



Goring United Reformed Church

Goring United Reformed Church is part of the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom. At the beginning of 2018, a Joint Pastorate was formed with Sompting United Reformed Church with whom we share Ministry.

The United Reformed Church has over 1600 churches in England, Scotland and Wales with a total membership of about 46500.

It has over 1300 congregations, and 608 active ministers. It was formed in 1972 when the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales united, and it was joined by the Reformed Association of Churches of Christ in Great Britain and Ireland in 1981 and the Congregational Union of Scotland in 2000.

The churches of Emmanuel in Worthing, Sompting, Goring and Littlehampton are part of the 'Worthing Cluster' and United Reformed Church Southern Synod, whose affairs are governed by General Assembly.

It was early in the 1930s that Worthing Congregational Church in Shelley Road began planning to build a new church in the rapidly growing area to the west of Worthing. The present building was opened in September 1961 when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in the church building that is now the hall. This first building was opened in 1948.

Other churches in Goring with whom we share the Christian faith are English Martyrs Roman catholic Church, St Mary, St Laurence & St Richard Churches of England, New Life Baptist Church and Bury Drive Methodist Church.

We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all



Goring United Reformed Church, Worthing, West Sussex

<https://gurc.net> and on facebook



Sept 1961
Goring Congregational Church
to
Goring United Reformed Church
Sept 2021

The Chronicle

Autumn 2021

The Magazine of Goring United Reformed Church



We are here to worship God and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to all

GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- We share a minister with Sompting United Reformed Church -

Shaftesbury Avenue, Goring by sea, Worthing, West Sussex. BN12 4EA

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Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

10.30am Morning worship - with Holy communion on first Sunday in month.

- Junior Church

All services at 10:30am are live streamed and recorded for later viewing on our website <https://www.gurc.net/>

Disclaimer: Whilst great care is taken to accurately reproduce articles presented for the Chronicle, mistakes sometimes do occur. Please note that the views expressed in the following pages are not necessarily those of Goring United Reformed Church.

Weekday Activities

Please refer to our website for up to date information
<https://www.gurc.net/diary>

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The Chronicle costs approximately £1.50 each to produce. Whilst no charge is made for the magazine, the Church would be very grateful for any donations given to help towards its cost of production.

There is a box provided for such purpose at the back of the church, or contributions may be made by post to Mrs Susie Thomas (address above). Thank you.

The
CHRONICLE

<https://gurc.net/chronicle>

chronicle@gurc.org.uk



Answers to Crossword puzzle on pages 20/21

A	C	C	E	S	S		B	L	I	N	D	S	
D		R		I			A		Y			A	
R	H	Y	M	E		L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	
I		S		G		A		B		O		I	
A	N	T	W	E	R	P		A	E	N	O	N	
N		A				P		R				G	
		L	O	F	T	I	N	E	S	S			
A				U		D				P		T	
S	A	T	A	N		O	B	A	D	I	A	H	
H		E		E		T		I		T		O	
O	N	E	A	R	T	H		S	T	O	R	M	
R		T		A				L		U		A	
E	X	H	A	L	E			D	E	P	T	H	S

Church Website

Did You Know That -

If you are new to Goring United Reformed Church and would like to know a bit more about us, then you can very easily do that by either -

1. Picking up a Leaflet "New Here ?" ask a 'Welcomer' at the door, or -
2. From our Home Page <https://gurc.net>, just click or tap on the [New Here?](#) button.

Solution to puzzle on page 17

5	1	3	2	7	4	6	9	8
7	4	8	9	5	8	3	2	1
9	8	2	1	6	3	7	5	4
3	5	1	7	4	9	2	8	6
6	7	4	8	2	1	5	3	9
8	2	9	5	3	6	4	1	7
1	3	5	6	8	7	9	4	2
2	9	7	4	1	5	8	6	3
4	6	8	3	9	2	1	7	5

The Chronicle

Autumn 2021

Vol.78 - No. 668

Front Cover:



Building of the New Church

Photos taken of the new church building from Autumn of 1960 to the opening of the building in September 1961.

