



Issue 3 – Sep 2023

The Grapevine

Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)

Contents

Welcome.....	4
Role Play or the Real Deal?.....	5
Arise and Shine.....	6
Holidays or Holy Days?.....	8
Faith and Light International.....	10
Strength in Adversity.....	12
Corpus Christi.....	14
Feed my Sheep.....	16
What's Happening in the Neighbourhood?.....	17
What's Happening in the Nation?.....	18

*Faith
Hope
&
Love*

**“I am the vine; you are the branches”
(John 15:5)**

Shining a light on the Church in the 21st Century



EDITORIAL TEAM:

General contact & news stories:
grapevinepublication@gmail.com

Editor: Phil Burkhard
philburkhard@hotmail.co.uk

Christ The King: Justin McCarthy
jpmccarthy@btinternet.com

St. Brigid's: Maria Thompson
mariathompson1@hotmail.co.uk

St. Paul's: Madeleine Jeremy
mj@madeleinejeremy.com

Community: Emelyne Burkhard
emelyne@hotmail.co.uk

Welcome Everyone

Welcome to the 3rd issue of The Grapevine!
This is produced by the 3 Churches in North Cardiff with contributions from the wider community – both near and far.

The content reflects 'faith, hope and love', in the 21st century. Church is more than a building; it's a community & it's people. One body in Christ.



We are now in a time of 'Global Boiling'. This issue has a distinctly international and national feel; however, the work of the Holy Spirit is alive and well in local communities, too. We are all called to action, in so many different ways...



Prior issues are on: www.3churches.org or enjoy reading and sharing via the QR code.

Contact us: grapevinepublication@gmail.com

What is unusual about this Pieta? Oude Kerk (Amsterdam), begun as a Chapel in 1250. Over time it grew to house public functions, fisherman mending their nets and a meeting place. **Is your Church more than a building?**





Role Play or the Real Deal?

Wales has been described as the 'Land of Revivals'. The most recent one was 1904-6 when 100,000 people made a first-time or new commitment to Christ.

For those used to the nonconformist worship of the time, often heavy with words and scholarship, meetings with spontaneous prayer and vivid personal testimony were a shock.

The Revival so seized the Nation that the Western Mail published 'Revival Editions'. Testimonies replaced tabloid.

How often does one see 'Good news' take front page in a national and secular newspaper?

This outpouring of the Holy Spirit resulted in publicans losing business, prayer meeting down in pits and even reports of pit-ponies not performing as the miners stopped cussing them!

A key figure, linked to the Revival (see You Tube above), was Evan Roberts, from Lougher (1878-1951). In 2004, Terry Jermyn (St. Brigid's and St. Paul's, Cardiff) was offered the role of Evan, in a play about the Revival.

The play was set in 1951 with the older Evan looking back over his life. With the help of three other cast members (women, unusually at the time, and young people were key to the Revival), Terry was transformed into character.

Terry had never heard of Evan or the Revival. His research showed Evan had meetings, all over Wales, which could last for hours and drew crowds. Although the fires in Wales quickly died down, one legacy was that it sparked a movement in a dozen other countries,

The current growth in some Churches, evangelism, regional faith events and re-emergence of Bible College Wales suggests the flame is burning, now.

Arise and Shine



Rev Yang Tuck Yoong (Director, **The Bible College of Wales** and Senior Pastor, **Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore**), recounts this true story...

There was an amazing story told of a MacDonald's Drive-in. The guy who is in the car orders his meal and says to the cashier at the counter, "Put the bill of the car behind on my tab. I will pay for the family behind me." And he drives off. The next guy comes to the counter and when he was told what the first guy did, he was so touched that he says, "I will pay for the next family behind me". And the next person does the same for the next person behind him and this goes on and on and on for 6 hours. One kind deed, and it ripples to the next and to the next and to the next.



Listen, a preacher can give an excellent message on 1 Cor 13 but if a person sitting listening to the preacher cannot see the evidence of that love, it is going to be very difficult to convince him. Why? Because it is not just what we hear; it is what we see.

But when we hear and see the same thing, that is communication at its best. Words can be very interesting. Signs are very exciting. But what about our deeds...

The context of the scripture below is important because the prophet is alluding to a period in history called the last days and he paints a gloomy picture of gross darkness over the entire Earth. And it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see this unfolding right before our very eyes. The darkness around us is intensifying and it is pervasive, but right in the midst of this darkness is a promise of great hope. A great light is coming, and the command is given: "ARISE, SHINE". We can arise and we can shine, because our Light has come.

