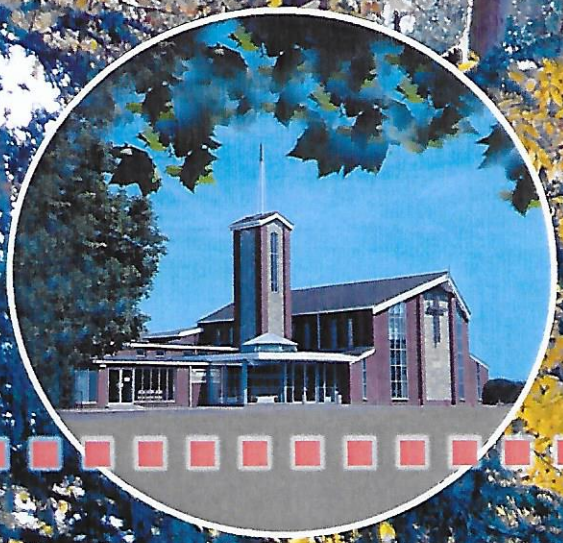
Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster



Trinity Tidings

October 2020

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

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CHURCHFIELDS, KIDDERMINSTER
Telephone 01562 824450

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The closing date for items for the
NOVEMBER ISSUE
of Trinity Tidings is Sunday 25th October 2020

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

Thanks to John Harris for designing the front and back covers

Dear Friends,

Who would have thought, back in March of this year, that we would still be in the grips of the coronavirus pandemic eight months on, and yet as we enter October, here we are!

I have said all along (trying to maintain a positive attitude), that we have been very fortunate over the spring and summer months because the weather has been favourable. For those who have gardens, we've been able to spend time outside in the sunshine and I believe that has helped us along.

However, with this latest upsurge in cases (we were told there may be a 'second wave'), we don't have that prospect to look forward to. Instead we will inevitably have colder, more inclement weather, fewer hours of daylight, as well as the possibility of 'seasonal' viruses to contend with. Please do get your flu jab, if and when you are able!

As I said in last month's letter, since March and over the summer period our church family haven't been able to meet together to worship in our building, only reopening again at the beginning of September. *I'd just like to publicly thank everyone who has managed things over that period and those who have put things in place since we have been back.* But that said, church isn't as it was. Church isn't like 'normal' and won't be any time soon.

We have had to learn new and different ways of being church to one another and we must go on trying to discover how to be flexible, inventive and courageous in ministering to each other in these changing times.

Now I'm not suggesting for one minute that God has sent this pestilence to shake us out of our complacency (I believe in a God that loves us and wants the best for all of us), but I do believe God wants us to take this opportunity to 'rethink' and 'reshape' ourselves. To 'reinvent' ourselves maybe. I also think it a real possibility that the old normal has gone, which means we may have to discover a new normal, whatever that may look like.

Like the well know saying 'Every cloud has a silver lining', there will be positives that come out of this if we look for them.

If we are prepared to be visionary and put our trust in the Holy Spirit we will come out of this.

As a church family, over the coming winter months, we must remain steadfast in our faith and in our support of one another. Our needs will perhaps be greater and we must all try to rise to that challenge, not forgetting the need to be forgiving as well as loving. And remembering, in these uncertain times, that this is a struggle we're all in together.

As a means of encouragement I leave you with some words from St Paul.

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." ***Corinthians Ch13 Vs 12-13***

May we all continue to know God's love, whatever our circumstances.

Every blessing,

Nick.

PRAYER CORNER

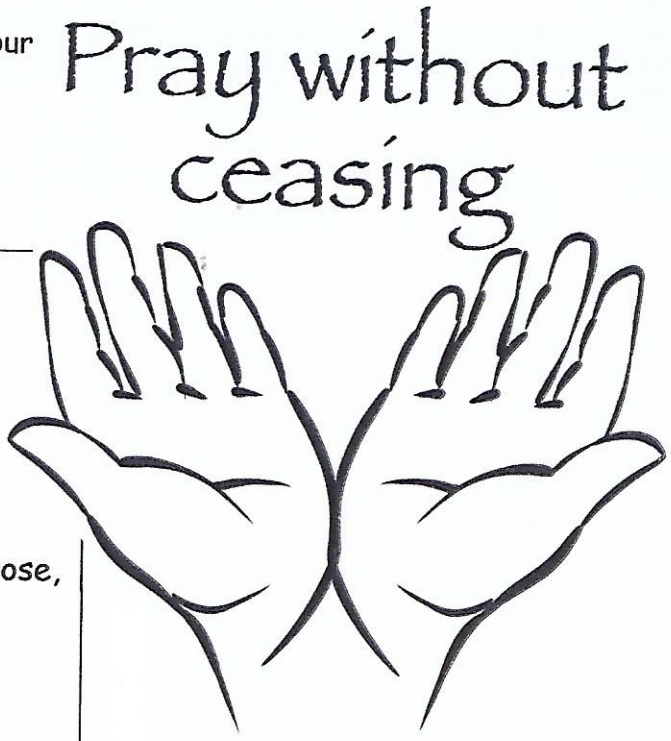
We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Les Fuller, Margot Stanton, Nigel and Jacquie Galton, Lynn Jones, and many others who are self-isolating and are not able to attend Church. We remember also the young students starting university or work, and pray that they may be safe and well.

We pray for NHS staff, who look after the sick in difficult circumstances, and the scientists who are working to find a vaccine for Covid 19.

THANKS.....

Helen, Suzanne and Caroline Dunn wish to thank family and friends at Trinity for all their kind messages, thoughts and prayers at what was a difficult time.

