

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*



...all are welcome in this place!

May 2021

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CHUIRCHFIELDS, KIDDERMINSTER
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**The closing date for items for the
JUNE EDITION
Of Trinity Tidings is Sunday 30th May 2021**

**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,

I was contacted a little while ago by Andrew Mann-Ray the minister at Baxter URC, to see if we the church family at Trinity could help them out. They have had a ceiling collapse in the area where they enter church, which has also put into question the safety of the rest of the ceiling and has left them without a convenient safe space to worship.

Like us, they are not yet meeting in person to worship and plan to resume on the 30th of May I believe. Andrew had asked me if their church family could temporarily meet in our hall and after some preliminary conversations around logistics and continuing Covid risk assessments, and giving members of the church council the opportunity to voice any concerns it was felt that this is exactly the kind of gesture we should be extending to our fellow Christian sisters and brothers in their hour of need.

On a different note some of you may have heard that our fellow Methodist sisters and brothers at Broadwaters have decided not to reopen their chapel for worship. The Broadwaters Church fellowship is alive and well even though they feel their spiritual home at the top of Chapel Hill no longer serves the purpose of their mission as it once did for all those who went before them. It is a sad time for the Broadwaters folk, as there are lots of happy memories attached to that building, but it is also an exciting time to see where the Spirit is now leading them. Wherever that may be, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers, as they seek discernment and courage to take the next steps.

And on yet another different note, those of you who haven't been in the vicinity of Trinity lately, particularly as we haven't been meeting to worship together in person since Christmas, will notice that the building work going behind Trinity is beginning to take shape and dwellings are starting to appear from the ground. Once the houses start to be built in any numbers it won't be long before they begin to be occupied by families starting life in a new place. Rev'd Nigel Taylor, who many of you will know, has already had a conversation with me about the possibility of us making contact with those who will become our new neighbours once the houses are lived in. And would be good to attempt to reach out to them as we seek to welcome them into their new neighbourhood, as we seek to be good neighbours to them.

Apart from updating you with some recent news and developments, you might be asking yourselves why I have chosen to mention these things in this month's 'Minister's letter'. Well the reason is that, as we move back into our church building to restart 'in person' Sunday worship and eventually (hopefully, all being well) restart midweek activities, I don't want us to get complacent about our circumstances.

We are very fortunate that we can move back into the familiar premises we love and have become attached to, the place where we meet friends and share fellowship. But let us not overlook the fact that, although God can be encountered in the temple, as was the case in ancient Jerusalem, God was also present with God's people when they wandered in the wilderness.

As a church family, whatever we are blessed with, let us always be reminded that God is in charge and may have different plans for us than those we anticipate. Therefore let us be mindful of the direction of the movement of the Holy Spirit and let us always have the willingness to follow if prompted.

Blessings to you all,

Nick

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Les Fuller, Margot Stanton, Lynn Jones, Maureen Homer, Ruth Palmer and her sister Anne, George and Anne Perkin and those on the Prayer Vine. We remember also the many people who find these days depressing and lonely.

We pray for NHS staff, who look after the sick in difficult circumstances, and give thanks for the vaccine which is giving us a great hope for the future.

* * * * *

Thank you from Diane Collison

Diane would like to thank everyone for the cards and birthday wishes she received for her 60th birthday. They were very much appreciated and helped make her day even more special.

* * * * *

Wolverley

Wolverley C.E. Secondary, School
Wolverley Primary and nursery school
Heathfield Knoll School
Nightingale Court Nursing Home
The Canal-ways
St Johns' the Baptist C E Church
Eateries
Doctors surgery
Residential Housing

During the month of May,
we ask you to pray for
people and places in the area
known as Wolverly



* * * * *

We ask for your prayers as we begin our Sunday Services, that we will all feel safe and re-assured as we return to worship.

