

WATCH THIS SPACE

INSIDE: *The heavens declare the glory of God*

THIS IS OUR PLACE

Welcome to Chester:
Where unity for mission happens



ON THE JOB



THE BIG
INTERVIEW



CULTURE



THEOLOGY

SAYING GOODBYE

Remembrance services for babies
lost during pregnancy or infancy

GOOD QUESTION

What is the gospel?
Krish Kandiah answers...



60 SECONDS
WITH...



GOOD QUESTION



CHANGE THE STORY

FOR A CHILD LIVING IN DESPERATE POVERTY

By the time she was just 10 years old, Elisabeth Ovalle from Guatemala was the sole caregiver for her family, including her disabled father. But her story changed forever when a student, also called Elisabeth, sponsored her. Now little Elisabeth is discovering a new story, full of opportunity, hope and love.

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**Chine Mbubaegbu:**

There's something special about meeting people committed to seeing God's kingdom come in a particular place.

idea-torial

“When churches and leaders put down their differences and start to form friendships, God commands the blessing.”



When groups of Christians commit to seeing the communities in which they live transformed, it's got to make some kind of difference. There's something special about meeting people committed to seeing God's kingdom come in a particular place. Up and down the country, Christian leaders from across denominations are committing to building relationships with each other. But it's not just so they can sit around and drink tea and eat biscuits. It's about unity for mission. It's about unity so that their town or city can be transformed with the good news of Jesus Christ. It's to give hope to those living in poverty, to the broken, to the depressed, to the lonely. And it's to see people who have been far away from God drawn closer into relationship with Him. I've just returned from a week in the north-west visiting church leaders and those from Christian organisations who have a passion for their 'place'. It was one of the highlights of my time editing this magazine. I got to experience first-hand what unity for mission looks like in Liverpool, Salford and Chester. I got to meet real people with a real heart for the place God has called them to, and who have a passion for transforming it in collaboration with other Christians who share that heart. It reminded me of why the Alliance is so passionate about unity and why our Gather initiative is such an important one. Gather reminds us that: “When churches and leaders put down their differences and start to form friendships, pray together and undertake mission initiatives for the sake of their local areas, God commands the blessing.” Over the next few editions you'll get to see for yourself as part of our new feature called This Is Our Place in which we will be telling stories of a town or city and meeting a few of the Christians who call it home. First up is Chester (page 24).

Chine Mbubaegbu
Editor

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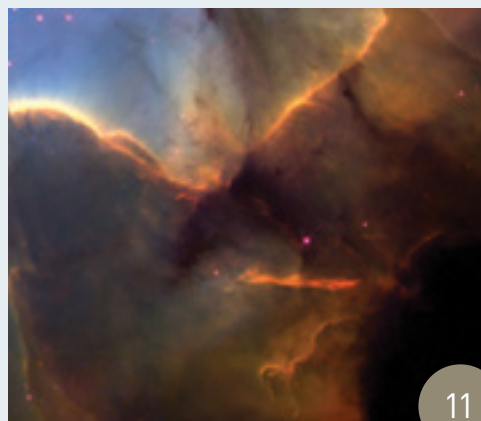
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evangelical alliance
better together



A Doorway to those in need



“Without it I truly believe I would have committed suicide.” That’s what one user said about the Doorway Advice Information and Care Service, which has been nominated for an Inspire Award.

The service provides advice, information and support on a number of issues including benefits and debt and has helped more than 1,400 clients in the past year.

The advice service has seen a number of successes in its time, including stopping evictions, getting bailiffs to withdraw, helping clients manage their finances more easily and increasing benefit payment.

At a time when households are increasingly feeling the pinch and sometimes resulting in dire consequences, services like the Doorway are a lifeline.

Based at Bell Farm Christian Centre, the service is rooted in a biblical call to love people.

Tony Pilkington, minister and centre director, said: “We have often referred to the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Good Samaritan helped a complete stranger in a very practical way with no thought of any personal reward. Jesus ends the parable by saying: ‘Go and do likewise’.

“The Scriptures speak of the love of God and that we should love others because God loves us. The service is a means of expressing the love of God in a very real and practical

way. If someone comes to us in need, how can we not show love by trying to help them.”

He added: “The service addresses financial issues, along with many other issues, and for many the service is the difference between maintaining their tenancy or becoming caught in a downward spiral of debt, losing their tenancy and becoming homeless. The service helps address debt, benefit difficulties, housing problems and many other issues that seriously affect the lives of local people.

“One lady recently came to the centre in tears with an issue that was causing her great distress and sleeplessness. After speaking to the advisor she left the centre smiling saying she would be able to sleep tonight.”

The Doorway is just one of the several entries we have received for this year’s Inspire Awards in collaboration with *Inspire* magazine.

Visit the Inspire Awards page on our website to read stories of other nominations and to find out who will be shortlisted for this year’s awards.

eauk.org/inspireawards



WHY I’M A MEMBER

Through our church, my wife and I have been supportive members of the Evangelical Alliance for 10 years. We believe that the Alliance provides a constructive and relevant voice for Christians within an increasingly secular society, emphasising the love and compassion of Christ. For Christians the Alliance provides an invaluable resource, helping us to understand our role, relevance and purpose in the midst of a rapidly changing world. Our church takes this challenge seriously and the Alliance helps us.

*Rev Robert Atkins,
a leader of Raglan Baptist Church, Wales*



Andrew Green: The Alliance recently scored a double hit on Radio 4, with two members of staff appearing in the same programme.

IN THE MEDIA



Head of public affairs debates the theology of marriage on BBC Radio 4

by Andrew Green, press officer, Evangelical Alliance

BBC Radio 4's *Sunday Programme* featured two of our spokespeople during the summer. It broadcast a major, six-minute story on the Alliance's South Asian Forum (SAF), and also featured Dr Don Horrocks, the Alliance's head of public affairs, who was interviewed shortly after submitting the Alliance's response to the government's proposals for gay 'marriage'.

The SAF feature focused on the 75,000 Asian Christians in the UK who are finding it difficult to integrate into the mainstream church. Kumar Rajagopalan of the SAF steering group, and an ex-Hindu, spoke about the paradox of feeling welcomed by UK Christians but who then seemed confused over how to treat him. "If you come from a different faith it can cause disruption in families and communities but there's a lack of understanding in the church of what you are going through."

Manoj Raithatha spoke about how the SAF resource *Jesus Through Asian Eyes* is helping the Asian community and mainstream Christians understand each other's cultural position as they explore ways to integrate.

"It's a sort of Alpha course tailored specifically for the Asian community," said Radio Four of the booklet.

Don Horrocks debated the theology of marriage and the legal consequences of changing its definition with Desmond Swain MP.

Their live debate followed insight from Joshua Rosenberg, the BBC's legal affairs correspondent. He predicted as "a foreseeable possibility" that UK churches would be forced to conduct same-sex marriages if the European Court of Human Rights upheld the challenge that the human right to marry was no longer in harmony with article 14 – that all human rights

must be applied without discrimination.

Don Horrocks ended the programme by reminding the MP that politicians should resist "playing politics with marriage".

In the papers the *Telegraph* quoted the Alliance saying that "the government's insistence that marriage is an unequal institution is pure propaganda" in its morning edition following the final day for submission of responses to the gay 'marriage' consultation.

The Alliance's latest research document from the *21st Century Evangelicals* series made an impact with several Christian websites. They reported our country's interest in 'reverse missionaries'. "Once a missionary-sending nation, UK Christians are increasingly looking to the overseas church to help in the work of spreading the gospel," said *christiantoday.com*.

To read our research, visit eauk.org/snapshot

BEST OF THE WEB

1) TOP 10 MOST READ ARTICLES EVER

From Mark Driscoll to evolution, we searched our archives to bring you the articles that you have been the most interested in on our website.
eauk.org/top-10-most-read-articles

2) GOD, US AND THE HIGGS BOSON

It's not just the 'God particle', it's the 'God universe', writes Canon J John.
eauk.org/god-us-and-the-higgs-boson

3) AGE OF MINISTERS

It seems many of our website visitors were keen to find out some fascinating facts about the age of ministers. What's your guess?
eauk.org/age-of-ministers

4) WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Stats proved as popular as ever, as people logged on to find some useful information about women in ministry from our information and research team.
eauk.org/women-in-ministry

5) CAN A CHRISTIAN BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION?

Listed as our most popular web story ever, the evolution debate continued to spark interest last month.
eauk.org/can-a-christian-believe-in-evolution

6) POLL OF THE WEEK

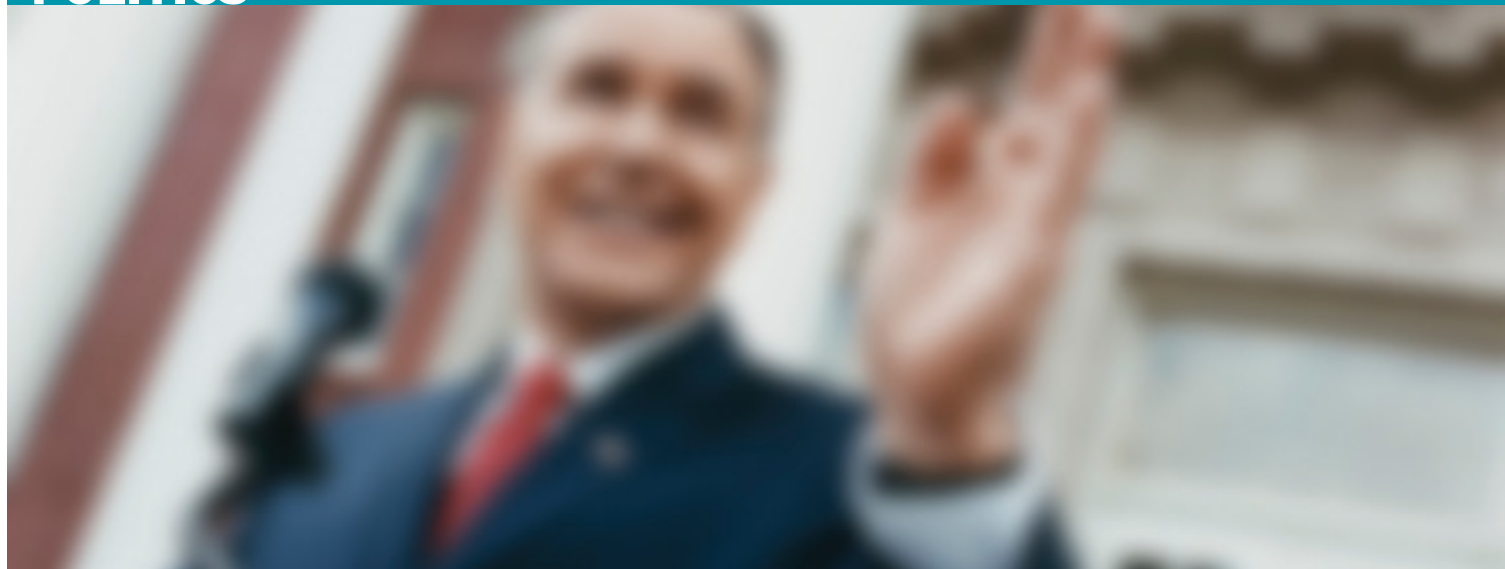
From the Olympics to women's bishops to gambling, log on to eauk.org every Tuesday afternoon to find our latest poll of the week.
eauk.org/#poll

7) STAY IN THE LOOP

idea magazine is just one of the great communications we have. Log on to our website and you'll find lots of great articles and regular emails you can sign up to, including Friday Night Theology and *idea* for leaders.
eauk.org/stay-in-the-loop



eauk.org



A failure of public leadership

by Daniel Webster

We need leaders who will act with integrity, but who also have vision, and who pursue the right goals in the right way.

First it was the politicians and their tendency to embellish their expenses claims. Then it was the journalists and their sometimes illegal and certainly unethical pursuit of a good story. And now the bankers, some of whom have been caught manipulating the interest rates to make their borrowing more affordable.

Is all of this just a coincidence? Or are these somehow connected? What is notable is that these multiple exposures of wrongdoing all seem to have hit the headlines because in each area the practices uncovered were frequently considered normal. For politicians, an extension of their salary; for journalists, part of the necessary process to inform the public; and for bankers, well ... for more profits. Taken together, these unethical and often criminal activities have eroded trust between the public and key institutions in society.

US AND THEM

These important and powerful institutions have gone about their business without sufficient regard for the impact on wider society, and in turn the man on the street is now sceptical of their motives and cynical about their means of operating. As a result, the governed and those governing are now very much disconnected, and an 'us and them' attitude is very much in evidence.

