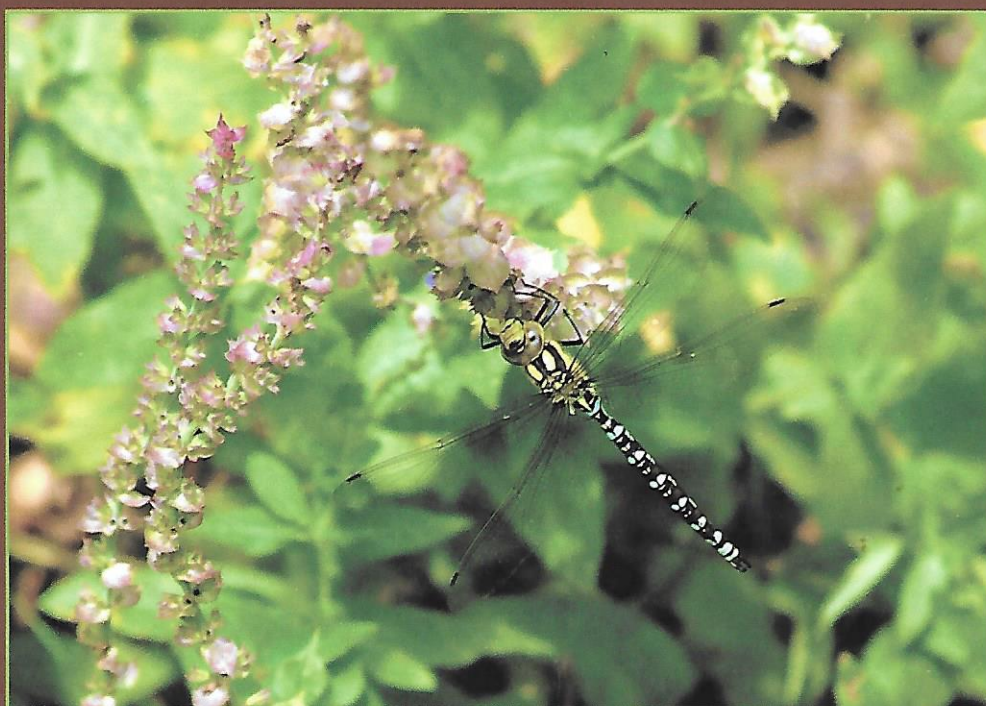


♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*



"All things bright and beautiful"

Photograph by Rev'd. Nick Collison

...all are welcome in this place!

October 2023

**Trinity Methodist Church,
Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL**

Church Website: www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

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

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Trinity Tidings Editorial Team:

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**The closing date for items for the November Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 29th October 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:



"All things bright and beautiful"
Photo by Rev'd. Nick Collison

SABBATICAL...ON LOCATION

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

The Photograph I have chosen for the October cover features one of God's creatures great and small.

The intricate detail of a dragonfly resting on a flower before it moves off again makes one realise the importance of the world of nature.

The words from the hymn:

"All things bright and beautiful"
come to mind during this Autumn.

Nick

Dear Friends,

As I write I am feeling a little uneasy. Let me explain why.

A few days ago I upgraded my mobile phone sim card contract which gives me a much better deal on what I pay in relation to how much mobile data I get. In other words the new deal gets me a lot more data, but I pay only a little more for it.

This arrangement means I have to have a new sim card to which I have to transfer my old mobile number, which I want to keep. I've had that same number for years and don't want to part with it. As I didn't feel confident in doing this online myself I went into the mobile phone shop in Tesco to ask one of their assistants to activate the process for me, which they did. However, as I type, my old sim card (and therefore my old number) is no longer recognised in my phone, which I have to be honest about, is causing me a bit of concern, just in case it is gone forever!

I'm hoping that it's simply part of the 'transfer' process and will soon be available once more attached to the new card and contract, as it should be. But what if it's not?

I suppose I should have faith in the young chap who served me in the phone shop in Tesco and in the system they operate and simply wait for the process to happen, but that's easier said than done.

That said, as important to me as my very long term mobile phone number is, compared to many of the problems some people have to contend with, that particular concern barely registers.

At least I don't have to wonder where the next meal is coming from, or if my house will be the next one to be bombed tonight.

I don't have to sleep under a mosquito net, or on a cardboard mattress in a shop doorway.

I don't have to hide my religious beliefs for fear of being imprisoned, or harmed, or worse!

I don't have to hide my sexuality for fear of being persecuted for being myself.

It is so easy to get caught up with our own dilemmas, however big or small, that we forget others may also be struggling with something. We focus on our own problems and forget others will no doubt have their own.

If the bible teaches us anything it is that we should be gracious toward one another (1 Peter 4:¹⁰) and "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:²). Words we should all heed.

To end as I began, obviously if my mobile number doesn't automatically transfer over I'm not going to be traumatised to the extent I need emotional support, but I will be in Tesco pretty quick to try and get it sorted out!

So if anyone who has my mobile number tries to get hold of me but can't, you'll know why!

Blessings to you all,

Nick

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Betty Norman, Josephine and Ranzi Seremwe, 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.



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

Greenhill and Hurcott

October

Residential Housing

Churches - St George's and St Ambrose

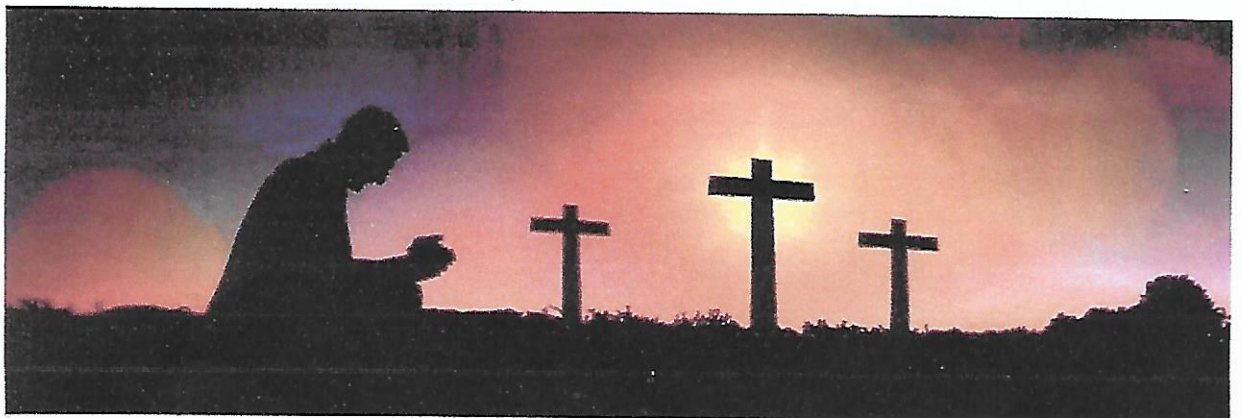
St George's, St Ambrose and Holy Trinity

Schools and their Nurseries

Nursing Home -The Shrubbery

Hurcott Pools and countryside walks

The rehousing of all tenants as the Hurcott Road flats are demolished.



