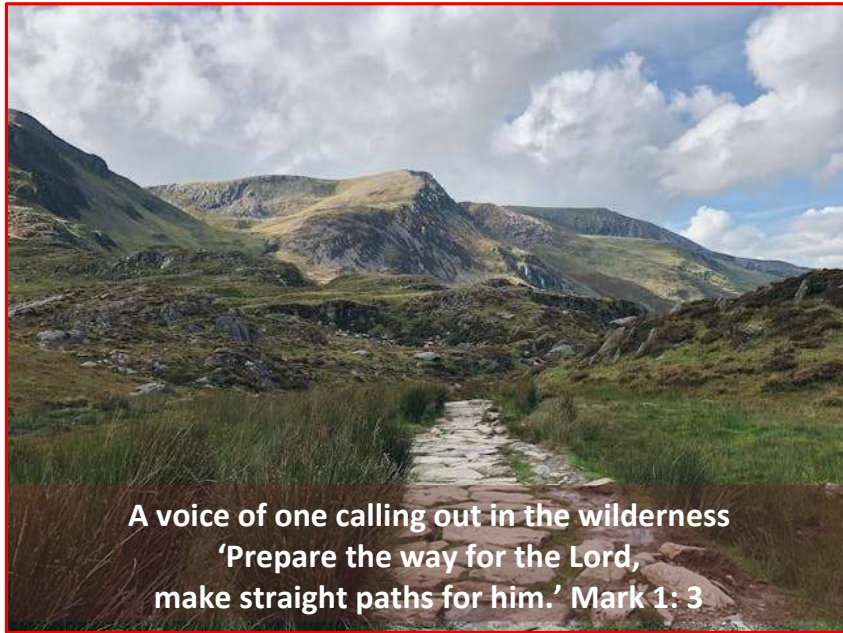




# ABC NEWS

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A voice of one calling out in the wilderness  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.' Mark 1: 3

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Series: The Magnificence of the Messiah!

Messiah – prepare the way!

Mark 1:1-8

Simon Downing

**TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE**— As we move into 2026, we begin a fresh journey through the fast-paced and powerful Gospel of Mark. This series, entitled 'The Magnificence of the Messiah!' will take us back to the heart of the Christian faith — seeing Jesus as those who walked with Him saw Him: full of power, authority, compassion, and grace.

Each week, we'll encounter Jesus through the eyes of those who knew Him — and be amazed again at who He truly is. Don't miss part 1 - Messiah — prepare the way!

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 SERVICE** – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Clive will be continuing with our new series, 'The Magnificence of the Messiah!' as we reach part 2 based on Mark 1: 9-13 and entitled, 'Messiah – heaven open. Don't miss this.

**ERNIE PAYNE** – Ernie's funeral service will take place at the Chichester Crematorium on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January beginning at 12.30pm. This will be followed by a service at ABC starting at 1:45pm followed by refreshments in the hall.

**THINKING ABOUT BAPTISM** – We're holding a baptismal service in May — a joyful celebration of lives made new in Christ! If you're a believer and haven't yet been baptised, why not take time to pray and ask: **"Is now the moment to take this step?"** Baptism is a beautiful declaration of faith — a public "yes" to Jesus, and a powerful picture of new life. If you'd like to explore this further, we'd love to chat with you. Simon and Derek.

**FOODBANK** - We are very grateful to all those who donate items for the Bognor Foodbank. Current urgently needed items are: Tinned tomatoes, Tinned vegetables, Sponge puddings, UHT orange juice, Sauces (ketchup etc)

Please place them in the donation point on the left-hand side of the church foyer. Thank you very much.

**TODAY'S SHORT INSPIRATIONAL POEM – by TAB.**

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." — *Psalm 19:1 (NIV)*

The skies proclaim His majesty,  
The oceans echo praise,  
Each flower and tree a masterpiece  
That sings of all His ways.

Together, the verse and poem offer a beautiful, space-saving reminder of God's creative glory. Let me know if you'd like it styled for a box or side panel!

## An introduction to and an invitation from Rio to help with her research

Hello everyone!

As you may already know I (Rio) am doing an 'immersive placement' with Aldwick Baptist Church. I am doing research to find out how people in the congregation of Aldwick Baptist Church view homegroups and pastoral care in this setting in order to be able to feed back to the leadership team and suggest ways of improving this provision if necessary.

My research will have 3 parts which will run simultaneously:

### **Part 1: Questionnaires**

There are some questionnaires at the back of the church. I would be grateful if as many of you as possible could fill one in and pop it in the questionnaire box by the end of the day on Wednesday 4th February 2026.

### **Part 2: Interviews**

I am looking to interview a variety of people over the next few weeks, up until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February. This is an opportunity to share in more depth about your experiences and views of pastoral care and homegroups. I would like to interview a range of people, both those in homegroups and those not in homegroups, and people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

I will be approaching people to ask them if they would be interested in being interviewed, but it would also be helpful if you could approach me if you are interested in doing an interview! You can talk to me in person, or email me at 2023004@moorlands.ac.uk.

### **Part 3: Attending Homegroups**

I am going to attend different homegroups (hopefully every homegroup once). The intention of this is to be a 'fly on the wall' – I want to understand how your homegroups work and what happens. When I come I will just sit quietly and enjoy seeing how your homegroup works, and take a few notes later for my own memory.

Some more technical information will be provided to the homegroup members before I come, but if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at 2023004@moorlands.ac.uk.

I'm really looking forward to being able to do this research and find out more about how ABC works and how people view and experience pastoral care. I hope this research will be beneficial for you as a church, and for me as a student!

God Bless,

Rio :)

## **Prayer Wall** ... and finally

### **Please pray for:**

- Frank Yorkston who is still in a lot of pain from his right hip - this means Frank is really struggling at present. Please pray for urgent action by the medical staff and healing.
- Helen, David, Hayley and Daniel as they mourn the loss of Ernie. Pray that amidst the sadness they can look back fondly on the happy times they spent together.
- Joy Smith who has been unwell for some time. Please pray for healing.
- Marie as she adjusts to life in a wheel chair but that the Lord that she is at home and still very cheerful.
- Mary Edwards whose Father died this week after a long illness. Pray for peace of mind.
- Jo Lockhart who is also in St. Richard's with pneumonia. Pray for healing.
- Stuart & Joyce Filby as they recharge their batteries as they enjoy sun in Tenerife over the next 6 weeks. Pray too for David and Fiona who are also in Tenerife.
- Make a note - the next quarterly praer meeting will by on 31st January. More details later.

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