

## PREACHER'S PATCH



### Instructions for planting

I was visiting a Garden Centre to look for another shrub for our front garden. After having some refreshments in the tea-room, I finalised my plant choice and took it to the shop to pay for it. As the sales-lady took it from me she commented - "Did you know this plant must be protected from frost?" I thanked her for pointing this out - and as it may have been open to some cold weather, I decided to go and exchange it for my second choice.

When I arrived back with a different shrub she asked, "Are you aware this one needs to be protected from direct sunlight and have some shade?" I had quickly glanced at the labels, but hoped that a little cold weather or sunlight would have been all right for them. She reiterated how important it was for these plants to be protected from certain elements. I thanked her again for her advice; and we left after buying a painted flower pot - but no shrub!

This reminded me of God's promise to protect and keep us in those difficult times when we need a hiding place and shelter in the storms of life. God said to His people "... I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you." (Isaiah 41:10 - Good News Bible)

God doesn't promise to keep us from hard times - but He promises to keep us *through* the hard times - as we put our trust in Him. His grace and strength is always sufficient in every situation. The psalmist declared, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:2)

Are you looking for some shade from the heat because of the circumstances you face this week? Be encouraged by some selected words from the song of ascents.

Like the writer (who acknowledged God to be his helper) - as you look towards God you will discover that "The Lord watches over you - The Lord is your shade at your right hand ... the Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and for evermore." (Psalm 121:1,5,8)

**Jim Collins**

# ***SOUTH WEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TORBAY CLUSTER***

*On 6th June 2026 the SWBA Baptist churches are gathering in local clusters to hear and share exciting news from across the region.*

*Our Torbay Cluster will be gathering at Upton Vale and we encourage you all to come and see what the Lord is doing among us.*

*Arrive to refreshments of drinks and cakes, share in praise led by local musicians, hear from all the churches and Pioneer Ministries of the joys and challenges in Torbay and marvel at the goodness of our Heavenly Father.*

*We hope to arrange local transport, so just sign up on the*



**1 BIG  
AGM**

**6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

**JOIN WITH CHURCHES  
ACROSS YOUR CLUSTER  
AS WE CELEBRATE  
TOGETHER**

**OUR LOCATION**

**UPTON VALE BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

**DETAILS**

**STARTS 1:30PM  
CAKES & DRINKS**

**UPTON VALE BAPTIST CHURCH  
TORBAY CLUSTER  
STARTS 1:30PM – CAKES & DRINKS**

