

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

# Trinity *Tidings*

May 2022



Pasturelands and flowers in the walled garden at National Trust, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury

...all are welcome in this place!



**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**  
**CHURCHFIELDS, KIDDERMINSTER**

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

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

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**The closing date for items for the  
JUNE edition  
Of Trinity Tidings is Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2022**

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

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

*While Nick is on his sabbatical, Andrew Mann-Ray is writing the Minister's letter for us*

Unity...

Dear Friends,

It was so good to share Easter Sunday and the joy of the resurrection with both Baxter and Trinity's church families. Worshipping together showed ecumenism at its best and enabled us to demonstrate visually that although we are two separate churches with our own ways of doing things, our unity is expressed by our shared faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus. We put into action what Jesus prays for, for his disciples, in John 17 "that [all] may be one". And what better moment to display this oneness in the Lord than on Easter Sunday when we celebrated the moment resurrection? I think our sharing together acts as a witness to our community that there is more that unites us than separates us.

But how do we now capitalise on this? The words of two hymns stand out for me as we seek to be resurrection people who walk the way of Jesus each day of our lives. The first is "Brother, Sister let me serve you" and the reason is because we are encouraged to be Christ to each other in the ups and downs of life. I think the resurrection teaches us to bring life and light to each other and although there are things that we will continue to do alone as our two church families, we can encourage each other when we meet to choose the life in all its fullness that is promised us by the resurrection.

The other hymn that stands out for me is "We have a gospel to proclaim" and the words exhort us to go out into our community to tell others the good news of God's saving love for the world, discovered in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. I wonder as we continue in this resurrection season how we can work together to proclaim this good news particularly with the Churchfields Housing estate developing behind our shared worship space. I believe we have an opportunity to bring God's saving love and good news to those who are yet to hear the message for themselves. So I wonder how we can do it?

Finally, I want to say again how welcomed and cared for I feel as the minister of Baxter URC as we share Trinity's worship space and buildings. I want to extend a big thank to both congregations for their willingness to work together and I hope and pray that this developing relationship can continue to grow.

I pray that the joy of Easter and the hope of the resurrection will continue to inspire and encourage us all.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew





# PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz potter, Les Fuller, Lyn Jones, Margot Stanton, Betty Norman, Ruth Palmer, Anne Perkin, Mary Neve's mother Evelyn, those on the Prayer Vine and all those we know who need the love, comfort and the knowledge of Christ's presence with them.



We are sorry to hear that Diane Collison's father, Peter has died. Our love and prayers go to Diane's mother Ann, and to Diane, Nick and the family.

Also, we are sorry to hear that Ray Lee died at the end of March, and sadly, Barbara died a few weeks later. We remember in our prayers Peter their son, and the family. Ray and Barbara are re-united in God's love.



I am sure you will remember Rev Latika Singh who was with us a while ago. She is being ordained at Shifnal, on 26<sup>th</sup> June at 4-00pm. More details on the Methodist website. We send her our prayers for the day, and for the future.

## Wolverley

## May

Wolverley C.E. Secondary School,  
Wolverley Primary School and Nursery,  
Heathfield Knoll School  
Nightingale Court Nursing Home  
The Canalways  
St Johns' the Baptist C E Church  
Eateries  
Doctors' surgery and Community Centres  
Residential Housing

During the month of May  
please remember in your  
prayers the people and  
places in the area of  
Kidderminster known as  
Wolverley.





## From the Editor....

Dear friends,

Earlier this week I sat in the garden, out of the cool breeze, sitting in the sun. The only sounds I could hear were natural sounds. There were sparrows, always it seems arguing with each other, a great tit with its 'see saw' song, and an inevitable wood pigeon which was sitting on the chimney pot having a conversation with anyone who cared to listen.

But there was something missing. This year, for the first time I have not heard a chiff chaff in the large trees around the quarry. They are usually the first migrant birds to arrive, and will sing almost all day. I then realised that I had not seen any swallows, or house martins flying round the station, or hunting insects over the meadow, or the river. Twenty years ago we had seven house martin nests on the house and station buildings, and a swallow's nest in the down platform shelter. Last year the swallows flew in and out, but didn't settle, and the house martin's nest was 'taken over' by a pair of aggressive sparrows. There is no sign of them this year. I am always an optimist, so there may still be time if the cold easterly wind moved round to the south-west.

I must have a walk along the river bank to the island where the sand martins nest in the sandy bank. I wonder if they have returned? I hope you will be lucky enough to see the swifts in a week or two, but they are in severe decline and have been put on the Red List, which means that they are in danger of becoming extinct.

Yesterday I caught a mouse in a trap in the utility room. It was caught, but not dead so I took the trap into the garden and released the mouse, which ran round in a circle and then dived into a clump of grass. I bet it comes back!

On a happier note, I leave you with a picture of something beautiful that comes every year, the apple blossom.

David





## SERVICES IN MAY

May 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
	6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt (Holy Communion)
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	David Skitt and Jennifer Keeling (Joint Trinity/Baxter)
	6.30pm	Rev Peter Levitt
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Philip Bridgewater
	6.30pm	Albert Wilkinson
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Rev Peter Levitt (Holy Communion)
	6.30pm	Rev Sue Levitt
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev Sue Levitt
	6.30pm	Dot Tesh
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
	6.30pm	Janet Murray

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## Offertories for the two weeks to 10 April are as follows

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
03.04.22	239.00	75.00	751.00	1065.00
10.04.22	150.00	31.00	751.00	932.00

Amounts for the remainder of April will be included in the June issue of Tidings.  
In this current church year it is estimated that offertories of £1200 per week will be required to break even.