Read more on page 22

2 **From the Manse** - Revival Post Pandemic - Rev Andrew Sellwood

8 **Tuesday Fellowship**

10 **A Journey in Gymnastics** - Chloe Redman



12 **The Bible Society Celebrates** - Eileen Rhodes

14 **Puppets** - Mary Redman

18 **Welcoming People into Church** - Rosemary Terry

20 **Crossword**

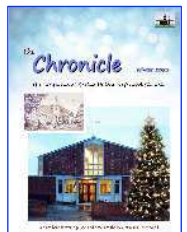


22 **A New Church in 1961**

23 **Parable of the Sower. Mark 4: 1-20** - from Parish Pump

24 **Answers to Puzzles & Did You Know?**

New in this issue: Throughout the magazine some text is in blue and underlined. If you are reading this Chronicle on a computer, these are active links that will take you directly to the relevant website page.



Winter (Christmas) edition of the Chronicle due 1st December

From the Manse



By the time you read this letter the impact of COVID-19 on daily life may be significantly reduced. Vaccinations will be well underway, restrictions on movement may have eased, and you might be refreshed by quality time off during the summer. There may be real cause for optimism about the future in our communities; things may be Looking Up. I hope that is true!

I wasn't going to mention Covid 19 in my letter this time but try as I might I kept coming back to it. As variants of COVID-19 begin to spread again some countries are re-entering mandatory lockdowns. Australia that was so swift to lockdown and impose strict travel and border control but is now suffering. The vaccination programme was thought to have limited effect so not pursued. Here in the UK we may be coping but our

world is not out of the pandemic yet. In some form or other Covid will stay with us in a similar way the flu virus is with us. However, with vaccinations on the rise around the world and more than a year's experience, we now have a better perspective, looking back and learning from past events to move forward. But what did we learn from the events of the last 18 months or so?

The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4: 1-20

The Parable of the Sower is the story of a farmer who sowed his seed in different type of soils. These represent the different responses of the heart to God's Word (v15-20)

1 The hard heart: 'like seed along the path...as soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.' (15). Some people, when they hear the message, get distracted eg social media, work or relationships. Personal priorities prevent them from hearing God.

2 The shallow heart: 'like seed sown on rocky places...since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.' (16,17). These are the people whose heart isn't open to the message. When things become uncomfortable or discouraging, they are ready to quit.

3 The crowded heart: 'like seed sown among thorns...but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.' (18,19). This soil is most relevant for us today. People crave status, comfort, security and personal desires alongside the things of God. It's a heart that is worried about life getting out of control!

4 The open heart: 'like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.' (20). This represents the open heart that listens and accepts Jesus's word, and is ready to follow Him however difficult things become. What kind of soil is our heart? Are we hard, shallow, crowded or open? Do we have a heart of faith to follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives?

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers how various people respond to God.

Parish Pump

Building of the new Church



1. Rev Bernard Spaul with Helen Franks [Daughter of Rev Cyril Franks] Saturday 22 October 1960



2. Architect's drawing
3. JCB - the first dig.



4. Portal Frames December 1960

See and read more about our history on our website <https://gurc.net> under 'Archives'



According to a 2020 limited survey by CRI* UK, *Christian Research Institute. a large majority of church going adults (80%) say there is a lesson for humankind to learn from the pandemic, while 19% disagreed, 1% said pandemic what pandemic? Of the 80%, 25% of evangelical Christians say the pandemic was sent by God. I am never sure where they get these figures I have never been asked. No matter what researchers tell us I think we can agree that there are always lessons to be learned from God while journeying through tough and challenging times.

As we think about what the pandemic may have taught us, our churches, and our ministries, here are a few potential lessons to reflect upon.

Firstly, a sobering thought - we are not in as much control as we think we are, technology won't save us.

We are not invincible. We are not infallible. We cannot guarantee anything. As we look at our lives, our churches, our ministries, no amount of computer models and predictions or financial support could have prepared us for COVID. No number of volunteers and staff could have prevented a lockdown.

