



Issue 8 / 20 Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net October 20



Our Minister is:
Rev'd Audrey D Browne
 ☎: 01256 323103;
 email:
padbrowne@hotmail.com



'On Our Circuit Website', under 'Worship & Prayer', you will find many 'Worship Resources & Services' available as well as our weekly Circuit Services.

Our grateful thanks go to ALL the team for our excellent weekly 'Zoomed' Services.

<i>Inside this Issue</i>	
2 – 3	Pastoral Letter, Rev'd Audrey Browne
3	Trinity Re-opening
4	Church Contacts
5	Tree Prayer – A Sign of time
7	Coach Holiday
7	Hopes, Fears & Blessings Resource
8 – 9	Community Food Link Update, St Andrews
9	Trip to Cairns
10	Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy, Ian H
12	Update on Recycling
13	Freedom to Believe
14	WaterAid
14	Methodist Diaries 2021
15	Wednesday Coffee Mornings
16	Methodists Launch Year of Prayer
17	News from Methodist 'All We Can'
20, 21 & 22	A variety of Prayers
24 – 26	Puzzle Pages for all
28	Articles, Canon Paul Hardingham, P Pump

Trinity E-News Deadline for the November Issue is Wednesday 21 October

Our E-Newsletter is also on our Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website.

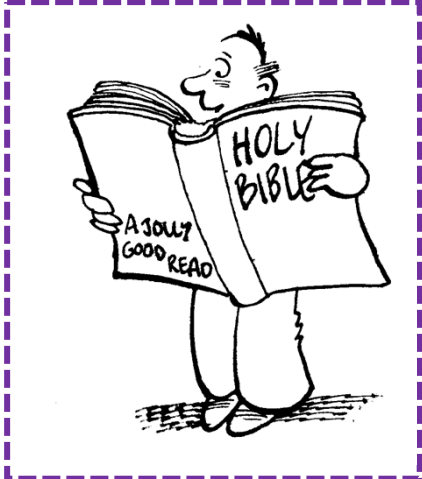
I really look forward to receiving your articles, so do please keep them coming. You can send them by email or post. Thankyou.

With best wishes, Hazel, Ed
 (☎ 01256-461375)

16B Portacre Rise, Basingstoke, RG21 1YQ. **My email is:**
hazel@basingstokecircuit.net

See page 4 for some useful:

- **Trinity Contacts**
- **Phone numbers**
- **Email addresses**



• When we are truly abandoned to God, He works through us all the time. *Oswald Chambers*

• God does not keep office hours. *A W Tozer*

October 2020

Dear Friends at Trinity,

Greetings! Some of you have been looking forward to the re-opening of the church building for Sunday morning service. In anticipation of this, the Circuit Resource Coordinator has circulated a Personal Risk Assessment tool. As Peter Frank explained, "the scoring mechanism is one that was developed by the British Medical Association, and it has been shared within the United Reformed Church with the commentary found in the pdf (A4) version of the tool. It has reached us from our URC colleagues." We want to share this with everyone at Trinity to aid you in your personal decision making. Some of you who would normally attend or fill a voluntary role at church may be considering, in the light of Covid-19, whether you should return to public worship. This tool may help you to reach a decision. Please be aware that it is not our church's intention to use this form, so please do not feel any obligation to share or to return the form. The Managing Trustees of churches have responsibility for ensuring buildings are Covid-secure, but it is for each individual in the congregation to take personal responsibility for whether or not they should attend worship in the light of their own vulnerability. If you decide to undertake a personal risk assessment, questions may arise about your suitability to fulfil a commitment or attend worship in the light of your risk score.

Should this be the case please do not hesitate to have a conversation with your minister Rev'd Audrey Browne (padbrowne@hotmail.com or 01256 323 103).

For those of you who have decided to return to public worship on Sunday mornings, you need to be aware that things will be very different. Congregational singing is not allowed and face coverings must be worn throughout the service, with the exception for those who are unable to wear face coverings for medical or other valid reasons. Social distancing must be maintained at all times, so we have blocked off every other pew and put distance markings on the floor in the other pews. We have

determined that the maximum number of people that can be in the building safely is 40. You are required, therefore, to register your intention to attend a service beforehand with our senior steward, Diane Bath (r_bath@sky.com). On arrival to church, you will be ushered to your seats, where you must remain throughout your time in the building (except in the case of an emergency or to use the toilet). At the end of the service, you will also be ushered out from your seats beginning from the back. We are not allowed to congregate in the reception area before or after the service; we must vacate the building when asked to do so after the service. Toilet facilities are limited, so please follow all instructions carefully when using the toilets. Everyone who enters the building must sign in, to enable us to facilitate NHS Track & Trace requirements. This is mandatory.

Returning to Sunday morning service in our church building will be very different, but it will be good to get back. We hope to reopen Trinity Church building for service from Sunday 4th October, 10:30am. The stewards will be ready to receive registered attendees from 10:15am. The length of the service will be between 30 and 40 minutes. For communion services, Trinity stewards have decided to use prepacked Communion. This eliminates the need to cut up bread into small pieces, and to pour grape juice into small wine glasses, and then having to find a way of distributing the elements safely. The prepacked communion will be distributed on arrival, please take it with you to your seats and keep it safe. This therefore will allow everyone to remain in their seats as we share together in Holy Communion. Only the individual receiving the elements will touch them thus allowing us to be better Covid-secure in our communion services. The current situation with COVID-19 may remain very fluid for the foreseeable future. Please cooperate with the stewards and follow their instructions

at all times.

The above are just some of the measures taken to ensure that everyone entering our building is Covid-secure and remains vigilant always. Let us all exercise generous flexibility as together we keep each other safe and our church building Covid-secure.

Finally, Psalm 4:8 has been a calm reassurance for me throughout these unsettling times: **“In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe.”** The Psalmist rests securely in God’s presence — in peace — without anxiety he trusted in God to keep him safe. Whenever you feel anxious and afraid, know that you can rest in God’s presence and trust God to calm every lurking fear.

Ever-loving GOD, when I feel afraid,
help me to trust in YOUR loving
presence to shield me,
for YOU are my protector and
my defender,
my safety, my security is in
YOU my GOD;
teach me how to build a home in
YOUR resting place,
show me the path to
YOUR loving embrace,
that my heart and my flesh may abide in
YOU always. **Amen**

Revd Audrey D Browne

Dear Friends

SOME GOOD NEWS!



Trinity is to re-open for Sunday Worship. We look forward to welcoming you to our first service on October 4th.

This will be a shortened service and commence at the usual time of 10.30 am.

Anne Rowe will be leading the service.

You will find changes as you return to the building, but it will be good to be back.

You will appreciate that in order to comply with Covid-19 safety guidelines we require that you register your intention to attend services each week.

It would be helpful if you could register by the preceding Thursday of the Sunday service you wish to attend.

Thanks.

To register: Please call me on ☎: 01256 320429 or email me at: dianeath51@gmail.com

If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact me

Looking forward to seeing you

Please stay safe and be blessed.

Diane, Senior Steward

Churches enjoy Zooming



Most churches who used digital channels during lockdown, in order to keep in touch with their congregations, found that their favourite platform was Zoom. A recent survey by Ecclesiastical found that Zoom was used by 78 per cent; Skype by 12 per cent, and other platforms, including WhatsApp, by eight per cent.

Nearly one third of churches who used digital channels have also reported an increased attendance at their virtual services. That has led to some 38 per cent of churches saying that they would continue to use digital channels, even now that churches are physically open again. (*Parish Pump*)

Useful Trinity Contacts, phone numbers & emails:

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

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

* * * * *

Bookings / Car Parking: Contact: Sue Doust –
 ☎ 01256 229456 / e-mail at: 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, the Charity number is: 1134891**

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**Trinity Methodist Church is a Registered Charity,
 the Charity number is 1128299**

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Church Meetings:

- Next Church Council Meeting is Thursday 8 October 2020

Memories !

