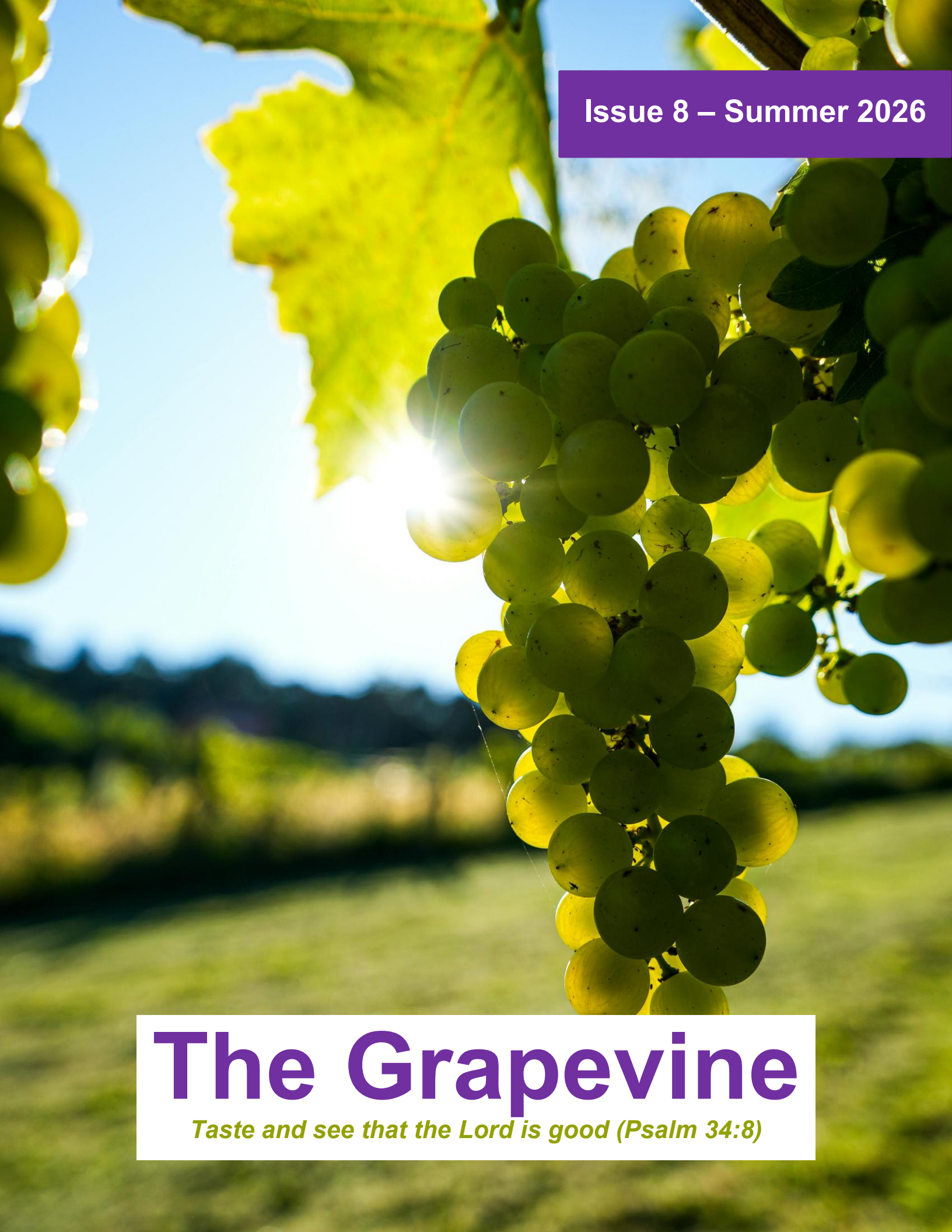

Issue 8 – Summer 2026

The Grapevine

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

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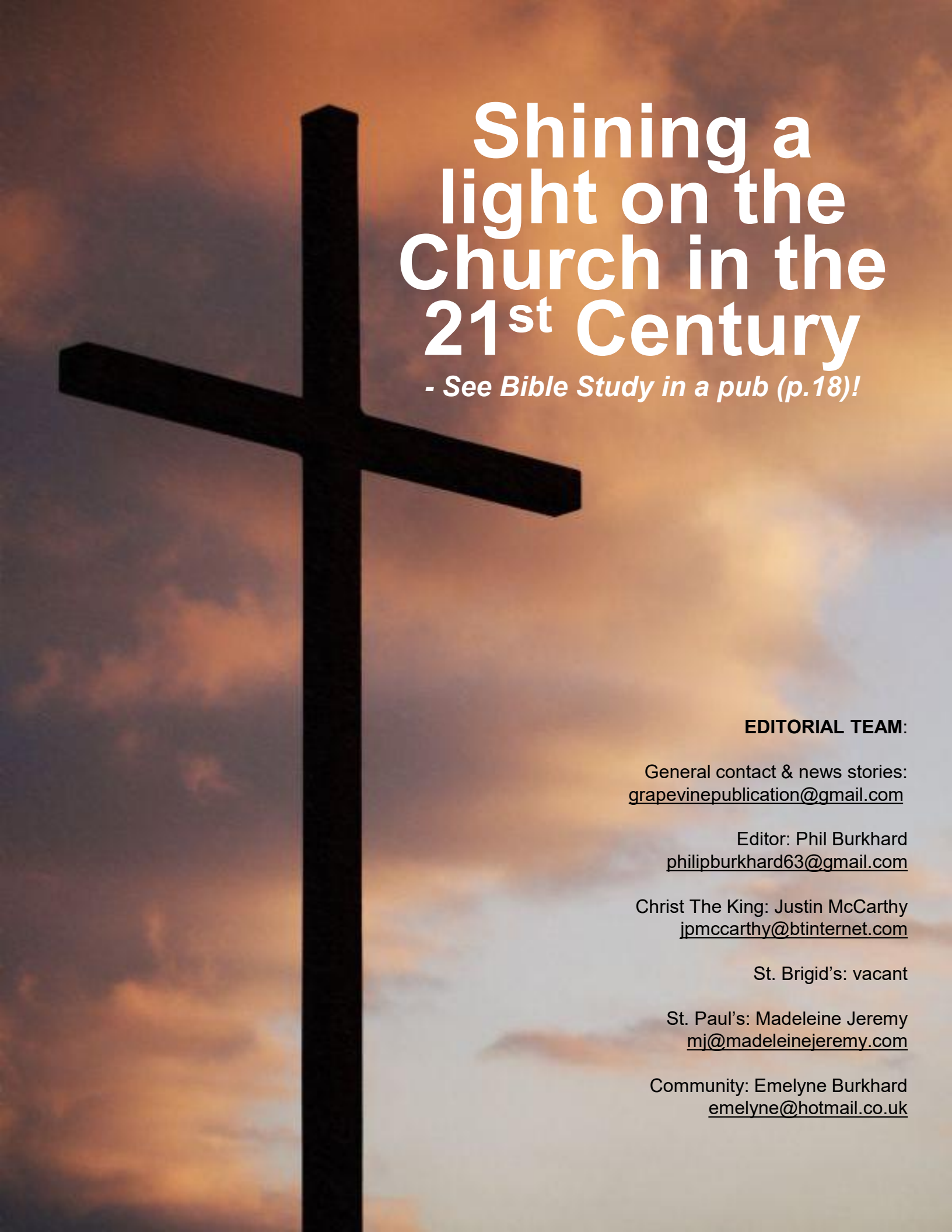
Faith
Hope
&
Love

"I am the vine; you are the branches"
(John 15:5)



Shining a light on the Church in the 21st Century

- See Bible Study in a pub (p.18)!

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Welcome Everyone

Welcome to the 8th issue of The Grapevine! This is produced by the 3 Churches in North Cardiff with contributors and an audience from the wider Christian 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**.

This issue has a focus on unity but viewed through the lens of individual testimonies. There are also different views on what Church looks like, including a famous one and drones! Pupils and students mix with pools and perfume, too!

Contact us: grapevinepublication@gmail.com

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

Office Glory Story!

