

# DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH AND CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS



**MAGAZINE**

**MAY 2026**

**Free**

**Minister:** Mark Welch

**Church Secretary:** Chris Penn

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**Charity Registration Number:** 1127791



***FREE CHURCH SERVICES***  
***St Albans Cathedral***

This service is celebrated monthly on the first Wednesday of every month at 11am with our Free Church Chaplain and other ministers.

For further information:  
Contact: Rev Simon Carver  
[simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)

More details in the magazine

## MAY SERVICES

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>'How to understand and act upon the cross' Holy Communion Rev Mark Welch</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>All Age Family Worship</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Andy Godfrey</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>'What is Truth?' Rev Mark Welch</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>'Trinity Sunday' Megan Thompson</b>



Dear Friends

As I write, news is breaking.

Police are holding two teenagers after an arson attack aimed at a synagogue in north-west London. A bottle containing a type of accelerant was thrown through the window of Kenton United Synagogue on Shaftesbury Avenue, Kenton, at about midnight on Sunday, 19-04-26. Minor damage was caused to the building, although no injuries were reported.

Any attack on a place of worship should make us shudder because we could be next. The motivation is unclear, but Israel's continued horrific war crimes against the Palestinian and Lebanese people form the background to this arson attack, though that is no justification for it.

Everyone must remember that there is a distinction between the state of Israel, which is engaging in horrific and sustained war crimes, and the British Jewish Community, many of whom find Israel's behaviour as abhorrent as everyone else.

So who is to blame? The individuals who attacked the synagogue have crossed a moral red line and are not without responsibility. The criminal actions of the State of Israel formed the background to the attack, but responsibility doesn't end there.

The backing given to Israel by an elected American President whose sanity and fitness for office are questionable points to the wider American Public, who re-elected him even after an attempted insurrection and criminal convictions.

A significant proportion of the "Christian" American electorate were influenced by a heresy known as dispensationalism, in which a global battle is believed to trigger the return of Jesus Christ which has led to the grotesque spectacle of White House prayer meetings in which people prayed that "every bullet may

find. it's mark” and the quoting of a fake Bible verse from the film Pulp Fiction by the American Secretary of State for Defence, combined with the President posting a picture of himself portrayed as Jesus Christ on social media.

These events tell us that much American Evangelical “Christianity” is no longer Christian at all and is the work of the evil one. I give thanks for my Episcopalian (Anglican), Catholic and Baptist American brothers and sisters for their clear stand against this false religion.

So what can we learn from all this? Politicians on the right are hijacking Christianity and perverting it into a form of “Christian” Nationalism. The method is to point to a minority group and to frighten people, giving them someone to fear and hate.

But Jesus told us to “Love our neighbours as ourselves.” To have empathy and to realise they are as vulnerable as we are. The Old Testament commands us to “Welcome the stranger in our midst.”

Anything claiming to be Christian that encourages us to hate other people is false and evil. We are to follow Jesus’ commandment to “Love one another as I have loved you.” IF we want to follow Jesus, we must reject, denounce and work against this perversion of Christianity and promote the gospel of peace, forgiveness and love as taught by Jesus.

With every blessing,

*Mark*





## ***PASTORAL TEAM***

The members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Martin Taylor (07787 555730), Marjorie Jones (01727 422930), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051) and Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), are active members of the Pastoral Team.

The team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.

*Mark Welch*



## **PASTORAL NEWS**

The sunnier weather, that kept being forecast, looks as though it has happened at last. It has been quite dry too in spite of one or two showers and things that are in pots have suddenly needed watering. After I turned the hose on my tiny, newly seeded lawn, I noticed a lot of worm activity. It occurred to me that we so often praise God for the new displays of flowers and shrubs after Winter and the lovely dawn chorus, but we rarely give thanks for the workers like worms and beetles etc. Without them the soil would degrade.

We thank God too for the work of the church at Dagnall Street and all the work our Minister and deacons do and also the other smaller jobs that so many people just pick up and carry out.

By and large we seem to have kept a fairly healthy church congregation and friends, but there are those who need not only ongoing prayers but for those who are suddenly unwell or in hospital.

Val Urban is now in Watford hospital and we think of her and the following friends who need our prayers.:-

Elizabeth and Bill Allen, Jack and Brenda Passmore, John Peters, Krisztina Schreiner, Olly Branch and family, Tom and Velma and their family, Ruth Sayers, Sandra and John Carpenter, Jan Morse and family and Jenny Johnson.

***For the beauty of each hour,  
Of the day and of the night.  
Hill and vale and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light.  
Father unto Thee we raise,  
This our sacrifice of praise.***

(For the beauty of the earth.....Folliott S. Pierpoint)

***Marjorie***



# Healing the Wounds of Trauma

## *A group seminar*

### *Topics Include:*

1. What is a wound of the heart?
2. What can help our heart wounds heal?
3. What happens when someone is grieving?
4. If God loves us, why do we suffer?
5. How can we forgive others?
6. Bringing our pain to the cross
7. Moving Forward



### Event Details:

Where: Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St Albans, AL3 5EE

### When:

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 29th April  
OR

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
May 2026

Cost: *£15 contribution for resources and light refreshments.*

### Apply today!

<https://www.dsbc.org.uk/> Go to Latest News

### Enquiries:

Email: [minister@dsbc.org.uk](mailto:minister@dsbc.org.uk) or  
[amutabazi@ywamharpندن.org](mailto:amutabazi@ywamharpندن.org)

If accommodation is needed please let us know.

**ALL WELCOME**



Trauma Healing  
Institute  
www.traumahalinginstitute.com



May 2026

**TRAUMA HEALING GROUP**  
***Healing the wounds of trauma***

It is such a very great joy to be partnering with friends from Youth With a Mission and the Trauma Healing Institute to be providing Trauma Healing Courses.

For more information contact: [minister@dsbc.org.uk](mailto:minister@dsbc.org.uk), or complete the online registration form.

