

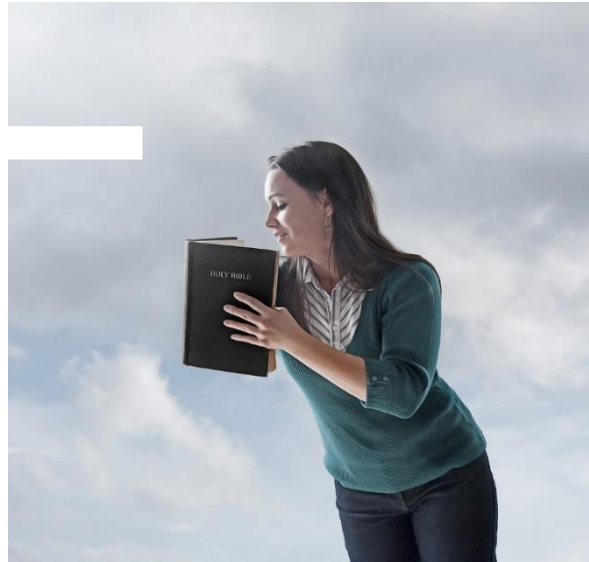
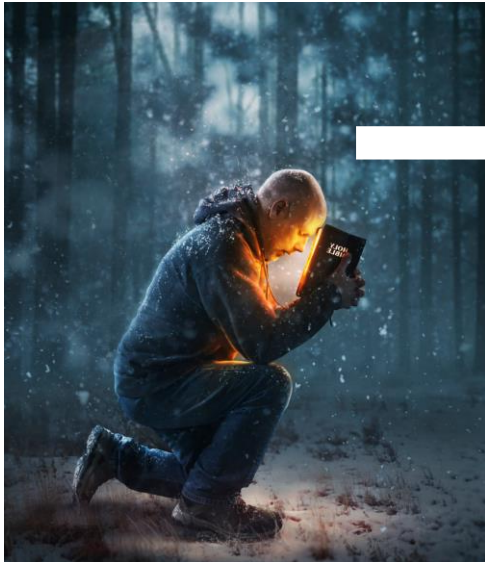


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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



THE BIBLE IS TRENDING

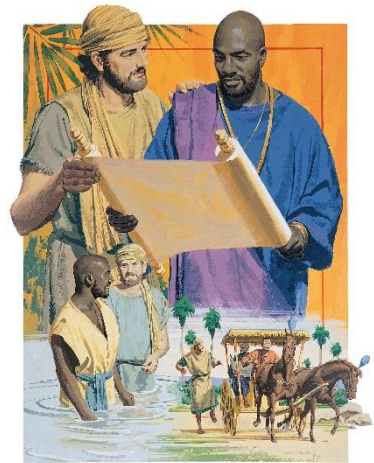
HOW CAN WE RESPOND?

Dr. Andrew Ollerton explores how the Bible has a meaning for growing numbers in this age of secular materialism.

I used to worry that sharing the Bible might be a potential risk to mission – too complicated, too controversial. But the statistics suggest otherwise. *The Quiet Revival* research by Bible Society (2025) shows that people are surprisingly open to the Bible. 35% of young men outside the church say they would like to understand the Bible for themselves. *Talking Jesus* research (2022) found that the Bible is the second most important factor in people coming to faith, surpassed only by personal relationships with Christians.

The Bible remains the world's bestselling book, year after year. Even outside church walls, high-profile public intellectuals like Jordan Peterson, Tom Holland, and Russell Brand are revisiting Scripture and discovering more than they bargained for. Like me, you may not agree with everything they stand for, but isn't it interesting that they are unashamedly looking to the Bible for meaning and truth?

With this in mind, let's consider the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch from Acts 8:26-40. This wealthy African dignitary is riding home after visiting Jerusalem. Despite overseeing the treasures of the Queen of Ethiopia, he is searching for something deeper. We know this because he had travelled hundreds of miles on a spiritual pilgrimage to Israel's Temple. He'd also acquired a copy of the scroll of Isaiah, which he was reading on the journey home. That's when the Holy Spirit prompts Philip to



run alongside his chariot and engage him in conversation. Philip must have had the shock of his life when he realised this wealthy African was reading the Prophet Isaiah from Israel's Scriptures!

I think we may be surprised by who is turning to the Bible today. People have not found what they're looking for in secular materialism or through institutional religion, but they are still searching for meaning and truth. So how can we be ready to share Jesus through the Scriptures? I think Philip offers us three vital lessons:

1. Open to the Spirit

Philip was leading a successful ministry in Samaria when God called him out of his comfort zone. God's call won't always make sense initially. He rarely reveals what will happen before we step out in faith. But if we stay where we are and keep doing what we've always done, we may miss out on what's coming down the road. Philip was brave enough to go to an unfamiliar place and engage one individual travelling home. The Holy Spirit sees what's going on outside the four walls of the church and wants to steer His people towards the spiritually open. But we must be open to the Spirit.

I'm not very good at this. I tend to be too engrossed in my own plans to notice. So, my wife and I pray a simple prayer each morning: "Lord, please show us who we can bless today." Sometimes, this prayer gets answered in surprising ways. Recently, while watching my son play football, I got chatting to someone and felt the Holy Spirit nudge me to ask him, "Have you had your heart broken recently?" I resisted for a while. He didn't look the sort, but I eventually gave in. As it turned out, he had recently faced heartbreak and needed hope. We've connected since, and he's now reading a book I wrote on the Bible.

2. Open to the Scriptures

When Philip approached the Eunuch, he was prepared. He began with the very passage that was troubling the man and shared the good news about Jesus. "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus" Acts 8:35. What if Philip hadn't engaged with those Scriptures? Of course, we don't have all the answers, and sometimes it's right to say, "I'll have to look into that and get back to you." Nevertheless, it's vital that we are regularly opening the Scriptures and reflecting on the questions it raises so that we are ready to help the spiritually open. My new book addresses the kinds of issues that often arise when people engage with the Bible and how we can help make sense of tough topics from Genesis to Revelation (*God's Book: An Honest Look at the Bible's 7 Toughest Topics*). Along with *The Bible Course*, perhaps this could be your way to feel equipped and ready? We must help each other grow in confidence in the Scriptures—our mission depends on it.

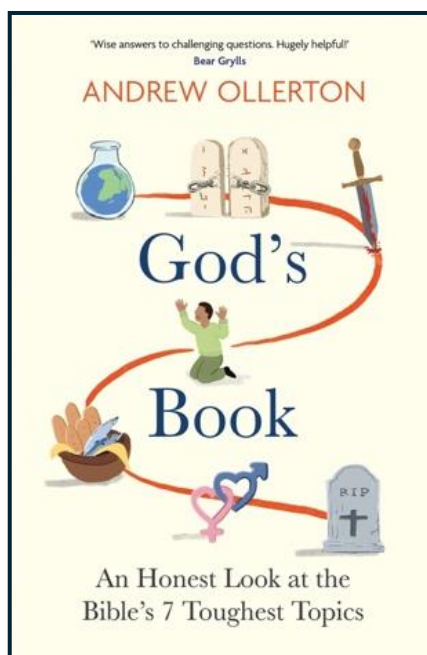
Recently in Portugal, I met some enthusiastic people from a Catholic church. When I asked one lady how she came to faith, she told me she was singing in a gospel choir connected to the church and felt she needed to know more about the Bible. So, she started asking questions, and one of her friends began to help her explore passages that explain who Jesus is. Then she came on *The Bible Course* and made a commitment to Christ. She is now passionate about sharing her faith with others.

