

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*



Sunset over Spalding
Photograph by Rev'd. Nick Collison

**HARVEST
EDITION**



...all are welcome in this place!

September 2023

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

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**The closing date for items for the October Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 24th September 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:



'Sunset over Spalding'
Photo by Rev'd. Nick Collison

SABBATICAL...ON LOCATION

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

This photograph, for the September front cover, is taken from Diane's mum's back garden in Weston Hills, near Spalding, South Lincolnshire.

The Fens, apart from being very flat, is also the land of big skies and wonderful sunsets.

Nick

Dear Friends,

You may, or may not, have noticed that on the front of your copy of Trinity Tidings, toward the bottom of the page it says, "... all are welcome in this place". These words echo the sentiment from the hymn written by Marty Haugen, 'Let Us Build A House Where Love Can Dwell', No 409 in our 'Singing the Faith' hymn book.

Throughout its five verses the hymn describes a Church where forgiveness is central, where no one is judged and where everyone is equally welcomed and valued and enabled to be who God created them to be. A Church where everyone feels safe, a Church where even the outcast and the stranger can find a home and have an opinion. And the words that bind these verses together are the words of the chorus, which emphasise the message, "All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place".

Before the end of the year I have to devise a way of rolling out EDI Training (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion) to those who require it. There is quite a lot to get through and streamlining the training isn't proving to be simple and whilst this can just seem to be yet more bureaucracy, it's basically what the above hymn is talking about. Making everyone welcome.

I would think that most of us consider ourselves to be welcoming, (even though I can bring to mind a number of occasions where the opposite has been displayed). However there is more to offering a welcome than simply saying hello at the door, as important as that is. A true welcome is being able to offer the same to everyone, no matter who they are. As things stand at the moment I am unable to do this.

As most of you are aware the Methodist Church at national level has voted in favour of allowing same sex marriages in our churches. This decision isn't imposed upon any individual Methodist Church and all have the opportunity to opt in if they wish to or stay as they are, or simply to not have the conversation at all.

Normally any decisions to change the status quo are preceded by conversations between the membership and the leadership of a church, so that folk have the opportunity to have their feelings aired and their voices heard. Within this circuit various opportunities like this have taken place over quite a lengthy period of time, even whilst Rev'd Phil Hoar was still in the circuit.

I realise that many folk find it difficult to accept the notion of same sex relationships, let alone same sex relationships within marriage, but I really do feel that if there is any judgement to be made in all of this, it is in God's place to do it, not ours. Our job is to build a house where all are named, all are loved and all are treasured.

Anyway, it is my intention to ask the members of Trinity's Church Council to have a conversation and then take a vote on this matter at the CC meeting on Thursday 19th October. In the meantime I'd like to invite anyone who feels they haven't had the chance to make their views known, or who would like to make a contribution to the overall conversation, to speak to me, a church steward, or any member of the CC prior to this meeting ...

... so that we might let our house too,
"proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome in this place".

Blessings to you all,

Nick

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Margot Stanton, 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.



In your prayers during the month of September,
please remember the area of Kidderminster and
the people who live and work there, known
as Aggborough.

Aggborough

September

St Cecilia's and Jubilee International Churches.

Railways and the Severn Valley railway Station

Harriers Football Club and supporters

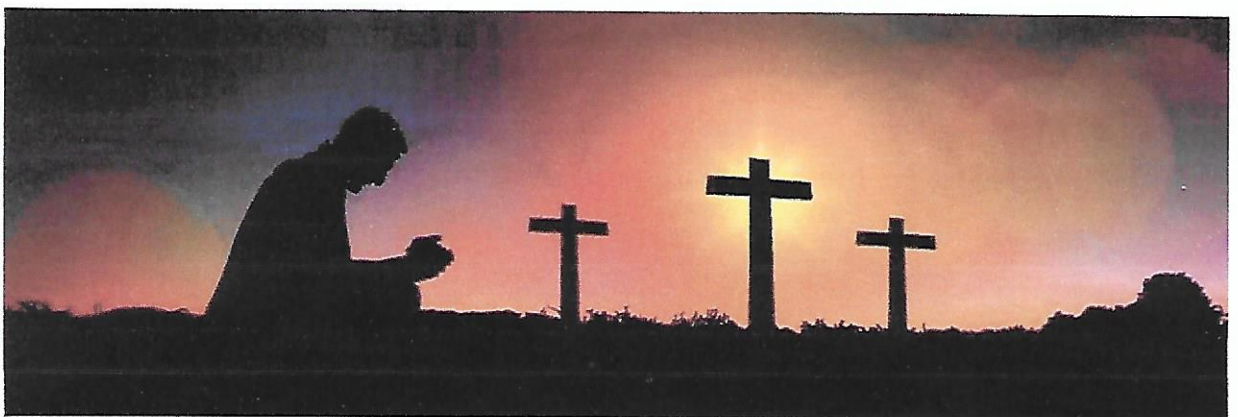
Residential Homes

Children's Nursery

Retail

The Magistrates Court

Veterinary Practice



From the Editor....

Dear Friends,

September is now upon us, and we are looking towards Autumn. So, what happened to Summer? I don't have to tell you that this year Summer has been cool and wet, with few days when we could relax in the garden, or on a beach and enjoy warm sunshine. However, I am sure that the good warm days we had have made up for all the others. I noticed recently that the swallows and house martins were flying around, in a flock, as if they were deciding whether to fly away to South Africa or stay a little longer. We still didn't have any nesting at the station this year, but I am an optimist, and hope that they may return next year.

