



Merry Christmas!

Joyful Christmas Greetings from the Veterinary Christian Fellowship!

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the blessings, hope and love that this season brings. Christmas is a time to rejoice about God's promises and to share His joy with those around us.

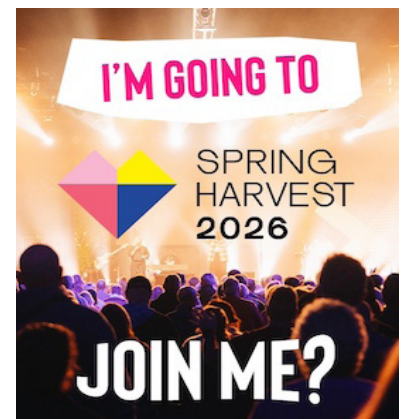
Earlier this year, we were delighted to introduce Bonny Millar as our new Administrator. Bonny is an equine vet nurse and has been a VCF member for many years. She joins our team with a heart for service and a commitment to supporting our mission, helping us continue to serve our community faithfully each day. You may notice her work behind the scenes on our social media pages, in constructing the newsletters and in organising our fellowship weekends. *If you have anything you'd like to share in the next newsletter please email her at admin@vcf.org.uk*

From all of us on the VCF committee, may the peace of Christ fill your hearts this Christmas, and may His light guide you into a blessed and joyful New Year.

Transform Work at Spring Harvest 2026

Transform Work is a UK-based Christian charity that helps believers live out their faith confidently and authentically in the workplace. They support and equip Christians to form and grow Christian Workplace Groups, provide training and resources, and connect Christians across industries and sectors.

As one of their Christian Workplace Groups, the VCF has been invited by Transform Work to Spring Harvest 2026 in Skegness, where they'll be running a three-day seminar series on 'Living out your faith in the workplace', along with extra meet-ups for those in the Transform Work network. Spring Harvest is a five-day event (30 March–3 April) at Butlins Skegness, combining worship, teaching, seminars, prayer, relaxation, and fellowship. It's a great opportunity for workplace groups, families, and churches to spend meaningful time together.



 **transformwork**

They are offering a **15% discount** for anyone booking—simply use the discount code **TWKSH2026** and feel free to share it with other VCF members. More details can be found on the Spring Harvest website - <https://www.springharvest.org/events/skegness/>

A warm welcome to Robert Wallace, our new VCF treasurer!

After much prayer and sharing our need with the membership, Robert stepped forward and graciously agreed to take on the role as treasurer. Here he is introducing himself:

"Hi, I'm Robert. I graduated from Edinburgh in 2009, and after a couple of years of mixed practice work in the Highlands, I have spent most of my working life as a small animal vet in central Scotland.



My first encounter with VCF was in 2011 when I came across the stand at the BSAVA congress. I didn't think I knew any Christian vets at all back then, so chatting to Ali was a huge blessing! Over the years, I continued to receive messages from her and started to get involved with VCF a few years ago. I am very thankful for the support and welcome I've experienced from, well, everyone I've met through it!

At Quinta this year, I heard Jenni's announcement that she was stepping down from the treasurer role and thought, "I'm sure someone will come forward." Since then, I have thought and prayed about how I could give something back to an organisation that has been so good to me. The Autumn newsletter came out, and I really started to feel drawn to this role as my way of giving back.

The committee and trustees have been incredibly welcoming and supportive, as I settle into the role. I'd like to say thank you to everyone, but particular thanks are due to the newly retired treasurer, Jenni, for her excellent handover and work over the past five years, as well as committee members Kerry, Hannah, and Fiona, for their interim stewardship in the role."

Can you help? An opportunity to contribute to a book exploring diversity and inclusion in UK veterinary medicine.

