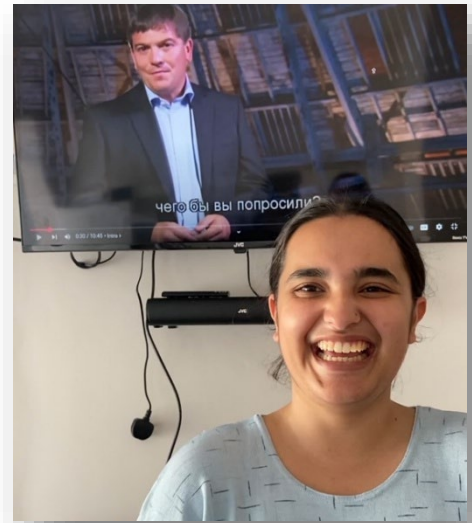


N.B. The content of this letter is sensitive; please don't share without checking with me first.

All things considered, we are getting along quite well, which is a great kindness of the Lord. We have grown a little in number again, with newcomers becoming regulars who happily take us as they find us. Regular attendance can mean anything from every Sunday to once every 3-4 weeks, so getting to know people is a slow process. We have a good number of unbelievers with us each week, which is great yet, we are needy for mature believers established in Christ. Many in our small church have quite difficult life circumstances, hospital workers are subject to shift patterns that hinder them being with us and yet the grace of Christ is with us and Sundays are a cheerful, friendly time where people express appreciation for one another, want to hear from the Lord, sing to him and to one another.

As time goes by it gets harder however, our pastor and sole elder needing to withdraw again (since early March) leaves us somewhat unsettled, and most of us don't live well with the uncertainty of when he may be ready to return. Other Calvary Mission churches are helping us on Sundays by sending someone to lead and preach in our services. We are so grateful to them and appreciate the benefit of gospel partnership. However, it does mean that we have different men who most of us barely know, if at all, with different styles, preaching different passages/books and the lack of continuity adds to the unsettled feeling and in the rest of the week we are without an under-shepherd. I miss my brother and co-worker.



Praise God, I finished Christianity Explored (CE) with two young women, a joy to know them better and to see them firm in faith. I am now coming to the end of CE with two other young women, who are eager to continue with Bible study.



Friday Youth video talks by Glen Scrivener: his creative use of language has resonated and the youth are being made to consider the gospel afresh.

We are benefitting from being in our own building but progressing snags and finishing off jobs is slow progress in a culture where contractors not turning up when they say is the norm! The eight churches that form Calvary Mission have been operating under one charity, but this year we all go independent in that regard. It's been a challenge to get my head around Company submissions, Charities Regulator and Revenue etc. but I'm chipping

away at all these things and with God's help they are less intimidating than they once were.

The danger of all this is the potential for distraction from the things of first importance: to me as an individual, to us as the church, and for the sake of the lost around us. Christ died for our sins, was buried, raised and appeared, ascended and exalted, giving gifts to his church as he builds it in the power of the Spirit. Is not God's power made perfect in our weakness? Please pray for us, that we shelter under the wing of a gentle saviour and behind the shield of his military strength; that we are patient in affliction and are trained all the more to share in the Lord's holiness; that we remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding the work of the Lord as he enables; that we rejoice in hope.

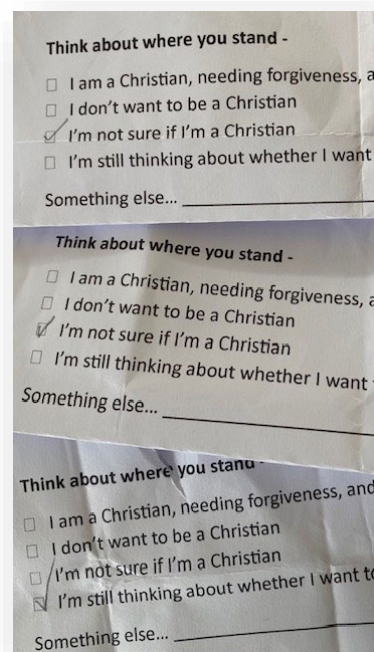
Other prayer points:

- Women's Bible studies: for growth in grace and putting to death self-righteous pride as we look at Jesus, for more women to come to these studies, benefitting us all.
- My neighbour who with her family have recently started coming to church. Pray for gracious words that point to Jesus, salvation and hope.
- For Stephen's restoration and recovery and a brother to join us to serve alongside him.
- Church visits: Grace Church Dulwich 16–18 May, St Margaret's Angmering 23–25 May.
- With thanks – no more nighttime alarm call outs, refreshing company with visiting friend at Easter, great weather and mountains to climb.

Helen now has a WhatsApp broadcast, most weeks she posts a photo/video and brief news/prayer items. If you would like to receive these, please WhatsApp message her with your name and location on +353894480185. Save her number to your contacts to receive the broadcast. Your details will not be shared.



Church garden clearance workday – in prep for a team from Northern Ireland hoping to landscape mid-May. Pray building snags and repairs would be completed by the end of June and the admin by August.



Pray for those unsure if they're Christ's or still thinking about it; for a man/couple to lead Castlebar's boy heavy youth with me; for Calvary combined Youth Weekend Away, now 9–11 May.