



Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem

Bulletin 11th May, 2025.



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**

EMPLOYER
RECOGNITION
SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD



Welcome

The warmest of greetings to the esteemed members of the Orders. We present the Knights of Saint Mary of Bethlehem Fortnightly Bulletin for May the 11th, 2025 to our members and honoured guests. As summer loom, our Order continues in its mission to serve those in need across the United Kingdom.

VE Day



On May 8th, 2025, the world marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day with profound significance and reflection. Here's a historical perspective on this important commemoration:



Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), observed annually on May 8, marks the end of World War II in Europe. The day is celebrated across various nations to honor the sacrifices made for peace and freedom. On May 8, 1945, Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allied forces, effectively ending World War II in Europe.

This historic surrender marked the conclusion of nearly six years of intense warfare that resulted in the loss of millions of lives and widespread devastation across the continent. The surrender was first signed on May 7 in Reims, France, and ratified on May 8 in Berlin to satisfy Soviet demands for a formal ceremony on their front. While VE Day signified the end of the war in Europe, the conflict in the Pacific continued until Japan's surrender in August 1945.

Global Commemoration

The 80th anniversary in 2025 saw the British Royal Family, including King Charles and Queen Camilla, attend a remembrance service at Westminster Abbey alongside veterans and political leaders. Across Europe, nations held ceremonies, parades, and moments of silence to pay tribute to those who fought and perished. In Berlin, the Bundestag convened a special session where President Frank-Walter Steinmeier acknowledged the Soviet Union's role in defeating Nazism while cautioning against the misuse of history in current geopolitical contexts.



Contemporary Relevance

The 80th anniversary occurred against a backdrop of renewed global tensions, including conflicts in Ukraine and concerns over authoritarianism. European leaders used the occasion to underscore the necessity of defending democratic values and learning from history to prevent future conflicts. In Taiwan, officials drew parallels between past and present threats, highlighting the importance of vigilance in safeguarding freedom. These contemporary reflections reinforced VE Day's relevance as more than a historical milestone—it served as a call to action for current and future generations.

Enduring Legacy

VE Day stands as a testament to the triumph of unity over tyranny and the enduring human spirit. As nations commemorated this pivotal day, they honored not only the past but also reaffirmed their commitment to peace, democracy, and the lessons history imparts.

Investiture Weekend

Is on track and no new significant deviation has been mentioned, it will be a pleasure to see people face to face for a memorable and meaningful weekend which include investiture, walk the bridge, sleep out and whit-walk.



Knights Templar of Scotland

The Knights Templar Goodwill Charity has shortlisted for the prestigious Fife Award In a remarkable achievement highlighting their dedication to community service, Knights Templar Goodwill Charity of Scotland has emerged as a finalist for the coveted Tackling Poverty Award at the 2025 Fife Volunteering and Voluntary Sector Awards. The organization distinguished itself from among 270 applicants, showcasing their exceptional commitment to supporting unpaid carers throughout Fife.

The charity's innovative approach to addressing poverty has made a significant impact in the local community, particularly through their focused support of unpaid carers who often face financial hardship while providing essential care services to loved ones. Making a Difference Through Dedication "This recognition validates the tireless efforts of our team members who work day in and day out to support those who need it most," Stated Gary Stevenson. The organization's successful selection as a finalist demonstrates the effectiveness of their grassroots approach to tackling poverty at the community level. Key achievements include:

- Comprehensive support programs for unpaid carers
- Strategic initiatives to address financial hardship
- Strong community engagement and advocacy
- Sustainable solutions for poverty reduction



The nomination comes at a time when support for unpaid carers has never been more crucial, with many families facing increasing economic pressures. Knights Templar Goodwill Charities programs have proven instrumental in providing both immediate relief and long-term support strategies. The Fife Volunteering and Voluntary Sector Awards, organized by Fife Voluntary Action, stand as one of Scotland's most prestigious recognitions of community service excellence.

The awards ceremony will celebrate organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to improving lives across Fife. The winner will be announced at the upcoming awards ceremony, where the charity's representatives will join other outstanding organizations being recognized for their contributions to the community.

Being shortlisted is an outstanding achievement and is the result of a high level of commitment, drive and persistence from all involved. Heartfelt congratulations to all involved in this.



