIARY MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE THE 1ST OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION. THEY WILL BE DISPLAYED IN BOTH THE NEWSPAPER AND ET WEB SITE.

MAY 31

LONDON. Protestant Truth Society Bookshop, 184 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HJ. PTS Bite-size School of Theology, every Tuesday at lunchtime from 1.10–1.45pm. Subject: Special meeting re. Platinum Jubilee. You are welcome (we provide tea and coffee).

JUN 4

ROWLEY REGIS. Christian Heritage Centre, Providence Chapel, Bell End, Rowley Regis, nr Birmingham, B65 9LU. Platinum anniversary weekend, 1.30pm – 4.00pm. 'Royalty through the Ages' – special display of Bibles associated with royalty and opening of Christian Heritage Centre. All most welcome. Further details, phone (01384) 637314 or see: www.christianheritagecentre.org.uk (Feel free to phone or check website if in doubt.)

JUN 4-5

LANDFORD WOOD. Landford Wood Mission Hall, Stock Lane, Landford Wood, SP5 2ES. 124th Church anniversary weekend. Saturday evening, 7.00pm; Lord's Day services, 3.00pm & 6.00pm. Preacher: Revd Geoff Thomas. All are welcome. Tea served between services. Further information from J. E. North (07500) 265419.

JUN 6

VIA ZOOM. The Evangelical Library Annual Lecture, 6.30pm. Subject: 'The St Bartholomew Day Massacre 1572'. Lecturer: Robert Strivens (Bradford on Avon). Please contact the Library for joining details on elenquire@gmail.com or tel: (020) 8362 0868.

JUN 7

BRIDPORT. Chardsmead Baptist Church, Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3AD. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Church office (01308) 281149.
LONDON. Protestant Truth Society Bookshop, 184 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HJ. PTS Bite-size School of Theology, every Tuesday at lunchtime from 1.10–1.45pm. Subject: 'Victory through Trials'. You are welcome (we provide tea and coffee).

JUN 8

ST AUSTELL. Seymour Gospel Hall, 44 Slades Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4EY. Christian Institute meeting 7.00pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Mr Peter Ridson (07833) 335212.

JUN 9

YATE. Grace Church, 250 Station Road, Yate, South Gloucestershire, BS37 4AF. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Mr Bob Gulliford (07554) 956310.

JUN 10

DEAL. Walmer Chapel, Station Road, Walmer, Deal, CT14 7QS. Science talks, 6.30pm. Paul Garner of the Biblical Creation Trust to speak at the Chapel on 'Spreading oceans, shifting continents'; 'The Ice Age and the Genesis Flood'. In two parts. Full café and bookstall. https://www.biblicalcreationtrust.org/about-bct-biblical-creation.html

JUN 11

BEWL WATER. Bewl Reservoir, Bewlbridge Lane, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 8JH. Sponsored Walk, 10.30am. Join Proclamation Zambia for a stroll around the reservoir. Sponsor money raised will go towards supporting a student at the Bible College in Kitwe, Zambia. www.proclamationzambia.org/11-june-2022-bewl-sponsored-walk.html

JUN 14

HOLME. Holy Trinity Holme, Milnthorpe Road, Holme, Carnforth, LA6 1PZ. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Revd Graham Burrows (01524) 781210.
LONDON. Protestant Truth Society Bookshop, 184 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HJ. PTS Bite-size School of Theology, every Tuesday at lunchtime from 1.10–1.45pm. Subject: 'Richard Baxter - The Saint's Everlasting Rest'. You are welcome (we provide tea and coffee).

JUN 15

BRYN. Bryn Baptist Church, 429 Wigan Road, Bryn, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 0DD. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Mr Robert Stringer (07941) 302840.

JUN 16

CHESTER. Matthew Henry Evangelical Church, Nevin Road, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5RS. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Mrs Christine Jones (07742) 861772.

JUN 18

WINSLOW. Keach's Meeting House, Bell Walk (off Horn Street), Winslow, Buckinghamshire, MK18. Annual meetings for Keach's Meeting House: lecture at 2.30pm in the St Laurence Room (corner of market square). Subject: 'The Huguenots'. Lecturer: Mr Roland Burrows. Preaching service at 5.30pm in the Meeting House. Preacher: Mr Roland Burrows. Tea provided. Bookstall. All warmly welcome. Contact: P. Hambridge (01707) 657636.

