



# CONTACT

*October & November 2025*

*Where strangers become friends*

## WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

If you would like to find out more about the Church and its activities, more details can be found on our website:

[www.gasgreen.org.uk](http://www.gasgreen.org.uk)

or Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/GasGreenBaptistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/GasGreenBaptistChurch)

Alternatively, you may like to get in touch via any of the contact details given below:

### **Minister:**

Revd. Iain Hoskins

Tel: 01242 573386 / 07867 524262

E-mail: [minister@gasgreen.org.uk](mailto:minister@gasgreen.org.uk)

### **Secretary:**

Tony Dymock

Tel: 01242 244594

E-mail: [secretary@gasgreen.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gasgreen.org.uk)



### **Treasurer:**

Debbie Bonanos

Tel: 07835 608823

E-mail: [treasurer@gasgreen.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@gasgreen.org.uk)

### **Magazine Editor:**

Tony Dymock

Tel: 01242 244594

E-mail: [secretary@gasgreen.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gasgreen.org.uk)

Articles for the Magazine to the Editor please - see back page for magazine deadline.

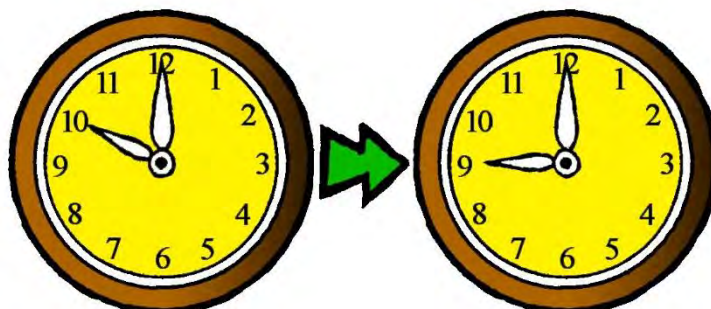
Weekly notices to Tony Dymock  
(Tel: 01242 244594 or  
E-mail: [secretary@gasgreen.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gasgreen.org.uk))  
by Thursday evening at the latest.

Prayer requests to Debbie Bonanos  
E-mail: [deborahbonanos@gmx.co.uk](mailto:deborahbonanos@gmx.co.uk)  
by 12 midday Wednesday

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## **REMEMBER!**

**Clocks go BACK 1 hour on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October**





## FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

The journey taken in the pursuit of a 'calling' does indeed reveal a person who has been long hidden or as Marva Dawn says in *The Unnecessary Pastor*, she/he has been hiding behind a 'glittering image...' The true self is allowed to unfold through the process of thinking, writing, and responding to difficult questions about motives, understanding and intentions of who I am. Dawn argues that for many Christians they would rather remain behind a glittering image instead of standing out, saying and doing those things that we know God has called us to.

Christian disciples are called to be imitators of Christ and the church needs those who manifest the qualities of love, joy, peace and role models who others can look to for guidance and wisdom so that they can understand and know that to be marked out is a positive step. We learn the glory and mystery of praise that will set us free from ourselves in order that we can do the work that is our calling.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus enables us to listen to the bass line of our hearts and so recognise our role as a servant and what it means to be church. For whether or not we are ordained we are all members of the priesthood of all believers. Being a disciple is about obedience to God's will upon our lives, so that God will receive the glory as we witness His gifts being worked out in practice.

We are not independent thinkers although we would like to think we are, we are often to be found struggling on our own to discover the next magical moment that will set our ministry alight, yes, we all have a ministry. However, we are to be subordinate to all that God has revealed of himself through scripture and his spirit at work in our lives. I ask myself whether I am one of those people, who say, 'I do not need others, I can do it,' is there not a touch of superiority here? Peterson argues that the Apostle Paul demonstrates none of this in his ministry because his mental powers have been subdued and become submissive to what has been handed to him in scripture. Here we see a demonstration of the humility that comes with being called, recognised, and appointed to the task. Paul is an example to us of how we should live our lives as disciples. Gifted by God yet in submission to Christ who called us out from one type of work to another, this ministry. We are not physically or mentally different now that we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, but it is his relationship to ourselves, peers, family, scripture, and God that is different. All Christians have to ask whether or not we are users of the scriptures or submissive to them?

To be called is to accept the call of God upon your life in a special way. God is asking for a further act of submission to Him and his will. He is asking you to go a further step in your discipleship and relationship to him, because he wants the best for you and the community, he has called you to serve.