Phillip's crowdfunding campaign continues

Making a Difference: Phillip's £1,000 Campaign



A Campaign With Purpose

Phillip is maintaining an inspiring initiative to raise £1,000 for our vital support services. This fundraising drive directly impacts three of our most vulnerable community groups:

Every pound raised transforms into:

- Warm meals for those in need
- Essential supplies for veterans
- Support services for vulnerable individuals
- Emergency assistance for the homeless

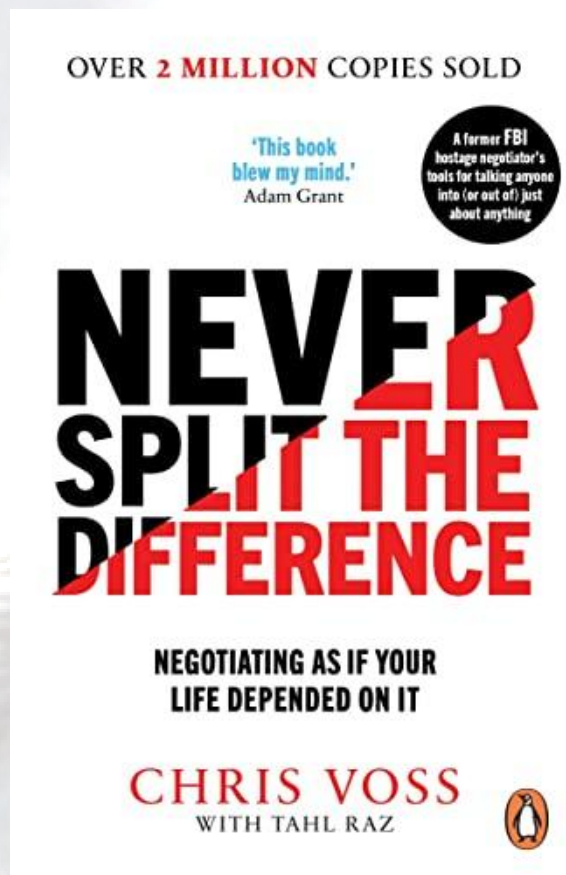
Your support matters. Together, we can reach our goal and make a real difference in people's lives. Even the smallest contribution helps build a stronger, more compassionate community.

Because everyone deserves support when they need it most.

You can make a contribution [HERE](#)



Book Review



Book Review: "Never Split the Difference" by Chris Voss *International Bestseller and Essential Reading for Christian Charities*

Chris Voss, former FBI lead international hostage negotiator, delivers a compelling and practical approach to negotiation that translates powerfully into the Christian charity sector. This international bestseller, which has transformed business negotiations worldwide, offers particularly valuable insights for faith-based organizations navigating complex stakeholder relationships.

Key Takeaways for Christian Charities Building Trust and Understanding



- Tactical empathy techniques that align with Christian values of compassion
- Active listening methods that enhance donor and beneficiary relationships
- Emotional labeling approaches that improve stakeholder engagement

Practical Applications

- Donor relationship management
- Board and volunteer engagement
- Community partnership development
- Beneficiary service delivery
- Resource allocation discussions
- Government and corporate negotiations

Core Principles Most Relevant to Ministry

- Tactical Empathy: Understanding others' perspectives while maintaining mission integrity
- Active Listening: Creating genuine connections with all stakeholders
- Calibrated Questions: Navigating complex discussions effectively
- Strategic "No": Setting appropriate boundaries while preserving relationships
- Building Consensus: Achieving "that's right" moments in crucial decisions



Value for Christian Organizations

- Enhances stewardship of resources
- Improves donor relationships
- Strengthens partnership outcomes
- Increases mission effectiveness
- Maintains integrity in negotiations

Why It Matters For Christian charities operating in an increasingly complex environment, Voss's techniques provide practical tools for combining mission effectiveness with professional excellence. The approach enables organizations to navigate challenging situations while maintaining their values and spiritual focus.

Conclusion "Never Split the Difference" offers Christian charities a valuable framework for enhancing their impact while staying true to their calling. Its principles enable organizations to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" in their dealings, combining professional effectiveness with mission integrity.

Essential reading for charity leaders seeking to enhance their organization's effectiveness while maintaining Christian values in an increasingly complex operational environment. ★★★★★ 5/5

A must-read for Christian charity leaders and board members



Conclusion

As we reflect on this fortnight's bulletin, we see the enduring strength of our Order's commitment to service and compassion. From commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day - reminding us of the price of peace and the triumph of unity - to celebrating the Knights Templar Goodwill Charity's recognition in Fife, our extended family continues to demonstrate the power of dedicated service.

The success of ongoing initiatives, from Phillip's community fundraising to our broader charitable works, shows how individual actions, when united in purpose, create meaningful change. The recognition of our Scottish brethren's work in Fife particularly exemplifies how our Order's ancient values remain vitally relevant in addressing modern challenges.

As summer approaches, we find ourselves strengthened by our shared commitment to service, enlightened by learning opportunities such as those presented in Chris Voss's insights, and united in our mission to support those in need. Our Order's work continues to demonstrate that compassion, when combined with dedication and wisdom, can transform lives and communities.

Let us move forward with renewed purpose, knowing that each act of service, each gesture of support, and each moment of compassion contributes to our Order's noble mission. Together, we continue to build on our heritage while meeting the challenges of today with courage, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to those we serve.



"In service we find strength, in unity we find purpose, in compassion we find grace."

Yours in gratitude

Privy Chamber.