From the Editor....

I always think that October is a strange month, we are in autumn, and everything seems at a standstill. Summer seems to be a distant memory, although we do get occasional warm days to remind us of days spent enjoying the sunshine. Birds are not singing, except the odd robin who manages a rather thin reedy song for a few moments. Wood pigeons are still around, and one often sits on the chimney making its cooing song, which echoes down the chimney as if it were in my sitting room. There is a flock of rooks which nest in the large sycamore trees, and they will often fly up in mass making their unmusical cawing. It always seems to me to be a typical English countryside noise.

One bird which I do hear especially in the evening is the tawny owl, often calling to each other across the fields where they will be hunting for small rodents and other food.

The swallows have all left to take their long flight back to South Africa. The house martins leave several days later. I have seen more swifts this year, which is a good sign, but they arrive in May and leave in August. It is a mystery why they fly so far to breed.

In the next day so I will clean out the bird feeders, and re-stock them. The cost of buying the seed, peanuts, fat balls and dried meal worms is not great, but it does encourage birds to come into the garden and survive the colder weather. Robins love meal worms, but they are not very good at clinging onto feeders, so it is best to put some on the ground so that they can more easily feed on them.

The problem with bird feeders is that they attract grey squirrels who are very clever at finding a way to get at the seeds and it is very difficult to find ways to stop them. The crab apples on the tree are almost fully red and ripe and blackbirds are adept at clinging on to a branch to pick them off and enjoy them.

In October everything seems to be settling to rest, and sleep, and my garden looks more neglected than ever.

Just in case this all seems depressing, there is always 'Strictly Come Dancing' to cheer us up. Until your favourite celebrity is voted out, and like a swallow returns home.

David



Offertories for the four weeks ended 24 September 2023 are as follows

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
03.09 & 10.09.23	171.00	180.00	1461.00	1812.00
17.09 & 24.09.23	281.00	195.50	1461.00	1937.50

These amounts give a weekly average of £937.38

For the new church year to 31st August 2024 it is estimated that offertories of £1100 per week will be required to break even.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Oct 8 th	10.30am	Mrs Sue Green
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison & Deacon Becky Lovatt -- CAFÉ WORSHIP
Oct 15 th	10.30am	Mr Albert Wilkinson
	3.00pm	LOCAL PREACHER RE-DEDICATION at Stourport Wesley
Oct 22 nd	10.30am	Deacon Becky Lovatt
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison -- ALL SAINTS SERVICE
Oct 29 th	10.30am	Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
	6.30pm	Mr Ray Simpson
Nov 5 th	10.30am	Rev James Hamilton
	6.30pm	Mr Mike Dernie

THURSDAY SERVICES at 12.30pm

Oct 5 th	Rev Nick Collison -- Holy Communion
Oct 12 th	Mr Andrew Skitt
Oct 19 th	Mr David Skitt -- Holy Communion
Oct 26 th	Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
Nov 2 nd	Rev Hazel Ratcliffe -- Holy Communion

SOCIAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, November 25th, 10.00am -- 1.00pm
(See Poster for Details)

HIGHLEY BRASS BAND CONCERT

Monday, December 18th, 7.00pm
Proceeds to the Church Project, ADAVU

QUIZ + FISH AND CHIPS

Saturday 24th February. 5.00pm, price to be arranged

Harvest Thanksgiving: The Fruits of Creation, The Fruits of the Church, from Andrew Mann-Ray

Dear Friends,

I love the month of October. It's probably because it's the month in which Helen and I chose to get married in! But I have always been excited by October as it is the month that marks the transition from the summer to the autumn. As we look around us the vibrant colours of autumn are picked out in all their splendour and our hearts are filled with gratitude for the bountiful blessings that we receive. The changing leaves and the crisp air serve as a reminder of the beauty of creation and the abundant gifts we receive from the Creator. It is with joy and reverence that as we start this month we gather for Harvest Thanksgiving, a time to celebrate the fruits of creation and the fruits of the church.

The Fruits of Creation:

In the Book of Genesis, we read about the story of creation. God, in His wisdom and love, brought forth the world and all that dwells within it. As we look around, we witness the majesty of God's handiwork in the harvest season. The fields are ripe with golden grains, the orchards laden with fruits, and the gardens bursting with vegetables. This abundance bears witness to God's providence towards us and the intricate balance of nature.

During Harvest Thanksgiving, we take a moment to appreciate the fruits of creation. It is a time to recognize that every apple, every ear of corn, and every pumpkin is a gift from God. It reminds us of our responsibility to be stewards of this Earth, caring for it and ensuring that future generations can also enjoy its blessings.

The Fruits of the Church:

Our church community, like the harvest, is a precious fruit of God's creation. It is a place where we come together in fellowship, support, and worship. The church is a haven where we grow spiritually, bear fruits of love and kindness, and share our faith with others. Each member of our congregation is a unique and valuable part of this community, contributing to the rich tapestry of our church life.

During Harvest Thanksgiving, we also celebrate the fruits of the church. We reflect on the good works we have accomplished together, the lives we have touched through our ministries, and the love we have shared with one another.

Harvest Thanksgiving: A Time for Gratitude and Generosity:

As we come together for Harvest Thanksgiving, let us be mindful of the abundance that surrounds us and the responsibility we bear as stewards of creation. Let us also remember the importance of nurturing and supporting our church community, for it is in this fellowship that we find strength, love, and purpose.

In the spirit of gratitude, let us be generous not only with our words but also with our actions. Let us be ever mindful of those who don't have as much as we do and through our love for God let us seek to support and care for all those in our community who need our voice and advocacy. It is so good that Harvest time reminds us of the need to give to those in need and that we can support the work of our Foodbanks that work tirelessly to bring much needed support to those struggling to make ends meet during the cost of living crisis that has gripped our nation. Let us extend the fruits of our thanksgiving to those in need, embodying the love and compassion of Christ.

As we gather in the warmth of God's presence this Harvest Thanksgiving, may our hearts overflow with thankfulness for the fruits of creation and the fruits of the church. Let us continue to grow in faith, sharing our blessings with the world and nurturing the bonds of fellowship that make our church a vibrant and loving community.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Harvest Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,

Andrew



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Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster

Highley Colliery Brass Band

Conductor: *Chris Cobon*

Presents

A Christmas Brass Band

Concert

An evening of seasonal music for the brass band!

on Monday 18th December '23
at 7pm,

at Trinity Methodist Church,
Churchfields,
Kidderminster,
DY10 2JL

**Admission
by Donation**

Adavu 
Small Steps | Transforming Lives

All proceeds in aid of the Church Project
in support of 'Adavu' and their work against
modern slavery within the local West Midlands
Thank You.

The following items have been given to us by Nigel & Jacquie Galton. They are taken from 'The Forum', the magazine of The Severn Valley Benefice, and are quite thought provoking:-

Judge Softly

or 'Walk a Mile in His Moccasins' by Mary T. Lathrap, 1895

"Pray, don't find fault with the man that limps,
Or stumbles along the road.
Unless you have worn the moccasins he wears,
Or stumbled beneath the same load.

There may be tears in his soles that hurt
Though hidden away from view.
The burden he bears placed on your back
May cause you to stumble and fall, too.

Don't sneer at the man who is down today
Unless you have felt the same blow
That caused his fall or felt the shame
That only the fallen know.

You may be strong, but still
the blows that were his, unknown to you
In the same way, May cause you
To stagger and fall, too.

Don't be too harsh with the man that sins.
Or pelt him with words, or stone, or disdain.
Unless you are sure you have no sins of your own,
And it's only wisdom and love that your heart contains.

For you know if the tempter's voice
Should whisper as soft to you,
As it did to him when he went astray,
It might cause you to falter, too.

Just walk a mile in his moccasins
Before you abuse, criticize and accuse.
If just for one hour, you could find a way
To see through his eyes, instead of your own muse.

I believe you'd be surprised to see
That you've been blind and narrow-minded, even unkind.
There are people on reservations and in the ghettos
Who have so little hope, and too much worry on their minds.

Brother, there but for the grace of God go you and I.
Just for a moment, slip into his mind and traditions
And see the world through his spirit and eyes
Before you cast a stone or falsely judge his conditions.

Remember to walk a mile in his moccasins
And remember the lessons of humanity taught to you by your elders.
We will be known forever by the tracks we leave
In other people's lives, our kindnesses and generosity.

Take the time to walk a mile in his moccasins."





Severn Valley Benefice

St. Mary, Highley
St. Mary, Billingsley
St. Peter, Chelmarsh
St. Bartholomew, Glazeley with Deuxhill

Walking in their footsteps

I've always been drawn to pictures of footsteps. I don't know why. Perhaps it is because life is a journey and we all tread different paths. Sometimes those paths bring happiness and contentment; sometimes quite the opposite. A well-known adage says, '*Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes.*' In effect, it is a reminder to practice empathy. The saying almost certainly is derived from a poem by Mary T. Lathrap, published in 1895. The original title of the poem was *Judge Softly*. Reminding us to **walk a mile in someone else's shoes** before judging them. We may never know or understand their experiences, challenges, pressures etc. It's easy to judge; the person sitting outside the supermarket begging—is he homeless and destitute or is he feeding an addiction? Or worse, is it more profitable than working or is she being forced into it? It's easy to feel threatened by people and situations we're not familiar with.

I can remember many years ago, when we lived in Reading, another lady and myself ran a Youth Club for children from a local estate. We started it because the children, as young as 5 years old, weren't allowed into the house after school and often had no tea to eat. They literally had nowhere to go, other than play havoc on the streets. We got to know them over the months and years. Some people felt threatened by them, but it brought tears to my eyes when, one Sunday, a couple of them came and sought me out in the church building and told me that there had been some dodgy goings-on round the back of the building. They weren't happy with that. Even though they didn't come to Sunday School, they felt they 'belonged' in their own way (which they did!) and had the courage to come and seek me out in what to them was very unfamiliar territory.

The boys weren't angels by any means and were often difficult to handle. Many times I went home and cried after a session. But I believe that God was at work in the mess. He taught me as much as he taught them. Our biggest problem was that, even though the club was intended for 7-11 year olds, they'd bring their younger siblings, because they had no choice. They were young carers. At the other end of the spectrum, we thought that they'd automatically stop coming when they reached 11 and went to secondary school. But they wouldn't leave.

Over the years I've learnt that the more difficult a situation I find myself in, the more I need to look to see where God is. I usually find that he's closer than I think, gently guiding me through the mess. Take a read of the poem on the opposite page and see if anything resonates with you. '*There but for the grace of God walks any one of us.*'

Val Smith

This was given to us by Howard, one of our Baxter friends

A STARTLINGLY GOOD SHOW

On Saturday October 14th a concert has been arranged

at Clent Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Edwina Hayes a singer with a beautiful voice headlines with support from the very amusing Dick Woodhouse and the Startled Ferrets.

For more details contact Howard: 01299 878759 or 07805 817369

A STARTLINGLY GOOD SHOW

*An evening promising a really good mix of music, humour & song
- Featuring -*

EDWINA HAYES

Edwina has a beautiful voice and sings a pleasing variety of songs.

She has delighted audiences around the world with her engaging and warm personality.

STARTLED FERRETS

Their world tour starts here!

So says the Alcester based Ferrets who will entertain you richly with their musical delights

Drinks will be on sale

Charity
Raffle

DICK WOODHOUSE

Dick will delight you with a mix of amusing and moving songs, all nicely delivered

Saturday Oct 14th 2023

Starting at 7.30 pm

Clent Parish Hall, Church Ave, Clent DY9 9QT

(Just 10 mins from J4, M5)

