

@vision

Summer 2026

A watercolor illustration of a group of people walking across a bridge. The bridge is depicted with dark lines and is set against a background of soft, blended watercolor washes in shades of blue, yellow, and orange. The figures are silhouetted against the lighter background, and their reflections are visible in the water below the bridge. The overall style is artistic and evocative.

Building Gospel Relationships

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Editorial

by Richard Harknett

People associated with GLO are busy with all kinds of different things. Some of these quickly grab our attention and are the types of events that we highlight in prayer news and reports. Conferences, mission teams, youth weekends and the like all provide stand-out moments and good photos. However, much of what is being done is quieter and more routine, and a huge part of that is simply developing relationships with people. So, in this issue of e-vision, we want to take 'Building Gospel Relationships' as our theme and highlight some of the ways in which GLO people are living that out.

Building community within the church, and building relationships with people in our communities, are both vitally important to church growth. On page 6, Lorna reflects on the journey that their church has taken with a number of single women in the town, and the changes they have seen. On page 8, James

describes how 'Chatter and Natter' met a need for older people in the area. But community is necessary at every stage in life, and on page 7, Juli shares something of what that looks like in the context of their work with young people in Albania.

Obviously, building relationships isn't just a question of starting groups. On page 9, Pam writes about how her church engaged with the Counties' Neighbourhood Chaplains ministry and the impact that it has had. Also, you might be surprised by the opportunities that the GLO Coffee Shop staff have to demonstrate Christ's love to their community – head to page 12 to find out about a gracious response to a case of theft.

Lastly, you'll notice that there is a new GLO ministry highlighted in this issue. On page 14, you can discover more about GLO Publishing and some of the resources that are available. That includes the latest book, 'Learning to Follow', written to help new believers grow in their faith.

We certainly look ahead with anticipation at

"Through this issue of e-vision we want to highlight some of the ways in which God has been giving people in the GLO Family the chance to share the good news"

some of the big events that are to come, not least the various GLO teams that are running in the coming months. But we also give thanks for the constant, often background, work of building gospel relationships in which so many are active. And also take it as a challenge to consider where God might be calling us to nurture the relationships that he has given to us.

Connect with us!
GLO Europe is on:



Leaving a lasting legacy

Many people have a concern about what the long-term impact of their lives will be on others. As Christians this is a big issue because the Bible encourages us to live our lives in view of eternity. GLO, along with many other Christian organisations, benefits greatly from legacies that people leave behind. It is a way of significantly helping the work of the kingdom by organising your giving after you have gone.

We have produced an information booklet on the use of legacies and if you would like to have one then write to:
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This magazine is published twice yearly to report on the work of GLO in Europe and around the world and to promote mission interest. There is no subscription rate but readers are welcome to send gifts towards postage and production.
GLO Europe is a charity registered in Scotland: SC049681.

If you would like to contribute financially to the work of GLO this can be done directly using the bank details below or by contacting our Treasurer:
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by Richard Harknett

In 1938, researchers at Harvard Medical School began a ‘Study of Adult Development.’ They initially followed a group of men from Harvard itself, later adding others from a more impoverished community nearby. Over eight decades and four different directors, the study has included spouses, children and grandchildren, becoming one of the longest running of its kind in the world. Drawing from a wealth of data about factors that contribute to mental and physical health, and life expectancy, the conclusion has been enlightening. More than money, fame, exercise, or career, it is meaningful relationships that are the biggest predictor of happiness and longevity. Current director Robert Waldinger summarised:

When we gathered together everything we knew about them at age 50, it wasn’t their middle-age cholesterol levels that predicted how they were going to grow old. It was how satisfied they were in their relationships. The people who were the most satisfied in their relationships at age 50 were the healthiest at age 80.

As Christians, this should not be surprising to us. We are human beings, created in the image of a triune God who has eternally existed in relationship. We begin reading our Bibles with the story of creation and the repeated observation, ‘And God saw that it was good.’ The first mention of something that is not good does not come with sin and the Fall. It comes when God says, “‘It is not good for the man to be alone.’” (Gen. 2:18)

“It now seems clear that our modern western societies exacerbate the problem of loneliness and isolation. Lives are transitory and we struggle to put down roots.”

Humans are designed to flourish when living in relationship both with God and with people.

Yet we also recognise that the Fall created a relational separation. Adam and Eve no longer enjoyed the deep communion with God that they had previously experienced. The relationship between them was now marked by division rather than intimacy. Concealment replaced openness as they hide from God and cover themselves. Sadly, this is the world into which we are born.

