



# Trinity E-News



Issue 01 / 24 Trinity's email: [trinity@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:trinity@basingstokecircuit.net) February 2024



Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13



**Our Minister is:**  
**Revd Claire Simpson**  
☎: 01256 323103  
email:  
[revclaire72@btinternet.com](mailto:revclaire72@btinternet.com)

**Trinity's Church & Building has closed & Trinity has merged with St Andrew's. We all now worship together at St Andrew's Church, Western Way, Basingstoke.**

**Trinity E-News:**  
**Deadline for: Mar 24 is:**  
**Sunday 18 Feb 2024**

**Trinity E-News is available on the Basingstoke & Reading Website – link below.**

I love receiving all your pieces, please keep them coming. **A Big Thankyou** to everyone who sends in items which can be phoned, posted, emailed or given to me.

**Thank you so much, Hazel**  
(☎: 01256-461375) & email:  
[hazel@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:hazel@basingstokecircuit.net)  
16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke,  
RG21 8YQ

**Link to Circuit Website:**  
[www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)



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**Online Circuit Services at:**  
<https://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk/worship-prayer>

Artwork on this page from Parish Pump & 'pixabay'

*February 2024*

Dear Friends

This is my first time in writing this pastoral letter for our newsletter which brings up some initial challenges as to whom it is being addressed to?

If you are reading this as a person with little or no church experience, then perhaps I should start by welcoming you. We are standing at the beginning of another new Year, following on from our annual celebration of Christmas, but for many people the latter is mainly an expensive and very commercial experience, rather than a holy and spiritual recognition of God (the Father) intervening in human affairs with the birth of the Christ child, sent to open the way for all people to re-enter the relationship that God intended for us all – to become children of God.

Please come and join us in church on any Sunday if you would like to explore more of that true meaning of Christmas (Christ with us!).

If, like me, you are reading this letter as an established Christian believer, though maybe a little tarnished and not 'shining' as much as perhaps you did in earlier years of that relationship, then you are equally welcome here!

Our Christian journey has been well described in John Bunyan's story of Pilgrim's Progress, where the main subject travels along many different and often difficult highways and byways, all with the constant temptation of an 'easier path' being offered in some of the more difficult terrain!

For ourselves, then I would like to share some thoughts on the times in which we find ourselves living!

None of us can fail to recognise the very many difficult situations that are happening

around our world. The ongoing conflict / war in Ukraine with the occupation of large areas of the country by Russian forces. The devastation being inflicted on innocent men, women & children in Gaza and the ever-increasing risk this presents to world peace as other Muslim countries witness what is happening and seek to intervene! Other seemingly forgotten conflicts and situations such as that in Myanmar, Yemen, Sudan, and other parts of Africa and Asia with drought, famine, floods as well as how minorities are being ill-treated creating yet more refugees.

As Christians, this should not come as any great surprise, as Jesus himself spoke of such things happening as signs of the end of the age!

The question that we need to ask of ourselves is '**What is it that I can do?**'

There are potentially many different answers to that question but I would like to make a suggestion that is available to every one of us!

### **We can pray!**

Prayer is our weapon of choice as Christians.

With prayer, we can hold people, situations, even countries up to the heart of God the Father.

Prayer is more than an activity – yes, we can engage in regular times of prayer, we can use formal or informal types of prayer, but it is much more than an activity!

Prayer is a life-style, it is an attitude, and it is powerful!

Prayer is not confined to being used in church – you can and should pray anywhere and at any time! Walking down the street, in the shops or the bath, out in the countryside, among crowds!

Often, we forget the power and scope of prayer and use it only to ask for a particular outcome to a life situation but again I would remind you that it is more than that.

We can use prayer to oppose evil in our world, to bind those who destroy life and who bring darkness into the lives of so many.

Yes, we can pray for... but we can also pray against... We can intervene in situations by invoking prayer to influence their direction, by focussing the power of God in the Spirit on individuals, groups, towns, cities, countries...

And finally, yes, we can pray for ourselves too – that we would be strengthened, empowered for good, employed by God as agents of change! Just think of how much difference that could make if we use prayer in our everyday lives during 2024 and beyond, and expand the scope of our prayers too!

God bless you all,

Steve

*‘Dear Friends*

*I would just like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the many cards and kind messages I have received following the death of my dear husband, David, on the 15<sup>th</sup> January. Your love, support and prayers have been a great comfort at this difficult time.*

*Anne Rowe‘*

- We know not what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future – Willis J Ray

### Lent Course

*It is proposed to run A weekly course during Lent, which starts in February.*



This will be held at church on either a Monday or Wednesday afternoon. More details will be announced.

If you are interested please let **Pauline Ansell** know.

*(artwork from Parish Pump)*

### Trinity Circle

There will be **NO** Trinity Circle in February.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.**

Details of the next meeting will be in the March Magazine.

**Sonia**

### (JAM) – ‘Jesus And Me’

**Meets: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm, usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.**



**The Next ‘JAM’ Dates are: Sunday 4 February and Sunday 3 March at St Andrew’s:**

\* \* \* \* \*

**JAM – Children & Families now meet at St Andrew’s, usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month to hear stories of Jesus, Craft, Singing & Tea.**

**All are very welcome.**

**Do come along and join us.**



**Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson**

**Sunday Worship at St Andrew's & Trinity  
and our Basingstoke Churches**

**Plan for Worship for February 2024**



**Enquiries – Joint Senior Stewards:**

**Diane Bath** ☎: 01256 320429 or email [diane bath51@gmail.com](mailto:diane bath51@gmail.com)

**Linda Hoe** ☎: 01256 417219 or email [lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk)

**Basingstoke & Reading Circuit – Basingstoke Churches – February 2024**

Dates	4 Feb	11 Feb	18 Feb	25 Feb
Trinity / St Andrew's 10.30 am	Rev C Simpson, S	LA	S Whithorn	A Rowe
Church of Living Stream 10.30 am	LA	D Munns	Rev J Dowding	J Skeet
Oakley 10.30 am	C Marsh	LA	Rev C Simpson	D Munns
Oakridge 10.30 am	N Graham	Rev C Simpson	N Klingaman	C Marsh
Old Basing 10.30 am	John Smith	P Frank	T Bell	S Whithorn

**Read on social media today  
(02.01.24) and more relevant than  
ever!**

**What Jesus never said:**

"Feed the hungry only if they have the correct documents."

"Clothe the naked only if they are from your country."

"Welcome the stranger only if there is no risk involved."

"Help the poor only if it is convenient to do so."

"Love your neighbour only if they look like you."

**Attributed to James Martin, S.J.**

No mention of stopping the boats or sending refugees to Rwanda!

**Steve S**

**Northern Housegroup**

**Our next Housegroup is on:**

**Tuesday 6 February at 7.30 pm at  
Sonia's home.**

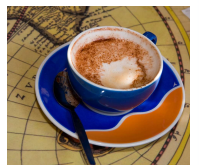
**We are pleased to welcome the  
Revd Claire Simpson  
who will be leading our evening.**

**Sonia, Edna and Hilary**

**Come & Enjoy**

**'Fellowship with Friends'**

**after Morning Worship on Sundays  
along with an 'enjoyable Coffee,  
Tea, Biscuit and sometimes even  
cake' !**



## Thank You

Thank you, for the donations made for the '*Collection of Prayers, Thoughts and Reflections*'.

Due to your generous donations, I have been able to make a donation of £110 to the Alzheimer's Society.

**Jennifer Pitt**

## Thank you

On behalf of all the staff and volunteers who work with the Volunteer Police Cadets in Croydon, a great big **thank you** for all the kind donations that you have given over the last few months.

