

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

idea

EA

Steve Clifford

Renews his call to
unity for the sake
of the gospel

Counties UK

First-hand stories
of the impact on
communities when
we work together

Advocacy

Imagine the
possibilities if we
all use our voice



ONE IN JESUS

Sing-along
song

Patch the
Pumpkin
story book
& film

PUMPKIN HEROES

Games,
crafts &
activities

Posters &
Invitations

Handy Guide
for Pumpkin
Heroes
Party

Join World Vision this Halloween, as our cheeky little pumpkin Patch is heading out on another adventure, and he wants kids age 4-10 to join him.

With a fantastic storybook, film, games, activities and Patch's very own pumpkin light trail, we've done all the work so that churches and families can enjoy putting on a fantastic party that will help children enjoy discovering about God's love for all of us.

Get your free, easy to use Pumpkin Heroes pack at
pumpkinheroes.com

welcome

WWW.EAUK.ORG



evangelicalalliance



EAUKnews



evangelicalalliance

It's all about Jesus

Welcome to your all-new *idea*. It's been an absolute pleasure pulling together this edition, as I've had the opportunity to speak with colleagues and members around the UK about what inspires us to work together to make Jesus known. They all pointed to the same person, God, and being captured by His unshakable desire to see all people transformed by His enduring love.

Elfed Godding, director of Evangelical Alliance Wales, for example, shares that for a long time he has had a "strong sense of call to serve God's kingdom for His purposes in Wales" (p. 16). Wumi Ademefun, who joined the Evangelical Alliance as a volunteer earlier this year, says she wants to give to the UK church of the abundant love that God has given her (p. 24). Martin Erwin, chief executive officer of member organisation Counties UK, talks about his desire for us to boldly live out the gospel so that we see the broken-hearted healed (p. 32). I hope you are as encouraged as I have been as you read these stories and more in these pages.

It is a privilege to be co-workers with Christ – enabled by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit as we journey through this life. We sometimes look at what separates us – those things that make us different – but inside all of us children of God is someone who makes us one. What a gift He gives us as we serve Him together.

We hope you like this special membership edition as much as we do. I'm keen to hear your thoughts; please share your feedback with me at n.osinnowo@eauk.org.

Glory be to God and Jesus Christ always.

Naomi Osinnowo

Editor

2

Unity for the sake of the gospel

Steve Clifford on why gospel unity is as important today as it has ever been

6

A trusted voice

The gospel is at the heart of all our public engagements

10

One public voice

John Coleby asks, what difference can we make to society when we use our voice?

14

One another

Steve Uppal reminds us to live as one body, joined by one Spirit

16

More than a job – it's a calling

A fond farewell – Naomi Osinnowo catches up with Elfed Godding before he takes his next step

18

Go and make disciples of all nations

Eve Balshaw on how greatcommission.co.uk builds our confidence in the gospel

22

Serving the UK church

Four Christians share why they love to serve the church

26

Resourcing the UK church

What are the challenges facing the UK church and how can we meet them together?

30

Explore eauk.org, our new-look website

Check out the all-new eauk.org, an invaluable resource for members

32

Co-workers with Jesus

Counties UK, dedicated to seeing communities transformed by Jesus

36

God's will and purpose

Jo Frost encourages us to dig deep into our relationship with God and each other

37

Evangelical Alliance's annual report

evangelical alliance
together making Jesus known



Membership queries and updates membership@eauk.org

Advertising Candy O'Donovan, c.odonovan@eauk.org, 07966 539777

Design Darren Southworth, S2 Design & Advertising Ltd, 020 7093 1978

Evangelical Alliance leadership team

Steve Clifford, general director

Peter Lynas, director of Northern Ireland

Elfed Godding, director of coalitions and Wales

Fred Drummond, director of prayer and Scotland

Dr David Landrum, director of advocacy

Gavin Calver, director of mission

Emrys Jones, director of finance and operations

Jo Frost, director of communications and membership

Evangelical Alliance offices

Head office

176 Copenhagen Street
London N1 0ST
tel 020 7520 3830
[Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm]
fax 020 7520 3850
info@eauk.org

Northern Ireland

First Floor
Ravenhill House
105 Ravenhill Road
Belfast BT6 8DR
tel 028 9073 9079
nireland@eauk.org

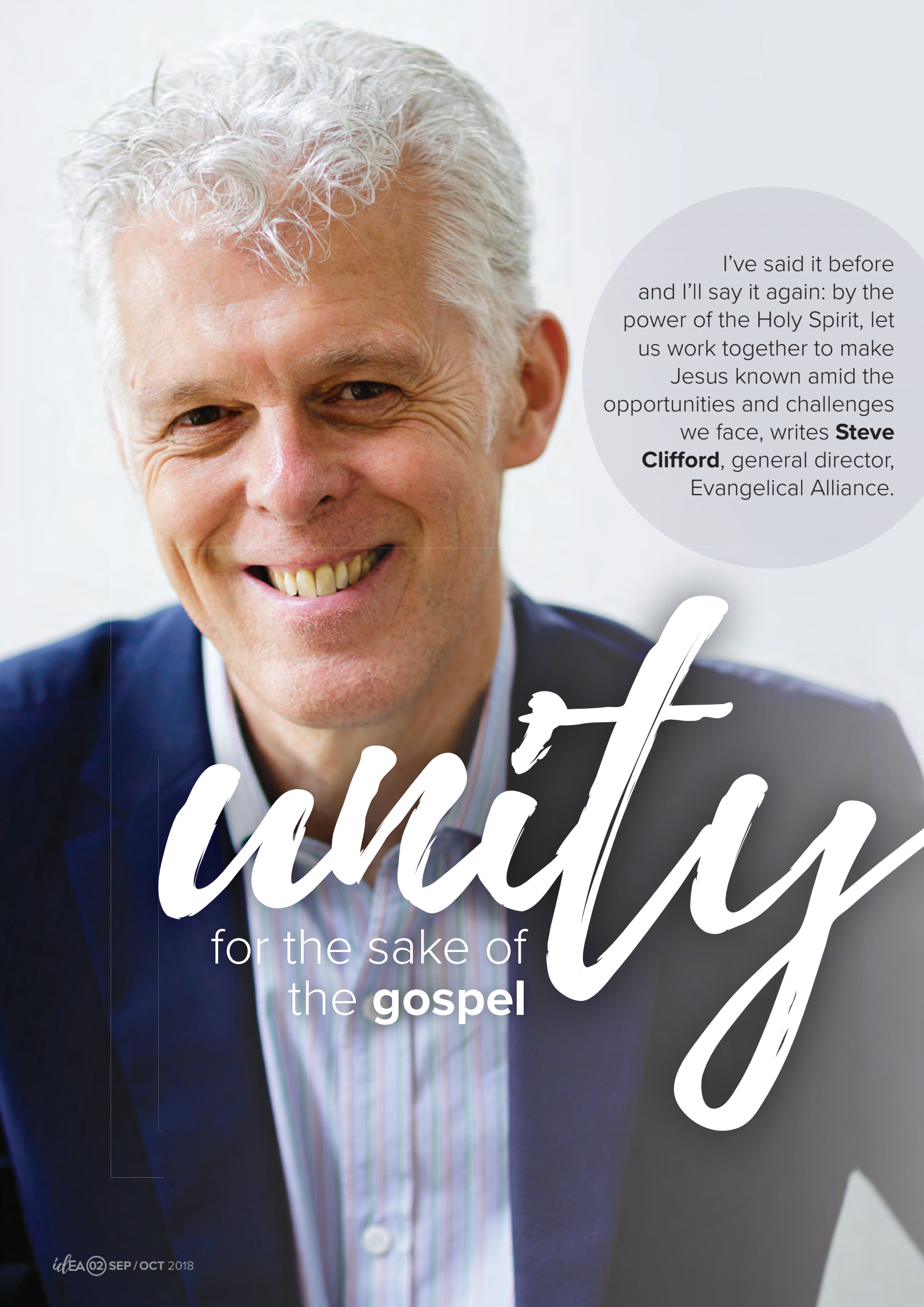
Wales

20 High Street
Cardiff CF10 1PT
tel 029 2022 9822
wales@eauk.org

Scotland

100 Borron Street
Blair Court, Suite D
Glasgow G4 9XE
tel 0141 353 0150
scotland@eauk.org

The Evangelical Alliance. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 123448. Registered Charity No. England and Wales: 212325, Scotland: SC040576. Registered Office: 176 Copenhagen Street, London, N1 0ST

A close-up portrait of Steve Clifford, a middle-aged man with short, wavy, grey hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue and white striped button-down shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light grey.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us work together to make Jesus known amid the opportunities and challenges we face, writes **Steve Clifford**, general director, Evangelical Alliance.

unity

for the sake of
the **gospel**

As I sat on the platform of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) leader's conference at the International Conference Centre in Torquay, I reflected on the amazing diversity of the evangelical community across the UK.

Over the previous eight months, an enormous banner with the words of Jesus' great John 17 prayer had been carried more than 9,000 miles to more than 30 festivals, conferences and events. John 17:21 says, "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me".

Prayers had been prayed, songs sung, commitments made (you may well have participated). Here was a small symbol of a profoundly significant reality. As evangelical Christians from all kinds of backgrounds, traditions and ethnicities, we were affirming our unity in an increasingly fragmented world. Here was a commitment to unity for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I recently became a grandparent for the very first time. It has taken some getting used to, but I confess that I have become totally besotted with the small bundle of humanity that has joined our family. As I have observed Judah, my grandson, over the last few months, it has caused me to reflect on the world he will grow up in and how he will find faith and see it sustained.

We are living in uncertain times. When we look around the world, we see instability: Syria, Yemen, so many parts of Africa, Southeast Asia – I could go on. There are the more than 60 million displaced people seeking a home¹. Whilst here in the UK, we are experiencing a time of great fragmentation.

“How can we be sure that every person who walks the streets of our villages, towns and cities has an opportunity to encounter Jesus for themselves?”

The Brexit vote has revealed enormous divisions between different parts of the UK, age groups and social status. An election which was supposed to deliver us a "strong and stable government" resulted in a hung parliament and extraordinary fractures within political parties. The union of nations which makes up the UK continues to be questioned. Gun and knife crime has seen significant growth in our cities, and the threat of terrorism remains high.

At the same time, we as a church are facing uncertainty. Our relationship with the government in numerous areas is proving more difficult, while our mainstream media increasingly marginalises those of faith and particularly Christians as a somewhat 'weird' hangover from a less enlightened time. As the events surrounding Tim Farron's departure last year from the leadership of the Liberal Democrats revealed, evangelical Christians are now having to learn how to live on the wrong

side of social orthodoxy. This is a new experience for Christians in the West, as for centuries, we have been regarded as the social norm.

So, what's our response to such uncertainty? How can we work to protect the freedoms of our children, and indeed our grandchildren, to find faith and hold onto their faith? And equally important, how can we be sure that every person who walks the streets of our villages, towns and cities has an opportunity to encounter Jesus for themselves?

The final instructions Jesus left us, His followers, are clear: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). (We call it the great commission.) Thank God, He didn't expect us to do it on our own. He also promises to be with us, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and empower us for the task.





“
*He called us to
 share ‘His mission’
 in all of our diversity
 of backgrounds
 and traditions.*
 ”

But let’s also thank God that He didn’t leave it to my bit of the church, my network, my denomination, my group of friends. No, He called us to share ‘His mission’ in all of our diversity of backgrounds and traditions. Because we have a Father in heaven, this really is our ‘family business’. Because we have a Father in heaven, we are brothers and sisters in Christ, and indeed we are “the one and only community in the world in which Christ has broken down all dividing walls” (*The Message of Romans*, John Stott).

How easy it is to get distracted from our great commission. In recent years, as an alliance across the UK, we felt God challenge us to make sure we keep our focus on the ‘main thing’. We are the Evangelical Alliance – there is a clue in the name. We are about the ‘evangel’, that is the gospel (the good news Jesus gave us), and we’re about unity, an alliance for the sake of the gospel.

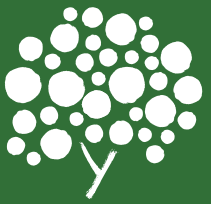
Our new strategic plan, which began at the start of April, begins with the following words: The Evangelical Alliance joins together hundreds of organisations, thousands of churches and tens of thousands of individuals for the sake of the gospel. Working across the UK, with offices in London, Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast, our members unite from across denominations, locations, age groups and ethnicities, all sharing a passion to make Jesus known. Today our dedication to serving the church, and society at large, is as strong as it was when we were founded in 1846.