No amount of skill or charisma or training could have helped us foresee a pandemic. We need to remember our human limitations as we live and work for God's kingdom. Though we may have gifts, skills, education, and experience, God is still the one in control, not us. God is the one who is sovereign, not us. It is His Kingdom we are invited to be a part of. That truth puts us in our place.

God will draw us closer to Him.

God's desire is for relationships. As God of the Trinity Father, Son and Holy Spirit, He is constantly in relationships. As Creator, He longs to be in relationship with His creation. But in His goodness, He doesn't force us to be in relationship with Him. He draws us in. He sometimes subtly nudges and reveals Himself to us whatever our circumstances.

When we understand this, we can better understand how to draw others to God. The sacrificial and forgiving work of our Saviour Jesus Christ; and the guiding, wise power of a discerning Spirit. God's character draws us to Himself, whether we're by still waters or going through deep dark valleys. He will go to great measures to reveal Himself to us.

Always be ready to respond to God

Being comfortable is not what God desires for us. Cruise-control is not how God wants us to move through life. He wants us to be alert and ready, for whatever comes our way. "Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour" (1 Peter 5:8). That passage makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. It should shock us into a state of readiness. We cannot let our guard down. In our churches and in our ministries, it's too easy to do things the way it's always done or to get too comfortable or to leisurely go through the motions. If we are not constantly battling through prayer, through persisting in the study of Scripture, through training others to grow and to lead we have not done all we can to fight for God's Kingdom. Be sober-minded and alert. The lion is prowling.

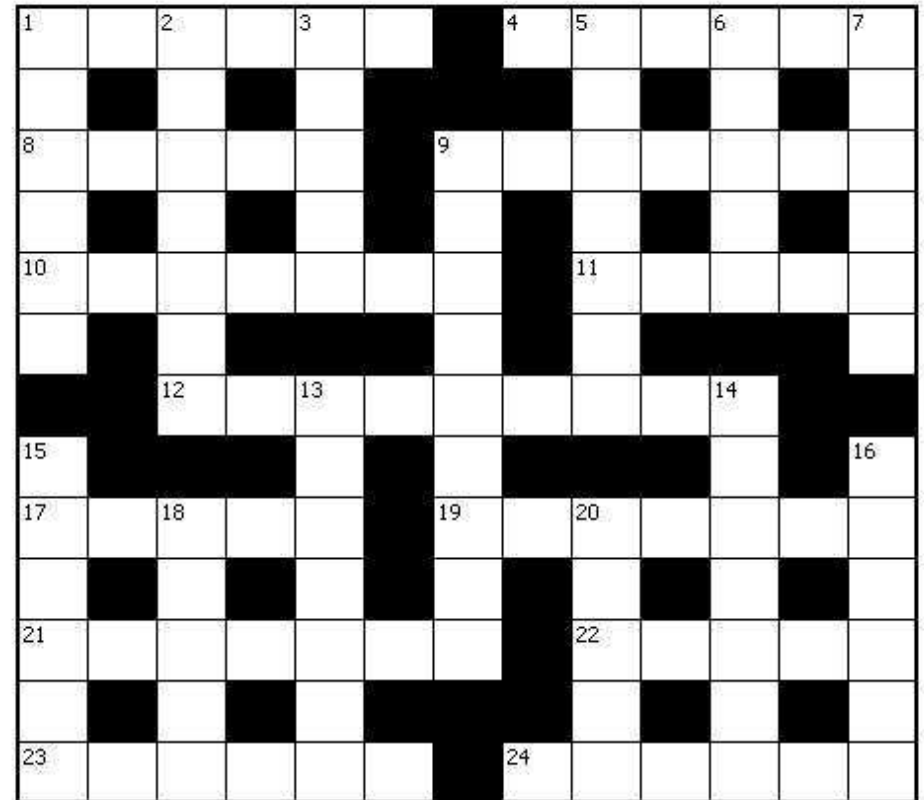
Always be ready for God to move

We stay alert not only because we know the enemy is prowling, but because we know God is moving. We wait for instructions. When He says go, we go. When He says stay,

we stay. Many times, we don't know how God will move. He may move through a global catastrophe. He may move through a small act of kindness. God still moves and in ways we sometimes don't understand. That's because we're not God, we're not all-knowing. But He is and being all-knowing and all-good, we can always trust in His plans and movements. Our allegiance to Christ is not a one-time act of obedience. It is a daily walk with Him and following Him in His steps. As great as it is to hear godly wisdom from those we respect and admire around us, we also must come before God, to hear His voice and instructions for us.

