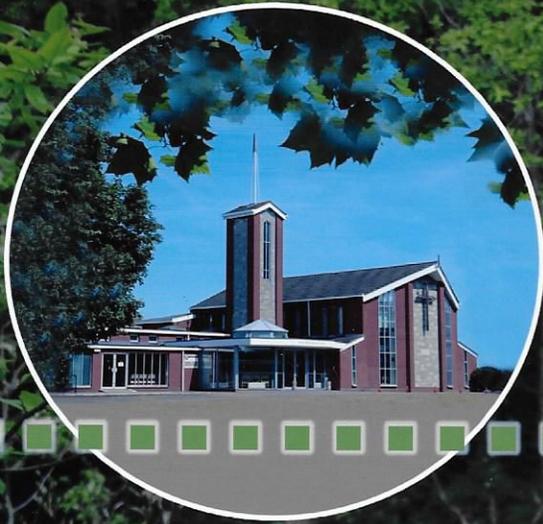


Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster



Trinity Tidings



May 2020

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

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

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TRINITY TIDINGS

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**The closing date for items for the
JUNE ISSUE
of Trinity Tidings is Sunday 24th May 2020**

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

Thanks to John Harris for designing the front and back covers

Dear Friends,

How are we doing?

We have been in 'lockdown' now for quite a few weeks and it seems, for the time being anyway, it is going to stay that way for the immediate future.

I think we have all been adapting to our circumstances, a case of having no choice I guess, but by and large I think we are just about coping (I know it is harder for some than for others for all kinds of reasons). The early panic buying has thankfully passed and with the exception of a few items like flour and paracetamol tablets, most things are now available to buy again in our shops. Social distancing has become the phrase on everyone's lips and the lack of traffic on the roads has been of real benefit to the environment as a whole.

During this 'lockdown' period people have seen holidays cancelled, weddings and the like postponed, significant birthdays have been celebrated (albeit, out of necessity in a rather muted way), heroes have been made (I'm thinking of Captain Tom Moore who has raised over £32 million for the NHS) and of course NHS and frontline workers themselves, who have continued to serve us by putting themselves at risk, are all heroes too! We are indebted to them. Also sadly loved ones have been lost, often in circumstances where relatives have been unable to visit and the celebration of their lives has been restricted to a handful of mourners, and we continue to grieve with them and hold them in our prayers.

But I hope you will know, along with others I have been trying to fill the gap that postponed Sunday services have left, by recording a weekly service that is made available to those who have internet and uploading it to YouTube and Facebook, and attaching the link to the church website. A team of authors have been producing a weekly reflection with prayers for those who have no internet resources, which has been sent out through the post for use in the home, as and when it is needed. And this will continue for as long as is required. I really am indebted to an army of people who have stepped up to the plate to keep the church family connected as best we can. A big thank you to all of them.

As I write, the government is telling us we are over the peak, but we must not be complacent, because a second wave of Covid 19 cases would be catastrophic and is to be avoided if at all possible. We don't know exactly what 'getting back to normal' will look like, whenever that eventually comes, it may well be a gradual process and I suspect large gatherings of people, such as sporting events, music concerts, church services, will come much later in that process. So let's just hang on in there for a bit longer folks.

As churchgoers, as believers, as Christians, major worldwide catastrophes such as this may well cause us to question our faith. We might wonder why God has allowed such a thing to happen to his worldwide family. Some may even suggest that we are being punished by God for the way humans have treated one another. But I believe God is hurting just as much as we are in all of this. I believe God wants us to stay strong and pull through this.

And for those who ask, 'where is God'? - My answer would be - God is in the telephone call from a neighbour to see if you're okay, God is in the blossom and the butterflies, God is in the paramedic who attends in the night, God is in the shaft of sunlight that shines through your window, God is in the millions of unseen actions of sacrificial love that happen every day. That is where God is!

I'd like to end with a reminder that comes to us in the words of St Paul.

"Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom Ch 8 Vs 35, 37-39.

Every blessing,

Nick.

PRAYER CORNER

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

* * * * *

We are sorry to hear that Keith Webber passed away on Tuesday 28th April. He was in Wood Norton Care Home, Evesham. Mary would like to thank everyone for their care, concern and cards at this sad time. We offer our love and prayers to Mary and all the family.

* * * * *

CONGRATULATIONS....

We congratulate Loree Napier and Betty Gunn who both celebrated their 90th Birthday in April. Loree's birthday was ... and Betty's birthday was 28th April. We give them both our love and best wishes.

* * * * *

Church Stewards.

Neil Hardwick and David Howles are both stepping down as Church Stewards. We thank them for all their hard work especially in the last few weeks.

Rachel Cobon and Mary Neve are now senior stewards, with Diane Ferris and Graham Leigh becoming the new stewards.

* * * * *

A Prayer for these days...

