

SHARING JESUS - SERVING COMMUNITY

19TH JULY 2026



**A warm welcome to everyone here today - both visitors and regulars.
Please stay for tea, coffee and biscuits after the service.**

Our service this morning is led by Jonathan Ellis.

The reading today is:

Hebrews chapter 1 v 1-10

Our Pastor, David Jewell,
can be contacted on
07443 907454 if you would
like to speak to him or ask
for prayer - or you can speak
to any of the Deacons.

The **Duty Deacon** today will
be the person who read the
notices at the beginning of
the service.

If you wish to give money
before the Sunday service,
for work in and through this
church, the offertory plate is
on the entrance table. The
money will be blessed during
the service.

Thank you for your gifts.

Our **Charity of the Month**
for July - where we donate
the collection from our
Communion Service and
Come for a Cuppa - is
Mercy UK,
a mental health charity.



Please sign up
for the Coffee Rota
on the
entrance table

Jonathan grew up in Coventry before marrying Somerset-born and bred Lisa and moving to Bristol. With his wife and three children he then moved to County Wicklow, Ireland. There they spent 17 years running a Christian retreat and conference centre next to the sea. They returned to the UK four years ago and now live in Winscombe alongside Lisa's mother, Anne Thurling. Jonathan and his wife are members of Alma Church in Bristol and sometimes go to Cheddar Baptist too. Jonathan loves to paint (pictures not walls!), play chess, walk, observe the sky, bake sourdough and enjoys good conversation with friends.

EVENTS THIS WEEK...

Monday: 7.30pm, Bible Study with David.

Tuesday: 7.30pm, Zoom Bible Study. Contact Alison for the link to take part.

Wednesday: 2pm-4pm, Knit & Natter.

Saturday: 2.30pm-4pm, Come for A Cuppa. Invite a friend or neighbour. Everyone welcome.

**Our next CHURCH MEETING is after the service on 26th July (NEXT WEEK!).
If you have any items for the Church Meeting Agenda please hand to Alison.**

The 16th August will be a Deacon led service. We would like you to think of one of your favourite hymns, the reason you like it and a Bible reading you associate with it. You don't have to stand up and talk about it unless you want to. Please write it down and give it to one of the deacons so we can choose a mix of hymns to make the service. Thank you.

...DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 26th July: Our service at 11am will be led by our pastor, David Jewell - and will be followed by our **CHURCH MEETING**.

Tuesday, 28th July: 7.30pm, Zoom Bible Study. Contact Alison for the link to join in.

Wednesday, 29th July: 10am-12noon, first Children's Summer Pop-In.

Saturday, 29th August: 2.30pm-4pm, Come for A Cuppa. Everyone welcome.

Please let **TRICIA** know of items for the next **BULLETIN** by Thursday 23rd July.
Would you like your Bulletin via email? Tell *Elizabeth* if you would like yours sent to you.

Alison receives email newsletters from the **URC** and **BU**.
If you would like these forwarded on to you, please speak to her.

NEED A LIFT TO CHURCH OR ANY OF OUR ACTIVITIES?

Contact:

Alison on 844401,
Elizabeth on 733886,
or *Tricia* on 843481.



PASTOR'S VIEW: Nehemiah 8 v 10 states: "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength". The context follows the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls. When Ezra read the Law, the Israelites wept over their past disobedience. Nehemiah instructed them to feast, share with the poor, and celebrate, as God's grace transformed their repentance into rejoicing. The Israelites had recently returned to their homeland after 70 years of exile in Babylon. They had successfully rebuilt the defensive walls of Jerusalem, but the people themselves needed spiritual restoration. To address this, Nehemiah —the governor — and Ezra — the priest and scribe — gathered the people in the public square to read the Book of the Law. Hearing the scriptures read aloud convicted the people of how far they had strayed from God's commands. They were deeply saddened and broke down weeping. However, Nehemiah and the Levites redirected them, stating that this specific day (the first day of the new year, or the Feast of Trumpets) was a holy day meant for celebration rather than mourning.

So, true joy is one that stems from the Lord's character: His forgiveness, love, and protection. It is a rejoicing that replaces mourning. In the original Hebrew, the word translated as "strength" carries the meaning of a refuge. Therefore, finding one's joy in the Lord provides a secure, spiritual fortress to protect us from sorrow and defeat.

Joy is not a mood. It's a weapon. There's a kind of joy that only shows up in a good season, and there's a kind that shows up on purpose, in the middle of a hard one, because you've decided the enemy doesn't get to take that from you too. One is circumstantial. The other is warfare. "The joy of the Lord is your strength." That means joy isn't just a nice feeling you have when things are going well, it is something that keeps you standing when everything else says you should be depleted. You can choose joy in the middle of a hard season without pretending the hard season isn't real. It's not denial. It's defiance. It's refusing to let your circumstances dictate how you are feeling.

God bless you, David.