Tickets £11 in advance, or £13 on the door

For further information and tickets please contact

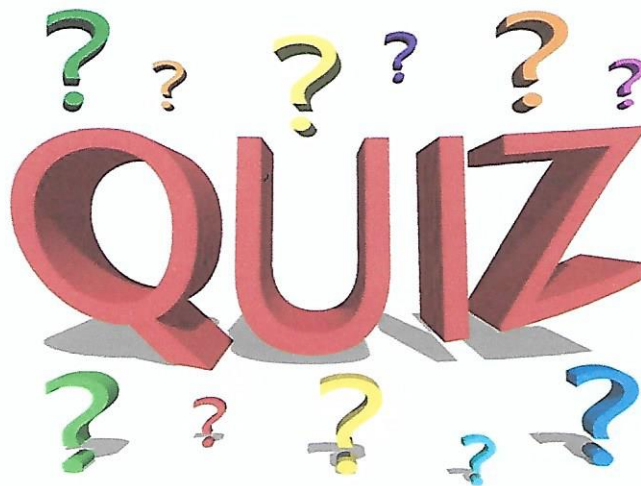
Howard - 01299 878759 or 07805 817369

Email - hjl77@btinternet.com

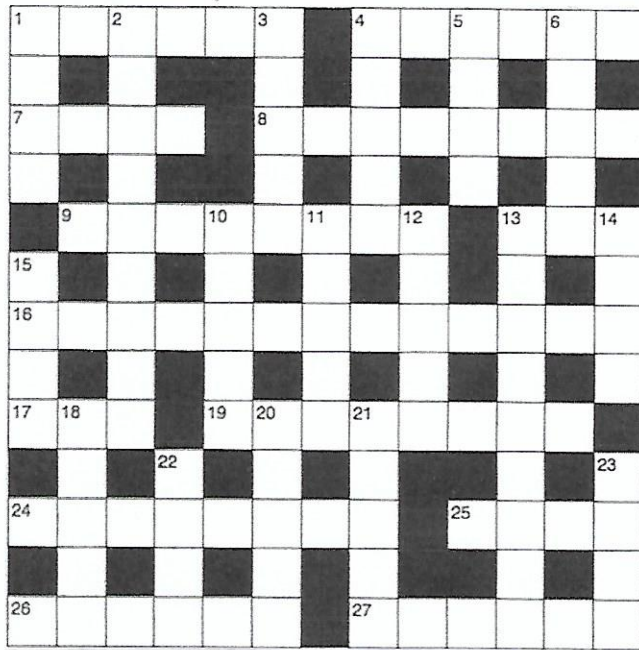
A Quiz about All Sorts of Things

1. What caused RMS Titanic to sink?
2. Why is 13 considered to be an unlucky number?
3. Who was the first man to reach the South Pole?
4. Who were the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest?.....and
5. What was the date?
6. Which is the only poisonous snake in Britain?
7. How long is the Channel Tunnel?
8. Where is the Eiffel Tower?.....and
9. Which other world famous monument did Gustave Eiffel build?
10. What is the name of the dog in Charles Schultz Peanuts cartoons?
11. Who wrote 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?
12. There were 5 Marx brothers, Groucho, Chico, Harpo, Zeppo, and Gummo. Which one never spoke on the screen?
13. Who wrote a diary in which he described the Great Fire of London?
14. Samuel Johnston compiled the first what?
15. For how long was Liz Truss Prime Minister?
16. How many U.S. presidents have been assassinated?
17. Which singer's name was originally Priscilla White?
18. Who the youngest British Prime Minister?
19. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
20. What is the shortest book in the Bible?
21. To what is the nursery rhyme 'Ring-a-ring of roses, a pocket full of posies' referring?
22. Who could not put Humpty Dumpty together again?
23. Who was the first person to fly an aircraft across the English Channel?
24. What is the name of Sherlock Holmes' housekeeper?
25. Where did The Wombles live?

Did you know that the word 'Quiz' was a slang word originating in the 18th Century, and it meant a person who was eccentric. If you have been answering these quiz questions, what does it say about you? More to the point what does it say about the editor?



Parish Pump Crossword Clues



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' (Ps 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 a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon 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)

Sudoku puzzle (easy)

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

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OCTOBER

St Francis Day, October 4th

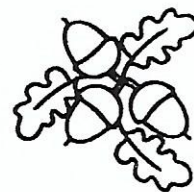
When Francis preached love to the birds
They listened, fluttered, throttled up
Into the blue like a flock of words
Released for fun from his holy lips.
Then wheeled back, whirred about his head,
Pirouetted on brothers' capes,
Danced on the wing, for sheer joy played
And sang, like images took flight.
Which was the best poem Francis made,
His argument true, his tone light.

Seamus Heaney

Hallowe'en, October 31st

The 31st October, All Hallows Eve, was an auspicious date, a festival half magical, half religious. We cracked nuts before the fire, and threw apple peel over the left shoulder to find the initial of the one we should marry. We bobbed for apples in a bowl of water on the kitchen table, and wet the tips of our noses as we stooped over the bowl. We had prayers in the kitchen at night, and we thought of the souls of the departed. That was the date for the birthday of one who would have powers over the unseen, one who could hear the talk of the trees as they tossed and cried on winter nights, one who could see the wind and know the stars. All Hallows' Eve was a day to remember, as the autumn slipped out of its cloak of leaves and naked winter came to take its place.

Alison Uttley, from 'A Country Hoard'



October Gardening Notes

It is time to tidy herbaceous borders, cut down yellowing stems and lightly fork over the surface of the soil but do not disturb roots. However, in colder spots the dead material offers some protection against cold wind and frost and can be left un-pruned or cut and placed over the roots of more tender subjects. Leave seed heads as food for birds and animals while older stems make good over-wintering habitats for many beneficial insects.

Finish spring bulb planting as soon as possible, except for tulips which can wait until November. Remove summer bedding plants as soon as possible to enable spring bedding to become established before winter sets in. Prepare flowerbeds for spring bedding by incorporating a slow release fertilizer (low in nitrogen) such as **fish blood and bone**. *Pansies*, *Polanols* and *Violas* in flower in ensure a good autumn display. *Polyanthus*, *Sweet Williams* and *Forget-me-Nots* can also be planted this month. Keep pots off the ground with pot feet to improve drainage, this will also help prevent serious frost damage to root-balls. October is also the best month for planting evergreens as well as deciduous subjects as the ground is generally moist enough to ensure that any subjects planted readily establish. Autumn and early winter planting has an advantage over spring planting in that the ground is still warm and it allows many subjects especially deciduous plants to make new extensive root systems during the winter months. October is also your last chance for lifting, dividing and replanting herbaceous plants especially those subjects that flower early next spring. It is good practice to remove weeds that may harbour pests and diseases.

