Trinity Methodist Church • Kidderminster •



Gateway!
Arley Arborétum
Photograph by Rev'd. Nick Collison

...all are welcome in this place!

May 2023

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL

Church Website: www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

Circuit Website: kandsmethodistcircuit.org.uk

Superintendent Minister:

Rev'd, Nick Collison OSL, B.Th. MA Tel: 01562 823300

Senior Stewards:

Mrs Diane Ferris

01562 67875

Mr Graham Leigh

01562 863779

Contact People for:

Finance:

Mr Iestyn Davies

01562 740429

Property:

Mr John Bacon

01562 744502

Bookings: Mr Stephen Howles

07580 009755

Custodian: Mr Stephen Howles

07580 00975

Trinity Tidings Editorial Team:

Mr David Skitt

01299 401047

Mrs Joan Davies

01562 740429

The closing date for items for the June Edition of Trinity Tidings is Sunday 28th May 2023

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 magazine online each month.

Front Cover Photograph:

SABBATICAL...ON LOCATION

"Spirituality in Photography" - Taking pictures with a deeper vision!



Gateway! Arley Arboretum Photo by Rev'd. Nick Collison May's photograph was taken just outside the car park of 'Arley Arboretum'.

I was leaving and this picture presented itself in front of me. I like the way the stile in the foreground is a gateway to the footpath which leads the eye into the picture.

I'd also like to think the path eventually leads to the lone tree to the right of the picture, maybe I need to go back to find out.

Nick

Dear Friends,

As I look out of my window the neighbour across the road has really gone to town with his bunting in readiness for the coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May 2023. With that in mind I heard on the news earlier in the day that a man had been arrested outside Buckingham Palace on suspicion of being in possession of an offensive weapon, a shotgun and cartridges, after which a controlled explosion was carried out.

I suppose the above, in some ways, represents the two extremes of what people think about the royal family and the events of the coronation weekend. Some in favour, others less so.

Personally I know quite a lot of people who consider themselves to be Royalists, who are very supportive and very taken by everything the royal family represent and do. I also know a lot of people who consider themselves to be Republicans, who would be perfectly happy if the royal family was disbanded and a 'President', or some other figurehead, took their place. That said, I did hear a conversation on the radio which pointed out how bad we are as a nation at choosing our politicians, let alone our country's figurehead, if we were given the chance!

Those who know me well and know that my political views are considerably left of centre, might also justifiably presume I am in the 'Republican' camp on these matters, but that's not really where I'm at.

Obviously I am greatly troubled by the wealth of a reasonably small percentage of the population whilst others rely on food banks to feed their families, but neither do I know many people who are still working at the age of 96, as the late Queen was when she died.

I do believe the long and colourful history of this country is an important part of who we are as a nation, a part of our national identity (warts and all), which also goes a long way to help the tourist industry and therefore the economy. I also believe the British Royal Family are a part of our national heritage, one that is unique to these shores and brings in more than it costs, if we insist on putting a price on everything.

But at the end of the day we have to remember that at the centre of all this is a person. A person just like you and me, who is offering himself to the service of his country. A person who will be scrutinised every waking hour, a person who will be scrutinised every time he speaks, a person who will scrutinised every time he steps outside of his front door.

Whatever we think of the institution that is the British Royal Family, I would hope that we might all keep Charles and his family in our thoughts and prayers as he and they undertake the difficult task of representing this multicultural and diverse country to which we all belong.

Therefore please join me in praying that the coronation goes well, that it passes peacefully and uneventfully, and that those who wish to, are able to remember it with much pride and affection for many years to come.

Blessings to you all,

Nick

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Margot Stanton, Betty Norman, Josephine and Ranzi Seremwe, Kate Ralph, Lynn Jones, those on the Prayer Vine and people we know who need the love, comfort and the knowledge of Christ's presence with them.

We ask you to remember in your prayers the family of Les Fuller who died recently in hospital. He was a faithful member of Trinity, and we will miss him, and his cheerful sense of humour.



During the month of May, please remember in prayer

Wolverley

May

Wolverley C.E. Secondary School, Wolverley Primary School and Nursery, Heathfield Knoll.

Nightingale Court Nursing Home

Canalways

St Johns' the Baptist C E Church

Eateries

Doctors surgery and Community
Centre

Residential Housing





Dear Friends,

Some time ago I came across a poem written during the Second World War, it is called 'Naming of Parts' by Henry Reed and it concerns a new army recruit watching a demonstration on how to take apart, and then re-assemble a Bren gun. Unfortunately he becomes distracted by what, on a lovely spring day, is going on outside the window.

Today we have naming of parts. Yesterday we had daily cleaning. And tomorrow morning we shall have what to do after firing. But today, today we have naming of parts. Japonica Glistens like coral in all of the neighbour gardens, and today we have naming of parts.

This is the lower sling swivel. And this is the upper sling swivel, whose use you will see, when you are given your slings, and this is the piling swivel, which in your case you have not got. The branches hold in the gardens their silent eloquent gestures, which in our case we have not got.

This is the safety catch, which is always released with an easy flick of the thumb. And please do not let me see anyone using his finger. You can do it quite easy if you have any strength in you thumb. The blossoms are fragile and motionless, never letting anyone see any of them using their thumb.

And this you can see is the bolt. The purpose of this is to open the breech, as you see. We can slide it rapidly backwards and forwards: we call this easing the spring. And rapidly, backwards and forwards the early bees are assaulting and fumbling the flowers: they call it easing the spring.

