



Church Alive!

Swanage Parish Magazine

June 2026

Team Rector - Revd Dr Ian Bird

The Rectory, 12 Church Hill
Swanage BH19 1HU
01929 422916 ian@swanageteam.com

**Team Vicar - Revd Jo Levasier**

The Vicarage, 5 Redcliffe Road,
Swanage BH19 1LZ
07725 343768 emailjo@swanageteam.com

Associate Priest - Revd David Richards

(Responsible for St Mark's Church Herston)
Tel: 01929 424271 / 07779079844
Email: rev.dave456@gmail.com
1 Marsh Way, Swanage, BH19 2TE

Associate Minister to St Nicholas, Studland - Revd Tony Edmonds

Varhn, Agglestone Road, Studland, BH19 3BZ
Tel: 07837 009147
Email: revtonyedmonds@outlook.com

Assistant Curate - Revd Natalie Davies

Email: natalie@swanageteam.com
Tel: 07516 786944

Director of Music (St Mary's) - Simon Lole

Parish Office, St. Mary's Rooms (421117)

Parish Secretary – Mrs. Karon Quirey

Parish Office, St. Mary's Rooms (421117)
swanage.team@btconnect.com
Tues & Weds: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Fri: 9.00 am - 4.00 pm;
Lunch: 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Book-keeper -

Viv Blaney
swanage.treasury@btconnect.com
Mon, Tues & Thurs 9.00am - 1.30pm

'Church Alive!' Parish Magazine Editor – Anthony Malpas

swanagechurchalive@gmail.com

'Church Alive!' Distribution Manager – Mrs. Karon Quirey

Parish Office, St. Mary's Rooms (421117)

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Rev Jo Levasier writes:

Who do you look like? It's a well-known phenomenon that people often look like their pets. This picture of a lady and her dog is one of many, many you can find online where owners and their pets seem to share more than a few similarities.



I hope I don't look like either my black labrador or my black cat, but with the amount of hair that they shed, it is always possible I look more like them than I intend! Perhaps more understandable is people looking like their parents.



Don't Reese Witherspoon and her daughter Ava Phillippe look remarkably alike! Perhaps you also look like one of your parents, or maybe you share some family mannerisms? Ever spotted someone laughing

just like their dad? (not always something they are keen to discover!) I frequently find myself saying a phrase that sounds just like my mum. And I guess it isn't surprising, is it, given we generally spend a lot of time together as families when we are growing up and those things rub off on each other. Family likeness can be seen in lots of different ways, whether or not it is something we are happy with or not!

But how about the family likeness for those of us who call ourselves Christians, those who are part of the Family of God, the Church? How is our family likeness doing?

Back in Genesis 1v27, we are told that humankind is made in the image of God – so the very essence of being human is to be like our heavenly Father. No doubt we can think of different ways in which humanity is made in the image of God, be it creative, moral or spiritual, and over the years, scholars have debated exactly what this phrase does and doesn't mean in great detail.

When we get to the New Testament, we meet the man Jesus. And in doing so, we discover that we also meet God himself for as Paul tells us in Colossians 1v15 *“The Son is the image of the invisible God”*, or as Hebrews 1v3 *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the **exact** representation of his being”* (emphasis mine). Clearly more than a passing family resemblance.

And as we also discover, part of the work of the 3rd member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is to be at work within us, to align us also with the family likeness. *2 Corinthians 3v18 “ And we all... are being transformed into his [the Lord’s] image with ever-increasing glory”*. Who are we to look like? God!

Now I don't know how you feel you're doing with that right now? For me, that still sounds like a big challenge despite following Jesus for about 40 years so far. I've made progress, but there is still considerable way to go. How about you? But one of the key things I've found God uses to reshape and mould me, is His Word, the Bible. That's why over the next month, we are all going to step aside from our regular Bible reading plans and look at together – across all 4 of our churches in Swanage and Studland - at a particular aspect of God's character that we believe he wants to challenge us in – the characteristic of Generosity.

Our series is called Generous God – Generous People, and we are going to spend four weeks looking in more detail at the very essence of God’s nature and why Generosity really is at the heart of the God we follow and what that generosity might look like in practice for those of us who bear his name and are seeking to be transformed into his image.