Sunday 23 rd May	10.30am	Mrs Sue Stinton
Sunday 30 th May	10.30am	Rev Nick Collison -- Holy Communion
Sunday 6 th June	10.30am	Mr Ray Simpson

From the Editor,

You don't need me to tell you that we have had some 'different' weather during April. It is usually the month of April Showers, but it has been the driest April for many years. It has also been sunny by day, but with a cool north or east wind. There have been several consecutive nights when the temperature has been below freezing and we have woken up to a frost. I have seen a single swallow on only three occasions, and no sign of the sand martins, who are the first migrants to arrive. They nest in the river bank just upstream from where I live. Nor have I seen any house martins. I have heard the chiff chaff twice, and usually by now they are singing all day. The problem is that it is too cold for many of the insects that they feed on to have been hatched, and also the northerly air flow is holding back many of the migrant birds. As I have said before, my Uncle Ern had a saying that 'the weather always pays its debts.' Let's hope that he is right, and we soon have more normal weather – whatever that might mean.

The tame pheasant still comes squawking to be fed, but he is now accompanied by a female. I have noticed that he soon bullies her out of the way so that he has more than his fair share of peanuts and bird seed. He makes sure she knows her place!

There is a concern here that in the next field someone has blocked up the entrances to an ancient badger sett. It has been in the top of the field by the railway cutting for at least 30 years, probably longer. This has not been done by the farmer, as they have never given his cattle TB. The Wild Life Protection Unit of West Mercia police have been investigating, as have the Badger Trust and they will not give up easily. Badgers are a protected species, and there are large fines for shooting, gassing or poisoning them. It will be interesting to see the outcome of the investigations.

David



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Offertories for March 2021 are as follows

Envelopes & Bank Transfer	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£	£	£	£
180.00	Nil	2759.00	2939.00

Due to the uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic it is extremely difficult to estimate the amount of offertories needed to meet expenses. In past years we have relied heavily on income from room hire but that has ceased, except for some receipts from the NHS Blood Service. Currently, it seems that offertories would need to be in the region of £1550 per week to break even.

GIFT AID

Thanks to support during the last financial year from people who pay more income tax than a quarter of the amount they donate to the church, I have been able to submit a claim for just over £10,000.

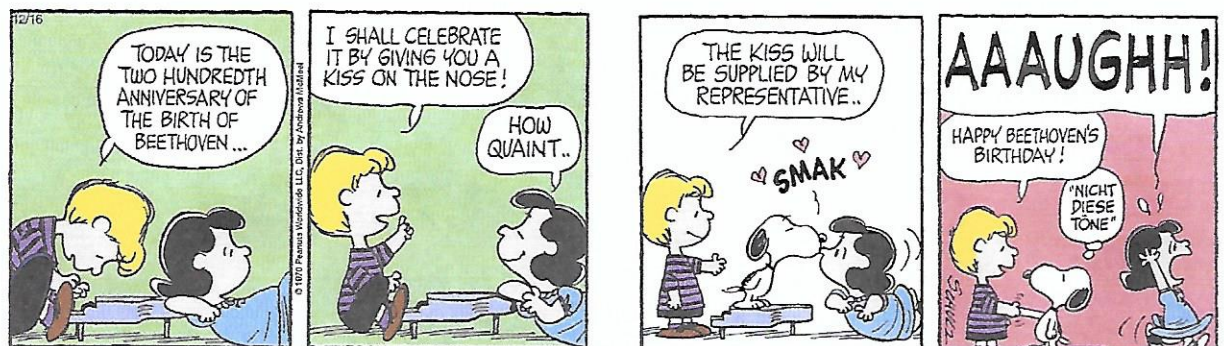
Although this is well down on last year because of reduced offertories resulting from the Lockdown, it is essential to meet the substantial expenses incurred in running Trinity, even during closure.

Roger Smith
Envelope and Gift Aid Secretary.

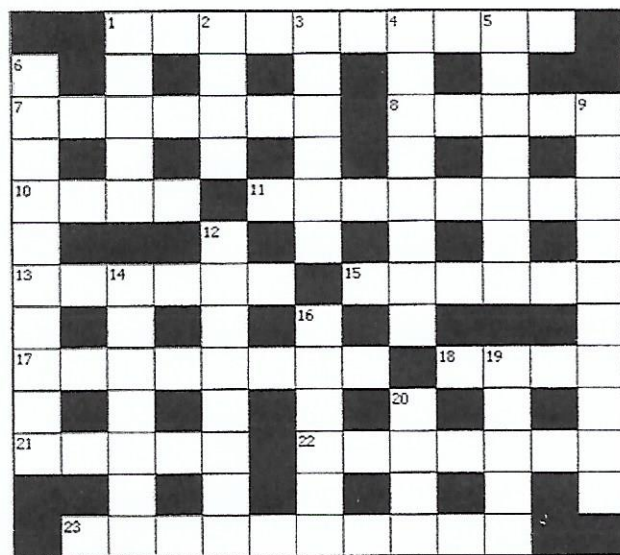


A Quiz about who Invented, Discovered, Developed or Achieved the following:

1. The telephone
2. The first practical light bulb
3. The first European to discover the West Indies
4. Father and son who were early railway engineers
5. Designer of the Titanic
6. Designer of the Statue of Liberty
7. Creator of 'The Angel of the North'
8. D.N.A.
9. World Wide Web
10. Television
11. The 'Spitfire'
12. Designer of the Cenotaph
13. The first marine chronometer
14. The first telescope
15. Penicillin
16. The jet engine
17. Shorthand
18. The ball point pen
19. The first man to step on to the moon
20. A doctor with a large beard who was a famous cricketer
21. The first powered flight
22. The first man in space
23. The first hot air balloon
24. The first man to reach the South Pole
25. The first man to reach the North Pole
26. Using poppies for remembrance
27. The compiler of the first dictionary
28. First man to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean
29. Organiser of the Great Exhibition in 1851
30. Inflatable car tyre



Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku puzzle (easy)

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

Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (1 Corinthians 8:7) (10)
 7 Coming (John 11:17) (7)
 8 'All I have is —, and all you have is mine' (John 17:10) (5)
 10 Smarten (Acts 9:34) (4)
 11 Hold back (Job 9:13) (8)
 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
 18 So be it (Galatians 6:18) (4)
 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)
 22 Empowers (Philippians 3:21) (7)
 23 Imposing (1 Samuel 9:2) (10)

Down

- 1 Healed (Luke 7:21) (5)
 2 Central space in a church (4)
 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)
 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (Exodus 2:12) (8)
 5 Bravery (Acts 4:13) (7)
 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:26) (10)
 9 Transgression (Psalm 36:1) (10)
 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the —' (Genesis 1:2) (6)
 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)
 20 Cab (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!

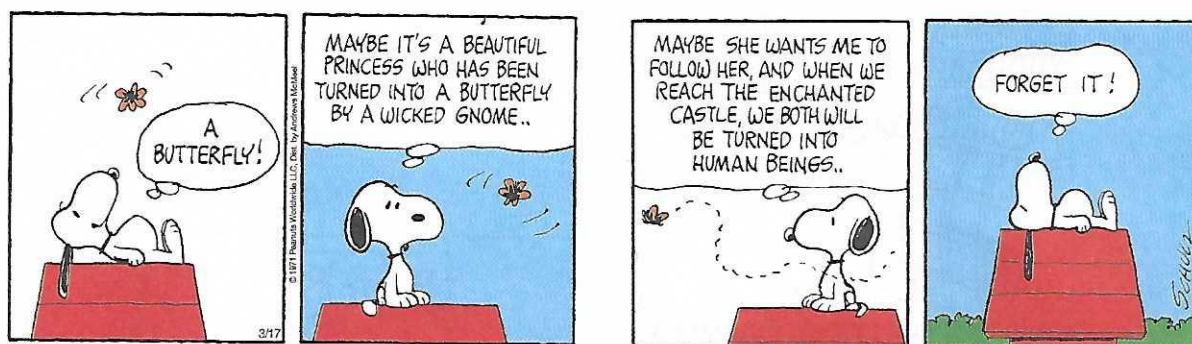
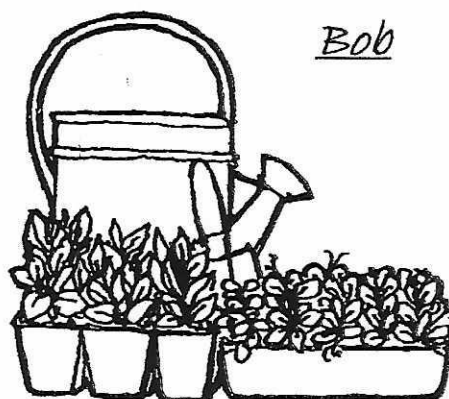
The soft new growth of herbaceous plants will be susceptible to slug damage so should be protected by a scattering of slug pellets or liquid applications. When applied as directed, products are perfectly safe to both domestic and wild animals.

