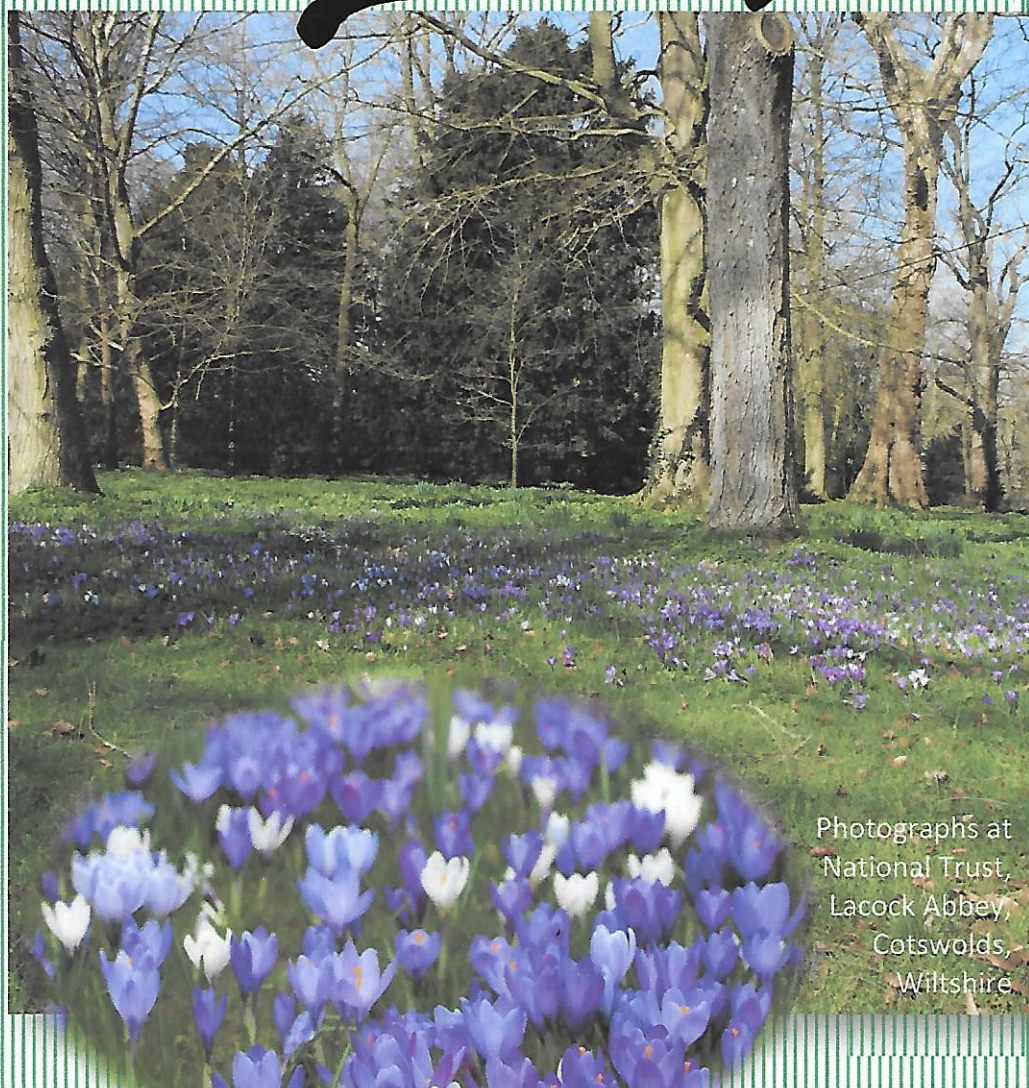


♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*



Photographs at
National Trust,
Lacock Abbey,
Cotswolds,
Wiltshire

March 2022

...all are welcome in this place!

**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
CHUIRCHFIELDS, KIDDERMINSTER**

Church website: trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

Circuit website: kandsmethodistcircuit.org.uk

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TRINITY TIDINGS EDITORIAL TEAM:

Mr David Skitt 01299 401047
Mrs Joan Davies 01562 740429

**The closing date for items for the
APRIL edition
Of Trinity Tidings is Sunday, 27th March, 2022**

**Please email articles, preferably as a Word Document to:
arleystation@aol.com**

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

Dear Friends,

As you will be aware, when I compose the Minister's Letter for Tidings I often try to include something that is suitably topical or something relevant to the Church calendar and this month's Tidings will appear as we once again begin the season of Lent. However, I believe it would be wrong of me to ignore the situation that is happening in the Ukraine right now.

I think you would have to have been living on Mars or somewhere far away not to know that Putin's Russian Forces have invaded the peaceful and sovereign country of Ukraine and is currently fighting its way across that country to try and overcome the Ukrainian people and force them into submission. On the whole, certainly in the west, other countries have condemned the action of Putin and his government and stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, with governments and organisations sanctioning and boycotting Russia in areas such as banking and sport etc.

A couple of weeks ago the lectionary reading was Luke Ch 6 Vs 27-38, which speaks about Jesus' instruction to his disciples (i.e. us) to love our enemies, to pray for those who abuse us, to turn the other cheek etc. However, in the face of what we see happening in Ukraine it just amplifies how difficult this instruction from Jesus is and how hard it is for us follow.

In our feeling of helplessness for Ukraine, whilst I'm sure practical ways to help the situation will become apparent in due course, perhaps all we can do for the time being is turn to prayer. Therefore I offer this prayer below which has been put together for our use by the Joint Public Issues Team of the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church and the Baptist Union.