Uche is from Vineyard Church and works for Aviva Insurance. He also leads the Christian network in the company. Not too long ago, Uche felt God ask him to start giving out free Bibles and Christian art at his office. Click on the video opposite, to discover more. St. Paul said: "meet people where they are at". **How do you share the Good News?**

Revival and not Rivals

Students and seasoned evangelists, from multiple Christian churches, as part of the Wales Revival Alliance, recently joined many local churches, in Rhondda to support revival in the Valleys. It was too wet to meet at the statue of Our Lady of Penrhys so we gathered at Providence Church, Ystrad. ‘Rhondda’ is often thought to mean “noisy” (referring to the river) or “babbling brook”. Both are apt when music, prayer and worship will flow at Blessed Fest – to encourage revival as **One Church.**

Youngsters show the Way

In Mark 10:15 Jesus says: “Truly I say to you, whoever, does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it…” David and Natalie Marsh submitted the following, last year, and it also **reminds us how we can learn from children…**

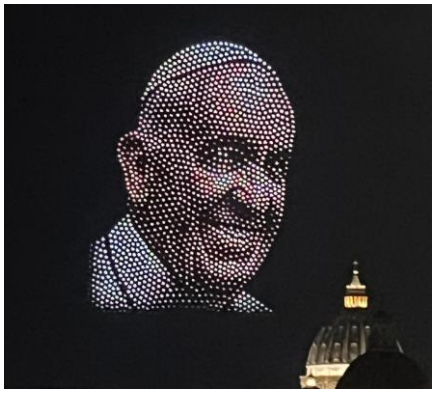
Our son, Rudy Marsh, is in Year 3 at Christ the King Primary School. He was reading a book called**: "The boy who started Celtic"** about an Irish Marist Brother who created a football club in Glasgow in 1887 to alleviate poverty. In the book, Brother Walfrid organises some matches to raise money to feed locals in need - ‘Poor Children’s Dinner Table’.

Rudy thought, we could do that too and decided he wanted to set up games with school friends and have people pay to watch. With the help of the school (who let us use the grounds), the energy of the children and the generosity of parents and families, Rudy made this happen and the children raised over £600 for the Food Market held in St Brigid’s every third Saturday of the month. It was a fantastic day and all the boys and girls should be very proud of themselves. All the Year 3 children who could make it took park, and 4 friends from Year 2 joined to make up 4 teams, meaning a total of 6 matches took place. Parents helped to coach the teams and a great time was had by all.

Grace for the World

Fabrizio Falsini, from Christ the King RC Church, Cardiff, was in his native Rome, along with his wife and family, for his son's wedding, in September 2025.

It was a celebration for the Falsinis but they witnessed an even greater spectacle when, as nearby onlookers, they joined 250,000 people, gathered in St. Peter's Square, for the **Grace for the World Concert** (click on image to view). Fabrizio took these photos of the 3000 drones shining a light on the World.



The Concert was co-directed by Pharell Williams and maestro Andrea Bocelli, along with the Holy See. It was an historic occasion as it was the first time a music event had been held inside Bernini's majestic and enchanting marble columns. It was the Vatican's way of ending a World Meeting on Human Fraternity and part of the 2025 Papal Jubilee / 'Pilgrims of Hope' theme.

Jesus at the Pool and Door

Alastair is from **Vineyard Church**, in Cardiff, and a student evangelist on the Kingdom Equipping course, run by the Wales Revival Alliance. This is Alastair's witness to meeting Jesus at an unlikely place and time…

Myself and my wife are foster parents and in June 2022 we had a chance of some respite and planned a last-minute break week away in the sun. We wanted a change to rest and recuperate so we found a hotel in Tunisia. One thing that attracted us to the hotel was the large swimming pool with pool bar.

I'm not much of a reader, but I took the opportunity to take a book with me and hopefully find time to read it.

I have to say at this stage that I have a heart for the lost and recognise some gifting in evangelism. I had purchased some helpful books on the subject. One of which was a glossy white book about how to use the short time we have in an encounter with people to share the gospel. I thought this a good choice and packed it ready for the trip.

We checked into the hotel and got changed and went to the pool area.
I thought it was an opportunity to read the book I had brought. The strange thing was that it wasn't the book I thought I had packed. It was a bright red book entitled **'Jesus At The Door'** by Scott McNamara.