**A group seminar**

A big welcome to you as you apply to join us on what we pray will be a life-transforming seminar with us! This is a safe environment in which to find a way through the trauma caused by all kinds of life events like bereavement, divorce, high-level conflict, or any situation that has left scars. The facilitators are all accredited by the Trauma Health Institute.

The next session is available from Thursday 30th April—Sat 2nd May. Please note that it is important to attend all three days of a trauma healing group. We will start at 9am and finish by 5pm each day. There will be morning and afternoon tea/coffee breaks and a 1 hour break for lunch. The church café is open from Wednesday to Saturday but please bring a packed lunch if preferred, or there are shops close by. Accommodation can be provided at the Youth With a Mission Campus in Harpenden, with transport to and from Dagnall Street, if required. There is a £15 charge towards the cost of resources and light refreshments. If this is a problem, please speak to the minister.

A registration form can be found online at: [https://www.dsbc.org.uk/Go to Latest News](https://www.dsbc.org.uk/Go%20to%20Latest%20News)



# Birthday scheme

Be a blessing on  
your birthday.  
Transform a life.

Join your church's Birthday Scheme today to change lives with BMS World Mission. Go to [www.bmsworldmission.org/birthday](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/birthday) to find out how your birthday can make a difference.

Your Birthday Scheme Co-ordinator is:

**LINDA WILLIAMS**

Photo: Each year, gifts to the Birthday Scheme save lives at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad.  
The Baptist Missionary Society: registered in England and Wales as a charity number: 1174364 and a company limited by guarantee number: 10349589.

May 2026



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

**9th - Olly Branch  
28th - Roslyn Prowse**

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.  
He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.*

Mrs C.F. Alexander (1818 - 95)

**Happy Birthday** to everyone born at this time of year.

*Linda Williams*

# **DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE**



## **ALL AGE FAMILY WORSHIP**

**Come and join us on**

**Sunday, 10th May  
10.30 am**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities  
Do just come along, we would love to see you  
There are activities, crafts and games for  
children at all our  
services**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone  
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

*Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes*

May 2026

**ST. ALBANS  
CATHEDRAL**

**You are invited to attend a  
Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel  
on the following Wednesdays at 11.00am:**

**1st April 2026**

**The Reverend Kevin Walton**

Canon Chancellor, St Albans Cathedral.

**NB: this service will precede a service of burial of the  
ashes of the Revd Peter Hudson**

**6th May 2026**

**The Reverend Ian Green**

Minister of Amersham Free Church.

**3rd June 2026**

**The Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore**

Dean, St Albans Cathedral.

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,  
Email: [simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)

# DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



## TODDLERS

**Wednesday mornings at 9.45 am**  
*(Maximum limit of 30 Adults)*

**£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided**

**Meeting every Wednesday during term-time**  
**in the Lower Hall**

*Entrance via the church car park*

*There will be no meeting during Half-term from*  
**Monday 25th to Friday 29th May**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.**  
**Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone**  
**Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

*Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes*

15/2026  
**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE**



## **Who Let the Dads Out (WLTDO)**

*Meets on the Second Saturday of each month*

**£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided  
For Dads, Grandads, Uncles etc..**

**Taking place in the Lower Hall**  
*Entrance via the church car park*

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON**  
**Saturday, 9th May**  
**10-11.15am**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.**  
**Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone**  
**Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

*Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes*



Enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea with friends or family with all proceeds going to fund the work of *Haven Hope*.

Date: Saturday 16th May 2026, 2:30pm or 3pm

Venue: High Street Methodist Church, High Street, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2RU.

To book your place and reserve your cream-laden scones, with accompanying sandwiches and other yummy treats, please click on "Get Tickets". Tickets cost £25 each. (Ticket sales close at 6pm Tuesday 12th May.)

After purchasing your ticket/s, you will be sent a short email asking you to indicate your preferred sitting (2:30 or 3pm) and requesting information about dietary requirements/allergies for you and your guests, if you have booked on their behalf. Should you wish to provide further details about dietary needs, please email Liz at [info@havenhope.uk](mailto:info@havenhope.uk)

May 2026



Please join us for...

# Afternoon Tea



Saturday 16 May, 2.30 & 3pm  
High Street Methodist Church,  
Harpenden, AL5 2RU

Tickets are £25. Booking is essential.  
All proceeds will go directly to Haven Hope.

Please use the link provided or email  
[info@havenhope.uk](mailto:info@havenhope.uk)



Further details from Janet Moverly-Peers

# Scrabble Club



DSBC Scrabble Club is on the ***first and third*** Tuesday of the month from ***14:30 to 16:30***.

***Tuesday 5th and 19th May***

**All are welcome.**

So come along to the Cross Street Centre and give it a try.

Speak to me for further information.

*Colin Owen*

May 2026

## **FOODBANK**

### ***Can you add one extra thing to your weekly shop?***

There is even more need for food bank donations in the St Albans area. All DSBC food donations are now sent to the St Albans and District Foodbank run by the Trussel Trust Charity whose depot is in Redbourn, who also collect from the Foodbank baskets placed in many of the local supermarkets and the Town Hall and the Verulamium museums.

You can now access the shopping list needs on a free app called 'Bank the food', however, it seems that the most urgent needs are:

LONG LIFE JUICE  
LONG LIFE MILK  
MULTI SURFACE CLEANER  
LUNCH BOX SNACKS  
TINNED CUSTARD  
TUNNED FRUIT  
TINNED MEAT

If you want to see the full list but cannot get the app speak to me.

If we just add one item to our shopping list we can bring it with us on a Sunday and I can ensure it is taken to a collection point.

Many thanks

*Diane*





## ***London Sponsored Walk 2026***



*A truly 'picturesque' image of the DSBC stalwarts outside St John's Downshire Hill, Hampstead. It is the only remaining 'Proprietary Chapel' in the Diocese of London. If you want to know more, read on!*

May 2026

This year was the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Unlock Walk, and conveniently for us the circular route passed West Hampstead Thameslink Railway Station. A short walk from the station along West End Road was St James Church, our first stop.

Designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield to seat 1,000 it was consecrated by the Bishop of London in 1888. Worship is catholic in style with clear, thoughtful and biblical preaching. Once a month the service is LGBTQIA specific and called 'Open Table.' In 2014 the church underwent a major programme of works to provide facilities for the Sheriff Centre at St James, a social enterprise business including the West Hampstead Post Office, a Café' and large Children's soft play area. The church is now open Monday to Saturday 9am – 5pm with a significant impact on the local community.



*St James Church, West Hampstead. The PO and Café are just out of view in the nave of this grand Anglican church.*

Our next stop was via Kilburn Grange Park, across Kilburn High Road, (Watling Street), and around Paddington Cemetery to St Anne's Brondesbury. The original churches of St Anne and St Andrew dated back to the mid/late 1800's and were demolished due to subsidence and fire to enable the current structure to be built in the

mid 1990's. The church is currently in a 'creative' season leaning into the London Diocesan vision of 'becoming confident disciples' and praying about how to become more welcoming and missional in reaching those who live in the very diverse and densely populated patch of North West London. They ask for prayer as they discern their next steps and especially as they step out in faith that God will provide, so that they see the Kingdom breaking through in greater measure in and through the worshipping community.

Our route continued around the block back to Kilburn High Road where we turned north for a short trek up 'Watling Street' to Quex Road Methodist Church. This is a church rooted in the vibrant, multicultural neighbourhood of Kilburn, a place known for its rich blend of cultures, music, food and stories. From the busy Kilburn High Road to the quieter residential streets the area has always been known as a meeting point for people from Ireland, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, South America and Europe. The Church was established in 1861 in a preaching hall in Belsize Road and relocated to its current site in 1975 continuing to be a place where God's love is shared, lived, and experienced by all. As part of the Methodist Church in Britain they stand in the Wesleyan tradition, rooted in scripture, prayer, holiness of heart and life, singing faith, and serving God through acts of love and justice.

The building hosts a nursery, pilates and wellbeing groups, as well as fellowships from across the world including a Brazilian congregation, Eritrean Fellowship and Filipino fellowship. They ask that we pray that people will come to know Christ and His saving grace in their midst, and that many more young people become involved in the sustainable future of the church.

As our route continued north eastwards towards Hampstead we noticed the ground rising and remembered that this walk's strapline was, 'Homes, History, Hills and Heath.' We'd already seen some homes and history, we were now starting on the 'Hills'!

Leaving Quex Road Methodist Church we perambulated along a varied course including Abbey Road, we didn't see an Abbey

but there was a pedestrian crossing! Just before our next stop we ascended 'Trinity Walk' which is described by the route planners as being, 'possibly the steepest part of any Unlock walk ever!



*Trinity Walk, Swiss Cottage*

Our next Church, St Thomas More RC Church in Swiss Cottage, was probably, architecturally the most impressive. The elliptically planned church was designed by Gerard Goalen, built thanks to the generosity of local Catholics, completed in time for Christmas 1968, and consecrated by Cardinal Basil Hume in May 1977. It is grade II listed for its architectural significance, and from inside is a very impressive space for worship. The church was built in the back garden of the former house of society painter Philip de László, whose studio became the previous church and is now the parish hall.

In April 2005 Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor entrusted the pastoral

care of the parish to priests from Opus Dei Prelature. Opus Dei promotes the idea that all baptised are called to holiness especially through everyday occupations and social responsibilities.

We were now on our way to Hamstead Heath which gently slopes upwards from south to north. The Unlock route planners very generously decided that we should enter the Heath from the lower entrance and to proceed North. Much of our recent route had been uphill which meant that we began a descent towards our next stop, St John's Downshire Hill – the clue is in the name and see the first photo!

St John's is a more classically designed church and was opened in 1823. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century housebuilding expanded on and around the brickfields on what is now Downshire Hill and the area was ripe for further development. At the time it was common in new developments to plan for a new church as an essential amenity. Often these 'new' chapels began life as 'Proprietary Chapels', paid for and owned by a private individual rather than the Church of England, with day-to-day ministry funded by pew rent.

The ministry at St John's Downshire Hill has always been within the evangelical tradition of the Church of England. Before the church was built the evangelist George Whitefield had preached on nearby Preacher's Hill, at the bottom of Downshire Hill. Whitefield's influence was felt at St John's including on the Revd John Wilcox who purchased the chapel in 1832 and built a school on Downshire Hill. Wilcox's appointment as minister was opposed by the perpetual curate of the parish church, the Revd Dr Samuel White, who did not approve of evangelical ministry. The church was close to leaving the Church of England after the Bishop of London's Consistory Court of Arches upheld the right of Dr White to oppose the appointment. Local opinion on the matter was divided, and the Poet John Keats, who lived just down the road from St John's wrote, "Here is White quarrelling with the world; he is in the wrong by this same token." Shortly after this Wilcox died and a different minister was subsequently proposed by the church trus-

tees and the authorised Church of England ministry continued, and so it continues to this day, remaining the only former 'Proprietary Chapel' in the Diocese of London.

A grade 1 listed building, with its Regency stuccoed and cream painted façade, St John's is typical of churches in the New England region of the USA from that period. Interesting features include its Doric porch and double staircases vestibule, as well as the East window dating from 1882, which depicts the Eagle of St John the Evangelist. The wooden box pews, which today line the sides of the church, are those for which the first congregation and successive generations paid pew rents until the early 1950's, one of very few churches in England retaining such early examples of this seating.

Today St John's is recognised as a church within the London Diocese of the Church of England but has complete independence in financial matters. It receives no support from and makes no contributions to Diocesan funds.

For over 200 years the church looks back with thankfulness on God's faithfulness, and they prayerfully strive to continue living for Jesus and sharing his good news in Hampstead and beyond.