During the month of October, please remember in your prayers the people who live and work in the area of Kidderminster known as Greenhill and Hurcott



Greenhill and Hurcott — October

Residential Housing

Churches - St George's, St Ambrose

Schools and Nurseries - St George's, St Ambrose, Holy Trinity

Nursing Home -The Shrubbery

Hurcott Pools and countryside

Offertories for the month of August and the following four weeks are as follows

Date	Envelopes & Bank Transfer	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
August	735.00	Nil	2579.00	3314.00
06.09.20	1478.10	43.00	644.75	2165.85
13.09.20	515.00	61.00	644.75	1220.75
20.09.20	107.00	27.20	644.75	778.95
27.09.20	304.00	19.00	644.75	967.75

In the new church year to 31 August 2021 the estimated amount of offertories needed to meet expenses is £1170 per week. This is after taking into account all other income such as rental income from the church flat, rooms and car park hire fees, Gift Aid tax refunds, bank interest and sundry income.

SERVICES at TRINITY in October and November

Oct. 4th	10.30am	Harvest Festival - Mr David Skitt
Oct 11th	10.30am	Mr Richard Goodman
Oct 18th	10.30am	Rev. Nick Collison _- Holy Communion
Oct 25th	10.30am	Mr Albert Wilkinson
Nov 1st	10.30am	The Worship Group
Nov 8th	10.30am	Mr Ray Simpson - Remembrance Sunday
Nov 15th	10.30am	Rev Nick Collison - Holy Communion
Nov 22nd	10.30am	Mr Mike Dernie
Nov 29th	10.30am	Mrs Sue Stinton

The Thursday services will not begin again until the New Year

From the Editor...

A few days ago, on a lovely warm sunny day, I sat in my garden, nicely shaded, reading book, with a mug of coffee to hand. On the page of the book, a fly landed. It was no longer than about 1.5 millimetres. So small that it seemed to disappear as it walked across some of the words. I began to wonder what use such a tiny fly was. It would have taken I should think a thousand of them to make a beakful for a sparrow. What, I wondered was the point of its existence. That led me on to think about other creatures around us. What use are slugs, they can eat a row of lettuces in less than a day, (or probably a night). Why do they exist at all I think when I dig up a root of potatoes and find that several have been attacked by slugs. Many people feel exactly the same about wasps, especially when they buzz around your head.

The answer of course is that they exist because God made them, and they are all a part of his wonderful world. In the 60's an American scientist, Rachel Carson wrote a book called 'Silent Spring'.

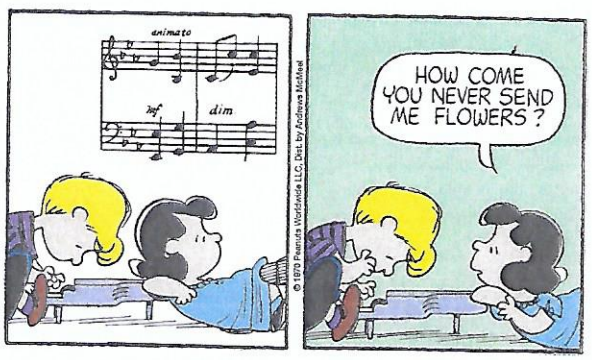
It begins with the description of a lake, full of fish, edged with reeds, in which water birds could nest, and where dragonflies could abound. But the fishermen became annoyed at the abundance of mosquitos, and other biting midges. Science came up with the answer. DDT, now of course banned. The whole lake and area around was sprayed, and the fishermen were very grateful, they could fish undisturbed for the mosquitos were no more. But then they noticed that there were fewer fish, and very few birds. The dragonflies disappeared and no herons came to stand sentinel in the shallow water. The lake became dead, sterile, and stinking, and the fishermen left.

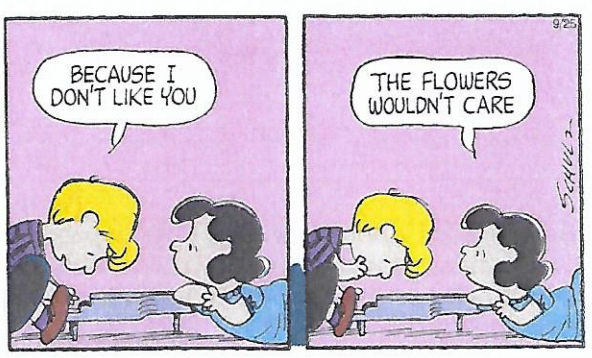
God created a wonderful world, but we seem to do our best to control it, and to manipulate it for our own ends. Let us remember before it is too late, that 'The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.'

I have heard that a dish filled with beer is irresistible to slugs. So perhaps they will die happy – as long as they don't sing all night!

David

Rachel Carson's book 'Silent Spring' is still in print, one of Penguin Modern Classics



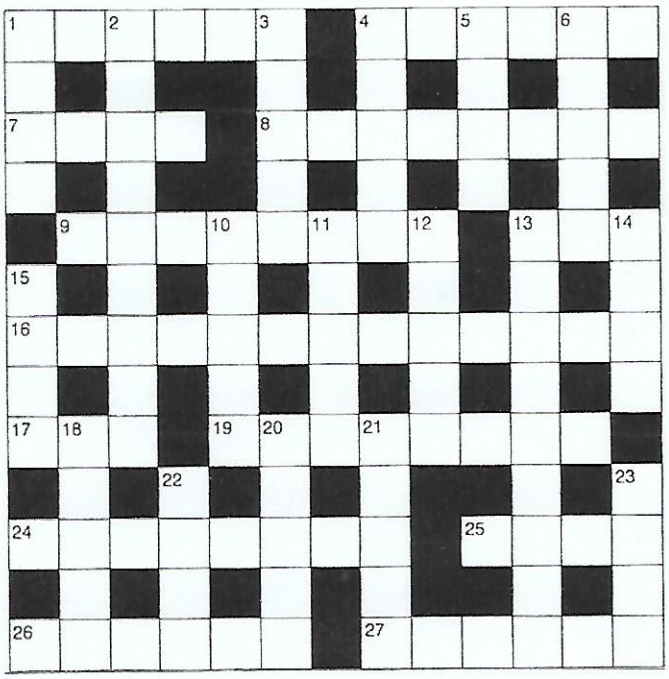


This meditation was written by my son, Andy.

Noah comes out of Lockdown.