If you'd like a conversation with Iain, give me a call 07867524262

## **ENGAGING WITH CONTEMPORARY CULTURE**

A day focussed on the above subject was held as part of the EMD programme at Bristol Baptist College (Equipping Missional Disciples). It was well worth attending as we discussed how we reach out to others in our present day culture. People aren't interested in being told they are wrong, or that they need to get saved, or go to church. What they need is people to listen to them, engage with where they are at right now in their present lives, with its joys and challenges.

We looked at identifying our own personal frontlines - it could be your work place, your neighbours, your family, those you meet at gym , the other mums and dads at the school gate, or while out shopping, your mates at the pub, or local allotment. It will look different for each one of us.

One thing that I have taken away is that God has uniquely and intentionally positioned us in a certain location, at this particular time for His purposes, as salt and light. That is our frontline and where we can best serve Him because He has put us there. That is a great antidote for feeling that possibly you are in the wrong job or neighbourhood and feeling 'stuck'.

Another key take away for me was that reaching out to others is much simpler than we have made it in our own minds - possibly we have listened to too many 'how to evangelise' courses - but simplicity is key and I have reduced it to the acronym - **K.I.S.S. - Keep it Simple Sunshine.**

What is going on in our frontline? Who are these people ? What do they love, hate and hope for? It is not about having all the answers but asking the questions - everyone has a need to know and be known. That is how God made each one of us.

You have probably heard the expression, 'being so heavenly minded, and no earthly good'. We live in a complex world, people are complex and as believers and followers of Jesus, noticing what is going on in our culture and how it affects people and their thinking, will help us to identify with others as we have an 'attentive posture'.

If you are interested and would like to attend the next session on Engaging with Contemporary Culture let me know, and I will send you the registration form. It takes place on Saturday 11th October (10 am to 4 pm) at Hanham Baptist Church in Bristol. Cost is £15 and I am happy to drive anyone who wants to go. It was a fun and interesting day with interaction and group work.

*Debbie Bonanos (K.I.S.S.) x*





## When Giants Stand Before Us

We all know what it feels like to face something bigger than ourselves. Sometimes it's a health report we weren't expecting, a financial challenge that keeps us up at night, or a relationship that seems beyond repair. Giants come in many forms, and when they stand before us, they can leave us feeling small, weak, and afraid.

That is why the story of David and Goliath, found in 1 Samuel 17, continues to resonate so deeply.

On the surface, it's a story we often tell children—a young shepherd boy, a mighty warrior, a sling and five smooth stones. This past week in Sunday School, the children learned about how David trusted God to fight a battle that seemed impossible. For them, the lesson is clear: no one is too small or too young for God to use.

But this story is not only for children—it is for all of us. The Israelite army trembled in fear before Goliath, measuring their weakness against his strength. David, however, measured the giant against the greatness of God. His confidence was not in himself, but in the Lord. His bold declaration still speaks today: *"The battle is the Lord's"* (1 Samuel 17:47).

The giants in our lives may not look like armoured soldiers, but they are no less real. Fear. Temptation. Doubt. Sorrow. These are enemies that loom large. And yet, David's story reminds us that victory does not depend on our size, resources, or strength, but on the God who goes before us.

So whether you are a child hearing this story for the first time, or an adult carrying the weight of life's battles, take courage. The same God who delivered David still delivers today. The battle is not ours alone—it belongs to Him.

**Reflection:** What "giant" are you facing right now, and what would it look like to trust God with it?

**Prayer:** *Lord, You are greater than the giants that stand before me. Help me to remember that the battle belongs to You, and give me courage to walk in faith, not fear. Amen.*

If you would like to talk, pray, or explore this story further, please feel free to reach out. Alternatively, you may like to contact our Minister:

**Rev. Iain Hoskins**

E-mail: [minister@gasgreen.org.uk](mailto:minister@gasgreen.org.uk)

Every blessing

*Debbie L*



## ***Spreading Joy This Christmas: Gas Green Baptist Church's Teams4U Shoebox Appeal***

As the festive season approaches, the spirit of giving is already taking shape at Gas Green Baptist Church. This year, the church have proudly purchased 150 shoeboxes, ready to be filled with gifts and essentials for

children and families in need across the world.

Just like last year, the shoeboxes will travel to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia, and Romania, with 140 boxes for children and 10 home boxes. Each shoebox represents a small gesture that can bring immense joy to those facing hardship during the holidays.

For those eager to join the appeal, the deadline to return filled boxes is Friday 31st October. "If you'd like to take part, please contact us ([secretary@gasgreen.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gasgreen.org.uk)) to arrange collection of a shoebox.