Continuing down Keats Grove towards Hampstead Heath station, we entered Hamstead Heath, mixing with the hustle and bustle of the local scene - runners, dogwalkers, day trippers and Unlock walkers - all enjoying the sunshine and fresh air as we passed the swimming ponds alongside the Heath.

After our picnic lunch stop by No. 2 pond, we continued up through the heath, out across East Heath Road, along Well Walk and New End onto Heath Street and into Heath Street Baptist Church. Here we rested our weary frames whilst listening to a Beethoven piano recital by the minister of the church Rev. Ewan King.

The church was founded in 1861 although Baptists began meeting

in Hampstead as early as 1811. The church was founded by the Victorian timber tycoon James Harvey, in gratitude for his son's recovery from sickness. Harvey was a deacon at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church and recently widowed. His son Alfred was so ill that doctors said his only hope was for the family to leave Bloomsbury Square to live somewhere that offered a slim chance that 'the delicate health of the child' might recover in fresher, cleaner air. James Harvey chose Hampstead, and from the first week he arrived he would go each Sunday to meet with the local Baptist Community where prayers were said for Alfred, and the boy soon recovered. To show his gratitude, Harvey obtained a site on a former nursery and provided a large part of the cost of building the chapel, as the local Baptists were poor. The church is built of brick with a prominent ashlar west front in the decorated style with twin spires. Designed by CG Searle and with seating for 700 people, its first minister was Rev. William Brook jr. Membership rose steadily until it peaked in 1912 at 527.

Much later, in 1983, the church called the Rev. Dr Edwin Robertson as its minister, creating a link with Dagnall Street where he had been minister for five years from 1942. His ministry at Heath Street continued until 2001, when he was 89, although he continued to preach there from time to time until his death in 2007, aged 95. As well as being a Baptist minister, Edwin was an eminent chemist, author, and broadcaster. He returned to Dagnall Street in 1993 when we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> St Albans Boys' Brigade Company which Edwin had started at the church in 1943.

From Heath Street it really was, thankfully, downhill all the way back, with just one more church stop, St Andrew's URC in Frognall Lane. Built at the turn of the 1900's it is a fine grade II listed building situated on the prominent corner of Frognall Lane and Finchley Road. The building first opened in 1903, as part of the Free Church Expansion Project, establishing a new congregation in the Scottish Presbyterian tradition to serve the growing population of West Hampstead. Constructed with its striking tower it is a notable landmark and benefits from some very fine

stained-glass windows. Music has always been an important aid to worship and devotion and the tradition is maintained with its fine church organ and excellent grand piano and small group of loyal talented musician who regularly contribute to services.

The church has been enriched from time to time by an influx of members from nearby churches that, owing to changing populations or decaying buildings, became no longer viable. St Andrews has also been home to the Wengelawit Lutheran Church of Eritrea for more than 20 years, who hold their weekly service every Sunday at 2pm. The sanctuary and rooms are regularly used by a variety of community groups within activities encompassing ballet, and other dance classes, opera rehearsals and performance, judo, pilates and badminton. For over 120 years St Andrew's has drawn together Christians of a Reformed tradition from near and far to hear the good news of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ proclaimed from the pulpit, celebrated in musical praise and demonstrated in the lives of the congregation.

It was a great day out, fine weather, great company, lots of welcomes from the churches visited and fellow walkers, particularly those going the other way! And a big thankyou to our sponsors who made it all worthwhile. Next year's walk is Saturday 17. April 2027.

*Chris Penn*





## **London Freedom Walk 2026**

Step up for justice, hope and change by joining us on Saturday, 9 May 2026 for the London Freedom Walk. A family-friendly sponsored walk through the heart of London, the new 5-mile route visits iconic churches rich in history, as we walk in solidarity with communities facing poverty and the climate crisis.

### **Key details**

Date: Saturday 9 May 2026

Time: 12 noon – 5pm (registration from 11.30am)

Start: St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square

Finish: St Paul's Cathedral for Evensong

### **Why walk?**

This year's walk shines a light on Christian Aid's vital work in Kenya. In the crowded and noisy settlements of Nairobi, parents wake up knowing they must earn money - otherwise their children won't eat that evening.

But with tools, seeds and training from our partner, Beacon of Hope, families can grow nutritious vegetables in small city spaces and grow hope for the future.

By walking and fundraising, you're helping to empower communities to break free from poverty, adapt to a changing climate, and build a hopeful future.

Want copies of the event flyer for your church, group or notice-board? Let us know on [hello@christian-aid.org](mailto:hello@christian-aid.org) and we'd be happy to send you a link.

Let's walk together step by step, pound by pound to end poverty and injustice.

We hope to see you there!

**Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026**



## ***Baptist Union Prayer Diary May 2026***

**3<sup>rd</sup> May:** Alex Afriyie will be inducted as President of the Baptist Union at the Baptist Assembly later this month. Alex will be encouraging us to 'walk worthy of our calling' (Ephesians 4:1) to be Jesus centred, community orientated and mission focused. Please pray for Alex as he begins his term of office. [www.baptist.org.uk/president](http://www.baptist.org.uk/president)

**10<sup>th</sup> May:** The 'A Million Acts of Hope' initiative aims to counter negativity by celebrating small, everyday acts of kindness and solidarity. Bless the "Million Acts of Hope" that are being sown across our communities. May the small acts of kindness, the whispered words of comfort, and the quiet gestures of solidarity multiply, breaking down the walls of hatred and prejudice. Enable us to see the humanity in everyone we meet, and to work together for a better world. [www.millionactsofhope.org](http://www.millionactsofhope.org)  
(Prayer from Churches Together in England)

**17<sup>th</sup> May:** The Baptist Assembly is taking place this weekend in Harrogate. Pray for those attending, those taking part in leading and those who have organised the event; that it will be a wonderful opportunity to discover more of the diverse and beautiful ways that Jesus is at work through our churches and communities. [www.baptistassembly.org.uk](http://www.baptistassembly.org.uk)

**24<sup>th</sup> May:** At the Baptist Assembly the newly Fully Accredited Ministers and Pastors will be recognised. Please pray for them as they begin to live and work in this new phase of their calling. [www.baptist.org.uk/ministry](http://www.baptist.org.uk/ministry)

**31<sup>st</sup> May:** This week we pray for the Central Baptist Association. Pray for the team of Regional Ministers, and the 150 churches of the Association as they walk together in ministry and mission. [www.centralba.org.uk](http://www.centralba.org.uk)

***We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.***

***Amen.***

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# EMMANUEL SCHOOL, HAIPÍ

**UPDATE**

**April 2026**

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Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well. It has already been over 2 weeks since I returned from Haipi, and I've been looking forward to sharing some of my experiences with you.