It now seems clear that our modern western societies exacerbate the problem of loneliness and isolation. Lives are transitory and we struggle to put down roots. Many of the institutions in our societies that might have connected us are closing. Much of our life is now lived virtually rather than in-real-life. Autonomy and independence are promoted as virtues to be strived for. Opinions are not only becoming more polarised, but those who do not share them are seen as ‘the other’ and less than us. And beyond these issues, even when we are in contact with people, that doesn’t necessarily solve the problem. Loneliness is not about a lack of human contact, but a lack of emotionally meaningful connection. Too many people have too few of these kinds of relationships.

But into this space we bring the gospel. The good news of the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus is a message of relational restoration. Firstly, we are reconciled to God and can live in a transformed relationship with him. Whilst human friendships are a fundamental part of life, we were made for something more than that. Nothing can replace our soul’s need for relationship with our Creator. Our salvation assures us that we are both fully known and fully loved by God.

Secondly, the gospel calls us into a community, as we become part of the church, Christ’s body. We are called from isolation to genuine relationships with our new brothers and sisters. So many of the instructions and descriptions of the church in the New Testament reflect this calling. Acts 2:42-47 shows a group joined together in fellowship and worship, in shared meals and generous support of each other. Heb. 10:24-25 tells us to encourage

“How can our churches become places which welcome those who are new or alone? How can we re-shape our attitudes to value interdependence rather than independence?”

each other and spur each other on to love and good deeds. Rom. 12:15 describes a mutuality that allows us to ‘rejoice with those who rejoice’ and ‘mourn with those who mourn’.

And yet, while we know all this to be true in theory, and might have heard these passages taught many times, our experience often falls short. As Christians, more than anyone, we know the cure for loneliness. But too often, we not only allow others to suffer from it, but we also suffer from it ourselves. In this context, the gospel challenges us to work to become the kind of community that we are called to be.

This may require us to place a higher value on relationships, and in a world which values individualism, we will need to push back. How can we re-orient our schedules and lives to give a higher priority to community? How can our churches become places which welcome those who are new or alone? How can we re-shape our attitudes to value interdependence rather than independence? Where might the opportunities be to pray with people – not just in formal prayer meetings, but as a part of our relationships? These are the kinds of questions that we must wrestle with.

Alongside this, we also recognise that relationships themselves are frequently challenging. Developing meaningful connections requires vulnerability on our part, which is not always easy. Our new family will include people that test our patience and commitment. At times, isolation, or finding a new church community, will be appealing, presenting itself as a seemingly more comfortable option. But the reality is that we are designed for relationship with others, and God has called us into community.

Our society needs to both hear the gospel and to see it lived out. We have the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus and to build communities in which people can be known and loved. We have what the world needs – salvation through the gospel and a life lived in relationship with our heavenly Father and with our spiritual brothers and sisters. Let’s bring both to wherever God has put us.

Building Gospel Relationships



Ministering To The Lonely

By Lorna Burt

During the past 27 years that we have lived in Enniscorthy we have been known in our community for running clubs for children and teenagers.

However, God has surprised us in recent years by connecting us with a number of older women in our community, all of whom are either widowed, separated or single. Seeing the transformation in these ladies' lives, from being alone and spiritually lost to coming to faith in Jesus and feeling loved and living with purpose, has been such a joy.

Contact with these women came about through us, as a church family, reaching out in friendship. As trust was built and they felt cared for, they accepted an invitation to an outreach event or to church. Here they were introduced to the wider church community, and to each other, and they felt thankful to be a part of it.

Two of these ladies, Ann and Anne, since giving their lives to Christ have often expressed how the church is now their family, where they feel they really belong. Both are keen for their adult children

to also come to faith and have brought them to church and church events to meet their 'other' family. Their children have expressed gratitude to us, as they see how Jesus is changing their mums and appreciate the community that they have found with us.

Another woman, Roz, is so thankful for her salvation and is now at the heart of our church family. Susan was a Christian who had lost her husband and was feeling very alone when her friend's daughter invited her to our church with her. Susan shared openly at her baptism last year how blessed she feels that God led her to our church.

It is really encouraging to see how these women are growing in their faith as part of our church community and also caring for each other, praying for each other and practically helping each other. But it is even more exciting to see how they want those around them to come and experience what they have experienced. They take opportunities to speak about Jesus with their neighbours, and they

are eager to serve our local community. They help with the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, some of them every day for the four weeks of it. They also helped with the recent Food Hampers distribution which we organised as a church for 30 local residents who were severely affected by the flooding which happened in Enniscorthy recently.

We praise God for His Holy Spirit drawing these women into relationship with Jesus and into the community of our church and then out into our local community to share the good news of the gospel with others.