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".



Two more articles from our regular contributor, Mike Knott of Stourport Wesley. Thank you, Mike.

Second Coming

One thing that has been a problem for devoted Christians is, 'Can the pandemic be the forewarning of the second coming of Christ?' Previously the only tragedy that encompassed the Globe was the flood, but this was a punishment administered by God. Pandemic if you translate it means panic, it does not mean the end of the world. Please note that Jesus said 'once the world has heard the truth about me, I will be ready to return'. Before He comes there will be wars, famine, earthquakes, "The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give it's light; The stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken". No one knows about that day or hour. The pandemic seems a mere nothing to what signals the second coming.

However, we must beware certain people could use this as a sign. Take care for many religions could use this as a sign. "Watch out that no one deceives you, for many will come in My name claiming I am the Christ and will deceive many. Such things must happen but the end is still to come, but he who stands firm till the end will be saved. At that time if anyone says to you 'look, here is The Christ', beware; do not believe it, for false Christs and Prophets will appear to deceive you. Do not believe it" (Matthew 24). "Remember, I shall come at an hour when no one expects Me, so keep watch and lead good and faithful lives, serve God". So I think the pandemic will not precede the second coming. My opinion.

So I leave you with a quote, I think it comes from Macbeth. (I'm getting better at this magazine writing; I'll be using a dictionary next!).

"If it be now 'tis not to come, if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come – the readiness is all".

Mike

Sing, sing a Hymn

One of the things we've missed during lockdown is singing; no choir practice, no hymns in church. Perhaps our great modern-day writers have been busy penning some new hymns, after all, through the ages most hymns and songs were supposed to have been written in 10 minutes or so they would have us believe. Well, it's logical. Take Charles Wesley, who wrote over 6000 hymns, if he had written just 1 hymn a day it would have taken him over 16 years! A century later, over in America, one Frances Jane Van Alstyne turned out an unbelievable 8000-plus hymns. We know her of course as Fanny Crosby and if she had written 1 hymn a day it would have taken her over 20 years. "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord" she wrote, and we don't need to wonder why. Whether that was a 10-minute hymn we'll never know, but she must have slipped one in before Breakfast. However, both Charles Wesley and Fanny Crosby were basically lyricists, they wrote the words and somebody else wrote the music or it was put to an already composed piece. It would be nice to think that in the 1960's this was followed. Think "Jesus Christ Superstar". Tim Rice wrote the words, Andrew Lloyd-Webber wrote the music.

So what makes a perfect hymn? Well let's face it, there's no perfect answer. Obviously it's the words that make a Hymn and it's them that have stood the test of time through the ages. Many are hundreds of years old, but they're still up there as the most popular tunes of the day. Yes, a catchy melody and a song everybody can sing helps. Take "Make me a channel of your peace". The prayer of St. Francis, over 800 years old and it's been put to six or seven different tunes. The 1967

version by Sebastian Temple is the one we are familiar with, a modern-day classic. I missed it at the time, well it the year of "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band".

It's the Glory of the Lord we are experiencing when we sing a Hymn. You're given a bible to take with you on Desert Island Discs; my other book would be a Hymn book, definitely "Singing the Faith". What magic, singing your heart out alone on a desert island. I'm tone deaf and can't hold a note, but who cares with only the sky and heaven above. Let's hope we can get those face masks off and get the old Hymn singing going again, I might even take up the tambourine.

Mike

p.s. You're supposed to learn something from Trinity Tidings, so for your knowledge this month the word 'Tambourine' contains every vowel in the English language.

Mike's Smile Lines

A man walks into a doctor's surgery and the receptionist asks what the problem was. He replied "I've got shingles". So she said "Fill out this form, put your medical number and national insurance number on it and take a seat".

15 minutes later a nurse comes out and asks him what he had. "I've got shingles", he said. So she took his weight, height and asked him his complete medical history then said "Change into this medical gown and wait in the examination room.

30 minutes later another nurse came to him and asked him what he had. "I've got shingles" he said. So she gave him a blood test, urine test and an electrocardiogram and told him to wait for the doctor.

An hour later the doctor comes in and asks him what wrong. "I've got shingles" he said. So the doctor gave him a full cavity examination and said "I can't find anything wrong with you. You can go home".