Although a shorter trip, it was packed with lots of different events and moments as well as challenges along the way!

I arrived in Haipi in late February, and was warmly greeted by over 30 students from the ages of 6 upwards, staying in the school hostel. It is continuing to thrive under the guidance of the wardens, Kakai and Chun. It was so lovely to meet all of the new students – many of whom require sponsorship due to challenging family situations.

Besides new students, there were many fresh faces on the staff team this year – all of whom seem to have settled in well. It was great to see our new math and physics teacher coming to the hostel twice daily to offer extra tuition to hostellers.

Sem Haokip also made a second trip to our school to follow up on primary staff training and to meet with leadership team to ensure we are on the right track. His wisdom and support continue to be vital for us as we implement new teaching styles and upgrade our curriculum.

After sharing manifestos and Class X candidates for Head Boy and Head Girl campaigning, we held student elections and we now have a brand new School Council for 2026! We aim to raise up good leaders and confident, compassionate and aspirational young people.

Our Parent Teacher Meeting was well attended and we are always striving to build open and constructive relationships with our parents.

As a private school, it is vital that we become sustainable despite the difficult economic circumstances we are facing in Manipur. We set up a school stationery store a few years ago to boost school income and this is being run with increasing efficiency. We are also investing in our hostel, with extra tuition from our maths and physics teacher and by providing free keyboard lessons for all the hostellers. Another new initiative for the 2026 academic session are computer workshops, focusing on basic skills for Classes 6 to 10. For Classes 8, 9 and 10 these workshops are run out of school hours and cost students an additional fee. Finally, we are trying to compete more with surrounding schools by offering transport for some of our students from villages around Haipi. However, we now need to raise funds for a new vehicle which will ensure greater safety and capacity!

On 27<sup>th</sup> March, we celebrated Founding Day with lots of singing, dancing, some speeches and drama. Immediately after that, we began preparing for our School Olympics. It was an extremely busy month.

I thank God for His protection, provision and all of the relationship building I was able to do during the month. It was such a blessing to spend time encouraging and supporting students and teachers.

We look forward to seeing anyone who can make it at our annual fundraising barbecue on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (12:00pm to 3:00pm) at 12 Worcester Road, Hatfield, AL10 0DX.

Love and best wishes,

Joanne

## Thanksgiving for answered prayer:

- Praise God for Sir Lulun – a musician who is coming to teach keyboard to hostel students and Class 8, 9 and 10 school choir.
- Praise God for computer workshops and our stationery store being run by Sir Lelet.
- Praise God for having a full complement of teachers this year.
- Praise God for continued teacher training for Primary staff by Sem Haokip.

## Please pray for:

- A Principal (who shares the vision and values of the school) who can stay in Haipi full time and replace me.
- The in-house teacher training to be reflective, useful and productive for all staff involved and ultimately for the students in their care.
- Planning Activity Camp in October to be engaging, Christ-centred and life-giving.
- Christ to be at the centre of all we do – and that His name will be glorified and honoured.
- Continued wisdom and grace for the Board, CORE team and senior staff to lead the school in uncertain and difficult times.
- For justice (and ultimately peace) for the oppressed in Manipur, including displaced men, women and children.



## Practical Support:

With the ongoing crises in Manipur, any financial support is welcomed.

This can be a one-time donation either for the school or for displaced families.

Sponsorship for needy children – either for those based in hostel or day students – continues to be a lifeline for the school.

For further details please contact our Treasurer or Secretary:

Bill Tromans:  
Bill.tromans@btinternet.com  
Or

Muriel Kipgen:  
murielkipgen@btinternet.com



1a. First school Council meeting of 2026

1b. Reading for pleasure is taking off in the hostel!



