



Vital Link

The Newsletter for Through the Roof | www.throughtheroof.org

Transforming Lives Through Jesus with Disabled People

Bibles and Baptism in India



Last year's wheelchair distribution to India blessed many with the gift of freedom. This year's Roofbreaker trip met two beneficiaries and heard the impact on their lives...

Bidyut from Kolkata (Calcutta) received a wheelchair, walking frame and audio Bible, which have changed his life. Bidyut's mobility was badly affected by a stroke, and he has several health conditions.

Our equipment now enables him to move around freely inside and out. Bidyut decided to accept Jesus and wanted to get baptised. Assisted by his mobility equipment, with others helping, he entered the baptismal pool to fulfil his wish.

Bidyut cannot read, but with the gift of an audio Bible they have family prayer time together. It's been difficult for the family coping with Bidyut's health difficulties, but Bidyut's daughter says: "When we go through rough times, we are clinging on to God more, and we'll be seeking God more."



The team also met **Paulina**, who is blind and received a Bengali audio Bible in 2025. Paulina's husband died so she lives with a Hindu family who go to work, leaving her alone during daytimes.

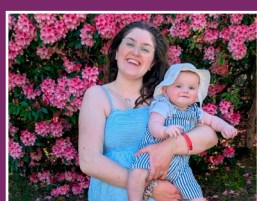
Paulina says, "I had no knowledge of the Bible. Now I'm reading this, chapter by chapter, and it's so helpful to me. I'm happy that I spend my time with the Word of God. Nobody is here throughout the day, but I'm not alone. The Word of God is with me. I'm very happy, very glad, at receiving this gift. Many, many thanks to you." Paulina's favourite Bible passage is Jesus calming the storm. She says, "When the storm comes in our lives and we get anxious, we're given assurance that Jesus is in our boat."

The UK team delivered training to church and ministry leaders in Kolkata, emphasising the Gospel call to include disabled people in the body of Christ. There were amazing fellowship opportunities with different groups, including people living in the slums, blind people and a church for Deaf people who have begun a 15-year project, translating the Bible into Indian Sign Language.

In this issue:



Join in Disability Awareness Sunday!



Grace returns as a Mum.



New ABC Resource news!

Accessible formats available: large print, audio, braille.
Call 01372 749955 or email info@throughtheroof.org

Please join with us in praying for the ongoing impact in Kolkata.

Mobility Moves People to Tears

Volunteer Tracey tells Daniel's story from our Wheels for the World Ghana trip.

On the very first day of our latest Wheels for the World mission in Accra, we met Daniel – a 63-year-old father living with cancer of the pelvis and constant, debilitating pain. Unable to stand or transfer seats independently, every movement depended on the strength and care of his adult son, Amos.

Without a wheelchair, Amos had no way to move his father other than carrying him. Together, they shared how the physical strain exhausted Amos and increased Daniel's pain, sometimes leaving both men frustrated and emotionally drained. As Daniel spoke, tears filled his eyes.

Our therapy team carefully assessed Daniel's needs and were able to provide him with a self-propelling wheelchair and a pressure-relieving cushion to help protect him from painful pressure sores. We also checked that he was connected with local health services for ongoing pain management.



The transformation was immediate. For the first time in a long while, Daniel had dignity, comfort, and a new sense of freedom – he was able to move himself and help his son. Amos knew the wheelchair would ease the burden he had carried alone for so long. Finally, they could live in interdependence, working together as a family. Then came a moment none of us will forget. Daniel took the therapist's hand and said, "Thank you for thinking of people like me."



We told him that this gift was a small way of showing how deeply God loves him.

There were tears again – this time from Daniel, Amos, and members of the therapy team too!

Stories like Daniel's remind us why Wheels for the World matters. A wheelchair is never just a wheelchair. It is relief, dignity, hope – and a tangible expression of God's love.

Please pray for the disabled people in Accra, Ghana, whose lives have been transformed by the gift of a wheelchair or mobility aid. May they be truly valued and accepted, more and more, into their communities.