"There were times when I had had enough – I just got so fed up – the same people – wearing the same clothes – the same conversations – the same routines – the same animals – the mucking out – the feeding – the mucking out – the feeding ...
To begin with it was a bit of an exciting novelty – and the rain was spectacular – and this great ark – creaking and groaning as it slowly began to float – and the animals were new and fascinating – but we were in there for more than a year – and we were grounded on that mountain for nearly five months – waiting, watching the waters so slowly, almost imperceptibly, recede. We watched as the mountains and hills resurfaced - the land barren and muddy to begin with, then – with such subtlety turn a blush of new green.
The first raven and the dove we sent out – came back with nothing – that was a time when we had felt such a hope – such an anticipation that our time on this craft would be coming to an end. And maybe – we should have known – we could see to a far horizon from where we were – and we could see nothing – I'm not sure what we thought the birds would find.
And then we waited – for forty more days – waited in the expectation that the world would reveal itself – that we could go back to a normal life – but what would be the point of that? Our old normality was gone – we had been promised something new – something better – but at times my faith in that promise was sorely tested.
When we sent out the dove a second time – and it came back with the smallest branch of freshly unfurled olive leaves – we laughed and danced on the deck – and the animals stirred below and bleated and barked and roared. We could see that it was coming to an end – that there would be a new life – that a time of fear and isolation would not be how we all ended our days.
But we still had to wait – a week later, when we could see the dry land all around us, becoming lush and green – we sent out the final dove – and it didn't return – it had found a new home – and now it was time for us to slowly begin again – not to rush into the errors of our old lives, not to make the same mistakes which brought us to the point of the flood - but to build the life which God has promised us.
This is to be a life, different to the one we had lived before – a life where we look, not only to God, but also, to each other for the human love, kindness and devotion we need – and where we look at our earth, and we treat it with the care with which our creator made it. Where we use the days and months of our confinement, to bring us to a new understanding of what we have.
As we shepherded the animals out of the pens, it began to rain again, the clouds increased and we looked to the sky with fear and alarm – and I prayed that this was not a false dawn. I stood and watched the animals who had already left, shake the raindrops from their heads, and I let the water soak through my robes – almost holding my breath.
After a short time, the sun broke through the clouds and I turned to feel its warmth on my back, while the rain still fell on my face. And then - before me ... I saw the rainbow, etched onto the purple-grey cloud-filled sky, it was a vivid and vibrant promise, set against the darkness - of everything we had suffered."

Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku Puzzle (easy)

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

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Across

1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
8 See 19 Across
9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had avision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile inBabylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)
5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
22 Bats (anag.) (4)
23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

We received this appeal from Albert Wilkinson

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2020

Give Love in a Box this Christmas

Hi Friends, I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these difficult times, I know it as not been the easiest of years but we have many things to be thankful for, many God given blessings in our lives and I pray that God will continue to bless all that we do.

With that thought in mind I am once again asking for your help in giving to some of the world's poorest and vulnerable children through the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Teams 4u will once again be travelling across Eastern Europe visiting children and families with the gifts in a box that we and many others will be providing. This year they hope to be adding Moldovia to the list of countries that will benefit from your/our generosity.

Even in the slowed down world of Covid19 the time seems to fly by so I need you if you haven't already started to get your skates on and fill as many boxes as we can, our dead line is the middle of November lets say by Sunday 15th Nov to get your boxes to me for collection and shipping off to the area collection point at Evesham. I have flat pack boxes and donation leaflets here at my home and can get more if required, if you would like to collect some give me or Margaret a call on: 01562 747716

Anyone who would like to get involved but does not feel they can be out and about to get the required items for filling a box, then a £15 donation means a box will be filled and sent in your name, please let me know ASAP for this to be arranged.

Many thanks for your kind support and help and may you know the Joy of Christmas. Albert

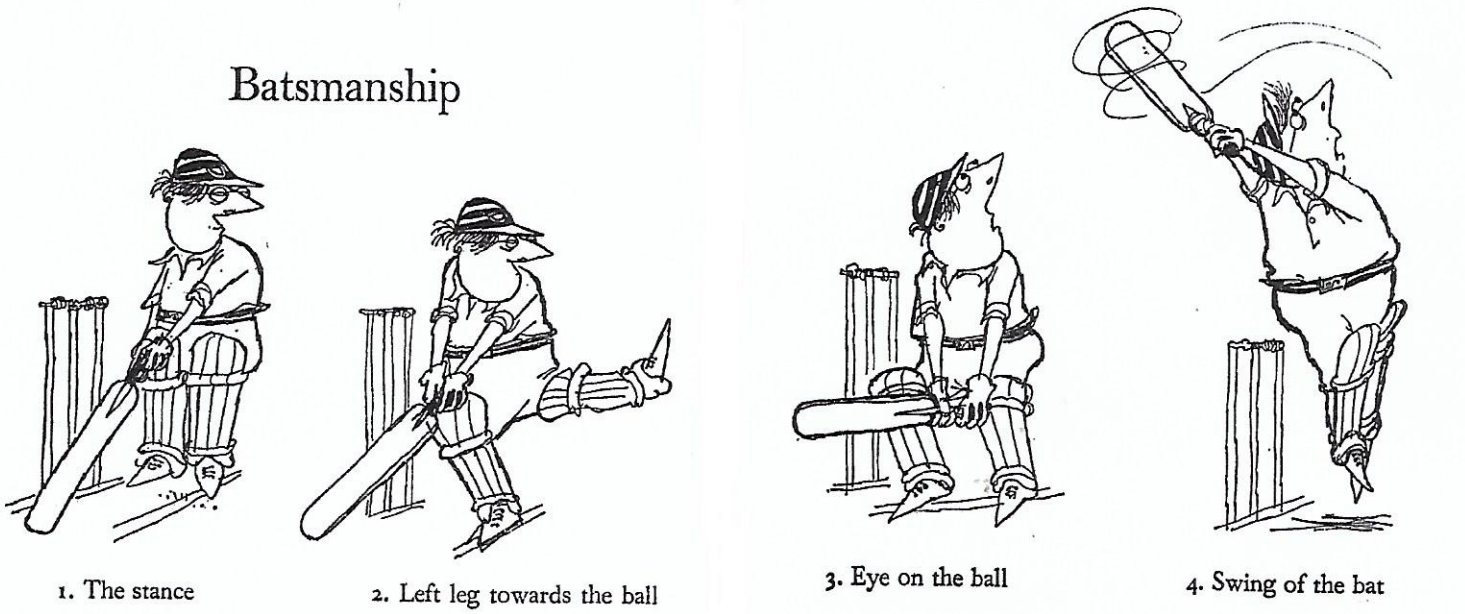
In our daily life, we use, or come across many abbreviations. How many of these can you identify?