"As trust was built and they felt cared for, they accepted an invitation to an outreach event or to church."



Creating Community

by Juli Muhameti

The Albanian church is not young anymore but is still fragile and a little scared. Looking at our Sunday service this week, the church was buzzing in worship to God, and you could see all generations worshipping together. If you know a little of Albanian history this is nothing new. The Albanians say that the house of the Albanian is the house of God, and of the guest. We build everything through relationships.

Bato is 78 and he is a former bus driver. A church member of ours, when he became a Christian in prison, decided that he would not stop talking about God and be present for other people like God was for him. He noticed Bato in the corner of a coffee shop near his house every day playing chess by himself, so he stopped and started to play chess with him. After a while, he shared the gospel with Bato, who accepted Christ. Then his wife Manushaqe accepted Christ and now they are both faithful members of the church. Bato reflects that, "worshipping God this way, and this freedom, is a miracle and beautiful. When I grew up this was not only unthinkable but illegal."

Across Albania, people are growing up in a society marked by transition. Communism officially ended 36 years ago, but its effects



still shape how community, trust, and faith are experienced. Add to this the pressures of globalisation, social media, migration, and economic uncertainty, and many young people find themselves connected digitally but isolated relationally. In this context, the church's work with people is not simply about programmes or events – it is about forming communities where they are known, rooted, and invited into a larger story.

Alesio is 15 years old, no-one in his family is a Christian yet, but Alesio has confessed Christ as his Saviour. His mum, a schoolteacher, had made friends with a church member in the school, who shared with her. Alesio's mum started reading the Bible to her son and after a while approached the church youth ministry to get her son involved. From this, her son became a Christian, and she herself is coming to church regularly.

But this is an exception among our young people. Many others that we work with come from families that do not support them – placing high academic expectations on them as a means of achieving success, subjecting them to social pressure, or making them feel invisible in their

daily lives. What they are often searching for is a place where they can belong. They seek not just a place to attend, but a community to belong to. So, the youth ministry in our church is relationship-based and not programme-based.

This year, we started a series called 'Knowing Him: 50 Days in the Life of Jesus,' using the identity of Christ and the life of Christ as a model for the young people. One of the most powerful dynamics we see is how shared faith reshapes peer relationships. Young people begin to move from competition to cooperation, from isolation to accountability. They learn to pray for one another, to confess struggles, and to celebrate growth. For many, this is the first environment where vulnerability is not a weakness but a pathway to deeper connection.

"Communism officially ended 36 years ago, but its effects still shape how community, trust, and faith are experienced."





“Chatter and Natter”

by James McKerlie

Planting a church in the Darnley area of Glasgow started with two challenges – building a worship community and building relationships with people in the local community who could be introduced to the Lord Jesus and become part of such a community. What was clear is that at the centre of our identity and mission was relationship building. Our first attempts at this were surprisingly fruitful and came in a way that was neither expected nor strategically planned. “Chatter and Natter” began in the pub/restaurant where we first began meeting. It was a group primarily, although not exclusively, for senior citizens and was created in response to a community survey which informed us that a new church in the area should provide something for older people as this was sadly lacking. It started small but grew quickly and we now have a regular group of around twenty, meeting weekly in our own leased building who cherish the opportunity to get together, to socialise, enjoy fresh tea and coffee, snacks and have fun. We offer transport for those who require it, and it has provided community and support for people experiencing grief and loneliness.

There is no formal spiritual input other than the opportunity to build relationships. Within these relationships there is opportunity to share faith, prayer and to bring pastoral support. Many who attend have also come along to church gatherings either regularly or one-off events at Easter or Christmas. They identify themselves strongly with the club and with the church and some have even come to church residential weekends. Many have transitioned from visitors to members to contributors as they take responsibility each week in the setting up and running of the group.

The club has been a vital support for some and has been the highlight of the week for many. As leaders we provide support through visitation and other contacts, particularly during difficult times. Often families express their appreciation for the support that is given and comment on the positive impact that it has had on the life of their loved one. We have seen several come to faith, others supported in their faith and the gospel shared naturally through conversation, including the daughter of a member and a personal family friend.

“we now have a regular group of around twenty, meeting weekly in our own leased building who cherish the opportunity to get together, to socialise, enjoy fresh tea and coffee, snacks and have fun.”

We have seen a few of our members pass on and this has given us opportunity to provide prayer, comfort and support for grieving families and lead funerals. We have been able to share some big birthdays and attend family celebrations. For many, “Chatter and Natter” has brought them into community, for others it has brought them into the family of God and seen their lives transformed, even in their latter years, by the gospel.