International Mission opportunities

Wheels for the World trips

Rwanda (Kayonza): 1st–12th September 2026
Partner: FoH Rwanda (Rev Dominique).

2027 dates coming soon! See 'Planned International Trips' on our website for latest.

Please email Kathy on kathy@throughtheroof.org to apply or get more information.

International Roofbreaker events

We are planning locally-led international Roofbreaker meetings in 2026:

Uganda: July 2026, Roofbreaker event no UK team

Malawi: August 2026, Roofbreaker event no UK team

Please email Faith on international@throughtheroof.org to get more information.

One Roofbreaker Project, Many Roofbreaker Events!

We're sharing snapshots of what's been happening in our UK Roofbreaker community.

Growing Together in Community, Hand in Hand

Carol from our Roofbreaker team shares about an additional needs event:

"I had the joy of attending the Hand in Hand Conference in Birmingham – an inspiring gathering of children's and youth workers united in faith and purpose. The weekend was a powerful reminder that we are stronger together: learning, encouraging one another, and building shared vision for ministry.

At the Through the Roof stand, we connected with many passionate leaders, celebrating 57 new Roofbreakers joining this growing community – praise God! Workshops, especially those focused on supporting children with additional needs, highlighted how creativity and collaboration can open doors for every child.

Events like this remind us that ministry flourishes in community – hand in hand, equipping and uplifting one another.



Created to Belong

The Created to Belong Conference in Kilmarnock, Scotland, in May was a day filled with celebration, fellowship, and learning together.

The event was organised with Prospects Across Scotland, Reachout Together, SPRED Galloway and TTR.

There were opportunities to attend workshops, including silent communion and creating visual timetables. We were privileged to hear from three church leaders – Dan Harper, Barbara Urquhart, and Mary Whittaker (the first Deaf priest in the Church of Scotland) – and we are so grateful for their wisdom, honesty, and encouragement.

Helen Stirling's beautiful new song, written for the event, sums up the truth we all experienced (based on **Psalms 100:3**):

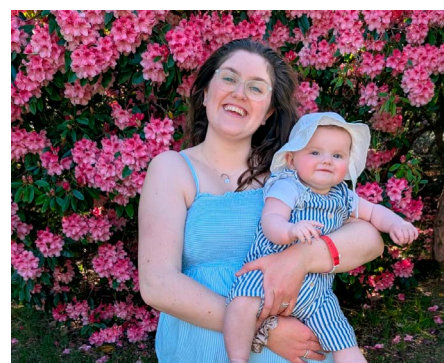
"Know our Lord is God. Know we are His. His people. Created to Belong ..."



Grace Returns as a New Mum!

This summer, we welcome back Grace, our Roofbreaker Co-ordinator for Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England. Here's her message:

"Hello everyone! It's so great to be back with the Through the Roof team after my maternity leave. I have had the loveliest 9 months bonding with my little girl Tilly, who is the happiest and smiliest baby you will ever meet and I absolutely love being her mum. I'm very grateful for the Roofbreaker project team for doing such a fabulous job of covering for me so I could enjoy my time off. I'm looking forward to connecting with old and new Roofbreakers and am very excited to be back to working with you all."



Please pray for the future of the Roofbreaker project, that new funding would be provided, and God would direct the work and lead the planning for the next phase.

The Power of One Cuddle

Trevor, our Chair of Trustees, shares a touching family story of interdependence.



In the Apostle Paul's description of the Church as a body with many parts (**1 Corinthians 12**) he affirms: 'God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be' (verse 18).

Those of us who have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, those of us who have chosen His invitation to be children of God, are an essential part of the body. God has chosen us; God has arranged us: placed us in His body just where He wants us, to serve Him. 'Every one of us' scripture tells us, no exceptions; we are all vital to the health of the body, all vital in God's Kingdom. You are essential; the body, the Church, is diminished, is less, without you.

