



Aslan is on the Move

In *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis the lion Aslan is the great king of Narnia. In the book 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' winter covers Narnia, but when Aslan returns spring arrives in the land. A phrase the various characters of Narnia encourage each other with is, "Aslan is on the move." When that happens good things happen in Narnia and people's lives get better.

You may or may not know that C.S. Lewis was a Christian man and the lion Aslan in his story represents King Jesus. For instance, Aslan allows himself to be killed for the sake of another (Edmond), and Jesus allows himself to be killed for the sake of anybody, anywhere who would come to him in faith. The resurrection of Aslan then mirrors somewhat the resurrection of Jesus.

My friends, Aslan is on the move today. Or, to put it more accurately, Jesus is on the move. Many of us church leaders up and down the country have been observing a new-found openness of people searching for hope and meaning in life, and in doing so looking to Jesus and the Church. We are hearing stories of people picking a Bible for the first time, reading it and then coming to faith in Jesus (sometimes without even speaking to another person about their journey). And, even despite some of the very public failures of senior figures within the Church, we are seeing that most people in society like and respect their Christian friends and neighbours and they trust them.

However, so far this has all been quite anecdotal. But a report called 'Talking Jesus' that was released a couple of years ago looked at the very positive views that non-Christian people have of the Christian faith and of the Christian people that they know. This is really good news to us.

In a report released a few weeks ago called 'A Quiet Revival' we read that there were 2 million more people attending churches in England and Wales in 2024 than 2018, an increase of about 50%. The largest increase is from younger adults, and particularly younger men. In 2018 4% of men aged 18-24 went to church, but in 2024 it was 21%. The statistics show a large increase for younger women too, but the figures are especially higher for men. The UK Church is growing in number, and it is growing younger.

It is also incredibly encouraging about the difference that Christian faith is making to people's lives. They are significantly more likely to feel their life has meaning and to have hope. They are more likely to feel connected to the wider community and to give their time and money to charity.

Jesus is changing lives in our own country today. He really is on the move. Be encouraged!

God bless,

Paul

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5 Tips for Enjoying a Spend-Free Day

christians
against
poverty

CAP

You might be wondering what you can do to relax without it costing too much. After all, the pressure of added expenditure on an already tight budget doesn't exactly boost wellbeing. Rest is vital for good mental health, and since Mental Health Awareness Week is happening this month, it's the perfect time to explore ways to enjoy a spend-free leisure day. At free debt advice charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), we love to find cost-effective solutions, so here are five ideas to help you take a break without spending money!

1. Explore free activities in your area

Discover the many free things to do in your area. From museums and scenic parks to walking, cycling, or beach trips, a few internet searches and a little planning can uncover an array of options. Joining community Facebook groups can also be helpful as they often advertise free events. Check newspapers and community magazines or church activity boards for free fun days, festivals and concerts.

2. Cash-in unused gift cards / reward points

Do you have any cinema vouchers or gift experience cards that you've not yet used (and possibly even forgotten about)? Why not plan a spend-free day using up what you already have? If you collect reward points or cashback you could redeem them and treat yourself completely guilt-free.

3. Utilise existing memberships

Some people subscribe to things annually but don't always make the most of them. If you've got an existing gym membership that includes access to leisure activities, then you could spend a relaxing day by the pool, or if you belong to a national heritage organisation, then a day trip to an unexplored location might be a worthwhile endeavour. Utilising what you've already paid for is a good way of having a spend-free day.

4. Enjoy time at home

There are lots of things you can do at home to relax – reading, spending time in the garden, the list is endless. Just make sure that if you do opt for a staycation, you eliminate any distractions first. If scrolling through your phone raises anxiety levels, it might be a good idea to switch your phone off, especially if you think you might be tempted to do a little online shopping as it could quickly turn your spend-free day into a costly one.

5. Pack a picnic

If you decide to go out for your spend-free day, then avoid expensive food costs by packing a picnic. Bringing snacks and drinks from home will ensure you're prepared when you get hungry.

This May, consider challenging yourself to prioritise your wellbeing without putting stress on your purse or wallet. Taking some time out could help you stay positive, but if you are struggling with your finances we encourage you to get in touch.

CAP offers free holistic support to people struggling financially. Visit capuk.org/help to find out more about the help we offer.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 1100 affiliated churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills education and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

The Green Zone



As we come to the spring months it is good to remind ourselves of some the simple ways that we can live in a more environmentally friendly way, and particularly in our gardens if we have one. Our suggestion this month is to invest in a water butt; or get a few if you can.

Over the past few years we have had some very dry spells as many summers get hotter. Water is an incredibly precious resource and is going to become more and more precious as the world warms up. So, being able to capture your own rain water for your garden makes so much sense.

Not only that, but rain water is better than tap water for many of the plants in our gardens anyway, so all the more reason to catch our own rather than use tap water that comes from the various reservoirs in our country and can be used for other things.

