

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

# Trinity *Tidings*

Favourite Photographs!...



"The Lord is my Shepherd... "

Photograph by David Skitt

April 2024

...all are welcome in this place!



**Trinity Methodist Church,  
Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL**

**Church Website: [www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk](http://www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk)**

**Circuit Website: [kandsmethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://kandsmethodistcircuit.org.uk)**

**Superintendent Minister:**

Rev'd. Nick Collison OSL. B.Th. MA Tel: 01562 823300

**Senior Stewards:**

Mrs Diane Ferris 01562 67875

Mr Graham Leigh 01562 863779

**Contact People for:**

**Finance:** Mr Iestyn Davies 01562 740429

**Property:** Mr John Bacon 01562 744502

**Bookings:** Mr Stephen Howles 07580 009755

**Custodian:** Mr Stephen Howles 07580 009755

**Trinity Tidings Editorial Team:**

Mr David Skitt 01299 401047

Mrs Joan Davies 01562 740429

**The closing date for items for the May '24 Edition of Trinity Tidings is  
Sunday 28th April 2024**

**Please email articles, preferably as a Word Document to:  
[arleystation@aol.com](mailto:arleystation@aol.com)**

Thanks to John Harris for Designing the Front and back covers,  
and to Jon Skitt for putting magazine online each month.

**Favourite Photographs!...**



"The Lord is my Shepherd..."

**Front Cover Photographs:**

**" The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures."**

*Psalm 23*

....and an explanation:

"The photo was taken of the sheep and lambs resting peacefully, enjoying the shade on a warm summer's day. It was a field between Arley Station and the river and was taken in early June.

I like the way the sheep are framed by the branches of the sycamore tree, and the contrast between sun and shade."

*David Skitt*

Photograph by David Skitt



Dear Friends,

As we know, Easter, the most important Celebration in the Christian calendar, was very early this year. When I looked back at last year's 'April' Tiding's Letter, Easter was still to come. However, irrespective of when Easter falls, the clocks have gone forward one hour and Spring feels as if it is upon us.

I don't know about you but I always feel uplifted by the thought that Spring is with us because it always feels that it brings with it so many possibilities. Increasingly more daylight hours, warmer days and nights, although April (and May) can still have a sting in the tail. New life everywhere in nature, the birds seem to sing louder and are more active feeding their young, the trees are in blossom and Spring flowers bring much needed colour to compliment the new green leaves on the budding trees and bushes.

Having said all this I get caught out nearly every year. Whilst I wait for the more 'reliable' warmer days, before I know it we have reached the longest day of the year and the days gradually begin to get shorter again, and all before Summer seems to have properly arrived.

For someone like myself, who longs for the Spring and Summer far more than the Autumn and Winter, it is a time of regeneration when I try to 'recharge' my batteries. We all need to recharge and we all do this in different ways depending upon what interests us, what encourages us, what excites us, what relaxes us. For me, this used to be taking myself off into the hills with a tent on my back. I am now less able to do this, so I rely more and more on my photography. Heading off somewhere with my camera in hand to see what shots I can come up with. Sometimes I will go looking for a particular shot, other times I will simply see what presents itself in front of me, but either way creating an image that freezes a particular moment in time is what re-energises me.

I can remember when I was training at Wesley House in Cambridge, the then vice principal told us to take care of ourselves, because with ministry, often the only tangible thing at the end of the day to show for our efforts is our own exhaustion.

Therefore I hope that whatever it is that feeds us and recharges our batteries, we manage to receive it in abundance, and may the Spring and Summer days ahead bring renewal and refreshment to us all.

Every blessing in Jesus' name,

*Nick.*



# PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Betty Norman, Josephine and Ranzi Seremwe, Lynn Jones, those on the Prayer Vine, those whose names are put in the prayer book and people we know who need the love, comfort and the knowledge of Christ's presence with them.

I included in March Tidings of the sad news about Eric Fawthrop. He was 96, and a faithful member of Trinity. He was also a fine Local Preacher and had just received his 60 year Long Service award. Thanks to Alan Stinton for the photograph.



Jonathan Baynton sends his thanks for the cards and good wishes on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had a lovely party at Trinity in March, one of many he had that week!

## Offmore and Comberton

April

St Chad's, Offmore and Milton Hall Baptist Churches.

Offmore and Comberton Primary Schools and Nurseries - King Charles 1 School.

Offmore Farm Rest Home, Nightingales,

Holmwood Nursing Homes

Sandlewood Assisted Living

Children's Centre

Residential Housing

Retail Units and Trading

Kidderminster Cricket Club





## From the Editor...

Dear Friends,

Last year, when I was on holiday in Devon I saw this tree. I noticed that although it was almost dead, new small branches were growing from it and it was in leaf.

It seemed to me to be a symbol of how new life grows from the old. We are in the Easter season, when we hear the gospel stories of how Jesus suffered beatings, humiliation, and an agonising death. His accusers were satisfied that he was dead; the soldiers knew that he was no longer alive; his close friends, men and women, saw him laid in the tomb. His wonderful ministry had come to an end. Yet, as he had promised, three days later the greatest miracle in history happened, Jesus was no longer dead but alive. Out of the darkness of death came the joy of resurrection. Just like the tree in a Devon campsite.