Isaiah 60:1-3 "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you."

One of the things we are going to see happen in the last days is both the escalation of darkness and light at the same time. Yes, the darkness will intensify, but at the same time, we shall see great light in the Church.

The Church is described in the Bible in several ways. She is called the Body of Christ, the Bride, a family, a building comprised of living stones, His Ekklesia.

Arise and Shine

In Rev 1, John beholds a glorious vision of the resurrected Christ and He has in His hand 7 stars, which are the 7 angels to the 7 churches. But He also stood in the midst of 7 Golden Lampstands. The 7 Lampstands represent the 7 churches in Asia Minor. In other words, every Church is called to be a Lampstand. We are His light in this world.

People form their opinion of Christ by looking at how we behave. My friend often says there are 2 reasons why people do not believe in Jesus. 1) Because they have not met a Christian 2) Because they have met a Christian. So, make sure your light is shining all the time!

The Bible is replete with examples of how a single act of goodness makes all a difference, if only you will let your light shine. **And I write to you to stir you up to do good works. I know that we are not saved by good works. But we have been saved for good works.**

The early Church was an amazing and fluid Church. They were phenomenal in reaching out to the lost. In a short span of a few years, all of Jerusalem had heard the Gospel. Then it went to Judea, Samaria, and to the other parts of the world. Within a span of 100 years, the then known world had been reached. How did they do it? They essentially preached the Gospel in 3 dimensions: 1) Through their words (Preaching) 2) Through signs and wonders (Miracles) 3) Through their works (Good deeds). That's how their light shone so brightly. Let's take a closer look.

Over the past few decades, I think the Church has concentrated primarily on **WORDS**, whether it is words preached, words printed, words recorded, or words sung. But make no mistake about it, words are essential and vital to the proclamation of the Gospel because faith comes by hearing those words.

Miracles & **WONDERS** authenticate the Gospel and open up the hearts of people to believe. In Acts 9, we find Peter, in a town called Lydda, and there was a man who was sick of palsy. Peter heals the man, and we are told that all who dwelt in Lydda and Sharon saw the man and they turned to the Lord. Think about it, the entire populace of two towns turned to the Lord with one notable miracle!

It was the good **WORKS** in the early Church that added the oomph to the Word and Wonders. Let me say this bluntly: People are not waiting to hear the Gospel. They are waiting to see it. They are waiting to see if it's true.



People tend to believe what they see rather than what they hear. It is vital, therefore, that there is no contradiction between the two. The MacDonald's Drive-in story shows the power of good works – even in a fast food and instant gratification world – and a call, to all of us, to **shine a light, whoever and wherever we are.**

Holidays or Holy Days?

Summer is traditionally a time for holidays even though 'Global Boiling' is changing that. The word 'holiday' and 'holy day' have a similar origin. 'Holy day' has always been set aside for religious reasons. More secular meanings took over the word when these days turned into a day off work, instead of a time for religious observance.

We have been fortunate to have a number of breaks, this year, with friends, family and alone, to also reflect different milestones. Looking back, there has been a recurrent spiritual thread running through our time in Gran Canaria, Berlin, Normandy and the Netherlands...



Our journey began, in Gran Canaria, when we overheard a conversation, in the Tourist Office, and we joined the locals in an amazing public parade & performance to celebrate the Epiphany, in a hill top village. Oberammergau comes to Agüimes! Instantly, our family holiday was more poignant than my 60th birthday celebration.

May took us to Berlin, with friends. Trips to the Reichstag & Potsdam were interspersed with a tour & sightseeing, including East Side Gallery and the Wall. When the Berlin Wall came down, however, were you aware of the impact of the German Peace Movement that began in East German Churches from 1980?

The only thing the government wasn't prepared for was candles and prayers.

The Church of St. Nicholas, in Leipzig, became the epicentre for popular opposition and 'prayers for peace' meetings. By 1988, 600 people would meet on a Monday. On 9 October, 6,000 people (including hundreds of Stasi officials – the State Security), turned up at the Church, and another 65,000 in the streets. 15 days later this grew to 300,000.



The Berlin Wall fell on 9 November with candles and prayers being one contributory factor in the fall of Communism.

Holidays or Holy Days?

Germany and France have had an equally changing relationship. July saw us travel to three places, in Normandy, à la Mr. Bean style, in our small bright green car! Little did we realise what was in store for us. Three moments were stand out in: Lisieux, Mont St. Michel and Arromanches.



