

# LIFE & LIGHT

NEWTOWNBREA  
GOSPEL HALL

A magazine to teach, inform, challenge and encourage

*Inside this issue:*

Getting to know us  
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Spiritual Sudoku  
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**Dare to be different!**

Issue 6

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;  
and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:  
Proverbs 1:5



## *Welcome to Life & Light magazine!*

Produced by Christians who meet in Newtownbreda Gospel Hall

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15).*

### *Dare to be different; Dare to be a Daniel*

There is a book in the Bible called Daniel. It records the life and times of a man called Daniel who trusted God was in control of his life no matter what happened. In 1876 an American Sunday School teacher named Philip Paul Bliss wrote a song to help teach his students the book of Daniel. Some of you might remember singing it as a child:

**Dare to be a Daniel,  
Dare to stand alone!  
Dare to have a purpose firm  
Dare to make it known!**

Daniel and his friends lived in tough times. They were captives in Babylon, life was difficult and their enemies were big. The reason we should dare to be a Daniel is because Daniel trusted that God was in control. The point of the story isn't Daniel's wisdom or his bravery but his faith: Daniel believed God was in charge of the universe and he acted accordingly. Daniel is a great role model for us today.

**Isaiah 45:5-9** I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things... Woe to him who strives with his Maker! (NKJV)

*To every thing there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose under the heaven  
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

# JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

## Getting to know us!

Stephen is married to Sharon, he leads a Sunday Bible Class for teenagers, and he manages Dreamscheme, a youth development organization supporting teenagers in the Castlereagh area.

Stephen's story:

As the youngest of six children, I was born into a home full of activity, adventure and lots of noise! We lived just off Newton Park and I went to Cairnshill Primary School. My parents are Christians and so I was taught the Bible from before I could read. By the time I was five, I understood a lot about God - His greatness, His holiness, His love and ultimately how He became a man and died on the cross for the sin of the world 2000 years ago, then arose from the dead.

I became a Christian on a Sunday evening during 1995. It must have been one of the first times that I realized that I personally deserved God's judgment for my own sin and that I needed a Saviour. I remember bowing my head to pray to God. With simple faith, I agreed with God that I was a sinner heading for hell. But, then I thought about Jesus. I knew the Bible taught that God saves sinners who 'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ' (Acts 16:31). So, that's what I did. I trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive me, save me from punishment and bring me to heaven. Then I simply thanked God for saving me!

As I grew up, I started to question my faith. I remember sitting on the back step of our house wondering, 'why am I here?', 'is there really a God?' and, 'did Jesus really die and rise from the dead?' However again and again, my search for truth strengthened my faith.

I am convinced that the order and beauty of this universe points to a Designer - the Creator of the heavens and the earth (Gen 1:1). And I'm convinced that our moral instinct in knowing that the murder of the innocent is evil and that kindness is good can only be because a holy God has set a standard of right and wrong, and given us a conscience to know the difference.

As I have studied the books of the Bible, as well as ancient historians, I have discovered that there were hundreds of eyewitnesses who saw Jesus alive from the dead, over a period of forty days in many different places, and who were willing to suffer and die for this great truth - that Jesus is risen. And I have been amazed by the hundreds of fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament (eg. Psalm 22, Isaiah 53) that prove the Bible to be the word of God.

Ultimately, I enjoy a personal experience of God. Through Jesus Christ, I now have peace with God. I have a certain hope for eternity and I have a new purpose for this life. My prayer is that many others will also enjoy relationship with the Living God by coming as sinners to Jesus Christ and trusting Him to be their Saviour and Lord.





# Why Bother?

What's the benefit  
in meeting to study the Bible?

*Psalm 119:9 How shall a young man cleanse his way?  
by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*



- E**njoy life with people following godly ways - **Psalm 1**
- N**avigate through life with the guidebook of God - **Psalm 119**
- C**hange your lifestyle to that which pleases God - **Psalm 51**
- O**pen your eyes to the wonders of God - **Psalm 19**
- U**nderstand God's plans for this world - **Psalm 2**
- R**est in the Lord and wait patiently for Him - **Psalm 37**
- A**ppreciate what the Lord has done - **Psalm 40**
- G**row in grace and in the knowledge of God - **Psalm 92**
- E**nter into joy and gladness of soul - **Psalm 100**
- M**eet together with others who love the Lord - **Psalm 34**
- E**xercise your mind with God's thoughts - **Psalm 139**
- N**urture the peace of God in your soul - **Psalm 3**
- T**rust your life to the care of the Shepherd - **Psalm 23**



*What  
Happens  
Next?*

Sometimes on a book cover you will get the words highlighted: **“Based on a true story”** but did you know the Bible is full of the most interesting and instructive stories yet all of them are true stories?