### The Roof Fund

Following the receipt of several large donations over the past month we are thankful that sufficient funds are now available to meet the cost of the essential roof repairs.

A summary of the amounts is as follows:-

Interest-free loans	£16,000.00
Donations & fund raising	£61,983.00
Interest-free loans repaid	£(10,000.00)
<b>Net funds</b>	<b>£67,983.00</b>

## GIFT AID

I have just submitted a claim for £18,500 thanks to donors who have gift aided their donations and which is essential for the Church. If anyone's tax situation has changed or would like Offertory or Project envelopes please contact me on 01562-67778.

Roger Smith.





New Dimensional  
Experience Choir

Presents a...



**Friday 13th May 2022**

**at 7.30pm**

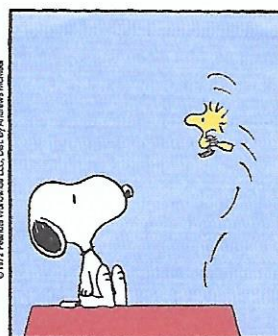
**at Offmore Church,  
Gray Close, Tennyson Way,  
Kidderminster DY10 3YE**

Admission by  
'Donation Ticket'

...available from  
**NDE**  
Choir Members

In support of these Charities:

Birmingham Children's Hospital | Foodbank | NDE Choir





## QUIZ How many....

1. How many steps are there in the title of the novel written by John Buchan?
2. How many planets are there in the solar system?
3. How many sides are there on a 50p?
4. How many sides were there on an old threepenny piece?
5. How many old pennies were there in £1?
6. How many grandchildren has Queen Elizabeth got?
7. How many pounds in 1 hundredweight?
8. How many books are there in the Bible?
9. How many hymns are there in 'Singing the Faith'?
10. How many blackbirds in the nursery rhyme were 'baked in a pie'?
11. How many sides are there on a heptagon?
12. How many syllables are there in a haiku poem?
13. In the Disney animated film how many dalmatians were there?
14. How many sons did Noah have?
15. How many days are there in a Leap Year?
16. What is the cost of a first class stamp?
17. What are the national speed limits?
18. What is the height of Mount Everest?
19. A church pulpit has sometimes been referred to as '6 feet above....' What?
20. 1p and 2p are only legal tender up to what amount?
21. The A4 engine 'Mallard' holds the world speed record for a steam locomotive. What is it?
22. How many funnels did the ship 'Titanic' have?
23. Brian Lara holds the record for the highest number of runs in a cricket innings. How many is it?
24. The peregrine falcon has been timed at what speed in a dive onto its prey?
25. In Jerome K Jerome's comic novel about friends on a boating holiday, how many were there?
26. How many were there in a Baker's Dozen?
27. How many plays did William Shakespeare write?
28. How many leagues under the sea were in the title of the book that Jules Verne wrote?
29. Jules Verne also wrote about going Round the World in.....how many days?
30. How many seconds in an hour?

### An anonymous rhyme for our time

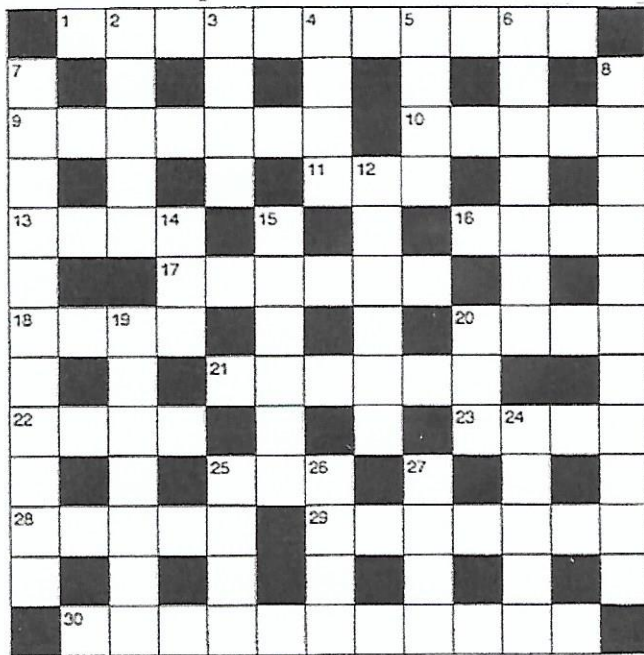
Nowadays we worship at St Tesco,  
At first the neighbours seemed a little shocked,  
But then St Tesco's doors are always open,  
Whereas St. Cuthbert's doors are always locked.  
It's hard to get to know the congregation,  
And the vicar isn't actually ordained,  
They haven't got a pulpit or a chancel,  
But they've got enormous windows, and they're stained.

I'm glad we're in the parish of St. Tesco,  
I feel so happy walking down the aisle,  
The reverend was always rather gloomy,  
But the checkout girls have always got a smile,  
Their uniform is anything but dreary,  
It's polyester cotton and it's striped,  
Pretty tunes come floating down from heaven  
It isn't organ music, but it's piped.

Yet sometimes in the busy supermarket,  
Above the merry ringing of the till,  
I fancy I can hear the church bells ringing  
From the steeple of St. Cuthbert's on the hill.  
The bells have gone, the roof, the stained-glass window,  
I dare say it's a merciful release,  
For nowadays we worship at St. Tesco,  
It's closing time St. Cuthbert, - Rest in Peace



### Parish Pump Crossword



#### Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)  
 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)  
 10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)  
 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)  
 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)  
 16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)  
 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts 13:50) (6)  
 18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)  
 20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)  
 21 Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)  
 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)  
 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)  
 25 Has(anag.) (3)  
 28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, — sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)  
 29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)  
 30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

#### Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)  
 3 'A bruised — he will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)  
 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)  
 5 Slip (anag.) (4)  
 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)  
 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)  
 8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)  
 12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)  
 14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)  
 15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)  
 19 Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7)  
 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)  
 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)  
 25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke 6:30) (4)  
 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)  
 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

### Sudoku puzzle

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

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## 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!

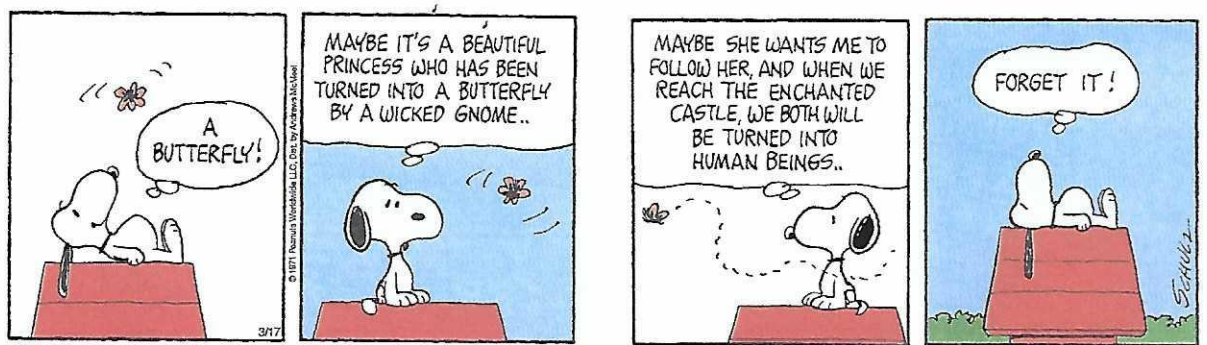
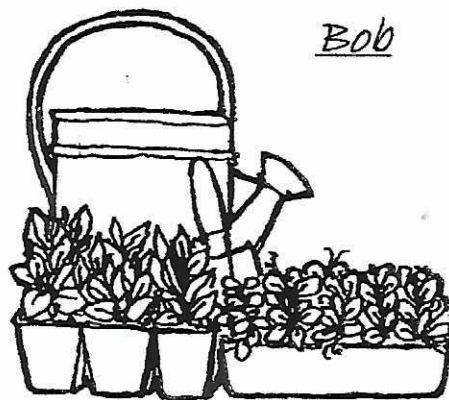
The soft new growth of herbaceous plants will be susceptible to slug damage so should be protected by a scattering of slug pellets or liquid applications. When applied as directed, products are perfectly safe to both domestic and wild animals.

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".





### Kidderminster Foodbank – 10 years old

Birthday honours and New Year honours come and go and once again no recognitions for the Kidderminster Food Bank. 10 years old this month, so what's another year. Top of my head, I don't know how many people and families have been helped, but it runs into thousands. Although the Baptist Church in Franche was distributing food to the needy locals, Kidderminster became the first official food bank in the Wyre Forest.

Food banks exist to support people who are going through a crisis in their lives until the slow wheels of bureaucracy step in to deal with them. They are a safety net for people who for one reason or another find themselves with no money left to buy food. They plug a gap within the Welfare System. They include people who have lost their job, those refused a crisis loan and people who have fled domestic violence. Foodbanks are not, and never will, be a place where people can go and get free food.

Recipients must be referred by someone such as a Health Visitor, GP, Social Worker, Church or departments such as the Job Centre or C.A..B. They will be given a voucher entitling them to 3 days food, depending on the size of the family. A maximum of 3 vouchers in a 6-month period is the norm.

Kidderminster Foodbank is part of the nationwide Trussell Trust, an initiative to provide food to the needy. This group provides over a million handouts throughout the country every year. To get the food, many donation points have been set up throughout the Wyre Forest. Most of these are in churches, Trinity, of course, being at the forefront through the foodbank's history. However, it's the weekly pick-ups from Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsburys and Waitrose that swell the warehouse.

Originally it all started out of Baxter Church, with it's first helpers being mostly from churches, in fact, they used to start with a prayer. Today it runs from a unit in the Swan Centre, which makes life harder for they need not only food donations, but cash for the rent.

It's hard to believe that people in Britain can go hungry in these modern times. There have been cases of people bursting into tears after being given a few days supply of food. Jesus would approve.

However, it's almost an impossible task to feed people. In fact, it is the Bible itself which tells us so. The three Gospels, Matthew, Mark and John, contain almost the same quote from Jesus "The poor you will always have with you and you can help them any time you want, but you will not always have me" (Mark 14:7).

