

MTC



Trinity E-News



Issue 5 / 21

Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

June 2021



Trinity E-News – Deadline for July / Aug 2021 Double Issue – is Monday 21 June

Trinity E-News is also on our Basingstoke & Reading Website.

I look forward to receiving your lovely articles, so **please keep them coming** and a **Big Thankyou** to everyone who has sent in articles. Items can be sent by email or post.

Thank you again,

Hazel, Ed (☎ 01256-461375)
16B Portacre Rise, Basingstoke, RG21 1YQ. **Email:**
hazel@basingstokecircuit.net

Our Minister is:
Rev'd Audrey D Browne

☎: 01256 323103;

email:
padbrowne@hotmail.com

Good News – Live Sunday Worship is held at Trinity once more and Services are also Zoomed.

Our thanks to all our 'Zoom team' who continue to enable those at home to share in Worship with us via Zoom on Sundays. We are very grateful for all their help.

Link to our Website:

<https://www.basingstoke-readingmethodists.uk/>

Father's Day is on 20 June

Trinity Church Council Meeting is on Thursday 17 June at 2 pm

Without God the world would be in a maze without a clue – Woodrow Wilson



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Christ has made of death a narrow starlit strip between the companionships of yesterday and the reunions of tomorrow –

William Jennings Bryan

June 2021

Dear Friends

SNIPPETS

Sometimes when you're doing a simple job, thoughts pop into your head and then take root so that you can't help yourself following up on the idea. These few are the things which have been rattling around my lockdown brain for the past few weeks.

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During the last nine months I have had three operations on my eyes; two cataract operations and one procedure to scrape skin off the retina at the back of my eye.

I have been so grateful for the skill and care of the clever men and nurses performing the procedures but I have been even more amazed by the results.

Instead of being very short-sighted, I can now see clearly without glasses. The focus of my eyes has been completely changed. True, I still need specs for reading but that's no great problem.

Soon after the last operation I was struck, while doing my nightly Bible reading, by God's ability to do exactly the same thing. With a few short words from Scripture (and no doubt a bit of prodding from the Holy Spirit), He can change the focus of my thinking and enable me to see both problems and people in a completely new way.

Why am I surprised? because it often takes me a long time to cotton on to the fact that God is speaking and sometimes even longer to respond.

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Lockdown has been a great trial and it has changed a lot of us in ways we might not have chosen. However it has provided me with the opportunity to read the sermons my father wrote during his time as a lay reader in The Church in Wales.

He drew quite heavily on his experiences in

World War 2 and his time helping to set up the mechanisms of the Welfare state and NHS in our home town in the Valleys of South Wales during the 50s, 60s and early 70s.

One of the sermons that most spoke to me was headed "**Send your best man**" and recounts a number of experiences when the Commanding Officer of Dad's Squadron in the RAF was asked to pick someone for a stand-alone mission or task. The instructions would usually end with the order, "**Send your best man.**"

The sermon goes on to liken this order to God's communication with Israel, his chosen people. God sent them lots of leaders and prophets, because they often ignored them or complained about the messages that were sent. The people often changed their ways for a while and then lapsed back into bad habits. In Jesus, God "**sent his best man,**" his son, to deliver his ultimate message of love and redemption. Just like the vineyard owner in the Bible story, who was trying to communicate with difficult tenants, God's son was put to death by those for whom his message was intended. We also get the chance, every day, to hear and respond to God's message delivered through his son or metaphorically put him to death by ignoring it.

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Have you become bored with deciding what you will eat every day, deciding on menus and compiling your shopping list to make sure you have all the ingredients? I am pretty bored with housework too, partly, because it is always there, but also, because I am not very good at it. While cleaning today I was reminded about the story of Martha and Mary when Jesus visited their home at Bethany. Martha was the busy one, getting all the domestic arrangements sorted out and Mary was just listening, drinking in Jesus' message. We all need to be both Martha and Mary: it's all about deciding which needs to be

cont'd.....

done when or most.

I am absolutely sure that I haven't got the balance right but I am working on it.

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What do you keep in your pockets? Do you always remember to have a face mask handy? I often find that my pockets are full of old tissues, loose change (for parking!) and receipts from shopping. Quite a mess!

Simch Bunin, a Polish Rabbi, suggests that we should keep two notes in our pockets, left and right or front and back. If one day you were feeling full of yourself, he suggests that you should pull out a note which says "I am nothing but dust and ashes." To counteract that, the note in the other pocket would have the words "I am made in God's image."

It's an amazing paradox of our existence that we are a bag of jelly, held up by bones and powered by electrical impulses and yet we are in some way the image of the Divine. We are loved and we have been given infinite value through the sacrifice of God's son.

I hope you like this prayer by Gideon Heugh of Tearfund, it seems to follow on....

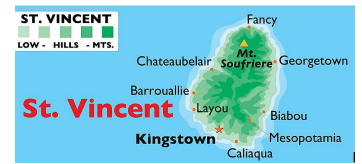
"Dear God, I am made of dust, yet you have poured out a whole universe of love on me. Thank you for this love, the gift of life and for all your creation. Help me to be humble enough to know I have earned nothing, whilst also seeing that you have given me everything." Amen

Hilary



- Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of pleasures; costs nothing and conveys much – **Erastus Wiman**
- Anger is just one letter short of danger – **Anon**

St Vincent



Thank you to all those who donated to the collection for the Island of St Vincent following the eruption of its Volcano. We have collected just about £700 and there will also be some gift aid to add to that.

We should continue to remember them in our prayers as they clear up and try to re-establish themselves. We hope that by the time you read this our money will already have been put to good use.

Jennifer Pitt

Townswomen's Guild



Sadly, the Basingstoke Townswomen's Guild have ceased to meet. They have used our premises for a great many years. We have received a letter of thanks from them for the support we have given them, particularly for their Carol Services, along with a generous donation.

#smalltalk with Revd David Shaw:

Wesley Methodist Church YouTube channel has a series of small videos (46 as of counting) presented by Revd David Shaw which are between 3 - 4 minutes long. The latest two are about Prayer and Christian Aid. These can be found here and are highly recommended.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWw6jNpYWu4z52t760p7UJg/videos>

Money isn't everything, but it does keep you in touch with your children !

Church Worship at Trinity



The plan for June for our Basingstoke Churches is below.

Live Sunday Worship is being held at Trinity again.
Services are also **Zoomed**.

You still need to register your wish to attend Sunday Worship, to comply with government guidelines, so please let me know if you intend coming,
(☎: 01256 320429) or email: dianeath51@gmail.com

Thank you, Diane Bath

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Plan for June 2021 (Basingstoke Churches)

Dates	6 June	13 June	20 June	27 June
Trinity 10.30 am	A Browne, S	LA	Browne, GC, S	S Appiah
Kempshott 10.30 am	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom
Oakley 10.30 am	No Service	T Bennett	R Midcalf, CA	No Service
Oakridge 11.00 am	J Coomber	D Baugh	S Whithorn	D Jenkins
Old Basing	No Service	No Service	No Service	T Rowell
St Andrew's 10.30 am	P Frank	A Browne, S	L Hoe	LA

Medication Blister Packs

What do you do with your empty blister packs from your medication? The answer is probably throw them away. I have found a place that collects them and recycles them, reducing land fill and the amount of new plastic and foil that is manufactured.

All you have to do is bring your empty tablet packets (anything that comes in a blister pack including non-prescription drugs) to church and drop them in the **white labelled bin provided and I will do the rest. (The white bin can be found in the foyer area at church).**

Do your bit for the planet and start collecting today.

With an aging congregation this might be something we can excel at !

Jennifer Pitt



Useful Trinity Contacts, phone numbers & emails:

Our Minister: Rev'd Audrey D Browne,

☎: 01256 323103 / email: padbrowne@hotmail.com

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Church Office: ☎ 01256-816173

email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

(The Church Office is NOT OPEN AT PRESENT)

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Church Contact / Senior Steward: Diane Bath –

☎ 01256 320429 / e-mail: r_bath@sky.com

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Bookings / Car Parking: Contact: Sue Doust –

☎ 01256 229456 / e-mail: rogerdoust@aol.com

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Church Treasurer: David Gunton –

☎ 01256 352342 / e-mail: david@gunton.org

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Church Property: Tony Pitt –

☎ 01256 816314 / email: organista@btinternet.com

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:

www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit is a

Registered Charity, Charity No. is: 1134891

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Trinity Methodist Church is a Registered Charity,
Charity No. is 1128299

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LISTEN



Listen oh! Please listen
To all the little children
They laugh and play together
No matter where
they're from.