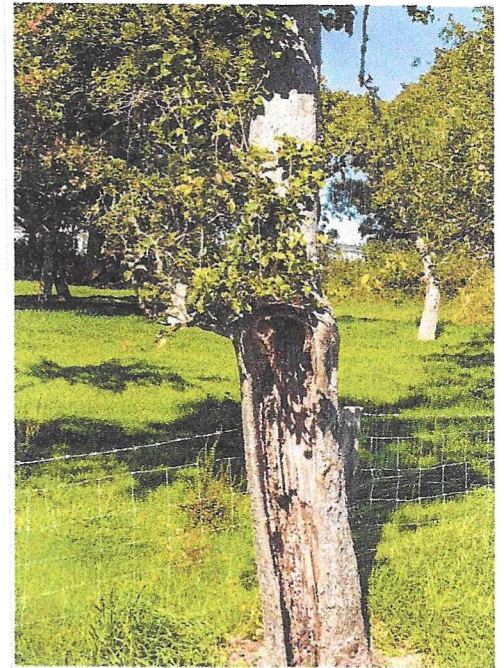
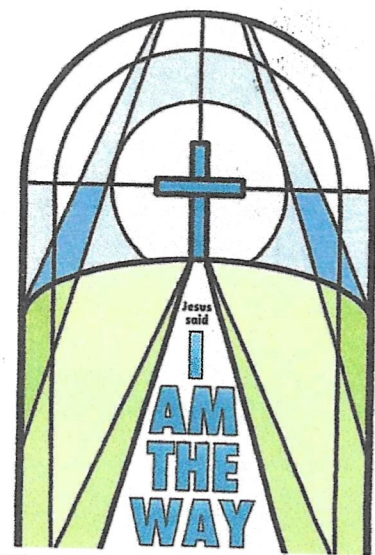
I have also added the photo of the cross at Trinity, decorated with beautiful flowers, a sign of new life.

I think that it is quite appropriate that Easter in our hemisphere is in springtime. Although our weather has been wet and cool, the birds are singing, the trees are budding, and spring flowers are in bloom.

So let us rejoice that Jesus showed us that even in the darkest of times, new life can surprise us all.

As we say on Easter Sunday,  
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

David





### OFFERTORIES FOR THE PAST FOUR WEEKS ARE AS FOLLOWS

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
03.03 & 10.03.24	276.00	170.00	1212.80	1658.80
17.02 & 24.03 24	281.00	204.67	1212.80	1698.47

This is a weekly average of £839.31

For the current church year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 it is estimated that offertories of £1100 per week will be required to break even.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SERVICES IN APRIL

April 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs Sue Stinton -- <b>Local Preachers' Sunday</b>
	6.30pm	Mr Ray Simpson
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Local Arrangement
	6.30pm	Mr David Skitt
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Mr Albert Wilkinson
	6.30pm	<b>PRAISE SERVICE</b>
		Rev Rachel Parkinson & Rev Nick Collison
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev James Hamilton -- Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mr Mike Dernie
	6.30pm	Mrs Sue Stinton

## CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate Stan Rose for being one of the 150 recipients of the Kings Maundy Money in Worcester Cathedral. There were 75 men and 75 women, one for each year of the king's life.

Queen Camilla made the presentations, and it was good to see Stan. It was also a lovely surprise to see him interviewed on BBC Midlands News.

Congratulations again, truly a day to remember.



**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
CHANGE ATTITUDES.  
FIND A CURE.  
JOIN US.



## **WYRE FOREST BIG BAND CONCERT**

Trinity Methodist Church Centre

Friday 12th April 2024 7.00pm

IN AID OF WORCESTER & DISTRICT PARKINSON'S GROUPS

- \* FREE ADMISSION
- \* FREE PARKING
- \* REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
- \* RAFFLE

\*DONATIONS MUCH APPRECIATED

**Tickets**

email [cbarkerpukt84@gmail.com](mailto:cbarkerpukt84@gmail.com) Telephone  
07891861035

Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom.

A charity registered in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554). © Parkinson's UK



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH  
AND BAXTER UNITED REFORMED  
CHURCH PRESENTS

# *Spring Concert*

RAISING MONEY FOR

**ADAVU**  
(ANTI MODERN SLAVERY CHARITY)

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL

7PM

NO TICKET REQUIRED, DONATION ON ENTRY

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN PERFORMING,  
PLEASE CONTACT  
SARAH COBON BY END  
OF MARCH



# Coffee Morning

Saturday 18th May

10am-12pm

Trinity Methodist Church



Proceeds go to Christian Aid

Tea, coffee, squash, and butties available.



## Quiz on the Book of Exodus

*How well do you know what happened in Exodus? Try this quiz!*

**Who rescued Moses from the basket in the bulrushes?**

Pharaoh's daughter      Pharaoh's maid      Pharaoh's wife

**How many plagues did God send on Egypt?**

5      10      15

**What was the second plague?**

frogs      water turned to blood      locusts

**What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed to escape the Egyptians?**

Dead Sea      Black Sea      Red Sea

**At what place did the Israelites arrive to find the water was too bitter to drink and God made it sweet?**

Marah      Elim      Horeb

**Which bird did God provide for meat in the wilderness?**

pigeon      quail      turtledove

**What guided the Israelites through the wilderness?**

a star in the sky

Moses had visions telling him where to lead the people      a pillar of cloud and of fire

**When there was no water to drink, how did Moses provide it?**

from earthen jars      from his rod      from a rock

**On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments**

Mt. Sinai      Mt. Nebo      Mt. of Olives

**What is the seventh commandment?**

Thou shalt not covet      Thou shalt not commit adultery      Thou shalt not bear false witness