In the last issue of Trinity E-News there was an insert about a meal of green peas and treacle. This made me smile as it brought back memories of my schooldays at an eminent Methodist school. We had our own version of one or two hymns and in particular, 'The Church is One Foundation' which went:

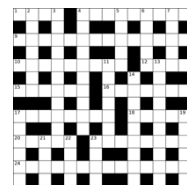
*'I eat my peas with honey,
 I've done so all my life
 I know it may sound funny,
 but it sticks them to my Knife!'*

Why – I have no idea – but we only sang it for one verse and not so loud that we risked getting sent to the Head's study!

Hazel Green

Selection of Crosswords from Michael Penny:

Christian Crosswords: A Selection of Crosswords for the family.
 Some easy.....some not so easy.



Go to www.obt.org.uk and click on 'Free Downloads'

Then click on 'Unpublished Booklets'. Scroll down; it is about the 6th or 7th item.

Please feel free to forward or share this information with others.

Note: Also on that page you will notice there are five free 'Christian Quizzes'.
 And on page 2 'Word Searches and Bible Puzzles'; there are nearly 100 of them.

Live Streamed Services, resources, and information: Please click on the 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 and Texts: If anyone would like 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/>

A sign of time

I stand and stare, what do I see?
 The remnants of a life well lived,
 You once stood proud and tall and full of life.
 Providing shelter and food for mammals and birds.
 A place for children through the generations,
 to play, explore and climb.
 Though time has taken its toll on you,
 you still have beauty,
 You show the scars of days gone by,
 but still provide a home for many a creature.
 You stand as a symbol to remind me.
 That you Lord are the maker of all things,
 and though my youth has passed,
 You remind me I still have a wealth of knowledge
 from many a season on earth.
 To share with others,
 Words of wisdom, hope, encouragement
 and cheer.
 Remind me that in giving I may also receive.
 Like this tree I may show sign of wear and
 scars from my journey,
 But there is still a purpose for me to pursue.
 Show me Lord, where you have need of me?



by Jennifer Pitt

Wesley's Childhood

Samuel and Susannah Wesley raised their many children in a home where faith, discipline and concern for justice went hand in hand.

Methodist Prayer Handbooks:

The Circuit have spare Prayer Handbooks for anyone to purchase, at £4.05p each.
 If anyone would like one, contact Marion or Lee at:
 Marion Young: marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk (Circuit Office – f 📞: 01189 581505)
 and Lee Frost: lee@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Children's talks with Revd Dr James Mather and Thwaites the dog:

James has been making videos of children's talks made with his dog, Thwaite, who takes some of the main parts. These are available via James YouTube channel, "**Children's Talks with Thwaite**". They are free to use for churches, and if you think people might like to use them, please let them know about them.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeWW5LUcYwcnzJP8M_ZP6EA/

James is adding more all the time.
(taken from the Circuit Notices)





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.

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-operative Food Old Basing; Londis Sherfield on Loddon; Co-operative Food Rooksdown; Waitrose Basing View; Asda Brighton Hill and Lidl Worting Road.

Basingstoke Foodbank update:

VIVID Housing have made available part of their building on Houndmills for six months, so the whole operation has been moved there for the moment. The address is: 63-64 Tempus Business Centre, Kingsclere Road, Houndmills, RG21 6XG (behind Vivid’s Main Basingstoke Office). At this time there is no process in place for the transfer of donations from Trinity to the new site, so please do not leave donations at Trinity. In time we expect to arrange for small donations to be taken to the new site, but not yet.) Thanks,

Tony P



At present, (as at 22.09.20) the Foodbank is particularly short of: (taken from their website:

- Savoury Spreads
- Fruit Juice
- Powdered Milk
- Rice Pudding
- Desserts
- Custard
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tinned Fruit
- Mash

Including:

- Fresh Veg
- Bread
- Eggs

The Foodbank has plenty of:

- Baked Beans
- Biscuits
- Rice
- Pasta
- Soup
- Tinned Fish
- Tea, Fruit Teas
- Kidney Beans and other Tins of Pulses
- Toilet Rolls

Why singing in church is the same as shouting at the pub



How dangerous is it to sing in church, when it comes to spreading coronavirus? About the same as it is to speak loudly in a pub. So say researchers at the University of Bristol. They have found that speaking loudly and singing generate about the same amounts of aerosol droplet – tiny particles of liquid – which are thought to carry Covid-19. Of course, the louder you sing or speak, the more the aerosol droplets.

Petersfield Methodist Church & other Churches in Hampshire & further afield Coach Holiday to Lincolnshire

For the past 12 years Gordon Churchill has organized a holiday staying at various hotels run by Christian Guild, welcoming “regulars” back year after year and also new friends. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the holiday planned for 2020 was cancelled. Christian Guild have decided not to reopen their hotels in Derbyshire and Devonshire. This means the only Guild hotel left in operation will be Treloyhan Manor in St Ives but it does not have sufficient single rooms for our coach party.

Many of you will know of **Angela Holidays**, a family run coach company based near Southampton. Following a request from Gordon, their Groups Manager has planned a holiday based at The Old Barn Hotel, Grantham, from **Saturday 3rd to Saturday 10th July 2021** on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis for £615 pp sharing a double or twin bedroom. **This includes** daily coach excursions and guided tours, except for the visit to Waltham Windmill. Unfortunately the allocation of single rooms has already been taken but there are plenty of double and twin rooms. The coach will pick up at:

Fareham, Petersfield, Liss, Alton and Basingstoke Station

The daily visits include the following:

- Sunday morning free in Lincoln
- Then a Sunday afternoon guided visit of the Cathedral
- During the week we visit the Lincolnshire Aviation Museum
- Barnsdale Gardens
- A Cruise on Rutland Water
- Guided tour of Doddington Hall & Gardens
- Through The Fens to Stamford & Burghley House
- And finally Waltham Windmill



For further information please contact:

Gordon on ☎: 01730 260454

or by email at: gordonachurchill@gmail.com



Hopes, Fears and Blessings Journeying Through Times of Challenge and Moving On



The Circuit Prayer Group is looking for contributions to a Booklet that arises out of our experiences in 2020. We are hoping that individuals will contribute pictures, poems, prayers or stories & reflections.

These may grow out of what we have learnt about God and ourselves this year. They may be blessings that have got us through. Even Lament is a powerful encourager to those that are struggling because it helps them feel less alone. They could be things that have given us hope and continue to do so.

We are hoping to publish this online, with some limited physical copies also available, in Advent, so we would be grateful if you could send anything you come up with to **Gill Lawson by 15 October 2020**. Her email is gillmlawson@icloud.com

The Community Food Link Summer Project: Update from the St Andrew's Base



Report from: Yvonne Hunt Children's Family & Young People's Outreach worker for Basingstoke Methodist Churches.

From a few weeks into the national lockdown, I started working with the Community Food Link (CFL), a charity based at the URC Church in London Street. The CFL is an ecumenical project.

The Aim of the CFL is to collect good quality waste food from the local supermarkets and distribute it out to people in need.

During Lockdown the CFL was sending food into the local schools, nursery and the Basingstoke Food Bank for them to distribute out to their families. This grew from feeding 315 people to feeding over 900 and continues to grow each week,

As the schools closed for the summer holidays the CFL looked to the local Churches near the schools to take on the role of distributing food, the requirements being:

- Having a food hygiene rating
- Having a few volunteers to take the food from CFL and hand out
- Having a space to layout food for families to collect

For the last six weeks this is what has been happening at St Andrew's.