Prioritize first things first

In our church life, many things can be prioritized from worship to outreach opportunities to home groups and mission projects. But if Christ is not the centre of it all, we have somewhat lost our way. Enduring a pandemic reminds us to set our priorities straight. May Christ and a saving knowledge of Him as Saviour and Lord always be placed central in our lives as the best of things. As churches, groups and



The Chronicle Winter 2021

The closing date for the Winter magazine articles is 1 November 2021

You can submit articles in any of the following ways :-

The Form on our Website

E-mail to chronicle@gurc.org.uk

Post to Graham Redman at 5 Salvington Hill, BN13 3AT

Crossword Clues

Clues Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
- 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
- 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
- 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
- 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
- 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
- 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
- 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
- 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
- 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
- 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
- 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
- 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
- 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
- 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
- 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
- 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

Answers on page 24

activities continue to reopen, this is a good time to reflect: Is our worship centred on Christ? Are our Hymns and songs centred on Him? Are our sermons centred on Him? Are our Bible study sessions focused on Him? Are our church meetings, finance and property committees, Elders meeting, and outreach planning focused on Him?

The lessons we learn from the pandemic should wake us up and help us refocus our thoughts toward Christ and Christ alone. Whether it's a global pandemic or some other catastrophe or success even, God is always trying to teach us things about Himself and His kingdom. May we have ears to always hear what He has to say. We now have an opportunity to try new things and not to return to some of the old ways. Yes, some of the old ways were good but we need discernment to go forward and grow. The old ways and traditions may not work now, may not be relevant. You would not believe it, but I heard of a church that had fallen out over the way the chairs were arranged on a Sunday; you couldn't make that kind of thing up. What would Jesus say about that?

What would someone visiting make of that?

We must face up to the grim truth that numbers attending worship are dropping across the traditional denominational churches. In our denomination at the end of June 2021 there were 249 full time Stipendiary ministers for the 1300 URC churches across the UK. 20 years ago there were 650 full time Stipendiary ministers and 1600 churches. 200,000 plus members now 46,000. So we have a real challenge but also a real opportunity to put an end to the problem. Sorry, another survey this one was taken in 2018 (way before lockdown) by Christopher Yuan from the Moodey Bible Institute. He saw a crisis in the traditional kind of churches, so in his research he through various means contacted 2,000 individuals by random selection. Half were people who had tried church but drifted away, the other half were members of churches. Here are a few of his findings as to what people thought of the church.

	Outside of the church %	Worshippers %
Unwelcoming	88	26
Judgemental	87	32
Hypocritical	85	47
Old fashioned	78	36
Too much internal politics	75	50
Out of touch with reality	72	32
Boring	68	27
Confusing	64	44

At the top of the list are people who thought the church to be unwelcoming 88% and church folk obviously thought they were welcoming scored 26%.

We surely must take a reality check and do something different.

Now is most definitely the time to do so. How will we welcome people and make them feel at home. We have to remember it's not our house but God's house. It's not our kingdom, folks may enter in to it but remember it is the Kingdom of God where He is sovereign.

As a postscript... It seems reading through some of my recent journals that many church leaders are experiencing conflict within their churches.

People falling out over silly and unnecessary misunderstandings.

There is a general lack of communication as well as grace within our churches.

It would be helpful for all to read through Ephesians 4:25-5:2 again. There is a well-known military strategy divide and conquer.

The more time goes on, the more I see this conflict arise.