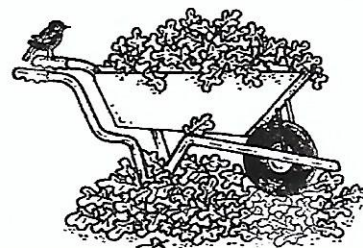
Pruning of climbing roses should begin this month (rambling roses are pruned in late summer). First remove dead, diseased or dying branches using a good pair of **secateurs**. If it's an older plant that needs thinning, cut out any some of the old branches from the base to promote new growth. Tie in any new shoots and prune any flowered side shoots back by two thirds of their length. Gather up any diseased leaves and burn. It's very important to keep the lawn free of leaves to avoid damage as well as disease affecting the grasses. Lessen the frequency of mowing any grass, brushing off any moisture first with a wide brush, besom or cane broom. Scatter worm casts by brushing the lawn. At the beginning of the month (if the grass is still growing well and the ground is moist), lawns will still benefit from a good scarifying and aerating but don't scarify too deeply. Aerate the lawn and brush in sharp sand on wet, poorly-drained soils or **Lawn Top Dressing** on light sandy soils. Feed with **Autumn Lawn Food** some three weeks later.

October is the best month for laying new turf and repairing damage, allowing the sods to settle into the soil before winter begins in earnest. Prepare a weed free turf bed, working in an organic fertiliser that contains added beneficial mycorrhizal fungi which promote strong root development. Allow the bed to settle before laying turves in the same way as brickwork, fitting them closely together.

If your lawn is being ripped up by birds or animals it's a sure sign that they are searching for leather jackets or chafer grubs. There is little you can do to remedy this problem and there are no chemicals available to treat these grubs.

Autumn is upon us....enjoy!

Bob



Passing Thoughts on John Wesley

Have you ever heard of one of John Wesley's earlier family, Samuel Wesley, Rector of Epworth? You owe him a lot. His surname was Westley and for some unknown reason he decided to drop the 'T' from his name. The rest, as they say, is history.

In fact, John Wesley was nearly lost to us. In 1709, the rectory at Epworth caught fire and John, aged 5½, was trapped in the nursery. He was seen at a window and attempts to rescue him by the Rector failed, in fact, he called all his family and they knelt down and commended the child to God. However, a man who had seen the child, prepared to run for a ladder but another man said there was no time. He got the lighter man to stand on his shoulders and was thus able to reach the child and so the young John Wesley was saved. John Wesley's wonderful escape always filled him with gratitude. He knew for what blessed work he had been spared.

Wesley's greatest preaching period was between 1747 and 1761. During this time he preached over 7,000 sermons on 1354 texts, indicating he obviously used the same piece many times. In fact, he spoke on Mark 1 v15 "The time has come, the Kingdom of God is near, repent and believe the good news" no fewer than 132 times! If you're familiar with Wesley you will know this is one of his favourites. He actually spoke this while standing on his father's tombstone in Epworth churchyard on June 6th 1742. What a wonderful man, certainly committed to his task. Incidentally, one of his sermons contains the phrase "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". Was he the originator? He is definitely responsible for "I look upon the whole world as my parish". This came when he defended himself after being accused of invading parishes of other leaders, especially Catholics.

It is estimated that John Wesley travelled 225,000 miles throughout Britain on foot, horseback and eventually by carriage, largely on unmade roads. 100 yards of that was up and down Parkes Passage at Stourport Wesley on his two visits. He would often preach 4 or 5 sermons a day, starting at 5 a.m., sometimes to crowds of over 20,000.

Now a few definitely known facts. John Wesley wrote his own sermons and never preached without preparation; he knew the Lord would guide him. He would never take a written script into the pulpit and would often pull an anecdote off the top of his head. All his sermons were put into print and published. This was because he was often derided by many leaders of the Anglican church. This required him to put into print the doctrine on which he stood and could be judged by.

"God buries His workmen, but carries on His work". Whether this was a quote by John Wesley no-one knows, however, it's on a wall plaque in Westminster Abbey commemorating John and his great hymn writing brother Charles. Now, there are another two quotations on this plaque: "I look upon all the world as my parish" and "The best of all, God is with us". Both Wesley, so this one should also be attributed to John, but who knows? There's no mention of it by John and it certainly isn't in one of Charles Hymns. It's a mystery, but why worry?

No-one can fail to notice phrases John Wesley used, "I offered them to Christ, I offered the redemption that is in Jesus Christ, I proclaimed free salvation, I called sinners to redemption". People may have been drawn to this travelling preacher by curiosity, but they left fulfilled.

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Mike's Smile Lines

Man: Doctor, I feel like a cricket ball.

Doctor: How's that!

Man: Please don't start.

**

Fred: I'm feeding my dog garlic.

Pete: Why?

Fred: It makes his bark worse than his bite.

**

Man: Doctor, do you think my measles will be better by next week?

Doctor: Well I don't like to make rash promises.

**

There's a rumour that Little Bo Peep did it for the insurance.

**

If you've got insomnia, don't lose any sleep over it.

**

Lily: Aren't sardines stupid?

Rose: How do you get tht?

Lily: Well, they crawl into tins, shut the lid and leave the key on the outside.

**

Some say that fleas are black

But I know this is not so,

Cos Mary had a little lamb

With fleas as white as snow.

**

If they replace newspapers with tablets and phones, how am I going to light my fire?

**

Q. What do they call 2 chemist shops next to each other?

A. A pair of boots.

**

Have you ever eaten with chopsticks? I tried it once and ended up starving – but I lit 3 fires.

**

I won my wife in a television quiz show. She was wearing a white dress, I thought she was a fridge.

**

The best way to avoid a cold is to drink a lot of water. You never see a fish with a cold.

**

If you want to have a quick laugh, walk into an antiques shop and ask what's new?

**

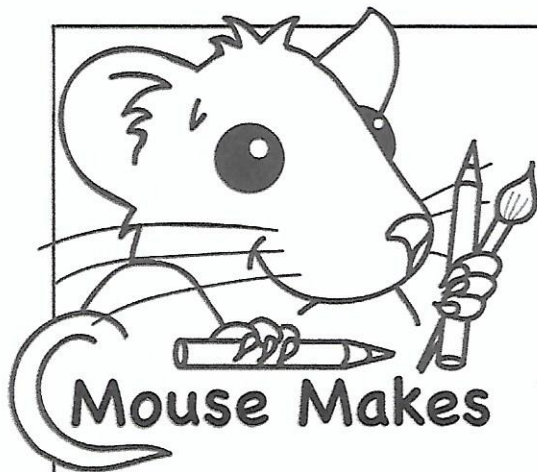
If you sign something with an X – how do you cross it out?

