

Church Alive!

Swanage Parish Magazine

November 2026

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Rev Ian Bird writes:

Our Vocation

What goes through your mind when you hear the word 'vocation'? Perhaps you think of someone like a nurse, a nun, a vicar, or some other profession that is traditionally linked with the idea of vocation. Originating from the Latin word vocare (to call), vocation is about a strong, purposeful calling or a type of work that you feel uniquely suited for, to which you dedicate your time, energy, and commitment. I believe we all have a vocation and it's about us responding to God's call and using our gifts and skills in service to him and each other throughout our lives. St Paul wrote to the members of the church in Corinth: 'let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God called you' (1Corinthians 7: 17). We are called and equipped by God to serve him and those around us in many different ways. Faith and action are inextricably linked, as James reminds us when he encourages his readers to 'be doers of the word' (James 1: 22).

Pursuing our Christian vocation that uses our gift and skills to the glory of God can be an exciting endeavour and not only blesses those around us, but can give us a deep sense of fulfilment too.
As a Christian leader, one of the privileges I have is seeing people pursue their vocation and all that flows from it. It can be really exciting being with someone who is exploring their calling. Recently I had lunch with someone who I had known when she was exploring her vocation and what God might be calling her to do. It was great to see her responding to God's call and now she is a vicar. Over lunch, she expressed amazement at just how her vocation had developed and, though it was sometimes challenging, had a deep sense of fulfilment and enjoyment in her work.

Our vocations may change over time with age and circumstances (e.g. our health). Some of the people who have most inspired me have been ‘senior citizens’ faithfully and effectively continuing their vocation and ministry. I continue to be inspired by people around me who are living out their vocation and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and in deed in all sorts of diverse ways. I rejoice in what I see going on around me in the Team churches across Swanage and Studland, but also am aware that some of our ministries and activities could benefit and grow from more support. If you are reading this and are wondering how you might pursue your vocation, then please talk to me, Jo, Dave or Tony.

Our wonderful, hot summer has turned into a mild Autumn and the year moves on. Having recently celebrated Harvest, we now move into that time of year of Remembrance. It’s an opportunity to pause and reflect before the busyness of Advent and Christmas descend upon us, and to be thankful to God for those whose love and care have positively shaped us as people. On Sunday November 1st at 3.30pm at St Mary’s we will hold our annual All Souls’ Service. In this quiet, reflective service names will be read out of those whom we love but see no longer and candles will be lit in their memory. If you have names that you would like read out at this service, please add them to the sheet at the back of each church.

In this season of Remembrance, we also honour those who have died in war, who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the life and freedom we enjoy today. Sunday 8th November is Remembrance Sunday and St Mary’s Church will be hosting the Swanage Civic Remembrance Service at 2.30pm. This Sunday is always a poignant and stark reminder of the human cost of war and the urgent necessity to seek the ways of peace.

We are reminded daily of the plight of the people of Ukraine and of the conflict in the Middle East, but there are also so many brutal civil wars going on around the world, including in Sudan, with whom we have links as a diocese. These wars rarely make our news, but we need to continue to pray fervently for peace in our world, whilst acknowledging how hard peace is to achieve. That should not cause us to give up, but power us on in prayer for those parts of the world currently experiencing conflict. May we see more peace in our world in the coming months and year ahead.

Every Blessing
Ian, Rector

Quotation

There was never a good war, or a bad peace.

Benjamin Franklin

Special Christmas Events & Services

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Sun 29 November

St Mary's, Swanage
6:30pm Candlelit Advent Carol Service

Sat 5 December

2.30pm Carols *at the Christmas Market*

Sun 6 December

All Saints, Ulwell
4pm Advent Christingle Service & tea party

Tue 8 December

St Nicholas', Studland
6.30pm traditional Carol Service & refreshments

Sun 13 December

St Mary's, Swanage
6:30pm Swanage Christmas Together: a candlelit evening of carols and local groups participation, with mulled wine & mince pies.

