

MTC



Trinity E-News



Issue 2 / 21

Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

March 2021



Our Minister is:
Rev'd Audrey D Browne

☎: 01256 323103;

email:
padbrowne@hotmail.com



See Page 7, for info about what is available on our Circuit Website

Under:

- 'Worship & Prayer'

and Under:

- 'What's on'

and more.....

* * * * *

'Zoom Services'

Our Thanks to our 'Zoom Team' and Readers who enable us all to share together each week in our lovely 'Zoom' Services.

Link to our Website:

<https://www.basingstokecircuit.net/readingmethodists.uk/>

Inside this Issue

2	Pastoral Letter, Rev'd Audrey D Browne
3	Lent and Holy Week
4 – 6	Our Future Church, Prayer and Survey
8	By Beauty Bombarded
9	A 'Hug in the Post'
11	World Day of Prayer
12 – 13	Did you See?
13	2020 / 2021
13	Recycling Continues
14	Go Green for Lent!
15	Revd James L Clough
16 – 17	Lent Calendar
18 – 19	Community Food Link
20 – 21	Town Chaplaincy
22	B/Stoke Street Pastors
22	Two Poems
23	Methodist Global
24	Real Easter Eggs
25	Faith on the Airwaves
25 – 28	Articles and Prayers, Parish Pump
29 – 32	Puzzles and Prayers



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God
Micah 6: verse 8

Trinity E-News – Deadline for April 2021 – Saturday 20 March

Trinity E-News is on our Basingstoke & Reading Website. I look forward & I'm delighted to receive your articles, so please keep them coming. A **Big** Thankyou to everyone who sends in articles. Items can be sent by email or post. **Thank you again,**

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



Some Dates:

Palm Sunday – 28 March
Maundy Thursday – 1 April
Good Friday – 2 April
Easter Sunday – 4 April
Mothering Sunday – 14 Mar
Clocks go forward – 28 Mar

March 2021

Dear friends,

We marked the beginning of this solemn season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service. As we continue to journey collectively and individually, may each of us know more deeply God's gift of love in His Son Jesus Christ. I want to share with you a poem I read in my personal devotions on Ash Wednesday by *R S Thomas*, in *Janet Morley's* book '*the heart's time – a poem a day for Lent and Easter.*'

The Bright Field

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
the treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

Lent invites us to turn aside from our daily routine for a few moments each day, in order to reflect and to notice what is going on around us, and more importantly, inside of us. And, to pay attention to those things that may seem insignificant that might otherwise go unnoticed, but may help to give deeper depth to our lives.

There's a story of a man who decided to let his garden grow naturally. One day a neighbour asked him why he had his garden in such a mess, he said, 'I am leaving it to God.' Well, God will not do for us what he has given us the ability to do. Recently, I gave the Manse a deep clean, and I certainly felt knackered afterwards. But I can see the difference it has made, not only in my physical space but in the way I feel about the space in which I live. If you want a well-kept garden or a well-kept house or a well-kept life, you have to work at it. You will get what you put in.

Lent is a time for looking at what you have and making improvements. In a garden some plants need splitting to give them more room to grow; otherwise, they will choke themselves. Splitting the plants gives you extra so you can share and at the same time make room for the new growth. In our lives, there is a constant need to get rid of what hampers growth. A good gardener learns how to work well with the soil and the seasons to cultivate the plants. We too, must learn how to work with God to cultivate good qualities, attitudes and habits that will continually transform our lives. Nothing is achieved without effort. If you want a good garden, you have to tend it — the same is true for our lives.

Traditionally, Lent has been marked by self-discipline — through prayer and fasting to enable Christians to be more aware of God in their lives and in the world around them. During Lent nowadays, many people try to do something that requires some sacrifice with the hope of forming a good habit or skill and at the same time, do something charitable.

However, the prophet Isaiah tells us that fasting is nothing of itself — but the kind of fasting that pleases God will lead to compassionate acts of kindness, especially toward those who are less fortunate (Isaiah 58:1-12). Lent invites us to actively seek to be transformed inwardly, by setting aside time to prayerfully reflect on the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness, in preparation for his mission. So Jesus' fasting had a purpose to it — to sort out the priorities for his mission. We too, are invited to make this solemn season of Lent count for us, by setting aside time out of our daily routine, to spend time with God, to hear God's voice and to know God's presence more clearly in our lives. Thanks be to God!

Rev'd Audrey D Browne



Journeying Together Through Lent and Holy Week



BASINGSTOKE METHODIST CHURCHES

You are cordially invited to journey together through Lent and Holy Week, beginning with our Ash Wednesday Service, to mark the beginning of Lent:

Revd David Jenkins, Stephen Appiah and Revd Audrey D Browne are offering the following to aid us on our journey together through Lent and Holy Week:

- Ash Wednesday Zoom Service - 17th Feb, 2:00pm
- Daily Lent Devotionals (sent out via email), excluding the days on which we have a service
- Zoom Weekly Hour of Prayer (Tues 23rd February - Tues 30th March)
- Maundy Thursday Reflective Zoom Service - 1st April, 7:00pm
- Good Friday Zoom Service - 2nd April, 12:00 noon



All Zoom Links will be sent out nearer the time.

Let us all journey together through this solemn season of Lent and Holy Week, as we look toward Easter Day, when we will celebrate once again the resurrection of the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Winter Gardens

Our gardens should be fun and enjoyable all the year round including Winter.

We have a waterhole with a variety of plant, animal and bird life, not to mention a waterfall complete with glacial ice and guarded by Pharaoh Rameses the Great. Enjoy it.

Martin and Llyn Frost – February 2021
St Andrews

- Cleaning is just putting stuff in less obvious places
- To get the world right, start with yourself – *Anon*

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/>

OUR FUTURE CHURCH

No one could have foreseen the traumatic impact that the Covid-19 pandemic would have on all our lives. Communities have been profoundly impacted in so many ways and the rhythm of our Church life altered as eventually Churches were forced to close their doors and government restrictions meant we all had to stay at home. The income we received from lettings ceased as did Trinity's outreach projects. We ask ourselves, will life ever return to normal, or will we be looking at a new type of 'normal'. One thing we have learnt from lockdown is that 'church' is not our building, it is you and me and all our members. Despite the restrictions, Church life has continued to flourish, and we have had to adapt to new ways of communicating through the telephone, Zoom, e-mails and post.

Looking to the future, the Methodist Church requires all Churches to have a Mission Action Plan (MAP) in place by the end of August, for implementation in September 2021. The aim is to have our Church's Mission Action Plan in place by the autumn. We acknowledge that each Church in our Circuit is different. Mission planning is not setting impossible goals. 'Lockdown' has given us time to pause and reflect, so perhaps a good starting point would be 'Our Calling'.

ACTION FOR FEBRUARY TO MID-MARCH – PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE

A mission plan will fail unless it is prayer driven. Jennifer has written a prayer for Trinity, and we ask you to include this prayer (and / or Psalm 25: v 4-5) in your devotions throughout the coming weeks, so that by the end of March we may have gained some insight as to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us to discern God's mission for Trinity.

ACTION FOR MID-MARCH AND APRIL – A SURVEY TO COMPLETE (please keep this)

Looking at the questions, consider your comments in the light of any insights you may have had from your prayers. It will be your comments that will guide our mission action plan. All voices will be heard, so don't hold back your views, be honest and frank. If you have e-mail please send your comments to Diane Bath. For those not on the internet please write your comments down, as we will be ringing you to have a conversation about your thoughts.

In your deliberations consider where we were before Covid, where we are now, where we hope to be when our Church can open once more. With Easter and spring fast approaching perhaps it is time for us to look for the 'green shoots' at Trinity. Let us all pray together that whatever the vision God reveals to us, will be met with enthusiasm and joy. If you have any questions please feel free to contact either Diane, Barbara or Jennifer.

r_bath@sky.com; edandbarbjohnson@gmail.com; itsthepitts@btinternet.com

Pray with grannie – A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"

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 Live's 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

Jennifer Pitt



[Psalm 25:4-5](#) –

"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."

