

NEWSLETTER
January - February
2026

IHOPE
CHURCH SHAW
Building Faith Sharing Love

coffee
3:16

NEW YEAR is always a time of expectancy; we all instinctively seek new beginnings. Often that is because we have been through difficulty beforehand and we wait for a new and brighter season. Well, if that's you today then know this - that Jesus is the only one who can transform our life and circumstances. He said, "Behold I am making all things new!" Revelation 21:5. We may not see much in the world that is encouraging for the year ahead of us, but when we come in faith to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us all our sin, He makes us NEW! He gives us a new heart, a new hope, a new purpose and a new worldview.

Whatever 2025 may have been for you, I pray that in 2026 you may come by faith to see that Jesus is all you need. He is the beginning and the end and He alone can hold you through all the confusion and circumstances of life. May 2026 truly be a new year for you.

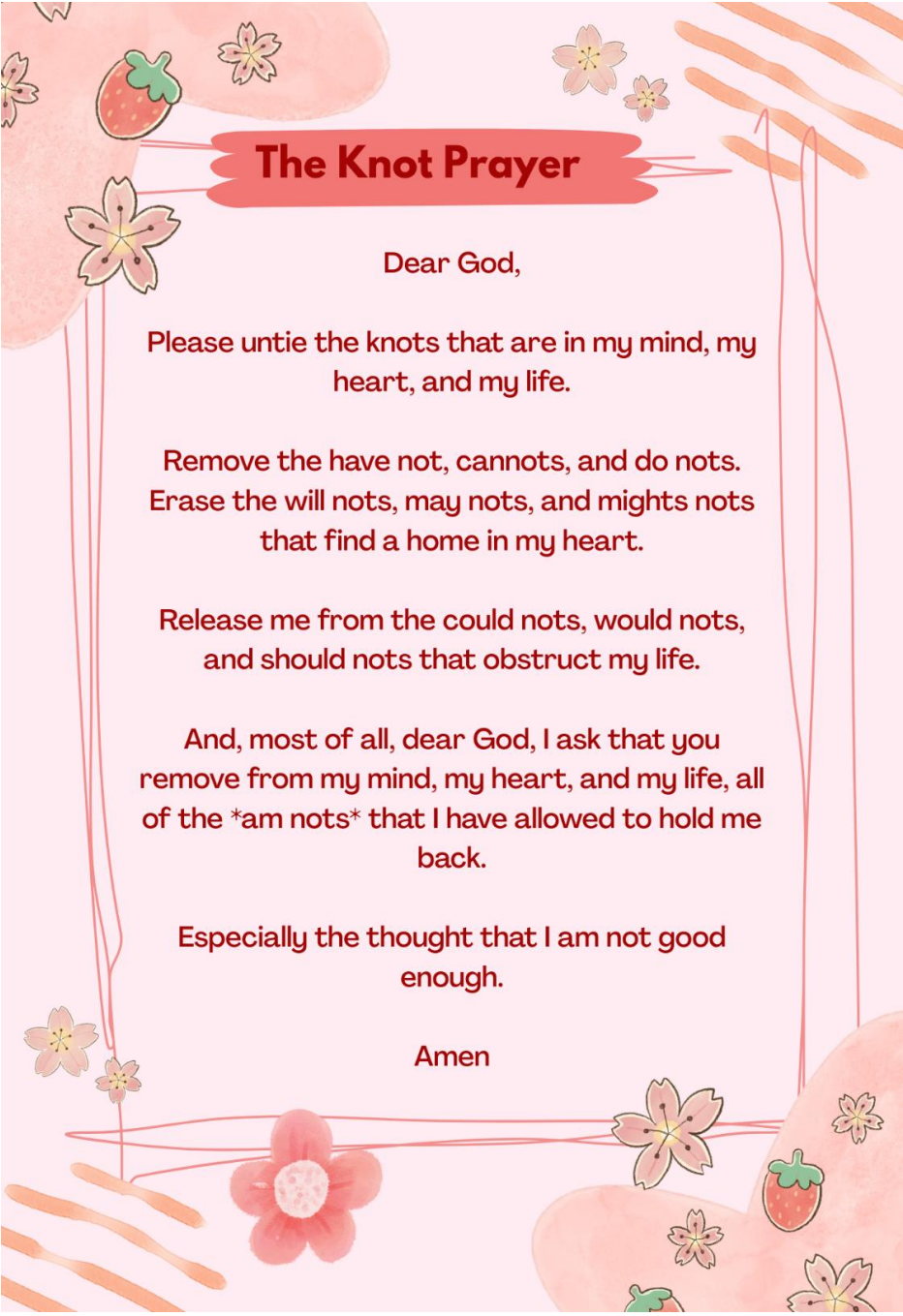
Love Dave

SO, another Christmas behind us, they come and go so swiftly, don't they? Nothing seems to change except that the world gets darker, the economies of the Nations get worse, and people struggle, wars increase, perplexities come and the world reels in darkness.

Where is today's church in all of this? What will tomorrow's church be like. The light of the world came on that first Christmas which lights every man that comes into the world. His name is Jesus. But men love darkness rather than light, to hide their evil deeds. The light of the world still shines wherever God's real people meet together in oneness and love.

Who knows whether there will be a "tomorrows church", for we wait for the return of the Saviour, just as the world waited for His first appearance on that first Christmas. But when He returns, He will come to take home His own special people who have trusted in His death and resurrection and live in the newness of life poured into the heart by the Holy Spirit. Are you one of those who wait, He want's nothing from you apart from your heart and your sin and your trust and love for Him.

Love John



The Knot Prayer

Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart, and my life.

Remove the have nots, cannots, and do nots.
Erase the will nots, may nots, and might nots
that find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots,
and should nots that obstruct my life.

And, most of all, dear God, I ask that you
remove from my mind, my heart, and my life, all