3. Open to the Stranger

The story concludes with an unlikely scene: Philip baptising an Ethiopian VIP by the roadside. Then they went their separate ways. However, the African businessman was never the same again. He went home and shared the gospel with his people. Through his witness, the Ethiopian church was founded, and it continues to this day. We have no idea of the ramifications when we share Jesus.

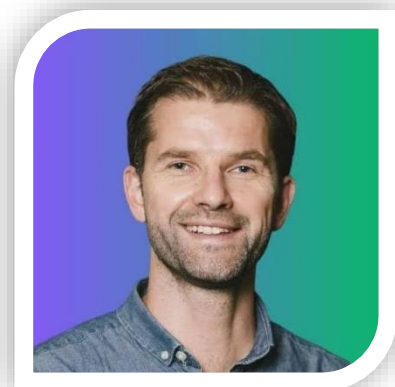
It must have taken courage for Philip to embrace this stranger who was so different from him – a wealthy dignitary from a foreign country who had been sexually altered. However, Philip knew that Jesus came to reach people who are very different from us. Without compromising on the truth, we need to embrace the stranger and not allow our prejudices to get in the way of what God is doing. I suspect that God's work in the world is only going to get stranger.

Coming down the road are more and more spiritually open seekers who may seem strange to us. Are we prepared to leave our comfort zone, sit alongside them, and share Jesus from the Scriptures? The power of the Bible is alive and ready to transform lives.



Dr Andrew Ollerton is a theologian, pastor, and the author of the Romans study course, used by our House Groups, and *The Bible Course*. This article links to Andrew's forthcoming book: [God's Book: An Honest Look at the Bible's 7 Toughest Topics \(Hodder\)](#). This will be published on 25th September but you can Pre-order now and receive 25% discount.

We are grateful to Andrew Ollerton who has sent us this article for The Freedom Church Wiltshire Newsletter. In the past Andrew was Pastor at Light and Life Church,



Hayle . To find out about the link between that Church and Freedom Church Wiltshire **see the following article 'Greetings from Light and Life'.**

GREETINGS FROM 'LIGHT AND LIFE'

In early August Andrew and Fiona visited and worshipped 'Life and Light Church' in St. Austell, Cornwall. Here, they reflect on their visit.

'Light and Life' is one of a group of Free Methodist Churches in Cornwall (the others being at Hayle and Falmouth). It began in 2009 when John and Becky Townley felt God calling them to plant a local church which would impact the town with the love of God. (John is now leader of The Free Methodist Church UK and Northern Ireland).



They began by renting a number of venues in St. Austell and in 2010 took a massive leap of faith to launch The St. Austell Foodbank which has fed over 18,000 people in need.

Since then the church has grown significantly and now, by God's grace and generosity, has its own premises, meeting on Sunday with a full programme of prayers, Bible study and activities throughout the week and led by a pastor and assistant pastor.

When we were with them, we were warmly welcomed and felt very at home in the congregation of nearly 100 people of all ages. We quickly found that Derek, our pastor, was known through his time of ministry in Cornwall.

Pete Godfrey, the pastor, led opening worship with the singing of God's praises for nearly 50 minutes before the assistant pastor, Tom Haig preached from chapter of Luke's gospel - "Experiencing the Reality of the Resurrection". He affirmed Jesus's message as not only a beautiful hope of eternal life after death but also an assurance that we can begin to experience resurrection life now. "We are a people who can know 'new life in Jesus' as well as the hope that there is so much more to come".

Children and young people left for their own activities half-way through the main worship using a suite of rooms which the church now owns. Over refreshments, after the service, Tom asked about the development of Freedom Church Wiltshire and passed on, their warm greetings to our fellowship.

Light and Life are in fact our grandparents; for John and Beckey Townley took a step of faith to leave Light and Life in 2017 to launch Freedom Church Bristol and, in turn, John and David Hull endorsed the planting of Freedom Church Wiltshire in 2022. God gave to the FMCUK & I Conference in 2019 the vision to plant 100 or more churches across the UK and Ireland by 2034.

THE NEW CHURCH YEAR 2025-6

As we enter into our next phase as Freedom Church Wiltshire we are reminded of the decisions of our Annual Society Meeting held on Sunday 1st June 2025 at Wanborough Village Hall.

The Church accepted the Nominating Task Group (NTG) Report and made the following appointments:

Leadership Team

Role	Name
Foundation Pastor	Rev George Nuttall *
Pastor	Rev Derek Balsdon
Treasurer	Phil Boulton
Safeguarding	Lou Ashford
Trustee to Freedom Church Network Charitable Trust	Andrew Fleet
Leadership Team note taker	Glenys Baker
Nominating Task Group member	Elizabeth Joy Payne
* <i>. For personal and health reasons George and Elizabeth have subsequently stood down from active service for the foreseeable future.</i>	

Ministry Responsibilities

Role	Name
Projection Technician	Mike Ashford
Projection Support	Elaine Boyd, Mike Ostime
Sound Technician	Phil Boulton
Sound Support	
Hall dressing for church worship	Elizabeth Nuttall *
Music Leader	Fiona Fleet
Marketing	
Church Data Controller	Lou Ashford
House group leaders	Lou & Mike Ashford, Andrew Fleet, George Nuttall *, Derek & Hilary Balsdon
Ladies Coffee & Chat	Fiona Fleet
Men's breakfast	Mike Ostime
Preachers:	George Nuttall *, Derek & Hilary Balsdon, Lou & Mike Ashford, Andrew Fleet.
Subsequent appointments	
Church Information Table	David Hamshire
Catering Team	Gloria Grace, Janey Hamshire, Debra Maslin, Elizabeth Joy Payne.
Hall dressing for church worship	Lou Ashford

The Church adopted the NTG recommendations as follows:

1: Minimal changes in leadership and ministry responsibilities during the coming year as Derek is still fairly new as pastor. We will work together on the ongoing development of the life of the church.

2: Continuing and increasing what we are already doing: deepening our relationship God, and seeking to attract more people to Freedom Church Wiltshire.

3: Whilst praising God for the loving friendliness of this church family, we need to recognise that as we continue to numerically grow, we will need to put greater effort into welcoming and integrating new people into the church.

4: Identifying and developing more of the different gifts that the Lord has graciously given to this church, particularly the greater use of gifts within 'Time for God' and Gifts of healing. [NB See the articles on these two important areas of ministry in this Newsletter].

5: Giving more attention to social interaction and evangelistic outreach into the villages of Brinkworth and Wanborough, and to consider other places as well. This could include putting on a course such as Alpha.

6: Encouraging regular attenders who are not yet members of Freedom Church Wiltshire to consider membership.

FREEDOM CHURCH WILTSHIRE – OUR VISION

We strive to be a church who are:

Seeking God's face, praying more deeply and responding to God speaking to us through His Holy Spirit.

Worshipping in a way which is participatory and engaging and focused on God's Word.

Believing that God wants us to share, minister and witness in natural and supernatural ways including answering prayer.

Caring and supportive of all our brothers and sisters.

Focused on discipleship:

- Exploring ways in which the **age demographic** of our fellowship can extend through provision of teaching and activities for young people.

To be an all-age friendly church in which families are welcomed and cared for.