Sun 20 December

Manor Farm Tea Rooms, Studland
3.30pm Carols in the Barn: short nativity outside for all the family

St Mary's, Swanage
6:30pm Traditional candlelit 9 Lessons and Carols

Mon 21 December

All Saints, Ulwell
6pm Community Carols: an informal evening of carols, readings & drama, with mulled wine & mince pies

Thu 24 December Christmas Eve

St Mary's, Swanage
4pm Crib Service: come and join in the nativity story (costumes available)
6:30pm Carols by Candlelight
11:30pm Midnight Eucharist

St Mark's, Herston
3:30pm Nativity Service for families (costumes available)
5pm Carols by Candlelight

All Saints, Ulwell
11:15pm Midnight Communion

St Nicholas', Studland
11:30pm Midnight Communion

Fri 25 December Christmas Day

St Mary's, Swanage
8am Christmas Communion
10.30am Christmas Choral Eucharist

St Mark's, Herston
10am Christmas Family Communion

St Nicholas', Studland
10am Christmas Family Communion

All Saints, Ulwell
10:30am Christmas All Age Celebration

other regular services will continue during this period
please check www.swanageteam.com,
call 01929 421117 or refer to church notice sheets

St Mary's



November 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 *(particularly suitable for those living with dementia or any kind of additional need)*
Weds	10am-12.30pm	T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom
	11.00am	Holy Communion *(every 4th Weds with Healing)*
Fri	5.45pm	Junior Choir practice
	6.30pm	Adult choir practice
	6-30pm	Friday Fun Club in the Rectory Classroom (term time only)

Sunday 1st 3.30pm A Service in Which to Remember

Sunday 8th 2.30pm Town Remembrance Service

Weds 11th 11.00am Remembrance Service at the War Memorial

Sunday 15th 1.00pm Baptism: Ava Rose Gousseau
6.30pm 'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong with
Prof Stephen Darlington

Sunday 29th 6.30pm Carols for Advent Sunday

Purbeck arts choir

POULENC
Gloria

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Fantasia on Christmas Carols

CHILCOTT
On Christmas Night

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER AT 6.30PM
ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWANAGE

Soprano: GRACE LOVELASS
Organ: SIMON LOLE

with David Fawcett and The Choristers of St Mary's Church

Conductor: JOHN WATKINS

Tickets: £12 in advance from Corbens or
enquiries purbeckchoir@gmail.com
retiring collection for Purbeck Youth Music

www.purbeckartschoir.org.uk

Weekly Sunday Services at All Saints

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Worship (with Junior Church meets week 1, 3, 4. Communion is shared on 1st Sunday. Café Church – all age informal worship - on 2nd Sunday)

Weekly Church Calendar at All Saints
All Saints Toddler Group Mondays 9:15-11am
Church Prayer meeting Thursdays 9:30 – 10am
Coffee Pot Thursdays 10:30am -1pm
Art workshop Fridays 10am

Special events this month

Sat 7 Nov 8.15am Swanage Christian Men's Group Breakfast @MacAllisters
10am-12:30pm Table Top Sale by Art Workshop at All Saints Hall: Come and support this brilliant community project, enjoy refreshments and browse craft & bric-a-brac stalls.
Sun 8 Nov Remembrance Sunday – we will mark the 11am 2-minute silence at Café church
Thu 12 Nov 7pm Midweek Worship: an opportunity to get together for informal band-led worship time. All Welcome.

Sat 14 Nov 9:30am-12:30pm Going Deeper at All Saints: a chance to spend a morning exploring what it means for us to grow as a church in our mission: Sharing Jesus Love together. A chance to worship, talk, pray look at God's word and reflect together. Contact Jo to be part of this morning. jo@swanageteam.com or sign up at church.
Sun 22 Nov Lunch-after-church: BYO picnic & a bit to share, from noon.
Sun 29 Nov 9:30am Advent Breakfast (please note our 8am communion service will be at 8:30am this week to facilitate our congregations getting together over breakfast)
Sun 29 Nov Worship@6pm @EBC our joint bi-monthly worship event

News from All Saints



September and October have been very busy months at All Saints! We were delighted to share in Lydia's baptism at the end of September. The rain held off, the sun even peeped out from behind the clouds. The sea was remarkably warm, and it was a great joy to join with lots of others on the seafront to mark Lydia's coming to faith in such a powerful public way. It was good to hear of God's gentle call bringing her to a new life with Jesus and discovering the peace and fellowship that this new life has brought her.

September and the beginning of October saw us “diving into” the book of Jonah up at All Saints on a Sunday. The story of Jonah and the whale (or big fish as the text describes it) is well known. I was tempted to spray everyone with powerful super-soakers in our café church service, but the congregation was probably all very glad that I managed to hold back and we just enjoyed a great drama presentation instead! Especial thanks go to Adeline and Isabelle for keeping the sea going throughout the whole thing!