The VCF has been invited by the British Veterinary Ethnicity & Diversity Society (BVEDS) to contribute to a new book - *Veterinary Diversity & Inclusion: Race, Ethnicity & Religion*. This will be the first of three reference books on EDI in the UK veterinary sector, aimed at students, educators, and leaders. It will include perspectives from vets, nurses, students, and other staff from marginalised communities, and offer practical actions for organisations. We have been asked to form a working group to create a chapter on Christianity in the veterinary professions—our chance to contribute Christian truth and values to this important conversation.

Ways to get involved:

- Join discussions on chapter themes, and/or help organise online working group meetings
- Assist in designing an outreach survey and/or serve as an editor or co-editor
- Facilitate group discussions and review survey findings
- Contribute in a Delphi knowledge-gathering study
- Provide research support and resource signposting
- Proofread and review chapter drafts



The book proposal has been accepted by the publishers, with knowledge gathering running until 2027. All roles are voluntary, and proceeds will support BVEDS. If you are interested in joining or leading the working group, Email Bonny at admin@vcf.org.uk

Shepherd to King, Farmer to Prophet - by Jenni McIntyre

I was reminded in church, that I told a teenager I would write this reflection after an evening youth event. I can no longer remember what my fellow-leader had spoken on, possibly about our identity, our skills or maybe our career. Either way, it had brought to mind something I had thought about for a while; King David was a shepherd. And not just any shepherd, but a good one, capable of tending the family's sheep, with both the courage and the skill to defend his flock, killing lions and bears. The family were presumably fairly productive – his father had raised a large family and was able to send a quantity of cheeses and breads to the front line.

Yet, despite his success and capability as a shepherd God called him away from that to Kingship. He wasn't a bad shepherd, but he was to have a job change. A total career change. Some skills still applied, but there was a long re-learning process of many years from when he started working just a little bit at the palace, playing the harp for Saul, to remaining there, to exile, until finally he was able to freely reign as God's king.

Tonight, the pastor was talking about Elijah recruiting Elisha. Again, we have a man who is clearly in a profession, and to all appearances is doing extremely well at it. They, possibly his family, we don't know, have 12 pairs of oxen – expensive animals, and he is steering the twelfth pair. They must belong to him as he later kills them and uses the wooden yoke as firewood – completely stepping away from his life career to take up a new mantle as a prophet of God. This too involved a training period before Elijah finally left Elisha to work for God on his own.

Often we can see our training as limited to 'being a vet'. This is clearly changing, as more and more people 'diversify', yet the question is often put that they don't know what else there is they can do. God thankfully doesn't see us like that. He knows who we are, what talents and experience he has given us and has created a list of jobs for us to do for him that he intends to help us with. He is more than capable of equipping us for every good work that he wants us to do for his plan.

Is it good to be a vet or vet nurse in practice or in a related role? Yes. Is it good to do something entirely different? Yes. God did not put David in a different farming role, or only change him from being a shepherd because he was in 'the wrong job'. David had been in the right job. He had been doing well and he had been working for God and using his experience as a shepherd to point people to God. Yet God had wanted him to change and do something different. The same with Elisha. If God has asked you to do something different, don't worry that you may not be fulfilling your 'calling', wasting your skills or have 'failed' at being a vet or a vet nurse. Neither David nor Elisha had failed. But they were both willing to be used by God in any job he chose to put them in. That is what made the difference.

Last summer, we looked at how God gave Nehemiah a strong compassion for the returned exiles in Jerusalem, with its broken-down wall, and a desire to do something about it. God calls and uses us just as we are—our personalities, our God-given love, and the circumstances he's placed us in. So don't worry if you feel drawn to something beyond traditional vet work. **If you are willing to serve him, he will use you wherever you are!**

Don't forget to book your place on the February 2026 VCF Northern and Southern Weekend



This QR code will direct you to the booking page, or use this link:

<https://www.vcf.org.uk/whats-on/vcf-weekends/>

VCF places God's Word directly into the hands of 2,000 vets and VNs in just two months!