Many years ago, the BBC made a documentary film on the life of the cuckoo. It was filmed half a mile up the road from where I live, on Pound Green common. Cuckoos were common summer visitors, and could be heard calling from May to July. In the early 1960's we spent lovely holidays with Margaret's grandparents in their cottage in Shropshire. During the early summer months you could hear cuckoos calling almost all day. This year I have not heard one at all. So much of our wildlife is in decline, and some in danger of extinction. We can put it down to climate change, changes in agriculture, greater use of chemicals in farming, increased housing on greenbelt land and many other factors. We need to treasure the wildlife we have, while it is still with us, and do what we can to encourage birds and animals to continue to delight us. My resident toad, which lives under a large wooden box in a damp corner of my verandah, climbed up some pieces of wood, and fell off into a bucket. He (or she) was not able to climb out, so I rescued it. I have often wondered how they breed, away from water, but I often see little ones about – they even try to get into the house, so I pick them up and put them outside. Toads love to eat slugs so I will encourage them.

I let the grass grow longer in my garden, and have a wild flower patch. A lady walked down the station yard, and looked over the low fence into my garden. I heard her say to her husband, 'Isn't this garden a mess, you would think someone from the station would tidy it up!' Then, her husband saw me sitting in the garden, and the pair made a hasty retreat. Out of what looked to her to be untidiness came more butterflies and bees this year, some lovely potatoes, beans and onions, so I will carry on being a messy gardener.

David



Offertories for the ten weeks ended 27 August 2023 are as follows

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
25.06 & 02.07.23	211.00	180.00	1329.15	1720.15
09.07 & 16.07.23	281.00	149.00	1208.80	1638.80
23.07 & 30.07.23	206.00	176.00	1208.80	1590.80
06.08 & 13.08.23	161.00	210.20	1449.50	1820.70
20.08 & 27.08.23	591.00	141.00	1449.50	2181.50

These amounts give a weekly average of £895.19

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

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

- Sept 3rd 10.30am Rev Nick Collison - Baptism
3.00pm Welcome service for Deacon Becky Lovatt
at Stourport Wesley.
No Evening Service
- Sept 10th 10.30am Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
6.30pm Mrs Sue Stinton
- Sept 17th 10.30am Rev Nick Collison - Holy Communion
6.30pm Mr David Skitt
- Sept 24th 10.30am Dr Ken Mothersdale
6.30pm Rev Nick Collison – Healing Service
- Oct 1st 10.30am Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
Harvest Festival
6.30pm New Life Together



Something new... from Rev Andrew Mann-Ray

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again where many people in our community and across our nation will be starting out on something new. Many children will be attending school for the first time and will probably be experiencing a range of emotions from excited to feeling nervous. Helen and I call that experience 'ex-nervous' in honour of how David described his first day at school many years ago now.

Many other children and young people will be moving classes or attending new schools having reached secondary age and many others will be moving on to sixth form, or college and university, or even embarking on their first steps into the world of work.

But September doesn't just bring change for our children and young people. The summer is often a time where people reflect on their lives and what they want to achieve and the autumn often brings change for many as people take up new employment or try out new things they hadn't done so before. Change can be exciting but it can also create significant upheaval and challenge, and it's how we handle these things that enable us to grow and mature as people.

In our congregations of Baxter and Trinity we are embarking on a new chapter in our churches' lives as we trial this coming quarter shared worship and shared mission and ministry together. Some folk in our congregations are going to be thinking "well it's about time!" whilst others are going to be more cautious and wondering about "how can any of this work?" And the change that we're going to experience might leave us feeling both excited but also nervous about the future. We might ask ourselves the question "what will the positives be?" and "what will we gain from this?" whilst at the same time we might be worried about what will be lost and will we still recognise our respective churches' identity as part of this process.

The important thing we all need to do is be open to the Holy Spirit's prompting. This time is going to be challenging because trying something new always is, but this time also gives us the opportunity to test things out and to see where God is leading us. If this experience is going to be positive we need to be open minded and to trust and have faith that this is what God wants. Then (hopefully!) we will see the fruits of God's activity in our midst and we will have lost nothing and gained much.

But we have to trust that what we are doing is from God and has been discerned as God's will for our churches. There is always going to be tension and uncertainty, but in those moments I believe God's Holy Spirit can work and although we might feel as if we are sometimes walking in the wilderness, I also believe that streams of living water can be found that can quench our thirst for God's love and relationship and can enable us to grow as people, as disciples and as churches committed to each other and God's mission.

So, as we embark on this journey, let's pray for God's Holy Spirit to guide us and lead us, and let's allow God's presence to dwell richly amongst us.

This is something new but let's pray for courage and boldness that we can journey together through what might feel like a strange and alien land so that we can reach the heavenly city where God makes his dwelling amongst his people.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew

Future Developments

Thank you to all those who contributed to the feedback request. The Working Group met to consider your responses. They have edited the Declaration of Intent accordingly. It is now to be published formally as a joint Declaration of Intent.

This is our Declaration of Intent Moving Towards the Future

We, the ministers, and members of Trinity Methodist Church and Baxter United Reformed Church, invite all to be as fully a part of our life and fellowship as they are able.