Yes, the poor will always be with us, but the Kidderminster foodbank will be there to help them, with Jesus on their side. The foodbank is Jesus's loaves and fishes.

No National awards for Denise and her helpers, but a C.D.M is coming with love – Cadburys Dairy Medal – a bar of chocolate is on the way! Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Kidderminster Foodbank.

*Mike*

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)



## God Save The Queen

If there is one thing that will make us equal to the Queen during her Platinum Jubilee it's her love of God. From her early days she was always taught to pray, her and sister, Margaret, knelt at the foot of their bed every night to say their prayers. Being head of the Church of England, she worships every Sunday at church. Be it Windsor, Sandringham or Balmoral, the Queen attends church every week. Of course, when she's at Balmoral she comes under the Church of Scotland over which she has no jurisdiction, but she is always in church to worship on a Sunday. Nothing keeps the Queen from church, suddenly we're all friends together. As for Jesus, it's a love that knows no bounds. The wonder of the Christian faith is no matter how you treat Him, or be you poor or rich, He loves us all. Queen or Pauper, we're all in it together.

Every day we recognise the Queen simply because her name or head is on every coin. It simply says Defender of the Faith, of which she is. The decision of the Royal Mint to omit it from the florin (2 shillings) in 1849 nearly caused a riot. (If you've got one it's worth millions). It's known as the Godless florin and sadly in the world of decimal coinage, you won't get one in your change.

It's in those Christmas Day broadcasts that we learn of the Queen's love of God. Let's look at 2015.

*"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, He stretched out His hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none".*

Time and again her Christmas speeches to the nation have stressed the importance of her religious beliefs. In her millennial year address she said,

*"For me the teachings of Christ provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. Like so many of you, I have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example".*

No better example of her faith was at her coronation in 1953. Laying her right hand on the Bible, she knelt and declared *"The things which I have here before promised I will perform and keep. So help me God"*. She then kissed the Bible. The ceremony then carried on and these words were spoken to her.

For most of the reign, the Queen has appointed Bishops and Deans of the Church of England who then swear allegiance to her. In her speech to the synod in 2015 she mentioned how she saw the role of the church. *"St. Paul reminds us that all Christians should spread God's word and so should the Church of England work in partnership with all other faiths"*.

It's her faith, of course, that has carried her through the last couple of years. The death of her husband plus family problems could have destroyed her but prayer carried her through. The only speech she writes herself is the one on Christmas Day. It would be nice if she could include a Smile Line from Trinity Tidings, but I know I could be looking for a spell in the Tower, plus a brief note *"We are not amused!"*

*Mike*





## Mike's Smile Lines

Sid: Did you mark that place on the water where we caught all these fish?  
Ted: Course I did. I put a cross on the side of the boat.  
Sid: You fool! We might get another boat next time.

\*\*

Post Office clerk: You've put the address on this envelope upside down.  
Woman: That's right. It's going to Australia.

\*\*

Manager: How can anybody make so many mistakes in a single day?  
Man: I get up early.

\*\*

A man booked into a hotel. "Are the sheets clean?" he asked. "Course they are" was the reply from the manager. "I washed them myself", if you don't believe me, feel them, they're still damp".

\*\*

Man on Phone: I've just swallowed a bone.  
Doctor: Are you choking?  
Man: No, I'm serious.

\*\*

1<sup>st</sup> man: I've just bought a Japanese radio.  
2<sup>nd</sup> man: How do you understand the language?

\*\*

I love summer. The smell of fresh mown grass and the sound of the lawn mower. Especially the sound of a lawn mower. It means that something is being done and I'm not doing it.

\*\*

Insurance policies are great. You pay and pay throughout your life and when you die you've got nothing to worry about.

\*\*

There was a priest who practiced Karate. So good that when he went to bless himself, he broke his nose.

\*\*

Jack the Ripper is alive and well. He works in the local laundry.

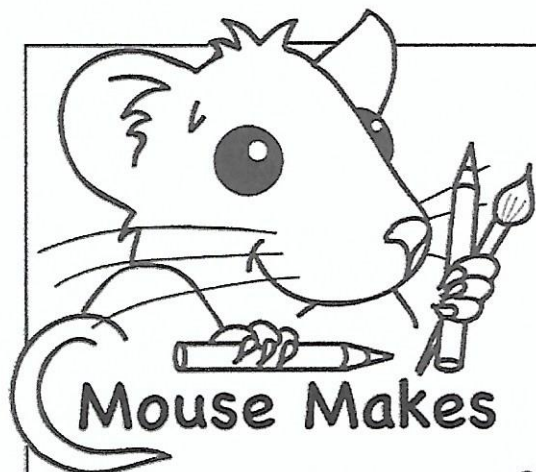
\*\*

Man: Doctor, I'm getting ever so nervous. All day long I keep hearing voices and I don't know where they're coming from.  
Doctor: How often does this happen?  
Man: Every time I answer the phone.

\*\*

Three men went into a café and all asked for a cup of tea. One said "make mine strong and sweet". Another said "make mine milky". The third said "I want a clean cup". The waitress came back within 5 minutes "Right, who wanted the clean cup" she asked.