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.
If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;
if it is serving, then serve;
if it is teaching, then teach;
if it is to encourage, then give encouragement..."*

Romans 12:6-8

TRINITY CHURCH SURVEY

1. What do you value most about Trinity Church ?	
2. What does our Church do really well ?	
3. Worship How would you like to see our worship develop ?	
4. Learning & Caring In what way can this be developed ?	
5. Service Post pandemic, what needs might there be in the community that we could serve ?	
6. Evangelism What does this mean to you, and how could we put this into practice at Trinity ?	
Please give yourself plenty of time to consider carefully your response to these questions, and pray for guidance.	

from Methodist Children & Youth, The Well

OLD STORIES SPEAKING HOPE IN A NEW WORLD



Join Nick The Vic + Sooty, Sweep and friends for some faith-filled fun for all the family! When Covid 19 lockdown was announced Suzannah and Nick Wood wondered what they could do to help. They wanted to offer comfort, inspiration, education, entertainment and above all HOPE. For many years they had told Bible stories in all age church, holiday clubs and messy church using Sooty, Sweep and friends – but they had never recorded these performances. They decided to produce a series of 17 videos – each one lasting about 15 minutes. **You can see each episode at: [Stories of Hope – Nick The Vic](#)**, including the most recent video on the subject of Lent. The main focus was for families and adults to enjoy at home whilst they can't get to church. Suzannah and Nick hope you enjoy them and please share with your networks.

Why not take a look at our Circuit Website

Under: 'Worship & Prayer' – You'll find:

- **Worship Resources**
- **Services & Sermons**
- **Weekly Circuit Services**
- **Services dating back to March 2020**
- **Services from Methodist Churches around the country**
- **Churches in other traditions *and more.....***
- **And Under: 'What's On' in the 'Resources' section**
You'll find: Links to all the resources that the **Circuit Prayer Group** has produced over the last year and even the advent resource produced in 2017. Our latest **Prayer Resource** circulated in December 2020 is also there.
- **And There are photos** from previous events too and more.....



Link to our Website: <https://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk>

Useful Trinity Contacts, phone nos. & emails:

Church Office: ☎ 01256-816173
email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

* * * * *

Church Contact / Senior Steward: Diane Bath – ☎ 01256 320429 /
e-mail: r_bath@sky.com

* * * * *

Bookings / Car Parking: Contact: Sue Doust – ☎ 01256 229456 /
e-mail: rogerdoust@aol.com

* * * * *

Church Treasurer: David Gunton – ☎ 01256 352342 /
e-mail: david@gunton.org

* * * * *

Church Property: Tony Pitt – ☎ 01256 816314 /
email: organista@btinternet.com

* * * * *

Trinity E-News Editor: Hazel Harris – ☎ 01256-461375 /
email: hazel@basingstokecircuit.net

Address: 16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke, RG21 8YQ

* * * * *

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:
www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

* * * * *

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit is a Registered Charity,
Charity No. is: 1134891

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

**Kathleen Crouch
(Kathy)**

We received a card with sad news of a former member of Trinity this morning.

Kathleen Crouch (Kathy), daughter of Doris Crouch who was part of Deaf Church at Trinity, passed away at her care home in Kent on the 8 February due to Covid-19 after a time of illness.

Kathy could often be seen in the foyer at Trinity before or after services and always had a smile to greet anyone who approached her, even though speech was difficult for her.

She is to be laid to rest along with Doris and her father in Basingstoke in due time at what will be a family only service due to Covid-19 restrictions.

This news was received from Roz who was Kathy's key worker.

Steve and Angela

* * * * *

I remember Kathy well and am sad to hear this news but glad to think of her dancing with the Trinity. I remember her reception as a member in Peter Stanley's time.

Love and prayers

Angela Webb

* * * * *

Alison's wrote about her Trip to the Lake District, 15 May 2018

Read by Revd Angela Webb at Alison's Thanksgiving Service

By Beauty Bombarded

Travelling North I was unaware of what was to come.

There was laughter and chatter and excitement in our car. Friendship making sweet the long drive.

The hills stole into view, majestic and unchanging but they were kept in the background by plans to shop and eat and make ourselves at home for our time away.

The house when we arrived was a place of profound welcome where every window framed a glorious view. Each panorama felt like a gift, each lamb and calf that played a blessing.

Later we visited Friars Crag. Here was water and reflections, a foretaste of lakes of shimmering light in the stillness and with stormy waves cresting on one wilder day.

But this was only the beginning! As I struggled up to places where the vistas spoke of a holy, eternal spaciousness and glory I was gradually invaded and overcome.

I had no defence against the bombardment of beauty. I was undone. My soul was broken open. Joy and pain coursed through me in abandonment.

There was whipping wind and rain that made waterfalls torrent. There was dazzling sunshine that softened to gold or purple at days end. There was the stillness of valleys protected by towering peaks.

Here there was the vibrancy of the new which enthralled me. My eyes gazed upon that which was timeless yet always changing with the weather and the light. Something within me spoke of the connectedness which feels like home. This was for me a place where a gossamer veil allowed me glimpses of heaven.

How to come back to the everyday is a challenge. Leaving this place meant leaving a part of myself behind. I was glad that I was not the only pilgrim soul and that the journey South was in friendship still. But I am not sure how to be a pastor, friend or mother, or even a lover as I discover myself again.

I will trust to my tender, gracious God to keep me abiding in love as I travel and hope to return to his lakes and mountains again.

By Alison (Parker), 15.05.2018

Thank you, Jennifer xxxxx

* * * * *

The Tributes and Memories of Alison, as read out at Alison's Thanksgiving Service, are in a separate booklet which will be sent out by email at the same time as the March newsletter and printed for those without internet access, Hazel (Ed)

God in the Garden, by Philip Eley, Kevin Mayhew, £12.99

This book offers you a year of weekly Bible reflections that follow the seasons and changes of the gardener's year. That may make it a good gift for gardener's, organic food growers, families with allotments and fans of our Wild Worship series. The devotions help to encourage consistent devotional time – outside with God and deepening a spiritual relationship.

* * * * *

The Easter Story – for families to share, by Martyn Payne, BRF, £2.50

The Easter Story is written for parents, grandparents and carers to engage with their children through a fun and stimulating family Bible and prayer time. Each section provides a brief comment on the passage, questions to discuss, a visual aid to encourage engagement with the story, an activity idea, a prayer idea, a key verse and an Old or New Testament story link.

* * * * *

Messy Vintage – share Christ-centred fun and fellowship with the older generation by Katie Norman and Jill Phipps, BRF, £8.99

Here are 52 creative activities and short acts of worship for use in care homes, churches, Messy Churches and local community settings. Introducing the concept of Messy Vintage, it's full of ideas and practical advice to equip and inspire church leaders, chaplains and care home staff as they seek to meet the spiritual needs of older people. A typical session involves hands-on creative activities to explore a Bible story, a short celebration with story, song and prayer, and refreshments.

* * * * *

Fairtrade Fortnight: 22 February – 7 March



It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south. In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing Impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them. So during March, why not visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and see how you can send and lend some support.

A 'Hug in the Post'

A few days ago we received an envelope. What a surprise we had when we opened it and gradually and carefully removed the contents.

Inside were two paper hands, beautifully decorated. They were joined together by some coloured wool and attached to the wool and in the middle of the two hands was a photo of our oldest granddaughter with a message to us on the back. Hannah had drawn round her hands and sent us a '**Hug in the Post**'. We haven't seen them for a while. So we've hung our hug up where we can see it and it reminds us of our Hug.

It had come about from their service last Sunday where the children had had a '*kind of Messy Church*' Tracey said, centred on the story of the Prodigal Son when he returns home and his father runs to greet and hug him. What a lovely idea. We were so delighted to receive our '**Hug in the Post**'. We can put it all the way around us and it reminds us of our family in St Leonard's-on-Sea'.

We all need our hugs, especially at the moment when we're all separated from our friends and loved ones and asked to keep 2 metres apart. We hope it won't be too long before we can all give each other a hug once more.

Hazel and Peter Harris



COVID 19 UPDATE:



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

Our foodbank relies on Your Goodwill and Support. Monetary Donations big or small are also gratefully received.

Our Basingstoke Centre remains open for donations of food & toiletries including fresh veg, bread & eggs during our regular opening times. 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; One Stop Oakley; The Vicarage St Mary's Church Old Basing; Leighton Opticians & Hearing Care; Christ Church Chineham & One Stop Community Stores Chineham & Bramley.