God, our comfort in times of trouble,
our companion when we are lonely,
Lift us up into your loving presence,
and help us to see that you never leave us,
and that you walk with us every step along life's journey.
Amen

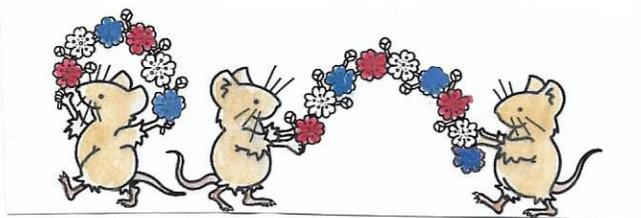
From the Editor...

It has been lovely to have a spell of warm sunny weather in the last two or three weeks, and we have seen the trees come into leaf and the birds busy building nests and feeding young. My friendly pheasant, Hoover, now comes to my gate and squawks until I put down some birdseed. It soon attracts a squirrel who picks up some seeds and then hides behind a big flower pot. He doesn't realise that his tail sticks out behind the pot!

At the station we have a 'Dig for Victory' garden in which I have planted some vegetables. Unfortunately the 1940's events on the railway have been cancelled, so I might have a surfeit of vegetables. I might open a farm shop! On April 23rd, I saw three house martins flying over the house, and later two swallows flying around, but I have not seen them since. I hope that they return and nest, as they will not be disturbed this year.

It is wonderful that trees, plants, flowers and birds are not 'locked down' and carry on as they always have, and always will. It surely gives us hope.

David



VE Day - May 8th 1945

During this month we shall recall the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, although the world was not at peace until 15th August when Japan surrendered. There were great celebrations and street parties were organised, and in spite of rationing, a good spread appeared almost by magic. The war could have ended months earlier, but Hitler and his fanatical Nazis refused to see that there was no way in which they could overcome the American, British and Commonwealth forces.

I was six years old in May 1945, and I remember talk of a street party being organised. This was to be at the top end of the road where we lived, as these were the 'better' semi-detached houses. The bottom end of the road – the terraced houses – organised their own celebrations. When the time came for the party I was ill, suffering from measles, or chickenpox or mumps so could not join the children during the afternoon. But during the early evening I was allowed to sit by the front garden gate in a pushchair which was a bit too small for me. I remember being wrapped up well with a scarf around my head.

There was a lot of excited noise, and a fire in the middle of the road, I don't know how that was done! Someone produced some bulrushes on long stems. They were dipped in paraffin and made good torches. Who cared about blackout then! I guess there was a lot of singing, and impromptu dancing, and a few sore heads the next morning. After a short while I was taken in and put to bed and soon fell asleep. Of course it was a few years before things were back to normal, rationing and shortages continued, and then there was the severe winter of 1947, but that is another story.

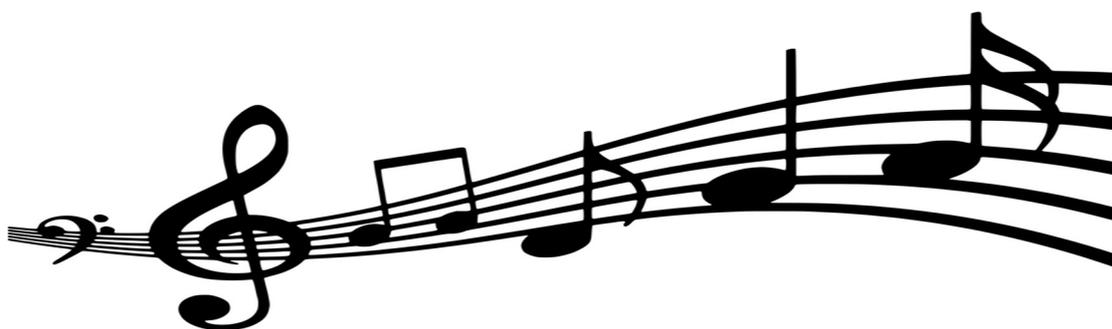
Making Music for Worship.

Most, if not all of us, have found it tricky to keep busy and motivated during the 'lockdown' but I'm sure music has been one activity that many people are enjoying either participating in or just watching and listening to. When Nick suggested the idea of a virtual act of worship we were delighted to be able to help. We have been enjoying recording the hymns and songs for the weekly online services and have had a lot of fun doing so as a family. Once Nick chooses the hymn or song David will do an arrangement and then we create a backing track by adding instruments, real or virtual. We can then add our voices, usually altogether, sometimes separately, and this we do several times to layer the sound so that it has the effect of a congregation singing. It's safe to say that it sounds a lot better once we have layered the voices together – safety in numbers and all that! Hopefully the finished item is then helpful to the listener and you are able to join in as we worship together in this way.

Thank you for the many messages of appreciation sent - it really has been a pleasure to do our bit.

The Howles Family.