We invite the members and adherents of Baxter United Reformed Church and Trinity Methodist Church,

- To share in the ministry and mission of the Church in this community.
- To worship together and to share Holy Communion.
- To share in the decision- making and leadership of the church and, by invitation, observation at Trinity Church Council and other committees and, Baxter Church meetings, in accordance with Methodist and United Reformed Church policy.
- To contribute financially to Trinity Methodist Church Centre in so far as their continued giving to another church will allow.

We undertake to continue and develop:

- Giving pastoral care to all who desire it.
- Incorporating the riches of worship of the traditions of the Methodist and United Reformed Church.
- Inviting ministers, local preachers, and lay preachers of the Methodist and United Reformed Church and, other church denominations when relevant, to take part in leading worship.

Following on from this, the Working Group recommend:

- We continue to trial the plan of joint worship. This to be continuous from September, up to and including Advent and Christmas.
- This will be reviewed in January.

Do feel free to communicate feedback at any time.

Joint Working Group July 2023

Rev. Nick Collison, Rev. Andrew Mann-Ray, John Bacon, Sandra Baker

Jacky Dainty, John Harris, Jim Harrison, Maureen Lewis, Barbara Phillips

Janet Smith

A Quiz for September about things politicians have said.

Do you know to which politicians the following quotations are attributed?

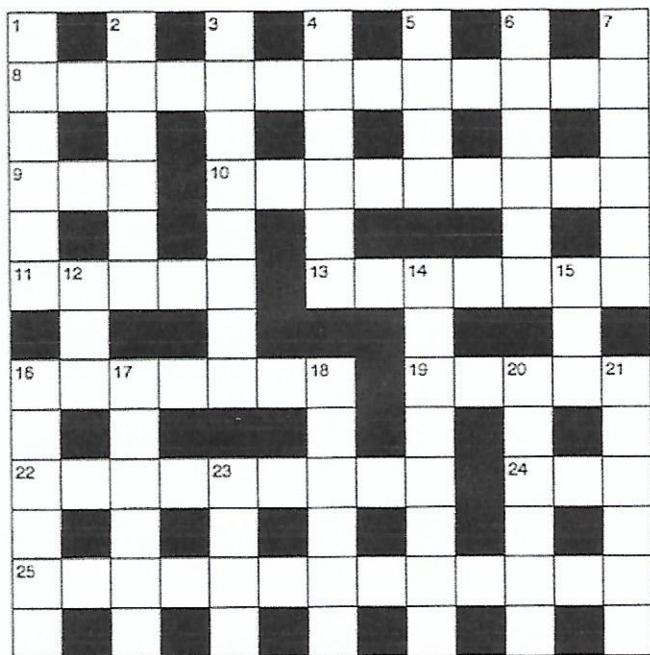
1. It's like being savaged by a dead sheep.
2. It's rather like sending your opening batsmen to the crease only to find as the first ball is bowled that their bats have been broken by the team captain.
3. Read my lips, no new taxes.
4. The government needs to plan Britain's response to the white heat of technological change.
5. Crisis, what crisis?
6. It does not mean that the pound in your pocket, your purse, or your bank has been devalued
7. Ich bin ein Berliner.
8. I have a dream....
9. Politics is war without bloodshed; war is politics with bloodshed.
10. The art of leadership is saying 'no', not 'yes' – it's very easy to say 'yes'.
11. I am not a crook.
12. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.
13. In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done ask a woman.
14. Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.
15. Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth.
16. From Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent.
17. You have sat too long for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!
18. If you can't convince them, then confuse them.
19. The most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help'
20. I did not have sexual relations with that woman.
21. A week is a long time in politics.
22. The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money.
23. Give us the tools and we'll finish the job.

These two are not by politicians, but about them.....

24. Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies.
25. Politicians are like diapers (nappies). They should be changed regularly and for the same reason.



Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku Puzzle (Easy)

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

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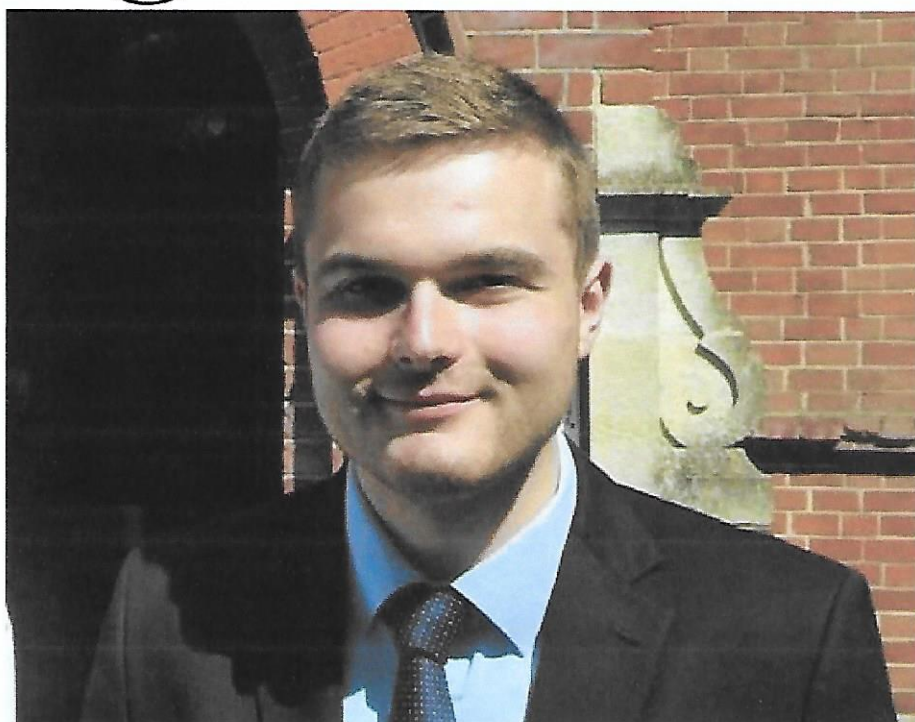
Across