JUN 21

LONDON. Protestant Truth Society Bookshop, 184 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HJ. PTS Bite-size School of Theology, every Tuesday at lunchtime from 1.10–1.45pm. Subject: 'British Church History – Christian Celts'. You are welcome (we provide tea and coffee).
WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Bethesda Evangelical Church, Chaucer Road, Bournville, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, BS23 3UE. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Mr Ken Etherington (07811) 385312.

JUN 22

MOULTON. Moulton Parish Church, Church Hill, Moulton, Northamptonshire, NN3 7SW. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Mr Pete Collins (01604) 495393.

JUN 23

LYE. Christ Church Lye, High Street, Lye, DY9 8LF. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Revd Simon Falshaw (01384) 423142.

JUN 24

BRIXTON. Brixton Tabernacle, Stockwell Road, Brixton, SW9 9SU. Church anniversary & Pastor's 10th anniversary services at 3.00pm & 6.30pm. Preacher: Pastor Gerald Buss (Chippenham). Tea between services. Service will also be broadcast via the phone conference system which can be accessed by phoning 03300 883434 PIN 592675. Contact: Pastor Martin Humphrey (020) 8679 1262.
LONDON, NW6. New Life Bible Presbyterian Church, 44 Salusbury Road, London, NW6 6NN. Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony meeting, 7.00pm. Subject: 'When will the Antichrist arise?' Preacher: Mr Paul Toms.

JUN 25

TOTTON. Evangelical Free Church, Ringwood Road, Totton, Southampton, SO40 8DS. Church anniversary, service of thanksgiving, 6.00pm. Refreshments after the meeting. Preacher: Pastor Philip Hopkins (Biddenden). Details: (02380) 784539.

JUN 28

LONDON. Protestant Truth Society Bookshop, 184 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HJ. PTS Bite-size School of Theology, every Tuesday at lunchtime from 1.10–1.45pm. Subject: 'God Bless those who leave the choice to Him'. You are welcome (we provide tea and coffee).
SUNDERLAND. Bethesdsa Free Church, Tatham Street, Sunderland, SR1 2QB. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Pastor Stephen Boreland (07718) 358272.

JUN 29

NEWTOWN AYCLIFFE. Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Ladybower, off Stainmore Crescent, Newtown Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7EU. Christian Institute meeting 7.30pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: Revd Alan Brunton (0191) 371 0296.

JUN 30

DURHAM. Durham Presbyterian Church, Laburnum Avenue, Durham, DH1 4HA. Christian Institute meeting 7.45pm. Subject: 'Sure Foundations'. Speakers: Christian Institute staff. Contact: durham@epcew.org.uk or Christian Institute office (0191) 281 5664.

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BRISTOL. Buckingham Chapel, Queen's Road, Clifton. Sunday 11.00am & 6.00pm, Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact: Pastor Oliver Gross, tel: 0117 3368711. www.buckinghamchapel.org.uk

BRISTOL. Zetland Evangelical Church, 4/6 North Road, BS6 5AE. Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm. Contact: Eddie O'Brien. Tel: 0117 9629868. www.zetlandchurch.org.uk

YATE. Grace Church, 250 Station Road, Yate, BS37 4AF. Sunday 11.00am & 6.00pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact: The Elders, tel: 07783 300862. www.gracechurch.org.uk

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CHATTERIS. Community Church, The King Edward Centre, King Edward Road, PE16 6NG. Sunday 10.30am. For Sunday evening and midweek meetings please phone Pastor Robert Read. Tel: 01354 694393.

CORNWALL

FALMOUTH. Carrick Free Baptist Church, Bosvale Community Centre, off Hillside Road, TR11 4HQ. Sunday 10.45am & 6.30pm. Tel: 01209 862920. E-mail: carrickfbc@gmail.com www.carrickfbc.org.uk

FALMOUTH, Falmouth Evangelical Church, Killigrew Street (by the Moor). Sundays 10.30am & 6.30pm. Meetings in accordance with Covid guidelines. E-mail: mikeccoles@aim.com www.fec.org.uk

GORRAN HAVEN. Haven Church (off Church Street), PL26 6JN. Sunday 10.00am (Breaking of Bread) & 4.00pm. Wednesdays 7.30pm. Enquiries: 01726 842873. Website: www.havenchurch.co E-mail: haven_gh@outlook.com

NEWQUAY. Reformed Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, TR7 1NB. Sunday 11.00am & 6.00pm. Tuesday 7.30pm. Pastor Josh Williamson, tel: 07580 485257.