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 25.02.21, the Foodbank is Very Short of:

- Long Life Milk (Full Fat & Skimmed, small or large)
- Powdered Milk
- Instant Mash
- Instant Porridge (single portion pots, made up with hot water)
- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Savoury couscous sachets (made up with hot water)

We are Short of:

- Instant Noodles
- Savoury Spreads
- Tinned Fruit
- Laundry Tabs
- Hair Conditioner
- Desserts (Powder sachets or microwave)

We are Short of:

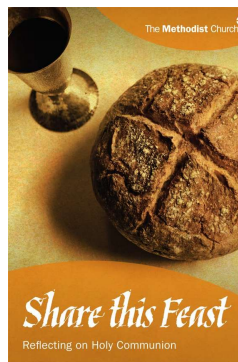
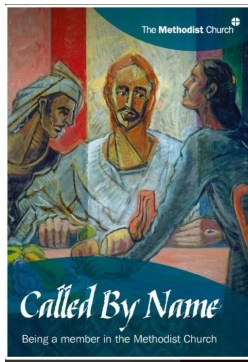
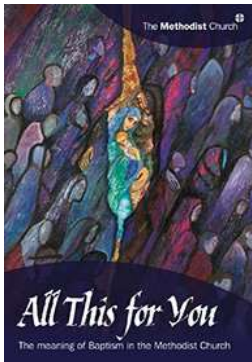
- Squash
- Toilet Cleaner
- Deodorant Men & Women
- Small Packets of Toilet Rolls

We have plenty of:

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



Lent & Easter Resources, Books, Courses, Prayers and more.....



- Find books and other resources for your personal use this *Easter* – *website*:

- <https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/lent->

- Lent and Easter resources on the Methodist Church – *website below*:

- Find prayers and Lent Courses – *website*:

- <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-a>

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk/features/lent->

Please allow for possible delays in delivery. Any queries about your order please contact Norwich Books and Music on ☎: 0845 017 8220 or

Email: orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk

- **Changes to the FREE P&P Offers** – more information please visit the Methodist Publishing website – <https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk>
- info@methodist-news.org.uk Email: publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk

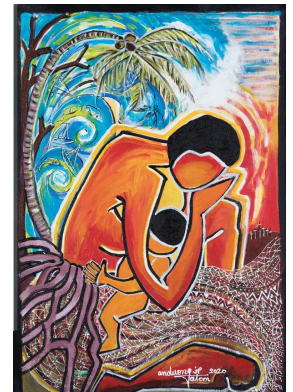


World Day of Prayer England, Wales & Northern Ireland 5 March 2021 – Vanuatu Praying this year with Vanuatu

Build on a Strong Foundation

Vanuatu – On the other side of the world in the South Pacific, 2000 miles east of Australia, lies an archipelago of 80 islands called Vanuatu. With black and white sandy beaches, beautiful coral reefs, tropical coloured fish, forests full of lovely birds, abundant flora and fauna, spectacular cascades, these are wonderful islands.

Vanuatu Today – **The people** are mostly Melanesian, with a Polynesian minority. The population is around 3000,000 of whom nearly a fifth live in Port Vila, the largest city. **113 languages** and numerous dialects were spoken until recently – more languages than anywhere else in the world. Bislama, which is widely spoken, French and English are the official languages. **Education** is not compulsory or free. Most families can only afford to educate their firstborn child, and boys get priority. However, in the past 20 years there have been changes and the gender gap in literacy and education has narrowed. **Health** of women and children are key national priorities of the government. **Malnutrition** is a growing problem, accounting for most of the deaths in children under 5. Malnutrition has been aggravated by the introduction of processed, western foods. **Safe drinking water** and adequate sanitation facilities are major concerns. In rural areas people may have to walk up to an hour to find water. **Violence**, physical and / or sexual affects 60% of women and girls.



More information on their Website: www.wwdp.org.uk

Published by Trinity Methodist Church; 'Registered Charity number 1128299'

Did You See?



During the past year, some things have perhaps, become more obvious.

I noticed high in the branches of the trees opposite my kitchen windows, a disused nest. Or is it? It certainly looks as if it could fall any minute.

The winds, have not dislodged it though, and now, although once hidden by leaves. I can see the clever construction of a home suitable for new beginnings. Patiently the birds have retrieved all kinds of items, and their natural ingenuity has produced this nest. But where are they?

The nest is quite plainly empty. Have they gone to warmer lands? Will they return in the Spring?

It made me think of my former homes. Some I can remember, others are farther back in my infancy. The 'rooms' where my parents cared and nourished the sickly infant. Various places of evacuation during the war years, followed by my childhood homes on the fringes of London.

Then later, the home my husband and I shared with our young family in Hertfordshire, before moving to Basingstoke. 'What would you think about moving to Basingstoke?' 'The office is moving there.' That was over 50 years ago. So I had a new home in Hampshire.

The birds know when it is time to move. They leave behind their carefully constructed nest, take to the air, and search for pastures new.

At present Covid 19 has created uncertainty, loss, and fear, but we still have our 'nests.' It's true, that for many even this is threatened.

In Psalm 91 God says, 'I will cover you with my feathers, and under my wings you will find refuge.'

It is a wonderful assurance of his care, and protection. His love for us is beyond question. The simple prayer of Teresa of Avila says:

'Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you.

All things are passing away, God never changes.

Patience obtains all things, whoever has God lacks nothing.'

We are beginning to see evidence of new life in our gardens. Crocus are in bloom and the 'daffs' are in bud, waiting to spring into yellow loveliness.

Soon the birds chatter will increase, as they begin to gather all those 'bits' for new nests. Life's circle is starting again.

God says, 'See I am doing a new thing'. (Isaiah 43) It is new, every day.

We take it for granted; we cease to appreciate the wonder that is there.

The small child's concentration on the smallest detail, should teach us something, when we choose to rush on.

cont'd.....

Did you see ? cont'd.....

A grace sung sometimes says:

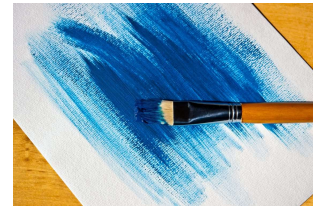
*'God has created a new day, silver and green and gold.
Live that the sunset may find us, worthy his gift to hold.'*

God bless you,

Margaret Garland

* * * * *

2020/21



Well what a year we have had, 3 lockdowns, church open then shut, wearing masks when we are out shopping or when able to go to appointments or church. Not able to see family over Christmas or share in celebrations or funerals apart from over the web.

It's taught us how much we rely on touch, hugs etc, being able to see and have conversations with our friends and family. I believe that this time has taught many people patience and understanding of how lonely some people are. We have all tried to keep busy doing things in home or garden. Many doing DIY projects. My challenge has been to keep enthusiasm for my painting and card making, as I seem not to want to read. But I have managed to paint many dogs for their owners, painted many cards to give away for birthday's etc. finding words of comfort to put in condolence cards.

I must have done over 50 paintings of various sorts during this long year, pictures and cards. Maybe I will be able to share them with people in our church sometime in the not too distant future.

Finally getting my Covid jab, what a relief to get that and know hopefully we are covered with God's help. Looking forward to what the new normal will be.

God bless,

Jenny Leighton

* * * * *

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)

Go Green for Lent!

We hope most of you realise by now that we are looking at whether we can achieve an Eco-Church certificate for Trinity Church. This involves a number of different areas, such as the property itself, our worship, our involvement with the local community, and also the lifestyles of our people.

Lent is traditionally a time for giving up things. This Lent, we would challenge you to consider the environmental impact of your own lifestyle, and to consider whether you could improve it. What this means will be different for each of you and so we're not going to provide a list of things for you to do. Instead, here are some pointers to areas that you might consider.

- 1) **Think about your use of transport.** Are there times when you can reduce the amount of driving you do? Could you share lifts, or use public transport, or walk?
- 2) **Think about your use of plastic, particularly the "single use plastic".** Is there any way that could be reduced? Could you buy fruit and vegetables loose instead of packaged? Could you reduce your use of cling film? Could you use refillable bottles for shampoo or soap?
- 3) **Think about the things you throw away.** Do you recycle everything that you can? Did you know that you can recycle plastic wrappers from "non-savoury" biscuits and the tops and sprays of many home care products at Trinity, in the blue bin beside Sarum Hall?
- 4) **Think about where the things you buy were made.** Can you buy more locally sourced products? Could you eat more seasonal fruit and vegetables instead of ones grown in other parts of the world?
- 5) **Think about the use of energy in your home.** Do you switch lights off when they are not needed? Could you reduce the amount of TV you watch? Could you reduce draughts to save energy?

Caring for the environment is increasingly recognised as the Christian response to God's wonderful creation. Instead of giving up a luxury this Lent, try to find a way to reduce your impact on the environment, perhaps in one or more of the ways suggested above.