As the 'blame game' continues it is clear that the situation is not just the actions of an individual behaving in a rogue manner, nor is it acceptable to simply brand a particular problem as an isolated incident.

Even describing a strand of society as institutionally corrupt is perhaps still understating the problem. At the root of this crisis is a failure of public leadership.

It seems that for many years good leadership has been increasingly absent from society. This means that organisations, institutions, and even whole cultures have been pointed in, or led in, the wrong direction. So the casting of blame and commissioning of inquiries can only go so far in rectifying the problem. What society needs – what the country needs – in politics, economics and the media, is good leadership.

Maybe it is clichéd or old fashioned to expect honesty and character to be a foundation of public leadership. It should go without saying that people in public positions of responsibility should behave in an upright manner. But maybe that's the problem. Maybe we haven't been saying it enough. We need leaders who will act with integrity, but who also have vision, and who pursue the right goals in the right way.

Lately, the ends have been used to justify the means, such as pursuing stories or creating wealth. We need a culture of public leadership in which those in whom we put our trust to govern for us are honest and reliable. Historically the Bible has proved to be a deep resource for cultivating and grounding our leaders, and the Church has a role to once again shape a new public ethic. This means that Christians have a responsibility, not only to teach about good leadership, but to create good leaders.

However, the Church also has a problem. When leadership is mentioned in church it usually refers to either working in an area of church life or being packed off to Bible college, and then returning a few years later to work in church life. This is all good and necessary stuff, but the leadership that we need to renew our society is about far more than this. There isn't an iota of the world that God does not seek to make new – for His glory and our healing. The people of God are those who are called to partner in that work. This means that the task of raising up leaders needs to be a priority for the Church. This culture of leadership should not be restricted to serving the congregation through preaching, teaching or worship leading. It needs to include the development of public leaders – in politics, the media and the economy – both locally and nationally.

Historically, the Church has been a great place for discovering, growing and releasing people with a passion for a world better than it is now. If we want to address our crisis of public leadership and see God's light shine in the darkest of places, then it is the responsibility of us all to take the lead.

*Daniel Webster
is the Alliance's
parliamentary officer*



To do list:

~~Plan services~~

Prepare liturgy.

Prepare, copy and fold service sheets.

Buy lots of candles.

Publicity and invitations.

Organise refreshments.

Order enormous Christmas tree.

Remember not to sit underneath a candle at the carol service.

Plan school assemblies.

Coffee for the midnight service.

Check tree lights are working.

Find crib in back of church cupboard.

Plan school carol service with head teacher.

Organise nativity play.

At least the Christmas service is sorted.

This Christmas, there's an easy way to have an extra special, stress-free service – by ordering Tearfund's free Christmas Church resource. And the good news is this helps more than just your church – it helps break the cycle of poverty in the world's poorest communities.

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So that's one thing ticked off the list.

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Taxi driver

Wilf Marston has met people from all walks of life who have sat in the back of his taxi over the past 23 years. He talks to *Chine Mbubaegbu* about life and faith during his break from a busy day taxiing around Greater Manchester.



idea: Why did you become a taxi driver?

It was a way out of difficulty. I had a newspaper shop which I had owned for nine years. I was having a really difficult time and was trying to send my daughter to private school. I was losing money left right and centre. So I worked at the shop all day and then went taxiing in the evenings. It gave me a tool in which to pay off my debts. God gave me the chance to do this. It also showed me how hard I can work. I ended up earning more money in the taxi, so gave the business up. I've been doing this for 23 years.

Who have you had in the back of your taxi?

The most famous is probably Sir Bobby Charlton. He knows I'm a Christian. And so does property mogul and businessman John Whittaker. They know about my faith because I can't help but tell everyone about it in my taxi. Chrissie Hynde has also been in my taxi. She was absolutely brilliant. Oh, and Vicky Entwistle who plays Janice in *Coronation Street*.

What did you want to be when you were a child?

No-one ever asked me what I wanted to be, to be honest. The only available job was at a fishmongers owned by Albert Fidler, the dad of former footballer Dennis Fidler who played in the 1960s. It stank of fish though!

Have you had any other interesting jobs?

I actually used to be an A-Z maps salesman in Birmingham. That was fun.

What's the best bit about being a taxi driver?

I just love meeting people. It's great because you're never doing the same job. You never know what's going to come up. You see people from all walks of life. Lincoln is the farthest job I have had. I couldn't resist because I wanted to see the cathedral. I love

churches and cathedrals. I also get regular jobs to and from the Wythenshawe Hospital and The Christie hospice. It's great to talk to people about faith and life and death. I value these conversations more than those with any famous people that have been in the back of my taxi.

What's been the most memorable taxi booking you've had?

A young man that I picked up at the Trafford Centre. He looked awful. I asked him what was wrong. He said that he had wanted to jump in front of my cab and kill himself. He had had 19 operations on a brain tumour. I spent time chatting to him. A couple of weeks later he called the cab station I worked for and left a message for me: "Tell Wilf I'm alright."

Do you ever suffer from road rage?

No, never. I've learnt now that even for the worst things i.e. when people race past me, my meeting with them is only fleeting. It's a few seconds. There's no point in getting angry. I just relax.

Do you ever feel stressed out though?

Taxi driving is actually quite stressful. We're on the road around 20-30 times more than an ordinary driver. That gets very stressful. Plus, the taxi industry has changed a lot over the years. Business isn't as good as it used to be. It's pretty tough and there's a lot of competition. There are even fights breaking out over fares. When it comes to this, it makes me really sad. I'm probably going to have to work till I'm 70 and I know one taxi driver who's over 90. I've actually started cycling for stress relief.

Do you get time to get involved in church?

Yes, I love my church – South Manchester Family Church. I love doing things there. I had to stop doing PA because I was going deaf in my right ear, but I'm one of the chief stewards. I enjoy church life and it gives me a chance to meet people as well. I have made lots of friends. I just love to help out. I'm quite hands-on. I'll put my hands up to do anything.

60 SECONDS WITH...



Earlier this year, Christian rap and dance band LZ7 teamed up with worship leader Matt Redman to raise awareness of human trafficking through their hit single *27 Million*. Frontman Lindz West talks to us about the universal nature of music and why the band is looking forward to the National Day of Prayer. Visit our website to read it. www.eauk.org/idea



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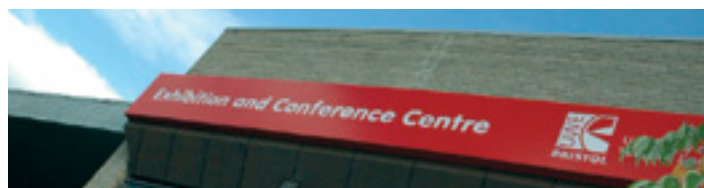
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CHRISTIANS AND THE COSMOS

The universe is active. The Trifid Nebula, as imaged here by the Hubble Space Telescope, is an example of an active nursery for the birth of new stars. Dark columns of gas harbour newly forming stars, and hints can be seen here of the outflowing exhaust jets that are emitted from embedded young stars as part of their formation process. (credit: NASA and J. Hester)

The heavens really do declare the glory of God, writes astronomer and author Dr Jennifer J Wiseman...

The Bible begins with the most majestic and profound statement ever related to humankind: “In the Beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth.” From this revelation, all other aspects of our faith are derived, including the nature of God, our role as humans, the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, and the ultimate purpose for all of creation.

The “heavenly bodies” are part of God’s created ensemble, and they speak to God’s nature. Indeed, the Psalmist writes: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.” And yet many Christians are only vaguely aware of the vast universe around us. We, like most people around the world, have lost an awareness of the night sky and the humility it brings, largely because of light pollution and the constant distractions of earthly obligations, entertainment, and electronic media that keep our eyes and hearts from looking up.

But I believe there are priceless treasures and important principles to be gained from giving attention to what we are learning through science about the larger universe we inhabit.

The universe is active, not stagnant. When we read in Genesis 1:16 that God “created all the stars”, as well as the “lights” that govern the day and the night, we can get the wrong impression that all is at rest in the heavens above us. Not so – by observing the heavens with telescopes and probes, we find activity everywhere. In our own solar system, asteroids collide, Mars shows signs of once having had lakes and rivers, Jupiter’s moon Io has erupting volcanoes, and Earth has tectonic plates that move, giving us the benefits of environmental recirculation while also causing earthquakes.

The universe beyond our solar system is also active, and discoveries about it are growing at a staggering rate. Stars continue to form in dense interstellar clouds, where pockets of gas can collapse under their own weight, igniting the hydrogen fusion process that brings stars to light. Planets form around many of these stars; for the first time in human history, we can say that with certainty. In the past few years astronomers have used telescopes like the Kepler space observatory to detect hundreds and potentially thousands of planetary systems outside our own.

Galaxies, comprised of billions of stars and the gas between them, are caught up in the expansion of space, moving apart from each other at an accelerating pace caused by a mysterious entity simply called “dark energy” while astronomers study its effects.

Most astounding of all is the sense of progression and provision we find as we survey the vast history of the universe. Remember that astronomy offers us a time-machine: when observing distant galaxies, we are observing them as they were when their light was emitted, thereby allowing us to see what galaxies were like in the past. Our nearest “grand spiral” neighbour galaxy to our own Milky Way is Andromeda, and this is over two million light-years away. Yet with powerful telescopes like the Hubble Space Telescope, we are now glimpsing infant galaxies shining to us from over 10 billion years ago. Comparing distant galaxies to our own reveals how, over vast periods of time, stars themselves have produced and enriched our environment with elements like carbon and iron that we need for planets and life.

Such a steady maturing of the universe over billions of years reminds us of God’s patience, and that often His ways of accomplishing things are not the ‘instant’

ways we are sometimes prone to imagining. As astronomical discoveries are opening up to us aspects of the universe never before seen by humankind, several responses are evoked. First is one of praise, humility, and awe. An enormous, beautiful, and complex universe speaks of an awesome God working over spaces and times that we can barely imagine. Second is a realisation that scientific study and exploration can be an act of worship and glorifying God. Studying God’s handiwork, and the forces and processes of nature, is a pursuit of truth. Science is a wonderful tool, a gift of God, for studying the ‘hows’ of nature: how forces and matter and physical processes work together. But the bigger questions of life, such as the ‘why’ and ‘who’ questions, are not usually addressable by science. These are the kinds of questions addressed by religious faith and the study of Scripture, and there need be no conflict with science.

Ultimately, a study of the universe is part of understanding our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The New Testament reveals to us that in some mysterious way, the Son of God is both the heir of the universe and its sustainer (Hebrews 1:1-3). In fact we are told that the universe was created “through him”.

So the study and exploration of the universe is neither a threat nor irrelevant to us as Christians. In fact, by appreciating these fantastic new discoveries enabled by astronomy, we have a chance for the heavens to declare to us anew the glory of God.

cis.org.uk
network.asa3.org
(American Scientific Affiliation)



Dr Jennifer Wiseman is an astronomer, author, and speaker based in the US

? What is the gospel?



It sounds like an easy one, but answers to this question have provoked controversy within the Church. Krish Kandiah, the Alliance's executive director: churches in mission, writes...

'What is the gospel?' should be the simplest question you could ask a Christian, because in order to become one in the first place, a person needs to have believed the gospel. But there is a lot of confusion and indeed controversy regarding the simple question of the content of the gospel.

Many Christians take a minimalist approach to this question, trying to distil the minimum amount of truth that needs to be communicated for the gospel to have been proclaimed. For some this is driven by efficiency – getting the least amount of truth to the most number of people – as this is seen to be good stewardship of our limited resources. For others the driver is orthodoxy in an attempt to fall in line with Paul and Timothy as they 'guarded' the gospel, making sure it is presented faithfully and consistently. Both of these motives have given rise to various gospel summaries or outlines where the gospel is boiled down to its raw materials. They usually go something like this:

1. God loves you
2. You have sinned
3. Jesus died for your sins and rose again
4. You need to respond by confessing Jesus as Lord

This outline was part of my journey to faith and I am grateful both for those who wrote it and for those who shared it with me. The strengths of these outlines are clear. They help Christians by providing a framework, a discussion starter, or a sermon ender, and can often be visually represented (eg the famous 'Bridge to Life' diagram). They can enable us to see the wood for the trees in the Bible and they emphasise precious aspects of our faith such as what God is like, what Jesus has done on the cross to forgive

our sins and our responsibility to respond.

But there are problems with this approach.