They love and they trust
each other
Can we not do the same,
We know to enter
God's Kingdom
We must be as a child.

Simple in trust and faith
So listen, just listen
To the little children
As they love and laugh
and play

They learn to trust and
be kind
Let us all do the same
Join in the children's game
Listen then oh! Listen.


Jenny Leighton

Getting to Know You Podcast with David Jenkins:

Attached to the Weekly Circuit Notices that went out by email on Wednesday 26 May was the pilot episode of the '**Getting to Know You Podcast**', whereby Lee interviews Revd David Jenkins for 20 minutes. It is a light-hearted relaxed chat with one of our best-known ministers in the circuit.

Please be aware, this is a pilot, and the audio is not the best, due to it being done over Zoom. We would love to hear your feedback, comments, and if you would like more of these, please let Lee know by email: lee@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

(If you have problems playing it, please let Lee know and he can send instructions to you).



Bible Month

2021



The Gospel of Mark

Message from David Jenkins, Stephen Appiah and Audrey D Browne

Coming soon is our Bible Month 2021 series of six Sunday afternoons (4.30 pm - 5.40 pm), from Sunday 6 June - until Sunday 11 July. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with Mark's Gospel outside of the Sunday morning service. An earlier time has been chosen so people would still have their Sunday evenings for family time. We are also offering some ideas for personal engagement with Mark's Gospel in your own space and time. We would also like to encourage our Basingstoke churches to join in with the circuit weekday Bible Month activity, which would offer another opportunity to engage with Mark's Gospel. Please save the dates in your diaries. More information to come soon.

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We will be sending out the daily devotionals, options one and two, and the CEV text of Mark's Gospel. Later on we will send out the order for our first Bible Month afternoon session and a recurring Zoom Link including a resource document.

We encourage everyone to try and join us for this series of six weeks of engaging with Mark's Gospel.

Many thanks, Audrey

BIBLE MONTH 2021The Gospel of Mark
Schedule

Date	Week	Activity	Resource
6 th Jun	Wk. 1	Listen to Mark's Gospel – chapters 1-5	Bible Society Dramatized NT
13 th Jun	Wk. 2	Watch DVD episode one	Our Daily Bread Ministries DVD
20 th Jun	Wk. 3	Listen to Mark's Gospel – chapters 6-10	Bible Society Dramatized NT
27 th Jun	Wk. 4	Watch DVD episode two	Our Daily Bread Ministries DVD
4 th Jul	Wk. 5	Listen to Mark's Gospel – chapters 11-16	Bible Society Dramatized NT
11 th Jul	Wk. 6	Watch DVD episode three	Our Daily Bread Ministries DVD

Over Six Weeks**DAILY READING OF MARK'S GOSPEL** *{option one}*
Personal Devotional Reading – Bite size chunks

This option is for those who wish to read Mark's Gospel from beginning to end, verse by verse in their own time and space

Over Six Weeks**DAILY READING OF JESUS' MIRACLES, HEALINGS & PARABLES IN MARK'S GOSPEL** *{option two}*

This option is for those who want a different way of engaging with Mark's Gospel in their personal time and space and want a bit more time to go a little deeper.

Over Five Weeks**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

Preaching from 'The Gospel of Mark'

Our weekly Sunday afternoon sessions starts at 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm — arrival and conversation from 4:00 pm — the Weekly Recurring Zoom Link went round by email on Sunday 23 May with this schedule.

Resources:

Our Daily Bread Ministries – DVD teaching on 'The Gospel of Mark' – Hope for the Gentiles, with Michael Card, Author and Song Writer (three episodes, each approximately 26 minutes). Set in Rome and key places in Israel.

Bible Society DVD – *Dramatized Reading of the New Testament —Contemporary English Version (CEV).*

Bible Month Magazine — *Mark's Gospel*

The Gospel of Mark (CEV text)

Trinity Collections



As you will expect, Trinity's income has been severely reduced over the past six months. This is partly because hirers have had to stop meeting, but also because without services in Church the collections have stopped. Nevertheless, much of our expenditure has continued – almost half of our outgoings go to the Circuit to pay for, among other things but to a major extent, the Circuit staff, both ordained and lay.

We would like to express our thanks to those who contribute by Standing Order, and those who have made contact to continue their regular giving via monthly envelopes. We would like to remind you all that there are a number of ways that you can contribute financially to God's work at Trinity and we would particularly welcome any donations at this time.

If you need more information as to how you can give to Trinity, please contact:

David Gunton (Treasurer) – david@gunton.org or 01256-352342 or

Tony Pitt (Gift Aid & Envelope Secretary) – organista@btinternet.com or

☎: 01256-816314.

Silchester Retreat on Zoom: "Come to Me", Ebenezer online Zoom retreat!



Saturday 12th June: 9.30 am to 12.15 pm

Contact: Angela angela.hiscock@btinternet.com or Lesley Revslesleymartin@btinternet.com for more information and booking.

Safeguarding 'Creating Safer Space' Foundation Module Training:

The new Foundation module is now available and the Circuit Safeguarding Team are making plans to deliver courses both in person and on line.

This is the course that both people who are new to roles which required Safeguarding training, and those who last undertook Foundation or Refresher training 4 or more years ago, are required to attend.

That is, there is no longer a separate 'Refresher' module.

The date and venue for the first in person training course is **Saturday 3rd July at Oakridge Methodist Church, Vivian Road, Basingstoke RG21 5QB**. The course commences at 10 am and runs until about 12.30 pm.

Please book your place with Peter Frank at resources@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk, or on ☎: 07407 281986. Numbers will be restricted on this occasion to 20 participants, but there will be further opportunities online and at different venues across the Circuit during the year.

- **100 years ago on 10 June 1921 Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was born in Corfu.**
- **The contented man is never poor, the discontented never rich – George Eliot**

The Grey Pullover



I looked at the parcel of his belongings, sent to me as next-of-kin.

Shirts, trousers, underwear, and his grey pullover. I held the knitted wool close to my face and wept'. I would be able to part with these things, but not yet. The pullover smelt of him, they hadn't laundered it. I didn't mind, I was glad.

Memories came flooding back of my Dad, who had lifted me onto the crossbar of his bike, and taken me to the fair at Blackheath.

Memories of our visits to the cinema, when we queued in the 1/3d or 1/9d or even the 2/3d, such extravagance! The pullover wasn't anything special, just a V neck, with a stain on the front, that had always been there. It must have been one of his favourites. He wore it almost every day.

It was unpretentious, like him. Inclined to be shy, he would never make a fuss about anything. He was proud of his medals though, and they weren't in the parcel.

He earnt them in Flanders, going 'over the top' with his comrades. He earnt them alright, but he knew they had been stolen. My husband offered to buy a set in London for me. I said 'No, they wouldn't be Dad's'.

The items went to the charity shop, but I kept the pullover a little longer. It wasn't worth much in monetary terms, but to me it was gold.

Why do we say in such disparaging terms, 'it's only of sentimental value?' Is it because we only appreciate 'hard cash?' Sentiment is deeply personal. The grey pullover had to go, because I had to let it go. Sometimes I think, perhaps there is an angel wearing a grey pullover. It still has that stain on the front though.

Medals? Who needs them?

Margaret Garland

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A lovely story with Father's Day just around the corner on 20 June

'Whatever may happen.'

Oh write something joyful,

Oh write something glad.

Oh write something happy, I'm tired of the sad,

Oh write of the birds flying high in the sky,

Oh write of the brook, splashing joyously by.

Oh write of the youth, with the maid by his side,

Oh write of true love, which will ever abide.

Oh write of the thrill, that each morning brings,
When I look in your face, and a new day begins.