At 12:30 pm every Thursday CFL deliver the food to St Andrew's. The food is then laid out on tables in front of the church and from 1 pm until 3 pm the local community can come and collect the food. Over the six-week period we have seen an average of 12 families each week with 5 of the families being weekly visitors. Many of these families are stopping to chat more and more. We have also had people drop off food for others and thanking the church for helping.

Moving Forwards:

CFL is now starting to plan for the Autumn term. They will start talking to the local schools as they open up. However, the early signs have been that the schools want and need the food for their families but due to the corona virus requirements they may not have the space or staffing to offer the food as they did at the beginning of lockdown. So again, the CFL is looking to the local churches for their assistance.

So, I would like to ask St Andrew's to continue the food distribution that we have started so we can let the local schools know that we are there to support them and their families.

What would be required:

I would like to use the porch area and to place two or three little tables in this area near the door, with food on them so that families can come and take what they need. It would also be great to have a small fridge so we can offer chilled food as well, (like the community fridge projects used in other areas of the country).

Please note: This would not affect access to the church as it would be to the right as you walk through the front doors.

cont'd.....

cont'd.....

The CFL would do the collecting and sorting of the food, then just drop the food to St Andrew's on the days agreed with St Andrew's. Vikki has been involved with this project and has offered to look after the tables even when the Mug and Biscuit re-opens.

There will be limited cost to the church – the only possible cost would be the purchase of a fridge and the electricity to run the fridge.

As Matthew tells us in chapter 25 verse 23

³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

Working with CFL would be an amazingly simple community outreach for St Andrews, serving the local community by offering food and inviting them in, showing them the love of God.

Thank you for your support over the summer. CFL would like to ask for your prayers as they reach out to the local churches to help them in supporting and expanding this critical work.

God Bless

Yvonne

A Trip to Cairns

One time when we visited Australia we wanted to see the Great Barrier Reef and the Aboriginal village in the mountains so we flew into Cairns.

What a beautiful place. We checked into our hotel, we had pre-booked a trip to the Reef going out by boat and going on semi-submersible to see the Reef – Wow what an experience, beauty beyond belief. I also snorkled with fish all around me – God's gifts are amazing.

We had also booked a helicopter flight back to land and as we were the only ones on board the pilot flew farther out over the Reef showing us giant rays, sharks and manatee turtles and the expanse of the Reef.

What we didn't expect – he flew us down the coast to our hotel landing on the beach Wow how the other half live. Great day.

Our 2nd day was by train into the mountains to the Aboriginal village where we saw many aspects of their life and a show about the dream time which is close to some of our bible stories.

We tried spear and boomerang throwing, ha ha we were not good. What I haven't told my hubby was – that journey down was by sky rail – he doesn't like heights. It was an amazing experience.

Well that's our Cairns trip. **Jenny Leighton**



The World to Christ we Bring

Once upon a time we used to sing the hymn

***“Christ for the world we sing
the world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal”*** (MHB 805)

Nowadays churches – ourselves included – tend to expect the world to come to us. Not too many Methodists follow Mr Wesley’s pattern of preaching to people where they are.

In Basingstoke one organisation that tries to do this – albeit in quite a quiet way – is the Town Chaplaincy. Started around 10 years ago, our chaplains – just ordinary folk like you and me – talk to people where they are. About anything. There is a backdrop of seeking to present the Christian faith in terms of the issues that people are facing, but definitely not in any sort of pushy way.



Chaplains can be found in the town centre area, the bus station, the magistrates’ courts, the Police Investigation Centre at Viables and at BCoT. Tessa Bennett was visiting the law courts – simply talking to people about the issues and problems they face, offering help and guidance through relevant organisations and generally being a “listening ear”. She has recently completed her training to join the team at PIC.

I’m one of the Trustees of the Chaplaincy, having had my arm twisted by Marlene Skuce just before they left. My colleagues and I simply ensure that the Chaplaincy has the resources it needs – human and material – to continue its work.

At the moment the Methodist input is not great: just Tessa and me. We could do with more people, both as Chaplains and Trustees. Needless to say it’s voluntary but people find enormous satisfaction in simply helping ordinary folk in the town to get over issues and at the same time understand a bit about what makes Christians tick.

You can find out more about us from our website:

www.basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk

or from Tessa or me (ian.b.harrison@btinternet.com or ☎: 01256 326081). We will be delighted to hear from you!

Ian Harrison

‘The Upper Room’ Writing Competition 2020

Calling all aspiring Christian writers! The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) is offering aspiring writers the opportunity to see their work in print in ‘The Upper Room’. Published in 35 languages, ‘The Upper Room’ is unique in that its readers are its writers. After the success of the 2017 competition, this is another chance to write for the publication. **Go to:**

brfonline.org.uk/urwritingcompetition for full details on how to enter and tips to get you started. *More details from:* eley.mcaish@brf.org.uk or iris.jenkins@brf.org.uk (Parish Pump)



Some Lovely words taken from a Baptist Hymn Book (from Pat Murphy)

As helpless as a child who clings fast to his father's arm.

And casts his weakness on the strength that keeps him safe from harm.

So I, my father, cling to Thee and thus I every hour would link my earthly feebleness to Thine almighty power.

As trustful as a child who looks up to his mother's face and all his little griefs and fears forgets in her embrace.

So I cling to Thee my Saviour, look and in Thy face divine, can read the love that will sustain a weak faith as mine

As loving as a child who sits close by his parent's knee.

And knows no want, while he can have that sweet society.

So sitting at Thy feet my heart would all its love outpour and pray that Thou wouldst teach me Lord to love Thee more and more.

* * * * *

Two Poems by Pat Murphy

Oh Father, have your way in me.

That is all, my prayer shall be.

Completely surrounded and open to you.

Walking each step, as you would have me do.

Totally yours for all my life.

Whether in quiet times or in strife,

All that matters is I am yours and you are mine.

Living completely attached to the vine.

* * * * *

Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe in His tender care.

I know whatever happens, He will always be there.

He has made this promise, personally to me.

And now I can be free from fear and worry.

His love surrounds me and holds me tight.

And I know with Him, everything will be alright.

* * * * *

Honey, Honey!



If your grannie gave you honey when you had a cold, she was right.

Research published in The British Medical Journal has found that honey is especially good for treating upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) such as the common cold.

Honey has anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties. These do better at soothing your cough and sniffles than any of the over-the-counter remedies. In fact, URTI sufferers who were given honey suffered their symptoms for up to two days LESS than those who did not use honey.

All good news, especially as honey is cheap, readily available, and has virtually no side effects.

Parish Pump

* * * * *

Primitive Methodism

In the early 19th century, there was a split between those who favoured open air evangelism and those who were by now more institutional.

Societies and Classes

The regular and intense small group was a key feature of Methodism's growth.

* * * * *

Update on Recycling

On the Sunday just prior to lockdown I emptied the recycling bin which was full to overflowing. It would seem I need not have worried as for the next few weeks hardly anything was put in the bin. TerraCycle said they were still receiving waste so I made sure we were listed as still being open as a recycling location. Then as people started going out more so the bin began to fill again. With the return of the playgroup the recycling increased considerably.

Just over a year ago I was contacted by someone in Hook who asked about recycling as their site in Hook had stopped collecting. They have been contributing regularly ever since. Recently they sent me a text to ask if we were still collecting in lockdown as they had quite a lot saved. I said we were still in business but to let me know when they were likely to drop off the recycling so I could schedule my pick up to coincide. Four days later I had another text. 'I've just put 800 crisp packets in your recycling bin. Not much room left now!' Wow! Fortunately, I was just down the road at Tom & Rhona's. Sure enough, the lid was just resting on bag after bag of crisp wrappers. Apart from a few loose wrappers at the bottom of the bin, they were all from my Hook collector. Beautifully flat-packed too, so very quick and easy to check and sort.