We won’t just look at financial generosity – although that will definitely feature. Given the number of times that Jesus talks about money in the gospel accounts, we can be very sure that God is profoundly interested in how we chose to manage our finances. But having a generous life is a lot more than simply money handling, and our great desire is that over this month, we might let the Word and Spirit of God challenge our hearts and minds and transform our lives that Our Heavenly family resemblance might be more ever more striking.

**Every blessing,
Revd Jo Levasier**

“So God created humankind
in His image”
Genesis 1v27



GENEROUS GOD
generous people

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM FOCUS 31 MAY - 20 JUNE 2026

Some challenging Financial Facts from the recent APCM & our local community we might want to consider.

In 2025, we spent around £12 for every £10 we received.

We encourage giving to our church using the **PARISH GIVING SCHEME**

Currently we have 116 people giving via **PGS**.

(we have 276 people on our electoral roll and many more regularly attending services.

It is important to recognise that couples should be considered as one Giver in these reflections)

Over the last 5 years our *regular costs* have exceeded our *regular income* by **£333,806!**

Why have we not gone under?

God graciously provided legacies (*mostly historic*) that we were able to use. This is not a sustainable way to run our church (the piggy bank is almost empty) and isn't the exciting new growth projects that those legacies were intended for.

Giving amounts range from £5 a month to £440 a month – only 25 people give £100 or more a month



Purbeck Arts Choir costs £60 a term (or £100 a year) to be a member. (~£8.30 a month)

Might we need to rethink our levels of financial generosity?

Purbeck Golf Club costs £1,680 a year (£140 a month) to be a member.

Swanage Sailing Club costs £139.25 a year to be a member ~£11.60 a month (*doubled for your first year*).

St Mary's

June Services

Sunday Services

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Choral Eucharist
6.30pm Choral Evensong



Weekly Services/Events:

Tues	2.30pm	All Things Bright & Beautiful <i>(particularly suitable for those living with dementia or any kind of additional need)</i>
Weds	10am-12.30pm 11.00am	T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom Holy Communion <i>(every 4th Weds with Healing)</i>
Fri	5.45pm 6.30pm 6-30pm	Junior Choir practice Adult choir practice Friday Fun Club in the Rectory Classroom (term time only)
Sun	14 th 6.30pm	Come & Sing Evensong with Simon Lole
Sat	27 th 1-5pm 7.30pm	Set up and rehearsal for evening concert Concert: Dorset County Orchestra



More Servers and Acolytes are needed. Come and join a great team.

Support your church and community.

Become an altar Server. Talk to Jo Curtis to get more info.

Altar Servers

At St Mary's church

St Mary's Notes

Churchwardens are elected for one-year terms at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners at which anyone on the church's Electoral Roll or the local government Electoral Register is entitled to vote. This meeting is generally held immediately before the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, the parish's "AGM". Having been warden for two years, Ray Davis decided not to stand again but I'm relieved to say that he is continuing to assist with a number of essential tasks. Thank you, Ray, for all you do for St Mary's. I'm very happy to welcome Cliff Sutton as co-churchwarden. Cliff already is involved with practical tasks, working the sound system being one of them. Cliff is well supported by his wife, Cheryl Sutton, who you will know as a member of the servers team and as a chalice assistant. As ever, we need more church members to come forward to help with the running of the church building and churchyard, either regularly or taking on one-off tasks such as sweeping the paths. Now that we don't have a verger, here are many extra tasks to be covered by volunteers!

On 31st May, a series of sermons will begin - "Generous God, Generous people". Over a long period, there has been a good deal of discussion at PCC (Parochial Church Council) meetings about our parish finances. Simply put, our income from our regular giving has not kept pace with our expenditure and we have been using money from our reserves each year since 2021 to balance the budget.

If you're not already using it, I'd like to commend the Parish Giving Scheme to you - PGS. For those of us who are able to give regularly to the work of the church and the maintenance of our buildings, PGS is the optimum way for us to make our donations.

It might mean cancelling an existing Standing Order, but once that is done, and a regular payment arranged to PGS, the job is done. Donations can be monthly, quarterly, annually, or “one-offs”. I ticked the option box on the PGS set-up form so that my donation goes up by the rate of inflation each year. I get a contact in advance from PGS to check that I still want the amount to increase.

PGS is a church-owned, not for profit company which deals only with churches’ giving. The scheme is paid for by the interest PGS receives by holding the money for a few days before passing it on to the relevant church account. The advantage for our parish is that PGS deals with all the administration, including Gift Aid, and sends a statement to the parish, at no cost to the parish. Using PGS cuts out a lot of administration for our Finance Team.