To inspire participants, the appeal has provided helpful videos. Watch this year's appeal here: [Teams4U Appeal 2025](#), or browse ideas from previous years: [Shoebox Ideas](#).

### **Supporting the Appeal without Filling a Box**

Not everyone wants to pack a box — but there's still a chance to make a difference. Contributions to cover shipping costs are always appreciated. Simply include £3.50 in the envelope provided with the leaflet, attach it inside the shoebox lid, or [donate online](#). Gift Aid is encouraged for those eligible, boosting the donation to £3.75.

Whether you're packing a box or covering shipping costs, every effort counts in making this appeal a success. Together, the community of Gas Green Baptist Church and its supporters can bring hope and happiness to families thousands of miles away this Christmas.

If you have any further questions please get in touch.

Every blessing

*Debbie L*

# Happy Birthday!



to BMS Birthday Scheme members celebrating their birthday during the coming weeks:

October 21st

Olive Keyte

Are you one of the 10,000 members of the Birthday Scheme? You will receive a lovely birthday card. and in return you are invited to make a donation to the work of BMS, and support projects around the world. Every year more than £250,000 is raised in this way. Please talk to Marian, our Mission Treasurer, about what is involved, and become a part of this scheme.

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## Children's Ministry

As we have been at Gas Green for 10 years it has given time for reflection on where we were then and where we are now. On Sundays ten years ago there as one child. Much joy when a second child born into the same family. As the second child grew he wanted to be upstairs with his brother but was actively discouraged by the leaders. Various children came on a Sunday but never stayed. A change of leadership and now we have lots of enthusiastic children who are very regular in their attendance. The Sunday School room has become a much more child friendly room with the latest addition being a set of pin boards to display the children's work. It is also so encouraging that the equipment needed each week is there and stored in boxes to make it easier to access.

However success sometimes brings additional needs. We now have 10 children regularly and the age range is 4-13. In an ideal world we would like to have a sperate group for the Y7's and over. As ever the need is for more people to help run the groups if we were to split them. The leaders and helpers on a Sunday use a rota system so no-one misses out on the full church service too often. Our Safeguarding policy means we need two people for each group. The volunteers need to have a DBS check -which Tony will do on line. There is also a need to undertake Safeguarding training at Level 2. This is a 3 hour course and the next local one is at Charlton Kings on October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9.30 -12.30. If you feel God is calling you to help with the work with the children please get in touch.

*Val Hoskins*

## SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS

Gas Green Church ran some very successful holiday club activities during the summer.

We are very grateful to the Bennington Hall Trust for the money they gave which enabled us to give good quality experiences for the children. The holiday club and the family sessions were very well attended and mainly by non-church children. The group dynamics changed as our large group of Year 6 children have now moved out of the primary stage. They were replaced by a group of younger children who were very enthusiastic and joined in all the activities on offer.



The holiday club used the story of Naaman and the servant girl. Craft activities were chariots, Naaman in a cup, decorated feet, cakes that had blue icing for the river and then a gingerbread man covered in red spots. The children also had fun painting a sponge figure with red spots and then dipping in in a bucket of water so the miracle of vanishing spots took place.

The children were each given a book of Old Testament stories to take home.

The family sessions were an opportunity to meet parents as well as children. There was a thought for the day for adults and a Bible story for the children. All these holiday activities were very much appreciated by children and their parents.





We have two more holiday clubs planned -especially as there was some disappointment that we only held one on the summer. The dates for these are

Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. October

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>. December.

These will be from 10am to 1pm and include lunch.

We have been given some money to cover the costs of the holiday clubs in the summer and for the next two.

GOD is so GOOD



# THANKS from ROBERT THANG

Dear Debbie and everyone at Gas Green

Greetings from Kalaymyo, Burma (Myanmar)! This is my greatest pleasure to pass on our token of appreciation and gratitude to everyone at Gas Green for your regular help for the children for July-December grant for their school supplies. Your help in financial assistance has been a blessing to our students who could not afford to pay for their tuition and school supplies. We received well your wonderful gift, noted with thanks. Your help of fund have been equally shared to our children as follows:

1. Ms. Gloria - 378,000 MMK
2. Ms. Anna - 378,000
3. Ms. Len Mawi - 378,000
4. Mr. Van Nawl Bik - 378,000
5. Mr. San Nei Piang - 378,000

Total amount received 1,890,000MMK

All the blessings and peace.