of the *am nots* that I have allowed to hold me
back.

Especially the thought that I am not good
enough.

Amen

FAITH AT THE SHARP END

Mr Nahum Evans (37)

Occupation: Talent Acquisition Manager

I fell into recruitment shortly after Hannah and I got engaged. My older brother worked at a recruitment agency, and I called him asking if they had any entry level jobs going. I remember going for the interview and being asked why I wanted a job in recruitment. My answer was simple and brutally honest: "Because I'm getting married and I need a proper job!". They must have appreciated my honesty because I got the job and started at the bottom of the ladder as a 'Resourcer'. I knew nothing about the construction industry but through talking to engineers, project managers, site managers etc. all day every day, I developed a deep understanding and appreciation for the industry.

Working at the agency wasn't easy; it wasn't the best environment to be in. It was highly competitive and people generally didn't think twice about 'doing over' one of their colleagues to make a deal. There was regular after work drinks during the week and in work, the loudest, most competitive people often made the most money. While I deeply enjoyed learning about engineering and the construction industry, I struggled with the environment and found I didn't fit in. There were times when I felt like I wanted to, and so on a few occasions, at some of the after-work drinks, I would drink more than I knew I should, in a bid to try and feel like 'one of the lads' – it never worked.

I ended up leaving the agency after nearly 5 years and joined an engineering company (the one I'm still at) as an internal recruiter. This was a very different role – 'poacher-turned-gamekeeper' and one I very much enjoy, however it comes with a different set of challenges. In the modern corporate world, the EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) agenda is very strong and there have been times where I have felt pressured to support that agenda. Now of course, there are some very good and right elements of EDI – the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion are of course biblical – men and women are made in God's image and have inherent worth and value, that much is clear from Scripture. However, these principles have been highjacked and twisted by the radical LGBTQ+ movement, demanding that their identity and choices must not only be respected but wholeheartedly endorsed and celebrated; anyone who doesn't is branded a bigot and a homophobe/transphobe.

