

Church Without Walls

Issue 61 June 27th 2021

THE HOSPITALITY PLEDGE

The government's proposed **New Plan for Immigration** presents the biggest change to our asylum system in a generation, and is set to greatly reduce the UK's acceptance of asylum seekers. The Hospitality Pledge will work in coalition with other UK and international charities to speak up for all asylum seekers; we will also aim to help those who are persecuted for their religious beliefs and encourage people around the UK to offer hospitality to refugees and asylum seekers in their homes where they can.

This will be launched at an online event on **Monday 28th June from 8-9.30pm**, with speakers including: Lord Alf Dubs, Rachel Poulton MBE, Rahima Mahmut, Dr Krish Kandiah, Rev Nicky Gumbel, and more.

To register for this FREE event [click here](#)



The Story of 'How Great Thou Art'

Have you ever wondered how one of our best-loved hymns came to be written?

1934: A village in the Carpathian Mountains.

Anna reads from a Russian Bible, her words precise and careful. She is the first person in her village ever to do so – the first person ever to learn to read.



Her guests listen in rapt attention as she tells them of Jesus. A dozen men and women turn to Christ, exclaiming their wonder at the love of God.

At that moment, a stranger arrives.

34-year-old Stuart K Hine has been cycling through the mountains for weeks, sharing the good news of the gospel and giving out Bibles.

Inspired by the wonder of God's creation, he is already halfway through composing the words of a song that will one day be sung all over the world. Seeing such a moment of revelation for the people of this village, he writes again.

The first verse was inspired by a thunderstorm in the first village he reached; the second by the green woods and fresh glades alive with birdsong, through which he travelled.

Stuart arrived in Anna's village just in time to hear people exclaiming at the revelation of God's love, prompting him to write the third verse.

The final verse was written 14 years later, whilst Stuart and his wife were ministering to war-weary refugees in Europe in 1948.

[You can read the whole story here](#)



Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13.2

Using your voice & your home to help refugees & asylum seekers

WELCOME CHURCHES

The Christian Book Centre in Fox Street has sadly closed its doors for the last time. They have sent us this message:

We have made arrangements with one of our suppliers, KingswayCLC, to take on our shop phone number from the 21st June 2021, they offer a wide range of products and if you require any resources in the future it will be worth giving them a call or sending them an email. If you explain you were a customer of our Preston shop they will then be aware of the arrangements in place to supply you.



The phone no 01772 259279 will be automatically transferred to KingswayCLC from 21st June.

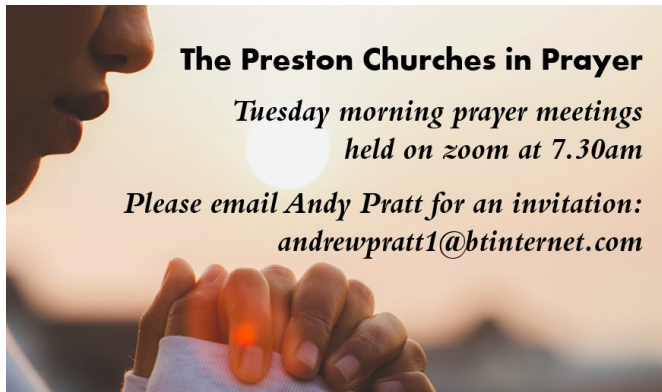
or you can email: sales@kingswayclctrust.com or phone their Direct Sales Team on 0330 8181000

(Don't forget to mention you are a Preston Christian Book Centre Customer)

They have also written a letter to their customers, which you can read [here](#).

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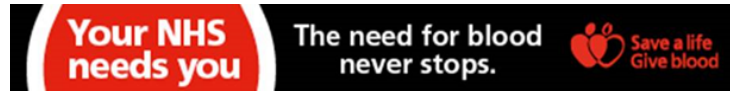
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The Preston Churches in Prayer

Tuesday morning prayer meetings
held on zoom at 7.30am

Please email Andy Pratt for an invitation:
andrewpratt1@btinternet.com



NHS Blood and Transplant needs your help. We have an upcoming blood donation session at GHS Cultural Centre, Preston on **Wednesday 30th June**, with lots of available appointments. You could help by booking an appointment to donate blood today!

We are working closely with the rest of the NHS to keep supplying lifesaving blood to hospitals during the coronavirus pandemic and we need people to keep donating as normal. We have extra safety measures in place and every precaution is being taken to eliminate the risk of covid-19 transmission at our blood donation sessions. Having an appointment to give blood is classed as essential travel and will be exempt from any local or national travel restrictions.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic donors are also specifically needed right now, because:

Some patients who receive frequent blood transfusions need blood to be closely matched to their own.

A number of blood conditions, like sickle cell disease which is treated through blood transfusions, most commonly affect black, Asian and minority ethnic people.

The best match typically comes from blood donors from the same ethnic background.

Whether you are a new or regular donor, please visit blood.co.uk, download the NHSGiveBlood app or call us on 0300 123 23 23 to book an appointment today.

Thank you for helping us to save lives.

It's easy to think that becoming a Christian can suddenly put our lives right, remove worries, shelve pressures and concerns. That old habits can suddenly end and temptations batted away. Maybe for some, that can, and has happened, but not for most.



Life for many people is complicated, chaotic and packed with pressures. Turning to Christ is a major life changing event, but that doesn't suddenly solve life's problems. Our team last Saturday met a lady on the street who gave her life to Christ a year or so ago. But now has found herself back to square 1 with loneliness, pressures from others and substance abuse. How can we help those that refuse, or can't cope with, help?

She cried in the bus stop.

Sometimes we feel powerless. But we remember that "...for my power is made perfect in weakness" 2Cor12v9. And we turn to prayer. Please would you join us in praying for those who find life too difficult. That the only option open to them always ends up being the wrong option, that we would see miracles on the streets as Jesus heals lives and restores hope.



**This week
please pray
for the people
living in
Warton Street**

How do we know that atoms are Catholic?

They have mass.

Who in the Bible knew the most people?

Abraham - he knew a Lot.

What did pirates call Noah's boat?

"The arrrrrrk."



Our annual ladies BBQ will be held on 9th July at 7pm in the Vicarage garden. We look forward to the chance to get to know our new curate Barbara and welcome her into our church family.

We would love for you to join us, please book early to ensure your place.

For more details and to book please [click here](#)

 **St Stephen's**
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES