

Finding Jesus in our daily lives ...

I don't know about you, but as a follower of Jesus, I find it important to spend time with him each day, praying, reading my Bible and discerning how to serve Him.

I am learning that this doesn't necessarily happen randomly – I need to be disciplined and find ways to connect with God in daily life; the pressures make it challenging but not impossible.

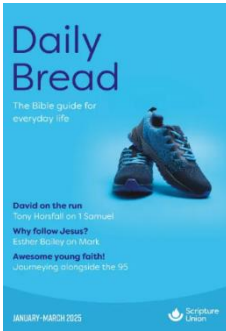
Saint Paul said, "You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally; I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No lazy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself" (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).

So, at this time of year when people make New Year resolutions, may I encourage you to continue to spend time with him over this year?

We all have different ways of doing this; after all we are all uniquely made by God and have different ways of relating to him. If it helps, I have listed some of the different options that I know about. These might be of interest, or perhaps you know of others that you would recommend? And if you would like me to order anything for you, I will happily help.

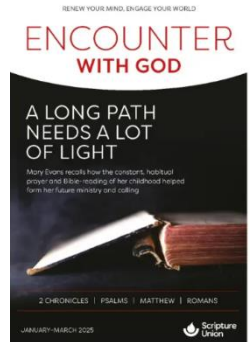
As we head towards a New Year, lets all look to find ways to spend more time with Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith.





Daily Bread is the Bible reading guide that aims to help you hear from God as you read the Bible. If you've ever asked the question, 'What possible relevance can this verse have for me today?' or 'What difference does this passage make to my life?' then these notes could be for you!

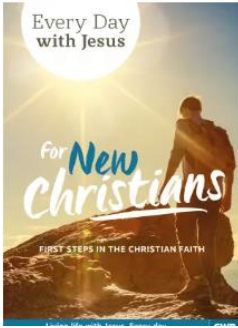
Encounter with God is Scripture Union's daily Bible reading guide designed to lead you to a deeper understanding about what God is saying to you and to his world today. You'll find that its biblical exposition is complemented by pastoral warmth from a strong field of writers and contributors.



Each issue of **New Daylight** provides four months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. New Daylight covers a varied selection of Old and New Testament passages, biblical themes, characters and seasonal readings.

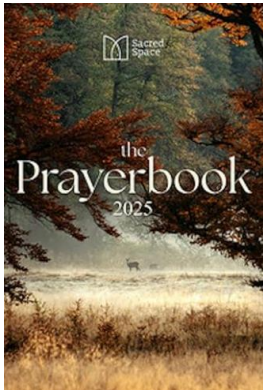
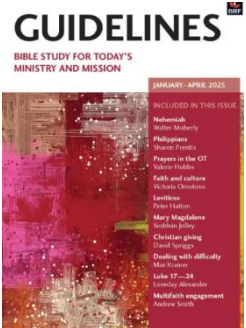
Day by Day with God is a collection of Bible reading notes specifically written for women by women. The entries for each day contain a suggested Bible reading, with the key verse written out in full, a helpful comment that engages heart and mind and a short reflection or prayer. Whatever your situation, you will be inspired and encouraged by these notes.





Every Day with Jesus for New Christians is a powerful and relevant handbook for people new to the Christian faith or for people who would like to be reminded of some of the foundations of the Christian faith.

Guidelines is a unique Bible reading resource that offers four months of in-depth study, drawing on insights of current scholarship. Its intention is to enable all its readers to interpret and apply biblical text with confidence in today's world. Instead of dated daily readings, Guidelines provides weekly units, broken into six sections, plus an introduction and a final section of points for thought and prayer.



The Scripture, prayers, and reflections in **Sacred Space: The Prayer Book** will inspire you to a richer daily spiritual experience throughout the liturgical year and invite you to develop a closer relationship with God. Each day of Sacred Space: The Prayer Book includes Scripture reading and points of reflection,



0345 222 3336

Weekdays 8.30 - 17.30

All these items are available from Eden Christian shop (from which the information is taken).

In addition to books there are a **range of apps** for your tablets, phones, computers ...



Connect with God with the new C of E Everyday Faith app. Journey daily with reflections to inspire, equip and encourage you in your everyday faith.



For those who like a more traditional daily service (morning and evening prayer) this app is incredibly helpful.



The Lectio 365 app helps you begin and/or end the day with God, as you reflect on a bible passage using the simple Lectio Divina method of prayer (which is simply explained in the app).



The Sacred Space app brings the Sacred Space: The Prayer Book into an online format.



If you have an Alexa device you can say, "*Alexa, open the Church of England*", and s/he will offer you a range of prayers for the day/week.



And the Church of England has a free phoneline (0800 804 8044) of hymns, reflections and prayers.

Or you can ask any of the members of the clergy team to come and pray with you.