Sometimes it can take quite a while to sort through the recycling especially when the packets are screwed up. So, if the bin holds at least 800 wrappers, in 'normal times' it is full usually at least once a week and we've been collecting for No! I'm not going to do that calculation! Suffice it to say we have collected a shed load of wrappers and more! And despite lockdown people are still making the effort to recycle with us.

So, to all my contributors, many thanks and keep collecting. Crisps, biscuits – sweet and savoury, and cake wrappers, baby food pouches, flexible packaging from dishwasher tablets and laundry capsules, tinted fabric conditioner bottles and caps, tinted rigid tubs used for home cleaning, plastic air freshener containers, cartridge caps and car air fresheners and packaging from wipes used for home cleaning like Flash or anti-bacterial wipes. (Must be plenty of those around at the moment!)

If you are unable to drop off your recycling at Trinity, then I am happy to collect. Just give me a call. (☎: 07776 442529).

Hazel G



The Holy Club

At Oxford, John and Charles were part of a group of friends who met regularly to pray, study the Bible and encourage good works.

A storm at sea

Travelling to America, the brothers were much affected by the faith of a group of Moravians during a dangerous storm.

Freedom to Believe and Express Our Faith

The UK prides itself on its freedom of speech, and the freedom to practice religious expression, even when different from our own. We are a Christian country and our monarch is “Defender of The Faith”. We are perhaps unique in having the well-known Speakers Corner in Hyde Park where individuals can freely express, defend, and debate their various views without fear of persecution. This has long been the case, and was finally enshrined in an Act of Parliament in 1872. Anyone can turn up unannounced to speak on any subject so long as the police consider their speeches lawful.

This freedom was sadly eroded one Sunday in mid-September 2020 when Christian apologist Hatun Tash, well known at Speakers Corner, was continually verbally abused by a hostile Muslim crowd. For her personal safety, and not for what she was debating, she was escorted by police officers from Speakers Corner (see YouTube video footage available online).

Hatun was debating the claim made in the Quran that the coming of the Islamic Prophet Mohamed was foretold in the Bible. This is a false claim, and Muslims have been invited over the years to defend their position, or admit that it is not true. The standard response is that “The Bible has been corrupted”. Influential Muslim academics however have accepted that there are “holes” in the Quran, given that some 30 different Arabic Quran translations have now been identified throughout Islam. This point was not lost in the debate. Also Hatun displayed a number of Charly Hebdo cartoons, now republished, displaying some of the more unacceptable, hate filled and disgusting sides of Mohamed’s life, complete with references clearly identified to authentic Islamic narratives.

These truths displayed openly in public naturally are very upsetting to Muslims, many hearing them for the first time, resulting at the end of the day at Speakers Corner in anger, hate, abuse and near violence directed at Hatun from a group of some 60 Muslims, who had no other response available to them. In an Islamic majority country these truths of course would never have made it to public debate, and be unknown to the majority. The police action in protecting Hatun was exemplary, but it was noted that no action appeared to have been taken against the abusing mob.

We need to reflect on this serious erosion of our freedom to practice, express and defend our Christian faith and beliefs in public in our democratic country, and not allow ourselves to be intimidated. Hatun I know will be back again at Speakers Corner with her usual unstoppable enthusiasm making her case for Christ.

***Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.***

(Matthew 5:10-12)

Martin Frost (St Andrews), September 2020

Daniel Charles, Special Projects Manager, WaterAid, talks about new technology being used to bring Water to Communities

I've received some queries from **WaterAid** supporters recently, wanting to know more about the smart water meter technology that I mentioned we're starting to use in Timor Leste, to help communities adapt to changing weather patterns.

I thought this might be something people may be interested to learn more about. We discussed why the mountainous area where we're working in Timor Leste is so particularly vulnerable to changes in rainfall, and how smart meters are helping to address this by putting the power to manage scarce water resources in the hands of the community themselves – as well as what's next.

It's thanks to the support we receive that we're able to pioneer this kind of technology so that in communities like Vatovou, where Felisberta and her neighbours face an increasingly challenging walk for water in an environment becoming ever more harsh and uncertain, we don't have to compromise on quick fixes that may not deliver in the long term. The joy of clean water must be for everyone for always, not just for some and not just for today. Our thanks to everyone for making this work possible.

This is just the beginning of a new way to help communities facing similar challenges in other countries, so I'm thrilled to hear that people are as excited about it as we are. It's having partners like Smilie and supporters like you empowering the communities we work with that makes the **WaterAid** community so special.

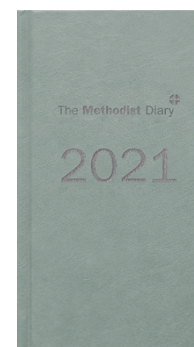
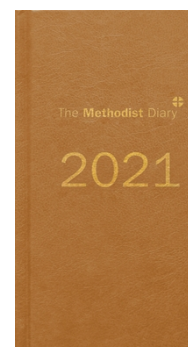


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The Methodist Diary 2021

The Methodist Diary connects Christians across the world with the Prayer Handbook 31-day prayer cycle. It also includes a list of Special Sundays and the list of lectionary readings for 2021.

Standard and Extended diaries available in two colours – Mint and Mustard. Personal Organiser inserts also available. All start from September 2020 and include maps and notes pages.



Email: publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk

Web: www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

Social justice

The Wesleys encouraged practical care and reform in many areas of social justice.

Wednesday Coffee Morning – from Angela Smith

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who have supported the Wednesday coffee mornings over the past 10 years, since these have been held in the Trinity Lounge (after moving from Room 2).

Thank you to all the ladies who have helped via the weekly rota, and to Nobby and Tom who helped create the 'Kitchen in a cupboard' in the Lounge, to Joyce and Rhona who supported them both, benefiting both the coffee morning and lots of other groups who have used the Lounge for meetings and been able to have refreshments there!

The weekly coffee mornings have welcomed new friends coming to us from Food Bank, as well as church neighbours from the surrounding local area and church friends and family travelling from both local and far flung places! All of whom have helped these regular morning events to raise valuable funds to support other charities over the years.

With the current Covid-19 restrictions, no-one is really sure what format our church life is going to take into the future, including whether we will be able to return to holding coffee mornings or other meetings where friends meet in close proximity, so perhaps we have to take this opportunity to reimagine how to be 'Church' in other ways.

We wish to express our best wishes and blessings to everyone, please stay safe and well!

Angela, Janet and Heather



Helping Christians in Beirut after the explosion

The charity Barnabas Fund has thanked its supporters for their generous response to an emergency appeal that followed the disastrous explosion at the port in Lebanon on 4 August. **It meant that Barnabas Fund was able to send more than £85,000 to help Christians in Beirut with food and the repair of their homes.** As a spokesman for Barnabas Fund explains: "All those being assisted were already very poor and vulnerable, even before the explosion. Some of those we are helping are Muslim-background believers from nearby countries, who cannot receive other aid because coming forward would reveal the fact that they were converts from Islam, thus endangering themselves." Four of the five neighbourhoods worst affected are predominantly Christian. Help is still very much needed.

If you would like to give, a monthly food parcel costs £27, or to help repair a home costs £380. Visit <https://barnabasfund.org> (Parish Pump)

Free national Phonenumber bringing Worship and Prayer

Government figures show that 2.5 million people aged 75 and above have never used the internet. And so, to help them, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby recently launched a free national phonenumber to bring worship and prayer into the homes of those without access to the internet.