**What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?**

two cherubim      candlestick      Aaron's rod

**What compelled the Israelites to form and worship the golden calf**

they wanted to make a statue to the Lord

they made it as a symbol of their freedom from slavery

they didn't know what had happened to Moses

**What was the name of a man who was given the Spirit of God, to enable him to become a good craftsman, and assist with the building of the tabernacle?**

Caleb      Bezaleel      Buz

**Who was Moses' successor?**

Joshua      Caleb      Aaron

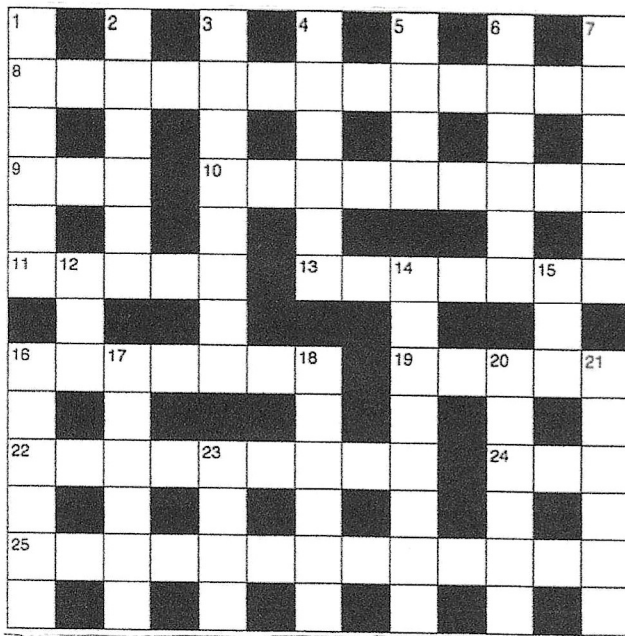
**For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?**

20 years      30 years      40 years

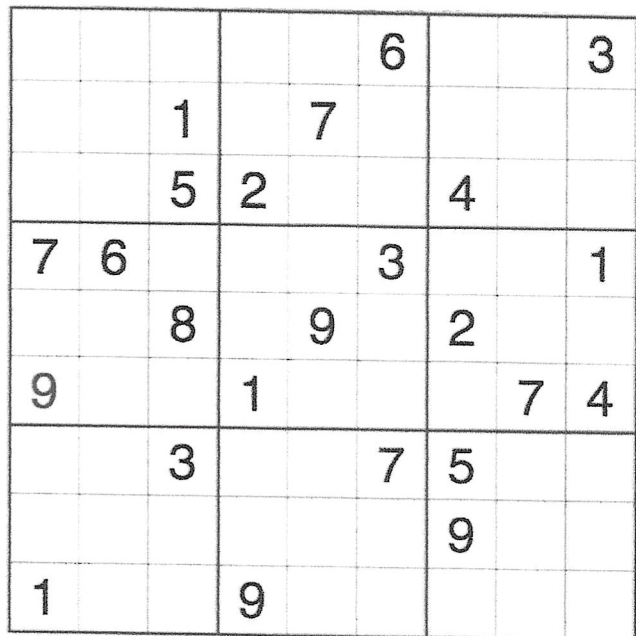
*This Quiz was part of the Parish Pump material, so I thought I would use it this month.*



## Parish Pump Crossword



## Sudoku puzzle (medium)



© 2008 KrazyDad.com

### ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)  
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)  
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)  
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)  
 13 Muslim holy month (7)  
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)  
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)  
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)  
 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)  
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

### DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)  
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)  
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)  
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)  
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)  
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)  
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)  
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)  
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)  
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)  
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)  
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)  
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)  
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)  
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)  
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.



## GARDENING NOTES FOR APRIL

April is often famed her showers and this weather lore is based on fact, we may experience short, sharp downpours. Hail, rain, snow and thunder are quite common. Fortunately April is characterised by a pleasant mixture of fair, to fine conditions. Good sunny spells, frequent cool showers and chilly nights with the tantalizing hint of warmer weather later on.

One thing that will be evident this month will be the greening of the lawn as the grass has its first flush of spring. Mowings will become more frequent, with the blades set high to begin with. Aerating and scarifying established lawns will improve neglected areas and will allow water, light and air to penetrate down through the soil, and will remove dead and decaying material from the upper surface. Repair damaged edges.

If the weather is favourable, and by that I mean not frosty, prune back forsythia to promote new growth. Cut back stems of buddleia to a stronger pair of buds and don't be shy about it, it will respond well to a hard prune. If the weather in March precluded the pruning of roses then don't delay, do it now and feed with a proprietary food and hoe into the surface.

April is the ideal time to divide and split established clumps of herbaceous perennials. After gently lifting the established clump the splitting of herbaceous perennials is a simple task. Simply pull apart with your fingers into individual plants, or if the clump is a little more congested, then the best method is to insert two forks back-to-back and rock the forks back and forth until the clump is severed apart, then split as above.

Once bulbs have flowered remove flowers before they expend energy in producing unwanted seed. If the weather happens to be exceptionally dry then give the bulbs a good watering as this will help the bulb to store up energy for the next year, this is especially important for daffodils. A late mulching of beds and borders helps to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. Good garden compost or spent mushroom compost is ideal for this purpose, although remember that the latter should not be under any circumstances be applied around lime-hating subjects such as camellias or rhododendrons, as spent mushroom compost is very alkaline in nature. Apply mulches after rain to maximise their effect.