We have a Contactless Payment Point in St Mary’s; this is the second most efficient method of giving and it has Gift Aid too. Cash donations are counted in the vestry after each service, counted again in the office, and then taken to a bank – well beyond Swanage and Wareham. Of course, donations are always welcome in any form!

Avril Harris
Churchwarden at St Mary’s

St Mary’s Library

What does the book of Ruth have to say to migrant peoples?

‘The Book of Hope’ (Peter Wilcox) is a new acquisition in Saint Mary’s library and you might find interesting. We also have some new books for our young people.

More interesting things in the pipeline with new books being launched in September

For more information – or to find out how you can support the development of the library - contact the librarian, Paul Baird (Pauldbaird@aol.com)



Regular Sunday Services May

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Worship with children's groups,
*except on 2nd Sunday All-Age Café Church,
1st Sundays Communion*

Weekly Church Calendar at All Saints

TERMTIME All Saints Toddlers Mondays 9:15am

Coffee Pot Thursdays 10:30am

TERMTIME Art workshop Fridays 10am

Opportunities to Pray together at All Saints

Weekly Thursdays 9:30 – 10am

(with a focus on our mission partners on the final one of the month)

Other dates for your diary

Sun 31 May 12 noon Bring Your Own Lunch after church @All Saints

Sat 6 June: 8.15am Swanage Christian Men's Group Breakfast @MacAllisters

Sat 6 June 9:30am Alpha Holy Spirit Day at EBC. *Please pray for all those involved in our current joint Alpha course as we set apart a morning to learn and experience more of the Holy Spirit.*

Friday 12 June 4-8pm Fabulous Free Family Funday returns with a fresh time and day. Come and join us for this brilliant event featuring a huge bouncy slide, face painting, crafts, nerf guns, hot dogs, cakes & lots of other free stuff!

Sun 7 June Worship@6 Our bi-monthly opportunity for praise and worship at Emmanuel Baptist church with a joint band including those from All Saints.

Sun 28 June 12 noon Bring Your Own Lunch after church @All Saints

News from All Saints

One of the highlights of the last month at All Saints (as John mentioned last month) was the opportunity to spend a Saturday morning thinking and praying about “Who we are” as the All Saints church family and “Where is God calling us next?”

28 of us gathered, spending a really constructive and positive time together as we looked at both where we were now and where we felt called. We looked at “what 3 words” describe us now and came up with an encouraging word cloud. Everyone agreed that spending a morning together in that way was something to do more regularly and we hope to look at that in future planning.

We gathered our thoughts around the phrase Sharing Jesus Love; then looking at how we might do that in 3 directions Up (towards God) In (towards our church family) and Out (towards the world). This is going to be the supporting structure that we are going to use for our next steps at All Saints and the Committee is considering how to take the brilliant brainstorming from our morning session and draw out some specific actions to take us forwards.

One thing we were all sure about was that our Fabulous Free Family Fundays should be a priority and our next one is planned for June. This time we are going to be running it on a Friday evening 4-8pm, (as we navigate various other summer Swanage events!) so it will have a slightly different feel – but we’d love to invite you to bring members of the community who might not attend a service but might enjoy something more relaxed.

Other things coming up in the next few weeks include a sea baptism on Sunday 24th May after our 10:30am service. It is always such a privilege to be able to baptise someone in the sea, and we are really looking forward to this moment when Gareth makes this public step of commitment in his faith journey.

He, and others who took part in our 321 course earlier in the year, have been enjoying the Alpha course, that we are running jointly with Emmanuel Baptist Church. The course will run until the end of June, and it has been a real blessing to do it with EBC as a combined project. Churches together in action! It is always so encouraging to be reminded of the truths at the heart of our faith and the wonderful gift of knowing God that we have been given.

Last week 4 of our All Saints' leaders and I headed over to Wimborne for a New Wine Leadership event. A great opportunity to gather with church leaders across the region and to reflect on Healthy Church leadership. There were lots of interesting and challenging reflections – and the call to integrity, transparency and honesty came through loud and clear, being willing to own up to mistakes and be ready to clear up our mess! In the wider church world this surely is a message we need to hear and act on, and in our own private lives, I was reminded of Jesus' gentle approach with Peter that we reflected on in our services a few weeks ago.