Daily Hope, which is available 24 hours a day on ☎: 0800 804 8044 – offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England. [Click to find out more.](#)

Beautiful Words

Whenever I'm tempted to feel gloomy about the human race, it's strange how often I come across something which restores all my hope.

One such is the account of Horatio and Anna Spafford.

Living in 19th Century America, they were a devout Christian couple, parents of five, and active in the abolitionist movement. Tragedy struck when their only son died, aged four, of scarlet fever. Then their finances were severely struck by the Great Chicago Fire, but a far greater heartbreak awaited when their four remaining children were drowned in a shipwreck.

Despite the devastation, their Christian trust stayed sure, and on a later voyage, sailing close to the site of the disaster, Horatio wrote a hymn, "it is Well with my Soul", that has brought comfort to a great many other sad hearts:

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Beautiful words from a man whose faith must inspire us all.

Sent in by Bill Jeram

Methodists Launch Year of Prayer

The Methodist Church has launched a Year of Prayer online to help bring more people to faith.

The short weekly online service takes place each Tuesday lunchtime, at 12.45 pm via Zoom, and is also live-streamed via Facebook. It will be led by people from across the Church.

Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church, explains:

"This Year of Prayer is a special time, a called-out time, for the whole Church. The world can feel like it's falling apart – not only due to COVID, but also due to systemic injustice, racism, to climate change, to political instability. And if we as the Church are going to respond in any meaningful way, we need more than ever to pray, we need to call upon God for healing and renewal and wisdom."

The Year of Prayer is considered an important step in the new strategy adopted by the Methodist Conference to be an inclusive, evangelistic, growing, justice-seeking Church. It wants to focus resources on helping people explore faith, in starting hundreds of new churches, and in serving communities experiencing marginalization.



- 175 years ago, on 12 October 1845 Elizabeth Fry, died. This prison reformer and philanthropist was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.
- 100 years ago, on 7 October 1920 Oxford University allowed women to become full members and study for full degrees for the first time, and the first 100 women were admitted.

News from 'All We Can' (September 20)

(previously Methodist Relief & Development Fund)

Hurricane Dorian – one year on:

One year ago, on 1 September 2019, Hurricane Dorian reached peak intensity over the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas – causing mass devastation, loss of life, and destroying homes and businesses across the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama. It was the most intense tropical cyclone on record to ever strike the Bahamas, leaving 70 dead and a further 282 missing.



Thanks to your generosity, emergency support was able to reach those who needed it most. **All We Can**, together with the **Methodist Church in Britain** launched an emergency response which helped the most vulnerable access vital food supplies, and establish safe water points for communities after many were contaminated by floodwater. In recent months, this response has also helped more than 500 households evacuated on to neighbouring islands in the Bahamas, in addition to those who have returned to their communities, through the provision of food and toiletries support, short-term rental assistance and hurricane preparedness kits as they seek to rebuild their lives. Below, we hear from three people who were supported through the Emergency Bahamas Hurricane Appeal.

'I have never experienced a storm like that before and hope never to experience one like it ever again.' Eric has lived in Grand Bahama for most of his life. When the hurricane struck, he decided to ride the storm out in his home. He watched in terror as the flood waters entered his home, and climbed on tables and chairs to save his life as the water reached above his bed. Thanks to your support, Eric was able to receive emergency groceries in the wake of the hurricane as his own fridge and store cupboards were destroyed. **'Words cannot express how much I appreciate all that I have received. I feel blessed, and pray God's continued blessing upon you.'** – Eric

Spurgeon was Postmaster General in Grand Bahama for many years, until his retirement. When he heard news of Hurricane Dorian, he sought shelter – but they had already flooded. He took refuge in a church, and watched in horror as waters rose steadily higher. When the storm had passed, he returned home to find his house and possessions damaged or destroyed. He is currently living with a relative until his home can be repaired. Through this difficult time, the emergency food provided through your generosity has been a lifeline. **'The food that has been provided continuously over the last several months made life much easier for me.'** – Spurgeon

When the Hurricane threatened to strike Samdaye's home in Abaco, she knew she had to protect her three children. As houses on her street became seriously damaged, she decided to flee to her local library – but found it overcrowded. Thankfully, she was able to be evacuated via aeroplane to a neighbouring island. Life remains difficult for Samdaye – her son has lost his job following the hurricane, and she is unable to return to her home in Abaco. Despite this, Samdaye remains thankful for the support she received in the form of emergency food supplies in the months following the hurricane. **'God has truly made a way out of no way, and I am trusting Him to provide'** – Samdaye

Thank you for being there when communities needed you most. Please continue to hold communities in the Bahamas in your prayers, as they continue to walk the long road to recovery following Hurricane Dorian.

With thanks to the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas for the images of Eric, Spurgeon and Samdaye.

A Radical Rural Choice

(this article is taken from an issue of The Connexion Magazine)

The Revd Shalome MacNeill Cooper tells how seven small congregations in the Shropshire and Marches Circuit have made difficult choices to follow God

Choices can be big or small. Some may have little effect and others result in real change in the world. John Wesley was faced with a difficult choice in his early ministry: whether to stay in the American colonies or return to Great Britain. He stated there was “no other way of knowing God’s will but by consulting [one’s] own reason and [one’s] friends, and by observing the order of God’s providence.”¹ Like Wesley, we also face difficulties. So how do communities of faith make choices? And how do we know if the choices we make are our own or belong to the Holy Spirit? Responsible choices usually stem from asking difficult questions. Occasionally the answers may be uncomfortable truths, which bear their own solutions, if only we have the ability to perceive them.

More buildings than congregations:

In the area where I minister in beautiful Shropshire, we have eight chapels but only seven congregations. One of our chapels does not have a congregation but it is a wonderful building. We decided the time had come to address some difficult questions about our chapels. Like other faith communities in the country, our membership is in decline. We have been waiting in hope for the seeds that were planted yesterday to bear fruit today, but over a two-year period we also asked ourselves what would indicate a chapel was no longer sustainable, and what would God want us to do if so? Would the signal to change be a lack of finances, declining membership or the loss of a key player in God’s story in our communities?

Answering these questions was difficult but in the spirit of *Acts 2:44*, “*All who believed were together and had all things in common*”, on 15 July 2019 we voted to merge all seven congregations into one society; and on 1 September 2019 we amalgamated to become Rea Valley Methodist Churches. It has one church council, one bank account, one membership list / community roll and eight worship locations.

Whilst this was a big decision, it was based on previous smaller, discerning choices. We believe that Jesus’ vulnerability was his great strength, and so we too should embrace our own vulnerability. Our eight chapels chose to be vulnerable to each other – and this is an ongoing choice we make at every worship service, church council or gathering.

Our decisions were also based on hope rather than fear, because Scripture tells us, “Do not be afraid”. Decisions based on fear tend to reflect our own thoughts and wishes, rather than God’s desiring.

Clustering together:

As creatures of habit, it is easy to do the same things and wonder why outcomes do not change. We knew we needed to be innovative whilst maintaining local priorities; to move past seeing success merely as numbers and more as God-in-relationships.

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And while it is usual to say “The Church of God has a mission”, it is better theologically to affirm that “The God of mission has a Church.” So we chose to see *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church* as a connexional permission-giving pathway for mission. We decided to cluster together and organise travel to different chapels for worship services. We also have a ‘cluster’ service every three months in our building that does not have a congregation. Coming together in this way has fostered better relationships, helped the chapel coffers, and made worship more vibrant with congregations of twenty worshippers rather than four. We also decided to make relationships a priority and shift our focus from fundraising to a spirit of tithing resources of money, talent and time. We agreed that sharing resources should not be seen as ‘richer’ churches saving ‘poorer’ ones from closure, but as a group endeavour. It has allowed our network of chapels – each unique to its own context – to offer expressions of faith across the locality we serve.