Pond plants will begin to grow this month and the pool will often have its first algal bloom. Don't worry - if the pool is balanced the green will disappear next month as the oxygenators put on growth. Feed fish sparingly at this stage, especially if the weather is cool.

*Anemone Pavonina* is truly spectacular for spring colour. A native of grassy hillsides and olive groves along the shores of the Mediterranean, this tuberous perennial is equally happy here in the Midlands. For best results plant in a well-drained, sunny position and they will, over time, reward you with a spectacular display of early spring colour. Usually reaching a height of around 18" they appear in a variety of shades from purple, pink through to scarlet and white. Like most things originating from the Med. They go to sleep when it gets hot, becoming dormant throughout the summer, to reappear in the autumn with fresh growth. They are simply charming.

Writing these notes in March it's hard to imagine the warmth that awaits us within the next few weeks. I am sure that by the time you read these jottings spring will be well and truly with us. The sun will be out, the birds will be singing and nesting, the garden will be bursting into colour and winter will be a distant memory.

Whatever the weather, enjoy your garden: it's the only one you've got!

Bob







KIDDERMINSTER

*choral society*

**CHORAL WORKS BY  
MENDELSSOHN & DVORAK**

# *hear my prayer*

CONDUCTOR **GEOFF WEAVER** | ORGANIST **PAUL TREPTE**  
SOPRANO **CLOVER WILLIS** | MEZZO SOPRANO **ANNA SEMPLE**  
TENOR **ROBERT JENKINS** | BASS **ANDREW RANDALL**

**Saturday 13th April 2024 | 7.30pm**

**St. Marys Church,**

**Kidderminster DY10 2JN**

*Online tickets from £13 (no booking fee)*

*On the door tickets from £15 Age 19 and under FREE*

***[www.kidderminsterchoralsociety.co.uk](http://www.kidderminsterchoralsociety.co.uk)***



## Clapping and Dancing for God

One of the things we don't see much of in church today is the clapping of hands. We clap our hands in the appreciation of many things. A good performance, sporting or theatrical, or for a good speech. Why not the clapping of hands in church for God or especially during a rousing hymn. What a great expression for our love of God. "Clap your hands, all you nations: Shout to God with cries of joy". That's Psalm 47 so we're behind the curve here. The Bible asks us to clap our hands for the Lord. Ok, the Salvation Army seems to lead us here, but forget about the tambourine bashing, just clap your hands. What's wrong with that for a finger clicking, toe tapping hymn? As Paul said to Timothy "Lift up holy hands in prayer" (1Tim. 2 v.8) and learn the good word. Shall we not lift up our hands and clap. It says in Psalm 134 (not many left) "Lift up your hands in the Sanctuary and praise the Lord". Yes, let's praise the Lord with the clapping of hands.

Funny enough, when you talk about clapping your hands another thing comes to mind and that's dance. There are many mentions in both the New and Old Testaments in praise and worship being expressed in dancing. OK, people will think it's a crazy and extreme form of worship. It is nevertheless a wonderful way of expressing our love of God. What a lovely way to introduce young children to God and the Bible. Let them clap hands and dance, we'll soon fill the Sunday schools. Let's dance before the Lord with Joy. Look at the return of the Prodigal Son. There was music and dancing (Luke 15 v22-25). Ok, some of us might not accept music and dancing as is said in Matthew 11 v17, "We played the flute for you and you did not dance". Let's face it, if we are happy, why not dance before the Lord? It's Psalm 149 that says it all, "Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine and harp". It doesn't just have to be the Salvation Army that shakes the tambourine.

*Dance then, wherever you may be  
I am the Lord of the dance, said He  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He."*

The hymn writer Sydney Carter says it all in his wonderful hymn. So carry on clapping and dancing, well, the Bible demands it! "Clap your hands, all you nations, shout to God with cries of Joy" Psalm 47. "Praise Him with tambourine and dancing" Psalm 150v4. Did I really need to write this?

*Mike*

### I Write the Songs

It is common knowledge among us Methodists that Charles Wesley wrote over 6,000 hymns. America couldn't take this lying down. Enter one Frances Jane Van Alstyne, who was better known as Fanny Crosby (Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!) She wrote 8,000 hymns. 15,000 plus hymns between them so what's wrong? Simply, they wrote the lyrics and put them to someone else's music. In fact, both of them rarely wrote the tunes, but there's nothing wrong with that. Tim Rice (Jesus Christ Superstar) wrote the words, Andrew Lloyd-Webber wrote the music. That's the name of the game. (Would anyone like to put my Trinity Tidings articles to music? No chance, they don't rhyme). What's wrong with putting words to other peoples' music? Most of the songs in our Singing the Faith do this and many of them are famous tunes.

So let's have a look at the familiar tunes we know and see where they come from. First up, of course, is a song that made the hit parade in 1957, 'Scarlet Ribbons', by Harry Belafonte. This is the tune to hymn 131 in Singing the Faith, 'By a monument of marble or a simple wooden cross'.