If you are really serious, try to calculate your Carbon Footprint, using one of the many websites on the Internet such as <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>.

Finally, please pray about these issues, asking God's guidance on how you can respond as an individual and how Trinity can as a Church.

Peter Ansell and Tony Pitt

- Jesus Christ: no other man has ever humbled himself so greatly; and no man has ever been more exalted as a result – *Anon*
- Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.
Jerry Bridges

**This article was written by Revd Tim Macquiban to
accompany Revd Clough's Sermons and Papers and
passed on to me by Bill Jeram**

James Leonard Clough: 1909 – 2010 (*Minister B/Stoke 1967-75*)

The surviving papers of this distinguished and long serving minister have been given to us by his grandson, Professor David Clough, of the University of Chester who is a noted expert in animal theology and ethics, and a local preacher in the North Cheshire circuit.

When Leonard Clough died, he was the oldest and longest serving minister in the Methodist Church and the only link with the pre-Union Primitive Methodist Church. He was born in Consett, County Durham in 1909. He had deep roots in Primitive Methodism: his father was a Local Preacher, his maternal grandfather was a Primitive Methodist minister, and his great grandfather was one of the first Primitive Methodists in Durham.

He trained at Hartley Victoria College, representing the College at the Uniting Conference of 1932. In 1933 he was stationed in Scarborough. He then served in the following circuits: Tunbridge Wells (to 1934), St Leonard's & Bexhill (to 1938), Torquay & Paignton (to 1945), Portsmouth (to 1950), Gosport & Fareham (to 1960), Southampton (to 1966) and Basingstoke (1967-1975). He then retired first to Caernarvon and then to Appleby in Cumbria. He died in 2010 in the one hundred and second year of his age and the seventy-eighth year of his ministry.

That ministry is remembered for his work in building churches, both physically in schemes to develop and extend premises and through his powerful preaching, especially in Torquay during the second world war where he established a Clubland for young people, St. James' Road Southampton and Basingstoke where he brought three churches together to form Trinity.

He is remembered for his caring and compassionate pastoral work and his work with young people. His ministry was marked by a willingness to assert what he believed right, challenging authority, and a compassion for others. He was an avid reader and writer having two books and some poetry published and maintaining a journal covering significant events of the twentieth century from the outbreak of the First World War onwards, many of which are to be found in the papers now located in the museum store at Englesea Brook. He also was a prolific correspondent keeping in touch with his many friends to the last days of his life. A thoughtful and reflective man, he was also a poet and hymn writer, and well-read in English literature.

This collection, which has now been given a summary listing, is a treasure trove, particularly for those wanting to discover what ministers serving in the war and reconstruction years of the twentieth century preached to congregations under pressure, from changes in society, secularisation and declining numbers. It comprises well over 1,000 sermons and miscellaneous papers relating to church life in the circuits he served.

* * * * *

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.

“Lent Calendar”

Dear Friends,

Lent started on 17 February and you will find below a “Lent Calendar”. We have already given up much since Lent 2020 due to Covid, so this calendar is designed to enable you to do something good for yourself or others, some will also cheer you while bringing cheer to others. You can do these in whatever order you wish.

At our last zoom worship meeting we were also looking forward to May and Christian Aid Week. We did not then and still don't know what the situation will be in May, but it may be the case that door to door collections will not be allowed. Christian Aid raise a lot of their funds via this collection in May. We had thought about asking the congregation to collect their “change” during Lent for Christian Aid, then realised that we are not using money at the moment !!

Christian Aid Week 10 – 16 May

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya are struggling to get enough food and water. Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Together we STOP this climate crisis.

During Lent please prayerfully consider how you can support the work of Christian Aid and if collections do not take place we will work out a way for people to give to this good cause.

Blessings to you all, Trinity Worship Group

* * * * *

This lovely Lent Calendar (on the opposite page in the printed copies of the newsletter) was sent round by email prior to Lent starting, but as we're only 10 days into Lent, it seemed a shame not to include it in the newsletter, Ed

Call a friend who you haven't spoken to since last March

Look out your window and give thanks for what you see.

Pray for the homeless

Find some items to give to a charity shop

Pray for circuit staff

Pray for the bereaved

Take a walk in the fresh air

Put an encouraging message somewhere for others to see

Text a blessing to a friend. Call or write if you don't text

Tell a friend why you value their friendship

Spoil yourself or someone else

Treat Yourself

Give or send a small gift to someone

Make contact with a neighbour in some way.

Plan and make a favourite meal

Pray for Government

Buy yourself some flowers

Put on some music and dance

Count your blessings

Read from the book of Psalms

Write a prayer, Song or Poem

Make and send Some Easter cards

Light a candle and reflect

Read your favourite book

Bring a smile to someone's face today

Share your hopes and dreams for 2021 with a friend

Look at your old photos and enjoy

Pray for all those with Covid

Pray for your church

Spend time listening to God

Pray for all NHS staff

Read your Favourite Bible passage

Pray for the lonely

When you get a "cold call" be nice to that person

Make a cake

Pray for the people you miss most

Write a letter or a card to send to a family member

Pray for those in debt

Listen to or sing your Favourite hymn

Community Food Link

Winter 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.

Into 2021

Over the last few months we have continued to reach more people in and around Basingstoke and Deane. With the distribution through our hubs we are currently in contact with around 1000 people.

Thank you to all our volunteers who continue to go above and beyond to provide a most valuable service to our community.

CFL Hubs

In order for us to distribute some of the food we receive we have a number of 'hubs' around Basingstoke which are open on different days of the week. These are:

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

If you would like to know more about the hubs please contact us at contact@bcfd.org.uk.

In addition to the hubs we also send food to another 12 distribution points across the town including the Food Bank, schools and nurseries.



Testimonials from the Hubs

"Thank you so much, you have made my week. It may not be much but a bunch of flowers and a few treats brighten up my week."

"I feel safe coming here, I don't want to go anywhere busy at the moment"

2 Tonnes of Food

In the month of December we collected over 1 tonne of food and distributed it through the hubs. We also collected nearly another tonne on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

Community Food Table

One way the food from our partner supermarkets is shared is via the 'Community Food Table' which started in September 2020. The table (run by the URC Hub) on London St (12-1pm Mon-Fri) provides cooked food which can be taken for free or with a donation. Typically there is soup, jacket potatoes and another option which varies dependant on supermarkets donations.



The table continued to operate between Christmas and New Year. A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who help with this great project!



Meet the Team

Yvonne is the children & families outreach worker for the Methodist Churches in Basingstoke. Normally she would be doing things like visiting schools, running messy church, working in the youth café, but as with everything else, COVID-19 brought that to a quick stop.



Yvonne offered her support to CFL in April 2020, she was shocked by the amount of food we as a nation waste. She now runs two of the hubs in Basingstoke and enjoys chatting to people as they come to collect their food. They have discussed things such as: how being furloughed or being made redundant has caused great difficulty, or having to leave work in order to home school, and how the food gives their weekly shopping that extra boost. She hopes that in the future we would not waste so much food, and that the food is distributed fairly with no one going hungry.

Thank you Yvonne for all you do for Community Food Link!

What is next for Community Food Link?

- We are looking to open more hubs in and around Basingstoke in the days ahead and are considering these at the moment.
- There are more opportunities to collect food and we continue to add to our daily collections which are over 50 a week now and almost 7 days a week.
- If you would like to become involved in this rewarding work please contact us by email at volunteers@bcfd.org.uk (We particularly need volunteers to help sort and distribute food, drivers for mornings and evenings to collect from our partner supermarkets and to deliver to the hubs).

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



Welcome to the Town Chaplaincy Prayer News for February 2021

Last weekend's One Church service was inspiring and it was especially good to see the number of Christian organisations associated with the collected churches in Basingstoke. We are called to work together and support one another in prayer and action as we share in God's mission.

You have probably seen that all Debenhams stores will close after the company is sold to Boohoo. It is not known what Boohoo will do but their focus may well be on-line shopping.

Moments of optimism that we will soon get back to some form of normality keep being dashed. The inoculations are being given but there is still some way to go and the impact is still to be assessed. Will they restrict transmission, how long will the protection last?

I don't know about you but I am getting increasingly frustrated with the fears of infection, delays and the unfulfilled raising of hopes. Symptoms raise questions about what infection there may be and there is stress associated with that. (My wife tested negative for Covid-19 yesterday). And I see the damage that is being done to people who are isolated from their loved ones. Reading the Exodus story in the Bible can gloss over many of the time lags. The Hebrews were suffering and life was becoming harder well before Moses was born. He was at least the third child born to a couple and he disappeared for a number of years, only returning to lead the people to the Promised Land after 80 years more hard labour had passed.