- **Encouraging others who do not have a Christian commitment** to know the good news of Jesus, be prayed with, and commit to trusting God through Jesus Christ.
- **Encouraging others with Christian commitment** to join us, praying and caring for them and building them up in their faith in God through Jesus Christ and Christian discipleship.
- **Committed to service** in Jesus' name in our communities.
- **Growing in Prayer in the Spirit** both individually and as a corporate body.
- **Praying into and through the lives of our members**, interceding for others, for our country and for the world.
- **Giving and engaging in mission and service** both locally, in the UK and overseas.

Our application of this vision is to be through:

1. **Seeking and discerning the specific words and guidance that God is giving us** on a day by day and week by week basis.
2. **Prayer, Worship and Baptism of the Holy Spirit** - sharing the gifts and living the fruit of the Spirit.
3. **The reading and exposition of God's Word.**
4. **The appointment of a Nominating Task Group** to oversee the annual selection of leaders.
5. **The support of our Pastor.**
6. **The growth of our house fellowships** for Bible Study and prayer.
7. **Engagement in our Annual Society Meeting** which will pray and confirm the churches faithfulness to God's calling.

May 2024

Into our Vision has come a practical application for Freedom Church Wiltshire which the leadership team has defined as:

- To double our numbers over a period of 3 years from 2024.
- Through this to lower our average age by ten years in the same period.

Reflecting on the above - Please PRAY :

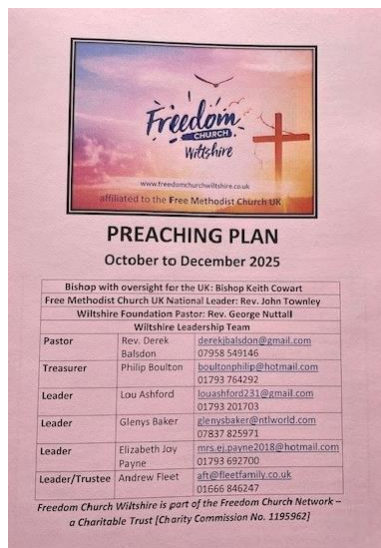
- for **those who hold positions of responsibility** throughout this next year.
- the **focus of our church activities** to which God has led us.
- the **enactment of our Church Vision.**

- That we are **open to any changes of Plan or new initiatives God places on our hearts** in the months to come.

That God may be honoured and receive the glory and that Freedom Church Wiltshire might be blessed. Amen.

PREACHING PLAN

The new Preaching Plan, October to December, is now published.



On the Plan we look forward to the middle of November when, God willing, **Rev. Sergei Litvinko**, the pastor of Zaslavl Church, will come and preach to us (with translation). Sergei will be with his wife Tanya and they are the parents of Tima who was with us with his wife, Lisa, in May 2024 and Matvei who came with his wife, Annie, last November.

Sergei is a senior pastor in the Baptist Church of Belarus and often teaches in the Baptist Seminary in Minsk. In this role he travels widely, while at home he pastors the church at Zaslavl which hosts many of the summer activity and music camps at their rural site at Zabreeze.

In addition to bringing up their own 4 children who are now adults, Sergei and Tanya have fostered over forty orphans during their married life together.

In November we also welcome back **Rev. Dr. David Hull** to preach. David is the lead pastor of our 'parent church' Freedom Church Bristol and chairs the trustee board of the Freedom Church Network of which we are a part. David has done so much for Freedom Church Wiltshire in its inception and growth and it will be a joy to have him back with us in our worship.

Harvest Celebration

Please note in your diary **Sunday 26th October 2025** when we will hold our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. We will be inviting our friends in the farming community to join us for worship on this day, so use the invitation cards that will be available to invite friends, most particularly if they are gardeners or farmers, so that together we can raise thanks to God in the song of 'harvest home' and proclaim "His goodness endures for ever."

There will be a Harvest Lunch after this service to which all are invited.

Christmas 2025

The new Plan covers the Advent and Christmas period. During Advent we will be focusing on the traditional preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. On **21st December** we will hold our **Advent Carol Service** and on **Christmas Day** a **short Christmas celebration** will be held at Derek and Hilary's house at 10.00 a.m.

SAFEGUARDING

Lou Ashford is our safeguarding officer. Lou's contact details are on the Church table at the back of the village halls.

Lou works with Deborah Bedlingfield, who is the Safeguarding Officer for the Freedom Church Network



Everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding and, in particular, to play our part in a church which:

- Promotes a safe environment and culture.
- Safely recruits and supports all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church.
- Responds promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

In particular, we have a role in caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons. If you become aware of a situation in which there are signs that a person known to you is at risk, through what they have said or what you have seen, please report this to Lou, or to another member of the leadership team, so that appropriate action may be taken.

If you hold a responsibility in the church and have not undertaken the on-line training in Safeguarding please see Lou for details. It is very easy to complete and the Free Methodist Church UK & I expect us to do this to ensure that we meet national safeguarding standards.

THE PASTOR FUND

In 2023 we began to pray as a church that, if it be God's will, we should appoint a pastor to join our leadership team. God was good in affirming of our vision, we were successful in obtaining two grants from 'Kingdom Builders' (a body established by the FMCUK&I to resource church plants and train church planters). A number of our congregation, in faithful response, also covenanted a significant sum over a three-year period for the Pastor Fund which, with the grants, will sustain this post. We are truly grateful to God and to each member who has stepped out in faith and committed to prayer and to giving to this fund. So, from February this year Derek Balsdon began his work with us.

If you have joined us since that time or were unable to give back then and would now like to contribute, (or if you want to increase your giving) do please talk to our Treasurer, Phil Boulton. Such individual covenants are entirely confidential between the donor, Phil and God and will remain so. We have been so richly blessed by God's provision and know that "He holds the future in His hands" – and we move forward with trust and gratitude.

Gift Aid

Please note that if you are a UK Taxpayer you can easily 'gift-aid' your giving both to the Pastor's Fund and to our Church General Fund. In doing so we are guaranteed to be able to claim back from the government 25 pence on every £1 you donate and you are able to claim tax relief through your personal allowance on the total given in any financial year. For more information speak to Phil Boulton.

MINISTRY AND MISSION

BARNABAS AID SENDS FOOD PARCELS FROM SWINDON TO UKRAINE



***Glenys and Tony Baker** are staunch supporters of and volunteers on the food.gives programme which is part of the work of Barnabas Aid which serves Christians who are being persecuted across the world. Here, Glenys reflects of what is being achieved.*



Some of you know that Tony and I volunteer at the Barnabas warehouse once a week unpacking boxes of food donations and then packing boxes to send to various parts of the world. Some boxes (of rice, lentils, chickpeas, dried beans, salt, sugar) are sent to places where Christians are being persecuted for their faith or where they have been displaced

because of war. They have nothing and are at starvation level.

We also pack boxes of food to go to Ukraine. This is usually tinned food (meat, fish, soup, vegetables, baked beans, tomatoes, fruit etc), dried goods (eg pasta, packet soups, instant rice, porridge), and toiletries (shower gel, shampoo, deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap). These boxes are loaded onto a lorry. We've often wondered what happens to them after they leave Swindon although we know that they are taken to local churches. Recently two members of Barnabas staff went to Romania to see for themselves.