These donations will enable more of the cadets to undertake their Duke of Edinburgh activities with better equipment than they might have hoped. Each donation will be used throughout the season and in the future years as well.

Thank you again.

**Rebecca Pitt**



*Picture sent in by Rebecca*

## A Place to Belong

### The Church

#### Why you need a Church family?

A Church family identifies you as a genuine believer. I can't claim to be following Christ if I'm not committed to any specific group of disciples. Jesus said "your love for one another, will prove to the world that you are my disciples".

When we come together in love, as a Church family, from different backgrounds, race, and social status, it is a powerful witness to the world! Together, not separated, we are His Body.

The local church is the classroom in God's family. You learn to care about others, and share the experiences of others. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it. A Church family helps you develop spiritual muscles. You will never grow in maturity, just by attending worship services.

The Bible says, as each part does his own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

We are commanded to love each other; pray for each other; encourage each other; greet each other; save each other; teach each other; honour each other; forgive each other; accept each other; submit to each other; devoted to each other.

These are your family responsibilities that God expects you to fulfil, through local fellowship.

Think about it,

God Bless,

**Fay (Aird)**

Image 'pixabay'



- 70 years ago, on 23 February 1954, the first field test of the polio vaccine began in Pittsburgh. It grew into a year-long national trial involving 1.8 million children.

# World Day of Prayer 2024



Friday 1 March 2024

2 pm at

**St Michael's Church**

Church Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW

The Theme is 'Palestine',  
'A Theme of Love & Reconciliation'

All are Welcome

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

## 'TUESDAY COFFEE CLUB'

Come and enjoy a '*cuppa and chat*', everyone very welcome. We run alongside the Mug & Biscuit at the back of the church from **10 am till 11.30 am**, so finish in plenty of time to grab lunch from the Mug & Biscuit!

We aim to stay open *all year apart from Christmas.*

**Di Spencer**



Images 'pixabay'

## The Fountain Prayer Group

will meet in the **Worship Arena** or **Quiet Room** at **St Andrew's**

**on: Thursday 8 February**

**Thursday 22 February**

**Thursday 14 March**



We will gather at 2.30 pm and begin at 2.45 pm with a short reflection.

The rest of our time together will include a period of silence and some prayerful sharing. We will finish the formal part of the meeting at around 4 pm.

Please come even if you cannot attend every meeting.

**Angela Webb**

[angela@webbfamily.org.uk](mailto:angela@webbfamily.org.uk)

## Litter

We have a gang of litter pickers who clean the surrounding area of the church, in pairs.

Usually the rota would call upon those people hopefully, once every two months.

As the church is surrounded on three sides by a public right of way you can gather the amount of litter deposited, *(and variety)*.

The Gang has depleted in numbers so they have to be on duty more often.

***If you can help in any way, equipment provided, please see Bob L, thank you.***



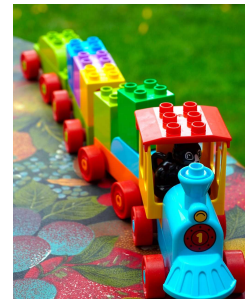
Images pixabay'



# Spring Sale

## Saturday 9 March

### 12 noon - 3 pm



**St Andrew's Church, South Ham**

**Good quality items for sale (not jumble), can be left at St Andrews from 20 February, during Mug & Biscuit Opening Times:**



**Tuesday: 10.00 am – 1.30 pm**  
**Wednesday: 10.00 am – 1.30 pm**  
**Thursday: 10.00 am – 1.30 pm**



There will also be *Light Snacks, Cakes & Drinks* available and *Plants* for sale too.

**If you can help to 'Man a Stall' for all or part of the day please let Linda know: ☎ 01256 417219 / email: [lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk)**



## South Ham Churches Lunch Club

St Andrews, St Josephs and St Peters run a Lunch Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 12.30 pm, at St Josephs Church, St Pauls Road.



This is open to the over 55's at a cost of £5 per head. More information can be gained from the **Churches Co-coordinator, Hannah Lock**.

If you would like to be a helper more information can be gained from **Bob Lock, the Methodist Co-ordinator**.



## A Picture Club

We have been wondering about having a picture club for our new community. This is not a camera club though it is likely that many people will use their phone or cameras to take pictures. The idea is to have a get together where people could share photos that have been taken, or pictures found in a book or magazine etc, with each other, and perhaps to say why it is interesting or special. At the moment we want to see who might be interested and then we can work out when and where to meet

Let us know if you are interested.

**David Webb and Theresa Loveridge**



Images 'pixabay'

- 60 years ago, on 7 February 1964, the Beatles arrived in New York for their first US tour. They were met by thousands of screaming fans.

**‘One Life’**

***‘I cannot unsee what I have seen’***



Image ‘pixabay’

After a visit to Prague, capital of Czechoslovakia, and seeing the plight of refugees, particularly the children, fleeing from Nazi persecution, during WW2, Nicholas Winton knew he had to do something.

He said, ***‘I cannot do everything, but I can do something, and I must.’*** He went on to rescue, over 600 children, from certain death.

This is the subject of the film **‘One Life’**, which I saw recently.

Nicholas Winton, the son of German Jewish parents, was an agnostic. A stockbroker by profession and essentially a humanitarian.

He set up a chain of people, who made it possible for children, to be evacuated to the UK, where people took them in, and sheltered them.

In 1948 after the war, his Danish wife found in the attic of their home, a scrapbook, full of photographs and names of the children.

When asked, ‘Is this a secret,’ Nicholas replied, ‘No, I just did not talk about it’. As a result of his humanitarian action, many people are alive today.

The scrapbook is now in the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem.

We never know how much our lives have helped other people. Have we met Jesus? if through the power of the Holy Spirit we have, we can never forget, nor undo that experience, it remains with us.

Thank God for people like Nicholas Winton.

God bless you.

**Margaret Garland**

**Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:**

**Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson**

☎: 01256 323103 / email: [revclaire72@btinternet.com](mailto:revclaire72@btinternet.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Church Contacts: Joint Senior Stewards:**

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email: [dianebath51@gmail.com](mailto:dianebath51@gmail.com)

**Linda Hoe:** ☎: 01256 417219 /  
email: [lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk)

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**St Andrew’s Bookings: Contact: Bob Lock**

email: [robertlock1@virginmedia.com](mailto:robertlock1@virginmedia.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Trinity E-News Editor: Hazel Harris – email:**

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**Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:**

**Basingstoke & Reading Circuit**

**Website:**

[www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)

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**Basingstoke & Reading Circuit is a Registered Charity, the Charity No. is: 1134891**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Circuit Administrator is:**

**Mrs Marion Young** and can be contacted on: ☎ **07503 652961**

(working hours only) & email:

[marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](mailto:marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)

\* \* \* \* \*

- The cross is ‘l’ crossed out – Anon



## A Good Night's Sleep

People ask me how is it that I get a good night's sleep every night?

I refuse to worry about anything and go to bed carefree.

Before I came to Basingstoke I was assistant cashier in a Trawler company on Grimsby docks. I think it is generally known that the crew of the trawlers are paid their money worked out on the sale of the fish. When a ship landed (*most days*) I could not do a lot beforehand but when I was told by our salesmen what the fish had sold for it was "all go".



Image 'pixabay'

The Skippers and Mates used to come into my office to wait for their money and they were not the quietest type of folk. This made it quite difficult for me to get on until I found that I could "switch off". This meant that I was not aware of anything that was happening in the office and indeed if someone spoke to me I would not hear him, this way I got on with my job which was to work out the money coming to the crew – there were 6 different rates in the crew, and everything I did had to be correct as there was no time to double check.