If you’re a member of the Evangelical Alliance, and I really hope you are, I want to thank you for your membership and I trust you believe we are serving you well. As the general director, let me share with you what an amazing team God has put in place to work within this alliance on the staff team and also our board and council. I sometimes step back in awe at the extraordinary talent God has brought together and their passion for Him and His purposes across the UK.

Finally, while we as a Christian community here in the UK are living in a time of significant opposition, we are also living in a time of amazing opportunities. It seems the instability and uncertainty has brought a greater openness to spiritual things. It seems people are entering into a relationship with Jesus in numbers we have not seen in decades – from all kinds of backgrounds in all kinds of ways.

So, let’s be prepared for challenges, but let’s also recognise the opportunities it seems God is bringing to us. May we be encouraged by the words of the psalmist: “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore” (Psalm 133).

1. United National High Commissioner for Refugees (19 June 2018)



The Archbishop of Canterbury's
**MUSTARD
SEED
APPEAL**



FINANCIAL DISTRESS CAN AFFECT ANYONE...

None of us are immune from financial shocks and most people who experience financial distress rarely make it through unscathed – stress, anxiety, poverty, relationship breakdown and isolation are just a few of the effects that can manifest. We believe that the church has a pivotal role to play in helping people get through it.

The Just Finance Foundation is working to extend services right across the country in rural, suburban and urban areas, supporting people through difficult periods of life. We know these interventions work, but the scale of the problem is great:

- 5 in 6 people are not seeking the help they need with their debts
- Half of all UK adults exhibit at least one characteristic of financial vulnerability

Could you help support our work with a gift from your church today?

We are so grateful for the previous support that we have received from

churches up and down the country for the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mustard Seed Appeal. This support has helped to train **750** volunteers and front-line staff to recognise financial distress in local communities. In addition, nearly **300** people have attended financial capability training through the Cash Smart Credit Savvy course.

Can you share your Harvest to help support people in financial distress?

This Harvest we are inviting your church to consider the Mustard Seed Appeal as part of your celebrations and your mission giving. Would you consider

taking a Harvest collection in aid of the appeal? Or perhaps host a Harvest lunch or supper and donate the proceeds to the appeal, so that those in financial distress in our churches and communities can be reached.

**“WHAT STOPPED
ME DROPPING
INTO DEPRESSION
AND POVERTY?
MY CHURCH!”**

To help you in this we have created a Harvest service resource pack to help you plan your Harvest activities. The pack includes:

- Sermon outlines for adult and all-age services
- Prayers
- Children's activities
- Hymns and song suggestions
- Event poster and more...



Download your FREE Harvest Mustard Seed Appeal resource pack

Download your free resource pack at: www.mustardseedappeal.org.uk



**JUST
FINANCE
FOUNDATION**

Find out more about the work of the Just Finance Foundation at:
www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk



a **trusted**
voice



Speak Up

Flavio Guaratto,
Speak UP coordinator,
Evangelical Alliance

It is difficult to deny that intentional campaigns aiming to silence and sideline the church in society have been relentless, especially in the last 40 years. These often take place in the corridors of power in our country and trickle down to communities in the form of laws, sub-laws, resolutions, provisions and guidelines that regulate our schools, universities, marketplaces, leisure centres, shopping centres, hospitals, and public and private spaces.

As a result, it became clear to the Evangelical Alliance and others that Christians were losing confidence in their ability to share Jesus without breaking the law. So around two years ago, the Evangelical Alliance teamed up with the Lawyers Christian Fellowship to produce Speak Up, in a bid to raise awareness of the freedom the church needs to share the gospel in a wise, loving and bold way, amidst pressing socio-political issues and legal challenges.

The resource was officially launched in 2016 at high-profile events in Westminster, Cardiff, Stormont and Holyrood. In December that year, Prime Minister Theresa May, who has recently appointed the UK's first special envoy for religion and belief, commented: "We have a very strong tradition in this country of religious tolerance and freedom of speech, and our Christian heritage is something we can all be proud of. And I'm sure we would all want to ensure that people at work do feel able to speak about their faith."

Since then, Speak Up has been widely welcomed by the UK church, with more than 75,000 copies ordered so far. We at the Evangelical Alliance are grateful to God that through our partnerships, a wide range of roadshows, seminars, talks and presentations have been organised at various churches, unity groups, work associations, businesses, Christian festivals and Bible colleges across the country – all with very encouraging feedback – to afford us opportunities to further support Christians as they proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am confident that Speak Up will continue to play a crucial role in encouraging and equipping Christians to be familiar with the law as they confidently share the gospel.



Both Lives Matter

Danny Webster,
advocacy and
media manager,
Evangelical Alliance

In recent months the rights of the unborn have bounced back into the news agenda. An issue that has been out of the headlines for many years in Great Britain has been reenergised by developments in Ireland. Debates around changing the law in Northern Ireland have simmered for several years, and it was in this context that the Evangelical Alliance started working with others to reframe the debate.

The debate is so often positioned as between the rights of a woman and the rights of the unborn, pitching women against their unborn child under the delusion that one side must win out. That's a false dichotomy, and we wanted to speak out for both lives and encourage a life-affirming culture.

It was in this environment and with the expectation that political attempts to change the abortion laws in Northern Ireland would only gather pace that the Evangelical Alliance has worked with CARE, Life NI and others to develop the Both Lives Matter campaign. This is a significant opportunity for Christians and many others who care about both lives to speak out at such a crucial time.

Over the last few months campaign co-founder Dawn McAvoy, who is passionate about this cause having unexpectedly become pregnant while at university, has been at the centre of a media storm, following the referendum vote in the Republic of Ireland to legalise abortion.

Dawn shared Both Lives Matter's message on Radio 4, the BBC's Sunday Politics, 5 Live, Sky News, ITV and countless other stations. Her comments on the result were picked up by newspapers the length and breadth of the UK, from the Ayr Advertiser to the Yeovil Express. When proposals were made to decriminalise abortion across the whole of the UK, Dawn's Christian standpoint, once again, received significant coverage.

This profile is not accidental. Since 2016, Dawn and others in the campaign have worked tirelessly to build their credibility and speak out effectively into an issue that many people care about. Their integrity has been rooted in not only analysis that showed 100,000 people are alive today in Northern Ireland because the Abortion Act is not in place there, but their love for people, including the unborn.

So, may we as a church rejoice, for through a combination of commitment to mothers and their children, willingness to engage in a contentious debate, preparedness to speak out in the media, and the courage to continue amid criticism, the Both Lives Matter campaign has become the trusted voice in Northern Ireland.

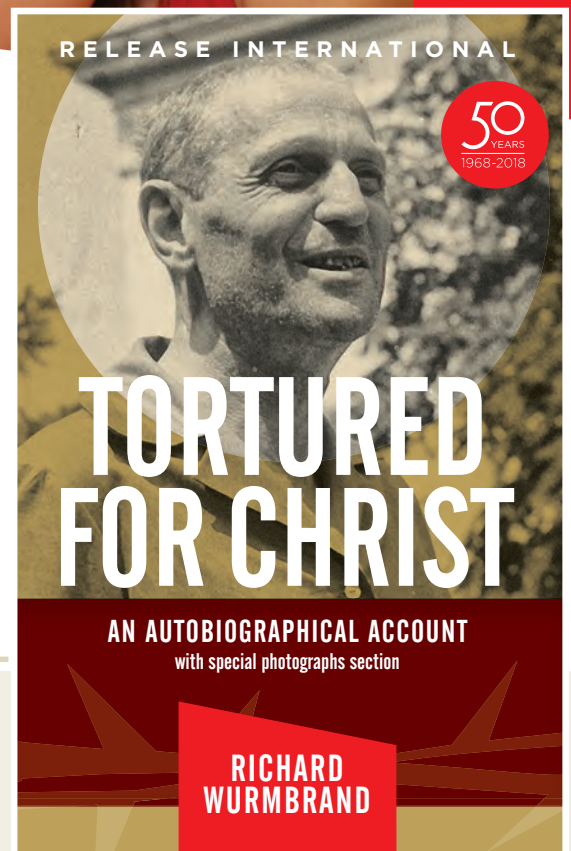
I WILL NOT ABANDON THEM!



50
YEARS
1968-2018

READ Richard Wurmbrand's remarkable account of his 14 years in prison when you sign up for Release's free magazine.

Christians around the world today are still attacked, abused, imprisoned and even killed because they follow Jesus. Please don't abandon them. Sign up to receive Release's free quarterly magazine and be inspired by how Christians around the world endure persecution; and get your free copy of *Tortured for Christ*.



**PLEASE SEND ME FURTHER INFORMATION.
I AM HAPPY FOR YOU TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME:**

by post by email by phone

Please send me my free copy of *Tortured for Christ*.

Title _____ First name _____ Surname _____ d.o.b. / /

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email (please write clearly) _____ Tel (day) _____

My church (name, town) _____

www.releaseinternational.org

PO Box 54, Orpington BR5 4RT

Tel: 01689 823491 Email: info@releaseinternational.org

Registered Charity 280577 (SC040456)

DATA PROTECTION ACT (DPA) 2018 AND EU GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) 2018
All personal data/special categories of personal data are processed in accordance with the DPA 2018 and the GDPR 2018. Please read our Privacy Statement published on the Release International website for full details.
www.releaseinternational.org

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL

Voice 50
of Persecuted Christians | YEARS
1968-2018

Please post to Release International, FREEPOST RTKY-GCJU-SCZL, PO Box 54, ORPINGTON BR5 4RT



public leadership

Abi Jarvis,
Public Leadership
coordinator,
Evangelical Alliance

A few months ago, Claire Morgans, CEO of charity Ykids, told us about a time someone tried to 'out' the charity at a public meeting for being Christian. Claire explained that most of the people in the room "looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders", because they were not phased by this information, as Ykids "had never hidden who we are".

Claire's comments are taken from a talk which will form part of a new public leadership course released in spring 2019.

Ykids has a vision to transform Bootle, Merseyside, one of the most deprived communities in the UK, through its young people. The charity offers a range of services and is trusted by parents, children and local authorities because it has, as Claire puts it, "earned the right to speak".

At times, the charity's Christian basis may have complicated relationship building or growth, by cutting off potential funding streams, for example. But for Claire, her Christian faith is the bedrock of her public leadership.

At numerous events and conferences, Christians have told us that they struggle to have Claire's confidence in living out their faith publicly. Whether the challenge is one of theological knowledge, spiritual dependence, a lack of skills training, sureness in one's own gifting, or fear of others' reactions, it can be easy to think of reasons to keep our faith private.

The Evangelical Alliance launched the public leadership initiative to help Christians intentionally and strategically take a lead, so that they can live out the God story in a way that changes people and culture. For we believe that Christians can and should be a trusted voice, wherever God has planted us, as we lead with integrity, serve others, and be open about how our faith motivates our vision.

Our objective is to strengthen and support emerging public leaders as they fulfil God's vision for their lives. We know we can't do this alone, so we draw on our own resources and events and those of other organisations. For example, we organise church training workshops and release resources, such as the small group course Change the World. We also meet regularly with other Christian organisations to exchange ideas and discuss challenges, as well as collaborate with church leaders who are doing the frontline work of supporting the public leaders in their congregations.

In Romans 12, Paul tells us that "just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others". Christian mission isn't just about church activities; it's about what God has sent each of us to do in our context. Whether we work in the corporate sector or the arts, volunteer with the National Trust or Age Concern, or sit on a charity board or local committee, we can and should be a confident, trusted voice for God.



in the media

Danny Webster,
advocacy and
media manager,
Evangelical Alliance

Late in 2017 Greggs bakery ran an advert for its Advent calendar that put a sausage roll in a manger. In one radio interview as the host pressed me for the anticipated outrage which was not to come, he asked: "If you don't want people to think about a sausage roll at Christmas, what would you prefer they focused on?" As I stood on a street corner, speaking on national radio, I knew I had 30 seconds to share the hope that Jesus brings and the opportunity we all have to encounter Him and see our lives transformed.

Public conversations and public debate are key components to a functioning and flourishing civil society. In the UK today, there are many questions that need to be addressed, and many of us turn to the media for answers. Sometimes the answers we hear leave us frustrated and do not demonstrate the hope that we believe or the good news that we have in Jesus.