We need time to learn and, like everyone else, patience to endure the situation. But more, we are privileged to be part of God's plan which will be completed in His time. The Holy Spirit shows us our part but we may not see the impact we have made as the plan is fulfilled. We can show patience, trusting in God's guidance and goodness. And we can pray – for patience, and for God's will to be done during this time.

John Hayward, Chair of Trustees

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious,
 be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low;
 that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.
 In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

We have now heard of many people who have now contracted the virus, so let us pray for their healing. Pray for those who have lost loved ones to the disease. Ask God's blessing on all who care for the sick, especially paramedics, doctors and nurses in contact with patients and other medical staff, all of whom are hard pressed now.

Pray for the Town

Shop workers are facing an increase in job losses in the town centre. Paperchase is the latest shop going into administration and Debenhams will not reopen. People are under greater pressures at home, financially and mentally. Those we have spoken to are also very worried about becoming ill and of dying; we have the good news to help them!

Town Chaplaincy Prayer News cont'd.....

Others who face different challenges are those working at the GP surgery and in schools. Pray for those tasked with helping to keep us safe, including the police and rangers.

Remember the other activities of One Church and the other Chaplaincies in the region – at the hospitals and at Winchester and Dorchester.

Pray for the Chaplaincy

Give thanks that Eric ran a Suicide Awareness course several times that Chaplains and others from different churches and organisations found very helpful.

That Libby’s work keeping in contact with people and maintaining the clerical work will continue smoothly.

For talks with the Rail Community Officer Team to arrange for Chaplains to be Platform Pastors. Pray that discussions will go well and speedily and that we will have Chaplains to train and work at the station.

Give thanks to God that He continues to provide for our needs. Financially we are just covering our costs but we do need more Christians to volunteer to become Chaplains, especially as we look to train and start Platform Pastors.

Thank God that we have trained one new Chaplain and are interviewing a recruit, even though current circumstances are difficult.

Pray for wisdom as we look to engage with people in new ways while the pandemic continues.

basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk

Suite 1, Paddington House, Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LJ; ☎: 01256 842232

* * * * *

Book Review

The Grande Finale, The Apocalypse in the Tanakh, the Gospel, and the Qur’an
Author - Prof. Dr. Anton Wessels

I recently read a book review by Rev. Dr. Jan Slomp on “The Grande Finale”, a recent publication which gives us a new insight into **Eschatology in Judaism, Christianity and Islam**. **Key issues identified are as follows.**

Dr. Wessels proposes that Apocalyptic writings are not a prophecy about the future, but about understanding our situation today. They had a meaning for the believers in the time they were written and they have a meaning for us today, and contemporary in all future generations. We should be reading the prophecies in this light and learn now from it, not trying to project into the future, which is our established understanding of prophecy. The Apocalyptic message being that God will put an end to the unjust dominion of violence, money and lies. God’s Kingdom will certainly arrive, but not through violence.

It sounds very complex and thought provoking, but might well have an element of truth as every generation in history can relate to an “end time” in their time and location, e.g. French Revolution, Communist Revolution, WW1, WW2, Cold War, Vietnam War, ISIS, etc.....

Food for thought. I have not yet read it but might well do so.

Martin Frost (St Andrews) February 2021

- Those who go against the grain of God’s laws shouldn’t complain when they get splinters.
Anon

Basingstoke Street Pastors News



Basingstoke Street Pastors gives a massive 'thank you' to Jenny D'Ambrosi and Malcolm Murray. Jenny was Street Pastors Administrator and is stepping down after years of sterling service. Malcolm Murray, Street Pastor Coordinator, was in at the very start of the Basingstoke initiative over 12 years ago. He really has earned the moniker 'Mr Street Pastor' and is very well known around Basingstoke on Friday and Saturday nights. Malcolm will continue to be a Street Pastor Team Leader, but is stepping down from his Coordinator duties. Both Malcolm and Jenny will be sorely missed.

We are pleased to be welcoming David Grant to the team. He will be combining the roles of Street Pastor Coordinator and Administrator. He leads Basingstoke Street Pastors into an exciting future as we anticipate a world post-COVID 19.

David brings varied work and life experience to the role having been Pastor of Life Church in Hook for 10 years and prior to that having worked in education for over 20 years and in industry for 4 years. Along with his wife Ann he now worships at Gateway Church Basingstoke. David is father to two grown up daughters and has two granddaughters. In his spare time you are likely to find him pounding the trails around Hook as he trains for Marathon and Ultramarathon races.

Big Basingstoke Sleep-Out: At Home



Choose to sleep out with your family for one night and help men and women forced to sleep outside every night. Will you join us and hundreds of others across Basingstoke and Deane and sleep out in your garden on Friday 5 March? Raise vital funds and awareness for men and women and help to rebuild their lives devastated by homelessness.

It's a grim realisation that without support like ours, the life expectancy of a long-term homeless person is just 45 years!

Event Details: Please join us on Friday 5 March and challenge yourself to sleep-out in your garden. Please stick to your household / support bubble groups when doing so.

Two Poems by Pat Murphy

Lord I experience your mighty power.
As I live close to you hour by hour.
Lord you are faithful to your Word.
As I have listened and I have heard.
Lord in you is all my hopes and dreams.
As I see you working out all your
schemes.
Lord how wonderful you are to me.
As I look to you in faith and miracles
I see your Love and Power is
beyond measure.
As I come to you and in my heart
treasure.

See Him hanging on a cross of shame.
Jesus, is His Wonderful Name.
He hangs there for you and for me.
That we might be forgiven and from all sin
set free.
He carried our sins in His spotless pure body.
As He brought salvation to you and me.
How can we ever thank Him enough for all
that He has done.
Jesus our Redeemer, and God's own Son.
We will give Him our lives and
praise Him forever.
And tell of His Love,
our Wonderful, precious Saviour.

These Items are taken from the Methodist Church Global Relationships News, March 21

Mission Partner Updates The Irish Pilgrims! – **Barry and Gillian Sloan** are Mission Partners in Chemnitz, Germany and serve at INSPIRE a fresh expression initiative. Last year a film of their work 'On The Bruhl' won an award at the Burbank film festival. Now they have a new venture – The Irish Pilgrims! – a YouTube channel for you to follow, watch and keep up to date with their life and work in Chemnitz. You can also **Read the latest from INSPIRE at:** [Inspire News Feb2021 \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/inspire-news-feb2021)



Fiona Kendall is in Italy working with Mediterranean Hope, and a joint Mission Partner with the Church of Scotland. In her latest letter she reflects on the difference a year makes and the ongoing work of the church to serve those who are migrating. As an insight to the plight of migrants she says, 'The 'hotspot' detention centre has 192 places. This summer almost 1,500 people were housed there, many sleeping on bare mattresses at a time when personal space could be a matter of life or death.' **Read more in her January News at:** [Fiona Kendall \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/fiona-kendall)

You can get a recent update on how all our Mission Partners have been doing during the pandemic **on our website at:** [Mission Partner and Partner Church prayer update on COVID-19 January 2021 \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/mission-partner-and-partner-church-prayer-update-on-covid-19-january-2021)

Mozambique: A Response to Cyclones, Covid and Violence Since 2017, Mozambique has endured, cyclones, storms, drought, the COVID-19 pandemic and a resurgence of violence. Persons are suffering displacement, trauma and injury or death. The Mozambique Synod of the Methodist Church in Southern Africa is responding to the needs of the community with practical assistance. In February 2021, the World Mission Fund supported this work with a grant of £10,000. Please continue to keep the people of Mozambique in your prayers. **Read more at:** [Methodist Church in Mozambique responds to the national challenges, supported by the World Mission Fund](https://www.methodist.org.uk/methodist-church-in-mozambique-responds-to-the-national-challenges-supported-by-the-world-mission-fund)



Climate Justice For All Climate Justice for All is a campaign of the Methodist Church in Britain working with partners around the world to send a message to the UN COP26 Climate conference in Glasgow in November. This is a campaign led by young adults from Britain, Italy, Zambia, Uruguay and Fiji, working as a global team, along with a network of volunteers from six continents. **Read more and meet the team at:** [Climate Justice for All \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/climate-justice-for-all)



Hope and Growth during the Pandemic The Church in Cuba has seen incredible growth in recent years and this growth has continued despite the challenges that Cuba faces in the current Pandemic. The head of church, **Bishop Ricardo Pereira** shares his news at: [Cuba: A Growing Church during the Pandemic \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/cuba-a-growing-church-during-the-pandemic)

The Hope Centre in Lativa works with mothers who have learning disabilities, the director of the centre, Gita Binane shares the important work they are doing to gently care during difficult times. **Read more about this work supported by the Fund for Mission in Europe at:** [The HOPE centre in Latvia – Challenges of COVID-19 \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/the-hope-centre-in-latvia-challenges-of-covid-19)



The Besom, Basingstoke – News

How have people been able to make a difference

- Some people have given time to those who have needed a bit of help with painting or gardening.
- Others have donated good quality furniture or white goods to help someone start out in a new home.