I can still do this "switch off" and it is very useful.

Can I recommend to you all that you try it.

Pick a room with a comfortable seat or bed in which you will not be interrupted, draw the curtains, switch off anything that makes a noise, sit or lie down and get comfortable and relax your entire body, close your eyes and think of nothing. The time is of your choosing but I advise at least 20 minutes.

I have found that after a session, any stress has gone, everything seems easier and I am at peace with all.

I go to bed just before midnight and take about 10 minutes to go to sleep and then go into a sound sleep for a minimum of 7 hours, I do not get up until 9.30 am.

Try it.....It works for me.

**Nobby**

### Safeguarding Foundation Module Training:

In person training is being provided at the following venue:

- **Tuesday 13 February 2024, 7.15 pm to 9.30 pm (arrival by 7 pm)** at Tilehurst Methodist Church, School Road, Tilehurst, RG31 5AN

Please book with Peter Frank by email: ([resources@brmc.uk](mailto:resources@brmc.uk)) or telephone ☎: (07407 281986)

### Friday

- *Nothing ruins your Friday like realising it's only Wednesday !!*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Boys Brigade

**Boys Brigade** – especially the 5 – 8 year-old boys – If there are any boys out there with nothing to do on a Friday night between 6.30 pm – 7.45 pm, it's £2 per session and boys can come any Friday to see what we do and if they want to join us on a regular basis that would be great. **Theresa Strachan**

## Christian Musical April 2024

We have invited the team from **Christian Music Ministries** to lead us in presenting "**Wildfire**", a musical about 'Stephen', the first Christian martyr, at Christ Church Chineham on:

**Saturday 13 April 2024 at 4.30pm**  
**Refreshments from 4 pm**

***You are all invited to come to this.***

You may remember that the circuit was supported by CMM in the production of "**3 Camels**" at Wesley last November and "**Apostle**" at Trinity in 2019. I know that many found the presentation of a familiar story in a different way to be both enjoyable and valuable.

We will be looking for narrators, singers and musicians to present the musical. You would spend the day rehearsing under the tutelage of the CMM conductor. For planning purposes please could you let me know if you would like to take part. Also, if you would like to offer as a musician, please can we chat about what instrument(s) you play.

Ruth Midcalf will provide some rehearsal and familiarisation sessions on the evenings of **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at Tadley Common Methodist Church** to help us ensure that the presentation is truly worshipful and so we encourage you to come to some of these. There will also be a familiarisation session at **Christ Church in the week of 7<sup>th</sup> April**; the actual day has not yet been decided.

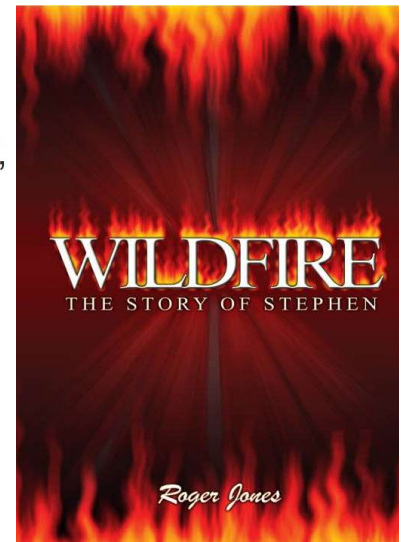
If you would like to take part but cannot come for the whole day, then this should be fine, but please would you let me know.

We also need people to help out with Back of House activities – catering, welcoming, moving tables and chairs etc; again please let me know if you think you could help.

If you want to know more, please contact me at: [david@webbfamily.org.uk](mailto:david@webbfamily.org.uk) or ☎: 07848 843360.

***Many thanks, David Webb***

***(The remaining pictures are on the opposite page)***



**WILDFIRE** is a musical about Stephen, the first of Jesus' followers to die for his faith (Acts 6 and 7). Starting on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit came with tongues of fire, we follow Stephen's ministry of service in the early church. Stephen was a man with heaven in his heart, prepared to defend the truth before the religious leaders of his day, and to die with forgiveness on his lips, as Jesus did. From this point in history, the Gospel spread like wildfire throughout the known world.

Music by *Roger Jones*

Lyrics and narrations by Alison Fuggle

Orchestral parts by Annie Routley

### Characters

Stephen	Rhoda (Stephen's mother)
Lydia (Stephen's wife)	Paul
Anna (Stephen's daughter)	Philip (non-singing, see WILDFIRE drama)

In the concert version of the musical there are also two witnesses to Stephen's story who are followers of Jesus.

### WILDFIRE Products available

Vocal score £.7.99 | CD £9.99 | Backing Tracks £9.99 | DVD £7.99  
 Xtras (words, orchestral parts, audience leaflet etc.) £12.99

[www.cmm.org.uk](http://www.cmm.org.uk) | [sales@cmm.org.uk](mailto:sales@cmm.org.uk) | 01527 576440

- Christians may not see eye to eye, but they can walk arm in arm – *Anon*
- *50 years ago, from the beginning of January until early March, 1974, a three-day working week was introduced in the UK, in order to conserve coal supplies (used by power stations) during a miners' strike.*

Songs

1. I was glad (Psalm 122)
2. Tongues of fire - Wildfire, just as He promised
3. Heaven's come to my heart
4. God doesn't just live in a building
5. My song is love unknown
6. It was so much better in the past
7. Signs and wonders - Come Holy Spirit
8. Isn't it alarming! - Paul and the religious leaders
9. I see heaven and the Son of Man - the stoning of Stephen
10. Scattered salt—Wildfire, just as He promised
11. On the way to believing—Knowing Him
12. Come, let us join our cheerful songs
13. It's all about Jesus—Wildfire (reprise)
14. I was glad (reprise)

'Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'

Acts 7:55-56

Also available



Spirit Works

A practical workbook with lots of activities for individuals, groups and congregations.

Price: £8.99

Rooted in local church worship, Roger Jones, Helen Pollard and Annie Routley share the joy and excitement of living life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

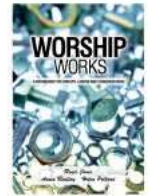


Worship Works

A practical handbook, rooted in local church worship, with lots of activities for individuals, groups and congregations.

Price: £8.99

Roger Jones, Annie Routley and Helen Pollard regularly bring teams of people to churches to teach on the different themes in the book. Contact CMM for more details.

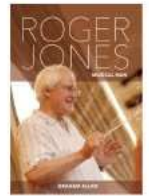


Roger Jones: Musical Man

A biography of Roger Jones written by Graham Allan.

This book tells the story from Roger's early life in inner city Birmingham to his work as composer and director of Christian Music Ministries.

Price: £7.99



www.cmm.org.uk | office@cmm.org.uk | 01527 576440



**Some Poems / Prayers sent in by Pat Murphy.**

***(The first two below were meant for Christmas but sadly, didn't make it into the Christmas issue).***

Kneel and worship this baby so small.  
 He is Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of all.  
 He came for you and he came for me.  
 To bring us salvation and set us free.  
 What a wonderful gift from our Father above.  
 Given so freely and given with love.

Dear Jesus, take my heart, my hand,  
 And help me, this I pray,  
 That I through your sweet love may grow,  
 More like you day by day.

Oh my Lord, my King,  
 You are my everything.  
 You are all I desire,  
 For you set my heart on fire.  
 You thrill me with your wonderful Love,  
 Given continuously by my Father above.  
 With you is joy and peace beyond measure.  
 And precious gifts that I treasure.  
 I love you Father, with all my heart.  
 And from your presence never want to part.