On the way out he passes the odd-job man who says "Are you the bloke with Shingles"? "Yes" he replies, "What shall I do with them?"

"Tip your truck in the yard, we'll put 'em on the roof tomorrow" was the reply.

**

Four men were sitting around a table in a coffee shop. Strangely they were from all parts of the U.K. "I called my son George" said one "because he was born on St. George's Day". "Well I'm blowed" answered another "because I called my son Andrew because he was born on St. Andrews Day". Then up spoke another, A Welsh man who said "Amazing, I called my son David because he was born on St David's Day". I don't believe it" said an Irish man "Why, my son was born on St. Patrick's Day so I called him Patrick". Sitting at the next table was a man who said "I couldn't help overhearing what you were saying because funny enough I named my daughter after the day she was born. Why not come home with me and meet my lovely adorable Pancake.

**

Walking home from church, dad complained that the sermon was terrible. Mom said that the Hymns were badly chosen. The eldest son fell asleep during the prayers and his twin sister said the reading was diabolical. All except for the youngest boy, who said "I don't know what you're moaning about, it was a good show for 20p".

**

God says to Moses "I have good news and bad news for you". Moses says "So what is the good news?" God replies:

"Moses, I shall visit plagues upon the Egyptians. Their rivers will run red with blood. Frogs will infest their houses; lice will infest their bodies. I shall cause flies to swarm upon them. Their cattle shall die. Boils will infect both man and beast. I shall cause hail to destroy all crops and locusts will devour anything that is green left in the land. Darkness will cover the world for 7 days and nights. However, do not despair, I shall then lead you and the Children of Israel to the land flowing with Milk and Honey.

"That's great Lord" replied Moses "but what's the bad news?"

"You, Moses, will write the health and safety restrictions plus the environmental impact statement".

**

Son: I know what the Bible means.

Father: What do you mean you know what the Bible means?

Boy: I know.

Father: Alright, what does the Bible mean?

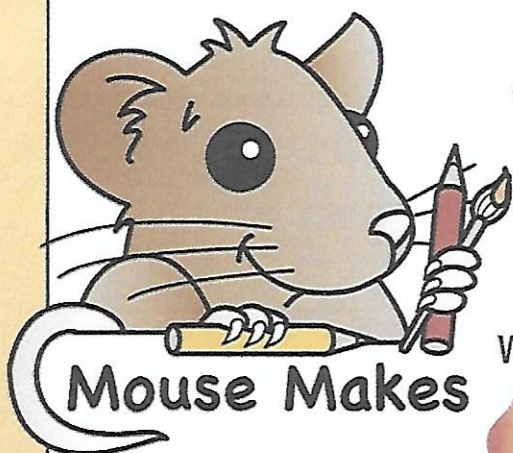
Boy: Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.

We should train all Amazon delivery drivers to give the vaccine. The whole population would be immunised by Saturday. Thursday if you've got Prime.

**We all know
mirrors don't lie...**

**I'm just grateful
that they don't
laugh.**





Re arrange the scrambled letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit
V S E I L
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit
helps us to
W K N O
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
H C T S E E A
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
K P E S S A
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
P H L S E
us to tell others
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit
helps us when we
A Y P R



On the day of PENTECOST
the disciples were gathered
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries
had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was
their reaction?

Acts 2:12-13

Who explained
what was
happening?

What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many
people were
baptised
that day?

Acts 2:41



Change each letter to the
letter before it in the
alphabet and see what
the **Holy Spirit**
produces in us:

KPZ
IVNJMJUZ
TFMG DPOUSPM
GBJUIGVMOFTT
LJOEOFTT
QBUJFODF
QFBDF
MPWF
HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

What is the work of the
Holy Spirit? What does He do?

Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC _ ES
COMF _ RTS
REVEA _ S

IN _ OU
TRAN _ FORMS
HEL _ S
GU _ DES
GENEWS
CONV _ CTS
SANC _ IFIES

The
Tale of the
**TWO
BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

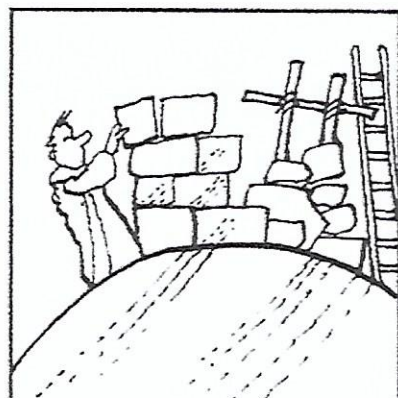


ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



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

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.