But despite appearances that the media is biased or unfriendly towards evangelicals, it is possible to engage and offer an alternative voice into societal conversations. In the first half of 2018, the Evangelical Alliance and its spokespeople have been featured more than 800 times in the press and media – that's the amount of coverage we had in the whole of 2017. This ranged from providing regular commentary on what is happening in parliament for UCB radio, to speaking live on the BBC News channel after the Supreme Court's judgment on abortion in Northern Ireland.

We are humbled to be given the opportunity to demonstrate that evangelicals are good news for society and share the good news we have. Speaking up can be daunting, and offering to share in public is often a vulnerable act, but we must not avoid the public discourse offered to Christians by the media. Trusted voices are needed; that's as true today as it has ever been.

A hand holding a red megaphone against a green chalkboard background with colorful circles. The megaphone is white with a red base. The background is a textured green surface with various colored circles of different sizes scattered across it. The word 'ONE' is written in large white letters, and 'public voice' is written in smaller white letters below it.

ONE

public voice



When two million evangelical Christians in the UK speak with one accord, it's impossible not to hear them, writes **John Coleby**, public policy researcher, Evangelical Alliance.

What's the worst thing that an MP could do? You can tell a lot about a profession or a vocation from asking what its worst crime is. For each one there's often an act of wrongdoing that goes against that profession in a fundamental way. For doctors, it's to do harm rather than to heal. For a journalist, it's to distort the truth. For a lawyer or police officer, it's to be complicit in injustice. For a pastor or church leader, it's to present a false view of God, contrary to the way He has revealed Himself.

What's the equivalent for an MP, or another elected official? It's to act in their own interests, or the interests of a lobby group rather than their constituents. This doesn't mean that MPs have to agree with their constituents on every matter, but they do have to represent them and act in their interests rather than those of groups with closer, louder or more tempting voices. MPs take this duty very seriously. They're keen to know what is important to their constituents and are wary of groups that seem to represent other interests.

As the public policy team of the Evangelical Alliance, we work with MPs on a wide range of political issues. In the past year we've submitted consultation responses on, amongst other things, the damage done by gambling, charitable tax relief, parental rights in education, especially when it comes to sex education or educating their children at home, and the wide-ranging integrated communities strategy, which covered everything from English language learning to British values and extremism. Our teams in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also work with the devolved administrations on current debates.

When we write to elected officials, meet with ministers or respond to consultations, we have to remember that the worst thing they could do is ignore the voices of their constituents in favour of some other group, including us. So we're not there to get them to follow our instructions, or to persuade them privilege religion over others. Our main aim is to get them to acknowledge the concerns of two million evangelicals in the UK, many of whom will live in their constituencies.

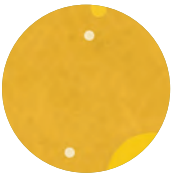
We couldn't do this without our members. Here are four of the ways in which members of the Evangelical Alliance enhance and enable our public policy work.

Polling

On key political issues we often conduct mini-surveys of our members, or of a representative sample of the evangelical community. This has been a key emphasis for the Evangelical Alliance since we conducted the 21st Century Evangelicals research in 2011, which polled a large number of evangelicals on their attitudes to many different social, political and theological issues.

On some topics, evangelicals are pretty unanimous, especially when it comes to religious liberty. For example, in one survey we found that 89 per cent of you supported the right of Asher's bakery in Northern Ireland to choose not to bake a cake supporting a cause its owners did not believe in. On other topics, there will be big differences – after all, evangelical Christians can be found in every major political party.

We also do surveys to see where evangelicals are placed in relation to the rest of the country. While on some issues we are in the minority, in other debates the concerns of evangelical Christians are echoed by wider society. For example, evangelicals have frequently expressed religious liberty concerns around wide-ranging proposals to counter non-violent 'extremism'. A ComRes poll commissioned by the Evangelical Alliance last year showed that this concern was matched in the wider population: more than half of those surveyed believed that extremism was not a helpful term when discussing political and social opinions.



Earlier this year we also found that, like evangelicals, a majority of the wider public believed that parents are best placed to make decisions on relationships and sex education, and that this should be recognised by school policies. It's thanks to the response of our members that we can set evangelical priorities in this wider context in our policy work. Polling is part of our listening to the whole of our membership and not just people we know – the plural of anecdote is not data!

Mass response

The second way our members contribute to our policy work is when we prompt mass responses to government on key issues for the church. For example, some of you may have responded to the call for evidence on out-of-school settings after we publicised it two years ago. When first proposed, this registration and regulation of out-of-school education settings (including Sunday schools) was backed by the Government and Ofsted, but recently the Government announced that it would not be pursuing these proposals.

What stopped them was not – as the secularists claim – a secretive religious cabal with undue influence over our government. Had it just been the Evangelical Alliance expressing concern, this policy would surely have gone ahead. Instead, what stopped them was 18,000 responses to the call for evidence, from those with direct experience of such out-of-school settings, registering their dismay at such a disproportionate policy.




Profiling

The third thing we do is profile the work and concerns of our members. Many evangelical churches and organisations are already deeply engaged in political and social issues, and have gained great expertise in different areas. In *What kind of society?*, for example, we illustrated the themes of Christians contributing to society with four member case studies: church responses to the Grenfell Tower fire, Betel's work with those recovering from addiction, the work of Christians Against Poverty with those in debt, and church hustings during an election. So, part of our policy work is showing our leaders what our members are doing and can do.

We also seek to magnify the voice of particular churches on specific issues. For example, earlier this year we worked with the One People Commission (OPC) to call for more action to tackle modern slavery in Libya. Following the images of slave auctions in Libya, representatives of the OPC and the Evangelical Alliance met with Alistair Burt, minister for the Middle East, to highlight the anguish caused by these images in OPC churches. Again, in these cases, the best thing we can do in policy terms is to showcase what our members care about. If anything, we're the microphone for the church, allowing its voice to be louder and more united as it speaks up for justice.

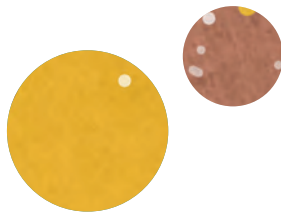
Say nothing



The fourth thing we do as the Evangelical Alliance is keep silent. This seems an odd conclusion to our list, but sometimes not speaking is as important as speaking to represent evangelicals in the UK. In Ecclesiastes 3:7 we read that "there is a time to be silent and a time to speak". There are some issues on which our members either don't have a view or have very different ones. We would be misleading those we meet if we were to take a stand on these on behalf of evangelicals.

A key current example is of course the EU referendum and its result. We haven't spoken much about this, not because we don't have our own opinions – we do. Not because it isn't important – it is. But we can't honestly say that there is a clear evangelical option to campaign for. I've met passionately committed Christians on both sides of the debate. So the best we can do is make sure that both sides are resourced to engage with this debate from a Christian perspective.

This illustrates a key point about our advocacy and public policy work: we're no replacement for you, our members, and your political engagement. As you pray for your leaders, write to your MPs on issues of concern, and engage in politics, you are the real voice that our leaders are interested to hear. Thank you for all that you do yourselves, and for supporting us and making our work possible. As evangelical Christians in the UK, we're in this together.





Want to share the light of Jesus this Halloween?

Get your FREE **Light Party Pack** to help you host a fantastic **Light Party** for children, young people or all ages together

.....

IN THE PACK

- Lots of new ideas for games, creative makes, food and chat
- Top tips for planning and promoting your Light Party
- Key church figures offer their thoughts on sharing Jesus at Halloween

**ORDER YOUR FREE LIGHT PARTY PACK TODAY**
lightparty.org.uk
01908 856000

2018 PACK



JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO SHARE THE CHRISTMAS STORY

FOILED FOR FRESHNESS



Includes free 24 page Christmas story-activity book.

The Real Advent calendar was created in 2013 following surveys which showed that 36% of 5-7 year olds did not know whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas. In the same year 51% of adults said that the birth of Jesus was irrelevant to their Christmas.

The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to reverse this tipping point and put Christ back into the hearts of those who no longer know the Christmas story in full.

SUPPORTING



RRP £3.99



"..A GREAT IDEA." Alan Titchmarsh

Act Today! See the free resource booklet included in this publication Free Delivery offer* or buy at www.realadvent.co.uk



* There is free delivery if you order a case of 18 by 1st November 2018

THE MEANINGFUL TREAT PACK



The 2018 edition has new content and is designed to help with mission work on, and leading up to, the eve of All Saints (Halloween). Each box costs £30 and there are 30 packs per box - £1 per pack. There is a leader's guide in each box of 30.

EACH PACK CONTAINS:

- Bag of Fairtrade milk chocolate buttons
- An 8 Challenge Activity Poster which includes:
 - The theme of light
 - The challenge to be a hero
 - Picture puzzles
 - Word search
 - Prayer challenge
 - Charity challenge
 - National prize competition



Please visit WWW.REALHALLOWEEN.ORG to purchase your packs. LIMITED STOCKS so please order in September.



As the church of God, the body of Christ, we can grow into the image of our Saviour and bring about real change in our communities, writes **Steve Uppal**, senior leader, All Nations, Wolverhampton.

ONE another

The apostle Paul paints a vivid picture of the church as the body of Christ, with Jesus Himself as the head. For those who have been Christ-followers for a while, His words will be well known, but sometimes the plain truth can be lost in our familiarity.

Let's read these words as though, perhaps, for the first time:

"...so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others". Romans 12:5

"...there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it." 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when

"Many of us have made an intentional commitment to the unity of the church in the city."

you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:4-6

In the passages above, Paul is not writing to a single congregation but to all the believers in a particular town or region (Rome, Corinth and Ephesus). In today's

highly individualised society it is easy for us as believers to view ourselves more as individuals rather than the 'body of Christ'; we often behave like consumers rather than members of the family joined together in Christ. Many read these words as though written to a single believer. As church leaders, it can be easy to read these scriptures through the lens of helping the congregation we have responsibility for.

From the person attending a Sunday worship service, who expects to hear from God and hopefully get help for their particular situation, to the congregation that may desire the growth and health of their particular church without much awareness or concern for the wider body of Christ within their town or city, our Christianity has become highly personalised.

Whilst these scriptures are true for all believers and each congregation, they

“It is this unity that brings greater authority and changes the spiritual atmosphere in a town or city.”

were intended to have a much wider application. What if we read these words differently? What if we thought of the congregations throughout our town or city? What if we pictured believers from other churches as we read the words of the apostle Paul? And what if we felt deeply the pain of other Christians around us?

What difference would it make to our praying, our witness and our working together, if we really believed we were one body and “members of one another”. It takes us beyond denominational or organisational unity and opens up the spiritual truth that we really are joined to one another as a family in Christ Jesus. This kind of thinking requires intentionality and has a high cost. But, on the flip side, it also releases greater authority for the church.

My work alongside the Evangelical Alliance’s One People Commission has been hugely rewarding. It has been amazing to see preconceived barriers coming down, people developing meaningful friendships, and work beginning to take place together. Great trust has been developed, wisdom has been shared, and praying together has led to better missional activity.

For almost 20 years, I have had the privilege of working and praying alongside local church leaders in our

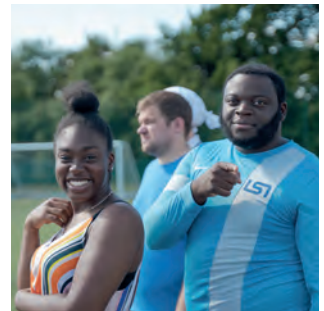
city of Wolverhampton. Whilst not always straightforward, it has been a progressive journey with a steady growth in love and appreciation for one another. Many of us have made an intentional commitment to the unity of the church in the city. Much time has been spent eating and praying together, hearts have been opened up to one another, and lifelong friendships have been developed.

We have held citywide prayer and evangelism events, and regularly gather together for leadership meetings. It has been so encouraging that many churches of different denominations have helped one another financially during building projects. Literally, thousands of pounds have been given between various churches simply to help another congregation in its time of need. In my knowledge, this is almost unheard of, but a byproduct of ‘one another’ thinking.