They call it easing the spring: it is perfectly easy If you have any strength in your thumb: like the bolt and the breech and the cocking piece and the point of balance, which in our case we have not got; and the almond blossom silent in all of the gardens and the bees going backwards and forwards.

For today we have naming of parts

I watched the bees in the blossom on the crab apple tree and the apple tree and thought of the line in the poem 'easing the spring' for that is exactly what they were doing.

David



Offertories for the six weeks ended 30 April 2023 are as follows

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total	
	£	£	£	£	
26.03 & 02.04.23	159.00	104.00	1344.40	1607.40	
09.04 & 16.04.23	309.00	196.00	1206.80	1711.80	
23.04 & 30.04.23	226.00	110.00	1206.80	1542.80	

These amounts give a weekly average of £810.33

For the current church year to 31^{st} August 2023 it is estimated that offertories of £1250 per week will be required to break even.

Gift Aid and Envelopes

Thanks to the taxpayers at Trinity who have agreed to Gift Aid their donations I have just submitted a claim for a £15,000 refund which is vital for us. If anyone's tax situation changes or require envelopes for general or Church Project donations please contact me. Roger Smith.

Gift Aid and Envelope Secretary

01562 67778

SERVICES IN MAY

May 7 th	10.30am	Mr David Skitt and Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison - Café Worship
May 14th	10.30am	Rev nick Collison - Holy Communion with Baxter
	6.30pm	Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
May 21st	10.30am	Mr Albert Wilkinson - Aldersgate Sunday
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison - Holy Communion
May 28th	10.30am	Mrs Christine Stringer-Grimley - Pentecost
	6.30pm	Mrs Janet Murray
June 4th	10.30am	Rev Nick Collison and Rev Shaun Armstrong
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison - Praise Service

THURSDAY SERVICES at 12-30pm

May 4 th	Rev Nick Collison - Holy Communion
May 11 th	Mr David Millinchip
May 18 th	Rev Shaun Armstrong - Holy Communion
May 25 th	Mr Albert Wilkinson
June 1st	Rev Nick Collison - Holy Communion

Leaving the upstairs room...

Dear Friends,

Later this month we will be celebrating the feast of Pentecost and reminding ourselves once again of the moment when the Holy Spirit came on the disciples. The Holy Spirit compelled the disciples to go out into the streets of Jerusalem to tell anyone who would listen to them the truth of the good news of Jesus and what he had secured for the world through his death and resurrection.

But the story of the day of Pentecost is a comfort to us because the disciples, before the Holy Spirit comes upon them, are not filled with courage and boldness and are not found out in the streets of Jerusalem giving people their testimony. Instead they are found in the upstairs room, probably with the doors locked in case they are found and arrested. To be fair they have been told by Jesus to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit is poured out upon them but they are clearly uncertain about what they should do next. And in their confusion and anxiety they gather together in the upstairs room for comfort and support.

And it's there that the Holy Spirit finds them. But the coming of the Holy Spirit brings a profound change in their lives. It fills them with hope and confidence and suddenly they find themselves able to tell others the good news. And what's more they no longer care whether their testimony is received with graciousness and openness or whether it's received with hostility. They are now no longer living for themselves. They are living for God and his kingdom and the four walls of the upstairs room cannot contain them.

This truth should offer us comfort that although we often feel uncertain, confused and disillusioned with the way in which the world receives us, we don't do the work of evangelism in our own strength. The work of the church is always done in the strength of the Holy Spirit and we must always endeavour to call on the strength of the Holy Spirit to aid us.

The Day of Pentecost was the first of many occasions when the early church was filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Whenever the early church gathered to celebrate what God had been up to, they worshipped and prayed together and the Holy Spirit fell on them afresh, giving them the confidence to take the next step on the road of evangelism and discipleship.

The same can and should be true for us. But I wonder when was the last time you or indeed we as churches called on the Holy Spirit to aid us in God's work. Nothing we do is done in isolation and if we want to see our churches flourish perhaps we need to ask for the Holy Spirit's anointing more often? I wonder what the results we'll see if we do?

So let us this Pentecost pray for the Holy Spirit's anointing and then let us be transformed by the Holy Spirit so we can be shaped and fashioned to the desire and design of God's heart.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew

Workplace Chaplains at work in Kidderminster
Offering care and concern for people at work
Trinity Methodist Church

A Service for the work of Workplace Chaplains

4th June 2023 at 10.30am

Led by: Revd Nick Collison and Revd Shaun Armstrong

And the Chaplains to Kidderminster Market Traders

Please come along and maybe get inspired to

volunteer to be a Workplace Chaplain



Church Council from May 1st 2023

Minister

Circuit Steward

Church Stewards

Nick Collison

Stephen Howles

Diane Ferris/Graham Leigh

Albert Wilkinson/Bev Kernohan

John Bacon/Donald MacPhail

Treasurer

Church Council Secretary

Pastoral Secretary

lestyn Davies

Sandra Baker

Lynn Jones

Up to 15 members to reflect the life of the Church

Church Life Rep./Thurs. Service

Finance and Property Chair

Property Stewards

David Skitt

John Bacon

Worship meeting convener

Safeguarding

World Church Rep

Mission in Britain Rep

Christian Aid Rep. Junior Church

Trinity Toddlers

CTiK reps

Youth Work Reps

Young People's Rep

Media Rep

Social events

LEP

David Skitt/Neil Hardwick/Stephen Howles/Alan

Stinton/Ann Harris/John Harris

Jan Smith

Rachel Cobon

Vacancy

Vacancy

Diane Collison

Sarah Cobon

Stella Batson

Lynn Jones/Sue Stinton

Jo Smith/Steph Horrocks/David Howles

Vacancy

John Harris

Pat Chiswell/Sue Stinton

Sarah Cobon

Up to 15 members elected as congregational reps at ACM

- 1. Outgoing Senior Steward Eve Seremwe
- 2. Outgoing Senior Steward Mary Howles
- 3. Sarah Cobon May 2018 May 2024
- 4. Nigel Galton May 2020 May 2026
- 5. Anne Perkin May 2020 May 2026
- 6. Diane Ferris May 2020 May 2026.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster presents





"Paintings that explore the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Christ" A Series of Original Paintings on Tour by Artist Jeremy Thomas



Exhibition
Open: *

The paintings are full of hidden details and threads, only becoming visible as you delve below the surface.

Please take time to study these superb pieces of work in the quietness of the sanctuary and admire what you can find.

Saturday 20th May - Wednesday 7th June 2023 10am- to 3pm (*Not open to the Public on Sundays) at Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster DY10 2JL

/ O / ∑ > T

Coffee Morning

Saturday 20th May 10am-12pm Trinity Methodist Church



Proceeds go to Christian Aid Tea, coffee, squash, and butties available.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

A trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire has been arranged using Phillip's coach for

MONDAY JUNE 26th

Departing Trinity to arrive at the NMA in time for the 11.00am Last Post.

The cost would be £20 per person.

If you are interested then please let David Skitt know.

Money is not required yet.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

Trinity

Have you got any recipes you'd like to share?



You can send in more than one!

Recipes:

- Starters
- Mains
- Sides
- Desserts

Must include:

- Ingredients
- Servings
- Timings
- Method
- Picture

trinity social committee@gmail.com

New Zealand....a Tale of Two Islands

North Island in February

It was Friday 10th February when we received a message from our airline advising that they were "currently monitoring Cyclone Gabrielle and its potential impact on operations at Auckland airport". (This was the first that we had heard of any cyclone.) Nevertheless, we left Heathrow at 10pm on Sunday 12th on time and 13 hours later arrived at Changi airport, Singapore to change flights. As we queued to check in for the flight to New Zealand, we discovered that the previous flight had been cancelled due to the severe weather conditions. Eleven hours later we arrived at Auckland, Tuesday lunchtime, on the tailend of Gabrielle; how the pilots managed to land the plane and stay on the runway was remarkable as the plane was blown around quite dramatically. We spent the next hour or so at the end of the runway waiting for our gate to be vacated by another plane, during which time Gabrielle blew our stationary plane around as if it were a model aircraft.

We disembarked and, along with passengers from other recent arrivals, headed for the baggage claim. Baggage from our flight started to arrive on the carousel and people collected their bags and went on their way. But then the bags stopped appearing and after about half an hour the carousel stopped. There were a few vague announcements which were virtually inaudible because of the huge numbers of passengers waiting for their luggage. After another hour or so we were told that because of the severe wind conditions all unloading of aircraft had been halted and the baggage handlers had been sent home. Our luggage was still on the aircraft! We were asked to fill in a form to provide an address to which they would deliver our luggage "within the next seven days". (We were renting a motorhome!). Very quickly there were several hundred people queuing to hand in their forms to two beleaguered officials sat at a table. A man in a uniform came along saying they were starting another queue for "the elderly" because they did not want them to be standing for too long - Alan was third in the queue! Suddenly being a senior citizen had its advantages! Having deposited our forms, we went through Immigration about three hours after arriving and went to our hotel for the night - with just our hand luggage, no change of clothes.

Next morning, we collected our motorhome as intended, and, having received an email to say that the campsite where we intended to spend our first two nights had been badly affected by the cyclone - the access road was cut off by a large mudslide - we asked the office staff to recommend where we could stay. With their suggested campsite (in a country park) a few miles north of Auckland, in the sat nav, we set off to the local supermarket to stock up on food etc. We also visited a large discount store to buy a few cheap items - tee shirts, trousers, underwear and the like.

There was a notice on the entrance to the campsite to the effect that it was closed due to flooding, but campers could stay in the carpark overnight at no charge. So, the first two nights of our holiday were spent in a carpark, albeit with a very pleasant outlook.



The next day we drove north, as planned, to visit Helensville to find the building which is used as the Police Station in the TV series The Brokenwood Mysteries - it is not actually a Police Station! En route we passed signs of the effects of the cyclone - flooded roads and many large trees blown down. While there we went to the local library to log on to their internet, to find a message from a courier company advising they had our suitcases and were going to deliver them. So, I confirmed the delivery address as the motorhome rental office near the airport and told them that it was open between 9am and 4pm, seven days.

On Friday we went back to the motorhome offices to find no luggage, so back to the carpark. Next morning, Saturday, I found a message from the courier on my phone to say it was 8.30 pm Friday and there was no-one at the office to receive our cases! Ugh!

We had already booked a campsite for that night at Blue Lake, outside Rotorua, and decided to head there even though it was about 150 miles away. Sunday was a gloriously hot day; we visited an area of thermal hot springs and had a boat trip on a flooded volcanic crater, and got sunburnt. Staying there a second night on Monday morning we headed back to Auckland to the motorhome office. We arrived around 2pm and, yes, there were our suitcases! What a relief, a change of clothes.

We spent that night back at the nature reserve by which time the campsite was open, it was delightful. At last things were looking up.

Our plan had been to head to the east of North Island and drive south along the coast. However, we had learned from the newspapers and the staff at the office how badly that area had been affected by the cyclone; the east coast was devastated with most towns cut off by floods or massive mudslides with many roads and bridges swept away. There were many dreadful stories, such as the woman who had to swim to safety through her bedroom window. It was then that we heard that the mudslide which blocked the road to our first campsite had claimed the lives of two firemen who were trying to rescue local residents.

A major rethink of our itinerary was needed. As we could not go east, we decided to head south west. We eventually made it to State Highway 43, a famous route known as the Forgotten World Highway. At over 90 miles long, some of which is gravel road, with a very narrow tunnel (called the Hobbit Hole), it had some magnificent views and, about midway, there is a fairly remote settlement called Whangamomona. The residents had declared it a Republic in 1989 and amongst their previous Presidents they had elected various dogs and a goat, the current President is a cat named Ted. Nice hotel with good food and beer, very welcome on a hot day.





At the southern end of the Highway our resting place for the night was a town called Stratford where there is a five storey imitation black and white clock tower and on the hour life-size Romeo and Juliet appear at and emerge from various doors and windows.

Our next stop was Martinborough something over 200 miles distant, where we were relieved to be back on our original planned route and schedule, at last. It is a pleasant town, famed for its many wineries, so it was compulsory next day to try a couple. However, our relief was short-lived when we received an email advising that our ferry sailing to South Island the following Monday morning had been cancelled and we had been rebooked on to the 2am Tuesday sailing. We had heard of people having their crossings cancelled and some having to wait weeks to get another booking. While we were somewhat displeased at this, on reflection we decided to accept the offer. It meant losing a day on South Island, but we did not know what the alternative might be.



From Martinborough we headed south to the capital, Wellington, along State Highway 2 which winds its way through magnificent mountain scenery with plenty of hairpins and an average speed of about 40mph, not the M1 but so much more enjoyable. We passed more signs of what the cyclone had left in its wake, including one point where half the road had been completely washed away down a steep hillside. We passed through Featherstone, New Zealand's book town (sorry Sue, no time to stop).

We spent the next day, Sunday, in the city, going up in the cable car to see the amazing views out towards the Cook Strait and spending time in the magnificent museum, Te Papa, built on the harbour, with wonderful displays showing how New Zealand was formed, its animal and plant life and aboriginal beginnings. Now we were faced with an extra day on North Island so, leaving the campsite at 10am on the Monday morning, we headed back up SH2 taking in more of the amazing scenery.

We arrived at the ferry terminal about 6pm and were fifth in the queue, but check-in did not open until after midnight. We then waited on the harbour till we were loaded on to the ferry at about 1.30am, all the commercial vehicles and cars were loaded first and the motorhomes were on last. We made it to the Lounge only to find most seats already taken. We spent a really uncomfortable three hours during the crossing trying, but mostly failing, to get some shuteye.

Finally, we docked in Picton, at just gone 5am, in pitch darkness, on to unfamiliar roads, only to find that all the lorries and cars had nabbed all the parking spaces and lay-bys to take a nap. So we journeyed on into the night, having had little or no sleep for more than twenty-four hours, heading, hopefully for Blenheim our next planned destination 35 miles away.....to be continued.

Alan and Sue Stinton

FOOTNOTE

Cyclone Gabrielle was the most destructive storm to hit North Island in living memory. It lasted only a few hours but brought devastation and chaos on a massive scale, affecting a third of New Zealand's five million population. Most of the east coast was devastated, cut off not only because roads, railways and bridges were destroyed or swallowed in massive mudslides, but all other forms of communication failed. It is estimated that more than 10,000 homes had been destroyed and that the costs to reinstate all the damage will be greater than the costs incurred after the Christchurch earthquake in 2011.







A QUIZ ABOUT ANIMALS

- 1. What is a black widow?
- 2. Which flying insect spreads malaria?
- 3. Which green insect sometimes eats its mates?
- 4. Arachnophobia is a fear of what?
- 5. Which insects communicate by dancing?
- 6. Which insect has a species called a Red Admiral?
- 7. Which insect produce a substance called Royal Jelly?
- 8. What is the most popular pet in the UK?
- 9. What is unusual about a Manx cat?
- 10. Dalmatians are born with spotted fur True or False?
- 11. Which breed of dog can't bark?
- 12. Which type of lizard can change the colour of its skin?
- 13. What is a female rabbit called?
- 14. Which is the only type of bird that can hold their food up to their beaks whilst they eat?
- 15. What is the world's most consumed fish?
- 16. The male of which creature gives birth to its young?
- 17. What is a group of whales called?
- 18. The Great Barrier Reef is made up of which animal?
- 19. Which two sea animals produce pearls?
- 20. What is the only British Isles freshwater fish that can swim backwards?
- 21. What is a group of crocodiles known as?
- 22. What is the tallest land animal?
- 23. Which bird lays the largest eggs?
- 24. What are the only flying mammals on earth?
- 25. What is the largest lizard in the world?
- 26. What flightless bird is the emblem of New Zealand?
- 27. What animal is the closest living relative to the T-Rex?
- 28. What name is given to the fear of animals?
- 29. What is the UK's only venomous snake?
- 30. Which plant accounts for 99% of a panda's diet.

One for luck......Bactrian and Dromedary are camels. What is the difference between them?



