

Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster



# Trinity Tidings



June 2020

The beauty of God's world in Summer...

**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH  
CHURCHFIELDS, KIDDERMINSTER  
Telephone 01562 824450**

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

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

**MINISTER** Rev Nick Collison O.S.L., BTh., MA 01562 823300

**SENIOR STEWARDS** Mrs Rachel Cobon 01562 515741  
Dr Mary Neve 01562 745936

**CONTACT PEOPLE FOR:**

**CHURCH LIFE** Mr David Skitt 01299 401047  
**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 BOOKSTORE** Mr John Morris 01562 824450

**TRINITY TIDINGS**

**EDITORIAL TEAM** Mr David Skitt 01299 401047  
Mrs Joan Davies 01562 740429

**The closing date for items for the double  
JULY/AUGUST ISSUE  
of Trinity Tidings is Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**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

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all keeping relatively safe and well.

I went into town yesterday because I needed to go to the bank. The sight that greeted me was long queues, one outside Nat West, one outside the Halifax Building Society and one outside Lloyds Bank, where I was hoping to go. Following the bank I then went to Wilkinsons to purchase something and had to queue before being able to enter. After this I called in at B&M to buy some wild bird food for the garden and yes, you've guessed it, I had to queue!

This week we have heard on the news about the government continuing to ease the lockdown situation. The latest (at going to press) is that in England we're now allowed to meet in groups of up to six people from different households outside, either in parks or now in private gardens, as long as we remain 2metres (6ft) apart. This means that, whilst people from different households are still not allowed to meet indoors, you can go through the house to access a garden, but you can't extend your visit to stay overnight. Also, if you needed to do something like use the toilet during a visit, you would need to wipe down and clean everything afterwards, in order to lower the risk of transmission of the virus.

Notwithstanding all the recent 'hoohah' in the news about who can get away with what, when it comes to the rules and regulations, some folk will feel this is all too much too soon.

I look almost on a daily basis on the Methodist Church's website about updates to the 'official' Methodist policy regarding the closure of our buildings. Still there is no news (again, as at going to press) about when we might be able to open them up again and begin to welcome folk into them to worship and share fellowship together.

However, whenever that day comes, and it will, what those gatherings will look like remains unknown.

To begin with we will probably have to wash our hands on entry and exit, we will most likely have to socially distance ourselves and sit apart from one another. We may not be allowed to sing (apparently this similar to coughing when it comes to spreading germs) and if we are we may be doing it through masks. We will have to take it in turns to come forward for the bread and wine, as opposed to standing together at the communion rail. There will be no tea, coffee, or fellowship afterward and as soon as the service is over we may be politely asked to leave. And who knows, before the service begins, we may even have to queue to get in!

However strange this all may seem, and it does, it is doubly important never to forget, that God is in control, God has us in the palm of his hand. God will never leave us alone.

Therefore I leave you with the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*Make an uproar, O ye peoples, and be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, and it shall be brought to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us. Isa 8: 9-19*

Every blessing,

*Nick.*

# PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Les Fuller, Liz Potter, Margot Stanton, and many more who need our love and prayers.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are sad to report that Margaret Clark died on May 21<sup>st</sup> in her care home. She had just celebrated her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

We continue to pray for all our friends at Trinity, and beyond, many of whom are finding life difficult in these unusual times. We all look forward to the time when we can worship together again in our lovely church.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some verses written by William Blake – still appropriate for today.

*Hold on in the darkness though no gleam of light breaks through.  
Keep on dreaming dreams though they never quite come true.  
Keep on moving forward though you don't know what's ahead.  
Keep on keeping on though it's a lonely road ahead.*

*Keep on looking upward to the goal you have in view.  
Keep on at the task that God has given you.  
Keep on in the hope that there are better times in store.  
Keep on praying for the thing you are waiting for.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The Lord watch between me and you  
when we are absent from each other.

*Genesis chapter 31 verse 49*

## FROM THE EDITOR...

I was thinking, (don't do it very often), how much worse this lock down would have been if we were having to be isolated during the winter, when the days are short, cold and depressing. But for those who have been able to get out, even if only in the garden, we have been able to enjoy some lovely warm sunny weather. It has been fascinating to watch the spring unfolding and to see the plants growing and birds nesting and feeding their young.

At the station we have not had any swallows so far this year. I think that as they were scared off three times last year they nested somewhere else, and that is to where they have returned. House martins rebuilt the nest on the house, then left it for two or three days, in which time it was taken over by sparrows. So no swallows, and no house martins. On the station wall there is a water pump, which has been boxed in, and the handle fastened down. To my surprise the blue tits have nested in a very small hole in the brickwork at the side of the pump, and sparrows have built a nest inside the wooden box section. They are nesting only about a foot apart, but are very suspicious of each other.

Twice the farmer has had his sheep escape into the lane, once when two cyclists lifted a gate off its hinges to get their bikes through but didn't put it back. The second time was when a couple let their dog off its leash and it chased the sheep until in a panic they broke through the fence, so ewes and lambs were wandering up and down the lane. People seem to forget that farmland is not public land and that they do not have the right to go where they please.

Finally, as you can see from the photo below, my pheasant will now feed from my hand, which is amazing for such a timid bird. If I don't feed him he follows me round the station yard like a small dog. I might start a new trend!

Keep well, keep smiling, David



## Coronavirus and Church Offertories

Although Sunday services have been suspended for the time being, Trinity still has to meet substantial running expenses without the benefit of receiving income from members who give via the envelope scheme or in loose cash.