Oh write of God's love,

for from Heaven he came,

And whatever may happen, his love will remain. '

Margaret Garland

I recently discovered this prayer which Alfred wrote several years ago. I feel it is just as relevant today. A copy of it is still hanging in the Chapel, I think, Heather S

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Renew in us a right spirit, O Lord;
Refresh us each one and as
a church;

Revive our people to
new life and power;

Restore our faith and vision;
Replenish our energies;

Renew our love for you and
all mankind. **Amen**

A Tribute to – Stanlake Stirling Mbavarira

Stanlake Stirling Mbavarira was a gentleman and a scholar as they say. A quiet man indeed, of a few spoken words, humble and always shy to proclaim his achievements.

He was a man who had a passion for Christ evidently when you engaged in conversations with him about Christianity. An avid musician who was experienced at being a choir master back home within the Zimbabwe Methodist church. From the time of his arrival in the UK he would persistently seek to acquire the Methodist hymn book with tonic Sol-Fa (I'm sure a few of the members at Trinity got queried by him at one point if not several occasions).

He thoroughly enjoyed attending church and would make it special by dressing smartly as well as enquiring several times if we would attend (on days leading up to Sunday's).

He taught me about synoptic gospels as he would time and again express passionately his conviction of their importance in Christianity. Up to the time of his passing he continued studying the word despite physical difficulties that naturally came with age. Believe me he left a lot of notes from his studies, testimony of his dedication to growing in his understanding of the Lord's word.

Lastly his passion for education for all remains as his key legacy. As a teacher and then Headmaster in Zimbabwe he would Sacrifice to go the extra mile by teaching extra lessons to not only his children but grandchildren and their friends.

Another key legacy was his kindness and love as he looked after many children of other relatives and even those not related to him. He managed to pay school fees and even housed many children over many decades who can testify his generosity and gratitude.

May his soul rest in the eternal peace of the dear Lord that surpasses all understanding.

Tino KAZIBONI (Son-in-law)

Message from Tracey Darling

"Dear all – It's hard to believe that it is over 18 months ago that Paul, Stefan and I left Basingstoke for the Yorkshire Dales as I began my first post as a Probationer Presbyter in the Skipton and Grassington Circuit. No one could have imagined what those 18 months would have in store. I'm pleased to let you know that subject to Covid restrictions being lifted, I will be received into Full Connexion and Ordained on Sunday 27 June. Reception into Full Connexion will take place in the Hilton Birmingham Metropole NEC at 10.45 am. Ordination will take place at Coventry Central Hall at 4 pm. Tickets (free of charge) will be available from Monday 29 March (9 am) at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2021/ordinations-2021/book-tickets/>

It would be lovely to see some of you there if you are able to attend.

Every blessing, Tracey"

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Tracey's Ordination on 27 June 2021

As a church we won't be able to all sign a large card (as we would usually do) with all our good wishes and greetings to send to Tracey on the occasion of her Ordination at the end of June. If you would like to send your greetings and good wishes for Tracey, to me, I will put everyone's greetings onto a large card to send it to Tracey from all of us at Trinity.

Jennifer Pitt

Going to the Bank



An older lady headed to the bank to make a withdrawal. She handed her bank card to a bank cashier and said, "I would like to withdraw £10. The cashier told her, "For withdrawals less than £100 please use the ATM." The old lady wanted to know why – the cashier returned her bank card and irritably told her, "These are the rules. Please leave if there is no other matter. There is a line of customers behind you."

The old lady remained silent for a few seconds, then handed the card back to the cashier and said, "Please help me withdraw all the money I have." The cashier was astonished when she checked the account balance. She nodded her head, leaned down and told her, "You have £500,000 in your account and the bank doesn't have that much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come back tomorrow? The old lady then asked how much she could withdraw immediately. The cashier told her any amount up to £3,000.

"Well, please let me have £3,000 now".

The cashier then angrily went back to the vault retrieved stacks of £20's and £10's and spent the next ten minutes counting out £3,000. "Is there anything else I can do for you today?", the teller asked sternly. The old lady put £10 in her purse and said "yes, I'd like to deposit £2,990 into my account."

The moral of this tale Don't be difficult with old people, they spent a lifetime learning the skills.

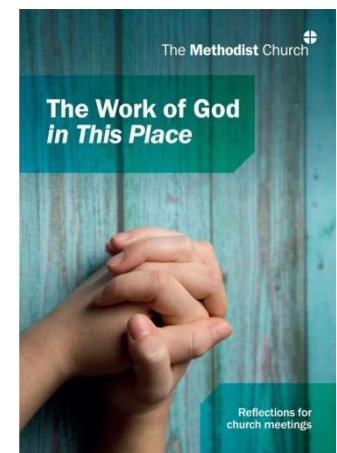
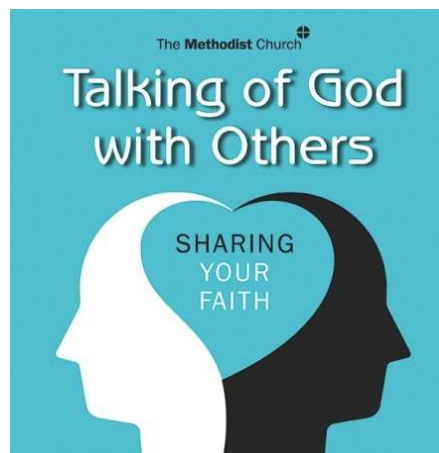
Sent in by Bill Jeram



Two exciting study guides ideal for small groups developing faith sharing:

Talking of God Together – This resource encourages you to speak more comfortably about God and your faith with other Christians.

Talking of God with Others – Helping you to share your Christianity confidently with people who have questions about faith.



The Work of God in This Place

Prayers and reflections to encourage God-centred meetings and time to listen to God during a meeting. Perfect for those who chair meetings.

Above available from: Methodist Publishing, Web: <https://methodist-news.org.uk/> ☎: 0207 486 5502; Email: publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk Add: 25 Marylebone Road, London NW 5JR

MOVING FORWARD WITH ECO CHURCH

I have recently been watching the David Attenborough series of “The Perfect Planet”. You may have seen it yourself when it was aired on the BBC. I found it very enlightening and very alarming. The bottom line is that Planet Earth is now far from being the “perfect planet” that God created and it is nearly all down to humanity. We are simply using too much of the earth’s resources, burning too many fossil fuels, destroying too many forests and plundering the oceans.

The result is that far too much carbon dioxide is being released into the atmosphere (our carbon footprint as it is known) whereas before much of it was absorbed by the oceans, trees, ocean creatures and plant life. This has caused our climate to heat up. This in turn causes glaciers and icebergs to melt, crops and animals to die due to lack of water and oceans to rise. Even in the temperate UK we have seen more drought conditions in the summer, more heathland fires and more flooding in winter. I recall as a child that we could expect 2 or 3 heavy falls of snow every winter (great fun) but no more. Many would say that is a good thing and for some of course it is but it is also a good indicator of how the UK climate has changed in just the last 50 years.

It is with all this in mind that A Rocha UK was formed to help and encourage churches across the UK to do what they can to show that we care for God’s creation and to actively participate in initiatives to help to reverse some of the actions that have caused climate warming in the first place.

As you may have seen from previous articles in the Trinity monthly magazine A Rocha has instigated an award scheme for churches to work towards in England & Wales. The awards of Bronze, Silver and Gold status for churches who are trying to demonstrate that the gospel is Good News for God’s earth.

A Rocha have produced a survey that covers five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

On behalf of Trinity, Basingstoke we have completed one of these surveys as far as currently possible and submitted it to A Rocha for their appraisal for each of the above headings. Much to our surprise we qualify for Bronze in the Worship & Teaching sections and Silver in the Buildings section. This is of course good news but only the start of the journey. We still have a long way to go. The 1st step is to qualify for Bronze in all the sections.

While the 1st 3 sections are concerned with church-based items the 4th and 5th are things that we can all get involved in. The Lifestyle section for instance not only concerns the church but also our personal lifestyle. If you heard Tony Pitt’s sermon on Sunday 9th May he covered some of the things that we can all try to do such as car sharing, using public transport where possible and using ECO friendly energy suppliers.

cont’d.....

We hope that this gives you an insight into what we are trying to do both as a church and as a circuit to fulfil our superintendent's aim to become an Eco Circuit and more importantly to look after our part of the perfect planet that God created.