There are many other ways to “do something”...

- Have you been given a new set of saucepans, a toaster, a kettle, cutlery, a set of mugs or crockery ? If your used kitchen equipment is still in good condition – why not donate it to Besom to help make up a starter pack for someone who is moving from a shelter or refuge to a new home?
- Just about anything you can think of will be exactly what someone will want!

If you'd like to help, call ☎: 07541 123797 or email Besom at: besominbasingstoke@gmail.com

Real Easter Egg Launches Despite being Dropped by Supermarkets

The Meaningful Chocolate Company has launched its 2021 Fairtrade Real Easter Egg range. All Real Easter Eggs come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to a 24-page activity book version with a prize competition worth £200. They provide an opportunity to share the joy of Easter with friends and family.



The 2021 Original Real Easter Egg includes a new 24-page Easter story activity book. It features a rainbow design to remind us of the importance of working together, in amazing and inspiring ways, for the common good. It costs £4.50 and is delivered in multiples of six or as singles.

David Marshall, from Meaningful Chocolate, said: "Even with the current uncertainties we believe that it is more important than ever that churches, schools and individuals find ways to share the Easter story in 2021. Our aim is to provide some of these resources and continue to support Fairtrade. The Real Easter Egg is a proven way to do this. You can order direct from: www.realeasteregg.co.uk "

The Real Easter Egg continues to be the UK's top mail order Egg in terms of volume. To date more than a million eggs have been sold and more than £300,000 has been donated to charitable causes. (*Parish Pump*)

- Give me a sense of humour, Lord, give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humour out of life, and pass it on to other folk.
- **Switched on** – A housewife was helping her aged mother get up the stairs on their brand-new stair lift when the minister telephoned her. He was horrified to hear her say: "I'm so sorry, but I'll have to ring you back. I can't talk right now because I've finally got Mother in the electric chair and I'm eager to press the switch and see if it works!

The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England Priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former Communications Director for the CofE, has a football story to tell...

Football Club Takes Faith to the Airwaves

Thousands of BBC local radio listeners across England recently tuned in to an unusual sporting-themed church service. It wasn't broadcast from a typical place of worship, a Church or a Cathedral, but from Wycombe Wanderers FC – a football club in the Championship, the second rung of English soccer.



Four of the team's leading players joined the Buckinghamshire club's Chaplain Benedict Musola for the special Act of Worship broadcast across the country's 38 BBC local radio stations.

Professional footballers Adebayo Akinfenwa, Jason McCarthy, Alex Samuel and Cameron Yates spoke of their Christian faith during the 30-minute service broadcast in January. Chaplain Benedict Musola explained how the team prayed on the pitch before matches and held regular Bible studies at their training ground.

He told listeners: "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve God in this role, which uniquely combines my passion for God and my passion for football." The service featuring Wycombe Wanderers underlined the close links between football and faith.

In *'Thank God for Football,'* (SPCK, 2006), author Peter Lupson featured chapters on the Christian roots of soccer clubs including Aston Villa, Barnsley, Birmingham City, Bolton Wanderers, Everton, Fulham, Liverpool, Manchester City, Queen's Park Rangers, Southampton, Swindon Town and Tottenham Hotspur. (*Parish Pump*)

This poem by Nigel Beeton, a recently retired senior radiologist, comes out of time spent back at the hospital in January, helping colleagues.

Together

In the year nineteen seventy-one they heard the church bells ring. That wedding day was so much fun! They promised they would cling Together, they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year nineteen eighty-one for ten years they'd been wed. Two daughters and a strapping son and still they often said, Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year nineteen ninety-one their children nearly grown! Yes, troubles go and troubles come but they had always shown, Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year two thousand and one their lifelong odyssey had brought to them their first Grandson but everyone could see, Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year twenty-eleven retirement came at last, Grandchildren – now they counted seven the family grows fast! Together they would always stay
Till death will come to part their way.

In the year twenty twenty-one their Golden Wedding day. But celebrations? There were none. A Care Home said that they, Together couldn't always stay,
for Covid came home to part their way.

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham offers the following for Lent...

Finding God in Each Moment of the Day

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there! In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to Him. As the psalmist says, *'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night'* (Ps 63:6).

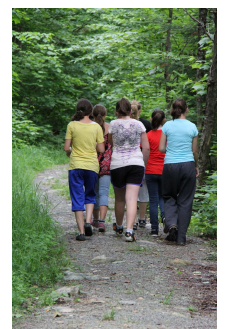
What does this look like in practice? Here is a step by step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.
3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.
5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen: Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change. Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary anymore! **(Parish Pump)**

Walk and Pray for your Community in 2021

Our communities have all been being affected by the Covid-19 pandemic: our schools, hospitals, neighbours, churches, friends and families, so when we're out on our daily walk, let's turn the time to prayer. That's the challenge from HOPE Together, which is encouraging Christians to walk and pray in 2021. Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director, says: 'Whatever time, wherever you live, whilst we're able and permitted to walk – let's walk and talk to the one who has the power to act and bring change.'



HOPE is bringing together resources and ideas for prayer walking from many UK prayer ministries. An app is also being developed to track where Christians have walked and prayed throughout the UK. This is part of a worldwide Every Home for Christ initiative called Oikos, which aims to take the Christian message of hope to every home on the planet over the next 20 years. To find out more visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/prayerwalk21 **(Parish Pump)**

Written in March

The cock is crowing, the stream is flowing, the small birds twitter, the lake doth glitter, the green field sleeps in the sun... There's joy in the mountains, there's life in the fountains, small clouds are sailing, blue sky prevailing, the rain is over and gone.

A Poem by William Wordsworth

The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, Considers the Problem of Prayer

When your Prayer is not Answered

2 Cor. 12:8; 'Three times I asked the Lord about this ...BUT...'

Paul is talking about one of the most mysterious and one of the most baffling aspects of prayer – when God does not say yes.

On the face of it, Paul's prayer was very modest. For some time he had been troubled by 'a thorn in the flesh.' He doesn't tell us what the 'thorn' was and down the centuries theologians and commentators have made suggestions. Most of them have thought that the affliction was physical because Paul says it was 'in the flesh.' Some have suggested that he suffered from epileptic fits which caused him to fall down, while others have suggested that he was laid low by constant fevers or that he had very poor eyesight, the last based on his remarks in Galatians 6:11. But in spite of this great servant of the Lord praying earnestly three times that the thorn would be removed, God did not answer as Paul expected. A number of things in this passage (verses 7-10) are very helpful to all of us in the matter of prayer.

First, although God's answer was not what Paul asked for, God did answer him. God is never indifferent to the prayers we utter from the depth of our heart. Unlike the idol Baal in the Old Testament story about Elijah, (1 Kings 18) the God and Father of our Lord Jesus is not on a journey, nor is He busy elsewhere, nor is He sleeping. He hears our prayers and our cries when we come to Him in our need and pain and distress.

Second, although Paul did not get the answer he wanted, God made him a wonderful promise. He said, 'My grace is sufficient for you' (v.9). This was not what Paul asked for, yet what a promise it was! God said in effect. 'I will not take the thorn away – but my daily grace is all-sufficient.' In spite of the thorn, Paul will triumph. When God gives us all-sufficient grace, it will take care of everything in our lives.

Thirdly, Paul learnt that God's wonderful grace meant that in his weakness 'the power of Christ' (v.9) would be with him, the power that would make him effective and fruitful in his ministry.

Fourthly, this experience taught Paul that he could be 'content with weaknesses and insults' (v.10) because it was for Christ's sake, and when he is weak in himself, he is strong in Christ (v.10).

So what about unanswered prayer? Unless our prayer was selfish and not for our good in the first place, God does answer our cry. When the answer is not what we expected, then it means that our loving Father has something for us even better and more important than what we asked for.