***World Otter Day is 30th May! That's a good excuse to find out more about these interesting creatures...***

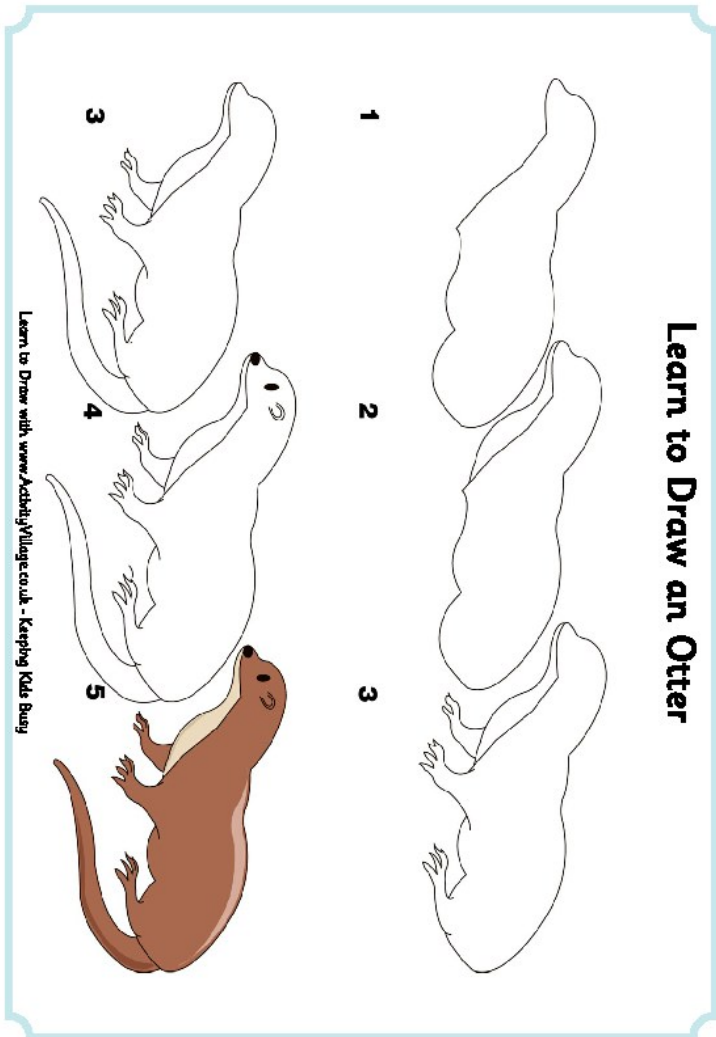


Otters love fish - but they will also eat frogs and crabs, small water birds and other small mammals. You will find them by rivers, lakes and seas. They are excellent swimmers, with webbed feet and powerful tails, and their thick fur keeps them warm. They can close their eyes and their nose when underwater.

There are many different species of otter found around the world, including the sea otter (found on the Pacific coast of North America) and the giant otter (found mainly in South America), which can grow to up to 1.8m (just under 6ft). Otters are quite charming to watch, playing and frolicking and falling asleep on their backs, even holding hands, as they float. I was lucky enough to see some sea otters doing just that at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California! They have a [sea otter web cam](#) so you might be able to see something like that too.

Otters were nearly wiped out in the UK in the 20th century, but conservation projects and cleaning up rivers has helped and they are now on the increase again. They live in underground burrows (known as holts) where they raise their cubs (or pups), who will be fine swimmers by 10 weeks old.

**Fun Fact:** A group of otters can be known as a bevy, a family, a lodge or a romp!



# Otter Facts

**Appearance:** Otters range in colour from pale brown to very dark brown (almost black). They have short legs and their feet are webbed for swimming, with large claws for digging. They have long whiskers which can sense the movements of water caused by their prey. Otters have a long powerful tail which they use for steering as they swim. Depending on the species, otters can range in size from 60 cm – 180 cm and weigh 2kg - 45kg.

**Diet:** Otters are carnivores. They eat fish, shellfish, frogs, eggs and insects. Otters need to consume 15 - 25% of their body weight in food every day.

**Species:** There are 13 known species of otter. The most widely distributed is the European otter, which can be found throughout Europe, Asia and North America. The Giant Otter of South America is the largest.

**Habitat:** Otters can be found on every continent except Australia or Antarctica. They live near water - mainly freshwater lakes or rivers, but they can live in salt water. They spend most of their time in water but build nests, called holts, on land near water. These are usually collections of tunnels.

**Behaviour:** Otters are playful creatures. They sometimes live in large groups but others live individually. This depends on species and local habitat. It takes between 60 and 86 days from mating to birth. Young otters remain with their mother for about a year.



## Classification

<b>Kingdom:</b>	Animalia
<b>Phylum:</b>	Chordata
<b>Class:</b>	Mammalia
<b>Order:</b>	Carnivora
<b>Family:</b>	Mustelidae
<b>Subfamily:</b>	Lutrinae

## ***ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES***



Let's remind ourselves of the items we can undertake as a church.

### **Food Bank**

A list of items we can give to support this are listed in the church magazine.

Any items can be taken to the Town Hall (11am to 5pm, please check times)

### **TWAM** -Tools with A Mission.

Any items of hand and machine tools to support people in overseas countries to help them be self-sufficient. Any tool items can be taken to Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Ave. St Albans, on any Thursday afternoon.

TWAM leaflets are in the leaflet rack in the Centre, or if you require further details contact me.

**Emmaus**; who recycle old furniture as well as supporting people who are homeless.

**Used Postage Stamps** for local charity. Please leave in the box on the link table

May 2026

Due to circumstances, I will no longer be attending Car Boot sales, so any items can be taken to your local Charity shop of choice.

***We can all play our part with environmental issues in protecting God's planet.***

Recycling you can undertake at home:

Recycle Paper - Cardboard Tin – Glass and Plastic with the council waste collection.

Recycle food waste and plants in a compost bin, if you can.

Many thanks in anticipation

*Trevor Oakley*



## **Table Tennis – Snooker – Pool and other Indoor Games**



Every Monday at;  
Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St. Albans  
In the Lower Hall from 10.30am till 12.30pm

*Come along and join us for a time of  
Fun and Fellowship*

*All are Welcome*

*Contact: Trevor Oakley*



## ***PHOTOGRAPHY***

You may have noticed bright yellow signs placed in areas of the church and Cross St café. These are a reminder to us all that any photos taken on our premises are for personal use only and **must not** to be shared on social media or in any form of publicity, **unless** permission has been granted by those being photographed, or in the case of children, by their parents or carers.

There are consent forms available if needed.

For further information please contact:

**LINDA ROBERTS on 01727 858869 or FRANK IDDIOLS on 07939 287785 (both responsible for Safeguarding) or CHRIS PENN on 07770 334339 (Church Secretary)**

Thank you.

# Judy Cook

## Family Together

April 2026

[bmsworldmission.org/jcook](http://bmsworldmission.org/jcook)



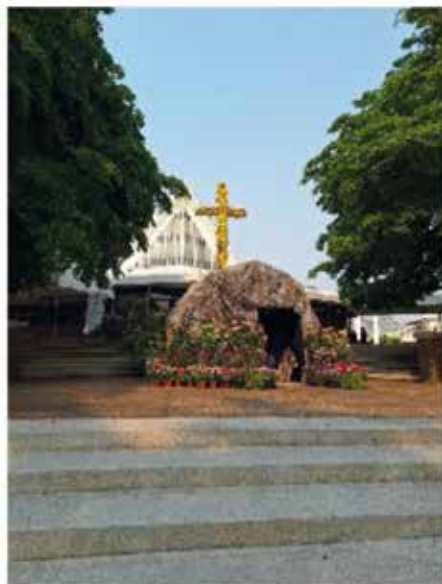
Greetings from Chiang Mai and Happy New Year (Songkran) too (in Thailand!).