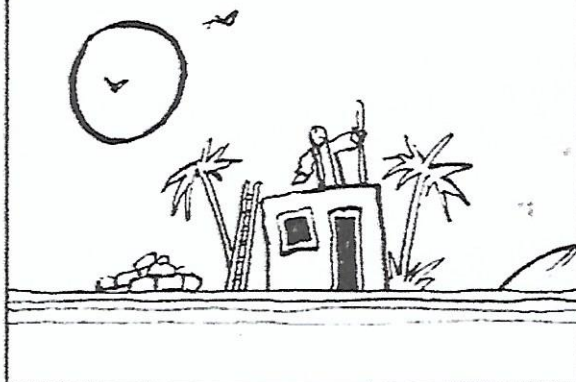


SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

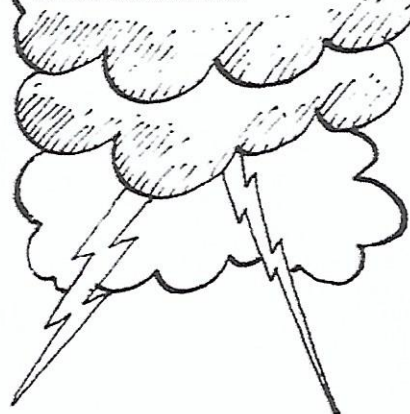


THE OTHER BUILDER
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE
BUILT HIS HOUSE

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



BUT ONE DAY THE
STORM CAME....

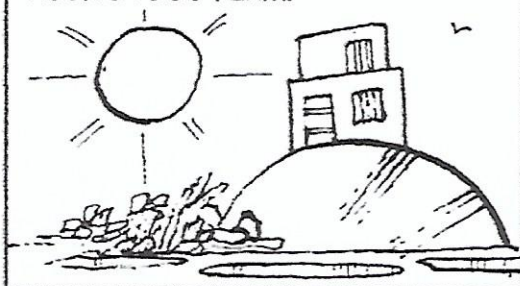


...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND
THE RAIN FELL....



...AND THE HOUSE ON
THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE
ROCK STOOD FIRM.



JESUS EXPLAINED -
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE
A FIRM FOUNDATION!

23rd May: Pentecost: not a Ghost but a Gift *By Canon David Winter*

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift.

Parish Pump 2021

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers how the Holy Spirit can change our lives.

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God’s Promise: The disciples obeyed Jesus’ instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised’ (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God’s promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God’s Power: ‘All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit’ (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples’ experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God’s love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God’s Purpose: The disciples ‘began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.’ (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own ‘native language’ (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God’s activity in our lives and it’s the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

‘Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him’ (Andrew Murray).

Parish Pump 2021

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.

Parish Pump 2021

Nectar in your garden

Our home gardens are now the largest source of food for insects such as bees and wasps in towns and cities.

They yield 85 per cent of the nectar produced in urban areas, according to a study published in the Journal of Ecology.

Three such gardens will generate about a teaspoon a day of the sugar-rich liquid which is found in the flowers that the pollinators drink for energy. A teaspoon of nectar is the equivalent of more than a ton of food for an adult human, and it is enough to fuel thousands of flying bees.

One ecologist has called home gardens "pivotal" in promoting biodiversity in urban areas across the country. Gardens are thought to cover 29 per cent of the land in urban areas, which is six times the area of parks and 40 times that of allotments.

The research was carried out in partnership with the universities of Edinburgh and Reading and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Parish Pump 2021

How to keep ground coffee fresh

The battle rages: just where IS the best place to store your ground coffee?

Sainsburys, Morrisons, Asda, Marks & Spencer and Ocado are among the supermarkets that advise you keep fresh ground coffee in a fridge or freezer after opening.

But Tesco, Waitrose and Harrods advise that you store ground coffee and beans in a cool, dry place such a kitchen cupboard.

Many coffee experts warn that storing your coffee in the fridge is wrong because coffee easily absorbs aroma, moisture and flavours, and can be tainted by fish, meat and cheese.