More recently, in June 2018, we held an open air gathering over four nights in a central location in the city. In the build up

to this crusade, we worked together for more than 12 months as leaders across the city to host a family gospel campaign called Ablaze18. As well as the leaders, hundreds of volunteers from across the churches in the city worked together as one. Thousands came together to hear the message of the gospel; many made a commitment to Jesus, and there were miraculous stories of healing in both the minds and bodies of individuals. As well as all of this, perhaps the greatest outcome for me was to experience the church working together as one body. It is this unity that brings greater authority and changes the spiritual atmosphere in a town or city.

In the coming decades, I believe we can expect a shift in the shape and structure of church. I believe God wants to restore the fivefold ministry gifts mentioned in Ephesians 4, for them to be recognised and prominent in helping the body of Christ to come to full maturity in a given town or city. Whilst we are not there yet, Jesus’ prayer for the church, as recorded in John 17, is being answered, “...that they may be one”. There is coming a reformation underway across the UK and the world.



APPLY TODAY
begin this October!
www.lst.ac.uk/study



STUDY WHAT YOU LOVE
On Campus | Online
Theology
Theology & Counselling
Theology, Music & Worship
Theology & Worship



Evangelical Alliance Wales director Elfed Godding is gearing up for the next chapter of his ministry. **Naomi Osinnowo** catches up with him to find out more.

more than a

job

IT'S A **CALLING**

“God, give me the grace and ability to love like Jesus, think like Jesus, behave like Jesus and speak like Jesus.” This has been one of my regular prayers over the past few months, as I’ve come to realise that my Father’s will for my life is to become more like Jesus by the day.

As I gradually blossom into the image of my Saviour, I discover how to enjoy the love, peace and security that are lavished upon a child of God. But, of equal importance, I begin to take my place as an obedient servant in God’s mission to see all people transformed by His grace.

Elfed Godding’s journey to and service at the Evangelical Alliance is, for me, a vivid demonstration of what it means to commit to Jesus and obey God for the sake of others, as Christ Himself did. Five years into my walk with Jesus and my prayer clearly shows that I want to do the same.

I had the privilege of interviewing Elfed following his announcement that he will step down from his role as director of Wales and coalitions at the end of September in order to embark on the next phase of his ministry, and it was moving to hear that he still has much more to give after decades of dedicated service.

A heart for Wales

As was often the case for people in that generation who are from South Wales, Elfed’s parents left the region as economic migrants for work in the ‘Big Smoke’, and so Elfed grew up in west London. But Elfed, who accepted Jesus as Lord of his life as a teen, “had a strong sense of call to go back to Wales to serve God’s kingdom for His purposes”, even though he was, at the time, thriving in London as a graduate of chemistry.

While at Moorlands College, an evangelical Christian training centre in Dorset, completing a three-year course, Elfed was invited to pastor Cranleigh Community Church in Bournemouth, where he served for eight years. He then moved to Shropshire, near the border with north-east Wales, where he pastored Hope Church (formerly Carreg Llwyd Church) in Oswestry for 10 years, during which he graduated from the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester with a Masters in Theology.

“An opportunity arose for me to serve Wales,” says Elfed, when I ask him why he joined the Evangelical Alliance almost two decades ago in 1999. “The organisation has a great reputation and holds fast to the gospel. It’s also known for mission and evangelism; these have always been in its DNA.” All these factors considered, as well as confirmation from the Lord, left Elfed in no doubt that working for the Evangelical Alliance was the right move to make.

“God has blessed the team in Wales by working through us to create and catalyse indigenous movements and coalitions to make Jesus known in the nation.”

Change maker

Over the 19 years since Elfed assumed his leadership role at the Evangelical Alliance, which has been bringing Christians together to share Jesus and be a voice for the gospel since 1846, much of what he hoped for his beloved Wales when he was a young man is coming to pass.

“God has blessed the team in Wales by working through us to create and catalyse indigenous movements and coalitions to make Jesus known in the nation,” says Elfed, who’s earned his stripes as the longest-serving member of the Evangelical Alliance’s leadership team.

One example is Gweini, the government-recognised council for the Christian voluntary sector in Wales, which was set up by the Evangelical Alliance Wales in partnership with CARE, Cornerstone Church Swansea and Tearfund. Another is the Cymru Institute for Contemporary Christianity (CICC), which was launched in 2010 in coalition with several organisations including CARE and the Bible Society, to help Christians in Wales understand their environments and engage biblically with modern-day issues and people.

Elfed points out, “It’s also important to note that the Evangelical Alliance Wales has been given a seat in the Faith Communities Forum, which is chaired by the first minister of Wales. This provides a unique opportunity for the Evangelical Alliance in the UK, because we are able to represent Wales’ evangelical constituency to leaders from each of Wales’ faith communities.”

Where next, God?

Reflecting on the many achievements and blessings that he has witnessed as director of Wales, Elfed humbly says, “The call has been to serve the nation of Wales. The Evangelical Alliance has been a means to fulfil this, but the time has come for me to move into another phase of that calling being fulfilled.

“I’ve prayed for three years about the next chapter in my ministry and life, and I’m now certain that God wants me to focus on local church leadership and a national ministry through which I’ll share my experience with churches and leaders across Wales, to help build up in the nation a stronger vision of how God wants to use the local church to transform our nation through the gospel.

“It has been an honour to serve at the Evangelical Alliance with such great people, staff members and volunteers; we have a deep respect for each other. I’ll miss sharing valuable insights. I’ll also miss the banter, fun and staff conferences. But, as a personal member for more than 30 years, I’ll continue to offer the team my support and prayers.”

Steve Clifford, general director of the Evangelical Alliance, says, “For the last 19 years, Elfed has provided inspired leadership to the Evangelical Alliance in Wales. During this time, he has become a respected ‘go-to’ leader, not just to the evangelical church, but of the wider Christian community within Wales. His wisdom and faithful service have meant many have sought out his council and guidance.

“Personally, I will miss Elfed enormously. He has been a source of tremendous encouragement and support during my time as general director. As he goes, we pray for him and his wife, Jackie, that they will know incredible fruitfulness in their next season of ministry.”

Jesus spoke the gospel and saved lives. As children of God, co-heirs with Christ, we can do the same. So, let's do it, writes **Eve Balshaw**, Great Commission coordinator.

Go and make disciples of **ALL NATIONS**

Born out of a desire to equip the UK church for mission, Great Commission has shared story after story of people stepping out in their context, sharing their faith and making Jesus known. Now two years in, we're certainly not done yet.

It can sometimes feel like evangelism is best left to the professionals or those who seem to have all the right answers, but Matthew 28 reassures us that God wants all of us to be involved in spreading the gospel.

We've seen this time and again through stories such as Asha's, who went to a church support group to sell drugs but instead encountered Jesus, and now shares Him with people she used to sell to.

Then there's Mark, who was raised by Christian parents, but has learnt that there is no such thing as a boring testimony, and sharing his story of Jesus' presence in his life is powerful.

Similarly, Margaret grew up in a Christian home, and now in her 80s she's still actively sharing Jesus through her miraculous story of healing from necrotising fasciitis.

And finally, coming from a Hindu background, Manoj met Jesus after huge losses in the financial crash, and now he wants everyone he meets to discover Jesus for themselves.

Hearing stories like these, it's impossible not to believe that God is on the move in the UK today.

We want to build confidence, not only in the fact that the gospel is powerful and effective, but also that we all have the

God-given ability to share Jesus. That's why we've designed Great Commission to inspire, encourage and equip each of us to play our part in sharing Jesus, as individuals but also as church communities. When we pray and act together, we are united with believers around the world, because witnessing to Jesus is a collective responsibility as much as a personal call.

Right at the beginning, Great Commission was catalysed by the Talking Jesus research into people's perceptions of Jesus, Christians and evangelism. The research was a collaborative effort between the Evangelical Alliance, HOPE Together, and the Church of England – and collaboration has remained at the heart of everything we've done since.

Our member churches and organisations are doing wonderful work partnering with God around the UK, and it is our privilege to be the table upon which so many fantastic resources can be found in one place. From toddler group resources to ideas for outreach with prisoners, everything on greatcommission.co.uk has the sole aim of making Jesus known across our nations.

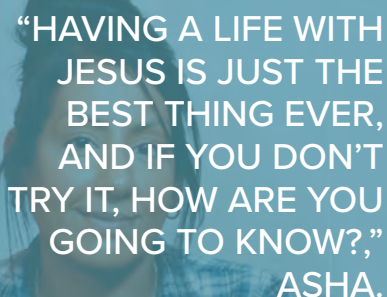
After two years of Great Commission, we are encouraged and uplifted by all that our members and the wider church are doing to share Jesus, but we are convinced that this is only just the beginning. Whatever it looks like for you, we want to fuel a passion for sharing Jesus, releasing all of us to make Jesus known together.




more than
250
RESOURCES

“PEOPLE JUST CAN'T BELIEVE HOW I HAVE BEEN HEALED. I TELL THEM THAT GOD STILL HEALS TODAY,”
MARGARET.

up to
100
STORIES



“HAVING A LIFE WITH JESUS IS JUST THE BEST THING EVER, AND IF YOU DON'T TRY IT, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO KNOW?”
ASHA.

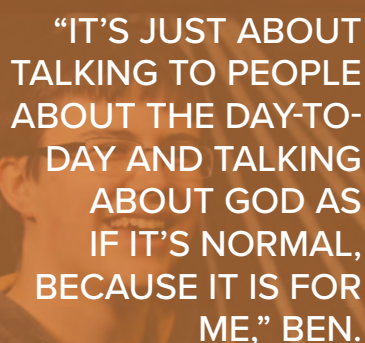


“MY FAITH HAS HELPED ME HUGELY TO KNOW THAT I'M ALREADY COMPLETELY LOVED AND COMPLETELY ACCEPTED BY JESUS, AND THAT GOD THINKS THE WORLD OF ME BEFORE I EVEN START OUT IN A DAY,” MARK.


“THERE'S A GOD THAT SAYS, 'I FORGIVE YOU AND I'M GOING TO WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN.' NOW HOW DO YOU GET YOUR HEAD AROUND THAT?,”
MANOJ.



over
150
ARTICLES
written in collaboration with
external authors & organisations



“IT'S JUST ABOUT TALKING TO PEOPLE ABOUT THE DAY-TO-DAY AND TALKING ABOUT GOD AS IF IT'S NORMAL, BECAUSE IT IS FOR ME,” BEN.



“I KNOW THAT JESUS TRANSFORMS AND, FOR ME, THAT'S WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME; HE JUST TRANSFORMED ME,”
JENNY.



UNITING IN PRAYER



Above Joey Redhead

Top right Joey visits the small mountain village of Guasa, Papua New Guinea

Far top right Joey fitting an antenna section by section until it is at its full length

Bottom right Followed by a crowd of young kids as he makes his way to the school at Guasa

Joey served with MAF, working with radio equipment and technology to help isolated communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG), before becoming seriously ill. Forced to return to the UK, he spent 15 months confined to his bedroom.

Joey Redhead is an electronics engineer. He fixes stuff — usually by switching it off and on again but if that doesn't work he uses a hammer, or WD40 or duct tape (sometimes all three!)

Throughout his life Joey had experienced many adventures and challenges. The biggest of these was moving to the other side of the world to follow God's call on his life to work with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

In the summer of 2016, with packed bags and a team of prayer warriors and financial supporters behind him, Joe moved to PNG as a Senior Technician for MAF. His job was to provide isolated communities with life-saving communications.

However, it wasn't long after he had settled in that Joey became suddenly and unexpectedly ill, forcing his return to the UK for

medical treatment.

With no clear diagnosis or cure, the illness remained a mystery and symptoms progressively worsened over the course of the year. Joey found it difficult to concentrate and experienced uncontrollable shaking throughout his body, causing him to have to use a walking stick to get around.

Doctors thought it might be Functional Neurological Disorder but had no real knowledge of where the illness might have come from, or his prospects for recovery. Feeling incredibly fatigued, especially when around people, Joey would end up spending much of his time alone in his room.

Growing up in a Christian household, Joey had always felt God's hand on his life, and put his trust in Him at a young age. His Christian parents were told they couldn't conceive, so Joey's conception was only not a miracle, but he also survived a difficult and unexpected early birth.

Having previously experienced the power of prayer, Joey turned to the ultimate source of all strength — The Divine Healer.

A chorus of voices from across



the globe, including the faithful prayers of MAF staff and supporters, united to stand and pray with Joey.

One evening, when Joey and his girlfriend Becky had been talking and discussing how to move forward with the illness, Becky felt compelled to pray over Joey particularly over each part of his body. As she began to pray, Joey began to shake violently.