Oh Father have your way in me,  
 That is all my prayer shall be.  
 Completely surrendered and open to you.  
 Walking each step, as you would have me do.  
 Totally yours for all my life.  
 Whether in quiet times or in strife.  
 All that matters is I am yours and you are mine.  
 Living completely attached to the vine.

## Book of Jonah – Today's Message

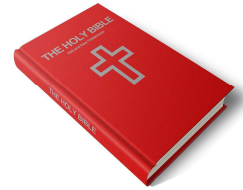


Image  
'pixabay'

Following a recent sermon by our new minister Rev. Claire Simpson I was motivated to fully read the Book of Jonah, and to understand its message in today's world. We are all familiar from our Sunday School days with the story of Jonah being saved from the stormy seas by a whale, but the Book also has a very powerful message for us of obedience to God's calling, even when it puts us in conflict with our understanding of His teaching.

In Jonah's time he ran away from God's command for him to go to Ninevah, the capital city of the Assyrian Empire, to tell them that they were to be destroyed in 40 days for their wickedness. He did this as he believed that God was a loving, merciful and forgiving God for all mankind, and would never destroy His people. Eventually as we read on, we see Jonah after the whale incident, going to Ninevah in obedience to God's command, the Assyrians repenting of their wicked ways, and God forgiving them and not destroying them.

The Book finishes however with God giving a stern warning to Jonah, and indeed to ourselves, that we should give priority over our own needs to God's commands to us, even if it is uncomfortable or even dangerous for us. We should have faith that God will take care of us, and see us through these storms, indeed as He did in rescuing Jonah with the big fish (whale).

So what does the story of Jonah mean to us in today's World? What can we learn from it? We live in a World of escalating conflicts leading to warfare. We look at the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza, where the Palestinians are under the authority of Hamas. We can see a parallel here with the Assyrian Empire in Jonah's time. Hamas is an Islamic organisation dedicated to the formation of a wholly Palestinian state by means of jihad, armed military struggle by divine authority, and in doing so the annihilation of Israel. To achieve its objectives it has resorted to the deliberate murder, torture and kidnapping of innocent civilians. It is recognised by many countries in the United Nations as a terrorist organisation. Israel's response to this in self-defence is to take military action against Hamas, and to attempt to destroy it completely.

Hamas was founded in 1987 after the outbreak of the First Intifada against Israel over Israel's military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Hamas produced a charter in 1988 defining its mandate. This was revised in 2017 and is available online:

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/hamas-2017-document-full>

What we now have is armed conflict between two religions, Muslims and Jews, and a humanitarian crisis. This is not the solution that our Lord wants for His people. What we see in the Book of Jonah is the Assyrians recognising their misdeeds and repenting and seeking God's forgiveness, and God withdrawing his right to destroy them and allowing them to live in peace.

In the Gaza conflict there has been no repentance by Hamas, as they believe that their actions are in strict adherence to Allah's divine commandments, as sent down to prophet Mohamed in the Quran. The Jews for their part believe that they are God's chosen people as divinely defined in the Scriptures, and must maintain control of Israel and Jerusalem at all costs to receive the coming of the Messiah. History has taught us that ideologies can never be defeated by military action, the ideology itself must be shown and proved to be false.

*Cont'd.....*

The Book of Jonah gives us the answer to ceasing this conflict. We Christians must come out of our comfort zone and demand an immediate cease fire allowing humanitarian aid to be given to the innocent civilians caught up in the conflict. We should also, under the leadership of the highest authorities in the international Christian churches, be reaching out to the Hamas leadership and their followers in spreading the message of Repentance and Salvation through Jesus Christ. **“Go and make disciples of all nations”** Matthew 28:19. We should indeed be asking ourselves why was this not done earlier as the warning signs of this conflict were there from the time of the Intifadas in 1987 when Hamas was founded? If we Christians had done so this present conflict might well have been averted, as was the case in Ninevah!

God told Jonah in Jonah Chapter 4 that it would not be easy to follow His commands, and that we should put aside our own desires and put our trust in Him.

Are we Christians up to this Challenge in Today’s World?

**Martin Frost (St Andrews), January 2024**

**Let nothing disturb thee**

Let nothing disturb thee,  
 nothing affright thee;  
 All things are passing;  
 God never changeth’;  
 Patient endurance,  
 Attaineth to all things;  
 Who God possesseth,  
 In nothing is wanting  
 Alone God sufficeth.



Image  
 ‘pixabay’

**By St Teresa of Avila (PP)**

**As time goes by !**

King David & King Solomon led merry,  
 merry lives, with many, many lady friends  
 and many, many wives;  
 But when old age crept over them,  
 With many, many qualms,  
 King Solomon wrote the Proverbs  
 And King David wrote the Psalms.

**By James Ball Naylor (PP)**

**True Love (Lk 2:22-35)15**

Broken world, Broken lives,  
 Broken hearts without hope  
 Until there, in the Temple,  
 In that bundle of a baby,  
 Love provides Restoration,  
 According to His word.

**By Daphne Kitching (PP)**

**Great lives**

Lives of all great men remind us  
 we can make our lives sublime,  
 and, departing, leave behind us  
 ‘Footprints on the Sands of Time’.



Image  
 ‘pixabay’

**By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (PP)**

**God Never Gives Up on You  
 – What Jacob's Story Teaches Us  
 About Grace, Mercy, and God's  
 Relentless Love (PP)**

**by Max Lucado, 10Publishing £11.30**

Ever wonder if you’ve gone wrong too many times for God to use someone like you?

This is a book for members of the Lost Halo Society – for the strugglers among us and the fumbler within us. We are all of us part saint, part scoundrel. We mean well, but we don’t always do well. We have breakthroughs and breakdowns, often in the same hour. We need no reminder of our failures, but we could always use a refresher course on God’s perfect plan to use imperfect people to do great things. This book offers you just that.

\* \* \* \* \*

- The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved, loved for ourselves, or rather, in spite of ourselves – Victor Hugo

## ‘A few of my favourite things’ (*Methodist Recorder*)

On Thursday 25 January, I forwarded an email from Ian Harrison, with an attached email from **John Singleton, Consulting Editor of the Methodist Recorder** about a new feature in the Methodist Recorder – ‘**A few of my favourite things**’. Also attached was John’s own article on the subject, in pdf format. Many of you may have read this.

John is asking for contributions in his email, he says: ‘**If you know of anyone else who might be interested in choosing their ‘favourite things’, just pass this on (they don’t even have to be regular readers!)** and he continues – *All you have to do is stick to the same questions while giving your own answers and the reasons why. The length of each answer is up to you, but the overall number of words should be not much more than 600.*

Below is Ian’s ‘**Favourite things**’ that he has sent into the Methodist Recorder, with a couple of extra ones on the end. **The last two items** – are not part of John Singleton’s original request. Start with ‘**Old Testament Verse**’ and end with ‘**Memorable Journey**’.

If anyone would like to write about their ‘**Favourite things**’ – follow the same headings and style, in not more than 600 words and email to: [editorial@methodistrecorder.co.uk](mailto:editorial@methodistrecorder.co.uk) or send by post to: Methodist Recorder, 1 Merchant Street, London E3 4LY.

\*\*\*\*\*

### A few of my favourite things

#### Old Testament verse

I’m not a great fan of the Old Testament – too much revenge. Some would say that not a lot has changed in 3,000 years! If I had to pick a verse it would be from Psalm 8 (vv 3 & 4) “When I look at the heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast established; what is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that Thou dost care for him?”