"Give thanks to the  
Lord for He is good,  
His love endures  
forever"

Psalm 136:1



Jesus said,  
"This, then, is how  
you should pray:

Our

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
hallowed be your

\_\_\_\_\_ your

\_\_\_\_\_ come,  
your \_\_\_\_\_ be  
done, on

\_\_\_\_\_ as it  
is in \_\_\_\_\_.

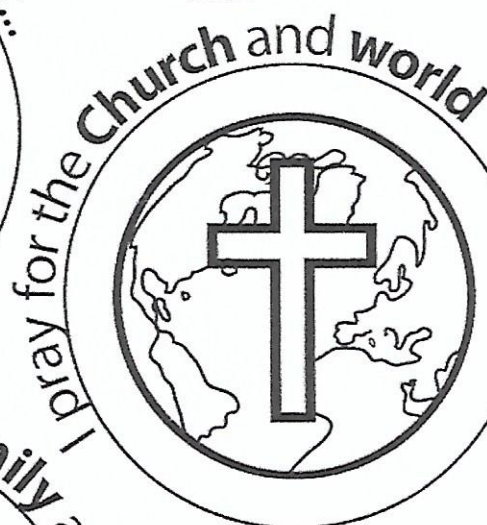
Give us this day our  
daily \_\_\_\_\_.  
And

\_\_\_\_\_ us our \_\_\_\_\_,  
as we also have  
forgiven our debtors.

And \_\_\_\_\_  
us not into  
temptation, but

\_\_\_\_\_ us from the  
\_\_\_\_\_ one."

Read Matthew 6:9-13  
to fill in the words.



"Never stop praying."  
1 Thessalonians 5:17



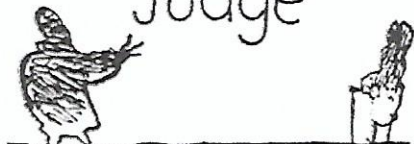
I ask for...



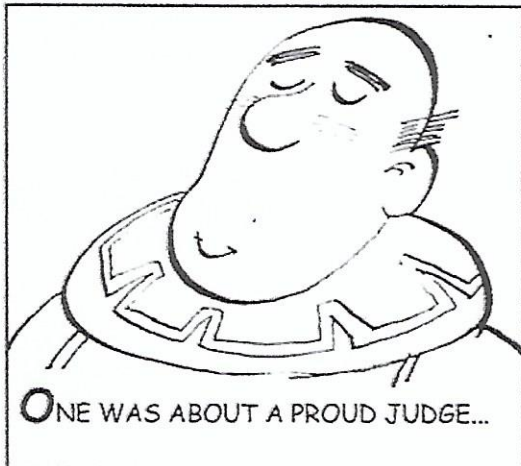
"Do not be anxious about  
anything, but in every situation,  
by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God."  
Philippians 4:6



The  
Tale of the  
The Widow  
and the  
Judge



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

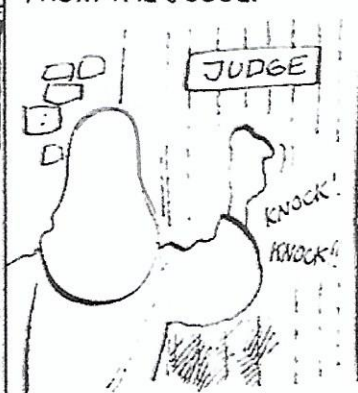


ONE WAS ABOUT A PROUD JUDGE...

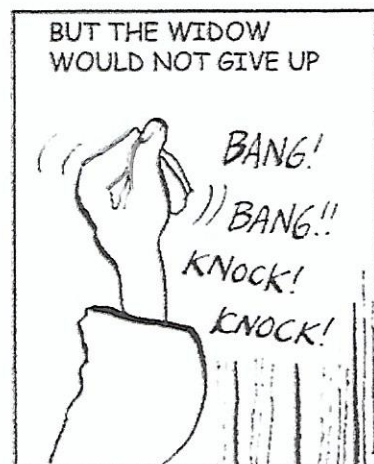


...AND A POOR WIDOW

THE WIDOW NEEDED HELP  
FROM THE JUDGE.



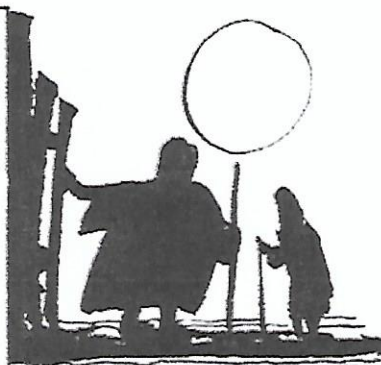
BUT HE WAS FAR TOO PROUD  
AND BUSY TO LISTEN



BUT THE WIDOW  
WOULD NOT GIVE UP



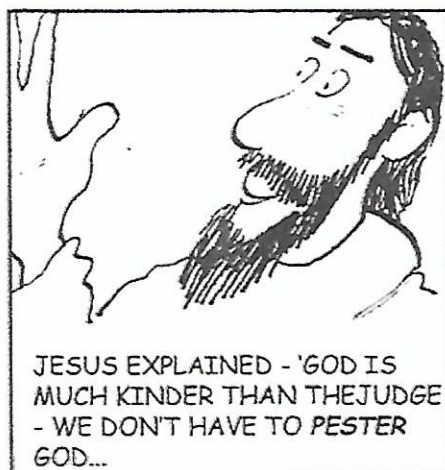
PLEASE COME AND SORT OUT  
MY LEGAL PROBLEMS