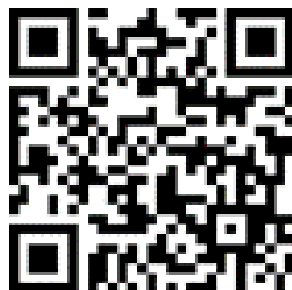
I finish with a poem that one of our church members wrote as he reflected on Peter's encounter with the risen Christ in John chapter 21.

A poem by Stuart Roe, member of All Saints

I'm going fishing, running away from what I did.
Back to the old life, full of shame
back to the boats which I knew.
Back to the sea that once knew my name,
Before the glory, before the shame.
Then a voice from the morning shore was heard
I knew the voice but didn't believe it was that voice,
"Cast to the right,"—and the nets will be full.
John whispers low, "It is the Lord!"
And I plunge overboard as fast as I can
No longer The Rock, just Simon now, that's what I thought.
With a heavy heart and shame, a dripping brow.
Yet there on the sand, a fire is lit,
where memories came flooding back to that night,
to that place, where I denied him.
Where broken hearts and broken fish sit.
A charcoal fire to match my fear,
And there in front of me my master stood
with only love and forgiveness in his eyes.
3 times, "Do you love me?" he gently said
To heal and to forgive.

With every blessing
Jo Levasier

We now have a convenient QR code available for anyone who would like to make a donation to any of our three parishes. Simply scan the code shown here to give securely and support our parish.



All Saints Church
invites you to another

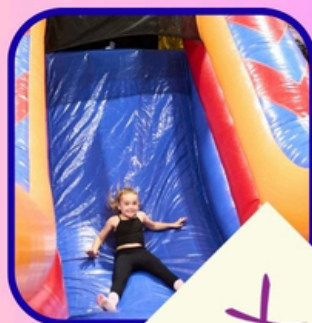
FABULOUS FREE FAMILY FUNDAY

NEW DAY!

**4-8PM FRIDAY
12TH JUNE**



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for all ages -
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loving
learning
serving
together

DIARY DATES JUNE 2026



Sunday 7th June	10am Holy Communion Generous People
Tuesday 9th June	7pm Bible Study
Sunday 14th June	10am Holy Communion Generous Giving 3:30pm St Mark's Concert of Light Music
Sunday 21st June	10am Holy Communion Generous Service
Tuesday 23rd June	7pm Bible Study
Thursday 25th June	7:30pm Church Committee
Sunday 28th June	10am Celebration! Service

Mondays 6:15pm Choir Practice
Wednesdays 10am Prayer & Share

St Marks Notes

As we welcome the high summer period, we look forward to all the summer activities and hope for what we think of as appropriate weather, although at the time that I'm writing this in early May we are very conscious how dry the Spring has been. Maybe by the time you read this there will have been some measurable rain, but whatever the weather, much is organised for the summer months. The farmers and growers will be pleased to see some rain and our sympathies are with them but we know that, whatever comes, our God has blessed us with a tremendous, beautiful world and this area can look at its best in the summer months as we welcome visitors from all over the country, indeed the world!

Along with the other churches in the Team we are having a series of sermons on the subject of “Generous God” which will remind us of what we owe to our great God in so many ways and, perhaps, how we respond to his generosity. During the Passiontide, Easter and Pentecost seasons in the last three months, we have journeyed through the principal Festivals of our faith and now that we are in the quieter “Sundays after Pentecost”, we can consider how we put our appreciation of God’s generosity into our everyday lives. The well-attended fortnightly Bible Studies continue at St Mark’s as we study the Gospel of John. Our Prayer and Share meetings on Wednesday mornings enable us to put our gratitude to God into words and to pray for those whom we know and the situations in our parish and on a wider canvas that we can bring to him.

St Marks' social events continue. On the 14th of this month we have our concert, drawing on the talents of St Marks' people and their friends, including our wonderfully enthusiastic Junior Singing Club! Later in the summer we will have our popular Pimms and Hymns afternoon and, following last year’s great success, our barbecue, so watch out for the dates of those. As always, we are so grateful for the members of our church family who do so much to make these activities such a success.

On Tuesday 2nd June, Anne and I will go to the annual event known as the Archdeacon’s Visitation at which we will be confirmed as churchwardens for this year. It is a good time to meet with and worship with those in the same position in other churches who have been elected into this same position at their annual meetings earlier in the year. It is a great honour for us both to be in this position year after year, but remember, if you get fed up with us, you will have the chance to elect other people next March!