Here is a story in the Bible that we would encourage you to read to find out what happens next



Can you imagine what would happen if you found a book that recorded all of your family history and gave an account of their sin, rebellion and failure to keep their word. A book that gave a true and faithful report of the past and yet went on to foretell the future consequences because of this sin and rebellion in the lives of your forefathers that would affect you and everyone you knew?

There is just such a story in the Bible. Josiah was king in Jerusalem and he had just turned 26 years old. He was a good man and was trying to do what was right when a priest, Hilkiah, found a book: It was the Word of God.

Read the account of what happened when the book was given to young King Josiah in 2 Chronicles 34.





# What happened to

Do you remember when this used to be a football field?  
Many great matches were played here. Goals were  
scored, penalties saved, legs broken, tears of joy  
and of sorrow were shed here.

Now it lies overgrown with weeds,  
useless and forgotten.

What has happened? - Neglect.

In the Bible God warns us about neglecting His Word and about neglecting to teach His Word to our children and our grandchildren. Teaching children the Word of God is the only way of preparing them to make the most important decision of their lives—where they will spend eternity. The Bible says “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6.

Because it is so important to teach and guide children, God has given them the capacity to receive and understand spiritual truths from an early age.

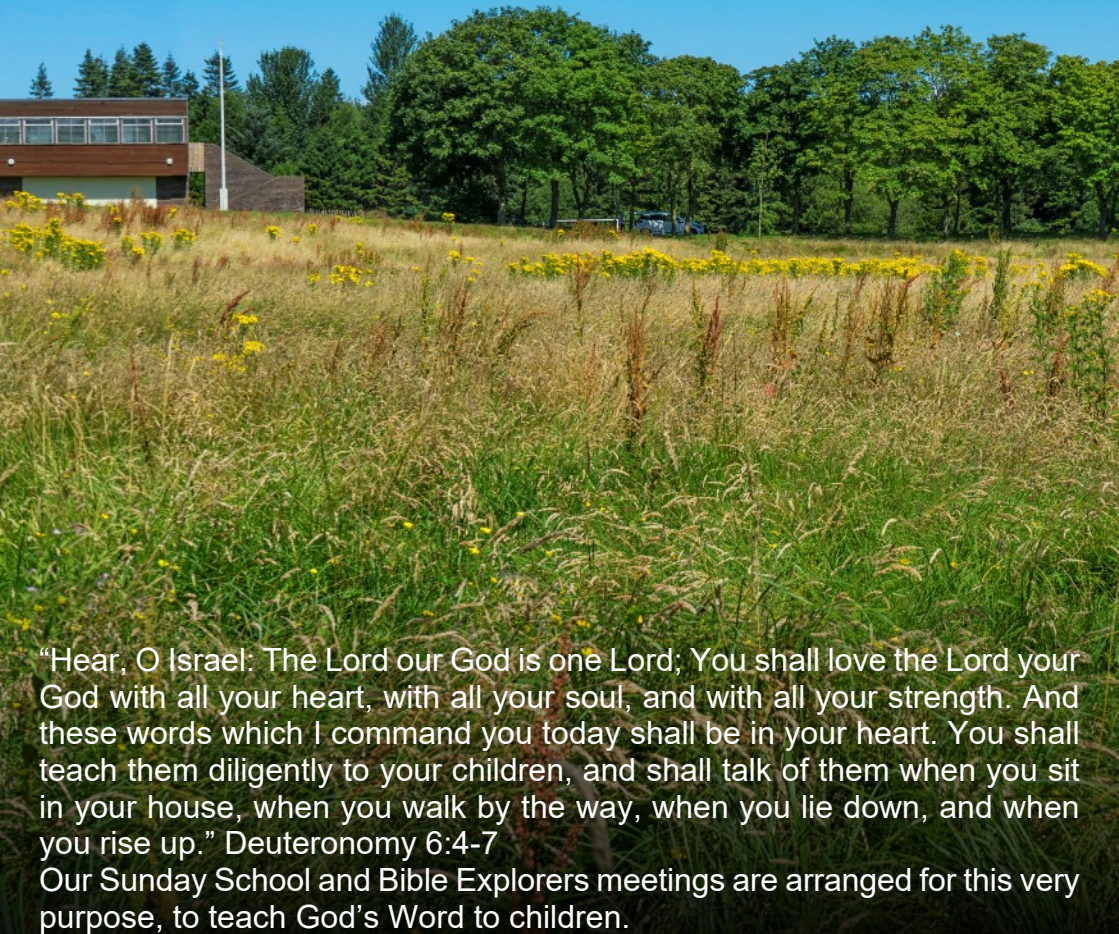


# the football field?

Neglect has changed something that once was useful and fruitful into a barren field.