We received a letter of thanks from Betty Gunn

A very big 'Thank You' from Betty Gunn to all my wonderful friends from Trinity for making my birthday so special. It was really lovely of you all to come, especially as it was so wet! Many thanks for the flowers , the cake and so many cards. Thanks to Diane for the beautiful flower arrangement, John for the Happy Birthday poster and photographs, and Margaret, Ann and Lynn for arranging everything.

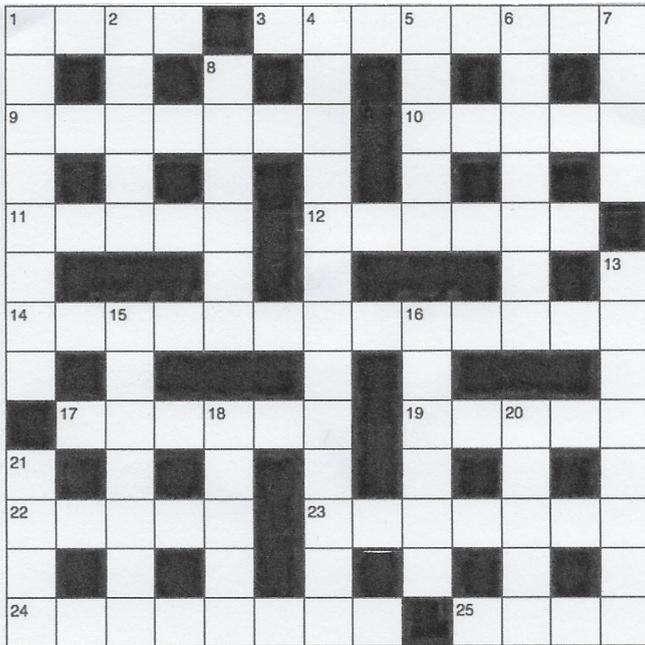
I hope I will be able to see you again, but I am awaiting another visit to the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, and the gynaecologist when this lock-down is over.

Many thanks, love to you all, Betty

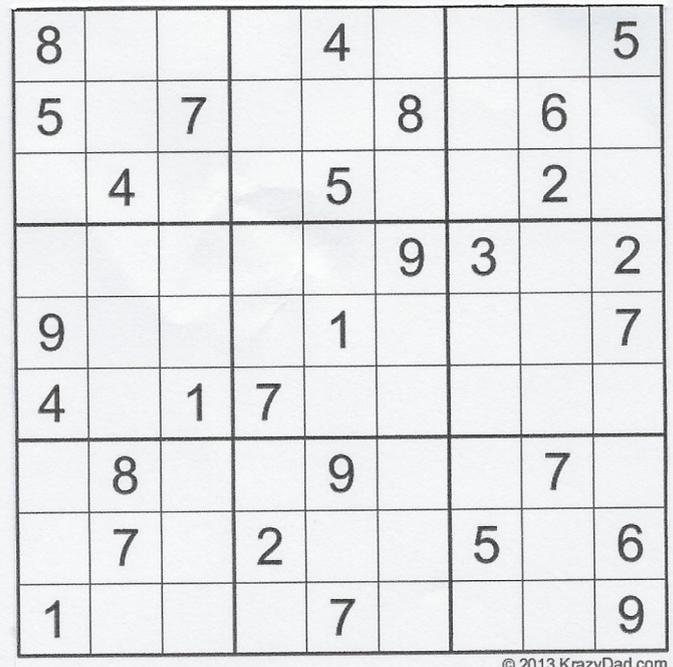
In these days when we are keeping to our homes and our normal activities are 'on hold' I expect that many of us have been discovering books we had forgotten about. I hope you have all been reading lots of interesting books. Can you name the authors of these books?

1. Treasure Island
2. The Invisible Man
3. 1984
4. Of Mice and Men
5. Little Women
6. The Happy Return
7. Wuthering Heights
8. The Mysterious Affair at Styles
9. The Innocence of Father Brown
10. Clouds of Witness
11. Black Beauty
12. The Handmaid's Tale
13. Catch 22
14. Frankenstein
15. To Kill a Mocking Bird
16. Our Mutual Friend
17. All Quiet on the Western Front
18. The Lost World
19. Jurassic Park
20. The End of the Beginning
21. Sweet William
22. Moonfleet
23. The Secret Seven
24. The Day of the Triffids
25. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
26. Cider with Rosie
27. The Darling Buds of May
28. The Warden
29. Under the Greenwood Tree
30. Wolf Hall
31. Catcher in the Rye
32. Dracula
33. The Guns of Navarone
34. Three Men in a Boat
35. Diary of a Nobody
36. The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole
37. The House at Pooh Corner
38. The Wind in the Willows
39. Pride and Prejudice
40. A Bear Called Paddington

Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku puzzle (medium)



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Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
 10 Group of eight (5)
 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
 19 Attend to (3,2)
 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
 8 Minister of religion (6)
 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
 20 Establish by law (5)
 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

GARDENING NOTES FOR MAY

The greatest danger to gardeners during May is low overnight minimum temperatures and hence frosts. The greatest threat of low overnight temperatures comes from an area of high pressure sitting just to the west of the country. This will feed cool, to even cold, north to north-easterly winds down through the UK. From this direction, air will be coming from a still relatively cold polar source. With light winds and clear skies the temperatures can fall dramatically after the sun goes down, especially so if you happen to have a very light, sandy soil environment.