It would be most helpful and much appreciated if folk would continue donating in one of two ways, please:

By cheque, payable to Trinity Methodist Church, sent to the Church Treasurer, Iestyn Davies, 4, Osprey Park Drive, Kidderminster DY10 4BN.

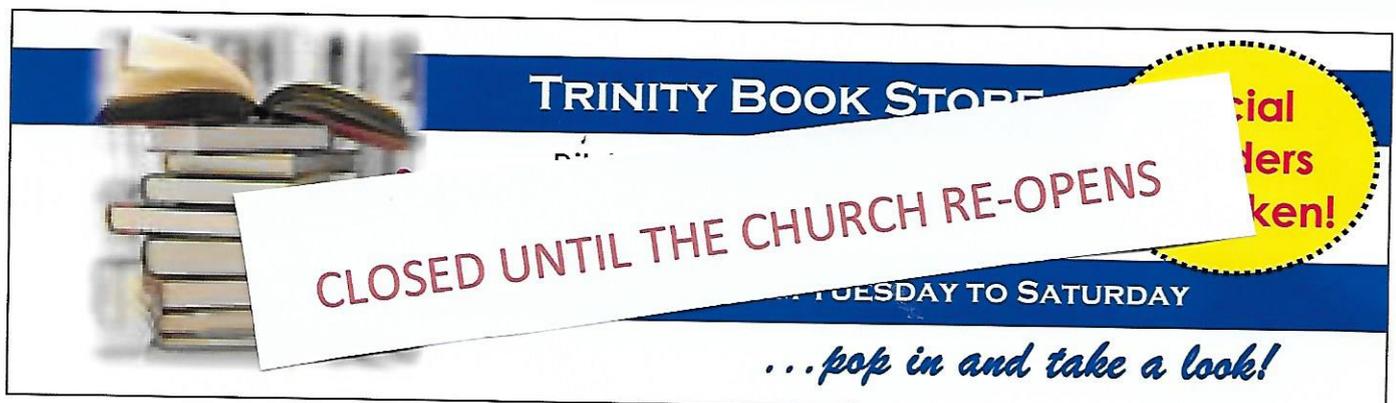
or

By bank transfer direct to the church bank account. To use this method please contact Iestyn Davies for details on 01562 740429 or by email to [iestyn.davies@btopenworld.com](mailto:iestyn.davies@btopenworld.com)

Thankfully, we are still receiving offertories from members who give by standing order. During the month of April £2434 was received by standing order and £291 by bank transfer and in cash. Details of receipts during May will not be known until the bank statement is received, around 10 June.

Many thanks to everyone who continues to support Trinity financially.

The day trip to Salisbury by courtesy of Alan and Celia Phillips which was cancelled will take place at some future date. Thanks to those who had already paid, your money will be transferred to the new date.



**TRINITY BOOK STORE**

**CLOSED UNTIL THE CHURCH RE-OPENS**

TUESDAY TO SATURDAY

*...pop in and take a look!*

Special offers taken!

The banner features a stack of books on the left and a yellow circular graphic on the right containing the text 'Special offers taken!'.

### Where in the world is.....?

1. Ayers Rock
2. Yellowstone National Park
3. The Taj Mahal
4. The Weddell Sea
5. Mount Ararat
6. The Sea of Tranquility
7. The Giant's Causeway
8. Gwennap Pit
9. Victoria Falls
10. The Jungfrau
11. An island awarded the George Cross
12. The Sphinx
13. Silicon Valley
14. Mount Kilimanjaro
15. The Whispering Gallery
16. A Bullet Train
17. St Peter's Cathedral
18. The Cabinet War Rooms
19. The Trevi Fountain
20. The Colosseum
21. Petra
22. St Basil's Cathedral
23. The Little Mermaid
24. The Tower of Pisa
25. The Statue of Christ the Redeemer
26. The Wailing Wall
27. The Nazca Lines
28. The supposed land of the Yeti
29. Poet's Corner
30. Timbuctoo



In Jules Verne's book, 'Around the World in 80 Days', the main character, Phileas Fogg and his valet, Passepartout, had a wager of £20,000 that they could not travel round the world in eighty days. They accomplished it at the last moment. A film was made in 1956 starring David Niven, and in it part of their journey was made by hot air balloon. The film won the Oscar for best picture that year.

## Sing, Sing a Song

The moment I heard Vera Lynn singing I knew we were in trouble, but let's face it, there's nothing like a familiar tune to revive the spirit. Our hymn book 'Singing the Faith' contains all we want and has popular melodies.

"Guide me o' thou great Jehovah" is of course that great Welsh tune 'Cwm Rhondda' and who hasn't sung 'Danny Boy' along with "I cannot tell". The Scots are up there with 'The Skye boat song' to "Spirit of God unseen as the wind" and the English are there with a hymn I can't remember but it goes with 'Scarlet ribbons'. Some hymns of course made the hit parade, you're as old as me if you can remember schoolboy Laurie London making the charts in 1957 with "He's got the whole world in His hands". Judy Collins sang her way into the top ten with Amazing Grace but it was the pipes and drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards who took it to No. 1 and a gold disc in 1972. Only one song, a carol, took the reverse route thanks to that Salvation Army group, The Joy Strings. The song 'A Starry Night' in the hit parade in 1964 made it into the Methodist 'Singing the Faith' book. So what's my story here?