Beginning at the top of his head, Becky prayed a simple and honest prayer, moving on to Joey's neck, shoulders, chest and back. Once she had reached his arms and hands, the shaking began to subside.

'Eventually, my whole upper body was still,' Joey recalls. 'My legs, on the other hand, were still flailing around as if they had a life of their own. So, Becky prayed over my thighs, and they became still. And then my calves, my feet and my toes, which also stopped moving. By then, I was completely still, from my head to my toes — for the first time since returning from PNG!'

And he continued to be at ease for the next hour... then two then three. Joey and Becky continued to pray over the next couple of days, spending time thanking God.

After 15 months of feeling trapped in his body, unable to move, work or even leave the house — and a long season of questioning and battling with feelings of failure — Joey experienced a touch from heaven.

'God had healed me and brought me from a dead end to endless possibilities. God truly is the God of miracles,' he exclaims. 'Not one prayer was more powerful or more important than the others — but there was one that was ordained by God at just the right time, so that no one could doubt that it was He who had brought about my healing.'

Joey still doesn't have all the answers. He doesn't know what caused his body to shake uncontrollably or why God decided to heal him in that moment and not before. But he chooses to put his life in God's hands every step of the way.

In praying for ourselves, friends or family who are ill or facing difficult

situations, it's important to remember that prayer is not just about meeting our needs but about sharing our hearts with God.

Though we may sometimes feel inadequate or are scared to approach Him for fear of not experiencing healing, we should still support those who are struggling — sharing the journey with them and with God.

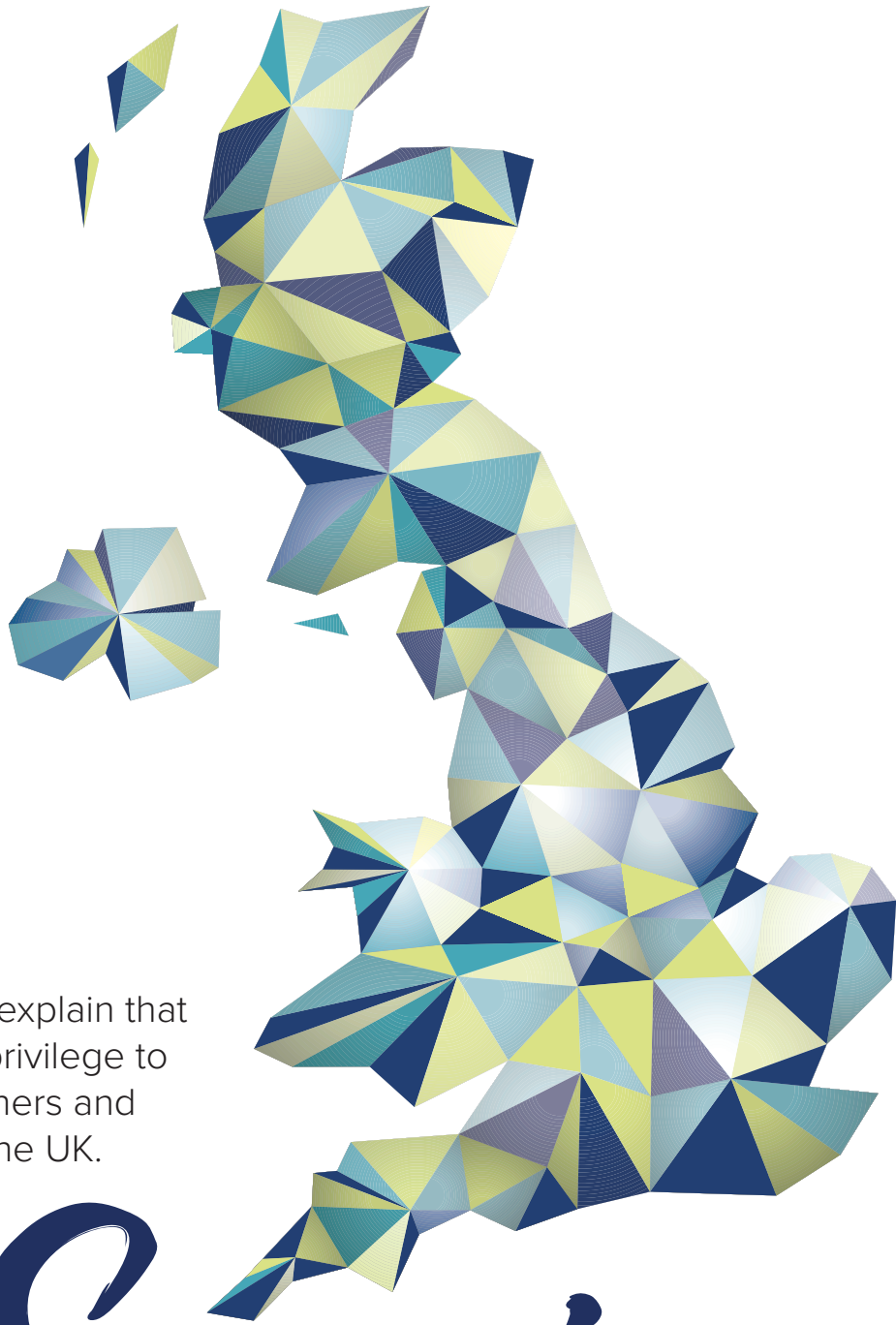
'Every time you pray for someone to be healed, they're not always going to be instantly healed [if at all],' explains Joey. 'I was ill for 15 months and was praying for healing from the beginning. But God wasn't slow in answering our prayers as we understand slowness. He was just waiting for the right time.'



**TO SEE CHANGE WE NEED TO UNITE,
TO MAKE A STAND AND TO PRAY.
'FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD'
IS A MISSION FOCUSED PRAYER
CONFERENCE THAT CROSSES CULTURAL
BARRIERS TO SEE THE BODY OF CHRIST
COME TOGETHER.**

**THE BETHEL CONVENTION CENTRE,
BIRMINGHAM
SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2018**

**TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT
WWW.FORTHESAKEOFTHEWORLD.COM**



Four Christians explain that they count it a privilege to serve their brothers and sisters around the UK.

Serving
the **UK**
CHURCH



Margaret

The 18 years I spent volunteering at the Evangelical Alliance in Wales have blown me away, as I've heard testimony upon testimony of lives being changed and have seen firsthand the kingdom of God breaking out in the nation.

I stepped down in June, in order to dedicate more time to nurturing the faith of my children and grandchildren, and continue my active involvement in the local church. I have taken away countless memories of how God has worked through the Evangelical Alliance, including me.

Before I became a volunteer, I was a personal member. My husband, now of 41 years, and I joined in 1985 through Spring Harvest, where we took our children. When they, the children, left for uni, I wondered how I could put to good use the skills and experience I had gained by working for a local health authority and volunteering at a church and the local school. I wanted to serve. My husband advised me to get in touch with the Evangelical Alliance in Wales.

As a personal member, I knew that God was working in the UK through the Evangelical Alliance and its members. *Idea* magazine is always filled with testimonies. When I get *idea* in the post, I can't wait to read it, as I find the stories encouraging and exciting, particularly when a lot of what we hear about the church is negative.

But, it's only through volunteering at the charity that I came to realise the scale of what's being accomplished: men, women and young people stepping out into their ministries, church leaders from different denominations coming together for the gospel, best practice and initiatives being shared to inspire and mobilise the local church, and much more. I have been privileged to be a part of it – part of an amazing team.

My hope for the UK church is that we'll catch the vision to become one voice, because we're stronger in Jesus when we work together. I became aware of the power of our unity many years ago, when a small local assembly's shared faith and vision to progress their church from a green hut on stilts on the main road to a more stable building in an estate came to fruition. God was able to work through them and He blessed their faithfulness. I was baptised at the new church in the estate with my brother Raymond and friend James. To God be the glory.

Margaret Haines

former volunteer at Evangelical Alliance Wales



Manoj

Early in my Christian walk, I developed a deep appreciation of the fundamental roles unity and collaboration play in the advancement of the gospel around the UK. It made absolute sense: if you have a common goal to see people come to faith in Jesus and places transformed, why not pool together all the resources that are on offer?

Interestingly, this desire to see greater collaboration in the body of Christ initially came from my experiences in business as a property trader. My company grew as we relinquished control and invited others with much needed expertise to play a part and take a slice of the overall profit. The company would eventually fall on challenging times in 2008, but that was the same year that I found Jesus.

In embarking on this new and electrifying adventure, I was more excited than ever about the importance of working together – this time not for financial profit, but for saving souls. In due time, I would read Jesus' prayer in John 17:21 and come to appreciate that God is the source of unity and our unity in Christ has the power to draw others into God's kingdom, where there is both love and life.

It's no surprise that my zeal for unity would lead me to become a personal member of the Evangelical Alliance in 2010. Shortly after this, I found myself serving in the very organisation I supported as head of its newly formed South Asian Forum team. With a vision to connect and unite South Asian churches around the UK, the Evangelical Alliance provided a credible platform to facilitate conversation and dream together.

It has been wonderful to see how God has worked through our unity to facilitate cross-cultural mission training events, leadership training events and new resources to equip the church in reaching those of other faiths. There is so much I can share of how God has operated through our 'togetherness', but the icing on the cake for me has to be the South Asian Forum Leaders Network, which brings together both organisation and church leaders to eat, pray and explore. To me, these moments are a powerful reminder of the fellowship of the early believers in Acts 2, when God added daily to their number.

As people excited about seeing others come to Christ, we hanker after strategies to see this realised. Let us not forget the strategy Jesus has given us: our counter-cultural unity in Christ is the difference this world needs to see.

Manoj Raithatha

national coordinator, South Asian Forum



Wumi

As a child of God who has enjoyed and benefitted from His grace, I have long had a desire to give back in whatever capacity I can. I left my secular job recently and took up a part-time role at my church. With extra time on my hands, I had the opportunity to consider how I could best use my other free days. It dawned on me that I would be most content working for a Christian organisation, where, like my church, the main goal is to serve God and do His work on earth.

First Corinthians 12:12-27 talks about the church being one body made up of many parts. I am committed to playing my role as part of the body of Christ, and was given the opportunity to do so in greater measure when I was offered a voluntary position at the Evangelical Alliance. I joined the charity on Monday, 4 June 2018 and have so far enjoyed every day I have served with the team to help ensure the gospel of God's love is known.

God's love needs to reach everyone, near and far, and for this to happen, Christians have to work together. The Evangelical Alliance has created an avenue for us to do this, and as a volunteer I have joined forces with my brothers and sisters to extend God's kingdom. Though, if the truth be told, my being at the Evangelical Alliance is changing me too. Has it got something to do with working for a selfless organisation? Quite possibly. All I know is, when I go home at the end of my working day, I smile to myself and say, "Yes, I did something good today." I feel like a changed woman every day and can see the following scripture come to pass in my life: "He who began a good work in you will continue to perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

My hope for the church in the UK is that we will live as one big family in Jesus Christ, irrespective of cultural diversity, and that children and young people will have good knowledge about our Lord. Is this achievable? Yes – I believe it is. I trust in prayer, simply because God said, "I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27).

Wumi Ademefun,

volunteer at Evangelical Alliance



Gavin

The alarm jolted me awake at 4.45am and my immediate thought was, it's Sunday again – here I go. Another incredible opportunity to preach the good news of Jesus at a church in the North East. I am always excited and nervous as I journey to these different areas of the country, trying to lean into Jesus and trust that He has the agenda set for me.

Preaching the gospel is a privilege, but I live with the knowledge that I am in the rejection ministry. This was a 'seeker friendly' weekend at the church, so the room was filled with intrigued friends and neighbours as well as the usual attenders.

I stepped out onto the platform. A sense of anticipation in the air and trepidation in my gut. As usual, I prayed and launched my all into preaching: this time about Lazarus and Jesus being compassionate and powerful, and changing history. At the end of the talk I paused and then, hoping and praying, I invited those who felt drawn to Jesus to surrender their lives to Him. I do know that it is only the Holy Spirit who brings about change in people's lives, but it never gets rid of the feeling of dread that no one will respond. After a few uncomfortable seconds, someone got up to give their life to Jesus, then another, and another. I stood in awe as many individuals surrendered to Christ, and it was my great privilege to pray for them before allowing the ministry team of the church to do so further.