Want a touch of the classical? Then try hymn 621 which is set to Sibelius's 'Finlandia'. Want a bit of the Irish? Try hymn 350 which is set to 'The Londonderry Air', or 'Danny Boy' as I like to call it. 'I cannot tell why He, whom angels' worship, should set His love upon us, now or then'. Of course, the Welsh have to go one better, hymn 124 which is sung to "All through the night". Plus hymn 465 which is set to what I thought was the Welsh national anthem 'Cwm Rhondda'. Great hymn, 'Guide me o though Great Jehovah'. Just listen to this sung by a choir of Welsh miners, or by the two Ronnies, if you prefer. A different version. Up to Scotland now for The Skye Boat Song. That's hymn no. 394, 'Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove'. Believe me, there's nothing like putting a hymn to a popular tune. How about "The Lord's my shepherd" to "See you later alligator", or "House of the rising sun" for "There is a green hill"? Try them.

Some hymns actually made it in their own right. "He's got the whole world in His hands". A hit for 13-year-old schoolboy Laurie London in 1957. The hit parade actually gave us an entry in Singing the Faith, although a Christmas Carol, 'Starry night', hymn no. 206, written by Captain Joy Webb in 1964 and sung by the Salvation Army group 'The Joy Strings'. We can't finish without mentioning, of course, the greatest tune of all 'Amazing Grace'. Judy Collins sang it to No. 5 in the charts in 1970. Then the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards playing it on their bagpipes took it to No. 1 in the charts and a million seller in 1972. John Newton, an Englishman wrote the words, but once again didn't write the music, it was an old American folk song, but who cares.

*Mike* (Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

*Thanks to Mike, our regular contributor, for these two articles and for the jokes below. Keep them coming Mike!*

#### Mike's Smile Lines - Think about it!

How do pigeons know when you've just cleaned your car?

\*\*

Why let a smile be your umbrella – you'll get soaking wet?

\*\*

I've only read 2 of Shakespeare's plays – Romeo and Juliet.

\*\*

When I first took up golf, I dug up so many worms I decided to take up fishing.

\*\*

Being a Skinhead has its advantages – you're first to know when it rains.

\*\*

I used to sign all my letters with an X but I never did find out how to cross it out.

\*\*

I've always been a supporter of pay television. If they pay me I'll watch anything.

\*\*

I always wanted to go to Hollywood to make a picture. However, I can't paint.



Q. What word in the English language of 8 letters can you take away 5 and leave 10?

A. Tendency

\*\*

Harry: When I went sea fishing I caught 5 jellyfish.

Bert: What flavours?

\*\*



Man: My wife thinks she's a dustbin.

Doctor: Take her out tonight.

\*\*

Dave: Do you know how I keep my head above water when I go swimming?

Pere: Simple – wood floats.

\*\*

Wife: How come this sponge cake is flat?

Husband: Well, you said bring me a cake and step on it.

\*\*

Mary had a little lamb

I know you've heard it before

But did you know she passed her plate

And had a little bit more?

\*\*

Melancholy – a sad vegetable.

\*\*

If your first day working in a fish and chip shop goes awry. Fry, Fry, Fry again.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Two Messages from Howard Lowry

**QUIZZING.....** Many thanks for the kind comments about the Trinity/Baxter Quiz in February.

If you would like to take part in regular quizzes every 5 weeks then I could recommend Beacon URC in Rubery.

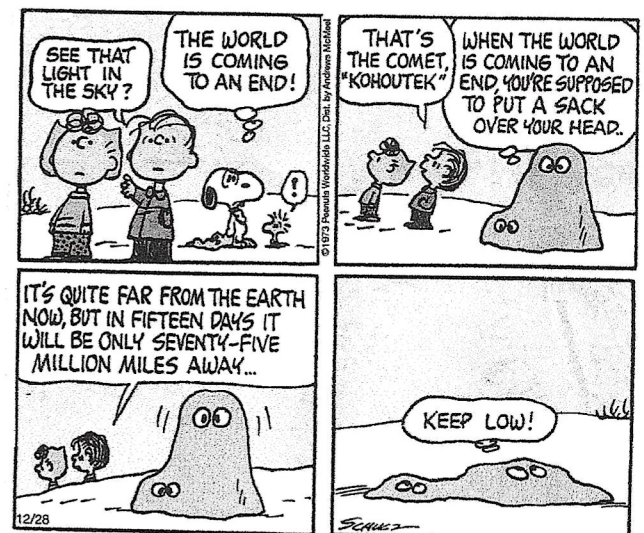
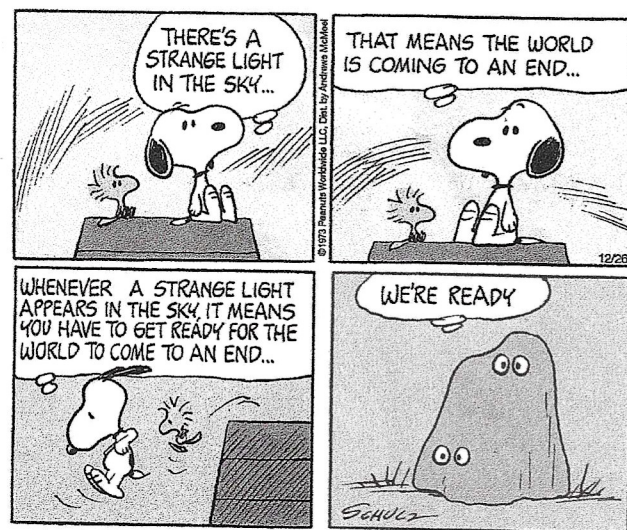
I am very will to supply questions for quizzes and if you would like another quiz here then I am sure it could be arranged.

