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Isle of Wight

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



Isle of Wight

From providing a grandstand view of the Armada as it sailed up the Channel, to the birth of the Hovercraft, the Isle of Wight has a past to be proud of.

With stunning beaches, warm climate and plenty of things to do, its residents are outnumbered by more than a million visitors each year.

A place of great natural beauty, it can surely be no surprise that within the Island's Crest of Arms are the words 'ALL THIS BEAUTY IS OF GOD'.

These 147 square miles of history, offering today an excellent quality of life, also promise a confident future.

Of course there is another way of linking past, present and future which is even more important...

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



Lasting Security

Down through the years, the Island's major fortress has been Carisbrooke Castle. Though much of this great structure has stood the test of time, its preserved remains remind us perhaps of the limitations of man-made security.



Our 'enemies' are different today, but every bit as real... depression, guilt and the pain of broken relationships... and there's no doubt that we all need an unchanging source of strength at the heart of our lives.

All over the world there are those who have found this through entering a personal relationship with Almighty God...

The Lord is my rock, my fortress... He is my shield... my stronghold.

Psalms 18:2

Yet to know the peace of God we must first find peace WITH God... through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who says...

I am the way, and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

But this is only part of the story...

Living Hope

The spectacular view of Freshwater Bay is only one example of the unspoilt character of much of the Island's natural beauty.



Yet if we were to be really honest with ourselves we'd have to admit that much of our lives stand in stark contrast...

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

It's a struggle to live up to our own standards, let alone those of our Creator who says...

...the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23

...and with consequences as serious as they come...

...man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

Thankfully, God has provided a 'way of escape'...

Ultimate Sacrifice

In Church Litten Park at Newport stands a memorial to Valentine Gray, a chimney sweep's climbing boy who perished at the age of 10 in 1822. His death was untimely, accidental and premature... unlike that of Christ Jesus.

His violent death on the wooden cross of Calvary was perfectly planned and has been described as 'the greatest act of love the world has ever known'...

...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

But we won't have the everlasting 'benefit' of this thrust upon us. We must be willing to turn away from all we know to be wrong...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...

1 Peter 2:24

And when we ask the risen Christ Jesus into our lives by His Spirit to become our Saviour and Lord, we not only receive forgiveness, but a brand new start... with the motivation and power to live a lifestyle pleasing to Him...

...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17



True Commitment

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is a very popular visitor attraction, but made possible only through the devotion and dedication of those who maintain it.

Yet from all those who would be His true followers, the Lord Jesus asks an even greater degree of sacrificial commitment...

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

Luke 9:23-24

Real Life

The Old Church of St Boniface at Bonchurch is a lovely example of many places of worship which have great historical interest.

However, the central feature of Christianity is neither its buildings nor traditions but the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ... and all that is represented by His life, death and resurrection...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Yet to ignore or reject Him would surely be unthinkable...

...whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18

The past has gone... and we may not have tomorrow. So today is surely the right time to seek Him...

...it is time to seek the LORD...

Hosea 10:12