Dr Herbert McGonigle was formerly Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester (Parish Pump)

The Upper Room (by Megan Carter) (Parish Pump)

They meet together in the upper room gathering together in one accord,

He fetches a towel and washes their feet and Judas slips out to betray His Lord.

The bread and wine are there on the table, He takes up the bread and breaks it in two,
The cup is passed round, each drinking from it, 'These symbols,' He says, 'are given for you'.

'This bread is my body I freely give, this cup is my blood which soon will be shed',

They eat and they drink not really knowing or understanding of what lies ahead.

A new covenant that night has been made where God Himself gives His life for us all,

The Life divine in exchange is given to free mankind from the curse of the fall.

Two thousand years on we come to partake of His life poured out to cover our sin

We eat and we drink the bread and the wine with thankful hearts in remembrance of Him.

Shoemakers Christian Bookshop, Newbury

Shop with Shoemakers during lockdown: as you may have gathered, as a non-essential retailer here at Shoemakers we have had to close our physical shop. However, to pursue our mission, we are delighted to say that we will continue trading in every other way. You can shop with us in the following ways:

- **online** anytime at: www.christophershoeemaker.org.uk
- **by phone** during opening hours (Tuesday – Saturday: 9:30 am – 4 pm) on: ☎:01635 37836
- **by email** anytime – office@christophershoeemaker.org.uk
- **Facebook** messenger – visit us at: www.facebook.com/shoemakersbooks
- **Click and collect is available.**
- **Our coffee shop is still open for takeaway drinks.**
- **Orders can be posted or delivered to you. Please support your local Christian bookshop.**
- **Resources for Lent 2021 are available.**
- **Have a look at the great resources we have at Shoemakers.**
- [Shoemakers Christian Books – Lent & Easter Books \(christophershoeemaker.org.uk\)](http://www.christophershoeemaker.org.uk)



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

How our Church can get Help for our Struggling Children

There is a Christian charity that helps churches who want to reach out to their local children in need. 'Transforming Lives for Good' (TLG) offers three programmes with which local churches can partner.

The "*Early Intervention*" programme is where TLG train and support volunteers from local churches to be coaches in schools supporting children who are finding school and life hard for a variety of reasons.

One coach is matched with one child, and gives them one hour a week through the school year. Just that small amount of time with a caring adult can make a big difference.

The "*Make Lunch*" programme is where TLG enables and equips a local church to run a holiday lunch club for struggling children. Each club provides free, hot and healthy meals to children and families who would otherwise go hungry. Through TLG Make Lunch, a church can thus make contact with some of the most vulnerable families in the community.

In addition, TLG have also been running the "*Box of Hope*" project. Since the first Lockdown last March, local churches in partnership with TLG have delivered a staggering 510,000 (and counting!) meals to children and families in crisis. These emergency care packages – Boxes of Hope – have given churches another opportunity to build good relations with the needy in their communities.

TLG is now extending this opportunity. The charity is offering start-up funding of £200 to help churches with initial costs. The process has been designed to be as simple as possible so that churches can receive a comprehensive package of support to help get them up and running within a week! For more details, please visit: www.tlg.org.uk

(Parish Pump)



- Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.
- The darkest hour is just before dawn. So, if you're going to steal your neighbour's milk, that's the time to do it.
- To get to heaven, turn right and keep going straight – *Anon*

For the Young and not so Young

PUZ?LES

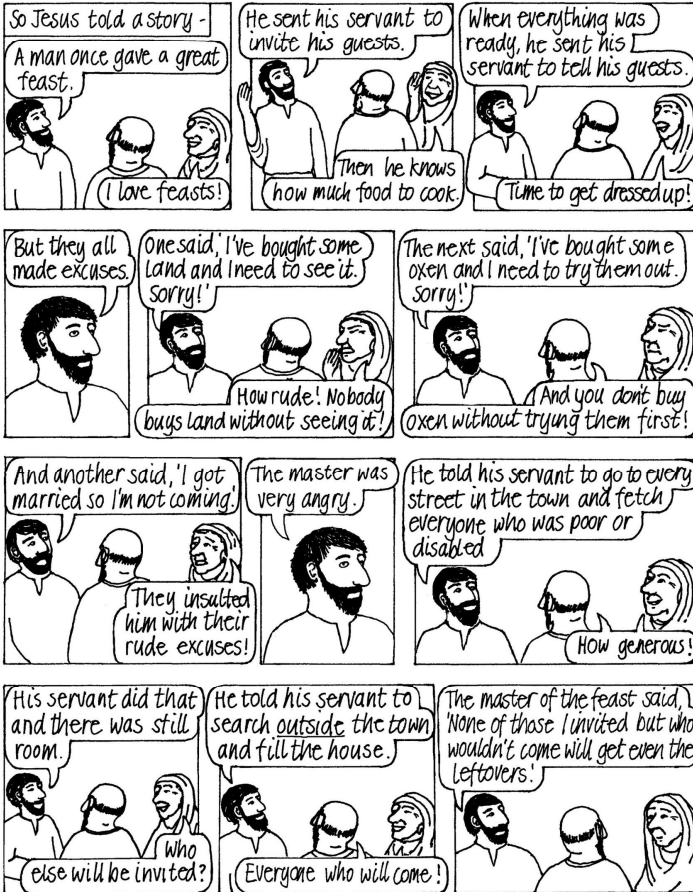
Crossword

Bible Bite

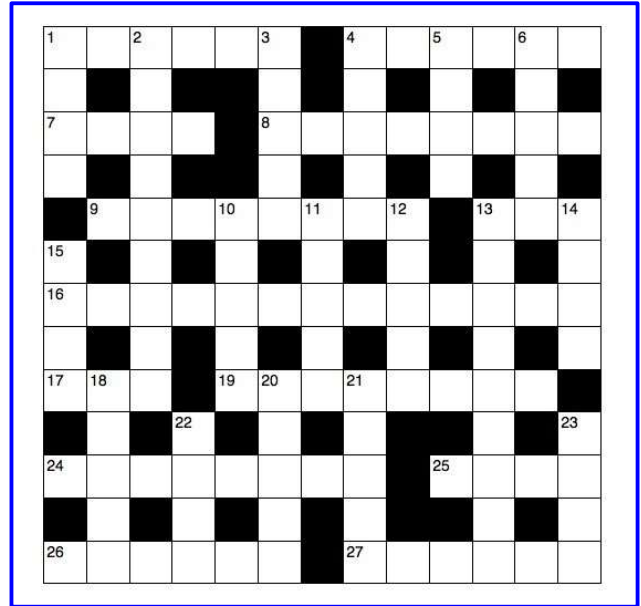
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 14 verses 15-24

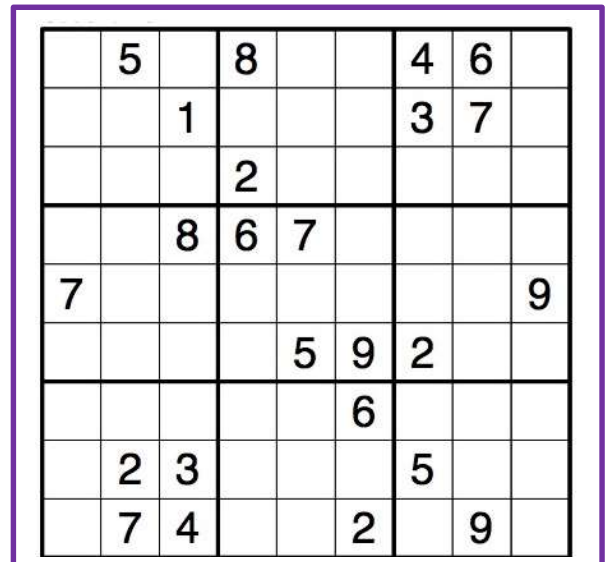
Jesus was at a dinner when one guest said how good it would be to be at God's feast for His people at the end of time.