God of all,
with alarm and concern we bring before you
the military intervention in Ukraine.
In a world you made for peace and flourishing,
we lament the use of armed force.
We mourn every casualty of this conflict,
every precious life extinguished by war.
We pray comfort for those who grieve and those who are fearful.
Hear our longing that leaders and nations
will honour the worth of all people by having
the courage to resolve conflict through dialogue.
May all our human failings be transformed
by your wonderful grace and goodness.
We ask this in the name of Christ,
the author of peace and sustainer of Creation.
Amen.

Every blessing,

Nick.

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz potter, Les Fuller, Lyn Jones, Margot Stanton, Ray and Barbara Lee, Betty Norman, Ruth Palmer, Anne Perkin, Diane Collison's parents, Peter and Ann, those on the Prayer Vine and all those we know who need the love, comfort and the knowledge of Christ's presence with them.



During the month of March, please remember in your prayers, the area of Kidderminster known as Broadwaters.

Broadwaters

March

St Oswald's Church

The Polish RC Church.

St Oswald's CE Primary School and Nursery

Residential Housing

Retail

The Rose Theatre

Friends of Broadwaters Group

Our friends from Broadwaters Methodist Chapel as they come to terms with the closure of their Chapel.



From the Editor...

Dear Friends,

I am sure that we have all noticed the daffodils growing well and although some are in bloom most will be nodding their golden heads to the breeze in the next week or so. At the end of January I bought a 5kg.bag of daffodil bulbs for £1. Although it was well past the recommended date for planting them, and some were never going to flower, I planted the rest, and they are all about 2 – 3 inches tall, and will soon flower. I put them in various pots around the station, and when they have finished I will dig them up and plant them under the boundary hedge so that they will give a good showing next year.

It made me think that despite the covid pandemic – which is still with us – and Russian aggression to an innocent country, there are some things which are never affected. Birds are looking for nest sites, the snowdrops have flowered and are now nearly finished, daffodils on their way, my seed potatoes are 'chitting' nicely. Here at Arley we have many hellebores, which are in full flower now, and give a lovely colourful display at this time of the year. Spring is on its way!

There is a song which children in my school sang, which I have quoted before:

*You can't stop rain from falling down,
Prevent the sun from shining,
You can't stop spring from coming in,
Or winter from resigning,
Or still the waves, or stay the wind,
Or keep the day from dawning.
You can't stop God from loving you,
His love is new each morning.*

Salvation Army song book

I will leave you with that thought.

David



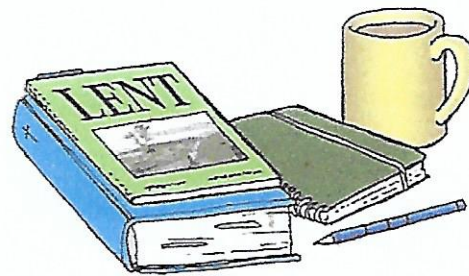
Offertories for the past six weeks are as follows

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
23.01.22	135.00	84.00	594.20	813.20
30.01.22	81.00	49.94	594.20	725.14
06.02.22	355.00	68.00	740.25	1163.25
13.02.22	106.00	113.80	740.25	960.05
20.02.22	150.00	40.00	740.25	930.25
27.02.22	111.00	87.00	740.25	938.25

In addition, offertories donated by bank transfer amounted to £70.00 in January.

Thank you to those who donated to the Tonga tsunami retiring collection which raised £159.70.

In this current church year it is estimated that offertories of £1200 per week will be required to break even.



SERVICES IN MARCH.

March 6 th	10.30am	Canon Owain Bell -- Church Anniversary
	6.30pm	Mr David Skitt
March 13 th	10.30am	Mrs Sue Green -- Joint service with Baxter
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison -- Café Worship
March 20 th	10.30am	Rev Nick Collison -- Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Mrs Sue Stinton
March 27 th	10.30am	Rev Sue Levitt
	6.30pm	Mrs Janet Murray
April 3 rd	10.30am	Rev Nigel Taylor
	6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt

Lunchtime service each Thursday at 12.30pm

**UPDATE:
MARCH 2022**

NEW Roof Project...

The recent 'Quinquennial Report' completed in March 2021 found some serious defects in the state of the building roof at Trinity.

The Problem...

The Hall, Lounge and Toilet Roof areas and the connecting gulley, at the foot of the tower, require urgent replacement.

The Answer...

A New Roof complete.
Costs

Approx £65,000



UPDATE: MARCH 2022

Roof Contract Progress to date.

We are now at the point of reviewing the final quotations from all potential roofing contractors with the final placement of contract to start these URGENT works during March 2022.

The Roof Fund

A 'Big Thank You' to everyone who has supported this project thus far...

The Roof Fund currently is made up as follows:

- Interest Free Loans £16,000.00
- Donations & Fundraising Events £25,819.00
- Total to date... **£41,819.00**

This makes a shortfall of approx. circa £24,000
...So, we have to keep focussed on Fund Raising into the future.

How you can Help!...

Everyone is therefore encouraged to continue to play whatever part they can in helping this project by supporting:

Fundraising Events – please watch out for information on events.

Donations – If you wish to make a donation to the Project
Please contact: Iestyn Davies
Tel: 01562 740429
Email: iestyn.davies@btopenworld.com

Interest Free Loans – Please contact Iestyn Davies for information
If you would like more detailed information on any aspects of this Major Project, please contact:
John Bacon – Tel: 01562 744502.