As we have looked at this Old Testament book afresh it has been challenging to think about just which people groups we really struggle with and the outrageous, ridiculous grace that God extends to people whom we would rather see punished. As we wrestle with the very live issues of illegal boat crossings and immigration it is good to be challenged by God’s handling of Nineveh [given what we now know about their atrocities and the way they handled those they conquered.]

Next, we go on to look at the book of Ruth, another brilliant Old Testament book which will no doubt challenge us in fresh ways. Where are the spaces around the edges that leave us with room to help others in our lives?

The All Saints Autumn Fabulous Free Family Funday went very well on Saturday October 10th – we were delighted with the number of families who came and enjoyed all the activities.

Many thanks to those from St Mary’s church who came to support us too. It now feels like we have gained some momentum and the community are spreading the news that the next funday is coming up for themselves.

In a world where everything costs increasingly more, it feels really good to be able to put on a day that costs families nothing as an expression of Sharing Jesus' Love in a tangible way.

[As an aside - Thank you so much to those who give financially to the parish. Our inflatable slide that fits nicely in the church and is key to the event, does cost £300 a time; so, if you are feeling a little nudge from the Holy Spirit to contribute to make future events like this happen – please follow the Lord's leading! Every pound counts. We still don't break even as a parish – can you be part of making that happen?]

On a personal front it has been great to be able to help down at Friday Fun Club at St Mary's a few times in October. The group spans children and young people aged 8-14 and is a wonderfully inclusive group with young people from both St Mary's and All Saints.

We are really lucky to have such a supportive group that our young people can enjoy and a huge thanks to the faithful team of leaders who provide this safe fun space every Friday evening. I genuinely felt that it was such a privilege to be part of the journey of these fabulous young people: my best Friday nights in a long time!

With every blessing
Jo (team vicar)

Quotation

"You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled."
Charles Spurgeon

DIARY DATES NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st November - 10am Holy Communion for All Saints' Day
- 3:30pm Service to Remember at St Mary's
Tuesday 3rd November - 7:30pm Church Committee meeting
Sunday 8th November - 10am Holy Communion followed by our Act of Remembrance at 11am
- 2:30pm Town Remembrance Service – St Mary's
Tuesday 10th November- 7pm Bible Study
Sunday 15th November - 10am Holy Communion
Wednesday 18th November - 7pm PCC meeting at All Saints' Hall
Sunday 22nd November - 10am Holy Communion
Tuesday 24th November - 7pm Bible Study
Sunday 29th November - 10am Celebration! Service for the beginning of Advent
Monday 30th November - 1:45pm School Christingle Service

Every Monday 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal
Every Wednesday 10am Prayer and Share

St Marks Notes

The Junior Singing Club made a good start at the beginning of the new School term. We lost some members who had moved on to secondary schools, but have gained a good number of new, enthusiastic younger members. So far, the group has sung at the September St Mark's Celebration! service and at the St Mark's School Harvest service, where they successfully sang a 2-part song on their own and sang a descant to the popular Harvest Samba. The group sings a variety of music, and the children are excited to start learning a Taylor Swift song, (their request). We look forward to some Christmas performances and continuing to sing at the monthly Celebration! services. We are delighted to have local piano teacher Panisara Thomas playing piano for us.

St Mark's Harvest service was followed by the usual wonderful Bring-and-Share lunch; the good weather allowed us to eat outside in the lovely Church garden, (making a total of 3 open-air events this year). The Harvest decorations were amazing, and were left in place for the School Harvest Service. We collected a large number of gifts from School and Church for the Swanage Foodbank.

During the last 18 months St Mark's Committee has been working up a plan for a modest re-ordering of the back of the Church, together with some tidying up work to improve our side chapel. We hope to submit a Faculty application soon. The aim is to improve the flexibility of our building, which will give us more space for work with children and young families. If anyone would like a guided tour of the proposed work, please contact me. Please pray for this whole project – it has taken much thought, consultation and planning.

November is a time for remembering. St Mark's will be helping to provide refreshments at the Team All Souls service at St Mary's, 3:30pm, on November 1st. We are also preparing for Remembrance Sunday, with our Act of Remembrance at 11am, as part of our 10am service.

Our final service in November will be our Advent Sunday Celebration! service. this is always a special occasion. It's the start of a new Christian year, the beginning of our count-down to Christmas, and an opportunity to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord.