*Robert*

The photos below are alphabetical order



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If you would like to help support the children in Robert's church, please see Marian Lee for more details.





## 1st Cheltenham Company THE BOYS' BRIGADE & THE GIRLS' ASSOCIATION



Winners of the Camp Table Competition

Although we did not meet on Fridays over the summer holidays, ten of our Company & Senior Section members (5 boys and 5 girls), the largest number for many years, attended the Battalion Camp, held this year at Looe, Cornwall. As well as a wide variety of outside activities, the programme included a number of inter-tent competitions. Our girls' tent was successful in winning the Table Competition, and individual

awards went to Kian Wright for Leadership, and Nature Trinder as Sports Person. Comments made by one of our parents on the Battalion Camp Facebook page sum up her thoughts:

From Shelley Alcock:

*"Thank you so much for giving the children so much fun. Rosie hasn't stopped telling me about all she got up to. The aqua parc and the toboggan seemed to be a huge hit".*

We have now re-started our normal Friday evening activities for the new session. Already some new members have joined. We hope that they will continue, to become regular members, and be joined by others.

Our Annual Re-Enrolment service takes place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6.30 pm in church. We extend a very warm invitation to all members of the fellowship to join with parents and friends in supporting the members as they make their promises to serve as loyal members of the company for another year.



Kian won award for Leadership

Tony Dymock

## **Is there a spiritual revival going on among our young people?**

A leading Roman Catholic professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of Vienna thinks that this may well be so. For the Revd Paul Zulehner says that while Church is still losing young people, it is also gaining them.

“We’re clearly witnessing a protest against mainstream secularisation, as groups of youngsters yearn for re-spiritualisation or re-enchantment. Many are looking for meaning beyond material success, when such perceptions have become enfeebled in our pluralistic societies.”

Professor Zulehner was speaking to the *Church Times* after the recent Roman Catholic Church’s *Jubilee of Youth*, which attracted a million-strong gathering in Rome, led by Pope Leo XIV.

Meanwhile, in Britain, Youth for Christ, an international evangelical youth ministry, has reported that weekly church attendance by young people had doubled from four to eight percent in five years. YFC said that half of young people were now declaring a belief in God, and 96 per cent express an openness to “supernatural experience”.

The report also said that the number of younger people claiming to pray regularly had also increased sharply, although it is still small. 65 per cent said that they now viewed churches “positively”, compared with just eight per cent in 2020 — defying “every prediction about declining religious engagement”.

Professor Zulehner added that while many young people are sceptical about institutional Churches, they have found a “medium and language” through social media for sharing their religious interests.

He told *Church Times*: “Gospel influences are at work through Instagram, TikTok, and the networks today’s youngsters rely on, which may ultimately prove as important in finding followers for Christ as the Church’s leaders and traditions.

## **Interest in Religious Studies GCSE continues**

Religious Studies (RS) GCSE in England and Wales fell by 2.6 per cent this year, but it still remains a popular subject. And the Religious Education Council (REC) of England and Wales is calling for more specialist teachers.

The REC said in a recent statement that RS was “the seventh most widely taken subject in England and Wales, out of the 31 offered at Key Stage 4”, with 249,422 taking the subject.

But the REC expressed concern about a lack of specialist RE teachers, especially given the subject’s popularity. “School workforce data show that 51 per cent of those teaching RE mainly teach another subject.”

The Chair of the National Association of Teachers of RE, Katie Freeman, says that RE lessons are “among the most challenging a teacher will ever deliver.”



# The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

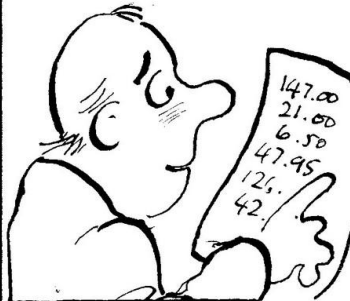


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

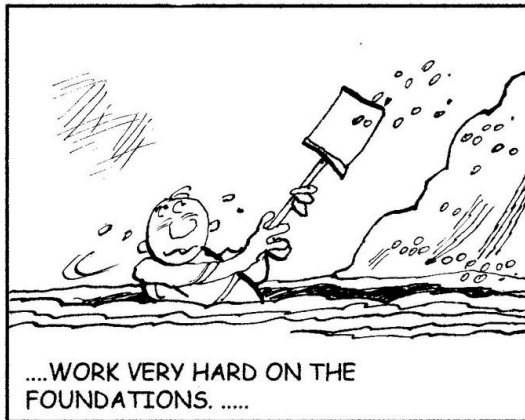
...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



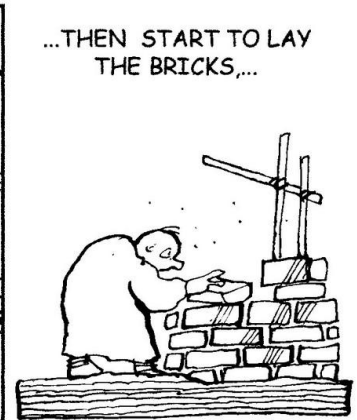
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....