First, it reduces Scripture. Sometimes we need to see the trees. By cutting the gospel down to a few proof texts in the book of Romans, for example (3:23 6:23, 5:8, 10:9), we neatly bypass huge chunks of that letter, which are effectively deemed irrelevant in the process, particularly anything to do with God's relationship with Israel, the Church and the work of the Spirit. Evangelicals must hold on to the fact that "all Scripture is God-breathed and useful" and not prune the gospel down to size. If the gospel was intended to be communicated as a sound-bite or outline then it would have made sense for God to provide one for us. Rather the biblical equivalent of evangelistic material is four biographical accounts of the life of Jesus. The epistles, on which most gospel outlines rely heavily, were actually written to believers. Jesus' commission: "Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20) and Paul's defence: "We did not hesitate to declare to you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:25-29) and even the length of the biographies in an age when publishing was prohibitively expensive and painstakingly difficult indicates that the biblical emphasis seems to err on the side of teaching more rather than less.

Second, it solidifies what needs to be fluid. Every gospel presentation you read in Scripture feels like it has been tailor-made for the audience in question. Track through Jesus's conversations in John's gospel or Paul's sermons in Acts and you will see very different articulations of the gospel. That does not mean a free-for-all – it is hard to fault Paul's orthodoxy or Jesus' commitment to the gospel. But it does mean we need to be as ready to connect our presentations

of the gospel to the needs and conceptions of our audience as Jesus and Paul were.

Third, it causes unnecessary controversy. When trying to reduce the gospel down to its most important parts, dilemmas will always arise. Choices have to be made whether to mention for example, sin and judgement or hope and peace; Jesus' death or Jesus' life, the role of the Holy Spirit or the role of the Church; speaking the good news or living out the good news. Why argue over which is more important when both can be celebrated?

The Evangelical Alliance was formed in 1846 to unite Christians around the gospel. It was founded around a confession of faith that set out some boundaries for gospel witness. These are not the gospel itself, just like the boundary lines that mark out a football pitch are not to be confused with a game of football. It would be pretty boring just to watch the lines for 90 minutes, but without them the game would collapse. The Alliance's doctrinal statement lays out the non-negotiables for gospel witness but also seeks to create a field of play for the creative, contextual and concrete articulation of the gospel message itself.

On Tuesday, 20 November, the Alliance is hosting a national consultation to explore this question in more depth. This event is being held at St Paul's Onslow Square, London, from 10am until 4pm. A wide range of thinkers and practitioners have been invited to participate in the day. If you're an evangelist or leader of a church or organisation and would like to be part of this conversation, there are an additional 40 free tickets available. For more information visit eauk.org/confidence or contact e.barrett@eauk.org to book your place.

There has been a recent run of books and articles that have sought to expand on the reductionist approach to the gospel. These include: The King Jesus Gospel by Scott McKnight, The Explicit Gospel by Matt Chandler; How God Became King by NT Wright and The Essential Gospel by Andrew Wilson. Of course they come to different conclusions on the final form – but they nevertheless raise important caveats and questions that can help us discover and enjoy more of the gospel.

*Krish Kandiah
is the Alliance's
executive director:
churches in mission*



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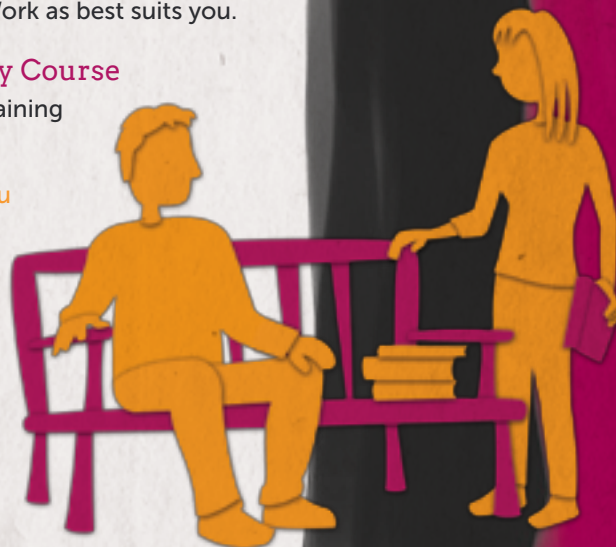
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Serve: for the good of our communities

Serve will help churches connect with Christian organisations and become beacons of professionalism and best practice wherever they exist.

Up and down the country, from urban to rural communities, from villages to inner cities, Christians are passionate about transforming where they are in service to their neighbours.

Something in us stirs when we see a need in our areas. From providing debt advice, to drug counselling, to mental health services and mums and toddlers groups, we long for the wellbeing of those who live around us.

It is also the Alliance's mission to follow Jesus and serve the Church – working together to see our lives and communities changed.

That's why for the past year we've been working towards launching Serve, a group of Christian organisations committed to supporting churches who are fired up by mission, as they make it happen in their communities.

Serve will share resources, encourage good ideas and represent churches to government and the media, as well as use stories to inspire action.

Key groups involved include Tearfund, HOPE, Care, Prospects, the Ascension Trust, Birmingham Christian Centre and TLG (The Lighthouse Group).

David Westlake, director of Serve, said:

"Serve exists to see evangelism, mission and discipleship collide in local churches everywhere, meeting the needs of the whole person. We don't just want churches to be renowned for being compassionate – but for being utterly brilliant at turning that compassion into action.

"We hope that Serve will help churches to connect with Christian organisations and become beacons of professionalism and best practice wherever they exist."

Serve wants to celebrate, as well as resource and equip churches that are being good news in their local communities, but hopes that through celebrating these initiatives, others will be inspired to start similar ones for the good of their own areas.

Whatever the need is in your community, Serve aims to help you meet it.

It aims to facilitate community transformation by getting people who are passionate about integral mission together – to network, share best practice and partner together.

It will also help to share the amazing work that churches are doing around the UK with the government and the media, as well as equip the Church through conferences, training events, stories and courses.



This autumn, events are being held as part of Serve. Transform, which will create a chance for people with the same vision to meet together and share ideas, as well as get practical tools to help them transform their communities.

Steve Clifford, general director of the Alliance, said: "We're increasingly learning that we can do these things better together than apart.

"I can't wait for our autumn conferences. We'll celebrate stories of transformed communities, share together and learn from each other. We have an excellent line-up of events and seminars, including practical workshops on working with local authorities and community franchising."

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4 October – Venue TBC, London, 10am – 4pm

12 November – The Lighthouse Group, Hope Park, Bradford, 10am – 4pm

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- » Theology of local mission
- » Community franchising workshop

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www.serveuk.org/events





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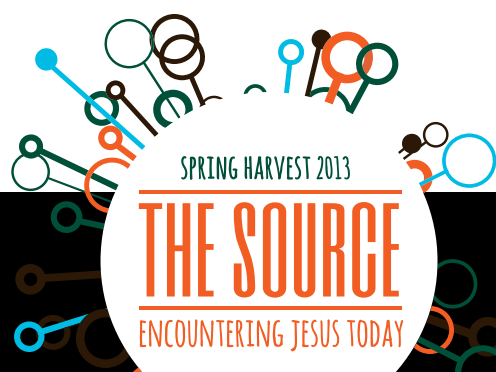
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Celebrating 25 years in Northern Ireland

The Evangelical Alliance celebrates its 25th anniversary in Northern Ireland this year. We talk to Rev Ken McBride, minister of Orangefield Presbyterian Church and founding member of EANI...

idea: How did EANI begin?

Clive Calver, former director of the Evangelical Alliance, was speaking at an event in Belfast – I can't even remember what it was, but I was captivated by his vision for evangelical unity. Afterwards I remember saying to him that in Northern Ireland we were so fragmented that we really needed the Evangelical Alliance. Subsequently I got letters from Clive addressed to me with the title 'general secretary EANI'. This got me thinking – what had I really said to Clive! From there I helped organise a number of tentative meetings with a variety of church leaders to discuss the way forward and eventually we decided to form a Northern Ireland branch.

What was your vision for EANI then?

My vision was very simple. I thought it would be a great thing if with agreement on the gospel and our faith in Christ we could learn to work together for the good of the kingdom and the glory of Christ. The Evangelical Alliance basis of faith provided such a platform and we simply wanted to explore ways that anyone from any background who could sign up to that basis of faith could work together for the future. That was our starting point.

What were the highlights of your time?

There are a number of things that stand out – too many to really choose from, but I can share a few. In those days there was no EA in Scotland or Wales and indeed representation was largely south of Watford. I didn't feel particularly Celtic but there was a huge difference between the church life I experienced at home and what was going on in the south of England. So seeing the development of the EA as something more than simply an 'English' organisation was a great thrill for me. The work of EANI in public affairs has been often quietly done in the background, but has been in my view very valuable, and EANI has the ability to knock on doors into government in a way that wasn't possible 25 years ago. Positively I think EANI has helped develop relationships between different strands of

evangelicalism, and in many ways we are in a better place relationally than we were.

What are the big challenges for EANI in the next 25 years?

I think the challenges of exploring true biblical unity in Christ are still there. We are still a fragmenting Christian community and that will get worse, so I guess in that context there is even a greater need for EANI now. I think EANI needs to engage with growing its membership base both of individuals and churches and groups. I would love to see a greater engagement of the evangelical community with the Roman Catholic community. I'm personally not fussed about being ecumenical, but I do think we need to engage in building mutual respect and trust, and learn to cooperate where it is strategic for the gospel. But we also need to work on helping stop the estrangement within the Protestant community. I have as much a problem – if not more – in relating to evangelical fundamentalists as I have to 'official' Roman Catholic teaching. Can EANI work on lessening the polarisation of church and society? We need a voice in EANI to address public affairs now, but even more so in the future.

What's your vision for Northern Ireland?

What a big question! I want a place where there is growing mutual respect and tolerance between the two main communities but where evangelicals will also stand up for the rights of the increasing immigrant communities in our midst. In spite of enormous work being done by many, sectarianism is still a huge issue to be tackled. I dream of a society where the Church is viewed not as part of the problem but as the voice and hands of Jesus. He is the solution. To be more political, I personally dream of a society where we are all educated together, live together and worship in freedom.

*Rev Ken McBride,
minister of Orangefield
Presbyterian Church and
founding member of EANI*



White rocks, County Antrim
Photo credit: Discover Northern Ireland

PETER LYNAS, current national director of EANI, said:

"It is a fantastic privilege to follow in the footsteps of Ken. Thanks must go to an amazing group of staff and volunteers who have championed the work of EA here in Northern Ireland. Twenty five years on, much has changed, though some of the key issues remain the same. God has blessed the work here and we are in a great position to continue our work of uniting the Church and speaking to government and media. I am excited about the team God has brought together 'for such a time as this'."





✕ *The end of Christian Scotland?*

Scotland has secularised faster than any nation in history, writes David Robertson...

Put any group of Christians together and you will get a wide variety of opinions – some of them contradictory. That is particularly true when we are trying to assess the state of the Church in Scotland today. On the one hand there are the doom and gloom merchants, the Jeremiahs, full of facts and figures about numbers and visions of the past, pointing out that the Church is dying and we are all ‘doomed, doomed’. On the other there are the ‘God is doing a new and greater thing’ brigade, the revivalists who are also full of facts and figures but their visions are visions of the future. They assure us on the basis of what is happening in a couple of churches, and a dream that they had that victory is just around the corner, revival is on its way and all we have to do is help their ministry. Isn’t it strange how both the ‘realists’ and the ‘revivalists’ seem to be able to justify their own ministries because of their prophecies. We are told that we need to support the realists because only in that way will the remnant hang on until the Lord returns. On the other hand we had better support the revivalists because we don’t want to miss out on the revival.

Of course that is a very simplistic summary and there are many people who don’t quite fall into either category. The trouble is that both positions are to some extent true. Let us consider them in terms of the closing door and the opening door.

THE CLOSING DOOR

Scotland was once a largely Christian nation. Whether our belief that we were a covenantal people of God was justified or

not, it was the case that we were known as the ‘people of the Book’ and that our laws, education and welfare systems were based upon Christian principles. And we were a better nation for that. The trouble is that that has largely vanished. Yes, some of the fruit remains, but the roots have largely gone, and the rest of the fruit will soon rot. In the 19th century the Church itself began to undermine the Bible, thus sowing the seeds of our own destruction. Then legalism and liberalism battled with one another as equal opportunity heresies to see who could do the most damage. When the whirlwind of materialism, the sexual revolution and anti-authority hit us in the 1960s we were so rotten at the core that since then the Church in Scotland has basically imploded, with the result that in the past decade Scotland has in my view secularised faster than any nation in history. The whole concepts of Christendom, national churches and civic Christianity are to all intents and purposes, sadly redundant. And I say this with sorrow – not because of the Church, but because of the impact this will have, and is already having on Scottish society – which will be much poorer as a result. Take the question of education. Once we were a nation which believed that everyone should be taught to read, write and think for themselves, not least so that they could understand the Bible. Now 20 per cent of Scots are functionally illiterate.