Simple, why not, during lockdown, try and tie up hymns from the hymn book with new tunes. Nothing new actually. Two of the greatest hymn writers in history, Charles Wesley and Fanny Crosby, with over 15,000 hymns between them, rarely wrote the music. They were simply lyricists or poets if you like. They got other people to write the tunes or simply put them to music that already existed. I'll give you a starter for 2.

"See you later alligator" fits beautifully to "Once in Royal David's city". What if Bill Hayley and the comets had sung it to that tune? It could have spelt the end of rock 'n roll and saved many of us from a misspent youth! On the other hand, it could have had people jiving in the aisles again – church aisles this time. How about that Easter hymn "There is a green hill far away"? Fits perfectly into the animals "House of the rising sun", try it. So I've given you something to pass the lonely hours. Whatever you do don't record them, there's copyright involved here. Just have fun.

Yes, The Bible and pop music can mix, so I suppose I should finish with a word from God. Have a read from a rarely quoted book in The Bible, Ezekiel. Chapter 37, the valley of the dry bones. Written around 500 BC, this inspired song, "The hip bone is connected to the thigh bone, the thigh bone is connected to the knee bone, the knee bone is connected to the leg bone" and so on. Great inspiration, The Bible. 'Thank you for the music' now that's a good biblical name, Abba.

*Mike*

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)



## A Terrible Infliction.

Corona? What's happening? That's a beautiful word, well it was when I was a kid. The Corona man was the pop man who delivered a crate of pop to houses every week, or you could buy them singly from the shop. Beautiful glass bottles, metal fastening at the top with a rubber and crock stopper, they fetch £20-£30 on 'Bargain Hunt' today. When you finished the bottle you could take it back to the shop for 3d (old pennies) deposit. Enough for Black Jacks, Fruit Salads or a Sherbet Fountain. Collect enough empties and you'd got your bus fare to town, a seat in the cinema, ice cream and a bag of chips with batter bits on the way home. How dare they defile the word Corona, part of my childhood. I've just read John Wyndham's "Day of the Triffids", surely Triffid would be a better word to describe this tragic virus. However, we will beat it.

Lockdown? More like a lock-out, millions of us locked out of our places of worship. We will certainly remember the Easter of 2020 but not for the reasons of Easter 2000 years ago, the crucifixion, the resurrection and the birth of Christianity. Like us, the disciples must have looked on with a feeling of failure and hopelessness. With this Corona Virus on us we feel this way too. Just as they watched Jesus dying painfully on that cross, they, like us now, feel unable to do anything, wondering what we can do. But the challenge lies ahead. Out of darkness comes the light. Jesus rose alive and letting the Disciples know He needed them and loved them. Let the past go and spread the Good News. Just like us when the virus has been beaten. We shall rise up and be born again, we'll have Jesus on our side. Let us all walk onwards with our faith and God together. Put your trust in God and the hope He brings and remember, hold all sufferers and victims in your prayers. We will win, we will walk on, remember Isiah 30 v20-21 NIV

*"Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction your teachers will be hidden no more. With your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is The Way, walk in it.' "*

*Mike*

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)



## Mike's Smile Lines

Professor: I think I've discovered an acid that will burn through anything.

Student: Where we gonna store it?

\*\*

Man: When I bought this car you told me it was rust free, I've looked at the chassis and it's covered in it.

Garage owner: Yes the car is rust free, we don't charge you for it.

\*\*

Crossword puzzles are like an argument, one word leads to another.

\*\*

Strange place the Isle of Wight. You can get pork from Cowes.

\*\*

What about the vegetarian cannibal? He'd only eat swedes.

\*\*

Question master: What was the name of the swagman in the song 'Waltzing Matilda'?

Contestant: Andy.

Question master: How did you work that out? He never had a name.

Contestant: Yes he did! (sings) "Andy sang Andy watched Andy waited till his billy boiled, you'll come a waltzing Matilda with me".

\*\*

Mary: What do you think about red china?

Ann: Well it would look nice on a white tablecloth.

\*\*

Man: This soup tastes very funny.

Waiter: We why aren't you laughing?

\*\*

Teacher: I told you to draw a ring but you've drawn a square.

Boy: Yes Miss. It's a boxing ring.

\*\*

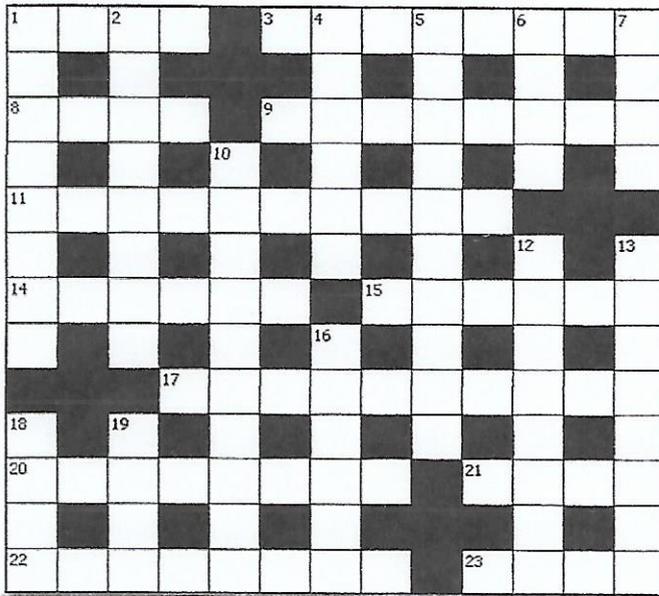
Mother: Eat your sprouts, it will put a colour in you cheeks.