The Ukrainian people particularly like these boxes because they're a mix of different items. The lorries go to a church in Romania ready to be taken over the border into Ukraine. Lorries sit in a queue many miles long for a month, waiting to go through the border. Also, that part of Ukraine is a high-risk area for attacks and lorries are sometimes targeted by the Russians. Barnabas has contacts in Romanian churches - one man in a church owns several companies including some warehouses. He has given one warehouse to receive and distribute food to the people in Ukraine. So, the boxes go there in a lorry and, for safety, they are unloaded and loaded into vans which can then drive straight through the border to Ukraine. Barnabas now seems to be the only organisations which is still sending food to that church in Ukraine although churches in Romania are providing food. Some of the boxes go to villages where there is no water, no electricity and, of course, no shops. They are living in darkness all the time. The only food they have is what Barnabas and the church sends. Even though the media don't focus much now on the



food shortages, in fact they tell us that the need is just as great as it was at the outbreak of the war 3 years ago, and perhaps even more so.

Sometimes if we have a lot of one product, e.g. pasta, we will pack a few boxes of just pasta and label it accordingly. If they see that in their warehouse, they unpack those boxes, put them in bags with other food items to give to families and they put a Bible in as well. Many people are coming to the churches and wanting to know God.

The church sees this war as an answer from God because the war has led to people turning to God. They had been praying for revival and they say that's how God answered their prayers - although it's not how they had expected Him to answer!

David was one of the Barnabas staff who went there just over a month ago. He told us a story of a family where the husband got separated from his wife and children (I can't remember how it happened) and they had no contact.

After about 6 months the wife and children were on their way to Austria. Someone who was helping them went to see a particular pastor to see if he could help them with some transport. The pastor replied that he could - “just bring them here to see me”. They went to the pastor and there sitting at the table was the husband!

If you would like to donate foodstuff to the food.gives programme please see Glenys.

MINISTRY TO FARMERS

George Washington said: *“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of a man.”* And Thomas Jefferson wrote *“Farming is our wisest pursuit because it will in the end, contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness”.*



A survey by the University of Cambridge in 2012 showed that farming in the UK has a special place in most people’s hearts even though they know surprisingly little about it. It is seen as vital to the environment and the economy, whilst most people have an aspiration to live near to open countryside. And yet, in 2025 farmers in Britain face many challenges.

Since Britain left the European Union there has been uncertainty for farmers many of whom have faced reduced financial subsidies. There have also been less seasonal workers for picking fruit and vegetables.

More frequent droughts, floods and storms have damaged crops and livestock and have disrupted the planting and harvesting cycle.



Water scarcity in certain parts of eastern and southern Britain have impacted food production while extreme weather have degraded soil health and reduced yields.

Add to these rising costs of fuel, fertiliser and feed and the low return on produce through the supermarket economy and you get a picture of an industry which is struggling, and which often requires local diversification in order to survive. The news of a planned change in the threshold for inheritance tax in the Autumn budget 2024 added a further pressure to the farmers' struggles.

It is perhaps not surprising that when financial challenges are faced, along with the social isolation and lack of support, many farmers, who are working long hours with physically demanding tasks, find themselves suffering from loneliness, exhaustion and burnout. This is a rising trend and has sadly led to a number of farmers attempting and succeeding in taking their own lives.



We are fortunate in having some understanding of the farming sector in our church.

Derek Balsdon, our pastor, grew up on a farm and worked as a farmer before being called to go into the Christian ministry. If you'd like to learn more of Derek's story see: 'My Story' on BritishChristian TV.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnXwTuYrsTA

Spot Derek during his early farming days!!
See End page footnote for the answer.

Phil Neville, has worked in agriculture from the time of leaving school associating closely with the farming community of north Wiltshire and using his agricultural and engineering skills.

He is part of a group of up to a dozen local farmers group "**Farmers Gathered**" which operates on Christian principles and is an effective telephone network, together with evening meetings when problems and challenges are shared and brought before the Lord. Phil has a particular heart for our local farming community.

(See his testimony on our website: www.freedomchurchwiltshire.co.uk).



Phil ploughing with a 'Fergy' in a very wet charity plough match.

We need to hold our local farmers in our prayers and support Derek and Phil as they have opportunity to minister to them. There are also a number of Christian organisations which seek to support farmers in their need.

Farming Christian Link seeks to bring a Christian witness and help to those in farming and rural areas. **Farming Community Network (FCN)** is founded on Christian principles and provides confidential, pastoral and practical support for farmers and their families across the country.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I.) while not exclusively Christian provides financial assistance and support to farming families who are facing hardship.

We thank God for the food on our tables and the maintenance of our country surrounds but often take for granted the army of farmers who compete day by day to produce wholesome produce and to harvest our fields.

Between now and October 26th, when Derek will lead us in our Harvest Thanksgiving, will you hold our farmers before the Lord and pray for our Christian ministry to them. Do please also invite any farmers you know to join us for our Harvest celebration.

We pray for our farming community; who, as stewards of your creation, work so hard to produce our food and care for our precious environment. Father, at this time of turbulence and change, and with the long-term impact of severe weather, there are some who are bewildered as they fear for their future. Guide all who farm to cherish your creation in their endeavour to produce healthy food.

We pray for every farming family as they consider the options available; may each business discern the way forward to a viable and fulfilling future.

We pray for policy makers that they may bring clarity of policy and direction, enabling food security and ecological balance. We give thanks for all involved in the safe production and passage of food and pray that all, including farmers and growers receive a fair reward for their labour.

Lord, we pray that all who consume their produce, including ourselves, may value and appreciate the sacredness of food and the graft and commitment involved in bringing it to our table.

In the Name of the one who ministered to farmers during His life on this earth, even our Lord Jesus. Amen

THE HEALING MINISTRY



Derek Balsdon gives this brief introduction to the *Healing Ministry*.

When I was in my teens, an evangelist with a healing ministry led meetings at our local town hall, and I went along on several occasions. This taught me that God loves to save and loves to heal. Ever since then I have been involved with the Christian healing ministry in various ways. I have asked the Lord to help and to heal many people, and He has miraculously healed a few, and marvellously helped many. I don't know why the Lord doesn't miraculously heal everyone who is prayed for, yet because He miraculously heals some, I continue to pray for healing. I recall praying for Andy, who was immediately healed from sciatica, yet wasn't healed of some other ailments. It is a mystery as to why the Lord heals some ailments, but not others, a mystery we have to live with.

All Christians should be regularly praying for the Lord to help and heal those who are unwell. Within Freedom Church Wiltshire (FCW) we do this, and have witnessed some amazing results, praise the Lord! Within each Body of Christ there can be a team of people who are gifted by the Holy Spirit and trained to pray with people for healing. At FCW there are a few people who are already involved with Christian Healing Ministry, and others are interested in getting involved. Over the coming months we hope to offer some training, and then establish some form of Christian healing ministry within the life of the church.

The Christian Healing Ministry doesn't just focus on physical healing, it recognises that we are body, mind, soul and spirit, and that the Lord's healing can bring wholeness into each part of our being. During Jesus' earthly ministry there were various occasions when He did more than just heal physical ailments; for example in Mark 2:1-12, with the paralysed man who was lowered down through the roof, Jesus forgave his sin before healing his body.

In Mark 16:18 the risen Jesus instructed His followers to place their hands on sick people, who would then get well. In Acts 3:1-10 Peter and John healed a crippled beggar in the name of Jesus Christ, and he then went into the temple courts walking jumping and praising God, which indicates that he experienced spiritual healing as well as physical healing.

In 1 Corinthians 12:9 Paul's list of spiritual gifts includes healing and miracles.

In James 5:13-16, when we are sick, we are instructed to call the elders of the church to anoint us with oil and ask the Lord to heal us. That scripture also mentions confessing sin, and receiving forgiveness, so includes spiritual health as well as physical health.