Church & Community Transformation

What is Church & Community Transformation



Other names given to CCT Journey:
Finné le Dóchas (Witness to Hope) - Ireland
Koumi Istaneeri (Arise Shine)
Umoja (Along Side and With) - Kenya
Unidos (Together) - Bolivia

Church and Community Transformation is based on the following three points in the biblical narrative:

God's intention for the world is good

He created a perfect world where humanity was created in the image of God to live in union with God, ourselves, each other and all of creation. To live in a place of Shalom.

Current state of brokenness

Following the fall, this perfect state was disrupted and poverty and brokenness entered the world. Humanity's relationship with God was broken, our identity as humans was distorted, our relationships with one another became full of selfishness, envy and power and our relationship with the created world was marred by greed, exploitation and toil. The poverty we see now is a consequence of this brokenness.

God's restorative plan and the role of the church

When God sent Jesus to die on the cross and be raised to life he made a way for these relationships to be restored; for humanity to once again live in shalom with God, ourselves, one another and all creation. Although Jesus accomplished this on the cross we won't see the fullness of this restoration until Jesus returns. Until then He calls his church to partner with Him in this ministry of reconciliation and bring the good news to all parts of life so humanity can experience more of this restoration now.

Building on this theology Church and Community Transformation is a journey that empowers and equips churches to live out this integral mission.

"They might be hidden but people in desperate need, need to be supported to change and throwing money at them won't change them. We need to help them see they have the agency to make the change themselves. If we can help and support Christians to listen to God, we help people realise they have the key to unlocking their situation" (Mothers' Union)

Overcoming poverty in the community is approached holistically and from within, as people realise their potential and recognise the resources God has given them.

The results everywhere are astounding – the church impacting its immediate community in such a way that it influences important decisions that affect the way of life of the church and the community; the church motivating its immediate community to transform challenging situations sustainably; relationships among people being restored in a lasting manner; people supporting one another to meet their needs; people addressing their physical and spiritual poverty deeply and extensively; people honouring and worshipping God more consciously; and much more.

New or Visiting?

First Time Here?

If it's your first time here then welcome! It's great to have you with us. Here are a few short notes that you might find helpful.

Relax - You're our guest, so make yourself at home. If there is anything that you would like to know then ask one of the Welcome Team by the front door.

We don't expect guests to give - For those who are members or regular attenders there is an offering plate at the back, but we don't ask our guests for any money.

We have a Loop System - Switch your hearing aid to T-coil.

You might find it useful to sit towards the middle.

Hang around afterwards - Come and join us for a cup of tea or fresh coffee, and for a chat—drinks are served in the hall and we usually gather in the lounge to chat.

Prayer - If you would like someone to pray with you — either prayer for you or for someone you know — there are people who would love to do so after the service. Please make yourself known to the service leader.

Children & Youth - Once a month, the whole church worships together. On other weeks, there is a Sunday School for primary aged children. One of the Welcome Team can show you where Sunday School meets. For pre-school age children, there are green tables at the side of church with activities. Please don't be embarrassed if your children make any noise—they are welcome here and are part of the service, too! All our children and youth leaders have DBS checks and have undergone safeguarding training.

Next Steps

We are all on a journey through life, and our faith is no different. Depending upon where you are on your journey with God here are some 'Next Steps' you could take:

COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

Commit to follow Jesus today!

RE-COMMIT TO CHRIST

It's never too late for a fresh start with faith.

DECLARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM

If you feel you've made a commitment to God but have never been baptised, then this could be a great step for you.

JOIN A LIFE GROUP

If you're not in one, there are a number of groups that meet in homes throughout the week to get to know each other better, look at the Bible and pray together.

BE PART OF THE MISSION

There are lots of ways you can use your gifts to serve God, his Church and the wider community. Speak to one of the church team to find out more.

MAY 2025

Friday 2nd

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

Sunday 4th

10:00 Family of God Service

6:30 Evening Communion Service

Wednesday 7th

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Friday 9th

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

Sunday 11th

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

Monday 12th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

Wednesday 14th

9:00-1:30 Light Café

9:30-11:00 Messy Toddlers

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Friday 16th

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

Sunday 18th

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

Monday 19th

10:00 Zoom Prayers

7:30 PCC

Wednesday 21st

9:00-1:30 Light Café

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought

7:00-8:30 Youth Club

Friday 23rd

9:30-10:00 Prayer Meeting

Sunday 25th

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School

6:30 Evening Service

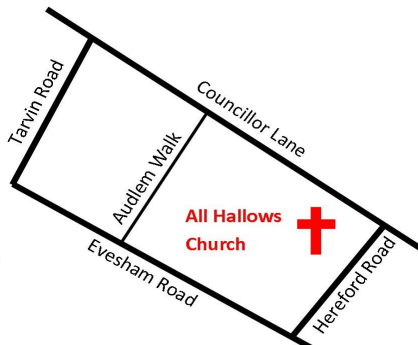
Thursday 29th

7:30-9:00 Social Night

Contact Details

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allhallows-church.org.uk



If you would like to make a one-off donation to the work of All Hallows Church you can do so by using the QR Code.