- Life doesn't come with a manual. It comes with a mother – Anon

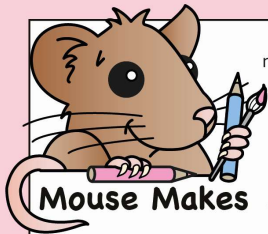


Sudoku



Crossword Clues – Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)



Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?
Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL
Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH
Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL
Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY
2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN
Genesis 29:32

GAD
Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL
1 Samuel 1:20

OBED
Matthew 1:5

ISAAC
Genesis 21:3



Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

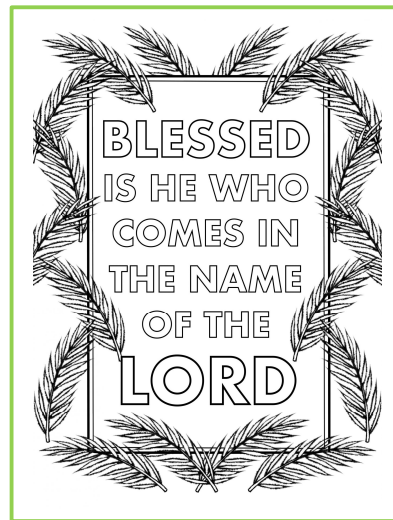
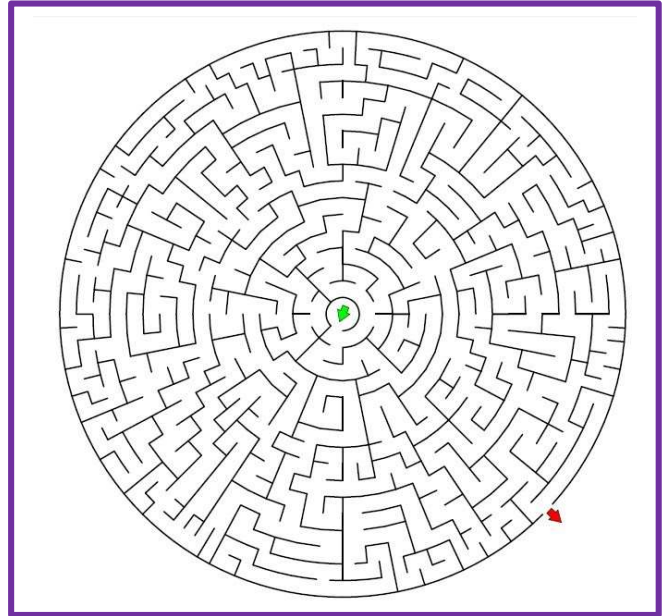
JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14

R A C H E L M A R Y A V Z
E L I Z A B E T H H E V I
B Z D R E B V S U A U O L
E T M U M L E A H N N L P
K M O T H E R R T N I E A
A I S H H A G A R A C G H
H S T A B A T H S H E B A

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?



Our presence in a place of need is more powerful than a thousand sermons

Charles Colson

Crossword Clues – Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Small numbers make no difference to God.

There is nothing small if God is in it.

D L Moody

- May the strength of God pilot us, May the wisdom of God instruct us, May the hand of God protect us, May the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore. *St Patrick*
- Mothers are like buttons. They hold everything together – *Anon*
- A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go – *Anon*
- The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not cover you – *Anon*

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

A Prayer of Commitment

Such Amazing Grace!
How can I respond to what you
have done for me?

You gave your all, your very self,
to liberate me, to set me free and
make me whole.

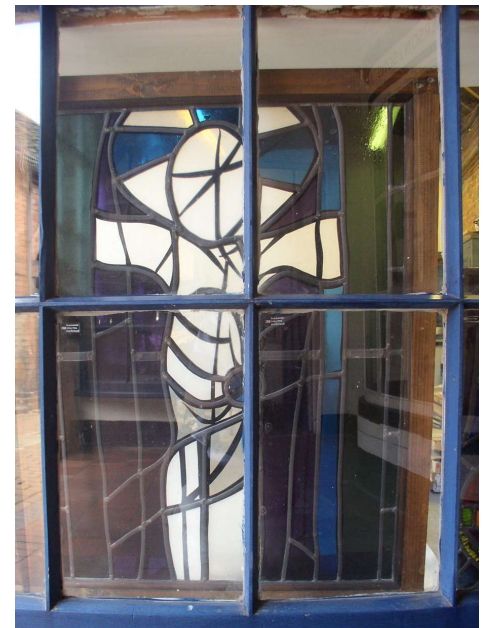
So I commit myself to you again
wholly, not half-heartedly,
in all things, not just some,
because your love for me
is so amazing, so divine, my response
demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Michael Holland (with Isaac Watts),
Ordained at the 2006 Conference and
taken from Amazing Grace, Methodist
Prayer Handbook 2006-2007*

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| dinner | story | excuses |
| land | bought | Jesus |
| time | feast | married |
| generous | everyone | servant |
| guest | dressed | rude |
| street | God | oxen |
| invited | house | town |
| angry | master | leftovers |

Second Wordsearch

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



Second Wordsearch Words:

- | | | |
|------------|--------|------------|
| Holy | Devil | Alone |
| Spirit | Fasted | Kingdom |
| Jordan | Hungry | World |
| Wilderness | If | Authority |
| Tempted | Bread | Glory |
| Worship | Temple | Strike |
| Me | Stone | Test |
| Serve | Foot | Temptation |
| Jerusalem | Angels | Pinnacle |
| Bear | | |

- Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

The Widow's little coins



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS WAS WATCHING PEOPLE BRINGING GIFTS TO THE TEMPLE



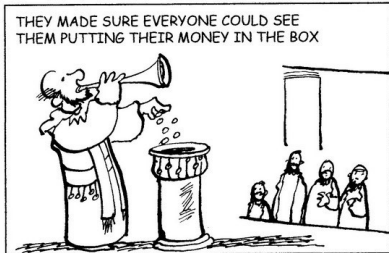
HE SAW THE RICH PEOPLE BRINGING THEIR MONEY



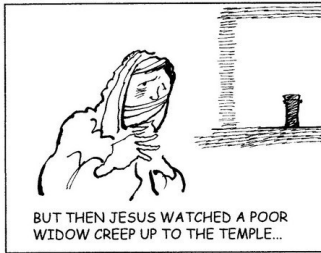
THEY MADE A BIG FUSS



THE PROUD PEOPLE WANTED EVERYONE TO SEE HOW RICH THEY WERE.



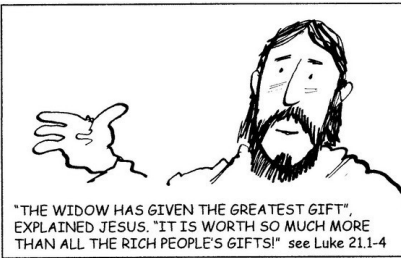
THEY MADE SURE EVERYONE COULD SEE THEM PUTTING THEIR MONEY IN THE BOX



BUT THEN JESUS WATCHED A POOR WIDOW CREEP UP TO THE TEMPLE...



...AND DONATE TWO SMALL COPPER COINS.



"THE WIDOW HAS GIVEN THE GREATEST GIFT", EXPLAINED JESUS. "IT IS WORTH SO MUCH MORE THAN ALL THE RICH PEOPLE'S GIFTS!" see Luke 21.1-4

Puzzle Pages Solutions

Sudoku Solution

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

Crossword Answers:



ACROSS:

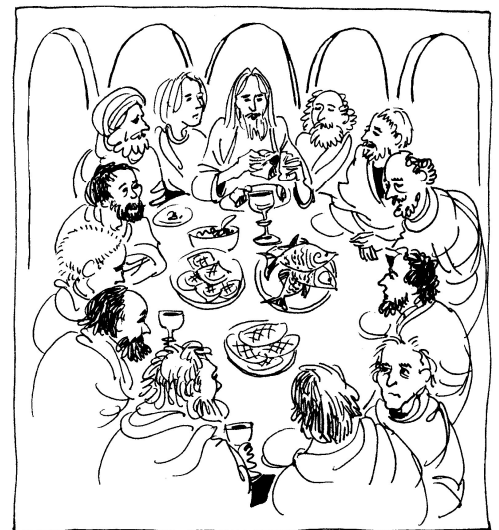
- 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True.
- 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed.
- 16, Participation. 17, War.
- 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead.
- 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

DOWN:

- 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract.
- 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude.
- 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's.
- 13, Blindness. 14, Deny.
- 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas.
- 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

With wonder I gazed on the beauty of the petals.
 Then I was drawn to the heart of the flower,
 to the seed-head, the promise of new life and hope.
 Recreating God, lead me from the peripheral
 to the heart of resurrection faith.
 Educate my sense of awe and mystery,
 transform my thinking,
 help me to wonder again on you.

Mike King, World Church Office, Amazing Grace
 Methodist Prayer Handbook 2006-2007



We would be glad to 'Pay as we Go', if only we could catch up 'Paying for where we have Been'.

God must work in you before God can work on you.