**

Little Jack Horner
Sat in a corner
Eating his Christmas Pie
He put in his thumb
And pulled out a plum
And said "but I ordered apple".

~~~~~





### CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| MANNA   | HONEY |
| OIL     | WINE  |
| WATER   | FISH  |
| LOCUSTS | QUAIL |
| LOAVES  | FLOUR |

What drink ran out at the wedding?

and what did Jesus use to make more?

John 2:3 and 7

What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?

1 Kings 17:14

What food did the ravens feed Elijah?

1 Kings 17:6

What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?

Five and two John 6:9

### FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU  
MJWF PO CSFBE  
BMPOF, CVU PO  
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU  
DPNFT GSPN UIF  
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4

### DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

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

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

OLIVES • CHEESE  
FIGS • DATES  
MUSTARD  
RAISINS • WHEAT  
SALT • GRAIN  
FRUIT • GRAPES  
VEGETABLES



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

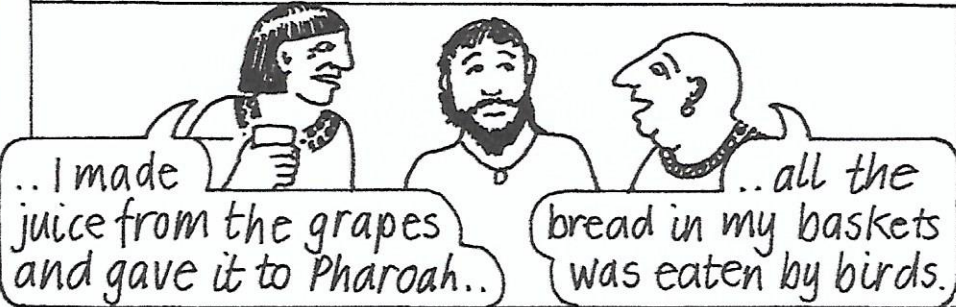
It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis chapters 39:20-41:44

Joseph's brothers had sold him as a slave  
and he had ended up in Egypt. Then he was  
wrongly accused and was sent to prison.



Joseph was trusted to look  
after the other prisoners.

Then Pharaoh's butler and baker were sent to  
the prison. One night they had strange dreams.



God knows what your dreams mean -  
you will be pardoned . . . but you won't.



The two men  
left the prison.

Don't forget me!

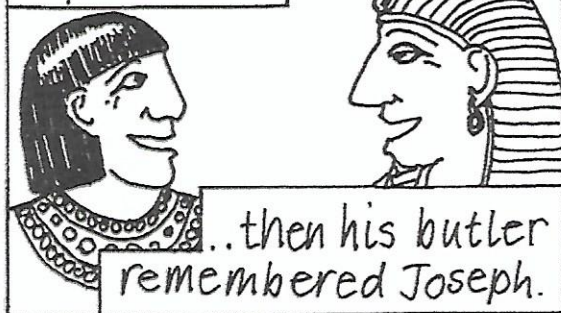


But they did

Two years later  
Pharaoh had a dream



None of his advisors could  
explain it . . .



...then his butler  
remembered Joseph.

So Joseph was cleaned up  
and sent to Pharaoh



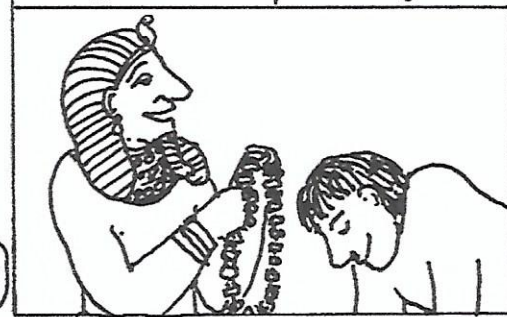
and then the seven thin cows ate the  
seven fat cows but they were still thin.

God says there will be  
seven bumper years, then  
seven years of famine.



You must choose someone  
trustworthy to store the  
spare food in the good years

Pharaoh was so impressed  
he gave Joseph the job!





### **Edith Cavell, nurse**

Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety.

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands! Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion. She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

*Parish Pump 2023*

### **Prisons Week – 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October**

Prisoners and their families need help, if they are to really repair and rebuild their lives.

And so it is that Prisons Week has been growing steadily, year by year. It currently has 25 Christian denominations and organisations working together to use "all our skills and gifts to see God's kingdom come and His peace be established in a place of suffering and weeping."

Prisons Week is supported by the Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Free Churches Group, and the Salvation Army. It is also supported by the prison ministry organisations including Prison Fellowship, Prison Advice and Care Trust, and Caring for Prison Leavers. Other supporting organisations include Bible Society, the Mothers Union, and Youth for Christ.

The week-long campaign each October aims to provide Christians across the country with information, expertise, resources, and encouragement for this particular, and challenging, area of ministry.

For anyone, or any group, who would like to support Prisons ministry, there are several campaign resources available at their website.

Above all, Prisons Week urges individual Christians to pray for prisoners and their families, that their lives might be rebuilt and renewed.

Prisons Week describes its aim as "relieving the human suffering caused by crime and imprisonment."

*Parish Pump 2023*



## **Bible Sunday – 29<sup>th</sup> October**

At the recent Coronation the King was given a Bible with the words *'the most valuable thing that this world affords'*. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority – God Himself! *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: *'when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let's consider the following guidelines:

*Right time:* We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g., a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

*Right Place:* We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

*Right Version:* We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

*Right Help:* Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

Let's get reading!!

Paul Haddingham, Parish Pump 2023

## **As Halloween approaches...**

Have you ever wondered what a Christian is to make of the unseen world of evil and the occult? Where do evil spirits come from, anyway?

The Bible takes the unseen world of evil spirits very seriously indeed. It tells us clearly that evil spirits were once part of the created angelic order (Genesis 6). They were not created as evil beings, for all of God's original creation was good (Genesis 3:1). The Bible relates how a number of angels, headed by Satan, or Lucifer, rebelled against God's authority and fell (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Satan, who disguised himself as the serpent in Eden, is leader of the fallen angels, and opposes himself to God. But evil and good are not co-equal! Thus, the idea of '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 an end. Satan's final destruction is already assured (Revelation 12:12; 20:10). So, what is the world of the occult, then? The word 'occult' comes from the Latin: *occultus*, 'secret', 'hidden', and is our intrusion into the forbidden territory of superstition, fortune telling, magic and spiritism. Its downfall one day is promised us through Jesus. His early ministry established a bridgehead against the evil unseen world: no wonder the hostile, and sometimes violent, reaction of the demons! (Mark 1:23-27; 32-34).