I conclude with this appropriate Cree American prophecy:-

*When the earth is sick and dying
There will come a tribe from all races
Who will put their faith in deeds, not words,
And make the planet green again.*

Peter Ansell & Tony Pitt

FRIENDS

Where would we be without friends
Just who could we turn to
In our time of need and reassurance
A friend who's always there.

When we need cheering up
A friend we can trust
And depend on
God is a friend and companion.

To each and everyone and
All we have to do is call Him
And ask him for his hand
He will cheer and reassure us.

He will guide us on our way
I wonder where we would be
Without our God
Without our friends.

Jenny Leighton

Canon Paul Hardingham considers our priorities in life

The Parable of the Great Banquet

One thing that we've probably missed over the past year is parties. Well, this month should enable us to party again! Lots of Jesus' parables focus on parties, as they are a picture of the joy, hope and life of the kingdom of God. The parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24) challenges us not to miss out on this. In Jesus' day, when people accepted an *invitation* to a banquet, they were only told the actual time on the day: '*Come, for everything is now ready*' (17). Jesus' invites each one of us to share in the life of His kingdom.

However, the guests made *excuses* for not coming. At the time, this would have been extremely insulting to the host. They said: '*I have just bought a field; I must try out my new team of oxen; I have just got married*' (18-20). These are all good things in themselves, however they reveal their priorities were elsewhere. We too can be pre-occupied with our own routines of work,

family, retirement, holidays, friends, home, social media, that we forget God's priorities for our lives. Jesus calls for total commitment from His disciples. *What priority in my life is holding me back from accepting His invitation?*

How did the host *respond*? He ordered His servants to '*Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.*' (21). He invited the unexpected and unacceptable people to His banquet. Jesus makes the point that *God's kingdom is open to all!* Thinking about our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours, even if they're not like us or show little interest in God: *Are we willing to offer them God's invitation to share His love and life?* (Parish Pump)

Circuit Prayer Resource: The Prayers for Pentecost 2021 are from the Circuit Prayer Resource Group. They are shown on this page and the next three pages and are for personal use during the next three months. **Also available on the Circuit Website.** They print as two sides of A4 (landscape) which when folded should have the Guiding Light on the front. (If automatically printing double-sided you may need to tell your printer to flip on the short side).

Don't make decisions on an empty stomach

Scientists at Harvard have found that when you have higher levels of the body's hunger hormone, ghrelin, in your system, you are more likely to be impulsive. This means that you will be liable to make poor decisions, tending towards instant gratification rather than long-term achievement.

In one experiment, hungry women with a higher amount of the hunger hormone chose to receive £20 the same day, instead of £80 in two weeks' time.

So, ghrelin may well "play a broader role in human related behaviour and decision making, such as monetary choices."
Parish Pump

* * * * *

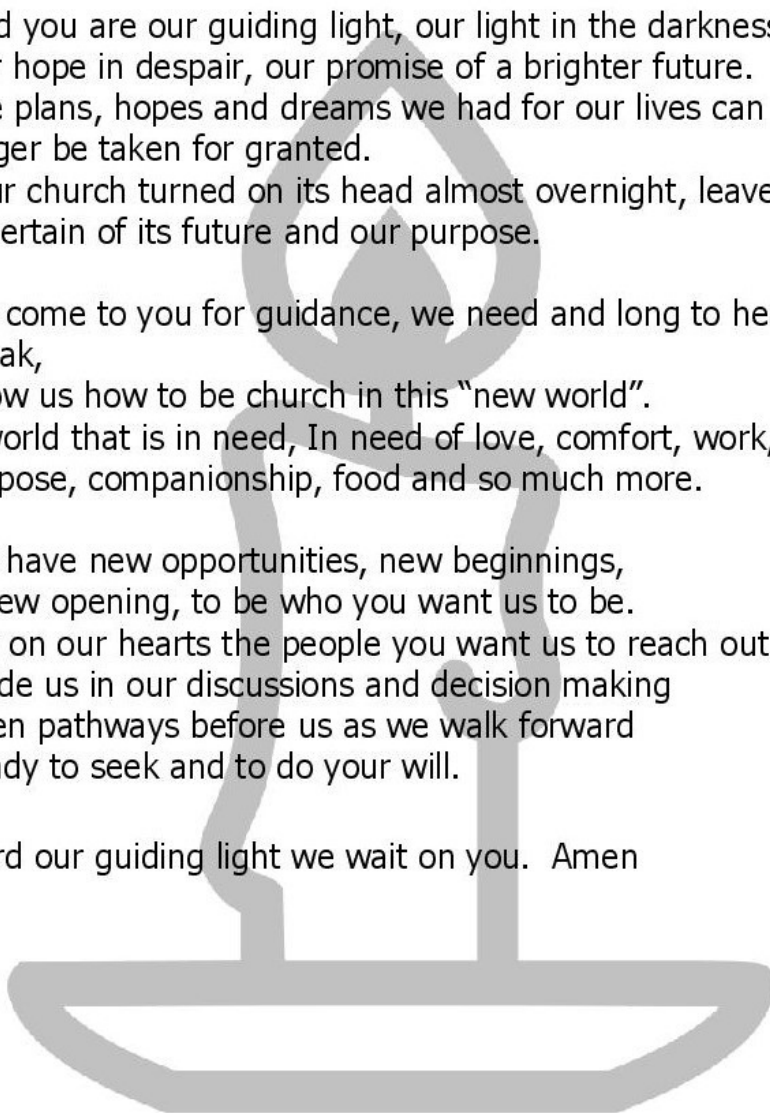
Guiding Light

Lord you are our guiding light, our light in the darkness,
Our hope in despair, our promise of a brighter future.
The plans, hopes and dreams we had for our lives can no longer be taken for granted.
Your church turned on its head almost overnight, leaves us uncertain of its future and our purpose.

We come to you for guidance, we need and long to hear you speak,
Show us how to be church in this "new world".
A world that is in need, In need of love, comfort, work, purpose, companionship, food and so much more.

We have new opportunities, new beginnings,
A new opening, to be who you want us to be.
Lay on our hearts the people you want us to reach out to,
Guide us in our discussions and decision making
Open pathways before us as we walk forward
Ready to seek and to do your will.

Lord our guiding light we wait on you. Amen



"Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long."

Psalm 25:4-5 (NIV)

Give a Compliment

We all like to receive a compliment from time to time. As Robert Orben, former script writer for President Gerald R Ford once said, "A compliment is verbal sunshine."

Another American, Leo Buscaglia once observed: "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn someone's life around."

by Colin Hammacott, PP

* * * * *



A prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
 Although our destination is not yet clear,
 May we trust in your graceful promises;
 Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
 May we be rooted in your loving regard;
 Though our attention is inclined to wander,
 May we hear the things you are saying;
 Though we often neglect your influence,
 May we be convicted of your power to change,
 In Jesus Christ our Lord,
 Amen.

Gardening really *is* good for you

According to a recent study conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and two Universities, people who garden every day have well-being scores 6.6 per cent higher, and stress levels 4.2 per cent lower than those who do not garden at all. Dr Lauriane Chalmin-Pui, RHS well-being fellow and lead author says, "The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the more frequently you garden, the greater the health benefits.



"In fact, gardening every day has the same positive impact on your well-being as undertaking regular, vigorous exercise like cycling or running." "Gardening is like effortless exercise: it doesn't feel as strenuous as going to the gym, but we can expend similar amounts of energy."

Dwelling in the Word text:

Galatians chapter 5 verse 22 to chapter 6 verse 10 (NRSV)

522 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

61 My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted.

2 Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

3 For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves.

4 All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride.

5 For all must carry their own loads.

6 Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.

8 If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

9 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

125 years ago, on 4 June 1896 Henry Ford completed his first automobile, the Ford Quadricycle, and gave it a test run around Detroit Michigan. It was a simple frame with an engine, two gears, a tiller for steering and four bicycle wheels. It had a top speed of 20mph. Its success led him to establish the Ford Motor Company.



“Nourished & Fed, Ready to Share”

We thank you that each church in our Circuit has its own distinctive life.

May we draw on each other's strengths as we seek to overcome areas where we feel most vulnerable and face the challenges before us.

Help us to see opportunities in front of us and to grasp hold of them.

Through our worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism, inspire us in reaching out to make more disciples of Jesus.