Parish Pump Crossword

10 11 12 13 14 19 22 23 24

Sudoku Puzzle (Easy)

		6	5			4	
			7	4	3	2	
3		8		9		1	5
4			1		2		
	7				1		9
	8		6			7	
7		2	And the second s	1		6	
8	6	4	3				
9			8	6			1
	7 8	4 7 8 7 8 6	3 8 4 7 7 8 8 7 7 2 8 6 4	3 8 4 1 7 6 7 2 8 4 3 3	3 8 9 4 1 1 7 0 0 8 6 0 7 2 1 8 4 3	3 8 9 4 1 2 7 1 1 8 6 1 7 2 1 7 2 1 8 4 3	3 8 9 1 4 1 2 7 1 2 8 6 7 8 6 7 7 2 1 6 6 6 8 6 6 8 6 6 8 6 7 6 6 6 8 6 7 6 6 6 8 6 6 8 6 6 8 6 6 8 6 6 8 6 6

Across

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

Down

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

GARDENING NOTES FOR MAY

May is a really busy time in the garden, with a lot to do and some careful thinking and preplanning 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 systemic insecticide and try to combat black spot and mildew early on if possible. Rolling a leaves may be a sign of the caterpillar of the tortrix moth, or even sawfly. Pick and burn th leaves, don't compost or drop them on the ground.

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

If the weather has been warm, then we've probably been treated to a spectacular display a 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 who 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 are 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 beneat 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 are 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 we eventually need staking (unless they are obviously dwarf varieties) as their heads usual become guite 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 the line the inside of the basket with damp moss. Fill the base with compost and then place 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. Dornallow the basket to dry out and ensure that the bracket that is going to support it on the wais 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 lassummer and early autumn, although don't be tempted to plant out tomato plants until late Matthe 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 be include: Calendula, Candytuft, Coreopsis, Cornflowers, Eschschoizia, Godetia, Kochi Lavetera, Linaria, Nigella, Poppies, Scabious and Sunflowers.

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

Matthew's Catch Phrase

When we need to read about the life of Jesus we look to the 4 Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. When you've read one you've read them all you might say, but no, they're all different, especially Luke who was the only non-Jewish writer in The Bible, he was a Gentile. It's hard to believe that these Gospels written 2,000 years ago have led to some of our modern-day sayings, Matthew being the best of them.

What better way to start than with a baptism of fire. John the Baptist was speaking and he recorded the first of many everyday quotes. It means, of course, the introduction of many young people into the first trial of their lives. The first march into battle. "I baptise you with water, He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire". (Matt. 3 v11) A couple of millenniums down the road and we all still get that "baptism of fire" at some time in our lives. Then we begin to live and become the best of men. We become "the salt of the earth" (Matt 5 v13) and the light of the world. So we move through life and we accomplish things, in fact, we go that extra mile to achieve it. "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles" (Matt. 5 v41). Do it for yourselves, Just remember (Matt6 v.24) "No man can serve two masters".

So we move on and "see how the lilies of the field grow" (Matt6 v.28) and "do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matt7 v12). Follow the straight and narrow. "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only few find it" (Matt7 v14). However beware "They come to you in sheep's clothing" (Matt7 v15) "but by their fruits you will recognise them" (Matt7 v.20) I know this and judge people how I find them but I think I'll phone a friend.

Then it was Christ's turn to reprimand us "You of little faith" He said "Why did you doubt?" (Matt.14 v.31). Not me, it was a case of the blind leading the blind (Matt15 v14). Can you not discern the signs of the times? (Matt 16 v.3) "So get behind me Satan" Jesus says to Peter (Matt16 v.23). This is a phrase used today to answer even the mildest form of temptation. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God" (Matt19 v.24). I definitely should have phoned a friend. Of course I should have know that everything comes at the "Eleventh Hour" (Matt20 v.6). Remember the end of the 1st World War in November 1918, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Was this a forecast by Christ 2,000 years ago?

So "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matt.25 v.21). But Matthew leaves us with one of the modern day phrases spoken by Jesus "The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me" (Matt.26 v.11) as true today as it was all those years ago, look no further than the food banks. So just think about all these phrases that Matthew gave us and take them in.

I'm a Believer

What did you learn at Sunday school today? Asked his dad. "It was absolutely ace" said his son "blimey, that bloke Moses taking the Israelites out of Egypt. The Pharaoh and the Egyptian army chased after them in tanks and armoured

vehicles. They had helicopters firing round after round of rockets down on them. So Moses got on his mobile phone and asked the Israeli Air Force to bomb their pursuers. They reached the Red Sea but couldn't cross, so Moses got on his iPad and asked the military engineers to build pontoon bridges so they could cross. This they did and the Israelites were on their way to the promised land". Dad was shocked. "Is that the way they told you that story?" "No" he said "but if I told you the way the Bible tells it you'd never believe it".

Of course, it's often hard to believe stories in the Bible so putting it in black and white like the little lad did made it more like the truth. No room for the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea. This is what the Bible tells us, but we have to study and read between the lines. The truth is there, can't see the wood for the trees. Simon Peter puts it perfectly "You must understand, in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing, they will say where is this"? Peter knows the truth, always named first in the list of disciples. Jesus called him The Rock, he knows the fact from fiction. Us Christians have to believe in miracles and believe what the Bible tells us. Insurance companies deny pay-outs on "acts of God", Why?, many of us believe in them. The Bible is still around after thousands of years and Christ cleans up lives year after year. Actually, if I told you what the Bible really means, you'd never believe it. So it's never too bad to see it through the eyes of a child. Don't be like Thomas and doubt, just believe, or just concentrate on "Smile Lines".