But Jesus had no fear of demons, and neither should you, if you are a Christian. Further, it is important not to become obsessed with the unseen world – don't let it intimidate or fascinate you. Occult films can have deeply disturbing after-effects on people. Avoid them. A Christian has better things to think about.

While the occult world is certainly there, we are wise not to imagine, as some do, that every sin we commit, every bad habit, illness or misfortune we meet is due directly to an attack on us by Satan



himself, and that therefore we need to be 'exorcised'. Terrible damage has been done in this regard by Christians who mean well but who are uninformed.

The kingdom of spirits is real, but so too is Christ's authority. Before Christ, the spirits 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 ever you are frightened by anything occult, remember some sound biblical advice: resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7). But remember, a Christian has no business dealing in anything occult. All occultism is to be ruthlessly shunned (eg Leviticus 19:31;20:6; 1 Samuel 28; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 8:19,20; Acts 19:18-20.)

The demonic world is very real, very powerful, but it is also already doomed and defeated. (Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14,15). Why? Because the death of Jesus Christ has achieved this victory.

So – be confident in Christ, but not complacent in your everyday life. Satan's kingdom is alive and well in this present world, and it will still not admit its defeat at the Cross. The final destruction of all things occult will not come until the return of Christ.

*Parish Pump 2023*

### **All in the month of October**

It was:

150 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1873 that Edwin Landseer, artist and sculptor, died. Known for his animal paintings, and for his famous lion sculptures at the base of Nelson's Column in London.

100 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1923 that Nicholas Parsons, radio and TV game show host and actor was born. Best known for hosting *Just a Minute* and *Sale of the Century*. (Died 2020)

90 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1933 that physicist Albert Einstein arrived in the USA as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

80 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1943 that the Burma Railway was completed. The Japanese built it using Asian labourers and Allied prisoners-of-war, thousands of whom died. One of the railway bridges is the famous film *Bridge over the River Kwai*.

75 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 1948 that the Morris Minor car was launched at the British Motor Show at Earl's Court in London. It cost £358.

70 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 1953 that former US Secretary of State George Marshall was awarded the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize for engineering the Marshall Plan – a massive economic aid programme for Europe in the aftermath of WWII.

65 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1958 that Michael Bond's children's book *A Bear Called Paddington* was published. It marked the debut appearance of Paddington Bear.

Also 65 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 1958 that the State Opening of the British Parliament was televised for the first time.

60 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1963 that the term 'Beatlemania' first appeared in the Daily Mirror newspaper in the UK. It described the intense, frenzied reaction of fans of the Beatles.



50 years ago, from 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 1973 to 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 1974 that the 1973 Oil Crisis took place. OPEC suspended oil exports to nations supporting Israel in the Yom Kippur War. It led to major shortages and rationing in the UK, USA, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa.

40 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1983 that Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity movement in Poland (and later President of Poland) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Also 40 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1983 that Microsoft Word 1.0 was released. It was the first version of the popular word processor, and Microsoft's first full-featured application.

30 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1993 that South African leaders Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk, won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end apartheid.

25 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1998 that David Trimble and John Hume won the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for brokering the Northern Ireland peace accord.

20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003, that Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II and given the title Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. (She was canonised as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.)

15 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008 that the 2008 financial crisis 'Bloody Friday' took place. The world's stock exchanges suffered one of the worst declines in their history – about 10% in most cases. About £89.5 billion was wiped off the value of Britain's biggest companies.

*Parish Pump 2023*

### **A Bear called Paddington**

It was 65 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1958, that Michael Bond's children's book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was published. It marked the debut of the lovable Paddington Bear, who is now a household name after appearing in two irresistible films.