The Bible has something to say about neglect:

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him. Hebrews 2:1-3



“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Our Sunday School and Bible Explorers meetings are arranged for this very purpose, to teach God’s Word to children.

# Spiritual Sudoku

The goal of this Sudoku is to fill in a 9×9 grid with letters so that each column, row, and 3×3 section contain only the 9 letters in the name:

## IDOLATERS

*Memory Verse*  
1<sup>st</sup> John 5:21  
Little children,  
keep yourselves from idols.

			L			R		S
					S	L	T	O
		S			I			E
D		E	I					
		L		E		I		
					O	A		L
E			A			S		
A	D	O	S					
I		R			E		O	

Answers found on [www.newtownbredagospelhall.com/magazine](http://www.newtownbredagospelhall.com/magazine)

Idolatry is valuing any thing or any person more than the one true God. An idol is any thing or any person that takes centre stage in our affections. God is a jealous God. He deserves centre stage in our lives. Anything that usurps that place becomes an idol.

An idol is anything that replaces the one, true God. Exodus 20:3



**NEWTOWNBRED A GOSPEL HALL**

# **SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASS**

**Every Sunday from 3-3:45pm  
September to June**

**Phone Brian on 07918 886 836**



**EXPLORE THE BIBLE!  
FROM TOTS TO TEENS**



**Come along and bring your friends**

# **BIBLE EXPLORERS**

- ★ Singing
- ★ Quizzes
- ★ Verses
- ★ Prizes
- ★ Bible Stories

When? **Each Monday evening** (October to March) DV

Time? **7.00 - 7.45 pm**

Where? **96a Newtownbreda Road, Belfast BT8 7BP**

We provide transport - phone 028 9064 9430

**Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."** John ch 14v6



# TEEN BIBLE STUDY

## Join us each week

Every Sunday afternoon, September to June, we meet from 3-3:45pm to study God's Word. If you are a teenager, looking for answers to life's questions and wanting to meet with sincere godly young men and women who are seeking the truth, come along and join us as we seek to know more of what God says in His Word.

Call Stephen for more information:  
077 0617 0386

**How can a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed according to Thy Word.  
Psalm 119:9**





# Wonders of Creation

## Dragonfly



Dragonflies have long been known to be exquisite fliers. They can track other insects with incredibly intricate manoeuvring that makes them appear stationary to their target.

Insects' compound eyes are good at detecting the slightest motion, so the flight patterns must have amazing control systems. Appearing stationary would be very useful for sneaking up on other insects or for eluding a predator. How can the dragonfly perform aerial acrobatics like flying backwards or forwards, fast, slow or hovering and remain airborne for such extended periods?

The answer, in part, is that it has four wings.

While many flying insects use only a single pair of wings, dragonflies can move each of their four wings independently, which is a key factor in their ability to perform astonishing acrobatics.

What's more, dragonflies have the flexibility to switch between out-of-phase flapping and in-phase flapping as appropriate. When taking off, for example, dragonflies synchronise their wing beats, thus they are able to lift and accelerate better than if they used only two wings.



A brief report in the *New Scientist* (2003) said, 'Dragonflies can overshadow their enemies in complex manoeuvres that military fighter pilots only dream of.'

It really defies reason to suggest that an energy-efficient aerial acrobat such as the dragonfly was not intentionally, and intelligently, designed.

Job 5:9 (God) Who does great things, and unsearchable, marvellous things without number.

# Gospel Truths

## Who are we?

We are a group of born-again Christians who consider the Bible to be the inspired and infallible Word of God. We endeavour to follow the New Testament example of gathering to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We come from different nationalities and walks of life, with the common bond of having a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

### Times of our regular meetings:

#### Sunday:

- 11.00 am Breaking of Bread (weekly)
- 3.00 pm Sunday School & Bible Class (Sep-June)
- 6.30 pm Prayer Meeting (weekly)
- 7.00 pm Gospel Meeting (weekly)

#### Monday:

- 7.00 pm Bible Explorers (Oct-March)

#### Tuesday:

- 7.30 pm Purdysburn Gospel Hour (in Purdysburn Village)  
(Alternate Tuesdays, Oct-April)

#### Thursday:

- 7.45 pm Prayer meeting & Bible Reading (weekly)

Visit us: [www.newtownbredagospelhall.com](http://www.newtownbredagospelhall.com)

- God created us for His glory.  
*Isaiah 43:5-7*
- Every human should live for God's glory.  
*1 Corinthians 10:31*
- We have all sinned and come short of God's glory.  
*Romans 3:23*
- We all deserve eternal punishment.  
*Romans 6:23*
- In His great mercy, God sent forth His only Son Jesus Christ to provide for sinners the way of eternal life.  
*John 3:16*