Snowfall in the Midlands, although not unheard of (anyone remember Election Day 1979!), is not that common. Even with a strong northerly breeze, we are more likely to see sleet rather than snow, the strength of the sun more apparent now. As we move through mid month, the characteristics of the weather seem to change (at least in a normal year), when a hint of summer heat often develops.

The signs to look for on the weather charts are high pressure beginning to build up from the Azores. Stable, settled and fine conditions for a while, followed by a gentle southerly drift as the high moves to the east or southeast of the British Isles. It is now that we begin to import air that is derived from North Africa or the Southern Basin of the Mediterranean. Given clear blue skies and light winds the power of the sun is very evident, the thermometer reaching the low 80'sF across inland areas. Such high temperatures are possible by the middle of May, although more commonly during the third or final week of the month. In such situations, coastal areas can be completely 'fogged-out', the chilliness of the waters around our shores at this time of year very pronounced still, so stay in the garden and don't head for the coast!

May is a really busy time in the garden, with a lot to do and some careful thinking and pre-planning will be required if we are to maximise the available time.

Greenfly may be becoming a problem on the soft new growth on roses. Spray regularly with a systemic insecticide and try to combat black spot and mildew early on if possible. Rolling of leaves may be a sign of the caterpillar of the tortrix moth, or even sawfly. Pick and burn the leaves, don't compost or drop them on the ground.

Borders will require regular weeding now with the hoe; do it with care. Stake taller herbaceous plants such as delphiniums, otherwise strong winds could snap them in half if in full flower and made heavy with rain. Keep an eye on sweet peas to ensure they don't dry out in any prolonged dry spell. Remove any weeds growing around them if necessary and mulch with peat or compost.

If the weather has been warm, then we've probably been treated to a spectacular display of colour from rhododendrons and azaleas. As soon as the flower fades it should be removed to prevent the bush expending energy in producing unwanted seed. Care is required when deadheading so that the soft new green growth isn't damaged, as it is from this growth immediately beneath the faded flower that next year's bloom is formed. The easiest and safest way to deadhead a rhododendron is to simply 'snap' off the faded bloom between thumb and forefinger; that way you're less likely to damage the developing bud beneath. Please avoid the temptation to use a pair of secateurs.

It should be safe by now to plant out dahlia tubers, although always keep an eye on the forecast. Dahlia will tolerate a variety of soil types but they are hungry feeders and incorporating bulky organic matter at planting time would be beneficial. Set the tubers about 2 to 3 feet apart and plant about 2" - 3" deeper than the crown of the plant. The plants will

eventually need staking (unless they are obviously dwarf varieties) as their heads usually become quite heavy.

May is traditionally the month when hanging baskets are constructed and really they are quite simple to make up. Stand the empty basket on a large pot to keep it steady and then line the inside of the basket with damp moss. Fill the base with compost and then place a small square of polythene (part of the compost bag will do), this helps with water retention. If you wish you can poke trailing plants through the moss as you go, filling the basket with compost in layers. Fill the upper section with plants so that some trail over the rim. Don't allow the basket to dry out and ensure that the bracket that is going to support it on the wall is secure!

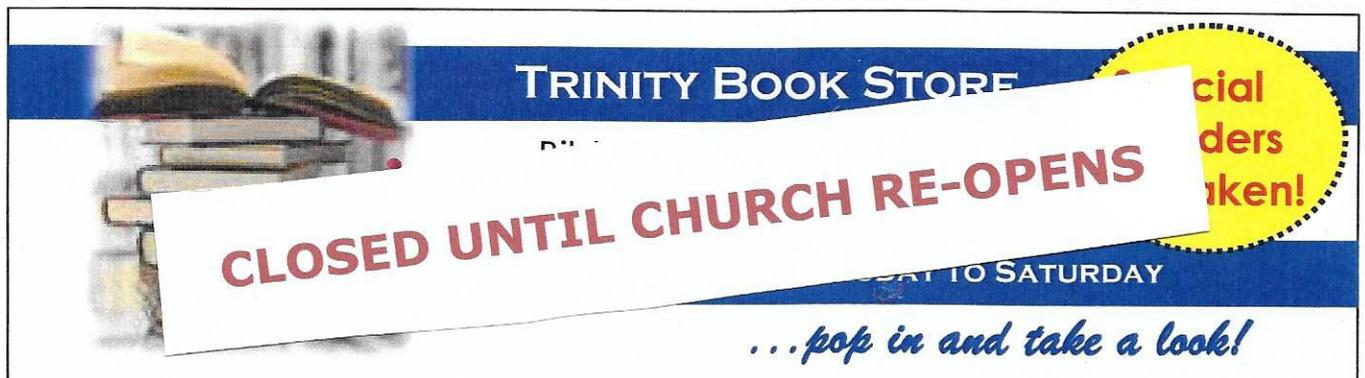
The soft new growth of herbaceous plants will be susceptible to slug damage so should be protected by a scattering of slug pellets or liquid applications. When applied as directed, products are perfectly safe to both domestic and wild animals.