£65,000

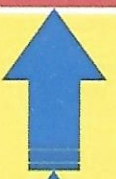
£60,000

£55,000

£50,000

£45,000

Funds
Raised
to Date



As of 17th February, 2022
Total

£41,819.00

Made up of
Donations & Fundraising
£25,819.00

Interest Free loans
£16,000.00

Please give this appeal your careful and prayerful consideration and support! Thank you.

Bunny Drive

Saturday 9th April

6pm for a 6.30pm start

Chip supper

£8 per person

Bring change for some games

Drinks available for donations or BYO

Book through Sarah or email
trinitysocialcommittee@gmail.com.uk



Trinity Methodist Church Kidderminster

A day out to Salisbury!

Come and enjoy a day out to the
historic city of Salisbury
with coach travel by

'Phillips International Travel'

on Friday
6th May 2022

Cathedral Tours

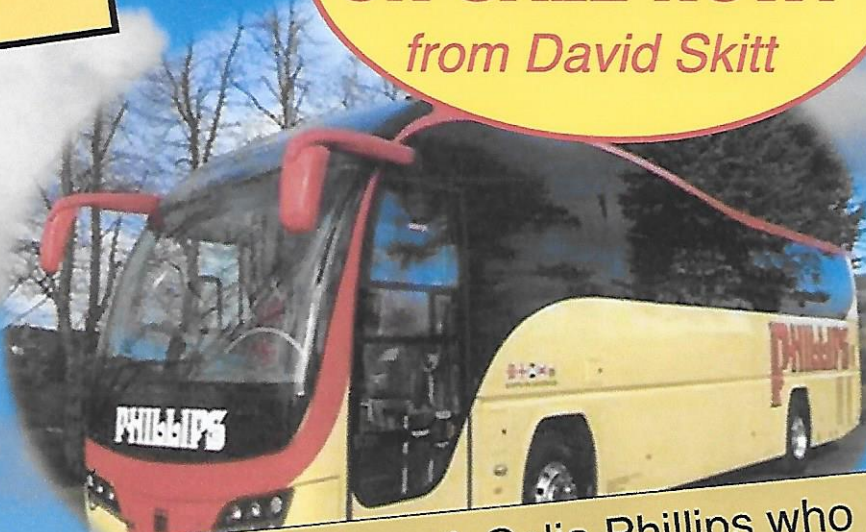
To book a tour of the cathedral, including the
tower, this must be booked for the
2.15pm tour, on
www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/visit/tower-tours
There is a payment for this.

Tickets **£20** Each

ON SALE NOW!

from David Skitt

Coach Departs
From Trinity at
8.45am



Raise the Roof!

Raise the Roof!



We thank Alan & Celia Phillips who
have generously offered Trinity their
coach for the day!

All proceeds in aid of the
Trinity **NEW** Roof Project

Methodist Modern Art Collection



After two years of Covid-enforced cancellations, we are delighted to announce that our exhibition will take place in 2022 at

Bewdley Museum, Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire DY12 2AE
Saturday 26th March – Sunday 24th April 2022
Open Daily: 11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Admission Free

The Methodist Modern Art Collection is one of Britain's most important collections of modern religious art, comprising more than fifty paintings, prints, drawings, relief and mosaics. The artists include famous names from the British art world of the last 100 years (Graham Sutherland, Edward Burra, Patrick Heron, Elisabeth Frink) alongside more contemporary artists. Our exhibition in Bewdley will feature 20 of the pieces.

Full details can be found at: www.forallpeoplebewdley.com

BAXTER CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Don't you want to be healed?

Dear Friends,

The past month has felt very strange with only one opportunity to see you in person for worship. But it has been good to catch up with you at other times and I know that you have been in good hands in worship through the leadership of Janet, David and Brenda.

We are now entering the season of Lent where we have the opportunity to take stock and reflect on our relationships with God. I hope during this season that we'll be able to meet and reflect on the amazing gift of God's love discovered in Jesus by using the TV series *The Chosen* to help us. If you haven't had the opportunity to watch an episode or two yet I really encourage you to do so as it is amazing and brings Jesus to life in a way that I think is needed more than ever in these challenging days we're living through as both a church and in the world.

I've even started using the daily devotions that link directly to *The Chosen* and the one I read today was particularly relevant I felt for us as a church. It picks up the story of the paralysed man who had been paralysed for 38 years and had been waiting at the pool of Siloam for many years to be healed. When Jesus meets with him he asks a very strange question of him "Don't you want to be healed?". It sounds such a stupid question doesn't it? Of course the man wanted to be healed didn't he? Well the reality is that as we read the story of the encounter the man has with Jesus, we realise that he has been there so long that he's got used to being disappointed. The spark of hope has gone from him and even when the waters of the pool get stirred up he barely registers the opportunity to try and get healed (in the first century sacred waters were associated with healing).

So when Jesus meets with the man, he's feeling fairly jaded and accepting of his situation. But Jesus' question is about challenging this situation. It's about not settling for second best i.e. to be at a place of healing but not receiving it, but claiming it for yourself and being Chosen and changed by Jesus as a result.

The same can and should be the case for us as disciples and as a church who want to walk the way of Jesus each day of our lives. We've come to settle for second best as a community of believers accepting that because the church is tight on resources we can't do anything about sharing the good news of Jesus. We've started to accept that we're a declining community and that no one will want to join us. And we've started to do nothing about any of the decisions that we've taken as a church family to set us on a new course as community.

Yes we might still be lamenting the loss of our own building and yes we might still need to prayerfully think through where we are and why we're doing what we are. But if we believe that God hasn't finished with us and has a plan for our church family we need to start doing something about it. Jesus says to us "Don't you want to be healed?"