Ali Budgell attended the major autumn 2025 veterinary congress exhibitions - BVNA, BEVA, BSAVA Alba, VETcpd and LVS—and gave out pocket-sized notebooks filled with Bible verses, each paired with a sizeable chocolate treat. These little books fit perfectly into a scrub pocket and are used for lecture notes or daily reminders at work, with a different verse at the bottom of every page. After more than 50 exhibitions over the past decade, we are now at a cross roads as our funding for this ministry is diminishing. Without prayer and provision for this fruitful work, this remarkable open door for outreach may soon close.



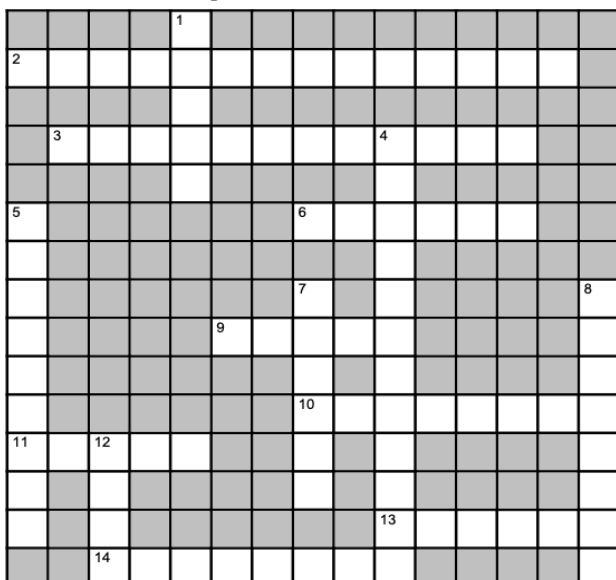
How it all began - Since 2016, VCF has steadily grown its presence at exhibitions. What started as a small stand with leaflets developed into something far more meaningful. Attendees receive countless leaflets at shows—most destined for the bin—so we began offering something practical, attractive and lasting. The pocket notebooks, together with photos of VCF members displayed on the stand, have helped people see what real fellowship looks like.



The exhibitions have become a place where: Vets, nurses, students, and exhibitors stop to chat, reconnect, and find encouragement. Breakfast gatherings for VCF members have provided opportunities to pray and share Scripture together. Isolated Christians discover, often for the first time, that they are not alone—friendships form, and faith is strengthened.

Why it matters- Though many visitors come for the chocolate, the stand consistently places **God's Word** into the hands of thousands who may rarely encounter it elsewhere. Time and again, people return and say they still have their booklet from a previous year. This ministry reflects Jesus' example in feeding the 5,000 and the parable of the sower—not worrying where every seed lands, but offering generously and trusting God with the harvest.

Luke, Chapter 2 - Christmas Crossword



Across

- 2 What shone around the shepherds? (5,2,3,4)
- 3 What rites are required by the Law of Moses? (12)
- 6 Who was the devout man in Jerusalem? (6)
- 9 What of God was upon the child of Mary? (5)
- 10 What will cause great joy for all the people? (4,4)
- 11 What of Mary did she ponder in? (5)

- 13 How old was Jesus when he left Jerusalem with his parents? (6)
- 14 Which Caesar decreed that a census be taken? (8)

- 8 What festival did Jesus' parents go to Jerusalem for? (8)
- 12 Who was the prophet from the tribe of Asher? (4)

Down

- 1 Where was Quirinius governor of? (5)
- 4 Where eventually did Jesus parents find him? (6,6)
- 5 What was the town of David that Joseph travelled to? (9)
- 7 Where did Mary place her firstborn? (6)

Anita Bates - A trip to Uganda with Father's Heart Mobility Ministry

Anita was an RVN for many years and is now a commercial director for CVS. Here she shares about her recent mission trip -



This was my second time serving in Uganda, joining Father's Heart Mobility Ministry Team and local pastors. Ten of us from Breathe New Life Church left Manchester, energised as we had raised money for ninety wheelchairs and prayed that we would bless others. Founded by Francis Mugwanya, who had polio as a boy, the ministry addresses disability stigma in Uganda where disabled individuals are often seen as cursed or second-class. They travel from district to district across Uganda, challenging worldviews, sharing God's love, spreading the gospel, and praying for salvation. Support teams from afar support them. Their beloved scripture is: **"He raises the poor from the dust and the needy from the ash heap. He seats them with princes and inherits a throne of honour." I Samuel 2:8**