Navigating this landscape has been challenging at times and there have been times where I have had to stand up for my faith, however I have been thankful

that I can also claim 'EDI rights' as a Christian, and the company I work for largely respects people of different faiths.

There have also been very encouraging times; I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to start a Christian fellowship group a couple of years ago with one of my colleagues on the project I'm working on. We hold weekly meetings/calls that a lot of people have joined since we've been going and we've had the opportunity to hold events at Christmas and Easter, when we've been able to share the Gospel to a wider group and there have been several good spiritual conversations that have sprung from these events. The group has been very encouraging. I am thankful for recent opportunities to share my faith with my manager.



God has been extremely kind and gracious to me over the years, despite having failed him time and time again. *Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.* Psalm 36:5.

My favourite song? That's a tricky one – there are so many and it probably changes quite frequently. One that has captured me recently is 'Abide', by Aaron Williams.

The chorus goes:

*You're the way the truth and the life
You're the well that never runs dry
I'm the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide
Be my strength my song in the night
Be my all my treasure my prize
I am Yours forever Your mine
Draw me close and teach me to abide*

In the busyness of life, I need to learn how to abide in Christ and it is my daily prayer that He will *truly* be my treasure and my prize.

JAN & DAVE COLLINS

Our Story - We moved to Oldham 12 years ago from Beverley, Yorkshire. We believe it was God leading us here to Shaw. 9 years ago, we started a Bible Study Group at our home. Realising we needed a building to welcome new people to our Group we bought one, and for those who know Shaw well, will remember Hope Church and Coffee 3:16 is on the spot where the card shop used to be, Coffee 3:16 has been years in the making.

How did we come up with the name for the coffee shop?

A group of us went to buy the furniture that we have and were going through possible names that would suit as a coffee shop linked to the Church. Run by Christians who want to connect and serve the community of Shaw and beyond.



Coffee 3:16 was mentioned and we all said a resounding "Yes". It is linked to the Scripture John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life". Many people have asked "why 3:16", and we are always glad to share the verse and give a leaflet that we have explaining the Gospel in a nutshell, our prayer is that many will come to know the Saviour who is ready to give HOPE to those that call on his name.

Hope is also the name we chose for the church as there are so many people needing hope in their lives. God bless you all as you come and be refreshed over a good cuppa and read about all we do at Hope Church. You are always welcome to any of the services we have, a list which is on the back page.

We have been so blessed to meet some amazing people and building good relationships with some. God is at the centre of all we do and we long for people to join us on a journey of faith, The Lord Jesus gives us HOPE which is why we called the Church Hope. God bless you all and may you know God's peace in this new year.

CONVERSION NEWS

By Graham Cook

Since Hope church took over the building some 9 years ago, part of the vision was to use the huge space upstairs. Sunday school and the youth need a space for their activities, so it was decided to convert the front end of the area upstairs into a classroom.

In May 2025 work commenced clearing and organising the area for this project. Not only do we have a new light and airy classroom, but we have a large loft space as well. A lot of work has been undertaken to convert the space, and we have also started fitting lighting in the larger room. Many, many thanks to those who have helped bring this about.





A NEW YEAR AT COFFEE 3:16

As we enter this new year, things appear much quieter at Coffee 3:16, as we take an extended break until 28th January. The reason behind the extended break is indeed to give the team a much-deserved break, after what has been a busy and exciting first year; but more than that, we are taking this break in the context of a wider ministry pause as a church, taking time to rest in God and seek His voice in prayer. As I've been reflecting and preparing my heart for this period of resting in and seeking God, this verse came to mind:

"The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps"

(Proverbs 16:9)

We have had the joy and privilege of being a part of this growing ministry, that God is causing to flourish and thrive. As life inevitably gets busier, as we immerse ourselves in the work of Coffee 3:16, it can be all too easy to run ahead with our own ideas and plans and begin to fall into the mindset that the success of this ministry depends on our own efforts and good ideas. This month is intended to open wide the time and space to seek God's guidance and direction for the coming year, re-committing the work of Coffee 3:16 into his hands, acknowledging that it is his ministry, not ours, and that the future success and fruitfulness of this ministry depends wholly on him.