Through your Spirit

Guide us, encourage us, feed and nourish us, extend our imagination, so that, in our working together with each other and with you, we fulfil your loving, creative, life-changing purposes for your world.

Through Jesus Christ, our Living Lord, Amen.

Please pray

... for ministers and circuits involved in stationing including
Andy Moffoot, Tessa Bennett, Helen Watson

... for the Church as it as it discovers new ways to express the truth about Jesus

... that churches will establish new small groups, and that existing ones are reinvigorated

... that we will explore hospitality and caring for one another in challenging times

... that we may create safe spaces where each of us will feel able to share from the heart

... for increased confidence and courage to share our stories with others

... for someone you know whom you want to tell about Jesus

... for a breakthrough in this fragile life so that Christ can be shared

Live Streamed Services, resources & information: Please click on link to its live streamed services and useful links and resources. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Wesley Church (Reading) Online Services – Video's & Texts: If anyone wishes to access past Services from Wesley, please click on the following link: <https://www.wesleychurchreading.org>

Coronavirus Guidance & Updates: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/>

English Humour

English Humour has long been considered unique in its ability to enable us to laugh at ourselves when we are in difficult and testing situations. It is said "Laugh at yourself and the world laughs with you." Here is an opportunity to do just that.

"Now that Covid restrictions are being lifted across the UK we decided to open up our Lawn restaurant to the local bird wildlife in the community. The restaurant is open for breakfast and evening meals only in accordance with agreed community requirements.

Covid Government regulations are being strictly applied. A takeaway service is provided, as is an eat in option within the garden. Menu covers a variety of bird seeds and meal worms as well as natural foraging on the meadow grass lawn. There is a strictly no alcohol policy but an adjacent birdbath and pond offer drinking, ablution and restroom facilities. The rule of six or two households is strictly applied, although social distancing can be challenging at times!. Free landing facilities are provided. Facemasks of course are not required while dining.

The picture shows the popularity of the Lawn restaurant. Why not open up one yourself and enjoy your feathered friends?"

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

Genesis 1:20-22 (NIV 1984)

**Martin Frost,
St Andrew's Methodist Church,
May 2021**



RECYCLING CONTINUES THROUGH COVID

Despite lockdown, people are continuing to recycle with us. I check the bin more or less every 3 days and it is usually full. As I write this I have just sent off 30kg of biscuit and crisp wrappers and Ella baby food pouches! So do keep saving those wrappers and pass the word around friends and family.

I am quite happy to pick up any recycling if you are unable to drop it off.

Many thanks to all my collectors.

Hazel G (☎: Mob: 07776 442529)



They say that the traffic is so bad in town that a man is knocked down every day – and he is getting jolly well fed up with it!

Anon

The Song of Hiawatha

Do you remember the poem from your school days, The song of **Hiawatha**, his wife Minne-ha-ha or Laughing Water, the crimson badge of honour the woodpecker had put on his head, his wrestle with Mon-da-min, and the gift of maize the Indian's corn.

It was written by a Henry Longfellow. An American poet in about 1850. He had a brother Samuel, a Christian minister in Pennsylvania, and he took a poem written by a Mrs Willis, a doctor's wife, who lived during the civil war, her Christian name was Love, Love Maria. (1824 – 1908). My Mum was born in 1902, Dad's sister retired from the China Inland Mission, in 1908, the Carriage Clock on our mantelpiece was her farewell gift, small world. the poem, now a hymn. These are those words, that have been passed to us, a prayer, read verse 4.

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father be thou at our side.**

Hymn 436 in Hymns & Psalms

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength, that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.

Not forever by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay;
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness.
In our wanderings, be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Frederic W H Myers (1843 – 1901)

Sent in by Bill Jeram

Where are our birds?

British birds are in big trouble. 80 per cent of our most popular species are in severe decline, according to recent data from the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch.

The world's largest wildlife survey has found that 16 out of the 20 most spotted garden birds have been in decline since 2020.

There are now concerns about the greenfinch and chaffinch, which were seen in their lowest ever numbers this year.

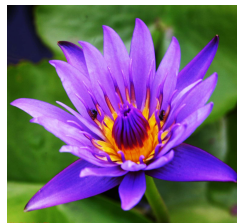
The top five birds seen in people's gardens were: house sparrows, blue tits, starlings, blackbirds and wood pigeons.

Only robins, blackbirds, carrion crows and the song thrush grew in number in 2020.



Flower Arranging

We are members one of another and we are thinking of our care and concern for each other and God's care for us.



1. First of all, we need a firm foundation – remember the house built on sand – **Matthew 7 verse 24.**
2. We need water – this is a necessity of life, so that we can live and grow. The Bible could be called living water – **John 4 verse 10.**
3. Greenery reaching upwards, worship, praise and thanks to God for his love to us.
4. Greenery growing outwards is our way of expressing love and concern for each other and other people, eg Food Bank, Camrose Centre, Methodist Relief & Development Fund (MRDF), now known as 'All We Can'.
5. Flowers which stand out in size and colour – personalities and leaders who come to the fore. In any group there are people good at singing, poetry, prayer etc.
6. Each piece of greenery or each flower needs to be a different height to give strength to the whole arrangement – we are all different in what we can offer.
7. Nothing sticks outside the framework – anything protruding should be brought inside, taken in and looked after.
8. The crooked stem! Awkward one which doesn't know the way to go. There is a place for everyone given time and patience. **Psalms 37 verse 7.**
9. Filling in greenery – makes everything else stand out and gives depth to the whole arrangement. Programmes of meetings. **Proverbs 8 verse 11.**
10. Some flowers are past their best and yet still have a contribution to make. Older folk have a wealth of experience and have plenty of wisdom.
11. Some flowers need help – wiring the stems to give support and bringing out the best. Do your best with the material you have. **Acts 20 verse 35.**
12. Tiny flowers – the shy people – group these together to give encouragement and find potential and place. People are helped by each other.
13. Remember the view from all angles – our bridge building.
14. A clever flower arranger can keep a lovely bloom until last. The centre of all should be Christ.

Author unknown – member of Trinity Flower Club

* * * * *

This article has been in the newsletter before, some years ago now, and you may remember it, but when I was sent it again, I thought it was well worth repeating. A number of people won't have read it before. *Editor*



COVID 19 UPDATE:

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK CONTINUES TO DELIVER DIRECTLY TO HOMES THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Our foodbank relies on Your Goodwill & Support. Monetary Donations big or small are also gratefully received. Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in [The Trussell Trust](#) network is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

Our Basingstoke Centre remains open for donations of **food & toiletries including fresh veg, bread & eggs** during our regular opening times which are from 10 am – 3 pm, Monday to Friday. Due to the risk of Covid, we need to reduce the numbers of visitors to Basingstoke Foodbank's warehouse to protect both yourselves, and our volunteers. If you would like to donate any items, please **'shop and drop'** goods into the permanent crates provided for us by our supporting supermarkets, or at any of the other donation points. We still have donation points around the region, find your nearest collection point below.

THANK YOU for your continued support!

Check out our Website at: <https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> Also on Our Website, you will find the list of locations & times where you can donate food: **Locations are:** Tesco Chineham; Annies Charity Shop Winklebury; **Sainsburys Tadley**; Co-op Food Old Basing; Londis Sherfield on Loddon; Co-op Food Rooksdown; Waitrose Basing View; Asda Brighton Hill; Lidl's Worting Road & Reading Road; Sainsburys Kempshott; Sainsburys, The Malls; One Stop Oakley; The Vicarage St Mary's Church Old Basing; Leighton Opticians & Hearing Care; Christ Church Chineham & One Stop Community Stores Chineham & Bramley; Many local churches have a donation point.

(Bolded venues are available for 'In-Store Purchases ONLY').