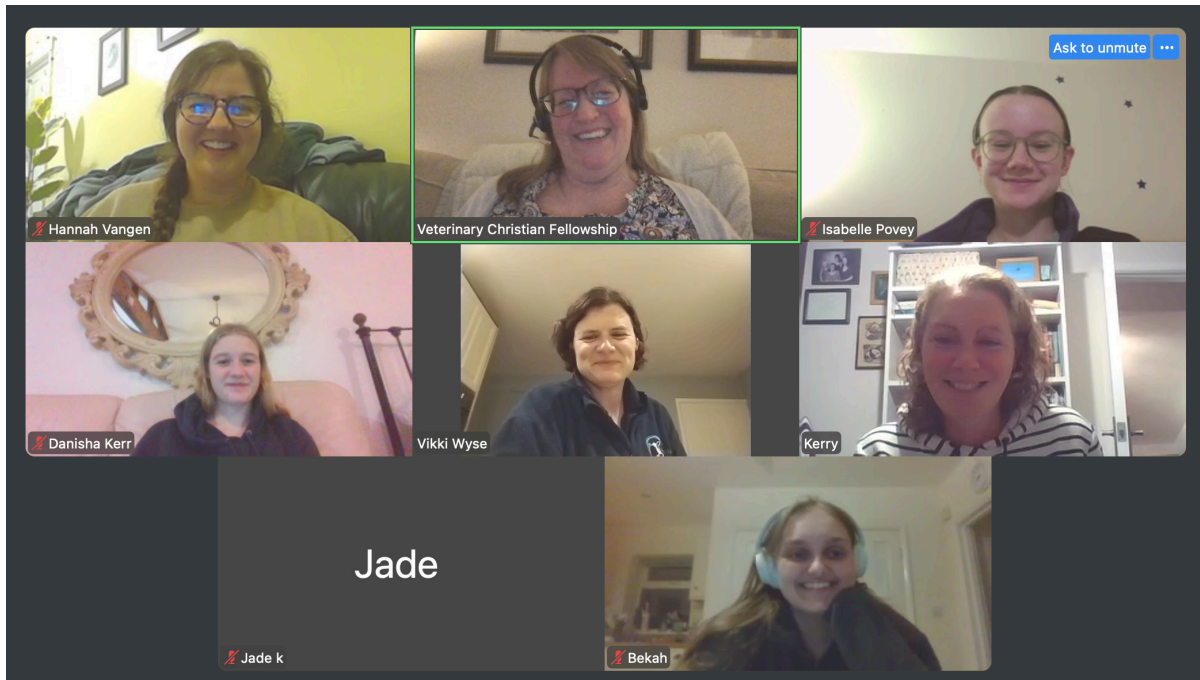
We visited Kotido in the north to meet the Karamojong, a nomadic tribe of about 36,000 herders of cows and goats. The region felt forgotten, and local pastors echoed this sentiment. Father's Heart had previously visited the area four weeks earlier as a 'recce'; only to see 40 of their chairs had been distributed, and they left 60 more, informing local churches during a return visit.



A young man from our team prophesied that we should do more, so we assembled 150 chairs. On the 3rd day, we arrived to find people already waiting under the hot sun to be blessed with a chair. Word spread, and loved ones brought children, parents, and neighbours. We worked in teams of "story takers and mechanics" to capture each person's story and adapt chairs to their needs. New chairs were added for children with disabilities like Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus, Cerebral palsy, and malaria-related disabilities. Many of these conditions were preventable with education, healthcare, and nutrition. On Day 4, we heard about people in remote areas that needed chairs. Two convoys of people arrived after a long drive and delays on potholed dirt tracks,

By 11.30pm, eight minibuses arrived with 45 disabled people and carers, creating quite a scene!