David Richards, Resident Priest

Quotation

"O ye believers, my heart is enlarged towards you. Look to, and live much on the blessed Jesus, and then you will live to, and act for Him more and more. Be thankful for what you have received, but be looking out continually for fresh discoveries of His love, and fresh incomes of heavenly grace, till you are called to behold this Lamb of God in glory."

George Whitefield

St Nicholas
Studland News



Dear Friends,

The author Laurie Lee said: *“Memory is the most personal possession we have. It is the bank we own, the tower we defend, the treasure that has no end.”*

Our memories play such an important part in who we are. They can shape us in good ways and in bad, and to some extent we are what we remember. The gradual slipping away of memory as Alzheimer’s and related conditions take hold, can leave us feeling that the sufferer themselves is slipping away.

Memory too is central to the Christian faith and church. In St Nicholas, week by week we enact the memory of the last supper, recalling the quite shocking words of Christ, “Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.....Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.” And in the organisation of our liturgical year, the Sunday by Sunday themes and topics, memory has a significant role.

November in particular is an exceptional month for remembering. On the first Sunday we celebrate the feast of All Saints, an occasion for the church and community to come together and recall with thanksgiving and no doubt with tears, those whose earthly story is over and who now rest in God’s peace.

A week later on Remembrance Sunday we bring to mind the sacrifice of those who fought for our freedom and we remind ourselves of the true value and cost of peace. On the third Sunday of November St Nicholas church revisits the central role of safeguarding both in our church and community. We listen again to God's commands to look out for, care for and protect the vulnerable, both young and old.

The following week is the end of the church year. We celebrate the feast of Christ the King. This is a wonderful opportunity to look back at all we have heard and learnt of Jesus Christ and acknowledge him as the king of all that there is and the king who seeks to live in our lives. And finally, on the very last Sunday the Christian year starts afresh. We have done our remembering and now we look forward to the coming of Jesus, as the baby born in Bethlehem, as the saviour who comes in love to live in our hearts and lives and as the Lord of all things who will one day bring all history and all time to an extraordinary conclusion.

It is good that we finish November in this way, for although memory is important and although memory does in part shape who we are, the story of Advent reminds us that we are deeply loved by God. When memories fade, what we mean and who we are may seem to fade with them, but the good news of the Christian story is that who we truly are is held by those who love us. And the one who loves us most is our creator and redeemer.

Revd Tony Edmonds



Art Workshop



Cover Story

Jesus said: "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times." Matthew 16 2-3

Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival - Save the Date - December 3rd - 5th 2026

Would you like to participate in this year's Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival at the beginning of December? Spaces are limited so you need to book soon - see below.

It is being held at Emmanuel Baptist Church,Swanage for three days from Thursday 3rd December to Saturday 5th December between 10am and 6pm. On Sunday 6th Dec there is a special remembrance service at 4pm called 'Lights of Love'.

How can I take part?

.We invite you to sponsor a tree and decorate it to highlight your group, your church or business/charity in the local area. We source the trees locally for you to sponsor at £25 for a 4'6" or £29 for a 6' Norway Spruce. This year's theme is Favourite Christmas Songs.

We ask you to come and set up your unique tree between 9am and 4pm on Wednesday 2nd December when you will need to bring a stand to put your tree in, also decorations on the theme and a sign or emblem to advertise your sponsorship. LED lights will be provided so please do not bring your own. After the festival, the tree is yours to take away. You can dismantle it either after 6pm on Saturday 5th or on Monday 7th December between 9am and 12noon. This is a non-profit making event, and any donations received will go to two nominated charities which this year are Allsort'd and the Swanage Lifeboats.



To sponsor a tree, please request a booking form by contacting Janet Norleyat Emmanuel Baptist Church by emailing - administrator@emmanuelbc.org.uk or you can ring 01929 427706 and leave a message.

Early booking is essential for this popular event and the deadline for tree bookings is Monday 9th November.

Judy, Janet and team

Letter from the Dean of Salisbury

In Salisbury, Sarum Lights has become firmly established as part of many people's pre-Christmas ritual. For one week the Cathedral hosts a stunning immersive display. Its vaults, arches, and walls become the screens upon which a bewitching sequence of images and animations are shown. Dinosaurs have lumbered along the aisles; whales have leapt in the nave; the glories of Renaissance art have lit up the transepts. The building has been filled with people, young and old, many of them visiting the Cathedral for the first time. In 2025 Sarum Lights brought more than 13,000 visitors to the Cathedral.