1. UNESCO
2. AA (Two share this one)
3. WRNS
4. WAAF
5. RAF
6. PDSA
7. RSPCA
8. NSPCC
9. http
10. RAM
11. ROM
12. WBA
13. LBW
14. RSPB
15. GWR
16. LMSR
17. LNER
18. SR
19. VTOL
20. DVD
21. BBC
22. RNLI
23. UNICEF
24. PPE

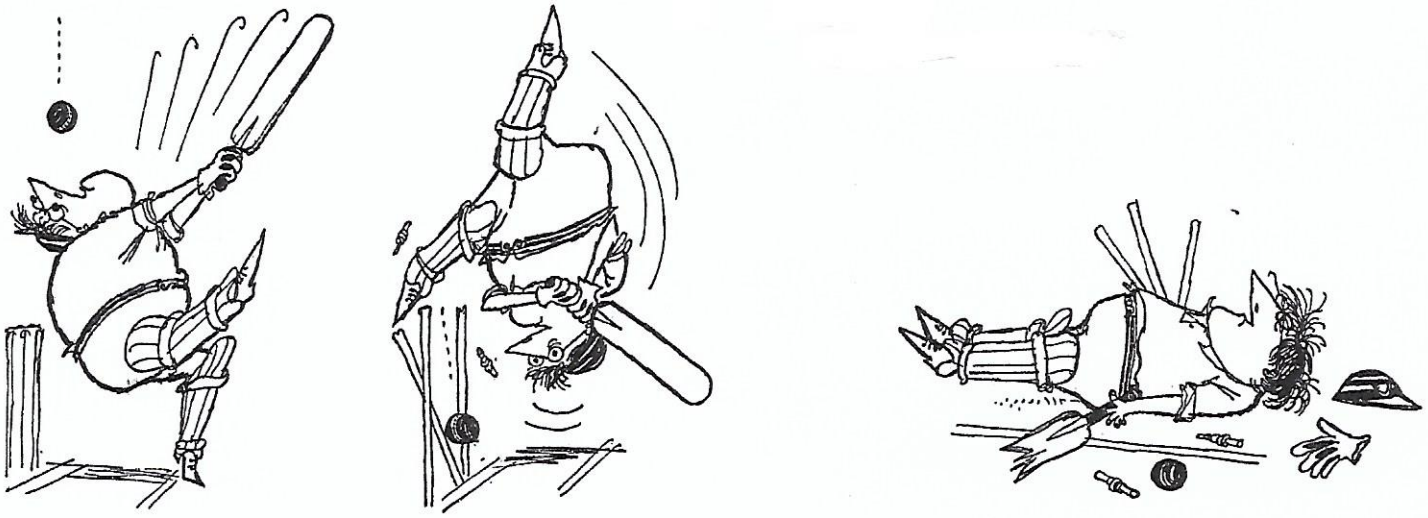
Some of the next abbreviations are from WW2

25. ENSA
26. NAAFI
27. CD
28. ARP
29. ATS
30. LDV
31. AFS
32. BBMF

Batsmanship



1. The stance
2. Left leg towards the ball
3. Eye on the ball
4. Swing of the bat



5. Well over it
6. Follow through
7. The Final Phase

Jerusalem

"Till we have built Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land". Well, not quite like that. It is the Holy City. 2,600 feet above sea level, that sea being The Mediterranean. 33 miles from that sea and 15 from the Dead Sea. Just like Rome it is built on hills and the area has been inhabited since the Stone Age. Of course, it was destroyed and it was left to Nehemiah to supervise the re-building of it. The whole city, especially the gates, had to be reconstructed. It is thought that the phrase "you were only supposed to blow the doors off" came from this. (Not a lot of people know that, especially me – I made it up but the editor says it makes good copy.) Busy times in infrastructure. It's about 450BC and while Jerusalem was being rebuilt, Pericles was over in Athens building the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens. Who got the scaffolding contracts?

So we look to two of the neglected books of the Old Testament, Ezra and Nehemiah. Well worth reading and read them back to back. Ezra was a priest and teacher who tried to keep the Children of Israel focussed on worshipping God as many had drifted and worshipped other things. They had been exiled and were allowed to return to Israel. However, the temple and Jerusalem had been destroyed. They needed their centrepiece to be restored before re-committing themselves to God. Ezra did not tell people off for their sins but prayed to God for them.

Nehemiah was a practical man and worked for the Government. He was inspired by Ezra and got many of the Children of Israel involved in re-building the city of Jerusalem, the heart of Christianity. Upon its completion Ezra taught them all the laws of God. God was always faithful, even though they had sinned again and again. The city of Jerusalem was finished and a new religious revival plus a new covenant was established there. Both Ezra and Nehemiah were to live their lives in Jerusalem. Although it wasn't built in England's green and pleasant land, Jerusalem will always be the place for Christians.

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

LOCKDOWN – In Praise of Foodbanks.

Lovely to be back in church again. I thought I'd been made head of the Sanhedrin .... instead, another mis-hearing, I was head of sanitising. Just a good word for facemasks, I only have to shave once a week. Great praise for all those vital persons who steered us through lockdown, especially small organisations, notably foodbanks, and did the people need them.