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3)
 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
 2 See 24 Across
 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

Bewdley Methodist Church
Music in the Chapel
Organ Recital



William Peart
(Leipzig)

Saturday 7th October at 2.30pm.

Tickets £10 to include light refreshments

To book tickets please contact:

Neil Sollom Tel: 07780 650491 / email: neilsollom@btinternet.com

or Mike Dernie Tel: 07977 063380 / email: mikedernie@aol.com

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THE METHODIST PRE-RAPHAELITE PAINTER

Many of us have heard of the 19th Century Pre-Raphaelite painters such as Rossetti, Millais, Burne-Jones and others, but who knew that one of their circle was a prominent Methodist?

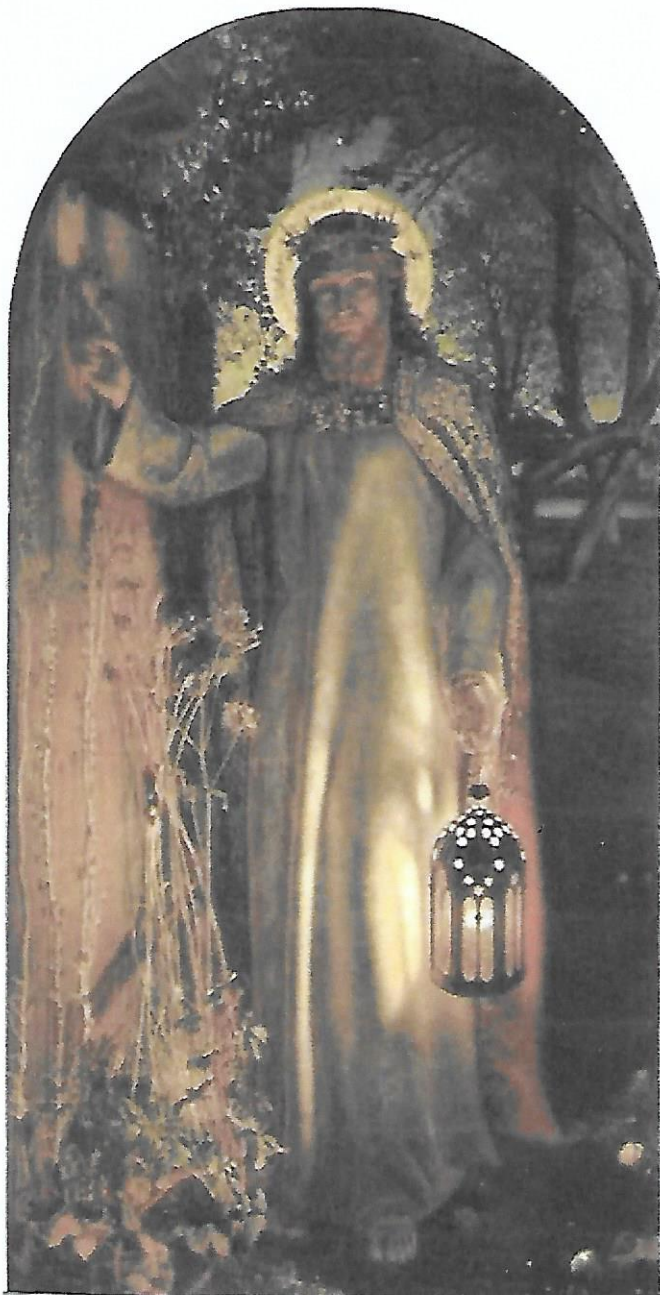
Bewdley Museum's Wyre Forest Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by James Smetham, a devout Methodist who taught art at Wesleyan Normal College in Westminster (which eventually became Oxford Brookes University.)

James Smetham (1821 – 1889) was good friends with Rossetti, who influenced his work, and his output was also admired by the great art critic John Ruskin.

A Yorkshireman, Smetham was apprenticed to an architect before deciding on an artistic career and studying at the Royal Academy. He worked in a range of genres, including religious and literary themes as well as portraiture, but is perhaps best known as a landscape artist. He was also an essayist and art critic.

The exhibition runs daily from Saturday 9th September to Sunday 29th October, 10.00am – 4.00pm.

As soon as more details are available they will be published on the Circuit, and Bewdley Methodist websites.



*These are two of the well-known Pre-Raphaelite paintings – not by James Smetham – the one on the left is: **'The Light of the World'**, by William Holman Hunt. It shows Christ knocking on the door of someone's heart. The painting below is: **'The Last Of England'** by Ford Madox Brown. It shows a husband and wife emigrating from England, with the white cliffs of Dover in the background.*



This article is from Derek Robson, one of the regular Thursday service members, with Simon, his son.