#### New Testament verse

No contest: John 3, 16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”.

#### Hymn

I have three favourite hymns, all of which are slated for my funeral (just so’s you know what to expect!): Charles Wesley’s **Behold the servant of the Lord** set to the tune of the aria *Bei mannern* from *The Magic Flute* by W A Mozart. My musical hero, Ludwig van Beethoven, was so entranced by the tune that he wrote a wonderful set of variations for cello and piano based on it. And **Lord, for the years** by Timothy Dudley-Smith: it just says so much about the world we live in. And finally **What shall we offer our good Lord** by A G Spangenburg, translated by John Wesley. I prefer the version in MHB (784) – to *Duke Street*, of course – but I can see why it was cut by the compilers of *Hymns & Psalms* and *Singing the Faith*. Arguably, if John Wesley had not encountered the Moravians on his ill-fated mission to the colonies (ie USA!) in 1735 – and translated 33 hymns – we would not have the Methodist Church today.

#### Film / TV

I’m afraid that I rather like the vaguely irreverent, especially Dave Allen and Monty Python. The church should never be afraid of humour. But I love **Yes, Minister** and **Yes, Prime Minister**. As an ex-Civil Servant, they’re not quite true to life but the plot lines are superb – even 40 years on they still reflect on the shape of things.

### Book

My wife reads story books – lots of them: I read to learn things: particularly about railways and aircraft. I don't have a particular favourite but I did know Capt Eric Brown CBE, DSO, DFC, RN, often known as "Winkle" and sometimes called "Britain's greatest pilot". He wrote several books about the aircraft he flew (and their failings) and his own life story *Wings on my sleeve*, which is quite amazing.

### Song

Well, not a song. I play the piano and the organ (not brilliantly) and I love Beethoven's Piano Sonatas – especially the *Waldstein Op 53* – stunning, but difficult!

### Someone from history who inspires me

Well, actually, three people with something in common: Martin Luther, John Wesley and Ludwig van Beethoven. All of them had trials and tribulations in their lives – often from "higher authority" – but all found inner strength to carry on and fulfil God's promise in them. We Yorkshire folk feel a kinship with that!

### A place where I feel close to God

As far as I'm concerned, God is everywhere and not confined to places – sometimes churches least of all. Every week I put together an on-line "Wednesday Fellowship" for our Zoom on-line "Church of the Living Stream". I usually select three not very well-known hymns from *Singing the Faith* which we read antiphonally. The choice is very much "as the spirit moves" – but just sitting here and thinking about it all brings God closer.

### An impressive faith building

I've only been once – on a guided tour – but the Mosque / Cathedral of Cordoba takes some beating. Just an amazing concatenation of the human response to God from Christians and Muslims over many centuries. If you haven't been, put it on the bucket list!

### A memorable journey

Well, my wife and I have been to many places but I was born in the last house in Settle (Yorkshire) on the way to Malham. To walk over the watershed between the Ribble and Aire valleys and see the superb landscape and the geological features (I'm a geologist) is amazing. It just puts us humans into context.

### *And some things that John missed out.....*

#### Favourite pastime

Playing (serious) croquet. If you've never done it, you don't know what you're missing: have a look at Ian's videos on [www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk](http://www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk)

#### Favourite object(s)

My model railway locomotives, rebuilt to look a bit more like the real thing. Take a new model out of the box cut bits off, add bits on, re-paint and re-line: voila! (Several weeks later!)

**Ian Harrison**



Ian's own photo



Night Light  
Winter Shelter



## Night Light Winter Shelter

**Various Dates @ Camrose Centre, Glebe Hall, Church Square, RG21 7QW**

At Christmas, from 24 - 27 December, the Night Light Winter Shelter ran a 'pop-up' shelter for homeless and vulnerably housed people at The Camrose Centre. 5 people were provided with a warm safe bed over the 3 nights. 22 guests were served lunch on Christmas Day and 14 were served lunch on Boxing Day. A fantastic team of volunteers enabled this to happen clocking up 295 hours between them.

Having reported this information back to the council they were delighted at the success of the project, have asked whether it would be possible to run some more pop-ups during the winter season. We are hoping to do this but it is dependent upon getting enough volunteers at quite short notice. If you or someone you know would like to get involved please complete the online registration form which can be found here <https://bit.ly/NLWS-PU24> or using this QR code. **For more information please email at:**



NLWS Pop Up 2024

[basingstokenlws@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokenlws@gmail.com)

*taken from OneChurch Basingstoke*

## Christian Films showing in Basingstoke

**The Chosen – Season 4; episodes 1 to 2 is showing at **Basingstoke Odeon** on **Thursday 1 February Only** at 7pm.**

**The Chosen** is a major new drama series which has now reached the mid-point of Jesus' ministry. *"The best film about Jesus that I've ever seen" – Nicky Gumbel*

**Season 4 – episodes 3 to 5** will then be showing at cinemas on **Thursday 15 February Only**.

**Season 4 – episodes 6 to 8** will be showing at cinemas on **Thursday 29 February**.

[thechosentv.co.uk](http://thechosentv.co.uk)

**'Ordinary Angels'** (PG) – *Cinema venues still to be finalised, but it is opening in cinemas nationwide on **Friday 23 February***. For details and the trailer google: [ordinaryangels.movie](http://ordinaryangels.movie) **Check cinema website on 14 February.**

## Oakley Methodist Church

**Coffee Mornings: February**

**10.30 am – 12 noon**

**Tuesdays 13 & 27 February**

**£1 for a bottomless tea or coffee & biscuits**

*Paperbacks available 30p each*

***Proceeds to the Red Cross this year.***



- 50 years ago, on 7 February 1974, Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath called a snap general election following the miners' strike and three-day week. It resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, became Prime Minister.

\* \* \* \* \*

- 40 years ago, on 22 January 1984, the first Apple Mackintosh computer went on sale.



## RETREAT CENTRE SILCHESTER RG7 2NY PROGRAMME 2024



Come and join us for a day of refreshment and reflection at Silchester Methodist Church.

Our retreats are to enable you to explore and experience meeting with God; to be explorers and journeyers. On each day, themed multi-sensory experiences are available to choose from.

For enquiries or to book for any of the Retreat Days please contact Angela Hiscock at:  
[angela.hiscock@btinternet.com](mailto:angela.hiscock@btinternet.com) or **phone Angela** on ☎ 01256 850432.

**Numbers are limited.**

**All days run from:**  
10 am – 3 pm.

**Refreshments from:** 9.45 am. Please bring a '**Packed Lunch**'. Hot and cold drinks, including cup-a-soup provided.

**Suggested donation:**  
£10 per person.

**Location:**   
**Paddle.worthy.windmill**

**Entrance:** from:  
**Pamber Road, RG7 2NY.**

**Car parking** and entrance to hall at rear of the church.

### Wednesday 6th March Hands

How do we use our hands?  
How do we speak of the "hands of God"?

*See, I have engraved you on the palms of my **hands**;*

Isaiah 49:16 (NIV)



### Saturday 27th April Pictures of Jesus

How have we pictured Jesus across the world, through the centuries?  
How do we see the face of Christ today?