The Basilica of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, constructed in 1929, was a homage to St. Thérèse. Films, models and a visitor centre recounted her life story. Her message was:

Jesus doesn't look at the greatness of our acts nor their difficulty but rather at the love that brought us to them.

In contrast, Mont St. Michel revealed an act of unexpected kindness, when the Bayeux Tapestry revealed Harold, fighting on William's side, and saving two Normans from the quicksands around the island.



The Normandy coast was also the setting for the D-Day landings. On our way to the 360 cinema, above Arromanches, we unexpectedly came across a huge Crucifix, overlooking Gold Beach. The road was called Le chemin du calvaire (translated 'the way to calvary').

More poignantly, the artwork, on the cliff edge, showed soldiers emerging from the waves. A stone figure, of a 90+ year old veteran, sat looking at one of these soldiers – the 22 year old image of himself. In a flash, we appreciated that we would not have been on holiday, had it not been for their sacrifice.



Our last break, with parents, was near Utrecht, in Holland. Visits to a convent-based museum, the Oude Kerk (Old Church) and Anne Frank House were eye-opening. In fact, our holidays were full of many spirit-filled or holy days – so you can combine both!

Faith and Light International



Faith and Light
international

It began with a **Plea and a Prayer in 1968** – to be included and accepted by the established faith communities...

A family, suffering the pain of exclusion but with the faith and knowledge that their children, judged by the world to be profoundly disabled, are loved by God and Jesus, the Light of the world, who lives in them.

Denied access to the Parish pilgrimage, to Lourdes, they organised their own journey, only to be asked by their host at the hotel to eat their meals in their rooms as their presence was disturbing the other guests.

Upon sharing their experience, a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1971 was organised and people with additional needs, their families and friends were invited.

12,000 pilgrims, from 15 countries, attended with 4,000 of whom were persons with an intellectual disability, accompanied by loved ones. The Holy Spirit then proposed the birth of something that no-one had anticipated: a global community where we celebrate joy, friendship, sharing, fiesta, prayer and celebration!



'Faith and Light' communities now meet in 86 countries across the world, **carrying a message of love and welcome**. This message is at the heart of the Gospel! It reminds us that **every person, especially the frailest, is loved by God** and has their place in the Church community and in the world.

Faith and Light International

What is Faith and Light?

A Faith and Light community brings together children, adolescents or adults with intellectual disabilities, their family and friends. The members of each community meet together at least once a month for a gathering of friendship, sharing, prayer and celebration.



Faith and Light



Faith and Light
international



Contact us
3, rue du Laos 75015 Paris France
T + 33 1 53 69 44 30
international@foietlumiere.org
www.foietlumiere.org/en

Faith and Light



International movement founded in 1971
present in 86 countries

The **Trinity Community**, now based in Christ the King (CTK, North Cardiff), was set up in the 1980's by Norbert and Rhona Flynn and their daughter, Lizzie. It is one of two in Wales.

Zoom kept us going through the Pandemic; however, we have since met up with friends from Palm Community (Gorseinon), friends from L'Arche Brecon and participated in shared events with Causeway (Baptist group).

**Our Members
are a source
of inspiration
and joy!**



Where there is a friend there is a way

Marie-Hélène Mathieu



Faith and Light is founded on the belief that each person with an intellectual disability is fully a person with all the rights of a human being: above all the right to be loved, recognized and respected for herself and in the choices she makes; the right also to receive whatever help is necessary in order to grow at every level, spiritual and human.

To parents

Faith and Light gives them support in their difficulties, helps them to better recognise the inner beauty of their child and his unique vocation.

To brothers and sisters

Faith and Light allows them to discover that, even if their sister or brother has turned their life upside down, they can also transform it.



To persons with disability

Faith and Light reveals to them their call to share the riches of their heart, their tenderness and their fidelity.

To friends

Faith and Light opens up a path of friendship and commitment with the person with disabilities, whereby each one discovers in the other the presence of the risen Jesus.

To chaplains

Faith and Light offers the opportunity to rediscover in a new way the core of the Gospel message, the good news of Jesus Christ, announced to the poor and little ones; and to find a source of renewal for their ministry.



Meetings are on the second Sunday, of each month, in the Christ the King Parish Centre. There is a core group of 7 volunteers with family and friends of members with additional needs, supported, in Ministry, by Brother Brian (St. Joseph's). Five out of six of our members have been attending for decades.