When someone asks for prayer for their physical health, sometimes those praying for them discern that there may be a greater need for mental, emotional or spiritual healing. Helping people to accept that God loves them and forgives them, and encouraging them to ask Jesus Christ to help them forgive others, often brings greater wholeness, even if their physical ailment doesn't improve. Sometimes forgiving others opens the door for physical healing to take place.

God's healing work also happens through doctors, nurses, counsellors, etc. I would strongly recommend avoiding New-Age type healing things, such as crystals, because they can involve other spirits, not God's Holy Spirit.

Even if we don't experience the miraculous physical healings that we ask the Lord for, we can always experience more of His gracious help, deep peace and extravagant love. So, let's continue to ask the Lord to help and heal us and others. Our strap line is, 'Set Free – Living Free – Bringing Freedom'. Through establishing a Christian Healing Ministry, within FCW, may the Lord bring freedom to bodies, minds, souls and spirits.

Mary Makepeace reflects on her work with the **Yate Healing Rooms**.



“Yahweh, you are my soul's celebration, How could I ever forget the miracles of kindness you've done for me? You kissed my heart with forgiveness, in spite of all I've done. You healed me inside and out from every disease. You've rescued me from hell and saved my life.”

Psalm 103 v 2-4 [The Passion Translation]

This is one of my favourite verses, and one that became very special years before God blessed me with a calling into the healing ministry and the gift of healing.

The Yate Healing Rooms (YHR) are part of the International Association of Healing Rooms (IAHR) based in Spokane, Washington with the England and Wales head office based in Congleton, Cheshire. YHR have been running for over 15 years and I have been a member of the team for 12 years and one of the Directors for 9 years.

The ministry team consists of a group of volunteer Christians from several local churches who have been trained to pray for the physical, emotional or spiritual issues in the name of Jesus Christ. Our focus is on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit working through us to heal the sick and transform life. We have seen Him do many amazing miracles. All prayer is in a safe, caring environment, is fully confidential and free of charge.

When clients visit the Healing Rooms they are welcomed by our receptionist and asked to complete a prayer consent form. Each client is allocated 3 (trained) team members and invited into a confidential environment to receive prayer ministry. The team seek God on the clients behalf. Each appointment is about 45 minutes, some clients have just 1 session whereas others may return a number of times. YHR have intercessors who cover the ministry in prayer so clients are being prayed for before, during and after their appointment. Below is a testimony from one client who received prayer:

I came to Yate Healing rooms for prayer as I was in dark place emotionally and mentally. I had been through a very challenging period in my personal life and it felt like I was carrying the weight of the world around with me. I was not sleeping properly and had suffered from panic attacks. Looking back, I can see that I was burned out, stressed, and emotionally crushed. I literally did not know which way to turn. I did not go to my Doctor as I felt that they would tell me I was depressed and prescribe anti-depressant's. I was not keen on going down that path. One day as I was driving along in my car, I remembered that a Christian friend of mine was involved in a Healing Rooms at Yate. I did not know a lot about it, but I knew that they prayed for people, so I figured what have I got to lose by making an appointment! I contacted the team and booked an appointment. A few weeks later I turned up for my appointment on a Thursday evening. I was met by a kind and friendly lady on the reception desk who made me a cup of coffee and asked me to complete a brief questionnaire which asked me why I had come from prayer and what would I like the team to pray for.

I was then taken into a comfortable room and was introduced to the three people who were going to pray for me. They were all warm and friendly and made me feel welcome. There was no ramming religion down my throat or anything like that they just told me that it was God who had the power to help me and all they were going to do was pray about the issues I was struggling with.

I can only describe the experience of receiving prayer as being incredible. During the session several of the team members placed their hands on my head and shoulders (with my permission) and I felt an incredible warmth all over my body. I also felt like something physically lifted from me. It was like a weight was taken off me. I also felt like something dark left me as well. I cannot explain what it was, but I came out of that first session like I was walking on air, it was incredible.

The prayer team felt that I needed a further session. so I went back a few weeks later for some more prayer. Again, the experience was incredibly positive, and I came away with the same feeling of elation and more importantly freedom. I genuinely believe that I was set free from something very dark that had been dogging me for a long time.

Fast forward 15 months and I am still free. No depression, no panic attacks, the darkness has gone and emotionally I am in a great place. I can also say that the whole experience has re-opened my mind to a creator God who loves us and cares for us. I am enjoying the journey of finding out more about him.

James, Bristol

Editors Note:

There are other powerful testimonies to God's healing power through prayer on the Yate Healing Rooms website. Here you will find personal life witnesses of God releasing power; freeing people from emotional depression and darkness, curing osteoporosis, relief from sciatica, physical pain and immobility, the removal of anxiety and loss of sleep – to list but a few.

Do read these testimonies on:

<https://yatehealingrooms.org.uk/testimonies/>

What a wonderful and compassionate God we worship who continues to heal and work miracles through the power of care and prayer.

OVERSEAS AND LOCAL MISSION GIVING



Open Doors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

Thanks to all who gave so generously to **Open Doors work** with the persecuted church. £408 was raised from individual donations which was topped up by Gift Aid to £510. We added to this from our Mission Fund to give a total of £1,000 which was sent in May to Open Doors.

It was great to have Rev. Ron Cross, Church Relations Officer for Open Doors UK & Ireland, join us at the end of May to preach a powerful word on the plight of our persecuted brothers and sisters. It is a fact that more than 380 million Christians from across the world suffer some form of persecution because of their trust in the Lord Jesus. They need our support and our prayers.

STOP PRESS: see opposite page for the letter just received from the CEO of Open Doors.



To date we have received £82 in our collection for **The Christian Institute** which continues until the end of September 2025 so there is still time to give. This is our current home mission giving project. The Christian Institute is a non-denominational Christian charity, based in the UK, that promotes and defends Christian beliefs in the public arena. It focuses on issues such as religious liberty, marriage and the family, the sanctity of life, parental rights and Christianity and the constitution. It was founded in 1990 by a group of Christian leaders and professionals concerned about the lack of a Christian voice in ethical debates. At a time when Christian values are being challenged at every level of society, and freedom to express our deeply held Christian truths are at risk, the work of the Christian Institute works to actively support and defend God's people of faith is invaluable.

Overseas Mission Giving from October – for six weeks

It is planned to collect and give to a **ministry for orphans in Belarus** which is led by Pastor Sergei Litvinka, who will visit us in November 2025.

The emphasis of this ministry is on taking children out of state orphanages and into family life. So, Pastor Sergei liaises with the authorities, and networks with the churches and Christian families, to place children with families who support them as they grow into young people. Pastor Sergei arranges conferences for pastors and church families to prepare them for placements and to encourage them as they bring-up the children. There is always a need for more families.

Alongside this, the youth work “Grow up”, run by young Belarusian young adults from across the churches, meets monthly with the children for sports, games, activities worship and food. Young people lead the music and preach.

Please note we can only accept **cash** for this Belarusian mission and we cannot claim gift aid on this giving. We need to close the receipt of gifts for this on **Sunday 9th November**.



Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Dear Friends at Freedom Church Wiltshire,

Thank you so much for your kind gift of £1,000.00 to strengthen our persecuted church family around the world who are risking it all to follow Jesus. Thanks to your prayers and support, our brothers and sisters know they are not alone and can stand strong in their faith.

Da Wei* helped create Voyagers*, a Christian school that seeks to reach young people in China, particularly those from challenging backgrounds. Alongside education, it offers a place for children to heal, grow and become followers of Jesus. But since beginning ten years ago, the initiative has faced many difficulties – including persecution.