In a previous Tidings mention was made of the Audio Bible, one of which Derek has. As you can see from the photograph it is small, only the same size as one of the old cassettes.



Derek bought one for a friend of his, Pat, who had never heard of the Audio Bible. He is totally blind, but listens to audio books. Pat's wife died last Christmas, and Pat is struggling to cope with the loss of his wife. The whole of the Bible has been recorded by David Suchet, the actor who played Hercule Poirot, and is a committed Christian. Derek wonders how long it took him to record the whole Bible, and how he manged with all the unpronounceable names! Pat is slowly starting to cope with the machine, and is going back to the Bible. He has a faithful guide dog called Co Co. We hope he finds hope and consolation in a wonderful gift.



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MALE CHOIR**

presents

A Concert In

Support of



KWPCSG

Kidderminster and Worcestershire
Prostate Cancer Support Groups

With Special Guests
Loughborough Male Voice Choir

**Saturday,
7th October 7.30pm**

**Trinity Methodist Church
Churchfields, Kidderminster**

Tickets £12 from

www.kidderminstermalechoir.co.uk

Just go to the 'What's On' section and follow the link.

Or £15 on the door

Sing lustily and with a good
courage. Beware of singing as if
you were half dead, or half asleep;
but lift up your voice with strength.

John Wesley

A Winding Road

"The road is long, with many a winding turn, that leads us to who knows where" So sang The Hollies around 1969. The song, of course, was "He aint heavy, he's my brother". Just a simple song but with many undertones and many lines to make us think. There are many roads in The Bible, the two most important, of course, are the road to Damascus and the Road to Emmaus. On the road to Emmaus was Jesus's first appearance after His resurrection, when he appeared to two men. They had no idea who He was. They walked, talked and this stranger broke bread with them, then they knew it was Christ. Of course, it's the road to Damascus that is important to us. It's become a phrase of everyday life. It was Saul, later Paul, to whom it was first attributed.

Born in the Roman city of Tarsus, Paul was a devout Jew. Strange thing was, his first role was to hunt down Jews who had converted to Jesus. He held the cloaks of the killers who stoned Stephen to death. He was known through the church as a chief persecutor and not a man to be crossed. Stephen was the first Christian martyr and although Paul's aim was to destroy the church, it had the opposite effect and helped spread Christianity throughout the world as Christians fled. Then Paul met Jesus on his road to Damascus. He was blinded by a dazzling light and fell to the ground. He neither ate nor drank for 3 days until a disciple came and restored his sight. He was then baptized and started preaching that Jesus was The Messiah. Over his lifetime he must have covered some 14,000 miles, spreading the word of God. He loved people and he loved The Gospel. Paul's conversion is a lesson for all of us.

The road to Damascus leaves us with two expressions. It means a change of heart or conversion, a turning point. It also means to see the light. This is how we should see it and make our lives guided by it. Former Poet Laureate, Jahn Masefield, wrote in his poem 'Roadways', "Most roads lead men homeward, my road leads me forth". This is something many Christians ponder with. How many of us have seen The Light of Jesus Christ in our life? Quite a few of us, not all of us of course, though many of us are all followers. I remember the time when often someone would stand up before the congregation and admit they had suddenly found that road. Of course, one of the first steps on The Road to Damascus is what branch of the church to worship at. What a splendid collection, but they all have the same purpose to hand. To worship God. When you've chosen that path, the main thing is sharing Christ with other people. The song goes on "While we're on our way to there, why not share?" Not easy for some people, while we have found Christ, we might want to keep it private, so it should be. Leave it to ministers and preachers to spread 'The Word'. We will be given a glimpse of something beyond this life and it has changed us. Nothing quite like that road to Damascus, but one step at a time and we'll get there.

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Mike's Smile Lines

Man: Can I have a Hot Dog?
Vendor: Certainly – with pleasure.
Man: No, with onions and tomato sauce.

Mike's Smile Lines

Darling you could be a Saint

What Saint?

A Saint Bernard.

**

Q. Why did the farmer, the scarecrow and the physicist share the Nobel prize?

A. They were all outstanding in their fields

**

Consider an egg in a monastery, out of the frying pan into the friar.

**

I replaced every window in my house, then found I had a crack in my glasses.

**

I thought the BBC programmes were getting better till the wife told me she had replaced the T.V. with a fish tank.

**

Just think if marriage became outlawed, only outlaws would have in laws.

**

Fred: My wife's a kleptomaniac.

Bert: Is she taking anything for it?

**

If you cross a four-leaf clover with a poison ivy would you get a rash of good luck.

**

Man: could I have a single ticket to Jeopardy?

Clerk: Sorry, there's no such place as Jeopardy.

Man: But it says in my paper there are a million jobs in jeopardy.

**

There was an epitaph on a famous snooker player's grave – He's taken the long rest.

**

An old lady was visiting Cornwall and said "That's St. Michaels Mount, how come I thought it was a racehorse owned by Marks and Spencer?"

**

Q. What happens when you immerse a body in 10 gallons of water.

A. The telephone rings.

**

The London Philharmonic orchestra were playing The Bermuda Rhapsody when suddenly the triangle player disappeared.

**

My wife thought a kipper was a fish that slept a lot. There again, she thought a Bar-B-Que was a line of men waiting for a haircut.

**

Eve was so jealous of Adam that when he came home at night she used to count his ribs.