Early May is the traditional time to plant out garden Chrysanthemums for flowering in late summer and early autumn, although don't be tempted to plant out tomato plants until late May at the earliest. In this area it's probably best to wait until early June.

Save summer annuals in well-prepared beds in blocks for maximum effect. Some of the best include: Calendula, Candytuft, Coreopsis, Cornflowers, Eschscholzia, Godetia, Kochia, Lavatera, Linaria, Nigella, Poppies, Scabious and Sunflowers.

If May turns out to be dry, then ensure newly planted shrubs and herbaceous plants are kept watered. A thorough soaking once a week will be of more benefit than the 'little and often' approach which could do more damage by promoting surface rooting, exacerbating the effects of drought.

"Whatever you are doing, enjoy your garden - it's the only one you've got".



TRINITY BOOK STORE

CLOSED UNTIL CHURCH RE-OPENS

...pop in and take a look!

Special orders taken!

...SAT TO SATURDAY

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS PRAYER

Did I ever expect to write this locked up in my home? Fortunately, it's Lent and for many of us we've already given things up so it's not much of a blow, but our freedom, wow, that's a big one. I'd have kept our churches open even for just an hour a day, surely under supervision and recognising self-distancing people could have gone in for a moments prayer or to light a candle. We'll have to re-write the history books. After thousands of years one all places of worship are closed!

So where is God in this disaster? One thing is people aren't blaming Him, lets face it, He wasn't averse to a few plagues or destructions Himself. On the other hand, there are not many turning to Him in their hour of need. This is the one moment in time when we really need God on our side. According to Bob Dylan even Judas Iscariot had God on his side. It's hard to understand God's ways, the things He sends, but we know there is a purpose. We may not understand now but we will in the future. So basically, what we need now, and what all the world needs, is prayer. We look to James who had the nickname of 'old camels' knees' because of the callouses on his knees through so much praying. Also, he was the brother of Jesus so we'll be keeping it in the family.

"Greetings. Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you will be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from The Lord. Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that The Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you ill? Let the Elders of the church pray over them. The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective"

Hold your bible in the palm of your hand, let it drop open to the exact middle. Hopefully it should fall open to Psalms – Psalm 121 to be precise.

"I lift my eyes to the mountains
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from The Lord
The maker of Heaven and Earth"

Yes, God is there for everyone.

"The Lord will keep you from all harm
He will watch over your life
The Lord will watch over your coming and going
Both now and forever more".

The Corona virus has been a catastrophe, but it is not the end of everything. We will recover. Many things will happen, our faith and prayer will bring us through. Keep on praying and believing. We have the strength, health and means to grow again. God is not Santa Claus but He loves us, pray and He will bring us home.

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

ON THE ROAD WITH CHRIST

Suddenly it's lockdown. Can't leave the house, confined to barracks. Then almost as a second thought the Government comes up with a few exceptions and I breathe a sigh of relief, I'm allowed 1 hour of exercise a day. Selfish I suppose, but back in the late sixties I started running and for over 50 years I've run almost every day. I've run over 100,000 miles and competed in more than 1000 races, just for fun. Health never came into it, I just happily plodded on. Which is why I assumed that they asked me to carry the cross on the Good Friday procession of witnesses.

Fit, fast, a mere $\frac{3}{4}$ mile route, no problem, though the cross was heavy. Prayer on the riverside band-stand and I was away. Being a runner and having my nose in front, I set off, destination being a town centre church. Half a mile on, a police car cuts in front of me. "Who do you think you are? Seb Coe?" asks the policeman, "Slow down, look behind you!". I did and instead of seeing an orderly procession it looked like Moses crossing the Red Sea. "We tried to tell you to ease up" said the leading walkers, sweating in their Sunday Best, but being profoundly deaf I didn't hear them. At the rear it was worse. People, some in their 80's and 90's, were leaning against walls or sitting on the odd bench. Walking sticks, disabled frames, wheelchairs were beginning to burn up. Fortunately, nobody died. After a break the police car, in a low gear, led us to the church. The next year they used 3 people to carry the cross, basically a relay, with a rest between each change over. I didn't volunteer and nobody asked me. However, it wasn't forgotten, even now, over 20 years down the line, I often get the nod, the wink, the smile and "remember the Good Friday when you carried that cross".