Basingstoke Foodbank: We heard recently, the good news that the new premises at Houndmills have been secured for the next two years. The Foodbank has been able to purchase a large commercial refrigerator, which means we can now store fresh fruit and vegetables, and are now able to provide fresh bread, eggs, fruit and veg in every food parcel. The address can be found in previous newsletters, postcode is: RG21 6XG. At present there is no process in place for transfer of donations from Trinity to the new site, **please do not leave donations at Trinity.** Thanks, **Tony Pitt**

* * * * *

At present, at 26.05.21 –

Our Foodbank is Short of:

- Jars of Cooking Sauce
- Cereals (cold)
- Dried Milk
- Tinned Meat (Not cold or hot dogs)
- Instant Mash
- Desserts
- Tinned Cat Food
- Hair Conditioner
- Nappies Sizes 5 & 6

We have plenty of:

- Hot Cereals
- Baked Beans
- Biscuits
- Rice
- Pasta
- Soup
- Tea, Fruit Teas
- Tinned Fish
- Kidney Beans & Other tins of pulses

Community Food Link

Spring Newsletter 2021



CFL is a volunteer led project based in Basingstoke & Deane. We collect fresh food that cannot be sold from our partner supermarkets and sort, repack and deliver it to our distribution partners, charities, schools and playgroups to help the most vulnerable in our society.

New Partners for CFL

We have had a busy few months welcoming some new partners to CFL. We are now picking up unwanted frozen chicken from a local restaurant twice a week. We are also picking up left over bread from a local bakery several times a week.

Although not a regular partner we did receive two very substantial donations from a local supermarket. This amounted to over a 100 crates of mixed produce in each donation. A big thank you to everyone involved in collecting these donations.



We would like to welcome these new donors & thank existing partners for their continuing support.



KTech Sponsorship

Our delivery van has recently been sponsored by KTech Automotive in Houndmills. They have generously helped out with recent costs on our van which we are hugely grateful for.

CFL Hubs

Monday Melrose Community Hall, Popley 11-12noon

Tuesday Basingstoke Baptist Church, Brighton Hill 11am - 12noon

Wednesday Winklebury Church of the Good Shepherd 11am - 12noon

Thursday St Andrews Methodist Church 1pm - 3pm

Friday Oakridge Methodist Church 1pm - 3pm

Monday to Friday United Reformed Church (URC), London St 10am - 2pm

URC on London St are looking to open a hub on Saturday mornings as well on a permanent basis if they can find enough volunteers. If you would like to know more about the hubs please contact us at:
contact@bcfd.org.uk

New Hubs

Tuesday and Thursday Inspero at Kempshott Village Hall 10am-1.30pm

Wednesday Westside Community Centre, South Ham 10am-1pm
 (WCC is slightly different as it is a Food Pantry with a small charge of £5 for 12 items)

May Place Works

From the 26th April there will be limited access to URC due to works at May Place. Access will be through Jacob's Yard, up London St and to the front doors of URC. Deliveries will be made to the cafe area and sorted in one of the churches rooms with chilled and frozen food taken downstairs to the fridges and freezers. This disruption will obviously effect how the drivers and collectors will work and we would like to thank everyone for being supportive of the changes needed.



Meet the Team

Colin is our new Driver Manager. Colin became aware of CFL from his daughter who did some food collections for us before the Covid outbreak. As he was furloughed (and now recently retired) from his job as a work shop controller at a commercial garage he decided that getting involved with CFL would be a fulfilling use of his spare time.



He started collecting just before Christmas 2020 on a Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, before being approached to consider the role of driver coordinator, which he has been doing since the start of March.

He has enjoyed getting to know the organisation and all the people involved. It is an evolving role and he is looking forward to the time when we can all meet up safely and put faces to the names of all those involved with the CFL.

Finance and Fundraising

In the last 12 months, CFL has been blessed with many generous grants and donations which reflects the concern that there is considerable poverty in society today, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic.

Currently we have some regular giving, but unfortunately it is not enough to meet typical monthly expenditure. We are in need of £300 extra a month to cover our running costs which is largely for petrol and van maintenance. If you feel you may be able to offer any financial support, however small, please go

to: www.bcfed.org.uk/supporting.html



We are also currently looking for someone to join the team as a 'fund raiser' who could look out for potential fundraising opportunities for us. If this would be of interest to you or you would like to become involved in other areas of this rewarding work please contact us by email at volunteers@bcfd.org.uk.

Community Food Link is proud to be registered with FareShare and Neighbourly. Details can be found at: www.fareshare.org.uk www.neighbourly.com



The Community Food Link Project is run by a group of volunteers based at London St. United Reformed Church Basingstoke and is part of Starfish Enterprise Trust Ltd, Basingstoke.

Community Food Link

c/o London St URC, Basingstoke RG21 7NU



Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy Newsletter May 2021

Chaplains are now back on the streets and visiting shops and other workplaces. We have been welcomed back and it is encouraging and humbling to hear how we have been missed so much.

For many people, including Chaplains, returning to a public social life has been a challenge. We have not been used to being around a lot of people, or engaging in conversation with others, and still must be aware of the possibility of spreading Covid-19.

Loneliness is widespread and an issue many people mention to Chaplains; it can lead to self-doubts and depression, and being unable to unburden these problems causes them to become more serious and distressing. The meaning of life and death become more significant and Chaplains are finding that people are more willing to discuss spiritual matters. We want to speak to all people - of faith and no clear faith. It has been good to encourage some Christians we meet. Chaplains chat, discuss concerns and pray with people as well as bring prayer requests to the team. It is very rare for anyone to decline an offer of prayer!

Chaplains can play an initial part in reassuring people and sharing the good news of Jesus, but people often also have needs to which churches and other organisations can respond. Since it is easier facilitate that connection if we have a named contact in a local church, we would like to improve our contacts with other Christian organisations and local churches. We are happy to make a presentation of this ministry to churches – on-line or in person.

What will Basingstoke look like in the future? This is a question on many lips. The closure of a number of chain stores and the loss of both Debenhams and John Lewis are likely to have a major impact on the town with many uncertainties created. The Borough has invited residents and businesses to offer opinions and suggestions for re-invigorating the area and, hopefully, there will be opportunities for town centre churches and other pastoral organisations to be involved in future plans.

John Hayward
Chair of Trustees

Prayer Points

Thank God

- that Chaplains are out and about meeting people
- for opportunities to visit shop workers
- for the relationships that are being established and strengthened
- for Chris's service as Chaplain to the local police force as he retires

Pray for people

- Covid Wardens and others patrolling the streets, for their helpfulness and protection from abuse
- the new manager and staff at the bus station
- taxi drivers having a hard time with little business

Pray for organisations

- Basingstoke churches opening up and reaching out to members and outsiders
- Youth Cafe workers and customers and all active at London Road URC
- engaging with the Magistrates' Courts and Railway Station
- other Christian agencies that provide practical and spiritual support to people, and our collaboration with them

Pray for ourselves

- Mary at Youth Café
- Chaplains moving away from Basingstoke
- Chaplains who have been isolating but are now preparing to go out
- seeking to build stronger relationships with Basingstoke churches

admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk

01256 842232

basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk

Suite 1, Paddington House, Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LJ



Basingstoke Town
Chaplaincy Trust
Registered Charity
no: 1160005

90 years ago, on 13 June 1931 Jesse Boot, 1st Baron Trent, British pharmacist and philanthropist, died. He had turned his father's Boots Company into a national chain of chemists.



FASHION CAROUSEL



When I was a girl during World War two

We wore 'hand me downs' and learnt to make do !
Old clothes were unpicked, washed, and ironed flat
Transformed into something 'new' from this, and that.

But over past decades, fashion has changed -
From opulent and elegant, and some, *very strange*...
Edwardian ladies with their corsets tightly laced
At the slightest exertion, swooned, and very red faced

Then Out went the stays, in came the girdle
Like an Olympian sport - fashion is a hurdle
1920's prohibition, Al Capone on trial
Bobbed tresses, dropped waist dresses - 'flapper' style.

Is *black* really out ? Were bra's burnt ?
Let me tell you what I have learnt
It's that 'what's in - is soon out
And *fashion* is just a roundabout

Tight sweaters, those conical breasts
Drain-pipe trousers, old man's vests
Bikers, Brighton, Rockers and Mods
Winkle pickers, sandboots, plastic clogs

Velvet collars on Teddy Boy jackets
Zips replaced with Velcro plackets
Hems let down - skirts to the floor
It's Hippy Time - make love not war

Then hemlines up - skirts like pelmets
Vidal Sasoon haircuts resemble helmets
Zandra Rhodes, pink hair, and fashion fads
Power dressing musts - big shoulder pads

Now, fashion doesn't matter - as long as you are clothed
No one wants to be caught out, indecently exposed
So look today at what you're wearing
Are you *elegant* or *trendy*, or just a *little bit boring*...