Paddington starred in more than 20 books written by Bond, who died aged 91 in 2017. The original story was inspired by the author witnessing Jewish and British evacuee children passing through Reading station. Bond wanted the bear to have come from "darkest Africa", but this was changed to Peru when his agent pointed out that there were no bears in Africa.

Many people have found Christian characteristics in the bespectacled, kind, red-hatted, innocent Paddington, who always tries to do the right thing but often gets into trouble as a result. He is invariably polite, but has a "hard stare" for those who behave badly. The two hugely successful films, with Ben Whishaw voicing Paddington and household names in other roles, established the bear in the national psyche – a natural successor to Winnie the Pooh.

A stuffed toy Paddington Bear was chosen by British tunnellers as the first item to be passed to their French counterparts when the two sides of the Channel Tunnel came together in 1994. The books have been translated into 30 languages and have sold more than 30 million copies.

Paddington has also reached the very top of society. Comedian and later President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky dubbed him in the Ukrainian version of the films, and to cap everything, Paddington joined the late Queen in one of her last public appearances – a brilliant comedy segment in the Platinum Party at the Palace on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, in which the Queen 'revealed' that she always carried a marmalade sandwich – Paddington's favourite food – in her handbag.

*Parish Pump 2023*



## Quiz Answers

1. It struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic on its maiden voyage.
2. One theory - There were 13 people round the table at the Last Supper.
3. A Norwegian, Roald Amundsen
4. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay
5. 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953
6. Adder
7. 31.5 miles of which 23.5 miles is under the seabed.
8. Paris
9. The Statue of Liberty
10. Snoopy
11. Roald Dahl
12. Harpo
13. Samuel Pepys
14. An English Dictionary
15. 49 days
16. Four. Abraham Lincoln (April 15<sup>th</sup> 1865), James Garfield (Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 1881), William McKinley (Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 1901) and John F. Kennedy (Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1963)
17. Cilla Black
18. William Pitt the Younger aged 24
19. John chapter 11, verse 35. (Two words - 'Jesus Wept')
20. Third letter of John
21. Traditionally referring to the Great Plague
22. All the King's Horses and all the Kings Men
23. A Frenchman, Louis Bleriot
24. Mrs Hudson
25. Wimbledon Common

Sudoku solution:

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

### 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.



## Parish Pump October Smile Lines

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for 'What would Jesus do?', and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.

The man pondered a moment, then replied, "I don't think He'd pay £17.99 for that hat."

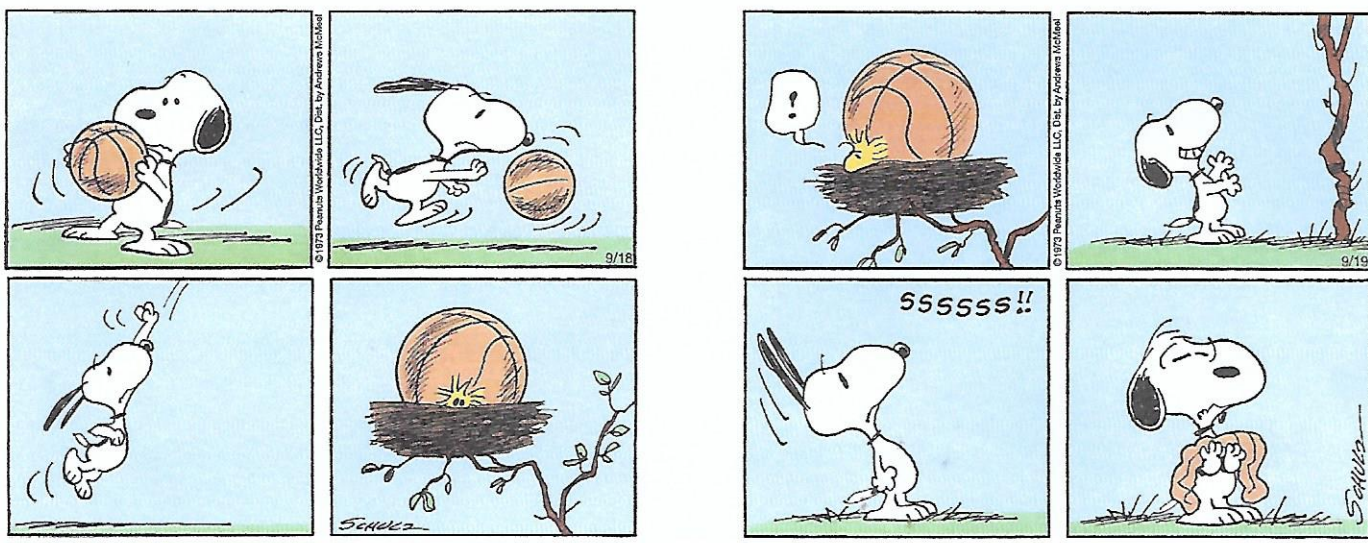
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As part of his annual talk to our local Town Council, our minister told some funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at the forthcoming Harvest Dinner at church, he asked the young reporter covering the event not to include them in his report.

Reading the newspaper on the following morning, he noticed that the well-meaning reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

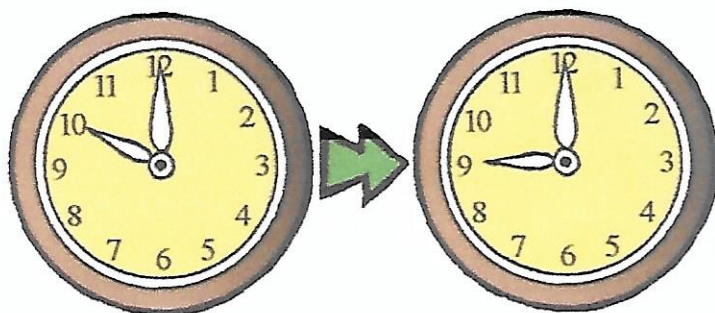
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The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.



British Summer Time ends on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Clocks go back one hour.





## TRINITY LUNCHEON CLUB

Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster

Every Wednesday at 12.15

Would you like a mid-week meal cooked for you with pleasant friendly company round the table?

Then why not come to our **Luncheon Club** – you don't have to be a church member or on your own, couples are welcome.

Enjoy a delicious main course and pudding with tea or coffee.

**Only £3.00**

### Our main courses include:

Meat Loaf    **Salmon Flan**    Chicken Casserole

Corned Beef Flan    Sausages

Ham and Pineapple    **Cheese and Bacon Flan**

and our puddings (naughty but very nice):

**Cheesecake**    Bakewell Tart    Sponge Pudding

Fruit Crumble    **Sticky Toffee**

**Passion Pudding**    Bread & Butter Pudding

For more information or to book a place please contact  
Mrs. Jill Green via 07580009755 (between 9am and 5pm)

**THURSDAY**

*Slimming*  
WORLD

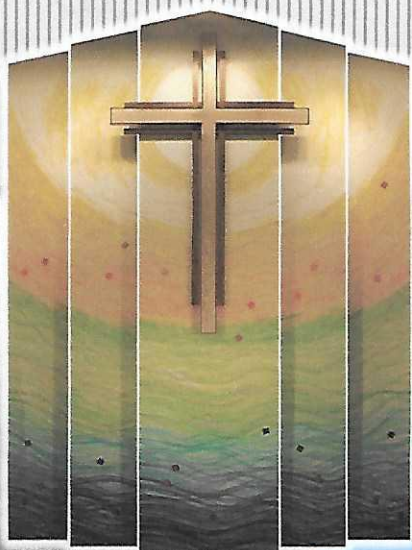
**SLIMMING WORLD GROUPS  
FOLEY PARK METHODIST CHURCH  
OFF BRINTONS CLOSE  
KIDDERMINSTER  
9.30AM OR 11AM**

**CALL SANDRA**

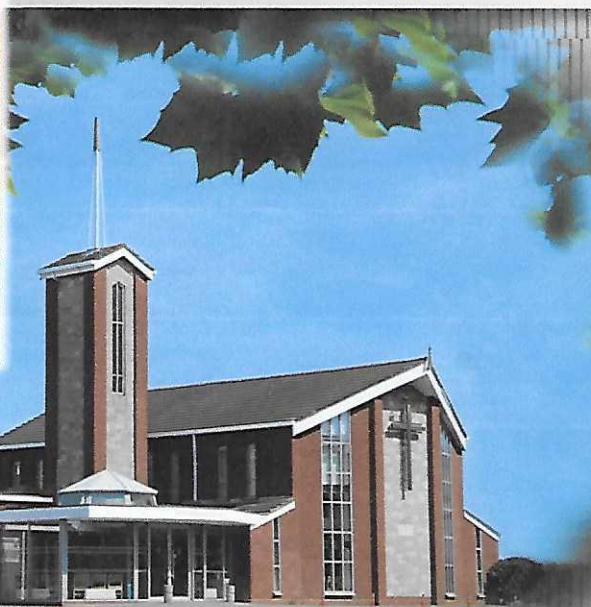
**0777 2522 129**







♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦



### **Sunday Services**

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

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

### **Trinity Toddlers Every Tuesday**

**9.45am – 11.15am**

Contact:

**Mrs Stella Batson - 01562 863503**

**Rev'd. Nick Collison - 01562 823300**

### **Trinity Luncheon Club Every Wednesday**

**at 12.15pm**

Co-ordinator:

**Mrs. Jill Green**

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

Telephone: 07580 009755 (Mon-Fri 9am -5pm)

[www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk](http://www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk)

2023...2023