Light in the darkness: that's the essence of Sarum Lights. The projections would not work on balmy August evenings. It's only in the gloom of the approaching winter that they can be seen. The colours and shapes prompt the warmth of a shared experience. The Lights beget light. Cameras are held aloft; children gasp in amazement; families chat about what they've seen over cups of hot chocolate. And the night-time streets are busy – after hours, for this one week, the city comes to life, and its shops, pubs and cafés thrive. Light in the darkness: dazzling images, the joy of human company, the bustle of the lively thoroughfares. In the light of Sarum Lights we see such light.

November offers so many moments to enjoy the thrilling sight of light in the darkness. A sparkler twirled on Guy Fawkes Night, perhaps, or a candle lit in memory of the fallen, or a brooch of bright red petals worn in the autumn mist and drizzle.

For in reimagining light in the darkness Sarum Lights is only catching up with what our culture and our Church have done at this time of year for many centuries. October ends with All Souls, and with the opportunity to light candles and remember those we love but see no longer.

Then November opens with All Saints, when we honour those women and men of faith whose lives have shone brightly in their generation (at the Cathedral, Bishop Karen will present the Cross of St Aldhelm to those who have served our Diocese with distinction – whose light has guided, helped, and enabled many others to flourish). Remembrancetide follows. The scarlet of our poppies glows against the often-solemn tones of military uniforms and winter overcoats, recalling us to the sacrifice made by many in service of the liberty we enjoy.

These weeks lead us to the end of the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King. The infant who is greeted as 'a light to reveal you to the nations' is acclaimed as the universal Lord, to whom all things are subject. Our Lights may beget further light, but at our year's end we are reminded that it is Christ's light that illuminates all things. '...In your light shall we see light', as the Psalmist puts it. Only in Christ are our eyes truly opened, and in Christ there is no darkness at all.

Light in the darkness. Hope renewed at the end of a challenging year.

Nicholas Papadopulos, Dean of Salisbury

Who was William Tyndale?

William Tyndale was born about 1491 in South Gloucestershire, just north of the great port of Bristol, during the reign of King Henry VII.

When Tyndale grew up, life was dominated by the Catholic Church. Prayers and Bible readings in church services were in Latin, which few understood.



At this time, a group called Lollards, who wanted prayers and the Scriptures in English, were meeting in small groups in each other's homes. They wanted people to read the Bible for themselves, and engage with it in their lives. The Lollards used an unofficial translation of the Bible created over a century before by followers of John Wycliffe. It was translated from Latin, and parts were memorised and copied out by hand by the few people who were literate. It was dangerous because anyone caught possessing or reading the Bible in English could be tried for heresy and punished, and some were burnt at the stake.

Why did Tyndale translate the Bible into English?

Where Tyndale grew up Lollard beliefs were common. Tyndale himself was not against everything in the Church. He went to Oxford

University to study and graduated in 1515. Soon afterwards, he was ordained as a deacon in London and later as a priest.

Meanwhile, momentous things were happening in Europe. In 1516, a scholar called Erasmus was able to collect and print the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. Then in 1517, when Martin Luther posted his '95 Theses' attacking abuses in the Church, these were printed and distributed. Luther used Erasmus's text and translated the New Testament from Greek into everyday German. His translation was published in 1522.

People debate about when Tyndale decided to translate the New Testament into English from Greek. It was not a new idea, because the Lollards had advocated it for generations. However, Erasmus's Greek New Testament made it possible, and it was Luther's New Testament which inspired him and showed what could be done.

How did Tyndale New Testaments get into England?

At that time it was not strictly illegal to translate the Bible. However, there was an old law in England, dating from the early 1400s, making it illegal to translate the Bible without getting permission from a bishop. William Tyndale asked the Bishop of London for permission to translate the Bible, although he had probably already started to do it. However, he was not given permission and that meant no printer in London could print it either.

So Tyndale fled to Europe, first to Hamburg and down the River Elbe to Wittenberg where he met Luther. Later, he went up the River Rhine to Cologne where in 1525 he finished his New Testament. Unfortunately, his efforts were disrupted and he had to flee again further up the River Rhine to the city of Worms where in 1526 he successfully printed his English New Testament.

These New Testaments were printed in their thousands and ordinary people were eager to buy them. They were smuggled into England among other goods and there was a ready market. T, only three copies of the original 1526 New Testament survive. You can see one at St Paul's Cathedral, one at the British Library and the other only complete one never left Germany and is in Stuttgart.