**

A budget is something we go without to stay within.



**

Dentist: What type of filling would you like in your tooth?
Little Girl: Chocolate please.

**

Mary: I'm glad I wasn't born in France.
Nellie: Why's that?
Mary: I can't speak a word of French.

**

Teacher: What does HNO₃ stand for?
Boy: Hold on – I know it, it's on the tip of my tongue.
Teacher: Well, you'd better spit it out – it's Nitric Acid.

**

Judge: You have been convicted 10 times of this offence. Have you no shame?
Man: No sir, no one should be ashamed of one's convictions

**

Teacher: We all know that when certain things are heated they expand and when they are cooled they contract. Can anyone give me an example?
Charlie: Well, in winter the days are short and in summer they are long.

**

I can only remember 25 letters of the alphabet – I don't know Y.

**

Most postmen are very clever. Remember, they're men of letters.

**

Did you know that the animals on Noah's ark didn't all come in pairs? The worms came in apples.

**

If you want to double your money, get it together and look at it through a mirror.

**

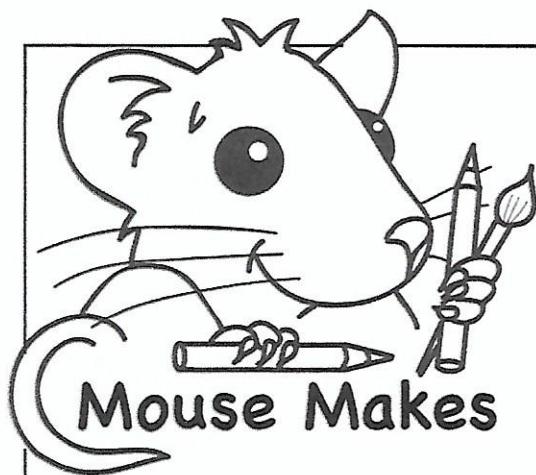
Man; Doctor, how can I stop myself from sleepwalking?
Doctor: Put drawing pins on the floor.

**

Q. What is chocolate on the outside, peanut in the middle and sings hymns?
A. A Sunday school treat.

**

Man: I've come about my wife, she's got a slight impediment in her speech.
Doctor: What's the problem?
Man: Every now and again she has to stop and take a breath.



THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow
amongst the wheat?

Matthew 13:25



READ

the parable in

Matthew 13 v24-30,
and v36-43

At harvest time the weeds
are gathered, bundled then

but the wheat is stored
in the

Matthew 13:30

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

What does the field represent?

the
and who is the good seed?

The people of the

Matthew 13:38

Who sows the weeds?

The

Who are the harvesters?

The

Matthew 13:39

"He who has
ears, let him

Matthew 13:43

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

PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN
GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE
PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

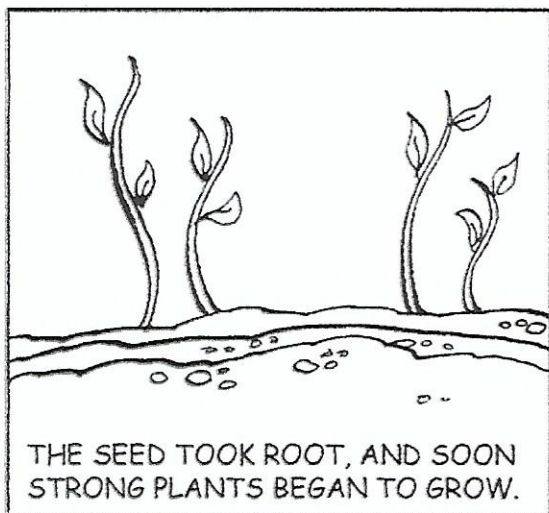
Find the words from the questions too!

The tale of the Wheat and the Weeds

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

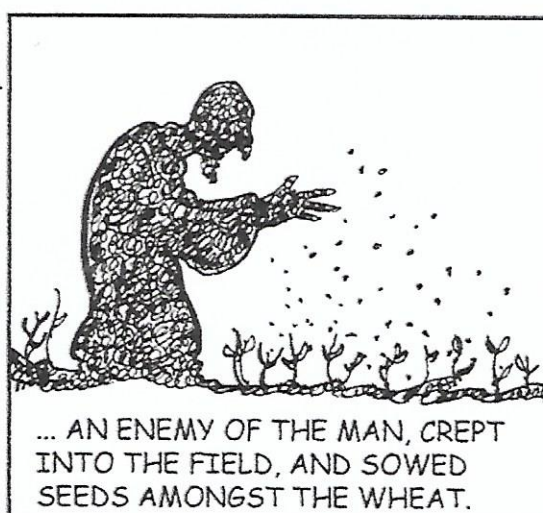
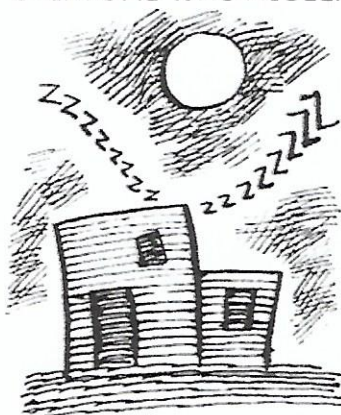


ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO SOWED SEED IN HIS FIELD.