THE OPENING DOOR

But it is not all doom and gloom. I think the door is closing. But a new one is opening. Having been involved in communicating the

gospel for over 25 years I would venture to observe that people in Scotland are more open to the gospel than they have been for 25 years. We have so many new opportunities as we revert to a Greco-Roman pagan society. The contrast between biblical Christianity and the idolatry of the nations is obvious. Likewise the community of the believers as set against the cynical individualism of our culture. The darkness of the world without Christ, versus the light that he brings. Bringing the gospel in such a context is like bringing water to a woman dying of thirst.

The trouble is that the Church is less prepared to communicate that Gospel than we have been for 25 years. We have lost confidence in the Bible and in Christ and his Church. We need to stop battling with a door which has already closed, but instead be looking to the new open doors that God is setting before us. Because God is God he usually does not tell us what He is going to do, and He is not reliant on our plans, procedures and programmes. Our task is to follow Jesus, to return to his Word and to stand amazed in humility as we see what he does.

This article first appeared in *Scottish Christian Broadcast* magazine.



David Robertson,
Solus Centre for Public
Christianity and
St Peter’s Free Church



Band breathes the breath of heaven into Wales's veins

by Gethin Russell-Jones

A new band is helping the people of Wales rediscover God's passionate love.

Sound Of Wales (SOW) is made up of four musicians, each with a heart to see the land of Wales revived as the land of song, which has been its heritage for many years. The band consists of lead singer Cath Woolridge (who also appeared in *Gavin and Stacey*), supported closely by Jon Goode and Rachel Mathias, who are multi instrumentalists and compose the band's tunes. Mark Galozzi Hibberd is the bands drummer.

Through live events and workshops, SOW hopes to whet people's spiritual appetites through the power of music and song. And the band has just released its first album. *Llef: The Cry* is part of the band's vision to use music as the tool to get the word of Christ out to the nations. The album introduces eight brand new anthems of revival written specifically for congregational worship, alongside two new versions of Welsh heritage hymns; *Here Is Love*, sung in the native tongue until its English translation in 1900, and



For Wales Our Land, written by Lewis Valentine to the tune of Sibelius' *Finlandia* and considered by many to be the religious national anthem of Wales.

Cath Woolridge said: "Around the globe, Wales is known as the land of song and the land of great revival. Wales needs the very breath of heaven breathed into its veins again and what better a vehicle than music."

Sound Of Wales has a three stranded vision. First, to capture the sound; focusing

on proclaiming the truth of Jesus through music throughout the land of song. Second, by equipping generations; seeking to enable excellence by training and equipping writers and worship leaders through worship schools. This also includes a new BA Hons degree in Contemporary Music And Worship, written by the SOW team. And third, by impacting communities; aiming to realise their dream for revival in Wales by taking the music into churches and communities in remote parts of Wales and the UK.

New mission resources for Wales

Following its dynamic February conference in Newtown, Waleswide is producing a range of resources for church planters and missionally minded leaders. This networking organisation works with leaders to see churches established especially where there is no evangelical church presence, and where churches need to be strengthened in their effectiveness.

NEWS SPOTS

At Newtown several leaders gave encouraging reports of how people had been coming to faith in Christ.

Church leaders are encouraged to visit the YouTube channel and use clips on Sunday mornings, in small groups and prayer events.

youtube.com/user/waleswide/videos

WHERE IS WALES?

The training course that helps churches and leaders understand Wales better is now available. The two sessions run for about 90 minutes each, and are introduced by one of the Waleswide team. They can be presented to local churches, leadership teams, colleges, networks... and to those moving into Wales for ministry.

PRAYER FOR REAL CHANGE

Last year a prayer meeting was arranged in Blaenau Ffestiniog and people and church groups travelled for miles to come. Soon afterwards David Brownridge, with his wife Becky, was appointed the new Rector in the town and area. Would you welcome such a gathering if Waleswide organised a prayer event to respond to the needs in your area? Please contact Waleswide post@waleswide.org

Impact report

Annual Review 2011-2012

Last year, you helped us...

Stand up for marriage

As the government made plans to redefine marriage away from its traditional understanding as between a man and a woman, we played a crucial role in the Coalition for Marriage campaign, bringing organisations and individuals together to protect the traditional understanding of marriage. The Coalition for Marriage petition opposing the government's plans was signed by more than 580,000 people. The Alliance in Scotland also co-ordinated meetings between evangelical leaders and the Scottish government around plans north of the border to redefine marriage.

580,000 people signed the C4M petition
- and counting...



Gather local church leaders

We believe that the unity of the Church is best expressed when local Christians come together, and share each other's heart for mission. All over the country, God has been bringing church leaders together in a renewed unity, for the sake of the places in which they live. With your help, we launched the Gather initiative, helping to facilitate unity for mission movements and encourage leaders to start them where they do not yet exist. These unity for mission movements are taking seriously the prayer of Jesus: "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me." (John 17:23) It was so great to bring together more than 140 people at the first ever Gather conference in February. Roger Sutton, who leads Gather, said of the conference: "We heard story after story of creative, inspiring and effective unity-building that is resulting in changed lives and changed places. There is a growing belief in many places that they see themselves as one Church with many congregations."



Clear the ground

Are Christians being marginalised in society? Read the media stories of tribunals and court cases involving Christians and you might think so. Together with Christians in Parliament, we ran an inquiry called *Clearing the Ground* to investigate. We found – through evidence from more than 50 Christian organisations – that Christians in the UK face problems in living out their faith, but that these problems have been mostly caused and exacerbated by social and cultural and legal changes over the past decade. Speaking about the report, Fiona Bruce MP said: "For the first time we have a thorough report articulating the real concerns of Christians across our nation who feel that their freedoms to live out and speak freely about their beliefs are increasingly restricted - action must follow." Other advocacy work in our national offices this year included the continued brilliant work of the Cymru Institute for Contemporary Christianity in Wales and the Churches Public Policy Network in Northern Ireland.

50 organisations gave evidence in the Clearing the Ground inquiry

Equip the Church

What does an evangelical Christian look like? What are our beliefs, habits and practices? We continued to help paint a picture of evangelical Christianity through our series of research booklets, as part of the *21st Century Evangelicals* project which we started in 2010 with a survey of more than 17,000 Christians. Thanks to you, and our Research Club of Christian organisations, we have produced quarterly reports surveying evangelical Christians on topics including family life, communication and political engagement.

4,689 questionnaires completed in our 21st Century Evangelicals research



3,583 – the

number of volunteer hours that have been donated to the Alliance this year by an amazing group of people who have shown commitment to our mission and have given themselves to helping us fulfil it.



Make the Bible fresh again

In the year that saw the nation celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, we ran the Biblefresh campaign, helped hundreds of churches, agencies, organisations, colleges and festivals re-ignite their passion for the Bible. The campaign included a photo competition and a Viral Bible challenge, which was spectacularly launched by the Christian Motorcyclist Association at Spring Harvest. An independent evaluation of Biblefresh carried out by think-tank Theos confirmed: *"Biblefresh can be fairly judged to have been a success, earning high praise from the vast majority of people who came into contact with it, either as a partner or a user."*



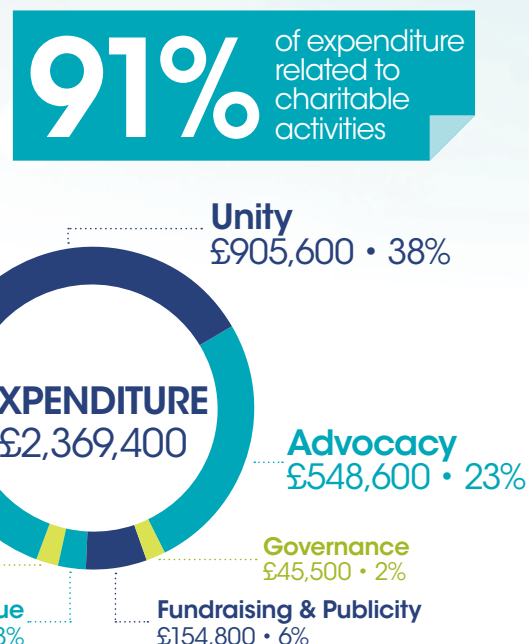
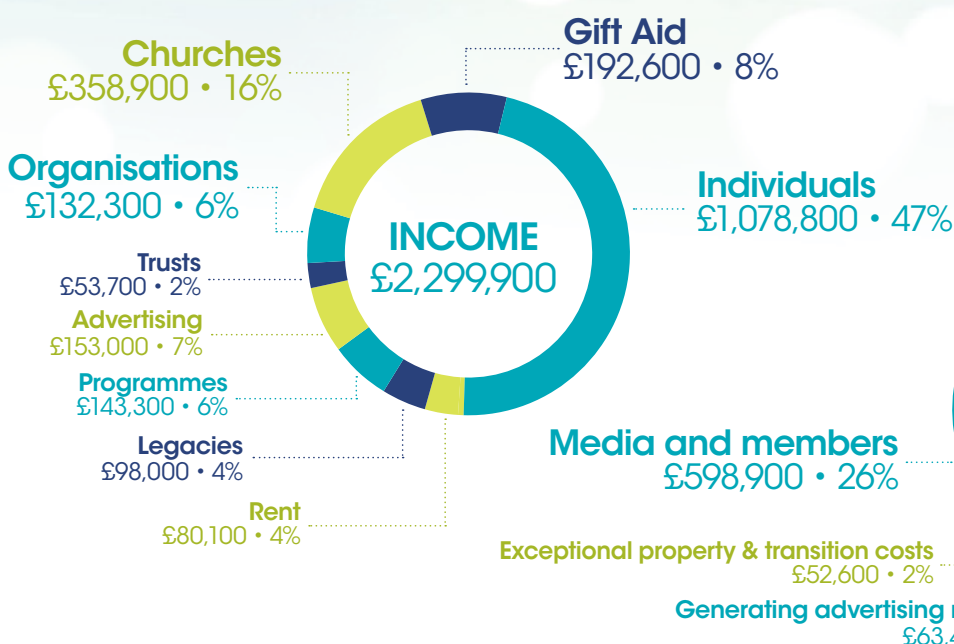
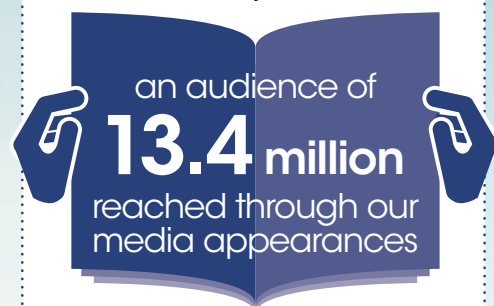
Celebrate inspirational Christians

How great it was to have the opportunity to honour those Christian individuals, projects and churches that are blessing their communities. That's what we were able to do when, in partnership with *Inspire* magazine, we ran the Inspire Awards, honouring unsung Christian heroes. We held a reception in the Jubilee Room of the House of Commons, where church leaders and MPs joined the shortlisted candidates at a special awards ceremony. With scores of entries, this proved a success and we were humbled at hearing about just how many Christians are being good news to their society. Communities secretary Eric Pickles MP gave a thumbs up to the Alliance and *Inspire* magazine for the awards, saying: *"I would like to congratulate all participants at the Inspire Awards 2011. Christian churches...have an extensive framework of buildings, experience, volunteers and 'reach' that can put them at the very heart of service delivery to the homeless and others in need."*

100+ nominations for the Inspire Awards

Tell stories

Whether it was through our website, through local and national press, radio, television or our very own *idea* magazine; we were getting the Church's voice heard and telling good news stories of how Christians are engaging with their communities and the issues of the day. In March 2011, we unveiled our brand new website, which helped us to better represent a 21st century organisation which values communications. We featured in the media 465 times on diverse topics including marriage, betting shops, mayoral hustings, court cases involving discrimination against Christians, adoption, social action and the 2011 riots. We have continued to increase our presence in the ever-important world of social media, gaining great numbers of people who want to read about, and engage with, the great things we've been able to do thanks to you.



The media we deserve

Decisions made this autumn may shape the practices of the press for generations, writes Andrew Graystone...

Most journalists work with courage and integrity to bring us news about the world around us. Many of us have been shocked over the past 18 months by revelations about phone hacking, bribery and political bargaining in the press. The things we have learnt have raised a host of questions about the way newspapers operate. Perhaps more importantly, there are questions about how the media needs to be reformed and what part regulation has to play. In the next few weeks Lord Leveson will publish his report into the standards and ethics of the press. His task is to clean out the stables, while also supporting the integrity and freedom of the press and providing a mechanism so that people who have been badly treated by the media can get redress.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRESS, POLICE, POLITICIANS

Democracy depends on a finely balanced relationship between journalists, politicians and the police. The press must be free to report the workings of politicians, good and bad. But politicians must also

be free to operate without fear of bullying from the media, and police must be impartial, and not susceptible to pressure from journalists or politicians. Some would argue that these relationships don't need further regulation, because hacking phones and bribing the police are already criminal offences. What we certainly need is a greater openness and transparency about how journalists, police and politicians work, and how they work together. Sunlight, it is said, is the best disinfectant.