Let's commit this Lent to prayerfully considering our future as a church family and let's celebrate together all that God has enabled us to achieve up until this point. And let's seek to meet Jesus and encourage each other in our daily walk of discipleship. And rather than settling for second best and saying "this isn't for me" let's meet and let's reflect on the Jesus who calls us into relationship with God as we share the TV series *The Chosen* together.

Yours in Christ,
Andrew

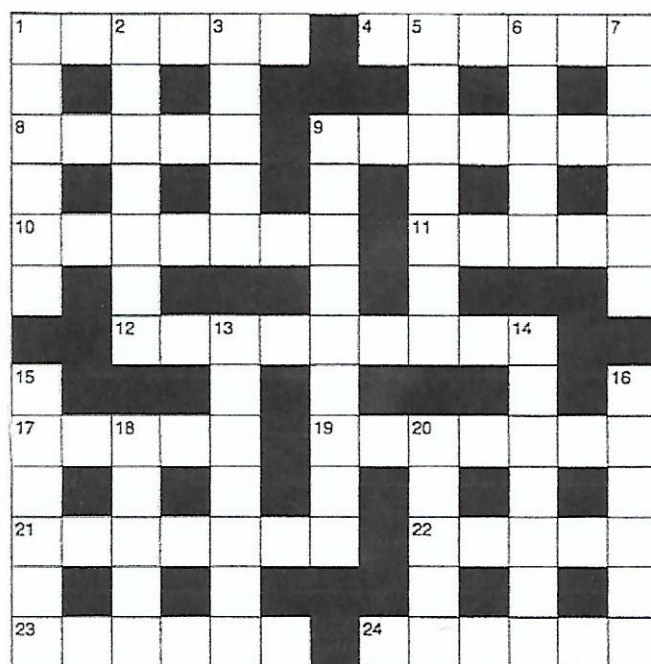
How much do you know about the Methodist Church?

1. When was John Wesley born?
2. What was his mother's name?
3. By what name was he known when he was a child?
4. Why did he describe himself as "a brand plucked from the burning"?
5. Where was he born?
6. What was his first job?
7. What did he consider was his greatest failure?
8. What was his wife's name?
9. What did he mean when he said "the whole wide world is my parish"?
10. When did he die?
11. What, it is said, were his last words?
12. John Wesley wrote a book called 'Primitive Physic'. What is it about?
13. What happened to John Wesley in Wednesbury?
14. When did the different branches of the Methodist Church join together?
15. The Methodist Hymn Book was published in 1933. What is the first sentence of the preface?
16. There are two things that the early Methodist Church was adamantly against. What were they?
17. Why was the lay ministry called 'Local Preachers'?
18. Where in the West Midlands area do people train for the ministry?
19. What is the origin of the word 'Methodist'?
20. Where is the Museum of Methodism?
21. How often is the Methodist Conference held?
22. Where is it to be held this year?
23. What is the difference between the President, and Vice President of the conference?
24. Who is the chair of our district?
25. When were women admitted to the ordained ministry?

God grant that I may
never live to be useless!

John Wesley

Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku puzzle (medium)

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — —,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest —, but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to —, and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — —’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not —, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH

March can be a month of contrasts, in terms of temperature and precipitation, snow and sleet is still probable, especially over high ground, and frosts can be severe. The sun's increasing strength is apparent though, and given a south-westerly breeze coupled with broken cloud, bright sunshine can send the thermometer well up.

March's watchword is to make the most of any prolonged spell of fine dry weather to work outside, but don't be lulled into a false sense of security and believe winter's over. Remember the old weather lore, "in like a lion, out like lamb"? Well it could be the other way round, so take heed.

With higher temperatures, especially at night, March is usually the time when we notice that the grass is beginning to grow once more. Established lawns can be given a light raking over. This will aid the removal of debris, dead grass and scatters any worm casts that may be appearing. With accelerated growth, lawns may require a light cut, but do ensure that the mower is on its highest setting for a short trim. Do also ensure that if the mower has been in storage over the winter months it's in full working order and it's safe.

One of the first topics we covered in these jottings was the pruning of roses, which should be done during this month if possible. Hybrid teas should have all dead, damaged or diseased wood cut out completely. Twiggy or weak shoots should be cut back to the main stem. Strong healthy stems should be pruned back by about one third; however, traditionally one stem is cut back to about 6 inches to encourage basal shoots. Floribundas too should have dead or damaged shoots cut out completely and weak side shoots cut back to the stem. Previous year's green growth should be thinned out by about one third by cutting them out completely to ground level. Remaining older brown wood should be cut back about a half, one stem trimmed down to 6 inches.

Recently planted climbers shouldn't be pruned, save for the removal of dead wood. Established climbers should have older and thicker side shoots trimmed by about one half. Refer to a specialist rose book for detailed pruning techniques as pruning at the wrong time or in an incorrect manner can wreak havoc for the season's flowering!

March is the traditional time for starting off begonia corms. To encourage good root formation you can gently press the corm, (hollow depression uppermost) into a shallow tray of compost so that the rim of the corm is just level with the compost. Keep them on the cool side, and well lit and they will soon develop roots. After several weeks you can pot up into individual pots to grow on.

Although there are many lovely early spring plants, one of the most charming must be *pulsatilla vulgaris* (the pasque flower). *Pulsatilla vulgaris* thrives in a sunny spot with a free-draining soil that is slightly limey. If your soil is a little too heavy, then adding grit will improve drainage. The pasque flower is very distinctive. Delicate bell-shaped flowers appear from early spring, usually white, pinkish-red or deep purple in colour, all with central golden stamens. To prolong flowering, dead-head regularly. Although named varieties won't come true from any seed you collect, do leave some of the 'fluffy' seed heads to develop on the plant, as they are as distinctive as the flowers. As soon as the seed is ripe remove it from the plant and sow thinly in loam based seed compost mixed with equal parts of perlite or sharp sand. Place outside in a cool sheltered spot and don't allow to dry out. Germination can be erratic, but when through, move to a cold frame if you have on. When large enough to handle prick out by holding the leaves, not the stem and pot on. When large enough, plant out.