Mike Knott (Stourport Wesley)

Mike's Smile Lines

When you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.

If at first you don't succeed – never take up skydiving.

Just think, if marriage was outlawed only outlaws would have in-laws. **

How many roads must a man walk down until he admits he's lost?

Teacher: If all the good people in the world were red and all the bad people, green, what colour would you be?

Little Girl: Please miss, I think I'd be streaky.

We were so poor that one day my mother gave me a button and told me to pop next door and get the neighbour to put a shirt on it.

Q. Write down what you think of Red China.

A. It looks good on a white table cloth.

**

A rolling stone gathers a fair bit of speed.

Boy: What have you got in your truck?

Farmer: Manure, I use it to put on my potatoes.

Boy: You want to come to our house then, we put salt and butter on ours.

**

One Minister used to wear a flashing orange nose. He was known as the Belisha Deacon.

**

It was Christmas morning and a family was trudging home after their annual visit to church. "I thought the bells were rung dreadfully," said Dad. "The hymns were badly chosen," said Mum. The eldest son had fallen asleep, the sister didn't like the prayers. "I don't know what you're moaning about" said the youngest. "I thought it was a great show for 10p.

Customer: Have you got asparagus?

Waiter: Sorry, we don't serve sparrows and my name's not Gus.

**

Fred: What's your New Year resolution?

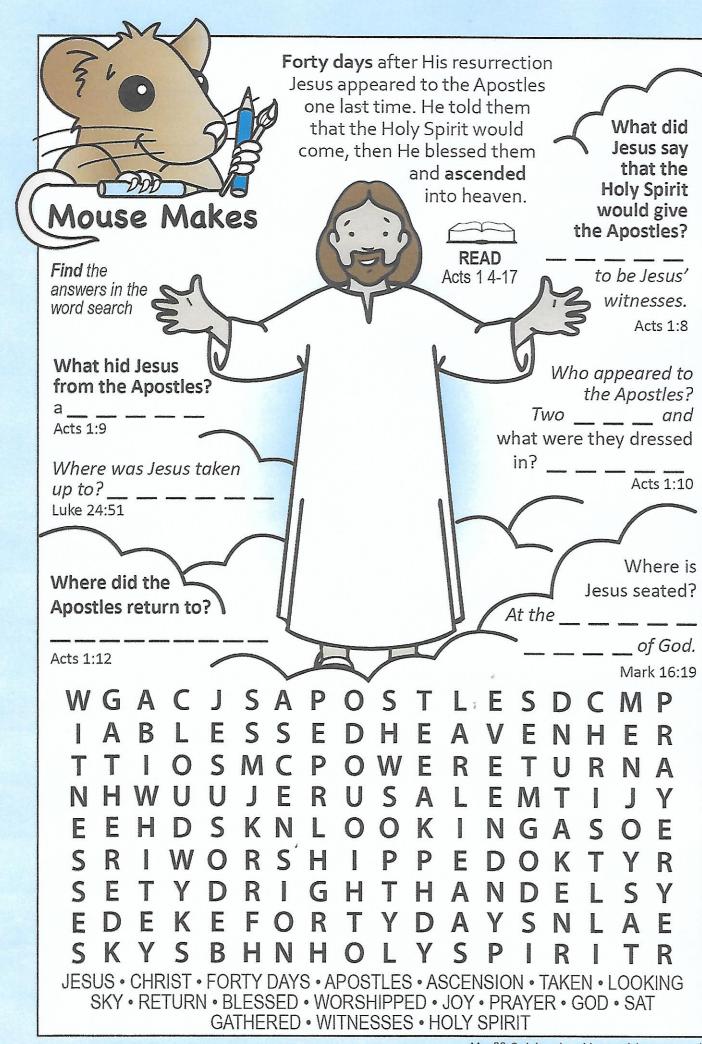
Jim: To be more modest

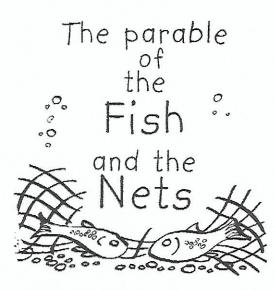
Fred: Won't that be difficult to keep?

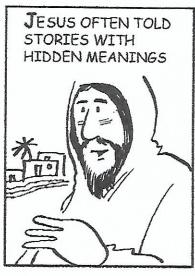
Jim: Not for someone as clever and intelligent as me.







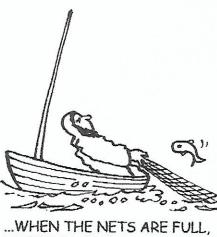


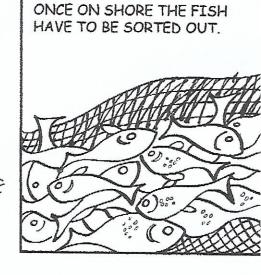




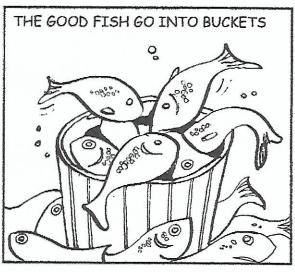
ONCE JESUS SAID THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WAS A BIT LIKE CATCHING FISH!