Neighbourhood Chaplains

by Pam Harknett

Loneliness is rife in our society. We may say hello to our neighbours when we happen to be going in or out of our houses at the same time, but that’s often where it stops. You don’t want to be seen as prying into other people’s business so instead we say nothing. But what if the person next door was sitting on their own all day long with no one to talk to?

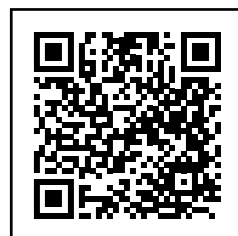
As Neighbourhood Chaplains, we knock on the doors in our area to check in with people and see if anyone needs any help or would like a chat. Our aim is to share the gospel with people who need Jesus. We want all our neighbours to know that everyone is valued and matters to God. And there is someone there to listen to them and show them they’re not forgotten. We also partner with social prescribers. They find people who are lonely and needing someone to talk to and ask if any of us are available to meet with them. It’s a simple way of showing God’s love. We also have a weekly

café. A couple of years ago, during the energy price hike, we started doing soup and a roll at the end to offer people a free hot meal and a place to come to switch off their heating at home to save money. But we have carried on doing soup over the winter months as many of the people who come week by week live on their own and the opportunity to eat a meal with others is very inviting. At the start of our journey with Neighbourhood Chaplains, one team met a lady who had recently moved to the area, but she didn’t know anyone and was quite lonely. She has been coming to our weekly café and meeting up for coffee with one of our chaplains. She is now struggling with her memory but because we have built up that relationship with her over the past couple of years, we are more able to step in and help and be a support to the family as well. She finds coming to the café very welcoming. Just last week, I was knocking on doors at a different time and day to usual and found a

“You don’t want to be seen as prying into other people’s business so instead we say nothing. But what if the person next door was sitting on their own all day long with no one to talk to?”

lady who didn’t speak English. I asked her what language she spoke and she said Spanish, so we had a very nice chat in Spanish (I used to live in Peru) and I gave her my number. She called the next day, and we will hopefully meet up soon. I believe God was guiding me to knock on doors that day and pray I’ll be able to share the good news with her.

For more information on Neighbour Chaplains see: <https://www.countiesuk.org/neighbourhood-chaplains>



Tilsley College



The Formative Journey: Integrating classroom learning with practical ministry experiences

by José Laussu

Integrating classroom time with real life ministry experience creates a powerful, holistic approach to learning.

In the classroom, students gain theological foundations, biblical understanding and essential ministry theory. But when these insights are immediately applied in real ministry contexts, whether through church placements, community outreach, pastoral care, youth work, or missions, that's when they become deeply rooted, meaningful and personal.

This blend matters because **learning becomes experiential, not just intellectual**. Students don't simply study about ministry, but they also practice it. They learn how to lead, communicate, serve, problem solve and respond to real people with real needs. This develops confidence, emotional intelligence, spiritual maturity and practical competence at a pace that pure classroom learning cannot match.

By the time students graduate, they carry a 'luggage' of hands on experience, not just theoretical knowledge. They have already navigated real ministry challenges, celebrated real victories and discovered their strengths and calling in practice. This makes them more prepared, adaptable and effective as they step into full time ministry or leadership roles.

At Tilsley College we realise that effective ministry preparation increasingly depends on a thoughtful blend of classroom learning and practical experience. The classroom provides an essential framework, grounding students in biblical foundations, theology, doctrine and faithful interpretation. It is also where leadership theory and communication skills are introduced, giving our students the tools, resources and structure for what they will later practice. Also, the classroom offers a safe environment for discussion, reflection and open questioning. It is the space to wrestle



"They learn how to lead, communicate, serve, problem solve and respond to real people with real needs."

with ideas before encountering them in lived situations.

However, ministry placement, is where the practical experience truly takes shape. Engaging with real people and real problems exposes students to the complexity of pastoral life and the realities of people's lives. Practical settings offer opportunities to lead, teach, counsel and serve, while mentors and supervisors provide timely feedback that sharpens both skill and character. In these contexts, soft skills such as empathy, leadership presence and conflict resolution are not merely discussed but embodied and developed.

At Tilsley College we have observed that when classroom theory and ministry practice are intentionally blended, learning is significantly enhanced. Concepts gain depth when applied, retention increases and experiences foster deeper spiritual formation.