Whatever the weather throws at you this year, enjoy your garden; it's the only one you've got!



Bob.



Some smile lines

A new Chinese take-away has opened between Halesowen and Stourbridge called Yo Min Lye.

Someone was recently electrocuted in Greggs. They trod on a bun and the current went up their leg.

A couple from Dudley on a world cruise called at Mumbai, In the bustling market one stall had a sign saying Train Tickets . Trying to be sarcastic the husband asked for two tickets to Smethwick. Quick as a flash the stallholder replied 'Galton Bridge or Rolfe St?'

A police motor cycle patrol saw a car driving erratically on the Ring Road. Once alongside he saw that the driver was steering with her knees whilst knitting. He shouted 'pullover' but she replied 'no a pair of socks.'

Alan Sugar was annoyed when his Rolls Royce was overtaken by a cyclist. Instructing his chauffeur to get a move on they overtook the cyclist at about 50mph only to find a few seconds later he overtook again. Furious Alan Sugar forced the cyclist to stop. Out of breath and red faced the cyclist said 'thank-goodness you've stopped my braces are wrapped round your door mirror.'

Boris Johnson was invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Primate of All England and the Chief Rabbi on a fishing trip. Being a very hot day after an hour the Archbishop said I'll fetch some drinks, climbed out of the boat, walked across the water returning within a few minutes. This was repeated by the other two faith leaders. Boris then said 'my round now' climbed out of the boat and sank. The other three were amused that he hadn't noticed the stepping-stones

Reliant Dobbin, a horse with three legs.

Once in a lifetime occurrence when Good Friday fell on Boxing Day. (Newton Abbot races)

William Shakespeare was trying to choose a pencil at the time he was thinking 2B or not 2B. He was also very lucky he didn't have to study Shakespeare at school.

Is there a B & Q in Wolverhampton? No but there are 2 D's in Kidderminster.

The captain of a cruise ship was concerned that every passenger had taken to the life-boats. Apparently the entertainment officer had announced a band on ship.

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THE

Joint CTiK / Council Easter Hunt

At **Brinton Park** on **Easter Sat 16th April 2022**

10.30am - 12 noon

Set up & help needed from 8.15am

We are expecting over 2000 people from the area to visit the park with 450 children (under 12's) completing a trail based on the Easter Story including the Cross, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

We have balloon modelling, face painting, colouring, Peter Cooper's Circus Skills etc Teen Challenge and refreshment tent courtesy of Wyre Forest Youth for Christ'

NB. If it's wet or too windy we will move to Holy Innocents'

It's a wonderful opportunity for you to engage with your community as a **STEWARDS** a **FACE PAINTER** or **YOUR OWN STALL** -

We also need help collecting and setting up tents, tables, chairs etc
PEOPLE REALLY APPRECIATE THE EVENT..

An Opportunity to advertise your church activities

We will be giving out 200 BAGS OF HOPE which will contain scripture/gospel booklets, Hope Magazine, colouring sheets and leaflets & flyers from your churches advertising upcoming events particularly for children and families,

Or Courses eg Exploring Christianity, mental health e.g. Kintsugi Hope, Alpha Courses etc.

To advertise your Church events in the BAGS OF HOPE

PLEASE DELIVER 200 of your flyers by Mon 3rd April

To 2 Hamilton Rd, Kidderminster, WORCS, DY11 6NL

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN COME AND HELP WITH :-

- **TRANSPORTING SET UP / SET DOWN OF TENTS TABLES etc)**
- **FACE PAINTING** (over 18 years old) - training will be given for those who have never done it before
- **STEWARDS** around the Trail to help people with questions
- **SERVING REFRESHMENTS**
- **YOUR OWN STALL** (you need to bring everything you need with you)

Contact me Jane Pollard on :- **07949968276**

or pollardjane@yahoo.co.uk

(by end of Feb at absolute latest)

In Praise of Long Hair

One of the biggest fears that men have today is the worry of going bald. The first sign of a receding hairline sends men into a panic, of course not for the women. The thing is, read your Bible and all men seem to have long hair. Would I have ever made it into the Rolling Stones in the 60's? O.K., I can't sing or play a guitar but would they have ever considered a premature balding man in his early 20's? So what about poor Elisha on his way to Bethel? "Go on up, you baldhead" some youths shouted at him, "Go on up you baldhead!". (2 Kings 2 v2-3). OK, he then put on a curse in the name of The Lord and 2 bears came out of the woods and mauled 42 of them. You don't jeer Elisha about his hairline! Of course, most of the men in The Bible are portrayed as having long hair, even Jesus Himself.

There's nothing wrong with long hair, take Samson. At his birth, an Angel of The Lord said "No Razor shall be used on his head because the boy is to be a Nazarite set apart to God from birth". (Judges 13 v5)

The Story of Samson made long hair a sign of strength and power. Why, with the power of God he killed a lion with his bare hands. However, it was a woman that caused his downfall, a certain Delilah, and her nagging. As Tom Jones sang "I was lost like a slave that no man could free, Why, Why, Why Delilah!". He gave up his secret, his hair was cut and he lost his strength. It's like most men today, they feel that if they have their hair cut, they lose their strength and masculinity.

