

Muddiford



United Reformed Church

(The Chapel in the Valley)



**Stepping
Stones
July 2025**




Summer
Blessings

MUDDIFORD MONTHLY

JULY 2025

Date	Service Leaders	Reader
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6 th		
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13 th	David Peyton	Martin
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20 th	Alison Cairns	Adrian
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27 th	Paula Littlewood	Chris
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Date	Flowers	Tea & Coffee
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6 th	Jean	Rosie & Chris
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13 th	Pam	Pauline & Martin
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20 th	Gary	Daphne & Paul
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27 th	Sheila	Penny & Gary
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All Services are at 10 a.m.

Zoom internet lines open from 9.30 a.m. to join meeting.

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Prayer Meetings take place on Zoom Sunday evenings at 6:30pm.

“Bloom of Hope” Exhibition.

Marwood Church

A display of crafted flowers.

Troughout July & August

Open daily. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Refreshments on Sunday afternoons.



We are living in one of the most extraordinary spiritual moments in recent history. God is moving, and the signs of revival are visible, measurable, and they're here.

In Isaiah 43:19, God asks, 'See, I am doing a new thing... do you not perceive it?'

In our time, something new is stirring.

Atheism is in decline – According to YouGov, under 25 year olds are now half as likely to be atheists compared to their parents.

Young men are back in church – Once statistically the least likely to engage with church, young men are now five times more likely to attend than just a few years ago.

Bible sales have skyrocketed – According to SPCK, between 2019 – 2024, Bible sales increased by 87%.

And in just six years, the number of 18–24 year olds attending church has increased fourfold. Gen Z is not walking away from faith – they're leaning in. As The Bible Society puts it: 'The Church is not just growing but transforming, with young adults leading the way'.

From Waverley Abbey

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Wednesday night out
The Venue, Pottington Estate,
Barnstaple.
30th July 7.30 p.m.





**The rain, it raineth on the just
And also on the unjust fella:
But chiefly on the just, because
The unjust steals the just's umberella.**

Divine encounters are driving Christian conversions, new study finds.

evangelical alliance
together making Jesus known



A new study by the Evangelical Alliance has found that the majority of UK adults who become Christians say an “experience with God” was central to their conversion.

The survey, *Finding Jesus*, examined the journeys of over 200 adults who have come to faith later in life. Most respondents said a spiritual encounter was pivotal in turning to God, followed by reading the Bible, which many found formative in shaping their beliefs.

Witnessing the faith of family and friends, outside of church leadership, was the third most influential factor, with a significant number of participants highlighting its impact.

The research aimed to explore the recent resurgence in Christian faith across the UK. Rachael Heffer, Head of Mission at the Evangelical Alliance and project lead, told *Premier Christian News*: “For a number of our participants, life kind of felt and looked okay. They had the family, the job and so on – and yet, what comes out is that actually they had this spiritual stirring, or a sense that something was missing.”

Many participants described coming to faith after experiencing a low point in their lives. “Sometimes people reported thinking: ‘What is it all about? Is it really worth carrying on?’ and yet, ‘Isn’t God good?’ Story after story told us that God had encountered people at that point of need, and that started a faith journey,” said Heffer.

Of the 280 surveyed, 55 per cent were female and 45 per cent male, with a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. Forty-five per cent had an annual household income under £35,000, while 12 per cent reported earning more than £75,000.

When asked what prompted them to explore Christianity, the top response was “I needed help with life” (37 per cent), followed by “I was looking for meaning” (34 per cent) and “difficult/painful experience” (32 per cent). Social media ranked lowest, with only four per cent accrediting their faith journey to online prompting.

Heffer said the findings should encourage churches: “Christian communities are doing a great job. We need to be bold and brave to speak of Jesus, because when we do, the impact is huge.”

From Sheila