As we walked outside towards the pool I noticed a woman walking past us. I felt the Holy Spirit as we passed which I wasn't expecting. When we found a place to sit, I opened the book. Again, I felt the Holy Spirit even stronger than before. I decided this book was important and started to read it…

Jesus at the Pool and Door

I spent the next few days reading about the nine steps you can take someone through sharing the gospel message. It is based on Rev 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me”. I spent another day learning the 9 steps off by heart.

Later that day I thought it was time to try it out. I went in the pool and sat up at the bar and ordered a G&T with ice. Other than the barman I was the only one in the pool. I took a couple of sips of my drink and was joined by the woman I saw on the first day we arrived. She sat next to me, ordered a drink and said “hello.” We chatted for a minute or two and then I started step 1 of the 9 with her. She seemed receptive and was happy to listen. When I got to step 8 I asked her if I could pray for her to feel the Holy Spirit. As I prayed, she shook. It was powerful and I felt God’s presence.

After the prayer I asked her: “How was that ?” She had a stunned look and said: **“That was amazing, it’s like electricity, wow!“.** I asked her if she was ready to open the door to Jesus and she was.

The pool had started to get busier and the seats at the bar were filling up. I turned to the guy to my left and we started to talk. Again, I started at step 1 with him. When we reached Step 8 I prayed for him to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He was like a statue, didn’t move a muscle. I thought to myself, “oh that last encounter was a one off.” After I had finished praying, I asked: “how was that ?” he replied**: “I have never felt so peaceful in all my life”.** He also opened the door to Jesus and prayed a prayer of salvation.

In the book it says evangelism is like an apple tree. The fruit varies in ripeness. All God requires is that we share and He shakes.

Love Never Fails

Dead from the inside

As a Buddhist, from Thailand, I believed that life is suffering and I was my own saviour in climbing a ladder of purity, a way out of this suffering world. It sounded logical until, in my late 30s, despite many good deeds, things just collapsed. I started wondering how good is good enough and who is keeping my karma's account?

My life up to that point was busy climbing a ladder of happiness, like a hamster on the hamster wheel. It was unnoticed until the hamster wheel stopped and I realised, good education, reputable career, married with children, and wealth did not bring joy, but worse, it stole my soul. Constant pressure made me easily irritable and harsh. Alone at night, a flood of emotions overwhelmed me - guilt, shame, fear, anger, and horrible thoughts. I did not like who I had become, but how to stop?

I was angry with something I did not know, nor did I know how to fight it. I turned my anger against others. I carried on with life, being dead from the inside, but satisfied myself with excuses and avoided looking at the part I did not want to see. I only managed to deceive myself and dug for myself a deeper hole, too deep to come out of.

Meeting Jesus

During those tormenting periods, I went to church with my family, expecting to meditate to Buddha, but I met Jesus instead. I heard a message of Love, the Father's Love for me. God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus, to break up that vicious cycle 2,000 years ago. Jesus' death on the Cross paid the sin penalty, and on the resurrection, Jesus Christ offers His new life to anyone who 'wants' a second chance. That's me!

Love Never Fails

I was desperately trying to get out of this tormenting cycle. So, with my heart believing and my mouth asking Jesus Christ for His forgiveness of sin, I received His new life. God the Holy Spirit came inside of me; I was born again in the Spirit and I knew I was alive!

God's love sustains me

The only thing I can sum up about the experience is that God's Love touched my heart and things changed forever from then on. God set me free from the trap of guilt and darkness; He took away my stony heart and gave me a heart of flesh. It is a miracle that I can love people from my heart for 'who' they are, not 'what' they do. I can love because he Loved me!

As I continue on my journey, despite my wrongdoing and weakness, God's Love never fails to lead me back to him. With peace and a joyful heart, things look more beautiful that way.

The change is from the inside; it is beyond me. Our God is a living God and his love endures forever.

On the outside, I am now spreading the Good News through Cardiff Evangelism Hub (Ehub) and Books Plus Cardiff. The Ehub is a group of Christians from many churches. The team go out every Tuesday into different locations. This year the group has started a Bible reading in the Heath Hospital Concourse on a Wednesday afternoon. Books Plus Cardiff is also at the hospital. This was set up with the support of local churches 25 years ago! Please partnership with us by praying, volunteering, donating or via a book evening (10% discount) – email us at: Cardiff@books-plus.org.uk

Kwan Johns (Kingdom Equipping team, Cardiff Ehub and volunteer at Books Plus).