Samson's hair did however grow back again. He was made fun of and was ridiculed when taken to the temple during a feast, he was among his enemies, The Philistines. He stood in the doorway between 2 pillars. He prayed to God "Make me strong just one more time" he asked "so that I can pay back my enemies". God listened so Samson pushed against the pillars and collapsed the whole building killing himself and everyone inside the temple. Long hair ruled once again.

Then, of course, there's Absalom. He was noted for his looks and his wonderful head of hair. Son of King David, he led his followers in an uprising against the King. When he lost the battle he ran away on his mule but got his long hair entangled in the branches of an oak tree. Hanging there, he was easy prey for Joab, who killed him.

History is full of long-haired rebels, although Jesus, always with long hair and a beard in pictures, was not one of them of course. His words and deeds made Him a sort of child of the revolution, the revolution towards Christianity. So the Bible will always be seen to be a collection of stories by long haired people.

Mike

What's in a Name"

"Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus". So said the Angel Gabriel. Why Jesus? Normally a boy born to a family, in this case the house of Jacob, would carry the name of one of his forefathers. They had no choice in the matter. God said he was to be called Jesus and that was it. Of course, He was also to be known as The Son of God, unique.

Was there anyone in the Old Testament named Jesus? I can't find one, there might have been but one thing, this was the first and only Jesus Christ.

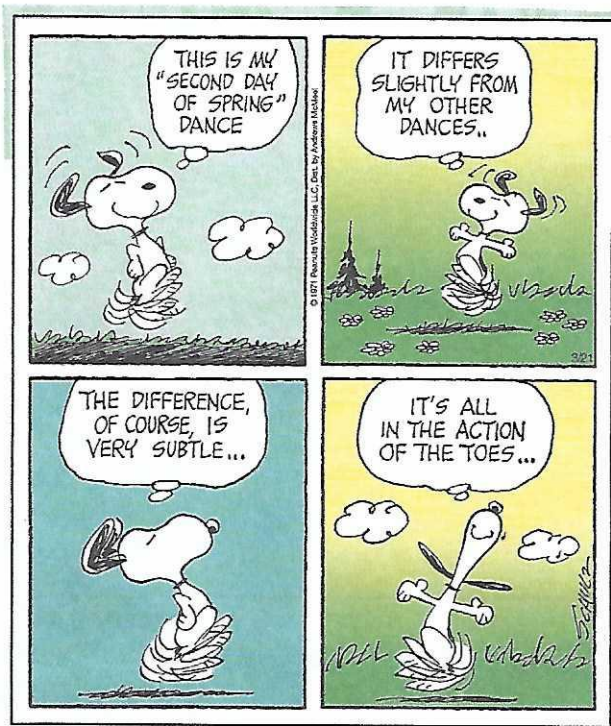
Today of course it's a popular name, not in Britain however. Go to any hotel in Benidorm and you'll find a waiter called Jesus. What an honour for the humble servant, but let's face it, that's

what Jesus was. There's a footballer called Jesus at Manchester City so if you want to go around with Jesus on your back, buy the shirt (but it's a sacrifice at £70). So be proud of your name, I am. There are millions of angels in The Bible, only 2 are named. We've already mentioned Gabriel, who is the other? Michael of course. Although I'm always called Mike, Mick or Mickey, I'm quite happy to be named after an angel and saint, as long as nobody asks me to "Row the boat ashore". And just think, if Bjorn and Benny of Abba had been christened Sid and Dick you'd have spent the last 40 years singing and dancing to Asda -- Mamma Mia! Yes, there's something about a name.

Now every year there is published the top 20 girls' and boys' names used for Baptism. Jesus has never been in that list of boys' names. Of course, He doesn't have to be. There is only one Jesus -- well, Jesus Christ. Who would call their child Jesus today? Well us Christians would. This is the greatest baptism name of all time, but we rarely use it. The hymn says it all "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear". Let's thank Tim Rice nearly 2000 years later for coming up with the greatest name, simply "Jesus Christ Superstar".

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)



There was a time when I didn't know where my next pound was coming from – but my wife knew where it was going!

Man: Doctor, can you give me anything for my liver?

Doctor: How about a pound of onions?

The word NO has 2 letters in it. The word YES has 3 letters. That's 50% extra just for changing your mind.

Wear white clothes as often as you can. They induce a feeling of calm and serenity. Sheep swear by it.

If Adam had written smile lines, he would have had a great advantage. Nobody would have heard them before.

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 £3.00

Our main courses include:

Meat Loaf Salmon Flan Chicken Casserole

Corned Beef Flan Sausages

Ham and Pineapple Cheese and Bacon Flan

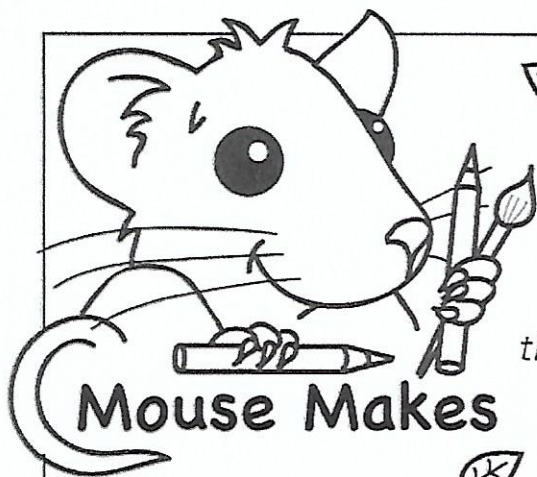
and our puddings (naughty but very nice):