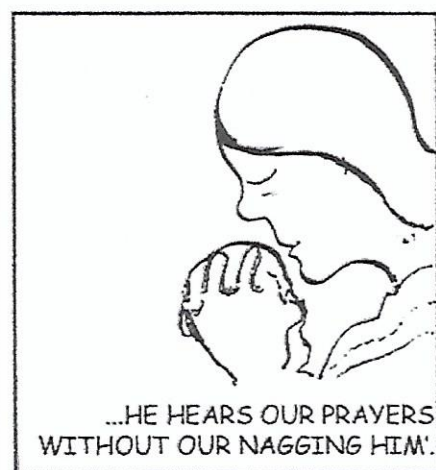
AT LAST THE JUDGE  
GAVE IN - AND WENT  
TO HELP THE WOMAN



I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE  
YOU KEPT PESTERING ME!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'GOD IS  
MUCH KINDER THAN THE JUDGE  
- WE DON'T HAVE TO PESTER  
GOD...



...HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS  
WITHOUT OUR NAGGING HIM!

### **There, but for the grace of God, go I** *by the Ven John Barton*

This saying is attributed to John Bradford (1510-1555), who was one of the Protestant Reformers. When he saw criminals on their way to execution, Bradford would utter, "But for the grace of God, there goes John Bradford." It was his way of acknowledging that he depended every day on the mercy of God, despite his sins, which he considered were on a par with those of rogues.

Sadly, Bradford's freedom was to last only a short time, for he was convicted as a heretic, incarcerated, and finally burned at the stake, during the reign of Queen Mary. Renowned for his prayer life and preaching, Bradford had continued to proclaim the Gospel in prison. One of his biographers wrote, "He lived a long life in a short space of time."

*Parish Pump 2022*

### **Packed lunches are back in style**

With food prices soaring, who needs a bought sandwich or salad? They can cost nearly £8 a day from LEON or Pret or other food outlets. Instead, it seems we are investing in plastic food containers (John Lewis reports sales are up 64 per cent on last year) and taking our own lunches to work.

As one cookery blogger explains, "You can't reduce your council tax, but you can make little savings on everyday meals, which add up to a significant difference."

"It's 'cool' these days to take a packed lunch to the office," says Suzanne Mulholland, author of *The Batch Lady: Shop Once. Cook Once. Eat Well All Week*. "Being organised and prepared is seen as a good thing."

As for coffee, consider this: buying a £3 cappuccino every day adds up to £1,095 a year. Far cheaper to fill a flask at home.

*Parish Pump 2022*

### **Take a walk on the wild side!**

How neat do we like our gardens to be? Full of manicured lawns, with immaculate flower beds?

Well, yes and no. A recent survey by BBC's Gardener's World magazine has found that more than half (54 per cent) of gardeners now include 'uncultivated areas' in their garden. And some 44 per cent of gardeners have also set up a wildflower area.

Certainly, Nature could use a helping hand just now. In 2019 32 per cent of us saw a butterfly in our garden. By 2020 that was down to 21 per cent. By 2021, that was down again, to just 16 per cent. Simple tips to rewild your garden:

- Avoid chemical pesticides and herbicides, which also kill 'good bugs', butterflies and bees.
- Tolerate as much mess as you can. Leave wood and leaf piles for hedgehogs and invertebrates.
- Set aside some room where grass can grow longer, and wildflowers can bloom.
- Don't pull up all your weeds – they can be a critical source of pollen for bees.

*Parish Pump 2022*



All in the month of May

It was:

150 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1872 that Bertrand Russell, Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

90 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1932 that London's Piccadilly Circus was lit with electrical lighting for the first time. The road junction later became famous for its neon lighting and video advertising displays.

60 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1962 that the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during WWII.

50 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1972 that Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor, died. He was formerly Edward VIII, until his abdication in December 1936.

40 years ago, 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May 1982 that the Battle of Goose Green took place during the Falklands War. British victory.

25 years ago, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1997 that the Labour Party won a landslide victory, ending 18 years of Conservative Rule. Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

15 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 that three-year-old Madeleine McCann went missing while on holiday with her parents in Praia da Luz, Portugal. Despite long-running investigations costing millions of pounds, she has never been found. Her disappearance is the most-reported missing person case in history.

10 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 that social media network Facebook went public. Its initial public offering raised \$16 billion – the third-largest amount in US history.

*Parish Pump 2022*

### **Coventry Cathedral – 60 years on**

Sixty years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1962, the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during World War Two. The Queen had laid the foundation stone in 1956, and she was present for the consecration.

On the night of 14<sup>th</sup> November 1940, the old Cathedral – together with much of the centre of Coventry – was devastated by incendiary bombs, but the decision to rebuild it was taken the next morning. The Provost, Richard Howard, wanted to do so as a sign of faith, trust and hope, rather than as an act of defiance.

This rejection of bitterness and hatred led to the Cathedral's Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, which continues to give spiritual and practical support in areas of conflict. It is symbolised now by the Cross of Nails, made from three nails found in the roof truss of the old cathedral and set in the centre of the altar cross.

The place now called Coventry Cathedral, on the site of a Benedictine monastery, is in fact two buildings – a joining of the old and the new. The older building, still hallowed ground, was originally a parish church, and then given cathedral status in 1918. Its 295ft (90m) spire, containing 181 stone steps, is the third highest in England, behind Salisbury and Norwich.