I love days like that, when I get to serve a church in reaching people for Jesus. There are so many other people involved in the before and after of these moments, and some folk have prayed for decades for their neighbours, relatives and friends. When I am gone, the church does the incredible job of making disciples, and in this case, many more people kept coming to faith in Jesus in the weeks afterwards.

This gospel partnership between churches, the Evangelical Alliance and individual Christians is one of the things I most love about what I get to do. Recently, it's been an immense privilege to work with others in a variety of contexts, alongside all kinds of church. From what I'm seeing around the nation, there seems to be a growing confidence in the gospel, and we are delighted to play our part in seeing this extend further. We at the Evangelical Alliance exist to work with Christians and churches throughout the UK, to, together, make Jesus known.

Gavin Calver,

director of mission, Evangelical Alliance



WAVERLEY ABBEY
COLLEGE



NEW – Spiritual Formation Programmes

Taught within our unique framework, Waverley Abbey College's new Spiritual Formation programmes are for anyone wanting to learn and develop personally, or take their next step in becoming equipped to help and lead others, in their spiritual journey.

The programmes combine theory, knowledge and practical application, and range from the MA in Spiritual Formation to Waverley Abbey Awards or Advanced Diplomas, in the specific areas of:

- Pastoral Care
- Chaplaincy
- Mentoring and Coaching
- Spiritual Direction

If this could be for you, or a member of your church group, please call a member of the college team on **01252 784731** to discuss the most suitable programme for you.

For more information and to apply online go to **waverleyabbeycollege.ac.uk**

Apply now for our October and December intakes

waverleyabbeycollege.ac.uk

Waverley Abbey College is the Education Division of CWR **CWR**



tearfund

Get together with your friends, family and church for an epic evening of poverty-fighting fun.

On Saturday 17 November – for one night only – churches and other groups up and down the country will be taking part in the biggest multi-venue, nationwide quiz ever. We'd love you to join in!

To register or for more info visit www.tearfund.org/quizad

Registered Charity No. 265464 (England & Wales) Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland) 31998-(0718)

Faced with disenchanted
Christians and disengaged
communities, what's a church
to do? By **Naomi Osinnowo**

Resourcing the **UK** **CHURCH**

The picture isn't bleak – of course it's not. How can it be when the grave – that is, Jesus' grave – is empty? But (and I use the word 'but' reluctantly, as it seems to undermine the aforementioned hopeful statement), convincing wider society that Jesus is alive and keeping Christians engaged in church life aren't the easiest things to do, especially as times and people change.

For Keith Short, senior pastor at St John's Church, Linlithgow, there are two major challenges that churches up and down the country are contending with, but perhaps more so those in Scotland (have you seen the decline in church attendance rates?). "First, church is often perceived negatively by people in our communities," says Keith. "A challenge for church leadership, then, is engaging with our non-believing neighbours in an applicable way. Second, many active Christians within the church, who pray and read their Bibles, have become disenchanted with traditional church, most likely because they don't find the current ways that we 'do church' helpful or relevant."

Back to basics

So, what's the church to do? Keith knows that it's not by our might that we change lives through the proclamation of the gospel. He's aware, too, that we in our own strength or brainpower can't woo Christians. The most effective approach for St John's Church, Keith believes, is to have a "clear sense of purpose and mission that is rooted in Jesus". He says, "With the cross at the centre of what we do, our passion is to create a community

“With the cross at the centre of what we do, our passion is to create a community of Christians with a strong, authentic heart.”

of Christians with a strong, authentic heart, thereby fulfilling our purpose to love God and people, and enabling our church to be involved in the mission of God."

Keith shares a couple of examples where this God-centred modus operandi has led to stronger relationships between Christians and the community. "In the context of the church, we meet people where they're at," he says. "We don't make people cross certain lines before they become members; we help them feel like they belong from the off and show that we are truly here for the congregational members." From having a St John's Church chaplain serve the local semi-professional football team, to getting involved in annual street events, which are attended by thousands from around Scotland, the church is also engaging with wider society in a positive way.

“Equipping the UK church is as much about providing helpful and informative materials as it is about bringing people together.”

Teamwork and tools

Of course, this God-centred model isn't one to be lived out by the people of St John's Church alone; it spans the body of Christ across the UK, so we can see God work through us in our local church and community and across borders. "From the perspective of a church leader, equipping the UK church is as much about providing helpful and informative materials as it is about bringing people together, in one place, so that we can grapple with the issues of poverty and injustice, debate tough topics, and share successes and struggles," says Keith. "I believe in unity; I think that our unity is one of the most vital things for us. Within the evangelical community, we work better when we have friends who stand alongside us."

Physical resources support our God-centred living too. Think about the apostle Paul. How many long letters did he write to churches, to correct, encourage and protect each and every member, amid the complexities and challenges of spiritual growth and oppressive traditions and regimes? If Paul were in the UK today, his letters might just be a resource made available to Christians around the country. Keith says, "We use a pick and mix of Christian resources in our church, including materials from Square Mile, Scripture Union, the Evangelical Alliance and Alpha UK. We feel that discipleship is pivotal, and we want to build a community of disciples; Christian tools have been incredibly important in helping us to do this."

Get a finance decision in **60** seconds



60 Reg Fiat 500 1.2 Pop 3dr (Start Stop), White, 80K
NOW ONLY £3999



14 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Edge 5dr, Black, 53K
NOW ONLY £6299



62 Reg Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Acenta, White, 45K
NOW ONLY £6750

- Part Exchange Welcome
- Full History Check
- Flexible Finance Available
- Nationwide Delivery



Supplying vehicles direct to your home for over 30 years'

AUTOSAVE.CO.UK CALL US ON: 0333 130 0284



Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction.



CRE-new CRE-imagine CRE-vitalise



16-18 Oct 2018
Sandown Park, Surrey
www.creonline.co.uk

Your one-stop shop for church supplies, resources and ideas

taking it

further



Fred Drummond, director of prayer and Scotland, Evangelical Alliance, agrees that “the church in the West is facing unprecedented issues, including challenges around its position, size, energy, age of congregation, how to live as a disciple in a rapidly changing world, and how to share the gospel with those who haven’t heard anything about Jesus before”.

“Christians around the UK want, and need, the help, guidance and encouragement that are offered by the resources developed by the Evangelical Alliance and its members, as they endeavour to grow into the image of Christ and make disciples of nations,” says Fred. He elaborates using three examples that have been developed by the Evangelical Alliance.

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH?

“In response to the UK church’s need for support when addressing topics such as the future of the church, identity and approaches to discipleship, we began working on a resource called *What kind of church?* (WKOC) in 2015. After developing eight short films to complement the material, we realised there’s an appetite for more guidance around these themes. So, WKOC will become an overarching title for a series of resources that will hone in on the ‘triangle’ between Jesus, the church and culture. Although the work will be rooted in the UK, we’ll highlight the thinking of our associates in the US, Australia and New Zealand, to ensure we get the best thinking on the topics.”

What is it?

- The lead resource is a six-week study designed for small groups
- Questions around mission in the church today
- Recommended videos, scripture and topics for discussion

MISSIONAL PRAYER

“The level of our influence in society and the world is based on the depth of our encounter with God. When we come together in prayer and wait on God, He opens the blinds on a different reality and enables us to see something of His plans and His glory. He also helps us to live in our inheritance and destiny and exercise the authority we have in Christ Jesus to be culture changers. There’s a strong link between prayer and the mission of God; Jesus often went away to a quiet place before He made decisions. I encourage the church to do the same, but I appreciate that many people have to believe that they can.”

What is it?

- A look at why we ought to pray into every area of life
- Thoughts that help us strengthen our faith and open our hearts to God
- Guidance on how to channel missional prayer

PSALMS IN THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

“I write prayers for the Evangelical Alliance and a number of other Christian organisations, including Open Doors, Tearfund and Mission Aviation Fellowship. I also speak at several conferences on deepening one’s own spirituality, where I present a rhythm of life through which we are open to divine encounters (or interruptions, as I like to call them) with God. It was at these events that people asked if I could turn the message into an accessible resource, as people are keen to make time in their busy lives to seek and hear from God.”

What is it?

- The first 20 psalms in full, with reflection and prayer
- Time to read and reflect on these scriptures
- Time to pray into what God has revealed during the time of reflection

Contact scotland@eauk.org to find out more.



explore

eauk.org

OUR NEW-LOOK **WEBSITE**

Alexandra Davis, project and digital content lead, Evangelical Alliance, unveils our revamped website.

On 30 August, the Evangelical Alliance's website eauk.org relaunches, with a commitment to serve the UK church, because together we can make Jesus known.

Would you agree that sometimes we need to raise our eyes to notice what else is happening, so that we are better equipped to handle our own responsibilities? eauk.org is here to help you do just that.

Building confidence

News stories heralding the demise of the church, social media trolls mocking our faith, politicians belittling the value and the role of Christians in society – it is easy to lose confidence. But, we love Jesus, and

“It's our privilege to be able to showcase the thinking and practice from across the evangelical spectrum.”

we want we want to see everyone in the UK given an opportunity to know Him.

Every week we come across stories of how Jesus is transforming people's lives and changing communities for good. eauk.org is a great place to tell everyone what God is up to and encourage us all to

get involved. Whether it's a reconciliation project in Belfast, Movement Day in Doncaster or evangelism training in Surrey, we are committed to helping and equipping you to be more confident in the gospel and your ability to share Jesus.

Speak Up explains your legal freedoms to share Jesus, whilst our Public Leadership course, which equips emerging leaders and people of influence to live their faith in the places that God has put them, are both available to download for free. *What kind of society?* encourages you to think about how you can serve and bring about change in your community, and *What kind of church?* facilitates small groups as they confront and address the challenges the church is facing. You can find all these resources and more at eauk.org/resources

There is so much happening around the UK and so many great resources, services and training opportunities out there. With more than 800 member organisations, and more joining the Evangelical Alliance every week, we are honoured to be able to promote the work they do, so you can come and find exactly what you need when you need it.

Serving a vibrant church

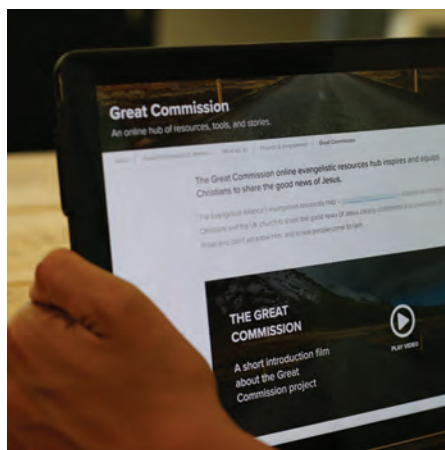
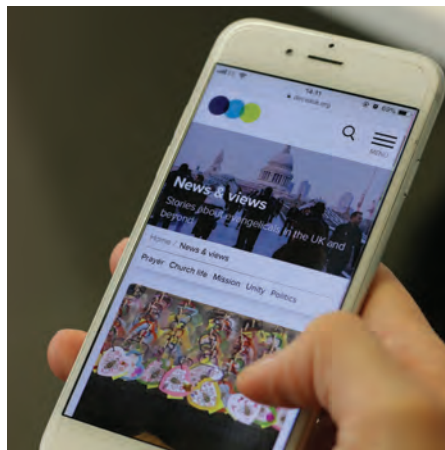
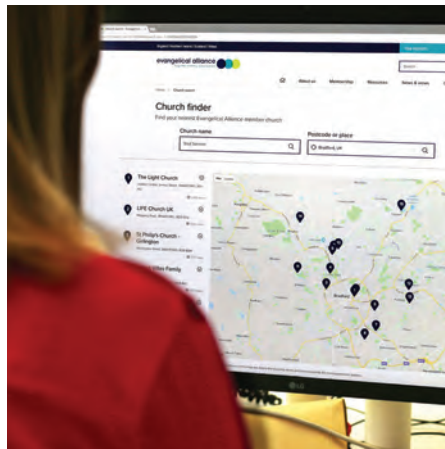
We believe churches can and should be healthy communities where people thrive and grow in Christ. It's our privilege to be able to showcase the thinking and practice from across the evangelical spectrum. Be it the One People Commission, celebrating diversity and promoting unity, or the partnerships and collaborations that fuel and drive our projects, we love the church and we do all we can to unite evangelicals.

eauk.org's 'Find a church' feature enables you to target your search and find churches which are members of the Evangelical Alliance and affirm the commitment to work together to make Jesus known. Some of us have attended the same church for years, while others have had to change church. We all know how wonderful it is to find a church that we can call home as we connect with and serve our family in Christ. If you, or someone you know, has just relocated or are about to head off to university, simply entering a postcode or the name of a town will generate the locations of all the local member churches.