Tommy: Who wants green cheeks?

\*\*

Sardines are funny. They crawl into a tin and leave the key on the outside.

## Parish Pump Crossword



## Sudoku puzzle (easy)

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

### Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

### Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

## Smile Lines

*Here are some excruciating one-liners...*

What time of day was Adam created?  
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?  
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?  
He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?  
No — just an apple.

\*\*

An efficiency expert was delivering a seminar on time management for a company's junior executives. He concluded the session with a disclaimer: "But whatever you do, do NOT attempt these task-organising tips at home," he said. When he was asked why not, he explained: "Well, I did a study of my wife's routine of fixing breakfast. I noticed she made a lot of trips between the refrigerator and the stove, the table and the cabinets, each time carrying only one item. So, I told her: 'Darling you are making too many trips back and forth carrying one item at a time. If you would only try carrying several things at once you would be much more efficient.'" He paused. "Did that save time?" one of the executives asked. "Actually, yes," the expert answered, "It used to take her 15 minutes to fix my breakfast. Now I get my own in seven minutes."

\*\*

Every morning, a little girl would go in the bathroom to watch her mother as she was putting on her makeup to go to work. But during coronavirus, the mother stopped bothering with makeup, much to her daughter's confusion. "Mummy," she cried early on in the lockdown: "Come back! You forgot to kiss the toilet paper goodbye!"

\*\*

A businessman was telling his friend about the worries plaguing him, declaring: "They are beginning to smother me, dozens closing in from all sides." "The thing to do," consoled the friend, "is to simplify your problems. Lump together the related ones. That's what I did, and now I have only three problems: nagging creditors, profitless business, and the fact that I'm broke."

\*\*

"The congregation was wonderful," said the minister after the Zoom service. "They were so polite that they even covered their mouths when they yawned."

The vicar at a local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: 'There's something wrong with this microphone.'  
Not hearing this, the congregation responded: 'And also with you.'

\*\*

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, 'and why is it necessary to be quiet in church?'  
One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

*Parish Pump 2020*

'Quotes' .....

"God is present in the midst of all the chaos that surrounds us."- *Henri Nouwen*

"Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake." - *Victor Hugo, writer*

*Parish Pump 2020*

\*\*\*\*\*

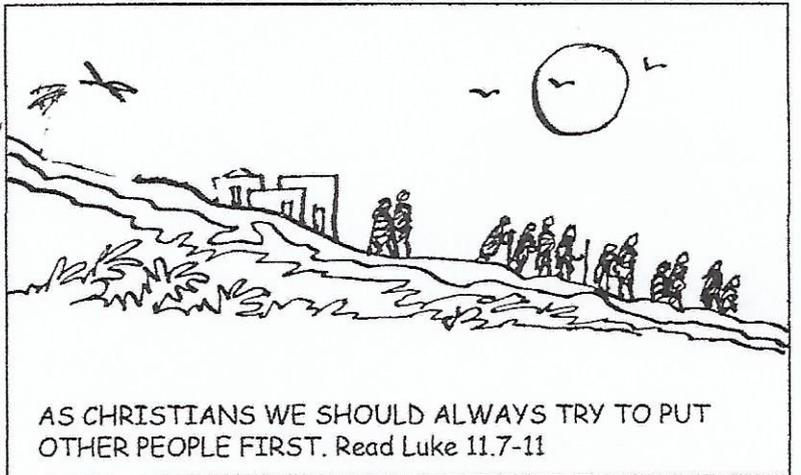
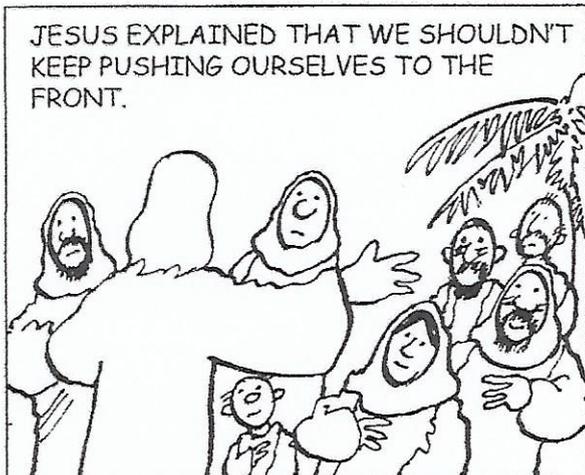
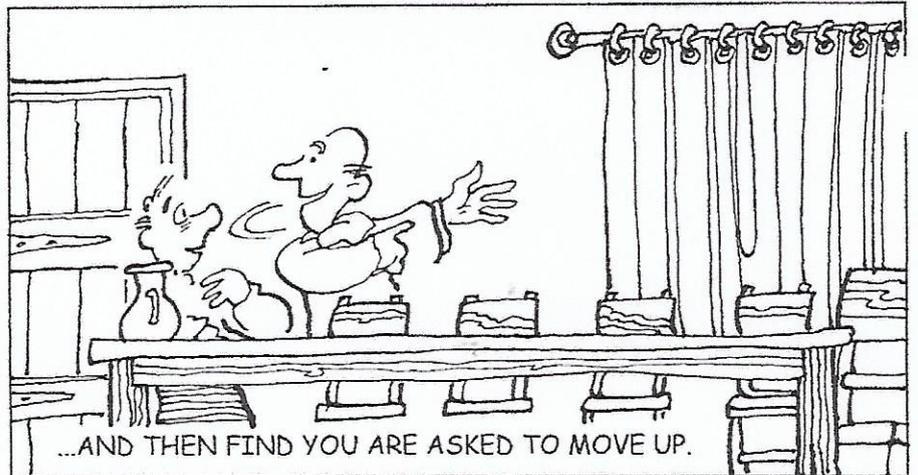
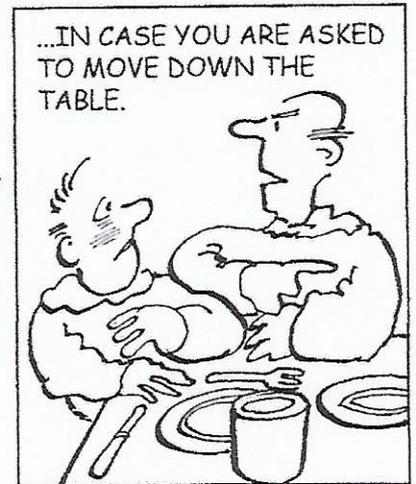
*I found this handwritten in a notebook of Margaret's, and thought I would share it with you:*