This may seem a very rosy outcome but it was not an easy one: the choices have been difficult. There were passionate objections and reluctant agreements, sleepless nights and all-consuming prayer; we have struggled to make hope-based decisions and quell fears. But, our choices were made together and we have grown closer. It is still early days and we will continue to explore and question, wrestle and discern, answer and make choices, in Wesley’s words “observing the order of God’s providence”, one choice at a time.

¹ From a recollection written in a letter of 1 May 1736 by Benjamin Ingham from Georgia, North America. Ingham is recounting a conversation in London with John and Charles Wesley and a Mr Salmon, who explained to him how they came to decide to leave England for the American colonies. Ingham made reference to being called of God, and this was their reply.

Source: Heitzenrater, Richard P., *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, 2nd edition, p65.

Written by Revd Shalome MacNeill Cooper from *the connexion*, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, www.methodist.org.uk

To receive a free copy, visit www.bit.ly/the-connexion

What’s in the Bible (for me)? – 50 Readings and Reflections by Lucy Moore, BRF, £4.99



Lucy Moore’s pocket-sized guide to the Bible takes readers on an epic journey through 4,000 years of history. Spanning Old and New Testaments from Genesis to Revelation in 50 bite-sized readings, the founder and leader of Messy Church writes for families and individuals who are new to the Bible: its riches, puzzles and complexities. Taking a single theme, she explores ‘the big journey’ of God’s people in order to help the reader to better understand their own journey. She explains the different kinds of writing within the Bible and the different perspectives of the writers. For anyone who wonders where to start reading the Bible, this is the perfect introduction and companion. It will, writes Lucy, ‘fit in your bag or pocket, so it can go with you to the place where you have time to read it – on the bus or train, in the cafe or playground or on your lunch break. Scribble on it; wave it at your local minister or Christian friend and make them answer your questions or listen to your theories. Safe travels!’ (*book review from Parish Pump*)

Need for Healing

Heavenly Father, we bring to you all those struggling with their mental health just now.

We pray: for everyone who is smiling, when inside they're in pain.
For everyone who is saying they're fine, when inside they feel drained and empty.

For everyone struggling with fear and worry as the easing of the lockdown brings new anxieties.

Be with them in their suffering, as so much of their world has been stripped back and emptied.

When loved family & friends have been taken by illness, or made distant by lockdown.

Pour your healing balm into their pain and sadness.

May you walk with them besides still waters

May you speak to them in a still small voice.

May you heal them, and fill them, and bless them with your abundant love and fullness of life.

And may they know that they are loved by you for the beautiful unique person that they are, created in the image of their heavenly creator and loving Lord.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, Church of England Priest in St Albans, Herts,

Use your old clothes to help others in poverty




Lockdown drove many of us to do a Spring clear-out of our wardrobes. But what do you do now with the old clothes you no longer want? Charity shops may be closed for the time being, but there's still a way to donate your old items and support your favourite charities. Just go online and visit **Thrift+**.

It is an online store where you can buy and donate great quality second-hand clothes. And you get to choose which cause to support when you make a donation. While lockdown measures are in place, they've introduced a doorstep collection service, so you don't need to leave your home to support life-transforming charities.

Parish Pump

Through the Year with the Pilgrim Fathers – 365 daily readings by Stephen Poxon, Lion Hudson, £12.99

The year 2020 witnesses the 400th anniversary of the voyage made by the Pilgrim Fathers,  who sailed from England to America on board the Mayflower. This epic excursion signalled one of the most significant episodes in Christian history, making as it did an enormous impact on the trajectory of Christianity in the USA.

Through the Year with the Pilgrim Fathers is a commemorative edition featuring excerpts relating to that event. It is a story of faith, adventure and courage. Each excerpt is married to a verse of Scripture and a prayer, providing 365 daily readings telling the story of great exploits in God's service.

(Book Review from Parish Pump)

Nigel Beeton writes: 'Followers of the Morning Prayer service on the Church of England website will be aware that we have recently been following the book of Judges. Some of the stories in there make difficult reading in these enlightened times - what, for example, can we possibly learn from the near-total destruction of a city and its inhabitants? Except that, sometimes, our own problems and challenges seem to be just as insurmountable as those city walls.'

Jericho

Jericho had mighty walls - a well-defended fort,
'a year long siege before it falls', or so the soldiers thought.

The gates, of solid oaken wood were closed and barred so tight,
no-one went in for no-one could, and Joshua took fright!

But then he did what wise men do and fell down on his knees
and sought the Lord, in answer who then uttered words like these:

"the city's yours - it's troops and king I'll place them in your hand
if you'll just do this simple thing - and do as I have planned."

"for just six days you all must walk around those walls so strong,
the priests and troops, but do not talk - and bring the ark along!"

"on day seven - seven times around those mighty walls you go
and shout this time - make lots of sound! And seven trumpets blow!"

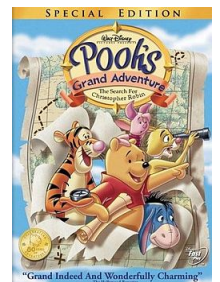
"And you will see, if you do that the city's walls, so tall
will start to crack, and fall down flat and Jericho shall fall!"

The people did as God had said (it is the only way)
and we must follow where they led and really learn to pray! (Parish Pump)

For those of us who loved Winnie-the-Pooh, Whatever happened to Christopher Robin?

Just over one hundred years ago on 21 August 1920, Christopher Robin Milne was born. He was the only son of the author A A Milne and appeared as a character in his father's Winnie-the-Pooh stories and verses – a role he enjoyed at first but later found difficult to handle. The characters in Winnie the Pooh were based on his own soft toys or items purchased later. The setting was inspired by Ashdown Forest in East Sussex: his family owned nearby Cotchford Farm and spent weekends and holidays there. His relationship with his nanny, Olive 'Nou' Brockwell, was close and continued into adult life, but when he went to boarding school near Guildford in 1930 he was bullied because his father's work was well known: one poem, *Vespers*, brought him "toe-curling, fist-clenching, lip-biting embarrassment".

He married a cousin, Lesley de Sélincourt, in 1948 and opened a bookshop in Dartmouth. He was close to his father but not to his mother, Daphne, who did not see him during the last 15 years of her life. Milne had one child, Clare, who had cerebral palsy. He himself had myasthenia gravis in his later years and died in 1996; he was described by one newspaper as a 'dedicated atheist'. **Tim Lenton** (Parish Pump)



Fruit of the Spirit (*Gal 5:22,23, Ps 34:8*)

Opportunities

To ripen your fruit in our lives, Lord, give us opportunities.

To grow in your Spirit, know your warmth and your light,
allow the segments of self-control, gentleness, faithfulness, goodness, kindness,
patience, peace and joy to be lubricated and sweetened by love,
showing the world Your nature transforming our natures,
in the fruit bowl of our lives in Jesus.

Lord give opportunities for the hungry to taste Your ripening fruit in us,
see that you are good and come to you. *Daphne Kitching, Parish Pump*

* * * * *

Ode to Job

What mysteries this book unfurls of a God who works His grand design
As a curtain is drawn in the heavenly realm and plans are unveiled for all mankind.

Who can fathom His intricate workings and the purposes that He has planned,
Or know the moving of His ways, how could Job ever understand?

They came from afar to offer advice why all of this pain and woe should descend,
They wrestled with all that had happened to Job alas,
no comfort could they give their friend.