So rather than everything grinding to a halt for a few weeks, this is a pause with a purpose. Though we have hung up our aprons for a time, there is still much activity going on as we pray deeper into this ministry. During the weeks in January that we will be closed, the team (and anyone else who wishes to join) are meeting together, in the coffee shop to pray for the coffee shop. The first of such prayer meetings was a great blessing and encouragement. It was wonderful to be together again for a time of fellowship; this is the aspect of serving at 3:16 that many of us enjoy and appreciate the most. It brought opportunity to pray into connections that we have already made, as well as for the connections that we are still to make in 2026. Our longing and prayer is that God will build on these connections and that we will begin to see real fruit for God's Kingdom in the coming year.

Just before we closed for the Christmas break, we started to see discipleship bible studies taking place within the coffee shop which was such an encouragement to see and is something we hope to see much more of. A big part of the hope and vision of Coffee 3:16 is for it to be a place where spiritual growth can take place in every walk of life; whether that be the very first seeds being scattered in the hearts of those who don't yet know Christ, to those of us who have been walking with the Lord for many years, having a place to meet together regularly in the week, sharing life together and having opportunity to love and serve each other as we love and serve the community of Shaw.

As we continue to seek God in January and beyond, we don't know all that God has in store for Coffee 3:16 but we wait with hopeful expectation at what he will achieve for his glory and for the strengthening and building of his church here at Hope.

Love

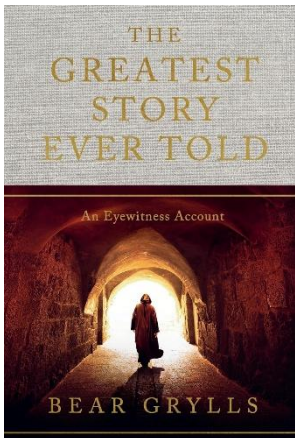
Hannah

BOOK NOOK

Reviewed by Nahum Evans

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD by Bear Grylls

The Greatest Story Ever Told is written by Bear Grylls, British adventurer, television presenter and former SAS soldier. Bear grew up on the Isle of Wight and always loved being outdoors. While he didn't have a church background (his parents were not particularly religious), from a young age, he felt he had a faith in 'something bigger', however when he went to boarding school, his experience of formal, ceremonial 'religion', attending chapel and having to sit through boring sermons, made him think he had got faith wrong. It wasn't until his teenage years, when his godfather, who he was very close to, passed away suddenly, that Bear, distraught, cried out to God. In that moment, God lit a fire in Bear's heart, and he has been walking (and adventuring!) with God ever since.



The Greatest Story Ever Told is the story of Jesus told from the perspective of five eyewitnesses – Mary, Thomas, Simon Peter, John and Mary Magdelene. It is an incredibly easy book to read, with chapters often only a page or two long. One thing that strikes you straight away is the choice to use the Hebrew translations of names and places. In reading the book, it brings the characters to life in a way I have not experienced before, and as a result, helped me connect with them on a deeper level. The way the book is written from eyewitnesses' perspectives draws you into 1st

century Israel, giving insights into what life was like in Jewish society of the time, the relationships, the traditions, and the tension between the Jewish people and their Roman rulers. The book is faithfully based on the Gospels, indeed Bear was very careful not to change a single word or comma of Jesus' words recorded in the Bible.

While the book is written from others' perspective, the main character is of course Jesus. One of the things that struck me the most was the portrayal of

Jesus' childhood and upbringing – very ordinary and normal, playing out with friends, going on adventures and expeditions with his cousin John. The book brings Jesus' humanity to life so vividly, I felt like the more I read, I was getting to know him in a completely different way. The accounts and descriptions of Jesus returning from being tempted in the desert and of course his trial, flogging and crucifixion are frank and by their very nature, startling and hard to read, however this only serves to reinforce the fact that while Jesus was fully God, he was also fully man, and suffered in a very real, human way.