Meanwhile, I'll keep on running. 2 minutes from home I'm running across field and woods, 4 minutes I'm running along the banks of the River Severn. Wind blowing through my hair (can't get a haircut), peace, quiet and open air, I'm running with God. No more cross carrying but I'll carry the banner of God. Why not finish with a few lines from that wonderful Keith Getty/Stuart Townsend Hymn.

"No power of Hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!"

Mike (Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)



"Phew! That was close — I just saw the Vicar on the street, but I managed to give him the slip . . ."

Mike's Smile Lines

Knitting's something women do to give them something to think about when they're talking.

**

Pam: I'd like a packet of bird seed please.

Shopkeeper: How many birds have you got?

Pam: None, I want to grow some.

**

Jim: Did you note that place on the lake where we got all those fish.

Jack: Sure, I marked a cross on the side of the boat.

Jim: You idiot – we might not get the same boat.

**

1st man: Did you know you've got some blotting paper in your ears.

2nd man: Schhh – I'm listening to the ink spots.

**

A man and wife are looking to buy a new house. "It's only a stones throw from the bus stop" said the estate agent. "We'll take it" said the man "It'll give us something to do in the evenings – throwing stones at buses."

**

Did the wheel cause a revolution when it was invented?

**

Boy: Mom, can I have the wishbone from the chicken?

Mother: Not till you've eaten your sprouts.

Boy: But I want to wish I won't have to eat them.

**

Man: Doctor I keep imagining I'm covered in gold paint.

Doctor: Don't worry, it's just a guilt complex.

**

Man: Doctor, I feel like a cat.

Doctor: How long's this been going on?

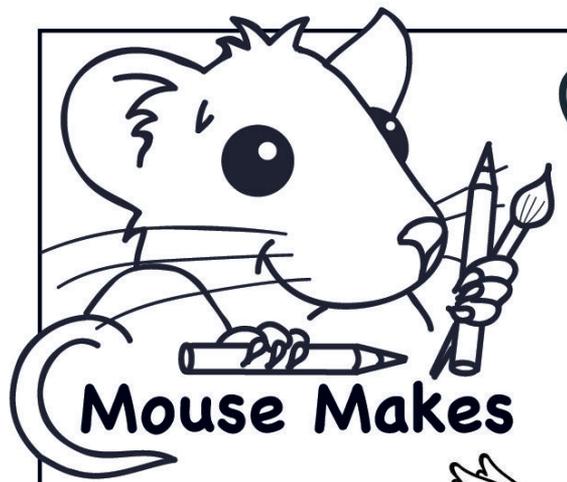
Man: Since about my sixth or seventh life.

**

Talk about being lazy, I know a chap who walks round with his mouth open because it saves him having to yawn.

**

Do unto others before they have a chance to do unto you.

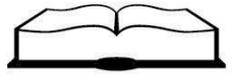


Mouse Makes

"The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness
gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also
 behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read
Galatians
 5:13-26

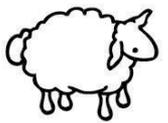
How many
 other words can you find
 using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?



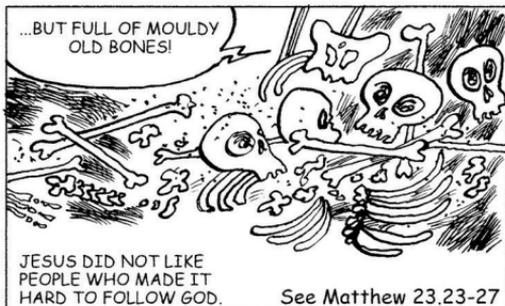
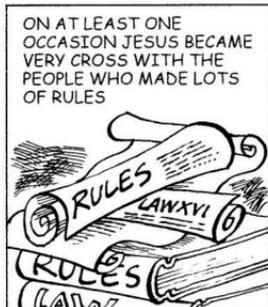
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Which
 symbol goes
 with which fruit?



- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
- AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
- PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
- GOODWILL • GENEROSTITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
- FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
- SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

"Some tough talking"



See Matthew 23.23-27

A message from Parish Pump

April is the cruellest month...’ with these words T.S. Eliot opened his modernist masterpiece, *The Waste Land*, in 1921.

It was the aftermath of World War I and the Spanish flu pandemic. Millions had died. His poem brims with the pain, the trauma, the disillusionment and the death of that time. Now it is April 2020. Eliot could never have imagined that nearly 100 years on, April might well become our ‘cruellest month’, when trauma and death stalk our land as the coronavirus pandemic is forecast to peak.

These are times unparalleled in any of our life experiences. In the words of the Psalmist, the ‘foundations are being shaken’.

And yet – as Christians we can lift our eyes from the turmoil and look up. Psalm 46 is a favourite here at Parish Pump, and we’d like to share some verses from it with you now:

***‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.
The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
He says, “Be still, and know that I am God...”’***

Psalm 46

The hymns of the Wesleys

by Canon David Winter

Later this month the Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John’s great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He actually wrote over 6,000, most of which aren’t sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – ‘Love divine, all loves excelling’, ‘O for a thousand tongues to sing’. ‘Jesu lover of my soul’, ‘Hark the herald angels sing’ – and scores more.