## CONCERTS AT CLENT

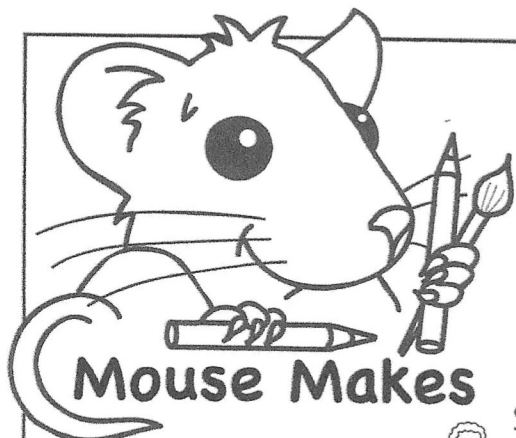
Three or four times a year we put on folk music concerts at Clent Parish Hall. We have a lot of fun with the emphasis on a good mix of artistes.

Our next concert is on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June with Anthony John Clark headlining and Nothing to Prove giving support.

We have charity raffles so why not come along and join the fun?







# Mouse Makes

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered. He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some."



So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



READ the story in John 21

A large illustration of a fishing net filled with fish. Inside the net is a word search grid. The words to be found are: DISCIPLES, TIBERIAS, SEA, SIMON PETER, THOMAS, NATHANAEAL, JOHN, DAY FISHING, BOAT, NIGHT, CAUGHT, NOTHING, WATER, SHORE, FISH, CAST, NET, RIGHT, FIND, HAUL, LORD, FULL, LAND, FIRE, BREAD, BREAKFAST, JESUS.

DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEAL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET • RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS



The  
Tale of the  
**TWO  
BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

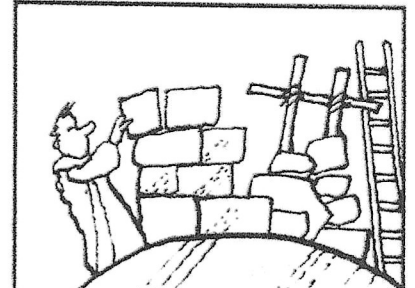


ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO  
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH  
AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON  
WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE  
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.

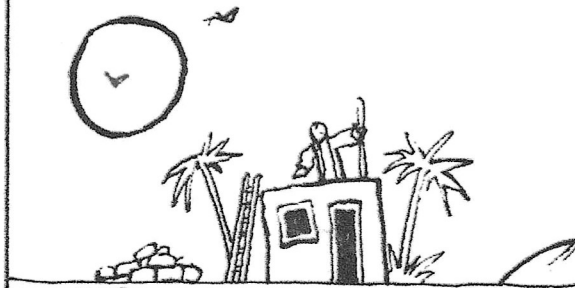


SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

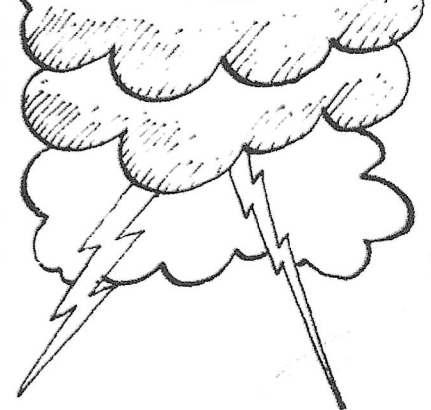


THE OTHER BUILDER  
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE  
BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND  
WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



BUT ONE DAY THE  
STORM CAME...

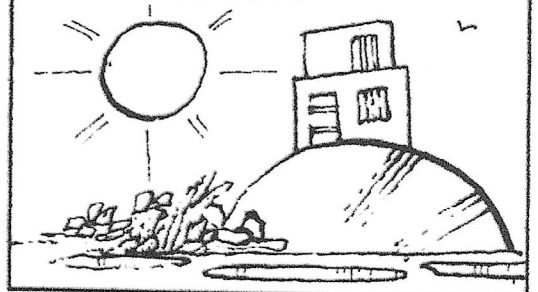


...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND  
THE RAIN FELL....



...AND THE HOUSE ON  
FELL DOWN

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE  
ROCK STOOD FIRM.



JESUS EXPLAINED -  
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE  
A GOOD FOUNDATION.



### **23<sup>rd</sup> April – St George and Hiccup and the dragon**

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

*Parish Pumo 2024*

### **Don't be afraid of clouds**

Have you ever sat and watched the clouds drift by? Some of them are vast, towering up and up into the sky.

There can be clouds of discouragement and suffering in our lives as well, circumstances that temporarily blot out the sunlight of God's love for us. You may have such a cloud hanging over your life right now. You may be in a hospital bed, or suffering discouragement, fear, despair or bereavement.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes, when you board a plane, the sky is like a thick grey ceiling? It looks impenetrable. But the plane does not hesitate – it climbs steadily onward and upward straight into the cloud. And what happens? Nothing! The cloud cannot block your progress, it must give way before you. The simple truth is, you may not be able to *see* through clouds, but you *can go through them*. The plane uses navigational aids for guidance, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us through the darkest times. And finally, we emerge through the cloudbank, and there before us is a sun-drenched sky of blue and golden glory, far above the dismal and disappointing things far below.