Wishing you all blessings throughout the coming summer and beyond.

John Way Churchwarden.

St Nicholas Studland News



Are you really sure?

If you know exactly where it is....then you don't completely know what it's doing. If you know what it's doing....then you can never be quite sure where it is. I think that's Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle in a nutshell....well, I'm pretty sure it is.....

Whether we like it or not, we live with uncertainty: tomorrow's weather, today's traffic, will this be a good or a bad day...we can never know for sure. By and large most of us get used to uncertainty in life, but that doesn't mean that we are altogether comfortable with it. We listen to pundits on the TV and radio to tell us the probable outcome of things. We consult experts to try and predict events. Some even turn to horoscopes and other ancient methods of trying to discern the future and so put an end to uncertainty. Eventually, however, like it or lump it, we just have to get on with an uncertain life.

Interestingly, in one area of life, two completely opposite groups of people have tried to find a way around this dilemma: atheists and fundamentalist religious people. Both of them lay claim to an overwhelming certainty. Atheists would say that there definitely is no god. Fundamentalists would say that there definitely is a god. At a stroke both groups have got rid of uncertainty in the spiritual sphere of existence.

Unfortunately, neither of these world views stand up to thorough scrutiny. Whether we use philosophy or thoughtful reflection of human existence, we shall always be left with uncertainty.

St Paul sums it up brilliantly, in his letter to the Christians in the city of Corinth [*1 Corinthians 13: 12-13*]

“At present we are [people] looking at puzzling reflections in a mirror. The time will come when we shall see reality whole and face to face! At present all I know is a little fraction of the truth, but the time will come when I shall know it as fully as God now knows me!

In this life we have three great lasting qualities—faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love.”

We live in a world where we do not know everything and much of life has to be taken on trust. Faith and hope offer us two good ways of living with uncertainty: they remind us that in this life we may have confidence in God even if we do not have certainty. Love points us to a great way of living well with uncertainty. Christians trust that God is love and has made this world in love and loves each and every one of us. He has shown that love in His Son Jesus Christ. As we accept God’s gift of love through His Son, our task in an uncertain world is to make that love known by words and acts of kindness and love. I’m pretty sure of that.

Rev. Tony Edmonds



Letter from Bishop Karen of Sherborne

One Church, One Faith, One Lord

It has been a joy these first four months of the year being the acting bishop of Stepney. The former bishop moved on in the autumn, and bishop (now archbishop) Sarah asked me to support the team as she moved on to Lambeth. Familiar with parts of London, the Windrush Line was new to me, so getting to know Islington, Tower Hamlets and Bethnal Green has been a new discovery, finding new vibrancy and life in the East End.

Spending a couple of days a week in our capital city I discovered frequent buses, the ability to walk thousands of steps a day between tube stations, churches and hotels and a great area team, Archdeacon, Missioner and Director of Ordinands. I met parish clergy, committed laity and young people; the newly ordained and the long serving area dean; interns testing their vocation, vicars to be licensed and new believers ready to be baptised and confirmed.

Yet the challenges of urban ministry are not too different from the challenges we face here in the Salisbury diocese, some churches struggle while others thrive; areas of deprivation adjoin areas of plenty; and partnerships and collaboration are encouraged as a way of sharing resources and working together joyfully in God's world. And the opportunities are the same too. A chance to reach out to those in need and offer hospitality, extending a welcome to newcomers in whom Christ is working, and walking alongside individuals in their faith journey.

As I have been energised by a new experience, so the London diocese have gained from my insights and objectivity. Now a new bishop begins in Stepney and I pass the baton on. It is always good to be reminded that the church is much bigger than our own experience of it, and we share together in God's amazing plan, thankful for brothers and sisters everywhere and for all they can teach us.

+Karen

SWANAGE TOWN BAND JUNE BANDSTAND GIGS

The Swanage Town Band will be playing in the bandstand throughout the summer and will be playing on Saturday 6th and Saturday 20th June at 2.30pm. Should the weather prevent a bandstand performance, the concert will still take place 30 minutes later in the Swanage Methodist Church. The concerts are always free to enjoy but the band do collect for local charities and last year raised nearly £2000 for Dementia Friendly Purbeck's second Admiral Nurse.