Expensive Perfume

Anna Boldizsar is Hungarian, a member of **Compassion Church**, Bridgend and a student evangelist on the Kingdom Equipping course. Here is Anna's witness...

I am sitting in a cabin in Pegomas (French Riviera), 20 minutes away from Grasse: the most famous place for perfumes. My husband took me and our 16 years old daughter to the Molinard Perfume factory recently, where we could create a 50 ml unique perfume from 90 ingredients. It was amazing, interesting and exciting!

Once I bought an expensive perfume for my beloved husband in 2012. It was a Gucci Guilty Intense. It was nearly brand new. One dark morning he came down on the stairs and switched the light on but with the same move broke the bottle. At first, I was a little bit angry. Later I was happy that it happened in that way because not just the living room, but the whole house had an extravagant smell that I liked pretty much.

Do you remember the lady who purposely broke an expensive bottle of perfume in the Bible? Mary Magdalene was a prostitute who knelt at Jesus' feet and anointed them with rare perfume. Weeping, her tears fell on his feet and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. Jesus said to the woman: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:50)

If we imagine that we are the bottle and the presence of God is the most expensive perfume - it makes us want to cherish it. We can't buy it as it is priceless but by faith we can have as much as we want and it will never run out. Wow!! But there can be still a price: we should allow God to break our ego, pride, hiding things to be revealed, and have an intimate relationship with the Most Holy One. If we spray a good perfume on our body, it can last for a few hours, maybe a day. But if we pour the whole glass of liquid on us, we will be saturated in the aroma and everybody will know / smell that we are carrying something special.

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us spreads and makes evident everywhere the SWEET FRAGRANCE of the knowledge of Him." (2 Corinthians 2:14 AMP). **Let's spread it!** God bless you all.

Hardship and Hope

Michelle is another member of the evangelising Kingdom Equipping team. **This is her story of hope for all…**

Michelle's mother had two children, was divorced, an alcoholic and a prostitute. Michelle was born in 1968 and the product of the latter life. Her mother walked out when she was 3 months old and she was left, with her siblings, for 3 days, with no food or water, until a friend kicked the door down. She was then put in care from 3-11 years old but suffered an abusive time at the hands of a 'Christian' couple. She ran way and felt safer on the streets. The latter unhappy experience repeated itself when she left a secure unit, at 14, and had an early pregnancy and abortion at 15 – feeling withdrawn and like a part of her had gone.

Eventually Michelle found herself with 'community parents', who were trained to deal with troubled teenagers. A life in jumble sale clothes, not knowing how to apply make up and no holidays was transformed, as she says, "from rags to riches". Sadly, the couple divorced and

Michelle went into lodgings when 18. The years passed with moving from and back to Wales & having her own four children.

One day, her oldest son asked if he could go to Church on Good Friday as his school said that they were offering hot cross buns. This resulted in Michelle enrolling them in Sunday School, with the City Temple (Swansea) – a church, unlike another she knew, that felt alive. Amazingly, the wider family, including her ex-husband, started joining her and she was saved, baptised and married in the same year – 1999. Michelle is now living on her own. Despite a Christian therapist helping her she says that **"God began a good work in me. I know that I am loved by Him. He has given me hope. Bless anyone who reads my story."**

Shine Your Light

In 2023 National Day of Prayer & Worship (NDOPW) started the ‘Shine Your Light’ initiative. Basically, encouraging believers to come together, as one, and shine for Jesus at Christmas time. Each year Christalla Bailey had a yearning for Cardiff to embrace this. In January 2025, while fasting and praying, Christalla asked God what He wanted for 2025. Shine Your Light in Cardiff was on the list…

Life had been busy and challenging, even with health but Christalla kept hoping someone from Cardiff would organise an event. The clock was ticking and it wasn’t happening. She registered an event for Cardiff with NDOPW and rang them asking if anyone from Cardiff had been in touch. She spoke to a lady called Rachel and as they talked the Holy Spirit touched Christalla and she was in tears realising God wanted her to organise it.

Christalla said: “Before I knew it I had an event planned! Firstly, I shared the heart and vision, then the people and details fell into place. I knew exactly where in Cardiff City centre it was to take place. I saw it.”