It reminds me of many years ago, when my eldest daughter Elin was a baby. She has had profound disabilities from birth (quadriplegic cerebral palsy, is non-verbal, and unable to walk). Elin was totally vulnerable and helpless; a disabled new-born being cuddled by her grandfather who was dying of cancer. Both were receiving what they needed at that time: interdependent, mutual giving and receiving. Two seemingly weaker members of the body, proving indispensable to one another.

► We are all vital to the health of the Church.

Elin and her grandfather were parts of the 'body' often deemed to be less important, that we might rather hide away or forget. Yet they were serving one another, quietly fulfilling the call of Christ. In fact, I heard afterwards that a priest who visited Elin's grandfather and observed this was inspired to preach to his congregation about what he saw. And now I share this same story with you, and it still impacts me in a profound way just remembering it.

There is a parable in the Bible about different servants with talents in **Matthew 25**. A man gave one person 5 talents, another person 2 talents, and yet another person 1 talent. The servants with 5 and 2 talents put them to work and doubled their investments. The one with 1 talent hid it in the ground, out of fear, and obviously gained nothing. So, do not fear, take heart: use your talent; we all have at least one, and it is valuable and indispensable to the body, the Church. And when you do use what God has given you, be encouraged, for one talent becomes two, and two becomes four, and so on – this is how God's Kingdom works.

One cuddle between a disabled baby and a terminally ill man has had a profound impact on many. Who knows where your talent will lead?



▲ Like this, new-born, disabled baby Elin and her grandfather with cancer comforted each other.

One Body, Many Parts: Disability Awareness Sunday 2026

'One Body, Many Parts' (**1 Corinthians 12**) is the theme of this year's Disability Awareness Sunday on 27th September 2026. Young autistic Christian author, Triona Brading, has written a new free resource for churches, available on our website, exploring how all types of people are needed in God's Church – including those who are disabled or neurodivergent.

In a video to accompany the resource, Triona shares her story of discovering, aged 21, that she is autistic. She is passionate about the truth that all parts of the body of Christ are needed (**1 Cor. 12:27**), and they are interdependent.

What is 'Interdependence'?

Interdependence is depending on each other and on God to support our needs. The world encourages us to depend on no-one but ourselves. But Jesus encouraged true community and interdependence.

The beauty of an interdependent church is the opportunity to bless and serve each other, bringing our unique gifts, skills, experiences, strengths and weaknesses for God to use to build his kingdom.



In a 6-minute talk/sermon video in the free DAS resource for 2026, Triona explains her unique perspective as an autistic person on God's family, the Church, being interdependent:

'As an autistic person, I might chuckle to myself because I will imagine it literally happening! "The eye can't say to the hand 'I don't need you'."

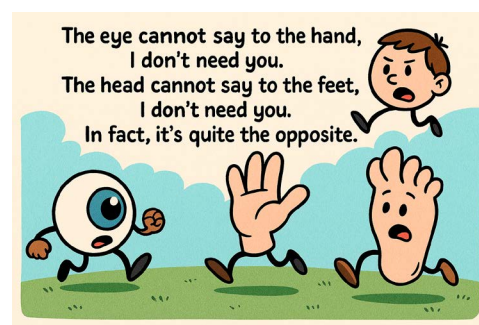
Can you imagine it?! Body parts going rogue... trying to live independently of one another? ... That's the thing about us as the Body of Christ. We need one another!'

Join us to celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday

Celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday on 27 September 2026 or on any Sunday!

Download the free resources to show Triona's video, involve disabled people in worship, and connect all parts of the body of Christ. The free DAS resources (in English or Welsh) are at:

<https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday>



One Vine, Many Branches

Annette, TTR Communications Officer, reflects on interdependence imagery.

I had a revelation recently that something was missing from how I understand the Biblical image of 'One Body, Many Parts' as the Church. I was so caught up in the focus on human life, and all people working together, that I forgot the source of that life: God! He breathes life into the body.

So I really love Jesus's image in **John 15:5** that connects us more clearly to God: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you,

you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

This image of interdependence connects all people (the branches) with the source of life: the Vine. (For any other 'strivers' like me, a great YouTube video on 'the Vine' is 'Stop Trying So Hard' from BibleResolve.) As each branch needs the Vine, we need God to power all we do for Him. So, let's channel our energies into staying connected to God, as well as each other.