*The Son is the **image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.*  
Colossians 1:15 (NIV)



### Future 2024 Retreats:

- Wednesday 12 June
- Saturday 10 August
- Wednesday 2 October
- Saturday 23 November

### Wednesday 12th June Enfolded in Love

A day with Julian of Norwich

*"God made everything for love, and by love all things are sustained and protected, and ever shall be."*

## A Quiz on the Book of Exodus (from Parish Pump) – see item on page 19

**How well do you know what happened in Exodus? Try this quiz!**

1. Who rescued Moses from the basket in the bulrushes?
  - a. Pharaoh's daughter
  - b. Pharaoh's maid
  - c. Pharaoh's wife
2. How many plagues did God send on Egypt?
  - a. 5
  - b. 10
  - c. 15
3. What was the second plague?
  - a. frogs
  - b. water turned to blood
  - c. locusts
4. What is the name of the sea the Israelites crossed to escape the Egyptians?
  - a. Dead Sea
  - b. Black Sea
  - c. Red Sea
5. At what place did the Israelites arrive to find the water was too bitter to drink and God made it sweet?
  - a. Marah
  - b. Elim
  - c. Horeb
6. Which bird did God provide for meat in the wilderness?
  - a. pigeon
  - b. quail
  - c. turtledove
7. What guided the Israelites through the wilderness?
  - a. a star in the sky
  - b. Moses had visions telling him where to lead the people
  - c. a pillar of cloud and of fire
8. When there was no water to drink, how did Moses provide it?
  - a. from earthen jars
  - b. from his rod
  - c. from a rock
9. On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments
  - a. Mt. Sinai
  - b. Mt. Nebo
  - c. Mt. of Olives
10. What is the seventh commandment?
  - a. Thou shalt not covet
  - b. Thou shalt not commit adultery
  - c. Thou shalt not bear false witness

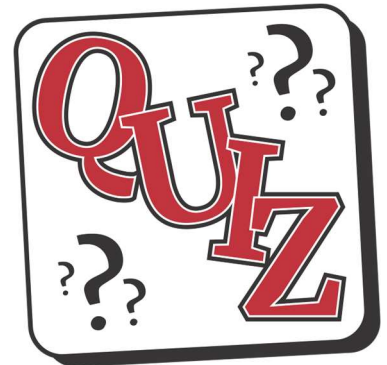


Image 'pixabay'

*cont'd on opposite page.....*

**Quiz cont'd.....**

11. What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?
  - a. two cherubim
  - b. candlestick
  - c. Aaron's rod
12. What compelled the Israelites to form and worship the golden calf
  - a. they wanted to make a statue to the Lord
  - b. they made it as a symbol of their freedom from slavery
  - c. they didn't know what had happened to Moses
13. What was the name of a man who was given the Spirit of God, to enable him to become a good craftsman, and assist with the building of the tabernacle?
  - a. Caleb
  - b. Bezaleel
  - c. Buz
14. Who was Moses' successor?
  - a. Joshua
  - b. Caleb
  - c. Aaron
15. For how many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?
  - a. 20 years
  - b. 30 years
  - c. 40 years

**Answers on page 23**

**Canon Paul Hardingham continues a new series (started in the January PP), which will run for the next two years. The quizzes accompany these articles.**

**What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Exodus**

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their *salvation* or deliverance, as *story*. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17). At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or '*I am who I am*' (3:14) to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title '*the LORD*'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character ie His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God's promises of help remain true for us today: '*Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today*' Exodus 14:13.

*'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.'* (Eugene Peterson).

## Extraordinary Gifts

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT, 1874.  
**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRY OF BIRTH.**

We received an unusual **Extraordinary Gift** this Christmas that we'd never heard

of before, unlike the 'chicks' or 'goats' or 'medical care' or 'school uniforms' etc that you can buy as gifts through many different charities and which are extremely worthwhile.

This gift is through the **'Toybox Charity'** (*I don't know if it's available anywhere else*). *It is The 'Gift of a Birth Certificate' for a Street Child. The average cost is £44.*

On the Toybox Charity website they have a **'Street Child's Christmas Wish List'**, which reads: *To have a legal name of my own; To be allowed to go to school and sit my exams; To see a doctor when I'm sick or injured; To be protected by the law; To be kept safe from abusers, traffickers and criminals; To be allowed to get legally married when I'm older; To have dignity, confidence and feel valued; To be treated as a human being; To have my Birth Certificate.*

Hazel & Peter

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

Our own photo

## The Prayer Link

About twenty years ago we decided here was a need for collective prayer for members of the congregation at Trinity who were experiencing medical or other difficulties, either themselves or family or friends.



People were asked to give names to either Pauline or myself and were then transferred to the group via telephone. It is not necessary for details, a Christian name is often all that is given. It helps us if we know a little but is not essential – God knows all about it!

This service is highly confidential within the group. We respect the fact that people are sharing their deepest fears or emotions.

If you have any need for prayer, please contact:

Pauline Ansell – ☎ 01256 782352 **or**

Heather Shepherd – ☎ 01256 327105

If you feel called to join us in this service, you would be very welcome.

**Heather Shepherd**

## Ukraine War: Help Support the Church in Ukraine with

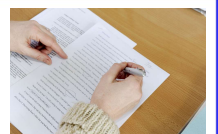
**Bibles:** <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/getinvolved/donate/>



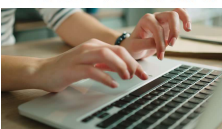
- 40 years ago, on 14 February 1984, figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice-skating at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.

## Newsletter – 'Events / Contributions / Dates'

Please let me know if you have **Events, 'Dates for Diaries' or other Contributions** that you would like included or promoted in **'OUR' Newsletter**.



I look forward to receiving them. *Items can be emailed, posted, phoned through or given to me. Thank you all in advance, Hazel, Ed. (Items could be: bible passages, prayers, poems, stories, outings, holidays, events or anything else you would like to share with us or have included).*



**The Mug & Biscuit at St Andrew's Church is Open on:**



**Hours of opening are:**

- Tuesday: 10 am to 1.30 pm**
- Wednesday: 10 am to 1.30 pm**
- Thursday: 10 am to 1.30 pm**



- We serve: *home-made cakes, jacket potatoes, toasted sandwiches & tea cakes.*
- Menu is subject to change. **Last Orders** for hot food at 1 pm.
- Takeaway Available. Credit Cards Accepted.

**The Mug & Biscuit is NOT OPEN during School Holidays.**

**The Mug & Biscuit is registered as a 'Warm Hub Opening' during 'Mug & Biscuit' Hours**



*We look forward to welcoming old & new friends.*



**Mug & Biscuit Team**



Any queries, **Offers of Help** – contact: **Linda Hoe** ☎: 07963 583506



**Old Basing Methodist Church**

**CAMEO Club:**

**Tuesday 20 February, between 11.30 am – 1.30 pm**

- **A light lunch will be served. Bring along crafts of your choice.**  
\*\*\*\*\*
- **Lent Bible Study Group led by: Rev Claire Simpson & Rev Jo Mulliner.**  
**Six sessions starting on: Thursday 15, 22, 29 February, at 2.30 pm, at Old Basing Methodist Church. The following three sessions will be at: St Mary's, Old Basing on Thursday 7, 14, & 21 March at 2.30 pm.**

**Gillian Smethurst**

**At 28.01.24 the Foodbank – Most Needed:**

- Tinned Ravioli
- Tinned fish
- Tinned veg
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned Meat (eg Chilli, Casserole, Chicken in sauce)
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste

**At 28.01.24 the Foodbank – Running Low:**

- Coffee
- Custard
- Semi-skimmed UHT milk
- Hot & Cold desserts
- Hot chocolate
- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Deodorant, men & women

**We Have PLENTY:**

- Pasta & Rice
- Tinned Soup
- Tinned Baked Beans
- Pulses
- Tea
- Hot & Cold Cereal
- Non-Dairy Milk
- Sanitary Pads
- Baby Food & Formula & nappies
- Hand Soap
- Dog & Cat Food



**Fuller information on their website**

**Website:**

[www.https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/](http://www.https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/)

# Shoemakers

CHRISTIAN BOOKS & PRAYER ROOM

**Dear friends,**

As Trustees of Shoemakers, we would like to begin by thanking you for your continued generosity, support and prayers for Shoemakers over these many years. Shoemakers celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month – a wonderful testimony to God's faithfulness and provision over this time.