When done well, a blended model produces graduates who are ready for real-world ministry from day one. They leave with proven experience, a portfolio of practical skills, confidence to lead and a clearer awareness of their calling and strengths, that is, prepared not just to know, but to faithfully serve.



by Gareth Armstrong

The practical aspect of training in ministry has always been at the centre of life at Tilsley College. The first-year students receive this training not only in the practical modules of the course but primarily through the Mission Awareness Trip, Team Evangelism week and a six-week Ministry Placement that they complete. In second and third year this increases as the students serve two ten-week placements in particular ministries. These give the students vital hands-on experience in evangelism and church ministry.

In November 2025, for the Mission Awareness Trip, the first-year students travelled to Serino in Italy for an enjoyable week to learn from Patrizio and Jennifer Zucchetto. The purpose of this trip is to find out what day to day life as a mission worker is like. The students spent time leafleting around Serino, preaching and sharing their testimonies at church services, assisting Jennifer with teaching English classes and enjoying the Italian food and culture. We also had a wonderful day in Pompeii with Lydia Zucchetto serving as an excellent tour guide. However, the most important part of the week is sitting down with the mission workers in conversation and learning about their call and their day to day lives and work for the Lord. The students had valuable time with Patrizio, Jennifer and other Italian missionaries that Patrizio introduced us to. Hearing these powerful testimonies is a vital learning moment in the year as the students reflect on God's call on their own lives.

From January to the end of February 2026 the first-year students embarked on a six-week placement of their choice with a church or ministry. This year our students served in Italy, the Netherlands, Tanzania and even South Korea. The students were involved in youth work, children's ministry, administration, preaching, leading worship in church services and in language classes. This gave the students unique opportunities to serve the Lord in a variety of ways across different



cultures. The students were able to hone their skills and put into practice what they learned in class as they sought to tell others about Jesus and serve God's people across the world. As they returned in March the students were full of wonderful testimonies of God's goodness as they shared with one another the experiences they had had and the lessons they are learning.

Most recently in March the students have returned from their Team Evangelism trip where they were split into two groups: one with Highgate International Church in London and the other with Duntant Christian Fellowship in Swansea. Here the second-year students lead the first years in assisting the local churches with their evangelism. They were again involved with door-to-door evangelism, leafleting, leading various Bible studies and getting involved with church services. Both groups had a challenging and encouraging time with the local churches.

In all of these activities please pray that our students will understand better God's call on their lives after Tilsley College. Pray that they will better know their own gifts, reflect how they can serve God in their own contexts and above all that they will hear God's voice calling them during their time at Tilsley College.

"The students were involved in youth work, children's ministry, administration, preaching, leading worship in church services and in language classes."





A Welcoming Coffee Shop

Over the years the GLO Coffee Shop has become an oasis in the centre of Motherwell. Its prime motive is not profit, but rather loving customers. A quick glance at any lunch time would reveal a great diversity in our customer base. As well as casual coffee drinkers there are church leaders arranging meetings, young mums finding sanctuary with their children, business people having a working lunch, elderly people and disabled people brought by their carers.

Adding to the challenge of running a coffee shop is its busy town centre location where some customers can be difficult and even aggressive, particularly if they have had too much to drink. Finding time to chat to customers is difficult, but people's emotional and spiritual needs are still prioritised.

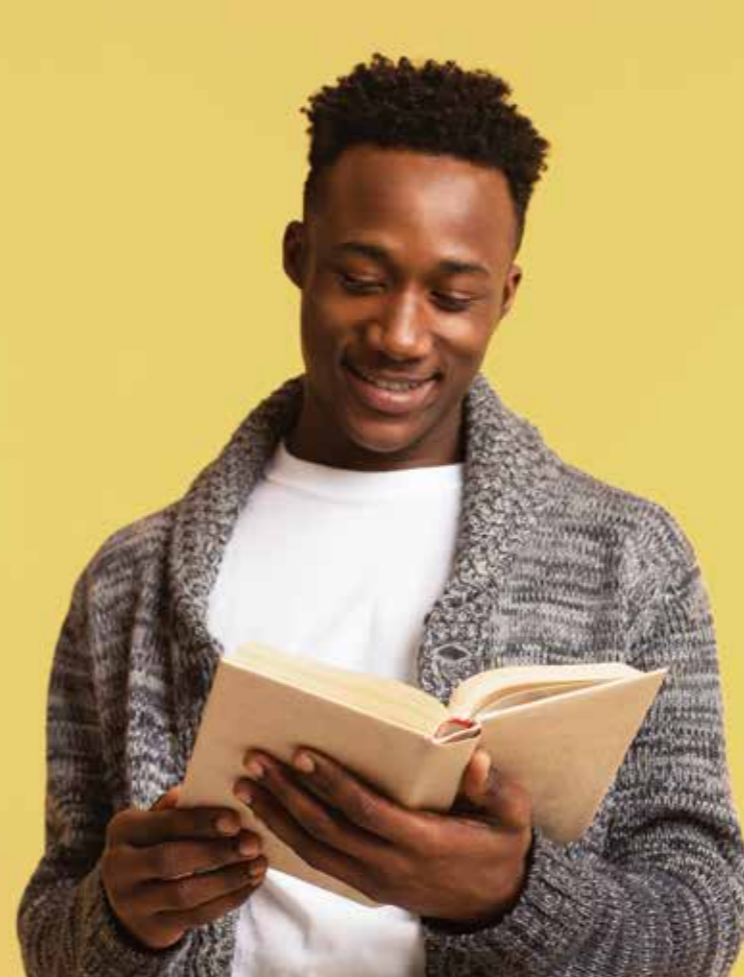
Customers are greeted with a friendly smile, and the staff T-shirts and the many Bible verses hanging on the walls reveal the values of the coffee shop. Staff offer to pray with customers and often customers will come in specifically asking for prayer as well as a someone to talk to. At Christmas and Easter staff members volunteer to walk down Motherwell precinct offering free gift boxes with treats as well as cards with gospel messages and verses on them. This is not just customer service,