God speaks to Job, who then makes reply,
'These are things too wonderful to understand'

Our knowledge like Job's is only in part
The bigger picture is held in deity's hands. *Megan Carter, Parish Pump*

* * * * *

A Helping Hand

There is much we can do just to brighten this world of all take and no give,
There's a great deal that we can contribute through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours or through lending a hand in some way
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers to someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours in the service of those most in need
It's all about setting a standard and trying to give others a lead.

It's the way that we tend to treat others and help and aid folks in distress
In the care and assistance we offer that will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple the rewards plain for all men to see
As you did all of this to my brother then said Jesus, you did it to me.

Colin Hammacott worked for the NHS, Parish Pump

Noah and the Ark – 2020 Version



In the year 2020, Noah was living in England when the Lord came unto him and said, "Once again, the earth has become too wicked to continue. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing. You have six months before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his garden, but no Ark. "Noah", He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me Lord", begged Noah "but things have been difficult. I needed Building Regulations approval because the Ark was over 30 square metres. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

"The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep and the inside of the Ark wasn't fully accessible. Getting the wood has been another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to preserve the Spotted Owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls – but no go!

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me for intending to confine wild animals without the proper paperwork. The County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority have ruled that I can't build the Ark until they've conducted an Environmental Impact Study on your proposed flood. The Trade Unions insist that I can't use my sons to build the Ark; I can only employ members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Trades union. Finally, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming I am going to attempt to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

"So, forgive me Lord, but it will take me at least another ten years to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. "No need for me to destroy the world after all," observed God. "The government has the matter already in hand." (*Parish Pump*)

Looking back on the Start of a National Treasure... 125 years of the London Proms



It was 125 years ago, on 10 August 1895, that the Proms (Promenade Concerts) began in London. In fact, the *idea* of promenade concerts went back to 1838, referring to outside concerts during which the audience could walk about – but in the form introduced by Robert Newman at Queen's Hall in Langham Place, London, the promenaders were standing members of the audience, and this usage has persisted. Henry Wood – also a talented organist – was the original conductor, and his name became firmly attached to the annual series of concerts. He was knighted in 1911. The concerts have been sponsored by the BBC since 1927, except for 1940 and 1941, when there was fear of bombing, and in fact Queen's Hall was bombed in 1941, with the concerts moving to their current home at the much larger Royal Albert Hall. The Proms have now become a huge summer musical festival lasting for eight weeks and with many innovations. The Last Night in particular has become a traditional feature of British life and celebration of Britishness. The Proms have been described by Czech conductor Jiří Bělohlávek as "the world's largest and most democratic musical festival". In the current coronavirus crisis, the Proms *will* continue, but in a much-changed form – "not as we know them, but as we need them", say the organisers.

Tim Lenton, Parish Pump

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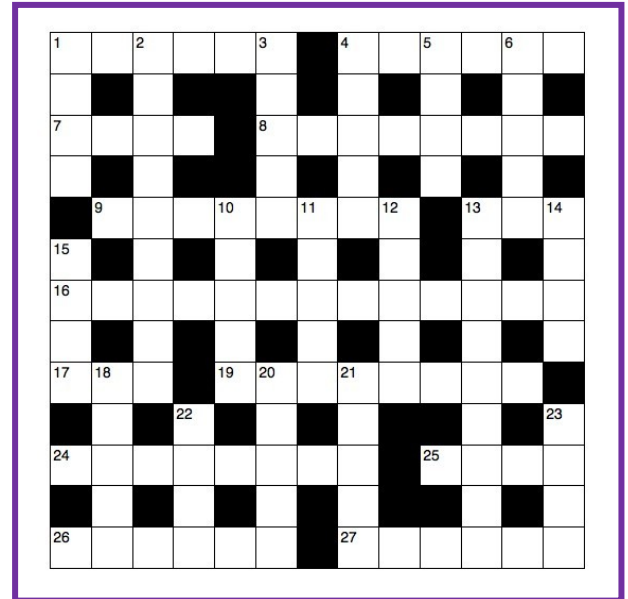
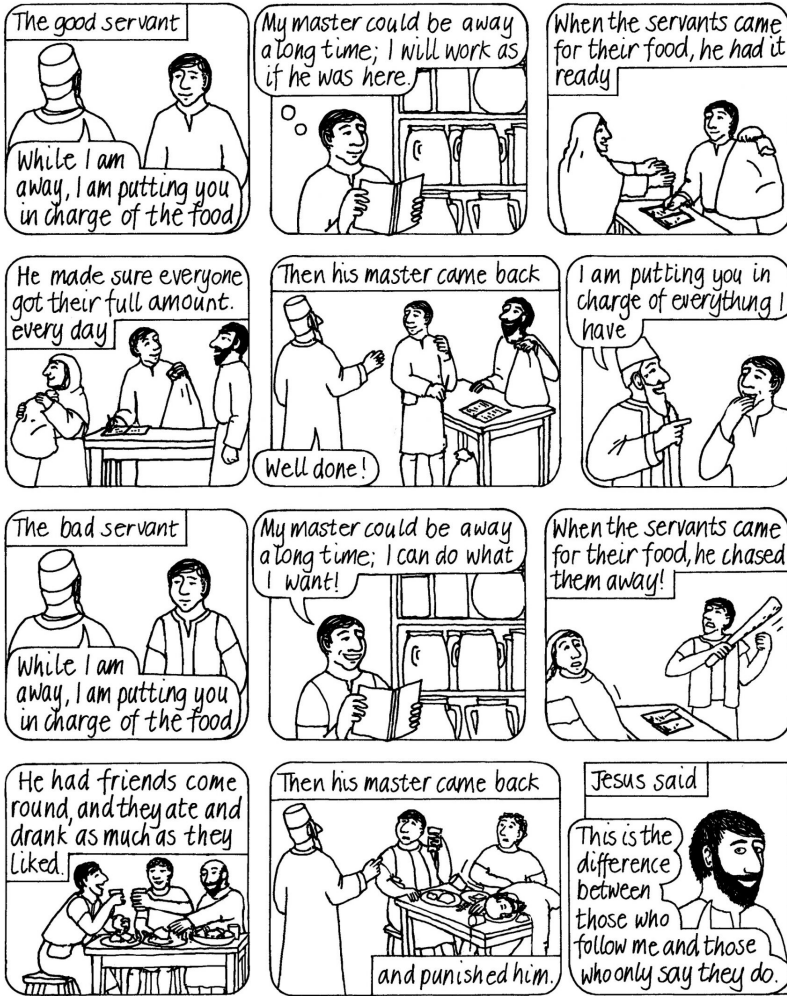
For the Young and not so Young

Bible Bite

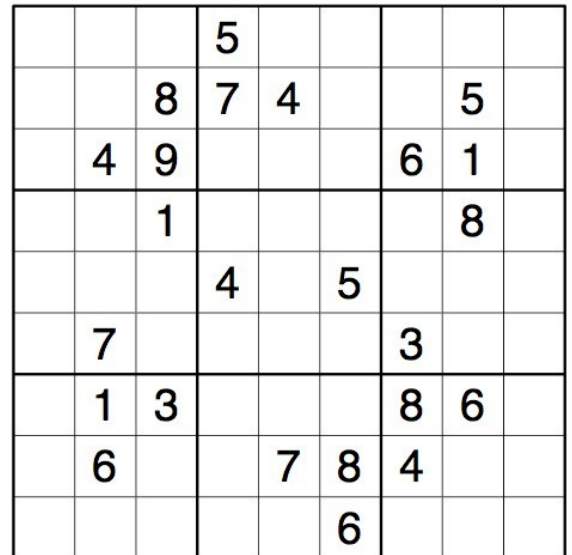
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew 24: 44-51, Luke 12: 40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants



Crossword



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Crossword Clues October 20 – Across:

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

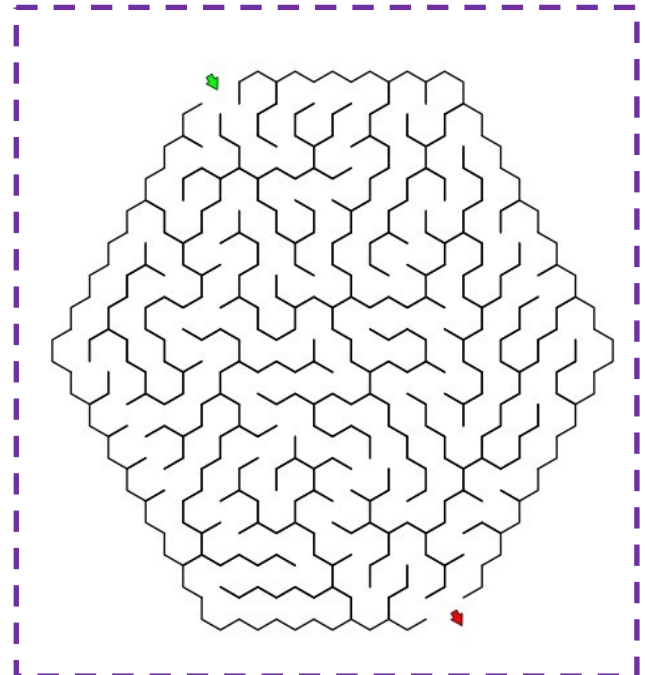
Crossword Clues October 20 – Down:

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

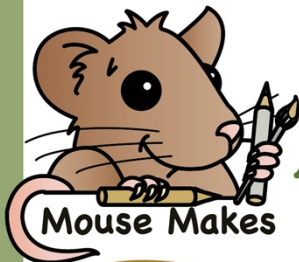
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y	g	u	o	o	a	w	a	r	n	e	d
o	p	g	f	m	q	t	w	n	g	c	s

want	warned	long
return	disciples	Jesus
drank	always	ate
master	follow	ready
story	while	chased
good	friends	servant
food	everything	bad
putting	amount	charge

- *Where Scripture leads, we may safely follow. Loraine Boettner*



- *It is easier for the generous to forgive, than for the offender to ask forgiveness. Thomson*
* * * * *
- *There's a way of transferring funds that is even faster than internet banking. It's called marriage. James Holt McGavran*
* * * * *
- *There is no faith without God's Word. John Calvin*



Jesus said:
 "The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the _____ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild _____ come and nest in its branches."

Read
 Matthew
 13:31-32

"GOD is the **one** who gives seed to those who **plant**, and He gives **bread** for food. And GOD will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will **produce** a great **harvest** from your goodness."
 2 Corinthians 9:10

Jesus said:
 "You do not need more **faith**. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree

So the one who plants is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things grow."
 1 Corinthians 3:7

"Go jump into the lake" and it would do it!"
 Luke 17:6

Look out for seeds in the park and garden and in your kitchen store cupboard.



How many different seeds can you find?

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

Find the words in **bold** on this page in the word search

Puzzle Pages Solutions

Sudoku Solution

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

Crossword Answers:

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

- God does not witness to the world by taking His people out of suffering, but rather by demonstrating His grace through them in the midst of pain. C Samuel Storms

* * * * *

- Keep the faith...but not from others! – Anon

Words for this Wordsearch:

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------|
| All | Festival | Charms |
| Hallows | Samhain | Deeper |
| Halloween | Bonfires | True |
| Druid | Magic | Eve |
| Priests | Dark | Closer |
| Christ | Supernatural | Thanks |
| Loved | Powers | Death |
| Winter | Christians | Gone |
| Prayer | | |

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



Talking better with your hands (*Parish Pump*)

Do you move your arms about when you speak? Probably you do – at least sometimes. Gesturing while we speak has been common behaviour for thousands of years, but it has been less clear WHY we do it.

Now a study by scientists at the University of Connecticut has found that there are changes in the size and shape of our chests when we gesture. These changes affect our speech in both tone and volume.

Because of the way our bodies are made, our hand movements influence our torso and throat muscles and our gestures are tightly tied to amplitude. So, that means that, rather than just using your chest muscles to produce air flow for speech, moving your arms about as well can add acoustic emphasis and improve your overall communication.

The Persecution of Christians in China continues...

Chinese Government removes 250 crosses from Churches

Chinese authorities removed 250 more church crosses earlier this year, according to **'Bitter Winter'**, an organisation which monitors persecution of Christians.

The crosses were removed from 'Three-Self' churches in Anhui province. The action was part of an on-going and wider campaign aimed at deleting Christian images and replacing them with Communist ones.

One congregation of 100 Christians defended their cross at the historic Gulou Church in Fuyang city. But the next day government officials returned, and it was taken away. An elder from a Three-Self church in Hanshan county said that to know that crosses were being taken down on many churches "makes us very sad because the cross is the primary symbol of our faith. But we don't dare to disobey central government orders: little fish don't eat big fish." More at: <https://bitterwinter.org> (*Parish Pump*)

- The Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't. Vance Havner
- Don't grumble because you don't get what you want; be grateful you don't get what you deserve. Anon

**Canon Paul Hardingham (Parish Pump) has written these two articles:
The Times of our Lives – Eternity in the Human Heart**

'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.' (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The 60s hit *'Turn! Turn! Turn!'* by the Byrds is based on verses in this chapter: *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.'* The different seasons of life are not random, for God is in control and His timing is perfect: *'He has made everything beautiful in its time.'*

The verse goes on to say that God *'has also set eternity in the human heart.'* This means that we all have an in-built sense that there's more to life than what we can see, as we search for meaning in life. However, we can fill our lives with other things: career, pleasure, shopping and relationships. While good in themselves, these things can never ultimately satisfy. It is only a relationship with God through Jesus that truly satisfies. How does this challenge us?

Firstly, we are to live for God in all that we do, knowing that it all counts for eternity. This includes helping others find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ for eternity.

Secondly, we accept that there are lots in the current *'season'* where it's difficult to know what God is doing: *'no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'*

However, we do know that everything has consequences for eternity.

Finally, how can we be more aware of eternity every day? Spending time with God in worship and prayer will bring us the true pleasure that belongs to eternity.

'You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.' (St Augustine).

* * * * *

A much-loved Psalm – Psalm 40: Desperation to Security

'I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.' (Psalm 40:1).

'Dear God, I pray for patience, and I want it now!' Most of us can identify with this prayer, especially as we face an uncertain future. Psalm 40:1-3 describes how David waited *patiently* on God (lit: *'I waited, waited for the Lord.'*). Do we also intensively wait on God?

David speaks of falling into a deep, dark well and sinking deep into the sludge: *'a slimy pit of mud and mire'*. This expresses his desperate helplessness that threatened to take his life. We don't know what David was going through, but in our current situation we can easily identify with him. David cried out to God, who answered his prayer: *'He lifted me out of the slimy pit, he set my feet on a rock'*. There is a world of difference between quicksand and rock, as God lifts us from desperation to security. Waiting on God is not inactivity, but it means engaging in service to God and others, as we discern His will and accept His wisdom and timing.

In response, David offers praise to God: *'He put a new song in my mouth. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.'* His song is an expression of gratitude and trust in God, who can deliver us from every sort of pit and mire. People of praise never take their life for granted and they are credible witnesses to others, with a personal story of faith to tell.

'Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud.' Whatever our current circumstances, we can confidently turn to God alone for help, as our loving Heavenly Father.