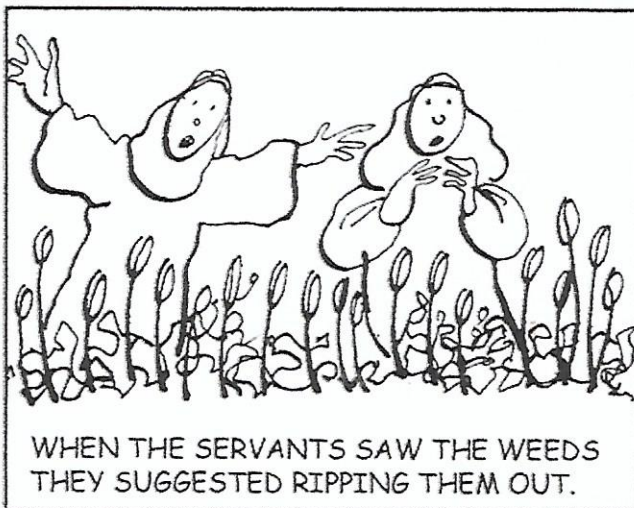
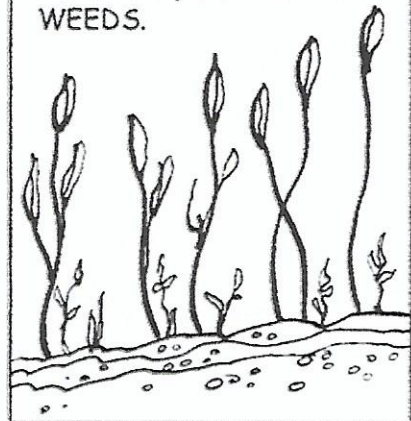
THE SEED TOOK ROOT, AND SOON STRONG PLANTS BEGAN TO GROW.

BUT ONE NIGHT, WHEN EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP...



... AN ENEMY OF THE MAN, CRYPT INTO THE FIELD, AND SOWED SEEDS AMONGST THE WHEAT.

AS THE WHEAT BEGAN TO GROW, SO DID THE WEEDS.

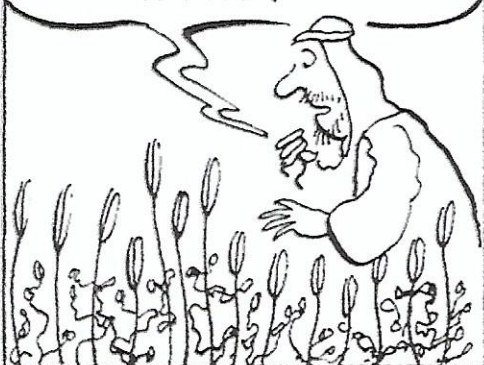


WHEN THE SERVANTS SAW THE WEEDS THEY SUGGESTED RIPPING THEM OUT.

NO, LET'S LEAVE THEM UNTIL HARVEST TIME!

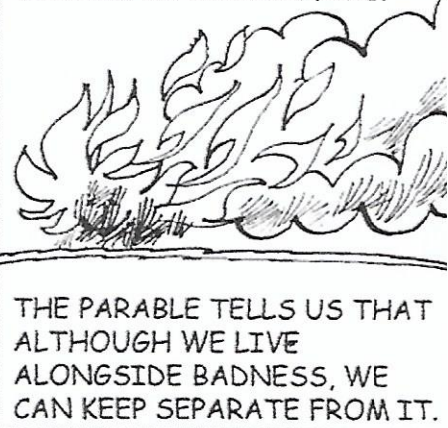


IF YOU PULL THEM UP NOW, YOU MIGHT KILL THE WHEAT TOO. WE'LL SORT THEM OUT AT HARVEST.



WHEN THE WHEAT WAS READY, IT WAS HARVESTED INTO HUGE BUNDLES.

BUT THE WEEDS WERE BURNED IN A LARGE FIRE.



THE PARABLE TELLS US THAT ALTHOUGH WE LIVE ALONGSIDE BADNESS, WE CAN KEEP SEPARATE FROM IT.

God can use everything we give Him

The story is told of a man in charge of building a great church, who was pestered by an apprentice who wanted to design the glass for one of the windows. Finally, he agreed that the apprentice should be given one very small window. BUT – the apprentice would have to provide all the materials himself.

Undaunted, the apprentice carefully swept up all the stray bits of coloured glass that had been discarded and set to work. Slowly, and with great care, he pieced together a window of rare beauty.

When the church was finally opened, many people stopped to stare in wonder at his small, but so beautiful, iridescent window.

Our lives can be like that – no matter how small we may feel, or that we have only scraps to offer to God, He can still help us use every bit of time and energy and love we do have, to build a life that is beautiful, and which will reflect the glory of God to others.

Parish Pump 2023

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers customer care – or the lack of it!

Whatever Happened to the Customer is Always Right?

Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the king. 1 Peter 2:17
I sometimes wonder about the customer being right, when I am told off in shops for not doing what they want or even just asking question. Perhaps it is just me.

The full phrase is “Rule number one: the customer is always right. Rule number two: If the customer is wrong, please refer to rule number one. It is attributed to Harry Gordon Selfridge, (11 January 1858 – 8 May 1947) an American retail magnate who founded the London department store Selfridges.