it is loving the community by being a Christian presence in the town centre.

This love for customers is displayed in various ways. One disabled blind man was regularly brought in by a carer who was neglectful, causing the man distress. This was noticed by staff who made a point of speaking to him and intervening in the situation. On another occasion an argument broke out between two tables full of customers and when one customer threatened another, a member of staff put their arm around the customer and prayed for her that the peace of Christ would fill her life. In another incident a pickpocket was waiting at the tills and grabbed a handful of money from the tips container and walked out. A member of staff followed, but rather than report the man to the police, she put her arm round him, told him that Christ loved him and said if he really was in need she would give him some food. He returned with her to the coffee shop, returned the money and enjoyed a free meal.

Showing love while doing a pressurised, busy job is not easy, especially as many customers can be very demanding. However, the staff continue to serve, motivated by a love for God as well as a love for people and these ingredients make the GLO coffee shop a real haven in the busy town centre of Motherwell.

"the staff T-shirts and the many Bible verses hanging on the walls reveal the values of the coffee shop"



GLO Bookshop

Gospel relationships are at the heart of everything that we do in GLO whether we are evangelising on the streets on a summer mission team or selling books from our bookshop. Gospel relationships also inform what we sell in the bookshop. Of course we want to give customers what they want, but we also want to make available resources that help Christians in their own walk with Christ as well as resources that encourage and promote gospel proclamation. That is why we are particularly highlighting these two books.

The first of these books remind us that the gospel really is good news. Yes, through trusting in Christ, we are saved eternally and made ready for heaven, but in addition, there is overwhelming evidence that following Jesus has a very positive and transformative impact on our daily lives.

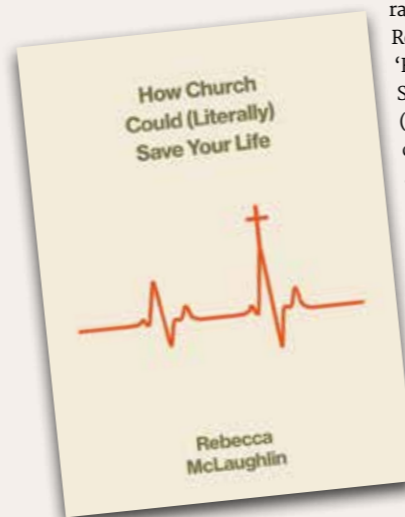
Secondly, as Christians we recognise that authentic relationships are a basic human need, and Ed Shaw focuses on this in "The Intimacy Deficit".

We hope you will find both book reviews helpful.

How Church Could (Literally) Save Your Life

by Rebecca McLaughlin

Every day social media abounds with new life hacks promising 10 steps to better mental or physical health. One answer to the problem that is rarely mentioned is highlighted by Rebecca McLaughlin her new book 'How Church Could (Literally) Save Your Life.' This short book (only 70 pages) provocatively challenges us to consider how actively participating in church life can have mental, physical, moral and spiritual benefits. What sets the book apart is the use of evidence-based arguments, citing multiple academic studies, to defend her ideas. The drawbacks come from its size and target audience - the brevity doesn't allow for much nuance, and at times it feels written more for a US market rather than an international one. Nevertheless, it presents a very different approach to encouraging connection with the church and is small enough to be given away or used as a conversation starter.