BJ

65 years ago, on
13 June 1956 the
first European Cup
final (soccer) was
held, in Paris.

Real Madrid (Spain)
beat Stade de
Reims (France) 4-3.

The European Cup
is now known as
the UEFA
Champions League.

* * * * *

50 years ago, on
16 June 1971 John
Reith (Lord Reith),
1st Baron Reith,
Scottish business
executive and
politician, died.

He was Manager
and Director
General of the BBC
in its formative
years. He also
formed BOAC (now
British Airways).

* * * * *

Thankful

A minister said to a
precocious six-year-
old boy, "So your
mother says a
prayer over you
each night?

That's very
commendable.
What does she
say?"

The little boy
replied, "Thank God
he's in bed!"

* * * * *

The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle considers the Power of God's Grace
Grace – God's kindness towards us

The word 'grace' is one of the most important words found in the New Testament. It means God's loving disposition towards us as sinners. God's 'grace' is almost another word for God's love. This grace is the foundation of our salvation. So Paul can say that 'we are justified freely by His grace' (Romans 3:24); 'where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more' (Romans 5:20); 'by grace you are saved through faith' (Ephesians 2:8).

But the word 'grace' is also used in another way in the New Testament. It means the godly character being reproduced in Christians; Christ living in His people by His Spirit and making them like Himself – gracious. Luke records that as Jesus grew up 'the grace of God was upon Him' (2:40), and that the people wondered at the 'gracious words' that He spoke (4:22). John says that Jesus was 'full of grace and truth' (1:14). The most common benediction bestowed on Christians in the letters of the New Testament is 'the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ' (eg Romans 16:20; 1 Cor. 16:23).

From this understanding of grace comes the reminder and the exhortation that all of us as Christians are 'to grow in grace' (2 Peter 3:18). Our lives should manifest the grace of God in love and compassion and kindness. But grace is not something we can achieve on our own. True grace is only found in close communion with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Parish Pump

Prayer for Encouragement in June (by Daphne Kitching, Parish Pump)

Father, at this time of year, we remember Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you – and others to trust you for the first time. Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement. Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to be encouraged!

In Jesus name, Amen

Shoemakers Christian Bookshop, Newbury

Shop with Shoemakers Our Shop is now OPEN. You can shop with us in the following ways:

- **in person at our Shop, OPEN** once more.
- **online** anytime at: www.christophershoemaker.org.uk
- **by phone** during opening hours (Tuesday – Saturday: 9:30 am – 4 pm) on: ☎:01635 37836
- **by email** anytime – office@christophershoemaker.org.uk
- **facebook** messenger – visit us at: www.facebook.com/shoemakersbooks
- **click and collect is available.**
- **our coffee shop.**
- **orders can be posted or delivered to you.**
- **please support your local Christian bookshop and have a look at the great resources we have at Shoemakers.**
- [Shoemakers Christian Books – \(christophershoemaker.org.uk\)](http://christophershoemaker.org.uk)



And may Romans 8:37-39 encourage us all.

Below are some of the lyrics of the hymn 'Lord, for the years' – the full lyrics can be found in our 'Sing to the Lord' book at church.

The story behind the HYMN: 'Lord, for the years'

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.*

**Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name. ...*

by Timothy Dudley Smith

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the Cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, for his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn are true for the Queen herself, as she celebrates her 95th birthday this month. She does indeed thank God 'for the years your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

And so indeed the 'extra' verse added for the Queen has also held true:

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

Parish Pump

For the Young and not so Young

PUZ?LES

Crossword

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
2 Sam 6: 1-10, 2 Chron 13, 15:1-28

Copies of God's Laws for the Jews were kept in a special holy chest - the Ark. It had been stored at Keriath Jearim for 20 years...

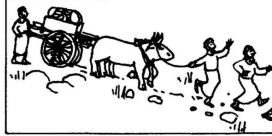
When King David made Jerusalem his capital, he decided to bring the Ark there.



David brought his soldiers and a huge crowd came too



They put the Ark on a new cart and set off down the hill.



The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah thought the Ark might fall off the cart.



He forgot the Ark was holy and held on to it.



David was very angry with God that Uzzah had died



Then he thought of God's power and was very afraid.

So he left the Ark stored at the house of Obed Edom.



David realised that they had not treated God's Ark with respect.



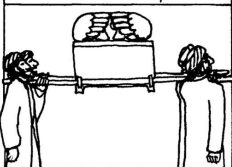
He talked to the Levites, the tribe that God had chosen to be His priests.



They organised musicians and trumpeters, and people to carry the Ark.



God's holy Ark was treated with respect.

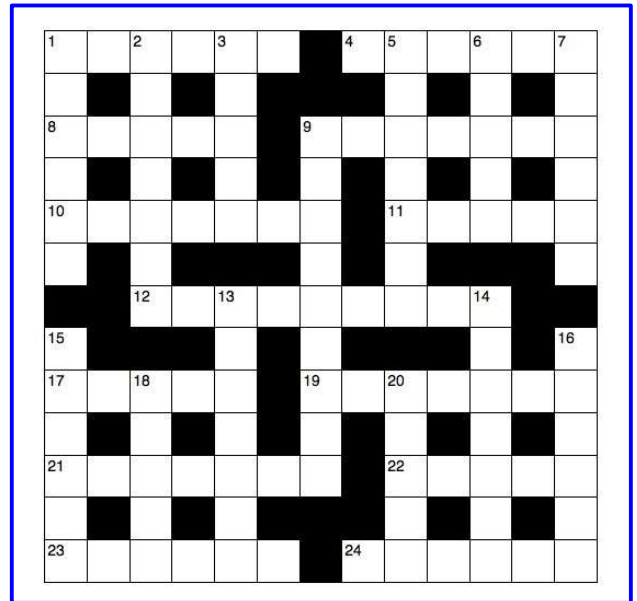


Everyone cheered and sang as the Ark was carried into Jerusalem.

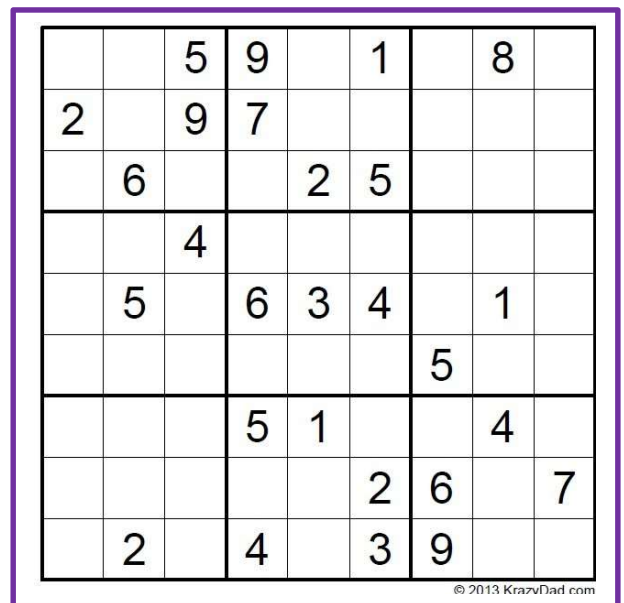


Wordsearch – clues on next page

D R N R R T P I G O D S
 E S A D I E D A T E D E
 N O I T U C E S R E P R
 M L T N O I T U C E X E
 E D E D E F R R O M A N
 D I L O E I E Y S P L I
 N E C O S R V O T E P T
 O R O R T C N N T R P Y
 C S I S U A O A I O A D
 O N D T I S C E B R W M
 H T A E D T S N S L O N
 E O E P E T E C E M A N



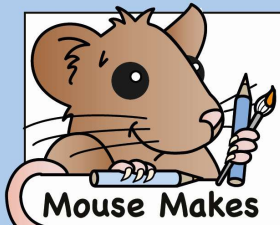
Sudoku



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Wordsearch Clues – St Alban, the first British martyr

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Alban | Gods | Doorstep |
| Martyr | Died | Priest |
| Death | Site | Serenity |
| Roman | Town | Execution |
| Emperor | Name | Soldiers |
| Diocletian | Persecution | |
| Converted | Condemned | |
| Sacrifice | | |