Trinity Community needs friends, drivers and funds for taxis. If you can help or want to join (guests are welcome!) contact: Lesley Kelleher, Trinity Community Co-Ordinator (07973 373 263) or Gabriela Todd, Vice Principal Co-Ordinator for Wales (07803 770 962). We also go to the Welcome Space, in CTK, on a Wednesday (see page 17).

To find out more, click here: www.foietlumiere.org (in three languages – right hand corner).

Strength in Adversity

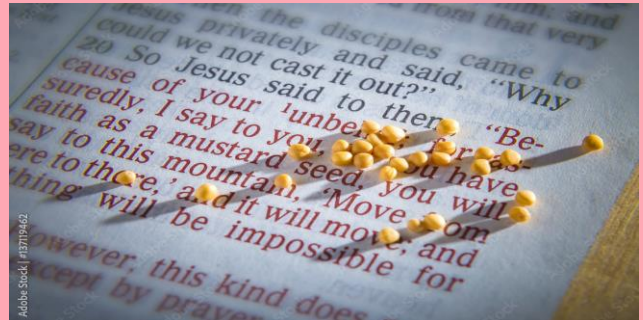
An abridged homily reproduced with the kind permission of Fr. Peter Davies (Cardiff & Vale Chaplaincy Team):

If any of us were looking to establish a new project, we'd hope to attract people with the best possible talents to join us. We'd want people with lots of energy and enthusiasm, people with good connections and sharp minds; and in order to help get things off the ground, it's always handy to have a bit of money in the bank from supporters!

But those weren't the people Our Lord focused on. The healthy, the wealthy and the well-educated, were of course welcome to join the Church that Our Lord was building, but as St. Paul said:

God chose what is weak, low and despised

And so, many of the first Christians were the poorest, sickest and weakest people in Society. Many of these people were helped or healed by Our Lord.



All that was required was to have faith in Him, and then only faith as small as a mustard seed.

The minute you ask, His divine ear is listening

But the Kingdom of God, is still to come in its fullness. And as we wait for the day when God will fully transform everything, we live with sin, poverty and sickness...

Yet, when we respond to the invitation to '**come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened**' Our Lord takes our burdens and transforms us. Indeed, our troubles and burdens may be the things that lead us to seek God & give him the space to enter our lives.

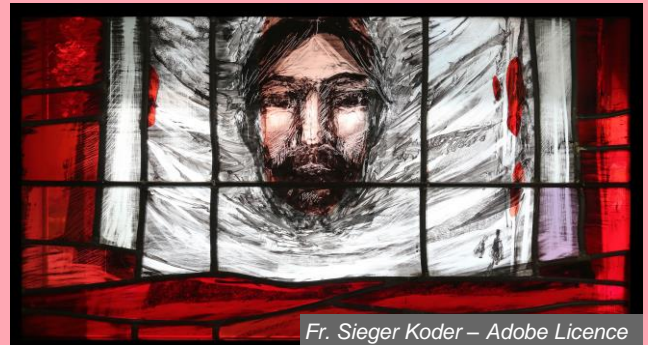
Strength in Adversity

A friend of mine suffers from chronic schizophrenia. He's too unwell to hold down a job or care for himself and he's in and out of hospital. He may appear mentally broken and poor, but he has a depth of relationship with God that shines through it all. **He's mentally unwell, but spiritually he's richer and healthier than most people.** I once visited him in the secure unit in Whitchurch hospital. As we sat on the grass, next to the security fencing, he talked about life and God.



Fr. Sieger Koder – Adobe Licence

He asked me, why God hadn't answered his prayers for healing from schizophrenia? All I could say was, 'if you had good health, a wife and family, a good job and a nice house, would you be as close to God as you are?' He thought about it and recognised that **his illness had played a large part in forming his deep experience of God.**

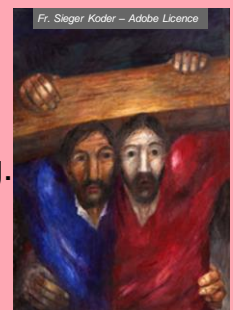


Fr. Sieger Koder – Adobe Licence

His worldly poverty, meant he was open to spiritual riches; his loneliness meant he was open to receive the love of God; and his mental state meant he was open to seeing God in his small, everyday experiences.

Some of our burdens are the result of our own actions and some are caused by others. But all of them flow from Adam & Eve's decision to walk their own path. The whole story of the Bible, however, isn't just of God's judgement, but of his grace & mercy.