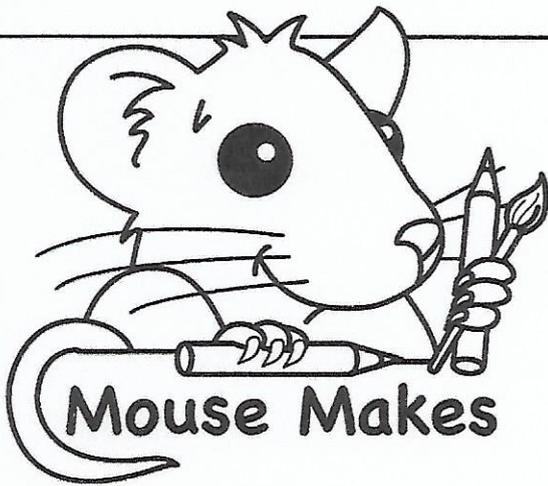
Give of yourself to those in need:  
    a meal cooked,  
        a hand held,  
            a back washed,  
                a laugh shared.

Give what is precious:  
    your time,  
        your compassion,  
            your strength.

For giving is the salve that heals humankind,  
the caulk that seals the crack.

*David*





When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

**READ** Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRAY      | <input type="checkbox"/> GATE     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RUBBLE    | <input type="checkbox"/> BEAM     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REPAIR    | <input type="checkbox"/> BOLT     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORE   | <input type="checkbox"/> BAR      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILD     | <input type="checkbox"/> STEP     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WORK      | <input type="checkbox"/> TOWER    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STONE     | <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TIMBER    | <input type="checkbox"/> POOL     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WALLS     | <input type="checkbox"/> FINISH   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLOOR     | <input type="checkbox"/> DEDICATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROOF      | <input type="checkbox"/> DOOR     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATE |                                   |

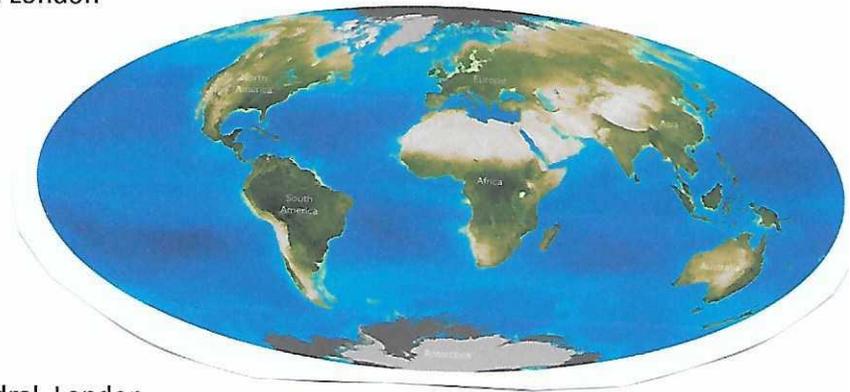
\_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
 \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_  
 B \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ M  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 RE \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ER \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ ER  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ K \_\_\_\_\_ P  
 \_\_\_\_\_ RE \_\_\_\_\_ R  
 \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_

How many gates were repaired?  
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?

## Where in the world is.....Answers

1. Northern Territory, Australia
2. United States of America
3. Agra, India
4. Antarctica, Southern Ocean
5. Turkey
6. The Moon
7. Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland
8. Redruth, Cornwall. Where John Wesley preached.
9. The border between Zambia and Zimbabwe
10. Switzerland
11. Malta. Awarded for its fortitude and bravery during WW2
12. Egypt
13. California, U.S.A
14. Tanzania
15. St. Paul's Cathedral in London. There are other places also.
16. Japan
17. Vatican City
18. Beneath the streets of Westminster, London
19. Rome
20. Rome
21. Jordan
22. Red Square, Moscow
23. Copenhagen, Denmark
24. Italy
25. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
26. Jerusalem
27. Peru
28. Himalayan Mountains
29. South Transept, Westminster Cathedral, London
30. Mali



## Crossword and Sudoku solutions

### Crossword answers:

#### Across

1 Care 3 Paradise 8 Null 9 Profaned 11 Legalistic 14 Closed 15 Stores 17 Missionary 20 Covenant  
21 Thai 22 Trade-off 23 Eden

#### Down

1 Conflict 2 Religion 4 Arrest 5 Affliction 6 Iona 7 Eddy 10 Allegiance 12 Preached 13 Assyrian  
16 A son of 18 Scot 19 DVLA

### Sudoku solution:

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



## GARDENING NOTES FOR JUNE

June can be a month of contrasts, often beginning dry, sunny and very warm to locally hot, the mid-month period however unseasonably cool and unsettled, 'The European Monsoon' setting in around the second week.