CONCENTRATION OF MEDIA OWNERSHIP

To get to the truth of a story we need to be able to compare perspectives and weigh up different opinions. If you get all your news

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Professor Linda Woodhead • Joe Godwin (BBC Childrens)

Details and bookings at

[www.churchandmedia.net /conference](http://www.churchandmedia.net/conference)

from a single source, you are in danger of having a skewed view of the world. A great deal of media power is concentrated in a few powerful organisations. Some feel there should be a legal limit on the amount of media one individual or company can control. But as newspapers, broadcasters and the internet converge, it has become almost impossible to define how much media is too much for one owner.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

Most agree that members of the public and even celebrities deserve a measure of protection from the press. We also feel that if someone has been treated unjustly by a newspaper or broadcaster they should have a right to reply. One key aspect of Lord Leveson's report will be his recommendations about how complaints against the press should be handled. We know the Press Complaints Commission is going to be replaced. But there's little agreement as to what sort of body is required, and whether

it will need legal powers. We can't allow parliament to regulate the press, or the fine balance I described above will be lost. But a regulator with no statutory force may not be powerful enough to curb the excesses of bad journalism.

THE PRICE OF NEWS

Underlying all of these issues is the failing economic model of news. Collecting and publishing news is an expensive business, and with the internet taking away advertising revenue, traditional papers are struggling. Almost all national papers lose money for their proprietors and scores of local papers have merged or closed. If we value quality journalism locally and nationally, we will need to find new ways to pay for it.

A CRITICAL MOMENT

No one is required to act on Lord Leveson's recommendations. So the publication of his report will mark the beginning of an intense period of jockeying as politicians,

police, business interests and the press fight over what is to be done.

The other powerful force is what you might call civil society – those voluntary bodies and individuals who have a stake in the way news is reported. That includes churches and other groups that care about the reporting of truth and the values embodied in our media. This is a critical moment for people who care about the state of the press to make our voices heard as new standards and processes are put in place that will shape the press for years to come.

churchandmedia.net

*Andrew Graystone is
director of the Church
and Media Network*



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Linking up

by Chine Mbubaegbu

It's a Thursday morning in Chester, and just like every first Thursday of the month, leaders of churches and Christian organisations from across the city are gathered together in one place to have breakfast together, pray for each other and the place in which they live, and build relationships.

They are the body of Christ in this place. They are church leaders with their own styles of worship and orders of services. They are Christian leaders who are serving God and the community of Chester in their own individual callings.

But they believe that for Chester to thrive, for it to live up to its potential and for the good news of Christ to change people's lives, they have to stand together and commit to a common purpose of transforming the place in which they live in unity rather than individually.

That's why this morning they are meeting together; as a demonstration of unity and friendship which is ultimately for the sake of mission.

Unity like this just isn't common. But it's of fundamental importance to the Church in Chester, which started Link Up, a relational network of churches and

church leaders in Chester, West Cheshire and into north Wales.

At the heart of Link Up is Philippians 2:2: "Working together with one mind and purpose."

As well as church leaders, Christian organisations including Alpha Chester, Chester Schools Christian Work, Street Pastors and The Light Project, look to Link Up for advice and support.

Andy Glover, who leads Poole Baptist Church and Link Up, says: "It provides the relational glue and level of trust that allows projects to blossom. When we come together to do something, people seem to have a willingness to engage and work together."

Originally from Stoke-on-Trent, Andy and his wife Sue moved to Chester more than 20 years ago.

"I very much feel a sense that I've been called to Chester. For me, it's about being called to the place, as well as being called to the congregation," he says.

"There's a uniqueness about the size of our city. It's small enough to be able to do unity really well. For us, it's not about 'my church', but about what's best for the

city, which is why we help each other on projects. Church leaders feel confident that people aren't going to be poached away from their church if they help out with other people's projects."

Among the projects in this thriving city is The Light Project, started by Chris Duffett 12 years ago, which runs a number of innovative evangelistic projects. Its work includes running a city centre chaplaincy, youth clubs and Night Church.

Glyn Jones, who leads The Light Project in Chester with Gill Reeve, is passionate about making the gospel relevant to the average person. When he became a Christian, he was struck by a sense that it needed to be accessible to everyone. "Somebody came up to me and told me about God and I didn't understand why I hadn't heard this before. Why didn't everyone know this?"

Once a month, The Light Project runs Night Church at St Peter's Church between 10pm and 2am, for those who need help and support, recuperation after a night out or just a cup of tea and a chat.

"People often come in drunk or after their mates have got into a club and they haven't," says Glyn. "We've had ex-soldiers

EA Andy Glover: If we can reach the towns and cities together, then we're going to reach the nation.

THIS IS OUR PLACE



in Chester



Photo: Marketing Cheshire

who have come back from Afghanistan, and people who have recently lost loved ones. Sometimes people end up just staying for hours."

Chester is a beautiful place, known for its affluence, steeped in history. While some of its neighbours in the north-west may be described as more urban and less affluent,

it's clear to the Christians in the city that Chester really needs God.

Glyn says: "Chester is very middle class and polished, but the real Chester is different. The alcohol level is disproportionately high, for example. The problems are just a lot better hidden."

Away from the city centre, Christians are seeking to meet the needs of the area's agricultural workers who often suffer from a deep sense of isolation. The Agricultural Chaplaincy started in 2000 and now both the Christian Farmers Together Group and the Cheshire Farm Crisis Network Group are run from there.

The team provides a listening ear for people in need but is able to bring in other agencies to help where necessary. They help people going through challenging times including illness, bereavement, tenancy issues and financial problems. The Church meeting the needs of its communities.

The chaplaincy also runs a 24-7 helpline for farmers. Alison Linfield, an associate agricultural chaplain, says: "We're here to help and support. Jesus provided love and support. We're here to give people hope. We want to say that they're not on their own. They don't have to feel isolated, because

there's someone to talk to."

Speaking about the history of Link Up, Andy says there has been a concerted effort by the church leaders in the area to reach the city. "Right at the heart of the city centre is a place called The Cross. In 2002, we said that together we would seek to reach all of the men, women and children within the 10-mile radius of The Cross. We knew that if we were going to do that we would need each other. No one church was going to be able to do that. It was about the whole Church taking the whole gospel to the whole city."

Andy has also been encouraged by the work of the Alliance's Gather initiative. "Gather has given a language to what we're doing. We thought we were the only people doing this. But we're sensing that we need each other to reach the nation. When we went to the Gather conference, we saw that God is really doing something. If we can reach the towns and cities together, then we're going to reach the nation. That's what excites me."

linkup.uk.net

lightproject.org.uk

wegather.co.uk

THE GAMES ARE OVER: WHAT NOW?

by Claire Musters

The Games provided the Church with an unprecedented opportunity for engagement with our culture and local communities. Now they are over we don't want to lose that momentum. If you're feeling weary, or wondering what's out there, here's our guide to some up-and-coming events.



THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Taking place at Wembley Stadium on 29 September, the National Day of Prayer and Worship's vision is to see more than 80,000 people joining together to worship, celebrate what God has done among us in this amazing year and cry out in prayer for our nation.

The London Day of Prayer has been taking place annually since 2006, after a group of church leaders met and discussed the idea, agreeing to link it with Pentecost and the Global Day of Prayer movement that was born in South Africa in 2001. On 4 June 2006 just over 1,000 Christians joined together at Westminster Chapel to pray together. The following year on Pentecost Sunday 20,000 Christians met to pray in West Ham FC stadium.

The movement hasn't gone unnoticed. In 2008 it was recognised by Downing Street and parliament. The then prime minister Gordon Brown held a reception "in honour of the Global Day of Prayer" and the "invaluable work of the churches in London". During that year's Pentecost Sunday, London Mayor Boris Johnson shared his vision

of how churches could work with him to stamp out gun and street crime. In response, that August GDOP London, Peace Alliance, Premier Christian Media and hundreds of churches held a Peace Prayer Relay for 33 nights.

After 2011's riots convener of GDOP London, Jonathan Oloyede, urged the Church to rise up: "No one can be in any doubt that the anarchy and lawlessness portrayed on our TV screens graphically represent a much deeper social and spiritual condition in the nation. The church must act now prophetically and practically to stem the diabolical forces at work in our communities and cities."

Each year the event has grown, and, as Jonathan explains: "It is our prayer that in response to this corporate national outcry the Lord will raise up inspired leaders and Christians who catalyse reform in the spheres of government, media, education, business, family life, justice and society. We truly believe that by informed prayer and appropriate action, this nation can be transformed by God."

HEADING TO WEMBLEY

Years ago Jonathan saw a series of visions of renewal, revival and transformation coming to the UK. These included graphic pictures of Wembley Stadium filled to capacity with worshipping and praying Christians. He truly believes that “all of the previous years are leading to the fulfilment of these visions”.

GDOP are calling for people from right across the UK to travel to Wembley for this act of unity and prayer: “Wembley 2012 is likely to be the single biggest mobilisation of Christians for Prayer for a generation and will engage and involve one of the widest known collaboration of denominations, prayer networks, local Christian groups and media organisations in years. Wembley 2012 represents a unique opportunity to instil confidence in the Church to stand, pray and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord over our family of nations.”

BEING A PART OF WEMBLEY 2012

Included in the many leaders supporting the day are worship leaders Matt Redman, Tim Hughes, Hillsong London, Noel Richards, Lara Martin, Noel Robinson, Lara Martin, LZ7 and Godfrey Birtill.

As Tim Hughes said: “I passionately believe that when God’s people unite around this theme that Jesus Christ is Lord it has a huge impact on the nation. So I encourage you to come and be a part of seeing God shake our nation and seeing revival break out.”

Lyndell Bywater, More Than Gold prayer team member, agrees: “I think the idea of getting together in one place to share our stories and then to join our prayers together is worth doing even if it means travelling hundreds of miles for that experience and that opportunity.”

It’s not too late to book for the event, so why not mobilise your church to go to Wembley?

ndopwembley.com/buy-now



HOPE 2014

HOPE is a national movement bringing together churches in villages, towns and cities to do more together in mission, words and action, working towards a year of all-out mission in 2014.

Roy Crowne, HOPE’s executive director, said: “By the end of 2014 the dream is that the Church will be right at the heart of the community being good news. Our dream is that churches will be working together to use the Christian calendar as the rhythm for mission.”

HOPE’s resources help local churches make the most of seasons like Easter, Harvest and Christmas to reach out in ways that are culturally relevant.

Christians from all denominations, worship styles, ages, backgrounds and cultures are involved. The diversity of HOPE is unprecedented and is already having an impact. This year the (secular) Eden Project asked HOPE to help churches take part in the Big Jubilee Lunch; more than 1,700 churches used HOPE’s resources; 700,000 copies of a souvenir New Testament were given away.

HOPE is rooted in prayer so from 7-9 September Christians all over the UK will be taking part in All Praying Together – a united weekend of prayer and fasting in advance of 2013’s year of preparation for HOPE 2014.

hopetogether.org.uk



LONDON 2013 FESTIVAL

The London 2013 Festival is being organised by more than 200 Christian leaders, who, as London 2013 chairman, Reverend Stephen Gaukroger, explains: “All share the longing to see Londoners of all backgrounds and cultures flourishing socially and spiritually.”

The Festival will have a four-fold emphasis:

- Equipping Christians – by providing training to develop evangelistic lifestyles and verbal skills for sharing the gospel.
- Encouraging leaders – to embrace an outwardly focused mission.
- Engaging communities – developing programmes to connect with, and serve, communities and civic society across London.
- The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan’s Purse are supporting the Festival. Reverend Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan’s Purse and son of Billy Graham, will speak at evangelistic meetings in autumn 2013.

Rev Gaukroger said: “We are putting together teams from the churches and boroughs to plan and implement the four Festival tracks, and we shall welcome all the input possible from the capital’s Christians. Above all, we ask for your prayer for the initiative.”

london-2013.com

Saying goodbye

by Chine Mbubaegbu

Millions of women have suffered the devastating pain of a miscarriage, still birth and early years loss. Some have never grieved for the babies they lost. Now, a Christian woman who has suffered tragedies of her own is giving thousands of women the chance to say goodbye.

Pregnancy is supposed to be a hope-filled time; a time when you look forward expectantly to new life and all the hope that it brings. But for so many couples, pregnancy can end in tragedy, leaving them devastated, depressed, angry and alone.