The tradition of Songkran is held dear here, with a continuing focus on family and honouring your elders with water blessings and the spoken word/prayer. As Thailand approaches a New Year, our prayer is for peace and stability, and for spiritual growth in the Christian communities across Thailand.

Songkran is a significant event in the life of Thais, and is a time families reunite and spend precious time together. We at Hope Home try to ensure each staff member has enough time off over this period to visit their families if they live away from the family home. We also spend the time enjoying each others company and have a lot of fun too with the extra water play that this season brings. All very welcome in this time of year when it is also super hot, and sadly the pollution levels are dangerously high. Chiang Mai yet again boasted the highest air pollution levels across the world for a number of days. We are very grateful to our neighbourhood who noted that we were absent from our daily village walks for this period and came by to check up that we are doing okay. One neighbour also bought us a pile of water guns and play equipment ready for our Songkran fun. We feel very blessed to be so welcomed and accepted into this village community, and I trust our presence too is blessing them in ways we may never see.



This Easter at Hope Home we took the chance to attend our local Thai church for their morning service (not the sunrise one!) and our staff and children did amazingly well with a formal structured service that included 4 youth baptisms, 8 new church members being received in, communion and full sermon and Easter worship. The staff attending that day, bar one, are not yet Christians, and yet they took it all in, and many ongoing conversations have followed about the meaning of Easter and what it means for them personally. At home the Bible story times have also worked through the Easter story, with plenty of art and craft work too to accompany the story telling. My ongoing prayer is that every child and staff member will reach a real and personal understanding of who Jesus is, and invite Him into their lives. My personal challenge is to be a constant witness of Jesus through my words, actions and reactions, and to not shirk from opportunities to share my faith directly with the staff God has placed in our care.



The staff of the Social Development Services Unit are as busy as ever, but they do take a break over Easter and Songkran, and also all the Church of Christ in Thailand staff have a retreat away as one big family. They were at the beach this year and from the photos they sent it looked a whole heap of fun and team building. They too take the time to be away and visit extended family, as well as helping in their local churches with all celebrations. Pray for the staff to be refreshed and renewed and reenergized for a fresh new year of service to the vulnerable communities they reach out to across Thailand.

Recently too we were thrilled to have a mum of one of our children, and a few of her village aunts, call in and visit her from their remote village. There was a group of four village women chosen by the local government authorities to represent their ethnic tribal group at a meeting on rights and access to services. The meeting was held in Chiang Mai, and on the last day the mum conjured up her courage to ask the authorities to pass by Hope Home so she could visit her daughter. It was a fleeting visit but clearly special to all involved and brought a lot of joy to all of us. Family matters, and this mum hopes that she can come again soon, maybe even courageously travelling on her own to come to us. Sadly we can no longer take this young lady back to her village due to her intense medical needs and the mum and community are unable to meet her needs in their village.

Pray for SDSU staff to start the new Thai year with renewed energy and desire to be Good News to the communities we serve.

Pray for the staff and children of Hope Home to stay healthy through this time of very hot weather and severe pollution.



Praise God for family, whatever form that takes, and for opportunities to be family together.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel through your support of BMS. I personally am so appreciative of your prayer support and encouragement. I look forward to being able to visit some of you in person over the next two months of May and June when home in the UK. Please do get in touch to see what my schedule of visits is. I too am looking forward to being together in person with family once again.

April is indeed a special month - full of promise and expectation - and Easter especially reminds us that our Hope is in Jesus - our risen Lord and Saviour - He is alive and His spirit dwells within us.

If you would like to support Judy Cook by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/247](http://bmsworldmission.org/247) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700  
[mail@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:mail@bmsworldmission.org) [bmsworldmission.org](http://bmsworldmission.org)

The Baptist Missionary Society: registered in England and Wales as a charity (number 1174364) and a company limited by guarantee (number 10849689)

If there are any changes to your contact details, or you wish to unsubscribe from this prayer letter and/or other BMS communications, please contact the BMS Supporter Services Team by phone on 01235 517638, by email at [supporterservices@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:supporterservices@bmsworldmission.org) or by post to the address below. For more details on how we use and protect your data, visit [www.bmsworldmission.org/privacy](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/privacy)

## ***FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH***

As we all know our household bills are rising and the cost of heating and lighting the church is no different to the energy costs at home. Our church relies on raising its own income. Some of this comes from hiring out our rooms, but the majority comes from congregational giving. There are various ways in which this can be done. There is a plate by the door of the church for cash and offering envelopes.

We now also have a contactless offering device which accepts card or phone payments of specific amounts and this is also by the main church doors on Sundays. These donations are completely anonymous.



We are happy to receive bank transfers and standing orders and the details are below:

***Deacons of Dagnall Street Baptist Church***  
**60-18-11**  
**42087783**

If you decide to make an offering in this way, it is helpful if you are able to email our Finance Manager, Liz Blight, [lizblight@gmail.com](mailto:lizblight@gmail.com), so that she can connect up the entry on our bank statement.

Thank you for your generosity!

***The Deacons***



'Share St Albans' is a 'library of things' where we lend DIY, garden, kitchen, party items or something for your home. Set up for St Albans and district to borrow not buy. Whether you want to loan a gazebo or DIY equipment we are here to share and reduce our collective environmental footprint and have a collaborative community.

By borrowing something for a small fee you can save yourself money, save on space needed for storage and help to save the planet.

Locations:

The Green House, 46 London Road, AL1 1NG  
Sandridge Parish Council Car Park, The Ridgeway AL4 9TU

Please log onto the site to see opening times at these locations





## ***CHURCH IN THE CAFÉ MAY***

**Judy Cook** will be on Home Assignment from Hope Home in Chiang Mai in Thailand during May and June and will be coming to Dagnall Street on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

She plans to visit with her dad and to join in morning worship and stay for a fellowship lunch and presentation after. This will replace the scheduled May CITC.