The sun will be at its most powerful during this month, the summer solstice taking place around the 21<sup>st</sup> when the sun will be directly over the 'Tropic of Cancer'. The clear blue skies and warmth of an early summer anticyclone are something to savour, before the humidity associated with later in the season arrives.

Early June is favourable for a spell of fine and settled weather, usually the result of an extension of the Azores High which has a tendency to take up a more northerly position in Mid-Atlantic. An 'unseasonably' cool and unsettled spell during mid-June onwards is often referred to as the 'European Monsoon'. Atlantic low pressure systems and their associated bands of rain and showers seem to power their way across the UK in an almost never ending stream. Fortunately June on the whole is characterised by a mix of both fine, settled, sometimes hot, weather and refreshing cooler showery conditions; 'all good growing weather' as they say!

If the weather conditions are forecast to be dry for any length of time, then keep in mind that prolonged draught is bad news for the lawn. Whilst I am no advocate of irrigating a lawn during dry weather, it is better to take preventative measures now whilst the soil and lawn is still moist. Spiking the lawn after rain when the soil is moist will have great benefit, allowing subsequent rainfall to penetrate deeper into the soil. Also remember to raise the mower blades slightly so as not to cut too short; mowing little and often is key to keeping the lawn in check.

There are a number of plants which can be pruned once they have finished flowering, these include:- *Clematis Montana*, Privet, *Chaenomeles*, *Choisya*, *Berberis* and *ribes*.

June is an ideal time to give a light feed to herbaceous plants, either a liquid manure or general fertilizer such as Rooster.

Deadhead early flowering subjects such as lupins; this should ensure you are treated to another flush of flowers later in the season. *Delphiniums* will require staking to prevent wind damage when in full flower.

Roses will be in full bloom now and will need regular checking for aphid or fungal attack. Spray as required with appropriate systemic insecticide or fungicide.

Weeds will be 'on the rampage'. An hour spent weeding now will pay dividends later in the season, remember the old saying "one year's weeds is seven year's weeds". Regular hoeing and hand weeding is the best method to deal with annual weeds. Hoe as soon as the weeds are surfacing. Ideally hoe or weed in drier weather, as any weeds left on the surface have a lesser chance to re-grow. Perennial weeds are best dug out completely as chemical control is often difficult or not practicable. Most perennial weeds are 'creepers' and will re-grow from the smallest piece of root fragment; regular removal will eventually weaken the weed. Weed growth can also be suppressed by the addition of a mulch of bark chippings, coco shell or well-rotted compost.

Plant out hardy fuchsias and put bedding plants and hanging baskets into position.

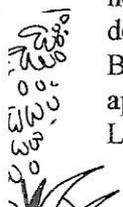
With the garden full of soft lush growth, slugs will be a major problem for most of us. Slugs attack a wide range of plants from ornamentals, vegetables and seedlings. Damage is especially noticeable when the weather is moist, the tender young growth damaged or completely eaten away, primarily during spring or early summer. Slugs are particularly active during warm, damp weather and come in a variety of sizes and colours ranging from black, brown and yellow-grey! Control of these 'little devils' is not easy, as we know, although there are preventative measures which can be taken. Good housekeeping will help; remove garden debris, leaves, unused pots and any hiding holes where they may be lurking. Encourage predators into your garden; hedgehogs, frogs, toads and birds will all help control the slug population. Copper tapes, moisture-absorbing granules, jam jars full of beer, scooped out half-oranges, grapefruits and melon skins have all been put forward as methods of slug control, with variable results. Slug pellets are useful and perfectly safe when used as directed, a liquid slug control is available, both based around methaldehyde. There is a non-chemical control available in the form of a nematode or eelworm which enters the slug's body and infects it with a bacteria leading to its death. Applied in solution, this appears to be particularly effective on well-drained soils when conditions are moist and the soil temperatures are around 60f.

Watering is of prime importance this month; tubs, hanging baskets and containers will dry out rapidly in hot weather. Don't water 'little and often' as this tends to encourage surface rooting leading to rapid dehydration in hot weather. A thorough soaking twice a week would be of greater benefit.

Blanket weed may become a problem in garden ponds from now on; remove it as soon as possible. This applies to floating weeds such as duckweed as well; both can be composted.

Let's hope the sun shines. "What ever you are doing, enjoy your garden; it's the only one you've got!"

Rob.



*A message for our June magazine from Parish Pump .....*

These are unprecedented times, but God is still our refuge and strength. We here at Parish Pump love Psalm 46....

Psalm 46

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging. [c]
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- <sup>5</sup> God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.
- <sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

God bless you and keep you and your loved ones safe at this difficult time.

*Anne Coomes and the Parish Pump Team*

### **Emergency Coronavirus Appeal Launch**

'All We Can' and the Methodist Church in Britain have launched an Emergency Coronavirus Appeal, to equip those living in some of the world's most vulnerable communities to combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Coronavirus poses a catastrophic threat to communities with weaker healthcare systems, or those who lack access to clean water and handwashing facilities.

In Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya, staff are being provided with essential personal protective equipment. In Cameroon, internally displaced families are being provided with vital hand sanitiser to help protect themselves from the virus. In Uganda, families who would have no means of accessing markets following the banning of public transport are being lent sanitised bicycles.