Whatever cloud is hanging over you at present, whether suffering, discouragement, fear, there IS something you can do about it NOW. Pray – pour out your heart to the Lord about it. He has promised that His grace will be sufficient for anything that we encounter in this life.

And – look up. Look towards heaven, *think beyond* those clouds, and remember His promise that the sufferings we may be undergoing *here* are nothing compared to the glory that God has prepared for us *there*.

*The Bible assures us: 'The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you.' Psalm 84: 11-12*

*Parish Pump 2024*



## **Our God**

Our God is able – (Daniel 3:17)

– able to save (Hebrews 7:25)

– able to help (Hebrews 2:18)

– able to provide (2 Corinthians 9:8)

– able to do far more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)

*Parish Pump 2024*

## **The government wants to improve your teeth**

Fluoride is to be added to more of our drinking water, to help improve the nation's teeth. It is part of the new NHS Dental Recovery Plan, the biggest expansion of the health measure since the 1980s.

At present, only five water companies add fluoride to water in the UK. They are mainly in the North-East and West Midlands, and less than 10 per cent of Britons. The initial expansion will provide fluoride to 1.6 million more people, in areas including Northumberland, Teesside, Durham and South Tyneside.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in water. It has been proven to make teeth stronger and reduce decay. Sir Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer for England, has claimed that adding fluoride to water supplies could reduce cavities by 17 per cent among the richest and by 28 per cent among the poorest.

*Parish Pump 2024*

## **Don't hesitate to use hearing aids**

Here is something you didn't expect: using hearing aids if you are a bit deaf can be of great benefit to your overall health.

Crystal Rolfe, director of health at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said: "Hearing aids bring enormous benefits for people with hearing loss. Research shows that wearing hearing aids may reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and it is well known that they have positive effects on physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

According to hearing loss charity RNID, 12 million adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and an estimated seven million people could benefit from hearing aids, but only about two million use them.

The researchers hope the findings, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity journal, will encourage more people to wear hearing aids. As one doctor said: "If you have hearing loss, get hearing aids. The benefits could be limitless."

*Parish Pump 2024*

## **Do you remember your own PIN number?**

Nearly one in five of us can't. We are so used to paying by contactless that when we have to withdraw cash or type our PIN into a card reader, our minds go blank.

'Contactless' payments hit a record high last year. A staggering 93.4 per cent of all in-store card transactions up to £100 was made using contactless, rather than cash or PIN and card reader. According to Barclays, we now depend on contactless payments and smartphone technology so much that more than a fifth of young people now leave their wallets at home when they go shopping.

Contactless technology was first introduced by Barclaycard 17 years ago. It had a spending limit of £10. The limit was increased during the pandemic, to reduce physical contact in shops, rising to its current £100 limit.

*Parish Pump 2024*



## All in the month of April

It was:

300 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

200 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

175 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.

150 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1874 that Johann Strauss II's operetta Die Fledermaus was performed for the first time, in Vienna.

125 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1899 that Duke Ellington, American jazz/swing pianist, composer and orchestra leader, was born.

100 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1924 that the British Empire Exhibition opened in Wembley, London.

90 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.

75 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

Also 75 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1949 that the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific was opened in Broadway.

60 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

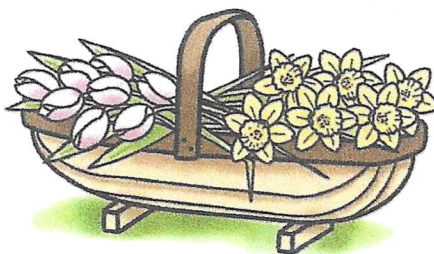
50 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

30 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

25 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1999 that Libya handed over to the United Nations two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. They were taken to the Netherlands to face trial. One was found guilty, and sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be released in 2009 because he was dying of cancer. The other suspect was acquitted.

20 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.

*Parish Pump 2024*





## 50 years of ABBA!

Fifty years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1974, the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song *Waterloo*. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

The victory, in Brighton, was just the first step on the road to conquering the world, as far as pop music was concerned. The songs, written mainly by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, were matched by the passion, exuberance and good looks of singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid 'Frida' Lyngstad, who later married them – and even later, divorced them.

The name of the group came from the initials of the four Christian names. Some have suggested a link to the biblical Abba and looked for Jewish themes in their songs, but this is wishful thinking. While Anni-Frid (who was born Norwegian) may be Christian, Björn is definitely an outspoken atheist. In fact, ABBA is the name of a Swedish canned fish company that had to give permission for the singers to use it – a decision they are unlikely to have regretted.

Both *Waterloo* and ABBA achieved worldwide superstar status quickly – no small feat for a group performing in a language that is not their own. The film *ABBA – the Movie* and the musical *Mamma Mia* and its sequel, featuring their compelling songs, were huge successes. It is estimated that the musical has been seen by more than 60 million people worldwide.

ABBA hit the jackpot again when their revolutionary new project, *ABBA Voyage*, launched in 2022. In it, Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid perform their love-songs digitally with a live 10-piece band, in a purpose-built ABBA arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Not bad for four divorcees in their 70s.

Parish Pump 2024

## Remembering Lord Byron, the 'gloomy egoist'

It was 200 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1824, that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. He was 36.

Byron was born in London but brought up in Aberdeen and relished the Scottish connection. His childhood was impoverished, and to a certain degree abusive, but at the age of ten he inherited his great uncle's title and went on to Harrow and Cambridge.