- Information on websites – ours has a 'New Here' section with information of what is on offer.
- Smiling Welcomers (Stewards) who introduce themselves and make introductions to other members of the congregation, focus on the new comer and ask non-intrusive questions.
- The Welcomers' role in passing on important information to put the visitor at ease on the assumption that they know nothing about church:-
 - o Seating arrangements
 - o Hymn books/words on a screen
 - o Where the facilities are
 - o Communion protocols
 - o Information leaflets to hand out about church activities or services
 - o If children come – do we have anything to offer them e.g. activity bag/area for play/offer of going into Junior Church?
 - o Extend an invitation to join those who stay behind after the service for a drink and chat and to remember to follow this up at the end.
- Andy reminded us that we all have a role to play in making visitors feel welcome and that the quality of the beverages available after the service may also influence how visitors view us!
- Lastly, the importance of remembering people's names and something about them if they do come back again, has a very positive effect.

We ended with prayer and thanks to Andy for a very useful session. It gave us food for thought about what we are doing well and where we could do better.

Rosemary Terry

Welcoming People into Church

with Andy Twilley

22 July 2021

Members from Sompting and Goring attended the session which was opened with prayer. Andy led us in thinking about how we welcomed people into our churches. He reminded us that it is usually very difficult for those with no faith, new to faith or visiting to pluck up the courage to get over the threshold and that whether they return depends greatly on the reception and welcome they receive. Many who feel welcomed will often give positive feedback about their experience.

Having watched a video about a couple trying to buy a drink of coffee and talked about what had made it so difficult and the experience so unwelcoming, we discussed what helps people make a decision to come to church.

These are some of the examples that help:-

- Clear, simple and inclusive external notice boards including saying that everyone is welcome. Andy felt ours was a good example of this. He read Coventry Cathedral's welcome which was long but very inclusive and a good reminder of what 'everyone' really means. (He is sending it to Andrew for distribution to anyone who would like a copy.)

Unity, compassion, kindness, forgiveness and love are what we are aiming for, we miss the target at our peril. All the warning signs are there for us to see. We need to avoid them at all costs. To end this piece on a positive note let's look for the good news.

There may be real cause for optimism about the future of our churches, I believe we have been given another chance to start again. Things may be looking up. I hope and pray that is true!

Andrew Sellwood

Church Website

Don't forget -

To keep up to date by using our Diary

<https://gurc.net/diary>



Croutons

Why do croutons come in airtight packages?
Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

Grammatical Sense

If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

Tuesday Fellowship

In March 2020 when the members of Tuesday Fellowship had to stop meeting and enter 'lockdown' along with almost the rest of the world, everyone thought it would soon be over, and we would resume 'normal life'.

As we all know now that did not happen and it is only recently that we have managed to meet one another again. In fact it was in June 2021 that Bobby (our President) invited all those who wished to do so to gather (socially distanced) in her garden, and we have continued to do so every Tuesday fortnight when the weather has allowed. It has been uplifting to see each other, to chat and catch-up with one another's news and local events, and to 'put the world to rights'. Over the past many months we

have kept in touch with members by telephone conversations, writing letters or notes to other members where more appropriate, and Bobby has continued our tradition of sending birthday cards to the ladies - all very much appreciated.

You will all no doubt be aware of Jane Allen dying last year, of Joan Finlay moving into a care home in Ferring, and just recently the sad passing of our dear friend Carole Culliss. Carole had served on the Committee, and also as President, over many years and will be so greatly missed for all the assistance, help and support given to Tuesday Fellowship by her over such a long time.

Our numbers are now in the

Church Website

Did You Know That -

We have an [On-Line Prayer book](#) with a facility to submit your own prayer or prayers.

New facility on gurc.net

We have very recently introduced a [Meet the Team](#) page showing the Minister, Church Secretary, Pastoral Secretary, Church Treasurer and the Serving Elders

	1	3	2	7	4		9	
		6	9	5				
	8	2					7	
	5			4			2	6
	7							3
8		9		3				1
		5					9	4
				1	5		8	
	6		3	9	2		1	7

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Sudoku

Difficulty: Easy

Solution: page 24



This photo is nothing to do with my article about the Bible Society on page 11, but it shows the statue in Tirana, capital of Albania is of Mother Theresa, who was born in Albania.

region of a dozen or so members and we are planning to reconvene our September meetings (2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 2.15 p.m.) back in the Cornwall Room at our Church. These first two gatherings will be on an informal basis, with lots of chatter and exchange of news and views, plus the collection of our annual subscriptions as per usual that month.