In addition to this, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain are supporting Rohingya refugees living in the camps of Cox's Bazar, helping maintain essential health services, deliver soap and hygiene items, and provide community healthcare education.

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/emergency-coronavirus-appeal-launch/>

*Parish Pump 2020*

## **Richard Baxter, English Puritan church leader**

If Richard Baxter were alive today, he would probably be contributing to the Thought for the Day on Radio 4, because he had a gift for the sound-bite. Try these memorable quotes:

*Preaching a man a sermon with a broken head, and telling him to be right with God is equal to telling a man with a broken leg to get up and run a race.*

*If God be not enough for you, you will never have enough. Turn to Him more, and know Him better, if you would have a satisfied mind.*

*When I compare my slow and unprofitable life with the frequent and wonderful mercies received, it shames me, it silences me, and leaves me inexcusable.*

*I preached as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men.*

As it was, Richard Baxter lived from 1615 to 1691, and so instead of broadcasting, became a well-known English Puritan church leader, poet, hymnodist, theologian and controversialist.

His 19-year ministry at St Mary and All Saints Kidderminster was very influential – he was an impossible preacher to ignore!

As a matter of fact, the BBC would have loved him because he was so outspoken that after the Restoration, his non-separatist Presbyterian approach made him one of the most influential leaders of the Nonconformists, and he spent some time in prison for various religious ‘offences’. He irritated both the Catholics and the Calvinists over various theological views and practices. Yet he was well respected – Dean Stanley called him ‘the chief of English Protestant Schoolmen.’

After the Restoration in 1660, Baxter, who had helped to bring it about, settled in London, and the power of his preaching and his skill as leader was well respected. He had been made a king’s chaplain, and was offered the bishopric of Hereford, but as a moderate dissenter to the C of E, he refused. He was then barred from preaching, but turned to writing, and in all produced some 168 works. He died peacefully in London in 1691.

*Parish Pump 2020*

*The Ven. John Barton considers the merits of a dream of reassurance...*

### **Jesus calming the storm of Covid-19**

The BBC ‘Today’ programme that was broadcast on Good Friday included an interview with Hylton Murray-Philipson, a survivor of Covid-19. He had been on a ventilator in Leicester Royal Infirmary, “reduced to the state of a baby”.

The programme presenter, Nick Robinson, invited him to describe memories of his time in intensive care. When he said one of the images he had, in a moment of great distress and struggle, was of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and he would like to think this was Jesus coming to him and helping *him* in his hour of need, Robinson suggested this was partly because of the powerful drugs he had been given, “which play tricks with the mind”.

Later, Robinson apologised and said he didn't mean to demean anyone's faith. But what he had said also betrayed ignorance. While it is true that pain-killing drugs can cause hallucinations, these side-effects are rarely pleasant. It is not uncommon for patients to become agitated, anxious, confused and even prone to violence. Their physical pain will have been reduced, but that may have been at the necessary cost of mental disturbance; the overriding experience being more like that of a storm, than of a sea being calmed.

Back in the 1960s, it became fashionable for some groups to promote the use of illicit drugs because of the temporary sensations they induced. John Lennon of the Beatles said he had "such an overwhelming feeling of well-being, that there was a God, and I could see him in every blade of grass. It was like gaining hundreds of years of experience in 12 hours."

In his new book, 'Morality – Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times', Rabbi Jonathan Sacks chronicles the devastating long-term effects of leisure drugs. He includes cannabis, which he calls a 'gateway drug', because most of those who become serious addicts later, began with it.

So what was it that Hylton Murray-Philipson actually experienced, when he was at death's door in that hospital intensive care unit? He knew the biblical story of seasoned fishermen, fearful of their lives because a sudden squall threatened to swamp their boat. Did he recall their alarm because Jesus, asleep in the stern, appeared to be unconcerned at the very moment when divine assistance was most needed? Did not his coronavirus-induced distress match theirs?

The Gospels relate that Jesus woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

Is that what Hylton experienced, too? He says it was.

*Parish Pump 2020*

### **Learning to trust in times of trouble**

A friend, writing about the challenges she is facing, says: "We never cease to have invitations to trust, do we?" I tend to agree. Almost every day we face circumstances that we cannot control, and for which the only way to find peace is to trust in the loving wisdom of our faithful God. Yet trust is never easy. It seems easier – and more natural – to worry or to be afraid. It's as if we feel we *ought* to be anxious, as if we really *must* fret about things. Not to do so would be to not care. It's our duty to carry the weight of the world on our shoulders.

But is it?

Jesus seems to offer us an alternative. He says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me." (John 14:1) He offers Himself to us as someone who is trust *worthy*, one who is absolutely reliable and who will see us through. We are invited to entrust Him with our concerns, and to hand over to His care the things that trouble us.

In his book *Ruthless Trust*, the writer Brennan Manning says: "Sometimes it may mean more to God when we say, 'I trust you' than it does when we say 'I love you.'" When things are going well, the sun is shining and the sky is blue, it is easy to love God. But when the storms are blowing, and the clouds are dark, it takes a very special kind of faith to say, "I don't understand God, but I do trust you."

This kind of faith delights the heart of God. Every trouble we face presents us with another invitation to place our trust in Him.

*by Tony Horsfall*

### **Mend and make do**

According to handicraft expert Kirstie Allsopp, a missing button was the number one reason why 350,000 tonnes of wearable clothing may end up in UK landfill this year.