Many copies were bought by the Bishop of London for public burning by St Paul's Cathedral. Ironically, the money which the bishop paid to buy a consignment helped finance Tyndale's work to revise and bring out a better edition in 1534.

Why was Tyndale executed?

Later, Tyndale moved to Antwerp in Flanders (now Belgium). As well as translating the New Testament, Tyndale also wrote other books which were printed and smuggled into England. Meanwhile in England, King Henry VIII was trying to find a way out of his marriage to Queen Catherine of Aragon to marry his new love interest, Anne Boleyn. In 1530, Tyndale waded into the argument about the divorce and wrote a book called The Practice of Prelates in which he argued from the Bible that Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon was valid, which made it dangerous for Tyndale to return to England. Later, Henry VIII created the Church of England to bypass the Pope, so he could divorce Catherine and marry Anne.

Tyndale was in Antwerp, in the province of Brabant, where it was not illegal to translate and print the Bible. However, many of his other views were considered heretical by the authorities there. He was betrayed to the authorities in Brabant and charged with heresy, and his views were perfectly clear from his writings. He was strangled and burnt at the stake at Vilvoorde near Antwerp in 1536, before he was able to complete his translation of the whole Bible.

Why is Tyndale's work so important today?

Tyndale's work is important historically. It was not the first New Testament in English, but it was the first time that it had been translated into English from Greek, and it was the first time that the New Testament had been printed in English at all. Tyndale's New Testament was much easier to read than Wycliffe's. Comparing Tyndale's translation with Wycliffe's is a bit like comparing the English of Shakespeare to the English of Chaucer.
People loved his New Testament. He also translated some of the Old Testament, and his dream to complete the whole Bible was achieved by Miles Coverdale in 1535. John Rogers produced the Matthew Bible in 1537. Feeding into popular sentiment, in 1538 Henry VIII authorised the English Bible to be placed in every parish church. This version was called the Great Bible and it was based on what Tyndale had translated.

Later, the Great Bible was revised as the Bishops' Bible and then, under King James I and VI, as the Authorized or King James Version (KJV). In those parts which are based on what Tyndale translated, the KJV is lightly revised Tyndale. Many of the words he coined, like 'scapegoat' and 'Passover', are used by Jews and Christians to this day. Phrases he put together, such as 'the salt of the earth', 'the powers that be' and 'a law unto themselves' can still be heard in English conversation to this day. The traditional version of the Lord's Prayer, which is said every Sunday by millions of people in churches across the world, is nearly identical to the one created by Tyndale.

Over the years, the King James Version has been updated, modernised and revised as the Revised Standard Version (RSV), the New King James Version (NKJV), the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) and the English Standard Version (ESV). If you use any of these versions, you are using updated, modernised and revised Tyndale in the New Testament and Pentateuch.

This year, churches, cathedrals and organisations are holding events to celebrate 500 years of William Tyndale's 1526 New Testament.

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Family News

Wedding at St Mary's
Stuart Macaulay and Amy Tideswell 19th September

Weddings at St Nicholas
Nicholas Springall and Vanessa Wilson 19th September
Henry Goode and Holly Smith 26th September
Jackson Strangward and Jessica Hall 3rd October

Baptism at St Mary's
Morganna Jane McCarthy 18th October

In Memorium

Funerals
Mrs Aileen 'Mary' Fisher (89), South Instow, Harmans Cross
28th October at All Saints

Mrs Patricia Cynthia 'Cindy' Parish (82), Watery Lane,
Studland 13th November at St Nicholas



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Sometimes we face situations where we simply cannot see how things are going to work out. We look at what needs to be done, consider what we have available, and realize that there is still something missing. We pray, we do our best to make wise decisions, but the questions remain. Where will the help come from? How will this situation be resolved? What if things don't turn out the way we hoped?

Abraham knew what it meant to face something he could not understand. In Genesis 22, God asked him to take his beloved son Isaac to the land of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. Isaac was the son God had promised him, the very son through whom his descendants would come.
Yet Abraham chose to trust God, even when what He was asking seemed impossible to understand.

As they walked up the mountain together, Isaac noticed that they had the wood and the fire for the offering, but no lamb. He turned to his father and asked where the lamb was. Abraham answered:

"God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." — Genesis 22:8

Abraham did not know exactly what was going to happen. He could not see how God would resolve the situation, but he knew the Lord who had made the promise. And when the moment came, God intervened. Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket, and he offered it in place of his son.