Celebrating 'Together at Home'

News from Lis and Ian Johnstone, leaders of our 'Together at Home' online fellowship group.

In recent months Together at Home have celebrated the Christian festivals together, with a 'Christmas Coffee and Check-in', and a range of meetings in Holy Week 2026.

The new events were incredibly well received and gave an opportunity for people who might have spent the holidays on their own to grab a coffee and cake (mince pie for Christmas, of course, and 'best chocolate Easter egg' challenge for Holy Week!). We just spent time together with some music, laughter and fellowship.

These social gatherings held deeper faith-based significance for all of us involved, as we were able to build on the usual format of praise and worship, sharing a Bible passage, discussion and prayers for our families, communities and churches.

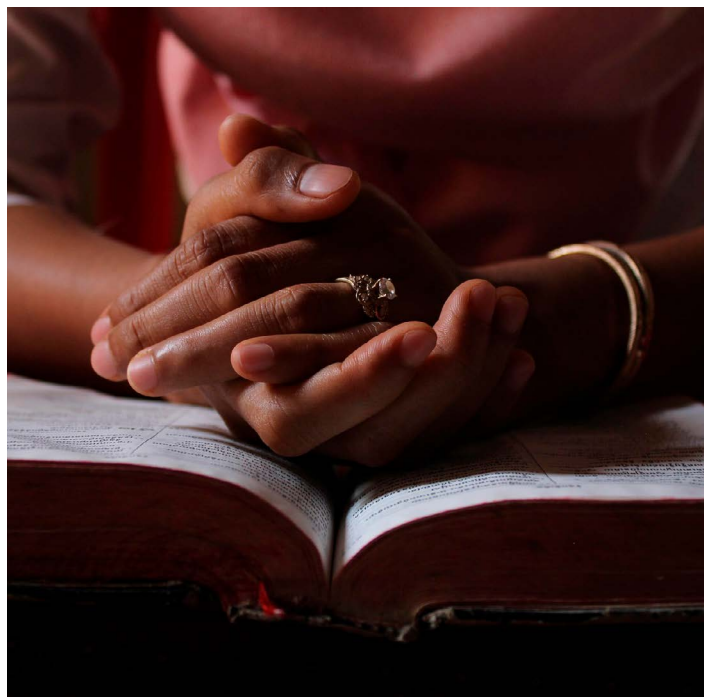
There is a deep sense of 'togetherness' as we care and share and celebrate each other's Christian journeys. Our Heavenly Father is most definitely at work in each of our lives and we are hugely humbled and grateful by the further development of 'WhatsApp prayer' which is very popular.

One Together at Home member, Elmira, says: "We feel we matter to one another as well as to the Lord. We are united through Him." Another member, Louise, shares: "We have formed a real community...The group has certainly become a valued part of my life."

As we've developed our understanding of how the Lord works within and through each of us, our group has grown and grown. This year we will see another Disability Awareness Sunday (DAS) online prayer event happen over the weekend of Disability Awareness Sunday: Friday 25th September to Sunday 27th September 2026. Further details will be added to the Disability Awareness Sunday webpage on the TTR website under 'UK Church Inclusion' at www.throughtheroof.org

Our Together at Home online fellowship group has moved from a fortnightly structure to a weekly time together on a Thursday, 2-3pm. If you're curious as to how the Lord uses our weekly time and what it is that we do, why not come along to one of our weekly Zoom meetings and check us out?

You will be guaranteed a warm welcome and there's



no pressure to contribute or to even have your video on if you prefer to just sit and listen.

As the hosts of these meetings, Ian and I (Lis), can offer you a video chat before or after the meeting, just so we can gauge what support we can offer to help you feel safe and comfortable in the group.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. Every blessing,
Lis and Ian Johnstone.

Please join us to pray for Disability Awareness Sunday (DAS) 2026: for churches to join the journey of disability inclusion by celebrating DAS this year, or connecting with disabled members of the community.