According to the Miscarriage Association, more than one in five pregnancies ends in miscarriage – around a quarter of a million in the UK each year. And it can happen to anyone.

It happened five times to Zoe Clark-Coates and her husband Andy – a Christian couple who lost five pre-term babies, through miscarriage and missed miscarriage: Coby, Bailey, Darcy, Samuel and Isabella all within the space of three and a half years.

Recalling her second pregnancy, Zoe spoke of the moment that she knew she had lost another child. “We were due to go to a party, but I had been slightly bleeding. So I stayed in bed, constantly doing that maternal stroke of the stomach, which somehow feels like you’re comforting and caring for your child. But when I got up that evening I felt a sudden rush of blood, and I knew my baby had just died.”

A scan two days later showed that their baby had indeed passed away, and baby Darcy’s heart had simply stopped beating.

Zoe and Andy are now the proud parents of two little girls Esme, aged three, and Bronte, who is 10 months old, but it’s been a long and painful journey to parenthood.

To help others who have lost babies Zoe and Andy have set up a not-for-profit organisation called Saying Goodbye, which will run national remembrance services for those who have been through loss.

Zoe said: “We want to give everyone the opportunity to remember the children

they have lost and so we created the Saying Goodbye organisation in the hope we can help thousands of people recognise their children and pay tribute to them, however short their life was. Whether a person loses a baby at four weeks of pregnancy or at any time after, it’s a painful experience for many, and it’s important people’s grief and loss is acknowledged.”

This year, seven services are being held and due to the overwhelming response from the public, co-operation with local bodies and support from high-profile names such as Professor Lord Robert Winston, 20 services are scheduled for next year.

Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, is also an ambassador for the organisation. He said: “Love and support from family and friends at such a difficult time is vital. Giving time to grieve in order to begin to come to terms with living with loss needs to be encouraged.

“The Saying Goodbye services give a time and a space for those parents, friends and family to come together, to reflect and to take comfort in each other. It is important that in crisis they know they are not alone. Saying Goodbye is not about forgetting what has gone before us, but life in Christ gives us the strength, courage and hope for a new beginning.”

Zoe is using her experience of loss to help other women and men who have gone through the same ordeal – no matter how long ago. There are people in the UK today who are still dealing with the pain of having lost a baby, sibling or grandchild decades ago, but who have never had a chance to grieve.

“Having a faith and going through that loss has just made me realise how horrendous it must be for people who



“It is important that in crisis they know they are not alone”

Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York

don't know God,” Zoe said. “I’ve spoken to women who feel their lives are over, people who have lost 10 babies. It’s an admiration for every woman who loses a child and gets on with their lives.

“We’re delighted to offer people a chance to say goodbye to their children or the children of family and friends. People have said to us that it’s as if their baby never existed; the world just goes on. We’re also hearing from men who feel that they are just a shadow of their former selves after having lost a baby. It’s good to grieve and it’s right to acknowledge your children. If you don’t grieve, it can manifest itself in health and psychological problems, and it’s imperative that people do not get stuck in a cycle of grief.”

What started just a few months ago as a small-scale plan to hold a service has escalated to a nationwide series of services that are to be attended by thousands of women and men who have been affected.

Saying Goodbye has also quickly become a go-to organisation for people seeking support and advice for those personally affected by loss, or for those supporting others through the grieving process.

As international event directors and owners of CCEM, a secular event management company, Zoe and Andy are not fazed at all by the quantum leap Saying Goodbye has experienced, as they know the hand of God is firmly on their work, and they are excited at the prospect of helping so many people.

They are now appealing to local churches to support the services, and also asking people to come forward who may feel led to financially support their work, as funding is essential if they are to maintain the ministry.

The services are taking place at cathedrals and minsters across the UK, including Exeter, Bristol, Birmingham, York, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London. The

format of each will be similar, including music from choirs, poetry and readings, prayers and a message of hope.

Zoe said: “If we can even help one person, then it will be worth it.”

CCEM is a UK based international events company, run by Zoe and Andy. They have donated considerable funds and resources to Saying Goodbye. Saying Goodbye’s official charity partner is the Miscarriage Association, who are the leading charity working in the field of miscarriage, and they are also delighted to be working with organisations such as Bliss, the Association of Early Pregnancy Units, cot death charity FSID and many more.

For more information on the services, their dates and locations, visit their website.

sayinggoodbye.org

Twitter: @SayinggoodbyeUK





Bishop Graham Cray: The primary gift at Pentecost is not just 'empowered witness' but empowered witness for cross-cultural mission.



✚ Is there a theology for pioneering?

I chair the Church of England's Pioneer Panel, which interviews potential candidates for Ordained Pioneer Ministry. The language of pioneering is in frequent use in some parts of the Church, but has it any theological justification?

Unless we are to believe that our context, and so our mission field, never changes, it is more difficult to justify non-pioneering activity than pioneering. Helmut Thielike, a German theologian of the 1950s, said: "The gospel must be constantly forwarded to a new address because its recipient is repeatedly changing his place of residence." We live at a time when our culture has changed radically from the one for which most traditional churches were designed so a capacity for pioneering is indispensable today.

One of its main theological roots lies in the incarnation. In his final public sermon, on Christlikeness, John Stott said: "As Christ had entered our world, so we are to enter other people's worlds. We are to be like Christ in his mission." Entering other people's worlds' involves pioneering.

A PIONEERING CHURCH NEEDS ITS PIONEERS AND NEEDS THEM TODAY.

It is the Holy Spirit who is foundational for any theology of pioneering. The gift of Pentecost was a pioneering gift. According to Acts, the primary gift at Pentecost is not just 'empowered witness' but empowered witness for cross-cultural mission. The disciples would be empowered to faithfully

bear the gospel across cultural barriers, and from context to context – "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This promise is not theoretical. It is fulfilled as the story of Acts unfolds, culminating in Rome, which for any Jew, who knew that Jerusalem was the centre of the world, was indeed 'the ends of the earth'.

Pioneering is also about being a sign and agent of God's future kingdom as it breaks into the present. Pentecost was a harvest festival, the 'feast of weeks'. It was the first day when the 'first fruits' of the harvest could be presented in the Temple. This was in anticipation of the full harvest celebrated at the Feast of Tabernacles. In the same way the gift of the Spirit is the first fruits (Romans 8:23) and the taste of "the powers of the age to come" (Hebrews 6:5). In the gift of the Holy Spirit, the future secured by Christ breaks into the present.

Christians are not just stewards of the gifts of God from the past; they are 'future in advance' people – pioneers whose ministry is an anticipation of the great age to come. We live towards the future in the power of the Holy Spirit. As Bishop Lesslie Newbigin wrote: "The Church is the pilgrim (pioneering!) people of God. It is on the move – hastening to the ends of the earth to beseech all to be reconciled to God, and hastening to the end of time to meet its Lord who will gather all into one." This is made possible by the power of the Spirit.

This empowering is no longer just for special leaders or special times but for

the whole people of God regardless of age, gender or status. "In the last days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." (Acts 2:17-18) The gift was not merely one of power to be a witness, but of revelation, of wisdom as to the form that witness should take. As they moved (reluctantly at first) from church as they knew it in Jerusalem, to Judea, then Samaria and to the Gentile ends of the earth, they needed the revelation of the Spirit through the dreams, visions and prophecies promised by Joel, and fulfilled at Pentecost.

Through the Holy Spirit, the Church is a pioneering missionary community but within the Spirit's gifts there is a particular calling to a 'boundary crossing' or apostolic ministry. Certain people in Acts, some named (e.g. Peter and Paul) and some anonymous (Acts 11:20), pioneered the way for others to follow. A pioneering Church needs its pioneers and needs them today.

freshexpressions.org.uk



Bishop Graham Cray is Archbishops' missionary and leader of the Fresh Expressions team

A different kind of harvest

by Lucy Cooper

HOPE, the national mission movement, is breathing new life into harvest festivals. A new resource book, HOPE for Harvest, emphasises thanksgiving and generosity, with ideas for churches to use to transform the season into a festival to touch urban as well as rural communities.

A Netmums survey revealed one in five mums is missing meals so her children can eat, so donating food is still relevant. Churches like the Salvation Army in Littledean, Gloucestershire, are helping to feed families with homework clubs in term time and dinner clubs in school holidays. Foodbank networks receive over a third of all donations at harvest time.

Celebrating harvest is also catching the imagination of black majority churches. Yemi Adedeji, associate director of HOPE, remembers celebrating harvest festivals "back home". "It was one of the most exciting moments. Our parents dressed us up more elaborately than Christmas day.

The harvest bazaar was a joyful, social occasion of feasting and fellowship.

"In the context of a lifestyle of thanksgiving and celebration, regardless of time of year or circumstances, it is great to inject some more joy into our communities and to be challenged to look outwards. Let's use harvest as a time to share with those who do not have; to express love, open doors to strangers, live out the gospel and then communicate it."

Unless we are one of the UK's 530,000 farmers then our harvest might not mean barley sheaves or baskets of Bramleys but a wage that comes from cleaning, office work, teaching, or sharing professional skills. Our workplaces are our harvest field as well as our mission field.

A contemporary harvest display in church might include hard hats, keys, computers and stethoscopes. One idea from HOPE for Harvest is to interview church members to find out what they will be doing 'This Time Tomorrow' to affirm and honour work as

key to the mission of the Church.

Other ideas include a survey of thankfulness, 24 hour famines and food hampers or just ways of getting to know about local needs and vulnerable groups.

Roy Crowne, executive director of HOPE said: "Jesus' teaching was relevant because he used stories about everyday life. This is a moment to make the traditional harvest festival relevant to our community in fresh ways: acting generously, celebrating joyfully and reaching out with God's love in words and actions to see lasting change in our villages, towns and cities."

HOPE for Harvest includes Bible studies and ideas to help churches reconnect with the season as a mission opportunity. Using calendar moments like Easter, Christmas and Harvest, HOPE is building towards a year of mission in 2014.

hopetogether.org.uk

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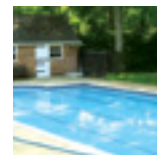
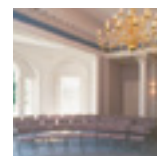
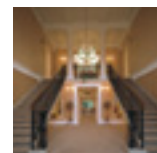
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Martin Smith: The former Delirious? frontman looks back at the past and ahead to the future, following the re-release of *Cutting Edge*.

Smyth meets Smith

Here's what happened when Chris Smyth, worship leader and creative director at member church New Community Church SE London, met one of his heroes Martin Smith, following the re-release of iconic Delirious? album *Cutting Edge*...

Smyth: 20 years on from the *Cutting Edge* albums, do ever find yourself listening back to them?

Smith: My head is into new music and I'm now concentrating on my own stuff. My head is in the future. I don't think it's normal for someone to sit down and listen to what they did 20 years ago, every now and again I hear something that's been played and I think 'wow that's amazing, thank you God for that bit of the journey'. I think in general you're proud of it but you move on, but I hope there are some people out there who can really enjoy this compilation.

Your sound has changed dramatically from then to now, talk us through the thought process behind it?

Yes I think it has to be a natural thing, it has to be authentic if it is going to work. It

has to come out of something deeper otherwise it's going to be fake. We were on a journey for many years; every time we made a record we thought 'OK what can we do?' A lot of it comes from what songs come out, whatever songs you're given will normally give taste to what you're going to do and what sound you're going to make.

What would you say your big musical influences are?

From a Christian music point of view a big influence would be Kevin Prosch. He became a friend and really gave me permission to be who I was, rather than copy anyone. There have been lots of influences over the years from Dire Straits to Sigur Ros, even hearing *Firework* by Katy Perry on the radio and going 'wow what a great song'.

eauk.org/idea



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REVIEWS

Head-to-head: *30 Days* vs *40/40*

Caroline Newbold reviews these two guides

30 DAYS – A 30-DAY PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO READING THE BIBLE

Nicky Gumbel

(Alpha International)

Ideal for anyone who wants to read the Bible but doesn't know where to start; Nicky Gumbel has selected 30 different passages from both Old and New Testaments which are printed in the book (with the verses around them so they can be seen in context) followed by a useful commentary very much in the style of the Alpha teaching – plenty of practical application, examples and helpful sub-divisions. My one criticism would be that the quotes and stories used could be more varied in order to connect better with a wide range of readers but overall an excellent book that will encourage new Christians particularly, to develop a Bible reading habit that will last a lifetime.