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)**



GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

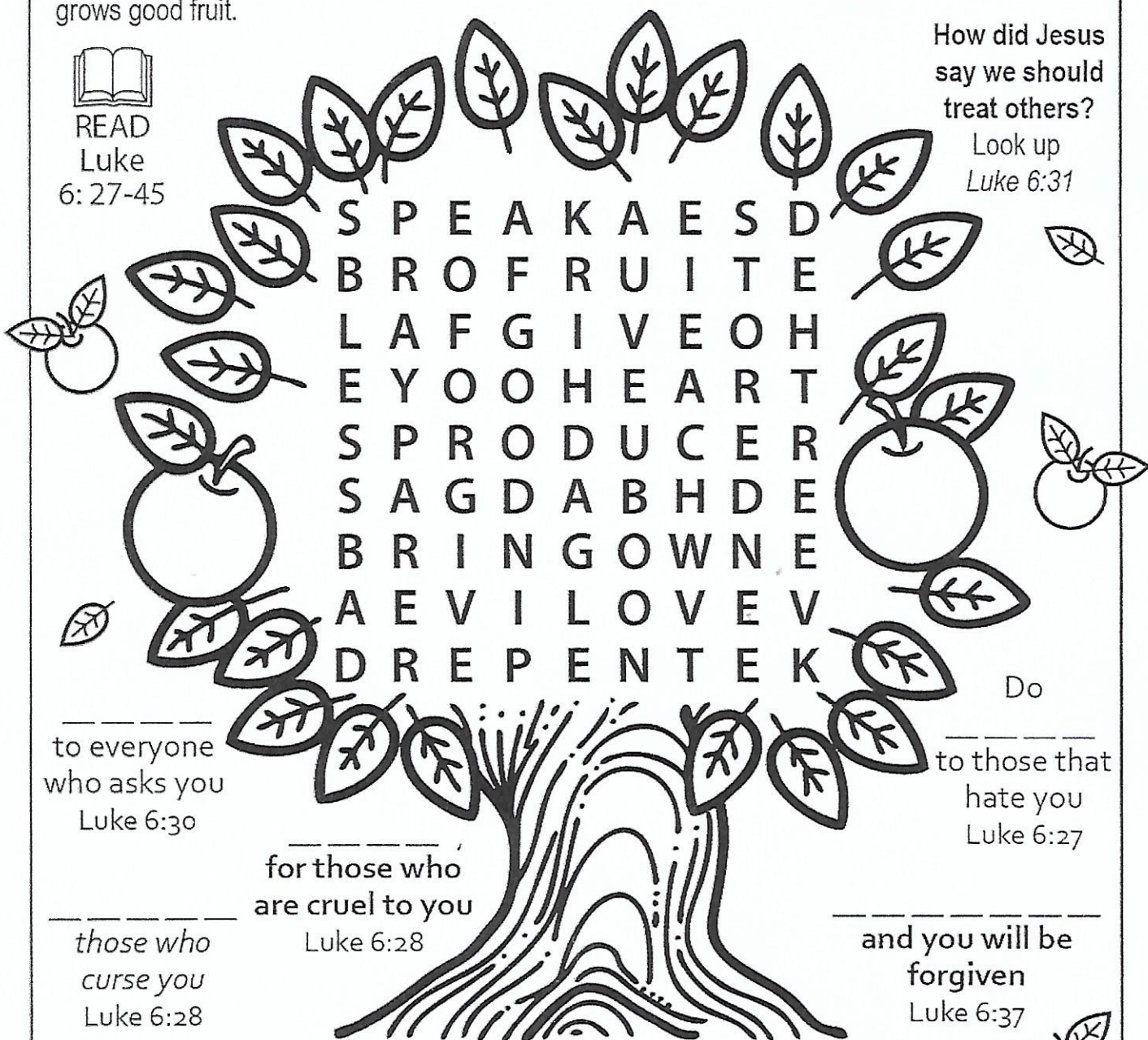
During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus
say we should
treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31



to everyone
who asks you
Luke 6:30

for those who
are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

those who
curse you
Luke 6:28

Do
to those that
hate you
Luke 6:27

and you will be
forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from Luke 6 in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

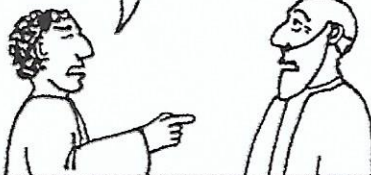
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.

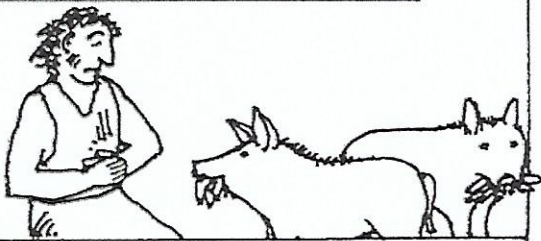


Then his money ran out and there was a famine.



The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



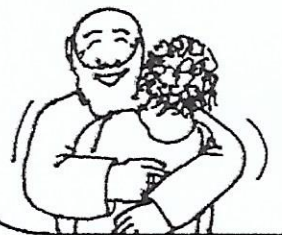
Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son..



But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.



Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house..



so his father came out to see him.

For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.

Parish Pump Smile Lines

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am – in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement – I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

**

In Swansea there used to be a well-known firm of solicitors called W G Christian and Sons. A letter sent to them from overseas was addressed simply: W. G. Christian, South Wales. It eventually arrived at their office with a note from the Post Office attached. It read: "No Christians in Cardiff – try Swansea."