ST AUSTELL. A warm welcome to Grace Church, 2nd Scout Hall, Polmarth Close, PL25 3TW. Sundays 11.00am. Tel: 07977 753612. www.gracechurchstaustell.org.uk

CUMBRIA

KESWICK. Lake Road Chapel, CA12 5BS. Sundays 10.30am & 4.00pm. Thursdays 7.00pm. Enquiries: Philip Helm, 01768 88797. E-mail: philip@lakeroadchapel.net www.lakeroadchapel.net

DERBYSHIRE

CRICH. Baptist Church, Market Place. Sunday 10.45am & 6.00pm. PM/BS Tuesday 7.30pm. Pastor Chris Hand, tel: 01773 853180. E-mail: info@crichbaptist.org www.crichbaptist.org

DERBY. Castlefields Church. Sunday 10.00am & 4.30pm @ Derby Conference Centre, London Road, DE24 8UX. Wednesday 7.30pm @ Traffic Street, DE1 2NL. www.castlefieldschurch.org.uk, 01332 550879.

STANTON LEES CHAPEL (off A6 nr Darley Dale). Sunday: 8.00am prayer meeting; 2.30pm & 6.30pm services. Pastor Jonathan Bayes. Wednesday 7.30pm. Tel: 0771 2080257. www.stantonleeschapel.org.uk

DEVON

EXETER. Independent Evangelical Church meeting at Heavitree Evangelical Church, Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter, EX1 2RR. Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm. Thursday 7.00pm Bible study & prayer. Tel: Pastor Jonathan Munday 01647 270067 or Tom Cook 01392 811204.

GALMPTON, nr Paignton. Flavel Chapel (Reformed Evangelical), Stoke Gabriel Road, TQ5 0NQ. Sunday mornings, 10.30am, evenings Flavel Hall, TQ5 6NJ, 6.30pm at the Roundings. Walford Catling, 01803 559040, or John Young, 07779 169750. All warmly welcome. E-mail: walfordandelaine@hotmail.com Web: flavelchapel.com

HONITON. Evangelical Congregational Church, High Street. Sunday services 10.30am & 6.00pm. Tuesday 7.30pm. Contact: Revd Mike Plant, 01404 548576. www.honitonecc.org

SMEATHARPE nr Honiton. Newhouse Baptist Church. Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm. Tuesday 6.30pm. Details: Pastor John Woollam, tel: 01404 861313. www.newhouse-baptist.org.uk

PLYMOUTH. Beacon Park Baptist Church, 11 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4LR. Lord's Day services 10.30am & 6.30pm. Wednesday Bible study 7.30pm. A warm welcome awaits you. Pastor Richard Clarke, tel: 01752 227009.

Continued on page 38

Advertising

Continued from page 37

DORSET

CHRISTCHURCH. Carmel Evangelical Church (non-ecumenical) meeting at Homelands Hall, King's Avenue, Christchurch, BH23 1NP. Sunday services 11.00am & 6.00pm. Thursday Bible study 7.30pm. Tel: Robin Lewis, 01202 475650 or Oliver Rowe, 01202 873952.

GILLINGHAM. Baptist Church Gillingham, Dorset. Sunday 10.30am & 6.30pm. Wednesday 7.30pm Bible study and prayer meeting. Pastor Simon Chase, tel: 01747 826187. Secretary, Peter Wick, tel: 01747 841430. www.gillinghambaptistchurch.org.uk

ESSEX

WICKFORD. Reformed Baptist Church. Sunday 10.30am & 6.30pm. Thursday 7.30pm. Details from secretary, tel: 01268 735127. www.WickfordReformedBaptistChurch.org.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

GLOUCESTER. Coopers Edge Baptist Church. E-mail: john@coopersedgebaptist.org Tel: 07938 209407. For details see www.coopersedgebaptist.org

GLOUCESTER. Trinity Baptist Church (Free Evangelical), Finlay Road. Sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm. Bible study & prayer, Thursday 7.30pm. Pastor Phil Jones, tel: 01452 424733. E-mail: phil@tbcgloucester.org www.tbcgloucester.org

HAMPSHIRE

ANDOVER. Koinonia Evangelical Church warmly invites you to join us in worship and fellowship. We meet at Endeavour Primary School, Kirk Campus, Dairy Road, Andover, SP11 6YG on Sunday at 10.30am & 6.30pm. Telephone Bas Jacobs on 07799 141526. www.koinonia-andover.com