The event went ahead at 2pm on 13th December 2025 at the Alliance Statue, in front of Cardiff Library. The statue was created by a French man and depicts the coming together of the old and the new.

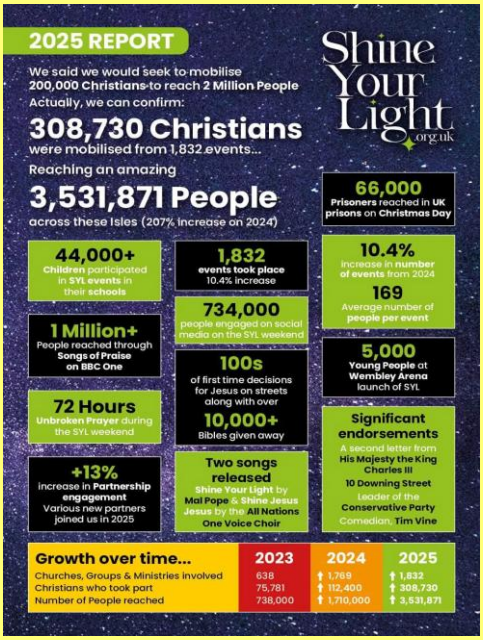
Christalla and her husband, Ken, first gathered in a city centre coffee shop, on the morning of the event, to pray with 13 other people. One lady said that God woke her, that morning, and told her to cancel her plans and attend the event,. By 1.30pm the group made their way to the Alliance and en route came across Christians, from London, who had come to Cardiff for the day to evangelise.

Shine Your Light

They spoke in Spanish and used an interpreter on the mic and preached until the Cardiff programme started - preparing the ground by releasing God's word.

The event included people waving flags, dancing and singing. Song sheets were distributed to all along with the true meaning of Christmas gospel tracts (donated by the Pocket Testament League), with nearly 300 handed out!

The photos on this page give a feel for the event along with a summary report of the events that were run across the UK. Shoppers stopped to talk or just stare, including a Muslim family who wanted to know more about the Christmas story and others who shared testimonies on the open mic. **The day was truly one of Christian unity** with people from Love Wales, Mission 24, Rainbow of Hope, Ainon Church, Park End Church, Christ the King RC Church, Global World Outreach Ministry, City Church, Thornhill Church, Cogic Church and All Nations coming together. See video opposite.



How does Society see the Church?

Niall Walshe is a Christian who has run a ministry in London which included taking homeless people off the streets; led missions to Zimbabwe, Romania, Russia and Sri Lanka and writes books (e.g. 'Whatever Happened to the Good News?'). What follows is some of Niall's views from his latest book 'Powerless and Irrelevant'…

I believe Society, overall, views the Church as spiritually powerless and, therefore, irrelevant. Not that attendance figures are in irreversible decline. The isolation created by covid and tech dependence, – along with dissatisfaction with a dysfunctional world - has led to members of Gen Z, in particular, now attending churches.

By Church, I refer to those who have faith in Jesus Christ, awareness of their need for a Saviour, whose lives have been transformed by the Gospel and who are not unused to experiencing the Holy Spirit's power in their lives, as well as those seeking to be in such a position. But today, churches minister mostly through social work programmes, some attendees seek only social engagement, some attend for other reasons that do not necessitate faith in, or any interest in faith in, Jesus Christ nor a personal awareness of their need for a Saviour. It is this form of church that has *"…a form of godliness but denying its power."* (2 Tim 3:5) Operating in human power alone, albeit with the best of motives, this is not Biblical Christianity.

Most who do enter a church will be entering an arena where the very thing that Jesus taught would lead to the Church's eventual demise is practiced every week: Matthew 9:17, *"Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

This parable is about mixing Old and New Covenants, and the teaching from Jesus is that the mixing of the two results in the ruination of both. That is the situation today and is why I believe Society views the Church as powerless and irrelevant.

How does Society see the Church?

This mixing is now so embedded that it is believed to be Christianity. But it is not Biblical Christianity. All the foundational doctrines of Christianity have been corrupted by the importation of Old Covenant doctrines, laws and practices into the New Covenant. One example: repentance taught by Jesus is the acceptance of being lost and the acceptance of being found, as taught by Him in the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son in Luke 15. Yet most Christians apply Old Covenant teachings of repentance being initiated by a person, drawing a response from God, being repeatedly carried out, a pledge to strive against a particular sin and so on.