Foodbanks have existed in Britain for a number of years. They came to prominence for the simple reason they have only recently been publicised. Previous Labour Governments forbade Job Centres, Benefit offices and C.A.B. from advertising them. There was no poverty according to them. The coalition lifted the ban, hence the surge in demand. They originally started in Salisbury for local people. The Trussell Trust was formed and today this charity supports a network of over 500 foodbank distribution centres all over the U.K. However, there are still a few churches nationwide who still provide help for their local communities.

They are a safety net for people who for one reason or another find themselves with no money to buy food. They plug a gap in the welfare system. The pandemic and lockdown have highlighted this. People have lost their jobs, less money being on furlough, refused crisis loans or subject to domestic violence. All need help for a short time. Foodbanks are not and never will be a place where people can get free food. Recipients must be referred by health visitors, social workers, G.P.'s, or departments such as the Job Centre or C.A.B. You cannot just walk in off the street.

It is clear we must continue to support foodbanks, especially in these troubled times. It is hard to believe that people in Britain can go hungry in the 21st century. The only way we will ever stand a chance of stopping U.K. hunger is to engage with governing bodies and get them to address underlying causes for people hitting crisis. "Loaves and fishes" won't do. Jesus said "Feed my People". Let it be.

Mike

Mike's Smile Lines

He's the richest man in the world, but greedy. He decided that when he dies nobody is going to get his money, so he wants to take it with him. So he prays and pleads to God to let him take it with him.
"Sorry" says God. But he is persistent and in the end God relents and allows him to take one suitcase to heaven. So he converts all his money to gold bars and packs the biggest suitcase he can find. Eventually he passes away and ends up at the pearly gates. St. Peter stops him and says "you can't bring that suitcase with you". "But God said I could" says the man. "Hold on" says St. Peter "I'll check it out". He comes back and says "it's O.K, but I'll have to have a look and see what's inside". Opening it up St. Peter sees all the gold bars. "What!" he says in astonishment, "why have you brought paving stones?"
**

Striking teachers today rejected the Government's latest pay offer saying that it was copied from a previous offer, contained too many crossings out and mis-spellings and was handed in late. Could be better.
**

To Err is human. To mess things up requires a computer.
**

Did you hear about the new breed of dog? They crossed a Pitbull with Lassie. Ended up with a dog that bites your leg then goes for help.
**

Sharks will only attack you if you're wet.
**

Patient: Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a billiard ball.
Doctor: Be quiet and get to the end of the cue.
**

Joining a new Parish, the Vicar asks a girl at Sunday school her name. "Jenny" she says. The vicar then explains to her that her proper name would be Jennifer. Turning to another girl he asked what her name was. Thinking for a bit she says !"I think it must be lucyfer".
**

Patient: Doctor, my wife thinks I'm crazy because I like sausages"
Doctor: Nonsense, I like sausages.
Patient: Great, come and see my collection, I've got hundreds.
**

Change is inevitable except from a vending machine.
**

It's quite alright to write a letter on an empty stomach but it's better to use paper.
**

A squeaking shoe makes a good composer. The music comes from the sole.

Mike's definitions

Zinc: - A place where you wash Zaucepans.
Garlic:- A language spoken by Scotsmen
Jargon:- A missing container.

Another poem from our friend who attends a neighbouring Methodist church

My Heart

Circumcise my heart, Lord.
No – just take it and break it apart!
Release what lies within, Lord,
Pride and envy, the sewage of sin.
Impatience and selfishness spoil for a fight.
Malice lurks in dark corners, avoiding the light.
Lord, circumcise my heart!

Dart and lance my heart, Lord.
Draw the sting from the poisonous smart.
Cool and drain my shame, Lord,
Bind my weakness and cowardly blame.
Expunge all the failures that fester inside,
Expel all the reticence, trying to hide.
Lord, circumcise my heart!

Mend and heal my heart, Lord.
Made anew, help me make a fresh start.
Hold my heart in your palm, Lord,
And fill it with sweet-scented balm,
An ointment of love I can break at your feet,
And share in abundance with people I meet.
Lord, circumcise my heart.

SW

GARDENING NOTES FOR OCTOBER

October is usually the month when we experience our first taste of real autumn; the result of an increased temperature gradient between the relative warm ocean of the sub-tripical and North Atlantic, and the rapidly cooling Arctic. Atlantic depressions and low-pressure systems are generally more active than September's offerings, the effect of stronger wind and rain much appreciated on exposed hills and sites across all areas of the uk.

October is definitely an autumnal month, usually a good mixture of wet and windy conditions with some fine, settled weather thrown in for good measure too. The aforementioned increased temperature gradient results in a tendency for well-defined frontal boundaries, with often pronounced temperature changes, as an active system transits the country.

Tropical air will generally be moist, damp and heavily laden with cloud, the sun much weaker now and unable to burn off these layers, leaving typical cloudy, drizzly and dull conditions after heavy, prolonged rainfall ahead of a warm front.

Polar air, now inherently much cooler, is very unstable and prone to heavy showers, often blustery and thundery in nature. A blast from the north will bring the first hail, sleet and snow to upland areas. Rising pressure and light winds also bring the threat of mist, fog and low overnight temperatures.

You could be forgiven for thinking that October is a real gloomy month, but far from it, as it is during this month that the countryside is often at its 'autumnal best', ablaze with hues of gold, yellow and red, especially after the first frosts and a dry autumn. Get out and enjoy the spectacle!

With Autumn upon us there will be a good deal of debris about, so don't leave it hanging around; if it's useable, compost it, if it's diseased, burn it.

Perennials will be dying back now, especially so after the first frosts. Stems and foliage will be yellowing or browning and will require cutting back. Most herbaceous perennials can be cut back to ground level, the foliage either composted or, if diseased, burnt.