PORTSMOUTH. Grace Baptist Church, PO3 5AH. Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm. Contact: Evan Richards, 07922 179274. Web: www.graceportsmouth.com

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HERTFORDSHIRE

BALDOCK. Reformed Baptist Church at Community Centre, (1689 BCOF). Sunday school 9.15am. Morning service 11.00am; Evangelistic service 6.00pm. Wednesday 7.15pm. You are warmly welcome. Contact: J. E. Northern, 01462 834464. www.baldockbaptistchurch.org.uk

BOREHAMWOOD. Cowley Hill Free Church (Baptist). Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm; Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact: Philip Hambridge, 0208 9531867.

HATFIELD. Evangelical Baptist Church, now at Eden House, School Lane, Hatfield, AL10 8AX. Sunday 11.00am. S/school 9.45am. Wednesday 7.30pm. Pastor Murray Gifkins, 01707 884534. See www.hope4hatfield.org

ISLE OF WIGHT

SANDOWN. Avenue Road Evangelical Church, PO36 8BN. Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm. Tuesday 10.30am, prayer & Bible study (NKJV; CH). Contact tel: 01983 403725.

KENT

CHATHAM. Enon Baptist Church, Skinner Street, ME4 5RF. Sunday 11.15am and 6.30pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. Pastor: Paul Relf, tel: 01634 301499. www.enonbaptistchatham.org.uk

MEDWAY TOWNS. Waterford House Evangelical Free Church, Rede Court Road, Strood. Sunday 11.00am & 6.30pm. Tuesday 7.45pm. Pastor Adrian Tribe. Kevin Tomaschek (Church Secretary), tel: 07564 878823. www.whefc.co.uk

WHITSTABLE. Hamilton Road Evangelical Church, CT5 1JX. Sunday: 11.00am & 6.00pm; SS 11.00am; PM/BS Wednesday 7.30pm. For further details please phone church secretary, tel: 01227 450596 or e-mail: hrecct5@gmail.com A warm welcome to all.

LANCASHIRE

BLACKBURN Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Fecitt Brow, BB1 2AZ. Sabbath services 11.00am & 6.30pm. Minister: Revd Norman Green. Tel: 01254 260388.

BLACKPOOL. Tabernacle Church, FY1 1QL. Evangelical Sunday services 11.00am & 6.00pm followed by tea/coffee & fellowship. Wednesday Bible study 7.30pm at church or Home Groups – please check. Opposite Metropole, Springfield Road. Revd V. P. Tracey & J. Wilson, 01253 394326. Info: www.blackpooltab@gmail.com

PRESTON. North Preston Evangelical Church, Sherwood Way, Preston, PR2 9GA. Sunday 10.30am and 6.00pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. Pastor: David Campbell. For more details www.npec.org.uk or contact 07904 677611.

LEICESTER CITY

LEICESTER. Melbourne Hall Evangelical Free Church, St Peters Road. Sunday 10.45am & 6.00pm. Wednesday 7.30pm Bible study/prayer meeting. A warm welcome to everyone. Pastor: Peter Mackenzie, tel: 0116 288 8156. www.melbournehall.org

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HINCKLEY. Grace Baptist Church (Independent – KJV Bible used), 216 Coventry Road, LE10 0NG. Rev. Christopher Salmon. Visitors always welcome. Sunday services 10.30am & 6.00pm. Wednesday prayer & Bible study 7.00pm. All enquiries please phone 01455 612377 or church 01455 617857.

LINCOLNSHIRE

BILLINGHAY. Baptist Chapel, Church Street. Sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm. Tuesday 7.00pm. Pastor Richard Hilliard, tel: 07717 392628. www.billinghaybaptistchapel.co.uk

LINCOLN. Evangelical Church, Uffington Close, off Skellingthorpe Road, LN6 0AE. Sunday 11.00am & 6.00pm. Thursday 7.45pm. Pastor Andrew Thomson, 07999 250789. E-mail: a1thomson@aol.com

LOUTH. Evangelical Church, Monksdyke Road. Sunday 10.45am & 5.00pm. Wednesday 10.30am. Elder: C. Sharp, tel: 01507 339714 (01507 605353).