We can become so very familiar with the Gospels that we can perhaps lose some of the grit and reality of Jesus' life, how he interacted with people, the places he went, things he did, and this book is a wonderful reminder of just how wonderfully real Jesus is; real in his humanity, real in his deity, real in his love and compassion, real in his forgiveness, real in his sacrifice, real in his resurrection. I cannot recommend it highly enough.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17

The call for the Church to strengthen and hone each other in faith

We are unable to be solitary Christians, we are dependent on
each

other. We grow together in the Lord so that we can help others

ENTERTAINMENT CORNER

MUSIC

The 68th Annual Grammy Awards took place on 1st February 2026 and some of the notable winners are

Gospel performance/song - "Come Jesus Come" by Cece Winans Featuring Shirley Caesar

Contemporary Christian music performance/song - "Hard Fought Hallelujah" by Brandon Lake with Jelly Roll

Gospel album - "Heart of Mine" by Darrel Walls, PJ Morton

Contemporary Christian music album - "Coritos Vol. 1" by Israel & New Breed

Roots gospel album - "I Will Not Be Moved (Live)" by The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

Country duo/group performance - "Amen" by Shaboozey and Jelly Roll

MOVIES

ZERO A.D. is an upcoming American epic biblical drama film set during the Massacre of the Innocents as told in the Gospel of Matthew. Starring Jim Caviezel as King Herod and Sam Worthington as Antipater II, directed by Alejandro Monteverde. It should have been released December 19 2025 but was rescheduled due to the release of the musical film David. It will be out this year but no official date yet, I will keep you posted.

DAVID is a 2025 animated musical film featuring the character of David from the Book of Samuel in the Old Testament. The film stars Phil Wickham as David, and Lauren Daigle as Rebecca. It tells the story of David as he embarks on a journey from beyond the shadow of an evil Philistine giant named Goliath to prove to his people that true power lies in faith.



The Lord's Prayer in Romanian

Tatăl nostru, Care ești în ceruri,
Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Sfințească-se Numele Tău.

Hallowed be Thy Name.

Vie Împărăția Ta.

Thy kingdom come.

Facă-se voia Ta,

Thy will be done,

Precum în cer așa și pe pământ.

On earth as it is in heaven.

Pâinea noastră cea de toate zilele,

Give us this day our daily bread,

Dă-ne-o nouă astăzi.

And give us this day our daily bread.

Și ne iartă nouă greșelile noastre,

And forgive us our trespasses,

Precum și noi iertăm greșiților noștri.

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Și nu ne duce pe noi în ispită,

And lead us not into temptation,

Ci ne izbăvește de cel rău.

But deliver us from evil.

Că a Ta este împărăția,

For Thine is the kingdom,

Slava și puterea,

The power and the glory,

Amin.

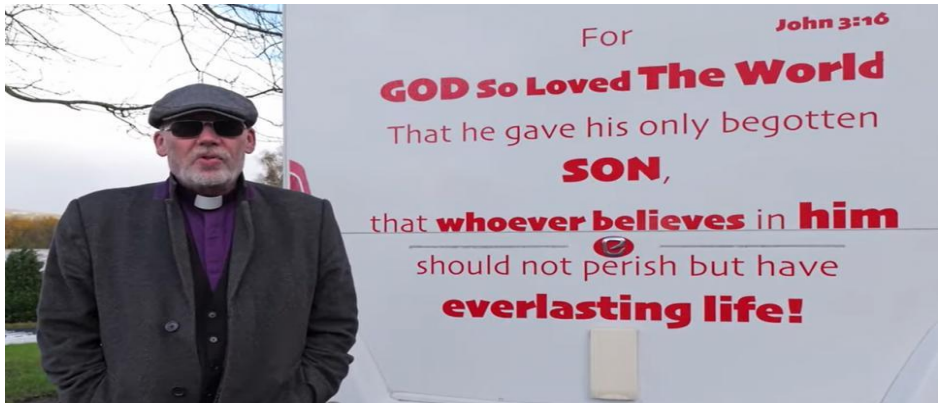
Amen.