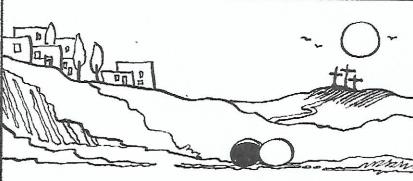
THEY PULL THEM TO SHORE







JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE TOO WILL



BUT EVEN IF WE MAKE TERRIBLE MISTAKES - WE CAN ALWAYS BE FORGIVEN - THAT'S JESUS' PROMISE.

Where did Jesus go at the Ascension?

In Salvador Dali's picture of Jesus' ascension all you can see are his feet! As we celebrate the event this month, it prompts the question 'where did Jesus go?' Peter says Jesus 'has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). However, the New Testament tells us three things about what Jesus is doing at the Father's side.

At Pentecost Peter said that Jesus is 'exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear... "The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand"' (Acts 2: 33-4). Peter is affirming Jesus' position of authority and power at the heart of the universe. By pouring out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us, Jesus gives us a foretaste of the life of heaven i.e eternal life, forgiveness, healing, release and God's provision for our lives.

When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned to death by the Jewish authorities he points out, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' (Acts 7:56). Our experience of heaven is only ever partial, as we live with the reality of suffering and setbacks. However, Jesus is still on the throne! We are called to trust him daily.

The Bible also tells us that 'Christ Jesus who died....is interceding for us.' (Romans 8:34, cf Hebrews 7:25). Even when we don't know how to pray, we have the assurance that Jesus is already praying for us! He knows our needs even better than we do ourselves, so when we feel condemned or defeated in our Christian lives, we have somebody on our side!

The Ascension reminds us that the risen Jesus lives in the immediate presence of God, and both transcends and embraces our present experience. This truth lies at the heart of the *up* language used to describe the event.

'Heaven relates to earth tangentially so that the One who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find Him.' (Tom Wright).

Parish Pump 2023

The hymns of the Wesleys

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 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 older people.

Nowadays, with only about five per cent of the population going to church, 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 – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience!

Parish Pump 2023

Pentecost - not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – 'White Sunday' because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are 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 2023

The Coronation of King Charles III

On 6th May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned alongside Camilla, The Queen Consort, in Westminster Abbey. How can we pray for him, as he approaches this important event? Paul says: 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

For God's presence — to guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles. At his Accession, he was proclaimed Defender of the Faith, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Charles has talked about 'the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England — the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.'

For God's wisdom – as he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society. King Solomon prayed for wisdom for himself: 'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.' (1 Kings 3:9).

For God's love – to strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

For God's purpose — to be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen Consort and their family in the years to come. He has said: 'and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'

A Prayer for the new King:

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Some popular health myths re-examined

The best ways of staying fit and healthy may be different from what you thought. Here are some fitness dictats which were originally based more on marketing than on science.

Two litres of water a day:

For decades, the advice has been to drink two litres of water a day, or about eight glasses.

But our fluid requirements vary, depending on exercise, the weather, climate, and our age. You may need as many as six, or as little as one. For, according to a professor of nutritional sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, "a lot of your water comes from the food you eat."

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day:

This advice began to be spread in the 1920s, when cereal companies were running marketing campaigns to get people to eat their products for breakfast.

But nutrition experts point out that breakfast is only good for you if you eat the right kind of foods. Highly processed foods and a large sugar content is likely to do you more harm than good.

You need eight hours sleep:

This notion goes back to Victorian times! During the industrial revolution, it was thought that the best daily regime was eight hours labour, eight hours recreation, and eight hours rest.

But in fact, modern studies have found that the amount of sleep you need is highly individualised. Some people get along fine on less than six hours, while others need ten hours.

2,000 calories a day:

The NHS recommends a daily calorie intake of 2,000 calories a day for women and 2,500 for men. But your actual calorie needs depend on your age, gender, height, weight and physical activities levels. Some of us need to eat much less, and some of us need to eat more.

Parish Pump 2023

If a vicar asks you for money...

If you are contacted by a clergyman asking you for money, beware! It is a scammer. Scammers have been impersonating various clergy, including even the Archbishop of York, to ask priests and other church people to buy them Amazon vouchers and online gift cards.

The scammers use either emails or texts, and their message is along the lines: "I have a request I need you to handle discreetly." They then say: "I am currently busy in a prayer meeting, so no calls – just reply to my email." Then the message asks the intended victim to send them financial help, usually in the form of vouchers or gift cards.

The police reckon that the scammers have trawled church websites for the contact details of clergy and parish officials. At least one person is believed to have been fooled – and lost £1000 in a scam.

As diocesan spokesman said: "It seems this is a national trend." The police are looking into it, and meanwhile, advising people that: "Clergy will *never* ask you to give them money, vouchers, or personal banking details directly, even to help someone in need.... it is a scam."

Parish Pump 2023

All in the month of MAY

It was:

250 years ago, on 10th May 1773 that Britain passed the Tea Act, which favoured the British East India Company over the American colonies, which led to the Boston Tea Party in December, which escalated into the American Revolution and the establishment of the USA.

150 years ago, on 1st May 1873 that David Livingstone, Scottish missionary and explorer, died. Best known for his search for the sources of the Nile, and for going missing (and being found) in Africa.

100 years ago, on 26th-27th May 1923 that the first Le Mans 24 hours endurance motor race was held.

90 years ago, on 2nd May 1933 that the first modern sighting of Scotland's Loch Ness monster was reported in the Inverness Chronicle.