Being a trusted voice

Keeping abreast of all the latest ideas, challenges and changes is a near impossible task for any individual, whilst listening to trusted and informed voices and learning from each other seem more important now than ever.

The Evangelical Alliance has always brought together evangelicals to share and encourage, to teach and to train. We are an alliance: we work together and support each other. At eauk.org we will keep you up to date with the latest news and views on political, social and cultural trends, so that you can be better informed and better prepared to serve God where you are.



FEATURES

- Resources, services and training opportunities
- Exclusive content for individual members
- Search for a church near you, using the 'church finder' tool
- Your very own membership profile

Create your member profile

Being a Christian can sometimes be a lonely experience. We might feel isolated individually, unable to relate to family members, friends or colleagues, or it might seem like our church family is isolated, always persevering but not seeing fruit in our communities.

We are a membership organisation. We exist to serve you. That's why we have created a space for existing individual members of the Evangelical Alliance to keep all your membership information and resources together – your very own membership profile. Register for your profile and gain access to exclusive content just for our individual members.

As an individual member of the Evangelical Alliance, you are part of a community saturated in prayer, representing millions of evangelicals across the UK and around the world, cheering you on, praying for you and journeying with you as we all seek to know Jesus and make Him known.

If you haven't already, it's easy to join us. We encourage you to visit the individual membership section of our website and share it with your friends, family and church members.

We would like to hear what you think about eauk.org, so try it out and let us know how you get on by emailing web@eauk.org.

Counties UK has long teamed up with others to spread the good news. Through its latest initiative, the Christian charity would like to collaborate with churches to make a difference in their local communities. By **Naomi Osinnowo**

CoWORKERS

Over the years, readers of *idea* magazine will have encountered numerous stories which describe how the Evangelical Alliance and its members are moved by the Spirit of God to be bold, brave, steadfast and pioneering in the UK, to make the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ known in the midst of an ever-changing culture.

If you're anything like the Evangelical Alliance's personal member and former volunteer, Margaret Haines (see page 23), these accounts will have excited and encouraged you, because they show that our supreme God is as faithful and active as He was when He split the red sea, enabled Elizabeth to conceive and give birth to the man who would lead the way of the Lord, and raised Jesus from the dead before positioning Him at His right side.

We at the Evangelical Alliance tend to call these stories 'spotlights', as they pinpoint a particular organisation or church and its initiatives. For this special membership edition of *idea*, we'll spotlight Counties UK, whose new programme, Neighbourhood Chaplains, highlights that it is God who enables the 120-year-old charity to accomplish its objectives through the collaborative work of His people.

Counties UK's chief executive officer,

Martin Erwin, says: "Partnership is essential; it's at the heart of the gospel. It flows out of the very nature of the Trinity. Jesus calls us co-workers together with Him. It's simply impossible for one group or church to work effectively on its own to make Jesus known and transform communities."

Modelling unity

Counties UK is an excellent example of the outworking of Christians' unity in Jesus. If you go way back, you'll find that the charity was founded in 1899 by a group of Christians who came together to discuss how they might begin evangelising in their local villages. Fast-forward more than a century and the charity has more than 40 evangelists working closely with a wide variety of churches and agencies to spread the gospel in word and deed in England and Wales.

If you look back to Counties UK's more recent history, you'll see that it became a member of the Evangelical Alliance in 1989, and in the subsequent years it backed some of the Evangelical Alliance's initiatives, including Groundswell, which, led by David Spriggs, former head of the Evangelical Alliance's evangelism division, was established to connect 'mission enablers' with churches that needed help with evangelism and church growth.





Counties UK also works in partnership with Birmingham City Mission, Scripture Union, Youth for Christ, Crown Jesus Ministries, Child Evangelism Fellowship, youth workers, pastors and many others, “to make Jesus known across the UK by equipping and training evangelists and funding and managing Christian resources for schools”, says Martin, who has been a personal member of the Evangelical Alliance for around 25 years.

As the Holy Spirit leads

Not so long ago, Counties UK rolled out Neighbourhood Chaplains, a scheme that links up member churches with their communities in a fresh way. “A major driver for us is the loneliness epidemic,” says Martin, as he ponders on the needs that he and his colleagues believe the national programme will meet. Statistics released by Age Concern and Help the Aged in 2009 revealed that more than one million people aged over 65 in Britain say they are always or often feel lonely.

A TNS Survey for Age UK in 2014 said nearly 50 per cent of older people see their TV or pet as their main form of company. So serious is the issue of loneliness, that in October 2017 Dr Helen Stokes-Lampard, Britain’s chief GP, warned fellow doctors that loneliness can harm people’s health just as much as high blood pressure or smoking.

But God has been mobilising His people to help tackle this. “Neighbourhood Chaplains came about through one of our evangelists, who was doing door-to-door work. He discovered that there’s a great need for the church to connect with people at their homes and in their communities,” explains Martin, who’s originally from Northern Ireland and grew up in a devout Christian family. “Owing to some people’s reservations about evangelists, our team member found

that if he partnered with his local church and described himself as a neighbourhood chaplain, locals would more readily receive him.”

Working together

What began as one man’s inspiration has been developed into a fully-fledged programme offered by Counties UK, complete with training and resources to enable local churches to obtain the tools and guidance that they need to go out into their communities and touch the lives of the broken-hearted. Martin says, “We piloted Neighbourhood Chaplains last year, and have since trained eight community workers, church leaders and evangelists to set up projects. We encourage more churches to work with us and make this programme a UK-wide success to glorify Jesus Christ the King.

“We are striving for an experiential understanding of the gospel, and not simply an intellectual one, and our hope for the church right across the UK is that we all rediscover this confidence, to see an awakening, a revival in our country, where we will see the outpouring of the Spirit of God and dry bones live. We are God’s own, and God is not willing that any should perish, so let’s make a solid commitment to God’s heart to see people and places transformed by the power of the gospel.”



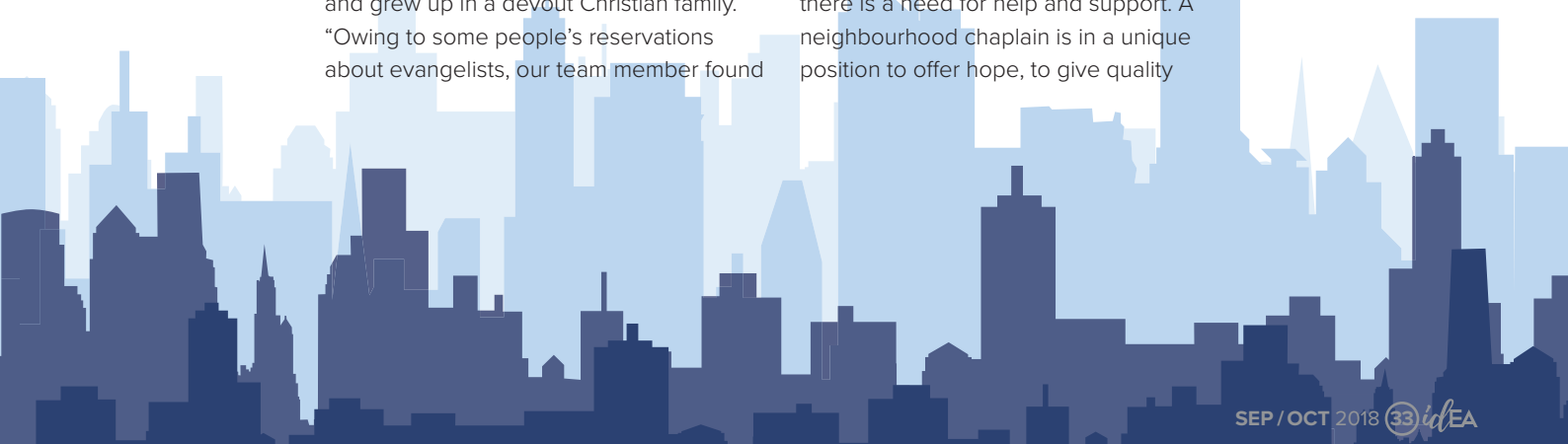
On the ground

Team leader and counties evangelist Beverley Bedford leads a team of 26 trained neighbourhood chaplains in North Devon.

She says: “I have always felt that the church should be first in line to love its community in word and action. For me, neighbourhood chaplaincy means being engaged in the community and being prepared to stand in the gap where there is a need for help and support. A neighbourhood chaplain is in a unique position to offer hope, to give quality



“
We are
God’s own, and
God is not willing
that any should
perish.”



time and to invest in people's lives. One individual who provided feedback to Neighbourhood Chaplains said, "The service was invaluable; the chaplains kept coming to visit when others stopped calling."

She says: "The work of a neighbourhood chaplain is diverse. Each time I go out into the community, there is a sense I never know what challenges I may face. As a chaplain I have held the hand of newborn babies and the dying. I've sat with the lonely, depressed, despairing and confused. I've walked alongside and supported people in the most stressful of times and in days of celebration and joy too. I've had the privilege to pray for and with people in those moments when they are making tough decisions in the most

difficult circumstances. I have shared my faith boldly with the result of promoting many interesting faith discussions.

"I've found people don't really care how much I know; they first want to know how much I care. Our neighbourhood chaplaincy team serves people through befriending and by lending a helping hand when it is most needed. Just being there when no one else can be is the service we provide. My hope and vision as we step forward as a team is to see a healthy community that is spiritually awakened and transformed. We want our community to see the church without walls, without prejudice, without limits. We are praying our communities will experience repentance, healing and wholeness from an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit.

"I am confident that as we portray the biblical model of Jesus' compassionate servant heart, God will work and bless in exciting ways. The initiative and framework of Neighbourhood Chaplains equips and enables us to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel. Remember the gospel is not just something we come to church to hear; it's something we live to tell. So, let us all live the good news as we proclaim in the communities God has placed us."

Neighbourhood Chaplains Roadshow 2018



MIDLANDS - 6 September 11am
Brierley Hill, Church in the Community

SOUTH WALES - 27 September 7pm
Swansea, Dunvant Christian Fellowship

NORTH ENGLAND - 25 October 7pm
Stockport, Heaton Chapel Christian Church

LONDON - 11 November 6.30pm
Woodford Green,
Salway Evangelical Church

SCOTLAND - 15 November
12.30pm and again at 7pm
Motherwell, Tilsley College

SOUTH ENGLAND - 21 November
12.30pm and again at 7pm
Christchurch, Moorlands College

.....
Free to attend. To reserve a place
please call Counties on **01373 823 013**.
See website for details.
.....



Creating fresh opportunities for Gospel engagement



Free



www.neighbourhoodchaplains.co.uk

Wycliffe
Bible
Translators

FREE Wycliffe 2019 Calendar



Wycliffe
Bible
Translators

Calendar
2019

We would love to send you
a **FREE** 2019 calendar



Choose either a photo calendar of inspiring images, or a beautifully illustrated art calendar. Both explore God's word through different eyes with Bible translations from around the world.

Order your free calendar today:
wycliffe.org.uk/calendar
Or call: 0300 303 1111

1.5 billion people are still waiting for the Bible in their own language.

Wycliffe translates the Bible so that people throughout the world can be transformed by coming to know God through his word. Find out more at wycliffe.org.uk



Are we being called to go deeper in our relationship with God and each other, to be a beacon of hope to the UK?
By **Jo Frost**, director of communications and membership

GOD'S

will + purpose

“When the storm comes and the fierce winds, when all around it is battered and besieged, the tree with deep roots will not be uprooted. It will not fall.”

A board meeting, a training session and a church sermon. I have heard the same analogy and the same call to the church in three very different settings. All were spoken by very different people from very different parts of the church. They all said the same thing. The storm is coming; the church needs to dig deep.

Society seems to be at all sorts of junctures at the moment, be they political, cultural or moral. Debates and ideologies wage war and people up and down the UK are struggling to know what to think and how to behave in this ever-shifting landscape. But, in the words of poet Rudyard Kipling, “if you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you”, this can be an amazing opportunity for the church.

The church is called to be a light on a hill, a beacon of hope, modelling a different way. When everyone around us is struggling to know which way is up and which way is down, we need to be like a tree, deepening our roots and standing firm.