This week's Hebrew phrase is Adonai Yir'eh (יְהוָה יִרְאֶה, pronounced: ah-doh-NIGH yeer-EH), meaning *"The LORD Will Provide."* Abraham gave this name to the place where God had provided the sacrifice.

"So Abraham called the name of that place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'" — Genesis 22:14

The Hebrew word yir'eh comes from ra'ah, meaning "to see." In this passage, it also carries the meaning of providing. There is a beautiful connection here. The Lord sees what we need, even when we cannot see how that need will be met.

I think this is something we all need to remember. We often measure our circumstances by what we can see in front of us. We see the bills that need to be paid, the problems in our families, the uncertainty about the future, and the prayers that have not yet been answered. And sometimes, without even realizing it, we begin to believe that if we cannot see a solution, perhaps there isn't one.

But Abraham's experience reminds us that God is not limited by what we can see.
That does not mean every problem will disappear or that the Lord will always answer in the way we expect. Abraham had to walk a difficult road of obedience without knowing what would happen next. His faith was not based on having all the answers. It was based on knowing the God who had called him.
We can learn something important from this. Trusting God does not mean that we stop working, planning, or taking responsibility for the things He has placed in our hands. It means that after doing what we can, we leave room for God to do what we cannot.
There is also a beautiful connection between Abraham's experience and Yeshua, Jesus.
On Mount Moriah, God provided a ram in Isaac's place. Many centuries later, John the Baptist saw Yeshua approaching and declared:

“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” — John 1:29

Through Yeshua, God provided something far greater than anything we could ever provide for ourselves. He made a way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to be reconciled to Him. Before we ever understood how much we needed His mercy, God had already prepared the way through His Son.
And I think this gives us a wonderful reason to trust Him with the needs we face today. If the Lord has already shown us such great love through Yeshua, we can come before Him with confidence, knowing that He cares about the details of our lives as well.

Maybe there is something you have been praying about for a long time. Perhaps it concerns your children, your work, your health, or a situation in your family that seems to have no easy answer. You have tried to do the right thing, but you still don't know what comes next.

Bring that need before the Lord again. Adonai Yir'eh. The Lord will provide.

You may not know when the answer will come or what it will look like. But you can trust that God sees your circumstances, hears your prayers, and knows what you need. His provision may come in a way you did not expect, and sometimes He will give you the strength to walk through a difficulty rather than remove it immediately.

We do not have to understand everything God is doing in order to trust Him. Abraham could not see what was waiting for him on that mountain, but he continued to walk in faith. And we can do the same, one step at a time, remembering that the Lord who has been faithful to us in the past has not changed.

Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, thank You that You are Adonai Yir'eh, the Lord who sees and provides. You know the things that concern me today, including the needs I cannot meet and the questions I cannot answer. Sometimes I allow worry to take hold because I cannot see how things will work out. Help me to remember Your faithfulness and to trust You with what lies ahead.

Give me wisdom to do what is right, patience when I need to wait, and peace when the answers are not yet clear. Thank You for providing Yeshua, the Lamb of God, through whom You have given us forgiveness and eternal life. Teach me to walk in faith, knowing that You see me and care for me. In Yeshua's name, Amen.”

Blessings from Israel,
Pastor Israel

Letter from the Editor

I have never seen Jesus physically. Not many of us have. Kenneth E Hagin tells of the time he was sitting in his room one evening and heard footsteps outside his door. It was Jesus, who came in and sat down in a chair and talked to him for over an hour. This happened to him several times.

There are many stories of people who have seen Jesus either on the earth or have been taken up into heaven and seen Him there. It must be a wonderful experience, but the apostle Peter says:

"Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy." 1 Peter 1.8

In *t*he song on the last page, sung by Maranatha Singers and available on Youtube, we express our longing to see and hear Jesus. There are many ways we can see Him, even if they are not in a physical manifestation.

One of the most powerful ways we can see Him is in each other. All who truly believe in Him are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and it is this that enables us to see Jesus in each other, and it is beautiful.

When He truly dwells in us, when we meet other believers anywhere in the world, there is an instant recognition, a sense of His love and His presence that is indefinable and wonderful. That is why the apostle John ecourages us over and over to love one another. That way the desire expressed in this song is met in a truly amazing way.

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.

Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus.

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.

Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus.

Maranatha Music on Youtube