On one occasion, 100 government officials surrounded the school, and Da Wei and four co-workers were detained. The school was shut down. Teachers and students then moved from place to place to evade the authorities, but they were caught again. Since then, the group have relocated a further four times.

Wearied by the persecution, Da Wei cried out to God – and then he bumped into Open Doors local partners, who've given the school prayer, pastoral and practical support. "Thank you – your prayers and support are like an angel's embrace, a beam of light in the darkness, and a charcoal fire in the cold," says Da Wei. "It is so tangible, powerful and heartwarming."

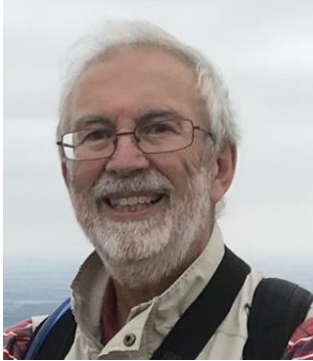
May the Lord fill you with His Spirit and surround you with His love.

Your sister in Christ,

Henrietta Blyth
CEO, Open Doors UK and Ireland

*names have been changed to protect the personal safety of those involved.

HAVING A BAD DAY?



Facing Hard Times?

Bob Mawer reflects:

In March this year I was on my journey home following a few days spent with my sister in Kendal after our older sister's death. It was during our time together that, as her executors, we began to appreciate the onerous nature of what we had agreed to! In this context I was inspired to write the following poem. I hope it will serve as an encouragement to others who may be facing difficult times.

**I wonder why we panic so, when things don't go our way;
When there are simply insufficient hours within our day?
Perhaps we'll take a lesson from the birds, the bees and flowers.
God gives them all fair measure of their minutes and their hours.
They wake at dawn and settle down at sunset for the night.
It seems to me they always get their work/life balance right.
So let us be much more relaxed about the pain and stress.
Instead of being anxious let us on God's favour rest.
His timing is perfection, if only we would heed
His message, "Trust yourself to me - for everything you need."
If we want peace instead of angst, let's come to Him always.
He'll strengthen us and help us as we navigate our days.
So, thank you, Lord for all your kind and loving care for me.
Open my eyes and ears to you, that I may hear and see
Your guiding hand and voice as I attempt each daily task.
This, in the name of Jesus, is what I humbly ask.**

Written on a train from Oxenholme on my way back home after a very busy and sometimes difficult few days.



Last year Nigerian singer Samuel Nwachukwu, known as **'CalledOut Music'** and his band led worship at UK's biggest Christian festival 'The Big Church' at the Wiston Estate in West Sussex. It grew a crowd of over 30,000 people worshipping God. One of CalledOut Music songs was "Worst Days" with words reminding us that God is with us, even at the most difficult times

because as Paul reminds us "how high, wide and deep is the love of Christ," Ephesians 3:18-19.

God of everything
You reached out to me,
made a home in my heart;
I just can't explain,
I just stand in awe
of Your wonderful love.

And even on my worst days, it stays the same
I just don't understand.

***How high, how wide,
how deep is Your love.
How high, how wide,
how deep is Your love.***

Love that knows no end.
I'm wrapped up in the arms
of my Father;
I'll never lose my position,
I will always be Your child,
that's all that matters.

*And even on my worst days, it stays the same
I just don't understand.*

***How high, how wide,
how deep is Your love.
How high, how wide,
how deep is Your love.***

Oh, it reaches to the depths of my soul
and it won't let go (Oh, wonderful love).

Yes, there's nowhere else I'd rather be,
Nowhere else for me, oh, wonderful love, yes.
From Calvary to eternity
I'm Yours forever, yes (Oh, wonderful love).
O Jesus, Your love knows no end, and the sweetest of taste;
Oh, wonderful love.

***How high, how wide,
how deep is Your love.
How high, how wide,
how deep is Your love.***

God reminds us through the prophet Isaiah that He will walk with us in the difficult times:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

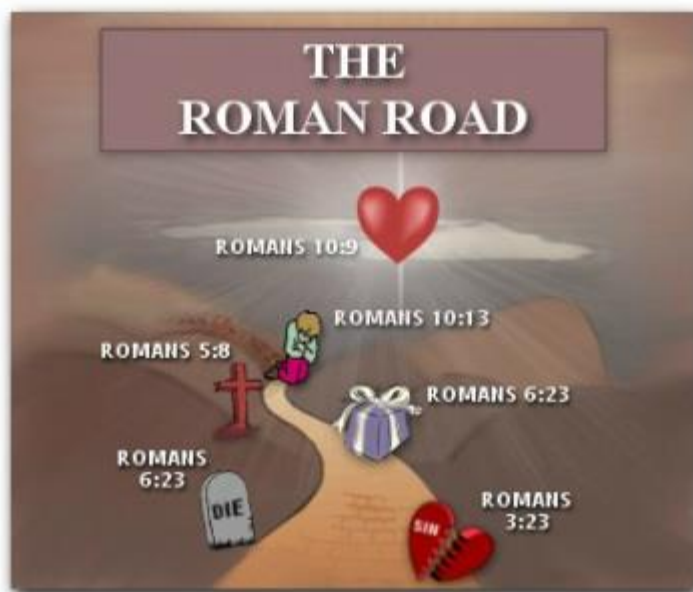
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour”.

Isaiah 43:1b-3a.

THE ROMAN ROAD

Lou Ashford gives us a useful tool to share the Good News of Jesus!



Back in July I preached on the 'Road to Heaven', I would like to follow that up by introducing you to what is called 'The Roman Road' which can be used when talking to someone who is interested in hearing the gospel in a nutshell. Many of us are nervous about sharing the gospel because we don't know where to start. This is one of

the best evangelistic tools I have found. I hope you find it useful too.

In his letter to the Christians in Rome, Paul crafted a beautiful exposition of the Good News. The gospel is the heart and soul of the book of Romans. But there are a handful of verses, that when shared together, present the gospel in a concise, clear way.

The “Roman Road” is a short list of verses that show our need for salvation and how Jesus fills that need. I have seen variations of this list that includes 4 to 8 verses. My list below includes 5, easy-to-memorize verses.

1. **Romans 3:23** – Every person has sinned, has done things contrary to God’s holy perfection.
2. **Romans 6:23** – Our sin has a cost. That cost is spiritual death or eternal separation from God.
3. **Romans 5:8** – Because God loves us, He paid our sin debt Himself. Sinless, perfect Jesus died in our place.
4. **Romans 10:13** – Anyone and everyone who accepts Jesus’ gift, or “calls on His name,” will receive God’s salvation.
5. **Romans 10:9-10** – Anyone who believes and confesses that Jesus died for us and rose from the dead will be saved!

You can mark these verses in your Bible so that you can refer to them easily.

PROPHECY

In the biblical book of Revelation John is instructed by Jesus to write letters to seven specific churches in Asia (modern day Turkey) giving them a picture of how God sees their ministry and giving promises of reward to those who overcome challenges and remain faithful to the Lord. To the church in Sardis this is quite literally a “Wake up” call, urging them to be vigilant and repentant. This is a timely word for the church in the UK today.

Wake Up

by Jane Woodford

Wake up! Wake up! You’ve been sleeping.
You are called to understand the times.
Wake up! Wake up! The Lord is weeping
As truth and power in His Church declines.

There’s a battle raging for the souls of the lost,
But you bask in your comfort, ‘cos you won’t pay the cost.
You were called as a disciple in the steps of The Lord,
To take up your cross and follow, and to live by His Word.