Make up winter display containers now, before the worst of the weather is upon us. A mix of evergreen plants such as euonymus, ivies and skimmia surrounded by winter bedding and bulbs will, with careful choice, bring a welcome succession of colour throughout the autumn and on into next spring. Raise containers on clay feet or wood supports to aid free drainage by ensuring drainage holes aren't blocked by debris. Don't over-water winter containers, but do check weekly that they don't dry out. Water as required but, at all costs, avoid winter wet.

Summer subjects that have performed well, such as dahlias, will require lifting and protection over the winter period. Dahlias are best lifted once the first frosts of autumn have blackened the foliage. Gently prize the plant out of the soil using a spade, taking great care not to slice through the tubers whilst you're doing it! Once out of the ground, remove the spent flower stems leaving about a 1-inch (25mm) stump. Any thin roots may be trimmed away. Gently split the upper section of the stem with a sharp knife to allow excess water to drain away. If necessary, place the tubers, hanging upside down, in a cool, dry, frost-free place for a couple of weeks. To over-winter, dust lightly with sulphur powder and bury the tubers in boxes of dry sand, soil or compost, leaving only exposed stems. A position that is cool and frost-free should be found; check regularly for rot, which should be cut out on discovery with a sharp knife, the wound dusted with sulphur.

Any remaining spring bulb planting schemes should be completed this month, although the planting of tulips should be delayed until November. Grease bands can be put on fruit trees as protection against female winter months.

If you want hyacinths in flower for Christmas you have probably missed the boat, as prepared bulbs need a good 12-week period for success; although it still isn't too late to plant hyacinths for New Year planting schemes. Use bulb fibre that has been pre-moistened, placing a layer in the base of the bowl or pot. Place the bulbs on the compost, setting close together varieties of only the same kind; mixing varieties usually brings disappointing, uneven results. Bulbs should not touch each other or the sides of the container. Fill around the bulbs with compost, filling to just below the rim of the container; the bulb tops should still be showing above the compost. Place the container in a cool, dark place - a temperature of no higher than 9 C (48 F) is required - Checking regularly for drying out. When shoots have developed to a length of about 2" (50mm) the bulbs can be brought into a light environment, but not a sunny windowsill, to allow the growth to green up. Move gradually to a warmer and brighter position and enjoy the colour and fragrance that follows.

Dig over exposed or recently cultivated areas to allow impending frost action to do its work. This also brings bugs, grubs and larvae to the surface; a good source of food for birds.

If you are thinking of moving deciduous plants then do it now through to mid-March, evergreens only now or late March, the soil is still quite warm and the roots will quickly re-establish. Lift plants with as much of the root ball intact as possible. Don't cramp the plant into its new position; ensure that the new planting position is adequately deep and wide, and work soil between the roots, firming-in well. Water thoroughly and stake if necessary. Keep well watered throughout the coming season.

There is a lot to do during the autumn; let's hope that the weather is kind enough to let us do what needs to be done. If the conditions are favourable then make the best of the available time.

'Whatever you're doing, enjoy the garden; it's the only you've got'.

Bob

Other views on gardening....

Nothing grows in our garden, only washing. And babies.
Dylan Thomas, 'Under Milk Wood'

Why is it no one ever sent me yet
One perfect limousine, do you suppose?
Ah no, It's just my luck to get
One perfect rose.
Dorothy Parker

What a man needs in gardening is a cast iron back,
with a hinge in it.
Charles Warner

I've had enough of gardening –
I'm just about ready to throw in the trowel.
Anon

Methodists launch Year of Prayer

The Methodist Church has launched a Year of Prayer online to help bring more people to faith. The short weekly online service takes place each Tuesday lunchtime, at 12.45pm via Zoom, and is also live- streamed via Facebook. It will be led by people from across the Church.
Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church, explains:
"This Year of Prayer is a special time, a called-out time, for the whole Church. The world can feel like it's falling apart – not only due to COVID, but also due to systemic injustice, racism, to climate change, to political instability. And if we as the Church are going to respond in any meaningful way, we need more than ever to pray, we need to call upon God for healing and renewal and wisdom."

The Year of Prayer is considered an important step in the new strategy adopted by the Methodist Conference to be an inclusive, evangelistic, growing, justice-seeking Church. It wants to focus resources on helping people explore faith, in starting hundreds of new churches, and in serving communities experiencing marginalization.

Parish Pump 2020

All in the month of October

It was:
175 years ago, on 12th Oct 1845 that Elizabeth Fry, died. This prison reformer and philanthropist was depicted on the British £5 note between 2001 and 2016.

100 years ago, on 7th Oct 1920 that Oxford University allowed women to become full members and study for full degrees for the first time, and the first 100 women were admitted.

90 years ago, on 22nd Oct 1930 that the BBC Symphony Orchestra gave its first concert.

80 years ago, on 9th Oct 1940 that during the Blitz, a German bomb destroyed the high altar of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Later that same month on 31st Oct, the Battle of Britain ended.

70 years ago, on 7th Oct 1950 that Mother Teresa founded what would become the Missionaries of Charity, in Kolkata, India.

40 years ago, on 3rd Oct 1980 that the Housing Act came into effect in Britain, giving more than five million council tenants the right to buy their homes.
30 years ago, on 8th Oct 1990 that East and West Germany reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.

20 years ago, on 17th Oct 2000 that the Hatfield rail crash took place. Four people were killed when a high-speed passenger train derailed because of a cracked rail.

15 years ago, from 18th to 26th Oct that Hurricane Wilma, the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, caused massive damage worth $29billion across the Caribbean, Central America and the eastern USA. 63 people were killed.

Parish Pump 2020

We love milk, but from where?

Dairy cows have serious competition these days: a third of young people are now opting for vegan milk instead. Recent data from the global market research firm, Mintel, has found that 23 per cent of Britons now use plant-based milk. It has become most popular among the 16 to 24-year-olds. Many millennials have switched to soya milk because of environmental concerns, but the Sustainable Food Trust has recently warned that vegan milk could actually be far more harmful to the environment. They say that grass-fed dairy milk poses less of a threat to the Amazon and other rainforests than many soya products do.

Parish Pump 2020

Honey, honey!