The Cross of Christ is the weight of all human sin, sorrow and suffering. And it is to Him that we need to be yoked to find **peace, joy and rest for our souls.**



Fr. Sieger Koder – Adobe Licence

Corpus Christi

We are very proud of our rich Catholic faith, our history and our Welsh heritage and serving the Archdiocese of Cardiff. Our mission commits us to place **Christ at the centre of all we do**. Corpus Christi is a welcoming, inspiring and close-knit Catholic community, based on Gospel values, where there is a sense of belonging and care in the Kingdom of God.



Catholic Social Teaching is used to instil in our learners **a sense of social justice, to care for others and the world**. Here are some of our activities during the past academic year, 2022-23:



For the first time since 2019, students gathered to worship and celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. With 900 of our own students and over 120 Year 6 students from some of our feeder primary schools, students and staff gathered in the sports hall. It was a real pleasure to celebrate Mass for our feast day. Father Andy, presiding at the Mass, spoke about the importance of the mission we have been tasked with. The event was a wonderful celebration of what we are and live for.

One week later, during sunnier weather, in June, we invited the Gideon Society to distribute New Testament Bible's to our Year 7's, 8's and 9's. Our Headmaster hoped the gift would guide them throughout time in school & life.



Corpus Christi

The **Young Missionaries of Mary** meet weekly, in the Chapel. As a school we continue to link with the World Apostolate of Fatima who provide resources for our students. The group promotes the Rosary and message of Fatima, helped by our chaplain, JR.

Drawing on our mission, Mrs McKeever set up the **Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) group**. SVP is the 'Apostle of Charity'. As a result, our students take social action and make a difference. They learn new skills, build friendships and grow in faith. During the year they did CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, held a second-hand uniform shop & locals donated prom dresses.

Photos: Corpus Christi



Our '**First Give program**' covers Catholic social teaching and social issues affecting our communities. Students researched local charities and chose one to represent. Charities such as Tenovus and Children in Wales were invited to meet the Year 8 class, so that students could learn more about their work and how to help them.

Students planned and delivered their social action activities in support of their charity. On the final day of the program, each class competed to gain £1000 for their charity. The groups were coached on presentation and public speaking skills, with **Christ at the centre of all we do**.

Feed my Sheep

Food is very much in the News. From local food banks and the cost-of-living crisis to world-wide grain shipments affected by the war in Ukraine. Famines continue and there are increasing crises in relation to devastation wrought by persecution, fires and climate change.

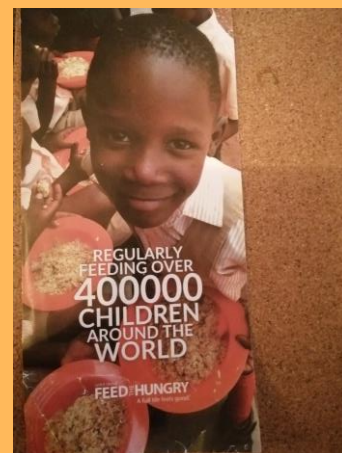
In 1987 Dr Lester Sumrall heard a message from God that changed his life and the lives of hundreds of thousands of children for years to come...

Global Feed The Hungry was born that night

In 1987, the first food was distributed to those in need in the Philippines.

Since then, food has been distributed: across Eastern Europe, via churches, following the collapse of Communism in 1989; in war-torn Bosnia in 1993; in the wake of the North Korean famine of 1998 and as part of the relief effort, in the Indian Ocean, following the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004. 11 International offices now exist to co-ordinate relief.

Some may ask why we should help these countries and crises when we have challenges at home. Likewise, some may question the merits of helping regimes that are corrupt (is the West spotless?) or who spend millions on arms and not people. These are valid concerns, and we must each determine if and how we can help.



Eileen Foster (St. Paul's, Cardiff) decided to attend a Feed the Hungry event, in Marshfield, organised by the Gateway Christian Fellowship. 5,000 emergency meal packs were prepared for persecuted Christians in Burkina Faso. Individuals, faith groups, churches or schools can help by **praying, engaging (like Eileen) or donating** – see www.fth.org.uk Give us this day our daily bread. Amen.

What's Happening in the Neighbourhood?

WELCOME SPACE

Christ the King Parish Centre
Newborough Avenue
Llanishen

**Every Wednesday
from 11am**

Free Tea, Coffee, Hot & Cold Snacks

Crafts, Board Games, Books, Newspapers, Music,
Sustainable Clothes & Free Wi-Fi
OR
Just come along for a chat & catch-up



New for September - Singalong Sessions, Keepfit/
Tai Chi, Reflexology, Guest Speakers!