But that was before lockdown. Now you have time to make do – and mend! Rescue and reuse your clothes. After all, it saves money and the planet.

Parish Pump 2020

### **Terry Waite – on coping with lockdown**

Terry Waite spent four years in solitary confinement in Beirut. He says: “In isolation, it is easy to become introspective and depressed. All of us, when we are honest and examine ourselves critically, will discover things about ourselves of which we are not especially proud. I had to learn how to grow a greater acceptance of myself and work towards a deeper inner harmony.

“... Today in lockdown, it’s important to keep yourself well. Don’t slob around all day in pyjamas and a dressing gown. Dress properly and develop a routine. It’s important to have a structure – get up at a certain time, eat regular meals and so on.

“If you have faith, then that will give you resources to draw on”, especially if you know some hymns, psalms and prayers by heart. “When I was captured, they were there to call on.”

Parish Pump 2020

*Gardeners amongst you may not agree with this article!! .....*

### **Dandelions!**

Many of us actually like dandelions. Their amazingly cheerful colour always brings a smile to our faces. The not-so-neat-and-tidy gardeners among us can simply enjoy flowers where they grow. The name ‘dandelion’ apparently derives from ‘dent de lion’ – lions’ teeth, owing to the tooth-like shape of its leaves. There are many different varieties of dandelion, but they all have the toothed leaves arranged in a rosette around the single flowers, each one made up of up to *two hundred* [yes, really!] tiny florets on a smooth stem, that when picked, releases a milky substance known as latex.

The golden heads, which close up at night, in wet weather, or if picked to go in a vase, give way to the seed-heads we all know as clocks. Who cannot remember proclaiming the time as a child, having blown the seeds away, counting each breath as an hour? And who, if this happened in the garden, remembers the reaction of a parent, or grandparent, to the efficient dispersal of the seeds all over the vegetable patch or flower bed!

In the past, dandelion drinks and concoctions have been valued for their medicinal powers in combating a variety of complaints, and the Victorians used to cultivate them in order to fill sandwiches with the young leaves. Fizzy drinks manufacturers still produce a variety known as Dandelion and Burdock, and intrepid wine-makers can use the flowers to concoct a heady brew. The roots, some say, can be dried and ground up for use as a coffee substitute. It is those same roots, long and strong, that our grandmothers would water carefully, to the amusement of onlookers, in order to pull them up completely.

To many of us, dandelions are one of Nature’s joys.

*By Kirsty Steele, a retired teacher and active church organist.*

## All in the month of JUNE

It was:

**250** years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1770 that English explorer Captain James Cook discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia when his ship ran aground on it and was severely damaged.

**200** years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1820 that Joseph Banks, British naturalist, died. He was President of the Royal Society for 41 years, developed the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, into one of the world's leading botanical gardens.

**150** years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1870 that Charles Dickens, British novelist, died. His books include *The Pickwick Papers*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations* and *David Copperfield*.

**80** years ago, June 1940, was a dramatic month in World War II. Main points include:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> The German Luftwaffe bombed Paris.
- 4<sup>th</sup> The evacuation of Allied forces from Dunkirk was completed.
- Winston Churchill gave his 'We shall fight them on the beaches' speech.
- 5<sup>th</sup> The Battle of France began.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Italy declared war on France and Britain.
- Canada declared war on Italy.
- The North African Campaign (Desert War) began.
- 11<sup>th</sup> The siege of Malta began.
- 14<sup>th</sup> German forces entered Paris.
- 17<sup>th</sup> French government minister Charles de Gaulle (later President of France) relocated to Britain.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Winston Churchill gave his 'Finest Hour' speech.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> France surrendered to Germany.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Germany invaded the Channel Islands.

**70** years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1950 that the first successful ascent of Annapurna in the Himalayas, was accomplished by a French expedition led by Maurice Herzog. This was the first successful ascent of a mountain over 8,000 metres. Annapurna is the 10<sup>th</sup> highest mountain in the world.

**60** years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1960 that the Six Bells Colliery disaster took place in Monmouthshire. 45 coal miners were killed by a gas explosion.

**30** years ago, on 1 June 1990 that US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed an agreement to end the production of chemical weapons and to destroy existing stocks. Also 30 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1990 that Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, was dismantled. It remained an official crossing point between East and West Germany until re-unification in October. The guard house is now on display in a museum.

**20** years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2000 that the Millennium Bridge in London opened. It closed again two days later because it swayed uncomfortably when people walked in step. It reopened in Feb 2002 after changes were made.

# Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster



## Sunday Services

**Holy Communion 9.00am**  
(Second Sunday of each month)

**Morning Worship 10.30am** with

- Creche for babies & toddlers
- Footsteps for children of S...

**Evening Worship 6.30pm**  
(Except Second Sunday of Ea...)  
(Services that include Holy Co...)

## Monday

'Start the Week' - 9.30am - 10.00am. Vestry 1.  
A short time of quiet contemplation and prayer

**Zumba Gold 12noon - 1.00pm**  
Leader: **Bev Slater** - 01562 228016  
(07...)

## Tuesday

**Trinity Toddlers 9.45**  
Contact: **Mrs Stella**  
**Rev'd. P...**

Harris/St...

**Week Lunchtime Service at Trinity**  
12.30pm - 1.00pm

(See Plan on Notice Board  
for details of Communion Services)

## Second Sunday of each Month

**6.30pm Café Worship**

A relaxed style of Worship with a difference!

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

Telephone: 01562 824450

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