Continuing the Story: actions with lasting impact



▲ Bidyut, who got baptised after receiving a wheelchair.



When the time is right for you to remember a charity in your Will, and after you have made provision for your loved ones, please consider a gift to Through the Roof.

The only information needed to include us in a Will is our registered charity name (Through the Roof Charitable Trust) and number (1087788).

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. Together, we can ensure that future generations continue to experience hope, belonging and transforming change.

In **Luke 18**, Jesus tells the parable of a widow who persisted in asking a judge for justice – to show his disciples that we “should always pray and not give up”! We never know God’s timing and when He will act as His plans and purposes unfold into the future.

Bidyut baptised

Elsewhere in this newsletter we read the story of Bidyut in Kolkata, who received the gift of a wheelchair and audio Bible – and soon after, got baptised in church – physically helped into the baptismal pool by members of his church family.

The faithful, on-going prayers, financial donations, time and energy commitment of volunteers and partners all contributed together and culminated in Bidyut’s life being transformed for good for eternity.

Leaving a legacy for future generations

We will never know how often the activities of Through the Roof have been an answer to prayer for someone in desperate need. It could be through the gift of a wheelchair; or providing an audio bible or a listening ear; or through a friendship formed; or from the timely intervention and support of a Roofbreaker demonstrating God’s love.

Did you know that 85% of the charity’s annual funding for its ministry and mission comes from voluntary donations from churches and individuals, including gifts in Wills?

Recently, one faithful supporter left a significant legacy gift, which enabled us to continue to serve and equip our amazing 1100 Roofbreakers, touching lives across the UK.

Even when we are no longer here God “who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”.

‘Your Father... sees what is done in secret’ (Matthew 6:4)

Thank you to all who give anonymously. We’re unable to thank donors directly, without contact details, but we appreciate your gift!

If you’re expecting a response but haven’t had one, or donated via BACS, please contact us so we can connect all the information.

To financially support Through the Roof (anonymously or otherwise), please visit **www.throughtheroof.org** and click donate, or contact us on **01372 749955**.

Coming Soon: Our vital new resource for your church



Did you know that there are approximately 13 million children and young people under 18 in the UK? Now think about yours, and other UK churches, and how much volunteer energy, resources, publications, time on Sundays and Christian events or projects are committed to reaching and discipling children and young people. And that's no bad thing – it is definitely right to invest in the next generation.

But did you also know that there are a similar (if not higher) number of disabled people living in the UK? Again, think of how much time, effort and resource the Church currently dedicates to this group of people! It's not a direct comparison but it is an important contrast to consider.

Disabled people make up one of the largest unreached people groups in the world. Only 5 – 10% will ever hear the Gospel in their lifetime. We are missing out on the skills, gifts and unique perspectives of disabled people to edify the Church – God's people. Disability isn't a niche topic – it's the Gospel in action!

This is such a vital message that more churches and individual Christians need to know, and we're committed to spreading that message further. Will you join us?

'Room at the Table – Exploring the ABC of Disability Inclusion' will be a Bible-based, high-impact video resource and study guide. Aimed primarily at church small groups, and run over four sessions of one hour each, it will help people explore the theme of disability in a deeper way together.

Built on the foundation of key Bible passages, and using our Access, Belonging, Commission (ABC) framework for disability inclusion, it will tell the personal and powerful stories of disabled Christians; provide ideas and inspiration to apply in your church; and give opportunities for individual reflection and questions to prompt group discussion.

We're excited by how it's coming together, and the strong theme emerging of us all being 'many parts, but one body'!

We aim to launch it around Disability Awareness Sunday – 27th September – so please pray it will capture people's imagination. Register your interest on our website by searching 'Room at the Table ABC' and we can update you on the ABC video resource...



ABC Appeal

Would you consider partnering with us and donating to help cover the costs of production?

Your gift of any amount will contribute towards the target of £3,000 and be greatly welcomed.

