

illuminate trust

Supporters' Newsletter, Easter 2016

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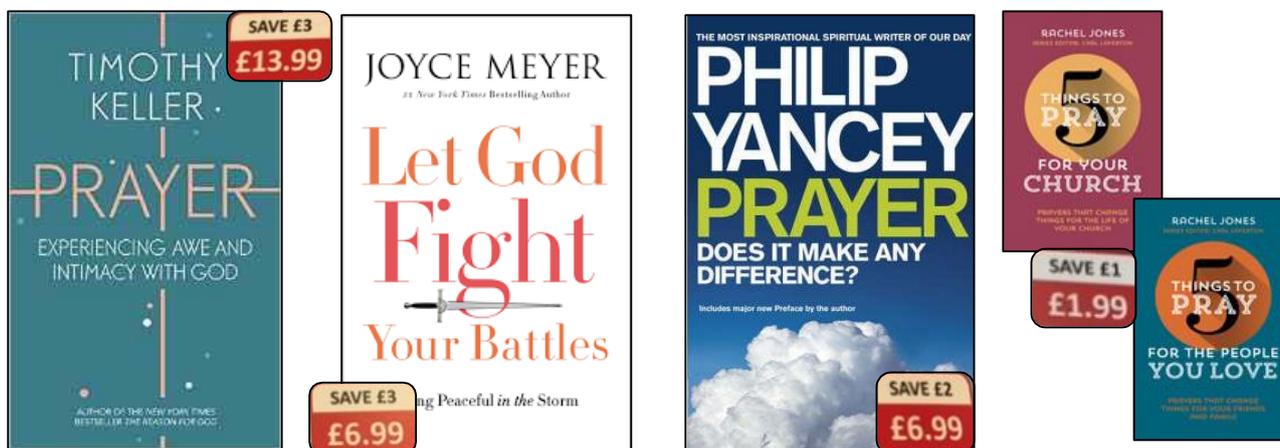
Easter

With Easter being so early this year it seems to be hurrying upon us! There is still time, however, to purchase Palm Crosses (price unchanged at £8.99 for 50), candles, altar breads, non-alcoholic wine, and other resources.



Book ideas

Learning to pray is the work of a lifetime, and with the 'Try Praying' initiative coming up (for those of you from Shrewsbury, anyway), we thought we would highlight some prayer resources. Even better news is that they are all on special offer at the moment!



***Prayer – Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, by Timothy Keller, was £16.99, now £13.99**

***Let God Fight your Battles*, by Joyce Meyer, was £9.99, now £6.99**

***Prayer – Does it Make any Difference?* by Philip Yancey, was £8.99, now £6.99**

***5 Things to Pray for the People you Love*, and *5 Things to Pray for your Church*, by Rachel Jones, now £1.99 each**

Our brilliant staff team



There are now around 10 people, both paid and volunteers, who work in the shop with us, led by Christine Coleman (left). Most of you will have met Christine, but we thought you would be interested to know more about her, so we asked her a few questions –

How and when did you get into Christian book selling?

“In January 1984 I was asked to start a Christian Bookshop within a department store. The shop was called ‘The Filling Station’. I was a young Christian, and learning so much about God and retail! It was amazing that the first stock was sold within a month and the shop grew and quadrupled its sales over a four year period. We were the only growing business within the department store! It was a great journey of discovery - seeing the faithfulness of God for the shop, and so many lives that were touched on a day to day basis.”

What is your vision for Illuminate?

“My vision for Illuminate is still to be a ‘Light on the High Street’! We serve the church community with many and varied resources, but more than that we are a source of encouragement for all who come our way whether local or not. We want to be those who listen to people and speak God’s word to build them up. We frequently have the opportunity to come alongside people and breathe God’s life. Recently footfall has decreased, but we are still eager to be God’s light shining brightly.”

What is the best experience you have had in the shop in recent months?

“It was a very quiet Wednesday with few customers. We sat having lunch and prayed that God would send customers our way. Later that day a group of people who were on a retreat at Cloverley Hall Christian conference centre came into the shop. There were six people, two of them from France! They did buy, but more than that they prayed for us! So often we pray for others but, it was so good being encouraged and being on the receiving end. They were an answer to prayer on more than one level! We want to be about the Father’s business and walk in step with Him. God moments like this are very precious.”

Mostly about money

Sales over the past few months have been up and down. The months August to December 2015 saw a steady month on month increase in sales. January and February, however, have witnessed the opposite, so sales overall are slightly down over this period. Quite why this should be is hard to say. Please continue to pray with us! Otherwise, income and expenditure are little changed on previous years. We will have a fuller picture at the end of the financial year.

Illuminate Board

The Illuminate Board consists of Andrew Pattison (who worships at Barnabas Community Church), Chairman; James Hindson (Shrewsbury Baptist), Secretary; Adrian Burns (Ruyton-XI-Towns), Treasurer; Judie Ellis (Christchurch, Bayston Hill); Clare and John Mowbray (Holy Trinity Meole Brace); Christine Coleman (Barnabas); and Kevin Lawrence (Oxon). We meet every couple of months for an evening (plenty of jokes amid the serious business!), and our job is to oversee the ministry.

We have room for more! We would especially value people from outside the Shrewsbury area (as we are mostly from in or near the county town). If you have any experience in management or retail that would be great, but most of all we are looking for people with a passion to enable *Illuminate* to continue to be ‘A Light on the High Street’.

We need you!

Assuming you use the shop when you can, here are other ways you can help us.

- Pray for us regularly – could you commit to remembering us in your prayers, say, once a week?
- Publicise us – ask for a supply of leaflets about the shop and ask if you may put them in your church foyer, noticeboard etc.
- Give, either occasionally or regularly. Ask for a form or download it from the website (follow the ‘getting involved’ link).
- Run a bookstall, which we will supply you with on a sale or return basis.
- Ask for a speaker to publicise our ministry, either for a few minutes during your notice time, or as part of a service, say, Bible Sunday (Dec 4th this year)