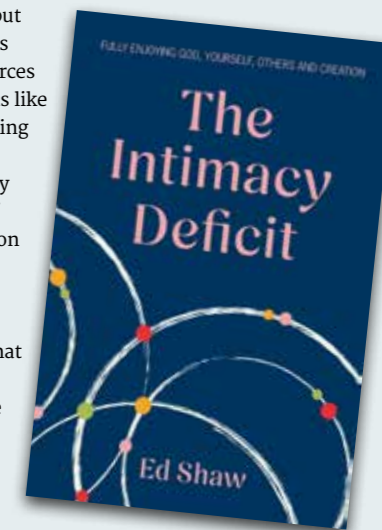


The Intimacy Deficit

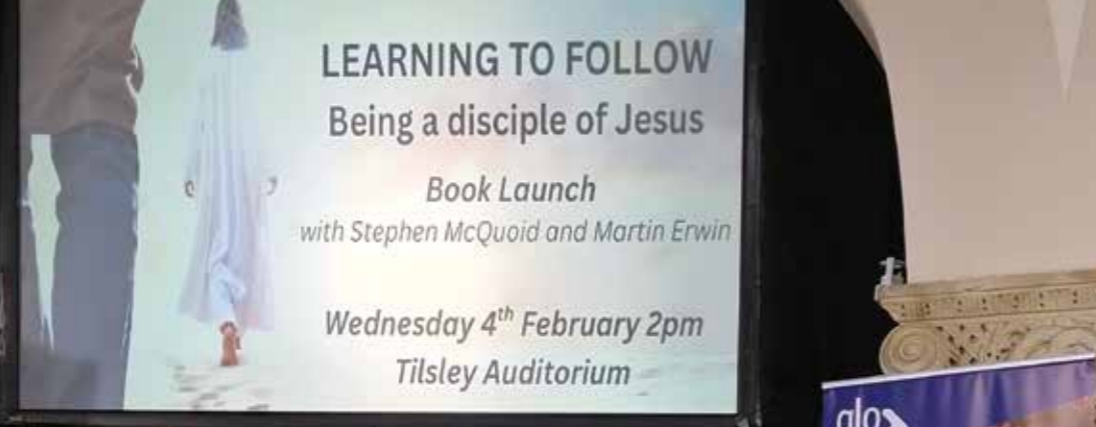
by Ed Shaw

When reading a title like 'The Intimacy Deficit' it might be easy to dismiss this as just another book for married couples only, but that would be a big mistake. Ed Shaw's book goes much further and much deeper. He defines intimacy as 'oneness through connection,' and the book then explores this in 4 areas - connection 'with our Creator, with ourselves, with other people and with the world around us.' Each section is covered by two chapters, the first of which explores the concept and the second gives some practical ways to enjoy intimacy. This is not a long book, 115 pages, but neither is it simplistic. The author's ability to interweave a range of sources with clear Scriptural principles feels like it has been a long while in the making and has come from genuine lived experience. The section on intimacy with others is outstanding. Each of the four sections end with discussion questions, and the whole book concludes with a helpful 'intimacy audit.'

The Intimacy Deficit is a book that I would highly recommend. Good to read on your own, though maybe that would miss part of the point. Even better to read with others and reflect on together.



Both 'How Church Could (Literally) Save Your Life' and 'The Intimacy Deficit' are available through the GLO Bookshop (books@glo-europe.org)



GLO Publishing

Relevant Reading on Discipleship, Leadership and Mission

by Mark Davies

It has always been important in GLO that we have the right resources available for effective ministry. In the UK context some of our key writers worked with Partnership UK in the production of key training resources such as 'Learning to Lead'. When Partnership needed a new home for its publications work, it was a natural fit for us to continue their ministry. An exciting part is the production of the 'Perspectives' periodical. This aims to stimulate theological thinking and encourage better practice across the



constituency of churches which we serve. This new 'department' in GLO continues to grow with its focus on materials that are crucial to the key ministries of discipleship, leadership and mission. Last year's book (Europe at the Spiritual Crossroads) focused on the urgent spiritual needs of our continent and ways we can engage in mission across the region. A significant aim is to generate teaching resources that are directly related to the task of both church planting and promoting church



growth and revitalisation. Our latest book, 'Learning to Follow' is designed as a key resource to put into the hands of new believers. It is something you can give to the person you may have helped lead to Christ, to guide them in the nurturing and development of a life-long walking with Jesus.

While all of these resources can be purchased via the GLO Bookshop (with the QR code below) you would be making a significant contribution to the development of this work if you paid for an annual subscription (currently only £20 for personal subscriptions).* It would also be good if you could encourage others to join us as well. We would send you a copy of the six-monthly 'Perspective' periodical and also a new book published each year. We are currently exploring a theme of how Jesus' understanding of the church he is building should inform the way we function as



"We are also exploring how we can extend the reach of training resources linked to Tilsley College"

communities of his disciples for effective mission in our present day lived realities. Digital access is also possible for those who may prefer that to hard copy.