Paul, in Ephesians 4, uses a slightly different analogy, but one that nevertheless carries the same meaning: don't be like “infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming” (verse 14). Instead, we are to keep unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace and grow in maturity in Christ Jesus.

The church can be the light to the world, the safe haven, the deep-rooted tree when we strengthen our relationships with each other. God has blessed each of us, and each of the streams of church we hail from, but only when we come together do we attain the whole measure of the fullness of Jesus.

I am truly honoured to be director of communications and membership at the Evangelical Alliance. I get to hear the amazing good news stories of what God is doing around the UK in local churches and through the work of charities. I get to cheer, celebrate and champion the work of the church, so that we all can be encouraged and bolstered in our own service.

It's my privilege to hear first-hand what people are being inspired to produce to strengthen and support the church, and to share what's available so that we all might be blessed and enriched. I also get to elevate the struggles and the challenges facing parts of the church, because if some of us are suffering, none of us should look away.

The Evangelical Alliance's founding purpose was to manifest and promote the unity of Christ's disciples, and that calling has never been more important than it is today. The church in the UK is being called to grow up, to mature, to reach full unity. I am humbled to be part of an organisation so integral to that mandate and I hope you are too.

2017–2018 Annual Report

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE DONE

This year has been full of highlights and blessings for the Evangelical Alliance and our members. Across the four nations of the UK we have been encouraged to hear stories of people coming to faith and churches gaining confidence that Jesus can and does transform lives. Here's just a taster...

MISSION: The **Great Commission** website relaunched in October, winning the Premier Digital Award for best new/redesigned website 2017. By the end of the year there were over 50 powerful stories of lives being transformed by Jesus, over 200 resources equipping the church for mission, and over 90 articles all about evangelism on the site. In February we were delighted to launch the **Great Commission** in Northern Ireland.

ADVOCACY: As we strive to be a trusted voice for evangelical Christians to government and the media, we published *What kind of society?* in September, which explores the ways Christians and churches are already working to share these values in society, as well as inspires conversations about what the future might look like if we prioritise these values.

Serve Scotland, a network of organisations chaired by the Evangelical Alliance Scotland, was commended during a debate at Holyrood, where Parliament recognised voluntary work from Scottish faith groups 'produces almost £100m of economic impact' each year.

Eighty individuals who play key roles in public life in Scotland have connected with the Scottish Public Leadership course over the year, whilst the English Public Leadership year-long course received its first year intake, with 16 participants gathering in February, encouraging a generation of confident disciples of Jesus, speaking out for good and for God in all areas of culture within the UK.

UNITY: The **One People Commission** played a key role at **Movement Day**, modelling unity in ethnic diversity as well as providing preachers around the country and facilitating strategic conversations amongst leaders.

The **South Asian Forum** team led leadership training in London and the **Beyond the Doorstep** event in Birmingham on cross-cultural mission.

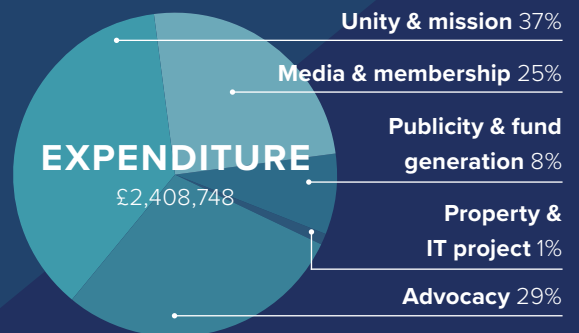
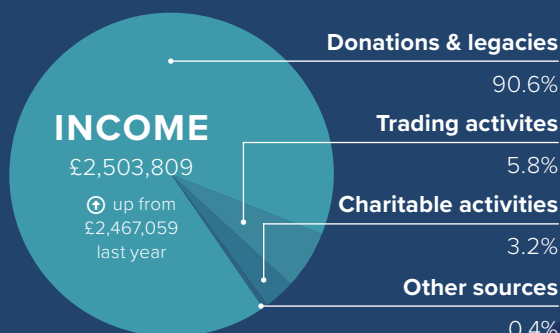
Over 300 delegates attended the first **Above and Beyond** conference in London, with leading experts training church leaders on good governance, charity law, safeguarding, effective communications and more.

Almost all of our initiatives are conducted in partnership and collaboration. CARE, LCF, CMF, Elim, Spring Harvest, ComRes, HOPE, New Wine Cymru, Church of England, Missional Links Wales, Tearfund, Christian Enquiry Agency, Church Advertising Network, MediaNet, New Generation Leaders, Irish Council of Churches, Scottish Christian Youth Work Forum, Release International, CSW, Open Doors, and many, many more.

The full annual report will be available in September at eauk.org

Thank you, together we are making Jesus known.

FINANCIALS



A year of highlights...

#BOTH LIVES MATTER

PRO-WOMEN AND PRO-LIFE

Change the World public leadership small group resource launches. Over **2,000** distributed so far.

ASA approves the Both Lives Matter research that **100,000** people are alive today because of Ireland's abortion laws, reframing the abortion debate across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

17:21 launches celebrating Christian unity, touring **31** events, travelling over **9,000** miles and involving over **100,000** Christians.

PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

LEARN >> SPEAK >> LEAD

APRIL

JUNE

AUGUST

MAY

JULY

SEPTEMBER

election.eauk.org launches to help Christians consider their vote in the UK general election, attracting over **5,000** visitors.

The release of *What kind of society?* published – one of **4** key resources produced by the Evangelical Alliance.

Over **3,000** people make prayer of commitment during New Wine Cymru/the Turning Mission Wales supported by the Evangelical Alliance Wales.

1,000

people attend the first
Movement Day UK
in London.



The Great Commission
launches in Northern
Ireland.

Over Christmas
we feature
on TalkRadio, BBC, the
New York Times and The
Guardian as part of the **819**
media appearances we
made over the year.

OCTOBER

DECEMBER

FEBRUARY

NOVEMBER

JANUARY

MARCH

The Religious
Liberty Commission
calls the church to pray
for the persecuted church.
One month. **One** prayer.
One church.

One People
Commission young
leaders gather for
one of **3** annual
gatherings.

Preach at
Trinity Perth, one
of over **300** speaking
engagements in
churches, conferences
and events around
the UK.

OUR



Since 1846, guided by our basis of faith and our relationship commitments, we have sought to be an alliance for the evangelical community. The Evangelical Alliance works across the UK, with offices in London, Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast. We are committed to fostering strong relationships amongst our membership.

PLE DGE

TO OUR MEMBERS



Our members come together from across denominations, locations and ethnicities to share fresh ideas, celebrate best practice and catalyse innovation throughout the evangelical community and beyond. We know that together we can achieve much more than we can ever achieve alone.

We exist to serve you, our members. And so, to you, we make the following commitments:

WE



RELATIONSHIP. We promise to introduce you to like-minded Christians from all across the UK. When you join us, you join a community saturated in prayer, sharing best practice, ideas, experiences, support and encouragement.

As a member of the Evangelical Alliance you are not alone. You are part of a community representing millions of evangelicals across the UK and around the world, cheering you on, praying for you and journeying with you as we all seek to know Jesus and make Him known.

PRO MISE



REPRESENTATION. In the UK we are privileged to possess the freedom to have a public faith in Jesus and to share that faith with others. We promise to champion those freedoms, representing the needs and interests of the church to those in politics, the media, and civil society.

We promise to present a balanced and credible perspective when advocating for the evangelical community. And we will endeavour to listen to the breadth and depth of opinion and insight through our board, our national executives, our council and our wider membership.

We will cheer you on and share your stories. We will celebrate what God is doing where you are and pray for you in your situation.



RESOURCE. We promise to share the wealth of resources, expertise and ideas of our members with our members. We will provide you with excellent, credible resources that will help you live this kingdom life to which we are called. We will help you to know what is out there to help you where you are and with what you're doing.

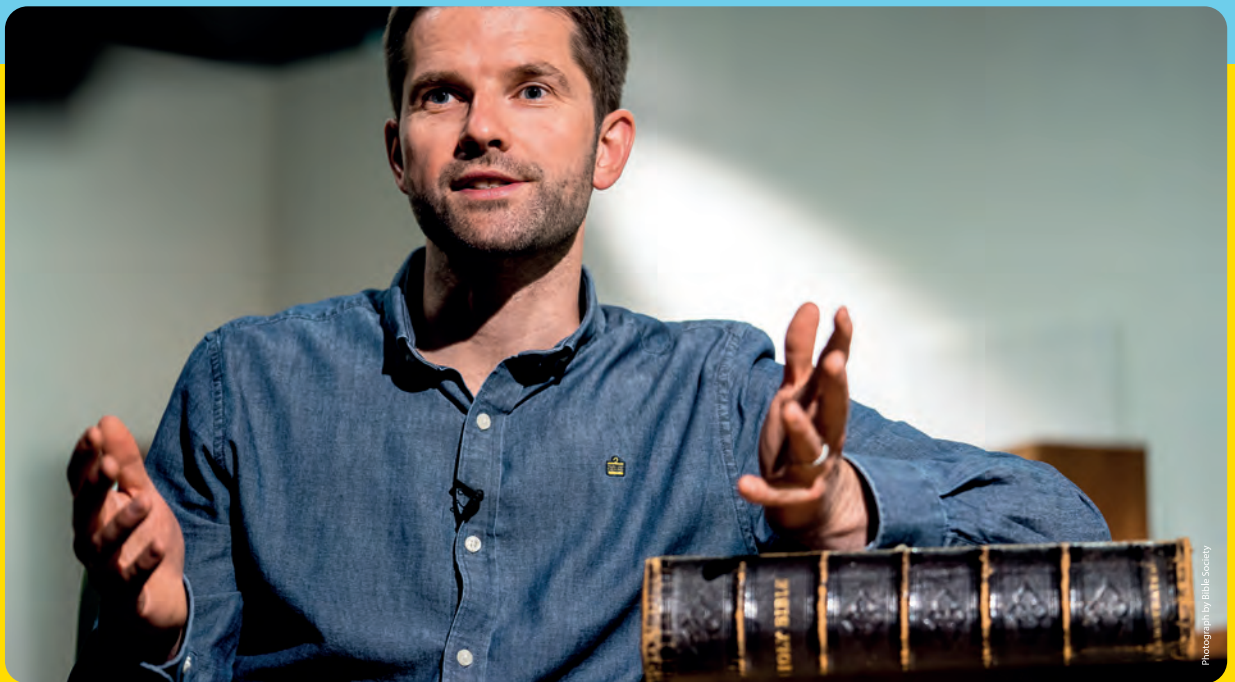


BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Individual
Church
Organisation ▶▶▶▶ www.eauk.org/join

Is there more to the Bible?

Discover more of the BIG story of the Bible with our resources



Something for today...

The Bible Course

The Bible Course shows how the key books, famous characters and epic events form one BIG story, from Genesis to Revelation. Through the eight interactive sessions, the course provides the tools and skills to help you see that there is more to the Bible than meets the eye.

Visit biblesociety.org.uk/thebiblecourse to find out more.



Something that's coming...

Christmas resources

We have brand new resources on their way for you, your church and your community this Christmas. Could there be more to the Nativity story than the stable, the shepherds and the star? Discover and share a new perspective this Christmas on the event that changed the world.

Get the latest: biblesociety.org.uk/Christmas



SATURDAY
3 NOV 2018

A **MISSION FOCUSED PRAYER** CONFERENCE
Bethel Convention Centre, Birmingham

SPEAKERS



Rev Betty King
Betty King Ministries



James Aladiran
Prayer Storm



Paul Hudson
Elim Missions



Dr Harvey Kwiyani
Missio Africanus



Mike Fagg
MAF

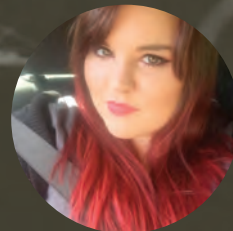
WORSHIP LEADERS



Noel Robinson



Helen Yousaf



Rebecca Aladiran

TICKETS £15 / £5 CONCESSION

Doors open 9.45am, event ends 9pm. Breakout workshops with leaders in their field.

LIMITED TICKETS so book tickets now at:

WWW.FORTHESAKEOFTHEWORLD.COM

Sponsored by:



In Partnership with:



Organised by: **MAF**