40 years ago almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that’s no longer true.

Traditional hymns aren’t usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for ‘Songs of Praise’ on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are over 50.

With only about ten per cent of the population even irregular church-goers there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is ‘Jerusalem’ and ‘Amazing Grace’, because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing ‘Bread of heaven’! It seems a pity to lose it.

It’s not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think about what is your favourite hymn, and why – ancient or modern doesn’t matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience!

Pentecost in Jerusalem

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the Feast of Firstfruits, looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them ‘a Comforter’. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so they waited – on Him, and for Him. They were not disappointed, for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ’s body here on earth. Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now His Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, His body on earth.

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the Gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.

Parish Pump 2020

Try a little kindness

When TV presenter and celebrity Carolyn Flack took her life in February 2020 the world was shocked and saddened. How could someone so young, beautiful and successful do such a thing? It seems that the pressure of an impending court case, the vitriol she received online, and her own inner pain had become too much for her.

Shortly before she died, she posted, ‘In a world where you can be anything, be kind.’

These simple words are a call to our society to become more caring and careful in the way we treat each other. There is too much unkindness about, especially on social media where unkind words are so common and can be so destructive.

Kindness can be defined as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. It is shown through our words and by our actions, an everyday sort of quality that is not spectacular but which when we encounter it can lift our spirits.

It is above all a Christian virtue that ought to be demonstrated in great measure within Christian communities. It is a fruit of the Spirit, an attitude that is formed within us when the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives (Galatians 5:22). It is an aspect of love for love is patient, love is kind (1Corinthians 13:4). Yet sadly, the Church is often no different from the world. Congregations can sometimes be anything but friendly, generous and considerate.

Why not try a little kindness this week? Do something spontaneously to help another person. Reach out in friendship to someone who seems lonely, if only by phone! Speak some kind words to those around you. You will feel better yourself, and you will be making the world a better place.

Parish Pump 2020



Leave your dandelions alone

When mowing your lawn, avoid cutting your dandelions. That is the advice of the president of the British Ecological Society, Prof Jane Memmott. It will help to save the bees.

She explains: "Dandelions are a fantastic source of pollen and nectar for the early pollinators in particular. If they were rare, people would be fighting over them, but because they're common, people pull them out and spray them with all sorts of horrible things when they should just let them flower. If you leave the lawn to three or four inches, then dandelions, clover and daisies can flower and then you end with something like a tapestry, and it's much nicer to sit there and watch the insects buzzing about."

Prof Memmott encourages everyone to get a bee hotel for their garden. "There's nothing nicer than being sat in a chair with a glass of wine and watching the bees going in and out of your own personal little beehive. Even just a potted plant on a doorstep will provide lunch for a bee or a fly or a butterfly."

Parish pump 2020

Smile Lines

The retiring sidesman was instructing his youthful successor in his Sunday morning duties. "And remember, my boy," he said, "that we have nothing but good, kind Christians in this church – until you try to put someone else in their pew."

**

"What is your kitty's name, James?" asked the visitor.

"Ben Hur," said James.

"That's a funny name for a cat. Why did you name it that?"

"Well, we just called him Ben – until he had kittens."

**

"Father," asked the little boy. "Did Solomon have 700 wives?"

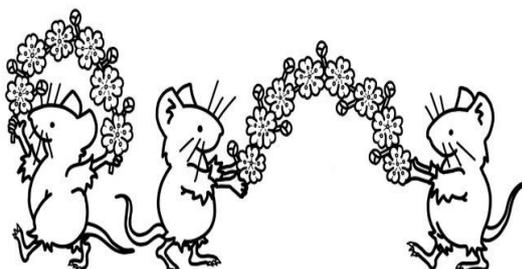
"I believe so," said the father.

"Well, Father, was he the man who said, 'Give me liberty or give me death'?"

**

An inscription over a church door in Cheshire: 'This is the house of God. This is the gate of heaven. (This door is locked in winter months.)' – *Peterborough Column, Daily Telegraph*

Parish Pump 2020



All in the month of MAY

It was:

200 years ago: on 12th May 1820 that Florence Nightingale was born. This Italian-born British social reformer and statistician saved thousands of lives and became the founder of modern nursing.

125 years ago: on 20th May 1895 that R J Mitchell was born. This British aeronautical engineer designed the iconic Supermarine Spitfire fighter plane as well as several racing seaplanes.

90 years ago, on 24th May 1930 that British aviator Amy Johnson became the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

80 years ago, 1940: WORLD WAR II

10th May: Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned after losing the support of many Conservatives in the House of Commons. Succeeded by Winston Churchill.