A really key area of development is the digital dimension of publications. We are seeking one or two key workers to lead the way forward in how to make our resources available and used across a wide range of digital media. If you have skills or know of believers with skills in these areas of publishing who are willing to serve voluntarily in this kind of ministry, please get in touch. We are praying for people with a vision for both the hard copy publishing and the digital media forms of communicating biblical truth and best practice in mission and church growth to join us in GLO Publishing. We are also exploring how we can extend the reach of training resources linked to Tilsley College and develop synergy with other publishing work that GLO personnel are connected with across Europe.

*Please contact GLO Publishing (publishing@glo-europe.org) for details of subscription prices outside of UK.

by Stephen McQuoid

One of the most exciting news stories to hit the media in recent months has been the dramatic rise in Bible sales across the UK. 2025 saw an increase in sales of 27.7%, and this is not a completely new phenomenon as sales have been increasing for several years. Indeed, they are up 134% since 2019 and are now at the highest level since records began. In monetary terms this equates to £6.3m being spent on Bibles in the UK last year.

There has been a great deal of speculation as to what is causing this surge in sales, not least because it seems to be driven in large measure by Gen Z and younger adults who appear to be taking an interest in spirituality. Social media platforms have also highlighted this renewed interest and suggest that, despite conflicting claims, there are grounds for believing that something of a 'quiet revival' is taking place.

The overall increase in Bible sales has not always been reflected in Bible sales from Christian bookshops. The Christian book trade has been



under pressure for several decades with many Christian bookshops in the UK closing their doors. In addition, the Covid pandemic led to an enormous increase in online book sales, often at the expense of the high street. The challenges that Christian bookshops generally face also confront the GLO Bookshop which is on the campus of the GLO Centre in Motherwell.

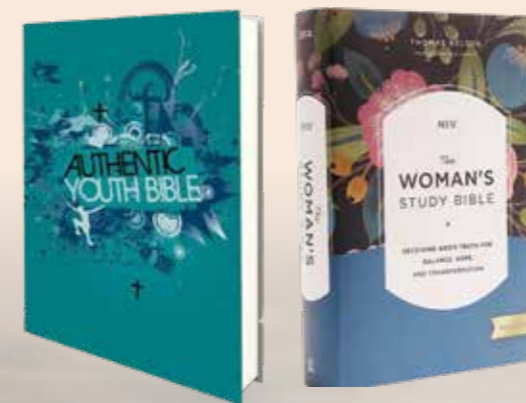
In the GLO Bookshop, Bible sales have always been a key component, and we still have a strong desire to serve the Christian and general public by offering an extensive range of Bibles. Currently the best sellers are the NIV, the NLT and the NKJV with the NIV consistently being at the top. What has become obvious is that very established Christians who know what they want when it comes to buying a Bible will often go online. However, customers who come into the shop to purchase a Bible are wanting advice and help with what to buy. In some cases they are non-Christians who are buying a Bible for the first time. Many are unfamiliar with the Bible and appreciate any advice that is given. Some are not aware that there are different Bible versions or that the Bible is available in

many different formats. Other customers are fairly recent Christians who may want to change versions or have a Bible format that meets a particular need, for example a Youth Bible or a Study Bible.

We also have customers who are buying the Bible as a gift and want advice and guidance so as to make a good choice. In other words, customer service is now key when it comes to selling Bibles from a Christian Bookshop.

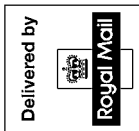
We should be encouraged by the renewed interest in the Bible and optimistic about the impact that it will make. It is also very helpful when Christians support their local Christian Bookshop given that every Christian Bookshop can provide an access point where customers can get hold of the Bible.

"despite conflicting claims, there are grounds for believing that something of a 'quiet revival' is taking place."



Still a Best Seller!





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GLO Europe Vision Statement

Our vision is to grow mission focused churches in Europe.

Our Focus is to:

- EVANGELISE:** to proclaim the gospel to as many people as possible in Europe using every method available
- ESTABLISH:** to ensure believers are established in their faith, strengthen existing local churches and plant new mission focused churches in Europe
- TRAIN:** to prepare and equip people for mission, to evangelise and church plant and to serve God and his Kingdom with excellence in a wide variety of vocations
- RESOURCE:** to provide resources that support mission activity through finance and literature, strategic input and pastoral care