We are then hoping to be able to provide a speaker for some of the other autumn afternoons from amongst our local ministers and friends who have so thankfully

visited us in the past and to whom we are so grateful for their time and the presentations delivered to us.

We are a friendly and welcoming group and look forward to meeting anyone else who has a spare couple of hours to join us - and please bring a friend along if you so wish.

Alison Westcott



Gymnastics: A Journey for Chloe

Hi readers!

For those who don't know, I am a Vault and Tumble Gymnast and trainee volunteer coach for gymnastics company (Gymco).

I have been doing gymnastics as a beginner for most of my life but recently things have become progressed. Originally, I was a member of Flipitas Gymnastics Club, and they got me into gymnastics and loving the sport. Sadly they had to shut down last year because of covid. Since then, I have joined Gymco.

At first, I was gutted but now I realise it was a bit of a blessing in disguise, because Gymco have pushed me so much further and given me the opportunity to become a coach.



Now I am coaching 4-7 year-olds on a Tuesday, preschool fun camps (these run in Christmas/ summer holidays and half terms) and coaching 4-7 year-olds on Fridays.

Photo left: Chloe taken a few years ago at Flipitas Gymnastics Club.

Goring URC Sunday Children

Sunday Mornings
10.30am - 11.30am

Puppet Club

Bible stories told
through puppeteering
September 19th
October 17th
November 21st
December 19th
Dec 24th (Nativity)



Junior Church

Bible study, prayer, games,
and craft
September 5th, 12th, 26th
October 3rd, 10th, 24th, 31st
November 7th, 14th, 28th
December 5th, 12th

Youth Church

A time for High School
pupils after the service to
chat about the service.
September 5th, 26th
October 10th, 24th
November 14th



@goringurc

www.gurc.net

BN12 4EA (opposite Worthing Leisure Centre)



- Reading this on a computer? click on the [image](#) above to see more -

Goring URC Preschool Puppet Club

Tuesdays in term time
1.30pm - 2.15pm
Starting 7th Sept 2021



Bible Story-time
Craft
Singing
Puppet Play



@goringurc
BN12 4EA (opposite Worthing Leisure Centre)

www.gurc.net



- Reading this on a computer? click on the [image](#) above to see more -

I also do vault and tumble training on a Tuesday once I have finished coaching.

I am loving gym and can't wait to see what it brings me in the future!!

Chloe Redman



On this page:

Very recent photos in Gymco



Gym?

Before setting off on a business trip to Birmingham, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym.

The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered. We have over 100 guests at this hotel," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"

The Bible Society Celebrates !

Do we in England take our various English editions of the Bible for granted? Just imagine living and worshipping God in a country where there is no Bible in your own language.

So it has been in ALBANIA until now. Until the fall of communism in 1990 Albania was an atheist state – religion was banned and schools taught that faith was wrong. Then thanks to missionaries entering the country the Gospel message began to spread.

Then the miracle happened! Four Albanian men, each from a different Christian tradition came together to translate the Bible from the original Greek and Hebrew, grappling with meaning, context and culture for each verse.

Every couple of months for the last 10 years they met together, spending seven days working from morning until evening, discussing every word and carefully nurturing every verse into its new language.

Now the project has been completed and Albania has its first complete Bible. Altin Hysi, who leads Bible Society's work in Albania says: "These translators are not just linguists, they are truly believers in God. There is beauty in this translation – there is richness and form. It has life!"



So, we too can celebrate with the Bible Society, praying that this first Albanian Bible will be a tool to bring more people to know and love our Lord.

NB I have personally been interested in Albania since I was on the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer (now World Day of Prayer). We supported the Albanian committee in prayer and with grants to enable them to hold annual workshops prior to the Day of Prayer service. The women of the country were enthusiastic but so poor that the only way they could attend was for a coach to travel around the country to pick them up.

Eileen Rhodes