After early rejections, his poetry was widely admired in England and in Europe, initially through *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, which was autobiographical and presented him as a "gloomy egoist". His character fluctuated between kind and gentle on the one hand and selfish and cynical on the other. Early exposure to Calvinism combined with the extremes of his later life – multiple affairs – made him antagonistic to Christianity but tormented by it. He once described man as "half dust, half deity, alike unfit to sink or soar."

Partly because of criticism of his scandalous lifestyle, he left England and eventually lived in Switzerland and then Italy with his fellow poet Shelley – having an affair with Shelley's wife's half-sister. Earlier he had married Anne Isabella Milbanke, by whom he had a daughter who achieved fame as Ada Lovelace, a mathematical prodigy regarded by some as the first computer programmer.

His wife eventually left him, possibly because of his incest with his own half-sister, Augusta Leigh.

Lord Byron moved to Greece to support the Greeks – whose attitude to life he found refreshing – in their struggle for independence from Turkey. He is widely admired in Greece as a result.



## World Autism Acceptance Week, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Autism is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree. And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

*Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.*

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this 'acceptance week', by going to the National Autistic Society's website, <https://www.autism.org.uk> and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.

### Parish Pump Smile Lines

I have so many problems that if a new one comes along today, it will be at least two weeks before I can worry about it.

\*\*

Seen on a church notice board: 'Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.'

\*\*

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven – how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms."

\*\*

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "He looks a tough customer," she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?" The Governor paused and smiled. "Ah, actually, he is the chaplain."

\*\*

*From a church magazine:* "The restoration of the churchyard was finally completed by the resurfacing of our driveway. The following Sunday, the church wardens praised everyone who had helped, and gave special thanks to the vicar and his wife who had rolled in the gravel."

\*\*

In reply to a question in Sunday school, one little boy said that the fifth commandment is: 'Humour thy father and thy mother.'





## Exodus Quiz Answers:

Question 1: a (Pharaoh's daughter)

Question 2: b (10)

Question 3: b (Water turned to blood)

Question 4: c (Red Sea)

Question 5: a (Marah)

Question 6: b (Quail)

Question 7: c (A pillar of cloud and of fire)

Question 8: c (From a rock)

Question 9: a (Mt. Sinai)

Question 10: b (Thou shalt not commit adultery)

Question 11: a (Two cherubim)

Question 12: c (They didn't know what had happened to Moses)

Question 13: b (Bezaleel)

Question 14: a (Joshua)

Question 15: c (40)

### Sudoku solution:

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

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).



# TRINITY LUNCHEON CLUB

Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster

Every Wednesday at 12.15

Would you like a mid-week meal cooked for you with pleasant friendly company round the table?

Then why not come to our Luncheon Club – you don't have to be a church member or on your own, couples are welcome.

Enjoy a delicious main course and pudding with tea or coffee.

Only £3.50

## Our main courses include:

Meat Loaf      Salmon Flan      Chicken Casserole

Corned Beef Flan      Sausages

Ham and Pineapple      Cheese and Bacon Flan

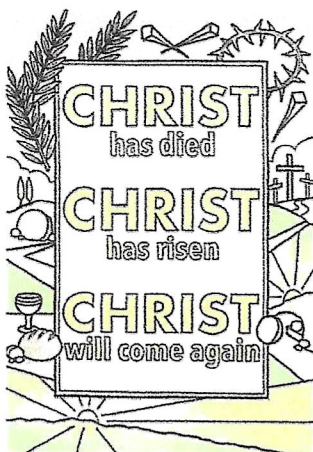
## and our puddings (naughty but very nice):

Cheesecake      Bakewell Tart      Sponge Pudding

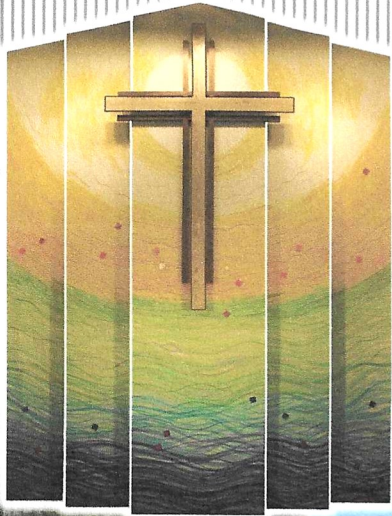
Fruit Crumble      Sticky Toffee

Passion Pudding      Bread & Butter Pudding

For more information or to book a place please contact Mrs. Jill Green via 07580009755 (between 9am and 5pm)







◆ Trinity Methodist Church ◆



### Sunday Services

- Morning Worship at 10.30am
- Evening Worship at 6.30pm

Start the week...

### Monday Morning Prayer Meeting

A short quiet time of contemplation and prayer.

**Every Monday 9.30am – 10.am**

### Mid-Week Lunchtime Service at Trinity

**Every Thursday 12.30pm – 1pm**

**Trinity Toddlers**  
**Every Tuesday**  
**9.45am – 11.15am**

Contact:  
**Mrs Stella Batson - 01562 863503**  
**Rev'd. Nick Collison - 01562 823300**

**Trinity**  
**Luncheon Club**  
**Every Wednesday**  
**at 12.15pm**

Co-ordinator:  
**Mrs. Jill Green**

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

Telephone: 07580 009755 (Mon-Fri 9am -5pm)

[www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk](http://www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk)

2024...2024...2024