May 2026

## Furlough Trip to South America

We will be spending the months of April and May traveling through **Argentina** and **Brazil**, after 4 years away.

The purpose of this trip is to visit family, friends, and church supporters, sharing about our ministry at YWAM Harpenden.

In Argentina, we will spend precious and quality time with Vera's mother, who is about to turn 🎂 90 🎂

We would like to ask for your prayers 🙏 during this sabbatical and ministry trip abroad.

Thank you in advance.

With gratitude,

David and Vera



## **PALM SUNDAY POEM**

*(Note: Poem focused on Palm Sunday themes but meant to be imaginative and told from the perspective of a cloak spread on the road (drawing inspiration from Luke 19:36). For anyone looking deeper, the cloak could also be seen as an image for a repentant sinner, it looks at themes of decay and restoration and there is also an implied reference to Simeon's words in Luke 2:35 about the thoughts of many hearts being revealed).*

You find me here, a splendid sight  
My fibres dancing in the light  
A goodly length, a perfect drape  
A fine and stylish cloak or cape  
I have a sense of time and place  
And flow with fluency and grace  
My sinews woven as you see  
The warp and weft that made me be

Alas my fabric marked by time  
Had seen long years of toil and grime  
I grew some holes through lack of care  
And parts of me began to wear  
Although I had the fairest cloth  
They found that I had got the moth  
And so no longer kept for best  
I joined the peg here with the rest

It happened just the other day  
When I'd been taken down the way  
I tried to see who we would meet  
I heard the shouting in the street  
Then closer cries began to ring  
"Hosanna to our blessed King!"  
With peace proclaimed, as heavens sign  
They hailed an heir of David's line



May 2026

The crowd built up on every side  
We jostled forward and I tried  
To look between the waving arms  
And hands that gathered fronds of palms  
I saw that cloaks were being thrown  
But no one heard my sigh and groan  
I'd lost my pin and metal stud  
And soon I would be caked in mud

I lay face forward on the ground  
And listened to the cheering sound  
A shadow crossed me from above  
And as it passed, I sensed his love  
Then suddenly renewed again  
I knew I'd lost each spot or stain  
My cloth a radiant cascade  
Felt just as when it first was made

I stayed in place 'till I was found  
And carefully I looked around  
The King was heading right along  
But I had noticed something wrong  
Beyond the happy forthright crowd  
Others whispered, not so loud  
I feared his onward path was dark  
Murky, soiled, the difference stark

We waited after he had gone  
For that King had to journey on  
And shouts of joy would turn to tears  
As he took on the sins of years  
Then human hearts would be laid bare  
Uncovered, from their toil and care  
For he would conquer death and strife  
And through his cross, there'd be new life



*Meghan Thompson 2026*

Name: .....

Colour me



# May

What is the season?

Let's practise writing the month

May

Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter



How many days are there in May?

Do you like May?



Choose some weather words for May.



stormy



snowy



wet



sunny



mild

Circle the month before May green and circle the month after May blue.

June

August

April

December

September

## ***WIPE THAT SMILE OFF YOUR FACE***

Best played with a large group of kids but we have had fun playing this at family dinner times, with just four. It works with any age, but is better when the children are young.



Sit round in a circle. Youngest starts. He smiles his widest, silliest smile at everyone round the circle, trying to make someone else giggle or laugh. He gets a point for everyone who can't keep a totally straight face. After a while, he uses one hand to literally "wipe" the smile off his face, and hand it to the person next to him, and on it goes.

When the kids are little this game can cause much merriment, especially if you are playing with mixed ages. Not many little children can keep a straight face when their Granny or Grandpa is grinning madly at them!

## All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Let every kindred, every tribe  
on this terrestrial ball,  
to him all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
and crown him Lord of all.

Melody: Coronation, Oliver Holden; Text: William Peronet

May 2026

**THE NEXT DATE FOR COPY FOR THE  
MAGAZINE WILL BE THURSDAY,  
21st May, 2026**

April has been a very sad month as my friend has lost her husband and I have lost a very good friend. We have known each other for nearly sixty years and John and Jan have been more than friends to me, they are my family. John will be missed, but will be remembered with lots of memories and love.

When dreadful things happen everything else loses any significance. The garden is still a mess and the house needs cleaning. I'll do it, sometime!

I must apologise as the magazine is a little late this month, life takes over sometimes. But I hope nothing has been missed. At least the sun is shining, unfortunately it makes the garden look worse and things need watering!! I keep telling myself I will catch up.

Two bank holidays to look forward to this month one early and one late. Hope the weather holds up and we have a good half term week,

*Glynis*

**glynis.griffiths1@gmail.com**

**01462 733665**

**07517 877601**

***A friend is someone who knows you and loves you just the same!***

## **What, When and Where May 2026**

The church is open for services at 10.30am each Sunday. There are activities, games and crafts for children during every service on a Sunday.

After service coffee is served in the Cross Street Centre.

All Age Family Service 10th May 10.30am

Church in the Café, 24th May—Judy Cook will be on home assignment and there will be a fellowship lunch and presentation.

Tea Chat and Prayer to be announced.

Scrabble Club is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 5th and 19th May, 2.30-4.30pm.

Toddlers is held every Wednesday during school term time from 9.45—11.15am. Half-term Monday 25th—Friday 29th May.

Who Let the Dad's Out . Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on Saturday 9th May, 10-11.15am.

Monday table tennis/games club is held in the Lower Hall from 10.30am

The fourth Tuesday of each month the Prayer and Share Group meet in the Cross Street Centre at 7.30pm.

First Saturday of the month Prayer Hour at 10am in Cross Street.

The Cross Street Café opens weekly from Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm.

Newsletter by email, weekly.

You can view this magazine in colour on our website.  
<https://www.dsbcb.org.uk/>