If your grannie gave you honey when you had a cold, she was right.
Research published in The British Medical Journal has found that honey is especially good for treating upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) such as the common cold.
Honey has anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory properties. These do better at soothing your cough and sniffles than any of the over-the-counter remedies. In fact, URTI sufferers who were given honey suffered their symptoms for up to two days LESS than those who did not use honey. All good news, especially as honey is cheap, readily available, and has virtually no side effects.

Parish pump 2020

Average debt fell by £2,000 during lockdown

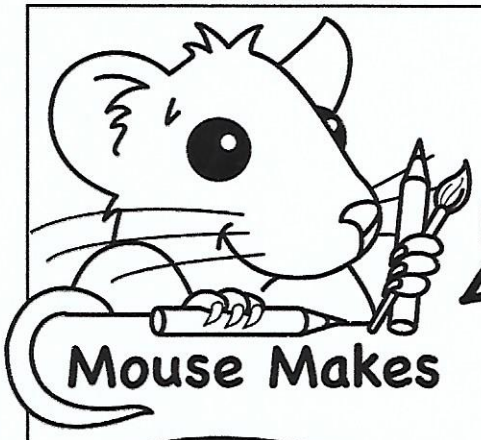
Covid-19 has brought one good thing to some of us: the average amount of personal debt has reduced by nearly £2,000, according to a recent study by Experian. It recently stood at £9,681 (without mortgage), as opposed to £11,615 (without mortgage) in March.
As a spokesman for the credit-checking agency explained: "For some people, a reduction in spending on living costs and commuting have enabled the repayment of existing borrowing." And he urged that as the UK returns to something like normal, people should try and continue with the good financial habits picked up during lockdown.
But Dame Gillian Guy, chief executive of Citizen's Advice, said that while some people have been able to pay off some of their debts in the pandemic, many others have not. Instead, they "are behind on essential bills, building up arrears they may struggle to *ever* pay back."

Parish Pump 2020

Litter Virus *(a timely reminder from Nigel Beeton)*

A face mask is a helpful thing –
It traps those nasty germs!
An extra message I must bring
In these poetic terms:
When you've finished with your mask
A bin is simply found
So drop it in – an easy task!
Don't leave it on the ground!

Parish Pump 2020



Mouse Makes

Jesus said:
"The kingdom of heaven is like a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ **seed** that a man took and sowed in his **field**. It is the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild _ _ _ _ _ come and nest in its branches."

Read Matthew 13:31-32

"GOD is the **one** who gives seed to those who **plant,** and He gives **bread** for **food**. And GOD will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will **produce** a great **harvest** from your goodness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

Jesus said:
"You do not need more **faith**. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree "Go jump into the lake" and it would do it."
Luke 17:6

So the one who plants is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things grow."

1 Corinthians 3:7

Look out for seeds in the park and garden and in your kitchen store cupboard.

How many different seeds can you find?

Find the words in **bold** on this page in the word search

H	A	R	V	E	S	T	W	O	E	S
F	I	A	F	T	P	L	A	N	T	B
O	F	A	I	T	H	A	T	E	E	R
O	O	J	E	S	U	S	E	E	D	E
D	E	U	L	O	U	G	R	O	W	A
P	R	O	D	U	C	E	S	G	O	D

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants

What is the origin of evil spirits?

Halloween is the month of ghosts and witches and evil spirits. Have you ever wondered where evil spirits come from, and how we are to view the unseen world of evil and occultism?

The Bible tells us that evil spirits come from the created angelic order. They were not created as evil beings, for all of God's creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible tells us that a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God's authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

The serpent, Satan, is leader of the fallen angels, and opposes himself to God. But evil and good are not co-equal. 'Dualism' (belief in the equal and permanent existence of evil alongside the good) has no place in the Bible. Unlike goodness, evil has a beginning and will have an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured. (Revelation 12:12; 20:10).

The world of the occult (from the Latin: occultus, 'secret', 'hidden') is the intrusion into the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall is finally assured through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world; hence the hostile, and sometimes violent, reaction of the demons. (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

Jesus had no fear of demons, and nor need the believer. It is important that Christians avoid becoming obsessed by the unseen world – to the extent that we become either intimidated, or fascinated. After the showing in London of a film featuring the occult, a number of cinema viewers went for counselling. They were under the impression that they had been 'taken over' by evil spirits. They had not. All 20 recovered after a course of prescribed tablets. They had only been victims of suggestion.

We are wise, then, not to imagine, as some do, that every sin, habit, illness or misfortune is due directly to the activity of the Devil and must therefore be 'exorcised'. Terrible damage has been done in this respect by well-meaning but uninformed Christian leaders.

Faced by Christ's authority, the kingdom of spirits has no option but to shrink and retreat. Magic spells and charms have no power over the true Christian (provided we do not open ourselves to their influence), for 'the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world' (1 John 4:4). If we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7). All occultism is to be ruthlessly shunned (Leviticus 19:31; 1 Samuel 28; Isaiah 8:19, 20; Actus 19:18-20).

The Bible is quite clear that the demonic world is already doomed and defeated (Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14,15). It is the death of Jesus that has achieved this victory. We are to be confident, but not complacent – for Satan's kingdom has yet to concede its defeat at the Cross. Its final destruction will be at the return of Christ.

Excerpt from 'The Top 100 Questions' (by the late Canon Richard Bewes)

Parish Pump 2020

Don't 'go it alone'

If you are helping others at this time, remember to still leave space and time for yourself. Going the extra mile for other people all the time will only ensure one thing; your collapse. Work in teams. Even the Good Samaritan did not attempt to help the injured man all on his own; he brought in the innkeeper. By sharing the problem, they solved it!

Parish Pump 2020

Ivy – never underestimate its goodness!