We endured multiple power outages - On day 2, we prayed for a generator, which arrived, but it broke down the next day. Two talented engineers came to repair it (Praise God!). On day 4, we prayed for it to hold up so we could assist the final group, and it did! We placed the last disabled person in a chair at 2:15am, leading to a tribal dance with Ugandan chants, clicking tongues, joy, and prayer. It was intense, exhausting, spirit-led, and divine. This time 234 chairs were distributed, and 102 people accepted Christ. Many "God moments" occurred, impacting teams, villages, dignitaries, and Kotido. My prayer is for ongoing joy and life for those who received chairs, connection with the church for new believers, growth of the ministry, protection for the founders, and remembrance of God's greatness for visitors to Father's Heart.



Virtual Student Meeting

In early November the VCF held a virtual meeting for our **final year vet students**, lead by Kerry Williams and Vikki Wyse, to help them get ready for their first jobs. Tips were shared on writing CVs that get noticed, searching for the job with a good fit and preparing for interviews. It was so good to catch up with our students and encourage them through what can be a stressful and challenging time. Plans are being made to do this again in the New Year and to invite our vet nurses to join us.



Bristol Student Social

In October, Holly McNeill, our student rep for Bristol, Surrey, Cambridge and Dublin vet schools reported that VCF members from Bristol held a social evening. They shared food and played games together, helping to support each other as they begin a new year of vet school.



Sutton Bonington Campus (Nottingham Vet School) Christian Union Welcome Week - Ellie Foster

To welcome new students to Sutton Bonington, our Christian Union hosted a full week of events designed to help people connect, make friends, discover what the CU is all about, and explore faith together.

We kicked off the week with a relaxed Board Games Night, complete with hot chocolate and plenty of laughter. It was a great space for newcomers to meet the CU and hear about what we do.

On Tuesday we partnered with Friends International for Globe Café, hosting a cream tea with scones and buns. We had fantastic conversations with students from all over the world, giving them a chance to ask questions and learn more about student life and faith at SB.

Day 3 brought an early start with our Breakfast Bar, offering pastries and hot drinks before lectures—simple, warm, and a lovely way to start the day together.

On Day 4, we ran a CU-style Taskmaster Challenge, where teams tackled five creative tasks to see who could earn the highest score. It was brilliant fun and a great way for people to bond and get to know each other.

To round off the week, Friday night featured a Murder Mystery Treasure Hunt, with clues hidden all over campus. New students got to explore Sutton Bonington while chatting with CU members along the way.

Overall, Welcome Week was a huge success and a joyful opportunity to meet new people, build community, and invite students to discover more about the Christian Union at Sutton Bonington. All this would not have been possible without the help of the VCF. Thank you!



CHRISTIAN UNION
Freshers Week!
22nd - 26th September

Monday
Harper's Bar, 7:30pm
Games Night & Hot Chocolate
Enjoy a relaxed evening of board games and hot drinks!

Tuesday
Post-grad Centre, 7:30-9pm
friends
Cream Tea Evening
All international students are invited to join us as we share tea and scones!

Wednesday
OPR, 8am
Breakfast Bar
Tea, coffee and pastries before lectures!

Thursday
OPR, 7:30pm
Taskmaster
Compete in fun and challenging taskmaster-inspired games!!

Friday
Bandstand, 6pm
Murder Mystery Treasure Hunt
Solve clues around campus with hot chocolate and prize for the winning team!