PASTOR MIKE FLEMING

CHURCH ON THE STREET, BURNLEY

Mike Fleming born in Burnley Lancashire is the founder and Pastor of Church on the Street.

Pastor Mike has a Testimony that is shocking and uplifting a true witness to the Love and the Glory of God .



Mike Fleming was born in 1966 in Burnley Lancashire. At the age of 11 Mike was sexually assaulted on his way to school, days later his 20 year old sister died. These two consecutive incidents greatly affected the young Michael, and as a young adult he fell into crime, selling drugs and collecting debts.

"I was a drug runner and debt collector. I'd hurt people. I wasn't bothered. I was arrested for, armed robbery three times, and countless firearms offenses."

While on a debt collection Mike had a "Damascus Road" experience that led him to Christ. Ever since, his priority has been to love others, give to the poor and help people through experiences similar to his own. Mike Fleming is a well known and loved figure in the Lancashire Area preaching and teaching the Gospel. His reputation for his work with the downtrodden created media attention from the TV networks and has been spoken about in Parliament. Recently Mike has had a personal revelation from God, that

called him to give up all he has and live in a mobile home. Mike now travels the highways and byways in the service of Our Lord.

In October this year while filling up his Van (home) with fuel Mike was approached by a Police Officer who advised him that the Bible verse written on the back of his "Van" had the potential of being considered "hate speech" The Officer told Mike that if the Biblical verse provoked a complaint the Police may need to take action. **The verse JOHN 3:16.** Pastor Michael Fleming is not a "shrinking violet" nor is he without reputation, which made such an incident more than just thought provoking. Here we see a Man of God doing work that we are all called to do "Bring Good News to the poor and oppressed" an ambassador for the Love of Jesus Christ being challenged with regard to a statement of Christian Love.

We Christians live in a world that is increasingly secular. If a Pastor as recognisable as Pastor Mike can be approached and "advised" that his statement of faith written on the back of his mobile home could be considered as provocative "what is the world coming to"

Mark 13:9-11 *"You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit."*

For more information about Mike Fleming and Church on the Street go to YouTube (Search Pastor Mike Fleming) if you can help this ministry please do so. Mike Fleming is at the sharp end of witnessing for our faith.

May God Keep him Safe.

A REMARKABLE MAN OF GOD.

WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Sunday Services start each week with Prayer in the office at 9.45am. All Welcome to this very important time before our service which then starts at 10.30am. There is also opportunity for prayer during the service. We serve refreshments in the Cafe area after the service. Creche facilities available. On the Last Sunday of the month we hold a family service which will involve the youth and children and this is followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.

Monday 9.30am to 12 noon. The Church is open for prayer. Come when you can between these times and stay for as long, or as little as you can. Come and seek God together as He calls us to commit everything, we do to Him.
Philippians 4:5-7

Tuesday Evening at 8 pm on Zoom is the Elders Meeting.

Wednesday is our Life Groups. We start at 7.30 pm with refreshments and then move into a time of discussion about the biblical teaching that was brought on the Sunday before, and we then pray together. Please speak to Dave or Emmanuel if you'd like more details or if you'd like to be a part of a group.

Thursday is Coffee Morning that starts at 10 am till 12noon.

Friday is our Youth Café night, which is held at church mostly once per month, Activities planned for the youth group usually start at 7.30pm and finish by 9pm.

Saturday once a fortnight (monthly during winter) is our Outreach Event into Shaw. We meet at 1.30pm for worship and prayer. At 3pm we meet up again for coffee (or tea), cake and a chat. See Noticeboard for dates.

**Coffee 3:16 is open for business between 9.30am and 3.30pm
Wednesday to Friday. Serving delicious drinks, food & cake.**