40/40 – 40 DAYS TO RENEW YOUR MIND, TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

Phil Green

(Scripture Union)

The aim of this book is, in the author's words: "To develop a way of reading the Bible that makes your mind a healthier place." Green encourages us to engage with the 40 short passages selected, by not only reading them but also acting on them in various ways. The 40-day format makes it ideal for use for a particular season, perhaps Lent or Advent, and the 'Talk Together' section every five days would be a great way of reinforcing the content by working through the questions provided with a friend or small group. This book is suitable for new or more mature Christians and looks to be both challenging and transformational; looking forward to working through it myself!



THE PSALMS PROJECT VOLUME 2

by Steven Faux
(Elevation)

Steven Faux is an award-winning composer of TV and film soundtracks so I had high expectations and I have not been disappointed. This is the second part of a project to paint musical and visual pictures of the emotions and stories we encounter in the Psalms. There is a wide range of evocative soundscapes to discover from tracks that sound like a film soundtrack, musical theatre songs, choral works and some modern classical music with great playing by the London Chamber Orchestra as well as some lovely vocal performances. I am now going to buy Volume 1 too!

Reviewed by Kim Walker



THE GREAT PARTNERSHIP

by Jonathan Sacks
(Hodder)

This is a truly amazing book. It will infuriate you, make you think, make you cry and feed your mind – and that's just in the first few pages. This is without doubt such a total crushing of shallow modern world views that it should be a set text for anyone interested in such things. The book also has the human touch. Sacks talks movingly about his very ordinary but faithful father, the Holocaust and his own journey to faith. There are times, for evangelicals, where much of what he says is confronting – especially his reading of some of the Scriptures, and some times where he seems plain wrong. It is also the kind of book you'll need to read in smallish chunks in case your brain explodes. Anyway, it's a cracker. Read it.

Reviewed by Steve Morris



BIG HEARTED

by Chris Duffett and Simon Goddard
(Gilead Books Publishing)

If you struggle being inside a church building on a Sunday morning, you'll love this. A practical, innovative guide for anyone with a passion to take the goodness of a "big-hearted" God out onto streets. From tattooing a cross onto a man in a tattoo parlour to offering free hugs to local shoppers to praying for physical healing, Duffett's exuberance and creative spirit jumps off the page. Goddard's middle section on the church is a helpful and practical exploration on how to nurture an outward-looking mentality in a congregation, with challenging reflections from the life of St Francis of Assisi. Inspiring, accessible and refreshing.

Reviewed by Katherine Maxwell-Cook



NO CEILING TO HOPE

by Patrick Regan
(Monarch)

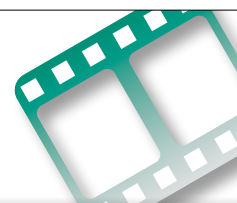
This is a feel-good book with a provocative edge by Patrick Regan, a youth worker turned founder of gritty charity XLP. And this book paints pictures of hope in some of the most difficult situations – home and abroad.

It is strong when Regan is on home soil – describing the work he and his comrades have done in some tough urban areas. He shows a real understanding of the dynamics of gang culture and we help but feel encouraged by his sheer determination to help in places the church has sometimes given up on. But it isn't without its issues. It has the feel of a book that's been dictated rather than written. It could have benefitted from a real pruning back and clarity about the purpose of the book. But it is inspiring and would benefit anyone interested working with young people on the margins.

Reviewed by Steve Morris



We've got lots more reviews on our website, including the brilliant *If God, Then What?* by Andrew Wilson, *Love Does* by Bob Goff, and *A Thorn in My Mind* by Cathy Wield. eauk.org/idea



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Sophie Lister: is a researcher and writer for The Damaris Trust. For more articles and study guides see culturewatch.org and toolsfortalks.com

Shaken and stirred

Many have gone before him, but what does Daniel Craig's Bond tell us about the time we're now living through, asks Sophie Lister...

James Bond, believe it or not, is 50 years old. Or at least, it's been 50 years since Sean Connery first appeared on screen as the iconic spy. The first of Ian Fleming's novels was published in 1953, technically making Bond a pensioner. You wouldn't know it to look at Daniel Craig, now making his third outing as the character in the much-anticipated *Skyfall*.

The film boasts an impressive cast, including Ralph Fiennes, Judi Dench and Naomi Harris, as well as rising British star Ben Wishaw as gadget-man Q. With a storyline that sees Bond's loyalties to his superiors tested, and MI6 itself brought under threat, *Skyfall* promises to deliver the edgy intensity we now expect from contemporary Bond. Since *Casino Royale* reinvented the franchise in 2006, there are fewer daft gadgets and overblown villains. Instead, we've been offered a more realistic take, with a protagonist as troubled as he is charming.

CHANGING FACES

Like *Doctor Who*, the Bond franchise's ability to change the face of its leading man has been its secret weapon, giving the series great longevity. Each new Bond is slightly different, reflecting in some sense the tastes and concerns of his era. Connery, the classic 007, was a smooth, charismatic spy for the swinging 60s. His successor George Lazenby made only one film, before Roger Moore, in the wearier 70s, brought a self-parodic edge to the character. The 80s, in a climate of increased political correctness and sexual awareness, offered a more serious hero in Timothy Dalton; while 90s Bond Pierce Brosnan paid nostalgic tribute to his predecessors.

What does Daniel Craig's Bond tell us about the time we're now living through? A controversial choice when his casting was first announced, his take on the character was immediately and noticeably different. Within three minutes of *Casino Royale*'s opening we witness a younger version of the character killing his first man – and within four minutes, his second. Killing gets easier the more you do it, this leaner, meaner version of the spy remarks. Is it really so simple? Bond may have numbed himself to his life of violence, but the film does not measure loss so lightly. After Bond's accomplice Vesper Lynd (Eva Green) helps him kill an attacker, she huddles fully clothed in the shower, clearly appalled by her actions. "It's like there's blood on my hands," she says, "and it won't come off."

This haunting scene is arguably the most memorable the Craig films have so far offered, and it marks the franchise's move into more emotionally complex, morally ambiguous territory. The 21st century Bond is both more raw and more hardened than his forerunners, a fitting hero for a culture where trying too hard – or feeling too much – is regarded with suspicion. Notably, when asked whether he wants his martini shaken or stirred, this 007 simply doesn't care. He slips on a suit of competent cool over his guilt and heartache, as so many of us wish that we could.



21st century Bond. Daniel Craig on location for *Skyfall*, out 26 October.

SUCCESSFUL LIVING

It's this competence which links all the incarnations of Fleming's spy, and ultimately holds the key to his appeal. David Gulbraa of *Capitalism* magazine wrote that Bond embodies "the ability to live successfully", allowing us to vicariously imagine being the 'best' version of ourselves. In explaining that "James Bond doesn't use magic or faith or supernatural powers to get out of his jams," Gulbraa inadvertently pointed out how the character panders to our vanities. In this way, 007 represents our wish for mastery over our own fate; for aptitude in all areas of life; and for complete self-sufficiency.

Bond has rarely been emotionally attached, let alone emotionally dependent. Women are shown to want him precisely because he can't be pinned down, while men admire him because he can't be equaled. His status as a cultural icon reveals our longing to be this desirable, and this untouchable – but the reality just doesn't match up. No real human being can live as James Bond does, cut off from reliance on others and on God. The time will always come when circumstances force us to admit we're not as strong as we might wish we were, or as immune from disaster and defeat.

Perhaps the darker direction of contemporary Bond is a tacit acknowledgment of this. Maybe doubts are creeping in around the edges of our certainty, reminding us that we're not quite the heroes we thought we were; that we were never made to go it alone. That we are capable of being shaken, after all.

***Skyfall* is released on 26 October 2012**

IDEA-LIST

Our pick of the top five Bond soundtracks. Ever.

by Nathan Jones



JOHN BARRY ORCHESTRA – JAMES BOND THEME (1962)

Writing the James Bond theme tune wasn't always the hottest ticket in pop. The first Bond film, *Dr No*, opened with an instrumental written by Monty Norman, a composer who'd written lyrics for musicals and sung in variety shows. Norman didn't do too badly out of it – he's rumoured to have collected over £1 million in royalties.



TOM JONES – THUNDERBALL (1965)

By 1965 all had changed. Shirley Bassey had reached the US top 10 with *Goldfinger* and was lined up to sing *Mr Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* as the theme to *Thunderball* until legendary producer Cubby Broccoli (yes, Cubby Broccoli) presciently decided the theme tune should share the title of the film. *Thunderball* was written quickly, Tom Jones recorded it quicker, and the single carried on where his compatriot Bassey had left off with success in the US; later that year Jones won a Grammy for best new artist.



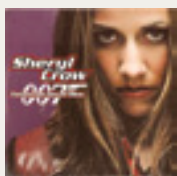
PAUL MCCARTNEY & WINGS – LIVE AND LET DIE (1973)

Eight years later Paul McCartney was asked to write the theme tune before the screenplay had even been finished. By now the Bond theme was traditionally huge, bombastic, anthemic and some doubted that McCartney – now with Wings, a band that, pop fact fans, McCartney spent more time in than he did the Beatles – could pull it off. But pull it off he did. *Live and Let Die* reached the top 10 in both the UK and US, sold over a million copies and was nominated for an Oscar.



DURAN DURAN – A VIEW TO A KILL (1985)

Bassist John Taylor, a big Bond fan, ran into Cubby Broccoli, still a Bond producer, at a party and, fuelled by a few free cocktails, offered his band's services to write "the best ever Bond theme tune". The resulting single is the only Bond theme to reach number one in the US charts.



SHERYL CROW – TOMORROW NEVER DIES (1997)

Tomorrow never dies was also a second choice theme. Composer David Arnold was another huge Bond fan, and had previously produced an album of cover versions of Bond themes and composed the film's score. Arnold recorded a theme with k.d. lang singing the vocal, only for the film's producers to go with a new song, sung by Sheryl Crow. The change was not well received, with most reviewers (and the majority of Bond fans) preferring the k.d. lang original. Possibly as a result of the reaction, Arnold was asked to write the theme to the next Bond film – Garbage's *The World Is Not Enough*.

Superb Wycliffe site FOR SALE

The strategically-located Wycliffe Centre - ideal for conference, mission or educational use - is FOR SALE. Located at Horsleys Green, just off the A40 between High Wycombe and Stokenchurch, this is in an area of outstanding natural beauty.



Wycliffe Bible Translators plans to move in order to focus on its central work of publicising the needs of the minority language groups of the world and mobilising the British Church to become involved.

The Trustees wish to sell the centre to fund this work, but at the same time hope to facilitate the work of a Christian or educational organisation.

The site comprises a range of buildings on approx 23 acres and provides some 92,000 sq.ft of floor space - some in use as offices and core support buildings, the remainder being primarily residential.

Please email for "expression of interests" form:

Malcolm Hall - Malcolm@PangolinEnterprises.co.uk

Pangolin House, 8 Sultan Croft, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, MK5 7FD

4 ISSUES OF OLD AGE – ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

A conference organised by the Pilgrims' Friend Society, a Christian charity with over 200 years experience of meeting the needs of older Christians.

**King's House Conference Centre, King's Church,
Sidney Street, Manchester M1 7HB
7th November, 2012, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

Workshop Speakers: Roger Hitchings, Maureen Sim, Janet Jacob, Louise Morse, Maria Williams, Dr J Ling.

- Topics:**
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 - Responding to early dementia and what caregivers need
 - Developing Usefulness in Old Age
 - Legal Issues for Older People
 - End of Life Issues.

Early bird discount applies to 30th September, 2012.

Organisations = £60, or early bird £50
Non-PFS member = £50, or early bird £40

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or email conference@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk
t. 0300 303 1400

(ask for Suzie Leveson,
conference organiser).
Pilgrims' Friend Society
175 Tower Bridge Road,
London SE1 2AL



www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk

Plan B: *What job would you be doing if you weren't a Christian leader?*



There is no plan B. Twenty-two years ago I was a senior manager in industry with a large salary and a company BMW. I sensed God calling me to use my business skills in the Christian sector and I've never looked back. My previous experience in the glass and brewing industries and a year at theological college was great preparation. So if I didn't have the amazing privilege of being on the leadership team at the Alliance, would I still be in industry or a full-time wife and mother? I don't know. The only other thing I'd be tempted by now is early retirement (if only I could afford it!) so I had time to be a trustee for some Christian charities.

Helen Calder, executive director: finance & services, Evangelical Alliance

There are so many exciting things to do for God. I have toyed with being a postman – delivering good news and meeting lots of people. I've considered lecturing in sociology, film or philosophy – helping shape the thinking of the rising generation. I've toyed with the idea of social work or being a full-time foster carer – showing God's concern for the widow and orphan. I've also thought about journalism – making sure the truth is told; working in politics – speaking up for the voiceless; and aid and development – demonstrating God's compassion to the marginalised.

