



# ABC NEWS

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**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Series: The Seven Churches**

**Church 6 - Philadelphia**

**Reading: Revelation 3:7-13**

**Simon Downing**

**TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE** — Clive's band will be leading worship as Simon returns to our series on 'The Seven Churches'. In his talk we will be looking at Church 6 – Philadelphia – as told by John in Revelation 3:7-13. Jesus commends the Philadelphians for keeping His word and refusing to compromise their faith – even though He acknowledges their weakness. Can you see how this description fits Bible believing churches today but rejects churches that water down the Gospel to attract a wider audience. Don't miss this!

Of course, we do hope you can join us for the service in the church but if you can't actually join us, you will be able to access the service at any time by going to: <https://www.alldwickbaptist.co.uk/category/current-sermons>.

**NEXT WEEKEND'S WORSHIP SERVICE 15th June 2025** – Simon's band will be leading worship as Clive continues with our new series, 'Glimpsing God's vision for the Church' based on the Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Part 2 of this series covers Ephesians 1:15-23 and is entitled 'Confidence in Christ'. This is a hugely important series if we are serious in fulfilling God's vision for this church. Make sure you are here.

**THE AGM IS DRAWING NEAR (JULY 24<sup>th</sup>)** – This is when we can elect new deacons BUT have you ever wondered what is expected of a deacon? Deacons play a vital role in the life of our church. They are servant-hearted leaders who support the pastor in both the spiritual and practical care of the fellowship. Whether it's visiting the sick, offering a listening ear, praying with others, helping with church duties, or quietly supporting behind the scenes—deacons help build unity, offer encouragement, and serve with compassion. We are currently looking to expand our team of deacons. Could God be calling you to serve in this way?

## **CURIOUS ABOUT LIFE? - SEARCHING FOR MORE?**

Alpha is a place to ask the big questions of life. Whether you're exploring faith for the first time, returning with doubts, or simply curious, Alpha offers a warm, open, and honest space to discover more about the Christian faith. Starts this September — You're Invited!

Come for food, stay for the conversation, and bring your questions. No pressure, no charge, no judgment — just a chance to explore life's biggest questions together

**HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTISED?** A few weeks ago we celebrated the powerful step of faith taken by five individuals through baptism — a public declaration of their love for Jesus and a symbol of new life in Him. As you've watched, perhaps something stirred in your heart - **SO WHAT ABOUT YOU?** Please talk to Simon, Derek, Clive, Joy or John if you want to know more.

**"What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds... See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut."**—Revelation 3:7–8 (NIV)

This poem reflects on that promise, linking it with the vastness of creation and the even greater things that lie ahead.

### The Door No One Can Close

Before the stars were flung in flame,  
He spoke, and all things came to frame.  
The skies declare His mighty hand,  
And seas obey His firm command.  
Yet greater still—a voice that shows  
An open door no one can close.

The wind may shift, the world may shake,  
The faithful few may bend or break.  
But Christ, the True and Holy One,  
Still guards the path His saints must run.  
And on that road, His promise glows—  
An open door no one can close.

Through days of strength or nights of tears,  
He walks beside us through the years.  
Creation sings beneath our feet,  
A whisper of the world complete.  
For every trial, His mercy flows—  
An open door no one can close.

We hold His name, though weak and small,  
And still He claims us, each and all.  
A pillar set by grace alone,  
A people loved, a place made known.  
No power on earth can now oppose  
The open door no one can close.

So lift your head, though skies grow grey—  
A brighter dawn is on its way.  
The keys of David still in hand,  
Our Saviour reigns, His word will stand.  
The heavens wait, the city glows—  
Beyond the door no one can close.

The Aldwick Bard (TAB)

... and finally

### Prayer Wall

Our dear sister Pam McLaren has died. She had a fall earlier in the week and went to hospital. She was very frail and the Lord called her home. Please thank God for her life and pray for correct peace of mind for her friends and family.

Please pray for Marion Bryant who is in the cardiac ward at St. Richards with a consistently very low heart beat. They are monitoring the situation over the weekend with a view to giving her a pacemaker on Monday.

Do pray for Diane Townson who is not at all well and who is currently undergoing a series of tests. Pray for an accurate diagnosis, appropriate treatment, peace of mind and healing. Pray too for Brian who is obviously very concerned.

Do continue to pray for Gary Eggington and his family as Gary is now in the hospice so that he can get some rest. Please pray for peace and courage and for enough strength to resume chemotherapy.

Please do pray for ladies currently living in care homes. Pray for Molly Hawkins at Burlington. Pam McLaren at Arun Lodge, Mo Howland at Westergate House and Pam Brown at Cherington's. They all miss coming to worship the Lord as members of His family.

### Contact and Church office information

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