Wake up! Wake up! These are the last days.
Jesus' coming is surely at hand.
Wake up! Wake up from your slumber,
For now is the time you must stand.

You've become so intellectual you've clouded your mind,
But faith comes by hearing God's Word as He's defined.
It is not about an argument couched in inoffensive terms.
It's a life-saving message that demands to be heard!

Wake up! Wake up to your calling.
Repent for the things that have been.
Wake up! Wake up to God's purpose.
Get ready for the final scene.

Wake up! Wake up! Shake off the grave clothes
That your enemy dressed you in with lies.
Wake up! Wake up to the truth now.
It's time for My Church to arise.
Church arise.

We are grateful to **Issachar Ministries** which was built on the foundations of Prophecy Today and New Beginnings Discipleship for permission to publish Jane's poem.



It's Time for the
Church to Wake Up!

ROMANS 13:11-14

ENSURING WE HAVE 'TIME FOR GOD'

By God's grace we have grown in number since the inception of Freedom Church Wiltshire in February 2022. This means that a number of folk who have joined us since were not party to the vision God gave to us in those early days. We are conscious that there will be those in our church who have joined us and who will not have heard the full explanation of why, unlike many other churches, we have a time in our worship which we call "Time for God." This article about creating 'time for God' in our lives and our worship, is to us all who were there at the beginning and to update any who have joined since.



A supernatural Church

In a busy world, in which the pace of life seems to make each day shorter, the importance of making space for 'time with God' is ever more important.

Because God's plan for us is that we should grow in relationship with Him, through the grace of Jesus, we worship, read His Word and enter into prayer; recognising that listening is as important as speaking out His saving grace.

When God called us to be "Freedom Church Wiltshire" we were given by Him a clear understanding that He wanted us to be different, learning from our experiences of faith in other churches, but distinctive:

- Holding to the truth of God's Word
- Living through the power of Prayer
- Experiencing the gifts, guidance and gravity of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and worship.
- Supporting one another in fellowship and in sharing the insights which God has given us along the way.

Just like the church of the New Testament we are intended to be a supernatural people who can live supernatural lives in the middle of the natural world. A. W. Tozer puts it this way:

“The church was never intended to be a natural and intellectual organisation, but a supernatural instrumentality wholly dependent on the power of God”¹

This is why what we originally called “Holy Spirit Time” and now call “Time for God” has become an essential part of our worship.

What is “Time for GOD” in worship?

Pure and simple; it is a time when we wait upon the Lord. We create the space and the time to “be still and know God”; to listen to the beat of His heart and to be given, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, an awareness of what He is saying to us, both as individuals and as a fellowship in the Lord Jesus.

The Bible tells us that those that **“wait upon the Lord, He shall renew their strength”** Isaiah 40:31. The Psalmist says:

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14.



So, “Time for God” is to be a time when God re-charges our strength and a time of encouragement. We pause before God in awe and wonder that this Holy God, who we worship, has made a way for us to draw close to Him, through the work of Jesus on the cross, but more – has provided an advocate, counsellor, helper and guide who both confers gifts upon us and uses those gifts to enrich our lives.

We come in awe and reverence in response to God’s presence and we are ***intentional*** in doing so.

¹ ‘Tozer on the Holy Spirit – a 365 Day Devotional’ 2015 Moody Press

When we stand before God – we acknowledge that we are in the presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

When we sit before God – we adjust our hearts and minds in profound awe and reverence.

When we kneel-down before Him – we acknowledge, in humility, God's supreme authority and majesty.

When we lay prostrate in His company – we surrender our all before Him.....
.....all to the same end of developing an intimate relationship with God, in which the Holy Spirit can speak and move, in and through us.

The importance is that we take that deliberate action which cedes control to Him and opens ourselves to the moving of His Holy Spirit. This is **His** time.

If you are standing and become physically strained or tired, or sitting and feel you need to move to a new position – then it's fine to do so, always ensuring that Your heart is full of expectation of the Father and that, in your heart, you are embracing worship (the Greek meaning of the word for 'worship' is 'proskuneo' meaning to 'lean in' to God as if to kiss).

We are encouraged to hold out our hands, palms upwards, ready to receive what God wants to give us.

A number of folk (not just in our church) have said that they find standing in silence awkward; it can take us outside our comfort zone because we're not used to silence of any length in a rather noisy world. Furthermore, in 'Time for God' we are expecting the unexpected as we do not know what God is going to do through His Holy Spirit in that moment. That can be unnerving as it is a time in worship when we are no longer in control and cede everything to God. But, we need to set aside our feelings and move from it being about "me" so that all of our senses are focused on "Him".

"Let me tell you what it's really like," said a member of the congregation, – "I stand there in silence, I feel uncomfortable and sometimes my mind just goes blank and I don't know what to say or what to do". If we identify with that, there's lovely prayer which Gerard W. Hughes describes in his book "God in all things" and which we can pray:

**"God, let my whole being be directed to You,
so that You may be the God of compassion and love,
to and through me."**²

² 'God in all things' Gerard W. Hughes 2003 Hodder and Stoughton

Silence is powerful. It allows us to focus on what God is saying to us and what He is doing in our lives – so, ‘hang in there’ – the blessing He can give will way outweigh any human disconcertion.

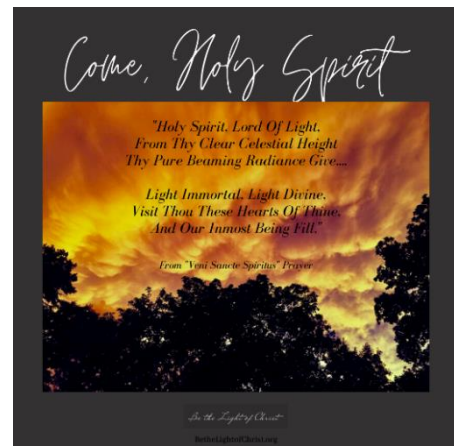
What part do we all play in “Time for God” in worship

We come welcoming the presence of God in us and around us and we issue an invitation for Him to take control.

We say: **“Come, Holy Spirit, Come.”**

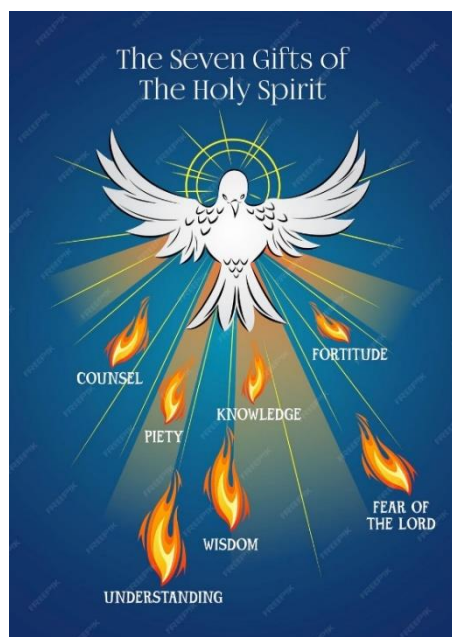
It is the prayer that the early church made into a hymn: **“Veni Sancte Spiritus”** – Come, Creator Spirit – echoed in the words of a Charles Wesley hymn: “Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire”.

We come expectantly. We ask the Holy Spirit to captivate our hearts and minds and to give us that which God has for us.



This may be a single word, that God transfers from heart to mind as we are focusing on Him. It may be a Bible verse – or the line of a hymn. It may be a picture - an image that comes into our minds and which God has planted. It may be a prayer or a song or a poem.