10th-28th May: It was what was called Case Yellow, Germany invaded Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

10th May: Germany dropped its first bombs on England, at Chilham and Petham in Kent.

13th May: Winston Churchill gave his first speech in the House of Commons, saying: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

14th May: The Home Guard was established, nicknamed Dad's Army as it was comprised of volunteers who were ineligible for military service, usually because of their age.

26th May-4th June: The Battle of Dunkirk. Allied forces launched a massive evacuation of troops from Dunkirk, France, across the English Channel to England after they were cut off by approaching German forces. Nearly 340,000 soldiers were rescued in a hastily assembled fleet of 800 boats.

75 years ago, 1945: WORLD WAR II

2nd May: The Battle of Berlin ended. Allied victory which led to the surrender of all German forces by 8th/9th May, and the end of the war in Europe.

8th May: VE Day (Victory in Europe) – celebrated as a public holiday.

28th May: British-born Nazi propaganda broadcaster Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce) was captured by the British Army and taken to Britain to face trial. (He was convicted of treason and sentenced to death on 19th September and hanged on 3rd January 1946.)

70 years ago, on 13th May 1950 that the first Formula One World Championship race was held, at Silverstone in England. (This race is also known as the 1950 British Grand Prix.)

60 years ago, on 23rd May 1960 that Israel announced that Nazi Adolf Eichmann had been captured in Argentina. He was responsible for organising the mass extermination of Jews in WWII. He was tried, sentenced to death and executed in June 1962.

50 years ago, on 8th May 1970 that the Beatles released their final album, *Let it Be*.

40 years ago, on 5th May 1980 that Operation Nimrod took place, when the British SAS stormed the Iranian Embassy in London after a six-day siege.

30 years ago, on 22nd May 1990 that Max Wall, British music hall, stage, film and TV comedian, and actor died. Acclaimed for his serious roles as well as his comic talents.

20 years ago, on 12th May 2000 that the Tate Modern art gallery was opened in London.

Here are the authors of the books.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Robert Louis Stevenson | 2. H. G. Wells |
| 3. George Orwell | 4. John Steinbeck |
| 5. Louisa May Alcott | 6. C. S. Forester |
| 7. Emily Bronte | 8. Agatha Christie |
| 9. G. K. Chesterton | 10. Dorothy L. Sayers |
| 11. Anna Sewell | 12. Margaret Atwood |
| 13. Joseph Heller | 14. Mary Shelley |
| 15. Harper Lee | 16. Charles Dickens |
| 17. Erich Maria Remarque | 18. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle |
| 19. Michael Crichton | 20. Sir Winston Churchill |
| 21. Richmal Crompton | 22. J. Meade Faulkner |
| 23. Enid Blyton | 24. John Wyndham |
| 25. Stieg Larsson | 26. Laurie Lee |
| 27. H.E.Bates | 28. Anthony Trollope |
| 29. Thomas Hardy | 30. Hilary Mantel |
| 31. J. D. Salinger | 32. Bram Stoker |
| 33. Alistair Maclean | 34. Jerome K. Jerome |
| 35. George & Weedon Grossmith | 36. Sue Townsend |
| 37. A. A. Milne | 38. Kenneth Grahame |
| 39. Jane Austen | 40. Michael Bond |

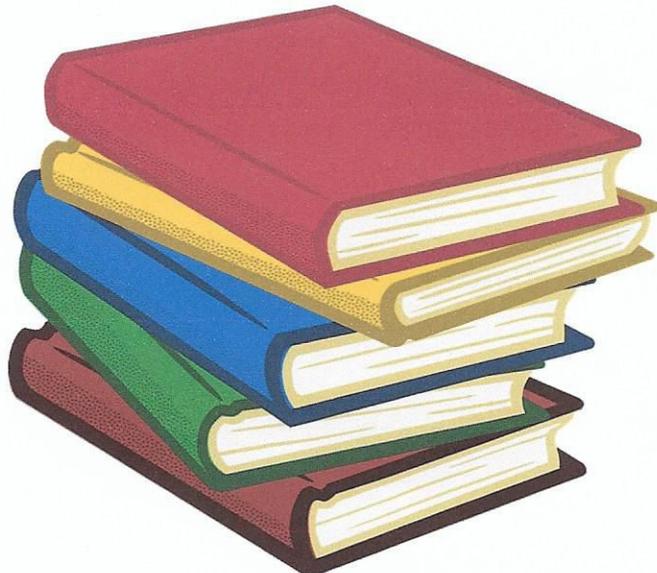
Crossword answers.

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

Sudoku solution

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



Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster



Sunday Services

Holy Communion 9.00am
(Second Sunday of each month)

Morning Worship 10.30am with

- **Creche** for babies & toddlers with parents
- **Footsteps** for children of 5-11

Evening Worship 6.30pm
(Except Second Sunday of each month)
(Services that include Holy Communion)

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
(07771 228016)

Tuesday

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

Harris/Str

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