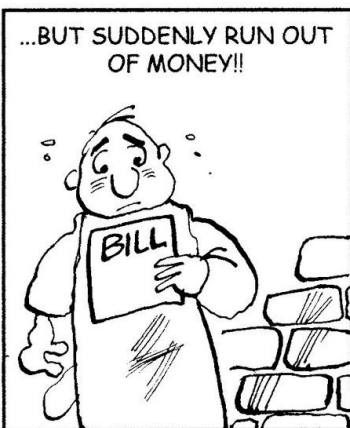
...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, ....



....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....



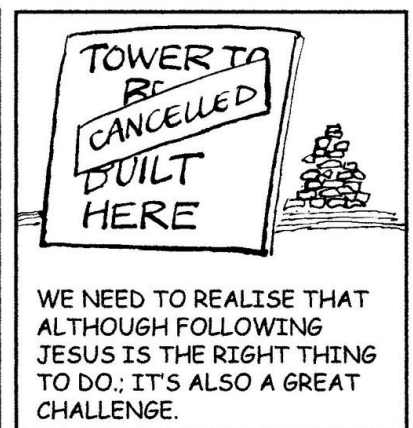
...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

## WORDSEARCH – HALLOWEEN

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots in pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Druid priests celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. They lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off the dark supernatural powers of oncoming winter. Today, Christians turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Words to find: All, Hallows, Halloween, Druid, Priests, Festival, Samhain, Bonfires, Magic, Dark, Supernatural, Powers, Winter, Christians, Prayer, Charms, Deeper, True, Eve, Closer, Christ, Thanks, Loved, Death, Gone.





When the Home Group re-started after the summer break, there was a conversation about how often we meet. The overall view was to be fortnightly. So we will meet for the rest of the year on the following dates

.8th October  
22nd October  
29th Prayer and Praise (Zoom)  
5th November  
19th November  
26th November Journey through advent 1 in the church with refreshments 7 to 8-30  
3rd December journey through advent 2  
10th December Journey through Advent 3  
17th December Journey through Advent 4  
19th December Carol singing and refreshments 6pm  
14th January Home group resumes

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Every blessing.

*Iain*

# DIARY FOR October & November 2025

***EACH WEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED***

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10.00 am PRAYER (In Vestry)</b>
	<b>10.45 am MORNING WORSHIP,</b> <b>with SUNDAY SCHOOL for Children</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>10.00 am LUNCH CLUB</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>5.00 pm onwards BEAVERS, CUBS, SCOUTS</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>7.00 pm HOME GROUP or PRAYER &amp; PRAISE</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>5.45 pm onwards BOYS' BRIGADE &amp; GIRLS' ASSOCIATION</b>

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENTS & PREACHERS: OCTOBER
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30 pm	BB/GA RE-ENROLMENT SERVICE <i>Members assemble from 6 pm</i>
SUNDAY	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 am	David Crunkhurn ( <i>Communion</i> )
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 pm	Youth Centre Management Committee
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>		Deacons Meeting
SUNDAY	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 am	Rev.Iain Hoskins
SUNDAY	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 am	Rev. Iain Hoskins ( <i>Communion</i> )
SUNDAY	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 am	Tony Wilkes
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	"Messy Monday" Holiday Club
DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENTS & PREACHERS: NOVEMBER
SUNDAY	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45 am	Debbie Lake & Pastoral Share Team ( <i>Communion</i> )
SUNDAY	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ( <i>Parade</i> ) Rev. Iain Hoskins
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Church Meeting
SUNDAY	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 am	Debbie Hunt ( <i>Communion</i> )
SUNDAY	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.45 am	Debbie Bonanos
SUNDAY	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 am	1 <sup>st</sup> SUNDAY in ADVENT Trevor Howard

**The Dec/Jan issue of "Contact" will be published on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November.  
Articles for inclusion to Tony by 16<sup>th</sup> November (written)  
or by 23<sup>rd</sup> November (by email)**