YOUR LOCAL NEW WELCOME SPACE



Looking for work - can you help?

One of St. Brigid's (North Cardiff) Food Market guests is a Sri Lankan lady, who speaks Tamil and a little English. Rajila has been here for 2 years, lives locally and is looking for work.

She has been a seamstress for 25 years: making and mending women's and children's clothes. When we last saw her she was wearing a beautiful self-made dress!

If you can offer Rajila any work, or a job, please call either **Callista (07738 264 176)** or **Tania (07549 937 812)**.

FREE – SUSTAINABLE CLOTHES, SHOES, AND BOOKS MARKET

EVERYONE WELCOME!

TEA & COFFEE

FREE CLOTHES, SHOES
BOOKS



UPCYCLE /RECYCLE

REDUCE WASTE

REDUCE CARBON

**EVERY 3RD SATURDAY
OF THE MONTH
1pm – 5PM**

AT CHRIST THE KING PARISH CENTRE, NEWBOROUGH AVENUE, CF14 5AA

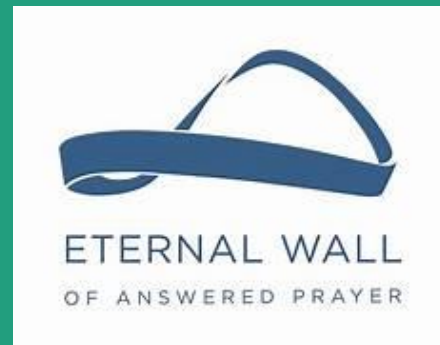
What's Happening in the Nation?

Land Blessing - Over 3 days, in June 2023, hundreds of people from across the broad Church joined together in unity, prayer & purpose for a groundbreaking UK Christian project '**The Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer**' (www.eternalwall.org.uk/)

Christians from 19 denominations, leaders and locals, young and old, from near and far, gathered on the Eternal Wall site to dedicate the land to God, to see His kingdom come and His will be done through this project. Watch the video here:



The Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer is a national Christian monument being raised in the heart of the UK (Coleshill, the Midlands), reaching 50m into the sky. This is following a God-appointed directive to a man called Richard Gamble, 18 years ago, to build a wall with 1 million bricks reflecting 1 million stories of answered prayers.



The vision of the project aims to a) reveal Christ to the Nations b) ignite prayer on a global level c) preserve stories from our Christian heritage.

The construction of the access road began in 2023 and the landmark is due to open in 2026

Cardiff-based Emelyne Burkhard, a Regional Champion volunteer for the project, was present for the Land Blessing and commented: "The presence of God was tangible as over 100 believers united in prayer & worship. Hundreds of thousands of people a week will see this structure as they pass by on planes, cars & HS2. This is a stake in the ground for Jesus today."

What's Happening in the Nation?

Emelyne added that this ground-breaking engineering, design and artwork will make hope visible through the stories of Jesus Christ in people's lives past and present.

You are encouraged to add your own stories of answered prayer anytime here:

www.eternalwall.org.uk/testimony (they will be viewed on the Wall using technology).



Come visit and prayer walk the land!

If interested to have a day away to retreat, reflect and pray individually, or in a group, contact Emelyne (emelyne@hotmail.co.uk)

The UK-wide Church can visit from Sept 2023 – March 2024 before construction gets underway, with opening in 2026. **More news and updates in future issues!**



'The Lion of Judah'

Poem by Faye Sirohi

*Seasons change and rivers flow
From mountains high to valleys low
Ever onward, ever forward
What once began beneath
rocks of ages past
Has carved a path and at long last
Grew strong and bold, untamed and roaring
Like the Lion of Judah: unafraid,
unashamed, relentlessly roaring
From strength to strength and glory to glory
So the prayers of God's people
are writing a story
Of love so wild, so pure, so piercingly bright
Shaken neither by time nor terror, neither
depth nor height
Neither powers above or forces below
But as the seasons change
and the rivers flow
We the people of God
will keep telling the story
Of Christ, the Lion of Judah,
to Him be the Glory.*

Faye read her beautiful poem at the Eternal Wall Land Blessing day. Faye is a Christian actress, writer and producer of 'Leap of Faith' @leapoffaithshort – a short crowdfunded film about overcoming your fears through faith.



Scan QR code to read digitally or to view back issues.

**For enquiries:
grapevinepublication@gmail.com**

All rights reserved.