Martin Isark, founder of the Can I Eat It website, laments: "So much coffee is spoilt by poor storage, which makes the coffee producers want to weep..."

Paul Rooke of the British Coffee Association adds: "Coffee, like many food and drink products when exposed to air, will deteriorate. Cool and dry are the key words; the ideal storage is in an inert, airtight container stored in a cool place."

Parish Pump 2021

Is there life without the BBC?

Could you live happily without the BBC? Just try it for two weeks.

That was the recent challenge of the corporation's outgoing chairman, Sir David Clementi, to a group of critics who said they resented the licence fee.

Apparently, nine days later, two thirds of the critics had changed their mind and said that the licence was worth every penny. Sir David observed that when "things that they took for granted are removed from them, they realise how valuable the BBC is."

So he encourages anyone else who thinks that the license is not worth £3 a week, to try life without the BBC. "I think that most people would find it very hard to cope."

Parish Pump 2021

All in the month of MAY

It was:

200 years ago, on 5th May 1821 that Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France (1804 – 1815) died of stomach cancer. He was in exile on the island of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic, aged 51.

175 years ago, on 30th May 1846 that Peter Carl Fabergé was born. This Russian goldsmith and jeweller was best known for his fabulously decorated Fabergé eggs.

100 years ago, on 3rd May 1921 that Ireland was divided into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland (now known as the Republic of Ireland).

Also 100 years ago, on 15th May, that the British Legion was founded.

90 years ago, on 1st May 1931 that the Empire State Building in New York City was officially opened.

80 years ago, on 10th May 1941 that the last major attack on London during the Blitz caused heavy damage to many important buildings, including the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St James Palace and Lambeth Palace, several railway stations and hospitals, the British Museum and the Old Bailey. More than 1,300 people were killed on one night. At one point during the Blitz, London was bombed for 57 nights in a row.

75 years ago, on 11th May 1946 that the first CARE packages for Europe arrived in Le Havre to help people who were starving after WWII. The first CARE packages were actually surplus US Army rations.

70 years ago, on 3rd May 1951 that the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London were opened. The aim of the Festival was to lift the nation's spirits by celebrating British industry, arts and science.

Also 70 years ago, on 9th May 1951 that the Lake District National Park was established. It was Britain's second national park.

65 years ago, on 24th May 1956 that the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland. 60 years ago, on 28th May 1961 that Amnesty International was founded in London.

40 years ago, on 13th May 1981 that Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded by a Turkish gunman in an assassination attempt in St Peter's Square, Vatican City.

Parish Pump 2021

What will happen to our offices in the future?

There will be less of them – a lot less.

In fact, one recent study warns that the pandemic will mean office space in the UK shrinks by a fifth, which is 18 million square ft.

Certainly, the current flexibility of working from home, brought on by the pandemic, seems set to bring in permanent changes, according to the risk management and insurance broker Gallagher.

In the future, office will be mainly for collaborating or attending meetings, or for storing vital equipment and IT. Working in an office five days a week will become a thing of the past. And of course, that, in turn, will have a profound impact on the look and shape of our cities.

Parish Pump 2021

Nigel Beeton writes: "Do you ever go into your own garden and feel that you are trespassing?"

My Garden?

I thought I owned a garden

A lovely place to be

A bird said, "Beg your pardon,

"This land belongs to me!"

A squirrel dropped a nut on me

Which wasn't what I'd planned

"Get lost!", said he, "for can't you see

"You trespass on my land?"

A pheasant flapped and squawked so loud
I scarce could hear me think!
"Get off my ground, for two's a crowd!"
He kicked up such a stink!

The wild-life around me
So loudly do protest!
They growl and screech till I can see
That I am just a guest!

Parish Pump 2021

PARISH PUMP SMILE LINES

A group of lads took a trip to France and decided to attend Mass in a small town, even though none of them understood French. They managed to stand, kneel and sit when the rest of the congregation did, so it wouldn't be obvious they were tourists. At one point, the priest spoke and the man sitting next to them stood up, so they got up, too. The entire congregation broke into hearty laughter.

After the service they approached the priest, who spoke English, and asked him what had been so funny. The priest said he had announced a birth in the parish and had asked the father to stand up.