For each of us who have given our lives to Jesus, God has spiritual gifts of insight and blessing with which He endows us. God offers us not only ‘new



life in Christ’ but also the ‘baptism of the Holy Spirit’ who releases spiritual gifts which become a part of our Christian living and ministry.

Paul lists these in the New Testament – but we can guess that because God is God this list may not be definitive:

Paul writes about gifts of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

The Bible also defines other Spiritual gifts: Leadership (Romans 12:8); Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28); Teaching (Romans 12:7); and Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8).

There are references to gifts of shepherding, evangelism, providing help and service, acts of compassion, giving to others and hospitality. God may use these gifts in our specific acts of worship and in our “Time for God” – but they are also on tap for our daily living.

The ‘Gift of Tongues’ is given to some as an enabling gift, to speak in a new and beautiful language as was recorded in the church in the days after Jesus’ ascension into heaven. It is a personal gift for praising God, but He can also use it in public worship where He also gifts another with ‘interpretation’ to give all those gathered an insight into what the ‘tongues’ express. So, whenever a tongue is given in ‘Time for God’, we pause – we wait – for another to share the interpretation before we move on to receive other inspirational ‘words’.

And this is a perfect example of how God works in ‘Time’ which as a church, we set aside for Him. The insights which God gives to individuals are given so that they might be shared – and so become an encouragement for the building up of His church in spiritual awareness. You may be given by God a message which seems clear and understandable, or you may be give a ‘word’ which you cannot make sense of – but which may be for another member of the congregation gathered and which, the moment you speak it, is recognised by them as for them. They can then share this affirmation. That is why **sharing** what God is revealing is so important.

Sharing means relaying to the others gathered what God has given you – so that they too can be blessed. The way the Spirit works is that, once you open your mouth, He provides the ‘words’ that are shared. So, if you are one of those people who feels ‘self-conscious’ speaking in front of others – fear not, for as you open your mouth, if you are resting on God, He will control the words you say (- and, as a matter of interest – you may not even fully know afterwards what you have said!! -) for He can and will speak through You. In this way the Holy Spirit draws us together and ‘builds us up’ as a fellowship enabling us to share the blessings God bestows.

Guidance in “Time for God”

The following should be in our thinking as we come to worship, ready to fully participate in the “Time for God” as God leads us:

1. In doing this we are following **in the footsteps of the early church**.
This is an authentic part of worship for those who love Jesus.

2. 'Time for God' is **not** a testimony time. (If you have a testimony you are encouraged to speak to a leader who will enable you to share this at another time in our worship).

In testimony we are using ourselves to illustrate how God has worked in us in the past. In 'Time for God' we are expressing what God is saying to us in the present. Both are valid, each having their own place in worship.

3. "Come Holy Spirit" times are **a gift from God**; "we are waiting for the winds of inspiration, open as the wide sand beach waiting for the tides embrace." ³ We are in relationship with God by the power of the Holy Spirit and we are open to where that personal encounter leads us.
4. Worship, sermons, prayer, Bible Study all fill the reservoir in our lives from which God can draw.
5. 'Time for God' is a partnership – there are many gifts – so don't limit God.
6. Cultivate the desire to be used by God in these times we spend together.
7. God completes the 'word' given when we stumble. So, if you are afraid that you might not be able to finish the sentence or express what God has given you – be assured, He is the completer and the finisher when we stumble. He will either give you the words or supply another to finish what you have faithfully begun.
8. Don't wait until the 'Time for God' has begun but seek God before that time and ask Him to give you a word/picture or expression which is of Him to share.
9. Don't make a judgement about the 'word' He gives you. Don't self-doubt "Is this of God or is it just me?" If you have prayed that what you say is of the Holy Spirit's inspiration, then just receive it and share it. Those leading worship must also take the plunge and trust God when they say: "Come Holy Spirit, Come". In doing so we are inviting the God of Surprises to engage with us – and it will always be to our blessing and His glory.
10. Remember 'Time for God' is not an exercise on which you will be judged "pass or fail". It is God working in you and wanting you to 'release' His 'word'. It isn't about being overwhelmed – but rather it is accepting a gentle nudge from God.

³ Carol Penner, "Unburdened – 'A Lenten journey towards Forgiveness' 2024 Herald Press

As you engage with God, and practice, He will build your confidence such that you will trust and believe in speaking out His ‘word’.

So, as we go forward in worship, God is asking each member of His church to be active by sharing in this supernatural ministry. In the words of the late John Wimber: “Everyone gets to play.”⁴ God loves us and wants to communicate through us and thereby bless us. The Christian life is to be a life of dependence on Him: listening to Him, looking to Him, aware of our need and our frailty but emboldened by His limitless supply.

The Lord says: **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** 2 Corinthians 12:9

However inadequate we may feel, God empowers us and we can receive of Him when we join in the ancient invocation to the Holy Spirit drawn from a Novena prayer⁵:

**Come Holy Spirit, send forth the heavenly radiance of Your light...
Cleanse that which is unclean,
water that which is dry, heal that which is wounded.
Bend that which is inflexible, fire that which is chilled,
correct what goes astray...
Grant the reward of virtue, grant the deliverance of salvation,
grant eternal joy.
Amen.**⁶

We are grateful to our Foundation Pastor, **George Nuttall**, for the **‘Guidance in “Time for God”**’ section of this article.

⁴ ‘Everyone Gets to Play: John Wimber's Teachings and Writings on Life Together in Christ’ 2009 Ampelon Publishing. John Wimber was a pastor, musician and church planter who was founder of the Vineyard Movement which saw revival through signs and wonders in the 1990’s.

⁵ Novena Prayer is a nine-day period of prayer used by the Church over the ages to prepare for a Christian Feast. It is rooted in the Bible account of the apostles and Mary praying for nine days before the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Acts 1:14.

⁶ <https://hozana.org/en/prayer/holy-spirit/veni-sancte-spiritis>.

Peter Hayward

Peter's sudden death and promotion to glory on 22nd August has taken from us a stalwart of trust in God through the Lord Jesus, a man of honour and of service.

Whether in his service to the military, in which he travelled widely with his beloved Eunice (herself a talented linguist), his work as a taxi driver in north Wiltshire, his exercise on the golf course with friends, his support for his extended family or his life in the Church, Peter was respected, loved and held in great regard. Intelligent, energetic and disciplined, he lived with his Christian faith on his sleeve and with his beliefs driving his actions. The love, compassion and patience he showed as he and Eunice dealt with the death of their beloved daughter, Lizzie and in caring for Eunice in her twilight years were examples to us all. He was a dedicated family man and that meant extended family too.

He shared his conviction of the truth of God's Word with those around him, not least, as he led prayers and read from the Bible in our acts of worship. He was one of the founding brothers of Freedom Church Wiltshire, regularly encouraging the leaders, transporting sisters to church on a Sunday morning and attending our Church Prayer Meetings and the House Group of which he was a member and in which he so often prompted us in discussion and with incites from the gospels. He generously gave to our church.

Our condolences extend to that family he loved, and we join with them in the sadness and loss; but we rejoice that Peter is in God's loving arms and knows God's greeting as he enters the heavenly realm: 'Well done, good and faithful servant'.

Derek Lou Phil Andrew Glenys Elizabeth Joy

Leadership Team, Freedom Church Wiltshire

September 2025

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Come Holy Spirit: Bethel-Light-of-Christ .org.
The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Freepic.com
"Ministry to Farmers" Derek is on the left in the picture of his early farming days.