For more info please contact the band on:
swanagetownband@gmail.com





**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
IN SWANAGE**

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 9-10am

At Emmanuel Baptist Church

All welcome

Is Communicare still going?

Many readers of this magazine have cause to be very grateful to Communicare which, for many years, has provided friendly drivers to take them to hospital and other appointments. For a good number of those years, under the efficient and caring leadership of Jenny Lazenbury, the work of Communicare has been helping people who had no other means of transport to get to their appointments.

When Jenny retired last year, it was decided that the work was carried on by the existing committee and, although there is no named person "in charge", the intention always was that it carry on as before. For a while in recent months, Communicare had to take a break while members of the committee arranged for the drivers to have legal checks. Rumours went around that we had closed down but this was definitely not the case.

The good news is that, now that the checks have been carried out, Communicare is BACK IN ACTION, and working as hard as ever. If you need a driver to take you to an appointment please ring one of the following numbers (all 01929) 427576 480932 427100 427878

If any one has general questions about Communicare, please feel free to ask me (01929 422951).

John Way (Committee member).



Dorset County

Orchestra



Summer Concert

Saturday 27th June 2026

7.30pm at St Mary's Church

Swanage

Mendelssohn - Hebrides Overture

Glazunov - The Sea, Fantasy for Orchestra

Mendelssohn - Scottish Symphony

Arturo Serna - conductor

Bärbel Glaser - leader

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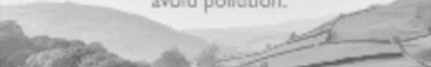
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Cover Story

Psalm 1.1-3

*“Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.”*

Jocelynn

If anyone has got spare knitting wool, I knit scarves for homeless people. Not furry wool, just double knitting wool, bright colours please. lynnechurchserver@hotmail.co.uk. Please leave on the back pew at St Marks church, with my name on it and your email address. Thank You!



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Hebrew Word of the Month

Buildings stand or fall depending on their foundation. No matter how beautiful the structure appears from the outside, if what supports it is unstable, cracks eventually begin to show. Scripture uses this practical image to reveal something deeply spiritual about where true security is found.

One powerful Hebrew expression connected to this is *Even Pinah* (אֶבֶן פִּנָּה, *EH-ven pee-NAH*) – “Cornerstone.” In Hebrew, *even* means stone, and *pinah* means corner. Together, the phrase refers to the chief cornerstone—the foundational stone carefully set in place to establish alignment, strength, and stability for the entire structure. In the ancient world, this was not decorative. Everything depended on it.

This image appears clearly in the Old Testament. In *Psalm 118:22*, we read: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” At first, this sounds like a statement about rejection and reversal, but it points to something far greater. What was dismissed by human judgment became central in God’s plan.

Isaiah expands this in *Isaiah 28:16*: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.” Here the cornerstone becomes a picture of security, trust, and God’s dependable provision. When everything else feels uncertain, God establishes something that cannot be shaken.

When we come to the New Testament, this image is applied directly to Jesus. After His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus quotes *Psalm 118* and applies it to Himself: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone” (*Matthew 21:42*).

The religious leaders understood exactly what He meant. The One many were rejecting was, in fact, the very foundation God had appointed.

Peter later declares boldly in *Acts 4:11*: “*This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.*” Paul continues this in *Ephesians 2:20*, describing believers as being “*built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*”

This gives *Even Pinah* profound meaning for believers today. Many people try to build life on things that seem stable for a season—success, relationships, control, comfort, approval, financial security, or personal strength. Some foundations appear solid until pressure comes. But Scripture reminds us that only one foundation truly holds.

Jesus is not meant to be an addition to life’s structure. He is the foundation itself.

A cornerstone does more than support weight. It determines alignment. If the cornerstone is set correctly, everything else finds its proper place. In the same way, when Jesus is truly central, our priorities, decisions, identity, and direction begin to align around Him.

Even Pinah reminds us that God’s wisdom often differs from human judgment. The stone others rejected became the stone everything depends on.

This can shape the way we pray. We can pray, “Lord, show me where I have been building on unstable things,” or, “Help me align my life more fully around You as my true foundation.” God does not offer temporary stability. In Jesus, He gives a sure foundation that remains firm in every season.

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for giving us a sure foundation in Jesus. Forgive me for the times I have placed my trust in things that cannot truly hold me. Help me build my life fully upon You. Align my heart, my decisions, and my priorities around Your truth. Be the true cornerstone of everything I am building. In Yeshua’s name, amen.”