Autumn is in full swing but there is at least one plant that is in full bloom. Not spectacular to look at, yet ivy is an important source of nectar for bees, moths, flies and wasps, and while they are not most people's favourite insects, they all play a vital part in Nature's jigsaw.
Ivy produces flowers from September to November. Spherical clusters of greeny-yellow blobs, which on closer inspection have endearing little horns with knobs on! The resulting fruits are dark berries with ridged sections, resembling tiny black footballs each containing five seeds. Poisonous for us, but birds love them.

Ivy is one of the few native climbing plants that can reach a substantial size. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a parasite. Its stems have lots of fibrous, adhesive-covered, roots which cling to buildings, brickwork, trees, telegraph poles, in fact just about anything to help it gain some height. However, when it comes to nourishment, that comes via the roots in the ground. [There's not much nutritional value in a brick.] Although ivy does not normally damage sound buildings or walls, and is rarely a threat to healthy trees, its weight can cause problems.

What a useful plant it can be! Providing shelter, hibernation and nesting sites for birds and insects, its glossy green leaves are happily munched by sheep, goats and deer. These leaves, so familiar, are different shapes according to whether they are on flowering or growing branches. The flowers are surrounded by heart- or spear-shaped leaves, while the rest of the plant has the three- or five-pointed ones we all recognise.

Many legends involve ivy. But has anyone discovered why although mentioned in the first line of the carol 'The Holly and the Ivy', it is absent from the rest of the verses?

Parish Pump 2020

Shops dreaming of an early Christmas this year

Christmas should start with October's half-term this year, rather than in November. Christmas lights could be switched on, and shoppers (hopefully) enticed back to the shops.

So say many retailers, as they struggle to recover from the pandemic. An executive with the New West End Company in London explains: "If we can bring the start of Christmas early, it will make it easier for people to spread their spending."

Making 'Christmas come early' may have another advantage. Traders argue that having more weeks of Christmas shopping will ensure a more steady flow of visitors, which will make social distancing easier.

Meanwhile, shopping remains in the doldrums. In some parts of the country, numbers of shoppers are still 63 per cent down on last year. Shopping in the West End has been at only 37 per cent of the normal level.

Parish Pump 2020

Smile Lines

Noah and the Ark – 2020 version

In the year 2020, Noah was living in England when the Lord came unto him and said, "Once again, the earth has become too wicked to continue. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing. You have six months before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his garden, but no Ark. "Noah", He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me Lord", begged Noah "but things have been difficult. I needed Building Regulations approval because the Ark was over 30 square metres. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high.

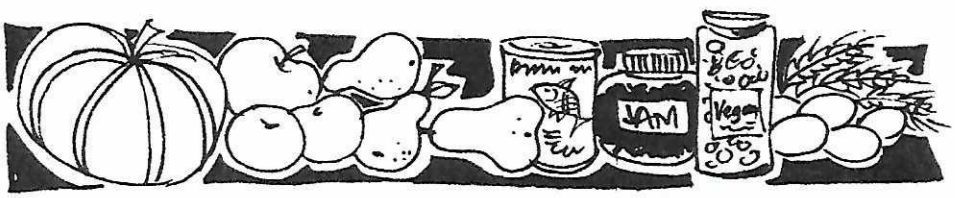
"The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep and the inside of the Ark wasn't fully accessible. Getting the wood has been another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to preserve the Spotted Owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls – but no go!

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me for intending to confine wild animals without the proper paperwork. The County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority have ruled that I can't build the Ark until they've conducted an Environmental Impact Study on your proposed flood. The Trade Unions insist that I can't use my sons to build the Ark; I can only employ members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Trades union. Finally, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming I am going to attempt to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

"So, forgive me Lord, but it will take me at least another ten years to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. "No need for me to destroy the world after all," observed God. "The government has the matter already in hand."

Parish Pump 2020



Abbreviations --- how many did you get right?

1. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
2. Automobile Association & Alcoholics Anonymous
3. Womens Royal Naval Service
4. Womens Auxiliary Air Force
5. Royal Air Force
6. People's Dispensary for Sick Animals
7. Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
8. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
9. hypertext transfer protocol
10. Random Access Memory
11. Read Only Memory
12. West Bromwich Albion (Who else – Boing Boing!!)
13. Leg before Wicket
14. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
15. Great Western Railway (also known as 'God's Wonderful Railway')
16. London Midland and Scottish Railway
17. London North Eastern Railway
18. Southern Railway
19. Vertical Take Off and Landing
20. Digital Video Disc
21. British Broadcasting Corporation
22. Royal National Lifeboat Institution
23. United Nations Children's Fund (Originally had 'International' & 'Emergency')
24. Personal Protective Equipment
25. Entertainments National Service Organisation
26. Navy Army Air Force Institutes
27. Civil Defence
28. Air Raid Precautions
29. Auxiliary Territorial Service
30. Local Defence Volunteers (Soon re-named Home Guard)
31. Auxiliary Fire Service
32. Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

Crossword Answers:
ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

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

Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster

Sunday Service
Morning Worship at 10.30am

Please note:

Until further notice there will only be one service on Sundays due to Coronavirus Restrictions.

Thank you

Monday

'Start the Week' - 9.30am - 10.00am. Vestry 1.
A short time of quiet contemplation and prayer.

Zumba Gold **12noon - 1.00pm**
Leader: **Bev Slater -** 01562 639553
- (07810 734222)

Wednesday

Luncheon Club 12.15pm
Co-ordinator: **Mrs. Jill Green -01562 228016**

Guides 7.15pm – 9.00pm
Leader: **Stephanie Jaye** - **07876 345160**

Tuesday

Trinity Toddlers 9.
Contact: **Mrs Stella**
Rev'd. Nic

Harris/Stanley Hou

- **Mrs. Lynne** 01562 745714

Food and Thought Meeting - 7.30pm - 8.30pm
(Second Tuesday of month)

- **Mr. Nigel Galton – 01562 822103**

A time of friendship and food, exploring God's word in a relaxed environment.

DUE TO COVID- 19 ALL WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Thank you.

t Trinity

e Board

for details of Communion Services)

Second Sunday of each Month

6.30pm Café Worship

A relaxed style of Worship with a difference!

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