Mixing Old Covenant and New Covenant replaces the familial relationship with God offered through the New Covenant with the distant, performance-related relationship with God offered in the Old Covenant (i.e. only getting saved by good works and not God's grace). Thus, most Christians never move into the multitude of promises for Christians in the New Covenant.

A transformational example: Christians living fully in the New Covenant, in a familial relationship with God, will know the empowering joy of Jesus' promise, John 6:27, that, *"…whoever comes to Me I will never drive away."* No doubts or fears, no sense of unworthiness or failure – issues that today still weaken many a Christian.

If you are interested in exploring or discussing the issues raised here please contact Niall.Walshe@gmail.com for information on his recently published book, *"Powerless and Irrelevant: How Society sees the Church and how to radically change that view"* as well as details about a one-day teaching event based around the material in the book.

Living Stones

The Apostles and about 120 believers gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem to pray after Jesus' ascension. In contrast, up to ten of us (including the Editor) meet, every Tuesday night, in the Ffynnon Wen Pub, Thornhill, also for friendship and fellowship, amongst many pubgoers.

The group is called Living Stones. It was birthed by Community Bible Study(CBS) and then linked to Thornhill Church. CBS is a global Christian organisation, founded in 1975, and provides Bible studies for all age groups and stages of life. It provides a way to navigate the Bible.

The concept of "living stones" comes from the New Testament, primarily in 1 Peter 2:4-5. It is a metaphor used to describe believers as active, interconnected parts of a spiritual building or temple with Jesus Christ as the "cornerstone".

It is fitting, therefore, that the group is now made up from people from many churches and facilitated by JB, who attends Nation Changers Church, in Merthyr. We truly represent **'One Church'** with at least one member saying he would think twice about attending if it represented a single church.

We do enjoy the odd pint but actually 'drink up' what we learn from each other. For example, at the end of the session we are all encouraged to share our 'prayer and praise', so that we can collectively pray for one another.

The Editor took this idea to the 3 Churches monthly foodbank, in St. Brigid's RC Church, in Cardiff, where we created a spiritual table as the final table to pass. On the table are flowers, grapes, spiritual literature and bookmarks, with Hillsong playing and two books: one for prayers and the other for thanks (praise).

Guests have freely come to the table and in 4 months we have seen a doubling of the content in the two books. The volunteers typically then pray for the intentions when the guests have gone. Guests are now prompting more conversations about God. The foodbank is providing more than social outreach.

Likewise, pubgoers have asked the Living Stones group questions and one came across from the Land Rover group and said he'd rather be with us! So, **church does not have be conventional!**

Youth Retreat: A Reflection

The Emmaus Youth Mission (Archdiocese of Cardiff-Minerva), hosts faith-based events and retreats for young people. This is a reflection from Mariah, a student from St. David's Catholic Sixth Form College, who attended a Lenten Youth Retreat…

The Emmaus retreat challenged me in the most meaningful way. It became a day of personal honesty — particularly about how I spend my time and where I place my attention. We began with praise and worship, which gently quietened my mind and helped me become present.

Do I give as much time to prayer as I give to distractions?

A talk on distraction, particularly through screen time and social media, led me to reflect deeply. I realised how easily I fill silence with noise, avoiding stillness. Yet in doing so, I may also be pushing aside the quiet presence of God

During our Bible study, I found it quite interesting how one passage of Scripture could speak so differently to each person. The discussion was thoughtful and sincere, and it reminded me that the Bible is truly living and active. God meets each of us where we are, and faith deepens when we listen not only to Scripture, but to one another.

Mass and Adoration were the most moving parts of the day. Seeing the Blessed Sacrament placed at the centre of the space during Adoration made something clear to me: **Christ's presence in my life is constant and central, yet often quiet.** It reminded me that when God is truly at the centre, much clarity and calmness follow. The retreat helped me understand that faith does not grow by chance — it grows when we…

Intentionally create space for God

I left feeling more aware, more reflective, and more determined to choose presence over worldly distractions, with Christ at the centre of my life.

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