Blessings

Pastor Israel Pochtar

On 13th June Pastor Israel Pochtar will be coming to speak at a conference being held at Emmanuel Baptist Church by kind permission of the leaders. Israel began his ministry in Dorset, when he came to learn English at a language school in Bournemouth, twenty years ago. He stayed with Christian friends in Wimborne, and heard God calling him to start a church in Israel. He now leads five churches, called Messianic Congregations, leading many there to discover that Jesus truly is the Messiah. Israel works closely with pastors, not only in Israel, but throughout the Middle East, and together they are living testimony that faith in Jesus Christ is the only real, lasting way to break down the divisions and age old hatred that is so often associated with the conflict in the Middle East.

He will be joined by Pastor Saleem Shalash, Arab pastor of a church in Nazareth, the home town of Jesus himself. They together with well known speakers Barry Segal and Reuven Doron will be joined by Canon Andrew White, formerly the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy to the Middle East. Do join us for this special conference called “The One New Man.” So often mention of Israel and the Middle East is associated with anger and hatred. Here is an opportunity to learn what God is doing, and how the love of Jesus can break down the most intransigent of barriers.

ONE NEW MAN CONFERENCE

12 and 13 June 2026



For Zion's sake I will not keep silent...Isaiah 62:1

**12 June, Day of Prayer,
Worship and Preparation
with the leaders from Israel
Harmans Cross Village
Hall, BH19 3EB**

**13 June, One New Man
Day Conference
Emmanuel Baptist
Church
Swanage, BH19,1AZ**

Join us and hear Jewish and Arab leaders speak on what God is doing in Israel and the Middle East in these turbulent times.

Israel Pochtar, Saleem Shalash, Barry Segal and Reuven Doron will be joined by Canon Andrew White, for these days of inspirational teaching, prayer, information and worship.

For further details and ticket purchases go to:



benotsilent.uk/events



Letter from the Editor

I recently attended a lunch meeting and after lunch several poems were read out. I was sitting beside Derek Harris, a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, who read out a poem he had written giving his testimony. I found it very moving and wanted to share it with you:

My Testimony

My life was once empty with no interests at all,
Because of some problems I could not walk tall,
Then one August day, right out of the blue,
A friend rang me up, to say I want you.

I'm being baptised very soon I was told,
On hearing this statement, I thought you're very bold,
I would like you to be there on my special day,
I sure won't miss that I was able to say.

This baptism thing to me was all new,
If that had been me, I would be in a stew,
My friend said that she'd made Jesus the Lord of her life,
This brought her heart joy and drove out all strife.

The day of the baptism soon came around,
As we all met together, with one joyful sound,
I felt such great love on that special day,
When my friend submerged, music started to play.

As she rose from the water, soaked through to the skin,
We then all praised Jesus, who died for our sin,
That day to me was precious, I just wanted more,
So, when they met again, I wasn't last through the door.

The message and praise came forth on that day,
Do you want Jesus in your life, the leader did say?
I did not hesitate to move, with speed from my seat,
To go to the front, where Jesus I would meet.

With my own words, I asked Him into my heart,
He then entered with power, now of His body I'm part,
My life has now changed for I know Him as Lord,
He no longer a stranger, but the one I adore.

He wants you to know you could know Him as well,
He'll wash away all your sins and save you from hell,
He's waiting for you to call on His precious name,
Once you have called, you'll not be the same.

There is no experience more wonderful than surrendering one's life to Jesus. St Paul puts it this way:

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1.13-14

Derek's life, like the lives of so many, is a testimony to the truth of these words.

I will trust my saviour Jesus
When my darkest doubts befall
Trust Him when to simply trust Him
Seems the hardest thing of all

I will trust my saviour Jesus
Trust Him when my strength is small
For I know the shield of Jesus
Is the safest place of all

Jesus, only Jesus
Help me trust You more and more
Jesus, only Jesus
May my heart be ever Yours

I will trust my saviour Jesus
He has said His way is best
And I know the path He's chosen
Leads to everlasting rest

Jesus, only Jesus
Help me trust You more and more
Jesus, only Jesus
May my heart be ever Yours

Oh on that cross, how it was seen
I can go now ever trusting in the One
who died for me
What could I bring, for Your gift is complete
So I trust You, simply trust You,
Lord with every part of me

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**Song by City Alight
Available on YouTube**