The 'new' Cathedral was an inspiration to many celebrated artists, most of them yet to become famous. Among those commissioned by the architect, Sir Basil Spence, were Graham Sutherland

(iconic Christ in Glory tapestry), John Piper (baptistry window), Ralph Beyer, John Hutton, Elisabeth Frink and Jacob Epstein, who created the striking sculpture of St Michael defeating Lucifer.

The famous Charred Cross was created when the cathedral stonemason, Jock Forbes, saw two wooden beams lying in the shape of a cross after the bombing and tied them together.

*Parish Pump 2022*

### **Time to welcome your slugs and snails**

So says the Royal Horticultural Society, as it recently began a campaign to encourage us to see the gastropods in our gardens in a better light.

The RHS says that the species play a key role in garden ecosystems, and thus are in need of 'positive PR'. It seems that only nine of the 44 known species in the UK are likely to threaten our gardens, and that all of them play a vital role in recycling dead plant material and animal waste, and acting as a food source for hedgehogs, frogs, birds, beetles and flies.

In fact, the RHS's principal entomologist says that we should consider our slugs and snails not as marauding pests bent on eating our flowers and vegetables, but rather as 'garden visitors'. "Our gardens would be duller and messier without them."

*Parish Pump 2022*

### **Our addiction to plastic**

Take a good look next time you go to the supermarket. What is the thing you see most? Plastic. It is everywhere. Tight around the cucumbers, holding the groups of apples together, protecting the chickens, keeping the sausages in a neat line. The yoghurt pots are all plastic. And on it goes.... Milk, juice, water, pasta, rice, frozen fish.... Almost everything we buy comes with a layer of plastic around it.

In the UK we use around 500,000 tonnes of plastic packages a year just for our food, and we generate 7.7 million single-use water bottles.

As Professor Steeve Fisher of the University of Portsmouth points out: "Half of all plastic becomes waste within a year of being made, and the vast majority isn't recycled. Eleven million metric tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans every year, a shocking figure which is estimated to triple to near 29 million metric tonnes by 2040, if nothing is done."

*Parish Pump 2022*

### **English is becoming, like, less formal stuff, maybe, okay?**

In the biggest ever study of its kind, researchers from Lancaster University looked at 100 million words to analyse trends. One expert says: "The most striking thing we found is how informal language has become. There has been a systematic shift towards more informal vocabulary and grammar."

Some examples include a steep decline in the use of modal verbs such as 'shall', 'must' and 'may', while the use of Mr and Mrs is down by up to 57 percent. Instead, first names are used more and more often, even in formal letters.

Split infinitives are on the rise, and 'shorthands' such as 'omg' (oh my God), 'tbh' to be honest and 'defo' are used so much that they are now common parlance.



Could apostrophes become a thing of the past? In the last three decades alone, its use has declined by eight percent.

On the other hand, the word ‘amazing’ has increased in use five-fold – from 16.6 times per million to 88.6 times per million, while the use of ‘maybe’ has almost tripled, from 89.3 to 236.1 parts per million.

‘IN’ words on the street now include: A bit, amazing, ‘cos, focus groups, fame, global, internet, just, like, maybe, me, net, ok, online, phone, really, stuff, website

‘OUT’ words include: Authority, church, employment, may, which, whom, Mr, Mrs, must, shall, telephone, unemployment, upon, usually.

*Parish Pump 2022*

### **Smile Lines**

Sorting out books for the local fete, a parishioner came across some well-worn and dusty illustrated encyclopaedias, treasured from his childhood. Unwilling to part with them, he put them on a shelf in the garage where his small grandchildren found them and spent many happy hours looking at the pictures. These books, however, caused him great embarrassment the day the minister came to visit. One of his grandchildren suddenly said: “Grandad, can we go look at those dirty books you keep in the garage?”

\*\*

She often broke into song because she couldn’t find the key.

\*\*

Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn’t find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said “Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky.” A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, “Never mind. I found one.”

\*\*

A Cheshire vicar has two cats. Their names are Ancient and Modern – because they are both him.

\*\*

Thinking of going on holiday? Look in the mirror. If you look like your passport photo, you probably need the trip. – Anon

*Parish Pump 2022*

### **Quote**

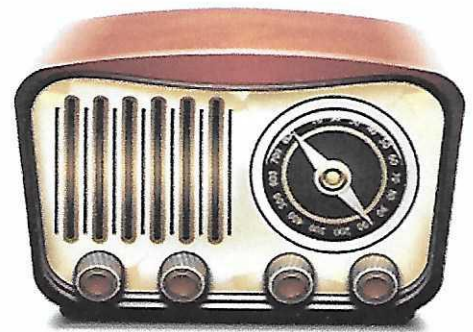
*“The way to do a great deal is to keep on doing a little. The way to do nothing at all is to be continually resolving that you will do everything.” – C H Spurgeon*

*You know you're getting older when you find yourself getting more irritated by bad grammar or poor diction! Surely it is disrespectful to one's listeners to use lazy diction?! I spent a while wondering what a 'terraced' was. A terraced what? A terraced house? A terraced landscape? Then I realised that the terrORists had got at the spoken word as well! With apologies to Sir Arthur Sullivan, here are my thoughts on the subject:*

### **The Lost T**

Seated one day by my wireless  
I was nervous and ill at ease,  
As the speaker rambled idly  
And carelessly dropped his t's.  
He told us 'wha' he wan'ed'  
And 'wha' he was gonna do'  
When all at once the radio ceased  
For I'd smitten it with my shoe!  
Laying one day by the wayside  
A sight that could break your heart,  
A sad, discarded letter  
Which no longer had a part –  
For someone has an alphabet  
With no twennieth le'er there;  
And all regret that our Mother Tongue  
Has succumbed to this sad affair.