75 years ago, on 14th-15th May 1948 that Israel was declared an independent state as the British mandate in Palestine came to an end. Next day the Arab-Israeli War began with the invasion of Israel by Egypt, Transjordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

70 years ago, on 29th May 1953 that New Zealand mountaineer Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

50 years ago, on 17th May 1973 that the Watergate hearings began in the US Senate and were televised nationally.

40 years ago, on 20th May 1983 that the journal Science reported the discovery of the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

15 years ago, on 12th May 2008 that the Sichuan earthquake took place in China. More than 69,000 people were killed, over 370,000 injured, and nearly five million made homeless.

Parish Pump 2023

75 years since the independence of Israel

Just 75 years ago, on 14th-15th May 1948, Israel was declared an independent state as the British mandate in Palestine came to an end, and the Arab-Israeli War began with the invasion of Israel by Egypt, Transjordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

The war had been preceded by considerable unrest, with Zionist gangs committing atrocities and Arabs retaliating in kind; this fomented a totally different atmosphere from what had been normal many years before, with Jews and Arabs living peacefully side by side.

Six months before the declaration of independence, the United Nations had voted to partition Israel between Jews and Arabs: this was accepted, albeit reluctantly, by most Jews but largely rejected by Arab leaders, and led to a civil war. Neighbouring Arab states had warned that they would intervene "to restore law and order".

That 'intervention' finally ended in July 1949, with the signing of an armistice agreement with Syria. As a result, Israel retained its independence and increased its land area by more than 50%, compared to the UN partition plan. Militant Palestinians reacted by infiltrating Israel, using suicide attacks and other bombings. Since 1948 the State of Israel has fought eight recognised wars with neighbouring Arab States, as well as two major uprisings by Palestinians (the First and Second Intifada), as well as many other minor armed engagements. Although many lives have been lost, there has been no change to the borders of Israel.

The West Bank area is now regarded as Palestine, and there have been various proposals to settle the status of disputed areas, with no resolution yet in sight.

Parish Pump Smile Lines

When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"

**

Two students from a theological training college decided to spend part of their holiday in the countryside doing outreach. They stopped at an old farm house and proceeded up the path through a group of screaming children and a washing line heavy with wet clothes. When they got near the door, the woman of the house stopped scrubbing the steps, brushed her hair and perspiration from her brow, and asked them what they wanted. "We'd like to tell you how you can live forever," they answered.

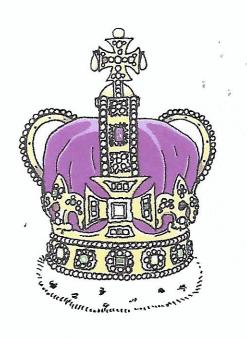
The exhausted woman hesitated for a moment, and then replied, "Thank you, but I don't think I could star it!"

**

How many women can one man marry? A little boy who attended his first wedding worked that one out pretty quick: the answer is 16. It is easy, if you think about it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer. Comes to 16.

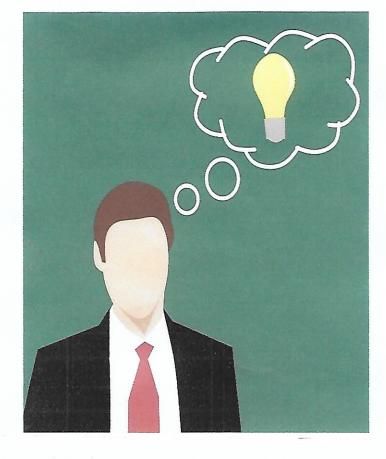
**

It was the five-year-old boy's first trip down to the Communion rail at church. Fascinated, he watched the vicar place a wafer in the palm of each person kneeling before him. When the vicar reached the little boy, ignored the child's out-stretched palm, and laid his hand on the child's head in a gentle blessing instead. To boy, utterly bewildered, whispered to his father in a piercing voice; "He's put it on my head!"



QUIZ, CROSSWORD & SUDOKU ANSWERS

- 1. Spider
- 2. Mosquito
- 3. Praying Mantis
- 4. Spiders
- 5. Bees
- 6. Butterfly
- 7. Honey Bees
- 8. Dog
- 9. They don't have tails
- 10. False
- 11. Basenji
- 12. Chameleons
- 13. Doe
- 14. Parrot
- 15. Tuna
- 16. Seahorse
- 17. A Pod
- 18. Coral
- 19. Marine Oysters and Freshwater Mussels
- 20. Eels
- 21. A Bask
- 22. Giraffe
- 23. Ostrich
- 24. Bats
- 25. Komodo Dragon
- 26. Kiwi
- 27. Chicken
- 28. Zoophobia
- 29. Adder
- 30. Bamboo
- 31. Dromedary camel has 1 hump, a Bactrian has 2.



Sudoku solution:

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

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.

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

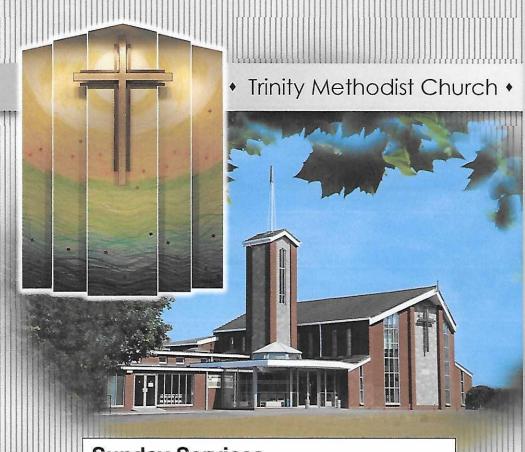
Sponge Pudding

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)





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