As you will know, we have been uncertain of Shoemaker's future for some time now. Demand for Christian books and resources has dropped dramatically over the years and independent booksellers are fast disappearing. It has become clear that the current operating model is not sustainable and significant changes have to be made. To this end, the Trustees have made the difficult and sad decision that Shoemakers will cease to operate as a book and resource seller. The last day for the shop will be **Saturday 3 February**, which will be Steve Wood's last day as shop manager.

Steve has been part of Shoemakers' story for its entire life, and we thank God for his faithful service for these 20 years. With his extensive knowledge and experience of Christian books and resources, his willingness to listen to people and be there for them, he has embodied all that Shoemakers was set up to do. We wish him every blessing for the next chapter in his career.

Going forward, there are plans being put in place. We currently occupy the shop premises rent free until new tenants are found, though we are not sure when this will be. Our intention is to continue with the shop after 3 February, opening on Saturdays only initially, in order to clear any stock left over and until we are given notice. We are also looking into other ways that we can use the premises, continuing to be a Christian presence on the high street, during this time. For example, the prayer space will continue. Such possibilities will be dependent on volunteers and finances.

Looking further ahead, we still believe in the vision for a non-denominational Christian centre in Newbury. We're not sure whether Shoemakers as a charity will have a part in this, but we are confident that, if it is God's will, he will bring it to pass in his own time and in his own way. Please join us as we continue to pray into this.

To mark these last 20 years, and consider the vision for the future, we intend to hold a thanksgiving service in the next few months. A date is yet to be confirmed, but we will let you know when this has been arranged.

Thank you again for all your prayerful and generous support. We continue to trust in our faithful God and that he remains good in all his ways.

Yours, Jules Gadsby, Jill Wilson, Tony Pullin, *Trustees*

***Shoemakers, The Arcade, Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5AD***

\* \* \* \* \*

***Please see opposite page for some later information.....***

- 100 years ago, on 5 February 1924, BBC Radio broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal for the first time.



Dear friends,

After our email last week about the closure of the Christian bookshop in The Arcade, we are emailing today to tell you how the supply of Christian resources will continue in the Newbury area.

As we prayed through the wider vision for a Christian Centre in Newbury, we all agreed that the physical shop had to close. While we wait on God for the next steps in this vision, the need for Christian resources in the Newbury area is ongoing.

As you know, I will be leaving Shoemakers on 3 February. Therefore from this date I will be operating as a sole trader, supplying Christian books and other resources to churches, conferences, events, and to the general public. As well as providing bookstalls and supplying churches direct, there will still be a website for individuals to order resources online. This will be familiar as it is identical to the current Shoemakers website – It will just have a different name: **Sonrise Christian Resources**.

My new contact details (from 3 February) are attached below. Until then, please continue to contact Shoemakers in the usual ways.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support at this time,

**Steve Wood (Manager)**

\* \* \* \* \*



email: [stevewood@sonrisechristianresources.co.uk](mailto:stevewood@sonrisechristianresources.co.uk)

Telephone: 07396 825097

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sonrisechristianresources](http://www.facebook.com/sonrisechristianresources)

The **Sonrise Christian Resources** website will be available from **early February 2024**. Until then, please continue to use the Shoemakers website: [www.christophershoemaker.org.uk](http://www.christophershoemaker.org.uk)

**Answers to the Quiz on Exodus on pages 18 & 19:**

- Question 1: a (Pharaoh's daughter)
- Question 2: b (10)
- Question 3: b (Water turned to blood)
- Question 4: c (Red Sea)
- Question 5: a (Marah)
- Question 6: b (Quail)
- Question 7: c (A pillar of cloud and of fire)
- Question 8: c (From a rock)

**Quiz Answers continued:**

- Question 9: a (Mt. Sinai)
- Question 10: b (Thou shalt not commit adultery)
- Question 11: a (Two cherubim)
- Question 12: c (They didn't know what had happened to Moses)
- Question 13: b (Bezaleel)
- Question 14: a (Joshua)
- Question 15: c (40)

**Recycling of Plastic Milk Bottle Tops –**

If you have plastic milk bottle tops (**only milk bottle tops**) & would like to recycle them, Pamela has a contact with a collector for Hants & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Tops can be given to Pamela or ring the Bishop family on ☎: 01256 467702. Thank you.

**June Bishop**



***This newsletter was too late for our Christmas issue but still good to include now.***



## **Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy**

Dear Supporters

One of the Christmas booklets Chaplains give out speaks of Christmas being for outsiders. The centre of the Christmas story is a baby of dubious conception, born away from home in a cattle-shed with a price on his head who becomes a refugee. Chaplains meet people who also have messy lives, often not of their own making, whom we want to support and introduce to Jesus and his family.

An asylum seeker told me recently that the thing he liked best about Basingstoke was the friendship of people he met, especially at English classes and games afternoons – run by Christians being welcoming to whoever we meet, as Jesus was, and being faithful in all things, as God is towards each of us.

Recently we have been able to give encouragement and support to a number of people, helping them in the challenges in their lives and encouraging them to look to Jesus. We cannot give details but please pray that they will journey and come to know Jesus in their lives.

Please pray for the small team of Chaplains this Christmas as we greet people in the shopping centre and meet people in the Magistrates' Court, bus station and shops to share the hope of Christmas. We will be present with the Salvation Army as they play on Saturdays. Pray that:

- we will engage with people
- we will be drawn to those who are seeking answers in life
- we can encourage people to attend a church service

We continue to need more Chaplains to provide a regular service to those who work in the town, go to the Discovery Centre or visit shops and other places. Please pray, and maybe suggest to a friend at church, who is reasonably outgoing, that they consider becoming a chaplain.

Also pray for the good of the town. Rough sleeping will be greater this year for various reasons, shop staff face more abuse than usual at this time of year. Street Pastors, a sister organisation whose leader now shares our office, need your prayers too as they will be kept busy with the increased revelry over the Christmas and New Year period.

Thank you for sharing in the ministry of the Chaplaincy.

May you experience the joy and hope God offers through the Christmas message and may God be with you always.

John (***John Hayward***), ***Chair of Trustees***

***Libby Ham Administrator***

BasingstokeTownChaplaincy.org.uk

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[admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk](mailto:admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk)   [basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk](http://basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk)

- 20 years ago, on 4 February 2004, Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.



## Chaplaincy Prayer Letter January 2024



A Happy New Year to you!

May you know God's blessing and guidance as you go through the next twelve months, supported in the challenges of life and being a blessing to others.

The Chaplaincy heads into 2024 encouraged by the responses we received at Christmas from people working in the town centre. People value the opportunities to talk to someone in confidence outside their circle of friends and family, and to feel that people appreciate their work in the town.

Chaplains support and encourage those working in the town and are available to meet those who have business here. In particular, the Chaplains at the Magistrates' Court are valuable supports for those working there as well as for people called there as witnesses or accused. For some it is a traumatic experience and can be a time of challenge to consider their life's path. God comes to be alongside a person whatever their circumstances and Chaplains help people start to think through the issues in their lives. Policing is also a stressful occupation and our Chaplain Peter and his care dog work there with the Police Chaplaincy service.