*By Nigel Beeton*



Parish Pump

## **Smile-Lines**

A small boy wanted a baby brother, so his father suggested he pray every night for one. The boy began to pray earnestly, night after night. When nothing happened, he gave up. After a few months his dad said they were going to see mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. "Well, what do you think about having twin brothers?" his dad asked. The little boy thought for a moment and replied: "It is a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

\*\*

### **Italian pasta diet that really works**

You walka pasta da bakery

You walka pasta da sweet shop

You walka pasta da ice cream shop

You walk pasta da table and fridge

You gonna lose weight!





# 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)

**THURSDAY**

*Slimming*  
WORLD

**SLIMMING WORLD GROUPS**

**FOLEY PARK METHODIST CHURCH**

**OFF BRINTONS CLOSE**

**KIDDERMINSTER**

**9.30AM OR 11AM**

**CALL SANDRA**

**0777 2522 129**

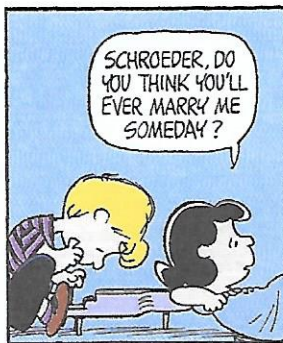


## ANSWERS TO HOW MANY QUIZ

1. Thirty nine
2. Eight. Pluto was downgraded in 2006
3. Seven
4. Twelve
5. 240
6. Eight
7. One hundred and twelve
8. Sixty six
9. 748. 790 if you include liturgical settings
10. Twenty four. Four and twenty....
11. Seven
12. Seventeen
13. One hundred and one
14. Three. Shem, Ham, Japheth
15. 366
16. Ninety five pence
17. 30 mph in urban, built up areas; 60 in non-urban single carriageway areas; 70 on dual carriage ways and motorways.
18. 8,849 metres, or 29,32 feet
19. Contradiction
20. Twenty pence.
21. One hundred and twenty six mph
22. Four
23. 501 not out, for Warwickshire against Durham in 1994
24. Over two hundred mph
25. Three. George, Harris and J. Four if you count the dog Montmorency
26. Thirteen
27. Thirty eight
28. Twenty thousand
29. Eighty
30. 3,600

Sudoku solution:

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

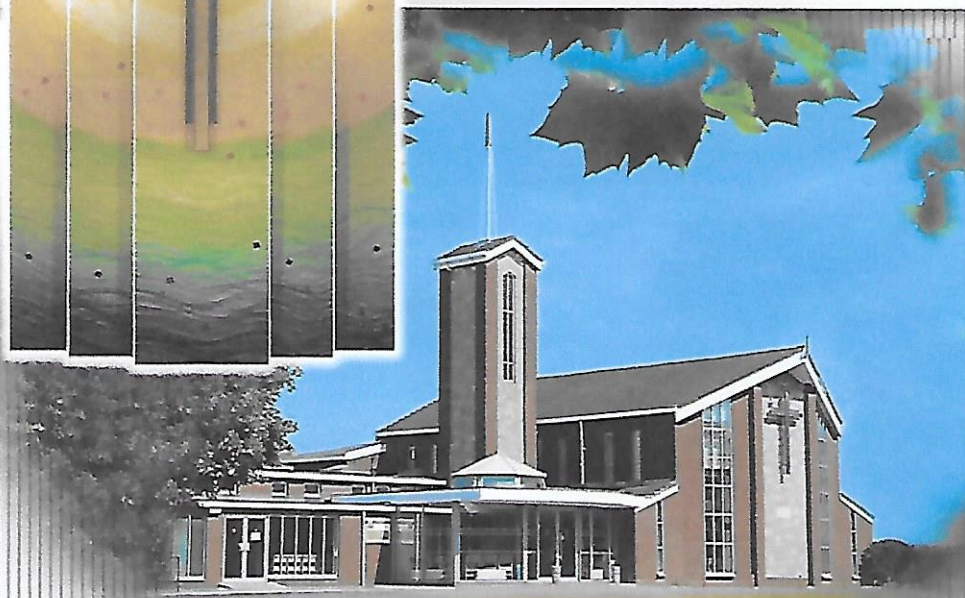


**ACROSS:** 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.  
**DOWN:** 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.





♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦



### **Sunday Services**

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

**Mid-Week Lunchtime Service at Trinity**  
**Every Thursday 12.30pm – 1.00pm**

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

Contact:  
Mrs Stella Batson - 01562 863503

Rev'd. Nick Collison - 01562 823300

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

Co-ordinator:  
Mrs. Jill Green

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL  
Telephone: 07580 009755 (Mon-Fri 9am -5pm)  
[www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk](http://www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk)

2022...2022...2022