His 20-year leadership of Selfridges led to his becoming one of the most respected and wealthy businessmen in the country. He introduced the phrase in the early 1900s to encourage employees to promote customer satisfaction and create an environment where customers felt valued and respected. He was known as the ‘Earl of Oxford Street’. He also thought of the phrase “Only _____ Shopping Days until Christmas”.

Do you feel valued and respected when you buy something? I thought not! We spend so much money in supermarkets and they make lots of money out of us. I was particularly annoyed recently when a shop installed barriers so you cannot get out without swiping your receipt.

We probably should complain more, but also we should acknowledge good service. If I ask where the cat food is, it helps if an employee shows me by walking there, not just say opposite the dog food or ‘over there’ and point vaguely.

Parish Pump 2023



Coffee is good for you

If you like coffee, then this is good news: it seems that coffee is quite good for you. For one thing, coffee contains chemicals called polyphenols, which protect against inflammation in the body and which repair damage to cells.

One study, known as the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (Epic), found that people who drank more coffee were less vulnerable to a range of chronic illnesses. Another study, at the University of Verona, found that it can help prevent a toxic protein called tau from clumping together – which might help in fighting Alzheimer's.

Coffee drinkers have also been found to have different species of bacteria in their gut microbiomes, compared with non-coffee drinkers. This is believed to be one of the strongest protective factors against colorectal cancers.

Harvard University recommends two to five cups of coffee daily, and the NHS recommends that no more than about two and a half cups of coffee are consumed in one sitting, and no more than five cups per day.

Parish Pump 2023

Portion creep

Bet you didn't notice this, but dinner plates have got bigger. In the 1950s, a dinner plate measured 25cm across; now the usual is 28cm. And take a look at those very old wine glasses in the charity shops: our grandparents served wine in what looks like liqueur glasses to us now. These days, many wineglasses seem to hold nearly half a bottle....

Parish Pump 2023

All in the month of September

It was:

125 years ago, on 26th Sept 1898 that George Gershwin, American composer, was born. Known for his operas, Broadway musicals and film scores.

100 years ago, on 4th Sept 1923 that Noel Coward's musical revue *London Calling!* was first performed, in London. It was his first publicly produced musical work.

Also 100 years ago, on 7th Sept 1923 that Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organisation, was founded.

75 years ago, on 9th Sept 1948 that the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was established, headed by Kim Il Sung.

50 years ago, on 29th Sep 1973 that W H Auden, British born American poet, died. Regarded as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century.

25 years ago, on 4th Sep 1998 that Google, the internet search company, was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both students at Stanford University in California. The company was originally based in a friend's garage at Menlo Park.

Parish Pump 2023

Parish Pump Smile Lines

Scientists have finally discovered exactly how much sleep a human being needs ... just five minutes more.

**

People say 60 is the new 40. The policeman who just pulled me over didn't agree.

**

A preacher went into the pulpit one Sunday morning wearing a pair of new bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. Finally, he apologised to the congregation. "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses," he said. "You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you, it makes me feel sick."

**

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

**

The sentence, 'Are you as bored as I am?', can be read backwards and still make sense.

**

It was our Harvest Festival Sunday. My husband had cut his ear while shaving. We arrived at the church just in time to sing: 'First the blade and then the ear'.

**

My three-year-old was saying his nightly prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you," I finally whispered.

He said firmly, "Wasn't talking to you."



Thought for the month ...

Thomas Edison is often remembered for his persistence despite disappointments at various times in his life. Some years after his death in 1931, his desk was opened and among the papers was a card that read:

"When you're down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out all right!"

Enter all the angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later – also in a dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there – He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they appear as human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

Parish Pump 2023



Answers to the Quiz about politicians.

1. Denis Healey about Geoffrey Howe
2. Geoffrey Howe's resignation Speech in the House of Commons
3. George Bush
4. Harold Wilson
5. Jim Callaghan
6. Harold Wilson
7. John F Kennedy
8. Martin Luther King
9. Mao Tse Tung
10. Tony Blair
11. Richard Nixon
12. Franklin D Roosevelt
13. Margaret Thatcher
14. John F Kennedy
15. Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address
16. Winston Churchill
17. Oliver Cromwell to the Rump Parliament in 1653, and by Leo Amery to Neville Chamberlain in 1940, and again by David Davies to Boris Johnson in 2022.
18. Harry S Truman
19. Ronald Reagan
20. Bill Clinton
21. Harold Wilson
22. Margaret Thatcher
23. Winston Churchill
24. Groucho Marx
25. Mark Twain

Sudoku solution

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

Crossword answers:

- ACROSS:** 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.
- DOWN:** 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

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:

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Corned Beef Flan Sausages

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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

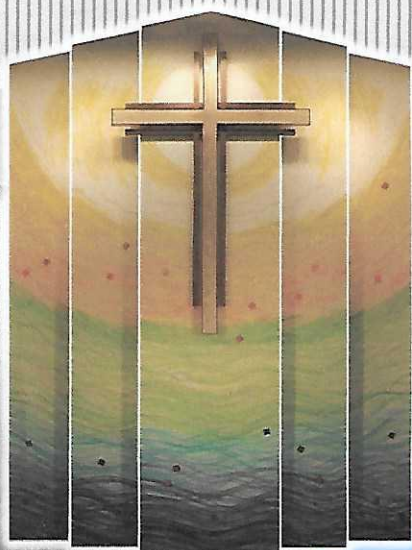
KIDDERMINSTER

9.30AM OR 11AM

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♦ 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)

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