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

NEWCASTLE. Reformed Evangelical Church, Hoylake Avenue, Longbenton, NE7 7UN. Sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm. Wednesday Bible study, 7.30pm. Minister: Revd Dan Peters. For further details see www.nrechurch.co.uk or tel: 0191 2662422 or 0191 2859757.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

SLAPTON & WAPPENHAM Independent Evangelical Church (near Towcester). Sunday 10.30am and 5.00pm. Sunday school 10.30am, at Wappenham. Tuesday Bible Study 7.30pm online. Contact Pastor Trevor Thomas for details, 07950 434258. www.towcesterevangelicalchurch.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND

LONGHORSLEY. Mission Free Church (FIEC). Sunday morning service 11.00am with creche; 5.30pm Prayer meeting; 6.00pm Evening service/Bible study. Contact: 01670 518202 or 01661 822546. www.longhorsleymission.org.uk

OXFORDSHIRE

BANBURY. Evangelical Free Church. Sundays 10.30am and 6.30pm; Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Phone: 01295 252607 or 01295 251169 or see www.befc.org.uk for venue details.

SHROPSHIRE

TELFORD. Grace Church Wellington. Sunday 11.00am in the Wellington Library at the Wellington Leisure Centre, TF1 1LX. Visitors welcome. Website: www.gcwellington.com

SUSSEX: EAST

HAILSHAM. Baptist Church, Market Street, BN27 2AG. Sunday 11.00am &

6.30pm. Thursday 2.30pm. Contact: R. Hogg, tel: 01323 833501. www.hailsham baptistchurch.co.uk

WARWICKSHIRE

BULKINGTON. Congregational Church. Sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm. Prayer/Bible study Wednesday 7.30pm. Pastor Andrzej Stelmasiak, 024 7767 9138. www.bulkington congregational.org

WORCESTERSHIRE

DROITWICH. Witton Chapel, Tagwell Road. Evangelical Reformed ministry in Worcestershire. Sunday 10.30am & 6.30pm. Thursday 7.30pm Bible study and prayer meeting. Details: (01905) 794271 or (01684) 567969. www.witton chapel.org.uk

YORK

YORK. Evangelical Church, Millthorpe School Hall, off Philadelphia Terrace, YO23 1DH. Sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm, except 1st Sunday evening, 5.00pm, Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Road, YO23 1BW. E-mail: info@yec.org.uk Tel: 01904 375875. www.yec.org.uk

YORKSHIRE: EAST

HULL. East Hull Presbyterian Church (Evangelical), R/O 336 Holderness Road, Hull, HU9 3DQ. Sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. Details, tel: 01482 214248 / 01482 581069 / 01482 789690. E-mail: christophermlawson@hotmail.com

HULL. Kingston Evangelical Church, Park Grove off Princes Avenue, HU5 2UR. Sunday services 10.30am & 6.30pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. Bible study and prayer meeting. Enquiries, tel: 01482 844579.

YORKSHIRE: SOUTH

DONCASTER. Doncaster Evangelical Church, Beckett Road, Doncaster, DN2 4AY, Sunday services 10.45am & 6.00pm. Pastor Gareth James, 07890 754581. www.doncasterevangelical.org

CHURCHES WALES

CARDIFF. Emmanuel Baptist Church, Gabalfa Avenue, Gabalfa, CF14 2SH. Sunday 11.00am and 6.00pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact: Alan Lansdown, tel: 02920 616816. www.emmanuelcardiff.org

HAVERFORDWEST, Pembrokeshire. Hill Park Baptist Church (Ind), SA61 2ET. Sundays 11.00am & 6.00pm. Sunday school 10.15-10.45am. Prayer meeting Wednesday 7.00pm. Contact: Revd Ian Middlemist, misty_923@hotmail.com www.hillpark.net

LAMPETER. Evangelical Church, New Church, 16 College Street. Sunday services: English 10.30am, Welsh (with translation) 5.00pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact G. Jones, tel: 01570 423368. www.lampeter evangelicalchurch.org

LLANGOLLEN. Glanrafon Evangelical Church, Princess Street, LL20 8RD. Sunday 11.00am and 6.00pm. Wednesday 7.30pm. Church secretary: 07863 706666. www.glanrafon.org

LLWYNYPIA. Rhondda Evangelical Church, Salem Terrace, CF40 2JL. Sunday 11.00am & 6.00pm. Wednesday 7.15pm Ministry and Prayer. www.rec.wales

SWANSEA. Ebenezer Baptist Church, near High Street station. Sunday 11.00am & 6.00pm; SS 10.00am. Wednesday 7.30pm. Minister: Revd Graham John, tel: 01792 582845.

MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED: evangelistic men to preach Christ and minister to the fans and local citizens in Birmingham during the Commonwealth Games, 28 Jul - 8 Aug. Details: https://www.sfoi.uk/CommonwealthGames Contact: Bill Adams 0208-133-6955 E-mail: bill@sfoi.org

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Features

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

By Roger Carswell
Roger Carswell was raised in Yorkshire and has worked as an itinerant evangelist for over forty years.

This year we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Reigning for 70 years, she is Britain's longest-serving monarch. Born on 21 April 1926 in London, Elizabeth was the first child of the late Duke and Duchess of York. Since she was third in line to the throne, it was not expected that her father (George VI) would become King or that she would become Queen.

Family

Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, in Westminster Abbey on 20 November 1947. She had to collect clothing coupons for her wedding dress, as the nation was still on rationing after the war!

They had four children, eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, and were together for 73 years, until his death last year. During her reign, there have been 15 prime ministers from Sir Winston Churchill to Boris Johnson, and nearly 200 prime ministers in the wider Commonwealth!

Elizabeth took up the position of Queen of the United Kingdom on the 6 February 1952, at the age of just 25, following the death of her father, King George VI.

Coronation

Elizabeth was crowned Queen in Westminster Abbey the following year on 2 June 1953. She was presented with a Bible, and was told, as in all previous coronations since 1689, 'We present you with this book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the royal law; these are the lively oracles of God.'

Queen Elizabeth ll during her visit to HMS Ocean in Devonport
Source: Joel Rouse/Ministry of DefenceDerivative: nagualdesign, OGL 3

She continues the royal line of United Kingdom monarchs which began in 1603 with King James I.

In her 70-year reign the world has changed. Television, the internet, and social media have become the dominant mediums; man has travelled into space and walked on the moon; the Berlin Wall was built and broken down; international travel has become available to us all; terrorism has come to be widely prevalent.

Today, she has over 600 patronages of organisations and charities. She is Head of State, the Fount of Justice, Head of the Armed Forces, the Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. She loves animals, especially horses and dogs, and is the patron of multiple animal charities, including the Dogs Trust and the RSPCA.

In her role, she gives honours to those her government deems fit. She also sends congratulatory messages to those celebrating their 100th and 105th birthdays and those celebrating their 60th, 65th, and 70th wedding anniversaries. Do you know anyone who has received one?

She is greatly esteemed for her diligent work, her commitment and loyalty to her high role, and her part in the life of the nation.

In the summer, the Queen traditionally hosts three Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace, and one at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Scotland.

These wonderful events provide a way of recognising and rewarding public service for people from all walks of life. Perhaps you even know of someone who has had the honour of attending one.

Christmas speech

The Queen's Christmas Day speeches are, for many families, a non-negotiable part of the day. During her message to the Commonwealth in 2011, the Queen said: 'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.

'Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.'

The Queen's King

There is a monarch before whom even Her Majesty the Queen will one day bow. In the very book with which the Queen was presented on her coronation we read that Jesus the Lord will reign for ever and ever.

Jesus is the King of kings, the ultimate Sovereign of the world. He rules over all of creation. He is high and exalted, surrounded by worshipping angels. To him is due the worship of the nations.

We read in the Bible that Jesus, 'being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father' (Philippians 2:6-11).

I have never met the Queen, and never had an invitation to do so! But I have met King Jesus. He loved me (and you) so much that he left the splendour of heaven to be born and laid in a manger in Bethlehem.

Having led an absolutely regal life, committing no sin, and revealing no selfishness, he went to die on a cross. There, he took on himself all the sin and rebellion of his subjects. He died in our place. He took the hell which would be ours. It was the ultimate act of sacrifice, which he made because he loves us so much. He died that we might come to know God in a personal way.

As King, even over death, Jesus rose again, defeating the grave. Today, Jesus is exalted. One day he will return as Lord, Judge, and King. As he said, 'I am [the Christ], and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven' (Mark 14:62).

As we remember the 70 years of service that the Queen has offered to the people of her commonwealth, we also remember that today the King of all kings – and queens – invites YOU to receive him as Lord and Saviour, and then live with him, promising to never leave or forsake you in life, through death, and into eternity.

This article is available as a tract from 10Publishing.