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20

The Paul Manning Memorial Fund for VCF vet students

The fund was established by Paul Manning and continues to honour him today. He is warmly remembered within the VCF community for his kindness, deep compassion, and meaningful contribution to the veterinary profession. The fund is aimed at assisting vet student members of VCF to develop their practical skills, support EMS, and gain experience in the workplace. In doing so, it carries forward Paul's legacy by enabling the next generation of vets to access valuable hands-on experience that might otherwise be out of reach. For more information see - <https://www.vcf.org.uk/vet-students/ems-fund/>

EMS student placement - Anastasia Shumitskiy (Glasgow)

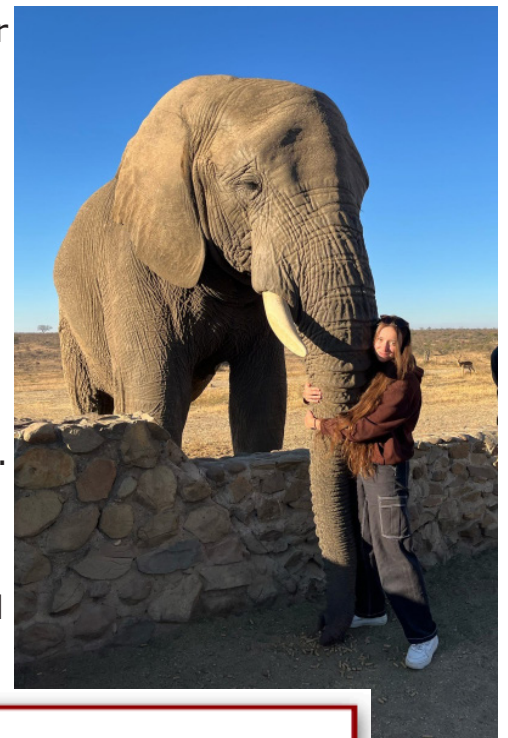
Visiting **The Selati Wildlife programme** was a life-changing experience for me. From the moment my group arrived, we were welcomed like old friends by our South African leader, Corlia, and fellow volunteers from Australia and England; our bonds grew strong, making saying goodbye difficult.

Each day provided practical veterinary knowledge alongside cultural immersion. We learned about local principles and visited historical sites, including the 3800-year-old Baobab tree (the "tree of life") and met Jessica the hippo, a rescued animal with a magnificent story.

Mornings were spent darting and treating various antelope species like impala, nyala, kudu, and blesbuck. Other days involved dehorning rhinos and relocating buffalos—I even found myself on a trailer next to a half-sedated buffalo, holding its horn! Our humorous vet, Rita, made the work fun and told us we were the best group she had that year.

Beyond the work, I swam in waterfalls, jumped off cliffs, and flew in helicopters. I saw an abundance of African wildlife in their natural habitat, including lions, wildebeest, zebras, giraffes, crocodiles, and charging elephants, keeping a long list of all the animals encountered.

I must thank the VCF for their generous gift to me through the Paul Manning Memorial Fund which made these unforgettable memories possible. I hope you are all blessed every day for your gift of support.



VCF Contacts:

President - Kerry Williams
president@vcf.org.uk

Senior Vice President - Ann O'Flynn
svp@vcf.org.uk

Junior Vice President - Hannah McClintick
jvp@vcf.org.uk

Treasurer - Robert Wallace
treasurer@vcf.org.uk

Secretary - Ali Budgell
secretary@vcf.org.uk

Administrator & Newsletter - Bonny Millar
admin@vcf.org.uk

Regional Groups
regional@vcf.org.uk

Vet Students - Freya Wood
f.wood@vcf.org.uk

Vet Students - Dan Mok
d.mok@vcf.org.uk

Vet Students - Holly McNeill
h.mcneill@vcf.org.uk

Vet Nurses and Students - Stacey Vickery
nurses@vcf.org.uk

VCF Ireland
Ireland@vcf.org.uk

VCF Scotland
scotland@vcf.org.uk

Webmaster - John Knight
webmaster@vcf.org.uk

VCF CPD
cpd@vcf.org.uk

Missionary Secretary - Mary Kim
missionaries@vcf.org.uk

International Coordinator - Vikki Wyse
international@vcf.org.uk

Committee member - Gideon Smit
g.smit@vcf.org.uk

Committee member - Rebekah Clayton
r.carling@vcf.org.uk

Prayer Requests
prayer@vcf.org.uk