



## It's been too long!

Since I last wrote a lot has changed, including our address (twice)! To be honest I have found myself in the place of having something to say but not necessarily enough. I have started writing this a number of times, having been in this limbo land of wanting to be able to work on Not Ashamed but also needing to earn money and so while things have been slowly bubbling over they have been slow. But things are on the move...

## A brief History...

While still on Sabbatical in 2021/22 as a family we visited a few local churches and in January of '22 we decided to make St Mary's Bletchley (SMB) our new spiritual home. It was about a 10-12 minute drive from the Rectory in Mursley.

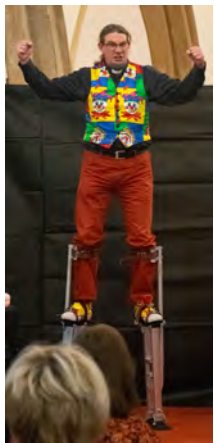
I told you about the house we would be moving into in a few weeks (June 22), but unfortunately that fell through 3 days before we were due to get the keys. Thankfully we found another place and a few weeks later than originally planned we moved to Winslow, about 10 minutes the other way from our new church.

In November 22, I was asked by the wardens and PCC at SMB if I would take on a role as part-time Assistant Minister. Since then I have been on the staff team but self-employed. I currently work up to 70 hours a month for them. I have also continued with the care work and

most weeks do one or two shifts with a homeless charity in Banbury.

In December 2023 we moved again and are now renting a house from the diocese in Bletchley. It is good to be living in the parish where I am doing much of my work.

Along with this I am also providing cover in some of the local village churches both on Sundays and with weddings and funerals plus continuing to try and establish the ministry of **Not Ashamed** which has seen me deliver a few shows and lead some workshops over this time as well as recently joining a mission in Tiverton to do some street work!



David and Goliath - From the show  
Strange but True

## Looking ahead...

There have really been two major stumbling blocks to the building up of the work of **Not Ashamed**. 1) Coming out of covid many churches and schools (my primary audiences) were struggling with the financial implications of recovering from the pandemic. 2) I have very few skills (or interest) in marketing, and while I can talk about my passions and what I do, without that face-to-face I struggle with promoting it widely.

## So... the Big Announcement

This year **Not Ashamed** will be at the CRE (Christian Resources Exhibition) which just happens to be here in Milton Keynes. This will give me the opportunity to have those face-to-face encounters and hopefully get people excited about what we can offer. But I need your help!

Can you help with any of the following?

- Praying for **Not Ashamed** in general and specifically for the CRE, for good conversations and drumming up of interest.
- Tell others about this ministry and get them praying.
- What about coming to the CRE for FREE? Scanning the QR code below will take you to a form (or clicking if reading a digital version) and you can get a **FREE** ticket, and believe it or not, getting a free ticket from me (and using it) helps me cover the cost. You can of course also then visit me on stand C41 (why not bring a friend and get them a free ticket as well)!
- Could you possibly help with a one off donation towards the CRE stand cost?
- Become a regular supporter of **Not Ashamed**, which enables me to spend more time focusing on this ministry and producing new resources.

One-off or regular donations can be made through tax-efficient giving via Stewardship, visit [www.notashamed.co.uk/stewardship](http://www.notashamed.co.uk/stewardship).

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to those who do already support me and this work both through prayer and finance.

Thank you and God bless. *Simon*

## Contact details:

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