Krish Kandiah, executive director: churches in mission, Evangelical Alliance



My career path is actually very linked to my conversion to Christianity. I was training to be a lawyer at university, with the intention of going to a big firm and making lots of money. Then I became a Christian and had a massive rethink. I realised that my real passion had always been journalism, not law, so while all my friends were applying for post-grad law training, I searched around for media work experience. It was a very early experience of trusting God, but to this day I'm so glad I did. I was rubbish at law anyway and I doubt I'd ever have made it into the City, so I'd probably be licking my wounds in a high street firm somewhere, messing up everyone's wills and house deeds.

Ruth Dickinson, editor, Christianity magazine


I was all set for a great career as a chemical engineer after completing my PhD and had ambitions of getting to the top of my field. The few years I spent working as an engineer were exciting and I would have continued on that track. For about 10 years in ministry, I also worked as a secondary school teacher, more compatible with ministry demands than engineering. I found it challenging but extremely rewarding, but not my dream job. The dream job for me would have been as a professional footballer! Not sure I would have made the top grade though, so good thing Christ got hold of me in extra time.

Pastor Tani Omideyi, senior minister, Love & Joy Ministries



Working for a Christian organisation wasn't something I planned – so in some respects I'm a reluctant Christian leader but my approach to life has always been to 'follow the road in front of me' and try to do my best with that. At 18 I did a stint with Youth for Christ and after that I started working for Philips, the electrical people, and began climbing the corporate ladder. It was fun – I worked with great people and I loved it. After spending time talking about God for a job it was great to be with people who were more interested in how you lived your faith out than what you said about Him. After seven years at Youth for Christ, I joined Spring Harvest and I now direct the event – it's probably the best job in the world. I didn't plan the career path I've had. In fact, I was very sure that the corporate world was what I was called to. I've recently got back in touch with a former colleague from Philips – he's now the President of their Lighting Division. So maybe if I'd stayed on the corporate ladder I would be doing something with light bulbs – maybe marketing them or changing them possibly!

Wendy Beech-Ward, director of Spring Harvest



IN YOUR WORDS



We love hearing from you, so have your say on any of the issues raised in *idea* or any comments about the Evangelical Alliance by emailing idea@eauk.org

ANSWERS IN GENESIS

Further to the letter from David Edgington (July/August) regarding Krish Kandiah's article – God in the Tsunami (May/June), may I suggest he looks for an answer in Genesis. The early chapters of Genesis are foundational to our present experience. At the end of each day of creation God said that everything was 'good' and at the end of the sixth day everything was 'very good'. Adam was instructed not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He chose to eat the fruit. Thus he expressed the desire to know evil. He already knew the good, because creation was good. God granted him his wish. "You want to know evil? Your wish is granted." Yes, Adam would know evil. Evil is not just sinful behaviour. Evil is also the gradual return of creation to the chaos that was present before God shaped and formed a perfect world. Creation is no longer 'very good'. It is still good, but the good is now mixed with evil, as the creation returns gradually to its original chaos. The first major outcome of the deterioration of creation was the flood. If you wish to refer to science, the Second Law of Thermodynamics tells us that everything is heading towards the same temperature and when that point – original chaos – is reached there will be no more movement because kinetic energy depends on temperature difference. The return to chaos continues with species extinction, deserts, storms, tsunamis, etc. God's perfect creation is no longer perfect by Adam's choice.

Roy Humphries, *Dunfermline*

SPORTING MELEE

Thanks as ever for the latest issue of *idea*. Always a good read. Regarding Sport and Christianity (Jul/Aug), perhaps following

the sporting melee of Wimbledon, the Ashes and the Olympics I can put in a reminder that during the summer over a quarter of a million young people found out more about Christianity by attending one of thousands of Christian camps, activity holidays and festivals around the UK? These aren't once every four years, but part of a year-in year-out commitment to share Christ in a residential context which often includes sports and recreational activities. More than 40,000 volunteers help at these events each year to bring the holistic message of the gospel through challenging young people physically, socially and spiritually. They have been enormously effective and been used by God in a wonderful way for generations. If after the summer we have had people are wondering how they can continue to reach out post the Olympics, then do get in touch with us at CCI as the association of Christian providers of these events. We want you joining in next year!

Jim Hammett, *chief executive, CCI, cci.org.uk*

NEVER-CHANGING

How interesting that you send out the Alliance's press release on same-sex marriage on the same day that St George's Tron in Glasgow splits from the Church of Scotland over this very issue. The Church is to be set apart, to stand for righteousness and upon the ordinances of our Lord rather than follow the pattern of the world. I have heard it said by Christians that it is OK to have same sex-marriage and co-habitation before marriage etc. because society has changed. Well, I think society has changed, but Jesus hasn't because he's the same, yesterday, today and forever, and praise him for that because that means he is fully trustworthy and faithful and a whole lot more.

Janet Turner, *via email*

Heard in tweets

@ulsterrambler:

"For a great summation of how far Northern Ireland has come and how far it has to go, read @davesmyth4's piece in @idea_mag"

Follow the Alliance on Twitter:
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Are you reading this, but haven't yet signed up to become a member of the Evangelical Alliance? What are you waiting for? Join us! eauk.org/join

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idea is published in accordance with the Alliance's Basis of Faith, although it is impossible in every article to articulate each detail and nuance of belief held by Alliance members. Articles in *idea* may therefore express views on which there is a divergence of opinion or understanding among evangelicals.

Letters and story ideas from members are welcome, and will be considered by the editorial board, which reserves the right to edit letters and stories for length and style. We regret that we are unable to engage in personal correspondence. Unsolicited material will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Steve Clifford:
The general director writes...

What's the news?

18 April 1930 will go down in history as the day the BBC decided there was no news to report.

During what should have been the 6.30pm news bulletin, the BBC presenter announced: "Good evening, today is Good Friday. There is no news." A judgement had been made somewhere within the BBC that apparently nothing newsworthy had happened. Piano music was played instead of the current affairs update before normal scheduling was resumed.

I AM CONVINCED ALONGSIDE THE BIG STORIES THAT HEAVEN IS INTERESTED IN THE LITTLE STORIES OF LIVES CHANGED, SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS AND OF GENEROSITY.

There is no way such an announcement could be made today. The industry of 'news' has grown into a multi-billion pound enterprise. Twenty-four-hour news is here to stay with an insatiable appetite to find news and perhaps at times to make news.

But who decides what news is? Who decides which stories are told and which are forgotten? Who is shaping the news? The Leveson inquiry is examining the culture, practice and ethics of the media, particularly the relationship of the press with the public, police and politicians. The inquiry has dominated the headlines over the first half of this year and has exposed the influence of a small, non-elected group of media executives. One after another, we have seen the leading politicians of our day (including the last four prime ministers) having to explain their relationship with News International and the pressure they have felt to seek its support. These politicians were convinced that if the Sun or the Times turned against them, their election chances could be fatally damaged.

As I reflect on this news phenomenon

together with so much other media that I am bombarded with day in and day out I come to the conclusion that I am being manipulated. My worldview is being shaped and moulded by people I have never met and probably wouldn't recognise if I passed them in the street.

The Apostle Paul challenges his readers in Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the

pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."

There is a battle being fought for our minds, our understanding, our view of the world in which we live. There is another way of seeing things than presented in our newspapers and on our TV sets. There are other stories to be told – news announcements with an eternal significance not simply those made at the whim of a journalist, marketing executive, TV or film producer.

What are the news reports which are being given attention to in heaven I wonder? I am sure there are the big concerns – the conflicts around the world and the injustices which shape our societies which leave so many powerless at the point of starvation; our failure to care for the planet and the fact that there are so many who have yet to hear the wonderful life-changing news of the gospel. But I am convinced alongside the big stories that heaven is interested in the little stories of

lives changed, small acts of kindness and of generosity which could so easily be missed on the international or national stage.

I was recently in my home city of Bradford visiting one of the TLG centres providing education for 30 young people excluded from mainstream education but included and welcomed by this group of Christians. While there I met up with John Kirby from Christians Against Poverty (CAP). He told me statistics of how CAP helped more than 21,104 in 2011 get out of debt and how 500 people became Christians as a result of the charity's work last year. It currently has 205 church-based debt help centres and well over 1,000 churches running free money management course CAP Money in their community.

I could go on. So many stories to be told of Street Pastors, Foodbanks, Youth for Christ centres, employment schemes, marriage and parenting courses, schools, academies, prison ministries, drug rehabilitation programmes, support for those with disabilities, children, young people, the elderly – churches all over the country caring for their communities, reaching out with God's love and of course individuals going about their daily lives at work, in their neighbourhood among their friends and families, determined to be agents for good to the people who surround them.

Our media team here at the Evangelical Alliance are passionate about telling these other stories, to present some news with a difference. So if there are stories that are not being told where you are please let us know via stories@eauk.org and maybe the Inspire awards are an opportunity for you to highlight what God's doing among people you know. Visit our website for details of how to apply.

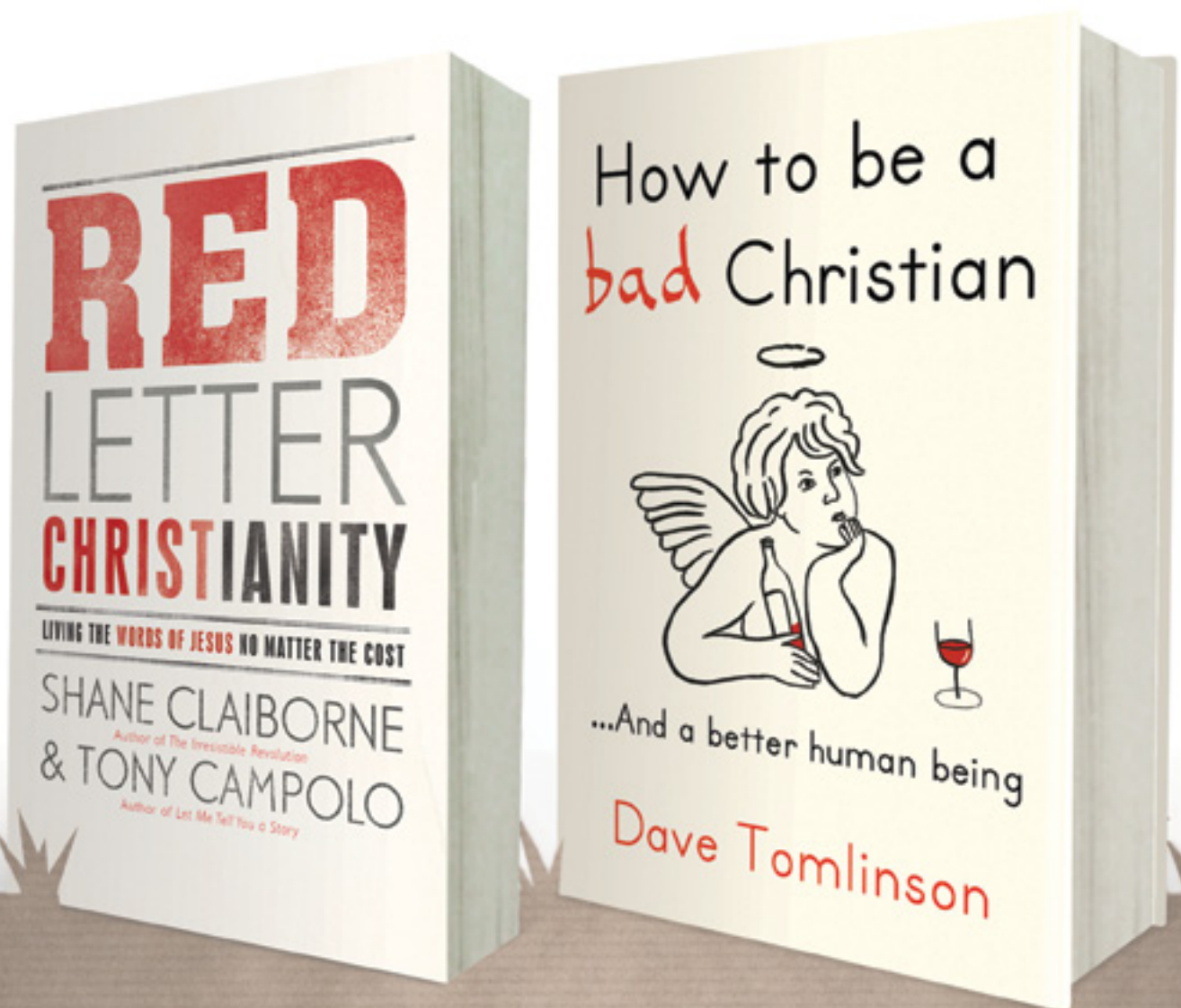
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