Mouse Makes

JESUS HEALS

Who was the first person Jesus healed?
John 4:46-54

Who did Jesus heal from fever?
Mark 1:29-31

How was the paralysed man brought to Jesus?
Mark 2:1-12

Where did the demons ask Jesus to send them when he drove them out?
Mark 5:1-20

How long had the man by the pool been disabled?
John 5:1-15

What did Jesus say made the woman well?
Matthew 9: 20-22

How many men were healed from leprosy?
Luke 17:11-19

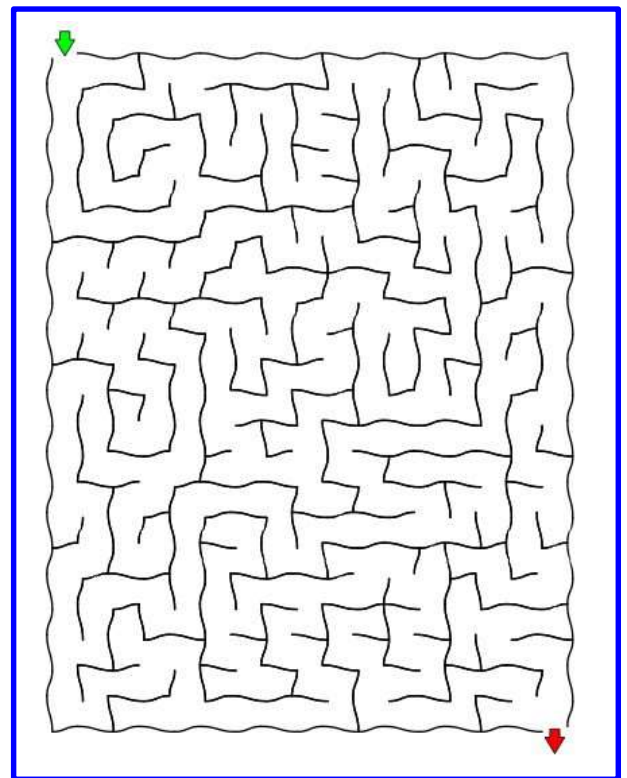
What did Jesus heal Bartemaus from?
Mark 10:46-52

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how many days had he been buried?
John 11:1-45

Jesus healed and made the...

SICK	ABLE
DEAD	WALK
BLIND	FORGIVEN
DEAF	ALIVE
CRIPPLED	SPEAK
SINNER	MOVE
MUTE	SEE
PARALYSED	WELL
DISABLED	HEAR

"There are *many* things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I suppose the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."
John 21:25



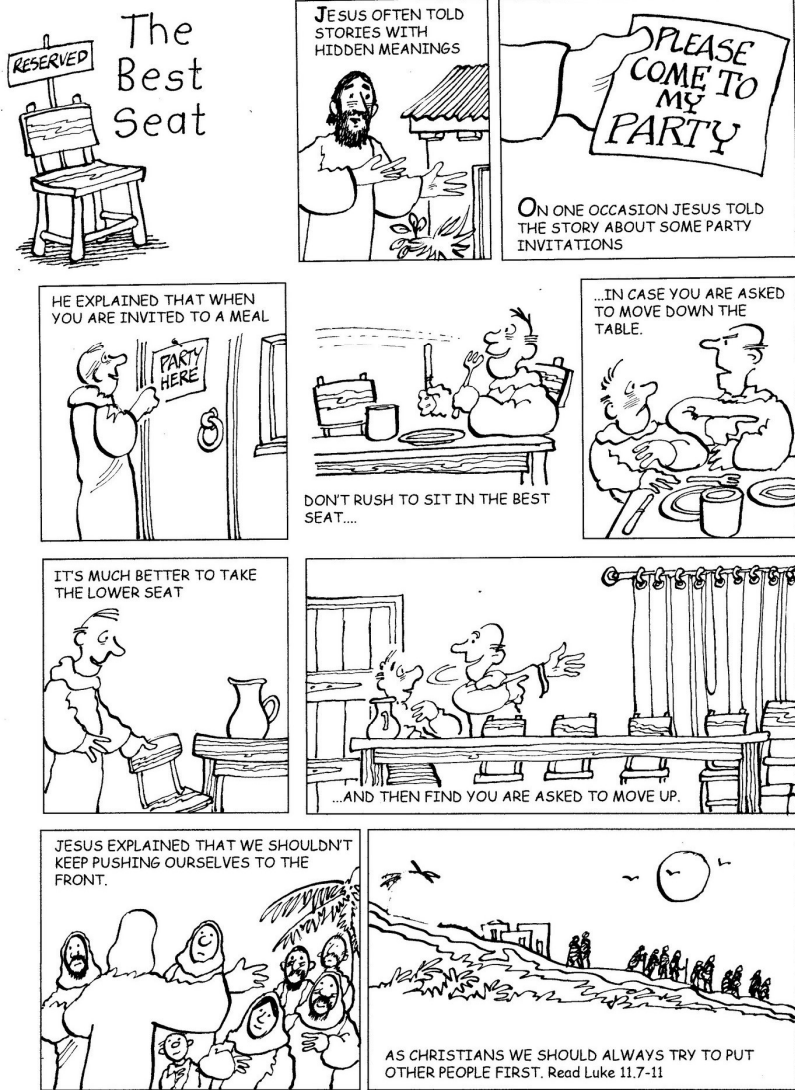
- An estate agent's board outside a redundant church: **FOR SALE, – Suitable for Conversion.**

* * * * *

- Nature is the art of God – **Thomas Browne**

- Crossword Clues, June 2021 – Across:**
- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
 - 4 Place of learning (6)
 - 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
 - 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
 - 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
 - 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
 - 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
 - 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
 - 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
 - 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
 - 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
 - 23 Musical beat (6)
 - 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

- The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but to be able to hold your tongue in one language is priceless – *Anon*
- To reply to a nasty remark with another nasty remark is like trying to remove dirt with mud – *Anon*
- Jesus didn't commit the gospel to an advertising agency; He commissioned disciples – *Joseph Bayly*
- Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything we have – *Billy Graham*
- *Learn from others' mistakes. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.*



God's Brilliantly Big Creation Story, by Dai Woolridge, Bible Society, £6.99

Here's a good way to introduce young children (aged three to six) to the Genesis creation account. Written with rhythm and rhyme, the book covers the awe-inspiring journey through the days of Creation, and it is full of fun and beautiful imagery, from the vastness of the solar system to the immediacy of small animals.

The book would be good for reading aloud to preschool-aged children, and for use with children starting to learn to read. It will help parents looking for a fun, fresh way to introduce children to the Christian faith.

- The child had every toy his father wanted –
Robert C Whitten

Crossword Clue, June 2021 – Down:

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to memorise the short Psalm.

Little Richard was excited about the task – but he just couldn't memorise things very well. On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Richard was very nervous.

When it was finally his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

h	j	f	j	c	e	s	c	g	m	q	c
o	u	a	e	h	o	t	a	a	u	s	r
l	z	l	r	e	r	u	r	n	s	s	o
y	z	l	u	e	g	m	t	g	i	l	w
c	a	u	s	r	a	b	l	r	c	h	d
a	h	j	a	e	n	l	x	y	i	o	t
p	s	o	l	d	i	e	r	s	a	b	p
i	h	k	e	h	s	d	i	g	n	e	e
t	r	u	m	p	e	t	e	r	s	d	j
a	f	r	a	i	d	a	v	i	d	h	o
l	e	v	i	t	e	s	t	o	r	e	d
r	e	s	p	e	c	t	l	a	w	s	b

Puzzle Pages Solutions

Crossword Solution:

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

Sudoku Solution

4	7	5	9	6	1	2	8	3
2	3	9	7	4	8	1	6	5
1	6	8	3	2	5	4	7	9
7	8	4	1	5	9	3	2	6
9	5	2	6	3	4	7	1	8
6	1	3	2	8	7	5	9	4
3	9	7	5	1	6	8	4	2
5	4	1	8	9	2	6	3	7
8	2	6	4	7	3	9	5	1

capital	Levites	Uzzah
cheered	hill	Obed
tribe	soldiers	fall
Jerusalem	Ark	trumpeters
crowd	respect	stumbled
laws	stored	David
holy	cart	afraid
angry	organised	musicians

Colour In



Ground

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