Follow this link to Just Giving and reference 'ABC' in the message box when you give at

<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/ttr> Or use the donation form enclosed to send a gift, ticking the 'ABC resource' box.

Equipping ALL in the Body of Christ with Wheels for the World



Sponsor a wheelchair and/or Bible for a disabled person

Meet Violette from Accra, Ghana:
her life transformed by the gift of mobility.

"I thank God for Through the Roof and
wherever they got this money from to make our
lives more comfortable: God bless them."

Violette, from Accra

Violette, aged 63, had polio aged 5 and has walked with crutches ever since. She once had a wheelchair, but seven years ago, she generously gave it to her nephew. Now, thanks to supporters like you, Violette has a wheelchair again to play her role in the community.

Your support changes lives:



£24

could give an audio Bible, or only
£12 could give a first language paper Bible.



£47

could help refurbish a wheelchair, ready for our trained volunteers to fit.



£79

could help refurbish and transport a wheelchair to a person who needs it.

Donate now

Let's make a difference, one wheelchair at a time.

Scan the QR code for our Just Giving page or visit www.justgiving.com/ttr to donate directly and securely online

–add 'Wheels Sponsor' (in Message box) for wheelchair / Bible sponsorship

Through the Roof is a registered Charity no. 1087788 with registered offices at Alpha House, Alpha Place, Garth Road, Morden SM4 4TQ. It is also a registered Company no. 04201510

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Giving / Supporting our work:

I'd like to donate to:

Please tick a box below to show your preference(s)

- ☐ Wheels for the World (general support)
- ☐ Sponsorship: wheelchair (name for certificate)
- ☐ £79 from the UK to destination country
- ☐ £47 to cover wheelchair refurbishment.
- ☐ Sponsorship: Bibles
- ☐ £24 to give an audio a Bible
- ☐ £12 to give a printed Bible
- ☐ Where the need is greatest
- ☐ "Together" fellowship
- ☐ UK Roofbreakers
- ☐ ABC Resource.

Signature:

Date:

* We take your personal data and privacy very seriously and only use your information to Best provide you with the products and services you ask for e.g. sending our newsletter or accounting for donations. We only hold Personal data for as long as it is needed, and it is held severely and never passed on to external organisations. More information can be found in our privacy policy at www.throughtheroof.org

** I am a UK taxpayer and understand but if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of Dita claimed on all my donations in that Tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your donations on your self assessment tax return or ask HM revenue and customs to adjust your tax code.

How to donate: •By cheque made out to Through the Roof •By bank transfer (BACS) to: Through the Roof Charitable Trust, sort code: 82-12-08, Virgin Money account number: 20047444 (please use your name & purpose of the donation as the reference) •By Credit Card (please complete details below).

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made out to Through the Roof

☐ I have sent my money by bank transfer, my reference is _____

☐ I would like to donate £ _____ by credit / debit card number:

Issue number (If applicable): Valid from date: / Expiry date: /

Name on card: _____ Security code / CVV (Last 3 numbers on back of card):

☐ I would like to make a regular donation of £ _____ to be used for: _____

☐ I have set this up with my bank ☐ Please send me a form to enable me to do this.

☐ I do not require an acknowledgement for my donation

Signature:

Date:

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how would you like to hear from us:

Tick here to receive our:

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- ☐ Vital link newsletter by post
- ☐ Vital link in alternate format
- ☐ Braille ☐ Audio ☐ Large print
- ☐ International mission news
- ☐ "Together" news
- ☐ Disability awareness Sunday information
- ☐ Weekly Prayer Support email
- ☐ Please unsubscribe me.

Gift aid:

Gift aid enables us to make your gift go further at no additional cost to you. To enable us to apply for gift aid please advise your full name, including title and middle names, and your full address, in the "your details" section (see top left) to allow us to apply for gift date.

I would like Through the Roof to treat as Gift Aid donations** all qualifying gifts of money made (please take all boxes that you wish to apply then sign and date below):

☐ On this donation ☐ In the past four years ☐ In the future

or ☐ I am unable to Gift aid my donations.