**

A minister took his young daughter to the grocery store with him. In addition to the healthy items on the carefully prepared shopping list, they returned with a box of sugar-laden biscuits. The minister noticed the glare of his wife and quickly said, "It's okay, this box of biscuits has one-third fewer calories than usual."

"And why is that?" she asked.

"Because we ate a third of them on the way home," he replied.

Mike's Smile Lines

A mate of mine said "You want to go to Skegness for your holidays. It's ever so bracing, it's good for arthritis. So I went, and I got it.

**

1st woman: It looks like rain

2nd woman: Well I put 5 teabags in the pot.

**

My mate's so lazy he walks round with his mouth open. Saves him having to yawn.

**

Do you know why you're always tired on the first of April? It's the end of a 31 day march!

**

Why do historians always talk about old times?

**

Man: Doctor, I feel like a cat.

Doctor: How long have you felt like that?

Man: Since my sixth or seventh life.

**

Do twins born in Amsterdam speak Double-Dutch?

**

Teacher: Which month has 28 days?

Johnny: All of them.

**

Mother: Why are you keeping this box of earth?

Son: It's instant mud-pie mix.

1st March: St David's Day, time for daffodils

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' – but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David – or Dafydd – of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others – living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

Parish Pump 2022

17th March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

Parish Pump 2022

Bob Dylan – 60 years on since his debut album

Sixty years ago, on 19th March 1962, the American folk-rock singer Bob Dylan released his debut album, Bob Dylan. It contained only two original songs, the other 11 being mostly folk covers and partial rewrites, but his huge talent was already apparent. He came from northern Minnesota, but no-one could have guessed where he was going.

Dylan's great inspiration was Woody Guthrie, a folk singer and spokesman for the poor who was dying in the early 60s of Huntington's Chorea. Dylan visited him in hospital, and his first album contained a tribute to him, called 'Song to Woody'.

That album did not make a huge splash, but the follow-up, The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan, released in May 1963 and containing all Dylan's own songs, was a huge success – the first of many. He quickly transformed himself from a first-rank folk singer to a singer-songwriter of huge versatility, outraging many of his original fans by 'going electric' at the Newport Folk Festival two years later.

A motorcycle accident in the mid-60s stopped Dylan in his tracks, and made him rethink the direction he was going – now married and starting a family. But he had a huge following, and everything he produced was snatched up. He combined imaginative, poetic lyrics with attractive melodies, and his singing, though criticised by some, was notable for its innovative but perfect timing, copied by many.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s Dylan shocked his fans by producing three explicitly Christian albums following an experience where, he said, "Jesus put His hand on me". For a while he would play nothing else, but his output became wider again after Infidels (1983). Though he has produced (for him) indifferent albums, he continues – especially in recent years – to come out with breath-taking masterpieces. He is 81 this year.

Parish Pump 2022

Why God made mums

These were the answers given by some seven- year-olds...

Why did God give you to your mother, and not to some other mum?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.
3. Other mums wouldn't understand about me being afraid in the dark.

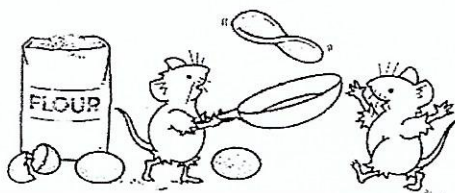
What kind of little girl was your mum?

1. My mum has always been my mum and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. She'd be more relaxed about me not doing my homework.

Parish Pump 2022



'Anxiety' comes top

The word 'anxiety' has been chosen by children as how they would describe their experience of 2021.

Oxford University Press (OUP) asked more than 8,000 pupils, aged between seven and 14, to select a word from a shortlist of 10 words. The words were: anxiety, challenging, isolate, wellbeing, resilience, bubble, kindness, remote, cancelled, empathy.

The children were asked to choose which word they felt was most applicable to them. 'Anxiety' was closely followed by 'challenging', and then 'isolate'.

Parish Pump 2022

Smile as you eat your broccoli

If you look happy while you are eating vegetables, you will help your children consume up to double the amount that they would have eaten otherwise.

A study by the College of Health and Life Sciences at Aston University has found that adults who have a positive expression on their faces while they eat can convey 'food enjoyment' to their children, who are then more willing to try the vegetables for themselves.

Parish Pump 2022

All in the month of March

It was:

500 years ago, from 9th to 17th March 1522 that Martin Luther preached his Invocavit Sermons. He urged citizens to adhere to the core Christian values and trust in God, rather than using violence to bring about change.

175 years ago, on 3rd March 1847 that Alexander Graham Bell, Scottish-born American engineer, and scientist, was born. Credited with inventing the first practical telephone.

150 years ago, on 16th March 1872 that the first FA Cup Final was held at the Oval in Kennington, London. Wanderers beat the Royal Engineers 1-0.

100 years ago, on 10th March 1922 that Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi was arrested and charged with sedition for his campaign of non-cooperation against the British Indian government. He was sentenced to six years in prison but released after two years as he needed surgery.

75 years ago, on 1st March 1947 that the International Monetary Fund began operating.

50 years ago, on 24th March 1972 that the government of Northern Ireland resigned, and on 30th March 1972 that the British government introduced direct rule of Northern Ireland from Westminster (until 1999).

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1982 that the Barbican Centre in London was opened. It is the largest arts and conference venue in Europe.

25 years ago, on 6th March 1997 that Queen Elizabeth launched the official Royal website: www.royal.gov.uk

Also 25 years ago, on 21st March 1997 that the Rev W V Awdry, British clergyman and children's writer, died. Best known as the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine.

Parish Pump 2022