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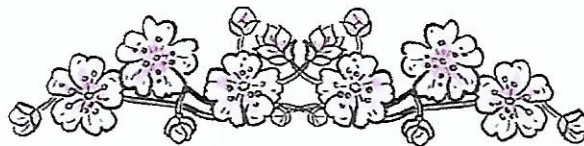
The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in the dark.

**

The children had been grouped together around the minister to pose for the annual Sunday School photograph, and the minister was smiling encouragement.

"Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up," he said. "You could point to each other and say: 'There's Jennifer; hope she's made it as a solicitor,' or 'That's Michael, hope he's made it as a doctor.'"

A small voice at the back rang out, "And there's the minister – hope he made it to heaven..."



Answers to the quiz about Inventors etc., Crossword and Sudoku

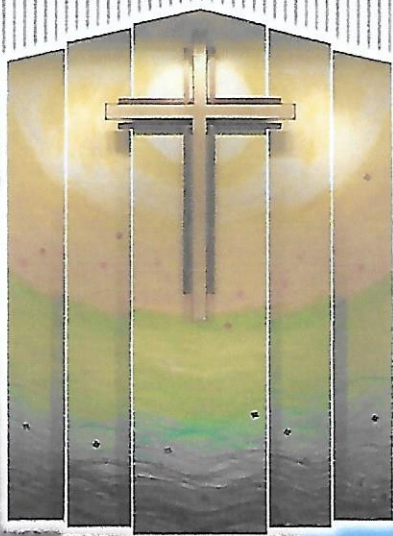
1. Alexander Graham Bell
2. Thomas Edison
3. Christopher Columbus
4. George and Robert Stephenson
5. Thomas Andrews. He went down with his ship
6. Frederic Bartholdi
7. Anthony Gormley
8. Friedrich Miescher in 1890. James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the structure of DNA
9. Sir Tim Berners-Lee
10. John Logie Baird
11. Reginald Mitchell
12. Edward Lutyens
13. John Harrison
14. Galileo - he developed an earlier idea to make it useable
15. Dr Alexander Fleming
16. Frank Whittle
17. Sir Isaac Pitman
18. Laszlo Biro
19. Neil Armstrong
20. DR W. G. Grace
21. Orville and Wilbur Wright
22. Yuri Gagarin
23. The Mongolfier brothers
24. Roald Amundsen
25. Robert Peary
26. Madame E Guerin - to help French widows in WW1
27. Robert Cawdrey - later improved and expanded by Dr Samuel Johnson
28. Charles Lindbergh
29. Prince Albert
30. John Boyd Dunlop

Crossword answers

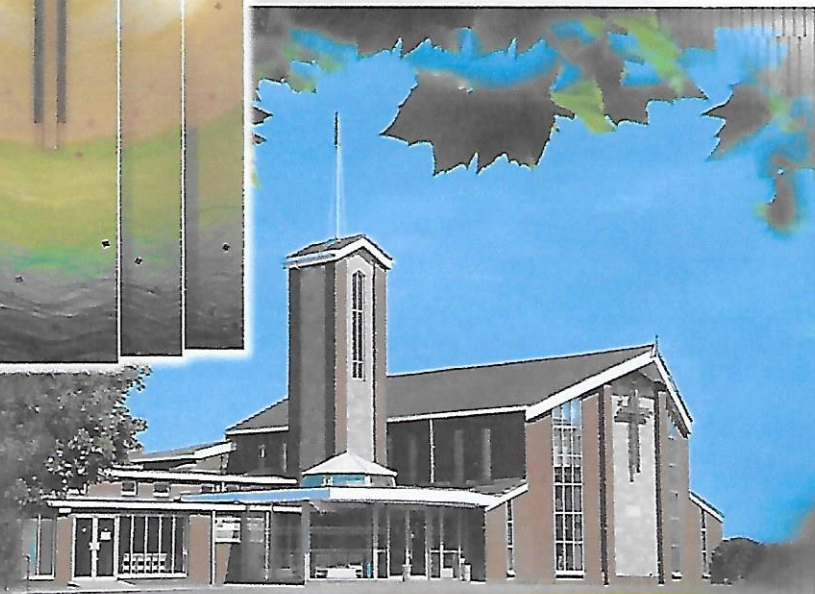
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Sudoku solution

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



♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦



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