Kathie has joined us and will be based at the Discovery Centre where the staff have facilitated meetings of an increasing number of activities and interest groups.

This year we want to continue to look at the effectiveness of our ministry, especially as the number of Chaplains is low, and to see where we can develop our ministry and draw others into it. We also want to strengthen our links with churches in the area because they are the ones who will further the initial links we make with people wanting to find out more of the Christian faith and, hopefully, want to live as followers of Jesus Christ.

They need a welcoming church and we need to be able to point them to the right church for them.

John (***John Hayward***), ***Chair of Trustees***

### **Please pray:**

- for people working in the town, especially shopworkers. Also pray that new owners for Festival Place will be found and will develop the property for best public good.
- that police, security staff and those administering the law that we may all be kept safe and that justice will be done with care and mercy.
- for God to guide Chaplains as they speak to people so that all are drawn to our loving Saviour.
- for wisdom in using opportunities to speak of Christ.
- for good relations with local churches so that Chaplains can confidently refer people to them.

### **Give thanks:**

- that, as we start a new year, God calls us all to bring his blessing to the people of Basingstoke.

***Both the above Basingstoke Chaplaincy Newsletters received via OneChurch B/Stoke***

- **Muddy Woof** – What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog? *A Land Rover.*

For the Young & Young at heart

PUZ?LES

Crossword

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 2:13-4: 23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day... Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?

Moses had to run away from Egypt.

He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.

One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses attention, He said..

You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.

No! I'd rather not do that!

It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you

Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh

Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.

Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!

Sudoku

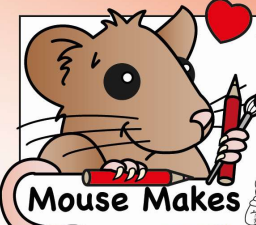
		5		7	3		
	1				2		
7			1	5			6
	5	9		6			
			3			4	2
6			5	4			7
		1					8
		8	2		6		

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

**Wordsearch** – February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent out, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life.

- |            |            |              |      |
|------------|------------|--------------|------|
| Valentine  | Hearts     | Worship      | Rose |
| Romance    | Girlfriend | Boyfriend    | Kiss |
| Restaurant | Angels     | Temple       | Hug  |
| Present    | Candlemas  | Baby         | Love |
| Repentance | Fiancé     | Presentation | Mary |



**Who were the first couple?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 Genesis 2:22-25

**Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Genesis 19:26

**Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Genesis 29:18

**Who was Moses' wife?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exodus 2:21

**Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Matthew 1:5

**Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 Romans 16:3

**CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES**

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

**FIND THE BIBLE VERSE**  
 Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.  
 XIBU HPE IBT  
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
 MFU OPU NBO  
 TFQBSBUF.  
 NBSL  
 UFO WFSTF  
 OJOF

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God  
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

ABRAHAM  
 ADAM • AQUILA  
 BOAZ • ELKANAH  
 ELIZABETH  
 EVE • HANNAH  
 ISAAC • JACOB  
 JOSEPH • MARY  
 PRISCILLA  
 RACHEL  
 REBEKAH • RUTH  
 SARAH  
 ZECHARIAH

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**Crossword Clues – Down:**

- Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- So rapt (anag.) (6)
- Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)


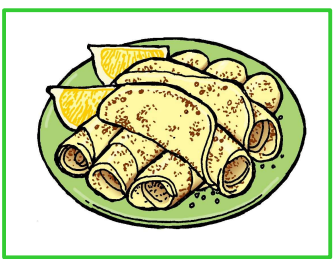
**Crossword Clues – Across**

- Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- Breakwater (6)
- Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

**The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**



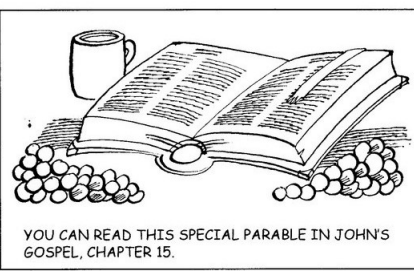
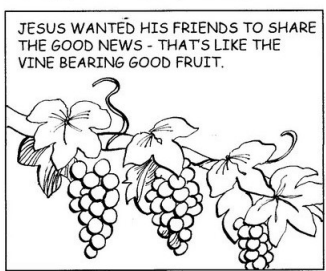
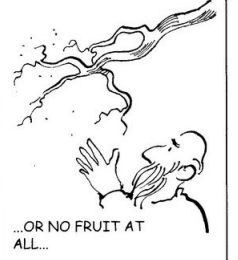
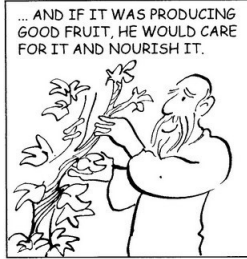
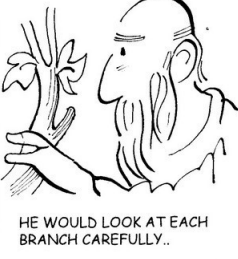
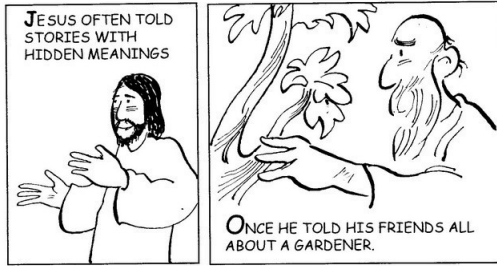
Psalm 27: 1

All Parish Pump

• Peace is to the soul what health is to the body: a sign of balance and order – Guy Appere

# The gardener and the Vine



## Puzzle Pages Solutions

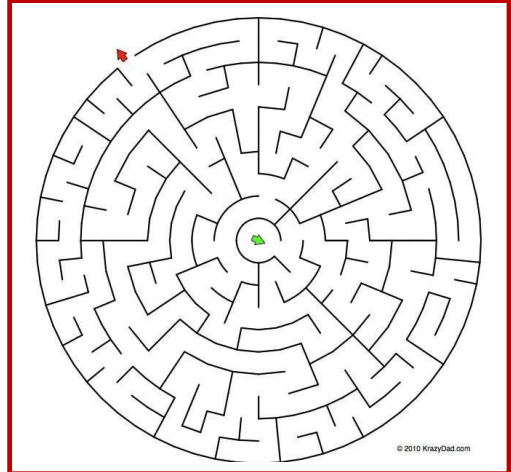
**Across:** 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

**Down:** 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.

## Sudoku Solution

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

h	g	n	l	c	h	a	n	g	e	n	n
s	j	c	a	t	t	e	n	t	i	o	n
h	k	n	h	p	t	i	d	a	m	b	r
e	j	j	y	o	n	e	t	h	o	u	k
e	a	g	p	r	i	n	c	e	s	s	i
p	e	a	u	r	u	c	u	b	e	h	l
s	f	b	r	o	t	h	e	r	s	u	l
i	u	a	m	o	o	l	e	a	v	e	
n	m	o	t	a	n	b	c	w	o	x	d
a	j	c	r	h	p	e	o	p	l	e	x
i	o	a	y	j	e	m	i	d	i	a	n
u	p	n	e	v	e	r	u	n	y	d	o



On 14 February, as well as being Valentine's Day, our Annual National Nestbox Week begins – <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

Image 'pixabay'

- Change
- Choice
- Father
- Egypt
- Attention
- Parah
- Run
- Body
- Brother
- Midian
- Princess
- People
- Burning
- Moses
- Leave
- Bush
- Mountain
- Sheep
- Hebrew
- Sinai
- Killed
- Aaron
- Married
- Never

